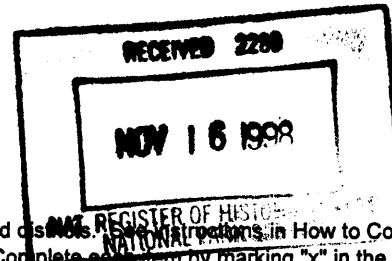


Final

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

1522

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



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 Wescott Stock Farm  
other names/site number Westcott Place Farm

2. Location

street & number 306 East North Street N/A  not for publication  
city or town Centerville N/A  vicinity  
state Indiana code IN county Wayne code 177 zip code 47330

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] 10/27/98  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
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] 12-17-98  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
Edson A. Beall

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
7	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
1	0	objects
8	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure

AGRICULTURE/SUBSIST Agricultural Outbuilding

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTE Animal Facility

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTE Storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: Limestone

walls BRICK

WOOD: Shingle

roof ASPHALT

other STUCCO

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.)

- 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.
- 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.
- 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)

ARCHITECTURE \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1890 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1890 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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
- Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Wescott Stock Farm  
Name of Property

Wayne IN  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approx 28 acres

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

16	672000	4409900
Zone	Easting	Northing

3 

16	671860	4409750
Zone	Easting	Northing

2 

16	672000	4409830
----	--------	---------

4 

16	671860	4409580
----	--------	---------

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 John Warner  
organization Weintraut & Nolan Historians Inc. date 1-16-97  
street & number 800 Sugarbush Ridge telephone 317/873-6692  
city or town Zionsville state IN zip code 46077

### 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. and Mrs. Robert Coddington  
street & number 306 East North Street telephone 765/855-3774  
city or town Centerville state IN zip code 47330

**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.

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### Section 7 Description

The Westcott Place Farm is situated at the northeast corner of the city of Centerville, Wayne County, Indiana. The farm, that parcel of the original 224 acres that is being nominated to the National Register, is approximately 28 acres and contains eight historic resources: seven buildings and one cistern with a hand-operated pump extant. The remainder of the original acreage is cultivated under lease but is still owned by the McConaha Family. The buildings, all original to the farm, are: a large two-story, brick Queen Anne-style residence; a laundry house/tool shed building; a small single-car garage; a carriage barn; a horse barn; a bank barn; and a small calving barn. During the family's presence the carriage barn, originally used by John Westcott to stable Shetland ponies, was used for various purposes ranging from tractor storage to automotive maintenance. The bank barn derives its name because its foundation was constructed within a small hill. The main floor of the barn is raised above grade on three sides. With the exception of the calving barn, all the buildings are in good to excellent condition. The hand-operated pump and cistern occupy a space between the residence and the laundry house/tool shed. A site plan is attached.

#### ***Residence***

##### Exterior

Built between 1890-95, the brick, Queen Anne-style residence is situated with its long axis north-south on a small hill that overlooks the majority of the property to the south and east. Jacobethan variants of the Tudor style such as false half-timbering or Tudor-inspired decorative vergeboards appear in each facade except the north. The basic plan of the building is rectangular with gables at each cardinal point of the compass and prominent bays in the south, west, and east facades. The foundation is brick and exterior walls are red brick in running bond. The exterior of the foundation is clad in limestone block veneer which forms a water table and covers the exterior, above grade portion of the foundation. Except where noted hereafter, the window openings are flat and accentuated with limestone lintels or prominent band courses of rusticated limestone; and the exterior surface of the foundation, the porches, and water table are limestone. Unless otherwise noted, window frames throughout the house are wooden with wooden sills.

The south (main) facade (photo 1) contains the residence primary entry, a prominent five-sided, two-story bay surmounted by an architecturally detailed gable, and one wing of an L-shaped single-story porch. The porch is not original; it replaced a smaller wooden porch that was removed in the 1910s. The porch is constructed of limestone blocks with a concrete floor. The wooden frame of the shed-type roof is supported by square limestone pillars which are connected by a low limestone wall on the south and east side. The pillars have alternating courses of smooth and rusticated limestone.

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The first floor of the semi-octagonal bay contains three windows: a large square, double-hung, three-over-one window in the center and two tall, rectangular double hung, one-over-one windows. The side windows are original but the center is not. Right of the bay is the main entrance and a large, square window. The entrance consists of a original wooden door with the upper half glass and topped with a transom light. The fixed-sash window to the right of the entry is set in the upper half of the wall and is glazed with stained-glass squares six-by-six. The second floor of the bay mirrors the first floor fenestration, however, the windows sashes and glazing in the second floor are original throughout. To the right and above the porch, are two medium-sized, double-hung, square windows with two rows of six stained-glass panes in the upper sash. Open eaves appear at the roof-wall junction in the right half of the facade. A single shed dormer is centrally located in the roof. The window framing and glazing are identical to the windows in the second floor. The roof is sheathed in modern composition shingle. Although there is no extant evidence, the original roof was most likely slate shingle which would be in keeping with the high style of the times.

The semi-octagonal bay (photo 2) is highly detailed. A horizontal wooden member separates the brick exterior wall of the bay and the wooden half-timbered detailing in the gable above. Large wooden brackets support the vergeboard-accentuated roof line of the gable. Half-timbered sections of exterior wall surface flank a pair of windows; the stucco fill is studded with cobble debris and bits of stained-glass. Centered in the gable are paired, double-hung windows with stained-glass squares, three-by-four, in the upper sash. Immediately above the windows is a section of scalloped shingle that completes the infill of the gable exterior. A decorative finial crowns the peak of the gable.

The east facade of the residence (photo 3) is the most architecturally varied. Centered in the facade is a semi-octagonal, two-story bay similar to that on the west side of the building and is flanked on the left by the long wing of the front porch and on the right by a single-story closed porch that was added to the original building in the 1910s.

The porch to the left of the bay is constructed in the manner previously described. Immediately above the porch roof-wall junction is a small, rectangular double-hung window with sixteen stained-glass panes in the upper sash and single clear glass sash in the lower. Nearly hidden behind the gable and projecting from the roof at the attic level is a small eyebrow dormer that faces east. The closed porch to the right of the bay dominates this portion of the facade; it provides protection to a rear entry into the residence kitchen. The foundation and lower third of the porch exterior are limestone block; the upper two-thirds of the exterior surface is comprised of a series of double hung, one-over-one wooden windows. A shed-type roof sheathed in composition shingle completes the addition.

The central semi-octagonal bay contains an entry point on its south side, window openings, and a full chimney. The outline of the chimney is accentuated above the first floor by corbelling the brick to define the outer limits of the flue. Centered in the first

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floor of the bay is a small arched window flanked on each side by a tall rectangular window. The small arched double-hung window has eight stained-glass panes in the

upper sash and clear glass in the lower sash. The window opening is centered in the flue. The flank windows are double-hung with one-over-one glazing. Band courses of rusticated limestone wrap the bay below the windows. The second floor of the bay contains four window openings: a small rectangular window centered in the bay and flanked by windows identical to those on the first floor. The small window is double hung with a band of stained-glass squares, two-by-three, in the upper sash and clear glass in the lower.

The gable in the east facade is brick above the eaves line. The gable and lower portion of the bay are visually separated by a band course of rusticated limestone. The vergeboard that delineates the gable roof line is supported by large, shaped wooden brackets that contain a small series of decorative spindles rather than the solid construction employed elsewhere on the house. The infill of the gable exterior surface contains identical triangles of wooden board and batten construction in the lower corners and brick veneer in the center. Centered in the gable and recessed in the brick is a plain square that provides architectural detail and visual depth to the chimney outline. The chimney passes through the roof at the gable peak. A corbelled cap crowns the chimney. A decorative finial and an air terminal from the lightning protection system are in place at the peak of the roof.

The west facade (photos 1 and 4) is similar to the east in basic design and fenestration, but architectural detailing gives this exterior view its own identity. The facade is dominated by a centered three-sided bay. The exterior wall to the left of the bay is relatively plain with only two window openings: one in the lower left corner of the wall and one in the upper right corner. The lower window, a kitchen window, is not original. It is characterized by a fixed metal casement with three-by-four glazing. The upper small rectangular window is double-hung with one-over-one glazing and is situated close under the eaves and against the roof-wall junction.

The exterior wall right of the central bay is distinguished by a large chimney incorporated into its surface. Below the chimney throat is a small rectangular double hung window with a band of stained-glass squares, two-by-three, in the upper portion of the upper sash and clear glass below. Rusticated limestone bands "frame" the window opening, limestone squares accentuate the exterior junction of the throat and flue, and limestone detailing appears directly below the eaves line.

The central bay fenestration is similar to that of the south bay with the following exceptions. The first floor center double-hung window contains a band of stained-glass squares, two-by-eight, at the top of the upper sash and clear in the lower portion. The second floor center windows are paired and are glazed one-over-one. Above the eaves line the vergeboards that define the gable roof line are supported by two large wooden brackets. Centered in the gable is a pair of small square windows with fixed-sashes.

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The exterior surface of the gable is sheathed in scalloped shingles. A tall chimney penetrates the roof at the rear of the gable. A decorative finial and air terminal crown the gable peak.

The north facade (photo 4) is plainly constructed with unadorned fenestration and no architectural detailing. The first floor exterior wall contains two kitchen windows, not original, with fixed metal casements and three-by-four glazing. The two windows in the second floor are original and reflect the same shape and glazing patterns as those described for the bay flank windows. Two small fixed-sash windows, set side by side, fill the wall surface within the angle of the gable. The rake is closed and a tall slender chimney penetrates the roof through the peak of the gable.

Interior

Generally the interior of the residence reflects the original floor plan. With the exception of a small powder room off the kitchen and bathrooms added on the second floor, the living spaces of the house reflect the same usage originally intended: e.g., dining room, bedrooms, kitchen, etc. for more than 100 hundred years.

The first floor includes an entry hall and staircase, a front parlor, a sitting room, a dining room (in the east bay), a small pantry, and a large kitchen which was updated in the early 1950s, at the rear (north side) of the house. Approximately seventy-five percent of the floors throughout the house are original. Molded window and door interior casings have fluted verticals with bulls-eye blocks at the corners. Window sills, aprons, and crowns are relatively simple and typical of the period.

The entry hall is dominated by a massive wooden staircase (photo 5) leading to the second floor. The balustrade and balusters are accentuated with simple pressed designs that highlight the angularity of the staircase. Partitioned panels cover the understair space. The newel posts at the base of the first landing and bottom of the stairs are adorned with pressed design typical of the period. In a recessed space under the middle landing is a small alcove (photo 6) that provides access to understair storage. A stained-glass window is positioned in a wall in the back of the alcove.

The front parlor, on the left of the entry hall, contains the fenestration for the south bay, an ornate Victorian-style fireplace, and a small recessed window centered above the fireplace (photo 7). The Victorian fireplace is shallow with a blue tile surround. The tiles in the upper left and right corners are adorned with raised profiles of a man and a woman facing each other. The wooden mantelpiece is supported by vertical fluted pilasters that terminate in large ornate brackets. The window immediately above the mantelpiece is a unique architectural detail that causes the chimney flue to be displaced to the right, but allows exterior light to enter from the west. Large double doors provide access to the sitting room.



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The sitting room contains the fenestration for the west bay and its interior space is dominated by a large, very ornate Victorian fireplace positioned on an interior wall (photo 8). The fireplace has a rose tile surround, and the upper left and right corner tiles depict a floral motif. The wooden mantelpiece is supported by prominent fluted brackets. The front edge of the mantelpiece is adorned with button-like detailing. Above the horizontal mantelshelf is an ornately detailed element that serves as a frame for a mirror. Large pocket doors provide access to the dining room to the right.

The dining room contains the fenestration for the east bay, a door leading to the outside front porch, and a Victorian fireplace. The fenestration and door framing are the same as previously discussed. The shallow Victorian fireplace is similar to that described for the front parlor except the color of the tile is dark reddish-brown versus blue in the front parlor. A small pantry connects the dining room with the updated kitchen. The second floor of the house contains four bedrooms, the original bathroom with minimal upgrades, and one new bathroom. The interior walls and room configurations are original. Visible in the second floor bedrooms and in the hall are gas light fixtures from a previously functional lighting system; the pipes for this system remain within the walls of the house.

***Laundry House/Tool Shed***

In close proximity and directly north of the residence is the laundry house/tool shed building (photo 9). The small, wood-framed square building is sheathed in horizontal drop siding. A tall, double hung window with two-over-two glazing appears in the south facade. The north facade has no window and the west has a small double-hung window. The east facade, the main entry point, contains a large door opening with double inward-opening flush doors constructed of vertical boards. Open eaves appear at the roof-wall junction and the roof is sheathed in wooden shingles. A brick chimney penetrates the roof at the northwest corner of the building. A hand-operated water pump is positioned near the southeast corner of the building. A lean-to shed, not a part of the original building, was added at a later time. The owners plan to remove the lean-to shed in the future.

***Garage***

East of the residence is a small one-car garage built in the late 1910s (photo 10). The building is constructed of concrete blocks. The exterior surface is a finished cement veneer or parge coat that simulates separate stone blocks. The roof shape is pyramidal. The south facade has two rectangular double-hung windows positioned left and right of centerline in the exterior wall. The windows are glazed two-over-two. The east facade contains the main vehicle entry. A modern roll-up door replaces the original door. Guttering and open rafter ends delineate lower edge of the hipped roof which is sheathed in composition shingle. A small brick chimney penetrates the roof at the southwest corner.

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### ***Carriage Barn***

Southeast of the garage is the carriage barn, a two-story gabled building that was built circa 1900 (photo 11). The rectangular building, long axis north and south, was originally used by the farm's first owner to stable Shetland ponies. Constructed on a post and beam foundation, the building's exterior walls are vertical board on standard balloon framing. The east and west facades' fenestration are identical. Each has two small fixed-sash windows positioned midway between ground level and the roof-wall junction and right and left of centerline of the facade.

The north facade has two rectangular double-hung windows, one on each side of large double door entry that is centered in the facade. The windows are glazed four-over-four and appear to be original. The double door is fabricated of vertical boards. Above the doors and centered in the gable is a door that accesses the hay mow once used to store fodder for livestock. The south facade is identical except there is no door in the gable end. The vertical board siding in the gable is offset from the lower half of the wall and scalloped to give the appearance of shingles. This architectural detail appears in other buildings on the property. The roof is sheathed in vertical-rib metal roofing.

### ***Horse Barn***

Constructed circa 1890, the horse barn (photo 12) is situated immediately north of the carriage barn. The large rectangular, gabled brick building, long axis north and south, is reportedly the oldest building on the farm and predates the residence by a few years. The exterior walls are constructed using a common bond system.

The east and west facades are identical; they contain no windows or any evidence of their past presence. The south and north facades, except where noted, are identical. Each has a large rectangular window on either side of a central arched entry doorway. The windows are not original; the current windows are fixed-sash with twelve-over-twelve glazing. The large double doors are constructed of vertical boards and slide left and right to access the building interior. Above the entry and centered in the gable end is an arched opening that provides access to the storage space or mow on the second floor. The opening in the north facade is square. The windows in the north facade are double hung and glazed four over six. The words "Westcott Place Farm" appear in the south gable directly below the roof wall junction. The eaves are closed and the roof is sheathed in composition shingle. Centered on the roof at the ridge line is a cupola, used for natural ventilation, crowned with a weather vane.

### ***Bank Barn***

The large white bank barn (photo 13) is situated at the northeast corner of the property. The two-story gabled building, long axis north and south, was built in 1900. The south facade includes a portion of the irregular-coursed stone foundation, the main portion of the exterior wall and a gable end. The exposed foundation wall has two windows,

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positioned left and right of centerline, a large double door entry centered in the facade, and a single door in the lower right corner. The small rectangular double-hung windows are glazed two-over-two and are probably original. The center double entry door and the single door are constructed of vertical board siding. The main portion of the exterior wall is vertical board siding. A rectangular fixed-sash window, glazed one-over-one, is positioned in the lower left corner. The window is not original. The lower edge of the

gable is defined by a row of offset board siding scalloped in the same manner as those on the carriage barn. A fixed-sash window, glazed two-over-two, is centered in the gable. Above the window, the exterior wall of the gable is shingled. An air terminal of the lightning protection system crowns the peak of the gable.

The north facade is similar to the south except that two windows appear in the main portion of the facade. The west facade contains the primary entry point for the building and a number of small windows. The entry door is at grade level and centered in the facade. The sliding door is board and batten construction. Two small fixed-sash windows, glazed one-over-one, appear in the left half of the facade. These do not appear to be original. A single door and rectangular double-hung window are positioned in the right half of the facade. Above the main entry door in a center gable is a fixed-sash window, glazed two-over-two. Above the window, the exterior surface of the gable is detailed with stick work that gives the appearance of half-timbering. An air terminal crowns the peak of the center gable.

The east facade contains five small fixed-sash windows evenly spaced horizontally across the facade midline between grade and the roof wall junction. The roof is sheathed in vertical-rib metal roofing.

### ***Calving Barn***

The calving barn (photo 14) is situated at the northwest corner of the property. The single story rectangular building, long axis east and west, is gabled and in poor condition. Used for weaning calves when the farm included a dairy herd, the building has been used for miscellaneous storage for the last few decades. The exterior walls are vertical board siding. The east and west facades contain a square opening centered in the gable and in the upper half of the exterior wall. The doors are missing. The lower edge of the gable has the same architectural detailing, scalloped board ends, that appear on the carriage and bank barns. The south facade is in disrepair but originally contained two doors at the left and right corners of the facade and feeding ports centered midway between grade and the roof wall junction. The roof is sheathed in vertical-rib metal roofing.

### **Section 8 Statement of Significance**

Westcott Place Farm is significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture which embodies distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction. The

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Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory identified 55 Queen Anne-style houses within the county. The period of greatest development for the county-at-large occurred during the early years of the nineteenth century and resulted in a predominance of Federal style, carpenter-builder, Italianate, and revival houses. Due to the limited number of urban concentrations in the county and in part because housing of the later nineteenth-century county development tended to be rural, this style of house is rare in Wayne county. Of the 55 Queen Anne-style houses identified in the inventory and evaluated for degree of integrity and embodiment of architectural characteristics of the Queen Anne style, seven including the Westcott Place Farm residence were rated "outstanding" examples of the type. As an example of the high-style Queen Anne house and considering its high degree of integrity, Westcott Place Farm's residence exemplifies the rarity of diminishing historic resources of this caliber.

As integral components of the farm, the residence and the horse barn in particular demonstrate the vitality and distinctive characteristics of brick construction in imparting a sense of permanence. The architectural detailing of the house emphasized through the use of stained-glass, Tudor half-timbering, brick-clad outer walls, an eyebrow dormer, rusticated limestone, and decorative finials at each peak of the roof set this house apart from the "standard" Queen Anne of the period. One reference source noted that, "about 5 percent of Queen Anne houses have decorative half-timbering in gables and ... have masonry walls with patterned brickwork or stonework." The residence is a rare example of the style.

Although secondary in a hierarchy of significance, Westcott Place Farm also possesses historic value for its preeminent role in the lives of four generations of the same family. The first decade of the farm's existence was dedicated to the breeding and sale of horses and Shetland ponies, but the ensuing five decades of its period of significance were fully engaged in providing an agrarian livelihood for the family that tilled its soil. An example of the self-sufficient family farm that once dotted the landscape of the Midwest, Westcott Place Farm combines a well-preserved physical presence with a visual image of our past agricultural heritage, a pattern of settlement and development that defines our history.

Westcott Place Farm possesses significant historical integrity. The farm's buildings and residence retain each of the seven qualities evaluated in the assessment of integrity – location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association – that characterize the property's historic period. Although a few ancillary buildings and structures such as a double, drive-through corn crib, a chicken coop and a windmill have succumbed to time and weather, the remaining buildings, with their integrity in purpose and design well intact, conjure historical images from the recesses of memory. The extent of this integrity is such that with little imagination a visitor may easily visualize the daily family routines and farm activities that once characterized this exceptional example of Hoosier agricultural heritage; an historical image that is rapidly disappearing from our view. The Westcott Place Farm's period of significance is 1890-1948.

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The Westcott Place Farm is located in Centerville, Center Township, Wayne County, Indiana. The land that comprises the farm was abstracted by the federal government to Israel Elliot in 1813. In 1814, this same Israel Elliott residing in Cincinnati, Ohio, donated 96 acres of land to Centerville for the purposes of establishing the county seat there. Centerville was chosen because its location was the approximate center of the county. Many of the first settlers in the county were Quakers from Virginia and the Carolinas.

Centerville was prominent in the economic and commercial growth of Wayne County for over five decades. One of the first events that sparked economic growth in Centerville was the opening of the National Road, which is also Centerville's main east-west street, in 1828. By 1836 as many as 100 wagons a week were passing through Centerville carrying commercial goods and agricultural production in and out of Indiana. Another event that brought recognition to Centerville was the establishment of Wayne County

Seminary, later known as Whitewater College, in 1827-28. Such well-known Hoosiers as former governor Oliver P. Morton, author-Civil War General Lew Wallace, and Civil War General Ambrose Burnside, facial hair trendsetter for whom "sideburns" were named, were students and graduates of the Seminary.

Centerville continued to grow throughout the 1850s and 1860s, but prosperity was limited. The coming of major railroads that intersected at Richmond rather than Centerville changed the economic complexion and transportation mix for the entire county. Lacking a major power-producing water source and with limited access to rail transportation, Centerville lost its status of primary urban community to Richmond; the county seat moved to Richmond in 1872. The land on which the Westcott Place Farm would be established changed ownership many times in these growth years. In 1889, the owner Clements W. Ferguson, sold the property to John M. Westcott, a prosperous entrepreneur from Richmond, Indiana.

John M. Westcott, best known for his association with the Hoosier Drill Company, a farm machinery manufacturer, and his involvement with the Westcott Hotel, a Richmond turn-of-the-century landmark, was also a horse-breeding enthusiast. In addition to dabbling in banking, Westcott was instrumental in founding a carriage company which his sons, Harry and Burton, later developed into a company that built the automobile that bore the family name. The Westcott automobile was produced in Richmond and sold nationwide until its demise circa 1926.

In 1890, prior to involvement in his many other business ventures, Westcott bought land from Ferguson for the purpose of establishing a stock farm. According to its first annual catalogue in 1891, Westcott Stock Farm, the name given this new enterprise, specialized in stud service for standard bred "Trotting and French Coach Horses and Shetland Ponies." Westcott kept five studs at the farm, then about 224 acres, and used the northwest corner of the property for a quarter-mile track to exercise the animals.

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One of Westcott's primary assets was a stud named "Orbit"; a plate with this name inscribed remains over one of the stalls in the horse barn. There is anecdotal evidence that to the east of the exercise facility, the kiln used to make the brick employed in constructing the house and horse stable operated and left red clay deposits behind.

For reasons unknown, Westcott got out of the horse-breeding business. In 1900, Westcott sold the farm to George McConaha and his wife Sally, who changed the name of the farm to Westcott Place Farm. This sale initiated a century of ownership and occupation of the farm by four generations of the same branch of the McConaha family. The McConaha family name appears early in the history of Wayne County. Originally from Virginia and Ohio, the family gained prominence in the community in agricultural and business pursuits. George McConaha, in addition to his interests in the Westcott Place Farm was involved in the Centerville Creamery and in the Union National Bank in Richmond, Indiana. Other branches of the family held interests in Centerville businesses that included a flour mill and a saw mill.

After its sale to George McConaha, Westcott Place Farm became a working farm in the truest sense. With the help of a hired man that lived on the property with his family, McConaha produced wheat, oats, corn, and clover on his 200-plus acres. In 1919, George and Sally McConaha sold their farm to their son, Lawrence Jackson McConaha. He continued the family tradition and the farm prospered. Crops were grown on a rotational basis in accordance with, as Lawrence's daughter phrased it, "according to the word of Purdue University." An apple orchard provided the family with the makings for cider, and a family garden plot produced vegetables for the table. In addition to the normal crops, a small herd of milk cows and the Hoosier standby, hogs, were kept for family use. Ice was cut in the winter months from a pond on the southern edge of the property. Surplus eggs were sold in town during weekend visits. Horses, once the primary reason for the farm's existence, were maintained to draw plows and wagons not for stud service for trotters and coach horses; a few horses on the farm remained for recreational use by the family. The stables and barns may no longer house livestock but the fields continue, to this day, to produce grain for commercial sale.

In 1949, Carrol McConaha Rhodes with her husband, Joel, reoccupied the farm after his return from service in World War II. Although the Rhodes had business interests in Centerville, the farm continued to produce grain on the northern portion of the farm proper. They kept horses for family use in the horse barn and the other buildings served various functions such as vehicle maintenance, indoor basketball court (bank barn), and equipment storage. The current owners of the farm, the Coddingtons, represent the fourth generation of the McConaha family to reside on this land; Mrs. Coddington is the great-granddaughter of George and Sally McConaha. Westcott Place Farm is a unique collection of historic properties.

### Section 9 Bibliography

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## Section 10 Geographical Description

### UTM References

<u>Point</u>	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
E	16	671500	4409850
F	16	671500	4409550
G	16	671550	4409550
H	16	671550	4409700
I	16	671640	4409700
J	16	671640	4409810
K	16	671810	4409810
L	16	671810	4409850

### Boundary Description

Beginning at the corner of North and First Streets travel north 69 feet; turn east and travel 140 feet; turn north and travel 405 feet; turn east and travel 401 feet; turn north and travel 490 feet; turn east and travel 1,003 feet; turn north and travel 98 feet; turn northeast and travel 535 feet; turn south and travel 130 feet; turn southwest and travel 897 feet; turn south and travel 656 feet; turn west-southwest and travel 1,268 feet; turn north and travel 162 feet, which closes on the start point at North and First Streets.

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### **Boundary Justification**

The boundary as described is the surveyed limit of the property as it is today (minus most of the tillable land) and contains all of the acreage and buildings applicable to the nomination of the Westcott Place Farm.