

EXP. 12/31/84

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 Farnsley, Gabriel, House

and/or common Behrens House

2. Location

street & number Seven Mile Lane approximately 1 mile north  
of intersection St. Rd. 111 N/A not for publication

city, town Bridgeport  vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Indiana code 018 county Floyd code 043

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 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Walter Behrens

street & number R. 1, Box 145

city, town Elizabeth  vicinity of state Indiana 47117

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Floyd County Recorder

street & number City-County Building

city, town New Albany state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1978  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Indiana Department of Natural Resources

city, town Indianapolis state Indiana

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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 <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Situated at the base of the sharply rising Knobs, the Gabriel Farnsley House overlooks fertile bottomland along the Ohio River in Franklin Township, Floyd County, Indiana. With its two-tiered gallery facade and location on a rise above the broad plain of the Ohio River bottomland, the house has an impressive appearance which belies its modest size.

Constructed in circa 1856, the two-story frame house has five bays across the main, south facade, and a center hall plan. The original clapboard siding remains on only the main facade; the other elevations have been covered with vinyl siding. A gable roof covers the house. There is a one-story shed addition across the rear (photo #5).

The distinguishing feature of the house is the two-tier gallery which extends across the main facade. This gallery is supported by square piers with square capitals, and the railings have square balusters. The porch is inset, so that the gable roof of the house extends over the porch in a continuous line, with no break or extension of the roof.

The basement is exposed on the south elevation, with large coursed sandstone blocks forming the exposed foundation (photo #6). Originally, small stone rooms projected from either side on this level, with the fronts of these rooms paralleling the porch columns. Two doors provide entry into the basement, and the larger doorway measures four feet in width (photo #7).

Steps lead from the ground level to the main entrance at the center of the first story. The main entrance is surrounded by three-paneled sidelights with blind panels below, and a multi-light transom. Simple square pilasters separate door from sidelights. The square pilasters continue above the transom to form corner lights at either end of the transom. Square capitals appear at the transom bar and at the top of the transom. The door has two vertical panels.

A second story entrance is placed directly above the main entrance and has a simple surround. All windows across the main facade are six-over-six, double-hung.

There are two interior brick chimneys positioned just below the roof ridgeline. This placement was evidently necessary in order to center the fireplaces on the interior end walls, since the inset porch displaced the peak of the gable slightly from the center of the house.

The Farnsley House contains some handsome, though simple, interior woodwork. The interior stairway has a shaped square banister and square balusters (photo #8). Paneled wood encloses the stairway below the main stringer. Interior doors have two vertical panels with plain moldings (photo #9). The only surviving mantel has simple pilasters (photo #10). The stepped shelf of this mantel does not extend beyond the chimney breast, suggesting a crude interpretation, or later changes.

There are several outbuildings on the property, including a barn constructed in 1856, with an addition built in 1933; a wagonshed/corn crib built in 1919; a chickenhouse built in the 1920's; and an outhouse (photo #2).

## 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/
<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 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 ca. 1856

Builder/Architect Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Gabriel Farnsley House is significant both for its architectural style and for its association with the Farnsley family, who were prominent citizens on both sides of the Ohio River. It is a unique structure in this area because of its two-tiered gallery facade and raised basement, features which are rare in Indiana. Its architectural form was probably influenced by Louisiana plantation house styles. The house and its design exemplify the cultural influences transported along the Ohio-Mississippi trade routes.

The style of the house closely resembles early plantation houses of the lower parishes in Louisiana. Gabriel Farnsley's brother, Joshua P. Farnsley (1821-1907), held responsible positions on the Louisville and New Orleans Steamboat Line, and made two annual trips to New Orleans for nine years. He built his own house, "Hillsdale," in the plantation house style, a style emulated by other members of his family. Altogether, three houses in this style were built in the area by the Farnsleys. The Gabriel Farnsley house is the only survivor.

Gabriel Farnsley (1827-1884) was a grandson of James Farnsley, who emigrated from Pennsylvania around 1777 to settle in Jefferson County, Kentucky. Several of James Farnsley's sons were among the early settlers of Harrison County, Indiana. Members of the Farnsley family have figured prominently in the history and politics of Floyd and Harrison Counties in Indiana, and Jefferson County, Kentucky.

Born in 1827 in Harrison County, Gabriel Farnsley married Jane Blunk in 1850. Gabriel was a farmer who purchased the house tract in 1856 from his brother, Joshua. The house was probably built soon after he purchased the land.

The house remained in the Farnsley family until 1918, when it was sold to Walter Behrens. His son is the present owner.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Floyd County Deed Books  
 Biographical & Historical Souvenir. Clark, Crawford, Harrison, Etc.: John Gresham & Co., 1889  
 Map of Floyd County, P.O. Bierne & Co., New York and Jersey City, N. J., 1859  
 Map of Floyd County, Indiana. E. P. Noll & Co. Philadelphia, 1882  
 Morrison, Hugh. Early American Architecture. New York, Oxford University Press, 1952, p. 263

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property ca. 1 acre  
 Quadrangle name Lanesville, Indiana-Kentucky Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	1 6	5 9 5 7 0 0	4 2 2 7 1 0 0	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification Begin at a stone at the corner of 7 Mile Lane which marks the NW corner of Behrens 22.79 Acre tract. Proceed South with 7 Mile Lane 250', then East 200', then North 250' to 7 Mile Lane, then with 7 Mile Lane West 200' to beginning. Ca. 1 acre. Contains house, barn, three outbuildings.

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 Carol B. Tobe  
 organization N/A date April 17, 1981  
 street & number R. 3, Box 193 telephone 812/945-5106  
 city or town Floyds Knobs state Indiana 47119

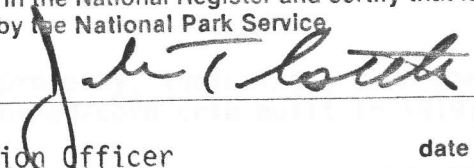
# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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 August 18, 1982

For NPS use only

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

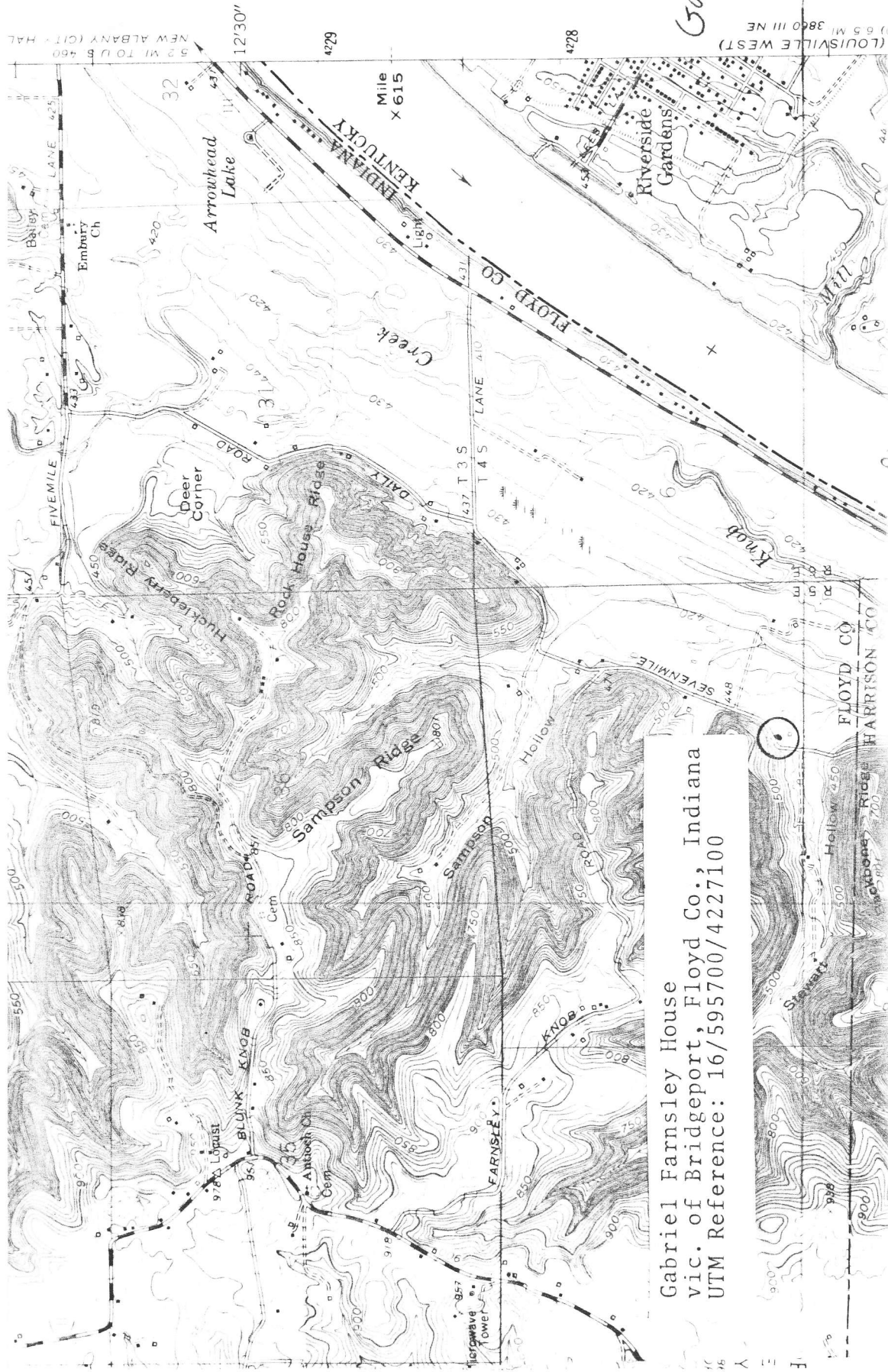
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



Gabriel Farnsley House  
 vic. of Bridgeport, Floyd Co., Indiana  
 UTM Reference: 16/595700/4227100

Gabriel Farnsley  
 House