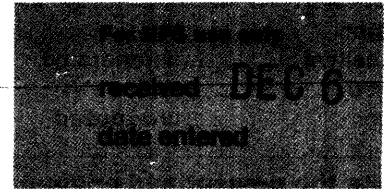


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Ranck, Thomas, Round Barn

and/or common McDivitt Round Barn

2. Location *W of Brownsville on*

street & number ^{SR} Road 500 North (County Line) *SR* N/A not for publication

city, town Brownsville *mic.* vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Indiana code 018 county Fayette code 041

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use | |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational | <input type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name Everett and Melba McDivitt

street & number R. 1, Box 144

city, town Brownsville vicinity of state Indiana 47325

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Fayette County Recorder

street & number Fayette County Courthouse

city, town Connersville state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic American Buildings Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1974 federal state county local

depository for survey records U.S. Department of Interior

city, town Washington state DC

7. Description

| | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|------------|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site | N/A |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved | date _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | | |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Ranck Round Bar, now known as the McDivitt Round Barn, is a large and distinctive wood frame barn built about 1904. It is part of a complex of buildings on the southeast portion of the McDivitt property in Brownsville, Indiana.

Erected on a bank with a concrete foundation, the barn is 70' in diameter at its base, and is 70' tall at its highest point. The open structure consists of three circular tiers stacked on top of one another. The top section forms a cupola at the center of the top of the structure.

This perfectly round structure has no central support system of timbers. With the exception of some timbers on the lower level, no structural member is more than 2½ inches thick. The barn has two levels: the main floor, which is elevated above the grade, and the lower level, which is on the grade. The exterior of the barn is covered with vertical wood siding, which has been painted white.

The lower level is made of studs about 2'6" on center. Joists span in various directions to make a platform for the second level. At this level the main drum has studs with rhythmically spaced angle bracing reaching to the upper first roof plate. These braces are paired and spaced and have intermediate stiffening diagonals. Each upper drum rests on a laminated sill/plate which apparently acts as a tension ring.

There are two entrances to the barn. On the west side, an earthen ramp slopes up to provide access to the main, upper level entrance. This entrance, placed in a projecting bay with a low gambrel roof, consists of two sliding wooden doors. These doors are covered with vertical wood siding and are also painted white. The doors are divided into three horizontal panels, with boards criss-crossing diagonally on the top and bottom panels. On the north side of the barn, there is a grade entrance to the lower level. This entrance consists of a pair of wooden doors hung from the top. A shed roof overhang has been removed from this entrance.

The roof of the barn consists of a series of truncated cones, one over each of the three sections of the barn. The cupola is capped with a conical roof. Grey asphalt shingles cover each section of the roof. The eave overhang on all three levels has exposed rafters and fascia, all painted white.

Small, double-hung, one-over-one windows provide light and ventilation on the main and lower floor. At the loft level, there are small, square, four-paned, fixed windows around the building. In the cupola, square, louvered vents have replaced the windows, which were the same shape as those at the loft level.

Because of the circular shape of the barn, its interior is quite spacious. On the lower level, the concrete floor is on the grade. Accessed through the north entrance, this level has stock pens arranged around the perimeter of the floor. A central circular service walkway allows convenient access to all of the stalls. An interior stairway leads to the main level.

The main level, accessed via the earthen ramp on the west side of the barn, has an earth floor. Divided by wood partitions, the floor serves as a storage area for equipment and supplies. A one-story wooden corn crib stands over part of the floor area. At the center of this level, there are two grain bins, 10' x 15', at the center of the floor.

(Continued)

8. Significance

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900– | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | |

Specific dates c.1904

Builder/Architect Isaac McNamnee

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Ranck, or McDivitt, Round Barn is significant as one of the best-preserved of Indiana's round barns, of which there are only approximately 150. This local landmark is essentially unaltered, and has been well maintained over the years. The barn has no system of central support for its three-tier roof, and few structural members more than 2½ inches thick. Its remarkable construction makes it an outstanding example of stick carpentry engineering.

The first round barn was built of stone by the Shakers at Hancock, Massachusetts, in 1825 to improve the efficiency of their operation. Although round construction created maximum interior space in proportion to building materials, and facilitated the movement of silage and hay, this design proved expensive. As a result, an octagon shape evolved and appeared more frequently. However, a large number of farmers in eastern Canada and the northeastern and midwestern United States erected round barns.

Round barns had some practical advantages besides efficient movement of silage. A team of horses could be driven into the barn, unhitched from a wagon or implement, then driven around the barn and out the same door without turning the team around.

Approximately 150 round barns survive in Indiana. The Ranck Barn is the only round barn still standing in Fayette County. Its tiered configuration is very unusual, in comparison with other round barns in the state.

Isaac McNamnee constructed the Ranck Barn in 1904 for Thomas and Nancy Ranck. McNamnee built several round barns in the area, and patented his design for a self-supporting conical roof in 1905.

The Ranck farm was purchased in 1937 by a local veterinarian and his wife, Ralph and Tena Carmack. In 1945, Emmett and Mary McDivitt purchased the property. It is now owned by their son.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Brownsville

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

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| Zone | | | Easting | | | | | Northing | | | | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property includes the barn and 20' surrounding it on all sides. The barn is located at the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 35, Township 15 North, Range 13 East, on road 500N, approximately 1/2 mile east of the intersection of 500N with 450E, in Fayette County.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Katherine Trippe

organization Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology date July, 1982

street & number 202 North Alabama Street telephone 317/232-1646

city or town Indianapolis state Indiana 46204

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

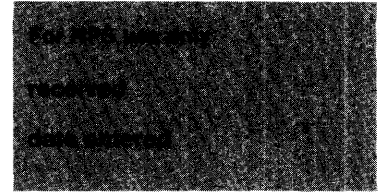
State Historic Preservation Officer signature J. M. Pedin

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 11-24-82

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| For NPS use only | |
| I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register | Entered in National Register |
| <u>Alton Byers</u> Keeper of the National Register | date <u>1/11/83</u> |
| Attest: | date |
| Chief of Registration | |

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet Ranck Round Barn

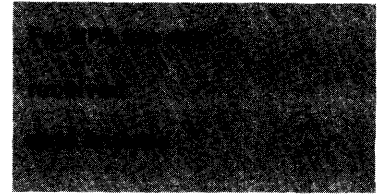
Item number 7

Page 1

From the main floor, the interior of the barn appears cavernous, as it is open all the way to the roof of the cupola. A hayloft extends above the main floor, covering approximately 1/3 of the interior. The loft is supported by paired brackets and diagonal beams placed between the brackets in each pair.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Ranck Round Barn

Item number 9

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Interview with Mrs. Melba McDivitt, August 4, 1982.

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