

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

MAY 31 1989

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Hesler, Clinton F., Farm
other names/site number Clearview Farm 045-278-50004

2. Location

street & number County Road 450S between 200E and 300E
city, town Veedersburg
state Indiana code IN county Fountain code 045 zip code 47987

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes checkboxes for private/public ownership and building/district/site/structure/object categories.

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet. Signature of certifying official: Indiana Department of Natural Resources

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of commenting or other official

5. 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: Patrick Andrews
Date of Action: 7/13/89

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwellingAGRICULTURE: agricultural outbuildingAGRICULTURE: storageAGRICULTURE: animal facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwellingAGRICULTURE: agricultural outbuildingAGRICULTURE: storageAGRICULTURE: animal facility

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Queen AnneOTHER: Transverse-frame barn

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICKwalls WOOD: weatherboardMETALroof ASPHALTother METAL: cast iron

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Clearview Farm is well-sited on the south side of County Road 450S, in rural Millcreek Township in Fountain County. The complex was erected on the highest elevation of the farm's gently rolling terrain (photos 1 and 2).

The oldest structure on Clearview Farm is the principal barn, constructed to house horses, and the hay and grain necessary for their feeding. This barn is a transverse frame building featuring forty foot long hand hewn 8" X 8" oak beams with mortice and tenon attachment to the side framing. The siding is vertical board and batten 1" by 12" poplar. Lettering on the barn indicates its construction in 1887 (photos 5 and 6).

Next to be added to the complement of buildings was the residence, built in 1896, using the Queen Anne style much in vogue at the turn of the century. The house exhibits the extensive use of fishscale shingles, elaborate millwork, and the irregular massing commonly seen in the Queen Anne style (photos 7 and 8).

The house is of balloon frame construction, with studs and 1" X 8" sheathing made of Douglas Fir. The clapboard siding and flooring are poplar wood.

The Hesler House rests on a brick foundation and has an asymmetrical T-shaped plan, covered by intersecting steep gable roofs. The main block of the house is two and one-half stories tall, with an unfinished attic level.

An L-shaped hip roofed, wrap-around porch provides the main decorative feature of the house (photo 15). The porch has a diagonally placed entry covered by a gable roof. The gable has a sunburst motif and an elaborate gable brace. Supported by turned posts, the porch has decorative brackets, a frieze of cutout panels with spindles, and a balustrade of turned balusters.

The forward projecting "stem" of T-plan has cut-away or chamfered corners to the front. There are windows in each cut-away bay, and a large window to the front. The house has wood one-over-one double-hung sash windows.

 See continuation sheet

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

AGRICULTURE

Period of Significance

1887-1939

Significant Dates

1887

1896

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Hesler, Clinton F.

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Clinton F. Hesler Farm, also known as the Clearview Farm, is significant under Criterion C for its outstanding Queen Anne style residence. The Hesler House is the finest example of the style in Millcreek Township and is among the best Queen Anne homes in Fountain County. The Hesler Farm is also one of the most outstanding and intact groupings of agricultural buildings in southern Fountain County. Several members of the Hesler Family were recognized as prominent citizens of the area.

The Hesler Farm is an outstanding collection of agricultural buildings. The first of the present group of buildings on the farm was the barn, completed in 1887. It is assumed that this building was constructed for Mr. Hesler's father who, at that time, owned the land on which it was situated. On January 10, 1898, Mr. Hesler purchased the building site where the residence and farm buildings are located. He subsequently hired a portion of the farm. When the Hesler House was completed it was one of the largest and most stylistically significant houses in the entire community, and so it remains to this day.

Information from the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures inventory confirms the importance of the Hesler House. Six other Queen Anne style homes in Fountain County are rated "outstanding" (This rating is given to properties considered eligible for the National Register). The Hesler is among the most intact and well detailed homes in this group, and it is the only farm house among the six. Most farms in Fountain County were established and prospered between 1850 - 1890. Therefore, homes tended to be built in the styles popular during that period, especially the Greek Revival and Italianate styles. The Clearview Farm, with its Queen Anne style residence, was one of the most prosperous farmsteads in Millcreek Township at the turn of the century.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Bever, Belle; Furr, Eva J.; and Harding, Berry M. "History of New Liberty Church," edited by Harding, M.E.C. 1930, Section IV.

Biographical Directory of the Indiana General Assembly 1816 - 1899.  
p. 182.

"Clinton F. Hesler Dies After a Full Life," The Covington Republican,  
September 24, 1943, p.1.

"Former Hoosier Legislator Dies," Indianapolis Star, September 19, 1943,  
p. 19.

Fountain County Historical Society. History of Fountain County. Taylor  
Publishing Co., 1983.

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository:

Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 3.45

UTM References

A 

1	6	4	8	1	6	2	0	4	4	3	4	3	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description A square parcel of land in the extreme northeast corner of the southwest quarter of Section 28, Township 19, Range 7 West as follows:  
Starting at a point 2,300' east of the southeast corner of the intersection of Fountain County Roads 450S and 200E on the south right-of-way boundary of 450S, follow said right-of-way east 400', then turn south 400', then west 400', then north 400' to the point of origin.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the buildings associated with the farmstead, and does not include non-contributing acreage.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title John W. Young, Board Member

organization Historic Landmarks of Fountain County date 11/16/88

street & number Route #2, Box 91 telephone 317/798-6277

city or town Veedersburg state Indiana zip code 47987

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Surrounds consist of vertical boards with mitred extensions and two incised lines toward the sill. The headers have bull's-eye corner blocks. This window type is consistently used on the exterior, with few exceptions. The front center window is larger and has a large square lower sash. The porch conceals two entries, one formal entrance and another leading to the parlor (photo 34). These doors are paneled and have large single lights.

The first and second stories are divided by a hood skirt of imbricated shingles. The second story of the front projection repeats the composition of the first story area under the porch (photo 14). The cut-away bays have brackets, and scalloped woodwork over the windows at this level. The front gable end is jettied slightly. The projection is masked by a stringcourse of bull's-eye blocks. The gable end is covered by octagonal shingles. A small single light window is centered in the gable end. A wide bargeboard and an elaborate gable brace finish the gable.

The Hesler House has exposed scroll end rafters and a partly concealed gutter system. Charcoal-colored asphalt shingles cover the roof.

To the east and west are gabled projections - the "arms" of the T-plan. These arms are similar to the front gable, with variations in the window dimensions and gable brace detailing (photos 8 and 13).

The rear of the house has a one and one-half story dining room and kitchen area, covered by a hip roof to the east and a gable roof to the west. This rear area has a side porch to the east (photo 8). The porch has turned posts, brackets and frieze work similar to the front porch, but simpler in style. Originally, the porch wrapped around to the rear. In 1980, the rear bay of the porch was enclosed to create a sheltered rear entrance, a new basement entrance, and a small office. This area marked by an octagonal window on the east wall and square modern window to the south (photos 8 and 9). A low gabled area on the rear of the house has a window which has been altered (photo 9). A concrete patio surrounded by a low wall of used brick was added to the rear of the house in 1977.

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The interior of the Hesler House is equally unaltered. The front, two and one-half story portion of the house has three rooms on the ground floor: a parlor in the stem of the T, and a living room and library situated in the arms of the T, with wide pocket doors connecting all three rooms. Interior moldings are simple yet handsome, consisting of plain vertical boards with entablature headers (photo 20). Interior doors have four panels, with tall panels above shorter panels.

The living room is reached by the main entrance, and it typifies the restrained character of the interior (photos 16, 17, 18 and 19). The living room has a corner fireplace with a carved mantle and an original cast iron grate insert (photo 19). The parlor forms a small, isolated room with its own outside entry (photos 21 and 22).

The dining room is located in the rear extension of the house, to the east (photos 25, 26, 27). This room has fluted surrounds, a plain chair rail, and a narrow cornice. An original built-in china cupboard is found in one corner (photo 27).

The house has one enclosed stairway which terminates on an open landing defined by a balustrade with square newel posts and turned balusters (photos 23, 29 and 30). There are three bedrooms upstairs, one each above the parlor, living room, and library. Bedroom doors are transomed. Upstairs surrounds have fluting on the vertical boards (photo 31).

Much original hardware remains in place on the interior. Acetylene gas jets remain in the basement (photo 35). A tank buried in the back yard stored the gas to light the house. Acetylene gas was generated by adding calcium carbide to water in the tank. When the house was wired for electricity in 1928, fixtures were added. These solid brass chandeliers remain in several rooms (photo 36). A large iron tank remains in the basement part of the home's original water system.

A cast iron fence surrounds the front yard of the house (photo 4). Built in 1896, the fence is counted as a contributing structure.

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Constructed at the same time as the house, and in a compatible style, was the adjacent summerhouse, a two room structure provided to keep the heat of cooking fires from the residence during hot weather (photo 3). The summerhouse is counted as a contributing building.

Additional structures added to Clearview Farm over the years included a board and batten carriage house, subsequently razed, a transverse frame cattle barn to supplement the original horse barn and a transverse frame double corn crib. Both the cattle barn and corn crib were built in about 1910, the barn is counted as a contributing building, and the corn crib is counted as a contributing structure.

The 1887 horse barn received additions in the form of an extra driveway and corn crib by shedding onto the east side of this building, and later a livestock shelter was added by shedding beyond the corn crib addition.

Modern additions to the farm include an open front pole machine shed, constructed in 1955 after a fire destroyed the original two car garage. This non-contributing building is sided with board and batten siding made from Dutch Elm. The Elm trees on the farm were killed by the Dutch Elm disease; two wood lots on the farm were cleared for crop production in 1977 and 1979. A cylindrical silo was built south of the cattle barn in 1951. (Counted as a non-contributing structure.) A metal sided and roofed pole utility building was built in 1966. (Counted as one non-contributing building.) The most recent addition to the farm was a round grain storage structure erected in 1974. The grain bin is counted as one non-contributing structure. The non-contributing buildings and structures of the farm are modest in scale and located to the rear of property so that the feeling of a late 1800s farmstead is still intact.

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Significant Person  
Hesler, Alfred James

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The house boasted three modern conveniences that were rare in Hoosier farm houses at the turn of the century. These conveniences included central heating, a pressurized water system, and gas lighting.

The heart of the innovative water system was a 1,000 gallon pressure tank installed in the basement during the early phase of the construction process. Water pressure in this tank was maintained by means of a windmill, since razed, which pumped the water necessary for pressurization. Because of the large size of this tank, there was sufficient water to last for several days, should the windmill be becalmed. This tank is still part of the now modernized water system, since there is no way to remove it from the basement without cutting it into small pieces with a cutting torch.

Since no natural gas was available the gas light system depended on a metal tank buried in the backyard in which calcium carbide was periodically added to water to generate acetylene gas. Evidence of this gas light system can still be seen in the basement and attic of the Hesler House. This system is similar to the Springfield Gas Machine, which was invented in c.1868, and used gasoline vapor to supply lighting to buildings in remote locations (see Gaslighting in America, p. 145). The acetylene lighting was used until the house was wired for electricity in 1928.

The man responsible for the development of the Clearview Farm was Clinton F. Hesler (1855-1943). Clinton Hesler was recognized as a master farmer by his peers. He was a locally prominent figure in the Republican Party, and he served three terms in the Indiana General Assembly, one in 1889 and two consecutive terms in 1893 and 1895. After representing Fountain County in the State Legislature, Clinton served as a county commissioner and a county councilman. He actively sought to improve schools in his community, and was also a charter member and served on the first



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board of elders of the New Liberty Christian Church. This church is located just one-half mile east of the nominated property, and was founded in 1888 on land donated by Clinton's father.

Mr. Hesler and his wife lived in the house until 1907 when a portion of Clearview Farm, including the building site, was sold to his elder son. This sale was prompted by financial reverses suffered by Mr. Hesler and resulted in the necessity of moving from the relative grandeur of the Hesler House to an extremely modest residence. The present owners of the house have been aware of para-normal phenomena since moving into the house in 1974. These phenomena have been documented by multiple witnesses and, simultaneously, reacted to by family pet dogs. Legend has it that these happenings are provoked by the ghost of "Aunt Loll" Hesler, wife of the original owner, who lost her lovely home and who died shortly thereafter, supposedly of a broken heart.

Alfred J. Hesler (1885-1971) was the elder son of Clinton and Laura Hesler. Alfred's accomplishments were related directly to the development of agriculture in Fountain County. From 1922 to 1947, he was the Purdue University Agricultural Extension Agent for the county. In this role, he helped establish and promote the local 4-H Club. In 1923, he sponsored and promoted a rural electrification company for Fountain County, which is believed the first such program in the country, and is believed to have served as a model for a later nationwide rural electrification program. Alfred Hesler was also instrumental in the formation of the Fountain County Soil and Water Conservation District, which was officially recognized in 1944. In 1944, Alfred was awarded a "Certificate of Distinguished Service" for his activities as a County Agricultural Extension Agent. Later activities of Alfred Hesler include a term as president of the Indiana Agricultural Extension Agents Association (1946) and Meritorious Service Award (1959) from the Purdue University Agricultural Alumni Association in recognition of his many local achievements.

From 1952 to 1954, he served as Overseas Director for World Neighbors, Inc., a charitable organization dedicated to the alleviation of hunger and illiteracy in the underdeveloped areas of the world. In his position with this organization, he made the second of three round-the-world trips which he was privileged to

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enjoy. In 1961, he became the prime mover in the formation of the Fountain County Historical Society and subsequently served as president of that organization.

The younger son of Clinton Hesler, Lexemuel, eventually became a world wide authority in the field of mushrooms, and was recognized by having the Botany Building at the University of Tennessee named Hesler Hall in his honor. Dr. Hesler also served for some years as the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, University of Tennessee.

The Clearview Farm has been occupied by only three families since it's construction ninety years ago, first by Clinton F. Hesler and his wife and their two sons (1898-1916), then by his elder son, Alfred J. Hesler and his wife, Clara (1916-1974) and finally by the present owner, Betty S. Young, (1974- ).

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Fountain County Interim Report - Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory, 1988, pp. xvii and 71.

Hawkins, Hubert H. and McClarren, Robert R., ed. Indiana Lives.  
Hopkinsville, Ky: Historical Record Association, 1967?, pp. 348-9.

Hesler, Alfred James. Personal interviews with John Young, conducted  
over a 24 year period from 1947-1971. (Mr. Young lived adjacent to  
and worked on the Clearview Farm during that period.)

Myers, Denys Peter. Gaslighting in America. Washington, D.C.:  
Department of the Interior, 1978, p.145.

"Obituary, Alfred James Hesler," The Covington Republican, May 16, 1971.

Records, Fountain County Recorder's Office, Fountain County Courthouse,  
Covington, Indiana.

"Well Known Resident of County Expires," The Covington Democrat,  
September 24, 1943, pt. 1, p. 1.

Williams, Glen. Personal interviews with John Young. (Williams was  
the brother-in-law of Clinton F. Hesler.)

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The following information is common to all photographs:

1. Hesler, Clinton F., Farm - Clearview Farm
2. Vicinity of Veedersburg, Indiana; CR 450S
3. Photographer - John W. Young
4. Date - February, 1988
5. Negative located at residence of John W. Young, Route #2, Box 91, Veedersburg, Indiana 47987

Photo #1

View of Clinton F. Hesler House and outbuildings as seen when approaching from the West. Camera facing southeast.

Photo #2

View of Clinton F. Hesler House and outbuildings as seen when approaching from the east. Camera facing southwest.

Photo #3

Side view of Hesler House and adjacent summerhouse. Camera facing southwest. View from entrance drive.

Photo #4

View of Hesler House, summerhouse, major barns, and machine shed. Camera facing southeast.

Photo #5

View of large transverse frame horse barn, oldest of the buildings on the farm, constructed 1887. Camera facing south from beginning of entrance drive.

Photo #6

Identifying lettering on barn. Camera facing south.

Photo #7

Diagonal view of Hesler House. Camera facing southwest.

Photo #8

East view of Hesler House. Camera facing west.

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Photo #9

Rear view of Hesler House. Camera facing north.

Photo #10

Westside view of Hesler House. Camera facing east.

Photo #11

North or front view of Hesler House, including cast iron fence. Camera facing south.

Photo #12

Diagonal view of Hesler House showing north facade cutaway bay windows, front porch decorative millwork, etc. Camera facing southeast.

Photo #13

Diagonal view of the westside of the Hesler House, showing bay windows with decorative overhangs, and simulated overhang at both story levels featuring squared and fishscale shingles. Camera facing southeast.

Photo #14

Front view of Hesler House showing decorative frieze suspended from porch roof, squared and turned porch posts, elaborate millwork in the gable trusses, unique window surrounds, and the fishscale shingles used in the gables. Camera facing south.

Photo #15

Diagonal view of front entrance of Hesler House showing elaborate millwork over front steps and in porch gable. Camera facing southwest.

Photo #16

View of living room of Hesler House from front entrance looking through connecting door to dining room and showing dining room entrance from side porch. Camera facing south.

Photo #17

Interior view of front entrance to Hesler House. Camera facing north-east.

Photo #18

View from living room of Hesler House showing front entrance door, wide pocket door with view of parlor, and stair opening. Camera facing north.

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Photo #19

View of corner fireplace in living room of Hesler House. Decorative fire screen in place.

Photo #20

View of wide pocket door connecting living room of Hesler House to parlor. Original brass chandelier installed when house was wired in 1928. Camera facing northwest.

Photo #21

View of parlor in Hesler House. Camera facing northeast.

Photo #22

View of parlor in Hesler House. Camera facing northwest.

Photo #23

View of library in Hesler House looking from living room through wide pocket connecting door. Stair also shown. Camera facing northwest.

Photo #24

View of library in Hesler House looking through wide pocket connecting door from living room. Camera facing west.

Photo #25

View of dining room in Hesler House. Camera facing south.

Photo #26

View of dining room in Hesler House showing original brass chandelier. Camera facing northeast

Photo #27

View of dining room in Hesler House showing original built-in cupboard, and the original brass chandelier installed when the house was wired in 1928. Camera facing northwest.

Photo #28

View of kitchen in Hesler House. Camera facing northwest.

Photo #29

View of balustrade separating stair from upstairs hallway in Hesler House, featuring squared and turned balusters and elaborately milled balusters. Camera facing west.

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Photo #30

View of upstairs hall in Hesler House showing one of eight cutaway bay windows. Camera facing west.

Photo #31

View of master bedroom in Hesler House showing entrance door with transom. All bedroom doors, kitchen doors and dining room exterior entrance doors have transoms.

Photo #32

View of master bedroom in Hesler house. Camera facing southeast.

Photo #33

View of master bedroom in Hesler House showing one of eight cutaway bay windows. Camera facing northeast.

Photo #34

Front entrance of Hesler House with original glazed and paneled door. Camera facing south.

Photo #35

View of acetylene gas line and gas jet in basement of Hesler House, used for illumination until house was wired for electricity in 1928. Camera facing northeast.

Photo #36

Closeup view of original brass chandelier installed in three front front rooms of Hesler House when wired for electricity in 1928.

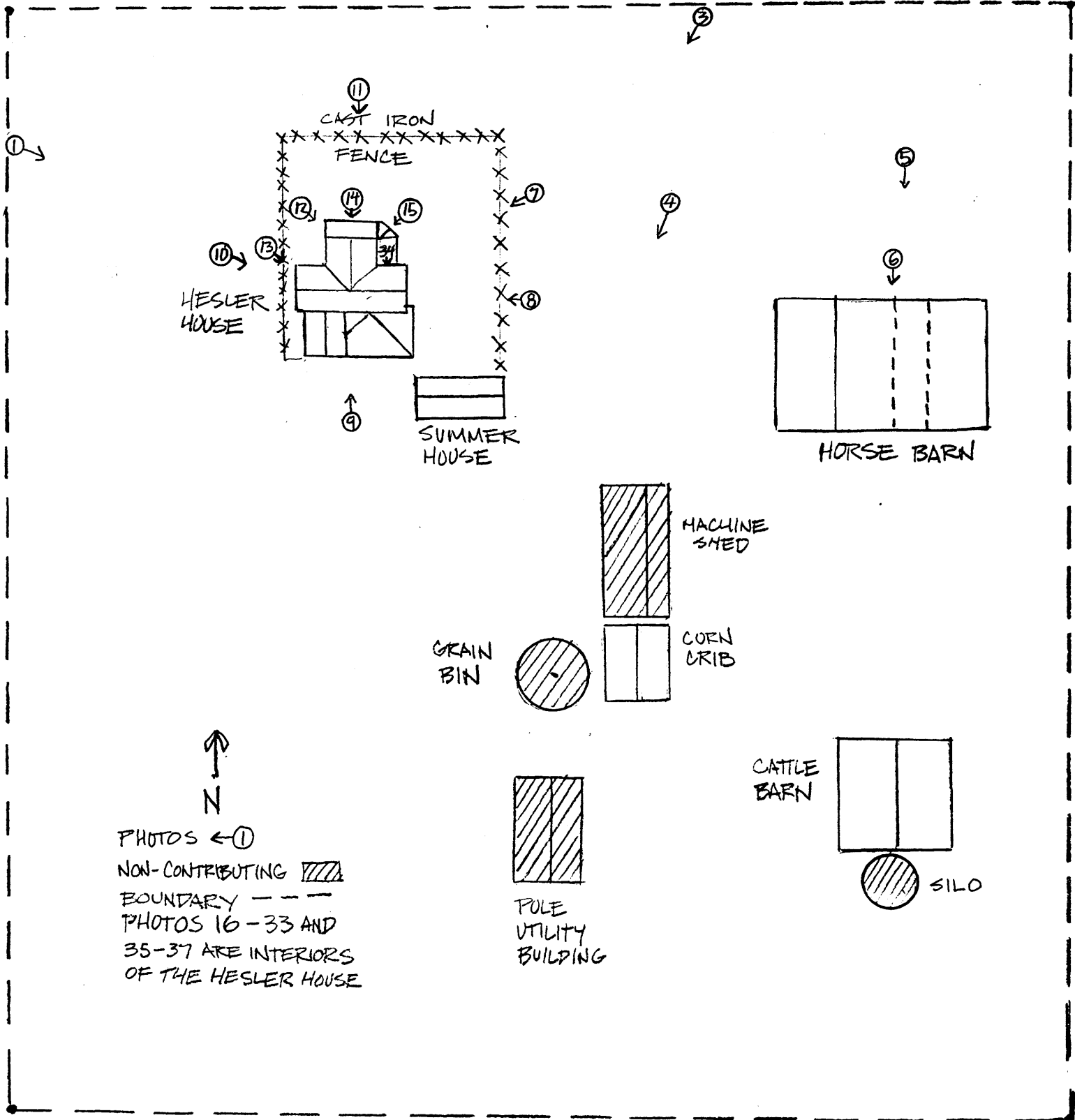
Photo #37

View of 1,000 gallon water pressure tank installed in basement of Hesler House during construction in 1896. Camera facing southwest.

CLINTON HESLER FARM  
OR  
CLEARVIEW FARM


② ↘

CR 4505



↑  
N

PHOTOS ← ①

NON-CONTRIBUTING 

BOUNDARY - - - -

PHOTOS 16-33 AND  
35-37 ARE INTERIORS  
OF THE HESLER HOUSE

POLE  
UTILITY  
BUILDING

CATTLE  
BARN

SILO

GRAIN  
BIN

MACHINE  
SHED

CORN  
CRIB

SUMMER  
HOUSE

HORSE BARN

HESLER  
HOUSE

CAST IRON  
FENCE