

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

ok  
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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 **Teague Barn Wabash Importing Company Farm Stable**

other names/site number **Miller Barn**

2. Location

street & number **4568 West Mill Creek Pike** N/A not for publication

city or town **Wabash** vicinity

state **Indiana** code **IN** county **Wabash** code **169** zip code **46992**

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 36CFR 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  
**J. C. SA**  
**Indiana Department of Natural Resources**

Date  
**4.24.02**

State or 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  
**Edson H. Beall**

Date of Action  
**6/27/02**

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building	1	0	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	0	0	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	0	0	structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	0	0	objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	1	0	Total

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**  
 0

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
AGRICULTURE/SUBSIST Agricultural	AGRICULTURE/SUBSIST Agricultural Outbuilding
AGRICULTURE/SUBSIST Animal Facility	

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
OTHER: Bank Barn	foundation STONE
	walls WOOD: Weatherboard
	roof METAL: Tin
	other

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

**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)

ARCHITECTURE  
AGRICULTURE  
COMMERCE

**Period of Significance**

1861-1910

**Significant Dates**

N/A

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Hubbard, Nathan Dixon

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographic 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:

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 2 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	16	594620	4514200	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				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 Sue Becher Gilliam, Consultant

organization SBG Associates date 12-06-2001

street & number 10166 Lakewood Drive telephone 317/ 873-3758

city or town Zionsville state IN zip code 46077

**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 Elizabeth Miller

street & number 4568 West Mill Creek Pike telephone 219/ 563-5892

city or town Wabash state IN zip code 46992

**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.

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TEAGUE BARN-WABASH IMPORTING COMPANY FARM STABLE  
WABASH COUNTY, INDIANA

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**Narrative Description**

The Teague Barn-Wabash Importing Company Farm Stable, now known as the Miller Barn, is along Mill Creek Pike, an early settlement road that runs diagonally from the southwest corner of the city of Wabash to a former Indian settlement. This area in the Wabash River watershed, is fertile ground that supports family-owned farms of agricultural crops, livestock pastures and wood lots. Located within Noble Township in Wabash County, the 40 by 80 feet three-story bank barn<sup>1</sup> sits just off the road in its original location, its rural setting unaltered by intrusions (Photograph 1). Even in its current state of disrepair, the barn, of post and beam construction, attracts local artists which sketch and paint its likeness. Fine details of a paneled frieze and soffit, sunburst gable vent and chamfered support posts reveal that the builder was a master carpenter. Alterations to the barn have been minimal over the past 140 years. However, time, weather, and a lack of maintenance have not been kind to the barn and yet the architectural integrity of workmanship, materials and design of the barn remains and is significant.

The barn sits close to Mill Creek Pike. East of the barn is a driveway, a garage and the property owner's house. A branch of the driveway continues past the north side of the barn out to other outbuildings and the agricultural fields beyond. Portions of the barn's siding are missing on all four sides, the clapboard nearly bare of paint. The weathered appearance of the barn belies the outstanding example of vernacular architecture of the barn. Its construction began in 1861 as part of the farmstead that Samuel and Prudence Teague were building for themselves and their children. The site chosen for the barn was a rise ninety feet from the road. Nathan D. Hubbard was the barnwright who constructed the large three-story bank barn with a full forebay for the Teagues. The structure is rectangular in form with an extended central bay, also called an entry porch, that contains the large wagon doors at the rear (north) side of the building (Photographs 2 and 3). An earthen ramp was graded up to the wagon doors as the natural slope of the barn's site falls towards the front and side of the building. The cantilevered forebay and exposed basement wall faces south, which is typical, to best utilize light for the stables within (Photograph 4).

Three walls of the basement's foundation are constructed of rough-cut blocks of limestone. The limestone was quarried from the banks of the Wabash River, which was the north boundary of the Teague's 256 acre property. The fourth wall, the front south wall under the forebay, is clad in horizontal tongue and groove boards. Originally, several stable doors and windows punctuated this wall, but a larger central opening was created sometime after the 1890s. A single Dutch door, double Dutch stable doors and a window remain at the east end of the wall and on the west, a window with its original shutters and a single Dutch door still remain. The red and white trim paint is clearly visible under the protected area of the forebay. Perpendicular from this wall, two small walls, not original to the structure, were installed, one at the east end and one near the west end. One of the five original large

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<sup>1</sup> Michael J. Auer, Preservation Brief #20: The Preservation of Historic Barns, October 1989, source for definition of bank barn.

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chamfered posts, thirteen inches in diameter, that supports the front exterior upper wall still is in place at the center of the building (Photograph 5). An additional chamfered post is stored inside the barn with plans to reinstall it. Smaller dimensional lumber has taken the place of the other posts. For additional light and ventilation into the basement, long rectangular window units, each with six pane frames, were constructed into the stone foundation. On the gabled ends there are three pairs of window units, which are located on the same vertical axis as the window fenestration on the upper walls. Basement level windows are also on the rear side.

The front facade is symmetrical with eight window and door openings across the elevation. Six window openings flank a pair of doors on the first floor level above the basement level and eight window openings are on the second floor. The doors, used to throw feed into the stockyard below, are of different sizes with the west door being wider at sixty inches. All of the window openings are intact but vary in degree of disrepair. Many of the window openings around the entire building have been infilled with pieces of clapboard. The infill is clearly discernible from the building's original clapboard because of its darker color. In some of the window openings behind the clapboard infill, original wooden shutters remain (Photograph 6). A few glass six-over-six double-hung sash windows exist. From a historic photograph dating from around the 1890s, it appears that the building had six-over-six double-hung sash windows with operable shutters on the outside of the sash, covering the entire window opening. The building is clad with horizontal wood siding nailed to the building with square-cut nails. Under the roofline, the paneled frieze board and the wide soffit of the enclosed eave are detailed in a vernacular style that provides a refined appearance to the barn. Window and door frames, the sunburst vent and the frieze and the soffit were painted white.

Just below the frieze board on the east side of the barn at the gable end is a sunburst-style slatted vent (Photograph 7). Only two slats remain of the vent. Also on the east gable end is the barnwright's signature board. A large single rectangular board was placed below the sunburst vent that identified the builder and the date of construction. In very faded block lettering, it reads on the first line, "N. D. HUBBARD" and on the second line it reads "BUILT A.D. 1861." Flanking the board, two attic windows are not infilled with siding but retain their shutters in the closed position. The sunburst vent and signature board are on the east side of the barn which faces the house, the farmstead's main drive and the road to town. Unfortunately, the west side of the barn is missing most of its clapboard siding (Photograph 8).

On the north side of the barn the earthen ramp rises to an extended central bay. Two large entrances provide access to the interior threshing floor. One entrance appears to be the most heavily used over the years and it no longer has its hinged double doors. The other entrance still has its vertical plank doors, although they are damaged.

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A standing seam metal roof covers what is presumed to be the original wood shingles, which can be seen from inside the barn. Along the ridge are lightning rods and one of the two cupolas. The remaining cupola had to be partially rebuilt.

Modifications to the exterior of the barn include the extension of the roof of the adjacent concrete block Milk House to the barn wall and the construction of a lean-to addition to the northwest corner of the barn (Photographs 4 and 8). The roof extension and the lean-to can easily be removed from the barn without damaging the barn.

The interior of the basement level was used for the stabling of animals; however, it no longer retains any divisions for stables and is used today as storage for straw (Photograph 9). The timbers that became the floor joists were hewed flat on two sides. Bark still remains on some of the joists. The main girder is actually two forty feet timbers with a lapped joint in the middle. Two girder posts support the girder. The posts, one which still retains chamfered corners, are on top of large blocks. The space in the basement is open except for a wall that is covered with car siding. It was added some time in the past to enclose the east end of the stable area. The floor in this room is concrete and was used at one time as a milking parlor. The Milk House is connected to this end of the barn with a covered roof. Much of the remaining barn floor consists of cut narrow rectangular limestone blocks set on their edges to facilitate drainage (Photograph 10). Outside the exterior wall of the forebay, four wooden rectangular grain chutes protrude from the grain bins a floor above. Each chute had a gate to regulate the grain. One gate, a paddle with a carved handle, remains (Photograph 11).

The skeletal frame of the second and upper stories consists of five bents of hand-hewed timbers (Photograph 12). The timber may have come from the farm, which was customarily done, and skidded to the barn site. The joints are mortise and tenon, secured with wooden pegs. The center bent consists of a large tapered timber which spans thirty feet between the two threshing floors (Photograph 13). The apex of the tapered beam measures eighteen inches in height.

Because it was difficult to locate and transport logs of fifty feet or more, timbers used on the longitudinal sides of the barn were spliced together. Mounted at the top of the bents and the timbers that tie the bents together, is a rafter truss system that supports the roof while leaving the center from one end of the barn to the other open. From the bents, short timbers with braces rise diagonally to support the purlins. From the tie beams, short braced timbers rise vertically to the purlins. Laid on top of the purlins are common rafters which have spaced narrow boards. The wood shingles were nailed to the boards. Running the length of the barn at the peak of the rafters is a square wooden track called a hay carrier. Mounted on the track is a trolley with a pulley (Photograph 14).

The five bents divide the barn interior into four bays--a bay on either side of the two central threshing bays (refer to floor plans). It is likely that one of the bays was used in the fall and winter to store sheaves of harvested grain awaiting threshing while the other was used for storing equipment. An opening for a ladder to the basement is located near the entrance to this east storage bay. Also in the east bay were bins for storing threshed grains

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(Photograph 15). There are four bins divided by wide planed tongue-and-groove boards. The bins have openings in the floor for the grain chutes that extend into the forebay below as well as square holes in each of the bins' ceilings. In the floor and the ceiling of the walkway in front of the bins, are another set of square holes. Much of the interior side of the exterior south wall from the bin area to beyond the paired doors was covered with horizontal sheathing. One of the largest boards measures twenty inches in width.

Corn cribs are located along one wall of the east bay and on either side of each wagon entry. The threshing floor, made of tongue-and-groove boards, in the two bays is very smooth with no open joints for grain to get into. Under the bent that separates the threshing bays from the storage bay on the west end is a rectangular opening in the floor. This opening, with beveled edge, was used for sliding feed down into the stables below.

While missing much of its exterior clapboard, a sound roof has protected the framework of the barn and all of its integral parts. No other Hubbard-built barn has been identified in the area and only a couple, possibly of the same age, survive; however, none is of the size and the style of the Teague Barn-Wabash Importing Company Farm Stable.

**Statement of Significance**

The Teague Barn-Wabash Importing Company Farm Stable meets National Register Criteria A and C in the areas of architecture, agriculture and commerce. The barn meets Criterion C because it is a fine example of vernacular architecture of an agricultural facility that has had little alteration since its construction. Criterion A is met because the barn became the location of a business that was important to the commerce of the local economy and it provided a service and commodity to the agricultural community nationally. The barn and the land also are tied to the cultural development of the Wabash area. The land that the barn was built on has been owned by two members of the Miami Indians, Mechanequah, a signer of the Treaty of Paradise Springs, and Chief Richardville. The land was then bought by a Quaker who in turned sold it to the Teagues, another Quaker family. In 1888, the barn and land were sold to a group of prominent businessmen of the Jewish faith. The period of significance begins when construction of the barn began, in 1861 and continues until 1910 when the importing business no longer used the barn and property.

The region around the city of Wabash is a fertile area in the north central portion of Indiana. The Wabash River flows through the county with remnants of the Wabash and Erie Canal still extant on its north side. Many Miami Indian settlements flanked the banks of the Wabash, and, in fact, the land that the barn is on was given to the Miami Indians in the Treaty of Paradise in 1826. In 1850, Samuel, Jr. and Prudence Teague bought part of that



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land, 256 acres, between Mill Creek Pike and the Wabash River from a fellow Quaker. The Teagues were relocating from Richmond, Indiana, a large Quaker community, to join a smaller settlement. They were charter members of the Wabash Friends Church--Prudence being one of the first pastors of the congregation. She was an itinerant minister, recorded as such on July 12, 1851, who traveled throughout the state preaching, holding meetings and tending to families, including the visitation of colored settlements. She became known as Grandmother Teague and had friends all over the state. Soon after locating here, Samuel and Prudence established themselves in the community and were able to construct a very fine I-house with ornate Italianate details (destroyed by fire in 1927) and a large Bank Barn. Prudence's 1895 obituary had this reflection, "Mr. and Mrs. Teague moved to Wabash County in the year 1850, settling on a large tract of land south of the river west of the south side, where Mr. Teague erected a huge frame house and bank barn, which were the wonder of the inhabitants at that time."<sup>2</sup>

The Teagues hired Nathan Dixon Hubbard, a local carpenter who was known to be an excellent craftsman, to build the barn. Hubbard was a Quaker whose family also belonged to the Wabash Friends Church and who were strongly opposed to slavery. In 1853 he was dismissed from the church for "the hideous, despicable sins of using profane language and for deviating from plainness in dress."<sup>3</sup> Construction of the barn began in 1861 but was stopped when Hubbard left to join the Indiana Calvary to fight in the Civil War. After the war, he returned to finish the barn. No other surviving barn built by Hubbard has been found in the Wabash vicinity.

The quality of the barn's architecture--the horizontal siding, paneled frieze and soffit, double wagon doors, and sunburst vent--may lead some today to believe that it was built as a show barn. However, the mid-nineteenth century technology incorporated into the barn reveals that the builder and the owners constructed a state-of-the-art agricultural facility. Certainly the size of the barn, 40 by 80 feet, would reflect the trend away from subsistence farming, and the need for a small barn like an English Barn, to commercial agriculture that required a large barn for mixed livestock grain production. Large bank barns, such as this one, accommodated storage, grain processing and livestock quarters. These big, modern barns were the embodiment of a progressive farmer. "In America, and especially in the Midwest with its specialized, commercial agriculture, that image and function translated into extraordinary architectural forms, often appearing like veritable castles upon the rural landscape," explain the authors of Barns of the Midwest.<sup>4</sup> This evolution in barn design is a result of the growing importance of large-scale farming in the regional economy of the mid-nineteenth century. With the quickly developing network of

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<sup>2</sup> Prudence Teague Obituary, Wabash Plain Dealer, 1895.

<sup>3</sup> Meeting Minutes, Wabash Monthly Meeting.

<sup>4</sup> Allen G. Noble and Hubert G.H. Wilhelm, eds., Barns of the Midwest, p. 8.

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transportation lines, wheat became the dominate cash crop for farmers in the Midwest.<sup>5</sup> The commercial production of wheat required a large barn with threshing floors to process the grain.

The Teague Barn has two large central threshing bays. The barnwright incorporated two sets of double wagon doors into the porch, an uncommon feature.<sup>6</sup> The two sets of double doors allowed for a wagon to enter, unload and exit the threshing floor without having to back up. The two doors also allowed two wagons to enter and be unloaded at the same time. Two smaller doors, opposite the wagon doors, were used to throw hay to the livestock lot below. The center bays accommodated two threshing floors on the second level. The threshing floors are impressive. To this day, the floor boards are smooth and tight against each other which meant that no valuable grain seeds fell through the joints.

In a three-story Bank Barn, livestock were housed on the lowest level, away from the threshing floor and grain storage. The need for better hygiene was gaining the attention of society and this awareness is evident in the barn's construction. Reflecting that growing concern for sanitation, the stable floor of the Teague barn was constructed in a manner to promote quick drainage of animal waste. Cut rectangular limestone blocks were stood on their edges and laid into place in the basement floor. This method created a stable floor that was covered with the smallest amount of stone surface and the greatest amount of seams between the stone blocks which allowed wastes to drain. In addition, a channel of stone was installed under the limestone floor which directed wastes to the side of the barn with the lowest elevation. The channel continued down the slope to nearby Stauffer Ditch.

At the top of the roof rafters running the length of the barn, is a technological development that greatly affected the efficiency of labor. In 1867, an invention to ease the work of unloading and storing hay into hay mows was advertised in the *Prairie Farmer*.<sup>7</sup> The invention was a hay carrier, comprised of a hook or fork that was suspended by a pulley system from a horizontal wooden track installed into the peak of the barn's rafters. The loaded hay hook slid along the track to reach the far corners of the mows. The interior timber framework of the barn was constructed to not obstruct the movement of the hay carrier.

Another feature of the barn that would have added greatly to the overall cost was the installation of horizontal clapboard siding. Vertical siding was by far the most common siding material because it was easily applied. Horizontal siding required that the frame of the barn be modified with vertical nailers to accept the horizontal siding. A large basement barn of this size built not long after the construction date of this barn was reported to

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid., p. 10.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid, p. 19.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid, p. 25.

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cost between three to four thousand dollars.<sup>8</sup> The progressive design of the barn is an indicator of the influence of a growing philosophy of scientific rationalism applied to the business of farming. A large investment in a barn such as this was expected to reap substantial benefits in efficiency, livestock health, and quality of product. It may be that because the barn was an economic asset, the plain discipline of the Quaker faith was not applied to the appearance of barn's architecture.

With Teagues on the road ministering and not on the farm, the couple divided the property between the children. From the agricultural census records for 1870 and 1880, it is revealed that their sons ran the farm. During this time period, a variety of products were produced including wheat, oats, hay, potatoes, butter, maple sugar, molasses, forest products and produce from a market garden.<sup>9</sup>

In 1888, the Teague children sold the 256 acre property to a group of Wabash businessmen . The group consisted of three Jewish immigrants from Germany; Harmon Wolf, Nathan Meyer and Abraham Strauss. The three experienced horsemen formed a business in 1884 called the Wabash Importing Company with the intent to import Belgian Draft horses. Strong but gentle, the Belgian horse was used for farming and for pulling heavy loads. According to the Articles of Association of the Wabash Importing Company, the "object and purposes of this association shall be to import, own and breed horses and other animals for Agricultural purposes."<sup>10</sup> Regular trips were made to Belgium by the men to purchase draft horses and to ship them back to the United States. The horses were transported by rail to the company's city stables, which were located in the town of Wabash adjacent to the tracks. Breeding Belgians became another function of the company and the purchase of the Teague farm facilitated that endeavor. The Teague Barn became the farm stable for the business. It doesn't appear that any significant alterations were made to the barn for its new use, other than the painting of business's seal, which was "Wabash Importing Company" with the silhouette of a horse, as was defined in the Articles of Association. The seal is in large black letters against a white background between the second and third floor windows. The name extends across the length of the barn and includes the painted horse. The sign has nearly completely faded away.

Sometime in the business's history, Strauss and Meyer were no longer involved and Harmon Wolf continued to run the company. He became a prominent member of the Wabash community having great influence in the livestock interests in Wabash County. He believed that the Belgian breed of horse should be protected by the registration of the imported animals and their descendants. Since there was no American breeders association, Belgian horses would only have European registration papers. In 1887, Mr. Wolf and James D. Connor, Jr., a Wabash lawyer, organized and incorporated the American Association of Importers and Breeders of Belgian

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<sup>8</sup> Ibid, p. 57.

<sup>9</sup> U.S. Agricultural Census Records 1870 and 1880, Indiana State Archives.

<sup>10</sup> Articles of Association of the Wabash Importing Company, 1887, Wabash County Recorder's Office

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Horses to protect the horse purchasers across the country. According to Ollie Ziegler, historian for the Belgian Draft Horse Corporation of America, the reorganized descendant of the original association, the American Association of Importers and Breeders of Belgian Horses “was the only Association in the United States that registered Belgian draft horses and was recognized by both the governments of Belgium and the United States.”<sup>11</sup> Board members were from Indiana as well as from several other states. The *Manual of Wabash*, from 1889, related the virtues of the Wabash Importing Company and the level of breeding being accomplished:

It is not to be wondered at, for a visit to their stables in the city and to their finely improved farm will find displayed a most wonderful array of fine horse-flesh that would adorn any community. The benefits derived by breeders from the transfusion of such blood into our native stock cannot be over-estimated by our stock-growers, as it works wonders in elevating them to a high standard. Every one of their horses bears honors obtained in contests with the best horses of their class. Representatives of their horses can be found in almost every State in the Union, as horsemen are attracted here from all directions by their excellent qualities, for in points of symmetry, strength and endurance they have no equals.<sup>12</sup>

The business was profitable and Wolf became one of the largest importers of Belgian horses in the country. By 1906, Harmon Wolf’s son became a partner in the business with his father, who then retired in 1910. Also by this date, it is believed that the Teague Barn-Wabash Importing Company Farm Stable was no longer used for the business.

Today the current Belgian Draft Horse Corporation of America is still headquartered in Wabash, a few miles from the barn along the same road. Members of the board from several states were at the headquarters for a board meeting in the summer of 2001 and took the opportunity to see the privately-owned barn, an important tangible piece of their association’s beginnings. All agreed that the barn is in disrepair but everyone expressed strong interest in pursuing avenues to save and restore the barn. The property owner does not have the substantial funds to restore it, yet has indicated her willingness to transfer the barn to a third party to take advantage of the financial assistance available through various grant programs.

By nature, old barns hit a nostalgic cord in many of us and their numbers are quickly dwindling. The Teague Barn-Wabash Importing Company Farm Stable is a very old, extant example of a fine vernacular style of bank barn. When constructed in 1861, it was a first rate agricultural facility with many improvements not found in the average barn. It is tied to the cultural diversity of a rural community. In its role as a horse stable, it was an

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<sup>11</sup> Ollie Ziegler, “Wabash Importing Company, How it all began . . .” [www.belgiancorp.com/files/wabash\\_imp.html#top](http://www.belgiancorp.com/files/wabash_imp.html#top).

<sup>12</sup> George W. Butler, *The Manual of Wabash*, p. 31.

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WABASH COUNTY, INDIANA

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integral part of an importing and breeding business that was significant in the economic development of Wabash in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Furthermore, the barn was a part of the history of the first association in the United States to register Belgian draft horses, a very important livestock commodity. While dilapidated, the Teague Barn-Wabash Importing Company Farm Stable has outstanding architectural and historic importance which begs that action be taken to save the barn before it, too, disappears.

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### Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary that includes the Teague Barn-Wabash Importing Company Farm Stable is a four-sided parcel, which is represented by a dotted line on the accompanying map.

### Boundary Justification

The size of the Teague Barn-Wabash Importing Company Farm Stable boundary was determined to be within close proximity to the barn. The entire 256 acres should not be include because the overriding significance of the property is in the barn's history and architecture, which would support the adequacy of a tight boundary parcel. The environment of its location is of secondary importance.

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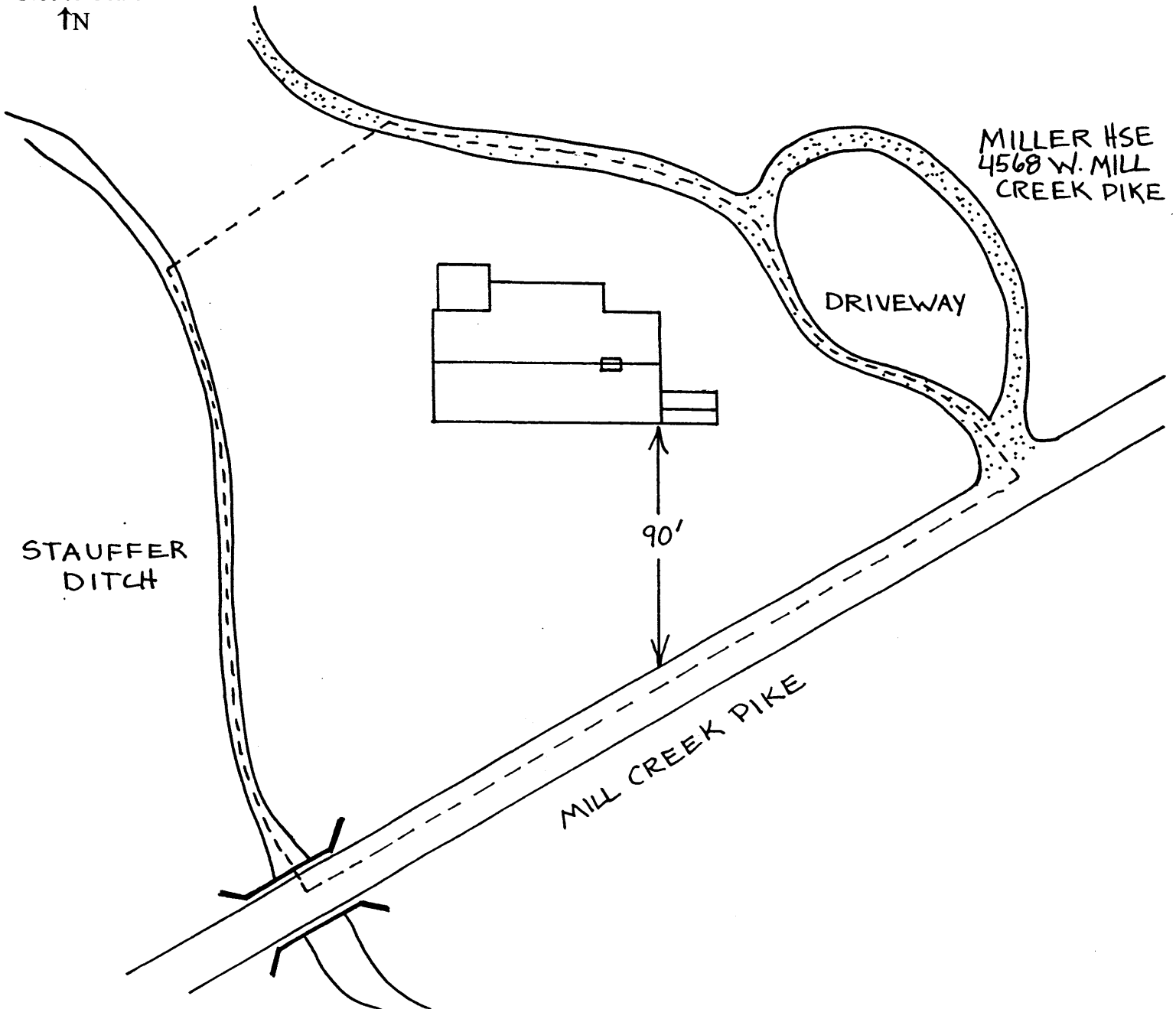
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TEAGUE BARN/WABASH IMPORTING COMPANY FARM STABLES  
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Teague Barn/Wabash Importing Company Farm Stable  
Wabash County, Indiana  
Boundary Sketch Map  
Not to Scale

↑N



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Teague Barn-Wabash Importing Company Farm Stable  
Wabash County, Indiana

Floor Plan  
Not to Scale  
↑N

