

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FILE COPY

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 Mooreville Gymnasium

other names/site number Newby Gymnasium 109-429-06010

2. Location

street & number 244 North Monroe St. N/A not for publication

city or town Mooreville N/A vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Morgan code 109 zip code 46158

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 36CFR 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.)

[Signature] 4-27-97
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources
State or 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:

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:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
1	0	objects
2	0	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: Sports Facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION/CULTURE: Sports Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

19th & 20th c. REVIVALS: Classical Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls BRICK

STONE: Limestone

roof SYNTHETICS: Rubber

other STONE: Limestone

WOOD: Plywood ; GLASS

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.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

Period of Significance

1921-1947

Significant Dates

1921

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

9. Major Bibliographic 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:

Indiana Historic Sites & Structures Inventory

Mooresville Gymnasium
Name of Property

Morgan IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property <1

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	6	5	5	3	1	0	0	4	3	8	5	0	6	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

3

1	6													
Zone	Easting				Northing									

2

1	6													
Zone	Easting				Northing									

4

1	6													
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 Joanne Raetz Stuttgen, President

organization Morgan Co. Historic Preservation Society date 8-22-96

street & number P.O. Box 1377 telephone 317/349-1537

city or town Martinsville state IN zip code 46151

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 Mooresville Consolidated School Corporation, contact: Curt Freeman

street & number 320 North Indiana St. telephone 317/831-0950

city or town Mooresville state IN zip code 46158

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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Section 7 Page 1 Mooresville Gymnasium

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Exterior

The Neoclassical style Mooresville Gymnasium, now known as Newby Gymnasium, measures 100' x 75', with the basketball floor measuring 70' x 45'. The structure is frame with an exterior veneer of brick added in 1922, a year after the structure was completed. The brick used in the veneer was Oriental brick manufactured by the Martinsville Brick Company; it matched the adjoining Mooresville High School, built in 1910 and demolished in 1976.

The foundation is poured concrete. The walls are frame covered with brick. The roof is supported by 6 laminated wood bowstring trusses and covered with a new layer of rubber. The wood gymnasium floor has a concrete base over hand-packed gravel.

The gymnasium is built into a shallow hill, with the north and west facades above grade.

For the past 50 years or so, the north wall has bulged outward due to water damage caused by lack of gutters. The interior wood frame and beaded siding had deteriorated. In addition, the roof had leaked and caused rotting of some areas of decking. Repairs were made in July 1996. A discussion of these follows.

East (Main) Facade

The main facade faces east. Central in this facade is a pair of double steel doors; the original doors have been removed and the transom filled. Framing the entrance are projecting brick walls topped with a Neoclassical arched limestone hood in which is carved GYMNASIUM and the date A.D. 1921. The date is nearly worn off. In front of the entrance are two brick columns with cement bases, at one time topped with globe lamps. The lamps are now missing. A semi-circular asphalt drive is accessed from Monroe Street.

Over the entrance is a glass oculus with mullions radiating from a central circle. Four limestone blocks punctuate the brick surround.

Flanking the entrance are two paired windows, now filled. A limestone watertable and a limestone stringcourse appears below the windows; both wrap the entire building.

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The portion of the wall below the stringcourse is modestly decorated with bricks laid on the horizontal to form rectangles with limestone corner blocks.

The original metal soffit remains. An appropriate new metal gutter has been installed. In the near future, a complete restoration of the east facade, as well as the drive and sidewalk, will be undertaken.

South Facade

The secondary entrance, now the main entrance, is located in the southwest corner. Like the original main entrance, it is protected by projecting brick walls and topped with a Neoclassical limestone hood. Two steel doors have replaced the original doors, and the transom has been filled.

There are six pairs of windows, of which the westernmost and easternmost pairs have been filled. The remaining wood windows are six-over-six double hung sash. Each pair has a brick sill and lintel course with three limestone blocks as decoration.

The watertable and stringcourse continue on the south facade, as does the decorative brickwork.

New aluminum soffit and gutter has been installed.

In the near future, a complete restoration of the south facade, including replacement and/or repair of windows and replication of the entrance, will be undertaken.

West Facade

The west facade is above grade and is solid with the exception of a door and two shower room windows--now filled with plywood--in the cement foundation. The foundation is poured concrete. The limestone watertable and stringcourse continue on the west facade. The decorative brickwork seen on the other three exterior walls is nonexistent. The large tree at the southwest corner, which shows in the photographs, has been removed in order to prevent possible damage to the foundation caused by roots, to prevent moss growth on the wall, and to eliminate root penetration of the sewer pipes.

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Section 7 Page 3 Mooresville Gymnasium

North Facade

The north facade is identical to the south facade except that it has no entrance. All of the six pairs of windows are filled. An elevated panelled wood door is located at the northwest corner; it leads into the stage area on the west end of the gymnasium. The limestone waterable and stringcourse continue on the north facade.

The north wall bows outward near the east corner; it is perhaps six inches out of plumb. Structural engineers point to a shift in the foundation and the sinking of a support beam caused by water damage due to lack of gutters. The brick near the southeast corner exhibits moss; however, mortar is for the most part intact, having been replaced several years ago.

In July 1996, six cement buttresses were built to prevent further shifting of the north wall. When fill is brought in following the removal of accent crabapple trees, these buttresses will protrude about two feet above grade. New shrubbery will be planted to conceal the buttresses.

In the near future, the original windows will be replicated and/or repaired.

Interior

The interior of the Mooresville High School/Newby Gymnasium consists of a basketball floor, stage area, and two basement shower rooms below the stage area. The wood gymnasium floor is original. "Home" bleachers line the south wall. A former student, Bill Cox, explains that the first two rows of bleachers have been removed to provide more playing room. He remembers that the scorekeepers and officials "box" was a sectioned off area in the middle of the second bleacher, with the first bleacher providing a foot rest. The officials' proximity to the fans encouraged many "over the shoulders" officials.

The "Visitors" bleachers have been removed from the north wall; in its place is located the scorekeepers' and officials' booth used today. Future restoration plans include the re-creation of this bleacher section. At the east end of the gymnasium is located a spectators' balcony; former players and students report that "opera chairs" were once used there. Over the south entrance is found a smaller balcony which was also used for spectators.

The stage area on the west end of the gymnasium is also original and retains its vintage

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lighting and scenery systems. The red velvet curtain was a gift of the 1954 and 1955 graduating classes. It is now worn and torn, but the valance is in good condition. Adjacent to the stage are storage rooms.

Beneath the stage are two shower rooms. Each has a cement floor and walls, one toilet, and shower heads which are no longer used. A glazed tile partition separates the shower and dressing areas. Each shower room is accessed by two flights of steps, one leading from the gymnasium floor and the other from the stage.

Exposed above the gymnasium floor are six laminated wood bowstring trusses supporting the roof. Each truss is 75 feet long and is strengthened with lattice members. Affixed to these trusses are remnants of the original lighting system, with later lights and a heating system also existing.

All of the interior walls are covered with beaded siding, most of which is painted white. In July 1996, rotten sections were replaced with replica beaded siding, most notably in the northeast corner and nearly the length of the north side of the building along the floor. Portions of the laminated support beams were also repaired.

Historic accoutrements in the gymnasium are class gifts, including the velvet stage curtain; basketball goals given by the classes of 1930 and 1931; and an electronic clock given by the fans of 1943 and 1944. Outside, alongside the semi-circular drive, is a bronze plaque mounted on a large stone that reads: "Shrubbery given by the Class of 1922".

All told, the resources connected with the Mooresville Gymnasium consist of one contributing building and one contributing object.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mooresville/Newby Gymnasium is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A. It is an early Indiana high school gymnasium specifically designed, constructed and used for playing the game of basketball, and as such is associated with a unique period in the history of education and entertainment/recreation in Indiana that spawned the statewide craze known as "Hoosier Hysteria."

The city of Mooresville is located in extreme northeast Morgan County, 18 miles from Martinsville, the county seat, and approximately 15 miles from Indianapolis. Located on State Routes 67 and 144, Mooresville has historically been and remains yet today an economic and industrial center of northern Morgan County, linking the state capital with cities further south.

This Brown Township city was founded in 1824 by Samuel Moore, and its early development was heavily influenced by the influx of Friends (Quakers) to the area. Early commercial enterprises were established by Friends, and by the time the Indianapolis and Vincennes Railroad was completed in the late 1860s, Mooresville was a thriving community. Its commercial and domestic architecture reflects its economic success, with impressive Italianate commercial buildings lining the two business thoroughfares, Indiana and Main Streets, and Italianate and other late nineteenth-century style residences scattered throughout the neighborhoods.

The Friends had a significant impact on Mooresville's educational history. A fine, permanent boarding school, the Mooresville Friends Academy (109-429-06008), was completed in 1861. For nine years it served the area's Quaker families until being sold to the Mooresville school system in 1872. It was used as the town's high school until 1908. This building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1975. It stands approximately 25 yards southwest of the Mooresville Gymnasium, known today as the Newby Gymnasium.

Located one-half mile west of downtown Mooresville and adjacent to presentday SR 267, the Academy site provided ample space for the expansion of the Mooresville school system. In 1910, a new, multi-story Romanesque high school was constructed directly in front of the Academy building. The Mooresville High School campus was again enlarged with the erection of the gymnasium in 1921, an industrial training building in 1926, and the William and Milton Newby Memorial School (109-429-06007) in 1936. Today, only the Academy Building, the Newby School, and the gymnasium remain of the original campus, as well as a

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limestone arched gateway and a cement bench.

By the time the Mooresville High School campus was fully developed, the game of basketball had become an important past time in small town Indiana, and Mooresville was no exception.

Basketball originated in 1891 when Dr. James Naismith nailed peach crates to the gymnasium walls--the game's first "nets"--of the YMCA in Springfield, Massachusetts. According to Donald E. Hamilton, author of *Hoosier Temples*, basketball was brought to Indiana--the Crawfordsville YMCA to be exact--two years later by a Presbyterian minister who had worked with Naismith. By the turn of the century, cities and towns across the Hoosier State were using barns, school attics, Masonic Halls, churches and any other suitable buildings for playing basketball. Soon, high schools began recruiting players and forming teams, and in 1903, the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) was formed to organize and regulate competition.

The first high school state tournament with twelve teams was held by the Indiana University Varsity Club in 1911. By 1915, so many high school teams had become involved in the state tournament that 14 sectional competitions were organized; the number increased to 32 sectionals in 1921 and to 64 sectionals in 1925. In 1937, a semi-state round of competition was implemented, with sixteen regional winners fighting to go on to the "Final Four" round of state tournament competition. Through the 1996-97 season, Indiana high school basketball was a one-class system, with the smallest schools competing with the the largest schools for the single state title. Deeply imbedded in the state's basketball tradition, the one-class system is now legendary, largely due to the Hollywood film *Hoosiers* that depicted the real-life 1954 state championship of tiny Milan High School over Muncie Central, a large-city school with a population nearly 15 times its size.

Crucial to the belief that the smallest schools could handily compete with the largest was the home-court advantage. According to Hamilton,

With the explosion of interest in basketball, many towns wanted to be considered as sectional and regional sites. The IHSAA tournament structure encouraged schools to construct new arenas since site selection committees often chose the largest gyms for sectionals and regionals in a given area. Having the home court advantage in a sectional tournament was highly prized. Beginning in the 1920s, literally hundreds of schools built new gyms. . . . (9)

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One of these schools was Mooresville, which built its new vaulted-roof gymnasium in 1921--the first basketball gymnasium in Morgan County. Three years later, on February 21, 1924, Martinsville High School in the county seat would play the dedication game in its new gymnasium--at that time the largest in Indiana. (With a seating capacity of 5,200, it could hold every man, woman, and child in Martinsville with seats to spare. Martinsville High School brought home the coveted state tournament shield less than a month later.) The Mooresville and Martinsville Gymnasiums are the only historic basketball gyms existing in Morgan County. The Martinsville Gymnasium was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on July 30, 1981.

The vernacular Mooresville High School/Newby Gymnasium wasn't a shimmering temple to the game of basketball as was its Martinsville rival. Yet the January 1, 1921, town-wide celebration of its completion marked an incomparable achievement.

The new facility, touted as a combination gymnasium and a "community house," had long been discussed for Mooresville, with its population of nearly 2,000. But "it was the high school basketball team that gave final impetus to the demand," wrote William Herschel of the *Indianapolis News*. "Mooresville is proud of her high school basketball team and it is a scrappy, but clean-playing lot of boys. The girls, too, have a team that has developed another we-point-with-pride element in the town. A gymnasium of sufficient size for basketball was a local necessity. Mooresville simply had to have it," Herschel trumpeted.

Financing of the \$10,000 gymnasium was a committed community effort, with 100 individuals each contributing \$100. The first subscription to the gymnasium fund came from Virgil Self, an interurban conductor and Mooresville basketball fan living in nearby Centerton. (Upon the gymnasium's completion, Self proclaimed that he would be moving his family to Mooresville.)

The dedication games were played on December 31, 1920, with the Mooresville high school boys' team playing Center Grove; the girls' team playing Brownsburg, and the Mooresville Elks playing the alumni of Mooresville High School.

Interestingly, the Morgan County high school rivals--Mooresville and Martinsville--never met each other on the Mooresville basketball court. National basketball legend John R. Wooden, a native of Martinsville and a 1927 Martinsville High School graduate, reports that he never played in the Mooresville Gymnasium. Because of the two teams' fierce rivalry, the Martinsville squad was never invited.

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Section 8 Page 8 Mooresville Gymnasium

The gymnasium was used by Mooresville High School physical education classes and basketball teams until 1959, when the high school was relocated to a new facility north of downtown. The old high school building then became Mooresville Junior High, and the Gymnasium was used by its students and teams until 1976. (Paul Hadley Junior High was completed in 1976, and the old high school was razed.) Beginning in 1936, the gymnasium was also used by Newby School students for physical education; the elementary students vacated the gymnasium for one in a new addition to Newby School in 1993. In addition, the Mooresville Junior Basketball League has used the Mooresville High School/Newby Gymnasium since about 1960. In 1993, the League signed a lease with Mooresville School Consolidated Corporation for sole use of the gymnasium.

Curt Freeman, Assistant Superintendent of Mooresville School Corporation, explains that the Mooresville/Newby Gymnasium served all of Mooresville's needs as both a community center and gymnasium until 1959, when the new high school was completed. Mooresville High School graduates Bill Cox and Sonny Perry, a former basketball player, recall that the Gymnasium was the site of plays and recitals, talent shows, graduations, proms, community dinners and other ritual events. Today, this community-centered spirit continues with the efforts of the volunteer "Save Newby Gym Committee," which is working toward the Gymnasium's complete restoration.

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Section 9 Page 9 Mooresville Gymnasium

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Telephone interview with author, March 5, 1997.

Daravanis, Scott W. L. "Committee to Look at Saving Newby Gym." *The Times*
[Mooresville, IN]. February 28, 1996.

Freeman, Curt. Personal interview with author, March 28, 1996. Telephone interview with
author, June 21, 1996.

Hamilton, Donald E. 1993. *Hoosier Temples*. St. Louis: G. Bradley Publishing, Inc.

Herschel, William. "Mooresville Celebrated the Advent of a New Year By Ringing in a New
Gymnasium and Community House." *Indianapolis News* January 1, 1921: 13.

Perry, Sonny. Personal interviews with author, March 28, 1996; April 17, 1996; May 23,
1996; and July 23, 1996.

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Section 10 Page 10 Mooresville Gymnasium

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Starting at a point 90 feet northeast of the northeast corner of the Mooresville Gymnasium; thence south along west side of SR 267, also known as Monroe Street, to a point in line with a point that is 25 feet southeast of the southeast corner of said property; thence west to a point that is 25 feet southwest of the southwest corner of said property; thence north to a point that is 25 feet northwest of the northwest corner of said property; thence east to the point of beginning.

Also, U. S. Coastal and Geodetic Survey Benchmark R61/1946 marks the exact location of the building as the benchmark is imbedded in the east wall.

For further reference, see the attached map.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

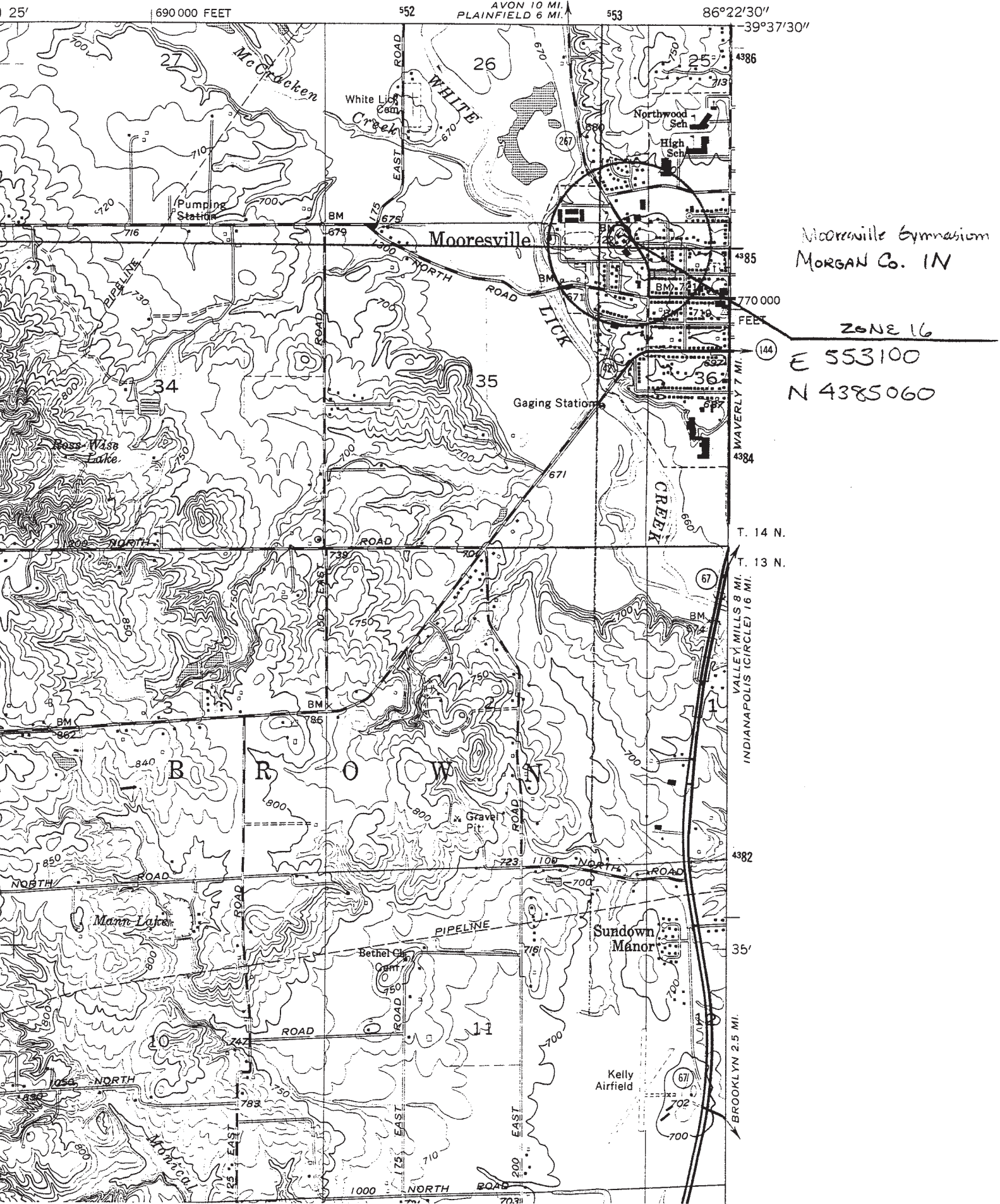
This is the boundary that includes the nominated resources.

MOORESVILLE WEST QUADRANGLE

INDIANA

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

3763 III NE
(BRIDGEPORT)



Mooresville Gymnasium
MORGAN Co. IN

ZONE 16
E 553100
N 4385060