

FINAL

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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

1. Name

historic Markle House and Mill Site

and/or common Markle's Mill

2. Location

street & number 4900 Mill Dam Road

not for publication

city, town Terre Haute

☒ vicinity of

congressional district 7th

state Indiana

code 18

county Vigo

code 167

3. Classification

Category

☐ district
☒ building(s)
☐ structure
☒ site
☐ object

Ownership

☐ public
☒ private
☐ both

Public Acquisition

☐ in process
☐ being considered

Status

☒ occupied
☐ unoccupied
☐ work in progress
Accessible
☐ yes: restricted
☒ yes: unrestricted
☐ no

Present Use

☐ agriculture
☐ commercial
☐ educational
☐ entertainment
☐ government
☐ industrial
☐ military
☒ museum
☒ park
☐ private residence
☐ religious
☐ scientific
☐ transportation
☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name See Continuation Sheet

street & number

city, town

vicinity of

state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Vigo County Courthouse

street & number

3rd and Wabash Avenue

city, town

Terre Haute

state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent

☐ good

☒ fair

☐ deteriorated

☒ ruins

☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered

☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Markle House and Mill Site are located along Otter Creek northeast of Terre Haute, Indiana. The Mill Site is located on three acres of land between the river and a county road (Mill Dam Road). A cement dam still spans Otter Creek. The mill building burned in 1938, and the remains consist of stone and concrete foundations. Toward the south is a concrete shell which served as the loading area. A grass and concrete ramp remains where the wagons were driven for loading and unloading. The older portion of the foundation consists of stone blocks. Three round-arched openings indicate where the water was guided underneath the mill. Located along the east side of the county road is a gravel parking area that extends about 20 feet into the Mill Park area.

The Markle House is located on the west side of the county road. The structure is a two-story, Greek Revival house with Italianate influences. The painted brick exterior rests on a stone foundation. Cellar steps are located on the north and south ends. The main facade has six bays with an entrance in the ground floor northernmost bay, and the main door in the bay just to the south of the building's center. The main door is recessed and surrounded by rectangular side lights and transom. A one-story porch extends across the main entrance and two windows. Round columns with Doric columns support a decorated frieze which is divided by double brackets. Single brackets were used under the main roof. The windows have six over six lights, and most have shutters. The south end has paired chimneys flush with the gable end. On the north end the chimneys are offset. The other elevations have regularly spaced windows. The gable ends have attic windows. The rear (west) has a porch with a shed roof.

The north section of the house was used as the mill office, and this fact accounts for the separate entrance. The first floor has a central hall and six rooms which include a double parlor. There are five rooms on the second floor, including a large, 18 x 36 foot room which was used originally as a dormitory to house the mill workers and travelers. The interior doorways have small transoms, and there are 12 fireplaces.

The front porch and brackets were modernizations in the nineteenth century. Concrete steps were added to the front porch probably around the turn of the century. Aside from these alterations, few changes have been made.

Also associated with the house is a wood frame outhouse located near the southwest corner. To the north is a frame carriage house with board and batten siding and a gable roof. This structure has double barn doors on the south side.

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
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1817, 1848

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) The Markle House and Mill Site are significant for their historical associations with a family prominent in the early settlement of Vigo County and for architectural reasons.

Abraham Markle was an early settler in the region, arriving with his family in 1815. Markle was born in Ulster County, New York, in 1769 and settled in Canada sometime around the turn of the century. At the outbreak of the War of 1812, he returned to New York and was commissioned a major in the United States Army. With the end of hostilities in 1815, he returned to claim his property in Quebec, only to find that it had been confiscated by the Crown. Through the influence of New York Governor Brown and James Monroe, Congress passed an Act granting Markle 750 acres of western land in compensation for his losses.

He selected land around Fort Harrison in Vigo County and settled his family along Otter Creek. Since he had been trained as a miller, he quickly saw the economic possibilities offered by the swift waters of Otter Creek. He constructed a log dam and a flour mill in 1817. This structure was quite advanced for its time since it had runs for burrs which ground both wheat and corn. Farmers came from a large area to use the mill; often they had to wait one or two days for their turn since the demand was so great. Evidence of the mill's success can be seen in the fact that the county, in 1824, decided to build a toll bridge across the creek at the mill.

Markle's Mill attracted settlers to the area and helped the early growth of Terre Haute. Markle was active in county affairs due to the importance of his mill and his land holdings. He was active in locating the county seat in Terre Haute and was one of the contractors who constructed the first county courthouse. He was also a frequent, if unwilling, contributor to the county education fund because of fines which he incurred from frequent convictions for fighting.

Among Markle's heirs when he died in 1826 was his son, Frederick, who had been born in Canada in 1809. Frederick started his career as a stage coach builder and eventually operated a stage line between Terre Haute and Lafayette. Later he switched to milling, building flour mills at Roseville, Indiana, and Kankakee, Illinois, and operating the Markle Mill. In 1848 he constructed the existing Markle House to serve as his residence, mill office, and a stage coach stop. These many uses account for the large size of the structure. Like his father, Frederick Markle was a leading citizen in the county; he was the largest taxpayer in Otter Creek Township and twice was elected a county commissioner before his death in 1866.

Frederick's sons, William and Frederick F., inherited the mill and operated it for a while before selling it to H.S. Creal. In 1888 they repurchased it and improved it by installing a roller process. Williams left the milling business in 1898 to become a building contractor. The mill and house evidently passed out of Markle ownership around the turn of the century. The mill continued to function until it burned on September 20, 1938. The mill site and Markle House passed through a number of hands before being acquired by the present owners.

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE ATTACHED

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 9

Quadrangle name Rosedale

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6
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4	7	0	2	0	0
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4	3	7	5	2	9	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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4	7	0	3	7	0
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4	3	7	5	1	8	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

1	6
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4	7	0	1	6	0
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4	3	7	4	9	8	0
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D

1	6
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4	7	0	0	5	0
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4	3	7	5	1	3	0
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Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE ATTACHED

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mrs. Dorothy J. Clark

organization Vigo County Historical Society

date July, 1977

street & number 1411 S. 6th Street

telephone 317-234-2342

city or town Terre Haute

state Indiana

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

date July 19-79

For NCHS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register

Agent:

Chief of Registration

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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In addition to the Markle House's important historical associations, the structure is significant as a surviving example of the Greek Revival style of architecture. The house features a large, six bay exterior with a left-of-center entrance which contradicts the symmetry usually found in Greek Revival facades. The old mill office located at the north end accounts for the even number of bays. The house also retains a number of Italianate features (a bracketed cornice and a small porch with brackets) which were later "modernizations."

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Oakey, C.C. Greater Terre Haute and Vigo County. 2 vols.; Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1908

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Cronin, William F., ed. An Account of Vigo County from its Organization, Vol. III of History of Indiana from its Exploration to 1922, Logan Easrey, ed. Dayton: Dayton Historical Publishing Co., 1922.

Beckwith, H. W. History of Vigo and Parke Counties. Chicago: H. W. Hill and N. Iddings, Publishers, 1880.

Condit, Blackford. History of Terre Haute: 1816-1840. New York: A. S. Barnes and Co., 1900.

Vigo County Historical Society Records.

FHR-8-300A
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The boundary of the historic area begins at the intersection of the east bank of Otter Creek with the north right-of-way line for the railroad tracks. The line follows the north right-of-way line of the railroad southwest to the point in the county road where it intersects with a line running east and west, ten feet south of the outhouse; the boundary runs west along this line past the outhouse until it intersects with a line running north and south, ten feet west of the carriage house. The boundary follows this new line north past the carriage house until it intersects with a line running east and west, ten feet north of the carriage house. This new line is followed east across the county road to the point that it intersects with the east right-of-way line of the county road. The boundary runs north and northeast along the county right-of-way line to the bridge crossing Otter Creek. The boundary runs due east from the west to the east creek bank. The boundary then runs southeast along the east creek bank to the point of origin.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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PAGE

OWNERS:

Markle House -- Vigo County Historical Society, Inc.
1411 S. 6th Street
Terre Haute, Indiana

Markle Mill Site and Park -

Anton Hulman Estate
900 Wabash Avenue
Terre Haute, Indiana 47808

(Leased to Otter Creek Township)

Vigo County Courthouse
3rd Street & Wabash Avenue
Terre Haute, Indiana 47808

Markle House +
Mill site
Terre Haute, Indiana

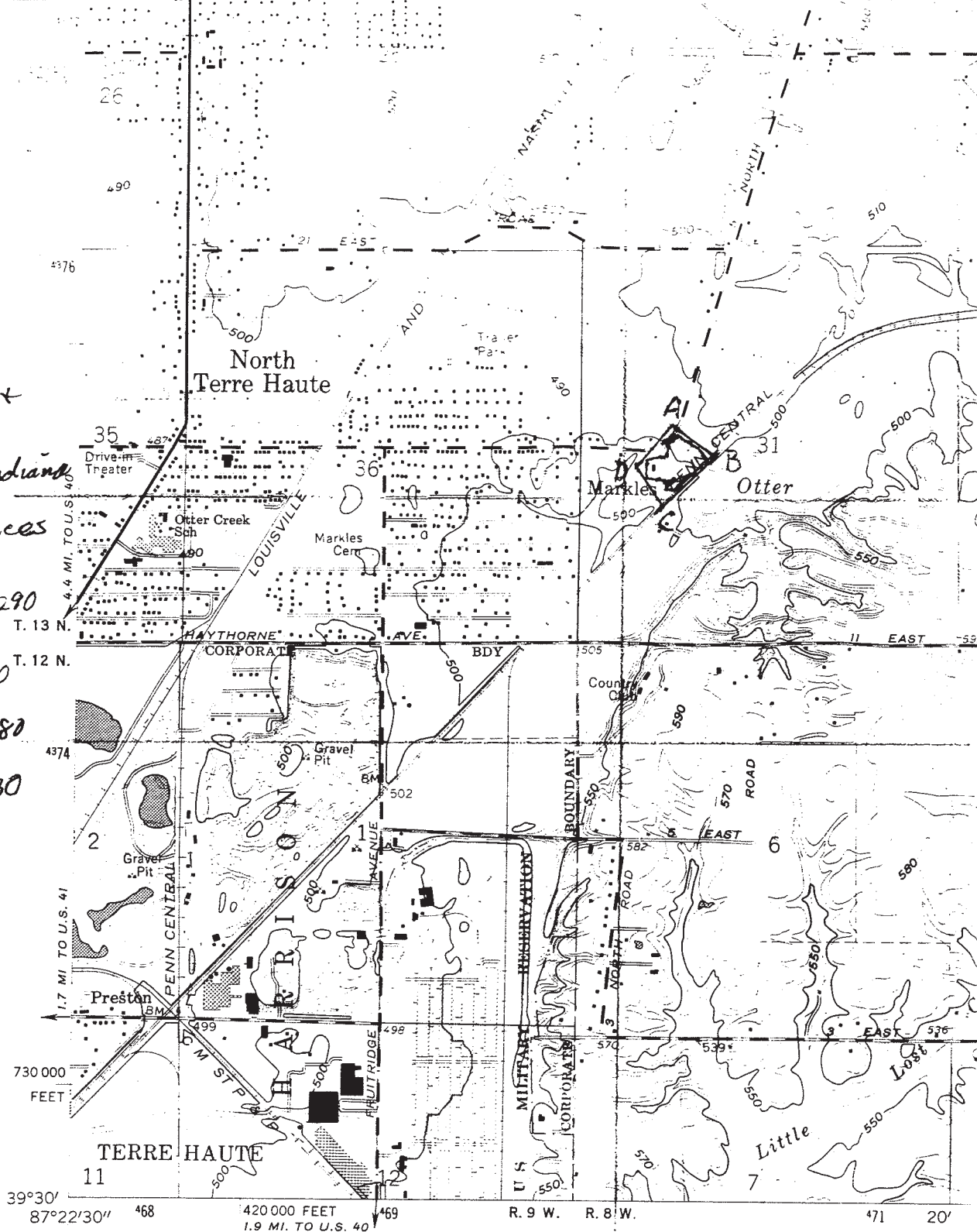
U.T.M. References

A. 16/470200/4375290

B. 16/470370/4375180

C. 16/470160/4374980

D. 16/470050/4375130



(TERRE HAUTE)
3562 IV NW

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE

Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken
1949. Topography by planetable surveys 1950. Revised 1962

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Indiana coordinate system, west zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 16, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial
photographs taken 1972. This information not
field checked

★ MN
GN

1 1/2°
27 MILS
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

UTM GRID AND 1972 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET