

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 Normal Hall

other names/site number Ladoga Normal School; Ladoga High School; American Legion Post #324

2. Location

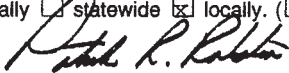
street & number Northwest corner, West Main and Harrison Streets N/A not for publication

city or town Ladoga N/A ☐ vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Montgomery code 107 zip code 47954

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.)



11-20-95

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

☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the
National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.

☐ removed from the National
Register.

☐ other, (explain:)

Normal Hall
Name of Property

Montgomery 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	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	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)

EDUCATION: school

DEFENSE: arms storage

SOCIAL: meeting hall

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

STONE: limestone

roof METAL: tin

other WOOD: shingle

WOOD: plywood

Narrative Description

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

Normal Hall
Name of Property

Montgomery 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)

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1878-1917

Significant Dates

1878

1891

1907

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Huntington, Hiram

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:

Normal Hall
Name of Property

Montgomery County, Indiana
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.7 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	16	5167310	441180000
Zone	Easting	North	ing

3			
Zone	Easting	North	ing

☐ 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 Mark Dollase, Hist. Landmarks Foundation of IN/Conrad Harvey, Andrew Houk,
Historic Ladoga, Inc.
organization Historic Ladoga, Inc. date May 1, 1995
street & number P.O. Box 351 telephone 317-362-2243
city or town Ladoga state IN zip code 47954

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 Historic Ladoga, Inc.
street & number P.O. Box 351 telephone _____
city or town Ladoga state IN zip code 47954

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 Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Normal Hall, Montgomery County, Indiana

7. DESCRIPTION

Normal Hall, also referred to as Ladoga Normal School, is the last remaining building from the campus of the former Central Indiana Normal School. It is an excellent example of a transition between two popular 19th century architectural expressions, the Greek Revival and Italianate styles. The building was designed by Hiram S. Huntington and was completed in 1878. Despite a lack of maintenance, Normal Hall has maintained much of its original integrity.

Normal Hall is a two-story brick building, three bays wide and six bays in depth. It is situated on a low ridge on the west end of Ladoga, lending the building a position of prominence. Greek Revival influences can be found in the building's simple, dignified symmetry, wide painted cornice, and heavy limestone lintels and sills above and below each window. However, the predominant Italianate style is demonstrated in the building's shape and form, by the tall, narrow windows on each facade, ornamental wood brackets and the prominent cupola. Huntington's skill at blending elements of the two styles is apparent in the finished product.

The building's main elevation faces east, and is three bays wide. The prominent first floor entrance is an alteration which dates to 1907. It is composed of a set of slightly recessed, wooden double doors, each with six divided lights in its upper portion. A multiple-paned transom is located above these doors. A broad limestone lintel and threshold are situated above and below the front entrance. The tall narrow windows are 1/1 double-hung wood sash; however, these were recently boarded over to prevent weather-related deterioration. A wide cornice is located above the second-story windows on all four elevations; four ornamental wood brackets can be found just below the eaves.

Normal Hall's north and south elevations are symmetrical and identical in appearance. Six bays wide, the 1/1 double-hung wood windows (also boarded) dominate each of these facades. The painted masonry cornice also is found on each of these elevations, as are seven ornamental wooden brackets. In several places, parts of the soffit are missing due to water damage and lack of maintenance. Between the fourth and fifth bays on both the north and south elevations, brick chimneys rise above the low-pitched hipped roof.

The rear, or west elevation of Normal Hall, is four bays wide, with windows similar to those on the rest of the structure. However, two smaller windows on the first floor are missing their sashes, but have limestone lintels and sills similar to the other fenestration. It appears these openings may actually be early alterations, previously having been taller windows, or perhaps even door openings. As on the other facades, the painted cornice

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Normal Hall, Montgomery County, Indiana

can be found here, with five ornamental wooden brackets. The eaves on this elevation are greatly deteriorated and missing. A metal staircase, leading to a second-story window, is also located on this facade.

A dominant feature of Normal Hall is its bell tower, which was added to the building in 1907. Its base is composed of a battered dormer, which is clad in wood shake shingles. The dormer's flat roof serves as the stage for a wooden cupola, comprised of three delicate posts at each of the four corners. Each elevation of the cupola has a series of three arches, the central one being wider than those that flank it. Five ornamental wooden brackets can be found on each elevation of the cupola's cornice, reinforcing the Italianate character of Normal Hall. The brackets are beneath wide, projecting eaves. The cupola's roof form is difficult to determine; however, Sanborn maps dating from 1908 and 1942 indicate a flat roof. The cupola housed a bell until it dropped into the building several years ago.

The interior of Normal Hall is functional and fairly simple. The first floor is comprised of five rooms, two of which were recitation rooms, one the superintendent's office, a janitor's room and the entry hall. The second floor is made up of three spaces: the assembly hall, the dominant room on the upper floor; a large landing at the top of the stairs and a cloak room (later a kitchen). Some of these rooms were affected by a remodeling Normal Hall underwent in 1907, when it became Ladoga's high school.

The entry hall is the first room encountered when passing through the front entrance. It is a long, narrow space, with wood plank floors, baseboards and a high ceiling. Four door openings allow for passage into other rooms, each with a simple wooden door surround and transom above. A broad staircase on the south side of the room was installed during the 1907 remodeling, necessitating removal of the original paired staircases which formerly occupied the space.

To the rear of the entry hall, two doors located side-by-side lead into the two recitation rooms. Long and narrow, the *Ladoga Leader* bragged in 1907 that each room could accommodate 75 students. The rooms are nearly identical, with narrow plank wood floors, wood baseboards and window surrounds, and each with a shortened window in the end (west) wall. A common wall divides the two rooms, the former location of the blackboards. A projection into each room from the outside walls (north and south) was made to accommodate heating equipment installed in 1907. The north recitation room had a restroom facility added at a later date, which now occupies approximately one-fourth of its original space.

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The superintendent's office is located at the northeast corner of the building, immediately to the right of the front entrance. The floors and trim detail are the same as in the recitation rooms, but in addition, a picture rail is located on the south wall. Although the room is painted an "institutional" green, an ornamental border is visible through the paint at the cornice level. At a later date, restroom facilities were added on the west side of the room.

Across the hall from the superintendent's office is the janitor's room. The door to the room is a low-quality, later alteration. The floors and trim detail in this room are like those throughout the building; otherwise the room is unfinished. Storage is available under the staircase. A separate doorway opens onto a staircase which descends to an unfinished basement.

According to the *Ladoga Leader*, the broad, dog-leg staircase was a result of the 1907 remodeling. The wooden stairs lead to a landing, and a second flight to an upper landing. The lower and upper landings are connected by a banister, with simple balusters and newel posts at each end. Each newel post has an incised floral pattern, similar to those of Eastlake design. Both the lofty ceiling and the cornice are adorned with a classic pressed metal pattern, which remains completely intact. The pressed metal ceiling was installed throughout the second-story in the 1907 renovation project.

On the upper landing, a set of double doors opens out into the stair hall, allowing for entry into what was the assembly room. Each of the doors has a large, beveled upper panel and a smaller, beveled lower panel. Above the doorway is a 3-light transom. A heavy wooden door surround encompasses the doorway.

The assembly room is in a state of deterioration. The pressed metal ceiling has collapsed, leaving the ceiling joists and rafters exposed. Windows line the three walls of the room; on the west end, one has been altered into a door opening.

Simple wood window surrounds and baseboards are present. The narrow plank wood floor shows damage from where the bell crashed through it when it fell from the cupola. Besides the opening from the stair hall, the east wall also has a doorway which passes into the cloak room (kitchen). A transom is present above the door. Between the two doorways is a long narrow opening, undoubtedly a later alteration through which to serve food from the kitchen.

The cloak room is located in the northeast corner of the building's second floor. Its main entry is from the stair hall, where its door is surmounted by a transom. A wooden door surround is also present. Although the room retains its window surrounds, baseboards and pressed metal ceiling, there is little other evidence of its earlier use. It appears the room underwent a substantial renovation, c.1945. The kitchen equipment, flooring,

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doorway and food pass-through to the assembly room all seem to date to this period. Since Normal Hall's function changed to an American Legion post at that time, it is likely the room underwent changes as a result of new ownership.

Despite its abandonment and the lack of maintenance, Normal Hall retains a high degree of architectural integrity. As an outstanding example of late 19th century architecture, with strong educational associations, it is hoped Normal Hall can again be restored and put to effective use in the community.

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Normal Hall, Montgomery County, Indiana

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Normal Hall is the only remaining building from the Central Indiana Normal School, an educational institution founded in 1876. It was constructed in 1878, and despite minor alterations, the building remains a fine example of Italianate style architecture, with some Greek Revival influences. It was rated "Outstanding" in the 1986 Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory for Montgomery County. Normal Hall is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A and C, for reasons of architecture and educational significance.

The town of Ladoga was platted in 1836 by John Myers, a local businessman who owned a sawmill and gristmill. Based on growing agricultural and timber-related industries, Ladoga had approximately 150 residents by 1850. However, it was the arrival of the New Albany and Salem Railroad in 1853 which greatly contributed to the small town's growth. Ladoga was incorporated in 1866.

Montgomery County was the location of numerous institutions of higher learning during the 19th century. Wabash College was founded at Crawfordsville in 1832, while the Crawfordsville Female Seminary was established in 1849. In that same year, the Waveland Academy received its charter and soon boasted notable graduates like T.C. Steele, a prominent Hoosier artist. It was in 1855 that Ladoga's residents entered the competitive world of higher education, with the establishment of a local seminary. However, it was short-lived, lasting only five years. Competition between rival religious organizations often split community support.

It was on the site of the former seminary, on a hill west of the commercial district, that two professors from Lebanon, Ohio founded the Central Indiana Normal School. With the active support of local residents, Warren Darst and W.F. Harper began instruction in a brick building which had briefly served as the Ladoga Female Academy. Darst and Harper opened the school in September 1876, with 48 students in attendance.

Soon dissatisfied with the school's limited size, Darst resigned, and Harper relocated with many of the students to a new school in Danville, Indiana. Ladoga's residents rallied to build Normal Hall in 1878, hoping to attract Harper back to the school with a new structure. Three Ladoga businessmen headed the construction committee, hiring local builder Hiram S. Huntington to design and build Normal Hall. Capt. William Neff supplied and supervised the brickwork, while Mr. A.M. Scott managed the interior work.

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Hiram S. Huntington was a well-known building contractor in Montgomery County during the late 19th and early 20th century. Huntington, joined later by his son George, designed and built many of the Victorian-era homes in and around Ladoga.

His more notable buildings included the Ladoga Opera House (1891), Ladoga Grade School (1898), Masonic Block in Ladoga (1899/1916), and the Odd Fellows Lodge in Ladoga (1900). Huntington and Son also designed numerous other commercial and religious buildings in southeastern Montgomery County.

Normal Hall was constructed during the summer of 1878, at a cost of \$4,153.00. Its opening occurred September 3, 1878, and its formal dedication was on November 19th of the same year. The principal speaker was the Hon. Schuyler Colfax, former Vice President of the United States.

Despite the best efforts of local residents, Harper refused to return to Ladoga; however, Warren Darst did agree to come back. Normal Hall served as the main academic facility on the campus for the next 13 years, until the final class graduated from the Central Indiana Normal School in the spring of 1891.

Following the School's closing, the campus and its four buildings were put up for auction in July 1891. The Town of Ladoga paid \$1,520 for the property, with the intention that Normal Hall would become Ladoga's high school building. In September 1892, following some minor modifications, the building began its 25 years of serving as Ladoga's high school.

Normal Hall, now the local high school, was remodeled during the summer of 1907 at a cost of \$4,000. The building's most striking feature, its ornate cupola/bell tower, was added at this time as a gift of Mrs. Emily Anderson Knox, the wife of Ladoga's most prominent businessman. Interior alterations included the addition of a modern heating and ventilation system, creation of two recitation rooms on the first floor, new stairway, and ornamental pressed tin ceilings throughout the second floor. The remodeled high school opened in September 1907, but was in use only ten years, upon completion of a new high school on East Taylor Street in 1917.

Superseded by the new high school, Normal Hall's days as an educational institution were over. It was sold at auction in 1917, and was purchased by the Ladoga Canning Company for use as a storage site. Its acquisition by the Indiana National Guard in 1921 lends the building some local significance in social-military history. It served as an Armory until January 1935, housing Company G, 151st Infantry, Indiana National Guard, a unit later redesignated Company L, 151st Infantry. The structure was used as a drill site, and

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included an indoor Springfield Rifle 30-06 (later 22-caliber) firing range, a bowling alley, gymnasium, and a kitchen. Minor modifications met this purpose, including the superintendent's office (NE first floor room) being remodeled into shower and restroom facilities.

During the 1920s, the second floor area was used as a community recreation center, including use as a roller skating rink. Normal Hall had a long history of serving as a community meeting place. Between 1888 and 1897, the building hosted two Civil War veterans organizations, Stonewall Jackson Camp #1, United Confederate Veterans, and Bruce Post #273, Grand Army of the Republic. According to the Confederate Resource Center, located at Hill Community College in Hillsboro, Texas, Normal Hall in Ladoga is the only building in the United States known to have hosted monthly meetings of veterans from both sides of the Civil War.

Reused by the Ladoga Canning Company as a storage site between 1935 and 1944, Normal Hall became the home of the newly organized American Legion Post #324 in December 1944. It served as the Post's headquarters, and also numerous community functions, including a meeting place for the Ladoga Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts. However, due to its declining membership, the American Legion ceased holding meetings in Normal Hall in the mid-1970s. Following 20 years of deterioration, the building was turned over by the American Legion in 1993 to joint ownership of the Town of Ladoga and Clark Township trustees.

Normal Hall and its property were turned over to a newly-formed local organization, Historic Ladoga, Inc., in 1994. Currently, efforts are in progress to restore this important landmark to allow for its successful continued use. As one of the most significant examples of Italianate style architecture in Montgomery County, and Ladoga's only surviving educational building, Normal Hall is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

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9. Bibliography

"A New School Building", Ladoga Leader. Ladoga, Indiana, March 22, 1907, page 1.

Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana/Indiana Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology. Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory: Montgomery County Interim Report. Indianapolis, Indiana, 1986, pp. 104-108, 113.

Ladoga High School Alumni Association, The Green and Gold: A Century of Education in the Ladoga Community. Crawfordsville, Indiana: Indiana Printing Co., 1977.

"Ladoga High School: School Is Commissioned", Ladoga Leader. Ladoga, Indiana, August 23, 1907, page 1.

10. Geographical Data

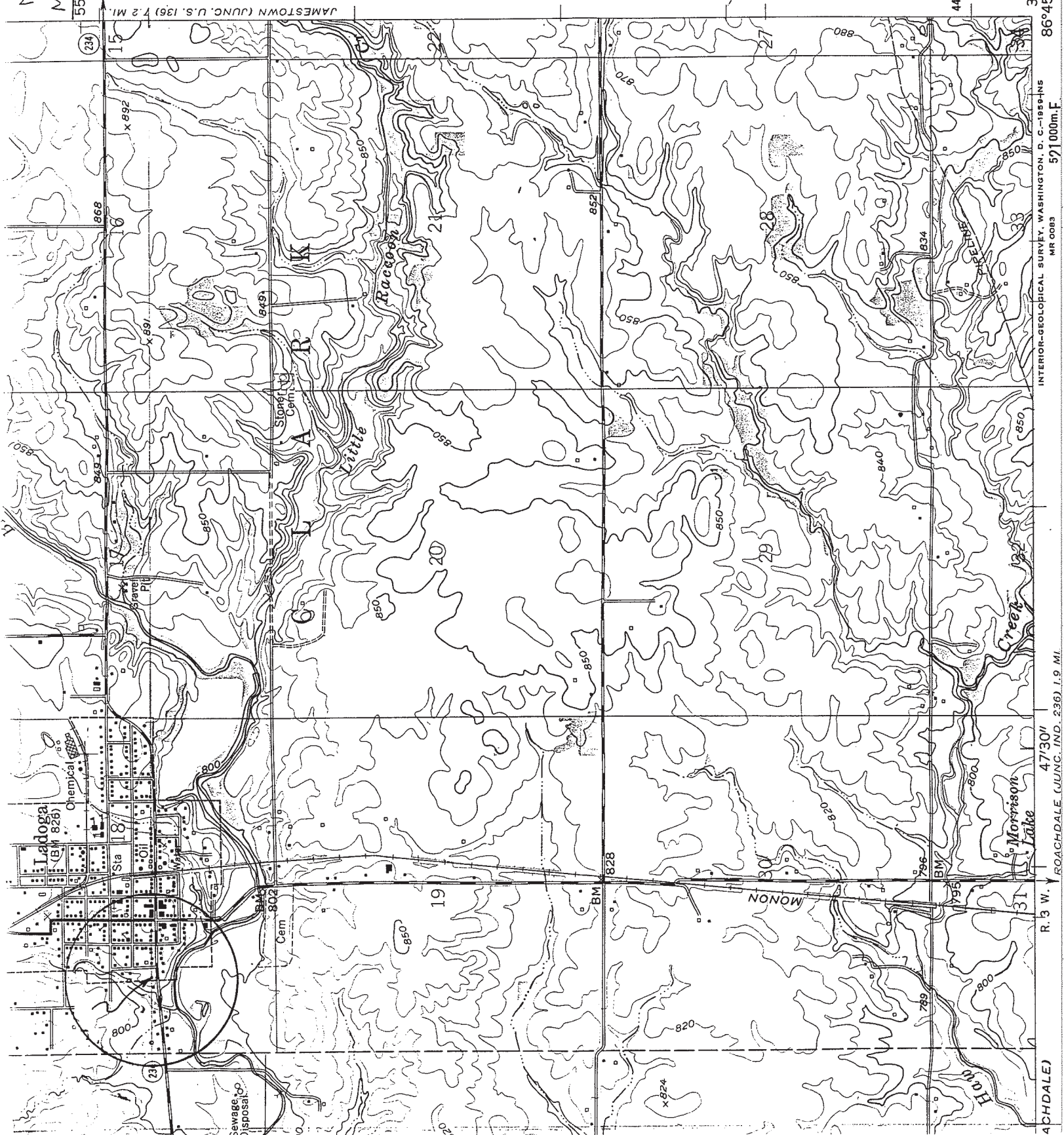
Verbal Boundary Description

Part of the west half of the southwest quarter of Section 18, Township 17 north, Range 3 west, bounded and described as follows: Beginning at a point 440 feet south of the northeast corner of the lot formerly owned and occupied by John H. Goodbar; running thence west 248 1/2 feet; thence south 160 feet; thence east 33 feet; thence south 187.7 feet to the north line of the M.M. Henry gravel road (now U.S. 234); thence north 85 degrees east, along said north line 216.38 feet to the west line of Harrison Street, in the Town of Ladoga; thence north, along said west line, 325 1/2 feet, to the place of beginning, in Montgomery County in the State of Indiana.

Boundary Justification

This is the historic property boundary.

NORMAL HALL
 MONTGOMERY CO. IN
 ZONE 16
 E 516730
 N 4418000



4414000m. N.
 39°52'30"
 86°45'
 INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C.-1956-INS
 MR 0083
 571000m. E
 R. 3 W. 47'30"
 ROACHDALE (U.S. 236) 1.9 MI.
 MORRISON LAKE
 HAWK CREEK
 4CHDALE)