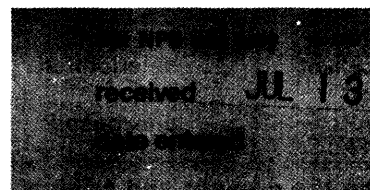


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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



1. Name

historic Shafer, Joseph, Farm/ ~~Shady Lawn Farm~~

and/or common Maple Lawn Farm

2. Location

street & number Flinn Road, 7 miles northeast of Brookville ^{NE} N/A not for publication

city, town Brookville ^{Ind.} X vicinity of congressional district

state Indiana code 018 county Franklin code 047

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Sallie R. Wadsworth and Randolph L. Wadsworth, Jr.

street & number R. 4, Box 290

city, town Brookville X vicinity of state Indiana 47012

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Franklin County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Brookville state Indiana 47012

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1978 federal state county local

depository for survey records Department of Natural Resources

city, town Indianapolis state Indiana

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Joseph Shafer House, completed on December 1, 1883--the date is on the doorcap of the hired girl's room--preserves the taste in architecture and decoration of a wealthy farmer of the period.

Approached from the south by a 500' drive between double rows of silver maples, the house features a pair of two-story, three-window, projecting bays, one facing south and the other east, complemented by the strong, horizontal arrangement of porches, doors, and the remaining windows. The main block is an asymmetrical, two-story cross, 65' north and south by 50' east and west. A one-story block to the north (rear), including a kitchen and two storerooms, brings the overall north-south length to 86'. A 10' square, one-story room with a gabled roof, once a solarium but a bath since about 1910, projects to the west from the north end of the two-story block; it is tied by a flat roof to the west wing of the cross, forming a recessed pocket porch.

The entire house is roofed with slate, largely original and in fair condition, laid in diamond patterns. The roof of the two-story cross is formed by two intersecting gables, that of the one-story portion by a single north-south gable. The wide, overhanging eaves and box gutters are supported on the two-story section by elaborately figured brackets with pendants, and on the one-story sections by smaller brackets of a different pattern and without pendants. The box gutters and eaves at both levels are corniced; the brackets are set in friezes, the lower one appropriately scaled down, sporting a design of rectangles under the gutters and parallelograms under the gables. The friezes are finished off below by a simple architrave. The small mansard roofs over the projecting bays are finished with the same cornices and brackets used around the pocket porch and kitchen block. There are four corbelled chimneys: one at the intersection of the main gables, one 12' along the east main gable, one at the north end of the main gable, and one at the north end of the lower gable. The porches, like the projecting bays, have tin roofs.

An L-shaped porch at the southeast corner of the cross (16' x 20' x 6') and a rectangular porch at the northeast corner of the cross (13' x 6') both sport original gingerbread in excellent condition, and floors of massive limestone slabs with fancy-dressed edges and rough-dressed walking surfaces.

The two-story portion of the house has six exterior doors: one facing east and two facing south on the L-shaped porch, one facing north and one facing east on the east porch, and one facing west on the recessed porch. All six doors have carved rosettes in their lower panels and large, arched lights. All six are set in deep casings with wood-grained panels and are surmounted by transoms. The front door, facing south in the corner of the L-shaped porch, has a light of etched, frosted glass incised with a pattern of wreaths and a hanging vase; its transom is cobalt blue, with a white-frosted, incised floral pattern. The other door lights are plain, while two of the transoms are plain, cobalt blue, and the rest painted in imitation of frosted effects.

All of the 38 windows--8' high downstairs, 7' high upstairs--have stone sills; 35 have original exterior shutters; 31 have fancy, pressed-tin lintels with rosettes at the corners and arched pediments; all but three of the pediments enclose scroll ornaments, and all are topped with scroll finials.

8. Significance

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900– | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | |

Specific dates 1883 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The Joseph Shafer House, on Maple Lawn Farm, is significant for its distinctive architecture and craftsmanship, as well as its importance as a focal point for grain farmers of the area during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The house is prominent because of its handsome variations on the later Italianate style and its decorative detailing. The property is especially significant because the house has undergone almost no changes, and its many outbuildings are still extant. As such, it is as much a showplace now as it was in Shafer's time.

John Shafer had an abiding commitment to farming and was quite successful at it. His father, who came to Indiana from Pennsylvania in the early days of settlement in Franklin County, and his older brothers, instructed him in the techniques of farming. He bought his first land, 137 acres, in 1859. He eventually married Harriet Seal, the daughter of a prominent, well-to-do farmer in the nearby township. In 1883, Shafer was prosperous enough to build a lavish home on his property. The house was intended to rival the showplace house which his brother-in-law had built near Whitcomb, Indiana.

Shafer gained a local reputation as a thrifty and industrious individual, a reputation apparently well-deserved, since he increased his holdings to 210 acres and built a large home on his property. He purchased the latest equipment and machinery for his farm. Shady Lawn became the center of the local threshing ring, as well as the grain-weighing station for farmers in the area. Shafer attained some prominence in his locality, and was frequently consulted by local politicians.

Shafer apparently wanted to keep his farm in the hands of his heirs, since he had Shady Lawn entailed to the surviving male in each succeeding generation. As for the house, during his own lifetime Shafer permitted only such minor alterations as occasional changes in wallpaper and the installation of a bathroom when indoor plumbing became feasible.

At Shafer's death, his son, W. Burton Shafer, inherited the farm. Like his father, he allowed no alterations. At his death in 1959, a nephew, Howard Dickinson, took possession of the farm with the stipulation that he make no changes in the house. After a succession of short-term occupants, the present owners came into possession of the house in 1976.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 5.965

Quadrangle name Whitcomb

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

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| Zone | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | | | |

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| Zone | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | | | |

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| Zone | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | | | |

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|------|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

Please see continuation sheet

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Randolph L. Wadsworth, Jr.

organization Franklin County Historical Society

date October 26, 1980

street & number R. 4, Box 290

telephone 317/647-6873

city or town Brookville

state Indiana 47012

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

date 6-7-82

For NPS use only

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

Beth Browne

date 8/26/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Linda McClelland

date 8/25/82

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

| |
|------------------|
| For NPS use only |
| Received |
| Date entered |

Continuation sheet Shafer Farm

Item number 7, Description

Page 1

Alterations to the exterior have not been extensive. A shed, 12' x 13', in the corner formed by the kitchen and ground floor bath, had been cobbled onto the house in such manner as to intrude upon the lower frieze, necessitating the removal of six brackets. Luckily, the brackets were found in one of the outbuildings and could be replaced in their original positions, still indicated by gaps in the paint. The shed's foundation has been extended, in matching rock, to the north end of the house, and a screened porch erected in its place below the refurbished frieze. One door and two plain windows in the west wall of the kitchen and the storeroom have been removed (but are stored in an outbuilding) and replaced by wood framed, sliding glass doors; while the latter are not of a piece with the other doors and windows, they are scarcely perceived through the porch and do not register as a discordant detail. Some five or six of the pendants on the upper brackets have had to be replaced, but are easily distinguishable from the originals up close because they lack the surface ornaments applied to the latter. There are, likewise, some four or five new bullseyes on the pillars of the two gingerbread porches, the only repairs necessary at that point; all the spindles and scrolls are original and in mint condition. The roof of the L-shaped porch, a complex mansard shape, was re-tinned in 1976, along with all the box gutters; nothing was altered here except that the tin has been replaced, a form of routine maintenance, long overdue at 93 years. Minor modification of the recessed pocket porch, the floor of which had to be replaced and which has been extended 10' to the west to form a deck, is the only other change to the exterior.

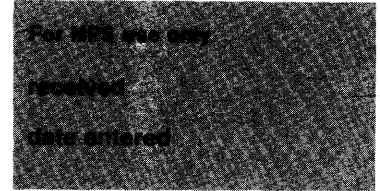
The interior of the house is extensively wood-grained--cupboards, doors (24), panels in the deeply recessed door casings, all imitate maple, oak, walnut and other woods. Baseboards vary from room to room, some maple, some oak, some gum, all finished below with walnut quarter-round and above with walnut moulding. Door frames and window casings match the baseboards, the frames of both doors and windows being also finished with walnut throughout the downstairs and upstairs in the hall, and in two bedrooms. The 24 narrow windows in the bays are all fitted with original interior shutters, all stained to match the prevailing woodwork. Virtually all the original interior hardware is still in place--solid brass doorknobs in fancy patterns, solid brass fittings on the interior shutters, brass retainers for curtain swags, cabinet fixtures, white ceramic doorknobs, decorative hinges.

Other decorative details include three fireplaces downstairs, all with slate mantels made to imitate granite or marble and furnished with coal grates and ornamented iron grilles; three mantelpieces mounted on the chimney pieces upstairs--apparently never fireplaces but just decorative, as all the rooms were furnished with stoves--all wood, one wood grained, one painted to resemble marble, and one painted to resemble granite; and a staircase, its edges finished with scroll ornaments and sporting a walnut bannister.

Alterations to the interior include a complete refurbishing of the kitchen and transformation of the storerooms into laundry, pantry and breakfast room; addition of bookcases in the west parlor; and the conversion of the west bedroom upstairs into 1½ baths and dressing rooms. All of this has been carried out with minimum disturbance to the original structure and is virtually 100% reversible, should any subsequent owner like to give up the amenities afforded by the changes.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Jos. Shafer Farm

Item number 7, Description

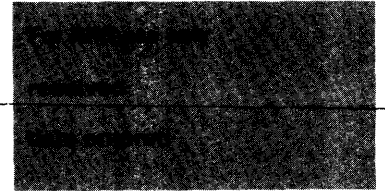
Page 2

With the exception of the scale building, the 13 outbuildings on the property are in good condition. The outbuildings, keyed to the attached sketch map, include:

1. Storage shed, 12' x 16' (Photo 20)
2. Shed with root cellar and attic, 16' x 20' (Photo 21)
3. 4-hole privy, 5' x 5' (Photo 23)
4. Smithy with forge and tool for wagon tires, approx. 12' x 24' (Photo 23)
5. Henhouse, 12' x 24' (Photo 24)
6. Garage, 15' x 27', with fully enclosed loft (Photo 27)
7. Granary, 21' x 31' (Photo 26)
8. Barn with lean-to attached, 27' x 32' (Photo 25)
9. Pump house with windmill, 9' x 18' (Photo 25)
10. Building with grain scale, grain bins and enclosed loft, 18' x 18' (Photo 28)
11. Barn, 30' x 60'. Probably at least as old as the house, judging from its construction, which features double truss arrangement with queen beams (beech), corner posts mortised into plates that are likewise mortised to each other, rafters pinned into notched rafter plates and grain bins made of poplar planks as wide as 27". At the southeast corner there is a shed enclosing a large water tank surrounded with straw. (Photo 29)
12. Well house, 9' x 12' (Photo 30)
13. Modern circular grain bin (Photo 26)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet Shafer Farm, Biblio. Refs. Item number 9

Page 3

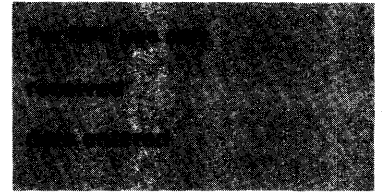
Biographical and Geneological History of Wayne, Fayette, Union, and Franklin Counties,
Vol. II. Chicago: Lewis, 1899

Riefel, August J. History of Franklin County: Her People, Industries, and Institutions.
Indianapolis: Bowen, 1915.

Stoops, Harry M.; O'Byrne, Roscoe C.; Stewart, John L.; and Bartlett, Fred. E., comps.
Atlas and World War Historical Data of Franklin County, Indiana. Connersville,
Indiana: Boda Press, 1925.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Shafer Farm

Item number 10, Verb.Bndry.Des. Page 4

Being a part of the Northeast Quarter of Section 4, Township 9 North, Range 1 West, Springfield Township, Franklin County, Indiana, and being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at a post at the Southeast Corner of the Northeast Quarter of said Section 4 and running thence West, 1863.20 feet along the South line of said Northeast Quarter, also being the centerline of the Public Road more commonly known as the Flinn Road, to a spike at the place of beginning of this description; thence West, 259.50 feet along said south line to a spike; thence North 00 degrees 20 minutes 30 seconds West, 1009.20 feet to an iron pin; thence North 89 degrees 41 minutes 37 seconds East, 255.09 feet to an iron pin; thence South 00 degrees 35 minutes 30 seconds East, 1010.60 feet to the place of beginning containing an area of 5.965 acres.

(Taken verbatim from a survey done 19 April 1976 by Michael A. Puthoff, Registered Surveyor No. S0215, State of Indiana.)

The Joseph Shafer House
Brookville, Indiana

12 Well House

SKETCH MAP (not to scale)

