

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: Tryon Farm

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: 1400 & 1402 Tryon Road

City or town: Michigan City State: IN County: LaPorte

Not For Publication:  Vicinity: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  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A  B  C  D

<p>_____  <b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b>  <u>Indiana DNR-Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology</u>  <b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b></p>	<p>_____  <b>Date</b></p>
--	-------------------------------

<p>In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>_____  <b>Signature of commenting official:</b></p>	<p>_____  <b>Date</b></p>
<p>_____  <b>Title :</b></p>	<p>_____  <b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b></p>

Tryon Farm  
Name of Property

LaPorte County, IN  
County and State

---

#### 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

Tryon Farm  
Name of Property

LaPorte County, IN  
County and State

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>4</u>	<u>3</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: storage

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: animal facility

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: animal facility

RECREATION/CULTURE: auditorium

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Tryon Farm  
Name of Property

LaPorte County, IN  
County and State

---

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne

OTHER: Dairy Barn

---

---

---

---

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: BRICK

walls: BRICK

WOOD: Weatherboard

roof: METAL: Steel

other: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 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

Tryon Farm is a 4.4 acre site that composed the farmstead of the Tryon Family's farming operation in northern LaPorte County. Charles C. Tryon, one of two brothers, built his large Queen Anne style brick house in 1896, four years after the brothers built a large dairy/bank barn on property that had been in the family since the 1877. The farmstead features a large pasture between Tryon Road and the barn, and granary and chicken coop built c. 1900.

Tryon Farm  
Name of Property

LaPorte County, IN  
County and State

---

## Narrative Description

Tryon Farm was part of a family farm operation extending back to the 1870s, but was largely developed into a modern farm by two brothers, Charles C. and Harvey H. Tryon, during the 1890s. The roughly four acre farmstead on Tryon Road features Charles C. Tryon's house (1896, photo 0001), a large bank barn built for a dairy operation (1892, photo 0018), and a chicken coop and drive-through granary constructed c. 1900 (photos 0014, 0016). A concrete block garage (c. 1945, photo 0015) was built behind the house near the granary and is not considered contributing. A small livestock shed was built in the pasture between the barn and Tryon Road c. 2000 and an in-ground concrete pool with supporting structures was built at the time the Tryon Farm development was created c. 2000 (left side of photo 0016). These two resources are also considered non-contributing.

A gravel driveway enters the farmstead property in its west half, off Tryon Road. It extends to the north and terminates in a circle in front of the garage and granary (photo 0003). Mature trees are in the lawn and line the driveway. The house is off the west side of the drive and a wooded area (late-growth trees) is off the east side of the drive, between it and the pasture. This is approximately the location of the original frame house (pre-1877). The chicken coop is northwest of the house. The large barn is northeast of the house and is accessed by the Tryon Farm development road east of the property (not part of the nomination). The pool is behind the barn. A large pasture is in front of the barn, between it and Tryon Road.

### *Tryon House, Queen Anne, 1896. Contributing Exterior, photos 0001-0003*

The two-and-a-half story brick house is built in a T-plan with a wrap-around front porch and a three-and-a-half story wood tower in its southeast corner. The porch has a wood floor and turned posts with chamfered edges on the bottom half. Rough cut limestone steps are on the front (south) corner of the porch (left side of photo 0001). The porch has a hipped roof covered with asphalt shingles. The porch connects to a front-gabled porte-cochere on the east side (photo 0001). The porte-cochere has fluted wood columns on its east perimeter and patterned wood shingles in its gables. The gables have sawtooth trim over the north and south openings, which feature a slight segmental arch. The house has 1/1 wood windows with limestone sills and lintels. Simple cornice boards are at the top of the walls and the gabled roof is covered with asphalt. Slender brick chimneys rise from the front and back ridges of the roof.

The corner tower (photo 0001) features narrow wood clapboards on its second story walls, which jut out onto the porch roof (the tower has no first floor). A 1/1 wood window is in the front façade of the tower's second story. The third story is covered with patterned shingles in diamond, rectangular, and scalloped designs. The bottom of the third story flares out and a narrow 1/1 wood window is in the front and east facades of the third story. The tower's tall, pyramidal-shaped roof flares at the eaves and is covered with corrugated metal. The roof has small wood dormer windows in each wall of the roof. The dormers have hipped roofs and the

Tryon Farm  
Name of Property

LaPorte County, IN  
County and State

walls are covered with wood shingles. A pyramidal-shaped cap tops the tower roof. It has sawtooth trim around its base and is covered with metal.

The front façade (seen in the left side of photo 0001, right side of photo 0002) features a wood entry door with half window west of center on the first story. The door has three panels below the window and two panels above the window. Its limestone lintel is carved with C. C. TRYON. Wide 1/1 wood windows flank the door; the east window is further away from the door than the west. The second story features two 1/1 wood windows. A smaller 1/1 wood window is centered in the front gable. The south-facing walls of the back portion of the T-plan feature 1/1 windows on the first and second stories of the west end and a wood door with three panels and a half window on the first story of the east end. The second story of the east end is covered by the tower.

The east façade (right side of photo 0001) features a wide 1/1 wood window and 1/1 wood window in the first story of the south-facing leg of the T-plan. The second story of this leg features a 1/1 wood window in its south half and the tower in its north half. The east-facing gabled wall features a short, segmental-arched wood window centered in the basement. A 1/1 wood window is in the south half of its first story and a pair of wood casement windows is in its north half. The second story features two 1/1 wood windows and a smaller 1/1 wood window is centered in the gable.

The west façade (left side of photo 0002) features a wide 1/1 wood window centered in the first story of the south-facing leg of the T-plan. The second story of this leg features a 1/1 wood window centered in the wall. The west-facing gabled wall features a short, segmental-arched wood window centered in the basement. A wide 1/1 wood window is in the south half of the first story. Two 1/1 wood windows are in the second story and a wood door with three panels and a half window is in the south end of the second story. A second story wood staircase with platform (c. 2000) extends off this door. A smaller 1/1 wood window is centered in the gable.

The north (back) façade (seen in photo 0003) features an enclosed porch with gabled roof off-centered to the east. The porch was added c. 1920 and features brick walls and square corner columns. The walls are enclosed with rows of 1/1 wood windows and a modern storm door in the east end of the north wall. The gable wall is covered with wood shingle and the roof is covered with asphalt. A pair of wood casement windows is in the first story, east of the porch. Two 1/1 wood windows are in the first story, west of the porch. The second story features three 1/1 wood windows.

#### *Interior, photos 0004-0013*

The first story is composed, generally, of four large rooms that connect near the center by the staircase to the second story. A formal dining room (photos 0004-0005) and parlor (photos 0006-0007) are in the west and east half, respectively, of the front part of the first story. The kitchen and family room are in the east and west half, respectively, of the back part of the first story. Wide pocket doors lead from the dining room to the family room (north wall) and parlor (east wall). The stairhall (seen in photo 0007) is accessed through a doorway in the northwest corner of the parlor and southeast corner of the family room. A door into the stairhall is also

Tryon Farm  
Name of Property

LaPorte County, IN  
County and State

located in the southwest corner of the kitchen. A door to the family room in the west wall of the kitchen is in an alcove beneath the second story staircase; a door to the basement is in the south wall of this alcove (photo 0008). A bathroom is off a short hall in the southeast corner of the kitchen; a door at the end of this hall goes to the wrap-around porch. A laundry room is off the northwest corner of the kitchen. A storage room is off the northwest corner of the family room (photo 0009). The back porch is accessed through a door in the north wall of the kitchen.

The second story has a landing that extends from the top of the staircase at its north end (photo 0010), to the south where it intersects an east/west hallway. The west end of the hallway terminates at the second story door/exterior staircase on the west façade. The second story has six bedrooms with small closet bathrooms: two bedrooms in each of the gabled-ends of the T-plan (see photos 0011-0012). A bathroom is in the second story of the tower off the south bedroom of the east-facing gabled section (photo 0013). A narrow staircase is east of the landing and leads to the attic/half-story level that features a master suite and studio office in the third story of the tower.

The house has original wood floors throughout the first and second story except where modern tile covers bathroom, kitchen, and stairhall floors. The second story floors are painted (see photo 0010). The first story has plaster walls and ceilings while drywall has been applied to second story walls and ceilings. The kitchen and bathrooms have modern finishes (tile, wainscot, and cabinets). The historic wood trim includes tall baseboards, fluted casings in the parlor (photo 0006), and casings trimmed with beaded boards in the remaining first story rooms (photo 0004). Most of the doors features five and six panel designs with original hardware (photos 0008-0009). Turned spindle-like corner guards are located in the parlor and dining room (right side of photo 0005, 0007). The staircase features simple square newel posts and turned spindles in its balustrade (photo 0010). The top step of the staircase has a hinged tread in which shoes or valuables were stored. Only the trim in the kitchen has been painted (photo 0008). Light fixtures throughout the house are modern installations.

*Tryon Dairy Barn, 1892. Contributing  
Photos 0017-0025*

The large bank barn features a brick foundation and its walls are covered with Dutch-lap wood siding. The barn has several small wood windows divided into four panes and rolling doors of wood. The side-gabled roof is covered with corrugated metal and features a large cupola centered on the ridge. The cupola features a segmental-arched window divided into eight panes, flanked by segmental-arched wood louvered openings in its north and south facades. The cupola has a side-gabled roof covered with corrugated metal and extant spire from a weather vane (see photo 0018). The barn's dimensions are 80' x 34'-6" and 38' tall from basement floor to ridge.

The south (front) façade features the walk-out basement level of the bank barn (left side of photo 0018). The brick basement wall has three formed concrete buttresses off-centered to the east, between which are wood windows divided into ten panes. East of the easternmost buttress is a rolling door, covered with metal, and a window divided into ten panes. West of the westernmost buttress is a pair of doors, covered with siding. A door, covered with siding, and a window divided into three panes are in the west end of the front façade. A small limestone cornerstone is

Tryon Farm  
Name of Property

LaPorte County, IN  
County and State

in the top of the west corner. It is carved with TRYON BROS. 1892. The façade's main level features two large rolling doors, covered with siding, near the center of the façade. In order to retain the symmetry of the upper part of the barn, which is divided into three bays of wood windows, the east rolling door features a window divided into four panes. The bays have two rows of matching wood windows divided into four panes across the main level and below the eave. A hatch door, covered with siding, is centered between the rolling doors. A modern window, divided into three panes, is in the west end of the main level.

The north façade (right side of photo 0017) features two large rolling doors, one in each half of the main level, covered with siding. The east door is taller and slightly wider than the west door. A modern metal door and casement window are between the rolling doors. A small hatch door, covered with siding, is in the east end of the main level. It has a short ladder attached to the wall below it. A pair of windows divided into four panes is centered over the east rolling door. A hay hatch, covered with siding, is centered over the west rolling door.

The east façade (left side of photo 0017, right side of photo 0018) features three modern pairs of doors cut into the wall. They are covered with the siding and cut into the wall to create a fairly seamless appearance on the façade. A modern wood deck is off the east façade. A hay hatch door is centered in the wall at the loft level. It is also covered with wood siding. The west façade's brick foundation wall is partially exposed as the bank falls away to the south (photo 0019). The foundation wall features two wood windows divided into three panes. The main level of the barn features a modern casement window in its north half and a wood window divided into four panes in its south half. A wood window divided into four panes is centered in the west gable. A hay hatch door covered with siding is centered in the top of the gable, above the window. An old concrete pad is off the southwest corner of this façade.

The basement level is divided into three calving stalls in the northwest corner, a dairy office/room in the southwest corner, and milking floor with stanchions in the remaining part of the basement, east of the calving stalls and office. The calving stalls are divided by boards forming walls and wood gates (photo 0025). A walkway is in front (to the east) of the stalls to enable feeding. Feed troughs are in the stalls. Metal lattice-like fencing tops the stall walls. The office is divided from the calving area by concrete block walls. A walkway to the milking area is off the southeast corner of the room. It has a four-panel wood door and a window in the east office wall. The milking area has a wide concrete walkway that extends east/west between rows of metal stanchions and concrete feeding troughs (photo 0022). Concrete walkway runs along the north and south walls (photos 0023-0024). The south walkway leads to a wood staircase to the main level of the barn (photo 0023). Wood posts support the main level floor and divide the basement into several bays (photo 0022). The basement is white-washed and features a concrete floor. Window openings were once in the north wall of the basement, but have been filled with concrete block. Two wood windows, divided into three panes, are in the top of the basement's east wall but are not visible because of the wood deck outside.

The main level of the barn features seven bays divided by eight bents (photo 0020). Haylofts are in the east and west ends. The area below the west loft is enclosed on the main level by wood planks and metal. A glass garage door is centered in the wall. This enclosed area is a classroom

Tryon Farm  
Name of Property

LaPorte County, IN  
County and State

space (photo 0021). Modern railings and metal fencing encloses the lower part of the loft above this space. A modern, wide wood staircase is in the northeast corner of the main level and goes up to the loft in the east end. A small raised platform of wood is centered in the north wall of the main level. The main level and lofts have wood floors. The bents are exposed, as are the roof rafters and opening to the cupola centered in the barn roof.

*Chicken Coop, c. 1900. Contributing. Photo 0014*

A brick chicken coop is behind and northwest of the house. It faces east and features a gabled roof covered with corrugated metal. The front (east) façade features a metal door in its south half. Four wood windows with segmental arches are in the south façade. Each window is divided into two tall sashes and a vented top sash with blind arch top. A small wood window is centered in the west gable (it is covered with wood in the east gable). The north façade has no windows or doors. The gabled roof features simple wood cornice returns and soffits. A wood ventilator with gabled roof is centered on the ridge. It steps outward to form pockets for ventilation and the roof is covered with metal. The interior is divided into two rooms and the walls are parged with cement.

*Granary, c. 1900. Contributing. Photo 0016*

A front-gabled, drive-thru granary is located northwest of the barn. It is on short, raised piers of concrete block and brick. The west half has spaced wood plank cribbing with a door in the front façade and north half of the west façade. The remaining walls, including the gables, are covered with plywood with battens. Rolling doors are centered in the front and back facades. The front door is covered with metal and the back door is covered with wood. A wood window divided into four panes is in the east half of the front façade. Wood windows divided into six panes are centered in the front and back gables. The roof is covered with corrugated metal.

*Garage, c. 1945. Non-contributing. Photo 0015*

A large side-gabled garage is behind the house. It has concrete block walls to a height of about eight feet, and corrugated metal siding above the block over the doorways (on the front façade) and in the gables. The garage has a saltbox style roof. The front façade features two wide rolling doors and one overhead door in its east end. A four-panel wood door (likely from the house or another historic structure) is in the west end. The building features wood windows divided into four panes and windows centered in its gables.

*Livestock Shed, c. 2000. Non-contributing*

A small livestock shed with wood plank walls and a metal roof is in the pasture between the barn and Tryon Road, southwest of the barn. It has a shed roof and livestock door on its front (south) façade.

*Pool, c. 2000. Non-contributing (structure). Seen in right side of photo 0016*

About the time Tryon Farm was opened for development, a concrete in-ground pool with pavilion was constructed north of (behind) the barn. It has concrete walks, fencing, and landscaping around it.

Tryon Farm  
Name of Property

LaPorte County, IN  
County and State

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for 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

Tryon Farm  
Name of Property

LaPorte County, IN  
County and State

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

AGRICULTURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1892-C. 1920

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person (last name, first name)**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder (last name, first name)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Tryon Farm  
Name of Property

LaPorte County, IN  
County and State

### Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins in 1892, when the large bank barn was constructed on the property. It ends c. 1920 when the back porch was added to the house during its use by the Tryon Family. While it did not significantly impact the farm operation, by 1921, the county road was built north of Tryon Road which cut off the east forty acre parcel added prior to 1891 and the Marquette Railroad had been built diagonally through that parcel. The four contributing buildings were constructed prior to this time. The garage was built c. 1945 after Charles C. Tryon had relocated to California; it does not contribute to the significance of the farm or its architecture.

### Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

**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.)

Tryon Farm is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places using criterion A under agriculture as an area of significance. Three of the four contributing buildings of the property reflect the importance agriculture played during the 1890s-1900s, a time when agriculture was entering its golden age. The Tryons responded to local conditions by dairy farming and the farm includes the key buildings associated with their efforts. The farm is now one of few 19<sup>th</sup> century farms left in Michigan Township. Tryon Farm also qualifies using criterion C under architecture as an area of significance. The large brick house is a good example of Queen Anne architecture reflected mostly in its corner tower and porte-cochere.

---

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

#### ARCHITECTURE

The Tryon House is a simple example of the Queen Anne style with its tower as the most dominating feature of that style (photo 0001). The Queen Anne style was popular between 1880 and 1910; it was named and popularized by a group of 19<sup>th</sup> century English architects led by Richard Norman Shaw. The historical precedents used had little to do with the Renaissance style popular during Queen Anne's reign; rather they borrowed from late medieval examples of the preceding Elizabethan and Jacobean era. Spindlework popularly used with the style and free classic subtypes are American interpretations and became the most dominant form of the style in

Tryon Farm  
Name of Property

LaPorte County, IN  
County and State

the United States. As free classic adaptations were made to the Queen Anne style, they increased in popularity and led to the transition to Classical Revival and other competing styles.

The Tryon House was built in 1896, four years after brothers Charles C. and Harvey Tryon inherited the farm from their father, Charles Tryon, Sr. The Queen Anne style was just starting to wane in popularity, but the house exhibits the style in its finest features with its wraparound porch and three-story tower. The porch, connected to a porte-cochere, features large turned posts and the porte-cochere features patterned shingle work in its gables (photo 0001). The tower, the home's most recognizable feature, is covered with patterned shingles and a tall, pyramidal-shaped roof that also features small dormers on each side. The house, though large, minus its porch and tower is really quite simple. The two-and-a-half story brick house is built in a T-plan with a formal composition of 1/1 wood windows and doors with thick limestone sills and lintels. The most notable of these include the lintel over the front entry carved with C. C. TRYON and the one over the front gable window carved with 1896 (seen in photo 0002). The most important features of the interior are its composition of spacious, formal rooms and unpainted, formal trim. Original five and six-panel oak doors with fluted and beaded trim are found throughout the first story, with simpler trim details on the second story. An unusual feature is the hidden storage compartment in the top step of the second story staircase. The large house includes an attic staircase and finished living space in the top story.

The Queen Anne style is found in abundance throughout LaPorte County and in Michigan Township, predominantly in the city of Michigan City. Large examples of the style are found in the Haskell-Barker District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, where prominent citizens constructed their homes on Washington and Wabash Streets. Approximately one-fifth of the homes located in the Elston Grove Historic District, also listed on the National Register of Historic Places, are identified as Queen Anne. A more interesting comparison is the Tryon House type with similar residential architecture in the city. The Elston Grove district contains three examples of the same house type as the Tryon House, T-plan with square tower and wrap-around porch, but scaled much smaller to accommodate both urban lots and middle-class owners. Two of these retain Queen Anne features and are located at 421 8<sup>th</sup> Street and 919 Michigan Boulevard; both date to c. 1895. One of these smaller types also exists in the Haskell-Barker District and is located at 1613 Washington Street. It was also built c. 1895 in the Queen Anne style. These smaller versions have just one room on the first and second floor, in the front part of the T-plan, while the Tryon House contains two rooms in the front part on both floors. They also feature two-story towers with flared eaves on the pyramidal-shaped roof whereas the Tryon House features a three-and-a-half story tower with similar roof.

## AGRICULTURE

The former prairie of LaPorte County has a long tradition of excellent productivity for cultivated crops that included wheat, rye, oats, barley, other grains and root crops. As early as the 1830s, the prairie areas south of Lake Michigan were producing bumper crops including over two hundred thousand surplus bushels of wheat from two farmers alone. A few years before the Tryons purchased the farm, agricultural records demonstrate the growing farming industry of

Tryon Farm  
Name of Property

LaPorte County, IN  
County and State

LaPorte County. In 1873, the population of Michigan Township was about 4700. Farming statistics for the county in the same year include 86,305 acres in cultivation, 18,023 cattle, 7,916 horses, 471 mules, 10,332 sheep, and 17,484 swine. More than 384,000 bushels of wheat, 919,000 bushels of corn, 2,750 bushels of rye, 182,000 bushels of oats, 27,000 bushels of barley, 63,000 bushels of potatoes, and 4,392 tons of hay had been produced in that year. In 1891, over ten thousand tons of hay and over three thousand tons of clover was produced. Eight railroads crisscrossed LaPorte County, along with several other important transportation corridors, not to mention the harbor at Michigan City. All of these played an important role in shipping farm products to markets far from the borders of LaPorte County.

Michigan Township, however, was not recognized in its early history for agriculture. Aside from cranberries and huckleberries, the township lacked the more fertile soils for crop production that the former prairies further south from Lake Michigan contained. The township's terrain included sand knolls and dunes and was largely covered with trees. Chapman's 1880 History of LaPorte County states "Owing to the poor quality of the soil in the township, agriculture receives but little attention."<sup>1</sup> No doubt, this affected the size and development of farms in the township, and is likely why a dairy operation, which relied less on soil productivity than cattle grazing was the direction the Tryons took in the development of their farm. In 1880, the township, outside of Michigan City, was considered sparsely settled.

Charles Tryon, Sr. purchased 80 acres of land in Michigan Township, LaPorte County in 1877 from B. Sheridan. The land included a typical, 19<sup>th</sup> century farm with frame house, and likely a barn, situated on a county road later named Tryon Road. Charles Sr. came with his father's (John) family from Vermont first to Chicago, then to Michigan City in 1834. Charles Sr. was a conductor on the New Albany and Salem Railroad for sixteen years, then moved to Columbus, Ohio. He returned to Michigan City with his family in 1870, then purchased the farm on Tryon Road, adding another 40 acres to its east edge by 1891. The sons of Charles and Jane (Lewis), Charles C. and Harvey H., born in 1865 and 1866, inherited the farm after their father's death in 1891.

The Tryon brothers constructed the large bank barn that functioned as a dairy barn in 1892 (photos 0017-0025). The barn features a cornerstone carved with TRYON BROS. 1892. The 1892 Plat Directory for Michigan Township identified both Charles and Harvey Tryon as farmers and stock raisers. Charles C. Tryon built the large brick house in 1896 (0001-0003) and was married on October 17, 1899 to Margaret Coudon. The 1900 census includes both the Charles C. and Harvey Tryon families at the farm, as well as their step-mother, Adalade. The census indicates the brothers were engaged in a farm and dairy. About 1900, the brothers also constructed the large chicken coop on the property, as well as the drive-through granary building. With the size of the coop (seen in photo 0014), the family likely raised additional poultry and eggs for sale. The granary (seen in photo 0016) features cribbing to each side of the drive-through bay which allowed for grain storage used to feed cattle. Sometime shortly after 1900, Charles's brother, Harvey, left the farm and moved to Pennsylvania.

---

<sup>1</sup> Chapman, pg. 745

Tryon Farm  
Name of Property

LaPorte County, IN  
County and State

The 1904 History of LaPorte County provides biographical information about the Tryon Family as well as a description of the family's farming status. It states that Charles C. Tryon was a "thrifty young farmer...who has made a creditable record for himself in this line of activity."<sup>2</sup> The author applauds Tryon's advancement of modern farming stating "He is enterprising and progressive, and even the casual observer could understand the reasons for his success in the up-to-date improvements which are everywhere in evidence."<sup>3</sup> The history includes a description of some of the buildings on the property: a "splendid" brick house, a frame house (probably the original house), two large barns, and "other things in keeping. He makes every department of farming pay steady and profitable dividends."<sup>4</sup>

By 1907, the farm had been reduced by about five acres, likely because of the construction of a county road between the original 80 acre farm and 40 acre addition. The Tryons also made a donation of the northwest corner of this new intersection with Tryon Road for a schoolhouse. The township district school became known as Tryon School. The 1910 census for the household no longer included his brother, Harvey's, family but does include a hired hand on the farm named Gus Lispke, age 53 and a native of Germany. Charles C. and Margaret had six children: Mary, Lawrence, Orville, Margaret, Albert, and Rollin. Some minor reinforcement work was done on the barn's foundation in 1910 (stamped into concrete against the inside wall); it was likely about this time the stanchions and feeding apparatus, as well as the concrete troughs were installed in the basement.

In 1921, the county plat lists the property under the name "The Tryon Farm" with C. C. Tryon as the owner. It included 123 acres but also shows the new county road extending north from Tryon Road and the Tryon School. A new railroad (Marquette Railroad) was established, cutting diagonally through the 40 acre parcel on the east edge of the farm. A natural stream feeding Trail Creek to the Michigan City Harbor had been extended and named Beck Ditch near the northwest corner of the farm. The Charles C. Tryon family is featured in the illustrations with a photo of the family seated on the limestone steps of the brick home. Charles, noted as a farmer, had also been elected Michigan Township Chairman by 1921. Charles's step-brother, Parvin Tryon, was listed as a farmer in Pleasant Township in the same directory.

The value of the family farm was listed as \$15,000 in 1930, but had been reduced to \$9,000 in 1940. The 1940 census includes only Charles and Margaret Tryon and their youngest child, Rollin. The Tryons sold their farm by the mid-1940s and relocated to California where two of their children, Albert and Margaret, had also moved. Charles C. Tryon died October 17, 1947 in Taft, California. His wife died in 1963. Their youngest child, Rollin, remained in Michigan City and died in 2001. By 2000, the farm had undergone re-platting and planning for a residential community with certain lands held in common. The development became known as "Tryon Farm". The development parceled off the home and farmstead. The latter was donated to Tryon Farm Institute, Inc. which seeks to educate its members on small farm and garden practices. The organization owns the barn, chicken coop, and pasture between the barn and Tryon Road. The

---

<sup>2</sup> Daniels, pg. 811

<sup>3</sup> Daniels, pg. 811

<sup>4</sup> Daniels, pg. 811

Tryon Farm  
Name of Property

LaPorte County, IN  
County and State

farmstead being nominated generally occupies the southwest corner of the original 120 acre farm.

The large barn and other agricultural buildings located at the Tryon Farm are important to note for their architectural significance. The Tryon brothers constructed the farm buildings in response to the scientific development of agriculture and husbandry that came during the golden age of farming in Indiana. Subsistence farms had largely been expanded and developed into profitable farms by the middle part of the 1800s. Development of technology and dissemination of information regarding agricultural education and best farming practices grew rapidly 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, just a few years before Charles Tryon Sr. purchased the farm, 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 1867 in Fredonia, New York. The first chapter in Indiana was established 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. Between 1900 and 1920, known as the “Golden Age” of agriculture, the value of farm property grew rapidly due to progress in farming technology. Horse-drawn equipment was replaced with power-driven machinery and larger amounts of land could be more easily and efficiently cultivated.

It was during this time of agricultural advancement that the development of larger barns that incorporated a wide variety of operations on the farm began. Barn designs that were developed to allow for a more efficient use of labor, storage, and general operations appeared frequently in farm journals of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Round and polygonal barns, gambrel and round-roofed barns, and other designs encouraged farmers to rethink traditional barn-building practices. During the late 1800s the University of Wisconsin responded to its state’s growing dairy industry by developing a sanitary and efficient dairy barn design that reflected its origin the “Wisconsin Dairy Barn”. The barn became popular for large-scale dairy operations during the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century throughout the Midwest and the bank barn used for the Tryon dairy operation generally follows these concepts.

The Tryon Farm demonstrates the movement toward innovation and large-scale agricultural production in the late part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Tryons seemed intent on using the latest technology developed for agricultural buildings when they built the barn and chicken coop, as well as the drive-through granary, though its type has long been a fixture of American farms. The barn, which retains its calving stalls (photo 0025), stanchions (photo 0022), and concrete troughs (photos 0023-0024), is substantial; few other barns its age and size remain in northern LaPorte County. Because most of Michigan Township is incorporated into the city of Michigan

Tryon Farm

Name of Property

LaPorte County, IN

County and State

City, and due to its expanded growth, little of the township remains rural. Tryon Farm is near the center of the township, northeast of Michigan City. Only one other historic farm remains in the township. It is located immediately west of Tryon Farm at 1415 Tryon Road (south side of the road) and features a brick gabled-ell house with small implement shed (c. 1900).

Five other farmsteads in LaPorte County are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Ames Family Homestead on County Road W 150 N includes two houses constructed between 1842 and 1856, an early transverse frame barn (1838), and a concrete stave silo, privy, ice house, cow shed, corn crib, chicken house and wood shed all constructed between c. 1900-c. 1940. The John and Cynthia Garwood Farmstead at 5600 Small Road features a large Italianate upright-and-wing house with tower (c. 1866), and a dairy barn, milk house and concrete stave silo all constructed c. 1930. Pinehurst Hall, on U.S. 35 north of LaPorte, features a Greek Revival gable-front house (1853), an English barn (c. 1870). The James and Lavinia Forrester Farmstead on Forrester Road includes an Italianate cube house (1858), concrete stave silo and small dairy barn (1917), and chicken coop (c. 1920). The Wynkoop Farmstead located on State Road 39, north of LaPorte, features a brick I-House (c. 1858) and small bank barn (c. 1860) and several 20<sup>th</sup> century agricultural buildings including a milk house, chicken coop, and livestock shed. What differentiates Tryon Farm from these other notable farmsteads is the early construction of such a large barn (larger than any of those listed above) built four years *before* construction of the commodious farmhouse, followed very closely by the other two supporting agricultural buildings (chicken coop and drive-through granary). Because of this, the Tryon Farm *most* exemplifies the robust era of the golden age of agriculture through its buildings.

---

### **Developmental History/Additional historic context information**

Tryon Farm  
Name of Property

LaPorte County, IN  
County and State

---

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Chapman, Charles C. C., *History of La Porte County, Indiana*. Chicago: C. C. Chapman & Co., 1880.

Daniels, Rev. E. D. *A Twentieth Century History and Biographical Record of LaPorte County, Indiana*, Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Co., 1904.

Heritage Collection Illustrated Atlas (The), Combined 1874, 1907, 1921 Atlases of LaPorte County, Indiana & Plat Book of 1892. Evansville: LaPorte County Historical Society, Whippoorwill Publications, 1989 (reproduction).

LaPorte County Gazeteer. Marion, IN: Interstate Directory Company, 1907

LaPorte County Interim Report, Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory. Indianapolis: Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, 1989.

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

Packard, Jasper. History of LaPorte County, Indiana and its Townships, Towns, and Cities. LaPorte: S. E. Taylor & Company, Steam Printers, 1876.

Plat book of LaPorte County, IN. Chicago: George Ogle & Co., 1892

United States Federal Census for LaPorte County, IN: 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940

Tryon Farm  
Name of Property

LaPorte County, IN  
County and State

**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):** 091-405-21004

---

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 4.4 acres

Tryon Farm  
Name of Property

LaPorte County, IN  
County and State

Use the UTM system

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |             |                 |                   |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 16 | Easting: 513166 | Northing: 4619172 |
| 2. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 3. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 4. Zone:    | Easting :       | Northing:         |

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

Standing in the center of the intersection of Royal Road and Tryon Road, face north and continue in a line approximately 60 feet to the southeast corner of the property. This begins the boundary of Tryon Farm. Face west and follow a line along the right-of-way parallel with Tryon Road 467' to the southwest corner of the property, then turn north and follow the west boundary 396.5' to the northwest corner of the property. Turn east and follow a line 440' to the northeast corner of the property, then turn south and follow the east boundary 400' to the southeast corner, or place of beginning.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

While the roughly 400' square parcel is divided among three owners, it constitutes the original farmstead (home and barnyard areas) of the Tryon Family and includes all extant resources of the Tryon Farm operation. The farmstead generally occupies the southwest corner of the original 120 acre farm. The surrounding former farmland, especially to the north, now accommodates other land uses.

Tryon Farm  
Name of Property

LaPorte County, IN  
County and State

---

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kurt West Garner  
organization: Tryon Farm Institute  
street & number: 12954 6<sup>th</sup> Road  
city or town: Plymouth state: IN zip code: 46563  
e-mail: kwgarner@kwgarner.com  
telephone: 574-936-0613  
date: March 8, 2019

---

### 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.)

Tryon Farm  
Name of Property

LaPorte County, IN  
County and State

### 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: Tryon Farm  
City or Vicinity: Michigan City  
County: LaPorte State: Indiana  
Photographer: Kurt West Garner  
Date Photographed: February 21, 2019

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northwest at Tryon House

1 of 25.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northeast at Tryon House

2 of 25.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southwest at Tryon House from near granary

3 of 25.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southeast in dining room

4 of 25.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northwest in dining room

Tryon Farm  
Name of Property

LaPorte County, IN  
County and State

5 of 25.

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

6 of 25.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking north from parlor to staircase

7 of 25.

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

8 of 25.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northwest in family room

9 of 25.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking south in second story stair landing

10 of 25.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking north in front southwest corner bedroom (toward landing)

11 of 25.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking east in northeast corner bedroom

12 of 25.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking south into bathroom in tower's second story

13 of 25.

Tryon Farm  
Name of Property

LaPorte County, IN  
County and State

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northwest at chicken coop

14 of 25.

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

15 of 25.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northeast at drive-through granary

16 of 25.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southwest at Tryon Barn

17 of 25.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northwest at Tryon Barn

18 of 25.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking east at Tryon Barn

19 of 25.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northeast in main level of barn

20 of 25.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southwest in enclosed classroom area, main level of barn

21 of 25.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northwest from central walkway in basement level of barn

Tryon Farm

Name of Property

22 of 25.

LaPorte County, IN

County and State

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking east down south walkway in basement level of barn

23 of 25.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking east down north walkway in basement level of barn

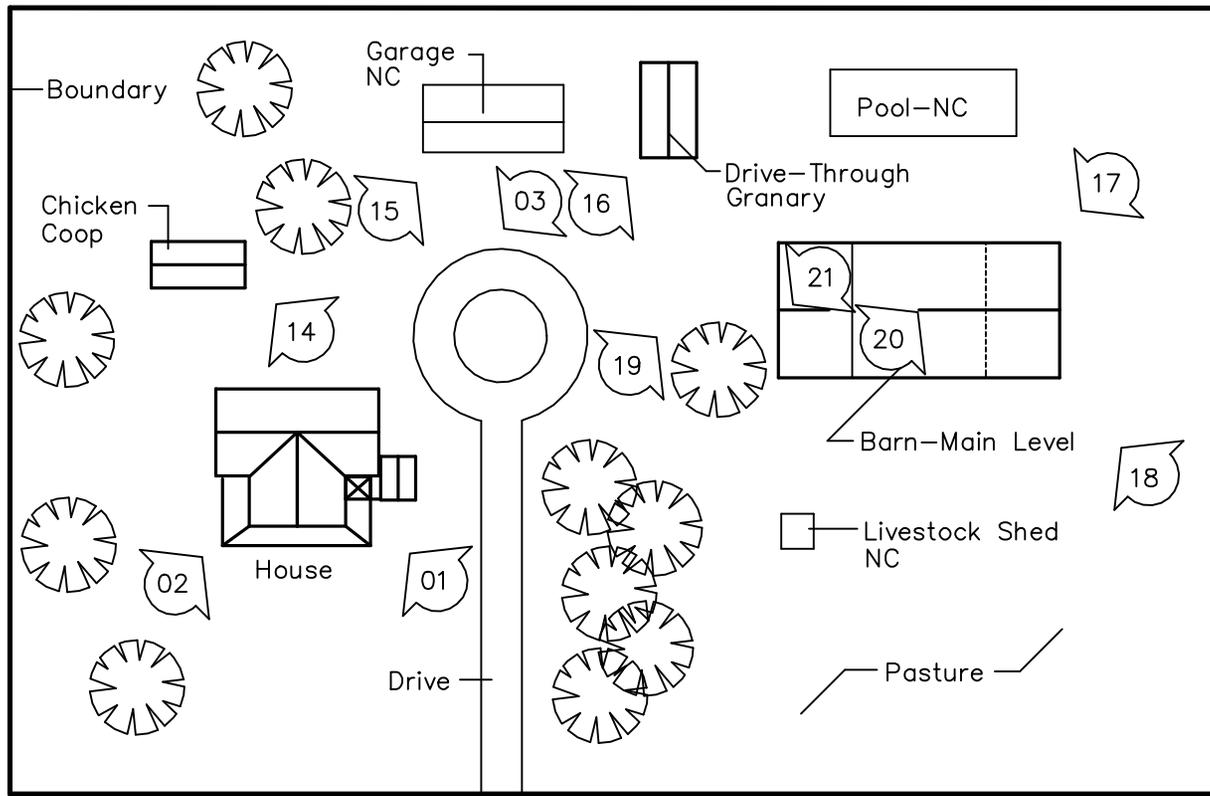
24 of 25.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking west at calving stalls, basement level of barn

25 of 25.

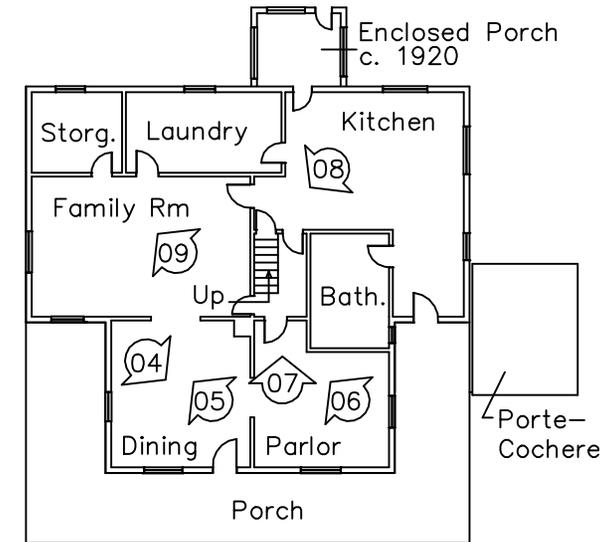
**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to 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.

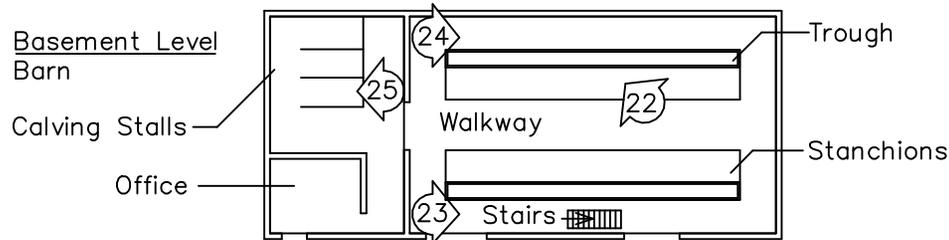


Tryon Road

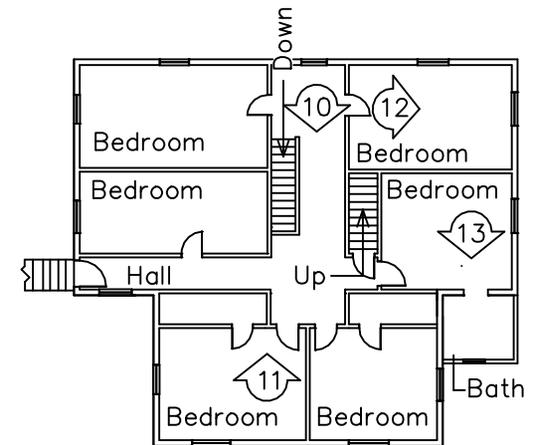
Site Plan



First Story House



Royal Road



Second Story House

TRYON FARM NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
 Michigan City, LaPorte County, IN  
 4.4 acres  
 NC = Non-contributing

⊕ = Photograph





Tryon Farm, LaPorte County Photo 0001



Tryon Farm, LaPorte County Photo 0002



Tryon Farm, LaPorte County Photo 0005



Tryon Farm, LaPorte County Photo 0009



Tryon Farm, LaPorte County Photo 0010



Tryon Farm, LaPorte County Photo 0015



Tryon Farm, LaPorte County Photo 0016



Tryon Farm, LaPorte County Photo 0018