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Water, Indiana,0.01sqmi (0.02km2)Elevation(137)7h (115m)Population(2020)37Total690Density923.93/sqmi (356.82/km2)Time zoneUTC-6 (CST)Summertime(DST)UTC-5 (CDT)ZIP code47631Area code812FIPS code18-529741[1]GNIS feature ID23968021[2]Websitewww.newharmony.in.govNew Harmony is a historic town on the Wabash River in Harmony Township, Posey County, Indiana.[1] It lies 15 miles (24km) north of Mount Vernon, the county seat, and is part of the Evansville metropolitan area. The town's population was 690 at the 2020 census.Established by the Harmony Society in 1814 under the leadership of George Rapp,[5] the town was originally known as Harmony (also called Harmonie, or New Harmony).[5] In its early years the 20,000-acre (8,100ha) settlement was the home of Lutherans who had separated from the official church in the Duchy of Wrttemberg and immigrated to the United States.[6] The Harmonists built a new town in the wilderness, but in 1824 they decided to sell their property and return to Pennsylvania.[7] Robert Owen, a Welsh industrialist and social reformer, purchased the town in 1825 with the intention of creating a new utopian community and renamed it New Harmony. The Owenite social experiment failed two years after it began.[8]New Harmony changed American education and scientific research. Town residents established the first public school in Indiana, the first public library, the first public observatory, and the first public museum in the United States. Owen, a social reformer and wealthy industrialist who had his fortune from the mills in New Lanark, Scotland, Owen, his twenty-two-year-old son, William, and his Scottish friend Donald McDonald [27] sailed to the United States in 1824 to purchase a site to implement Owen's vision for "a New Moral World" of happiness, enlightenment, and prosperity through education, science, technology, and communal living. Owen believed his utopian community would create a "superior social, intellectual and physical environment" based on his ideals of social reform.[28] Owen was motivated by the town in order to prove his theories were viable and to correct the troubles that were affecting his mill-town community New Lanark.[29] The ready-built town of Harmony, Indiana, fitted Owen's needs. 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