

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 Pipe Creek Falls Resort

other names/site number Pipe Creek Gristmill 017-479-55008

2. Location

street & number CR 850 E and CR 275 S at Pipe Creek N/A not for publication

city or town Walton vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Cass code 017 zip code 46994

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.)

Patrick R. Ritten 8/11/95
 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:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<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:)	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Pipe Creek Falls Resort
Name of Property

Cass Co., IN
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	
5	4	buildings
1	0	sites
2	1	structures
0	0	objects
8	5	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)

RECREATION & CULTURE: Outdoor Recreation
 INDUSTRY: Manufacturing Facility
 COMMERCE: Restaurant

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Gable Front
 LATE 19th & EARLY 20th C. AMERICAN MOVEMENTS:
 Craftsman

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
 walls WOOD: Weatherboard; WOOD: Shingle
 STONE: River Stones
 roof ASPHALT; METAL: Tin
 other

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.

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

Period of Significance

c. 1888-1945

Significant Dates

1888

1914

1938

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Bowyer, Charles Lewis

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Pipe Creek Falls Resort
Name of Property

Cass Co., IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 7.25 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

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

2

Zone			Easting					Northing						

3

Zone			Easting					Northing						

4

Zone			Easting					Northing						

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 Harry Dishon, owner Suzanne Fischer, DHPA Intern

organization _____ date 25 May 1995

street & number RR2, Box 114 telephone 219/626-2009

city or town Walton state IN zip code 46994

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 Harry & Joan Dishon

street & number RR 2, Box 114 telephone 219/626-2009

city or town Walton state IN zip code 46994

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Pipe Creek Falls Resort
Cass, Indiana

Pipe Creek Falls Resort -- Description

Pipe Creek Falls Resort consists of eight contributing and five non-contributing resources on a wooded site overlooking both banks of Pipe Creek. The natural features of the site -- falls, cliffs, overhanging rockshelters, and exposed coral formations -- contribute to the historic significance and are integral to the visitors' enjoyment and appreciation of the resort.

The contributing resources are: a cider/gristmill, bath house, and generator shed, all built in 1914; a concrete dam built in 1938; a storage shed, restroom, and concession stand built c. 1940; and the site itself, which includes the campground, the remains of the foundation of a carousel, and the rockshelters. The non-contributing resources are: four mobile homes (scheduled to be removed) and a modern picnic pavilion.

The mill is a three-story, gable-roofed building covered in ship-lap wooden siding. It faces east and the creek runs north and south at the rear of the building. It has an asphalt shingle roof and concrete foundation. One-story additions were built c. 1940 onto three sides of the mill to house a restaurant. The side and rear additions contain two-over-two ribbon windows, while the front-gabled facade contains small, single-paned windows and an enclosed entry porch. The rear addition is shaded by a metal awning. The poured concrete foundation has flared columns that support the rear addition and enclose the mill race. Concrete steps at the south side of the mill lead from the water line to the top of the riverbank, approximately 15'.

The bath house is a rectangular building about 20' north of the mill. River stones form the lower portion of the wall and white-painted wooden shingles make up the upper portion. Wide concrete steps lead from the rear door into the river. Small, unglazed windows provide light but are currently boarded-up. The main facade contains an overhead garage door and a large shuttered and screened awning window with a wide sill to the left of the door. A concession stand operated from this window, and its counters and many other fixtures still remain. Numbered slots for baskets

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2 Pipe Creek Falls Resort
Cass, Indiana

containing swimmers' possessions are visible in the main part of the bath house. A non-contributing metal-roofed pavilion stands in front of the bath house and replaces a 1915 structure built in the same style.

The generator shed is located on the bank of the creek about 50 yards from the bath house. It is a small, square building with a pyramidal roof covered in blue-painted asphalt shingles, and has exposed rafters. The shed is built of river stones and has a poured concrete foundation. The mill race and the drive shaft for the mechanism are still in place. The shed housed an electrical generator to furnish power to the carousel. Both the generator shed and the bath house were built in a vernacular Craftsman style.

The concrete dam stands approximately 6' high. It was built in 1938 to replace a 1914 dam that was destroyed by ice.

The restroom is a simple, square building made of concrete block. Its hipped roof is covered in the same blue shingles as the generator shed. Doors for women and men are located in the south and north ends of the building, respectively.

The storage shed and concession stand are simple, frame buildings with concrete block foundations. They stand on the edge of the campground, across a gravel driveway from the mill. Both buildings have siding similar to that in the mill. The concession stand has a decorative zig-zag wooden trim around the eaves. It contains serving windows on the three sides not abutting the storage shed.

The campground is a roughly-triangular piece of land east of the driveway that runs from the main road to the mill. It is bordered on the north and east by a fence and a windbreak of trees, and on the south by the main road. The south end of the campground has scattered sweetgum, oak, and locust trees. Poles that once supported electrical hookups dot the site. The bedrock on the campground is either exposed or very close to the surface, making a very flat and level camping area.

Next to the picnic pavilion, on the north, is the remains of a metal-faced, circular concrete track approximately 12' in

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 3

Pipe Creek Falls Resort
Cass, Indiana

diameter. The track originally supported the outer edge of a carousel that was powered by electricity from the hydroelectric generator. The carousel was built in 1915 and featured carved and painted horses.

The rockshelters, cliffs, and exposed coral reefs are extremely rare geological formations in northern Indiana. Both plant and animal fossils are abundant in the rocks. The coral reefs form a 6' waterfall. Added to the 6' drop created by the dam, the resulting cascade of water provides a scenic view from the riverbanks. The rockshelters are right next to the creek. Visitors can stand upright in the two largest ones. At the water's edge are some remnants of an earlier mill, built in the 1850s. The old milling equipment is supposedly buried in the ruins.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

Pipe Creek Falls Resort
Cass, Indiana

Statement of Significance

Pipe Creek Falls Resort is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A in the area of entertainment/recreation as an example of a popular local picnic and swimming spot. The resort's facilities show the public's changing demands and tastes in recreation from the 1800s to the present.

Pipe Creek Falls has been a scenic attraction for many years before the resort was built. The land was part of the Chief Richardville Reserve No. 1, and Richardville was rumored to have buried some of his treasure along the creek. The Miami collected yearly tribute at the falls and it was a favorite site for their camps. Rockshelters along the creek probably housed prehistoric peoples.

Although contemporary photos show picnickers seated on the rocks at the falls as early as the 1870s, the first evidence of organized recreational activities is in 1888. A group of young society people from Logansport and Peru, Indiana, attended the "First Annual Logansport & Peru Picnic Party Picnic" at Pipe Creek Falls in July of 1888. A newspaper account of the picnic mentions that approximately 44 people were present, and the group enjoyed music, refreshments, and baseball on the site. The second annual picnic boasted over 70 guests and featured dancing in the old mill (demolished around 1907). The third picnic attracted even more people and also featured music and dancing in the old mill. These annual picnics established Pipe Creek Falls as a popular summer recreation spot.

The mill building mentioned in the 19th-century newspaper articles replaced the original frame flouring mill built by James Lewis in 1854. This first mill burned, and a new one was built on the same site by Joseph Stewart. The ruins of this mill are still present under layers of fill. This building served as a post office for many years under the names of "Dow" and later, "Onward." The current mill was built by Charles Bowyer in 1914 and operated as a cider and gristmill until the 1930s.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

Pipe Creek Falls Resort
Cass, Indiana

After the mill ceased operation, Bowyer turned the building into a restaurant. He added extensions onto three sides of the building and put numerous windows in the walls that overlooked the falls. The kitchen was in the basement, and a dumbwaiter carried meals up to the main floor dining room. Illegal gambling was rumored to take place on the upper floors. The restaurant stayed in business until the current owner bought the property in 1980.

One of the most important features of the Pipe Creek Falls Resort was the swimming area. When Charles Bowyer bought the property in 1906, a timber dam of about 4' kept back the water for the swimming hole. Bowyer replaced this dam with one of concrete, and raised its height by 2'. He also built the bath house, carousel, and generator shed at this time. The bath house featured numbered baskets for clothing and valuables of the swimmers. A concession stand operated in part of the building. Photos from the 1920s show dozens of people riding the carousel, picnicking, and swimming. In 1938, the dam was destroyed by ice. Although Bowyer rebuilt the dam, the popularity of the swimming area waned after that.

Camping was also available in the open area across from the mill. A few tents are visible in the 1920s photos, but camping was at the height of its popularity at Pipe Creek in the 1930s and 1940s. A second concession stand and a storage shed for maintenance equipment show the increased use of the campground during this period. Bowyer also added electrical hookups for campers that required them. More recently, the owners put in four mobile homes for summer visitors to rent.

The resources of Pipe Creek Falls Resort are significant as remnants of an early 20th century recreational facility. Such facilities are becoming increasingly scarce; the recreation industry is very competitive and there is a lot of pressure on owners of these facilities to keep up with the public's demand for new and improved features. Pipe Creek retains its pre-World War I buildings as well as those added between the wars, showing how a small, local resort changed to meet its visitors' needs.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 6

Pipe Creek Falls Resort
Cass, Indiana

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books:

Cornelius, L'Dean and R.W. Julian (eds.). Where Two Rivers Meet: A View of the Past.
Logansport: Cass County Historical Society, 1978.

Helm, Thomas B. History of Cass County, Indiana. Chicago: Brant & Fuller, 1886.

Powell, Dr. Jehu Z. History of Cass County, Indiana. Chicago: Lewis Publishing
Company, 1913.

Newspapers:

Indianapolis Star Magazine. "Indiana's Coral Strand." 29 July 1956.

Logansport Pharos-Tribune. Clippings from July 1888, July 1889, 24 July 1890.

Interviews:

Bowyer, Joe

Layman, Parker

Misc. Sources:

Bowyer family history, scrapbooks, photo album

Clippings file, Logansport/Cass County Public Library

Deeds and abstracts

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 7

Pipe Creek Falls Resort
Cass, Indiana

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All of that part of Lot #2 of Hamilton and Taber's Subdivision of John B. Richardville Reserve No. 1, more particularly described as follows, to wit:

Beginning at a point South 89° 33' West 434.4' and North 30° 15' West 157.25' from the Southeast corner of said Lot #2 heretofore mentioned; thence North 13° 25' East 294.1' to a point; thence North 4° 29' East 354.8' to a point; thence North 29° 09' West 273.3' to a point in a public road; thence South 49° West along said road 365.7' to a point; thence South 22° West along said road 277.2' to a point; thence southeasterly 200' more or less to a point on the northerly side of Pipe Creek, said point being 140' northeasterly from the centerline of a bridge of the west portal of the same; thence southwesterly 140' to a point where the centerline of a bridge intersects the west portal of said bridge; thence South 62° 29' East along a public road 151' to a point; thence South 88° 20' East along said road 272.6' to the place of beginning, containing 7.258 acres, more or less.

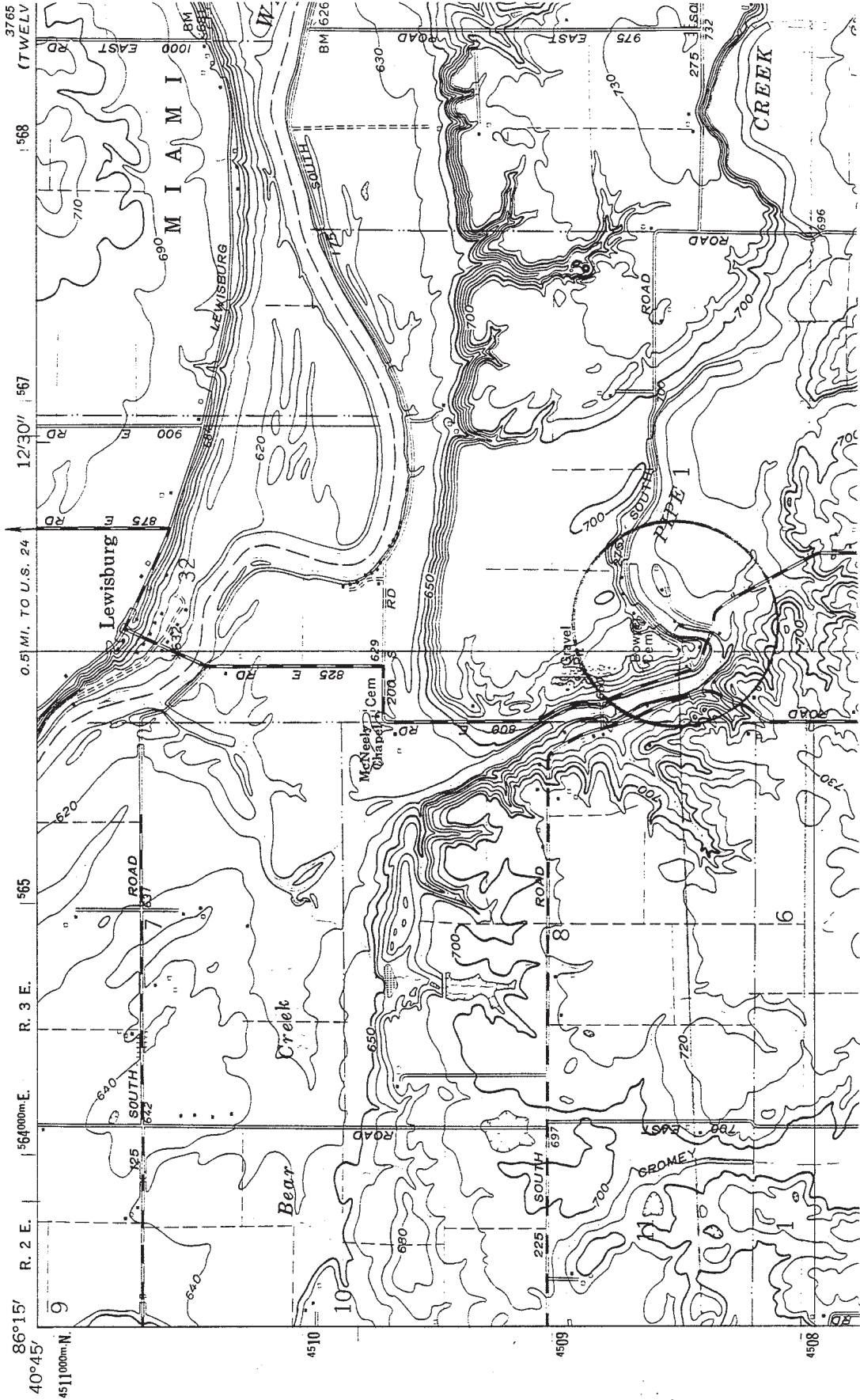
BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This is the original boundary of the property.

3765 IV SE
(LOGANSPORT)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE OF
DEPARTMENT OF INDIANAPOLIS



Chick
55 W. IN
66100
510