

# Iowa Site Inventory

Office of Historic Preservation  
Iowa State Historical Department  
East 12th & Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Site Number 153

District Name \_\_\_\_\_

Map Reference # 153

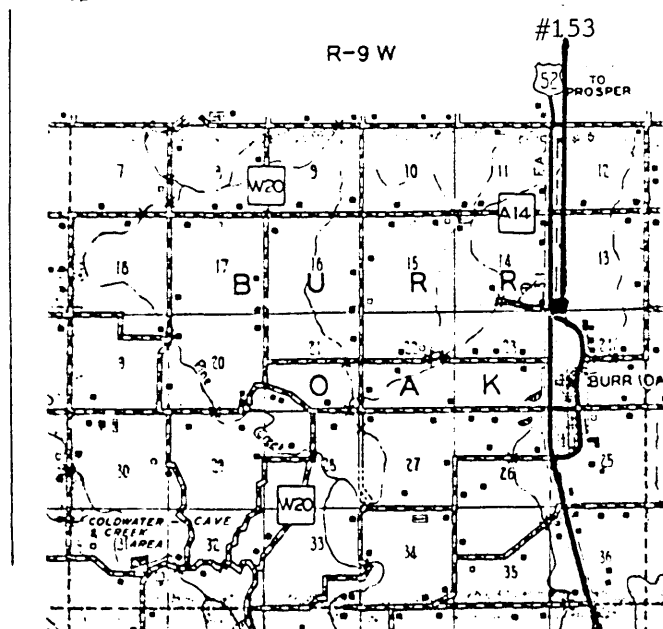
## Identification

- Site Name Kinney Octagon Barn
- Village/Town/City \_\_\_\_\_ Township Burr Oak County Winneshiek
- Street Address Off U.S. 52, vic. Burr Oak
- Legal Location 100N 9W 13 SW $\frac{1}{2}$   
Urban: subdivision block parcel subparcel  
Rural: township range section % section of  $\frac{1}{4}$  section
- UTM Location: zone 15 easting 591,580 northing 4,813,680; Acreage less than one acre
- Owner(s) Name Larry E. Means
- Owner(s) Address Box 195 Decorah IA 52101  
(Street address) (City) (State) (Zip)
- Use: Present \_\_\_\_\_ Original Dairy Barn

## Description

- Date of Construction est. 1880's Architect/Builder Original owner, L. R. Kinney
- Building Type:  
 single-family dwelling     industrial     other institutional     religious  
 multiple-family dwelling     educational     public     agricultural  
 commercial
- Exterior Walls:  clapboard     stone     brick     board and batten     shingles     stucco  
 other \_\_\_\_\_
- Structural System:  wood frame with interlocking joints     wood frame with light members (balloon frame)  
 masonry load-bearing walls     iron frame     steel frame with curtain walls     reinforced concrete  
 other \_\_\_\_\_
- Condition:  excellent     good     fair     deteriorated
- Integrity:  original site     moved—if so, when? \_\_\_\_\_  
Notes on alterations, additions (with dates and architect, if known) and any other notable features of building and site:  
Lean-to sheds added to two sides by owner named Nash.
- Related Outbuildings and Property:  barn     other farm structures     carriage house     garage     privy  
 other \_\_\_\_\_
- Is the building endangered?  no     yes—if so, why? \_\_\_\_\_
- Surroundings of the building:  open land     woodland     scattered outbuildings     densely built-up     commercial  
 industrial     residential     other \_\_\_\_\_

18. Map



19. Photo Roll 475 Frame 20 View \_\_\_\_\_

VBD: A fifty foot diameter, based on center point of barn. Includes attached sheds.

# Significance (Indicate sources of information for all statements)

## 20. Architectural significance

- a. Key structure/individually may qualify for the National Register
- b. Contributing structure
- c. Not eligible/intrusion

N/A

## 21. Historical Significance

Theme(s) Octagon: Coffin Type

- a. Key structure/individually may qualify for the National Register
- b. Contributing structure
- c. Not eligible/intrusion

One of, at most, fourteen 19th Century octagon barns known to still exist on Iowa farms. The modified hip roof of this barn specifically characterizes it as a Coffin type, most likely influenced by the 1867 Webster County barn of Lorenzo S. Coffin. Other identifying features include the heavy timber construction, rectangular plan, and general-purpose function. Lorenzo Coffin, a stock breeder and farm editor of the Fort Dodge Messenger, is credited with building the first round barn in Iowa in 1867. The Coffin type octagon barn is specifically characterized by a non-self-supporting modified hip roof. Compared to rectangular barns, octagon barns were uncommon and considered experimental in their

## 22. Sources (for primary and secondary sources, give complete facts of publication: author, title, place of publication, date, etc.):

Leland J. Roden, RR 2, Glidden, IA 51443

Soike, Lowell J. Without Right Angles. Des Moines, Iowa: Iowa State Historical Department, Office of Historic Preservation, 1983.

Prepared by James E. Jacobsen Date October 2, 1985  
Address Iowa HPO Telephone 515-281-4137  
Organization \_\_\_\_\_

## For Office of Historic Preservation Use Only

### 1. Office Information Sources on this Property

- County Resource File
- Windshield Survey
- National Register
- Grants-In-Aid: \_\_\_\_\_
- Determination of Eligibility

### Review and Compliance Project:

- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Subject Traces

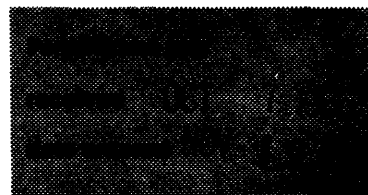
- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_
- e. \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Photo Images \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Property Title: Kinney Octagon Barn  
Site Number: 153

Location: Off U.S. 52, vic. Burr Oak  
Burr Oak Twp., Winneshiek County

This property is nominated as part of the the Thematic Resource Nomination Iowa Round Barns: A Sixty Year Experiment. This resource was accepted by the State National Register Nominations Review Committee and I submit it for addition to that thematic nomination.

David E. Crosson  
State Historic Preservation Officer

September 26, 1986  
Date: