

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Josephus Wolf Home

and/or common Wolf Homestead

2. Location

street & number 453 W. County Road 700 N N/A not for publication

city, town Portage X vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Porter code 127

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Delmar D. and Phyllis J. Crandall
Thomas and Gloria Clark

street & number 453 W. County Road 700 N

city, town Valparaiso X vicinity of state Indiana 46383

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Recorder, Porter County Courthouse

street & number 116 Lincolnway

city, town Valparaiso state Indiana 46383

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes X no

date 1982 127-520-00012 ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Indiana Department of Natural Resources

city, town Indianapolis state Indiana

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site

moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Wolf Homestead, located near Portage at the northwest corner of County Roads 700 North and 450 West, is an outstanding example of the Italianate style. The stately two story brick house has a hip roof with a belvedere on top. The main part of the house is cubic in form and has a five-bay facade. There is a two story, brick, hip-roofed rear extension, to which is attached a one story brick, gable-roofed coach house. A stone located at the second floor level on the south wall has a date of 1875.

The entrance vestibule is reached through a pair of beautiful wooden doors located in the center of the main (east) facade. The doors feature carved fruits and vegetables. The main door has an elliptical-arch opening with spiral wood decoration and an arched transom. A porch with columns supporting an entablature with brackets and dentils runs the length of the main facade. A second porch, located on the south side of the house, is attached to the extension. This porch was once enclosed but has now been restored nearly to its original appearance. Railings were added to both porches after 1974. In addition to the front door, the house has three outside doors in the extension.

The house has 32 arched windows, each with a double row of bricks laid on end that follow the arch, a keystone and stone sill. Most of the windows have segmental-arched openings and frames, and are double-hung with four lights in each sash. There is a pair of windows in one segmental-arch opening above the main entry on the second story. A two story projecting bay with six windows is located on the south side of the main part. Each of these windows has a round-arched opening and frame, and is double-hung with one light in each sash.

There are four brick chimneys. Three of these are in the main part of the house. The fourth, located in the extension, was used for the kitchen stove. The house has a wide, paneled frieze, and a bracketed, dentiled, molded box cornice on the main part. The entablature on the extension is similar but less elaborate. The roof is slate. Atop the roof of the main part is a large, cubic belvedere with eight round-arch, double-hung windows with one light in each sash. The hip, slate covered roof of the belvedere has wide, bracketed eaves.

The main part of the house, which has 12 foot ceilings, was originally the Wolf family living quarters while the extension contained the kitchen, dining rooms and servants' quarters upstairs. The house is two stories with a basement under the front portion and a crawl space under the extension. The basement is reached by an outside entrance on the south side of the house and a stairway, added in 1930, in the extension.

The first and second floors of the main part are organized around a wide center hallway running the full length of this section and opening into the extension. The configuration of the first floor has been altered. The two front rooms and the south rear room are virtually unchanged. Each of these has one of the original three fireplaces, though the one in the south rear room has been blocked up. The north rear room has been divided into two restrooms. A long walnut staircase, located in the main hallway, connects the first floor with the second, which contains four bedrooms around a center hallway. A narrow walnut staircase leads from the second floor to the attic and belvedere.

The extension now contains eight rooms. Originally, the first floor of this section contained two dining rooms—one for the family and one for the servants and hired help—the kitchen and the pantry. The two dining rooms were reportedly combined into one room

for a chapel when the house was occupied by the Franciscan Order of Monks in the early 1930's. The monks also installed central heating and electricity. The second floor, or servants' quarters, is reached by a narrow enclosed stairway in the kitchen and is connected by a stairway to the second floor of the main living quarters. Since the extension of the house has lower ceilings than the main part, the servants' quarters are located lower than the second floor of the main part. Legend says that Mr. Wolf didn't think servants should live on the same level as his family. The servants' quarters, which originally were five bedrooms, have now been converted into an apartment.

The large carriage house is reached from the rear portion of the house. A door from the kitchen to the carriage house has been bricked in. The carriage house has a storage loft with a gable dormer to the west which contains two arched windows. Two wide entrances are located on the north and south sides of the carriage house. The doors, with transoms above, have segmental arched openings, each with a double row of bricks laid on end that follow the arch, and a large keystone. The door on the north side is original.

The farmstead originally included several outbuildings located on all sides of the intersection of County Roads 700 North and 450 West. On the northwest corner, in addition to the house, a corn crib was located southwest of the house and the outhouse northwest of the house. On the northeast corner, diagonally from the house, was a double cow barn, milk house, windmill and horse barn. The hay barn was located on the southwest corner. None of the outbuildings currently remain. A gazebo located northwest of the house was built in 1975.

In addition, a small graveyard encircled by an iron fence was located north of the house. The cemetery contained five stones reportedly for Wolf children who died in infancy or early childhood. The graves have been moved.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	1875	Builder/Architect	Unknown
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Wolf Homestead is one of the most outstanding Italianate style residences still remaining in Porter County, and in Indiana. It is important because it was built by one of Portage Township's most prominent farmers and early residents. Although the home has had minor changes and some restoration work, it still retains its significant design features.

The home was built for Josephus Wolf (1822-1895) who moved to Twenty Mile Prairie in Portage Township in 1834 with his family from Athens, Ohio. They were among the first settlers of Portage Township. Josephus remained on his family's farm in Portage Township until about 1851 when he joined the California Gold Rush. He returned to Portage Township in 1852 and married Susan M. Youngs, a neighborhood sweetheart. They had eight children but five died in early infancy or childhood.

Upon his return to Portage Township he began buying up land, eventually acquiring approximately 4,500 acres which included land in Portage, Union, Liberty and Morgan Townships. At one time Mr. Wolf owned the largest farm in Porter County, devoting his attention primarily to stockraising and dairying.

In 1875 Wolf built the Wolf Homestead, one of the finest farm residences in Porter County. From the cupola on top Wolf would watch his field hands at work with a telescope. If a worker seemed to be slowing down, Wolf would take his jug of whiskey out and give him a "lift." Although Wolf was not a drinker he believed whiskey was a cure-all. He had hand cancer in his later life and applied whiskey both externally and internally to alleviate the pain. Wolf died in 1895 of pneumonia.

After Wolf's death, the house passed through eight owners before being purchased by its current owner. Not the least interesting among the home's occupants were the sandaled and cowled monks of the Seven Dolors Shrine. During the early 1930's the home was temporarily converted into a monastery while the permanent monastery and shrine was under construction about one mile east of the Wolf Home.

The Wolf Home currently houses various wedding-related businesses.

The house was designated "outstanding," the highest rating, by the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Conversation with Ellen Marie Shook Forbes, local historian, July 29, 1982.
Drury, John. "Old Wolf Mansion South of U.S. 6 Architectural, Historic Landmark",
Gary Post, July 10, 1954. (See Continuation Sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property _____
Quadrangle name Portage

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	4	8	7	1	6	0	4	5	9	8	1	1	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

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D

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E

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Juanita M. Ruff, Regional Planner

organization Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission date August, 1982

street & number 8149 Kennedy Avenue telephone 219/923-1060

city or town Highland state Indiana 46323

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 Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date _____

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date _____

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY—NOMINATION FORM

Continuation Sheet: Josephus Wolf Home

Item 9

Page 2

Henrichs, Mary. The Vidette-Messenger, Dec. 11, 1976, pg. 10.

Renaldo, Gail. "Victorian Home Gets New Life," Porter County News Dispatch, Jan. 8, 1980.

1882 Goodspeed History of Porter and Lake Counties, Indiana.