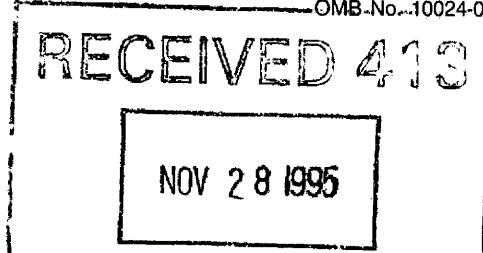


1540

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



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

1. Name of Property

historic name Pokagon State Park

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 5 miles north of Angola, west of US 27 not for publication

city or town Angola vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Steuben code 151 zip code 46703

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Pat R. Lubke 11-20-95
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources
State of Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Edson H. Beall 6-11-96
Date of Action

Pokagon State Park
Name of Property

Steuben County, Indiana
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
28	12	buildings
1	0	sites
3	4	structures
0	0	objects
32	16	Total

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

New Deal Resources in Indiana State Parks

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

3

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION & CULTURE: outdoor recreation

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION & CULTURE: outdoor recreation

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Park Rustic

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: limestone

walls WOOD: log

STONE: limestone

roof ASPHALT

other STUCCO

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1927

1934-1942

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Civilian Conservation Corps

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Pokagon State Park
Name of Property

Steuben County, Indiana
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 1,040

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	16	663940	4620920
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2	16	663970	4620040

3	16	665560	4621100
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4	16	665600	4619360

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Glory June Greiff

organization N/A date 25 July 1995

street & number 1753 South Talbott Street telephone 317-637-6163

city or town Indianapolis state IN zip code 46225

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

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

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name Indiana Division of State Parks

street & number 402 W. Washington St., Suite W298 telephone _____

city or town Indianapolis state IN zip code 46204

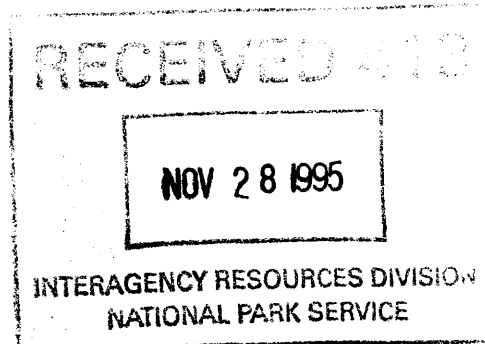
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain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

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

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Pokagon State Park

Steuben County

CLASSIFICATION-RESOURCE COUNT

The 28 contributing buildings are the old gatehouse, the saddle barn, the Potawatomi Inn, four overnight cabins, the boathouse, the bath house, the 17 buildings of the group camp, the park office (former service building), and the park manager's residence.

The 3 contributing structures are two drinking fountain shelters and the connected fish rearing ponds.

The contributing site is Pokagon State Park (1942 boundaries), which includes Lake Lonidau (now part of Potawatomi Nature Preserve), the main park road, the six trails within the 1942 boundaries, the scattered ruins of the CCC camp, a small beach below the inn, the main beach on the upper basin of Lake James, and the part of the present campgrounds called Campground 1.

The 12 non-contributing buildings are the present gatehouse, the Nature Center, the warming house, the campground store, the campground gatehouse, the group camp shower building, 5 campground shower buildings, and the maintenance building.

The 4 non-contributing structures are 3 open picnic shelters and the Toboggan Slide.

The 3 resources already listed in the National Register (as a single listing) are the combination shelter with stone steps and two drinking fountain shelters nearby.

The period of significance recognizes these resources by having one period for Potawatomi Inn (1927; its date of construction) and one for CCC built resources (1934-42; the period during which all CCC activities were completed).

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Pokagon State Park

Steuben County, Indiana

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Pokagon State Park, located in the extreme northeast corner of Indiana about five miles north of Angola, exhibits the moraine topography typical of the region. The park is bounded on the west and south by the three basins of the glacially formed Lake James, and is today largely wooded with scattered meadows on rolling terrain and extensive wetland on the north and east. The forest trees are largely hardwoods, especially maple and oak, with stands of white pine. Orchard and farmland comprised much of the property when the Department of Conservation acquired it in 1925, but the Civilian Conservation Corps planted thousands of trees during its encampment at the park 1934-1942, and except for the Potawatomi Inn that opened in 1927, built nearly all the major park buildings—most of stone-and-timber or timber frame—in use today. The layout of the park with its matured plantings is essentially as the CCC planned it.

Angling northwest off the entrance road (SR727) just before (and northeast of) the gatehouse is a county road (known locally as Lone Tree Point Road) running west through the park, past the property manager's residence, park office (Photo 9), and service buildings on the north. The residence originally was a farmhouse; an American Foursquare, it is relatively unaltered but for aluminum siding. The brick park office, built by the CCC as a service building, is gabled with hipped dormers on the south, rising one-and-a-half stories but with a ground floor opening on the north. Behind it on the north is a support building comprised of two adjoining pole barns, the eastward one gabled, the westward one shed-roofed. An overpass (Photo 15), originally built by the CCC, carries the county road over the main park road. The original fieldstone abutments remain but the concrete bridge is a replacement, completed in 1953. The county road runs straight west almost to the shore of Lake James, then the road turns sharply south and follows the shoreline, providing access to private waterfront homeowners bordering the southwest corner of the park.

One enters the park from the east, and the original stone-and-timber gatehouse (1936-1937) on the northwest side of the road still stands, although the building has not been used for its original purpose in recent years except on very crowded weekends. It is currently being turned into a mini-museum displaying artifacts relating to the CCC in the park. Constructed in the late 1980s using similar materials, the present gatehouse is centered in the road and is even smaller than the original (Photo 1).

Following the park road south, one quickly comes to the parking lot for the much-enlarged Potawatomi Inn. Completed in 1927, the original part of the inn remains intact as the westernmost element of the complex building (Photo 3). The earliest section was basically rectangular and two-storied with cross gables at either end of a long gabled roof with rows of shed dormers. An addition in 1931 extended the easternmost gable, which is clipped. The Mediterranean-influenced inn is stucco and topped with a red tile roof. A two-story addition in 1967 faced with yellow brick extended southeastward from the existing building, and an indoor pool added in the

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Pokagon State Park

Steuben County, Indiana

1980s obscured some of the east end of the original presenting a curved facade, albeit with more sensitive facing. The most recent addition (1995) on the east and northeast hides most of the 1967 section and covers the area where once stood a large garage (which had been later remodeled into helps' quarters and later still into more motel rooms). The inn overlooks the lower basin of Lake James to the south, and down the slope is a small beach and boat rental facility (Photo 4). The boat rental building, the result of a CCC remodeling project, is a small frame gabled structure sided with board-and-batten. It once functioned as a bath house. To the northwest a short distance above the lake are tennis courts (Photo 5) serving the inn.

Immediately to the north of the inn are what remains of a connecting series of small ponds, which the CCC constructed in 1935 for rearing fish with which to stock the lake, and also as an educational display. Following a trail, northeast and east of the inn is a nature preserve, a wetland area featuring Lake Lonidau (Photo 2), a fine example of a kettle lake formed by a lingering chunk of glacial ice. A short wooden walkway extends over the water for better observation of waterfowl. A creek runs from Lonidau into Lake James.

To the west and a little south of the inn in a small hollow is a cluster of four frame cabins (Photo 6) sided with clapboard, two with hipped roofs, two gabled, which the CCC built in 1940 as additional units of the inn. Each one-story cabin houses four separate family units within and thus has four entrances. These cabins are typical of late CCC construction; five family cabins of similar design were constructed at Turkey Run State Park about the same time.

The park road continues, curving north and westward. Shortly beyond the inn is the saddle barn (Photo 7), constructed by the CCC in 1938. It is gabled, with both clapboard and board-and-batten siding. To the north is a fenced enclosure for the horses, with wetland beyond (Photo 8), extending to the county road mentioned earlier. Not far past the saddle barn and south of the park road stands the toboggan slide (Photo 10), whose double track extends down a steep slope past the afore-mentioned overnight cabins, ending just west of the inn. Near the top of the slide is the warming center, a small gabled building constructed in the 1980s. The CCC built the first toboggan slide in roughly the same location, but it has been rebuilt and reconfigured several times.

A triangular drive south off the main park road surrounds a picnic area with an open shelter (Photo 14) and leads to the Nature Center (Photo 12), a frame building (1981/1990) that resembles a connected pair of rustic cabins with hipped roofs and thus blends well with Pokagon's older buildings. The center is near the site (Photo 13) to the northwest of the animal pens that once held bison, elk, and deer, which had stood, with some reconfiguration, for almost seventy years before being removed. Northeast of the Nature Center (and southwest of the toboggan slide) is a picnic area in a hollow where the CCC camp had been. A few scattered remnants of concrete and fieldstone (Photo 11) hide in clumps of trees.

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Pokagon State Park

Steuben County, Indiana

The park road turns north, passing another picnic area with an open shelter on the west—where once there had been an apple orchard—before passing beneath the county road via the underpass (Photo 15). Immediately beyond is a road heading southeast toward the park office, and to the west, into a parking lot (Photo 16) for the beach. North of this lot is the CCC shelter (formerly called the combination shelter), a stone-and-timber building already listed in the National Register (Photo 17). To the west about halfway down the hill, paired stone steps (leading toward the lake) end; at each is gabled timber shelter protecting a stone drinking fountain. Another stands a short distance to the south on a trail paralleling the lakeshore. These and another in the park were built by the CCC. Below is the beach; it and the bath house (Photo 19) were among the last CCC projects to be completed at Pokagon. The bath house is a long gabled building with a stone foundation and patio on the west. Hewn timbers support the roof. Two slightly lower gabled sections extend north and south of the main part of the building; these house the changing rooms. They are sided with board-and-batten; the rest has clapboard siding. At the south end of the beach is a concession stand (Photo 18) built about 1987.

Just past the parking lot mentioned earlier is the campground entrance road, angling northeast off the main park road. Centered in the road is a small stone and timber gatehouse, or control station (Photo 20), for the campground, dating from 1973. To the left—west—is a small frame building housing a grocery and supply store for campground users. Beyond the entrance the campground is configured into five groupings with loop drives. Campground 1, the earliest of the park's camping areas, is apart from the rest at the end of a long northward road, situated above the marsh that lies between the upper basin of Lake James and Snow Lake. Within this campground is another one of the CCC-built drinking fountain shelters (Photo 25) like the ones described earlier. Located on a bluff above Lake James about midway between Campground 1 and the rest of the campground facilities is the group camp (18 buildings) largely constructed by the CCC. The main area of the camp surrounds a small clearing, and contains five buildings: two identical gabled frame cabins, a T-gabled residence ("cooks' residence"), a gabled shower/restroom building completed in 1983, and an octagonal stone-and-timber dining hall (Photo 23) with attached rectangular kitchen wing. This outstanding building features a gabled entrance and walls constructed of stone gathered on the property and split and fitted by CCC workers. The octagonal hipped roof is topped with a cupola and has four evenly spaced gabled dormers. Scattered to the east and northeast on either side of a ravine are 13 essentially identical small frame cabins with gabled roofs (Photo 24). The six furthest northeast were built in 1944 out of material salvaged from the abandoned CCC camp.

Turning east past the road that leads to Campground 1, the campground road passes the adjacent Campgrounds 2 and 4 (Photo 22) on the north and Campground 3 on the south. Continuing easterly the road passes the gabled timber Spring Shelter to the north, near the bottom of a steep slope. At the

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Pokagon State Park

Steuben County, Indiana

bottom, north of the shelter, is the natural spring for which the building was named. It was constructed as a trailside overnight shelter, but is no longer used in that manner, although the trail remains. The campground road ends in the loops of Campground 5, which is for tent camping and contains no buildings. The other four areas each contain a shower building, with Campground 3 containing two. The five are essentially alike; each is brick with a gabled roof.

Back on the main park road, past the campground entrance road on the right (east), is another picnic area with an open shelter. The main park road—still SR727—terminates at a small wooded parking lot northeast of the CCC shelter.

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Pokagon State Park

Steuben County, Indiana

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Encompassing a portion of typical northern Indiana lake topography, Pokagon State Park is probably the state's most intact example of a park shaped almost entirely by the Civilian Conservation Corps. As such, it presents an outstanding material record of an important area of New Deal public works and recreational development in Indiana state parks during the 1930s, as described in the historic context "New Deal Work Programs in Indiana State Parks." Although an associated property type was not isolated, a park or portion thereof treated as a historic district in such a manner is discussed within that context, and indeed, Pokagon State Park is cited as an example. The park contains numerous contributing resources that fall within the identified property types related to conservation, infrastructure development, recreational activities, and overnight accommodations. Pokagon State Park is eligible under Criterion A in the areas of recreation and social history because it is associated with the New Deal and its combined solutions to the need for recreational development and unemployment relief, and the expanded concepts of what recreational development ought to include. The park, by virtue of its intact collection of buildings, matured plantings, and its fulfillment of the CCC's development plan, is also eligible under Criterion C because it is representative of the work and the style of architecture and landscaping typical of the CCC. The buildings and the park as a whole meet all the standards of integrity established in the multiple property nomination "New Deal Resources in Indiana State Parks." The buildings stand in their original locations in their original, albeit matured, settings, the design and materials intact. They are representative of and associated with typical CCC construction. There are few modern intrusions and the integrity of the property's feeling is strong.

Although it might come as a surprise to most visitors, Pokagon State Park was largely unforested when the Department of Conservation took possession of the six hundred original acres in 1925. The motivation behind its acquisition—besides the fact that Steuben County offered it as a gift to the state—was to assure public access in perpetuity to one of northern Indiana's loveliest glacially formed waters, Lake James.

The Department of Conservation opened what was briefly called Lake James State Park the following year, beginning development with a picnic area and some trails. The park's new name honored Simon Pokagon, a chief of the Potawatomi tribe of native Americans that once inhabited the area. Construction began on a large inn above the southernmost basin of the lake, which opened in 1927 as the Potawatomi Inn. The establishment of two beaches (near the inn and further north) proved a strong draw, and improved campgrounds were soon developed at the north end of the park. Animal pens displaying elk and bison were an attempt to enlighten the public about wildlife that formerly inhabited the area, a precursor to the nature center built nearby over fifty years later in 1981. (The pens are now gone, removed in the early 1990s.) The beginnings of a boys' group camp appeared in the

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Pokagon State Park

Steuben County, Indiana

early 1930s on a bluff overlooking the upper basin of the lake, started as a Civil Works Administration project.

CCC Company 556 (having finished its work at Indiana Dunes State Park) established Camp SP-7 at Pokagon in 1934. The park underwent an ambitious development program, which included reforestation, landscaping, road building, and construction of numerous outdoor recreational facilities. CCC boys hewed local timber and split native stone to construct buildings that harmonized especially well with the park environment, in keeping with guidelines created by the National Park Service. Perhaps the best example is the beautiful two-story shelterhouse (now called the "CCC Shelter") that nestles in the woods above the beach. Most of the park's landscaping and present buildings—the old gatehouse, the saddle barn, the dining hall and main buildings of the group camp, the bath house, and the family cabins near Potawatami Inn—are the work of the CCC, which remained in the park until January 1942. They also built the first toboggan slide, which has since been rebuilt and remodeled several times.

In the decades following World War II, the rampant growth of family camping activity caused Pokagon to construct more and expand existing campgrounds, all contiguous in a partially wooded area that had been previously undeveloped but for some trails and the Spring Shelter (built by the CCC). In the early 1990s the park reconfigured its campgrounds, resulting in fewer but more attractive sites. The Potawatomi Inn has been expanded numerous times. With all its many additions and remodelings, the most recent in 1995, the original (1927) portion still maintains its character and its views of the lake. Other than the ever-increasing overnight accommodations and the new nature center, relatively little has been added or changed at the park.

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Pokagon State Park

Steuben County, Indiana

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Archival Collections

National Archives, Washington, D.C.

Records of the National Park Service: Civilian Conservation Corps
Records of the Civilian Conservation Corps

Indiana Division, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis

Clipping Files: CCC, Pokagon State Park
Outdoor Indiana, 1934-1942

Government Publications

"Annual Report of Department of Conservation," Yearbook of Indiana, 1925-1945.

United States Department of Interior, National Park Service. Park and Recreation Structures. 3 Vol. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1938.

Interview

Roger Woodcock, former CCC enrollee at Pokagon State Park, 3 November 1990.

Other

Greiff, Glory-June. "New Deal Resources in Present Indiana State Parks." June 1990-May 1991. Sponsored by Indiana University, Indianapolis, and on file with the Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology (DHPA), 402 West Washington Street, Indianapolis IN 46204. Field survey and inventory of existing CCC- and WPA-constructed buildings, structures, and sites.

_____, "Parks, People, and Perceptions: Eighty Years of Indiana State Parks." Unpublished manuscript for Indiana Historical Society, 1995.

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Pokagon State Park

Steuben County, Indiana

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Starting at the northeast corner of the property, on CR 500N 1/4 mile west of old US27, go due south 1/2 mile (nearly to present entrance road), due east 1/4 mile to old US27, due south 200 feet, then due west 1/4 mile, due south 1/4 mile, due west 1/4 mile, due south 1/4 mile, due west to shore of Lake James (approximately 1/3 mile). Follow lakeshore to section line West 34, at which point the boundary line runs parallel to the lakeshore approximately 1/10 mile from the water. Follow this line to a point approximately 1/4 south of west terminus of Lone Tree Point Road; dogleg to east 1/8 mile, then north to Lone Tree Point Road; then jog west to lakeshore. Follow lakeshore northward around the cattail marsh to the shore of Snow Lake to section line (west boundary) West 27. Go due south along the section line about 1/2 mile to a point on the west extension of CR 500N, then east 3/4 mile to starting point.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Park boundary during and after the period of the CCC's presence in Pokagon, 1934-1942.

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Pokagon State Park
Steuben Co., IN

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ADDITIONAL UTM REFERENCES

- E) E 665960 N 4619370
- F) E 665900 N 4619250
- G) E 665600 N 4619240
- H) E 665600 N 4618870
- I) E 665240 N 4618840
- J) E 665260 N 4618500
- K) E 664770 N 4618450
- L) E 664240 N 4618620
- M) E 664150 N 4618430
- N) E 663630 N 4617940
- O) E 663300 N 4618900
- P) E 663400 N 4620390
- Q) E 663000 N 4620600
- R) E 663520 N 4620770
- S) E 663890 N 4620960