

PH006501

DATA SHEET

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	INDIANA
COUNTY:	WAYNE
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE:	FEB 20 1975

1. NAME

COMMON: Above
Abram Gaar Home and Farm
 AND/OR HISTORIC:
same

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
2411 Pleasant View Road
 CITY OR TOWN:
Richmond CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
10th
 STATE: Indiana CODE: 18 COUNTY: Wayne CODE: 171

3. CLASSIFICATION

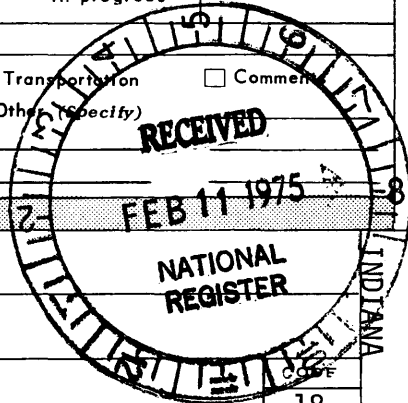
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mrs. Richard V. Mikesell
 STREET AND NUMBER:
1701 Middleboro Pike
 CITY OR TOWN:
Richmond STATE:
Indiana CODE: 18



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Wayne County Courthouse
 STREET AND NUMBER:
Main Street
 CITY OR TOWN:
Richmond STATE:
Indiana CODE: 18

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
 DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN:
 STATE:
 CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: INDIANA
 COUNTY: WAYNE
 ENTRY NUMBER: FEB 20 1975
 DATE:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Abram Gaar Home and Farm consists of a Victorian home and the usual dependent barns and sheds concerned with the operation of a large farm. Several of these and a privy that was nearer the house are contemporary with the house and are still working buildings. A caretakers house was added during the 1920's north of the original house but has no historic or architectural significance.

The house is a truly imposing and impressive structure located at the end of a long, winding tree lined drive on a hill overlooking the bottom lands that make up the estate. A rectangular three story frame house with clapboard siding, and a bellcast mansard roof over the third story, it is the focus of the property. Imitation ashlar quoins and extensive Victorian decoration add to the stature of the building. Built from designs, still in the possession of the owners, by John A. Hasecoster a Richmond architect, in 1876 this house incorporated many of the features found in monumental Victorian homes. The windows are two over two sash type but on each floor they have different surrounding decoration. The third floor windows are in the wall gables projecting from the mansard roof and have Victorian segmental arches that match the one over the main entry. The windows on the first and second floors have plainer decoration but each floor is different, giving variety to the building.

The main facade is the most impressive. It is a symmetrical three part composition with a segmental arched central double door framed by a portico with classic columns and a balustrade. Above this on the second floor are a pair of windows under a pediment. This central portion continues to rise in a square tower at the mansard which is topped by a bellcast mansard roofed cupola. Flanking this central area are two three story bays with three windows on the first and second floors and projecting mansard roofs on the third. Facing south over the bottom land below, not this, but the west elevation is in view as one enters the drive. On this west elevation the name GAAR and the decoration were placed in the slate roof. As it was originally designed the house had wrought iron fence around the top of the mansard but this was never put in place except over the drive cover at the rear. In the 1920's a solarium of copper and glass with a modified pagoda roof was added to the west side and later a one story flat roofed addition was made behind this. The solarium is in character with the rest of the house and the flat roofed addition is inconspicuous.

The interior of the house is as splendidly Victorian as the exterior and still contains most of the original furniture. It has a basically symmetrical floor plan with a parlor and living room in the front and central stairs leading to the second and third floors. The front section of the first floor is extensively decorated with cast iron French fireplaces, crystal gas chandeliers, and embossed leather wainscoting. Much of the woodwork in the house is painted hand grain and this has been kept in good condition. The second floor contains the family bedrooms and a guest room. Each of these rooms has a large closet and a sink.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE INDIANA	
COUNTY WAYNE	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 20 1975

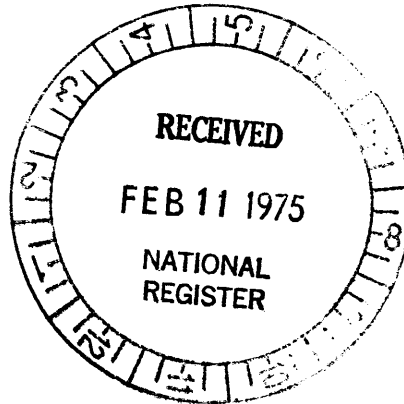
(Number all entries) Description Continued

The third floor contains the servants quarters, a game room, and a 40 barrel water tank for a water supply. The basement houses the hot air furnace, a coal room, a wood room, and vegetable storage rooms. This was clearly set out to be a large, comfortable living unit geared to a well-to-do life in the country.

The house is in excellent condition with only minor modifications. The quality and preservation of the detailing are especially noticeable.

The dependent buildings are standard for the period and are exceptional only in that they have been well maintained. One barn does have the interesting feature of box gutters, giving it almost a Greek revival flavor in the end view.

The Abram Gaar Home and Farm is a remarkably intact 19th century rural living unit.



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1878**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Abram Gaar Home and Farm is important as an example of a Victorian Country Estate and as the home of Abram Gaar who was president of what was Richmond's leading industry in addition to being a member of one of that town's founding families.

The forms, style, execution and detailing of the Abram Gaar Home make it an outstanding example of Victorian architecture. The detailing of the interior as well as the presence of most of the original furnishings add to this significance. John A. Hasecoster, the architect, was the designer of many large homes and businesses in Richmond and is clearly one of the town's leading 19th century architects. Trained in Europe, Hasecoster's concern with detail is evident in the careful plans drawn on linen. This home, one of his early and perhaps one of his best efforts, was built according to the original plans in almost every detail. The only notable exception is the lack of a decorative iron fence around the top of the mansard. The presence of contemporary dependent buildings, typical of a post Civil-War farming operation, add to the significance of this property.

The background of the man for whom this house is built gives a picture of the development of a leading citizen in the 19th century. The Gaar Family came to Madison County, Virginia from Bavaria in 1732, moved to Kentucky from 1804 to 1807 when Abraham Gaar, Abram Gaar's grandfather, entered 160 acres of government land south of Richmond and moved there to become one of the town's founding families. In 1849, Abram, his father Jonas, and brother in law, William G. Scott bought the J.M. Hutton and Company Spring Foundry and establishing the A. Gaar and Company to manufacture threshing machines. In 1870 when Abram Gaar became president, the firm was incorporated under the name of Gaar-Scott and Company. The Gaar-Scott Company went on to become one of the largest farm machinery manufacturers in the midwest producing threshing machines, reapers, and combines as well as one of the earliest and best steam traction engines in America. When Jonas died in 1875 Abram acquired the farm on which he was to build his house. In 1876 he built the house described according to the plans of John A. Hasecoster. Abram remained as president of Gaar-Scott and Company until his death in 1894 and lived in this house that so well fitted a man who was president of Richmond's most important manufacturing company and a cabinet maker by trade.

The combination of the architectural significance of the home, the historic significance of the family, and the integrity of this property make it an outstanding statement about Victorian society.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Family History from: Gaar Geneology published 1894
 History of Wayne County, Ind. 1884
 Interstate Publishers
 Property from: Abstract of Title

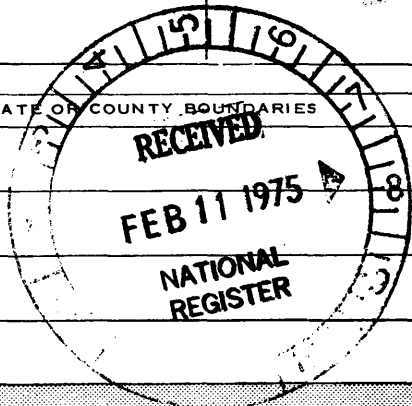
VTM
 16/68252
 4413000
 HM

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39 ° 50 ' 57.3 "	84 ° 51 ' 58.7 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 8

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Mrs. Richard V. Mikesell (Joanna Hill Mikesell), owner

ORGANIZATION: _____ DATE: _____

STREET AND NUMBER:
 1701 Middleboro Pike

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Indiana CODE: 18

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Jeffrey Cloud
 Title: Indiana State Liaison Officer
 Date: February 3, 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

ARK Maclean
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 2/20/75

ATTEST:
Charles Adams
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 2-19-75