

FINAL

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 Sugar Grove Meetinghouse and Cemetery
other names/site number _____ 063-514-50044

2. Location

street & number NW corner of CR 700 East and CR600 South N/A not for publication
city or town Plainfield vicinity
state Indiana code IN county Hendricks code 063 zip code 46168

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 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

Name of Property

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
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
5	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)

RELIGION

Religious facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION

Religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation

BRICK

walls

BRICK

WOOD: Weatherboard

roof

ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

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

Sugar Grove Meetinghouse and _____
Name of Property

Hendricks _____ IN _____
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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT _____

RELIGION _____

ARCHITECTURE _____

Period of Significance

1870-1950 _____

Significant Dates

1870 _____

1877 _____

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a _____

Cultural Affiliation

n/a _____

Architect/Builder

unknown _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Western Yearly Meeting, Indiana Historical Society _____

Sugar Grove Meetinghouse and _____
Name of Property

Hendricks _____ IN _____
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property _____ 4 acres _____

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	16	551440	4391630	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			

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 _____ Jennifer Hoffman-Stonebraker _____
organization _____ Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana _____ date _____ 01-31-00 _____
street & number _____ 340 West Michigan Street _____ telephone _____ 317-639-4534 _____
city or town _____ Indianapolis _____ state _____ IN _____ zip code _____ 46202 _____

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 _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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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Narrative Description

SUGAR GROVE MEETINGHOUSE, HENDRICKS COUNTY, INDIANA

The Sugar Grove Meetinghouse is located off of County Road 600 south near Plainfield, Hendricks County, Indiana. Not far from White Lick Creek, the meetinghouse is situated near quickly disappearing farmland interspersed with areas of woods and nearby houses and subdivisions. A school, privy, shed, and cemetery are associated with the meetinghouse and are included in this nomination.

The one-story meetinghouse was built in 1870 and was likely enlarged in the late 1870's or early 1880's. It is constructed of red brick load-bearing walls in a common bond pattern of 7 stretchers to 1 header. Rectangular in shape, the meetinghouse is bicameral. The foundation is not visible. The roof is end-gabled with asphalt shingles. Newly installed gutters line the edges of the roof. A covered porch joins the wood frame school and privy to the meetinghouse. The shed is located to the north of the meetinghouse, and the cemetery to the east.

The main entrance to the meetinghouse is located on the south facade. An arrangement of four windows and two doors are spaced relatively evenly across the facade. The doors are located toward the east and west ends and are both flanked by windows. The windows are made of wood and are true divided light double-hung windows with a light configuration of two over two. The lower sashes are operated by a rope and weight system. The top of the window frames are curved to fit the segmental arch formed by a header course of bricks above the windows. The four windows have exterior wooden shutters with louvers. The window sills are limestone. The two doors are double leaf with three panels on each of the leaves. The top of the door frame is curved to fit the segmental arch above. Both doors have transoms with three lights. The exterior of the windows, the shutters, and the doors are painted white.

The east facade contains one of the two end chimneys. The chimney is located to the north of center on the facade. The chimney was built outside of the wall and does not tie into the wall construction. There are two windows located to the south of the chimney and one door located to the north of the chimney. The windows and shutters are identical to those on the south facade. The door is also identical to the doors on the

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south facade with the exception that it is a single leaf door with six panels instead of a set of double leafs with three panels. The windows, shutters, and door are also painted white.

The north facade of the meetinghouse has six windows spaced relatively evenly across the facade. The windows are true divided light double-hung windows with a light configuration of six over six. The lower sash is operated by a rope and weight system. It is interesting that the windows are not as tall as those on the other facades of the meetinghouse and that they have a different light configuration. Neither the windows nor the openings have been altered, indicating that the openings were built to accommodate these windows. The frames of these windows are curved to fit the segmental arch above them. They have limestone sills. All of the windows on the north facade have louvered shutters. The windows and shutters are painted white. Just slightly above grade, there are three rectangular foundation vents with iron grills.

The west facade of the meetinghouse contains the second chimney, also located to the north of center on the facade. The chimney is tied into the wall construction and protrudes only slightly from the wall. The window and door arrangement is the mirror image of the east facade, with the door located to the north of the chimney and the two windows located to the south. The windows are identical to the south and east facades. There are no shutters; however, the presence of hinges indicate that they once existed. The door is identical to the door on the east facade. The windows and door are painted white. A porch is located off of the west facade and is framed in wood. The porch floor is a poured concrete slab resting on a limestone foundation. There are limestone steps at the south end of the porch. The roof of the porch is covered in asphalt shingles. There are porch posts against both the west wall of the facade and supporting the outer portion of the porch roof.

The roof and floor of the porch lead to the school room and adjoining privy. The school building is on a red brick foundation. It is wood framed with rolled edge horizontal wood siding. The siding is painted white. The gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A gutter system was recently installed. The door to the school is located on the south side, opening to the meetinghouse porch. The door is single leaf with four panels. The frame of the door is rectangular. There is one small window located on both the east and west sides. They are double hung with a light configuration of four over four.

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There are paneled shutters on the west window, but the shutters are missing from the east window.

A corridor connects the school with the privy. The corridor and privy are wood framed with horizontal beveled wood siding that is painted white. They rest on a concrete foundation. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A single light window is located above eye level on the west wall of the privy. Two vents can also be found on both the east and west walls of the privy.

The storage shed is a free standing wood framed structure with rolled edge horizontal wood siding. It rests on a red brick foundation. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles, and gutters and downspouts have recently been added. The south facade has a single leaf door that is constructed out of vertical tongue and groove siding. The east and west facades each have a four-pane single sash window. The north facade has a similar opening that is boarded up. The shed is painted white.

The interior of Sugar Grove Meetinghouse is divided into two equal halves, one for the men and one for the women. The halves are separated by a center partition wall. The wall is covered with paneling and can be divided into three horizontal sections. The top and bottom of the wall are fixed. The middle of the wall consists of three sections that can be raised into the interior space of the wall above by means of counter-balanced weight boxes in the attic. There is a four section Dutch door located on the north end of the partition. It is grain-painted to resemble oak.

The remainder of the interior walls are plaster applied directly to the brick. The ceilings are also plaster, but applied to wood lathe. The windows are trimmed in pine or a similar softwood that is stained dark brown and has a varnish or shellac finish. The trim is flat. The side trim pieces pass above the head piece and are notched at the top. The trim around the doors matches the trim of the windows. The interior of the doors are grain-painted to resemble oak. The floors are constructed out of red oak, tongue and groove boards. The widths of the boards vary. The floor boards have been repaired with plywood in several areas. The baseboards are simple in design and are missing in some areas.

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Each side of the meetinghouse contains benches constructed of wood. The majority of the benches face to the north, but on the north end, there are a small number of benches that face to the south (facing benches). There are two pitched risers present under the benches of the south sides of each room, arranged to create a center aisle that is not raised. Two stepped risers also line the north wall to accommodate the facing benches. Removable bench pads still remain in the meetinghouse. A wood-burning stove is also located in each chamber. The stoves are adjacent to the chimneys.

The interior of the school has plaster walls and ceilings. The floor is tongue and groove wood planks. A picture rail and blackboard remain hanging on the interior of the school.

The interior of the corridor and privy are unfinished, with no plaster walls or ceilings. The three privy seats, located along the north wall, remain intact

On the grounds east of the meetinghouse, is a cemetery. It dates from c. 1840 to present. The oldest headstones are located the furthest from the meetinghouse, with the most recent located closest to the meetinghouse.

The meetinghouse is in remarkably good condition, especially considering that it has been largely unused since the 1960's. The school, corridor, and privy are experiencing some deterioration, primarily of the floorboards. Overall, Sugar Grove Meetinghouse has a level of historic integrity that is rarely seen. The building has been largely unaltered since the late nineteenth century. A vast majority of the materials are considered to be original, with the main exception of the gutters, downspouts, and asphalt shingles. Modern conveniences, such as electricity and plumbing, have never been added. Sugar Grove is an outstanding example of an 1870's Quaker meetinghouse, and it reflects the life and religion of those people 120 years ago.

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Narrative Statement of Significance

SUGAR GROVE MEETINGHOUSE, HENDRICKS COUNTY, INDIANA

Sugar Grove Meetinghouse near Plainfield, Indiana is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. The meetinghouse meets Criterion A in the areas of exploration/settlement and religion. Quaker settlers were among the first in Guilford Township and their religion had a lasting impact on the community. Early use of this Quaker site began in the 1840's, and several 1840's burial stones are visible in the cemetery. The meetinghouse also meets Criterion C in the area of architecture as an example of an 1870's Quaker meetinghouse that has been virtually unaltered since that decade.

The Society of Friends, or Quakers, grew out of the radical left wing of Puritanism in 1647. Many people converted to the beliefs of founder George Fox, who believed that every person had the divine light of Christ within. Fox and his followers did not believe that God dwelled only in temples or that a minister must have a university education. They wanted meetings for worship to be a time for silent reflection and unprogrammed sharing. During the earliest settlement of the New World, Quakers were often treated with hostility. The first known Quakers in America arrived in 1656, but were sent back to England. Laws were even passed to exclude Quakers from coming to America. However, by the late 1600's Quakers had begun to find religious tolerance, and they settled in the colonies that were to become Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. The growing number of Quakers and the quest for land eventually caused many Quakers to migrate to the South. Guilford and Orange counties in North Carolina became strong Quaker communities by 1750, as well as counties in South Carolina and Georgia.¹ However, the growing influence of slavery in the southern states worried Quakers, who were opposed to the institution.

The Old Northwest Territory, today consisting of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, was first opened to pioneers with the Ordinance of 1787, and in 1800 the Indiana Territory was formed. The first forty years of the nineteenth century saw a major migration of Quakers to Ohio and then Indiana. Indiana's first Quaker settlers came from

¹ L. C. Rudolph, *Hoosier Faiths*. (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1995), 193-194.

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the South. Quakers from the southern states were particularly interested in migration to the north in order to escape the influence of slavery. There was also an abundance of fertile and inexpensive land for their large families. The first Friends meeting in Indiana was held in 1809 near present day Richmond, called Whitewater Monthly Meeting. The monthly meetings were where the basic business was done and it was often comprised of several meetings or preparatives. As Quakers continued to migrate to Indiana, Lick Creek Monthly Meeting in Orange County was set off from Whitewater in 1813. Indiana Yearly Meeting was created and held its first session in 1821 in Richmond. The Friends who settled near present day Plainfield were mostly from North Carolina. The first families in the territory came in 1821, with others soon following. When Hendricks County was organized in 1824, Guilford Township contained more than half of the county's population, and it was named in honor of the county in North Carolina from where many Quakers had come. White Lick Monthly Meeting was set off from Lick Creek in 1823. In 1826 Sugar Grove Meeting was established by White Lick Monthly Meeting. When enough Friends were in the Plainfield area, White Lick Monthly Meeting set off Plainfield and Sugar Grove Meetings to form Plainfield Monthly Meeting in 1857.

After the Civil War, two different views began to emerge in the Quaker community. "Revivalism" or "evangelism" was the movement by young Quakers and newly converted Quakers who were dissatisfied with the quietism and restriction of the traditional meetings. They began to introduce hymn singing, revivals, mourner's benches, bell towers, and steeples. The opposite view was held by conservative Friends. They held on to many of the old traditions. Therefore, they felt that they must withdraw and set up meetings apart from the "radicals".² The most opposition to the new direction in which the Society of Friends was heading was found within Plainfield and Sugar Grove meetings. The conservatives separated in 1877 and formed their own yearly meeting, known as the Western Yearly Meeting of Conservative Friends. Sugar Grove Meeting was one of the strongest meetings that went with the conservatives. The conservatives continued their monthly meeting under the name of Plainfield Monthly Meeting. However, they had difficulty finding a meeting place after the separation. Both factions laid claim to the title of the Sugar Grove property. An agreement was reached in 1886 and the conservatives retained the Sugar Grove Meetinghouse. The Meetinghouse remained in regular use until the early 1960's.

² Willard Heiss, "List of all the Friends Meetings that exist or ever have existed in Indiana 1807-1955." (Indianapolis, Willard Heiss, 1959), 58.

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The original Sugar Grove Meetinghouse was a log room about twenty-five feet square. The meetinghouse was soon enlarged with a frame addition a little larger than the log room. A few years later, the log room was replaced by a frame room, making the entire meetinghouse thirty feet wide by fifty feet long. The meetinghouse was finally replaced in 1870 by the current brick structure at a cost of \$1,500. The brick meetinghouse was then enlarged in the late 1870's or early 1880's.³ Sugar Grove Meetinghouse is currently owned by Western Yearly Meeting in Plainfield, Indiana. Although not used on a regular basis since the 1960's, regular maintenance by Western Yearly Meeting has kept the meetinghouse in good condition. It is now used periodically for worship services.

The Sugar Grove Meetinghouse is a bicameral structure. It was built with a partition wall down the center to accommodate separate meetings for the men and women. There are also two doors on the south facade that served as separate entrances to the two halves. This modest structure fit the worshipping needs of the Quakers. The basic simplicity is in agreement with Quaker beliefs and practices.

According to the religious census of 1906, just over one-fourth of all American Quakers lived in Indiana. There were nearly 30,000 Orthodox Quakers alone. As the twentieth century progressed, the number of Friends in Indiana declined.⁴ In 1990, the denomination reported 12,380 members, making up approximately .3% of the total population of Indiana⁵. Sugar Grove Meetinghouse remains an important and increasingly rare link to the Quakers, who were among the earliest settlers of Plainfield, Hendricks County, and the state of Indiana.

³ Willard Heiss, *A Brief History of Western Yearly Meeting of Conservative Friends and the Separation of 1877*. (Indianapolis, IN: John Woolman Press, 1963), 8.

⁴ Rudolph, 217.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 683.

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Bibliography

SUGAR GROVE MEETINGHOUSE, HENDRICKS COUNTY, INDIANA

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Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory: Hendricks County Interim Report.
Indianapolis: Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, 1989.

Ratcliff, Richard P. *Our Special Heritage: Sesquicentennial, History of Indiana Yearly Meeting of Friends (Quakers) 1821-1971*. New Castle, IN: Community Printing Co., 1970.

Rudolph, L. C. *Hoosier Faiths*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1995.

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Geographical Data

SUGAR GROVE MEETINGHOUSE, HENDRICKS COUNTY, INDIANA

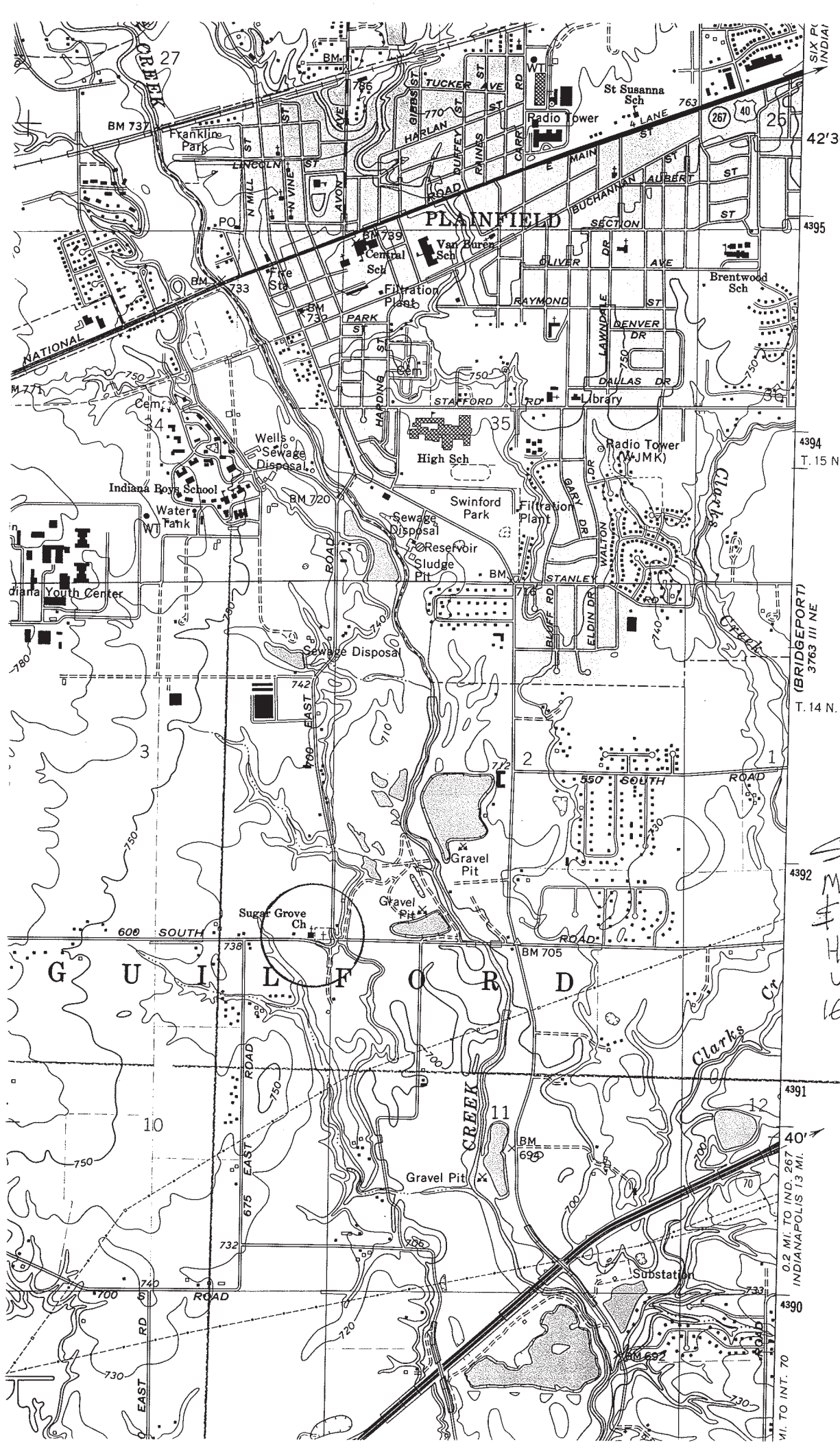
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Part of the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section three (3), and part of the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section ten (10), all in township fourteen (14) north, range one (1) east of the second principle meridian, bounded and described as follows, to-wit:

Beginning at an I-beam that marks the southeast corner of section three (3), township and range aforesaid, run thence northerly on the east line of the southeast quarter a distance of one hundred eighty one and five tenths (181.50) feet (11 rods); run thence westerly and parallel to the south line of said quarter-quarter a distance of five hundred fifty five and six-hundredths (555.06) feet (33 rods and 16 links); run thence southerly and parallel to the east line of said quarter-quarter a distance of one hundred eighty one and five-tenths (181.50) feet (11 rods) to the south line of said quarter-quarter run thence easterly on said south line a distance of twenty seven and six-hundredths (27.06) feet; deflect 11 degrees and 07 minutes right and run southeasterly into the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section ten (10), township and range aforesaid, a distance of four hundred seventy and eight tenths (470.8) feet; thence run easterly, parallel to the north line of said section ten (10), a distance of sixty-six (66.0) feet (4 rods) to the east line of said quarter-quarter; run thence northerly on said east line a distance of ninety and seventy five hundredths (90.75) feet to the place of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary is based on the legally recorded property lines and encompasses the whole of the property associated with the Sugar Grove Meetinghouse.



SUGAR GROVE
 MECHANICAL
 & COMPANY
 HENDRICKS CO., IN
 UTM
 16 551 440
 4391630

SIX FC INDIAN
 42'30"
 4395
 4394
 T. 15 N.
 (BRIDGEPORT)
 3763 III NE
 T. 14 N.
 4392
 4391
 40'
 0.2 MI. TO IND. 267
 INDIANAPOLIS 13 MI.
 4390
 MI. TO INT. 70