

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received APR 3 1984
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Rosenberg Building

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 83 Old Main N/A not for publication

city, town Colfax N/A vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Clinton code 023

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Luster Engle, Sr.

street & number Box 3A

city, town Colfax N/A vicinity of state Indiana 46035

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. City/County Building, Recorder's Office

street & number Clinton County Courthouse

city, town Frankfort state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>N/A</u>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Rosenberger Building is in the southeastern part of Colfax, a block southwest of the former New York Central Railroad and a block northwest of the town line.

The building, which faces northwest, is a detached commercial building. It is a two-story, common bond brick structure with a three-bay facade and rectangular plan (20' wide by 41' deep). There is a 16' x 24' frame addition at the rear.

First story facade window openings are round-arched and have round-arch frames. Each of these has a fixed sash with four lights, and a panel incorporated into the window frame below the sash. The centrally located entry is a round-arch opening with double doors, each with a large single pane of glass and a panel below. Above the doors is a round-arch, two light transom. Round-arch window openings on the sides of the building and on the second story have round-arch frames and double-hung sashes, with four lights in each sash. There is also a door with a round-arch opening and transom on the northeast side of the building. Above each window and door opening is a double row of header bricks which form the arch of the opening. The cornice of the building consists of corbeled brickwork. Original limestone steps are intact.

The interior of the building is somewhat deteriorated and has been altered by the present owner. The first floor area has 1 x 4 planking. The ceiling joists are exposed as plaster has been removed. An oak staircase leads to the second floor level which covers the expanse of the building, unlike the first floor which is divided into two separate rooms. The interior walls are exposed brick, three courses thick.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates ca. 1850

Builder/Architect

Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Rosenberger Building is significant as being the oldest store building in Colfax. It is also the only remaining structure of the old Town of Midway, so-named because it was midway between Cincinnati and Chicago. The building bears the name Rosenberger because most people remember it as a General Store when the owner, Joseph Rosenberger, ran a huckster wagon from it, peddling his array of wares. The building was originally owned by the Blacker family, who had a funeral home in it. It has also housed a furniture store, a private residence, and most recently, an antique store.

Very little is known of the exact origins of the building, but it has been traced to being built between 1848 when the original plat for the town was laid out, and 1853, when the deed shows a \$700 improvement on the lot—probably the construction of the Rosenberger building. During that same year, an attempt was made to obtain a post office for the Town of Midway. It was discovered that another town in Indiana under the name of Midway already had a post office, so the name was changed to Colfax in the Commissioners' Court of Clinton County.

At the completion of the town's second railroad in 1873, the business section of the town began to move nearer the intersection of the town's two railroads, a site approximately 1/4 mile northwest of the original plat. All new construction was in this area of town and old Midway gradually declined as a center of activity.

The Rosenberger Building stands proud and virtually unchanged as a reminder of the town's Midway heritage.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Albright, David, and Mahoy, Charles. "Colfax Centennial." 1948
Claybaugh, Joseph. History of Clinton County, Indiana. Indianapolis: A. W. Bowen and Company, 1913
Clinton County Land Records

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Colfax, Indiana

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	5	2	8	6	2	5	4	4	4	8	7	1	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot One and 20 feet off the northeast side of Lot Two, Block Nine of the original plat of the Town of Midway (now Colfax).

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Patricia S. Eaton

organization N/A

date 9-23-82

street & number 50 Meridan

telephone 317/324-2505

city or town Colfax

state Indiana 46035

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

date 3-26-84

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date

5/3/84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration