

*FINAL*

**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 Lenhart Farmhouse  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_ 011-155-05063

**2. Location**

street & number 6929 North Piqua Road N/A  not for publication  
city or town Decatur N/A  vicinity  
state Indiana code IN county Adams code 001 zip code 46733

**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.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

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:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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:)

Lenhart Farmhouse  
Name of Property

Adams 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
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	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

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

### 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal  
MID-19th c.: Greek Revival

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK  
walls BRICK  
WOOD: Weatherboard  
roof ASPHALT  
other STONE

### 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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

c.1848

**Significant Dates**

c.1848

1925

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

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

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:

Lenhart Farmhouse  
Name of Property

Adams IN  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.73 acres

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 6	6 7 5 3 4 0	4 5 2 3 5 8 0	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 Christopher Baas and Julie K. O' eirne  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date 01-01-2001  
street & number 21116 N. Banbury Rd/ 6929 N. Piqua Rd telephone 317/ 877-7799; 219/  
city or town Noblesville/ Decatur state IN zip code 724-4954 46060/ 46733

## 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 Julie K. O'Beirne  
street & number 6929 N. Piqua Rd. telephone 219/ 724-4954  
city or town Decatur state IN zip code 46733

**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 7 Page 1

Lenhart Farmhouse, Adams County, Indiana

The Lenhart Farmhouse is a brick I-house located approximately one-half mile north of the City of Decatur in rural Root Township, Adams County. The residence was constructed in the Federal style, but also displays Greek Revival style details. Its form evolved in four phases: the main c.1848 rectangular block with a single story ell and porch, the 1925 bedroom addition and porch enclosure, the 1993 garage, and the 1995 connection of the house to the garage. A non-contributing horse barn was constructed in 2000. It is located southeast of the house and is visible in Photo #4.

The house is located on a knoll in what is otherwise the bottomland of the St. Mary's River. Its main façade faces southwest and parallels Piqua Road, which runs northwest to southeast. The property is 1.73 acres in size, and is bounded on the south by Piqua Road, the west by Caffee Ditch, the north by another residential property, and the east by County Road 100 East. Trees, shrubs, and turf surround the house. The property is accessed from Piqua Road by a gravel drive, and the house by concrete walks that lead to front and side entries. Caffee Ditch, formerly Lenhart's Run, flows southwest to the St. Mary's River. It is lined with a variety of mostly indigenous tree species. A c.1917 concrete bridge is located on the northwest corner of the property where Caffee ditch intersects Piqua Road. A spring flows from the knoll's north side.

The rectangular block of the I-house dominates the structure's form. It has a brick foundation and walls laid in a common bond of seven rows of stretchers between single header courses. A cellar is located beneath the northwest half of the house. The gable roof has asphalt shingles and end chimneys. The chimney stacks have a cap comprised of three bricks. The main block's northeast façade has a single story ell, the enclosed porch and bedroom addition, and the garage connection.

The window openings on the house's main block and ell have limestone sills and lintels that are painted white. The windows have been replaced with modern vinyl-covered wood double-hung sashes, which is a compromise to the structure's historical integrity. However, like the originals, the windows are divided into six-over-six lights, the sizes of the window openings are unchanged, and the interior moldings preserved. The main block's gable ends have two original two-over-two double hung windows with wood lintels and sills. The windows on the modern additions match the character of the historic structure. The six-over-six windows on both the house and additions have modern shutters.

The front and rear facades have a prominent entablature comprised of a wide, plain frieze board and highly detailed crown molding. The pediment-like gables have cornice returns, and the interior of the roof's slope displays crown moldings over a plain frieze-like board.

The house's main facade displays typical I-house symmetry, and has five equally divided bays. The central bay has an entry door located below a second story window, and is flanked by two bays with first and second story windows. Two cellar windows are located northwest of the entry. The door opening has a limestone sill and lintel, and a modern one step brick stoop. The walnut entry door has two vertical panels over a single horizontal. A wide rail separates the panels. A rectangular, three light transom is located over the door. The entry has a modern storm door, and a modern exterior light is located adjacent to the opening.



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Lenhart Farmhouse, Adams County, Indiana

The house's gable ends are identical, and display the cornice returns and detailed moldings. The plain, frieze-like board and molding that line the roof's modest overhang, overlaps the lintels of the attic windows. The northwest gable end has a cellar entry.

The structure's northeast façade displays the main block's upper story, and the gable ends of the ell and 1925 porch enclosure and bedroom addition, garage, and the connection between the house and garage. The main block's upper story has a window located over the enclosed porch, and a window located over the bedroom addition and garage connection.

The single-story brick ell extends from the northern most corner of the northeast façade. It is one room deep, and two of the main block's bays wide. It has a gable roof running perpendicular to the main structure, and a chimney. The ell's northwest façade has a door and window with limestone sills and lintels. The interior door is modern and is accessed from the outside by wood steps. It is protected by a c.1925 storm door with eight lights over a small panel. A plain frieze and crown molding wraps the top of the wall. The ell's northeast façade is a gable end that has a single cornice return and a plain trim board that follows the roof's slope. The ell's southeast façade is covered by the shed-like 1925 porch enclosure that has a small single light window. It has vinyl siding, and abuts the 1925 bedroom addition and the 1995 addition that connects the house to the garage. A small single light window is on its northeast façade. The connection's gable end has vinyl siding, a cornice return, and a door.

The garage is a one and one-half story structure with a steep-pitched gable roof oriented perpendicular to the main block. It has an asphalt shingle roof and vinyl siding. The northwest façade has a door, the northeast façade has an upper story window, and the southeast façade has the garage door. The southwest façade has two lower and one upper story windows, and the connection to the house.

The house's southeast façade shows the main block's gable end, and the connection between the house and garage. The connection has a door and a window, and a plain frieze board tops the wall.

The home's interior displays the central hallway flanked by single rooms variation of the I-house plan. A single room ell projects from the northernmost room. The central hall runs the depth of the main block, and has an open well walnut staircase that extends to the attic. Landings are located between floors. The stringer is decorated with a gracefully carved design beneath the end of each tread, and a triangle panel is located below the lower six steps. The treads have rounded nosings, and the balusters and newel post are turned. The handrail gently curves at each landing and floor, and is continuous to the attic.

The interior's walnut woodwork is plain in appearance. The wide baseboards are topped by a groove, and have a quarter-round molding at the wall and floor juncture. The downstairs rooms have a low plain chair rail equal in height to the bottom of the windows. There are no cornice moldings. Windows and doors have plain, shouldered architraves where the top horizontal board extends slightly past the verticals in what Wilbur Peat termed "croisettes." The horizontal board is thicker than the verticals, projecting out slightly more from the wall.

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Lenhart Farmhouse, Adams County, Indiana

The interior doors are typically walnut and match the description of the front entry. The interior walls are constructed of brick except the framed wall between the hall and northernmost room. The house's framing members are milled red oak. Interior wall finishes are plaster, and the floors are ash planks of irregularly placed 4" to 8" widths. The cellar is accessed from a stairwell located in the central hall under the staircase, and is used as a den. It has the brick foundation walls, and a modern concrete floor.

The ground story's northernmost room is a family room that is accessed from the hallway. Its fireplace has been enclosed, probably in the 1925 alterations. The single room ell extends from this room off the rear of the house, and likely housed the original kitchen. The stove chimney has been enclosed. The northwest wall has a door to the outside. The southwest wall has the house's remaining original window, and a door that would have historically accessed the porch.

The ground story's southernmost room is a dining room. It is accessed from the hallway, and the 1925 bedroom addition. Its fireplace has a classically inspired surround of column-like pilaster jambs supporting a broad frieze and mantle. The jambs have capital-like moldings and a base with a top molding. The mantle shelf rests on a molding. The firebox is parged brick, and the modern hearth is irregularly shaped limestone pieces set in mortar.

A modern kitchen occupies the original porch, replacing the kitchen added in 1925. The 1925 bedroom addition and the connection to the garage now have a bathroom, half bath, utility room and storage space.

The second story has two bedrooms flanking the stairwell. Its woodwork matches the lower story, except for the doors, which display two long, vertical panels. The southernmost bedroom has a bathroom. The attic, like the second story, has two spaces that flank the stairwell. The northernmost space has a bedroom, and the southernmost space is unfinished attic.

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Lenhart Farmhouse, Adams County, Indiana

The Lenhart Farmhouse (c.1848) is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for its outstanding architecture. The impressive I-house residence was constructed in the Federal style with Greek Revival style details. It is located on Piqua Road, a historic trail and early transportation route. The 1994 historic structures survey of Adams County rated the house Outstanding.

The Lenhart Farmhouse is significant in the context of Mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century Architecture in rural Root Township, Adams County, Indiana. The township and county, established in 1836, were essentially still unimproved woodland at mid-century. The nearby Town of Monmouth, and Decatur the county seat, were the township's economic and governmental centers. As settlers moved into the township from eastern origins, or in John Lenhart's case, locals who chose to begin farming or improve upon their existing farms, land was available from the government and local speculators. The ideal land for farming typically had abundant timber, fertile soils, a dependable water supply, and access to transportation routes.

The land on which the farmhouse is located was originally purchased in 1836 by Benjamin Franklin Blossom who is locally significant for his public service as Adams County's first elected school commissioner in 1837, and as the postmaster for the Town of Decatur. Blossom owned, and likely speculated, land throughout the county. The property that ultimately became the Lenhart Farm was located on Piqua Road. In 1836 Piqua Road was the main artery of transportation from Piqua, Ohio to Fort Wayne, IN. The origin of the name comes from the Shawnee Legend of Otath-he-wagh-Pe-Qua (He has come out of the ashes), where a tribe assembled around a fire witnesses a man ascend from the smoldering embers.

Piqua Road generally parallels the east bank of the St. Marys River. It connected the Three River's area of Fort Wayne, to the Pickawillainy region in Ohio where a trading post was erected in 1749. Originally it was an animal path where animals instinctively followed the high ground to find the best route around swamps and swales, sink holes, and quicksand bottoms. It was subsequently used by Indians, and ultimately settlers. The section through Root Township is also known as the "Wayne Trace," a road that supplied troops garrisoned at Fort Wayne following General Anthony Wayne's victory at the Battle of Fallen Timbers in 1794.

Starting in 1853, a sixteen-foot wide, thirty-mile plank toll road from Fort Wayne to Piqua was constructed by Adams County Recorder and Clerk Samuel L. Rugg, and local businessman Joseph D. Nuttman. The construction followed strict specifications including the use of 8"x12"x3" planks of clear white oak on 4"x4" stringers. The road served Adams County until about 1866 when it had fallen into such disrepair that they discontinued collecting tolls.



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Lenhart Farmhouse, Adams County, Indiana

In 1845, John Lenhart (1797-1877, often spelled Lenhard) purchased an approximately 120-acre property that straddled Piqua Road. He moved his wife Rebecca Burrell (1801-1873) and eleven children to a log house where they lived while they constructed a brick I-house and improved the property for farming. A twelfth child was born to the family in 1849.

Originally from Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, and of German decent, Lenhart appears to have been a successful farmer as well as politician. He was elected to three terms as County Commissioner (1842 to 1844), and was active in the local agricultural society that organized an annual fair. The property must have been appealing for its location along Piqua Road, and the close vicinity of both Monmouth and Decatur. It also had timbered, fertile soil to be improved for growing crops, and spring supplied water.

John Lenhart built a model farm from the undeveloped territory of Root Township. While the house was located north of Piqua Road, the barnyard was located south. The Abstract of Title for his Executor's sale described the property as "the Lenhart farm, on the North bank of the St. Marys River about a mile from Decatur. The farm has upon it a good brick dwelling, a good orchard, a frame barn, corncribs and other outbuildings. It has never failing springs, also a sand and gravel back upon it; also a stone quarry, in the bed of the river. This farm is mostly bottomland of the first quality."

Lenhart constructed a brick Federal style I-house for his family c.1848. The term I-house was established by Fred Kniffen in 1936 to describe a house type mostly found in rural Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa; and a type associated with economic success in an agricultural society. It was a folk architecture form with British roots, and the subsequent evolutionary step beyond the one and one-half story hall-and-parlor to a full two-story structure. The form was established in the Middle Atlantic States and transplanted to the Midwest along western migration routes. The type's popularity transcended the mixture, and source, of the Nineteenth Century migrating cultural groups. It also demonstrated, to a degree, assimilation into a homogenous Nineteenth Century agrarian society. While it had slight material and layout variations between geographic regions, it was consistently at least two rooms in length, one room deep, two full stories in height, had a symmetrical façade, and end gables. Examples in Indiana are typically four bays wide, or five bays wide with a central hallway dividing the two room width.

The I-house's persistence as a housing type ranged from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century into the early 20<sup>th</sup>. Its plain exterior allowed it to be decorated in a variety of styles. The Lenhart Farmhouse was constructed in the Federal Style, but also displays some Greek Revival details. The Federal style was the successor to the Georgian style, and is often referred to as Adamesque (termed from the influential British architect Robert Adam). It was Indiana's dominant style from about 1810 to 1840. Federal style I-houses, like the Lenhart Farmhouse, tend to be simply detailed, two-story rectangular blocks. They have evenly spaced multi-paned windows with flat lintels, entry doors with a simple transom, and a low-pitched gable roof with small eaves. Federal style interiors were also simplistic with narrow woodwork stylized with edge beading and corner blocks. Low wainscoting was common, and stairs had thin spindles and newels. Delicately carved and painted mantelpieces were the principal decorative features.

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Lenhart Farmhouse, Adams County, Indiana

The Greek Revival style was popular in Indiana from 1840 to 1860. In the transition between styles, it overlapped and meshed with the Federal style. It was inspired by archaeological discoveries in Greece, and was a public display of Ancient Greece's democratic values embraced by many early Americans. The style was most fully expressed in public buildings and churches, and is also evident in many residential examples that were typically gable-front in form.

In Indiana's rural agricultural areas, such as Root Township, the early examples of the Greek Revival style were typically expressed through stylistic applications to existing housing types. Wide, plain entablature moldings, cornice returns, pilasters, and entry doors with transoms and sidelights typify the style. Greek Revival interiors displayed more plain and broader woodwork than Federal examples, window and door lintels with croisettes, jambs with column-like tapers, and mantelpieces that were plain and simple panels with simple engaged columns or pilasters.

The Lenhart farmhouse displays the typical I-house form of a two-story, five bay rectangular block with evenly spaced multi-paned windows. It has a gable roof and end chimneys, central hall flanked by two single rooms, and is one room deep. The house displays the Federal style details of an overall plainness, low-pitched roof with small eaves, flat door and window lintels, and an entry door with a transom. The interior spaces have a low chair rail characteristic of the style.

The house also displays Greek Revival style characteristics, most notably in the wide cornice, and cornice returns of the pediment-like gables. While minimal in detail, the interior displays the Greek Revival style in its plain and wide baseboards, and window and door surrounds. Windows and doors have shouldered architraves with croisettes, and the fireplace has a plain mantle piece with an unadorned frieze supported by column-like pilasters.

In 1880, Nimrod Dailey and his wife Rosannah purchased the property for \$11, 500.00 and farmed it until his death in 1886. His family and descendents leased the house and land to tenants for the next 77 years. One of those tenants was Fred Weidler who rented the home from 1925-1931. Weidler enclosed the back porch of the original structure for use as a kitchen, and built a bedroom addition to the house.

In 1963 John and Letha Hutchison purchased the brick home with approximately 6 acres on the north side of Piqua Road. The ownership of the home and acreage was transferred again in 1968 to Clois D. and Winona F. Eicher who razed several outbuildings, including an intriguing spring cooled milk house.

In 1991 Julie Kay (Sheets) O'Beirne purchased at the Eicher estate sale 1.73 acres that included the brick home and spring. The home had been unoccupied for several years and was in serious disrepair. Restoration of the house included updating the heating, plumbing, and electrical systems in 1991, constructing a detached garage in 1993, replacing the concrete cellar floor 1995, constructing the kitchen, bath, and utility connection to the garage in 1998, and constructing a horse barn in 2000.

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Lenhart Farmhouse, Adams County, Indiana

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Lenhart Farmhouse, Adams County, Indiana

Verbal Boundary Justification

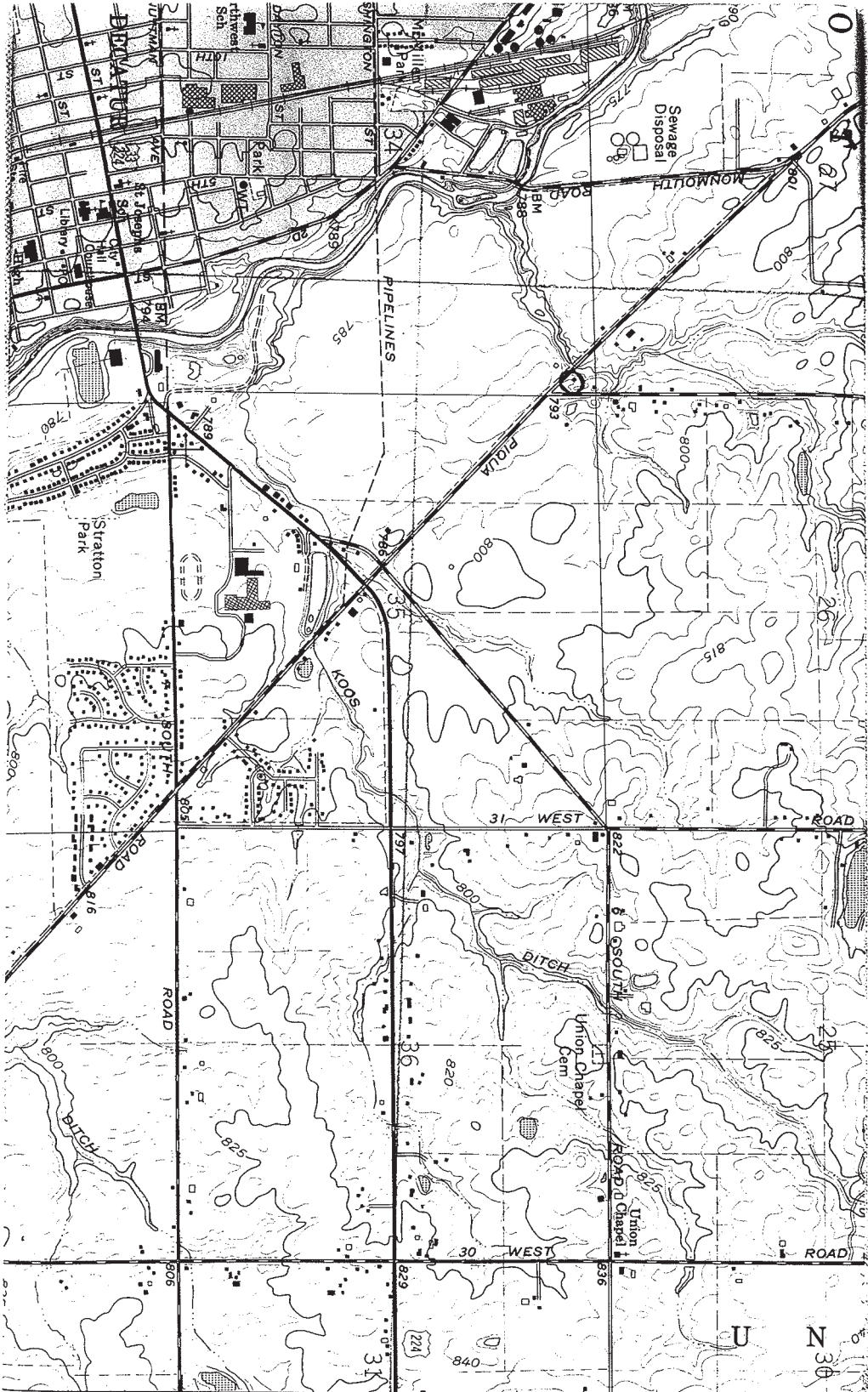
A portion of the Northeast quarter of Section 34, Township 28 North, Range 14 East, Adams County, Indiana, more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the Northeast corner of Section 34, Township 28 North, Range 14 East, Adams County, Indiana; thence southerly on the east line of said quarter 346.32 feet to a point, said point being the point of beginning for the tract herein described; thence northwesterly deflecting 126 degrees 07'36" right 376.87 feet to center line Caffee Legal Open Drain; thence southwesterly along the center of said drain 141 feet, more or less, to the centerline of Piqua Road; thence southeasterly along the centerline of said road 514 feet to said East line; thence northerly on said East line 275.29 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the farmhouse and its historical context including its location on a knoll adjacent to Piqua Road, and Caffee Ditch.





1.8 MI. TO IND. 101  
VAN WERT, OHIO 16 MI.

T. 28 N.

16 07534D 4523580

1:220 000  
FEET  
LENHART  
FARM HOUSE

4524

N 30