

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

56-1060

# 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: Forrester, James and Lavinia, Farmstead

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

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

### 2. Location

Street & number: 969 Forrester Road

City or town: LaPorte State: IN County: LaPorte

Not For Publication:  Vicinity: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  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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A  B  C  D

<u>Paul C. Daniel</u>	<u>4.20.17</u>
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 <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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**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:)

*for Edison H. Beall*  
Signature of the Keeper

6-12-17  
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

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>4</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: single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: storage

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: animal facility

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural outbuilding

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

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

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

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate

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

foundation: STONE: Granite

walls: BRICK

WOOD: Weatherboard

roof: ASPHALT

other: CONCRETE

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### 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 James and Lavinia Forrester Farmstead features an exceptional example of an Italianate cube-style house with significant interior features that date to the construction of the house in 1858. The house has a c. 1955 garage attached to its northwest corner. While the house is the most outstanding feature of the property, three other early twentieth century agricultural-related resources are also located on the property. The resources are considered contributing and include a gambrel-roofed barn, chicken coop, and a concrete stave silo. An equipment shed, considered non-contributing due to its construction in the mid-twentieth century, is also located on the property. The house was substantially restored in 2015.

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## Narrative Description

The James and Lavinia Forrester Farmstead is located on the northeast corner of Forrester Road and a bend in former State Road 2. The farmstead includes a barn, chicken coop, silo, and an equipment shed. Lawn covers most of the farmstead except where overgrown fence lines and pastures on the north and east sides of the property are wooded. A few mature trees are located around the house. These include a pair of trees that flank a sidewalk leading from Forrester Road to an entry on the west side of the house. An iron gate is located at the end of the sidewalk near the road. An old water hand pump is located off the west porch.

The site is slightly skewed from true north. The west walls of the buildings are parallel with Forrester Road on the west side of the property which runs slightly northwest. For purposes of this document, the south walls of the buildings which face slightly southeast, shall be called the south or front facades and the remaining facades: north, east, and west.

### Forrester House, 1858. Italianate. Contributing

#### *Exterior: photographs 0001-0003*

The Forrester House is situated a comfortable distance north of old State Road 2. The house faces south and is nearer Forrester Road on its west side. The two-story brick house is a cube with a pyramidal roof and cupola. The house has a one-and-a-half story rear ell with gabled roof and side porches. The ell has an attached garage with a gable roof on its northwest corner, constructed in c. 1955 (left side of photo 0002). The house has a foundation composed of six courses of cut limestone, 6/6 wood windows with stone sills and lintels, and a bracketed cornice with wide overhanging eaves. Wood storm windows cover the 6/6 windows. Historic wood shutters originally for the house are in storage on the property. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Two chimneys are located on the east and west walls and a chimney is located near the center of the rear ell. The cupola is covered with board-and-batten siding and has three small wood windows with two panes in each wall. The cupola has brackets that support the roof and a wood railing on its roof.

The front façade is symmetrically arranged with three bays (photo 0001). The center bay has a wood porch with a hipped roof supported by two square Doric columns. The porch was constructed in 2015 and replaced a non-historic porch built c. 1955. That porch took the place of a full porch with a flat roof supported by pairs or groups of thin posts. The entry has a wood four-panel door with a transom divided into two lites. A window is located in the second floor of the center bay. The other two bays have a window in the first and second floors and a 3/3 basement window.

The east façade of the cube is symmetrical and has three equal bays with a window in the first and second floors in each bay and 3/3 basement windows in the north and south bays. The east façade of the rear ell has a full porch with a concrete block foundation (photo 0003). The porch is enclosed with clapboards and has a pent roof. The east façade has five 1/1 wood windows and a wood door with a window south of the northernmost window. The north façade of the porch

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has one 1/1 wood window. The south end of the porch was originally enclosed. The remaining porch was enclosed in c. 1955 and a wood deck was added off the porch door in 2015. The ell has two 3/3 wood windows in the south half of its upper floor.

The north façade of the cube is largely covered by the rear ell and its side porches centered on the façade. A door leads to each of the side porches from the cube. The west door is wood with four panels and has a transom divided into two lites. The east door is wood with four panels. A 6/6 window is located in the second floor of the cube east and west of the rear ell. The ell's eave juts in front of these windows. The north façade of the rear ell has a rubble-limestone foundation and a steel basement bulkhead hatch and steps on its east half (right side of photo 0003). A 6/6 window with a stone sill and segmented brick arch is centered on the first floor. A small door with two wood panels and two small lites is centered in the upper floor. It has a stone sill. The rear window openings were changed in c. 1900 when this back room of the ell was converted from a granary to a kitchen. It is believed that originally there was just a single door or tall window centered in the ell's rear façade.

The west façade of the cube is asymmetrical and has three bays with wide sections of brick between the south and middle bay and north of the north bay (photo 0002). The bays have a window in their first and second floors with 3/3 basement windows in the north and south bays. The west façade of the rear ell has a full porch between the attached garage and cube. The porch has a lattice skirt and a wood floor. Wood steps with flanking wood posts are centered on the porch. The porch has a wood ceiling and a pent roof. The first floor of the ell has a four-panel entry door and transom divided into two lites. A 6/6 window is located to each side of the entry door. The ell has two 3/3 wood windows in the south half of its upper floor. A 6/6 window on the first floor is covered by the attached garage. A 3/3 basement window with a jack arch is below the window.

The attached garage has a front gable (facing west) and is covered with board-and-battens (left side of photo 0002). The garage has a concrete foundation and concrete drive on its west side. There are two wood overhead garage doors in its west wall and two 6/6 wood windows in the south wall. A wood door is located off the west porch of the ell into the garage.

*Interior: photographs 0005-0016*

The arrangement of rooms in the house is fairly typical of Italianate cube-style homes, but includes some interesting features in terms of circulation and use of spaces. The cube part of the house has four rooms on each floor, divided by a pair of staircases that extend north/south in the middle of the house. An entry foyer is centered at the front of the house between two formal rooms with fireplaces on their outside walls. A closet is beneath the staircase in the north wall of the foyer. The front staircase has a small hall at its base that connects the two formal rooms at their inside corners (northeast and northwest corners). The front staircase extends up to the south to a landing at the front of the second floor. The back staircase has winders at its base that open into the northeast corner of the northwest room (originally the dining room) of the house. This staircase extends up to the south. This was a private or service staircase that led to the back two rooms of the second floor while the front staircase led to the front two rooms of the second floor. These front and back areas were originally closed off from each other until c. 1955 when a small

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connection was made through a bathroom added at the same time in the north part of the southeast room.

The first floor's front and back rooms are connected by doorways near the center of their walls. The northwest room had an enframed cabinet or shelved opening beneath the back staircase. It was modified to create an opening to a bathroom created in the northeast room in c. 1955. The opening has been closed in again and a shower is located under the back staircase. The northwest room had a fireplace on its outside wall (it was removed in c. 1955). The room has wainscoting composed of single, 18" boards laid horizontally with a chair rail. Closets are on either side of the doorway between the two rooms on the east side of the house. The west closet opens into the front room and the east closet opens into the back room.

The second floor has four bedrooms with closets and a bathroom carved out of the back half of the southeast room in about 1955. The bathroom has glazed plastic tile wainscoting and period fixtures (photo 0013). The northwest bedroom has a door in the west end of its south wall that leads to an attic staircase (right side of photo 0014). A small closet door is in the same wall beneath the staircase and is east of the attic stair door. The attic staircase goes up to the east. The attic is one large room with brick knee walls around its perimeter. Four large wood posts support the cupola in the center of the attic. A wood ladder leads up to the cupola (photo 0016).

The first floor of the rear ell is divided into two rooms by a service staircase that leads to an upper floor. The ell has a large room, originally used as a kitchen, in its south part (photo 0006) and a smaller room, originally used as a granary, in its north end. The granary was converted to a kitchen in c. 1900 which required closing off an opening into the staircase and lowering both the floor and ceiling of the room. The two rooms are divided by a staircase with winders at its base that opens into the large room in the west end of its north wall. A small passageway connects the two rooms near the east end of the north wall. The passageway has a 4/4 wood window that looks out onto the enclosed porch on the east side of the house. A basement staircase is beneath the service stairs; it opens into the passageway. The former kitchen has wainscoting composed of single, 18" boards laid horizontally with a chair rail. A four-panel wood door with transom and two windows are in the east wall of the room and lead to the enclosed porch on the east side of the house. The existing kitchen has beaded boards covering its exterior walls and ceiling. The interior wall is brick with a wide chimney near its center (photo 0005). The enclosed porch has a small room in its south end that appears to be originally enclosed. It has wood wainscoting and moldings that match other spaces in the house and the wall separating it from the remaining porch is covered with clapboards.

The second floor of the rear ell has knee walls on its east and west sides and angled ceilings (photo 0015). The staircase from the former kitchen has a wood railing around the open stairs. A small closet is in the northwest corner of the space directly above the former kitchen. A doorway leads from this room to the space above the former granary. This space has exposed brick walls and rafters.

The basement of the house was utilized for cooking and storage. The area under the cube was divided into four chambers by brick and stone walls. The area under the ell was used for

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cooking with a hearth located in the north wall of the space under the former kitchen. The area beneath the former granary is only partially excavated and remained unfinished. The floors throughout the other spaces are paved with brick.

The house has poplar flooring and plaster walls and ceilings. Wood baseboards and door and window trim is original and painted. Historic graining is located on wood trim and doors in the southwest bedroom on the second floor. The wood doors have four panels and original metal and porcelain hardware. The house's staircases are wood and fairly utilitarian with no balustrades or newel posts. They have simple wood handrails mounted to the walls. The extant fireplaces in the front two rooms of the cube are composed of Carrera marble with arched openings and iron grates and screens.

One of the most impressive features of the house is the original hand-painted stenciling on the ceilings of a few of the rooms in the cube part of the house. These were covered in c. 1955 but have been uncovered and restored. The stenciling includes both organic and geometric motifs in green, red, and dark tan colors (seen at the top of photo 0007). The rooms with stenciling are the former dining room (northwest room), former den (northeast room), east parlor (southeast room), and southeast bedroom on the second floor. The southwest bedroom also had stenciling and a center medallion but were in irreparable condition.

Barn, 1917. Contributing. Left side of photo 0004.

A side-gabled barn with a gambrel roof is located northwest of the house near Forrester Road. The barn has a pent-roof extension with drive-thru bay on its west wall. The barn has dimensional lumber frame, a concrete foundation and board-and-batten siding. The asphalt-shingled roof has a hay hood on its east side. The barn has a drive-thru center bay with wood doors on tracks. Three small square window openings are in the east wall. The gable walls have two small square window openings in each side with a hay hatch centered in its east gable wall. The windows are covered with wood.

Chicken Coop, c. 1920. Contributing

A small chicken coop with a shed roof is located on the east side of the property in an overgrown, wooded area. The building has a concrete foundation and its walls are sided with narrow clapboards. The roof is covered with corrugated metal. The building has a wood door and two four-lite wood windows on its west wall and two four-lite wood windows on its front (south) wall.

Concrete stave silo, c. 1920. Contributing. Right side of photo 0004.

A concrete stave silo is located north of the house and east of the barn. The silo is approximately eighteen feet tall and does not have a roof.

Equipment shed, c. 1955. Non-contributing. Middle of photo 0004.

An equipment shed with side gables is located north of the barn near the north edge of the property. The steel-framed shed has a dirt floor with five bays open on its front (south) wall. The east wall is composed of two bays; the north bay is open and the south bay is covered with corrugated metal. The north wall's eastern-most two bays are open and the remaining bays are



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covered with corrugated metal siding. The east wall and the roof are covered with corrugated metal.

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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
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

AGRICULTURE

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**Period of Significance**

1858-c. 1920

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**Significant Dates**

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

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

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**Cultural Affiliation**

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

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**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance begins in 1858, the year James Forrester had the Italianate style house constructed on the farm he homesteaded in 1836. The period ends in c. 1920 when the last historic agricultural-related resources, the silo and chicken coop, were constructed on the homestead by members of the Forrester family.

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

N/A

**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 James and Lavinia Forrester Farmstead is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A for its connection to agriculture. The once-massive landholdings of the Forrester family produced much of the wealth that contributed to the construction of the extant house and later agricultural-related buildings. These later buildings demonstrate the continued and evolving role agriculture played at the farmstead into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The property is also eligible under criterion C for the impressive example of an Italianate style house constructed in the cube form. The house has a significant level of historical integrity with particular regard to interior features.

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

Architecture

The Forrester House is an excellent example of the Italianate style used on the construction of a large brick farmhouse. The Italianate style was popular between 1850 and 1880, particularly in Midwestern towns where the expansion of railroads brought wealth to communities and created a building boom during the period. The style traces its roots to England as part of the Picturesque Movement; the movement rejected formal classical ideas of art and architecture that were popular for 200 years. The Picturesque Movement emphasized rambling, informal architecture, including rural Italian farmhouses and villas. As the style became popular in the United States, it was often modified and embellished into a truly Americanized style, typically in wooden construction, due to the plentiful timber in America. Cupolas, towers, and bracketed cornices became the style's hallmarks. The first Italianate houses were constructed in the United States in the late 1830s. The style was popularized by house pattern books by Andrew Jackson Downing during the middle part of the 1800s, but its popularity began to wane as it began to be replaced by the Queen Anne style in the last decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Despite some formality more typical of the Greek Revival style, the home's architectural features are in keeping with the popularity of the Italianate style during its construction date of 1858.

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The Forrester House has decorative, modillion-like scrolled brackets on its cornice that support the home's wide overhanging eaves. This feature is common on buildings constructed in the Italianate style. The home's 6/6 wood windows, and plain lintels and sills are more typical of the Greek Revival style and indicate the house is in transition between the Greek Revival and the Italianate styles. The crowning architectural feature of the house is the wood lantern or cupola centered on the roof. This feature is typical of Italianate cube-type houses. The cupola is short, with rows of three windows on each façade. Brackets support the cupola's roof which is topped with a pierced-wood balustrade. Other important architectural features of the house include historic fireplace surrounds, interior doors and transoms, single-board wainscoting and interior trim. Possibly one of the most unusual features of the house, and a rare survival for homes of this era, is the extensive amount of free-hand painted patterns in four of the large rooms in the front (cube) part of the house. The organic and geometric designs were uncovered during restoration in 2015 and have been preserved. The designs are located in three of the first floor rooms and one of the second floor bedrooms. The designs are in greens, browns, and reds. Though somewhat crude, the designs have exceptional precision given the era of the house and region of the country in which it is found.

Another unusual feature of the house is its arrangement of spaces, circulation, and room uses. The cube part of the house was originally divided into four rooms over four rooms, similar to the later American four square, and divided by two staircases running north/south in line with the front entry. Both staircases lead up toward the south. The redundancy in staircases was created to define two zones, family and servants, on the second floor. Until a small bathroom was created in the north part of the southeast bedroom and a small door added to access the landing of the back staircase (c. 1955), the front and back zones of the second floor were not accessible to each other. The Forresters had several children, but they also had a few servants. According to family history, women servants used the back bedrooms and men servants used the second floor of the ell. Another interesting feature of the floor plan is the inclusion of a granary attached to the back of the rear ell. This appears to have been added shortly after the house was built. In about 1900 the granary, which was a single room with exposed brick walls, was remodeled into the family kitchen. At that time the floor was lowered to the main level's floor and the ceiling was also lowered to the same level as other first floor rooms. This is evident in the attic above the former granary and in renovations on the first floor. Other interesting spatial features include the informally finished basement areas which incorporates a hearth room and other food storage spaces in the rear ell, and an early porch enclosure at the south end of the east porch.

The Forrester House type, the cube form, became popular beginning in the 1850s and may have been the precedent for American four square houses built in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The house is almost exactly 36' square, within an inch, with 15" thick brick walls. The rear ell was an early addition to the house, likely dating shortly after construction in 1858. The stone for the foundation and sills and lintels was quarried and brought from Joliet, Illinois. The foundation was laid on a six inch trench filled with broken glass to prevent rodents burrowing beneath. The brick likely was produced at the Hoover brickyard north of LaPorte. It began producing brick by about 1850. The basement contained rooms for the following purposes: potato room, milk room, fruit room, cook room (hearth area), furnace room, and a dining area. At one time a full

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porch was on the front façade, but it was destroyed by a runaway truck that left the State Road 2 roadway at the curve; the current porch dates to c. 1955. The Sykes family purchased the house in 1953 and made a few changes which included constructing an attached garage on the northwest corner of the house, enclosing the east porch, and the addition of a second floor bathroom.

LaPorte County does not have a preponderance of cube-type Italianates. Much of the county's early architecture was built in the gable-front, upright-and-wing, double-pile, or I-house types. One notably similar example is located at 2555 N. 300 East Road in Kankakee Township. While the front façade is asymmetrically arranged, the house has a nearly identical cupola; it was built in c. 1865 by Lewis Ireland. Some of the more notable early rural architecture in Scipio Township, in which the Forrester House is located, include several I-houses built between about 1850 and 1875, mostly in the Greek Revival style. The township also has a few gable-front and gabled-ell houses built in the Italianate style during the 1860s-70s. The largest example of the Italianate style in the township is the LaPorte County Home, a few miles east of the Forrester House on State Road 2, built in 1886.

In a general review of cube-style Italianate houses in the Calumet Region of Indiana, which includes Lake and Porter counties, and in adjacent St. Joseph County east of LaPorte County, there are a handful of exceptional examples of the house type. Porter County, adjacent to the west side of LaPorte County, features three exceptional Italianate cube houses. The Josephus Wolf House (1875) is located on County Road 4560 W in Portage Township. The John Prentiss House (c. 1880) is located on County Road 150 W in Center Township near Valparaiso. The third example is the Conrad and Catherine Bloch House at 608 Academy Drive, built c. 1873 in Valparaiso. The Wolf and Bloch houses are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The most comparable example in Lake County is the Walnut Grove/Morgan-Boyd House (1877/1879) located in Merrillville in Ross Township at 111 E. 73<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. It is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

St. Joseph County has eight noteworthy examples of Italianate cube houses. The Amos Irwin Farm (1875) in Harris Township is located at 13546 Brick Road. The Robert Savidge House at 16327 Cleveland Road was built in 1868 in Clay Township. New Carlisle in Olive Township features the National Register-listed Jeremiah Service House (Old Republic) that was built in 1861 at 304 E. Michigan Street. Greene Township includes two examples of Italianate cubes. The John and Lydia Rupel House (1859) was built at 24845 State Road 23 and the Christopher and Catherine Eisenmenger House was built in 1873 at 28525 New Road. Rural Centre Township includes one example of the Italianate cube. The Francis and Rosanne Donaghue Farm features a cube house built in 1861 at 63049 Turkey Trail. Penn Township features two examples of Italianate cube houses. The George Eutzler House at 14016 Dragoon Trail was built c. 1865 and the Beers Farm located at 60049 Cedar Road features a cube house built c. 1870. Several of these are not purely cubical like the Forrester House, but are variants of the type.

In conclusion, the cubical Italianate house was a distinct and well-known, but not predominant, house type in the area. It was selected by successful farming families and merchants during a

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roughly 30 year period just prior to and following the Civil War. The Forrester House, as stated above, is a representative example of the type.

### Agriculture

The Forrester Farmstead is significant in the area of agriculture for its collection of farm buildings that demonstrate the evolution of agriculture in LaPorte County, Indiana. The connection of the farmstead to agriculture stretches back to 1836 when James Forrester disposed of his holdings from shipping and merchandise in Michigan City and purchased farmland in what was termed the prairie of Scipio Township. Here Forrester began to accumulate significant real estate on which he cultivated crops and constructed a log cabin. Forrester's success in agriculture permitted him to construct the large house beginning in 1857 which was finished in March, 1858. Several features were built into the house to support farm life, including an attached granary on the north end of the ell and the food storage rooms located in the basement. The unusual circulation system of the house, discussed previously, also assisted the agricultural function of the house by separating help, including farmhands who lived in the house, from family. The attached granary was constructed for such a purpose according to Forrester's granddaughter, Martha Forrester (the last of the family to reside in the home), in a paper she presented to the LaPorte County Historical Society in 1956. Renovations to the home in 2014-2015 indicate the original purpose of the room was not as an extension of living space of the house since the floor and ceiling elevations are about two feet higher the rest of the house. The original single doorway into the space from the rest of the house was located at the landing on the staircase that leads to the second floor of the ell. This door and an exterior doorway located in the center of the granary's north wall (now a window) are a few feet above the existing floor elevation. The small hatch door, rather than a window, in the attic over the granary (seen in the north wall) also indicates that product was moved into the space through the door, rather than the more conventional installation of a window for light. The wall between the granary and former kitchen is also all brick versus brick chimneys and wood framing with plaster over lath. The family's choice to include agricultural functions in the farmhouse is atypical in Northern Indiana, even in early settlement times. The attached agricultural building/farmhouse was common enough in Ireland, Mr. Forrester's homeland. While no definitive survey of such houses exists for Indiana, it is reasonable to conclude that other local examples are extremely rare.

By 1862, Forrester had added to his land holdings in Scipio Township and adjacent Clinton Townships to a cumulated sum in excess of 1,240 acres. Some sections, particularly in Clinton Township, were marsh and wooded. Before his death he had accumulated over 3,000 acres in LaPorte County. Forrester benefited from the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad's extension across LaPorte County, leading west out of the city of LaPorte and immediately north of the home site. It was finished in 1853 prior to the construction of his home. An 1892 map of LaPorte County shows Forrester's Station as a designation northeast of the homestead near present-day Pinola. The Forrester family had created a stop no doubt to ship and receive products at the farm. The town of Pinola was established by 1921 at the Forrester Station site and a depot was built.

The former prairie of LaPorte County has a long tradition of excellent productivity for cultivated crops that included wheat, rye, oats, barley, other grains and root crops. As early as the 1830s,

Forrester, James and Lavinia, Farmstead

LaPorte County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

the prairie areas of Scipio Township were producing bumper crops including over two hundred thousand surplus bushels of wheat from two farmers alone. In 1891, over ten thousand tons of hay and over three thousand tons of clover was produced.

With the death of James and Lavinia Forrester by the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the large land holdings were divided among the Forrester children who each held in excess of 200-300 acres that continued in cultivation. Edward Forrester, a son, was listed as a farmer of 243 acres and breeder of fine stock on Section 6 of Scipio Township in 1892 and again in 1907. In 1923, Amanda Forrester, Edward's daughter, owned 217 acres in Scipio Township and Eliza Forrester, another daughter, owned 437 acres in Cass Township. In 1929-1930 James Forrester, Jr. had a value of personal property of \$2430.00. By 1938, James Forrester, Jr. lived at the homestead. Eliza Forrester owned nearly 350 acres of the original farm surrounding the homestead and Amanda Forrester owned approximately 180 acres nearby.

Forrester chose brick again to construct several of his early outbuildings that supported his farming operations. These included a brick two-story carriage house near the main house and pig barn located on the hill north of the house. Both of these buildings were destroyed by a tornado, likely at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, James Forrester's heirs continued the farming operation and constructed the extant agricultural related buildings on the property. These include a gambrel-roofed barn, concrete stave silo, and a chicken coop. These structures were built about 1920 and demonstrate the continued role agriculture played on the property.

The barn's design demonstrates the continuation of early thru-bay construction with animal pens on one side, feed storage on the other side and hay storage in the loft. The introduction of the gambrel roof toward the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century had become very common for barn construction by the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The framing technique provided more ample hay storage volume. The Forrester barn also has a hay hatch and hay hood over the east gable wall. The silo, which dates to about 1915, is positioned some distance east of the barn, which is atypical. Usually the silo was placed near the barn to permit easy feeding of cattle housed in the barn. The modern silo traces its roots to experiments in Illinois during the 1870s-1880s in which corn silage was kept. By the late 1880s silos were being promoted in agricultural publications. Generally concrete stave silos replaced wooden stave silos after World War I. The staves are held together by large metal bands with turn-buckles. The final agricultural-related building on the property is the chicken coop, also built about 1920. The coop has a simple design with a shed roof and small windows. This design became popular in the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century as modern farming practices began to change the architecture of the farmstead.

The Forrester Farmstead's collection of agricultural buildings is not terribly uncommon in Scipio Township or LaPorte County, however, it is one of a few with three or more buildings or structures related to agriculture in the late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century. In Scipio Township, there are approximately fifteen farmsteads that retain some level of agricultural significance due to the collection of barns and/or outbuildings with the farmhouse. Near to the Forrester Farmstead is a farm on County Road 400 W that includes a Greek Revival I-house (1869) and a transverse-frame barn and springhouse. Another farm located on County Road 50 S includes an I-house (c.



Forrester, James and Lavinia, Farmstead

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Name of Property

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1870) and an English barn. Closest in proximity to the Forrester Farmstead is a gable-front house (c. 1840) and Midwest three-portal barn that compose a farmstead located just southwest of the Forrester property on State Road 2. Because of the proximity of the Forrester Farmstead in northwest Scipio Township to adjoining townships, other nearby farmsteads in New Durham and Center Townships are used for comparison. The George Garwood Farm, located on County Road 50 S in New Durham Township, immediately east of the Forrester Farmstead, includes a Queen Anne style house (1900), and several outbuildings including two English barns, and a windmill and pump house. Only three other farmsteads in LaPorte County are listed on the National Register of Historic Places; they are located in Center Township and two are just north of the Forrester Farmstead. The Ames Family Homestead on County Road W 150 N includes two houses constructed between 1842 and 1856, an early transverse frame barn (1838), and a concrete stave silo, privy, ice house, cow shed, corn crib, chicken house and wood shed all constructed between c. 1900-c. 1940. The John and Cynthia Garwood Farmstead at 5600 Small Road features a large Italianate upright-and-wing house with tower (c. 1866), and a dairy barn, milk house and concrete stave silo all constructed c. 1930. Pinehurst Hall, on U.S. 35 north of LaPorte, features a Greek Revival gable-front house (1853), an English barn and milk house.

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

Scipio Township was one of the original three townships created when LaPorte County was established in 1833. The first settlers to Scipio Township came in 1829, however it was during the 1830s that most of the settlers first associated with the township came. Until the establishment of Forrester's Station, later Pinola, the only village in the township was Door Village, established in 1836 and located southeast of the Forrester farm.

James Forrester was born in County Roscommon, Ireland and immigrated to the United States in 1818, first arriving in New York where he began a peddler's trade with dry goods. His success ultimately led him to charter a vessel in 1833 from Buffalo, New York to Michigan City in northern LaPorte County. The shipment had glass, sugar, coffee, iron and other materials needed for a newly burgeoning port city on Lake Michigan where he also purchased government land and sold it to prospectors and settlers. After disposing of his land holdings and merchant trade in Michigan City, Forrester settled on Section 6 of Scipio Township and constructed a log cabin and cleared land for cultivation. He married Lavinia White, daughter of Scipio Township pioneer Peter White, in 1844. They became the parents of seven children, four of whom grew to adulthood: Peter, Margaret, Lovina, and Edward. After construction of the brick house, the log cabin was given to Forrester's nephew and moved north of the home site. James Forrester was elected State Representative in 1862 and 1864, and assisted in the formation of an organization known as the Soldiers' Aid Society that provided aid to Civil War soldiers' families. Forrester was known to pay for sea passage of individuals emigrating from Ireland to America and in exchange they would work at the farm to pay off the debt. This accounts for the number of times census records indicate "farmhand" or "servant" living with the Forrester family.

Forrester, James and Lavinia, Farmstead  
Name of Property

LaPorte 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.)

Chapman, Charles C. C., *History of La Porte County, Indiana*. Chicago: C. C. Chapman & Co., 1880.

*Daniels, Rev. E. D. A Twentieth Century History and Biographical Record of LaPorte County, Indiana*, Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Co., 1904.

Forrester, Martha. Personal history of the Forrester family and farm as presented by the granddaughter of James Forrester to the LaPorte County Historical Society during a visit to the Forrester homestead, 1956.

Heritage Collection Illustrated Atlas (The), Combined 1874, 1907, 1921 Atlases of LaPorte County, Indiana & Plat Book of 1892. Evansville: LaPorte County Historical Society, Whippoorwill Publications, 1989 (reproduction).

LaPorte County Gazeteer. Marion, IN: Interstate Directory Company, 1907

LaPorte County Interim Report, Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory. Indianapolis: Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, 1989.

Map of LaPorte County. Philadelphia: Geil, Leaming, & Cathcart, 1862.

McAlester, Virginia & Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2006.

Packard, Jasper. History of LaPorte County, Indiana and its Townships, Towns, and Cities. LaPorte: S. E. Taylor & Company, Steam Printers, 1876.

Photograph file of LaPorte Homes, LaPorte County Historical Society

Plat book of LaPorte County, IN. Chicago: George Ogle & Co., 1892

Smith's LaPorte City Directories, Dorchester, Mass.: Edgar Smith, 1923,1929-30.

United States Federal Census for LaPorte County, IN: 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880

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### 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Forrester, James and Lavinia, Farmstead  
Name of Property

LaPorte County, IN  
County and State

**Primary location of additional data:**

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** 091-345-60010

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 3.55 acres

Use the UTM system

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |             |                 |                   |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 16 | Easting: 515733 | Northing: 4604554 |
| 2. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 3. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 4. Zone:    | Easting :       | Northing:         |

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

Beginning on the northeast side of the intersection of Forrester Road and former State Road 2, face slightly northwest and continue in a line with the east edge of Forrester Road approximately 500' to the northwest corner of the property. Turn east and continue in a line with the north property boundary approximately 465' to the northeast corner of the property. Turn south and continue in a line approximately 65'. Turn slightly southwest and continue in a line approximately 153'. Turn south and continue in a line 275' to the north edge of Old

Forrester, James and Lavinia, Farmstead  
Name of Property

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County and State

State Road 2 (County Road 100 South). Face west and continue in a line approximately 200' to the east edge of Forrester Road, or the place of beginning.

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

This 3.55 acre site is the homestead of James and Lavinia Forrester and it includes all of the resources pertaining to the importance both architecture and agriculture demonstrate on the property.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Kurt West Garner  
organization: KW Garner Consulting, Indiana Landmarks/PIP  
street & number: 12954 6<sup>th</sup> Road  
city or town: Plymouth state: IN zip code: 46563  
e-mail kwgarner@kwgarner.com  
telephone: 574-936-0613  
date: May 1, 2015

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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.)

Forrester, James and Lavinia, Farmstead  
Name of Property

LaPorte 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: Forrester, James and Lavinia, Farmstead

City or Vicinity: LaPorte

County: LaPorte State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: December 7, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Front (south) façade of the house, looking northeast

1 of 16.

Name of Property: Forrester, James and Lavinia, Farmstead

City or Vicinity: LaPorte

County: LaPorte State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: December 7, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: West façade of the house, looking east from Forrester Road

2 of 16.

Name of Property: Forrester, James and Lavinia, Farmstead

City or Vicinity: LaPorte

Forrester, James and Lavinia, Farmstead  
Name of Property

LaPorte County, IN  
County and State

County: LaPorte State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: December 7, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Back (north) and east façades, looking southwest

3 of 16.

Name of Property: Forrester, James and Lavinia, Farmstead

City or Vicinity: LaPorte

County: LaPorte State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: December 7, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: South façade of the barn, machine shed, and silo, facing north

4 of 16.

Name of Property: Forrester, James and Lavinia, Farmstead

City or Vicinity: LaPorte

County: LaPorte State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: December 7, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Former granary/existing kitchen, facing southwest

5 of 16.

Name of Property: Forrester, James and Lavinia, Farmstead

City or Vicinity: LaPorte

Forrester, James and Lavinia, Farmstead  
Name of Property

LaPorte County, IN  
County and State

County: LaPorte State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: December 7, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Former kitchen/existing dining room, facing east toward enclosed porch

6 of 16.

Name of Property: Forrester, James and Lavinia, Farmstead

City or Vicinity: LaPorte

County: LaPorte State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: December 7, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Northwest room of front cube, facing northeast toward north staircase

7 of 16.

Name of Property: Forrester, James and Lavinia, Farmstead

City or Vicinity: LaPorte

County: LaPorte State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: December 7, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Southwest (front) room, facing southwest toward fireplace

8 of 16.

Name of Property: Forrester, James and Lavinia, Farmstead

Forrester, James and Lavinia, Farmstead  
Name of Property

LaPorte County, IN  
County and State

City or Vicinity: LaPorte  
County: LaPorte State: IN  
Photographer: Kurt West Garner  
Date Photographed: December 7, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Southeast (front) room, facing east toward fireplace

9 of 16.

Name of Property: Forrester, James and Lavinia, Farmstead  
City or Vicinity: LaPorte  
County: LaPorte State: IN  
Photographer: Kurt West Garner  
Date Photographed: December 7, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Enclosed east porch, facing north

10 of 16.

Name of Property: Forrester, James and Lavinia, Farmstead  
City or Vicinity: LaPorte  
County: LaPorte State: IN  
Photographer: Kurt West Garner  
Date Photographed: December 7, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Top of front (south) staircase, looking down/north

11 of 16.

Name of Property: Forrester, James and Lavinia, Farmstead



Forrester, James and Lavinia, Farmstead  
Name of Property

LaPorte County, IN  
County and State

City or Vicinity: LaPorte  
County: LaPorte State: IN  
Photographer: Kurt West Garner  
Date Photographed: December 7, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Southwest bedroom on second floor, looking northeast

12 of 16.

Name of Property: Forrester, James and Lavinia, Farmstead  
City or Vicinity: LaPorte  
County: LaPorte State: IN  
Photographer: Kurt West Garner  
Date Photographed: December 7, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Second floor bathroom, looking east

13 of 16.

Name of Property: Forrester, James and Lavinia, Farmstead  
City or Vicinity: LaPorte  
County: LaPorte State: IN  
Photographer: Kurt West Garner  
Date Photographed: December 7, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Northwest bedroom, looking southeast toward back (north) staircase landing

14 of 16.

Forrester, James and Lavinia, Farmstead  
Name of Property

LaPorte County, IN  
County and State

Name of Property: Forrester, James and Lavinia, Farmstead

City or Vicinity: LaPorte

County: LaPorte State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: December 7, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Second floor above rear ell, looking south from top of service staircase

15 of 16.

Name of Property: Forrester, James and Lavinia, Farmstead

City or Vicinity: LaPorte

County: LaPorte State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: December 7, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Attic over front cube, looking northwest past cupola ladder to attic stairs

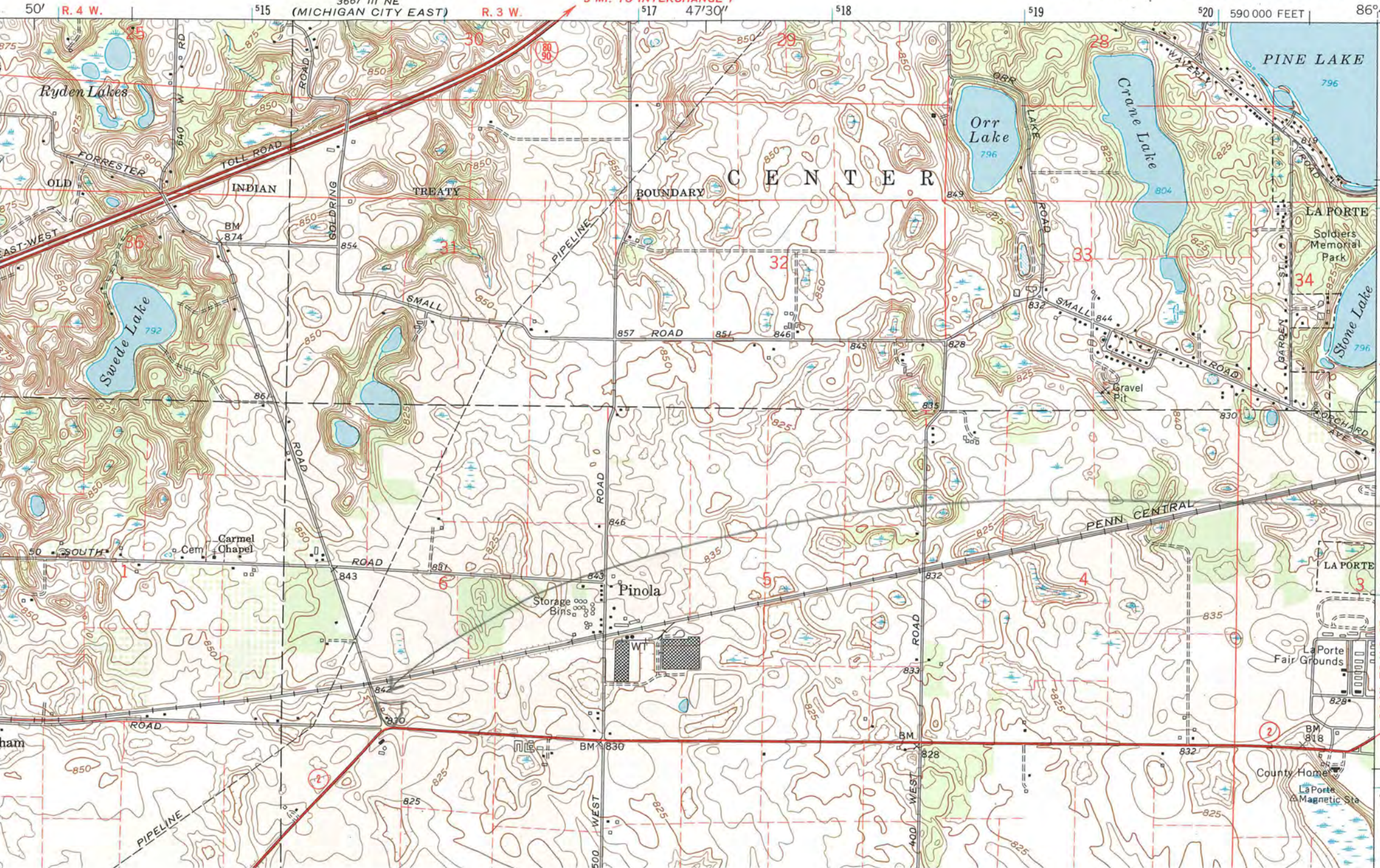
16 of 16.

**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.

LA PORTE WEST QUADRANGLE  
 INDIANA - LA PORTE CO.  
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

3667 II NW  
 (SPRINGVILLE)



50' R. 4 W. 515 3667 III NE (MICHIGAN CITY EAST) R. 3 W. 517 47'30" 518 519 520 590 000 FEET 86°45' 41°37'30"

150000 FEET

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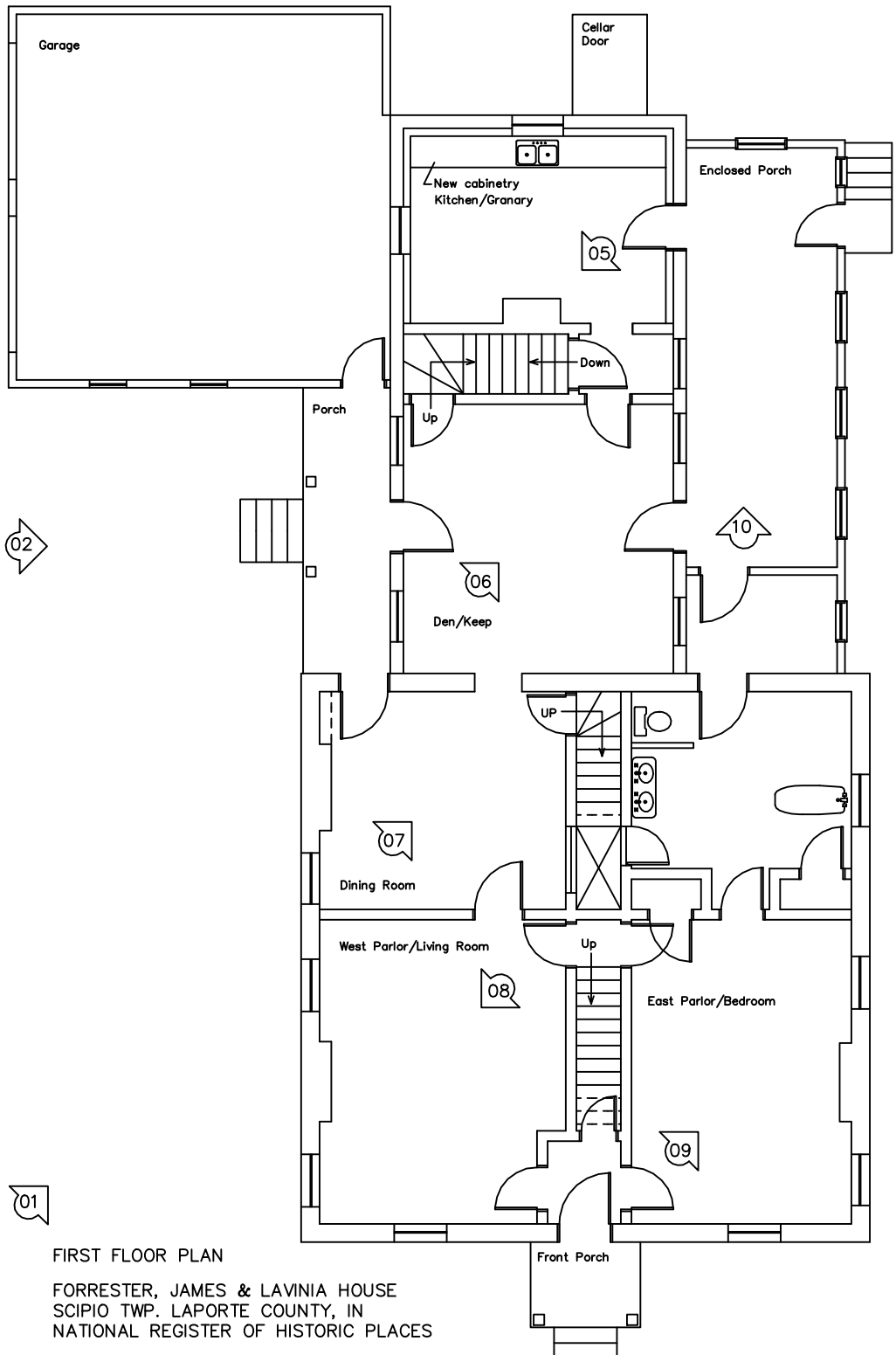
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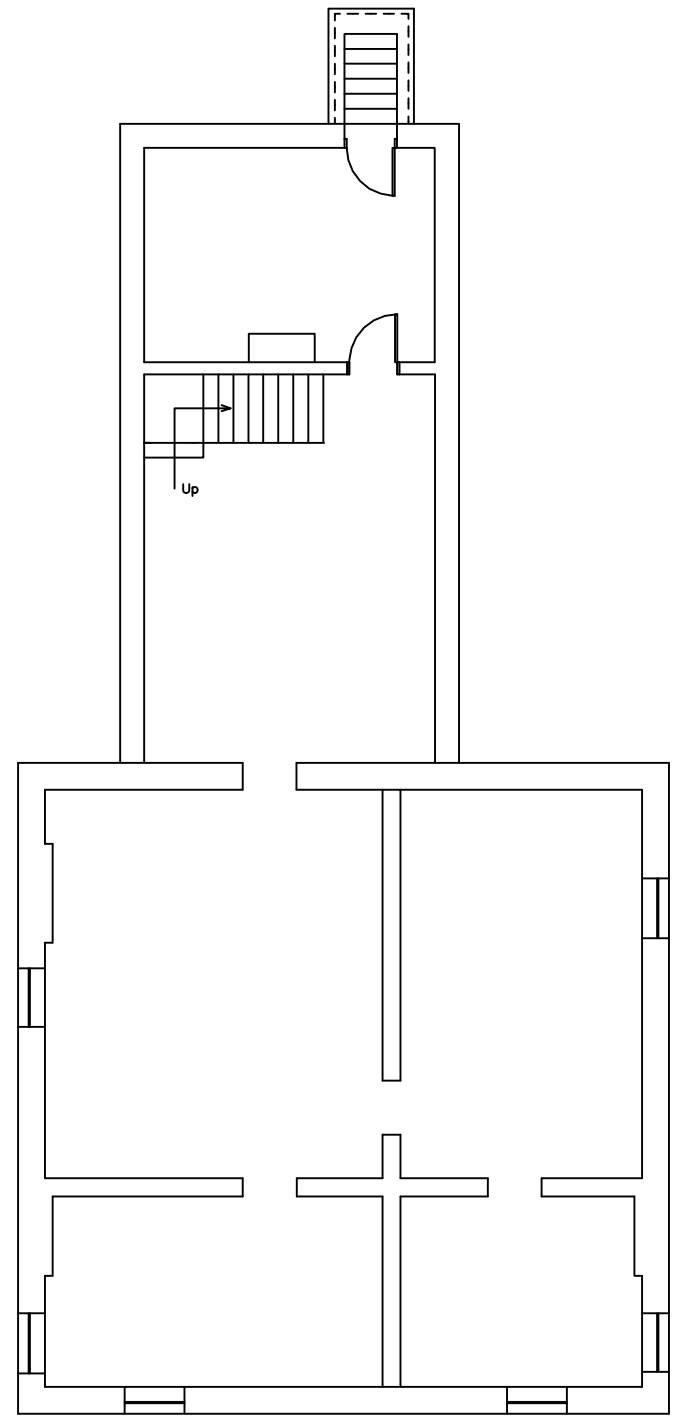
2.1 MI. TO U.S. 35 SOUTH BEND 28 MI.

JAMES & LAVINIA  
 FORESTER HOUSE  
 NATIONAL REGISTER OF  
 HISTORIC PLACES  
 LA PORTE CO. IN

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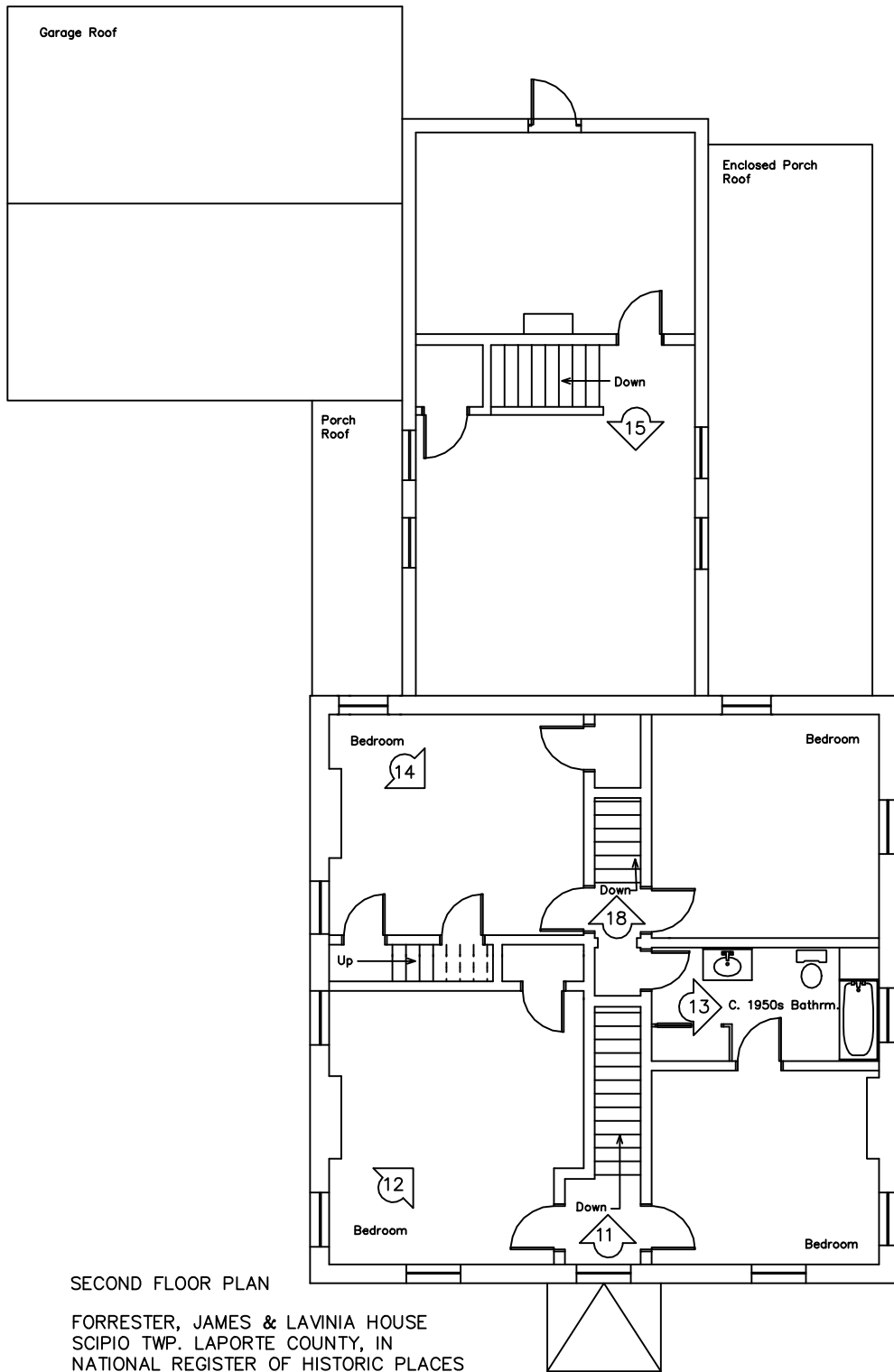


02

01

FIRST FLOOR PLAN  
 FORRESTER, JAMES & LAVINIA HOUSE  
 SCIPIO TWP. LAPORTE COUNTY, IN  
 NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

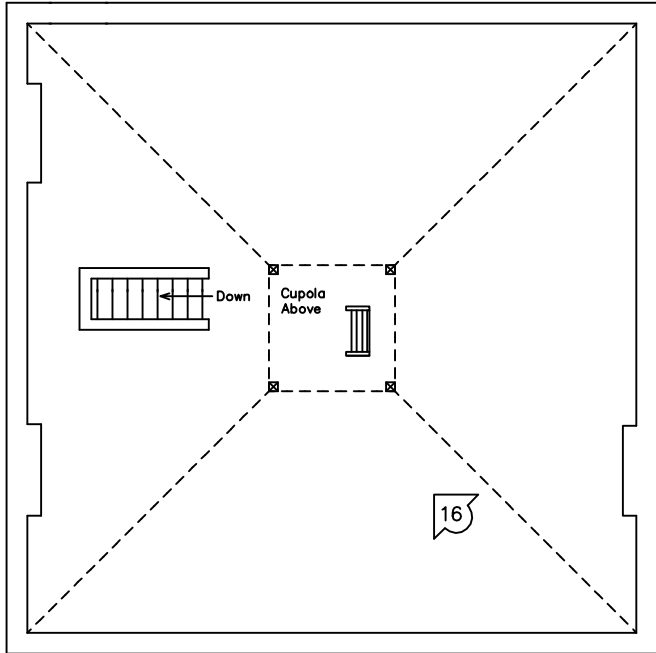
BASEMENT PLAN

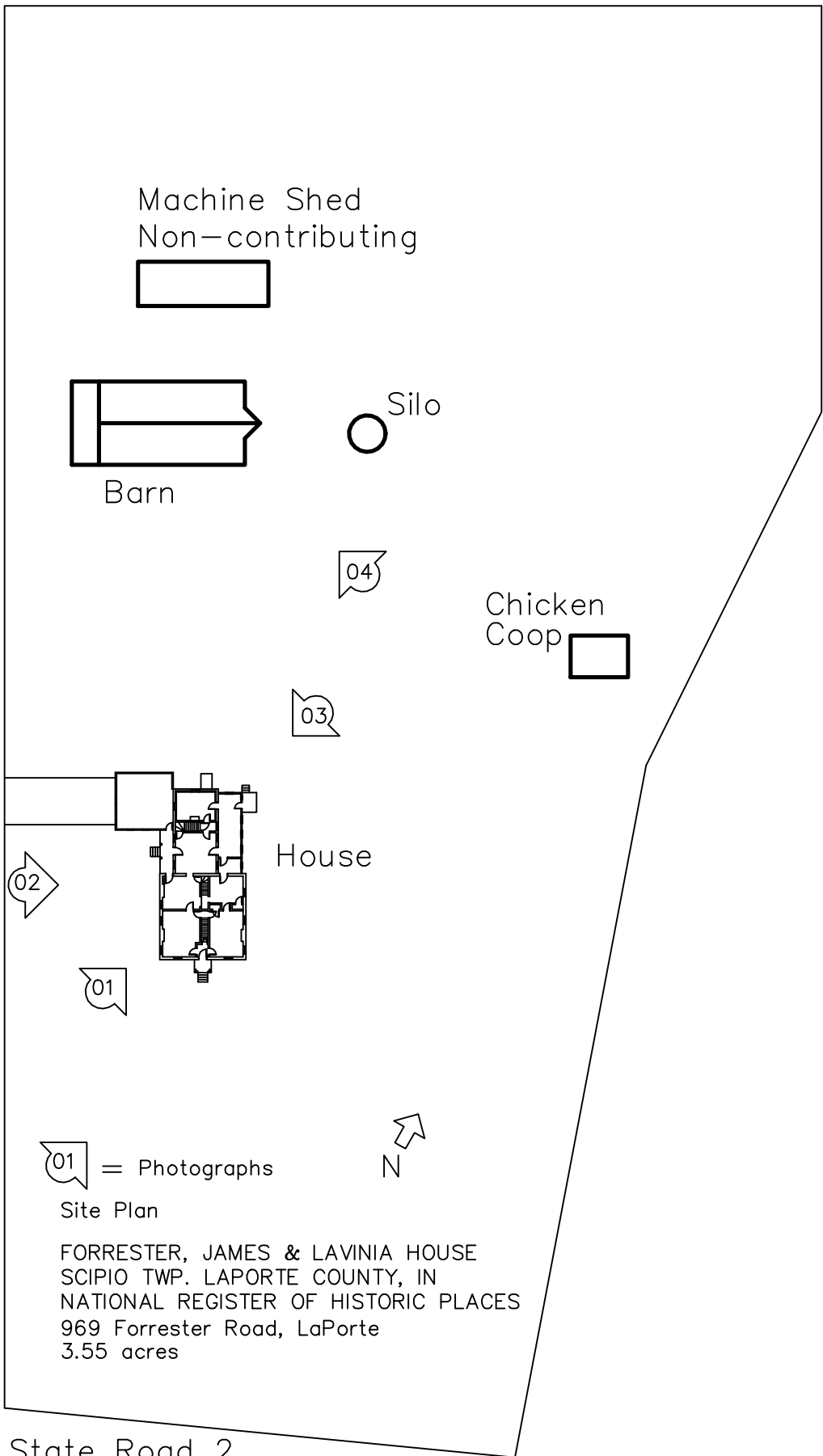


SECOND FLOOR PLAN

FORRESTER, JAMES & LAVINIA HOUSE  
 SCIPIO TWP. LAPORTE COUNTY, IN  
 NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

ATTIC PLAN





Forrester Road

Old State Road 2  
 -County Road 100 S





3359

ADT  
SECURITY















A chandelier with five white shades and a silver metal frame, hanging from a circular ceiling medallion.

A large, vertical, red and black geometric tapestry with a central square motif, hanging above the fireplace.

A white marble mantel with a decorative archway, holding a clock, a figurine, and potted plants.

A white marble fireplace with a black metal grate and a decorative archway.

A large window with dark wood blinds and a white frame, located on the right wall.

A window with dark wood blinds and a white frame, located on the left wall.



A lamp with a white shade and a dark wood base, sitting on a side table.

A light-colored upholstered chair with dark wood armrests, sitting on a side table.

A white bookshelf with a dark wood top, holding books and a potted plant.

A blue and white ceramic vase with a floral design, holding brown objects.

A black tripod stand, possibly for a camera or a small table.

A dark wood piano with a patterned tablecloth on top, located on the right side of the room.

Three small silver Christmas trees on a table in the foreground.



















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received:  Date of Pending List:  Date of 16th Day:  Date of 45th Day:  Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept  Return  Reject  Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer  Discipline

Telephone  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.



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](mailto:dhpa@dnr.IN.gov) • [www.IN.gov/dnr/historic](http://www.IN.gov/dnr/historic)



April 20, 2017

Dr. Stephanie Toothman  
Keeper of the National Register  
National Register of Historic Places  
Mail Stop 7228  
1849 C St, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240



Re: James and Lavinia Forrester Farmstead, LaPorte County, Indiana

Dear Dr. Toothman,

Enclosed is a National Register of Historic Places nomination for the James and Lavinia Forrester Farmstead, LaPorte 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 James and Lavinia Forrester Farmstead, LaPorte 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