NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

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 **Hoyt, Lyman & Asenath, House**

other names/site number 077-651-10036

2. Location

street & number 7147 West State Road 250 N/A ☐ not for publication

city or town Lancaster N/A ☐ vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Jefferson code 077 zip code 47231

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 8.8.03

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
☐ 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:)		

Hoyt, Lyman & Asenath, House
Name of Property

Jefferson 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
- ☐ landscape

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	2	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	2	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

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19th c.: Greek Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: Limestone

walls STONE: Limestone

roof ASPHALT

other CONCRETE

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

Hoyt, Lyman & Asenath, House
Name of Property

Jefferson 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 contriibution 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)

ARCHITECTURE
SOCIAL HISTORY
ETHNIC HERITAGE:

Period of Significance
c.1850-1857

Significant Dates
1850
1857

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:

Eleutherian College; Madison-Jefferson County Public

Hoyt, Lyman & Asenath, House
Name of Property

Jefferson IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	628420	4298980
2			
3			
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 Beth Narayanan

organization _____ date 03-23-2002

street & number 334 North Riley Avenue telephone 317/ 322-0107

city or town Indianapolis state IN zip code 46201

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 Nyberg, Historic Eleutherian College, Inc.

street & number 6927 West State Road 250 telephone _____

city or town Madison state IN zip code 47250

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.

Narrative Description

The Lyman and Asenath Hoyt residence is situated at the top of a small hill that slopes downward to the south to meet Middle Fork Creek. The property as well as the surrounding area is wooded and maintains its small rural community setting. Situated directly to the west of the house is a garage and further west but down the hill is an outbuilding appearing to be a shed. Currently there is no designated driveway for the vehicle access to the property.

The Hoyt house is a two-story, front-gable, limestone structure of rectangular plan. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles. Historically the house is believed to have had a central chimney, however, presently a concrete block chimney is located on the structure's east façade.

The original front façade of the house faces south, now away from the current road. (Historically the road followed closely along the Creek and was to the south of the house.) This south elevation is symmetrical in arrangement. A deep-set center wooden entry door is flanked on either side by a single wooden window. This door contains two horizontal panels on the lower portion and three narrow vertical lights above. (It is likely not original.) The second story also contains two windows, each directly above those on the first floor. The windows to the west maintain a six-over-six light pattern, which may be original to the structure, while those to the east are of a later two-over-two light pattern. The apex of the gable is accented by a semicircular vent. All windows have a limestone slab sill and lintel while the vent has a slab sill but limestone block arch. The roofline of the house contains a fairly deep overhang terminating with small wood returns. The roof is also punctuated by a decoratively scalloped wood trim. The corners of the house are accented with large limestone block quoins that climb the entire height of the building.

The north façade appears much the same as the south façade without the entry door and the gable vent. The two symmetrical windows on the first level of this façade are six-over-six, while those on the second floor are two-over-two; limestone sills and lintels are also present. Additionally, this façade contains the deep overhang, scalloped wood trim, and limestone quoining of the south façade.

The east and west elevations feature a more asymmetrical arrangement of openings than that of the south and north elevations. Each façade has a recessed entry door (a wooden door similar to that of the south elevation is located on the west façade while a contemporary aluminum door is located on the east façade). These facades also contain both six-over-six and two-over-two windows in a variety of locations. Based on a historical photograph from the late nineteenth century (included), this arrangement appears to be original.

The original floor plan of the Hoyt house is not entirely known nor is it known when the current alterations may have occured. The current first floor plan remains fairly open and flows from room to room. Entry through the original entry door on the south façade leads into a large room that once contained the fireplace. To the north of this room, is another smaller room also with an entry door and containing access to the current stairwell. The stairwell ascends to the second floor from near the north façade, however, evidence of a doorway on the second story made inaccessible by this current layout suggests that this was not always the case. An oral account by Lyman Hoyt's daughter indicates that a central staircase was original to the house. The next room to the west, contains a wood-burning stove located on the west wall which corresponds to the exterior chimney. This stove

Narrative Description (Cont.)

replaced the original central fireplace and chimney when it was removed by a homeowner in 1993. South of this room is an obviously later addition of a bathroom. It is unknown what this room might have been before the time of the bathroom installation.

The second story currently consists of six bedrooms, some of which are not accessible from the hall but instead only through another bedroom. This layout is believed to not be entirely historic (as mentioned in the above paragraph).

The interior of the house is relatively simple in detail, which probably reflects the Shaker background of the Hoyt family. Unfinished hardwood floor is evident throughout the house. The planks are very wide and believed to be original. All walls and ceilings are covered in plaster. A wide, wooden baseboard edges each of the rooms. Windows are set deep into the walls showing the depth of the limestone construction. Simple wide pieces of wood trim surround the top and sides of each window. The bottom of these windows does not have a sill per se, but does show evidence of an understated decorative element. A thinner piece of wood is placed beneath the lower trim to create a simple stepped profile. Doorway surrounds are also accented by this wide wood trim. All wooden trim in the house is currently painted dark brown.

The rooms of the second floor are still covered in wood paneling and have acoustical tile ceilings that are not original to the structure. The bedroom doors are believed to originally been solid wood but at some point have been replaced with hollow core doors. These non-historic materials have been removed from the rooms of the first floor.

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Lyman and Asenath Hoyt residence in Lancaster, Jefferson County, Indiana, is eligible under both criteria A and C to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places due to its association with the activity of the Underground Railroad and also the structure's architectural significance.

Jefferson County is located in the southeastern portion of the state of Indiana. The Ohio River flows along most of the county's southern border and serves as the boundary between Indiana and Kentucky. Throughout most of the state's history, the Ohio River served as an important transportation route for goods and services. It also brought many early settlers to the county. The City of Madison was established on the Ohio River in 1810 and flourished as a commercial, cultural, and governmental center.

The proximity of southeastern Indiana to the Ohio River and neighboring slave-holding states such as Kentucky and its status as a "free" state, made the area attractive to escaping slaves heading north. Many residents of the City of Madison and surrounding communities were instrumental in aiding these fugitives in their journey to find freedom.

The small town of Lancaster is located approximately ten miles northwest of the City of Madison. From the time of its platting in 1815, Lancaster was established as a community in opposition to the institution of slavery.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Cont.)

Originally founded primarily by New England Baptists, by 1839, there were enough residents living in the community and surrounding area of the abolitionist mindset to form the Neil's Creek Anti-Slavery Society. Persons belonging to the society had both moral and religious objections to the institution of slavery. Article II of the organization's constitution puts forth their main focus. "The object of the Society shall be the entire abolition of slavery in the United States." The society strove to meet this goal by attempting to influence Congress to put an end to the slave trade. Article III of the constitution states, "The Society shall aim to elevate the character and condition of the people of color by encouraging their intellectual, moral and religious improvement." This article was realized by the formation of the Eleutherian College located nearby, which educated pupils regardless of race or gender. According to the compiled meeting minutes from 1839 – 1845, some prominent members of the Neil's Creek Anti-Slavery Society included Lyman Hoyt, Benajah and Harriet Hoyt, Daniel and Nancy Nelson, James Nelson, and Jefferson and Mary Nelson, all of whom where related by blood or marriage. (There is no evidence that Asenath Hoyt was a member of the society but likely would have been an avid supporter.) The Society was disbanded in 1845.

However in 1846, the Neil's Creek Anti-Slavery Baptist Church was formed and held meetings in the same schoolhouse that the Society had met for the six years previous. The church was based on many of the same ideals as that of the society and had many of the same members in attendance. Interestingly, the church was initially refused admission to the Madison Baptist Church Association for the disavowal of slavery included in its by-laws (Thompson, 2).

Nowhere, contained within the constitution of the Anti-Slavery Society or the by-laws of the Anti-Slavery Church was it stated that members were required, urged, or encouraged to be involved with the Underground Railroad. Some members took that duty upon themselves. Lyman and Asenath Hoyt were no exception.

The Lyman and Asenath Hoyt house was built c. 1850 and housed them and their seven children. This property was given an Outstanding rating by the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory Jefferson County Interim Report. This rating indicates that the Hoyt residence is of high historic and architectural significance. However, the Hoyt residence is misidentified in the survey report as the Men's Dormitory for the nearby Eleutherian College. The Hoyt's did occasionally house students of the College but otherwise were not directly associated with it. The Men's Dormitory was located directly to the south of the college and has since been demolished. The Hoyt residence is located approximately one mile to the east of the College across the Middlefork Creek.

As with any Underground Railroad site, it is often difficult to prove that the owner was actually involved in the action of assisting fugitive slaves. It was dangerous at the time to widely admit one's involvement in such endeavors. However, it seems that Lyman was a well-known participant in this activity at least by those living in his community. "A few miles further on was the notable Abolition neighborhood (Lancaster) where the Anti-Slavery Society and afterwards the church and school stood. Here James Nelson, John Tibbetts, Lyman Hoyt, and a number of others were prepared to harbor and conduct the fugitives who reached them." ("Blacks In and Around Jefferson County, Indiana", 28.)

In a reminiscence by John Tibbetts written in 1888, his and Lyman's transporting of slaves is clearly described. "My first adventure after I moved to Indiana was in the August of 1845. I received word from George Debaptist of Madison Indiana, that there would be a lot of ten to leave Hunter's Bottom on Sunday night and he wished me

Narrative Statement of Significance (Cont.)

to make arrangements to transport them on the underground road that I was acquainted with. About five o'clock in the evening my wife and myself got into my big covered wagon and started for my wife's uncle, Lyman Hoyt...After dark I drove to the place agreed upon to meet in a piece of woods one mile from the town of Wirt...We loaded them in, drew down the curtains and started with the cargo of human charges towards the North Star. We always made good time and close connection."

Lyman's daughter, Lois, recounted that in addition to transporting them, Lyman had indeed hidden slaves on his property. "In our pasture, and not very far from the road was a cave – its mouth was well concealed by briars and bushes; near by flowed a spring and there father hid his quarry. They were quickly passed on to the next station." ("Article written by Lois L. Hoyt, in 1930".)

Lois also remembered some close calls that Lyman, like many others active with the Underground Railroad, had with the local authorities. "Next day the sheriff from Madison came out to see what he could see and hear if father had a hand in the escape of the Negroes (he had hidden in the cave the night before). At dinner time father invited him up to dinner. The sheriff stayed all day – nobody came to whisper or bring secret messages, so he returned and said 'Hoyt had nothing to do with that get away'." This sheriff, Robert "Right" Rea was a notorious fugitive slave catcher in the area and it is no small feat that Lyman Hoyt was able to convince the sheriff that he was not involved in the Underground Railroad activities.

The cave is no longer located on the Hoyt property but can still be seen on nearby property now owned by a local farmer. Lyman Hoyt died in 1857 and the Hoyt family's involvement in the Underground Railroad likely ceased. However, the aid provided to fugitive slaves by the citizens of the Town of Lancaster continued until the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863.

By the time of Asenath Hoyt's death in 1897, involvement in the Underground Railroad was no longer kept as secretive and was instead worn openly as a badge of honor. Her obituary reads, "He (Lyman) and his wife were strongly against slavery and their home in Jefferson county was a one of the stations of the underground railroad. Mr. Hoyt used to be called a conductor on the underground railroad."

The Lyman and Asenath Hoyt house is also an outstanding example of Greek Revival architecture. This house exemplifies the characteristics of this style including cornice returns on the roofline and doors with paneled jambs. Its simple design and sturdy craftsmanship represent the vernacular version of this style.

It is one of only two houses of the style within Lancaster Township and the only one rated Outstanding in the survey. The only other Greek Revival structure in the township is the Eleutherian College. Many houses were built in the Greek Revival style in nearby Madison (Madison Township), but none were built in the unique limestone construction of the Hoyt house.

Limestone is a building material abundant throughout the state of Indiana. Its availability and solidness for construction made it ideal for structures such as the Eleutherian College. Houses were not often built to this same level of stability, however, due to the proximity of these two structures (the College and the Hoyt house) and their similarity in construction (rough limestone block, corner quoins, etc.), it is probable that both were constructed by the same local builder.

Bibliography

"Anti-Slavery History of Jefferson County." Jefferson County Historical Society, Inc., 1998.

"Article written by Lois L. Hoyt, in 1930." (Information on file at Eleutherian College).

"Blacks In and Around Jefferson County, Indiana" (Information on file with the Madison-Jefferson County Public Library).

Jefferson County Interim Report. Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, November 1989.

"Minute Book of Neel's Creek Anti-Slavery Society, 1839-1845."

"Mrs. Asenath Hoyt, Remains of a Famous Woman Laid to Rest." *Madison Courier*, 1897.

"Reminiscences of Slavery Times Written By Grandfather (John H.) Tibbets in His 70th Year." (Information on file at Eleutherian College).

Thompson, William C. "Eleutherian College: A Sketch of a Unique Step in the Educational History of Indiana." *Indiana Magazine of History*, June 1923, XIX No. 2. Reprinted 2001 by Historic Eleutherian College, Inc.

Verbal Boundary Description

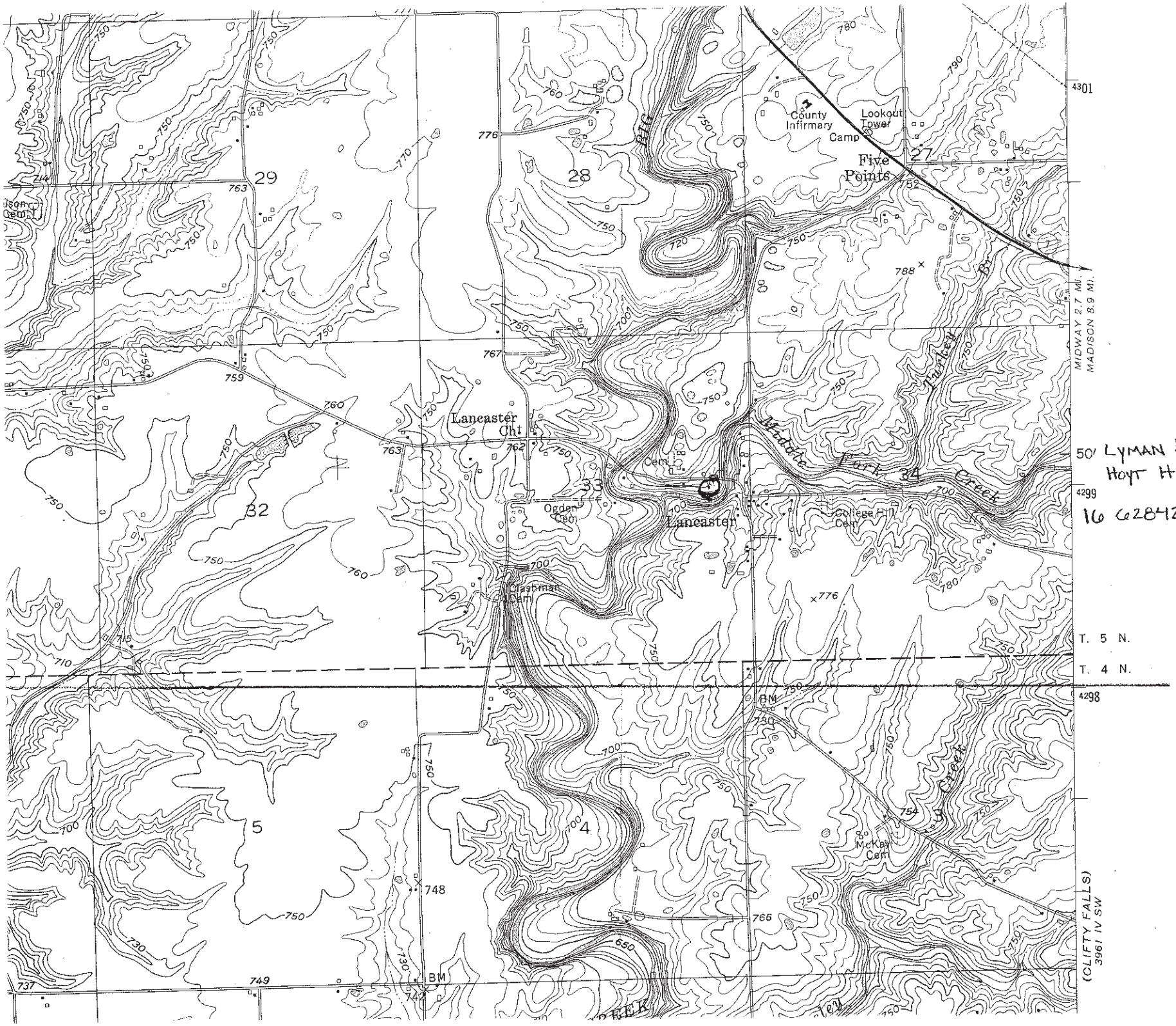
A part of the northeast quarter of section 33 in township 5 north range 9 east, described as follows; beginning at a point in the south line of said quarter section where the road on the west bank of Middlefork Creek intersects this line; thence west along said south line to the land once occupied by John Thompson; thence northwardly along said Thompson's line to the middle of the Old Plank road; thence easterly along the middle of the Old Plank road to a road on the west bank of Middlefork Creek; thence south and westerly along the middle of said road to the place of beginning, the above tract supposed to contain 3 acres, more or less.

Boundary Justification

The boundary for the Hoyt house was taken from the original Abstraction of Title.

Photographs

Lyman and Asenath Hoyt Residence
Jefferson County, Indiana
Beth Narayanan
January 2002
Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology
Overall view of the residence and property. Photograph taken facing south.



50' LYMAN & ASENATH HOYT HOUSE

16 628420 4298980