

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received NOV 5 1984  
date entered DEC 6 1984

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

1. Name

historic The Buckley Homestead

and/or common The Buckley Homestead

2. Location

street & number 3606 Belshaw Road N/A not for publication

city, town Lowell vic. X vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Lake code 089

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input checked="" 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
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name The Lake County Parks and Recreation Board

street & number 2293 North Main Street

city, town Crown Point N/A vicinity of state Indiana 46307

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder's Office, Lake County Government Center

street & number 2293 North Main Street

city, town Crown Point state Indiana 46307

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town state

## 7. Description

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

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

The Buckley Homestead is located on either side of Belshaw Road, two miles southeast of Lowell, Indiana. The Homestead consists of eight contributing structures which were built between 1853 and 1940, and one 1983 reconstruction.

#### 1. Buckley House (Photos 1-6)

Located amid the many farm structures of the Buckley Homestead, the Buckley House is a two story rectangular fram structure with a lean-to and several additions on the rear side. The house has a series of roof designs with the main roof gabled. A front porch extends across much of the front facade and a fieldstone foundation supports the house.

Facing south, the first story of the main facade is four bays wide and has a front porch extending across the center two-thirds of the exterior (Photo #1). A window is positioned near each end of the facade with two doors, one located on the interior side of each window. Originally, the doors flanked a center window, identical to the other windows. That window was removed and replaced with wood siding in 1917, when most of the other windows and doors were also replaced. (See Photo #5.) Most windows were rectangular, double-hung sash windows with six-over-six lights and plain wood surrounds, and were replaced by rectangular double-hung sash windows with one-over-one lights. The original front doors were replaced with doors containing oval beveled glass.

The front porch has a flat roof which shelters the two main entries. Resting on the porch floorboards, four fluted Doric columns support the porch roof and plain cornice. The porch has an ornate sawn wood balustrade. Fieldstone piers support the porch, which originally had an ashlar foundation. The porch has recently been reconstructed by the Lake County Park and Recreation Department. Before 1917 (approximately), the house had a front porch which extended across the entire front facade; it had a hipped roof supported by simple chamfered posts.

The upper level of the main facade has three windows. Originally, there were two additional windows flanking each side of the center window. These were removed and replaced with wood siding in 1917. A simple fascia is located above the windows and extends around the exterior. The main house has corner boards and a plain water table.

The east end of the original house has a picture window with one-over-one lights on the main level. Two original smaller windows were removed when the large window was added in 1917. There are two windows on the upper level. North of the original house on this side is a two story ell, added in 1917, with a small side porch centrally located on the main level. (Photo #21) There is a door off the porch, sheltered by a shed roof supported by a turned wood post on the south end. The north end of the porch is enclosed and has one window on the east side. A small, single-light window is above the porch roof.

After 1853 and before 1900, a kitchen addition was attached to the northeast corner of the original house (Photo #5). In 1917, the addition was moved north of the house, and later it was placed south of Belshaw Road and became the farm office.

# 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 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** 1853–1940

**Builder/Architect** Buckley Family and Albert Smith

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

The Buckley Homestead is an excellent example of the evolution of an agricultural lifestyle in Northwest Indiana from the 1850's to the 1940's, as exhibited by its structures. Such collections of historic farm buildings are growing increasingly rare in Indiana; the Buckley Homestead is thus one of a vanishing breed. The farm also reflects the trend towards specialization in the agriculture business during the first two decades of the 20th century in the United States. Through three generations, the Buckley family developed their farm into a progressive dairy operation that helped to serve the needs of nearby Chicago.

The Buckley Homestead was founded in 1849. In that year Dennis Buckley and his family came to America to escape the potato famine in Ireland and purchased 79 acres offered for bid sale by United States veterans. The Buckyleys were not among the earliest settlers in the area, yet they were the first to settle on their land, were one of the first Roman Catholic families in the area, and were on hand to see the founding of the village of Lowell. The Buckyleys contributed to the economy in the Lowell vicinity. One of Dennis's sons, William, worked for Melvin Halsted, and assisted in the construction of the first brick building in Lowell, which is on the National Register.

The Buckley House is a symbol of the growth of a prosperous farm family. The original vernacular Greek Revival portion of the house is typical of the restrained elegance of the 1850's. Although altered in 1917, the house preserves many clues and evidences of its former condition.

The most significant structure related to Agriculture is the Main Barn, locally considered a "Cadillac of barns". This bank barn, a style not especially common in the area, was progressive for its time. The track and pulley system used for removing manure was inventive, and is still workable. The automatic watering system, which was activated by an animal pressing its nose against a lever, was also a new idea. The system is still in place, although not presently functioning. Most other barns in the area are earlier and less sophisticated. The Buckley barn was one of the last multi-purpose barns built in the area; later barns became more specialized. It is also one of the largest to survive.

The other structures are important support elements in the framework of the farm, providing insights into the 125 years of agricultural practice represented at the site.

For over 125 years the Buckyleys efficiently operated the Buckley Homestead. In 1977, the Homestead and surrounding lands were donated to the Lake County Parks and Recreation Department by Rose Buckley Pearce, great granddaughter of Dennis Buckley. The farm was offered with the intention that it be preserved. As a living history farm it will help to educate people about the quickly vanishing lifestyle and heritage of agriculture in Northwest Indiana. Through the leadership of the Lake County Parks and Recreation Department, this goal can be assured for future generations.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2.87 acres

Quadrangle name Lowell

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	6	4	6	8	2	6	0	4	5	6	9	9	3	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

1	6	4	6	8	3	4	0	4	5	6	9	9	3	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

1	6	4	6	8	3	4	0	4	5	6	9	7	8	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

1	6	4	6	8	2	6	0	4	5	6	9	7	8	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

### Verbal boundary description and justification

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
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# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Thomas M. Sliwa, ASLA, Landscape Planner

organization Lake County Parks and Recreation Dept. Planning and Development Division date 4-2-84

street & number 6400 Harrison St. telephone 219/980-2167, 980-8101

city or town Merrillville state Indiana 46410

# 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. Catlett*

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 10-16-84

For NPS use only

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

*for Delores Byers*  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

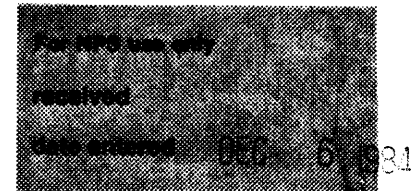
date 12/6/84

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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The west end of the original house presently has one window on the first level (Photo #4). One window was removed and replaced with wood siding in 1917. The second level of the facade has two windows. The two-story, 1917 addition has a window on each level. A lean-to is located in the ell formed by the original structure and the 1917 addition. The one-story lean-to has a window on each of its two facades. A small window is located above the shed roof on the north side of the original house.

A one story, flat roofed addition was built on the rear facade in the 1930's (Photos #'s 3 and 4). Its north facade has a door and a modern "Chicago style" window. A door and several windows are located on its east facade, and several windows on its west facade.

The roofs are covered with asphalt shingles, which replaced the original wood shingles. An exterior brick chimney rises from the foundation to well above the roof gable on the west facade. An interior brick chimney, which was offset on the west end of the roof ridge, was removed when the exterior chimney was constructed some-time in the last 50 years. (Photo #6.) An interior brick chimney is positioned on the central area of the roof ridge of the two-story addition.

Like the exterior of the house, the interior has been changed considerably from its original construction due to the building additions. Presently, there is a parlor, living room, kitchen, bedroom and bath on the first level; the latter three are not original. Originally, the parlor and living room were divided by an enclosed stairway; access between the rooms was beneath the second floor landing. In 1917, the staircase to the cellar and second floor were moved 90° to the east in order to adjoin the parlor and living room. A wood banister was constructed halfway up the upstairs staircase, which has open stringers, square balusters, and a decorative newel post. An encased opening with a half wall on each side was built between the two rooms; an encased beam runs along the ceiling. The original interior also had a small bedroom and pantry in the north lean-to. The east exterior wall of the pantry was removed when the kitchen was built in 1917 and is now part of the kitchen. The upstairs has four bedrooms; the two original ones were separated by the enclosed stairwell until it was moved.

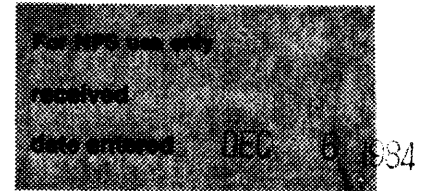
The walls and ceilings are lathed and plastered. The interior window and door surrounds are plain and the baseboards are tall. All interior features were originally painted with a feather in an effort to match the new varnished wood trim in the additions. The 1930 rear addition of a downstairs hallway and bedroom has vertical, knotty pine paneling.

Gas fixtures were installed on the second floor in 1917. Four of the fixtures still exist and the piping system is partially intact. Another feature added at this time was a hand pump connected to a cistern under the side porch. It was used to pump water to an overhead storage tank for the newly-installed toilet. Other alterations include wallpaper and light switches in the 1940's, linoleum floor in the kitchen in the 1970's, and the recent addition of wood cabinets and a small bathtub in the bathroom. The house has recently been rewired and insulation has been added in the attic and basement, which has a concrete floor dating to 1917.

The Buckley House is in fair to good condition.

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2. Main Barn and Silo (Photos 7-12)

The Main Barn and Silo were built in October, 1916, by Albert Smith, of Monroe, Indiana. This bank barn has a gambrel roof with two large metal ventilators at either end. The rear portion has a lean-to and an open forebay. The foundation and lower level walls are poured concrete. Small, two-light windows run just below the ceiling around the lower level.

A wide concrete ramp with iron railings leads to two large sliding doors below a gambrel-roofed dormer, which has three three-over-one light windows side-by-side. The upper level of the barn has vertical board and batten siding. The roof is covered with tin sheeting, which covers the original wood shingles. The rear section has three small shed dormers with three-light windows. The gable ends have two two-light windows each. The shed section has one two-light window at either end.

The main part of the barn was constructed in the plank truss method, with six trusses spaced 16' apart supporting a continuous purlin, which carries the individual rafters. Diagonal cross bracing is used at the ends of the barn and with the trusses and purlins.

There are two levels in the Main Barn. The lower level had three rows of nine formed concrete cattle stalls with concrete gutters and mangers. Metal stanchions exist for some of the stalls. These stalls run the width of the barn on the west half. The east end of the lower level has two aisles leading to east and south doorways, bordered by livestock pens. The aisle was bordered on the east by three livestock pens and on the west by six horse stalls.

The forebay has two large wooden mangers and a bull pen at one end. A bucket system, carried by a U-shaped track in the milking area and a straight track at the livestock pens, was used to remove manure to the rear of the barn.

An automatic watering system was also installed at an early date. The device was activated by an animal pressing its nose against a lever.

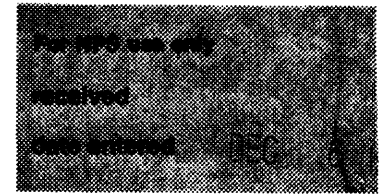
The upper level hay loft has a two-bin granary with chutes to the lower level, a stairway down to the cattle stalls, and open storage extending under the rear shed roof.

In order to allow visitors in the Main Barn, the Indiana Fire Marshall required the installation of a two-flight stairway down to the forebay, and an overhead sprinkler system in the lower level. A large storage tank is buried to the east of the entrance ramp. Some areas of single layer flooring have been covered with plywood for safety reasons. Electric lighting was also installed on both levels. Other past alterations include broken-out manger and gutter rims in the concrete stalls and a rear porch area added in the 1940's.

The Main Barn is in good condition.

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The Silo is constructed on a concrete foundation, topped by curved, glazed, chambered clay tile. A painted pattern toward the top is still discernible. Metal access openings with rungs are on the back side of the Silo. The tile access chute with metal framed access ports has recently been removed because of partial collapse. The wooden silo cap is missing. The interior of the Silo has remains of parging. The below-ground portion has a poured concrete tunnel leading to the lower level of the barn.

The Silo is in a deteriorated condition.

3. Granary (Photos 12-14)

The Granary was also built in 1916 by Albert Smith of Monroe, Indiana. The frame structure has a gambrel roof with open eaves and a gabled cupola, which replaced the original in 1950 when the present elevator was installed. Lean-tos are on the east and west sides of the barn with the east one having been added after 1945.

The Granary has vertical wood siding, plain door and window surrounds, and a plain saddlebacked wood drip cap above the doors and windows. The cupola has vertical board and batten siding with four-light windows, two on the north side and one each on the other sides. Metal roofing replaced the original wood shingle roof.

The east lean-to has corrugated metal walls and roofing over a wood frame. There are two small, four-light windows on the east wall. Vertical wood batten double doors are on the north end.

The west lean-to has vertical board siding, a wood batten double door on the north end, and two small, four-light windows on the west wall. The sheet metal roof covers the original deteriorated wood shingles.

The doors of the front (north) facade of the Granary have cross bracing over vertical boards. The ground level has two large sliding doors and a service door to the west. The second level has hinged double doors. The third level has a four-over-four light window. "The Buckley Homestead" is painted in an arch pattern above the second level doors.

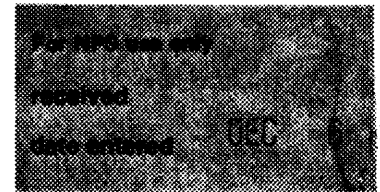
The south facade is similar but not as detailed: the sliding doors are plain and the four-over-four light window on the third level is identical.

The interior of the Granary has two main levels. The ground level contains a wide corridor running the length of the building, flanked by wooden corn cribs. An access stairway to the upper levels is in the northwest corner of the building. The upper level elevator and grain bins are supported by closely spaced 3 x 12 joists and two interior, open-framed walls running the length of the building. The Granary has had electricity since the 1950's.

The Granary is in good condition.

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4. Garage and Workroom (Photos 16-17)

The Garage and Workroom was built shortly after 1917 by the Buckley family. The frame structure has  $1\frac{1}{2}$  stories with three gables and a lean-to addition on the north side. The interior was originally divided into three sections: a workroom to the west, a garage in the center, and a henhouse to the east.

The Workroom has a six-over-six light window on each exterior wall and a four panel door on the south wall. The walls and ceiling are beaded tongue and groove paneling. There is a cistern beneath the concrete floor. The original brick chimney extends into the attic, where it was shortened and covered over with roofing.

The Garage area extends back into the 1950's addition to the north. An open stairway leads to the attic, which has a double window on each end and a diamond shaped window frame with a circular cut-out on the front gable.

The exterior has a water table, horizontal lapped wood siding, corner boards, and a return box cornice with plain frieze. The windows have plain surrounds with a simple cornice. The roof was originally wood shingles and now is covered over with corrugated metal sheeting. The former henhouse door is visible on the east facade. The six-over-six light windows may have been reused from the Buckley House. The windows on the east facade date to 1917. Remains of the original gutter and downspouts run along the front of the building.

The Garage and Workroom building is in good condition.

5. Hog Barn (Photo 18)

The Hog Barn was constructed shortly after 1917 by the Buckley family. It is a frame structure with a pitched roof, double sliding doors on the west end and a service door on the east end. Along the south side are six wooden flap doors. The foundation is poured concrete, which is in very poor condition. The roof has recently been restored, including wood shingles, skylights and ventilators.

The exterior has horizontal rabbetted shiplap wood siding with corner boards and open eaves. The small, two-light windows on the east have simple surrounds.

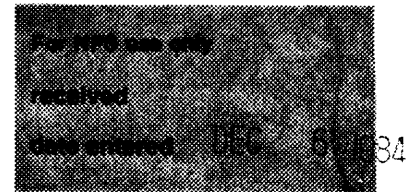
The interior originally had six pens on the south and two large farrowing pens on the north, divided by an aisle. A wall currently divides the building in half. The west end of the building was originally the same as the east end, with a service door and two small windows. Electricity was recently extended into the building.

The Hog Barn is in fair to good condition.



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6. Toolshed (Photo 19)

The Toolshed is one of the oldest structures at the Homestead, dating from the 1850's. The structure is probably close to its original location. The frame shed has wide vertical siding, a gabled roof and open eaves. Forged nails were used in its construction. The roof is presently asphalt paper over roofing boards. The Toolshed is in a deteriorated condition, but will be restored in the near future.

7. Woodshed and Doghouse (Photo 20)

The Woodshed and Doghouse are located northwest of the Buckley House and date from the early 1900's. The Woodshed is a small frame structure with wide horizontal siding, corner boards and a gabled roof. It is in a deteriorated condition, but will be repaired in the near future. The Doghouse is constructed of clapboards with corner boards and open eaves. The roofing is metal sheeting over asphalt paper and roofing boards. The structure is in good condition.

8. Milkhouse (Photo 21)

The Milkhouse was built about 1940 to replace the former Milkhouse, located on the same site. It was built on a concrete block foundation and has a gabled wood shingle roof with a small ventilator. The Milkhouse has horizontal rabbetted shiplap siding, corner boards, plain fascia, and plain window and door surrounds. There is one six-light window, a batten door, and a vent door in the west gable.

The exterior of the Milkhouse has recently been restored and is in excellent condition.

9. Hired Hand's Quarters (Photo 22—Non-contributing)

The Hired Hand's Quarters was originally the kitchen for the Buckley House. Shortly after 1917 it was moved across Belshaw Road to become the farm's office. The original structure was documented and dismantled because of extreme deterioration. In 1983 a replica was constructed, which reflects the building's condition after it had been moved to the site.

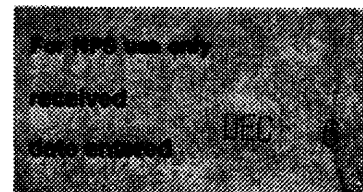
The Hired Hand's Quarters rests on six stone-and-gravel piers. It has a gabled wood shingle roof, plain fascia, soffit, corner boards, and horizontal lapped wood siding. The windows have four-over-four lights with simple surrounds. The door and window on the gable ends have a molded cornice. There are two four-panel doors with decorative screen doors.

The interior has two rooms accessible by a door on either side of the brick chimney. The chimney has a flue opening for a wood stove. There are tall painted baseboards, and simple door and window surrounds. The walls and ceilings are painted plaster over gypsum board.

The Hired Hand's Quarters is being used to demonstrate kitchen and household activities until the Buckley House is restored.

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Books

- Harris, Cyril M. Ed., Dictionary of Architecture and Construction, McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York, 1974.
- Kauffman, Henry J., The American Farmhouse. Hawthorn Books, Inc., New York, 1975.
- Rawson, Richard, Old Barn Plans, Mayflower Books, New York, 1979.
- Leroy Troyer and Associates, Site Inventory for the Restoration and Development of the Buckley Homestead, Belshaw Road, Lowell, Indiana; Leroy Troyer and Associates, Mishawaka, Indiana, 1981.
- Austin, Richard L. and Eds., The Yearbook of Landscape Architecture: Historic Preservation. Van Nostrand Reinhold Company, Inc., New York, 1983.
- Lehman, Charles F. and Cervelli, Janice A.  
A Living History Farm: The Buckley Homestead, LeRoy Troyer & Associates, 1981.

Interviews

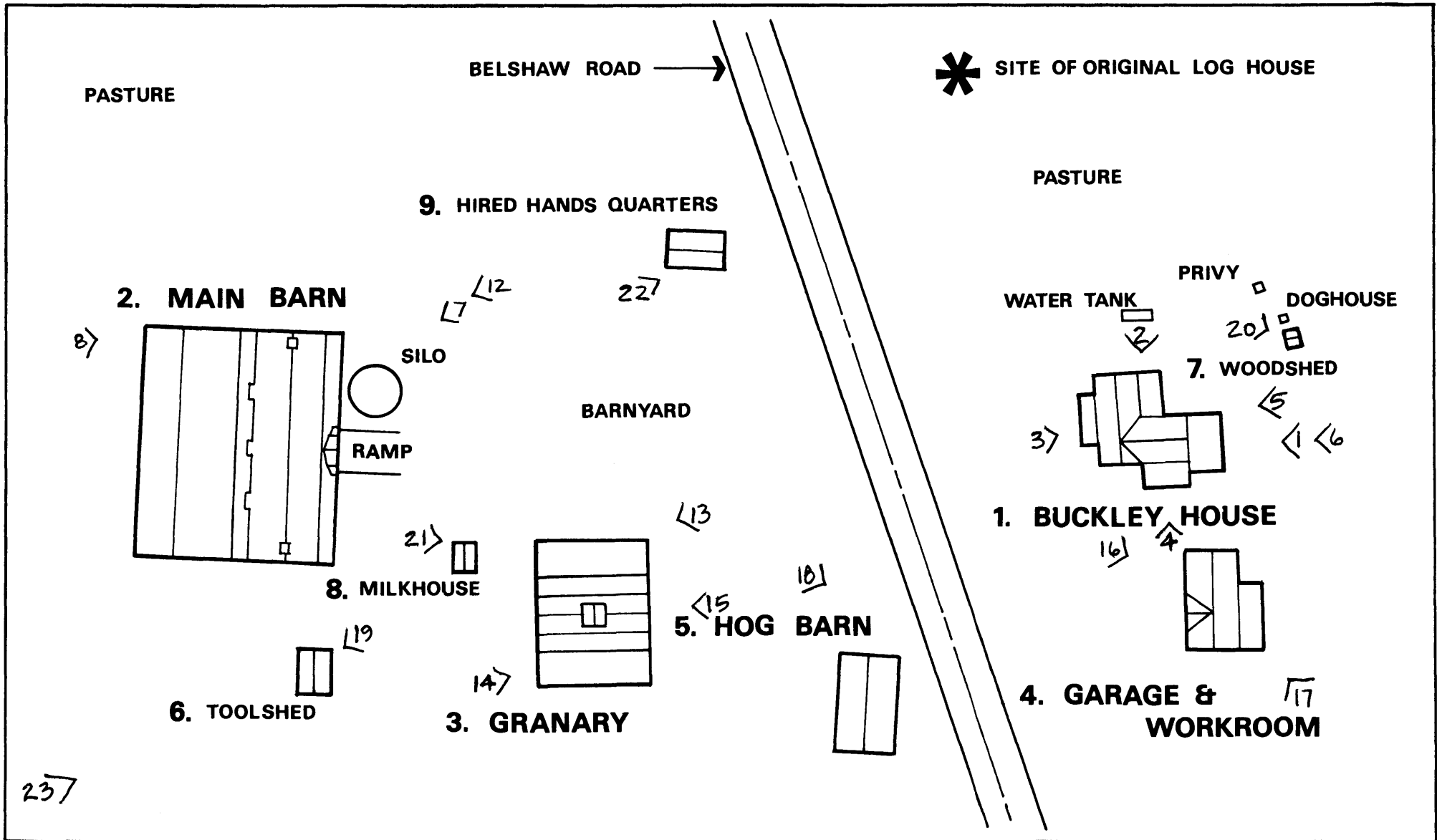
- Rose Buckley Pearce, Lowell, Indiana, June 24, 1981.  
Conducted by Charles F. Lehman, Janice A. Cervelli, Leroy Troyer and Associates.
- Rose Buckley Pearce, Lowell, Indiana, February, 1982, to February, 1983.  
Taped interviews and notes from telephone conversation. Conducted by Becky Crabb, Lake County Historian and Manager, Buckley Homestead.
- Ray McIntyre, Arthur Willing, 3 Creeks Historical Association, Lowell, Indiana. Spring, 1981. Conducted by Becky Crabb.
- Linda Tuley-Welch, Folklore Specialist, Lowell, Indiana. Fall, 1980. Conducted by Becky Crabb.
- Becky Crabb, Lake County Historian and Manager, Buckley Homestead, Lowell, Indiana, November 3, 1983; January 26 and February 8, 1984. Conducted by Thomas M. Sliwa, Lake County Parks and Recreation Department Planning and Development Division.

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Item 10

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Beginning at a point on the centerline of Belshaw Road, which lies two hundred (200) feet southwest of the intersecting centerline of Hendricks Street; thence one hundred forty (140) feet to the north; thence two hundred fifty (250) feet to the west; thence five hundred (500) feet to the south; thence two hundred fifty (250) feet to the east; thence three hundred sixty (360) feet to the north, to the place of beginning; excepting, however, the present right-of-way of Belshaw Road. Located in the Northwest quarter of the Southeast quarter of Section 30, Township 33 North, Range 8 West, in Cedar Creek Township, Lake County, Indiana.



# BUCKLEY HOMESTEAD

lake county parks & recreation dept

SCALE - 1" = 50'

2/1/84 north >