

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 96000283 Date Listed: 3/27/96

John Ross Farm Lake IN
Property Name: County: State:

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrews
Signature of the Keeper

5/31/96
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

"Not for Publication" has been checked under the address section of the form. The SHPO says that this is a typo and should be disregarded. The form is amended to delete the not for publication code.

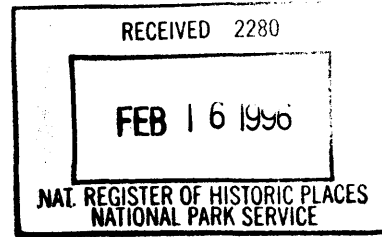
DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file**
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in 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 Ross, John, Farm
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 3815 East SR 231 not for publication
city or town Leroy vicinity
state Indiana code IN county Lake code 089 zip code 46307

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.)

Patrick R. Kubik
Signature of certifying official/Title

1-30-96
Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

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

Patrick Andrews

Date of Action

3/27/96

Ross, John, Farm
Name of Property

Lake IN
County and State

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

Number of Resources within Property		
Contributing	Noncontributing	
5	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
5	0	Total

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
AGRICULTURE/SUBSIST ENCE: Animal Facility
Agricultural Outbuilding

VACANT

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Gable front & wing

foundation STONE
walls WOOD: Weatherboard
ASPHALT
roof ASPHALT
other BRICK

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.

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ETHNIC HERITAGE: _____ European _____

Period of Significance

1871-1898 _____

Significant Dates

1871 _____

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: _____

Ross, John, Farm
Name of Property

Lake _____ IN _____
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property _____ 6.0 acres _____

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	16	475810	4579710	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			

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 Dean E. Ross
organization _____ date 6-1-95
street & number 919 N. Highland Ave. telephone 708/394-4559
city or town Arlington Heights state IL zip code 60004

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 Dean E. Ross
street & number 919 N. Highland Ave. telephone 708/394-4559
city or town Arlington Heights state IL zip code 60004

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.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 1Ross, John, Farm
Lake County, Indiana*Section 7 – Description*

The John Ross Farm sits on a slight rise in a grove of large trees, including two old burr oaks. The contributing buildings are a farmhouse, well house, hog house, chicken house, and garage. Ruins of a barn are visible on the property, but are not included in the resource count. John Ross bought the property in 1856 and constructed a house that burned in 1871. The current farmhouse was built to replace the original in 1871, but it is possible that the foundation under the two-story portion dates from the 1850s. The outbuildings were constructed before 1945, but the owner is unsure of the actual dates. The farmhouse is on the east side of a swale, facing east, and most of the trees are on the west. The old wagon path that formerly led from the house to the barn cuts across this swale. Ruins of a 1898 bank barn are located on the west side of the swale, south of the house. An old railroad embankment runs at a northwest-southeast angle across the property. A dirt road once ran parallel to the railroad on the side closest to the house, and connected with the wagon path from the farm. In 1930, a state highway was built upon the old dirt road, and the house more-or-less faces this road. The current driveway connects to the state highway at a point roughly in line with the front entrance of the house. The house is currently in very dilapidated condition, but the owner plans to restore it as a summer residence.

The farmhouse is a vernacular gable-front and wing building with a wide fascia giving it a Greek Revival appearance. The wooden frame building is covered in clapboard siding. Most of the paint is gone, but traces of white remain. Portions of the south and west elevations have deteriorated Insulbrick® covering the siding. The 1 ½ story wing stretches to the right (north) of the gable-front portion, and at the far north end of the wing is a smaller one-story addition built as a summer kitchen. The foundation is stone under the gable-front section, brick under the wing, and brick piers under the summer kitchen. A basement extends under both main sections. The historic photo shows a structure on the south end of the building that may have been a cellar door or stoop, but no traces of the structure or its function remain. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles over the original wooden ones.

The front elevation of the gable-front section of the house contains two widely-spaced 6/6 windows on the second floor and a window and door on the first floor. The first-floor openings are directly beneath those on the second floor. Originally, this elevation contained four identical windows; the door was a later modification. The door is a plain, modern, wooden door with an aluminum storm door on the outside. A small, shed-roofed porch was also added to this elevation between the first and second floor windows. The front elevation of the wing contains a central door, leading to the kitchen, a 6/6 window to the left of this door, and another door at the

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**National Register of Historic Places
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Ross, John, Farm
Lake County, Indiana

right end of the wing that leads into the summer kitchen. Both of these doors have wooden-framed screens on the outsides. Originally, a hipped-roof porch extended the length of the wing, but it has been removed. Stains on the walls show its former position. A trap door in this porch leads to the basement.

The south elevation is symmetrical and three bays wide. Windows on the first and second floors are in alignment. All windows are 6/6 sash windows with simple architrave trim, except the lower one on the east end, which has a 4-light lower sash. Wooden louvered shutters originally flanked each window. A few of the shutters remain in storage. The upstairs and downstairs windows on the west end of this elevation are boarded up. The fascia board, if present, is covered with Insulbrick®.

The west elevation of the gable-front section has only two windows, upper and lower, aligned at the north end of the house. The entire elevation is covered in Insulbrick®. The west elevation of the wing shows no openings, but there appears to be a former door with a transom that has been boarded up. The north elevation (summer kitchen) has one 6/6 window like those in the rest of the house.

There are three chimneys, one at the peak of the roof at the front of the house on the gable-front section, one on the summer kitchen, and one toward the rear of the kitchen wing, slightly right of center. The roof of the two-story section is covered in asphalt singles, while the wing appears to be covered with tar paper.

The interior of the wing contains a kitchen and dining area. A pantry with a pass-through to the summer kitchen occupies the northwest corner of the kitchen. Attic space occupies the upper half story. On the left (south) end of the kitchen are three doors that lead to the two-story section. The rear door leads to a small bedroom, the front door leads to the living room, and the center door leads to the stairway. The stairway is contained in a small room that has a closet under the stairs. Doors also connect these three rooms to each other toward the south end of the building.

The upstairs consists of two identically-sized bedrooms on the east and one large bedroom on the west of a central hallway/landing. At the head of the stairs is a window that is the central window on the south elevation. At the north end of this hallway is a small door that leads to the attic over the wing. A trap door in the ceiling of the large bedroom leads to the attic of the two-story section. This bedroom has a brick pocket chimney in its west wall.

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Lake County, Indiana

The interior doors on the second floor consist of two vertical panels except for the attic door, which is 2/3 height and made of 6 vertical boards. First-floor doors have four panels except for the rear (west) entry door, which is made of three vertical panels. The doorways are framed in simple board trim, and the baseboards are plain, wide boards with no moldings. At the top of the stairs is a thick, elaborately-turned newel post and a balustrade made of plain, square-cut posts topped by a simple railing. The kitchen/dining area has wainscoting of wide vertical boards topped by a simple chair rail. The original cast-iron cookstove occupies the north wall of the kitchen.

Outbuildings (see sketch plan)

Just to the east of the summer kitchen is a rectangular, gable-roofed shed made of wide, vertical white pine boards with a tar paper roof. The front of this shed has two large doors made of the same vertical boards. The doors have been boarded shut. A square window just left of center has also been boarded up, as has the window on the east elevation. There is a chimney or stovepipe vent toward the east end of the gable. This shed was built over a well that John Ross dug in 1856. The well is 70' deep and lined with brick. No part of this well is visible above ground.

South of the house on the opposite side of the driveway is a hog house made of vertical white oak boards with a metal gable roof. There are square window openings in each gable end and a door on the west elevation.

Southeast of the house and on the opposite side of the driveway is a garage, also made of vertical white oak boards. It has an asphalt shingled gable roof and a modern, full-width sliding metal door in the south gable end. No other openings are visible in the photos. Both oak buildings were made of wood that was cut at the nearby Southeast Grove.

South of the garage is a long, rectangular shed-roofed chicken coop made of slats from an old silo. The door is on the south side.

All of the outbuildings stand in a grove of trees. Concrete sidewalks connect the house, well house, and driveway. The historic photo shows plank sidewalks in the same position as the modern ones. Although in poor condition, the property retains enough integrity to reveal its role in the settlement of Winfield Township. The house is stable enough to be rehabilitated and still retain much historic fabric. The owner hopes to rehabilitate the house soon.

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National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 4Ross, John, Farm
Lake County, Indiana***Section 8 – Statement of Significance***

The John Ross Farm is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage (European) for its association with a Scots-Irish community in Lake County. Although the property was not recorded in the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory (1995), it appears to have sufficient integrity for National Register listing. According to this survey, it appears to be the oldest property in Winfield Township associated with Scots-Irish settlement. Although Ross actually purchased the property in 1856, the period of significance begins with the construction of the present farm house in 1871 and ends with the death of John Ross in 1898.

John Ross was one of the first settlers in the area that became known as Leroy, Indiana (Winfield Township). He was born in Northern Ireland in 1826 and left that country in 1849 along with thousands of others fleeing the potato famine. Settling in Philadelphia, he constructed packing boxes for six years before moving westward to Lake County. Ross purchased 80 acres from Margaret Jane Carson and Mary McFarland, who had acquired the property by military land warrant in 1852. The Ross family has owned the property since 1856. John Ross dug a 70' well and built his original frame farmhouse in 1856. The house burned in 1871 and Ross built a second house on the site, probably utilizing the same foundation. The well is still intact.

The earliest residents of Lake County came in the 1830s, but swamps and dunes discouraged much settlement. Civil wars in the German states and famine in Ireland in the late 1840s forced many Germans and Irish to emigrate to America. Many of these new residents found that the land available to them was often the less-desirable land in places like Lake County. Between 1846 and 1866, numerous Scots-Irish immigrants came to Winfield Township. They opened a school about 1/4 mile south of the John Ross Farm that they called "Dublin School" in honor of the capital of their native land. The John Ross Farm is one of a very few farms remaining in the township that were built by these settlers. Ross Township to the north and Eagle Creek Township to the south were settled by people with English surnames, but these settlers seem to have been Yankees rather than recent Scots-Irish immigrants. Center Township to the west and Hanover Township to the southwest were both settled by Germans, as was much of northern Indiana.

In 1863, the Chicago and Great Eastern Railroad (later, the Pennsylvania Railroad) bought a right-of-way across the Ross farm, making it easier for Ross to ship his crops to Chicago markets. The farm produced mainly hay and oats as feed for horses. The town of Leroy was built along the railroad, just over one mile southeast of the Ross farm. Leroy was platted in 1876

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Ross, John, Farm
Lake County, Indiana

and developed as a railroad shipping point for the area's extensive hay industry. Some houses in Leroy date from the mid-late 1870s, but most are 1920s Craftsman homes. Leroy's prosperity waned along with the railroad in the latter half of the 20th century.

John Ross was Presbyterian, as were many Northern Irish, and he helped begin the United Presbyterian Church in Leroy (rated "notable" in the survey as site 71005). Ross built up his farm to include 487 acres and a large herd of cattle, and left a fortune of \$40,000 upon his death in 1898. His farm stands today as an example of Scots-Irish thrift and industry. It is one of the oldest farm houses in the area and is the oldest one that is specifically associated with the Scots-Irish settlement in Winfield Township.

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Section number 9 Page 6

Ross, John, Farm
Lake County, Indiana

Section 9 – Bibliography

Gibbs, A.H. "Winfield Township." *History of Lake County*.

Gibbs, Hannah. *Pioneer Reminiscences* (pamphlet [n.d]).

Goodspeed, Weston A. And C. Blanchard. *Counties of Porter and Lake*. Chicago: 1882.

"John Ross Dead." *Crown Point Register* (20 May 1898).

Lake County Star. 1934.

Lake County Title and Guaranty Co. *Abstract of Title*. 1930.

Weitgenant, Ann. *Lake County Heritage*. Dallas: Curtis Media Corporation, 1990.

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Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 7

Ross, John, Farm
Lake County, Indiana

Section 10 – Geographical Information

Verbal Boundary Description

A part of the Southeast quarter of the Northwest quarter of Section 25, Township 34 North, Range 8 West of the 2nd P.M., more particularly described as follows: Beginning at a point 428.50 feet West of the Southeast corner of said quarter quarter section, which point is also the Southwest corner of the land conveyed to Fred M. Castaldi and Marilyn T. Castaldi, husband and wife, by Warranty Deed recorded August 10, 1970 as Document No. 68034; thence North along a line which is 428.50 feet West of and parallel to the East line of said quarter quarter section to the point of intersection with the Southerly line of the Penn Central Railroad right-of-way; thence Northwesterly along said Southerly right-of-way line to a point which is the Northeast corner of the land conveyed to Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 125, by Warranty Deed recorded June 17, 1976 as Document No. 355173; thence South parallel to the West line of the Southeast quarter of the Northwest quarter of said Section 25, a distance of 834.79 feet to the South line of the Northwest quarter of said Section 25, at a point 471.40 feet West of the West line of Section 25; thence East to the point of beginning, in Lake County, Indiana.

Boundary Justification

This six acres is all that remains of the original farm after subdivision. The boundary includes the farmhouse and all of the outbuildings.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

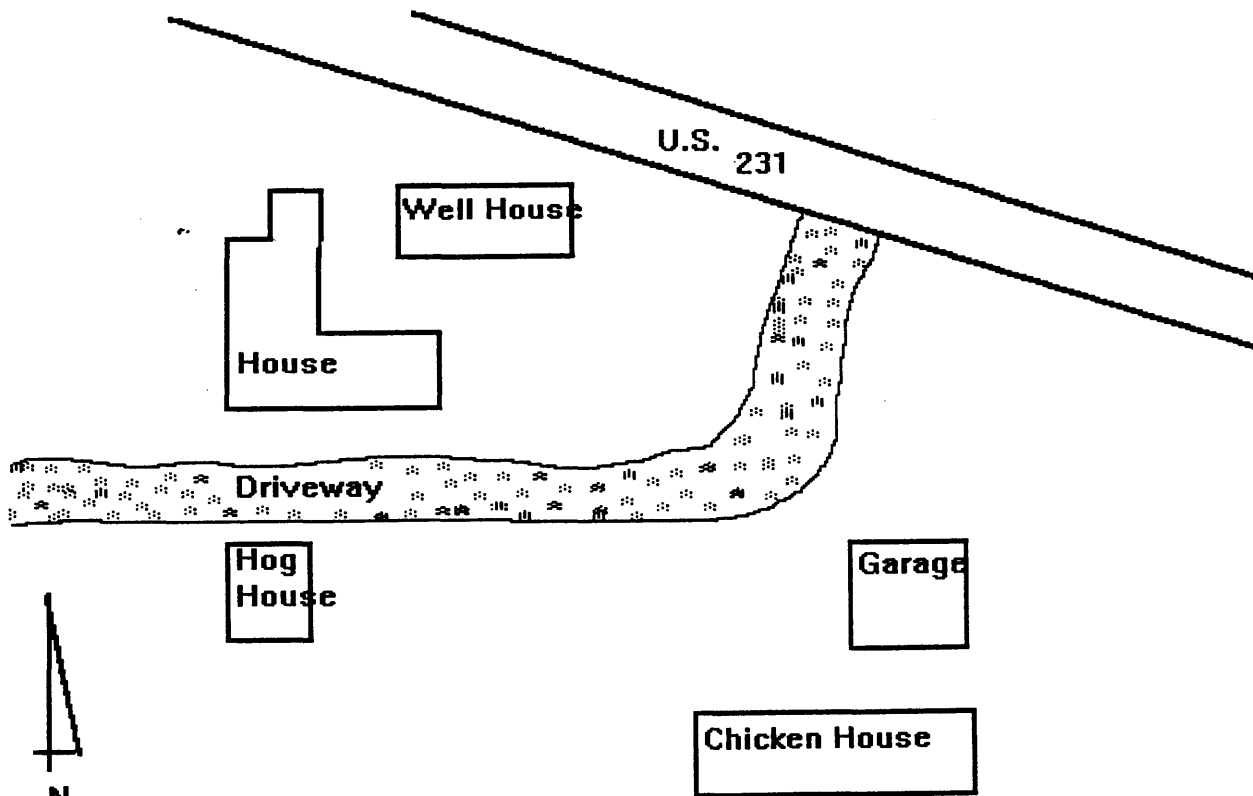
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 8

Ross, John, Farm
Lake County, Indiana

John Ross Farm

Not to Scale



P. Andrus
8/28/2008

AUG 28 2008

H32(2280)

Mr. Dean Ross
20 North Linden Avenue
Palatine, Illinois 60074

Dear Mr. Ross:

Thank you for your recent inquiry regarding your appeal of the failure of the State to submit to the National Register of Historic Places a nomination amendment to expand the boundary of the John Ross Farm located in Lake County, Indiana. The John Ross Farm was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on March 27, 1996, for its historic significance.

On April 16, 2008, the National Register sustained your appeal and requested that the State forward the original documentation to expand the boundary of the John Ross Farm to the National Register. The State responded to this request and the expanded area was added to the National Register of Historic Places as part of the John Ross Farm on June 9, 2008.

We appreciate your interest in the John Ross Farm and in the historic preservation programs of the National Park Service. Please let us know if we can provide any additional information or assistance.

Sincerely,

(Sgd) Patrick Andrus
Patrick W. Andrus, Historian
National Register of Historic Places

bcc: 2285
2201

Basic File Retained In 2280
FNP:PAndrus:OP:08-28-08:S://nr:/Rossfarm.IN.3

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

John Ross farm, Lake County, Indiana

This additional parcel of the original John Ross farm should be added to my property that is on the national and state historic register now because it was never sold outright to the railroad. My Great- Great Grandfather let the railroad use his property for said purpose only as long as they maintained it. He felt that a railroad would benefit all the farmers by allowing them to ship their crops to market, and it did. Many tons of hay and oats were shipped to Chicago to feed the horses there. It was abandoned in 1985. This was before I had my property put on the historic lists. It was stated on the National Register of Historic Places continuation sheet , section 10, page 7 in 1995: "Boundary justification: this six acres is all that remains of the original farm after subdivision. The boundary includes the farmhouse and all of the outbuildings." The six acres is not all that remains and this additional parcel should be added since both parcels were included in the original farm.

Legal description of the property
that I wish to have added to my
historic listing:

Split from Key# 10-37-40

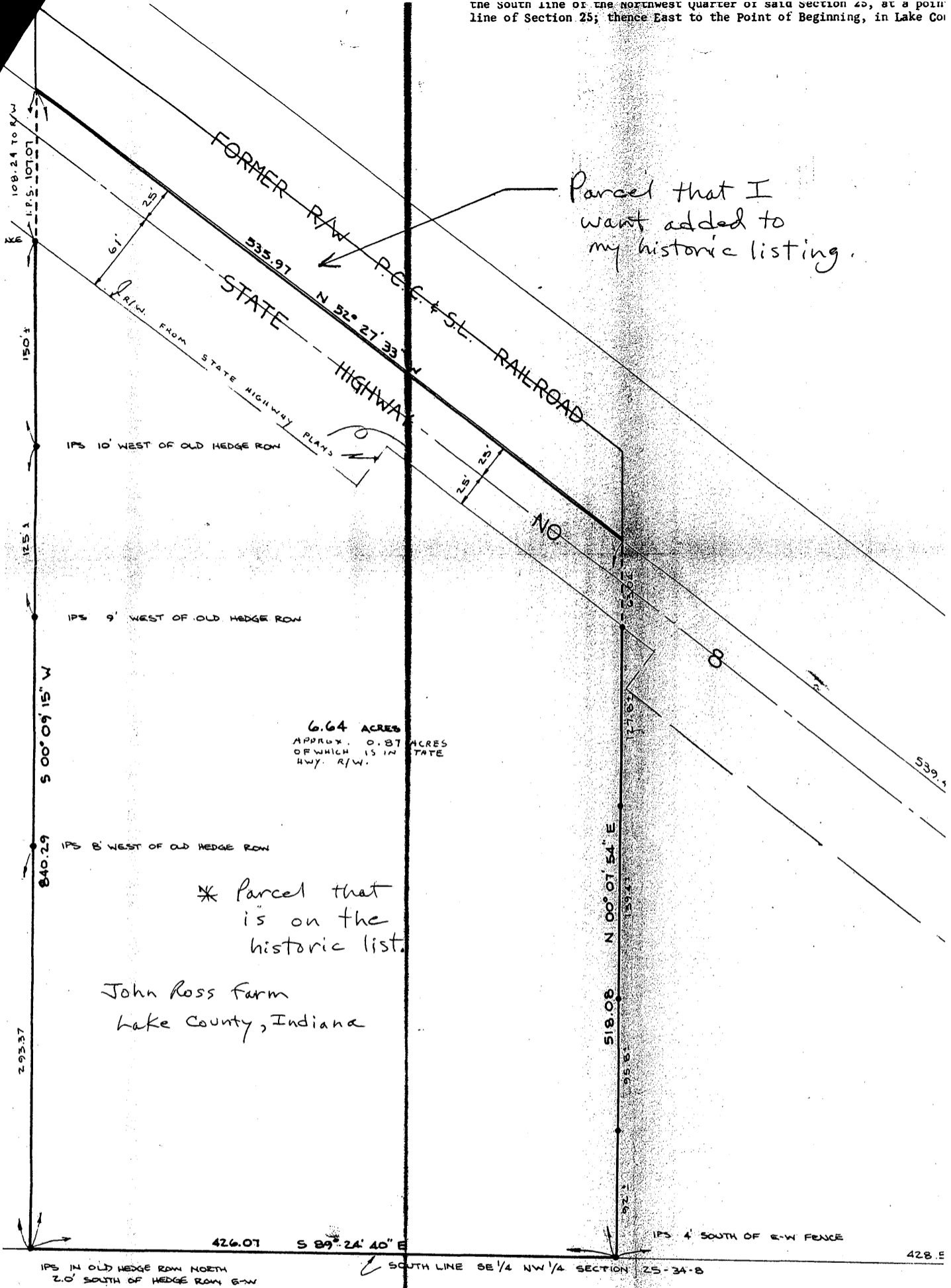
PART OF THE SE 1/4, OF THE NW 1/4 SECTION 25,
TOWNSHIP 34 NORTH, RANGE 8 WEST OF THE 2ND P.M.
DESCRIBED AS: COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER
OF THE SE 1/4, OF THE NW 1/4 OF SAID SECTION
25; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 24 MINUTES 40 SECONDS
WEST ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF THE NW 1/4 OF SAID
SECTION 25, 428.5 FEET; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES
07 MINUTES 54 SECONDS EAST PARALLEL TO THE EAST
LINE OF THE NW 1/4 OF SAID SECTION 25 A DISTANCE
OF 518.08 FEET MORE OR LESS TO THE SOUTHERLY
RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF THE PENN CENTRAL RAILROAD
RIGHT-OF-WAY AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THIS
DESCRIBED PARCEL; THENCE CONTINUING NORTH 00
DEGREES 07 MINUTES 54 SECONDS EAST, 62.95 FEET
TO THE CENTERLINE OF SAID RAILROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY;
THENCE NORTH 52 DEGREES 27 MINUTES 33 SECONDS WEST
ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF SAID RAILROAD 535.94 FEET
MORE OR LESS TO A LINE 471.40 FEET EAST OF AND
PARALLEL TO THE WEST LINE OF THE SE 1/4, OF THE
NW 1/4 OF SAID SECTION 25; THENCE SOUTH 00
DEGREES 09 MINUTES 15 SECONDS WEST, 62.93 FEET
MORE OR LESS TO THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF SAID RAILROAD
RIGHT-OF-WAY; THENCE SOUTH 52 DEGREES 27
MINUTES 33 SECONDS EAST, 535.97 FEET MORE OR
LESS TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

The above tract containing an approximate 33,737.
square feet more or less.

The above tract containing an approximate 0.774 acres.

John Ross farm
Lake County, Indiana

the south line of the northwest quarter of said Section 25, at a point
line of Section 25; thence East to the Point of Beginning, in Lake Co



Parcel that I want added to my historic listing.

6.64 ACRES
APPROX. 0.87 ACRES
OF WHICH IS IN STATE
HWY. R/W.

* Parcel that is on the historic list.

John Ross Farm
Lake County, Indiana

STATE OF INDIANA)
COUNTY OF PORTER) SS Valparaiso, Ind. September 16, 1986
This is to certify that I have surveyed the above described property according
to the official records and that the plat hereon drawn correctly represents

SCAL.