

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 Evergreen Hill  
other names/site number 141-598-7002

**2. Location**

street & number 59449 Keria Trail N/A  not for publication  
city or town South Bend N/A  vicinity  
state Indiana code IN county St. Joseph code 141 zip code 46614

**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] 1/31/01  
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:	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: _____)	_____	_____

Evergreen Hill  
Name of Property

St. Joseph 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
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
5	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
6	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)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling  
AGRICULTURE/SUBSIST Animal Facility  
AGRICULTURE/SUBSIST Processing  
DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure  
FUNERARY: Cemetery

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling  
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTE Animal Facility  
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTE Not in use  
DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure  
FUNERARY: Not in use

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN Italianate

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE  
walls WOOD: Weatherboard  
roof ASPHALT  
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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE \_\_\_\_\_  
 EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT \_\_\_\_\_  
 INDUSTRY \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1839-1918 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1873 \_\_\_\_\_  
 1875 \_\_\_\_\_  
 1918 \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Evergreen Hill  
Name of Property

St. Joseph IN  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 38 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	16	561350	4608960	3	16	560590	4608720
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	16	561380	4608760	4	16	560570	4608950

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 Jeremy Risen, Program Assistant  
organization Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana date 5-30-2000  
street & number 520 East Colfax Ave telephone 219-232-4534  
city or town South Bend state IN zip code 46617

**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 John and Anne Abernethy  
street & number 59449 Keria Trail telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town South Bend state IN zip code 46614

**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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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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### Additional Materials

Foundation: concrete

### Property Setting

The Evergreen Hill farm is located southwest of South Bend, Indiana, just outside the city limits. The property encompasses about thirty-eight acres, including a house, five outbuildings, and a cemetery. The house sits atop a small hill surrounded by woods and has a short driveway flanked on either side by pine trees (Photo 1). The English barn is located about fifty yards north of the house, and the old smokehouse and a large shed are located to the west of the house. There is a cottage located in a grove of trees northwest of the house and close to the barn. The cemetery is located about seventy-five yards west of the house in a secluded wooded area. A new garage has been constructed near the northwest corner of the new addition to the house. The wooded area in front (to the east) of the house contains maple trees that were used in the manufacture of maple sugar and maple syrup on the property. Many of the original maple trees remain on the property. This wooded land was open pasture when the farm was in operation, except for the acreage containing the maple trees. The cleared portion is now grown, so that the whole acreage across Keria Trail is now wooded. The site retains its original rural context, but is in jeopardy of industrial encroachment. It is one of only two "Outstanding" rated farms in Centre Township that retain their original rural setting.

### House Exterior

The Italianate house is balloon frame construction on a stone foundation (Photo 2). It is covered with tongue-and-groove clapboard siding and an asphalt shingle roof. The low-pitched hipped roof is truncated. The house retains most of its original features, including original windows and wood storm windows, window hoods, paired cornice brackets, and porch trim. The two original front doors were replaced with a smaller door surrounded by a transom and sidelights by a previous owner. The current owners plan to reinstall the original doors, which were stored on the property. The basic footprint of the historic portion (excluding the current addition) of the house is cruciform. A one-and-a-half story kitchen extends to the west of the house. This small portion may be the second house constructed on the property. Features differentiating this construction from the Italianate portion are wider floor planks and a lower ceiling. There is a simple enclosed stair leading to the half story above. Two small rooms were added to the south side of the kitchen some time between 1873 and 1918. One of these rooms was used as a bathroom and the other as a pantry. A sunroom was added to the south side of the house around 1918 and an addition is currently being constructed on the west side of the house.

The east façade features the main entry covered by a small porch (Photo 3). Four posts support the porch: two free standing, and two engaged into the east façade (Photo 4). The porch retains its original trim, including scroll brackets at each corner. The porch has a shallow hipped roof covered with asphalt. There are two windows on the first floor south of the porch. The windows are two over two double-hung, with eight-light wood storm windows set into the window frame (Photo 5). The windows have window hoods supported by two small brackets on either side. The eastern facing window is identical in size and detail. The second floor has three evenly spaced windows, and the frieze has decorative wood carvings between the paired brackets (Photo 6). The frieze continues with these details around the entire house.

The north projection of the house facing east has two windows, one at the first floor, and one at the second floor (Photo 7). The south projection of the house facing east has a small porch covering a first floor entry. The details of this porch

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are the same as the main entry porch. There is a second story window above this porch. Extending south from this projection is the sunroom. The sunroom is a one-story addition with six ten-light casement windows facing east. Pilasters form the southeast and southwest corners of the clapboard sunroom addition. The sunroom foundation is concrete and the shallow hipped roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The south side of the house has two vertically aligned windows, one at the first floor and one at the second floor (Photo 8). The sunroom's south façade features eight ten-light casement windows (Photo 9). There is a small basement window in the foundation wall of the sunroom. A single window is centered in the southern façade of the projection above the sunroom.

The south side of the kitchen has two windows: the westernmost opening is the same size as the other windows, and the easternmost opening is the same width, but approximately three-quarters the length of the other windows. The larger window is a twelve-light casement with an eight-light storm covering it. The smaller window is four-light window covered with a four-light storm. Each of these windows is topped with a window cap. Recessed from the main façade, the half-story above the kitchen has a window opening like the smaller window below. The size of this opening has been reduced in the current renovation by transforming the roof below from a flat roof into a shed roof. The upper half-story has a gable roof with asphalt shingles.

The west façade has been covered on the first floor by a new addition. The kitchen gable has one small window facing west, which has been obscured by the new addition. The west façade of the second story of the house has two windows, one on either side of the half-story. These rear windows are the same size as the other windows in the house, but they have window caps instead of window hoods. The west façade of the sunroom, like the east façade, has six ten-light casement windows.

The north façade of the building has two small, offset, fixed windows, one at the first floor and one at the second floor (Photos 10, 11). The first floor window is divided vertically into two lights, and is topped with a window cap. The second story window is a single light and is also topped with a window cap. The north projection has two windows aligned vertically, one at the first floor and one at the second floor. The north façade of the kitchen has two windows and a door. The lower half of the door is paneled and the upper half contains a single light. The door retains its original hardware, including a doorbell. There is a single light transom above the door. The ground floor window opening has been shortened and a new window has been installed. The upper story contains a six-light fixed window.

The newest addition lies to the west of the kitchen and is a single story, gabled ell structure. There is a recessed porch on the northwest corner of the north-facing gable (Photo 12). The main entrance for the addition is a single light door with a transom and is sheltered by the recessed porch. The addition is clapboard, having a width similar to the house but of a different style. Windows in the addition are one-over-one double hung, and the window caps are similar to those on the main portion of the house.

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### House Interior

The overall plan of the house is cruciform with additions to the south (the sunroom) and the west (the new addition). The ground floor of the Italianate portion of the house is divided into four rooms: the dining room, a family room (with fireplace), a front parlor, and an entry area/ stair hall. The kitchen is attached to the west of the family room and dining room.

Notable features throughout the house interior are original wood flooring, original window shutters, the main stairway, original doors (with hardware) and wood trim, and some original cabinets in the kitchen (Photos 13, 14, 15, and 16). Each of the windows on the ground floor of the house have four, two piece shutters, two for the upper half of the window and two for the lower half (Photo 17). The shutters are in working condition and retain their original finish. The main stairway to the second floor is a quarter turn stair situated along the north wall of the house (Photos 18 and 19). The newel, railing, and treads are unpainted. The doors and trim throughout the house are original, and have been painted. There is one historic fireplace in the house, in the north wall of the family room, which appears to have been converted to natural gas (Photo 20).

The kitchen is west of the Italianate portion of the house and is attached to the dining room and family room. There is a window in the north wall, which is in its original position, but the original window has been replaced with a new, shorter window. Approximately three-fourths of the west wall of the kitchen has been removed to allow access to the new addition (Photo 21). The south side of the kitchen features two small rooms; the westernmost was used as a pantry and contains some of the original cabinetry (Photo 22). A stairway leading to the half story above the kitchen is enclosed in the east end of the kitchen.

The sunroom has two sets of French doors opening into the family room. There are casement windows in the east, south, and west walls of the sunroom. These windows make up approximately the upper two-thirds of each wall. This room was added to the house some time in the 1920s. The new addition is under construction. It contains two bedrooms, a bathroom, and a large, open living room. There is a fireplace in the west wall of the living room. The hardwood floor of this portion of the house was milled from cherry trees taken from the eastern portion of the property (the land across Keria Trail).

Like the ground floor, much of the second floor remains unchanged. The second floor doors are four-paneled doors with single-light transoms above. Closet doors are four-paneled doors with no transoms (Photo 23). All doors appear to have their original hardware. The basic plan of the upstairs is a central hall running east-west with bedrooms on either side. There are two bedrooms south of the hall and one north of the hall. The bedrooms are all roughly the same size, and they all have built-in closets. At the east end of the hall is a bathroom, and at the west end is a small bedroom area above the kitchen.

The basement floor has been paved with brick, and the stone foundation walls have been covered with parging. A stairway in the northeast corner leads to an exterior door on the north façade of the house.

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### Outbuildings

A large frame shed lies to the southwest of the house (Photo 24). This structure has a rectangular footprint. It is covered in clapboard and has five six-over-six double-hung windows and a four-paneled door. It rests on a new concrete foundation and has an asphalt shingle roof. A smaller wood frame structure, the smokehouse, lies to the west of the house (Photo 25). It has vertical wood siding, a vertically sided front door, a new concrete slab foundation, and an asphalt shingle roof. Meat hooks are still in place in the smokehouse interior. There is a one-room wood frame cottage northwest of the house (Photos 26 and 27). The current property owners have been told this was a corncrib converted into a cottage. It is possible that this cottage may have been used to manufacture maple syrup. The exterior walls are covered with horizontal siding, and the interior walls are finished with vertical planks (Photo 28).

The most prominent outbuilding on the property is the English barn located north of the house (Photos 29 and 30). The east half of the barn rests on a stone foundation and the west half is elevated on a new concrete block foundation. The barn is covered with vertical wood siding and has an asphalt shingle roof. The barn has several arched, louvered openings symmetrically placed on its facades. Paired arched decorative elements have been applied to the top of each gable. There is a small, hinged door in the south façade, and the two main sliding doors are located on the east façade. There are also two smaller sliding doors on the west façade.

A new clapboard garage is adjacent to the house addition (Photo 31). The two-car garage is on a concrete slab foundation and has gabled ends facing east and west. The east façade has two three-over-three double hung windows with trim and caps matching the new addition on the house.

### Cemetery

About seventy yards to the west of the house is a small family cemetery (Photo 32). The cemetery contains the graves of Peter Rupel, his wife Christena, his parents Jacob and Ann, and his granddaughter Alda (Photos 33, 34, 35, and 36). The stones have been maintained by the family and are in good condition (all inscriptions are readable). The base of each gravesite is marked with a footstone bearing the initials of the family member buried there. The cemetery has been encompassed by a chain attached to support posts.



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### Statement of Significance

Evergreen Hill farm is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C. The house and outbuildings have been altered only slightly and retain a high degree of integrity. The property was given the highest rating, O/13, in the St. Joseph County Historic Sites and Structures Inventory. The house is an excellent example of Italianate architecture, and is the only clapboard Italianate farmhouse in Centre Township. In addition, Evergreen Hill is one of the two best examples of a clapboard Italianate style farmhouse in St. Joseph County. The farm was one of the earliest white settlements in the South Bend area, and has stayed in the same family since the original land grant was given to Peter Rupel in 1831.

### Architecture

There have been three houses on the property known as Evergreen Hill. The first was a cabin built by Peter Rupel in the early 1830s, which has since been demolished. Architectural evidence points to the one-and-a-half story rear portion of the existing house as the second residence. The ceilings in this area are lower than in the Italianate portion of the house, and the floorboards are wider. The simplicity and small size of this construction are additional indicators that this portion of the house is older than the Italianate portion. The ground floor of this small building serves as the kitchen today. A summer kitchen was built to the west of this construction; the construction date is unknown. The summer kitchen was demolished to make space for the new addition.

The third residence constructed at Evergreen Hill was the Italianate house that serves as the primary residence today. This house was adjoined to the existing story-and-a-half structure when it was built around 1873. Italianate architecture was popular in the United States in the second half of the nineteenth century. Some features of the style include shallow-pitched roofs; cornice brackets; decorative friezes; tall, narrow windows; and window hoods. The house at Evergreen Hill is an outstanding example of Italianate architecture. Elements of the house contributing to the style are the shallow-pitched hipped roof, cornice brackets, decorative frieze carvings, and window hoods.

There have been three other periods of construction at the site. Sometime after the Italianate house was built, two small rooms were added to the south of the kitchen. One room served as a pantry and the other as a bathroom. Around 1918 a sunroom replaced a bay window on the south side of the Italianate house. A family room and bathroom addition has been constructed to the west of the kitchen where the summer kitchen used to be.

The house has undergone minor renovations in the past, but has retained its integrity. Though plans for the current restoration project called for the removal of the kitchen's west wall, the project maintains the overall integrity of the house. The interior spaces have not been divided, so the original plan for the house is intact. The additions to the house have had a minor impact on the original layout and details of the house. Most of the original doors and windows, with their hardware, are unaltered.

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Construction dates for the outbuildings are unknown. For the most part, these buildings have maintained their integrity. The large shed and smokehouse have been moved to new concrete foundations, but are otherwise unaltered. The cottage has been resided, but has its original details including the fieldstone fireplace inside. The cottage may be a converted corncrib or possibly a building used to boil the maple syrup that was harvested on the farm for a number of years. The English barn is largely unaltered. The back half of the barn that projects from an embankment has a new concrete block foundation.

The building evolution at Evergreen Hill is indicative of rural construction on a family farm. Often older, smaller structures were incorporated into new construction, as additional space became necessary. Not only are most of the buildings extant, they maintain a high degree of integrity.

### Settlement/Exploration

St. Joseph County, Indiana was organized by the state legislature of Indiana in January of 1830. South Bend was first platted by the county in March 1831, at which time it was deemed to be the county seat. At that time, only 128 white people lived in the small settlement, with many Indians living in the surrounding area. Although the town government was organized in 1835, South Bend was not incorporated as a city until 1865. The first sale of public land in St. Joseph County took place in the spring of 1830.

The Rupel family had come to Indiana in 1830 from Somerset County, Pennsylvania. The property known as Evergreen Hill on the south side of South Bend has been in the family of Jacob Rupel (1764-1847) and his descendants ever since his son, Peter Rupel (1801-1839), received two land grants for eighty acres each at the Fort Wayne Land Office on March 1, 1831. One of the original land grants, signed by Andrew Jackson, is in the possession of the present owner of Evergreen Hill, the great-great-great grandson of Peter Rupel.

In 1823, Peter Rupel married Christena (Nancy) Schumaker (1807-1858) in Turkeyfoot Township, Somerset County, Pennsylvania. In the summer of 1829, they began their trek west with their two small children, spending the first winter in Ohio. Their third child was born in Elkhart in November 1830. After obtaining the land grant in 1831, the family settled their new land near South Bend where they built a small log cabin and cleared the land for farming. The Rupel farm was one of the earliest settlements in St. Joseph County. Once settled, Peter and Nancy had four more children. A month before their last child was born, tragedy struck. On September 6, 1839, Peter Rupel died of erysipelas, an infectious skin disease. Peter's parents, Jacob Rupel and his wife Ann (Livengood) Rupel (1769-1861) came from Pennsylvania at this time to help with the farming and raising of the seven children. Jacob, Ann, Peter, and Christena are all buried in the small family plot in the woods behind the site of the original cabin, along with a granddaughter of Peter and Christena's who died at birth in May 1858. The cemetery has been well maintained by the family over the years, and the tombstones are still readable.

Family records do not show who occupied the log cabin after Christena's death in 1858. Peter's sixth child, Franklin (1837-1908), married schoolteacher Martha Jane Rockhill (1839-1917) on November 26, 1863. They lived with his sister, Mary

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Ann, and her family a mile away from the original family homestead. Franklin farmed the Rupel land for ten years, and had three children, before deciding to build a new home on his father's property in 1873. The family moved into the new home sometime before October 1875. An 1875 plat map of Centre Township shows the location of the home. Once in the home, Franklin and his sons planted 200 pine trees on the property and named it "Evergreen Hill." The home was originally heated by several wood burning stoves, a fact verified by openings uncovered in three chimneys during recent renovations. Franklin's daughter, Edith, was born in the home on May 9, 1878. The family raised livestock, farmed some of the land, and tapped approximately 500 maple trees each spring for maple sugar and maple syrup.

The Rupel family made the syrup on the property in a small cabin. Early colonial settlers learned the techniques of producing maple syrup and sugar from the indigenous tribes of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River area. The practice spread, making maple syrup is one of the United States' oldest agricultural commodities. Maple syrup production was not uncommon on Hoosier farms of the nineteenth century. The abundance of maple trees and the prohibitive cost of cane sugar made maple syrup and sugar a low cost (though labor intensive) commodity. With reduction of the cost of cane sugar around 1875, maple syrup and sugar became luxuries and production declined. Peter Rupel had learned the maple syrup production process from his father in Pennsylvania, so when Peter found maple trees on his new farm in Indiana he decided to produce syrup and sugar. Between fifteen and twenty acres were set aside on the farm to allow for maple sugar production. The maple syrup produced at Evergreen Hill was in demand - some orders were placed a year in advance. It was noted in the Rupel family history that there was never enough maple syrup to satisfy the demand. Many of the trees tapped for syrup and sugar production remain on the wooded property to the east of the house.

On August 9, 1908, Franklin Rupel died, leaving Martha Jane and Edith to take care of the farm. They sold all their animals (pigs, cows, and horses) and rented the fields for farming. In January 1912, Martha Jane and Edith traded homes with one of Martha's other children, Nellie Pearl (1868-1925) and her husband George Walz. Upon Martha's death in October 1917, the family property was split up. Franklin and Martha's son, Ernest B. Rupel (1866-1945) and his wife Hallie Smith Rupel (1872-1968) moved into the home in the spring of 1918. At this time, Ernest owned forty of the original eighty acres, the rest having been divided among other family members.

Ernest Rupel and Hallie Smith were married on December 14, 1893. Hallie was the granddaughter of early St. Joseph County settlers Colonel John Smith (1805-1885) and Mahala Hall Smith (1807-1898), who moved there in 1832 from Virginia. Colonel Smith had one of the first lumber mills in the county. Ernest taught school for ten years before opening a notions business in downtown South Bend in 1899. Ernest and Hallie lived in the home with their two daughters, Pearl (1896-1999) and Alice (1906-1989). Shortly after taking possession of the home, the family added a sunroom to the south side of the house, and installed an oil furnace and ductwork to replace the old coal furnace.

On June 10, 1919, Pearl Rupel and Kingsley Abernethy (1890-1928) were married in the home. When Kingsley died suddenly in 1928, leaving Pearl with two small sons, they moved back to Evergreen Hill with her parents. Pearl purchased the property from her parents in 1933 with proceeds from a life insurance policy on her husband. She cared for her parents as they aged, and continued living in the home after their deaths. She raised her sons, Charles (1922-1964) and James (1921-) in the house. In 1942, Pearl married Clifford Dunphy (1896-1977). After the death of her 2<sup>nd</sup> husband, Pearl continued living in the home until her death on January 15, 1999.

Evergreen Hill  
Property Name

St. Joseph, Indiana  
County and State

NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

(Rev. 10-90)

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On December 1, 1999, Pearl's grandson John S. Abernethy (son of Charles) and his wife, Anne O'Brien Abernethy, purchased the property from Pearl's estate, and are in the process of restoring the home. Of the original eighty-acre plat, thirty-eight acres (the subject of this nomination) remain as the Evergreen Hill property, including thereon the main house and significant outbuildings. The Abernethys plan to occupy the home by the summer of 2000, and when they move in John will be the 7<sup>th</sup>, and his children the 8<sup>th</sup>, generation of the Rupel family to live on the land.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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### Bibliography

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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### Boundary Description

The South Half of Lot Numbered Four (4) of the partition of the real estate of Peter Rupel, deceased, which Lot Numbered Four (4) is described as follows; viz: Beginning at a stake 20 chains South of the quarter post Northeast corner of the Northwest Quarter of Section 26, Township 37 North, Range 2 East, thence South 6 chains and 66 2/3 links to a stake; thence West 40 chains to a stake on the Section line; thence North along said section line 6 chains and 66 2/3 links to a stake; thence East 40 chains to the place of beginning.

Also the following described tract: Beginning at a stake 26 chains and 66 2/3 links South of the quarter post Northeast corner of said Quarter Section, thence South 6 chains and 66 2/3 links to a stake; thence West 40 chains to a stake on the Section line; thence North along said Section line 6 chains and 66 2/3 links to a stake; thence East 40 chains to the place of beginning, containing 26 2/3 links to a stake; thence East 40 chains to the place of beginning, containing 26 2/3 acres more or less, being 1/6 of the Northwest Quarter of Section 26, Township 37 North, Range 2 East, and being known as Lot Numbered Five (5) of the Partition of the real estate of Peter Rupel, deceased.

Exempting therefrom the following 2 tracts:

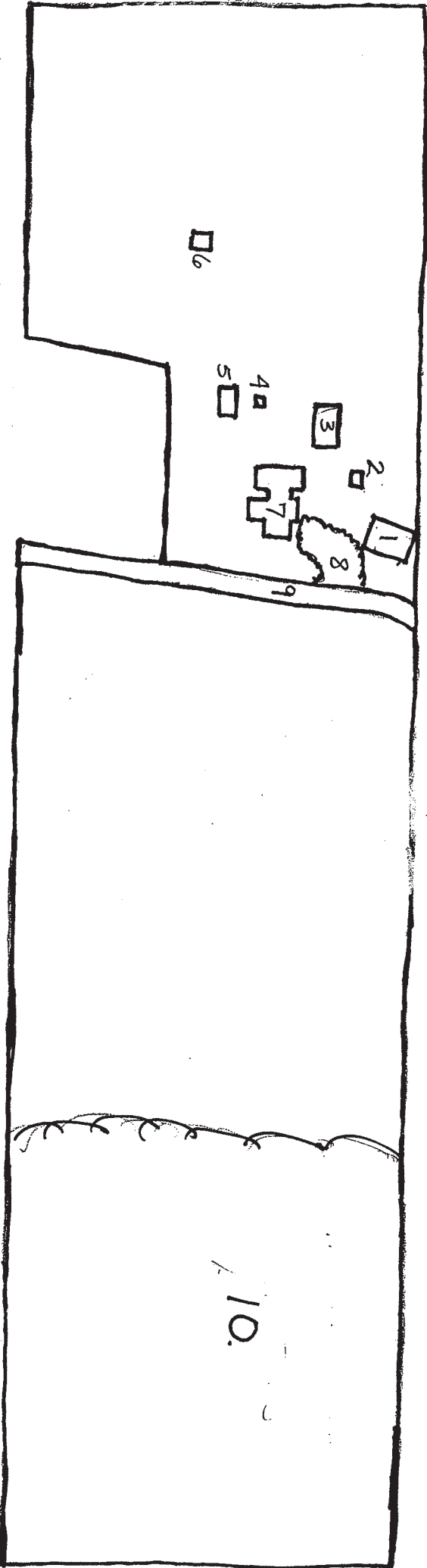
Tract 1: A tract of land in the Northwest Quarter of Section 26, Township 37 North, Range 2 East, bounded by lines running as follows, viz: Beginning in the center line of Keria Trail at a point North 9° 08' East 565.72 feet from the intersection of the center line of said Keria Trail with the center line of Ireland Road (said center line of Ireland Road being the East and West center line of said Section 26, Township 37 North, Range 2 East); thence running West on a line parallel to the center line of said Ireland Road a distance of 330.0 feet; thence North 9° 08' East parallel to the center line of said Keria Trail a distance of 120.12 feet; thence East parallel to the center line of said Ireland Road a distance of 330.0 feet to the center line of said Keria Trail; thence South 9° 08' West a distance of 120.12 feet to the point of beginning.

Tract 2: A tract of land in the Northwest Quarter of Section 26, Township 37 North, Range 2 East, bounded by lines running as follows, viz: Beginning in the center line of Keria Trail at a point North 9° 08' East 445.6 feet from the intersection of the center line of said Keria Trail with the center line of Ireland Road (said center line of Ireland Road being the East and West center line of said Section 26, Township 37 North, Range 2 East) thence running West on a line parallel to the center line of said Ireland Road a distance of 330.0 feet; thence North 9° 08' East parallel to the center line of said Keria Trail a distance of 120.12 feet; thence East parallel to the center line of said Ireland Road a distance of 330.0 feet to the center line of said Keria Trail; thence South 9° 08' West a distance of 120.12 feet to the point of beginning.

### Boundary Justification

The boundaries defined are the current boundaries of the Evergreen Hill farm. The farm was originally about eighty acres, but has been reduced to approximately thirty-eight acres today. The boundaries for this property include land that was important to the agricultural operations of the farm. The property boundaries include all extant structures (the house, outbuildings, and cemetery), as well as land populated by the maple trees used for syrup and sugar production.

EVERGREEN HILL  
 SOUTH BEND, IN  
 SITE SKETCH



1. ENGLISH BARN
2. COTTAGE
3. NEW GARAGE
4. SMOKE HOUSE
5. LARGE SHED
6. FAMILY CEMETERY

7. FARM HOUSE
8. PINE TREES FLANKING DRIVEWAY
9. KERIA TRAIL
10. MAPLE TREES

RD.

CHIPPENHAM

EVERGREEN HILL

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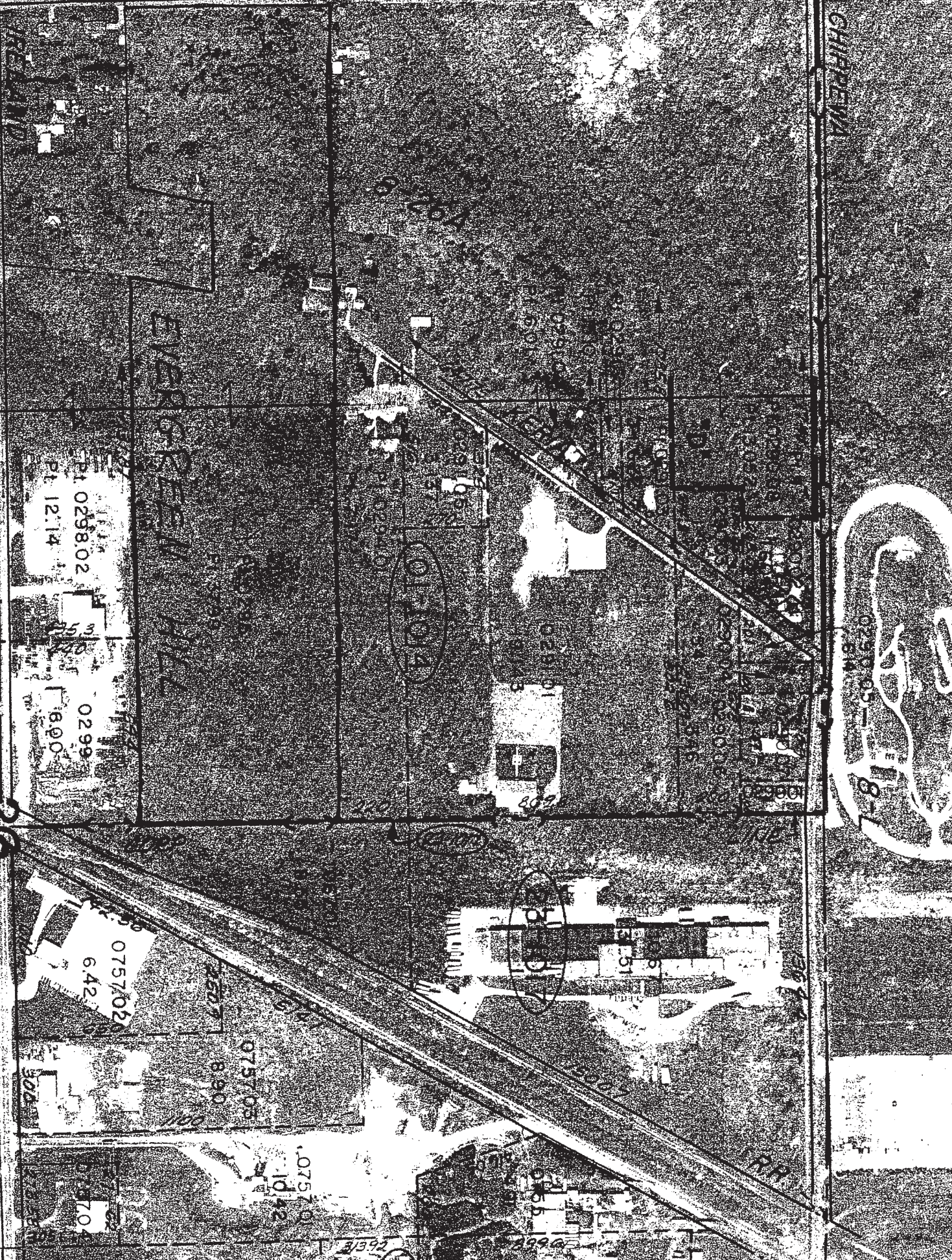
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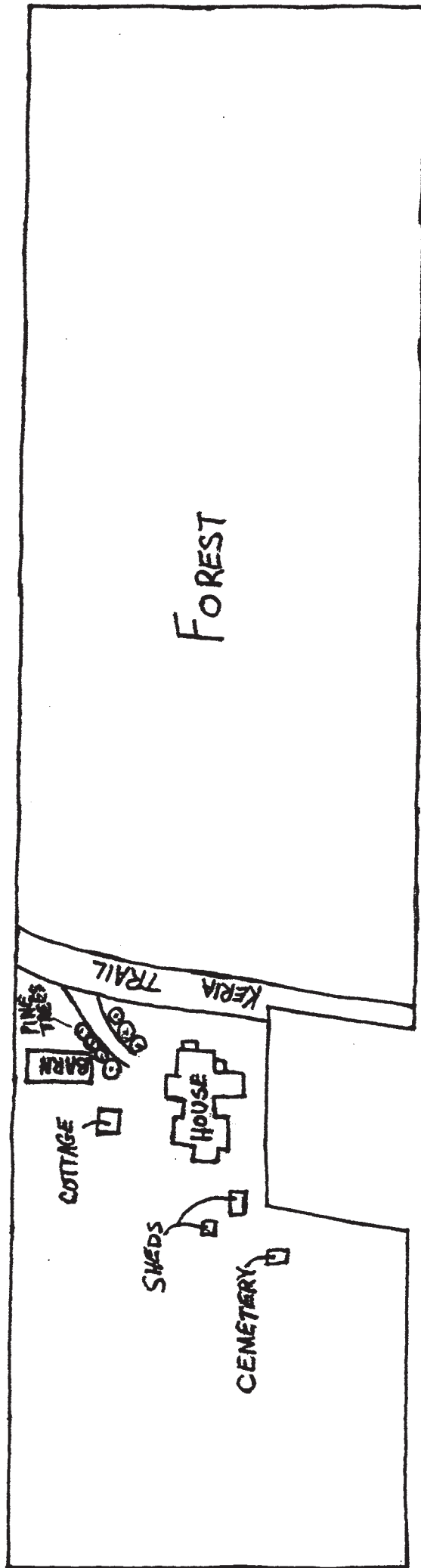
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SKETCH MAP



EVERGREEN HILL  
SOUTH BEND, IN