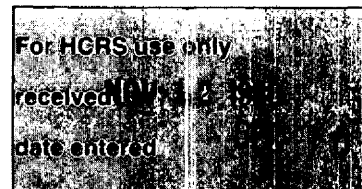


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Thomas T. Wright House  
and/or common Old Hildreth Home

**2. Location**

SW of Vevay on IN 56  
street & number R. R. 3, State Road 56 \_\_\_ not for publication  
city, town Vevay vic. \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district Ninth  
state Indiana code 018 county Switzerland code 155

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Donald Walton Hermsdorfer and Mary Alice Hermsdorfer  
street & number R.R. 3  
city, town Vevay \_\_\_ vicinity of state Indiana 47043

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Switzerland County Courthouse  
street & number Main Street  
city, town Vevay state Indiana 47043

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
date 1980 \_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local  
depository for survey records Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
city, town Indianapolis state Indiana

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved      date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Situated on the Ohio River four miles west of Vevay, Indiana, the Old Hildreth Home sits on a hill overlooking the river, with groves of trees to the north, east, and west. A carriage drive runs in front of the house, flanked by flat-stone walls, and a huge Burr Oak tree, estimated to be hundreds of years old, grows in the side yard.

The Old Hildreth Home was originally a two-story rectangular building of the Greek Revival style. Its heavy walls are made of hand-moulded brick burned in a kiln on top of the hill behind the house. The foundation is of flat rock hauled up from the banks of the Ohio River. Several additions have been made to the house over the years, all of them to the rear and east side, so that the river facade and west side remain largely unchanged.

A two-tier portico graces the front, supported by Doric columns on the lower level and Ionic on the upper level. Doors opening onto the porch at both levels have transom lights and are flanked by sidelights, the entire ensemble surrounded by a moulded wood frame.

Window lintels are of stone, with Maltese cross motifs decorating the ends of the stones. All windows have wooden shutters which are hung with brass fixtures and locks. Quarter-round lights flank the two end chimneys.

The original roof was of slate, but has been replaced with asbestos shingles.

Inside the main entrance is a wide hall, dominated by a gracefully curving cherry staircase. On either side of the hall downstairs are the parlor and dining rooms, each with fireplaces. Upstairs off the wide hallway are two bedrooms, also with fireplaces. The first addition to the house, centered on the rear, connected the original kitchen with the main house, and added an upstairs bedroom. Other additions and the enclosing of two porches have provided two more bedrooms, three other rooms and a vegetable cellar. A back stairway leads off the kitchen to the upstairs. There is a partial basement which has steps and walls made of the flat river stones.

All interior doors are in the "Witch Cross" pattern, of ash and poplar with brass knobs. Floors and woodwork are also of ash and poplar. The dining room has chimney corner cupboards, and hand-grained woodwork. Fireplace mantels are supported by Ionic columns. All interior walls of the original house are of brick, covered with plaster.

On the east side of the house are two outbuildings, which have been covered with aluminum siding and turned into storage sheds. On the west side is a smokehouse which has also been covered with aluminum siding. A barn with a flat stone floor and wooden timber stalls is located to the west of the house, and has been covered with aluminum siding. A twenty-by-thirty foot aluminum sided garage was built in the 1940's, and sits to the west. Running to the east and west behind the house is a flat stone wall, approximately three feet high.

# 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 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

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**Specific dates**    1838                      **Builder/Architect**    George    Kyle

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Old Hildreth House is locally significant for its architecture and for its connection with river commerce. The house is one of several Greek Revival structures that were built on the strip of Indiana along the Ohio River between Vevay and Madison, by men who prospered in the river trade.

This house was built in 1838 for Captain Thomas T. Wright. The Wrights selected a site for their home on a high terrace against a hill overlooking the river. The location enhanced the beauty of the house and remains an important contribution to its architectural significance. Wright commissioned his brother-in-law, George Kyle, to design the house. Kyle also designed and built the old Phoenix Hotel at the corner of Main and Liberty in Vevay, and the Greek Revival Schenck-Griffith Mansion on Market Street.

Wright came from Maryland with his parents in 1816, and captained several steamboats on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, after spending several years flatboating to New Orleans. In 1845 Wright, with several others, organized the Vevay Steamboat Company, capitalized at \$50,000. Many bills and letters from Wright to his wife, Eliza Craig, have been preserved in the Switzerland County Historical Society. In 1854 Wright sold this house to another steamboat captain, Sam F. Hildreth. Wright used the proceeds of the sale to buy his own steamboat, named the "Highflyer," and moved to Memphis.

Hildreth was captain of several Ohio River Steamboats. It is said that he always had the pilot on his boat salute his home with the whistle while passing. It was Hildreth who set out the trees that still stand in front of the house.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

An Architectural and Historical Survey of Switzerland County. Published by the Switzerland County Junior Historical Society, Vevay, Indiana, 1969.  
 Atlas of Switzerland and Ohio Counties, Indiana. D.J. Lake and Company, 1883.  
 Highlights of Switzerland County History. Switzerland County Historical Society, nd.

## 10. Geographical Data

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

Acreeage of nominated property Approximately two acres

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References Vevay South, Kentucky - Indiana

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4	2	8	6	2	8	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

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 Zone Easting Northing

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

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

state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ann Farnsley and Mary Alice Hermsdorfer

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date November 16, 1978

street & number 301 West Market Street telephone 812-427-3104, 427-2900

city or town Vevay, state Indiana 47043.

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

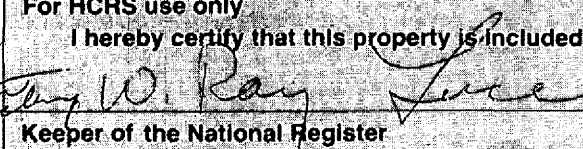
The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 10-23-80

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
	date <u>12/10/80</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 12 1980

DATE ENTERED

DEC 10 1980

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

History of Dearborn, Ohio, and Switzerland Counties, Indiana. Chicago, Weakley, Harraman, and Co., 1885.

Peat, Wilbur D. Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth Century. Indiana Historical Society, 1962.

Some Interesting Pioneer Homesteads In and Around Vevay, by Julia LeClerc Knox, nd.

The Swiss Settlement of Switzerland County Indiana, by Perret Dufour. Indiana Historical Commission, Indianapolis, 1925.

The Vevay Reveille-Enterprise and The Switzerland Democrat. February 14, 1936; September 1, 1960; November 6; 1975.

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 2

## CRAIG TOWNSHIP:

Being a part of Fr. Section 32, Township 2 North, Range 3 West:

Beginning at a point at the southeast corner of a tract together with a dwelling thereon, which point of beginning is 14.24 chains south  $52^{\circ}$  west of a reference point 4.94 chains from the Ohio River on the east property line of lands formerly owned by William Scott and Mildred Scott, husband and wife, and which beginning point is also 5.14 chains north and  $45^{\circ}$  west of the Ohio River. Starting at the said beginning point as aforesaid, and running north  $12^{\circ}$   $1'$  west 2.7 chains;  
thence south  $70^{\circ}$   $11'$  west 4.2 chains; thence south  $11^{\circ}$  east 3.28 chains;  
thence north  $62^{\circ}$   $52'$  east along the Indiana State Highway No. 56 to the point of beginning.  
ALSO:

A part of FR. Section 32, Township 2 North, Range 3 West, of Craig Township:

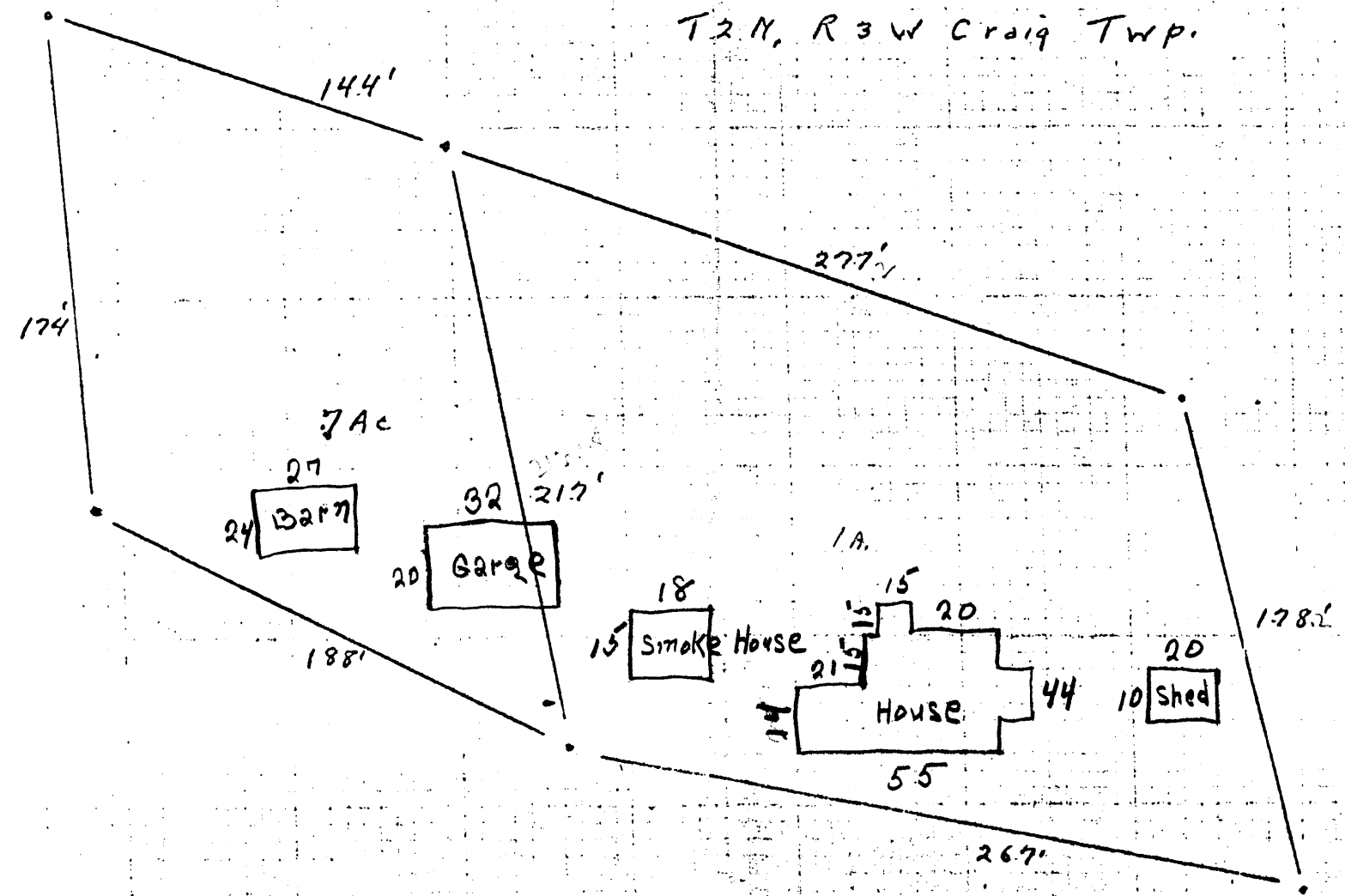
Beginning at a point in the center of State Highway No 56; said point is north  $78^{\circ}$  west 267 feet from a reference point in the center of said highway, said reference point is the point of beginning of the aforementioned tract;  
thence with the centerline of said highway north  $64^{\circ}$   $30'$  west 188 feet to a point, said point is in the center of the intersection of a driveway and State Highway No. 56;  
thence north  $6^{\circ}$   $45'$  west 174 feet; thence south  $70^{\circ}$   $11'$  east 144 feet to a point, said point is identified by an iron stake;  
thence south  $11^{\circ}$  east 217 feet to the place of beginning, and containing .7 acre, more or less, and subject to all legal easements, rights of way and highways.  
(As surveyed Oct. 15, 1974).

See attached sketch.

Sq. Ft.  $\approx$  1 acre - 43,560  
sq yds = 1 acre = 4,840

Part of Fractional Sec. 32  
T2N, R3W Craig Twp.

Old Hildreth Home  
Vevay, Indiana



Scale 1" = 60'

W<sup>m</sup> Scott

Prepared from a  
Survey by  
F.A. Post  
Private Engineer