

FINAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Rickenbaugh House

AND/OR COMMON Celina Post Office

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER N.E. Corner of Lake Celina  
Hoosier National Forest

N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN St. Croix

X VICINITY OF  
CODE

STATE Indiana

018

COUNTY Perry

CODE 123

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER Vacant

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS (If applicable)

U.S. Forest Service, c/o Judith Propper, Regional Archaeologist

STREET & NUMBER 633 W. Wisconsin Avenue

CITY, TOWN Milwaukee

N/A VICINITY OF

STATE Wisconsin

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER Perry County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN Cannelton

STATE Indiana

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE N/A

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 type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Rickenbaugh House faces west, overlooking the northeastern end of Lake Celina. The house is a two-story, T-plan structure, with side porches attached to north and south sides of rear extension, thus forming a 40' x 40' square. The roof is gabled, low-pitch, and now is covered with corrugated metal. Flush end chimneys are located at the three gable ends. (Photos 1, 2)

Sandstone is the principal facade material, being ashlar-cut blocks with regular horizontal coursing. With the exception of a clapboard pantry extension at the northeastern corner of the structure, all exterior walls are constructed with these blocks which are laid one deep (the same blocks serving as both exterior and interior walls). Chimneys, sills, and lintels are also of the same stone. Most of the clay-like mortar is extant; there are occasional areas of repointing with a higher lime content mortar. The principal (west) facade is six bays across with rigidly symmetrical placement of openings. The first story has two central doors flanked by two windows (W-W-D-D-W-W). The upper story has four windows, located directly above those on the first story. The windows, now boarded with plywood, originally had six-over-six lights, set in openings of approximately 3' x 4'. Massive sandstone lintels surmount doors and windows. Those above the doors are 4'10" x 1'4"; and those above the windows measure 4'4" x 1'4". The surfaces of the stone sills and lintels are vermiculated, yet smoother in contrast to the general facade material which shows cutting marks more distinctly. Corners are articulated, as well, with vermiculated quoins which are enhanced by a slightly lighter color of sandstone, and this is especially noticeable toward the top of the facade where the execution tends to be more refined. Originally, there was a one-story porch on the west facade. This was replaced shortly after the turn of the century with a wider porch which covered the four centermost bays on the first story. This second porch, recently removed, had a gable over the front doors. It was supported by turned posts in the carpenter-builder style. The location of both porches is discernible from a recessed area of stone, otherwise unexposed, and from a slight discoloration of the stone. A three-tier rubble and cement deck, partially deteriorated, remains at the front entrance and, like the later porch, spans the four centermost bays. Also on the west facade are two basement openings at the porch deck level; these have iron grates across the openings. On the front, as on all sides, is an unadorned wood frieze and cornice molding with returns and raking cornice at the three gable ends.

On the north side of the house (Photo 3), the only opening on the gable end is a cellar entrance which consists of a series of steps descending below ground level. The opening is supported by a segmental arch of radiating sandstone voussoirs, the only opening not supported by a rectangular lintel. The north side of the rear extension houses a porch and a small clapboard pantry extension which forms the northeast corner of the house. Under the porch roof are three openings: one door, facing east, and a door and window, facing north. Each has sills and lintels as those found on the west facade and is boarded shut.

The area of the porch is 8' deep and 12' wide. One square post rises from the partially deteriorated cement deck. The clapboard pantry extension, apparently original to the house, is 8' square. Some of the clapboards have been replaced by stamped metal siding. It houses one window on the north side.

The rear (east) of the house has two windows, both on the upper story, symmetrically placed. A flush end chimney is located at the gable peak. This rises from an oven which extends roughly 6' from the rear wall. The oven is approximately 5'4" wide, and is executed in sandstone with a shed roof. At ground level are two basement windows, identical to those on the west facade.

On the south side of the rear extension was a porch, like that on the north side, only without the pantry. This has been removed within the past year, thus leaving the otherwise symmetrical rear (east) facade without a full gable and raking cornice, and minus one of the returns. This porch, the cement deck of which remains, was 8' x 20'. The south wall has a door flanked by two windows. Also, a window facing east from the house looked onto the porch. The roof of the porch, which was a continuation of the roof over the rear wing of the house, has been sawn flush with the south wall, thus leaving roof rafters exposed and a gap of approximately 3' which has been filled with plywood. On the south end of the front section there are no openings.

The interior is very simply laid out into six large rooms, three to each floor. The first floor has two parlors in the front section of the house. There is no central hall between them; rather, each was entered through one of the doors on the west facade. These parlors were connected by a large opening with wooden panel doors which were intended to open, forming one large parlor. It is said that the carpenters forgot to install sliding mechanisms; hence, the two parlors remained separate, with only one-third of the panel divider operable. Each parlor is roughly 16' square.

The kitchen, which forms the rear extension, is located behind the parlors. Its dimensions, excluding the 8' square pantry, are 16' x 20'. An enclosed L-shaped stairway rises from the kitchen.

The second story is similar to the first, with two bedrooms above the parlors, and a third above the kitchen. There was attic space under the roof which extended over porches on both sides of the kitchen wing (now only on the north side).

The interior, though somewhat damaged by water and vandals, still retains its basic solid character. The walls and ceilings are lath and plaster-finished. The window openings are splayed to allow as much light as possible to pass through the thick walls. Though the fireplace mantels have been removed, some of the woodwork remains, primarily in the poplar shelves and walnut trim which, on the first floor, flank the fireplaces in both parlors. The three-panel divider between the parlors remains, with one hinged panel serving as a door. Interior doors and trim are relatively simple. The upstairs doors had three-light transoms. The front bedrooms had shallow closets on either side of the chimneys. Some of the wooden pegs for hanging clothes remain within.

There is a full basement where hand-hewn oak beams and poplar joists are visible. Additional beams were used for support under the fireplaces. The foundation stones are similar to those visible on the facades, but are of generally larger dimensions. There are no extant outbuildings.

The house is in stable condition; its walls and foundation show no signs of unfavorable settling or deterioration, with the exception of the chimney of the south wall, which is missing some stones at the top. The other, less durable features, have suffered somewhat, however, from several years of neglect and vandalism. A faulty roof, now replaced, allowed water to damage much of the plaster and interior woodwork (floors

have buckled, stairs have become loose, etc.). Exterior wood trim, (cornice and frieze) though extant, shows deterioration. The wooden structural members appear not to be significantly affected by dry rot or termite problems. Vandals have removed mantels and some doors, and have destroyed most of the window trim. The only major damage to the integrity of the house is the loss of the porch on the south side, and this was necessitated by years of water damage from the older roof. This, however, is not irreparable, as the porch was of simple construction with modest cornice detail. The original front porch is long-vanished, and the loss of the second front porch poses no real problem, should restoration be desired in the future. The house has been secured from vandals by a high, chain link and barbed wire fence which surrounds the house. All openings are sealed with plywood. The present roof will also help ensure some degree of stability to the building fabric.

## 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1874

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Rickenbaugh House was built by Jacob Rickenbaugh in 1874, and it served as home for his descendants until its acquisition by the U.S. Forest Service in 1968, and for most of the period between 1878 and 1961 it was the Celina Post Office. It is significant both for its historical association with Perry County—its role as post office and one-family home—and for its architectural style and integrity.

Jacob Rickenbaugh (1822-1910) was born in Emmitsburg, Maryland, and moved to Indiana in 1855, shortly after his marriage to Elizabeth Ester Kerr. In that year he purchased from J. D. Carmickle a parcel of land, in addition to others, on which he set up a tannery. Rickenbaugh chose the site for its abundance of oak and chestnut trees, the bark of which he used in his tanning process. This property included a log house which served as the Rickenbaugh house until the present house was built some 19 years later. The log house was located where the Lake Celina boat launch parking lot is at present.

Construction of the present house began in 1873 or 1874. It is believed that the stone masons employed by Rickenbaugh came from either Leopold or St. Croix, nearby communities, and that after completion of the Rickenbaugh House they went to work on the abbey at St. Meinrad, which bears similar materials and construction techniques. The source of the sandstone has not been determined. Ramps were constructed along the walls to assist in stone laying; on the east or rear facade are depressions in the stone which, never filled in after construction, attest to the use and location of these ramps.

In the late 1870s, Jacob Rickenbaugh closed his tannery and turned to farming. At about the same time, in 1878, Ella Rickenbaugh, one of Jacob's ten children, took over the postmastership from local blacksmith, George Hilt. Though only 17 years old, she was allowed to hold the job for which she was legally too young. In 1881 Ella married William Edwards, and the postmastership was passed to her mother, but she reacquired the position after the death of her husband in 1883. After the death of her mother in 1899, Ella turned the postmastership over to Sarah Carmickle, only to become post-mistress again a few years later, a position she held until 1941 when her daughter, Mrs. Nola Blunk, took over duties. In 1961 the services of the Celina Post Office were no longer needed. The shelves in the south parlor which served as the repository for postal materials remain in the house.

The Rickenbaugh House remained in the family until 1968 when it was acquired by the U.S. Forest Service. A further testimony to the Rickenbaugh family's long association with the site is the Rickenbaugh Cemetery, located approximately 100 yards to the north of the house. Several members of the Rickenbaugh family, including Jacob and Elizabeth, and members of the Carmickle family, are buried there.

The Rickenbaugh House is a late example of the Greek Revival style, representing at once both the stylistic lag, common in rural areas, and the tenacity and adaptability of the Greek Revival style. Though the Greek Revival detail is restrained on this house, careful attention was given to such stylistic elements as the severe symmetry of the west facade, the proportions and spacing of doors and windows, the roof pitch, the cornice, frieze and returns, and the articulation of corners with vermiculated quoins.

The stone work on the house, though not unique, is of uncommonly fine quality, and its integrity has not diminished in spite of time and neglect. Inside the house one can observe the quality and technique of construction, especially in the cellar where the hand-hewn beams and floor joists are quite sound, in the hand-split lath, and in the woodwork which, though not always intact, is consistent with the overall simplicity and high quality of the house.

Though the surroundings of the house have been altered and all other structures associated with the Rickenbaugh House have disappeared, including those at Winding Branch, a small community which was located at the site of the present Lake Celina dam, the site now has an added integrity—being a part of the Hoosier National Forest and located on Lake Celina. The Rickenbaugh House is a point of interest for recreationists using the trails and the boat ramp, thus remaining a viable cultural resource in its new context, where its notable construction and integrity are highly visible.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one acre  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	53,39,5,0	4,22,65,7,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary lies 10 feet from and parallel to the walls of the building.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	J. Marshall Davis, Resource Analysts, Inc.	DATE	October 25, 1983
ORGANIZATION	P.O. Box 2477	TELEPHONE	812/334-0303
STREET & NUMBER	Bloomington	STATE	Indiana 47401
CITY OR TOWN			

## 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES  NO  NONE

*J. M. Peden*  
 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is \_\_\_ National \_\_\_ State \_\_\_ Local.  
 FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE 1-26-84

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
DATE	
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE
ATTEST:	
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

"Celina, A Fair Weather Town". Anonymous. Undated article from early 1940s, found in USFS files and at Tell City Historical Society.

"County Historical Society May Restore Old Rome Post Office," The News, Tell City, September 15, 1977, p 7A.

Perry County Assessor's Office. Oil Township (Perry County, Indiana) Tax Duplicates, Perry County Assessor's Office, Perry County Courthouse, Cannelton, Indiana.

Poehlein, Chuck. "A Grand Home--Celina Building was Early Showplace," The News, Tell City, 1983, undated, from Rickenbaugh family file at Tell City Historical Society.



Rickenbaugh House  
vic. of St. Croix, Indiana  
UTM Reference: 16/533950/4226570

