

PH036144x

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED NOV 9 1976
DATE ENTERED JUL 13 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

NAME

HISTORIC

Paradise Farm

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

T89N R5E, Sec. 10; SW $\frac{1}{4}$ and S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Bellvue

VICINITY OF

Second

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Iowa

CODE

COUNTY
Jackson

CODE

097

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

George Bevans, et. al.

STREET & NUMBER

R.R. #1

CITY, TOWN

Bellvue

VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Jackson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

201 W. Platt

CITY, TOWN

Maquoketa

STATE

Iowa

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" 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 _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Paradise Farm consists of 3 structures: two houses and a carriage barn. The farm is located on some 800 acres in a river valley, away from the river and beneath wooded hills. The surrounding area is agricultural.

All three structures are made of coarsely-dressed limestone covered with stucco; they were built in the mid-1840's as part of a much larger complex of 12 buildings, all of which were square or rectangular with flat roofs.

The main house was built in 1846. It is set into a hill and is 3 stories high, with a small square cupola (lacking the original roof) and wooden cornice. The house is square, made of lime stone on the first floor level and of rammed earth (clay and lime chips) above. The walls taper in thickness from about 2' at the bottom to 6 or 8 inches at the top. A two-level wood veranda, now gone, went around three sides of the house. Windows are rectangular, 2/2 or 6/6 lights in double hung sashes. There are shutters on the front and rear windows. A brick chimney is attached to the wall at the northwest corner, a newer chimney appears beside the cupola. The facade and plan of this house are symmetrical. The interior has 4-6 rooms on each floor, with a narrow central staircase. Floors and woodwork are pine.

The carriage barn is a long, 2-story rectangle. On the ground level on one side are low, wide openings with segmental arches in which carriages and wagons were once stored. Openings on the second, or loft, level are rectangular with segmental arches and heavy stone sills. A narrow line of brick goes round the structure at roof level, with the circular ends of tie rods just below.

The "Dormitory" is a three-story structure of limestone, nearly square in shape, with a brick cornice. Window treatment is rectangular, with heavy stone lintels and sills. It is set into a slight hill, so that on one side ground level is the "second floor". There are two entrances on the front and rear, and a chimney at each end of the building. Originally, this structure had a variety of uses: buttery on the first floor, schoolroom on the second, and a bunkhouse for farmhands on the third. It is now a private residence.

All three structures are in deteriorating condition, although structurally sound. The main house is in the process of being converted into a museum, to house a vast collection of books, papers, furniture and glassware, most of which was owned by Elbridge Gerry Potter and his family. Potter's library (some 400 volumes) has been catalogued, but hundreds of letters and documents from his life have not yet been organized nor studied.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" 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 1846

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The three buildings at Paradise Farm are the remains of an estate built by Elbridge Gerry Potter (1791-1875), an early settler whose remarkable career encompassed agriculture, river transport and the milling industry of northeast Iowa and the Mississippi Valley. The buildings are undistinguished now (and even when new must have looked very odds with their flat roofs and uncompromising austerity), but the main house, filled with the furniture, books and documents from Potter's career, is a potential treasure-house of history, not only of Potter, but of the development of northeast Iowa, agriculturally and commercially.

Potter came to the Big Mill Creek via Illinois from Massachusetts in 1842. A most atypical pioneer, Potter arrived in Iowa with money chests, 500 head of cattle and 40 teams of mules. He purchased 1400 acres for Paradise Farm, and for the rest of his life was actively involved in a variety of incredibly profitable enterprises. In Bellvue he built a mill, which still stands, which supplied wheat to Indians via fur government contracts. He owned a sawmill, and established steamboat lines on the Mississippi at Bellvue, on the Yazoo River in Louisiana and the Red River in Texas. He also contracted to fuel and supply other steamboat lines. He arranged to acquire over the years a large library, which included works on a variety of subjects from medicine to poetry, religion to women's suffrage. Potter lent these volumes to many people, and to keep track of them designed a system of numbers and color codes for both books and shelves.

Much research remains to be done before the full impact of Elbridge Gerry Potter on his times and surroundings will be known. Such study will invariably contribute substantially to the history of northeast Iowa.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Living Landmarks", by Jim Arpy, in Focus Magazine, May 21, 1972.
 Personal interview, July, 1976, with George Bevans.
 A.T. Andreas, Historical Atlas of Iowa, 1875.
 Plat Book of Jackson County, Iowa. Northwest Publishing Co., 1893.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA ^{200 See map Cont Sheet}

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 320 acres - 200 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1,5 | 70,770,0 | 4,683,340 |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 C | 1,5 | 70,695,0 | 4,682,150 |

B | 1,5 | 70,773,5 | 4,682,160 |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 D | 1,5 | 70,691,0 | 4,683,320 |

UTM. See map dated 12.15.76

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

SW $\frac{1}{4}$ and S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 10, T86N R5E

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Grace Holihan

ORGANIZATION

Jackson County Historical Society

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Box 1355

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Maquoketa

STATE

Iowa 52060

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

Adrian D. Anderson

TITLE Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE 11/2/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Wm. M. ...

DATE 7/13/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Charles ...

DATE 8.1.77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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Paradise Farm, Bellvue Vicinity, Jackson County, Iowa

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

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Boundary alteration and justification for new boundary:

The acreage included in this nomination (approximately 200 acres) is important in that it provides aspects of the setting which originally drew Potter to build here. To the north are relatively steep, heavily wooded hills which tower over, and shelter, the farm complex. To the south is Mill Creek, seen from the farmhouse over a flat, rich, stretch of river bottom whose agricultural yields contributed substantially to Potter's fortunes. The east and west boundaries have been chosen more arbitrarily, but include enough land to preserve the visual experience along the road below the hills.

Boundary Description:

North line: from the west line of section 10, east along the 900-foot contour line to the line's intersection with the ridge road, east along the road to the center line of section 10

East line: center line of section 10 south from ridge road to Mill Creek

South line: center of Mill Creek west to the western line of section 10

West line: the west section line from Mill Creek north to the 900-foot contour line.

UTM References:

- A 15/707705 4683545
- B 15/707720 4682500
- C 15/706955 4682700
- D 15/706910 4683680