

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FILE

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 Stallbohm Barn and Kaske House
other names/site number Bieker Woods, Heritage Park 089-090-56118

2. Location

street & number 1154 Ridge Road N/A not for publication
city or town Munster N/A vicinity
state Indiana code IN county Lake code 089 zip code 46321

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 36CFR 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] 2/11/78
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources
State or 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: | Signature of the Keeper | Date of Action |
| <input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet. | _____ | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register. 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): _____ | _____ | _____ |

Stallbohm Barn and Kaske House

Lake IN

Name of Property

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
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 2 | 0 | buildings |
| 0 | 0 | sites |
| 0 | 0 | structures |
| 0 | 0 | objects |
| 2 | 0 | Total |

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling
 AGRICULTURE/SUBSIST: Agricultural Outbuilding

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION/CULTURE: outdoor recreation
 RECREATION/CULTURE: Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: English barn
 19th & 20th c. AMER.:

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
 walls WOOD: Weatherboard
 roof ASPHALT
 other

Narrative Description

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

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.)

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c.1890-c.1920

Significant Dates

c. 1890
1909

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Kooy Brothers

9. Major Bibliographic 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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Indiana Historic Sites & Structures Inventory

Stallbohm Barn and Kaske House
Name of Property

Lake IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 11.42 ac.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

| | | | | | | | |
|---|------|---------|----------|---|------|---------|----------|
| 1 | 16 | 458330 | 4600790 | 3 | 16 | 458260 | 4600660 |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 2 | 16 | 458340 | 4600650 | 4 | 16 | 458280 | 4600820 |

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Laura Thayer, Historic Preservation Consultant, for
organization Munster Dept. of Parks & Recreation date 9-27-96
street & number 422 1/2 Fifth Street, Suite 202 telephone 812/378-0800
city or town Columbus state IN zip code 47201

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Munster Department of Parks & Recreation
street & number 1005 Ridge Road telephone 219/836-8810
city or town Munster state IN zip code 46321

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

The Stallbohm Barn and Kaske House are located in Munster, North Township, Lake County, Indiana. The property is a wooded, 11.42 acre parcel, located at the southeast corner of Columbia Avenue and Ridge Road. The house is near the northwest corner of the property. The barn is to the southeast of the house (photo 1). At the front of the property on Ridge Road is a stone marker (56077) which indicates the approximate location of the Brass Tavern, formerly located on the site. The marker was placed by the Julia Watkins Brass Chapter of the DAR in the 1920s.

Ridge Road follows the route of the prehistoric shoreline of glacial Lake Chicago (Lake Michigan), formed approximately 10,000 years ago. To the north of the ridge was the lake. To the south were sand dunes, marshes, and dense underbrush. As the level of the lake dropped, a flood plain developed to the north. During the nineteenth century, the marshes and wetlands were drained for farmland, and the Stallbohm-Kaske property was used for agricultural purposes. Several decades ago, cultivation of the land was discontinued and the property was allowed to develop as a woods.

Today, there are remnants of extensive gardens adjacent to the house. A planted circle of basswood is located on the highest knoll of the property. A linear planting of elm trees parallels the driveway. Beyond is an expansive lawn, bordered by dense woods (photo 11). The majority of the site is covered with a mature oak woods with black gum, ash, cherry and sassafras. Also present are shrubs including privet and honeysuckle.

The gravel drive originally connected to Ridge Road on the east side of the house. It extended to the rear of the property, along the west side of the barn, and angled west to connect with Columbia Avenue. The Ridge Road entrance has been closed (photo 1).

The earliest building on the property was a log structure, built in 1837, which served as an inn. This was replaced by a larger, timber frame inn in 1855. This building was located just north of the present house, close to Ridge Road. It was destroyed by fire in 1909. The existing barn was predated by an earlier outbuilding, the stone foundation of which is extant (photo 7). Southwest of the barn was a shed, reportedly part of a one-room school house which was moved to the property. The location of this building is indicated by an in-fill cement floor. These buildings had been removed by 1959.

The existing, American four-square house was built by the Kaskes in 1909 (photo 2). It is a two-story, wood frame building with clapboard siding, and a jerkin-head roof. There is a brick, interior chimney on the east slope of the roof.

The principal (north) facade is two bays wide. A wood, box-columned, one-story, flat-roofed porch extends the width of the facade. Between the columns of the porch are plain railings and spindles. The basement is slightly raised and there is a lattice-work porch screen. The porch is reached by a set of stone steps.

The main entry door is in the west bay of the north facade. The original paneled wood and glass door is here. The opening has a plain surround with an architrave head. The window in the east bay is an oversized, double hung, wood window with a plain surround and an architrave head. Above on the second story, are two double-hung, wood windows with plain surrounds. There is a plain frieze above the second story windows, which angles with the roof pitch at the ends, and meets the corner boards. The house has a molded cornice.

The east facade (photo 3) is similar in character to the main facade, with clapboard siding and double-hung, wood windows. The northernmost window on the first story is a horizontal window, placed high (over bookshelves on the inside of the house). There is a like window on the opposite side of the house. At the base of this facade, as well as the south and west facades, is a wood water table at the level of the porch floor. An addition which wraps around the southwest corner of the house (photos 3 and 4) includes an enclosed rear porch, and a pantry and bathroom. The south (rear) facade (photo 4) and the west facade (photo 4) are similar in detailing to the north and east facades.

The house's interior configuration reflects some aspects of the American four-square house. The front (north) room (photo 8) is one large room instead of the typical entrance hall with stair and living room of a four-square plan. Completing the first floor are a dining room in the southwest corner (photo 9), and a kitchen in the southeast corner. On the south side of the kitchen are the previously mentioned pantry and bathroom. Upstairs are three bedrooms and a bathroom. There is a basement under the dining room and a crawl space under the kitchen. Typical throughout the interior are hardwood floors, decorative wood moldings, and plaster walls and ceilings. Interior doors are four-panel, wood doors. Exterior walls in the bedrooms are sloped, reflecting the low roof.

The barn is a one-and-a-half story, wood frame, English barn (photo 6). It is sided in horizontal, beaded, wood siding. The foundation is brick, except for the south side, which is stone. The stone section is a remnant of an earlier outbuilding at this site, delineated by remaining foundation stones (photo 7). The west side of the barn (photo 6), has large, sliding, track doors in the center bay. There are like sliding doors on the opposite side. On the south bay of the west facade are double, wood and glass garage doors. These open into a space for an automobile on the first level of the south bay of the structure, partitioned from the rest of the interior in the early twentieth century. The only windows

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in the barn are those in the north and south gables (photo 6). These are double-hung, wood windows, with one light in each sash. Window surrounds are plain.

Inside, the barn is three bays wide. The north and central bays are open. The south bay, as noted, is partitioned for a garage. The north and south bay have second-level storage. The north bay has a root cellar, accessed by a narrow stair on the east side of the building.

Both the barn and the house have an exceptionally high degree of integrity. Almost all features of these buildings remain as they were historically. In the late 1940s or early 50s, shingle siding was added to the house. This siding was removed recently and the original clapboards repaired. The house was painted historic colors based on a paint analysis. As part of this rehabilitation, the roofs of the house and barn were resingled, and deteriorated siding on the barn replaced.

The Stallbohm Barn and Kaske House is a property which is significant under Criterion A, in the area of Agriculture, and Criterion C, in the area of Architecture. There are two buildings on the property: an English barn and an early twentieth century, vernacular house. The barn, which dates from the late nineteenth century, may be the only intact agricultural building in Munster, the economy of which was originally based on farming. The Kaske House, built in 1909, is one of four houses identified in the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory which represent the town's rural character prior to its development as a suburb starting in the 1920s. The Stallbohm-Kaske property also is important for its association with a prominent Munster family. The property is significant for the period c. 1890-c. 1920. The first date is the approximate year of construction for the barn. The second date represents the end of Munster's status as a rural community, and its beginnings as a suburb of industrial cities on Lake Michigan.

History

Settlers began arriving in Lake County shortly before it was organized in 1837. Land in the northern third of the county was unsuitable for farming, and the southern part was settled first. North Township, in the northwest part of Lake County, consisted largely of dunes and marshes. One of the few passable roads through this part of the county was along a ridge, a vestige of an ancient shoreline of Lake Michigan. This ridge would later become Ridge Road, a major regional thoroughfare and the main street of Munster.

David Gibson built an inn along the ridge in 1837 near the present-day location of the Kaske House. The building is believed to have been a log structure. Gibson owned 80 acres of property here, and the inn was located in the southeast corner of the tract, just south of the ridge. To the south was the Cady Marsh. A short distance to the north was the Little Calumet River. Gibson's property was purchased in 1839 by George Earle, a Lake County pioneer and developer, who was an important figure in the early history of the county. Earle owned the land for only three years.

William Watkins bought the property in 1842. In 1854, it was acquired by Allen H. Brass. The U.S. Census shows that Brass and his wife, Julia Watkins Brass, were operating an inn at this location by 1850. They had arrived in Lake County in the mid-1840s and may have leased the inn from Watkins. Mrs. Brass' maiden name was Watkins, and it seems likely that William Watkins was a relative. Mrs. Brass' mother, Lucy Watkins, age 72; and her brother, Oliver S. Watkins, age 29, and his wife Sarah, age 20, were living at the inn at the time the Census was conducted.

Brass built a new inn about 1855. This building was located directly on the road. It was a two-story, timber frame structure, with clapboard siding, a limestone foundation, and a low-pitched gable roof. An open porch extended the width of the main facade, which was four bays wide. Windows were double hung, with multi-light sash. On the first story were a living room, men's bar, a dining room, bedroom, kitchen, and pantry. To the rear were a pump room and woodshed.

On the second story were six bedrooms which opened onto a central sitting room. The Brass Tavern, as the inn was known, was a popular stopping place for travelers. As Munster grew, it became a community focal point. (There is a photograph of the Brass Tavern on page 327 of the *Lake County Interim Report*.)

Brass was a farmer as well as an innkeeper. The 1850 U.S. Census of Agriculture shows that he owned four horses, eight milk cows, six other cattle, and 14 hogs. He produced 20 bushels of potatoes and 200 pounds of butter, probably for the consumption of his family and guests. The same year, he produced 45 tons of hay for his livestock.

There were few farmers in northern Lake County in 1850. A large part of the land which comprises the Brass property was swampland. In 1852, the Indiana General Assembly passed an act to regulate the sale of swamp lands, and provide for draining and reclaiming. Massive ditch projects, such as the one started by Aaron Hart in the mid-1800s, made it possible to develop northern Lake County for farming. Ditch projects generally did not have a major impact on Lake County farming until the late nineteenth century. Brass was able to expand his farm, partly by buying inexpensive swamp land, adjacent to his original 80 acres. By 1860, when the eighth Census was conducted, Brass had improved his farming operation. He now had 24 head of cattle and eight hogs, and produced 250 bushels of corn, 75 bushels of Irish potatoes, 711 tons of hay, and 300 pounds of butter.

As the marshes around the future village of Munster became drained, settlers arrived to farm the land. A farmer named Peter Jabaay was the first Dutch settler. He was followed by several other families, and by 1860 the Dutch population had reached 55. Many Dutch families came to the United States in the mid-nineteenth century seeking religious tolerance and farmland. Munster was one of the few Dutch settlements of Indiana. Among early settlers were the Munsters, for whom the town was named when it was incorporated in 1907. Jacob Munster, a son of this family, was the town's postmaster and proprietor of a general store.

Munster developed in a linear fashion along Ridge Road. Houses faced the road, and farms were located to the rear. The small commercial district was centered around the corner of Ridge Road and Calumet Avenue, a few blocks to the west of the Brass Tavern.

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Although many farmers in the area raised livestock and feed crops, vegetable farming predominated.

In addition to the Dutch, Munster had a few German settlers. Among these were Johann and Wilhelmina Stallbohm. They bought the Brass Tavern in 1864, along with 202 acres, when the Brass family moved to Chicago. The Stallbohm Farm was roughly bounded by the Little Calumet River on the north, and extended about a quarter mile south of the Brass Tavern, now known as Stallbohm's Inn. The inn continued to be an important gathering place. Town dances were often held in the large living room. The inn was also an information center for the small community. For example, news of Lincoln's assassination first reached the Calumet region on the inn's telegraph line.

The Stallbohms developed their farm to be one of the most prosperous in North Township. Between 1870 and 1880, the number of improved acres increased from 45 to 220. The value of the farm increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000. Census records show a focus on raising and selling cattle, dairying, and egg production. The shift in emphasis from innkeeping to farming by the Stallbohm family was due to several factors. Among these were the decline of small country inns, as alternative and faster transportation methods were developed; the draining of the swamps, which made the land more suitable for farming; and the increased demand for farm products resulting from the growth of Chicago, Hammond, and other nearby cities.

The Stallbohms ceased to operate the inn in the 1890s. Johann died in 1899, and Wilhelmina died in 1901. Several years prior to their deaths, the Stallbohms' only son had been given much of the property and was in charge of farming operations. The Stallbohm daughters received their share of the farm after their mother's death. A daughter, Wilhelmina Stallbohm Kaske, inherited 68 acres, including the land which is the subject of this nomination, of the south part of the Stallbohm farm. In 1905, she moved into the former inn with her husband, Hugo. A 1909 fire destroyed the building. A new house, located several feet south of the earlier house, was built for the Kaskes by the Kooy brothers, local builders. The large piano from the Stallbohm Inn survived and was placed in the living room of the new house.

In 1910, three years after it was incorporated as a town, Munster's population was recorded by the U.S. Census as 543. Munster had grown slowly and had remained rural in character. Dramatic transformations were taking place just to the north, however. The city of Hammond grew up around a large slaughter house which was established in 1869. Other industries moved to the area and Hammond grew rapidly. In the early twentieth century Standard Oil and U.S. Steel saw the benefits of cheap land on Lake Michigan and

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created the industrial cities of Whiting and Gary. Within a few years, the dunes, marshes, and farms of northern Lake County were urbanized.

Up until 1920, the population of Munster had grown slowly. Between 1920 and 1930, it increased by over 60 percent. By 1920, the automobile and improved roads made commuting possible. Executives of industries on the lake shore turned to Munster and other small communities when looking for homes. Between about 1920 and 1960, Munster farmland was gradually subdivided for housing developments. The population today is about 20,000.

In North Township, Highland is a town with some similarities to Munster. Highland developed as a farming community after drainage projects made the land suitable. Many of the early settlers were Dutch. In the 1880s, a railroad line came through Highland, turning it into a regional market and small industrial center. In the early twentieth century, Highland, like Munster, became a suburb of the larger industrial cities to the north.

Hugo Kaske died in 1938. Wilhelmina died in 1949. The Kaske's daughter, Helen Bieker, inherited the house and barn and some acreage. She lived there with her husband, Lawrence. Lawrence died in 1979. Helen died in 1988. The former Bieker property which is now owned by the Munster Department of Parks and Recreation contains a total of 17.5 acres, divided into two parcels by Columbia Avenue. The west parcel was acquired by the Parks Department in 1968. The east parcel, which contains the house and barn, was acquired in 1986 with the provision that Helen Bieker would live there until her death.

Significance

The Stallbohm Barn is a significant representation of the agricultural way of life which was prevalent in Munster prior to 1920. The barn was built in the 1890s for the storage of equipment and produce.

Agriculture in Lake County did not develop in the fashion which was usual in most Indiana Counties. Typically, the early nineteenth century was a period in which farms were established, trees cut down, and fields brought into cultivation. The large areas of marshland in Lake County made farming difficult until ditches were constructed and the swamps drained. Once this was accomplished in the late nineteenth century, the former marshland, including the Cady Marsh in northern Lake County, comprised some of the richest farmland in Indiana.

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The period between 1880 and 1920 has been called a revolutionary period in agriculture in the state. Improvements in transportation, technology, and the treatment of soil - as well as expanded markets and higher prices for commodities - turned farming into a profitable business. Lake County became a prosperous agricultural county during this period. By the early twentieth century, it was one of the leading counties in the production of butter, milk, and cheese, and in cultivation of vegetables such as potatoes, cabbage, and onions. The majority of rural properties in Lake County identified in the Indiana Historic Sites and Structure Inventory date from the 1880-1920 period (75 per cent).

The Indiana Department of Agriculture reported 1,666 farms in Lake County in 1920. (The total number for the state was 205,126.) Because of the importance of agriculture in the county historically, one might expect to find a large number of rural resources. In fact, the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory identified only 133 farm properties in Lake County in a survey conducted in 1995. A total of 8,590 properties were identified in the county (a large number compared to surveys in most Indiana counties which typically identify between 1,000 and 4,000 properties). The majority of Lake County properties identified in the survey are associated with the development of large industrial cities along the shore of Lake Michigan in the early twentieth century. Virtually all of North and Calumet townships, the townships bordering on Lake Michigan, are now incorporated.

A total of 135 barns were surveyed in Lake County. The vast majority of these were one of three types: English barn, livestock barn, or dairy barn. Of the 135 barns, only five are located on properties which were rated "outstanding." As such, less than four percent of the barns surveyed were located on properties given the highest rating. Typically, 10 per cent of properties surveyed for the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory have been identified as "outstanding." Considering the rate at which historic barns are being removed, it is possible that this resource type is underrepresented in the "outstanding" category. It should be noted that two of the five barns on "outstanding" properties are round barns, which were not typical on Lake County farms.

Because of the importance of agriculture in Lake County historically, and because of the rarity of the agricultural resources today, properties rated "notable" should seriously be evaluated for their National Register eligibility. Twenty-one of the barns surveyed in the county are located on properties which were rated "notable." This includes the property which is the subject of this nomination. (It is possible that the rating for the property would have been higher, had the restoration of the house's original siding been completed at the time the survey was conducted.)

Only two of the 135 barns, both English barns, are located in North Township. These are the Stallbohm Barn in Munster and the Van der Molen barn in Highland. The property on which the Stallbohm Barn is located was rated "notable." The Van der Molen farm (57004) was rated "contributing." Calumet Township was part of North Township before 1883. Only one farm was identified in this township, in Ross, a suburb which was once an agricultural center. This farm consists of a c.1890 gabled-ell house and transverse frame barn (05034). The property was rated "contributing."

In addition to its agricultural significance, the Stallbohm Barn is significant for its architecture. It is an excellent example of an English Barn, a once common type in Lake County. This barn type originated in the United States in New England, where it was introduced by English settlers. It eventually made its way to Indiana where it became one of the most popular types of barns. English barns are wood-frame structures with side gable roofs and rectangular plans. The main entry is located in the center of the long side. The entry consists of double doors. There is often a like entry on the opposite side. The building is separated into three bays.

Of the 135 barns which were identified in the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory, there are 53 English barns. Two English barns are located on properties which were rated "outstanding." Eight English barns are located on properties which were rated "notable." As noted above, only two English barns were identified in the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory in North Township: the Stallbohm Barn in Munster and the Van der Molen Barn in Highland. Among English barns in Lake County, the Stallbohm Barn has a high degree of integrity and is in excellent condition.

The Kaske House is a contributing element of the property, and is significant for its architecture. It is an example of an early twentieth century, vernacular house. It is similar in form to an American four-square house, but lacks the usual hipped roof and dormer windows. The jerkin-head roof on the Kaske House was a popular type in northern Indiana in the early twentieth century.

The Kaske House is also similar to a four-square in its interior configuration. A characteristic of the four-square house is that there were generally four rooms on the first level, and four on the second. The Kaske House has three bedrooms upstairs, plus a bathroom which was added in what was originally the fourth bedroom. Downstairs, there are only three rooms. What would typically have been two rooms in the front of the house is one large living room in the Kaske House. It seems likely that the large room was planned to accommodate the massive piano which came from the Stallbohm Inn.

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Of pre-suburban era houses existing in Munster today, only three besides the Kaske House were identified in the Indiana Sites and Structure Inventory. These are a gable-front house at 1006 Ridge Road, built c.1910 (56075); the Schoon House, a vernacular house at 1024 Ridge Road, built c.1865 (56076); and the Benoit House, a Classical Revival style house at 1506 Ridge Road, built c.1900 (56084).

The family which occupied the Stallbohm-Kaske property was prominent in the community from Munster's early days. Johann and Wilhelmina Stallbohm, both born in Germany, worked hard to build a prosperous inn and farm. Their daughter, Wilhelmina Stallbohm Kaske and her husband, Hugo Kaske, were active in their community. Wilhelmina was first president of the PTA, and donated land for the first Munster library. Hugo was a judge, a town clerk, and a member of the school board and several town commissions.

The Kaskes daughter, Helen, married Lawrence Bieker, and they continued the family tradition of community responsibility. Lawrence, chief engineer with Graver Tank Corporation, was a member of the Munster Town Board. Helen, a teacher at Hammond High School and the University of Chicago, was active in many organizations including the American Association of University Women, the League of Women Voters, and the Indiana Save the Dunes Council.

The Munster Parks and Recreation Department has restored the property, and has made a commitment to its continued preservation.

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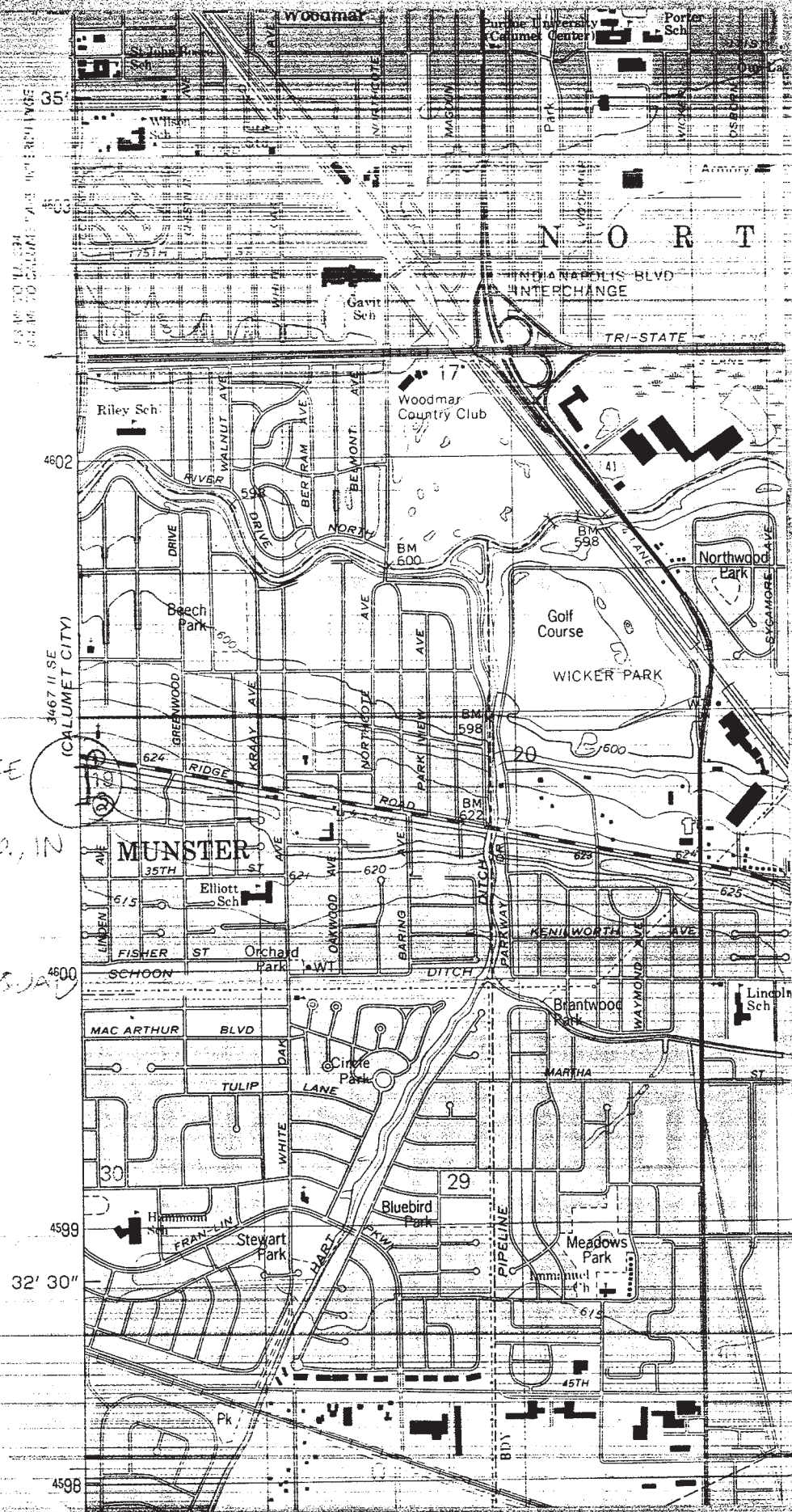
U.S. Census of Agriculture, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880.

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the southeast corner of Ridge Road and Columbia Avenue; thence southwest along the east side of Columbia Avenue to the northwest corner of St. Paul's Addition; thence east along the east boundary of said addition to the northeast corner of said addition; thence south along the east boundary of said addition 266.42 feet to the north side of Park Drive; thence east along the north side of Park Drive approximately 440 feet to the east boundary of the former Bieker property now owned by the Board of Parks and Recreation of the Town of Munster; thence north along said boundary to the south side of Ridge Road; thence west to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The 11.42 acre parcel described above represents the largest remaining parcel originally part of the property. The property being nominated is the land deeded by Helen Bieker to the Munster Department of Parks and Recreation in 1986.



STALLBOHM-KASKE
 FARM
 MUNCEE, LA & CO., IN
 NOTES PART OF
 PROPERTY ON
 CALLUMET CITY GUAR

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① E 458330

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