

2-4

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Leedy, Bert, Round Barn

other names/site number Paxton Round Barn, Fulton County Historical Society
Round Barn, 049-022-05003

2. Location

street & number Southwest side of Jct. CR375N and US 31 N/A not for publication

city or town Rochester vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Fulton code 049 zip code 46975

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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
State of Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	Signature of the Keeper _____	Date of Action _____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:)	_____	_____

Leedy, Bert, Round Barn
Name of Property

Fulton County, IN
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Round and Polygonal Barns of Indiana

**Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/animal facility
AGRICULTURE/storage

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/meeting hall
RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/round barn

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls WOOD
roof WOOD
other GLASS

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Leedy, Bert, Round Barn
Name of Property

Fulton County, IN
County and State

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.)

- 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.
- 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.)

Property is:

- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1924-1936

Significant Dates

1924

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Kindis, C.V.

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Historic Landmarks Foundation
of Indiana

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Leedy, Bert Round Barn
Fulton County, IN

The Bert Leedy Round Barn is located about four miles north of Rochester, Indiana. The barn is set on fairly flat terrain at the southwest intersection of U.S. 31 and County Road 375N. The Fulton County Historical Society Museum, a modern building, is located approximately seventy five feet northwest of the barn. Parking for the museum is located northeast of the barn. The clearing in which the barn is set is defined by trees on the west and south and the highway and county road to the east and north. A large earthen ramp on the north side of the barn leads to the main level entrance.

This circular, two-storied barn, constructed in 1924, is topped by a three-pitch gambrel roof that is in turn capped by a round cupola with conical roof. The cupola is composed entirely of four-light windows which help provide natural light to the main interior level. The main level's balloon frame structure, original to the barn, rests on the lower level's poured concrete walls.

After the barn was moved in 1990 the roof was rebuilt using approximately two thirds of the original roof materials. The roof surfaces of the barn are covered in wood shingle. Although, some of the materials are new, the original roof was of the same design and construction. There is a flaired overhang at the eaves that exposes the rafters and roof deck. The wall surfaces of the main level are sheathed in vertical wood siding painted white while the walls of the lower level are poured concrete.

Photo 1 shows the large ramp that allows access to the main level. The main doors of vertical wood planks slide along overhead tracks and are curved to conform to the circular form of the barn. A smaller door, located in the left sliding door, permits access without opening the larger entrance. There is another main level door on the east side of the barn (photo 2), without a ramp.

The lower level, unlike the main floor, contains four-light windows spaced at regular intervals. These windows, inserted in the new foundation at the time that the barn was

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

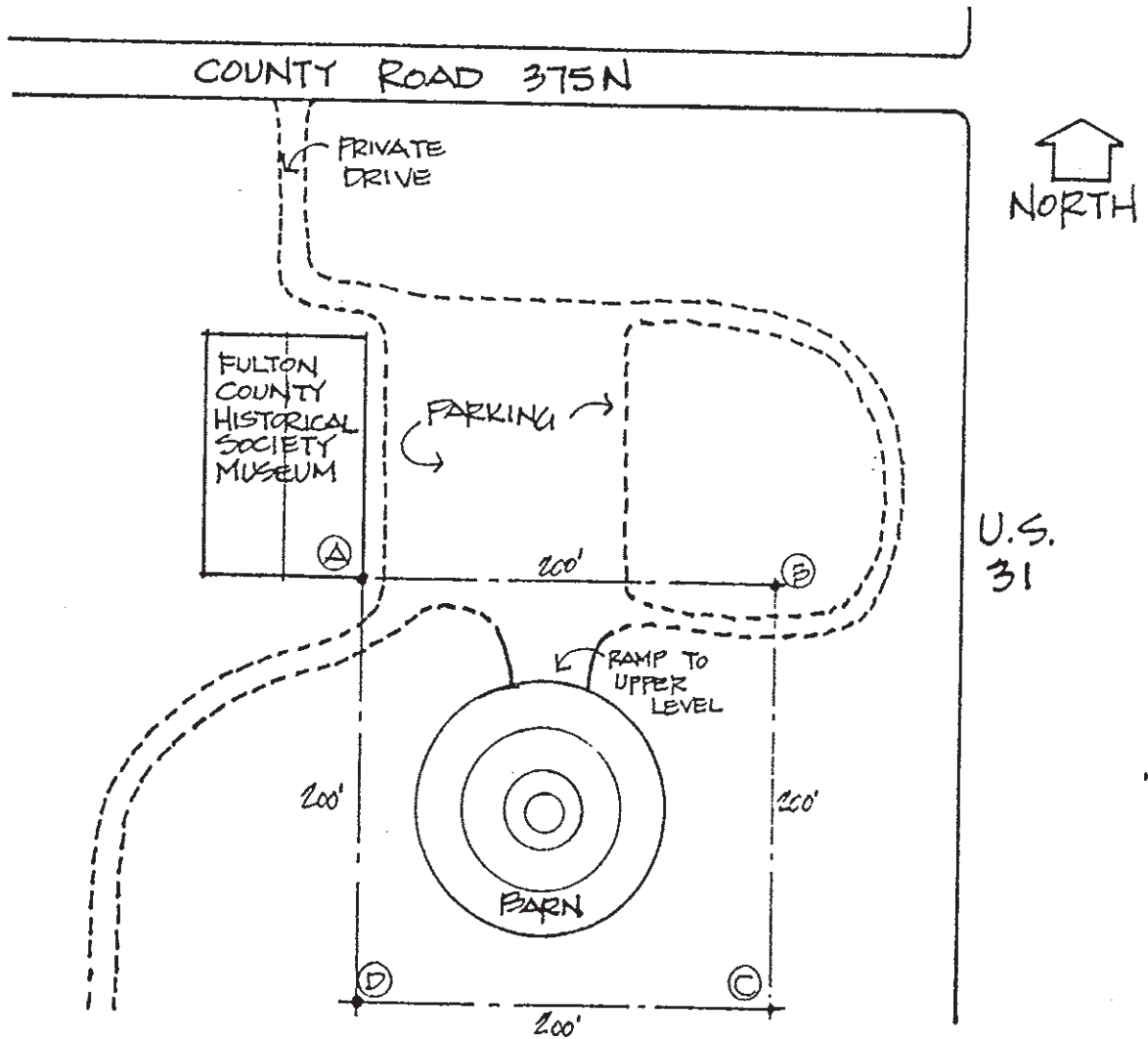
Leedy, Bert, Round Barn
Fulton County, IN

moved, were taken from the original foundation. The west facing door, located on this level, also slides on an overhead track (photo 4). On the south side a fire door was added during the recent rehabilitation to satisfy fire codes.

The lower interior of the barn (see floor plan) has a finished concrete floor. Originally farm animals were housed on this level. The space is organized around the central bin/storage/pen area and well lit by the perimeter windows. Although the walls are of concrete, the ceiling reveals the intricate and ingenious construction of balloon framing coupled with curved laminated beams. Laminated beams located above the centralized feed alley are in turn braced by support posts that define the outer edge of the feeding area. Posts run along either side of the central drive. The floor joists of the upper level radiate inwardly from the exterior walls to the central drive and then run north and south over the central drive. At the center on the south side between the feed alley and central drive are pens with sliding gates. On the north side a set of permanent stairs lead to the upper hay mow.

The main upper level is relatively dark except for the cupola's numerous windows. A five foot square grain bin located adjacent to the stairs from the lower level stops short of the roof. The rest of the main level space is open and the balloon framing of the walls and the roof structure are exposed. The roof system is unsupported except for the two laminated beams found at the intersection of the three roof pitches.

Despite its new use, the barn appears today on both the exterior and interior much as it did when it served an agricultural function. The lower level is used as exhibit space (Photo 6) for a variety of agricultural implements. There has been no significant alteration of that space to accommodate the exhibition use. The upper level also has large agricultural artifacts on display (photo 7) but is primarily used as an open meeting space for the historical society.



LEEDY
(FULTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY) BARN
SITE PLAN
 NO SCALE

1924 TRUE CIRCLE (MOVED TO SITE 1990)
 FULTON COUNTY, INDIANA
 RICHLAND TOWNSHIP

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

Leedy, Bert, Round Barn
Fulton County, IN

The Bert Leedy Round Barn is eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C. The barn is significant under Criterion A in the area of agriculture as an outstanding example of the round barn phenomenon that appeared in American farming at the end of the nineteenth and beginning of the early twentieth century. Round barn construction illustrates the application of scientific methods and modern engineering principles to agricultural building construction in order to improve the efficiency and thereby the profitability of the farm. The barn is also significant under Criterion C as an excellent example and the last known example of the work of C. V. Kindig and Sons, the leading round barn builders in northwestern Indiana in the early twentieth century.

The barn was moved from its original location in 1990 after being damaged by a tornado the previous year. However the barn meets Criteria Consideration B by virtue of the fact that its current owner, The Fulton County Historical Society, took great care to insure that its new location and setting approximate the original as closely as possible.

The original owner of the barn was Bert Leedy who had lost a barn to fire in September, 1924. Leedy consulted with his brother, Ezra, the owner of a round barn, who convinced him that a round barn could be constructed more quickly than a conventional barn and thereby provide shelter for his equipment and livestock before the approaching winter. Bert Leedy contacted C. V. Kindig and Sons, the builders of his brother's barn. The Kindigs who were responsible for most of Fulton County's round barns, accepted the work.

Along with the help of at times forty neighbors, construction progressed rapidly. The foundation and lower level walls of concrete were poured in just three days. When completed, the lower level sheltered eight horses, thirty sheep, eight cows, eight calves and eight feeder steers. The upper level hay mow accomodated fifty to sixty loads of hay and ten to twelve loads of straw plus a wheat bin with a capacity of thirty bushels. 1

Bert Leedy retained ownership of the barn and farm until 1972 when he sold out to the Partridge family. They in turn

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

Leedy, Bert, Round Barn
Fulton County, IN

sold the property to Larry Paxton in 1975. When the barn was tornado damaged in 1989 Paxton offered the barn to the Fulton County Historical Society on the condition that it be removed. The relocation took place November 30 - December 1, 1989, and restoration began on June 20, 1990. The barn was dedicated by the Society on June 22, 1991. 2

As indicated in the multiple property theme study, one of the significant construction improvements that typifies round barns is the use of balloon framing. The Leedy barn illustrates clearly how the use of light weight framing members reduced the need for massive structural supports and thereby opened up the upper level space. Without the numerous structural supports found in barns that did not use balloon framing, (typically early polygonal barns), interiors like that of the Leedy Barn could more efficiently accommodate the needs of the farmer. The belief that increased efficiency would improve a farm's profitability was an underlying principle behind the introduction of the centralized barn form.

The Leedy Barn substantially meets the registration requirements established in the multiple property cover document. As already indicated, although the barn has been moved, its new location, like the original is open field. The flat topography of its current setting matches the topography of the original location. And, as at the original location, an earthen mound has been built up to the main level entrance.

The design of the barn is the same as that constructed in 1924. When the barn was restored in 1990, the original three pitch gambrel roof with cupola design was rebuilt. Similarly, the concrete foundation and lower level wall design of 1924 was reconstructed.

Most of the barn's original materials were used in the restoration. Only about one third of the original roof material was too damaged to be reused. As is evident from the photographs, great care was taken to match the Kindig's workmanship in the restoration. While the barn today is used for meeting and exhibition space, it clearly retains the feeling of an agricultural resource.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5 Leedy, Bert, Round Barn
Fulton County, IN

ENDNOTES

1. Doris Hood, Fulton County's Round Barns, (Rochester, IN:
Fulton County Round Barn Festival, 1971)
2. Shirley Willard, President of the Fulton County Historical
Society, Rochester, Indiana. Interviewed by Jerry McMahan,
16 September 1991.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 6 Leedy, Bert, Round Barn
Fulton County, IN

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Hanou, John. Research compiled on Indiana's round and polygonal barns from 1986 to present. Archived at Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, 340 West Michigan Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202.
- Hood, Doris. Fulton County's Round Barns. Rochester, IN: Fulton County Round Barn Festival, 1971.
- Intensive architectural survey of Indiana's round and polygonal barns, conducted June to August 1991, conducted by Jerry McMahan, areawide survey of round and polygonal architectural and historical resources.
- Soike, Lowell J. Without Right Angles, The Round Barns of Iowa. Des Moines, IA: Iowa State Historical Department, Office of Historic Preservation, 1983.
- Willard, Shirley. President of the Fulton County Historical Society. Rochester, Indiana. Interviewed by Jerry McMahan, 16 September 1991.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 7 Leedy, Bert, Round Barn
Fulton County, IN

Verbal Boundary Description

The Leedy Round Barn is located in the SWNE of Section 25 T31N-R2E in Richland Township, Fulton County, Indiana. Referring to the site plan, beginning at a point one foot south of the southeast corner of the Fulton County Museum building, proceed east 200 feet to Point B. Then turn 90 degrees south for 200 feet to Point C. At Point C, turn 90 degrees west for 200 feet to Point D and then proceed 90 degrees north to the point of beginning (Point A).

Boundary Justification

The immediate area of the barn is a part of a larger acreage. Some of the acreage has been excluded from the nomination and the above boundary includes the property necessary to demonstrate the historic significance of the Leedy Round Barn.