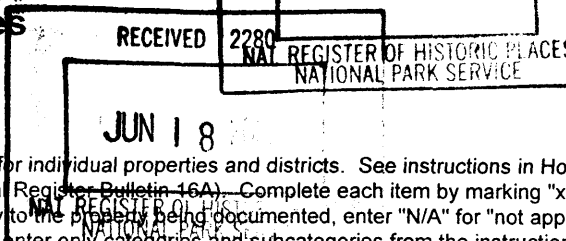
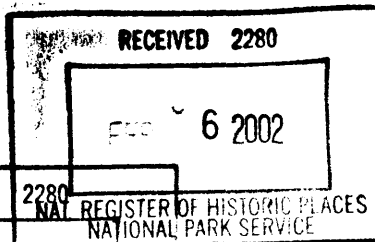


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



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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 Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_ 095-409-51001

2. Location

street & number 200-500 blocks of Eastern, Parkview, Western Drives N/A  not for publication

city or town Chesterfield N/A  vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Madison code 095 zip code 46017

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 [Signature]  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Date 1-29-02

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Patrick Andrews

Date of Action

7/17/2002

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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

- building
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property		
Contributing	Noncontributing	
40	25	buildings
0	0	sites
9	0	structures
2	0	objects
51	25	Total

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

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

N/A

none

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: Religious Facility  
 DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling  
 DOMESTIC: Hotel

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling  
 RELIGION: Religious Facility  
 DOMESTIC: Hotel

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

19th & 20th c. AMER.:  
 MODERN: Art Deco

foundation CONCRETE  
 walls WOOD: Weatherboard  
 STONE: Limestone  
 roof WOOD: Shingle  
 other METAL

**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.)

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION  
COMMUNITY PLANNING &

**Period of Significance**

1890-1958

**Significant Dates**

1891

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:

Camp Chesterfield Archive

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 34.889

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 619400 4441900  
Zone Easting Northing

3 16 619700 4441300  
Zone Easting Northing

2 16 619680 4441910

4 1 619410 4441300

6  
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 Kato Smith, AIA; Carol Ann Schweikert  
organization Kato Design Studio; Consultant date 10-15-2000  
street & number 7 East 12th Street; 17456 Trailview Circle telephone 765-644-3712; 317  
city or town Anderson; Noblesville state IN zip code 776-1239 46016; 46060

**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 Indiana Association of Spiritualists  
street & number 50 Lincoln Dr. telephone 765-378-0235  
city or town Chesterfield state IN zip code 46017

**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 Service**

# **National Register Of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 1

Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp  
Madison County, Indiana

## **Narrative Description**

Camp Chesterfield is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as an historic district. The common green space in the center of the camp surrounded by the cottages in close proximity to each other is typical of Spiritualist Camps that were widespread over the eastern and Midwestern United States at the turn of the century. This camp has maintained the scale and general character of these camps that once flourished in America. Located on the north edge of the Town of Chesterfield, Indiana, along the south bank of the White River, the Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp contains an evolution of structures and a remarkable glimpse into the past.

The camp was originally situated outside of Chesterfield in the country, and is now located at the north end of the town of Chesterfield. The plan contains an oval street layout with a common public space in the center. There is only one entrance to the property. It is at the south end of the camp, on axis with the public space and marked by an entrance gate. Public uses are to each side of the entrance, followed by residential zones flanking the public space. There is a uniform density to the camp with narrow streets the same size as when the camp was opened. Grandview Drive has never been paved and exists as a walkway. Steep grades prevented development on Valley View Drive.

In the early years, shelters consisted of tents or simple wooden summer cabins, built on stone foundations. The homes were frequently moved about the property in the early years of the camp. As the movement gained significance, the residents of Camp Chesterfield built permanent buildings for the church, meeting hall, dining hall, & homes. Several early buildings were victims of fire and replaced with concrete buildings that were felt to be safer. Several of the turn-of-the-century buildings still exist, and one hotel, typical of 1940's roadside architecture, remains virtually unchanged from its original condition. Many of the homes have been modified to accommodate year-round living. Changes include the introduction of indoor plumbing (in some cases in rear or side additions), and the infill of porches to provide year round living space. However, the original massing, exterior openings, and often, exterior materials are still clearly discernable. Also, the general scale and character of the camp remains intact and is very representative of what could be found in most camps. The central green space as well as the camp as a whole has been kept in their original size and character.

When the camp opened its doors, it boasted a dining hall, lodging house, tent auditorium, two séance cabins and an entry archway with gatehouse. All of these initial structures have been replaced. In the period between 1892 and 1900, several buildings were erected, including the office building (1892), the Bazaar building (1893), a wooden auditorium (1895), stables, a grocery store, an ice cream parlor, and eighteen cottages. Of these, the Bazaar building and twelve cottages remain on the grounds. Descriptions of these buildings that remain are included in this report. Between 1900 and 1922, a pair of two-story hotels were built flanking the main entrance to the camp to handle the influx of visitors. The Sunflower hotel (1914) still stands, while the Lily hotel, built as the Sunflower's twin, was a victim of arson in 1997.

Mabel Riffle, resident of the camp and secretary of the Indiana Association of Spiritualists from 1909 to 1961, was a leading force in the development of this camp and very influential to the Spiritualist movement. She spearheaded the construction of the Sunflower and Lily hotels, and as the camp steadily grew, with a major growth spurt after World War II, she led the last major building phase of Camp Chesterfield. Visitors came in record numbers and more facilities were added to handle the load and to replace older buildings. The Western hotel (1949), the late Art Deco Cathedral (1954), Maxxon cafeteria (1955), and the Art Gallery (1958) were all built in the last major phase of development of the Camp.

The site features 65 buildings, 40 contributing and 25 non-contributing. There are also 9 structures and 2 objects that are within the public space that are contributing. See the map at the end of this application for key number locations

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**National Register Of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 2

Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp  
Madison County, Indiana

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**Individual Descriptions - Buildings**

**B1. The Sunflower Hotel – Contributing (Photo No 1)**

Between 1914 and 1922, a pair of two-story hotels was built flanking the main entrance to the camp to handle the influx of visitors. The Sunflower hotel (1914) still stands, while the Lily hotel (1922), built as the Sunflower's twin, was a victim of arson in 1997. The Sunflower was built by James Millspaugh and designed by Mr. Langley. This is one of the early buildings spearheaded by Mabel Riffle and started the early phase of camp expansion. The Sunflower is a two story wood frame building on a rusticated concrete block foundation. The building is "U" shaped with an addition done in 1932 on the rear of one of the ends of the building. The building features covered balconies on the first and second floors across the front of the building facing Lilly Park. The addition is the same construction except the eave height is 18" lower. The whole building is sheathed in insul-brick over wood clapboard siding. The building has wood, double hung windows and an asphalt shingle roof.

**B2. The Art Gallery – Contributing (Photo No 2)**

This building is a concrete block building with a limestone and glass front façade built in 1958 during the last phase of major construction at the camp. The building uses masonry support walls and steel bar joists for an open space plan interior. The front façade features triangular, limestone pieces dividing the storefront from the ashlar stone, picking up detailing used in the Maxxon Cafeteria and the Cathedral in the Woods. The ashlar stone is also used in the Maxxon Cafeteria and the Cathedral in the Woods, both contributing. The architect was Marion Collins of Anderson.

**B3. Storage Building - Non-Contributing**

This is a concrete block storage building built in the mid-1960's.

**B4. The Western Hotel – Contributing (Photo No 3)**

The Western Hotel is a two and a half story structure built in 1948 and is an excellent example of American roadside architecture. The concrete block foundation supports a concrete block structure with brick veneer. The floors are pre-cast concrete. The roof is flat with a 12" overhang. The windows are all steel casements. The first floor is elevated six feet off the ground so the lower level could have full size windows. The one story front porch spans the entire front and wraps around ten feet on the side of the building featuring very simple steel columns and railings.

**B5. Storage Building - Non-Contributing**

This is a concrete block building built in the 1960's.

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**National Register Of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 3

Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp  
Madison County, Indiana

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**B6. The Maxxon Cafeteria – Contributing (Photo No 4)**

This building was built in 1955 during the last phase of major construction at the camp. It is concrete block with a limestone and glass front façade. The building uses masonry support walls and steel bar joists for an open space plan interior. The front façade features triangular, limestone pieces dividing the storefront from the ashlar stone, picking up detailing used in the Cathedral in the Woods and the Art Gallery. The ashlar stone is also used in the Maxxon Cafeteria and the Cathedral in the Woods. Architect Marion Collins of Anderson designed this building.

**B7. The Administration Building - Non-Contributing**

This is a building built in 1969. It is concrete block with a limestone and glass front façade.

**B8. The Tree of Life Bookstore - Non-Contributing**

This is a concrete block building originally built in 1968 as an ice cream parlor. Architect Kato Smith completely remodeled the building in 1998.

**B9. 200 Lincoln Drive - Contributing**

**B10. 208 Lincoln Drive - Non-Contributing**

**B11. 214 Eastern Drive - Non-Contributing**

**B12. 218 Eastern Drive - Contributing**

**B13. 220 Eastern Drive - Non-Contributing**

**B14. 306 Eastern Drive - Contributing**

**B15. 310 Eastern Drive - Contributing**

**B16. 314 Eastern Drive - Contributing**

**B17. 318 Eastern Drive – Contributing (Photo No 5)**

Known as the Riffle/ Ward Cottage, this cottage features the original séance room built in 1904. The shutters on the front windows were used as a kind of do-not-disturb sign. They would be closed when a séance was in session, then opened after it had ended. The one and one half story cottage maintains its original scale and size. The cottage has an open front porch. The foundation is concrete with a wood frame structure. Hard board siding now covers the original clapboard siding. The gable roof is asphalt shingle and features a shed dormer with windows facing the street. The original wood double hung windows remain.

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Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp  
Madison County, Indiana

- B18. 322 Eastern Drive - Contributing
- B19. 400 Eastern Drive - Contributing
- B20. 410 Eastern Drive - Contributing
- B21. 414 Eastern Drive - Contributing
- B22. 419 Valley View Drive – Contributing (Photo No 6)

Known as the Mendenhall/Mosteller Cottage, this was built in 1895 by Major Bittners. The one-story cottage is a combination of two cottages, the center portion of the cottage being an original cottage, and then an original "shanty" was attached as an economical means of creating an addition on the front of the cottage. Later, an addition was built doubling the length of the original cottage. The foundation is concrete with a wood frame structure. Siding is original to each piece of the cottage showing the evolution of the cottage over time in a very graphic manner. The gable roof is asphalt shingle and features clipped ridges on the main roof. The original wood double hung windows remain.

- B23. 415 Valley View Drive - Contributing
- B24. The Cathedral of the Woods – Contributing (Photo No 7)

This Modern style building was built in 1943 during the final phase of major construction at the camp. It is a concrete block building with a limestone front façade featuring stained glass in triangular facets. The building uses masonry support walls and steel bar joists for an open space plan interior. The front façade features triangular, limestone pieces dividing the storefront from the ashlar stone. This detailing was picked up in the design of the Art Gallery and the Maxxon Cafeteria. The ashlar stone is also used in the Maxxon Cafeteria and the Art Gallery. Architect Arthur Henning of Anderson is believed to have designed this building.

- B25. 438 Valley View Drive - Non-Contributing
- B26. 442 Valley View Drive - Contributing
- B27. 411 Eastern Drive - Contributing
- B28. 408 Eastern Drive - Contributing
- B29. 321 Eastern Drive - Contributing
- B65. 313 Eastern Drive - Contributing
- B30. 303 Eastern Drive - Contributing



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Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp  
Madison County, Indiana

- 
- B31. 225 Eastern Drive - Contributing
- B32. 221 Eastern Drive - Contributing
- B33. ? Eastern Drive (Old Bookstore) - Non-Contributing
- B34. 213 Eastern Drive - Non-Contributing
- B35. 214 Lincoln Drive - Non-Contributing
- B36. 216 Parkview Drive - Non-Contributing
- B37. 218 Parkview Drive – Contributing (Photo No 8)

Known as the Bittners/ Joseph Cottage, this was built in 1895 by Major Bittners. The one-story cottage maintains its original scale and size. The cottage has a front porch across the front that has been closed in. The foundation is concrete with a wood frame structure. Aluminum siding now covers the original clapboard siding. The hip roof is asphalt shingle. The original wood double hung windows remain.

- B38. 222 Parkview Drive - Non-Contributing
- B39. 306 Parkview Drive – Contributing (Photo No 9)

Known as the Leggett/ Baerwald Cottage, this was built in 1895. The two-story center body cottage maintains its original scale and size with several later additions around the cottage showing the evolution of the cottage into a year round residence. The foundation is rusticated concrete block with a wood frame structure. Originally, an open-air wood porch was across the front where an addition now stands. Aluminum siding now covers the original clapboard siding. -The gable roof is asphalt shingle and the windows have all been removed or replaced with a combination of aluminum sliding and vinyl double hung units.

- B40. 310 Parkview Drive – Contributing (Photo No 10)

Known as the Vestal/ Olman Cottage, this was built in 1895 by Maggie Vestal. The one-story cottage maintains its original scale and size. The cottage has a front porch across the front that was closed in. The foundation is concrete with a wood frame structure. Aluminum siding now encloses the front porch, but the original clapboard siding can be seen on the sides and rear. The gable roof is asphalt shingle. Some of the original windows remain; other windows have been modified by removal and replacement.

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Section 7 Page 6

Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp  
Madison County, Indiana

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**B41. 314 Parkview Drive – Contributing (Photo No 11)**

Known as the Koch/ Clark Cottage, this was built in 1895. The two-story cottage maintains its original scale and size with a later addition on the rear. The foundation is rusticated concrete block with a wood frame structure. The one story porch covers the entire front of the cottage. Hard board siding now covers the original clapboard siding. The gable roof is asphalt shingle and the windows are the original wood double hung type.

**B42. 318 Parkview Drive - Non-Contributing**

**B43. 322 Parkview Drive – Contributing (Photo No 12)**

Known as the O'Neil/ Kennedy Cottage, this was built in 1895 by Tom O'Neil, an early President of the camp. The one-story cottage maintains its original scale and size with a later addition on the rear. The foundation is concrete with a wood frame structure. Aluminum siding now covers the original clapboard siding. The gable roof is asphalt shingle and the windows have been modified by removal and replacement.

**B44. 404 Parkview Drive - Contributing**

**B45. The Bazaar – Contributing (Photo No 13)**

This two-story house dates to 1894. The front porch was added in 1900 when the building changed use from a residence to a meetinghouse where residents would come for coffee and to sit on the wide covered porch. The original wooden columns and floor were replaced with a concrete floor and wrought iron columns in the 1950's. The original wood windows and doors remain. The gable roof is asphalt shingle with hard board siding over the clapboard siding.

**B46. 224 Grandview Drive – Contributing (Photo No 14)**

This is known as the McKee Cottage, built in 1905 by A. L. Morris. The foundation is rusticated concrete block with a wood frame structure. Hard board siding now covers the original clapboard siding. The hip roof is asphalt shingle and features a front dormer with window. The one and one half story cottage has wood double hung windows and retains its original 4-room floor plan. This is one of the most original cottages in the camp, retaining the proportions that were typical of most of the cottages.

**B47. The Lyceum Building (Chapel) – Contributing (Photo No 15)**

The Lyceum building was built in 1936. This is another of the public buildings spearheaded by Mabel Riffle. Other than the hard board siding over the original clapboard siding, this structure remains unchanged from its original construction. The foundation is rusticated concrete block with a wood frame structure. The gable roof is asphalt shingle and features a simple cupola. The chapel has wood double hung windows and wood doors.

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**National Register Of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 7

Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp  
Madison County, Indiana

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**B48. 307 Grandview Drive – Contributing (Photo No 16)**

This is known as the Parkinson/ Padget Cottage, and was built in 1895. The foundation is stone with a wood frame structure. Hard board siding now covers the original clapboard siding. The gable roof is asphalt shingle. The one story cottage has wood double hung windows and retains its original 4-room floor plan. The front porch has been enclosed, but the cottage still retains the proportions that were typical of most of the cottages.

**B49. 311 Grandview Drive- Non-Contributing**

**B50. 318 Grandview Drive - Contributing**

**B51. 405 Grandview Drive – Contributing (Photo No 17)**

This is known as the Ice Cottage and was built in 1895. The foundation is rusticated concrete block with a wood frame structure. Insul-brick siding now covers the original clapboard siding. The gable roof is asphalt shingle. The one and one half story cottage has wood double hung windows. This cottage shows the original cottage in the center, with two wings built off one side and a front porch that was eventually enclosed on the front.

**B52. 408 Grandview Drive - Contributing**

**B53. 413 Grandview Drive – Contributing (Photo No 18)**

This is known as the Jessup/Milburn Cottage, built in 1895 by W. C. Jessup. The foundation is chamfered edge concrete block with a wood frame structure. Aluminum siding now covers the original clapboard siding. The gable roof is asphalt shingle and features a front dormer. The one story cottage has wood double hung windows. The original open-air front porch is now enclosed and a gable accent has been added to give attention to the front door. This cottage retains the proportions that were typical of most of the cottages while illustrating the evolution of cottage use over the last century.

**B54. 421 Grandview Drive - Non-Contributing**

**B55. 432 Western Drive - Contributing**

**B56. 401 Western Drive - Non-Contributing**

**B57. 318 Western Drive - Non-Contributing**

**B58. 313 Western Drive - Non-Contributing**

**B59. 312 Western Drive - Non-Contributing**

**B60. 311 Western Drive - Contributing**

**B61. 307 Western Drive - Non-Contributing**

**B62. 225 Western Drive - Non-Contributing**

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Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp  
Madison County, Indiana

**B63. Mobile Home - Non-Contributing**

**B64. Mobile Home - Non-Contributing**

**Individual Descriptions - Structures**

**S1. Entry Gate and Stone Wall Fence – Contributing**

**S2. Entry Gatehouse – Contributing (Photo No 19)**

This is the most recent entry gate and guardhouse built in 1950 during the final phase of major construction at the camp. The construction features the ashlar stone detailing seen in the design of the Art Gallery and the Maxxon Cafeteria. A. L. Morris built the original gate cottage and arched stone gate in 1891. The stone wall fence is an earlier construction from stone found on or nearby the site.

**S3. Memory Garden – Contributing (Photo No 20)**

This stone fountain was built circa 1930. It stands at the front of the grounds and serves as an entryway for visitors to the common area of the camp. It serves as a transition from the rustic river stone used in the bridges and the ashlar stone featured in the 1950's construction. It was an upgrade of the Flower Garden and Fountain built in 1916 on the site of the original well and Camp Cafeteria.

**S4. Garden of Prayer – Contributing (Photo No 21)**

This structure from circa 1930, is built of river rock and is fully exposed on only one side. The other three sides are built up with soil to give the building a cave-like appearance and downplay the existence of a man-made structure in the natural setting of the common space.

**S5. Stone Bridge – Contributing (Photo No 22)**

This is one of a series of bridges constructed in 1930 in the center green space of the park. The rubble stone is from the banks of the White River on the north edge of the property. The natural feeling of the structure was meant to reinforce the aspect of being within a natural park setting for all to use.

**S6. Trail of Religions Statue Grouping – Contributing (Photo No 23)**

This was built in 1940 and resides in the common area. Built into a hillside, the back of the wall acts as a retaining wall to the west and is viewed from the east. The stone semi-circle features busts of the heads to all the primary regions of the world, featuring a bust of Christ in the apex.

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Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 9

Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp  
Madison County, Indiana

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**S7. Stone Bridge – Contributing (Photo No 24)**

This is one of a series of bridges constructed in 1930 in the center green space of the park. The rubble stone is from the banks of the White River on the north edge of the property. The natural feeling of the structure was meant to reinforce the aspect of being within a natural park setting for all to use.

**S8. Stone Sweathouse – Contributing (Photo No 25)**

This sweathouse was built circa 1940 from stone found in the area as part of the memorial to Native American Indians and their religious beliefs. The Native American Memorial(O1) and the totem (O2) are adjacent to this structure.

**S9. Stone Bridge – Contributing (Photo No 28)**

This is one of a series of bridges constructed in 1930 in the center green space of the park. The rubble stone is from the banks of the White River on the north edge of the property. The natural feeling of the structure was meant to reinforce the aspect of being within a natural park setting for all to use.

**Individual Descriptions - Objects**

**O1. Native American Memorial – Contributing (Photo No 27)**

**O2. Totem Pole – Contributing (Photo No 26)**

These objects, added in phases to the stone sweathouse, contribute to the memorial to Native American Indians. The Native American Memorial was constructed in 1940. The totem pole was given by Bruno Cszlac in 1950. Situated at the rear of the common space next to the stone sweathouse, these elements act as an endpoint to the open area looking north from the public end of the common space.

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National Park Service**

**National Register Of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 10

Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp  
Madison County, Indiana

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**Statement of Significance**

Camp Chesterfield is eligible for listing as a district under Criterion A, for its association with events that have made a significant contribution to broad patterns of our history. Camp Chesterfield, a spiritualist camp in central Indiana, was established in 1890 in Chesterfield, Indiana. The town of Chesterfield was laid out in 1830 and incorporated in 1858. For a number of years, the town prospered and was a rival to its neighbor Anderson. However, by 1874 the town had lost this prestige and was declining. The location of Camp Chesterfield here has likely been a boost to the town though it never again rivaled Anderson. The district meets Consideration A because of its value as an illustration of several significant historical trends.

Camp Chesterfield is part of the religion Modern Spiritualism which is the Science, Philosophy and Religion of continuous life, based on the communication through a medium with those in the spirit world. Through communication with the world of the spirit they seek to prove that life continues after the change called death. They believe we are personally responsible for our actions and that Jesus was an example of what we could become. When Modern Spiritualism emerged in the mid-1800s, it was a major deviation from other mainstream religions, but it has persisted with significant membership numbers for nearly 150 years.

Modern Spiritualism was born in 1848 in Hydesville, New York when the Fox sisters purported to have communicated through rappings with a man who was killed and buried in the basement of their house. The Fox sisters soon began traveling giving demonstrations of their ability to communicate with the dead before large audiences. The U.S. was the site of dramatic change during the 19<sup>th</sup> century with experimental and sometimes radical religious, social and scientific reform movements prevalent. While the Fox sisters were baffling crowds with their abilities, hypnotists were also drawing large crowds and communes were springing up throughout the northeast while the Shakers were advocating celibacy. The 19<sup>th</sup> century public was generally receptive to new and unusual philosophies and religions and Spiritualism was one of those new religions that differed greatly from the mainstream. Some were fads and short-lived, but others, like Spiritualism, have lasted into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. While its popularity declined in the last half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, as late as 1979, spiritualists lived in every state with especially high numbers in New York, Maine, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and California.

In Spiritualism, the Fox sisters were soon joined by many other mediums, some with stronger powers who were soon producing visual proof of the existence of spirits. During the 1840s and 1850s, books and journals were written, and circles and churches were established by believers in Spiritualism all over the United States. By 1851, more than 150 regular circles were functioning in New York City, 60 in Philadelphia and thousands more nationwide. The movement spread west and by 1855, Cleveland and Cincinnati were secondary cities of Spiritualist activity. Activity tended to be concentrated in urban areas, but was also found in rural areas including the Midwest. By the mid 1850s, there were more than a million "professing spiritualists" and nearly seventy spiritualist newspapers.

By the end of the 1850s, organizations of spiritualists had sprung up in most states and a few regional societies had been established. According to the Federal census, the number of spiritualist churches grew from 17 in 1860 to 95 in 1870. By 1890 the number had grown to 334 and by 1906 to 455. This relatively new religion obviously appealed to significant numbers of people.

In addition to local circles and churches, Spiritualists used camps to meet, exchange ideas and witness the demonstrations of famous mediums. Before the Civil War, these camps were at scattered locations for a few days and drew small numbers of people. These camps became especially popular in the 1870s and more permanent camps emerged. Although efforts to organize spiritualists on a national level were not hugely successful, believers streamed to camp meetings. In 1869, a 2-day grove meeting in Abington Massachusetts drew 12,000. Eight

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Madison County, Indiana

thousand attended the annual 5-day camp meeting in Melrose, Massachusetts. In 1871, a group of Spiritualists began holding summer meetings on the shores of Cassadaga Lake in New York and later organized as the Lily Dale Assembly. The group eventually built 200 cottages, a hotel, auditorium, amphitheater and picnic pavilion. Other camps followed in Wisconsin, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maine, Indiana and elsewhere. By the early 1880s, at least 17 camps had sprung up across the nation.

Spiritualist camps differed widely in terms of size and organization, but their creation tended to follow a pattern. First, a large parcel of land, usually in scenic vacation areas would be purchased by a rich Spiritualist and donated to a non-profit corporation comprised of other spiritualists. The corporation would arrange for several well-known mediums to be present for a season, usually during the summer. Then notices would be sent out to other spiritualists and the public inviting them to the camp.

Spiritualist camps in the 1870s and later were festive and entertaining, not focused on universal spiritual or social reform like those in the 1850s and 1860s. They normally lasted 2 weeks or more and frequently attracted five to ten thousand people on a summer Sunday. Some camps added permanent structures including an auditorium, hotel, cafeteria, cottages and possibly a dancing pavilion. As these camps with permanent structures prospered, other spiritualists and mediums began living there year around. The number of camps grew over the years and in 1924 there was a spiritualist camp in nearly every state in the union though some were less developed than others.

Spiritualism was particularly strong in Indiana. Two state spiritualist associations, one organized in 1888 (Indiana Association of Spiritualists) and one in 1904 (Indiana State Association of Spiritualists), promoted religion and morality, construction of suitable places of worship and the education and license of lecturers or teachers in Indiana. Spiritualists were found in communities throughout the state. The first Spiritualist church in Indiana was in Fountain County, near Veedersburg. The Poston family in LaPorte County Indiana became powerful mediums with their own seance room. Angola, Indiana had a spiritualist establishment for many years. Spiritualists were found in other areas of the state including Muncie, Yorktown, Crawfordsville, Greensburg, Ft. Wayne, North Vernon and Indianapolis. By 1924 there were more than fifty churches in Indiana with an estimated attendance at half a million.

Camp Chesterfield's history is typical of other spiritualist camps. In this case, the spiritualists in the vicinity met in Westerfield Hall and at private residences for several years under Dr. John W. Westerfield's leadership. Although not a medium or lecturer, he was an active promoter for many years. He had settled in Anderson in 1839 was a practicing physician there until 1843. In 1883 he introduced a lecture series in his newly constructed Westerfield Hall in Anderson and thereafter encouraged free and progressive thought including Spiritualism.

In 1883, after visiting Michigan which had three spiritualist camps, a decision was made by a small group of believers to pursue developing a camp in Indiana. Dr. John W. Westerfield took the lead on this endeavor. By 1886 a mass meeting was held in Westerfield hall with 200 people and the election of officers. The group met regularly for the next three years and in 1888 was incorporated as the Indiana Association of Spiritualists. In 1890, a grove meeting was held on the Carroll and Emily Bronnenberg riverside property at Chesterfield. In 1891 Camp Chesterfield opened in the same spot for a six-week session which was then held annually. Workers were hired to clear and improve the ground with a large tent-auditorium to seat five hundred people. A dining hall and lodging house and two seance rooms were also built. In 1892, the 34 acres were purchased from the Bronnenbergs with the Westerfields and Bronnenbergs making large donations for the purchase.

This land had many advantages. There were pure underground springs, natural gas, a natural sloping drainage on two sides into a central stream which emptied into the White River, pasture land and original stand of hardwood. The camp was laid out like a small town with two major streets on the east and west sides connected by north

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Madison County, Indiana

and south streets with a large grassy shaded space in the center. The streets were subdivided into individual lots. Each lot was divided into four tent spaces. Over time, as tents were phased out and replaced by cottages, an entire lot was devoted to one cottage. The lots were and continue to be owned by the association and leased to the owners of the structures. By 1890, many improvements had been made including fences, wells, natural gas lines and more cottages. Since the lodging house could accommodate only 25 people at most, and there were only a limited number of cottages, many visitors still had to bring their own tents.

For the 1896 annual meeting, about 50 families were staying regularly on the grounds and more than 200 were at the opening. There were also 10-15 mediums on the grounds. The camp had sufficiently large numbers of attendees for the Big Four railroad to put on an extra train on Sundays between Anderson and the campground in 1896 and for several years afterward. At one time, the Union Traction Company had a trolley spur which made a stop inside the gates. Local newspapers had special correspondents at the camp reporting daily on the events. In 1901 an addition was made to the existing lodging house and in 1914 the Sunflower Hotel was built. Around 1920 the Lily Hotel (burned 1997) was built, a mirror image of the Sunflower. The chapel, Garden of Prayer and Trail of Religion with other stonework was completed in the 1920s and 1930s.

By 1927, the six-week session at Camp Chesterfield was drawing an average of 20,000 people. There were about fifty cottages in the camp, two hotels, dining hall, auditorium and refreshment pavilion. While structures have changed, the layout of the camp remains much the same today. The Western Hotel was building the late 1940s and in 1954 a new cathedral was dedicated. The Dr. Hett Art Gallery was built in 1955 and the 1960s saw the addition of a new cafeteria and administration building. Recently, a new bookstore was also built.

The cottages in spiritualist camps including Camp Chesterfield are typically small, vernacular frame structures. There does not seem to be an overall style prevalent at the various camps. Since the cottages were built over a long period of time, they are typically a mix of styles and plans reflecting the predominant style of the time. The public buildings are more substantial and made in a variety of materials, while reflecting the time period they were built in.

At Spiritualism's heyday, the number of established camps is unknown, but there may have been as many as 40-50. In 1979, there were around 400 Spiritualist churches and around fifteen camps in some stage of active operation. Today only a few camps remain including Lily Dale in New York, Cassadaga in Florida, Temple Heights in Maine and Camp Chesterfield. As late as the 1980s, as many as twenty Spiritualism churches remained in Indiana, mostly in urban communities. This number along with its focus on education has likely helped keep Camp Chesterfield open and serving its members and its community.

While Camp Chesterfield is owned by a religious institution, it is an excellent example of religious meeting camps from the 1800s, specifically those owned by the Spiritualists. Spiritualism was one of several religious phenomena that appeared in the 1800s. Some were small and geographically concentrated in a small area while Spiritualism attracted thousands and was found in all regions of the country and most states. Phrenology, spiritualism, hypnotism, and celibacy are just a few of the avenues the people's searches for answers led them to in the 1800s. People were more open to ideas that were not mainstream and this fueled the "market" for new "religions." The original purpose of spiritualist camps as a destination, frequently as a vacation spot, has all but disappeared. Because of this, it becomes more difficult for these camps to remain open when the number of visitors has so dramatically declined. While it remains a religious institution, it represents a major phenomenon in the 1800s when people were open to new and sometimes strange thoughts and ideas and where the ability to spread these new ideas was much greater due to the new technology, newspapers and faster modes of travel.



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**Verbal Boundary Description**

A part of the Northeast Quarter of Section Ten, Township Nineteen North, Range Eight East, described as follows:

Commencing at a point One Hundred Forty-Four and 8/10 [148.8] rods (2455.2 feet) north and sixty four and 8/10 [64.8] rods (1069.2 feet) west of the southeast corner of the northeast quarter of Section Ten, (10) Township (19) North, Range (8) East, running thence south Five (5) Degrees, West One hundred seven [107] rods (1765.5 feet), thence east Fifty seven and 6/10 [57.6] rods (950.4 feet), thence north Five (5) degrees east Thirty one [31] rods (511.5 feet), thence north Two (2) degrees west Fifty nine [59] rods, (6) links (977.46 feet) to the bank of the White River, thence a Westerly course with the meanderings of said river to the place of beginning.

Being a part of the Northeast Quarter of Section 10, Township 19 North, Range 8 East, and containing 34.88 acres, more or less.

**Boundary Justification**

These are the original boundaries as deeded to Indiana Association of Spiritualists by Carroll and Emily Bronnenburg in 1890.

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Madison County, Indiana

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1. Sunflower Hotel - Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District  
Madison County, Indiana  
David Temple  
9-16-00  
Camp Chesterfield  
Looking Southwest from Administration Bldg.
  2. Art Gallery - Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District  
Madison County, Indiana  
David Temple  
9-16-00  
Camp Chesterfield  
Looking Southeast from the Art Gallery porch
  3. Western Hotel - Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District  
Madison County, Indiana  
David Temple  
9-16-00  
Camp Chesterfield  
Looking North from Lincoln Drive
  4. Maxxon Cafeteria - Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District  
Madison County, Indiana  
David Temple  
9-16-00  
Camp Chesterfield  
Looking West from north of the Administration Bldg.
  5. 318 Eastern Drive - Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District  
Madison County, Indiana  
David Temple  
9-16-00  
Camp Chesterfield  
Looking East from Eastern Drive
  6. 419 Valley View Drive - Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District  
Madison County, Indiana  
David Temple  
9-16-00  
Camp Chesterfield  
Looking Northwest from Valley View Drive

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Madison County, Indiana

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7. Cathedral of the Woods - Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District  
Madison County, Indiana  
David Temple  
9-16-00  
Camp Chesterfield  
Looking North from Eastern Drive
8. 218 Parkview Drive - Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District  
Madison County, Indiana  
David Temple  
9-16-00  
Camp Chesterfield  
Looking Northeast from Parkview Drive
9. 306 Parkview Drive - Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District  
Madison County, Indiana  
David Temple  
9-16-00  
Camp Chesterfield  
Looking Southwest from alley between Eastern & Parkview Drives
10. 310 Parkview Drive - Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District  
Madison County, Indiana  
David Temple  
9-16-00  
Camp Chesterfield  
Looking East from Parkview Drive
11. 314 Parkview Drive - Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District  
Madison County, Indiana  
David Temple  
9-16-00  
Camp Chesterfield  
Looking Southeast from Parkview Drive
12. 322 Parkview Drive - Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District  
Madison County, Indiana  
David Temple  
9-16-00  
Camp Chesterfield  
Looking East from Parkview Drive

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Madison County, Indiana

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13. The Bazaar - Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District  
Madison County, Indiana  
David Temple  
9-16-00  
Camp Chesterfield  
Looking Northeast from Parkview Drive
14. 222 Grandview Drive - Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District  
Madison County, Indiana  
David Temple  
9-16-00  
Camp Chesterfield  
Looking West from Grandview Drive
15. Lyceum Building (Chapel) - Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District  
Madison County, Indiana  
David Temple  
9-16-00  
Camp Chesterfield  
Looking West from Grandview Drive
16. 307 Grandview Drive - Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District  
Madison County, Indiana  
David Temple  
9-16-00  
Camp Chesterfield  
Looking Southeast from Grandview Drive
17. 405 Grandview Drive - Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District  
Madison County, Indiana  
David Temple  
9-16-00  
Camp Chesterfield  
Looking Northwest from Grandview Drive
18. 413 Grandview Drive - Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District  
Madison County, Indiana  
David Temple  
9-16-00  
Camp Chesterfield  
Looking West from Grandview Drive

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19. Entry Gate & Gatehouse - Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District  
Madison County, Indiana  
David Temple  
9-16-00  
Camp Chesterfield  
Looking North from Washington Street
  20. Memory Garden - Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District  
Madison County, Indiana  
David Temple  
9-16-00  
Camp Chesterfield  
Looking Northwest from North Administration Bldg.
  21. Garden of Prayer - Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District  
Madison County, Indiana  
David Temple  
9-16-00  
Camp Chesterfield  
Looking Northwest from Central Green space
  22. Stone Bridge - Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District  
Madison County, Indiana  
David Temple  
9-16-00  
Camp Chesterfield  
Looking Northwest from Central Green space
  23. Trail of Religions Statue Grouping - Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District  
Madison County, Indiana  
David Temple  
9-16-00  
Camp Chesterfield  
Looking Northwest from Central Green space
  24. Stone Bridge - Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District  
Madison County, Indiana  
David Temple  
9-16-00  
Camp Chesterfield  
Looking Southeast from Central Green space

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25. Stone Sweathouse - Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District  
Madison County, Indiana  
David Temple  
9-16-00  
Camp Chesterfield  
Looking Northwest from Central Green space
26. Totem Pole - Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District  
Madison County, Indiana  
David Temple  
9-16-00  
Camp Chesterfield  
Looking Northwest from Central Green space]
27. Native American Memorial - Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District  
Madison County, Indiana  
David Temple  
9-16-00  
Camp Chesterfield  
Looking Northwest from Central Green space
28. Stone Bridge - Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District  
Madison County, Indiana  
David Temple  
9-16-00  
Camp Chesterfield  
Looking Southeast from Central Green space
29. View of Eastern Drive - Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District  
Madison County, Indiana  
David Temple  
9-16-00  
Camp Chesterfield  
Looking North from south end of Eastern Drive
30. View of Eastern Drive - Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District  
Madison County, Indiana  
David Temple  
9-16-00  
Camp Chesterfield  
Looking North from middle of Eastern Drive

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31. View of Eastern Drive - Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District  
Madison County, Indiana  
David Temple  
9-16-00  
Camp Chesterfield  
Looking North from middle of Eastern Drive
32. View of Eastern Drive - Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District  
Madison County, Indiana  
David Temple  
9-16-00  
Camp Chesterfield  
Looking North from middle of Eastern Drive
33. View of Eastern Drive - Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District  
Madison County, Indiana  
David Temple  
9-16-00  
Camp Chesterfield  
Looking North from alley between Eastern & Parkview Drives
34. View of Eastern Drive - Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District  
Madison County, Indiana  
David Temple  
9-16-00  
Camp Chesterfield  
Looking North from north End of Eastern Drive
35. View of Eastern Drive - Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District  
Madison County, Indiana  
David Temple  
9-16-00  
Camp Chesterfield  
Looking South from north end of Eastern Drive
36. View of Eastern Drive - Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District  
Madison County, Indiana  
David Temple  
9-16-00  
Camp Chesterfield  
Looking South from north end of Eastern Drive



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37. View of Alley between Eastern/Parkview Drives - Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District  
Madison County, Indiana  
David Temple  
9-16-00  
Camp Chesterfield  
Looking North from middle of alley between Eastern & Parkview Drives
38. View of Parkview Drive - Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District  
Madison County, Indiana  
David Temple  
9-16-00  
Camp Chesterfield  
Looking North from south end of Parkview Drive
39. View of Parkview Drive - Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District  
Madison County, Indiana  
David Temple  
9-16-00  
Camp Chesterfield  
Looking South from middle of Parkview Drive
40. View of Central Green space - Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District  
Madison County, Indiana  
David Temple  
9-16-00  
Camp Chesterfield  
Looking West from middle of Parkview Drive
41. View of Trail of Religions Statue Grouping - Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District  
Madison County, Indiana  
David Temple  
9-16-00  
Camp Chesterfield  
Looking West from middle of Parkview Drive
42. View of Western Drive - Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District  
Madison County, Indiana  
David Temple  
9-16-00  
Camp Chesterfield  
Looking North from south end of Western Drive

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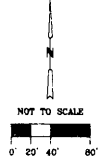
43. View of Lincoln Drive - Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District  
Madison County, Indiana  
David Temple  
9-16-00  
Camp Chesterfield  
Looking East from west end of Lincoln Drive
44. View of Lincoln Drive - Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District  
Madison County, Indiana  
David Temple  
9-16-00  
Camp Chesterfield  
Looking East from west end of Lincoln Drive
45. View of Central Green space - Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District  
Madison County, Indiana  
David Temple  
9-16-00  
Camp Chesterfield  
Looking North from middle of Lincoln Drive
46. View of Gatehouse - Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp District  
Madison County, Indiana  
David Temple  
9-16-00  
Camp Chesterfield  
Looking Southeast from middle of Lincoln Drive

F150

LEGEND

- CRUSHED STONE
- ASPHALT
- PAVEMENT
- WATER MAIN
- TELEPHONE
- ELECTRIC POWER
- GAS MAIN
- NOT TO SCALE
- FIRE HYDRANT
- CONTRIBUTING
- NON-CONTRIBUTING
- PHOTO

34.889 ACRES



WHITE RIVER

FLOOD ZONE "A"

FLOOD ZONE "B"

FLOOD ZONE "C"

VALLEY VIEW DRIVE

WESTERN DRIVE

GRANDVIEW DRIVE

PARKVIEW DRIVE

WESTERN DRIVE

LINCOLN DRIVE

LILLY PARK DRIVE

WATER STREET

NORTH STREET

PKS

