

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0682667

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RECEIVED	AUG 22 1978
DATE ENTERED	DEC 1978

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

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Kixmiller's Store

AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Carlise and Indianapolis Streets.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Freelandville

VICINITY OF

8th

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Indiana

CODE

018

COUNTY

Knox

CODE

083

**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:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

W.R. Kixmiller

STREET & NUMBER

62-70 Indianapolis Street

CITY, TOWN

Freelandville

VICINITY OF

STATE  
Indiana 47535

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorders Office-Knox County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Seventh Street

CITY, TOWN

Vincennes

STATE  
Indiana 47591

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

## CHECK ONE

## CHECK ONE

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Kixmiller's Store is a block long structure of four stores, measuring 140x108x135 feet. The two story building has 12 inch thick brick walls and a first floor store front of wood painted white with cast iron supports. The corner unit (at the intersection of Carlisle and Indianapolis Streets) has a center entrance with rectangular transom, sidelights, and two flanking display windows. The second story red brick facade is punctuated by three windows (two over two lights) with cast iron elliptical-arched caps. The first section is the dry goods portion of the establishment.

Although documentation is lacking, the first and second units were constructed about 1866. The second unit, known as the shoe room, is recessed from the dry goods section and has a double recessed entrance with a center projecting display window. The three second level windows of this portion have horizontal stone caps.

The third and fourth sections (the grocery and office) were added to the original structure about 1878. The third and fourth parts are flush with the shoe store facade and have two recessed entrances which are separated by five windows. There are also single windows which are to the outside of the entrances. Six segmental-arched windows without caps extend across the upper story.

The side along Indianapolis Street (northwest side) has five square headed windows with two over two lights at the second story. This first floor has a door toward the rear of the building with a rectangular transom and sidelights. To one side of the entrance is a two over two window; to the other side are three small diamond-shaped windows. The front of the structure originally had an overhang supported by iron posts to which horses were hitched; the overhang has been removed sometime in the twentieth century.

The dry goods section is in its original condition except for a lowered ceiling and two exterior doors which were remodeled in 1968. The original counters and show-cases are still in use. Original furniture includes the office desk; file cabinet; cone twine holders; safe; and ribbon, spool, umbrella, hat and candy cases. The shoe room has remained unchanged and contains original ladders on rollers, shoe bench and shoe stool. A room (the brick room) behind the shoe room is used for storage and candling eggs. The grocery section has had its ceiling lowered. A concrete floor and new front door were added in 1965. A large hand-pull elevator is in one corner of this section. The final portion is also largely in its original condition for use as an office. The second story is largely unused. Above the dry goods area is a wool rug rack mounted on the wall. Originally the upper level was used by traveling salesmen to store their goods while visiting in the town.

# 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input 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. 1866, c. 1878

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Kixmiller's Store has been a factor in the commercial life of the Town of Freelandville for about 130 years. Although existing under different names, a store has been operated by the same family at the same location since 1846. The first structure on the site was a weather-boarded log building erected in 1846 by John Ritterskamp. Ritterskamp was born in 1819 in Prussia and migrated to America, eventually settling on a farm in the area that became Freelandville.

The year 1866 was eventful for the small community. In that year Ritterskamp laid out the original lots of the town, using the corner of his store as the beginning point. He also constructed a brick building to replace the log store which had burned. Ritterskamp's store served the town and surrounding farming community. The venture was of sufficient success to allow expansion of the structure about 1878 when a local bricklayer added two sections.

Ritterskamp also built a grist mill in partnership with a Mr. Baker about 1864. The mill evolved into the Freelandville Milling Company.

Among Ritterskamp's four children was a daughter, Louise born in 1857; she married Simon Henry Kixmiller (born 1860). Kixmiller had worked in the store as a boy and in 1890 became its legal owner along with his wife. He also became president of the Freelandville Milling Company and was director of the People Savings and Loan Building Association. Kixmiller's son was William Rhinehard (born 1892) who inherited the store in 1943 after having worked there since 1908. William R. Kixmiller still owns and operates the establishment.

Kixmiller's Store is significant as an example of nineteenth century commercial architecture which suggests some Italianate influence in the elliptical and segmental arched windows on the second story. In contrast to the usual fate suffered by nineteenth century commercial structures, Kixmiller's Store is better preserved on the interior than the exterior. The original furnishings have survived because ownership of the structure has remained in the same family since its beginnings.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

History of Knox and Daviess Counties, Indiana. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1886.

Greene, George E. History of Old Vincennes and Knox County, Indiana. 2 vols.; Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1911

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Bicknell

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,6 4,7,3,5,2,0 4,3,0,1,6,2,0  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mary Sakal (daughter of present owner)

ORGANIZATION

DATE

July 27, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 101

TELEPHONE

(219) 987-3932

CITY OR TOWN

DeMotte

STATE

Indiana 46310

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Joseph H. Cloud*

TITLE Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 8-11-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

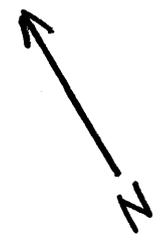
DATE 12-8-78

ATTEST:

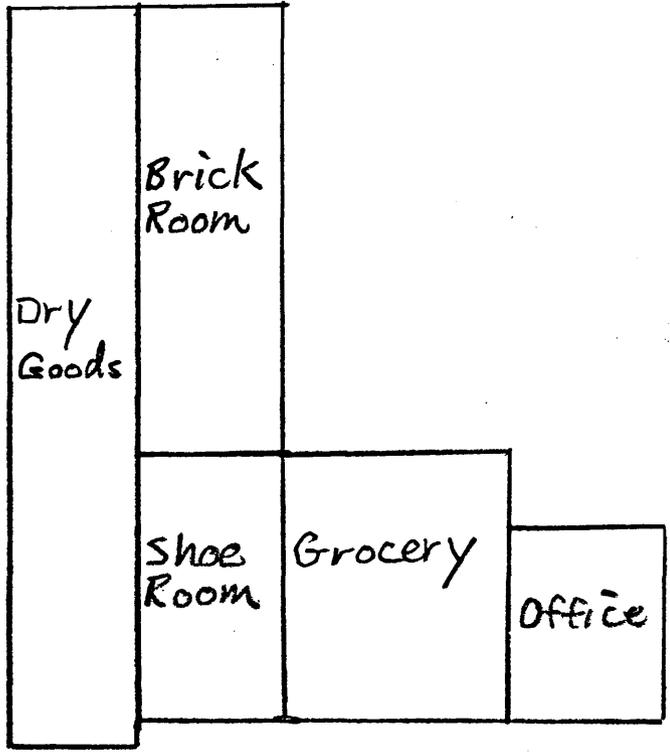
*Charles H. Stewart*  
*Gayle S. Franklin*

DATE 12/8/78

Kixmiller's Store  
Freelandville, Indiana



Indianapolis Street



Carlisle Street

Not to scale