

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FINAL

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Brock, Pryor, Farmstead

other names/site number House (Boone 40012)

2. Location

street & number 8602 C.R. Road 500 South

N/A not for publication

city or town Zionsville

vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Boone

code 6 zip code 46077

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 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be consider significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

James E. Hester
Signature of certifying official/Title

5/12/2008
Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Brock, Pryor, Farmstead
Name of Property

Boone County, IN
County and State

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(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	0	buildings
1	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
6	0	Total

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

Rural Historical and Architectural Resources of Eagle Township (Boone County) and Pike Township (Marion County), Indiana, 1820-1956

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling
AGRICULTURE: animal facility
AGRICULTURE: agricultural field

DOMESTIC: single dwelling
AGRICULTURE: agricultural outbuilding

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian--Italianate

foundation STONE
walls WOOD: clapboard
roof ASPHALT

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

Brock, Pryor, Farmstead
Name of Property

Boone County, IN
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the 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, 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 significant within the past 50 years.

Areas of significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c. 1870 – c. 1920

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical 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 if 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:

Brock, Pryor, Farmstead
Name of Property

Boone County, IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4.9 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	6	5	5	9	2	6	0	4	4	2	4	4	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

3

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

2

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

4

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

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 Connie Zeigler

organization Weintraut & Associates Historians, Inc. date March 30, 2007

street & number 33 E. Cedar telephone 317-733-9770

city or town Zionsville state IN zip code 46077

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 Estate of Rosemary B. Rudwolis c/o Rana Fedor

street & number 1481 No. CR 750 E telephone 317-250-3778

city or town Whitestown state IN zip code 46075

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 listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance to the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this 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 the 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.

Pryor Brock Farmstead
Boone County, Indiana
Rural Historical and Architectural Resources of Eagle Township (Boone County),
and Pike Township (Marion County), Indiana, 1820-1956

The Pryor Brock Farmstead is eligible for the NR under Criterion A for its association with the history of agriculture in Eagle Township, Boone County, Indiana, and for its embodiment of the characteristics of a prosperous farmstead from the period of significance, as set forth in the registration requirements of the Multiple Properties Documentation Form (MPDF), "Rural Historical and Architectural Resources of Eagle Township (Boone County) and Pike Township (Marion County), Indiana, 1820-1956." Resources on the property date from circa 1870 to circa 1920. Per that MPDF, the property represents the period of transition to commercial farming in the township, a period that began just before and spanned the "golden age" of Indiana agriculture.¹

The Pryor Brock Farmstead is also eligible for the NR under Criterion C as the township's best representation of a *farmstead* with an Italianate-style house from this transition period. This farmstead possesses the best collection of Italianate-style house and representative outbuildings and site for a farmstead of this period in this township. The arrangement of buildings on the property is typical for an Eagle Township farmstead, as noted in the MPDF.²

The Pryor Brock Farmstead is located west of the town of Zionsville on a significant rise of the predominately flat, featureless landscape of Eagle Township in Boone County, Indiana. The 4.9-acre parcel surrounding the farmstead buildings was the nerve center of an over 200-acre farm once owned by Pryor and Emeline Brock and their descendants. The property contains four contributing buildings, one contributing structure, and one contributing site that are described in detail below. These include a residence, a shop building with attached car port, a privy, a drive-through granary, a basement barn, and the site itself, which evokes a still-rural feeling in the midst of tilled fields and new residential development. All constructed between 1870 and 1920, the resources retain good integrity and continue to represent a prosperous property from the period when farmers transitioned to commercial agriculture and they span the "golden age" of agriculture in Eagle Township, Boone County, Indiana.

¹ Eliza Steelwater, "Rural Historical and Architectural Resources of Eagle Township (Boone County) and Pike Township (Marion County), Indiana, 1820-1956," National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form; Clifton J. Phillips, *Indiana in Transition: The Emergence of an Industrial Commonwealth, 1880-1920* (Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Bureau and Indiana Historical Society, 1968), 132.

² Steelwater, "Rural Historical and Architectural Resources," 20.

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A now-blacktopped driveway turns off of Whitestown Road toward the Pryor Brock Farmstead. The drive is flanked, at its entrance, by partially buried glacial erratics (boulders that were dropped out of the glaciers as they receded), and, along its short uphill meander, by old maple and cedar trees, all of which were planted around the turn of the century as evidenced in a circa 1923 photograph.³ The partially buried glacial erratics may have been deposited as the glaciers melted away and the lane to the house placed between them. The tree plantings were sited by the owners and accentuate the lane. (See Photographs 1 and 2.)

House

The Pryor Brock residence is a two-story, L-plan, Italianate building constructed circa 1870 and sited on a rise facing Whitestown Road. The house rises from a remarkable fieldstone foundation composed primarily of large glacial erratics. These boulders were likely pulled from nearby fields. Many of these stones are more than two feet in width; they are interspersed with smaller stones and the foundation is held together with mortar and parged on the exterior.

The house faces south. The exterior walls are clad in white-painted clapboard siding. The five-bay façade is symmetrical with the center bay holding the entry door, which is sheltered by a small porch. The original door surround is adorned only by a single-light transom. The door is likely a replacement from the 1930s; it features mullions and muntins holding multiple glazings of irregular glass. A circa 1960s decorative cast-steel storm door shields the entrance door. All windows on the house's first story are vinyl replacements, while all those on the second story are original; both new and original windows are double-hung sashes with four-over-four glazings. The wooden lintels and sills are unadorned on the exterior; historic wooden shutters, painted burgundy red, are attached by hinges to the window frames on both stories. (See Photograph 3.)

The front porch features a flat canopy supported by paneled wooden columns with Doric capitals and scrollwork brackets. A scrollwork spandrel is attached to the canopy between the brackets, but does not quite span the entire distance between them. A downward pointing, modified leaf-and-dart trim decorates the cornice of the porch canopy. Above the porch canopy, a balcony is defined by a modern, cast-steel fretwork balustrade. This balcony extends from a central door on the second story of the façade. The second-story door, which is not original but was likely added in the 1930s, matches the entry door;

³ Historic photo dated 1923 in possession of Rosemary Rudwolis estate.

Pryor Brock Farmstead

Boone County, Indiana

Rural Historical and Architectural Resources of Eagle Township (Boone County),
and Pike Township (Marion County), Indiana, 1820-1956

mullions and muntins define its multiple glazings of irregular glass. A historic photograph of the house (circa 1923) shows the porch canopy with a hipped roof and a window where this door is now located. It is possible that the circa 1870 porch canopy roof closely resembled the current configuration. Sometime after the 1923 photograph was taken, but before the 1940s, the porch roof was removed, leaving a flat canopy, and this door replaced the central window. The gap in the opening above the door is infilled with wood. Although the first balcony balustrade was wooden in the 1940s photograph, the current balustrade is cast-steel and matches the cast-steel pattern on the circa 1960 entry storm door.⁴

The corners of the house are accented with original cornerboard pilasters that rise to small Doric capitals at the base of the wide, paneled cornice. Original paired brackets with applied scrollwork and smaller, single brackets (rather than the more common dentil) decorate the cornice line and emphasize a deep eave. (See Photograph 4.) The house has a ribbed, hipped roof covered in diamond-shaped composition shingles and topped at both ends of the rib with lightning rods.

The eastern side of the residence exhibits the cutback section of the "L" plan, with two bays on the front section and two additional bays in the ell. (See Photograph 5.) A modern one-car garage has been added to the house on this elevation, probably where an original side porch once existed. Changes in the clapboard siding between the second-story windows suggest there may have been a two-story porch on this elevation tucked into the cutout section. (See Photograph 6.) The western side of the house has two bays on a flat profile. (See Photograph 7.) The furthest north bay holds windows on the first story that are paired and not as wide as the other windows on the house.

Attached to the rear of the residence are several one-story additions or enclosures of buildings that were formerly detached. (See Photograph 8.) The addition at the immediate rear of the original house is a circa 1910 kitchen with a hipped roof pierced by a brick chimney, a wide cornice board, and corner pilasters that match the main section of the house. (See Photograph 9.) A small bath was added to the side of this addition in the 1920s. The 1910 addition connects the previously detached summer kitchen to the house. The former summer kitchen sits on a brick foundation, has vertical wood siding, and still contains a hand water pump in the southwestern corner. Attached to the rear of the former summer kitchen is the former springhouse, which features a brick foundation and white

⁴ Historic photographs in possession of Rosemary Brock Rudwolis estate.

(8-86)

(Expiration 1-31-2009)

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Narrative Description

Pryor Brock Farmstead

Boone County, Indiana

Rural Historical and Architectural Resources of Eagle Township (Boone County),
and Pike Township (Marion County), Indiana, 1820-1956

clapboard siding.

The interior of the house retains much original woodwork and trim, although some alterations have been made over the years to the plan and finish. Originally, the house followed a center hall plan with one room on either side of the hall and a stair rising along one wall and turning to reach the second level. Additional rooms of the main block, as well as rooms of the rear addition, were reached at the rear of the hall. The second level also followed this center hall plan.

The plan has been altered somewhat. With the removal of an interior wall, the front portion of the house currently has a large living room with the original stairway at one side and a bedroom on the other side of the stairway. (See Photograph 10.) Extant original elements in the living room include dark-stained poplar crown molding and woodwork and the curving staircase with turned balusters and an applied decorative millwork design (of the sort found in millwork catalogs in the late nineteenth/early twentieth century). (See Photograph 11.) The wooden floor has been covered with a circa 1960s wooden floor, but is visible from the basement. The original paneled bedroom door with glass transom is extant, as is the bedroom's woodwork and the two-paneled wooden closet door. (See Photograph 12.) The floor of this first floor bedroom has been covered with carpet, but the original wooden floor is extant beneath the carpet.

As one proceeds from the living room in the front section of the house to the rear, the original plan of the rear section, with a side hallway and rooms on either side, is still evident. This space is divided into a dining room, hallway, sitting room and bathroom. The dining room appears to retain original door trim but walls have been covered with pine paneling. (See Photograph 13.) Original woodwork is extant in the sitting room. An original side entry door with a single, arched glazing over panels is a notable element in the room. Next to the entry door is the original wooden, paneled door to the basement. (See Photograph 14.)

Attached to these early sections of the house are several additions. The first section of additions is a one-room circa 1910 kitchen with board-and-batten paneling. (See Photograph 13.) Next to the kitchen is a circa 1920s addition that is now a bedroom. Behind the kitchen, the one-room summer kitchen has been appended into the building and expanded to the west; the original roof rafters of the summer kitchen are still extant within this larger addition. (See Photograph 15.) Behind this is a one-room springhouse.

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The second story retains its original plan, although a wall has enclosed the once-open staircase. (See Photograph 16.) There are four bedrooms radiating off the central hallway that is situated at the top of the stairs. One bedroom was converted into a kitchen and bath in the 1940s, but it retains original woodwork and door with transom. Two of the other second-story bedrooms retain original grained floors, painted woodwork, entry doors with transom, and paneled closet doors; the last bedroom has original woodwork and doors but is carpeted. (See Photographs 17, 18.) The upstairs hallway also has an interesting original corner bead pilaster topped with the same type of Doric capital that is used on the pilasters on the exterior of the house. (See Photograph 19.)

Hewn timber posts and beams are visible in the basement, though the beams exhibit cutouts for joists no longer extant, indicating either that there have been joist changes or that the beams were part of an earlier building and were reused in this house. Most of the framing in the basement is two-by-eight lumber. (See Photograph 20.) The first-story's original tongue-and-groove poplar floor is visible from the basement.

Outbuildings

Domestic outbuildings are located near the house; a fence separates these buildings and the house lot from the service area of the farmstead directly to the west where agricultural-related buildings are located.

East of the residence is a circa 1910 one-story rectilinear building, perhaps originally used as a shop. (See Photograph 21.) The facade's sill plate rests on the ground, and the rear (northern) elevation sits on concrete piers. The walls are covered in board-and-batten siding. A multi-paned and paneled door is a new replacement; windows are original four-over-four, double-hung sashes and have period wooden shutters hinged to their frames. The interior is framed with lumber that displays circular saw marks. Attached to the eastern elevation of this building is a shed-roofed, drive-through addition, probably from the modern period, but constructed before a garage was added to the house. Although the shed-roofed addition is newer, the shop building retains good integrity and contributes to the property.

Northwest of the house is a circa 1920 privy. The shed-roofed building is clad in vertical wooden siding. The privy has been in this location since at least circa 1923, as shown in a historic photo taken at that time. It retains integrity and is contributing to the property. (See Photograph 22.)

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Immediately west of the privy is a gable-end, drive-through granary, circa 1910. Resting on concrete piers, the granary's walls are clad in white-painted clapboard siding and the interior is framed with dimensional lumber. Sliding wooden doors are still extant on the gable ends of the building. The roof is clad in diamond-shaped composition shingles with chamfered rafter tails visible beneath the roofline. The drive-through granary retains integrity and contributes to the property. (See Photograph 23.)

Directly west of the drive-through granary, and atop a considerable rise in the land, is Pryor Brock's large barn. (See Photograph 24.) This barn is a basement barn, one of the barn types described in the MPDF. The barn rises on the eastern elevation from a mortared fieldstone foundation. The northern elevation is banked; the southern elevation foundation is constructed of smooth-faced concrete blocks, probably added circa 1920s to shore up the original foundation. The southern elevation holds a pedestrian door flanked by four-paned, fixed-sash windows, two on each side of the door. The western elevation foundation is constructed of rusticated concrete blocks. The barn's walls are covered in vertical wooden siding, painted burgundy red along the basement (first) story and white above, and they rise to clapboard siding beneath the gable. The eastern elevation (facing the house) holds two louvered openings and a white-painted double-door in the basement story; two additional louvered openings are each placed a few feet from the edge near the top of the second story, and a four-over-four, double-hung sash window is beneath the gable peak. This window is flanked by hinged wooden shutters. The barn roof is clad in diamond-shaped composition shingles. The barn is framed with hewn-log posts and pegged beams and was probably constructed at approximately the same time as the house (circa 1870), although the framing in the barn basement is more massive than that found in the upper stories and may indicate that the barn was expanded from an earlier, smaller building as money and needs increased. The barn retains integrity and contributes to the property. (See Photographs 25, 26.) To the south and to the west of the barn, per historic photograph (Photograph 1), was located land used at that time to pen hogs, and probably at other times to pasture the cattle and horses raised by the Brocks.

Farmstead Landscape

The site of the farmstead is also a contributing element to the property. Pryor and Emeline Brock placed their farmstead on a significant rise in the land, making the house and the barn the most prominent manmade elements on the landscape. The extant maple trees on the house lot were planted around the turn of the century; the sycamore trees in front of the barn appear to be even older. One large old sycamore tree stands just east of the barn. Two sycamores of the same age are on the southern (Whitestown Road) side,

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and a line of several more extends from the top of the rise down the hill toward the west. (See Photograph 27.) The current fence between the house and barn is in the same location and appears to have some of the same (or similar) posts as shown in the 1923 photograph, although the fence is now constructed of vertical wood planks rather than wire, as it was in the 1920s.

The site of the farmstead is representative of a landscape that evolved during the period of significance. The Brocks planted trees along the fence between their house yard and the barn lot that created a clear demarcation between the domestic space and the service space.

Consistent with popular ideas regarding landscape, they constructed a curving lane lined by trees to lend a graceful entrance to their home.⁵ They sited the property's most impressive buildings on rises in the land and placed the least impressive and/or private buildings behind the house away from public scrutiny. A large rectangular depression in the yard behind the house indicates the former location of the family's garden in the domestic area.

Three structures are shown in the 1923 photo that are no longer extant, but these are smaller, less significant structures than the buildings still standing. These included a small moveable hog shelter near the road, and two small utility buildings near the rear of the property. Because of the relatively small size of these missing structures, the site as viewed from Whitestown Road today looks very much as it did in the 1923 photograph, and probably much as it did when its homesteader, Pryor Brock, died in 1898.

The Pryor Brock Farmstead is a good example of a farmstead from the period just before and spanning the "golden age" of agriculture, when Eagle Township farmers were making the transition to commercial farming. Although the Italianate-style house has undergone some changes, it retains good integrity and combined with the other buildings and structures, and with the site, meets the registration requirements of a farmstead as set forth in the MPDF. In particular, the farmstead has a "concentration of built elements sufficient to evoke a historical farming endeavor." There are no post-historical period buildings or structures and those buildings and structures that survive on the property

⁵ Andrew Jackson Downing, *Victorian Cottage Residences* (New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1981), 99.

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Narrative Description

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Boone County, Indiana

Rural Historical and Architectural Resources of Eagle Township (Boone County),
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“exhibit minimal post-historical alterations.”⁶ Although the MPDF does not specifically define the buildings and structures required to justify an eligible farmstead, this property retains a number of essential buildings and structures in addition to the house, including a barn, drive-through granary, shop building, and privy from the historical period. Also essential, the original summer kitchen and springhouse survive, although they have been appended to the house.

Additional note: A 1905 newspaper article alleges that John Shaw, said to be “the present owner of the Pryor Brock farm some two miles north of Zionsville,” unearthed two human skeletons, which the article claims “proved to be Indian skeltons [*sic*] which had been buried long ago. The decided angle of the superior maxillary bone proved that they were not white men’s bones.”⁷ However, no evidence of a burial site of either Native American or Euro-American origin at this location is recorded in the files of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.⁸

⁶ Steelwater, “Rural Historical and Architectural Resources,” 59, 61.

⁷ Clipping file, “Indian,” P.H. Sullivan Museum, Zionsville, Indiana.

⁸ Dr. Rick Jones interview with Connie Zeigler January 30, 2007.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Narrative Statement of Significance

Pryor Brock Farmstead
Boone County, Indiana
Rural Historical and Architectural Resources of Eagle Township (Boone County),
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The Pryor Brock Farm, with its Italianate farmhouse, substantial barn, and domestic and agricultural buildings, exemplifies the farmstead of a prosperous farmer in the period when Eagle Township's farms were transitioning to commercial agriculture and Indiana was experiencing a "golden age" of agriculture (1880 to 1920). The property is eligible for the National Register under criteria A and C for its association with the history of agriculture in Eagle Township, Boone County, Indiana, and for its embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of a farmstead from the period of significance. The Pryor Brock Farmstead displays the best collection of Italianate-style house and farming outbuildings in the township. The period of significance extends from circa 1870, which corresponds with the construction of the house and barn, and to circa 1920, when the last of the farmstead's buildings was constructed and the "golden age" of farming was drawing to a close.

The context for the Pryor Brock Farmstead nomination is established in "Rural Historical and Architectural Resources of Eagle Township (Boone County) and Pike Township (Marion County) Indiana, 1820-1956," a Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) prepared in 2006. The most relevant historic contexts of the MPDF include: "The Rise and Fall of Agriculture, 1852-1924," with the subheadings of "The Transition to Commercial Agriculture, 1852-1880" and "The Farmstead: Buildings, Structures, Layout and Evolution." The architectural significance relates to the MPDF's following property types: "Farmsteads" and "Barns and Miscellaneous Structures, circa 1890s-1950s."

Historical Background and Agricultural Context

Pryor Brock was born in Tennessee on January 31, 1823, the descendant of a family with roots in America since 1733, when an ancestor emigrated from Germany.¹ Allen Brock, father of Pryor, moved to Putnam County, Indiana, in 1829, and then to the what would become Boone County (eight miles east of Lebanon), in 1832. The family arrived in the area eight years before the county was officially organized.²

¹ Wanda (Newby) Essex and Anna (Essex) Crane, "Genealogy of Brock" (unpublished manuscript, 1990), 5, P.H. Sullivan Museum, Zionsville, Indiana.

² Ibid., 5-7; "Boone County Introduction," Boone County Genealogy <http://www.rootsweb.com/~inboone/histories/histories-introduction.htm> (accessed December 20, 2006).

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Narrative Statement of Significance

Pryor Brock Farmstead
Boone County, Indiana
Rural Historical and Architectural Resources of Eagle Township (Boone County),
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In 1846 at age 23, Pryor Brock married Emeline Stoneking. In 1857, Pryor Brock joined the Salem Methodist Episcopal Church, where he became an active member and, eventually, one of the first lay delegates to the Methodist Episcopal Conference.³ (Both Pryor and Emeline Brock are buried in the cemetery of the nearby Salem Church.⁴) Family records indicate that the Brocks were living in Eagle Township by the 1850s, but they began to buy property in the area of this farm in 1861 and purchased the land on which they would later build their Italianate-style house in 1866. The property transactions in the Abstract of Title for this land indicate that there was likely a house on this section when the Brocks purchased it.⁵ Within a few years, they would build a new, stylish residence and barn that reflected their successful farming enterprise.

By 1865, P.M. Brock owned 120 acres in Section 33 of Eagle Township, on which there were two residences, one near the location where the Italianate house now stands and one farther west on Whitestown Road.⁶ Around this time, most Boone County farms were fewer than 100 acres, so Brock's farm was already a substantial one.⁷ By 1878, the Brocks had more than doubled their acreage and had built an Italianate-style home and a large basement barn on their land. The 1878 atlas shows Pryor Brock had increased his holdings to 257.75 acres; he was among the 28 percent of farmers in the county with more than 100 acres.⁸

The Brocks had a large family of ten children: six girls and four boys. They were a mature couple when they constructed their new home. By 1870, they had been married 24 years; Pryor was 47 and Emeline was 42. Some of their older children had probably moved away by then, perhaps to the two other residences shown on P.M. Brock's holdings in the 1878 atlas.⁹ Although some of the older children had left the household, Pryor and Emeline had their youngest children still living with them in 1870, enough to fill the rooms of a new home. As late as 1880, the Brock household counted five children,

³ Essex and Crane, "Genealogy of Brock," 9-11.

⁴ Files, P. H. Sullivan Museum, Zionsville, Indiana.

⁵ Abstract of Title, entry 57.

⁶ 1865 Plat Map of Boone County, P.H. Sullivan Museum, Zionsville, Indiana.

⁷ U. S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, *The Statistics of the Wealth and Industry of the United States* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1872), 350.

⁸ Kingman Brothers, *Combination Atlas Map of Boone County* (Chicago: Kingman Brothers, 1878); The U. S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, *Report on the Production of Agriculture* (Washington: U. S. Government Printer, 1883-1884), 46-47.

⁹ 1878 Atlas.

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ranging in age from 26 to 9.¹⁰ The Brocks had gained considerable land (and presumably an accompanying increase in fortune) in the years between 1865 and 1878.¹¹

The U.S. Census of Agriculture recorded Pryor Brock's wealth in terms of resources and agricultural output in 1880. At that time Pryor Brock had 180 acres of improved land and 77 acres of unimproved land. His farm was valued at \$10,000 in a township where the average farm value was \$1,180. Brock owned equipment worth \$300, while the average farmer in Eagle Township owned \$96 worth of implements and machinery.¹² The 1880 *Census Report on the Production of Agriculture* counted 61,350 swine and 17,352 sheep 11,905 head of cattle and 6,861 milk cows in all of Boone County. The Brocks had eight milk cows and 16 heads of cattle; 10 calves were born in the prior year. They milked the cows in the still extant milking stanchions in the basement of their large barn. The farm had produced 500 pounds of butter in 1879, well above the township average of 227 total pounds for that year.¹³

Brock's farm was an outstanding example in a township whose farmers were producing above the average for Boone County.¹⁴ Other statistics from the census bear out Brock's status in terms of wealth in the township and county. Eagle Township farmers produced an average of 857 bushels of corn in 1879 and 193 bushels of wheat—above the county averages of 520 bushels of corn and 142 of wheat. But Brock's farm out-produced his Eagle Township neighbors; he recorded a corn crop of 3,000 bushels and a wheat harvest of 1,200 bushels. The Brocks also raised swine and a few chickens, as did most other farmers in Boone County.¹⁵

Constructed around 1870 during what the MPDF terms "the transition to commercial agriculture" Pryor Brock's large barn was used to shelter livestock and the growing array of farm implements and machinery that he and other farmers were incorporating into

¹⁰ Pryor Brock, *Ancestry.com* <http://search.ancestry.com> (accessed February 1, 2007).

¹¹ 1865 Map, 1878 Atlas.

¹² Agricultural Census 1880 Manuscript Records, Indiana State Archives, Indianapolis: Steelwater, "Rural Historical and Architectural Resources," 15.

¹³ Agricultural Census 1880; Steelwater, "Rural Historical and Architectural Resources," 16.

¹⁴ Steelwater, "Rural Historical and Architectural Resources," 16.

¹⁵ The 1880 *Census Report on the Production of Agriculture*, 184; Agricultural Census Manuscript, 1880.

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their work habits.¹⁶ The first story of Brock's basement barn probably served as a threshing floor for grains and storage for hay while the basement held milking stanchions for his eight cows and an area for penned cattle and/or horses.¹⁷

Pryor and Emeline Brock lived and worked together on their farmstead until she died in 1884. Pryor Brock lived on for a number of years and even remarried, celebrating his nuptials with Emma Lemon in 1891 at the age of 68. (W. N. Lemon, perhaps Emma's father, owned property adjacent to Pryor Brock's in 1878.)¹⁸ The new Mrs. Brock nursed Pryor through "affliction" in his home where he died on October 3, 1898, at age 75.¹⁹

After the death of this "distinctly self-made man," Pryor Brock's farmstead was distributed among his heirs and their heirs, with the Italianate house and farmstead remaining in his family for generations of Brocks.²⁰ In the coming years, during Indiana's "golden age" of agriculture, Pryor Brock's descendants added a drive-through granary, which held the harvested corn that the Brocks used to feed their livestock. Although agricultural census records are not available at the individual level after 1880, in Boone County the number of farms began to decrease and the number of acres per farm began to increase in the years after 1900. By 1920, there had been a 9.3 percent decrease in the number of farms in Boone County.²¹ The Brocks retained their working farm. A historical photo (probably 1923) demonstrates that by then, the Brock family had added two small open-front storage or livestock shelter structures in the barn lot, as well one very small, movable hog shelter. (These relatively insignificant and later period structures are no longer extant.) For the most part, however, the farm looked as it did in the days when Pryor Brock owned it. Pryor Brock's son, John Wesley Brock, owned the home by the 1920s and died there in the "shop" building of carbon monoxide poisoning in 1942.²² Following John Wesley's death, his son, George Brock, acquired the property, residing on the farm until his death in 1961. The last Brock to own and live in the home was

¹⁶ Steelwater, "Rural Historical and Architectural Resources," 14.

¹⁷ Elric Endersby, Alexander Greenwood, and David Larkin, *Barn: The Art of a Working Building* (New York, Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1992), 76; The 1880 *Census Report on the Production of Agriculture*, 184, shows that Boone County farmers raised 6,861 cows and 11,905 head of cattle.

¹⁸ *Zionsville Times*, October 13, 1898.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁰ *Ibid.*

²¹ Steelwater, "Rural Historical and Architectural Resources," 16.

²² Essex and Crane, "Genealogy of Brock," 154.

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Rosemary Brock Rudwolis, who died in 2006, placing a codicil in her will requiring that Pryor Brock's house, barn, and remaining farm buildings be preserved. The tilled land of the farmstead is no longer part of the property.

Architectural Significance

The Pryor Brock Farmstead is the best example in Eagle Township of a prosperous farmstead from the period when Boone County's farmers were transitioning from subsistence to commercial agriculture. The Brock Farmstead meets the registration requirements as noted in the MPDF, retaining a house, basement barn (also sometimes called a bank barn), and drive-through granary, along with a privy and shop building and landscape features.

Buildings on the Brock Farmstead symbolize activities that occurred on this farmstead, as well as on similar farmsteads in Eagle Township, Boone County. The property includes the most important features found on rural properties representing this period. The L-plan Italianate farmhouse is a good example of the homes of prosperous farmers built during this period in Eagle Township. The summer kitchen and springhouse, both significant features of rural households from the beginning of the period, survive, although as was fairly typical, they are no longer separate buildings and have been incorporated into the house.²³ The large barn and granary are also typical and important elements from the period of significance, as described in the MPDF.²⁴ The complex is completed with a shop building that was added to the property circa 1910 and a circa 1920 privy. In addition, the property's site--the landscape of buildings, fence lines, pastures, and historical plantings--exemplifies the workings of a historical farmstead and current thoughts about landscape as promoted in the writings of Andrew Jackson Downing.

Pryor and Emeline Brock's choice of the Italianate style for their home was a popular one in this period and had been since the mid-nineteenth century. Andrew Jackson Downing's two books, *Victorian Cottage Residences* (1842) and *The Architecture of Country Houses* (1850), had created interest in the style; he and others made house designs available to the masses through their pattern books. The Italianate-style was the "most fashionable architectural style in America."²⁵ Boone County's citizens built a number of Italianate

²³ Steelwater, "Rural Historical and Architectural Resources" 14, 57-59.

²⁴ Ibid., 59, 61, 62.

²⁵ James C. Massey and Shirley Maxwell, *House Styles in America: The Old-House Journal Guide to the Architecture of American Homes* (New York: Penguin Studio Group, 1996), 85.

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homes in these years. The Shaw house, constructed in 1878 at the corner of Whitestown Road and CR 800E, is close to the Brock house in proximity, as well as style and plan, but is in another township. While similar to the Brock house, the Shaw house is not a part of a farmstead and has lost some integrity.²⁶ It should also be noted that two other properties in Eagle Township (Boone 40040 and 40043), documented in the county interim report in 1982 and rated "outstanding," do not retain historical agricultural outbuildings and therefore could not be compared as farmsteads. The Pryor Brock Farmstead was classified as a "farm" and rated "notable" in the interim report (Boone 40012) and remains as a singular example of a farmstead with an Italianate-style house in Eagle Township.

The Brocks chose a fashionable design for their home, but their desire for style did not trump their frugality, for the Pryor Brock house displays few high-style touches. This was typical of a prominent farmer in rural nineteenth-century America. As historian Michael McGerr has noted, "prosperous farmers, proud of their houses, [they nevertheless] . . . disdained urban showiness;" farmers like the Brocks used simple treatments and inexpensive touches to adorn their home.²⁷ The Brock home features simple boxed openings with virtually no molding trim around the windows, lacking the elaborate pediments or wide lintels found on many wood-frame Italianate homes.²⁸ Pryor Brock's house has a two-bay ell, smaller than the ells on many Italianate houses. The interior uses inexpensive woods and simple treatments even in public rooms. The first-story public area of the house has simple, wide poplar woodwork, as does the second story. It is likely the poplar was cut on the Brock's property. Millwork in the house, such as the applied decorative pieces on the stairway and the brackets on the exterior, closely

²⁶ Mary Ann Doyle interview with Linda Weintraut, January 19, 2007. This house may also have a family connection to the Brocks. At one point John Shaw lived on Pryor Brock's farm, according to a newspaper clipping at the P. H. Sullivan Museum. Shaw is also the family name of the owners of the Italianate house on CR 800E, possibly one of Brock's daughters married a Shaw and built a home in the same style as her family's.

²⁷ Michael McGerr, *A Fierce Discontent: The Rise and Fall of the Progressive Movement in America, 1870-1920* (Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press, 2003), 28.

²⁸ Massey and Maxwell, *House Styles in America*, 92; Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York; Alfred A. Knopf, 1984) 212-13.

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resembles the mass-produced millwork that was available by catalog and shipped to nearby stations by the railroads that crisscrossed the country by the 1870s.²⁹

Like many farm families, the Brocks built an attached kitchen on to their home in the early twentieth century and appended the former summer kitchen and springhouse to the house to provide additional space for domestic activities. And, as is usually the case, the house has undergone some modernization, both inside and out, including the replacement of some windows and doors over the years (although all second-story windows are original), and some moderate changes to the interior plan and finish, such as the addition of a bathroom, removal of an interior wall, and covering of some wood floors. However, the house retains the majority of its original materials, as well as integrity of design and workmanship, and remains the centerpiece of (and a contributing resource on) this historic farmstead.

The privy remains as a contributing building on the property. Located a short distance from the farmhouse, the vertical wooden-sided building is a typical building on a Hoosier farmstead from this period.

A shop was constructed near the end of the period of significance of board and batten siding and later a carport was appended. Minor farm repairs were likely done here. It is located near the house.

The two primary agricultural outbuildings also retain their integrity, although the basement barn has undergone minor alterations to keep it structurally intact. Even with these alterations, however, the basement barn meets the registration requirements of a contributing resource, as set forth in the MPDF, due to its early date, mostly original materials, excellent workmanship, and otherwise good integrity.³⁰

The drive-through granary, which is representative of grain-handling structures from the period, also meets the registration requirements of a contributing element to an eligible farmstead, as set out in the MPDF, due to its construction during the period of

²⁹ For instance, very similar stairway decorative elements were available in E. L. Roberts & Co., *Roberts' Illustrated Millwork Catalog: A Sourcebook of Turn-of-the-Century Architectural Woodwork* (New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1988, reprint of 1903 original).

³⁰ Steelwater, "Rural Historical and Architectural Resources," 59.

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significance, retention of original structural design, materials, workmanship, location, setting, feeling, and association. It is in good condition.³¹

The site of the farmstead is also a contributing element to the property. Together the various buildings and other landscape features form a cohesive whole that characterizes a working farmstead of the period.³² Pryor and Emeline Brock placed their farmstead on a significant rise in the land, making the house and the barn the most prominent manmade elements on the landscape. They planted trees along the lane to their farmstead.

Elements of the landscape date to the period of significance as evidenced in a photograph taken in 1923 (three years after the end of the period of significance). (See Photograph 27.) Trees lining the lane and shade trees in the barn lot are still extant. Sycamore trees in the barn lot appear to have been planted in the late nineteenth century. Trees near the barn would have shaded the barn from the sun's rays during the summer. The current fence between the house and barn is in the same location and may have some of the same posts as in 1923, although the fence is now constructed of vertical wood planks rather than wire. The currently mown areas to the south and west of the barn indicate the barn lot, and land once used to pasture cattle or horse or to pen hogs.

The Brocks achieved an ornamental effect around their "tasteful farmhouse" by planting triangular-shaped cedars in the center of their sweeping front lawn between the maple trees that lined both the curving lane and the fence separating the house yard from the barn yard. Despite the relatively close distance of the house to Whitestown Road, the Brocks' lane is reminiscent of Downing's "approach . . . [that] leads to the house... in gently curved lines, and from thence to the stable and other outbuildings."³³ They used

³¹ Steelwater, "Rural Historical and Agricultural Resources," 61.

³² The MDPF does not specifically address the importance of the vernacular landscape, but the National Register has recognized landscape as a contributing element to an agricultural property. The Kehlbeck Farmstead in Nebraska (listed 1985) is one such example.

³³ Like other everyday Americans, the Brocks placed their own interpretation on the landscape utilizing the philosophy of prominent writers, such as Andrew Jackson Downing. Downing offered the following advice in his design book *Victorian Cottage Residences*: "The effect of the view from the house across the entrance lawn... would be pleasing, and its expression would be that of simply natural or pastoral beauty. The trees might be of the finest native species, selected from the woods on the farm . . ." ³³ Downing suggested that a farm might have "a tasteful farmhouse, and so much of the ground about it rendered ornamental as would naturally meet the eye of the stranger in approaching it the first time." Downing, *Victorian Cottage Residences*, 84, 85, 119.

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trees that could be harvested as saplings from nearby woods such as the sycamore trees that march down the hill where the barn stands on the farmstead. Such trees are typically found near water and it is likely those on the property were transplanted from the nearest creek or stream bank. Around the turn of the century, the Brocks planted cedar trees from the front door toward Whitestown Road, providing both a year-round green view from the house and an ornamental view from the road. The Brocks sited the various elements of their property as suggested by Downing, but they modified them to suit their more modest home and to incorporate plant varieties found locally.

Summary

The Pryor Brock Farmstead, with its Italianate farmhouse, substantial barn, domestic and agricultural buildings, and the landscape on which the farm buildings are located, exemplifies the farmstead of a prosperous farming family in the period of transition to commercial agriculture and the state's "golden age" of agriculture. The period of significance spans roughly from 1870 to 1920. The property is eligible for the National Register under criteria A and C for its association with the history of agriculture in Eagle Township, Boone County, Indiana, and for its embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of a farmstead from the period of significance.

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Verbal Boundary Description and Boundary Justification

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The address is 860 Whitestown Road, Zionsville, Indiana.

The property lies at the western edge of the town of Zionsville in Eagle Township, Boone County, Indiana, and includes parcel on which the house and barn stand and immediately surrounding mown areas, totaling 4.90 acres.

The Legal Description of this property is: Pt. W ½ NE 33-18-2E 4.90.

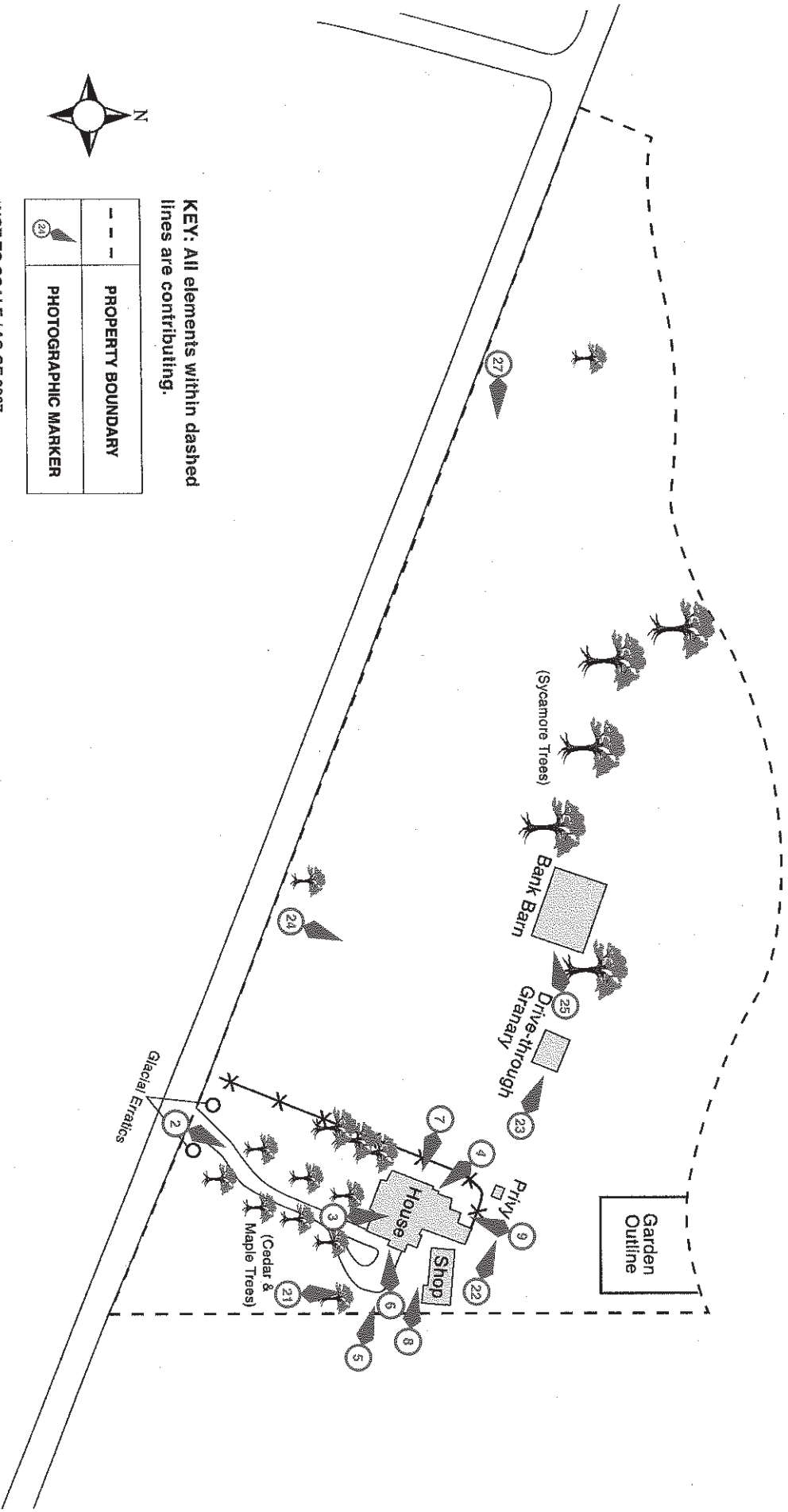
The Assessor's Parcel # is 030180000.

The property boundary is shown on the accompanying map.

Boundary Justification

The property boundary encompasses a cohesive area that exhibits historic feeling. The boundary includes the land on which the house, barn and other outbuildings sit and the vernacular landscape that connects these resources to create the contributing site of the farmstead. The land within this property boundary was historically, and remains today, a grassy lawn amidst the tilled fields of the surrounding farmland. The unusual trapezoidal shape of the lot is caused by the small rise on which the house sits and the more prominent rise on which the barn sits. The land within the property boundary is a cohesive unit.

PRYOR BROCK FARMSTEAD



KEY: All elements within dashed lines are contributing.

---	PROPERTY BOUNDARY
24	PHOTOGRAPHIC MARKER

*NOT TO SCALE / AS OF 2007

NOTE: PHOTOGRAPHS 10-20 ARE INTERIOR SHOTS AND NOT INDICATED ON THIS SITE PLAN.

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Pryor Brock Farmstead, Boone Co., IN
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