Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
William Henry Harrison Home

AND/OR COMMON
"Grouseland"

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Scott and Park Streets — NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Vincennes — VICINITY OF — CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 8th

STATE Indiana — CODE 18 — COUNTY Knox — CODE 083

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	X MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	__YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	X YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Francis Vigo Chapter, Daughter's of the American Revolution

STREET & NUMBER
3 Scott and Park Streets

CITY, TOWN
Vincennes — VICINITY OF — STATE Indiana 47591

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
County Courthouse (Recorders Office)

STREET & NUMBER
North 7th Street

CITY, TOWN
Vincennes — STATE Indiana 47491

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Historic American Building Survey

DATE
1934 — X FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Library of Congress/Annex (6 Photos; 9 sheets)

CITY, TOWN Washington — STATE D.C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
X EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The William Henry Harrison Mansion, known as "Grouseland" is located on the north corner of Park and Scott Streets on a half-city block lot. It is about 100 yards from the Wabash River and built in the style of an old Virginia plantation mansion. It was once the center of a 300-acre estate and the hub of activity of the Harrison family.

The main house, containing 26 rooms, is 60 by 75 feet, two stories high with basement and attic. Practically all the material used in the construction of the house, with the exception of the doors, stairways and windows, was fashioned by hand from local resources. The limestone foundation blocks were quarried near Fort Knox and the 200,000 bricks were made from clay on a near-by farm. The massive wooden joists and studdings were fastened together with hand-forged nails and thousands of wooden pegs. There are 13 fireplaces with richly carved mantels. On the left of the first-floor hallway is Harrison's old council chamber and on the right the living room, now the dining room.

In 1949 a major program of restoration was begun. The object was to return the home to its appearance during Governor Harrison's occupancy after a century of alterations, additions and decay. It had passed out of the hands of the Harrisons in 1850 although it had been lived in by them only for ten years after if was built in 1803-04. Later owners used the building as a hotel and part-time granary. In 1860 it was again used as a residence. In 1909 the Francis Vigo Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution has placed extensive financial resources in the restoration of "Grouseland." Though very few of the furnishings are William Henry Harrison pieces, they do date from the period and have been painstakingly selected for simplicity and authenticity. In addition to the dining room and parlor on the first floor, there is a library and gift shop in the rear of the house. The library houses a collection of volumes on the history of the county some quite rare and valuable. The second floor contains bedrooms, exclusively, and an interesting passageway to the rear section of the house. The basement is presently used by the D.A.R., Francis Vigo Chapter, as its headquarters. Plans call for the acquisition of Florence Hall from Vincennes University and its use as headquarters for the chapter.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	__ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	X MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARI
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	X POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1804-1812 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

"Grouseland" was the home of William Henry Harrison from around 1804 until 1812, during which time Harrison was Territorial Governor of Indiana and foremost defender of white settlement against the Indian tribes who attempted to block the White tide of westward expansion. At Grouseland were held a number of highly important conferences with the Indian nations of the Old Northwest. Here the great Red leader Tecumseh warned that his people would take arms against white encroachment. In 1811, from Grouseland, Harrison mounted the offensive which reached its climax at the bloody Battle of Tippecanoe, when Tecumseh's followers were defeated and the Indian leader was thwarted in his efforts to unite the various tribes against the advancing whites. From Grouseland Harrison went to assume command of the America forces in the Northwest in the War of 1812. The ensuing campaign in the Ohio Territory prevented the penetration of the British and Indians and forced their retreat into Canada. Thus, after years of diplomatic struggle and frontier warfare, the Old Northwest was secured for the United States.

Biography

William Henry Harrison was born February 9, 1773 on the Berkeley Plantation in Charles City County, Virginia. Benjamin was the third son born to Benjamin and Elizabeth Bassett Harrison. Young Benjamin received his early education at home. In 1787 he entered Hamden-Sidney College and took up the study of medicine. After only a few months Harrison proceeded to Philadlephia where he studied under Dr. Benjamin Rush. After his father's death in August 1791, his interest shifted and Harrison entered the army where he was granted a commission of ensign in the First United States Infantry. This began the career that was to span a half century of public service.

Harrison made quick advance in the military rising to the rank of lieutenant and acting as aide-de-camp to General "Mad" Anthony Wayne in the Battle of Fallen Timbers. Upon the conclusion of the Treaty of Green Ville in 1795, Harrison was stationed on guard duty at North Bend and subsequently at Fort Washington (now Cincinnati). In that same year he married Anna Symmes. In 1798 he resigned his commission in the military and was appointed secretary of the Northwest Territory. The following year the territory advanced to the second grade of Government and Harrison was elected as its first delegate to the Congress. As chairman of the committee on public lands, Harrison was instrumental in the passing of the act that provided for the division of the Northwest Territory into Indiana and Ohio. He likewise reported the bill out of committee which became the land act of 1800. On May 12, 1800, Harrison was appointed Governor of Indiana and for the next twelve years his career runs parallel to the history of this region.

The career of Harrison during this period has come under close scrutiny. It is a matter of record that Harrison favored a policy of modified slavery. Moreover, he was instrumental in shifting the government's policy of acquisition of lands by treaty to one of acquisition by force. The original policy of land acquisition was in the spirit of Jeffersonian Democracy, a policy followed by Madison. Harrison's role as Governor of Indiana was to intercede on behalf of Indians. The responsibilities of the job were contradictory. It was virtually impossible for Harrison to ensure the rights of Indians and look out for the interest of his government. The latter was most important to him. During his tenure in office, Harrison gained millions of acres of land in the present States of Indiana and Illinois. With the influx of white settlers, Indian resentment led to violence against white encroachment. Harrison quickly attributed these outburst of hostilities to the intervention of the British, not recognizing the influence of the sessions of Indian lands.

Having lived among whites and recognizing the threats of white cultural amalgamation, Tecumseh, a Shawnee Chieftan, began to preach the idea of an Indian confederation of all nations which would bind them in agreement not to sell any future lands. However, Harrison in 1809 acquired by treaty some two million acres of land along the Wabash River. Tecumseh warned that he would face settlers with force. Thus were planted the seeds of the Battle of Tippecanoe in which Harrison and a force of 1,000 men defeated the Prophet, Tecumseh's brother, and ended the hopes of Tecumseh for an Indian federation.

Convinced of the necessity for war, Harrison repeatedly inculcated in President Madison the urgency of conflict. When war came, Harrison sought a commission in the military. Having Henry Clay to intercede on his behalf, Harrison was finally made a major-general in the Kentucky militia. By August 22, 1812, he was made a brigadier general in the regular army. Harrison then began the campaign for the capture of Fort Mackinac and other northern British fortresses. These efforts proved disastrous and Harrison was forced into winter quarters at the newly erected Fort Meigs. (See National Historic Landmark Files on "Fort Meigs.") In May 1812, General Proctor began an attempted siege of the fort which lasted a week. On October 5, 1813, Harrison gained revenge. At Moravian, Harrison overtook Proctor's forces and in the ensuing battle his lifelong nemisis, Tecumseh, was killed. This was without question a most important victory, for the death of Tecumseh marked the end of great violence and resulted in the pacification of the Indians of the Old Northwest. This lead to a greater influx of settlers into this region.

In 1814, Harrison resigned his post, now major general, in order to return to North Bend. From 1816 to 1819, he served as congressman from Ohio to no great acclaim simply following the patterns of Henry Clay. In 1819, he was elected to the Ohio State Senate but did not gain reelection because of his

views on slavery. He tried to gain the ambassadorship to Mexico in 1824 but was passed over. Then in 1824 he was elected to the United States Senate where he distinguished himself as Chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs. He served in the Senate for three years and on May 24, 1828, was confirmed as Minister to Columbia. This appointment came to an ignominious conclusion as Harrison was forced out the country due to his support of anti-government rebels.

Upon his return, Harrison faced a number of years of financial difficulty. His total income was earned from his position as county recorder in 1834 and the small income from his farm. In 1835, an attempt was made to nominate him for the presiency in an anti-Van Buren move. This effort, though gaining support in New York, Kentucky, and Ohio, was fruitless. Harrison gained electoral votes and the plans were laid for success in 1840.

The election of 1840 has gained much attention for its emphasis placed on emotionalism and demagoguery. The Harrison forces played upon the nations remembrances of their military hero and the phrase "Tippecanoe and Tyler Too." Harrison was overwhelmingly elected but was president only a short time succumbing to pneumonia on April 4, 1841 without having instituted any major programs.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cauthorn, Henry S., History of the City of Vincennes, Indiana from 1702 to 1901 (Terre Haute, 1901.

Cleaves, Freeman, Old Tippecanoe; William Henry Harrison (New York, 1939).

Dictionary of American Biography

Watts, Florence G., "Grouseland: Built 1803-1804 by William Henry Harrison" (n.p., 1954)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

Latitude 16.454250.4281800

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	16	454250	4281800	B			
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Practically all of the original Harrison estate, "Grouseland," has been lost to development. The property is now limited to a lot some 218' in length and 156.5' in width. This area is indicated by a red line on the accompanying plat map titled "Plat of Area Around Florence Hall for Vincennes University," dated May 22, 1973 prepared by S. E. Page.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Joseph S. Mendinghall, Historian; (Original form completed by Charles E. Shedd, Jr.)

ORGANIZATION: National Park Service, Historic Sites Survey

DATE: 5-22-76

STREET & NUMBER: 1100 L Street, NW.

TELEPHONE: 202/523-5464

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE: D.C. 20240

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ LOCAL ___

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 9/8/83

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)