

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 18 1993

NATIONAL
REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Wiltroat, Maria and Franklin, Polygonal Barn

other names/site number Alfred Barn

2. Location

street & number 0209 County Road 16 N/A not for publication

city or town Corunna vicinity

state Indiana code IN county DeKalb code 033 zip code 46730

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Patrick R. Roberts 2/13/93
 Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
 State of Federal agency and bureau

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

 Signature of certifying official/Title Date

 State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

 Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Patrick Andrews 4/2/93

Wiltrout Polygonal Barn
Name of Property

DeKalb Co., IN
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

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

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

Round and Polygonal Barns of Indiana

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE: animal facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE: storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: fourteen-sided barn

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls WOOD: weatherboard

roof ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1910-1936

Significant Dates

1910

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Reynolds, Frank

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana

Wiltrout Polygonal Barn
Name of Property

DeKalb Co., IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 1 | 6 | | 6 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 0 | | 4 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
Zone Easting Northing
2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
Zone Easting Northing
4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jerry McMahan

organization Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana date November 11, 1991

street & number 340 West Michigan Street telephone (317) 639-4534

city or town Indianapolis state IN zip code 46202

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name William and Dorothy Alfred

street & number 0209 CR 16 telephone _____

city or town Corunna state IN zip code 46730

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

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

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**National Register of Historic Places
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Section number 7 Page 1 Wiltrout Polygonal Barn DeKalb Co., IN

The Maria and Franklin Wiltrout Polygonal Barn, located in rural DeKalb County, near Corunna, Indiana, is one of three fourteen-sided barns left in Indiana (six were built). The barn is surrounded by woods and fields on the north and east and cultivated fields to the west. The farmhouse, a 1911 Montgomery Ward design, is accompanied by a garage and shed. The house, garage, and shed are located south of the barn. Only the barn is included in this nomination. Resting atop a small rise, this well-preserved structure retains much integrity and meets the standards for registration established in the Multiple Property Documentation Form "Round and Polygonal Barns of Indiana".

The Wiltrout Polygonal Barn is a fourteen-sided, two story, wood frame structure dating from 1910. It is sixty feet in width, and has a sectional, two-pitch gambrel-like roof crowned by a fourteen-sided, louver-vented cupola. The foundation is poured concrete, and interior floors are of bare earth.

The roof covering of the barn was originally wood shingle, but now the barn roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles, an alteration which minimally detracts from the barn's integrity. There is a slight overhang to the eaves, revealing the exposed rafters. Wall surfaces are covered in horizontal wood siding painted red with 1" X 4" white cornerboards enframing each wall section.

The main facade (east elevation-photo 1) reveals the simple yet appealing geometry of the barn. Centered on this elevation are wide sliding doors made of diagonal planking mounted on overhead tracks. Each door is divided into six panels by 1" X 4" boards, with the top two sections of each door having a six-light window. The windows serve to admit more work light to the interior, much as transoms would to a house, while the door panel treatment is purely decorative.

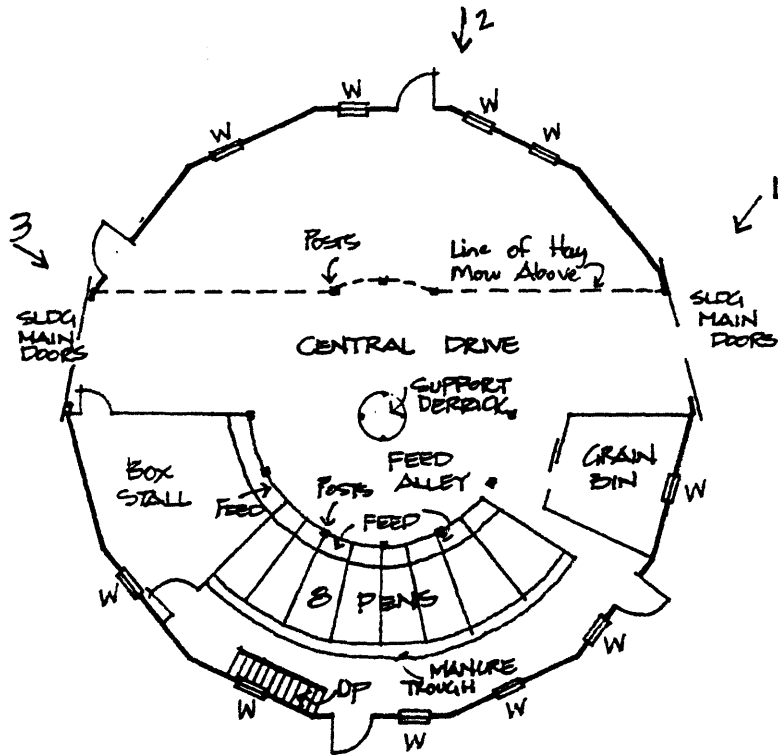
Continuing around the barn counter-clockwise, the next face contains a six-light window with plain board surrounds, a treatment typical to the barn. Next is a human-sized door with adjacent window, then a window, followed by another window and human-sized door. The seventh side contains a window unit as does the eighth. The

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Wiltrout Polygonal Barn DeKalb Co., IN



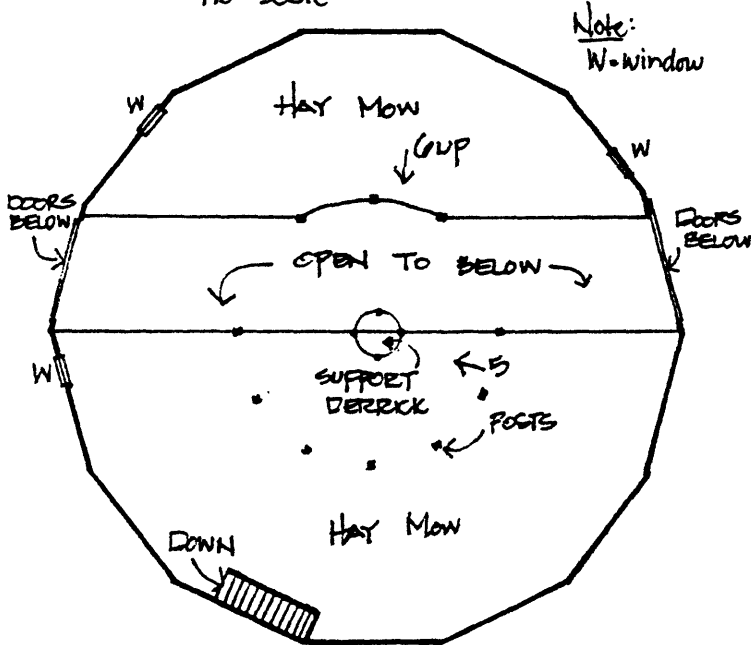
LOWER LEVEL
no scale



WILTROUT (ALFRED) BARN

1910 14-SIDED
DEKALB COUNTY, INDIANA
FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP

↑₁ = Photographic key



UPPER LEVEL
no scale

Note:
W=window

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ninth face, located on the west side of the barn contains another set of the decorative yet functional doors found on the east side, identical in size, configuration and location. The tenth face has another human-sized door with adjacent window, followed by a window unit on the eleventh, a window and human-sized door, a pair of windows on the thirteenth and finally, no lower level openings on the fourteenth. The only upper level window is located on the fourteenth or northeast side of the barn, adding to the light admitted by the main doors and the cupola. For reference, Photo 2 depicts sides two through seven, Photo 3 shows sides five through nine and Photo 4 reveals sides ten through fourteen.

The interior of the barn (see floor plan) is efficiently arranged for ease in handling and housing farm animals. A "central" drive cuts through the structure from east to west, with the drive's width beginning at the center line of the building and proceeding north, instead of the width being centered on the barn's midpoint. On the north side of the drive is a large open space that is partially defined by three support posts near the barn's center. These posts eventually help to brace the roof. On the south side of the drive, the central support derrick is a prominent feature that is surrounded by a feed alley, defined by more support posts. The feed alley posts correspond to the ones on the opposite side and in concert with the derrick provide the stabilizing factor for the roof. Arranged radially around the feed alley are, moving from west to east, a large box stall, eight pens with manure troughs near the outer walls and a grain bin. Further, the pens and box stalls have feed troughs located toward the center of the barn so that they can be filled from the feed alley. A permanent staircase is located inside the south door and ascends to the upper level. Finally, the balloon frame construction of the walls is capped by the inwardly radiating floor joists of the upper level that are intermediately braced by the inner posts and the central derrick.

The upper level, reached by the staircase, is divided into a northern and a southern hay mow, separated by the open space to the central drive. The north hay mow is open and defined at the edge by the support posts that rise from the lower level and terminate at the roof's laminated beam (Photo 5). The south hay mow, larger than the one on the north, also has the ring of posts found on the lower level in addition to the central derrick support system, with the derrick bracing the upper roof section and cupola (Photo 6). Ingeniously, the roof sections, framed by inwardly radiating stick lumber, are braced by a series of laminated beams (at the juncture of the two roof pitches), posts and the derrick.

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Section number 7 Page 4 Wiltrout Polygonal Barn DeKalb Co., IN

The historic fabric of the Wiltrout Polygonal Barn is very well preserved, having no significant changes to the original structure. As such, the barn is a striking reminder of early twentieth century agricultural practices in Indiana.

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Section number 8 Page 5 Wiltrout Polygonal Barn DeKalb Co., IN

The Wiltrout Polygonal Barn, located in Fairfield Township, DeKalb County, Indiana, is significant under Criteria A and C for its association with the development of agriculture in Indiana (as illustrated through the development of round and polygonal barns—see historic context "Round and Polygonal Barns of Indiana"). The Wiltrout Polygonal Barn is unusual within the defined context for its fourteen-sided plan. Also, the barn demonstrates how some farmers became interested in central plan barns through advertising and mail-order catalogs.

The original owners of the barn were Maria and Franklin Wiltrout who likely purchased the barn as a kit from the Chicago House Wrecking Company, 35th and Iron Streets, Chicago. The Chicago House Wrecking Company placed an advertisement in The Indiana Farmer of January 6, 1912, page 24. The firm described Round Barn Design No. 206 as follows:

Our price for the material to build this barn, \$995. Size, 60ft. in diameter and 16 ft. high to plate. Has 14 sides, each side 14 ft. A 16 ft. silo in the middle, same being 36 ft. high and will hold 160 tons of silage. Hay capacity, 65 tons. Will accommodate 100 head of cattle. The many and excellent features offered by this construction, the high grade materials furnished by us, and our extremely low price makes this barn a bargain worthy of thorough investigation. 1

Barn Design No. 206 matches the Wiltrout Barn closely, with the exception of the silo. Frank Reynolds designed No. 206, making him also the designer of the Wiltrout Barn. Farm journals of this period were widely circulated and well trusted by farmers, and many of these periodicals approved of central-plan structures.

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Section number 8 Page 6 Wilttrout Polygonal Barn DeKalb Co., IN

Additionally, the fine attention to details on this barn found in the corner boards, door design and cupola lend themselves to the quality of a kit and not that of a local craftsman. Historically, the lower level would have stored farm animals and the upper level would have been devoted to the storage of hay and straw.

The Wilttrout family retained ownership of the property for many years with Franklin and Maria eventually passing the property to their daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce. The Bruce family owned the farm until they sold it to Agnes and Harry Hutley, who in turn sold it to Robert Todd in 1981. The current owners, William and Dorothy Alfred, purchased the property from Mr. Todd in 1991. The Alfreds are now in the process of restoring the early-twentieth century American Four Square farmhouse, which itself is probably a kit home. The Alfreds have reason to believe that the house was purchased as a kit from Montgomery Wards.²

In Indiana, six of the 219 round and polygonal barns built were fourteen-sided. These barns, in addition to the Wilttrout (Alfred) barn, were built in Decatur County's Salt Creek Township (1913, razed), Franklin County's Ray Township (1915, razed), Huntington County's Polk Township (1907-08, extant), Montgomery County's Union Township (1912-13, extant) and Washington County's Pierce Township (1906, razed). Therefore, of the six built, only three survive today.

The Wilttrout (Alfred) barn is an unusual and unique example of a polygonal barn, being one of the three remaining fourteen-sided examples in Indiana. Interestingly, the six fourteen-sided barns were all built after 1905 when the patent was issued to Littleton, McNamee and Duncan, possibly as a way to skirt the patent rights of the designers. The barn has the essential physical features that it possessed at the time of its period of significance, from 1910 to the mid 1930s. The building has aged very gracefully and has not been significantly altered since its erection in 1910, thus standing as a landmark of the development of agriculture in Indiana.

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ENDNOTES

1. The Indiana Farmer, 6 January 1912, p. 24.
2. Dorothy Alfred, owner of the Wiltrout (Alfred) barn, Corunna, Indiana. Interviewed by Jerry McMahan, 25 October 1991.

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Section number 9 Page 8 Wiltrout Polygonal Barn DeKalb Co., IN

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Alfred, Dorothy. Owner of the Wiltrout (Alfred) Barn, Corunna, Indiana.
Interviewed by Jerry McMahan, 25 October 1991.

Hanou, John. Research compiled on Indiana's round and polygonal barns from
1986 to present. Archived at Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana,
340 West Michigan Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202.

The Indiana Farmer. 6 January 1912, p. 24.

Intensive architectural survey of Indiana's round and polygonal barns,
conducted June to August 1991, conducted by Jerry McMahan, areawide
survey of round and polygonal architectural and historical resources.

Soike, Lowell J. Without Right Angles, The Round Barns of Iowa. Des Moines,
IA: Iowa State Historical Department, Office of Historic Preservation,
1983.

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10. Geographical Data-continued.

Verbal Boundary Description

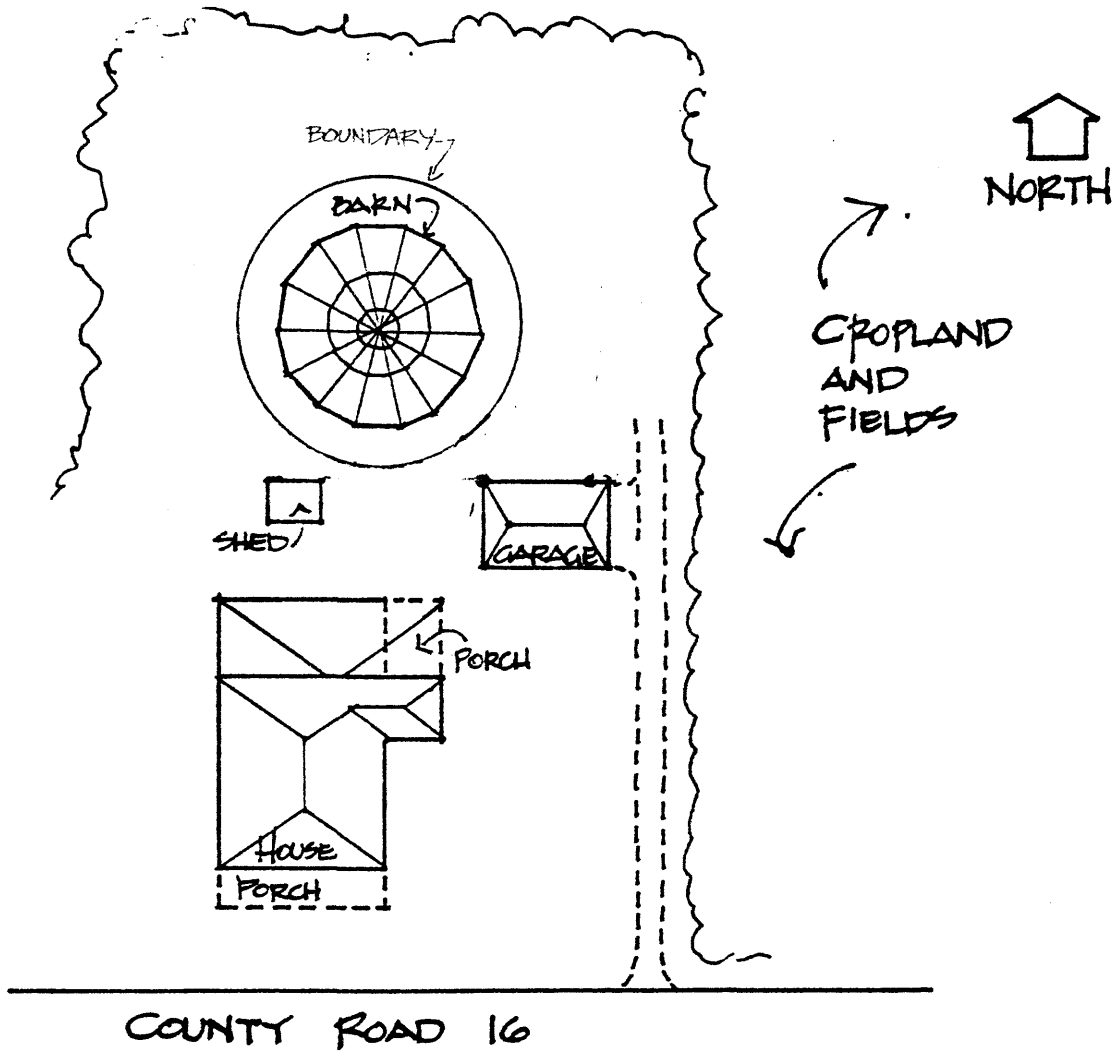
The Wiltrout Polygonal Barn is located in the SE of Section 19, T35N-R13E of Fairfield Township, DeKalb County, Indiana. Referring to the site plan, the boundary is a circular parcel eighty feet (80') in diameter, with the center of the circle corresponding to the center of the Wiltrout Polygonal Barn (the barn being 60' in "diameter").

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes only the nominated resource. At a later date other buildings on the farm may be listed as a farmstead if the grouping is found to meet the National Register criteria.

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WILTROUT (ALFRED) BARN

SITE PLAN
NO SCALE

1910 14-SIDED
DEKALB COUNTY, INDIANA
FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP