

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 15 1982

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

George Stanford Farm

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

6093 Stanford Road

CITY, TOWN

Peninsula vil.
Boston Township

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF Peninsula

22

STATE

Ohio

CODE
039

COUNTY
Summit

CODE
153

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT
 BUILDING(S)
 STRUCTURE
 SITE
 OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC
 PRIVATE
 BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
 IN PROCESS
 BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED
 UNOCCUPIED
 WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
 YES: RESTRICTED
 YES: UNRESTRICTED
 NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE
 COMMERCIAL
 EDUCATIONAL
 ENTERTAINMENT
 GOVERNMENT
 INDUSTRIAL
 MILITARY
 MUSEUM
 PARK
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE
 RELIGIOUS
 SCIENTIFIC
 TRANSPORTATION
 OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (if applicable) U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service, Midwest Region

STREET & NUMBER

1709 Jackson Street

CITY, TOWN

Omaha

VICINITY OF

STATE

Nebraska 68102

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Summit County Building Annex

STREET & NUMBER

72 South High Street

CITY, TOWN

Akron

STATE

Ohio

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Ohio Historic Inventory

DATE

5/80

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Ohio Historic Preservation Office, Ohio Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Columbus

STATE
Ohio

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The George Stanford Farm is located on a rural section of Stanford Road, just north of the small village of Boston. It enjoys a commanding view to the west of the Cuyahoga River and the adjacent Ohio and Erie Canal (see Illustration Nos. 1 and 2). The farm currently consists of a house, a barn, and several outbuildings, all included in the List of Classified Structures (LCS) for the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area as National Park Service Management Category B (Should Be Preserved) historic structures.

The George Stanford House (HS-442) is a substantial, two story structure in the Greek Revival style. The rectangular main block (see Illustration No. 3) is five bays long by three bays wide, and features a central entrance, clapboard siding with cornerboards, box cornice, and a low-pitched gable roof with gable returns. There are two chimneys, symmetrically situated at third points along the main north-south roof ridge.

The main entryway (see Illustration No. 4) features a one-bay entrance porch supported by chamfered, square columns on pedestals. The porch features a three-part entablature with modillions and a triangular pediment. The broad, slightly recessed central entrance is flanked by two full width, chamfered pilasters. Two half-width chamfered pilasters frame sidelights (now boarded up) and carry a shallow, three-part entablature, above which is a seven-light fixed transom. The historic six-over-six shuttered windows survive. Nonhistoric metal awnings cover most of the windows on the west, south, and east elevations.

The main block of the structure has a central hall plan with a formal single-run stair connecting the lower and upper stairhalls. Opposite the main entry is a doorway leading to the south (i.e., side) L-shaped porch. To the north of this hallway is a single, large parlor, including a marble fireplace with an Eastlake-style mantelpiece. To the south of this hallway is a smaller parlor with an anteroom recently converted to a full bathroom. The south parlor includes a large ornamental plaster ceiling medallion. The original fireplace in this room has been removed.

An asymmetrically-situated, one and one-half story ell projects from the east (i.e., rear) elevation of the main block (see Illustration No. 5). The whole is of braced frame construction and rests on an ashlar stone foundation. There is a basement, full except for an apparently-unexcavated (perhaps back-filled) 12- by 14-foot section under the north half of the ell kitchen. The basement has both an exterior and an interior access. The exterior access is located at the approximate midpoint of the north elevation. Interior load-bearing basement walls are brick.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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 c. 1830

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The George Stanford House is significant for its long association with a prominent Boston Township family. James Stanford, who settled the property in 1806, was a member of the party that surveyed the township and reputedly suggested its name. His son, George Stanford, and grandson, George C. Stanford, both served for many years in various township offices. Architecturally, the house is a fine example of the Greek Revival style. Its associated outbuildings and rural environment illustrate Boston Township's agricultural heritage and preserve intact a fine nineteenth-century farm in the Cuyahoga Valley.

History

George Stanford (1800-1883) was born in Beaver County, Pennsylvania, to James and Polly (Johnston) Stanford. James had emigrated from Ireland in 1795; Polly was a native of Pennsylvania. About 1802, the family moved to Ohio and settled in Warren (Trumbull County). Several years later, James Stanford joined a surveying party to locate and survey Boston Township in Summit County. He moved there with his family in March 1806, "taking 169 acres upon the west bank of the Cuyahoga River, near Boston. Here they resided for the remainder of their lives."¹ According to one account, it was James Stanford who suggested the name of Boston Township, "and its acceptance happily ended a disputed question."²

Polly Stanford died in 1814, James in 1827. Their son, George, continued on the family farm, and it was probably he who built the large Greek Revival farmhouse, perhaps upon his marriage to Catherine Carter in 1828. The style of the house suggests that it was built

¹William Henry Perrin, ed., History of Summit County (Chicago: Baskin & Battey, Historical Publishers, 1881), pp. 902-903. Perrin is in error; the Stanford Farm is located on the east bank of the Cuyahoga River.

²William B. Doyle, ed. and comp., Centennial History of Summit County, Ohio, and Representative Citizens (Chicago: Biographical Publishing Company, 1908), p. 854.

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The first level of the ell includes a large dining room connecting the north parlor of the main block to the kitchen at the west (i.e., rear) of the structure via an intermediate small pantry and basement stairhall. An exterior covered porch extends the full length of the south elevation of the dining room, connecting the front stairhall of the main block to the rear kitchen.

The second level of the main block contains four bedrooms and a storage room, all opening off the front stairhall. The ell contains a large bedroom (above the dining room and overhanging the south dining room porch below) which connects the front stairhall of the main block to the rear stairhall of the ell. Two storage rooms and an unfinished space over the kitchen all open off the rear stairhall which connects the second level of the ell to the kitchen below. An exterior door opens from the unfinished attic space to the roof of the east, nonhistoric kitchen porch.

The main block of the house has a full attic. The ell has a partial attic.

The house, as it presently exists, is essentially the same as it was in 1874 (see Illustration No. 10). Exterior changes include the glazing of the south porch, the replacment of the east kitchen porch, and the recent addition of metal awnings.

The house is the central structure of the surviving farmstead. Other extant structures on the site include a Springhouse, HS-442A (see Illustration No. 6); a Garage, HS-442B, not as old as the house; a large Barn, HS-443 (see Illustration No. 7), also of more recent vintage than the house; a Corn Crib, HS-444 (see Illustration No. 8); a brick Smoke House, HS-445 (see Illustration No. 9); and a more recent, glazed tile Chicken Coop, HS-446. A nonhistoric (circa 1930-40) Caretaker's Cottage is located across the creek, approximately 150 feet north of the house.

Apparent in the 1874 depiction of the site (see Illustration No. 10) is a stable, no longer extant, that was located east of the house at the approximate location of the existing Barn (HS-443). Historic fencing, gates, walks, drives, and landscaping, evident in the 1874 illustration, have been succeeded by more recent features.

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George Stanford House, Boston Township, Ohio

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about 1830.

George Stanford served in various township offices, including that of Justice of the Peace for six years. One history remembers him as a "model farmer, sterling citizen and a consistent member of the Methodist church."³ George and Catherine Stanford and the family home are depicted in the 1874 Summit County atlas.⁴ They had eight children, although only George C., born in 1839, survived past the age of twenty. Catherine died in 1872. George C. Stanford assumed the family farm upon his father's death in 1883.

Like his father, George C. Stanford resided on the family farm for his entire life. He cultivated about one hundred acres-- "devoted principally to wheat and hay"--and kept cattle. In 1908, he reportedly kept "ten or twelve cows . . . and a flock of sixty-five sheep."⁵ George C. Stanford served as justice of the peace, township assessor and, from 1875 to 1885, Boston postmaster. He married Eliza Wetmore in 1869, and they had three children: Ellen, Perkins W., and Clayton J.

Subsequent occupants of the Stanford House have included the Dickinson, Hatch, and Clark families. Several years ago, the property was purchased by the National Park Service from Roy H. Clark. It is now part of the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area. Both the house and outbuildings currently stand vacant.

³Samuel A. Lane, Fifty Years and Over of Akron and Summit County (Akron, O.: Beacon Job Department, 1892), p. 655.

⁴Combination Atlas Map of Summit County (Philadelphia: Tackabury, Mead & Moffett, 1874), pp. 98-99.

⁵Doyle, Centennial History of Summit County, p. 854.

Item Number 9 -- continued

Perrin, William Henry, ed. History of Summit County. Chicago: Baskin & Battey, Historical Publishers, 1881.

Illustration 2 GEORGE STANFORD FARM

Site Map (sketch, not to scale)
George Stanford Farm complex
Boston Township, Ohio

