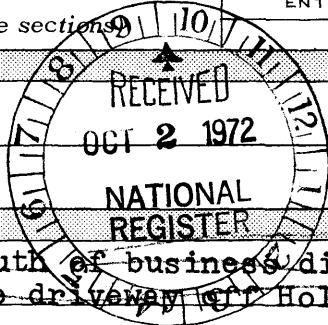


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

PH 000-36460

STATE: Indiana	
COUNTY: Dearborn	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER APR 11 1973	DATE APR 11 1973



1. NAME

COMMON:

AND/OR HISTORIC: "Veraestau"

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: About one mile south of business district of City of Aurora. Reached by private driveway off Holman Hill Road.

CITY OR TOWN: Aurora

STATE Indiana	CODE 18	COUNTY: Dearborn	CODE 029
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3. CLASSIFICATION

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

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mary O'Brien Gibson (Mrs. John T.)

STREET AND NUMBER: 4830 Glenbrook Road, N. W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D. C. CODE: 20016

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Dearborn County Courthouse Recorder's office.

STREET AND NUMBER: High Street

CITY OR TOWN: Lawrenceburg STATE: Indiana CODE: 029

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Map superimposed upon Government topographical map was made from description shown in recorded deed.

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Indiana
COUNTY: Dearborn
ENTRY NUMBER APR 11 1973
FOR NPS USE ONLY
DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

"Veraestau" (from the Latin: spring, summer and autumn - no winter) lies 427.4 feet above the Ohio River, just below a sharp bend, causing the river suddenly to run southeast. The bend and high elevation allow a sweeping view of the lowlands of Kentucky, the cities of Aurora and Lawrenceburg, and an up-river view of Ohio. Southeast is the ancient Holman oak - 5-1/2 feet in diameter now, a small tree when the original log house was built by Jesse L. Holman in 1810. The present Greek Revival structure was build in four periods, and the completed structure lies at the end of a winding pin-oak lined drive. To the left of the entrance is an Indian mound. Many arrowheads picked up on the hill indicate the presence of Indians who inhabited the site prior to Holman's arrival in 1810. To the right of the driveway is a stable and carriage house build in 1937, designed by architect John Henry Deeken to match the style of the main house, behind which is the Holman graveyard site and the remains of the kiln where the bricks were baked for the 1810 structure.

The first house built in 1810 was a two-story log cabin to which was added the same year a one-story, two-room addition of homemade brick. The log cabin burned in 1838, leaving the brick part. After the fire, Allen Hamilton, son-in-law of William S. Holman, built the Greek Revival structure, incorporating it into the original brick building. The Greek Revival style was at this time reaching the former Western Reserve, and Allen built his new house in this manner. The river entrance had a simple wood portico, comprised of four square wooden columns, supporting a flat architrave and cornice with simple Doric detail. The portico leads into a central hall with the rooms balanced proportionately off the hall. A door was cut through to the original brick structure incorporating it into the new house. From the interior molding detail, typically flat and rather heavy around the interior doors and windows, plus the wide facias of the mantels, we can see that the house was pure in its detailing and grand for this still primitive country. In 1913 Miss Margaret Vance Hamilton, Holman's granddaughter, commissioned the building of the two-story addition on the west side. Her cousin, the Cleveland architect, James Montgomery Hamilton, copied the proportions of the 1838 house and the Greek Revival styling. However, two sleeping porches were added over the front porticoes which, on the original house, somewhat changed the character of the 1838 portico. In 1937 Cornelius O'Brien added a three-room brick addition to the 1913 west wing. He had his architect, John Henri Deeken, keep the new addition in style and proportion with the original 1810 brick rooms, facing them across the paved courtyard. As Veraestau stands today, it reflects the architectural growth of an early pioneer cabin through the classic revival through eclectic additions to its present state of beauty and elegant simplicity.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

6. SIGNIFICANCE

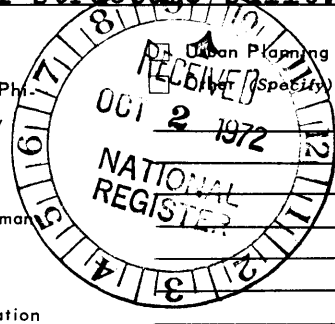
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1810 - Original structure built.**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The historical significance of Veraestau arises from the intermingling of two important considerations. One is the house itself - an excellent and well preserved example of Indiana and Midwestern houses which had humble beginnings in the pioneer era, then with additions from period to period it became a large and attractive structure. It is possibly the oldest such residence surviving in Indiana, still including a brick portion built several years before Indiana became a state. Its manner of growth has given Veraestau a composite architecture with the aspects of Federal, Greek Revival and vernacular styles represented. There is historical symbolism in the fact that it overlooks the Ohio River, Indiana's chief trade artery in the pioneer era, and affords a commanding view of Kentucky, an older commonwealth which contributed generously to the people and institutions of the infant Hoosier State.

Of even greater significance, however, is the role residents of and visitors to Veraestau have played in the local, state and national history. The original builder of Veraestau, Jesse L. Holmsn, studied law in the office of Henry Clay at Lexington, Kentucky. While Indiana was still a territory, Holman settled on the north bank of the Ohio, became a lawyer, laid out the nearby town of Aurora and, in 1816, was a delegate to the convention which wrote Indiana's first state constitution. From 1816 until 1830 he served on the state's supreme court, while during the years 1835 and 1842 he was Federal District Judge of Indiana. At various times he was prominently mentioned for the office of Governor and United States Senator. He helped organize the Indiana Historical Society; was one of the founders of Franklin College and gave much time to advancing temperance, missions, the Baptist Church and elementary education. He was the state's first resident novelist and, as Elmer Davis pointed out, was the first (and certainly the last!) to burn his novel publicly, as he felt it had a bad influence on youth.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheets.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds 39 ° 02 ' 35 "	Degrees Minutes Seconds 84 ° 54 ' 21 "		Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	
NE	39 ° 02 ' 50 "	84 ° 53 ' 39 "				
SE	39 ° 02 ' 23 "	84 ° 53 ' 23 "				
SW	39 ° 02 ' 08 "	84 ° 54 ' 09 "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 148.26

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Indiana	18	Dearborn	029
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Mary O'Brien Gibson (Mrs. John T.)

ORGANIZATION: Owner DATE: _____

STREET AND NUMBER: 4830 Glenbrook Road, N. W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D. C. 20016 CODE: _____

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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

National State Local

Name: Donald Dwyer

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: September 19, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert H. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 4/11/73

ATTEST: Conrad M. ...
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 4.3.73

NO
UTM
CX

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Indiana	
COUNTY	Dearborn	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		APR 11 1973

(Number all entries)

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Cont'd.)

William Steele Holman, son of Jesse L., was born at Veraestau in 1822. He too became a lawyer and was a member of the convention of 1851. (Another delegate was Allen Hamilton who made the Greek Classical addition to Veraestau in the 1830's.) Though a Democrat, William S. Holman was an especially devoted supporter of the Union in the Civil War era. Between the 1850's and 1900, he served thirty years in the lower House of Congress, a record which still stands. Known as "the Watch-Dog of the Treasury" for his emphasis on federal economy, he was a vigorous advocate of states rights and civil liberty. In 1884 the New York Sun boomed him for the Presidency.

In the twentieth century, Edith Hamilton, who authored distinguished books on Greek History and Mythology, was made an honorary citizen of Athens, Greece. Alice Hamilton, who pioneered an American industrial medicine, became the first woman on the Harvard medical faculty. Granddaughters of Allen Hamilton, these women spent their formative years at Veraestau. Holman Hamilton, great-grandson of Allen Hamilton, wrote a biography of Zachary Taylor, as well as other nationally known books. Cornelius O'Brien, also a descendant of pioneer families, preserved and added to Veraestau. He also helped to bring about the restoration of the White-water Canal; served on a variety of state, historical and educational boards and was the Democratic nominee for the United States Senate in 1944.

For more than a century and a half, the Holmans, Hamiltons and O'Briens, and their visitors, have made Veraestau of continuing importance in local, state and national life.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

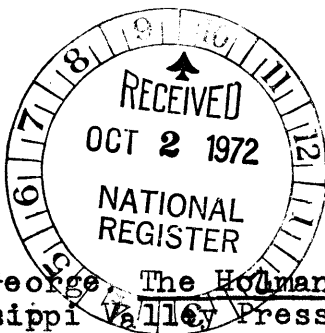
STATE Indiana	
COUNTY Dearborn	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 1 1972

(Number all entries)

Veraestau
Aurora, Indiana

Code: 18

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY.



Books

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Hamilton, Edith. A Treasury of Edith Hamilton. New York: W. W. Norton. 1969.

Articles

Blake, Israel George, ed. "Seeking a Federal Judgeship under Jackson," Indiana Magazine of History, XXXV (September 1939), pp. 311-325.

Davis, Elmer, ed. "We Liven in Indiana Too," American Heritage, Fall 1950.

Davis, Elmer, ed. "Address at the Opening of The Library of Congress Exhibition Commemorating The Territory of Indiana, November 30, 1950," Old Indiana And The New World, (Washington: The Library of Congress, 1951). p. 4.

Hamilton, Holman, ed. "An Indiana College Boy in 1836: The Diary of Richard Henry Holman," Indiana Magazine of History, XLIX (September 1953), pp. 281-306.

"Jesse Lynch Holman" and "William Steele Holman" in Allen Johnson and others, eds., Dictionary of American Biography, (22 vols., New York: Scribners, 1928----), IX, pp. 158-159.

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Peckham, Howard H. "Indiana," Antiques Magazine, LVIII, Number 5 (November 1950), p. 380.

Peckham, Howard H. "What Made Hoosiers Write," American Heritage, Fall 1950.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Indiana
COUNTY	Dearborn
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	11 1972

(Number all entries)

Veraestau
Aurora, Indiana

Code: 18

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY (Cont'd.)

Newspapers

Davis, Elmer. "Mt. Veraestau and the Holmans of Today and Yesterday," Indianapolis Sunday Star, October 13, 1907.

"The Hamilton Sisters," Washington Post, October 3, 1970.

"Homes Along the Ohio," Cincinnati Post and Times-Star, October 9, 1959.

"The Sisters Hamilton," Washington Post, October 2, 1970.

"Watchdog of the Treasury," Cincinnati Enquirer, October 30, 1945.

Maps

Map of Dearborn County. "Residence of Hon. Wm. S. Holman, Veraestau, Ind." (a picture on page of map). From Atlas of Dearborn County. 1875

Maps of Indiana Counties in 1876. (Reprinted from Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Indiana. Chicago: Baskin, Forster & Company. 1876.) Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society. 1966

