

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FINAL

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Elliott, James, Farm
other names/site number "Elm Place" 129-455-17002

2. Location

street & number Church Street/Indiana State Road 66 N/A not for publication
city or town New Harmony N/A vicinity
state Indiana code IN county Posey code 129 zip code 47631

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 [Signature]
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

Date 11.8.03

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 _____

Elliott, James, Farm
Name of Property

Posey 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	
5	0	buildings
0	0	sites
3	0	structures
0	0	objects
8	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 Storage

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling
AGRICULTURE/SUBSIST Animal Facility
AGRICULTURE/SUBSIST Storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19th c.: Greek Revival
OTHER:

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: STONE
walls: WOOD: Weatherboard
roof: METAL
other: BRICK

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.)

- Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
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.
Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c1830-c1920

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Elliott, James

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
removed from its original location.
a birthplace or grave.
a cemetery.
a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
a commemorative property.
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 #

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Historic New Harmony, New Harmony, Indiana

Elliott, James, Farm
Name of Property

Posey IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 15 acres

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

1	16	419020	4220380	3	16	419170	4220240
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	16	419170	4220380	4	16	419020	4220240

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 Susan Branigan, Historic Preservation Coordinator; Susan Lankford, Intern; Andrew Halter
organization Historic New Harmony date 06-30-2003
street & number P.O. Box 579 telephone 812/682-4488
city or town New Harmony state IN zip code 47631

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 Claudia M. Elliott
street & number 1915 Wolcott Avenue telephone 773/489-6110
city or town Chicago state IL zip code 60622-1058

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

Section Number 7 Page 1

Summary:

The James Elliott Farm is located approximately one-half mile east of the Posey County town of New Harmony on Indiana State Road 66 (Church Street). This 15-acre property, which consists of five contributing buildings and three contributing structures, rests in the fertile valley of the Wabash River, which forms the western boundary of New Harmony. The land on which the farm is today located was the original site (1826-1828) of Feiba Peveli, an agricultural community of the utopian experiment conducted in New Harmony (1825-1828) by Welsh industrialist/social reformer Robert Owen.

Today, the focal point of the farmstead is an I-house with Greek Revival details that was constructed in stages, and owned/occupied by seven consecutive generations of the James Elliott family. Elliott, an English immigrant farmer who was a member of the Owen Experiment, and a founding member of Feiba Peveli, acquired the land circa 1828 from Robert Owen (and his sons Robert Dale and William), and began construction of his family's home in 1830.

The farm complex parallels the south side of Church Street (IN SR 66), and the house and barn can be directly accessed via the gravel drive that adjoins Church Street. Several old maple, pine, and oak trees are today located on the grounds of the farmhouse. In addition, several large cypress trees line the northeastern approach to the property along Church Street. An undated historic photograph (believed to pre-date 1886) shows a pair of huge American Elm trees, which once dominated the north yard of the home (Photo 1). These old-growth trees, present when the Harmonists settled New Harmony in 1814, were the reason Elliott family members for many years referred to their home as "Elm Place." Although the reasons are unknown, it is believed that these elm trees were removed sometime prior to 1886, the death year of the family's matriarch, Mary Bennett Elliott. Keyed to the site map, the farm's contributing resources are as follows:

A. Farmhouse:

The farmhouse (Photo 3), an I-house embellished with characteristics of the Greek Revival style, was, as previously mentioned, constructed in stages by the Elliott family, beginning with James Elliott, circa 1830. The slight asymmetry of the front (north) façade (the entry bay and the window above it are both west of center) can probably be attributed to the house's incremental construction. The house is oriented from east to west on its lot. Like many I-houses, the Elliott house is wood-frame and is covered by wood clapboarding. The house also features a two-story wing at its southeast corner. Each section of the house stands on a brick foundation.

The main house is topped by a low-pitched roof covered with pressed-metal shingles—most probably tin. Side gables, a typical feature of I-houses, are present at the roof's east and west ends. The house's cornice line features a plain frieze and cornice returns. The main house has three chimneys: one that extends from the east gable (added in 1970), and two internal chimneys (one at the southeast intersecting gable, and one on the west side of the house). The one-story, gable-roofed original kitchen has an internally located chimney positioned near its center.

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The north elevation of the house is dominated by a pedimented entry porch that is supported by four square Doric columns (Photo 4). The roofing material covering the entry porch is pressed-metal shingles. This same material—probably tin, as previously mentioned—covers the entire roof of the main house. A large half millstone serves as the porch's front step, as it has done since approximately the time of John Elliott—son of James.

The home's front door is recessed, bordered on either side by three sidelights, and capped with a four-light transom. Two Doric pilasters are located on either side of the front door. All of the windows on the north elevation are six-over-six, double-hung, with plain wooden lintels and sills. All of the windows presently have shutters. One single window is located above the entry porch, while two windows per floor are in place on the eastern and western halves of the north elevation.

The home's east elevation (Photo 5) is dominated by the brick chimney, circa 1970, that extends upward beyond the roofline at the house's gabled east end. On the first-floor level, two fixed-pane, eight-light windows were added on either side of the new chimney. On the second-floor level, two historic six-over-six, double-hung windows were relocated to their new positions, one on each side of the chimney.

The two-story southeast wing has one six-over-six, double-hung window on both the first and second floor levels. Family records indicate that the levels of this wing were constructed in two phases; the first-floor portion (currently the study) was added, according to Josephine Elliott, in the 1850s by John Elliott. This room was probably built at the same time that John Elliott constructed the eastern half of the present east parlor. The second story was added by Miriam Elliott Burke between 1865 and 1876.

The southeast wing has two south-facing eight-over-eight, double-hung windows on the second-floor level. A single, six-over-six, double-hung window is in place on the first floor level at the southwest corner. Although no historic photos of the south elevation are known to exist, it is possible that a companion window could have existed at the southeast wing's first-floor, southeast corner, and that this window could have been covered over at some time.

While fenestration on the north, east, and west elevations is symmetrical, fenestration on the home's south elevation is not, due to the existence of the previously mentioned wings/additions (Photo 6). The primary features of the south elevation are these projecting constructions: the two-story southeast wing, the two-story southwest wing, the original kitchen and its well-house/laundry south addition, and the east-west porch that connects the home's southeast and southwest elements.

The one-story shed-roof porch was constructed by John Elliott across the rear (south) elevation of the main house, for the possible purpose of connecting the first-floor, southeast room (study) with the original kitchen. The porch, covered with a standing-seam metal roof, is supported by plain wooden columns. One six-over-six, double-hung window is located in the approximate center of the house's second-floor level, and looks out onto the porch's standing-seam metal shed roof. A door that leads to the home's central hall (the home's original back (south) door) is located near the southwest corner of the porch. Diagonally west from this door are two doors [on the southwest wing's east-facing wall]. The northern-most of these two doors leads into the home's basement, while the southern-most leads into the kitchen. An east-facing, two-over-two, double-hung window is located on the second-floor level, directly over the basement door.

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The east side of the kitchen includes two six-light, single-sash windows, located at the northeast corner of the kitchen--at its juncture with the porch's shed-roof overhang--near the kitchen door. In addition, two six-over-six, double-hung windows are located on the north and south sides, respectively, of the laundry room door. One south-facing, six-over-six, double hung window is positioned in the gable of the well-house/laundry room (addition to the kitchen,) while two similar windows are in place at the laundry room's east and west corners, respectively. Family records state that the well house/laundry room addition was constructed onto the south side of the original kitchen between 1906-1925 by Elmer Ellsworth Elliott.

The west elevation of the main house (Photo 7) features one six-over-six, double-hung sash window at the first and second floor levels. A two-story, shed-roof wing is adjoined near the southwest corner of the main house, and was added sometime post-1925 by John Soper Elliott to house first and second floor bathrooms. The first and second floors of this wing each feature one west-facing, six-over-six, double-hung window. These windows are placed at the same level as the windows on the west elevation of the main house. The wing is topped with a standing-seam metal roof and its south wall is covered with corrugated metal. The wing is connected to the one-story, gabled original kitchen. A one-story, gabled screened-in porch, emerges from the southwest corner of the southwest addition. Family records indicate that this west-facing porch was also added by John Soper Elliott. John S. Elliott purchased the home in 1925 from his brother Elmer E. Elliott. The west elevation of the kitchen features two windows. The eight-over-eight double-hung window directly south of the porch is the larger of the two. The second, which looks into the laundry room, is smaller but lines up with the bottom of the other kitchen window. A door covered with vertical wooden siding is located between the windows.

The interior of the house contains approximately 2,500 square feet, including a full basement. The house appears to have been substantially preserved throughout the one hundred seventy-six years of Elliott family residency. Most of the materials original to each component of the home's construction, such as doors/hardware, walls, windows, wide-plank wood flooring, and decorative trim, have been retained. Impermanent (decorative) alterations (such as modern wallpaper, replacement bathroom fixtures, or paint colors) have not been used widely throughout the home. As a result, it is still possible to experience the house as a nearly pristine progression of several generations of the same family. This farmhouse is truly a "home place."

The main portion of the house has a typical I-house plan. A central entry hall with a staircase is flanked by a formal dining room and parlor on the first floor and bedrooms on the second. Less formal spaces are located in the wings off of the I-house form, including the study in the southeast wing and kitchen wing to the southwest on the first floor and the studio in the southeast wing and a bath and closets in the southwest wing on the second floor. As is characteristic of nineteenth-century houses, the ceiling height on the first floor is higher—measuring twelve feet—than the second-floor ceiling height – which measures-eight feet. Walls throughout the house are lath and plaster, and the painted woodwork is believed to be pine or poplar. The majority of the interior doors are simple four-panel painted doors. Almost all of the door and window surrounds throughout the house are topped with a pediment. The entry hall and dining room feature plain, polished wood floors, probably poplar or pine. The remaining rooms, except for the kitchen and bathrooms which have linoleum flooring, have floors of wide, painted wooden planks. Simple white-painted baseboard moldings are in place in each room.

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The home's basement, with its exposed stone walls, is a large open space spanning the east-west length of the house.

On the first floor, a staircase, reminiscent of those seen in Harmonist houses, is the focus of the central entry hall (Photo 12). The staircase has a square newel post of polished wood, horizontal rails of polished wood and painted risers. It is enclosed in vertical wooden siding, painted white. The door under the stairs leads to a closet. Doors leading to the north and south porches are also in place in the hall. On the hall's north wall, a wide pediment caps the main entryway, transom and sidelights.

The dining room (Photo 10), located just to the west of the entry hall, features an ornate oak fireplace mantel/surround (Photo 11). A beveled-edge mirror is in place atop the mantel, and a decorative cast iron fire screen covers the fireplace opening. Pilasters support the wide molding over the mirror and fire screen. The fireplace has a tile hearth.

The kitchen (Photo 13), part of James Elliott's original "L-shaped" home, is accessed through the south door of the west side dining room. The kitchen is connected on its south end to the laundry room/well house constructed by Elmer Elliott. The screened-in porch, with its double stained ten-light interior doors, is located to the west of the kitchen.

Just off the entry hall to the east, the parlor includes the circa-1970 brick fireplace mantel/surround (Photo 8). Built-in bookcases with enclosed storage below were installed on either side of the brick fireplace. Paneling of vertical boards with beaded edges appears above the brass fireplace surround.

The study (Photo 9), which features three-quarter-length pine wainscoting, is built onto the southeast corner of the east parlor. It features three-quarter-length pine wainscoting that is stained and topped with a wide piece of trim.

The second floor is reached via the previously mentioned built-in corner staircase. Upstairs, three bedrooms span the north elevation, with a sitting room attached to the southeast corner of the northeast bedroom. The upstairs bathroom, narrow hall, and small storage room, are located in the southwest wing, behind the northwest bedroom. The interior of these spaces are similar to the rooms downstairs, with painted plank floors, simple baseboards and pediments over the doorways and windows.

B. Shed: (Photo 14) Directly south of the house is a circa-1890 shed. The shed may have at one time been used to shelter horses, wagons, and/or automobiles since three bay-type openings exist on the shed's east elevation. The shed is covered with tongue-and-groove siding and has a standing-seam metal roof. This type of roofing material is used on several other outbuildings.

C. Well house: (Photo 15) The farm's original well house, constructed circa-1895, is located to the south/southeast of the farmhouse. The transverse balloon frame building is covered with tongue-and-groove siding. The gable roof is covered with standing-seam sheet metal. The well house entrance is located at its northwest corner.

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D. Small Barn: (Photo 16) Directly behind the well house is a small transverse balloon frame barn, circa 1900, topped by a gable roof covered in corrugated sheet metal. The exterior is sheathed in vertical tongue and groove siding. The east elevation features the following north-to-south openings: one window (window glass missing); one small door; and an opening for a sliding door (door missing). One window exists on the north and south elevations, respectively. No opening exists on the barn's west elevation.

E. Granary/Corncrib/Barn: (Photo 17) The granary/corncrib, circa 1880, is topped by a pressed-metal-covered, gabled roof. The center portion of the structure, which is located to the southwest of the small barn and due-west of the large barn, is elevated on cement piers. Two flanking stable areas have been added onto the north and south sides of the structure—possibly because primary corn/grain storage was moved to the drive-in corncrib. Walls of the flanking stable areas are composed on all sides of narrow boards running vertically, although portions of the west elevation have been covered in corrugated sheet metal.

F. Barn: (Photo 18) A modified transverse crib barn, constructed circa 1880 of solid post and beams. The gable-roof barn features east-and west-side shed extensions covered with vertical tongue-and-groove boards. This siding is similar to that found on other outbuildings. Most of the barn's north elevation has been covered with corrugated sheet metal. The north elevation has four doors: one wide, double door on the west side; a "Dutch" door on the east side; and two central doors (one of which leads into the loft). Five window openings are present on the north elevation: one each on the east and west sides that lack glass but have single wooden shutters; one six-light, fixed-pane window on the east side extension, and two windows in the barn's central portion that are covered with the aforementioned corrugated sheet metal. The east-and west-facing sides of the barn's shed extensions each have four doors that open into stalls. Three doors span the barn's south side: one large sliding door, one door at the southeast corner, and one small opening into the loft. Inside the barn, the south half contains the floor-to-ceiling hay mow (Photo 19), while the north half contains an area for grain storage and farm implements. Also on the north half of the barn's interior is a second-story hay loft/area for additional storage. An aisle that allows access to the stalls located in the shed extensions runs the length of the barn.

G. Drive-In Corncrib: (Photo 20) The drive-in corncrib, circa 1885, is topped by a gable roof covered in corrugated sheet metal. The gable ends of the roof face east and west. Interior runway walls are composed of long and narrow horizontal slats, while the exterior is sheathed in vertical board and batten siding. Each crib has an exterior door on the north elevation. These are the only openings.

H. Miscellaneous Resources: The masonry silo (Photo 18) south of the barn is believed to date from the 1910s-1920s.

Today, the James Elliott Farm can be considered unique in its beginnings as an important agricultural component of one of America's distinctive utopian social experiments. Furthermore, under the aegis of one single Indiana family, the land remained continuously in agriculture from 1826-2000. The farm continued to grow and prosper, and in the twenty-first century, it still possesses--intact and within the original setting--contributing resources that date from the second quarter of the 19th century through the first two decades of the 20th century. While the farm's rural setting is relatively unchanged, the completion in 1999 of a by-pass linking I-64 to the north with IN State Road 69 and the Ohio River to the south in Mount Vernon, Indiana heralded the beginning of changes in area land use and ownership.

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Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary

The James Elliott Farm, located about one-half mile east of New Harmony in Posey County, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion 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") in the category of "Architecture." The house, which was built in stages (beginning in 1830) by members of the James Elliott family, is the best local example of an I-house having Greek Revival details. Elliott family documentation reveals that the house was not constructed originally in the I-house form; rather, generations subsequent to patriarch James Elliott molded the house incrementally into its resulting form. The I-house form dates from the period of the 1870s, since the house's second story was added around that time by Miriam Elliott Burke, granddaughter of James Elliott.

Using the 1985 *Posey County Interim Report* in conjunction with the text of the 2001 National Register nomination for the "New Harmony Historic District," a survey was conducted to identify New Harmony I-houses similar to, and therefore suitable for comparison, to the Elliott farmhouse. Criteria used to determine similarity included estimated year of construction and architectural style. Although New Harmony contains three of the four I-house types identified in Allen G. Noble's *Wood, Brick and Stone: The North American Settlement Landscape, Volume I: Houses*, only two houses match the Elliott house in terms of construction year and identified architectural style. The Joseph Wilson House at 337 Tavern (#184 in the "New Harmony Historic District" nomination) and the Benjamin LaBudde House at 818 Church Street (#114 in the "New Harmony Historic District" nomination) are both identified as Greek Revival houses having construction dates between 1865-1870.

Building History

James Elliott initially began the construction of the Elliott farmhouse in approximately 1830. The original structure was L-shaped and only one-story in height. Subsequent family members built the second story and other additions when they required more living space. Family records document the specific family members/generations responsible for each addition to the house.

In her 1972 memoir, *In Retrospect*, family member/historian Helen Elliott recounts the genesis of her family's farm:

At the breakup of the community [Feiba Peveli], James Elliott bought the present Elliott farm of some 90 acres from Owen's sons, on a long time leasing arrangement, with the privilege of paying the price of ownership during the period of the lease. The farm has not been out of the family ownership to the present day... [James Elliott and second wife Sarah Hine] established the home which is now a part of the first floor of the present Elliott family home.¹

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Miss Elliott's description of the accretionary development of the Elliott farmhouse parallels author Sarah Creese Pelham's 1930 description, (privately) published in *The Elliott Family History*:

The Elliott home was first a one story home with rambling rooms and porches. In the kitchen and in the west room were the wide fireplaces of all pioneer homes. A hall with a good colonial door led to the front porch.²

Josephine Mirabella Elliott, New Harmony scholar/author, archivist emerita of the University of Southern Indiana and wife of the second John B. Elliott, prepared the following construction history of her husband's family home:

James Elliott joined Robert Owen's community in March, 1825. He served as Owen's secretary for a year; and then, together with John Cooper and James Maidlow, formed an Owenite branch community called Feiba Peveli—a communal farming venture of which this place was headquarters.

Feiba Peveli dissolved in 1828, and land titles were acquired from Owen as individual holdings by the participants. This farm is ninety-five acres.

After the purchase of the land in 1830 James Elliott began construction of the present house. A one-story L-shaped structure was built which consisted of the present kitchen, dining room, central hall, and half of the east parlor. James Elliott's son John built the rest of the parlor and the room behind it which serves as a farm office. He also added a front and back porch, all his additions being made in the 1850s.

After the Civil War, the home was lived in by Miriam Elliott Burke, daughter of John Elliott, and her husband L.A. Burke. They added the second story to the house.

The next owner was Elmer E. Elliott, a nephew of Mrs. L.A. Burke. During his tenure (1906-1925), fundamental repairs were performed to the house; additions consisted of a combination well-house and laundry room behind the kitchen, and the installation of electricity, central heating, running water, and concrete walks.

John S. Elliott, brother of Elmer E. Elliott, bought Feiba Peveli in 1925. Fundamental repairs were again undertaken, and first and second story bathrooms were installed. A west side porch off the kitchen was also added.

The present owner, John B. Elliott, son of John S. Elliott, has remodeled the kitchen, screened the west porch, paneled the office, and added a fireplace and bookshelves on the east wall of the parlor.³

² Sarah Creese Pelham, *The Elliott Family History* (privately published, ca. 1930), 8.

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As was previously mentioned, the Elliott farmhouse was constructed in phases; that is, the house that we see today is not in appearance the house that was built by James Elliott. The earliest known photographic images of the property date from circa-1870s-1880s, and reveal that the southeast wing was present at that time. (The wing's second story was added by Miriam Elliott Burke and her family between 1865 and 1876, during which time they lived in the home with Miriam's mother, Mary Ann Bennett Elliott, widow of John Elliott.⁴) As recorded in the aforementioned histories, additions that pre-date these photographs include the east half of the east parlor and the front and back porches. Additions that post-date the photographs include a two-story wing, located at the southwest corner of the main house, a south addition to the house's original kitchen, and a screened-in porch that extends from the approximate northwest point where the two-story southwest wing adjoins the original kitchen.

Other features of the farmhouse remain largely unchanged since their construction, with a few exceptions. Historic photos dating from the circa 1870s-1880s seem to indicate that the roof was composed at one time of wood shingles, although it is now covered with pressed metal shingles, probably tin. All of the windows presently have shutters. However, these shutters do not appear on the north elevation in the circa 1870s-1880s historic photographs, although the second story of the southeast wing is shuttered in the earlier of the two photos. The porch's foundation was rebuilt with new brick in the 1970s, during the construction of the east chimney. (The pre-1886 photograph indicates that the original porch was constructed of wood.)

Architectural Significance

The James Elliott farmhouse, which is considered a vernacular structure since it was designed and constructed without the assistance of a professional architect or builder, is an excellent example of an I-house with Greek Revival detailing. The I-house form (side-gabled, single-pile, two-stories tall and at least two rooms wide) is a traditional British vernacular form.⁵ It was brought to North America by British colonists and to southern Indiana by settlers from the Chesapeake Bay area.⁶ The growth of the railroad system helped to spread the form throughout the Midwest.⁷ According to Allen G. Noble, author of *Wood, Brick and Stone: The North American Settlement Landscape, Volume 1: Houses*, I-houses "had the widest distribution of any folk house in America, except

4 Pelham, 12.

5 Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2000), 96.

6 Allen G. Noble, *Wood, Brick and Stone: The North American Settlement Landscape, Volume 1: Houses* (Amherst, Mass.: The University of Massachusetts Press, 1984), 48-52.

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possibly the log pen house, and it was constructed without a lapse up to the beginnings of the twentieth century, long after house building began to be affected by architectural styling.⁸ I-houses appear with various floor plans, window and door arrangement and chimney placement. "The I-house prototypically has paired chimneys, one located at each gabled end, but central chimney and paired central chimney I-house subtypes are regionally significant."⁹ Noble points out that I-houses such as the Elliott farmhouse are frequently embellished with Greek Revival, Italianate and Gothic Revival ornaments.¹⁰ The I-house form was especially popular in the Midwest because it was simple to build, easy to expand with ells and wings, and large enough to provide a family adequate space during long winters.¹¹ Historically, it was associated with success in agricultural communities.¹²

Noble, as previously mentioned, has identified four I-house types in *Wood, Brick and Stone*. While delineating the differences in the building types, he also describes their shared similarities:

"What identifies all I houses regardless of their façade decoration are certain basic plan and form characteristics: side-facing gables, one-room depth, at least two-room width and two full stories in elevation. Furthermore, although individual measurements vary somewhat, the dimensions of the I-house conform to a particular standard. The average size may be taken as sixteen to twenty-four feet deep by twenty-eight to forty-eight feet wide by twenty to twenty-four feet tall."¹³

The main section of the Elliott farmhouse, likewise, is a side-gabled, two-story, single-pile structure that is two rooms wide. However, the Elliott farmhouse does not neatly fit into any of Noble's four categories, which is not uncommon in vernacular structures that often deviate from the norm. The Elliott farmhouse is most closely related to Noble's type two I-houses, which have a "central hallway, two rooms of equal size, and three façade openings per floor across the front side. It differs [from the other types] primarily in the placement of chimneys and hearths, which are located on either side of the central hall."¹⁴ The Elliott farmhouse shares these characteristics, but has five openings on the main façade and only one historic chimney just off the center of the main section of the house.¹⁵ The farmhouse could also be classified as a central-passage I-house, since a stair hall separates the two rooms on the first and second floor of the main section of the house. Central-passage I-houses usually have chimneys located on the gabled ends. However, central chimneys do appear, especially in post-railroad examples like the Elliott farmhouse.¹⁶ The wooden horizontal clapboards, the symmetrical façade, the windows in the midpoint of the first and second stories of the west façade, and the series of projections on the rear of the house (common on post-railroad I-houses¹⁷) all help to make the Elliott farmhouse an excellent example of a typical I-house.

8 Noble, 52.

9 Midwest Vernacular Architecture Committee, *Surveying and Evaluating Vernacular Architecture (National Register Bulletin 31)* (Washington D.C.: National Park Service, 1987): 33.

10 Noble, 52.

11 McAlester, 96.

12 J. Marshall Davis, "Vernacular House Types in Indiana: An Expanded Methodology for the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory" (Master of Science in Historic Preservation thesis, Ball State University, 1990): 61.

13 Noble, 52.

14 Ibid., 54.

15 An addition chimney was added to the exterior of the east façade of the I-house form in the 1970s. A third chimney is located in the southeast gable and a fourth in the original kitchen ell. Both chimneys are separate from the I-house portion of the house.

16 Davis, 73-74.

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The main portion of the house is also an excellent example of a vernacular structure with Greek Revival detailing. It is rated as "outstanding" in the *Posey County Interim Report*. The house possesses many of the character-defining features of the folk versions of the Greek Revival style. The plain frieze, cornice returns, low-pitched roof, slightly projecting eaves, sidelights and transom around the front door, historic six-over-six windows, flat lintels over the first-story historic windows on the north and east facades, and entry porch with square Doric columns and pediment with a wide band of trim are all common characteristics of vernacular houses with Greek Revival features and help make the Elliott farmhouse an important local landmark.

Architectural Significance: Comparison to Similar New Harmony Structures

Like the Elliott farmhouse, the Benjamin LaBudde House (c. 1870) is a vernacular structure that corresponds to Noble's type two I-houses (Photos 21-22). It received a rating of "outstanding" in the *Posey County Interim Report*. The house has a pair of interior central chimneys, a five-bay symmetrical façade and an added rear wing. Although the LaBudde House is a good example of an I-house, it has relatively few Greek Revival characteristics. These include a plain wooden frieze on the gable ends, a two-light rectangular transom over the front entry door and six-over-six double-hung windows. However, the house lacks the flat lintels over the windows, the frieze along the main façade, and the cornice returns that are present in the Elliott farmhouse. The porch on the LaBudde House, which extends along the main façade, has Queen Anne-inspired spindle work and ornately carved brackets and posts supporting the flat roof and completely lacks any elements of Greek Revival. Replacement vinyl siding, however, detracts from the house's historic significance.

The Joseph Wilson House (c. 1865) is a five-bay I-house with an interior chimney that is located in the interior of the main section of the structure, but is not quite flush with the gable end (Photo 23). Unlike the Elliott farmhouse, which is rated as "outstanding" in the *Posey County Interim Report*, the Wilson House is listed as a "contributing" structure in the New Harmony Historic District. Like the LaBudde House, the Wilson House is a good example of a vernacular I-house, but lacks many of the Greek Revival elements apparent on the Elliott farmhouse. For example, the Wilson House lacks a frieze and cornice returns on the gable ends. Also, the six-over-six historic windows in the Wilson House lack the flat lintels of the Elliott farmhouse. The porch, with a hipped roof extending across the main façade, is completely void of any Greek Revival details. It is supported by square wooden columns that lack the Doric features of those on the Elliott porch. As with the LaBudde House, replacement aluminum siding diminishes the Wilson home's historic integrity.

The Elliott farmhouse is an outstanding local landmark, and is significant as an excellent example of a vernacular I-house having Greek Revival detailing. Although similar forms of vernacular architecture exist in New Harmony, the Elliott house stands as the best local example of an I-house with Greek Revival detailing.

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Verbal Boundary Description: Beginning 15 feet east of the gravel drive, the entrance to the James Elliott Farm, commence westward 185 feet along right-of-way of Indiana State road 66 to an intersection of said right-of-way and a north-south woven wire fence. From this point, continue southward 280 feet along the woven wire fence to an intersection with an east-west woven wire fence. At this point, continue westward 145 feet to an intersection with a north-south woven wire fence. At this point, continue 295 southward feet along said fence to a point of intersection with an east-west woven wire fence. At this point, continue eastward 420 feet along said fence to an intersection of a north-south fence. At this point, continue 215 feet northward along said fence to a fence post. At the fence post, continue along a straight path an additional 150 feet northward. At this point, continue westward 90 feet. At this point, continue northward 210 feet along the gravel drive to the point of the beginning.

Boundary Justification: The boundary includes all of the extant properties constructed by the Elliott family dating from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Because alterations have been few and relatively minor and the setting largely unchanged, the farmstead possesses sufficient integrity to suggest the period during which all of the properties were constructed.

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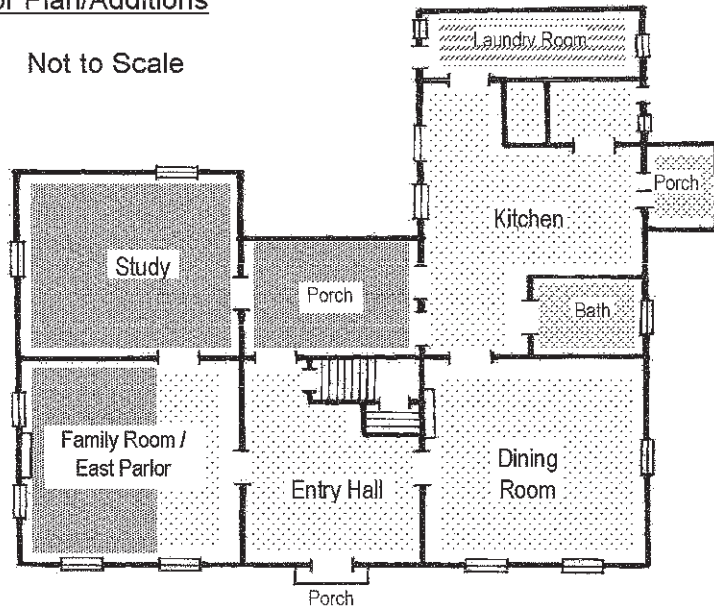
Development of Floor Plan/Additions

Elliott Farmhouse
 New Harmony, Indiana

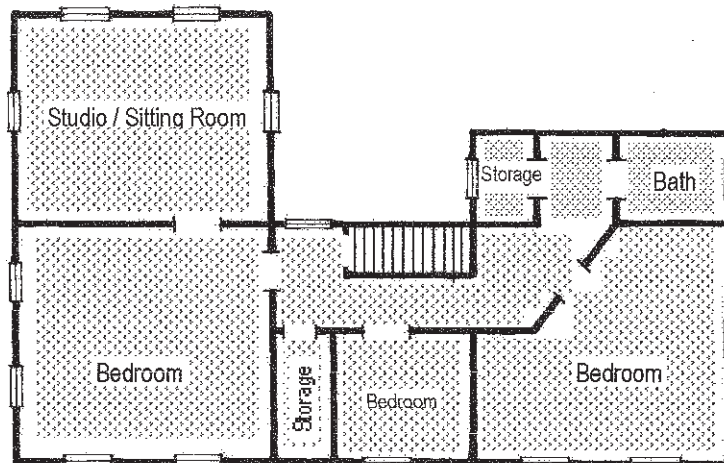




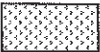
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

1st Floor



2nd Floor



	Original Construction, James Elliott, 1830
	Additions, John Elliott, c. 1844
	Additions, Miriam Elliott Burke, 1865-1876

	Additions, John S. Elliott, post-1925
	Additions, Elmer S. Elliott (Also added electricity, central heat, running water and concrete walls), 1906-1925

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Continuation Sheet

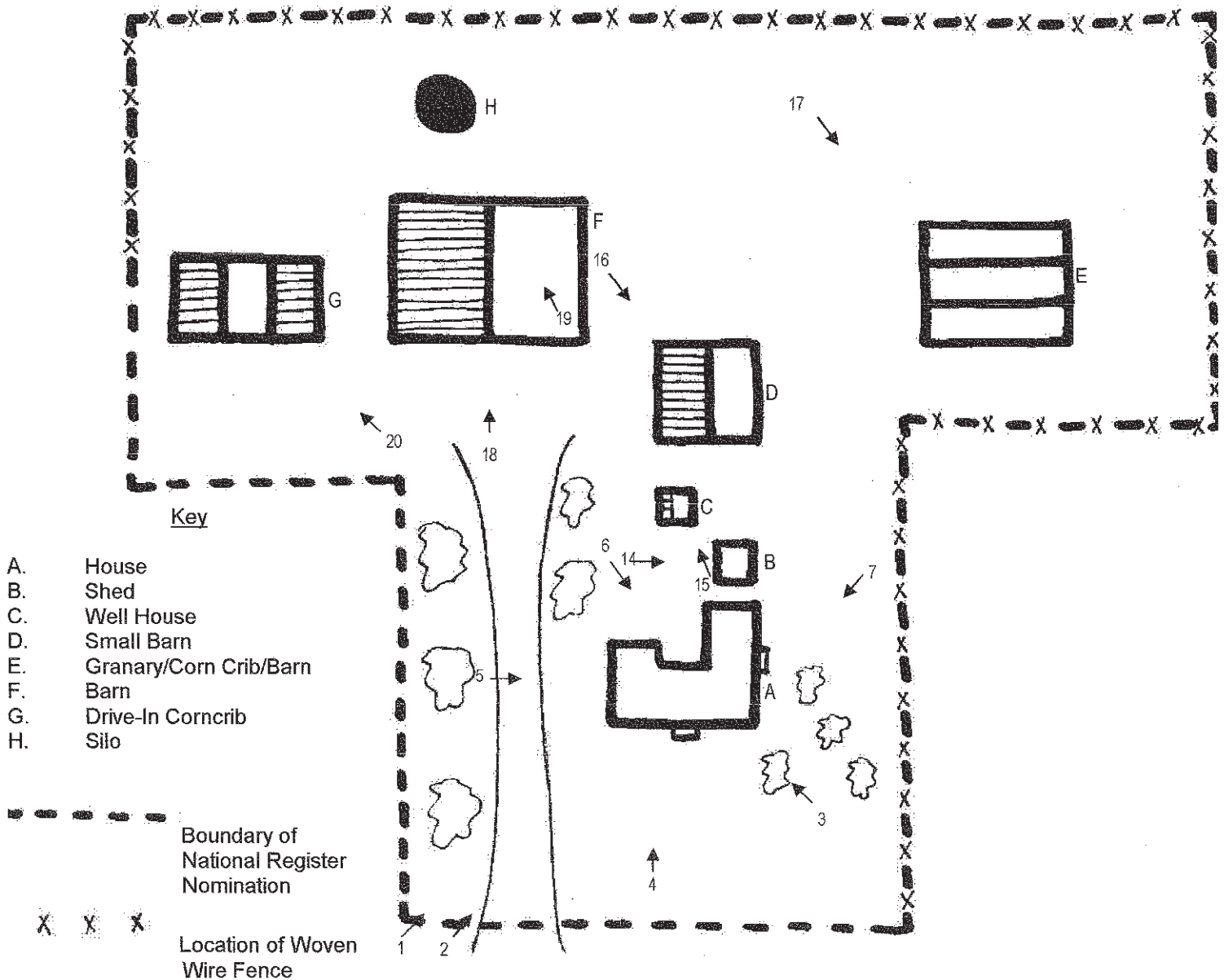
Section number Maps Page 2

Site Map and Location of Exterior Photographs

Elliott Farmhouse
New Harmony, Indiana



Not to Scale



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National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number Maps Page 3

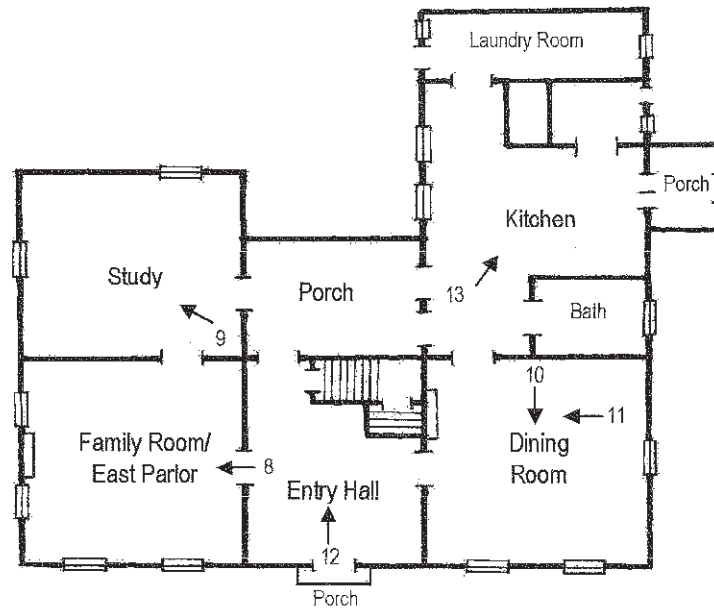
Location of Interior Photographs

Elliott Farmhouse
New Harmony, Indiana

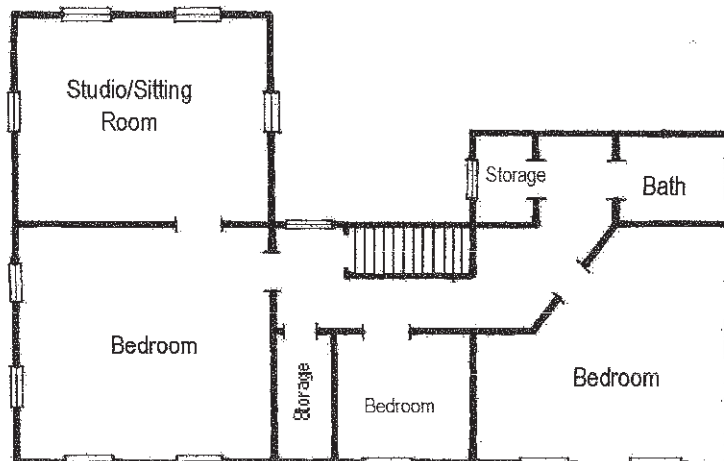


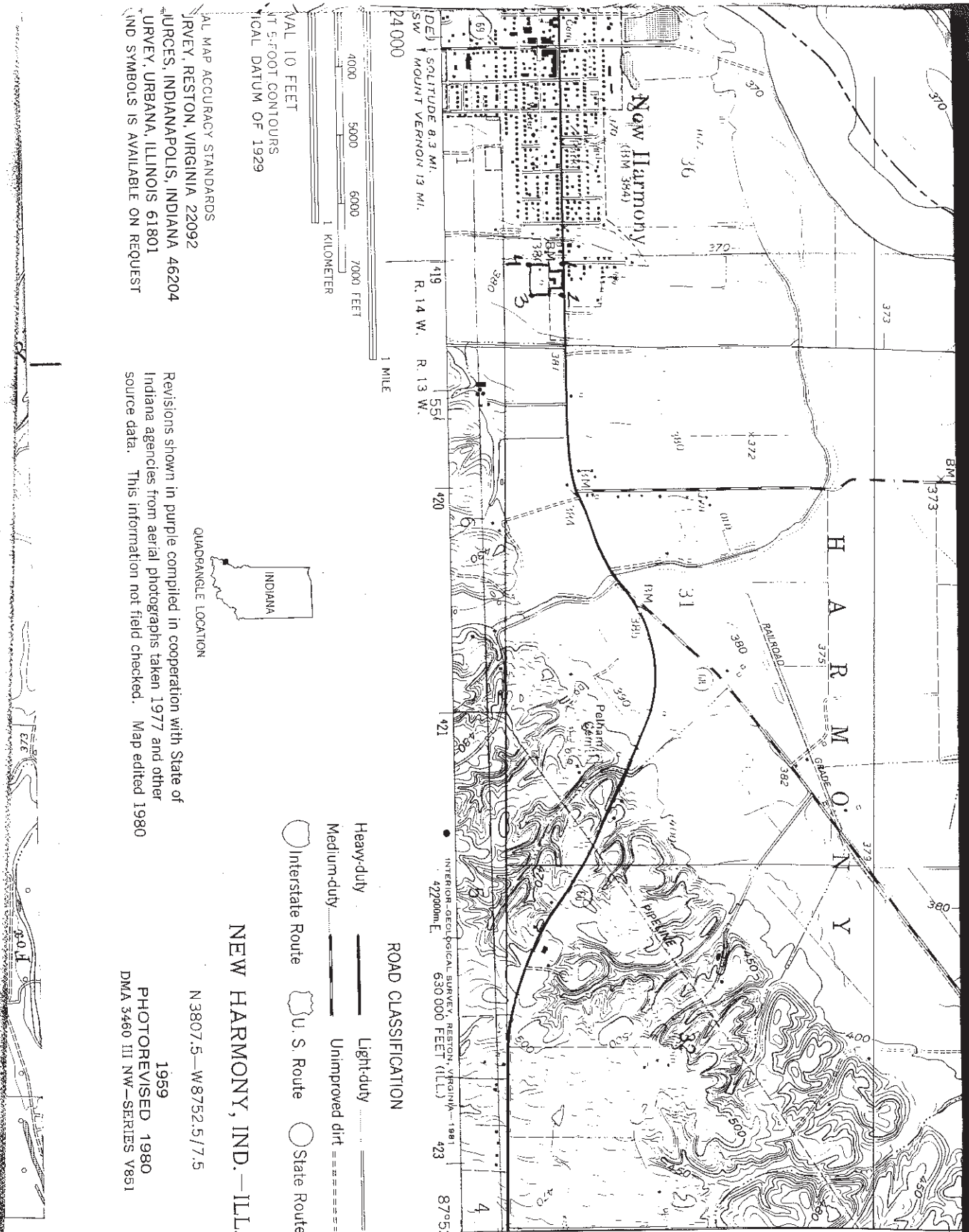
Not to Scale

1st Floor



2nd Floor





FULL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
 SURVEY, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204
 SURVEY, URBANA, ILLINOIS 61801
 AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with State of
 Indiana agencies from aerial photographs taken 1977 and other
 source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1980



NEW HARMONY, IND.—ILL.

N 3807.5—W 8752.5/7.5
 1959
 PHOTOREVISED 1980
 DMA 3460 III NW—SERIES V851

- ROAD CLASSIFICATION**
- Heavy-duty —————
 - Medium-duty - - - - -
 - Light-duty - - - - -
 - Unimproved dirt =====
 - Interstate Route U. S. Route State Route

T. 5 S.
 38°07'30"
 (WADESVILLE)
 3460 III SE

4222
 Elliott Farm
 New Harmony,
 Posey County,
 Indiana
 1. 16 419020 4220580
 2. 16 419170 4220380
 3. 16 419170 4220240
 4. 16 419020 4220240