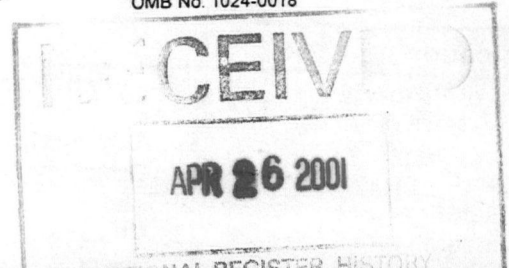


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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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 any 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 Harmony Hill Dairy House

other names/site number General William Lytle Dairy House (CLE-638-8)

2. Location

street & number 299 South Third Street

not for publication n/a

city or town Williamsburg

vicinity n/a

state Ohio code OH county Clermont 025 zip code 45176

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 36 CFR 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.)

Barbara Paver
Signature of certifying official

Dept. Head
Planning, Inventory &
Registration

April 17, 2001
Date

Ohio Historic Preservation Office - OH SHPO
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 commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

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): _____

Edson H. Beall

5/30/01

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Enter as many boxes as apply)
[X] private
[] public-local
[] public-State
[] public-Federal

Category of Property
(Enter only one box)
[X] building(s)
[] district
[] site
[] structure
[] object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)
Contributing Noncontributing
1 0 buildings
1 sites
2 0 structures
objects
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)
agriculture: agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
no style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)
Foundation stone
roof wood
walls stone: limestone
other wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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Harmony Hill Dairy House
Clermont County, Ohio

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7. Statement of Description. The Harmony Hill Dairy House (CLE-638-8), built c. 1800¹, is a stone dairy or milkhouse, located at 299 South Third Street in Williamsburg, Ohio. (See location map.) The dairy house is part of a small historical museum complex that also includes a stone well, a frame bungalow, a concrete block garage, a gravel parking lot and surrounding greenspace. (See photo 1.) Most of the historical complex is excluded from the nomination, however, since it represents a later period of development than the dairy house and does not contribute to its significance. The nominated property includes two contributing resources: the dairy house and the well.

Williamsburg is a village of 2,322 (1990 population), located in east central Clermont County, on the East Fork of the Little Miami River. (See topographic map.) The museum complex is sited atop a low hill in the semi-rural outskirts of the village, about three blocks south of the central town square. It is located on South Third Street, a dead-end local street that carries little traffic; it is set back from, but clearly visible from the roadway. The property is level and is surrounded by trees on the north, east and west. Nearby is a residential neighborhood of modest houses dating for the most part from the late 19th through the mid-20th century. On the south side of the road lie fallow fields and a transverse frame barn.

The Harmony Hill Dairy House is a small, one-story structure measuring 10.2 feet on each side, capped by a pyramidal roof covered in wood shakes (photos 2 to 5). The walls are laid in uncoursed rubble limestone, set with concrete mortar; the stone, light in color, varies slightly in hue, from light grayish-yellow to grayish white. A single doorway is centered in the west wall; it exhibits a reproduction wooden batten door with new iron latch and strap hinges (photo 5). The upper portion of the south wall is pierced by a rectangular vent, covered by a wooden grille (photo 3). No other wall openings are present. The foundation, presumably of stone as well, lies below grade and is not visible. The interior of the dairy house is simply finished, with the

¹ The estimated construction date for the dairy house is based on historical accounts, which maintain that the farm complex, including the house and outbuildings, were built at once rather than over a period of time. These include Williams' *History of Clermont and Brown Counties, Ohio*, and a biography of Lytle written by one of his descendants, Virginius Cornick Hall. (See "Major Bibliographic References.") Moreover, Lytle's relatively brief tenure at Harmony Hill, encompassing only nine years, places the building between 1800 and 1809.

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Harmony Hill Dairy House
Clermont County, Ohio

exposed roof trusses and rock-faced stonework open to view. The floor is composed of large stone slabs (photo 6).

The dairy house rests on a brick-paved terrace about 40 feet square, which was constructed in 1998. Directly in front of the doorway is a drylaid stone well, covered with a metal grille and screen (photos 2, 7). The dug well, built c. 1800-1802, is stone lined, approximately 12 to 15 feet deep. It is original to the property. No other outbuildings of the period survive. To the east of the dairy house stand three old cedars; to the west is a small wildflower garden. To the south, on a slight rise, is a c. 1948-1952 front-gabled frame bungalow used as a historical museum and rental apartments. It is a weatherboarded structure on a concrete block foundation, with an asphalt shingle roof and a simple brick porch that has been partly enclosed (photo 8). In front of it stand a flagpole, a county bicentennial highway marker and a small cast-metal plaque on a concrete pedestal. South of the house is a c. 1950 concrete block garage built in 2 stages. Beside the road is a gravel parking lot with winding drive. The remainder of the property is occupied by a mowed lawn.

Harmony Hill, founded c. 1800, was the home farm of General William Lytle, explorer, surveyor and civic leader. The property formerly included at least two buildings of historical and architectural significance. South of the dairy (exact site unknown) stood Lytle's personal residence. It was a large two-story dwelling built in 1800, of timber frame construction with brick nogging or infill. (See illustration.) Local histories assert it was one of the first frame dwellings in the county. (See Virginius Cornick Hall, "From Tomahawk to High Finance, the Life of General William Lytle, 1770-1831" [typescript, 1957], p. 41.) West of the dairy house, on the ground now occupied by the wildflower garden, stood a United States government land office, where land was bought and sold. Archival photos and illustrations indicate that it was a small, one-story rubblestone structure similar in design and construction to the dairy, but larger in scale. (See illustration.) The land office remained standing into the 1930s; it was demolished at an unknown date. The property may have included other outbuildings as well, but no record of them has yet been found.

The builder of the dairy house was a local builder and stonemason named John Charles, who also built Lytle's personal residence. He is also credited with the construction of the Harmony Hill

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Harmony Hill Dairy House
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land office, the first Clermont County Courthouse (1809—no longer extant) and the Samuel W. Davies House (1805). (“Historic Williamsburgh, Ohio” [Harmony Hill Association, 1999], p. 14; Louis H. Everts, *History of Clermont County, Ohio* [J.B. Lippincott and Company, 1880], p. 65). The Davies House, a side-passage dwelling, was built for the brother-in-law of William Lytle. Its walls are laid in rubble limestone, and splayed limestone lintels surmount the facade bays. The building does not evoke any particular architectural style, but its character and proportions are characteristic of settlement-era stone dwellings in southwestern Ohio and northern Kentucky. Still actively used, the building houses the Williamsburg Police Department (photo 9). Little has yet been learned of Charles’ background, and his origins remain unknown. Given the paucity of surviving buildings built by Charles, it is difficult to generalize about his work except to say that he was a skilled and versatile artisan well versed in the prevailing construction methods and architectural traditions of the day.

No buildings resembling the Harmony Hill Dairy House are known to exist in the county, or elsewhere in southwest Ohio. Therefore the origins of the building type have not been determined. A similar structure, located on a farm in Pennsylvania, is described in an 1835 edition of *The Genessee Farmer*, an agricultural journal. The article describes a square stone structure under a tile roof, with cisterns in the lower level. Water was piped from a well to fill the cisterns and keep the milk cool (*Genessee Farmer and Gardener’s Journal*, Vol. V, No. 24, June 13, 1835). Since the Lytle family was from Pennsylvania and maintained close ties with the state, and many Pennsylvanians settled in the county (See Section 8.), the building likely represents a mid-Atlantic building type that never saw widespread use in the Midwest.

Archival photos and drawings illustrate the dairy house and its setting through the years. An early 20th century postcard view (date unknown) shows the dairy framed by trees, the well covered by a wooden box. The land office is visible in the background. (See photocopy of postcard.) In 1935 both buildings were sketched by Cincinnati artist Caroline Williams, famed for her detailed pen-and-ink drawings of the area’s historical landmarks. An undated photograph, which appeared in a 1950 newspaper article, depicts a man standing beside the doorway of the dairy house; a rickety wooden shelter covers the well. (See photo.)

During the late 20th century, the dairy house endured years of neglect and deterioration. By 1997,

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Harmony Hill Dairy House
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the roof structure was reduced to a frail skeletal framework. During the winter of 1997 the building deteriorated still further: the roof fell in, and the upper courses of the walls began to collapse. The condition of the structure is documented by a photo that appeared in the *Cincinnati Enquirer* on February 14, 1998. (See photos.) Restoration of the dairy house began in 1998. Because of its advanced state of decay, some reconstruction was needed. Missing architectural elements were replicated using the documentary photos and drawings of the building noted previously. The new roof was built of mortise and tenon construction, utilizing timber salvaged from other old buildings in the county. It was assembled off-site by a local timber-framer, then lowered into place by a crane. Likewise the missing vent in the east wall was built to match the original, using salvaged lumber secured by mortise and tenon. The missing sections of the walls were rebuilt, using stone that closely matched the existing masonry, repaired and repointed. Layers of soil covering the floor were removed, exposing the original stone floor. A brick terrace was constructed around the dairy house. The work was carried out under the auspices of the owners, Olde Williamsburg, Inc./Harmony Hill Association.

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 a 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical 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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

exploration/settlement

Period of Significance

c. 1800-1809

Significant Dates

c. 1800

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Charles, John

10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property less than one acre**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing
 1 16 754550 4326190
 2

Zone Easting Northing
 3
 4
 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 Byname/title Margo Warminskiorganization _____ date November 3, 2000street & number 340 East Second Street telephone 859-581-2883city or town Newport state KY zip code 41071**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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Olde Williamsburgh Inc./Harmony Hill Associationstreet & number 3907 State Route 133 telephone 513-724-7790city or town Williamsburg state OH zip code 45176

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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Harmony Hill Dairy House
Clermont County, Ohio

8. Statement of Significance

The Harmony Hill Dairy House meets Criterion A and is significant in the context of exploration and settlement in the Virginia Military District of southwest Ohio. The building is one of the few surviving resources associated with the first permanent settlements in the region in the 1790s and 1800s, as surveyors explored and charted hitherto unknown lands on the western frontier, and settlers established farms and built permanent residential and agricultural buildings. It is credited as the oldest surviving building in Clermont County, the seventh county in Ohio in order of formation. It is also the oldest standing structure in Williamsburg, the oldest town in the county and one of the earliest settlements in the Military District. The dairy house is also the only surviving building associated with Harmony Hill, the home of General William Lytle, an explorer, surveyor, land speculator, Indian fighter and civic leader. Lytle, the founder of Williamsburg, is hailed as the "father of Clermont County." Home to a United States government land office and the county's first post office, Harmony Hill played an important role in the early life of Clermont County and the surrounding region. While the building has undergone partial reconstruction and some changes have been made to its setting, it retains overall integrity. Its significance lies in the fact that it is an early and rare survivor of settlement architecture in Clermont County. The dairy house's period of significance begins with its estimated construction date in 1800, and ends in 1809 when William Lytle left Williamsburg.

Few buildings remain from the county's earliest settlements, c. 1789 to 1820. The location of the first inland settlement, in 1798, remains unknown; thus no buildings associated with it are known to have survived, if indeed any permanent structures were even constructed. Relatively few buildings recorded on Ohio Historic Inventory forms predate 1820, even fewer represent the period 1800 to 1810, and none is known to predate 1800. Of those recorded, none is comparable to the Harmony Hill Dairy House in form, materials or use. All the settlement-era buildings documented in the county are residences, taverns or inns of log, stone or brick construction. While they may possess considerable historical or architectural significance in their own right, they do not represent the context of exploration and settlement in the same way. Although there may be other surviving settlement-era agricultural buildings in the county, none has yet been recorded on Ohio Historic Inventory forms. This may not be surprising considering the subsistence nature of much early agricultural activity and the necessity of replacing outbuildings

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over time. Nor have any public buildings survived from the county's first two decades. The original courthouse in Williamsburg and its replacement in Batavia, the present county seat, both have been demolished.

While substantial buildings were built in Williamsburg during the 1800s and 1810s, including residences and taverns along the Little Miami River, only one is known to have survived to the present day. The Samuel W. Davies House in downtown Williamsburg, built in 1805, is linked with a significant person in the life of early Williamsburg and shares some of the dairy house's historical associations. Its integrity, however, has been somewhat compromised by insensitive alterations. The Harmony Hill Dairy House, therefore, represents a unique surviving resource in the county, associated with the early development of settlements and farms in the Military District during the 1800s. It is the sole vestige of a property that played an important role in the early life of the community: home to a federal land office and the county's first post office. It possesses stellar associations with one of the leading citizens of southwestern Ohio during the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

Integrity. The Harmony Hill Dairy House possesses a high degree of overall integrity. Its integrity of materials has been somewhat diminished by the loss of some original fabric (roof, door, window, some stonework) during its long era of neglect. The 1998 restoration/reconstruction faithfully replicated missing elements, using appropriate materials and traditional methods of construction. Therefore the building retains integrity of design, workmanship, feeling and association. While the construction of the brick terrace around the dairy house introduced a landscape feature that would not have been there originally, it facilitated public access to the property, especially by school groups and persons with disabilities. Although the dairy's integrity of setting also has been somewhat compromised by the loss of other original farm structures over the past two centuries, the building is still on its original site and its immediate environs retain a rural character.

Historical Development

Virginia Military District. In the decade before the Revolutionary War, much of southern Ohio, including what is now Clermont County, was part of Botetourt County, Virginia. (See

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illustration.) This enormous entity, whose boundaries were defined following the French and Indian War, also included Kentucky and Michigan, and most of Indiana and Illinois.

After the Revolutionary War the federal government felt an urgent need for "hardy pioneers" in the Ohio country to hold the West to the Mississippi boundary. The national government also felt compelled to sell land to help pay its expenses and reduce its debt, and it owed its Revolutionary soldiers for service. One by one, the states relinquished control of their Western lands to the United States Congress, which then sold the land. In 1783 Virginia ceded its claims to the Ohio country, yielding to the United States Congress all rights to the land north of the Ohio River. One of the conditions of cession was the reserve of the land between the Little Miami and Scioto rivers in southwestern Ohio as payment for its Revolutionary War soldiers. The Virginia Military District (VMD) included in their entirety the present-day counties of Brown, Clermont, Clinton, Fayette, Madison and Union, as well as portions of adjoining counties. (See Alma Aicholz Smith, *The Virginia Military Surveys of Clermont and Hamilton Counties, Ohio, 1787-1849* [published by author, 1983], p. 7). (See map.) It included about four million, two hundred and four acres. (See Aileen M. Whitt, *Clermont County, Ohio, Pioneers, 1798-1812: A Substitute Census for 1800-1810* [published by author, 1983], p. 7.)

The VMD land bounties were reserved for soldiers in the Continental Army and the French and Indian War. The number of acres granted varied with the rank and years of service of the recipient. Each colonel serving to the end of the war, for example, was entitled to 5,000 acres; a soldier serving for the war, 200 acres (*ibid.*, p. 9). Prominent Virginia soldiers who received land allotments in the VMD included Generals George Washington and George Rogers Clark. Washington's land, amounting to 3,051 acres, lay in Clermont County (*ibid.*).

Soldiers who held Virginia Military Land warrants² were entitled to "good land," and if they were not satisfied with their tract could have all or part of their entry withdrawn, provided it had not been patented by the United States government. They could also locate wherever they chose

² A warrant was a document entitling the holder to a certain tract of land, attested to in a court of record; a patent, usually granted by the governor of Virginia, was the consummation of the title to the land.

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Harmony Hill Dairy House
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within the District.

They could get land in any shape desired wherever the land had not been previously taken. These lands were allocated by "metes and bounds," also known as "indiscriminate surveys." Deeds often described boundaries in terms such as "from a water beech tree" to a "small creek." Water beech trees were soon gone, and small creeks often changes their courses with spring run-offs. Due to this method of survey, much litigation [arose] over the years concerning disputed boundaries. (Whitt, p. 6)

Virginians petitioned the first territorial legislature to bring their slaves with them to the Military District, but this plea was "unanimously rejected" (Eugene H. Roseboom and Francis P. Weisenburger, *A History of Ohio*, ed. James H. Rodabaugh. [The Ohio Historical Society, 1996], p. 64).

Not every soldier entitled to a bounty was able to take advantage of it; for many, especially those of lesser means, relocation was impractical. This resulted in a brisk market for land sales, as speculators purchased unused tracts cheaply and resold them at a profit. Speculators clamored to have their tracts surveyed, which attracted stalwart surveyors to the VMD as early as the mid-1780s. Survey work was halted temporarily by act of Congress in 1788, following disputes over the necessity of military lands in Ohio; it resumed in 1790 after treaties with native groups failed.

By the early 1790s (Some of the exact dates are in dispute.) the first surveys of the Clermont area, and of areas to the west, had been completed. (See Williams, p. 177). In 1787 surveyor John O'Bannon delineated a 1,400-acre tract in what is now Clermont County, near the present-day village of Neville: this effort represented the first survey in the county and in the VMD as a whole. (See Smith, p. 11.) (A Clermont township eventually would be named in O'Bannon's honor.) Another surveyor who came to the area before 1790 was famed explorer and land speculator Nathaniel Massie, who ventured into the southern Ohio wilderness in 1788. By 1790, he was "one of the few men who had an accurate knowledge of the geography of the [Virginia Military District]" (William E. Smith, Ph.D., *History of Southwestern Ohio: The Miami Valleys*, Vol. I. [Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1964], p. 155). A "man of means," Massie is said to have been the largest landowner in the District; by 1810 he was also one of the largest

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landholders in the state. (See Lee Soltow, "Inequality Amidst Abundance: Land Ownership in Early Nineteenth Century Ohio," *Ohio History*, Vol. 88, No. 2, Spring 1979, p. 137.) Massie established fourteen towns, among them Chillicothe, the territorial (and, later, state) capital. His base of operations was the fortified station that became Manchester, the "gateway to the Virginia Military District" (Smith, *History*, p. 155) and its fourth settlement. One of the first forts in the Virginia lands, it was located on the Ohio River, in what is now Adams County (Williams, p. 142). There Massie schooled apprentices in the science of survey work, training them "for hazardous work in hostile country" (*ibid.*, p. 155). Among his apprentices was the young William Lytle.

In addition to Revolutionary War soldiers, Euro-American settlers were attracted to the Little Miami River Valley. Since the land was controlled by the United States government and not yet for sale to the public, they were relegated to the status of squatters. But the land-hungry came anyway. "By 1785 squatters had built cabins up the streams from the Muskingum to the Miamis" (Smith, *History*, p. 143). They resided there "in utter disregard of Indian rights, treaties or danger to themselves" (*ibid.*). Many relocated from Kentucky, where conflicting and confused land claims deterred settlers. After land was made available for sale, some purchased the tracts they lived on, while others moved on. Since Indian hostilities still posed a threat, the first settlements were fortified stations.

Massie and his party, including Lytle, continued to survey the VMD through the early 1790s, attempting to define an outline of the District. Because of the Indian threat the surveyors split into three groups for protection. The metes and bounds surveys that resulted from their efforts later were criticized for their irregular, sometimes haphazard appearance; this outcome was defended by some historians as influenced by the danger of the work, the necessity of self-defense, and the intense individuality of some settlers. (See Williams, pp. 178-179.)

While the survey work proceeded, the first settlers ventured into the VMD, including the Clermont area. Following water routes, they traveled down the Ohio, then proceeded up rivers and streams. The first settlement party reached Clermont in 1789. Near the mouth of the Little Miami (exact location unknown) they established Covalt's Station, which some Clermont County historians claim as the first inland settlement in Ohio; this claim, however, is in dispute. (See

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Williams, pp. 184-185). The group was led by Captain Abraham Covalt, a Revolutionary War soldier originally from New Jersey.

By the mid-1790s, the presence of Native Americans in the area began to wane. The itinerant Shawnee tried to claim sections of the county as hunting grounds, but their "nominal claim" to the land proved unsuccessful. In 1794 General Anthony Wayne defeated the Shawnee at the Battle of Fallen Timbers in northwest Ohio. The 1795 Treaty of Greenville, enacted following the battle, opened the lands of southern Ohio for secure Euro-American settlement. "The white man was free...to 'plant corn in Ohio, unvexed by Shawnee war'" (Williams, p. 189). After the treaty was signed, natives were forced to relocate to a reserve in the northwest corner of the state, from which they would again be uprooted three decades hence.

In the years after the treaty and before 1803, when Ohio joined the Union, the state's population tripled. "Between 1795 and 1800, thirty thousand people came to Ohio, raising the population to 45,000" (Smith, History, p. 184). The inducements to come to the Miami country were many: "fertility of the soil, low-priced land, security of land titles, high price of labor, exclusion of slavery, and quieting of Indian claims to the country" (ibid.). Most of the stations were abandoned, and town-building began in earnest.

In 1800 Congress passed the Harrison Land Act, "intended to help men buy land more readily by establishing land offices nearer to buyers..." (ibid.). The act also provided for the sale of smaller, and therefore somewhat more affordable, tracts of land. In the same year the federal government opened a land office on Lytle's Harmony Hill farm, housed in a small building near his residence.

The process of locating and surveying land in the Virginia Military District proceeded until 1851, when it was concluded by order of Congress. The following year the Commonwealth of Virginia relinquished all lands claims providing Congress would "assume the satisfaction of all warrants of the Revolutionary War soldiers not already satisfied" (Smith, p. 16), which it proceeded to do. Surplus land, totaling 76,735 acres, was given to the State of Ohio. The land was granted to the Ohio Agricultural and Mechanical College (now Ohio State University) and sold for its support (ibid.).

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Harmony Hill Dairy House
Clermont County, Ohio

Clermont County. During the 1780s and 1790s frontier pressures forced the passage of a series of federal land laws, including the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, which provided for a system of territorial government that could eventually lead to statehood. After the Revolution much of this region north of the Ohio River became part of the Northwest Territory, which was gradually divided into six “macro” counties. By 1790 much of the southern region of what would become Ohio, including the Clermont area, became part of Hamilton. The second county formed by the territorial government, Hamilton, extended from the Great Miami River in what is now southwestern Ohio, to the Scioto River in south central Ohio. Its seat of government was Cincinnati, a thriving Ohio River port founded in 1788.

By the 1800s, the large territorial entities were gradually whittled down into smaller political jurisdictions. Clermont County was formed from Hamilton in 1800 by proclamation of Arthur St. Clair, Territorial Governor; it was the eleventh county in the Territory in order of formation, and the seventh in Ohio (Williams, pp. 267-268). As established it included all of what is now Brown County to the east; this original configuration is labeled “Old Clermont” by historians. (See illustration.) In the following year the new county was divided into five townships: Williamsburg, Ohio, Obannon (later changed to Miami), Pleasant (now part of Brown County) and Washington, but their exact boundaries were not defined. (See illustration.) Over the next few years, additional townships were created upon request of citizens. Williamsburg was designated the county seat in 1801 (Everts, pp. 61-64). Clermont’s boundaries were reduced in 1805, when part of its northeast corner was incorporated into a new county called Highland, and 1817, when its eastern third became part of Brown County (ibid.).

Clermont benefitted from its location on the Ohio River, “the only waterway to the West and therefore the most often used migration route” (Whitt, p. 7). During the early years of settlement settlers located along the Ohio, along the Little Miami, on the riverbanks or near what would become Williamsburg. They came primarily from the mid-Atlantic states, especially Pennsylvania, Maryland and New Jersey, as well as Kentucky and Virginia. In 1802 William Lytle’s unofficial county census enumerated 530 white male inhabitants between the Little Miami and Eagle Creek, and about another 150 above the mouth of the East Fork up the Miami (Williams, pp. 267-268). Despite reductions in land area, Clermont saw a steady increase in population during its first three decades. By 1810, its official population was 9,965; by 1820,

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Harmony Hill Dairy House
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15,820; by 1830, 20,466. By 1840, it had reached 23,106 (Everts, p. 89).

Williamsburg. The town that would become Williamsburg was established five years before the formation of Clermont County. In 1793 William Lytle and his brother, John Lytle, came to the Little Miami River Valley to do some surveying for Kentuckian John Breckinridge. After they finished the work they established a surveyor's camp on the banks of the Little Miami's East Fork to serve as a base for future operations. The location they chose was a place where a steep bluff, covered with beech trees, swept down to the river: it was an attractive site with an abundant spring, easily defensible against Indian attacks. Near the camp was a level area high above the river, part of which recently had been ravaged by a tornado and thus had been partly "cleared" without human intervention. This tract, which came to be known as the Big Field, lay in a bend of the river, with tributary streams nearby. Here a man named James Kain and his two sons cleared 40 acres, planted a corn crop and built a cabin (no longer extant). Located on what is now Lot 43 on Front Street, it was the first settlement in the vicinity of what would become Williamsburg.

Lytle recognized the tract's potential as a town site, so, in 1796, with the assistance of his brother and several others, he platted a site on DeBenneville Survey No. 2810. (See atlas.) (Virginia Military District surveys were assigned names and numbers, which persist to this day.) The 1,500-acre allotment was a patent from President John Adams to Daniel DeBenneville, a Revolutionary War surgeon, on June 18, 1798. DeBenneville assigned the entire survey to William Lytle in 1800. (See Smith, p. 143.) Survey work was interrupted by a November blizzard, then resumed the following spring. The village plat included 500 in-lots, each one measuring 33 by 66 yards. Also platted were 150 out-lots of four acres each, located on the west side of the village. A tract of about five-and-a-quarter acres, which would come to be known as the "Public Square," was reserved for county buildings. The new town initially was called Lytlestown after its founder, then renamed Williamsburgh. (The "h" eventually was dropped.)

Local records state that the first ten lots were given free to settlers who agreed to establish homes; this was a common practice in the Miami country, generally with a time limit for building cabins on the donated lots. (See Smith, p. 152). The first paid land sales took place in December 1796. Occupied homes induced artisans to settle and set up businesses in the town. The

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enterprising James Kain, who had built the first cabin, opened the first public house "for the entertainment of travelers" in 1799, and Thomas Morris, later a United States Senator, opened a tavern in 1801 (Smith, History, p. 153). A ford across the river was soon established, later replaced by a ferry. By 1815 the town had 50 residents (Smith, History, p. 187): a population of respectable size during this era. "With the exception of Cincinnati, not more than four towns in the Miami Country had as many as 100 houses in 1815" (ibid.).

The river and its tributaries provided abundant water power for flour, corn and sawmills. In 1797 Lytle established the first mill on the East Fork, at the foot of what is now Front Street: the first industry in the county. By the mid-19th century three other mills would locate along the river. Numerous small industrial concerns also operated in the town during the first half of the 19th century, most of which processed the products of local farms and forests. They included a foundry, chair factories, a tannery, wool carding and oil mills, a cut nail factory, a distillery, pork packing houses and tobacco processing centers.

Early roads tied Williamsburg to surrounding towns and to nearby cities. The first public road in the county was built from Williamsburg to Newtown in 1797; for many years it remained the county's main east-west thoroughfare. Lytle recognized the value a post road would bring to his new settlement. So in 1797 he and his partner, General James Taylor of Virginia, blazed a privately financed road from Williamsburg to Chillicothe, which was planned to connect with Zane's Trace. Originally called the Chillicothe Post Road or Chillicothe Turnpike, it became a state road in 1834; it is now known as the De La Palma Road (Everts, p. 88). (See topographic map.)

By the 1800s, permanent, substantial dwellings, some of brick and stone, began to be built in the town. Among these was the Samuel Davies House, where several Militia Courts of Inquiry were held. Simon Kenton, famed Ohio Valley frontiersman and Indian fighter, attended militia meetings there. In 1815 a brick house was built for John Lytle, William Lytle's brother, at Main and Broadway opposite the Public Square. (See Olde Williamsburgh, Inc./Harmony Hill Association, "Tour Map of Olde Williamsburgh, Ohio," 2000.) The house was demolished in the 1950s (Izella Cadwallader, personal communication).

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When Clermont County officially was created in December 1800, Williamsburg became the first county seat. In 1809 a courthouse, jail and county clerk's office were built by John Charles on the Public Square (Everts, p. 65). In 1801 Williamsburg Township, one of five original townships in the county, was formed; although it was centered on its namesake village, its exact boundaries, like those of other early townships, were never precisely delineated. (See map.) Its land area was gradually diminished by the creation of Tate, Batavia and Jackson townships and by Brown County on the east.

The county seat remained in Williamsburg until 1823, when it was moved briefly to New Richmond and finally to Batavia. Following the relocation of the seat of government, Lytle tried unsuccessfully to regain ownership of the Public Square lots; in 1849 the Ohio Supreme Court decreed that the land belonged to the village forever. Loss of the county seat meant a decline in prestige for the village, and may have resulted in an economic downturn. Whatever the reason, Williamsburg remained unincorporated until 1847. Its population was 286 in 1830, and 385 in 1840; by 1870, it had reached 773 (Everts; Smith, History, p. 188).

During the 1850s the Williamsburg courthouse, symbol of the village's early role, was demolished and replaced by a brick graded school building. Historian Byron Williams lamented the loss: "And thus a thoughtless posterity ruined a dignity they did not appreciate and could not replace" (Williams, p. 341). The school was destroyed by fire in 1922; it was replaced by a high school building on the same site, which still stands.

William Lytle. Major General William Lytle, the "father of Clermont County," was the founder of Williamsburg and of several other towns in the county. He was a "founder of frontier settlements, proprietor of large tracts of land, General in the Ohio militia, patron of the arts, leading citizen of one of the most important towns on the river, and finally, Surveyor General of the whole vast territory" (Virginus Cornick Hall, "From Tomahawk to High Finance: The Life of General William Lytle (1770-1831)" [published by author, 1957], p. iv). Lytle was born in Philadelphia in 1770. His parents, William and Mary Steele Lytle, were Scotch-Irish Presbyterians who migrated to the New World in the late 17th or early 18th century. They settled first in Philadelphia, then migrated to Carlisle in Cumberland County: the first leg of their westward journey. Here the elder Lytle "[b]ecame an Indian fighter by necessity and a captain by

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royal necessity in his twenty-second year” (Williams, p. 144), assigned to scouting the upper tributaries of the Ohio. He also served in the Revolutionary War. In recognition of his services against the Indians, he received thousands of acres of bounty land in central Kentucky.

In 1779 the Lytle family, which now included seven children, relocated to their Kentucky lands, traveling by flatboat down the Ohio River. The life of the young William Lytle reflects the adventurous, self-sufficient, dangerous and sometimes violent life of the frontier. His survival skills, including riding, hunting and shooting, were honed at an early age. He joined his first pursuit of Native Americans at age ten, while accompanying a pioneer band to Cincinnati. He also accompanied his father, a surveyor, on expeditions far from home. During one of these trips he was stricken with the measles and managed the 70-mile return trip alone, killing a bear en route. He volunteered for the Revolutionary War in 1780, at age sixteen, joining General George Rogers Clark’s campaign against the Miamis of the Great Miami and Mad River valleys in southwestern Ohio.

Already famed as an Indian fighter, Lytle gained a reputation as a very ambitious young man, with a strong interest in land. When he reached adulthood, he moved to Ohio to study surveying under Nathaniel Massie. Given Lytle’s background, it is not surprising he chose to follow his father’s occupation. During the early years of the Republic, surveying was an occupation fraught with danger but filled with opportunity.

Surveying in that period was a highly important and respected profession, and one in which one could readily (and legally) acquire large amounts of land for oneself. Owners of land warrants frequently arranged to have their lands located by promising the surveyor a certain portion of the land. The danger involved in the location of claims in the wilderness often led owners of large tracts to pay their surveyors generously, frequently as much as a quarter of even a third part of the land surveyed. Thus a surveyor with a reputation or honesty and one who kept busy could amass within a short period of time considerable personal holdings. (Hall, p. 24)

By 1793, at age 22, Lytle was deemed “qualified for independent action.” He then took over the survey of the western side of the District, with assistants from Lexington, Kentucky. Lytle

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founded a surveyor's camp on the banks of the East Fork of the Little Miami River, near what is now Williamsburg. He also became a land speculator. He formed a partnership with General James Taylor and made trips to the East to purchase warrants and patents of VMD land. In the same year he drew up a plan for the town that would eventually become Williamsburg, the county's first seat of government. Lytle donated five-and-a-half acres of land in the center of the village to be set aside for public buildings: a tract of land that became known as the Town Square.

"Lytle reserved for his own use 600 acres immediately adjoining the town" ("Historic Williamsburgh, Ohio," p. 2). In 1800, when he obtained a clear title to the acreage, he began to develop the property, which he called Harmony Hill. Between 1800 and 1801 a house, barns and a stone dairy house were built on the farm. Lytle opened the first post office in the county in his home and served as the first postmaster. In 1800, as noted earlier, the United States Government opened a land office at Harmony Hill. Here Lytle bought and sold thousands of acres of land in the Virginia Military District.

Lytle's interests in land, development and promotion led naturally to involvement in politics. After the Clermont County government was organized in the early 1800s, he served as the Prothonotary or first clerk of the county courts. In 1800 he also was elected to the territorial General Assembly, where he filled a vacant seat. In 1804 he was appointed Lieutenant Colonel in the state militia; he was promoted four years later to Major General of the Seventh Division of Ohio Militia. His duties as commander appear to have been largely of an administrative nature. (See Hall, pp. 87-88).

In 1798 Lytle married Elizabeth Stahl of Philadelphia. The couple settled in Lexington, Kentucky, remaining there until their Williamsburg house was completed. They raised five children to adulthood. Following the death of Elizabeth Lytle in 1821, Lytle married Margaret Haines, a widow with five children from her first marriage. One of Lytle's children, Colonel Robert T. Lytle, became a "distinguished orator" who served a term in Congress from 1833 to 1835. Robert Lytle's son, General William Haines Lytle, was a "gifted poet-soldier"; he fell in the Battle of Chickamauga in 1863. (See Hall, p. 151; Everts, p. 191.)

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In 1806 Lytle purchased eight-and-a-quarter acres of land on what was then the outskirts of Cincinnati, a bustling Ohio River port. Three years later, seeking greater opportunities, he relocated there with his family. "Lytle had established a thriving community at Williamsburg where there had been only wilderness before,...and now he was anxious to turn his attention to other, more challenging, enterprises" (Hall, p. 90). In Cincinnati Lytle prospered and achieved prominence in civic life. By 1810 he was the second-largest landowner in the state of Ohio, controlling 39,998 acres. (See Smith, p. 26.) A facsimile of the Ohio tax duplicate for that year lists pages of entries under his name. (See Gerald M. Petty, *Ohio 1810 Tax Duplicate: Arranged in a State-wide Alphabetical List of Names of Taxpayers with an Index of Names of Original Entries* [published by author, 1976].)

Lytle became the first president of the University of Cincinnati, founded in 1819, and director of the first Cincinnati Humane Society. He donated land in Brown County to Roman Catholics, on which later was built a college operated by Ursuline nuns. He also patronized artists, musicians and scholars. Lytle served as a director of the Miami Trading Company, a businessman's group, and as a stockholder in the first woolen mill in Cincinnati. Not all his enterprises were successful: a canal venture near Louisville, Kentucky, ended in failure, and his interests were hit hard by the Panic of 1818-1821.

During the War of 1812 Lytle served as Major General of Militia for the Southern Ohio District, retaining the title of "General" for the rest of his life. In 1829 he was appointed Surveyor General for Ohio, Indiana and Michigan by his friend, President Andrew Jackson; a position he held for only two years. Lytle died on March 17, 1831, at age 61, and is buried in Cincinnati's Spring Grove Cemetery. Lytle Park, located in the locally designated historic district of the same name at the eastern edge of downtown Cincinnati, commemorates the site of his house.

Harmony Hill. As noted earlier, William Lytle resided at Harmony Hill from c. 1801 until he relocated to Cincinnati in 1809. Lytle continued to own the farm until December 4, 1824, when he sold it to his brother John Lytle. John Lytle is indicated as the owner on the 1840 county atlas. He conveyed the farm to his son Joseph Warren Lytle at an unknown date; the deed has not been located and does not appear to have been recorded. On March 18, 1895, Joseph Warren Lytle sold the land to Edward B. Cowguill. It remained in the Cowguill family for 74 years, passed

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down through three generations and gradually diminished in size. During their tenure the original Lytle house and land office were removed and the bungalow and garage erected.

From 1969 to 1998 the property passed through a series of investment owners. Over time the dairy house fell into serious disrepair and faced possible demolition. (See Section 7.) As the village's bicentennial approached, interest grew in preserving the building. On February 11, 1998, the dairy house, bungalow, garage and approximately 1.19 acres of land were purchased by the Bicentennial of Olde Williamsburgh, Inc./Harmony Hill Association, a nonprofit historical society. Restoration of the dairy house was completed by the end of the year, and a museum devoted to local history was developed in the house.

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9. Major bibliographic references

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Harmony Hill Dairy House
Clermont County, Ohio

10. Geographical Data

Verbal boundary description

The Harmony Hill Dairy House is located within the corporate limits of Williamsburg, Ohio. It is located within a brick-paved terrace that lies approximately 50 feet north of the north line of South Third Street. The boundary for the Dairy House is defined by the perimeter of the terrace, which measures 40 feet on each side. (Please refer to plat.)

Verbal boundary justification

The nominated property includes the bulk of the parcel of land visually associated with the dairy house. It contains sufficient land to enclose the building and an adjacent stone well while excluding areas of lesser integrity or different use. The remainder of the acreage currently associated with the building has been excluded from the nomination because it represents a later period of development and does not contribute to the significance of the property.

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Harmony Hill Dairy House
Clermont County, Ohio

12. Additional documentation

Photograph key

Name of property: Harmony Hill Dairy House (same for all photographs)

Location: Clermont County, Ohio (same for all photographs)

Photographer: Margo Warminski

Date taken: September 15, 2000

Location of negatives: Olde Williamsburgh, Inc./Harmony Hill Association (same for all photographs)

View: General view of Harmony Hill museum property, showing dairy house, bungalow, garage and parking area; looking east from South Third Street.

Photo 1

Date taken: September 15, 2000

View: West and south elevations of dairy house, looking east.

Photo 2

Date taken: September 15, 2000

View: East and south elevations of dairy house, with well in foreground; looking northwest.

Photo 3

Date taken: September 15, 2000

View: North elevation of dairy house; looking south.

Photo 4

Date taken: October 6, 2000

View: Facade (south elevation) of dairy house, looking north.

Photo 5

Date taken: October 6, 2000

View: Interior of dairy house, showing stone walls and floor, and roof structure; looking north.

Photo 6

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Harmony Hill Dairy House
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Date taken: September 15, 2000
View: Stone well in front of dairy house; looking north.
Photo 7

Date taken: September 15, 2000
View: Bungalow, south of dairy house; looking east.
Photo 8

Date taken: September 15, 2000
View: Facade and south elevation of Samuel W. Davies House, Williamsburg; looking
northwest.
Photo 9

1763

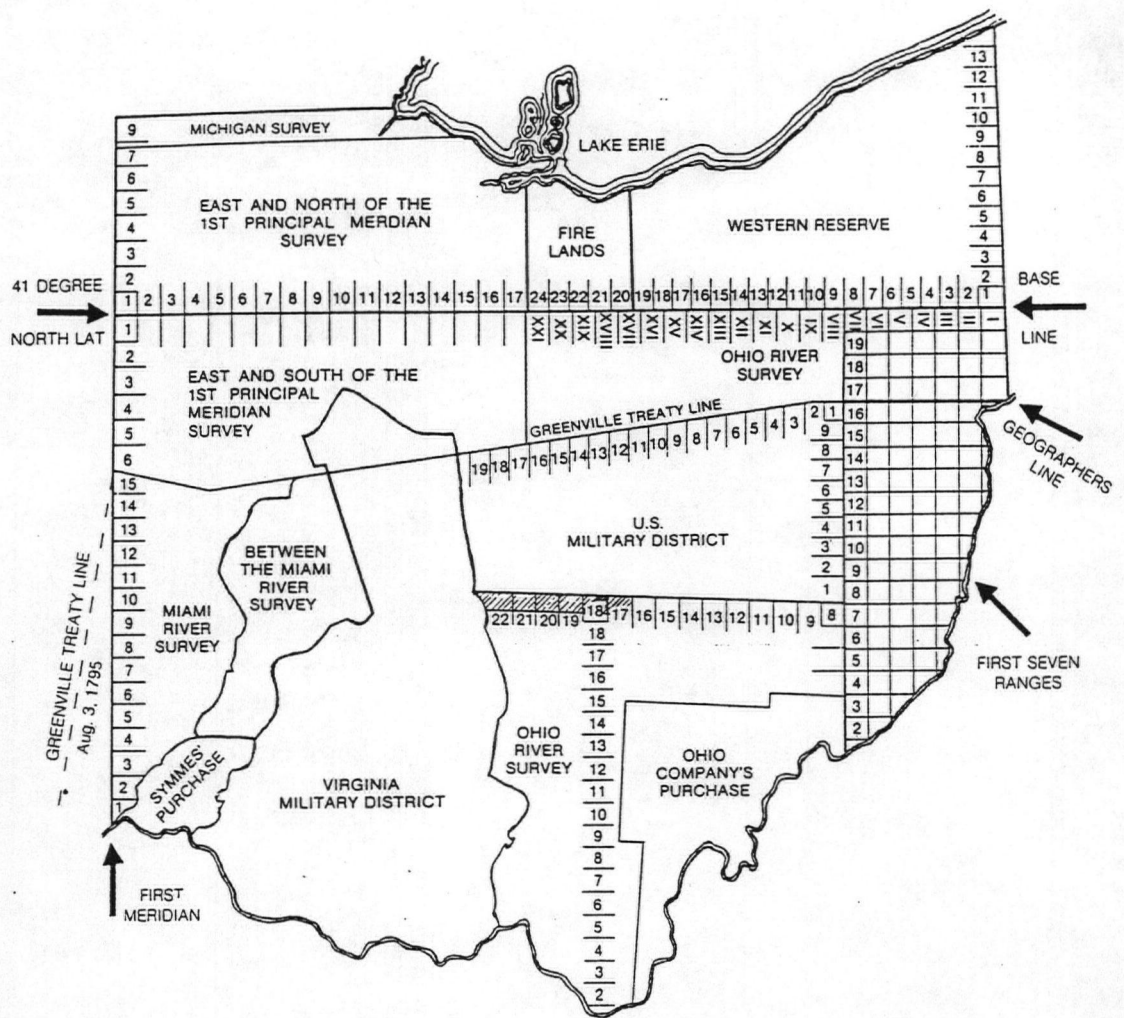


This map shows Virginia's claims north and east of the Mississippi River after the 1763 Treaty of Paris, which ended the French and Indian War. At that time, as shown here, the land later to become Clermont County, Ohio, was designated as Botetourt County, Virginia.

Harmony Hill Dairy House
Williamsburg
Clermont County, Ohio

Virginia's claims to lands west of the Alleghenies as of 1763, including Ohio

MAJOR LAND SURVEYS OF OHIO



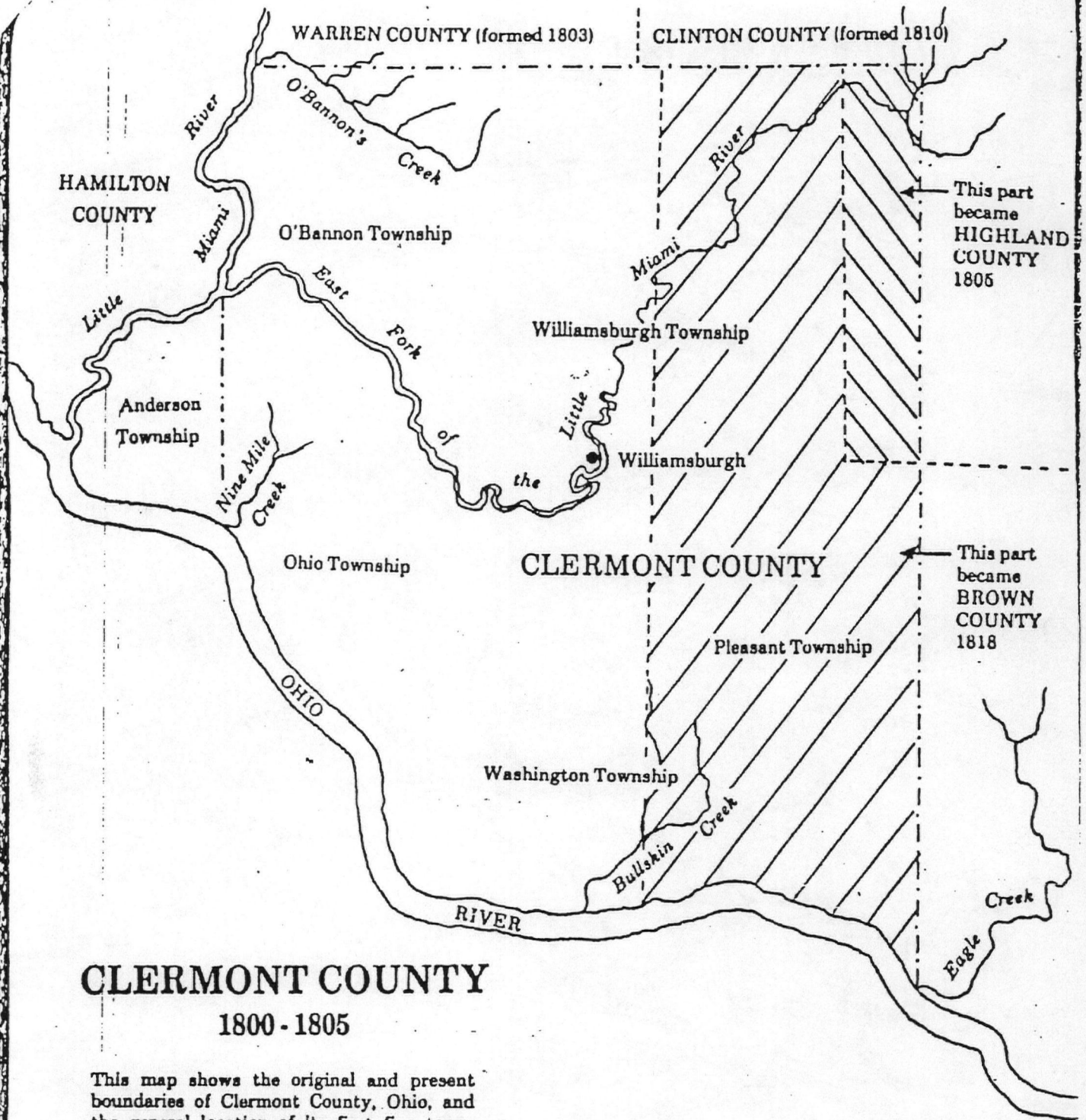
Source: Land Office of the Auditor of State of Ohio



Map by C. E. Sherman, *Original Ohio Land Subdivisions*, Vol. III, 1925, Plate 2. Reprinted by the Division of Geological Survey, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Columbus, Ohio, 1972. Used with permission.

Harmony Hill Dairy House
Williamsburg
Clermont County, Ohio

Map of Virginia Military District,
showing counties included



CLERMONT COUNTY
1800 - 1805

This map shows the original and present boundaries of Clermont County, Ohio, and the general location of its first five townships. Map by Alma A. Smith. Not drawn to scale.

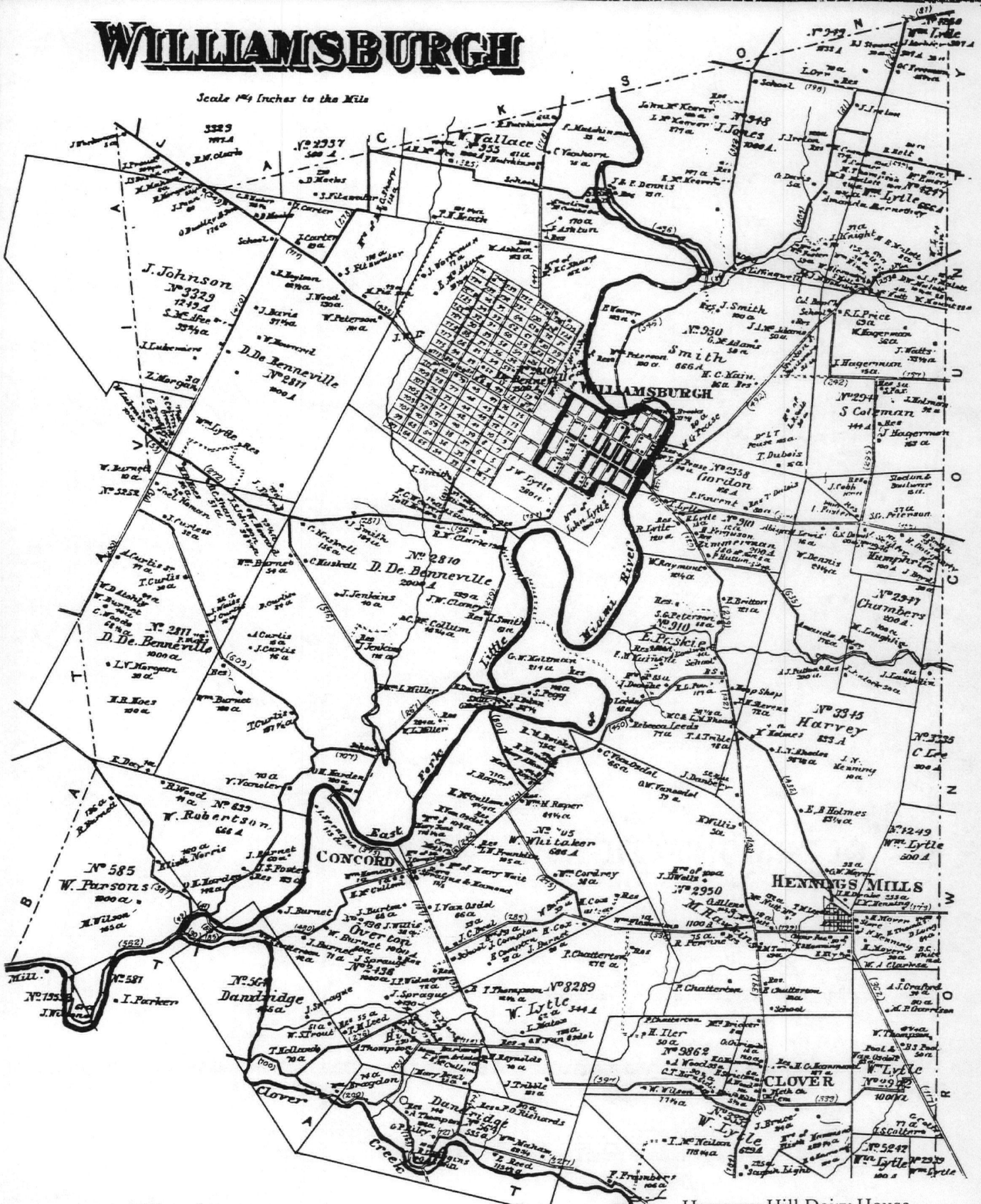
*From the book The Virginia Military Surveys of Clermont and Hamilton Counties, Ohio, 1787-1849 by Alma Aicholtz Smith, 1985, p. 54.

Harmony Hill Dairy House
Williamsburg
Clermont County, Ohio

Original configuration of Clermont County, showing general locations of original five townships

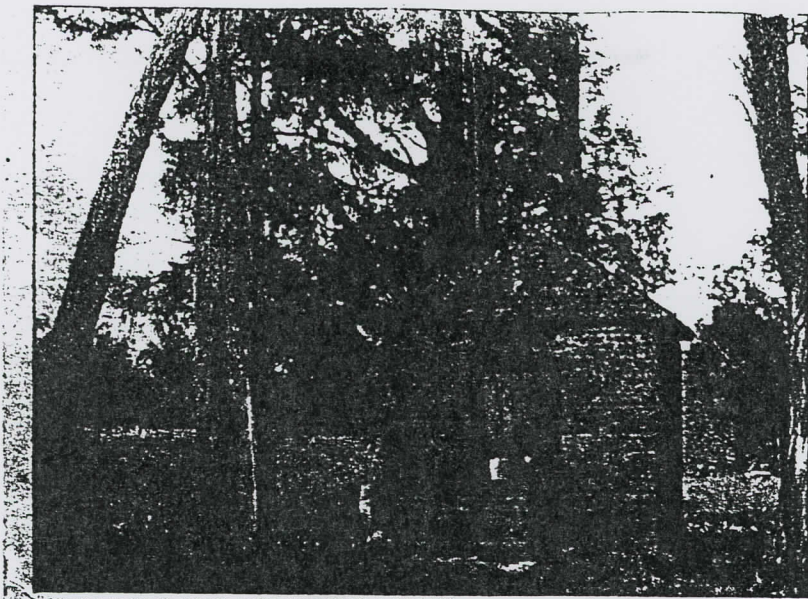
WILLIAMSBURGH

Scale 1/4 inches to the Mile



1875 map of Williamsburgh Township

Harmony Hill Dairy House
Williamsburgh
Clermont County, Ohio



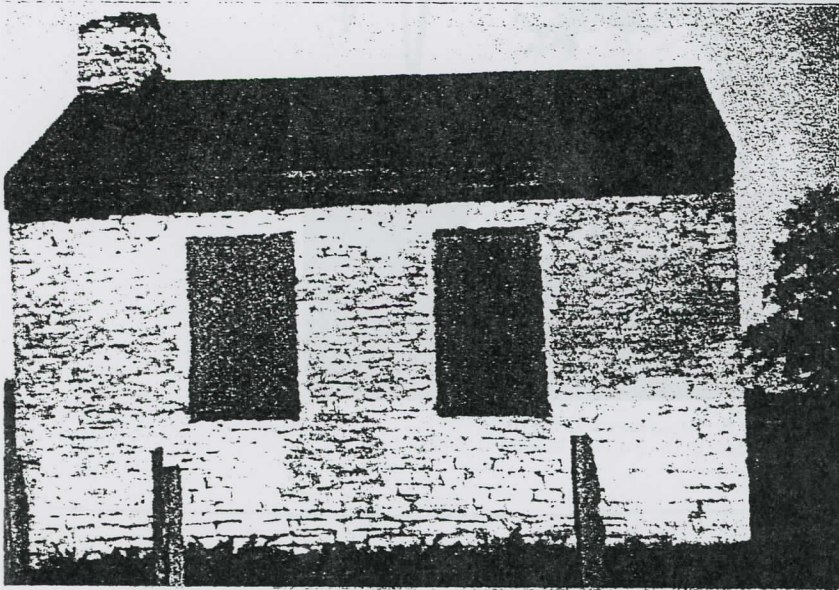
HARMONY HILL DAIRY AND WELL SWEEP, WILLIAMSBURG, O. BUILT 1800



GEN. WILLIAM LYTLE'S HOME, WILLIAMSBURG, OHIO
Built in 1800-2. Still Standing. One Among the Oldest Homes in Ohio.

Harmony Hill Dairy House
Williamsburg
Clermont County, Ohio

Undated postcard view of dairy
house and undated view of
Harmony Hill Farm



THE LAND OFFICE, BUILT IN 1800

burg. for General William Lytle, probably the oldest stone building still standing
in Ohio

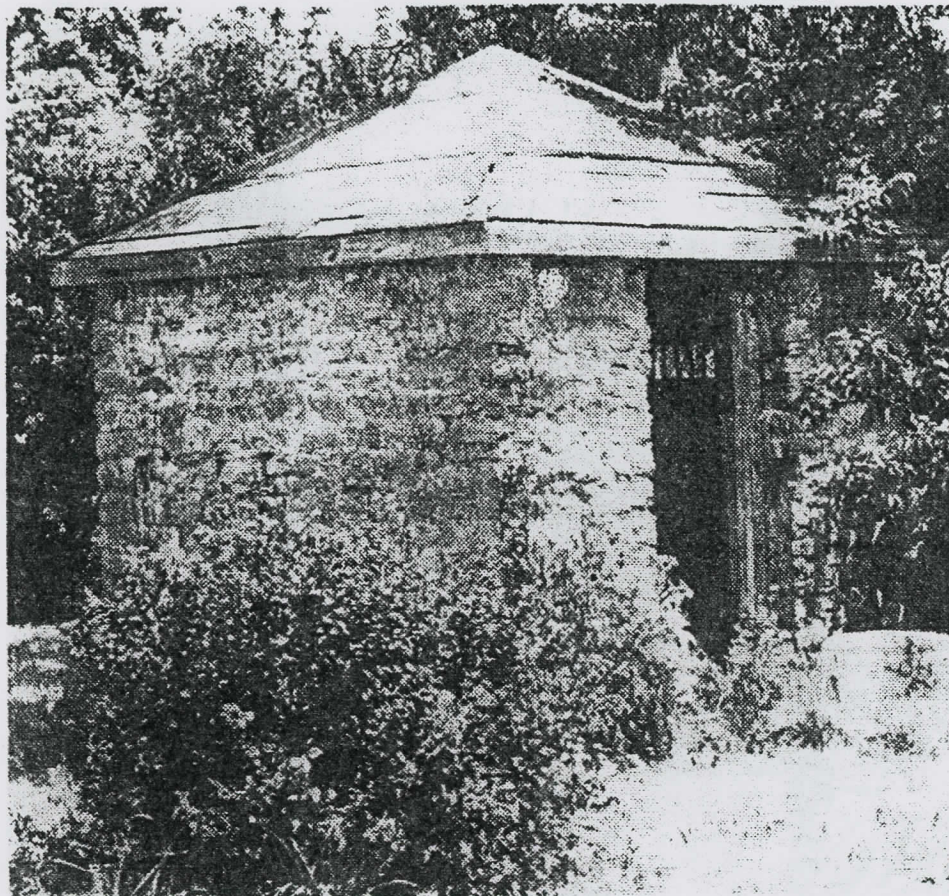
Harmony Hill Dairy House
Williamsburg
Clermont County, Ohio

View of land office at Harmony
Hill, taken in early 20th century



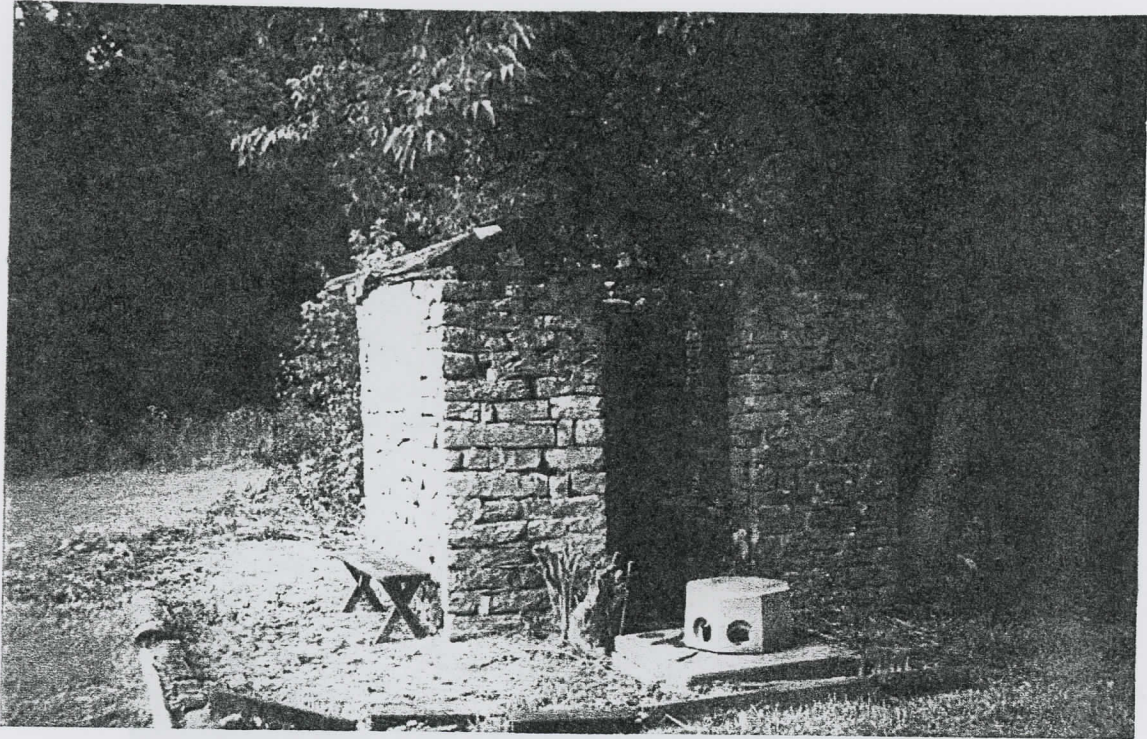
Harmony Hill Dairy House
Williamsburg
Clermont County, Ohio

Undated view of dairy house and
well



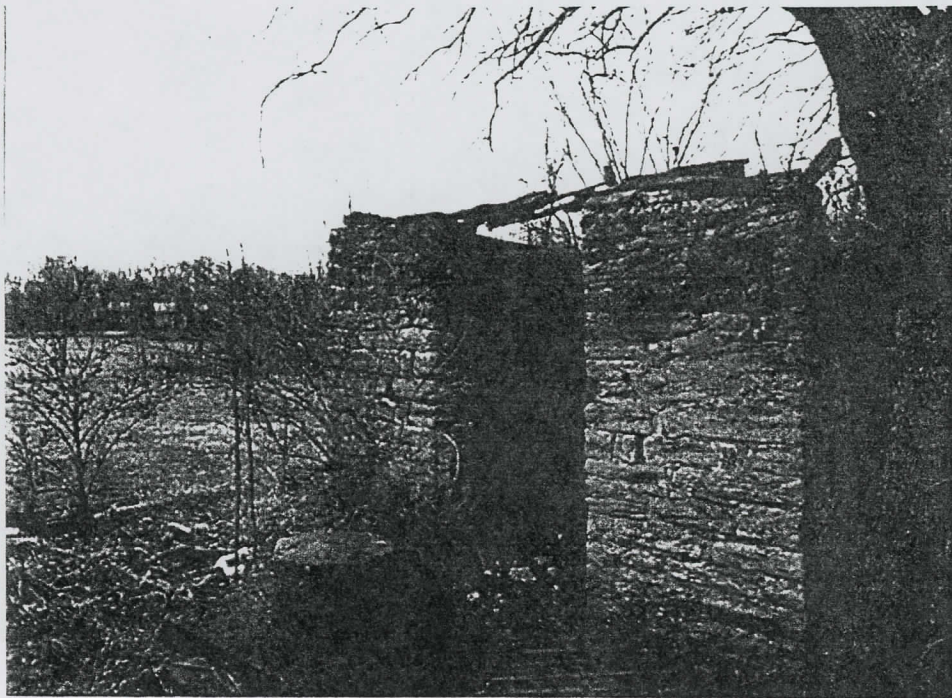
Harmony Hill Dairy House
Williamsburg
Clermont County, Ohio

1970 view of south and west
elevations of dairy house
(*Cincinnati Post and Times-Star*,
June 27, 1970)



Harmony Hill Dairy House
Williamsburg
Clermont County, Ohio

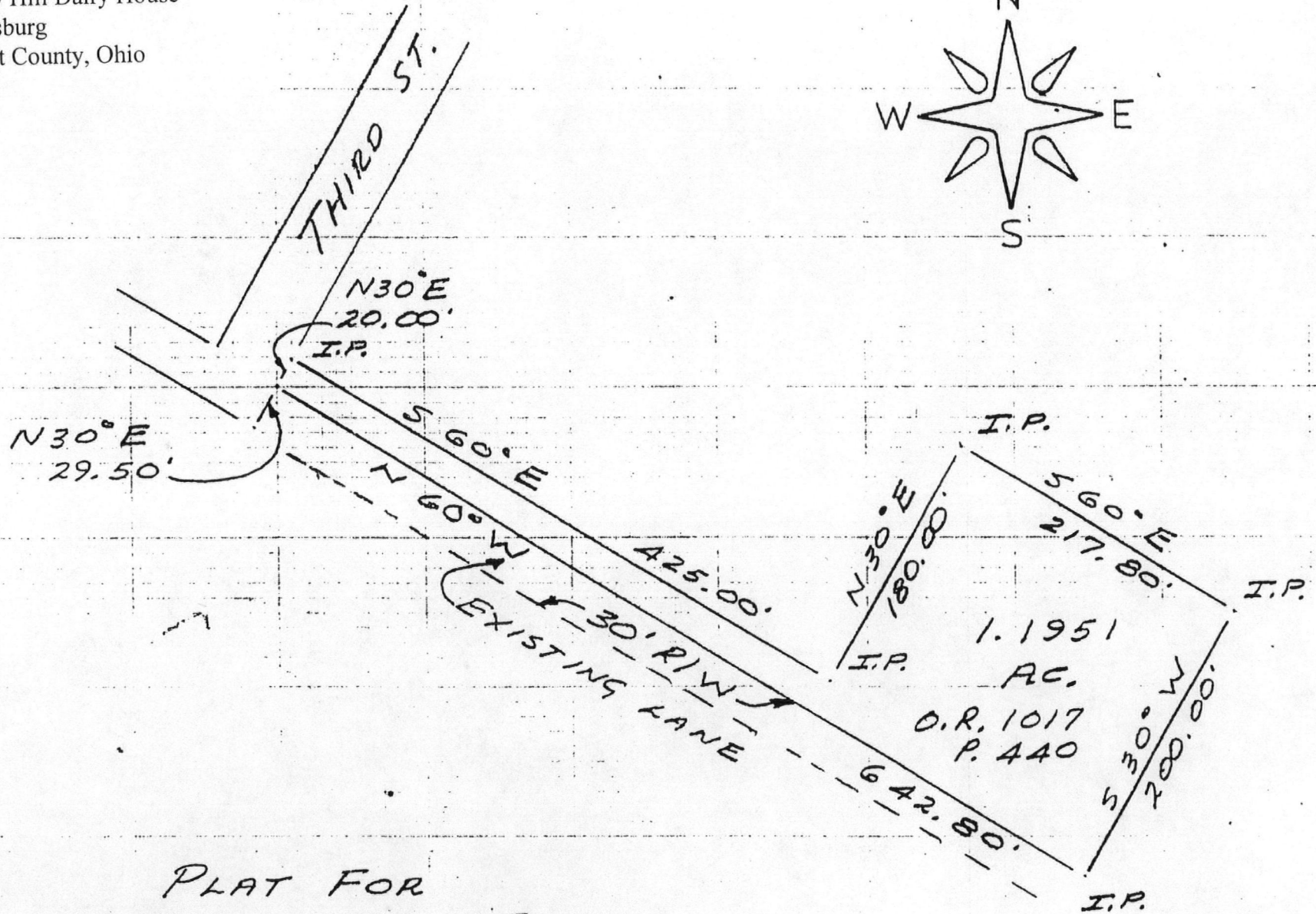
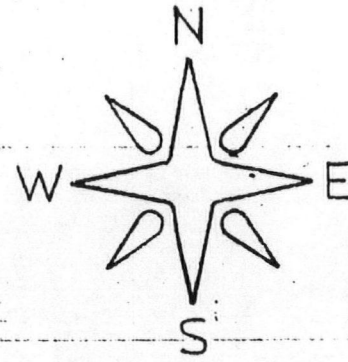
1997 views of south and east
elevations of dairy house



Harmony Hill Dairy House
Williamsburg
Clermont County, Ohio

1998 view of south elevation of
dairy house (*Cincinnati Enquirer*,
February 14, 1998)

Harmony Hill Dairy House
Williamsburg
Clermont County, Ohio



PLAT FOR
WILLIAMSBURG ROTARY
FOUNDATION, INC.
WILLIAMSBURG - CLERMONT
1" = 100' MAY 19, 1978

Harmony Hill Dairy House
Plat of museum property, including
dairy house

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Harmony Hill Dairy House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: OHIO, Clermont

DATE RECEIVED: 4/26/01 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/14/01
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/30/01 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/11/01
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 01000592

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 5/30/01 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



Harmony Hill bairy House, Clermont Co., OH
Photo 1



Harmony Hill bairy House, Clermont Co., OH
Photo 2



Harmony Hill Dairy House, Clermont Co., OH
Photo 3



Harmony Hill bany House, Clermont Co, OH
photo 4



Harmony Hill Dairy House, Clermont
Co., OH Photo 5



Harmony Hill Dairy House,
Clermont Co., OH Photo 6



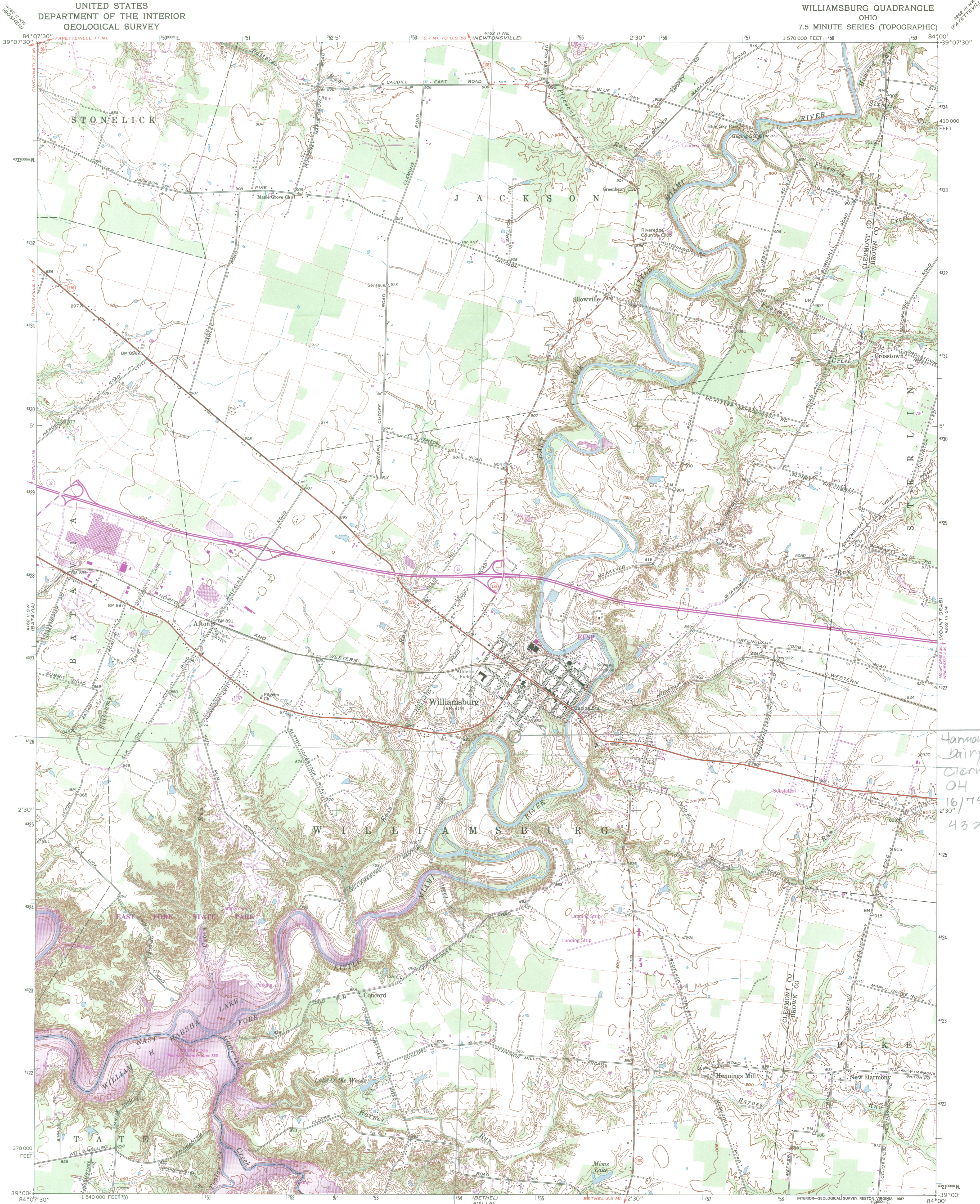
Harmony Hill Bairy House, Clermont Co., OH
Photo 7



Harmony Hill Dairy House, Clermont Co., OH
Photo 8

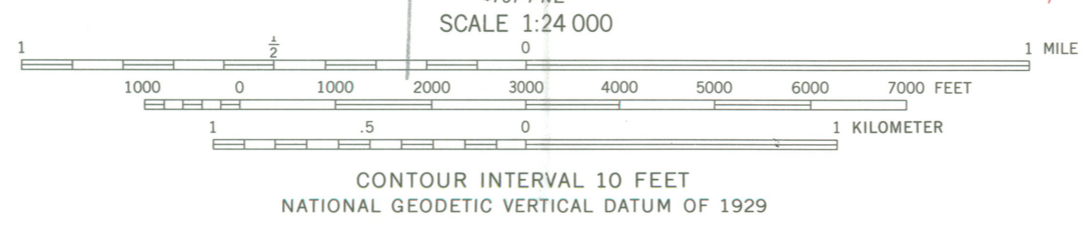
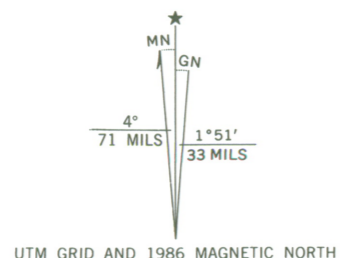


Harmony Hill bairny house, clermont co., OH
Photo 9



Harmony Hill
Dairy House
Clermont Co,
OH
161754550/
4326190

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Revised in cooperation with State of Ohio agencies
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1952. Field checked 1953. Revised from aerial photographs
taken 1967. Field checked 1968
Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Ohio
coordinate system, south zone
1:000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 16, shown in blue
1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 3 meters south and
7 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Entire area lies within the Virginia Military District
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface	Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface	Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
U. S. Route	State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled from
aerial photographs taken 1984 and other sources
This information not field checked. Map edited 1986
Areas covered by dashed light-purple pattern are subject
to controlled inundation

WILLIAMSBURG, OHIO
39084-A1-TF-024

1968
PHOTOREVISED 1986
DMA 4162 II SE - SERIES 7852

Ohio House of Representatives

REC'D BY OHPO DEC 0 8 2000



72nd House District
Brown, Clinton and
Clermont (Part) Counties

Office: (614) 644-6034
Home: (513) 553-4636
Toll Free: 1-800-282-0253

Rose Vesper
State Representative

COMMITTEES:
Chair - Agriculture & Natural
Resources
Finance & Appropriations
Agriculture & Development
Subcommittee
Health, Retirement & Aging
Retirement Subcommittee
Technology & Elections

December 6, 2000

Mr. Steve Gordon
Ohio Historical Preservation Office
567 East Hudson Street
Columbus, OH 43211

Dear Mr. Gordon:

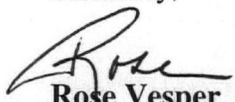
I would like to give my strong recommendation for the Harmony Hill Dairy House in Williamsburg, Ohio to be approved by your committee for acceptance to the National Register of Historic Sites.

The Harmony Hill Dairy House built in 1800 is the oldest structure in Clermont County and sits on a very historic site. It was part of the homestead of Major General William Lytle considered to be "The Father of Clermont County." He not only founded the village of Williamsburg, but also played a very major part in the early history of Clermont County and the surrounding area.

The Harmony Hill Association did a wonderful restoration of this structure in 1998 and it appears as it did in 1800. Clermont County has few historic structures of this early era still in existence and I feel the Harmony Hill Dairy House is certainly deserving of your recommendation.

Thank you for your consideration of my views, and I hope that you will approve the Harmony Hill Dairy House to the National Register of Historic Sites.

Sincerely,

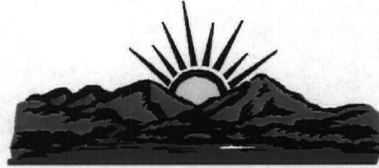

Rose Vesper
State Representative
72nd House District

77 South High Street Columbus, OH 43266-0603

Printed on recycled paper



REC'D BY OHPO FEB 06 2001



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CLERMONT COUNTY, OHIO

ROBERT L. PROUD MARY C. WALKER MARTHA DORSEY

January 31, 2001

Mr. Steve Gordon
Ohio Historical Preservation Office
567 East Hudson Street
Columbus, OH 43211

Dear Mr. Gordon:

The Board of Clermont County Commissioners strongly recommends that the Harmony Hill Dairy House in Williamsburg, Ohio be approved by your committee for acceptance to the National Register of Historic Sites.

Harmony Hill Dairy House is one of the few surviving resources associated with the first permanent settlements in the region during the 1790's and 1800's, playing an important role in the life of the community as the home of a federal land office and the county's first post office. Its period of significance begins with the estimated construction date in 1800 and is credited with being the oldest surviving building in Clermont County. The dairy house is also the only surviving building associated with Harmony Hill, the home of General Lytle, the founder of Williamsburg, also hailed as the "father of Clermont County."

The Harmony Hill Association has restored the dairy house and it appears as it did in 1800. The 1998 restoration faithfully replicated missing elements, using appropriate materials and retaining integrity of design and workmanship. Relatively few buildings recorded on Ohio Historic Inventory forms predate 1820 and, of those recorded, none is comparable to the Harmony Hill Dairy House in form, materials, or use.

For two years, the Harmony Hill Association has worked to achieve this designation. We strongly agree with and support the Association's efforts and we trust that you will approve the Harmony Hill Dairy House for acceptance to the National Register of Historic Sites. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully yours,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CLERMONT COUNTY, OHIO

Martha Dorsey

Martha Dorsey

Robert L. Proud

Robert L. Proud

Mary C. Walker

Mary C. Walker

Ohio House of Representatives



Tom Niehaus
State Representative
72nd District

District:

1131 Little Indian Creek Rd.
New Richmond, OH 45157-9602
Home: (513) 553-6569

Statehouse:

77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43266-0603
Office: (614) 644-6034
Fax: (614) 644-9494

Committees:

Agriculture & Natural Resources
Chairman, Natural Resources, Parks
and Recreation Subcommittee
Energy and Environment
Public Utilities
Ways and Means

REC'D BY OHPO MAR 05 2001

February 27, 2001

Amos Loveday
Ohio Historic Preservation Advisory Board
c/o Ohio Historic Preservation Office
567 East Hudson St.
Columbus, OH 43211-1030

RE: Harmony Hill Dairy House
299 South Third
Williamsburg, OH

Dear Amos:

I would like to add my support to your consideration to include the Harmony Hill Dairy House to the National Register of Historic Places.

Clermont County is undergoing rapid growth as more residents move out to our rural areas from Cincinnati. Olde Williamsburgh, Inc. and the Harmony Hill Association have been working tirelessly for years to preserve the rich history of our county.

Your favorable consideration of this nomination to the National Register of Historic Places will add significant support to their efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Niehaus".

Tom Niehaus
State Representative
72nd House District