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.

toric name Old Union Church and C	Semetery	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
er names/site number		027-008-45018
Location		
eet & number 1125 E approx 3/8 mi. sout	th of intersection of 700 South	N/A ☐ not for publication
hy or town		
Allorusylle	county <u>Daviess</u> code	
State/Federal Agency Certification		
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ looally. (☐ See cont Signature of certifying official/Title Indiana Department of Natural Re	$\frac{5/2/05}{\text{Date}}$	
State or Federal agency and bureau	esources	
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State or Federal agency and bureau In my opinion, the property meets does not me comments.) Signature of certifying official/Title State or Federal agency and bureau National Park Service Certification hereby certify that the property is: entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.	eet the National Register criteria. (
In my opinion, the property meets does not me comments.) Signature of certifying official/Title State or Federal agency and bureau National Park Service Certification hereby certify that the property is: entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National Register	eet the National Register criteria. (

Name of Property		Daviess IN County and State			
5. Classification					
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) Output Category of Property (Check only one box Duilding	· (Number of Reso Do not include previo Contributing	Durces within Prope ously listed resources in th Noncontributing	e rty e count	
☐ public-local ☐ district		3	0	buildin	
☐ public-State ☐ site ☐ structure		1	0	buildings	
☐ object		0	0	sites	
☐ landscape	•	0	1	structures	
•		4	1	objects	
			l	Total	
Name of related multiple property listing					
(Enter *N/A* if property is not part of a multiple property listing	Number in the N	r of contributin National Registe	g resources previo	usly listed	
N/A		0		•	
6. Function or Use					
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Functions egories from instructi	ons)		
RELIGION: Religious	Facility WOR	K IN PROGR	ESS		
FUNERARY: Ceme		FUNERARY:	С	emetery	
			-		
7. Description					
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materi (Enter ca	als ategories from instru	ctions)		
MID-19th c.: Greek F	Revival found	ation	STONE: Sa	ndstone	
		walls	WOOD: Weat	herboard	
				<u></u>	
		roof	METAL: Alı	ıminum	
		other			

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

Old Union Church and Cemetery	Daviess IN
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.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) ARCHITECTURE
A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
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	Period of Significance
distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	1830-1955
Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	Significant Dates
Criteria Considerations	1858
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.) Property is:	
A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
B removed from its original location.	N/A
C a birthplace or grave.	Cultural Affiliation
D a cemetery.	N/A
☐ 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.	Architect/Builder Sea, Hilary (builder)
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 of Previous documentation on file (NPS): preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested	on one or more continuation sheets.) Primary location of additional data: State Historic Preservation Office
previously listed in the National Register	☐ Other State agency
previously determined eligible by the National Register	☐ Federal agency
designated a National Historic Landmark	☐ Local government
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey	☐ University
recorded by Historic American Engineering	☐ Other Name of repository:

Old Union Church and Cemetery Name of Property	Daviess County and State	<u> </u>
10. Geographical Data	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Acreage of Property 5 acres UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation shee	t.)	
1 16 503820 4266510 3 Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
	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 L. Oenone Bradley, Secretary; Amy Walker		
organization Old Union Community Association; DHPA	date	09-24-2004
street & number RR#1, POBox 91	telephone	812/ 644-7617
city or town Loogootee	state IN	zip code 47553
Additional Documentation Submit the following items with the completed form:		
Continuation Sheets		
Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the pro A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having		s resources.
Photographs		
Representative black and white photographs of the pro	perty.	
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 Old Union Reeve Township Inc; c/o Joan Harker		
street & number RR#1, POBox 225	telephone	812/ 644-7579
city or town Loogootee	state IN	zin code 47553

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.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

, Old Ol	nion Church & Cemetery
Section number7 Page1 Davie	ss County, Indiana

Description

The Old Union Church and Cemetery are located in Reeve Township, Daviess County, Indiana on County Road 1125 East, south of the town of Alfordsville. Reeve Township forms the southeast corner of Daviess County and is bordered to the south by the east fork of the White River. This primarily agricultural area was one of the first townships formed by the commissioners in 1817.

There are a total of 5 resources included in this application. The church, privy, and shelter house are all contributing buildings and the cemetery is a contributing site. There is a commemorative marker south of the entrance to the church that is a non-contributing object. The 1858 Greek Revival church building faces east and the entire 5-acre site overlooks Sugar Creek. It was built by Hilary Sea, a local carpenter. Edward Godwin milled the clapboard siding and original wood shingles and fired the bricks for the chimney. The cemetery was established in 1830 as Sugar Creek Cemetery. In 1900 the name was changed to Old Union and over the years interments from defunct church cemeteries in the area have been reburied here. The privy was constructed prior to 1930 and the shelter house dates from c.1940.

Exterior

The church is a simple one-story rectangular building with wood clapboard siding and low-pitched, metal shingled gable roof. It originally had a wood shingle roof and sat upon a sandstone foundation but it currently has a rusticated concrete block foundation. A short chimney emerges from the center of the roof.

The east façade is dominated by a c.1900 tower that projects from the original entrance bay (photo 1). The current entrance is located within the tower and is accessed by three wide concrete steps and a small concrete slab measuring four feet by eight feet. A black metal railing is secured to each side of the porch/steps. A pair of paneled wood doors is the only entry into the church. Centered above the doors is a small three lite transom. When the tower was added the front doors and framing from the original building were removed and that space was left as an opening between the vestibule and the sanctuary. The original front doors were then installed into the tower to make an outside entrance into the church.

The tower itself covers the northern third of the east façade (photo 1). The remainder of the façade is covered with two four-over-four double-hung windows, symmetrically spaced to the south of the tower. The original twelve-over-nine windows were replaced in 1900 with the four-over-four windows visible today. There is a simple frieze highlighting the gable and cornice returns on the north and south ends of the roofline. The return to the north is slightly obscured by the tower.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Old Union Church & Cemetery Daviess County, Indiana

Description-continued

The 1900 tower is divided into three sections. The bottom portion contains the entrance and extends up to the height of the cornice returns. It is topped by a hipped roof. Rising from the bottom section is a slightly smaller section also capped by a hipped roof. The third section is even smaller and has an intersecting gable roof. This top section houses the bell and has louvered panels on each side.

The north façade has four symmetrically spaced twelve-over-nine double-hung windows (photo 3). The west façade does not have any openings but has the same simple frieze and cornice returns as the east façade (photo 4). The south façade has four symmetrically spaced four-over-four double-hung windows (photo 5). It is likely that the four northern windows are the original configuration while those on the east and south facades were replaced in 1900.

Interior

The interior of the church consists of a small vestibule in the tower and the sanctuary (photo 6, 10). The ceiling of the vestibule is about twelve feet high and covered in shiplap. The walls of the vestibule are covered with plaster and there is a wood plank floor. The sanctuary ceiling is also covered in ship-lap and it is broken up into three facets in an attempt to mimic a vault (photo 7, 8, 9). The central portion is eighteen feet tall while the angled sides reach fifteen feet. A portion of the chimney protrudes down from the roof into the body of the building (photo 9). Originally heat was provided by wood-fired stoves with the stove pipe stretching upward to the chimney. These stoves have since been removed. The attic of the building is accessible through a small opening in the ceiling at the back of the room (photo 10). A ladder is necessary to reach the opening.

The lower three feet of the walls is covered with horizontal wainscoting. Interior window sills are incorporated into the chair rail. The upper portion of the walls were originally plaster but are now covered with plasterboard. The wide baseboard trim has a simple profile. The floors are two-inch wide wood planks.

The original pulpit is at the west end of the sanctuary where the main aisle terminates (photo 11). It is incorporated into a stepped wood platform. Given the simplicity of the rest of the church, the pulpit is rather elaborate. A single star placed within an incised square is centered on the front panel. Flanking the star are two pair of pilasters, one set on either side. They are evenly spaced along the outer edges. An incised rectangle occupies the space between each set of pilasters. Setting upon the pilasters is an elaborately layered cornice.

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Description-continued

There are thirty-four hand-made wood pews in the church (photo 6-10). Two columns of ten pews flank the main aisle. Three to four pews are placed on either side of the altar parallel to the north and south walls. Additional pews are backed up against the outside walls to allow for more seating. The pews are not secured in place so they can be moved as needed.

In addition to the 1900 renovation, more repairs were completed in 1976 when the local community became concerned over the building's condition. The exterior was repaired and repainted, window panes and frames were repaired, and floors were repaired and refinished. The building has been vacant since 1956 and has does not have any of the "modern" conveniences—electricity, water, air-conditioning, or central heat. In 2003 an electric safety light was installed in front of the church for security purposes. There are plans underway to restore the church and convert it into a community center.

Cemetery

The cemetery sits atop a hill behind the Old Union Church (photo 12-28). It is bordered by woods on the north and south and a cornfield to the west. There are a few old cedar trees scattered throughout the cemetery,

The earliest marked burial was in 1823 although it was not formally established as Sugar Creek Cemetery until 1830. The name was changed to Union Cemetery in 1900. The cemetery remains in use today. There are approximately 1000 burials and some of those include remains that were removed from defunct area cemeteries and reburied in Union Cemetery. The materials used for the grave markers include concrete (photo 17), granite, limestone (photo 18), marble (photo 19), and several cast zinc markers (photo 20). Graves of note in the cemetery include the crypt of sisters Violet Kyle and Huldah Allen (photo 21, 22, 23), who deeded the property to the church and cemetery. Burial records indicate that veterans of almost every war in which the United States has participated are buried in this cemetery: Revolutionary War (photo 25, 26, 27), War of 1812, Civil War (photo 28), Spanish-American War, World War 1, World War II, and the Korean Conflict.

Shelter House

A shelter house of unknown age stands north of the church building. A lady who is now 72 remembers attending picnics there when she was ten years old and maybe younger. This would indicate that the building was constructed in the late 1930s or early 1940s. It has a concrete floor and vertical concrete block walls with hinged wood coverings over the side window openings (photo 29). It is topped by a corrugated metal gabled roof with exposed rafter tails. The building has double doors on the west side.

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Section number 7 & 8 Page 4

Old Union Church & Cemetery Daviess County, Indiana

Description-continued

Privy

A deteriorated three-hole privy of uncertain age stands north of the church and west of the shelter house. It is estimated that it was built before the 1930s since the WPA outhouses were constructed with concrete floors and this one has a wood floor. It has vertical board walls and a corrugated metal shed roof. There is a diamond-shaped cutout in the gable. The floor is currently in very bad shape, as it appears to be sitting directly on the ground and rotting (photo 30). A wood door hung on the west side of the privy but it has since deteriorated.

Marker

The commemorative marker south of the church entrance was installed in 1977. It honors the founders of the church (photo 2).

Statement of Significance

The Old Union Church and Cemetery received a notable rating in the Daviess County Interim Report. It is representative of the once prevalent rural church which served both the spiritual and social needs of agricultural communities throughout Indiana. In the 20th-century the rural population began to shift. More people moved into urban areas resulting in larger congregations in cities and towns while those in rural communities dwindled. With smaller congregations and fewer resources, rural churches were not able to compete with the variety of activities and causes supported by larger, urban congregations. As the floundering rural churches were abandoned the historic fabric of the building was removed—pews, pulpits, bells being the most visible. Despite being vacant since 1956, the Old Union Church has not suffered this loss of integrity. The Old Union Church and Cemetery is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A and C for Exploration/Settlement and Architecture. The period of significance is 1830-1955.

Exploration/Settlement

Daviess County is located between the east and west forks of the White River in the southwest portion of Indiana. This land was originally part of Knox County during the time that Vincennes was the capital of the Northwest Territory. When Indiana became a state in 1816, Knox County was larger that what it is today. The county encompassed part of present day Martin County and all of Greene and Owen counties. By 1821 this larger acreage had been winnowed down to the current size.

Given the proximity to Vincennes and the trade available there, many French families were the first white landowners in the area. However, most did not live on the land—

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Statement of Significance-continued

They sold it to the next wave of settlers. William Ballow is considered one of the earliest settlers in Daviess County and he arrived in 1801. He purchased land along the Portersville Road c.1830. In the early days of settlement, the Portersville Road extended from Loogootee to Jasper and went through Alfordsville and Portersville. Businesses, mills, houses, and churches were built along this road. Old Union Church, Mt. Nebo Church and McCord's Chapel were all constructed along the road but the Old Union is the only one of those buildings still standing.

Agriculture was the backbone of the economy in Daviess County during the 1800s. However by the 1850's coal was the future of southwestern Indiana and Daviess County in particular. Transportation aided this new era of manufacturing—first with the Wabash and Erie Canal and then with the railroads. By the mid-19th-century plans were in place to construct a segment of the Wabash and Erie Canal in the county. Ground was broken as early as 1832. The population exploded as new immigrants arrived to work on the canal, resulting in the creation of several new towns in Daviess County. At its peak in 1856, the Wabash and Erie Canal ran a total of 458 miles. The Toledo (Ohio) to Evansville (Indiana) line was only operational for four years before portions ceased to function. Unfortunately the relatively short-lived canal era was ruined by the pending arrival of the railroads in the 1870s.

Charles Allen had previously owned the land that Ballow purchased c.1830. Upon Ballow's death, Allen repurchased the land. Violet Kyle and Huldah Allen, sisters of Charles Allen, eventually deeded the land to the Old Union Church and Cemetery. Sugar Creek Baptist Church, the second oldest congregation in Reeve Township, moved into the Union Building at an unknown date and remained there until the early 1880s. They were the first occupants of the Union Building. The Sugar Creek Baptist Church constructed a new building in Alfordsville in 1882.

In 1870 a new Methodist Circuit was formed in Alfordsville. However, the town did not have an existing Methodist church. An agreement was reached and the Baptists and the Methodists shared the Union Church. This arrangement lasted until the Methodists built a new church in Alfordsville c.1880. It is believed that the Presbyterians used the Union Church after the Baptists and the Methodists vacated it.

The Alfordsville Christian Church split in 1900. That year, there was a division in the congregation over whether to include instrumental music. Those members that were opposed to music split from the congregation and moved into the Old Union. They brought the bell from the Alfordsville church with them and that is when the bell tower was built.

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Old Union Church & Cemetery Daviess County, Indiana

Statement of Significance-continued

In 1934, Mr. and Mrs. Taylor Stark arrived from lowa and began preaching in the Union Church. They attracted several followers and eventually became the first pastors of the Alfordsville Assembly of God Church in 1937. In the later part of the 1930s, the Old Union Church sat vacant. However the Wide A-Wake Homemakers decided the church needed some repairs and made it their mission to raise the funds for building improvements and landscaping of the grounds.

The Old Union Church was used by the Alfordsville Methodist congregation in 1939. Their church was destroyed by fire and the new church was not complete. The Alfordsville Christian congregation used this building in 1955-1956. They were building a new church in Alfordsville, their third church in this same location. The Old Union Church has not been used as an active church of any denomination since 1956. It has been used sporadically over the years for local functions and holiday events.

The Old Union Church was not only used for religious purposes but also as a community center for anyone, regardless of faith, within walking distance. Residents would know that someone in the community had died because the bell would ring once for each year of the deceased's life.

During the Civil War the Old Union Church served as a place of encouragement for people waiting to hear about loved ones. Picnics and celebrations took place on the grounds. In later years there were basket and tub dinners where everyone would come and stay all day. Special activities marked Memorial Day and July 4th. Refreshments would be sold out of the shelter house during day-long gatherings. The Alfordsville town band would perform at many of the functions. After World War II, the American Legion held memorial services for veterans and soon became a fund-raising activity for the building and grounds. More and more people attended over the years and the community started serving meals.

Public schools did not exist in Reeve Township prior to 1853. Some private schools were held within the township, but were short lived. It is believed that one such private school was held at the Old Union Church. In 1908 Reeve Township held its 8th grade graduation ceremony at the church. All of the 8th-graders in the 12 township schools participated.

Architecture

Rural churches in general tended to be simple in form, decoration, and materials—reflecting the basic skills and limited resources of the local residents who donated the materials and the time to construct the building. Most were rectangular, one room

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Statement of Significance-continued

Buildings reminiscent of early residential construction. The primary difference between the two was the orientation of the doorway—the entrance was on the long axis of the residence and the gable end of the church.

The Old Union Church is a notable example of Greek Revival architecture in Reeve Township, Daviess County, Indiana. This simple rural church retains its architectural integrity both on the exterior and interior. The church exemplifies the Greek Revival style with its rectangular form, the low-pitched gable front roof, the frieze and cornice returns, and the elongated windows. While it does not possess the more elaborate door surround and porch common in high style Greek Revival architecture, the slightly recessed entry with simple transom illustrate the vernacular form of the style. The Old Union Church is the only remaining building in Reeve Township that possesses Greek Revival traits.

There are three other churches with cemeteries in Reeve Township. The Old Union Church represents the oldest building and cemetery (church-1858/cemetery-1830). Saint Patrick's Catholic Church (1860) is a 2-story brick Gothic Revival building with a centralized 3 ½ story bell tower protruding from the main façade. Like the Old Union

Church, bell tower was added later (1914-1919). From 1880-1917 the bell hung on a scaffold in the front lawn of the church. Saint Patrick's is located in the northwest part of the township in Corning and is part of a larger site that includes an 1859 cemetery, an 1895 Queen Anne style rectory, a c.1913 garage, and a brick outhouse.

The other two church/cemetery sites are more along the size and scale of the Old Union Church and Cemetery. Oak Grove Church and Cemetery (church-1938/cemetery-1871) is located west of Alfordsville. The earliest church on the site dates from 1877 but it was destroyed by a storm. It was replaced in 1938 with the current building, although it has been recently remodeled. The church is a single-story gable-fronted brick building without any particular architectural details. A large cemetery with iron entry gate surrounds the site. It also includes a 2 ½ story clapboard bell tower (possibly original) and clapboard outhouse.

Mount Zion Church and Cemetery (church-1952/cemetery-1853) are located in the southwest corner of Reeve Township. As with the Old Union Church and Oak Grove Church, the building is representative of a simple rural church. The church is a single-story gable-fronted brick building without any particular architectural details and it replaces an earlier 1893 church building (original church was constructed in 1853). The church is now closed. It does not have a bell tower or any other associated buildings. The cemetery surrounds both sides of the church.

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Old Union Church & Cemetery Daviess County, Indiana

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Walker, L. Ann. National Register of Historic Places nomination for Grandview Church (1991). File located at the Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Warranty Deed to the Trustees of the Union Church at Sugar Creek and their successors (1897).

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-			Old Union Church & Cemetery
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Verbal Boundary Description

Boundaries as defined on the Warranty Deed from Violet Kyle and Huldah Allan:

A part of the North West Quarter of Section No. Three (3) in township No. One (1). North, Range Five (5) West, and bounded and described as follows; to wit: -Beginning at the North West corner of what is now known as the Union or Sugar Creek Cemetery and running thence West Six and one-half (6 ½) rods, thence South twenty-four (24) rods, thence East Six and one-half (6 ½) rods, thence north on the old grave yard line to the place of beginning. The above described land is to be used as a burying ground. Also a strip of land Thirteen (13) feet wide on the west side of the above described tract and extending the entire distance north and south, and a strip Thirteen (13) feet wide beginning at the South West corner of the last described tract or strip and running then East along the South side of the new and old burying ground to the Alfordsville and Portersville road.

Verbal Boundary Justification

This parcel of land has been associated with the church and cemetery since it was deeded for said use. Burials were made on this property prior to any church being constructed and the land was still private property.

Photography

The following information applies to photographs 1-28:

- 1) Old Union Church and Cemetery
- 2) Daviess County, Indiana
- 3) Photographer: Delano Z. Arvin
- 4) August 28, 2004
- 5) Negatives are with the Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology
- Photo 1: Camera facing west: east façade and entrance, cemetery visible at left
- Photo 2: Camera facing west: 1977 marker, portion of east façade & 1900 concrete foundation
- Photo 3: Camera facing southwest: north and east facades, cemetery visible at left and right

