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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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AUG 17 1988

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

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 Ewbank, Lancelot C. House  
other names/site number Ewbank-Loudermilk House

2. Location

street & number Parke County Roads 102E between 1200N and 300E  not for publication  
city, town   vicinity  
state IN code IN county Parke code 121 zip code 47832

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: \_\_\_\_\_

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.

*Richard Mark for J. M. Redman* 7-15-88  
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.  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:)

*Patrick Andrews* 9/26/88  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic - single dwelling

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic - single dwelling

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

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Eastlake

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

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walls Brick

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Stone - limestone

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roof Metal - tin

---

other Wood

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Lancelot C. Ewbank House is a stately two story Italianate style home overlooking Parke County farms and woodland. The brick house has a T-shaped plan and has many typical elements of high-style Italianate architecture. A wide, well detailed entablature with large scroll brackets, the wooden porch with chamfered posts and brackets and round arched windows are specific examples of the Italianate architecture of the Ewbank House. The massing and plan of the house also recall Nineteenth century pattern book designs of Italianate homes.

The front block of the house features red brick bearing walls laid in an unusual variant of garden wall bonding, each course alternating two stretchers to one header. The other portions of the house are laid in American common bond. All of the exterior walls are 15" thick with a 2" air space, the walls rest on a brick foundation. Cast iron vents at ground level ventilate the air space, allowing the home to remain 10° to 15° cooler than the outside temperature.

The main facade of the Ewbank House faces north (photo 2). A three bay block projects forward and includes the main entry and the main porch. The walls are laid as previously described, with round arched, gauged brick window openings with simple limestone sills. The windows are wood-framed one-over-one double-hung sash with round arched upper sashes to match the window openings. This type of window is found on all facades of the two-story portion of the house.

The main entry is offset to the east and consists of a paneled, large single light door with a transom and simple wood surround.

The second story has three symmetrically placed typical windows. Above this, a wide entablature built of poplar finishes the wall. The entablature has an architrave of triangular wood tabs, separated by a molded astragal from a frieze of vertical boards incised with stylized fleur-de-lis motifs. Large paired scroll brackets support the deep eaves. The eaves contain a wood box gutter with a molded cornice finish. This type of entablature is used on all sides of the two story portion of the home (photo 4).

The Ewbank House has a truncated hip roof sheathed in standing seam tin roofing.

A one story wooden porch is attached to the main facade projection (photo 3). The chamfered porch posts rest on chamfered plinths with elaborate, wide base moldings. Three brackets spring from the "capitals" of the porch posts, one projects forward and supports the porch cornice while two other smaller brackets brace the porch frieze. The outside corners of the porch have four brackets, two under the porch cornice and two under the porch frieze. These brackets are  See continuation sheet

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roughly triangular, with scroll-like ends, chamfering and other ornamentation. The porch has a frieze of panels, the end and side panels have diagonal siding and the central panel has vertical siding. The main porch has a box gutter with a cornice design matching the main roof gutter. The shallow, truncated hip roof of the porch has a covering of standing seam tin.

Two bays flank the central three bay projection of the north facade. These two bays are set back about 20' from the front of the house. The bays are identical in design, with doors matching the main entry on the first story and typical windows on the second floor. A one bay, one story porch matching the front porch is found on both set back bays (photos 1 and 5).

Positioned just several feet behind these flanking bays are one story brick bay windows. The west bay window is semi-octagonal in plan, but the east bay window is square in plan. Each bay window has three typical window openings. Both bay windows have plain wood entablatures and standing seam tin roofs.

The east and west facades are detailed and finished to match the main facade (photos 1 and 5). The walls of the northern projection has no openings on the east or west facades. A typical window is centered above the bay windows of each side.

A one story kitchen block extends to the south from the two-story area of the house (photo 6). The east and west facades of the kitchen block each have one window opening. Typical windows on this section have segmental arches of double rowlock coursing and plain limestone sills. The fenestration is wood double-hung, two-over-two sash with rectangular upper sashes. A wood frieze of vertical boards follows around this one story block. It is made of alternately long and short planks, the longer planks having triangular ends. The kitchen block also has a box gutter and hip roof with standing seam tin designed to match the main block.

A one story, brick, gabled summer kitchen/smokehouse structure extends to the south of the house proper. This structure was once freestanding and is centered behind the main block of the Ewbank House. The current owner connected the house to the summer kitchen in 1978 in a sympathetic manner using poplar board and batten siding and brick salvaged from old buildings in the area. The summer kitchen has one window on the east and west sides with a single course rowlock segmental arch, limestone sills and four-over-four double-hung sash. The summer kitchen has no eaves trim and has a standing seam tin roof which has been extended to the main block, where it meets a short shed roof at right angles. The summer kitchen has a

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small square chimney which stands just west of the roof ridge.

The south facade of the Ewbank House presents the end walls of the various sections of the house. The summer kitchen wall has no openings. The kitchen block has two flanking windows. The main block has no openings, and the entablature on this facade has one bracket at each corner only.

There are several inscriptions on the exterior which are of interest. Printed with chalk on the sheathing in the valley of the east side of the roof is the following:

J. M. Burke  
Montgomery Cty  
Crawfordsville  
July 6, 1883

Also, a brick which was laid upside down in the east wall bears the name "J. Lawson" printed with dots. The first note probably refers to John M. Burke, a tinner from Gregg and Son of Crawfordsville, Indiana, while the latter inscription remains anonymous.

The interior of the Ewbank House is as well detailed and finished as the exterior. The style of the interior combines Italianate style elements with Eastlake style detailing. One enters the house from the north into a side stairhall with a staircase which curves to the west as it reaches the second floor (photo 7). The elaborately turned newel post is of walnut, the molded handrail is of cherry wood, while oak was used for the balusters, treads and risers. The balusters have reel and urn turnings, and step ends have a carved scroll motif. The stair string has a bead and reel molding.

The stairhall has two doorways on the west wall. The door to the north opens into a parlor, which has two windows facing onto the front porch. The parlor has wide plank wood flooring. An original, cast-iron mantle stands centered in the east wall of the parlor. It has a round arched opening with archivolts, paneled spandrels and a simple cartouche keystone. The hearth is of stone.

This surround design is typical throughout the interior. The various doors of the parlor have four beveled panels with taller panels above and short panels below. The original porcelain knobs and iron rim locks are still in tact on most doors. The doors on the east wall of the parlor have single-light transoms, as do almost all the doors in the house. A set of triple doors on the south wall of the parlor is the exception to this rule. The surround has typical detailing, but the doors have an

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extra horizontal panel, between the upper vertical panels and lower panels.

These triple doors open into a second parlor, which may have been a formal dining room (photo 9). This room is conveniently placed, with direct access to any part of the house. On the east wall, a door to the north leads to the stairhall, and a door to the south leads to a formal room on the east side of the house. The limestone hearth and marble mantelpiece on this wall are antique replacements, added in 1984. On the south wall, two doors lead to the rear one story block of the house, which houses a kitchen and a chamber now used as a dining room. The west wall of the second parlor features the interior of a semi-octagonal bay window (photo 10). In addition to the previously mentioned triple doors, the north wall of this room has a doorway leading to the west side porch. All of the doors and windows have typical detailing, with typical oak moldings.

To the east of this second parlor, one finds a chamber which may have been a bedroom (the room is described as the "parent's bedroom" by the current owner). The usual wood-working elements are found in the parent's bedroom. The east wall has a square bay window. The north wall has a single door adjacent to the bay window which leads to the east side porch.

The rear kitchen/dining room block of the house has simple, functional moldings, indicating the utilitarian nature of the area (photo 11). The flooring is of wide oak boards, while the baseboards, surrounds and doors are yellow poplar. All moldings in this section are simple, flat boards. Lintel boards overlap slightly, producing a shouldered surround effect. A built-in cupboard is found on the west wall of the kitchen (photo 11). It has paneled doors with a pair of tall doors resting above a pair of square lower doors. The pressed tin ceiling in the kitchen was installed in 1984.

A small pantry/bathroom chamber adjoins the kitchen to the east. Originally, this area was one room, the bathroom. It was a private room, with a heating stove, sink and toilet, in which one could draw a bath in a portable tub. At a later undetermined time, the one-half bath area was partitioned off from the rest of the room. A hatch in the pantry room floor leads to a one room cellar under the kitchen.

A 1978 extension now connects the summer kitchen/smokehouse to the house proper. The current owner installed a modern kitchen in the summer kitchen in 1978, leaving the previously described kitchen proper nearly unaltered.

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The second floor the Ewbank House is reached by one main staircase. The stairs and stairwell curves to the west as one ascends to the second floor (photo 12). A stair rail of identical design to the stair hall rail lines the second floor hall/stairwell, which doubles back to the north in an "L" plan (photo 7). There are three bedrooms upstairs, all have transomed doors and narrow closet doors. One bedroom was converted to a full bathroom using a claw-footed tub and reproduction fixtures in 1977.

This nomination includes the house and summer kitchen, counting as two contributing buildings and a brick kiln site immediately southeast of the house. The kiln location is marked by discolored soil and broken bricks. The kiln location has been counted as one contributing site.

**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)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1883  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1883  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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 Lancelot C. Ewbank House is significant as one of the finest residential examples of high-style Italianate architecture in Parke County, Indiana. In its plan, quality of craftsmanship and detail as well as excellent integrity, the Ewbank House rivals or surpasses even the best Italianate homes in the county seat of Rockville.

The development of the Italiante style in Parke County appears to parallel the introduction of the style into Indiana in general. In general, the Italianate style was one of the most popular Nineteenth Century modes in Indiana. As with most of the state, the I-house with simple Greek Revival detailing remained a popular farmhouse design from 1816 (the date of Indiana's admittance to the Union) into the 1850s. The use of, or perhaps addition of, ornamental scroll brackets to the entablature of an otherwise Greek Revival I-house seems to be the first introduction of Italianate architecture into residential design. By the 1860s, the style was applied to new forms and began to emerge from this transitional period. A square, hip-roofed structure with a large bracketed cornice was the first type of truly Italianate house. To this square house, builders introduced a variety of plans, ranging from asymmetrical L-shaped schemes to symmetrical T-shaped plans. The mature Italianate house had been developed by about 1870. Italianate homes continued to be built in large numbers well into the 1880s throughout Indiana.

To be considered significant within the context of Italianate homes in Parke County, Indiana, a residence should exhibit a plan and sufficient details to be recognizable as a good example of the style. Transitional style homes, such as an I-house with applied detailing, do not illustrate this particular historic context. Integrity of entablature detailing and porches, as well as structural opening dimensions, are essential in order to be considered within this context. The Ewbank House has many high-style Italianate features which clearly identify its architectural style. The integrity of the Ewbank House is exceptional by most any standards. The connection between the summer kitchen and main house has altered the relationship between the structures, yet, the addition is both harmonious and distinct from the historic portions of the house. This addition has also allowed the kitchen interior of the house proper to remain intact.

The Ewbank House is notable for its refined craftsmanship. While the elaborate wooden

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

- Beckwith, Hiram W. History of Vigo and Parke Counties.  
Chicago - Hilland Iddings, 1880, pp. 443-447.
- Beasley's Crawfordsville Directory, 1878-1879.  
Lafayette, IN - Spring and Robertson, 1878, p.41.
- John and Anne Ewbank Family and John and Jane Smith Family.  
Indianapolis - Farson Printing Co., 624 East Walnut St., 1963.
- Peat, Wilbur. Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth century.  
Indianapolis - Indiana Historical Society, 1962.

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**

Acreege of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A 

1	6	4	8	1	5	6	0	4	4	1	9	0	4	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description A rectangular tract of land within the Loudermilk severance in the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 16, Township 17 north, range 7 west in Parke County, Indiana, which can be described as follows:

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nomination boundary includes the house and a contributing brick kiln site which is directly related to the construction of the house. The boundary is drawn to insure inclusion of these resources with a minimal buffer.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Eileen A. Loudermilk

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date June 8, 1988

street & number R. R. 1, Box 104 telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Bloomigdale state IN zip code 47832



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porches and bracketed entablature are obvious examples of the level of workmanship used on the home, the brick work is perhaps more significant. The three bay front portion of the house features an unusual garden wall bonding technique, alternating two stretchers to one header. This level of detail is carried through on the interior, making the home a good example of the architectural sophistication a wealthy land owner could demand.

The Ewbank House is also of local historical interest. It is the second of three two-story brick houses built in a joint effort by the Ewbank and Ratcliff Families within a two and one-half mile triangle.

In 1882 Lancelot's brother, Jacob Ewbank, built his house on Ratcliff Road in Fountain County two and one-half miles north of Lancelot's farm.

In 1883, Lancelot built the subject house on a portion of the farm his father Lancelot Ewbank, Sr., purchased in 1837 from the United States as unbroken forest in Parke County. Lancelot's father was the first physician in Sugar Creek Township and built the first frame house in the township. After his father's death in 1857 and prior to 1865 Lancelot acquired title to 80 acres of his father's farm.

In 1884, Tom Ratcliff, Uncle of Lancelot's wife, Mary Ratcliff, built his house in Parke County two miles northwest of Lancelot's farm.

Bricks for Jacob Ewbank's house and Tom Ratcliff's house were formed from the clay deposit and fired in the kiln located at Lancelot's site. The three houses are standing and occupied.

Lancelot commenced preparation for construction of his house in 1880. Mary Ellen Ewbank Simperts, Lancelot's granddaughter, was told by her father, Eldo Ewbank, that it took three years to construct the house: one year to cut the timber from the farm and prepare the timber for building; one year to form the bricks from a clay deposit on the farm (believed to have been a few yards southeast of the house site) and fire the bricks in a large kiln located at the site which left clay color and brick residue in the soil; and one year to build. The roof was laid by John M. Burke, a tinsmith from Crawfordsville, Indiana. Burke, who is listed in Crawfordsville directories as a tinner for Gregg and Son, left his name on the east side of the roof in the summer of 1883.

Lancelot C. Ewbank was born July 20, 1837, fought in the Civil War from 1861 to 1864, taught school for seven terms in Parke County, held many local official positions, served as Justice of the Peace for twelve years, worked at carpentering and was a successful farmer. By 1893 he had

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acquired 284 acres of land and a "snug little fortune". He owned strip coal mines and sold timber.

Lancelot lived in his house until 1905 when he and his wife, Mary, moved into the new house he built in Kingman, Indiana, where he died July 21, 1910. After 1905 and prior to Lancelot's death subject house was sold.

The current owner began rehabilitation of the Ewbank House without assistance in February of 1977. The project has included replacing missing mantle pieces and hearths, installing an upstairs bathroom, and adding a modern kitchen in the summer kitchen structure. She plans to rebuild the four missing chimney stacks, which had been removed from the roofline, refinish damaged floors and install exterior shutters. The owner is also considering using the home as a bed and breakfast inn.

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Portrait and Biographical record of Montgomery, Parke and Fountain Counties, Indiana.  
Chicago - Chapman Bros., 1893, p.263.

Simpers, Mary Ellen Ewbank, Granddaughter of Lancelot C. Ewbank, Glenfruin,  
R. R. 3, Box 211, Crawfordsville, IN 47933.  
Interviews with Eileen A. Loudermilk.

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To find the point of origin, start from the southwest corner point of the Loudermilk severance, follow a line north 05 degrees 16 minutes West a distance of 135.12 feet to an iron rod set in an existing fence, then 85 degrees 59 minutes East, along an existing fence, a distance of 55.24 feet to an existing wood corner post. This is the point of origin. From this point follow North 00 degrees 47 minutes West along an existing fence for 142.08 feet to an existing wood corner post. Follow a line due East for 200 feet. Turn due South and follow a line for 142.08 feet. Turn due West and follow for 200 feet to point of origin. See enclosed map.

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NOTE: THIS PLAN IS NOT SHOWING  
EASES OR PIPE CAN NOT BE  
USED FOR BUILDING FENCES  
OR SETTLING PROPERTY LINE  
DISPUTES

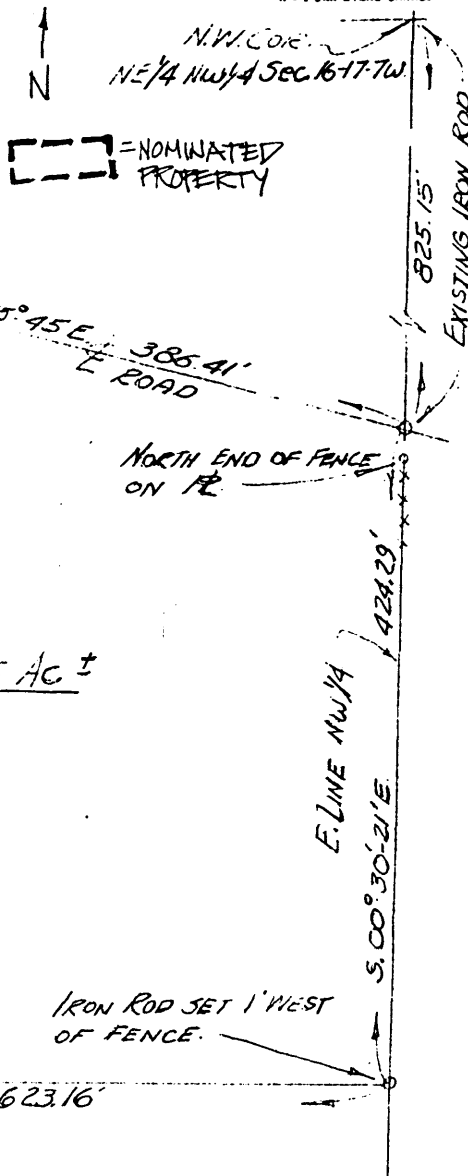
ARTHUR F. HAUFLE, INC.

LAND SURVEYING  
526 PEOPLES BANK BUILDING  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA  
PHONE: 632-5003  
LIABILITY INSURED

(#75-3-96)A

LEGEND -

- A - 1 STORY FRAME DWELLING
- B - 2 STORY FRAME DWELLING
- C - 1 STORY BRICK DWELLING
- D - 2 STORY BRICK DWELLING
- E - 1 STORY STONE DWELLING
- F - 2 STORY STONE DWELLING
- G - 1 CAR FRAME GARAGE
- H - 2 CAR FRAME GARAGE
- I - 1 CAR CONC. BR. GARAGE
- J - 2 CAR CONC. BR. GARAGE
- K - 1 CAR BRICK GARAGE
- L - 2 CAR BRICK GARAGE
- M - 1 CAR STONE GARAGE
- N - 2 CAR STONE GARAGE



Re: Severance from  
Lowdermilk Property  
Parke County, Indiana

Part of the Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 16, Township 17 North, Range 7 West in Parke County, Indiana. (Complete legal description on Sheet 2.)