

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

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NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Evangelische Lutherische Emanuels Kirche  
other names/site number Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hill Church

2. Location

street & number County Road 445 East, 1 mile south of SR 56 N/A not for publication  
city, town Dubois  vicinity  
state Indiana code IN county Dubois code 037 zip code 47546

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<u>8</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.

*Patrick R. Kelator* 1-3-90  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. Entered in the  
National Register  
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet. *William Byers* 1/23/90

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: Religious Structure,  
Church School, Church-related  
Residence  
FUNERARY: Cemetery

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: Religious Structure  
FUNERARY: Cemetery  
DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: High Victorian Gothic

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: Sandstone  
walls WOOD: Weatherboard  
WOOD: Shingle  
roof METAL  
other STONE: Marble

### Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church complex occupies a picturesque, gently rolling site in rural Dubois County. Mature oak and cedar trees shade the site which consists of a cemetery, 1901 church, 1889 school-house, 1891 parsonage, c.1900 garage, c.1900 barn, and two c.1900 outhouses. All of these resources are considered contributing to the complex. (The cemetery is counted as a contributing site.)

### Church

This one story frame building is a superb example of a gable-front Victorian Gothic rural church. This church replaced a similar 1863 church on the property. The building is rectangular in plan and its exterior walls are covered with wood clapboard siding. The foundation consists of large coursed stone blocks with a scabbled finish.

The east elevation is the front of the church (Photos 1, 4, and 5). The primary entrance is centered on this elevation (Photo 5). Three stone steps lead to a recessed entry. The opening is defined by plain corner boards and a simple entablature. Bulls-eye corner blocks with a scalloped cut out fringe mark the corners. An ornamental portiere frieze with jigsaw scroll work supported by brackets infills the entry. Double wood doors allow access to the church. The doors are elaborately paneled with alternating horizontal, small square, and vertical beveled panels. A small rectangular niche is framed over the entry. It bears a wood tablet which is engraved with the phrase "Ev.Luth.Emanuelskirche 1901." in raised block type. The gable end of the east elevation has a single pointed arch shaped lunette window centered in the wall (Photo 4). The window mutins form interlocking lancet and diamond shapes in imitation of Gothic tracery. The corners of the building have wide corner boards with bulls-eye blocks identical to those found on the entry. Plain frieze boards define the steep gable roof on this as well as all sides of the building. The gable apex has an elaborately jigsaw truss.

A large steeple structure surmounts the east end of the church. The steeple consists of a square tower, an octagonal drum, and spire. The tower is covered with wood fishscale shingles and has a simple wood entablature. The spire rests on an octagonal drum which houses the church bell. The original wood louvers on each face of the drum have been boarded shut. The octagonal spire has a gablet with a round decorative vent on each face.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ETHNIC HERITAGE: European  
ARCHITECTURE

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

Period of Significance  
c.1889-1939

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

Significant Dates  
1901

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

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

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

Significant Person  
N/A

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

Architect/Builder  
Unknown

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

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Evangelische Lutherische Emanuels Kirche is significant under Criterion A because it represents the German settlement of Dubois County, Indiana. Dubois County had one of the largest concentrations of German immigrants in the state, and it was through complexes such as this that they expressed their cultural affinities and nurtured the German language and way of life. The church building is significant under Criterion C for its well-preserved Victorian Gothic architecture.

Hill Church is a significant example of the German heritage of Dubois County. Historians have often noted the contributions to American history made by immigrants of the German states during the nineteenth century. While European immigration generally increased during the 1800s, the greatest period of German immigration was during the period of 1850-1890.<sup>1</sup> Historians have divided German immigration into three periods.<sup>2</sup> Those who came before 1848 were called "Grays." Immigrants of that era were often poorer laborers. The terms "Forty-Eighters" was often attached to the merchants, manufacturers, and professionals who came to America from Germany between 1848-1866. Many Germans who were disappointed in the failure of the political reforms proposed in 1848 for the German states immigrated at that time. The period after 1866 included those interested in developing commercial enterprises in the United States.

Throughout the nineteenth century, a series of events in Europe combined to cause immigration on a massive scale. The aftermath of the Napoleonic Wars following 1812, crop failures in 1846-47 and during the 1850s in Germany, not to mention the failure of the 1848 Revolution, caused thousands of Germans to seek a new life in America.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

History of Pike and Dubois Counties, Indiana.  
Chicago: Goodspeed Brothers, 1885.

Kreitzer, Alves John. A History of Northeast Dubois County.  
Oxford, IN: Richard B. Cross Co., Printers, 1970.

Lang, Elfrieda. "German Immigration to Dubois County, Indiana, during the Nineteenth Century," Indiana Magazine of History, Vol. XLI, June 1945, pp. 131-51.

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property 9.2 acres

UTM References

A 

1	6
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5	1	5	4	4	5
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4	2	5	7	3	7	5
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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the point where the north range line of Section 2, Township 1 south, range 4 west intersects with the west right-of-way of Dubois County Road 445 East, then west 500 feet, then south 800 feet, then east 500 feet to the west right-of-way of CR 445E, then north 800 feet along said right-of-way to the point of origin.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all historic resources associated with the church and preserves the rural setting of the buildings. Historically, the church was a major landowner in the county, and they still maintain 40 acres surrounding the buildings. The boundary acknowledges this without including cultivated land owned by the church.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Lisa Gehlhausen, Manager, Planning Section  
organization Indiana 15 Regional Planning Comm. date 9/14/88  
street & number 511 4th Street, P.O. Box 70 telephone 812-683-4647  
city or town Huntingburg state IN zip code 47542

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1 E. L. Emanuels Kirche

The north and south elevations of the church are mirror images. Each elevation has five evenly spaced bays marked by large lancet windows. The lancet windows have plain wood surrounds. Each window has an eight light lower sash. The upper sashes have curvilinear mutins forming a Gothic tracery pattern. The roofing material is visible from the north and south sides. The roof is covered with an unknown type of standing seam metal. A small brick chimney breaks the gable ridge just west of the center of the building.

The west end of the building has a plain gable end with a single door offset to the north.

The interior of the church is austere in character (Photos 6 & 7). The interior is a single, undivided volume capable of seating 200 people. All interior walls have wainscoting composed of a plain baseboard and diagonal boards capped by a molded chair rail. Upper walls and the ceiling are covered by narrow horizontal car siding. The ceiling was constructed in a barrel vault-like form which is flattened towards the crown. The east end of the church has a staircase leading to the belfry. Two large free standing posts support the square belfry tower. The spire houses a bell which was salvaged from the previous (1863) church for this congregation (Photo 8). A rope at the east end of the church operates the bell. The nave of the building has two rows of original wood pews divided by a single aisle. Five lancet windows on the north and south walls illuminate the nave. The west end of the church is elevated one step above the floor level of the rest of the church. An original altar occupies the center of the wall. It has an altarpiece back in the form of a lancet arch supported by Gothic colonettes. North of the altar along this wall is the original elevated octagonal pulpit. The original lectern stands south of the altar.

The church is virtually unaltered on both the exterior and interior. All alterations to the church are minor in nature. As mentioned earlier, the spire drum louvers have been infilled. The standing seam roof may be a later replacement material. Electrical service was added at an unknown date, allowing florescent suspended fixtures to be installed in the church. A modern space heater has also been installed.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2 E. L. Emanuels Kirche

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Schoolhouse

This one room structure was built as a public school and bought by the church soon after its erection in 1889. The Hill School has many of the same architectural elements as the church. It was built in 1889, and originally stood just south of the cemetery. The school was moved to its present site shortly after the church was erected in 1901. The building is oriented parallel to the church, but its front faces west rather than east. (This change in facing may result from the move.) Hill School is a one story, gable-roofed structure resting on a scabbled stone foundation. Its walls are sheathed in plain clapboard siding, with corner boards having a pilaster-like treatment at the top. The moderately steep gable roof is covered with an undetermined type of standing seam metal.

The main front faces west and features a recessed entry similar to the main church entry (Photo 9). The opening has plain surrounds and a modest entablature. A portiere frieze of plain spindles is supported by jigsaw scroll brackets. Two of the three sides of the recessed entry have a single leaf four paneled door. Electrical service meters and connections have been added to this facade. A plain frieze board completes the plain gable end, and is carried around the entire building.

The north and south elevations of Hill School are mirror images. Each side has three symmetrically placed four-over-four double hung sash windows with plain surrounds and modest entablature headers. The east elevation of the school has no openings of any kind, but repeats the plain frieze in the gable.

The interior of the schoolhouse is unornamented and austere (Photo 10). The building's interior is composed of one undivided room. Window moldings consist of plain boards. Interior walls are sheathed in wide horizontal boards. The ceiling is finished with narrow planking. The large central table and benches are original to the schoolhouse. The original heating stove has been removed.

Parsonage

Standing about 250 feet south of the church is the parsonage, an

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3 E. L. Emanuels Kirche

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upright-and-wing frame house built in 1891. This house is more plain in detailing than the church or school, yet visually, it relates well to the complex. The foundation has been obscured by vertical boards. The walls are covered with clapboard siding, the corner boards have a pilaster-like treatment at the top.

The house consists of a two bay, two story gabled block with the gable ends facing north and south, intersected by a perpendicular one bay, one and one-half story gabled wing. The house forms a L-shaped plan with a shed roof porch lining the inner corner of the "L". A shed roof section extends the house to the north. Window openings are symmetrically placed in the gable ends. Most of the windows are tall, two-over-two double-hung sash with plain surrounds. The surrounds have a modest entablature molding at the header. There is one six-over-six window in the gable end of the wing. As with other buildings in the complex, the parsonage has a wide, plain frieze board.

The roof of the parsonage is very similar, if not identical, in pitch to the gables of the church and school. Asphalt shingles now cover the roof. There are two brick chimneys for the house: one is centered in the two story block, another larger stack pierces the north roof of the wing.

The parsonage is more altered than the church or school, but its basic form and modest details are still quite intact. The porch has been rebuilt with square posts and wood lattice-work screens. Vertical boards have been added to screen the foundation. The interior is undergoing rehabilitation by its current tenants.

### Garage

A small frame garage building is also located on the property. It is one story in height and has clapboard siding. The garage building appears to date from about 1900 and is now used to store maintenance equipment.

### Cemetery

Located immediately north of the church is a small cemetery. The cemetery is typical of other such rural sites in terms of its

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 4 E. L. Emanuels Kirche

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siting (next to a church, facing a county road) and layout. The markers are arranged in evenly spaced rows. The stones are modest in design and scale. Most markers are of limestone. The most predominant form is that of a small pylon with chamfered corners and lobed tops. Since the congregation was organized in 1858, the cemetery has many markers of early settlers from this part of Dubois County. From 1858 until 1970, there have been 362 burials in the cemetery.

Barn

A small frame barn is located west of the parsonage (Photo 12). It may have served as a carriage house for the parsonage. Probably built in about 1900, the barn is a one story gabled structure with vertical wood siding and sheet metal roofing. There is a lean-to addition to the north.

Outhouses

Two wood frame outhouses stand west of the Hill Church (one for men, the other for women). These outhouses were probably built in about 1900 (Photo 13). One of the outhouses has horizontal wood siding, the other was vertical wood siding. Each has a gable roof covered with sheet metal roofing. The entry of each building is screened off by a wall of sheet metal.

Overall, the Hill Church complex is an unusually intact example of a rural religious center. The cemetery, school, parsonage, and church reflect over a century of continuous use.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1 E. L. Emanuels Kirche

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The German tendency to settle in clusters has often been noted. In fact, a number of associations were formed during the 1830s and 1850s which sought to encourage German immigration to one area which would have become a German "state." Although this movement failed, Germans maintained their identity by establishing villages in the midwest. Religion also played an important role in German immigration and settlement. In the 1840s, changes in the established church in Prussia caused many Lutherans to come to America.<sup>3</sup> Religious intolerance, often directed towards more unusual sects, also fostered immigration. Once in America, Germans often based settlements on religious backgrounds. In Indiana, for example, the German Catholic village of Oldenburg (NRHP, 3-3-83) developed around a Catholic monastery and convent. One of the most noteworthy examples in Indiana is the settlement of Harmonie by a Protestant sect The Rappites (now known as New Harmony, NHL, 10-15-66). Harmonie was established as an experimental religious community in 1814 by George Rapp. Religious institutions were the center of German life. Often, public functions, such as education, were provided by churches.

Attracted by inexpensive yet fertile land in Northern States, nearly 70% of German immigrants settled in states adjacent to Indiana. The Hoosier state ranked seventh in the number of German immigrants, yet over half of the state's foreign population was German consistently during the 1800s. By 1870, Dubois County had the third largest German population of all of Indiana's 92 counties. The greatest period of German settlement in Dubois County was from 1852-1860.

German immigration left an indelible mark on the history of Dubois County. Founded 1817, Dubois County was first settled by pioneers from Kentucky, the Carolinas, Tennessee, and Virginia who followed the "Buffalo Trace" into the county (This path cuts through Harbison Township.)<sup>4</sup> The southern half of the county was populated mainly by Germans. The towns of Jasper and Ferdinand are both German Catholic settlements. The southern half of the county appears to have been populated by German Catholics. Ferdinand houses the Convent of the Immaculate Conception (NRHP, 7-13-83) while nearby St. Meinrad just south of the Dubois County line in Spencer County is occupied by a monastery.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2 E. L. Emanuels Kirche

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Later in the 1800s, German Lutherans settled in Northern Dubois County, close to, yet distinct from their German Catholic neighbors. County histories note that:

Originally, Harbison Township was settled along the "Buffalo Trace," by Americans from the south; but farmers of German parentage have purchased practically all the farms of the township...5

County histories written during the early 1900s list four Lutheran congregations in the township and no other denominations.

While Hill Church is not Germanic in terms of its architectural forms, it is specifically German in its combination of social, religious, and educational functions. The congregation was formed in 1858 under Rev. Conrad Risch, during the era of greatest German immigration to the county. It is one of the oldest Lutheran congregations in Dubois County. Typical of a German settlement, Hill Church assumed the responsibility of educating its parishoners and probably others in the township. The schoolhouse was bought from Harbison Township in 1889. According to one account, the earliest schools in the area were provided by protestant churches, including this building at Hill Church.<sup>6</sup> The school offered instruction in German since most pupils did not speak English, and taught regular as well as religious subjects. After an organized public school system was initiated, pupils were excused for six to eight weeks to attend church school at buildings such as this schoolhouse. It is apparently the only remaining school of this type in Harbison Township. (There is currently no comprehensive historical/architectural survey of Dubois County; this statement is based on personal knowledge).

Buildings have been added and replaced on this property, reflecting the growth and development of the congregation. A three-bay gable front church was erected in 1863 just north of the current church site. A tower was added in 1878. This church was replaced by the current church in 1901. The schoolhouse was built in 1889 as a public school and subsequently bought by the church. In 1901, when the current church was built, it was moved from

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 3 E. L. Emanuels Kirche

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south of the cemetery to its current site. A parsonage was built in 1891. The cemetery has developed as necessary by the church.

The Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church also has architectural significance. The church is not Germanic in its style, as noted earlier (The multi-gabled spire, however, is perhaps German in inspiration.) The church is a significant example of a gable front vernacular building. This simple format of a rectangular gabled mass with perpendicular orientation was used on rural public buildings in Indiana throughout the 1800s. In Dubois County, this vernacular appeared on second generation era buildings. The Shiloh Meeting House (NRHP, 7-29-82) in nearby Ireland is an early example dating from 1849. It is noteworthy that Shiloh Meeting House was built for a Scotch-Irish congregation, since Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran church erected a nearly identical church in 1863. Apparently, the congregation would compromise on architecture while preserving German cultural tendencies. By 1901, churches were being erected in the Tudor Revival style, yet Hill Church chose to essentially duplicate their previous church on a larger scale. The current 1901 church is unusual in that it preserves this gable-front vernacular on a turn of the century building. The persistence of the gable-front type into the 1900s probably reflects both the conservative values of the congregation and the relatively isolated, rural nature of Dubois County during that period.

Hill Church is also noteworthy for its Victorian Gothic detailing. The elaborate millwork of the entrance and gable, the pointed arch windows with crossing mutins, and use of fishscale shingles make the church a fine example of the Victorian Gothic style.

The primary buildings of the complex have exceptional integrity by any standards. Both the church and school have retained nearly all exterior and interior design elements and materials. Although no longer actively used as a church, the grounds are maintained by the Emanuel Cemetery Association which was organized in 1971. Special events are held on the grounds and other active congregations occasionally hold services in the church. The parsonage is rented out as a single family residence.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   8   Page   4   E. L. Emanuels Kirche

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END NOTES

1. Elfrieda Lang, "German Immigration to Dubois County, Indiana. During the Nineteenth Century," Indiana Magazine of History, Vol. XLI, June 1945 p. 131.
2. Information in the following paragraph is found in Lang.
3. Lang, quoting from the St. Louis Republican, June 7, 1843.
4. George R. Wilson, Wilson's History of Dubois County, (George R. Wilson, c.1910), p.101.
5. Wilson, p.350.
6. Alves John Kreitzer, A History of Northeast Dubois County, (Oxford, IN: Richard B. Cross Co., Printers, 1970, p.256.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 1 E. L. Emanuels Kirche

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Sister Dominic, Author  
New Harmony Historic District, 10-15-66  
I. George Blake, Author.  
Oldenburg Historic District, 3-3-83,  
William Selm, Author.  
Shiloh Meeting House and Cemetery, 7-29-82,  
Judge S. Hugh Dillin, Author

Weintraut, Linda. "Settlement in Sixteen Counties in Southwestern  
Indiana." Resource Protection Planning Process Document,  
Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis, April, 1989.

Wilson, George R. History and Art Souvenir of Dubois County.  
No Publisher, 1896.

Wilson, George R. Wilson's History of Dubois County. George  
R. Wilson, c. 1910.

N. RL SEC 2, TWP 15  
R 4W

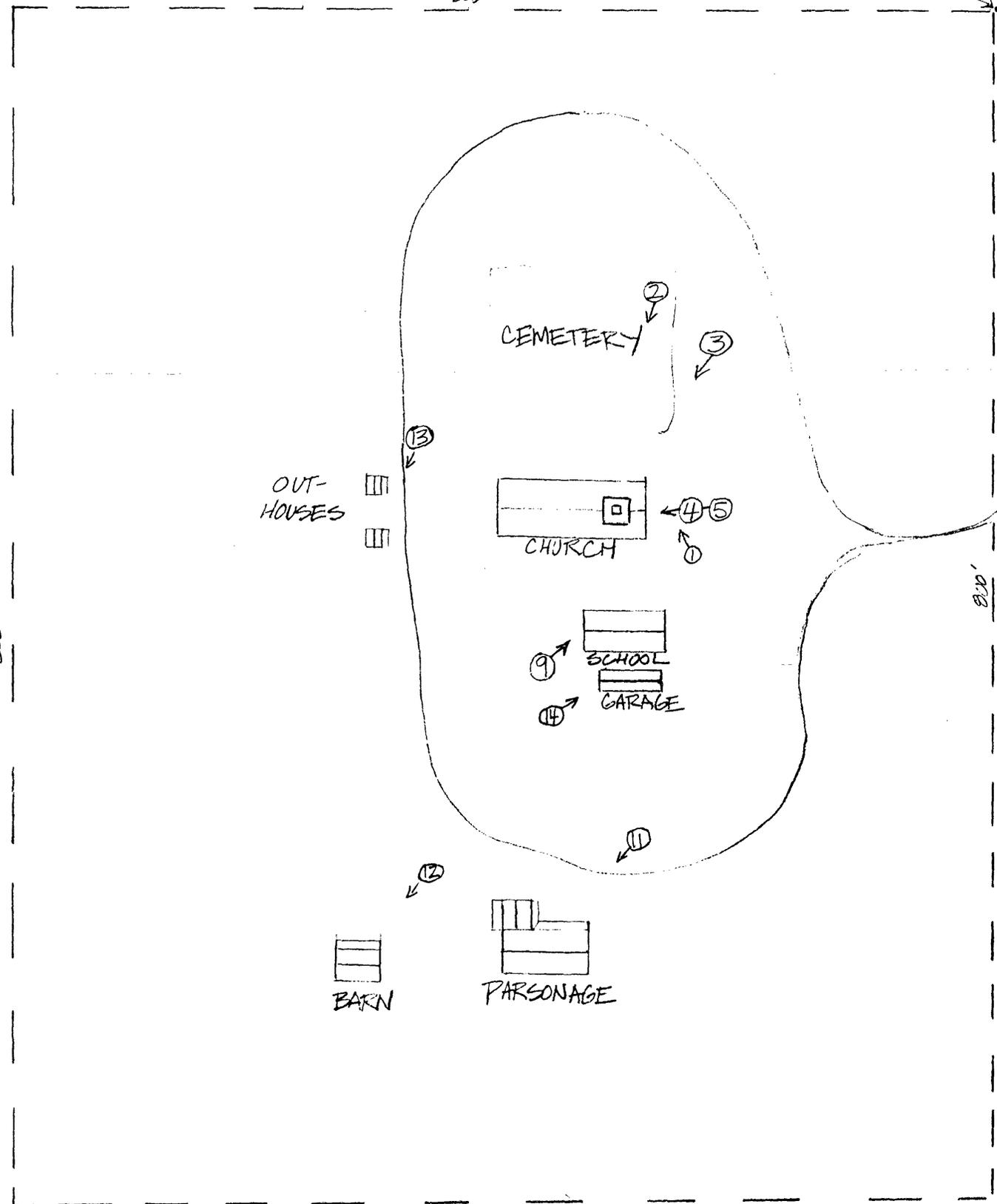
500'

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COUNTY ROAD 445 E

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EVANGELISCHE LUTHERISCHE EMANUELS KIRCHE  
 DUBOIS COUNTY, IN  
 ALL RESOURCES ARE CONTRIBUTING  
 --- BOUNDARY    ① → PHOTOS  
 NOT TO SCALE

