

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 **Doddridge Chapel and Cemetery**

other names/site number **177-301-80058**

## 2. Location

street & number **9465 Chapel Road** N/A ☐ not for publication

city or town **Centerville** ☒ vicinity

state **Indiana** code **IN** county **Wayne** code **177** zip code **47330**

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

**Indiana Department of Natural Resources**

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

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:)

Doddridge Chapel and Cemetery  
Name of Property

Wayne 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	
2	0	buildings
1	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
4	0	Total

### Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

### Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: Religious Facility

FUNERARY: Cemetery

### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: Religious Facility

FUNERARY: Cemetery

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate

### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: Limestone

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other STONE

### Narrative Description

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

Name of Property

County and State

**8. Statement of Significance****Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

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

Property is:

- ☒ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

RELIGION

**Period of Significance**

1818-1850

1876-1952

**Significant Dates**

1818

1876

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Wilson, Perry &amp; Charles

**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:

Center Township Public Library; Cambridge City Library

Doddridge Chapel and Cemetery  
Name of Property

Wayne IN  
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## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4 acres

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

1 16 666570 4401720  
Zone Easting Northing

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 Janet Denison Trachtenberg; Kirstin Clouten Falk  
organization Doddridge Chapel Preservation Society date 05-29-2002  
street & number 9465 Chapel Road; 6124 N. Rosslyn Ave telephone 765/ 855-3099; 317/  
city or town Centerville; Indianapolis state IN zip code 47330; 46220

## 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 Doddridge Chapel Cemetery Association ; c/o Janet Trachtenberg  
street & number 307 West Main Street telephone 765/ 855-3099  
city or town Centerville state IN zip code 47330

**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  
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Section 7 Page 1

Doddridge Chapel and Cemetery  
Wayne County, Indiana  
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The Doddridge Chapel and cemetery (Photograph R1-F5) are located seven miles southwest of Centerville and thirteen miles west and south of Richmond, Wayne County, Indiana. The chapel derives its name from the Doddridge family, the first settlers to the area. Historically, we refer to this area as the "Doddridge settlement" (see Addenda A - Pages 1 - 3). The church built in 1876 is situated on a ridge on the south side of Chapel Road and overlooks fine farmland. The adjacent cemetery surrounds the chapel, all but the north side of the building, and occupies four acres of ground. The chapel, a one-story rectangular brick building portrays a traditional gable front design. Built in the Late Victorian Era, the chapel features several strong high style Italianate details. This one room rectangular plan is typical of many churches built during this period. Doddridge Chapel is located on the exact site as the former brick church that was built in 1832 and has the same dimensions.

The exterior of the 40' by 63' structure is brick, common bond, with brick width indentions on all sides accentuated by raised pilasters that corbel at the top. The chapel is supported all around by a two-foot high foundation (Photograph R4-F1). The foundation is rough cut limestone. The chapel has a gable roof, medium pitch, with the ridge running the length of the sanctuary (Photograph R1-F13). The roof, once slate, has been covered with asbestos shingles.

The east elevation (Photograph R1-F9) of the building is symmetrical and is divided into three bays. The projecting central bay contains the double doors and runs the entire height of the façade and incorporates both the belfry and the steeple. Even though the double doors and clear glass transoms are modern replacements, they are surrounded by the original fluted pilasters and the elaborate tin brackets supporting the cornice. Above the clear glass transom is a bifurcated, tracery window filled with color glass. Above the entryway is a small oval medallion bearing the inscription: "IN GOD WE TRUST, Doddridges M. E. CHURCH 1876 FOUNDED 1816" (Photograph R4-F3). At the approximate location of the roof ridge is a small circular window divided into four lights by cross mullions. Above this is an overhanging cornice with smaller tin brackets. The square belfry rises from this platform and is constructed of wood (the wooden latticework is currently covered with vinyl siding). Another overhanging cornice projects from the top of the belfry and is

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supported by even smaller tin brackets. The octagonal shaped steeple emerges at this level and is covered in the original slate shingles and metal hips and is topped by a broken weather vane.

On either side of the entry are recessed panels, each contain a full-length bifurcated, tracery window that is surrounded by a curved window hood. The hoods have a keystone and terminate with pressed tin corbels. All of the windows on the rest of the building look the same as those on the east elevation. Tin brackets support the overhanging eave of the gable roof. They are the same pattern as those on the belfry and steeple, only larger.

The chapel's north (Photograph R2-F12) and south elevations are the same except for the addition of the chimney on the south side (Photograph R1-F14). In 1910 a partial excavation permitted the installation of a hot air furnace. Prior to the installation of the furnace, two wood burning stoves that were located on either side of the center aisle had heated the church.

Each side elevation (north and south) contains four ornate window bays and window units, the same style as those on the chapel's main façade with pilasters that corbel at the top. There are ten tin scroll brackets under the eaves on either side, with decorative acorn designs.

The western elevation (Photograph R2-F1), the rear of the building, has three bays but no windows. Instead there are three recessed panels, separated by raised brick pilasters that corbel at the top. There are six matching tin scroll brackets which support the eave, equivalent to the chapel's main façade. The brick on this elevation is 9 - 1 stretcher - Flemish combination, elsewhere on the building the brick pattern is irregular.

The building's interior measurement is 36' by 54' (Photograph R3-F8). The eastern-most portion of the interior is roughly divided into thirds. The central 8' by 8' area is the vestibule. It has bead-board wainscoting, about 4' in height, on the north and south walls. All trim is very simple. There is also a rope that hangs down from the functioning steeple bell. The interior doors into the sanctuary are not original, they were installed in 1910 and are simulated leather covered swinging doors. Markings on the doorway suggest that the original doors had been



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two hinged doors and were at the interior portion of the building. The doorframe itself mirrors the pattern of the bifurcated tracery window above the exterior entry.

In the northeast corner of the chapel is another room that has been divided into thirds: one-third of the space is the hallway and one-third of each for the men's and women's restrooms. The restrooms were installed in 1960, prior to that the space was used for storage. This area is accessed via a recessed panel wood door in the northeast corner of the sanctuary. In the southeast corner of the chapel is the former Pastor's Study. This space is now used for storage and accessed from a door within the sanctuary. The door to the storage room mirrors the door which leads to the restrooms.

Just in front of the former Pastor's Study, in the southeast corner of the sanctuary, there is 8' by 12' area partitioned off. This area has 8' high walls and a dropped panel ceiling. It is currently used as a Sunday School room.

The raised altar area (Photograph R2-F11), on the sanctuary's west end, was created in 1910. According to church records this space was also used as the choir loft. This area, about 30' in width, has a bow front railing in the center. There are two sets of stairs on the south side with a railing between them leading up to the altar area. The railing on the north side goes back to the west wall leaving a space for three pews that face the altar.

In 1910 the congregation worked very hard to enhance their little chapel; the woodwork was varnished, and the elaborate decorative stenciling was added throughout the building.

The beautifully stenciled walls (Photograph R3-F3) are the most outstanding feature of the sanctuary's interior. On the west wall (behind the altar) there are three stenciled panels, the middle panel being twice the size of the side panels. On the center panel, near the top, is a stencil of a lamb holding the Christian flag. On the panel to the left is a stencil of a cross with the hand of peace and crown of Christ below. The panel to the right has the same symmetrical cross with a descending dove, these symbols represent the holy trinity of the Christian faith. The panels themselves have a quatrefoil cross stencil repeated throughout, in between the quatrefoil spaces are stars. For the

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most part, this elaborate work of art remains in good condition though the green, blue, and terra cotta colors have faded over time. A narrow band of stenciling (Photograph R3-F5), at wainscot height, continues around the sanctuary walls and arches over the entrance doorway. This band consists of a narrow mosaic pattern with an alternating cross-placed within a circle and diamond pattern.

The 20' high windows (Photograph R3-F10) are Kokomo opalescent glass, they were installed as part of the 1910 renovation. The contractor for the windows was L. O. Peterson of Springfield, Illinois. Each window contains two vertically patterned panels. Although not highly elaborate, shades of pinks and greens are present within the diamond and chevron shapes which are centered within each panel. The paired vertical panels culminate with a rounded arch within a single window unit. The arch allows for a circular design at the top of each window. The transom portion of the window features a pattern produced by the use of red and green stained glass. A space at the bottom of each window unit contains a glass commemorative plaque. The following names are memorialized at each of the windows; S. S. and Nancy V. Cleveenger, Mordicai and Mary Spahr Doddridge, Rev. John H. Doddridge, H. H. Houseworth, Rev. and Mrs. A. N. Marlatt, Mary Kordell and Ethel and Cloyd Judkins, Philip and Fanny Jenkins, Pierre and Cora Helms, Mary A. and William Wright, Women's Society of Christian Service.

The pews are Early Late Victorian in style, they run north to south and the main aisle is centered between the pews. The cushions on the pews have recently been recovered and new carpeting has been installed. The ceiling, a dropped panel ceiling, angles up where the altar area begins. The light fixtures are contemporary ceiling fan light units, it is uncertain when these were added.

It is estimated that there are 450 graves in the cemetery. There are approximately 200 markers in the oldest part of the cemetery and close to 250 in the new part. It is impossible to get an accurate count as stones have been lost and many are unreadable.

The original part of the cemetery, the southwest portion, dates back to 1818. Many of the markers, which remain, are toppled over. The majority of the stones are simple design, with varying measurements and inscriptions.



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Some of the more notable markers include, a large handsome rose granite monument marking the burial site of Anna Marlatt and her husband, Harrison Marlatt. The obelisk measures approximately thirty feet in height and is topped by a one-foot high rose granite urn. The front side of the obelisk gives the family name, MARLATT, with the individual names and dates inscribed on the two opposing sides.

A granite stone marker measuring 36" (in width) and 19" (in height) marks the gravesites of Everett and Doris Clevenger. Details of Doris and Everett's marker include praying hands etched in the center portion of the stone and between the inscriptions. A single rose is etched into the top corners of the stone, and an etched scroll outlining each name.

An elaborate iron fence borders most of the north side of the property and all of the west side; this highly decorative fence stands 54" high and lies along the newer portion of the cemetery. The old, or original section of the cemetery, has poured cement posts with domed tops 54" above ground between iron panels.

In an effort to preserve the Chapel and Cemetery, the Doddridge Chapel Association recognized the importance of implementing the proper maintenance and preservation techniques. Recent maintenance work has included painting the window casements. Efforts are currently underway to restore the steeple to its original state. It is expected that the work will be completed by the end of this year.

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The Doddridge Chapel and Cemetery have both local and statewide significance under Criteria A and C. The property satisfies criteria A for its association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, and the architectural significance of the chapel satisfies criterion C.

These events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our local history include exploration, settlement and religion. The chapel's complete and detailed records include its history, membership, pastors, and cemetery interments from 1818 to the present time. These records provide rich documentation of the exploration and settlement of the area and chronicle the movement of Methodism westward during the nineteenth century. Doddridge Chapel is unique because it has the third longest history for continuous services in the state (the earlier two are located near the Ohio River).

The settlement era in northeast Washington Township roughly spans the years 1810 to 1850. The land located in this area was bought by the United States government from the Indians and referred to as the "Twelve Mile Purchase". Surveyed between 1809 and 1810, the land was offered for sale in 1811. The original selling price, at auction, was \$2.00 per acre.

Much of the early westward movement, 1810-1840, would have come via the Ohio River. Many pioneers like the Doddridge's came down the Ohio River by flatboat and would disembark at the busy port city of Cincinnati. Hence, Cincinnati became known as the "gateway to the west." The arduous sixty-mile wagon ride north along old Indian trails would finally bring the settlers to their new homes in northeastern Washington Township.

The Whitewater Canal stretched from Cincinnati to Hagerstown. The closest stop to the Doddridge settlement was the little community of Milton, located about eight miles northwest of the chapel. Raw materials and livestock were shipped southward to the port city of Cincinnati. Manufactured and other specialty goods were returned from Cincinnati. Some migration would have taken place via the canal system. Irish laborers who helped to build the canals also settled in the region. The "canal era" in Indiana was short-lived, and soon replaced by the railroad.

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The Cumberland Road, later known as the National Road, had its origin in Maryland and would begin crossing Indiana in 1830. This important road is located approximately six miles north of the Doddridge settlement and was the major road for western migration during the first half of the nineteenth century. The Cumberland Road went through the nearby town of Centerville and became the main artery for migration from the east to the west.

Centerville, Indiana was platted in 1814. Centerville is located in the center of Wayne County. It was a good place to build a town with its abundant water supply from Nolan's Fork Creek. This water source powered saw and gristmills in the area. Centerville was the county seat between 1818 and 1872.

The town of Centerville thrived during this period of the country's settlement. The significance of the town increased, as it served to meet the many needs of the weary travelers along the Old National Road. A few miles east of Centerville the road dipped into the treacherous Whitewater River gorge. The gorge was not bridged until 1837. Travelers would be eager to reach Centerville, to rest, buy supplies, and make necessary repairs to their wagons. As the travelers stopped and lodged in Centerville they recognized the excellent opportunities the area could offer them. This was a fertile valley formed by the Whitewater and Greens Fork River and many travelers decided this would be a good place to settle.

One of the earliest to settle in this newly acquired region was Daniel Nolan. In 1811 he entered his claim along the stream which would later bear his name, "Noland's Fork". During the Indian raids of those years Nolan's house, one of the twelve blockhouses in the county, was the only one that had a cannon. Nolan settled three years prior to the arrival of the Doddridge family in April 1814.

The Doddridge family (grandparents, daughters, a son and their families - nineteen in all) came from western Pennsylvania to the area in 1814 following John Spahr's scouting trip to the wilderness tract known as the Twelve Mile Purchase. Spahr (husband to Sabra Doddridge) had found this land to be a "paradise that would satisfy every human need." The extended family came by way of the Ohio River to Cincinnati "the gateway

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to the west" and then by northern trace to their final destination. They had timed their journey so that they would arrive in early April, just in time to plant.

The family had purchased their land from the government in 1811. Poor economic conditions in the east following the War of 1812 and the promise of bountiful and inexpensive land to the west motivated many to seek this paradise that others had spoken of. All accounts tell of the beauty of the valley and the great fertility of the soil. "The land grew all kinds of timber. The streams were icy cold because they were fed by countless springs. It was a hunter's paradise." For well over a century these qualities would draw people to the region.

The Doddridge settlers were a God fearing group and in 1816 Philip and John Doddridge donated land on the northwest part of their farms for a church and cemetery. They also furnished most of the materials and labor for the first structure, a log church. One of the most unique qualities of the Doddridge Chapel is the existence of detailed records that include its history, membership, attending pastors, and cemetery interments. These records span the church's long history (1814-2002) and provide rich documentation on the exploration and settlement of the area. This valuable record chronicles the movement of Methodism into the new frontier. The deep religious convictions of the founders of Doddridge Chapel together with the inspiration and dedication of its ministers greatly influenced the lives of the youth that attended their services. "Doddridge Chapel became the fountainhead of deep religious experiences that came to fruition in the lives of nine young men who became ministers of the gospel." These young men would go on to serve in various pastorates throughout the country.

The spiritual vitality and membership of the chapel would rise and decline during the time period between 1876 and 1952. The early popular camp meetings and revivals that had resulted in so many conversions were by the late 1950's a thing of the past. Charismatic and enthusiastic pastors, or more accurately the lack thereof, would seem to be part of the reason for such shifts in interest and activity. The following pastors were considered to be outstanding leaders; A. H. Marlatt (1881-1884), C. H. Pinnick (1908-1912), F. M. Westhaver (1912-1915), and E. G. Jann (1946-1950).

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Dr. Earl Marlatt, son of Rev. A. N. Marlatt, was an outstanding teacher and theologian. Among his greatest contributions to the Methodist Church were to serve as Dean of the School of Theology at Boston University and to head the department of Religious Education at Southern Methodist Theology Seminary in Houston, Texas. Sixty of his students became bishops in the Methodist Church. Marlatt, who wrote and composed the popular hymn "Are Ye Able?", was named Poet Laureate of Indiana (1970-1971).

There are several farmhouses in the Centerville area which have significance to the Doddridge Chapel and Cemetery. John and Avis Doddridge (original settlers) built the Doddridge-Hurst farmhouse, located at 10496 Pottershop Road, in 1830. This fine home is pictured on page 22 of the Wayne County Interim Report: Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory (2001). The farmstead built in the Federal style, includes many outbuilding structures; a bank/basement barn, drive through corncrib, garage, granary, and a smokehouse. Hand-hewn beams are visible in the loft and the basement of the barn. Jim and Joy Gay are the current owners of this farm that represents some of the most notable architecture in Washington Township during this time of settlement. The home has been well maintained with an appreciation of the areas rich past. It is important to note that about a mile northeast of this farm are the remnants of Philip Doddridge's home (Philip was the father of John). These two farmhouses were identical when constructed in 1829 and 1830. Philip's home has been abandoned, and exposed to the elements. Currently there are only the four remaining exterior walls, both the roof and the second floor have caved in.

The Spahr farmhouse located at 4779 Abington Township Line Road is about one mile north of the chapel and cemetery. John Spahr's son constructed the farmhouse between 1860 and 1865. Although this landmark post dates the early settlement era, it is still very significant because it reminds us of John Spahr, the first of the Doddridge group to see this portion of the aforementioned "Twelve Mile Purchase". It was John Spahr who would venture forth from western Pennsylvania in 1810 to survey the newly opened land. He found this place to be perfect and irresistible. He determined the land, an "eldorado", capable of meeting all the needs of his family. Upon returning to Pennsylvania he convinced his extended family to buy large tracts of land when offered by the government in 1811.



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The Spahr Farmstead, or the Centennial Farms, listed John Spahr as the earliest owner and land entries show that Spahr purchased seven-quarter sections in the area listed as T15R13E in the time period from October 1811 through December 1813. Donna Jo Spahr Canan and her husband Orville currently occupy this the Spahr farmhouse.

In addition to it's association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, the Doddridge Chapel and Cemetery also have architectural significance. Architecturally, the Doddridge Chapel is an important example of a small church, mainly unaltered, since its erection in 1876. The gable front style of the chapel was commonly used in churches and schools in Indiana since the early 1800's until about 1910. These structures have a simple gable roof, rectangular massing and symmetrically placed openings. As rural areas in Indiana became more accessible this early style would be followed by more elaborate styles.

As much material as possible from the former structure was used in the construction of the 1876 Chapel. The builders, Perry Wilson and Charles Wilson of Centerville, had the bricks fired locally. Additionally, the limestone used in the church and cemetery were taken from the river near Abington, three miles to the east.

The integrity of the chapel contributes to its value as an architecturally significant building. The 2001 Wayne County Interim Report (Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory) gives Doddridge Chapel and Cemetery an "outstanding" rating. The only significant change (two years ago) to the exterior was the removal of the damaged slate roof and its replacement with asbestos shingles. Over the past several years the chapel has received only the minimal, necessary maintenance.

Several character-defining details contribute to the architectural significance of the chapel. The large tracery window, the ornate window units and bays and the tin brackets still intact under the eaves and the belfry and steeple all assist in elevating the chapels significance. Additionally, the cast brass bell complete with a mold mark reading from 1876 still hangs in the belfry. The largely intact interior still retains its original plan. Additionally the unique, well preserved, stenciling on the main elevation contributes to high integrity and



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architectural significance of the chapel.

It is estimated that there are 450 graves in the cemetery. Although it is impossible to get an accurate count as stones have been lost and many are unreadable, there are approximately 200 markers in the oldest part of the cemetery and close to 250 are in the new part. Several war veterans are buried here. The most recent burial was in 2003. Reid Doddridge currently holds the cemetery records and carefully maintains the grounds.

The original part of the cemetery, the southwest portion, dates back to 1818. Sabra Doddridge Spahr was the first to be buried in the Doddridge cemetery. Her grave is next to where the log church once stood. Sabra was stricken with tuberculosis soon after her arrival into Washington Township. In hopes of prolonging her life she lived with nearby friendly Indians for four years until her death in 1818. Her toppled marker is simple and measures 12 1/2" (in width) by 24 1/2" (in height). The marker is creamy brown in color and the inscription reads, "In Memory of, Sabra Spahr, who died September 13, 1818, In the 37th year of her age."

John Spahr is buried next to his wife, Sabra Doddridge Spahr. This stone has the same coloration as Sabra's stone but is slightly larger and measures 13" (in width) by 31" (in height). His stone has decorative details etched across the top eight inches of the marker. Pictured at the top, in the center, is a standing dove with a single flower. The left corner pictures a slightly larger native bloom, and on the right side is pictured a pumpkin or gourd. The inscription reads, "In Memory, John Spahr, who died 7/19/1831, In the 57th yr of his life." The lettering on these two stones varies between 1" and 1 1/2", dependant on the case of the letters.

Another nearby toppled stone is that of Hannah Doddridge Jenkins, wife of David Jenkins. The stone measures 18" (in width) by 45" (in height). The inscription reads, "SACRED, in the Memory of, HANNAH, Consort of David Jenkins, who departed this life, April 21st 1838, in the 60th year of her age." This stone has simple decorative lines across the top portion of the stone. The stone is the same color as the two previously mentioned markers, a different color than most of the other limestone markers in the old section of the cemetery. The style of lettering is the same as the other two markers.

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Additionally, there are also five unmarked Indian graves, the original  
simples stones are missing. The graves are located about eighteen feet  
east of the aforementioned Spahr graves.

In the newer section of the cemetery, a large handsome rose granite  
monument marks the burial site of Anna Marlatt and her husband, Harrison  
Marlatt. The obelisk measures approximately thirty feet in height and is  
topped by a one-foot high rose granite urn. The front side of the  
obelisk gives the family name, MARLATT. On two opposing sides the  
inscription reads, "Harrison Marlatt, died 1/25/1909, 77 yrs. 3 Mo & 20  
Ds., and Anna, wife of Harrison Marlatt, Died 4/8/1884, age 46 yrs 5 Mo  
and 7Ds.

A granite stone marker measuring 36" (in width) and 19" (in height) marks  
the gravesites of Everett and Doris Clevenger. Doris was a descendant of  
Samuel Clevenger. Clevenger came to Washington Township from Rhode  
Island in 1830. He met and married Ruth Spahr, together they reared a  
family of four boys and four girls, many of whom remain in the area. The  
details Of Doris and Everett's marker include praying hands etched in the  
center portion of the stone and between the inscriptions. A single rose  
is etched into the top corners of the stone. The inscriptions read,  
"CLEVINGER, DORIS D, 1903-1975, C. EVERETT, 1898-1976." An etched scroll  
outlines each name. Doris Clevenger was heavily involved with the chapel  
throughout her married life. She carefully recorded burials and made  
note of significant information relating to the individuals.

An elaborate iron fence borders most of the north side of the property  
and all of the west side, the west side is also bordered by woodland.  
This highly decorative fence stands 54" high and lies along the newer  
portion of the 1.5 acre section of the cemetery. The old, or original  
section of the cemetery, has poured cement posts with domed tops 54"  
above ground between the iron panels. Each panel has alternating 44"  
plain uprights 4" apart. At the east front entrance to the chapel are  
two iron gates, one opening in the short east fence and one to the north  
to the parking area along Chapel Road. Another larger gate opens to the  
cemetery, west of the chapel. A woven farm fence surrounds the south and  
east portions of the property. The gravestones run from north to south  
and the burial lots from east to west. A gravel driveway has been added  
to the newest part of the cemetery, which was dedicated in 1882.

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There are several resources which contribute to the significance of this property. In addition to the church structure, the iron fence, and the cemetery markers; there is a large outhouse located to the southern side of the property. The large exterior size of the outhouse allowed room for the two seats, or openings, located inside.

Still the chapel was more than just a physical structure for worship, it was a place for social gatherings. In the early years camp meetings with their lively revivals drew hundreds of people from near and far. The meetings were always held in the fall of the year and often lasted two weeks. Tents and campfires filled the chapel's surrounding woodlands. Preaching was held in the afternoons and evenings. The Methodists were great singers and the woods echoed and re-echoed the songs of Luther, Watts and Wesley. The camp meetings provided an opportunity for folks to share news, feast, meet a prospective bride or groom and of course hear some powerful preaching. Today's old-timers still remember youthful days when the family spent their entire Sunday at the chapel.

It is also significant to consider that almost all of the original land owned by the Doddridge settlers is still in the hands of their descendants. By the twentieth century the automobile had changed the demographics of the country. The Doddridge group felt no need to relocate. It should be noted, the original settlers were relatively prosperous when they reached their "promised land" in 1814 (a full two years before Indiana achieved statehood). They managed their new land and resources well. Doddridge family descendants would buy out some of the other newcomers who did not fare as well.

All of these factors contribute to the significance of the Doddridge Chapel and Cemetery. The association of the property with contributing historical events and the architectural elements of the chapel add to the importance of the Doddridge Chapel and Cemetery as an historical site.

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**Chronological Chart of Significant Events:**

The following dates chronicle significant events and changes in governance to the chapel from its erection in 1876 to the present day.

- 1877 - The new church becomes part of the Milton circuit.
- 1903 - On June 28th a rededication of the Doddridge Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church with Reverend Gierluf Jensen (1901-1905) officiating.
- 1910 - Major alterations made to the church's interior. This includes the interior stenciling, still present today.
- 1933 - The formation of the Doddridge Chapel Women's Cemetery Association.
- 1948 - Second large scale refurbishing of the sanctuary at a cost of about \$3,500. On October 24th of this year members celebrate with a "homecoming and rededication" with the Reverend E. G. Jann (1946-1950) officiating.
- 1971 - The United Methodist Conference (South Indiana) sells chapel to Women's Cemetery Association for \$1,000. The chapel was incorporated as Doddridge Community Church and deeded to the Doddridge Chapel Cemetery Association.
- 1998 - The establishment of a coalition under the leadership of Dr. M. "Jon" Morgan. The coalition's purpose is to work with the cemetery association in planning, Publicizing, and preserving the historic chapel. (Addenda B)
- 2000 - State Senator Alan Paul awards the chapel a Senate Resolution Six honoring the chapel "as a rural historic Hoosier site with a rich legacy.."
- 2000 - The Cemetery Association rents chapel to the Stillwaters Baptist. (Addenda C)
- 2001 - (April 8th) "Heartland Pioneers' Day celebrates the arrival of

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settlers one hundred and eighty-seven years earlier. Reid Doddridge  
was given the Distinguished Hoosier Award, also honored were Wilbur  
Clevenger and Harriet Doddridge Knipp. (Addenda D)

2001 - (October 14th) Fall Memorial Sunday - a "Festival of Memories"  
honoring veterans buried at Doddridge cemetery.

Because of the establishment of the coalition and the renewed interest of  
the association it is hoped that this very special place can be saved for  
all to enjoy. Friends and neighbors join in the regularly scheduled  
meetings and provide positive discussion regarding the chapel's future.  
In the past few years bequest have been made to the Cemetery Association  
for the chapel.

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**Verbal Boundary Description:**

A part of the southeast corner of section fifteen (15) township fifteen (15), range thirteen (13) east:

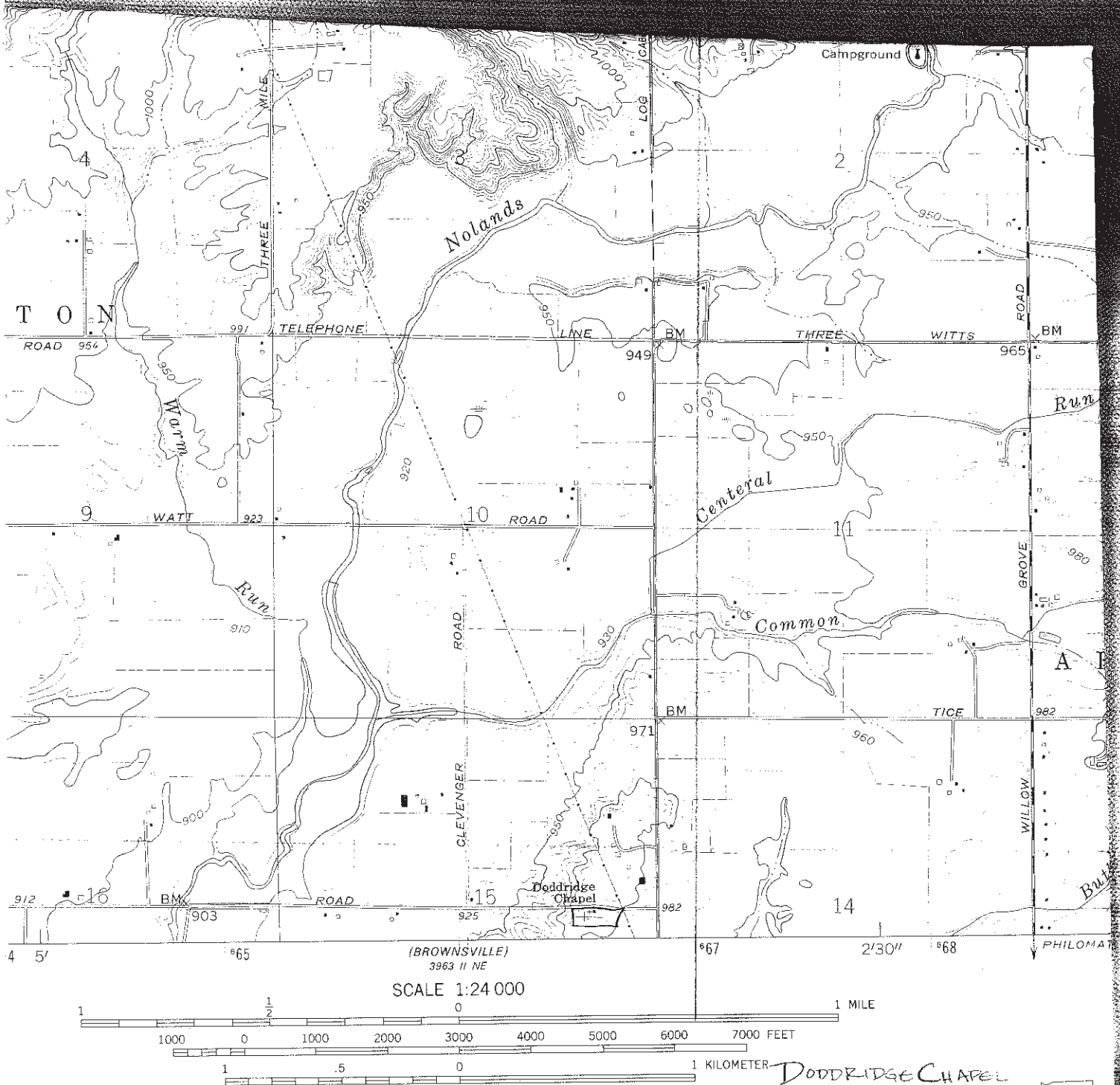
Beginning at a stone post forty-eight (48) perches and forty-four (44) tenths on the division line of said section from the quarter section corner on said line; thence south from said stone post a distance of sixty-five (65) feet to a stone post; thence west parallel to said division line a distance of ninety-six (96) feet to an unmarked point; thence north a distance of sixty-five (65) feet to a stone post in said division line; thence east a distance of ninety-six (96) feet to the place of beginning.<sup>1</sup>

**Verbal Boundary Justification:**

The Doddridge Chapel and Cemetery boundary used for the National Register nomination is the same as the original boundary associated with the Methodist Episcopal Church as acquired, by deed, from John Dodridge and Avis Dodridge on December 20<sup>th</sup> 1834. The property designated in the aforementioned boundary description has been associated with the chapel and cemetery.

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<sup>1</sup> Ranck, Cecilia. *Doddridge Chapel Community Yesterday and Today*. Nicholson Printing Co., Richmond, Indiana. 1950. (Documents pages are unnumbered.)



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

DODDRIDGE CHAPEL  
& CEMETERY  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN  
10 606570 4401720



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
AND INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple and  
in cooperation with State of Indiana  
photographs taken 1980 and other  
information not field checked.