

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

For NPS use only

received AUG 20 1984  
date entered SEP 20 1984

1. Name

historic Gilson, The Clinton D., Barn

and/or common The Gilson Barn

2. Location

street & number 522 W. 650 South N/A not for publication

city, town Hebron  vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Porter code 127

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

4. Owner of Property

name Joan A. Gilson, life estate;  
Karen Gilson Shadwell; Wesley D. Gilson

street & number 522 W. 650 South

city, town Hebron  vicinity of state Indiana 46341

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Porter County Courthouse, Recorder's Office (Record 31, Book 320)

street & number Lincolnway

city, town Valparaiso state Indiana 46383

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title 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

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## 7. Description

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**Condition** excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved

date \_\_\_\_\_

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

The Clinton D. Gilson Barn is a large, gambrel-roofed frame building built in 1892, and located in the vicinity of Hebron, Indiana. It is the dominant structure on the Gilson Farm, which also includes an extensively altered house and a machine shed, which are not a part of this nomination. A windmill was once located on the west end of the barn and an elevator on the east end.

Rectangular in shape, the barn is 80' long and 40' wide and consists of two levels, with a cupola at the center of the roof. The exterior of the barn is white gypsum siding, which has covered the original red barn siding since the 1950's. The original exterior included white trim along the edge of the roof and down the corners of the building.

The foundation is built of cut stone, which was hauled from Joliet Prison in Joliet, Illinois, according to Arthur Gilson, the owner's grandfather. The structure was built in individual, 16' sections.

There are two major entrances, large sliding doors located in the middle of the north and south sides. These sliding doors have been lowered from their original position. In addition, several small doors are located on the east and west sides. All entrances lead to the ground level of the barn.

On both the north and south façades there are seven original windows, and five on the east and west façades. They are pedimented, double-hung sash windows with six over six lights, and most are positioned on the lower half of the barn. A number of fixed sash windows with four over four lights were added in the 1950's.

The interior of the barn contains 12" x 12" pegged beams. The main floor is at ground level and divided east and west into two sections. The east area was used for milk cows and is whitewashed; the west area housed horses and young cattle. The upper level consists of several haymow areas and still contains a hook used in the transporting of hay. Gas pipe for the original gas lamps is still in place; several lamps are in storage.

The gambrel roof has an overhang and is covered with cedar shake shingles that are overlaid by asphalt shingles on the north side. The cupola has windows facing east and west and shutters on the north and south. There are intersecting gables on the cupola, which has a row of metal trim on top where a weathervane and lightning rod were once located.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input 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** 1892

**Builder/Architect** Clinton David Gilson

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

The Gilson Barn is significant as one of the largest and most elaborate barns in Porter County, and as a representation of the work of Clinton D. Gilson, the original owner and builder. The barn, which dominates the other structures on the farm, is 80' long, 40' wide, and 44' high. The height to the eaves is 27'. The barn took a year to build and was hand constructed in 16' sections and raised to position by use of a steam engine and wooden pulleys. The builder was a master craftsman and the boss of a construction crew, which traveled around the area building houses and barns. Using the latest technology, he also installed a windmill to grind feed, an elevator to transport hay to the haymows, and gas lamps and piping. All have been removed from the property except for the gas piping, and some of the lamps, which are in storage. Some of the barn's notable features are the 12" x 12" pegged beams, pedimented windows, and cupola.

In the past, the barn housed cows and horses, and the upper level held up to 100 tons of hay, which was transported to the mow by an elevator drawn by horses. In the 1950's and 1960's the barn housed laying hens. The Gilson farm has remained in the same family since before the barn was built, and some farm activity continues to the present day. The roof, cupola, and a portion of the foundation have deteriorated to a certain extent; however, there are plans to fully restore the barn.

Two other barns in Boone Township have been identified as works of Gilson and his crew. Neither of these, the Maplehurst Farm Barn and the Arthur Gilson Barn (built for Clinton D. Gilson's grandson) has the ornamental features found on the Gilson Barn.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

- Drury, John. Story of Porter County. Chicago: Inland Photo Company, 1956.  
 Hardesty, A. G. Illustrated Historical Atlas of Porter County, Indiana. Valparaiso: A. G. Hardesty, 1876.  
 Lee and Lee. Lee and Lee's Atlas of Porter County, Indiana. Chicago: Lee and Lee, 1895.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property One acre, more or less

Quadrangle name Hebron

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	6
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4	8	6	0	7	0
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4	5	7	6	2	5	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

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 Zone Easting Northing

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Please see Continuation Sheet

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joan A. Gilson and Karen Gilson Shadwell

organization Owners date April 23, 1983

street & number 522 W. 650 South telephone 219/987-2789 - Business  
219/996-4984 - Residence

city or town Hebron state Indiana 46341

## 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 *John T. Costello*

Deputy Director, Dept. of Natural Resources, for  
 title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date August 7, 1984

### For NPS use only

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

Entered in the  
 National Register

date 9/20/84

*Helene Byer*  
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY—NOMINATION FORM

Continuation Sheet: The Clinton D. Gilson Barn

Item No. 10

Page 1

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A parcel of land in the Southeast Quarter (SE 1/4) of Section 1, Township 33 North, Range 7 West of the Second Principal Meridian in Boone Township, Porter County, Indiana which is bounded and described as follows: commencing at the Northeast corner of said SE 1/4 of Section 1; thence westerly along the North line of said SE 1/4, a distance of 1137.00 feet to the Point of Beginning; thence continuing along said North line of the SE 1/4, a distance of 200.00 feet; thence South at right angles with the previous course, a distance of 220.00 feet; thence East at right angles with the previous course and parallel with said North line of the SE 1/4, a distance of 200.00 feet; thence North at right angles with the previous course, a distance of 220.00 feet to the Point of Beginning. Contains 1.01 acres, more or less.