

**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: Spring Ledge

Other names/site number: Evans, Frank Clayton and Etta

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: 3268 and 3270 W. Country Club Road

City or town: Crawfordsville State: IN County: Montgomery

Not For Publication:  Vicinity: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        x   statewide          local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

    A        x   B        x   C          D

<p><b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b></p> <p><b><u>Indiana DNR-Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology</u></b></p> <p><b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b></p>	<p><b>Date</b></p>
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<p>In my opinion, the property <u>   </u> meets <u>   </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p><b>Signature of commenting official:</b></p>	<p><b>Date</b></p>
<p><b>Title :</b></p>	<p><b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b></p>

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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>2</u>	<u>3</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>12</u>	<u>3</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  
RECREATION AND CULTURE/outdoor recreation  
LANDSCAPE/garden  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
LANDSCAPE/garden  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> & EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN  
MOVEMENTS/Bungalow/Craftsman

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

foundation: BRICK

walls: SYNTHETICS; vinyl

roof: ASPHALT

other:

### 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

Spring Ledge was the estate of Frank C. Evans, a Crawfordsville, Indiana, businessman and early conservationist. The property is reached from winding Country Club Road and is several miles west of Crawfordsville. The property boundary on the north side is Sugar Creek, a river which cut its path deeply into the land here, leaving cliffs along much of the south side where Spring Ledge lies. There are a number of natural springs on the property and dense woods, which has in some areas overtaken Jensen's naturalized landscape. The estate includes the house that was constructed prior to Evans purchasing the land and a designed landscape by renowned landscape architect, Jens Jensen, who was hired by Evans, as well as ponds, structures and landscape changes made by Evans' caretakers in the years after Jensen's design was completed. The original Jensen design is complete on the property surrounding the house. The additional

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structures added later are generally concentrated west of the Jensen landscape and were made to house and care for the many exotic and native animals and plant species Evans maintained on the property. Included as contributing resources are five ponds or pools, a stone well, four stone-laid springs, a bridge, a silo/hay storage structure, a small barn, and the original house, the site, three concrete benches and five birdhouses (objects). A non-contributing garage was recently constructed on old foundation near the Spring Ledge Cottage. A non-contributing house and swimming pool and small non-contributing garage were added to the site after the historic period when some of the land was sold. In the large expanse, these non-contributing elements are not significant enough to affect the historic integrity of the district.

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### **Narrative Description**

The long driveway to Spring Ledge from Country Club Road, along a lane that bisects the country club's golf course, affords a distant view of the farm house that has stood on this property since before Frank C. Evans acquired the land here in 1917 (Photo 1). The white house stands out on a sweeping lawn with woods creating a fringe of dark green around the property. The setting is rural with few other homes in view from the property. Looking south, the country club abuts the property separated from it only by a narrow lane that turns off to the east and a fence to the west. Looking north toward the river from the house, the view is of woods; down the lane to the east the woods continue but there are spots where clearings provide a peek at the river over the top of the tall cliffs. To the west the cliffs disappear and the land drops down to the river level.

The two properties that comprise the boundary of the Spring Ledge historic district identified in this nomination combine for a little more than 16 acres. The nominated district is in essence the same amount of property shown on a 1917 map of Spring Ledge prepared by landscape Jens Jensen and on Jensen's 1919 planting plan of the property.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Jens Jensen "A Survey of the Estate of Frank C. Evans, Esq." (1917); "A Planting Plan for the Estate of Frank C. Evans," (1919) from the

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The original house on the property was constructed circa 1910, before Frank Evans and his wife, Etta, bought Spring Ledge. The simple farm house, called The Cottage by the Evans family, rises from a brick foundation to walls once clad in wooden weatherboard stained or painted a dark color, now clad in white vinyl siding (Photo 2). Although the house provided shelter for the Evans family, it was always a secondary element of the site; a heating plant was not added until the 1930s, and for two decades the family lived in the house only during mild weather, usually from May to September or October.<sup>2</sup>

When Frank and Etta Evans moved to Spring Ledge as a primary residence (they continued to spend the winters either in Florida or Arizona), they updated the house. The three-bay façade faces south and has the entry in the center bay beneath a porch canopy supported by round Tuscan columns that support cantilevered porch beams (Photo 2). The wooden paneled door with no lights dates to the Evans period of occupation. The Colonial Revival door surround with broken pediment was probably added when the Evans's made Spring Ledge their home in 1940 (Photo 3). The porch roof and columns are shown in historic photos of the house circa 1920. Tripled windows in the three-bay façade appear to be original. Flanking the door are two sets of windows with three windows in each set; each window is configured with four lights above one light. Originally the second story of the house had a sleeping porch with windows covering the entire southern wall. When the Evans moved here to live they probably added the existing windows which are configured in three matching single-light, fixed-sash center windows flanked by six-light casements. Details along the roofline include open eaves with exposed rafter tails, arched knee braces and barge board with rounded ends.

The western façade had a large attached, enclosed porch during the 1920s. That has been removed to reveal the original porch with shed roof supported by columns matching those on the primary façade (Photo 4). Two sets of original or replacement French doors open into the living room and the dining area of the house. French doors are shown in an historic photo of the interior of the living room. A shed roof addition, which forms the dining room added during the Evans years, is visible on this façade directly north of the second set of French doors. There is one single, fixed-light window in this addition. A series of additions is recessed and added behind this one. Some these additions were added during the Evans years; the final hipped roof one was added in the 1950s after the Evans's had sold the property. A large wooden deck is attached behind the original portion of the farm house on this side with doors opening to it from the dining room and the other additions.

The rear of the house shows the final addition (Photo 5). There is an old strap-hinge casement window in the bay window on the rear of the house, perhaps retained from the original facade. This addition was added in the 1950s as an office. The eastern façade shows the elongated footprint of the house and its several additions added from about 1940 to about 1959 (Photo 6). Generally speaking the additions retain original windows from the time of their construction.

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Architectural Drawings of Jens Jensen," Bentley Historical Library University of Michigan.

<sup>2</sup> Bina Thompson Sarver, *Diaries, 1927-1937*, Crawfordsville District Public Library.

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Most of the windows are wooden, six-over-six light, double-hung sashes. The kitchen windows appear to have been updated in the 1940s when the Evans moved full-time to Spring Ledge (Photo 7). The only new windows appear to be those on the second story visible in the eastern façade. Both are one-over-one light, double-hung sash windows, probably recent replacements (Photo 8).

The house interior retains the original floor plan in the front, original portion of the house, including upstairs. Additions have been made at the rear of the house outside the historic period. Original wooden floors remain in the older portions of the house. The cased-beam ceiling, wooden floors, built-in bookcases, knotty pine paneling (not a typical Craftsman Era finish, so probably added by the Evans in the 1940s) and fireplace in the living room look the same today as they did in a vintage photo of Frank and Etta Evans sitting in their living room in the 1940s (Photos 9, 10).<sup>3</sup> The dining room retains original cased-beam ceiling, fireplace, and wooden floors (Photo 11). The kitchen has been modernized but it occupies its original space with original swinging doors opening into the dining room and hall (Photo 12). Aside from modernized bathrooms and kitchen and the final rear addition (Photo 13), the house looks very much as it did when Frank Evans lived here. Upstairs the original floor plan is intact with three bedrooms and a bath; the master bedroom at the end of the hall to the west is the largest. All the bedrooms have wooden floors and original woodwork. Although the bedroom windows are not original, they appear to date to the 1930s (Photo 14). The bedrooms and original downstairs room also retain steam-heat radiators added by the Evans when a heating plant was installed in the 1930s. The current garage was constructed in 2013 in the same place that the garage shown on the Jensen 1919 plan stood. Over the years the garage was added onto as shown by the variation in foundation materials; this new garage occupies the same footprint as the garage that was previously here (Photo 15).

East of the house the landscape design by Jens Jensen is overgrown but still visible. The most alteration has taken place immediately surrounding the house. Jensen planned an "Open Croquet Court" directly east of the house in 1917. His 1919 "Planting Plan" shows that the square croquet court has been altered by then into a tear-drop shaped area bounded by a driveway and fringed with plum, crabapple and hawthorn trees. Today this area retains its tear-drop shape, but has a circular brick flower bed, added after the historic period, on a grassy lawn (Photo 16). The once oval-shaped drive shown on the Jensen 1919 plan, had an extra leg added by Evans, which extends across the Crawfordsville Country Club to provide an entrance to Spring Ledge from Country Club Road. East of the garage and the driveways are woods. Within the woods Jensen enhanced a spring's overflow with stone. The Evans named this "East Brook" and it remains meandering downslope to the former gar pool, which is now only a collection of rocks near the bridge designed by Jensen but stabilized by Evans with an I-beam beneath wooden planks with concrete wing walls (Photos 17, 18).<sup>4</sup> Following the path east across the bridge, one next comes to the Wishing Well (Photo 19). The Wishing Well remains much as it looked in historic

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<sup>3</sup> Daniel F. Evans, *It's all Relative*, (Crawfordsville: Wendy Tucker, 1979-1982), 134.

<sup>4</sup> Note: Landscape elements are capitalized if they appeared so in the Jensen plans and/or in the property caretaker's diaries.

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photographs, but for the rock bench which once stood behind it and which is now missing.<sup>5</sup>

Southeast of the Wishing Well two of three trees noted by Jensen on his 1917 and 1919 plan are still standing. The old beech and ash trees remain; only the linden has been lost with age. South of the Wishing Well, the Meadow noted by Jensen is maintained as an open mowed area, around the edges plants noted on Jensen's plan have reseeded and so one can still find here: asters, golden rod, and violets. East of the Meadow walking along the narrow asphalt path that was a county road until Evans purchased the property and it became his drive, one reaches the eastern entrance to Spring Ledge (Photo 20). A circa 1930 postcard shows this entrance when the still extant brick posts were topped with no-longer-extant gable-top wooden pillars decorated with Arts & Crafts Era designs.

Returning back to the house along the asphalt drive, one can still see the mature trees planted along the southern edge of the drive, as prescribed by Jensen, to provide a screen of privacy between the Evans property and the adjacent country club (See Photo 20). West of the house is the open sweeping lawn that Jensen had graded to provide a better view to the river. Southwest of the house and the lawn is a wooded area bounded by a wire fence with wooden fence posts. Some of the posts still hold the Frank Evans blue bird houses (Photo 21). Where the mowed lawn turns into woods on its southwestern side a path of limestone slabs meanders through the trees, down a slope (a cast-iron rail remains from the Evans days alongside the half-hidden limestone steps) lined with plants found on the Jensen plan: oak-leaf hydrangea, phlox, delphinium. The path continues to the feature plans call the Rock Spring (Photo 22). Here Jensen designed a spot where the natural spring would trip along the natural-looking slabs of rocks carefully placed beneath it. He crafted a round pool filled by the spring, with an overflow outlet in the rock which allowed the spring to continue down the rock-lined slope to the Waterfall. A historic photograph shows that rustic hickory chairs once formed a trellis for vines at the Rock Spring.<sup>6</sup> Evans later added concrete benches. Later occupants added a wooden bridge across the pool. As is true with most of the Jensen-era landscape elements, vines and woods have crept closer to the pool, and nearly hide the spring, but both are still discernible and the rounded pool, with its Jensen's layered stone effect still holds water nearly 100 years after it was installed. Down the slope from the Rock Spring, the Waterfall is a multi-humped cliff edge covered in moss and fern and completely natural-looking. It was a designed element, formed and planted by Jensen's workers (Photo 23). The ferns and moss now overgrown here have softened the edges of the waterfall but it is still a remarkable sight.

Walking back to the rock spring and crossing the small bridge now placed over the pool, uphill on a trail through bushy overgrowth one comes upon the Goldfish Pond. Also called the "square pond" by Evans long-time caretaker, this pool, also designed by Jensen at the head of a spring, held exotic fish. From this spot, a historic photograph shows that one once had a beautiful view of the river, which is now blocked by woods (Photo 24).

A few steps from the edge of the Goldfish Pond and through the woods one is back to the open lawn with mature trees and wildflowers edging the property. Within the woods here is a tall

<sup>5</sup> "Spring Ledge Slide, IN010013" 1917, Smithsonian Gardens, Washington, D. C.

<sup>6</sup> "Spring Ledge Slide, IN010012" 1917, Smithsonian Gardens, Washington, D. C.

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metal pole with the base of a birdhouse still resting on it. The bottom of the birdhouse sits in the woods at the foot of the pole. Another existing birdhouse, a martin house, sits in the middle of the mown lawn on a skinny metal pole (Photo 25). Additional blue bird houses sit on the top of wooden fence posts at various locations on the property surrounding the house.

A view from the side porch toward the northwest reveals the rolling lawn that Jensen created here (Photo 26). Southwest of the Goldfish Pond and across the open lawn is another spring and the Trout Pond designed by Jensen (Photo 27). This Trout Pond is filled by Spring #4 on Jensen's planting plan. Jensen lined the spill of the spring with rock, directing into this pool. Although the Trout Pond is not bordered with rocks as is typical of Jensen's designs, historic photographs reveal that the concrete walls of the pool do date to Evans' ownership. A "Trout Pool" is mentioned on the 1917 Jensen plan, but that pool is at the location of another spring. The Trout Pond, so identified in historic photographs from 1917, is east of the Trout Pool identified on Jensen's 1917 plan. The Trout Pond is not shown on the 1919 plans (none of the pools and ponds on the property are shown on this plan) but the spring, "Spring 4," that waters it is shown. The Trout Pond is a concrete pond that appears to have had soil level with the top of the concrete originally and had plants overhanging the edges, which would have given it a natural appearance in the slope of the hill here. Over time the ground around it has eroded and washed away to reveal the concrete side walls of the pond. Until 2013 the pond continued to be watered by the spring and to hold water. On a recent visit the pond had either sprung a leak or the spring had meandered out of its course; the pool was nearly dry, though still filled with living water lilies.

Another spring, southeast of the Trout Pond, is shown on the 1919 plan as Spring #3. It is currently hidden in overgrowth and was not visible in summer 2013. Beyond this spring the drive that Frank Evans added to reach Country Club Road crosses the asphalted drive that was once a county road (Photo 28). West on the latter drive there is now a separate property that was once originally part of Spring Ledge. To the south mature trees block the view of the country club. To the north is a split-level house constructed circa 1969 (Photo 29). The house and the swimming pool behind it are non-contributing. There are elements of both Jensen and Evans' landscape design on the five or so acres that form this section of the original property. South and slightly west of the house is a large pond, probably the feature called the Beaver Pond in the caretaker's diary (Photo 30). This pond was constructed in 1931 by Evans' caretakers. It is an asymmetrical concrete pond with overflow which allows the spring to spill down a rock lined spillway. Immediately east of this pond is the foundation of what may have been the first aviary. A square foundation of poured concrete is all that remains (Photo 31). A circa 1919 concrete bench fashioned to look like a log sits between the pond and the aviary foundation (Photo 32).

North and west of the pond, toward the river, is the largest pond on the property, the Swan Pool (Photo 33). This oval concrete pond has a rock-bordered island in the middle. Like the Trout Pond previously described, Swan Pool has concrete sides that extend above the level of the lawn surrounding it. But also as shown in historic photos of the Trout Pond, the historic photos of the Swan Pool show that the its sides were originally level with the surrounding lawn and the pond appeared more organically part of its surroundings. Either its sides have been shored up or subsidence and erosion have revealed more of the pond's concrete sides than were once visible.

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This pond is mentioned in the caretaker's diary as early as 1927 (the first diary in the collection).<sup>7</sup> If it was not part of Jensen's design, it is an early addition made by Evans.

Southwest of the Swan Pool, and nearly to the river, is the location where the 1919 Jensen plan shows "open space for Council Ring surrounded by Witch hazel." There is no evidence that a typical Jensen council ring bordered by limestone benches was ever constructed here. However, the area is a raised hummock formed partly from and bordered on three sides by the runoff of the spring that fills the Swan Pool. There is a large old, maple tree in the center of what has remained a cleared space in the woods near the river (Photo 34).

West of the area planned for the council ring is a small barn and hay storage silo added by Evans. A small gable-end barn, which was once open-sided for sheltering sheep and now has walls clad with vertical wooden siding, and a metal hay storage silo are both shown in historic photos of the Evans property (Photo 35).<sup>8</sup> Both are directly east of what was once the Deer Park (the Deer Park is now owned by the Crawfordsville Country Club and has been converted to a driving range).

The overall feeling of the land within the historic boundary is one of tended woods. The ponds and pools are hidden from sight in woods or placed within dips in the land. Aside from the Swan Pool, none is immediately visible to a visitor to the house. Partly this is because of secondary growth, but it is in large part due to clever design on the part of Jens Jensen, who wanted people to discover beautiful views and spaces as they meandered along his pathways or across his clipped lawns. Although Frank Evans had additional landscape elements added after Jensen's plan was complete, he placed these new features in ways that fit into the Jensen plan; ponds were tucked into depressions or shielded by trees and wildflower gardens. Jensen's plans, the descriptions in the caretaker's diary, historic and current aerials confirm the integrity of the landscape. Both the landscape that Jensen planned for Evans and the elements that Evans added to the Jensen plan are visible here. It is difficult to tell where one ends and the other begins.

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<sup>7</sup> Bina Thompson Sarver, *Diaries, 1927-1937*, Crawfordsville District Public Library.

<sup>8</sup> Evans, *It's all Relative*, 127.

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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
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F. A commemorative property

G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION: outdoor recreation

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE: conservation area; garden

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**Period of Significance**

1917 - 1946

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**Significant Dates**

1917

1919

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

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Evans, Frank C.

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**Cultural Affiliation**

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

Jensen, Jens

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### **Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance begins in 1917 when Frank C. Evans purchased the property. That year he hired famed landscape architect, Jens Jensen, to landscape his property. In 1919, Jensen completed a planting plan for the property. The period of significance ends in 1946 when Frank Evans died.

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

**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.)

Spring Ledge is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B for its association with Frank C. Evans, founder of the Crawfordsville Audubon Society, the person responsible for the children's Camp Rotary in Montgomery County, founding member of the Crawfordsville Country Club, conservationist, bird-watcher, who maintained an annual bird count and bird-banding program on his property where nature clubs, Audubon societies and other conservation-oriented groups gathered regularly. Evans was also a successful businessman who made the fortune, primarily in farm lending, that allowed him to hire the nation's most famous landscape architect of his time, Jens Jensen, to landscape his property. Spring Ledge is also eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for the landscape that Jensen created here which retains a high degree of integrity. A significant aspect of the landscape is its continued development by Evans through the years.

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

**Criterion C: Landscape Architecture Significance.**

Born in Denmark in 1860, Jens Jensen never forgot the natural beauty of his homeland. In 1884, at age 24, Jensen came to the United States.<sup>9</sup> Two years after arriving in his new home Jensen took a street-sweeping job for the Chicago West Park District in 1886.<sup>10</sup> From this humble beginning Jensen began a rapidly advancing career in the Chicago Park System. There he developed a signature style that included the use of native plants and native stone in carefully crafted natural-looking landscaping. Although Jensen's work was occurring at the same time as the grand and formal City Beautiful Movement was being adopted after the Chicago World's Exposition of 1893, his approach to the land was almost spiritual and celebrated the natural beauty of his adopted country. He wrote of "friendly" groves of trees and "multitudes of flowers living their own lives and doing as they pleased under God's sunshine..." much preferring this view of nature over "sophisticated gardens."<sup>11</sup>

By 1905 Jensen was the superintendent of the Chicago West Park System designing the city's public spaces. Jensen helped change the ideals of landscape design in these years. "His work with native plants and natural-looking landscapes fit well with the subdued adornments of the Arts & Crafts movement, which was impacting the Built Environment in this period. At the same time that Frank Lloyd Wright was designing in the Prairie Style, Jensen became known for his prairie landscape design."<sup>12</sup>

Jensen also became an organizer and inspiration of the early conservation movements. This may have been how Frank C. Evans, who was also part of the early conservation movement in Indiana, came to know of him. Jensen's work led to the creation of the Cook County Forest Preserve District, the Illinois state park system, the Indiana Dunes State Park and National

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<sup>9</sup> Connie Zeigler, "Restoration of a Jens Jensen Landscape on Meridian Street," *Urban Times*, September 2009, 10.

<sup>10</sup> Robert E. Grese, *Jens Jensen: Maker of Natural Parks and Gardens*, (Baltimore and London, John Hopkins University Press, 1992), 6.

<sup>11</sup> Jens Jensen, *Siftings*, (Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1990 reprint of original 1939 publication), 36.

<sup>12</sup> Zeigler, "Restoration," *Urban Times*.

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Lakeshore. "Everywhere he championed his core conviction: people must have some contact with the 'living green,' – flowers and plants native to their home."<sup>13</sup>

By 1917 Jensen was heavily involved in a project to have the Dunes area along the Indiana side of Lake Michigan turned into the Dunes National Park. Perhaps this is how farm loan lender, Frank Evans, whose travels took him all over the state, realized he shared an affinity with the Chicago landscaper. Eventually Jensen and others convinced Indiana's Richard Lieber, newly appointed Director of the Department of Conservation, to purchase part of the Dunes area for a state park in 1926.<sup>14</sup> By then he had already been to Evans' Spring Ledge twice; once to sketch an initial plan in 1917 and again in 1919 to design a planting plan for the landscape he had designed two years earlier.

Speculating on how Evans came to hire Jensen is a useless past time. The landscaper had become famous by the time Evans hired him to landscape Spring Ledge. In 1917 alone, Jensen prepared dozens of planting plans and preliminary sketches for private and public gardens across the United States, as well as those for the new national Lincoln Highway through northern Indiana, publicized throughout the state. It is likely that most folks in Indiana knew at least the name Jens Jensen by 1917. Jensen's clients were the movers and shakers of the day, including Henry Ford and, in Indianapolis, along with the Dr. Goethe Link and James Allison co-owner, with Carl Fisher, of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.<sup>15</sup> Certainly, Spring Ledge compares favorably with Jensen's body of work in Indiana.

As in all of his projects, Jensen crafted a design for Spring Ledge that took best advantage of the natural landscape there--and improved upon it. In addition to directing a number of the 17 springs found on the property onto lovely rocky spillways, his primary work on the land here was to reforest and revegetate the land. This had been farmland and was likely denuded of trees except along the high rocky cliff overlooking Sugar Creek. Jensen's "survey" of Spring Ledge called for individual specimen trees to be planted along the cliff edge. Some of those trees, such as an ash and a beech and the dropped over trunk of a linden near the Wishing Well, are still visible on the landscape in 2013. Jensen thought of the beech as the tree that best represented Indiana. "The beech represents the remnants of what once was a great forest over a large part of Indiana. A beech forest is a noble thing, with its straight silvery-gray trunks terminating in a head of fine lacy braches... What a loss it will be to the landscape of Indiana, where the beech reigns supreme, when the last beech woodlot has been destroyed. I wonder if the Hoosier State will then create as many poets as it has heretofore?" he wrote in 1939.<sup>16</sup> Jensen wrote his own poetry on the cliffs and gentle rolling land of Spring Ledge. Along with the mighty beech, the ash, the oak and hawthorne were his language here.<sup>17</sup> More than a handful of these grand old trees, selected by Jensen for this spot, remain in the ecology of Spring Ledge.

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<sup>13</sup> *Jens Jensen Legacy Project*, <http://www.jensjensen.org/drupal/?q=biography> (accessed September 2, 2013).

<sup>14</sup> Grese, *Jens Jensen*, 128.

<sup>15</sup> Zeigler, "The Restoration," *Urban Times*.

<sup>16</sup> Jensen, *Siftings*, 48.

<sup>17</sup> Jensen, "Planting Plan," 1919.

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Missing today but shown on the 1917 plan is the “tea house” sometimes also called the “summer house,” an open-sided structure that appears in historic photos from 1917 at its original location northwest of the residence. In 1919, Jensen called for the summer house to be moved “some place here [near the edge of the cliff] where it will not interfere with view from house.” A number of springs were shown on the 1917 plan that were not included on the 1919 plan. These do not seem to have been developed by Jensen onto rock laid beds that the five springs and East Brook were designed around on the 1919 plan and it is only the springs shown on the 1919 plan that are visible today.

Jensen’s plan for Spring Ledge, like his plan for the Goethe Link estate at 4936 North Meridian Street in Indianapolis and the Henry Ford Estate in Dearborn, Michigan, depict large numbers of plants in the naturalized beds. At Spring Ledge, for instance, he calls for 35 sumach [*sic*], 15 crabapples, 30 witch hazels, 16 hawthorns and numerous other trees to be planted in a relatively small location north of the drive on what is today the western property included in the nomination. Similar numbers and types of trees are included on the plans for the Link estate on Meridian Street in Indianapolis. Robert Grese, Jensen historian, explained that these numbers may not have represented the quantities actually planted, indeed it seems almost impossible that they could do so, even on a rural landscape, like the one at Spring Ledge.<sup>18</sup> Jensen’s Spring Ledge plan included other signature Jensen elements such as the sweeping open lawn, stone used heavily to create a natural looking environment, native plants and pools. Unlike at the Link estate in Indianapolis, where the stone-lined pool required an elaborate, buried pump room to regulate the water, at Spring Ledge, Jensen was able to use several of the 17 springs to fill the pools and directed the overflow along stone-lined spillways off to the river.<sup>19</sup>

Unlike the suburban landscape of the Link home in Indianapolis, the rural Spring Ledge design was spread widely across several acres of the land Evans owned. Generally speaking the Jensen design at Spring Ledge is encompassed in the nine acres of the Spring Ledge property with the address of 3268 Country Club Road. The swan pool, beaver pond and the area that he called the “open space for Council Ring” are on the adjoining property at 3270 Country Club Road, both properties are included within the historic boundary for this nomination. Frank Evans’ estate once stretched across both of these properties and beyond. Like many other Jens Jensen customers he enjoyed the pleasure of stepping out of his cottage to see beautiful vistas and walking along the pathways to discover the improvements on nature that Jensen created. Few residential landscapes by Jensen remain most like the Link estate in Indianapolis were either redesigned by later landscape architects or have lost elements to time and neglect. Jensen’s design, the work of a master landscape architect, is intact at Spring Ledge.

### **Criterion B: Frank C. Evans Significance:**

Spring Ledge meets Criterion B because of its close association to Frank Evans. His efforts to support outdoor recreation and conservation were realized at Spring Ledge and also influenced

<sup>18</sup> Interview with Robert Grese, August 2009, Indianapolis, Indiana.

<sup>19</sup> Zeigler, “Restoration,” *Urban Times*.

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the development of other Montgomery County institutions. This home, even more than the house Evans lived in with his wife at 406 Water Street in Crawfordsville, is an expression of Evans' desire to appreciate nature and to promote conservation and outdoor life.

Frank Clayton Evans was born in Russellville, Indiana. Family lore holds that his middle name honored the doctor who delivered him. Evans grew up on a farm and attended Montgomery County schools. In 1893 he enrolled in college preparatory classes at Wabash College where he finished high school and then moved on to college courses. Five years later Evans graduated.<sup>20</sup> The year before he graduated, Evans joined Andrew Clements in creating the firm, Clements and Evans.<sup>21</sup> In 1897 he also married Etta P. Crabbs of Crawfordsville. The wedding took place at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin F. Crabbs. A local newspaper wrote that Evans, who still had one year to go in his college courses, was "engaged in the real estate, loan and insurance business and is eminently successful..."<sup>22</sup>

By 1906 Evans was a highly successful farm loan lender. That year he became a founding member of the Crawfordsville Country Club. Also that year the country club purchased the land where Lew Wallace had kept a summer estate near Sugar Creek, turned the summer house into their club house and began laying out a golf course on the land. It is not unlikely that Evans, the real estate maven, had a hand in persuading Susan Wallace, Lew Wallace's widow, to sell her 20 or so acres of land to the men who formed the club.<sup>23</sup> It certainly seems likely that Evans became familiar with the property adjoining the country club as he spent time recreating or playing the new golf links. The beauty of that land, even as plowed and planted farm land, was not lost on Evans who would, a decade later, purchase it to make his own summer home at Spring Ledge.

Evans was much more than a successful businessman. By nature and by nurture he was interested in many things and was willing to lend a hand and a bright mind toward making his community better. In 1911, devoted church-goer, Evans conceived an "every-member canvas" as a way to raise money for the Methodist church he belonged to in Crawfordsville. He also lead the first canvas that year, which was so successful, the technique was adopted as the standard in Methodist churches everywhere afterwards.<sup>24</sup>

In 1912, the Phi Delta Theta fraternity, to which Evans had belonged at Wabash College, listed Frank C. Evans as a Financial Correspondent for the Mutual Benefit Insurance Co., of Newark New Jersey in its *Annual Circular Letter*. The insurance company had opened offices in Crawfordsville. The newsletter also noted that Frank and Etta lived at 406 South Water Street, in

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<sup>20</sup> Daniel Evans, *It's all Relative*, 1987, 58.

<sup>21</sup> Daniel Evans, "Frank Evans was a Sensitive Extrovert," *Montgomery Magazine*, December 1980, 7.

<sup>22</sup> June 9, 1897 newspaper clipping reproduced in Daniel Evans, *It's all Relative*, 1987 Crawfordsville District Public Library.

<sup>23</sup> Copy of Abstract of Title in possession of Chuck and Donna Pierce, Crawfordsville, Indiana.

<sup>24</sup> Evans, *It's all Relative*, 79.

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Crawfordsville, a fine new home that conveyed Evans' successful career.<sup>25</sup> By 1913 Evans was expanding his business interests. That year, *Industrial World* magazine mentioned a new manufacturing firm in Crawfordsville, the Crawfordsville Furniture & Lumber Company, headed by Frank C. Evans, president and co-owner.<sup>26</sup> In 1916 he is listed as a representative of the Indiana and Ohio Live Stock Insurance Company, in that year's *The Insurance Year Book*.<sup>27</sup>

Furniture & Lumber Company was a short-lived venture, by 1917 Evans was doing well enough to purchase Spring Ledge as a summer home and small working farm. That year he hired Jens Jensen to transform the farmland into an estate worthy of a business magnate. Whether a bird lover and conservationist by nature or a solely because of the inspiration he received from this beautiful property, two years after he took ownership of Spring Ledge, in 1919, Frank C. Evans became a founding member of the Crawfordsville Audubon and Nature Study Club. He was elected its first leader. The 1920 annual of the club praised the property and the leader: "Spring Ledge, the county home of Frank C. Evans" is a spot that attracts the attention of "all bird-lovers of this community . . . nature and art have combined to produce an effect of great beauty." The report also noted that Evans had erected 62 nesting boxes and two large martin boxes on his property, and he had convinced the country club to erect bird houses on its property next door to his. "Spring Ledge is always open to visitors, so that our Club as a whole, and as individuals, has had abundant opportunity for observing Mr. Evans' success in his work of protecting and attracting the birds."<sup>28</sup>

Spring Ledge provided the inspiration for Evans to publish his thoughts on and efforts at conservation and bird-watching. In 1920 his article, "Bird Nests Found at Spring Ledge," was published in *The American Midland Naturalist*.<sup>29</sup> It was the first of many articles that Evans would write about his observations and work at Spring Ledge.

It must be a testament to Evans' unbounded energy that while he was maintaining a successful career heading his branch of the Mutual Benefit Insurance Company, he made time to write about bird-watching in the spring and fall at Spring Ledge, traveled with Etta to Florida each winter and, in 1922, became the Director of the Crawfordsville Trust Company.<sup>30</sup>

By 1930 Frank Evans was 55. The census taken that year reported that his house value (presumably the Water Street house, not Spring Ledge) was \$25,000. He reported his industry that year as "Loan and Real Estate."<sup>31</sup> By this time the country was entering the Great Depression and farming had already taken a financial beating for several years prior to the nation falling into financial ruin. But Evans seemed to be able to remain in good finances, at least during these early years of the depression.

<sup>25</sup> Phi Delta Theta Fraternity, *Annual Circular Letter of the Active Chapters of Phi Delta*, 1912.

<sup>26</sup> *Industrial World*, March 10, 1913.

<sup>27</sup> *The Insurance Year Book 1916*. Vol. 44, A-190.

<sup>28</sup> "Crawfordsville Audubon and Nature Study Club Report," 1920.

<sup>29</sup> Frank C. Evans, "Bird Nests Found at Spring Ledge," *The American Midland Naturalist*, Vol. 6, March 1920, 177.

<sup>30</sup> *Trust Companies of the United States* (1922), 121.

<sup>31</sup> United States Census of Population, 1930.

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In 1933 Governor Paul McNutt asked Evans to serve on the state's citizens tax committee.<sup>32</sup> The committee created a "well-balanced fiscal program." It set into motion the Indiana gross income tax, which helped keep the state operating during the depression.<sup>33</sup>

The same year that Evans helped get the state's fiscal situation in order, he and his wife purchased 60 acres of land to create Camp Rotary as a retreat for boy and girl scouts across the state. Evans, ever the canny businessman, managed a deal for these 60 acre of farmland that probably would never have been accepted if not for the terrible financial times. He bought the land for five dollars an acre. Sixty acres for \$300. He put the title in his and Etta's names. Then he convinced ten fellow Rotary members to contribute \$30 each to the purchase. Evans made a \$300 profit, which he reinvested in 1935 when he purchased 25 more acres to add to the campgrounds.<sup>34</sup> In 1934 Camp Rotary was dedicated officially. Evans' used his own caretakers from Spring Ledge to help with the clearing and building at Camp Rotary.<sup>35</sup> Camp Rotary and the young scouts who visited there were of great importance to Frank Evans. His monetary contributions "ran into many figures and continued throughout his life. He won the Silver Beaver award for his Boy Scout work in the 1930s."<sup>36</sup>

By 1936, Evans' firm, Evans, Devore and Company managed farm loans valued at seven to nine million dollars. In the midst of the depression the firm was operating 200 farms that had been foreclosed on.<sup>37</sup> The loans were worth little in these years and Evans felt the pinch of the hard times, too. In 1938, had to let go the caretakers who had managed Spring Ledge for 18 years.<sup>38</sup> In 1940 he and Etta sold their Water Street house in Crawfordsville and moved full-time to their Spring Ledge property.<sup>39</sup>

Evans remained committed to volunteer service, serving on the Indiana War History Commission in 1940. He was member of the Columbia Club, president of Board of Trustees of First Methodist Church in Crawfordsville. A member of DePauw Board of trustees and Chairman of DePauw Investment Committee, President of Indiana Audubon Society, and Vice President of Farm Mortgage Bankers Association.<sup>40</sup>

Frank Evans died in 1946 at age 61, while on a trip to Chicago about scouting. At his funeral Rotary Club Governor Howard Sweetman spoke of Evans interest in Camp Rotary and added that it was his service at the Rotary Camp that had had brought the Most Outstanding Community Service award to the Crawfordsville Rotary Club. Evans' friend, Bill Collings, gave the eulogy. He said "Frank C. Evans was a man of the great out of doors. He loved the out-door

<sup>32</sup> Evans, *It's all Relative*, 80.

<sup>33</sup> Franklin P. Hill, "The Inception of the Indiana Gross Income Tax," *Bulletin of the National Tax Association*, Vol. 33, 20.

<sup>34</sup> *Ibid.*, 76.

<sup>35</sup> Bina Thompson Sarver diaries, 1934.

<sup>36</sup> Obituary, *Crawfordsville Journal Review*, April 24, 1946, 1.

<sup>37</sup> *Ibid.*, 61.

<sup>38</sup> Bona Thompson Sarver Diaries, 1938.

<sup>39</sup> Evans, *It's all Relative*, 66-67; Crawfordsville City Directory, 1940.

<sup>40</sup> Obituary in Evans, *It's all Relative*, 59.

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life, whether it was tame or wild, and whether it was animal or plant. But this interest was not for himself alone. Frank's greatest delight was to have his friends or anyone interested visit his collections of birds and animals. And his vast crops of flowers were produced not merely for himself but for the pleasure which he took in distributing them among his friends...Anything which was for the best interest of his community immediately attracted his attention and won his most sincere support. .. This is demonstrated by his unqualified success in encouraging, promoting and developing the growth of the Boy Scout movement...in this work he has done a great thing for Crawfordsville. He has helped develop a generation of youth...<sup>41</sup> The Crawfordsville Lions Club passed a resolution expressing sympathy to the Rotary Club for their loss suffered in the death of Frank C. Evans, "Rotary's youth committee chairman and outstanding civic leader in Crawfordsville..."<sup>42</sup>

At time of his death Frank Evans and his wife owned 2,000 acres of farmland in Montgomery County. He left behind a taxable estate of more than \$150,000. His beloved Spring Ledge was, of course, left to his wife. She sold it soon after with a stipulation that it be retained as an area for bird-watching and conservation.

Spring Ledge is eligible for the National Register for its association with Frank C. Evans who was significant in the history of conservation and outdoor recreation in the State of Indiana.

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

### **Development of Spring Ledge**

Frank Clayton Evans purchased a little over 17 acres of land for \$2,350 from Robert Caldwell in 1917.<sup>43</sup> That year he also acquired land from Ida O'Neill, Anna and Otto Schoen, and Crawfordsville Trust Company. In the abstract of the Spring Ledge property there are entries that indicate he also seems traded acreage with Harry and Elsie Troutman, and in the musical-chairs real estate shuffling, he sold 28.35 acres out of the land he had acquired to the Crawfordsville Country Club for \$3,600. Ultimately the Frank Evans property known as Spring Ledge seems to have comprised between 50 and 60 acres of land, including farm fields.<sup>44</sup>

During the first year that Evans owned Spring Ledge he hired famed landscape architect, Jens Jensen, to create a "survey" for about 16 acres of his land, stretching from the lane separating Spring Ledge from the Country Club on the south to Sugar Creek on the north, to the county road on the east and ending just past the largest spring on the property to the west. In 1919,

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<sup>41</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>43</sup> Copy of Abstract of Title.

<sup>44</sup> *Ibid.*

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Jensen created a "Planting Plan" for most of the land in the "survey." If Jensen drew a site plan, it no longer exists or has not been located yet among his papers.<sup>45</sup>

It is clear from the existing landscape at Spring Ledge that Jensen's "Planting Plan" was closely followed. By 1920, Jensen's landscape and Evans addition of multiple bird-nesting boxes and feeding stations had created a botanical and bird-watching showcase, which the owners were happy to share with Nature Clubs, school groups and their numerous friends and acquaintances, including the Crawfordsville Audubon Society and Nature Club, which he founded and lead.

The development of Spring Ledge from 1927 to 1938 was faithfully charted by one of the property's longtime caretakers, Bina Thompson Sarver. She and her husband, Clifford, and their daughters lived in a house owned by Frank Evans that was just south of the county road that bordered Spring Ledge on the west. Her emotionless almost-daily diary charted the work that she and Clifford performed there and the activities of the Evans and their visitors. Thompson also devoted much of her attention to the wildlife, both native and exotic at Spring Ledge, making her the perfect match for Frank Evans' interests. Sarver's diary broadens and deepens the understanding of Spring Ledge's development and importance, and provides the occasional tidbit of historic context.

During the Sarver's stay at Spring Ledge the Evans moved to the Cottage in May and back to their Water Street house in Crawfordsville in September or October. Even when he was not staying on the property, Evans visited Spring Ledge nearly daily.

In May 1927 Sarver put out 600 gladiola bulbs (Spring Ledge became known for its beautiful gladiola fields). That year the new golf professional for the Crawfordsville Country Club stayed at the cottage for a bit until he settled into his new job and found a house and before the Evans moved to the cottage for the season; Bluebirds nested in the bird houses; the Evans moved out to the cottage for the season and a huge flood destroyed the fences around the deer park. That year, the Crawfordsville Home Economics Club, Flower Lovers Club, Women's Missionary Society, and Professor Albert Reiff Bechtel (Rose Professor of Botany at Wabash College for 30 years) were among the visitors to Spring Ledge. Sarver recorded the annual bird count, as usual, noting the first siting of each type on the property. She and Evans trapped and banded birds in order to learn which ones returned each year. In 1927, Sarver trapped a bird that they had banded in 1924. In July Professor Bechtel and his family joined the Evans and Sarvers on a botany expedition, "the cranberry bog is certainly a fine place to find new and unusual plants," according to Sarver's diary.<sup>46</sup>

The following year, Evans marked off a location for a new pond, possibly the Beaver Pond; had the Sarvers move the Aviary from its foundation to clear away for the wildflowers that would be planted around the pond; had the shrubbery north of the dining porch removed and planted rhododendrons there; had the Sarvers "reset all the poppies, phlox and delphinium...[because] the old ones [presumably planted for the Jensen plan] were such large clumps." That year visitors

<sup>45</sup> Jensen "Survey" (1917); Jensen "Planting Plan" (1919).

<sup>46</sup> Bina Thompson Sarver, Diaries.

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to Spring Ledge included Professor Bechtel, who “went around with Mr. Evans to see what wild things were in bloom,” the Missionary Society, the golf committee, teachers from the Wilson School, Nature Study Clubs from across the state. Professor Wetzel from Cornell and another “flower loving professor from Purdue” were also guests.<sup>47</sup> Evans decided that he liked the Panama-Pacific Lily best and would “discard all but the tropical [water] lilies.” In May that year, Mr. and Mrs. Kin Hubbard visited and there were “guests at the cottage most every day now while the flowers are so pretty.” In October, Evans decided to put a “flying cage” over the goldfish pond for pheasants and wood ducks.<sup>48</sup> That year both spring and fall bird migration records were kept.

In May 1929, “Mayor Hays of New Castle and Earl Hays, Superintendent of Parks, New Castle and family were here to get pointers on rearing swans and peafowl.” About 150 guests visited the property on one day in early June. Later that month Henry Ulen, the man who built railroads and waterworks all across the world and founded the Town of Ulen, Indiana, came for dinner. On October 4, “Mr. and Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Gardener, and Mr. [Frederick C.] Lincoln, head of the Biological Society at Washington D. C. were here this P.M.”<sup>49</sup>

The Indiana Federation of Art Clubs, *Art Guide to Indiana*, in 1931, included an entry for the property: “Spring Ledge, four miles west of city on Yountsville Road; country home of Frank C. Evans; aviary; deer park; swan lake; goldfish pond; lily pool; garden; natural scenic beauty; open to visitors.”<sup>50</sup>

Sarver recorded on October 3, 1932 that she and her husband had “caught the flamingoes and karasoo and sent them to Lincoln Park Zoo,” where they overwintered before their train trip back to Spring Ledge each spring. On October 9, she wrote that the grounds were full of sightseers. Once again she recorded her annual bird count, kept track of the day’s weather and activities, and the Evans’ coming and goings faithfully.<sup>51</sup> That year Evans added a heating plant to the cottage to extend the seasonal use of the house.

Then, in 1933, the diary reveals that the depression was affecting Evans, and the Sarvers. “Mr. Evans came out this P.M. and told us he would have to cut our wages \$150 on the year.” Despite this pay cut, Bina Thompson carried out her duties as usual recording a huge wind storm that destroyed the bird cage over the goldfish pond, the aviary, and the hen house. In August she “mowed, moved benches, cleaned along East Brook.”<sup>52</sup> In 1934, Frank and Etta Evans purchased the land for Camp Rotary and Evans expanded the Sarvers’ duties to whip the new camp into shape.

The year 1936 brought harder times to the nation. New Deal Era works programs helped keep Americans in work. Sarver’s diaries showed that Spring Ledge benefitted from these New Deal

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<sup>47</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>48</sup> *Ibid.*, May 1928, October 1928.

<sup>49</sup> *Ibid.*, 1929.

<sup>50</sup> Indiana Federation of Art Clubs, *Art Guide to Indiana*, 1931, 73.

<sup>51</sup> Bina Thompson Sarver, *Diaries*.

<sup>52</sup> *Ibid.*, 1933.

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efforts. On September 14 she worked with Civilian Conservation Corps workers to build a new pen for peafowls at Spring Ledge. That year she and Clifford tore down the sheep barn and tended four new baby prairie dogs in a pen by garden.<sup>53</sup> Sad news came in October but Mrs. Sarver presented it in her usual matter-of-fact writing: On October 8, Evans told her husband, Clifford “he would not need us any longer so we would have to find a new job.” On October 10, “Mr. Evans told me he would keep us till spring at \$40 a month.” The most difficult of times for the nation had become the hardest of times for the Sarvers, also. On March 1, 1937, the last entry written at Spring Ledge: March 1 “Today we begin moving from Spring Ledge.”

Caretakers of the property for 18 years, it must have been a difficult move for the Sarvers and a difficult decision for Frank Evans. But the affection that the two families who worked together for so many years had for each other outlasted this physical rift. Bina Sarver mentions visits from the Evans’ and even had them over to their new home to play cards after their move.<sup>54</sup>

By 1940 the Evans were living full-time at Spring Ledge, although they wintered in the southwest. Evans continued to keep a bird migration record at the property and to maintain the nesting boxes and deer herds.

The everyday recording of life at Spring Ledge ended with the Sarvers’ move. But we get another glimpse of the property in 1946 when Frank and Etta Evans’ grandson, Daniel, and his new wife, Judy, moved there for a few months upon his return from duty in World War II. He listed the elements that he recalled in his 1987 book about his family.

Pools or ponds: Goldfish pool, fish pool in the deer park [no longer part of the property], Beaver pond, Trout pond, Lilly pond, Swan pool  
East brook with spring, stream, wild flowers and gar pool  
Waterfall fed by rock spring  
Trail along elevated creek bank linking the wishing well, east brook, spring behind garage, rock spring and waterfall  
Peony gardens  
Iris, tea rose bed, gladiola beds, wild flower beds (around aviary, behind east peony garden along hill to creek, around wishing well, from rock spring to waterfall) ...  
Exotic and native animals and birds, as well as fish (some wintered in Kellogg Sanctuary at Battle Creek).<sup>55</sup>

Along with exotic and native birds, deer, and various other creatures, this is what the property contained in 1946 when Daniel Evans lived there – the year that Frank Evans died. Nearly all of these hardscape elements remain today aside from the deer park which is no longer part of the property and the pond within it and the aviary (although its foundation is still visible). Even some of the flowers mentioned in the list above and in the original Jensen plan have continued to reseed or send out new starts that still beautify the landscape.

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<sup>53</sup> *Ibid.*, 1936.

<sup>54</sup> *Ibid.*, 1938.

<sup>55</sup> Evans, *It's all Relative*, 76.

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It is interesting that in Daniel Evans' book, there is no mention of the Jens Jensen design of the property. Nor is there a note of it in the Sarver diaries. Although the Sarvers must have begun working on the land in 1920, only two years after Jensen's Planting Plan was completed, Bina Sarver was either unaware of the originator of its design, or unconcerned with it. Still, she worked under Frank Evans to keep that design alive, adding features, such as the beaver pond, to it, but not significantly altering the original plan. Frank C. Evans saw to that. The landscape that he hired Jensen to create and that he enhanced remains very much as it looked on that day in 1946 when he left the property to head to a scouting convention in Chicago, and never returned.

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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):** \_\_\_\_\_

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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 16 acres

Use the UTM system

### UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

1. Zone: 16	Easting: 502803	Northing: 4431781
2. Zone: 16	Easting: 503217	Northing: 4431849
3. Zone: 16	Easting: 502858	Northing: 4431581
4. Zone:	Easting :	Northing:

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.) Part of the Northeast Quarter of Section 3, Township 18, Range 5 West containing the properties with the addresses of 3270 and 3268 West Country Club Road. The boundaries of the nominated Spring Ledge historic district are roughly Sugar Creek on the North, West Rock River Ridge Road on the East, the Crawfordsville Country Club on the South and a fence marking the boundary between 3270 W. Country Club Road and the Crawfordsville Country Club driving range on the West. Please see 1" = 232.5' scale aerial boundary map.

Spring Ledge  
Name of Property

Montgomery County, IN  
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**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary of the property includes two parcels that were originally part of the Spring Ledge property. All of the Jens Jensen designed site is within the boundaries, as are the Evans Cottage, ponds added by Evans, the sheep barn and hay storage silo added by Evans, and the private drive on the property that was once a county road. All of the remaining elements of design from the Evans' years of ownership of Spring Ledge are included within the boundary of the district.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Connie Zeigler  
organization: C. Resources  
street & number: 963 Hosbrook St.  
city or town: Indianapolis state: IN zip code: 46203  
e-mail connie@cresourcesinc.co  
telephone: 317.908.6046  
date: October 4, 2013

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Spring Ledge  
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- **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.)

### 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.

### Photograph Log

**(For each photograph, the information above the line is identical)**

Name of Property: Spring Ledge

City or Vicinity: Crawfordsville

County: Montgomery

State: Indiana

Photographer: Connie Zeigler

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Date Photographed: 8/29/2013

Description of Photograph(s) 0001. Looking north at driveway across Crawfordsville Country Club Property with Evans Cottage in distance.  
1 of 35.

Date Photographed: 8/29/2013

0002. Looking north at Evans Cottage primary facade.  
2 of 35.

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Date Photographed: 8/29/2013  
0003. Looking Northeast at door.  
3 of 35

Date Photographed: 8/29/2013  
0004. Looking east at western façade  
4 of 35.

Date Photographed: 8/29/2013  
0005. Looking southeast at northern façade  
5 of 35.

Date Photographed: 8/29/2013  
0006. Looking southwest at eastern façade.  
6 of 35.

Date Photographed: 8/29/2013  
0007. Looking west at exterior of kitchen windows on eastern façade.  
7 of 35.

Date Photographed: 8/29/2013  
0008. Looking southwest at upstairs replacement windows on eastern façade  
8 of 35.

Date Photographed: 8/29/2013  
0009. Looking north at fireplace and bookshelves in living room of cottage.  
9 of 35.

Date Photographed: 8/29/2013  
0010. Looking west at living room. Note original French doors.  
10 of 35.

Date Photographed: 8/29/2013  
0011. Looking east at dining room toward kitchen.  
11 of 35.

Date Photographed: 8/29/2013  
0012. Looking northeast inside the kitchen. Hall and staircase visible through door.  
12 of 35.

Date Photographed: 8/29/2013  
0013. Looking north at first addition to house.  
13 of 35.

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Date Photographed: 8/29/2013

0014. Looking southwest at master bedroom. Note original wood floors, same as in all bedrooms, and steam radiator as found throughout the Cottage.

14 of 35.

Date Photographed: 8/29/2013

0015. Looking north at garage from private drive.

15 of 35.

Date Photographed: 8/29/2013

0016. Looking northwest at lawn with new brick flower bed.

16 of 35.

Date Photographed: 8/29/2013

0017. Looking west at bridge across East Brook, next to remnants of Gar Pool.

17 of 35.

Date Photographed: 8/29/2013

0018. Looking south at stone remnants of Gar Pool at base of East Brook.

18 of 35.

Date Photographed: 8/29/2013

0019. Looking northwest at well.

19 of 35.

Date Photographed: 8/29/2013

0020. Looking west at original entrance, with remaining brick posts.

20 of 35.

Date Photographed: 8/29/2013

0021. Looking northwest at Bluebird House among golden rod.

21 of 35.

Date Photographed: 8/29/2013

0022. Looking south at Rock Spring Pool. Pointing out where the spring feeds into the pool between slabs of limestone.

22 of 35.

Date Photographed: 8/29/2013

0023. Looking west at Waterfall.

23 of 35.

Date Photographed: 9/18/2013

Spring Ledge

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0024. Looking northwest at Goldfish Pond. Stick is pointing to outlet where the spring runs out of the pool toward the river.

24 of 35.

Date Photographed: 9/18/2013

0025. Looking southwest at house and Martin house (birdhouse) on lawn.

25 of 35.

Date Photographed: 9/18/2013

0026. Looking northwest from eastside porch of the house. Martin house in foreground; Swan pool in far background.

26 of 35.

Date Photographed: 8/29/2013

0027. Looking west at Trout Pond.

27 of 35.

Date Photographed: 9/18/2013

0028. Looking west along private drive (once a county road) to 3270 W. Country Club Road property.

28 of 35.

Date Photographed: 9/18/2013

0029. Looking northwest at non-contributing house on 3270 property.

29 of 35.

Date Photographed: 9/18/2013

0030. Looking northwest at Beaver Pond.

30 of 35.

Date Photographed: 9/18/2013

0031. Looking south at foundation of Aviary.

31 of 35.

Date Photographed: 9/18/2013

0032. Looking south at concrete bench beside Beaver Pond.

32 of 35.

Date Photographed: 9/18/2013

0033. Looking northwest at Swan pool.

33 of 35.

Date Photographed: 9/18/2013

0034. Looking west at open hummock where clearing for Council Ring was located.

34 of 35.

Spring Ledge  
Name of Property

Montgomery County, IN  
County and State

Date Photographed: 9/18/2013

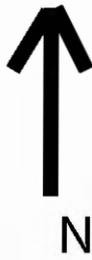
0035. Looking northwest at sheep barn and hay storage silo.  
35 of 35.

**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.

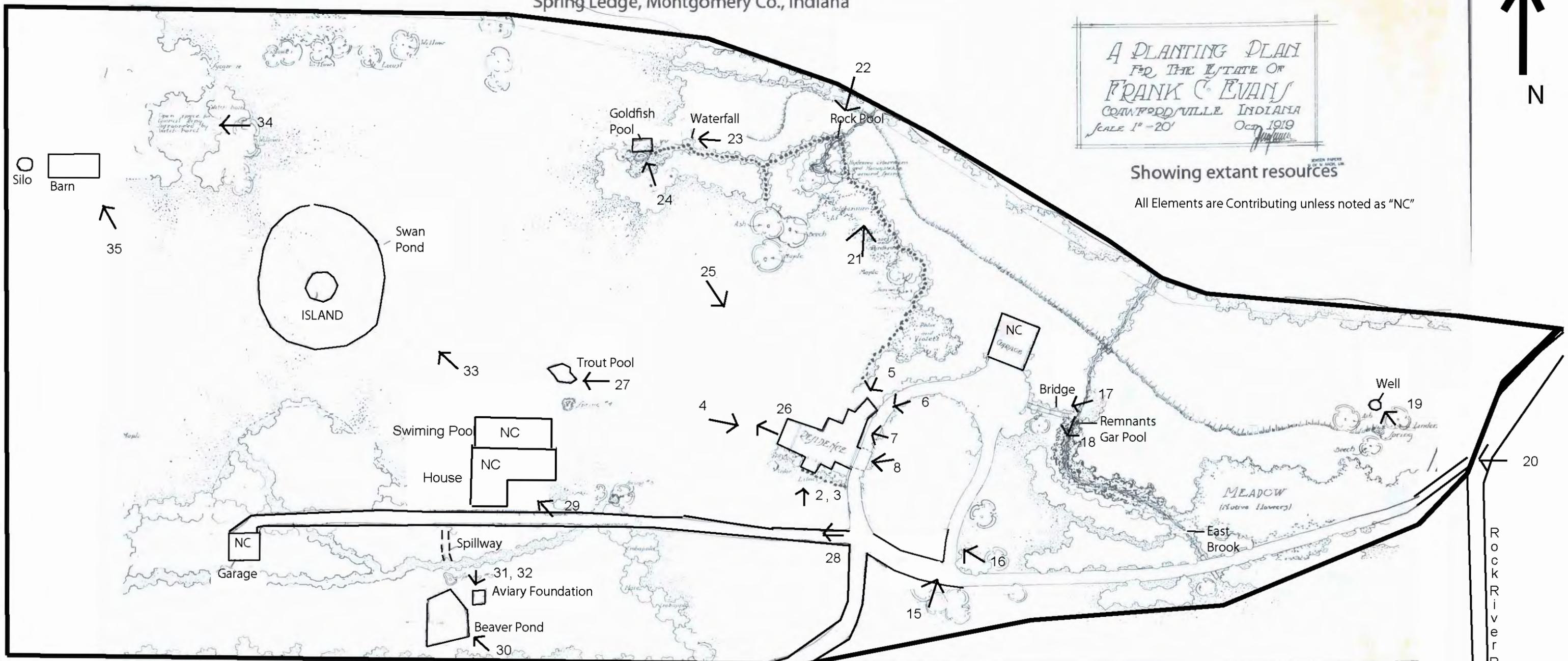
Spring Ledge, Montgomery Co., Indiana

A PLANTING PLAN  
FOR THE ESTATE OF  
FRANK C. EVANS  
CRAWFORDVILLE INDIANA  
SCALE 1" = 20' Oct. 1919



Showing extant resources

All Elements are Contributing unless noted as "NC"



Silo  
Barn

Swan Pond  
ISLAND

Goldfish Pool

Waterfall

Rock Pool

Trout Pool

Swimming Pool  
House

Garage

Spillway  
Aviary Foundation  
Beaver Pond

NC  
Cottage

Bridge  
Remnants  
Gar Pool

Well

MEADOW  
(Native Flowers)

East Brook

Crawfordsvile Country Club

To Country Club Road

# Photographs (9-14 taken inside Cottage)

Site Aproximate Boundary

Not to Scale

ROCK RIVER ROAD

# Spring Ledge Cottage First Floor Plan

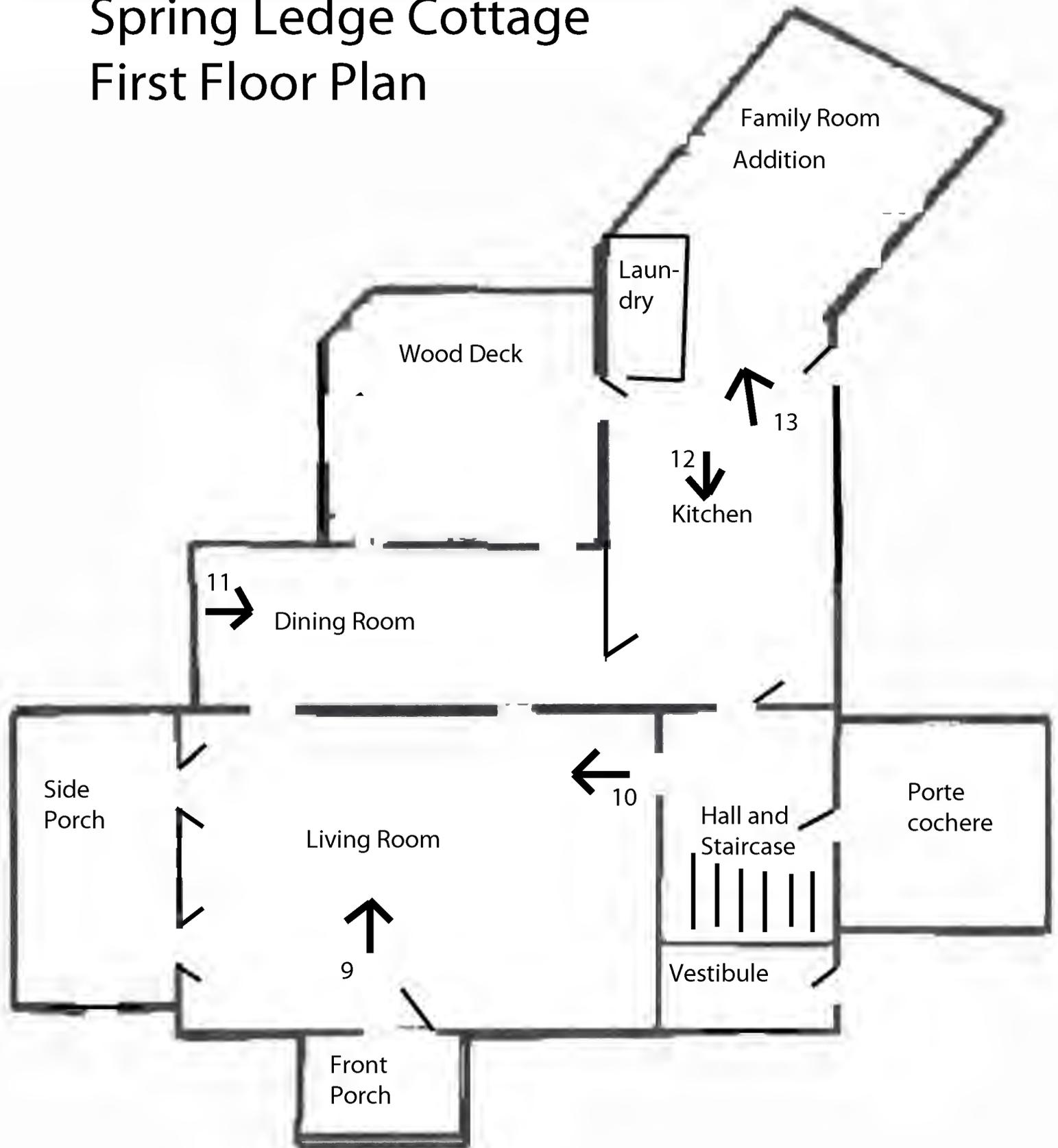


Photo Location

Plan not to Scale - taken from Montgomery County GIS webpage

Photo 14 take upstairs, not shown on plan

Spring Ledge  
Name of Property

Montgomery, Indiana  
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2013 Aerial from Montgomery County GIS webpage. Property outlined in heavy black line.



1939 Aerial from U.S. Geological Service with approximate current boundary shown.





Spring Ledge, Montgomery County photo #0001



Spring Ledge, Montgomery County photo #0002



Spring Ledge, Montgomery County photo #0005



Spring Ledge, Montgomery County photo #0009



Spring Ledge, Montgomery County photo #0016



Spring Ledge, Montgomery County photo #0017



Spring Ledge, Montgomery County photo #0019



Spring Ledge, Montgomery County photo #0023



Spring Ledge, Montgomery County photo #0027



Spring Ledge, Montgomery County photo #0032



Spring Ledge, Montgomery County photo #0034