



Helton-Mayo Farm  
Name of Property

Lawrence County, Indiana  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
6	1	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
7	1	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)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

AGRICULTURE: animal facility

AGRICULTURE: storage

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

AGRICULTURE: animal facility

AGRICULTURE: storage

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC: federal

OTHER: hall and parlor

OTHER: single pen log barn

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: limestone

walls BRICK

WOOD: weatherboard

roof METAL: steel

other CONCRETE

**Narrative Description**

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

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**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.

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE \_\_\_\_\_

SETTLEMENT \_\_\_\_\_

ARCHITECTURE \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

c.1837-1950 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

c.1837 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:

National Register files \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** 13 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	16	547470	4304180
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2	16	547700	4304180

3	16	547700	4303970
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4	16	547470	4303950

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 Kay Mayo Emery and Paul Diebold

organization N/A date January 3, 1995

street & number 107 Brookside Dr. telephone 812-275-5475

city or town Bedford state IN zip code 47421

**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 Kay Mayo Emery

street & number 107 Brookside Dr. telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Bedford state IN zip code 47421

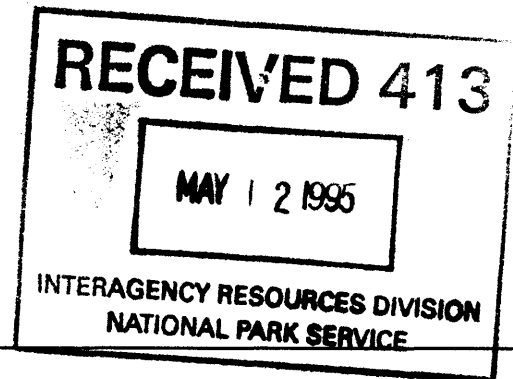
**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to 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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The Helton-Mayo Farm occupies a site just west of S.R. 58 in northeast Shawswick Township about two miles northeast of Bedford in Lawrence County, Indiana. Terrain is typical gently rolling farmland characteristic of southern Indiana. The 13 acre farm includes seven contributing resources: the house, Midwest Three-Portal barn which encloses an early 1800s log barn, a round roofed barn built in 1950, a stone wellhouse, a buggy shed, a garage; all counted as buildings, and a drive through corn crib; counted as a contributing structure. There is one non-contributing building: a privy. The farm buildings are clustered in a grid-like fashion with the house being the southernmost of the group, yet it faces north-toward the farm buildings, which is unusual in a Hoosier farmstead. A now missing path or road may explain the unusual orientation, as may the need for north light for the interior of the home.

HALL AND PARLOR HOUSE

The brick hall and parlor type house is the most significant building on the farm (photo 3). Records and oral history date the house at c.1837. It is a one and one-half story brick house with a side gabled roof and rear ell extension off of the west front room. The east section of the ell is of wood frame construction and was originally a porch. The north elevation has three brick thick common bond brick walls resting on a coursed roughly dressed limestone foundation. This, the main elevation, has four openings which are not quite evenly spaced across the wall: from left to right, a window, a door, and two windows. Windows have wood sills and casings. A gauged brick flat arch is over each window. Window sash are six-over-six wood double hung units; however, the bottom sash of the right windows have been reworked to have only two lower panes. The front door has a 1920s knee-braced hood which obscures the lintel work and a glazed wood storm door. A narrow wood cornice runs across the top of the wall. The medium pitched gable roof covered in corrugated sheet steel has large flush end chimneys.

The east gable end (photo 6) has plain walls with small square windows at the attic level flanking the chimney. The west gable end is similar, but at the extreme south edge of the gable end of the main block is a door with hood closely matching the front door

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(photo 4). This would seem to indicate that the ell was integral to the construction of the main block. The ell has one six-over-six window on this elevation, but its lintel seems to have been reworked with soldier course brick. A basement window aligns with this ell window.

The gable end of the ell (photo 5) has only a basement opening and large flush chimney stack. The now enclosed side porch has a window on this elevation. The enclosed porch is sided with insulbrick which has fallen off in some areas, revealing tar paper.

The east face of the enclosed porch and south face of the main block have a cellar entrance at their junction (photo 6). The enclosed porch has a window and door. The south face of the main block has a single six-over-six window with soldier course lintel.

The interior of the Helton-Mayo House has a classic hall and parlor plan to the main block. The hall and parlor each measure 18' X 16', and the rear ell bedroom measures 15' X 16'. Typical finishes include plaster walls and simple beaded woodwork. Built-in cupboards are found throughout the house. One enters into the hall, which has been plumbed for use as a kitchen (photos 7, 8, 9). The front door is formed of heavy planks joined by heavy beveled stiles. Typical of the interior are the wide wood floors, high beaded baseboard, beaded chair rail, and beaded opening surrounds. On the east wall is a built-in cupboard to the right of the fireplace with missing doors. The high mantelpiece with vernacular Federal detailing of narrow pilasters and a delicately beaded cornice is centered on the wall. Above it is a hole for a stove vent pipe. to the left is a wood paneled small closet and a "closet stair"; a staircase with five open steps which lead to a narrow plank door, behind which the stairs turn south toward the chimney and rise to the attic. Doorways (doors missing) lead from the hall to the parlor and to the now enclosed porch.

The parlor has the same level of finish as the hall (photos 10 and 11). The west gable end wall has a similar composition to the hall

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end wall, except that the raised panel cupboard doors are intact, and rather than having a staircase, a side entry door is to the left of the fireplace. The door with large single light is likely from the later 1800s. A 1950s free standing gas heater stands in front of the fireplace and is linked to the chimney by stovepipe. A heavy plank door opens to the bedroom, which is in the rear ell. The bedroom has almost the same level of finish as the front section (photo 12), confirming that it was built along with the front section. The main difference in the level of detail is only apparent on the gable end wall, which faces south. Here, the mantelpiece is less sophisticated and the flat paneled doors of the cupboard to the right are simpler. The plank door leading to the porch has a small single light in the upper section. The porch itself is of little interest since it appears to have been remodeled in the 1940s. Plumbing was added to porch room at some point. The loft or attic is floored with boards up to nearly 30" in width.

**MIDWEST THREE PORTAL BARN / LOG BARN**

The oldest barn on the property is the Midwest triple portal barn located north of the house. Within this structure are the walls of single pen log barn which is believed to date from the same era as the house (1835-1845). Photo 16 shows this settlement-era dovetail notched single pen hewn log barn. In about 1870, the single pen log barn was encased on all four sides by the Midwest three portal structure (photos 13, 14, 15). In terms of building type, the barn is not strictly a three portal type, since it has large side entry doors as well, but its overall broad form fits within the classification. Heavy timber framing supports the three portal structure, which is clad in wide vertical weatherboards. Parts of the lower walls are covered in corrugated sheet steel. Six pane windows are found on all sides of the barn. Some are missing or boarded shut. Large side doors toward the west end align to create a wagon aisle from side to side. The north doors are missing. The east end has hay mow doors over the six pane windows and a large box-gabled hay hood. Probably in the 1920s, the concrete stave, iron hooped silo was added to the west end. It lacks its roof

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structure and is deteriorated. Extending to the south is a one room concrete block workshop with open rafter gable roof added in about 1950. The barn has standing seam metal roofing, but the workshop section has corrugated metal roofing.

**WELLHOUSE**

The small gable roofed wellhouse is believed to be slightly later than the house or log barn, as its coursed limestone walls show greater craftsmanship than the house's foundation. It appears to date from the mid-19th century (photo 17). A concrete block addition extended the wellhouse one bay to the east at some point, and was then converted to use as a milkhouse. The original stone section has very small windows, but the block addition has larger six-pane windows and a door. The roof is clad in corrugated sheet metal.

**CORN CRIB**

A 19th century wood frame corn crib is between the Midwest barn and the wellhouse (photo 18). This transverse frame gable roofed crib has vertical board siding, a side aisle, and single crib. Lean-to additions extend far to the east and a short section reaches west. Metal roofing covers the corn crib.

**BUGGY SHED**

Photo 20 shows a 19th century building which likely served as a buggy shed, and later as a garage. It is a gable-fronted, vertical board sided frame building with large strap-hinged doors. All but the north wall is covered in corrugated steel panels, which also serves as the roofing material.

**ROUND ROOFED BARN**

The final contributing building is also the most recent. The round roofed barn was built in 1950 and is a fine example of the last



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generation of traditional agricultural buildings before the advent of the pole barn (photo 21). Visually linked to the round roofed and gambrel roofed barns of the 1920s, the post WW II types tend to have much higher loft sections. The low walls are of concrete block construction with evenly placed windows along the side. Two aisle entries mark the south gable end. Above the block walls on the gable ends are steep arch-shaped vertical boarded walls, with a cantilevered gabled hay hood on the south wall. The massive roof is covered in corrugated sheet steel and two large ventilators mark the roof ridge. Across the east wall is an equipment shed lean-to, built as part of the barn. The interior has an unobstructed large loft framed with dimensional lumber.

**GARAGE**

A wood-frame, insulbrick clad garage immediately east of the wellhouse seems to date from the 1920s and is in deteriorated condition. Poured concrete provides the foundation. Its side hinged doors face north as well (photo 17, left).

**PRIVY**

A deteriorated privy of uncertain age stands southeast of the house (photo 22). It rests on a concrete pad and has vertical board walls and a shed roof. It is considered non-contributing.

*Section 8-Statement of Significance*

The Helton-Mayo Farm meets National Register criteria A and C in the themes of settlement, agriculture, and architecture. The c. 1837 home and its well preserved surroundings and outbuildings represent the pattern of agricultural development and land use which characterized southern Indiana in the first half of the 19th century. The brick hall and parlor house and outbuildings also embody an excellent collection of vernacular building forms prevalent in rural southern Indiana, extending from the settlement era to the last generation of traditional agricultural buildings as seen in the round roofed barn. The round roofed barn is an

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integral part of the district (farm) and demonstrates the continued dairy farming tradition begun here in the 19th century. The period of significance (c.1837-1950) extends only so far as to include this resource; all other resources date from the 19th century. For these reasons, Criterion Consideration G is not applicable.

Settlement and agriculture were closely linked in the development of southern Indiana. After most of what would become Lawrence County was acquired for European-American settlement via the Treaty of Fort Wayne, 1809, pioneers wasted little time in seeking the area. Several families from Lee County, Virginia settled in Lawrence County in 1810, the beginning a wave of upland south migration to the county. It would take eight years for the vicinity to have sufficient population to merit becoming a county. In January of 1818, present day Lawrence County was organized. Previously, the land was part of Orange County. Land sales in Flinn Township had already been recorded, and the county seat village of Palestine, to be located on the White River toward the center of the county, was planned. Palestine flourished for about 25 years as river town and county seat before a series of diseases which were probably linked to its riverside site caused the county seat to be relocated to Bedford.

Another early settlement was Spring Mill, founded in about 1820 near Mitchell (at the present-day site of Spring Mill State Park). Spring Mill also illustrates the interconnection of agriculture to settlement and industry. The mill processed surplus goods which were shipped via flatboat as far as New Orleans, or hauled by wagon to Louisville.

Most settlers came to the area from the upland south seeking undeveloped (and therefore fertile) land at low prices. Subsistence farming with modest log buildings was the primary expression of their settlement. Farming centered around corn and hogs. Whiskey and hogs were economical ways of getting excess corn to market. In the pioneer era of Indiana, southern counties had many advantages over central and northern counties. The hog-corn

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tradition favored farmers who could clear small parcels and had access to waterways. Indiana was oriented toward water transportation at that time, and Lawrence County had many tributaries to the White River, which eventually tied into the Ohio River and beyond. The soil was rich at first, and raising crop after crop was at first no issue.

As competition from central and northern Indiana farms mounted toward the mid-19th century, depleted farms in southern Indiana were hard pressed to match their level of mechanization and productivity. Bottom lands were an exception, however. The area of Lawrence County in which the Helton-Mayo Farm is located was known as the "Leatherwood District" and was noted as the best farming and agricultural land in the county. Early settlers chose this area over other Lawrence County land because its gently rolling terrain and fertile soil made it easier to farm than other parts of the county. The Leatherwood Creek area was "famed for abundant harvests and prosperous farmers." (History of Lawrence, Orange and Washington Counties, Indiana, p. 58)

The settlement era in Lawrence County was drawing to a close by the 1840s. Certainly, by this time, most land sales had been recorded, most parcels had seen at least initial occupation, and permanent buildings were being built on farms and in villages. In the 1850s, the arrival of the New Albany and Salem Railroad effectively ended the settlement phase of the history of Lawrence County. Rail transport favored inland farms rather than river-oriented ones. Farms which were adjacent to towns in southern Indiana held the advantage of access to growing markets, which allowed some to maintain surplus farming. Others clung to subsistence agriculture well into the 20th century.

The Helton-Mayo Farm illustrates these general trends in settlement and agriculture for Lawrence County. The land was originally part of a 160 acre quarter section sold by the U.S. government to Samuel Lindley in 1816. In 1830, Lindley sold the land to Andrew Helton for \$450.00. Lindley probably cleared some the land and began farming. By about 1837, Helton had had the hall

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and parlor house and log single pen barn constructed, according to family oral history. The wealth seen in these buildings indicates a prosperous farm of the late settlement period. In 1839 or perhaps just prior, Helton opened a small general store in what would become Heltonville in Pleasant Run Township. Later, Andrew Helton platted Heltonville (1849). In 1839, Helton also sold his farmstead to Elisha Boyd for \$3,150.00, verifying the presence of the house and barn. Helton operated his store in Heltonville until 1849, when he moved to Bloomington. Elisha Boyd sold part of the land to James Palmer (1857) and part to Thomas Boyd (1855). Alexander Bivens acquired title to the farm from Palmer in 1870 and from Boyd's successor, William Ragsdale in 1865.

The Bivens were probably responsible for a number of improvements on the farm, including enclosure of the log barn within a frame structure, building the corncrib, and perhaps constructing the buggy shed. The farm would remain in the Bivens family until 1900, when it was passed to heirs upon Alexander's death.

Agricultural census data about the farm during the years 1870 and 1880 shows that it was a traditional, diversified enterprise which had surplus products to market. Very likely, these items were sold in Bedford, and included butter, cheese, wool, and in 1880, 6 acres worth of orchard produce and 600 eggs. Crops included both corn and wheat as well as oats and hay.

The Jackson family, heirs of the Bivens, owned the farm in the 1920s, passing it to the Mayo family in 1943. The move to dairy farming continued under their ownership. Maps also indicate that the north part of the original 160 acre parcel became a stone quarry in the early 20th century. Traces of the rail line which ran to the site are still found on USGS Quadrangle maps (not within the nominated area). The Mayos added the round roofed dairy barn to the property in 1950. Barns such as this were the last traditional appearing farm buildings before the advent of the pole barn. The round roofed barn is a good example of this type of dairy barn and in usage shows a continuation of agricultural trends begun in the area in the 1800s. Many southern Indiana farms

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gradually switched from the corn and hog staples to dairy farming or other livestock raising pursuits during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Architecturally, the Helton-Mayo Farm is significant as a fine collection representing the vernacular traditions brought to southern Indiana by settlers from the upland south. People from Virginia, the Carolinas, Tennessee, and Kentucky were the first Euro-American settlers to build permanent structures and alter the landscape for agricultural use in Lawrence County. Ultimately, the ancestors of these peoples had settled the Chesapeake Bay area, and it was in this region that the housing and building traditions of the upland south were established. The hall and parlor house in America originated there as early as the 1700s. Well over a century after their conception, hall and parlor houses were one of several vernacular traditions brought to Indiana. The hall and parlor house on the Helton-Mayo Farm is a substantial brick example with much integrity. Its hall and parlor plan is still intact, as is its handsome vernacular Federal woodwork and built-ins. Of the 43 settlement era farms or houses identified in the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory, the Helton-Mayo Farm is among the most intact and significant resources. The Helton-Mayo House is among the oldest houses in the county still on its original site.

The single crib log barn represents another tradition, that of the Scotch-Irish tradition of log architecture which ultimately came from Germanic influences encountered in the Colonies. Upland southerners brought this building tradition with them as well. Log construction was used on the first and second generations of settlement-era buildings. Once a common sight, log buildings are now rare resources. Log barns are especially rare. In Lawrence County, the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory recorded only three log barns and one log corn crib still standing. Log houses are relatively plentiful in Lawrence County; 24 examples can be found. Many of these, unfortunately, are in deteriorated condition. A collection of original log buildings exists in Spring Mill State Park. Some of these have been moved or

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were substantially rebuilt in the 1930s. They may have more value as examples of early restoration efforts than as pioneer era log buildings. It was a common practice to reuse log buildings on Indiana farms. The enclosing of the log barn by a heavy timber addition has served to preserve the original log structure.

Together, the hall and parlor house, log barn, and other outbuildings of the farm combine a number of vernacular traditions from the predominantly upland south culture which settled this region. The setting and character of Helton-Mayo Farm still provide a strong reminder of the agrarian roots of southern Indiana and Lawrence County in particular.

*Section 9-Bibliography*

Abstract of Title, Helton-Mayo Farm. Bedford, IN: Lawrence County Abstract Co., 1963.

Auditor's Office, Lawrence County, Indiana. 1845 Shawswick Transfer Book.

Emery, Kay Mayo. Oral History passed from Ertie Bivins Jackson to her father, Myron Mayo.

Griffing, B.W. An Atlas of Lawrence County, Indiana. Philadelphia: D.J. Lake, 1879.

Guthrie, James M. Thirty Three Years in the History of Lawrence County, Indiana, 1884-1917. Greenfield, IN: Mitchell-Fleming Printing, Inc., 1958.

History of Lawrence and Monroe Counties, Indiana. Indianapolis: B.F. Bowen, 1914.

History of Lawrence, Orange, and Washington Counties, Indiana. Chicago: Goodspeed, 1884.

Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory. Lawrence County

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Interim Report. 1992.

Map of Lawrence County, Indiana from surveys by W.H. Stairs and W.W. Dill. n.p. c.1869.

U.S. Bureau of the Census. U.S. Census of Agriculture, Indiana.  
(Seventh, 1850; Eighth, 1860; Ninth, 1870; Tenth, 1880).

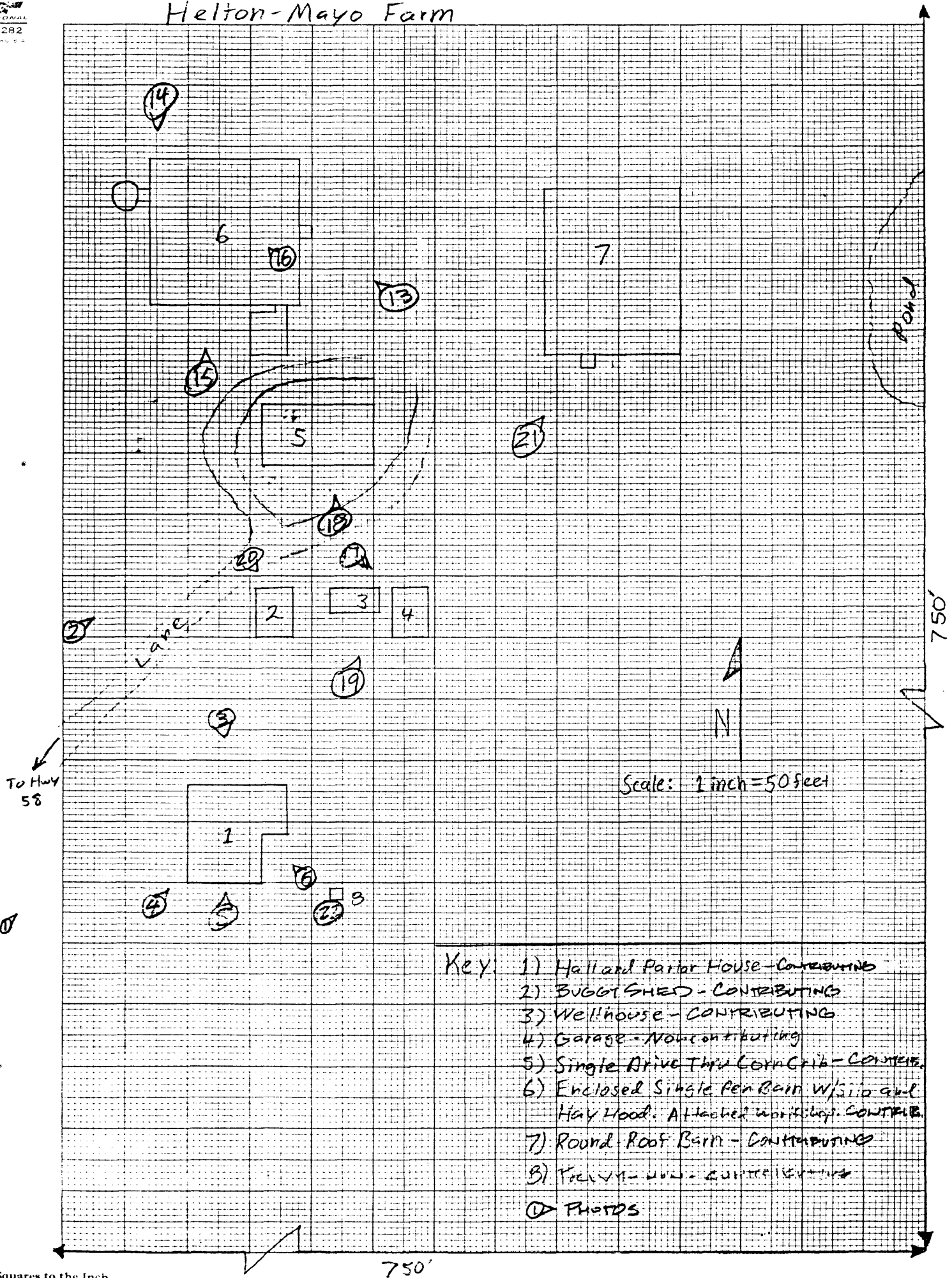
*Section 10-Geographical Data-Verbal Boundary Description*

A square parcel roughly 750 feet by 750 feet located in the northwest quarter of Section 7, Township 5 North, Range 1 East in Lawrence County, Indiana, the southwest corner of which is located at the western post of a gate on the entrance lane leading to the house and barn lot. Boundary is further defined by the sketch map included with the nomination and by the UTM points given in section 10.

*Boundary Justification*

The boundary includes the farmhouse, outbuildings and barn lot which have constituted historically the center of agricultural and settlement activity on the farm. This parcel preserves the relationship of the individual farm buildings to each other and to the surrounding countryside. It is only a fragment of the original quarter section holding associated with the settlement era and with continuous agricultural activity on the farm.

# Helton-Mayo Farm



- Key
- 1) Hall and Parlor House - CONTRIBUTING
  - 2) BUGGY SHED - CONTRIBUTING
  - 3) Wellhouse - CONTRIBUTING
  - 4) Garage - Now contributing
  - 5) Single Drive Thru Corn Crib - CONTRIB.
  - 6) Enclosed Single Pen Barn w/ silo and Hay Hood. Attached work shop. CONTRIB.
  - 7) Round Roof Barn - CONTRIBUTING
  - 8) Flock house - now - CONTRIBUTING
  - ① TREES