

RECEIVED 413

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

AUG 17 1995

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions on 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 Dutch Ridge Historic District

other names/site number 003-027-15011, 15012, 15013

2. Location

street & number 17915 and 17819 Old Auburn Road and Salem Reformed Church Cemetery  not for publication

city or town Huntertown  vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Allen code 003 zip code 46748

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 36 CFR 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.)

*Patrick R. Roberts*

8/11/95

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

State of 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:)

*Edson H. Ball*  
Signature of the Keeper

Entered in the National Register 9.14.95  
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

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

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

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

N/A

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

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility

EDUCATION: school

FUNERARY: cemetery

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

FUNERARY: cemetery

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: gothic

LATE VICTORIAN: queen anne

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: limestone

walls BRICK

WOOD: weatherboard

roof ASPHALT

other STONE: slate

**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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ETHNIC HERITAGE: european

EDUCATION

**Period of Significance**

1876-1945

**Significant Dates**

1876

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographical 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:

\_\_\_\_\_

Dutch Ridge Historic District  
Name of Property

Allen County, Indiana  
County and State

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### 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreeage of Property** 4 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>16</u>	<u>659470</u>	<u>4568170</u>
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2			

3			
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4			

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.)

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### 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Nancy Kasdorf and Paul Diebold

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date November 3, 1994/ June 1995

street & number 3707 Chapman Road telephone 317-637-2129

city or town Huntertown state IN zip code 46748

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### Additional Documentation

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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)

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### Property Owner

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

name List available at DHPA

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

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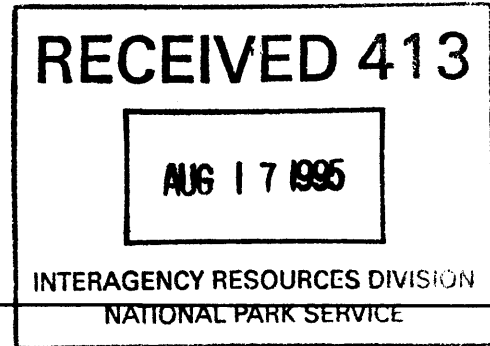
**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to 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.

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The Dutch Ridge Historic District lies just over a mile south of the Allen County-DeKalb County line in Perry Township of Allen County. I-69 is about 1/4 mile east of the site. Chapman and Auburn Roads meet at a "T" which defines the district. Included are two contributing buildings, the church and schoolhouse; one non-contributing building, a recent garage; and one contributing site, the cemetery. The cemetery is on the east side of Auburn Road, across from the buildings. The Salem Reformed Church stands at the southwest corner of the intersection while Perry Township District #1 Schoolhouse stands at the northwest corner. The surrounding area is noted for its rolling hills and scenic beauty. Several sites in the vicinity are held as nature preserves by The Nature Conservancy, Izaak Walton League of America, Limberlost Girl Scout Camp, and ACRES (a local land conservancy group). Much land is wooded as are portions of building sites in the district. The Dutch Ridge settlement once included a general store and other buildings, but these three resources are all that remains of the village.

*Perry Township District School #1*

Also known simply as Dutch Ridge School, this 1888 brick one room schoolhouse has a T-shaped plan and coursed rubble stone foundation. The common bond brick walls support a hipped slate-clad roof with metal ridge work.

The main elevation faces east to Old Auburn Road (photo 1). The stem of the "T" projects forward and has three openings: a central recessed doorway under a full round arch flanked by segmental arched double hung windows. As on all sides of the school, bays are articulated by pilaster strips and an upper corbeled frieze. The entry bay is further articulated by a sawtoothed stringcourse over the entry arch. Above this is a corbel table. Wooden consoles support the overhanging cross gable which marks the entry bay. The corner-cut stone tablet in the gable end reads: "Perry Tp. District No.1/1888/F. Roy, Trustee". The steep cross gable has wide vergeboards incised with lines and ornamented with bull's-eye blocks. There is a collar brace with drop finial. The remainder of the roof structure of the front section is hipped with overhanging exposed scroll-sawn rafter tails. Originally, an open belfry with short steeple rested on top of the cross gable.

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**Dutch Ridge Historic District  
Allen County, Indiana**

The sides of the "T" stem have a single bay with double hung window, as do the single bays on the body of the main portion of the school which are visible from the front. The north and south flank of the school each have three bays marked by pilasters. Only the easternmost opening of the south wall has been altered; it has a picture window which was cut into the brick wall (photo 3). Non-functional picket shutters have been added to the window openings.

The rear (west) wall was originally blank (photo 4). A small horizontal window has been cut into the wall, as has a doorway. A wooden deck was added to this side of the school as well.

The interior of the schoolhouse has been altered to accommodate the needs of a single family dwelling. However, much original woodwork remains as does the overall feeling of a one room rural schoolhouse. Entering by the front door, the foyer room flanked by cloak rooms remains as it was originally. A round arch with wooden surround and "keystone" leads to the former school room (photos 5 and 6). The simple board surrounds with bull's-eye corner blocks are original, as is the beaded vertical board wainscoting. Walls were added to divide a bedroom, bath, and kitchen off across the west end of the school (photo 7). Original woodwork remains in these rooms as well.

A detached garage (non-contributing) stands about 8 feet behind the schoolhouse.

***Salem Reformed Church***

This one room brick Late Gothic Revival church replaced a log church which was located across the Old Auburn Road in 1876. The church has common bond brick walls and a traditional gable-front form elaborated by a centered projecting square brick tower.

The east elevation of the church has no openings on the gabled mass of the church; only the tower has openings. The northeast corner of the main block of the building is a cornerstone which

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**Dutch Ridge Historic District  
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reads: "Salem Reformed Church/1876/P. Ruhl, Pastor." A broad pointed arch with projecting header course defines the tower entry. The transom is now boarded shut, but the original vertical board doors with small windows are intact. At the top of the tower is a single lancet pointed arch opening with stone sill and projecting header course serving as a louvered vent for the bell tower. The cornice of the tower is detailed with a corbel table, and a simple squat pyramidal roof caps the tower. The upper portion of the tower repeats this appearance on each side. Originally, the tower was completed by a tall steeple.

The side (north and south) walls of the church are identical, each having three lancet pointed arch windows (photos 10, 11). Arches are formed of triple header courses, the center course being recessed (photo 12). Original colored glass has been replaced; lower sash are nine-light, upper sash have tracery muntins forming three interlacing lancets. The side gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

To the rear of the church, a deck and garage have been attached.

Entering via the tower door, a small foyer is first encountered. Another set of vertical board doors with small stained glass windows leads to the former sanctuary (photo 14). The full ceiling height of 22' has been maintained in the conversion of the church to a residence. A loft was inserted over the altar area (west end) for bedrooms. Under the loft area are dining, kitchen, and a bathroom.

The pointed arch surrounds with plain apron boards have been maintained in the sanctuary (photo 16). Although altered from its simple one-room plan, the interior still maintains an open volume and has its original woodwork.

*Cemetery*

Located across Old Auburn Road from the church and school is Dutch Ridge Cemetery. Comprising .56 of an acre, the cemetery is a

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**Dutch Ridge Historic District  
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typical rural plot with markers of various types arranged in rows. Originally, the cemetery was located across the road, but in 1876, with the construction of the existing church, all graves and markers were moved to the current cemetery site. Some markers predating the 1876 relocation still exist, such as the 1861 marker on a child's grave to the rear.

The cemetery contains a variety of typical stone markers from the late 19th century to the present. Early markers are of marble (photo 18). One outstanding tree stump style limestone marker exists, dating from 1886 (photo 19). Early 1900s markers show the shift in taste to granite stones (photo 20).

*Section 8-Statement of Significance*

Dutch Ridge Historic District is a significant reminder of German-American heritage in Allen County, Indiana under National Register criterion A. As Pennsylvania Dutch moved west in search of new lands to farm, many settled in northern Indiana and left their mark on the land. Dutch Ridge is one of very few rural Pennsylvania Dutch settlements left in Allen County. The church reflects Germanic traditions, springing from the Calvinistic doctrines which swept portions of the Low Countries, Switzerland, and the German states in the 1500s and subsequently were brought to Pennsylvania in the 1600s-1700s. The district includes the most significant remnants of this rural community-the church, cemetery, and school. The public school served the entire immediate area, most of which consisted of Pennsylvania Dutch-descended families.

German settlement in Indiana and in Allen County came in two phases. The initial phase was from Pennsylvania Dutch who had moved west through Ohio to settle in various parts of Indiana. Another phase of German settlement is associated with the economic collapse of Europe following the Napoleonic Wars.

The term Pennsylvania Dutch is a vaguely defined cultural label applied to the various German (Deutsche) groups which came to the colony to escape religious persecution. Pietists and



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**Dutch Ridge Historic District  
Allen County, Indiana**

Anabaptist Protestant sects in particular were seeking freedom from religious strife. Settling first in the Germantown section of Philadelphia, Germans spread inland and created a rural society in the Pennsylvania countryside by the mid 1700s. New lands opening in Ohio and Pennsylvania offered the chance for growing families to establish rural communities elsewhere, as available land was occupied and pressure from Anglo-American settlers grew stronger.

Allen County experienced some settlement by Europeans early in Indiana's history, with the French establishing a village in the vicinity of present day Fort Wayne in about 1720. Missionaries came with the establishment of the village; religion and settlement were closely linked. With the course of events in the late 1700s, the small fort became alternately French, then British, then American. Most settlement was confined to Fort Wayne until the Native Americans were removed to Kansas in 1847.

Early settlement in Perry Township began in 1830-33. Settlers from Jefferson County, New York and from Pennsylvania were initial owners of the land. The Dutch Ridge area attracted many Pennsylvania Germans from Lancaster County. The terrain must have been reminiscent of the Pennsylvania countryside which they left behind. According to some family accounts, several pioneers in the area were Hessian Revolutionary War soldiers of fortune. Their mark upon the land is seen in several ways. Place and road names reflect their heritage. Some building types, such as Sweitzer barns, are direct copies of Pennsylvania originals. Several examples of Pennsylvania barn types still stand in the township today. While Anglo-American influence eroded the use of Germanic architectural forms, the rural communities and institutions remained the most visible expressions of culture.

Salem Reformed Church and Dutch Ridge Cemetery are typical rural Germanic institutions. The church was founded on the site of the cemetery in about 1861. Originally, the cemetery was located on the site of the present brick church. Judging from dates of the oldest markers, which were moved to the current cemetery site, the

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**Dutch Ridge Historic District  
Allen County, Indiana**

original log building was in use by 1861. The present church was erected in 1876 from brick made on the nearby Myers-Warner Farm. Alanson Griffin may have built the church and school. He was a Dutch Ridge resident originally from Union County, New York who is known to have built several substantial homes and a church nearby.

Nearby on Old Auburn Road was the Garman Store, which housed the post office. A sawmill and gristmill were located nearby as well. The store and mills are now gone, leaving the church and school as the only traces of this rural community.

Marked on early atlas maps as "German Reformed Church", Salem was one of several German Protestant denominations brought westward by the Pennsylvania Dutch. The origins of the Reformed Church began with the teachings of John Calvin in the 1500s, which took hold in West German states, parts of France, Netherlands, and Scotland. A particular development of Calvinism was the Anabaptist movement, which focused on baptism as an adult conversion to the ways of Christ. Anabaptists were persecuted in Holland and the German states, becoming an underground movement for a time. The Reformed Church incorporated aspects of both Calvinism and the Anabaptists and had individual organizations in each country. Reformed Church Swiss and German emigrants to America in the 1700s were originally under the banner of the Dutch Reformed Synod of North and South Holland, but separated from this body in 1793. Between 1869 and 1934, the denomination was known as Reformed Church in the U.S., after 1934, the title changed to Evangelical and Reformed Church, and finally in 1957, this and several other allied denominations merged to become the United Church of Christ. Many Germanic Reformed churches clung to the title "German" Reformed Church to distinguish the origins of the congregation.

The German Reformed Church is known to have had a presence in Fort Wayne as early as the 1840s, and by 1869, a sizable congregation had built a large brick church on Clinton Street. Services at most German Reformed churches were conducted in German; in some cases this tradition even survived the prejudice of the WW I era and into the 1930s. It is likely that services

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in German were held at Salem Church, but this has not been documented. The last services were held in the church in 1970.

The Dutch Ridge School, Perry Township District School No. 1, is significant for its role in public education in Perry Township, and as an important part of the ethnic community of Dutch Ridge. The district school system originated in Indiana in 1852, as part of the redrafted State Constitution which provided for a free public education. The roots of the district school concept can be traced to Jefferson's ideas on free education in democratic society and to the Northwest Ordinance of 1785 which set aside land in each survey township for educational purposes.

The township school system was well fitted to the rural nature of society at the time. Due to poor roads and a dispersed population, the township school system brought schools to the people and placed responsibility in the hands of a township trustee. Local tax funds and state assistance brought funding to build schools.

Dutch Ridge School reflects the rural district school tradition in its original siting and T-plan massing. Built in 1888, District N. 1 school is a more complex schoolhouse plan which evolved from early 19th century precedents. The most typical plan was the gable front type. By the 1870s, builders devised the T-plan, which added a foyer and cloak rooms to the front of the classroom. The classroom was rotated 90 degrees and desks placed in wider rows facing rear. District No. 1 school represents a further refinement on the T-plan, with sophisticated hip roofed massing and a higher level of architectural detail. The school served the Dutch Ridge community until 1921. According to the abstract for the property, the site was given for a schoolhouse in 1861. Therefore, even though the school was a public institution, there was a conscious effort on the part of the community to bring the church-already on the site by 1861-together with the school as the symbolic heart of Dutch Ridge.

Similar rural settlements of European ethnic groups existed in Allen County. Two other church-school groupings which are the

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Dutch Ridge Historic District  
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best remaining examples of this type also reflect ethnic heritage in Allen County. One is St. Louis Besascon, a remnant of the French Catholic settlement which occurred in east central Allen County. Another is in St. Joseph township, which is adjacent to Perry Township. There stands St. Peter's Lutheran Church and School, an institution dating to 1855. The schoolhouse dates from 1892 and is very similar to District No. 1 School, but the church was replaced in the 1950s. Dutch Ridge is the only such grouping in Perry Township. Two other one room schools still stand in Perry Township, but both now appear as bungalow style residences, with very little trace of their original function.

Both the church and school have been converted to housing. Although altered, both still convey the image of rural one room public buildings.

Section 9-Bibliography

Abstract of Title, Perry Township District No. 1 School.

ARCH. "Final Report, Survey of Allen County, Indiana, Phase I, 1990-91." (Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory)

Brockmyer, Phyllis. "Dutch Ridge, Old Auburn and Chapman Roads," ARCH newsletter, Vol. II, #1, Spring 1995.

Centennial Souvenir and History: St. John's Evangelical and Reformed Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana 1844-1944. n.p., 1944.

Ellet, Albert. Dutch Ridge Remembered 1900. Cedar Creek Wildlife Project, 1979.

Fort Wayne and Allen County Directory. Detroit: R.L. Polk Company, 1880-1, 1887.

Helm, T.B. History of Allen County, Indiana. Chicago: Kingman Brothers, 1880.

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**Dutch Ridge Historic District  
Allen County, Indiana**

Robertson, Col. Robert S. Valley of the Upper Maumee, Vols. I & II. Madison, WI: Brant and Fuller, 1889.

Various unindentified newspaper clippings about Dutch Ridge.

Various historic photographs of Dutch Ridge.

Interviews with area residents who are descended from Dutch Ridge settlers.

*Section 10-Geographical Data-Verbal Boundary Description*

**School**

Commencing at the southeast corner of section two (2) township thirty two (32) range twelve (12) east, running west on line of said section, two hundred and nine (209) feet; thence north two hundred and nine (209) feet; thence east two hundred and nine (209) feet; thence south on east line of said section, two hundred and nine (209) feet to place of beginning, containing 1 acre of land, said real estate being in School District No. 1, Perry Township, Allen County.

**Church**

A tract of land located in part of the northeast quarter (1/4) of the northeast quarter (1/4) of section 11, township 32 north, range 12 east, Allen County, Indiana, more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at a point of beginning located at the northeast corner of the northeast quarter (1/4) of section 11, township 32 north, range 12 east, thence running south 00 degrees 30 minutes west, and along the east line of the northeast quarter (1/4) of said section 11, a distance of 389.9 feet; thence north 87 degrees 44 minutes west, a distance of 172.6 feet; thence north 01 degrees 23 minutes east, a distance of 387.5 feet to a point located on the north line of the northeast quarter (1/4) of said section 11; thence south 88 degrees 30 minutes east, and along said north line, a distance of 166.6 feet to the point of beginning; said tract of land containing 1.515 acres of land more or less.

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**Dutch Ridge Historic District  
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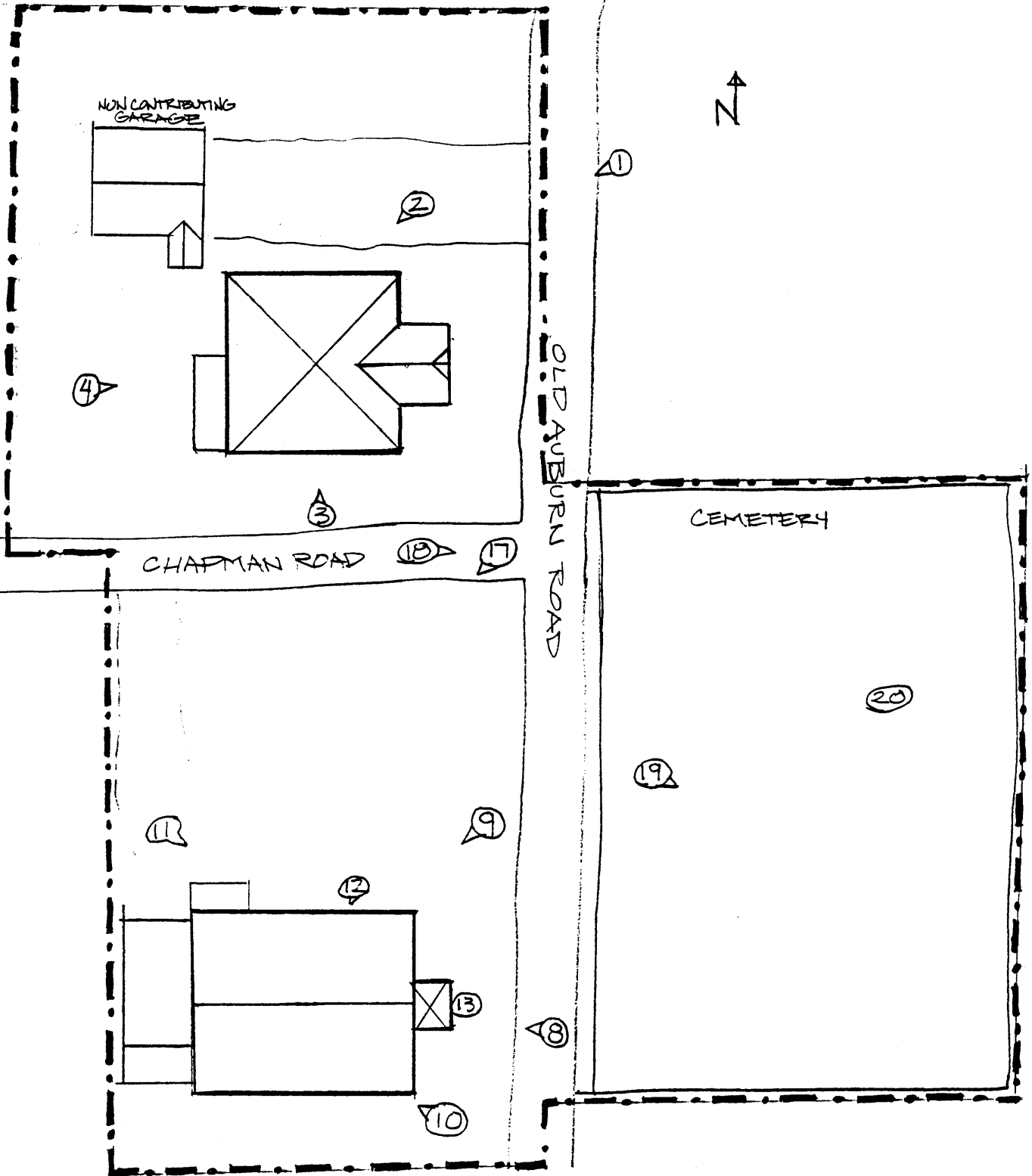
**Cemetery**

Commencing at the northwest corner of section twelve (12), township thirty-two (32) north, range twelve (12) east, thence east on the north section line of said section nine (9) rods, thence south parallel with the west line of said section ten (10) rods, thence west parallel with the north line of said section nine (9) rods, thence north on the west line of said section ten (10) rods to the place of beginning.

These three parcels immediately abut one another and include public right of ways. Section lines are shown on the USGS map.

*Boundary Justification*

These are legal boundaries recorded when the properties were transferred to private owners, and are thought to be based on the original parcels recorded for the properties. The boundaries abut at section lines to form a compact district.



DUTCH RIDGE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 ALLEN CO., IN BOUNDARY IS APPROXIMATE - REFER TO SURVEY  
 PHOTOS - ② PG 6-95