

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JAN 20 1993

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL
REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name: Brown/Bender Farm ("Jim" Brown House, Boundary Increase)

other name/site number: NPS Tract # 121-062 and List of Classified Structures HS-318

2. Location

street & number: 3491 Akron-Peninsula Road

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Cuyahoga Falls

vicinity: x

state: OH county: Summit

code: 153

zip code: 44210

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: public-Federal

Category of Property: district

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u> 3 </u>	<u> 1 </u>	buildings
<u> 2 </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> 4 </u>	structures
<u> 1 </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u> 6 </u>	<u> 5 </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 3

Name of related multiple property listing: Agricultural Resources of Cuyahoga Valley

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification
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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. See continuation sheet.

Barbara Power
Signature of certifying official
Ohio Historic Preservation Office

12-21-92
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Edmund Reardon
Signature of commenting or other official

4/27/93
Date

Chief, Hubman, National Park Service
State or Federal agency and bureau

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5. National Park Service Certification
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I, hereby certify that this 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):

Bobby L. Savage 3/12/93

for Signature of Keeper

 Date
of Action

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6. Function or Use

=====

Historic: Domestic_____ Sub: single dwelling_____
Agricultural/ Subsistence_____ processing/ storage_____

Current : Domestic_____ Sub: single dwelling_____

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Greek Revival_____

Other Description: _____

Materials: foundation Stone_____ roof Asphalt_____
walls Weatherboard other Wood_____

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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8. Statement of Significance

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Locally.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : _____

Areas of Significance: Agriculture_____

Period(s) of Significance: 1840-1930_____

Significant Dates : 1840 1886 c.1930

Significant Person(s): N/A_____

Cultural Affiliation: N/A_____

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Architect/Builder: Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.
X See continuation sheet.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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X See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- _ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- x 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
- x Federal agency
- _ Local government
- _ University
- _ Other -- Specify Repository: Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: 37.5 acres_

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	17	451980	4559640	B	17	451457	4558720
C	17	451860	4558090	D	___	_____	_____

____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: _x_ See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: ____ See continuation sheet.

The nominated property contains those buildings, objects and sites historically associated with the property that still retain their historic integrity.

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

Name/Title: Jeff Winstel, Historian. Original submission, Dean Dickerson

Organization:NPS, Cuyahoga Valley NRA_____ Date:10/89, 5/92_____

Street & Number: 15610 Vaughn Road_____ Telephone:216/526-5256

City or Town:Brecksville_____ State:OH_ ZIP:44114_____

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Section number 7 Brown/Bender Farm,

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Brown/Bender Farm
Northampton, Ohio
Summit County

The Jim Brown Farm, situated on a hilltop directly east of the intersection of Ira and Akron-Peninsula Road, is accessed by a steep winding drive. The cluster of buildings and orchard are surrounded by dense native timber and commands a panoramic view of the Cuyahoga River valley. The Jim Brown Farmhouse is a large four-over-four Greek Revival House that was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. The barn and grave marker are also mentioned in the 1979 nomination. Contributing resources within the proposed boundary increase include a greenhouse, the vineyard/ orchard area, and 35 acres of farmland.

The farm is divided along its north-south axis by Akron-Peninsula road and partially divided along its east-west axis by Ira Road thereby segmenting the property into three sections: two fields and the farmstead area. The largest segment lies east of the Akron-Peninsula Road and contains the buildings, orchard, vineyard, pasture, and gravemarker. The building cluster is surrounded by dense woods and is not visible from the road. One field lies west of Akron-Peninsula Road and north of Ira Road. The second field lies in the southwest corner of the intersection of Ira and Akron-Peninsula roads. Both fields are in the Cuyahoga River flood plain and have been intensively cultivated for generations.

The large Greek Revival four-over-four house was constructed (c. 1840) and, along with the raised bank barn, constructed 1886, and the gravemarker was listed in the National Register in 1979. The description of the house, barn, and gravemarker in the 1979 nomination form is consistent with the building's current condition.

The greenhouse, located approximately one hundred ^{FEET} yards south of the house, was built c. 1930. The structure is a very low pitched gable roof resting on concrete foundation walls. One row of rectangular glass panes constitutes the top portion of the walls. These panes are separated by metal muntins. The roof and gable ends are constructed of rectangular panes of glass attached to wood rafters with metal clips. A vertical plank door is located in both gable ends.

The surrounding acreage is considered two separate contributing sites. The orchard/vineyard area is located east of the building cluster and west of the wooded valley wall. The area contains a variety of fruit trees and grapevines which extends approximately two hundred feet north and south through the orchard. The second contributing site is comprised of the remaining fields, located south, west, and north of the farmstead.

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Brown/Bender Farm
Northampton, Ohio
Summit County

The one noncontributing element is the one-and-a-half-story three-bay modern garage, located directly behind the house. The four oil wells located on the nominated property are considered noncontributing structures. None of the wells can be seen from the farmstead area, but are visible from both Ira and Akron-Peninsula roads.

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Brown/Bender Farm
Northampton, Ohio
Summit County

The Jim Brown, Earva Bender Farm is being nominated as an amendment to the "Jim" Brown House nomination under Criterion A for agriculture. The farming practices associated with the nominated property reflect two distinct periods of agricultural development in the Cuyahoga Valley. The contributing resources are consistent with the property types, significance statements, and registration requirements discussed in the Agricultural Resources of Cuyahoga Valley MPD, Associated Property Type: Farmsteads.

The 1979 nomination was justified under architecture and folklore. This amendment includes the additional criterion and area of significance listed above. The period of significance has also been expanded to 1930 to reflect the new information.

Historical Development

In 1845, Daniel M. Brown acquired 208.83 acres in lot #83 from John Wells. The following year he purchased ninety-six additional acres in the same lot from the State of Connecticut. Title to the property was transferred to James R. Brown in 1850.

Jim Brown was a character of much local notoriety. His exploits as a tavern owner and counterfeiter are fully discussed in the 1979 nomination. His interest in farming was minimal. He died in 1865 when he fell in a canal boat and fractured his skull.

After Jim Brown's death, the farm passed to his son, James R. Brown, Jr. In 1886 he replaced the old barn with the current structure. He continued to live on the Northampton farm until his death in 1889. The Brown farm then passed to Miner H. Howe, then to Hattie and Fred Ozier. Andrew J. Bender purchased the property in 1907.

Andrew J. Bender died, c. 1930, and the farm passed to his son, Earva, the youngest of ten children. The Bender farm was one of the few in the valley that successfully made the transition from dairy and grain farming to market produce and truck farming. The Bender farm continued its truck farming operations through the 1940s.

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Brown/ Bender Farm
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Criterion A: Agriculture

The 1850 U.S. Census, Products of Agriculture for Summit County, indicates that only 100 of the 205 acres were improved. Livestock on the farm was valued at \$415 and included 3 horses, 5 milk cows, 14 "other" cattle, and 12 swine. The major crop on the farm was indian corn, production of which is listed at 1,600 bushels. Other crops listed include 100 bushels of oats and 90 bushels of Irish potatoes.

The James Brown, Jr., farm listed in the 1870 census indicates that the farm had expanded since 1850 and was more focused on dairy operations. The acreage included 205 improved acres and 100 wooded. Instead of five milk cows, the farm had 18. Indian corn was still the largest crop, at 100 bushels. An additional commodity of the farm was cheese. According to the census records, the Brown Farm produced 4800 lbs of cheese in 1869.

When Andrew Bender acquired the farm in 1907, he moved from a small fifty acre farm near Barberton, Ohio. Prior to the year 1927, the Bender Farm produced dairy products, beef, and a variety of feed grains: corn, wheat, and oats. In an interview, Earva Bender recalled that "farms were self-sufficient then, we butchered four times a year, and got everything else we needed, except sugar and salt, from the ground." He bought his first tractor in 1918. He said, "it was noisy, but I got a lot of work done with it and I sure didn't want to go back to horses."

In response to changes in the agricultural economy and the population growth of Akron in the early 1920s, many farmers were forced to shift from dairy and grain production to the marketing of fruits and vegetables. Truck farming became the Benders "stock and trade," and they supplied both the wholesale and retail markets with fruits and vegetables fresh from the farm. The sandy loam soil along the river was good for watermelons and pumpkins, but not fruit trees, Bender explained. Orchards produce better on heavier soil, like that on the hillside behind the house, where apple, cherry and peach trees, along with the vineyard are located.

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Bender planted one hundred acres of sweet corn along with tomatoes, watermelons, and pumpkins on the bottom land next to the river. By the 1940s, the Benders' vegetable stand along Akron-Peninsula Road had become a local landmark and stories relating to the vegetable stand abound. A favorite tells of Bender's activities during Halloween. At that time, the stand was decorated and the Benders wore costumes while conducting tours through the pumpkin patch as children picked out the best for carving.

Historic Integrity

The Brown/Bender Farm is surrounded by wooded areas or agricultural fields, some of which are still in use. The area conveys a strong sense of rural character. All the contributing buildings and objects are located in their original locations. The noncontributing garage and wells do not significantly impact the historic setting.

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Section number 9 Brown/ Bender Farm Page 6
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Brown/ Bender Farm
Northampton, Ohio
Summit County

Major Bibliographical References

- Bender, Donna. Interview by Dean Dickerson. 26 May 1989. Summit County, Ohio
- Dobbins, Joanne. "Know Your Open Spaces." The Sun, 18 June 1970, 4.
- Isner, David T. Interview by Dean R. dickerson. 26 May 1989. Summit County, Ohio
- Lane, Samuel A. Fifty Years and Over of Akron and Summit County. Akron: Beacon Job Department, 1892.
- Northampton Township Tax Map, 1900; and Summit County, Ohio, Deeds. vol. 350, p.66.
- Noble, Allen G. Wood, Brick & Stone: The North American Settlement Landscape vol. 2: Barns and Farm Structures. Amherst, The University of Massachusetts Press, 1984.
- Ohio Historic Inventory Forms, prepared by Carol Poh Miller, April 1976.

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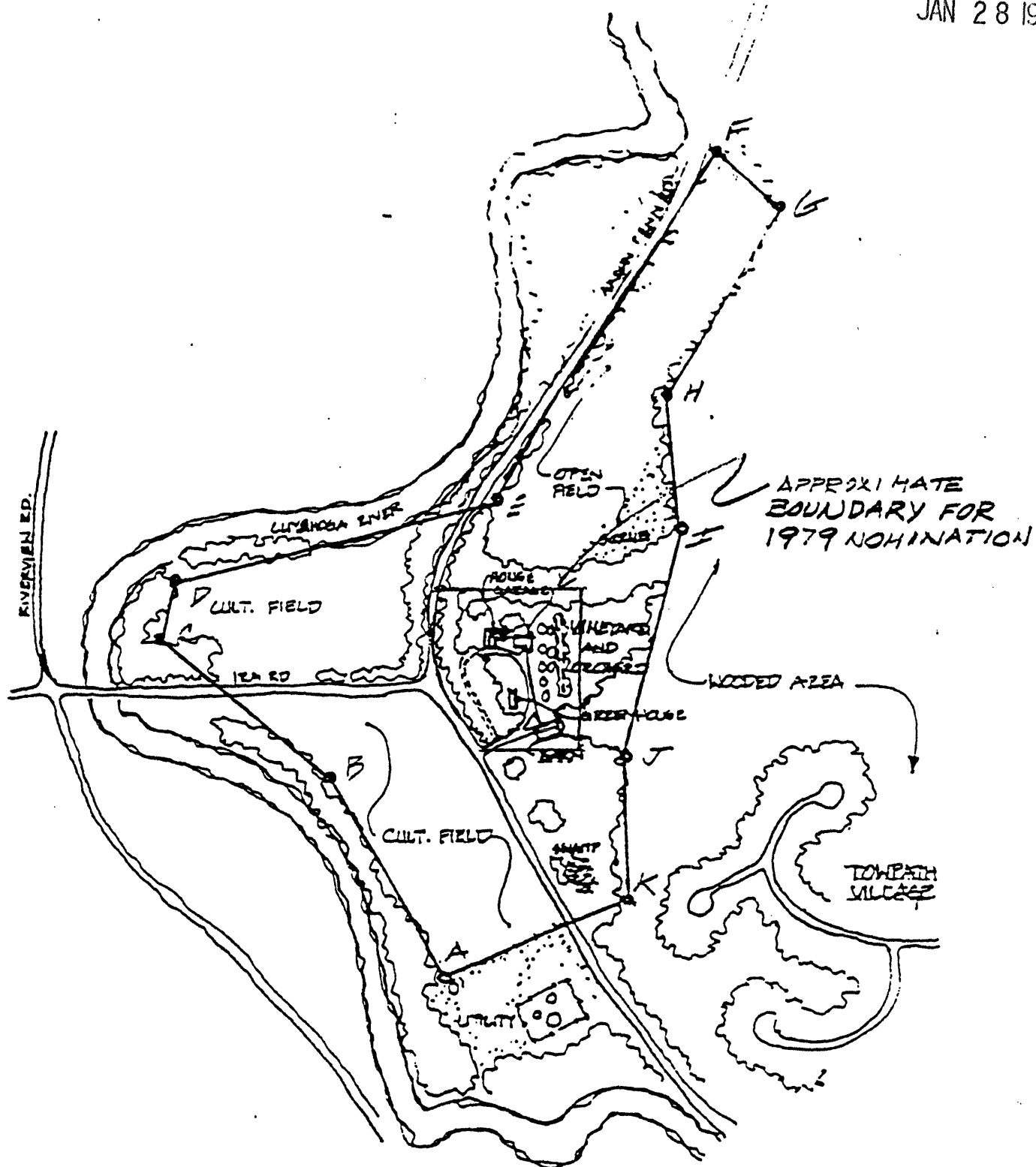
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Brown/ Bender Farm
Northampton, Ohio
Summit County

Beginning at Point A on attached sketch map, proceed approximately 800' north west to Point B; thence 775' northwest to Point C; thence proceed north 250' to Point D; thence proceed east approximately 1375' to the eastern berm of Akron-Peninsula Road, Point E; thence proceed northeast approximately 1500' feet to Point F; thence proceed southeast approximately 300' to Point G; thence proceed southwest to Point H, 750'; thence proceed southeast 500' to Point I; continuing southwest 800' to Point J; thence south 500' to Point K; proceed in a southwesterly direction across Akron-Peninsula Road 700' to the point of origin, Point A.

JAN 28 1991



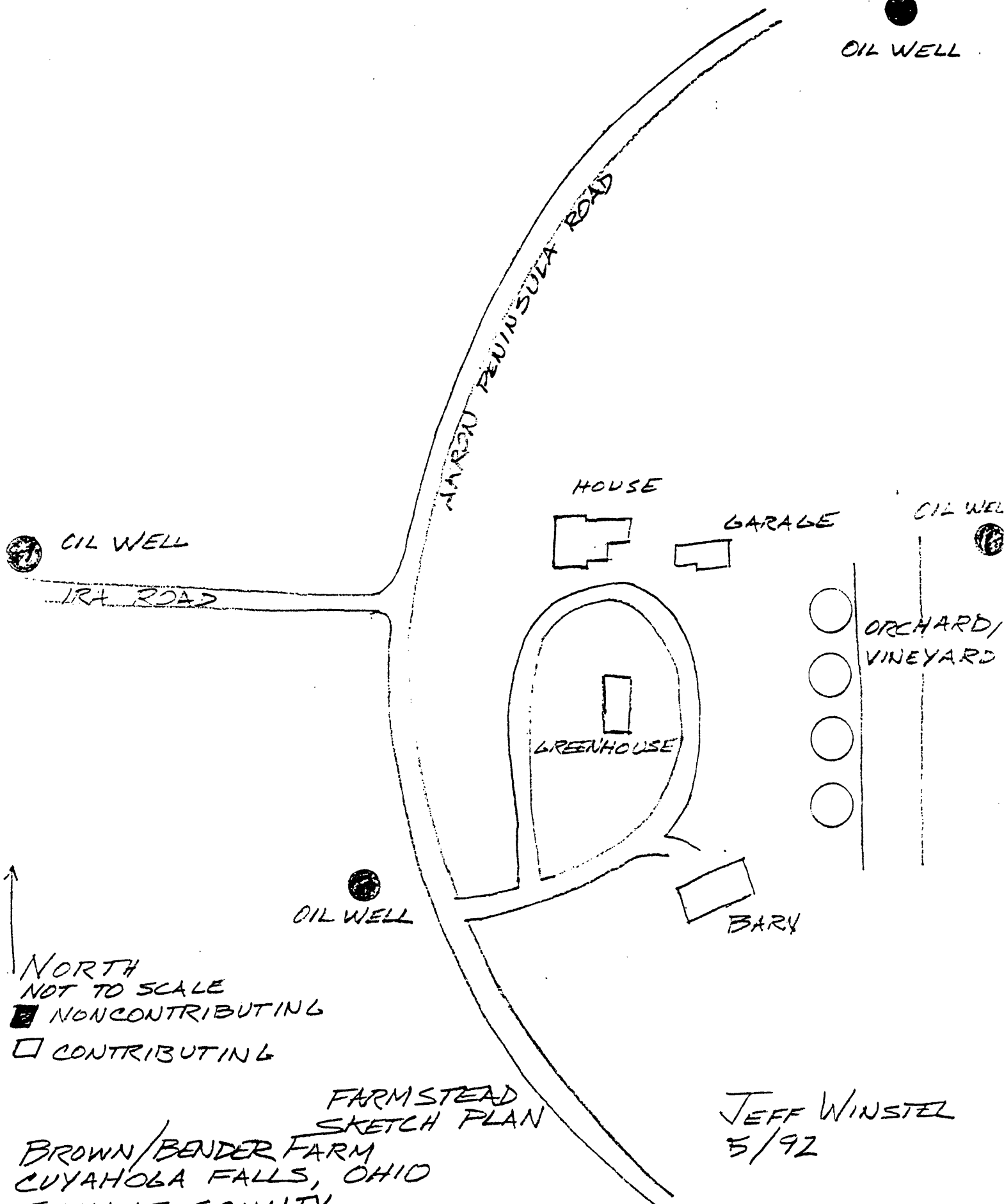
BROWN/ BENDER FARM SKETCH PLAN

CUTAROGA VALLEY NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
C. GILBERT 7.7.01 SCALE: 1"=500' ACRES=33



JAN 28 1993

OIL WELL



NORTH
NOT TO SCALE
■ NON CONTRIBUTING
□ CONTRIBUTING

FARMSTEAD
SKETCH PLAN
BROWN/BENDER FARM
CUYAHOGA FALLS, OHIO
SUMMIT COUNTY

JEFF WINSTEL
5/92



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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 93000076 Date Listed: 3/12/93

Brown--Bender Farm (Boundary Increase) Summit OH
Property Name: County: State:

Agricultural Resources of the Cuyahoga Valley MPS

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

3/12/93
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Three previously listed resources (two buildings and one object) were incorrectly included in the resource county for the Boundary Increase. Additional Documentation and the Boundary Increase add one contributing building and two contributing sites to the nominated property. The nomination is officially amended to include this information.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)