1. Name of Property
   Historic name: ___ Vandalia Methodist Episcopal Church and Vandalia School _______
   Other names/site number: ______________________________________
   Name of related multiple property listing: ____________________________
   Indiana’s Public Common and High Schools __________________________
   (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location
   Street & number: _5434 and 5465 Vandalia Road_________
   City or town: _Vandalia______ State: _Indiana_______ County: _Owen_________
   Not For Publication: [ ] Vicinity: [ ]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 ___ 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 ___ 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         ___ local
   Applicable National Register Criteria:
   ___ A  ___ B  ___ C  ___ D

   Signature of certifying official/Title: ___________________________ Date
   Indiana DNR-Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology
   State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: ___________________________ Date

   Title: ___________________________ State or Federal agency/bureau
   or Tribal Government
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:) ____________________

________________________________________
Signature of the Keeper

________________________________________
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:  x

Public – Local  x

Public – State

Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

Building(s)  x

District

Site

Structure

Object
Vandalia Methodist Episcopal Church and Vandalia School  
Owen Co  
unty, Indiana

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Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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Sections 1-6 page 3
7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

[MID-19TH CENTURY/Gothic Revival]
[OTHER/Gable Front]

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
foundation: stone, concrete
walls: wood
roof: metal
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.)

Summary Paragraph

The Vandalia Methodist Episcopal Church (5465 Vandalia Road) and Vandalia School (5434 Vandalia Road) are located in Lafayette Township, Owen County, Indiana. The properties are the only remaining structures from the former village of Vandalia, located west of State Road 46 and north of State Road 246. The contributing site includes extensive lawns extending to the south of the buildings. The church was constructed in 1895 in the Gothic Revival style, and the school circa 1864 in the Gable Front style. Each of the structures maintain a high degree of historic integrity.
Narrative Description

The former town of Vandalia is located northwest of the intersection of State Roads 46 and 246 in Lafayette Township, Owen County, Indiana. The Vandalia Methodist Episcopal Church and Vandalia School are the only surviving buildings from the town.

The Vandalia resources include three contributing: the site, the Vandalia Methodist Episcopal Church building (5465 Vandalia Road), and the Vandalia School (5434 Vandalia Road). The site is considered contributing because of its integral nature to the functions of the church, school, and community, as discussed further in the statement of significance. The church and school buildings retain a high level of historic integrity, the church receiving an outstanding rating and the school a notable rating in the Indiana Historic Sites and Structure’s Inventory. The four small outbuildings on the site, three privies and a storage shed, are non-contributing; The privies have been recently rebuilt and the storage shed is of unknown vintage, however, they are small, ancillary structures and do not detract from the historic value of the site. Nomination of the church and school together reflects the role the structures played in the community life of the town, discussed further in the statement of significance.

Site, Contributing

The lots that make up the church and school property flank Vandalia Road, the school property to the northwest and the church property to the southeast (see Property Detail Map). Both properties are largely lawn to the south, with the relatively small buildings to the north. The church property has been at its current dimensions since 1895. The southern portion of the school property was added in 1931. The site was used extensively by the community as described in the Statement of Significance.

Vandalia Methodist Episcopal Church 1895, Gothic Revival, Contributing

The church property includes a portion of lot 7 and lots 8, 9, and 10 of the original plot of Vandalia (Photo 1). The church building sits on lot 8 and the southern portion of lot 7 provides a small buffer lawn with the neighboring property (Photo 2). To the south, lots 9 and 10 consist of a lawn and a gravel parking area (Photo 3). The property extents are marked by corner sections of white picket fence. Entrance to the property is gained by a half-circle gravel drive at the front of the church. A circa 1997 sign is located in the grassy area within the drive (Photo 4). A privy sits behind the church (Photo 5).

The gable-front church is clad in original lap siding with a metal roof, installed circa 1995. A bell tower emerges from the southeast corner of the church and serves as the entry. The main

1 Indiana Department of Natural Resources State Historic Architectural and Archaeological Research (SHAARD) Database. Available online at http://www.in.gov/dnr/historic/4505.htm.
building has a dry-stack stone foundation and the bell tower has semi-circular concrete steps wrapping the structure, leading to the entrances. There are two entries on the bell tower; The south entry has a tall narrow, six-panel wood door with a gothic-arch transom above. The east entry has similarly configured paired doors and a gothic-arch transom extending over both doors. All transom windows, above the doors and windows, have wood tracery and are glazed with textured glass; the outer panels tinted rose and the inner tinted blue. Circular vents with decorative pierced openings sit near the top of the bell tower. Above, the bell-level is enclosed with wood-paneled knee-walls and a series of gothic-arched openings with decorative pendentives hanging from the center of the arch. The bell wheel is visible from the east. The bell tower is covered by a pyramidal roof with flared eaves.

On the main building, simple linear brackets support the eaves. A circular vent, pierced with 1895, sits in the gable. A set of three wood double-hung windows with transoms, sits at the center of the façade. Four similar, single windows are evenly spaced across the south and north elevations. The west elevation lacks fenestration, but has a round vent opening and roof brackets similar to the façade (Photo 6).

On the interior, the bell tower forms a vestibule, with wood plank floors, wallpaper covered plaster walls, and a painted wood plank ceiling. Simply milled wood accents on the interior include door surrounds, shoe-mold and crown mold with pendentives at the corners. An electric light with milk glass pendant hangs in the center of the ceiling. The bell pull is located at the northeast corner of the vestibule. Two sets of wood panel doors lead to the sanctuary: paired double doors with transoms on the west wall and a narrower single door on the north side (Photos 7 and 8).

The sanctuary is oriented with the chancel at the west (Photos 9 and 10). At the far east end, the wood plank floor is level forming a narthex. In the nave, the floor slopes gently to the chancel. The chancel is raised 20” above floor level. A single step between the two levels also serves as a kneeling point at the communion rail. Carpet runners line the narthex and center and front aisles and the chancel step. The chancel has a low railing of turned posts and a wood plank floor. The west wall of the church, at the chancel, has gothic-arch wood trim, mirroring the triple windows on the east wall. The wood pews in the nave came from another church in the area.

The lower portion of the church walls are clad in original wood wainscoting and the upper portion is covered with 4x8 vinyl-faced Masonite sheets with matching joint trim. A fiber-sound drop ceiling with metal rails sits below the original wood plank vaulted ceiling. Historic light fixtures hang below the drop ceiling from escutcheons and chains attached to the original ceiling. The plaster wall area above the drop ceiling has remnants of wallpaper.

A privy (non-contributing) sits behind the church on a concrete foundation (Photo 5). The privy is sheathed in clapboard siding and has a corrugated aluminum roof. The simple board door is hung by strap-style hinges. The date of construction is unknown, but appears to be within the last 50 years.
Portions of an earlier church on the property have been integrated into the current structure. Hand-hewn poplar timbers provide corner posts for the tower. Trusses on the current structure came from split boards of the earlier church.2

**Vandalia School** circa 1864, Gable Front, Contributing

The Vandalia School lot is located on the east side of Vandalia Road, with its rear lot-line at State Road 46 (Photo 11). The school building sits at the northwest edge of the lot with a gently rolling lawn to the south (Photo 12). Two reconstructed privies (non-contributing, Photo 13) sit behind the school at the northeast corner of the property, and a shed (non-contributing, Photo 14) sits to the north of the school.

The Vandalia School was built circa 1864. The building consists of the gable-front main school structure with an attached gable-front vestibule in front topped by a cupola. A green standing seam metal, installed circa 1995, sheathes the roof. The building is clad in white lap siding original to the school, with few replacement boards. A deep frieze board below the eaves returns at the gable ends. Wide corner boards are finished with moldings, making them pilaster-like. The main portion of the building sits on a stone foundation and the vestibule portion sits on concrete blocks. Four double-hung wood windows are evenly spaced along the north and south elevations (Photo 15). Windows and the door have plain surrounds, with moldings on the header boards, implying an entablature. The wood window sashes date to the period of the school’s active use, and possibly to the date of the early 1900s vestibule addition. The vestibule on the façade has a central entry with a half-light wood panel door and transom. Two wood double-hung windows flank the entry. The cupola has wood vents on all four sides and contains a school bell.

The interior of the vestibule has painted beadboard wainscoting to chair-rail height (Photos 16 and 17). The remaining portion of the walls and the ceiling are composed of fiber insulating board held in place by wood battens. The ceiling height is just over 9’. The floor is composed of 3” wide wood planks, running east to west. The door leading to the school room is a wood three-panel, half-light door. The three vertical panels are repeated in the divided-light sash.

The interior of the main school house (Photos 18 and 19) is clad in the fiber insulating board and wood battens similar to the vestibule. Blackboards line the east and west walls placed approximately 24” from the floor level and extending 36” tall. On the east wall the center portion of the blackboard extends to approximately the height of the windows. Nail and siding patterns on the east elevation indicate a former window opening. The ceiling height is approximately 11’6”. A hatch located near the east elevation provides access to the attic. The wide plank flooring runs north to south. A cast-iron heating stove sitting on a metal plate occupies the center of the room. The wood stove, desks and tables in the school are not original to the building.

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2 “Methodist Church, Vandalia, Indiana,” Memoir of R.A. Gillis, Vandalia Church History Records, Vandalia Community Preservation Association, Spencer, Indiana.
Evidence of two eras of construction exist on the schoolhouse. The difference in foundation materials on the main portion of the school and the vestibule (visible when zooming in on Photo 15), stone and concrete block, indicates that the vestibule was built sometime after the school. Several elements of mid-nineteenth-century construction techniques were found when a restoration project was undertaken in 1976, including hand-hewn joists connected to the floor plate by wooden pegs and square nails (Photo 20).3

Ancillary structures on the school property include two privies, located behind the school, and a storage shed, located to the north of the school. Privies served the students while the school operated, however, the two currently on the property were rebuilt circa 2015. The date of construction of the storage shed is unknown.

In 1976, the surrounding community joined efforts to restore the school. The restoration included repairs to the foundation and windows, new paint, and a new roof.4

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3 Vandalia School History Collection, displayed on the school wall, Spencer, Indiana.
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.)

- [x] 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.
- [x] 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.)

- [x] 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
Vandalia Methodist Episcopal Church and Vandalia School

Name of Property

Owen County, Indiana

County and State

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Education

Period of Significance

1864-1951

Significant Dates

Significant Person (last name, first name)
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder (last name, first name)

Gillis, R.A.
Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance for the Vandalia Methodist Episcopal church and Vandalia School begins with the construction of the oldest structure, the school circa 1864, and ends with the close of the school for educational purposes in 1951, although the building continued to be used as a community center and polling place into the 1990s. The period also encompasses the significant era for the Vandalia Methodist Episcopal Church. The congregation ceased meeting in the church in 1995.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

The Vandalia Methodist Episcopal Church was used as a religious institution during the period of significance. The church contributes significantly to the story of the community of Vandalia, illustrating the development of Methodism in Indiana and the history of its related women’s organization. The church building is an excellent example of Gothic-Revival architecture and is the physical embodiment of a typical rural community church.

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 Vandalia Methodist Episcopal Church and Vandalia School reflect broad patterns of the history of small towns that existed throughout the Midwest during the 1800s, but fell to obscurity through the vagaries of railroad and highway construction and population settlement. The church and school buildings and site served the residents for religious and educational purposes and as community gathering spaces. The resources are significant under Criterion A and C, in the areas of Religion, Education and Architecture. The Vandalia Methodist Episcopal congregation occupied the church building from 1895-1995, after having originally settled on the property in 1859. Land for the Vandalia School was acquired in 1863 and the school built shortly after. The school remained open through the 1950/1951 school year, and for several years after served as the site for voting and public gatherings. The church was designed in the Gothic Revival style by R. A. Gillis, an architect born and raised in the Vandalia area. The schoolhouse meets the registration requirements established in the multiple property document Indiana’s Public Common and High Schools.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)
The town of Vandalia was laid out in 1839 by Joseph Cochran and Jacob Hicks on either side of Bowling Green Street (now Vandalia Road) and Spencer Street (now State Road 246). Although described as “quite a town” in the early days; with four general stores, one hotel, two blacksmith shops, a wagon maker, a cabinet maker and two churches; by 1915 the only remaining structures from the early days were the old hotel building and the home of Rueben Cassida. One general store, run by Mr. Kay the postmaster, and two churches serving less than 100 citizens remained.

Education

The school meets the registration requirements for a “one-room schoolhouse” under the multiple property form Indiana’s Public Common and High Schools. It was a publicly funded school, its exterior is intact, and the interior vestibule and classroom are largely unchanged. The vestibule addition was made during the building’s period as a schoolhouse. The Vandalia School serves as the physical reminder of the evolution of education in the township. The history of the school system in Lafayette Township follows that of the Indiana district school system created under the 1852 Indiana School Code, as described in the *Indiana’s Public Common and High Schools* multiple property documentation form. At least three log school buildings had been constructed Lafayette Township between 1839 and 1847. The township was divided into districts in 1855. In 1863, James Davis and his wife Ellen sold lot 34 in Vandalia for $25 to Samuel Taylor, Trustee of Lafayette Township and the Vandalia School was built soon after. By 1884 there was a school house in each district. Vandalia was the only organized town in Lafayette Township, near the center of the township, making it the ideal location for a school to serve the most number of students.

Children were educated in the Vandalia School building for nearly 90 years. The range of subjects and all classes were taught by a single teacher. As state requirements for teachers licensure changed, the teachers at Vandalia complied with the mandate. Lot 34, where the school was located, was a narrow town lot and didn’t leave room for recess. In 1931, Nellie Powell, a former and future teacher, sold lots 35 and 36 for $1.00 to the Trustees of Lafayette Township, creating a play yard for the students. Trustees updated the school when possible, installing electric lights and a new floor in 1942. The State Department of Education school inspection report in February, 1942 cited the community interest in the school. The State Superintendent of Schools called for the closing of one-room schools in 1898, and the 1947 Inspection Report noted that the school should be considered for elimination. The Vandalia

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5 Blanchard, page 820. Field Notes of Town of Vandalia (church records at DePauw).
School remained open through the 1950/1951 school year. The school desks, books and supplies were removed to the Patricksburg schools.  

The school house served as a community gathering place during its tenure as a school and after it closed. Political speaker, Mr. Byrd, held a grand and demonstrative meeting with martial and glee club music in 1888. In 1918 Homer Hendershot, the teacher, produced a program of readings and music at the end of the school year. The audience gathered at noon and had brought dinner baskets to serve the noon meal. After lunch there were closing exercises featuring music by a string orchestra of “patrons of the school,” and songs by the pupils. A county health meeting was held on August 21, 1923, to give instructions to mothers and weigh and measure the children. In 1922, the Vandalia community held the play, “A Poor Married Man,” featuring Carrie Johnson, the teacher at the school. During the 1908 election, Democrat Hon. W.A. Cullop spoke at the Vandalia school house on October 14.  

Architecture

The Vandalia ME Church and Vandalia School are excellent examples of late-nineteenth-century rural architecture. The church was designed by R.A. Gillis.

R. A. (1872-1960) Gillis was born in Lafayette Township. He spent some time in Terre Haute, Indiana in the late 1890s and moved to Fairmont, West Virginia between 1898 and 1900. In Fairmont, his work was prolific, especially during the period 1904-1914. Gillis’ designed the Mount Vernon Dining Hall at the Jackson’s Mill State 4-H Camp in Weston, WV.

The Vandalia ME Church is designed in the Gothic Revival style, typical of the rural interpretation. The Gothic arch windows which adorn the structure identify it with the Gothic Revival style. The Gothic Revival style became popular in the United States during the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries, as a resurgence of appreciation for the Christian Gothic architecture of the medieval period. High Victorian Gothic was a later phase, and was an open interpretation of Medieval architecture. The belfry tower is the clearest example of the building’s High Victorian Gothic influence. The church, however, also reflects the simple rural vernacular with the gable front massing grounded by the offset bell tower. The architect’s use of a raked floor and the diagonally-placed entries to the sanctuary could be interpreted as influences of the Akron Plan, a popular Protestant church trend in the 1890s.

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8 Diebold, page E-10. Evans, appendices.
The vernacular, gable-front architecture of the Vandalia School is typical of other one-room schools throughout Indiana. The gable-end returns visible on the Vandalia School add a classical detail, heavy Greek Revival cornice moldings. The evenly spaced windows along the north and south walls provided optimal light for the students. Addition of the vestibule reflects the ideas of S.E. Hewes, allowing for storage and outerwear.\footnote{Diebold, F-15, 16.}

The Vandalia Schoolhouse is the oldest and most historically intact school building in the county. Two schools from the district school era remain in Owen County: the Santa Fe School in Montgomery Township (119-101-25008) and the Crisp School in Clay Township (119-677-60017). Both gable-front buildings, constructed circa 1880, have evenly spaced double-hung windows on the sides, but lack the classical gable end returns of the Vandalia schoolhouse. The Santa Fe school is now a private residence and the Crisp school is used for the township office of Clay Township. The later constructed Splinter Ridge School (circa 1927) in Lafayette Township, is oriented as a side gable structure with an attached vestibule portion on the front with two side-by-side entrances and a row of five windows across the back. The building sits next to a residential trailer and is in a deteriorated condition.

The Vandalia Methodist Episcopal Church and Vandalia School are the only remaining physical resources from the Town of Vandalia. These buildings as well as the site give reference to the only town that incorporated in Lafayette Township, Owen County, Indiana.

\textbf{Developmental History/Additional historic context information}

The Vandalia Methodist Episcopal Church began in 1852 at the home of Elijah Powell, in Washington Township, east of Lafayette Township. The first trustees appointed were: William Thrasher, Henry Hayman, David Phipps, Elijah Powell and James Ward. The projected lot for the church was cited as, “a lot of land lying near the road running from Spencer to Bowling Green.”\footnote{Deed Book 12, page 113.} However, on May 28, 1853, Elijah Powell and his wife Mariah sold a portion of their land in Washington Township, in Section 14 of Township 10 for $5.00 to the ME Church. A log church was erected on the property and later became known as the Mt. Moriah church, in honor
of Elijah Powell’s wife Mariah. The property was later deeded to Mt. Moriah Methodist Church.\textsuperscript{15}

Although the church began on the Powell Farm, on October 1, 1859, Jeremiah and Mary Hall sold lot 8 in the town of Vandalia to the Trustees of the ME Church of Vandalia, fulfilling the anticipated location of the church in Vandalia. The original church constructed on the lot was described as having a “single hand-made door in the center of the front.” The exterior was clad in weatherboard with wide, yellow poplar, 1 ½” board sheathing, joined by wood ½” thick splines all on hand-hewn poplar frame work.\textsuperscript{16}

In 1895, members of the VanDyke family sold lots 9, 10, 19, and 20, to the church for $50.00. The same year, R. A. Gillis designed a new church. Gillis’s father George, a local stone mason, laid the foundation and other local men, including R.A. Gillis (the architect), Ed Ward and Ben Staley, provided the labor for erecting the church. Ed Joslin, a tinsmith from Spencer, applied the tinwork in the tower.\textsuperscript{17} The new structure was larger and grander, comparatively, to the original church.

The additional lots purchased from the VanDyke family provided a lawn space for revivals and picnics, and later for auto parking. In 1936 Ernest and Tilitha Rundell sold the south portion of lot 7 to the church for $1.00, adding a buffer lawn on the north side of the church, as the building was constructed on the north edge of lot 8.\textsuperscript{18}

The growth and change in the Vandalia ME church reflects the pattern of Methodism throughout the Midwest. Methodism began in England with John Wesley during the eighteenth century. The American colonies drew some of Wesley’s followers and the Methodist Episcopal Church in America organized in 1784. In Indiana, the faith was expressed among small groups of pioneers. As the church organized in the state, rotating, or itinerant clergy served the small congregations. These circuit riders met with local leaders occasionally to reinforce their faith. Their meetings and services were initially held in people’s homes or log churches, as at the Powell farm. During the mid-nineteenth century towns grew rapidly in Indiana. Ordained clergymen were assigned to a church when the congregation grew large enough. New frame and brick church buildings were built with the sole purpose of holding religious services. Although, in the late 1800s, larger more attractive churches were built in towns and cities and rural churches stagnated, the Vandalia congregation followed the later and built a larger church. The Great Depression brought a

\textsuperscript{16} Copy of Deed, Vandalia United Methodist Church Records, Archives of DePauw University and Indiana United Methodism, Greencastle Indiana. “Methodist Church, Vandalia, Indiana,” Memoir of R.A. Gillis, Vandalia Church History Records, Vandalia Community Preservation Association, Spencer, Indiana.
\textsuperscript{17} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{18} Ibid.
decrease in church membership and finances and rural churches faced great losses in numbers.\textsuperscript{19} The Vandalia ME Church, however, did not close until 1995.\textsuperscript{20}

Ladies Aid Societies organized within Methodist Churches as early as the 1850s. The initial focus of the societies was to raise money to establish the physical needs of the local churches: buildings, furnishings, repairs, and parsonages. The societies expanded their support internationally after the organization of the National Woman’s Foreign Missionary Society in 1869. With the rapid growth of cities in the late nineteenth century, the mission field became the immigrants and factory workers closer to home.\textsuperscript{21}

The Woman’s Society of Christian Service (WSCS) of the Vandalia ME Church was active into the 1950s. Their purpose:

“...shall be to unite all women of the church in Christian living and service; to help develop and support Christian work among women and children around the world; to develop the spiritual life; to study the needs of the world; to take part in such service activities as will strengthen the local church, improve civic, community and world conditions.”\textsuperscript{22}

The women met monthly at members’ homes or the school after 1951. The all-day or afternoon meetings opened with devotions and prayer, often followed by a lesson, such as “Our Spanish Speaking Neighbors in the Southwest,” or “Scientific Knowledge and Ways of Work in Different Parts of the World.” After a community lunch, the women held a business meeting. At some meetings the morning was spent in fellowship over quilting, which raised funds for their charitable activities. The women supported needs locally, nationally and globally; at one meeting setting aside funds to repair the local parsonage, collecting clothing to send to Chicago, and donating funds to the tuberculosis hospital in Korea.\textsuperscript{23}

The church building and property provided the site for communal activities. For example, a basket meeting was held at the church on July 3, 1921. On January 14, 1923, the district superintendent preached at the quarterly meeting and conference held in Vandalia. The 1920 all-day meeting at the church featured district superintendent W.H. Wylie preaching in the afternoon, as well as a “big dinner.” An ice cream social held on July 4, 1918 benefitting the Red


\textsuperscript{20} Buckley to Whom it May Concern, March 14, 1995, Vandalia United Methodist Church Records, Archives of DePauw University and Indiana United Methodism, Greencastle Indiana.

\textsuperscript{21} Baughman, page 13.

\textsuperscript{22} Minutes of the WSCS, page 1, Vandalia United Methodist Church Records, Archives of DePauw University and Indiana United Methodism, Greencastle Indiana.

Vandalia Methodist Episcopal Church and Vandalia School

Owen County, Indiana

Name of Property

Cross. Another ice cream social was held at the church in 1923.\textsuperscript{24} Prayer, food and fellowship fostered the congregation.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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


Diebold, Paul C. “Indiana’s Public Common and High Schools.” National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form.


Flint, Courtney. “Jackson’s Mill State 4-H Camp Historic District.” National Register Nomination.

Indiana Department of Natural Resources State Historic Architectural and Archaeological Research (SHAARD) Database. Available online at http://www.in.gov/dnr/historic/4505.htm.

Owen County Deed Records, Spencer, Indiana.


Vandalia Church History Records, Vandalia Community Preservation Association, Spencer, Indiana

Vandalia United Methodist Church Records. Archives of DePauw University and Indiana United Methodism, Greencastle Indiana.

Vandalia School History Collection, displayed on the school wall, Spencer, Indiana.
Vandalia Methodist Episcopal Church and  
Vandalia School  
Owen County, Indiana

Name of Property  
County and State

Newspapers:

Fairmont West Virginian  

Owen County Democrat  
2/17/1921, page 8.  
3/14/1915, page 8.  

The Owen Leader  

Spencer Evening World  

Spencer Owen Leader  
“All Day Meeting,” 4/14/1920, page 1.  

Spencer Democrat,  
Vandalia Methodist Episcopal Church and Vandalia School

Name of Property: Vandalia Methodist Episcopal Church and Vandalia School

County and State: Owen County, Indiana

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: _____________________________________

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 119-605-40014-15

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: approx. 1.1 acres

Use the UTM system

UTM References
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

- [ ] NAD 1927 or [×] NAD 1983

1. Zone: 16   Easting: 511338   Northing: 4351642
2. Zone: 16   Easting: 511430   Northing: 4351646
4. Zone: 16   Easting: 511331   Northing: 4351564

Sections 9-end page 20
Vandalia Methodist Episcopal Church and
Vandalia School

Owen Co
unty, Indiana

Name of Property                   County and State

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

Beginning at the southeast corner of lot 10 of the Town Plot of Vandalia, proceed in a
southwesterly direction along the lot line of said lot to the southwest corner of said lot. Turn
northwest and proceed along the rear edges of the lot lines for lots 10, 9, and 8. Upon
reaching the northwest corner of lot 8, continue approximately 28 feet along the rear edge of
the lot line for lot 7. Turn northeast and proceed to a point on the east lot line of lot 7,
approximately 28 feet north of the southeast corner of said lot. Continue in a northeasterly
direction to Vandalia Road. Cross Vandalia Road, turn northwest and proceed along the lot
line of lot 34 to the northwest corner of said lot. Turn northeast and proceed along the north
edge of lot 34 to a point along said line approximately 8.5 feet west of the northeast corner of
said lot. Turn southeast and proceed 97.5 feet along a line 8.5 feet west of the lot lines of lots
34 and 35. Turn east-south-east and proceed 13 feet, reaching a point on the rear edge of the
lot line of lot 35. Turn southeast and proceed along the lot lines of lots 35 and 36, reaching
the southeast corner of lot 36. Turn southwest and proceed along the south lot line of lot 36
to Vandalia Road. Cross Vandalia Road, reaching the southeast corner of lot 8. Turn
southeast and proceed along the east lot lines of lots 8, 9, and 10, reaching the point of origin.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary described above encompasses the remaining resources of the Town of
Vandalia, the Vandalia ME Church and the Vandalia School. The built resources and the
property they sit on represent the religious, educational and community history of the town.
Residential areas around the perimeter of the boundary do not reflect the former town, rather
appear as merely rural residences.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: __Rose Wernicke__________________
organization: _Consultant/Indiana Landmarks Partners In Preservation Program____
street & number: __447 West 91st Street____________________
city or town: __Indianapolis_________ state: _IN_______ zip code: _46260_____
e-mail_rdwernicke@yahoo.com_________________________
telephone: __317-372-3625__________________________
date: ___December 12, 2017________
Vandalia Methodist Episcopal Church and Vandalia School

Name of Property                   County and State

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.)

**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: Vandalia Historic District

City or Vicinity: Spencer

County: Owen State: Indiana

Photographer: Rose Wernicke

Date Photographed: August 7, 2017

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

1 of 20 Looking northwest at 5465 Vandalia Road.
IN_OWEN_VANDALIAMETHODISTEPISCOPALCHURCHANDVANDALIASCHOOL 0001.

2 of 20 Looking southwest at 5465 Vandalia Road.
IN_OWEN_VANDALIAMETHODISTEPISCOPALCHURCHANDVANDALIASCHOOL 0002.
Vandalia Methodist Episcopal Church and Vandalia School
Owen County, Indiana

3 of 20 Looking west at 5465 Vandalia Road.
IN_OWEN_VANDALIAMETHODISTEPISCOPALCHURCHANDVANDALIASCHOOL 0003.

4 of 20 Looking west at sign at 5465 Vandalia Road.
IN_OWEN_VANDALIAMETHODISTEPISCOPALCHURCHANDVANDALIASCHOOL 0004.

5 of 20 Looking southwest at the privy behind 5465 Vandalia Road.
IN_OWEN_VANDALIAMETHODISTEPISCOPALCHURCHANDVANDALIASCHOOL 0005.

6 of 20 Looking southeast at the north and west walls of 5465 Vandalia Road.
IN_OWEN_VANDALIAMETHODISTEPISCOPALCHURCHANDVANDALIASCHOOL 0006.

7 of 20 Looking south at the interior of the vestibule, 5465 Vandalia Road.
IN_OWEN_VANDALIAMETHODISTEPISCOPALCHURCHANDVANDALIASCHOOL 0007.

8 of 20 Looking southeast at the interior of the vestibule, 5465 Vandalia Road.
IN_OWEN_VANDALIAMETHODISTEPISCOPALCHURCHANDVANDALIASCHOOL 0008.

9 of 20 Looking northwest at the nave and chancel, 5465 Vandalia Road.
IN_OWEN_VANDALIAMETHODISTEPISCOPALCHURCHANDVANDALIASCHOOL 0009.

10 of 20 Looking east at the nave, narthex and vestibule, 5465 Vandalia Road.
IN_OWEN_VANDALIAMETHODISTEPISCOPALCHURCHANDVANDALIASCHOOL 0010.

11 of 20 Looking northeast at 5434 Vandalia Road.
IN_OWEN_VANDALIAMETHODISTEPISCOPALCHURCHANDVANDALIASCHOOL 0011.

12 of 20 Looking northwest at 5434 Vandalia Road.
IN_OWEN_VANDALIAMETHODISTEPISCOPALCHURCHANDVANDALIASCHOOL 0012.

13 of 20 Looking north at privies behind 5434 Vandalia Road.
IN_OWEN_VANDALIAMETHODISTEPISCOPALCHURCHANDVANDALIASCHOOL 0013.
Vandalia Methodist Episcopal Church and Vandalia School
Owen County, Indiana

14 of 20 Looking east at storage shed north of 5434 Vandalia Road.
IN_OWEN_VANDALIAMETHODISTEPISCOPALCHURCHANDVANDALIASCHOOL0014.

15 of 20 Looking southeast at 5434 Vandalia Road.
IN_OWEN_VANDALIAMETHODISTEPISCOPALCHURCHANDVANDALIASCHOOL0015.

16 of 20 Looking northwest at the interior of the vestibule, 5434 Vandalia Road.
IN_OWEN_VANDALIAMETHODISTEPISCOPALCHURCHANDVANDALIASCHOOL0016.

17 of 20 Looking southeast at the interior of the vestibule, 5434 Vandalia Road.
IN_OWEN_VANDALIAMETHODISTEPISCOPALCHURCHANDVANDALIASCHOOL0017.

18 of 20 Looking east at the school room, 5434 Vandalia Road.
IN_OWEN_VANDALIAMETHODISTEPISCOPALCHURCHANDVANDALIASCHOOL0018.

19 of 20 Looking southwest at the interior of the school room, 5434 Vandalia Road.
IN_OWEN_VANDALIAMETHODISTEPISCOPALCHURCHANDVANDALIASCHOOL0019.

20 of 20 Looking north at the collection of artifacts found during the 1976 restoration of the school, 5434 Vandalia Road.
IN_OWEN_VANDALIAMETHODISTEPISCOPALCHURCHANDVANDALIASCHOOL0020.

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.).
Vandalia Methodist Episcopal Church and Vandalia School

Name of Property: Vandalia Methodist Episcopal Church and Vandalia School

County and State: Owen County, Indiana

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.
Vandalia Historic District
Lafayette Township, Owen County, Indiana

Location Map

Map from Owen County GIS https://owenin.elevatemaps.io/

Scale

0  100 feet

Vandalia Historic District
A—5465 Vandalia Road—Vandalia Methodist Episcopal Church
B—5434 Vandalia Road—Vandalia School
See Property Detail Map for further information.
Vandalia Historic District
Lafayette Township, Owen County, Indiana
Property Detail Map and Exterior Photo Key

Legend
A—Vandalia ME Church  Contributing
B—Vandalia School  Contributing
G—Gravel Drive & Parking  N/A
M—Sign  N/A
P—Privy  N/A
S—Shed  N/A

Map from Owen County GIS https://owenin.elevatemaps.io/

Scale
0    100 feet
North

Photo number and shot direction.
Vandalia Historic District
Lafayette Township, Owen County, Indiana
Vandalia ME Church Floor Plan and Photo Key

Legend

- Floor Slope
- Photo number and shot direction.

Scale
0
25 feet
Vandalia Historic District
Lafayette Township, Owen County, Indiana
Vandalia School Floor Plan and Photo Key

Legend

X Photo number and shot direction.