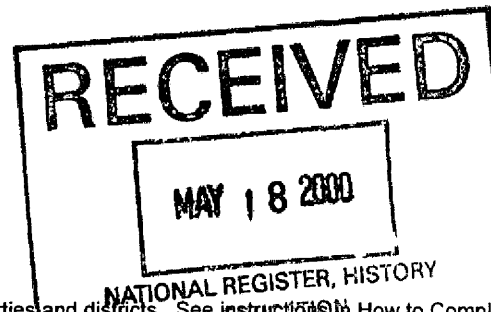


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



677

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions on 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 an 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 King-Dennis Farm  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_ 177-536-1355

2. Location

street & number 2939 King Road N/A  not for publication  
city or town Centerville  vicinity  
state Indiana code IN county Wayne code 177 zip code 47330

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date 5/4/00

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 certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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 the Keeper

Elson H. Beall

Date of Action

6-15-00

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

- private, public-local, public-State, public-Federal

- building, district, site, structure, object

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows: buildings (7, 2), sites (0, 0), structures (3, 0), objects (0, 0), Total (10, 2)

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling, DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure, AGRICULTURE/SUBSIST Storage, AGRICULTURE/SUBSIST Agricultural Outbuilding

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling, DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure, AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTE Storage, AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTE Agricultural Outbuilding

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: I-House (traditional), OTHER: English Barn

foundation BRICK, walls BRICK, roof ASPHALT, other WOOD: Weatherboard, METAL: Tin

Narrative Description

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

**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 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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1840-1950

**Significant Dates**

1840

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographic 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:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

King-Dennis Farm  
Name of Property

Wayne IN  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property appx. 3.6 acres

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

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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 By

name/title John Warner  
organization Weintraut & Associates, Hist., Inc. date 9/30/99  
street & number 800 Sugarbush Ridge telephone 317-283-5450  
city or town Zionsville state IN zip code 46077

### 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 SHPO or FPO.)

name William C. and Ellen Dennis  
street & number 610 W. Main St. telephone 317-842-0880 (business)  
city or town Richmond state IN zip code 47374

**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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**Section 7 Description**

The King/Dennis Farm is situated north of the city of Centerville, Wayne County, Indiana. Approximately 3.6 acres of the 180-acre farm are included in this nomination. Situated on these 3.6 acres are the following contributing resources: seven buildings, one silo, and two corn cribs. The remainder of the original acreage is cultivated under lease but is still owned by the Dennis family. The buildings, all original to the farm, are: a large two-story, brick I-house residence; a summer kitchen; a poultry house; a small barn; a livestock barn; a milk house; and an equipment barn. A large metal hay storage barn situated in the southeastern corner of the nominated property and the frame storage shed on the north side of the driveway are non-contributing. With the exception of the summer kitchen, all the contributing buildings are in good to fair condition. A site plan is attached.

The boundaries of the nominated property nearly form a triangle with the base to the east and the apex to the west and the sides to the north and south. The apex is located adjacent to King Road where it crosses a small bridge over Noland's Fork. The driveway off King Road leads into the farmstead in a generally east-west direction. The residence, on the south side of the driveway, is the first building encountered; the driveway continues east into the center of the collection of agricultural buildings. Noland's Fork, a stream that flows through the northwest quadrant of the full 180-acre parcel is north of the nominated property.

***Residence***

An original two-room wide, one-room deep I-house (1840) forms the nucleus of the residence with a more recent 1 1/2 story, wing addition on the north side.

**Exterior**

The two-story brick residence is sited with its gable ends generally east and west. The brick exterior walls are constructed using the Flemish-bond pattern of headers and stretchers in each row. The south or formal main façade has five ranks of double-hung, single-glazed windows (photo 1) and a simple concrete stoop that provides access to the plain paneled wooden door. The brick foundation extends above grade to accommodate a band of windows that allow light into the dirt floored basement. The window openings have flat, soldiered brick lintels and no sills. The window frames are wood on all four sides and are pegged at the corners (photo 2). The doorframe and the lintel are constructed of simple wood members. A transom light extends across the top of the opening. A plain wood frieze board appears at the roof-wall junction. The

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moderately pitched roof is clad in diamond-shaped asphalt composition shingles. A single brick chimney rises above the roof on the west gable.

The west gable end (photo 3) contains a single rank of windows along its left edge, nearest to the added wing. Positioned in the gable peak are two fixed-frame windows that allow light into the unfinished attic space. The façade also includes basement windows.

The north façade has undergone the most significant changes. A 1 1/2-story wing was added at some time, circa 1890, (photos 4 and 5). The wing has brick exterior walls, a wood shingled gable end, and an enclosed porch at its northeast corner. The porch is enclosed with horizontal wood siding. On the east and west sides are small concrete stoops leading to single entry doors. The portion of the original I-house north façade has two full ranks of windows and basement windows above grade. The roof of the wing is sheathed in composition shingle. A large single door, original to the I-house residence, (photo 6- for interior view and photo 5 for exterior view), permits entry into the basement.

The east gable end is similar to the west gable in fenestration and construction.

Interior

As might be expected the interior of the original residence is relatively plain and lacking in decorative architectural detail. However, irrespective of the changes made to some of the interior and its poor condition, the house retains unquestioned integrity. From the simple, painted newel posts and balusters in the staircase between floors (photo 7) to the unadorned interior paneled doors (photo 8) and the painfully plain, probably locally produced, door casings (photo 9), a current visitor experiences a quick trip back in time. This impression is reinforced by the presence of some original door hardware (photo 10) and Greek Revival-inspired mantelpieces and modified fireboxes (photo 11). The quality of the mantelpieces indicates local craftsman accomplished the work. The shallow fireboxes, more to be expected in a late-Victorian period house, are more suited to the burning of coal rather than wood logs. The absence of an extensive hearth also indicates the likelihood the fireplaces were modified after original construction. Also of interest in photograph 11 are the built-in, full-height closets that flank the fireplace.

The interior of the wing addition includes a kitchen on the first floor and a living space directly above. The date of the construction is questionable but from an examination of the materials used and the construction of the windows and their hardware (photo 12) the time frame (1890s) is plausible. The living space is one long room with only an overhead electric light to add any sense of creature comfort. The

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walls and ceiling of the upstairs space are constructed of a generic wallboard material. Without the presence of two doors, a small brick chimney (no longer visible from the exterior), and the windows, the kitchen space is unremarkable

The basement and the attic of the original residence offer interesting aspects of use and construction. In the east end of the dirt-floored basement, is a large fireplace (photo 13) suitable for meeting the cooking needs of the earlier tenants. Unlike the other fireplaces in the house this one retains its original design. Photograph 14 shows a portion of one of the hand-hewn timbers visible in the basement that were used to support the floors above. The roof rafters (photos 15 and 16) meet in the peak of the roof and the angles are secured by the use of a through mortise and tenon joint fixed with a large single peg, driven at right angle, through the joint.

***Summer Kitchen***

The summer kitchen (photo 17), located just to the east of the residence is in deteriorated condition. Constructed of dimension lumber and in the typical form of a small building, approximately 9'X12' with a large front overhang, the kitchen was used to cook meals away from the main building when the summer heat made use of the basement facility untenable. Although in poor condition, the building, circa 1895, retains sufficient integrity to warrant stabilization and eventual restoration.

***Poultry House***

The poultry house (photo 18), circa 1910, is located northwest of the residence across the driveway. In good condition, the building retains its integrity. Constructed on a concrete foundation, the exterior walls are vertical board siding, and the shed roof is sheathed in corrugated metal sheets. The south facing side has five, fixed-frame windows in varying degrees of repair. The glazing is two over two. A large sliding door on the east end, constructed of the same wooden siding material, provides access to the interior.

***Small Barn***

The small barn (photo 19), built circa 1910, is located northeast of the residence on the south side of the driveway. The 1½ story building is situated on a concrete foundation. The exterior walls are vertical board siding. There are large, double-sliding doors in both ends of the barn, and a double-hung window, glazed six over six, is centered in each gable end above the doors. The steeply pitched roof is sheathed in corrugated metal sheets. A large metal shed extension is added to the south side of the building. The interior is relatively open; the stalls or other livestock feeding structures

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once integral to the building's use, have since been removed. However, the barn retains integrity sufficient to be contributing.

***Livestock Barn***

The livestock barn (photo 20) is the second oldest building on the property. Records are not available to accurately date the barn but from an examination of the hand-hewn, post- and- girt frame structural members, it was most likely built in the late 1860s or early 1870s. Now clad in metal siding and corrugated metal-sheet roofing and with shed additions attached to both ends, the livestock barn retains integrity irrespective of these changes to its original materials and shape. The building is situated on a concrete foundation that was likely added after the 1910s. A portion of the original foundation visible in the interior of the barn appears to have been formed by timber sills placed on native stone of various sizes. Framing members (photos 21 and 22) show marks of hand tools used to shape the logs of the original builders. Photograph 23 shows an example of a hand cut mortise and the peg hole arrangement used throughout the building to secure major construction joints.

***Milk House***

The milk house (photo 24) abuts the southeastern corner of the livestock barn. While the date of its construction is unclear, the building was likely built after the other outbuildings on the property, possibly in the mid-1920s. There is some documentary evidence that indicates a "milk barn" was constructed around this time. The first floor exterior walls are concrete block, and the upper portion is clad in vertical board siding. The low-pitched roof is covered with composition shingle.

***Equipment Barn***

The equipment barn (photo 25) was constructed about the same time as the small barn and the poultry shed. Clad with the same vertical board siding, this building is a 1story model of the small barn. With double doors in both gable ends of the building and fixed-sash windows, glazed two by three, the barn served for many years as a storage shelter for farm equipment. Loft doors are centered in the gable ends above each set of doors.

***Silo***

The silo (photo 26), circa 1950, is located near the northeast corner of the livestock barn for easy access. Used at one time to store fodder for farm animals, the silo no longer has the protective top that maintained the organic material in a dry and stable environment. Built of concrete on a concrete base and with a wooden, metal or



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ceramic domed top, the silo made it possible to feed animals, particularly cows throughout the entire winter.

***Corn Cribs***

The two corncribs (photo 27) are typical of structures found on a Hoosier farm in the early twentieth century. Corn cribs were often constructed of wood with slatted sides to promote air circulation; these cribs are not of that variety and are not as old as many of the other elements of the farm. Built circa 1950, both cribs are constructed of wire mesh containment walls and are covered to reduce the amount of moisture reaching the stored crop thereby reducing the loss to molds or rot. The southern most crib, on the left in the photograph, appears to be a farm-fabricated structure and the other one is a commercial product seen all over the state.

**Section 8 Statement of Significance**

Located in Center Township, near the junction of Noland's Fork and King Roads, the King/Dennis Farm is one of the earliest farms established in the township; it is significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture that embodies distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction. The period of greatest development for the county-at-large occurred during the early years of the nineteenth century and resulted in a predominance of Federal style houses in Centerville.

Labeled Federal style in a number of sources, possibly because of its lack of distinctive characteristics and its age, the residence is more accurately an example of the traditional I-house family quarters. The most recent survey of Center Township, Wayne County, conducted for the *Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory* rated the residence Outstanding, one of only seven with this rating in this style remaining in the township. Unlike the King/Dennis Farm residence, most of the 47 Federal residences in the township have been altered to an extent that only very minimal stylistic details remain. Although the north wing constitutes an alteration, the house possesses significant integrity in exterior visual and physical characteristics and in interior spatial configuration. As integral components of the farm, the residence and the livestock barn in particular demonstrate the vitality and distinctive characteristics of brick and timber frame construction, respectively, in imparting a sense of permanence.

The King/Dennis Farm possesses significant historical integrity. The farm's buildings and residence retain each of the seven qualities evaluated in the assessment of integrity -- location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association - which characterize the property's historic period. Although a few ancillary buildings and structures have succumbed to time and weather, the remaining buildings, with their

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integrity in purpose and design well intact, conjure historical images of Indiana's agricultural past. The extent of this integrity is such that with little imagination a visitor may easily visualize the daily family routines and farm activities that once characterized this exceptional example of Hoosier agricultural heritage; an historical image that is rapidly disappearing from our view. The King/Dennis Farm's period of significance is 1840-1950.

Although secondary in a hierarchy of significance, the King/Dennis Farm also possesses historic value for its role in the lives of two well-known Wayne County families. An example of the multi-purpose family farm that once dotted the landscape of the Midwest, the King/Dennis Farm exemplifies the agricultural development in the Hoosier state. The house and barn form the nucleus of the farmstead today as in the 1840s. Originally, the barn housed a variety of animals and equipment until the farmer built the adjoining buildings, such as the small storage barn, with more specific functions. In the twentieth century as markets for milk opened with urbanization, the farmer milked cows in the large barn and then stored the milk in the milk house before shipping to a commercial processing plant. The silo completes the picture of the twentieth century dairy function, with the fodder being fed to milk cows. A poultry house was built for the chickens that the farmer's wife tended and supplemented the family income through the sale of eggs. The corn cribs suggest a later period of agriculture during which farmers stored unshelled corn to feed animals or for later sale. Even though the pole barn is non-contributing, it too demonstrates the evolution of agriculture as farming equipment became too large for the small storage barn; modern farmers built large storage buildings for their expensive new equipment as farming began the transition to agri-business. The King/Dennis Farm provides us with a visual image of our past agricultural heritage, symbolic of a pattern of settlement and agricultural development that defines our history.

The King/Dennis Farm is located north of Centerville, Center Township, Wayne County, Indiana. The county was organized in 1810 and was named in honor of General Anthony Wayne. In 1814, Israel Elliott, the first land patent holder in the area, donated 96 acres of land to Centerville for the purposes of establishing the county seat there. Centerville was chosen because its location was the approximate center of the county. Many of the first settlers in the county were members of the Society of Friends from Virginia and the Carolinas.

Centerville was prominent in the economic and commercial growth of Wayne County for over five decades. One of the first events that sparked economic growth in Centerville was the opening of the National Road, which is also Centerville's main east-west street, in 1828. By 1836, as many as 100 wagons per week were passing through Centerville carrying commercial goods and agricultural production in and out of Indiana. Farmers in the area were quickly connected with larger commercial markets.

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Another event that brought recognition to Centerville was the establishment of Wayne County Seminary, later known as Whitewater College, in 1827-28. Such well-known Hoosiers as former governor Oliver P. Morton, author-Civil War General Lew Wallace, and Civil War General Ambrose Burnside, facial hair trendsetter for whom "sideburns" were named, were students and graduates of the Seminary.

Centerville continued to grow throughout the 1850s and 1860s, but prosperity was limited. The coming of major railroads that intersected at Richmond rather than Centerville changed the economic complexion and transportation mix for the entire county. Lacking a major power-producing water source and with limited access to rail transportation, Centerville lost its status of primary urban community to Richmond; the county seat moved to Richmond in 1872. Although its municipal/governmental status changed significantly, Centerville remained a hub of commercial and agricultural activity for many decades and provided local and rural residents with the necessities of the an increasingly bountiful life.

The King/Dennis Farm, today approximately 180 acres, began as an 80-acre holding belonging to Abraham and Susanah Kinsey. The land was recorded in their names in 1840. Farms of this size were common at this time. Given the physical ability to clear and later till the land with agricultural equipment of the day, much more than this would have been superfluous to the family needs. As equipment became more efficient and clearing the land was no longer necessary, farms tended towards more and more acreage.

The size of the farm changed a number of times in the next two to three decades under different owners such as George Fosler and Jacob Wolf. Eventually, it reached 275 acres by the 1860s. The heirs of Jacob Wolf appear to have sold approximately 180 acres to Lorenzo King circa 1867; the farm at that time included the entire NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  and 20 acres in the NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the same section. A map of the county dated 1867 shows a building, most likely the residence, on the property and Lorenzo King is noted as the owner.

Lorenzo King's father Jesse King and his large family, which included five sons – Samuel, Daniel, Elisha, Lorenzo, and John – came to the county from Kentucky and settled near Washington, Indiana, in 1826. The brothers, with the exception of Samuel who moved to Iowa and Kansas during his lifetime, settled in the county and married into local families. Lorenzo, after living in Green, Indiana, for a time, moved to the farm in the NW  $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 4, T16N, R14E, circa 1867 with his sons William, Joseph, and Absalom.

Starting in 1872-74, historical atlases designate the farm as the property of "Heirs of Lorenzo D. King," and continue in this manner through the last decades of the 19<sup>th</sup>

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century. William King, one of Lorenzo's sons, sold the farm in 1894. During a 15-year period, spanning the turn-of-the-century, the ownership of the farm changed four times. The longest period of ownership, by Samuel Wolf, was 1899 to 1909.

In 1909, the name of Emma Z. Dennis, the second wife of well-respected Earlham College professor of biology Dr. David W. Dennis, appears in the Wayne County land records as the new owner. There is no information on record to explain why the land was recorded in Emma's name. The Dennis family has owned the property since that time. According to a family member, the farm under Dennis ownership has been and continues to be operated as a leased property on a shared-profit basis.

**Section 9 Bibliography**

"Biographical and Genealogical History of Wayne, Fayette, Union and Franklin Counties." (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1899).

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Harris, Cyril M. *Illustrated Dictionary of Historic Architecture*. (New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1977).

Madison, James. *The Indiana Way*. (Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1986).

Map of Wayne County, 1867. No publication information.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1989).

Richmond, Indiana. *Palladium-Item*. 1 January, 1981.

Spahr, Walter E. *History of Centerville, Indiana*. (Richmond, Ind.: Wayne County Historical Society, 1966).

**Section 10 Geographical Description**

**Boundary Description**

Starting from the junction of the property driveway and King Road turn south and walk along the road for approximately 35 yards; turn east and proceed along the south

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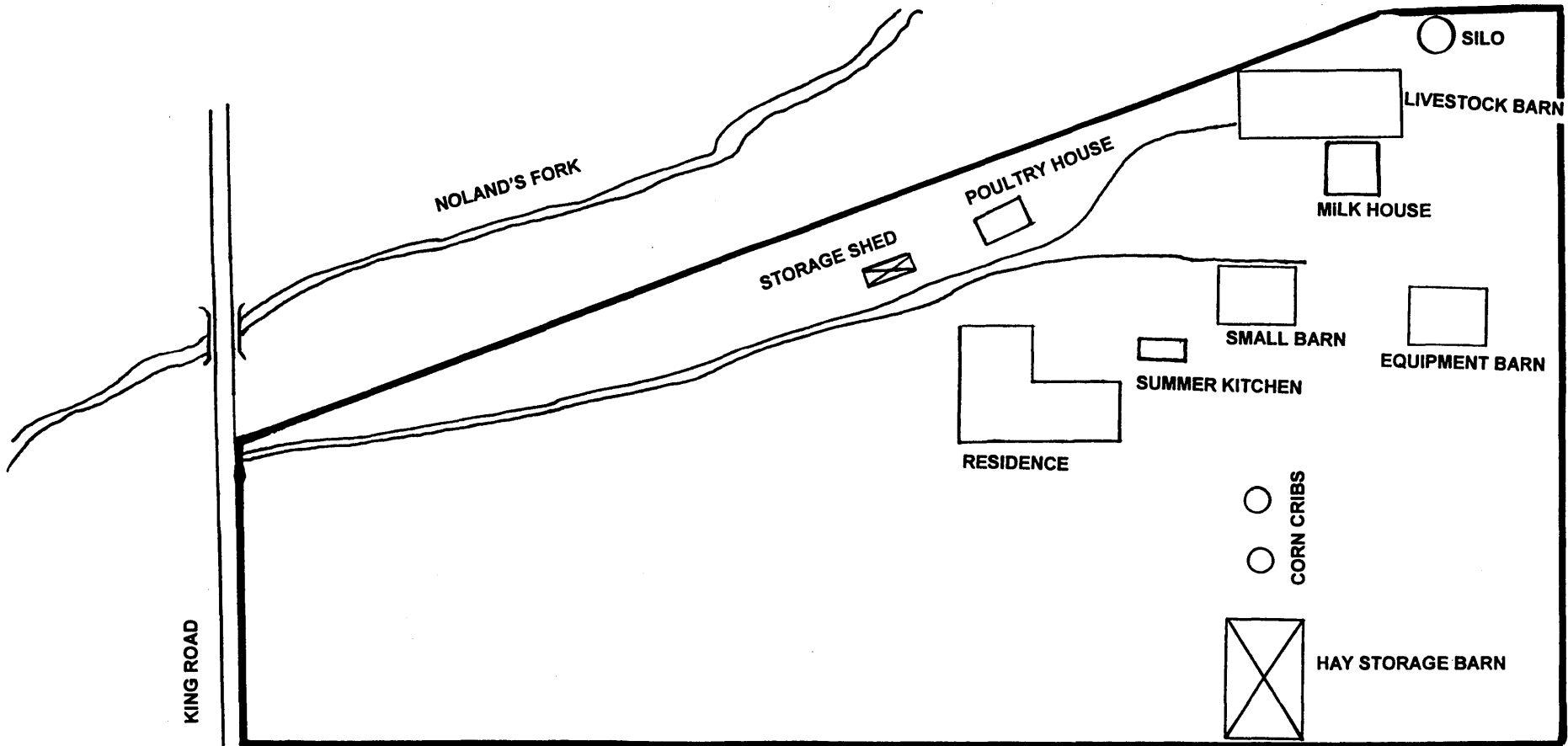
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fence line at the edge of the field for approximately 180 yards; turn north and proceed along the fence line at the edge of the field for approximately 137 yards; turn west and proceed along the north fence line for approximately 200 yards and close on the start point.

#### **Boundary Justification**

The boundary as described includes all the buildings and structures within the immediate proximity of the farmstead center and there appears to be no other significant agriculture-related resources to consider.



NOLAND'S FORK

POULTRY HOUSE

STORAGE SHED

SILO

LIVESTOCK BARN

MILK HOUSE

SMALL BARN

EQUIPMENT BARN

SUMMER KITCHEN

RESIDENCE

CORN CRIBS

HAY STORAGE BARN

KING ROAD

**LEGEND**

CONTRIBUTING



NON-CONTRIBUTING



BOUNDARY



NOLAND'S FORK ROAD

**KING/DENNIS FARM**

**WAYNE COUNTY, INDIANA**

