

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

332

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

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APR 22 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Rank, Hugh and Leona, House

Other names/site number:

Name of related multiple property listing:

Modern Architecture of Rensselaer, Indiana

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

### 2. Location

Street & number: 975 Winding Road

City or town: Rensselaer State: IN County: Jasper

Not For Publication:

Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,


I hereby certify that this x 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 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property x meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide x local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A \_\_\_ B x C \_\_\_ D

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
|  | <u>4.21.2016</u> |
| <b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b>                                      | <b>Date</b>      |
| <u>Indiana DNR-Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology</u>                |                  |
| <b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>                          |                  |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. |  |
| <hr/>   | <hr/>  |
| <b>Signature of commenting official:</b>  | <b>Date</b>  |
| <hr/>   | <hr/>  |
| <b>Title :</b>  | <b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b> |

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

*Patricia Anderson*  
Signature of the Keeper

*6/7/2016*  
Date of Action

**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(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

| Contributing | Noncontributing |            |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| <u>1</u>     | <u>1</u>        | buildings  |
| <u>0</u>     | <u>0</u>        | sites      |
| <u>0</u>     | <u>0</u>        | structures |
| <u>0</u>     | <u>0</u>        | objects    |
| <u>1</u>     | <u>1</u>        | Total      |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

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**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN: International Style

OTHER: Neo-Expressionism

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete

walls: Concrete

WOOD: Weatherboard

roof: SYNTHETICS: Rubber

other: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

Called one of local architect Frank Fischer's most exotic residential designs, the Hugh and Leona Rank House was the last of his works built in the College Woods subdivision. Constructed in 1964, the Rank House is the only house plan for which Fischer strayed from rectilinear boxes to a curved design. Wrapping around a central interior courtyard, Fischer used a hallway against the courtyard to connect rooms fanning off of it. The curved walls, flat roofs, and largely open concept of the more public rooms of the house embrace the Modernist rebellion against traditional architecture. Fischer employed concrete block and vertical wood siding in the design, like many of his other College Woods creations. By way of a hidden entrance to an interior courtyard, Fischer continued his trademark screening or hiding of the front entry. The property has two resources, the house, considered contributing and a later garage, considered non-contributing.

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## Narrative Description

### *Exterior, photographs 0001-0006*

The Hugh and Leona Rank House is located on a small knoll in a wooded lot near the entry into the College Woods subdivision off Sparling Avenue. An asphalt driveway extends from Winding Road to the front of the house which faces west. The driveway ends at a former attached carport on the home's north side. A short section of concrete sidewalk curves from the back end of the drive to the north side of the home's covered entry. An L-shaped wood ramp also extends from the drive to the south side of the covered entry. The covered entry has a sidewalk and concrete steps on its north side and a concrete stoop on its south side.

A detached garage was constructed off the north side of the driveway in about 1980 when the attached carport was enclosed. The detached garage has walls composed of plywood cut to resemble vertical planks. It has a shed roof with clerestory windows on its front wall. Due to its construction year, the garage is considered non-contributing (right side of photo 0004).

The house is one-story with a flat roof. Roof drains are located near the inside face of the walls which allow downspouts to be located against the exterior walls for drainage. The home wraps around an enclosed courtyard on the north side, or front of the house. The walls are composed of unpainted 8" x 8" concrete blocks and the roof is covered with rubber. The eaves are supported by extensions of the roof's purlins, which have chamfered ends. Frieze boards are located between the purlins at the top of the walls. The eaves, fascia, and purlins are composed of wood; metal flashing covers the top of the fascia. The windows are original wood casements typically grouped together in pairs or in rows of four windows.

The front (west) wall of the house encloses the carport on its north end and an interior courtyard in its middle (photo 0001). The former carport's front wall was enclosed with plywood cut to resemble vertical planks in about 1980 (T1-11 type siding – Fischer called for this product for the exterior wood walls; it is still widely available today and was used in 1980 for the carport conversion/alterations). It has two pairs of casement windows. The wood wall that encloses the carport wraps the north and south corners of the carport to sections of original masonry walls that support the roof. The roof of the former carport is a shed roof that is slightly lower than the main house. It has purlins that extend out to support the eaves and has metal gutters and downspouts. A beam supporting the roof extends from the top of the former carport's front wall to the south as part of the covered entry. The beam rests on the north side of a wide pier composed of concrete blocks. This pier forms the outside (west) wall of the covered entry's steps and stoop; it extends above both the former carport and main home's roofs (photo 0006).

The front (west) wall of the main house, to the south of the former carport, is divided into three sections. The middle section is narrow and slightly recessed; its wall is composed of plywood cut to resemble vertical planks (T1-11 type siding). It has a tall entry door on its north side. The north section has a slight curve to the wall; it is composed of concrete blocks and does not have any windows. The south section also has a slight curve to the wall and it faces slightly northwest. The wall is composed of concrete blocks and has one tall, narrow window in its south

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end. The south section's wall extends above the roof of the house to form a parapet wall. It also combines with the south wall to form a "point" almost resembling a ship's prow, as a prominent feature from the street (right side of photo 0002).

The south side of the house has a broad curving wall surface that wraps around to the south half of the west side of the house (photo 0003). This wall is composed of concrete blocks and is divided into bays by windows; the wall beneath the windows is also of block. The bays are recessed approximately 4" into the wall. The west end of the south wall has a parapet wall. It is part of the point formed with the south end of the front wall. The remaining south wall and south half of the east wall has an eave and soffit supported by purlins. A bay with a row of four windows is to the east of the section of wall with a parapet; it faces slightly southwest due to the curvature of the wall. A trim board with a chamfered bottom edge is located against each side of the row of windows. A wide bay of four rows of four windows is in the middle part of the broad curved wall; the bay faces slightly southeast due to the curvature of the wall. The rows of windows are divided by trim boards with chamfered bottom edges. Another bay forms the east end of the broad curving wall; this bay faces east due to the curvature of the wall and is the south half of the east wall of the house. The bay has two rows of four windows with chamfered trim boards.

The north half of the east wall has a curved wall that forms a parapet (right side of photo 0003). It does not have any windows. This wall's curved surface continues to the north wall of the house. The north wall has a broadly curved surface that continues to the west and forms the inside wall of the former carport. The north wall has an eave and soffit supported by purlins. A window composed of four casements and a transom is located in the east side of the north wall; the windows have trim boards with chamfered bottom edges.

The former carport's east wall is composed of block and is the back wall of a small storage area, original to the design of the house (right side of photo 0004). This wall has no windows and faces slightly northeast. The north wall of the former carport steps out to the north approximately four feet. This forms a four foot east wall that is composed of plywood and has a casement window centered in it. The north wall of the former carport is divided into three sections (photo 0005). The middle section's wall is composed of blocks and is an original support wall for the carport. It is located west of center on the north wall. The east and west sections' walls were added to enclose the carport and are composed of plywood cut to resemble vertical planks. The east section has a pair of casement windows in its east end. The west section has one casement window centered in its wall. The north wall has an eave and soffit supported by purlins that are part of the original design of the carport roof.

The courtyard's interior walls are almost entirely composed of rows of casement windows with concrete block below (photo 0011). The eaves and soffit are supported by purlins. Walls composed of block return into the courtyard from the front entry. The entry door to the courtyard is wood and does not have a window. The courtyard's floor is composed of concrete; there is some landscaping in the courtyard. The entry door to the main house is approximately centered in the east wall of the courtyard. A pair of patio doors is located in the south wall of the courtyard and a door to the utility area of the house is located in the northwest corner of the

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courtyard. The south wall of the courtyard has a slight concave curve, reflecting the plan of the house.

Rooms radiate out from a hallway that looks out to the courtyard. The north side of the house has a utility area in its west end and a kitchen in its east end. The east side of the house has a dining area and living room. The dining room has a circular plan and the living area has an elliptical plan. The plans are largely defined by their exterior walls. A fireplace is in the west side of the living room; it forms a screen to the entry off the courtyard. Three small trapezoidal-shaped bedrooms radiate off the hallway on the south side of the house. A bathroom is located near the west end, also radiating off the hallway. The master bedroom is in the southwest corner of the house. It was divided into a study and bedroom at one time, but the interior dividing wall has been removed. The carport was converted to two additional bedrooms off the utility area.

*Interior, photographs 0007-0011*

The interior of the house radiates from the central courtyard. The courtyard floor is concrete. The walls of the courtyard are of concrete block and large floor to ceiling windows that look into the interior of the house. See photo 0011. The main entry from the courtyard to the house is directly east of the entry into the courtyard. The door leading inside the house is a new wood and steel door with two windows in its top half.

From the entry foyer inside the house, a hallway leads to bedrooms to the south and living spaces to the north. A fireplace of concrete block screens the living room from the entry foyer (photo 0008). The living room and dining room flow into each other, but have rounded exterior walls that follow the curvature of the east side of the house. The fireplace has a copper hood that extends from above the hearth to the ceiling. The dining room is to the north of the living room and the kitchen opens off the dining room off its west side (photo 0007). A bathroom, utility room, and additional bedrooms are off the kitchen to its west and north sides. The kitchen was recently remodeled with new cabinetry.

The hallway that leads to bedrooms off the south side of the entry foyer wraps around the courtyard's southeast side. Three small bedrooms and a bathroom are off the southwest wall of the hallway (photo 0009), and the master bedroom is at the west end of the hallway (photo 0010). The bedrooms and bathroom are wedge-shaped spaces that radiate off the hallway.

The walls throughout the house are covered with wood paneling original to the design of the house, except in the remodeled kitchen which has drywall. The floors are covered with new carpets in the living room and master bedroom. New ceramic tiles cover the kitchen and dining room floors. The other bedrooms and bathroom are covered with original vinyl tiles. The ceilings are supported with heavy milled wood rafters that continue through the interior and exterior walls and support the eaves on the outside of the house. The ceiling supported by the rafters is covered with wood planks. Particularly when viewed from the living room area, the roof structure and radiating house plan are evident (photo 0008).

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## 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.)

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years



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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1964

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1964

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person (last name, first name)**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder (last name, first name)**

Fischer, Frank

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The Period of Significance is restricted to the year 1964, the year the house was constructed, due to its eligibility under only architecture.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

Not applicable

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Hugh and Leona Rank House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C as an excellent example of Modern architecture. The house, located in the College Woods Subdivision in Rensselaer, Indiana, is one of the more unusual designs of the mid-century housing development. The house has curving exterior walls that wrap around an interior courtyard and its design shows influence from Neo-Expressionism, a distinct design trend in post-war architecture. The house was one of several designed by local architect Frank Fischer in College Woods and meets the associative and physical qualities specified in the registration requirements of the Modern Architecture of Rensselaer, Indiana Multiple Properties Documentation Form.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Modern architecture is largely an outgrowth of ideas made popular by Europe's leading architects of the early to mid-twentieth century. Le Corbusier, Gropius, and Mies van der Rohe were all pioneers and well-known purveyors of Modern architecture, particularly the International Style. The style came to the United States during the 1930's with practitioners who emigrated to escape turmoil in Europe. In 1932 the Museum of Modern Art in New York City first exhibited the style to the American public. The companion book to the exhibit, The International Style: Architecture Since 1922, was likely the first to coin the style and its features for the U.S. public. The return to construction after World War II and émigrés before, during and shortly after the war fostered the development of Modern architecture in the United States.

While Americans were building in styles revived from early European precedents, European architects were experimenting with new and innovative building materials. The structural capabilities of concrete, steel, and glass were tested during this period. This led to the design of buildings with simple skeletal frames and walls that were hung like mere structural skin between the floors.<sup>1</sup> Mies van der Rohe was possibly the best known architect to popularize this building technique, particularly related to the glass box appearance of his designs. Mies was one of the primary proponents of the International style in the United States after his emigration to the country. His design philosophy was largely disseminated during the 1940s and 1950s from the Illinois Institute of Technology campus, which he redesigned to fit this new architectural concepts.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> McAlester, pg. 469-470

<sup>2</sup> Curtis, pg. 261

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Modern architecture often celebrated the structural frame and paid careful attention to the treatment of windows and the interaction glass walls had with the landscape outside the building. Windows were considered the most conspicuous features of modern exterior design. By treating windows with light, simple frames the window became less “a mere hole in the wall” than a related expression of the structure and wall curtain the style promoted.<sup>3</sup> Terraces and roof planes were used to extend the buildings beyond their walled boundaries. Modern architecture’s plans often treated interior walls as mere screens to allow the plan to be compliant to the function of the building. The concept of a flowing interior space, versus enclosed singular rooms, was a part of the movement. Separation could be achieved with screening, and the screening, depending on the use of materials or sheer size, could provide a hierarchy for use of the space.<sup>4</sup>

The Neo-Expressionist style has roots in the pre-war Expressionism of European architects such as Erich Mendelsohn. The term originally applied broadly to visual and performing arts as well as architecture during the c.1900-c.1930 period. While designing largely free from historical precedent, as did the mainstream Modernists, European Expressionist architects sought to create buildings that evoked emotion from viewers, rather than seeking the calm rationalism of the Bauhaus school. Mendelsohn’s Einstein Tower (1919-1924) is one of the best pre-war European examples. Labeled as “degenerate” designs by the Nazis, European advocates of the style soon scattered and the minor movement ceased.

With the end of hostilities, some architects began once again to circulate ideas that deviated from the strict dictates of curtain-wall Modernism, in both the United States and Europe. Critics soon dubbed this design current Neo-Expressionism. Neo-Expressionism was not a self-conscious attempt to continue a “style” so much as it was re-recognition that some Modern buildings required an approach that evoked drama, tension, surprise, or even disbelief on the part of the viewer. Often cited examples are Frank Lloyd Wright’s Guggenheim Museum in New York (1944-1957), the U.S. works of Eero Saarinen such as Dulles International Airport (1958-1963), and the works of American-born Bruce Goff.

The Neo-Expressionist influence on Fischer’s Hugh and Leona Rank House design is seen in the use of circular “organic” forms (organic, as in, derived from nature; no connection to FLW’s use of the term). Historians and critics often cite the use of rounded forms as a critical feature of Neo-Expressionism, since asymmetrical, rounded forms such those used in the Hugh and Leona Rank House plan, elevations and spaces defy the often strict Corbusier – Miesian approach, which typically resulted in interlocking box-like forms.

The Hugh and Leona Rank House is one of local architect, Frank Fischer’s most unusual designs for the College Woods Subdivision near Rensselaer. It is unknown why the Ranks selected Fischer to design their house. Likely, being a professor at St. Joseph College, Hugh Rank knew he had just completed several major commissions on the campus and must have admired his designs. For single-family homes, Fischer rarely strayed from rectilinear, one-story designs. His design for the Ranks was by far the most unusual of his efforts in Rensselaer.

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<sup>3</sup> Hitchcock, pg. 46-47

<sup>4</sup> Hitchcock, pg. 87

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The house design has an organic shape to its floor plan, wrapping around a central interior courtyard off the home's front entry. Fischer's other designs in College Woods tended to be rectilinear boxes, but the Hugh and Leona Rank House incorporates broad curving exterior walls and implied oval and circular interior room shapes. One of the most prominent features of the home's façade is the large "prow" created by two curving walls that come to a point near the west corner of the house. This prow feature is heightened by the architect's use of parapet walls for this section, and a tall narrow window on the façade.

The interplay of concrete block walls and wood walls that form large and small bays, has the general appearance of large planes of alternating materials intersecting, and sometimes disappearing one behind the other in the case of the hidden entry on the façade. Horizontal bands of windows on the broad-curving back (south) wall of the house further breaks down the wall into planes with large openings for windows. The choice of simple exterior wall materials also has an important design affect. Fischer used concrete block to add a strong horizontal feeling to the house, grounding it with the land, by virtue of the block's stacked mortar joints. He interrupted the horizontality of the house with strong vertical lines by using vertically-scored plywood to cover smaller sections of wall. The creation of the interior courtyard space, fully closed-off from the outside, is an unusual feature. While a number of doors and large windows look into the courtyard from the interior of the house, no visual connection exists between the natural landscaped setting of the site and the courtyard.

### *Registration Requirements*

The Hugh and Leona Rank House meets the registration requirements of the Modern Architecture of Rensselaer, Indiana Multiple Properties Documentation Form under the property type "residences" because it retains good physical integrity. With the exception of the enclosure of the carport, which is a secondary space, little has been modified from the architect's original design and changes that were made do not negatively affect the overall significance of the property. The use of wood siding to enclose the carport makes it evident where the open spaces were located, because the original bare concrete block masonry piers that support the carport remain exposed and stand forward of the added wood wall planes. The interior courtyard and living spaces all retain a high degree of integrity. These interior spaces define the function and look of the house, and they remain as open spaces with much original character, as called for in the registration requirements. On the exterior, the house retains its significant architectural features. Window openings and placement have not been modified from the original design. The house has good integrity of materials. Simple as the materials are, the fact that the exterior concrete block remains unpainted, and the beams and interior wood are still stained, helps evoke a Modern-style ethos. Some interior finishes are new, such as cabinetry. Lastly, the house is architect-designed, as discussed in the registration requirements.

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## Developmental History/Additional historic context information

### *Architect Frank Fischer, 1914-2008*

Frank Fischer was born in Chicago in 1914. He attended Loyola Academy and graduated from Northwestern University in 1936 as a theater major. While enlisted during World War II, Fischer worked for the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers in the design and construction of large convalescent hospitals. Upon returning home, Fischer began working in the drafting room for a Chicago architectural firm. After passing the required tests, Fischer became licensed and set up his practice in Chicago. Fischer met his future wife, Mary Ellen Kirk, in Chicago; the two were married in 1940. She was a Rensselaer native and together they made their home in her home community, though Fischer continued to keep an office in Chicago, about an hour away.

Concurrently with the commissions Fischer received from Saint Joseph College for buildings on campus, the college also contracted with Fischer for an unusual development of professionals' housing in a 25 acre tract of wooded land the college owned in its southwest corner. The college received a grant to produce new housing for its professors between 1956 and 1964. Fischer became the architect for the subdivision and its housing during this period; he produced designs for eight homes. The house designs followed Fischer's proclivity for horizontal and cube-like forms. Flat roofs, compact plans sometimes nestled into hillsides, and economical and standardized materials like concrete block and vertical wood siding characterize the homes in the College Woods subdivision. The last house designed by Fischer in the subdivision was the Hugh and Leona Rank House, built in 1964. This last house made a stark break from his earlier designs due to the plan's organic form, which wraps around an interior courtyard. While the plan was unlike his other work, the types of materials and flat roof design were characteristic of his other College Woods work. Hugh Rank was a professor at St. Joseph College and had a large family, which demanded an almost dormitory-style arrangement to the house plan.

Fischer was an admirer of Frank Lloyd Wright, and was certainly influenced by European functionalists who came out of the Bauhaus for his larger civic works. However, he cited west coast designer Richard Neutra for influence in his residential architecture. Neutra was a Viennese immigrant, well-versed in emerging European architecture influenced by the Bauhaus, but connected to the design principles often labeled as "organic" due to an apprenticeship under Frank Lloyd Wright. Fischer applied many of the design principles Neutra was grounded in for his custom designs in the College Woods neighborhood, including an organic design centered on supporting the life of his clients, as well as the over-riding visual principles of design that hold the home's to the ground by virtue of their horizontal, flat roofs, rows of windows, and placement of the basic box into the landscape.

Refer to *Modern Architecture in Rensselaer, Indiana Multiple Properties Document* for additional contextual information on Frank Fischer, Saint Joseph College, and local architecture.

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Hugh D. Rank was born on November 3, 1932 in Chicago, Illinois to Hugh A. and Margaret (McGreevy) Rank. Hugh D. Rank graduated with a Bachelor in English from the University of Notre Dame in 1954 and then continued to receive his Masters of Arts in American Studies at Notre Dame in 1956. Two years later Hugh married Leona Novak on August 30, 1958. She was born on March 10, 1936 in Chicago and was the daughter of Leon and Pauline Novak. Hugh and Leona had four children: Elizabeth, Christopher, James-John, and David.

Hugh took his first teacher position as an instructor in English at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona, in 1959 where he remained until 1962. In that year, he became the assistant professor of English studies at St. Joseph College in Rensselaer, Indiana where he remained until 1967. It was during his tenure at St. Joseph College that he and his wife constructed their home in College Woods. In 1967-1968, Hugh Rank was a Fulbright teacher at Copenhagen, Denmark and then returned to the United States where he became the associated professor of English at Sacred Heart University in Bridgeport, Connecticut through 1972. Hugh Rank finished his university career as the professor of English at Governors State University in University Park, Illinois.

Rank was also an author, primarily writing books on the use of persuasion in language. His first book, however, was a biography written about Pulitzer Prize winner Edwin O. Connor in 1974. Rank went on to write Language & Public Policy (1974), Pep Talk: How to Analyze Political Language (1984), Persuasion Analysis (1988), The Pitch: Persuasion in Advertising and Behavioral Statistics: An Introduction to the Basic Method of Analysis and Persuasion (1991). Hugh Rank died in Santa Barbara, California on April 23, 2010 and Leona died on March 10, 2012 in Colorado.

The house has been owned since the late 1970s by John H. and Joan Donovan, Jr., though Mr. Donovan passed away in 2013. The Donovans enclosed the carport to make additional bedrooms for their six children. John Donavan, Jr. was born in Wisconsin and served in World War II. The Donovans came to Rensselaer where John took a job as controller for Northway Products for 24 years and then Koehring Company for ten years. Joan Donovan is the present owner of the house.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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McCoy, Esther *Modern California Houses: Case Study Houses 1945-1962*. New York: Reinhold Publishing Corporation, 1962.

Robbins, Charles J. *Saint Joseph's College: A Chronology*. Rensselaer: privately published, 1990.

Personal interviews with Joseph Fischer, the son of architect Frank Fischer: May-June, 2014.

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### 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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

Hugh and Leona Rank House  
Name of Property

Jasper County, IN  
County and State

**Primary location of additional data:**

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

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

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** 073-533-46001

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property** Less than one acre

Use the UTM system

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary is the physical boundaries of Lot 17 in the College Woods Subdivision, and is located on the east side of Winding Road.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This is the historic boundary.



Hugh and Leona Rank House  
Name of Property

Jasper County, IN  
County and State

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### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kurt West Garner, KW Garner Consulting  
organization: Indiana Landmarks/Historic Preservation Alliance of Jasper County  
street & number: 12954 6<sup>th</sup> Road  
city or town: Plymouth state: IN zip code: 46563  
e-mail: kwgarner@kwgarner.com  
telephone: 574-936-0613  
date: July 30, 2014

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### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Hugh and Leona Rank House

City or Vicinity: Rensselaer

County: Jasper County State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Hugh and Leona Rank House  
Name of Property

Jasper County, IN  
County and State

Date Photographed: April 25, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Front (west) side of house, facing southeast

1 of 11.

Name of Property: Hugh and Leona Rank House

City or Vicinity: Rensselaer

County: Jasper County State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: April 25, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Front (west) side of house, facing northeast

2 of 11.

Name of Property: Hugh and Leona Rank House

City or Vicinity: Rensselaer

County: Jasper County State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: April 25, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

East wall of house, looking west

Hugh and Leona Rank House  
Name of Property

Jasper County, IN  
County and State

3 of 11.

Name of Property: Hugh and Leona Rank House

City or Vicinity: Rensselaer

County: Jasper County State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: April 25, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

East and north walls of house, looking west

4 of 11.

Name of Property: Hugh and Leona Rank House

City or Vicinity: Rensselaer

County: Jasper County State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: April 25, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

North wall of enclosed carport, looking south

5 of 11.

Name of Property: Hugh and Leona Rank House

City or Vicinity: Rensselaer

County: Jasper County State: Indiana

Hugh and Leona Rank House  
Name of Property

Jasper County, IN  
County and State

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: April 25, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Front entry stoop, looking south

6 of 11.

Name of Property: Hugh and Leona Rank House

City or Vicinity: Rensselaer

County: Jasper County State: Indiana

Photographer: Judith Kanne

Date Photographed: September 26, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Kitchen looking west from dining room

7 of 11.

Name of Property: Hugh and Leona Rank House

City or Vicinity: Rensselaer

County: Jasper County State: Indiana

Photographer: Judith Kanne

Date Photographed: September 26, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Living room and entry looking southwest from dining room

Hugh and Leona Rank House  
Name of Property  
8 of 11.

Jasper County, IN  
County and State

Name of Property: Hugh and Leona Rank House

City or Vicinity: Rensselaer

County: Jasper County State: Indiana

Photographer: Judith Kanne

Date Photographed: September 26, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Bedroom, looking southeast from hallway

9 of 11.

Name of Property: Hugh and Leona Rank House

City or Vicinity: Rensselaer

County: Jasper County State: Indiana

Photographer: Judith Kanne

Date Photographed: September 26, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Master bedroom, looking southwest

10 of 11.

Name of Property: Hugh and Leona Rank House

City or Vicinity: Rensselaer

County: Jasper County State: Indiana

Hugh and Leona Rank House  
Name of Property

Jasper County, IN  
County and State

Photographer: Judith Kanne

Date Photographed: September 26, 2014

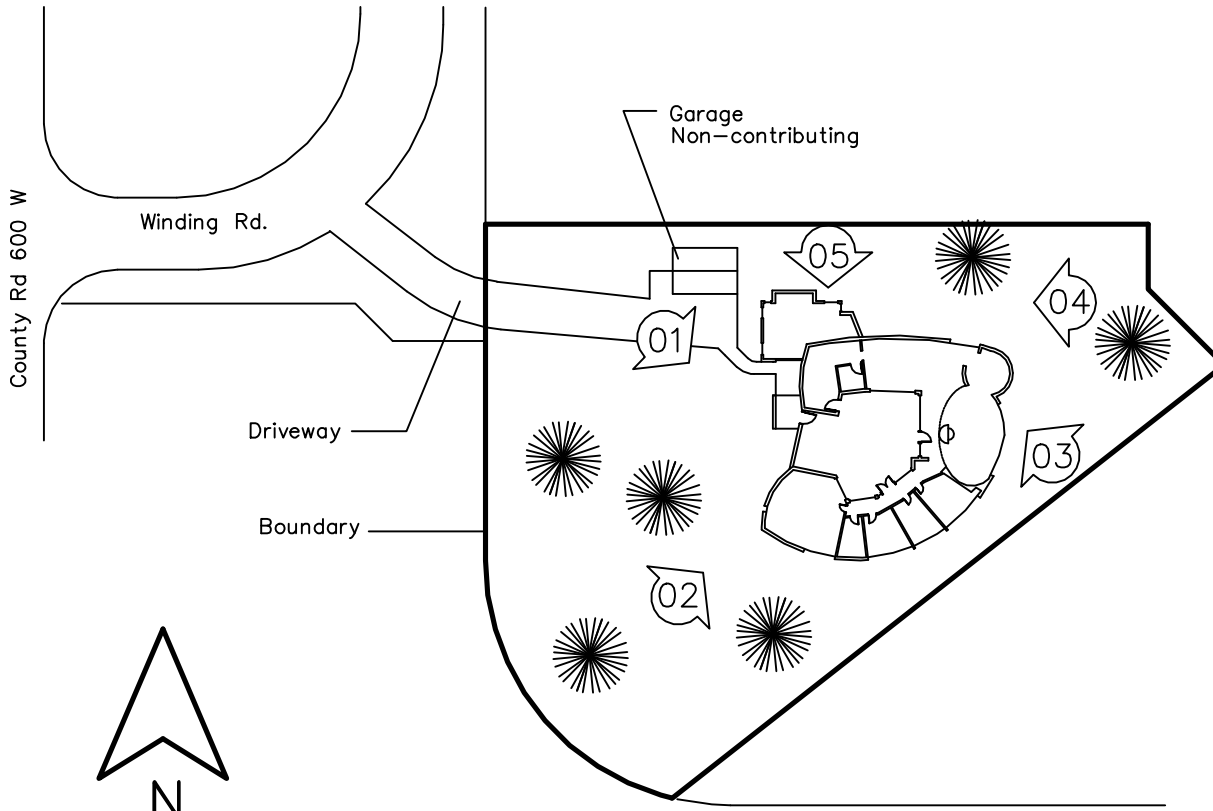
Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Courtyard, looking east toward front entry door

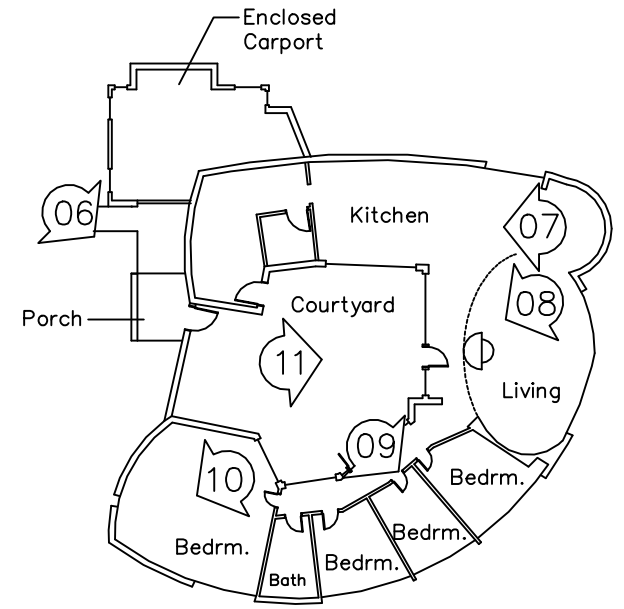
11 of 11.

**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



Site Plan

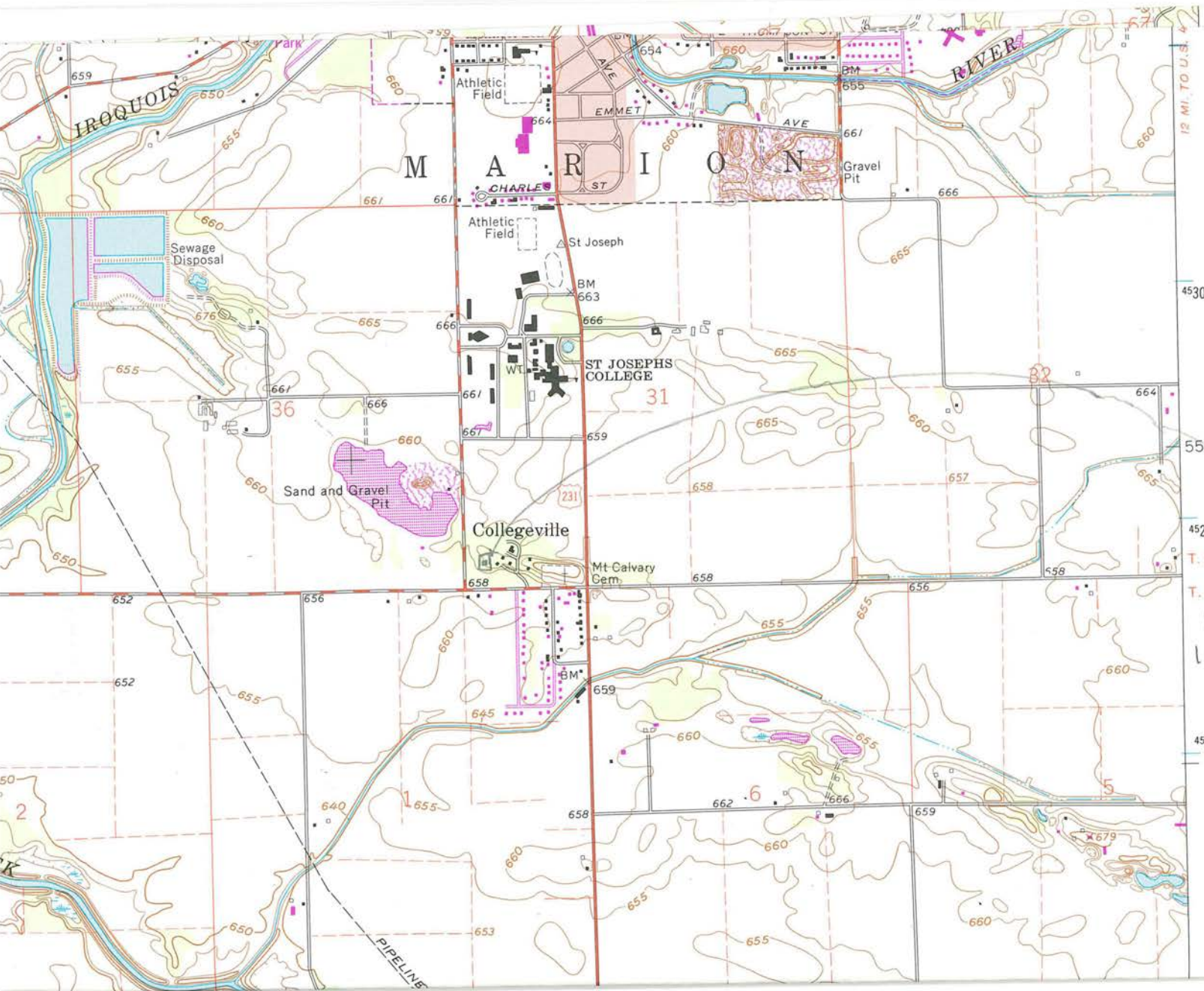


House Plan

 = Photograph

# Hugh and Leona Rank House

National Register of Historic Places  
 Rensselaer, Jasper County, IN



12 MI. TO U.S. 4  
4530  
55'  
4529  
T. 29 N.  
T. 28 N.  
4528

HUGH & LEONA  
RANK HOSE  
NATIONAL REGISTER  
OF HISTORIC PLACES  
RENSSELAER  
JASPER COUNTY IN

NAD 83 UTM  
16 486543 4529109  
RENSSELAER QUAD









































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Rank, Hugh and Leona, House  
NAME:

MULTIPLE Modern Architecture of Rensselaer, Indiana MPS  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: INDIANA, Jasper

DATE RECEIVED: 4/22/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/25/16  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/09/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/07/16  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000332

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 6/7/2016 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept C  
REVIEWER Patricia Andrews DISCIPLINE Historian  
TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE 6/7/2016

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

**Photo Log**  
**Hugh and Leona Rank House**  
**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Rensselaer, Indiana**

Name of Property: Hugh and Leona Rank House

City or Vicinity: Rensselaer

County: Jasper County State: Indiana

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2 of 11.

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County: Jasper County State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: April 25, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

East wall of house, looking west

3 of 11.

Name of Property: Hugh and Leona Rank House

City or Vicinity: Rensselaer

County: Jasper County State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: April 25, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

East and north walls of house, looking west

4 of 11.

Name of Property: Hugh and Leona Rank House

City or Vicinity: Rensselaer

County: Jasper County State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: April 25, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

North wall of enclosed carport, looking south



5 of 11.

Name of Property: Hugh and Leona Rank House

City or Vicinity: Rensselaer

County: Jasper County State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: April 25, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Front entry stoop, looking south

6 of 11.

Name of Property: Hugh and Leona Rank House

City or Vicinity: Rensselaer

County: Jasper County State: Indiana

Photographer: Judith Kanne

Date Photographed: September 26, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Kitchen looking west from dining room

7 of 11.

Name of Property: Hugh and Leona Rank House

City or Vicinity: Rensselaer

County: Jasper County State: Indiana

Photographer: Judith Kanne

Date Photographed: September 26, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Living room and entry looking southwest from dining room

8 of 11.

Name of Property: Hugh and Leona Rank House

City or Vicinity: Rensselaer

County: Jasper County State: Indiana

Photographer: Judith Kanne

Date Photographed: September 26, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Bedroom, looking southeast from hallway

9 of 11.

Name of Property: Hugh and Leona Rank House

City or Vicinity: Rensselaer

County: Jasper County State: Indiana

Photographer: Judith Kanne

Date Photographed: September 26, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Master bedroom, looking southwest

10 of 11.



Name of Property: Hugh and Leona Rank House

City or Vicinity: Rensselaer

County: Jasper County State: Indiana

Photographer: Judith Kanne

Date Photographed: September 26, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Courtyard, looking east toward front entry door

11 of 11.

# DNR Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Michael R. Pence, Governor  
Cameron F. Clark, Director



Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology • 402 W. Washington Street, W274 • Indianapolis, IN 46204-2739  
Phone 317-232-1646 • Fax 317-232-0693 • dhpa@dnr.IN.gov • www.IN.gov/dnr/historic

April 22, 2016

Dr. Stephanie Toothman  
Keeper of the National Register  
National Park Service 2280  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, N.W.  
Washington D.C. 20005

RECEIVED 2280

APR 22 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service

Re: Hugh & Leona Rank House, Rensselaer vicinity, Jasper County, Indiana (nominated under the Modern Architecture of Rensselaer, Indiana MPDF)

Dear Dr. Toothman,

Enclosed is a National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Hugh & Leona Rank House, Rensselaer vicinity, Jasper County, Indiana. The Indiana Historic Preservation Review Board reviewed the application and voted to recommend its approval to the National Register of Historic Places.

The enclosed disc contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Hugh & Leona Rank House (Jasper County, Indiana) to the National Register of Historic Places.

Please address any questions you or your staff may have about this nomination to my National Register staff members, Paul Diebold or Holly Tate.

Sincerely,

Cameron F. Clark  
State Historic Preservation Officer

CFC:PCD:pcd

enclosure: nomination package