

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED **FEB 12 1980**
DATE ENTERED **APR 17 1980**

**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 Thematic Grouping of Six Round Barns in the Black Swamp of Northwest Ohio
AND/OR COMMON Thematic Resources

2 LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER Allen, Auglaize, Paulding, Putnam and Van Wert Counties
CITY, TOWN _____ NOT FOR PUBLICATION
VICINITY OF Tennyson Guyer and Delbert Latta
STATE Ohio CODE Allen 003 COUNTY Paulding 125
Auglaize 011 Putnam 137 Van Wert 161

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED in use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input 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 multiple ownership (see # 7)
STREET & NUMBER _____
CITY, TOWN _____ STATE _____
VICINITY OF _____

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Allen, Auglaize, Paulding, Putnam and Van Wert Counties Courthouses
STREET & NUMBER _____
CITY, TOWN Lima, Wapakoneta, Paulding, Ottawa and Van Wert STATE Ohio

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE Ohio Historic Inventory
DATE 1976-1979 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Western Ohio Branch Campus Regional Preservation Office
CITY, TOWN Celina STATE Ohio

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION
 EXCELLENT Put. Co DETERIORATED
 GOOD barn RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE
 UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE
 ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

1. GOSHEN TWP./AUGLAIZE CO./ROUND BARN



Original owner - Jason Manchester
Builder - Horace Duncan, Knightstown, Ind.
Date of Construction - 1908
Diameter - 102', Height - 88'
New Hampshire mic.

2. AMERICAN TWP./ALLEN CO./ROUND BARN



Original Owner - Lewis Feightner
Builder - Eli Meyers
Contractor - Issac (Newt) Rozell
Date of Construction - 1911
Diameter - Approx. 63', Height - Approx. 55'
hema mic.

3. MARION TWP./ALLEN CO./ROUND BARN



Original Owner - Frank Moenter
Builders - John Wertz, Van Wert
Fred. Kuntz, Delphos
Date of Construction - 1912
Diameter - 60', Height - 54' to top of cupola
Delphos

Description

The Manchester property in Auglaize County will be described separately because the whole 48 acres of the barnyard is being nominated. It extends from the north edge of the barnyard to the fence rows on the east and west that parallel the lane until they reach

The majestic 1908 round barn is the largest and grandest building in the grouping. The 102' exterior has vertical frame siding that has two rows of four paned windows and several pairs of double doors in the 16' wide shed that circumnavigates the structure and features a banked opening on the west side. Double hinged doors with diagonal siding swing in from an imbricated shingle helmet-shaped projecting entrance that has the nameplate: J.H. MANCHESTER, 1908, MAPLE AVENUE FARM, HORACE DUNCAN BUILDER. The shed connects to a 70' diameter barn with a second level that has star ventilator openings under a domed gambrel shingled roof that reaches in three tiers to a 88' height. On top is a large cupola with diagonal siding, eight rectangular openings, and a shingled cone roof with finial.

4. UNION TWP./PUTNAM CO./ROUND BARN



Original Owner - J.B. Meyer
Builder - Mat Unverferth
Date of Construction - 1910
Diameter - Approx. 60' - Height App. 55'
Columbus Grove mic.

5. HARRISON TWP./VAN WERT CO./ROUND BARN



Original Owner - George Hawkins
Builder - Clayton Hoover
Date of Construction - Late 1910's
Diameter - 65', Height - 55'
Van Wert mic.

6. EMERALD TWP./PAULDING CO./ROUND BARN



Original Owner - Ohio Wesleyan U.
Builder - Unknown
Date of Construction - ca 1911
Diameter - Approx. 60', Height 55'
Paulding mic.

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No. 7 DESCRIPTION

The interior has three levels and a central silo from which supports and rafters radiate. On the ground floor is room for the cattle and horses. On the second floor there is an aisle large enough for two tractors to meet, and a loft on the third floor has room for hay.

The Manchester house is pictured in the 1880 Atlas of Auglaize Co., (Exhibit B), and is the only known Italianate with a belvedere in the county. This frame mansion originally has a paired set of tall narrow round arched windows in the facade attic gable that originally matched three paired windows on the second floor. The window moulding projects with label stops and keystones are still on the outer windows, but the central one was altered. On the first floor, a shed roofed frame delicate porch with pedimented entrance and paneled ballustrade was replaced in the 1920's by a heavier stone partially enclosed porch with red tile roof and battered stone porch piers.

The belvedere is the most outstanding feature of the house and remains as it was built. It has pairs of windows, matching those on the main house, on all four sides under an ornate bracketed hipped roof that is topped with an elaborate frosted finial. The house is square and the low pitched hipped roof with four central peaked gables has modillions and brackets on all sides. Tall inside end chimneys break the roof ridges on the east and west gable ends and a new chimney was added to the east outside wall.

There are two small frame houses, built after 1900, now vacant, on this farm. Other farm outbuildings are numerous and are identified on the tax file cards and map. (Exhibits C, D)

The other five barns in Allen, Paulding, Putnam and Van Wert Counties have many features in common. Only the area 50' from the exterior of the barns is being included in the nomination. They are generally in good condition, with roof rehabilitation a problem for some. They all have concrete or cement foundations, some with owner's and builder's names and date of construction. All have vertical frame white siding with several pairs of double doors and relatively small windows.

All have shingled tiered gambrel domed roofs (except the Paulding barn has tin) with ventilators and cupolas of varying sizes and shapes. The interiors all have hay lofts and are used for storage of equipment and/or animals.

Only the two barns in Allen County are banked and have dormers. The American Township/Allen County barn has a 12' central silo and the Marion Twp./Allen County barn has additions or wings that project from each side. The Putnam County barn is deteriorated and endangered.

There was another round barn in Van Wert County, Harrison Township 1/2/29 which was torn down. It was on the south side of St. Rt. 224, close to the one that still stands.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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 1908 to approx. 1912 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Manchester barn-Horace Duncan
other barns- local builders

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This thematic grouping of round barns in the Black Swamp of northwest Ohio is historically and architecturally significant because they are the only known round barns of this size and stature in this part of Ohio. The six barns include two in Allen County, one each in Auglaize, Paulding, Putnam and Van Wert Counties. (See map-Exhibit E) They were built after the barrel and stave manufacturing economic flurry of the 1880-1890's as the lumber was being harvested from swampland (Exhibit F) and shipped east by railroad. This new wealth and new farmland, cleared and tilled, coincided with an era of agricultural experimentation at the turn of the century. The construction of the magnificent Jason H. Manchester round barn in Auglaize County in 1908, and the release of a bulletin which promoted round dairy barns by the University of Illinois in 1910 seem to have influenced the construction of the other five round barns in the grouping.

The University of Illinois built a round barn about 1908 and published Bulletin 143 by Wilbur J. Frazer, The Economy of a Round Dairy Barn, which also pictured the Manchester barn during construction and after completion. This publication emphasized a 20th century philosophy of scientific principles and time saving techniques for farm owners. Advantages of round barns were listed: age of innovation, efficient for modern farmers, availability of refined lumber for barns, saving of five minutes per feeding, easier silage distribution, self-supporting roof, barrel strength greater than box, silo was protected, cheaper than rectangular barn. Farmers who were progressive and willing to break with tradition were more likely to build a round barn, according to several biographical sketches found in county histories.

One of these adventuresome farmers, Jason H. Manchester came with his parents from Vermont through central Ohio to this 200 acres of swampland at the northern tip of the Virginia Military District in Auglaize County in 1865. (Exhibit G) Jason was described in the 1923 MacMurrays History of Auglaize County:

During the years in which Mr. Manchester has been developing this great estate he has carried on there an improvement program that has caused the Manchester farm to become recognized as one of the model farms in the Middle West, and he certainly has on the central farm one of the model farm plants in Ohio.

An outstanding 1877 elegant Italianate house with a stunning belvedere is on this farm. This estate has a farmyard with numerous sheds, barns, two smaller houses and a long shaded drive to the highway which are all included in the nomination. By the turn of the century Jason had acquired 2800 acres, about 2000 acres in Goshen Township, Auglaize Co., 343 acres in Hardin County and 430 acres in Kosciusko County, Indiana.

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No. 8 SIGNIFICANCE

In adjacent Fulton, County, Indiana, "The Round Barn Capital of the World", fifteen round barns were built around the same period as those in Ohio. The Indiana barns, built primarily by the local Kindig family, were generally smaller and some are now deteriorated, abandoned or destroyed. Further research may link the Indiana barns to the Ohio barns, which have received relatively little attention or research in the past. (Exhibit H)

The other five round barns in Ohio in this nomination are approximately 60 feet in diameter and are almost spherical with their large domed hay loft space, in contrast to the earlier Shaker-type barns with flat cone roofs. The barns in Allen, Paulding, Putnam and Van Wert Counties were built around 1910-1912, generally by local carpenters. Since the farmland was new, often a new house and sheds were constructed at the same time as the round barn. Therefore, no other buildings on these five farms are included in the nomination. Only 50' of space around each will be nominated.

This nomination only includes and discusses perfectly round barns with loft space and does not include octagonal barns of comparable size, which is about 60' in diameter. Smaller round barns/chicken coops in adjoining regions are not included. The houses are excluded because they lack architectural significance even as typical farmhouses for the region or area.

No. 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

No. 1 Goshen Twp., Auglaize County
Round Barn & House 48 acres

A.
B.
C.
D.



- No. 2 American Township/Allen County
- No. 3 Marion Township/Allen County
- No. 4 Union Township, Putnam County
- No. 5 Harrison Township, Van Wert County
- No. 6 Emerald Township, Paulding County

Verbal Boundary Description: (continued)

fence row where it runs north for 2400 feet to the north boundary line of the barnyard, which is the separation of lawn and cropland. (See map - Exhibit I)

The area nominated for the round barns in Allen, Paulding, Putnam and Van Wert Counties does not include any other buildings, only 50 feet from the exterior of each barn.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

see attached page

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

see attached page

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY

QUADRANGLE NAME

UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

E	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
---	------	---------	----------

F	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
---	------	---------	----------

G	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
---	------	---------	----------

H	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
---	------	---------	----------

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The nominated property for the Manchester farm is the entire barnyard which is 48 acres. A line begins at the northeast corner of the barnyard and runs approximately 2400 feet along the east fence row [REDACTED] Then the line extends approximately 800 feet along the highway until it reaches the west (see page 2)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE

Mary Ann Brown, WOBC Regional Director and Phyllis Hopkins, Lima-OSU Director

ORGANIZATION

WOBC Historic Preservation Office

STREET & NUMBER

St. Rt. 703

CITY OR TOWN

Celina

DATE

9/79

TELEPHONE

419-586-2365 Ext 53

STATE

Ohio

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

David L. Brook

TITLE Chief, Div. of Historic Preservation, Ohio Historical Society

DATE 1/20/80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

4/17/80

ATTEST

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

4.15.80

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CONTINUATION SHEET

3

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

No. 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Books, Pamphlets & Magazine Articles

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- Bilow, Pat, "Those Grand Old Barns", Country Living, Feb., 1977.
- Carlson, Alvar W. "Bibliography on Barns in the U.S. and Canada", Pioneer America, June, 1978.
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- Fraser, Wilbur J. "The Economy of the Round Dairy Barn", Circular No. 143, University of Illinois 1910.
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- Fulton County Round Barn Festival (brochure) 1979.
- Korab, Balthazar, "Barns", American Preservation Vol. 2, Number 5, June, July, 1979.
- Levy, Natalie, "Round Barn Round-Up" Ford Times, July 1978.
- Morrison, E.H. Ohio Gateway Series, Historical Atlas of Ohio, Vol. III. 1960.
- National Trust of Historic Places, Americas Forgotten Architecture, 1976.
- Sloane, Eric, Our Vanishing Landscape, 1955.
- Sloane, Eric, American Barns & Covered Bridges, 1954.
- Sloane, Eric, An Age of Barns, 1967.

County Publications

- Greenwood to Wren, Van Wert, 1976.
- Kinder, History of Putnam Co., 1915.
- MacMurray, History of Auglaize County, 1923.
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- Ruslar, A Standard History of Allen Co., 1921.
- Sutton, Atlas of Auglaize Co., 1880.
- Sutton, History of Mercer & Van Wert Counties, 1883.

Courthouse Records

- Allen County Recorder's Office.
- Auglaize County Auditor's Office, 1973 file cards.
- Paulding County, deed records.
- Van Wert County Recorder's Office.

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CONTINUATION SHEET # 4 ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

No. 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (continued)

Inscriptions

American Twp./Allen Co. foundation.
Auglaize County, banked entry panel.
Putnam Co. foundation.

Interviews

Department of Agricultural Engineering, Ohio Research & Dev't. Center, Wooster	9/79
Lucy Egger, Paulding County barn owner,	8/79
Lewis Feightner daughters-in-law, Mrs. R.L. & Mrs. M.S., Am. Twp./Allen Co. barn builder's daughters-in-law	8/79
Loren Gannon, Regional Preservation Officer, 5H-A.	1979
Mrs. Patricia Garver, Putnam County barn owner.	8/79
Atlee Gehres, Van Wert Co., auctioneer & realtor	9/79
Donald Hussler, Ohio Historical Society.	7/79
Dr. William Krauss, Ohio Research & Development Center, Wooster.	9/79
Esther LaRue, Van Wert Co. barn owner.	8/79
Ted Ligibel, Regional Preservation Officer, 1 H-A.	6/79
Mr. & Mrs. John Manchester, Aug. Co. barn owner's & barn builder's grandson	8/79
Tim Manchester, Aug. Co. barn builder's great-grandson.	7/77; 8/79
Elmer Moenter, Marion Twp./Allen Co. barn owner's & barn builder's son.	7/79
Don Montooth, American Twp./Allen Co. barn owner.	7/79
John Reed, Assoc. Prof. of Special Collections Library, Ohio Wesleyan U., Delaware	9/79
David Simmons, Ohio Historic Preservation Office.	6/79
William Sinn, Paulding Co. barn trustee.	6/79
Rita Turnwald, Putnam Co. Historical Society president.	7/79