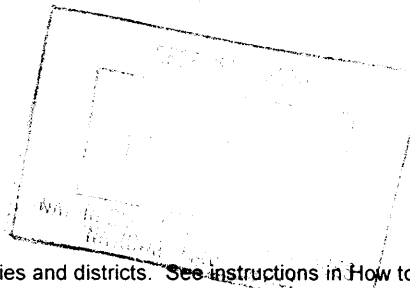


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

1557



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 Deer Creek Valley Rural Historic District
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number SE corner of Sec. 21, most of Sec. 22 & areas N. of Deer Creek N/A not for publication
city or town Delphi N/A vicinity
state Indiana code IN county Carroll code 015 zip code 46923

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 Date 10.25.02
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
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 Patrick Andrews Date of Action 12/20/2002

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 type="checkbox"/> building	44	19	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	17	4	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	13	4	structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	0	0	objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	74	27	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed
 in the National Register

N/A

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling	DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling
FUNERARY: Cemetery	FUNERARY: Cemetery
AGRICULTURE/SUBSIST Storage	AGRICULTURE/SUBSIST Storage
AGRICULTURE/SUBSIST Agricultural Field	AGRICULTURE/SUBSIST Agricultural Field
AGRICULTURE/SUBSIST Animal Facility	AGRICULTURE/SUBSIST Animal Facility
AGRICULTURE/SUBSIST Agricultural	AGRICULTURE/SUBSIST Agricultural Outbuilding
TRANSPORTATION: Road-Related	TRANSPORTATION: Road-Related (vehicular)

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
MID-19th c.: Greek Revival	foundation: STONE
MID-19th c.: Gothic Revival	walls: BRICK
LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate	WOOD: Weatherboard
	roof: ASPHALT
	other: METAL
	SYNTHETICS

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.)

- X 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.
X 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.
X 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)

- AGRICULTURE
ARCHITECTURE
EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
TRANSPORTATION
LITERATURE

Period of Significance

1828-1952

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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
X Other

Name of repository:

Indiana Historical Society

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 770 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 531000 4494510
Zone Easting Northing

3 16 531980 4493940
Zone Easting Northing

2 16 531980 4494560

4 16 532220 4493580

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 Carolyn Schleif, AIA
organization Nightingale Designs, Inc. date 04-15-2002
street & number 10517 Hyde Park telephone 317/580-1658
city or town Carmel state IN zip code 46032

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 Mr. Lynn Corson (local contact)
street & number 6678 W. 200 N. telephone
city or town Delphi state IN zip code 46923

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.

Deer Creek Valley Rural Historic District Resource Count

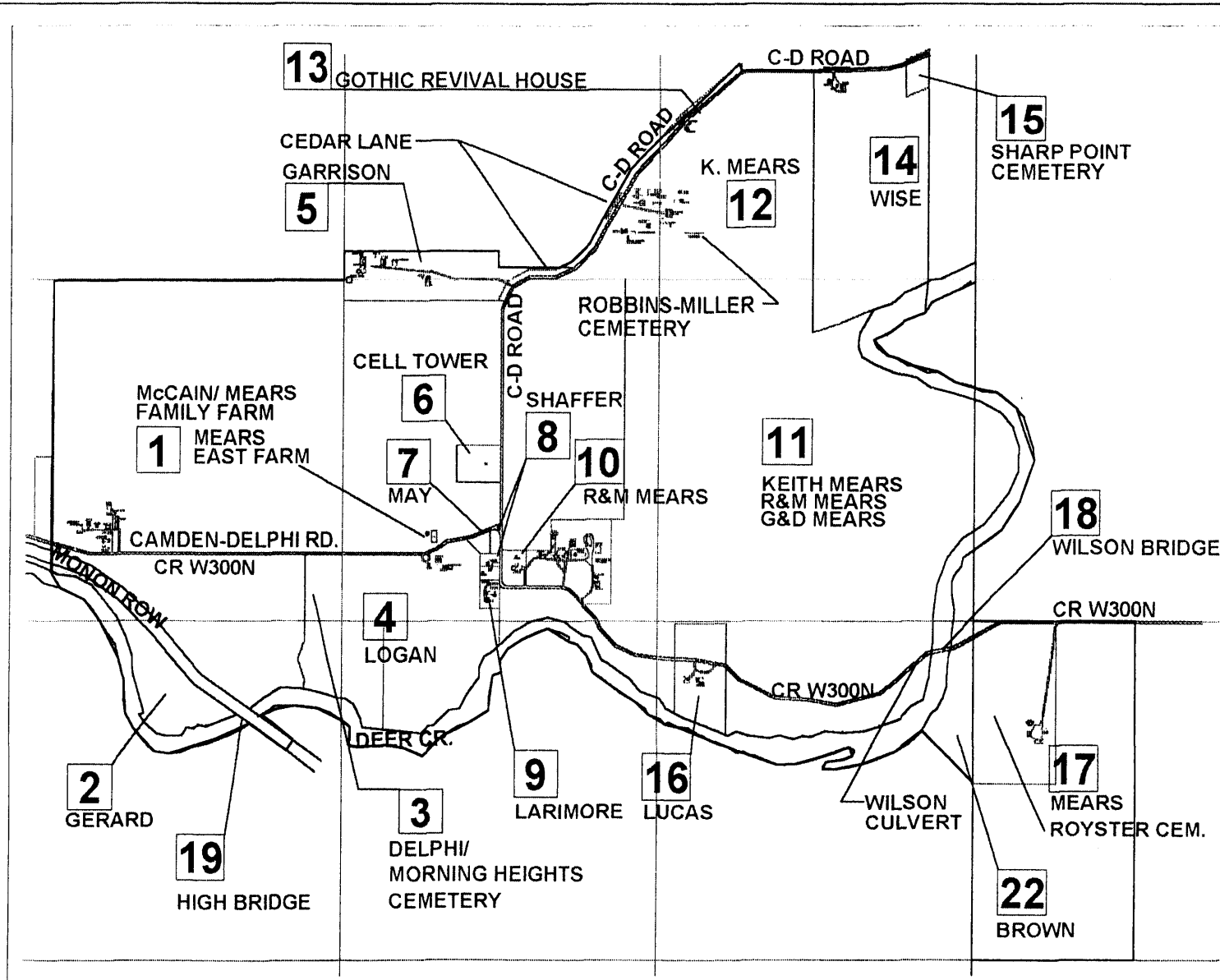
	Site:		Non-			Bldgs:		Non-		Structures:		Non-	
	Present Name	Historic Name	Contrib.	Cont.	N/A		Contrib.	Cont.		Contrib.	Cont.		Cont.
1	Mears Family Farm	McCain Farm	1			House	1						
						Garage	1						
						Box Car	1						
						Shop		1					
						Corn Crib	1						
						Sweitzer Barn	1						
						Tool Shed		1					
						Spring House	1						
						Poultry House	1						
						Privy		1					
										Iron Fence	1		
						E. Barn	1						
						E. Silo		1					
2	Mary Gerard	McCain Farm	1			Corn Crib	1						
3	Morning Heights Cem.	Delphi Cemetery	1							Iron Fence	1		
4	Logan Farmstead	Bragunier Farm	1			House	1						
						Barn	1						
						Garage		1					
5	Garrison Farmstead	Bragunier Farm	1			House	1						
						Barn	1						
						Crib/Shed		1					
						Barn	1						
						Barn	1						
						Tack Shed	1						
						Grain Bin					1		
						Grain Bin					1		
						Grain Bin						1	
						Silo	1						
6	Indiana PSA	Bragunier Farm			1	Building		1		Cell Tower			1
7	Mary May et. al.	Bragunier Farm			1								
8	Shaffer porperty	Bragunier Farm		1		House		1					
						Shed		1					

		Site:		Non-		Bldgs:		Non-	Structures:		Non-
	Present Name	Historic Name	Contrib.	Cont.	N/A		Contrib.	Cont.		Contrib.	Cont.
9	Larimore Home	Bragunier Farm		1		House		1			
						Garage		1			
						Shed		1			
10	R. & M. Mears Home	Wilson-Shirk Farm		1		House		1			
						Shed		1			
11	G., R. & K. Mears Farm	Wilson-Shirk Farm	1			House	1				
						Garage	1				
						Poultry Shed	1				
						Pole Barn		1			
						Grain Bin					1
						Dairy Barn	1				
						Pole Barn	1				
						Pole Barn	1				
						Silo		1			
						Grain Bin				1	
						Grain Bin				1	
						Grain Bin					1
12	Keith Mears	Wingard Farm	1			House	1				
						Garage	1				
						Eng. Bank Barn	1				
						Garage/ Shed	1				
						Smoke/Well Hse	1				
						Poultry Sheds	2				
						Pole Barn	1				
						Crib Barn	1				
						Pole Barn	1				
						Grain Bin				1	
						Shed	1				
						Silo	1				
						Corn Crib					1
12	Robbins-Miller Cem.	Robbins-Miller Cem.	1								
13	Gothic Revival House	Wingard Farm	1			House	1				
						Garage	1				

Site:			Non-		Bldgs:	Non-	Structures:	Non-		
Present Name	Historic Name	Contrib.	Cont.	N/A		Contrib.	Cont.	Contrib.	Cont.	
14	Vernon Wise House	Wingard Farm	1			House	1			
						Garage	1			
						Pole Barn		1		
15	Sharp Point Cem.	Sharp Point Cem.	1							
16	Lucas House	Wilson-Shirk Farm		1		House		1		
						Barn		1		
17	(John) Mears Farm	Royster Farm	1			House	1			
						Garage	1			
						Chicken House	1			
						Barn	1			
						Equipment Bldg	1			
	Royster Cemetery	Royster Cemetery	1							
18	Wilson Bridge	Wilson Bridge	1						1	
19	High Bridge								1	
	CSX right-of-way	Monon right-of-way	1							
20	Camden-Delphi Road	Camden-Delphi Rd.							1	
	Cedar Lane	Cedar Lane	1							
21	CR W. 300 N.	CR W. 300 N.							1	
	Wilson Bridge Culvert								1	
22	Brown Property	Road+Ford Remnant	1							
Totals			17	4	2		44	19	12	5

Total Contributing:	73
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Total Non-Contributing:	28
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DEER CREEK RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Number 7 Page 1

SECTION VII:

Introduction

The Deer Creek Valley rural historic district is comprised of twenty historic properties covering over 770 acres that continue to demonstrate their historic land use, special relationships, structures, clusters, natural environment, circulation, vegetation and shared community landmarks of their period. It is located just east of Delphi, in Carroll County, mostly along the north bank of Deer Creek and south of the Delphi-Camden Road, an important transportation route for the area. The district is approximately one and three quarter miles long and varies from 1,000 feet to slightly over a mile wide, including parts of sections 21, 22, 23, 26, 27 and 28 within Township 25 North, Range 2 West. It contains several farmstead clusters, four cemeteries, two bridges, the Monon railway right of way, the Delphi-Camden Road as well as Deer Creek and its slate bluffs.

The Deer Creek Valley rural historic district contains forty-four contributing buildings, including agricultural outbuildings and homes, as well as twelve contributing structures associated with the historic area. In cases where the organization of a farm or property adds or detracts from the sense of development of the district, the count includes either a contributing or non-contributing site. Indiana Poet James Whitcomb Riley had a cabin nearby and took inspiration from this area when he wrote "On the Banks O'Deer Creek" and "From Delphi to Camden."

The Deer Creek Valley rural historic district is important because it exhibits a nineteenth-century agricultural landscape of substantial integrity as well as the characteristics of a community of families over a long period of time. These things are as evident today as they were over 150 years ago when the first settlers arrived in Carroll County.

Land Use and Activities

Traditionally, land use and activities in the Deer Creek Valley rural historic district have been primarily agricultural. Farming has included crops and stock farming. Larger acreage plots have replaced the historic agricultural pattern of smaller plots, but the use has remained consistent for the last 100 years.

Patterns of Spatial Organization

Patterns of spatial organization in the district tend to follow early American as opposed to European precedents. The farmsteads are laid out on the lines of the national survey grid. Most properties align with section, township and ranges lines with the exception of the southern border along Deer Creek and a few properties along the Delphi-Camden Road.

Farmhouses tend to be positioned close to the road and on high ground, well above creek level. Other buildings on the farmstead were stand-alone structures, slightly separated, but clustered with the main house. In farmsteads such as the Garrison farm, the cluster of buildings is linear and lined by an allee of cedars, where others follow the typical nineteenth century clustering of residential and agricultural buildings as seen in the Keith Mears property.

Response to the Natural Environment

Deer Creek is the most notable natural environmental feature of Deer Creek Valley rural historic district. Not only do the winding banks define the southern boundary of most of the district, but it has been, and continues to be a serene destination for recreation and community activities. Flanking its banks are slate bluffs, some of them around 80 feet in height, with several small waterfalls that add to the scenery.

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Number 7 Page 2

Crossing the creek are two bridges, High Bridge and Wilson Bridge. High Bridge, located 1.7 miles east of Delphi, opened in 1881 as part of the Monon Railway system. Its rail bed is still present, though the right-of-way is no longer active. Concrete piers support the wood and steel deck which is positioned 63 feet above Deer Creek.

To the southeastern corner of the district is Wilson Bridge. It was named after Isaac Wilson, an early settler who owned the surrounding land. Near the bridge are a group of caves, known as Wilson's Cave, as well as a deep pool and landmass which is reported to be an inspiration to James Whitcomb Riley, the famous Indiana poet.

Just to the east, was the site of the 1820's Billings Mill, one of two or three early mills in the county. The millrace is still in evidence, and a possible portion of the mill foundation can be found, but the remainder is gone.

Circulation Networks

The Delphi-Camden road is and was the principal form of circulation in and around the Deer Creek Valley rural historic district. Today it is part of County Road 300 North and County Road 575 West. A secondary road radiates from it that consists of present day CR W300N east of CR 575 W. It maintains its historic character as a two-lane country road, winding between the farmsteads of the district.

The towns of Delphi and Camden were settled in 1828 and 1835 respectively, and the Delphi-Camden road appeared, as it is today, on the Carroll County Plat Map in 1863. Since Delphi was a shipping point on the Wabash River, and later the Wabash and Erie Canal, the role this road played toward economic development of the surrounding farming communities is clear.

Boundary Demarcations

Deer Creek Valley rural historic district boundaries surround several extant farmsteads that maintain integrity and concentrations of features that maintain their historical significance. The district borders encompass entire farmsteads, and included additional special features such as iron fences, tree lines, roadways, caves and creeks. The southern boundary of the district includes Deer Creek due to the scenic beauty which inspired poetry from the area, as well as reflecting the life-style of those who lived along the Creek.

Deer Creek Valley rural historic district is bounded on the south by Deer Creek and its banks. The west border moves north along the west property line of parcel 15 (Mears Family farm) to the west property line of parcel 14 and turning east along the north property line of that parcel to the line between Sections 21 and 22. At this point the boundary turns north along the west property line of parcel 10 in Section 11 (J.B. Garrison farm) and continues to the northern property line, turning east and then south along the eastern line of said property until it joins the north side of the Delphi-Camden road (County Road W375N). The boundary follows the north side of the right-of-way of this road, in a northeasterly direction, passing over County Road 525 West, and continuing along CR375 North to the eastern property line of the Sharp Point Cemetery where it turns south along this property line, continuing due south to the southern bank of Deer Creek. Turning west and then south, it follows the far bank of the creek in a southwesterly direction crossing over into Section 23, around parcel 13. At the southernmost corner of parcel 13, Section 23, it moves south on the section line to the corner of Section 22 and 26. It goes east to the easternmost point of parcel 18 in Section 26, where it turns south at the property line, to the southernmost corner of parcel 18, and then west along this line to the section line (between 26 and 27). Moving from this point it follows the south bank of Deer Creek until it comes to the High Bridge. The boundary jogs southeast along the east side of the bridge to the south abutment in the railroad right-of-way, and back along the west side of the bridge to the creek. At this point it continues to follow the south creek bank in a northwest direction to the western edge of parcel 15 in Section 21, where it crosses the creek and continues to the north along this line to the place of the beginning.

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Number 7 Page 3

Vegetation Related to Land Use

Agricultural crops are the principal plant material in the district, including corn, soybeans and other typical cash crops. One of the earliest soybean crops in the region can be traced to this district. Along Deer Creek large caliber sycamore and water-loving tree species can be found, and the banks of the creek are lined with trees and spouts. Photographs and drawings indicate that this portion of the district had this sort of scenic vegetation during the historic period. A lane of 12-15" caliber cedars is present along the north side of the Delphi-Camden Road just east of the Garrison farm. The size of the trees indicates that they are at least 100 years old, and 1939 photos show mature trees along this location, making this row of trees historic.

Buildings, Structures, and Objects

Most major building elements of the district lie along County Road (CR) 300N and the Delphi-Camden Road with one notable farmstead across Deer Creek. Many of the structures are historically significant examples of vernacular architecture in their own right, while many others are important examples of vernacular building traditions indigenous to this part of Indiana.

Farmstead buildings are organized in clusters close to the road, typical of eighteenth century farms. These include barns, comcribs, privies, granaries, silos, milk sheds and other outbuildings. Four original cemeteries are still present in the district, as well as the two main bridges that connected both sides of Deer Creek, and allowed for transportation via the county roads and the Monon Railway to towns beyond the district's borders.

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 4

1. Mears Family Farmstead

6405 W. 300N.
(parts of Sections 21, 22 and 28)
Over 213 Acres

Note: * next to resource name denotes
contributing item. No * denotes a
non-contributing item.

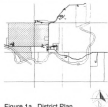


Figure 1a. District Plan



Figure 1b. House from SWE



Figure 1d. Bank Barn from South

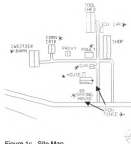


Figure 1c. Site Map

The Mears Family Farmstead on CR 300 North, previously the Daniel McCain Farmstead. The farmhouse has been given an Outstanding rating in the [Carroll County Interim Report](#),¹ making it eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

The McCain/Mears Family farm is significant because of its architecture, its construction and because it is an extant historic farmstead. The house is a two-story brick Greek revival style home constructed in 1852.² The bricks

¹ [Carroll County Interim Report](#), February 1980, pg. 44.

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Number 7 Page 5

were probably made on site, as was common during this period of time. The home has a typical exterior including a low-pitched gabled roof with a wide band of cornice trim representing the classic entablature seen in Greek temples. The band is discontinuous at the pedimented gable ends decorated with a cornice return. The two-story front porch/veranda is recessed, as opposed to being attached to the structure as was most common in this style. However, it does have a row of four supporting square wood columns with simple block bases, topped with decorative brackets commonly seen in vernacular Greek revival homes.

Fenestrations are typical of this style, with the window trim being less decorated than the main entrance. Windows are six-over-six double hung windows, surrounded by simple wood frames. There are also attic windows at gable ends. The windows and doors within the veranda are evenly distributed, with two doors at each end.

Often rear wings were attached to the main structure forming a T or L plan. Attached to the rear is a one-story summer kitchen addition creating an overall T plan to the house. The wing was added around 1900³ and has wood siding, four-over-four double-hung windows, and an asphalt shingle roof. The cornice is wide and boxed with returns at the eave level. Along the road and main driveway is an iron fence with decorative posts.

Surrounding buildings include a Sweitzer barn, springhouse, privy, garage, shop and other outbuildings. The Sweitzer bank barn could be rated notable or outstanding in its own right. It was built around 1880, with a rough coarse rubble stone foundation and lower wall, vertical board siding, gable roof and two gabled cupolas containing louvered vents. The hay floor can be approached by an earthen ramp. East-facing hay doors can be opened in the overhang in order to drop hay to the feedlot outside.

The springhouse sits to the southwest of the house near the road dating to 1880 or earlier⁴. Near this springhouse is the location that James Whitcomb Riley frequented to water his horses. Also present are a garage, and a concrete block shop c. 1950. Non-contributing buildings include a modern barn.

Materials:

- Main House: 1852, Contributing
Foundation: rubble
Walls: brick (main house); horizontal wood siding (summer kitchen addition)
Roof: asphalt shingle
1. Garage: 1920, 16x18', Contributing
Foundation: poured concrete
Walls: wood horizontal siding
Roof: asphalt shingle
2. Box Car, 1950, 10x24', Contributing
Foundation: concrete block
Walls: vertical wood siding
Roof: metal

² Carroll County Assessors Office, 2002 Record Card.

³ Lois Mears, Interview, 2 February 2002.

⁴ Ibid.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Number 7 Page 6

3. Shop: 1965, 32x96', Non-Contributing
Foundation: concrete block
Walls: concrete block
Roof: asphalt shingle
4. Corn Crib: 1930, 23x36' Contributing
Foundation: concrete block
Walls: vertical wood siding
Roof: metal roof
5. Sweitzer bank barn: c.1880, 42'x70', Contributing
Foundation: rough course rubble stone foundation
Walls: vertical board siding
Roof: asphalt shingle
6. Tool Shed: 1975, 36x84', Non-contributing
Foundation: poured concrete
Walls: horizontal wood siding
Roof: metal
7. Spring House: before 1880⁵, 10x18', Contributing
Foundation: rubble
Walls: Stone Rubble/wood siding
Roof: Metal
8. Poultry House: 1900⁶, 24x34', Contributing
Foundation: not visible
Walls: vertical wood siding
Roof: metal
9. Privy: Late, Non-contributing
Foundation: not visible
Walls: wood siding
Roof: asphalt shingle
10. Iron Fence: c. 1880, Contributing

⁵ Lois Mears, Interview April 2002.

⁶ Carroll County Assessors Office, 2002 Record Card.

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Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 7

South of CR W300N:

As it was historically, the farm is currently being farmed and has extensive cropland. The Mears Family Farmstead extends south of CR 300 North to Deer Creek. This area of the farm has no buildings. The 1882 rail bed for the right-of-way of the former Monon railroad crosses through this portion of the property and is clearly visible. The railroad route was modified before construction in order to pass through Delphi by efforts of local businessmen.⁷ The High Bridge crosses Deer Creek and is accessible from this part of the Mears Family farm.

East End of Farmstead:

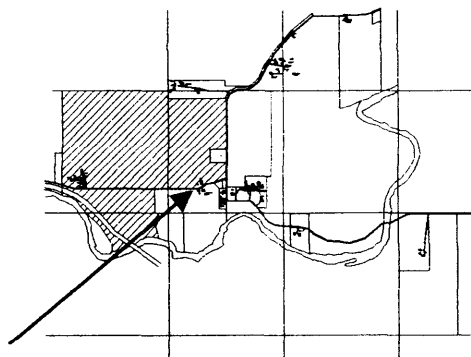


Figure 1e. District Plan

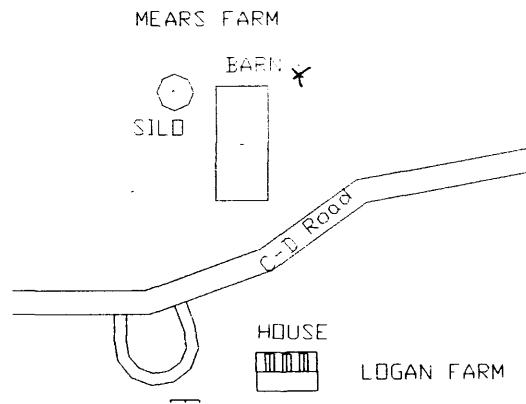


Figure 1f. Site Map (East end of farmstead)

This portion of the Mears farmstead originally belonged to what was the Bragunier farmstead. The portion of the farmstead south of the Camden Delphi Road presently is the Logan Farm. The Mears purchased farmland north of the Camden-Delphi Road and included this acreage and barn in their farmstead. The concrete silo was constructed by the Mears approximately twenty year ago.

Materials (cont.):

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 11. Barn: | c. 1940, Contributing
Foundation: not visible
Walls: Vertical wood siding
Roof: Metal |
| 12. Silo: | c. 1980, Non-Contributing
Walls: Concrete
Roof: Metal |

⁷ Gerard, Charles. Delphi Preservation Society, Delphi, IN. Interview, March 2002.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 9

2. Mary Gerard Farmland

(Section 28, Parcel 4)

Contributing Site

3 Acres



Fig. 2b. Site Plan

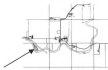


Fig. 2a. District Plan



Fig. 2c. Photo of Corn Crib c. 1900.

This lowland is currently uninhabited. The property once had a house built around 1900, but all that is left is a crib-style barn. It was part of the original McCain farmstead.

Materials:

Corn Crib:	c. 1900, Contributing
Foundation:	not visible
Walls:	vertical wood
Roof:	metal

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 9

3. Delphi Cemetery

(Section 21, Parcel 32)
Contributing Site
4 Acres

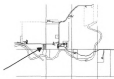


Fig. 3a District Plan



Fig. 3b Site Plan



Fig. 3c. Morning Heights Cemetery from SW.

Also known as Morning Heights Cemetery, Delphi Cemetery was established in the 1830-40's.⁸ Originally it was the family cemetery for the Milroy family.⁹ It demonstrates patterns of settlement for the district and typifies the tradition of design for early farming communities in this area. Mature trees line the edges of the cemetery and cedar trees are interspersed between plots. There is an iron fence along the road with turn of the century stone markers east of the main entry. The cemetery contributes to the Deer Creek Valley rural historic district under Criterion D.

To the northeast corner of the cemetery are the Milroy family cemetery plots, including his wife and sons, Henry, Samuel and Major J.B. Milroy. General Samuel H. Milroy was a pivotal figure in early Delphi. He moved to

⁸ Gerard, Interview, March 2002.

⁹ Gerard, Charles. *Mystique of Deer Creek*. (Delphi, IN.: Indiana Graphic Arts Co., 1981) p. 13.

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Carroll County in 1826 from Washington County, Indiana where he had participated in the 1816 Indiana Constitutional Convention that allowed for the creation of the Indiana State government.¹⁰ In the new government he served as a member of the Legislature for nine years, and then became speaker of the House in 1821.¹¹

He moved his family to Carroll County in the fall of 1826 to land one mile northeast of Delphi along the north bank of Deer Creek, later known as the Milroy farm.¹² In 1827 he appeared before the Legislature, petitioning them for the organization of what was to become Carroll County. The petition suggested boundaries of the county as well as its name.¹³ It was "...his influence and skillful management that procured the liberal donation of one hundred acres for the county seat from William Wilson."¹⁴ The General suggested to the commissioners that the new city be named Delphi, and this name was chosen over several other possibilities. He and others, including Mr. Wilson, laid out the town of Delphi, and Milroy was appointed the first agent to sell lots in the town.

General Milroy continued to be very active the rest of his life. He received several presidential appointments, served in the Legislature, was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1836. Here he helped nominate his friend, Andrew Jackson. He was also a delegate to all succeeding Democratic National nominating conventions until his death. Also, he was appointed to the Board of Visitors at West Point, and held up to three positions at one time. Carroll County benefited greatly by his influence and energies that were exerted for the public at large.¹⁵ At his death in 1845, he was buried in the family cemetery, now known as the Morning Heights Cemetery.

General Milroy's wife and several of their children were also buried in the family plot. His wife, Martha Houston, was a relative of Sam Houston of Texas. Major John B. Milroy, the second Milroy son, served as representative to the State Legislature, and serve as auditor for Carroll County.¹⁶ Henry B. Milroy was the first sheriff of Carroll County. He served as school commissioner; editor of the Delphi Oracle, an early local newspaper; trustee for district three, as well as state representative for Carroll County.¹⁷

Other Milroy children, Samuel, and daughters Margaret and Almira,¹⁸ were also buried at Morning Heights. Samuel L. Milroy, the third son, was a soldier in the Mexican War. He remained on the family farm until his death in 1901. Margaret married John Adams, who built one of the early mills in Carroll County near Cutler, known as Adams Mill, and Almira became the wife of Dr. Samuel Grimes.

Dr. Samuel Grimes was a local physician, developer, mayor¹⁹, and husband to the second of Samuel Milroy's daughters.²⁰ He was the state land agent for a number of years and owned considerable land around Delphi.²¹ He developed Grimes first and second additions in Delphi.²² He was important for his work in developing early Delphi.²³

¹⁰ James Hervey Stewart, Recollections of the Early Settlement of Carroll County, Indiana (Cincinnati, OH: Hitchcock and Walden, 1872), p. 176-7.

¹¹ Stewart, p. 176-7.

¹² Stewart, p. 38.

¹³ Stewart, p. 180.

¹⁴ Stewart, p. 180.

¹⁵ Stewart, p.183-4

¹⁶ Stewart, p. 175.

¹⁷ Gerard, Charles, Correspondence, March 2002.

¹⁸ John C. Odell, History of Carroll County, Indiana (Evansville, IN: Unigraphics, 1973), p. 162.

¹⁹ Stewart, p. 220.

²⁰ Odell, p. 162-3

²¹ Ibid.

²² Ibid.

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Around 1837 he built what he had hoped to be a tavern for people associated with the canal. Unfortunately, the canal did not pass near his place, and it remained uninhabited for many years. It came to be known as "Grimes' Folly" and was divided into lots and sold around 1857.²⁴

The Milroys were not the only important personalities buried at Morning Heights cemetery. Other important families are represented there. Early Carroll County names from the first settlement include Joseph Griffith and Samuel Rinehart, who both built early Delphi mills. Monique Bondie Mitty, Samuel Bowen, Rebecca Overly, and William Knight were also early Delphi residents who were buried in the cemetery.

Also buried in the cemetery are John Alexander Mears, George Mears, and their father, John Mears. Though not part of the original settlement, the Mears family has farmed and lived in the district since 1864, and their descendants represent the continuing tradition of farming families in this area.

Near the southwest side of the cemetery are a group of older grave markers that have been relocated here from the Town of Delphi in 1896. The cemetery was moved to this location from the northeast end of Delphi on Monroe Street at a proposed school site. These graves represent an historic relocation that retains the artistic qualities and social significance of the historic stone grave markers and therefore would also contribute to the district.

Materials:

Iron Fence: c. 1830, Contributing site

²³ Thomas B. Helm, History of Carroll County, Indiana (Chicago, IL.: Kingman Brothers, 1882).

²⁴ Odell, p. 162-3.

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4. **Ronald E. Logan Farmstead**

5658 W. 300N
(Section 22, parcel 15; Sec 28, parcel 06 and
Sec. 29, parcels 01 and 02)
38.76 Acres
Contributing site



Fig. 2b View from NE



Fig. 4a District Plan



Fig 4c. Site Plan

The property is located south of CR 300 North, just east of the Delphi Cemetery, leading south all the way to Deer Creek. The main house sits close to CR 300 N, as do most of the farmhouses in the district. It was built in approximately 1850 for Abraham Bragunier. Shortly thereafter, it was purchased by Charles Kenrick, a local horse breeder²⁵. The creek-side property was important to him since he would water and wash his horses down at Deer Creek near Wilson's cave.²⁶

The farmhouse has been given a Reference rating in the Carroll County Interim Report,²⁷ making it a contributing element of the district. This building has been covered with vinyl siding, the porch is gone, and has had some window changes; however the gothic arched windows and rubble stone foundation are indicative of a structure built at an extremely early time. Greek Revival style wide returns at the eave line, rectangular plan and symmetrical elevation contribute to the home's original integrity. Behind the house is a 1950s barn that contributes to the site. A modern garage is located behind the older barn but is considered non-contributing.

²⁵ Mystique, p. 13.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Carroll County Interim Report, Pg. 44.

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Materials:

Main House: c. 1850 Contributing
Foundation: stone rubble
Walls: horizontal vinyl siding
Roof: asphalt shingle

Barn: 1950, Contributing
Foundation: pole barn, w/ door
Walls: vertical wood siding
Roof: metal

Modern Garage: after 1995, Non-contributing
Foundation: not visible
Walls: horizontal wood siding
Roof: asphalt shingle

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5. James B. & Tina M. Garrison Property

3476 N. 575 W.
(part of Section 22, parcel 10)
Contributing
11.34 Acres



Fig. 5a. District Plan

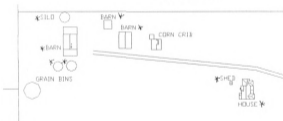


Fig. 5b. Garrison Farm Site Plan



Fig. 5c. Garrison Farm from the East.



Fig. 5d. Garrison Home from the East.

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The main farmhouse is a one-and-a-half story brick structure dating to approximately 1936. "It has been extensively remodeled, although more research may reveal that there is considerable original material."²⁸ The house is a one and a half story brick home with multiple gables and a few shed roofs where additions were made.

The farm has two wood-frame barns with gable roofs, one c. 1920 barn and another barn/granary. Both have wood siding, one horizontal, and the other vertical. This is a very old site that appears on the 1863 plat map as the property of Abraham Bragunier.

Presently, a small mature orchard, (planted sometime after 1939),²⁹ is shown at the front of the property. There are extensive trees planted in this area, including a row of trees along the north side of the entry drive. There are also some substantial cedars, two of which may be over 50 years old.³⁰ This property is adjacent to the Cedar Lane along the Camden-Delphi Road.

Materials:

Main House: 1936, Contributing

Foundation: concrete block, rusticated at garage
Walls: Brick
Roof: Asphalt Shingle

1. Barn: before 1880³¹, 42x46x20'H, w/ stalls, I-style frame, Contributing

Foundation: rubble
Walls: vertical wood siding
Roof: asphalt shingle
Lean-to: 1936, 20x42x8'H
Lean-to: 1936, 22x42x8'H

2. Crib: 1964, 30x32x-'H, wood , Non-contributing

Foundation: concrete block
Walls: horizontal wood siding
Roof: metal
Lean-to: 1970, 14x14x9'H

3. Barn: 1955, 38x50x-H, frame, Contributing

Foundation: wood
Walls: metal
Roof: metal

4. Barn: 1950, 24x26x9'H, frame, Contributing

Foundation: wood
Walls: metal
Roof: metal

²⁸ Westery Group, Review of a Rural Historic District: Deer Creek Township, Carroll County, Indiana, (Indianapolis, IN: Indiana Department of Transportation, 2001), p. 21.

²⁹ Aerial Photo, Indiana State Archives, Box BEX 4-14, 4 April 1939.

³⁰ *Ibid.*

³¹ Marsh Davis, Historic Landmarks of Indiana, Interview, 8 March 2002.

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5. Tack Shed: 1940, 8x10x-'H, wood frame, Contributing
Foundation: poured concrete
Walls: vertical wood siding
Roof: metal
6. Grain Bin: 1950s, 16'diam.x15'H, Contributing
7. Grain Bin: 1950s, 15'diam.x9'H, Contributing
8. Grain Bin: 1970, 26'diam.x21'H, Non-contributing
9. Silo: 1950, 16'diam.x50'H, concrete, Contributing

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6. Indiana PSA, #4 Limited Partnership Property

(Section 22, parcel 30)
Non-contributing building & structure
1.95 Acres



Fig. 6a. District Plan



Fig. 6b. Site Plan



Fig. 6c. Cell Tower from Camden-Delphi Rd.

Modern communications tower and small service structure on 1.95-acre parcel.

7. Mary L. May Et. Al. Property

Corner of CR N575W and CR W.300N.
(part of Section 22, parcel 16)
N/A
57 Acres

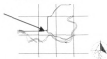


Fig. 7a. District Plan

This property is a vacant lot at the split of State Road 300N and the Camden-Delphi Road.

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8. Gregory & Barbara Shaffer Home

3946 N. 575 W.
(Section 22, parcels 17-19)
1.53 Acres
Non-contributing



Fig. 8a. District Plan

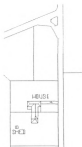


Fig. 8b. Site Plan



Fig. 8c. Shaffer Home from east.

These parcels contain a one-story brick ranch house (c. 1964), and a wood-frame utility shed (c. 1975). The home has heavy vegetation on two sides.

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9. Richard Larimore Home

3012 N. 575 W.
(part of Section 22, parcel 20)
1.14 Acres
Non-contributing



Fig. 9a. District Plan



Fig. 9b. Site Plan



Fig. 9c. Larimore home from east.

This property has a 1960 one-story frame home and a 1965 lean-to that are too recent to contribute. Landscaping surrounds most of the main building from the historic farmsteads.

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10. Richard and Maqdalene Mears Home

5717 W. 300 N.
(Section 22, parcel 21)
1.11 Acres
Non-contributing

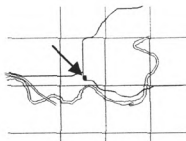


Fig. 10a. District Plan

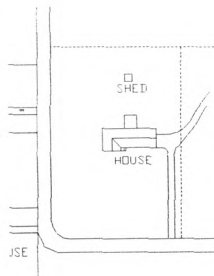


Fig. 10b. Site Plan



Fig. 10c. R. & M. Mears home from south.

The property contains a brick ranch (1972) and a small, relocated frame lawn mower shed. This and the previous two ranches are clustered together.

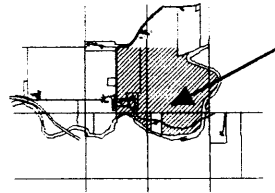
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11. Keith, Richard, Magdalene, George & Debbie Mears Farmstead

5717 W. 300 N.
Section 22, parcels 2, 3, 12, 13 (Keith Mears)
Section 22, parcels 21, 24, 27, 28 (Richard & Magdalene Mears)
Sec. 22, parcel 25 (George & Debbie Mears)
Sec. 27 parcels 3, 4, 18 (Keith Mears)
Sec 23 parcel 13 (Keith Mears)
290.07 Acres
Contributing



Plan Fig. 11a. District Plan

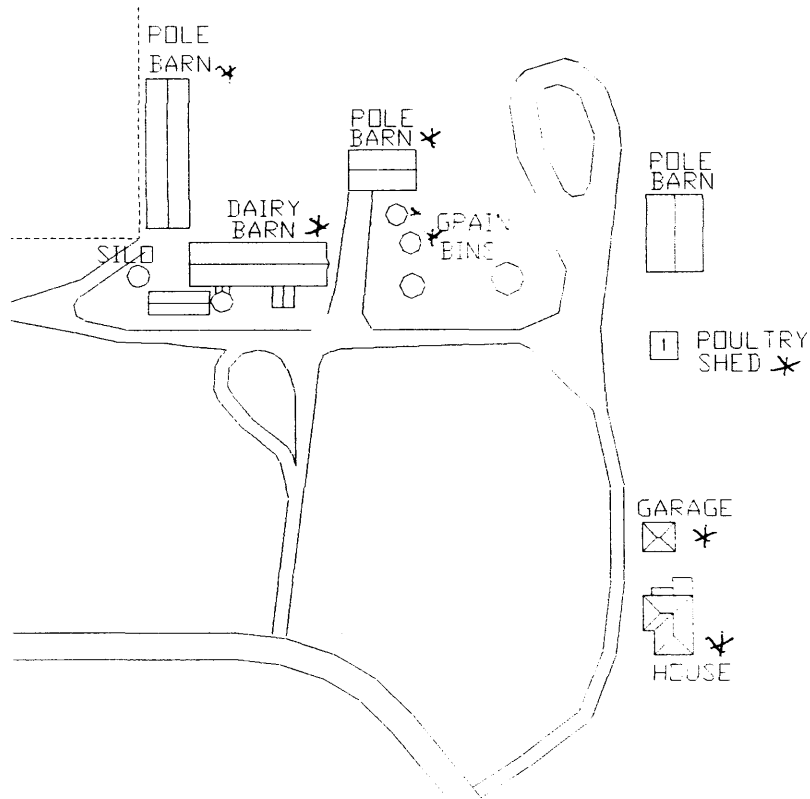


Fig. 11b. Richard, Magdalene, Keith, George and Debbie Mears Farm Site Plan



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Fig. 11c. Photo of the Wilson-Shirk House
(George & Debbie Mears)

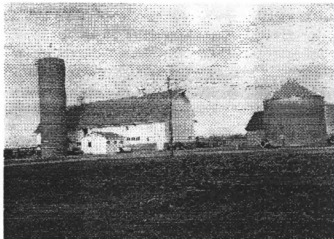


Fig. 11d. Photo of the Wilson-Shirk Barns
(Richard Mears)

The c. 1861³² farmhouse is known as the Wilson-Shirk House,³³ It was rated outstanding in the Interim Report, and therefore is individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The property was shown on the first county plat map as being owned by Charles Y. Wilson and brothers as part of a property covering all of the SE quarter and most of the east half of the SW quarter of Section 22, and extending across Deer Creek and south mid-way into Section 27.³⁴ This land was originally part of the Charles Y. Wilson,³⁵ and later the James A. Shirk farm.³⁶ Currently the entire property is farmed by the Mears family and contributes to the district.

The farmhouse is a two-story brick Italianate structure, built on a rubble foundation and includes brick made on site around 1861. It has many features popularized by Andrew Jackson Downing, including a low-pitched hip roof, wide overhanging eaves with decorative brackets and dentil moldings.

Door and window openings were places for ornament in Italianate homes. A projecting cornice with wood scrolled brackets surmounts the entrance door. Over the entry door is a three-light transom, and three-high sidelights and wood panel flank the six panel front door. Often these homes had an intermixing of details. For example, each side of the door is trimmed with wood turned columns, a Greek revival detail. Limestone lintels are visible over six-over-six double hung wood windows, as well as stone windowsills and horizontal banding around the house over the rubble foundation.

To the rear is a small one-story brick addition to the house with four-over-four double hung windows. The wing is over 70 years old,³⁷ contributing to the significance of the building. On the east side of the house is a walkout. The main floor has a door that leads to what probably would have been a small balcony, which was common to the Italianate style of architecture.

³² Bricks for this house, the Keith Mears house and the Bradshaw-Shirk home in Delphi, were all made c.1861 on the Keith Mears farmstead, Delphi Preservation Society, Rural Historic District Subcommittee meeting, 18 February 2002.

³³ Carroll County Interim Report, p. 45.

³⁴ Plat Map, Carroll County, 1863.

³⁵ Plat Map, Carroll County, 1863.

³⁶ Plat Map, Carroll County, 1919.

³⁷ Interview, Mears family, 16 February 2002.

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Farm buildings on the property include a 32'x100' dairy barn with a gambrel roof, projecting hay hood, metal roof vents and clapboard siding. The structure was built c. 1925 and includes stalls and a loft.³⁸ Two milk sheds are attached to the barn. This building is probably individually eligible for the National Register. Also, on the farmstead is a metal-sided wood frame barn with gable roof built in mid-1950s. A modern garage, grain bins and sheds are also present. A sand and gravel pit lies to the east of the house. Though part of the original farmstead, it is a modern use of the land and is non-contributing.

Materials:

Main House: 1861, Contributing

Foundation: Rubble
Walls: Brick
Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Garage: 1950s, 22x24', concrete, Contributing

Foundation: Concrete block
Walls: Concrete block
Roof: Asphalt shingle

Poultry Shed: 1950s, 20x20', frame, Contributing

Foundation: Poured concrete
Walls: Horizontal & vertical wood siding
Roof: Metal

Pole Barn w/ door: 1992, 41x55x16H, frame, Non-contributing

Foundation: Poured concrete
Walls: Metal
Roof: Metal

Grain Bin: 1975, 24' diameter x 18'H, metal, Non-contributing

Dairy Barn: c. 1865, Contributing

Foundation: Conc. Block
Walls: Horizontal Wood Siding
Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Milk House: 1950, 16'x16', concrete, Contributing

Foundation: Concrete block
Walls: Concrete block
Roof: Asphalt shingle

Part of Dairy Barn

³⁸ Carroll County Assessors Office, 2002 Record Card.

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Milk Shed: c. 1950, 6'x10x7'H', concrete, Contributing

Foundation: Not visible

Walls: Horizontal wood siding

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Part of Dairy Barn

Covered Feed area:

Foundation: Not visible

Walls: N/A

Roof: Metal

Part of Dairy Barn

Silo: 1975, 16' diameter x 50'H, concrete, Non-Contributing.

Foundation: Not visible

Walls: Concrete

Roof: None

Part of Dairy Barn

Silo: 1963, 14' diameter x 60'H, concrete, Non-Contributing

Foundation: Not visible

Walls: Concrete

Roof: Metal

Pole Barn, one side open: c. 1950, 32x110x15'H, Contributing

Foundation: N/A

Walls: Metal

Roof: Metal

Pole Barn, w/ doors: c.1950, 32x110x15'H, Contributing

Foundation: Poured concrete

Walls: Metal siding

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Grain bin: 1950s, 16' diameter x 18'H, metal, Contributing.

Grain bin: 1950s, 18' diameter x 18'H, metal, Contributing.

Grain bin: 1968, 18'diam x 24'H, metal, Non-contributing.

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12. Keith M. Mears Farmstead and
Robbins-Miller Cemetery

3525 N. 575 W.
(part of Section 22, parcels 2 and 3)
~ 70 Acres
Contributing

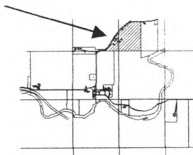


Fig. 12a. District Plan



Fig. 12c. Keith Mears Farmstead from southeast.

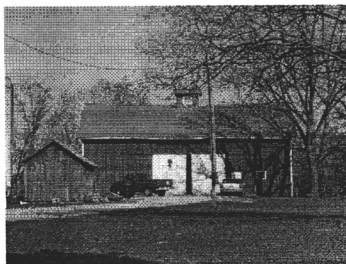


Fig. 12d. Keith Mears English-style Barn from the west.

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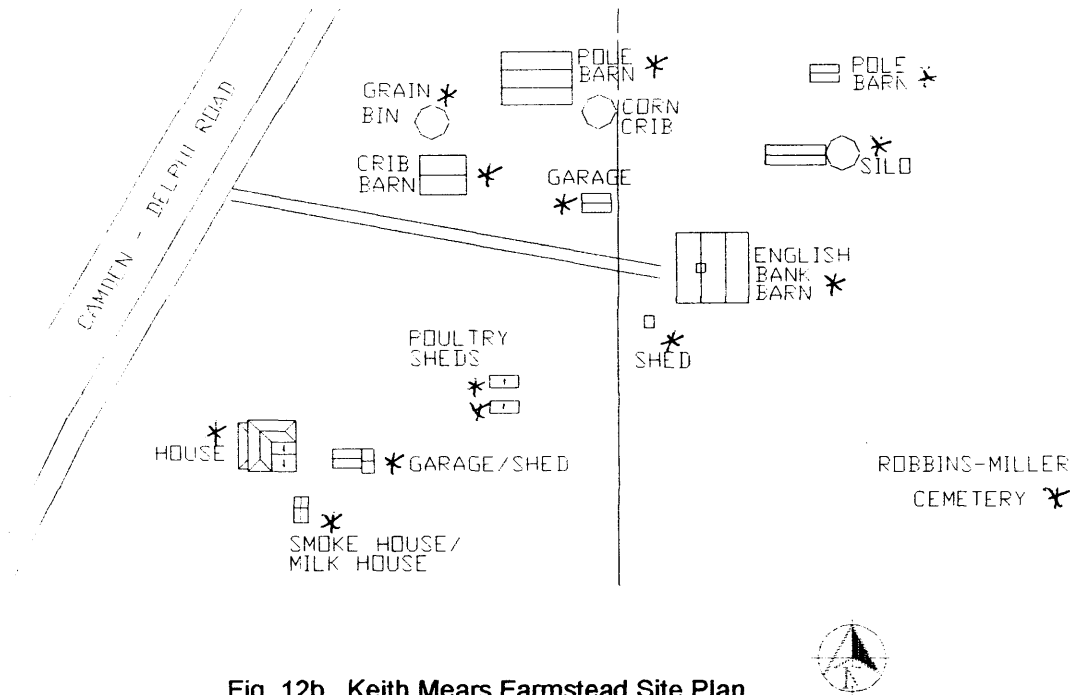


Fig. 12b. Keith Mears Farmstead Site Plan

The main farmhouse, called the Martin B. Wingard house³⁹, was rated Outstanding for its architecture in the 1980 Carroll County Interim Report. The main house is a two-story brick Italianate structure, built c. 1861. The bricks for this and two other homes were made on the farm around 1861. It has a low-pitched hipped roof with a decorated cornice, wide frieze with dentils and scrolled brackets. A brick fireplace was constructed on the east side of the house. The foundation is rubble except under the c.1905-10 front porch that is supported by rusticated concrete block. The porch is full width with concrete columns and latticed railings. The house was built in a two-story L-shape, and was in-filled later with two one-story additions creating an overall square plan.

The windows have stone heads and sills surrounding six-over-six double hung windows. The entry door has a transom and sidelight over a wood panel on each side, and carved wood pilasters flank the entire entryway. The windows on the first floor are wood, with ten lights, two wide and five high. Upstairs the windows are six-over-six, and have stone sills and heads, as do all other windows in the house.

Additional contributing buildings on the farmstead include ten structures and one cemetery. Behind the house sits a brick and stone smoke house in front of a milk/well house built sometime before 1920.⁴⁰ Directly behind the house is a clapboard shed (c. 1920), garage (c. 1950), and a couple of poultry sheds from about 1900.

³⁹ Carroll County Interim Report, pg. 45.

⁴⁰ Lois Mears April 2002.

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To the north is a 40x58' English-style barn with vertical board siding, a gabled metal roof with a cupola, built in 1880 or earlier.⁴¹ It has three bays and a wood floor over the lower level livestock area. This is an English style barn, which was moved by mules in the 1930s from a flat location closer to the road. The new location on a slope presented the possibility of creating a bank barn, which is present today.⁴² It has a central side sliding door and threshing floor with haylofts at each end. It is built of heavy timbers using pegged joints. The hay chute is still present. The building is covered with vertical wood siding and a square cupola tops the building. The barn is still being used as bank barns have been since the mid-1800s, with livestock below.

Also present is a c.1920 shed, and an additional barn that encompasses a wood sided railroad car, and a c.1920 detached garage.

The farmstead is shown on the 1863 plat as the Wingard home and farm. John Mears, the current owner's grandfather, purchased the farm from the Wingards in 1881.

Materials:

Main House: 1861, Contributing

Foundation: Rubble
Walls: Brick/ frame
Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Porch; 1905-1910

Foundation: Rusticated concrete block
Roof: metal

Garage: 1900, 12x18', frame, Contributing

Foundation: Rubble
Walls: vertical wood siding
Roof: Metal

English Bank Barn: c.1865-70, 40x58'x18'H, heavy timber, Contributing

Foundation: poured concrete.
Walls: vertical wood siding
Roof: metal
Cupola: wood, square

Shed (Utility): 1926, 16x24', frame, Contributing

Foundation: Poured Concrete
Walls: Vertical wood siding
Roof: Metal

Garage: 1950, 10x20', frame

Foundation: None, dirt floor
Walls: Metal, 2 sides
Roof: Metal
Attached to Shed

⁴¹ Lois Mears, April 2002.

⁴² George Mears, interview, March 18, 2002.

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Smoke House before 1920, 9x12', frame, Contributing

Foundation: Poured concrete
Walls: Horizontal wood siding
Roof: Metal

Open fireplace facing house (upper level).

Well House/ Milk Cooling Room (below): before 1920, 12x12'

Foundation: Rubble
Walls: Rubble
Roof: Metal
Attached to smoke house

Poultry Sheds (2): 1900, 10x24', Contributing

Foundation: Rubble
Walls: Horizontal wood siding
Roof: Metal

Pole Barn w/ door: 1920, 30x58x9'H, Contributing

Foundation: concrete block
Walls: Vertical wood siding
Roof: Metal

Crib Barn: 1950, 32x38, wood, Contributing

Foundation: Concrete block
Walls: Vertical wood siding
Roof: Metal
"Cedar Bluff Farm" box car inside.

Pole Barn, open: 1940, 14x24'x11'H', Contributing

Foundation: None
Walls: Metal
Roof: Metal

Grain Bin: 1950s, 18'diam. x 24', Contributing Structure

Shed: 1920, 8x10', frame, Contributing

Foundation: Concrete Block
Walls: Horizontal wood siding
Roof: Metal

Silo: 1940, 14'diam.x50'H', Concrete, Contributing

Corn Crib: no date, open, Non-contributing structure

Foundation: not visible
Walls: open
Roof: Metal

Robbins-Miller Cemetery: Contributing Site

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Robbins-Miller Cemetery:

The cemetery sits behind the Keith Mears Farmhouse and barns, overlooking the lowlands and Deer Creek. It contains some very early settlers including, Hiram Gregg, John Robbins (1786-1853) and wife Rhoda Martin Robbins (1784-1841), daughters Lucinda Robbins Ballard (1812-1841) and Lydia Robbins Gregg (1814-1833), Henry Thompson (died 1853), Moses Thompson (died 1852), and Margaret Thompson (died in 1851).

John Robbins owned the second or third store ever opened in the Carroll County.⁴³ Moses and John Thompson were involved in viewing and maintaining the Camden-Delphi Road.⁴⁴ The Ballards were an old settler family. Remembrances of John Ballard express his caring and ingenuity in building homes, furniture, and coffins before the days of the sawmill. During the early days he doubled as a nurse; and, when medical treatments of the day failed, he took on the role of undertaker.⁴⁵

⁴³ Stewart, p. 61.

⁴⁴ Stewart, p. 234.

⁴⁵ History of Carroll County, P. 112.

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13. Gothic Revival House

3571 N. 575 W.
(part of Section 22, parcel 3)
Contributing

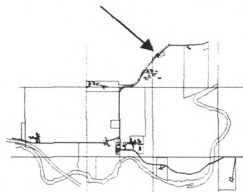


Fig. 13a. District Plan



Fig. 13c. View from southwest

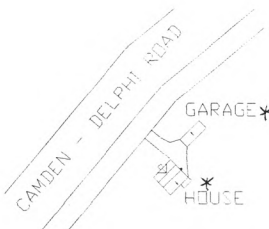


Fig. 13c. Site Plan



This Gothic Revival house sits close to the Camden-Delphi Road overlooking the Keith Mears farmland below. It was a former tenant house⁴⁶ for the Wingard Farm probably dating to c.1880 or earlier. Though built at an early date, the house was placed on a permanent foundation around 1950.

The home is a one-and-a-half story, wood frame dwelling. It features the steep cross-gabled roof with a single centered front gable that was popularized in the 1840-50's by Andrew Jackson Downing's books. The cornices are boxed and the front elevation and windows are symmetrical as is common in Gothic revival homes

In the mid-1920's, a detached one-car garage was added.⁴⁷ While somewhat changed with new windows and entry door, the house still retains much of its original integrity and contributes to the district.

⁴⁶ Westerly, p. 31.

⁴⁷ Mary Mears, Interview, 18 March 2002.

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Materials:

Main House: c. 1880, Contributing

Foundation: Concrete block

Walls: Asphalt Shingle

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Detached Garage: 1928, 10x26', frame, Contributing

Foundation: not visible

Walls: vertical wood siding

Roof: metal

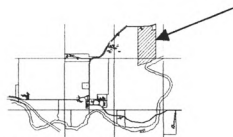
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14. Vernon Wise home,

5136 W 375N
(Section 22, parcel 5)
~ 40 Acres
Contributing



14a. District Plan

CAMDEN-DELPHI ROAD

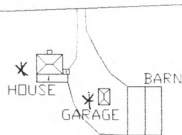


Fig. 14b. Site Plan Fig.



Fig. 14c. Vernon Wise Home from the north.

Rated Notable in the Carroll County Interim Report,⁴⁸ this two-story Italianate home dates to c.1850.⁴⁹ Though there have been north elevation window and door replacements, and a new porch, it retains a number of its original features, including the symmetrical, compact plan, simple hipped low-pitched roof, wide overhanging eaves and frieze, and rubble stone foundations, providing adequate integrity to contribute to the district.

To the east is a garage dating from around 1928. It has new vertical metal siding to match the modern barn next door, but contributes to the farmstead. The modern barn is non-contributing. Overall, the house with its outbuildings is a contributing resource.

Materials:

Main House: 1850, frame, Contributing

Foundation: Rubble
Walls: Wood Siding (Horizontal)
Roof: Asphalt Shingle

1. Detached Garage: 1928, frame, Contributing

Foundation: not visible
Walls: vertical metal siding (new)
Roof: asphalt shingle

2. Pole Barn: 1998, 40x60x16H', Non-contributing

Foundation: poured concrete
Walls: vertical metal siding
Roof: metal

⁴⁸ Carroll County Interim Report, 1980, pg. 45.

⁴⁹ Carroll County Assessors Office, 2002 Record Card.

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15. **Sharp Point Cemetery.**

(Section 22, parcel 8)
1 Acre
Contributing

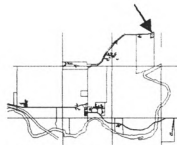


Fig. 15a. District Plan

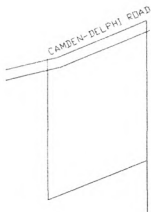


Fig. 15b. Site Plan



Fig. 15c. View from the north.

The Sharp Point Cemetery is located south of County Road 375 North. It is a wooded lot with views separate from the immediately adjacent properties. It forms the northeastern corner of the district.

As a local cemetery it contains several interesting markers including some for very early settlers such as Charles Gregg (1830-1911), John C. Gregg (1838-1903), Samuel H. Kerlin (died 1874), George Snyder (1883-1892), John Thompson (died 1875), E. Wingard (died 1876), Isaac Robbins (1816-1873), and Samuel Wingard (died 1855).⁵⁰ George L. Snyder owned land north of the district, beyond the Gregg and Wingard farms, as shown on the 1863 atlas.

The Thompson, Gregg and Wingard families are long time residents of the area. The Thompson family is shown as owning the Wise farm in the 1919 Atlas. And, the Martin Wingard farm is shown on the 1864 and 1874 atlases encompassing the Keith and Richard Mears farmsteads.

The Aaron Greggs were early settlers, arriving in Delphi in 1830. Aaron originally purchased 160 acres just north of the Wingard farm, but he later acquired another 160-acre parcel shown on the 1863 plat a mile or two northeast of the district. Charles and John C. Gregg were sons of Aaron. Charles farmed 240 acres and was elected township trustee for three terms beginning 1866.⁵¹

The cemetery reflects settlement patterns and contributes to the district.

⁵⁰ Charles Gerard, Correspondence March 2002.

⁵¹ Elia W. Peattie, The Pictorial Story of America (Chicago, IL: Union Publishing Co., 1896), p. 95.

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16. Lucas Home.

(Section 27, parcel 30)
11.258 Acres
Non-contributing

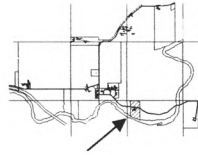


Fig. 16a. District Plan

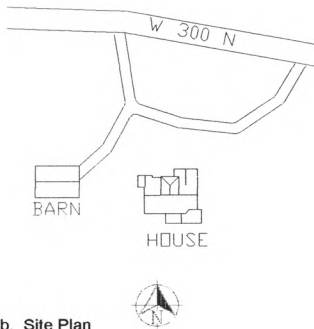


Fig. 16b. Site Plan



Fig. 16c. Lucas Home from the North

This is a 1997 residence along CR W300N, but is not visible from the majority of the district. It is a two-story, brick house and garage with a circular drive. It sits next to the north bank of Deer Creek, surrounded by trees each side and to the rear. Though reminiscent of the Tudor style, it is too new to contribute to the historic district.

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17. (John) Mears Family Farmstead
& Royster Family Cemetery

4868 W 300 North
(Section 20, parcel 01, 18)
80 Acres
Contributing

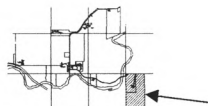


Fig. 17a. District Plan

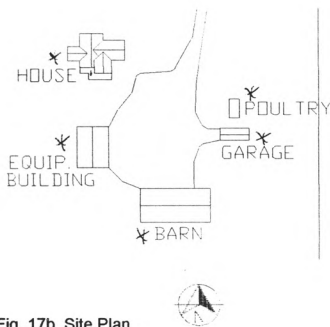


Fig. 17b. Site Plan

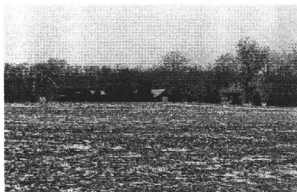


Fig. 17c. John Mears Farm from the NE



Fig. 17d. John Mears Home from the North

This is a very old farmstead. As early as April 1830, it was a 160-acre quarter section owned by Robert Diggs Royster,⁵² and was shown on the 1863 Carroll County plat map as being owned by his son, George B. Royster. In 1919 parcels 01 and 02, consisting of 80 acres, are shown on the plat map as belonging to the Liebert family. These parcels contain the farmhouse and out buildings and were purchased by Sherry Mears in 1968, and have remained a family farm ever since.⁵³

⁵² Abstract, Carroll County Abstract Co.

⁵³ Ibid.

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This farmhouse is a contributing 1-1/2 story frame house built in 1880 or earlier.⁵⁴ It has a T-plan with several very old additions, including the present kitchen. Except for the wrap-around porch/veranda, most of the house sits on a rubble foundation. The windows have been replaced, but the front door, wood siding and the rest of the home retain much of the original character and materials. (See Fig. 17d.)

Also on the farmstead are four contributing outbuildings. (See Figs. 17b & c.) These include a small wood frame garage, a poultry house, a concrete block farm equipment building and a 19th century barn.

The 32'x66' heavy timber barn was built around 1880, It is entered by sliding doors centered in the side of the barn, and includes a threshing area, side bays and mortise and tenon joinery. There are lofts on each end of the barn, and it is still used for livestock and feed.

Materials:

Main House: c.1900, Contributing

Foundation: Rubble Stone
Walls: Horizontal wood siding
Roof: Asphalt Shingle

1. Detached Garage: 1928, 12x18', frame Contributing

Foundation: Poured concrete
Walls: Vertical wood siding
Roof: Metal

2. Poultry House: 1928, 9x18x8'H, Contributing

Foundation: Wood
Walls: Vertical wood siding
Roof: Metal

3. Barn (livestock): c. 1880, 32x66x16H, Contributing

Foundation: Rubble
Walls: Horizontal wood siding
Roof: Asphalt Shingle

4. Equipment Building: 1948, 30x40', Concrete, Contributing

Foundation: Concrete block
Walls: Concrete block
Roof: Metal

⁵⁴ Lois Mears, April 2002.

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Fig. 17e. George Royster Marker

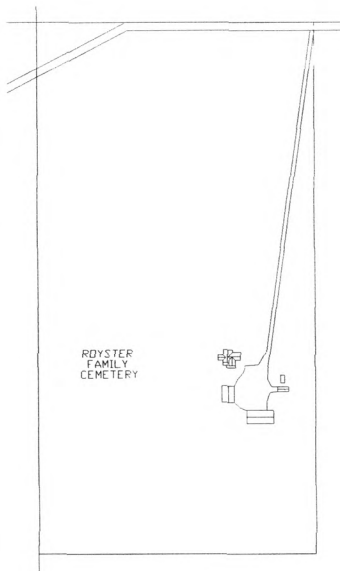


Fig. 17e. Royster Family Cemetery

The Royster family cemetery is on the Mears farmstead. Robert Diggs Royster was one of the early settlers in Carroll County, where he acquired 160 acres of land in 1830. He moved to Carroll County in June⁵⁵ or July of 1830⁵⁶ and was an original Old Settler Association member. Robert and his son, George B. Royster were buried in the cemetery, as well as another family member, David Baker. The cemetery may have been larger than is visible today since some of the stones have been removed over the years.⁵⁷

⁵⁵ Stewart, p. 39.

⁵⁶ Helm, p.112.

⁵⁷ Gerard, Interview, March 2002.

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18. Wilson Bridge.

W 300 North at Deer Creek
(Section 27, parcel 04-10)
Contributing

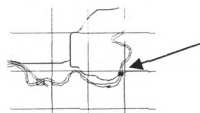


Fig. 18a. District Plan

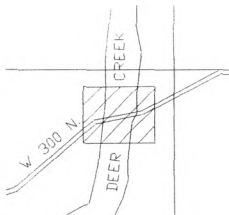


Fig. 18b. Wilson Bridge Site Plan



Fig. 18c. View from northwest

Local farmers sent a petition for a bridge over the Wilson-Royster or Carrigan ford at Deer Creek to the Carroll County Board of Commissioners on September 6, 1897.⁵⁸ In 1898 the Lafayette Bridge Company constructed the Wilson Bridge.⁵⁹ It is a 16-foot wide Pratt through truss iron bridge with 122 foot long, 14-foot high, pin-connected construction. It is surfaced with asphalt over a corrugated steel deck. The bridge sits on concrete abutments and features latticework along the sides and in the four central upright supporting members.⁶⁰ In 1901 the locals again petitioned Carroll County to have the bridge approach completed.

The Wilson Bridge is currently on the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C.

⁵⁸ Letter to Board of commissioners of Carroll County, September 6, 1897.

⁵⁹ Cast iron nameplate "Lafayette Bridge Company, 1898".

⁶⁰ Cooper.*

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19. High Bridge & Monon & Nashville-
CSX railroad right-of-way.

(Section 28, between parcels 05 & 09)
Contributing, both.

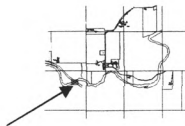


Fig. 19a. District Plan



Fig. 19b. Site Plan



Figure 19 c. View from the West

High bridge was part of the Monon & Nashville Railroad. It was one of two major railroad arteries that passed through Delphi.⁶¹ The abandoned railroad bed and High Bridge is a remaining part of the right-of-way (R.O.W.). Elsewhere the ROW is distinguished by the earthen rail-bed, still present along Deer Creek. The ROW travels through the southern edge of the district and crosses Deer Creek and connects to the ROW owned by CSX on the south side of the creek.

Construction of High Bridge began in 1881 and opened in 1882, and rebuilt in 1891.⁶² It was built of wood, metal, concrete and limestone. The bridge is comprised of eighteen steel deck plate girders, spanning 853'-10" long and rising 63 feet above Deer Creek.⁶³ It is a viaduct with approximately seven support towers of various types. "The one at the northwestern end of the bridge has a rock-faced, coarse limestone pier, atop which sits the steel triangular

⁶¹ Cram's Township and Railroad Map of Indiana, Library of Congress, Maps Division, Chicago, 1988.

⁶² Mystique, p. 11.

⁶³ Mystique, p. 11.

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support, with steel brackets and latticework. The next two towers also have similar steel supports but these rest on concrete. These... (southern) three towers are within the flood area of the creek. Then, four additional towers, of wood and/or steel complete the support system. The roadbed of wood railroad ties is laid upon the plate girders with small platforms protruding at regular intervals along the span.⁶⁴

High Bridge was the second longest bridge on the Monon line.⁶⁵ Even today, it is the second highest bridge in Indiana. In 1991 High Bridge was determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places by the SHPO.⁶⁶

⁶⁴ Westerly, p. 32.

⁶⁵ Mystique, p. 11.

⁶⁶ Letter to Barbara Harris from Patrick Ralston, State Preservation Officer, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, 4 November 1991.

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20. Camden-Delphi Road & Cedar Lane.

Contributing, both

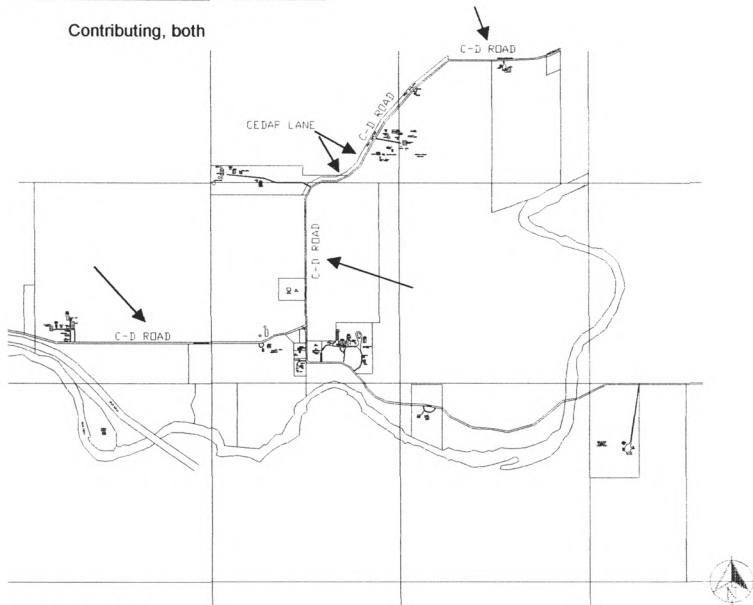


Fig. 20a. District Plan



Fig. 20b. Camden-Delphi Road



Fig. 20c. Cedar Lane from the north at Keith Mears Farmstead

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James Whitcomb Riley immortalized this route in his poem "From Delphi to Camden". It is suggested that he vacationed in his cabin along Deer Creek and obviously enjoyed this area and the road from Delphi to Camden. The road continues to be a transportation artery, though less traveled today than in its historic past. Its location is shown on the map of the district and is described as a road that: "In the west, as modern 300 North road, it passes by the historic former D. McCain property. In Section 22 it turns north (as modern 575 West Road), and then again angles to the northeast until it joins 375 North Road near its intersection with 525 West Road. It continues along 375 North road about a mile and a quarter where it turns 90 degrees north to present day 400 North Road (SR 218) and continues east to Camden."⁶⁷

Its location is nearly identical to its path over 100 years ago as shown on the oldest extant plat map dated 1863. Within the rural historic district the road is particularly rustic and pastoral, containing several historic farmsteads and a lane of old cedar trees. A subsidiary road (the continuation of modern 300 North) parallels the old Camden Road to the south and dates to the earliest days of the county (Helm, 1882). Both of these transportation arteries, while possessing modern surfaces, have retained nearly original widths, and character.

Beyond the eastern district boundary, the Delphi-Camden Road, along State Road 218 contrasts with the bucolic nature of the historic community. It has been widened, and has modern drainage structures and considerable built up pavement. Views from highway 218 toward the district still reflect the general appearance of the past, but one needs to be in the district, meandering through the historic farmsteads to fully appreciate the historic nature of the rural historic district.

The Cedar Lane borders the Camden-Delphi Road along 575 North Road. This landscape feature consists of a row of cedar trees between the Garrison and Keith Mears farmsteads. It was rated "R" for reference,⁶⁸ indicating that it would be contributing to the listing. This adds significance to the Camden-Delphi Road and the district; therefore this landscape feature is included as a contributing site. A few trees have been trimmed for power line maintenance, and a few trees are gone, but in general the cedars add to the feeling and setting of the rural historic district.

⁶⁷ Westery, p. 37.

⁶⁸ Carroll County Interim Report, p. 45.

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21. County Road 300 N. & Wilson Culvert,

Just west of Wilson Bridge.
Contributing, both

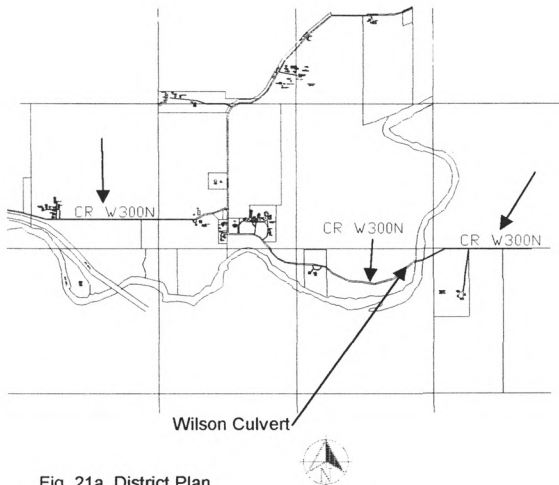


Fig. 21a. District Plan



Fig. 21b. W.300 N. looking west from just West of Wilson Bridge.

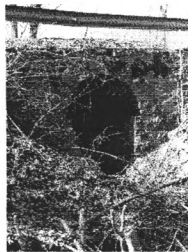


Fig. 21c. Wilson Bridge Culvert from south.

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County Road W.300N. is one of the original arteries from Delphi to Flora built in the early 1800s⁶⁹. It splits off from the Camden Delphi Road and meanders through the forested terrain, crossing Deer Creek on Wilson Bridge, and winding up the south bank to the farms beyond. The road retains the naturalistic feel of the district, and exemplifies the peacefulness that Riley wrote about when visiting the area. This is an area where the old settlers came to relax and socialize. The immediate setting "functions almost exactly as it did at the turn of the century—as a conduit for light traffic from nearby farms and area sightseers."⁷⁰

Wilson Bridge Culvert is located approximately 150 yards west of Wilson Bridge. It is a large stone culvert, unusual in quality and preservation of stonework. The stone roof curves in a semi-circle spanning six feet across and six feet high. The culvert matches the size of the road, suggesting that it was completed when the bridgework was done or when the approach to the bridge was completed. The date of the culvert is at least 1885, but could be earlier. The joints now have concrete, but it is unknown if the stonework was originally set with mortar, and later covered with concrete.⁷¹

Wilson Bridge, Wilson Culvert as well as Wilson Cave were named after Isaac Wilson.⁷² Wilson owned the farmland south of the center of Section 22. The family is shown as owning the land on the 1863, 1874 and 1882 county atlases.

⁶⁹ Stewart, p. 234.

⁷⁰ Wilson Bridge, National Register Nomination.

⁷¹ Wilson Bridge Culvert, Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory- Archeological Sites: Survey of Carroll County Canal Park Lands, 7 June 1999.

⁷² Mystique, p. 13.

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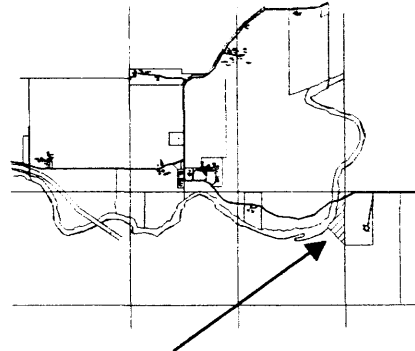
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22. Victor & Susan Brown property

Former road and ford remnant just south and east
of Wilson Bridge.

Contributing



This property was included since it was visually part of district. This property lies between the creek and (John) Mears farm. It is designated "forest land" and demonstrates the picturesque qualities of the Deer Creek area. There are no buildings or structures on the property, though an old pioneer dirt road still winds down to the original ford, also a part of the history of transportation and settlement growth in the Deer Creek area.

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SECTION VIII:

The Deer Creek Valley rural historic district is significant because of its comprehensive reflection of the patterns of agricultural settlement prevalent in northern Indiana in the early nineteenth century. Its buildings, structures, landscapes, natural features, circulation systems and general character express rural culture from the period of settlement to the present and have maintained a high degree of integrity. The district also encompasses areas that inspired Hoosier poet James Whitcomb Riley, who came to Deer Creek often near the turn of the century and wrote of the area and people he knew.

Period of Historic Significance

Deer Creek Valley rural historic district contains some of the earliest settled property in Carroll County. For example, the McCain property was settled prior to the formation of the county. The first settlement of the county, occurred northwest of the district on the site of the Robinson homestead. Several cemeteries in the district date to the first years of settlement. For the most part, the land within the boundaries of the district is, and has been, in agricultural use during the period of significance. The association with James Whitcomb Riley occurred between the 1880s and early 1900s. Therefore, the years from 1828-1952 are suggested as the period of historic significance, with the later date relating to historic significance beginning at fifty years of age.

Areas of Historic Significance

Three criteria apply to the significance of the rural historic district. The resources within the rural historic district are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to broad patterns in our history. Themes of transportation, exploration/settlement of Carroll County, agriculture, and literature apply under Criterion A. Criterion C also applies to the district, for several buildings demonstrate architectural importance.

A. Transportation

Carroll County's earliest settlement occurred northeast of the present town of Delphi in Deer Creek Township, which is reflected in the rural historic district, along Deer Creek. Except for the state road, the earliest roads originated in Delphi, connecting to cities in the county and beyond. Two county roads traverse the district, and both retain historic integrity within the district boundaries. The district is significant for the transportation activities that have affected the settlement and development of Carroll County.

The Delphi-Camden Road was shown on the earliest plat map of Carroll County, 1863. The portion within the district dates to c. 1828.¹¹ The balance of the road was probably built with a second group of roads, coinciding with the formation of Camden in 1832. Overlay comparisons of successive county plat maps (1863, 1874, 1919, 1939, 1968, 1989) show that the Camden-Delphi Road was retained, with minor corrections. Most of its original path over at least the last 130 years has been maintained. "Stringtown Road" may have been its earliest name, before the mid-century, since this was a common name for the community of Camden, located about 6 miles east of Delphi. The road is also significant for its association with James Whitcomb Riley, and his travels in Carroll County. (See Appendix)

¹¹ Helm, 1882.*

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The Delphi-Camden Road within the district was assessed on the degree to which it reflects several of the seven qualities commonly associated with historic integrity:² location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Though a landscape will not appear exactly as it did fifty or one hundred years ago, the general character and feeling of the historic period, however, must be retained for eligibility.³

The present road surface is asphalt, however the qualities of setting, feeling, and association are amply present. This is particularly true in areas where significant nineteenth century farmsteads are present. Within the district, where changes have occurred, they have been minimal. For example, a modern cell tower has recently been constructed in one section (Photo 6c). Also, from a distance, concrete agricultural silos built in the last few decades, are clearly visible on the horizon (photo 5c.). However, because the silos are a traditional form, similar to those constructed prior to 1950, their presence in a historical rural agricultural setting is appropriate. Nonetheless, most of the road evokes the feeling of the period of significance, especially to the earliest part of the historic period.

The second road (C.R. W.300N.) traverses the area and can be traced through some of the first documents in the county. In August of 1828, three early settlers were designated viewers for the proposed routes that would connect the public square in Delphi with areas to the east, along Deer Creek to the mouth of Bachelor's Run, in present day Jackson Township. In August of the following year, a road was plotted, which ran past Samuel Milroy and Daniel McCain's property and eventually reached the township line at a point between Townships 24 and 25 in Range 1 West.⁴ The portion of the road within the district includes some of the oldest transportation routes in the county. Given the difficulties of early transportation, in an area that was dotted with forests and swamps, it is significant that the first county commissioners believed that these routes were "essential as lines of communication between the principal settlements and the county seat."⁵

Samuel Milroy, an early settler along Deer Creek who served in the Indiana legislature beginning in 1827, would have known of the excitement in the state for "public improvements" during the first half of the nineteenth century. In 1827 the Congress passed legislation stating that 5 percent of the income from land sales would be earmarked for road construction. By 1829 road districts had been formed, and a few years later Indiana's great Internal Improvements Act was passed.⁶ The act allowed for the use of these funds for the Wabash & Erie Canal and several other canals in Indiana, as well as improvements to the Michigan Road and other road projects. Delphi benefited greatly from the Wabash & Erie Canal, which passed through the west side of town in 1840. Farmers could now bring their products to the canal, where they could be transported all the way to eastern markets.

Prosperity grew among the Deer Creek farms as prices for commodities rose and transportation costs dropped. Substantial farm buildings, such as the brick Daniel McCain house (Photo 1b.), the Wilson-Shirk house (Photo 11c.) and the Martin B. Wingard house (photo 12c.), demonstrate the agricultural prosperity which Carroll County farmers enjoyed during the canal era, which lasted until c. 1875. One key to this prosperity in the district was access via the Camden-Delphi Road and County Road 300 North.

With the advent of the Wabash & Erie Canal access to larger markets began and continued to grow during the mid-nineteenth century as the railroads reached the county. In March of 1856, the Wabash Railroad became the first

² McClelland and Keller, 1995*.

³ McClelland and Keller, 1995.*

⁴ Helm, 1882.*

⁵ Ibid.*

⁶ Mayhill, 1954, pp. 131-3.*

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rail transportation to pass through the town of Delphi.⁷ It was located west of the historic district, running in a northeasterly direction from the center of Delphi.

As early as 1877 citizens of the community began negotiating for a proposed additional rail line through Carroll County. They convinced the Chicago and Indianapolis Airline Railroad to build their railroad through the county, which would later be known as the Monon line. It was constructed in 1881 with the first train crossing its tracks in 1882. It was this railroad that passes through the district. It enters from east of Delphi at the west boundary of the district, and follows along the south side of the Camden-Delphi Road, past Morning Heights (Delphi) cemetery and crosses Deer Creek between two high bluffs (See Fig. 19c.) before the track turns south. Although the current owner, CSX, has abandoned the line and removed its track, the bridge remains, as well as the bermed rail bed at each end.

Originally built in 1881, and rebuilt in 1891⁸ "High Bridge" is thought to be the second longest railroad viaduct bridge in Indiana. It is a spectacular structure, which recalls the excitement of the railroad era, and its impact upon the rural landscape. Given the present Indiana guidelines for bridges, this bridge qualifies individually for the National Register. In feeling, location, design, setting, materials, workmanship and association, it demonstrates a high degree of significance as an example of nineteenth century transportation structures. While the balance of the right-of-way has suffered from its abandonment, it too retains adequate integrity to contribute to the rural historic district.⁹

Historically, roads passed over Deer Creek and its tributaries via fords. There was a ford that once existed south of the Sharp Point Cemetery at Billings Mill, a crossing at CR W300N, also called Carrigan's ford, and one near High Bridge. By 1898, the present iron bridge was constructed at Carrigan's ford, named Wilson Bridge, for the family who had owned property at this site in 1863, or earlier. The bridge is a pinned, Pratt through truss span built by the Lafayette Bridge Company. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places that contributes to the significance of the historic transportation theme of the district. The Lafayette Bridge Company captured a large part of the Indiana market during the 1890s, and many of its Pratt through bridges have survived, attesting to their strength and durability.¹⁰

B. Exploration/Settlement of Carroll County

Under criteria A, the area is significant for its display of typical Northern Indiana settlement patterns. Small clusters of agricultural buildings grouped close to the road characterize the district dating back to the earliest times.

In December 1824, the boundaries of what was to become Carroll County were formed. Early settlers often arrived by keelboats to the mouth of Deer Creek. Others traveled Indian trails along Deer Creek. The first settler purchases were made just west of the district around December of that year in the area now known as Delphi-Deer Creek. The first settler, Henry Robinson and his son Abner, purchased and settled on land in the east half of the southeast quarter of Section 20 in Township 25, Range 2 West, just west of the rural historic district.

The General Assembly of the state of Indiana approved Carroll County as a separate corporate body in January of 1828, and local officials organized the various townships, and the present town of Delphi (first called Carrollton) was selected as the county seat shortly thereafter.

⁷ Mayhill, 1954, p.137.*

⁸ Gerard, 1981.

⁹ Westerly, p. 43

¹⁰ Cooper, 1987.*

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Pivotal in the naming of Delphi, the pioneer politician and military man, General Samuel L. Milroy arrived in Deer Creek in 1815, in time to participate in the Constitutional Convention of 1816. Later, in the fall of 1826, he moved his family to Carroll County, to a farm along the western border of the district. General Milroy was an important figure in the early history of the county, and is not only credited with having re-named the town of Delphi, but lobbying to keep the county seat in its present location.¹¹ His son, Major General Robert Milroy is said to have been important with regard to attracting the Chicago and Indianapolis Airline Railroad to Carroll County.

Another important early settler to Carroll County was Daniel McCain. He arrived with his family in April 1826, along with three brothers and a cousin¹² and was present for the first election of County Commissioners in April 1828. Property within the district is shown as belonging to the heirs of Daniel McCain on the plat map of 1863. The present house (the Mears Family Farm) dates to 1852. It has nearly the same configuration as the early McCain farm, and has remained relatively consistent over its history.

Among other early settlers in the area was George Royster, whose property (John Mears farmstead) appears on the 1863 map and may have been settled on this property as early as 1830. This farm has maintained its historical integrity and character for over 90 years.

Many of the names appearing on the 1863 Deer Creek Township plat map were settled in this area by the 1830s.¹³ Several of the current farm owners have long-term associations with their land (50 years or more), including the Keith Mears farm (Property 12), which has been owned by the same family for over 100 years.

A number of the properties listed (See Section 7) are significant on the local/regional level for their association with the earliest development of Carroll County. They constitute some of the earliest settlement of this area by non-Native American families.

C. Agriculture

During the first few decades of the nineteenth century, settlers in most of Indiana were kept busy clearing the extensive forests for croplands. Carroll County was once covered with timber, including White and Black Oak, Spice Laurel, Walnut, Poplar, Beech, Mulberry, Ash and Sugar Maple.¹⁴

During the nineteenth century, rural Carroll County prospered and farming activity in Deer Creek Township was important enough to merit a report in Kingman's 1882 history. The State Geologist reported in 1871 and 1872, that corn, wheat, oats and hay as well as blue grass and apples were being grown in the county.¹⁵ The Bureau of Statistics and Geology, of the State of Indiana, states that during 1880 there were 9,927 acres in cultivation in the township, with the largest acreages (4,284) dedicated to wheat. Assuming an average yield of 18 bushels per acre, this resulted in 77,212 bushels of this wheat. Corn yielded 40 bushels per acre in the rich bottomlands, and 20 in the uplands, totaling of 117,510 bushels. The third largest crop was oats, with 1,057 acres in cultivation, yielding 26,425 bushels. Other crops, potatoes and sweet potatoes were far behind, both in acreage and yields. Also noted were 815 acres of meadowland in the township that yielded 26,425 bushels of rich hay. Historic agricultural crops also include flax, which

¹¹ Carroll County Interim Report, 1987.*

¹² Peattie, 1896.*

¹³ Stewart, 1872; Helm, 1882.*

¹⁴ 1821 Federal Land Survey, Indiana State Archive, Indiana Commission on Public Records.

¹⁵ Kingman, p. 165.

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was produced during the settlement period, but later declined. The 1880 census for the township (excluding the town of Delphi) reported 1,655 persons residing within its borders.¹⁶

Though the Deer Creek area was known for its naturally growing ginseng during the early nineteenth century, most farming included a combination of small crop production and stock, with the addition of dairy farming during the later historic period. Several of the farms within the district demonstrate information about these early agricultural practices, as seen in their outbuildings, and the circulation and special organization of the farmsteads. "The hay barns, now nearly obsolete because of the size of modern farm equipment, reveal much about the nineteenth and early twentieth century practices. For example, the Sweitzer barn on the Mears Family Farm property demonstrates the efficient method of feeding hay from the overhang to the stock feed lot below. Other examples of outbuilding which associated with early agricultural practices include a number of well houses,"¹⁷ smoke houses, animal barns, and other buildings.

Cross-comparison of aerial maps and plat maps show a continuity of field divisions and cropland used during the recent and historic past. A 1939 map shows regular divisions of fields, often four to a section, or smaller, yet linear divisions, and remained much the same on the 1958 and 1990's aerial photos of the same land.¹⁸ "Crop rotation practices appear to have remained similar over this period, although one large orchard, on the Keith Mears farm began to decline by 1958 and has disappeared today."¹⁹ The crops prevalent during this period included corn, wheat, and soybeans.

Deer Creek Township agriculture in the rural historic district that prevailed during the late nineteenth century is still present today. Wheat, corn and oats were prevalent, along with meadow and pasturelands, and surplus crops were exported through the canal and railroads to provide prosperous lives for the residents. Unfortunately, according to an 1874 Map, the uplands north and south of Deer Creek were dotted with various orchards that fell into decline by 1958.

Continuity of agricultural practices and occupation can be seen in several farms, including the Keith Mears farm, which has been in the same family for over 100 years. Today, the agricultural practices include larger fields of cash crops, some pastures, horses, and the recent introduction of additional stock for limited wool production.

D. Literature

The rural historic district is significant for its association with the work of Indiana's most famous nineteenth century Hoosier poet, James Whitcomb Riley during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. His "nature poetry" was inspired by the Delphi and Deer Creek area beginning in the late 1880's. During this period, he spent much time in Delphi and traveled the Camden-Delphi Road and wrote about Deer Creek and its natural surroundings.²⁰ Here, Riley composed famous poems about his travels, his close friend Dr. Wycliffe Smith, and others: "From Delphi to Camden," "On the Banks O' Deer Crick," "An Old Sweetheart of Mine," and "Ole Doc Sifers." The two poems that are most descriptive of the area are "From Delphi to Camden" and "On the Banks O' Deer Crick". (See Appendix)

¹⁶ Kingman, 1882.*

¹⁷ Westerly, p. 45.

¹⁸ Indiana State Archive, Indiana Commission on Public Records.

¹⁹ Westerly p. 46.

²⁰ Mayhill, 1954; Crowder, 1957; Gerard 1981.*

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Riley's association with the Deer Creek area began in Delphi following a lecture he gave in 1882.²¹ The next year, he spent a relaxing week at Delphi after overwork and overindulgence in alcohol had weakened his health. Besides being good for his health, the relaxing pace and the serene landscape, the company of the charming Dr. Wycliffe Smith, whom he had met the year before, made his stay most memorable.²²

The poet's familiarity with Deer Creek and the surrounding picturesque lands of the rural historic district is apparent in several references. A recent commentary has referred to a "famous body" of work, special poems of nature that reflect his opportunity to wander "... 'Deer Crick' country of Carroll County." Especially "across from Jackson's hole or Wilson's cave where he could rest before reading poems at the old Delphi Opera House... The 'Deer Creek' poetry was the hallmark of one of Riley's favorite platform lectures... and it was fantastically popular all around the country beginning in 1884."²³ Riley's attention to detail and his ultimate success with such poems as "On the Banks O' Deer Crick" and "From Delphi to Camden" are proof that his narrative vision of the area was personal. Deer Creek was a source of inspiration both in his poems and in one of his paintings of a small boy fishing on the banks of the creek in 1916. The watercourse, often used by him and his associate Wycliff Smith for leisure activities such as "picnics and walks along Deer Creek," remained the focus of his attention when he came to the area to relax from his speaking tours.²⁴

Riley was frequently in and around the Deer Creek area. He often spoke at the local opera house, rode horses along the Camden-Delphi road and surrounding countryside. He would stop at a horse trough on the north side of the Camden-Delphi Road between the McCain house and barn (Site #1) to water his horse as he was riding his buggy.^{25 26} According to this most recent biographer, Elizabeth J. Van Allen, Deer Creek was one of Riley's favorite places. From examining notes for his many performances around the country, she stated in a recent telephone interview that the poem, "On the Banks O' Deer Crick," was one which he more frequently performed.²⁷

During his life, James Whitcomb Riley was enormously popular. His verses, popularized the local dialect and touted familiar platitudes, and formed a looking glass for the late nineteenth century. They harkened back to the innocence and nostalgia of a population on the verge of a new century, and reminded them of what they wanted to preserve.²⁸

The Delphi – Deer Creek area was a special place for him. Its bucolic atmosphere inspired him to write about the rural values that he portrayed in his nature poetry. Local sources have pinpointed sites within the rural historic district that were associated with Riley: for example, the Camden-Delphi Road; the horse watering trough on Site #1²⁹; Wilson's Cave and the Slate Bluffs. Wilson's cave was named as the site where the poem immortalizing Deer Creek was written (located west of Wilson's Bridge along the creek between the High Bridge and the Slate Bluffs).^{30, 31} The

²¹ Van Allen, fax. 6/30/200.*

²² Van Allen, 2000; Crowder, 1957.*

²³ Williams, 1997, pp. 467-69.*

²⁴ Carroll County Comet, 1999; Crowder, 1957.*

²⁵ Carroll County Comet, 1999.*

²⁶ Gerard, Fifth History Walk, 6 May 1998.

²⁷ Westerly, p. 48.

²⁸ Crowder, 1957.*

²⁹ Gerard, Fifth History Walk.

³⁰ Gerard, History Walk from Wilson Bridge, 6 June 1999.

³¹ Lafayette Journal and Courier 22 March 1952.*

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slate bluffs area of the creek is a particularly scenic spot west of Wilson's Bridge in Section 27 that has been associated with the poet.^{32 33}

Local lore, the poet's own writings and notes from his performances make it clear that Riley frequented many places along Deer Creek within the boundaries and nearby, where many of these sites remain especially pristine. Scenes along Deer Creek and the Delphi-Camden Road are much the same today as they were in Riley's time. The rural historic district attains additional significance under Criterion A, Literature, because of this quintessential nineteenth century Hoosier poet.³⁴

E. Architecture

Architectural styles of the prominent farm homes in the district include Greek Revival and Italianate, including evidence of the work of master builders and as demonstrations of architectural trends. "Of the prevalent styles, Greek Revival was the first of several romantic revivals that dominated nineteenth century American architecture. After the War of 1812, Americans desired to sever their strong cultural bonds with Britain, and thus sought a style that reflected their increasingly democratic values. A Greek "mania" swept across America in the early nineteenth century. Archaeological discoveries in Greece and later the Greek War for Independence (1821-30) aroused interest and sympathy. The Greek Revival style, patterned after the ancient Greek temples, was bolder and more vigorous than the earlier Federal style".³⁵

The Italianate style, which gained popularity after 1860 in both urban and rural areas, was based on the domestic architecture of the Italian Renaissance. It emphasized the picturesque qualities of rural Italian villas, though not a copy of its European counterpart. Low-pitched roofs over wide projecting eaves with ornate brackets and tall, narrow windows with round or segmental-arched heads typify the style.

Several examples of extant Indiana barn buildings remain from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. These properties that have been rated Notable or Outstanding in the Carroll County Interim Report, along with several contributing farmsteads and/or farm buildings, adding significance to the rural historic district under this Criterion (see individual descriptions).

Integrity:

Integrity in a rural historic district is always evaluated in the light of the primary landscape characteristics which are key to establishing the period and time of significance. For the Deer Creek Valley rural historic district, the key landscape feature is Deer Creek and its environs. The response to this scenic element includes the two bridges that cross it. They both retain adequate integrity of materials and design. One is listed on the National Register and the other is eligible for listing under present Indiana guidelines for bridges. These two bridges considerably enhance the historic significance of Deer Creek.

Land uses and activities are a second important landscape characteristic in the district, and are primarily agricultural, on a relatively small scale. The uses prevail today and have continued for over 100 years. Early county

³² Carroll County Comet, 1999.*

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Fife & Salmon, Huntington County Interim Report, 1997.

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production of soybeans, for example, took place on a farm within the area, according to a current resident.³⁶ Although croplands were farmed in smaller, rotated fields during the nineteenth century, land ownership and use in the district have remained relatively stable during the period of significance.

The creek was a site of local recreation and enjoyment during the late nineteenth century, and an inspiration for James Whitcomb Riley. Other recreational uses included meetings, picnics, fishing and hiking. Local residents have acknowledged the importance of this scenic attribute for decades. In the 1930s local businessmen promoted Deer Creek as a state park

Though the primary land use in the area is rural agricultural, there are four houses, an abandoned sand pit, and a cell tower on small lots that do not contribute to the district. The three ranch houses are clustered together within one section and are screened by vegetation to their north, west and from each other. A recent Tudor Revival home is isolated, and not visible from the district, except from the creek or road abutting the property. The sand pit is not visible except immediately next to CR W300N. The cell tower is obviously a modern structure in contrast to the scenic atmosphere of much of the district.

The historic vernacular landscape contains elements that retain integrity of location, feeling and setting. The chief elements of the district are the slate bluffs, drainages and other natural topographies. Where it has been shaped, it is not intrusive – the grades are gentle and natural looking. In some spaces, even where seedlings have grown, the topography is still visible.

Circulation networks within the district are also historic and include the Camden-Delphi road and its southern extension, modern County Road W300 North. Historic circulation features also include Deer Creek waterway and Wilson's bridge, as well as the railroad right-of-way and its accompanying High Bridge.

F. Cemeteries

Morning Heights Cemetery/ Delphi, Sharp Point Cemetery, Robbins-Miller Cemetery and Royster Cemeteries illustrate the evolution of small pioneer cemeteries in rural Indiana. All the cemeteries contain graves of the earliest families in the region, including some of Delphi's founding fathers. Mature trees line the edges of the cemeteries, and one still has an iron fence along the road. The cemeteries contribute to the Deer Creek Valley rural historic district.

³⁶ Mears, 2000.*

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SECTION X:

Boundary Justification

Deer Creek Valley rural historic district boundaries surround several extant farmsteads that maintain integrity and concentrations of features that maintain their historical significance. The district borders encompass entire farmsteads, and included additional special features such as iron fences, tree lines, roadways, caves and creeks. The southern boundary of the district includes Deer Creek due to the scenic beauty which inspired poetry from the area, as well as reflecting the life-style of those who lived along the Creek.

Verbal Boundary Description

Deer Creek Valley rural historic district is bounded on the south by Deer Creek and its banks. The west border moves north along the west property line of parcel 15 (Mears Family farm) to the west property line of parcel 14 and turning east along the north property line of that parcel to the line between Sections 21 and 22. At this point the boundary turns north along the west property line of parcel 10 in Section 11 (J.B. Garrison farm) and continues to the northern property line, turning east and then south along the eastern line of said property until it joins the north side of the Delphi-Camden road (County Road W375N). The boundary follows the north side of the right-of-way of this road, in a northeasterly direction, passing over County Road 525 West, and continuing along CR375 North to the eastern property line of the Sharp Point Cemetery where it turns south along this property line, continuing due south to the southern bank of Deer Creek. Turning west and then south, it follows the far bank of the creek in a southwesterly direction crossing over into Section 23, around parcel 13. At the southernmost corner of parcel 13, Section 23, it moves south on the section line to the corner of Section 22 and 26. It goes east to the easternmost point of parcel 18 in Section 26, where it turns south at the property line, to the southernmost corner of parcel 18, and then west along this line to the section line (between 26 and 27). Moving from this point it follows the south bank of Deer Creek until it comes to the High Bridge. The boundary jogs southeast along the east side of the bridge to the south abutment in the railroad right-of-way, and back along the west side of the bridge to the creek. At this point it continues to follow the south creek bank in a northwest direction to the western edge of parcel 15 in Section 21, where it crosses the creek and continues to the north along this line to the place of the beginning.

UTMs

- 1. 16 531000 449451
- 2. 16 531980 4494560
- 3. 16 531980 4493940
- 4. 16 532220 4493580
- 5. 16 532480 4493210
- 6. 16 532470 4492380
- 7. 16 532070 4492380
- 8. 16 531000 4492840
- 9. 16 530080 4492870
- 10. 16 529720 4493280
- 11. 16 529720 4493940
- 12. 16 530300 4494080
- 13. 16 530920 44944090
- 14. 16 531510 4494500

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