

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: Mathias Wolf Farm
Other names/site number: /077-094-25087
Name of related multiple property listing:

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

2. Location

Street & number: 4137 E Pleasant Ridge Road
City or town: Madison State: IN County: Jefferson
Not For Publication: [] Vicinity: [x]

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

[Signature] 4.21.2016
Signature of certifying official/Title: Date
Indiana DNR - Div. of Historic Preservation & Archaeology
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria.
Signature of commenting official: Date
Title : State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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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>5</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>5</u>	<u>1</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
AGRICULTURAL/ agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling
AGRICULTURAL/ agricultural outbuilding

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER/ central-passage
OTHER/ transverse-frame barn

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation: STONE
Roof: METAL: aluminum
Walls: STONE: limestone
WOOD: weatherboard
Other: BRICK

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 Mathias Wolf Farm is located on the north side of Pleasant Ridge Road to the east of Madison and approximately 2 miles north of the Ohio River in southeastern Indiana. Pleasant Ridge is a relatively flat area of land located above the Ohio River and accessed from the south via steep hollows. This topography of rugged ridges and valleys is characteristic of southern Indiana. Farmers settled the ridge in the 1800s, growing corn, hay, tobacco, and livestock. There is no agricultural activity on the nominated property as it exists today, but much of the original Wolf land, now subdivided, is still farmed. Overall the surrounding area maintains a strong agricultural character and provides an appropriate setting for appreciating the history of this property.

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The Mathias Wolf Farm consists of a house, a smokehouse, an outhouse, a barn/garage, a shed, and a guest cabin. Of the six current resources located on the Mathias Wolf Farm, five buildings are contributing to the eligibility of the farm. These buildings were constructed between 1854 and the 1920s. A modern barn is located outside of the nominated area. The farm's legal parcel is currently 19.2 acres, although through time the parcel size has fluctuated. The current nominated portion of the farm is 3.0 acres in size.

Narrative Description

Contributing buildings

House.

The centerpiece of this property is the dwelling (Indiana Resource Number 077-094-25087), a one-and-a-half-story, five-bay, double-pile, central-passage plan. It dates to ca. 1854 and experienced moderate alterations in the later 19th century, including the construction of a stone ell-addition. Recently, a modern frame addition also was added to the back of the building. The dwelling has a side gable roof, with a framed center gable added at a later date, revealing the vernacular influence of the Gothic Revival style. The mass of the original building and ell are clad in structural stone, the center gable is clad in vertical wood siding, and the newer addition is clad in weatherboard. The dwelling retains a reasonable degree of its original fabric to reveal its historic identity; likewise, the arrangement of outbuildings on the property speaks to their function as the domestic center of a larger farm.

Dwelling, exterior:

The dwelling is a one-and-a-half-story, five-bay, double-pile, central passage plan with a side gable roof punctured by a central front gable (Photos 1 and 2). The front façade of the building faces south. The foundation and walls of the house are constructed of irregularly coursed Saluda Limestone, stone that was likely gathered on the property. Deposits of the stone can be reached on the surface or just below soil in the area. It is a distinct building material from Salem or Bedford Limestone, quarried from Monroe and Lawrence counties. The masonry units range in size, but to the extent possible, the mason laid like sizes in each course, and probably roughed the stones into shape by scabbling or picking them. The coursing technique is similar to that used for many dry-laid stone walls in southern Indiana, except, the intent here was to lay the stones in mortar (which remains and is well recessed from the irregular stone faces). Lintels and sills are more carefully dressed to a smooth finish. Corners are finished with true masonry quoins, large, rectangular blocks that alternate short-long and reinforce the corners by three-dimensionally toothing side walls to front and rear walls. The central entrance is at grade level and accessed by a straight stone pathway. This entryway and the four windows of the front façade are each capped with heavy stone monolithic lintels, and the windows sit on simple stone sills. The door itself is wood with two side-by-side panels on the lower half and one large glass panel with a gently arched top on the upper half. A simple transom tops the doorway. To each side of the front door are two one-over-one windows that recently replaced the original six-over-nine

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sashes. A single one-over-one (previously six-over-six) window is found in the centered gable. This gable is clad in vertical wood siding that terminates at the bottom in triangular points. The roofline is simple and unadorned, and the roof is covered in imitation standing-seam metal with a factory-applied red paint finish, installed in the last few years. Until very recently, a small brick chimney punctured the forward slope of the roof on the east end of the house, but this chimney has been removed. An exterior chimney or vent encased in wood still survives, puncturing the roof at the gable line on the west end. Also, a porch previously spanned the middle three bays of the house. It had an asphalt shingle, hip roof supported by turned wood posts with a wood post railing resting on a poured concrete foundation. The porch was entirely destroyed by a wind storm in 2009. According to the homeowner, the concrete pad beneath the porch is etched with the date 1919, suggesting, perhaps, the date of the first such porch on this house. A non-historic porch has been added circa 2010 to replace the storm lost porch. It is a simple porch with a straight, asphalt shingled, pitched roof extending out from the house and resting on 8 undecorated wooden supports. The flooring of the porch is a wood decking material with the decking running perpendicular to the exterior wall of the house and presumably covers the 1919 concrete pad.

The west elevation consists of three parts: the side gable wall of the original dwelling, a one story stone ell that was added sometime in the second half of the nineteenth century, and a small portion of the modern one-story addition extending beyond the ell (Photo 3). The side gable portion is bisected by a small chimney or vent encased in circular-sawn wood boards. To either side of the chimney are a first-floor and a second-floor window. As on the front of the house, the historical windows have been replaced, but the openings are original with heavy stone lintels and simple stone sills. On the ground under the southern window, wooden hatch cellar doors provide access to the basement.

A seam clearly divides the original building from the ell. This seam and some subtle differences in detailing suggest that the ell was indeed a later addition, although it was probably added early in the house's history. The stonework of the addition is quite similar to that of the front, and overall its character is very in keeping with that of the main dwelling. There are two windows on this side of the addition. The lintels used on this portion of the building are fully dressed squarely-cut sandstone. The roof, like the main roof, is covered with red metal in a standing seam appearance, and a concrete block chimney extends above the roof at the north end of the ridgeline. A few feet of the modern addition are visible beyond the end of the ell at its east side.

The north elevation includes the gable end of the stone ell to the west and the gable end of the modern frame addition to the east (Photo 4). A concrete block chimney runs up the center of the ell. There are no windows on this portion of the building. The modern addition is three bays wide, with an octagonal bay window to the east, a door in the center, and a small window to the west. The entire addition is covered in weatherboards, and the roof is covered in asphalt shingles. The roofline is asymmetrical, with a long, gently sloping portion to the east and a short, steeply sloping portion to the west. A modern, bi-level deck constructed of dimensional lumber extends from the rear of this addition.

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The east elevation consists of the side gable wall of the original dwelling and the side of the modern addition (Photos 5 and 6). The original dwelling has only two upper-story windows on this elevation and they lack square lintels perhaps indicative of later installation. The modern addition has one double window to the south and a door to the north. This door opens onto an elevated wood patio that steps down into a garden at the northeast corner of the house.

Dwelling, interior:

Inside, the house has experienced some changes, but it remains a central passage in plan. The central passage spans the center bay of the house and runs the depth of the original portion of the building from the front door to the original back door. Along the west wall of the passage, the staircase runs straight up to the upper level (Photo 12). Originally, the rooms to either side of the passage served as the hall and the parlor. Today, room to the east has been divided into the master bedroom at the front of the house and a full bathroom at the back. Since at least one other nearby house of the same period has a similar "short" room in its central-passage plan, it is possible that the bathroom was installed in a pre-existing room. There is an original interior stone fireplace on the east wall of the master bedroom (Photo 13). Fifteen vertical stones create a rough jackarch over the firebox, and a historical metal pot hanger extends into the fireplace opening. Due to damage to the chimney, the fireplace is no longer operational. The exterior walls of these rooms are plaster applied directly to the stone, and the ceilings of the master bedroom and the bathroom have been finished so as to display the original hewn wooden floor joists of the second story. The simple wood window and door surrounds, consisting of plain boards with a pediment-shaped header board, appear to be original or early in date. On the west side of the house, the homeowner is in the process of refinishing the original rooms into bedrooms (Photos 20 and 21). It appears that there were always two rooms on this side of the hallway as well. There is no fireplace on this side of the building. Many of the interior details in the original portion of the dwelling, including the front door, and stair rail and newel date to the late Victorian period, suggesting that over the years the Wolf family had the means to update their house to keep up with the latest fashions. Solid wood six-paneled doors with original hardware also survive. The hardwood flooring was replaced in recent decades with reclaimed flooring from a local school gymnasium.

Passing through the original back door, one enters the modern kitchen, constructed in 2001 (Photos 14, 15, and 19). To the west of the kitchen is the stone ell, today serving as the family room (Photos 17 and 18). The stone is exposed on the north and east walls of the ell. An original doorway on the east side of the ell serves as the passageway between these two rooms.

The second level has been entirely rehabilitated in recent decades and retains little historic fabric. Today there is one bedroom spanning the eastern three bays of the front half of the house, and another bedroom that runs the depth of the house in the western two bays. A full bathroom is located in the center of the eastern gable end, with storage space under the sloping roof to the north.

The basement is accessed through exterior cellar hatch doors on the west side of the building, or by an interior staircase located underneath the house's main staircase. There is a full basement beneath the western half of the house, and a shallow crawlspace beneath the eastern half. Here

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one can see the original framing members of the house, many of which are large timbers that were roughly squared on only one or two sides and retain their bark on the other sides.

Smokehouse (building)

Between the northeast corner of the house and the southwest corner of the barn/garage sits a small brick building, originally used as a smokehouse (Photo 9). It is built in common bond brick, now painted, and covered with an arched poured concrete roof with flared eaves. Its western elevation has a six-paneled wooden door topped with a simple brick arch. The ends of three large poles, used for hanging meat, extend through the brick wall of this elevation. There is a six-pane window in the center of the south elevation and an eight-pane window on the north side of the east elevation. The north elevation is a solid brick wall, with a brick chimney extending from the northeastern portion of the roof.

Outhouse (building)

To the northwest of the dwelling is a small frame outhouse on a combination stone and poured concrete foundation (Photo 7). The building is covered in narrow vertical boards and has a shed roof that slopes down to the east. A narrow hinged door occupies the western half of the southern elevation, and a six-pane window spans the western elevation. The outhouse retains its original interior materials, including the wooden bench with two holes with wooden lids to cover them when not in use.

Barn/Garage (building)

A transverse-frame barn is located to the northeast of the house (Photo 8). Its gable end faces the road, and it is accessed by a straight asphalt driveway. The barn is covered in vertical board siding and covered by a standing-seam metal roof. The front gable end of the barn was recently painted red, while the other sides remain unpainted. The interior is accessed by a large central sliding door on the side facing the road, or by a hinged door to the east on this same elevation. A flat-roofed open car port or tractor shed extends from the east elevation of the building. Today this building is used primarily as a garage.

Shed (building)

A long, one-story, vertical-board shed is located to the north of the barn/garage (Photo 10). A simple doorway provides access on one of the short ends. The homeowner refers to this building as the manger.

Non-Contributing Resources

Guest Cabin. (building)

There is a guest cabin constructed on the property (Photo 11). Previous research showed two sheds circa 1920 on the property. However, it appears one of the structures was moved from its previous location and modified, probably by cannibalizing the best pieces of both of the previous sheds to construct the cabin. This appears to have taken place circa 2010. Although the materials may date to the 1920s the fabric and nature of the sheds has been drastically changed and no longer can be considered as contributing resources.

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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

c.1854-c.1930

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

UNKNOWN

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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.)

Summary

The Mathias Wolf Farm, with its c. 1854 stone house, wooden barn, and a variety of agricultural buildings, is one of the best preserved and earliest farms in Madison area. The farm meets Criterion A as example of the type of successful yet modest family farms that were once common in Jefferson County, and once provided the bulk of the county's rich agricultural yields. The well-preserved vernacular central-passage stone house is representative of building trends in rural Jefferson County in the mid-19th century, and is therefore eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C in the area of architecture. It is a fine example of local methods of stone construction once practiced in Jefferson County, where shallow Saluda Limestone deposits allowed pre-industrial exploitation of this natural resource. The Mathias Wolf Farm is an intact example of an 1850's farm that shows a characteristic progression and growth of a farm unit through 1930.

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

Period of Significance

The period of significance begins in c.1854 and ends c.1930. The stone farmhouse, which is the oldest surviving building on the nominated property, dates to c.1854. The most recent agricultural buildings on the property date to about 1920. It possible that the barn and sheds date to as late as c.1930. The next most recent building on the nominated property dates to 2010, and is a guest house. It is certain that the farm progressed little after Mathias' grandson Bernard inherited it in 1934. Therefore, research regarding the family, its use of the farm, and regarding agricultural practice in the county point to c.1930 as the most reasonable end date.

Historical Development

Jefferson County and Madison, Indiana.

The first Europeans to cross through southern Indiana were French trappers who arrived in the 1600s. The French claimed these lands as part of Louisiana, and the region remained in their possession until 1763 when all French lands east of the Mississippi passed to the English as a result of the French and Indian War.¹ In 1784, Indiana officially became the possession of the United States government, which established this region as the Northwest Territories and began encouraging settlement.² Jefferson County was founded in 1809 and named in honor of Thomas Jefferson.³

¹ Historical Overview of Madison, Indiana, <http://www.oldmadison.com/historical.html>

² Ibid.

³ *1849 Jefferson County Retrospect*, based on "Indiana Gazetteer," published by E. Chamberlain, <http://www.countyhistory.com/>

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Many of the first permanent settlers in Jefferson County were soldiers who served under George Rogers Clark and were awarded land grants along the Ohio River in the early 1800s. They were attracted to the region by its "advantageous location along the river and its fertile farmland."⁴ The 1849 *Jefferson County Retrospect* provides a picture of the land that these early settlers discovered when they arrived in the county:

Jefferson County presents a great variety of soil and surface. The bottoms on the Ohio and along the principal creeks are a rich loam mixed with sand, and the lofty and steep hills near them have also a rich soil. On the tableland, back of the hills, there is more clay, and still farther in the interior, a considerable portion of the land is nearly level, covered mostly with beech timber, unfit for corn or grain, and suitable only for grass. Probably near one-half of the county is of this character.⁵

The attention given to describing specific soil characteristics surely speaks to the importance of agriculture in the settlement of the former Northwest Territories as people from the east and from across the ocean sought land and opportunity in this newly opened region. Yet, in Jefferson County, most histories provide little detail about the sort of agriculture practiced in the early years, focusing instead on life in the city of Madison.

Madison, the seat of Jefferson County, was platted in 1810 and incorporated in 1825.⁶ The county's early development was driven by Madison's advantageous position on the Ohio River and at the terminus of the Madison-Indianapolis Railroad, begun in 1836. During the city's "golden age," 1830-1850, Madison was one of the major metropolises in the state.⁷ Early manufacturers included "Lewis & Crawford's and Farnsworth and Honore's foundries and machine shop, Gregg's oil mill, Whitney & Hendricks's oil mill and woolen factory, King and Ely's cotton factory, Heberhart's, for candles, Lane's, for lard oil, and Page, White & Griffin's large and convenient steam flouring mills."⁸ In this period the city also became known as a significant pork-packing center, slaughtering as many as 152,000 pigs during peak years.⁹ This industrial activity shines light on the agricultural activity of Madison's hinterland, suggesting the predominance of multi-use farms growing grains and raising livestock including sheep and pigs.

All of this economic activity generated building and cultural activity as well. In addition to government buildings and places of business, by 1849 there were 15 church buildings, 2 school buildings, and a great number of fine brick houses in Madison.¹⁰ The design and construction of

⁴ *Jefferson County Interim Report*, xiii

⁵ 1849 *Jefferson County Retrospect*, based on "Indiana Gazetteer," published by E. Chamberlain, <http://www.countyhistory.com/>

⁶ *Jefferson County Interim Report*, 26, 29

⁷ *Jefferson County Interim Report*, 26

⁸ 1849 *Jefferson County Retrospect*, based on "Indiana Gazetteer," published by E. Chamberlain, <http://www.countyhistory.com/>

⁹ *River to Rail: The Rise and Fall of River and Rail Transportation in Madison, Indiana*, <http://www.mjcp.org/rivertorail/introduction>

¹⁰ 1849 *Jefferson County Retrospect*, based on "Indiana Gazetteer," published by E. Chamberlain, <http://www.countyhistory.com/>

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these buildings reflected the convergence of local conditions and materials, such as the abundance of building stone and brick clay, with the diverse traditions of Madison's population:

Some settlers began arriving by boat from New England and the East. Others trekked up from the South via the Cumberland Gap. In addition to bringing their cherished possessions they bore in mind the image of architectural customs of the localities from which they came. Some brought detailed house plans. Substantial houses of brick and stone began rising beside their log neighbors. No single style predominated. This heritage of Georgian, Federal, Regency, Classic revival, Gothic, and Americanized Italian Villa architectural styles is unique to Southern Indiana.¹¹

As the nation's railroad system expanded and the river declined in importance, Madison lost ground to larger and more centrally-located cities such as Louisville, Cincinnati, and Indianapolis. As described by Donald Zimmer, "During the decade of the 1850s Madison began to atrophy and its opportunity shifted from building to maintenance."¹² Although growth slowed, the city excelled at maintenance, as evidenced by the incredible concentration of wellpreserved historic buildings found in Madison today. Meanwhile, the county's economy came to rely more heavily on agricultural activity in Madison's hinterland than on manufacturing and trade in the city itself. A later history, published in 1938, provides detail about the county's natural and economic resources at that time:

The soil character varies with the topography. In the river bottoms are rich alluvial deposits, while loam and clay distinguish other parts. In the central portion is an abundance of tile clay. An excellent quality of building stone is found, and quarrying is an important part of Jefferson County activity. In the southern part is an excellent grade of marble. Crops in the county include corn and wheat as well as other grains, an abundance of fruit, and tobacco.

... According to the figures of the 1935 federal census this county had twenty-three manufacturing establishments employing 337 wage earners on pay rolls of \$218,479. The value of the manufactured products was \$1,837,966.

The county had 2,243 farms with an average acreage of 94.2. The value of Jefferson County farms was \$5,422,083. A total of 25,202 head of livestock was reported.¹³

At the time when that was written, 203,804 acres of land in Jefferson County was devoted to agriculture; in 1997, only 126,379 acres were in farms. The area experienced renewed growth in the later twentieth century, fueled in large part by historic Madison's booming heritage tourism industry, and by the power plant and military proving ground that now serve as major employers.

¹¹ Historical Overview of Madison, Indiana, <http://www.oldmadison.com/historical.html>

¹² Donald Zimmer, "Madison, Indiana, 1811-1860, A Study in the Process of City Building," 1974

¹³ *1938 Jefferson County Retrospective*, based on "Indiana Review," published by the State Legislature, <http://www.countyhistory.com/>

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Nevertheless, much of the county retains a rural character that provides appropriate setting for appreciating its historic farmsteads such as the Mathias Wolf Farm.

The Mathias Wolf Farm at Pleasant Ridge.

The Mathias Wolf Farm is located on Pleasant Ridge in Madison Township, east of the city of Madison, Indiana. It is on land originally granted to Benjamin Leavitt in 1819.¹⁴ In 1854 Mathias Wolf purchased 89 acres from Benjamin Leavitt's son, Joseph, for \$16,000.¹⁵ Shortly thereafter, he built the stone dwelling on the property that still stands today.¹⁶ The Leavitt land was quite similar to that granted to David Hillis, located just to the southwest on Pleasant Ridge. As described in a biographical sketch of Hillis, the land was "hilly and broken, but enough of it was level to make him a very desirable farm."¹⁷ Indeed, the land on the top of Pleasant Ridge surrounding the house is relatively flat and suitable for farming, but it drops off rather abruptly and becomes more rocky and rugged. An underground stream runs to the east of the site that Mr. Wolf chose for his house. This valuable water source surely influenced how he sited his home and farm. The stream can still be accessed today by a spring house in the barn on the adjoining property.

At the time when the land grants were awarded, "all the territory now comprised in Jefferson County, outside of the settlement at Madison, was wild and uninhabited."¹⁸ As revealed by the architectural record, the area was significantly more settled by the time that the Wolf family purchased the land in 1854. Indeed, by the later 19th century and early 20th century, Pleasant Ridge was a distinct community on the ridge above the Ohio River, with its own one-room schoolhouse, post office, and doctor's office.¹⁹

Both Mathias Wolf and his wife Philemena were immigrants. Mathias was born in Prussia ca. 1824 to French parents. He moved to the United States in 1849, becoming a U.S. citizen in 1852.²⁰ Philemena was born in Bavaria on October 25, 1826. She immigrated to the United States in 1846, arriving in Cincinnati that June. There she met Mathias, marrying him in 1851. Afterwards, they lived in Mt. Washington, Ohio until they purchased the farm in Pleasant Ridge, Indiana in 1854.²¹ There they had seven children: Frank, John, Peter, Lizzie, Charles, Mary, and Edward. All of the boys worked on the farm through their young adulthood. The 1880 census lists Mathias as a farmer, John, Peter, and Charles as farm laborers, and Frank as a blacksmith. The farm remained in the Wolf family for three generations, passing from Mathias to his son

¹⁴ Although the land grant map included at the end of this document indicates "L. Leavitt" as the original property owner, the original land grant document is for Benjamin Leavitt. Information provided by Pam Smith, Wolf family friend and owner of the land grant.

¹⁵ Jefferson County Deed Book, 10, p. 164

¹⁶ Jefferson County Deed Book 161, p. 572

¹⁷ William Wesley Woollen, *Biographical and Historical Sketches of Early Indiana*, Indianapolis, Hammond & Co. 188., p. 173

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹ Interview with Mr. Ronald Bright, a long-time resident of Pleasant Ridge, October 23, 2008.

²⁰ Information provided by Pam Smith, owner of Mathias Wolf's original naturalization papers.

²¹ Obituary of Mrs. Mathias Wolf, *Madison Courier*, March 13, 1890.

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Charles in 1898, and from Charles to his son Bernard in 1934.²² Bernard Wolf sold the property to Ronald Bright in 1977.

As historian Roger P. Minert describes, Wolf family's story is similar to that of many other German immigrants who moved to Indiana during this period:

Indiana entered the Union in the year 1816. There were already native Germans living in the area and by the 1820s the first large groups of immigrants began to arrive from the German states. Most of those Germans arrived in the state as the culmination of the long voyage across the Atlantic Ocean and several weeks of travel through the United States. Many of them initially spent several months or even years in such cities as Louisville or Cincinnati, before apparently deciding that life in the 'big city' was not for them. Although the Indiana cities of Indianapolis, South Bend, Fort Wayne, and Evansville had large and at times even dominant German populations, the majority of the German immigrants seem to have chosen to establish their homes within small farming communities. Indeed, many such communities consisted solely of Germanspeaking residents for several decades. It is apparent that some of the new arrivals sent encouraging reports back to their respective home towns, for the trickle of immigration in the 1820s became a major flow in by the 1850s.

Thornbrough provides extensive detail on the early German immigrants in the state in her book *Indiana in the Civil War Era*. No fewer than 29,324 persons of foreign birth (53%) listed in the Federal Census of 1850 came from a German state. That number doubled by 1860 (66,705) and increased to 78,060 by 1870. In the Federal Census of 1880, there were 80,756 German-born residents in Indiana, 55 per cent of the state's population.²³

Like many other immigrants, the Wolf family maintained their cultural traditions through their religious practice. In her obituary, Mrs. Wolf is remembered as "a faithful and devoted member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, in this city, [who] was most highly esteemed and loved by all who knew her."²⁴

Criterion A

The Mathias Wolf Farm is under Criterion A, as an example of American farming in the late 19th century. Although Mathias Wolf was not the first person to settle this property, or even the first to farm this property, he established his own farmstead here in 1854 which remains today. The Wolf Farm is a mixed-use farm. Many farms in this area emphasize livestock (horses, cattle, sheep, goats, and hogs), and this farm appears to have evidence of large livestock production. The steep topography of this area makes growing crops difficult, however, every level surface

²² Jefferson County Will Book 2, p. 49; Jefferson County Deed Book 100, p. 333

²³ Roger P. Minert, "German Immigrants in Indiana Church Records: Personal Details on 15,375 Immigrants" in Gyles R. Hoyt, *German-American Influences on Religion II*, Indianapolis, Max Kade Institute, 2006.

²⁴ Obituary of Mrs. Mathias Wolf, Madison Courier, March 13, 1890.

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available is used for growing crops. The Wolf Farm would have been a typical, successful, middle-class family farm in late 19th century / early 20th century Jefferson County. In 1989, the Jefferson County Interim Report identified 41 farm properties (houses with agricultural buildings) in the township. Ryker's Ridge / Pleasant Ridge, the area around the Wolf Farm, has a concentration, and includes the nearby Allen Farm. From windshield reconnaissance, it is evident that a high number of these have lost outbuildings since that time. Perhaps half of the 41 identified in 1989 had the array of buildings found on the Wolf Farm. Today, land that comprised the Mathias Wolf Farm historically produces wheat, tobacco, cattle, and horses are raised here.

Historically, farmers who succeed financially would replace the existing farm house with a new one. The new farm house was usually an example of the current popular style of architecture at the time. The Mathias Wolf House, as it stands today is an intact example of a late 19th century, successful farm. Although the farm retains only a few of the domestic outbuildings that would have originally been associated with this property, and many of the farm outbuildings have been replaced at some point in the 20th century, many things have remained the same. The functions of the buildings, the placement of the buildings within the landscape, and the function of the landscape, are all consistent with Mr. Wolf's original design for this farm.

Much of the Wolf Farm's building placement has to do with the topography of the land. The Wolf Farm has some flat areas that are conducive to building and fields, and several areas of ridgeline, where the ground is very rocky and has sudden sharp drops into ravines and valleys. Because of this topography, flat ground is valuable, and therefore, minimal space is given to buildings. Most areas of flat ground are used solely for fields. Rocky slopes are used for grazing animals, but neither crops nor buildings can be built on them.

Due to this rough topography, historic and modern building placement within the farm has not changed. This topography is one of the reasons the Wolf Farm has remained untouched by development. The ground is not good for large-scale construction.

In the book *Barns of the Midwest*, edited by Allen G. Noble and Hubert G. H. Wilhelm, published in 1995, historic farm layout is discussed;

The pattern of farmsteads and the relationship of the barn to the farmhouse and to other farm buildings has not been extensively analyzed...At least five factors – topography, weather, convenience or labor efficiency, land survey systems, and tradition – come into play in determining the arrangement of barns and other farmstead buildings. Most of the time, the various factors act in concert with one another, so that it is difficult or impossible to determine the extent of influence of a particular one...In some other areas, where topography is more rugged, such uniformity is absent and farmsteads follow the contours of the land.²⁵

²⁵ *Jefferson County Interim Report*, 11

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The eligibility of the farm comes from the fact that modern development has not occurred on the property. Although farm and domestic outbuildings have come and gone throughout the years this farm has been in operation, the placement of these buildings, and the function of the property has not changed since Mathias Wolf designed it in 1854. The farm is still a farm, the house is still a single family house, and the outbuildings retain their historic nature. The property contains a representative array of farm buildings that demonstrate the diverse activities of 19th century farming: shelter for the farm family (house, outhouse); animal raising/food storage for animals (barn); food processing (smokehouse); and shelter for farm maintenance activities (shed). All of this, combined with an unobscured view of the ridgeline of mile and miles of wood lots and farmland, places the Mathias Wolf Farm in historic context without modern interventions. Therefore, the Mathias Wolf Farm is eligible as an example of an agricultural landscape that thrived from the 1850s through 1930.

Criterion C

Architectural significance. While the German heritage of immigrant families like the Wolfs influenced Indiana culture in the 19th century, local traditions and physical conditions likewise strongly impacted the lives of these new Americans. This is illustrated by the house that Mathias built for his family when they moved to Pleasant Ridge. The building is a clear expression of a popular local method of construction that directly reflects the materials available to settlers and the plans popular at the time. Specifically, the Mathias Wolf Farm is a fine extant example of a vernacular central-passage stone house typical of rural Jefferson County in the mid-19th century.

Stone construction in Jefferson County.

As described in the history of Jefferson County, building stone was plentiful along the creek beds and in the rough terrain that defined portions of the county's geography. Although more refined brick buildings (often with stone foundations) dominate the city of Madison's historic districts, stone construction was a common and practical choice in the rural parts of Jefferson County until the Civil War period, and a number of fine Federal, Greek Revival, and Gothic Revival examples survive today. According to the *Jefferson County Interim Report (1989)*:

Many of the settlers who traveled to Jefferson County were of Scot-Irish descent who came to Indiana by way of the mid-Atlantic and southern states. The rugged terrain of Shelby, Milton, and eastern Madison Townships perhaps reminded those early settlers of their homeland, and by the 1820s many of the area's residents claimed a common ancestry.

The terrain and these settlers' heritage combined to produce a collection of buildings unequalled in Indiana. Scattered throughout Jefferson County, although concentrated in the aforementioned townships, are some 100 stone buildings most of which were built between 1820 and 1860.

The abundant creek rock enabled stonemasons such as Thomas Dunn, John Spelz, and John Tait to build houses, barns, and other outbuildings throughout the

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county. Remarkably, many of these buildings have survived as unique resources worthy of further documentation and study.²⁶

There is no evidence to suggest whether Mathias Wolf hired one of these Scots-Irish stone masons to build his house, or if he constructed it himself based upon their examples. Oral tradition asserts that the house was built by a local stone mason who constructed twelve houses in Jefferson County ca. 1830-1850, but no documentary evidence could be found to support this claim. In either case, the building material likely came directly from the Wolf property which remains very rocky today. The majority of the building is constructed of a yellowish-brown Saluda Limestone, but there is the occasional piece of gray limestone mixed in, suggesting that the builder's concerns were primarily utilitarian—a stone is a stone—rather than aesthetic. As in other domestic examples seen in the county, the stones used to build the house are roughly rectangular in shape and of irregular sizes, coursed to create a generally neat appearance. Heavy stone lintels top windows and door openings. Some of the lintels have been shaped to a pedimental form, while others are simply large pieces of broken stone. Limestone was used for the sills, which are all more precisely squared than the lintels. The stones chosen for the corners are generally larger to give some emphasis and to tooth the corners together, but they are not as well-defined as those on the Eleutherian College Men's Dormitory (Lancaster County, 077-651-10036), which might properly be considered quoins. Beyond these few details, the stonework itself does not include any polishing, carving, or other dressing to suggest high-style influence.

The Central-Passage Plan in Jefferson County and Madison Township.

In addition to its use of materials, the plan of the Mathias Wolf Farm is representative of building trends in Jefferson County in the mid-19th century. Indeed, the center-passage plan was locally built and remained consistent, regardless of the choice of stone, brick or even wood-frame construction. As seen in the *Jefferson County Interim Report*, two basic types dominated rural domestic architecture in this period: the two story I-house, and the one or one-and-a-half story central-passage plan. The development of central-passage dwellings is described in the *Jefferson County Interim Report* (1989): "[A]s housing needs became more complex, the hall-and-parlor house evolved into a larger, more sophisticated housing type. The central-passage house retained the basic two-room plan of the hall-and-parlor house with a slight modification."²⁷ In Jefferson County, some early examples of the central-passage exhibit fine Federal proportions, while later examples apply Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, and Italianate sensibilities and details to this common type. The degree of stylistic detail varies, but most, like the Wolf House, are relatively simple vernacular examples. Brick, stone, and frame central-passage dwellings survive today.

A windshield survey performed in January of 2008 incorporated many of the historic roads of Madison Township, such as Pleasant Ridge Road, Ryker's Ridge Road, and Dugan Hollow Road were driven to ascertain the common qualities that constitute rural Madison Township's historic

²⁶ *Jefferson County Interim Report*, xvi

²⁷ *Jefferson County Interim Report*, xvi Also generally see sources such as Allen Noble's *Wood, Brick and Stone*.

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architectural landscape.²⁸ During this survey, the Wolf House and three additional central-passage dwellings were identified although the survey of Jefferson County indicates the presence of 18 central-passage houses. The first of those identified during the windshield survey is the Lemuel Allen House located off of East Pleasant Ridge Road (identified as 25001-104-086 in the Interim Report). This dwelling is a ca. 1877 one-and-a-half-story, three-bay, brick, central-passage dwelling with a cross-gable, slate shingle roof. The second, the Imel House (5001-104-093) located off of Bee Camp Road, is a circa 1830 stuccoed stone Federal style dwelling. The next, Robert Imel Farm (25001-104-097), also located off of Bee Camp Road, is a stuccoed stone Italianate central-passage dwelling. As the findings of this survey suggest, the central-passage plan remained a desirable dwelling type in Madison Township for much of the nineteenth century.

The *Jefferson County Interim Report* (1989) gives particular attention to these examples found on Bee Camp Road, just a short distance to the northeast of the Wolf Family farm near the Milton Township line. As the report describes,

An interesting collection of stone structures are located on Bee Camp Road. Originally an early settlement containing approximately thirty families, this community had its own post office in 1880. Presently four stone houses and a stone church all attributed to the Imel family are the only remaining buildings associated with this nineteenth century settlement. These structures include two I-houses, both built about 1840, the Robert Imel House built during the 1850s, and the Otterbein Chapel constructed 1868.²⁹

The Robert Imel house is a 5 bay, 1 ½ story stuccoed stone building with a stone central front gable. Although the detailing of the house is finer than that of the Wolf House, the proportions are quite similar, suggesting, perhaps, the influence of one design upon the other, or at least further demonstrating the local popularity of this type. The central front gable of the Wolf House is frame rather than stone, indicating that it may have been added at a later time as the Gothic Revival gained in local popularity. The Wolfs may have admired the example of the Imel house and attempted to duplicate it by adding this stylistic detail. Similar central front gables can be found at the nearby Italianate central-passage plan house on Pleasant Ridge (25001-104-86). and on three-bay stone dwellings that survive in Shelby Township on the Fry Farm and in Monroe Township on US 421.

Considering the Wolf House in light of these other local examples, one begins to appreciate the process through which high style design was reinterpreted in vernacular construction and impacted by local practical concerns. Surely, the process of dissemination is not as neat and simple as described here, but the local physical evidence does suggest a basic pattern of influence. In the mid-19th century, pattern books, such as those of Andrew Jackson Downing, helped to popularize styles such as the Italianate and the Gothic Revival across the United States.

²⁸ The primary concern during the windshield survey was to identify rural central-passage dwellings. Madison Township is the largest township in Jefferson County, as a result, the windshield survey primarily focused on the eastern portion of the township.

²⁹ *Jefferson County Interim Report*, 29

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It is likely that these pattern books directly influenced the architects who designed some of the larger houses and commercial buildings in the booming city of Madison. Meanwhile, rural dwellings such as the Robert Imel house and Lemuel Allen House simplified the details found in the finer examples of these styles while maintaining some essential characteristics. For example, rather than the elaborate window hoods found on many Italianate buildings, the Lemuel Allen House has more modest raised brick segmental arched hoods. The Robert Imel house has a decoratively bracketed cornice, but it is small and less ornate than those of high style examples. These details suggest that in building their houses these two men were clearly trying to create certain aesthetic impressions, but practical considerations such as time, money, and labor limited the grandness that they could achieve.

The Mathias Wolf Farm is simpler still, with only hints of stylistic influence found in the choice and placement of stones and the framing of the center front gable. The house is certainly well built and, as seen by its present condition, was well cared for over the years by a family that took pride in their home. Whether due to economic limitations or personal choice, Mr. Wolf placed different value on aesthetics than did some of his neighbors, but the house clearly does not exist independently of those around it. Its use of materials demonstrates the very practical impact of the dwelling's particular location upon its construction while the plan and subtle detailing suggests the influence of other local dwellings and, ultimately, architectural trends across the increasingly well-connected northern portion of the country.

Integrity.

The dwelling and its closely associated outbuildings retain a good degree of historic integrity, closely resembling the property during its time of significance. The arrangement of farm buildings, with only one intrusion and the modestly proud farmhouse at its core, still conveys the image of a middle-class farm of its era. The dwelling has not been moved, so it retains integrity of location. Although this and other surrounding properties have been subdivided, the setting retains a rural character with a mix of homes on large lots and functioning farms. Despite additions to the back of the building, the dwelling retains integrity of design. The front façade has changed little since the historic period, and the stone ell-addition is historic in its own right. The placement of the modern addition is such that it follows historical expectations about location of additions, and its design is unobtrusive so as to not significantly detract from the original building. The building maintains its original stonework, the material most essential to conveying its historical identity. Likewise, the original craftsmanship is evident in the stone construction. Although the recent loss of the building's historic windows is unfortunate, it does not completely reverse the integrity of the building. The house retains its historic image as a center-passage house, with massed plan, and simple construction details. Its center hallway still divides the interior spaces, as its builder would have intended. The well-maintained smokehouse and the outhouse further enhance the dwelling's setting, suggesting the design and function of the property as a whole. All of these physical resources are sufficiently intact to preserve both the historical feeling and association of this property and to convey its identity as a vernacular example of the local stone building tradition.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Books

Jefferson County Retrospect. Based on "Indiana Review." Published by the State Legislature, 1938. Accessed online 10/20/08: <http://www.countyhistory.com/>

McAlster, Virginia and Lee McAlster. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1986.

Minert, Roger. "German Immigrants in Indiana Church Records: Personal Details on 15,375 Immigrants," in Gyles R. Hoyt, *German-American Influences on Religion II*. Indianapolis: Max Kade Institute, 2006.

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Zimmer, Donald
1974 Madison, Indiana, 1811-1860, A Study in the Process of City Building.

Other references

Interview with Mr. George Schnell, homeowner. October 27, 2008.

Interview with Mrs. Pam Smith, friend of the Wolf family. October 27, 2008.

Interview with Mr. Ronald Bright, previous homeowner. October 23, 2008.

Jefferson County Interim Report Indianapolis, IN: Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, 1989.

Jefferson County Deed and Will Books.

Jefferson County, Indiana Land Patent Maps, Madison Township.

Madison Courier, Madison, Indiana.

Old Madison website: <http://www.oldmadison.com/historical.html>

Obituary of Mrs. Mathias Wolf, *Madison Courier*, March 13, 1890.

Plat Map of Madison Township, Jefferson County, Indiana. 1878, 1900, 1927, and 1973.

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"River to Rail: The Rise and Fall of River and Rail Transportation in Madison, Indiana."
<http://www.mjcp1.org/rivertorail/introduction> November 23, 2015.

US Census Records. 1860, 1870, and 1880.

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 # _____

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): 077-094-25087

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 3.0

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UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 16 | Easting: 646777 | Northing: 4291800 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |
| 5. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

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

The boundary includes approximately 3 acres of the 11.59 acre parcel of land currently owned by George and Tanya Schnell and located at 4137 E. Pleasant Ridge Road. It is recorded as Jefferson County PVA parcel number 39-09-28-000-010.000-006.

The southern boundary of the nomination is the southern boundary of the Schnell property fronting on Pleasant Ridge Road. The northern boundary is roughly parallel to the southern boundary, beginning on the eastern boundary of the Schnell property at the point where the Schnell property line makes a turn to the east, and running west to an access road on site. The western boundary then follows the existing access road south-southeast and south to Pleasant Ridge Road.

The boundary line is indicated on the scale aerial map included as part of this nomination.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries include the farmhouse and the outbuildings that historically constituted the domestic center of this agricultural property. These outbuildings and the land on which they sit are essential to defining the setting and preserving the feeling of the Mathias Wolf Farm. At this point in time, the applicant cannot demonstrate significance or integrity of the surrounding fields that once comprised part of the original holdings of the Wolf family. Therefore, the nominated parcel was defined to include the buildings and their immediate setting.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Andrew Smith
organization: RESCOM Environmental Corp
street & number: PO Box 361
city or town: Petoskey state: MI zip code: 49770 -
email andrew.smith@rescom.org
telephone: (260) 385-6999
date: November 30, 2015

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.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, 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: Mathias Wolf Farm

City or Vicinity: Madison Township

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County: Jefferson

State: Indiana

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

1 of 21. Former front façade of the Mathias Wolf Farm, facing north.

Photographer: Melissa Thompson

Date Photographed: April 2007

2 of 21. Current front façade of the Mathias Wolf Farm, facing north.

Photographer: Gregg Tulik

Date Photographed: November 16, 2015

3 of 21. West elevation of house, facing east

Photographer: Gregg Tulik

Date Photographed: November 16, 2015

4 of 21. North and west elevations of house and outhouse, facing southeast

Photographer: Gregg Tulik

Date Photographed: November 16, 2015

5 of 21. North and east elevations out house, facing southwest

Photographer: Gregg Tulik

Date Photographed: November 16, 2015

6 of 21. East elevation of house, facing west

Photographer: Gregg Tulik

Date Photographed: November 16, 2015

7 of 21. Outhouse, facing north

Photographer: Gregg Tulik

Date Photographed: November 16, 2015

8 of 21. Barn/garage, facing north

Photographer: Gregg Tulik

Date Photographed: November 16, 2015

9 of 21. West elevation of smokehouse, facing east

Photographer: Gregg Tulik

Date Photographed: November 16, 2015

10 of 21. South elevation of shed, facing north

Photographer: Gregg Tulik

Date Photographed: November 16, 2015

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11 of 21. View of guest cabin, facing west

Photographer: Gregg Tulik

Date Photographed: November 16, 2015

12 of 21. Central passage and stairs, facing north

Photographer: Elizabeth Gallow

Date Photographed: October 2008

13 of 21. Fireplace in master bedroom, facing east

Photographer: Elizabeth Gallow

Date Photographed: October 2008

14 of 21. View of original back doorway from modern kitchen, facing south

Photographer: Elizabeth Gallow

Date Photographed: October 2008

15 of 21. View of east elevation of ell from modern kitchen, facing west

Photographer: Elizabeth Gallow

Date Photographed: October 2008

16 of 21. View of interior, master bedroom, facing south

Photographer: Elizabeth Gallow

Date Photographed: October 2008

17 of 21. View of interior, ell, facing northwest

Photographer: Elizabeth Gallow

Date Photographed: October 2008

18 of 21. View of interior, ell, facing northeast

Photographer: Elizabeth Gallow

Date Photographed: October 2008

19 of 21. View of interior, modern kitchen, facing north-northeast

Photographer: Elizabeth Gallow

Date Photographed: October 2008

20 of 21. View of interior, northwest room of the original house, facing southwest

Photographer: Elizabeth Gallow

Date Photographed: October 2008

21 of 21. View of interior, southwest room of the original house, facing southwest

Photographer: Elizabeth Gallow

Date Photographed: October 2008

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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.