

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Kennedy-Hoffa House

Other names/site number: Kennedy, Martin H. and Susan, House

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 501 East Main Street

City or town: Center Point State: IN County: Clay

Not For Publication:

Vicinity:

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

<p>_____ Signature of certifying official/Title: <u>Indiana DNR-Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology</u> State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	<p>_____ Date</p>
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<p>In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>_____ Signature of commenting official:</p>	<p>_____ Date</p>
<p>_____ Title :</p>	<p>_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

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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>0</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

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

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: I-House

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE
walls: SYNTHETICS: Vinyl
WOOD: Weatherboard
roof: METAL
other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Kennedy-Hoffa House was constructed in 1858 by the Martin H. Kennedy family on land he platted to create the town of Center Point in Clay County. The two-story house with rear wing is an example of the I-House type with simple features of Folk Victorian design. The house fronts Main Street on an ample-sized lot near the center of the small village and features a deep front lawn.

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Narrative Description

Site and its Features

Situated on a deep front lawn near the middle of the town of Center Point is the Kennedy-Hoffa House (photo 01). Located on Main Street, the house was built by Martin Kennedy in 1858 on lots he platted as part of the development of Center Point. The house fronts Main Street and has mature landscaping and several shade trees on the site. Some older features, typical of early-to-mid-20th century town lots are also located on the property. These include a brick sidewalk centered on the front façade that leads south to Main Street and a concrete sidewalk off the back door of the house that leads around to the west side of the home. An old woven-wire fence is in the northwest corner of the property. The enclosed area was used to raise show and coon hunting dogs. A clothesline stretched between two T-shaped metal supports extends along the north edge of the property. The Hoffa family had a large garden and strawberry patch between the dog pen and chicken coop to the east; the children picked and sold produce at the family hardware store. A small landscape bed of daylilies and other plants is off the east side of the house. Behind it is an old metal swing set of A-frame supports and ladder (photo 03). Nearer the east side of the house is a former well with a wood and rubber-covered top. While the features are small in scale, with some being temporary in nature, they create a fitting setting for a mid- to late 19th century residence.

Chicken Coop

One building, a chicken coop, was brought to the property and placed in the northeast corner during the 1950s (photo 06). The coop itself dates to c. 1920. The small building has walls composed of vertical wood planks and a small wood window with four lites. A door of planks is in the opposite side. The building has a shed roof covered by metal. The building is counted as a non-contributing resource though it was used by the Hoffa family to raise chickens and eggs.

Kennedy-Hoffa House Exterior

Photos 01-05

The house is the most significant feature of the site. The two-story, side-gabled house features a rubblestone foundation and walls covered with vinyl siding. The house has a combination of 1/1 and 4/4 wood windows with simple casings. The roof on the two-story section is a new metal roof while the roof over the one-story rear wing and addition is historic (c. 1900) metal. See photos 03-04.

The front façade (photo 01) is symmetrically arranged with five equally-spaced bays of 1/1 wood windows. A one-story porch with a wood floor and stone step is centered on the façade. The porch shelters the three middle bays of the first floor, including the center bay which features a wood entry door. The door features four panels and a half-circle window in the top and was installed c. 1925 (photo 08). The porch, a Folk Victorian addition c. 1890, features four turned posts atop short plinths with chamfered edges along the outside wall and two against the inside wall at the corners. The porch has a solid frieze with drop acorn finials between posts. The frieze and eaves of the porch's low-pitched shed roof are supported by jigsawn scroll brackets.

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The east façade (photo 03) features a 1/1 window in the south end of the two-story section's first floor and a short 1/1 window in the north end of the section's second floor. A one-story addition is off the northeast corner of the two-story section and features a shed roof covered with historic metal. A short 1/1 window is in the north-facing wall of this addition. North of this addition is the east wall of the rear wing. The south half of this wall was once an open porch, but was enclosed c. 1925. It features two wide 1/1 wood windows and a wood door. A four-panel wood door is north of the enclosed porch. A wood deck is off the enclosed porch between the addition and north end of the façade. The west façade (seen in photos 02, 05) features a tall, red-colored brick chimney centered on the two-story section and a 1/1 window in the south end of the first floor. The north half of the west façade is the west wall of the rear wing and features a 1/1 kitchen window in its south half and a short 1/1 window in its north half. An exterior entrance to the basement is near the center of the west wall and is covered by a wood hatch.

The north (rear) façade (photos 04-05) features two 4/4 wood windows in the second story east of the gabled roof of the rear wing, and one 4/4 wood window west of the gabled roof of the rear wing. The remaining part of the two-story box is covered by the rear wing and shed roof addition. The north wall of the rear wing features a short wood window divided into six lites centered on the wall and a wood entry door with window in the west half of the wall. The entry features a modern wood porch with wood posts that support a historic shed roof covered with corrugated metal. A tall frieze board is at the top of the walls and wraps around to the east and west sides of the wing under the eaves. The rear wall has a saltbox-like appearance to the roof because the east eave is lower than the west eave.

Kennedy-Hoffa House Interior

Photos 07-22

The interior typifies I-House design with a central stairhall at the entry (photo 07-08) with rooms to either side (east and west). The east room is used as a bedroom (photo 09) and has a door in its north wall to a laundry room addition on the northeast corner of the two-story box. The west room is the living room and features a Colonial Revival style fireplace surround with ceramic tile hearth (photo 10). A wide opening in the living room's north wall leads to a large dining room which features built-in corner cabinets in its southwest and northwest corners, also in the Colonial Revival style. A window opening, enclosed at the time the enclosed porch was created, has shelves built into it in the northeast corner (left side of photo 11). A door from the dining room to the bathroom is in the southeast corner (photo 11). The bathroom (photo 12) features a closet under the stairs of the central stairhall.

A doorway between the dining room and kitchen is in the northeast corner of the dining room. The kitchen features modern (1952, photo 14) metal Youngstown cabinetry. The Hoffa family hardware was a distributor for the line of cabinetry. A doorway to the enclosed porch is off the southeast corner of the kitchen and a doorway to a landing for the basement stairs is off the northeast corner of the kitchen (both seen in photo 15). A full basement is under the rear wing. A porch door is in the northwest corner of the kitchen (photo 13). The enclosed porch features a door in the northeast corner that leads to the wood deck off the east side of the house (photo 16).

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The second story features a central hall/landing with the stairs leading from the entry at the south to the north at the top of the stairs (photo 17). The balustrade continues around the opening for the stairway. Two bedrooms (photos 20-22) are located on the east side of the landing and one large bedroom (photos 18-19) is located off the west side of the landing with entry in the bedroom's southeast corner. The second floor doorways feature transoms, divided into two lites, and each bedroom features c. 1952 built-in wood closets and cabinetry. These features are seen in photos 18-22.

The house has wood floors throughout, though the first floor features carpets and linoleum tile and sheet goods. The walls and ceilings throughout are plaster though the northeast bedroom ceiling has c. 1952 fiberboard tiles installed over the plaster. The wood trim throughout the house is composed of simple wood boards and short baseboards. Minor exceptions include the simple, but nicely maintained turned newel posts and balusters of the central staircase (photos 07, 17) and the more formal hoods over doors in the kitchen (photos 13, 15), which seem to date to c. 1860. There are several early 20th century light fixtures throughout the house.

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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.)

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

Period of Significance

1858-c. 1890

1858-c.1890

Significant Dates

Significant Person (last name, first name)

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Kennedy, Martin Hughes

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder (last name, first name)

Period of Significance (justification)

There are two periods of significance for the Kennedy-Hoffa House. In the area of Exploration and Settlement, the period of significance is 1858-c.1860, due to Martin Kennedy's noteworthy role in the development of Sugar Ridge Township and Center Point. Kennedy entered the original plat and first addition, which includes the lot on which the house was built.

Additionally, he was involved in many business and civic ventures that contributed to the development of the community. The period of significance for architecture begins in 1858, the year in which the I-house was constructed, and ends c.1890, when the porch was added to the front façade of the house, giving it an overall Victorian-era appearance.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Kennedy-Hoffa House, 1858, is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places using criterion C under the area of architecture. The house appears to be the earliest extant building in Sugar Ridge Township and the community of Center Point and is one of only two examples of I-House construction in the township. While slightly modified, the house is significant due to its symmetrically arranged five-bay front façade and intact arrangement of interior spaces common among I-House design.

Because Martin Hughes Kennedy is a notable figure in the history and development of Sugar Ridge Township, and specifically Center Point, the house is considered eligible under criterion B for Kennedy's role in the settlement of the township and platting Center Point. Being one of the most consequential figures in the township's 19th century history, the house is the only extant resource related to Kennedy aside from the actual plat of Center Point and his grave at the town cemetery.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

ARCHITECTURE

I-House Design

The Kennedy-Hoffa House has a typical I-House form with an early, potentially original, rear wing extension (photos 01-05). I-Houses received their name from where they were most popularly constructed in the Midwestern states of Illinois, Iowa, and Indiana. The form has earlier roots in British folk forms that were common in pre-railroad America. These are found in both the South and midland areas, often in log construction. Their popularity in the Midwest was due in part to their larger size being more desirable for spending long confining winter months indoors.¹ The form is related to the smaller hall-and-parlor plan. The true I-House form is two rooms wide separated by a central stair hall, one room deep, and two stories in height with a side-gabled roof. Some modified examples were constructed as partial or two-thirds I-Houses. The I-House form was popular from about the 1820s through the 1880s. They were popular both in developing urban areas and rural areas; in rural areas they were often a second generation building taking the place of small cabins. In more urban areas, I-House construction declined as building lots became narrower to produce higher density housing. The type was, however, often constructed on lots of early plats that had more generous proportions. This was certainly the case with the Kennedy-Hoffa House (1858), particularly since the owner and builder was also the originator of the plat and located on Kennedy's First Addition to Center Point.

¹ McAlester, pg. 96

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Common features of I-House construction are a symmetrical arrangement of door and window openings on its front façade, single-story front porch, and chimneys at one or both gabled ends. Many also have a rear wing, either original or an early addition, which is typically a single story and was used for the kitchen. A central stairway was also typical, dividing the two rooms on both levels. The Kennedy-Hoffa House possesses all of these important features of the type. I-Houses were often stylized with prevailing architectural trends; common are Federal and Greek Revival examples, though the largest numbers of I-Houses were constructed in simple folk vernacular or Folk Victorian styles, like the Kennedy-Hoffa House.

The Kennedy-Hoffa House has a symmetrical front facade composed of five bays with window openings around a simple entry (photo 01). The façade reads as an I-House due to the formal, regular pattern of bays on the front façade and one-room width of its side facades. A chimney is located on the west gabled end of the house for a fireplace (left side of photo 02); a matching chimney was once located in the east gabled end as well. A single-story porch, Folk Victorian in design, is centered on the front façade and extends across the middle three bays (photo 01-02). The first and second levels are divided by a central stair hall and staircase that begins at the front door and ends at a landing on the second level (photos 07, 08, 17). Both first floor rooms have a formality to them, particularly the west room which features a fireplace (photo 10). The second story features a large bedroom on the west side and two smaller bedrooms on the east side of the central stair hall and landing (photo 17).

The rear wing was either original to construction of the home in 1858 or a very early addition. Minor modifications have been made to the wing, such as the enclosure of an east side recessed porch (photo 03, exterior and 16, interior) and pent roof connection from the wing to the northeast corner of the two-story box (left side of photo 04). The wing contains a dining room and kitchen, divided by an east-west wall, and basement stair landing in the northeast corner. Original clapboards and windows are exposed in the enclosed porch.

Hesitancy to categorize the house under a specific style is due to a few factors, some of which are due to early 21st century remodeling. The house lacks cornice returns (photo 03) and more elaborate three or four-part entry (side-lites and/or transom) commonly found applied to I-Houses constructed in the Greek Revival style, though the balanced symmetry of the façade and tall cornice boards would indicate some adherence to that style (photo 01). The house features windows that are taller and narrower than what would be typical in Greek Revival architecture. These include some 4/4 historic windows on the back (photos 04-05). A beautifully detailed Folk Victorian porch features turned posts rising from a tall base with chamfered edges. Carved scroll brackets are located between the posts and support the eaves. These features are more Italianate or Queen Anne in classification, but the house lacks other features, such as brackets under the main roof's eaves and window hoods that may enable some classification. Prior to installation of vinyl siding, the house featured simple, flat cornices over windows and the front entry door. The inclusion of the late 19th century front porch was commonly done to give a mid-19th century home a more modern, Victorian, appearance.

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The interior provides no additional conclusions with regard to style. Most of the casings are composed of simple flat poplar boards with no hoods over doorways or windows, with the exception of a few doorways in the rear wing which feature simple pediment hoods (photos 13, 15). This may indicate that the wing was added later or escaped any remodeling campaigns. The home has mostly historic four-panel wood doors throughout, with the exception of two two-panel doors immediately off the entry into the two side rooms of the two-story box (photos 09-10). These doors were more typically found in Greek Revival homes. Transom windows are over the doors in the second story (photos 21-22). The house also features nicely-turned newel posts and simple turned balusters forming the balustrade on the central staircase. Some late Colonial Revival features were added to the interior, such as the fireplace surround and built-in corner cabinets in the living room and dining room, respectively, in the 1950s. About this time, simple plywood cabinets and closets were added to bedrooms. See photos 18, 20-22.

Despite alterations to its exterior siding, some windows, and the additions to the north (or back of the house), the original design intent and materials are clear from both the exterior and interior of the house. It is an architecturally significant building in Center Point.²

Comparables

The Kennedy-Hoffa House is located in Center Point, in Sugar Ridge Township of Clay County. Because the township is near the center of the county and the area has a settlement pattern that typifies much of the county, with rich agricultural ground, I-Houses like the Kennedy-Hoffa House would not have been an uncommon housing type in the township. While there are a handful of other side-gabled, early frame houses such as examples of central-passage, double-pile, and hall-and-parlor types, there were only two other I-Houses surveyed in the township in 1997, both located outside Center Point.

The Moss-Rentschler Farm on County Road 100 North includes an I-House constructed in a blend of Greek Revival and Italianate features in about 1870 north of the unincorporated village of Ashboro. The home features cornice returns, a symmetrical façade composed of three bays, a two-story rear wing, and Folk Victorian porches. The other I-House, c. 1855, was once located at County Road 275 East near its intersection with County Road 200 North, east of Center Point, but is no longer extant. Most of the township's and Center Point's historic architecture dates between about 1880 and 1930 with simple examples of gable-front, T-plan, and bungalow types. The notable exception is the Rufus Kennedy House, an architect-designed home constructed in the Free Classic style about 1894. Rufus Kennedy was Martin Kennedy's son and constructed his home, "visited and christened by the Governor (Mount)"³ on the southeast edge of Center Point on Harmony Road. With the loss of the I-House on County Road 275 East, the Kennedy-Hoffa House appears to be the oldest extant resource, aside from pioneer cemeteries, in Sugar Ridge Township.

² Tate, Holly, DHPA substantive review letter

³ Travis, pg. 88

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EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

Martin Hughes Kennedy

The Kennedy family were among the earliest settlers in Clay County and called “one of the oldest and most prominent of Clay County’s families.”⁴ Martin H. Kennedy purchased two parcels of land in Section 7 of Sugar Ridge Township from the Vincennes Land Office in August of 1839. One parcel contained 80 acres and the other contained 29 acres. Kennedy had been brought to Indiana by his parents, Dr. William J. and Sarah (Russell) Kennedy, probably first to Parke County, Indiana in the 1820s where Martin married his wife, Susan Rawlins on November 26, 1835. Martin was born in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania on March 13, 1813. His father’s family had deep Pennsylvania roots. Martin’s great-grandfather, Hugh Kennedy, from whom he received his middle name, arrived from Ireland prior to the American Revolution in which he was enlisted in various battalions from Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. Martin’s father’s family also moved to Clay County, settling in Posey Township by 1840. The land abstract for the Kennedy-Hoffa House indicates that William J. Kennedy had purchased the land on which Center Point was platted in 1838, then sold the 40 acre tract to his son, Martin, in 1839.

While Martin Kennedy’s initial interests were in farming and agricultural pursuits, he was also heavily engaged in the timber industry and built one of the area’s first sawmills, and was “the very first to erect any kind of buildings here.”⁵ Kennedy hauled “the best poplar lumber”⁶ to markets in Terre Haute where it sold for 50 cents a hundred. Over the following decades from his arrival to Sugar Ridge Township, Kennedy amassed approximately 700 acres of land, including the land upon which Center Point was platted.

Center Point was the largest town in the central part of the county by about 1900. The original plat of 16 lots was entered by Martin Kennedy in 1856 followed by the town’s first addition containing 56 lots created by Kennedy in 1858. It was upon this addition that the Kennedy-Hoffa House was built by Martin in the same year the addition was created. The village was given the name of Center Point, taken from a post office established in 1854 near the geographical center of the Clay County. Kennedy had hoped this central location would entice county government to relocate the seat of government from Bowling Green to his new village. Instead, Brazil (10 miles northwest of Center Point) received that designation in 1876 due in part to its location on the National Road.

Center Point’s geographic location had a number of other advantages, however, including its position on the Upper Bloomington Road (between Brazil and Bloomington) and at the terminus of the Center Point Division of the Vandalia Railroad, which extended south from South Bend near Indiana’s northern state line. The Center Point Division was established by Martin Kennedy to serve Center Point in 1856. Center Point also had mail delivery service from the time of its platting due to its location on the Bowling Green-Brazil mail route (Bowling Green-Brazil Road,

⁴ Travis, pg. 88

⁵ Travis, pg. 88

⁶ Travis, pg. 525

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or known in Center Point as Main Street). Martin Kennedy seriously considered the benefits of putting a condition of sale on his lots for the prohibition of alcohol, forcing Center Point to be a “dry town” however his business partner at the time, Esau Presnell, discouraged it since it would negatively affect their trade. Kennedy was said to have regretted not making that a condition.⁷

Kennedy wanted his town to succeed, so he sold lots at a reasonable cost and, because of his ownership of the sawmill, also constructed homes for either sale or rent, on town lots. Joseph Redinger constructed the first home in Center Point, about 1856, which also functioned as a hotel. Kennedy provided a shop for the village’s first blacksmith, Matthias Rager, in 1854 (preceding the plat). B. H. Shrewsbury was both the first post master and merchant in Center Point. He was followed by the firm of Presnell & Kennedy, the saw mill owned by Martin Kennedy. That mill, located just east of Kennedy’s house, would later be named M. H. Kennedy & Son as it added a flouring mill between 1858 and 1859, and then a woolen mill in 1860. The woolen mill, however, would be relocated by the Kennedy brothers (Martin’s sons) to Terre Haute and renamed the Vigo Woolen Mills near the close of the Civil War. Martin’s father, Dr. William J. Kennedy, while living outside of the village, was considered one of the town’s first physicians. The town was incorporated in 1869 at which time it had a population of 300. Clay deposits used for making tile were found on the south side of Main Street and at the east end of town near the cemetery during the 1860s, which created additional industry in town. A number of coal mines were also developed by the Crawford Coal Company near Center Point, including one on Kennedy’s property.

Martin Kennedy’s interest in seeing his community flourish included development of the Clay County Agricultural Society on four acres of land he donated in 1856 in Center Point, on the north side of Main Street. The society’s fairs were held at that location until it was relocated to Bowling Green after 1862. Kennedy’s generous contributions also aided in the construction of the county’s first two-story high school, which was departmentalized in areas of study, in Center Point in 1866. Kennedy served at least one term on the three-member Sugar Ridge Township Board and was elected to the state legislature from Clay County. Kennedy also supported an inventor and tinner named Joshua Hadley. Hadley, who had no family, was provided lodging at the Kennedy farm until he reached 21 years of age when he moved from Center Point to Brazil where he secured a number of patents including ones for a coffee pot and miner’s lamp.

At a Thanksgiving feast held for old pioneer men of the county, Martin Kennedy was among eight honored guests who gathered at a farmhouse in 1892. At that time, he had been a resident of Clay County for over 50 years. Martin’s wife, Susan, died the following year on June 10, 1893. Martin died four years later on June 24, 1897. The couple, along with Martin’s parents and several of their children, are interred at Center Point Cemetery on the northeast corner of town.

In the 1909 comprehensive history of Clay County, written by William Travis, with whom the Kennedy family had a long relationship, the author remarks that Martin H. Kennedy was one of the pioneers to Sugar Ridge Township with “character and industry, having commendable aspirations and ambitions to gratifying in laying the foundations of society and building for the

⁷ Travis, pg. 517

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security and happiness of the succeeding generation, came upon the scene, intent on converting the wilds into fields of grain and gardens of fruit, gave immediate promise of a new and better era in the development and future of this territory and the county at large.”⁸ Newspapers carried notices of Martin Kennedy’s death, as far away as Chicago and Cincinnati, which included that “more credit is due him (Martin) in the county’s growth than to any other man.”⁹

Developmental History/Additional historic context information

The Martin H. Kennedy home went through a series of other ownerships beginning in about 1886, and after Martin’s death in 1897. For a period of time, it was owned by the Big Bend Coal & Clay Company who mined coal north of the home in the 1930s through the early 1940s. However, the family with which the home has had the longest association is the Hoffa family who purchased the home in 1952. Descendants of the Hoffa family continue to own the home for nearly seventy-five years later. Their close association with the house for this long period, longer than the Kennedy family or any other owner by a substantial length of time, provides a profound connection between the Hoffa family and the house. The Hoffa family is responsible for its continual care and preservation. The Hoffa family were business owners and important figures in the Center Point community with a hardware store immediately adjacent to the house. The name Hoffa has been associated with the house since 1952 and is the name it is known by within the Indiana Historic Sites & Structures Inventory (#021-105-36003) conducted in 1997. It is also the name by which the determination of eligibility was granted by the Indiana State Historic Preservation Office.

McNary “Mac” and Dorothy (Woosley) Hoffa purchased the home that Martin Kennedy constructed nearly one hundred years later, in 1952. The Hoffas had married in 1939 and opened a hardware store in Center Point in 1944. Mac’s parents operated a hardware store in Bowling Green during the 1920s through 1950s, so the Hoffas were familiar with the operations of running such an establishment. Mac Hoffa had clerked in the family hardware store while yet at home with his parents. His WWII draft registration card indicated he was employed at Hoffa Brothers Hardware and married to Dorothy in 1939. Hoffa’s Center Point Hardware was a social hub for the community. The family operated the business until 1970 when they sold the store. Mac then worked for Brazil Coal and Dorothy was the office manager for Dr. Moon in Brazil. Both retired 10 years after closing the hardware.

The Kennedy home was just east of the home the Hoffas purchased upon arriving in Center Point, which was just east of the hardware. The Kennedy home provided a larger yard and space for their growing family. The 1950 census lists the Hoffa family with children Gerry, Nancy, Helen, and Ann. Bette was born in 1951 and Mary Lou was born in 1956. Mac was listed as the proprietor of the hardware store in the 1950 census. Today, the home is owned by Mary Lou Hoffa, daughter of Mac and Dorothy Hoffa.

⁸ Travis, pg. 17-18

⁹ “Grim Reaper-Martin Kennedy” Cincinnati Enquirer 24 June 1897 pg. 4 col. 1

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Abstract of Title for 501 E. Main Street (Kennedy-Hoffa House) Center Point, IN

Clay County (Indiana) Historic Sites and Structures Inventory Interim Report. Indianapolis: Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, 1997.

“Grim Reaper-Martin Kennedy” *Cincinnati Enquirer* 24 June 1897 pg. 4 col. 1

McAlester, Virginia. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2006.

SHAARD: Indiana Department of Natural Resource/DHPA survey accessed June 17, 2022.
<https://www.in.gov/dnr/historic-preservation/help-for-owners/national-and-state-registers/shaard-database/>

Travis, William. A History of Clay County, Indiana. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1909.

United States Federal Census for Clay County, IN: 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940, 1950

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 021-105-36003

Kennedy-Hoffa House
Name of Property

Clay County, IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre

Use the UTM system

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 16 | Easting: 493461 | Northing: 4363066 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property is legally described as lots 31-33 and west part of lot 34, including the vacated east/west alley of Kennedy's First Addition to the Town of Center Point. Beginning on the north side of Main Street, opposite the east side of Railroad Street, at the southwest corner of the property, face north and continue in a line 250 feet to the south side of Ohio Street. Turn east and continue in a line with the south side of Ohio Street approximately 130 feet, then turn south and follow a line approximately 125 feet. Turn west and follow a line approximately 30 feet, then turn south and follow a line approximately 125 feet to the north side of Main Street. Turn west and follow a line with the north side of Main Street approximately 100 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries described contain the original Martin Hoffa House, built in 1858, and adjacent land that has become one parcel under the same ownership over subsequent years since the house was constructed. This includes the ample lawn and features of the site.

Kennedy-Hoffa House
Name of Property

Clay County, IN
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kurt West Garner
organization:
street & number: 12954 6th Road
city or town: Plymouth state: IN zip code: 46563
e-mail: kwgarnier@kwgarnier.com
telephone: 574-780-1423
date: June 22, 2022

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)
-

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Kennedy-Hoffa House
Name of Property

Clay County, IN
County and State

Photo Log

Name of Property: Kennedy-Hoffa House

City or Vicinity: Center Point

County: Clay State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: May 17, 2022

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking north at the front (south) façade from Main Street

1 of 22.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northeast at the front of the house

2 of 22.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southwest at the east façade of the house

3 of 22.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking south at the back (north façade) of the house

4 of 22.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southeast at the house from the backyard

5 of 22.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northwest at the chicken coop

6 of 22.

Kennedy-Hoffa House
Name of Property

Clay County, IN
County and State

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking north/up at central staircase on first floor

7 of 22.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking down/south at entry from the staircase

8 of 22.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southwest in first floor bedroom toward entry

9 of 22.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking south from dining room into living room

10 of 22.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southeast toward bathroom entry off of dining room

11 of 22.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking east through bathroom/laundry addition

12 of 22.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northwest in kitchen

13 of 22.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southwest in kitchen

14 of 22.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking east in kitchen toward enclosed porch

15 of 22.

Kennedy-Hoffa House

Clay County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking east in enclosed porch to deck

16 of 22.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking south into central stair landing on second floor

17 of 22.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northwest in large (west) bedroom on second floor

18 of 22.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southeast in large (west) bedroom toward central landing

19 of 22.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northeast in northeast corner bedroom on second floor

20 of 22.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking west in northeast corner bedroom toward central landing

21 of 22.

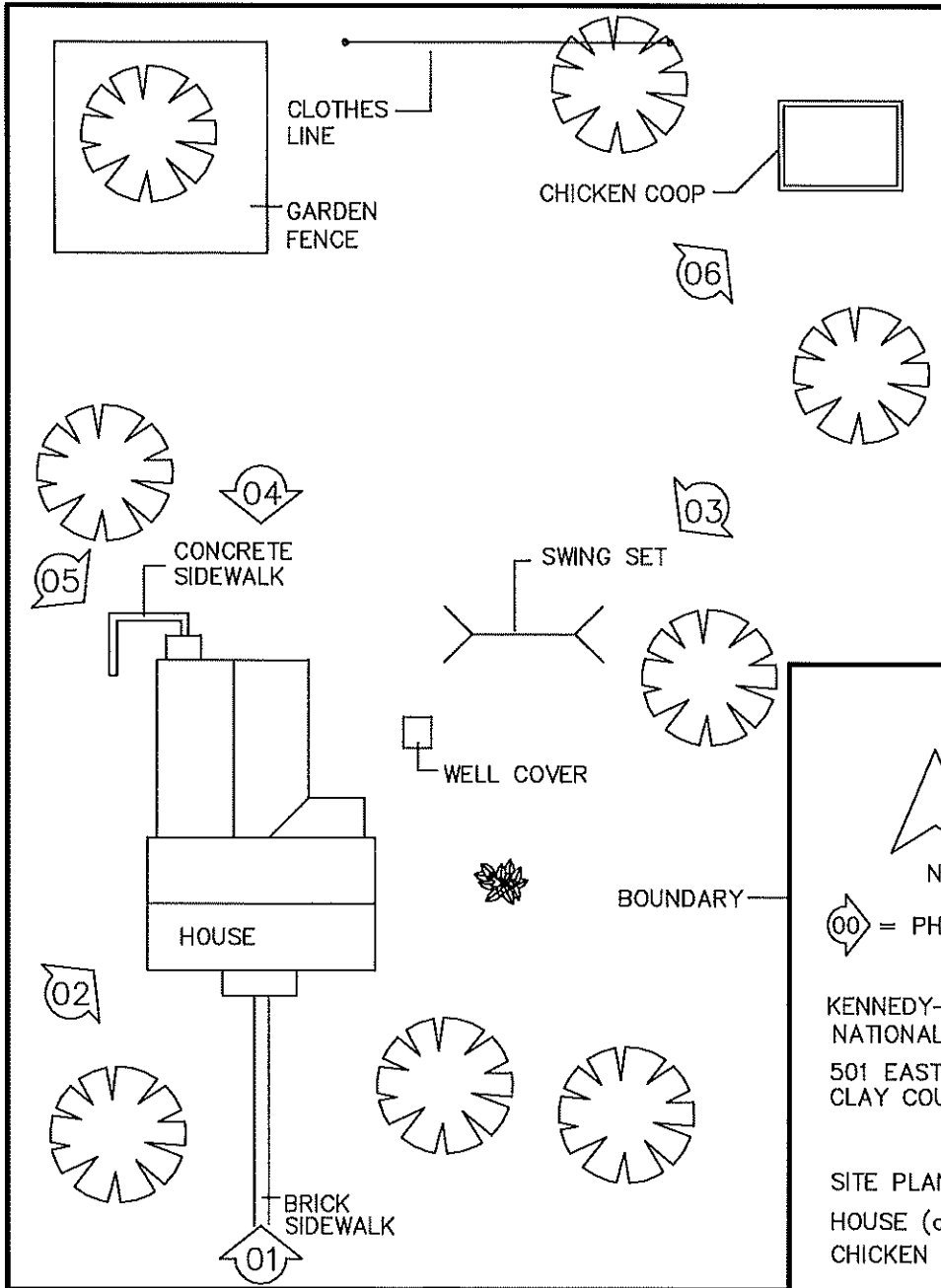
Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking west in southeast corner bedroom toward central landing

22 of 22.

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

OHIO STREET

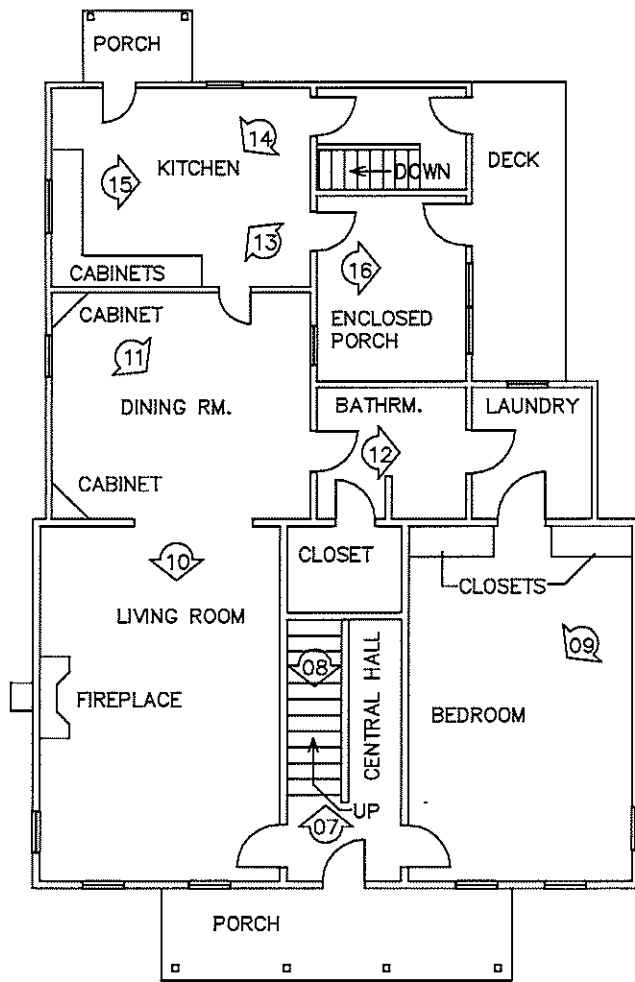


KENNEDY-HOFFA HOUSE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
501 EAST MAIN ST. CENTER POINT
CLAY COUNTY, IN

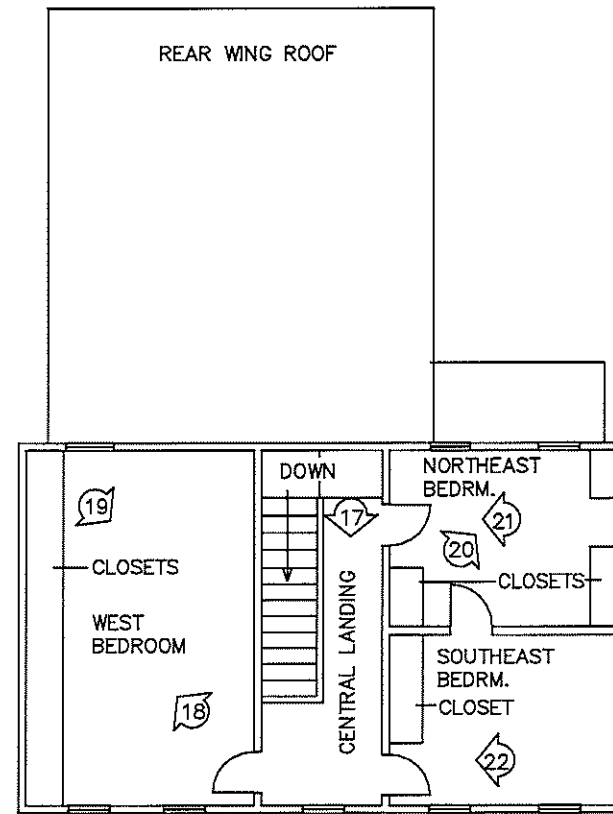
SITE PLAN
HOUSE (contributing building)
CHICKEN COOP (non-contributing building)

MAIN STREET

RAILROAD STREET

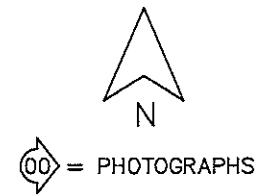


FIRST FLOOR PLAN

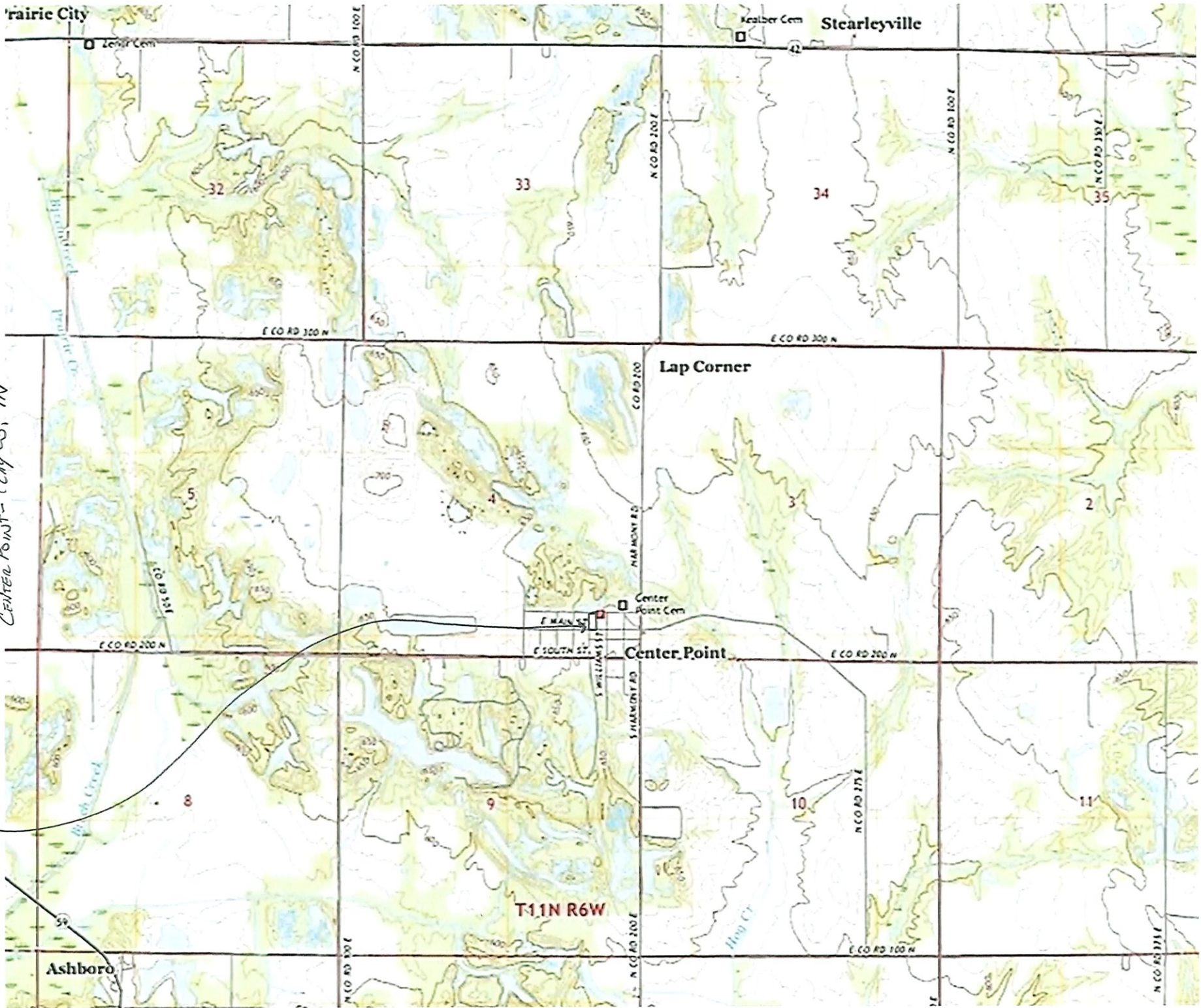


SECOND FLOOR PLAN

KENNEDY-HOFFA HOUSE
 NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
 501 EAST MAIN ST. CENTER POINT
 CLAY COUNTY, IN



KENNEDY-HOFFA HOUSE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CENTER POINT - CLAY CO, IN



NAD 83 UTM
ZONE 16 493461 4363066



IN_ClayCounty_Kennedy-HoffaHouse_0001



IN_ClayCounty_Kennedy-HoffaHouse_0003



IN_ClayCounty_Kennedy-HoffaHouse_0004



IN_ClayCounty_Kennedy-HoffaHouse_0005



IN_ClayCounty_Kennedy-HoffaHouse_0006



IN_ClayCounty_Kennedy-HoffaHouse_0007



IN_ClayCounty_Kennedy-HoffaHouse_0010



IN_ClayCounty_Kennedy-HoffaHouse_0011