

FINAL

**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 Newsom-Marr Farm
other names/site number Shady Lane Farm

2. Location

street & number 4950 South 150 East N/A not for publication
city or town Columbus N/A vicinity
state Indiana code IN county Bartholomew code 005 zip code 47201

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

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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:)

Newsom-Marr Farm
Name of Property

Bartholomew IN
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Number of Resources within Property		
Contributing	Noncontributing	
5	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	2	structures
0	0	objects
5	3	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling
AGRICULTURE/SUBSIST Agricultural
AGRICULTURE/SUBSIST Animal Facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling
AGRICULTURE/SUBSIST Agricultural Outbuilding

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate
OTHER: Three Portal Barn
OTHER: Transverse Frame

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: Limestone
walls BRICK
STONE: Slate
roof ASPHALT
other WOOD

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

AGRICULTURE

Period of Significance

c. 1860-c. 1917

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Perkinson, James W.

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):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Newsom-Marr Farm
Name of Property

Bartholomew IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 596370 4334420
Zone Easting Northing

3 16 596500 4334260
Zone Easting Northing

2 16 596500 4334420

4 16 596370 4334260

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Laura Thayer, Historic Preservation Consultant
organization _____ date 08-09-2001
street & number 4950 South 150 East telephone 812/372-6806
city or town Columbus state IN zip code 47201

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form.

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name Marilyn Lentz
street & number 6091 E. 800 N telephone 812/587-5472
city or town Columbus state IN zip code 47203

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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Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7 Page No. 1 Newsom-Marr Farm

The Newsom-Marr farm is located in Sand Creek Township in southeastern Bartholomew County, about three miles south of Columbus, the county seat. Much of the historic farm is located in the floodplain of the East Fork of the White River. The house and outbuildings are positioned in on higher ground between the river and Azalia Road (150 East). The surrounding area consists of flat, agricultural fields, interrupted by scattered farmsteads and wood lots.

The property being nominated consists of approximately four acres. It includes the house and outbuildings, and excludes most of the farm fields that surround the buildings. The four acres are part of the historic Newsom farm, established in the mid-19th century, which consists of several hundred acres.

The contributing resources of the farmstead are the Italianate style farmhouse, built in 1864; a wagon shed, built c.1860, a Midwest three-portal barn, built c.1860, a transverse farm barn, built c.1910; and a wash house, built c.1917; Noncontributing resources include a tool shed, c.1950, and two grain storage bins, which date from c.1960.

Farm buildings that have been removed are an incubator house, a smoke house, a scales shed, and a tobacco barn.

The house faces east and sits some distance off Azalia Road (photo 1). A gravel drive is located perpendicular to the road on the north side of the house. Southwest of the house is the wash house. To the north are the barns, wagon shed, tool shed, and grain storage bins (photo 6). The large lawn surrounding the house corresponds roughly to the lawn shown in an 1879 illustration of the farm in an atlas of Bartholomew County (copy attached). There are several shade trees on the property. A tree line along the south side of the lawn separates house from field. One very old oak tree, possibly about the age of the house, is located at the southeast corner of the lawn.

House

Italianate in style, the house is a two-and-a-half-story, double-pile brick structure with a side gable roof covered in asphalt shingles (photo 3). The original slate roof was replaced in 1969. The common bond brick walls are 14 inches thick. The principal façade is three bays wide. The foundation is cut limestone. The main section of the house is square in plan. The underlying floor plan is a central hallway with two rooms on each side of the hallway on each floor.

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Section No. 7 Page No. 2 Newsom-Marr Farm

The main part of the house imparts a monumentality achieved by such features as an imposing central pavilion and exceptionally tall windows. (Windows extend from the floor to about two feet from the ceiling in the main part of the house.) A smaller scale, two-story, ell extends from the north side of the rear façade (photo 5). Windows on the main part are double hung, wood sash windows with two lights in each sash. Windows of the rear ell are smaller and have double hung sash with six lights in each. Sills and lintels for windows in the ell are plain stone.

The main entrance is contained in a central pavilion (photo 4) on the principal façade. The pavilion is two-and-a-half stories high and projects slightly (the width of a brick) from the remainder of the façade. A front gable that crosses the main roof further defines the pavilion. The door itself - a tall wood door with two vertical panels - is flanked by sidelights and surmounted by a round-arched transom. It is recessed within a classical, wood surround. There is a modern, aluminum storm door at this entrance. The historic screen door, which is a Victorian era piece with spindlework, is intact in one of the outbuildings. The sidelights on either side of the door are frosted glass with various patterns. Stone steps lead up to the entry.

On the second story, resting atop the entrance surround, are a group of three, tall, narrow, round-arched windows. Above these is a round attic window. The windows of the end bays of this façade have elaborate, carved window hoods with pediment heads and label moldings. Upper story windows have stone sills. Under the windows of each of the end bays is an unusual stone platform, probably used to display plants.

The north (photo 3) and south facades of the main section of the house are identical, with two windows on each floor, and a round attic window. The windows are like those on the principal façade, except that the window hoods are flat instead of carved.

The ell (right in photo 3, photo 5) is of the same type of brick as the main part of the house. It contains the kitchen on the first floor and a small bedroom, bathroom, and closet on the second floor. The current bathroom dates from the early 20th century and has the original pedestal sink and roll rim bathtub. The large closet at the west end of the ell was the first bathroom in the house. A water tank was located outside. The windmill pumped water into this tank, which was transmitted to the bathroom by gravity. (The pipes are still visible.)

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Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7 Page No. 3 Newsom-Marr Farm

There is, extending from the ell, a small, one-story section which contains the pantry (photo 5). The roof of the pantry continues along the west side of the ell, becoming the roof for a porch that curves around the southwest corner of the ell to meet the main section of the house. The porch roof is supported by graceful columns and scroll-sawn brackets. It was screened sometime in the early 20th century. There is a space between the pantry and the porch for a slanted door that leads to the cellar. It appears likely that the main part of the house, the ell and pantry, and the porch were built at three separate times, but probably within just a few years of each other. In 2000, a new bathroom was constructed in the bay of the porch that abuts the house. The exterior walls of this addition are vinyl siding. The brick wall of the house was left exposed in the bathroom.

Under the wide eaves of the gabled ends of the roof, both on the main section and the ell are carved brackets (photos 3, 5). Under the eaves of the east and west sides of the main section are modillions. The main section has four chimneys (four are corbeled, one has been rebuilt in a plainer style), and the ell has one (corbeled). A limestone water table extends around the front and sides of the main part of the house.

The house has a central hallway that originally extended from front to rear on both floors of the main section. The only alteration to the hallway is that the rear section on the first floor was incorporated into the northwest room in the early 20th century. This was done to create a large room for threshing dinners (photo 8). At the same time, a doorway was installed between the front and rear parts of the central hallway (photo 7).

The front stairway (photo 7) is a straight stair with 22 steps that rises along the south side of the hallway. There is a massive, octagonal newel post with a cherry banister supported by heavy, turned spindles. There is also a steep, narrow stairway in the ell.

Floors are of wide, ash and poplar boards (photo 7). Most floors are heavily varnished or painted. Woodwork is poplar. Nearly all of the woodwork in the house has been painted. In the northeast room on the second story, the woodwork is grained (painted to resemble wood). The original, tall, solid panel and louvered shutters are at all windows in the main section of the house (photo 10).

Doorways have glass transoms and pedimented heads, and six-panel wood doors, which are varnished. Door knobs are glass in the main part of the house,

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Section No. 7 Page No. 4 Newsom-Marr Farm

and porcelain or metal in the ell, or on the inside of closet doors. Door frames in the main section are tapered, probably to create an illusion of greater height. A built in floor-to-ceiling, oak cupboard in the kitchen was added c.1910 (left in photo 11).

First floor ceilings in the main part of the house are 12 feet 4 inches. Second floor ceilings are 12 feet. The rooms at the front of the house, both upstairs and down, are slightly larger than the rear rooms.

Most of the historic light fixtures are extant on the first floor. These are brass with decorative glass globes. There are both ceiling fixtures and wall sconces. They are electrical fixtures that date from the early 20th century and were probably installed at the time as the generator (1917). Historic fixtures also remain in one bedroom and in the upstairs hall, but those in the remaining bedrooms have been replaced with lighted ceiling fans. A fixture of this type has also been installed in the kitchen (photo 11).

There are two extant fireplaces, one each in the two front parlors. The fireplace in the southeast parlor has the original cast-iron surround (photo 9). The fireplace surround in the northeast parlor was rebuilt in the early twentieth century with a brown, textured brick.

The historic cast-iron radiators are in place and still operating in most parts of the house. The bedrooms have never had radiators, and electric baseboard heat was installed in these in the last 20 years.

Closets in the house are typical for the period. The largest two bedrooms, both on the east side of the house, were built with very shallow closets. A conventional-sized closet was added to the northwest bedroom around 1940. A shallow closet on one side of the fireplace in the northeast parlor may have been original. Another closet has been added beside the southeast parlor fireplace in recent years. There is another closet under the main staircase, possibly original, and one that was added in the dining room in the early 20th century.

The cellar is accessed through the outside door referenced above, or by way of a stairway under the rear stairway to the second story. This level of the house consists of two, low-ceiling rooms with stuccoed limestone walls, and concrete floors. The east room, under part of the dining room, houses the boiler and oil tanks.

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Section No. 7 Page No. 5 Newsom-Marr Farm

Outbuildings

The three-portal barn, built c.1860, faces south (left in photo 6). It has a central section that is three bays wide. The door opening in the middle of this section has hinged double doors. Additional bays with separate door openings have been added at each end. The east addition represents an enclosure of a forebay. The central part of the barn is constructed of hand-hewn posts and beams, and some unhewn posts, using mortise and tenon construction. The west bay and part of the east bay are constructed of later materials: sawn timbers instead of hand hewn. The floor is wide poplar boards. The gabled roof of the barn was been rebuilt with balloon framing at some time in the past. It is covered with standing seam metal roofing. Old vertical, poplar board siding is visible in some areas of the exterior. Most of the barn has been covered in asbestos sheets. This building is in fair condition.

The wagon shed was built around the same time as the three-portal barn. It faces south and is a simple cubic structure with a front gable roof. A shed addition was added to the west end at some point in the past. The original section is built of hand-hewn posts and beams with mortise and tenon joinery. The roof has been rebuilt with balloon framing, and has a standing seam metal covering. The c.1860 section is divided into two bays, each with a separate entrance with hinged double doors. There is a hinged loft door in the gable on the south side. Like the three-portal barn, the wagon shed is covered with asbestos sheeting, though old poplar siding is partially visible beneath. This building is in fair condition.

The c.1910 transverse frame barn (right in photo 6) is divided into three bays, and has double, sliding doors in the center bay of the east façade. There are hinged double doors in the north bay. Construction is timber framing. The exterior has vertical board siding which is covered with vertical metal siding on the north, west, and south facades. There are square wood windows on all facades of the building. These are covered over on the exterior, but are intact on the interior. This structure is in good condition.

The c.1917 wash house is a small, formed concrete structure (right in photo 5). It is stuccoed on the exterior, and has a front gable roof, covered with corrugated tin roofing. There is wood siding in the gables. The entrance is on the east façade. The door is a simple, paneled wood and glass door. There are two small wood windows, one each on the north and west sides. The floor of the interior is concrete.

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Section No. 8 Page No. 6 Newsom-Marr Farm

The Newsom-Marr Farm is significant under Criterion A in the area of Agriculture and under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. It is an outstanding representation of a farmstead in Sand Creek Township, for the period c.1860-1917, and was the home of one of the county's leading farm families. The buildings of the farm are also significant for their architecture. The house, built in 1864, is one of the county's finest examples of the Italianate style and has an exceptionally high degree of integrity. The barns, built between c.1860 and c.1910, are among a relatively small number of timber-frame barns remaining in the county. The farm has remained under the ownership of the same family since it was purchased in 1849.

History

Willis Newsom brought his family to Sand Creek Township in 1820 or 1821. He was one of eight children of David and Sarah Newsom who were born in North Carolina and moved to Bartholomew County. The Newsoms were Quakers who left their native state because they opposed slavery.

Willis was the father of 12 children, including Nathan, who was born in North Carolina in 1807. In 1827, Nathan married Lydia Ruddick, the daughter of Bartholomew County pioneers, Jesse and Catherine Ruddick. Nathan and Lydia Newsom were the parents of Jesse Ruddick Newsom, the founder of the farm that is the subject of this nomination.

Jesse was born in Sand Creek Township in 1830. He attended the Quaker School in Azalia and completed his education at Indiana University in 1850. After teaching school in Sand Creek Township for two terms, he married Mary Cox in 1853, and began his farming career. The basis of his farm was a quarter section of land in northwest Sand Creek Township that was purchased by Nathan Newsom from James Hammer in 1849 (northwest quarter Section 8, Township 8 N, Range 6 E). No transfer of ownership was found, but it is assumed that the property was conveyed by deed or will to Jesse R. Newsom, his oldest surviving son. (Nathan died in 1878; his wife Lydia died in 1881).

Jesse R. Newsom added to this original 160 acres over the years, eventually amassing several hundred acres in Sand Creek and Columbus townships. Jesse's wife Mary died in 1877, shortly after the birth of the youngest of the couple's nine children, twins, one of whom died.

The surviving twin, Jesse, lived at the family home until he went to Indiana University in 1896. He became the proprietor of the farm in 1899 after the death

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Section No. 8 Page No. 7 Newsom-Marr Farm

of his father, and married Nellie Davis in 1900. Jesse, a prominent farmer, was active in the Grange, serving as master of both the Columbus and state organizations. (The Grange - officially the Order of the Patrons of Husbandry - was an important educational and political organization for farmers that was established in Indiana in 1869.) Jesse died in a tragic accident on his farm in 1931.

The two children of Jesse and Nellie Newsom were Helen and Herschel. Helen and her husband, Forrest Marr, occupied the house from the time of their marriage in 1933. The farm is now owned by their daughter, Marilyn Marr Lentz. The Newsom-Marr Farm has been recognized as a Hoosier Homestead Farm, having been under the ownership of the same family for at least 100 years.

The house and two of the barns on the property were built during the ownership of Jesse R. and Mary Newsom. The c.1860 transverse frame barn and the c.1860 wagon shed were built prior to the present house. Construction on the house was started in 1863, the year Morgan's Raiders came through southern Indiana. (According to a family story, when General Morgan and his men were thought to be headed for the area, building materials for the Newsom's new house were hidden because of the guerrilla band's reputation for burning and looting. They turned east to Ohio, however before reaching Bartholomew County.) The c.1910 transverse frame barn and the c.1917 wash house were built under the ownership of Jesse and Nellie Newsom.

Several members of the Newsom family associated with the farm were important figures in Bartholomew County and in Indiana. Jesse R. Newsom was a Republican candidate for state representative (1860) and the U.S. Congress (1876). Jesse Newsom was master of the Columbus and Indiana Grange. Jesse's son Herschel served as national master of the Grange.

Vida Newsom (1873-1938) was an exceptional woman for her time. A daughter of Jesse R. and Mary Newsom, she was born and raised on the farm. She received bachelors and masters degrees from Indiana University (1903 and 1906), and was prominent in local and statewide women's clubs, the Bartholomew County and Indiana Historical Societies, and a number of statewide social welfare, educational, and political organizations. Governor Ralston named her to the Turkey Run Commission (1915), and to the Indiana Child Welfare Commission (1919). She was one of the founding members of the Columbus League of Women Voters, and served as president from 1920-24.

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Section No. 8 Page No. 8 Newsom-Marr Farm

Agriculture Context

The Newsom-Marr Farm is significant in the area of Agriculture, and represents the periods 1860-1900 and 1900-1920 in Bartholomew County agricultural history.

As was the case for Indiana as a whole, farming was the principal occupation in Bartholomew County during the pioneer era. Prior to the arrival of white settlers, the county was covered with dense forests and swamps. The pioneers faced the arduous task of clearing and draining their land, which often took several decades. The early era of farming extended from about 1820 to the beginning of the Civil War.

During the pioneer era, the main crop of a typical Bartholomew County farm was corn, which supported swine. Hogs were driven on foot to large market towns and sold. As transportation and agricultural markets improved, a greater variety of crops and livestock were raised. The period extending from the Civil War to about 1900 was one in which farming changed from a subsistence occupation to a commercial operation.

Bartholomew County was the home of many prosperous farms in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. By the mid-nineteenth century, most of the land had been cleared and cultivated. Farmers had the advantages of prime farmland, a moderate climate, rail transportation, and proximity to agricultural markets.

By 1860, Jesse R. Newsom had acquired the quarter section directly east of his original 160 acres. The U.S. Census of Agriculture for that year recorded that he owned and farmed 250 improved and 100 unimproved acres in Sand Creek Township. The cash value of his farm was estimated at \$13,000, making him one of the wealthiest farmers in the township. His livestock consisted of 10 horses, 9 milk cows, 25 other cattle, 12 sheep, and 1,000 swine. The farm also yielded 1,100 bushels of wheat and 3,000 of corn. For family consumption, the farm produced peas, beans, potatoes, butter, molasses, honey, and other goods.

The 1879 Bartholomew County atlas showed that the home farm consisted of nearly 500 acres straddling the Columbus Township-Sand Creek Township line. Other, noncontiguous, land holdings in the two township boosted Newsom's total acreage to over 1,000. Evaluating production of Newsom's home farm using 1880 Census of Agriculture data is difficult since the data is broken down by farmer for each township, and not for contiguous farms.

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Section No. 8 Page No. 9 Newsom-Marr Farm

The 1880 Census does show that Newsom's Sand Creek farms (about 660 acres) produced 5,000 bushels of corn, and 2,400 bushels of wheat. The yield per acre for wheat was about 20 bushels, and for corn about 31.25. Both figures were higher than the state average for the year, of 16.8 bushels per acre for wheat, and 29 bushels per acre for corn. The Sand Creek farmland was valued at \$28,850. In comparison, the typical Hoosier farmer that year worked an average of 105.3 acres valued at \$3,746.

Buildings associated with the 1860-1900 period of agriculture are the c.1860 three-portal barn, the c.1860 wagon shed, and the 1864 farmhouse.

The two decades after the turn of the 20th century have been referred to as a "Golden Age" in agriculture in Indiana. During this period, better education, improved technology, favorable markets, and high prices made it possible for many farms to prosper. Indiana was a leading state in many areas, including hog and corn production. A 1904 biography of the younger Jesse Newsom, by then the proprietor of the home farm, revealed an emphasis on "high grade hogs and cattle,"¹ a reference that reflected a trend in the state. By the end of the 1900-1920 period, Indiana was third in the nation in numbers of purebred livestock, whereas in 1900, registered animals had represented only a fraction of those on farms in the state.

Extant buildings built during the early 20th century period on the Newsom Farm are the c.1910 transverse frame barn, and the c.1917 wash house. The c.1910 barn included a corncrib and stanchions for cattle. The wash house contained a generator that supplied electricity to the house at an early date. (In 1920, only 10 percent of farm dwellings in Indiana had electricity.) A one cylinder, five horse power, gas engine connected to batteries in the basement that powered the house's electric lights. A pulley on the engine connected to the drive shaft for a washing machine in the wash house.

The prosperous era of 1900-1920 was followed by a recession in agriculture in the 1920s and the Great Depression of the 1930s. Though the period was devastating for many farmers, production generally increased, and there were advancements in farm machinery. The period is characterized by increased involvement by the federal government, in the areas, for example, of price supports and conservation initiatives.

¹ Biographical Record of Bartholomew County, Indiana. Chicago: B.F. Bowen, 1904.

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Section No. 8 Page No. 10 Newsom-Marr Farm

Architecture Context

In addition to its significance in the area of Agriculture, the Newsom-Marr farm is significant in the area of Architecture. The residence is an outstanding example of the Italianate style. The three barns are important representations of the increasingly rare timber-frame structures once common throughout the county.

The house is a two-story, double-pile, brick dwelling with an ell extension on the north end of the west façade. The floor plan reflects the typical arrangement for the type: central hallway that extends from front to rear, with two rooms on each side of the hallway on each floor. (One alteration has been made in this plan. On the first floor, the rear section of the hallway and the northwest room were combined into one large dining room in the early 20th century to accommodate a large table for threshing dinners.)

Stylistically, the house is Italianate. The style originated in England in the 1840s as a reaction to more rigid classical styles. Italianate houses were based on Italian Renaissance architecture and emphasized the picturesque qualities of rural Italian villas.

The Newsom-Marr House falls into the subtype, "centered gable," one of six subtypes of the Italianate style established in A Field Guide to American Houses.² This subtype includes houses of simple and compound plans with a front-facing, centered gable. The gable projects from a hipped or side-gabled roof, and often defines an entry pavilion, as is the case with the Newsom-Marr House. Characteristics of the general Italianate style which are seen in the Newsom-Marr House are a low-pitched roof with wide eaves; decorative brackets under the eaves; tall, narrow windows, and elaborate window heads.

The Italianate style was a popular residential mode in Indiana in various forms from about 1850 to about 1880. In Bartholomew County, Italianate houses were in vogue from about 1860 to 1880. Among leading examples are the McEwen-Samuels-Marr House at 524 Third Street (1864), the Hogue House at 538 Franklin Street (c.1870), the Gent House at 925 Franklin Street (1873), all in Columbus; and the Spurgeon and Thompson houses on State Road 11 in Wayne Township (both built in 1864). These, as well as most other examples documented in the county, are of the "asymmetrical" subtype defined in A Field Guide to American Houses. The Newsom-Marr House and the John V. Storey

² McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1991, p. 211.

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Section No. 8 Page No. 11 Newsom-Marr Farm

House at 506 Fifth Street in Columbus (1864) may be the only local examples of the centered gable subtype.

The Storey House, which now serves as the Columbus Visitors Center, is of particular interest in this context. The interior has been gutted and remodeled, and a large addition has been built on the rear of the structure. The original exterior is largely intact, however, and it is clear that the Storey House and the Newsom-Marr House were built as twins. Both were designed and constructed by James W. Perkinson, a contractor, who was born in Trimble County, Kentucky, and came to the city in 1862. The Storey House is pictured in A Field Guide to American Houses as an example of the centered gable subtype.³

Interest in rural architecture has increased since the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory was conducted in Bartholomew County in 1979. The inventory is deficient in classifications and descriptions of agricultural outbuildings, and it is difficult to evaluate the significance of some building types. Over the past 22 years, however, a large number of barns in the county have been demolished or allowed to deteriorate. The remaining barns are significant as rare examples of a once-common type of building in the county.

The outbuildings of the Newsom-Marr Farm are also important for their architecture. Family oral tradition dates the wagon shed and three-portal barn as "prior to the house." The hand hewn beams and mortise and tenon joinery support the early date of these structures. They were probably built between 1853, the date Jesse and Mary Newsom married and started their farm, and 1864, the year the house was completed. A date of c.1860 is estimated for both structures.

The three-portal barn is derived from the transverse-frame barn type. It is a common barn in the Midwest, and was constructed throughout the 19th and into the 20th century. It consists of a transverse frame barn (see below), with enclosed sheds on the sides. In this way, animals could be stabled separately, and there was storage for feed and crops. Often three-portal barns began as transverse frame barn to which side sheds were added. The 1879 county atlas shows that the Newsom three-portal barn originally had a forebay on the east side. This has since been enclosed.

³ Ibid, p. 220.

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The wagon shed may also be seen in the 1879 illustration. This was a simple, timber-frame, front gable roofed structure with two bays for storage of wagons and carriages.

Between the two barns is a c.1910 transverse frame barn. This type evolved from early log crib barns. A transverse frame barn has doors on the gable ends, a center aisle, and areas for grain storage and/or livestock on the sides. The c.1910 barn is also of timber frame construction, and has its original slate roof.

Comparable Resources

The Indiana Historic Sites and Structure Inventory for Bartholomew County was conducted in 1979. Since the inventory was completed, large numbers of rural resources have been lost in rapidly developing townships, including Columbus, German, Harrison, and Wayne. For example, an informal windshield survey done as part of the National Register nomination for the D.W. Heagy Farm in Columbus Township (built in 1879; listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1998), revealed that only two "outstanding" farmsteads remained of nine that were identified in the 1979 inventory. It also should be noted that two townships, Nineveh and Union, which contained many of the county's early farmsteads, were eliminated and all the buildings removed when Camp Atterbury was established in 1942.

Sand Creek Township is a largely intact rural area of the county. A project to update the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory is planned and has received a Historic Preservation Fund grant through the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. The updated inventory will be used to evaluate the potential for a National Register rural historic district. The survey update is expected to reveal that a large percentage of resources identified in 1979 are extant. The update will also include rural resources that were overlooked or that were not included because they were less than 50 years old.

Although much of the township is intact today, developmental threats have the potential to impact the area. A few years ago, a new bridge was constructed over the East Fork of the White River to connect State Road 11 and U.S. 31. The bridge created a new, busy thoroughfare through the most significant area of the township. Proposals to create commercial properties along this thoroughfare have been presented, but resisted by residents. Increasing numbers of residents and commuters also have the potential to threaten historic rural resources and farmland in all parts of the county.

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As an intact late 19th-early 20th century farmstead, and the home of one of township's prominent families, the Newsom-Marr Farm represents an important rural resource in Sand Creek Township. The 1979 inventory identified 67 rural resources in the township including farmsteads, houses, schools, bridges, churches and cemeteries. Contiguous historic districts were also identified in the small market towns of Azalia and Elizabethtown. Resources ranged in character from log houses and timber-frame outbuildings to elaborate Queen Anne style residences. Two properties in the township are now listed on the National Register: the Elnora Daugherty Farm (Queen Anne, built c.1895) and the William R. Gant Farm (Greek Revival, built in 1864).

In addition to the Newsom-Marr Farm, 13 properties identified in the inventory as "outstanding" or "notable" were cited for their agricultural significance. These are listed below.

- 1102 Edward Springer Farm, c.1855
- 1103 William C. Adams Farm, 1870
- 1104 Site of Peter Wills Vineyard, c.1900
- 1106 Farm, c.1885
- 1112 W.R. Gant House, c.1860
- 1113 Isaac Davis Farm, c.1860
- 1114 William Davis Farm, c.1850
- 1115 W.P. Hamblen Farm, c.1890
- 1129 Elnora Daugherty Farm, 1892
- 1135 Joel S. Newsom Farm, c.1855
- 1144 Parker Farm, c.1895
- 1147 John Thomas Barn, c.1875
- 1163 Morton Hall Farm, c.1890

Of these, the Isaac Davis Farm, the William Davis Farm, and the Elnora Daugherty Farm are intact properties that represent late 19th and early 20th century agricultural practices in Sand Creek Township. These farms retain their farmhouses, as well as barns, outbuildings, fields and other resources that convey a picture of the prosperity enjoyed by many farmers of the period.

Of all rural properties identified in the township, whether significant in the area of agriculture or not, three contained Italianate style houses: the Edward Springer Farm on Road 525 East (c.1855), and the William Adams Farm on Washington Street (c.1870), both located within the present town boundaries of Elizabethtown; and the Newsom-Marr Farm. All three were rated "outstanding."

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Boruff, Blanche Foster, compiler. Women of Indiana. Indianapolis: Matthew Farson, Publisher, 1941.

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Descriptive Atlas of Bartholomew County, Indiana. Chicago: Acme Publishing Company, 1900.

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"Jesse R. Newsom is Dead." The Columbus Republican, March 23, 1899, p. 6, c. 3.

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Marr, Helen N., Obituary, in "Area Deaths." The Republic, May 17, 1987.

Marr, Forrest R., Obituary, in "Area Deaths." The Republic, August 28, 1984.

National Register of Historic Places, nominations for the Elnora Daughtery Farm (1992), the William R. Gant Farm (2000). and the D.W. Heagy Farm (1998).

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Newsom, Will, "The Newsom Family in Bartholomew County, Indiana." Read at Newsom family reunion August 29, 1907 at Mineral Springs, Sand Creek Township (Indiana Room, Bartholomew County Library).

Newsom, Vida. "Phases of Southeastern Indiana History." Indiana Magazine of History, vol. XX.

Pence, George. "Makers of Bartholomew County." Indiana Magazine of History, March 1926, vol. XXII, no. 1.

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

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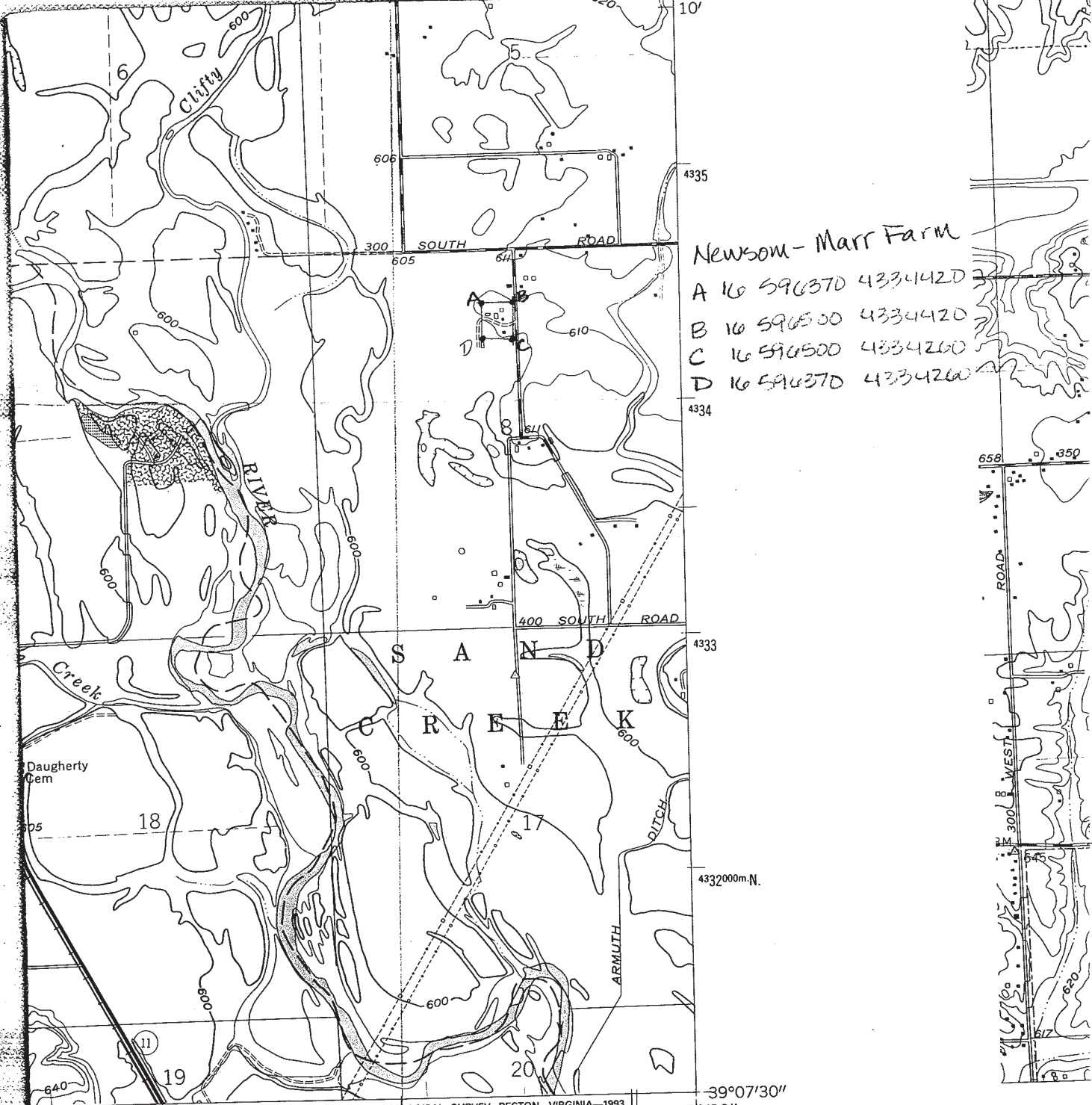
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Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point approximately 800 feet south along County Road 150 East from the southwest corner of County Road 300 South and 150 East; thence west approximately 480 feet to the east side of a farm lane; thence south along the east side of said lane approximately 350 feet to the edge of a farm field; thence east along the north side of said field to the west side of County Road 150 East; thence north along the west side of said road to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is sufficient to include the house and outbuildings and the historic lawn and barnyard. This part of the property was the center of activity for the farm both agriculturally and architecturally. The lines for the property being nominated were drawn along historic boundaries when possible, such as part of the west boundary, which follows the farm lane, and the south boundary, which follows the line of the field.



Newsom-Marr Farm
 A 16 590370 4334420
 B 16 590500 4334420
 C 16 590500 4334260
 D 16 590370 4334260

595 JONESVILLE 4.9 MI.
 SEYMOUR 12 MI.

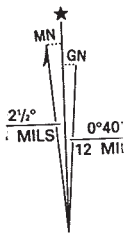
INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA-1993
 596 597000m.E.

39°07'30"
 85°52'30"

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

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

(AZALLIA)
 3862 III SE



AND 1993 MAG
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COLUMBUS, IND.

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LOCATION
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