

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: INDIANA	
COUNTY: DEKALB	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
WILLIAM CORNELL HOMESTEAD

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Rural Route One, Cedar Chapel Road (County Road 68)

CITY OR TOWN:  
Auburn

STATE: Indiana      CODE: 18      COUNTY: DeKalb      CODE: 33

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	After Restoration	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
JOHN MARTIN SMITH and BARBARA CLARK SMITH

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Twelfth and Jackson Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Auburn      STATE: Indiana      CODE: 18

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
DeKalb County Recorder (Deed Record 146, Page 464)

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Auburn      STATE: Indiana      CODE: 18

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

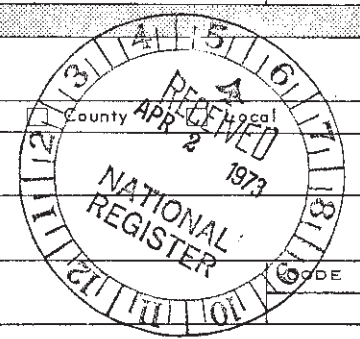
TITLE OF SURVEY:  
None Known.

DATE OF SURVEY:       Federal       State

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

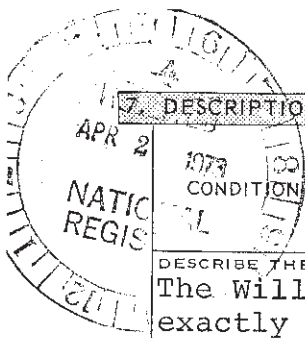
CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:



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7. DESCRIPTION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The William Cornell Homestead is located at the top of a hill exactly twenty rods from the center of the Cedar Chapel Road. Its architectural elegance is surprising in a rural setting where wholly functional basic architecture is the rule. Built c.1863, it has stood for over a century as the home of several generations of prosperous farmers.

The foundation is of cut fieldstone. The exterior is brick, as are all interior partitions. Exterior walls are double course with an airspace in between. "Architectural gingerbread" is tastefully used at all roof lines. Three different window styles add to the interest of the exterior. Semi-arch windows are used on the first floor level; full-arch windows on the second floor and cupola levels; and "port-hole" or round windows beneath the eave line on the west wing. Double miniature full-arch windows are located under the peak of the main portion of the house. The arch theme is carried into the brickwork of the chimneys and the interior woodwork. The fake windows at the first and second floor levels in the middle of the east side are unusual.

The exterior is accentuated by an octagonal cupola. Stairs lead to the cupola from the second floor to the attic and from there to the cupola through a trap-door. There are full-arched windows on the east, north, and west sides and a door opening onto the roof on the south or back side.

The basement opens onto ground level on the south side. Just inside the door there is a large "walk-in" fireplace. There are three large rooms in the basement plus an unconnected cistern and root cellar under the south wing.

There is a large parlor, a bedroom, and a pantry on the first floor in the eastern portion of the house. The west wing includes a dining room, another bedroom, and the stairway to the second floor. The kitchen, summer kitchen, and stairway to the basement are in the south wing.

The second story consists of a small bedroom and large dormitory bedroom in the west wing and a large unfinished room in the main portion of the house. Over the unfinished room there is an attic which is reached by a stairway from the second floor. Another stair leads through a trap door to the cupola.

Three fireplaces provided the heat in the original structure. Cookstoves were probably used in the kitchen and summer kitchen.

All exterior and interior doors are black walnut. Other interior woodwork is walnut, cherry, and oak. There is walnut wainscoating in the kitchen and oak wainscoating in the dining room. The original walnut pantry cupboards are still located in the house.

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7. DESCRIPTION

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

The house is in 90% original condition. The present owners are working toward complete restoration by spring, 1974, after which the house will be used as a residence.

The architect is unknown but the architecture is most pleasing and there have been no modifications to spoil it.

## SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) C 1863

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy            | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture  | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   |  |

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Born to Smith and Mary Cornell in Carroll County, Maryland, on January 14, 1813, William Cornell came to DeKalb County, Indiana, in 1850 with a wife, five young children, a team, a wagon full of household goods, and three hundred dollars in cash. He immediately purchased eighty acres of land and proceeded to build a log house and barn.

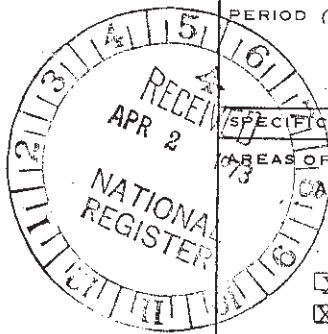
By 1854 Mr. Cornell had purchased the eighty acres adjoining to the south. Within several more years, he had accumulated several hundred acres of good land. His four sons undoubtedly helped with the clearing and farming. The first railroad was completed through DeKalb County in 1856 resulting in much higher incomes for the county's farmers.

On November 22, 1861, his two oldest sons, William Henry Harrison Cornell and Benjamin Franklin Cornell, enlisted in Company K, 44th Indiana Infantry and subsequently served at Shiloh, Corinth, Perryville, Stone River, and Mission Ridge. While in the south, according to Cornell family tradition, one of the sons saw a house which impressed him and sent a sketch of it back to his father.

In the meantime, William Cornell continued to prosper. War time prices and three teenaged sons at home to assist with the farming enabled him to accumulate considerable money in a relatively short period of time.

Circa 1863 he began construction of the home his son had sketched in the south. It was a magnificent structure indeed and probably one of the most impressive homes in DeKalb County. It reflected the taste and perhaps the dream of a man who became financially successful from a humble beginning, certainly a contrast from the log cabin of a few years before.

Local and family tradition is persistent that the home, probably in an uncompleted state, was used as a station on the Underground Railroad. It is known that William Cornell's father and brother, Samuel, were active in the anti-slavery movement both in Maryland and in DeKalb County, Indiana. This fact coupled with the location of the house within one-half mile from



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8. SIGNIFICANCE

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

the Eastern Indiana Underground Railroad Route and about fifteen miles, a night's journey, from Fort Wayne, a known railroad stop, lend considerable credence to the tradition. While it cannot be conclusively shown that it was, it very well could have been a station.

William Cornell lived in the house until his death in 1882. It was then sold to his son, Winfield Scott Cornell. William Cornell's widow, Magdalena, continued to live in the house with her son until her death in 1900. Winfield Scott Cornell sold the property in 1906 and may have moved to Missouri where two of his brothers were located.

The next owner was Ebben F. Carnahan, another prosperous farmer in the area. It continued into the last decade as the home of successful farmers. Its restoration will hopefully enable the dream of William Cornell to exist at least another century.



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

1840 Census, Carroll County, Maryland.  
 1860 Census, Butler Township, DeKalb County, Indiana.  
 Map of DeKalb County, Indiana... (Waterloo City, Indiana, 1863).  
 Atlas of DeKalb County, Indiana... (Chicago, 1880).  
 History of DeKalb County, Indiana... (Chicago, 1885).  
 History of DeKalb County, Indiana... (Indianapolis, 1914).  
 Ford, Ira, et al (ed.), History of Northeast Indiana...  
 (2 vols., Chicago and New York, 1920).

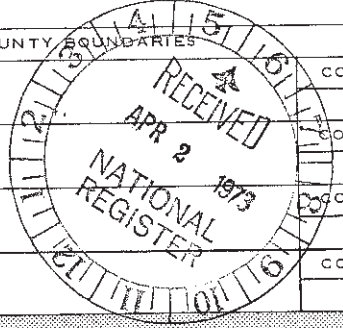
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		41° 16' 44"	85° 05' 29"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **6.14 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



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**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: John Martin Smith, Owner

ORGANIZATION: NEWSPAPER RECORDS AND RECORDS DATE: March 8, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: Twelfth and Jackson Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Auburn, STATE: Indiana 46706 CODE: 18

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Joseph C. Baird

Title: Indiana State Liaison Officer

Date: March 26, 1973

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: \_\_\_\_\_