

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**

2  
139

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name **Jenkins, Israel House**  
other names/site number **The Elms** **053-233-40038**

**2. Location**

street & number **7453 East 400 South** **N/A** not for publication  
city or town **Marion** vicinity   
state **Indiana** code **IN** county **Grant** code **053** zip code **46953**

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title **J.C. Sullivan**  
**Indiana Department of Natural Resources**  
State or Federal agency and bureau

Date **1-30-03**

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that the property is:  
 entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register  
 other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper **Edson A. Beall**

Date of Action **3/26/03**

Jenkins, Israel House  
Name of Property

Grant IN  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- building
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	2	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
4	2	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure

AGRICULTURE/SUBSIST Agricultural

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: Clubhouse

COMMERCE/TRADE:

AGRICULTURE/SUBSIST Storage

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19th c.: Greek Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

WOOD: Weatherboard

roof OTHER

other CONCRETE

GLASS

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographic References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE \_\_\_\_\_

AGRICULTURE \_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

c.1840-1952 \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

c.1840 \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Jenkins, Israel House  
Name of Property

Grant ..... IN .....  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	16	624670	4483790
	Zone	Easting	Northing

3	16	624810	4483540
	Zone	Easting	Northing

2	16	624820	4483800
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4	16	624670	4483540
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See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Judy K. Cowling  
organization Cowling Preservations date 02-20-2002  
street & number 504 South Main Street telephone 765/661-6189  
city or town Fairmount state IN zip code 46928-1930

## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

## Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Randy & Sara Ballinger, Walnut Creek Golf, Inc.  
street & number 7453 East 400 South telephone 765/998-7651  
city or town Marion state IN zip code 46953

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1

## DESCRIPTION:

The Israel Jenkins House is a circa 1840, two and a half story, brick, Greek Revival style double-pile house with a rectangular plan and a side-gable roof. (See photo 1.) The walls, four chimneys, and foundation are brick. The wood framed roof is covered with fiberglass shingles. The slate roof was removed many years ago. The interior of the house is simple and restrained. The original woodwork, built-in cabinets, bench, and staircase are extant. Public restrooms are located in a newly constructed building resembling a smoke house, located on the west side of the house. The farm's 19<sup>th</sup> century English barn, silo, and long storage shed are located approximately 250 feet southwest of the house. (See photos 2 and 3.) An early 20<sup>th</sup> century wood garage house was moved to the site in circa 1945. The house is in good condition; it has had minimal alteration. Structurally, the barn is in fairly good condition. (See photographs 4 and 5.) The exterior boards are weathered and some are missing. The silo is in fair condition. The gable roof structure south of the barn is in good condition. The farm is located about one-half mile east of the now vanished village of Farmington, Monroe Township's first settlement.

The brick, made from local clay and fired on site, is laid in a common bond pattern. Four brick interior chimneys are placed with two on each gable end. The symmetrical south façade is three bays wide. The north elevation openings are asymmetrical. (See photo 6.) The two gable ends have three windows, one window on each floor, placed near the center of the wall.

Fifteen wood windows are configured with six-over-six sashes, and use metal spring-loaded pegs to keep windows in place. (See photo 7.) The three wythe brick bearing walls make deep interior sills. All of the four south facing rooms have two windows, one on the south wall and a second window on the side (east or west) wall. The two northeast rooms have two windows on the north wall. The two northwest rooms have one window on the north wall. Attic window openings, one in each end gable, have four-over-four wood sashes. Exterior lintels and sills are wood. The openings are supported by a lintel made with two pieces of oak placed side-by-side, with one on the interior and one on the exterior. The jambs support the lintel. All the pieces are mortared into place, without the use of nails or pegs. All the window openings have fixed, double-glazed, low profile, wood storm windows.

The vernacular design has sparse Greek Revival details: door surround, six-over-six wood windows and unadorned frieze just below the eave. The front entry door has four raised panels. The upper two panels are longer than the two lower panels. (See photo 8.) The sidelights are constructed in three sections that reach from the threshold to the top of the opening. The lower section has a single raised wood panel. The middle section is a single light. The upper section is the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2

smallest. It consists of a single piece of glass, set in a wood frame. The area above the door is a single light glass transom. Both the north exterior doors are intact, and retain the transoms as well. (See photo 9.)

The floor plan is based on the double-pile type, except the central hall stops at the doorway to the rear room. (See illustrations 1 and 2.) The house has four rooms on each floor; each second floor room is situated approximately above the corresponding first floor room. On both the upper and lower stories, the two rear rooms share a common wood stud wall. The rear door on the first floor is directly in line with the front entry door. The attic has no interior partitions. (See photos 10 and 11.)

The first floor southwest room is the only one with a fireplace. (See photo 12.) The other rooms were heated with a cast iron stove although there is only one still in the house. (See photo 13.) Most of the chimneys have an opening for a stovepipe.

The interior walls are painted plaster. The first floor ceilings are gypsum board with plaster skim coat. The second floor ceilings are wood plank. (See photos 14 and 15.)

The woodwork in most of the rooms on the first floor is similar. Each of the second floor rooms has its own style of woodwork. All the interior doors have four raised, wood panels. The door in the photograph also retains its original decorative wood-grain paint. (See photo 16.) Transoms were originally above all the first floor interior doors.

All the baseboards are three pieces of wood. (See photo 17). The top trim sits on the baseboard, and what appears to be a piece of quarter-round bottom trim piece actually is notched under the baseboard and continues back to the wall. Wide wood plank flooring is laid throughout the house. The two north rooms on the first floor show evidence of damage from powder post beetles; a Cypress floor covers the original walnut floor. A protective sheet of vinyl covers the cypress wood floor in the kitchen.

Original built-in cupboards are found in five rooms. In general, they have upper double doors and in most cases, smaller double doors on the lower part of the cupboard. There are shelves behind each set of doors. The photographs of each extant cupboard illustrate the differences among them, and they are paired with a view from the opposite side of the room for a more complete visualization of that particular room. Photos 18 and 19 are of the first floor northeast room. This cupboard is the only extant cupboard with glass in the doors. The first floor northwest room cupboard has punched tin in the upper doors, and has one set of drawers above the lower doors. (See photos 20

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

and 21.) Because of their proximity to the sink, the punched tin doors are removed to protect them from water damage. Looking at the southwest corner of the same room, a new cupboard was constructed to hide the electrical panel. (See photo 22.) Upstairs, the southwest room has the only double cupboard. (See photo 24.) The cupboard in the northeast room has two lower drawers and the original latch on the doors. (See photo 26.) Photo 28 shows the cupboard in the second floor northwest room. The second floor rooms each have different trim around the doors and windows. Photos 30 and 31 complete the view of the southeast first floor room interior room, however there is not a built in cupboard. Rather the double doorway in photo 30 was expanded in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The six panel doors retain the original hardware. (See photo 32.)

Another general characteristic of the house is that in many of the rooms a linear wood board was originally embedded in plaster at a height of at least five feet. (See photo 28.) Some of the original boards are in place, while others have been replaced with walnut finished to match the existing boards. (See photo 15.) One board is rectangular. (See photo 18.)

The main stair begins just beyond the door of the southeast room. The wood risers, treads, balusters and handrail are unpainted. (See photo 33.) The very simple upper and lower newel posts are similar with two turnings above the slightly flared post, and rest on a square base. The second story balusters are set more widely apart than those of the staircase. (See photo 35.) And, the handrail is attached at the bottom attic stairs with a wood peg. (See photo 37.) The attic stairs are enclosed with a door at the bottom. (See photo 38.)

The first floor southwest room was probably used as the Best Room. (See photos 39 and 40.) The woodwork in this room is more ornate than the other rooms. Plinth blocks dress the corners of the door trim. The transom was removed when the doorway was enlarged in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century to move a piano into the room. (See photo 41.) This is the only room with a fireplace. The mantel is made of simple moldings. A built-in bench is extant to the right of the fireplace, under the west window. The two drawers retain their original hardware. A built-in cupboard on the west wall to the left of the fireplace was also removed to make space for the piano in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The kitchen retains most of the original details: recessed wood panel wainscot, built-in cupboard on the north end of the west wall, window and exterior door on the north wall, doorway and transom on the east wall. (See photos 21, 22, and 23.) This room has been adapted to meet code for a commercial kitchen. The wood floor is protected with sheet vinyl. The original punched tin doors of the built-in cupboard are stored to protect them against water damage. (See photo 21.) A new cupboard front hides the electrical panel. (See photo 22.)

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 4

A rear shed roof wood frame porch with a cement masonry foundation was added c. 1920. The deteriorated porch was reconstructed and ADA access added. (See photo 6.) The east elevation has a cement slab porch with three cement steps south elevation. (See photo 1.)

The contributing agricultural buildings on the Jenkins farm are a 19th-Century English barn with two additions, a silo, and an open-sided storage shed. A c. 1945 garage and newly constructed bathrooms in the style of a smokehouse are non-contributing.

The post and beam barn is situated approximately 180 feet southwest of the house. (See photos 2, 3, 4, and 5.) The barn has a concrete block wall approximately four feet high that rests on a concrete foundation. Weathered vertical siding covers all elevations; the south elevation's vertical siding is beneath badly weathered horizontal wood siding. Fancy rafter tails are visible under the wide eaves of the shingle roof. Curved top window openings are used in the upper story windows. Most are covered to keep out the weather. Lower story windows have a fixed single sash with four divided lights. The 67'6" x 42'8" barn has a center aisle and a loft on both sides. (See photos 42 and 43.) The original hay fork, pulley system and track used to load the barn by horsepower are extant. The floor is concrete. Because the barn is perpendicular to the farmhouse, the barn doors (east elevation) are visible from the front door of the house (south elevation). Two additions to the barn have been made. The south side addition is a one story shed roof addition, measuring 19'9" x 42'8", with sliding doors on the east and west elevations and five single, fixed-sash windows with four divided lights on the south elevation. (See photos 2, 3, 4, and 44.) The floor is concrete. The east elevation has a single story gable-roof addition measuring approximately 12' x 12'. (See photos 3 and 4.) A single side-hinged opening is cut in the south elevation; bracing is added so the vertical siding functions as a door. An opening is cut between the addition and the barn. There is one fixed window with four divided lights on the east elevation. The floor is packed dirt, and there seems to be no foundation. A large cut-out opening for the silo is on the east elevation.

The glazed masonry silo measures approximately 46' in circumference, and has a ribbed metal dome roof. (See photos 2, 3, 4 and 5.) It communicates with the barn via the east addition.

A wood frame covered storage building is located approximately ten feet from the southeast corner of the barn's south addition. (See photos 2, 3, and 44.) The 37' x 23'2" shed has a metal gable roof and concrete floor. The sides of the shed reach about half-way to the concrete floor. Windows on the east (two) and south (four) half walls are fixed sashes with six divided lights. Two fixed



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 5

windows on the west elevation each have three vertically divided lights.

The garage was moved to the site from Upland c. 1945. (See photos 3, 4, and 50.) Originally used as a workshop prior to being relocated. The 20'6" x 15'3" structure is oriented with the door on the east elevation opening on to the gravel lane. It is covered with "car-siding". There is a window opening on the south elevation, and a door on the west elevation. The building is used for storage.

A new 16'3" x 8'4" white frame building is located 14' to the west of the house. (See photos 1 and 2.) The design was inspired by a smokehouse previously located on the same site. Based on existing smokehouses in Monroe Township, this new wood frame and sided structure contains two restrooms. There are no restrooms located inside the farmhouse to maintain the original design of the house.

Structurally, the barn is in fairly good condition. (See photos 2, 3, 4, 5, 42, 43.) The exterior boards are weathered and some are missing. The silo is in fair condition. The low pitch gable roof structure south of the barn is used for equipment storage. (See photo 44.)

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The circa 1840 Israel Jenkins House meets criterion C for listing on the National Register of Historic Places because the brick two-and-a-half story house, which was among the first to be constructed in Monroe Township, is an outstanding example of mid-19<sup>th</sup> century Midwest vernacular architecture. A prosperous businessman, abolitionist, and farmer built the house. The house retains nearly all of its original Greek Revival exterior features, and simple interior features and plan. The farm also meets criterion A because the remaining buildings reflect a successful farm with pre-Civil War roots, one of the few left in Monroe Township, Grant County, Indiana.

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD - While no direct evidence of the Israel Jenkins' family involvement in the underground railroad has been located, strong circumstantial evidence supports the stories surrounding the heritage of the house and family. Israel Jenkins was born into an abolitionist family with a long history of Quakerism. His ancestors migrated from Winchester, Frederick County, Virginia, where Israel Jenkins was born 30<sup>th</sup> September 1814, to Clinton County, Ohio in 1836. Jenkins came to Monroe Township, Grant County, Indiana in 1839, at the age of 25, to purchase his first parcel of land shortly after his marriage to Lydia Jenkins on 7<sup>th</sup> November 1839. Jenkins' farm, the southeast quarter of section 29, township 24 north, range 9 east, was initially claimed by

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 6

land patent by two people. Isaac Truax, Sr. claimed the east half of the southeast quarter on 20<sup>th</sup> October 1835. William Mitchell claimed the west half of the southeast quarter on 30<sup>th</sup> October 1835. Israel Jenkins obtained ownership of the property, totaling 160 acres, from Isaac Truax on 6<sup>th</sup> December 1839 and William Mitchell on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1840. He paid \$450 for Mitchell's land. The \$650 Jenkins paid for Truax's land also included a "little log cabin". The foundation of the cabin is directly north of the brick house Jenkins subsequently built.

Jenkins' relocation to Grant County was facilitated by the actions of his father-in-law, Robert Dwiggs. It is reported in the *Biographical Memoirs of Grant County* that the senior Dwiggs purchased property in Grant County, Indiana for his elder children, including Lydia (Dwiggs) Jenkins. Four other children moved to Grant County, Indiana within three years of each other as a result of Robert Dwiggs' gift of property: Sarah (Dwiggs) Wall, Hannah (Dwiggs) Leonard, Isaiah Dwiggs and Daniel Dwiggs.

*Elms Station precedents and features useful in abolitionist activities:* Jenkins' brother-in law, Daniel Dwiggs', move to Monroe Township in 1836 from Wilmington, Clinton County, Ohio, and the Dwiggs' family in general were influential in the Jenkins' life in Grant County. That Daniel Dwiggs was an assistant conductor on the Underground Railroad is significant to the architectural design of Jenkins' farmhouse, *The Elms*. The family patriarch, Robert Dwiggs, was a brick mason who built a house in Clinton County, Ohio. Upon his children's move to Grant County, he hired and sent a black man, who was a brick mason, to assist Israel Jenkins, David Wall and George Leonard with the construction of their houses.

Several precedents of The Elms can be found in locations connected to Jenkins, and were likely to have been the basis for the Jenkins house. It is significant that three houses are documented Underground Railroad houses. These houses belonged to Charles Atkinson (Monroe Township, Grant County, IN), George Jenkins (Mt. Pleasant, Ohio), and Levi Coffin (Fountain City, Indiana).

Several features of the Jenkins house would assist in masking activities that would indicate the number of people in the house when hiding slaves. A windmill powered water pump brought water directly into the house. If the indoor reservoir was filled to capacity, the water was piped out of the house to an animal trough in the barnyard. It was not necessary to hand-carry water into the house, an activity that slave hunters monitored as an indication of harboring slaves. The original water pipes are still in place. The Levi Coffin house also had this capability using an interior well.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 7

Jenkins' brick house has interior foundation walls that form a central interior brick chamber under the house with access under the staircase. The closet under the staircase has a rectangular opening cut in the floor that was covered by a stove board. (See photo 48.) The interior space can accommodate up to 15 people. This interior brick chamber is a feature in other area houses which, through family history, are known underground railroad houses.

The very location of the house made it a good location for observing slave hunters who were looking for abolitionist activities because the house is built on the highest point of the surrounding terrain. It is high above Walnut Creek and the Marion-Hartford road ran directly past the house. (See photos 49 and 50.) A safehouse on a hill is not an unprecedented. The John Ripley house is located on a hill above the Ohio River in southern Ohio.

A half-mile northeast of the Jenkins house was the Charles Atkinson house. Though now demolished, it was a mirror image of the Israel Jenkins House. Atkinson was a brick maker by trade who came from Clinton County, Ohio in 1828. Atkinson was identified as a "violent abolitionist of Grant County" and Underground Railroad conductor. He was related to Israel Jenkins. These two houses were on opposite sides of Walnut Creek. A wood bridge crossing Walnut Creek, the remnants of which can still be seen, connected the properties. One-half mile up Walnut Creek, the depressions of an old wagon path that parallel the creek are visible. In *The Economy-Cabin Creek Short Branch and some of its Operatives*, a book about Quaker anti-slavery activities in southeast Indiana, this route is mentioned. "You follow this creek all the way until it dwindles out, and any home you can see from its banks will be safe for you." Five homes were visible along the path, with various degrees of documentation of their Underground Railroad connections: Jesse Oren, Charles Atkinson, Israel Jenkins (The Elms), George Washington Leonard (Scarlet Oaks), and next house north (Golden Oaks) originally owned by the Leonard family. (See illustration 3, and photo 49.) This path and bridge is the route that links the five home sites together. All of these men had a previous association in the Quaker faith. Most were related to each other, and all came from Clinton County, Ohio.

*Farmington, IN and the New Light Christian Church: An abolitionist community:* Andrew Patterson, a Quaker from Clinton County, Ohio, was the first settler in the village of Farmington, one-half mile west of The Elms; he came in 1835. Farmington was so named in 1848, shortly after the release of the Amistad slaves who settled in Farmington, CT. Nearly all the known settlers in Farmington, IN were originally Quakers from Clinton County, Ohio. The first documented Monroe Township religious meeting was in 1837 in the home of Benjamin Hillman, within a quarter mile of

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 8

Farmington.

Since most of the settlers in the Farmington area were Quakers from Clinton County, Ohio, they were not long in establishing their own meeting. A Grant County history book states, "In 1838 some of the pioneers assembled on the Andrew Patterson farm in Farmington and built a little round-log school house - the first known in the township" (1887 Grant County Atlas, p.25) Another Grant history states that the "first school house in the township" was a Quaker church, 20' x 30' made of logs and the first school house in the township." (Biographical Memoirs, p. 572). This school and church was one and the same, located just one-half mile west of the Jenkins house. Quaker records do not show an official meeting in this area. Some of those members who had been Quakers in Clinton County, but not shown as Quakers in Indiana, were those listed in the roles of the "New Light Christian", and others were possibly attending the unnamed Quaker meeting in Farmington.

The year 1839 found Hallett Barbour in Grant County, Indiana proselytizing anti-slavery. Hallett Barbor was a follower among followers. He was a disciple of Barton Stone, who was a follower of William Lloyd Garrison. Garrison was a founder of the Anti-Slavery Society and publisher of the abolitionist newspaper "Liberator". Stone's work is chronicled by D. Newell Williams and William G. Irwin in *Pursuit of Justice: The Anti-Slavery Pilgrimage of Barton W. Stone*.

The Jefferson Township New Light Church organized in 1839 under Elder Barbor's direction and influence with ten signatories on the original constitution. The church is located at 52205 800E, approximately one mile south of the Jenkins farm. The written history of the "New Light" Christian church states "our people were also very active in the Underground Railway" (Echoes from the Past, p.2) "Two very important questions were before the people during this period...one was the liquor question and the other was slavery...our members were extremely pronounced on both....our people were very active in the Underground Railway...we had no sympathizers with the south." (Echoes from the Past -p. 6, a copy of an article appearing at the Marion Chronicle Tribune: Yesterday and Today by W.H. McGrew attached to the Church History) The "New Light Christians" seemed to regard their stand as primarily a "Freedom Movement" (*A Comprehensive History of Christian Churches in Indiana*, p.36) The "New Lights" claimed to be the only church not split by the Civil War. Wilbur Seibert makes reference to the "New Light" in his Underground Railroad papers on Indiana. "Fred Douglas came to Richmond, Indiana to make a speech in favor of abolition of

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 9

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slavery...they greeted him with a shower of stale eggs...someone moved that we adjourn to the New Light Church" (*The U.G.R.R. in Indiana, 2nd Edition, p. 214.*)

The New Light Christian Church is connected to the abolitionist movement by its association with Barton Stone. The Underground Railroad is documented in church history, recorded in Grant County history and in Seibert's research, William Garrison's Anti-Slavery Society, newspaper accounts and oral Jenkins family history. The *African-American Pamphlet collection 1824-1909*, documents "An address to the anti-slavery Christians of the United States" in which the Constitution of the "American and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society" is printed. Article IV states "the Society will employ by the following means, among others, to effect the abolition of slavery and the slave-trade...they will urge upon all, and especially upon the ministry of the Church of Christ, the duty of embracing every suitable opportunity for exhibiting to slave-holders and slave-traders, and their apologists, an abhorrence of the system which they uphold, and its utter incompatibility with the spirit of the Christian religion." (*An address to the Anti-Slavery Christians, p. 15*)

Benjamin Hillman and Patterson, proprietors of the town of Farmington, were among the charter members of the New Light Christian Church. John Ballinger is listed as the fourth member. His son, William Ballinger and wife Gincy, were leaders in the "Anti-slavery" segment of the Fairmount, Indiana, Deer Creek Friends, and disowned from the Quaker church for the same. John Ballinger is documented as the first Quaker to settle in Grant County, arriving in 1824. He is the great-great-grandfather of the present owner of the Elms, Randy Ballinger. Silas Parks, a preacher in the "New Lights" lived in Farmington; some of the first meetings of those who eventually organized as "New Lights" were held in his barn in 1837 and 1838. Parks preached his last sermon in the Christian church days before his death in 1857 attesting to the endurance of the church body. (*To Whom Death Came Twice, Marion Tribune*)

In 1848, abolitionists in Monroe Township left the Quaker Meeting because of philosophical differences in the Quaker Deer Creek and other Anti-Slavery Friends separation. It is in that year that the names of Israel and Lydia Jenkins appear at numbers 22 and 23 respectively on the New Light Church Constitution. Membership in the New Light Christian Church signify Israel and Lydia Jenkins supported and participated in the Underground Railroad activities in Monroe Township.

Though Clinton County, Ohio history states the Jenkins were Quakers, Grant County History states of Israel Jenkins, "...he and his wife were members of the Christian church and zealous Christian people. Their aid was of the material sort, and two churches at least testify to their

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 10

generosity" (Biographical Memoirs of Grant County, p. 471) One of the two churches mentioned may have actually been Jenkins' home, The Elms. One of the unique features about the house are two wood stud walls in a house that otherwise makes extensive and exclusive use of brick. The rooms are in the rear of the house on both the first and second floors. Each floor has two doors side-by-side by which to enter the large space, in the event that the stud walls are a later addition. The first floor doors are exterior doors. (See photo 9.) The second floor interior doors are at the head of the stairs. (See photo 45.) Door trim and floor boards continue under the wood stud wall. (Photos 46 and 47.) Both situations allow visitors to enter the space without entering any other part of the house. This unusual situation is significant because Israel Jenkins and many other Quakers moved into the area that had no Quaker Meetinghouse. It is well known that Quakers observed segregated services, using separate doors by which women and men entered the meetinghouse. Both the first and second floor rooms accommodate that custom of worship.

*Beyond Farmington, IN to Weaver, Indiana*-Assistance to blacks went beyond Farmington and Walnut Creek. Escaped slaves and free blacks were permitted neither to settle in Indiana nor "be a party to a contract". (Indiana Constitution, Article XIII) However, Grant County had two Black settlements: Telltale and the better documented Weaver. (Whittston, Vol 1, p.349.) These settlements existed because blacks were permitted to occupy white-owned land. This relationship between landowner and occupier is documented in Randolph and Wayne counties, Indiana. "Wayne County had a generally distributed, and very large black population that was apparently not settled into segregated communities, but lived for the most part on land owned by sponsoring or sympathetic Quakers". (Indiana's African-American Heritage: Essays from Black History & Notes, p. 102.) "Black families migrating to Indiana often lived a year or more with Quaker sponsors before moving on to their own settlements." (Indiana's African-American...p. 105.) Land ownership records of 1860 show that much of the land in and around Weaver, Indiana was owned by men whose ancestors are known abolitionist from Clinton County, Ohio. The names include Coffin, Jenkins, Baldwin, Betts, Coggeshall, Hill, Hiatt, Jay, Ratliff and Shugart. None of these men lived on the land in Liberty Township, nor is there any permanent dowering indicated in the 1860 atlas.

Travel between southeast Indiana and Weaver was facilitated by one of the first roads in Grant County. The road variously named Cemetery Road, Farmington Road and Walnut Creek Cemetery Road, commenced on the east side of Grant County running between sections 24 and 25 in Monroe Township. The road continued due west past the Jenkins Farm and Farmington dipping south before

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 11

continuing west and crossing the Fort Wayne- Indianapolis Road. The road takes several small north and south turns, crossing the Mississinewa River where "Colored people once lived on the bank of a stream south of Frog College" (Grant County Atlas, 1877, p. 24.) The road continues west until it turns sharply south, going into Weaver. One mile south of Weaver, the road abruptly ends at the southern boundary of Israel Jenkins property (section 10). One could travel east from Grant County on this road, through Hartford City (Blackford County), where the road turns south and heads into Randolph and Wayne Counties. Jenkins also owned property in section 5 of Liberty Township bordering Prairie Creek next to Shugart, and in section 7 of Mill Township where the Fort Wayne-Indianapolis Road branches east.

Sometime after the emancipation proclamation, and indicated on the 1877 Grant County Atlas, land in and around Weaver was sold by the 1860 owners to documented blacks. The names of the black landowners were the same names of blacks assisted in Wayne and Randolph Counties, Indiana: Weaver, Burden, Jones, Shoecraft and Chavous. Israel Jenkins' section 10 property was sold to D. W. Bowman, whose race has not been verified. Other section 10 post-1860 property owners, Weaver, Gulliford and Ward, are documented Blacks, and all came from Virginia, as did Bowman.

AGRICULTURE - Israel Jenkins made his living in several ways. He built and operated a sash sawmill working a large amount of timber. Jenkins was also a farmer. His farm began with 160 acres, but he acquired a total of 330 acres agricultural land before his death in 1875. According to Leonard oral family history, the four families with Dwiggins connections (Dwiggins, Jenkins, Leonard and Wall) followed agrarian pursuits growing flax, sorghum, corn and even an unsuccessful attempt at growing indigo. Jenkins had a sorghum mill behind his smokehouse. Jenkins and Leonard brought seed corn from Wilmington, Ohio and sold it to area farmers. Jenkins built an English barn that still stands. Again, Leonard family lore says it was the "largest barn in Monroe Township. It could hold more tons of hay than any other barn around." The original hay fork, pulley system and track used to load the barn by horsepower are extant. Also extant are the wood horse tank, large wood harness peg rack, hand scythes, wood cattle head gate, sawmill saw blade and cross cut saw. Israel and Lydia raised eight children, and lived in the house until Israel's death. Lydia Jenkins continued to live in the house until 1882, when their cousin Amelia Fisherbuck Ballinger purchased the house for \$8,000. David and Ameila Ballinger farmed for the extent of David's life. His will inventory lists 24 cattle, 4 horses, 54 lambs and sheep, 2 mules, 35 pigs, 6 stands of oats, 165 bushels of corn fodder, 165

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 12

blushes of corn, 51 acres of growing wheat, 10 acres of growing rye. Also, David Ballinger owned at his death grain drills, sleigh, buggy, cross cut saw, hay rake, corn planter, grain cradle and hay ladder. Ballinger was a partner in the threshing machine operation using an "Empire Reaper & Binder" that was listed on his will inventory. The house and acreage have continued to be owned by a relative of the previous owner since its construction. The present owner, Randy Ballinger, is the great-great-grandson of David Ballinger. Significant agricultural buildings are extant: a 19th century English barn, silo and storage building. (See photos 2, 3, 4, and 5.) While the farmland now comprises Club Run golf course the topography of the farm is largely unaltered.

ARCHITECTURE - The 1840 brick Greek Revival house is one of the earliest brick houses in Grant County. Precedents and contemporary houses are discussed earlier in the statement of significance. Preliminary investigation indicated the presence of grained painting in the public rooms on the first floor (southwest and southeast rooms and the stair hall). Unfortunately, it was necessary to remove the paint for the treatment of mold. The only original grain painting to be saved is on the north door of the stair hall. (See photo 16.)

The most remarkable features of this house are wood. This is probably related to the fact that Jenkins owned a steam sawmill. Most of the woodwork is walnut, and was milled on site from trees cut to clear the fields for agriculture. Built-in cupboards were originally in at least six rooms. Five cupboards are extant. One large and one small cupboard door have been located on the property. The wood raised panel doors are identical in design and hardware to the cupboard doors in the second story rooms. Wood grain painting on the small door has not been obscured by any subsequent treatment, and is in excellent condition. Shadows on the plaster walls and baseboards in the first floor southwest room indicate that this was the location from which the doors came.

The baseboard has three pieces, as described in the previous section. Wood planks cover the ceiling in all the second story rooms.

The handrail is jointed at the top of the stairs and continues around the second floor hall. It ends on the fourth attic step, secured with a wood peg. A small opening in the top of the first floor newel post for an inscribed plate is empty.

Most of the woodwork on the second story is different in each room. Because of Jenkins' sash sawmill business, two possibilities exist. Either the rooms were used for display of different trim profiles or perhaps the trim was left over from other jobs. The wood trim does not cover the entire



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 13

lintel in each of the second floor gable wall windows.

The attic has a wood plank floor, and stained plywood covering insulation is recessed between the rafters leaving the rafters exposed. A window in each gable end provides light. The space was easily adaptable for use by the Jenkins family. The space was unheated, but that was not uncommon when used for children's sleeping quarters.

According to the *Grant County Atlas of 1877*, the first locally manufactured brick in Grant County was used to build Grant County's second Courthouse in 1838.

Several brick houses in Monroe Township built by Quakers are mentioned in Grant County histories. David Wall purchased land in 1840, and later built a brick house that has many similarities to the Jenkins house. Wall married Lydia Dwiggins Jenkins' sister, Sarah. Wall is identified as an assistant conductor on the Underground Railroad in Grant County histories. His house is adjacent to the Cumberland-Warren road, which was a major thoroughfare in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Samuel R. Thompson's house was built in 1848. Thompson, a contemporary of Jenkins and Dwiggins, also came from Clinton County, Ohio. Thompson married Martha M. Thornburgh in Ohio in 1839, the same year Israel and Lydia Jenkins were married.

Another brick house, built in Monroe Township c. 1859-1860, was the Asa Marine house. It was described as a brick home, with ten rooms and a basement. Lumber was cut and milled on site. Clay for the brick was dug and burned in kilns on the land. Limestone quarried from the bank of the Mississinewa River was burned for lime. The house has more refined Greek Revival wood interior details than the Jenkins House. The imported French glass windows have the same mullion profile and spring-loaded peg as the windows in the Jenkins house. The design of the interior cupboards are more closely related to the cupboards in the I-houses occupied by the Shugart family. Many interior alterations have been made to the Marine house. The Marine house is listed in the 1993 Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory of Grant County, now known locally as the Troyer house at 7167 East 700 South.

The loss of the Atkinson house and the alteration of the Marine House, leaves the Jenkins house as the best remaining example of mid-19<sup>th</sup> century vernacular architecture in Monroe Township.

In conclusion, this mid 19<sup>th</sup> century brick farmhouse is an excellent example of an early brick house, built by a prosperous farmer using local building materials. Finishing the second story with whatever wood trim was available from the family sawmill makes this house truly a Jenkins creation. It is a record of the types of wood and trim designs used to finish buildings contemporary to the Jen-

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8.9 Page 14

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kins house. Very significantly, Jenkins moved to Monroe Township with family who were intent on assisting slaves to freedom. Jenkins built The Elms, a house well able to accomplish that task.

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 15

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Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 16

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#### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

See Accompanying map

#### Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the farmhouse and outbuildngs that have historically been part of The Elms and that maintain historic integrity. That part of the original 160 acre farm purchased by Israel Jenkins in 1839, and developed into a commercial golf course, has been excluded.

#### ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

Illustrations

1. Floor plan, first floor
2. Floor plan, second floor
3. Map of Monroe Township. 1860. Annotated

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

additional  
documentation

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 17

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Photographs

Identification:

- 1) Property name: The Elms
- 2) Marion, Grant County, Indiana
- 3) Photographer: Judy Cowling
- 4) Date: 14th February 2002 (#1, 3, 4, 8, 49, 50), 9th May 2002 (#6, 9, 13, 20, 32, 45, 46, 47 remainder 19th December 2001.
- 5) Location of original negative: 7453 East 400 South, Marion, IN (Owner)
- 6 & 7) Description & photograph number:
  1. South elevation of the house
  2. Barn and outbuildings looking south west from front porch of house
  3. South and east elevations of the barn and out buildings
  4. South and east elevations of the barn and silo.
  5. North and west elevations of the barn.
  6. North and east elevations of the house.
  7. Detail of window sash
  8. South door, sidelights and transom; porch deck and porch posts
  9. Pair of entry doors on north elevation
  10. Attic looking west from near the east wall.
  11. Attic looking east from near the west wall.
  12. Fireplace and built-in bench on west wall of southwest first floor room.
  13. Cast iron stove
  14. Northeast second floor room looking southwest.
  15. Northeast second floor room looking northeast.
  16. South side of north door in first floor hall.
  17. Detail of the baseboard in first floor southwest room.
  18. Northeast first floor room looking northeast.
  19. Northeast first floor room looking southwest.
  20. Punched tin cupboard doors.
  21. Northwest room first floor room looking northwest. The punch tin doors are temporarily removed to protect them from water damage.
  22. Northwest room first floor room looking southwest.
  23. Northwest room first floor room looking northeast.
  24. Southwest second floor room looking southwest.
  25. Southwest second floor room looking northwest.

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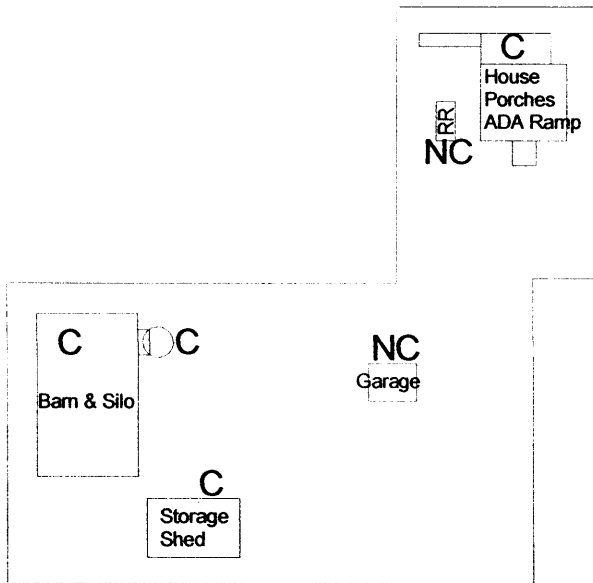
National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

additional  
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Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 18

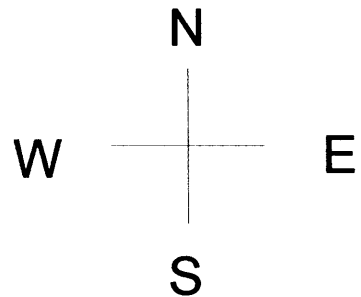
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26. Northeast second floor room looking east.
27. Northeast second floor room looking southwest.
28. Northwest second floor room looking west.
29. Northwest second floor room looking southeast.
30. Southeast first floor room looking northeast.
31. Southeast first floor room looking southwest.
32. Original hardware on double door between north and south rooms, east side of first floor.
33. First floor stair hall looking north.
34. First floor stair hall looking south.
35. Second floor stair hall looking north.
36. Second floor stair hall looking south.
37. End of balustrade pegged in place on attic stair.
38. Attic stairs viewed from the bottom looking up an north.
39. Southwest first floor room looking at the northwest corner.
40. Southwest first floor room looking at the southeast corner.
41. First floor southwest room looking into the stair hall through the west doorway.
42. Interior of barn looking southeast.
43. Interior of barn looking northwest.
44. Storage shed looking southwest.
45. Side-by-side interior doors at top of stairway, second floor looking north.
46. View of door, northeast room second floor.
47. View of west edge door trim, second floor door of northeast room.
48. View under the first floor stair looking south.
49. View of the Jenkins farm looking northwest from Walnut Creek.
50. View of the Jenkins farm from the end of the lane, looking north.

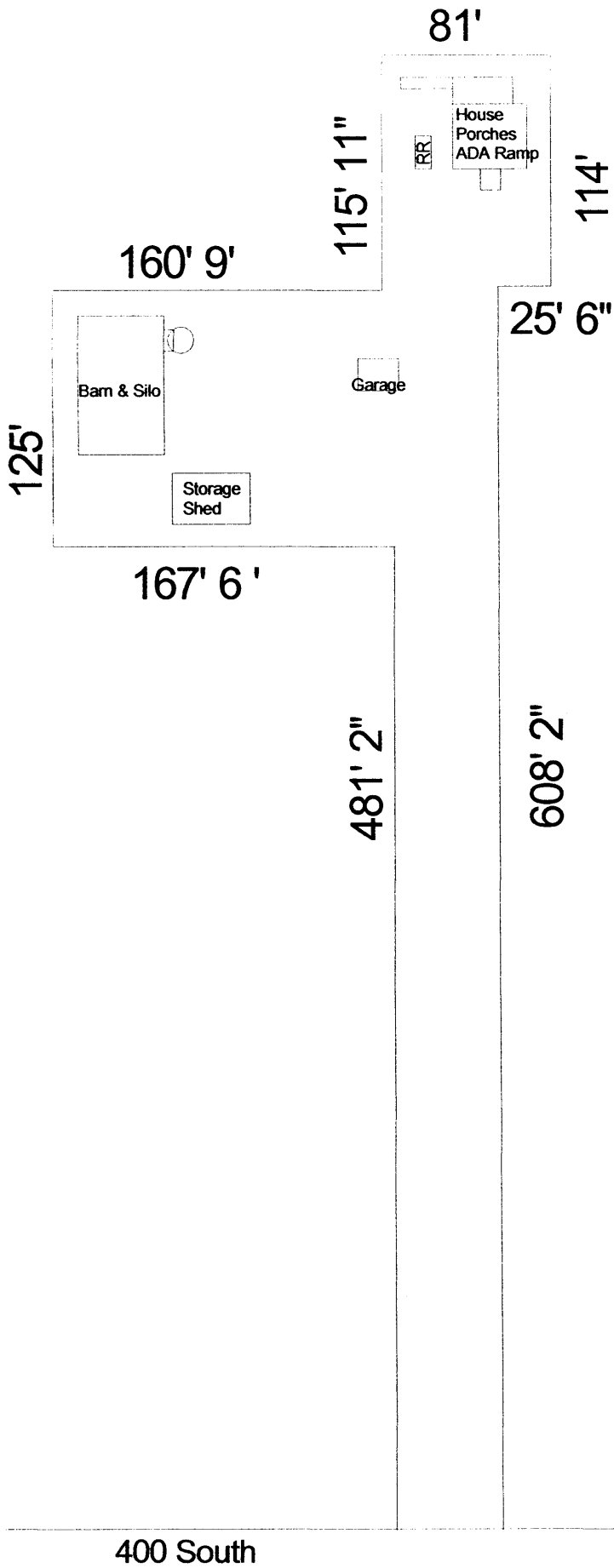


The Elms  
 7453 East 400 South  
 Marion, IN 46953

C = contributing  
 NC = noncontributing

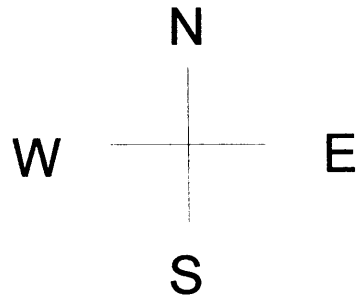


400 South



The Elms  
 7453 East 400 South  
 Marion, IN 46953

1" = 96.2'





Israel Jenkins House  
1st Floor  
8th February 2002  
Illustration 1



New Construction  
Wood Construction  
Brick Construction

v  
down

Israel Jenkins House  
2nd Floor  
8th February 2002  
Illustration 2

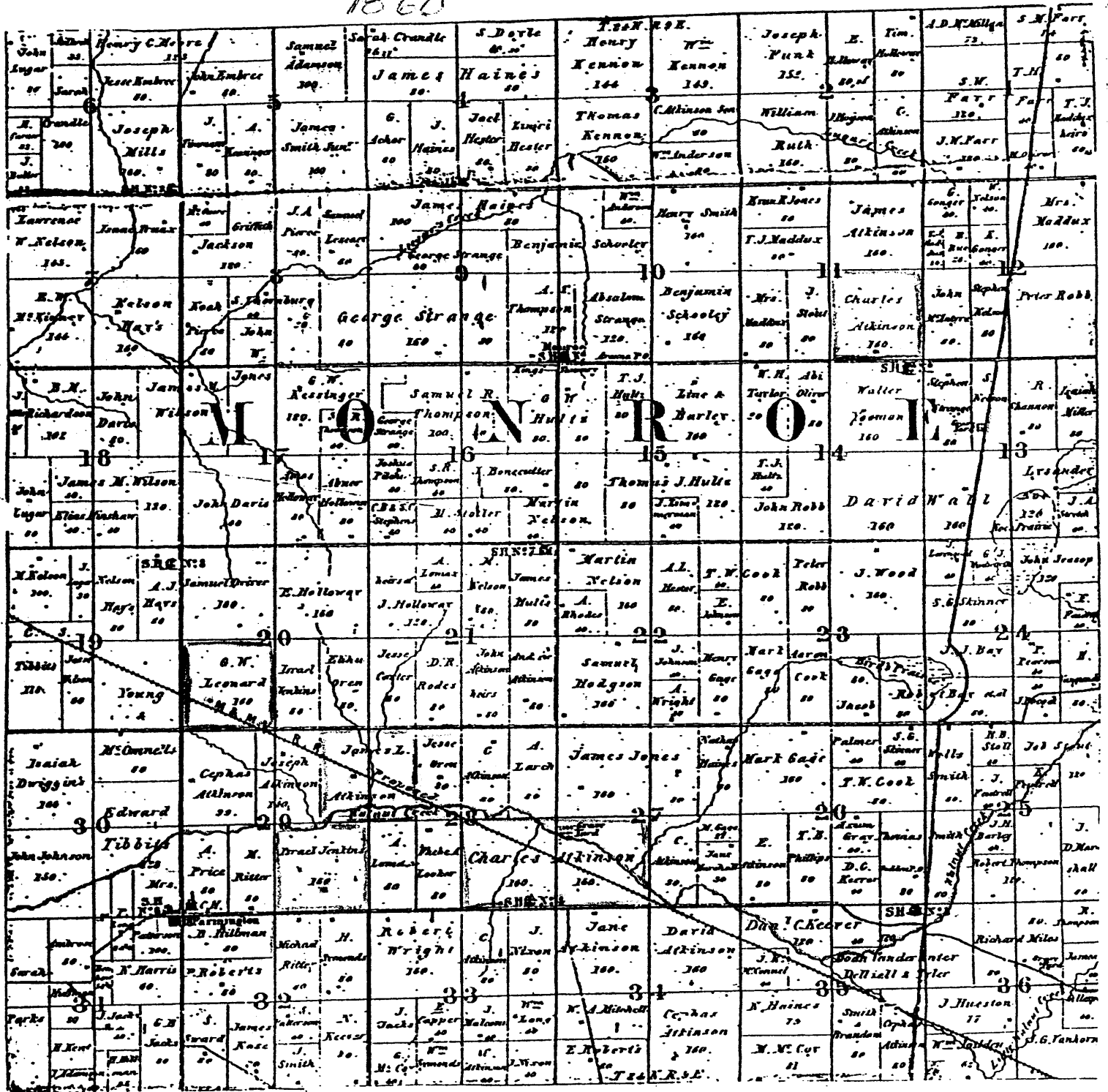
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New Construction

Wood Construction

Brick Construction

# Map of Grant County, Indiana from Surveys and Records by Wm Neal & A.C. Overman 1860



Jesse Oren  
 House / School

Farmington, IN  
 Cumberland-Warrenton Road