



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in 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 Keip, John, House
other names/site number 017-366-70661

2. Location

street & number 2500 East Broadway Avenue N/A not for publication
city or town Logansport N/A vicinity
state Indiana code IN county Cass code 017 zip code 46947

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] 10-26-04
Signature of certifying official/Title Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Date
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] 12/6/04
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Edson H. Beall

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
- landscape

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

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

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

COMMERCE/TRADE: Professional

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

19th & 20th c. AMER.: Bungalow/Craftsman

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

STONE: Limestone

roof ASPHALT

other CONCRETE

STONE: slate

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1915

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:

Arnold Preservation Library, Lafayette, IN

Keip, John, House
Name of Property

Cass IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre

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

1

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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 Kenneth A Schuette, Jr / Amy Walker / Ben Ross
organization Wabash Valley Trust for Historic Preservation date 07-14-2003
street & number 604 Wyandotte Ave telephone 765/ 420-0268
city or town Lafayette state IN zip code 47905

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 Todd & Gretchen Miller
street & number 2500 East Broadway Avenue telephone 765/ 753-3326
city or town Logansport state IN zip code 46947

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

**John Keip House
Logansport, Cass County, Indiana**

Description

The John Keip House is a two-and-a-half story L-plan brick house with Craftsman influences. It is an outstanding example of a high-style early twentieth-century house with Craftsman influences while utilizing an floorplan similar to large houses of the late-nineteenth century. The house, despite some alterations, retains the vast majority of its historic features, including many of the interior Craftsman finishes and almost all of its historic leaded glass windows. The house, located at the northeast corner of Broadway and 26th Streets, faces south on a lot of less than one acre. To the northwest of the house is a historic garage matching the main house in style. The sidewalk to the front porch begins at the sidewalk along Broadway with a set of stairs flanked by a pair of Craftsman style brick piers topped with concrete caps. These resemble the brick columns of the porches and originally were taller with concrete tile accents matching those on the porches. A paved semi-circular drive runs under the porte cochere to the west of the house. It follows the same plan as the earlier drive found in historic photographs. The site of the house contributes to the Arts and Crafts character of the property. In addition to its mature plantings, the northeast corner of the lot includes a grotto-like feature built of glacial boulders, which appears to be part of a resident-designed period garden from the first two decades of the 20th century (photo 9).

The house has a brick foundation on a full basement. There are projections from each façade with gables on the west, south and north and a bay projection on the east façade. Each façade differs in its window placement. The front projection is the largest, giving the house an overall L shape. There are double-hung windows with concrete sills and hoods that are visible on all facades. The house is of balloon frame construction, with lath and plaster interior walls. The exterior is clad in light brown brick in running bond pattern. The center section of the house has a hipped roof and a wide sloped eave with decorative exposed rafter tails. Boxed gutters run around the perimeter of the roof. There is a brick chimney on the west elevation, and another in the center of the house. On the east end of the south façade there is a gable dormer containing a central double-hung window flanked by smaller fixed panes on either side. The dormer eaves resemble the roof eaves in their decorative treatment. There is an asphalt shingle roof replacing the earlier slate roof. (The slate roof is still in place on the garage and shows the appearance of the original roof.) There is crenellated metal roof cresting running along all the ridges of the main roof and the porch roof.

South Façade (Photo 1)

On the first floor there are two sets of windows on either side of the entrance comprised of a large picture window and transom with a double-hung window on either side. These are topped with a decorative concrete band terminating in concrete tiles with a geometric shield pattern at either end. This pattern appears on all of the large first floor windows and is also repeated in the south gable. The entrance porch has large square brick columns and have square concrete tile accents similar to those above the windows. The porch has a front gable roof with siding and vertical half-timbering in the gable end. The overhanging eaves have decorative exposed rafter tails. The entrance porch had a screen enclosure in place in a 1920 photograph. This porch and side porch under the porte cochere were enclosed with windows by the previous owners in the 1940s. They are wood fixed windows with a large lower pane and a smaller upper pane on the three sides of the porch. There is a door on the east side of the porch, where the historic concrete steps reaching the porch are located. (See photo 7 for the east façade of the porch) On the second story, on the projecting ell on the western side of the façade there are the three sides of the ell with leaded windows on the southern-most side. There is a pair of double-hung windows over the gable on the porch. The windows on the east side of the south façade have been replaced with a set of vinyl windows. The second floor windows have concrete sills. There is a concrete string course at the cornice line that is stepped above the second floors windows, similar to a drip-mould pattern. Between the second and third floors on the ell there are

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

**John Keip House
Logansport, Cass County, Indiana**

Description Continued

two shield accent tiles connected with a raised concrete panel, matching those over the first floor windows. On the third floor on the ell is a set of three small double-hung windows.

East Façade (Photos 6 & 7)

On the first floor there is a three part leaded glass window to the south with a three sided bay to the north. The bay contains two sets of double casement windows with leaded glass. A third matching window is on the north façade next to the bay. There is an entrance porch with decorative metal cornice details on the center section of the bay, sheltering a set of 10-paned beveled glass French doors. The windows have concrete sills and there are brick panels with square concrete corners above the southern windows. To the far north, there is a small stoop with a door. On the second floor there is a three part replacement window similar to front façade to the south. The bay projection originally housed an open porch on the second floor which has been enclosed with wood casement windows. This porch was enclosed by the previous owners, but the windows were replaced by the current owners. The original porch columns are visible on the exterior with minimal division of the windows between them, emphasizing the open appearance of the original porch. The original bead-board walls and ceiling are intact, showing the original interior appearance of the porch. There is also a set of casement windows with a concrete sill on the second floor to the far north. The string course continues from the front façade below and above the third floor. There is a small wood double-hung window with concrete sill and hood on the third floor.

North Façade (Photo 5)

On the first floor, there is a three-part leaded glass window to the west with a concrete sill and a decorative cap similar to those described on the other facades. There is a small double-hung window to the west. The door has been replaced and is lower than the level of the windows. There is an attached non-historic vertical wood sided garage with a hipped roof. In the center of the façade there is a large leaded-glass window on the stairway midway between the first and second floor. On the second floor there is a double-hung window to the west and a smaller window farther east. In the rear projection there is a double-hung window on each side of the projection, similar to the front façade. There is a multi-paned casement window to the east. As with the other facades there is a belt course between the second and third floors that serves as the window trim in a stepped drip-mould pattern. On the third floor there is a small casement window in the stair hall and a double-hung window in the projection, similar to the west façade. The elevator shaft is visible east of the garage. It is made of brick and extends to the second floor. A window was removed on the second floor to accommodate the elevator door.

West Façade (Photos 2 & 3)

The stringcourse and concrete work on this facade match those on the other sides. There is a large exposed brick chimney extending above the roof near the southern part of the facade. On the north side of the first floor in the projection is a set of three windows, with a large picture window with a leaded transom surrounded by two double-hung windows. The central porte cochere is comprised of an enclosed entrance porch up several brick steps and an open covered driveway area. The entrance porch and the porte cochere have identical columns, roof cornice and gable end details to the entrance porch discussed on the south façade. This porch was enclosed at the same time and in the same manner by the previous owners in the Craftsman style. To the south is a set of three casement windows. On the second floor are two separated double-hung windows in the projection, with a decorative concrete band and tiles above, matching that on the south facade. A single double-hung window is centered over the porte cochere and a set of three windows aligned with those on the lower floor. On the third floor there are three double-hung windows in the projection, similar to the front façade.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 3

**John Keip House
Logansport, Cass County, Indiana**

Description Continued

Interior

The basement has been finished and serves as additional living space. (Photo 9) There are terrazzo floors throughout the basement. The walls are rough finished plaster. The trim work matches that in the rest of the house. There is an intact brick fireplace with Classical detailing place in the basement. (See attached floor plan for layout of the basement)

The first floor has a central foyer stair hall with a dining room and breakfast room (office on the floor plan) to the east, the historic kitchen (workroom) and butler's pantry (hall) to the north, the parlor (kitchen) and library (living room) to the west. Though the functions of the rooms have been modified, the overall layout of the first floor has not been changed. In many cases, where previous owners had modified the floor plan, the original layout was restored by the current owners. The finishes on the floors and other historic materials are largely intact. The major losses are the partial demolition of both first floor fireplaces and the removal of the front door. All woodwork, floors and many light fixtures were retained.

The front porch has a terrazzo floor in green and red, brick columns, and a painted bead-board ceiling. The vestibule area was also changed by the previous owner, but has been restored. The leaded glass entrance door was originally the living room pocket door, replacing the missing entrance door. There is a historic ceiling fixture in the entrance vestibule, as well as a small double-hung window with 12 panes. The foyer has parquet floors in medium oak and 10-inch oak baseboard. There is an oak crown molding in a darker finish. The stairs come to a landing from above and terminate with an adjacent window seat. This was restored using the original materials during the 2003 renovations after being removed by the previous owners. The stair elements had been used as shelves in a basement workroom or put in storage when the previous owners removed the lower flight of stairs in the 1960s. These were restored to their original locations in 2003 (photos 12 & 13). There is deep oak paneling in the window seat area. The newel post features a carved flower near the top, with a cap trimmed in egg-and-dart molding. The dining room has oak floors, 7-foot cherry wainscoting with a 6-inch cherry baseboard and window trim. There is a cherry coffered ceiling. In the office (breakfast room), there are oak parquet floors, 10-inch baseboard, 4-inch oak crown molding. The windows in the breakfast room have more Colonial Revival surrounds in dark oak, matching the more traditional style of the windows. The interior doors are single panel oak doors with dark stain; the exterior door consists of 10-paned beveled glass French doors. The historic parlor has been converted into a kitchen by the current owners. The brick fireplace in the room sustained severe damage by previous owners. The remaining fabric of the fireplace has been preserved, but the fireplace has not been made operational. The living room (library) has built-in bookshelves on three walls. There are three stained glass windows and a leaded glass door to the side porch. The fireplace is brick with Classical moldings along the ceiling and mantle that echo the wood moldings in the room. The fireplace has been painted but portions retain the original color of the brick. The hall (butler's pantry) has a terrazzo floor and retains its original built-in wood cabinets. The historic opening had been filled with drywall in previous renovations but the configuration has been returned and the trim was retained. The rear hall and workroom (kitchen and mudroom) also have terrazzo floors and single panel interior doors. The door to the exterior is a three panel glazed ladder style door with transom. There are five steps off the mudroom to the lower entrance. The floor is slate with dark wood Colonial Revival style trim. The back door is a modern replacement. There are nine additional steps to the basement.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 4

**John Keip House
Logansport, Cass County, Indiana**

Description Continued

The decorative windows in the house show the importance of the Craftsman's aesthetic to the original owners. Each of the leaded, beveled, and stained glass windows in the house has its own motif. Of the original 32 leaded glass windows, 28 remain intact. In the dining room there is a grape motif to the stained glass windows, appropriate for the setting. On the east walls there are three windows, with the center being slightly larger. On the north wall, there is a stained glass panel over the center picture window flanked by double-hung windows. A bunch of concord grapes with leaves are inset into a shield flanked with stylized ornamentation. These medallions are in the top center surrounded leaded panels. In the front parlor (now kitchen) there is a styled Art Nouveau influenced organic design, comprised of a light green medallion with narrow pendant, surrounded by a design of small vertical beveled leaded glass panes. There is a large panel on the south wall over the center picture window, similar to the dining room, with three smaller casement windows on the west façade. In the bay of the breakfast room (office) there are six casement windows with a floral basket motif. Flanking the beveled glass French doors on each of the sides of the bay, the windows have a series of flowers in an urn, surrounded by a curvilinear border, forming a medallion in the top center. The pendant found on the other windows is small, with small vertical beveled panels, with a border comprising the remainder of the windows. The medallions are less Art Nouveau and more Classical in design but the overall design is consistent with the others in the house giving it an overall Art Nouveau appearance. In the library there are windows with small shields, each with a different type of bird. These windows face the side and rear of the home and have more opaque and patterned glass to give more privacy. There is a full glazed door opening onto the porte cochere that continues the same theme of the leaded glass found in the casement windows. There is a large window in the stair hall with a large flower basket flanked by birds with drop pendants. The current front door was originally a pocket door to the parlor. It has leaded and textured glass panes with a Classical temple medallion. The windows on the second floor master bedroom also carry the bird motif. These have suffered some damage over the years, with a few cracked or missing panes, but they were restored during the 2003 renovation.

The second floor has sustained the most changes, with reconfiguration of spaces to form a second floor living area and kitchen. Three of the four bedrooms have been returned to their historic configurations. Many of the rooms retain their historic Colonial Revival style moldings, oak parquet floors, light fixtures and other features. The floor plan largely models the first floor. There are two bedrooms, a large master suite including the second floor enclosed porch, the second floor hall, two bathrooms, a laundry room, and several large closets.

The third floor is comprised of a central hall, two small bedrooms, a bathroom, and a storage area to the east. There are simple Colonial Revival moldings on the third floor, nine-inch baseboard and oak floors. The ceilings are eight-foot in the central area of the floor. The storage area is unfinished, with steeply pitched ceilings. There is a coffin-shaped door responding to the roof pitch going into the guest bedroom.

There is careful brick, concrete, and terrazzo work throughout the house. The basement and original kitchen floors are terrazzo, with a terrazzo base. The fireplace in the original parlor (kitchen) is a wide brick arch, and through damaged, speaks to the careful brickwork in the house. The library fireplace has detailed egg-and-dart molding and the basement fireplace has Classical detailing.

The historic garage is clad with the same brick as the house, is square in plan with double wood garage doors facing south and a ladder style wood door to the second floor areas. There are double-hung windows on each façade, with concrete sills similar to the house. There is a rear brick chimney. The cornice details match the main house. The hipped roof is slate, matching the original roof of the main house. There are three large gable dormers with wood

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 5

**John Keip House
Logansport, Cass County, Indiana**

Description Continued

double-hung windows and cornice detailing and roof cresting matching that on the house. The first floor is open in plan with a stair leading to the second floor which has been divided into a living area.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 6

**John Keip House
Logansport, Cass County, Indiana**

Statement of Significance

The John Keip House is significant based on Criterion C in the area of architecture as a well-preserved example of turn-of-the-century architecture, combining with Craftsman influences. The house is also significant for the many Arts and Crafts influenced interior finishes and craftsmanship that are hallmarks of the period. This is an outstanding example of Arts and Crafts influences and workmanship including the leaded glass windows, brickwork, woodwork, terrazzo floors and the overall quality of craftsmanship in the house. The house was built in 1915 for John G. Keip. The house is a rare well-preserved example of a high-style early twentieth-century house and reflects the height of wealth in the community of Logansport before the later twentieth-century economic decline.

Cass County, Indiana, was organized in 1829, with the history and development of the area tied to the local geography. The Eel River flows into the Wabash River at Logansport and this was a natural artery for early commerce and travel. The Michigan Road and the Wabash and Erie Canal were important to the early development of the community. The first railroad came to Logansport in 1855, the New Castle and Richmond, later the Pennsylvania Line. The second railroad came to the city in 1856, the Wabash and Western Railroad. By the peak in the 1920s, there were over 4,000 people working the eight divisions of the Pennsylvania Railroad and the Wabash Mainline. The development of the community in the late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century was directly tied to the railroads. Changes in transportation systems and unions strikes caused the end of the railroad boom in the 1920s and the population of the county has remained stagnant at roughly 40,000 people.

The John Keip House is in the Riverside neighborhood, identified as a potentially eligible National Register district in the *Cass County Interim Report* (1984). The Riverside neighborhood is the primary historic residential area in Logansport, comprised of over 1200 buildings. It encompasses nine early additions of the original plat of Logansport and the early Tipton's First Addition. The Keip House is in the Sarah M. Tipton Addition, platted in 1873, one of the later additions. The Riverside area developed between the 1840s and 1900s with the primary development period in the last three decades of the nineteenth century. This neighborhood is known as the Riverside neighborhood due to its location between the town's two rivers and Riverside Park to the west of the house. Until 1895, the park was little more than a pond but with the expansion of settlement in the community the city added a number of improvements to the site. Development generally spread gradually east along the river with High Street being closest to the Eel River.

The Keip House received an "outstanding" rating in the *Cass County Interim Report* (1984). The outstanding rating means that the property meets the basic criteria of possessing outstanding national, state, or local significance and is recommended for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. There are a number of fine examples of Craftsman and Neo-Classical architecture in the neighborhood.

The Craftsman style is influenced by the English decorative Arts and Crafts movement. The movement is noted for the simple, modern functional housing which had comfort of the occupant at the forefront. The style places an emphasis on natural locally found materials and high levels of craftsmanship. The most common Arts and Crafts influences are found on four-square or bungalow plans, but more elaborate plans are found in high-style or larger homes. They normally have simple plans with side-gables roofs. There are wide overhanging eaves with simple brackets or knee braces. There are large porches with heavy brick piers or square tapered wood posts. The siding materials are often wood, with brick, stucco, cobblestone or wood shingles found on more high-style examples. There are often dining room or bedroom bay projections. Windows are frequently multi-paned upper sashes with plain lower sashes, sometime with stained or leaded glass. Casement windows are also frequently found.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 7

**John Keip House
Logansport, Cass County, Indiana**

Statement of Significance Continued

The porte cochere and the garage are important historic elements to the house, reflecting elements of large modern houses of the period. The Craftsman style carries over into the grounds of the house, as seen in the brick piers flanking the steps along the front sidewalk. These piers relate the steps to the front porches and include the grounds as part of the composition of the house's design.

John G. Keip

John G. Keip was born November 8, 1857, in Toledo, Ohio. His father Joseph Keip, a native of Germany, was a painter and decorator. John Keip attended the public schools of Toledo and studied at Canisus College in Buffalo, New York, where he graduated in 1875. For many years he worked as a clerk. In 1880, he moved to Chicago and became a clerk in a wholesale clothing store. Following this, Keip became the representative of a Chicago wholesale house in Kansas. He became involved in politics and was employed in the water and police departments of Chicago before accepting a position in the Department of Internal Revenue.

Keip moved to Logansport in 1894 and was engaged in a number of commercial enterprises. In 1900 he became resident manager of the Columbia Brewing Company and later acquired a proprietary interest in the company. He was involved with several fraternal lodges including the Elks, the Moose, the Eagles, and the Travelers' Protective Association.

In 1884, while still living in Chicago, Keip married Etta Provost. They were the parents of three children who died early in life. They adopted three children, one of whom died, one returned to his parents, and a third, Bertha Henrietta, remained with them. Mrs. Keip died in March, 1912 after being injured in an automobile accident two years previously. In November, 1912, Keip married Annie M. Clark, of Michigan City, Indiana. John G. Keip died November 25, 1916, only about a year after completing his house.

The Revere Motor Car Corporation was in business at Logansport from 1917-1926. In 1920 the company built a custom white Foursome with a Victoria top for King Alfonso XIII of Spain. This unique vehicle was photographed in front of the Keip house before being sent to Spain. The use of the Keip house in this photograph seems to relate only to its architectural significance in the community at the time.

Charles Wilkinson

Charles Wilkinson (c.1883-1943) purchased 2500 Broadway in 1939. He was the son of Frank B. Wilkinson (1856-1944), a prominent industrialist of Logansport. Charles Wilkinson married Ethel Pearl Crim (1899-1974) in December, 1920. The couple had five surviving children. Etta Jame, Frank B., Charles, Jr., Billy, and Margaret Pearl. After farming in Colorado for several years, Wilkinson moved his family to Logansport in 1934, at the request of his father.

Logansport Machine Company

Frank B. Wilkinson (1856-1944), the youngest of ten children, grew up along the Ohio-West Virginia border and earned a degree in pharmacy from a college in Chicago. He had been involved in business in southeastern Indiana and in northern Ohio prior to coming to Logansport, Indiana, in 1890. In 1904 the Logansport Foundry Company and the Rutenber Manufacturing Company were consolidated into the Western Motor Company, also called the Western Motor Works. Frank B. Wilkinson served as president of the company from 1906-1912.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 8

**John Keip House
Logansport, Cass County, Indiana**

Statement of Significance Continued

Logansport Machine Company was established in February, 1916. It initially produced machinery used in automobile production. The company manufactured cylinders, valves, and hydraulic equipment. As Frank B. Wilkinson was approaching retirement, he asked his son Charles to return to Logansport to take over the Logansport Machine Company. Charles Wilkinson worked with his father about 1934-1937, before becoming company president about 1937-1943. Charles Wilkinson died of a heart attack at the racetrack in Cleveland in July, 1943, shortly after his horse Attorney won a race.

During this time Charles Wilkinson and John Cotner, an employee of Logansport Machine Company, formed an organization called Wilkinson Cotner Company, with offices at 6th and Market Street in Logansport. Little is known about the business activity of this firm.

During World War II, Logansport Machine Company, Incorporated, received the Army-Navy "E" Production Award "for high achievement in producing materials needed for war." The program for the January 4, 1944 presentation of the award defined it as follows:

The Army-Navy "E" for outstanding achievement in production is the highest honor that can be paid to civilians engaged in war work. It is a reward of merit to signify individual and collective effort beyond normal conception of duty. It is joint recognition and public acknowledgement by our fighting forces on land and sea of exceptional performance by men and women on the production front.

Less than three plants out of each 100 plants engaged in war production earned the award. The company had worked hard to keep production up while 181 men and two women from its staff were serving in the armed forces. On December 11, 1943, Robert P. Patterson, Under Secretary of War, wrote to the employees of Logansport Machine, Incorporated. The letter read in part,

Your patriotism, as shown by your remarkable production record, is helping our country along the road to victory. May I extend to you men and women of Logansport machine, Incorporated, my congratulations for accomplishing more than seemed reasonable or possible.

The award was presented on January 4, 1944. A speaker's platform was built in Logansport Machine's main building, backed by flags of the United Nations. The lectern bore and "E" made of red, white, and blue flowers, below which was a shield with the "L" of Logansport Machine. The elaborate program opened with music by the Logansport High School Band, and an address by Logansport's mayor, Russell Leonard. The Army-Navy "E" Award was presented by Col. Joseph M. Colby, Chief Development Branch, U.S. Army. The Color Guards, U.S. Naval Air Station, Bunker Hill, Indiana, posted the award, and John C. Cotner, president of Logansport Machine, accepted the award. The Army-Navy "E" Pins, given to each employee, were presented by Lt. C. . Harper, U.S.N.R., Resident inspector of Naval Material Victory Ordinance Corp., and P.F.C. Joe Kozma, a wounded veteran of the North African campaign. Hubert J. Owens accepted the award for the employees, and the pinning was done by Owens and six other members of Logansport Machine. The program closed with the "Star Spangled Banner" played by the Logansport High School Band. Afterwards was the Isaac Walton League "E" Award Dinner.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8,9,10 Page 9

**John Keip House
Logansport, Cass County, Indiana**

Statement of Significance Continued

Ethel Pearl Wilkinson asked John Cotner, president of Logansport Machine Company since her husband's death, to resign in 1944. She then assumed the position of president of the company. In later years Charles and Frank Wilkinson served as presidents of the company. The company is today (2004) known as Logansport Matsumoto Company.

Ethel Pearl Wilkinson married Art Pontius, the adopted son of the general manager of Logansport Machine Company, in 1947. Pontius was twenty years her junior. At that time, she was president of the Logansport Machine Company. Soon after she sold the horses and the cottage on Lake Maxintuckee (near Culver, Indiana) that her husband had acquired. Ethel Wilkinson divorced Pontius in the early-1950s and apparently rented the house to a Doctor Eckert who lived there with his family. The house was owned by the Logansport Machine Company about 1958-1961. The house was modified for use as a doctor's office in the 1960s, at which time an elevator and second floor kitchens and baths were added.

Bibliography

Family File. Copy held by Arnold Preservation Library.

Renovation Files. Held by owner.

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Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory, Cass County Interim Report. Indianapolis: Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, 1984.

McAlester, Virginia & Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses.* New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2000.

Powell, Dr. Jehu Z. *Cass County, Indiana.* Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1913.

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the John G. Keip house follow the Lot lines of Lot 27 in the Sarah M. Tipton Addition of the City of Logansport.

Verbal Boundary Justification

This is the entire area associated with the Keip house and the lot lines have been the same since the house was built. The lot includes the house, garage and landscape elements associated with the lot.