

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Van Reed Farmstead

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 5322 Old U.S. 41

City or town: Williamsport State: Indiana County: Warren

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide x local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

x A ___ B x C ___ D

| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <p><u>Matthew K. Zoll Deputy SHPO</u></p> <p>Signature of certifying official/Title:</p> <p><u>Indiana DNR-Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology</u></p> <p>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p> | <p><u>7/24/2015</u></p> <p>Date</p> |
|---|-------------------------------------|

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.</p> | |
| <p>_____ Signature of commenting official:</p> | <p>_____ Date</p> |
| <p>_____ Title :</p> | <p>_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p> |

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| <u>3</u> | <u>2</u> | buildings |
| <u>1</u> | <u>0</u> | sites |
| <u>2</u> | <u>2</u> | structures |
| <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | objects |
| <u>6</u> | <u>4</u> | Total |

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/SUBSISTENCE: Agricultural outbuilding

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Storage

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MID-19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival

OTHER: Sweitzer Barn

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE: Limestone

walls: BRICK

WOOD: Weatherboard

roof: SYNTHETICS: Fiberglass

other: METAL: Steel

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Van Reed Farmstead consists of a 10 acre site characterized by pastures and a wooded valley. The site has a house and barn and a few other structures that date to c. 1856. The house is a double-pile house type constructed in the Greek Revival style. The barn is a Sweitzer bank barn. The farmstead also has a few agricultural-related buildings that date to the second half of the 20th century including two grain bins, an implement shed, and a garage; these later resources are non-contributing. The farmstead is located in Pine Township and is part of the Old U.S. 41 Rural Historic District that was identified in the historic structures survey of Warren County in 2010.

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Narrative Description

The house, which is the primary building on the property, faces slightly northeast. For purposes of this nomination the front wall of the house shall be referred to as the east wall, etc. The barn has a front wall that more directly faces northeast and it is described as such.

Van Reed Farmstead, 1856. Contributing (site). Photos 0001-0005

The ten-acre site of the Van Reed Farmstead is considered a contributing resource due to its organized landscape and features that identify it as a 19th century farm. The site is trapezoidal in plan. The east side of the property borders Old U.S. 41 which was graded down from the site at an early period in time. A pasture wraps around the north and west sides of the main driveway (seen in the foreground of photo 0003); the drive enters the site from Old 41 on the site's north end. A few large old trees, mostly oaks, are located in the pasture that was historically used for grazing cattle. A foundation composed of cut-stone is located northwest of the house (left side of photo 0003). It is from a small carriage house that was demolished in 2012. It had side gables and was constructed in c. 1880. Its walls were composed of boards; its roof was covered with metal.

The house and its associated buildings and structures are located south and east of the driveway, near the east side of the site. The lawn surrounding the house has several trees including a large old maple tree near the driveway's entrance to the road. A large gnarled mulberry tree is located on the south side of the house. A row of red cedars extends south from the lawn near its southwest corner. This creates a small pasture south of the house. The south side of the site drops into a valley for Spring Branch, a tributary of Big Pine Creek. The valley is mostly wooded and the remains of an orchard are located near the bluff. The agricultural buildings are located west and southwest of the house. The barn is located southwest of the house; it is built into the slight bluff formed by the valley. It is surrounded with pasture (photos 0004-0005). The more modern agricultural buildings are located west of the house and lawn.

House, 1856. Greek Revival. Contributing Exterior. Photos 0001-0003

The house is a large two-story home constructed with elements of a few architectural styles popular during the middle part of the 19th century; however its general composition and most dominant features are elements of the Greek Revival style. The foundation is composed of buff-colored cut stone and its walls are composed of brick. The house has 4/4 wood windows with stone sills and lintels. The entablature at the top of the wall is composed of two courses of brick, a tall frieze board, and a cornice formed by the eaves. Carved brackets support the eaves. The cornice has fascia and ogee molding. The eaves are flattened and have internal gutters. The house has cornice returns on its side facades. The tops of the cornice returns are boxed-in with decorative panels. Pairs of brackets support the cornice returns. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A two-story wing is located on the back of the house; it is slightly off-center to the south. It has porches on its north and south sides. The house has three chimneys. One is located

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just north of center on the back of the rear wing. The other two are located on the ridge of the main house; however, only the north chimney retains its original height and belt courses. Splash blocks are located around the house. The blocks are large cut stones with a spoon-shaped trough carved into their tops.

The front facade is symmetrically organized with five bays (photo 0002). The center bay has a porch and entry door with side-lites on the first floor and a window on the second floor. The other four bays each have a window on the first and second floors. The porch floor is composed of a single stone slab and a stone step. The porch has four wood posts with chamfered corners. The posts have bases that extend to the height of the porch rail, and capitals. The porch has a balustrade on its north and south walls composed of sawn pickets and wood rails. The porch has sawn decoration between the posts and scrolled brackets that support the corners of the eaves. Rows of dentils are beneath the eaves. The porch has a thin cornice composed of trim boards. The porch roof is flat and is covered with rubber. The porch ceiling is composed of wood. The entry is composed of a wide stone threshold and lintel. The entry has a wide four-panel, wood door, side-lites, and a transom. The transom is divided into four lites. The side-lites are divided into small diamond-shaped panes of glass by wood mullions.

The north and south gable ends of the main part of the house are identical (photos 0001-0002). They are divided into two bays with a window in the first and second floors in each bay. A diamond-shaped window is centered in each of the gables. The windows are wood with brick trim and divided into four lites. The gables have decorative trim with sawn finials and crossbracing. The rear (west) facade of the main house has a two-story rear wing. It is off-center to the south and creates two ells into which porches were constructed (photo 0003). The rear facade south of the wing has a four-panel, wood door with a transom on the first floor and a window on the second floor. The door is entered from the south porch of the wing. The rear facade north of the wing has a window on the first and second floors north of the porch. It has a small rectangular window in the first floor wall on the east side of the porch.

The north and south facades of the rear wing are similar, only their porches differ. Both have a four-panel, wood door with a transom divided into two lights on the east end and a window on the west end of the first floor. The second floor of the wing has two windows in the north and south facades. The north and south porches have posts and sawn details that match the front porch. The porch on the south side of the wing has four posts and a cut-stone base and a wood floor. The roof is hipped and is covered with asphalt shingles. The porch on the north side of the wing has three posts and is not as long as the south porch. It has a concrete floor and cut-stone steps. Its roof is hipped and is covered with asphalt shingles. The rear (west) facade of the wing has a 4/4 window centered in the first and second floors (photo 0003). A short 2/2 window is centered in the gable in the attic of the wing. A metal hatch door for the cellar is located on the north side of the wing. It covers a set of stone steps that provide access to the basement. The basement is located under only the rear wing of the house. A wood door is at the bottom of the cellar steps.

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Interior. Photos 0008-0015

The house has two rooms over two rooms on each side of a central stair hall. From the stair hall on the first floor, a parlor is located off the south side and a living room is off the north side. The dining room is west of the parlor and has a door in the back of the stair hall. A doorway is also located between the dining room and parlor. A bedroom and bathroom are located off the north side of the dining room (photo 0016). It appears the bathroom was carved out of the bedroom c. 1940. Other than the many doors leading out of the dining room and a window in its south wall, there are no additional architectural features in the dining room. The rear wing contains a large kitchen and a service staircase in the southwest corner. The staircase is enclosed and leads to the second floor. A staircase beneath it once led to the basement, but the opening in the floor has been covered. A laundry closet was added in the southeast corner of the kitchen c. 1980.

The second floor is also organized around the stair hall. A bedroom is located to each side of the stair hall (photo 0012). A hallway which leads to the second floor of the rear wing is located off the back wall of the landing. A bedroom is located to each side of the hallway. The second floor of the rear wing is one large bedroom. An enclosed staircase is located in the southwest corner of this bedroom (photo 0015). One set of stairs leads up to the attic and another leads down to the kitchen.

The house has painted wood floors throughout. The kitchen floor has been covered with vinyl. The house has wood baseboards and its walls are covered with plaster. The ceilings are composed of drywall. The woodwork throughout the house has been painted with the exception of the main staircase (photo 0008). The doors and windows have wide wood casings. The house has wood four-panel doors with transoms on both floors. Wood panels are located beneath the windows in the living room and parlor (photos 0009-0010). The parlor had a fireplace on its west wall. The stone hearth block and base to the fireplace surround are extant, however, the surround and mantel are gone and the opening has been filled (photo 0009). The main staircase has a balustrade composed of turned balusters and a large octagonal turned newel post (photo 0008). Decorative carved moldings are located on the outside edge of the steps on the stringer trim boards. The staircase curves upward and to the south. The curved back wall has a niche composed of plaster. The balustrade continues around the staircase opening in the second floor landing (photo 0012). A closet is located in the southwest corner of the bedroom on the south side of the landing (photo 0013). A built-in wardrobe is located in the northwest corner of the bedroom off the north side of the hallway (photo 0014). The wardrobe has wood walls and a wood two-panel door. The wardrobe is a little over six feet tall and has cove moldings at the top.

A large built-in pantry cabinet is located in the northwest corner of the kitchen (photo 0011). It is composed of a base cabinet with a pair of two-panel doors and two drawers and a tall top cabinet that has a pair of two-panel doors. Modern, c. 1980, cabinets and countertops are also located in the kitchen. The staircase that leads to the second floor of the wing has two steps in front of the door in the southwest corner of the kitchen. The top of the staircase has winders. The staircase that leads from the second floor to the attic is L-shaped and also has winders (photo 0015).

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Summer Kitchen, 1856. Gable-front. Contributing. Photos 0001, 0003, 0007

A one-and-a-half story summer kitchen, which faces east, is located off the southwest corner of the house. The foundation is composed of buff-colored cut stone and the walls are composed of brick. The building has a gabled roof that is covered with asphalt shingles. The front façade has a centered four-panel, wood door topped by a shallow segmental arch that forms a label lintel. Two bricks form a keystone-like feature above the arch (left side of photo 0001). A wood hatch door with a wood sill is centered in the front gable. It has a shallow segmental arch that forms a lintel. The north and south facades of the summer kitchen each have a 4/4 wood window located east of center (right side of photo 0003, north wall). The windows have wood sills and lintels. The rear (west) facade of the summer kitchen has two small vents composed of bricks in its gable (right side of photo 0003). The vents form a cross pattern of open brickwork with a single brick placed into the center of the cross. The building has a wood cornice board and wood soffits and fascia boards. A wide interior chimney is centered on the back wall.

The building has a concrete floor and the inside walls are covered with plaster. The ceiling is covered with plaster and lath, but is largely deteriorated. The door and windows have simple wood casings. The building has baseboards. The first floor of the summer kitchen is composed of one large room with a wide brick fireplace centered in the west wall (photo 0007). A wood cabinet and door are built into the west wall between the fireplace and south wall. An enclosed staircase is north of the fireplace. It has wood steps with winders at the top. The staircase has one step in front of a wood door at the bottom of the enclosure. The fireplace has a wide hearth with iron fireplace cranes on its north and south walls. The second floor has a wood floor with exposed rafters and cross ties. The west wall and staircase walls are covered with plaster; the remaining walls are exposed brick. A short wall composed of boards and a top rail is at the top of the staircase on the second floor.

Well pit, 1856. Contributing (structure)

A concrete sidewalk extends north from the rear wing to a well pit. The pit's walls are composed of buff-colored cut stone and brick. The well is round and has a board covering the opening.

Well pit, c. 1856. Contributing (structure)

A brick sidewalk extends south from the rear wing to a second well pit or cistern. The pit's walls are composed of buff-colored rubble stone. This well may date to an earlier house on the property.

Sweitzer Barn, 1856. Contributing. Photos 0004-0006

The barn is located southwest of the house and is constructed into an earthen bank created by the valley that slopes toward Spring Branch Creek which runs northeast to southwest just south of the Van Reed Farmstead. The barn faces northeast and its basement opens toward the southwest. The barn has four bays with an extension on its northwest side. The barn has a gabled roof; the

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extension has a pent roof. A forebay extends over the basement opening, identifying the building as a Sweitzer barn. The foundation is composed of buff-colored cut stone. The walls are covered with board and batten. The roof is covered with corrugated metal over wood shingles. There are five lightning rods on the barn; three have ceramic insulators. Edging composed of cut stone forms a walkway on the southwest side of the barn. Cut stone forms retaining walls on the southeast and northwest sides of the barn. The barn has a hewn heavy timber frame with pegged mortise and tenon construction.

The barn faces northeast (photo 0004) and the bays shall be described in order of one through four from southeast to northwest. The front facade has a small hay door near the top of the first bay and vents composed of wood louvers near the top of the second and fourth bays. The third bay has a tall and wide pair of hinged wagon doors. An extension with a pent roof is located on the northwest facade of the barn. Its front facade has a pair of hinged wagon doors. The southeast facade has three small windows in the basement level (photo 0005). The main level is divided into two bays each containing two windows, one over the other. A window is centered in the gable. The windows are covered from the inside with fiberglass.

The northwest facade has an extension with a pent roof. The extension has two vents composed of wood louvers in its wall. A window is centered in the gable wall of the barn. It is covered with wood. The basement of the barn is open on the southwest façade of the barn, but is sheltered by the forebay (photo 0005). The basement level has two Dutch doors in its third and fourth bays and two doors in the first and second bays. It also has five small windows. The main level wall has a window in the first, second, and fourth bays and a hinged door in the third bay for the threshing floor. A small window is also in the third bay. The southwest wall of the extension has two hinged doors in the basement level.

The basement is divided into livestock stalls by hewn wood posts and boards. The cut stone wall is exposed on its back wall. The basement of the extension is one room. The main level of the barn has wood floors and contains some pens for fowl in the second bay. The third bay retains an open threshing floor. A granary is located on the south side of the fourth bay in the forebay. A hayloft is located above the fourth bay. The main frame has three posts in each bent (photo 0006). The trusses are composed of raking queen posts and braces. The frame is pegged mortise and tenon construction. A wood hay rail with a metal carriage is located at the ridge.

Grain Bins, 1973 and 1980. Non-contributing (structures). Right side of photo 0005

Two modern grain bins are located west of the house. They were constructed in 1973 and 1980. The bins are approximately twelve feet tall with a diameter of approximately fourteen feet. They have concrete floors, and corrugated metal walls, and conical roofs that are covered with metal.

Implement Shed, 1970. Gable-front. Non-contributing

An implement shed is located west of the house. It is a pole building with a gravel floor and corrugated metal walls. The roof is also covered with corrugated metal. It has a pair of wide

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sliding equipment doors centered on the front facade and a wood door, approximately five feet wide, on the north end of the front facade.

Garage, 1996. Non-contributing

A side-gabled garage is located west of the house. It faces southeast. It has a concrete floor and its walls and roof are covered with metal. The front facade has a garage door on its south end and a metal door and two 1/1 metal windows on its north end.

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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.)

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

AGRICULTURE

Period of Significance

1856-1895

Significant Dates

Significant Person (last name, first name)

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder (last name, first name)

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Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins in 1856 when the Van Reed family purchased the property and began construction of the buildings. Though members of the Van Reed family continued to own the property, they retired from farming and moved to Williamsport in 1895, and no longer lived at the farm. They began to rent the farm to others after that time. The year 1895 was selected as the end of the period of significance since the farm was no longer occupied by the owner or members of the family who constructed it.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Not applicable

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Van Reed Farmstead is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. It is eligible under Criterion A due to the association the property has with the development of agriculture during the 1800s. The property is also eligible under Criterion C for its architectural importance. The house is an impressive example of a double-pile house constructed in the middle part of the 19th century with elements of the Greek Revival style. The detached summer kitchen also retains a high degree of integrity. The barn is significant because it is the only example of a Sweitzer barn in Warren County. Both the house and barn maintain a significant level of architectural integrity.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

ARCHITECTURE

The Van Reed Farmstead has three architecturally important buildings. The house is significant because of its architectural integrity as an excellent example of high-style, mid-19th century architecture with elements predominantly in the Greek Revival style. The summer kitchen is significant because it is an example of a type of support building commonly found on larger farms of the 19th century, and because of its extant architectural features. The barn is significant because it is the only example of a Sweitzer barn in Warren County and because of its extant architectural features.

The Van Reed house is an example of a double-pile house with side gables and interior chimneys. The house type is two rooms deep and two rooms wide, with a stair hall in the center.

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The floor plan is repeated on the second floor. A rear wing was added to the Van Reed house to accommodate a large kitchen. The Van Reed house is an excellent example of the house type because little alteration has occurred to the floor plan or exterior of the house that would detract from the characteristic features. Only the introduction of a small bathroom in one of the downstairs rooms disrupts the organization of a typical floor plan of a double-pile house. This bathroom is the only alteration to the home's floor plan.

There are approximately twenty examples of the double-pile house type found in Warren County. There are no other examples in Pine Township. The construction dates of the other examples range from c. 1850 through c. 1920. Two notable examples are located in Liberty and Prairie Townships. The former was constructed c. 1860 in the Italianate style. The latter was constructed c. 1863 at the Walnut Grove farm; it does not have elements of any particular architectural style.

Generally the Van Reed house can be identified as an example of the Greek Revival style. Greek Revival was the dominant style of American domestic architecture between about 1830-1850 during which its popularity led it to be called the "National Style". The style was particularly common in areas of rapid development during the 1830s-1850s. There was increasing interest in classical buildings in the United States at the close of the 18th century based on Roman and earlier Greek examples found through archaeological investigations. As a young democracy, Americans sought to find precedents to establish their democratic ideals in the form of its architecture. Rome and particularly Greece provided these precedents because of their early experiments in democracy. Two factors enhanced the Greek influence in the United States: the Greek War for Independence during the 1820s and 1830s and the War of 1812. The Grecian war found sympathetic citizens in the United States and the American war with the British in 1812 lessened the interest in British architecture. The Greek Revival style seemed only appropriate for a nation undergoing a new experiment in governing, that had philosophical roots based on Grecian models.

The most prominent features of the Van Reed house that identify it as an example of the Greek Revival style are the wide entablature, cornice returns, and symmetrical organization of the façade (photos 0001-0002). The entablature is composed of a tall frieze board and cornice. The cornice and cornice returns are accentuated by rows of carved brackets. The broad entry centered on the façade is also an element of the style; it is composed of a wide door, side-lites, and a full transom. While academically the house may be classified as Greek Revival, clearly elements of other styles popular during the mid-19th century are present. The flattened eaves, carved eave brackets, and porch columns are more characteristic of the Italianate style which was just coming into vogue during the 1850s. Still other elements are more characteristic of the Gothic Revival style including the decorative sawn panels supporting the porch roof and decorative crossbracing and finial used for gable trim. While it is plausible some of these elements not related to the Greek Revival style were added at a slightly later date than the house's original construction, the combination of elements in their given styles provides an impressive high-style example of a mid-19th century farmhouse constructed by a wealthy farming family.

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Two other examples of Greek Revival-style houses in Warren County should be noted. Both were built at about the same time as the Van Reed house, c. 1855. Both houses were constructed in Liberty Township, south of the Van Reed house. One is a house constructed on the Andrew Brier farm on Old U.S. 41. The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The other house is a notable example located on Division Road in southern Liberty Township. Most of the county's other examples of Greek Revival architecture are gable-front houses or I-houses with basic elements of the style.

Other important architectural elements of the Van Reed house include the extensive amount of extant historic woodwork, doors, windows, and transoms. Other elements include the pantry cabinet, wardrobe, and niche in the main staircase hall. Other important features of the house are the extant staircases (photos 0008, 0015), both the main staircase and its impressive balustrade and newel post, and the service staircases that are located in the rear wing of the house. Due to the loss of many outbuildings on large farms, the summer kitchen at the Van Reed Farmstead is also important. The summer kitchen's extant features make it even more significant. The building retains its fireplace, cranes, and cabinet and staircase on either side of the hearth (photo 0007). These are important features that demonstrate the general purpose of the summer kitchen.

The other outstanding building located on the farmstead is the Sweitzer barn constructed at about the same time as the house. The barn is one of only three bank barns located in Warren County and is the only example of a Sweitzer barn. The other two bank barns are located in Pine Township at the Fry farm, east of the Van Reed farm, and in Prairie Township at the Walnut Grove farm. These other bank barns were constructed between c. 1863-1864. The most dominant barn types in Warren County are Midwest three-portal and transverse-frame barns. A large number of livestock and dairy barns and English barns are also present in Warren County. These barns were largely constructed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and were at times the second generation of barns on their respective farmsteads.

The Van Reed family followed a westward migration from Pennsylvania where the Sweitzer barn had its origins with German immigrants to the United States. Sweitzer barns trace their lineage from Switzerland to southeastern Pennsylvania. The first barns of this type were small buildings constructed out of logs. The type followed westward migration by German immigrants, particularly those of Amish and Mennonite religions. The Van Reed's German ancestry and Pennsylvania roots likely informed their construction methodology of the barn. The Sweitzer barn is characterized by three specific elements. Sweitzer barns are typically built into an earthen bank to permit an open wall for the basement of the barn. The barns include a forebay on the long side of the barn. The forebay cantilevers outward to provide shelter to the open basement wall below. The third element is the organization of the gable walls. The Sweitzer barn's gable is not centered on the gable ends, rather the forebay creates an asymmetrical arrangement of the end walls with windows and other openings mirrored from the ridge of the roof. The Van Reed barn includes all three of these elements; they are most identifiable from the southeast side of the barn (photo 0005). Other important architectural features of the barn include its extant doors and windows, granary, and livestock stalls. The integrity of the building is exceptional. The barn's cut-stone foundation, hewn timber frame, and board-and-batten siding show a high level of workmanship for a mid-19th century agricultural building.

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AGRICULTURE

The Van Reed Farmstead is also significant due to its association with the development of agriculture in the 19th century. The site exhibits features of a 19th century farm. These include pastures on the site. A large pasture used for grazing cattle is in the northwest corner of the property. It has large old trees sparsely located throughout the pasture. A smaller pasture is located on the southeast side of the property. It is delineated by an old row of cedar trees on its west side and by the remnants of an orchard on its south side. Another large pasture wraps around the southwest side of the barn. The relationship of the home site to the barn should also be noted. The barn is well-removed from the house to take advantage of a ridge in the land into which the barn's basement was constructed. A long lane extends from the road on the north side of the house, around the northwest corner of the house, southwest to the barn.

The history of the property as a farm extends to its purchase from the United States government by George Worthington in 1832. Worthington died in 1834, and passed the farm to his son, William. The farm was one-quarter section of land. Worthington called the farm "Sugar Creek Farm" in his last will and testament. How much of the farm was under cultivation is unknown. It was sold by William Worthington to Henry Barto in 1844. The Barto family expanded the farm to include land on the east side of Old U.S. 41 where they also established a small family cemetery. The heirs of Henry Barto, who resided in Berks County, Pennsylvania, sold the expanded farm to the Levi Van Reed family, also originally from Berks County, in 1856 for \$6,600. The farm was composed of 390 acres, which included the cemetery and no doubt an older homestead.

Levi Van Reed made his first purchase of land in Warren County in 1836, but did not settle in the county until 1844. From that time until his death in 1877, Van Reed began to acquire large sections of land that his family cultivated. The purchase of the Barto property came after Van Reed's purchase of lands in Jordan and Liberty Townships. Van Reed's land holdings at the time of his death had expanded into Pine and Prairie Townships and totaled over 17,000 acres. Van Reed's prosperity, derived from the agricultural development of his land, permitted the exceptional quality of design found in his house and barn constructed on the farmstead he purchased in 1856. At his death his land holdings were divided among his children. Levi Van Reed, Jr. inherited the farmstead which comprised 240 acres. When Levi Van Reed, Jr. retired from farming in 1895, he was described as having been one of the wealthiest farmers in Warren County.

The barn on the Van Reed Farmstead is an example of the vernacular development of an agricultural building type. The barn is a Sweitzer barn; its origins are decidedly Pennsylvanian, like those of the Van Reed family. It is the only example of a Sweitzer barn in Warren County. The size and quality of construction of the barn also relate to the prosperity realized by the Van Reed family's agricultural pursuits. The barn has four bays and is considered large for the time period and region in which it was constructed. The foundation is composed of large buff-colored cut stone rather than rubble or ashlar commonly found in barn construction of this period.

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The barn has several extant features that make the building significant to the property's relationship to the development of agriculture and livestock. One bay of the barn contains a threshing floor for threshing grains grown on the farm. The bay has double doors on its front facade and a large single door on its back facade. The barn was conveniently positioned to allow the doors to be opened and permit air flow from the southwest to separate the chaff from the grain. The barn also has a hay hook carriage on a wood rail and a hay loft. The basement contains a number of well-preserved livestock stalls and riggings to permit the enclosure and feeding of livestock. The forebay of the Sweitzer barn is a feature that permits sheltering of livestock housed in the basement.

Subsistence farms had largely been expanded and developed into profitable farms by the middle part of the 1800s. The Barto farm was likely not much more than a subsistence farm when the Van Reeds purchased and developed it in 1856. The Van Reed family's expansive development of farmland paralleled the development of technology and dissemination of information regarding agricultural education and best farming practices between 1860 and 1900. During the 1850s Indiana established the State Board of Agriculture and the first state fair was held. County agricultural fairs also began to be established throughout the state. In 1874 the Indiana State Board of Agriculture began to publish the *Indiana Farmer*, a publication which touted the latest trends in farming practices.

In 1862, the Morrill Act was passed by Congress which provided for the establishment of agricultural colleges in each state. Purdue University was founded in 1874, in response to the Morrill Act. Agricultural experiment stations were developed from these colleges in order to carry out research in connection to agricultural practices. The Grange was a fraternal organization that was founded in 1869 in Vigo County. It promoted the social, cultural, educational, and economic advancement of its farmer-members. Combined these organizations contributed to the advancement of farming practices in Indiana.

The development of transportation during the middle and late part of the 19th century greatly enhanced the ability of farmers to get their products to markets. This included improved roads and the construction of railroads in Warren County. The United States Censuses of 1850-1870, during the time the Van Reed Farmstead was developed, show the rapid development of agriculture in Warren County. In 1850, 87,007 acres had been improved. This grew to 120,068 acres in 1860, and to 131,455 acres in 1870. The cash value of farms more than doubled between 1850 and 1860: \$1,424,224 to \$3,915,395. In 1870, the value of farms grew to \$5,803,901.

The most important cultivated crops produced in Warren County during this time included wheat, rye, Indian corn, oats, barley, and buckwheat. Wheat production grew from 21,068 bushels in 1850, to over 140,000 bushels of combined winter and spring wheat in 1870. Corn and buckwheat production both yielded to more lucrative wheat production during this time. In 1850, just over one million bushels of corn was produced; that grew to over 1.2 million bushels in 1860, but fell to just 442,901 bushels in 1870. Production of oats grew from 95,442 bushels in 1850, to 122,153 bushels in 1870. The production of hay also climbed rapidly from 5,900 tons in 1850, to over 16,000 tons in 1870. Due to the threshing floor and hay mow in the Van Reed

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barn, it is evident that the farm participated in the increasing popularity of these crops. Similarly, given the presence of an orchard on the property, the Van Reeds were likely a part of the growth in value of farm orchards in Warren County from \$4,914 in 1850 to over \$12,000 in 1870.

Warren County also experienced an increase in livestock production that paced with improvements in animal husbandry techniques during the second half of the 1800s, though the number of milch cows and oxen actually decreased from 1850 to 1870. Horses and mules increased though, due to their use in cultivation. The livestock stalls of the Van Reed barn and the granary on the main level demonstrate the importance of livestock to the farm. The commodious area provided by the large four-bay barn's basement and protection by the forebay both demonstrate the concern the Van Reeds had for healthy livestock.

Developmental History/Additional historic context information

Warren County was organized in 1827. The county is characterized by rich farmland in the northern part of the county and rolling, wooded hills of the Wabash River valley in its southern half. Settlement in the county slowly increased after its organization. Levi Van Reed, Sr., purchased a tract of land in the Walnut Grove area of Warren County in 1836. Van Reed was a native of Berks County, Pennsylvania, where he was born in 1815. He returned east and married, and then moved to Brandon, Mississippi, where he lived for six years working as a carpenter. In 1842, he permanently located in Warren County with his wife, Amelia (Bowman). They were the parents of twelve children. The family moved to Pine Township, organized in 1830, when they purchased the Barto property in 1856.

It is unclear if Levi Van Reed constructed the house or other buildings on the property given his occupation in Mississippi as a carpenter. Van Reed was elected to the board of Warren County Commissioners in 1867. He served one three-year term, after which he retired to his farm. His wife Amelia died in 1873 and Levi died in 1877. Both are buried in the cemetery that the Barto family, from whom they purchased the farm, established in the 1830s. The cemetery is located on the east side of Old U.S. 41, southeast of the farmstead. It is known as the Van Reed cemetery due to the number of Van Reed family interments at the cemetery. These include sons of the Van Reeds, Milton and Henry, who died in 1870 and 1865, respectively.

After Levi's death the farming operations were carried out by his sons John and Levi, Jr. The vast estate was divided among Levi's living children, each receiving hundreds of acres. Levi Van Reed, Jr., inherited the family farmstead which included 240 acres on either side of Old U.S. 41.

Levi Van Reed, Jr. was born in 1860, likely at the farmstead. He attended local district schools and high schools in Lafayette, Stockwell, and Bloomington, Illinois. Levi Jr., married Alice Keys in 1887; they had one child, John. A second residence was constructed on the farm; it was located south of the farmstead, south of Spring Branch Creek. In 1895, the Levi Van Reed, Jr., family retired from farming and moved to Williamsport where they were involved in other

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business interests. The farm was rented during the first part of the 20th century to John Schackmann. Alice died in 1918, their son, John, died in 1928. Levi Van Reed, Jr., died in 1930. They were buried at Hillside Cemetery in Williamsport.

The farm became the home of Carl and June Kramer in the second half of the 20th century. The Kramers used the property for farming purposes and constructed the modern agricultural buildings on the site.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Clifton, Thomas A., Fountain & Warren Counties of Indiana. Indianapolis: B.F. Bowen & Co., publishers, 1913.

History of Warren, Benton, Jasper, Newton Counties, Indiana. Chicago: F.A. Battey & Co., publishers, 1883.

History of Warren County, Indiana. Chicago: J.H. Beers & Co., publishers, 1877.

Jenkins, Rosella Rasmussen & Knowles, Diana Marion, *Warren County, Indiana Cemetery Inscriptions, Vol. 1*. 1975.

McAlester, Virginia & Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2006.

United States Federal Census: 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880

Warren County Atlas. Chicago: George Ogle & Company, publishers, 1904.

Warren County General Index to Deeds, Vols. 1-4 & Deed Record Vol. 21, Warren County Auditor's Office, Williamsport.

Warren County Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory. Indianapolis: Indiana Landmarks, publisher, 2012.

Warren County Marriage Records, 1828-1920, Norman, OK, 2007.

Warren County Republican, obituary clippings file. West Lebanon Public Library.

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 # _____

___ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

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Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 171-513-26003

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 10 acres

Use the UTM system

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 16 | Easting: 470071 | Northing: 4471617 |
| 2. Zone: 16 | Easting: 470079 | Northing: 4471422 |
| 3. Zone: 16 | Easting: 469917 | Northing: 4471440 |
| 4. Zone: 16 | Easting : 469917 | Northing: 4471619 |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

From a point measured approximately 185 feet southeast of the intersection of Old U.S. 41 and the centerline of County Road 550 North, face southwest and follow a line approximately 35' to the west right-of-way of County Road 550 North. Turn southeast and follow a line with the right-of-way approximately 543'. Turn slightly northwest and follow a line approximately 801'. Turn north and follow a line approximately 474'. Turn northeast

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and follow a line approximately 549', or the point of beginning at the west right-of-way of Old U.S. 41.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries of the Van Reed Farmstead include all of the extant contributing resources of the farm established by the Van Reed family in 1856. While the boundaries form a reduced parcel from the larger 240 acre site, they include the important features of the farmstead site as well as the contributing buildings and structures. Some of those features, including pastures and a former orchard, provide a distinct separation between the farmstead site and the additional acreage used in some of the agricultural activities that occurred on the property.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kurt West Garner
organization: Indiana Landmarks
street & number: 12954 6th Road
city or town: Plymouth state: Indiana zip code: 46563
e-mail: kwgarner@kwgarner.com
telephone: 574-936-0613
date: December 13, 2013

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Van Reed Farmstead

City or Vicinity: Williamsport

County: Warren State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: October 28, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Looking north at the front and south walls of the house and summer kitchen. 0001

1 of 16.

Name of Property: Van Reed Farmstead

City or Vicinity: Williamsport

County: Warren State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: October 28, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Looking south at the front and north walls of the house. 0002

2 of 16.

Van Reed Farmstead
Name of Property

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Name of Property: Van Reed Farmstead

City or Vicinity: Williamsport

County: Warren State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: October 28, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Looking east at the back of the house and summer kitchen. 0003

3 of 16.

Name of Property: Van Reed Farmstead

City or Vicinity: Williamsport

County: Warren State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: October 10, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Looking south toward the barn's front wall. 0004

4 of 16.

Name of Property: Van Reed Farmstead

City or Vicinity: Williamsport

County: Warren State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Van Reed Farmstead
Name of Property

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Date Photographed: October 10, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Looking north toward the southeast and back walls of the barn. 0005

5 of 16.

Name of Property: Van Reed Farmstead

City or Vicinity: Williamsport

County: Warren State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: October 10, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Looking south and up toward the interior of the barn's south gable wall. 0006

6 of 16.

Name of Property: Van Reed Farmstead

City or Vicinity: Williamsport

County: Warren State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: October 10, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Looking west toward the west wall of the summer kitchen. 0007

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Van Reed Farmstead
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Name of Property: Van Reed Farmstead

City or Vicinity: Williamsport

County: Warren State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: October 10, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Looking northwest toward the main staircase from the front door. 0008

8 of 16.

Name of Property: Van Reed Farmstead

City or Vicinity: Williamsport

County: Warren State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: October 10, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Looking southwest toward the parlor from the stair hall. 0009

9 of 16.

Name of Property: Van Reed Farmstead

City or Vicinity: Williamsport

County: Warren State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Van Reed Farmstead
Name of Property

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Date Photographed: October 10, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Looking southeast toward the entry from the living room. 0010

10 of 16.

Name of Property: Van Reed Farmstead

City or Vicinity: Williamsport

County: Warren State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: October 10, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Looking northwest toward the pantry cabinet in the kitchen. 0011

11 of 16.

Name of Property: Van Reed Farmstead

City or Vicinity: Williamsport

County: Warren State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: October 10, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Looking east toward the second floor landing of the stair hall. 0012

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Name of Property: Van Reed Farmstead

City or Vicinity: Williamsport

County: Warren State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: October 10, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Looking south toward the closet of the southeast bedroom, second floor. 0013

13 of 16.

Name of Property: Van Reed Farmstead

City or Vicinity: Williamsport

County: Warren State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: October 10, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Looking north toward the wardrobe of the northwest bedroom, second floor. 0014

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Name of Property: Van Reed Farmstead

City or Vicinity: Williamsport

County: Warren State: Indiana

Van Reed Farmstead
Name of Property

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Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: October 10, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Looking west toward the rear wall of the rear wing's second floor & staircase. 0015

15 of 16.

Name of Property: Van Reed Farmstead

City or Vicinity: Williamsport

County: Warren State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: October 10, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Looking north toward bathroom and bedroom off north wall of dining room. 0016

16 of 16.

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.