

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. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Corron Farm

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Multiple Property Listing \_\_\_\_\_

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

## 2. Location

street & number 7N761 Corron Road  not for publication

city or town St. Charles  vicinity

state Illinois county Kane zip code 60175

## 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

 \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date 3/28/18

Illinois Department of Natural Resources -- SHPO  
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

## 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 5-21-18

CORRON FARM  
 Name of Property

KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
 County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
 (Check as many boxes as apply.)

**Category of Property**  
 (Check only **one** box.)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
 (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
10	3	buildings
1		site
1		structure
		object
12	3	<b>Total</b>

**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/processing
- AGRICULTURE/storage
- AGRICULTURE/agricultural field
- AGRICULTURE/animal facility
- AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
- LANDSCAPE
- RECREATION & CULTURE/outdoor recreation

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- EARLY REPUBLIC/Early Classical Revival
- LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- foundation: Limestone/Concrete
- walls: Brick/Wood
- roof: Wood/Metal/Asphalt
- other: \_\_\_\_\_

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### 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

Architecturally, Corron Farm is an excellent example of an early Kane County farmstead, settled by Robert Corron in 1835. The farm is roughly bounded by Corron Road on the west, Silver Glen Road on the south, and a stand of trees to the north and east, which serve as the historic boundary markers between it and the adjacent farms. These boundaries are part of the historic boundaries of the 220 acres first settled by Robert Corron in 1835 and officially purchased by him between December 1843 and July 1848. The farmstead is intact and exhibits changes typically experienced by Kane County farms from the mid-1800s to the mid-1900s. Built by four generations of Corrons, the significant farm structures include the main house, workers' housing, dairy barn, horse barn, a silo, two corn cribs, a milk house, a chicken coop, a chicken feed house, and a hog house. Additionally, there are two pre-fabricated shed buildings constructed during the 1970s that are non-contributing to the farm and a privy moved to the site from a nearby farm later in the site's history.

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### Narrative Description

Corron Farm is located at 7N761 Corron Road in Campton Township, Illinois. The farm is located on level land, surrounded by the native prairie and rolling hills common in the area. The land is mainly native prairies and meadows, with stands of trees at its borders, and a small, dense stand of timber at the northwest corner of the property. Additionally, there are trees surrounding the main house which provide shade and cooling during the summer and an oak savanna in the north central portion divides the prairie into a wet prairie to the east and a hayfield to the west. The prairie to the south of the main farm once served as cropland. The property is accessed from Corron Road via a gravel driveway which enters the farmstead between the workers' housing and main farmhouse and creates a loop from the rear of the main house where the garage is located to the rear of the Horse Barn. Branches from the drive lead to the corn cribs and side/rear of the dairy barn; to the front of the dairy barn and milk house; and to the Morton building and hog house. There is also access for farm equipment to the southern field off Corron Road.

North of the farmstead and south of the stand of timber is a parking lot for visitors. Since the parking lot is located on the rear of the farmstead and is a minimally invasive gravel lot, it does not impact integrity of the farmstead and site. Today, the land is used by Campton Township which is working to restore the native landscape and has converted 180 acres of cropland to prairie, restored 41 acres of oak savanna, and wetland landscapes and has built hiking trails throughout the north and central areas of the 220 acres.

The building and structures associated with the Corron farmstead are bounded by the woodlands on the north, the oak savanna on the east, the mesic prairie on the south, and Corron Road on the west. The farmstead consists of a main farmhouse, workers' housing, dairy barn, silo, milk house, horse barn, two corn cribs, privy, hog house, chicken coop and feed storage, and two pre-fabricated outbuildings. The buildings at present can be grouped into four major categories: house-related, barns, livestock sheds, and feed-related, and storage.

Below is a description of each of the contributing and non-contributing resources:

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## **CONTRIBUTING**

### Main House

The house is a hybrid of the Early Classical Revival and Italianate styles. The form of the main house is two-story central section flanked by one-story wings. The foundation is limestone. The center gabled section is three bays wide and four bays deep. At the first floor, a front porch runs the length of the center section which is ornamented by three wooden arches between four chamfered columns. The second floor of the center section is detailed with a wood balustrade. The wings are two bays wide and two bays deep.

Throughout the residence, brackets line the cornice at the first and second floors at all façades and the windows are six-over-six wood, double-hung. Many of lintels on the north side of the house show that they were originally "dressed" but today most of the decorative work has weathered away. The two wings are set about one bay forward creating an enclosed porch. There are four fireplaces in the house one at the far end of each wing, one in the center of the house and one at the end of the north section or service area.

The north end of the house, directly behind the center gable, was originally built to serve as a carriage house and to store wood. There was a large built-in oven where the household baking was done in the north wall of the carriage house. Next to the oven was a small room, which was originally used for storing ashes for making soap. A second small room inside the carriage house was used for smoking meat.

Except for the west porch which was enclosed in 1925, the exterior of the house remains unchanged since 1854.

### Workers Housing

The workers housing or "hired hands house", built c. 1888, is an example of the I-House residential form with Italianate Details. The side-gable house is three bays wide by one bay deep, two-stories in height and clad in wood clapboards. The main entrance is centered at the front façade. The wood paneled door and wood transom above are flanked by Italianate carved brackets supporting the hipped roof over the entrance. The first and second stories of the side bays at the south (front) façade have one, four-over-four double-hung window, centered in each bay. The wood windows are detailed with wood sills and carved wood window hoods. The east and west (side) façades are identical with two windows at the first and second floor, centered in each bay. The window details are identical to those on the front façade. The kitchen wing was originally located on the north (rear) of the structure but was removed in the 1980s as part of a plan to relocate the house to Garfield Farm. The original foundation is still visible. The house was lived in for one year and was not lived in again. Robert Corron had the help of hired hands until the 1960s and many of them lived in the main house with the family.

### Dairy Barn

The south end of the dairy barn was built in the summer of 1875 with an addition added to the north in 1915. It is of heavy timber frame construction with board and batten siding on a limestone foundation. It has a gable roof that is covered in asphalt shingles. The 1915 addition has a gambrel roof and a concrete foundation. The Dairy Barn has a large concrete silo on its west side. The 1875 portion has elements of Italianate ornamentation with one crowned window and two ornate ventilators.

### Silo

The silo is located at the center of the west elevation of the Dairy Barn. The silo dates to c.1915 based on its form and the construction of the 1915 addition to the Dairy Barn. It is a poured concrete ring silo with a metal roof.

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### Horse Barn

The horse barn was built in 1916 and is rectangular in plan and three-stories tall. The horse barn has a concrete foundation, timber framing, vertical board-and-batten siding, a gambrel roof with a hay hood at the east end and is topped by two metal ventilators. At the west (front) façade is a pair of sliding wood doors flanked by two-over-two double-hung windows. Beneath the peak of the gambrel roof is a pair of two-over-two double-hung windows.

On the north and south (side) façades there are four pairs of windows symmetrically placed along the first floor. At the first floor of the east (rear) façade is a pair of sliding wood doors flanked by small, square windows. At the second story is a single wood sliding door flanked on either side of a small, square window. Beneath the hay hood at the third floor is a hinged wood door, flanked on either side by a four-over-four double-hung windows.

### Hog House

Built c.1910, the hog house is two bays deep with the south bay one-story in height and the north bay two-stories in height. Both bays have shed roofs, angled away from each other with exposed wood purlins and rafters. The hog house is frame construction and sits on a concrete foundation and is clad in vertical wood siding. On the south (front) façade of the structure there are four, four-light windows symmetrically aligned along the elevation and aligned with the space between each set of windows at the second story. At the far west end of the first floor is a door for human access. At the second floor are five sets of triplet windows. Each window has four-lights.

The east and west (side) façades are identical with a four-light window at the south and north end and a four-light window centered on the façade at the second story. The north (rear) façade has one four-light window centered on the façade and individual pen openings cut out of the concrete foundation to provide animal access to the exterior pens.

### Chicken Feed House

The chicken feed house is a small one-story structure located immediately to the west of the chicken coop. The feed house was constructed c.1915 of frame construction with a shed roof covered in asphalt shingles and a concrete foundation. There is one entrance at the center of the east (front) façade and a four-light window on the north and south (side) façades.

### Chicken Coop

Built c. 1910, the chicken coop housed chickens in the north section and a hatchery in the south section. The structure is one-story in height, frame construction with a concrete foundation and clad in board and batten siding. The north section has a front-facing gable roof with exposed purlins, while the south section has a shed roof. At the west (front) façade of the structure, the north section has a wood sliding door for human access with a four-over-four wood double-hung window immediately to the south. The south section also has a wood sliding door for human access with two four-light windows at the south end of the west (front) façade.

The south (side) façade of the structure is the south wall of the hatchery which has six four-light windows centered on the façade. The east (rear) façade has a four-over-four wood double-hung window centered on the east wall of the north section and a six-light wood window centered on the east wall of the south section. The north (side) façade has no fenestration openings.

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(Historic) Corn Crib

The historic corn crib at Corron Farm was constructed in 1910 and is a double corn crib with a central passage for machinery flanked by the corn storage areas. The crib is of wood construction with a front-facing gable roof clad in asphalt shingles.

(New) Corn Crib

Built in 1960, it is of wood construction with a gambrel roof covered in asphalt shingles and a wood cupola located in the center of the roof ridge. The structure is a double corn crib like the historic corn crib, but much larger in size to accommodate a greater storage capacity.

Milk House

Built in the 1920s, the milk house is one-story in height and square in plan on a concrete foundation. The building is constructed of rusticated cast concrete blocks with a pyramidal hipped roof currently clad in asphalt shingles. There is one entrance at the south (front) façade with two wood doors to provide additional insulation on the interior of the building and four, four-light windows on the north (rear) façade which slide upwards on rails from the interior to provide ventilation.

Site

Corron Farm was Campton Township's Open Space Program's first purchase in 2002 and is often referred to as the "crown jewel" property of the program. The property protects 220 acres of rural land for passive and active recreational purposes and for the protection of farmland, historic landmarks, scenic roadways, wetlands, woodlands, wildlife, and geologically significant features. The significance of the landscape of Corron Farm stems from its unique ecology where oak savanna, woodlands, and mesic prairie and wet prairie are adjacent to each other. While, the currently fallow cropland will be restored to its pre-settlement state, these open spaces will provide a buffer between the farm complex and encroaching suburbanization, maintaining the integrity of the site and contributing to the texture and color of the landscape. Together, the natural and built environments create the character of Corron Farm, Campton Township, and Kane County, provide evidence of settlement, and document the development of agriculture in the area.

The township developed an Open Space Plan in 2002 for Corron Farm to manage the balance of conservation and restoration of the ecosystem with historic preservation of the farmstead and public education. Below is a physical description of each land division, within the 220-acre site, and how each was used during the period of significance and how conservation of the landscape and historic preservation will be approached in each. See Figures 9-13 for additional information.

To the north of the farmstead buildings are 9 acres of woodlands which date to before the arrival of Robert Corron. The area contains large red oaks, white oaks, burr oaks, white ash, basswood and cottonwood trees with wildflowers, ferns, sedges, mosses, and lichens. An intermittent stream, runs east to west through the woodlands. The Corrons did not actively farm these woodlands but used them for passive grazing. The township is only planning the maintenance of this area by performing annual burns and the removal of non-native species. Restoration of these nine acres will return the woodlands to their original state at the beginning of the period of significance. A hiking and cross-country skiing trail runs north to south through the center of the woodlands and is not visible from farmstead or surrounding site.

A former oak savanna is located directly to the east of the farmstead and woodlands. It is composed of bitternut hickory, white ash, red oak, burr oak, scarlet oak and basswood trees. Noted on the 1872 Kane County Atlas map of Campton Township, this area was not actively cultivated by the Corron's. A portion of the acreage was

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improved and used as grazing lands between 1870 and 1880, based on the available agricultural census, until 2002. Since 2002, the township has restored the 41 acres of oak savanna to what it was when Robert Corron first settled the land. A hiking/skiing trail was constructed around the perimeter of the savanna in order to minimize disturbance of the conservation efforts. The trail links with a hiking/equestrian trail that loops north to the central part of the savanna and then west to the farmstead and south toward the southern portion of the parcel.

To the east of the oak savanna is 34 acres of wet pasture/sedge meadow. During the period of significance, all but the wettest parts were used as a pasture. It is considered to be a significant wetland at the county level. The township is working to restore this area by eliminating grazing and with annual burns. This is considered to not be a negative impact on the integrity of the landscape as the Corron's never cultivated this land or physically changed the terrain to accommodate farming activities.

Southeast of the wet prairie is approximately 12 acres of wetter soils, historically used as pasture. The cows generally avoided the wettest parts, although at times they would seek out this area because of its isolation when ready to give birth. The township is conserving this area as wet pasture, but restoring any damage created by cattle over the previous decades.

South of the wet pasture is approximately 12 acres of sedge meadow used by cattle over the years, which has caused some degradation. This acreage will be maintained and restored through processes including annual burning. Trails at this time have been restricted to the adjacent savanna. The township is planning a boardwalk which connects to the hiking/skiing trail and then continues out into the sedge meadow with an observation area. The restoration of the wet prairie and wet pasture do not impact the integrity of the site as the Corron Family never cultivated or developed this acreage.

Based on available agricultural censuses, the oak savanna, wet pasture/sedge meadow, and wet prairie were used for grazing and permanent pastures as early as 1880. The 1880 agricultural census denotes over 100 acres as permanent meadows/pastures. As the restoration will restore these areas to their state during the period of significance, and only repair damage done by cattle, these efforts do not impact the integrity of the site.

South of the sedge meadow is approximately 12 acres of wet prairie, historically used as cropland. Seeding and annual burning is planned to restore this area to wet prairie. Additionally, approximately one acre to the southeast of the 12 acres of wet prairie is mesic prairie. Another approximately 45 acres in the southern part of the parcel was mesic prairie, both which have been farmed for decades. A medium-size pocket of approximately 12 acres, and a small pocket of approximately one acre of wet prairie exist on either side of the 45 acres of mesic prairie, which has also been used as cropland for decades. A multi-use trail including an area for bird watching was constructed along the perimeter of the mesic prairie.

In the central part of the parcel and southeast of the sedge meadow is approximately 21 acres of wetland, which has been farmed for decades. Plans are to restore the hydrology to its natural state to encourage the return of a variety of species and provide flood control. Additionally, a bridge/berm and observation area are planned for this acreage. The bridge/berm would connect the hiking/equestrian trail to the north and south.

North of the wetland is approximately 10 acres of historically farmed land that is being restored to mesic prairie. This area was the only farmland noted at Corron Farm on the 1872 Kane County Atlas map. A hiking/equestrian trail should be constructed north-south through this area and link to the bridge crossing the wetland to the south and the trail that crosses the oak savanna to the north.

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It is unknown when the Corron's exactly expanded their cropland to 180 acres, as the 20th century Kane County Atlas maps do not denote croplands. Based on the available agricultural censuses, in 1870 Robert Corron had improved 113 acres of land which included meadows and pastures. By the 1880 census, Robert was cultivating 69 acres of cropland, separate from meadows and pastures. It's assumed that the croplands included the original 4-acre field identified on the 1872 map plus a 13-acre field located between the farmstead and oak savanna and over 50 acres of the southern portion of the 220 acres. These areas are first visually identified as cropland in 1939 aerial photography (Figure 9). Plans are to restore this acreage from fallow and uncultivated cropland to native prairie, which existed when Robert Corron first settled the land. Though the uncultivated cropland will be reverted to its native growth, the land divisions and physical evidence of how the Corrons laid out the fields will still be intact.

#### *NON-CONTRIBUTING*

##### Privy

The Privy located on Corron Farm property was relocated from the Tucker-Hawkins Farm located at the northwest corner of the Corron and Silver Glen Roads in 2003. The Corrons relocated the Privy to Corron Farm after selling the acreage. The relocation is outside of the Period of Significance thus making the Privy non-contributing. The Privy is located where the original privy was believed to be, based on the location of the sidewalk from the main house to the point where the Privy currently is located and historically no other known structures were located on that site.

##### Morton Building

Metal prefabricated structure erected in 1979 for machine storage.

##### Morton Shed

Metal prefabricated structure erected in 1970s for equipment storage.

Corron Farm retains a high degree of integrity making it eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The majority of buildings, structures, and the site remain intact and have sustained little if any modifications. Modifications include the loss of the windmill and original privy and the addition of the Morton shed and building. As minor alterations, these changes have not impact the overall character and integrity of the farmstead.



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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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

**Period of Significance**

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT: 1835-1855

ARCHITECTURE: 1854-1960

AGRICULTURE: 1835-1967

**Significant Dates**

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- 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.

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

**Cultural Affiliation** (if applicable)

**Architect/Builder**

Robert Corron (and Corron Family)

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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).

Corron Farm was settled by Robert Corron in 1835. The farmstead is comprised of 220 acres, with ten contributing buildings, one contributing structure, three non-contributing buildings, and one contributing site. The fully intact Corron Farm and associated outbuildings and site represent the development of a mid-19th century farmstead during the early settlement period of Kane County and Campton Township - as well as Northeastern Illinois. Corron Farm is locally significant and eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for Exploration/Settlement (1835-1855) and Agriculture (1835-1967) and under Criterion C for Architecture (1854-1960). A summary of each area of significance is provided in the "Narrative Statement of Significance" below.

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

**HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF KANE COUNTY**

At the time Illinois received statehood, in 1818, records indicate that only Native Americans resided in the area now known as Kane County. Soon after, pioneers began to settle the area, forcing resident tribes west of Iowa.

In 1832, members of the Sauk and Fox tribes led the Black Hawk War of 1832 in an effort to regain their homelands. To aid against this uprising, United States Army troops under the command of General Winfield Scott were sent from the east to Chicago, where they were delayed by a cholera epidemic. While there were no battles in Kane County, Scott's men marched through the area on what is now Army Trail Road and forded the Fox River north of the present city of St. Charles near the Blackhawk Forest Preserve.

Within two years, Army Trail Road was followed by permanent European settlers west of Chicago. On January 16, 1836, the Illinois legislature formed a new county.

When Campton Township was first founded prior to 1835, the area was known for its tall and thick prairie grasses and the consistent natural prairie fires that left blackened wastelands behind them. At that time there were only a few hundred people living in Chicago, but Galena, in the western part of the state, was a busy city, having been settled about 1827, due to the government's interest in the lead mines. Aurora was settled in 1834; St. Charles in 1833; and Geneva, then called Herrington's Ford, was settled in 1834 and had the only post office in the area.

It wasn't until 1835, when the area saw its first permanent settlers, farmers from New Hampshire and Massachusetts, that Campton was officially established. Robert Corron, who came to the area in October of 1835, was among those early settlers. They arrived by one of the two roads passing through the township: the St. Charles and Galena Road (now known as the Burlington Road) and an Indian trail which extended across the Fox River, just south of St. Charles.

Under the provisions of the Act of Congress of April 1820 entitled "An act making further provision for the sale of Public Lands," the early pioneers staked out their claim to the land on which they hoped to build their homes. The law provided that they clear the land, establish homes and when the land was put on sale in the land grant office in Chicago, they would be permitted to purchase it at \$1.25 per acre.

John Beatty was the first to arrive from Chicago by way of Crawford County Pennsylvania in March of 1835 to the area now known as Campton Township. He staked out his first claim in Section 36, but later located in Sections 26 and 35 and built the first log cabin in Campton near what is now Highway 38 and La Fox Road. Beatty made the prairie lands

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habitable by offering prairie clearing services for \$3.50 an acre. This soon attracted more farmers to the rich soils of the area not only from New England, but also from Sweden and Canada.

In the 1840s there were forty-one hotels between Campton and Randolph Street in Chicago. Elias Crary's log cabin on the St. Charles - Galena Road in the northwest part of the township served as an inn in the 1830s. Later he built a frame house which he used as a hotel for many years. In the 1840s Timothy Garfield on the St. Charles - Sycamore Road opened his house to the public. An inn called the Fairfield Exchange was operated by B. D. Mallory on the east edge of Campton (near the Norton home). In the southwest part of the township the Warnes also served travelers who needed lodging. Today there is only one public lodging place in Campton Township-- Serengeti Lodge. The coming of the railroads and the automobiles lessened the need for hotels.

After the 1840s, the township saw slow and steady growth until the opening of the Minnesota & Northwestern Railroad in 1886. A depot was built in what would soon become the town of Wasco and another at Lily Lake. Soon after post offices were established, furnishing the beginnings around which these two villages would grow. The railroad served the township faithfully for half a century. The first depot in Wasco was destroyed by fire around the turn of the century, and the second is now the home of the Campton Township Assessor's Office.

During the latter half of the 19th century the railroad made Campton a significant stopover point between the wilderness of western Kane County and the City of Chicago. This new transportation line helped the township's commercial economy flourish with the need for hotels, taverns, and general stores.

A second development period came after the extension of the rail line westward and when some of the first roads opened in the early 1900s from Geneva to Rockford and St. Charles to Oregon, Illinois which branched off Burlington Road at La Fox Road, then Brown Road, on Route 64 to Hansen Road, through Canada Corners on the Iowa Chicago Trail, connecting with the Old State Road in DeKalb County, and on to Oregon. Campton Township saw a steady influx of families looking to move into the countryside of Chicago and commute to the city between 1900 and 1920.

Today, Campton retains a semi-rural, agricultural, small town character, with a population of just over 17,174 residents in 2010. The township is located on the western edge of the Chicago Metropolitan Area, roughly 50 miles west from downtown Chicago, in the center of Kane County. It is bordered by the townships of Elgin, St. Charles, Geneva, Blackberry, Virgil, and Plato which include the mature, higher density suburbs of Elgin, South Elgin, St. Charles, and Geneva to the east and the suburbs of Elburn, Lily Lake, and La Fox to the west which share a similar density and character with Campton.

#### **CRITERION A: EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT**

Corron Farm is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for Exploration/Settlement. In 1835, Corron Farm was first settled by Robert Corron, one of the first non-natives to settle Campton Township and the first to cultivate the land on which Corron Farm resides. The period of significance is from 1835 the year the land was first settled by Robert Corron, to 1855, the end of the twenty-year settlement period. The settlement period is defined as the first twenty years of non-native settlement. Physical components which date to this period are the existing brick farmhouse, constructed between 1850 and 1854 by Robert Corron, and the pre-settlement landscape features which include the stand of woodlands to the north of the farmhouse, the oak savanna to the north and east of the farmhouse, and the west prairie at the far eastern edge of the site.

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### ROBERT CORRON FARM

*The following history is partially excerpted from "The Robert Corron Family" written by Lucinda Corron in 1972.*

Robert Corron was born on April 1, 1816 in Greenbrier County, Virginia to John G. Corron and Lucy Pinnell. Little is known about the Corron family except that they originally came from England. Lucy Pinnell was born in New York State in 1773, and her father, James Pinnell Jr., came to America in 1763 and during the Revolutionary War served as a bodyguard for Washington for seven years. Lucy married John G. Corron and together they had Robert and four other children: Rachel, James, Joseph and Delilah. Robert's father operated an inn in Greenbrier County, in the Allegheny Mountains, on the border between Virginia and West Virginia.

Robert spent his youth helping his father and in his spare time hunted in the mountains. Though Greenbrier County is very mountainous and heavily wooded, there is some farming in the area, with small grain and corn being the principal products. Dissatisfaction with selling liquor in their father's business and the institution of slavery in Virginia may have encouraged the Corrons to move West in search of better farmland. In 1834 Joseph Corron, Robert's older brother, left Virginia for Niles, Michigan, where his brother-in-law (Jacob Amick) was living. In the spring of 1835 Joseph left Michigan to settle in Illinois in the Fox River Valley near what is now South Elgin. Another brother, James, also settled in the South Elgin area, but he died in 1846. Later his son, Wesley Corron, moved to Campton Township.

Under the influence of his older brothers, Robert moved from Greenbrier County, Virginia to Kane County on October 16, 1835 and staked-out the property in Section 2 of Campton Township that he purchased from the Federal government between 1843 and 1848.

The existing 220 acres, owned by Campton Township, was officially purchased as follows:

- December 1843 the W ½ of the SE ¼ purchased from the U.S. Government
- July 1844 the W ½ of the NE ¼ purchased from the U.S. Government
- July 1845 Lot 1 of the E ½ of the NE ¼ purchased from the U.S. Government
- July 1848 Robert purchased Lot 2 of the E ½ of the SE ¼ from Chancy Benedict

Robert purchased an additional 110 acres in March of 1846, from Tucker and (Joseph) Corron, 29.57 and 78.79, respectively. The acreage was later sold out of the family and is now part of the Meissner-Corron Forest Preserve.

For six weeks Robert lived in an abandoned wigwam near the spring on what is now the Meissner farm. By the time winter arrived he had completed his log cabin. It first stood where the dairy barn now stands, but later was moved somewhere between the dairy barn and the horse barn.

On August 1, 1840 Robert Corron married Maria Eddy, daughter of Harry Eddy, who came to Kane County from Richfield, Otsego County, New York, in 1837. Maria was born in New York State on January 11, 1821. Five children were born to Robert and Maria: Adaline, November 11, 1845; Adelia, May 6, 1848; Addison, December 5, 1849; Mary J., April 3, 1852; and Flora M., June 6, 1861.

By 1850 the log cabin had become rather crowded, and Robert began building the brick residence that stands today. The bricks were made on the farm and the stone for the thresholds and windows was quarried in Batavia. Robert, his wife, and children moved into the brick residence in 1854.

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The family made their living by raising crops in the early years and dairy production from a few cows, even providing milk to the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago.

Robert's first wife, Maria, died on October 11, 1870 and he remarried to Barbara Ann Thompson, called Anna, on September 11, 1871, who taught school near Wasco at the Whitney Schoolhouse at the corner of Wasco and Old Burlington roads. In 1875, Anna had a son, named Robert Myron Corron.

Around 1888, Robert Corron built the Workers Housing for a man he hired to run the farm because his son, Myron, was too young to run the farm and Robert wanted to retire. Arthur Durant, the man hired to run the farm, lived in it for only one year because Robert was not satisfied with the arrangement. Robert went on to run the farm until he died from pneumonia in 1904, at which time Myron was old enough to take over management of the farm.

Myron married Augusta Meissner in 1911. Together they made many improvements to the farm including the (historic) corn crib, the 1915 addition to the dairy barn, the horse barn, the tool shed, and enclosed the porch on the west side of the house. In 1931 the house was electrified. Myron and Augusta had three children: Robert Charles, Flora Jeannette and Calvin Morris. After graduating from high school, Robert Charles returned to the farm and worked with his father.

Robert C. Corron married Lucinda Muirhead of Plato Center in 1946. They moved to the Tucker-Hawkins Farm, across the street from the family farm, on Silver Glen Road. In 1956 Augusta had a fatal stroke and Robert Charles and his family moved back to the family home and cared for his father until his passing in 1964. Robert C. Corron, the long-time Campton township supervisor, has since passed and today Robert's son David lives in the family home.

#### **CRITERION A: AGRICULTURE**

Corron Farm is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for Agriculture. The farm is significant as an intact farmstead, representative of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century farms in Kane County and Northeastern Illinois, that once composed the landscape and are now rapidly disappearing with the expansion of suburban communities. The farmstead acts as a buffer between encroaching suburbanization, located immediately adjacent to Corron Farm on the south and west and only .7 miles and 1 mile on the north and east respectively. The period of significance is from 1835 the year the land was first farmed by Robert Corron, to 1967, the fifty-year cut off for the National Register of Historic Places. Physical components which date to this period are the main house, workers' housing, dairy barn, horse barn, a silo, two corn cribs, a milk house, a chicken coop, a chicken feed house, and a hog house. Corron Farm was owned and operated by the Corron Family until 2002, when the Corron family sold the farm to Campton Township and the Kane County Forest Preserve to be maintained as open space and preserved and enjoyed by the residents of Campton Township.

#### **AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES OF KANE COUNTY**

*The following is excerpted from the National Register of Historic Places nomination form for "Garfield Farm and Garfield Tavern (Additional Documentation)":*

The earliest settlers in Kane County arrived in 1833 as farmers and located along the Fox River. As additional settlement occurred and the population grew, available land along the river diminished, forcing new settlers to purchase farmland to the west around the groves of trees. Once, the wooded areas of the county were claimed and technology allowed for the cultivation of the prairies, farmers expanded into the fertile grasslands to establish crop farms of wheat.

By the late 1830s, small industrial towns had grown up along the Fox River, while agriculture was the predominant source of income for western Kane County. The urban and rural populations supported one another. Urban centers

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provided services for the farmer such sawmills, gristmills, blacksmiths, harness makers, and wagon and carriage makers. In return farmers sold their surplus crops in town, supplying the urban centers with food.

Farm size continued to increase during the 1830s, 1840s, and 1850s. Newly developed farm machinery such as John Deere's moldboard plow in 1837 and McCormick's Virginia Reaper, first introduced in Kane County in 1846, encouraged an increase in farm size. A horse-drawn reaper could harvest one acre in two hours, while previously it took twenty-four hours with a scythe. Wheat soon became the dominant crop of the county because it was highly marketable.

Prior to the Civil War, the farms in Kane County met local needs and those of the limited markets of the rapidly growing City of Chicago. In the 1850s the railroad began its expansion across Kane County. By 1860 the market was flooded with wheat causing a decline in the profits for wheat farming. Farmers in Kane County turned to the dairy industry. The railroads were instrumental in establishing Kane County as a prominent dairy region by providing lower livestock freight rates. This in turn, encouraged the shipment of milk, dairy products, and livestock to nearby markets. By the end of the 1860s the Fox Valley became a leading producer of butter, cheese, and other dairy products and crops were primarily grown for silage. The county's river towns were equipped with the necessary people, waterpower, transportation facilities, and river ice needed for the cooling and storage of dairy products.

By 1870 much of the croplands in the county were wheat, oats, and Indian corn. In 1893 depression swept the country leading to a rise in unemployment and a decrease in farm and crop values. After the Spanish-American War in 1898, the value of farmland began to rise as the nation overcame the depression. Acreage in Kane County which sold for \$.25 to \$1.25 in 1840, went for \$100-\$125 by 1908. The year 1909 is regarded by agriculture as being the one in which the farmer could purchase the most for his dollar. From 1900 to 1920 drainage districts were organized, ditches excavated, and drain tiles installed making the cultivation of most of the remaining wet prairie areas feasible and notably improving yields.

Prosperity lasted for the next two decades. In the early summer of 1920 another depression hit the agricultural and industrial communities. Farm values fell between 1920 and 1925, as did the value of livestock. Simultaneously the dairy industry flourished throughout the Midwest and the new competition forced prices down. Health regulations relating to livestock became stricter and by the 1930s and 1940s many small Kane County dairy farmers could not afford the necessary improvements to maintain their dairy businesses and returned to farming wheat and corn. With the arrival of the soybean, wheat became a less commonly grown crop in Kane County. By the end of the period of significance (1966), there were just over 1,500 farms in Kane County, compared to the 2,029 in 1945.

Farmland in Kane County began to disappear in the 1980s as residential development expanded into rural agricultural areas. Today, crop farming is almost only corn rotated with soybeans. Dairy farming still exists as well as important agricultural products including cattle nurseries, greenhouse crops, and livestock.

As an example of agricultural practices in Kane County, the Corron Family raised crops and operated a dairy farm. The earliest agricultural records are the 1870 and 1880 Agricultural Census Schedules for Robert's farm.

Based on the available agricultural censuses the Corron's cultivated a productive dairy operation while also harvesting crops such as corn, oats, and hay, mainly for feed as well as growing potatoes, maintaining orchards, and being sheep shearers. The first agricultural census which surveyed Robert's farm was 1870. In this year the farm produced 1,182 pounds of wool, 400 pounds of butter, and 992 gallons of milk sold to factories, in additions to 70 tons of hay, 800 bushels of Indian corn, 1000 bushels of oats, and 150 bushels of Irish potatoes.

Over the next decade, the farm expanded significantly as it related to dairy production and subsequently crops used as feed. During this decade the farm produced 2000 bushels of Indian corn, 1200 bushels of oats, and 100 tons of hay. Wool fell to only 70 pounds and Irish potatoes stayed consistent at 150 bushels. Dairy production increased to 18,950

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gallons of milk sold to factories who would manufacture the final product and 416 pounds of butter produced at Corron Farm.

The farm's success continued on through the 20th century with the farm managed by Robert C. Corron Sr. sons, Robert and David. Between 1975 and 2002 the Corron's planted 150 acres of corn each year and averaged about 100 bushels per acre, in addition to a harvest each year of roughly 15,000 bales of hay, 2,500 bales of straw, and 2,000-3,000 bushels of oats, which excludes the harvest kept as feed for the animals each year.

### **CRITERION C: ARCHITECTURE**

Corron Farm is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for Architecture. The land was first settled in 1835 and further developed and expanded over the course of four generations of Corrons. Buildings on the farmstead can be categorized by architectural style and form. Availability and locale determined the types of structural systems, materials, and millwork found in these buildings. The architectural style of Corron Farm is expressed through the main house, built between 1850 and 1854, by Robert Corron, pursuing a dream to build a house similar to the one he saw as he was leaving his native Virginia. The residence exemplifies elements of the Early Classical Revival and Italianate styles, both nationally popular at the time. The period of significance is from 1854 the year the existing brick farmhouse was completed, to 1960, the date of construction of the last historic farm outbuilding. Corron Farm is a superior example of rural residential and utilitarian architecture in Kane County, that is swiftly fading as suburban sprawl continues to spread. The farm was listed on the Kane County Register of Historic Places in 2003 for its historical and architectural significance "...as an excellent example of an early Kane County farmstead, having excellent architectural integrity, and a unique example of an architectural style".

#### **Early Classical Revival and Italianate**

The main house is a hybrid of the Early Classical Revival and Italianate styles. The Early Classical Revival style developed at the end of the 18th century (1770-1850) and derived architectural inspiration directly from the ancient buildings of Rome and Greece. Early Classical Revival buildings closely resembled by their successors during the Greek Revival Period; the doorway, cornice line, and type of column (Roman, Doric, or Tuscan Orders) are the three principal distinguishing features.

Typical architectural characteristics can include a symmetrical façade, often with a full-height portico; porch roof with a prominent centered gable; a semi-circular transom or fanlight normally occurs above the paneled front door; broken pediment over the entry door; modillions and dentils line the cornice; and double-hung windows with lintels above, symmetrically arranged often in pairs or groups of three. At Corron Farm the two-story central section of the residence is flanked by one-story wings, a form that mimics the Gable Front and Wing design of the Early Classical Revival style and windows are six-over-six double-hung, typical of the style.

The Kane County Rural Structures Survey did not identify any structures designed in the Early Classical Revival style, so it is unknown how many or if any comparable exist at this time. (The survey classified the main house as Greek Revival, but the center gabled and wing form is typical of the Early Classical Revival style and not Greek Revival.)

A popular 19th-century style (1840-1885), the Italianate was derived from the architecture of Italian villas and originated in England at the start of the Picturesque Movement. This style with its wide overhanging bracketed eaves was typically found on two and three-story buildings. Varying forms include a cube with low pitched hipped roof, rectangular plan with front gable roof, or asymmetrical plan with cross hip or cross gable roof. Often this style included a cupola. In Kane County several Italianate Style houses have Greek Revival features such as entrance surrounds.

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Typical architectural characteristics can include vertical proportions; tall, curved or arched topped windows and doors with hooded molds; stone trim with incised foliated ornament; wide eaves and cornices; large brackets, sometimes paired; intricate wood or pressed metal cornices; porches, both small entry and full width, of single-story height; and paired and single doors are common with large-pane glazing in the door itself. Exterior Italianate details at Corron Farm include the front porch with its ornamented three wooden arches between four chamfered columns, a wood balustrade, and bracketed cornices at the first and second floors of the south (front) façade.

The Kane County Rural Structures Survey documented 177 rural Italianate residences in Kane County, of which 32% were constructed between 1833 and 1859. While a significant amount of Italianate residences were documented throughout the County, in Campton Township only 14 Italianate residences were identified, leaving the Corron Residence as one of few extant Italianate residences in the Township.

### Vernacular Architecture

The workers' housing on the farm is an excellent example of the early vernacular form, the I-House. An I-House is a larger, two-story version of the Central Passage form. This form is side gabled, one room deep and three to five bays wide, generally with a central hall that has one room on either side of the hall. The I-House was common during the Pre-Railroad era in the Tidewater South and expanded in popularity to Midland America with the expansion of the railroad and availability of light-weight lumber. I-Houses also became popular in the Midwest where long and confining winters made larger houses more of a necessity than in the South. Like the National Era Hall and Parlor forms, I-Houses were expanded with varying patterns of porches, chimneys, and rearward extensions.

The Kane County Rural Structures Survey documented 495 I-Houses in rural Kane County. Of the 495 I-Houses identified, 52% were constructed between 1860 and 1910, the national period of popularity for the form, making the I-House one of the most common forms in rural Kane County. The I-House at Corron Farm possesses a strong degree of integrity over other I-Houses through the county it remains relatively unchanged since 1888.

### The Farmstead

A farmstead consists of the buildings and adjacent service areas of a farm. In the Kane County Rural Structures Survey, a farmstead was defined as any site containing a house and at least one major agricultural outbuilding. An agricultural outbuilding is defined as any building used for running the farm other than a house for human habitation. Examples of agricultural outbuildings include barns, chicken coops, sheds, hog houses, granaries, silo, corn cribs, summer kitchens, smoke houses, outhouses, or pump houses. Structures historically associated with a farmstead include windmills, fences, and water tanks. Natural elements such as rows of trees and a garden may also be found on a farmstead.

Buildings and structures on the farmstead were placed according to use and to take full advantage of environmental influences. Structures built in close proximity to the main farmhouse were directly associated with residential use, including the outhouse, summer kitchen, and chicken coop. Barns were built in the vicinity of the house so the farmer would be close to the livestock and equipment but far enough to prevent the spread of fire. If livestock was housed in the barn, the building was located near or had access to water. The silo and milk house were attached to or adjacent to the barn on a dairy farm, such as at Corron Farm. Silos provided convenient food for the cows and the milk could quickly be carried to the milk house for storage and temperature control. Structures such as the well, windmill, pump house, and water supply tank were usually grouped together on a hill or subtle rise in the land to provide power and water to the farmstead.

The main environmental factor affecting the layout of the farmstead was the wind. Wind generated power and dried the corn, but it also carried odors and its force could be destructive. Outbuildings including the barns, outhouse, chicken



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coop, hog house, and smokehouse were always positioned downwind of the house to carry their orders away from the residence. Rows of trees were retained or planted near the house to provide shade, beauty, and a windbreak.

Outbuildings such as corncribs and granaries were found on crop farms while dairy barns, milk houses, and silos were associated with dairy farms. Sheds, chicken coops, outhouses, windmills, and smokehouses were located on both types of farms. At Corron Farm agricultural outbuildings for crop farming and dairy farming are surviving, representing the diverse agricultural history of the Corron Family. Crop farming outbuildings which remain at Corron Farm include corn cribs, a chicken coop, and a hog house.

The corn crib was used as a storage facility for holding and drying field corn in the ear, which is then used for animal feed. Its features include slats (usually horizontal wooden ones) and/or wire netting for ventilation; doors in the ends for accessibility; and anti-rodent provisions (elevating it off ground level, tight flooring). Corn cribs can have gabled or shed roofs, while later 20th century corn cribs may have gambrel roofs.

Hatches in the roof, either cut right into the roof or elevated clerestory style, aided in filling, while doors at the bottom of the cribs helped in unloading. "Cribbing" boards came in several different profiles: slats on wedges; triangular slats cut from two-by-fours; and beveled cribbing. The last of these could be spaced an inch or so apart, thus providing ventilation; other types overlapped. Most corn cribs had wire mesh inside to protect from vermin.

Manufactured corn cribs were produced in the early twentieth century but disappeared during the metal shortages of World War II. They became popular again post-World War II period, in the form of a cylinder with a conical roof. Unlike at Corron Farm which built the "new" corn crib of wood, metal cribs were adopted because they were less expensive than wood cribs, sturdy, and required little maintenance. Corn cribs became uncommon after the mid-1950s, when harvest technology changed in several ways: combines made it possible to shell corn in the field; and artificial dryers eliminated the need for a long drying period in the crib.

The chicken house or chicken coop provided shelter for poultry intended for egg laying or meat production, as it was at Corron Farm. Construction material was almost always frame. Poultry houses had either a shed roof or a gable roof. Windows along one side elevation afforded the light essential to chicken health. Small, hinged access doors, and ramps, allowed fowl to move in and out. Access doors for humans were placed either in the eaves side or in the gable end. The chicken house is usually located between house and barn, as at Corron Farm, especially for earlier farms; over time, poultry housing moved further from the house.

In the early 20th century, specialized hatchery businesses developed. These produced chicks which were shipped out when they were a few days old. At Corron Farm this was located in the south section of the Chicken Coop.

The last crop farming related outbuilding is the hog house. The hog house is a separate building for housing hogs. The hog house is a low-lying building with a gabled or shed roof. Typical characteristics include individual pens for each animal, revealed on the outside by square openings on the side. Above this range of doors, openings or vents gave air and light. The hog pen was usually located on the forebay side of the barn, or between the house and barn and usually faced south, as it does at Corron Farm.

Surviving dairy farming outbuildings include the dairy barn and milk house. The Corron Farm dairy barn is a Basement Barn or English Barn raised up on top of a full basement. An English barn is a one-story barn that is not banked. It has three bays organized crosswise to the roof ridge - one for livestock, a central threshing floor, and a mow for hay, straw or sheaves. Sometimes the third bay was used as a granary. A central door, in the eaves side, leads to the threshing floor. The Basement Barn is differentiated from a Bank Barn as it is not built into the side of a bank, though there may

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be a bridge or ramp giving access to the upper level. Its upper level provided storage for hay and a central floor for threshing and machinery. The lower level has a lengthwise central aisle, and stanchions for dairy cows.

Additionally, Corron Farm retains an excellent example of a milk house, the small structure used expressly for isolating fresh milk from the smells, dust, and microbes of the barn environment. Before the milk house, farms stored and cooled fresh milk in the springhouse, which also provided a space for letting cream rise and for churning. The milk house was developed in the 20th century and would normally abut, adjoin, or sit near the barn and would be conveniently located near the roadside for easy pickup of goods. The milk house was a small (typically ten or twelve feet on a side) structure with a square or rectangular footprint. The USDA provided standardized plans for farm milk houses with dimensions ranging from 10x13 feet up to 12x20 feet. Construction materials were often masonry, including concrete block or rock face concrete. Most milk houses have gabled roofs, but some have a shed or hipped pyramid roof.

The most common location for this type of barn is across the road from the farmhouse, with the entrance just off the road, as at Corron Farm. These barns frequently had gambrel roofs for extra hay storage, even in the nineteenth century.

One of the significant architectural and visual features of Corron Farm is the extant outbuildings and high degree of integrity they possess. The outbuildings define the farmstead and maintain the original sense of the farm. The outbuildings include a poured concrete silo, two com cribs, hog house, chicken coop, chicken feed house, a milk house, and two metal Morton buildings (non-contributing).

The history and development of Corron Farm depicts the early exploration and settlement of the Midwest and northeastern Illinois, as well as the evolution and diversity of agriculture in Kane County and the state. The associated buildings and site retain a high degree of architectural integrity and historical significance making it eligible for listing to the National Register of Historic Places.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Campton Township Maps for 1860, 1871, 1892, 1904, 1928, and 1954. Courtesy of Kane County.

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**Additional Sources:**

Bureau of Land Management Land Patent Records

Corron Family Archives

United States Census Records

United States Agricultural Census

**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):

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 220 acres \_\_\_\_\_

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage; enter "Less than one" if the acreage is .99 or less)

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

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1 41.984079° -88.405046°  
Latitude Longitude

2 41.984191° -88.395300°  
Latitude Longitude

3 41.976851° -88.395202°  
Latitude Longitude

4 41.976737° -88.400097°  
Latitude Longitude

5 41.971263° -88.400120°  
Latitude Longitude

6 41.971623° -88.404810°  
Latitude Longitude

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

Corron Farm is bounded by Corron Road to the west, Silver Glen Road to the south, and a stand of trees to the north and east.

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

The boundaries selected are based on the historical boundaries of Robert Corron's Farmstead.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Erica Ruggiero/Historic Preservation Specialist date July 10, 2017  
organization McGuire Igleski & Associates, Inc. telephone (847) 328. 5679 ext. 114  
street & number 1330 Sherman Avenue email erica@miarchitects.com  
city or town Evanston state Illinois zip code 60201

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **GIS Location Map (Google Earth or BING)**
- **Local Location Map**
- **Site Plan**
- **Floor Plans (As Applicable)**
- **Photo Location Map** (Include for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map and insert immediately after the photo log and before the list of figures).

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**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 pixels, 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:** Corron Farm  
**City or Vicinity:** St. Charles  
**County:** Kane **State:** Illinois  
**Photographer:** Erica Ruggiero  
**Date Photographed:** December 30, 2016

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

**Photo 1 of 51:**

View of south façade Main Residence looking south.

**Photo 2 of 51:**

View of the west façade of the Main Residence looking southeast.

**Photo 3 of 51:**

View of the north and east façades of the Main Residence looking southwest.

**Photo 4 of 51:**

View of the Privy looking southwest.

**Photo 5 of 51:**

View of the Workers Cottage looking northwest.

**Photo 6 of 51:**

View of the Workers Housing looking northeast.

**Photo 7 of 51:**

View of the Workers Housing looking southwest.

**Photo 8 of 51:**

View of the extant kitchen wing foundation at the Workers Cottage.

**Photo 9 of 51:**

View of the Farmstead looking east.

**Photo 10 of 51:**

View of the Morton Building looking northeast.

**Photo 11 of 51**

View of the Farmstead looking southwest.

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**Photo 12 of 51:**

View of the Hog House looking northwest.

**Photo 13 of 51:**

View of the Hog House looking northeast.

**Photo 14 of 51:**

View of the Horse Barn looking northeast.

**Photo 15 of 51:**

View of the Horse Barn looking northwest.

**Photo 16 of 51:**

View of the Horse Barn looking southwest.

**Photo 17 of 51:**

View of the Milk House looking northeast.

**Photo 18 of 51:**

View of the Milk House looking northwest.

**Photo 19 of 51:**

View of the Dairy Barn looking northeast.

**Photo 20 of 51:**

View of the Dairy barn looking north.

**Photo 21 of 51:**

View of the Dairy Barn looking northwest.

**Photo 22 of 51:**

22. View of the Dairy Barn looking southwest.

**Photo 23 of 51:**

23. View of the Farmstead looking southwest.

**Photo 24 of 51:**

View of the Historic Corn Crib, New Corn Crib, and Morton Shed looking south.

**Photo 25 of 51:**

View of the Historic Corn Crib looking southeast.

**Photo 26 of 51:**

View of the Historic Corn Crib looking northeast.

**Photo 27 of 51:**

View of the New Corn Crib looking southwest.

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**Photo 28 of 51:**

View of the New Corn Crib looking northwest.

**Photo 29 of 51:**

View of the Chicken Coop looking southwest.

**Photo 30 of 51:**

View of the Chicken Feed House looking south.

**Photo 31 of 51:**

View of the Chicken Coop looking northeast.

**Photo 32 of 51:**

View of the Farmstead looking southeast.

**Photo 33 of 51:**

View of the Kitchen looking south.

**Photo 34 of 51:**

View of the Kitchen looking north.

**Photo 35 of 51:**

View of the East Wing looking south.

**Photo 36 of 51:**

View of the Stair Hallway looking west.

**Photo 37 of 51:**

View of the Staircase at the First Floor.

**Photo 38 of 51:**

View of Parlor 1 looking northwest.

**Photo 39 of 51:**

View of Parlor 1 looking southwest.

**Photo 40 of 51:**

View of the West Wing looking southwest.

**Photo 41 of 51:**

View of the West Wing looking northeast.

**Photo 42 of 51:**

View of the West Wing looking southeast.

**Photo 43 of 51:**

View of Parlor 2 looking north.

CORRON FARM

Name of Property

KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

County and State

**Photo 44 of 51:**

View of Parlor 2 looking northwest.

**Photo 45 of 51:**

View of the Pantry looking northeast.

**Photo 46 of 51:**

View of the Second Floor Landing looking southeast.

**Photo 47 of 51:**

View of Bedroom 1 looking east.

**Photo 48 of 51:**

View of Bedroom 2 looking north.

**Photo 49 of 51:**

View of the Second Floor Landing looking northeast.

**Photo 50 of 51:**

View of Bedroom 3 looking east.

**Photo 51 of 51:**

View of the Attic looking north.

**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.



CORRON FARM

Name of Property

KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

County and State

### List of Figures

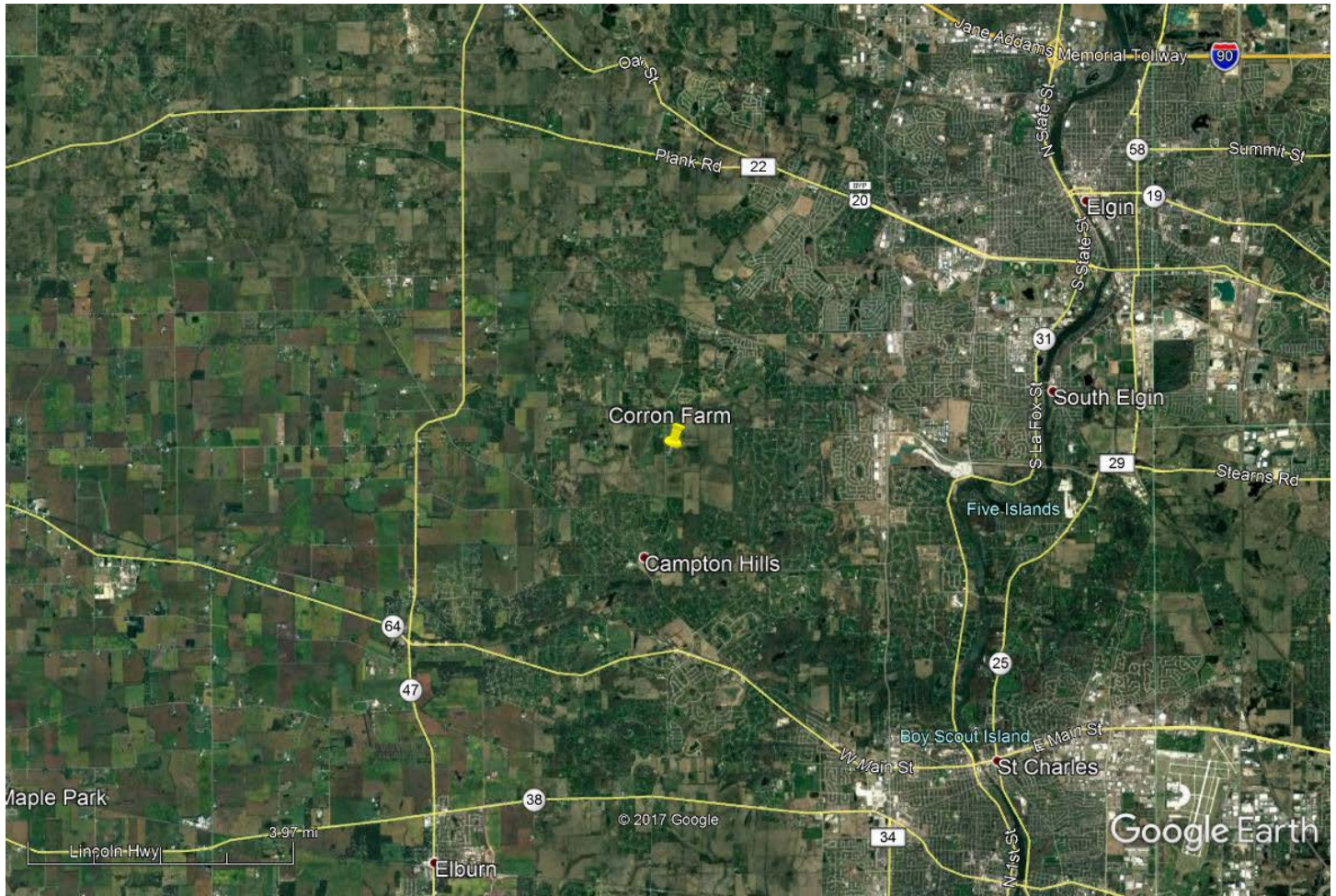
(Resize, compact, and paste images of maps and historic documents in this section. Place captions, with figure numbers above each image. Orient maps so that north is at the top of the page, all document should be inserted with the top toward the top of the page.)



FIGURE 1: MAP OF CORRON FARM BOUNDARY

CORRON FARM  
Name of Property

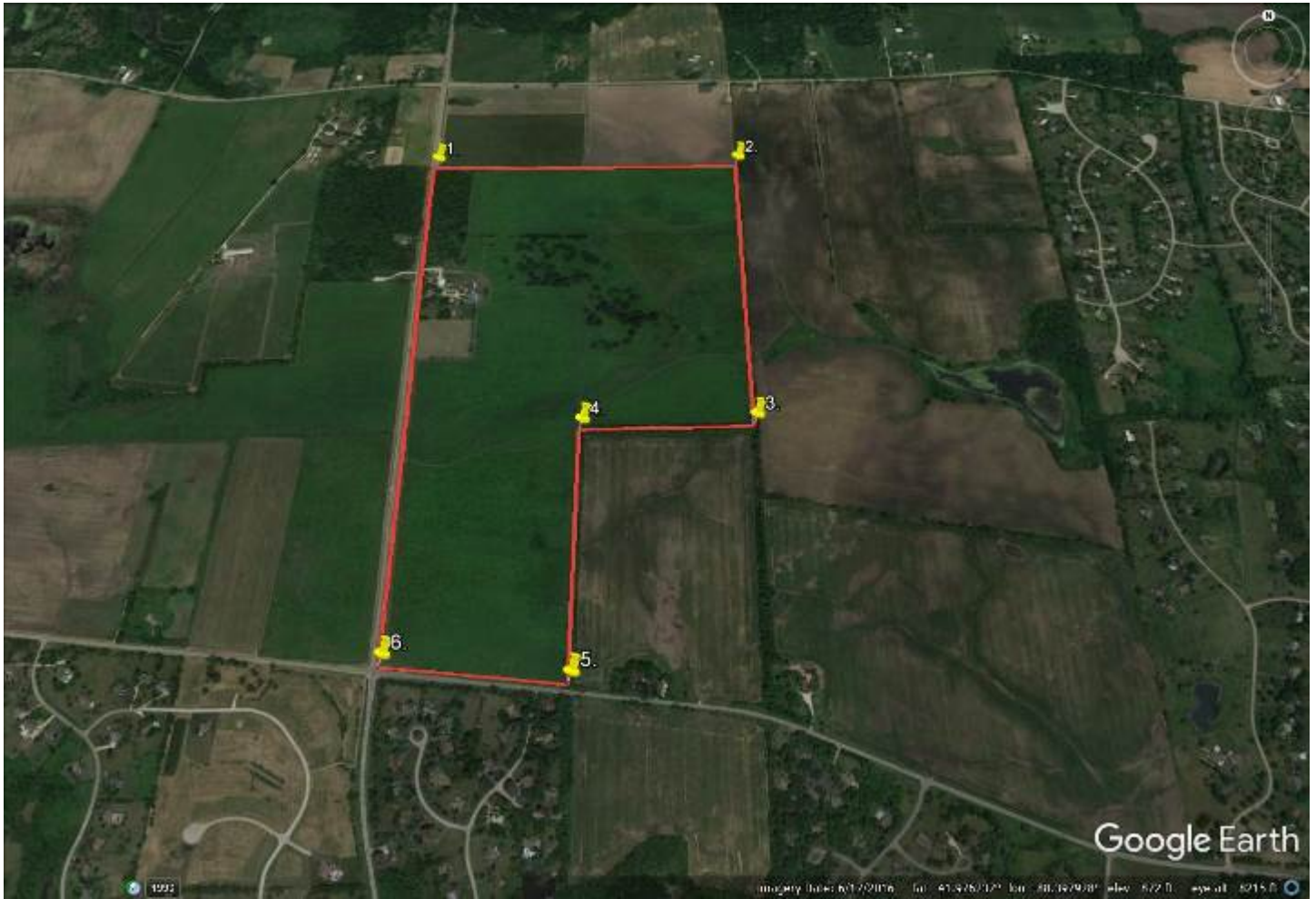
KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
County and State



**FIGURE 2: LOCAL LOCATION MAP**

CORRON FARM  
Name of Property

KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
County and State

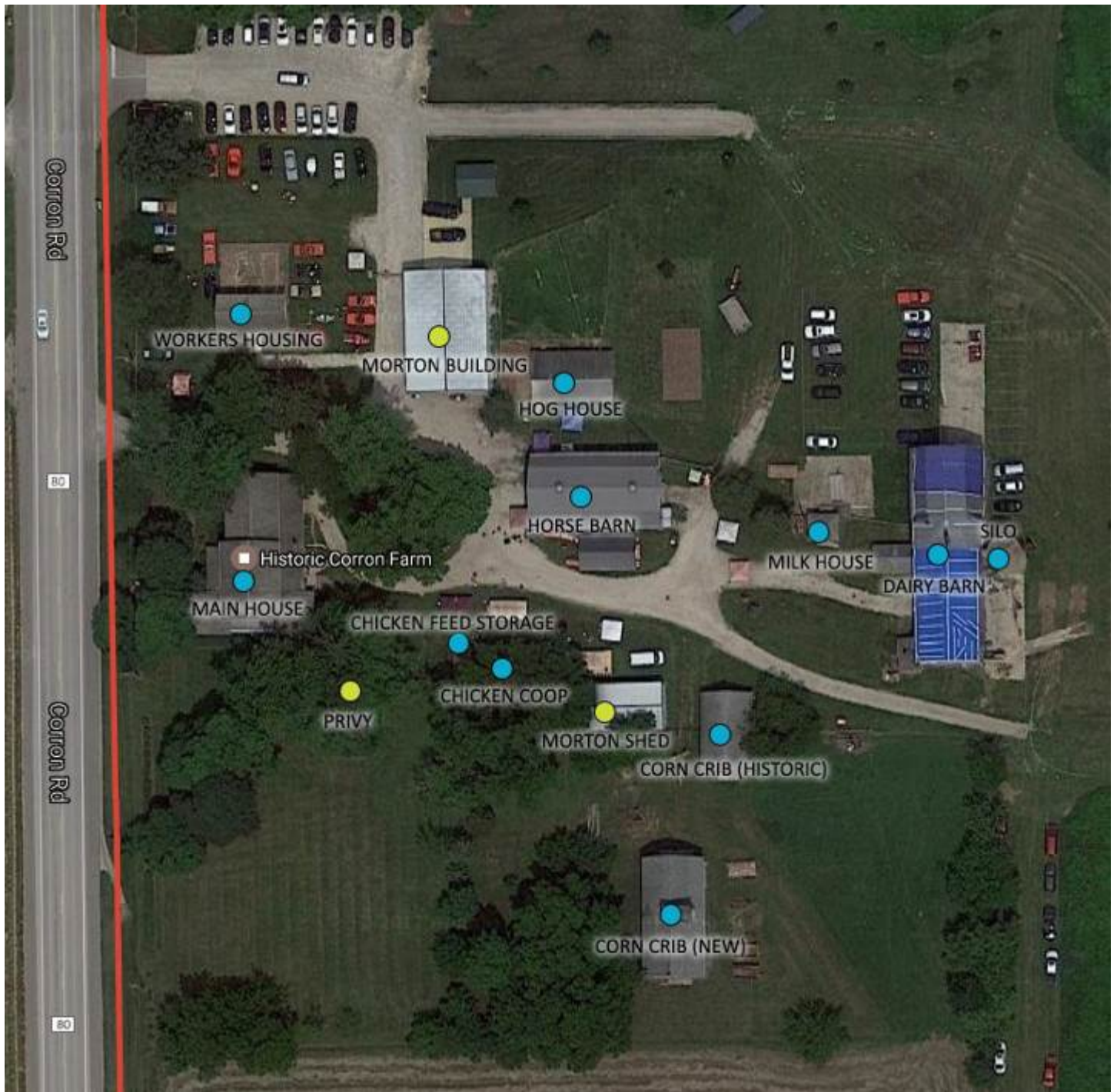


**FIGURE 3: MAP OF GIS POINTS**

1	41.984079°	-88.405046°
2	41.984191°	-88.395300°
3	41.976851°	-88.395202°
4	41.976737°	-88.400097°
5	41.971263°	-88.400120°
6	41.971623°	-88.404810°

CORRON FARM  
Name of Property

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**FIGURE 4: BUILDING KEY**

\*Contributing Buildings are marked with blue dots and non-contributing with green dots.

CORRON FARM  
Name of Property

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County and State

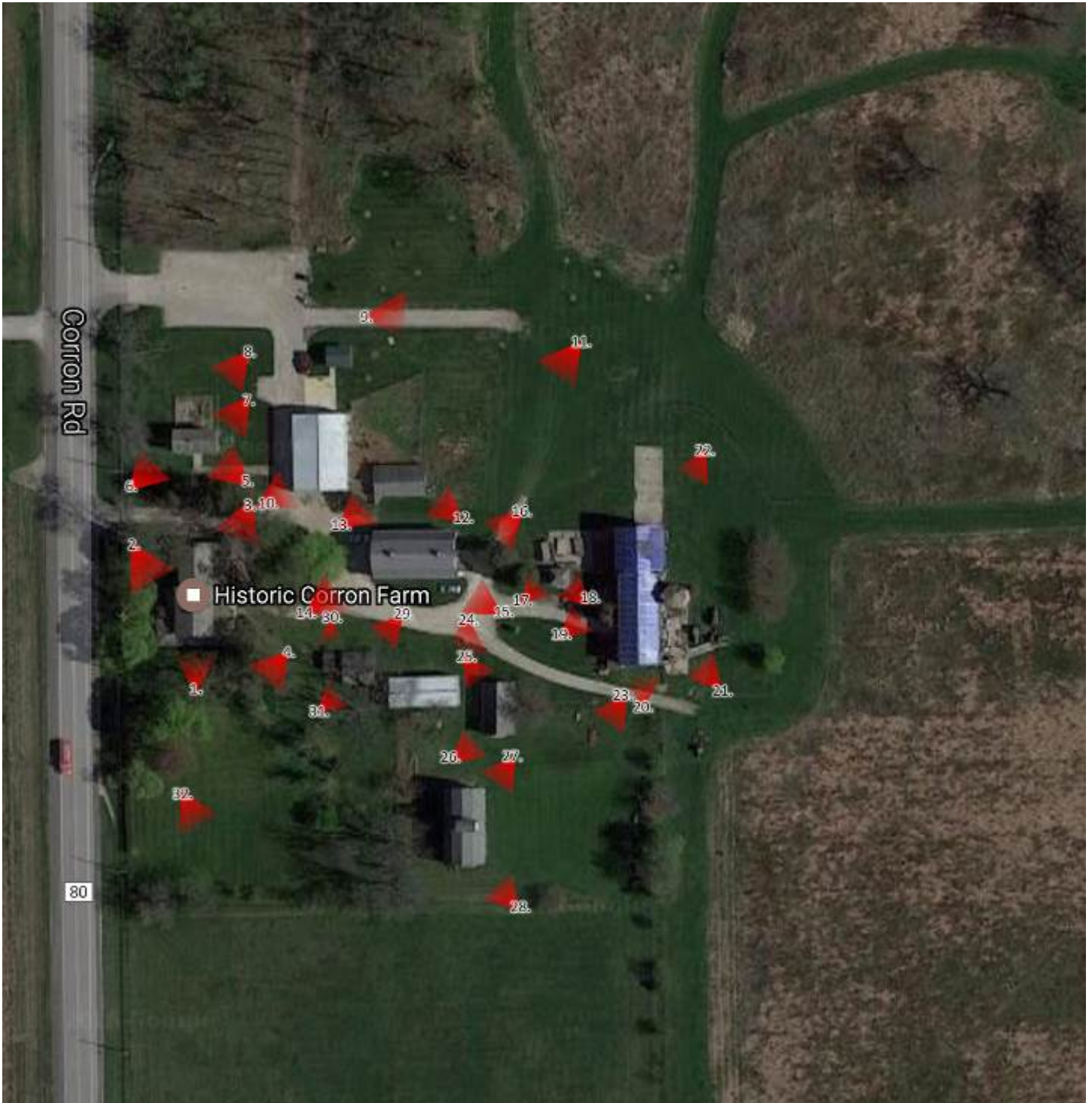


FIGURE 5.a: PHOTOGRAPH NO. 1-32 KEY \*Photograph number identifies location of camera.

CORRON FARM  
Name of Property

KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
County and State

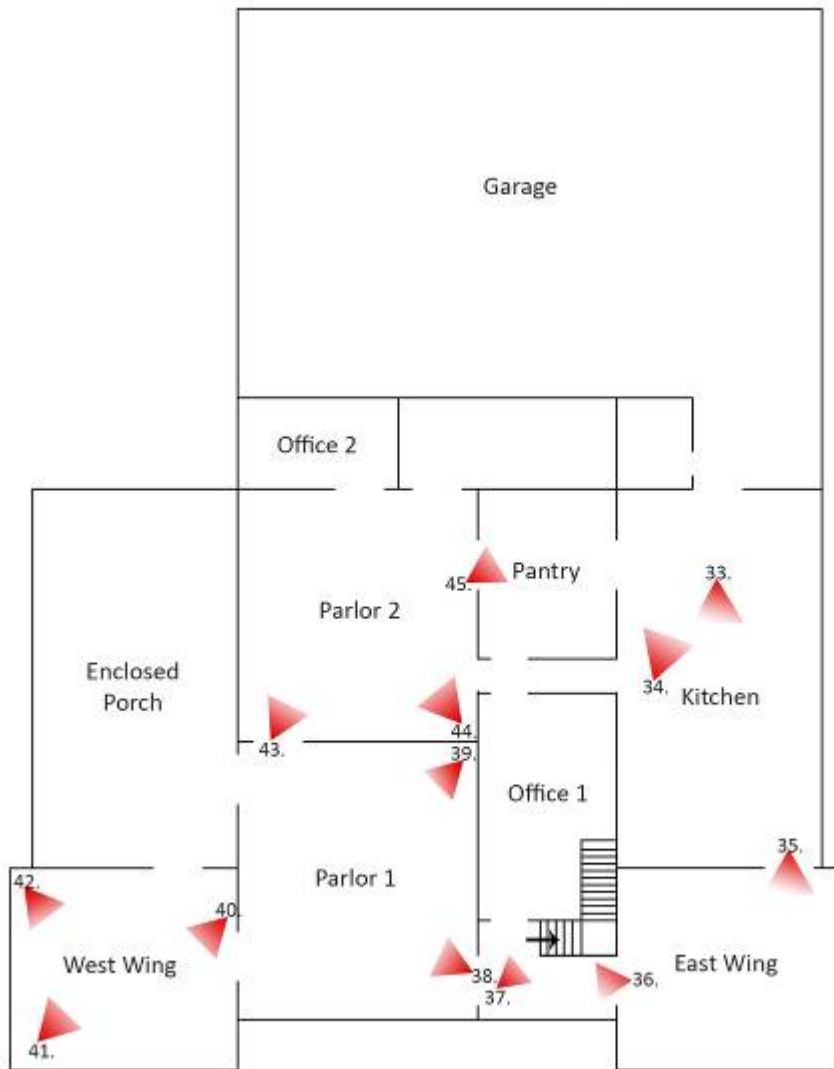


FIGURE 5.b: PHOTOGRAPH NO. 33-45 KEY \*Photograph number identifies location of camera.

CORRON FARM  
Name of Property

KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
County and State

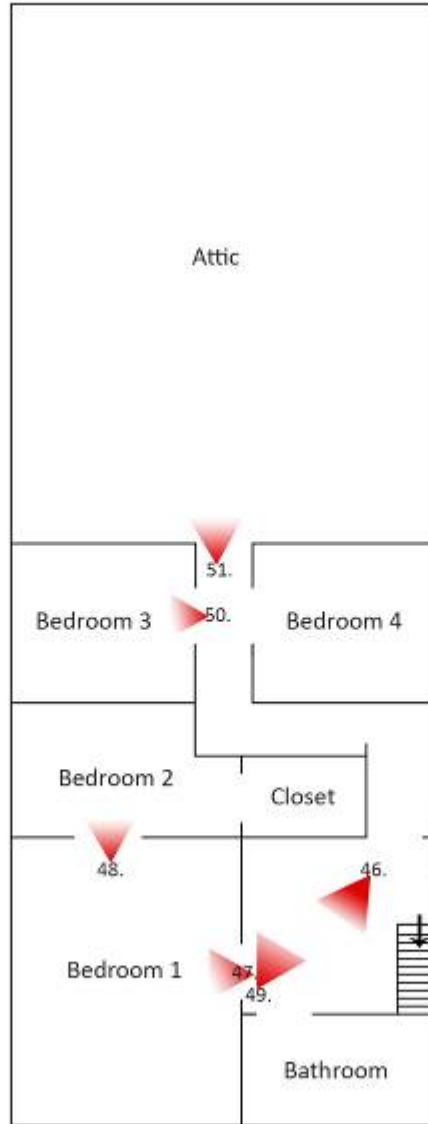
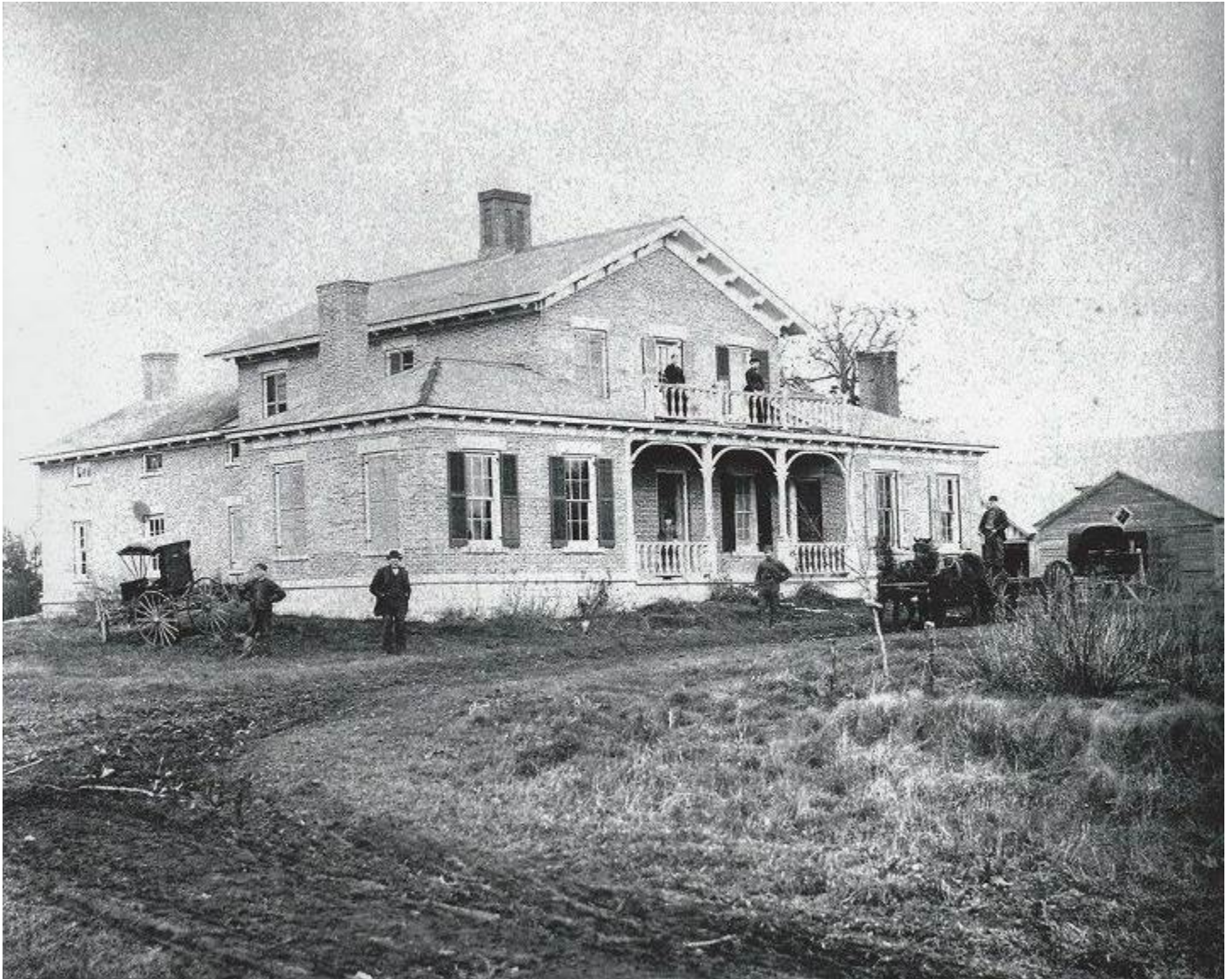


FIGURE 5.c: PHOTOGRAPH NO. 46-51 KEY \*Photograph number identifies location of camera.

CORRON FARM  
Name of Property

KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
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**FIGURE 6: Corron Farm main house with Robert Corron and Carriages looking northeast, dated 1890.**



CORRON FARM  
Name of Property

KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
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**FIGURE 7: View of Corron Farm looking southeast from Corron Road, dated 1890.**

CORRON FARM  
Name of Property

KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
County and State



**FIGURE 8: View of Corrón Farm looking west from dairy barn, dated 1920.**

CORRON FARM  
Name of Property

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**FIGURE 9: Aerial view of Corron Farm, outlined in red, dated 1939.**

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**FIGURE 10: Aerial view of Corron Farm, dated 1964.**

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**FIGURE 11: Aerial view of Corron Farm, dated 1972.**

CORRON FARM  
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KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
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**FIGURE 12: Aerial view of Corron Farm, dated 1976.**

CORRON FARM  
Name of Property

KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
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FIGURE 13: Map of Corron Farm by historic land uses with descriptions of Campton Township restoration scope.































CAUTION  
AUTHORIZED  
ENTRY

ROBERT CORRON FARM  
1835





MOVING  
PIT STOP  
530-377-7000









CAUTION  
AUTHORIZED  
ENTRY  
ONLY



CAUTION  
AUTHORIZED  
ENTRY  
ONLY



CAUTION  
Hazardous  
Materials  
May Be Present











CAUTION  
WIPED  
ENTRY





















































CAMPTON TWP.  
PARK STAFF



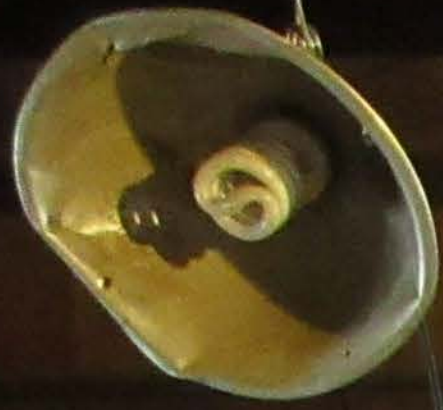




0 00 81099  
00022 5

OLIVER 800 GAS TRACTOR  
RED WING SHO

056  
DAILY



National Register of Historic Places  
Memo to File

# Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received:  Date of Pending List:  Date of 16th Day:  Date of 45th Day:  Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept  Return  Reject  Date

Abstract/Summary  
Comments:

Recommendation/  
Criteria

Reviewer Barbara Wyatt Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2252 Date

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

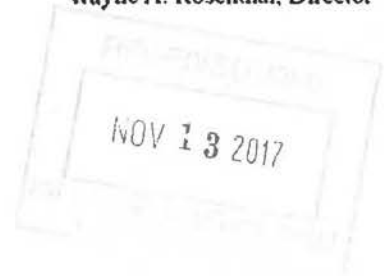


## Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271  
www.dnr.illinois.gov

Bruce Rauner, Governor

Wayne A. Rosenthal, Director



November 7, 2017

Ms. Barbara Wyatt  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Wyatt:

Enclosed are the disks that contain the true and correct copies of the National Register nomination recommended for nomination by the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council at its October 27, 2017 meeting and signed by the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer:

**Peabody -- Chicago, Cook County**  
**Corron Farm -- St. Charles vicinity, Cook County**  
**LaSalle Downtown Commercial District -- LaSalle, LaSalle County**  
**Lumpkin Heights and Elm Ridge Subdivision Historic District -- Mattoon, Coles County**  
**Emmanuel Episcopal Church -- LaGrange, Cook County**

Please contact me at 217/785-4324 if you need any additional information. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Heckenkamp". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

Andrew Heckenkamp, Coordinator  
Survey and National Register program  
Illinois State Historic Preservation Office  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

enclosures

56-1925

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. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Corron Farm

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Multiple Property Listing \_\_\_\_\_

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

## 2. Location

street & number 7N761 Corron Road  not for publication

city or town St. Charles  vicinity

state Illinois county Gene zip code 60175

## 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

[Signature] 11/06/2017  
Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date

Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
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

## 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

CORRON FARM  
 Name of Property

KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
 County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
 (Check as many boxes as apply.)

**Category of Property**  
 (Check only **one** box.)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
 (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
10	3	buildings
1		site
1		structure
		object
12	3	<b>Total</b>

**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/processing
- AGRICULTURE/storage
- AGRICULTURE/agricultural field
- AGRICULTURE/animal facility
- AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
- LANDSCAPE
- RECREATION & CULTURE/outdoor recreation

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- EARLY REPUBLIC/Early Classical Revival
- LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- foundation: Limestone/Concrete
- walls: Brick/Wood
- roof: Wood/Metal/Asphalt
- other: \_\_\_\_\_

Returned

CORRON FARM

Name of Property

KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

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---

### 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

Architecturally, Corron Farm is an excellent example of an early Kane County farmstead, settled by Robert Corron in 1835. The farm is roughly bounded by Corron Road on the west, Silver Glen Road on the south, and a stand of trees to the north and east, which serve as the historic boundary markers between it and the adjacent farms. These boundaries are part of the historic boundaries of the 220 acres first settled by Robert Corron in 1835 and officially purchased by him between December 1843 and July 1848. The farmstead is intact and exhibits changes typically experienced by Kane County farms from the mid-1800s to the mid-1900s. Built by four generations of Corrons, the significant farm structures include the main house, workers' housing, dairy barn, horse barn, a silo, two corn cribs, a milk house, a chicken coop, a chicken feed house, and a hog house. Additionally, there are two pre-fabricated shed buildings constructed during the 1970s that are non-contributing to the farm and a privy moved to the site from a nearby farm later in the site's history. The period of significance is from 1835, the date Robert Corron first settled the land, to 1967, the fifty-year cutoff for significance for the National Register.

---

### Narrative Description

Corron Farm is located at 7N761 Corron Road in Campton Township, Illinois. The farm is located on level land, surrounded by the native prairie and rolling hills common in the area. The land is mainly native prairies and meadows, with stands of trees at its borders, and a small, dense stand of timber at the northwest corner of the property. To the south of the stand of timber is a gravel parking lot used by visitors to Corron Farm. Additionally, there are trees surrounding the main house which provide shade and cooling during the summer and an oak savanna in the north central portion of the 220 acres divides the prairie into a wet prairie to the east and a hayfield to the west. The prairie to the south of the main farm once served as cropland. Today, the land is used by Campton Township which is working to restore the native landscape and has built hiking trails throughout the north and central areas of the 220 acres.

Corron Farm consists of a main farmhouse, workers housing, dairy barn, silo, milk house, horse barn, two corn cribs, privy, hog house, chicken coop and feed storage, and two pre-fabricated outbuildings. The buildings at present can be grouped into four major categories: house-related, barns, livestock sheds, and feed-related, and storage.

The farm is arranged around a circular drive, which creates a loop from the rear of the main house where the garage is located to the rear of the Horse Barn. Branches from the drive lead to the corn cribs and side/rear of the dairy barn; to the front of the dairy barn and milk house; and to the Morton building and hog house.

Below is a description of each of the contributing and non-contributing resources:



CORRON FARM  
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## **CONTRIBUTING**

### Main House

The house is a hybrid of the Early Classical Revival and Italianate styles. The form of the main house is two-story central section flanked by one-story wings. The foundation is limestone. The center gabled section is three bays wide and four bays deep. At the first floor, a front porch runs the length of the center section which is ornamented by three wooden arches between four chamfered columns. The second floor of the center section is detailed with a wood balustrade. The wings are two bays wide and two bays deep.

Throughout the residence, brackets line the cornice at the first and second floors at all façades and the windows are six-over-six wood, double-hung. Many of lintels on the north side of the house show that they were originally "dressed" but today most of the decorative work has weathered away. The two wings are set about one bay forward creating an enclosed porch. There are four fireplaces in the house one at the far end of each wing, one in the center of the house and one at the end of the north section or service area.

The north end of the house, directly behind the center gable, was originally built to serve as a carriage house and to store wood. There was a large built-in oven where the household baking was done in the north wall of the carriage house. Next to the oven was a small room, which was originally used for storing ashes for making soap. A second small room inside the carriage house was used for smoking meat.

Except for the west porch which was enclosed in 1926, the exterior of the house remains unchanged since 1854.

### Workers Housing

The workers housing or "hired hands house", built c. 1888, is an example of the I-House residential form with Italianate Details. The side-gable house is three bays wide by one bay deep, two-stories in height and clad in wood clapboards. The main entrance is centered at the front façade. The wood paneled door and wood transom above are flanked by Italianate carved brackets supporting the hipped roof over the entrance. The first and second stories of the side bays at the south (front) façade have one, four-over-four double-hung window, centered in each bay. The wood windows are detailed with wood sills and carved wood window hoods. The east and west (side) façades are identical with two windows at the first and second floor, centered in each bay. The window details are identical to those on the front façade. The kitchen wing was originally located on the north (rear) of the structure but was removed in the 1980s as part of a plan to relocate the house to Garfield Farm. The original foundation is still visible. The house was lived in for one year and was not lived in again. Robert Corron had the help of hired hands until the 1960s and many of them lived in the main house with the family.

### Dairy Barn

The south end of the dairy barn was built in the summer of 1875 with an addition added to the north in 1915. It is of heavy timber frame construction with board and batten siding on a limestone foundation. It has a gable roof that is covered in asphalt shingles. The 1915 addition has a gambrel roof and a concrete foundation. The Dairy Barn has a large concrete silo on its west side. The 1875 portion has elements of Italianate ornamentation with one crowned window and two ornate ventilators.

### Silo

The silo is located at the center of the west elevation of the Dairy Barn. The silo dates to c.1915 based on its form and the construction of the 1915 addition to the Dairy Barn. It is a poured concrete ring silo with a metal roof.

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### Horse Barn

The horse barn was built in 1916 and is rectangular in plan and three-stories tall. The horse barn has a concrete foundation, timber framing, vertical board-and-batten siding, a gambrel roof with a hay hood at the east end and is topped by two metal ventilators. At the west (front) façade is a pair of sliding wood doors flanked by a two-over-two double-hung window. Beneath the peak of the gambrel roof is a pair of two-over-two double-hung windows.

On the north and south (side) façades there are four pairs of windows symmetrically placed along the first floor. At the first floor of the east (rear) façade is a pair of sliding wood doors flanked by small, square windows. At the second story is a single wood sliding door flanked on either side of a small, square window. Beneath the hay hood at the third floor is a hinged wood door, flanked on either side by a four-over-four double-hung window.

### Hog House

Built c.1910, the hog house is two bays deep with the south bay one-story in height and the north bay two-stories in height. Both bays have shed roofs, angled away from each other with exposed wood purlins and rafters. The hog house is frame construction and sits on a concrete foundation and is clad in vertical wood siding. On the south (front) façade of the structure there are four, four-light windows symmetrically aligned along the elevation and aligned with the space between each set of windows at the second story. At the far west end of the first floor is a door for human access. At the second floor are five sets of triplet windows. Each window has four-lights.

The east and west (side) façades are identical with a four-light window at the south and north end and a four-light window centered on the façade at the second story. The north (rear) façade has one four-light window centered on the façade and individual pen openings cut out of the concrete foundation to provide animal access to the exterior pens.

### Chicken Feed House

The chicken feed house is a small one-story structure located immediately to the west of the chicken coop. The feed house was constructed c.1915 of frame construction with a shed roof covered in asphalt shingles and a concrete foundation. There is one entrance at the center of the east (front) façade and a four-light window on the north and south (side) façades.

### Chicken Coop

Built c. 1910, the chicken coop housed chickens in the north section and a hatchery in the south section. The structure is one-story in height, frame construction with a concrete foundation and clad in board and batten siding. The north section has a front-facing gable roof with exposed purlins, while the south section has a shed roof. At the west (front) façade of the structure, the north section has a wood sliding door for human access with a four-over-four wood double-hung window immediately to the south. The south section also has a wood sliding door for human access with two four-light windows at the south end of the west (front) façade.

The south (side) façade of the structure is the south wall of the hatchery which has six four-light windows centered on the façade. The east (rear) façade has a four-over-four wood double-hung window centered on the east wall of the north section and a six-light wood window centered on the east wall of the south section. The north (side) façade has no fenestration openings.

### (Historic) Corn Crib

CORRON FARM

Name of Property

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County and State

The historic corn crib at Corron Farm was constructed in 1910 and is a double corn crib with a central passage for machinery flanked by the corn storage areas. The crib is of wood construction with a front-facing gable roof clad in asphalt shingles.

(New) Corn Crib

Built in 1960, it is of wood construction with a gambrel roof covered in asphalt shingles and a wood cupola located in the center of the roof ridge. The structure is a double corn crib like the historic corn crib, but much larger in size to accommodate a greater storage capacity.

Milk House

Built in the 1920s, the milk house is one-story in height and square in plan on a concrete foundation. The building is constructed of rusticated cast concrete blocks with a pyramidal hipped roof currently clad in asphalt shingles. There is one entrance at the south (front) façade with two wood doors to provide additional insulation on the interior of the building and four, four-light windows on the north (rear) façade which slide upwards on rails from the interior to provide ventilation.

*NON-CONTRIBUTING*

Privy

The Privy located on Corron Farm property was relocated from the Tucker-Hawkins Farm located at the northwest corner of the Corron and Silver Glen Roads in 2003. The Corrons relocated the Privy to Corron Farm after selling the acreage. The relocation is outside of the Period of Significance thus making the Privy non-contributing. The Privy is located where the original privy was believed to be, based on the location of the sidewalk from the main house to the point where the Privy currently is located and historically no other known structures were located on that site.

Morton Building

Metal prefabricated structure erected in 1979 for machine storage.

Morton Shed

Metal prefabricated structure erected in 1970s for equipment storage.

Corron Farm retains a high degree of integrity making it eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The majority of buildings, structures, and the site remain intact and have sustained little if any modifications. Modifications include the loss of the windmill and original privy and the addition of the Morton shed and building. As minor alterations, these changes have not impact the overall character and integrity of the farmstead.

CORRON FARM  
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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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1835-1967

**Significant Dates**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- 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.

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation** (if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Robert Corron (and Corron Family)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Returned

**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).

CORRON FARM

Name of Property

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Corron Farm was settled by Robert Corron in 1835. The farmstead is comprised of 220 acres, with ten contributing buildings, one contributing structure, three non-contributing buildings, and one contributing site. Corron Farm is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for Agriculture and Exploration/Settlement and Criterion C for Architecture. The fully intact Corron Farm and associated outbuildings and site represent the development of a mid-19th century farmstead during the early settlement period of Kane County and Campton Township - as well as Northeastern Illinois. The period of significance is from 1835 the year the land was first settled and farmed by Robert Corron, to 1967, the fifty-year cut off for the National Register of Historic Places. The farm is listed on the Kane County Register of Historic Places for historical and architectural significance "...as an excellent example of an early Kane County farmstead, having excellent architectural integrity, and a unique example of an architectural style".

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

### **HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF KANE COUNTY**

At the time Illinois received statehood, in 1818, records indicate that only Native Americans resided in the area now known as Kane County. Soon after, pioneers began to settle the area, forcing resident tribes west of Iowa.

In 1832, members of the Sauk and Fox tribes led the Black Hawk War of 1832 in an effort to regain their homelands. To aid against this uprising, United States Army troops under the command of General Winfield Scott were sent from the east to Chicago, where they were delayed by a cholera epidemic. While there were no battles in Kane County, Scott's men marched through the area on what is now Army Trail Road and forded the Fox River north of the present city of St. Charles near the Blackhawk Forest Preserve.

Within two years, Army Trail Road was followed by permanent European settlers west of Chicago. On January 16, 1836, the Illinois legislature formed a new county.

When Campton Township was first founded prior to 1835, the area was known for its tall and thick prairie grasses and the consistent natural prairie fires that left blackened wastelands behind them. At that time there were only a few hundred people living in Chicago, but Galena, in the western part of the state, was a busy city, having been settled about 1827, due to the government's interest in the lead mines. Aurora was settled in 1834; St. Charles in 1833; and Geneva, then called Herrington's Ford, was settled in 1834 and had the only post office in the area.

It wasn't until 1835, when the area saw its first permanent settlers, farmers from New Hampshire and Massachusetts, that Campton Hills was officially established. Robert Corron, who came to the area in October of 1835, was among those early settlers. They arrived by one of the two roads passing through the township: the St. Charles and Galena Road (now known as the Burlington Road) and an Indian trail which extended across the Fox River, just south of St. Charles.

Under the provisions of the Act of Congress of April 1820 entitled "An act making further provision for the sale of Public Lands," the early pioneers staked out their claim to the land on which they hoped to build their homes. The law provided that they clear the land, establish homes and when the land was put on sale in the land grant office in Chicago, they would be permitted to purchase it at \$1.25 per acre.

John Beatty was the first to arrive from Chicago by way of Crawford County Pennsylvania in March of 1835 to the area now known as Campton Township. He staked out his first claim in Section 36, but later located in Sections 26 and 35 and built the first log cabin in Campton near what is now Highway 38 and La Fox Road. Beatty made the prairie lands habitable by offering prairie clearing services for \$3.50 an acre. This soon attracted more farmers to the rich soils of the area not only from New England, but also from Sweden and Canada.

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In the 1840s there were forty one hotels between Campton Township and Randolph Street in Chicago. Elias Crary's log cabin on the St. Charles - Galena Road in the northwest part of the township served as an inn in the 1830s. Later he built a frame house which he used as a hotel for many years. In the 1840s Timothy Garfield on the St. Charles - Sycamore Road opened his house to the public. An inn called the Fairfield Exchange was operated by B. D. Mallory on the east edge of Campton (near the Norton home). In the southwest part of the township the Warnes also served travelers who needed lodging. Today there is only one public lodging place in Campton Township-- Serengeti Lodge. The coming of the railroads and the automobiles lessened the need for hotels.

After the 1840s, the township saw slow and steady growth until the opening of the Minnesota & Northwestern Railroad in 1886. A depot was built in what would soon become the town of Wasco and another at Lily Lake. Soon after post offices were established, furnishing the beginnings around which these two villages would grow. The railroad served the township faithfully for half a century, but with the discontinuance in the 1940s of passenger service its decline was rapid. The first depot in Wasco was destroyed by fire around the turn of the century, and the second is now the home of the Campton Township Assessor's Office.

During the latter half of the 19th century the railroad made Campton Township a significant stopover point between the wilderness of western Kane County and the City of Chicago. This new transportation line helped the township's commercial economy flourish with the need for hotels, taverns, and general stores.

A second development period came after the extension of the rail line westward and when some of the first roads opened in the early 1900s from Geneva to Rockford and St. Charles to Oregon, Illinois which branched off Burlington Road at La Fox Road, then Brown Road, on Route 64 to Hansen Road, through Canada Corners on the Iowa Chicago Trail, connecting with the Old State Road in DeKalb County, and on to Oregon. Campton Township saw a steady influx of families looking to move into the countryside of Chicago and commute to the city between 1900 and 1920.

Today, Campton Township retains a semi-rural, agricultural, small town character, with a population of just over 17,174 residents in 2010. The township is located on the western edge of the Chicago Metropolitan Area, roughly 50 miles west from downtown Chicago, in the center of Kane County. It is bordered by the townships of Elgin, St. Charles, Geneva, Blackberry, Virgil, and Plato which include the mature, higher density suburbs of Elgin, South Elgin, St. Charles, and Geneva to the east and the suburbs of Elburn, Lily Lake, and La Fox to the west which share a similar density and character with Campton Hills.

### **ROBERT CORRON FARM**

*The following history is partially excerpted from "The Robert Corron Family" written by Lucinda Corron in 1972.*

Robert Corron was one of the first non-natives to settle Campton Township. Robert was born on April 1, 1816 in Greenbrier County, Virginia to John G. Corron and Lucy Pinnell. Little is known about the Corron family except that they originally came from England. Lucy Pinnell was born in New York State in 1773, and her father, James Pinnell Jr., came to America in 1763 and during the Revolutionary War served as a bodyguard for Washington for seven years. Lucy married John G. Corron and together they had Robert and four other children: Rachel, James, Joseph and Delilah. Robert's father operated an inn in Greenbrier County, in the Allegheny Mountains, on the border between Virginia and West Virginia.

Robert spent his youth helping his father and in his spare time hunted in the mountains. Though Greenbrier County is very mountainous and heavily wooded, there is some farming in the area, with small grain and corn being the principal products. Dissatisfaction with selling liquor in their father's business and the institution of slavery in Virginia may have

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encouraged the Corrons to move West in search of better farmland. In 1834 Joseph Corron, Robert's older brother, left Virginia for Niles, Michigan, where his brother-in-law (Jacob Amick) was living. In the spring of 1835 Joseph left Michigan to settle in Illinois in the Fox River Valley near what is now South Elgin. Another brother, James, also settled in the South Elgin area, but he died in 1846. Later his son, Wesley Corron, moved to Campton Township.

Under the influence of his older brothers, Robert moved from Greenbrier County, Virginia to Kane County on October 16, 1835 and staked-out the property in Section 2 of Campton Township that he purchased from the Federal government between 1843 and 1848.

The existing 220 acres, owned by Campton Township, was officially purchased as follows:

- December 1843 the W ½ of the SE ¼ purchased from the U.S. Government
- July 1844 the W ½ of the NE ¼ purchased from the U.S. Government
- July 1845 Lot 1 of the E ½ of the NE ¼ purchased from the U.S. Government
- July 1848 Robert purchased Lot 2 of the E ½ of the SE ¼ from Chancy Benedict

Robert purchased an additional 110 acres in March of 1846, from Tucker and (Joseph) Corron, 29.57 and 78.79, respectively. The acreage was later sold out of the family and is now part of the Meissner-Corron Forest Preserve.

For six weeks Robert lived in an abandoned wigwag near the spring on what is now the Meissner farm. By the time winter arrived he had completed his log cabin. It first stood where the dairy barn now stands, but later was moved somewhere between the dairy barn and the horse barn.

On August 1, 1840 Robert Corron married Maria Eddy, daughter of Harry Eddy, who came to Kane County from Richfield, Otsego County, New York, in 1837. Maria was born in New York State on January 11, 1821. Five children were born to Robert and Maria: Adaline, November 11, 1845; Adelia, May 5, 1848; Addison, December 5, 1849; Mary J., April 3, 1852; and Flora M., June 6, 1861.

By 1850 the log cabin had become rather crowded, and Robert began building the brick residence that stands today. The bricks were made on the farm and the stone for the thresholds and windows was quarried in Batavia. Robert, his wife, and children moved into the brick residence in 1854.

The family made their living by raising crops in the early years and dairy production from a few cows, even providing milk to the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago.

Robert's first wife, Maria, died on October 11, 1870 and he remarried to Barbara Ann Thompson, called Anna, on September 11, 1871, who taught school near Wasco at the Whitney Schoolhouse at the corner of Wasco and Old Burlington roads. In 1875, Anna had a son, named Robert Myron Corron.

Around 1888, Robert Corron built the Workers Housing for a man he hired to run the farm because his son, Myron, was too young to run the farm and Robert wanted to retire. Arthur Durant, the man hired to run the farm, lived in it for only one year because Robert was not satisfied with the arrangement. Robert went on to run the farm until he died from pneumonia in 1904, at which time Myron was old enough to take over management of the farm.

Myron married Augusta Meissner in 1911. Together they made many improvements to the farm including the (historic) corn crib, the 1915 addition to the dairy barn, the horse barn, the tool shed, and enclosed the porch on the west side of the house. In 1931 the house was electrified. Myron and Augusta had three children: Robert Charles, Flora Jeannette and Calvin Morris. After graduating from high school, Robert Charles returned to the farm and worked with his father.

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Robert C. Corron married Lucinda Muirhead of Plato Center in 1946. They moved to the Tucker-Hawkins Farm, across the street from the family farm, on Silver Glen Road. In 1956 Augusta had a fatal stroke and Robert Charles and his family moved back to the family home and cared for his father until his passing in 1964. Robert C. Corron, the long-time Campton township supervisor, has since passed and today Robert's son David lives in the family home.

### **AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES OF KANE COUNTY**

*The following is excerpted from the National Register of Historic Places nomination form for "Garfield Farm and Garfield Tavern (Additional Documentation)":*

The earliest settlers in Kane County arrived in 1833 as farmers and located along the Fox River. As additional settlement occurred and the population grew, available land along the river diminished, forcing new settlers to purchase farmland to the west around the groves of trees. Once, the wooded areas of the county were claimed and technology allowed for the cultivation of the prairies, farmers expanded into the fertile grasslands to establish crop farms of wheat.

By the late 1830s, small industrial towns had grown up along the Fox River, while agriculture was the predominant source of income for western Kane County. The urban and rural populations supported one another. Urban centers provided services for the farmer such sawmills, gristmills, blacksmiths, harness makers, and wagon and carriage makers. In return farmers sold their surplus crops in town, supplying the urban centers with food.

Farm size continued to increase during the 1830s, 1840s, and 1850s. Newly developed farm machinery such as John Deere's moldboard plow in 1837 and McCormick's Virginia Reaper, first introduced in Kane County in 1846, encouraged an increase in farm size. A horse-drawn reaper could harvest one acre in two hours, while previously it took twenty-four hours with a scythe. Wheat soon became the dominant crop of the county because it was highly marketable. Prior to the Civil War, the farms in Kane County met local needs and those of the limited markets of the rapidly growing City of Chicago. In the 1850s the railroad began its expansion across Kane County. By 1860 the market was flooded with wheat causing a decline in the profits for wheat farming. Farmers in Kane County turned to the dairy industry. The railroads were instrumental in establishing Kane County as a prominent dairy region by providing lower livestock freight rates. This in turn, encouraged the shipment of milk, dairy products, and livestock to nearby markets. By the end of the 1860s the Fox Valley became a leading producer of butter, cheese, and other dairy products and crops were primarily grown for silage. The county's river towns were equipped with the necessary people, waterpower, transportation facilities, and river ice needed for the cooling and storage of dairy products.

By 1870 much of the croplands in the county were wheat, oats, and Indian corn. In 1893 depression swept the country leading to a rise in unemployment and a decrease in farm and crop values. After the Spanish-American War in 1898, the value of farmland began to rise as the nation overcame the depression. Acreage in Kane County which sold for \$.25 to \$1.25 in 1840, went for \$100-\$125 by 1908. The year 1909 is regarded by agriculture as being the one in which the farmer could purchase the most for his dollar. From 1900 to 1920 drainage districts were organized, ditches excavated, and drain tiles installed making the cultivation of most of the remaining wet prairie areas feasible and notably improving yields.

Prosperity lasted for the next two decades. In the early summer of 1920 another depression hit the agricultural and industrial communities. Farm values fell between 1920 and 1925, as did the value of livestock. Simultaneously the dairy industry flourished throughout the Midwest and the new competition forced prices down. Health regulations relating to livestock became stricter and by the 1930s and 1940s many small Kane County dairy farmers could not afford the necessary improvements to maintain their dairy businesses and returned to farming wheat and corn. With the arrival of the soybean, wheat became a less commonly grown crop in Kane County. By the end of the period of significance (1966), there were just over 1,500 farms in Kane County, compared to the 2,029 in 1945.



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Farmland in Kane County began to disappear in the 1980s as residential development expanded into rural agricultural areas. Today, crop farming is almost only corn rotated with soybeans. Dairy farming still exists as well as important agricultural products including cattle nurseries, greenhouse crops, and livestock.

As an example of agricultural practices in Kane County, the Corron Family raised crops and operated a dairy farm. The earliest agricultural records are the 1870 and 1880 Agricultural Census Schedules for Robert's farm.

Based on the available agricultural censuses the Corron's cultivated a productive dairy operation while also harvesting crops such as corn, oats, and hay, mainly for feed as well as growing potatoes, maintaining orchards, and being sheep shearers. The first agricultural census which surveyed Robert's farm was 1870. In this year the farm produced 1,182 pounds of wool, 400 pounds of butter, and 992 gallons of milk sold to factories, in additions to 70 tons of hay, 800 bushels of Indian corn, 1000 bushels of oats, and 150 bushels of Irish potatoes.

Over the next decade, the farm expanded significantly as it related to dairy production and subsequently crops used as feed. During this decade the farm produced 2000 bushels of Indian corn, 1200 bushels of oats, and 100 tons of hay. Wool fell to only 70 pounds and Irish potatoes stayed consistent at 150 bushels. Dairy production increased to 18,950 gallons of milk sold to factories who would manufacture the final product and 416 pounds of butter produced at Corron Farm.

The farm's success continued on through the 20th century with the farm managed by Robert C. Corron Sr. sons, Robert and David. Between 1975 and 2002 the Corron's planted 150 acres of corn each year and averaged about 100 bushels per acre, in addition to a harvest each year of roughly 15,000 bales of hay, 2,500 bales of straw, and 2,000-3,000 bushels of oats, which excludes the harvest kept as feed for the animals each year.

In 2002, the Corron family sold the farm to Campton Township and the Kane County Forest Preserve to be maintained as open space and preserved and enjoyed by the residents of Campton Township.

### **ARCHITECTURE OF CORRON FARM**

The land was first settled in 1835 and further developed and expanded over the course of four generations of Corrons. Buildings on the farmstead can be categorized by architectural style and form. Availability and locale determined the types of structural systems, materials, and millwork found in these buildings. The architectural style of Corron Farm is expressed through the main house, built in 1854, by Robert Corron, pursuing a dream to build a house similar to the one he saw as he was leaving his native Virginia. The residence exemplifies elements of the Early Classical Revival and Italianate styles, both nationally popular at the time.

#### **Early Classical Revival and Italianate**

The main house is a hybrid of the Early Classical Revival and Italianate styles. The Early Classical Revival style developed at the end of the 18th century (1770-1850) and derived architectural inspiration directly from the ancient buildings of Rome and Greece. Early Classical Revival buildings closely resembled by their successors during the Greek Revival Period; the doorway, cornice line, and type of column (Roman, Doric, or Tuscan Orders) are the three principal distinguishing features.

Typical architectural characteristics can include a symmetrical façade, often with a full-height portico; porch roof with a prominent centered gable; a semi-circular transom or fanlight normally occurs above the paneled front door; broken pediment over the entry door; modillions and dentils line the cornice; and double-hung windows with lintels above,

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symmetrically arranged often in pairs or groups of three. At Corron Farm the two-story central section of the residence is flanked by one-story wings, a form that mimics the Gable Front and Wing design of the Early Classical Revival style and windows are six-over-six double-hung, typical of the style.

The Kane County Rural Structures Survey did not identify any structures designed in the Early Classical Revival style, so it is unknown how many or if any comparable exist at this time. (The survey classified the main house as Greek Revival, but the center gabled and wing form is typical of the Early Classical Revival style and not Greek Revival.)

A popular 19th-century style (1840-1885), the Italianate was derived from the architecture of Italian villas and originated in England at the start of the Picturesque Movement. This style with its wide overhanging bracketed eaves was typically found on two and three story buildings. Varying forms include a cube with low pitched hipped roof, rectangular plan with front gable roof, or asymmetrical plan with cross hip or cross gable roof. Often this style included a cupola. In Kane County several Italianate Style houses have Greek Revival features such as entrance surrounds.

Typical architectural characteristics can include vertical proportions; tall, curved or arched topped windows and doors with hooded molds; stone trim with incised foliated ornament; wide eaves and cornices; large brackets, sometimes paired; intricate wood or pressed metal cornices; porches, both small entry and full width, of single-story height; and paired and single doors are common with large pane glazing in the door itself. Exterior Italianate details at Corron Farm include the front porch with its ornamented three wooden arches between four chamfered columns, a wood balustrade, and bracketed cornices at the first and second floors of the south (front) façade.

The Kane County Rural Structures Survey documented 177 rural Italianate residences in Kane County, of which 32% were constructed between 1833 and 1859. While a significant amount of Italianate residences were documented throughout the County, in Campton Township only 14 Italianate residences were identified, leaving the Corron Residence as one of few extant Italianate residences in the Township.

### Vernacular Architecture

The workers' housing on the farm is an excellent example of the early vernacular form, the I-House. An I-House is a larger, two-story version of the Central Passage form. This form is side gabled, one room deep and three to five bays wide, generally with a central hall that has one room on either side of the hall. The I-House was common during the Pre-Railroad era in the Tidewater South and expanded in popularity to Midland America with the expansion of the railroad and availability of light-weight lumber. I-Houses also became popular in the Midwest where long and confining winters made larger houses more of a necessity than in the South. Like the National Era Hall and Parlor forms, I-Houses were expanded with varying patterns of porches, chimneys, and rearward extensions.

The Kane County Rural Structures Survey documented 495 I-Houses in rural Kane County. Of the 495 I-Houses identified, 52% were constructed between 1860 and 1910, the national period of popularity for the form, making the I-House one of the most common forms in rural Kane County. The I-House at Corron Farm possesses a strong degree of integrity over other I-Houses through the county it remains relatively unchanged since 1888.

### The Farmstead

A farmstead consists of the buildings and adjacent service areas of a farm. In the Kane County Rural Structures Survey, a farmstead was defined as any site containing a house and at least one major agricultural outbuilding. An agricultural outbuilding is defined as any building used for running the farm other than a house for human habitation. Examples of agricultural outbuildings include barns, chicken coops, sheds, hog houses, granaries, silo, corn cribs, summer kitchens, smoke houses, outhouses, or pump houses. Structures historically associated with a farmstead include windmills, fences, and water tanks. Natural elements such as rows of trees and a garden may also be found on a farmstead.

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Buildings and structures on the farmstead were placed according to use and to take full advantage of environmental influences. Structures built in close proximity to the main farmhouse were directly associated with residential use, including the outhouse, summer kitchen, and chicken coop. Barns were built in the vicinity of the house so the farmer would be close to the livestock and equipment but far enough to prevent the spread of fire. If livestock was housed in the barn, the building was located near or had access to water. The silo and milk house were attached to or adjacent to the barn on a dairy farm, such as at Corron Farm. Silos provided convenient food for the cows and the milk could quickly be carried to the milk house for storage and temperature control. Structures such as the well, windmill, pump house, and water supply tank were usually grouped together on a hill or subtle rise in the land to provide power and water to the farmstead.

The main environmental factor affecting the layout of the farmstead was the wind. Wind generated power and dried the corn, but it also carried odors and its force could be destructive. Outbuildings including the barns, outhouse, chicken coop, hog house, and smokehouse were always positioned downwind of the house to carry their odors away from the residence. Rows of trees were retained or planted near the house to provide shade, beauty, and a windbreak.

Outbuildings such as corncribs and granaries were found on crop farms while dairy barns, milk houses, and silos were associated with dairy farms. Sheds, chicken coops, outhouses, windmills, and smokehouses were located on both types of farms. At Corron Farm agricultural outbuildings for crop farming and dairy farming are surviving, representing the diverse agricultural history of the Corron Family. Crop farming outbuildings which remain at Corron Farm include corn cribs, a chicken coop, and a hog house.

The corn crib was used as a storage facility for holding and drying field corn in the ear, which is then used for animal feed. Its features include slats (usually horizontal wooden ones) and/or wire netting for ventilation; doors in the ends for accessibility; and anti-rodent provisions (elevating it off ground level, tight flooring). Corn cribs can have gabled or shed roofs, while later 20th century corn cribs may have gambrel roofs.

Hatches in the roof, either cut right into the roof or elevated clerestory style, aided in filling, while doors at the bottom of the cribs helped in unloading. "Cribbing" boards came in several different profiles: slats on wedges; triangular slats cut from two-by-fours; and beveled cribbing. The last of these could be spaced an inch or so apart, thus providing ventilation; other types overlapped. Most corn cribs had wire mesh inside to protect from vermin.

Manufactured corn cribs were produced in the early twentieth century, but disappeared during the metal shortages of World War II. They became popular again post-World War II period, in the form of a cylinder with a conical roof. Unlike at Corron Farm which built the "new" corn crib of wood, metal cribs were adopted because they were less expensive than wood cribs, sturdy, and required little maintenance. Corn cribs became uncommon after the mid-1950s, when harvest technology changed in several ways: combines made it possible to shell corn in the field; and artificial dryers eliminated the need for a long drying period in the crib.

The chicken house or chicken coop provided shelter for poultry intended for egg laying or meat production, as it was at Corron Farm. Construction material was almost always frame. Poultry houses had either a shed roof or a gable roof. Windows along one side elevation afforded the light essential to chicken health. Small, hinged access doors, and ramps, allowed fowl to move in and out. Access doors for humans were placed either in the eaves side or in the gable end. The chicken house is usually located between house and barn, as at Corron Farm, especially for earlier farms; over time, poultry housing moved further from the house.

In the early 20th century, specialized hatchery businesses developed. These produced chicks which were shipped out when they were a few days old. At Corron Farm this was located in the south section of the Chicken Coop.

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The last crop farming related outbuilding is the hog house. The hog house is a separate building for housing hogs. The hog house is a low-lying building with a gabled or shed roof. Typical characteristics include individual pens for each animal, revealed on the outside by square openings on the side. Above this range of doors, openings or vents gave air and light. The hog pen was usually located on the forebay side of the barn, or between the house and barn and usually faced south, as it does at Corron Farm.

Surviving dairy farming outbuildings include the dairy barn and milk house. The Corron Farm dairy barn is a Basement Barn or English Barn raised up on top of a full basement. An English barn is a one-story barn that is not banked. It has three bays organized crosswise to the roof ridge - one for livestock, a central threshing floor, and a mow for hay, straw or sheaves. Sometimes the third bay was used as a granary. A central door, in the eaves side, leads to the threshing floor. The Basement Barn is differentiated from a Bank Barn as it is not built into the side of a bank, though there may be a bridge or ramp giving access to the upper level. Its upper level provided storage for hay and a central floor for threshing and machinery. The lower level has a lengthwise central aisle, and stanchions for dairy cows.

Additionally, Corron Farm retains an excellent example of a milk house, the small structure used expressly for isolating fresh milk from the smells, dust, and microbes of the barn environment. Before the milk house, farms stored and cooled fresh milk in the springhouse, which also provided a space for letting cream rise and for churning. The milk house was developed in the 20th century and would normally abut, adjoin, or sit near the barn and would be conveniently located near the roadside for easy pickup of goods. The milk house was a small (typically ten or twelve feet on a side) structure with a square or rectangular footprint. The USDA provided standardized plans for farm milk houses with dimensions ranging from 10x13 feet up to 12x20 feet. Construction materials were often masonry, including concrete block or rock face concrete. Most milk houses have gabled roofs, but some have a shed or hipped pyramid roof.

The most common location for this type of barn is across the road from the farmhouse, with the entrance just off the road, as at Corron Farm. These barns frequently had gambrel roofs for extra hay storage, even in the nineteenth century.

One of the significant architectural and visual features of Corron Farm is the extant outbuildings and high degree of integrity they possess. The outbuildings define the farmstead and maintain the original sense of the farm. The outbuildings include a poured concrete silo, two com cribs, hog house, chicken coop, chicken feed house, a milk house, and two metal Morton buildings (non-contributing).

The history and development of Corron Farm depicts the early exploration and settlement of the Midwest and northeastern Illinois, as well as the evolution and diversity of agriculture in Kane County and the state. The associated buildings and site retain a high degree of architectural integrity and historical significance making it eligible for listing to the National Register of Historic Places.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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**Additional Sources:**

Bureau of Land Management Land Patent Records

Corron Family Archives

United States Census Records

United States Agricultural Census

**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):

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 220 acres

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage; enter "Less than one" if the acreage is .99 or less)

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	<u>41.984079°</u> Latitude	<u>-88.405046°</u> Longitude	2	<u>41.984191°</u> Latitude	<u>-88.395300°</u> Longitude
3	<u>41.976851°</u> Latitude	<u>-88.395202°</u> Longitude	4	<u>41.976737°</u> Latitude	<u>-88.400097°</u> Longitude
5	<u>41.971263°</u> Latitude	<u>-88.400120°</u> Longitude	6	<u>41.971623°</u> Latitude	<u>-88.404810°</u> Longitude

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

Corron Farm is bounded by Corron Road to the west, Silver Glen Road to the south, and a stand of trees to the north and east.

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

The boundaries selected are based on the historical boundaries of Robert Corron's Farmstead.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Erica Ruggiero/Historic Preservation Specialist date July 10, 2017  
organization McGuire Igleski & Associates, Inc. telephone (847) 328. 5679 ext. 114  
street & number 1330 Sherman Avenue email erica@miarchitects.com  
city or town Evanston state Illinois zip code 60201

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **GIS Location Map (Google Earth or BING)**
- **Local Location Map**
- **Site Plan**
- **Floor Plans (As Applicable)**
- **Photo Location Map** (Include for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map and insert immediately after the photo log and before the list of figures).

CORRON FARM  
Name of Property

KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
County and State

**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 pixels, 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:** Corron Farm  
**City or Vicinity:** St. Charles  
**County:** Kane **State:** Illinois  
**Photographer:** Erica Ruggiero  
**Date Photographed:** December 30, 2016

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

**Photo 1 of 51:**

View of south façade Main Residence looking south

**Photo 2 of 51:**

View of the west façade of the Main Residence looking southeast.

**Photo 3 of 51:**

View of the north and east façades of the Main Residence looking southwest.

**Photo 4 of 51:**

View of the Privy looking southwest.

**Photo 5 of 51:**

View of the Workers Cottage looking northwest.

**Photo 6 of 51:**

View of the Workers Housing looking northeast.

**Photo 7 of 51:**

View of the Workers Housing looking southwest.

**Photo 8 of 51:**

View of the extant kitchen wing foundation at the Workers Cottage.

**Photo 9 of 51:**

View of the Farmstead looking east.

**Photo 10 of 51:**

View of the Morton Building looking northeast.

**Photo 11 of 51**

View of the Farmstead looking southwest.

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**Photo 12 of 51:**

View of the Hog House looking northwest.

**Photo 13 of 51:**

View of the Hog House looking northeast.

**Photo 14 of 51:**

View of the Horse Barn looking northeast.

**Photo 15 of 51:**

View of the Horse Barn looking northwest.

**Photo 16 of 51:**

View of the Horse Barn looking southwest.

**Photo 17 of 51:**

View of the Milk House looking northeast.

**Photo 18 of 51:**

View of the Milk House looking northwest.

**Photo 19 of 51:**

View of the Dairy Barn looking northeast.

**Photo 20 of 51:**

View of the Dairy barn looking north.

**Photo 21 of 51:**

View of the Dairy Barn looking northwest.

**Photo 22 of 51:**

22. View of the Dairy Barn looking southwest.

**Photo 23 of 51:**

23. View of the Farmstead looking southwest.

**Photo 24 of 51:**

View of the Historic Corn Crib, New Corn Crib, and Morton Shed looking south.

**Photo 25 of 51:**

View of the Historic Corn Crib looking southeast.

**Photo 26 of 51:**

View of the Historic Corn Crib looking northeast.

**Photo 27 of 51:**

View of the New Corn Crib looking southwest.

Returned



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**Photo 28 of 51:**

View of the New Corn Crib looking northwest.

**Photo 29 of 51:**

View of the Chicken Coop looking southwest.

**Photo 30 of 51:**

View of the Chicken Feed House looking south.

**Photo 31 of 51:**

View of the Chicken Coop looking northeast.

**Photo 32 of 51:**

View of the Farmstead looking southeast.

**Photo 33 of 51:**

View of the Kitchen looking south.

**Photo 34 of 51:**

View of the Kitchen looking north.

**Photo 35 of 51:**

View of the East Wing looking south.

**Photo 36 of 51:**

View of the Stair Hallway looking west.

**Photo 37 of 51:**

View of the Staircase at the First Floor.

**Photo 38 of 51:**

View of Parlor 1 looking northwest.

**Photo 39 of 51:**

View of Parlor 1 looking southwest.

**Photo 40 of 51:**

View of the West Wing looking southwest.

**Photo 41 of 51:**

View of the West Wing looking northeast.

**Photo 42 of 51:**

View of the West Wing looking southeast.

**Photo 43 of 51:**

View of Parlor 2 looking north.

Returned

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**Photo 44 of 51:**

View of Parlor 2 looking northwest.

**Photo 45 of 51:**

View of the Pantry looking northeast.

**Photo 46 of 51:**

View of the Second Floor Landing looking southeast.

**Photo 47 of 51:**

View of Bedroom 1 looking east.

**Photo 48 of 51:**

View of Bedroom 2 looking north.

**Photo 49 of 51:**

View of the Second Floor Landing looking northeast.

**Photo 50 of 51:**

View of Bedroom 3 looking east.

**Photo 51 of 51:**

View of the Attic looking north.

**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.

Returned

CORRON FARM

Name of Property

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**List of Figures**

(Resize, compact, and paste images of maps and historic documents in this section. Place captions, with figure numbers above each image. Orient maps so that north is at the top of the page, all document should be inserted with the top toward the top of the page.)



**FIGURE 1: MAP OF CORRON FARM BOUNDARY**

CORRON FARM  
Name of Property

KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
County and State



FIGURE 2: LOCAL LOCATION MAP

CORRON FARM  
Name of Property

KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
County and State



FIGURE 3: MAP OF GIS POINTS

1	41.984079°	-88.405046°
2	41.984191°	-88.395300°
3	41.976851°	-88.395202°
4	41.976737°	-88.400097°
5	41.971263°	-88.400120°
6	41.971623°	-88.404810°

CORRON FARM  
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**FIGURE 4: BUILDING KEY**

\*Contributing Buildings are marked with blue dots and non-contributing with green dots.

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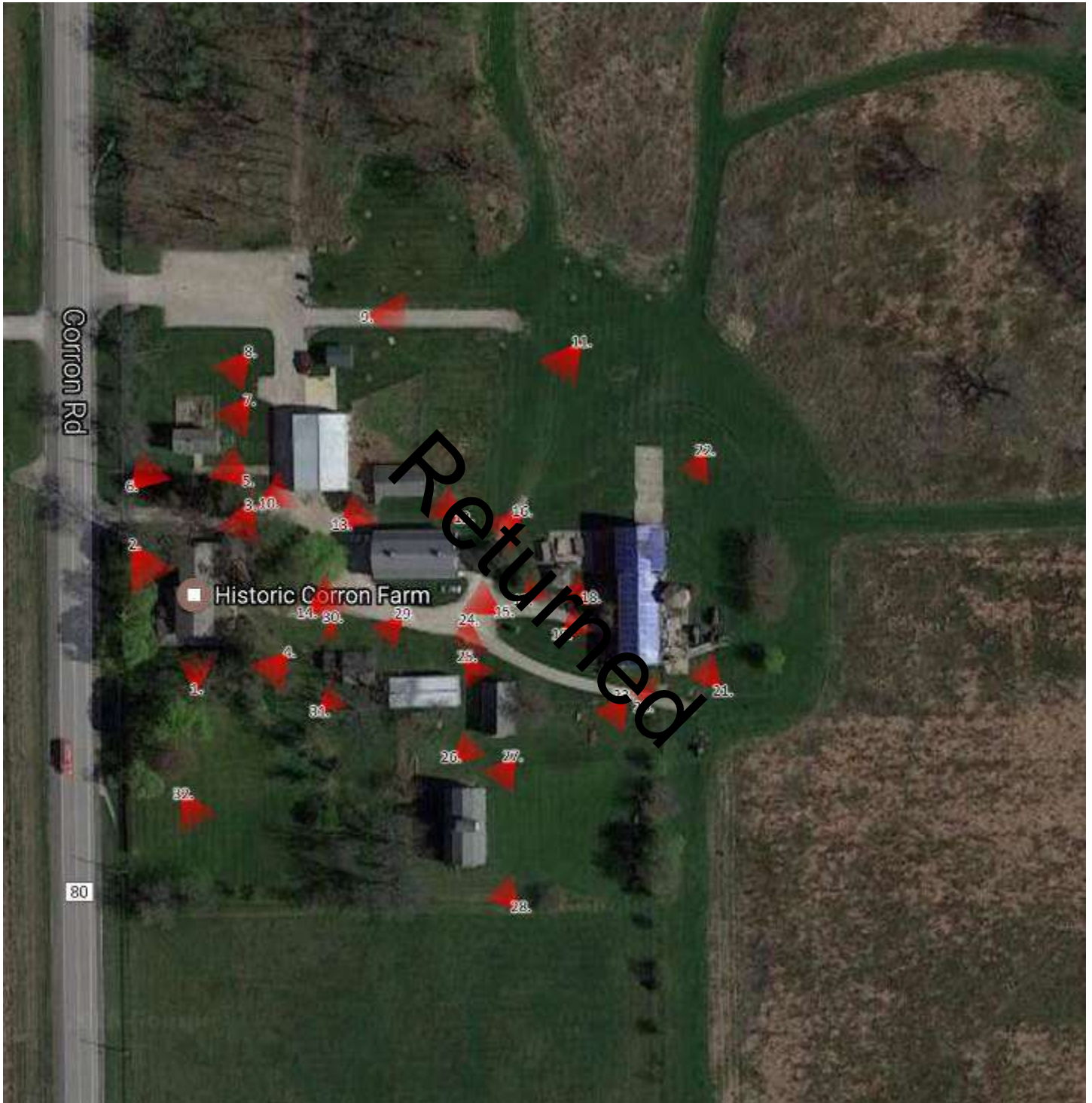


FIGURE 5.a: PHOTOGRAPH NO. 1-32 KEY \*Photograph number identifies location of camera.

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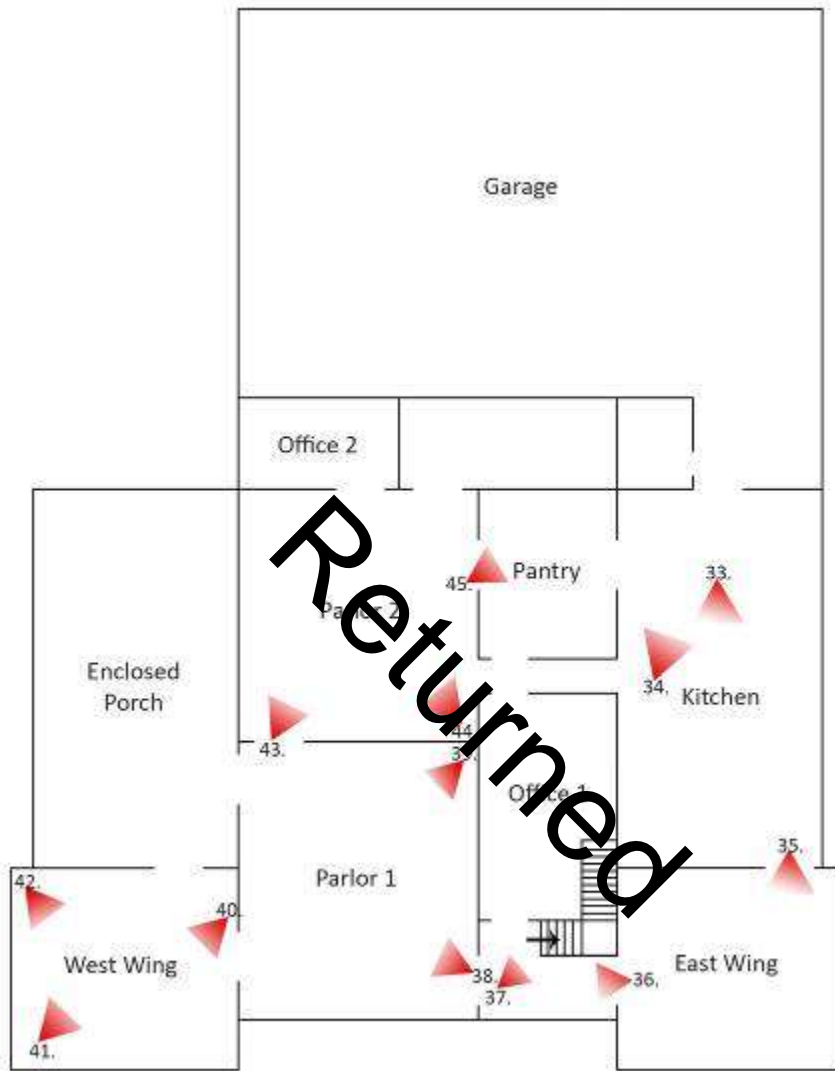


FIGURE 5.b: PHOTOGRAPH NO. 33-45 KEY \*Photograph number identifies location of camera.



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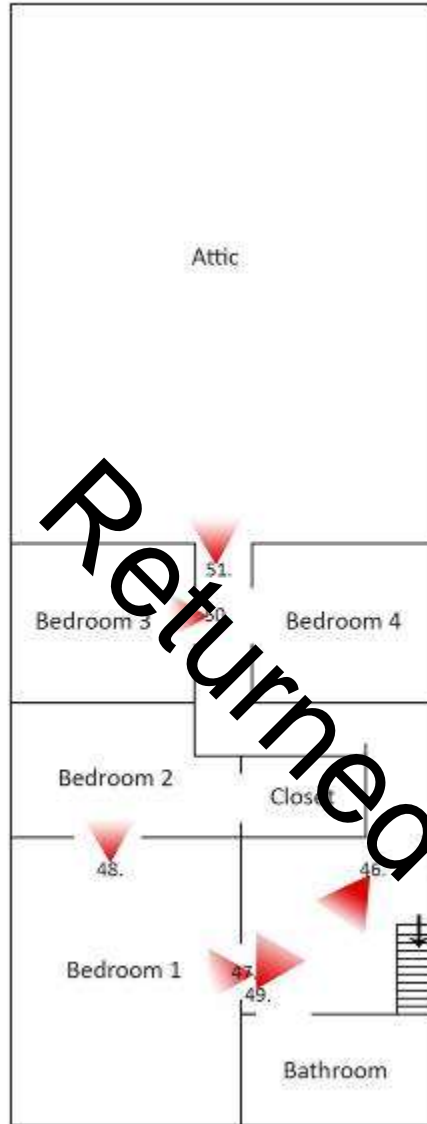


FIGURE 5.c: PHOTOGRAPH NO. 46-51 KEY \*Photograph number identifies location of camera.

CORRON FARM  
Name of Property

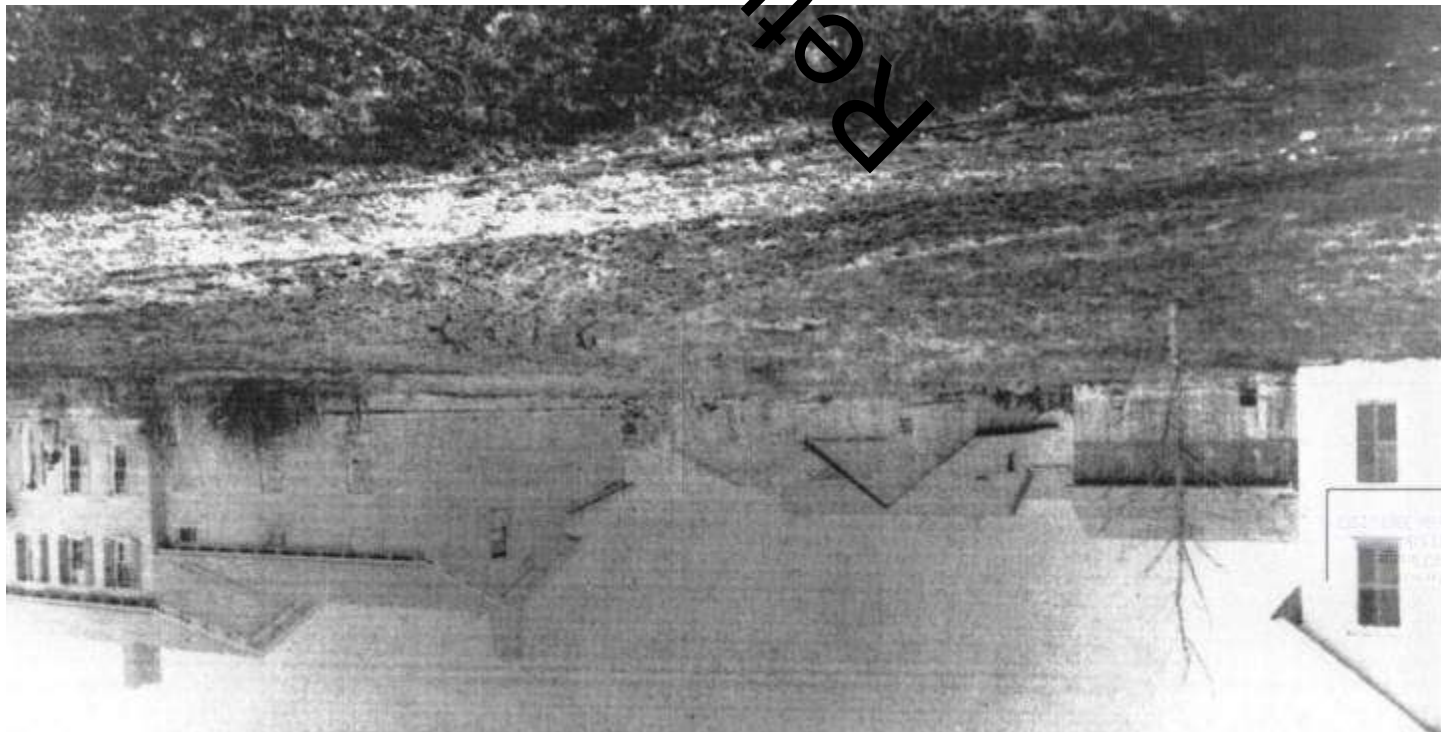
KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
County and State



**FIGURE 6: Corron Farm main house with Robert Corron and Carriages looking northeast, dated 1890.**

Returned

FIGURE 7: View of Corron Farm looking southeast from Corron Road, dated 1890.



NAME OF PROPERTY  
CORRON FARM

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KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

CORRON FARM  
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FIGURE 8: View of Corron Farm looking west from dairy barn, dated 1920

Returned

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 11/13/2017      Date of Pending List: 12/8/2017      Date of 16th Day: 12/26/2017      Date of 45th Day: 12/28/2017      Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept       Return       Reject      12/28/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Barbara Wyatt      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2252      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places**

**Comments  
Evaluation/Return Sheet**

**Property Name:** Corron Farm  
**Property Location:** St. Charles, Kane County, Illinois  
**Reference Number:** 100001925  
**Date of Return:** January 12, 2018

**Reason for Return**

This nomination is being returned for the additional information requested below.

**Lack of Landscape Information**

The nomination includes 220 acres that are probably the contributing site enumerated in Section 5. Section 7 should more explicitly describe the site and explain and inventory its contributing qualities. The description should include the historic appearance of the farm and its current appearance, particularly as related to the Agricultural significance claimed. National Register Bulletin 16 *How to Complete the National Register Registration Form* explains that the following landscape description is needed for historic sites (See "Guidelines for Describing Properties").

**HISTORIC SITES**

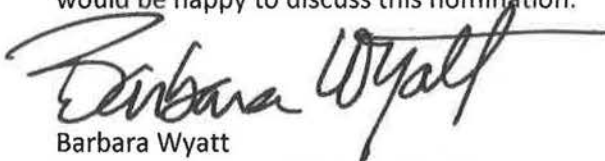
- A. Present condition of the site and its setting.
- B. Natural features that contributed to the selection of the site for the significant event or activity, such as a spring, body of water, trees, cliffs, or promontories.
- C. Other natural features that characterized the site at the time of the significant event or activity, such as vegetation, topography, a body of water, rock formations, or a forest.
- D. Any cultural remains or other manmade evidence of the significant event or activities.
- E. Type and degree of alterations to natural and cultural features since the significant event or activity, and their impact on the historic integrity of the site.
- F. Explanation of how the current physical environment and remains of the site reflect the period and associations for which the site is significant.

This has only been minimally addressed. The nomination for the Corron Farm does not explain how the farmland appeared historically and how much of the historic appearance of the landscape remains. The land has not been associated with the Agricultural significance claimed, as the buildings have. If the land is being transitioned to a park, with areas devoted to conservation and prairie restoration, how does it reflect the farm's agricultural history? The summary of the information in the agricultural census on page 12 could be used to surmise the features that were once extant, including the location of cultivated fields, pastures, and woodland. Historic aerial photos should be available to confirm historic land divisions. A description and evaluation of what exists now is also needed. Trails are mentioned. What else? Figure 1 is too small to convey any detail and Figure 4—of a good scale—only shows a small fragment of the farm, with a focus on the buildings.

Perhaps the farm land is not intact. If this is the case, it should be explained how the park with its trails and other amenities provides a viable setting for the historic farmstead (the collection of buildings). Further, if prairie restoration is underway, explain how that fits with the period of the farm and its significance.

Please provide a better explanation of the components of the property that are related to the Exploration/Settlement area of significance and explain specifically how the farm is significant in the area of Agriculture. Just being a farm is not enough. The success of the farm is described on page 12, but is the impressive production typical? Unusual? Was the Corron Farm exceptionally productive and lucrative compared to its neighbors? An elaborate economic analysis of the county's agricultural history is not needed, but it is necessary to explain how the Corron Farm stands out.

Please call me at 202-354-2252 or send an email to [barbara\\_wyatt@nps.gov](mailto:barbara_wyatt@nps.gov) if you have any questions. I would be happy to discuss this nomination.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Wyatt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Barbara Wyatt  
National Register of Historic Places



## Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271  
www.dnr.illinois.gov

Bruce Rauner, Governor

Wayne A. Rosenthal, Director

March 30, 2018

Ms. Barbara Wyatt  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228  
Washington, DC 20240



Dear Ms. Wyatt:

Enclosed are the disks that contain the true and correct copies of the National Register nomination recommended for nomination by the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council at its February 23, 2018 meeting and signed by the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer:

**Children's Village, Normal McLean County**  
**Samuel and Eleanor Himmelfarb House and Studio, Winfield, DuPage County**

**PLEASE NOTE: Corrections to the Corron Farm are also enclosed.**

Please contact me at 217/785-4324 if you need any additional information. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Andrew Heckenkamp".

Andrew Heckenkamp, Coordinator  
Survey and National Register program  
Illinois State Historic Preservation Office  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

enclosures