

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

FINAL

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 Rose Hill Farmstead

other names/site number Rose-Wise-Patterson Farm

2. Location

street & number 1/2 mile north of Old Wheatland Road on CR se10s N/A not for publication

city or town Vincennes  vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Knox code 083 zip code 47591

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.)

*Patricia R. Kalka* 1-27-95  
 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:

<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain): _____	_____	_____

Rose Hill Farmstead  
Name of Property

Knox 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	
7	1	buildings
2	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
10	1	Total

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling  
AGRICULTURE: agricultural outbuilding,  
animal facility, storage

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling  
WORK IN PROGRESS

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal  
OTHER: I-house  
OTHER: bank barn  
OTHER: Midwest Three-Portal barn

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK  
walls BRICK  
WOOD: weatherboard  
roof METAL  
other ASPHALT  
CONCRETE

**Narrative Description**

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

Rose Hill Farmstead  
Name of Property

Knox County, Indiana  
County and State

### 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)

AGRICULTURE

ETHNIC HERITAGE: black (African American)

ARCHITECTURE

#### Period of Significance

1827-1945

#### Significant Dates

1827

1829

#### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

#### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

#### Architect/Builder

Unknown

### 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:

National Register files

Rose Hill Farmstead  
Name of Property

Knox County, Indiana  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	6
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4	6	3	2	8	0
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4	2	8	3	3	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

3 

1	6
---	---

4	6	3	6	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	2	8	3	4	4	0
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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 Jim Corridan, Executive Vice President

organization Sigma Pi Educational Foundation date May 10, 1994

street & number P. O. Box 1897 telephone 812-882-1897

city or town Vincennes state IN zip code 47591

#### 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 Sigma Pi Educational Foundation

street & number P.O. Box 1897 telephone 812-726-4949

city or town Vincennes state IN zip code 47591

**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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Rose Hill Farmstead is located five miles east of Vincennes in the old French Donation lands of Palmyra Township, just north of the Old Wheatland Road. Although land survey parcels are oriented somewhat on the French system (i.e., lots are diagonally laid so as to conform to the Wabash River), no other trace of French settlement appears on the farm. The farm includes 2 contributing sites (pasture, garden), 1 contributing structure (silo), 7 contributing buildings (house, summer kitchen, 2 barns, garage, chicken coop, tool or storage shed) and 1 non-contributing building (concrete storage shed). The farmstead contains 226 acres, 4 of which are hereby nominated, 197 acres in crops, and 25 acres in woods and wetlands.

Several geographic and cultural features are located on the farm, but not included in the nominated area. Two tributaries of Snapp Creek dissect the property, one running south to north, one east to west. Wetlands are located among the woods straddling both creeks and were identified as such by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service. Neither wetland area appears to have ever been drained. Two I-beam bridges were used to cross the creeks, as well as a concrete bridge. All three are in disrepair. A small concrete dam was built at the southern end of the creek closest to the house. Over time the creek has washed around the structure, and it now serves no purpose. A natural spring flows year round. It is located about 250 feet south of the 3 portal barn. Projectile points of uncertain vintage have been found near the spring, leading some to conclude that the area was a hunting ground in ancient times. Additionally, during the War of 1812 era, a stockade was built near the spring. The spring site may be a potentially significant archaeological site and could be nominated separately pending a more thorough investigation.

Buildings on Rose Hill Farmstead are loosely clustered in a Y shaped configuration at a bend in the road. The main house, built in 1827, is centrally located and is surrounded by mature spruce and maple trees (photo 1). Clustered to the west of the house, but at lower elevations as the hill tapers off, are the garage, tool or storage shed, and chicken coop. The summer kitchen connects to the house by an open breezeway. Various types of fences enclose areas among these buildings (not included in resource count-photo 2). A Midwest Three Portal or feeder barn and non-contributing



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Rose Hill Farmstead  
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concrete block shed are located approximately 300 feet to the southwest. The large barn and silo are located about 250 feet directly north of the house.

The most significant structure on the farm is the brick house built in 1827, enlarged with rear ell in 1829, and remodeled c.1890. The house is best described as an I-house with Federal style detailing. The original house is two stories high with two rooms on each floor flanking a central stair hall. The original section measures 48 feet by 24 feet, 2 inches. The main facade, which faces south, is symmetrical with a central entry with transom in a five bay configuration (photo 1). Windows on the front section are one-over-one double hung sash. The rear elevation originally mirrored this appearance. Federal style brick flat arches form opening lintels. On the side elevations, the placement of windows is not symmetrical and openings have simple flat lintels (photo 3). Chimneys are at each gable-end, flush with the wall. The side-facing gable roof is covered in a painted, standing seam metal material.

Demand for more space necessitated the building of an ell in 1829 at the rear of the house flush with the west elevation. The ell measures 36 feet 3 inches in length and 18 feet, 3 inches in width. This two story brick addition contains two rooms on each floor surrounding a double central chimney stack. East and west elevations are divided into four bays (photo 4). Entries are located far north and far south, and upper floor windows retain eight-over-twelve wood sash. The gable roof surface of the ell has the same roofing as the front section. The wood frame section along the east wall of the ell was originally an open two story porch with a staircase, the only stairs for this wing. The porch was enclosed with wood clapboard siding at some point in the 1900s. Modifications were made to the north wall of the front section as a result of the ell addition. Several windows were infilled, and one was lengthened into an interior doorway to the first floor of the ell. The rear chimney and small frame addition surrounding it were probably added in the early 1900s.

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Around 1890, a remodeling effort to "Victorianize" the house was begun. The full width one story front porch may have been added at this time, although its sturdy octagonal columns with matching bases and capitals may indicate an earlier date. The porch has a nearly flat roof and simple entablature. Porches were added over the west entries to the ell. The first floor front windows were lengthened, other multi-light sashes were replaced with one-over-one units at this time. The 1890s remodeling also affected some interior elements, as discussed later. In 1990, the front windows were replaced with one-over-one units. Some of the original twelve-over-twelve windows were found stored in the chicken coop.

The house has two basements. One is located under the east half of the front section. The furnace, water heater, and water pump are located here. Floors are dirt and poured concrete. The chimney for the furnace rises up the middle of the rear wall of the front section; the small frame addition shelters the entrance to this basement. The far northern section of the ell has a basement root cellar.

Entering the house from the front door, one finds a central hall with Federal style staircase rising on the left (photo 5). Doors lead to the west living room, east parlor, and north to the enclosed porch. Originally, the north door led to the outside. It now leads to the ell. Christian doors with rim locks are typical throughout the house. Original moldings are simple and delicate architraves. A ten inch baseboard is found in the hall. The floor is composed of six inch wide ash boards. Ceilings throughout the 1827 front section are ten feet high.

The east parlor features a Federal style stained walnut mantle with paneled pilasters (photo 6). The firebox has been infilled and a cast iron coal grate has been added. The hearth is tile. Floors are painted around the perimeter, but unpainted where rugs apparently covered it. Window moldings were replaced when windows were narrowed and lengthened in the 1890s (photo 7). Queen Anne style grooved boards which overlap vertically mark the lengthened windows.

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The west parlor has a similar fireplace to the east parlor (photo 8). Here the mantel has a cupboard and a door to small room to one side. The door once led to a tight staircase to the upper bedroom. The staircase was removed at some point and now this small closet houses a 1/2 bathroom. In addition to the front facing windows, two other smaller windows face west, one in the 1/2 bath, one in the parlor itself.

The ell addition was built at a lower grade than the original house, necessitating three steps from the west parlor to the dining room (photo 9). The dining room has a stained walnut built in breakfront, c.1929, and a Victorian Eastlake mantel which replaced the double sided fireplace originally installed (photo 10). Doorways lead in four directions, back to the living room, west to the outside, north to the kitchen, and east to the enclosed porch. The west door has two upper panes of glass replacing the upper wood panels. Windows with one-over-one sash and original Federal style moldings are located on the east and west wall (one each). Ceilings are eight feet, six inches high throughout the ell. Hand hewn lath boards and horse hair plaster are common in the ell. A silent butler from the kitchen to the dining room was located west of the fireplace. It is not known if the pass through is original; it has since been covered.

The kitchen, at the extreme north of the house, was modernized in 1990 with linoleum flooring, new counters, cupboards, and appliances. The kitchen has five doors, one leading south back to the dining room, one to the west to the outside and summer kitchen, one to the north, and two leading east. One of the doors leading east brings one to the enclosed porch, the other to a utility room at the northwest corner of the house. The remaining door leads to the root cellar. Window moldings are simple boards with no architrave trim. The south wall had a double fireplace and silent waiter, both have been covered. Pieces of original plaster, now painted over, showed traces of stencil work in this room.

The upper floor is similar in plan to the first floor. The southern part of the main stair landing has been converted into a



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**Rose Hill Farmstead  
Knox County, Indiana**

bathroom. From the landing, doors lead south to the bathroom, east to the master bedroom, and west to the children's bedroom (photos 20 and 21). The master bedroom has a Federal style painted mantel with paneled pilasters and delicate bull's-eye corner blocks, flanked by narrow floor to ceiling cupboards (photo 22). Windows retain the delicate Federal moldings, but sash themselves are 1990 replacements. Two windows face north, two face south.

Across the hall, the children's bedroom has a Federal style mantelpiece, one closet in the corner, and three windows (photo 24). This room was divided prior to the 1900s and remained that way until 1990. The southern two-thirds was a children's room, the northern third was a servant's quarters. The narrow staircase which rose from the west parlor entered into the servant's quarters. Two windows with original trim but new sash face south, while the proportions of the west window indicate its early addition.

Access to the upper level of the ell is achieved from the enclosed porch. A narrow wooden staircase steeply rises from the lower level of the porch (photo 25). The second level has three exterior east facing windows. Two doors lead west, each into separate rooms. These rooms were generally not used for family members but for hired hands and laborers.

The northern most room has four windows with eight-over-twelve sashes. Two windows face west, one north, and one east into the enclosed porch. Two cupboards flank the chimney rising from the lower level. Heat was provided by a stove, and the stove pipe outlet exits into the chimney. The ceiling was covered in wall board in 1990 (photos 26, 27, 28, and 29).

The southern upper room in the ell has two west facing windows, and one east, also looking into the porch area. Again, heat is provided by a stove. The rooms are very plain, with unvarnished wood floors, horse hair plaster walls, and hand hewn lath and plaster ceilings. (photos 30 and 31).

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The house has an attic accessed through the upper landing. A trap door is located in the second floor ceiling. The attic is open, with a wooden floor running through the center east to west. Two single pane windows are located at the east and west gable ends.

The existing summer kitchen is a one story gable roofed frame structure measuring 15 feet, 2 inches by 22 feet, 3 inches (photos 11, 12, and 13). It is attached to the north end of the ell by a covered walkway. Three six-over-six windows are visible, two face north, and the third south, next to the door. One single four pane window faces east, and another west. While the central brick fireplace and chimney stack date from the early years of the farm, the poured concrete foundation and floor and wood frame structure appear to be more recent construction, possibly from the 1930s or 1940s. Despite these changes, the summer kitchen contributes to the significance of the farm.

Directly north of the house stands the larger of the farm's two barns, a variant of a bank barn with an aisle addition to the north (photos 15 and 16). The barn would appear to date from the mid 1800s. The lower level sheltered livestock in divided stalls, while upper levels served as threshing floors and storage. The original portion of the barn measures 60 feet, 3 inches by 42 feet. Brick piers support this heavy timber frame structure. Vertical board siding is intact; some boards reach from floor to roof line. The main sliding door entry is reached by an earth ramp. Five wooden slat vent openings face east and west, one on either side has been sealed. Four vents face south, with one enclosed. Three four-light windows also face south, two on either side of the central sliding door, and one above the door. An 18 foot wide aisle lean-to was added to the north wall of the barn. The gable roof is now covered with corrugated metal, but traces of the original wood shingles are visible under the northeast corner. The interior upper (main) level has wood floors. A board-lined enclosure at this level may have been a granary. Just north of the barn is a poured concrete silo, now without roof or dome. It would appear to date from the early 1900s. Between the house and barn was the site of the family garden, counted as a contributing site

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**Rose Hill Farmstead  
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(photo 11).

The smaller barn to the southwest is a Midwest Three Portal Barn, also called a feeder barn (photos 17, 18, and 19). It dates from the mid 1890s. The Three Portal barn measures 51 feet, 10 inches by 32 feet and is vertical board sheathed heavy timber structure. The roof is of asphalt shingles. One of the two south facing windows is still in place. The east and west sliding doors reveal the three aisle plan. An open aisle along the north end allowed wagons to be pulled into the barn. The interior has cattle or horse stalls and hay mows above.

The chicken coop and nearby storage shed are gable roofed, vertical board sided buildings of simple design. The shed has corrugated metal roofing, while the coop has asphalt shingle roofing. The garage is a wood frame, hip roofed building dating from the 1930s or 1940s. It has a shed extension to the west elevation to accommodate larger cars. The non-contributing concrete block shed to the west of the Three Portal barn appears in photo 18.

*Section 8-Statement of Significance*

Rose Hill Farmstead meets National Register criteria A and C. Rose Hill is an intact example of a prosperous middle class farm demonstrating the evolution of southern Indiana agriculture from the early 1800s to the end of the Second World War. Good examples of rural building types, from the well-detailed brick I-house, to the large bank barn and outbuildings, provide a complete record of an Indiana farm. The success of the Rose family was due in part to the hard work of their African-American slaves and indentured servants who lived on and helped work this farm until about 1835. Although forbidden in the Northwest Territory and illegal under Indiana's Constitution, the "peculiar institution" existed in Indiana into the 1800s, and the Rose farm is one of few documented properties associated with this seldom acknowledged part of Hoosier history. Later, the farm was home to George Martin Patterson, co-founder of Sigma Pi, a national fraternity.

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**Rose Hill Farmstead  
Knox County, Indiana**

Knox County was one of the first areas settled in Indiana, starting with establishment of Fort Vincennes by the French government in 1733. French fur traders and settlers organized some land holdings along the Wabash River based on the French "long lot" system, but intensive agriculture was not to come until the early 19th century. By this time, the land had been parceled into "donations" or rewards to French who had been loyal to the cause during the Revolution. Pioneers from Kentucky and Virginia bought donation lands offered for sale and subsistence farming began. The first expression of Anglo-American settlement were log buildings. These were soon replaced by brick or frame homes and timber framed outbuildings. English vernacular building types were common among Virginia and Kentucky natives in Knox County, as in southern Indiana in general. Farms in the rich Wabash Valley remained viable well into the nineteenth century due to their access to transportation and fertile soil. Farms without access to the Wabash, White, or Ohio Rivers lagged behind in production until central and northern Indiana farms became dominant after the 1860s. Mechanization, which took advantage of the large flat fields available to the north, was decisive in this trend. Rail transport was also more fully developed in central and northern Indiana. As these trends unfolded, farms in Knox County likely became more focused on providing goods to Vincennes and other regional towns. In the early 1900s, Purdue agricultural agents encouraged farmers in southern Indiana to convert to truck farming; Knox County became a important melon growing region. With less income, there was less tendency to alter or destroy agricultural buildings, although lack of maintenance and encroachment has resulted in the loss of many rural resources throughout the state.

A unusual part of the story of the settlement of Knox County and several Ohio River counties in Indiana is the brief introduction of slavery into the region. Unusual, because the 1787 Northwest Ordinance which established Vincennes as the capital of the Northwest Territory clearly states that "There shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in the said territory..." The 1816 Indiana Constitution also forbade slavery or involuntary



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servitude. These laws did not prevent the persistence of slavery in Indiana well into the 1800s, as noted historian Emma Lou Thornbrough states (Thornbrough, p. 5). French settlers in Vincennes had brought slaves with them to the post, but it was Upland South settlers that brought greater numbers of slaves with them into the fringes of the Northwest Territory. Vincennes had the highest population of both free and slave African-Americans in 1810 and 1820 (135 slave, 249 free in 1810). Many of the "free" African-Americans were indentured servants. Repeated attempts were made by powerful factions based in Vincennes and supported by Territorial Governor William Henry Harrison (who held several slaves) to alter the terms of the Northwest Ordinance.

While these failed, the climate still favored white owners. Verdicts of court cases filed on behalf of African-American slaves supported ownership rights at first, but by the eve of statehood (1816), judges were increasingly supporting the anti-slavery measures. Owners began to thwart the issue by bringing slaves to Indiana, "freeing" them, then having them sign a "voluntary" contract of indenture, which was duly recorded in court. Legal challenges to indentured servitude increased in the 1820s to the point that the practice gradually faded. In 1830, a local census recorded by the local Board of Trustees of Vincennes recorded 32 slaves, although the U.S. Census recorded only 3. Slavery and indentured service were never widespread in the Old Northwest Territory. The fact that it did exist in Indiana does help explain why Confederate sympathy was high in southern Indiana counties. Acceptance of slavery may have also helped foster the climate of hostility prevalent towards African-Americans in 19th century Indiana. The changing political climate in Indiana ended attempts to import slavery. Settlers arriving from the east and Quakers fleeing slavery in the south firmly tipped the balance of power away from the initial pro-slavery settlers by the 1830s.

Rose Hill Farmstead is significant as an early settlement period farm which utilized slave labor and developed into a prosperous middle class farm. In 1807, the Martin Rose family moved from Bullitt County, Kentucky, to Vincennes, to join his eldest son



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Matthias, who had resided in Indiana since 1805. Matthias was a successful businessman in Vincennes and was a partner in the merchant firm of Rose and Harper. A Frenchman named Jean Baptiste St. Aubin originally was granted 400 acres (Donation 52) by Congress for his support during the Revolution. St. Aubin assigned his rights to Peyton Short who in 1807 sold the 400 acres to Martin Rose (Knox County Abstract, Donation 52, Entry 10, 6-9-1807). Martin subsequently built a log house on the land where he, his wife Rebecca, their children, and three slaves lived (U.S. Census of 1807, Indiana Territory, County of Knox). Rose was among the first settlers in Palmyra Township, and in 1808, he bought Donation 51, an additional 400 acres, from William Henry and Anna Harrison. Donation 51 originally had been assigned to Antoine Gamlin (Knox County Abstract, Donation 51, entry 5, 1-1-1808). Records indicate that Martin Rose registered three slaves on March 6, 1807 in the Court of Common Pleas (Register of Slaves, Knox County, 1805-7).

During the War of 1812, Matthias Rose served under William Henry Harrison at the Battle of Tippecanoe. At this time, the Rose farm was selected as the site of a blockhouse to defend the area from Indian attack. A number of forts were erected in Knox County during the War of 1812; Rose's Fort, as it was known, was never attacked. It was located near the spring.

Matthias Rose decided that he needed to care for his ailing father in the 1820s, and he began construction of the brick I-house, completed in 1827. The Rose house was an expression of landed wealth in its day. According to a survey of Knox County completed in 1981, the Rose house is one of the finest examples of this house type in Palmyra Township. Several other comparable I-houses were identified in the survey, all but a few have the level of integrity of the Rose house.

On May 8, 1828, Martin Rose died. Matthias had since moved to Rose Hill, and in 1829, he added the ell section to the house, creating an additional four rooms, and replacing a log cabin used for cooking. The second floor of the addition was used by hired hands

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**Rose Hill Farmstead  
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in later days. It is likely that these rooms were slave quarters in the early 1800s. Records indicate that Roses held seven slaves in 1820 (U.S. Census, Knox County, p. 88). By 1830, one slave is indicated in the census, while two other former slaves of the Roses lived adjacent houses (not on the farm). Since the Roses owned slaves when the house was built in 1827 and added to in 1829, one may reasonably assume that their servants at least worked in the house. Architectural features of the rear ell, such as the separate outside staircase and number of bedrooms, suggest that these rear bedrooms were used to house slaves.

Other properties associated with involuntary servitude locally would include William Henry Harrison's house. No other known resources with this association exist. Rose Hill Farmstead is a rare documented resource firmly linked with this unfortunate and seldom acknowledged chapter of Indiana history.

In 1834, Matthias Rose died at Rose Hill on Christmas Day, after returning from a trip to Philadelphia. On New Years Eve, Rebecca Rose (Martin's wife, Matthias' mother) passed away. The property passed to Malinda Rose, daughter of Martin and Rebecca. Henry K. Wise was Malinda's husband; the Wises moved to the farm in 1835.

The Wise family moved to Vincennes from Pennsylvania in 1816. The Pennsylvania background of the family may explain the bank style barn as such barns were popular in Pennsylvania. The Wises ran a typical upper middle class farm according to agricultural census data; corn and hogs were staples, cows and sheep were also tended. The trend of general purpose agriculture, typical of the 1800s in Indiana, continued on the farm, although an emphasis on sheep and cattle raising can be seen from census figures. The outbuildings of the farm reflect the many functions typical of general agriculture. Henry Wise also established a tannery and saddlery at Rose Hill.

Ironically, Henry Wise was an abolitionist and is said to have helped fugitive slaves on the Underground Railroad. This is undocumented, however, one major route of the Underground Railroad

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**Rose Hill Farmstead  
Knox County, Indiana**

was from Evansville to Terre Haute, crossing overland at Evansville to the Wabash River and following the river to Terre Haute and Lafayette.

The farm next passed to Henry's daughter Nancy Ann (Wise) and Robert Patterson. Robert Patterson worked the farm and was also Knox County Recorder from 1891 to 1899. Family tradition states that the family is related to Besty Patterson Bonaparte. She was the wife of Jerome Bonaparte (Napoleon's brother and king of Westphalia) and reportedly a visitor to Rose Hill.

George Martin Patterson was the next family member to own Rose Hill. He was the youngest son of Robert and Nancy. In 1897 he graduated from Vincennes University. While at college, he and three other young men started Tau Phi Delta fraternity, which changed name to Sigma Pi in 1907. Sigma Pi is the oldest fraternity which was founded in Indiana. George Patterson died in 1960, leaving the house to a daughter, who in turn willed the property to Sigma Pi fraternity. Sigma Phi plans to rehabilitate the house to its 1890s appearance, and use the property for retreats and meetings.

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*Section 10-Geographical Data-Verbal Boundary Description*

Part of Donation 52, Township 3 North, Range 9 West, Palmyra  
Township, Knox County, Indiana, beginning at a point which is  
South 38 3/4 degrees East, 28 chains along the Northeastern line  
of said Donation and South 51 1/4 degrees West, 23.91 chains along

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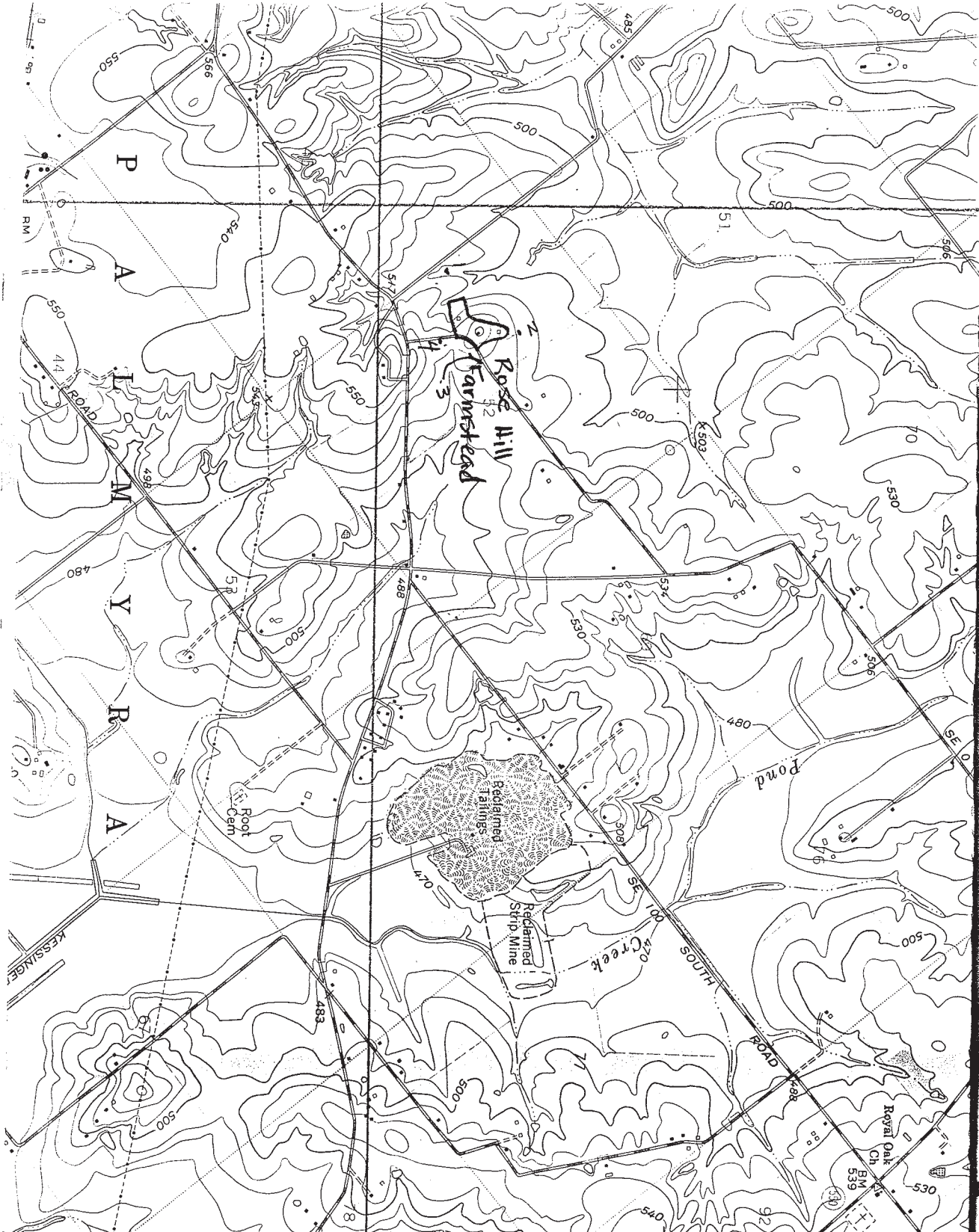
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the center of the county road and South 51 1/4 degrees West 12.212 chains along the center of the county road and South 60 degrees 15 minutes West, 5.197 chains along the county road from the North corner of said Donation; thence North 43 degrees 41 minutes 31 seconds west, 210 feet; thence North 06 degrees 39 minutes 35 seconds West 260 feet; thence South 75 degrees 14 minutes 02 seconds West 205 feet; thence South 02 degrees 03 minutes 05 seconds East, 470 feet; thence South 53 degrees 09 minutes 59 seconds West 395 feet; thence South 37 degrees 00 minutes 11 seconds East 75 feet; thence North 59 degrees 03 minutes 43 seconds East 427.47 feet; thence South 89 degrees 53 minutes 54 seconds East 69.70 feet to the center of the county road; thence North 14 degrees 37 minutes 22 seconds East 40 feet in the county road; thence North 32 degrees 05 minutes 24 seconds East 40 feet in the county road; thence North 42 degrees 15 minutes 20 seconds East 70 feet in the county road; thence North 60 degrees 15 minutes East 130 feet in the county road to the point of beginning and containing 4.0 acres more or less and subject to public right-of-ways.

*Boundary Justification*

The boundary includes all the contributing resources associated with this historic farm, without including non-essential acreage. Other important sites on the farm, such as the spring, need evaluation by a professional archaeologist but may meet the National Register criteria independently. These sites are therefore not included in this nomination.





(WHEATLAND)  
3561 III NE

T. 3 N.

WHEATLAND 5 MI.

ROSE HILL  
 FARMSTEAD  
 KNOW CO., IN  
 UTM S:  
 1) 16 463280 4283300  
 2) 16 463540 4283600  
 3) 16 463660 4283440  
 4) 16 463580 4283260

42' 30"  
4284