

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Erwin House

Other names/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

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

### 2. Location

Street & number: 2518 14-B Road

City or town: Bourbon State: IN County: Marshall

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

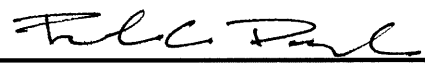
I hereby certify that this x nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property x meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide \_\_\_x local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

\_\_\_A \_\_\_B \_\_\_xC \_\_\_D

 <hr/> <b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b>	<u>1.21.2016</u> <hr/> <b>Date</b>
<u>Indiana DNR-Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology</u> <b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<hr/> <b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	<hr/> <b>Date</b>
<hr/> <b>Title :</b>	<hr/> <b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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**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(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MID-19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY: Greek Revival

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE: granite

walls: WOOD: weatherboard

roof: SYNTHETICS: Asphalt

other: 

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### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The Erwin House is situated in rural Tippecanoe Township in Marshall County. The Erwin family constructed an upright-and-wing house in the Greek Revival style in 1855. The house is surrounded by a lawn with several large, mature shade trees. While there are a few modern agricultural buildings and a barn constructed in about 1935 on the property, the boundary only includes the house and lawn at the front of the property.

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## Narrative Description

Erwin House, 1854. Upright-and-wing. Contributing  
*Exterior, Photos 0006-0009*

The Erwin House was constructed in about 1855 with an upright-and-wing floor plan in the Greek Revival style. The house faces 14B Road on its south side. The house has a foundation composed of granite fieldstone. The walls are covered with wood clapboards and corner boards. A tall frieze board is at the top of the walls and there are cornice returns on the house's gable walls. The house has 6/6 vinyl windows with original wood shutters. The windows have simple trim boards and sills. The window hoods have cornice boards.

The façade has its two-story upright portion on its west side and its one-and-a-half story wing on its east side. The two-story portion has an entry door and porch centered on its wall. A 6/6 window is on the wall to each side of the porch. The second story wall also has two 6/6 windows. The porch has a gabled roof with cornice returns. The porch roof is supported by a pair of square columns. The door is a six-panel metal door. The door's enframing is composed of pilasters with corner blocks and a simple pediment. This design is repeated on top of itself in a layered composition with slightly narrower boards on top. The wing's front wall is divided into four bays with 6/6 windows in each bay except for the second from the west which has a wood door. The door has a window in its top half.

The west wall of the two-story portion has two windows on its first and second stories. The north wall's two-story portion is identical to its south wall except that there is no door. A cellar entry with a metal enclosure is at the base of this back wall. The north wall of the wing has two small vinyl windows. The east window is a sliding window with each sash divided into six panes of glass. The west window is a 6/6 vinyl window. A former wood house, converted into a garage, is attached to the east side of the north wall of the wing. A tall, slender brick chimney is located on the north slope of the wing's roof. The east wall of the wing has two openings with 6/6 windows in its north and south bays, and its middle bay was a window, but is now filled in with clapboards. The wing's gable wall has an original 6/6 wood window centered in it. The gable wall has cornice returns matching those on the other gable walls of the house.

A wood house was constructed in about 1880 to the north of the kitchen. It was converted into a garage and attached to the back of the kitchen in about 1930. The wood house and breezeway attachment to the house has a concrete foundation and its walls are covered with clapboards. The wood house has a tall frieze board at the top of its walls and corner boards. The delineation between the attachment and the wood house is evident by a former corner board on the west side of the building. The west wall has two windows. The south window is a short 6/6 vinyl window. The north window is wood and is divided into two panes of glass. The north wall of the wood house has a wood garage door. The east wall of the wood house and attachment has a wood door with a window in the north side of the attached breezeway wall and a 6/6 vinyl window south of the door.

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*Interior, Photos 0001-0005*

The floor plan of the home is typical of an upright-and-wing house. It has two rooms, one behind the other, in the first floor of the upright portion of the house. The front room is the parlor and the staircase is against its east wall. The back room is a bedroom. A large cased opening with a fixed pair of doors is between the two rooms. The second story has two bedrooms in its north side and one large bedroom in its south side. This bedroom was carved from a large landing area at the top of the stairs. It has a dividing wall composed of wood planks that do not extend to the ceiling. The wing is composed of two primary rooms; the kitchen is to the east and a dining room between the kitchen and parlor. A wide cased opening is between the kitchen and parlor. A bathroom is located north of the dining room; it may be located in a former porch, since enclosed, which would be typical of the house type. The attic over the kitchen and dining rooms is a bedroom with a storage area in its south side. An enclosed porch, or breezeway, is off the back of the kitchen. It was created to attach the former wood house, now a garage, to the kitchen in c. 1930.

The house has wood floors throughout, though the rooms in the first floor have carpets and vinyl sheet flooring covering the wood floors. The house has plaster walls and ceilings. The ceilings in the first floor are covered with acoustic tiles. The house's interior doors are two-panel wood doors. The door and window casings are fairly simple throughout the house. The parlor's doors and windows have simple pediment-shaped headers sawn from single boards. A wood chair rail is located in the dining room and wood wainscot composed of horizontal boards and chair rail is in the kitchen. The kitchen and bathroom cabinets are all modern fixtures and cabinetry from c. 1970.

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## 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.)

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1855-c.1930  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person (last name, first name)**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder (last name, first name)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance begins in 1855, the estimated year the house was constructed on the property by the Erwin family. It ends in c. 1930, the estimated year the wood house was



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attached to the house and converted to a garage; it represents that last construction/alteration of any historical architectural importance to the house.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

N/A

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Erwin House qualifies for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C with architecture as the area of significance. The house is an excellent example of the Greek Revival style used on an upright-and-wing house type.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

**ARCHITECTURE**

The Erwin House is an excellent example of the Greek Revival style used for the construction of an early frame farmhouse. Greek Revival was the dominant style of American domestic architecture between about 1830-1850 during which its popularity led it to be called the “National Style”. The style was particularly common in areas of rapid development during the 1830s-1850s. There was increasing interest in classical buildings to the United States at the close of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, based on Roman and earlier Greek examples found through archaeological investigations. Two factors enhanced the Greek influence in the United States: the War of Greek Independence during the 1820s and 1830s and the War of 1812. The Grecian war found sympathetic citizens in the United States and the American war with the British in 1812 lessened the interest in British architecture. The Greek Revival style seemed only appropriate for a nation undergoing a new experiment in governing, democracy, that had philosophical roots based on Grecian models of governing.

The Erwin House has elements typical of the Greek Revival style. Although the house has an asymmetrical façade, it still has the formality of the Greek Revival style with a temple-like design to the gable-front portion of the façade. This part of the façade has a centered front entry with a formal porch, symmetrical placement of windows, and cornice returns that imply a pediment at the top of the wall. The house also has a tall frieze board and cornice that form an entablature at the top of its walls. The only elements of the Greek Revival style on the inside of the house are the pediment-shaped headers above the windows and doors in the parlor. These pediments are composed of just a single board sawn with a shaped top. Important extant features of the house include its clapboard siding, wood shutters, wood interior and exterior doors, and the attached wood house.

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The Erwin House is also an example of upright-and-wing construction. The house type originated from Upstate New York and then spread west across the Upper Middle West. It is derived from a double-pile New England cottage (wing portion) and either a two story or one and a half story gable front type (upright portion). It is thought that the first examples of this house type were built in stages; the wing, or smaller portion, first and the upright portion second as the owner could finance the house. This likely was not the case with the Erwin House as it appears to have been designed and constructed in its total form, with the exception of the later connection to the wood shed. The floor plan of the Erwin House is a reflection of the typical upright-and-wing type. It has two rooms, one behind the other, in the upright portion of the house. The front room was the parlor and the staircase is against its east wall. The wing is composed of two primary rooms; the kitchen is to the east while a dining room is between the kitchen and parlor. A bathroom is located north of the dining room; it may be located in a former porch, since enclosed, which would be typical of the house type.

The Erwin House is a large house relative to the period of time in which it was constructed in the county. Marshall County, having been established in 1836, did not have the prosperity generally needed to construct homes of this scale and architectural detail early in its history. Most home construction of this scale and detail did not occur in Marshall County until after the Civil War. Comparatively one other house in Tippecanoe Township is similar. It lacks cornice returns and it is covered with metal siding. The only other comparative example in the county is located in Center Township. The house, known as the Taber House, was constructed in c. 1855 on the Michigan Road south of Plymouth. It has some form of asbestos/asphalt shingles on its walls, but it has original wood windows.

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### **Developmental History/Additional historic context information**

#### *History of Tippecanoe Township and the Erwin family*

Marshall County is located in the center of the northern part of the state and was settled later than most of the surrounding area due in part to the presence of the Native Americans and lowland areas. The county formed in 1836 and opened up for settlement after the removal of the Pottawatomie Indians in 1838 and by the construction of the Michigan Road in 1834. Tippecanoe Township is located in the southeast corner of Marshall County and was formed from Green Township in 1842. The township has slightly rolling hills, some woodland, but is predominantly agricultural in use. The first settlers of European descent in the township, arriving in 1838, were A. H. Buckman and his family and James Welch and his wife.

The Erwin family had arrived in Marshall County from Stark County, Ohio between 1854 and 1855. It is unclear which family member had the house built. Elisha Erwin, the patriarch, came to Tippecanoe Township in 1855 and settled on what was then the Beck farm. Lewis Erwin, who also resided on the property, was the son of Elisha and Mary Scott Erwin and became the guardian of his younger siblings in 1858, though the father did not die until 1887. Elisha moved away from the farm while Lewis, who had married Lucinda Maxwell in 1853, continued to live at the farm until 1870, when they moved to Bourbon Township. The farm then passed to his

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brother, William, who lived at the property into the 1870s with his wife Jane (Cooper) and their four children. The property continued to be owned by William Erwin into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century at which time William Erwin's landholdings were larger than any other private resident of Marshall County.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Interview with Mr. William Erwin, September 19, 2013

*Marshall County Interim Report, Historic Sites and Structures Inventory.* Indianapolis: Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, 1992.

McAlester, Virginia & Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses.* New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2006.

McDonald, Daniel. *1881 History of Marshall County, Indiana Illustrated.* Chicago: Kingman Brothers, 1881.

*Standard Atlas of Marshall County.* Chicago: Geo. A. Ogle & Co., 1908.

*Standard Atlas of Marshall County.* Chicago: Geo. A. Ogle & Co., 1922.

Federal Censuses of Tippecanoe Twp., Marshall County, Indiana: 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930.

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### 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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 099-061-35003**

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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acree of Property** less than one acre

Use the UTM system

### UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |             |                 |                   |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 16 | Easting: 574953 | Northing: 4568775 |
| 2. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 3. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 4. Zone:    | Easting :       | Northing:         |

### Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The west property/boundary line begins at a point approximately 2,900 feet east from the northeast corner of State Road 331 and County Road 14B, on the north side of the road. Face north and continue in a line 150 feet. Turn east and continue in a line 225 feet. Turn south and continue in a line 150 feet to the north edge of County Road 14B. Turn west and continue in a line 225 feet with the north edge of County Road 14B to the point of beginning.

### Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries include the Erwin House, the only resource on the site, and the lawn area around the house. It does not include any agricultural buildings constructed at a much later date north of the house.

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### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title:

Kurt West Garner

organization:

KW Garner Consulting

street & number:

12954 6<sup>th</sup> Road

city or town: Plymouth state: IN zip code: 46563

e-mail kwgarner@kwgarner.com

telephone: 574-936-0613

date: June 3, 2014

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### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Erwin House

City or Vicinity: Bourbon

County: Marshall State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: July 7, 2015

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking east toward staircase in second floor landing

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Name of Property: Erwin House

City or Vicinity: Bourbon

County: Marshall State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: July 7, 2015

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking east in second floor front bedroom

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Name of Property: Erwin House

City or Vicinity: Bourbon

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County: Marshall State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: July 7, 2015

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking west toward dining room from kitchen

3 of 9.

Name of Property: Erwin House

City or Vicinity: Bourbon

County: Marshall State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: July 7, 2015

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking north in kitchen

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Name of Property: Erwin House

City or Vicinity: Bourbon

County: Marshall State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: July 7, 2015

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southwest in former wood house, turned garage

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Name of Property: Erwin House  
City or Vicinity: Bourbon  
County: Marshall State: IN  
Photographer: Kurt West Garner  
Date Photographed: July 7, 2015

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northwest at front (south side) of house

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Name of Property: Erwin House  
City or Vicinity: Bourbon  
County: Marshall State: IN  
Photographer: Kurt West Garner  
Date Photographed: July 7, 2015

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southeast at back (north side) of house

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Name of Property: Erwin House  
City or Vicinity: Bourbon  
County: Marshall State: IN  
Photographer: Kurt West Garner  
Date Photographed: July 7, 2015

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southeast at former wood house, turned garage

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Name of Property: Erwin House

City or Vicinity: Bourbon

County: Marshall State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: July 7, 2015

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southwest at east side of house

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**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.