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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 13 1993

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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 Rankin, Rebecca, Round Barn

other names/site number Elliot Barn, 075-170-15002

2. Location

street & number Indiana 18, 1/4 mile west of CR 75E N/ not for publication

city or town Poling vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Jay code 075 zip code 47325

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 36 CFR 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. Rebb

2/3/93

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

State of 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

Date of Action

Patrick Andrews

4/2/93

Rankin Round Barn
Name of Property

Jay Co., IN
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	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

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

Round and Polygonal Barns of Indiana

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE: Animal facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE: Storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: True-circular barn

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls WOOD: weatherboard

roof ASPHALT
other CERAMIC TILE

Narrative Description

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

Rankin Round Barn

Name of Property

Jay Co., IN

County and State

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)

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1908-1936

Significant Dates

1908

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Steele, Benton; Watt, Cameron

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana

Rankin Round Barn
Name of Property

Jay Co., IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	6	6	5	9	9	4	0	4	4	9	0	8	1	0
Zone		Easting					Northing							

3

Zone		Easting					Northing							

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 Jerry McMahan

organization Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana date November 11, 1991

street & number 340 W. Michigan St. telephone (317) 639-4534

city or town Indianapolis state IN zip code 46202

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 Tom and Helen Elliot

street & number R. 2, Box 51 telephone _____

city or town Bryant state IN zip code 47326

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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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1 Rankin Round Barn
Jay Co., IN

The Rebecca Rankin (Elliot) Round Barn, constructed in 1908 in Jay County near Poling, Indiana, remains today as one of Indiana's well maintained round barns. Located in a rural setting, the barn is surrounded by cultivated fields and is reached by a gravel drive that takes the visitor past the farmhouse, garage and pole barn. Designed by Benton Steele and built by Cameron Watt, a local carpenter, the barn maintains its integrity with respect to location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, meeting all of the standards set forth in the registration requirements for multiple property nominations.

The true-circular, 50-foot diameter, two-story barn is sheltered by a two-pitch gambrel roof that is in turn capped by a round cupola with a conical roof. The cupola contains four, rectangular, single-paned windows and the balloon framing of the barn rests on the poured concrete foundation. There is a glazed tile silo located to the northwest of the barn and although the top is missing, the silo is in relatively good shape. The silo appears to have been built soon after the barn and is a contributing structure.

The roof surfaces of the barn and cupola are covered in dutch lap asphalt shingles that were added in 1990. There is a slight overhang to the roof and the underneath side of the soffit reveals the exposed rafters and roof decking. The walls of the barn and cupola are covered in the original vertical wood siding that is in very good condition.

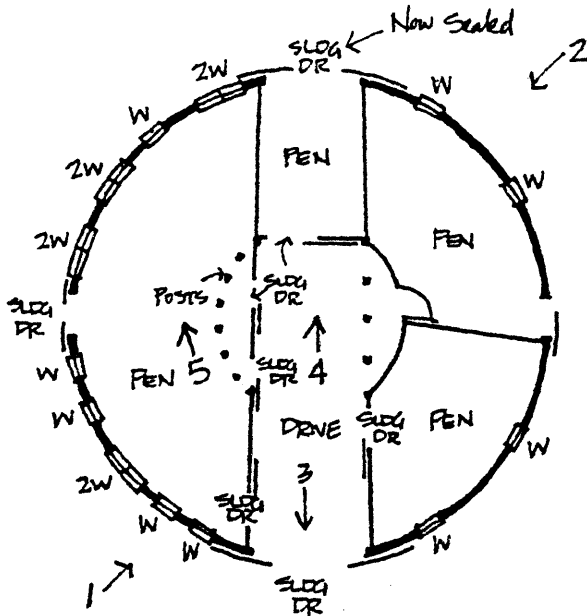
The south or main facade (Photo 1) is composed of the large sliding doors mounted on an overhead track and curved to coordinate with the barn's shape. Proceeding around the structure's lower level in a counter-clockwise manner, there are two evenly spaced four light windows between the main door and a smaller human-sized door on the east. Next are two more evenly spaced windows between the east door and the northern double doors (Photo 2) with the north doors now sealed. Completing the other half of the circle is a double window unit, a single window, two more double window units, a human-sized door on the west, two single windows, a double window unit and finally, two more single windows before reaching the main doors on the south. The upper level openings consist of seven evenly spaced louvered vents that provide ventilation.

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Section number 7 Page 2

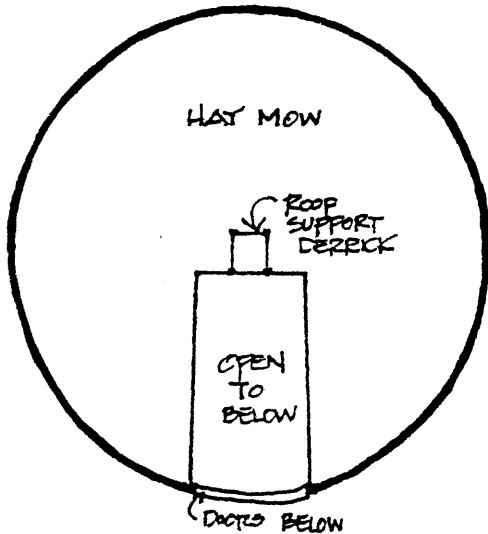
Rankin Round Barn
Jay Co., IN



LOWER LEVEL
no scale

Note: W = window
ZW = double window

UPPER LEVEL
no scale



REBECCA RANKIN (ELLIOT) BARN

1908 TRUE CIRCLE
JAY COUNTY, INDIANA
FENN TOWNSHIP

↑₁ = Photographic key

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Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 3 Rankin Round Barn
Jay Co., IN

The interior of the barn (see floor plan) is very well designed with a walled central area that extends from the north to the south doors (Photos 3 and 4). Further, on the north end of the central space, a wall runs from east to west, blocking the central space and creating a pen on the north end of the barn. This pen is accessed by a sliding gate, visible in Photo 4. Just inside the main south doors, there is a door on the west, while the east door is located closer to the barn's center. The central area of the barn contains two more doors on the west and an open area to the east, with four support posts continuing the line of the main wall. On either side of the central area and creating a larger circle some twenty-feet in diameter, are a series of eight posts on the west (on the other side of the wall) and posts and board fencing on the east. Running along the top of these posts is a large laminated and curved beam that offers intermediate support to the floor joists of the upper level. The east side of the lower level is divided into two large pens for livestock while the west is left open for the open handling and housing of farm animals (Photo 5).

The upper level is left open for the storage of hay and straw and is completely floored except for the middle area from the south doors to about five feet of the barn's midpoint. This open area to the lower level allows for the easy access and moving of hay and straw. In the middle of the upper level is a derrick structure that fans out to support the laminated beam of the upper roof pitch. The second roof pitch is braced by the outside walls, which, like the roof and flooring systems, are composed of stick lumber. The flooring of the upper level is comprised of wood planks laid down in almost triangular sections to compensate for the circular form, naturally with the apex at the barn's center.

The integrity of the Rebecca Rankin (Elliot) Barn is noteworthy and it is well-maintained by the current owners, obvious since they financed a new roof only last year. The structure remains a striking example of round barn construction today.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 4 Rankin Round Barn
Jay Co., IN

The Rebecca Rankin (Elliot) Round Barn, located in Penn Township of Jay County, Indiana, is significant under Criteria A and C for its association with the development of round and polygonal barns in Indiana (see historic context, "Round and Polygonal Barns in Indiana."). The Rankin Round Barn is a significant example of the work of prominent round barn architect Benton Steele. The barn is an important and direct link to the agricultural development that occurred in the state from 1850 to 1936 (and beyond) and has changed little since its construction in 1908. The period of greatest significance of the barn was from 1908 to 1936 when round and polygonal barns lost their popularity. By 1936, round and polygonal barns were considered obsolete with the last round structure being built in the state to replace a 1915 round barn that had burned (Grant County, Richland Township, extant).

The original owner of the barn was Rebecca Rankin who contacted Benton Steele for the design. The barn was actually constructed by local craftsman Cameron Watt who lived near Fiat, Indiana. The efficiently arranged structure was meant to hold farm animals on the lower level on either side of the central drive, made more pleasant with an abundance of single and paired window units. The upper level was arranged for the storage of hay and straw and is interrupted only by the large wooden derrick that provides the support for the massive two-pitch gambrel roof and round cupola. This derrick, seen in other barns such as the Littleton Barn (Hancock County, Vernon Township) may have appeared as over-engineering but it has proven to be invaluable to the longevity of this structure.1

The ownership of the barn and farm have never left Ms. Rankin's family with the property being handed down to her descendants since her death. The current owners of the property are Tom and Helen Elliot, with Mr. Elliot being the grandson of Ms. Rankin. The Elliots are quite proud of their structure as evidenced by the recent addition of asphalt shingles, a process that protects the valuable roof system.2

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Section number 8 Page 5 Rankin Round Barn
Jay Co., IN

The Rebecca Rankin (Elliot) barn is one of the 151 true circular barns that were built of the total 219 round and polygonal structures. Further, it numbers among the best preserved of the 77 remaining true circular structures with the historic fabric in place and in very good condition. It also enjoys the distinction of having been designed by architect Benton Steele, Indiana's foremost round barn man and one of the best self-promoters that the state has ever witnessed.

The Rebecca Rankin (Elliot) barn is a stellar example of a true circular barn and has the essential physical features and characteristics that it possessed at the time of its period of significance, from 1908 to the mid 1930s. The barn had aged over the years but it has not been significantly altered since its dedication so that it remains as a testament of Indiana's agricultural development, refinement and history.

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Section number 8 Page 6 Rankin Round Barn
Jay Co., IN

ENDNOTES

1. John Hanou, research compiled on Indiana's round and polygonal barn from 1986 to present. Archived at Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, 340 West Michigan Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202.
2. Tom and Helen Elliot, owners of the Rankin (Elliot) barn, Bryant, Indiana. Interviewed by Jerry McMahan, 9 August 1991.

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Section number 9 Page 7 Rankin Round Barn
Jay Co., IN

BIBLIOGRAPHY

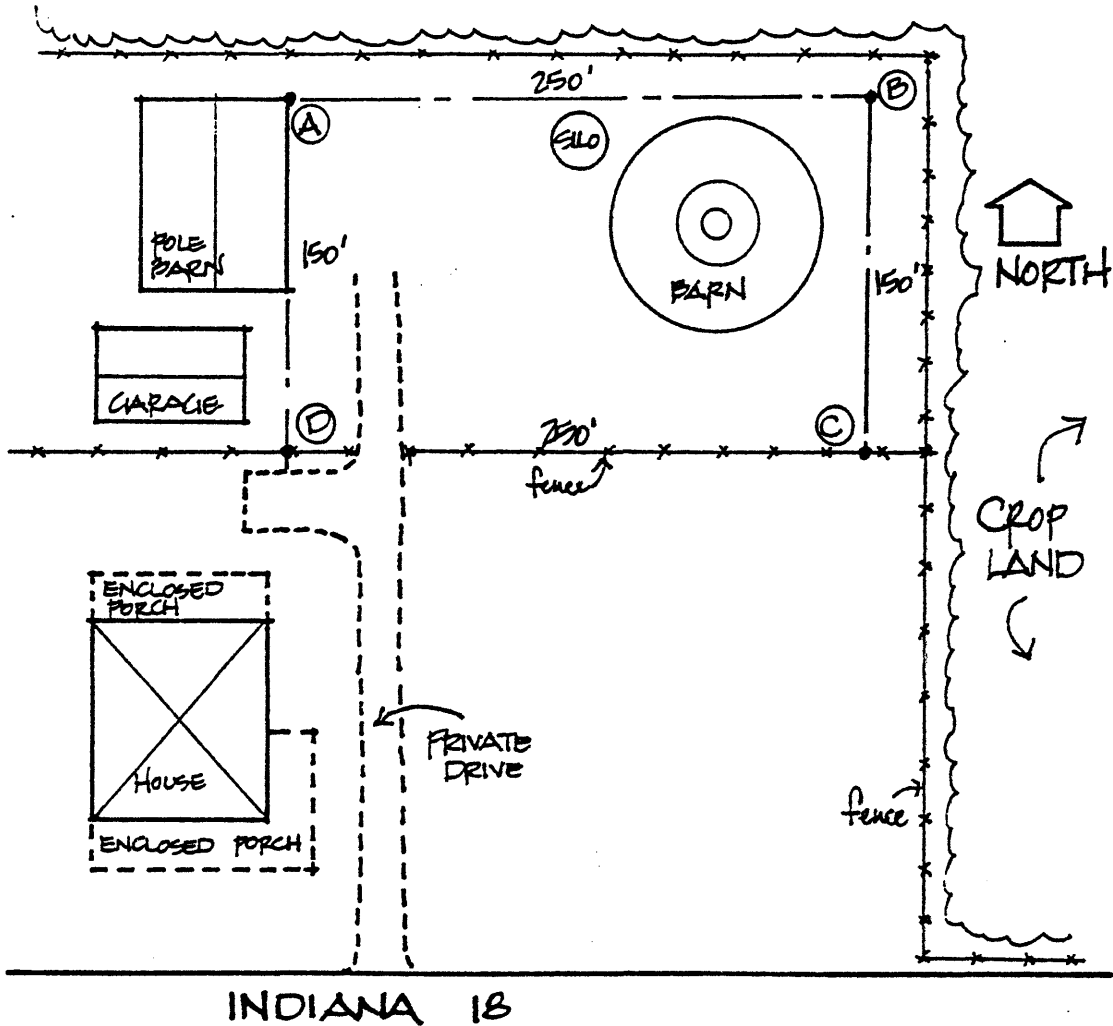
- Elliot, Tom and Helen. Owners of the Rankin (Elliot) barn, Bryant, Indiana. Interviewed by Jerry McMahan, 9 August 1991.
- Hanou, John. Research compiled on Indiana's round and polygonal barns from 1986 to present. Archived at Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, 340 West Michigan Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202.
- Intensive architectural survey of Indiana's round and polygonal barns. Conducted June to August 1991, conducted by Jerry McMahan, areawide survey of round and polygonal architectural and historical resources.
- Soike, Lowell J. Without Right Angles, The Round Barns of Iowa. Des Moines, IA: Iowa State Historical Department, Office of Historic Preservation, 1983.

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Section number 10 Page 8

Rankin Round Barn
Jay Co., IN



RANKIN (ELLIOT) BARN

SITE PLAN
NO SCALE

1908 TRUE CIRCLE
JAY COUNTY, INDIANA
PENN TOWNSHIP

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Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 9 Rankin Round Barn
Jay Co., IN

Verbal Boundary Description

The Rankin Round Barn is located in the SE Section 1, T24N-R12E in Penn Township, Jay County, Indiana. Referring to the site plan, beginning at a point one foot east of the northeast corner of the pole barn (Point A), proceed east 250 feet to Point B, then south for 150 feet to Point C, then west 250 feet to Point D, then north along a line parallel to yet one foot east of the east wall of the pole barn to Point A.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes only the nominated barn along with a contributing silo structure.