

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

FINAL

**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 Maple Grove Road Rural Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Roughly, Maple Grove Road from Beanblossom Creek to SR 46, including the east half of Lancaster N/A not for publication
Park subdivision _____
city or town Bloomington vicinity
state Indiana code IN county Monroe code 105 zip code 47404

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this **Y** 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] 5/13/98
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:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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	
69	65	buildings
7	0	sites
8	3	structures
30	0	objects
114	68	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

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSIST _____ Storage _____
 RELIGION: _____ Religious Facility _____
 DOMESTIC: _____ Single Dwelling _____
 AGRICULTURE/SUBSIST _____ Agricultural Field _____
 AGRICULTURE/SUBSIST _____ Animal Facility _____
 AGRICULTURE/SUBSIST _____ Agricultural Outbuilding _____

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTE _____ Storage _____
 RELIGION: _____ Religious Facility _____
 DOMESTIC: _____ Single Dwelling _____
 AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTE _____ Agricultural Field _____
 AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTE _____ Animal Facility _____
 AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTE _____ Agricultural Outbuilding _____

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19th c.: _____ Gothic Revival _____
 MID-19th c.: _____ Greek Revival _____
 OTHER: _____ central passage _____
 OTHER: _____ midwest three portal _____

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____ STONE: Limestone _____
 walls _____ WOOD: weatherboard _____
 _____ BRICK _____
 roof _____ ASPHALT _____
 other _____ WOOD: shingle _____
 _____ METAL _____

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.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions of property significance.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- Criteria A-G with checkboxes and descriptions of property characteristics.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- AGRICULTURE, ARCHITECTURE, EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT, SOCIAL HISTORY, RELIGION

Period of Significance

1820-1948

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Peden, Rachel Mason

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

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):

- Criteria for previous documentation on file (NPS).

Primary location of additional data:

- Criteria for primary location of additional data.

Name of repository:

Maple Grove Road Rural Historic District
Name of Property

Monroe IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approx. 600 ac.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 16 | 538790 | 4344270
Zone Easting Northing

3 | 16 | 537120 | 4339240
Zone Easting Northing

2 | 16 | 538390 | 4338960

4 | 16 | 536350 | 4341630

See continuation sheet

5) 16 536320 4343830

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 Nancy Hiestand, Historic Preservation Consultant and Kate Branigan
organization Preservation Development, Inc. date 7-10-97
street & number 400 W. Seventh St., Suite 110 telephone 812-336-2065
city or town Bloomington state IN zip code 47404

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 various
street & number telephone
city or town state zip code

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.

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Maple Grove Road Rural Historic District, Monroe County, Indiana
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The Maple Grove Road Rural Historic District is comprised of twelve historic nineteenth century farmsteads that continue to exhibit the structures, spatial relationships and shared community landmarks of their time period. The district lies in central Monroe County, Indiana following the northern branch of Maple Grove Road as it intersects with the west branch of Maple Grove Road which was an important nineteenth-century transportation route through Monroe County. The district, located approximately three miles north of Bloomington, contains farmstead clusters, a former school, a church and cemetery as well as expanses of Bluegrass stone walls- some of which line Maple Grove Road -lending a pastoral quality to the landscape. The walls enclose rolling fields and pastures dotted with clumps of trees. Forested areas, lining the creek beds and slopes, are visible from the historic road, as well as historic residences and out buildings. All of these elements display important vernacular forms and styles, and agricultural patterns dating from its nineteenth-century period of development. Elements which have influenced the cultural landscape are being evaluated in this document along with the structures, sites and objects within the district.

The Maple Grove Road Rural Historic District contains 69 contributing buildings, including agricultural outbuildings and homes, as well as 8 contributing structures, most of which are silos. It includes 30 contributing objects and 7 sites associated with the history of the area. The woods of Rachel Peden, an Indiana author who lived nearby and described its minute changes from season to season is included as a site as well as various cemeteries associated with the settlement period and Maple Grove Road Christian Church. There are 65 noncontributing buildings and 3 noncontributing structures. The majority of the noncontributing residences were built between 1960 and 1980, and are located in Lancaster Park.

Maple Grove Road is important because it retains a nineteenth-century agricultural landscape of substantial integrity as well as the cohesion of a community of people through time. Many individuals living in the district today are descendants of those early individuals who settled and cultivated this area of Monroe County. Today, the sense of community on Maple Grove Road exists with the same intensity as it did during its period of agricultural development, over one hundred fifty years ago.

Land Use and Activities

The district is located within six sections of land in Bloomington township (containing approximately 600 acres) consisting of farmland, pasture, and woodland. The topography

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of the area historically has limited its agricultural use to small scale crops for sustenance production. Traditionally the land was used as pasture. Soil composition of the area, in addition to its steep and sloping nature, renders the district unsuitable for large-scale commercial crop production.

Aerial photographs of the area taken in 1987 and 1993 indicate that approximately 50% of the district is wooded. It is likely that prior to settlement, the area was 80 to 90% woodland. The most intensely wooded areas are located on the banks of Stout and Bean Blossom Creeks and in areas to the west marking steep grades and property lines. The intensity of development and cultivation during the nineteenth century reduced the amount of standing timber in the district, and current large scale cultivation of the land has further reduced the area's wood percentage, but historical records compared with recent aerial photographs indicate that the area retains a substantial degree of its integrity from the period just after settlement to the present, including location of fields and siting of farmsteads.

Patterns of Spatial Organization

The district lies west of Stout's Creek, a minor north-south creek and tributary to the west fork of the White River. Several natural springs within in the boundaries of the district empty into Stout's Creek and these were principal influences on the siting of housing and barns. [Robert Fyffe interview, 3-10-97]. The creeks are quite small, but during the early settlement days afforded passage during the rainy seasons. Bean Blossom Creek, a major creek to the east of the district which runs north to south, was the only practically navigable waterway. Flatboats were used to transport people and agricultural goods up Bean Blossom Creek to nearby Bloomington, the county seat of Monroe County. The majority of settlers traveled into this area by foot, horse, or wagon, and used the creeks to provide them with water and food.

The location of Maple Grove Road corresponds to a ridge running north and south through the district, and crosses a branch of Stout's Creek in Section 18. The presence of Maple Grove Road is integral to the early development of the community. The road can be traced through historic maps as far back as the 1856 Bloomington Township plat map, the earliest available map of the township to detail roads. It is therefore difficult to pinpoint the exact date on which the road was constructed.

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The road bed has changed locations through out the history of the community. Maple Grove Road was originally known as the Bloomington-Mt. Tabor Road, so named for its connection of Bloomington with Mt. Tabor, a nearby town to the north (this town no longer exists). As late as 1876 the road was located on a trajectory running diagonally northwest through Richland Township sections 12 and 1. Later the road was reconstructed on a path striking due north along the Richland township line just west of the church. This configuration did not show the dog leg running past the church, cemetery and school, which is the modern configuration.

The road provided the community with a vital link to Bloomington, which was the county seat and its cultural center. At the turn of the century, the name of the road was changed to the Charles I. Owens Pike. By the early 1960's, the name changed to Maple Grove Road, a name which was used previously in conjunction with the church and school associated with the community (1910).

On a smaller scale, the road provides a glimpse into the way roads looked before the onset of highway maintenance and high traffic use. Richard Peden describes the ideal of a country road: lined and overarched with tall trees forming a canopy over the road bed [interview, Joe Peden 1-21-97]. In a number of locations along Maple Grove's rolling stretches this ideal still resonates. Joe Peden describes the process by which bordering trees in rural areas have slowly suffered removal. The increased size of farms and the need for larger road clearing equipment has necessitated wider right-of-ways. But the contemporary vista is memorable enough to attract bicyclists from all over Monroe County and to be a regularly scheduled part of the "Hilly Hundred" bike race.

Other historic patterns of spatial organization are evident as well. These include field patterns and the physical interrelationship of buildings within the individual properties of the district. Because of the integrity of the farmstead clusters, these patterns reflect nineteenth-century patterns of spatial organization established during the area's period of significance.

Originally, property division was dictated by the sale of land. The Land Ordinance of 1787 divided land into townships and sections, which were later offered for sale for one dollar an acre to settlers in whole, half, or quarter sections. All the land in the Maple Grove Road Historic District was obtained through the Indiana Treaty of Fort Wayne in 1809. In Monroe County, Indiana, land did not become available to settlers until 1816. Land in the Maple Grove Road District was sold in half-sections (320 acres) and quarter

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sections (160 acres). Ownership conformed to the "grid" pattern in the early days of settlement, but in later years land was inherited, and divided between siblings. Recently, land has moved from the settling families into outside ownership, and was often sold off in smaller parcels. Since much of the land on which the clusters sit is not arable, many of the original farmsteads still exist and continue to exhibit a high degree of historical integrity in relation to spatial organization.

Generally, as will be presented more exhaustively in the 'cultural traditions' section, farm buildings were grouped on higher ground, reflecting the linkage between Mid-Atlantic patterns of settlement and the natives of Maple Grove Road.

Response to the Natural Environment

The principal use of the land in the Maple Grove Road Historic District, since its settlement in the early nineteenth century, has been agriculture. The soil of the area is primarily Crider silt loam, which is found on the strongly sloping surfaces of the upland areas of the district. Small areas of Caneyville and Hagerstown soils are also to be found in the district. These soils are suited to the cultivation of corn, soybeans and small grain, all of which are grown in and around the Maple Grove Road Historic District. Typical early farms produced clover, timothy and red top, Indian corn, Jersey and Hereford cows, China and Derrick hogs, sorghum, cider, hay, barley, and oats.

Limestone outcroppings, the presence of which is common in all of south central Indiana, are most evident along the banks of Stout's Creek. Monroe County is generally well known for the abundance of limestone and ease of accessibility, which provided the potential for viable commercial industry, to the present day. The connection of the New Albany and Salem Railroad in 1853 signaled an explosion in commercial interests in the county, yet most of the stone in the Maple Grove Road area is hand worked and locally quarried. There is no evidence of the use of power tools in the walls built in the 1870's or the limestone boundary markers which preceded them. Limestone from the creek beds was apparently used for crude building material in the early days of settlement. No commercial quarries were located within the district confines, but the nearby Matthews Quarry may have supplied the dressed limestone used on the Ben Owens house and for the headstones in Maple Grove cemetery. It is also speculated that the stone used to build the walls that line the sides of the roads came from the Matthews quarry. However, no

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evidence bears this speculation out. This quarry was operational as early as 1862. Documentation relating to the construction of walls within the district indicate that they were primarily built between 1870 and 1890.

Areas along Stout's Creek show evidence of early quarrying. Particularly when viewed from Acuff Road, the creek bed reveals the high limestone over burden from which stone slabs were quarried in the nineteenth century. The craggy limestone bluffs now found along the banks of Stout and Bean Blossom Creeks reveal that the quality of limestone quarried there was sufficient for use as basic building material – for foundations of houses, for chimneys, for stone walls and posts. Hand hewn limestone boundary markers of 3 ½ to 4" tall are scattered throughout the area and may be the earliest use of the material.

The high bedrock associated with the area's quarrying potential is also evidence of the poor quality of the soil [Munns, p. 1]. As H.F. Raup has noted, stone fences came to symbolize a comparative poverty of soil and of agriculture. [Western Folklore p.2] In most unglaciated areas, stone fences are "indicators of poor, thin soils relatively unsuited to farming." On Maple Grove Road, grain crops were primarily used for feed and silage. The primary agricultural purpose was pasture.

Farms in this area of Monroe County were eighty to one hundred sixty acres average size during the early settlement period (1820-1850). According to the most recent (1979) Monroe County Soil Conservation Survey, the average modern farm size in Monroe County is approximately 140 acres. In the Maple Grove Road area, the individual farm size has increased, a fact that has not significantly altered the integrity of the district as a whole, because land in cultivation has remained of constant shape and size with preservation of fence rows. This can be verified with aerials spanning a fifty year period since 1938. (see exhibit)

Today the entire area encompassed within the district boundaries retains much of its rural integrity. Hostile topography has limited the agricultural potential of the land, yet it has aided in preserving its natural beauty. Steep hills and flat bottom land, created by the presence of Stout's and Bean Blossom Creeks, shaped the land into a succession of fertile floodplains, hilly grassy areas and wooded areas. Topographical constraints in the Maple have limited the scope of land use but retained a remarkable consistency in land use traditions. Several nineteenth century farmsteads continue to serve as working farms. Physical evidence of the dominant agricultural practices in the area remain on all

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contributing properties in the form of outbuildings, fencing, and acres of land in pasture and cultivation.

Contemporary aerial photographs indicate pasture covers a great deal of the Maple Grove Road district: those properties used for livestock include the Tom Owens, the Dalton-Clipp and the Peden-Whisenand farm. The Ira Stanger and the Carr Stanger farm are also livestock farms, some acreage is reserved for cultivation, to serve their needs.

Shifts in the ownership of acreage during the twentieth century have resulted in larger farms, but retained traditional land use patterns. Federal Agricultural Census crop records show that families living in the Maple Grove Road district in the mid- and late-nineteenth century grew wheat, Indian corn, and oats, in large quantity. Staples like Irish potatoes and sweet potatoes were considered subsistence crops. Hay was grown for livestock, including horses, milk cows, cattle, sheep and swine. Today livestock is limited almost exclusively to cattle and sheep. Hogs are no longer raised in the area.

The physical environment of the Maple Grove Road landscape varies greatly in its four square mile area. Within a small area, there are hills, flatlands, steep outcroppings, creeks and modestly forested areas. Adaptations to the sometimes harsh and extreme climate of Indiana can be seen in the historic building and settlement patterns of the Maple Grove Road district. However, natural resources abound in the district. The woodland areas provided building materials, the creeks supplied water and limestone for building materials, and the land provided various sources of food to its settlers .

Bean Blossom Creek and the smaller Stout's Creek, which border and feed the district, support viable ecosystems in their own right. These creeks contributed to the historical agricultural growth of the Maple Grove Road community by providing sources of food, water and transportation. Then and now, water provides life for waterfowl, fish, insects, and various types of wild game, including rabbit, squirrel and deer. Deer are plentiful in south central Indiana, historically and currently, and provided early settlers with a steady supply of meat. The proximity of the land to water adds a richness to the soil that renders the bottom land, near the creeks, fertile and arable. The areas that are farther removed from the water are far less arable and more suited for small-scale crop cultivation and grazing of livestock.

Environmental conditions in the district influenced building trends and farming practices. Properties were constructed near wooded areas, to provide building materials and

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firewood, and near springs to provide a water supply for humans and livestock. Additionally, farmsteads were also poised on the upland elevations, away from the possibility of overflowing creeks. The quality of the soil increases in the lowlands; consequently, lowlands were used for crop cultivation. Uplands were also suitable for pasture. Siting of historic farmsteads generally responded to the topography of the region. For example, the Wampler farm is located on land which rapidly drops from a steep ridge on which the house is sited to very low cultivated land. The house is built on the pinnacle of a hill, and the main dairy barn is located in bottom land some 200 feet below the house. The Stanger farms are built along the top of a steep ridge which slopes into Stout's Creek. The farmstead utilizes water and timber sources of the creek and lowland, while benefiting greatly from its upland location. Similarly, the Tom Owens farm is located near a natural spring, and is on top of a sloped ridge which leads down to Stout's Creek.

Early settlers used the available timber and limestone for building materials. Early structures in the district were made of logs. The Dalten-Clipp house is an 1842 structure of horizontal log construction, now clad in aluminum siding. Limestone out-croppings along Stout's Creek indicated that early quarrying for building material was prevalent in some areas. The limestone was often used as foundation material or wall material for structures and outbuildings in the area. Several of the earliest extant structures exhibit hand cut stone chimneys, including the Old Fyffe Farm, the Carr Stanger and Dalten-Clipp homes.

Bricks used in the construction of the Benjamin Owens house- the only brick house in the district- were not fired on site. The surrounding area of the district is not a viable source of clay. Evidence of this can be found in a brick found in the basement of the Owens house, which has inscriptions on both sides. One side reads "Fred O. Shrum" (the presumed brick mason) and on the other side "McClellan for President, 1864." The Shrum family owned a brickyard in Salem Indiana, so the brick was imported from approximately 70 miles away. By 1854, the Salem New Albany Railroad had been connected through to the area just south of Maple Grove Road, so transport was possible.

Cultural Traditions

The rural landscape displayed in the Maple Grove Road Historic District illustrates agricultural practices of nineteenth-century southern Indiana. Settlers brought with them building traditions, stylistic preferences, and vernacular building forms. Federal census

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records indicate that most of the settling population of the Maple Grove Road area during the early and mid-nineteenth century were from the states of Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee and the Carolinas. The Owens family, whose descendants were substantial land owners in the district, emigrated from Ireland. [Monroe County Census 1850]

Cultural traditions within the district are demonstrated through building patterns and vernacular forms preserved there. The extant structures of the district are primarily of frame construction. One brick home, one stone and two log homes are also included within the district's boundaries. All outbuildings are also frame, with the exception of several masonry silos. The large number of frame structures and outbuildings is indicative of the use of local resources. Siting of the structures clearly exhibit Middle Atlantic building preferences adapted to the climate and topography of south-central Indiana. These include the preference for siting homes on knolls and ridge tops away from the marshy lowlands.

A distinctive thematic element in the district which provides a recurring visual motif is the presence of "Bluegrass" stone walls. Called by residents "rock or stone fences," [Munns, p.7] they line the sides of the road between the Benjamin Owens and Tom Owens farms and mark the boundary of the church cemetery and school site. They are an important element of the landscape directly attributable to the efforts of itinerant Irish workers during the 1870's, but are also a part of the same cultural traditions carried through the mid Atlantic states through the Upland South into southern Indiana which produced the settlement and building form preferences described elsewhere. Henry Glassie has called them "the most significant collection of stone walls in southern Indiana." [interview, 3-19-97] Enhancing the vista along the district's four-mile extension of the road are mature varieties of deciduous trees that line its sides, creating a canopy of leaves in the spring and summer.

Several of the homes in the district reflect specific nineteenth-century vernacular buildings types that can also be traced to Middle Atlantic roots.

- A. The central passage house type is represented in the district by the Old Fyffe farm. This house type, which displays a central entryway flanked on either side by single rooms, is exhibited in its pure form. The house has brick end chimneys and Greek Revival detailing. Several other farm houses of later construction exhibit the central

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- passage form as a secondary influence including the Peden, Ridge, Wampler and Ben Owens farm.
- B. Three houses in the district exhibit a type considered to be indigenous to south central Indiana. Vernacular Gothic Revival style is exhibited in the Ridge farm, the Peden-Whisenand farm, and the Wampler farm. This was a prevalent architectural style during the mid to late nineteenth century. The fact that three of these homes were built in the 1870's speaks to the closeness of the community in that era. This was also the time when the Maple Grove Road Christian Church congregation relocated and rebuilt at the site of the cemetery. These central passage homes feature a cross gabled front bay above the central entry. Roofs tend to be quite steep, and the front porch, usually devoid of ornament, supported by wooden posts. The Peden, Ridge, and Wampler (1870-1890) represent a later period of development than the Old Fyffe farm and the Carr Stanger House.
- C. An excellent example of a saddlebag house can be found in the Delap-Fyffe house. The home has two front entryways, flanked by rectangular double-hung sash windows. The central brick chimney was removed from the house in 1991 due to its instability.
- D. Examples of the I-house form are also present in the district. The Dalten-Clipp house is a double pen I-house, of log construction. The Tom Owens house was once a five-bay I house; after a serious fire, it was reconstructed as a one and one-half story I-house with dormers.
- E. An interesting element of the district which adds much to the continuity of the rural landscape is the large number of dry-laid stone walls, which line the sides of the roads. Identified as Bluegrass stone walls by Henry Glassie, in his Pattern in the Material Culture of the United States, the walls are reminiscent of stone walls found in Ireland. Elsewhere in this country they are found in the Middle Atlantic States, Appalachia, Kentucky and Tennessee phenomenon. [Glassie, p. 100].

Farming in the Maple Grove Road area has reflected the larger evolution of agricultural technology in the United States. The pinnacle of agriculture in this area was achieved in the 1880's and continued until 1910. It reflects an era when horse farming was only available technology. This delicate balance of individual farm size and profitability was never achieved again. As Mark Morris pointed out in his 1993 videography, "Farming in Maple Grove Road in the Age of Power," there is a common experience in agriculture throughout this country: the entrapment of individual farmers by their own success. The coming of power machinery produced an opportunity for more efficient farms, while gradually driving down prices for food products. Farmers responded by purchasing more

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expensive equipment and required more land to survive. Small farmers were gradually driven out, and in the third quarter of this century, agri-business replaced family farms.

Horses were used in conjunction with power equipment until 1940. Before this, cultivators could not be attached to tractors and required horse drawn equipment. The appearance of the "general purpose" 6 cylinder John Deere in 1936 combined plowing, disc harrowing and cultivating for the first time and was responsible for the greatest surge in farm production. Also dramatic in its impact was the introduction of the combine, which accomplished both the harvesting and threshing of small grain in one step. Increased mechanization had a multiple impact on agriculture: crop specialization increased, the size of acreage's needed to make a living increased, the investment in machines increased, and profits per acre decreased. Combines had a devastating impact on the custom of sharing labor which had been established in the nineteenth century. The number of men required to bring in the harvest was reduced and this weakened the communal behavior associated with farming before power equipment. This gradual change, both in social interaction and economics began in the 1920's on Maple Grove Road and continues today, reflecting the larger trends which have buffeted American agriculture through the last 90 years.

Other changes in agriculture were indirect results of power technology. As a result of deep disturbance of the soil associated with the new machinery, substantial damage to top soil had occurred by the 1930's. Robert Fyffe explains that Maple Grove Road's rolling, thin soil quality was damaged by the loosening and drying of soil with invasive machinery. Mechanized plowing, disking and cultivation removed moisture from the soil, causing erosion damage. Soil and Water Conservation Districts and extension services were established to assist farmers in developing techniques to improve soil quality. The response, occurring through the 1940's included terracing, strip cropping, and contour farming. In some areas, grain farming was changed to grass farming, in order to better retain soil on the land. The county is famous for its karst topography, and the characteristic ditches and gullies were filled during the same time period. Water quality was improved by the construction of farm ponds, waterways, dams and diversions to provide more contained water for livestock.

Another negative factor was the relatively high expense for transport of agricultural goods to a trading center in Princeton, Indiana that was in excess of those for other counties and adding difficulty to the sale of products [Peden interview, 2-15-97]. In recent times, the loss of open and arable space has been associated with the expense of

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land acquisition and has been greater in rapid growth areas close to Bloomington. Other large land uses in the county, include Griffy Lake, Lake Lemon, Lake Monroe, Morgan-Monroe State Forest, the Hoosier National Forest, and a large swath of land given over to highway development. Very little land is available for agriculture.

The scope of farming along Maple Grove Road has changed in the last fifty years, mirroring the evolution of agriculture nationally. The archetypal "family farm" generally had a variety of animals- chickens, milk cows- whose function was to provide for the needs of the family itself. Farm sizes have increased, due to the comparative ease with which agricultural work can be performed today, as compared with a century ago. But another trend has been the replacement of the diverse agricultural purposes of the family farm toward the monoculture of agri-business. Following a national trend, farming in the area now focuses on single crops. Food markets and improved transportation has removed the need for subsistence production. Now the area is more intensely used for livestock pasturage, and crop production is largely for animals. All of these uses were historically present, determined by the quality of soil and topography. Modern farming practices have only intensified the amount of grazing and changed the proportion of land diverted to each use. In a few fields where crop cultivation is prevalent, farmers still "shred stalks" at harvest time, to renew the soil for the next planting season. This practice entails the tilling of the soil, sometimes with a horse drawn plow, turning the harvested corn stalks into the soil. [Peden Interview, 2-15-97]

According to Joe Peden, who actively farms in Maple Grove Road area and has toured the state as a cooperative extension representative, the community has never been backward in adopting the most current agricultural techniques. Monroe County pioneered "no-till planting" in 1976. This method replaced the intensive use of mechanical tilling equipment which had led to erosion and soil exhaustion. The new conservation practice uses herbicides to control weeds, rather than disking, which tends to dry the soil resulting in erosion. Peden also notes recent moderation in the application of herbicides. Other initiatives by the Maple Grove Road farming community include terracing in the 1950's and the creation of pond fed livestock watering tanks.

Circulation Networks

Principal forms of circulation in and around the district include Maple Grove Road, Acuff, Bottom Road, State Road 37, Stout's Creek and Bean Blossom Creek. Nearby Indiana State Road 37, a major four-lane highway, provides direct access to roads leading

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to Maple Grove Road area. This major highway was expanded in the 1960's to facilitate travel between Indianapolis and south central Indiana. State Road 37 was moved a good distance west of its prior location, and this effectively changed the flow of automobile traffic into Maple Grove Road, which can be indirectly accessed by State Road 37 at Acuff Road. At its nearest point, State Road 37 is less than one-quarter of one mile away from Maple Grove Road.

Maple Grove Road is the cohesive agent of the district—a spine on which the architecturally and historically important structures of the area are affixed. In addition, today's road continues to adhere to the topographical limitations of the countryside in which it was constructed. Although portions of the road bed have been moved a few times, evidence shows the same basic shape and similar placement depicted on the 1856 map of Bloomington township. Remnants of the old diagonal road bed, lined with trees are evident on the Dalten-Clipp farm.

One other early road strikes west from Maple Grove Road opposite the location of the Dalten-Clipp farm. Now called Lost Man's Lane, it was the early location of the North Liberty Church, from which the current congregation of the Maple Grove Road Christian Church was derived.

Boundary Demarcations

Currently land is divided through the use of woven and barbed wire fencing, although in several places, fencing is not needed because of the topographical division of the land. Historic boundary delineation were not much different than those used today. The topography has not changed since the period of significance. Of course, the dry stone walls were a principal historic method of separating property ownership, however interior fences defined differing land uses on the same farmstead. Stone walls near the Tom and Ben Owens farms also served to mark boundaries between the brothers' cattle farms.

Historically, boundary markers were limestone monoliths which still stand along the former boundaries of the Whisenand farmstead, now the Whisenand-Peden farm. They are also seen on the Stanger, Zellers and Ben Owens farms. The posts are hand hewn, standing 4' tall and 10" in diameter. A single limestone marker is located north of the juncture of Stout's Creek and Acuff Road. It is engraved with the names of families who lived in that area and is anomalous in that respect. Other boundary markers are not

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inscribed. The northern boundary of the historic district is determined by the location of these markers on the south side of the west extension of Maple Grove Road.

The existing snaked post and rail fence at the Daniel Stout house is an example of the another kind of fencing frequently used in the area until 1920 (Judi Hetrick p. 20). Rail fence was split with an ax and a wooden glut or wedge. No examples remain, because of the degradability of the materials used. The existing fence was moved from another location in the 1940's.

Vegetation Related to Land Use

Much of the indigenous wild vegetation in the district is consistent with species present during the nineteenth century.

A Purdue University study of the landscape in 1993 states that the landscape of the Maple Grove Road Historic District is primarily comprised of species of deciduous trees which indicate the presence of limestone. These trees grow mostly on north and south facing slopes in the district. Historically, the district was wooded; land clearance reduced the amount of foliage present, but much of the original species content is intact. Some of the primary species found within the Maple Grove Road area are oak, linden, beech, maple, elm, hickory, sycamore, cherry and walnut trees. Remnants of osage orange exists in the fence rows that line Maple Grove Road. Other indigenous species, including beech, maple, and elm line the road. The Purdue Report did not mention the introduction of new species to the district.

In several areas, vegetation gives evidence of the trail of the historic road. Near the Dalten Clipp farmstead, maples, tulips and oaks line the former road bed that was abandoned in the 1960's. Near the Maple Grove Church, a similar line of trees extends to the north of the church into the Peden property (MG 8), indicating the remnants of the former road bed.

The relationship of land use and vegetation is especially evident in those areas that were cleared for farming and grazing, as well as those areas that were not cultivated due to the terrain and is discussed in Response to the Natural Environment.

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Buildings, Structures and Objects

The major elements of the district lie along a four-mile stretch of historic Maple Grove Road. Many of the structures in the district are historically significant examples of vernacular building traditions and indicative of a Middle Atlantic settlement pattern.

Historically significant structures on the land are mainly farmsteads, organized into clusters. Maple Grove Church, the focal point of the district, was erected 1876 [Stanger p.5] The cemetery directly adjacent has been used as such since the early 1830's [Stanger, p.3] The church, located at the highest point in the district formerly acted as its social heart of the community. It stands on land donated by Jonathon Whisenand, one of the district's pioneers.

Three schools, were also located in the area. Two have been incorporated into existing residential structures (Whisenand-Peden properties and North Maple Grove Road). The Park School was located across Stout's Creek on Acuff Road from 1910 through 1960 when it was demolished. It served elementary school children in the Maple Grove Road area [interview, Joe Peden 1-21-97] and also strengthened and enforced rural ties within the community through the mid-twentieth century.

Cultural traditions are also reflected in the structures, through building typography and construction methods. The majority of the farmsteads within the district reflect South/Middle Atlantic building traditions. (Federal, agricultural, and general census records indicate that a majority of the early inhabitants of Maple Grove Road were from the Carolinas, Maryland, Virginia, and Kentucky.) Outbuildings also reflect a South/Middle Atlantic bias: the dominant barn type in the Maple Grove Road district is the Midwest Three Portal barn.

The materials used in all of the buildings are the most abundant natural resources in the area: timber and limestone. Timber was (and still is) abundant on the landscape, and limestone was initially quarried from the nearby creeks, and later possibly obtained at the local Matthews Quarry which commenced business in 1862. Steam channeling was used to cut stone as early as 1875, however there is no material evidence of its use on Maple Grove Road. Most commentators believe that limestone was quarried locally and brought to the construction sites by ox carts [Mastick, Munns, Peden].

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Spring houses were commonly erected near or above local springs to provide a gathering place for water. One of these survives in the district. A limestone well house, constructed over a diverted spring, is still standing at the Delap-Fyffe farm, directly behind the house. Ruth Fyffe describes the spring house on the Ridge Farm, now demolished, where she made butter in glass churns, partially immersed in the spring. [Ruth Fyffe interview 3-10-97]

Perhaps the greatest example of craftsmanship within the district can be seen in the dry laid Bluegrass stone walls that line the road between the Ben and Tom Owens farms, and that surround the graveyard at Maple Grove Road Christian Church. The gravestones within the Maple Grove Cemetery also exhibit various artistic trends in the popular culture of the day, including carved tree stumps which were popular in Monroe County between 1890 and 1910. The hand hewn wooden scroll work on the front facade of the Ben Owens house exemplifies some of the painstaking detail that went into craftsmanship found in the area. The scrollwork is intricate, yet its pattern is simple, lending a grand quality to the vernacular simplicity of the Owens house.

The following are descriptions of each contributing farm-associated building in the district, as well as a description of other structures and buildings significant to the history of the areas' development.

MG1 The Daniel Stout House (NR 11-30-73)

Called the "Old stone house on the hill," the Daniel Stout House was built in 1828 and is the earliest extant structure in Monroe County. The original house, a log structure, was said to have been attached to the stone house until its demolition in 1900. Stout operated a grist and saw mill on the Creek which now bears his name. Its former location is across Maple Grove Road and is marked by a 10' high limestone wall, perpendicular to the stream bed. The overshot water-powered mill was one of five mills operating in the county. Its principle purpose was grinding corn, some of which was used in the production of corn liquor.

Stout's house is significant in its use of stone as a primary building material. During the period of its construction, Monroe County's most prominent citizen, Colonel John Ketcham, resided in a clapboard sided log cabin. The dressed stone house, therefore, represents Stout's considerable standing in the community. Prior to settling in Monroe County, Daniel Stout was Superintendent of Works for General Henry Harrison while in Floyd County, and the design of the stone house may reflect this comparatively

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cosmopolitan background. Interior woodwork is believed to have been done by Stout himself. The fluted and beaded fireplace surrounds and bullseye motif enforce the urbanity of this interior space as compared with other houses located in the district. Home of this sophistication are not extremely rare in rural areas, therefore the Daniel Stout House can be considered an example of its type, a gentleman's farm, but adds to the overall architectural diversity within the district.

The home is a late example of a hall and parlor configuration with three bays, six over six fenestration and a simple four light transom above the entrance. Simple limestone window surrounds with radiating voussoir and centered keystones surmount each window. The gable ends of the house are of rough hewn stone composition and feature exterior chimneys. The house presents a perfectly flat dressed facade to the southeast, facing Maple Grove Road. The current owner believes that the alignment of the road was once directly in front of the house. The snaked split rail fence which bounds the property is authentic in form, but was relocated from a site outside the boundaries of the district.

Burkharts, who now own the Daniel Stout House, note that the house was built without an interior stair case, later affixed to the outside of the house on its west side. The hall and parlor form of the first floor has now been modified into a single room. Originally each room on both floors had its own fireplace. In the 1950's the house was repointed with mortar. Prior to that time, the stones had been laid up with clay, the stability of which was premised on the technique of the "breaking joint" used in dry stone walling [Munns p. 10]. Since each slab extended the full 22" width of the foundation, it was distance to the interior, as much as the mortar, that kept the house dry.

A free standing limestone garage was added to the site in the 1940's. No agricultural outbuildings remain from its prior use as a farm.

MG2 The Zellers Farmstead

The next contributing property north of the Daniel Stout House is a farm complex featuring a gabled-ell house with two principal barns and a shed storage building. The property straddles both Maple Grove Road and Acuff Road. Acuff Road, marked by hand hewn limestone boundary pillars leads east toward the area of Stout's Creek which was known to be a nineteenth century quarry site. The single story clapboard house has a hipped principal roof and front porch roof. Windows are double hung with single lights. The porch is supported by rough cut limestone columns which match the foundation.

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(One of the stepping stones in the front yards is rumored by a previous owner to have been a grinding stone used by the Stout mill.)

On the north side of Acuff is a small animal barn with a gambrel roof. The c. 1900 Midwest Three Portal Barn is covered with horizontal siding and a metal roof. The size of the doors indicates that large equipment was not stored there. The barn had a hay loft (now removed) and the center aisle was used as a threshing floor. The shed extension to the north contains milking stalls and the south side of the aisle is lined with pens for swine. Another smaller English Barn on the east side of Maple Grove Road north of Acuff is used as a machine shed with vertical board siding.

Across Maple Grove Road to the west are pastures once associated with the Stout farm. A milking barn with horizontal siding and a dutch gambrel roof is located 200 feet from the street. A small shed with horizontal siding stands nearby.

North of the Zellers farmstead is land once associated with the original 1816 John Owens and George Parks purchase which was later developed as Lancaster Park in the 1960's. A 1939 aerial photograph shows that the land was primarily in crops, with a wooded area at the southwest corner of the section.

MG3 The Ben Owens Farmstead

The Ben Owens farmstead is one of the most thoroughly intact Civil War farmsteads in this area of South Central Indiana. The farmstead consists of a large brick Georgian plan or "double pile" home with Greek and Gothic Revival stylistic details, a smaller house, several outbuildings, barn, a log summer kitchen, and a winding stone wall.

The Owens house was built in 1864 by Benjamin Owens, one of three sons of settler named John Owens who built homes in the area. Current owners operate a "bed and breakfast" using bedrooms upstairs. The house has an ell-shaped modified Georgian plan, two rooms deep, which is original, with a modern frame addition on its northwest elevation. The two-story double pile residence has flush gable chimneys. The brick house has a limestone foundation and dressed limestone lintels and sills. Its five bay facade features a central two-story entrance. The roof is moderately pitched with wide a plain frieze and boxed gable returns. A two-story pedimented portico frames single leaf doors on each floor. The unusual hand-planed scrolled two-story wooden porch is original, and its second floor serves as a balcony. Most of the windows in the house are original, six over six double hung sash windows with wood frames. Tucked beneath the

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gable ends on the third floor are gothic-style windows. Other windows show narrow muntins with federal-style influence. Echoing this influence, the front door surround is topped by a three light transom and side multi-pane panels.

The house sits about 300 feet from Maple Grove Road and is accessed by a winding gravel driveway edged with a stone fence. It leads past three of the major outbuildings on the grounds: a small cottage at the entrance, a storage shed and a large English barn. Behind the house is a log summer kitchen with a limestone chimney.

A small cottage, located on the curving drive, is covered with wood clapboard with a gabled roof and asphalt shingles. Delicate muntins and six over six windows show federal-style influence and provide evidence that this is an early house. A long saltbox style roof abuts the rock fence lines the south side of the drive way, and may have been modified to accommodate a later addition to the house. Adjacent to the house, a small storage shed apparently served multiple purposes as a crib and granary. Its gabled roof is covered with slate shingles. The siding of this wood clapboard shed is spaced vertical wood.

The large English barn (c. 1900) is singular in the elegance of its framing. The barn is timber framed, with vertical clapboard siding and a metal roof. The roof is trussed with purlin jacks and mortise and tenon joinery. The primary structure has a c. 1940 addition on its west side. Like most of the outbuildings in the district, the barn's interior framing shows a hodgepodge of both hand hewn and sawn members. Within the district, some buildings have members that are reclaimed elements of demolished structures, some buildings are replacements for authentic structures still standing. This example appears to have been originally built with sawn timbers.

The summer kitchen behind the main house is a square-plan structure of hewn-log construction, with horizontal beveled siding and an exterior limestone chimney on its west facade. The siding shows both square head and machine cut nails. Walls are hand hewn poplar log with half dove-tail joinery, the most common form used in Indiana log construction [Glassie and Kniffen "Building in Wood in the Eastern United States: A Place Perspective" p. 176]. Rafters are round, flattened members. The exterior door shows evidence of hand planing.

The dry-laid stone walls that are a signature of the entire district are most dense in this area. They lead up the driveway of the Ben Owens house about one-half of the way to

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the house, and also lead from the southeast side of the house down the hill to a split rail fence which divides the property from the adjoining property. Another fence runs east and west until it intersects with a north--south fence which forms the west boundary of the property. The western boundary abuts a new subdivision and land in cultivation.

The house sits along a gradual slope, and its elevation is about 750 feet. The land in front of the house is grassy and dotted with deciduous trees indigenous to the area (maple, poplar, beech). Directly in front of the house are two large mature maple trees which frame the front entry. (See picture). The land was originally part of a large livestock farm and the property in back of the house undulates into gentle hills which rise to about 800 feet. Occasional clusters of trees are scattered around the landscape in this area.

Dry-Laid "Bluegrass" Stone Walls

The walls found in the district are identical to those identified by Henry Glassie in Patterns in the Material Culture of the Eastern United States as "Bluegrass" Stone Walls. These walls are found in south central Indiana, in addition to several other regions of the Midwest, and are composed of dry-laid limestone. The foundations of the walls run deep into the soil, sometimes as deep as 2 ½ to 3 feet. It is believed that many of the walls were constructed by itinerant Irish workers, paid at the rate of \$1.00/ day for a rod of length.

The Maple Grove Road walls appear in four major places: (See exhibit) along the Ben Owens property, along the east and west sides of Maple Grove Road between Ben and Tom Owens farmsteads, at the site of the Maple Grove School and at the Maple Grove Christian Church. The fence across from the Ben Owens farm has a signed and dated stone inset in the wall. The inscription, 'J. Adams 1878,' is one of several names associated with craftsmen responsible for fence construction. All of the walls are dry-laid, using native limestone, with use of the weathered edge on the outside of the wall. Most are two stones wide with a large continuous stone tie rock at midpoint in the wall and a cap course, and coping at its top. The cap course forms a kind of serrated edge of triangular rocks on top of the wall. There is speculation that this design may have discouraged livestock from reaching across. The local design is in keeping with those brought from Scotland (Rainsford-Hannay, Dry Stone Walling)

Within the district the fences were built to perform several functions. They marked property boundaries, particularly demarcating the two Owens farms. The fences provide physical evidence of former pastures near the Ben Owens farm. Dry-laid stone walls

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divide the land in front of the house from the land at the rear of the house, which was pasture. A stone wall also divides the front property from a north pasture, which is largely overgrown but still open with sparse and immature plant growth. There is a 100' by 75' yard south of the house, encircled by walls which have been described as "rabbit proof" walls, which were built to protect house gardens. These walls have a characteristic dimension: 3 to 4 ½ feet tall (Munn 12). Field fences were 6 to 9" taller than yard fences.

Wall construction was accomplished by the use of wooden A-frames, placed over the trench where the wall foundation was laid. Lengths of string were stretched between frames. These assisted with alignment. Most of the walls on Maple Grove Road are laid with a double row of large stones over a trench of small pieces. Between the two rows laid lengthwise, smaller "heart stones" are used as fill. At a point almost 2 feet above grade, thoroughbands, the width of the entire wall are placed to tie the two layers together. A similarly sized stone, called a coverband, tops the wall and creates a secure surface for the final finish or "cap stones." These triangulated stones provide a serrated silhouette to the top. Tools used by the stone masons were double edged, with one sharp and one blunt side. Cracking stone, using the blunt edge, was the more common activity.

MG4 Tom Owens House

The Tom Owens farm (c.1870) is located about one-half mile north of the Ben Owens farm on Maple Grove Road. It is visible from the expanse of stone wall along the east side of Maple Grove Road which separates the two farms. The house is a one and one half story central passage house with a rectangular "T" plan and clad in horizontal wood siding. The foundation is rough-cut limestone, and the roof is moderately pitched with two centrally located dormers on the west (front) facade of the house. The house was a two-story central passage house I-house until it burned in the late 1980's. It is now a central-passage house which retains some historic integrity.

The house and outbuildings, all of which are non-contributing metal "pole" barns, are in the center of undulating pasture, stretching to the north and east along a ridge leading to a steep ravine created by Stout Creek, which is directly east of the Tom Owens farm. The distance from the farm to the creek is approximately one-half mile, and the elevation drops dramatically from 700 to 600 feet in that one-half mile span. Additionally, an inlet from the creek lines the south side of the property and the elevation of the land drops dramatically here as well. The inlet is marked from the road by the stone wall which runs along the east side of Maple Grove Road. The wall turns to the east, forming the

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southern boundary of the farm, and continues until it reaches the east side of section 18. In this section the wall accommodates steep changes in grade when it crosses a branch of Stout's Creek.

Most of the land on this farmstead is used for pasture land, its traditional use. The land here is topographically too variable for large-scale cultivation. The land to the southeast of the Tom Owens farmstead also rises and falls greatly with the creek inlet at its southern edge. The area near the creek is densely wooded.

MG5 Dalten-Clipp Farmstead

The Dalten-Clipp farmhouse is sited approximately 30 feet from Maple Grove Road and is a two-story double pen house of horizontal hewn log construction, now sided with aluminum. The moderately pitched, asphalt-shingled roof is accentuated by two massive hand-cut limestone exterior end chimneys. The year "1842" is inscribed in one of the chimney stones and is assumed to be the date of construction of the house. The house faces Maple Grove Road, and its foundation is at grade, probably composed of limestone as well. An extending flat-roof porch extension on the north side of the house is an addition, and the front flat-roof porch extension is supported by wooden posts.

The house sits at an elevation of 760 feet and fronts a large cluster of turn-of-the century outbuildings. A gravel drive to the north of the house leads to a chicken house of spaced vertical frame construction. A shed and an outhouse, of similar frame construction are located directly behind the chicken house. A Midwest Three Portal barn with a hay hood (c. 1900) is to the northeast of the main house, situated in a cluster of several smaller sheds of frame construction with sloped roofs and spaced vertical siding. The cluster of outbuildings is approximately 200 feet from the house. A natural spring runs behind the house, adjacent to the cluster of outbuildings. The landscape of this property adjoins the Owens property to the east and is composed of rolling hills that gradually descend into Stout's Creek bottom land, approximately three-quarters of a mile away. The rolling nature of the land, in addition to its proximity to a spring, makes it superior pasture land.

Clusters of trees dot the pasture, and are used by cows for shade. To the northeast of the house and outbuildings is a small shed of spaced wood construction, with a shed roof shelter affixed to the south side of the building.

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MG6 The Old Fyffe Farmstead

This property is a combination of an extant farmhouse and new residence. The new structure was built behind the old farmstead; hence the intrusion of the new house is shielded by the historic farmstead. The farmstead is at an elevation of about 700 feet.

The historic farmstead consists of a house, a large barn, and a small barn. Another barn is located on the property, but it is not historic. The farmstead is located about an eighth of a mile east of Maple Grove Road.

The Old Fyffe house is a one-story, rectangular plan central-passage house with an ell-addition on its south side and end chimneys. The house, constructed c. 1840, is a frame building with horizontal wood clapboard siding. Similar to the Delap Fyffe House, the Old Fyffe farmstead has Greek Revival elements. The corners of the house are accentuated with tiny pilasters with a plain wide frieze and gable returns. Its entrance is covered by a flat porch roof with exposed rafters. The door is framed by multi-pane sidelights with a lighted transom above. The house has a rear extension which protrudes approximately thirty-five feet on the east side of the structure.

The cluster stands at the top of a steep ravine which leads down to Stout's Creek. The grounds around the property gently slope on the south side to a creek inlet. This land is used for cattle grazing. Many clusters of deciduous trees dot the pasture on all sides. The house is screened from the road by mature hardwood trees (See site map).

MG 7 Maple Grove Church and Cemetery

Maple Grove Church, built in 1876, is located at the point of highest elevation in the district. It is a one-story, square-plan frame church with a concrete foundation, an aluminum sided wood clapboard exterior, and aluminum frame windows. The adjacent cemetery, which predates the church, is enclosed by a stone wall which also extends on the church's south and east sides. A front entry extension was added to the church's north facade in 1961, and during the same time an "ell" was added to the south side of the church. In 1996 another addition was applied to the east side of the church and part of the wall was removed. Much of the architectural integrity of the one room church has been lost; however the prominence of its site and its continued use as the district's social institution, permits it to dominate the district as both a landmark and an institutional presence.

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Four elongated, rectangular windows are located on the east and west facades of the church. The windows are one over one double-hung sash windows with added transoms.

At one time, Maple Grove Road curved north of the church at a 90 degree angle. Remnants of the road (prior to its straightening in the 1960's) now provide access to the church parking lot, which is a gravel lot north of the building. Maple Grove Road runs along the south side of the church and cemetery. (See site map)

The cemetery, which is adjacent to the church on the west, is surrounded by "Bluegrass" stone walls, also constructed by Frank Sader and identical to the walls found around the Owens farms. The first burial in the cemetery dates from 1836, the cemetery is still active.

The position of the church at the district's highest point provides a spectacular view of the hills and farmsteads of the district. To the north of the church are the remnants of a tree-lined country road which extend into the property. Directly behind the front entry of the church is a field access route marked by two mature trees and a limestone field marker.

The pasture behind the church slopes and rises, and cows graze freely. A portion of the field is used as a hay field. Barbed wire fencing is used to keep cattle from straying into non-pasture areas.

MG 8 Whisenand-Peden Farmstead

The Whisenand-Peden farmstead is located about one mile east of Maple Grove Church and cemetery on the north side of Maple Grove Road. It was the home of Rachel Peden, the author of the Hoosier Farm Wife column, in the Indianapolis Star from 1945 until her death in 1974. The farmstead consists of a c. 1880 vernacular Gothic Revival farmhouse, two c.1900 storage buildings, two sheds and a non-contributing metal "pole" barn, c. 1988.

The house is a central passage form with a rectangular-plan and a rear ell addition that is believed to have once been the Wampler schoolhouse, a building formerly located across from Maple Grove Road Christian Church. The central-passage house is a balloon-frame structure with wood clapboard siding, a steeply pitched gable roof with metal standing-seam roofing, and dual-end chimneys on the main structure. The ell addition has a sloped roof and a central chimney. The windows are rectangular one-over-one double-hung

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windows, two per side of the centrally located front entry, and one in the protruding gable on the front facade. The remainder of the windows on the structure are one-over-one double-hung and are randomly distributed on the exterior of the structure. A flat, metal roofed porch protrudes from the front facade, supported by plain wooden posts. This house is typical of a dominant south central Indiana building type, the vernacular Gothic Revival, which exhibits some of the very basic principles of the Gothic Revival architectural style (steep roof pitch and gables) without the ornate detailing usually found in Gothic Revival architecture.

The house sits at an elevation of 750 feet. Monolithic limestone markers dot the acreage of the farmstead, particularly near Maple Grove Road on the eastern edge of the property, marking the former entry drives to the farm. Limestone posts along Maple Grove Road mark the former boundaries of the Whisenand property.

The English barn is composed of one-half concrete block and one-half vertical wood siding, painted red. The barn has sliding front doors and four windows on the east and west sides of the structure.

Two sheds are directly in back of the house, also of vertical wood siding. The sheds have gabled roofs and are used to house fowl. A second storage of equipment barn lies east of the driveway, and is an interesting combination of older hewn beams and more recent sawn members. It, too is clad in vertical wood siding. The barn has a moderately pitched, metal-clad roof with a shed roof projection on its north side.

The land is hilly and grassy and is used for livestock pasture. A natural spring runs down into land on the east side of the house, and is marked by a cluster of deciduous trees. At the center of the farmstead is the "square woods" where Rachel Peden spent many hours observing and recording the natural world [Joe Peden, 2-15-97].

MG 9 Ira Stanger Farmstead

The Ira Stanger farm is approximately one-quarter mile east of the Whisenand-Peden farm. Although the residence is no longer occupied, the buildings continue to be used by the owner for agricultural purposes. The farmstead is located on a steep ridge above the heavily wooded area around Stout's Creek. A long gravel road leads to the property, continuing north to the adjoining Carr Stanger farmstead. The farmstead consists of a house, which has been vacant for many years, two barns, and a silo.

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The house is an amalgam of vernacular building trends, with no definitive or identifiable style. Curiously, it is not balloon framed, although it dates from the early twentieth century. Evidence indicates that the two story cross axial plan is original to the house. The scrollwork on the rafter ends under the four opposing gables match. Four single story additions fill the corners of the cross plan, representing a system of porches, mud rooms and bathrooms. The frame structure is shingled in asphalt and supports one central brick chimney. The house is sided with a faux brick asphalt siding. Windows are randomly placed; most are double hung. A window on the structure's west side is designed in the Queen Anne style, in keeping with the house's c. 1900 construction date.

There are two barns associated with the farmstead. The most significant is a Midwest Three Portal barn of vertical clapboard and a steeply sloped, metal roof. A hay hood projects from the north side of the barn. A formed concrete silo is located south of the three portal barn. East of the portal barn is a small gambrel-roof barn (the roof is metal) which is constructed of one-half vertical wood siding and one-half concrete block. Both barns stand at the crest of a 100 foot slope down to Stout's Creek.

Scattered trees surround the house. The farmstead fronts a perennially wooded area that borders Stout's Creek. Power lines cross the pasture land adjacent to the farmstead. The entire farm is now used for pasture, the barns for storage, and the vacant house is used for shade by cattle.

MG 10 Carr Stanger Farmstead

The Carr Stanger farmstead is located one-quarter mile north of the Ira Stanger farmstead. The house and several outbuildings lie in front of a steep ridge that leads to Stout's Creek. A large farm pond borders the north side of the house, where it is built into the grade. At one time, the door at this level entered a space used for automobile storage. The farmstead includes several significant outbuildings which that demonstrate different vernacular building trends.

The house is also an amalgam of vernacular construction styles, starting with the original single pen log core of the house. Bertha Fyffe, life-long resident of Maple Grove Road, verifies that the house began as a 21'x21' log cabin with a handhewn limestone exterior chimney, much like the chimneys on the Dalten Clipp house which are dated 1842. Additions followed to the front of the house in 1899 and 1922. The first front addition could be considered a double pen, as it is applied to the original single pen log house. The 1922 addition of a room to the north caused the resulting plan to be T-shaped. There

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are three doors on the front facade. The roof slopes dramatically at the rear of the structure into a "saltbox" roof line covering an addition. Windows of the house are one-over-one double-hung and four-over-four double hung wood frame windows with plain windows moldings and some Greek Revival detailing. The heavy cornice returns and wide, plain frieze on the north, south and west facades are characteristic of the Greek Revival architectural style, although this part of the house dates to the late nineteenth century. The front porch has a hipped roof and is supported by four plain, round wooden columns with a faintly Doric reference.

Directly behind the house and to the east, are two small gabled sheds of vertical wood clapboard siding, and a sloped-roof outhouse, also of vertical wood siding. The small sheds are hand hewn timber-framed storage structures, among the earliest remaining outbuildings in the district. Bertha Fyffe comments that one of these buildings was used as a wash house, although it was built as a wood shed. The wash house was sometimes used to render lard after hog butchering. Its interior is tightly paneled, lending credence to this speculation. The exterior is covered with vertical board siding with evidence of hand wrought nails. Located nearby is an outhouse sided with vertical boards.

Significantly sized outbuildings on the property include a large English barn with a shed roof extension on the south side of the structure. The barn has a metal roof with a hay hood on its front facade of the barn. Its foundation is concrete. A split rail fence forms an animal pen on the east side.

Two gabled storage buildings are located in front of the English barn. The sheds are of frame spaced vertical wood siding, and have metal roofs. They stand on concrete blocks and have corrugated metal doors.

A Midwest Three Portal Barn, with vertical siding and a steeply sloped corrugated metal roof, adjoins a block silo on the east side. This barn is located to the south of the English barn. Other outbuildings on the property include a square shed with vertical wood siding and a low-pitched corrugated metal roof, northwest of the Three Portal Barn. Two shed roof buildings stand on the northeast portion of the property close to the house. They are composed of vertical wood siding and have metal roofs and exposed rafters.

A unique limestone chicken house is located west of the house and south of the farm pond. Its round plan does not conform to typical Midwestern chicken house typology, but George Stanger reports that the building functioned as a chick incubator, and was

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designed to prevent chick suffocation. His parents had identified the problem in square or rectangular incubators and designed their structure accordingly. Another small shed, covered with asphalt siding, is beside the chicken house on the south side of the pond.

Land is tilled in front (west) of the barns, southwest of the house. Wire fencing divides barns from the house. Horses are stabled in one of the barns, and cows graze around the land as well. A farm pond lies to the north of the house and a spring runs east to west along the north portion of the property, and several mature deciduous trees dot the area around the water.

MG 11 Wampler Farmstead

The Wampler farm consists of a Gothic Revival house with a central passage similar to the Ridge and Peden farmhouses. The house is situated at an elevation of 700 feet and is accessed from Maple Grove Road by a steep, treacherous, winding road. The house has a steeply pitched roof with a projecting front gable with asphalt shingles. The roof slopes heavily in the back, similar to a saltbox roof. The cross-gabled porch roof has been enclosed and now has a bank of three one-over-one double-hung windows on either side of the central entry. A single window in the gable projection is wood frame, double-hung, accented by a plain molding. The exterior walls of the house are wood clapboard. The foundation is replacement concrete block, indicating that a basement has been added to the house. (The house has not been moved.) The gables have diamond accents and the second story has long rectangular windows with flat hoods and brackets and a thick frieze. A door or window has been replaced by a sliding glass door. Another window at the southeast corner has been replaced, and is covered with an awning. A decorative louvered ventilator window is set beneath the front gable. A shed is behind the house, directly to the south.

A slanted roof shed, used as a chicken house, is covered in asphalt faux brick siding. This frame outbuilding is located directly behind the house, about twenty five to the south. The house itself is located at the top of a very steep ridge that descends into the bottom land of Stout and Bean Blossom Creek. Larger outbuildings are located to the south at significantly lower elevations.

Outbuildings include a large dairy barn of wood construction, clad in vertical siding. The gambrel roof is metal. The barn has a shed roof surround on three sides (south, north, and west) of the structure. Up the hill approximately 100 feet toward the house is a small

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frame barn with a metal roof and vertical siding that is supported on concrete blocks. A winding road leads down to the barn.

An oddly styled shed with vertical siding, metal roof, and exposed rafters exists along the steep drive to the house. The shed has a sliding corrugated metal door and has a flat-roof extension to the west of the main structure.

Since the house is atop a steep incline, this property is topographically diverse; elevations fluctuate in an extreme manner from the house to the dairy barn. The house is visible from Maple Grove Road in the winter due to its elevation, but completely hidden in dense tree cover during the rest of the year. The site is difficult to access, and outbuildings descend from the house into the bottom land.

MG 12 Delap - Fyffe Farmstead

The Delap- Fyffe farm is comprised of an 1859 saddlebag farmhouse, and several vernacular outbuildings. The house was built in 1859 by David Delap, the great-grandfather of the farm's present owner, Bertha Mae Fyffe. According to Bertha Fyffe, an "ell" addition was made in 1915 to expand the three room configuration to house her grandparents. The "ell" extends behind the west side of the house and adds three rooms. The saddlebag house, situated at the west part of the farm cluster retains its historic integrity. The sole alteration of any architectural significance, the removal of the characteristic central chimney in 1993, was due to its structural instability. The double pen house features paired doors with six over six windows symmetrically placed on either side. The narrow wooden muntins indicate a federal style influence.

The interior of the house contains an outstanding examples of hand planed Greek Revival style wood work, documented to have been made by David Delap himself. Door trim features dog-eared lintels with battered frames. The delicate narrowing of the jambs framing is a distinctive characteristic of this house. Built-in cabinetry, doors and fireplace surrounds show evidence of hand planing. A well was dug approximately 11' from the back of the original house. Later, when an addition covered the well, a trough was constructed to carry the water to a small well house which still stands on the south side of the house.

The Delap-Fyffe House is part of a larger collection of buildings which straddles both sides of Maple Grove Road. The farmstead is at the lowest elevation of any property in the district, sited near the bottom land of Bean Blossom Creek, at an elevation of 600

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feet. The land surrounding the house and farm is heavily wooded. Fields associated with the farm are located to the east and south of the house. They have been sold off, but are still in cultivation. Structures include a Midwest Three Portal barn, English barn, several sheds, two concrete block silos (c. 1910) with gabled hoods, a well house and a dairy barn. The house and outbuildings are all of frame construction; the siding on the outbuildings are all of frame construction; the siding on the outbuildings is primarily spaced vertical siding, and the house is clad in horizontal wood clapboard.

The site is also unique in its preservation of a well house, located southwest of the residence. This limestone gabled structure has a single door and is partially banked into a small ravine.

MG 13 The Ridge Farmstead

The Ridge Farmstead, built in 1876, is located west of the old Maple Grove School on the western extension of Maple Grove Road in Richland Township. The imposing central passage, Carpenter Gothic home is set back almost 800 feet from the road but, sited on a rise it is visible from it. The home was constructed by the Aiken brothers, reputed carpenters in the area, who also built an identical home nearby which was destroyed by fire. The cross gabled front facade is a familiar element of this style in the district and is also featured in the Doc Wampler house and the Whisenand-Peden house previously described. The farm is significant also because it has been retained in the Ridge, Fyffe and Stanger families, though intermarriage, since the first land sale in 1816.

The frame house was constructed with a two-story hall and parlor plan, originally featuring end chimneys. The original kitchen was located in an ell to the rear of the house. A flat roofed portico with carpenter gothic cornice work distinguishes the property.

The collection of historic outbuildings are sited to the south and higher than the Ridge house. Robert Fyffe explains that the entire farmstead was located in a cluster on this hill prior to the construction of the 1876 home. The original log cabin stood until mid twentieth century before it was demolished. The large vertical sided barn is a transverse crib form with double doors beneath the gable. The building housed dairy cows with stalls on one side and grain storage on the other. A small shed- roofed milk house is attached to its north side. Also included in this cluster are a formed concrete silo and two smaller gabled sheds. All buildings have metal roofs and entrances beneath the gable.

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The modest economy of the area has tended to preserve extant structures. A cultural disposition toward thrift has historically tended to support reuse rather than building new. The fact that there are several vacant residences in the district which have never been demolished reflects the strength of the ties of the people living in the Maple Grove Road area to their rural ancestors. In conclusion of the discussion of buildings, structures and objects within the district, while the trend has been expansion of the acreage of the farms, some land has been subdivided for twentieth-century development and rendered the areas and buildings noncontributing. Land which was once the southern part of the Ben Owens farm in Section 18 was subdivided for suburban development in the late 1950's. The area, called Lancaster Park is located on the east side of Maple Grove Road between the road and Stout's Creek. Lancaster Parks has seen gradual development. The typical home is a mid-60's ranch or split-level. There are still many lots left undeveloped. And new construction continues. The area contains 31 noncontributing buildings and a single arts and crafts style bungalow built in the 1920's from which no agricultural buildings remain. Later new development has appeared adjacent to the Ben Owens house and the Dalten-Clipp farm, but these new sites are few and spotty and have little overall impact on the integrity. In the past year, two homes have been built on small lots across from the Maple Grove Road Christian Church. These homes, placed in the historic center of the community, do have a negative impact of the dramatic view from the church to the southeast (See map) and testify to the continuing threat of randomly permitted new construction in the district.

Clusters

Clusters in the Maple Grove Road Historic District exist almost entirely in the form of farmsteads. Additionally, a church and cemetery and a school site are significant community features of the district. The Maple Grove Road Historic District includes thirteen nineteenth-century farmsteads, which are composed primarily of farmhouses and unattached outbuildings. The outbuildings include animal barns, equipment barns, milk houses, chicken houses, sheds, and outhouses. The main barn tends to be the largest structure in the cluster. This cluster relationship is reflected in nearly all of the farmsteads along Maple Grove Road. The farmstead clusters are not all the same; since the topography of the land limits its use as well as the siting of structures, most of the cluster arrangements in the district are site-specific. Most of the clusters in the area respond not only to the topography, which ranges from very steep to very flat, but they also are situated according to available sources of water. The siting of the farm houses

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seem expressive of the settlement patterns brought from the Mid Atlantic regions of the United States.

Each farmstead will be discussed separately in its cluster composition and the number of contributing structures listed in parenthesis after the name of the cluster:

MG1 - The Daniel Stout House (NR 11-30-73)

1 contributing building: house

1 noncontributing building: freestanding garage

The house sits atop a knoll, its east and south sides facing Maple Grove Road. All outbuildings associated with its former agricultural use have been removed. These structures, previously listed are not included in the Maple Grove Road Rural Historic District count.

MG2 - The Zellers Farmstead

7 contributing buildings: house, 3 barns, outhouse, 2 sheds

1 contributing structure: silo

3 contributing objects: 2 markers, a grinding wheel from the Stout grist mill

The farmstead straddles the intersection of Acuff Road and Maple Grove Road. The house is located on the southeast corner and all outbuildings are located across thoroughfares from it. An animal barn and a machinery shed are located on the north side of Acuff. A large dairy barn and two smaller gabled sheds are located west of Maple Grove Road. There are two limestone markers at the entrance of Acuff.

MG3 - Ben Owens Farmstead

6 contributing buildings: 2 houses, barn, 2sheds, 1 smoke house

4 contributing objects: marker, carriage step, hitching post, walls

1 noncontributing building: garage

The farmstead site atop a slight incline, and most of its outbuildings are sited in front of the house. An abandoned pasture lies directly to the north of the largest outbuildings, and English barn. The barn, shed and cottage all are located in front of the house, probably to provide ready access to the pastures, which were to the north and west of the house.

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MG4 - The Tom Owens House

- 1 contributing building: house**
- 1 contributing site: cemetery**
- 2 contributing objects: 1 marker and walls**
- 3 noncontributing buildings: pole barns**

The outbuildings on this farmstead are historically non-contributing metal barns. The house is surrounded on two sides by stone walls and a cemetery located on the parcel was once surrounded by walls, now removed.

MG5 - The Dalten-Clipp Farmstead

- 8 contributing buildings: house, barn, chicken house, granary and outbuildings**
- 1 noncontributing pole building**

The Dalten-Clipp complex was a thriving nineteenth-century dairy farm which retains a remarkable number of buildings from this era. The outbuildings include a Midwest Three Portal barn, a chicken house, a shed, and an outhouse. The cluster of outbuildings lies behind the house, approximately 200 feet from the farmhouse. The siting of these outbuildings is clearly tied to the presence of a natural spring which runs around the house. The outbuildings are situated around the spring. Additionally, the area is relatively flat, and the outbuildings were more easily constructed in this area.

MG6 - Old Fyffe Farm

- 4 contributing buildings: house, 2 barns, shed,**
- 1 contributing structure: silo**
- 1 object: a marker**
- 1 noncontributing house**

The cluster here is an interesting amalgam of old and new. A large, modern house has been built along the ridge behind the old house and outbuildings, which still stand, although the house is abandoned. Outbuildings within the cluster include two vernacular barns, one large and one small. One non-contributing metal barn lies to the southwest of the central passage house. The siting of the cluster is again related to the presence of a creek inlet, or spring. Additionally, the house and outbuildings are sited along a ridge above Stout's Creek, and the upland is used for pasture.

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MG7 - Maple Grove Church and Cemetery

1 contributing site: cemetery

1 contributing building: church

contributing objects: walls

Maple Grove Church sits alone atop the highest point in the district. A small, historic cemetery with multiple contributing objects is located west of the church surrounded by a dry laid stone fence. The siting of the church at the top of hill along the road was determined because the cemetery already existed at the time the church was built, in 1876. The cemetery can be dated to 1830, and the names represented include a roster of early Maple Grove Road settlement families.

MG8 - Whisenand-Peden Farmstead

6 contributing buildings: house, barns, sheds, cribs

1 contributing structure: silo

1 contributing site: the square woods

8 contributing objects: markers

3 noncontributing buildings: pole barn, small sheds for poultry

The Whisenand Peden farmstead consist of a vernacular Gothic farmhouse, two historic barns, (c. 1900), a variety of noncontributing and contributing sheds, a large contributing crib and a large noncontributing metal pole barn. The farmstead is sited in the location of an older farmstead, which dated to the 1860's. Siting of the outbuildings can be directly attributed to the presence of a natural spring that runs east to west and is located on the east side of the property. The barns and shed are located near the house, on sloped uplands that serve as pasture. Both historic barns have southern exposures. Sheds located behind the house also have southern exposures and are used to house chicken, turkeys and other fowl.

MG9 - Ira Stanger Farmstead

4 contributing buildings: house, 2 barns, shed

1 contributing structure: silo

1 contributing object: marker

The Ira Stanger farm consists of a vernacular farmhouse, and two historic barns. The first is a Midwest Three Portal Barn with vertical wood siding. A small, gambrel-roofed barn

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is located fifty feet to the east of the Midwest Three Portal Barn with a formed concrete block silo. Both barns are located atop a 100 foot slope down to Stout's Creek. Historically and currently this land was used as pasture for livestock grazing, and the barns, which housed the livestock, were located near a water source. The Midwest Three Portal Barn has a northern exposure, while the gambrel-roof barn has a western exposure.

MG10 - Carr Stanger Farmstead

12 contributing buildings; house, 2 barns, outhouse, wash house, incubator, 6 sheds
1 contributing structure: silo
8 contributing objects: markers

The Carr Stanger farm is located approximately three-quarters of a mile due north of the Ira Stanger farm, and as a cluster, shows the most integrity of the two. Markers included in this count represent the original Stanger tract purchased from William J. Whisenand and subsequently held from 1886 until 1988. ("Stengers" were farming another tract before this in Section 7) Many nineteenth century outbuildings are located on this property, including a large English barn with a shed roof extension, two gabled sheds, a Midwest Three Portal Barn, a later block silo, a square shed, three small sloped roof sheds and a round, limestone chicken house. The three sheds and the round chicken house are located along a spring fed pond that lies on the north side of the house. The barns are located along a ridge that slopes down to Stout's Creek. The house is the central element in this farmstead cluster, and the outbuildings spread out along its periphery.

MG11 - Wampler Farmstead

4 contributing buildings: house, barn and sheds
1 contributing object: marker
2 noncontributing buildings: pole barn and storage shed
2 noncontributing structure: silos

The Wampler farm is sited along a steep ridge, which overlooks the bottoms of the Stout's Creek bed and two Stanger farms to the southwest. The farmhouse, an 1880's vernacular Gothic, and the outbuildings are separated by this ridge, which drops approximately fifty to seventy-five feet. At the bottom of the ridge is a large gambrel-roof barn with a shed roof surround on the north, south and west sides. The barn is located in the bottom land of Stout's Creek. Other outbuildings are closer to the house, and include a chicken house, a gabled shed, and a shed. These outbuildings are all within one

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hundred feet of the house, and are at the crest of the steep ridge that separates the house from the main barn.

MG 12-Delap-Fyffe Farmstead

10 contributing buildings: house, 2 barns, well house, 6 sheds

2 contributing structures: 2 silos

1 noncontributing structure: silo

2 noncontributing buildings : manufactured homes

The Fyffe farm has multiple outbuildings on both sides of Maple Grove Road, all of which are oriented to the north, east and south of the 1859 saddlebag farmhouse. The organization of clusters responds significantly to the farmhouse; most small outbuildings are very close to the house, while barns are sited further away from the house. A unique feature of the site is the limestone well house.

MG13 - The Ridge Farmstead

4 contributing buildings: house, 3 barns

1 contributing structure: silo

1 contributing object: marker

1 noncontributing building: garage

The Ridge farm is the only cluster in the Maple Grove Road historic district located in Richland township. Situated about 800 feet south of West Maple Grove Road, the farm's outbuildings are grouped to the east and south of the house on higher ground. A small spring divides the property between the outbuildings and the house. Robert Fyffe describes all the small buildings on his farm as "barns," the largest used for animals, the two smaller barns used for the storage of feed and machinery [interview Robert Fyffe, 3-10-97].

Small Scale Elements

Small scale elements in the district include the stone walls (c. 1870) that line the sides of Maple Grove Road and mark the boundaries of the Owens farms and the Maple Grove Cemetery. Thus far, the walls survive without significant alteration. However, the continuity of the stone walls along the eastern side of Maple Grove Road near the Ben and Tom Owens farmsteads shows some deterioration. The location of the walls encircling the Maple Grove Road Church and Cemetery has been altered by the

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expansion of the church. The walls around the cemetery and the Ben Owens house are notable in their integrity.

Dating back to 1830, limestone boundary markers found along the Whisenand-Peden property line indicate the boundaries of 1816 land sale to George Whisenand (sic) in Section 6 Bloomington Township. They are found on other tracts of land as well throughout the area which encompasses the district. Two markers on the Zellers farm, appear to denote the entrance to Acuff Road and they link the tracts south of Upper Flanders to the northern part of the district. The northern boundary of the district is defined by the presence of these markers on the south side of Maple Grove Road and their absence on the north side.

Cemeteries and other sites

Stones from the ruins of a log cabin, including the remains of two stone chimneys similar to those on the Dalten-Clipp residence are located south of Lost Man's Lane in section 18. The original owner was the Woodall family and they are observed in the area as early as 1848. Later owners were the Blaine-Kerr family. The ruins are documented by both Rachel Peden and Bertha Fyffe [interview 11-18-96], who are eyewitnesses. Peden describes a pre-civil war house and grounds which included a "weaving house and smokehouse."

Several small cemeteries dot the landscape, some of which have no remaining gravestones but are documented on the 1929 Geodetic Vertical Datum Map. Several sites are verified through oral history. A survey completed by the D.A.R. for Monroe County indicates four cemeteries within the boundaries of the district. These include:

Owens Cemetery: Located west of the Ben Owens residence at the bottom of a hill, the two 8' limestone markers mark what was once the grave of Ben Inman a relative of the Owens family.

Armstrong Bell or Woodall Cemetery: As late as 1969, this was a walled cemetery on the site of the Tom Owens farm. Placed between the house and Maple Grove Road, the cemetery has fourteen gravestones. The wall has since been removed.

Houston or Liberty Cemetery: Located in Richland Township, this cemetery was associated with the early location of Maple Grove Christian Church, then called

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Liberty Church on Lost Man Lane. A 1940 newspaper clipping refers to this cemetery as a site covering over an acre (The Bloomington Evening World. 7-26-40), however only five markers remain and these have fallen.

Park Cemetery: Located to the east of Stout's Creek and south of the old Stout grist mill site, this cemetery contains 18 graves including members of the Wampler and Woodall families.

Conclusion

Maple Grove Road is a popular area for the study of southern Indiana rural folklore. Over the last twenty five years, students from Indiana University under the guidance of Professors Warren Roberts and Henry Glassie have produced studies including the church community, the Delap Fyffe farm, the stone walls and the Daniel Stout house. The area has been studied intensely because it allows the opportunity to interview members of families with long-standing presence in the community. In 1993, Purdue University students in the Landscape Architecture program under the direction of Professor Bernie Dahl analyzed the integrity of the rural landscape and laid plans for its preservation in "Maple Grove Road Historic District: Preserving Rural Character." The study presented development strategies, including as primary goals: minimizing the visual impact of new construction, retaining rural features, minimizing site disturbance, and improving water quality. All of these studies enforce the historic significance of the area.

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The Maple Grove Road Historic District is significant because it comprehensively reflects the patterns of agricultural settlement prevalent in southern Indiana in the early nineteenth century. Its buildings, structures and objects express rural culture from the period of settlement to the heyday of the self-sufficient family farm. Its architecture and landscape display an extremely high degree of integrity. Maple Grove Road was also the home of Rachel Peden, a notable Indiana author, who wrote about the history and folkways of this community. Maple Grove Road reached its peak prior to the introduction of large scale mechanized farming in the mid-twentieth century. Through its landscape, it illustrates a culture of thrift and land conservation, values typical of the small scale family farms which were the back bone of the American economy in the early twentieth century. Maple Grove Road is significant under National Register Criteria A, B, and C. The period of significance spans a great deal of time (1820-1948), and each criteria is represented within the district's boundaries.

Exploration and Settlement Under criteria A, the area is significant for its display of typical Southern Indiana settlement patterns. The collection of farmsteads preserved in the Maple Grove Historic District are a continuance of the Mid-Atlantic, Upland South building traditions as represented by the pattern of home construction on high ground within its rolling topography. As noted by folklorist Henry Glassie, the cultural traditions of the settling families as reflected upon the "canvas of the landscape" show a pattern of residences sited on the high ground, with the lowlands in cultivation [interview, 3-19-97]. This is expressive and derivative of the Celtic origins of the people and distinct from the traditions purveyed from the North Atlantic cultural hearth, which influenced the settlement patterns of northern Indiana. The pattern produced there was more directly tied to the geometric grid established by land sale. The richness of the land in northern Indiana made it attractive for purely agricultural uses. The precedent there was both Anglo Saxon and primarily agricultural (or crop-raising) in origin. In the Maple Grove Road area the comparative poverty of the soil was particularly suited to livestock, and this pastoral purpose is linked as far back as the Celtic tradition with construction on high ground. This is further reinforced by the presence of dry stone walls, which, constructed later, in the 1870's is also distinctly within the tradition of the Uplands South carried from its American Mid Atlantic origins on this continent. These walls are also linked with the thin soil and high bedrock of the Middle Atlantic.

Maple Grove Road is exceptional in the observable integrity of the settlement pattern. Both the road and farmsteads are built on a ridge. In the city of Bloomington, the same patterns are observable in the siting of very early houses, such as the Elias Abel House,

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Cochran-Henley and Paris Dunning, however they are obscured by the of later construction and land subdivision. From Maple Grove Road, one can easily observe farm houses commanding the tops of knolls overlooking their associated acreages [Glassie, 3-19-97].

Although official land sale in the area did not begin until September 1816, it is believed that white settlers entered this area as early as 1812. In that year, it was surveyed by Arthur Henrie and William Harris. At the 1816 Federal land sale in Vincennes, almost every section contained within the boundaries of the district was sold. Settlers came from Maryland, Virginia, and Kentucky primarily, bringing with them building traditions and settlement patterns from the Middle Atlantic states.

Some of the original settling families remained on the land until after 1900 and, in some instances, their descendants are still living on the land. Ownership of the Stenger (Stanger), Delap, Wampler, and Fyffe families, for example, can be established by the 1856 Atlas and land records dating from the 1830's. Intermarriage of farmers also helped retain ownership of the land and enforced a pattern of land use which remains unaltered today. The early alliance between Dr. John Stanger and Magdalena Wampler, like the early intermarriage in the Whisenand and Ridge families tended to vest the interests of these extended families in the community. They remain in the area today.

The 1850 census provides the following information about these families still residing in the district in 1996. John Fyffe, scion of the Fyffe family, who immigrated from Maryland, had accumulated land with a valuation of \$1,200 by this time. John Stanger, age 51, originally from Virginia, farmed land within the district valued at \$2000. In 1850, three members of the Whisenand family controlled land worth a substantial \$10,700 valuation, representing the largest holding in the district.

An observable trend towards land consolidation occurred between 1816 and the turn of the century. Land was initially sold in half sections and quarter sections. By the 1860's, the large acreages of the Owens, Stout, and Whisenand families justified the construction of gentlemen's estates. A large brick residence, said to be similar to the Ben Owens house was demolished in the 1880's, only thirty years after its construction by Jonathon Whisenand. Only anecdotal information remains explaining why it was demolished. Some speculate that it was difficult to heat, others claim that a relative tore it down searching for family money hidden there [interview Joe Peden 1-21-97]. The home

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represented a period of relative affluence in the local farming economy also exemplified in the Stout and Owens homes.

On a 1957 aerial map of the district, subdivision of the small suburban lots in Lancaster Park is evident. In the last decade two cul-de-sacs and scattered lots have been developed. This has resulted in a higher degree of parcelization; however, land remaining in crops and pasture has retained its character both in the size and shape of fields and the preservation of extant tree cover. There is remarkable conformity between aerials collected in 1939 and those taken in 1993.

Several factors have influenced the integrity of the Maple Grove Road rural landscape. The natural topographic constraints of the land as well as the amount of acreage perennially used for pasture have served to maintain the old configurations. Bertha Fyffe believes that topographic constraints of the land largely dictated its pattern of cultivation [interview 11-18-96]. Although this is certainly a factor, it is also true that stream banks and perennially forested areas as well as traditional fence rows were left with relatively more cover than allowed by farming practices of the mid-twentieth century. Charles Felkner, of the Purdue University Extension Service notes that, in the 60's and 70's, farmers generally narrowed or removed fence rows to accommodate the increasing size of farm equipment of that era. Use of the land in the area as pasture, also tended to preserve the use of fence rows, because they had value in providing shade for animals.

The fact that the land could not be used for cash crops and was not amenable to large scale farm machinery, tended to depress the economy of Maple Grove Road from the early twentieth century until today. This had a double impact on the community. It made living more difficult, as remembered by Ruth Fyffe, aged 86, [Fyffe, 11-18-96] who commented that her memory of childhood games was colored by the amount of work she did. But it also tended to insure the preservation of buildings. Families could not afford to build new and were forced to adapt. The sentimental linkage of families with farmsteads is also an influence. The Stanger, the Peden and the Old Fyffe farm houses are all vacant, but owners have resisted their removal. Henry Glassie observes that this strong tie with the family farmstead is strengthened through the Mid-Atlantic Appalachian tradition as well.

Another factor influencing the integrity of the landscape is the length of tenure of land ownership. In part, the community of generational Maple Grove Road owners have also helped to preserve old time field patterns and fence rows. Joe Peden acknowledges that

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fences he has removed have a way of being replaced over time, recurring in old patterns. Trees, called "Parent Trees" (interview, Joe Peden 1-21-97) used for the support of wire fencing, are often left in the fields because the wire has grown into them making them hazardous to remove with chain saws.

Modern intrusions, with the exception of Lancaster Park and Upper Flanders, which divide the large northern portion of the community from two contributing farms and a contributing object to the south, are sporadic enough not to seriously detract from the rural character of the district's landscape as seen from Maple Grove Road. However, the appearance of new smaller housing lots on the western boundary of the district is pervasive. New subdivisions have followed traditional cul-de-sac formulas, their rear yards sometimes bounded by the dry laid stone walls.

Although settlement patterns were influenced most by the location of Stout and Bean Blossom Creeks, the location of Maple Grove Road also tied the rural district together. The intersection of its north and west branches is the location of the Maple Grove Road grade school (1880-1929) which is still marked by a stone wall. The road's southern terminus with modern State Road 46 encompasses the district's earliest house, the Daniel Stout home. Maple Grove Road was formerly called Bloomington-Mt. Tabor Road, which connected Bloomington with nearby Mt. Tabor. An early (1820) water powered grist mill was located there, as well as several stores of the dry goods and blacksmith type, but the settlement failed. The later founding of Ellettsville produced the successful trading community that superseded Mt. Tabor. The town of Mt. Tabor, platted in 1828, no longer exists.

The name of the road was changed to Maple Grove Road in the 1960's, probably in reference to a stand of trees at the dogleg between the church and the Whisenand-Peden House, although Kitty Burkhart recounts that the Daniel Stout house stood to the east of a stand of sugar maples, "...so dense that it looked like dusk in the afternoon." [interview, 3-10-97] However the church had long been acknowledged as the center of the community and had been the site of the original Maple Grove school house. According to a Monroe County atlas, the existence and approximate configuration of the original road can be documented as early as 1856. It is likely that the road was constructed during the Internal Improvements Movement of the 1830's. The road provided a vital link between the northern portion of Monroe County and Bloomington, the county seat.

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The road remains in roughly the same physical location, although the road bed has been moved since the period of significance. The earliest documentation of the road bed [Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Indiana, 1876] shows it continuing to the north west through section 7 into Richland Township at a location considerably south of the dogleg at the church. In the late nineteenth century it was redirected due north past the west side of the Maple Grove Road Christian Church cemetery. More modern realignment, (before 1938) occurred creating the dogleg which turns to encompass the church and Peden property before turning north. Along its complete length, there are sections over-arched by trees, a reminder of former methods of family farming strongly contrast with present agricultural trends

The district is also significant because it exemplifies a rural folk tradition characterized by cooperative labor and community events. Several oral histories, obtained through student research and for the nomination itself, note community participation in seasonal tasks. These include hog butchering, "siloining," and "Big June" a social event at the church. These events occurred until well into mid-twentieth century. As Bertha Fyffe describes it, hog butchering, which usually took place in winter, assembled a group of people related by blood, proximity and common purpose. In her own experience these included two Stangers, Ben Whisenand, and two Dunnings; in all seven adult men were involved [interview, 11-18-96]. They met at a selected farm. In one day, about 10 animals were slaughtered. After the carcasses were hung, a noon meal, called 'dinner,' was provided for all. This large 'pitch-in' style meal usually included 'tenderloin' of pork, which was considered a traditional delicacy of the occasion. As in the 'Big June' dinners, the occasion provided an opportunity for friendly recipe competition among farm wives. After dinner, pieces of meat were cut and trimmed, and lard rendered. By this time the workday was usually over, so canning was done on subsequent days.

Like most rural communities in Indiana, Maple Grove rituals were associated with the threshing of grain. During the period roughly between 1870 and 1940, threshing technology changed from early horse powered treadmill types to steam powered equipment in the 90's and finally combustion engines. Threshing dinners, when farmers combined their labor and moved from farmstead to farmstead within the area, established an early precedent for group activity, and for subsequent "dinner" style celebrations on other occasions.

Rachel Peden writes about "siloining," another task customarily associated with a social event:

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“This year ours will be the first silo filled in this community because we have the earliest corn. It must be done on Saturday, so that Joe can be here, for this is one of the most exciting events of the farm year. Farmers dread it, in the same way a club woman dreads reading a club paper, but it is a social event no farmer wants to miss.

...Carol and I planned dinner for ten men. (Ten years ago, when the corn had to be cut by hand and hauled in ‘On the long stalk’ on wagons, the work would have required twenty men and dinner would have required at least four women cooks.)

My neighbors offered to help, and sent garden offerings, Elizabeth sent late green beans and roasting ears; Grace sent Wealthy apples; Mary dressed two guineas for roasting. There will also be fried fish, potato salad, coleslaw, sliced tomatoes red and yellow, cottage cheese, sliced onions in vinegar, baked beans, celery, baked macaroni and cheese, homemade rolls with butter and blackberry jam, glazed sweet potatoes, iced tea, hot coffee, three kinds of cookies, lime sherbet with ginger ale poured over it, and pumpkin pie.” Rural Free p. 20

The lavish array of fresh food is characteristic of all celebrations on the farm and some associated with the church. Peden here describes the traditional role of the farm wife, and the community pride in food production.

The new technology of silage came to prominence during the late nineteenth century. The associated structure, called a silo, was introduced to Indiana in 1884 [Noble, vol. II, p. 69]. Although at first this technology was controversial, use of silage gained popularity because it allowed farmers to harvest succulent corn and store it undried thereby retaining the level of nutrients in fresh grain. Silage allowed green corn to be fed to cows throughout the winter insuring continuous milk production. Revolutionary in its time, it also introduced a new custom. As farmers moved from silo to silo on each property, they worked and ate together. This custom had been common during the harvest season since settlement times, established by precedent, before the invention of silos. By late twentieth century, the use of silos in the Maple Grove Road area was discontinued.

Threshing, hay pitching and other farming activities established a history of communal work which was adapted to each successive new technology. However, little of this survives today, although Joe Peden and his son still farm together and there is some

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cooperation between historic neighbors. Agricultural land has been further consolidated, and automated reducing the number of individuals with an interest in sharing work.

Significant Persons

Under Criterion B, the Maple Grove Road is significant for its association with a notable Indiana author. The district was the home of Rachel Peden, an Indiana author who authored a weekly column in the Indianapolis Star (1946-1975) and the Muncie Evening Press, in addition to the three nationally published books, Speak to the Earth, The Land, the People, and Rural Free. Mrs. Peden lived at the Whisenand-Peden farm from the early 1940's until her death there in 1974. Throughout that time, she continued to document everyday life on a southern Indiana farm, describing in detail, the land, the buildings, her neighbors, and the history of the area. Maple Grove Road and its community of people represent the largest source for Peden's comments. Her distinction is primarily regional, although Rural Free was reviewed by writers at the "New York Times Book Review" and "Saturday Review," upon its publication by Knopf, which published her subsequent books as well. Her description of the land and the people who shaped it creates an accurate vision of the Maple Grove Road community of the early twentieth century. In other words, the district of 1940 or 1950 was very much like the district of 1900, the obvious exception being the arrival of the automobile and rural electrification (1946). The topography of the area and its deep pastoral tradition helped to slow its development. Although Mrs. Peden's work falls partly outside of the period of significance, her descriptions accurately depict the folkways of this era because of the slow development of the district, and her inclusion of the lives and reminiscences of her older neighbors.

Rachel Peden may be located in that peculiarly American genre of nature writers commencing with Thoreau and leading to Loren Eiseley (whom she mentions in Speak to the Earth) and Anne Dillard. Interwoven in the stories of Maple Grove Road are themes of the importance of solitude, the relativity of human effort, the ultimate dominance of natural processes and the continuing tradition of conservation and thrift in farm life.

"All this is part of farm living, by which man acquires a sense of his place in the world, and from which he gains something of pride and also enough humility to make his kind bearable." Rural Free p. 195-196.

Peden's contemplative vignettes of ordinary farm life, highlighted by her interest in botany and animal husbandry, present a contrast between life lived in circuit with the passage of seasons and those which conform to contemporary mass culture.

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Supremely conscious of the impending loss of the family farm as early as 1966, Peden wrote:

“There is a new kind of soil loss, erosion by concrete and asphalt as farmers give up their fields to roads, shopping centers, essential services required by our modern, industrial, luxurious society. The small family farm, I think, can be considered among our diminishing natural resources. It provides pleasant anchoring memories for children who grow up on it or visit it frequently. It offers some feeling of peace and normalcy to adults. Its very smallness is a useful stimulus to farmers, compelling them to depend upon their own ingenuity rather than expect all their problems to be solved for them.” Herald Times 8-18-1966

Her interest in obscure folkways, like the “vinegar bee” description in The Land, The People, reflects an interest in rural activities now lost to technology and marketing. Her documentation of rural social customs commenced with the simple observation of her neighbors and maintained this unstudied authority through out. Often cast in the form of a “ farm wife’s journal,” the books comfortably intermix observation and contemplation.

During the early days of the environmental movement initiated by the 1962 publication of Rachel Carson’s Silent Spring, Peden wrote compellingly of the necessity of preserving forest lands within the agricultural landscape and rural lanes where radiating fence rows were left untouched. As a regional writer, Rachel Peden’s significance to the proposed district is made more pointed by her role as champion of the family farm and early recognition of the threat suburbanization represents.

Significant characteristics of a type, period or method of construction

Under Criterion C, the Maple Grove Road Rural Historic District is eligible because it represents a pattern of land development that has long since passed – the organization of a community around a church. Within the district, the Maple Grove Road Christian Church is located at the highest point in the district, making it the most visible and important structure; literally and figuratively. It is situated at the center of the community. As noted by James Madison, prominent Hoosier historian, “the small rural church standing in a grove of trees, the cemetery nearby, was a primary focus of nineteenth-century community life.” Prior to construction of the church, the old Wampler School occupied the site. [Stanger, p.4] As a result, public land use in the district has centered in this area. The church was constructed on this site in 1876. The Maple Grove Road Campbellite church was initially located nearby next to a small cemetery on Lost

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Man's Lane, just east of its intersection with Union Valley Road [Munn, p. 17]. So the current structure houses a congregation which retains a much longer history in the community through its association with North Liberty Church (1850-1876).

The cemetery location at the turn of Maple Grove Road predates both church and school and started as a neighborhood burial ground, becoming a recognized cemetery in 1849. [Stanger, p.3] The walls surrounding the graveyard were constructed at approximately the same time as the church. It should be noted that the walls which are present on both the Tom and Ben Owens farms, are also observed at public sites within the district.

Judi Hetrick has pointed out in her paper, "Focus: Maple Grove Road Christian Church", that although the church remains a visual center of the neighborhood, it is no longer its social center. Today the congregation reflects the diversity of the surrounding community, few members devote full time to farming activities. Through the early twentieth century, the farmers who plowed the nearby fields formed the congregation. Many members, the Fyffes, the Wamplers, the Dunnings and the Whisenands intermarried and remained in the community. Later, the church hosted Farm Bureau and 4-H club events, further establishing itself as an integral part of this rural community. Today, one Sunday in June is reserved by church members as a homecoming event for current members and residents of the congregation who have moved to distant places. This event, called "Big June," is the most significant continuing community tradition on Maple Grove Road. An all day affair, "Big June" features a family style pitch-in dinner patterned on the traditional harvest dinners described above.

In the decade of the 1990's, two families still actively involved in farming remain in the Maple Grove Road Christian Church congregation. The new residents of the Maple Grove Road community have closer ties to town than to the land. Rev. Amerson, the current minister, has implemented a new outreach program, which has expanded the congregation, but made it less local. The church itself has undergone an expansion which caused the removal of a portion of the stone fence.

Architecture is the most prominent area of significance in the district. Henry Glassie has described it as an "encyclopedic collection" of vernacular house forms. [interview, 10-15-96]. The Maple Grove Road district represents a large concentration of well-preserved vernacular traditions that are now threatened by the growth of nearby Bloomington. Building forms, including the I-house, central-passage, vernacular Gothic Revival, saddlebag, and log house are all represented. Two homes, the Daniel Stout

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House and the Ben Owens House clearly were the residences of prominent people in Monroe County. Although the Ben Owens and Daniel Stout houses can be considered vernacular in form, both reflect a level of design not found in other farms in the area. They are the only structural masonry houses in the district. At the same time that Daniel Stout was building his dressed stone house, in 1828, Col. Ketchum, the county's most famous resident, was living in a log house improved with wood clapboards. Alan Noble comments;

“Certain materials either possess or gain status. Another well known instance is that of log houses. A dwelling built of logs on the frontier, although admirably suited to the existing primitive settlement conditions, was often considered a mark of inferior status. Thus, when replaced, it was succeeded by a timber frame structure, or when enlarged the addition was frame and the original log house was covered to hide the log construction.” [Noble, p.2]

Commentators also mention, that although Daniel Stout house is a simple, even crude hall and parlor form, it reflects a more urban style than its date and location would imply. In a similar manner the Ben Owens farm, constructed by the son of an original land grant settler, reflects the proportions and materials of a gentrified home in the city. The Georgian plan used in the Owens home is found in rural areas, often associated with prosperous farmers, in areas from the Middle Atlantic hearth to the Mississippi River. These two examples, built 40 years apart, are distinct from the other homes in the district which are of frame or log construction.

The several examples of I-house forms, including the Dalten-Clipp and Tom Owens farm (which suffered a serious fire in the late 1980's), are evidence of influence by the English building tradition brought through the Middle Atlantic folk culture complex. The Ben Owens house reflects a Georgian or “double pile” form which is an elaboration of the I-type, two rooms deep.

The saddle bag house, an example of which is found in the Delap Fyffe residence, is a vernacular form usually of log construction, although not in this case. The sills of this house are made from hewn poplar log, while the joists are both hewn and unhewn. The framing is mill-sawed yellow poplar lumber. The saddlebag form is one of a number of double-pen house types of the Southern Uplands tradition [Glassie, Patterns, p. 82]. In the Delap-Fyffe house a double-faced fireplace was originally located along the dividing wall

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between the two front rooms of the Delap-Fyffe house. The wall remains but both fireplaces have been closed.

There are three nearly identical vernacular Gothic Revival style homes in the Maple Grove Road District. Most were built in the 1870's. At least two were constructed by the same men, the Aiken Brothers. Two, the cross gabled Ridge and the Doc Wampler homes, are similar in massing and roof pitch. The third property, the Whisenand-Peden farm house was assembled from the moved Wampler school and has a carpenter style front porch which spans the facade. These homes show some movement towards style consciousness which is descriptive of the larger change from settlement era simplicity and utility to the expression of a later generation of farmers less concerned with the difficulties of subsistence.

Earlier homes in the Maple Grove Road Historic Rural District, as evidenced by the Carr Stanger and Delap-Fyffe houses reflect the persistent theme of adaptation to evolving and expanding family use. The Carr Stanger House, for example, began with a single pen log structure to which rooms were added along its west facade. The additions followed rules of vernacular construction as well. A double pen house was attached to the log structure, then an additional room was built on its north side. The Delap-Fyffe farm, which is a saddlebag double pen house, includes a later L-shaped addition. These early structures under went initial construction in the 1840's and 50's. Marriages, births and extended families necessitated further expansion. Often two adult families cohabited while one couple searched for appropriate housing.

'Found' building materials were used for their economy. As Fred Peterson states in his article on "Vernacular Building and Victorian Architecture: Midwestern American Farm Homes" [p.439] "A practical wisdom about building developed from the experience of the farmer in meeting daily needs in a direct and practical manner. These values were expressed whether in a 'single building project,' as in a new barn or shed composed of recycled structural members or 'the product of generations,' the adapted and expanded cores of settlement era structures." Solon Robinson, a contemporary editorialist of the time, and one of a generation of Indiana pioneers, explained it in this way: "the categories of economy and utility or convenience and comfort provided the basis for the practical home builder of the farm." [Robinson in Peterson, p. 438]

Another theme relating to these early farm houses is the pragmatic use of local materials. Frame structures were built on rough worked limestone piers with loose rubble

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foundations. Two, and possibly three, homes are made from recycled school buildings. The Whisenand-Peden Farm was built using the moved Wampler School house structure, originally located across from the site of the church. Similarly, the residence located at the juncture of the two Maple Grove Roads, marked by a stone wall comparable in scale to that surrounding the cemetery, contains a former school building which once served this area from 1889 to 1929.

The stone walls along Maple Grove Road reflect another vernacular building tradition identified in Henry Glassie's Pattern in the Material Culture of the Eastern United States as the "Bluegrass Stone Wall." The walls found in the Maple Grove Road district are some of the most extensive and intact walls found in south central Indiana. In her paper entitled "Dry Stone Walling," Patricia Mastick identifies two factors affecting the popularity of stone fences: the presence of high bedrock (usually associated with poor soil) and the existence of a building tradition to support its use [Mastick, 5]. In nearby Kentucky, the heyday of stone walls extended from 1790 to 1840, during which the walls were built by either slave labor or Irish immigrants. Construction of the walls on Maple Grove Road occurred later (1868-1878) and appears to have been associated with the Owens family, who had immigrated from Ireland. The walls were built subsequent to the erection of the Ben and Tom Owen's farms in 1864 and 1870, respectively.

What Henry Glassie has termed "Blue Grass Stone Walls," are sometimes referred to by the residents of the district as "rock fences." [W. Roberts, p.2] Either term denotes a kind of roughly worked limestone fence, laid up without mortar or "dry laid," showing similarity to extant construction in central New York, southern Pennsylvania, the valley of Virginia, the Tennessee Valley, the Bluegrass, southern Indiana, eastern Kansas and southern Wisconsin. Paven McDaniel notes that name variations often point out distinct districts:

The New England 'stonewall' becomes a stone fence in Pennsylvania and western New York. The stone fence becomes a 'rock fence' from West Virginia south; a 'stone row' in northern New Jersey. [Meredith p. 135]

In the Maple Grove Road area, limestone is found in a natural layered state which expedites its removal and coursing. The fences, made feasible by the presence of nearby limestone outcroppings on Stout's Creek, also reflect the relative stability and affluence of the farming community here in the nineteenth century. Fences were expressive, and

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these were built during the strength of Maple Grove Road's rural community. Alan Noble states,

“The fence is a significant index of settlement stage and character, as well as often being a clue to the physical environment. Often landscape elements combine so finely with characteristics of the resource base, the cultural matrix and its historical antecedents.” [John Fraser Hart and Eugene Cotton, p.4]

But they are also indicative of the presence of a tradition. There are many places which where high bedrock does not manifest itself in stone walls.

Other prominent locations of stone walls along Maple Grove Road are the Maple Grove Road Christian Church (built 1876), cemetery (1830) and grade school (1885). Both are pointedly enclosed by stone walls as if to emphasize the sense of the community ownership.

Census information does verify that the stone workers who built the walls were not residents of the county. They were not entirely anonymous either. Oral histories provide some documentation. On the Tom Owens farm, where there are over 2.5 miles of rock fences, J. Adams left an inscription with the date, 1878. [Munn, p. 15] Levi Fyffe, a now deceased resident of the area, remembers stone workers from Kentucky, named Perry Smith and Charles Lineback, who were said to live on the Tom Owens farm. Frank Sader is the name associated with the fences built around Maple Grove Christian Church. George Wylie with the substantial walls at Ben Owens farm. “Old Man Ellet” built the monumental wall at the edge of Stout's Creek as it borders Maple Grove Road and as it once crossed the old road bed. He was the namesake of Ellettsville.

Conclusion

As embodied in the writing of Rachel Peden, the Maple Grove Road Rural Historic District is a paean to the survival of the family farm and the passing lifestyle it represents. The close-knit, inter-related community which still exists on Maple Grove emphasizes the once prevalent generational occupation of farming, as shown in land records. Surviving community structures, such as the Maple Grove Christian Church and the much altered Maple Grove Road School, recall institutions of common experience, before school consolidations and the ambitions of new ministries created larger more anonymous organizations and divested them of their rural character.

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Joe Peden, son of Rachel Peden, describes farming in this century as the evolution of a way of life into a business. Where once farming included children in everyday farm chores and tasks, allowing them to become an integral part of the family economic unit, members of the modern farm family are separated by their diverse tasks and roles. Often wives obtain jobs outside the home. Young children are no longer capable of operating the complex and increasingly larger equipment associated with the harvest and tilling. Peden makes the simple observation that farming itself, now in large noisy enclosed combines, has become distinct from the quiet toil of horses, where a simple shout among workers, lent the spirit of common effort. The portrait of the self sustaining family farm is still evident in the Maple Grove Road landscape, however. The farmsteads, outbuildings, fields and pastures retaining a surprising integrity.

The Maple Grove Road Historic District incorporates a broad range of rural architectural forms from the time of its settlement through the construction of the front gabled Gothic Revival styles of the late-nineteenth century. The period of significance extends from 1820 through 1948. The district's unique quality is in the preservation of a range of house forms from the period associated with the settlement of the area, through the early twentieth century. The last contributing residential structure was built in 1910. Construction dates of accessory agricultural structures range into the mid-twentieth century. Settlement and crop patterns continue to reflect configurations established in the nineteenth century and this integrity is readily observable from Maple Grove Road. Farming remains the predominate economic use of the land, and this fact, in association with the area's proximity to an urbanized center, creates a sense of urgency in its recognition as an historic place.

The district contains a unique representation of architecture styles indigenous to southern Indiana. Characteristically, they are an "egalitarian" expression of these styles. The grouping of Gothic Revival structures, all very similar and at once very plain, reflect not only the sense of community, but the sense of democracy in the area. It is typical, for instance, that the Delap-Fyffe property began with a rather primitive saddle bag form, with Greek Revival detailing applied as an after-thought. The interior configuration of rooms formed a primitive pattern with which the settling families were familiar, but the exterior was restyled for the day. The Old Fyffe farm makes similar use of an external style while retaining the earlier underlying form (central passage).

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Also distinctive is the presence of very early log construction represented by the Dalten Clipp home and contained within the Carr Stanger home. The first home built in the area, the Daniel Stout House, Henry Glassie describes as an "almost medieval" structure, recalling the hall and parlor form which had long since disappeared from favor at the time of its construction. The use of stone in this case is exceptional but it is within the stone building tradition which is displayed elsewhere in the district through the construction of walls, foundations and chimneys. Similarly, although the Ben Owens farm can be identified as Georgian in style, it recalls more precisely the simple central hall tradition of the more vernacular I-house. These two properties remain from an era of relative affluence during which primitive agriculture could sustain larger more ambitious homes. The coming of mechanization directed a more modest farming tradition.

By the time farm machinery had come to the rest of America, Maple Grove Road assumed a more frugal stance towards construction represented by the three extant Gothic Revival homes. That range of architectural expression from log construction, through hall and parlor, saddle bag, I-house and Gothic Revival is singular in its concentration in one area and it is still observable from the road as it developed in the nineteenth century.

The fields, woods, people and houses that Rachel Peden described still exist in the Maple Grove Road community of today. It is possible to walk through the woods that are memorialized in Rural Free and The Land, The People and witness the integrity of the cycles of nature as Rachel Peden expressed them- not preserved as much as uninterrupted by the continuity of time. This continuity remains the greatest strength of the district. Through its families, land use, houses and landmarks, the district encompasses and expresses the ideal of the American family farm as it was lived through two centuries. The system of interdependencies, crafts, customs, and folklore documented in Rachel Peden's works are manifest in the objects and landmarks which contribute to this district. Each hand hewn limestone marker, therefore, tells its tale. Like Faulkner's Yoknapatawpha County, at the intersection of the literary and the real, the Maple Grove Road Historic District encapsulates a rural landscape as it was interpreted by the sensibility of an American writer.

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United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Maple Grove Road Rural Historic Landscape, Monroe County, Indiana
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Interviews

Audio tapes held by Preservation Development Inc.
400 West 7th Street Suite #110
Bloomington, IN 47401

Henry Glassie, interview 3-19-97 by Nancy Hiestand.

Video Tapes Held By Dave Derkacy
phone 812.333.1812
Media Images Inc.
PO Box 3045
Bloomington, IN 47402

Joe and Joyce Peden, video interview 2-15-97 by Malcolm Woollen and Nancy Hiestand

Robert and Ruth Fyffe, video interview 3-10-97 by Malcolm Woollen and Nancy Hiestand

Bertha Fyffe, video interview 11-18-96 by Malcolm Woollen and Nancy Hiestand

Kitty Brown Burkhart, video interview 3-10-97 by Malcolm Woollen and Nancy Hiestand

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Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning from a point at the intersection of the south right-of-way of West Maple Grove Road and the north west corner of the parcel #007-15490-00, continuing east along said right-of-way to the point of intersection with the east bank of Stout Creek, following the east bank of Stout Creek south to its intersection with the north property line of parcel # 012-11470-00 then continuing east to its intersection with the west right-of-way of State Road 37 then continuing south along said right-of-way to its intersection with the south property line of parcel # 012-23720-02 then continuing west to the intersection of the east boundary of Section 19 then continuing south to its intersection with the south property line of parcel # 012-03215-00 then continuing west along the south property line to its intersection with the west right-of-way of Maple Grove Road and continuing north along said right-of-way to its intersection with the south property line of parcel # 012-03260-00. Then following said property line west and north along its boundaries to its intersection with the south property line of parcel # 012-03215-00. Then continuing west along the south property line of said parcel to its intersection with the south property line of parcel #012-28220-00. Then continuing west, northwest, north and east along said property line to its intersection with the west right-of-way line of Maple Grove Road. Then following said right-of-way north and northwest to its intersection with the south property line of parcel # 012-00980-01. Then continuing west, southwest, northwest and northeast around said parcel to its intersection with the west property line of parcel #012-19540-00 then continuing northeast and west and north to its intersection with the south property line of parcel # 012-23770-00, then continuing west to its intersection with the south property line of parcel # 012-22860-00. Then continuing west, north and east along said property line to its intersection with the west right-of-way of Maple Grove Road. Continuing north along the Maple Grove Road right-of-way to its intersection with the south property line of parcel # 012-07560-00. Continuing west along the south property line of said parcel to its intersection with the south property line of parcel # 007-22865-00. Then continuing west and north along said property line to its intersection with the west property line of parcel # 012-22860-00 and continuing north along said west property line to its intersection with the west property line of parcel #007-20430-00. Then continuing north to its intersection with the west property line of parcel # 007-15520-00. Continuing north along said west property line to its intersection with the west property line of parcel #007-15490-00 and continuing north to its intersection with the south right-of-way of Maple Grove Road. Then turning east along said right-of-way and continuing to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The district encompasses artifacts and structures and farmsteads dating from 1828 through the mid twentieth century that were associated with a group of families who have become interrelated through time. The district is aesthetically linked in its north and south portions by the construction of dry laid stone walls and limestone property markers. The northern boundary of the district is formed by the east-west extension of Maple Grove Road which is lined with limestone markers on its south border. To the east the boundary follows the eastern bank of Stout's Creek, where rock for the stone walls was quarried, to its encompass the Zellers Farm and the ruins of the old Stout Mill on the east side of Maple Grove Road. After crossing the right-of-way to the west, the district encompasses the Daniel Stout residence and the open pasture and barns associated with the Zellers Farm. Continuing north along the edge of a section line, the district includes a collection of stone walls and farm buildings associated with the Owens family. North of the Owens farmstead, the district includes open pasture, woods and crop land.

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Maple Grove Road Rural Historic District, Monroe County, IN

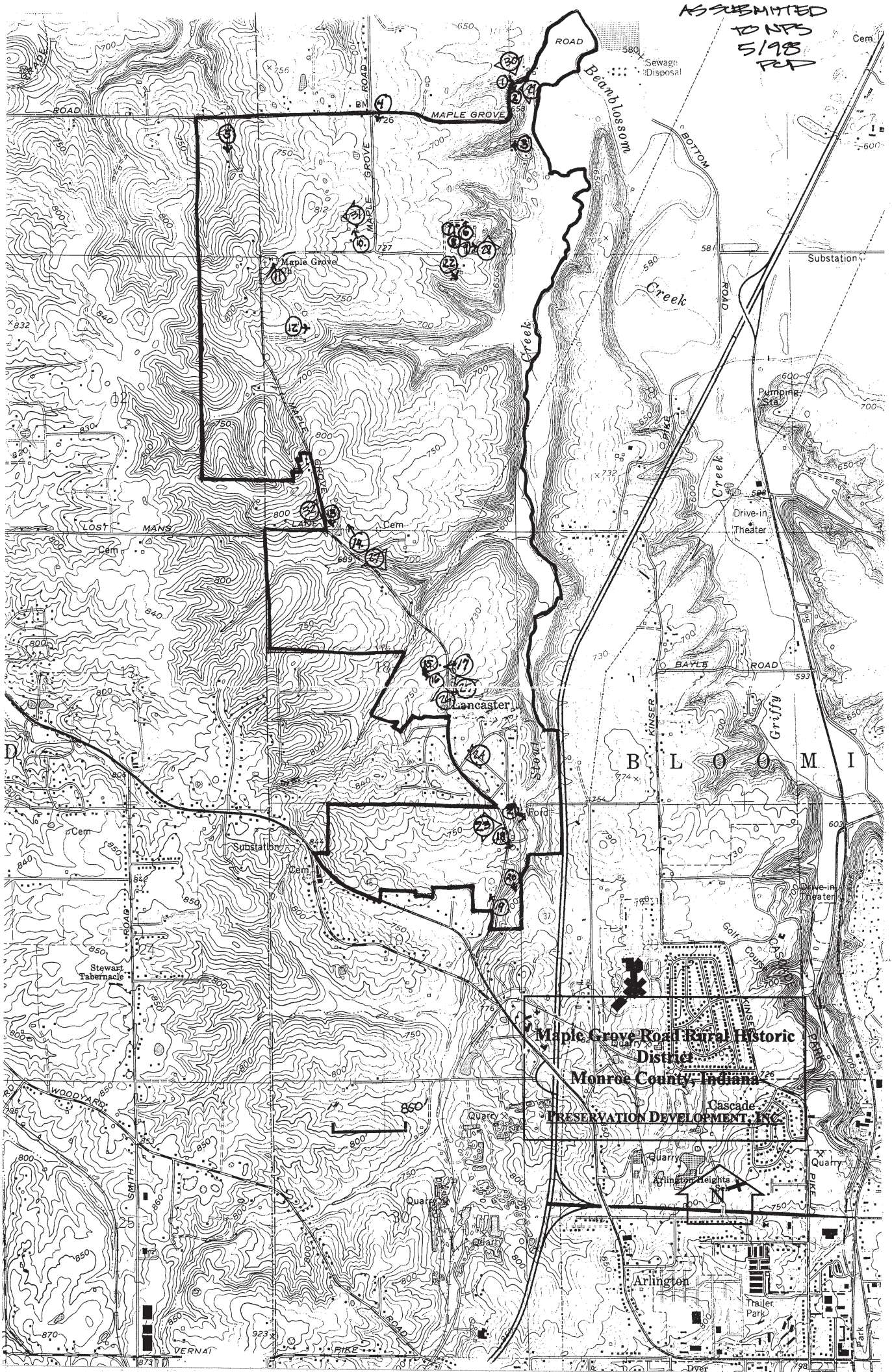
Section Photograph Page 56

The following information is the same for all photographs:

District Name: Maple Grove Road Rural Historic District
County and State: Monroe County, Indiana
Location of original negative: Preservation Development Inc.
400 West Seventh, Suite 110
Bloomington, IN 47404

Photo	Subject	date	photographer
1	Delap-Fyffe House, 1585 West Maple Grove Road	3-26-97	Nancy Hiestand
2	well house, Delap-Fyffe	3-26-97	Nancy Hiestand
3	Wampler House, 1755 West Maple Grove Road	4-8-95	Kate Branigan
4	limestone marker, intersection MGR west and north	4-8-95	Kate Branigan
5	Ridge House, 3081 West Maple Grove Road	3-26-97	Nancy Hiestand
6	Carr Stanger House, south elevation 6250 N. Maple Grove Road	4-8-95	Kate Branigan
7	Carr Stanger House, west elevation 6250 North Maple Grove Road	9-27-96	Nancy Hiestand
8	limestone chicken incubator- Carr Stanger	9-27-96	Nancy Hiestand
9	barn, Carr Stanger	4-8-95	Kate Branigan
10	Whisenand-Peden House	9-27-96	Nancy Hiestand
11	Maple Grove Road Christian Church 5925 North Maple Grove Road	3-21-95	Kate Branigan
12	Old Fyffe House, 5716 North Maple Grove Road	4-8-95	Kate Branigan
13	Dalten Clipp House	3-26-95	Kate Branigan
14	Dalten Clipp Barn and landscape	3-26-95	Kate Branigan
15	Ben Owens House, 4595 North Maple Grove Road	3-21-95	Kate Branigan
16	summer kitchen, Ben Owens House	3-26-97	Nancy Hiestand
17	wall and post, Ben Owens	3-21-95	Kate Branigan
18	Zeller House, 3888 North Maple Grove Road	3-21-95	Kate Branigan
19	Daniel Stout House, 3655 North Maple Grove Road	3-21-95	Kate Branigan
20	ruins of Stout's Mill	9-27-96	Nancy Hiestand
21	Banks of Stout Creek	3-26-97	Nancy Hiestand
22	Ira Stanger barn and landscape	3-26-95	Kate Branigan
23	midwest three-portal barn, Zeller Farm	4-24-98	Nancy Hiestand
24	non-contributing houses, Lancaster Park Subdiv.	4-24-98	Nancy Hiestand
25	Maple Grove Road landscape	4-24-98	Nancy Hiestand
26	English barn, Ben Owens Farm	4-24-98	Nancy Hiestand
27	Tom Owens Farm landscape	4-24-98	Nancy Hiestand
28	wash house and outhouse, Carr Stanger Farm	4-24-98	Nancy Hiestand
29	midwest three-portal barn, Delap-Fyffe Farm	4-24-98	Nancy Hiestand
30	blacksmith shed, Delap-Fyffe Farm	4-24-98	Nancy Hiestand
31	non-contributing barn, Whisenand-Peden Farm	4-24-98	Nancy Hiestand
32	crib, landscape, Dalten Clipp Farm	4-24-98	Nancy Hiestand

AS SUBMITTED
TO NPS
5/18
RJR



Maple Grove Road Rural Historic District
Monroe County, Indiana

PRESERVATION DEVELOPMENT, INC.

Arlington

Trailer Park

Dyer

Park