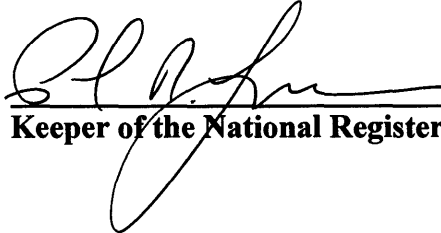


United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

The attached property, the **Strauther Pleak Round Barn**, part of the **Round and Polygonal Barns of Indiana Multiple Property Survey**, in **Decatur County, Indiana**, reference number **93000557**, was listed in the **National Register of Historic Places** by the **Keeper of the National Register** on **06/24/1993**, as evidenced by the **FEDERAL REGISTER/WEEKLY LIST** notice of **July 2, 1993**. The attached nomination form is a copy of the original documentation provided to the Keeper at the time of listing.


Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

9/25/2008
Date

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Pleak, Strauther, Round Barn

other names/site number Pleak-Morgan Barn

2. Location

street & number Moscow Road, .2 mile east of CR 100W N/A not for publication

city or town Greensburg vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Decatur code 031 zip code 47240

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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
State of Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper _____

Date of Action _____

Pleak Round Barn
Name of Property

Decatur Co., IN
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

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

Round and Polygonal Barns of Indiana

**Number of contributing resources previously listed
In the National Register**

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE: Animal facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE: Animal facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: True-circular barn

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls WOOD: weatherboard

roof ASPHALT
other WOOD: shingle

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Pleak Round Barn
Name of Property

Decatur Co., IN
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

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

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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1914 - 1936

Significant Dates

1914

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Historic Landmarks Foundation
of Indiana

Pleak Round Barn
Name of Property

Decatur Co., IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1,6	6,2,9,1,8,0	4,3,5,9,1,8,0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jerry McMahan
organization Historic Landmarks Foundation of IN date November 11, 1991
street & number 340 W. Michigan St. telephone 317/639-4534
city or town Indianapolis state IN zip code 46202

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form: -

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Ati Morgan
street & number Rt. 1, Box 194 telephone _____
city or town Greensburg state IN zip code 47240

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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 Pleak Round Barn
Decatur Co., IN

The Strauther Pleak Barn of Decatur County, Indiana, is one of the most interesting and unique structures in the state. Located in rural Decatur County near Greensburg, Indiana, the 1914 round barn with attached rectangular barn is surrounded by fields and open vistas of the countryside. The site is reached by a long gravel drive that passes the circa 1940 Indiana limestone ranch house, smoke house, spring house and garage, and then curves to the west near the round barn. This main drive then goes off to the south, returning to Moscow Road and creating a large enclosed pen that contains a chicken coop and smaller barn. The Pleak round barn maintains its integrity in relation to location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, meeting all of the standards set forth in the registration requirements for multiple property nominations.

The round, two story barn has very unusual massing as exhibited by a conical roof, silo and cupola, lending the appearance of a three tiered wedding cake. The main roofing system is a conical design that is penetrated by the large silo with square, single-paned windows. The silo is in turn capped by a round cupola with an even steeper pitched conical roof. The attached rectangular barn (built 1915) is covered in a gambrel roof. The balloon frame walls of both barns rest on poured concrete foundations.

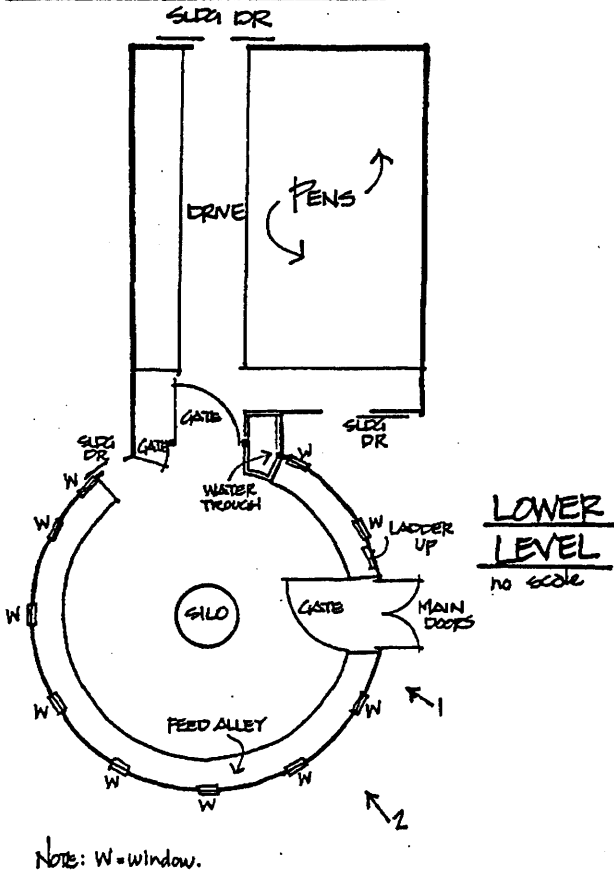
The roof surfaces of the round barn have been covered with asphalt replacement shingles. The eaves yield a shallow overhang and reveal the exposed rafters of the roof. Wall surfaces are original and are composed of decorative shingles on the cupola and horizontal wood siding on the silo and barn walls (photo 1). The rectangular barn is likewise sheathed in horizontal wood siding.

The principal or east facade (photo 2) is relatively simple. Centered on the circle's east/west axis, the large doors of vertical wood pieces swing out to offer access to the interior. Centered above these doors is an upper level hay door of the same width. Proceeding around the structure in a clockwise manner, there are eight evenly spaced square, single-paned windows on the lower level, followed by a large sliding door on the northwest, then the attachment to the rectangular barn and two more windows before returning to the main door. On the upper level, there are the upper hay doors mentioned previously, followed by a bay

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

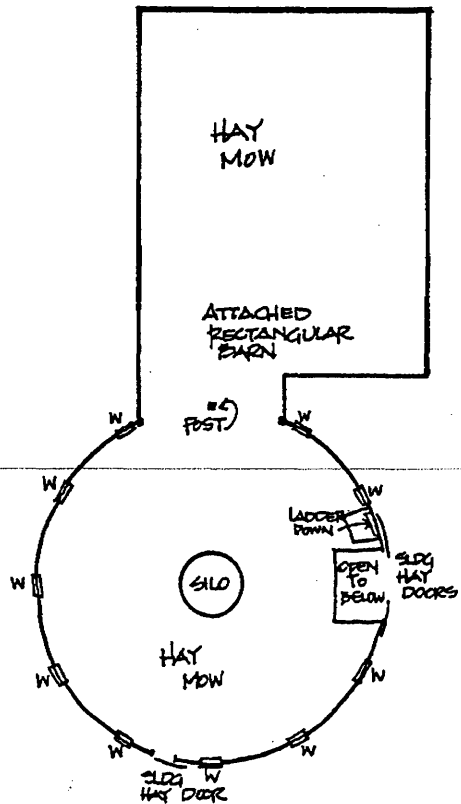


NOTE: W=window.

PLEAK (MORGAN) BARN

1914 TRUE CIRCLE
DECATUR COUNTY, INDIANA
WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
↑₁ = Photographic key

UPPER LEVEL
no scale



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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3 Pleak Round Barn
Decatur Co., IN

without a window, then a window positioned slightly lower than the other upper level units. Following this window is another upper level hay door of smaller width and then five windows centered above the lower level examples, along with another upper level window to the north of the east hay door. Finally, the silo has four square, single-paned windows, located on the four compass points while the cupola is devoid of openings.

The rectangular barn is very simple in design with equally spaced square windows along the east, west and north walls. There is a small sliding door on the south located near the connector to the round barn and a large door on the north that opens into the main drive.

The interior of the barn (see floor plan) is likewise very interesting with the exposed balloon framing and the circular laminated beam overhead at the barn's perimeter. When entering the round barn through the main east door, there is an opening overhead to allow access to the upper level hay door. This open space extends out approximately four feet or the width of the feed alley that runs around the perimeter of the lower level. There is a gate that separates the central area from the main entrance, with the gate being hung on the corner posts of the feed alley. Moving around the lower level in a clockwise manner, the feed alley extends all the way around to the northwest corner where it breaks for the sliding door to the outside. On the north end of the barn, there are three large posts that open to the connector to the rectangular barn and form two openings with gates. Next is a built in concrete water trough used to water the animals and finally, a smaller feed alley returns to the main doors. In the center of the space is the octagonal silo that becomes circular above the roof line. Originally constructed of 2"x6" lumber stacked flat and coated on the inside with tar, this treatment was not sufficient. Consequently, the silo was made circular by the addition of a brick and concrete plaster lining on January 28, 1917, a date inscribed on the silo's interior. Finally, the interior of the attached rectangular barn is composed of a series of pens on either side of the drive that connects the north door with the round structure. There is also a small walkway that connects the main drive with the sliding door on the south.

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National Park Service**

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Section number 7 Page 4 Pleak Round Barn
Decatur Co., IN

To the north of the main door, inside the feed alley, is a ladder that ascends to the upper level. On the upper level or hay mow area, it becomes apparent how the silo, which was constructed first, helps to support the roof. The balloon framing members of the roof system are tied into the silo for support and have contributed to the longevity of the roof. These members radiate inwardly from the exterior walls to the barn's central silo and are infilled with lath that supported the original wood shingles. The area on the upper level is open with eight windows and two hay doors, the larger being located on the east with an opening in the floor to allow greater access. As on the lower level, there are three posts that form two large openings to the rectangular barn on the north. The rectangular barn is left open for hay and straw storage.

The historic fabric of the Pleak (Morgan) barn is wonderfully preserved and the owner still uses the barn today.

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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 5 Pleak Round Barn
Decatur Co., IN

The Strauther Pleak round barn, located in Washington Township of Decatur County, Indiana, is significant under Criteria A and C for its association with the development of round and polygonal barns in Indiana (see historic context, "Round and Polygonal Barns in Indiana"). The Pleak Barn is significant within the context as a rare example of a round barn which was later combined with a rectangular barn. The barn is an important and direct link to the agricultural development that occurred in the state from 1850 to 1936 (and beyond) and has changed little since its construction in 1914. The period of greatest significance of the barn was from 1914 to the mid 1930s when round and polygonal barns lost their popularity. By 1936, round and polygonal barns were considered obsolete and the last round structure was built in the state to replace a 1915 round barn that had burned (Grant County, Richland Township, extant).

The owner of the barn was Strauther Pleak who had the unusual round barn constructed and later attached a large, rectangular barn with a gambrel roof. Apparently, the eight-sided silo at the barn's center was constructed first and then the barn was raised around it with the roof being braced by the silo, thus explaining the excellent condition of the shelter. This silo is unusual in that it is octagonal and also because it was constructed of 2"x6" lumber stacked flat and then coated with tar. The silo design proved ineffective and in 1917, was lined with brick and concrete as evidenced by a inscription on the silo's interior walls (January 28, 1917). The lower level housed animals with feeding and watering troughs around the perimeter and in the adjacent barn. The upper levels of both barns contained hay and straw.¹

The Pleak family maintained ownership of the farm until 1914 when it was sold to I.B. Morgan. The farm was then passed to I.B. Morgan's son, Ati, in 1937, with Ati Morgan being the current owner. Mr. Morgan's changes to the farm have been restricted to the construction of a 1940s era Indiana limestone ranch house, with no intrusive changes to the historic fabric of the round barn. Mr. Morgan is an avid fan of the round barn movement and although his structure presents interesting problems, especially in regards to roofing, he is quite proud of his unique landmark.²

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 6 Pleak Round Barn
Decatur Co., IN

The attached rectangular barn to the north lends a unique quality with the exception of the Snider/McFeeley barn in Huntington County (Lancaster Township) and the more common barns that were designed with attached circular sheds, few other round or polygonal barn has such a merger of two distinct shapes. The only other examples of effective and aesthetic attachment of round and rectangular shapes include two Marshall County examples in Greene and German Townships. Also unique is the massing of the structure, with an overall appearance of a three tiered wedding cake. The three different roof sections of the lower level, silo and spire add a distinctive quality and the decorative shingles of the upper spire is a creative touch. No other Indiana example has this distinct three-tiered massing although other examples do have the spire arrangement, namely the E. D. Sphenger barn (Madison County, Union Township) and the George Rudicel barn (Shelby County, Noble Township).

The Strauther Pleak barn is an unusual and unique example of a round barn, being the only one of its kind with this massing and one of the few with such a harmonious marriage to a barn of a different shape. In Indiana, 219 round and polygonal structures were constructed with 151 being true circles (only 77 true circles remain). Among true circular barns in the state, the Pleak round barn is one of the most unique and unusual. The barn has the essential physical features that it possessed at the time of its period of significance, from 1914 to the mid 1930s. The building has aged but has not been significantly altered since its dedication in 1914.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7 Pleak Round Barn
Decatur Co., IN

ENDNOTES

1. John Hanou, research compiled on Indiana's round and polygonal barns from 1986 to present. Archived at Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, 340 West Michigan Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202.
2. Ati Morgan, owner of the Pleak (Morgan) barn, Greensburg, Indiana. Interviewed by Jerry McMahan, 6 October 1991.

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Section number 9 Page 8 Pleak Round Barn
Decatur Co., IN

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hanou, John. Research compiled on Indiana's round and polygonal barns from 1986 to present. Archived at Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, 340 West Michigan Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202.

Intensive architectural survey of Indiana's round and polygonal barns, conducted June to August 1991, conducted by Jerry McMahan, areawide survey of round and polygonal architectural and historical resources.

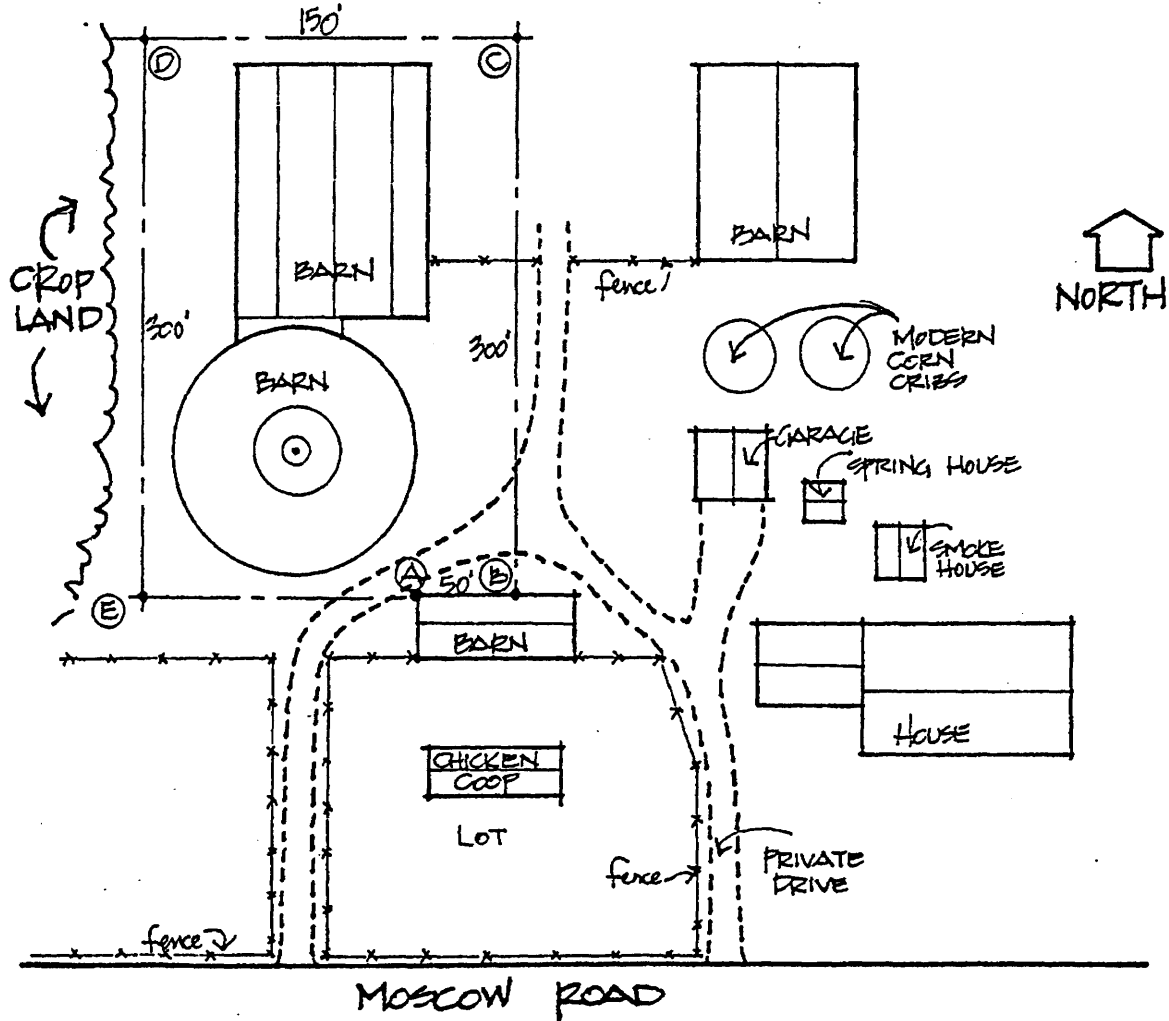
Morgan, Ati. Owner of the Pleak (Morgan) Barn, Greensburg, Indiana.
Interviewed by Jerry McMahan, 6 October 1991.

Soike, Lowell J. Without Right Angles, The Round Barns of Iowa. Des Moines, IA: Iowa State Historical Department, Office of Historic Preservation, 1983.

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Section number 10 Page 9 Pleak Round Barn
Decatur Co., IN



PLEAK (MORGAN) BARN
SITE PLAN
NO SCALE

1914 TRUE CIRCLE
DECATUR COUNTY, INDIANA
WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 10 Pleak Round Barn
Decatur Co., IN

Verbal Boundary Description

The Pleak Round Barn is located in the SE/NE of Section 27, T11N-R9E of Washington Township, Decatur County, Indiana. Referring to the site plan, beginning at a point one foot north of the northwest corner of the rectangular metal barn (Point A). Proceed 50' east to Point B, then proceed 300' north to Point C, then proceed 150' west to Point D, then proceed 300' south to Point E, Point E being on a line one foot north of, yet parallel to, the north wall of the metal barn and in line with Points A and B. Proceed 100' east to Point A.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes only the nominated resource.

