

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

NPS COPY

**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**

1281

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 **Wolf, Josephus, House**

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_ 127-520-10034

**2. Location**

street & number 453 West 700 North N/A  not for publication  
city or town Valparaiso  vicinity  
state Indiana code IN county Porter code 127 zip code 46385

**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]*  
Signature of certifying official/Title

8/2/07  
Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

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]*  
Signature of the Keeper  
Edson W. Beall

Date of Action  
12.19.07

**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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	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)

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

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSIST Animal Facility

AGRICULTURE/SUBSIST Agricultural Field

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

**7. Description**

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

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate

foundation STONE: Limestone

walls BRICK

STONE: Limestone

roof ASPHALT

other STONE

WOOD

**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)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c.1875

Significant Dates

N/A

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 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:

Wolf, Josephus, House  
Name of Property

Porter IN  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than 1 acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	6	4	8	7	9	3	0	4	5	9	8	0	9	0
Zone		Easting					Northing							

3 

Zone		Easting					Northing							

2 

Zone		Easting					Northing							

4 

Zone		Easting					Northing							

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 Cynthia Ogorek  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date 03-01-2006  
street & number 715 Memorial Drive telephone 708/ 862-8662  
city or town Calumet City state IL zip code 60409

## 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 Clement R. Khan  
street & number 453 W. 700 N. telephone 219/ 364-8102  
city or town Valparaiso state IN zip code 46385

**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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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**CONTINUATION SHEET**

*Josephus Wolf House, Porter Co., IN*

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The Josephus Wolf House, constructed circa 1875, on the 4500 acre estate of Josephus Wolf in Portage Township, Porter County, is a three-story brick, Italianate residence. The surrounding neighborhood is open farmland with single-family dwellings encroaching.

At first glance from the east, the Wolf House appears to be a simple, hip-roofed Italianate with a cupola and a completely symmetrical, five-ranked façade. Views from the north or south of the house, however, reveal a more complicated massing of volumes. In the center section, the second floor is lower than the east section. Its hip roof is topped with a gabled dormer. The two-story western section is lower than the center section. Its north-south gable roof is intersected with a west-facing gabled dormer. Both of these sections are original to the house.

The approximately 7800 square foot house including attached carriage house (now a garage) is notable for its original windows, cornices, doorways and dining room chandelier (Photo 34). It has had many tenants over the years and has now and then been vacant, but generally has survived in good condition with the current owners making appropriate improvements to conserve its significant Italianate features while maintaining livability.

The roof of the east section is a hip with two small skylights. The cupola also has a hip or cap roof. Beneath this section of the building is a full basement with brick walls and floors. The exterior double brick wall construction is worked in common bond. The interior walls are of plaster and lath. It is said that wood was taken from the property to fashion the trim and lath.

The thresholds as well as sills, lintels and keystones around the house are of Indiana limestone. With exceptions that will be noted in the narrative, all the windows are long and narrow, four-pane and double-hung. Their wooden frames have a segmental arch at the top which is repeated in the double-row brick crown with stone keystones.

The predominant feature of the east façade (photo 1) is the porch extending across the full width of the building. Three wooden steps lead up to it. Four chamfered square and turned wooden columns with molded capitals support the porch roof. The porch is attached to the building with white pilasters or half-columns. Molded railing and balusters wrap around the sides(photo 2). Molding at the roof of the porch repeats the molding at the eaves of the building with the exception of the molded panels and double brackets (Photo 2,3). Here, only a single bracket is used. Each scrolled bracket has a row of carved "dots" down the front. In between the brackets are segmental arches topped with a row of dentils, rope trim, and small molded panels in the corners. White lattice-work panels cover the crawl space beneath the porch. A glass lantern hangs from the wooden ceiling, centered in front of the doors.

In the late 1970s, a newspaper article mentioned that this porch was missing. However, there is no photo accompanying the article. The current owner disbelieves that claim because all of the original trim is on the porch and matches that of the cupola and windows.

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As for the doors, (Photo 4) two rows of bricks set on end form the segmental arch above them, which is centered with a limestone keystone. A white, "rope" molding is the first layer of trim after the bricks and it is followed by a wood surround. The double, wooden screen doors open out. The double, inside doors are also made of wood. They each have two molded panels of two different designs. Carved in the center of the top panels are garlands of fruit—grapes, oranges, pears and squash—which are painted in blue, green red, purple and yellow. Carved in the bottom panels is one squash each which is also painted. Each carving and panel is one piece of wood. Over the doors is a clear glass transom.

The segmental arch is repeated over each of the typical first floor windows, two on either side of the double doors which have the same arch as over the transom. On the second floor of the east façade (Photo 5) from south to north are two single typical windows, a pair of them in the center and two more singles on the north. These windows are slightly shorter than those on the first floor and there is the added surround detail above the center pair in which the frame has a curved, triangular detail over the joint of the two windows.

There are two windows on the east side of the cupola. They are single-pane and double hung with full arch sashes at the top and surrounded with the "rope" trim.

At least five different bracket scroll designs appear around the house. The most elaborate are on the cornice of the main two-story section or east section of the building. There, they are paired, four sets to a side except on the west façade. The cornice has a row of dentils immediately under the eave, followed by molded panels. The east porch brackets are longer, but not as complicated. There are two types of brackets on the cupola. Two longer, scrolled ones at each end and a shorter, simpler one in the middle. (Photo 6)

The north façade (Photo 7) shows two floors plus dormers and the cupola. On the first floor, there are six windows and two doors. The eastern section of the building is blank on the first floor except for the two windows at the western end of it. The first is a typical first floor window. Its partner, to the west, is the top half of that window. The next window is part of the center section of the building. It is also the typical first floor window. To the west of it is an entry door with a three-step stoop, 15 panes, dark trim and a surround of painted white wood. Its glass transom also has white painted wood trim. There is a lantern mounted on the keystone. To the west of this door is a set of three typical first floor windows.

In the west section of the building is the garage or former carriage house, original to the building. It has a plain brick façade except for a plain door with white trim that has been set into the former carriage house door which has been bricked in (photo 7). The outline of the former entrance is very apparent as the keystone and the two-row brick arch remain. A two-row section of glass block has been set in the middle of the upper area of the former entrance.

The second floor of the north façade has four windows. Starting from the east, a typical second floor window is directly above the one on the first floor. There is no half-length one next to it. In the center section of the building there are three typical second floor windows evenly spaced across the wall and somewhat lower than that of the far eastern one. The garage has a second floor, but it is not as high as the east and center sections and has no windows.

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The cornice of the east section of the north façade is the same as that of its east façade. At the center section, the roof is lower and the cornice is narrower with shorter brackets and no moldings or dentils. Both of these sections have hip roofs. There is a slim brick chimney at the eastern end and a small skylight in the center of the east section roof. A long dormer rises out of the center section of the building and connects with the east. It has wooden siding and an east-to-west gable roof. The cupola from this side looks the same as the east side. The garage has a north-south gable roof. The eaves visible from this side have a plain cornice with no brackets. Another dormer with a gable roof can be seen from this view at the far west end of the garage. It is finished in the same way as the other dormer.

From the west façade (Photo 8) five roofs can be seen. The lowest elevation is that of the garage wall which is brick with no windows. Above this is the dormer set in a gable roof with two single-pane casement windows. The trim is curved at the top of each with a diamond molding in the center above them. Deep molding is used at the narrow eaves. Two skylights are set in the roof south of the dormer. Beyond this section is the hip roof of the middle section of the house. A brick chimney with corbelled top is at the south end. At the cornice there is one bracket on the north end and a pair at the south corner.

Above that is the west end of the long, low dormer that takes up most of the length of this roof. It has three windows: the center one is a fixed rectangle and is flanked by octagonal fixed windows with 9 panes each. At the very top of the house is the west side of the cupola (Photo 9).

Beginning at the west end of the south façade (Photo 10) is the former carriage house, now the garage. The center door has been replaced with a white, modern garage door, but the two-row brick arch-and-keystone remains above a three-part window. Some repair work has been done on the brick wall above the door. The cornice and eave are treated in the same manner as the north side. A lantern hangs from the cornice, over the door.

The center section of the south façade features another wooden porch with railings, posts and arches similar to the east porch, but without the brackets and detailed moldings. There is also a side stair on the west end of the porch that runs parallel to the building. The first floor elevation has four typical first floor windows without the rope trim, one at each end and two in the middle. Between the middle set and each end window is a door with glass transom. The outer storm doors and inner doors are made of wood. There are no windows in these doors.

On the second floor, there are three of the full-length typical second floor windows evenly spaced across the wall. The eave detail is the same as the north side of this section.

At the west end of the east section of the house there is a two-story bay (Photo 11) with three windows on each floor. The windows are approximately half as wide, but just as long as the typical full-length windows elsewhere. The center window on the first floor, however, is a rectangular window, set into an arched trim while the others have curved tops with full arches above (Photo 12). The "rope" detailing is used for the trim. Below it is a limestone sill. Above is the typical two-row brick arch with the limestone keystone. All the other bay windows have curved-top glass and frame. The eave of the bay is separate from that of the main building and tops out at the bottom of the main cornice, which is the

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same as that on the east façade. The bay's eave is a smaller version of the dentil and scrolled bracket motif. The cornice ends at the top of the keystones.

At the eastern end of the south façade is a small ell set on a concrete foundation. It has a white door with white surround and no glass door and is used as an entrance to the basement. Over this ell is a gable roof with simple molding at the eaves. Above and slightly to the east of the door is the stone carved with "Josephus Wolf 1875" set into the brickwork.

At the roof (Photo 10), there is one skylight and one vent. The south façade of the cupola is the same as the others. There is another slim brick chimney at the northeast corner of the roof.

The interior of the Josephus Wolf House is arranged around first and second floor east-west halls. One enters the hall through the double doors directly from the east porch (Photo 13). The walls of the hall are roughly plastered while the rest of the rooms on this level have smooth wall finishes. Ceilings are 12 feet, as is typical for the first and second floor of this section of the building. Elsewhere they are lower. There are seven doors in the hall, all trimmed with heavy, painted molding with square corners. The floor is red oak. Pine baseboards are approximately 10 inches high and painted. The same baseboards inside the rooms have been stripped and are stained or varnished with a natural finish as is all the other trim woodwork. There is a section of crown molding over the east exterior doors and it has been painted to match the wall color (photo 14).

To the left of the hall on the south side is the former double parlor. The front parlor has two windows on the east wall (Photo 15). On the south wall is a fireplace similar to the one in the library (Photo 16). This parlor is connected by a segmental arch surrounded with a pine molding to the back parlor now used as the dining room (photo 17). The dining room has a triple-window bay on the south side (photo 18). The bay is notable for the wood trim and leafy pendants on either side of the segmental arch. Also noteworthy is the molding applied to the ceiling within the bay (photo 19). Both sets of moldings are painted. The molding around the windows ends in a wide apron board which touches the baseboards (photo 20). None of this trim is painted. On the west wall of the dining room is a door to what is called the "great room" It is trimmed with the typical pine molding and the paneled wooden door is also stained or varnished "natural" (photo 21). The doorway surround is paneled in the same pine.

The "great room" extends across the entire width of the building and with the kitchen beyond it forms the center section of the house. The original configuration had the "great room" divided by a wall into two dining rooms. The wall was removed in the 1930s. The room as it is now has eight doors. Two to the outside (north and south) (photo 22, 23), two leading to the kitchen (photo 24, 25), one leading to the back stairs on the west side of the room (photo 24) and three on the east wall leading to the dining room, the hall and a storage room. All the doors are stripped and stained natural pine paneled with the typical pine molding. The upper right corner of the north door to the kitchen is missing its corner. The windows are the typical first floor variety with the typical moldings and have been fitted with wood shutter blinds sympathetic to the rest of the original woodwork. The shutters extend about half the length of the windows.

West of the "great room" is the kitchen which also extends across the width of the building, south to north. It has four typical windows, a door leading outside to the south (Photo 26), and a door to the west and the garage. Where possible, the original wood trim has been saved, but all cabinetry, the flooring and any rotted trim has been replaced. The window sills are deep, but the molding does not touch the baseboards which are somewhat narrower than those of the rest of the



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first floor. Wood has been stripped and stained or varnished natural. The floor in the kitchen is ceramic tile (Photo 27). The beadboard wainscoting is original to both the kitchen and the great room. A chair rail and a square molding are used elsewhere on the lower section of the walls. The ceiling fans were added during the most recent renovations.

Beyond the kitchen to the west is the former carriage house, now used as a garage. (Photo 35) This space, too, is original to the house. A furnace room has been created roughly around the space of the former kitchen fireplace on the east wall of the garage south of the steps leading to the kitchen. As noted in the exterior description, the north door of the garage has been removed. The south doorway remains but has been converted to a modern, remote-controlled garage door.

Walking back through the kitchen and great room into the hall, two rooms are seen to the left or on the north side. The first is used as a laundry room now, but was a bathroom originally. This is the location of the half-window mentioned in the description of the north façade. The second is a very generous bathroom with a glass block shower surround which was installed by the previous owners (photo 28). This room was originally a part of the library. The hall doors to both rooms have glass transoms and are heavily trimmed with painted molding. The door leading under the stairs is of painted wood paneling. It is also trimmed with molding, but has no transom. It leads to the basement. On the wall of the stairway is a painted radiator.

At the foot of the stairs to the left or north side is the library. This room has two typical first floor windows with their original pine molding (Photo 15) on the east and a door with typical moldings on the south (Photo 29). There is a deep wood cornice at the ceiling. Below that is a picture rail. (Photo 30) The fireplace on the north wall (Photo 16) is original to the house, but the owner is unsure of the date of the mantel, although it matches the fireplace in the parlor.

From the main hallway, a straight stair leads to the second floor(photo 31). The broad, molded wood handrail makes a graceful turn at the top of the stairs as it becomes the balustrade for the upstairs hall. The balusters in this run are turned and twisted in shape. The "cathedral" newel post at its foot is made of faceted and carved walnut inlaid with birdseye maple. The "rope" detail found outside on windows and the front door surround appears here also. The post is invested with great "movement" as the three turned disks as well as the trunk and finial appear ready to spin like tops at the least touch. All the balustrade wood is stained or varnished in a dark color (photo 32). The staircase has 21 treads and risers, all of which are painted.

At the east end of the upstairs hall there is a double window. Doors to the bedrooms all have glass transoms, similar to those on first floor (Photo 28). All the flooring on this level is red oak. The hallway floor in the front is parqueted. Ceilings on this level are somewhat lower than 12 feet. Throughout the second floor, the floors are hardwood and the moldings around the windows, ceilings and doors are plain.

Bedroom 1, in the front northeast corner above the library, has two typical second floor windows on the east wall (Photo 36) and the typical door with transom and molding on the south. The moldings are painted. Originally, there was a fireplace in the center of the north wall. This has been removed and the flue is plastered over (Photo 37) (headboard in front of it).

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Bedroom 2, front southeast corner, sits over the double parlors on the first floor. Its connecting archway (Photo 38) is broader than the one below to accommodate a closet on each side. The bay on the south wall of the back room (Photo 39) is the same as the dining room below, except for less extravagant wood trim. All the walls are finished with the rough plaster similar to the stairwell and the moldings are painted. There are two typical second floor windows on the east wall (Photo 40). Evidence of former fireplaces appears on the south and west walls where the flues have been framed out and plastered over. (Photo 40, 38) There is a second door to the hall at the west end of the suite.

Bedroom 3 (Photo 41), across the hall on the north side, has one typical second floor window and a closet.

Exiting Bedroom 3 and turning west, the hall (Photo 42) continues down three steps and enters the center section of the building. The first room on the north is a bathroom with early 20<sup>th</sup> century white ceramic tile wall covering and a built-in tub (Photo 43). There is also one typical second floor window (Photo 44).

West of the bath is a large room with a typical second floor window on the north wall and stairs which lead to an attic. West of this room is another walk-in closet or storage area with the third typical second floor window.

Taking the hall further west, one walks down another three steps and enters the area over the garage or carriage house. This area is now used as a sewing room. The ceiling is pitched and there is a dormered window on the west wall (Photo 45). South of the dormer is a skylight (Photo 46).

Going back east into the center section of the house, on the south side of the hall, there is a large, unfinished room with one window. This may at one time have been the access to the roof of the south porch. East of this room is the back staircase which leads to the kitchen and great room. This room is also connected to Bedroom 4 through a curtained opening on the west wall of the bedroom. (Photo 47). Bedroom 4 has two typical second floor windows looking out over the south porch. The wall east of the doorway is curved.

Returning up the steps to the east section of the building, one sees the main staircase which leads to the third floor. This staircase is a scaled-down version of first-to-second floor one. It has a smaller newel post made of walnut only; the balusters are fluted (photo 33) not twisted, walnut. This stair leads to a finished space on the third floor under the cupola which is used as an office. From here there is a rough staircase to the cupola which has a steel mesh and Plexiglas floor.

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**SECTION 8 - STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Summary Paragraph:

The Josephus Wolf House, built in 1875, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C because it is an outstanding example of Midwestern late Victorian Italianate domestic architecture in the Valparaiso area.

Historical Context:

In nearby Valparaiso, domestic architecture changed radically between 1830 and the late sixties from log-and-frame buildings to fine brick and stone construction. The Wolf family also enjoyed the wealth generated by the Gilded Age and prosperity in Porter County. While townspeople were constructing Italianate houses and commercial buildings, the Wolfs created an Italianate manor house that was appropriate for their life on a country estate.

Italianate is considered by some critics to be a democratic style of architecture quite suitable for American domestic and commercial use anywhere in the nation. It was popularized as a "flexible" style by authors such as Andrew Jackson Downing in books published in mid-century. It is very probable that builders in the Valparaiso area had books like his available to them and with the help of well-trained carpenters and masons were able to create creditable versions of the style according to the demands of their clients.

The Wolf House was built between 1873 and 1875 by Josephus Wolf at a cost of about \$5000. Sometime after 1875, various barns and outbuildings were added to the 4500 acre farm. Many immigrant Swedish and German tenant farmers worked on the property. One of the carpenters of record was Lewis B. Taylor. The estate, which extended south from today's Route 6 in Portage to Indiana Route 130, was used as an illustration for the 1876 Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Indiana. (See photo copy.) According to this drawing, both the south and east porches were open with slender turned wood supports and railings along the roof line as well as along the floor line.

Josephus Wolf died in 1895 and his wife continued to live on the property until her death in 1903. It is generally thought that by this time, the Wolf Family no longer owned the property. It is said that a son, Elmer Wolf, Josephus' executor, had sold off his Indiana property in 1900 when he moved from Elkhart to Flasher, ND, where he homesteaded. However, another report states that between 1901 and 1908, Elmer experienced a crop failure on top of the loss of sale notes and collections which disappeared with his attorney. In 1904, he filed for bankruptcy and the Porter County newspaper article reported that his Porter County holdings went into receivership and he lost everything except his North Dakota homestead and section 25 and farm equipment and horses. It is unclear where Section 25 and the personal property were located.

Between about 1910 and 1940, the house was occupied by various tenants of absentee landlords. Lewis B. Taylor, the carpenter mentioned above, and his family, for one, rented the house sometime after 1900. Between 1917 and 1920, the eleven-member William A. Shook family rented the house and its 400 acre farm from Lewis Robbins of Portage Township and his brother Joseph Robbins of Iowa. At this time, the house was said to have 19 rooms and three fireplaces. The porch on the south side was glassed in. Stoves provided heating in winter; water was carried in from a well. There was an apple orchard east of the house and a double cow barn on the southeast corner of the intersection. South of the barn were a windmill, a milk house and a horse barn. A hay barn was located south of the house. These details were recalled some 50 years later by one of the Shook daughters.

In the early 1930s, the house was the residence of a group of Franciscan monks who were building the Shrine of the Seven

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Dolors somewhat east of the Wolf Mansion. They are said to have been the ones to remove the wall separating the two dining rooms and turned what is now the "great room" into a chapel. They are also credited with installing central heating and electricity. They also built the south side exterior entrance to the basement.

In the 1940s, the house was occupied by the Grantham Family. A 1957 photograph shows the glassed-in south porch as well as the original north and south side doors to the carriage house. (See photocopies) There also appears to have been a door on the east side of the porch between two French windows. On the west side, the windows were fixed. The door to the porch area was in the south wall and reached by a concrete stoop and an iron pipe railing.

From 1965 to October of 1976, the house was owned and occupied by the Paul Saylor family. Mr. Saylor was the developer of land east of the house now known as South Haven, Indiana. The Saylor's described the house as having three parlors and a library. They noted that they found three marble mantels on the property and that they had been replaced with brick mantles inside. The eastern end of the building had 12-foot ceilings. Ceilings were lower in the diningrooms [sic] and kitchen. There was a two-story coachhouse at the rear or west end. Photographs from 1966 show the basement entrance and that the south porch was still glassed in. (See photocopies.)

In 1976, the house was purchased by Isabelle Doneff and Geri McDaniel who turned the house into a commercial enterprise called "Victorian House." Several individually-operated boutiques occupied the rooms on the first floor when it opened. There were plans to extend this to the second floor. By December, it is said, an apartment residence occupied at least the second floor of the middle section of the building. Newspaper photographs of "Victorian House" show that the south porch was no longer glassed-in. The roof was a lean-to with two gables, one over each set of wooden steps that led to the two doors of the house. The roof was supported by turned wooden posts. In between the posts were railings. The eaves showed the double brackets and molding. All the trim was painted beige.

The newspaper article also described the house as having 18 rooms, marble fireplaces, a walnut staircase with birdseye maple and walnut newel post and curved banister, as well as "trap doors and secret exits." The carved fruit panels of the front doors were believed to have been fashioned by a Swedish carpenter or woodcarver. (The current owner did not point out any trap doors or secret exits during the writer's visit.)

By 1977, the house was described as having 17 rooms (a library, 8 bedrooms and a diningroom), 8 chandeliers, and two fireplaces.

In June of 1979, local house historian, Harriet Van Ness created and guided house tours through the Valparaiso area. One of the stops on the tour was the Wolf Mansion. She noted that the front porch was missing, but that the supports were there. It is unclear what she meant by this as no photo accompanied the narrative.

In the mid-1980s, the Caring Place, Inc., moved its facilities for at-risk women and children from St. Bridget's convent in Hobart to the Wolf Mansion. The first floor of the house was used for offices and common areas, while the upstairs slept six to fourteen women and children. According to Joanna Shearer, a former employee of The Caring Place, there was a porch on the front of the house at that time. The volunteers' office was in what is now the library. Here one person spent the night and someone was available to answer the phone around the clock. Paid staff had offices in what is now the living room and dining room. The south porch was no longer glassed in. What is now a great room was used as a day room. West of that was the kitchen and carriage house. The space over the carriage house, she said, was probably not used, but one could climb to the cupola.

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During the late eighties, the house and property were managed by the Jewel Kadett trust. By then, The Caring Place was more or less forced to leave, because the boiler could not pass inspection. The organization did not have the means to maintain or restore the building.

In 1989, a young couple, Tony and Lisa Cortese, Jr, purchased the Wolf Mansion which had been vacant and vandalized for sometime before they arrived on the scene. The newspaper article announcing their ownership used a 1984 photograph which shows the gabled porch on the south façade and the current (2006) porch on the east. The article made note of the house having 15 rooms (9 bedrooms), a carriage house or three-car garage, and the cupola. The Corteses were planning to install a new heating system and fix the windows. They also said the house needed a heavy cleaning and replacement of light fixtures plus new paint and wallpaper. They reportedly paid \$189,500 for the 8,075 square-foot house on 8 acres. A 1989 newspaper photograph shows the current front porch with a handrail running up the middle.

The house achieved local, if not national, notoriety when its upstairs bathroom was used for certain scenes in a film called "Bloodbath in Psycho Town." Other filming locations were in Porter, Chesterton and Hammond, Indiana.

In 1991, a new owner took over. Dr. Gene Neyhart and his family performed some renovations on the interior by modernizing the kitchen and creating a gym and entertainment center in the carriage house. Since the house was zoned for commercial use, the doctor installed his office on the first floor. On the second floor, they made a master bedroom suite with a walk-in closet in the southeastern section and a playroom elsewhere in the middle section. On the third floor, under the cupola they changed the area from storage to a sitting room. Outside, on the remaining six or so acres of the property, they put in a full-size volleyball court and an English garden.

The Neyharts put the house up for sale in 1997 and it was purchased by the Gore family, who were in the realty and construction business. At least some of the time between then and 2003, the house was vacant, because when Clement and Linda Khan purchased it in 2003, they discovered much water damage, especially at the ceilings, plus holes in the walls and fifty broken window panes.

The Khans have replaced as many of the panes as possible with antique glass. In order to protect the windows and improve HVAC efficiency, they have installed thin sheets of Plexiglass on the outside of each window in such a fashion that it cannot be detected until the viewer is very close to the windows. Loose roof shingles have been repaired. The brickwork has been tuckpointed and sealed. Gray paint on the limestone sills, keystones and lintels has been sandblasted away. Where necessary, the Kahn's have replaced wooden soffits and fascia boards as well as dentil moldings. Wood trim has been scraped and repainted in white. Inside, the plaster walls have been repaired. The coachhouse has become a garage.

It is unclear from the evidence above as to whether the east (front) porch is original to the house. At present, it is missing the roof railing that was shown in the 1876 drawing.

This railing is also missing from the south porch which has definitely been changed at least three times since 1876.

Criterion C:

The Wolf Mansion displays all the hallmarks of quintessential Midwestern Italianate. It has a two-story and a three-story section, a square cupola, a low-pitched roof with bracketed eaves and tall, narrow windows with elaborate arches and crowns which are arranged in three bays across the front. The side porch and the front porch both contribute to the feel of

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the Americanized Italian villa which was so popular throughout the U.S. in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The Josephus Wolf House also compares favorably with other grand country Italianates in Porter County such as the Elmer Wolf and the John Prentiss houses.

The Elmer Wolf House, built by Josephus' son about 1890, is a brick, gabled-ell Italianate, much more angular in feeling than the Josephus Wolf House. The Italianate side porch is located on the front of the building north of the "front" porch. There are two, two-story bays on the front façade which flank the single front door and enclose the roofed front porch. The eaves are deep, but not bracketed. On both floors of the north bay, there is one big curved-arch window. The original segmented glass has been replaced by a single sheet of plate glass. A small "carriage house" is attached at the far north end of the building, next to the side porch. Over this is a second story with dormers. Set in the third-story area of the main gable, is a stone which reads: Wolf 1890. All-in-all the feeling is of a miniature version of the Josephus Wolf House without the "triple" symmetry and grace of the latter.

The John Prentiss house in Center Township was built about 1880. Mr. Prentiss ran a successful farm and dairy having settled in Porter County in the 1850s. His Italianate has more of the Italian villa feeling than the Josephus Wolf House. It is asymmetrical with rounded arches and full arches at the windows. The side porches are two-storied galleries with semi-segmented openings. Columns are similar with molded cornices. On the south side there are three porches, two on the first floor; one above the southeast first floor porch and a fourth porch on the northeast corner. It, too, has a two-story side bay, a cupola and a hip roof. But it never had an attached carriage house or the charming, verandah-like front porch of the Wolf. Instead, its double doors are surrounded with a deeply hooded, curved roof and elaborate brackets.

The Wolf House is all the more remarkable because, given its age and checkered history, it has been able to revert to a private residence showing no unsympathetic remodeling on the exterior. Careful renovations by the current owners on the inside have only highlighted the building's architectural integrity.

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**SECTION 10 – GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**Verbal boundary description**

453 West 700 North, City of Valparaiso.

A parcel of land in the east half of the southwest quarter of Section 30, Township 36 North, Range 6 West of the Second Principal Meridian in Portage Township, Porter County, Indiana, more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the southeast corner of said southwest quarter; then west along the south line of said southwest quarter, a distance of 482.10 feet; thence north at 90 degrees with the previous course, a distance of 524.76 feet; thence east by a deflection angle of 90 degrees 04 minutes to the right, a distance of 470.20 feet to the east line of the east half of the southwest quarter; thence south by a deflection angle of 88 degrees 38 minutes to the right along said east line of the east half of the southwest quarter, a distance of 524.74 feet to the point of beginning.

**Boundary justification**

This boundary was chosen because it reflects the Josephus Wolf property as it is owned by the Khans today.



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2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing west, exterior south façade
7. Photo #1 (Negative #108876 4A)

1. Josephus Wolf House
2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing northwest, exterior south porch
7. Photo #2 (Negative #108863 10A)

1. Josephus Wolf House
2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing west, detail of south porch
7. Photo #3 (Negative #108863 11A)

1. Josephus Wolf House
2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing west, exterior south double doors
7. Photo #4 (Negative #108876 12A)

1. Josephus Wolf House
2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing west, exterior south facade
7. Photo #5 (Negative #108863 6A)

1. Josephus Wolf House
2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing north, exterior south face of cupola
7. Photo #6 (Negative #108863 9A)

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1. Josephus Wolf House
2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing south, exterior north façade
7. Photo #7 (Negative #108876 1A)

1. Josephus Wolf House
2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing east, exterior west façades
7. Photo # 8 (Negative #108863 0A)

1. Josephus Wolf House
2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing southeast, exterior north and west facades of cupola and eastern section eaves
7. Photo #9 (Negative #108863 3A)

1. Josephus Wolf House
2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing north, exterior south façade
7. Photo #10 (Negative #108876 5A)

1. Josephus Wolf House
2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing north, exterior south façade of east section
7. Photo # 11 (Negative #108876 7A)

1. Josephus Wolf House
2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing north, exterior, detail of south bay
7. Photo #12 (Negative #108863 8A)

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1. Josephus Wolf House
2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing northwest, interior hall and staircase
7. Photo #13 (Negative #108876 15A)

1. Josephus Wolf House
2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing east, interior, front double doors
7. Photo #14 (Negative #108876 13A)

1. Josephus Wolf House
2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing southeast, interior SE corner of front parlor
7. Photo #15 (Negative #108876 17A)

1. Josephus Wolf House
2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing south, interior fireplace in front parlor
7. Photo #16 (Negative #108863 13A)

1. Josephus Wolf House
2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing west, interior, dining room through arch
7. Photo # 17 (Negative #108876 18A)

1. Josephus Wolf House
2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing southwest, interior detail of dining room bay
7. Photo # 18 (Negative #108876 19A)

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1. Josephus Wolf House
2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing southwest sky, interior detail of dining room bay moldings
7. Photo #19 (Negative #108876 20A)

1. Josephus Wolf House
2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing southwest, detail of dining room bay moldings
7. Photo #20 (Negative #108876 21A)

1. Josephus Wolf House
2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing northwest, interior doorway to great room from dining room
7. Photo #21 (Negative #108863 17A)

1. Josephus Wolf House
2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing north, interior north wall of great room
7. Photo # 2 (Negative #108863 21A)

1. Josephus Wolf House
2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing south, interior south wall of great room
7. Photo #23 (Negative #108863 18A)

1. Josephus Wolf House
2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing southwest, interior west wall of great room (partial)
7. Photo #24 (Negative #108863 19A)

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1. Josephus Wolf House
2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing west, interior west wall of great room (partial)
7. Photo # 25 (Negative #108863 20A)

1. Josephus Wolf House
2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing south, interior south wall of kitchen
7. Photo # 26 (Negative #108876 22A)

1. Josephus Wolf House
2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing north, interior northeast corner of kitchen
7. Photo #27 (Negative #108863 22A)

1. Josephus Wolf House
2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing northeast, interior hall behind first floor staircase
7. Photo #28 (Negative #108876 24A)

1. Josephus Wolf House
2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing south, interior doorway from library to hall
7. Photo #29 (Negative #108876 16A)

1. Josephus Wolf House
2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing southwest, interior SW corner of library
7. Photo #30 (Negative #108863 14A)

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1. Josephus Wolf House
2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing west, interior, hall and staircase from first to second floor
7. Photo #31 (Negative #108876 14A)

1. Josephus Wolf House
2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing west, interior hall, detail of newel post
7. Photo #32 (Negative #108863 12A)

1. Josephus Wolf House
2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing northwest, interior, detail of balustrade second floor staircase
7. Photo #33 (Negative #223526 1A)

1. Josephus Wolf House
2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing southeast, interior, dining room chandelier
7. Photo #34 (Negative #22-22A )

1. Josephus Wolf House
2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing northwest, interior, garage with furnace room next to steps to kitchen
7. Photo #35 (Negative #21-21A )

1. Josephus Wolf House
2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing south, interior, bed 1, window and transom details
7. Photo #36 (Negative #1-1A)

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1. Josephus Wolf House
2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing northeast, interior, bed 1
7. Photo #37 (Negative #2-2A )

1. Josephus Wolf House
2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing west, interior, bed 2
7. Photo #38 (Roll 645720 Negative #2)

1. Josephus Wolf House
2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing south, interior, bed 1
7. Photo #39 (Roll 645720 Negative #3)

1. Josephus Wolf House
2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing east, interior, bed 1
7. Photo #40 (Negative #3-3A )

1. Josephus Wolf House
2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing northeast, interior, bed 3
7. Photo #41 (Negative #4-4A)

1. Josephus Wolf House
2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing west, interior, second floor hall
7. Photo #42 (Negative #6-6A )

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1. Josephus Wolf House
2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing west, interior, second floor bathroom
7. Photo #43 (Roll 645720 Negative #4)

1. Josephus Wolf House
2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing north, interior, second floor bathroom
7. Photo #44 (Negative #5-5A)

1. Josephus Wolf House
2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing northwest, interior, second floor over garage
7. Photo #45 (Negative #15-15A)

1. Josephus Wolf House
2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing southwest, interior, second floor over garage
7. Photo #46 (Negative #14-14A)

1. Josephus Wolf House
2. Porter County, IN
3. Cynthia L. Ogorek
4. March 1, 2006
5. C. Ogorek, 715 Memorial Drive, Calumet City, IL 60409
6. Camera facing south, interior, bed 4
7. Photo #47 (Negative #7-7A)