

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Merit-Tandy Farmstead

AND/OR COMMON

Tandy-Tillotson House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

R.R. 1, Box 225

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Patriot

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Ninth

STATE

Indiana

VICINITY OF

CODE

018

COUNTY

Switzerland

CODE

155

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Tillotson

STREET & NUMBER

R.R. 1, Box 225

CITY, TOWN

Patriot

VICINITY OF

STATE

Indiana 47038

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Switzerland County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Vevay

STATE

Indiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Merit-Tandy Farmstead is located on State Highway 156 along the Ohio River about two and one-half miles above the Town of Patriot, Indiana. Situated on a slight rise above the flat river bottoms, it affords a wide and unspoiled view of the Ohio River Valley in both directions.

The well proportioned house was built in the Federal style, circa 1845. A stone foundation supports the one story square; each side measures fifty feet. The load-bearing brick walls which are a foot thick are laid in common bond. The front facade has five bays which consist of four windows and a center door within a recessed opening.

Originally the windows had heavy wooden louvered shutters. The present owner has the shutters in storage. The windows have six lights over six lights. The center entry features a heavy walnut door flanked by four paned sidelights and a seven paned transom. The original blown glass can still be found in some of the window and door lights.

Exterior detailing is simple. The windows have plain stone lintels and sills. A plain wood frieze and shallow cornice support a low hipped roof. A balustraded walk ornaments the roof which has a low brick chimney at either side.

The interior of the house features a 12 foot wide central hallway which extends back to double doors which originally opened onto an outside areaway. This areaway was enclosed in the 1970's. The woodwork in the hallway has plain details which correspond to the exterior cornice and frieze. Off the central hallway are two large square rooms on either side. In the front south room there is a brick fireplace with a walnut mantel. The recesses on either side of the fireplace have deep cupboards which extend across the south wall. The cupboards and mantel were constructed as one piece. Similar cupboards exist along the north wall in the north front room. The interior walls are ten-inches thick, load-bearing brick. Few major alterations have been made to the original hallway and four rooms. All of the woodwork is intact and in excellent condition. New double doors have been installed at the end of the central hallway.

The major alterations of the original structure have been carried out by the present owners within the last five years. They have built the wood addition to the northwest corner of the house. A breezeway connects the new addition to a milking parlor and canning kitchen. A brick bay window and chimney have also been added to the southwest portion of the structure. The original root cellar beneath the house is still intact.

Another structure in the farmstead is a round brick ice house laid in common bond. This structure has a fourteen foot diameter and a pitched roof. It was part of the original Merit Homestead and was probably constructed in the 1840's or 1850's.

The large wooden barn flanked by silos southwest of the house was constructed in the late nineteenth century. The barn is unusual in that it is larger than most in the region and has a cupola. The cupola is rectangular with four windows on the sides and two windows on each end. An old wooden silo is still standing on the south end of the barn.

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

The remaining structures in the farmstead date from the twentieth century. The well house southeast of the old barn is a frame structure about eight by twelve feet. It has vertical wood siding, a metal roof, and two doors on the north side. It was probably constructed early in this century. A more recent addition is a concrete silo at the north end of the old barn. In 1973 a metal barn was constructed between the house and the old barn.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES C.1845

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Merit-Tandy House is a regional interpretation of the Federal style. There are a number of Federal houses still standing in Switzerland County. The Merit-Tandy House is unusual in that it has a hipped roof and only one story.

According to Wilbur Peat in Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth Century (Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1962, pp.9-11), "The most common Federal houses of this region are simple rectangular blocks, two stories high, three or five openings across each story of the front, with low-pitched gable roofs. A second popular form was the same oblong mass with a hip roof." Peat further noted, "While the hip-roof design is not unusual for two-storied houses, it is seldom found in connection with one-floor cottages of the Federal era. One of the few examples in our state is the Merit-Tandy House near Patriot...." The square shape also contrasts with the usual rectangular pattern of Federal houses.

The round brick ice house and the cupola on the wooden barn are additional uncommon surviving architectural features.

Since the early white settlement of this region, residents have used the land for agricultural purposes. Original settlers of Posey Township were lawless, half-civilized whites driven from Kentucky by the terrors of the whipping post. In the early days, Kentucky state law prescribed the whipping post as punishment for even minor violations. These early Indiana residents cultivated small patches of ground and subsisted on food that they could grow or gather from the woods and river.

The Merit family came into Posey Township in the second wave of immigrants from Kentucky. James H. Merit, Sr., was born in Ballard County, Kentucky, to Archibald and Mary Hamilton Merit, who were natives of Cherry Hill, Virginia. James H. Merit, Sr., married in 1809 and moved to a hill farm in Switzerland County, Indiana.

Other settlers in the second wave of settlers were Oliver Ormsby and Patrick Donahoe, natives of Ireland; in 1810 these men purchased 2100 acres of land on the Ohio River immediately above the Town of Patriot.

In the early 1840's James H. Merit, Jr., purchased 200 acres of land in Mexico Bottom from Patrick Donahoe. Merit and Huldah, his wife of six years, came to Mexico Bottom to make their home in 1843.

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ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

James H. Merit, Jr., had a brick house built on his new farm about 1845. According to tradition, it was constructed by local bricklayers and carpenters. Merit was a successful farmer and businessman. An 1883 Atlas of Switzerland County indicates that the Merit family owned a total of 1192 acres in Mexico Bottom. Merit was active in community affairs, helped establish the Palmetto Presbyterian church in Mexico Bottom in 1854, and was a Sunday School Superintendent for many years. The Merits, their son Adolphus and two grandchildren are buried in the old cemetery at Patriot.

In the early 1890's the Merits were involved in a law suit. Their attorney was Carl S. Tandy; and he acquired a large block of the farm including the farmstead as payment of his fee. Over the years he gradually acquired all of James Merit, Jr.'s., original farm.

After Carl Tandy's death, the farm became the property of Miss Julia Tandy. Upon her death, her niece, Mrs. Harriet Tandy Tharp inherited the farm and the old Tandy house at Market and Union Streets in Vevay. From the 1920's to the late 1960's one family occupied and farmed the property as tenants. In 1969 Mrs. Tharp sold the farm to David Green of Cincinnati who sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Tillotson in 1970.

In the 130 years of its existence, the Merit-Tandy Farmstead has survived as an unusual example of a local interpretation of the Federal architectural style.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Atlas of Switzerland and Ohio Counties Indiana. D. J. Lake & Company, 1883.
 Hufford, Gertrude. Manuscript, circa 1972.
 History of Dearborn, Ohio, and Switzerland Counties, Indiana. Chicago:Weakley, Harraman, and Co., 1885.
 Peat, Wilbur D. Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth Century. Indianapolis:Indiana Historical Society, 1962.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY about 4 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	6,9,1	4,1,0	4,3	0,4	3,1,0	B	1,6	6,9,1	5,3,5	4,3	0,4	3,1,0
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			
c	1,6	6,9,1	5,0,0	4,3	0,4	1,9,0	D	1,6	6,9,1	4,1,0	4,3	0,4	1,9,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The northeast corner of the historic area is marked by the intersection of the west right of-way line of State Highway 156 and a line running five feet north of the Merit-Tandy House. The boundary continues south along the right-of-way to the intersection of a line running five feet south of the old well house, west to the intersection of a line running five feet west of the old barn, north to the intersection of the line running five feet north of the house, and east to the point of origin at that highway right-of-way line.

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

Ann Farnsley

ORGANIZATION

DATE

June 1, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

301 West Market Street

TELEPHONE

812-427-3104

CITY OR TOWN

Vevay

STATE

Indiana

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE