

FINM

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Gant, William R., Farm
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 5890 South 175 Street N/A not for publication
city or town Columbus N/A vicinity
state Indiana code In county Bartholomew code 005 zip code 40201

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____

Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

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

Signature of certifying official/Title _____

Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper _____

Date of Action _____

- 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:) _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

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

- building, district, site, structure, object

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows: buildings (2, 0), sites (0, 0), structures (0, 0), objects (0, 0), Total (2, 0)

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic, Single Dwelling, Agriculture, Animal Facility

Domestic, Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival, OTHER: transverse frame barn, OTHER: I-house

foundation: Stone: Limestone, walls: Brick, roof: Asphalt, other: Synthetic: Vinyl

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.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- Criteria A-G with checkboxes and descriptions.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- SETTLEMENT, AGRICULTURE, ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1864-1950

Significant Dates

1864

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

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:

Gant, William R., Farm
Name of Property

Bartholomew In.
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3.02 Acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	6	5	9	6	4	0	0	4	3	3	3	8	6	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

3

Zone	Easting				Northing									

2

Zone	Easting				Northing									

4

Zone	Easting				Northing									

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carl E. Kramer, Ph.D., Vice President
organization Kramer Associates, Inc. date 04-20-00
street & number 38 Forest Drive telephone 812-284-3830
city or town Jeffersonville state Indiana zip code 47130

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 Roger A. & Barbara J. Parker
street & number 5890 South 175 East telephone 812-372-2396
city or town Columbus state Indiana zip code 40201

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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William R. Gant Farm

Narrative Description

The William Riley Gant Farm is located in Sand Creek Township in southeastern Bartholomew County, about seven miles outside of Columbus, the county seat, and about three and one-half miles west of Elizabethtown. The site lies between the East Fork of White River and Brush Creek, a fork of Little Sand Creek. The terrain is generally flat, low-lying bottom land and is highly fertile. Agriculture has been the mainstay of the township's economy since the beginning of Euro-American settlement, and farming remains an important occupation for Sand Creek Township residents. The property being nominated consists of 3.02 acres and fronts on County Road 175 East. It was once part of a larger farm tract that comprised well over 300 acres. The surrounding farmland, now owned by adjoining farm operators, is flat bottom land and remains in agricultural production, primarily corn and soybeans. The primary contributing structure in the site is the farm house, a two-story brick vernacular Greek Revival structure with a Federal-style ell, which probably was built about 1864. An early twentieth-century transverse frame barn with a gambrel roof is located behind and to the southwest of the house. It has been covered with synthetic siding and windows, but its location, massing, internal structure and roof remain largely unchanged, and it can be considered a contributing structure.

The farmhouse sits approximately 75 feet back from the road (photo 1), with access provided by a gravel driveway. A modern two-car garage has been constructed at the rear of the house within the past twenty years and is not apparent in a direct view from the road. The barn (photo 19) sits about 275 feet from the road and is served by the same gravel drive way, which makes a loop in front of the barn.

The house is a two-story, brick, L-plan structure with a gable roof (photos 1 and 2). The foundation and plinth are of fieldstone. The brick work is a three-brick English bond variant with six stretcher rows separated by single header rows. The symmetrical front elevation, which faces east, has three bays. The central bay contains first and second-story doorways. The first-story entryway has a transom with four horizontal lights and five vertical sidelights and is topped with smooth limestone lintels. The second story doorway has five vertical sidelights also has a smooth limestone lintel as well as a smooth limestone sill. According to oral tradition, the first-story entrance once opened onto a wood porch, and the presence of the second-story door suggests that the porch might have served as a balcony. But if so, the porch has long-since been removed, and no photographic evidence of its appearance is available, nor is there any marring of the brick to suggest the location of a porch. The fenestration on the north and south bays consists of

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original tall, double hung, wood windows with four vertical lights in each sash. Somewhat unusual is the fact that both sashes are divided by wide mullions and narrow mutins. This pattern is repeated throughout the structure. The windows have smooth stone sills and lintels, and in most cases the sashes still retail their original glass. The windows on the north and south facades of the main block of the house are identical to those on the front. The simple cornice is unadorned.

The north elevation (photos 3 and 4) includes both the main block and the back side of the ell. The brickwork is consistent with the front elevation; the ell is inset about thirteen inches at its junction with the main block, but the junction is fully integrated with the main block, indicating that the entire structure was erected at the same time. The windows in the ell are of the same basic style as the front block, but are shorter and have square rather than vertical panes, most of which are original glass. At the rear of the ell is a two-car garage which was attached during the 1980s by a previous owner. It is sheathed in vinyl siding. The bay window provides light to an interior breakfast room.

The south elevation (photos 5-6) includes the main block and the front side of the ell, which is a two-story frame porch and gallery. The fenestration of the main block is identical to that of the north end. The gallery, a reconstruction of the original, is unique to Sand Creek Township, though not unusual in Indiana, particularly during the early nineteenth century. Its wood posts have simple capitals, and the second-story balustrade is supported by fiddle-shaped milled balusters. The doors on the opposite ends of the first story porch have three over three vertical windows topped by simple stone lintels, while the central window, which serves the dining room, has a vertical double-hung sash with four square lights in each sash. It is also topped by a stone lintel. This pattern is repeated on the second story gallery, except that the casings are of wood post and lintel design. The west end of the ell encloses a narrow staircase (photo 17) that provides access to and from the cellar and the ell portions of the house. The windows on south side of each floor of the gallery-porch are similar to those in other parts of the ell, though without the stone lintels. Several panes appear to be of original glass. The brick of the second story gallery wall is covered with white stucco.

The rear elevation (photo 7) is characterized by a broad, moderately pitched gable with a double hung window with four square panes, topped by a smooth stone lintel. The southern portion of the back wall, which encloses the rear staircase, is now sheathed in vinyl siding, but it was originally of wood frame construction. The original portion of the first story is obscured by the

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rear addition that includes a breakfast room, bath room, and two-car garage.

The structure has three interior chimneys, two that serve the first-floor parlors and the bedrooms immediately above them in the main block, and a third that serves the dining room, located in the ell. All are relatively plain and appear to have had corbeling at the top; however, the corbeling of the north chimney on the main block was removed at some point. All of the chimneys are pierced on both stories by capped stovepipe holes about eight feet above floor level, except in the south front parlor, where it is four feet above the floor, indicating that the house was heated by stoves rather than fireplaces. There is no apparent evidence that the structure ever had fireplaces.

The main entry opens into the stair hall (photo 8). The floor, which is fully carpeted, is constructed of wide hardwood boards, with high baseboards. The staircase, which turns abruptly at a landing, is cantilevered from the north wall on the first story level and from the south wall from the landing to the second story. The beautiful stair rail is crafted to appear as one continuous element, with the hand rail flowing into a turned newel post. It is supported by turned spindles. A closet is located under the stairs, with access provided by a paneled door topped by a simple pediment with three-dimensional molding. A paneled door opposite the front door provides access to the ell porch.

The south front parlor of the first floor (photo 9) has identical vertical windows in the east, west, and south walls, all of which reach from the floor to near the ceiling and are encased in wood surrounds, topped with simple pediments identical to the one on the entry hall closet. The paneled door leading to the entry hall repeats this pattern, with a two-paned transom between the door and the pediment. The hardwood floor is carpeted. The north front parlor (photo 10) resembles the south parlor in every respect, except that the west wall is pierced by a door leading to the dining room rather than a window.

The dining room (photo 11), located in the ell, features shorter, double-hung sash windows, and both the window and the doorway from the parlor have simple wood surrounds topped by simple, undecorated pediments. The door between the dining room and the parlor has a transom from which the panes have been removed. The paneled door to the porch has three rows of three vertical lights and is also topped by a double-paned transom. Unlike the parlors, the dining room has a simple wood ceiling molding. The wide, hardwood floor boards, accented by high baseboards, are apparent in the absence of carpeting. The design of the kitchen (photo 12) is similar to that of the dining room, including the wide hardwood floors, high baseboards, simple

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pedimented window surrounds, doors with transoms, and ceiling molding. At the rear, the kitchen opens into the recently-constructed addition that includes a breakfast room and bathroom as well as a two-car garage.

The arrangement and features of the second story in large measure replicate those of the first, though with some variations. The second-story windows uniformly have double-hung sashes with four square panes and simple, undecorated wood surrounds, similar to those in the first-floor dining room and kitchen. The doors are paneled and the surrounds follow the same pattern as the windows, with no transoms. The second story has high baseboards throughout. Some of these characteristics are exemplified in the second floor hall, where the stair rail turns into the north wall (photo 13). The front rooms (photos 14-15) over the parlors are bedrooms, which have had closets added on the interior walls. The north bedroom leads into another bedroom (photo 16) which opens onto the porch. It is flanked by a modern bathroom. The master bedroom (photo 17), which also has a built-in closet, is located over the kitchen.

No precise date has been discovered for the large transverse-frame barn; however, a local farmer who has since died placed the date at about 1918, which is consistent with the structure's balloon-frame structure and gambrel roof. It is located about 270 feet from Road 175, and approximately 100 feet southwest from the house. In its original form, (photos 20-21) the front end had a large sliding door, and the gable was pierced by a vertical door that provided access to the loft. Two small four-paned windows were located above and to the left and right of the loft opening. The south side had a smaller vertical door connected by hinges. The entire structure is supported by a concrete block foundation. In recent years the structure has been sheathed in vinyl siding and some new timbers were added to the interior to create a recreation area for the residents. In the process, several windows were added where none previously existed, as shown in photo 19. However, the original structure, massing, and gambrel roof remain essentially unaltered; the original structure is at least 80 percent intact, and if the siding were removed, the barn's original character would be clearly apparent.

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Narrative Statement of Significance

The William Riley Gant Farm house meets National Register Criterion A in the themes of settlement and agriculture and Criterion C in architecture. Settlement and agriculture were inextricably intertwined in nineteenth century southern Indiana, and Bartholomew County was no exception. The Gant family arrived in Bartholomew County from South Carolina in the mid-1820s and by midcentury was prominently involved in local agricultural pursuits. The William R. Gant home, built about 1864 by a son of first generation pioneer Newton Gant, is an excellent representation of a vernacular Greek Revival-style Indiana farm house and was rated outstanding in the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory, Bartholomew County Interim Report, published in June 1980. The house was occupied by two generations of the Gant family, from the time of its construction until 1950.

History

Like many southern Indiana residents in the midnineteenth century, William Riley Gant descended from a family with strong southern roots. His great grandfather, William Gaunt, was born about 1730 in either North Carolina or Virginia. He married Ann(a) Wood(s) and by the early 1750s they had moved to Orange County in the Abbeville District of South Carolina, where they had thirteen children, at least eleven of whom survived to adulthood. The family appears to have been active Baptists of modest means; William Gaunt served as messenger to the denominational association for Little River Church in 1793 and 1795, and his son Cador served in the same position in 1794, 1797, and 1799. The Gaunt's seventh child, a son named Tyre (also spelled Tyrra, and Tyra), was born in 1768. He married Susanna Pratt in 1795. Like his father, Tyre sired a large family which consisted of eleven children. During the 1820s the Tyre Gant family moved to Indiana, settling in Butler Township, Franklin County. The reason for the move is not recorded. Many southerners moved to Indiana during this period because they opposed slavery, and that may have been the case with the Gants. But there is simply no evidence to substantiate their motive for moving.

Shortly after the family arrived in Franklin County, Tyre and Susanna's elder sons--Cader, born in 1796, and Newton, born in 1803--moved on to Bartholomew County. Precisely when the move occurred is not clear. However, Cader and his wife, Catherine Jones, a niece of South Carolina statesman John C. Calhoun, were in Sand Creek Township in Bartholomew County by 1825, and it is reasonable to assume that Newton, who married Jane Stuckey in 1828, made the move about

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the same time. As early as 1827 Newton began purchasing parcels of land northwestern Sand Creek Township from owners who initially had purchased federal land through the land office in Jeffersonville. In April of that year he bought the parcel on which the Gant house is located from John H. Newland and his wife, Mary Ann Newland. By 1840 Newton Gant had assembled a farm of approximately 340 acres in Sections 5, 8, and 17 in Sand Creek Township.

Newton and Jane Stuckey Gant followed Gant tradition and had a sizeable family of their own, with five sons--James S. Gant and John W. Gant, born in 1830; William Riley Gant, born 1836; Cader Gant, born 1839; and Newton M. Gant, born 1847--and two daughters--Nancy Catherine Gant, born 1834; and Elizabeth M. Gant, born 1841. Newton Gant died intestate in 1849, and the estate apparently passed to his widow, Jane Stuckey Gant, who was also left with their five minor children. Addition of her husband's land to other property which she had inherited through her own family left her with a total of 622 acres valued at \$6,900 in 1850.

In March 1851 Jane Stuckey Gant married Fletcher Peele. Her eldest son, James S. Gant, subsequently filed suit to have the estate divided among his father's heirs, including his mother and her new husband. The lawsuit was settled in January 1855, with William R. Gant receiving Lot No. 4, which was the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 5, Township 8 North of Range 6 East. Over the next several years, he purchased various parcels of his father's property from his siblings and his mother as they became available. By 1879 he had reassembled a two hundred-acre farm in the southeast quarter of Section 8 and the northern fourth of the northeast quarter of Section 17. Jane Stuckey Gant Peele lived on an adjoining tract until her death in 1897.

On September 20, 1858, William Riley Gant married a widow named Martha Ann Wiggs Hull. About 1864, according to oral tradition, they erected the handsome two-story, red brick Greek Revival-style house which was to house two generations of the family. (No definitive evidence has been found to document the exact date of construction, but Bartholomew County tax records show that William R. Gant's property tax payment increased more than quadrupled from 1864 to 1865, even though his acreage remained constant. A caveat is necessary on this point, however. County tax records indicate that Gant paid property taxes on only twenty acres until 1875, and that he did not formally acquire the site on which the house is located until his mother transferred the property to him by quit claim deed in August 1873. On the other hand, federal census records indicate that Gant owned at least 130 acres in 1860 and 200 acres in 1870. This discrepancy suggests that Gant already owned and paid taxes on the house site, but that the transfer of

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ownership was not recorded for another decade. This pattern was fairly common in the nineteenth century.) William and Martha Gant had five children--Henry Newton Gant, who was born in 1862 and died in 1903; Marietta C. Gant, born in 1863 (no date of death); Susie Elizabeth Gant, born in 1863 and died in 1919; John Gant, born in 1865 and died in 1911; and William Riley Gant, Jr., born in 1868 and died in 1953.

Data from the federal Agricultural Censuses of 1850 through 1880 suggest that the Gants were typical Hoosier farmers. At midcentury, most Indiana farms were general farms which produced a mixture of livestock and crops, balanced heavily toward hogs and cereal grains, particularly corn and wheat. Self-sufficiency was a continuing objective, but as the century passed and introduction of new tools and equipment promoted higher levels of production and efficiency, production of a surplus for the market was increasingly emphasized. The 1850 census data for the Newton Gant farm are consolidated with Jane Gant's other property under her name. Nevertheless, the general farm pattern is apparent in an operation that included two dairy cows, 75 swine, 1,800 bushels of corn, 80 bushels of wheat, 100 bushels of oats, and seven bushels of Irish potatoes. Dairy production included 110 pounds of butter, and the value of slaughtered livestock amounted to \$340, with the total livestock operation valued at \$370.

General farming remained the pattern for William Riley Gant's operation between 1860 and 1880, though the balance among the various aspects of production changed somewhat from decade to decade. The influence of new technology, such as improved plows, combines, and other implements is particularly apparent. In 1860 Gant's operation stood at 130 acres with a cash value of \$4,000. A decade later it had grown to 200 acres valued at \$10,000. In 1860 Gant's livestock operation included one milk cow, which produced 200 pounds of butter, and 26 swine. The livestock value totaled value of \$280, including \$50 for slaughtered livestock. Crop production included 600 bushels of corn, 335 bushels of wheat, 150 bushels of oats, and 15 bushels of potatoes.

Census figures for the following decade indicate a several-fold increase in the livestock operation, as the number of milk cattle increased to four, along with the addition of a dozen other cattle, presumably beef cattle, and the swine operation doubled. In the process, butter production increased to 250 pounds, the value of slaughtered livestock grew to \$430, and the overall value of the livestock operation increased to \$995. Expansion of the livestock operation no doubt required increased crop production, as corn output more than quadrupled to 2,800 bushels, while wheat production nearly doubled to 615 bushels and oats jumped to 250 bushels. Gant also

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expanded into hay and orchard production during the 1860s, harvesting six tons of hay and 50 bushels of orchard products (probably apples) in 1869, the year recorded in the 1870 census. The impact of new technology is apparent in an increase in the number of horses from three to four during this period and first-time recordings of the value of implements in 1870 at \$150 and the value of wages at \$500. Increased use of horses, oxen, or other draft animals, along with increased use of hired labor, are clear indicators of growing use of new technology and production for the market. The value of all production on the Gant farm recorded in the 1870 census was \$2,245, a very respectable performance for a Hoosier farm during the post-Civil War years.

Except for wheat production, which increased nearly 30 percent, overall production and value levels for the 1880 census remained either stable or fell somewhat over the previous decade. This pattern probably reflects the impact of an agrarian economic crisis that hit the United States between 1873 and 1878. By 1879, the year reflected in the census figures, recovery had set in, but production levels and cash values had not yet reached those of a decade earlier. Despite the downturn in Gant's production, he nevertheless appears to have increased his investment in farm implements, as declared value increased to \$300. He also expanded into poultry production, with 48 chickens on hand in 1880 and production of 480 dozen eggs during 1879. Expansion into poultry raising suggests an effort to further diversify an already general farming operation.

In addition to his farming activities, William R. Gant was a leader in the local community. In the late 1870s he was active in reorganizing the Christian Church in Elizabethtown and building its new edifice. A Democrat in politics, he was elected to the Bartholomew County Board of County Commissioners in September 1875 and served through August 1878. He was vice chairman in 1877 and chairman in 1878. As county commissioner he dealt on a regular basis with matters such as inspection and repair of local turnpikes and roads, construction and maintenance of bridges, care of paupers, operation of the county asylum and treatment of the inmates, and oversight of the township trustees and their operation of local schools. Since maintenance of rural roads was critical for crops and livestock to market, it was common for farmers to serve as county commissioners.

William R. Gant, Sr., died of tuberculosis on July 16, 1888. According the *Columbus Evening Republican*, he had battled the "dreadful disease" for a "long time" but "was never able to check its ravages." Noting his service as a county commissioner, the paper praised him as "an honest and upright citizen and a good neighbor." Gant's will left the residence, all household and kitchen

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furniture, and other furnishings, together with approximately seventy-seven acres of the northwestern quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 8 to his widow, Martha Ann Wiggs Gant. The remainder of the farm was to be held in common by four of his children--Henry, Elizabeth, John, and William Riley, Jr., until the latter turned 21, at which time it was to be divided equally among them. Daughter Marietta Gant Baughman received 80 acres in neighboring Jackson County, where she and her husband already lived. Martha Ann Gant resided in the farm house until her death in 1914. At that time control of most of the property passed to her children and their spouses. In February 1916 the 39-acre parcel on which the Gant house is located was divided by quit claim deed between daughter Elizabeth, who had married Joseph W. Hamblen in 1904, and son William R. Gant, Jr., with Elizabeth retaining the parcel on which the house is located. The Hamblens already had acquired the family property in Section 17. Meanwhile, Henry Gant had sold a forty-acre tract consisting of the western half of the eastern half of the southeast quarter of Section 8 to Elizabeth and William Riley, Jr., in common, in February 1899 for \$3,200. In December 1917 they split the tract equally from east to west, with Elizabeth receiving the southern half and William R., Jr., the northern half. As a result of this transaction, Elizabeth Gant Hamblen controlled well over half of the farm that her father had assembled.

Elizabeth and Joseph W. Hamblen and William R. Gant, Jr., and his wife, Mary Suverkrup Gant, farmed the land until Elizabeth's death on January 26, 1918, when her property passed to her husband. Although he had smaller acreage, William R., Jr., became an active leader in the farming community. He joined the Grange in 1914 and served as secretary of the Columbus Grange from 1917 to 1938 and as secretary of the Indiana Grange from 1921 to 1943. Gant was also a member of the local Masonic Lodge. During World War I he was involved in the local war finance drive as a member of the Sand Creek War Savings and Thrift Campaign, while Mary S. Gant served on the township Food Club committee to promote wise local management of food for the war effort.

Joseph Hamblen resided in the Gant house, as his wife's sole heir, and to operate the farm through the 1940s, during the last nineteen years of his life with the assistance of John H. and Nelle L. Dinkens. In April 1950, about a month before his death on May 24, he executed a deed passing the property to the Dinkenses in recognition of "the services for the past 19 years of the said grantees to me in their care of me during my declining years." The deed gave Hamblen a life estate in the property and required the Dinkenses to continue to care for him and to take care of his medical and personal expenses for the remainder of his life and for his funeral expenses. Hamblen's death extinguished the life estate, and barely three years later the Dinkenses sold the

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property to Herschel D. and Blanche H. Newsom. Newsom descended from one of Bartholomew County and Sand Creek Township's oldest and largest pioneer families. However, he appears to have been in federal service in Washington, D. C., and the family did not reside on the property. Herschel Newsom died in Washington on July 2, 1970, and the property passed to his widow. For much of the 1980s the Gant house stood vacant and suffered considerable deterioration. Meanwhile, in October 1983 Blanche Newsom transferred the estate to her sons, Jessie Richard and David Hill Newsom, both of whom also lived out of state. In August 1991 they sold the house and 3.02 acres to Roger A. Parker, the manager of the regional distribution center for Claas of America, a German-based farm equipment manufacturer located south of Columbus. Thus, the home of a pioneer Bartholomew County farm family is now owned by an executive of an international agribusiness concern who, with his wife Barbara, is restoring it to its former integrity. This fact in itself symbolizes a major transformation underway in American agriculture and its impact on rural Indiana.

Settlement Context

The land which now includes Bartholomew County was opened for settlement in 1818 as a result of the Treaty of St. Mary's, or the New Purchase Treaty, by which the Miamis relinquished most of their lands, which included the central third of Indiana. Within three years settlers began moving into the area watered by the Driftwood River, the East Fork of White River, Sand Creek, Flat Rock Creek, Clifty Creek, and their tributaries and purchasing public land through the federal land offices at Jeffersonville and Brookville. By 1821 enough pioneers had arrived to justify organization of a new county. The county was organized in January 1821 by the Indiana General Assembly and named for Gen. Joseph Bartholomew, a state Senator from Clark County who had commanded an infantry battalion at the battle of Tippecanoe, where he was severely wounded. Closely involved with the establishment of Bartholomew County was John Tipton, later a United States senator from Indiana, who donated thirty acres of land for the county seat. In February 1821 the legislature named the county seat Tiptona in his honor. Tipton, however, was a Democrat, and many of the local political leaders were Whigs, who were incensed at naming the county seat for the rival party. Thus, in March the legislature rescinded its action and renamed the town Columbus. Tipton was offended by this action, and from that point on had little to do with the city that his contribution had helped create.

As with other parts of southern Indiana, a substantial number of Bartholomew County's pioneer settlers were immigrants from North and South Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, and Kentucky.

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Many were farmers who were attracted to the flat, fertile bottom lands in the southeastern part of the county. Among the first wave of settlers were the five Newsom brothers--Daniel, Willis, Joel, David, and John--all of whom were Quakers who emigrated from North Carolina through Orange and Washington counties. By the end of the nineteenth century the Newsom family comprised one of the largest clans in Bartholomew County. Others Quakers who arrived during the early years were the Coxes, the Parkers, and the Halls. Together with the Newsoms, these families were large enough by the mid-1870s that they constituted about half the population of Sand Creek Township. Major non-Quaker families who arrived in the township during the first half of the 1820s included the Blacketeers, the Richardsons, and the Gants.

Sand Creek Township, the oldest in the county, was organized on May 14, 1821. Most of the township's settlers were farmers, and agriculture remained its economic mainstay well into the twentieth century. The township's agriculture supported two towns that served as marketing and social centers for local residents. Azalia, located about ten miles south of Columbus, was laid out in 1831 by Quaker pioneer Joel Newsom. It soon became the site of Friends and Methodist Episcopal churches and attracted businesses, professionals, and tradesmen such as physicians, blacksmiths, livestock dealers, a general store, wagon maker, and a sawmill. By 1890 it had 150 residents. Elizabethtown, platted in 1845 by railroad contractor George W. Branham and named for his wife, became Sand Creek's main marketing center, primarily because of its position on the Madison line of the Jeffersonville, Madison & Indianapolis Railroad. Located seven miles southeast of Columbus and surrounded by rich farmland, Elizabethtown drew large quantities of agricultural products, which were shipped to major urban markets such as Indianapolis, Cincinnati, and Louisville. It also provided a broader range of business, industrial, and professional service activities, including hotels, restaurants, dressmaker, milliner, planing and flour mills, general stores, agricultural implements dealers, druggists, shoemakers, barbers, and lawyers. By 1890 its population numbered 450.

Precisely when the Gants first arrived in Bartholomew County is unclear. However, published biographical sketches and land records indicate that Cader Gant, Newton Gant's brother, settled no later than 1825, and Newton bought a forty-acre parcel in the southeast quarter of Section 8, Township 8, Range 6 from John H. Newland of Fayette County on April 7, 1827. He also purchased an adjoining forty-acre parcels in the same section from George W. Newland, also of Fayette County. Although he was not the original purchaser of any of the land he acquired, Newton Gant's aggressive acquisition of land between 1827 and 1835, while he was in his late twenties and early thirties, suggests that he was a young man "on the make" who intended to

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become a serious farmer--a characteristic that typified pioneer farmers in southern Indiana during the early and mid-nineteenth century. The fact that he was able to assemble a 340-acre farm when the average Indiana farm in 1850, the year after his death in 1849, measured barely 136 acres strongly suggests that he was successful in his pursuit. That his son, William R. Gant was able to reacquire and retain nearly two-thirds of the farm during a period when the average acreage of a Hoosier farm was declining, from 136 acres in 1850 to 103 acres in 1890, is quite noteworthy. Equally important is the symbolic significance of William R. Gant's construction of a substantial brick vernacular Greek Revival-style house about 1864. While agriculture was clearly the dominant component in Bartholomew County and Sand Creek Township's economic base, investment in such a home signaled that the this and other Indiana communities had completed the transition from "the pioneer stage of development" characterized by isolated log cabins and small lean-tos and stock pens to a stable agricultural economy marked by "frame and brick houses . . . [and] large barns." (James H. Madison, *The Indiana Way: A State History*, p. 145.)

Agricultural Context

The history of the Gant farm over a period three generations, from approximately 1829 to 1950, exemplifies the development of a Hoosier family farm, not only in Sand Creek Township, but in Bartholomew County and Indiana as a whole. The Gant farm and others like it were part of a growing agricultural-commercial economy that supported commercial activities in numerous towns and villages, such as Azalia and Elizabeth, as well as more complex commercial and industrial concerns in larger communities like Columbus. At its peak, the Gant farm included not only the handsome red-brick Greek Revival style home but also a barn, corn crib, smokehouse, hog house and feedlot, carriage shed, tool shed, and hen house, all clustered near the house and barn. The only structures that remain are the house and the barn.

Bartholomew County was a very prosperous agricultural county during the second half of the nineteenth century and well into the twentieth. By the midnineteenth century much of the land had been cleared and cultivated, but numerous farmers continued to reserve large sections of unimproved land, which might be used for pasture or timber. From the beginning of settlement, farmers had the advantages of prime farmland and moderate climate. The coming of the railroad provided excellent transportation to larger urban markets such as Louisville, Cincinnati, and Indianapolis. The years between the Civil War and 1900 witnessed the gradual transformation from subsistence to commercial agriculture, as farmers adopted new implements such as chilled-iron plows, disc harrows, grain drills, and planters; increased their use of natural and artificial

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fertilizers; employed soil conserving cultivation techniques such as crop rotation; and took advantage of educational programs offered by Purdue University and the State Board of Agriculture. Farmers also became increasingly organized, forming local chapters of national associations such as the Patrons of Husbandry (the Grange), in which William Riley Gant, Jr. became a local and state leader.

The county's agriculture was also a foundation of Columbus's manufacturing economy. The Cerealine Manufacturing Company, established during the 1870s, was one of the world's first ready-to-eat breakfast cereal manufacturers. Its products were the first produced by a Columbus firm to marketed both nationwide and overseas. The American Starch Company, which processed 4,000 bushels of corn daily in 1888, was a major consumer of local corn. Complementing the local agricultural economy was Reeves & Company, which made agricultural implements.

The William R. Gant farm home exemplifies the prosperity of the Sand Creek Township and Bartholomew County farming community between the midnineteenth century and the first two decades of the twentieth century. The Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory, conducted in Bartholomew County in 1979 and published in 1980, identified no fewer than thirty-three farm home properties in Sand Creek Township as either "outstanding" or "notable." Of this group, sixteen were ranked as outstanding, including the W. R. Gant farmhouse. An additional seventeen residences were evaluated as "reference," possibly having local significance. A few of the listed structures have been demolished, but Sand Creek's rural domestic architecture remains largely intact.

All of the outstanding structures were erected between 1850 and 1900, with six being built during the 1860s and seven during the 1890s. Only four of the structures listed in the inventory are of the Greek Revival style, and of those, the only one ranked as outstanding is the Gant farm home, which is erroneously described as Federal. The other three Greek Revival structures are a cabin (1112) on U. S. Highway 31, built about 1850 and rated as "reference"; the Thomas Davis house (1156) on Road 450 East, built about 1860, rated "notable"; and the George Ritz home (1134), also on Road 450 East, built about 1866 and rated "reference." The Gant house sits near the center of a square that measures approximately 1.5 miles on each side and which contains eight other farm houses built between 1850 and 1890 as well barns and other structures that reflect the neighborhood's agricultural fabric. In addition to Greek Revival, the mixture of styles includes Federal, Italianate, Gothic Revival, and Queen Anne. Three of these homes are rated

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outstanding--the 1863 Jesse Newsom home (1110), the 1850 William Davis home (1114), and the 1890 C. S. Newsom home, (1118).

Another important aspect of the agricultural context appears to be a high degree of continuity of the agricultural landscape. Because much of Sand Creek Township lies in floodplain, the landscape has been remarkably undisturbed by residential subdivision development. Over the past century, much of the land has been divided among the heirs of the nineteenth century pioneer families, and many parcels have been sold to neighboring farmers or newcomers. In numerous cases, the descendants of pioneer families lease their land, either for cash or on shares, to other farmers. But regardless of the nature of the tenure, most of the land remains in active cultivation. Moreover, descendants of many of the township's pioneer families remain active agricultural producers, including the Newsoms, Davises, Springers, Danforths, Lindleys, Daughterys, Morrisies, Helts, and McHenry's. Indicative of this continuity is the fact that the Indiana Department of Agriculture has presented the Hoosier Homestead Award to the owners of five Sand Creek Township farms, as well as three others in closely adjoining sections of Columbus and Rock Creek Townships, signifying that the farm has been in the same family for a century or more.

Architecture Context

The Gant farm is significant for architecture because of the ca. 1864 Greek Revival house with a Federal ell and its nearby barn, probably built in the early twentieth century. With the exception of the probable loss of an original front porch, the house remains in a high state of repair, including most window lights and interior ornamentation. Particularly notable is the ell, with its porch and gallery, which is unique in Sand Creek Township. More common to the Federal style than the Greek Revival, the use of the ell typifies the blending of styles that was common in rural vernacular architecture. The transverse frame barn, though now covered with synthetic siding and somewhat altered, remains largely intact and is representative of the growing scale and sophistication of Indiana agriculture at the beginning of the twentieth century, especially by prominent farmers such as the Gants.

The Greek Revival style originated in the United States with William Strickland's design of the Second Bank of the United States in Philadelphia. The style quickly became very popular as an expression of democratic values, which were associated with pure democracy of Classical Athens. Strickland was a pupil of Benjamin H. Latrobe, as was Robert Mills, and all three became

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prominent exponents of the Greek Revival style, as did Strickland's students Thomas U. Walker and Gideon Shryock, along with Ithiel Town, Alexander Jackson Davis, John Haviland, Alexander Parris, and Isaiah Rogers. Based on the classical Greek temple, the Greek Revival is generally characterized by low-pitched gabled or hipped roofs, often with a low-pitched pediment; cornice lines with wide bands of trim, representing the classical entablature; porches supported by prominent square or rounded columns, usually of the Doric order; and a front door surrounded by narrow sidelights and a line of transom lights above.

The Greek Revival was the dominant style of domestic architecture in the United States from about 1830 to 1850, and by the beginning of the Civil War it was well established in all settled parts of the country. Contributing significantly to its spread were carpenter's guides and pattern books such as John Haviland's *Builder's Assistant*, Asher Benjamin's *The Practical House Carpenter* and *The Builder's Guide*, and Minard Lafever's *The Modern Builder's Guide* and *The Beauties of Modern Architecture*. Although classical motifs were apparent in such early Indiana structures as Grouseland (National Historic Landmark, 1966), the home of Territorial Governor William Henry Harrison at Vincennes, built about 1804, and Dennis Pennington's first State Capitol/Harrison County Courthouse, erected in Corydon in 1816 (NRHP, 1973). The Greek Revival made its first appearance in Indiana as a clearly defined style in 1832 when Town and Davis won a competition to design the first State Capitol in Indianapolis. Completed in 1835 and not considered one of their best works, it resembled a Greek peristyle temple in the Doric order and was much admired at the time. During the next few years Greek Revival became particularly favored in the design of public buildings, such as the State Bank Building (NRHP) in New Albany, designed by Hugh Pugh in 1837; the Orange County Courthouse (NRHP) in Paoli, completed in 1850; and the Jefferson County Courthouse (NRHP) in Madison, designed by David Dubach and constructed 1854-1855.

The Greek Revival style was even more favored in domestic architecture. Although it was particularly favored in the northern half of the state, Greek Revival was also popular in the southern counties. Notable examples include the John W. Wright house (1836), located on State Road 56 west of Vevay in Switzerland County; the James Billingsly house (1846), near Hartford in Ohio County; the Levi Butler house (ca. 1847) in Dupont in Jefferson County; and the Hagermann Tripp home (1853) in North Vernon. Undoubtedly the largest and most outstanding collection of Greek Revival domestic architecture is in Madison, which has at least forty structures that exemplify the idiom, nearly all of which are on the National Register of Historic Places, either individually or as part of a historic district. Particularly distinguished are the James

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F. D. Lanier Memorial (1840-1844), the Charles Shrewsbury House (1846-1849), and the Francis Costigan townhouse (1846-1849), all designed by Francis Costigan, the Madison architect who achieved a national reputation as a Greek Revival master.

While these examples generally represent purer forms of the Greek Revival, the style was often adapted for the design of farm houses, which involved the use of Grecian details such as wide entablature boards, a roof with a reduced pitch, corner pilasters, and a doorway with rectangular sidelights and transom lights with an oblong, I-style or L-style Federal house. Notable examples include the Rupert McMurtrie house (ca. 1835-1840) on State Road 28 near Attica in Fountain County, and the W. Robert Amick house (ca. 1845) on State Road 7 near Scipio in Jennings County.

The Greek Revival style appears to have arrived in Bartholomew County about 1835, with construction of the Eldridge Hopkins farm home (0047) on County Road 1175 East in Haw Creek Township. Over the next twenty-five at least six more Greek Revival farm homes built in the township, including the William Powell house (0016), built on Old Haw Creek Turnpike in 1853, and the Essex farm home (0024), erected on County Road 800 North. The latter two structures, along with the Hopkins farm home, are rated "outstanding" in the 1979 Indiana Historic Sites & Structures Inventory. The Greek Revival style was also popular in the Haw Creek Township towns of Hope and Hartsville, which have a total of thirteen structures in that style, four of which are rated outstanding, including two in Hope which are in the Hope National Register of Historic Places District. The Greek Revival style first appeared in Sand Creek Township with construction of a cabin on U. S. 31 (1126) about 1850. By the end of the Civil War period, the Greek Revival style had appeared in all of Bartholomew County's fourteen townships except Nineveh, Union, Clifty, Ohio, and Jackson. In addition, a handful of Greek Revival structures were built in towns and villages such as Columbus, Taylorsville, Elizabethtown, and Jonesville. While the style was most popular as a farm homestead, no other township came close to Haw Creek in its total number of Greek Revival structures. Sand Creek had seven, including four farm homes, two houses in Elizabethtown, and one in Azalia, and Columbus Township had six, including four in the city of Columbus.

Of the sixteen Greek Revival houses rated outstanding in the Historic Sites & Structures Inventory, only five, other than the Gant house and those in Haw Creek Township, are farm homes. The remainder are town homes in Taylorsville, Elizabethtown, and Jonesville. Rated outstanding in Flat Rock Township is a small, one-story frame house (0218) erected about 1850

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on Marr Road. Outstanding structures located in Clay Township are the Miller-Glick farm home (0823) on County Road 100 North, built about 1858, and the Wilson Noel Boaz farm home (0804) on County Road 425 East, erected in 1862. The remaining outstanding structure is the Dean Farm home (1006) on County Road 200 North in Rock Creek Township, built about 1860. Located nearby on the same farm is another Greek Revival structure (1005), which was erected about five years earlier and is ranked notable.

By 1870 the Greek Revival style had run its course in Bartholomew County, having been supplanted by other modes such as the Queen Anne, Eastlake, and a variety of Victorian and vernacular styles in the design of rural homes throughout Bartholomew County. Sand Creek Township was no exception. By the beginning of the twentieth century, in addition to its Greek Revival homes, the township's array of rural home styles included a healthy mix of Federal, Italianate, Queen Anne, Gothic Revival, Eastlake, and vernacular structures, as well as a sprinkling of log cabins and other primitive structures. Particularly remarkable is the fact that nearly all of the fifty rural residential structures listed for Sand Creek Township in the 1979 Historic Sites and Structures Inventory remain today, making the William R. Gant house an integral component of a much larger rural historic district with a high level of integrity.

The transverse-frame barn which stands near the farm house, though covered with artificial siding, represents an important aspect of the functional architecture of a rural, agricultural community. Among the more major barn types of barns in Bartholomew County are English, transverse-frame, and three-portal. There are a small number of German bank barns in the county, such as the one on the Heagy farm (NRHP, 1998) and another on 265 North, both in Columbus Township (0544). Most barns were of heavy timber-frame construction until the late-nineteenth century, when that mode gave way to balloon framing, which allowed for large, unobstructed lofts covered by gambrel roofs. Concrete block structures with gambrel roofs became more popular after World War II and remained in favor until the past couple of decades, when metal pole barns became the most common type of construction.

In Bartholomew County as elsewhere, barns served a variety of functions such as dairy operations, housing livestock, and storing equipment, feed, seed, and crops. The Gant farm, which as late as 1940 included a storage shed, hen house, straw stack, corn crib and granary, carriage shed, and tool shed, in all likelihood was reserved to housing cattle, feed, and large equipment that was too large for the other outbuildings. (See attached "Diagram of Dinkens Homestead," 1940, by William Davis.) Although the Gant barn's architectural features have been

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obscured by the external artificial siding and interior finishings, its structural members and gambrel roof remain intact, and it probably could be restored to a condition close to its original form by removal of the siding.

A final, unique aspect of the Gant house's architectural context is the counterpoint provided by Bartholomew County's distinguished collection of contemporary architecture, the result of a program spearheaded by Cummins Engine chairman J. Irwin Miller. In 1941 Miller persuaded First Christian Church to retain Finnish architect Eliel Saarinen to design its new edifice, which was completed in 1942. In 1957 the Cummins Engine Foundation, under Miller's leadership, offered to pay the architectural fees for new school buildings if the school board would select distinguished architects as designers. Other firms and organizations followed Miller's lead, and by 1990 Columbus and the surrounding area boasted over fifty examples of outstanding contemporary architecture. Among other notable examples are North Christian Church, designed by Eero Saarinen in 1961; First Baptist Church, by Harry Weese, 1965; the Cleo Rogers Memorial Library, by I. M. Pei, 1969; and *The Republic* newspaper office, by Skidmore, Owings and Merrill (SOM), 1971. Originally conceived as a strategy to attract top-flight managerial and technical talent to Cummins, despite its location in a small Midwestern city, Miller's program fostered Columbus's reputation as the "Athens of the Prairie." The same rich prairie had made Bartholomew County and Sand Creek Township a prosperous agricultural region and enabled farmers such as William Riley Gant to build handsome homes during the second half of the nineteenth century.

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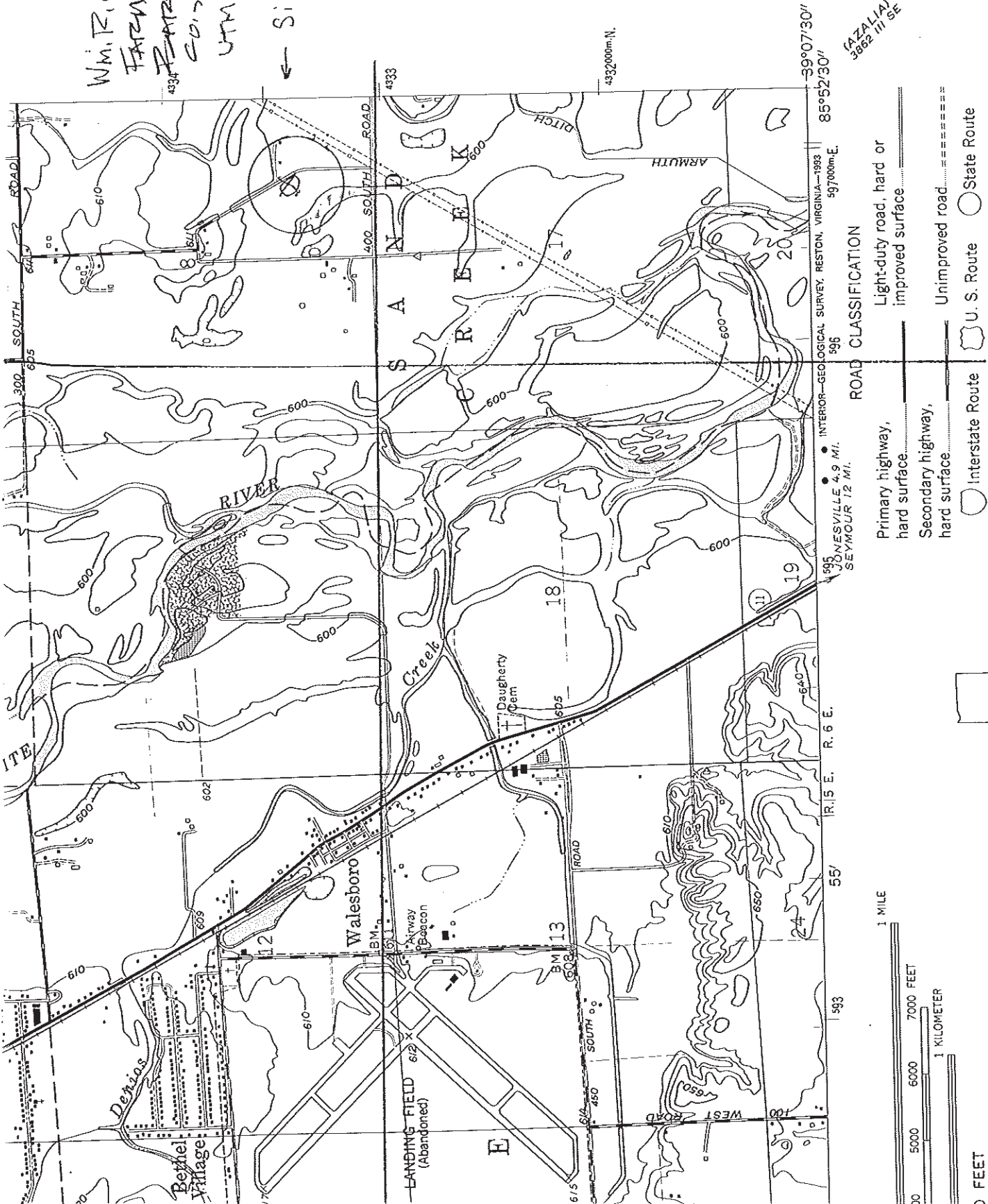
Verbal Boundary Description

Lot Numbered One (1) in Newsom-Perry Administrative Subdivision as recorded in Plat "P", Page 170B, in the Office of the Recorder of Bartholomew County, Indiana.

Boundary Justification

The 3.02 acres included in the nomination are sufficient to include the farmhouse, adjacent barn, and surrounding yard.

W.M. R. GANT
 FARM
 4334
 4334
 4334
 UTM = 16 596400
 ← site 4333860



INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA-1983
 597000m.E
 39°07'30"
 85°52'30"
 AZALLIA
 3862 III SE

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
○ Interstate Route	○ U. S. Route
	○ State Route



COLUMBUS, IND.
 39085-B8-TF-024

QUADRANGLE LOCATION
 Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled in cooperation

ACCURACY STANDARDS
 3400 80225 OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092.

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 1 KILOMETER