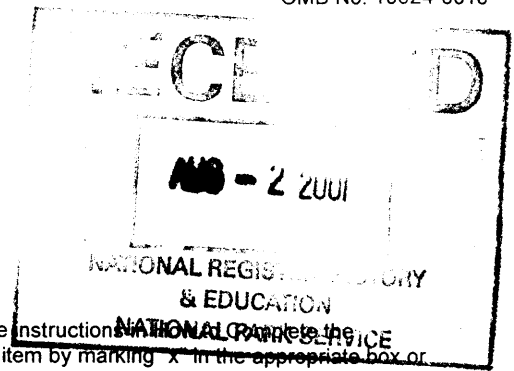


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

981



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions on the back of 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 Elm Spring Farm  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 1 mile north of Bain Road on Goose Creek Road N/A  not for publication  
city or town Martinsville  vicinity  
state Indiana code IN county Morgan code 109 zip code 46151

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Jim C. St D-SHPO  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Date

7-23-01

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

**Entered in the  
National Register**

Date of Action

9-16-01

Elm Spring Farm  
Name of Property

Morgan IN  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- building
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	1	buildings
1	0	sites
3	0	structures
0	0	objects
8	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)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

RECREATION/CULTURE: Agricultural Outbuilding

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: log

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls WOOD: Log  
WOOD: Weatherboard

roof ASPHALT

other METAL: steel  
BRICK

**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)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT  
ARCHITECTURE  
CONSERVATION

**Period of Significance**

c.1844-1950

**Significant Dates**

c.1844  
1932

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown  
Civilian Conservation Corps

**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:

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 50

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	16	545260	4367560
	Zone	Easting	Northing

3	16	545700	4367140
	Zone	Easting	Northing

2	16	545700	4367560
---	----	--------	---------

4	16	545270	4367140
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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

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

**Boundary Justification**

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

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Joanne Raetz Stuttgart / edited by Sarah Clevenger, Ph.D.

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date 09-12-2000

street & number 759 E. Washington St. telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Martinsville state IN zip code 46151

**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 Sarah Clevenger

street & number 717 S. Henderson St. telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Bloomington state IN zip code 47401-4838

**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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Elm Spring Farm  
Morgan County, Indiana

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### ***ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION***

Fifty-acre Elm Spring Farm is a remarkable assemblage of pioneer log buildings consisting of a one-and-a-half story, single pen log house with frame kitchen addition; a single crib barn converted to a garage; and a second single crib barn (photos 1, 2). Also included on the property is a frame privy, a spring, a brick outdoor fireplace, sandstone abutments for two absent foot bridges, and a non-contributing log storage building. Total resource count is nine: four contributing buildings, a contributing site, three contributing structures, and a non-contributing building.

#### **House – Exterior**

The log portion of the rectangular, one-and-one-half story house measures 19'-9" deep, 23'-10" long, and 20'-5.25" high. The entire house excluding the porches is 39'-6" long and 19'-9" wide (photo 3). The non-gabled main elevation faces west and has a central paneled door with a pair of double hung windows at left. Based on the hardware, both the door and the windows appear to date to the 1930s. The door opening is original, and it is likely that an original single window opening was enlarged to accommodate the pair of windows (photo 4). The wall consists of six yellow poplar logs hewn square on all four sides. (In this description, logs making up each wall are numbered beginning with the bottom log, which is number one.) The seventh log is the plate that overhangs the wall. A frame, one-story, screened-in porch 8'-0" deep dating to ca 1932 extends across the front of the house and beyond the west wall of the log portion to enclose a portion of the frame kitchen addition.

The east wall consists of six hewn logs. The fourth log has two rectangular notches cut into it. The one to the east has a dovetail notch. The other located just right of the door, would likely have been the insertion point for a porch roof. The east wall has similar piercings as the west wall but retains what appears to be an early six-over-six light, double hung sash window. The rear door is paneled and has a single light window covered on the exterior with a plywood sheet. An eight foot frame, lean-to, screened-in porch extends the combined length of the house and the frame kitchen addition (photo 5).

The south gabled wall is made of seven logs including the protruding log that holds the plate. The gable is covered with shakes which do not appear to be original but perhaps date from the 1930's. A six-over-six light double hung sash window is centered in the gable. Probably the window was originally located in the lower room and was replaced by the double windows since it is similar to the window on the east wall of the lower room. This change was probably made in 1932 (photo 6).

A red brick, off-center chimney with a first-floor fire box is located on the east side of the south wall. It is not original, as the brick is modern, factory-burned brick. This fireplace was added ca 1932.

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The north gabled wall is partially obscured by a twentieth-century frame kitchen addition. The wall is constructed of seven hewn logs, the fourth of which protrudes beyond the non-gabled walls to hold the plate. The only early piercing is a six-over-six light double hung sash window right of center about half way between the center and the west end of the north wall. The gable is framed and covered with shakes. In this gable are three 2' wide windows, each consisting of three long panes. This is a 1930's alteration.

A one-story frame kitchen measuring 12'-0" deep and 16'-0" long was added to the north wall. A pair of four-over-four light double-hung sash windows is centered in the gable end. A red brick chimney runs up the outside east wall. A three-light window, which is similar to the three windows in the north gable of the upper room, is located to the right of the chimney and a paneled door to the left. The west wall is pierced by a pair of four-over-four lights double-hung sash windows which are located next to the door onto the porch. This door is placed on the south end of the west wall. The north wall of the screened-in front porch intersects the west kitchen wall between the windows. This kitchen is an expansion of a smaller board and batten sided kitchen which was probably added in the early twentieth century (photo 7). The enlargement occurred in the 1930's and the exterior is covered now with slab siding (photo 8). Two concrete steps lead to a door in the screened in porch directly in front of the windows.

The house is supported at the four corners by large sandstone blocks now buried underground. In the years since the house was built, the interstices between the bottom logs and the ground have been filled with dirt, brick, and/or concrete.

The original wood shingle roof is now covered with asphalt. In addition to the exterior fireplace chimney on the south wall, an early stove chimney emerges on the west plane just below the ridge.

The original log house was covered with siding which was removed ca 1932. Vertical hewn areas are found in the logs, especially around the doors and windows, and are presumed to be where furring strips were nailed (photo 9). Nail holes are also evident. Corner notching throughout is half-dovetail. Chinking consists of a mixture of the discarded ends of wood from which shingles were cut, the original clay, and concrete.

#### House - Interior

The original house consists of a single room with a sleeping loft overhead. All first floor walls are covered with vertical painted plank paneling attached with wire nails. The paneling is very nearly flush with the window and door frames. The ceiling is also covered with plank paneling. At one time there was a partition dividing the room in half. Janice Clevenger remembers that second partition dividing the south half of the room into two small rooms. Neither of these rooms had a window and were used for sleeping rooms. These partitions were removed in 1932. The wood floor has been laid over the original. A boxed staircase

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with a 90 degree turn is located in the northeast corner of the room (photo 10). A stove chimney runs up the north gabled wall. A door to the kitchen addition has been cut through this wall to the right of the chimney.

The one-room kitchen is a frame addition on the north wall of the house. Along with the opening to the main room on the south wall of the kitchen, a solid panel wood door leads to the front (west) porch, and another door leads to the rear (east) porch. This second door is wood, with two panels below a large, single-light window. The interior walls are painted plaster over lath and the wood trim is painted plank. The floor is tongue and groove poplar. There are two beaded board storage cupboards, a wood work cabinet, and a wall cabinet with paneled doors. An iron cook stove with pipe is found along the east wall. A porcelain sink and small mirrored medicine cabinet are mounted in the northwest corner (photo 11).

The sleeping loft retains much of its original appearance. The log walls and original poplar floor are exposed. Only the ceiling is obscured with modern material in the form of very early wallboard. The brick stove chimney extends off-center along the gable with one window on one side and two on the other. The windows were added ca 1932 (photo 12).

### Barn/Garage

Immediately south of the house is a single crib barn that was converted into a garage about 1932. At that time it was roofed and a sliding door was added. The building measures 16'-0" wide, 14'-0" long, and 8'-0" high. It faces north, with a 10'-0" opening covered with a tongue-and-groove wood sliding garage door. All of the walls are comprised of five poplar logs, with the exception of the north wall which has four because of the conversion. All of the logs are original save those in the number one position on the east and west walls. These are replacements cut by a circular saw. The number one log on the east is severely rotted because it sits directly on the ground. All notches are half-dovetail. The gables are framed and sided. The roof is metal. The building sits on large sandstone corner blocks now sunken into the ground. The space between the first log and the ground on the south wall has been filled with cut sandstone blocks mortared with concrete. Any other significant base openings have likewise been filled. Chinking is concrete (photo 13). The two lower logs were replaced in 1980 when the contractor used pine logs instead of hardwood.

### Privy

A clapboarded frame privy is found a short distance southeast of the barn/garage and just above the gully. The round collecting vault is lined with brick. The foundation is cut sandstone block. The privy is not fastened to the foundation and leans northward. The roof is asphalt (photo 14).

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**Barn**

The main barn is located down the hill and just east of a drainage stream. Consisting of a single crib, the barn measures 15'-7" wide and 26'-0" long. It has been repaired several times. The original logs are hand hewn poplar. Replacements are from sawn pine. The barn was repaired in 1986 and it is obvious from the logs that at least some of them came from a larger barn.

The main elevation faces east, with a wall consisting of six immense poplar logs between the plate and the gable (leaving an opening at the gable peak), the bottom two of which are sawn replacements. A little 42" x 35" slatted door is found near the south wall. It hangs on steel hinges and has a steel latch. The door is not original, but the opening appears to be by the way it has been cut out of the logs and framed. The fourth log has several large notches cut out of its bottom side, as if it once held intersecting members. They are aligned with similar notches cut into the bottom side of the fourth log in the west wall (Photo 15).

The west wall consists of six logs, of which numbers one and five are sawn replacements. A door is also found near the south wall, but it is older than the door in the east wall. Covering the gable is vertically hung siding measuring 12" wide and 3/4" thick. It fills the gable and extends downward to the number three log. It is fastened with sturdy wire nails and has weathered to a silvery gray.

The north wall consists of five logs, of which numbers one, two, and four are sawn replacements. The south wall also is made of five logs, with numbers two and four being sawn replacements. The number one log is massive, measuring 27" wide and 8" thick. In the outside of this log are found several large cut nails and a forged ring for securing cattle or horses. A section of this log is worn as if this section once had been a part of a manger. This indicates that the log once had run the width of a barn and not the length as it does currently. It was probably reused from an earlier larger barn.

Inside, the barn is divided widthwise by a four foot slatted partition, with a swinging door near the south wall and a wood feed box on the west side of the partition near the north wall. Joists supporting the loft are replacements and run across the width of the building. Prior to this later renovation the walls of the west portion of the lower floor were covered with oak planks to create a weather-proof stable. The east gable is entirely open which allows hay to be put into the haymow (photos 16, 17).

The roof is metal with four clear pastic panels. The barn is supported at its corners by concrete block. The original sandstone blocks, now shattered and broken, are found in the immediate proximity of the corners. There is no chinking between the logs.



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### **Non-contributing log building**

In recent years, a hewn log single pen house has been moved onto the property and reassembled. The building originally stood in Brown County, Indiana and was moved first to Lake Monroe and then to the present location in 1980. The building is located at the foot of the hill and is now used to store a farm tractor and other farm equipment. The walls consists of four courses of logs which complement the original buildings and adds to the milieu. The original doors and windows have been restored. The south wall has a centered door which is flanked on either side by a double hung window. A door is located on the west end and a small double hung window is found on the east end of the north side. The original fireplace opening is now covered with a modern overhead garage door. The interior is unmodified and reveals the logs and the structure of the roof. The building rests on a concrete block foundation and has a poured concrete floor (photo 18). Chinking is tinted concrete.

### **Spring**

Immediately below the hill to the north of the house is a natural spring enclosed in a brick-lined cistern with a lid made of osage orange wood. Originally an enormous American elm grew near the spring and access to the spring was made by using portions of the partially exposed roots as stepping stones down the hill. This elm which inspired the farm's name has since succumbed to Dutch elm disease. Water from the spring runs through the cistern and flows into a small stream which is then piped under ground to the confluence of the drainage streams (photo 19). The runoff of the spring flows past a picnic area and then under ground under the road up to the house and a short way under an open area to the drainage stream near the barn. The tile for this underground flow was laid in 1932 when the picnic area was designed. The remnant of a foot bridge over the overflow stream of the spring is found in the picnic area by the spring.

### **Brick Outdoor Fireplace**

In a picnic area about ten yards south and west of the spring is a brick outdoor fireplace with an iron cover. It is made of factory brick and was probably built in 1933.

### **Walk Bridge Abutments**

Also on the property are two sets of sandstone abutments for absent footbridges. Behind the privy and imbedded into the sides of a gully through which flows a drainage stream are large shaped sandstone blocks used to support a walk bridge (photo 20). The bridge no longer exists as it has decayed over time. Down by the spring in the picnic area are two timbers which were the basis for a walk bridge across the spring overflow. The timbers rest on sandstone blocks. Periodically, these bridges must be restored due

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to the high moisture in the area of their locations.

### Concrete Ford

At the base of the hill near the barn is a poured concrete slab. The concrete for the slab was hand mixed and poured about 1932. This structure bridges a low, wet area fed by a drainage stream and allows vehicles to ford the stream when the stream is running. The ford carries the roadway leading up the hill to the house. For the purpose of this nomination, this ford and underground tile for the spring flow system is considered one contributing structure.

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Elm Spring Farm is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. It is associated with the exploration/settlement and agricultural development of Morgan County. Furthermore, beginning in 1932, it became associated with outdoor conservation. The owner, Hannah Stevens, hired the Civilian Conservation Corps to reforest the farm. Later she opened the farm for use by the Girl Scouts for outdoor camping and training. Lastly, Elm Spring Farm is a very rare surviving example of pioneer hewn log construction.

Elm Spring Farm is the only surviving example of a complete farmstead of pioneer log buildings in Morgan County. Consisting of just over 50 acres, the property is located in east-central Jefferson Township, off Goose Creek Road in a wooded area near Goose Creek. The township itself is located in west central Morgan County. The White River forms the township's southern and eastern boundaries and Lamb's Creek bisects the township from north to south. In earlier times, Goose Creek Road has been called Crone Road and Goose Creek was called Little Lamb's Creek.

Of the fifty acres comprising the property, approximately 35 acres are hilly with ravines that have rivulets to drain the water and which flow eventually into Goose Creek. About ten acres are bottom land found along Goose Creek. The other five acres house the buildings, along with small plots for vegetable gardens which are now in meadow lands.

The location of Elm Spring Farm was important for its survival. It is in an area that was settled early, but was bypassed as time progressed. This status was reflected in a journal kept by William G. Harrison on a neighboring farm. During the eight months from October 1880 through May 1881 he kept this journal. A transcription of this journal was published in the *Indiana Magazine of History* and was entitled "Chronicles of Upper Burnet". The location of the Harrison farm was in sections 23 and 26 of Jefferson Township was about a mile southwest of Elm Spring Farm. Burnett's Creek ran through the Harrison farm and was

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Elm Spring Farm  
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a tributary of White River. Now this creek is called Lamb's Creek and Goose Creek empties into it. The article opens as follows:

*On March 28, 1881, William Gregory Harrison, a young farmer, summed up the activities of a day that had turned from rain to snow by noting; "Nothing of much importance was done here. We sat in the house and hoped for better times." This laconic comment is typical of the young man's daily journal. He was rarely concerned with events beyond his immediate environment. His journal is filled with the day-to-day minutiae of living and this comings and goings on a typical central Indiana farm of the 1880s. Life was filled with work, obviously hard, yet it was also filled with diversity and, also obviously, had its rewards.*

Evidently, the ambiance of the Lamb's Creek–Goose Creek area has changed little from the 1840's to the 1880's to the 1930's. Elm Spring Farm was located in an area which changed little over time.

Currently, immediately surrounding Elm Spring Farm is a rural neighborhood that has experienced a transition from its original agricultural base of subsistence family farms to quiet residential properties. The historic properties have been subdivided into small plots on which have been built modest modern residential structures. Despite this shift, large multi-generational farming operations are still being carried out by the Lankford and Crone families, who work fields nearby. The only contributing historic property on Goose Creek Road is the Crone Farm, with twentieth-century farm buildings and a ca 1860 central passage house which is located one-half mile south and across Goose Creek Road.

For the purpose of this nomination, the resource count is nine. The property includes four contributing buildings – a house, a single crib barn converted to a garage, a second single crib barn, and a privy. There are three contributing structures – a concrete ford/drain tile system, a brick outdoor fireplace, and sandstone abutments for two walk bridges. There is one contributing primary site – a spring. There is one non-contributing building – a relocated and reassembled log building used as a storage shed.

The three original log buildings appear to date to about 1844, but it is difficult to determine their precise age. The land was first titled to Reuben Robertson/Robinson in September 1836 who sold it two years later to Micah Burns. The house was probably built by Micah Burns. In August 1847 Micah and Frances Burns sold 80 acres to Ira Warthan for \$200. Ira S. Warthen and his wife, Nancy Jane Dow, were married in 1841 and their first child, Lueta, was born in 1843. By 1847 they had a growing family of three children. The Warthens added another 120 acres in 1852, and by the time of Ira's death in 1863, they owned a total of 371.46 acres valued at \$1089.33. On the basis of the value, it is believed that the log building(s) were constructed sometime between 1840 and 1860. But the earlier date is supported by the need of the Warthen growing family for a larger home.

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In 1867, the land was partitioned, with approximately 50 acres lying east of Lamb's Creek (now known as Goose Creek) being retained as the immediate farmstead. This is the present day property. Ira Warthen's widow, Nancy, sold the 50 acres to Joseph Hinson in 1885, and over the next 18 years, it exchanged hands a number of times until, on March 23, 1903, it was purchased by James A. Lewis, a member of an extended family of Lewises who settled in the Mt. Olive neighborhood about three miles north of the Lamb's Creek/Goose Creek bottoms.

Whether the James A. Lewis family ever lived on the 50 acres is not altogether certain. Delbert Ferguson, a 79-year-old local resident, recalls that during his youth, the house occupied by the James A. Lewis family was located immediately east of the farm, directly up a steep hill known as Pumpkinvine Hill. The death of James A. Lewis occurred in 1927 and Grafton Kivett was appointed guardian for the two underage sons of Lewis. To provide for their support the property was sold to Ferguson's father, Roscoe Ferguson, in March 1930 for \$1250. The Fergusons then moved to Elm Spring Farm. Delbert Ferguson remembers living in the old log house when he was seven or eight years old. Roscoe Ferguson's stay was short lived. In October 1931 the property was sold to Hannah Stevens. She bought the property for \$1 and other valuable consideration and subject to a \$400 school fund mortgage and a \$600 mortgage to Grafton Kivett. Hannah Stevens was the head of the English Department at the Martinsville High School, and great-aunt of the current owner, Sarah Clevenger.

In 1932 Hannah Stevens contracted with the Civilian Conservation Corps to plant the hills with pine and black locust seedlings to allow reforestation by local species. This was unusual for the Corps to work on private land. This is one of the few known instances in Indiana. Sarah Clevenger recalls that when Elm Spring Farm was purchased by Hannah Stevens, the land was severely eroded. The trees had been cut down for firewood. The tops of the hills had been cleared for crops and later used as pasture. The grazing had prevented the reestablishment of the native plants and severe erosion resulted. This loss of topsoil exposed the underlying gravel and boulders which made up the glacial morains. The most conspicuous plant in the area was little bluestem grass which was called firegrass or sagebrush by the locals.

In 1968 Hannah Stevens had the 35 acres of wooded hills designated as a classified forest with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. The bottom land was farmed yearly by local farmers in the neighborhood until about 1978. At that time Sarah Clevenger started producing hay to stop the use of chemicals on the property by those who farmed the fields. Recently, the crop planting has ceased and currently the fields are now mowed once a year to maintain an ecological diversity on the property. The forest has re-established itself with many tulip trees, oaks, hickories and a few walnuts. These woods are home to several Piliated Woodpeckers, and deer paths abound throughout the property. The Big Blue Heron leaves footprints in the sand along Goose Creek and Red Tailed Hawks soar overhead.

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Elm Spring Farm  
Morgan County, Indiana

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With the purchase by Hannah Stevens, Elm Spring Farm ceased to be used as a residence and instead was used for vacation, weekend and summer recreational activities. However, for several decades during the warmer months there was almost daily activity of tending the rather extensive vegetable garden, doing repairs and other maintenance activities. For many years there were weekly Sunday dinners eaten on the west porch of the house during the warmer months. About 1932 Hannah Stevens bought a pony which was housed in the barn. Some of the pasture lands were fenced to provide a foraging area. The spring overflow supplied adequate water. This hardy pony lived for over forty years and provided many rides for great-neices and nephews and other visiting children. Members of the extended family of Hannah Stevens used the Farm as a vacation retreat and as a weekend place. The vegetable gardens supplied fresh produce to the vacationing families and as well as to the owner.

After World War II, the property received rural electric service, with water continuing to be supplied by the spring. Sarah's mother, Mary Beth Stevens Clevenger, who was very active in the Girl Scouts, brought scouts to the property for troop camping, hiking, and other recreational activities. In most cases, the week-long sessions consisted of outdoor activities, including cooking on an open fire and nature study. At first the troop members were from Columbus, Indiana. However, later the girls were members of the troop which she lead in Bloomington, Indiana. Typically, about a dozen girls who were members of the troop would participate, allowing much individual attention and help in learning how to live in primitive conditions, such as without running water. At different times the ages of the children may have been 8 to 10, or the troop may have consisted of high school seniors since some of the girls stayed in the troop several years. Occasionally, the girls would be at different grade levels. When the group consisted of older girls, they often established a primitive camp in the woods some distance from the house to learn basic, independent living. The troop camping experience provided the girls an opportunity to experience and appreciate nature and to be encouraged to learn the skills that would help them to develop self-confidence as well as their leadership potential, and to become mature independent women.

According to Dr. Warren E. Roberts, in "Log Buildings of Southern Indiana", pioneer log construction entered the state of Indiana with the earliest migrants from the Appalachian and Upland South regions of the United States. They carried with them traditional construction methods--hewn logs, corner notching, window and door framing, exterior siding-- and building forms that were easily adapted to the rolling, heavily wooded terrain of southern Indiana. The primary single pen house, or single crib barn, was easily expanded with the addition of more rooms, making a double pen, two-story, or central passage house, and multi-crib barns.

As the pioneer log buildings aged, they either decayed and were replaced, or were absorbed through remodeling and expansion by more modern structures. Thus, it is very rare to find an intact extant collection of pioneer log buildings such as Elm Spring Farm, a collection that allows us to explore the proximity and interrelationships between buildings and occupants of a pioneer-era farm. It is believed that

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the intact survival of Elm Spring Farm was due to a number of physical characteristics of the site. First, due to the placement of the hills, the growing season on this property is short. The soil derived from the terminal morains of the glaciers lacked the deep, fertile top soil found in those portions of Indiana to the north in the glaciated area. The property is located between the fertile, glaciated area of the state and the hilly, unglaciated, but scenic area of southern Indiana. Thus the property owners were unable to be successful enough to replace the log structures with newer more modern buildings.

The significance of Elm Spring Farm also lies in its association with Indiana's agricultural history. It represents a typical pioneer subsistence farm that was too small to evolve into a large, multi-functional yet specialized farm business. Jane R. Nolan noted that the period 1900–1920 saw farming move from "a way of life to a business." Elm Spring Farm was used primarily as a residence with modest farming for family support. Its location in the terminal glacial morain area prevented competition with the farms located a few miles north in the more fertile glaciated area. But, as Elm Spring Farm so well illustrates, this sweeping development often did not extend to a great number of farm owners who lived in marginal areas.

Elm Spring Farm represents the preservation of the small family farm through adaptive use as a recreational property. When the land was depleted by continuous agricultural use and could no longer support a family, the property was purchased by a city resident who restored the land with the assistance of progressive governmental programs such as the CCC, which re-established the forest with pine and black locust seedlings. The recreational use of the property included a vacation and weekend place and summer family occupation and troop camping activities.

Sarah Clevenger, the owner of Elm Spring Farm, desires the property's inclusion in the National Register of Historic places because of its historical and architectural merit, and to commemorate the history of human lives that have left their mark on this remarkable survival of Indiana's settlement period.

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**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

All that part of the Southwest quarter of the Southeast quarter of Section 24, Township 12 North, Range 1 West which lies East of Little Lambs Creek, containing 30 acres, more or less, except, that part thereof lying North and West of Public Highway running in general East and West direction, containing 0.25 of an acre, more or less, leaving 29.75, more or less..

Also, the West half of the Southeast quarter of the Southeast quarter of Section 24, Township 12 North, Range 1 West, containing 20 acres, more or less.

Aso, commencing in the middle of the channel of Little Lambs Creek at a point 66 poles North of the South Section line of Section 24, Township 12 North, Range 1 West, thence North 68 degrees West to the middle of the road; thence down road 24 rods, thence South 5 rods to the bed of said creek. thence up the channel to the place of beginning, containing 1 acre.

Containing in all 50.75 acres, more or less.

**Boundary Justification**

This is the historic and current boundary of the property as on file in the Office of the Recorder of Morgan County.

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## FORM PREPARED BY

Name: Sarah Clevenger, Ph. D.

Date: 20 September 2000

Street: 717 South Henderson Street

Telephone: 812-336-6146

City: Bloomington, IN 47401-4838