# The Digital Shift

## Updates to National Register Policies and Refresher Points

*Preserving Historic Places Conference*

October 1, 2026

DNR Indiana Department of Natural Resources | *Historic Preservation & Archaeology*

**Paul Diebold,** Assistant Director and Architectural Historian
**Holly Tate,** Architectural Historian
**Jamie Reeder,** Preservation Specialist

# National Register Updates

- New NR Checklist, State Register form, and Determination of Eligibility form
- New method of submitting nominations
- National Register form Update

# New Forms

We are updating several forms to reflect changes to submitting National and State Register nominations.

## State Register

- Changes to instructions for sending photos

## Determination of Eligibility

- Updating how to submit materials
- Updating by end of year
  - Compile all materials into a single PDF or Word document
  - Send them to DHPARegister@dnr.in.gov

## National Register Checklist

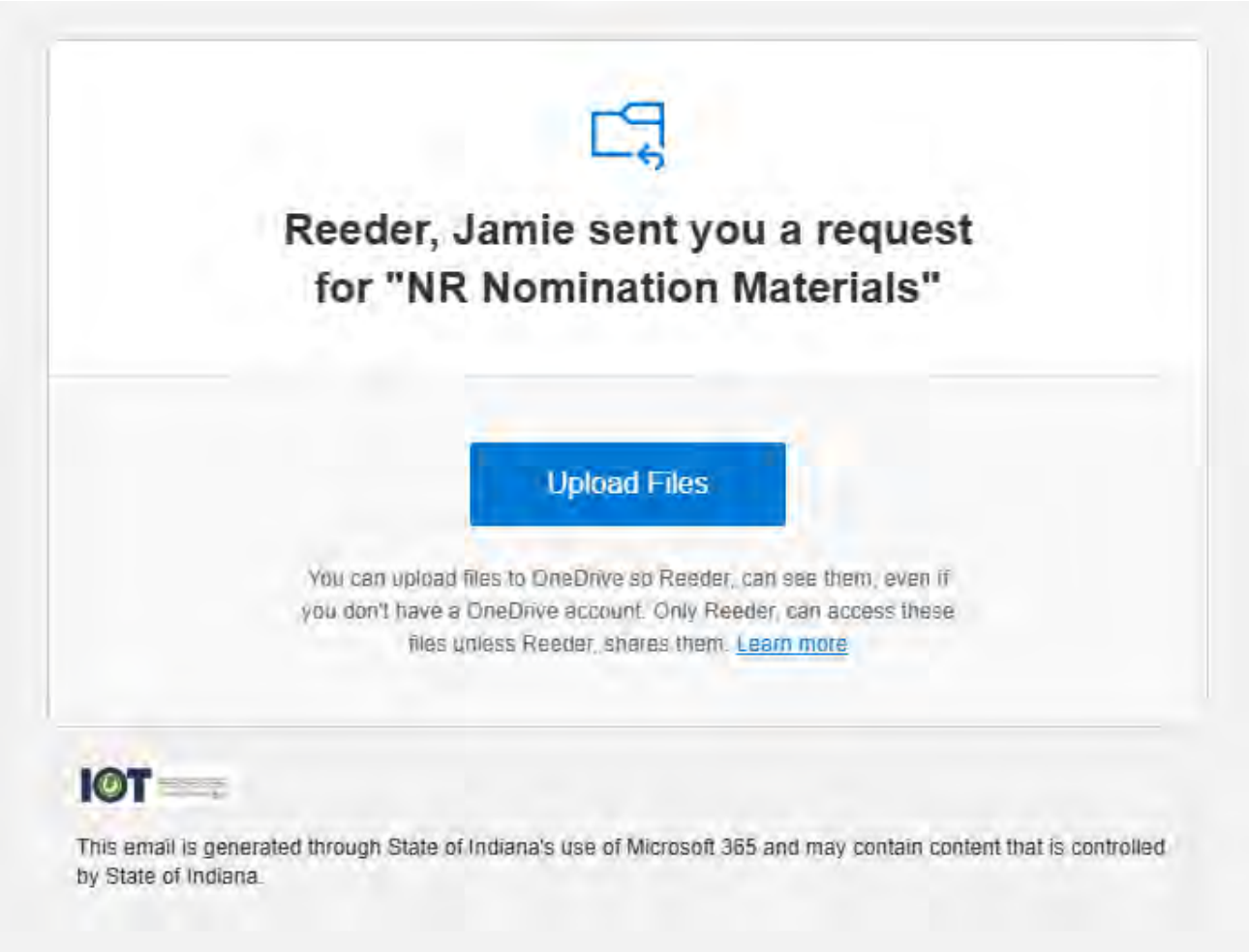
- Changes to instructions for sending photos and updates to CLG process
- Updating by end of year

# National Register Nomination Portal

We can now utilize SharePoint to submit large files, instead of a flash drive or CD.

To send documents this way, you first need to contact our office (DHPARegister@dnr.in.gov) to request a link to the shared folder where you can drop the documents.

When you see the button on the right in your email, click it and transfer the files in a single ZIP file.



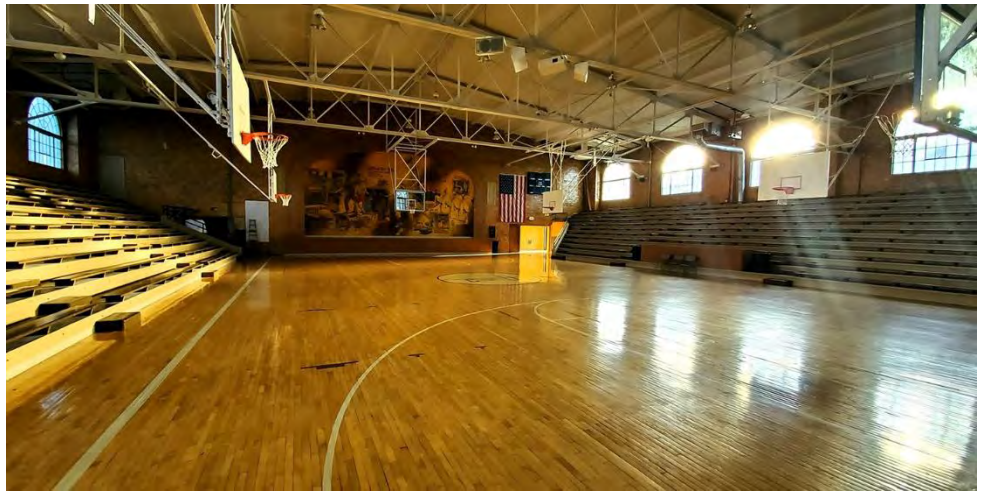
# Historic Context-the key to significance

## What is historic context?

Historic contexts are those **patterns, themes, or trends** in history by which a specific occurrence, property, or site is understood and its **meaning and significance** is made clear.



Mooresville High School Men's Basketball Team, c. 1950



Mooresville Gymnasium today

# Examples of Contexts

Context = an analysis of like properties associated by time, geography, and theme

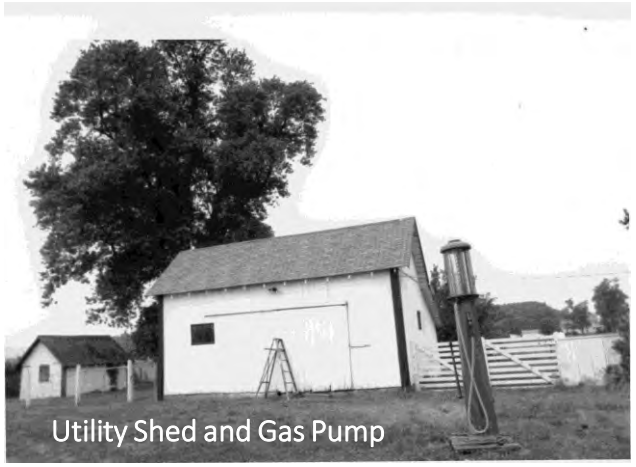
Agriculture in Bartholomew County, Indiana,
1865 – 1940

Streetcar and Auto Suburbanization, Marion County, Indiana,
1870 – 1935

Craftsman Architecture in Fort Wayne, Indiana,
1905 – 1930


House


Overall View


Utility Shed and Gas Pump


1890 Barn


Wagon Shed

Elnora Daugherty Farm, Bartholomew County

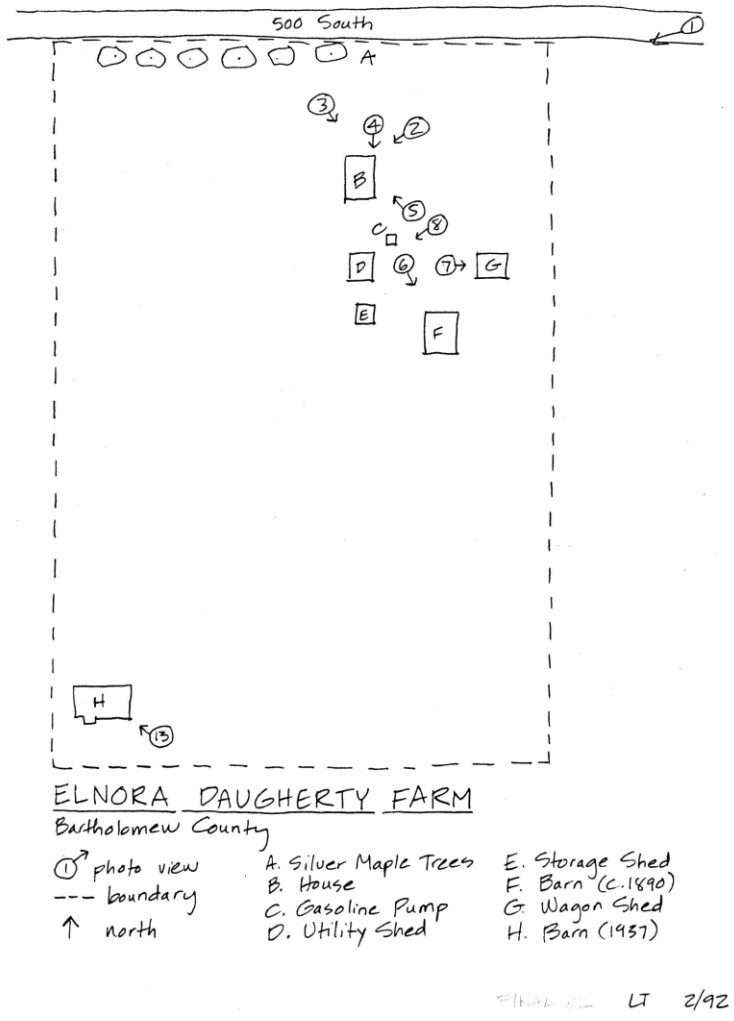
# Research Tools

- How might this 1993 map differ if made today?
- Ag Census
- IHSSI/SHAARD
- Rural atlases
- Aerial photos (IHAPI)

What constitutes significance?

What is “local?” in this case?

Crops raised are reflected in buildings (Tobacco farming)




Elnora Daugherty Farm, Bartholomew County





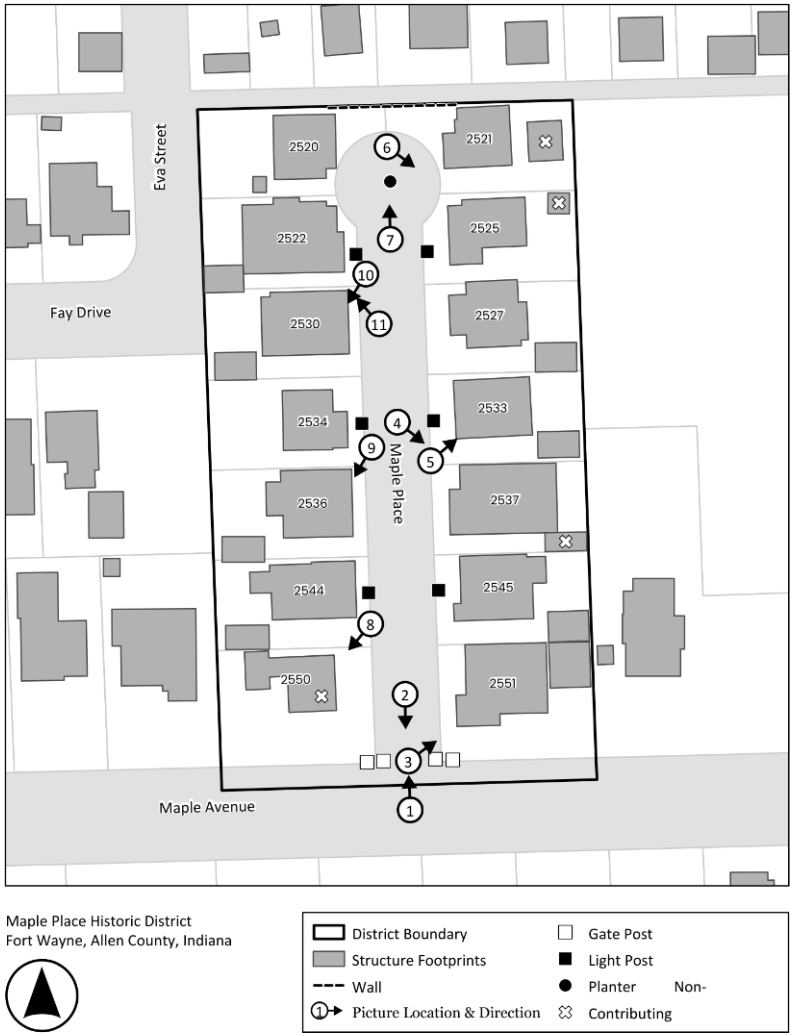
Platted: 1912
Construction: 1912-1918
Architect: Frank Fortney, City & Suburban Building Co.

Maple Place Historic District, Allen County

# Research Tools

- District nomination search in SHAARD
- In general: bungalow courts
- Other community studies in Indiana
- Newspaper searches
- Sanborn maps






Maple Place Historic District, Allen County



Platted: 1915

Construction: 1915-c.1940

Civil Engineer: unknown

Architect: unknown









Pleasanton in Irvington Historic District, Marion County




## Research Tools

- Plat documents & abstracts
- Newspapers
- SHAARD – nearby districts & nominations
- Trolley line maps
- Baist's Atlases (Marion Co. only)
- Tie into Historic Residential Suburbs in U.S. MPDF


PLEASANTON IN IRVINGTON
Seek a Beautiful Place to Live
Chas. M. Cross & Co.
19½ North Meridian Street




Pleasanton in Irvington Historic District, Marion County









# Comparables

**Comparables** are essential in your context!

- Top left: Irvington H.D., 1870
- Middle left: N. Irvington Gardens H.D., 1910s
- Lower left: Emerson Heights H.D., 1910
- Right: Woodruff Place, 1870

- Larger trends
- "Gimmicks" – attractions
- Housing stock
- Who was living there?

Historic Districts, Marion County








Westover Addition Historic District, Jackson County

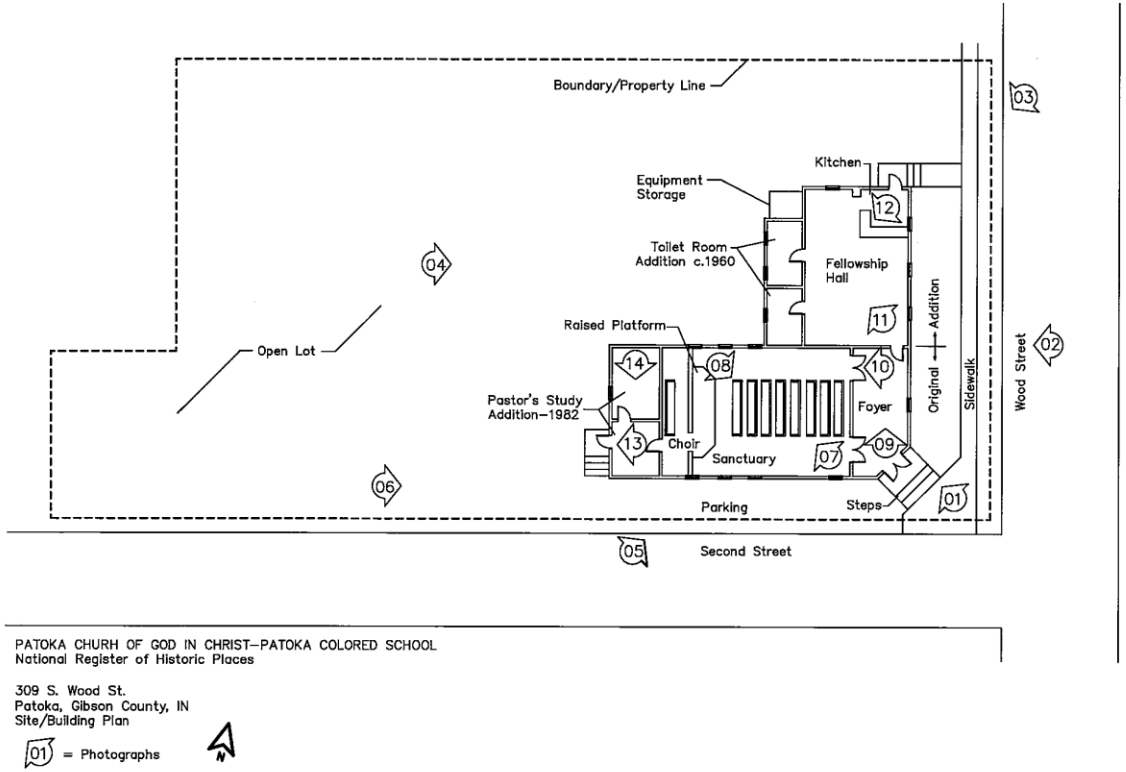
# Comparables

Comparables & Context, when there are no local ones

- General information from “Suburbs” MPDF
- Broadly comparable to previous Indy examples

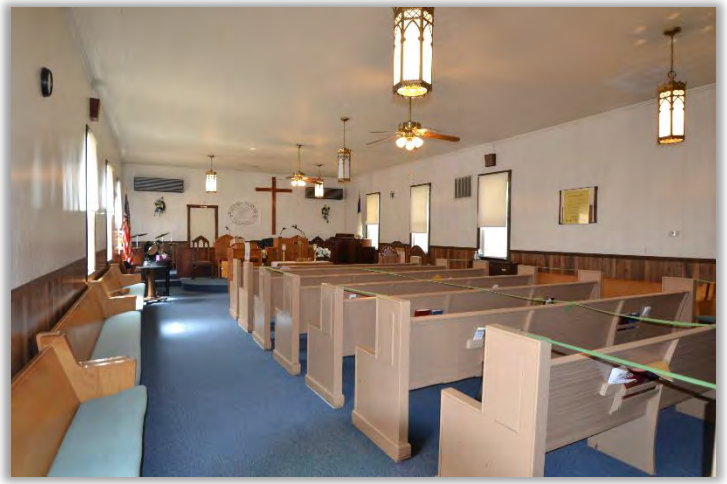

Great LOT SALE
AND OPENING OF
WESTOVER ADDITION
to SEYMOUR, INDIANA, Will Take Place
SATURDAY, JUNE 7th
and Monday, June 9th
What Others Say About Westover
There Are 90 of These Beautiful Lots
And You Should Arrange to Secure One or More of Them.




Patoka Church of God in Christ-Patoka Colored School, Gibson County





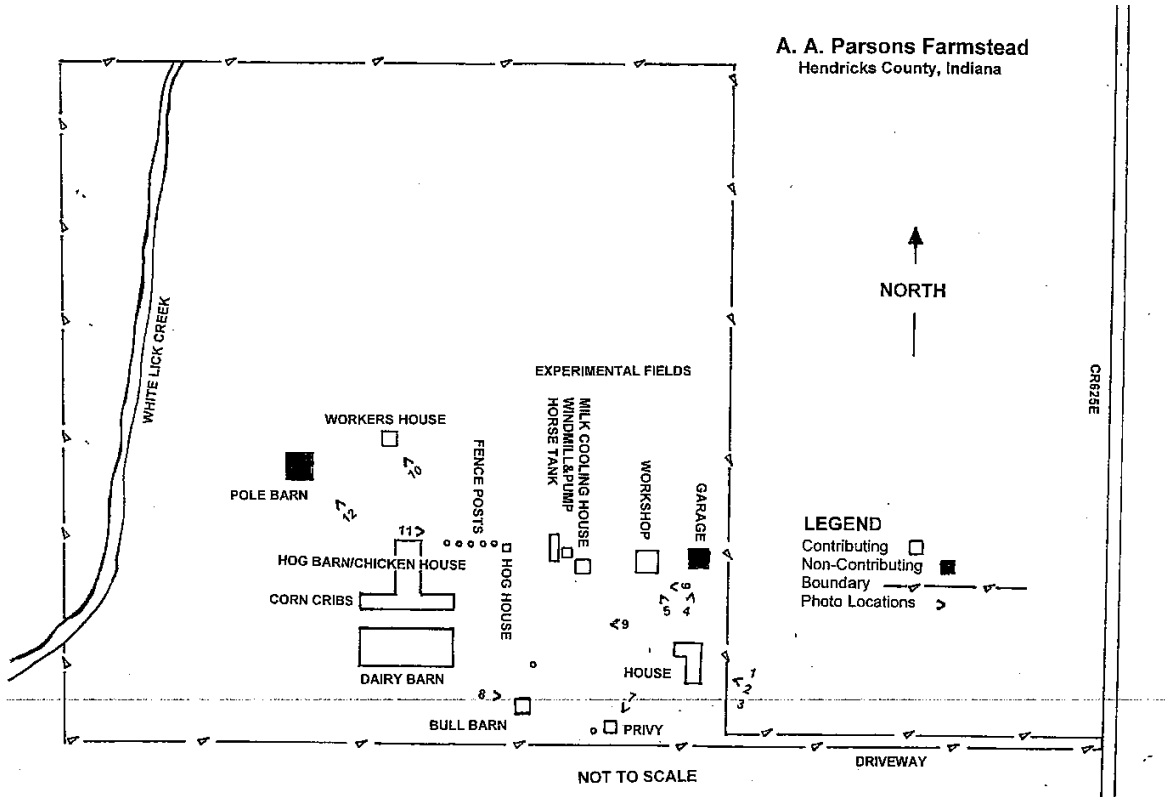




# Resources

Atlas
Newspapers
Archives
Deeds
County History
Nominations
MPDFs

Patoka Church of God in Christ-Patoka Colored School, Gibson County








A.A. Parsons Farmstead, Hendricks County






A.A. Parsons Farmstead, Hendricks County

# Resources

Personal Journals
Personal Papers
Aerial Photographs
Historical Society
County History
Annual Reports
Periodicals
Journals Newspapers



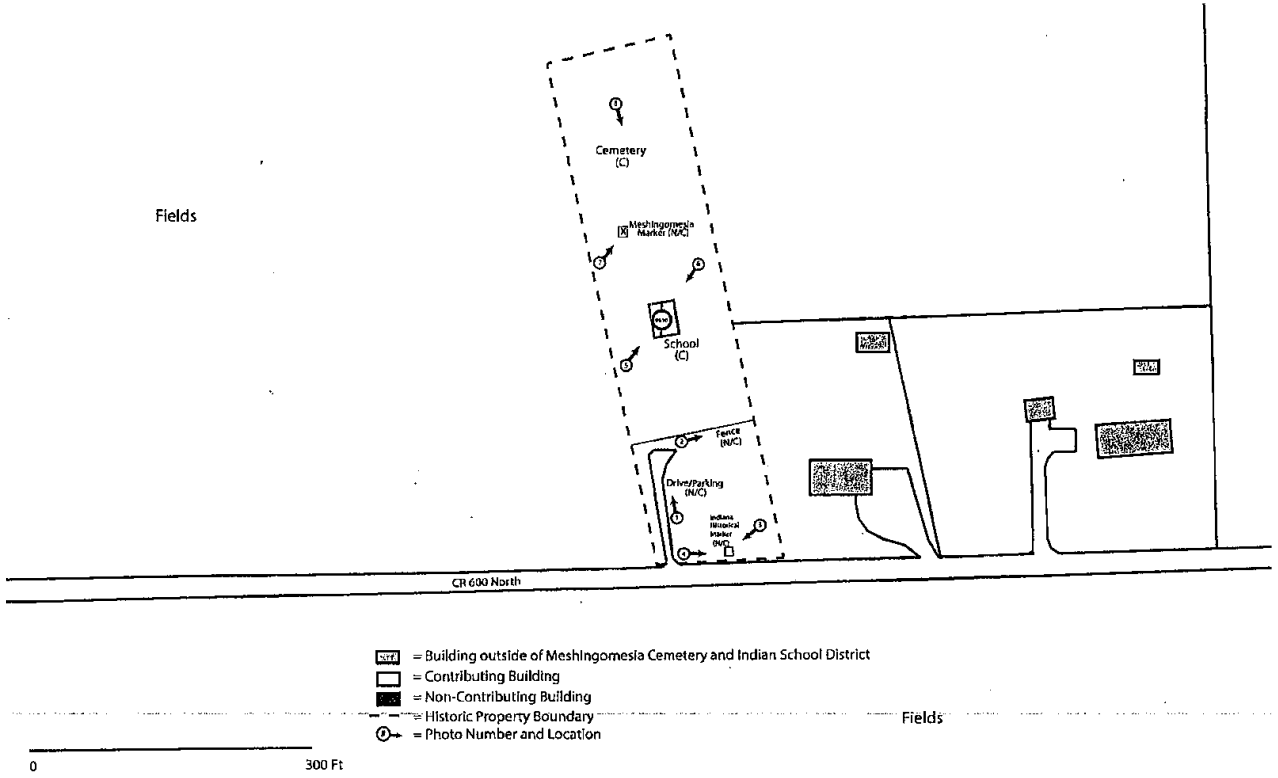



A.A. Parsons Farmstead, Hendricks County

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Meshingomesia Cemetery (Mihsiinkweemisa) and Indian School, Grant County







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Professional Journals
Dissertations
Historical Reviews
Nominations
Newspapers
Government Publications
Periodicals
Court Testimony
Literature Reviews
Historical Society

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# Questions?

**Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology**

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