

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

MA 3153

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Knox County Poor Asylum

Other names/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of related multiple property listing:  
County Homes in Indiana

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

### 2. Location

Street & number: 2008 S. Hart Street Road

City or town: Vincennes State: Indiana County: Knox

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

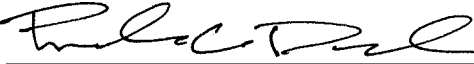
I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

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

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A \_\_\_ B X C \_\_\_ D

		<i>ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PRES. SERVICES 10.18.18</i>	
Signature of certifying official/Title:		Date	
<u>Indiana DNR-Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology</u>			
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government			

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

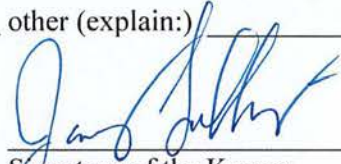
Knox County Poor Asylum  
Name of Property

Knox County, IN  
County and State

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

  
Signature of the Keeper

12-3-2018

Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box.)

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

Knox County Poor Asylum  
Name of Property

Knox County, IN  
County and State

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/Institutional Housing  
GOVERNMENT

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

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Knox County Poor Asylum  
Name of Property

Knox County, IN  
County and State

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate

OTHER: Rundbogenstil

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

foundation: BRICK

walls: BRICK

STONE: Limestone

roof: ASPHALT

other: METAL: Iron

### Narrative Description

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

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### Summary Paragraph

The Knox County Poor Asylum, 1882, is located on an irregularly-shaped parcel facing South Hart Street Road, about two miles southeast of Vincennes, Indiana. The 2.83 acre property consists principally of a T-shaped, brick masonry building illustrating the tripartite form increasingly favored for poor asylums in Indiana after the Civil War. There is also a small frame summer kitchen at the rear. The farm buildings formerly associated with the asylum have been removed, and the immediate property now includes the main building, the summer kitchen, a non-contributing pole barn, and the immediate setting. The style of the asylum building is a mixture of the Italianate and late Greek Revival. Italianate features include the vertical proportions, box cornice with ornamental supporting brackets, and arched windows. Greek details include pediment-gables and brick pilasters on each elevation. The building plan is unusual in having two main entrances at the rear of the central pavilion of the façade. The

Knox County Poor Asylum

Name of Property

Knox County, IN

County and State

central pavilion contained the superintendent's residence, while the southeast wing at its rear contained the rooms probably of the men, while the northwest wing contained probably the rooms of the women residents. The plans of the first and second floors of the resident wings are unusual in having assembly rooms on each floor at center, rather than dining rooms. The basement contained originally the dining room and kitchen and center. The basement also originally contained cells for confining mentally ill residents.

The materials of construction include load-bearing brick exterior walls, some brick partition walls in the basement, galvanized iron for the brackets and cornice, and limestone for exterior sills. Inside, the fourteen-foot ceilings originally were tongued and grooved boards, the walls were plastered, and the floors were yellow pine. Trim was poplar in most of the interior. The assembly rooms are notable for their cast-iron Corinthian columns on the first floor and boxed stairways. There has been some remodeling since the 1980s, creating additional rooms and a southeast lounge on the first floor.

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## **Narrative Description**

### The Site:

Now an irregularly shaped, 2.83 acre parcel located approximately two miles southeast of Vincennes, IN, the Knox County Poor Asylum property is bounded along its southwest side by South Hart Street Road, along its northwest side by property containing a large warehouse, along its northeast side by a grove of trees, along part of its southeast side by Arc Avenue, then southeast along a line just southwest of a parking lot to a fence line, and finally southwest along the fence line to Hart Street Road. The 1881-82 main building is set back approximately 200 feet from South Hart St. Road, and its front elevation faces southwest. To the rear (northeast) of the main building is a detached summer kitchen – a contributing resource constructed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Slightly farther to the northeast is a non-contributing pole barn. Arc Avenue enters the property from Hart Street Road and proceeds roughly northeast, passing the southeast elevation of the asylum building. It then continues north/northeast along part of the property boundary and exits the parcel. The asylum building is located on the ridge of a rise that gently slopes down to Hart Street Road. There is a grove of trees along the northeast edge of the property and northeast of the main building (Photos 01, 02, 03, 04, and 05).

Knox County Poor Asylum  
Name of Property  
Exterior of Main Building

Knox County, IN  
County and State

*General:*

Completed in 1882, the main building of Knox County Poor Asylum combines features associated with the Italianate style and several associated with the Greek Revival. The two-story, red brick building has a symmetrical T-shaped footprint, and its façade is a tripartite composition in the growing tradition of such plans for county poor asylum buildings in Indiana and for almshouses and poor farms elsewhere in the Eastern United States (Photos 01, 02, 04, and 05). The center of the façade (southwest elevation) is a pavilion that projects forward three bays from the facades of the two wings (Photo 03). The building sits on a high brick water table that occupies the same plane as simple, two story brick pilasters that divide the first and second levels into vertical bays on all elevations. The water table and pilasters on each elevation frame recessed brick panels in which the fenestration appears. The pilasters are of a simplified Doric form, without bases. Above their abacuses, the pilasters intersect with a frieze on the same plane. The lower edge of the frieze between pilasters is articulated by a corbel table with deep profiles and small projecting brick headers as accents below. On the three elevations of the central pavilion and on the southwest and northeast elevations of the wings, molded brackets made of galvanized iron rest on the pilaster abacuses and support a projecting box cornice and upper frieze, both also of molded, galvanized iron, above the brick frieze. The brackets have a slender shaft that transitions to an upper section with an S-curve profile. A continuous brick belt course divides the first and second stories into two horizontal zones on all elevations, interrupting the pilasters at mid height. Within the brick panels outlined by the pilasters, water tables, and friezes, are slender arched windows, some paired and some individual. Above the window heads on all elevations are molded brick hoods. The hoods are each composed of three, concentric courses, each recessed below the previous course. The brick courses terminated in brick impost blocks. Each of the windows rests on limestone sills supported by stone consoles.

All windows in the exterior are typical of the Italianate style after the Civil War in Indiana: they are four-over-four sash assemblies with vertical proportions and round heads. Although the aluminum windows are replacements, they appear to have approximated the original sash configuration (Photo 03).

The central pavilion and the adjoining side wings have gable roofs (Photo 01). Originally, there was a square cupola located at the juncture of the roof ridges for the central pavilion and wings. The cupola had a projecting cornice and a finial. Below the shaft inside was an air shaft and skylight. The cupola was removed sometime after the 1930s. There is now no evidence of the air shaft or skylight in the ceiling of the second floor inside.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Architect Joseph Frick refers to the skylight and air shaft in his 1881 specifications for the building. See Commissioners' Record Book K, December 1879—April, 1882, p. 462, Knox County Public Library's Regional History/Genealogy Research Center. A photo in a c. 1934 Vincennes newspaper clipping ("County's Eyes Turn to Sale and Re-Purchase of Old Poor Infirmary") in the possession of Sandra Ivers of Vincennes shows the cupola.

Knox County Poor Asylum

Name of Property

Knox County, IN

County and State

*Façade (Southwest) Elevation:*

As noted above, the façade composition is tripartite. The projecting central pavilion is flanked by symmetrical wings. At the top of the pavilion is a pediment, formed by the main cornice below and projecting, molded sheet metal upper cornices above. The upper cornices have plain friezes and a cyma recta molding above. In the tympanum, there is a “bull-eye blind” at center,<sup>2</sup> bounded by three, concentric brick courses, each recessed. The center of the blind is covered currently with a plywood panel and a louvered vent. Flanking the bulls eye are recessed panels with modified triangular borders; the upper edge of each is composed of bricks in a stepped pattern. The sides of the panels closest to the blind have a concave curve echoing the lines of the eye (Photo 03).

On the southwest elevation of the pavilion, there are four pilasters (Photo 01). The center two are closely spaced together, and there is a single window bay in the panel between on the first and second stories. There are paired windows in the outer panels. At the basement level, below the upper edge of the water table, there are four simple, rectangular window openings, each directly below the windows of the upper stories. The basement openings have segmental arches and are currently covered; four with wood panels and one with a cast-iron panel.

The southwest elevations of each of the two flanking wings of the main façade have similar compositions to that of the southwest side of the central pavilion (Photos 01 and 02). There are three pilasters and three recessed panels on the first and second stories of each wing. The two outer panels are larger and each contains two window bays. The innermost panel contains one window on the first and second stories. The inner panels and window bays of both wings are actually recessed into the block of the central pavilion. At the basement level, there are segmental arched openings like those in the central pavilion. On the southeast wing, the openings contain multi-paned aluminum windows. On the northwest wing, the two most northwest openings were modified in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century to form concrete-edged coal chute openings. The next also has a concrete surround, with a replacement window, and the fourth is bricked up. The molded, galvanized iron cornice and brackets on the two wings are identical to those of the central pavilion.

*Side Elevations, Central Pavilion (Photos 01 and 02):*

The two side elevations of the central pavilion (i.e., the southeast and northwest sides) vary from the compositional formula of the southwest elevation of the pavilion and the two wings in several particulars. There are two, shallow recessed panels between two pilasters occupying the outer two-thirds of each side elevation. The final panel is deeply recessed into the block of the central pavilion, to create more depth for the frame porches at the intersection of the central pavilion and the two wings. Also, there are two window bays in the large panels of the side elevations, but they are spaced apart, and the outermost bays on both the southeast and northwest

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<sup>2</sup>That is how architect Frick described it in the specifications for the building. See Commissioners’ Record Book K, December 1879—April, 1882, p. 462, Knox County Public Library’s Regional History/Genealogy Research Center.

Knox County Poor Asylum

Knox County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

sides are blind openings, filled with brick.<sup>3</sup> At the basement level, there are on the southeast elevation two openings sealed with boards similar to those on the southwest elevation. On the northwest side, there is a large opening, boarded, that may have been a doorway to the excavation below the central pavilion originally, and a smaller bay that is bricked in.

The two wood frame porches at the rear of the central pavilion provided the two primary entrances to the Knox County Poor Asylum (Photo 06). Each porch, constructed of “seasoned pine,”<sup>4</sup> projects just a narrow bay from the faces of each of the side elevations of the central pavilion. The southeast porch retains nearly all of its original decorative detail: square columns with chamfered edges and Doric abacuses, pedestals for the columns, brackets at the corners with slightly different profiles from those of the main cornices; wood lace cut from a jig-saw, and projecting cornices. Originally, the porches had white pine floors and stairs and brick foundations. The southeast porch retains its floor and brick foundation, but the wooden stairs was replaced in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century by a concrete stair with steel rail. The northwest porch has lost much of its ornamental detail: abacuses, pedestal moldings, and wood lace. The wooden porch floor and brick foundation remain. The wooden stairway is very poor condition. Above both porches are two standard windows, one set in the central pavilion elevation, and the other in the southwest elevations of the side wings. The entrances within the two porches each consist of a central door with rectangular light, side lights, and a transom window with a window consisting of ten panes. The doors, lights, and transom windows are all aluminum replacements.

*Southeast and Northwest (Side) Elevations (Photos 01, 02, and 04):*

The side elevations of the northwest and southeast wings of the building both contain three bays on the first and second stories and follow much of the formula of the building façade design. Four pilasters divide three recessed panels at the first and second floor levels, and single windows appear in each panel. The two outer panels are wider than the panel appearing at center. The central bay on the first and second stories contains wider proportions than elsewhere on the building; the replacement windows have six over six panes. The portion of the two central pilasters below the abacuses is covered with a red-colored board secured by wrought-iron stars that act as anchors for wooden joists in the interior. Two additional stars are found on the shafts of the central pilasters below and within the tympanum of the gable/pediment above. Instead of a full, completed closed pediment, such as the one on the façade of the central pavilion, the gables of the southeast and northwest elevation are open below. The box cornices of the southwest and northeast elevations of the building continue around the corners and form a partial lower border for a pediment. The upper cornices of the two gables are recessed from the horizontal box cornices below. The tympanums of the two side gable/pediments continue the treatment of the southwest pediment on the façade: a bull-eye blind at center with board and vent within the circle formed, and modified triangles. In the southeast gable, a few of the bricks are missing outlining the recessed panel of the southern triangle.

<sup>3</sup> The brick in the filled bays has the same type of brick and coloring as the rest of the brick masonry in the façade and may be original. The bays on both sides of the central pavilion and in both of the main stories are filled, symmetrically.

<sup>4</sup> See Frick’s specifications, p. 463.



Knox County Poor Asylum

Name of Property

Knox County, IN

County and State

Both of the side elevations have more of the basement story exposed than on the façade. In both, a central entry is sunken partially below grade and is accessed via a stairway. In the southeast elevation, there are two, four over four, double-hung aluminum sash windows flanking the central entrance. In the northwest elevation, only the upper sash of the flanking windows is exposed. In both elevations, a wood frame porch was constructed, probably in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The southeast porch has a shed roof and single posts for support. It covers the entire width of the elevation. The northwest porch, of slightly different design, is shorter in height and only covers the entry. The southeast entrance is slightly sunken and recessed. A short stairway leads down from the porch to the original double wood doors. An early 20<sup>th</sup> century frame vestibule extends out on either side of the entry; it is not enclosed on the southeast side. The northwest entry is also sunken and is accessed by a brick stairway. The double wood doors are also original.

*Northeast (Rear) Elevation (Photos 04, 07, and 08):*

The rear (northeast) façade is the same length as the primary (southwest) façade, but there is no projecting pavilion at the center of the rear elevation.<sup>5</sup> The long elevation is divided by eight pilasters into seven sections, each of which is a recessed brick panel similar to those on the other elevations. There are several differences in the articulation of this elevation. The central recessed panels on the first and second story levels contain banks of four, rectilinear windows with only wooden mullions separating the windows. There is a flat brick lintel consisting of a single course of headers over each window bank and limestone sills below. The outermost two bays at each end of the elevation have two standard arched windows at the first and second story levels. The next bay inward on each end, flanking the central section with the window banks, has three bays, but only the one next to the window banks is full sized. The other two are shorter at the bottom.

Otherwise, the elevation above the basement level is the same as the façade with respect to pilasters, cornice, brackets, and water table. The basement is set in a slope that decreases in height from the northwest corner to southeast corner of the elevation, exposing nearly a full story at the southeast end. There is a loading platform with a shed wooden roof below the two recessed sections at the southeast end of the elevation. The foundation and steps are poured concrete, suggesting a date in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. There are only windows along the platform, suggesting loading was done through the windows. There is a tongue and groove board panel at the northwest end of the platform.

Beyond the loading platform to the northwest, the early 20<sup>th</sup> century frame roof and posts continue two bays and then stop. It appears that when constructed, the roof and posts continued one more bay. This portion of the roof covered the two entrances to the central kitchen and dining room in the basement (Photo 09). The first entrance from the southeast, corresponding to the southeast central room inside, appears to have been original; it has a segmental brick arch above. Next are two four over four windows with segmental arches and stone sills. The roof

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<sup>5</sup> In architect Joseph Frick's initial design, he included a rear wing, at the center of the northeast elevation. The final design excluded the rear wing. See Commissioner's Record Book K, pp. 452-53.

Knox County Poor Asylum

Name of Property

Knox County, IN

County and State

then ceases, followed by a third window and a second entrance, which appears to have been inserted after construction.<sup>6</sup>

Continuing along the basement to the northwest, there is a concrete block retaining wall, on the other side of which the slope of the grade is elevated perhaps three feet above that southeast of the wall. There are four, four over four windows with segmental arches next, and each window has a two-foot well with brick walls and concrete coping.

At the northwest end of the basement, there is a sunken brick addition for the former boiler room inside (Photo 04). There is a single four-light window on the northwest and southeast sides and a shed roof. The date of the addition would appear to be beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The addition occupies the area below the first recessed panel at the northwest end of the elevation.

### Interior

#### *General:*

Although the main building has undergone improvements and some remodeling in recent years, its interior retains the majority of its significant features, details, and floor plan. The plan reflects the tripartite formula for poor asylums and almshouses favored in many such buildings in the Eastern United States since the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The central pavilion of the façade contained originally the superintendent's residence. At its rear, two symmetrical wings with mirror image plans provided separate residential accommodation for men and women. To the northwest apparently was the women's wing; to the southeast possibly was the men's wing.<sup>7</sup>

The 1881 specifications by architect Joseph Frick directed that all wood throughout the building be of "good poplar." This presumably referred primarily to the trim for doorways and windows. The floors of the corridors and open areas of the resident wings and of the vestibule between the superintendents' residence and resident wings were to be constructed of "clear yellow pine." All other rooms in the first and second stories were to be floored with poplar. Generally, the quality of wood, finishes for walls, baseboards and presumably fireplaces in the superintendent's residence was higher than in the resident wings.<sup>8</sup>

The ceiling heights in all parts of the first and second floors are approximately 14 feet, and the original doorways including transoms are approximately 13 feet tall. On the first and second floors of both the superintendent's residence and along the corridors of the men's and women's wings, the doorways have substantial transoms with their original glazing and wood muntins (Photo 22). Nearly all of the original doorways retain their 1881 doors and most retain their initial hardware. The doors are white pine, with four panels lined by an ogee molding.<sup>9</sup> All

<sup>6</sup> This entry is rectangular with no segmental brick arch overhead.

<sup>7</sup> No information could be found to confirm which wing was assigned to which gender; however, the paint scheme generally for the northwest wing is pink and generally is blue for the southeast wing, suggesting women in the northwest and men in the southeast. Similar colors were used at the Randolph County Infirmary.

<sup>8</sup> Frick's specifications, Commissioners' Record Book K, p. 460.

<sup>9</sup> Specifications, Book K, p. 462.

Knox County Poor Asylum

Name of Property

Knox County, IN

County and State

doors and trim from 1881 throughout the building have been painted. The transoms, which range from four feet in height in the superintendent's residence to three feet in the residential wings, each contain a four-pane light mounted on pivots. Transoms were a primary mode of air circulations from the outside.

All walls in the first and second floors of both major sections of the asylum have plastered walls. The rooms in the superintendent's residence and the original rooms in the first and second floors of the resident section are also plastered.

There are projecting, plastered chimneys on either side of the superintendent's residence and in all of the resident rooms of the two wings. Only the southeast room of the first floor in the superintendent's residence has a mantel, and it may have been installed later. Originally, the specifications stated that the chimneys "and fireplaces were to be built up from the ground."<sup>10</sup> Although a central furnace was installed originally, it proved ineffective, and stoves were used for heating in the resident rooms and possibly in the superintendent's residence until a new furnace was installed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century (see Statement of Significance).

#### *First Floor:*

**Superintendent's Residence.** Most 19<sup>th</sup> century poor asylums in Indiana were entered through a central entry in the façade of the superintendent's residence. Architect Joseph Frick placed two primary entrances at the rear of the sides in the superintendent's residence. Visitors mounted the two side porches at the rear of the central pavilion and entered doorways with side lights and transoms on the northwest and southeast sides of a spacious rectangular vestibule running along the rear of the superintendent's residence. The original doors, side lights and transoms of the two entrances were removed in the 1980s and replaced with aluminum doors, sidelights, and transoms that appear to simulate the pattern of the originals (Photo 06).

At the center of the southwest wall of the vestibule, a large archway leads to the stair hall of the superintendent's residence (Photo 10). Northwest of the archway, a doorway leads from the vestibule into the former parlor or dining room of the superintendent's residence (Photo 12). Along the northeast wall of the vestibule, there are two doorways with four-foot transoms leading into the men's and women's assembly rooms. The original ceiling of the vestibule appears to have been covered with painted particle boards secured by a framework of two-inch boards. In the vestibule and superintendent's residence are large poplar baseboards, measuring nine inches.

The archway on the southwest wall of the vestibule leads into a rectangular stair hall. At the rear of the hall, filling it completely, is a two-flight, rectilinear stairway with a landing (Photo 11). The 1881 specifications reveal that the treads and risers (now carpeted) are ash. The stairway has "fancy turned ash balusters," now painted white, and a walnut handrail with carved concave and convex moldings. The octagonal newel post is also walnut, with turned shaft and

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<sup>10</sup> Ibid., p. 459.

Knox County Poor Asylum

Name of Property

Knox County, IN

County and State

cap.<sup>11</sup> Centered in the southwest wall adjacent to the two story stairwell are two single, arched windows, one above the other.

On either side of the stair hall on the first floor are two rectangular rooms. The doorways to each are across the hall from each other, immediately before the stairway. One room was undoubtedly originally the parlor, and the other the dining room of the superintendent and his family.

The southeast room has a projecting chimney and fireplace mantel centered in the southeast wall (Photo 13). The mantel appears to be later than 1881, perhaps from the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The hardwood mantel consists of a lower section framing the firebox and an over mantel. The primary shelf is supported by wooden Tuscan columns with bases on the hearth. Smaller columns support a second shelf above a central mirror. The firebox is cast iron, with a gilded outer plate. The facing around the firebox and the hearth in front of the fireplace are glazed tile with a mottled green and white pattern. There are twin windows at the center of the southwest wall. The trim here and for all windows in the first and second stories consists of narrow, unadorned boards with sills and fillets at the bottom. There is a single window to the northeast of the mantel in the southeast wall. There are portions of the southeast wall that are missing plaster, due to water leaks, and a section of the ceiling where water has dissolved the plaster and exposed the wood lath.

The northwest room has a projecting, plastered chimney, but no mantel at the center of the northwest wall. Immediately to the southwest, a window bricked in on the exterior appears as a recessed rectangle with plastered surface. There is a small closet in the southeast wall. Near the northeast corner are the doorways to the stair hall and vestibule. There are twin windows at the center of the southwest wall, and a single window northeast of the chimney.

**Women's Wing, First Floor.** There are two doors in the northeast wall of the vestibule. The one to the southeast leads into the southeast half of the resident section of the former asylum, which appears to have been the men's wing. The one to the northwest leads into what appears to have been the women's wing.<sup>12</sup>

Originally, the plans for the men's and women's sections were mirror images of each other. In each section, a large rectangular room used originally for assemblies or gatherings of the men or women<sup>13</sup> is located on either side of a central dividing wall. Next on either side is a corridor that provided access to four rooms for residents.

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<sup>11</sup>Ibid., p. 463.

<sup>12</sup> There is no documentary evidence found to date on which wings were occupied by men and women. The speculation on gender use is based on a pink theme of paint color found in the restroom and several rooms of the northwest section, suggesting assignment to women, and the blue color found in the restroom of the southeast section, suggesting men. The colors, though, may date to occupancy of the building by the Knox County Association for Retarded Citizens beginning in the 1980s. In this description, the northwest wing will be called the women's wing, and the southeast the men's.

<sup>13</sup>The 1881 specifications by architect Joseph Frick refers to each of the central rooms on the first and second floors as a "rendezvous" (Commissioners' Record Book K, December 1879—April, 1882, p. 461, Knox County Public Library's Regional History/Genealogy Research Center). An article entitled "The New Poor House" in *The*

Knox County Poor Asylum  
Name of Property

Knox County, IN  
County and State

The women's wing on the first floor retains more integrity of floor plan and materials than the men's section. The assembly room on the women's side originally was rectangular. In the 1980s, when the building was rehabilitated/remodeled for use by the Knox County Association for Retarded Citizens, the north corner of the room was subdivided using floor-to-ceiling drywall partitions into a restroom/shower and storage room. Otherwise the assembly room retains its integrity. There are 14-foot high ceilings, made of tongued and grooved poplar boards; exposed yellow pine flooring;<sup>14</sup> a stairway leading to the second floor along the southeast wall, and a cast iron column located approximately half way between the southwest and northeast walls and near to the stairway (Photo 14).

The column supports a wooden girder running southeast-northwest through the room; the girder ends with a double-concave/convex molding just short of the stairway. The column is six inches in diameter. The capital is adapted from the Corinthian order (Photo 15). The lower tier of the capital is lined with what may be flower buds, and the upper is lined with plant leaves that may represent those of corn or tobacco. The shaft is fluted, and there is a base with a torus. The stairway is centered along the southeast wall. The stairway to the second floor leads from the southwest corner of the room. It is boxed with yellow pine panels, painted white (Photo 16). The newel post and rail are ash.<sup>15</sup> The post is square at base, has a chamfered shaft, and two projecting moldings near the cap, which is square and has a rounded top with concave profile. The rail curves slightly inward from the newel post and then continues parallel to the wall. The stairway rises in two flights with a short landing. The treads and risers are of ash, but covered with carpet.

On the opposite side of the stairway, a doorway leads down two flights to the basement.

In the southwest wall of the room, there is a single window near the west corner. The surround is rectangular with a slightly projecting sill and no other detailing. On the opposite, northeast wall, there is a pair of rectangular windows, with a mullion separating them, with the same simple treatment. A short distance to northwest is an arched window, with arched surround. A fourth, shorter window is located within the 1980s restroom created in the north corner of the room. A door in the southeast wall near the northeast wall leads to the men's wing. In the northwest wall of the room, there is a projecting chimney, plastered over, that served a heating stove originally. There is plaster damage around the windows of the northeast wall and in the southeast wall near the doorway. Light fixtures in the room are fluorescent, suspended from the ceiling, and date probably to the 1960s.

A plastered archway leads at the center of the assembly room into the corridor with the four residential rooms (Photo 17). The corridor runs to the end of the wing and a window in the northwest wall. It has a tongued and grooved board ceiling. Each of the four rooms has two bays and is large enough to have housed two or more residents originally. Each room has a

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*Vincennes News* of November 3, 1881 refers to "a large assembly wing" between the two lateral sections (p. 3, Lewis Historical Library, Vincennes University).

<sup>14</sup> Specifications, Book K, pp. 460, 462.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 463.

Knox County Poor Asylum

Name of Property

Knox County, IN

County and State

chimney projecting from one side, used initially to exhaust fumes from heating stoves. The corridor has a yellow pine exposed floor, while the rooms have exposed poplar floors. The walls and ceilings in the rooms are plastered. There are small wooden crown moldings and quarter-round baseboards. The doorways have four-foot high transoms with four-light windows on central pivots. All of the original four-panel wood doors are in place. There are rectangular metal door plates and delft porcelain knobs. The window surrounds are the standard simple board trim with sills. There is plaster damage in the ceilings and walls of several of the rooms.

**Men's Wing, First Floor.** The men's first floor assembly room was originally a mirror image of that on the women's side, but was modified in the 1980s in the east corner (Photos 14, 15). Drywall partitions were installed to create a restroom with shower in the corner against the northeast wall and two storage rooms southwest of the restrooms, with doors in the southwest, new partition wall. Vertical circulation is the same as on the women's side via a boxed stairway to the second floor and flight below the stairway down to the basement. There is significant plaster damage on the wall around the doorway leading to the women's side and in the northeast wall. There also has been damage in the wood floor from a leak at the southwest end of the room, near the doorway leading into the superintendent's vestibule.

Beyond the plaster archway in the men's wings, the corridor and the first two of the original four resident rooms remain (Photo 18). The first room to the left (northeast) was remodeled in the 1980s for use as an office by the Knox County Association of Retarded Persons. The trim in the room was replaced with new wood, but the original wood floor, transom window and door were retained. Across the hall, the southeast wall of the second resident room was modified by installation of a floor-to-ceiling drywall bulkhead to accommodate a refreshment preparation area on the opposite wall. Otherwise, the resident room is original. There is plaster damage in the ceiling and southwest wall.

In the early 1980s, the Knox County Association for Retarded Persons modified the rest of the men's wing corridor and the final two resident rooms to create a lounge for employees (Photos 19, 20).<sup>16</sup> The corridor walls were removed to create a single room across the southeast end of the floor, and a dry wall partition wall was installed across the corridor with a rectangular entry. The trim around the windows and baseboards were replaced with new wood, and wall paper and carpeting installed. Large wooden decorative beams were constructed across the ceiling, and a wainscot wooden molding was installed along the walls. In the northwest wall, close to the southeast wall, a recessed kitchenette was created.

### *Second Floor:*

**Superintendent's Residence.** On the second floor of the superintendent's residence, there is the central stair hall, flanked by rooms of the same dimensions as on the first floor (Photo 21). The entries to both rooms, which originally were bedrooms for the superintendent's family, are across from each other, at the top of the stairway. The southeast bedroom has a projecting, plastered chimney with no fireplace at the center of the southeast wall. At the southwest side of

<sup>16</sup> Interview with Sandra Ivers, May 20, 2016.

Knox County Poor Asylum

Knox County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

the chimney, an early 20<sup>th</sup> century enclosure projects about one and a half feet from the face of the chimney. The enclosure contains two levels of closets and conceals the original wall with recessed, sealed window. There are twin windows in the southwest wall and a single window in the southeast wall, matching those in the room below. There is substantial water damage in the ceiling and floor of this room. The northwest room on the second floor is a mirror image, with the same later closet enclosure, southwest of the plastered chimney face.

There is an arched opening similar to that between the first floor vestibule and stair hall to the northeast of the second floor stair hall. The hall continues a short distance northeast to a short vestibule for entry to the second floors of the men's and women's wings. On either side of this portion of the hall, located directly above the first floor vestibule, are two smaller, rectangular bedrooms, originally assigned to the superintendent's family.

A doorway with full transom in the northeast wall of the extended corridor of the superintendent's residence leads into a shallow vestibule, perpendicular to the corridor (Photo 22). This doorway marked the boundary between the residence and the wings containing the male and female residents of the asylum. In the northeast wall of the vestibule are two doorways, the one on the southeast leading to the presumed men's wing, and the one of the northwest leading to the women's.

**Women's Wing, Second Floor.** The assembly room of the women's wing, second floor, has had only one modification: a restroom with shower was installed during the 1980s in the north corner. The floor-to-ceiling walls of the restroom are drywall. The rectangular stairway opening is lined on its southwest and northwest sides by the same yellow pine boxing as on the first floor flights below. The box stair terminates on its northeast side with a newel post without chamfering. The ceiling is covered by the same particle board panels and framework of wooden strips that appears on the ceiling of the first floor vestibule. This appears to be a mid-20<sup>th</sup> century change. Otherwise, the features of the room are the same as the assembly room directly underneath it. There is plaster damage along the northeast wall, below the windows. The room has been carpeted.

The plastered arch in the northwest wall leads to four resident rooms that are nearly identical to those below (Photos 23, 24). Three of the rooms have some plaster damage along the exterior walls. The wooden floors are exposed in the corridor and rooms. The doors appear original, although some of the knobs have been replaced.

**Men's Wing, Second Floor.** The assembly room was modified in its east corner by installation of a restroom in the early 1980s along the northeast wall and a storage closet southwest of the restroom. Otherwise, the room is nearly identical to the assembly room directly below it. There is significant plaster damage along the northeast wall and part of the northwest wall.

The corridor and four resident rooms of the men's wing, second floor, are largely the same as the women's wing opposite. There is carpeting in the corridor and in three of the rooms. The room in the west corner of the wing has its poplar flooring exposed and there is plaster damage. The

Knox County Poor Asylum

Name of Property

Knox County, IN

County and State

room in the north corner has a hole in the ceiling, due to water leaks. The ceilings in the corridor and rooms are covered with painted particle boards.

**Basement.** A full basement runs below the men's and women's wings. There is an excavation under the northeast portion of the superintendent's residence. As originally designed, there was a kitchen and dining room in the basement, located below the assembly rooms on the first floor (Photo 25).<sup>17</sup> A brick partition wall divides the center of the basement into two rooms that were originally rectangular. A doorway in the wall connects the two halves of the basement.

The two stairways to the first floor are both located on the northwest side of the brick wall in an unusual configuration. There is a board partition between the stairways, while the brick, load-bearing wall is located on the outside of the southeast stairway. The stairways are boxed in a similar manner to the stairways above and end in newel posts similar to those on the second floor. On both sides of the brick partition wall, a large square brick pier supports a large wooden girder running northwest-southeast, directly below the cast iron column in both first floor assembly rooms (Photo 26). On the northeast side of each central basement room, there is an exit to the outside. In the southeast room, the doorway is against the southeast wall; in the northwest room, the doorway is at the center of the northeast wall (Photo 25). The first doorway appears to be original; there is a transom window overhead, and the wooden door may date to 1881. The second doorway appears to have been cut into the wall later, possibly the 20<sup>th</sup> century; the door is a solid metal type. There are two full windows northwest of the exit in the southeast room, and a single window southeast of the exit in the northwest room. The 1881 specifications prescribed "clear yellow pine flooring" for both the dining room and kitchen,<sup>18</sup> but today, there is concrete floor covered with the remains of linoleum or vinyl square flooring. The walls of the two rooms are painted brick, and the ceilings appear to be covered with particle board. In the 1980s, a dry-walled storage room was created in the south corner of the southeast room, while in the northwest room, two rooms were created by drywall partitions in the north and west corners.

It appears that in 1881, the intention was to use some of the rooms on either side of the kitchen and dining room to the northwest and southeast as resident rooms. A brick archway at the center of the southeast wall of the southeast central room leads to a wing with a similar plan to that on the second floor above it. The archway has been partially filled with brick, and at center is a rectangular doorway with wooden surround and door. Proceeding down a central corridor with brick walls and painted particle board ceiling, there are four rooms of roughly the same dimensions as above (Photo 29). Apparently, originally there were two long rooms on either side of the corridor; there are particle board partitions now dividing them into two. There is a door connecting the two rooms on the northeast side. The windows in the southeast wing were originally shorter to fit above grade. In the 1980s, they were replaced with aluminum sashes of a smaller size. The windows all have flat stone lintels and sills. The doorways in the southeast wing have segmental brick arches and squared wooden frames. They also have their original wooden doors. Three of the walls in each room are brick, painted. The specifications stated that

<sup>17</sup> Specifications, Book K, p. 461; *The Vincennes News* of November 3, 1881, p. 3.

<sup>18</sup> Specifications, Book K, p. 461.



Knox County Poor Asylum

Knox County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

entire basement, exclusive of the kitchen and dining room, were to be paved with “good paving brick.”<sup>19</sup> The floors in the southeast wing are now carpeted, and the corridor now has linoleum or vinyl squares, in poor condition. The ceilings in the side rooms are of board construction. The first room on the southwest side has been modified for the current electrical system of the building. There is a small store room located northwest of this room.

The northwest wing is substantially different than the southeast wing in its present lay out. There is a central brick archway and beyond it a central corridor, but the first room on the southwest side has been remodeled to serve as a restroom, probably in the 1980s, and the first room on the southeast side has a steel jail cell door inside an outside wooden door (Photo 27). This room was intended for use to confine mentally ill residents who were judged to need restraint.<sup>20</sup> The cell room has two windows, a corrugated metal ceiling, and all brick walls.

The whole northwest end of the basement was apparently used for coal storage and a boiler room beginning in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The 1881 specifications stated that “the building [was] to be heated by a furnace with galvanized reservoir with all necessary tin pipes.” The specifications further directed that “all necessary floor registers of cast iron with revolving slats” be furnished.<sup>21</sup> There is no evidence in the building today of original cast iron registers. The initial furnace, which may have been in the final room on the southwest, at the northwest end of the wing, proved inadequate, and the building was heated by stoves until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>22</sup> Initially, the corridor appears to have continued all the way to the northwest wall; the brick wall on the northeast side has been removed.

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, there appears to have been a substantial remodeling of the northwest end to accommodate a new furnace. The room in the west corner was converted to a coal room, and the two windows modified with concrete surrounds to be coal chutes. The brick wall on the northeast side of the corridor was removed, and a rectangular brick addition was made to the northeast side of the north room. The intent was, apparently, to create a furnace room. A steel fire-door was installed to close off the room from the corridor to the southeast. The former furnace room retains a small modern furnace and hot water heater, but is otherwise empty (Photo 28). The floor is concrete. At the end of the former corridor are double wooden doors leading to the northwest exit from the building.

### Summer Kitchen

This one-story wood frame building is located a short distance northeast of the main building and appears to date to the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (Photo 30). Its use as a summer kitchen to supplement cooking in the main building is suggested by the large brick oven and possibly stove in its east corner. The building has a gable roof, clapboard siding, and a brick foundation. There are doors on both the southwest and southeast elevations, and two full-size windows with

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<sup>19</sup>Ibid., p. 459.

<sup>20</sup>See Alexander Johnson, “Secretary’s Visits to the Poor Asylums of Indiana,” in *County Poor Asylums* (Indianapolis: Wm. B. Burford, 1890), p. 36.

<sup>21</sup>Specifications, Book K, p. 465.

<sup>22</sup>Johnson.

Knox County Poor Asylum  
Name of Property

Knox County, IN  
County and State

double-hung sashes. One is on the southwest elevation, and the other on the northwest. In the rear elevation is a smaller, square window with single sash. The chimney for the stove is exposed on the northeast elevation. Inside is a single room with the oven-stove in one corner. The walls are covered with horizontal boards, the ceiling is covered by particle board panels, and the floor is concrete.

### Pole Barn

There is a large, non-contributing metal pole barn with gable roof standing a short distance to the northwest of the summer kitchen (left in Photo 30). It appears to have been constructed since the 1980s.

### Integrity

The Knox County Poor Asylum building retains a high degree of exterior and interior integrity. There have been minor modifications to the interior floor plan, but the original lay out is obvious through most of the building, together with original trim, doors, plaster, stairways, and columns. The windows in the building have been replaced, but appear to have replicated the four over four double-hung sash pattern that probably was used originally.

The summer kitchen also retains very good exterior and interior integrity.

Knox County Poor Asylum  
Name of Property

Knox County, IN  
County and State

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

### Criteria Considerations

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

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
-

Knox County Poor Asylum  
Name of Property

Knox County, IN  
County and State

F. A commemorative property

G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL HISTORY

ARCHITECTURE

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

**Period of Significance**

1882-1966

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

**Significant Dates**

1882

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

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

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

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

**Cultural Affiliation**

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

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

Frick, Joseph K.

Piel, John H.

\_\_\_\_\_

Knox County Poor Asylum  
Name of Property

Knox County, IN  
County and State

### **Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance begins in 1882, the year in which construction of the present Knox County Poor Asylum Building was complete and continues until 1966, which marks the 50-year benchmark for evaluating significance. The asylum building and property were continuously used as the county poor asylum and county home from 1882 to 1985.

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

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

The Knox County Poor Asylum is a good illustration of an early tripartite design for poor asylums in Indiana after the Civil War. It meets Criterion A under social history, as an example of the advocacy of social reformers for efficient operation of county asylums with separation of men and women indigent residents into two wings and provision of separate superintendent's residence in a pavilion projecting from the juncture of the two wings. The level of significance is local with some statewide application, based on a diminished number of early tripartite designs in the state. The period of significance, 1882-1966, is based on the continuous use of the building as a poor asylum and later county home from the year in which construction began to the 50 year benchmark for evaluating significance. The asylum building is also eligible under Criterion C as a skillful mix of the Italianate style and late Greek Revival styles and as a major public building in Indiana designed by Joseph F. Frick, an architect and engineer of Evansville with an extensive practice involving both public buildings in a three state area and commercial buildings in Evansville.

The asylum once was part of a 160-acre farm, but only the asylum, a summer kitchen, and the immediate setting remain of the larger property.

The property meets the registration requirements of the Multiple Property Documentation Form: several primary sources show that the building was built for the purpose of providing a home and work for the indigent poor, the building has enough integrity to convey its role, and its design corresponds to a significant poor asylum type.

Knox County Poor Asylum  
Name of Property

Knox County, IN  
County and State

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

Social History

As described in the Multiple Property Documentation Form for County Homes in Indiana, the Knox County Poor Asylum is a good illustration of an early version in the state of the tripartite type of poor asylum plan found in the poor asylums of Indiana built between 1868 and 1945. This type was favored by poor asylum advocates in the state after the Civil War, under the influence of Eastern almshouse designs. The 1881 Knox County Poor Asylum qualifies for listing under Criterion A as a well-preserved example of 19<sup>th</sup> century reformers' vision of a design that would provide comfortable quarters to men and women residents, while keeping them separate. It also provided for a spacious residence for the superintendent and his family.

In 1820 the Indiana General Assembly appointed commissioners in Knox County to purchase a county poor farm, under the provisions of the 1816 constitution. Nothing seems to have come of the initiative, and the county continued to make allowance on a township basis for providing relief of the poor. In 1843, the county commissioners decided to have a private person keep the deserving poor in his care, under a system of soliciting a low bid for such a purpose. In 1851, the auditor and commissioners decided that the county itself should own its own farm and asylum building. The commissioners purchased a 40-acre lot in the city of Vincennes near the Wabash River for the farm. In 1852 they constructed a brick asylum building. They made a determined effort to encourage all paupers desiring relief to reside at the asylum, which the commissioners believed would be more economical than providing financial stipends.<sup>23</sup>

In August, 1881, an arsonist set fire to the 1852 asylum building, and it was destroyed. The county commissioners promptly purchased a new farm of 125 acres, located approximately three miles east of Vincennes. In early September, they hired architect Joseph K. Frick of Evansville to prepare plans and specifications for a new building. Contractor John H. Piel of Vincennes submitted the winning bid of \$15,542 for constructing the asylum, and the building was completed in the spring of 1882. The asylum contained a two-story superintendent's resident at the front, at the rear of which were spacious assembly rooms for the men and women residents. In wings on either side were four rooms on the first and second floor for the residents. In the basement at center were the kitchen and dining room and several cell rooms intended for mentally ill residents needing confinement. Originally, there was no indoor plumbing; brick

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<sup>23</sup> *History of Knox and Daviess Counties Indiana* (Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1886), pp. 157-58.

Knox County Poor Asylum

Knox County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

privies were constructed on the grounds. A furnace and furnace room was included in the basement, but chimneys were provided in each room for heating stoves.<sup>24</sup>

In 1889, Alexander Johnson, secretary of the new Board of State Charities, paid a visit to the Knox County Asylum and reported that the building was “very pleasantly located.” The farm was well-cultivated, and the superintendent oversaw a good garden providing vegetables for resident food. Johnson stated that separation of the sexes, an important principle for the board, was attempted, “with moderate success.” There were 38 residents, including eight children, three mentally ill men, and two mentally ill women. None of the mentally ill residents were confined in the basement cells. The discipline over residents was “only moderately good.” Johnson criticized the lack of sitting rooms for men and women in the design of the asylum, noting that men smoked all over the house in the absence of a sitting room. There was only one, un-used bathtub at the asylum; presumably there was still no indoor plumbing. All of the heat was by stoves. Johnson was told that a hot-air furnace had been tried initially, but found to be inadequate. Finally, the secretary noted that tramps were received in the asylum and given “supper, bed, and breakfast.”<sup>25</sup>

In 1915, the asylum finally was provided with indoor plumbing and presumably bathrooms for the men and women.<sup>26</sup> About the same time, a new furnace and central heating system was installed in the asylum building. Sometime in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the present wood frame summer kitchen was constructed behind the asylum.

By 1922, when the Board of State Charities made another inspection, the representative reported that there were four inside water closets, two outdoor privies, and three in-door bathtubs for the residents. Superintendent J.C. Cardinal lived in the superintendent’s residence with his wife and four children. The farm now included 160 acres of “fairly good land,” and as livestock three head of cattle, five cows, four horses, and some chickens. There also was a vegetable garden, a small orchard, and a grape arbor. The county commissioners provided one male employee to assist the superintendent with the farm. There were 24 residents—17 men and seven women. The board representative noted that there was medical care available for the residents and provision for “custodial cases,” presumably referring to the basement cells. Residents bathed once a week, their health was good, and they ate three meals a day, prepared by the matron and residents. The furniture was judged suitable. The residents slept on iron beds.<sup>27</sup>

In 1924, the county leased the county asylum and farm to Purdue University for use as an experimental farm. The commissioners purchased a building in the city of Vincennes to house

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<sup>24</sup>See Knox County Commissioners’ Record Book K, pp. 409, 413, 452-53, 459, and 465. See also “Poor-House Burned,” *The Vincennes News*, August 18, 1881, p. 2; “Arrest of the Poor House Incendiary,” *The Vincennes News*, August 25, 1881, p. 2; and “The New Poor House,” *The Vincennes News*, November 3, 1881, p. 3, Lewis Historical Library, Vincennes University.

<sup>25</sup> See Alexander Johnson, “Secretary’s Visits to the Poor Asylums of Indiana,” in *County Poor Asylums* (Indianapolis: Wm. B. Burford, 1890), p. 36.

<sup>26</sup> “Knox County,” *The Indiana Bulletin of Charities and Corrections* (1915), p. 121.

<sup>27</sup> “Knox County,” in [report on] “County Jails and Poor Asylums,” *The Indiana Bulletin of Charities and Corrections*, No.131 (December, 1922), p. 276.

Knox County Poor Asylum

Knox County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

the asylum residents. After ten years, the commissioners bought out the lease from Purdue for \$10,000, having found the city building unsuitable, and the asylum (called county home by then) was resumed at its former location.<sup>28</sup>

In 1935, Superintendent Ray Smith told the county council that he believed the county farm would be self-sustaining through sale of its agricultural produce and animals. He also stated that almost none of the current residents was physically able to work on the farm.<sup>29</sup> In 1948, a Vincennes newspaper reported that an inspection of the county home had a capacity for 52 residents: nine rooms in the men's wing had four beds, two rooms had two beds, and one room had three beds. In the women's wing, two bedrooms had four beds, and one room one bed.<sup>30</sup>

By 1964, there were 24 residents—16 men and eight women, ranging in age from 24 to 80. Its mission had broadened since World War II to include providing a home for mentally ill patients who were unable to work and support themselves. Other residents were simply unable to earn a living. The residents included two epileptic, a mentally disabled boy, and an arrested tuberculosis patient. There were 24 sleeping rooms, with two persons sharing each room. Mrs. Ida Messel, the county home superintendent, told a local newspaper that the women did their own ironing, and the men did most of their own hair-cutting. Each person took care of his/her sleeping quarters. Messel noted that in the early 1960s, the county had sold most of the farm, ceasing farm operations. A small portion of the remaining property was used to raise vegetables.<sup>31</sup>

The Knox County Home continued operation until 1985, when the Knox County Association for Retarded Citizens leased the entire main building from the county.<sup>32</sup>

The former Knox County Poor Asylum is eligible under Criterion A as a well-preserved example of the early use of the tripartite plan for asylums after the Civil War in Indiana, following precedents in other parts of the Eastern United States for providing separate wings for men and women residents. The asylum illustrates a tripartite design before the State Board of Charities and scientific reformers began to make more sweeping proposals in the 1890s for tripartite plans to provide humane and modern facilities.

### Architecture

The Knox County Poor Asylum also qualifies under Criterion C as an excellent example of the work of Joseph K. Frick, an accomplished architect of Evansville, Indiana from the 1850s to 1886, and as a fine example of Italianate and Greek Revival design applied to an institutional building of the early 1880s in Indiana. It also illustrates an unusual arrangement of plan by

<sup>28</sup> "County's Eyes Turn to Sale and Re-Purchase of Old Poor Infirmary," [from a Vincennes newspaper, c. 1934], clipping in the possession of Sandra Ivers, Vincennes.

<sup>29</sup> "Expects Poor Farm to Pay Its Way in Short Time," *Vincennes Sun-Commercial*, March 27, 1935.

<sup>30</sup> Clipping from May 21, 1948 Vincennes newspaper, in possession of Sandra Ivers.

<sup>31</sup> Judy Devlin, "Knox County Home Not a 'Poor House,'" *Valley Advance*, November 26, 1964, clipping in possession of Sandra Ivers.

<sup>32</sup> "KCARC to Operate Knox County Home," *Vincennes Sun-Commercial*, May 6, 1985, p. 39.



Knox County Poor Asylum

Name of Property

Knox County, IN

County and State

the architect in following the tripartite arrangement of functions promoted by almshouse and asylum advocates.

Frick (1823-1886) was born in Vilters, Switzerland, the son of an architect and builder. He left home at age thirteen and apprenticed with his brother Leonzo, who taught him the building trade and sent him to complete his architectural studies in Milan, Italy. In 1847, Joseph took up architectural practice on his own in Switzerland. In 1856, he and his brother Peter sailed for the United States and settled in Chicago. Eventually, Joseph made his way to southern Indiana and opened an architectural office in Evansville in 1859. At about the same time, he became assistant engineer of the Illinois Central Railroad, under General George B. McClellan. During the Civil War, Frick served as an engineer under General Ulysses S. Grant during the siege of Vicksburg, Mississippi. After the war, he resumed his architectural practice in Evansville and became known for his courthouse designs. Examples include the courthouses in Cairo and Harrisburg, Illinois and in Maysville, Hopkinsville, and Morganfield, Kentucky. He also designed Evans Hall, the Ragon Brothers Building, Aiken's Block, and several other prominent commercial buildings in Evansville. In 1873-76, Frick obtained the contract to build the Knox County Courthouse in Vincennes and retained F.L. Farman to oversee the construction. The Knox County Poor Asylum is the only known public building that Frick designed in Knox County. In the early 1880s, Frick served as an Assistant Supervising Architect for the U.S. Treasury Department in Washington, D.C. He died in Evansville in 1886.<sup>33</sup>

Frick's design made use of the tripartite design formula that had been used in the Eastern United States as early as 1800, but had arrived in Indiana only after the Civil War. The earliest extant tripartite design for an Indiana Poor Asylum is the Hendricks County Asylum (now Cypress Manor), built in 1868. The Noble County Asylum followed in 1871. Frick had previously designed courthouses in Illinois and Kentucky and was a seasoned designer of major public buildings. For the Knox County Poor Asylum he placed the superintendent's residence in a projecting central pavilion, as in other tripartite designs, but instead of placing the entrance at the center of the façade, he located two entries, at either side of the rear of the superintendent's pavilion and placed the vestibule for the building at the rear of the pavilion, between the residence and the asylum resident section. Also unorthodox was Frick's use of lofty assembly rooms on the first and second floors at the center of the resident sections, rather than dining rooms, which were more common in other tripartite designs.

The architect chose a mixture of the Italianate and Greek Revival styles for the exterior of the building. The stylistic choice shows that the architect and perhaps the clients were conservative in their tastes, as the Greek Revival had vanished from most public buildings in Indiana during the 1860s, and the Italianate had largely faded in popularity by 1880. The Italianate features include the vertical massing of the central pavilion and the two side wings, the narrow, vertical windows with arched hoods, the bracketed cornice, and the frame, square entry porches with wood details created by jigsaw. The Greek Revival influence is seen in the pediments over each

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<sup>33</sup>“Joseph K. Frick,” *The Journal, Evansville, Indiana*, March 3, 1886, p. 4; *The Sanitary Engineer. Devoted to Engineering, Architecture, Construction, Sanitation*, Vol. 13, No. 15 (March 11, 1886), p. 352; “Knox County Courthouse Vincennes,” website Angelfire.com: [www.angelfire.com/in4/indianacourthouses/knox.html](http://www.angelfire.com/in4/indianacourthouses/knox.html), accessed September 6, 2016.

Knox County Poor Asylum

Name of Property

Knox County, IN

County and State

of the pavilions, the brick pilasters dividing each elevation, and the gable roofs. The quality of the details and workmanship is fine.

Another source for the style of the Knox County Poor Asylum design could be the international *Rundbogenstil* ("round-arched style) movement, which was influential in Germany during the early and mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. The architects who employed the style drew particularly on Romanesque, Byzantine, and 15<sup>th</sup> century Italian Renaissance buildings for inspiration. The popularity of *Rundbogenstil* buildings spread to Great Britain and the United States, brought by emigrant architects and published in architectural pattern books and periodicals. Round-arched compositions appeared in masonry public buildings, rail stations, churches, and synagogues. In Indiana, D.A. Bohlen, a German immigrant, used elements of the style in the Indianapolis City Market (1886). Frick, who was born in the German-speaking part of Switzerland, studied architecture, as already mentioned, in Milan, Italy, where he would have had occasion to study Italian Romanesque and Renaissance designs.

Refined touches in the Knox County Asylum are also seen in the attenuated cast-iron Corinthian columns in the first floor assembly rooms and in the details of the superintendent's stairway. Frick employed unusually tall, four-foot transom windows above the doors to promote circulation of air and improve ventilation.

Although other public buildings designed by Frick survive outside the state, the Knox County Poor Asylum was one of his principal buildings in Indiana and a notable early interpretation of the tripartite design for asylums in the state.

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### **Developmental History/Additional historic context information**

See the attached County Homes of Indiana Multiple Property Documentation Form for developmental history and historic context information on county homes and poor asylums in Indiana and in the United States during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The Knox County Poor Asylum (now known as the county home) was operated by the county until 1985, when the Knox County Association for Retarded Citizens leased the building as its offices. The association rehabilitated the former asylum and remodeled portions of the interior, installing new restrooms and storage rooms in the assembly rooms, converting the southeast end of the first floor to a lounge. In the basement, several storage rooms were created in the central spaces originally used as the kitchen and dining room.

In 2015, the New Hope Center Corporation purchased the main asylum building and 2.83 acres from the Knox County Commissioners.

Knox County Poor Asylum  
Name of Property

Knox County, IN  
County and State

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

### Primary Sources

“Arrest of the Poor House Incendiary,” *The Vincennes News*, August 25, 1881, p. 2. Lewis Historical Library, Vincennes University.

Clipping from Vincennes newspaper on subject of Knox County Poor Asylum. Dated May 21, 1948. Collection of Sandra Ivers, Vincennes.

Commissioners’ Record Book K, December 1879-April, 1882. Regional History/Genealogy Research Center, Knox County Public Library.

“County’s Eyes Turn to Sale and Re-Purchase of Old Poor Infirmary,” Vincennes newspaper clipping, c. 1934, Collection of Sandra Ivers of Vincennes.

Devlin, Judy. “Knox County Home Not a ‘Poor House,’” *Valley Advance*, November 26, 1964. Collection of Sandra Ivers, Vincennes.

“Expects Poor Farm to Pay Its Way in Short Time,” *Vincennes Sun-Commercial*, March 27, 1935.

*History of Knox and Daviess Counties Indiana*. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1886.

Johnson, Alexander. “Secretary’s Visits to the Poor Asylums of Indiana,” in *County Poor Asylums*. Indianapolis: Wm. B. Burford, 1890.

“Joseph K. Frick,” *The Journal, Evansville, Indiana*, March 3, 1886, p. 4.

“KCARC to Operate Knox County Home,” *Vincennes Sun-Commercial*, May 6, 1985, p. 39.

“Knox County,” *The Indiana Bulletin of Charities and Corrections* (1915), p. 121.

“Knox County,” in [report on] “County Jails and Poor Asylums,” *The Indiana Bulletin of Charities and Corrections*, No. 131 (December, 1922), p. 276.

“New Poor House, The.” *The Vincennes News*, November 3, 1881, p. 3. Lewis Historical Library, Vincennes University.

“Poor-House Burned,” *The Vincennes News*, August 18, 1881, p. 2. Lewis Historical Library, Vincennes University.

Knox County Poor Asylum  
Name of Property

Knox County, IN  
County and State

*Sanitary Engineer, The. Devoted to Engineering, Architecture, Construction, Sanitation.*  
Vol. 13, No. 15 (March 11, 1886), p. 352.

Secondary Sources

Burgess, Sam. Determination of Eligibility Summary for Clinton County Home for Indiana Landmarks, 2015.

Ivers, Sandra. Interview. May 20, 2016.

“Knox County Courthouse Vincennes,” website Angelfire.com:  
[www.angelfire.com/in4/indianacourthouses/knox.html](http://www.angelfire.com/in4/indianacourthouses/knox.html), accessed September 6, 2016.

---

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:  Knox County Public Library’s Regional History/Genealogy Research Center; Lewis Historical Library, Vincennes University; Indiana State Library; and personal collection, Sandra Ivers, Vincennes

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):**  083-227-25028

---

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property**  2.83 acres

Knox County Poor Asylum  
Name of Property

Knox County, IN  
County and State

Use the UTM system

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |             |                 |                   |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 16 | Easting: 457596 | Northing: 4277673 |
| 2. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 3. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 4. Zone:    | Easting :       | Northing:         |

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

Legal description of property nominated: "Commencing at a 5/8-inch iron pin with cap inscribed 'Knox County Surveyor,' marking the East corner of Survey 24 and being on the Northwest line of said fractional section; thence along said Northwest line, North 51 degrees 50 minutes 41 seconds East, 273.60 feet to a 5/8 rebar with cap inscribed 'K.W. Rowland L.S. 29600015' and heron called an 'iron monument' on the Southwest line of a tract of land as called for in Instrument #2013R02932 in the Recorder's office of Knox County, Indiana, and owned by Don Nowaskie & Sons, LLC; thence South 39 degrees 01 minute 35 seconds East, 1075.10 feet to an 'iron monument' on the Southeast line of said fractional section; thence along said Southeast line, South 54 degrees 49 minutes 23 seconds West, 485.43 feet to an 'iron monument' marking the POINT OF BEGINNING; thence continuing along said Southeast line, South 54 degrees 49 minutes 23 seconds West, 210.07 feet to a Mag nail with washer stamped 'K.W. Rowland L.S. 29600015' and heron called a 'nail' in the centerline of Hart Street Road; thence along said centerline the following two (02) calls: North 62 degrees 57 minutes 29 seconds west; 100.59 feet to a 'nail;' North 60 degrees 24 minutes 46 seconds West, 156.32 feet to a 'nail;' thence leaving said centerline, North 32 degrees 53 minutes 44 seconds East, 493.59 feet to an 'iron monument' thence South 51 degrees 50 minutes 14 seconds East, 215.07 feet to an 'iron monument;' thence along a non-tangent curve to the right, having a radius of 440.43 feet, an arc length of 170.87 feet, a chord bearing of South 31 degrees 14 minutes 31 seconds West, and a chord distance of 169.80 feet; thence along a non-tangent curve to the right, having a radius of 185.88 feet, an arc length of 28.05 feet, a chord bearing of South 43 degrees 45 minutes 50 seconds West, and a chord distance of

Knox County Poor Asylum  
Name of Property

Knox County, IN  
County and State

28.02 feet to an 'iron monument;' thence South 29 degrees 45 minutes 57 seconds East, 135.99 feet to point of beginning, containing 2.83 acres, more or less," subject to public rights-of-way.

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

The boundary includes the 2.83 acres that contains the former Knox County Poor Asylum, the associated summer kitchen, and the immediate setting. The parcel included in the boundary was conveyed by the Board of County Commissioners to the current owner, The New Hope Center Corporation, in 2014.

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: James A. Glass, Principal  
organization: Historic Preservation and Heritage Consulting LLC  
Street & number: 730 N. Bancroft Street  
city or town: Indianapolis state: Indiana zip code: 46201  
e-mail jglass@hphconsulting.com  
telephone: (317) 385-9115  
date: October 1, 2016

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

Knox County Poor Asylum

Name of Property

Knox County, IN

County and State

### Photographs

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

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Knox County Poor Asylum

City or Vicinity: Vincennes

County: Knox

State: Indiana

Photographer: James A. Glass

Dates Photographed: May 20, 2016 and August 19, 2016

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

1 of 30: August 19, 2016—Oblique view of central pavilion, southeast wing, and southeast elevation, Knox County Poor Asylum. Facing north.

2 of 30: May 20, 2016—Oblique view of central pavilion, northwest wing, and northwest elevation, Knox County Poor Asylum. Facing east.

3 of 30: August 19, 2016—View of southwest elevation of central pavilion, Knox County Poor Asylum. Facing north.

4 of 30: May 20, 2016—Oblique view of northeast and northwest elevations, Knox County Poor Asylum. Facing south.

5 of 30: August 19, 2016—Oblique view of northeast and southeast elevations, Knox County Poor Asylum. Facing west.

6 of 30: May 20, 2016—Detail of entry porch, southeast elevation, central pavilion, Knox County Poor Asylum. Facing northwest.

7 of 30: August 19, 2016—View of northeast elevation, Knox County Poor Asylum. Facing southeast.

8 of 30: August 19, 2016—Detail of central section of northeast elevation, Knox County Poor Asylum. Facing south.

Knox County Poor Asylum  
Name of Property

Knox County, IN  
County and State

9 of 30: August 19, 2016—Detail of central, northeast entries to basement, northeast elevation, Knox County Poor Asylum. Facing southwest.

10 of 30: August 19, 2016—Looking south from entry vestibule into southeast parlor, superintendent's residence, Knox County Poor Asylum. Facing south.

11 of 30: May 20, 2016—View of first floor stair hall and stairway, superintendent's residence, Knox County Poor Asylum. Facing southwest.

12 of 30: August 19, 2016—View from first floor vestibule into northwest parlor or dining room of superintendent's residence, Knox County Poor Asylum. Facing west.

13 of 30: August 19, 2016—View of southeast wall and fireplace mantel of southeast parlor, first floor of superintendent's residence, Knox County Poor Asylum. Facing south/southeast.

14 of 30: August 19, 2016—View of assembly room, first floor of southeast (men's) residential wing, Knox County Poor Asylum. Facing north.

15 of 30: August 19, 2016—Detail of Corinthian column in assembly room, first floor of southeast (men's) residential wing, Knox County Poor Asylum. Facing northwest.

16 of 30: August 19, 2016—Detail of boxed stairway, first floor assembly room, northwest (women's) residential wing, Knox County Poor Asylum. Facing east/southeast.

17 of 30: August 19, 2016—Looking down corridor of resident rooms on first floor, northwest (women's) residential wing, Knox County Poor Asylum. Facing northwest.

18 of 30: August 19, 2016—Looking down main corridor on first floor toward doorway into 1980s lounge, southeast (men's) residential wing, Knox County Poor Asylum. Facing southeast.

19 of 30: August 19, 2016—View of dry wall partitions used to create the 1980s lounge and kitchenette, first floor of southeast (men's) residential wing, Knox County Poor Asylum. Facing north.

20 of 30: August 19, 2016—View of southeast and southwest walls of 1980s lounge created at southeast end of first floor, southeast (men's) residential wing, Knox County Poor Asylum. Facing south.

21 of 30: August 19, 2016—View of second floor stair hall and stairway, superintendent's residence, Knox County Poor Asylum. Facing southwest.

22 of 30: August 19, 2016—View of doorway leading to vestibule and men's and women's wings from superintendent's residence, Knox County Poor Asylum. Facing northeast.



Knox County Poor Asylum

Name of Property

Knox County, IN

County and State

23 of 30: August 19, 2016—Looking from first resident room on northeast side of second floor, northwest (women's) wing, toward first resident room on southwest side, Knox County Poor Asylum. Facing southwest.

24 of 30: August 19, 2016—View down corridor of resident rooms of second floor, northwest (women's) wing, Knox County Poor Asylum. Facing southeast.

25 of 30: August 19, 2016—View of central room in basement of southeast (women's) wing, Knox County Poor Asylum. Facing northeast.

26 of 30: August 19, 2016—Looking from central room in basement of northwest (men's) wing toward main corridor, Knox County Poor Asylum. Facing northwest.

27 of 30: August 19, 2016—Looking from main corridor in basement of northwest (men's) wing into former cell for mentally ill residents, northeast side of corridor, Knox County Poor Asylum. Facing north.

28 of 30: August 19, 2016—View of former boiler room, northwest end of basement, northwest wing, Knox County Poor Asylum. Facing northeast.

29 of 30: August 19, 2016—View of main corridor in basement of southeast (men's) wing, Knox County Poor Asylum. Facing northwest.

30 of 30: May 20, 2016—View of summer kitchen to rear of asylum building, Knox County Poor Asylum. Facing north.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

KNOX COUNTY POOR ASYLUM  
2008 S. HART STREET ROAD  
VINCENNES, KNOX COUNTY, INDIANA

Boundary for National Register Listing  
(Not to Scale)

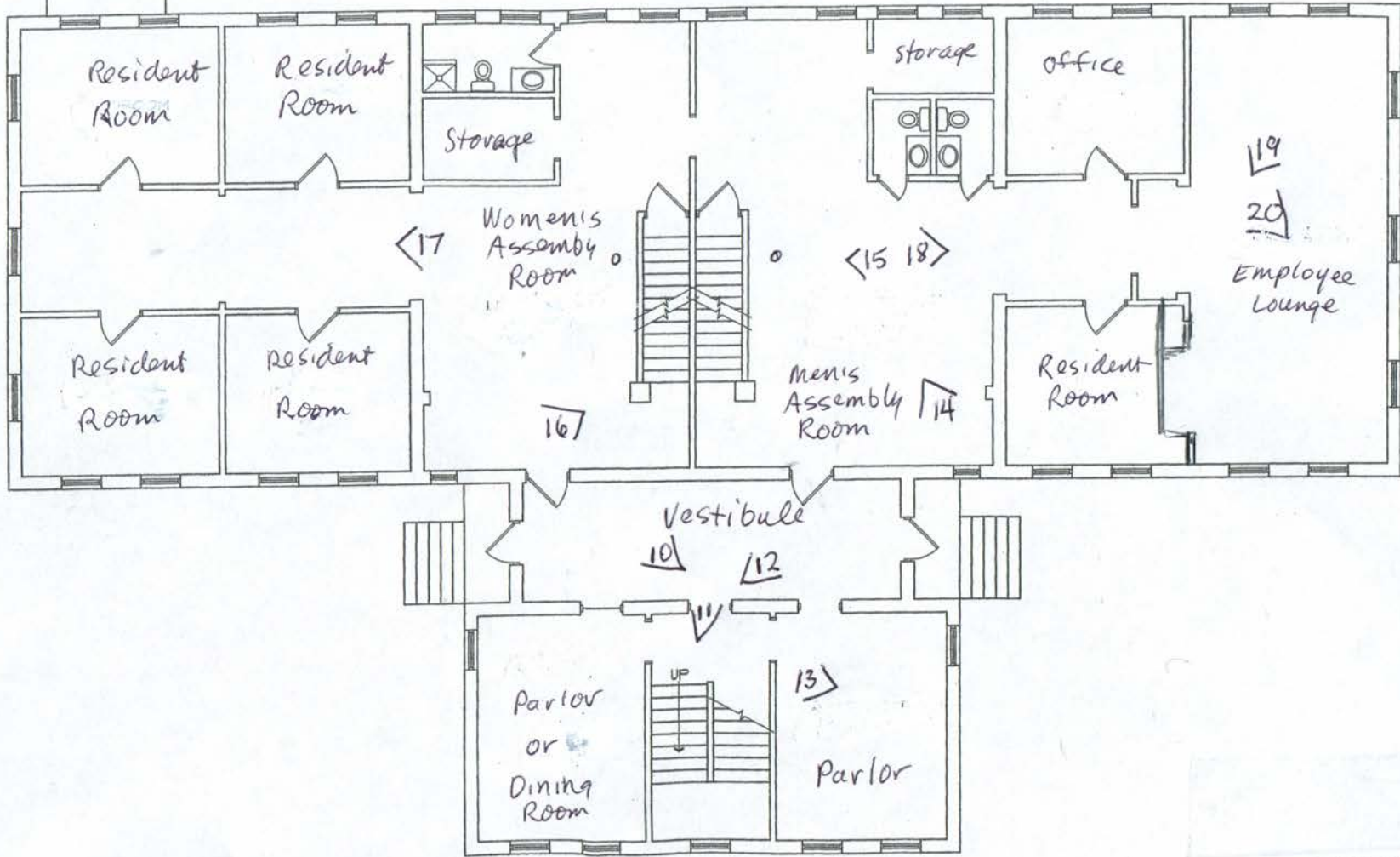




**BASEMENT PLAN**

KNOX COUNTY POOR ASYLUM  
 2008 S. HART STREET ROAD  
 VINCENNES, KNOX COUNTY, INDIANA

Photo Locations—Basement  
 Original Plan by Donovan +Donovan Architects, Vincennes  
 (Not to Scale)

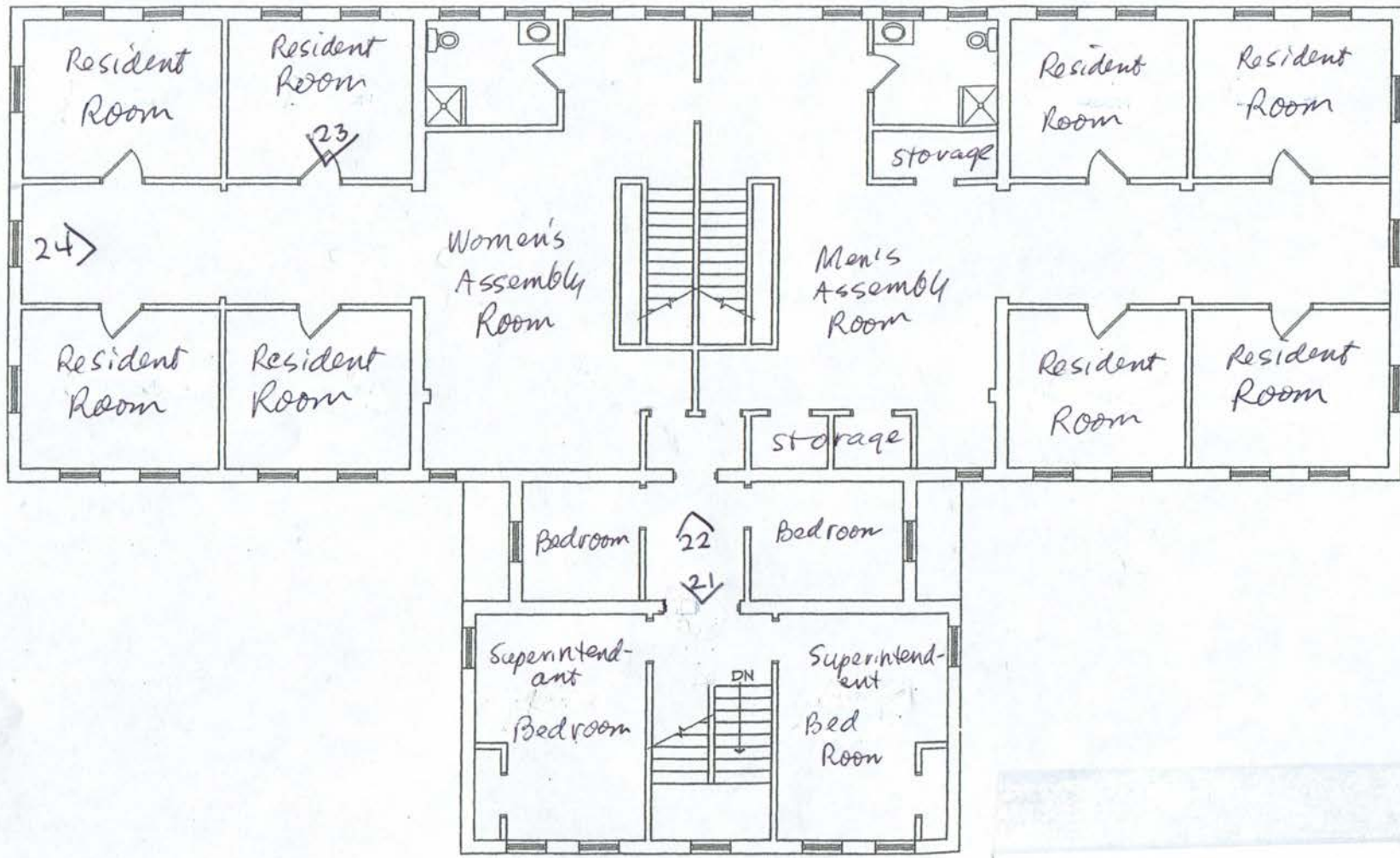


## FIRST FLOOR PLAN

(SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0")

KNOX COUNTY POOR ASYLUM  
 2008 S. HART STREET ROAD  
 VINCENNES, KNOX COUNTY, INDIANA

Photo Locations—First Floor  
 Original Plan by Donovan +Donovan Architects, Vincennes  
 (Not to Scale)



**SECOND FLOOR PLAN**

SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

KNOX COUNTY POOR ASYLUM  
 2008 S. HART STREET ROAD  
 VINCENNES, KNOX COUNTY, INDIANA

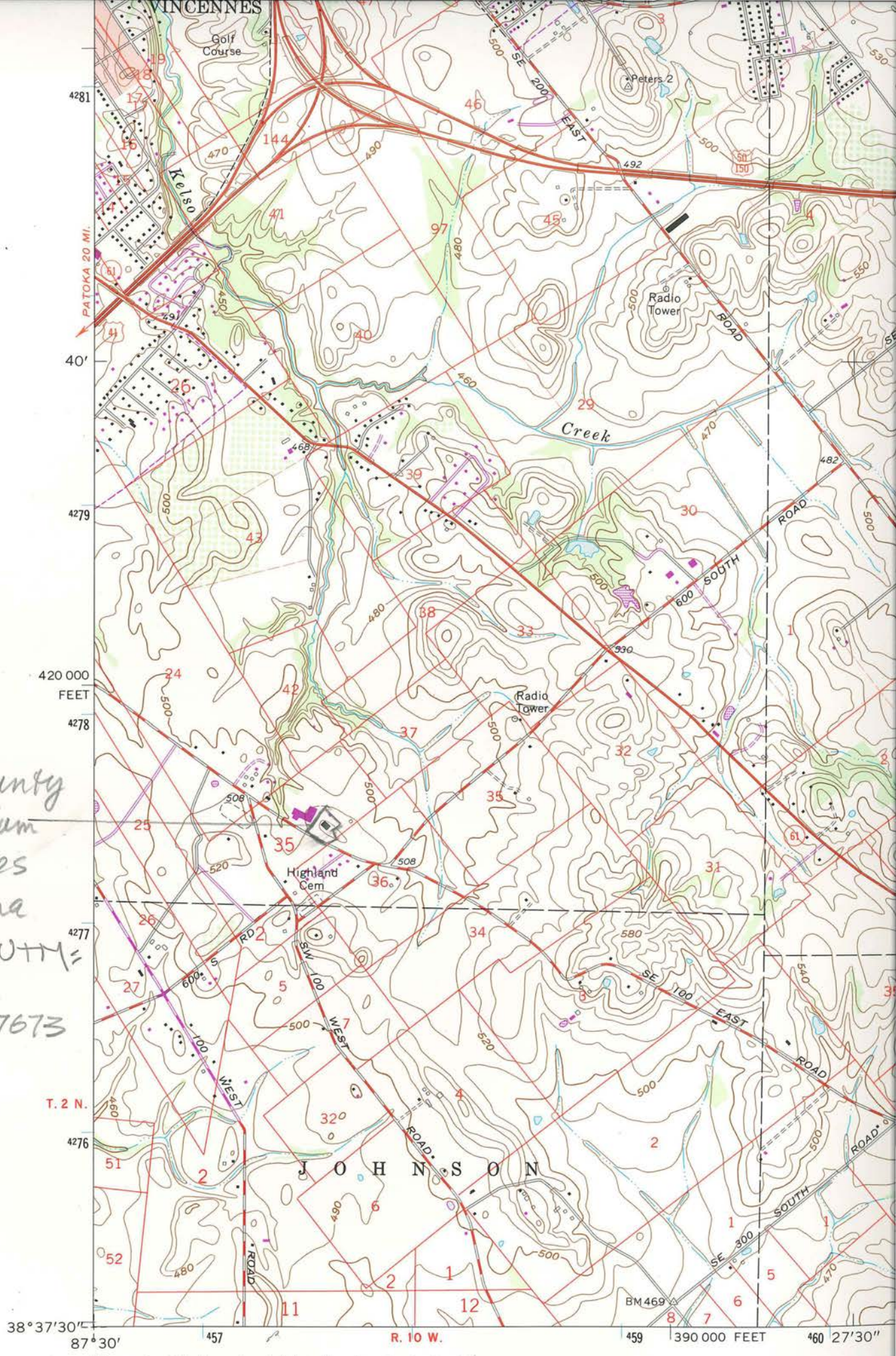
Photo Locations—Second Floor  
 Original Plan by Donovan +Donovan Architects, Vincennes  
 (Not to Scale)

KNOX COUNTY POOR ASYLUM  
2008 S. HART STREET ROAD  
VINCENNES, KNOX COUNTY, INDIANA

Photo Locations for Exterior and Site Plan  
(Not to Scale)



Knox County  
Poor Asylum  
Vincennes  
Indiana  
NAD 83 UTM =  
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4277673



DECKER)  
11 SE

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA







































































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Knox County Poor Asylum

Multiple Name: County Homes of Indiana MPS

State & County: INDIANA, Knox

Date Received: 10/22/2018      Date of Pending List: 11/16/2018      Date of 16th Day: 12/3/2018      Date of 45th Day: 12/6/2018      Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: MP100003183

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

X Accept       Return       Reject      12/3/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: Meets the registration requirements of the MPS

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept / A & C

Reviewer Jim Gabbert      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

HIST. PRES. & ARCH.

OCT 11 2013

RECEIVED

Dear Cameron Clark and fellow Board Members,

I wanted to write and let you know that I would love to see the Knox County Poor Asylum AKA The New Hope Center be chosen to be a part of the National Register of Historical Places. It is not only a building with great historical background dating back to the 1880s, but once restored it will continue to benefit the Vincennes community greatly. There are plans to transform the building into a drug rehabilitation center for women which will become a huge outreach for our community.

In 2007, the new owner saw the potential in the K.C. Poor Asylum and worked for seven years to finally gain ownership. Please join with us by choosing K.C. Poor Asylum AKA The New Hope Center and help turn this old, stately building into a landmark that will be a vision for change that will last a lifetime.

Richard Carie  
Dee Dee Boye  
Ashley Bickers  
Brooke Bush

Tom Kaepling  
Allison Holt  
Cindy Goodman

Azida Be  
Lorin Hart  
Christina Hoff

With Great Gratitude,

Sammy Robinson  
Ingi Granger  
Ann Epner  
Julie Linton  
Brenda Wintler

Courtney Carter  
Sharon Ruppel  
Jary Hackney

Koasis Bell  
Valerie J Sweeney  
Phoebe Soers  
Melissa Hoke  
C. Carie

Dear Cameron Clark and fellow Board Members,

I wanted to write and let you know that I would love to see the Knox County Poor Asylum AKA The New Hope Center be chosen to be a part of the National Register of Historical Places. It is not only a building with great historical background dating back to the 1880s, but once restored it will continue to benefit the Vincennes community greatly. There are plans to transform the building into a drug rehabilitation center for women which will become a huge outreach for our community.

In 2007, the new owner saw the potential in the K.C. Poor Asylum and worked for seven years to finally gain ownership. Please join with us by choosing K.C. Poor Asylum AKA The New Hope Center and help turn this old, stately building into a landmark that will be a vision for change that will last a lifetime.

HIST. PRES. & ARCH.

OCT 15 2010

RECEIVED

With Great Gratitude,

*Stephane Strahley*  
*Caryn McCallister*  
*Jenny Schetter*  
*Keith*  
*Cindi Daniels*  
*Rusty Moore*



Dear Cameron Clark and fellow Board Members,

I wanted to write and let you know that I would love to see the Knox County Poor Asylum AKA The New Hope Center be chosen to be a part of the National Register of Historical Places. It is not only a building with great historical background dating back to the 1880s, but once restored it will continue to benefit the Vincennes community greatly. There are plans to transform the building into a drug rehabilitation center for women which will become a huge outreach for our community.

In 2007, the new owner saw the potential in the K.C. Poor Asylum and worked for seven years to finally gain ownership. Please join with us by choosing K.C. Poor Asylum AKA The New Hope Center and help turn this old, stately building into a landmark that will be a vision for change that will last a lifetime.

HIST. PRES. & ARCH.

OCT 15 2010

RECEIVED

With Great Gratitude,

*Gay Kelley*  
*Jessica G. Sivers*  
*Elizabeth [unclear]*

Dear Cameron Clark and fellow Board Members,

I wanted to write and let you know that I would love to see the Knox County Poor Asylum AKA The New Hope Center be chosen to be a part of the National Register of Historical Places. It is not only a building with great historical background dating back to the 1880s, but once restored it will continue to benefit the Vincennes community greatly. There are plans to transform the building into a drug rehabilitation center for women which will become a huge outreach for our community.

In 2007, the new owner saw the potential in the K.C. Poor Asylum and worked for seven years to finally gain ownership. Please join with us by choosing K.C. Poor Asylum AKA The New Hope Center and help turn this old, stately building into a landmark that will be a vision for change that will last a lifetime.

HIST. PRES. & ARCH.

OCT 15 2018

RECEIVED

With Great Gratitude,

*Jayne Swain*  
*Kyle Newton*  
*Jina R. Letts*  
*Rore Newman*  
*Karen Dupard*  
*Emily Newman*  
*Loth. Bonifera*

Dear Cameron Clark and fellow Board Members,

I wanted to write and let you know that I would love to see the Knox County Poor Asylum AKA The New Hope Center be chosen to be a part of the National Register of Historical Places. It is not only a building with great historical background dating back to the 1880s, but once restored it will continue to benefit the Vincennes community greatly. There are plans to transform the building into a drug rehabilitation center for women which will become a huge outreach for our community.

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HIST. PRES. & ARCH.  
OCT 15 2018  
RECEIVED

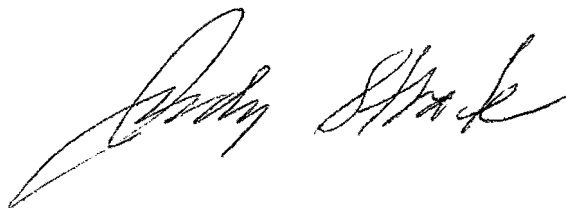
With Great Gratitude,

Carol Moore  
Jeremy Moore  
Robert Young (BoB)  
Robert Young

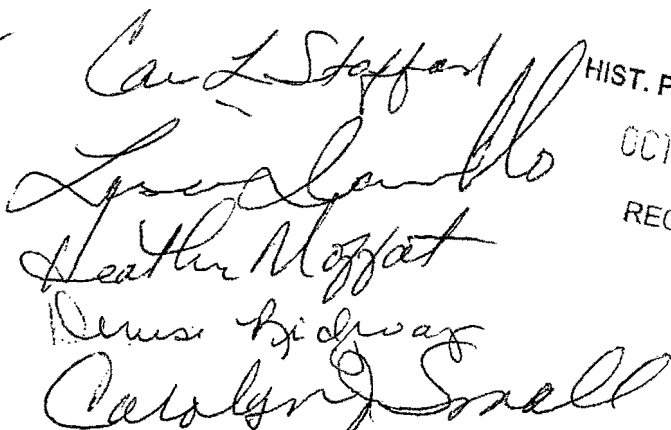
Dear Cameron Clark and fellow Board Members,

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With Great Gratitude,



HIST. PRES. & ARCH.  
OCT 15 2018  
RECEIVED

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HIST. PRES. & ARCH.

OCT 15 2018

RECEIVED

With Great Gratitude,

*Louisa Edeerman*



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



October 18, 2018

Ms. Joy Beasley  
Keeper of the National Register  
National Register of Historic Places  
Mail Stop 7228  
1849 C St, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Knox County Poor Asylum, Knox County, Indiana (Note: related to County Homes of Indiana MPDF)

Dear Ms. Beasley,

Enclosed is a National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Knox County Poor Asylum, Knox County, Indiana. The Indiana Historic Preservation Review Board reviewed the application and voted to recommend its approval to the National Register of Historic Places.

The enclosed disc contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Knox County Poor Asylum, Knox County, Indiana to the National Register of Historic Places.

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

Sincerely,

Cameron F. Clark  
State Historic Preservation Officer

CFC:PCD:pcd

enclosure: nomination package