United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Cranz, William and Eugene Farm

other name/site number: NPS Tract #120-55; List of Classified Structures HS-337-342

2. Location

street & number: 2401 Ira Road

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: public-Federal

Category of Property: district

Number of Resources within Property:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contributing</th>
<th>Noncontributing</th>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
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<td>9</td>
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Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Agricultural Resources of the Cuyahoga Valley
4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. ___ See continuation sheet.

Barbara Powers
Signature of certifying official
Ohio Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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): _______________

Signature of Keeper
Date of Action
6. Function or Use

Historic: Domestic: ______ Sub: single dwelling__________
Agriculture/Subsistence____ processing______________
storage__________
Current: Domestic: ______ Sub: single dwelling__________
Agriculture/Subsistence____ processing______________
Funerary__________
cemetery__________

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Late 19th Early 20th
Century American ___
Movements__________

Other Description: Bungalow/Craftsman________

Materials: foundation Sandstone_ roof Asphalt____
walls Weatherboard other concrete__
wood shingle

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

8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: A,B,and C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A____

Areas of Significance: Agriculture______________
Architecture____________________
_____________________________
_____________________________

Period(s) of Significance: 1860-1930 ______

Significant Dates : 1864, 1885, c.1930 ____

Significant Person(s): Cranz, Eugene ________

_________________________________________
Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: _ Unknown_

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

9. Major Bibliographical References
_X_ See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

_ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
_ previously listed in the National Register
_ previously determined eligible by the National Register
_ designated a National Historic Landmark
_ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # ______
_ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # ______

Primary Location of Additional Data:

_ State historic preservation office
_x Federal agency
_ Local government
_ University
_ Other -- Specify Repository: Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 41.3____

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A 17 450530 4559740 B 17 450470 4559280
C 17 450200 4559400 D 17 450140 4559710

_X_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: _X_ See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: _ See continuation sheet.
The boundary of the nominated property delineate those resource that have historic association and retain historic integrity.
Name/Title: Jeff Winstel, Historian/ original, Melinda A. Campbell/Historian
Organization: NPS/ Cuyahoga Valley NRA Date: 8/87, 5/92
Street & Number: 16510 Vaughn Road Telephone: 216/526-5256
City or Town: Brecksville State: OH ZIP: 44141
Cranz, William and Eugene Farm  
Peninsula, Ohio  
Summit County

The William and Eugene Cranz Farm is located on Ira Road in Bath Township, Ohio. The land, consisting primarily of mowed fields, surrounds the farm buildings, which are set along the road and face west. To the north lies the Ira cemetery, where several generations of Cranz and Hammond families are buried. The land is bounded on the east by a fence, (located outside boundary) and wooded hillside just beyond. The southern and western boundaries are wooded areas. The lands comprising the tract are generally open fields and farmland rising to gently rolling hills.

Contributing resources within the Hammond-Cranz Farm include seven buildings: the farmhouse, two barns, a chicken house, a smokehouses, a cider house, and a carriage house. Two sites, the Ira Cemetery and the open fields, also contribute to the historic significance. There is one non-contributing building: a two-stall stable.

The Cranz house, constructed in 1833\(^1\), was an example of a Four-over-Four building type. A few features associated with this vernacular house type remain intact. The ground plan of the core is a massed rectangle. The core, two stories in height, possesses a side-gabled roof and the orientation of the facade is parallel to the axis of the roof. The paired chimney stacks, situated astride the ridge of the roof, are in keeping with the symmetrical, balanced design of this Four-over-Four house.

The structure's facade was altered in the early twentieth century. A one-story entry porch was added that extends across the middle third of the facade. The centered gabled-roof with pediment is supported by hollow timber columns and a brick foundation.

This porch replaced the former full-length, hip roof porch with chamfered posts and scrolled brackets. Another alteration to the house was the replacement of the windows. The former 6/6 single windows were replaced by paired windows, except the central windows which became a horizontal band of three smaller windows. The fenestration pattern changed from five bays to three bays. Small paired windows were also added under the side gable apexes.
Cranz, William and Eugene Farm
Peninsula, Ohio
Summit County

A one story wing is located to the rear of the core. This wing features a gabled-roof, oriented perpendicularly to the core, and a centrally located chimney. The porch that extends the full length of the south elevation was originally supported by the same type of posts that supported the original front porch. Now, a concrete floor and brick masonry piers support the extended roof. A second smaller entry porch, located on the north elevation, features a dropped roof, a concrete floor, and one brick masonry pier.

The house is further extended to the east by the addition of a one story garage. This modern addition is constructed on a cinder block foundation.

This wood frame residence has a full basement beneath the core and the south wing. The basement contains many of its original hand-hewn timbers and the sandstone foundation. The front portion of the house has clapboard siding, while the rear has tongue-and-groove siding. The three gabled-roofs are sheathed with modern shingles. The house’s thirty-five windows vary in style; four-over-four pane and six-over-six pane predominate.

According to a 1983 interview with Suzanne Cranz Wyatt, a niece of former owner Eugene Cranz, the interior of the house has been changed from a one-family residence to a two-family home several times over the years. Most of the alterations that have been made to the house do not change the structure’s overall character.

Southeast of the house are two raised bank barns. One of these structures is a sub-type of raised bank barn called the Schweitzer Forebay Barn. The Forebay barn is closest to the house, measures sixty-four by thirty-two feet and has a gable roof. The first floor and foundation are constructed of sandstone on one side, and concrete blocks on the other three. The second floor is constructed of wood. The roof is covered with corrugated metal, and the barn’s wood frame is covered with vertical plank siding painted red with white trim. A central double door and adjacent single door with pediment surround are located on the forebay elevation. Single doors flank another central double in the recessed, lower level of the elevation.
Cranz, William and Eugene Farm
Peninsula, Ohio
Summit County

A smaller two-story barn located on the property is similar in construction and design to the large barn. Although it lacks the forebay, it too has an earthen ramp leading to the central threshing area. The upper level openings of this structure are louvered vents, while the lower level openings are glazed. Most likely, both barns were built after William F. Cranz acquired the farm in 1863. Tax records indicate that one of the barns was built in 1885. This was probably the larger barn, since an 1874 drawing of the farm reveals the existence of a barn closely resembling the smaller barn.

Between the house and the barn is a wood frame carriage house built circa 1860, with an addition dating from circa 1910. The original portion has a side-gabled slate roof featuring a centered gable. There are three sets of double doors on this side of the structure. The 1910 addition wraps around the south and east sides. It has a shed roof covered with asphalt shingles and includes a garage. The foundation of the entire structure is of rubble concrete and sandstone and the siding is tongue-and-groove. The building contains two brick chimneys and a fireplace or blacksmith’s hearth. Door and window styles vary; most of the windows are double-hung sash.

The chicken house, to the east of the carriage house, is a one-story structure with a concrete slab floor. It has a saltbox roof covered with green asphalt shingles. The building is of wood frame construction and has tongue-and-groove siding painted white. The foundation is concrete sill. The structure has two wooden doors and two, two-over-two pane, double-hung sash windows.

The cider house is a one-and-one-half story structure with a gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. White, horizontal tongue and groove siding covers the wood frame construction. A pent roof extends out from one of the gable elevations, covering a large opening in the wall. The foundation is log on concrete sill. This building measures approximately eighteen and one-half feet by twenty-eight and one-half feet. It was built circa 1910.
Cranz, William and Eugene Farm
Peninsula, Ohio
Summit County

The final contributing building on the Hammond farm is a smokehouse which was built circa 1910. It measures approximately seven by nine and one-half feet. Like other buildings on the property, it has a gable roof with asphalt shingles, and wood frame walls covered with white clapboard siding. The floor is dirt and the foundation is brick masonry.

Farther northeast on the Hammond property is a two-stall stable. Due to its recent construction, it is not considered to be a contributing element of the historic cultural landscape. It does, however, help to complete the agrarian scene, so it is not a visually detracting feature. It has a side-gabled roof which is continuous over a porch. The porch is supported by plain, square, columns. The building is covered with vertical, tongue-and-groove siding.

North of the farmhouse is the historic Ira Cemetery, which dates to the deaths of the Valley's first settlers. It is planted with grass, and is encompassed by a semi-circular gravel drive.

While the accompanying photographs were taken in June of 1987, or March of 1990, recent site inspection by park staff has confirmed that the pictures represent the current condition of the property.

Endnotes
1. See Item 8, Significance.
6. Ibid.
7. Ibid.
Cranz, William and Eugene Farm  
Peninsula, Ohio  
Summit County 

The William Cranz farm is significant under Criterion A for its significance in the agricultural development of Cuyahoga Valley, Criterion B for association with agricultural innovator, Eugene F. Cranz, and Criterion C for architectural significance. The nominated property is consistent with the description and significance statement for Associated Property Type: Farmstead, of the Agricultural Resources of Cuyahoga Valley MPD, and meets the registration requirements established for this property type.

The Ira Cemetery is part of the historic landscape associated with the farm and is being submitted as a contributing site in this agricultural district. It is property which has been historically connected with the nominated farmlands, and is the burial place for generations of the farm's owners, dating to Jason and Lewis Hammond and their families, the township's original settlers. The Cranz's, later owners of the farm, are buried there as well.\(^1\) Criteria Consideration D is not being applied because the cemetery is not the focal point of the district.

**Historic Development**

Lewis Hammond came to the valley in 1810 with his parents, Jason and Sophronia Hammond. He was sixteen. His family, along with the Hale family who came with them from Connecticut, were the first landowning settlers in the township, and among the first in the Cuyahoga Valley. Although the township was originally named Wheatfield by the land surveyor, it was changed upon the arrival of its first settlers to Hammond's borough, which it remained until 1818.\(^2\) The Hammond family's landholdings were extensive. Jason Hammond, Lewis' father, purchased 1100 acres in 1810 from Thomas Bull, an investor in the Connecticut Land Company.

According to 1811 tax records, the Hammonds' owned a three-and-a-half by one-half mile strip of land encompassing all of Lots 24 through 30, plus fifty acres in Lot 14, in what was to become Bath Township.\(^3\)

By 1826, Jason had divided most of his land between his brother Calvin and his sons Horatio and Theodore. His other son, Lewis, apparently remained on his father's estate, since his name does not appear on the tax records as a landowner until 1834, when Jason's name disappears. (He died in 1830.)
Cranz, William and Eugene Farm
Peninsula, Ohio
Summit County

Lewis' holdings included the east side of Lot 28, all of Lots 29 and 30, and the southwest corner of Lot 11.4

According to county tax records, Lewis built a house on these nominated lands in 1833 or 1834. However, evidence for this date conflicts with all available secondary sources, which say that Jason Hammond built the rear wing of the house on Lot 30 between 1817 and 1824, and that Lewis completed the main front portion between 1836 and 1838.5 Although the secondary evidence should not be ignored, no house is listed in the tax records until 1834, so it is difficult to assign an earlier construction date than 1833 or 1834. Furthermore, earlier tax records indicate that Jason Hammond may have had a house on Lot 14.6 This may have served as the family's residence until the completion of the house on Ira Road.

Lewis Hammond's greatest contribution to his community was the introduction of Shorthorn cattle and Merino sheep to the area.7 His innovations show a farsightedness which was rare among farmers of the period. Over the course of his lifetime, he owned a sawmill, a flour mill, and a woolen mill.8 These were essential to the developing community, for they provided local farmers with a means of preparing their agricultural products for both market and home use. Along with his brother Horatio and the co-founder of the township, Jonathan Hale, Lewis was also one of the first directors of the first local public school.9

Lewis Hammond died in 1849 of lung disease. His wife followed him a few months later, leaving their eight children orphaned.10 Hammond's heirs maintained control over the property between 1849 and 1864, and sold several large portions of acreage. In 1855, they sold 137.78 acres of Lot 29 to John Bennage, who purchased the remainder of the lot and 23 acres of Lot 28 four years later. In 1862, Henry W. Howe bought 17 acres from Lot 30.11

In 1864, the farm received a new owner, William F. Cranz. Cranz had immigrated with his family from Germany when he was fourteen years old, and settled in Winesburg, Ohio, a German settlement. His father, like William, was a dairy farmer. When William came of age, he set up a saddlery business in Mount Hope, Ohio, was a merchant in Bakersville, and later "took to farming at Freiburg" near his home town.12
Cranz, William and Eugene Farm  
Peninsula, Ohio  
Summit County

In 1864, Cranz and his wife Mary purchased what was left of Lewis Hammond’s land—the house, and 123.34 acres of Lot 30. The Cranz family continued to farm the land for more than sixty years.

William built a bank barn on the property in 1885. This is probably the larger of two barns remaining on the property today. In 1895 William Cranz transferred 9.49 acres in the northwest corner of Lot 30 and 0.51 acres of Lot 29 to his daughter, Kate Cranz. The remaining lands, the house, and the agricultural buildings, he bequeathed to his son, Eugene F. Cranz, who inherited upon his father’s death in 1898.\textsuperscript{11}

Eugene was a model of the successful and innovative nineteenth century farmer. Like many of farming’s new breed, he attended college (Ohio State University) to prepare himself for his agricultural career. When he began farming, he was active in community and statewide agricultural organizations, and once served as the Secretary of the Ohio State Grange.\textsuperscript{14}

Eugene, along with two of his sons, continued to successfully tilling the land well into the twentieth century.\textsuperscript{20} Subsequent to Cranz’s death in 1951, the farm was divided into many small homesites consisting of twelve separate land parcels, including the original farmstead. In 1976, the remaining 9.76 acre parcel was purchased by the National Park Service.\textsuperscript{21}

**Criterion A**

The nominated farm has historic association with the Cranz tenure, from 1864 to 1934, covering both the Railroads, Industrialization and Scientific Farming era, (1851-1913), and the Agricultural Decline and Economic Diversification period, (1913-1930). The farm does not retain any extant structures that appear to have association with the Hammond family, except the house, which was remodeled into a 1920s Craftsman structure.
Cranz, William and Eugene Farm  
Peninsula, Ohio  
Summit County

The U.S. Census Products of Agriculture for Bath Township in 1850 shows that the Hammond Farm was primarily concerned with raising sheep. Considering that Lewis Hammond introduced Merino sheep to the valley, it is not surprising that he is listed as owning 128 sheep, and only one milk cow. The 1870 census indicates that the Cranz farm was much more of a dairy operation. Edward Cranz owned 12 milk cows, and only 33 sheep. Farm products from that year include 340 pounds of wool, 500 pounds of butter, and 4422 pounds of cheese. The large amount of cheese produced on the farm is rare for 1870, considering that cheese factories had been in existence in the area since the mid-century.

The prosperity of the Cranz farm assured its continuation through the early 20th century. While many farms in the valley were abandoned, the Cranz farm continued operations. The conservation practices of Eugene Cranz represent the type of diversification of valley farms that was occurring during this period. The MPD states that only the most prosperous farms survived this period. The alterations done to the farmhouse during the 1920s attest to the continued prosperity of the Cranz farm.

Criterion B

Eugene Cranz is significant for his agricultural related conservation efforts and horticultural experimentation. As stated previously, he was a member of several local and state agricultural organizations and at one time served as secretary of the state grange. His most significant contribution was in advocating conservation be done as a part of farming.

His efforts in this area began at least as early as the 1920s, and are mentioned in a 1931 family history. In 1985, more than thirty years after his death, he was inducted into the Ohio Conservation Hall of Fame. The citation, which was presented to his grandson Leroy Cranz, stated that he was instrumental in replacing the dying American chestnut tree with Chinese evergreens and active in the exchange of nut tree grafts. A variety of nut tree, the Cranz hickory, was named for him.
Cranz, William and Eugene Farm
Peninsula, Ohio
Summit County

Through the state and agricultural organizations, he was influential in spreading conservation practices throughout Ohio.¹⁶

Eugene was one of the first men in Ohio to become involved in the reforestation movement. He promoted fencing cattle to keep them out of wooded lots, as well as planting trees to replace those cut down when the land was first cleared. In November 1949, he saw his farm dedicated as Ohio Tree Farm Number 81.¹⁷

The 1985 citation further notes that:

Eugene Cranz’ efforts are significant not only because of his pioneering work in Ohio, but because of the long-term benefits they brought to the Cuyahoga Valley.¹⁸

In 1985, U. S. Representative John Sieberling, a resident of Bath township, described the Cranz farm:

His Pleasant Valley Farm became one of the most scenic spots in the valley, largely because of the magnificent stands of hardwood and evergreen trees that he personally planted and protected.¹⁹

Many of these trees are visible on the Cranz property today. The evergreen trees which surround the house, as well as many of the trees covering the hill which rises to the east of the property, were planted by Eugene. The Cranz farm is the primary site associated with Eugene’s productive life, representing his residence and workplace.
The Cranz farm contains several buildings identified in the "Farmstead" associated property type of the MPD. The farmstead itself reads as a functionally related group of buildings. The house contains architectural features associated with vernacular interpretations of Prairie style architecture. The windows are paired or grouped, providing a horizontal emphasis. The front porch has a low pitch and is supported in the front by two massive columns, and two massive squared pilasters. Large round columns such as these were frequently found in Craftsman pattern books, but are somewhat rare in the built environment.\textsuperscript{20}

The Sweitzer barn type is considered a German barn, reflecting the Cranz’s ethnic association. This two and one-half story, gable roofed type is characterized by the forebay extension over the ground floor livestock area. Typically, the forebay extension elevation contains threshing doors, which create air drafts that assist with the winnowing process. The threshing doors also indicate that the central bay, accessed from the earthen ramp on the opposite side, was used for threshing.

The other barn does not have the Sweitzer forebay, but is similar in scale, roof profile, and materials. Although this barn also contains an earthen ramp leading to the central bay, this barn is also banked into the hillside. Banking barns into a hillside helped conserve heat in the winter and cool the lower level, which was where the livestock were housed, during the summer.

Many of the outbuildings on the Cranz Farm display architectural features that easily associate the building with their historic function. The carriage house contains the side hay door, large hinged double doors, and two brick chimneys and a blacksmith’s hearth. The chicken house’s tallest elevation contains windows and has a southern orientation, which is characteristic of this building type. Features of the Cranz Farm smokehouse common to the type include the raised masonry foundation, lack of windows, and the small hooded air vent in the gable apex.
Although the cider house does not exhibit any features that would easily associate it with its historic function, like the other outbuildings, it is constructed of inexpensive materials that reflect the buildings’ utilitarian purposes. The horizontal tongue and groove siding, like the drop siding on the chicken house, were mass-milled construction materials that were readily available during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The fields and the cemetery are integral parts of this historic agricultural district. The fields associated with the Cranz Farm are the well-drained upland type of fields preferred by valley farmers during the context period. The location of the cemetery on a knoll is typical of small rural cemeteries, due to concerns for drainage. Typically, small rural cemeteries, like the Ira Road Cemetery, were dominated by prominent nearby farm families, such as the Hammonds and the Cranz family, and were located adjacent to these farms. Geographers consider such small rural cemeteries as reflections of the historic rural social unit.21

Integrity

The Cranz farm retains integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association to the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. A garage addition has been constructed on the house and a small stable has been added to the farmstead, but the house, the barns, the open fields, and the remaining outbuildings all contribute to the turn-of-the-century agrarian setting, feeling, and association.

The period of significance was determined by the construction date of the earliest intact outbuilding, the carriage house. Although the house was built in 1833, the 20th century alteration prevents its construction date from being considered the start of the period of significance. Because only one building on the farm, the carriage house, survives from the period of the Hammond tenure, (and only by 2-3 years) the existing farm is not considered to have sufficient association with the Hammonds to include the majority of their years of occupancy in the period of significance.
Cranz, William and Eugene Farm
Peninsula, Ohio
Summit County

Endnotes


3. Horton, p. 29; Medina County, Tax Auditor’s Records, 1826.


8. Ibid., p. 384. These were not located on the presently nominated lands.

9. Ibid., p. 386.

10. Ibid., p. 385; *The Summit Beacon*, 4 April 1849, 20 June 1849.

Cranz, William and Eugene Farm
Peninsula, Ohio
Summit County


15. Johnson, p. 36.


18. Ibid.


Section 9: Major Bibliographical References


Medina County Tax Auditor’s Records, 1825-1839. (From 1810 to 1825 Bath Township was a part of Trumbull County. In 1890 the courthouse burned, destroying the records from this period.)

Murphey, Fran. "Valley’s Tree Lover Honored by State." Akron Beacon Journal, August 2, 1985, p. D2

Section number 9  Cranz, William and Eugene Farm  Page 15

Cranz, William and Eugene Farm
Peninsula, Ohio
Summit County

Ohio Historic Inventory forms. Prepared by Carol Poh Miller, May 1976.

The Summit Beacon, 4 April 1849, 20 June 1849.

Summit County Tax Auditor’s Records, 1840-1913.


Section 10: Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at a point formed by the intersection of Ira Road and the northern edge of the Ira Cemetery driveway, proceed easterly along a line parallel to the north side of the Ira Cemetery driveway a distance of 720 feet; thence southeasterly along tree line a distance of 530 feet; thence southwesterly a total distance of 290 feet. At this point proceed northwesterly a distance of 160 feet; thence westerly a distance of 120 feet. From this point, proceed southerly along fence line, crossing Ira Road to the first visible clump of trees near the stream, a distance of 600 feet; thence southwesterly along stream to tree line a combined distance of 610 feet; thence northerly along tree line a distance of 930 feet to a point where tree line meets Ira Road; thence easterly along the southern edge of Ira Road 610 feet to the western edge of the Ira Cemetery. From this point, proceed northerly 85 feet to the point of beginning.
National Register of Historic Places File Checklist

The following materials are contained in this file of the National Register form for:

Name: **Cranz, William & Eugene, Farm**
County: **Summit**

MPD Cover Form: **Agricultural Resources of the Cuyahoga Valley MPS**
County Filed In: **Summit**

- [ ] Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form
- [ ] Ohio Historic Inventory form
- [ ] Photograph(s)
- [x] Photograph(s) (copies)
- [ ] USGS map(s)
- [x] USGS map(s) (copies)
- [x] Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)
- [ ] Correspondence
- [ ] Other

__________________________
__________________________
__________________________

CES: 10/01