

Listed 1 February 2010
NRHP Ref # 09001281
IHSI # 57-13821

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places 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 Cox Barn

other names/site number _____

2. Location

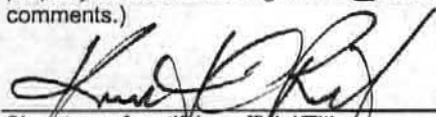
street & number 1290 American Ridge Road N/A not for publication

city or town Kendrick X vicinity

state Idaho code ID county Latah code 057 zip code 83537

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)



1 Dec 9, 2008

Signature of certifying official/Title Date
KENNETH C. REID, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

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 this 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

Cox Barn
Name of Property

Latah County, Idaho
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>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>		Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

Historic Agricultural Properties of Latah County, Idaho, 1855-1955

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/Subsistence:
Animal Facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/Subsistence: animal facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

No Style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls CONCRETE; WOOD/weatherboard
roof METAL
other _____

Narrative Description

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

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

Cox Barn
Name of Property

Latah County, Idaho
County, and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" on one or more lines 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" on all 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

Period of Significance

1920-1950

Significant Dates

1920

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.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

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 Other State agency
 - 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
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Name of Property Cox Barn
County and State Latah County, Idaho

Narrative Description

The Cox Barn is located in south central Latah County in northern Idaho, on American Ridge Road east of the community of Kendrick. The barn, which measures 38' by 93', sits facing north, parallel to American Ridge Road. The setting is surrounded by the rolling hills of the Palouse and nearby farmsteads. The Cox Barn retains very good integrity, including many of the mechanical features of a very modern dairy barn of the era. The farm's house and other related outbuildings are across a driveway and to the north and northeast; however, they have lost significant integrity and are not being nominated to the National Register at this time.

This large dairy barn, built circa 1920, stands on a three foot thick foundation of compressed rock and sand covered by concrete. In the 1970s, the foundation was further reinforced with concrete to support the building. The lower third of the barn is faced in rusticated concrete block; the upper two-thirds is horizontal weatherboard. A shallow-pitched, shed roof wraps around the west, south and east sides of the barn; this was more recently added, but the original construction is still completely visible. The roof is a gambrel form clad in standing-seam metal, with two louvered cupolas (with gabled roofs) on top.

A large double door is centered in the north (primary) facade, and a six-pane transom window appears above it. Six-pane, fixed-frame windows symmetrically flank each side of the door. A loading door is located above the entry door, and another rectangular door appears to the east. A large double-door for access to the hayloft is centered in the barn's gable, under its prominent hay hook. Four-over-four, double-hung windows symmetrically flank the hayloft door.

The east elevation features a small concrete block extension built as a milk separating room. The extension is inset from the north facade approximately one foot. A single entry door with a three-pane transom is located toward the north side of the extension. The extension has a gabled roof and a single, centered, four-over-four, double-hung window on each of its east and south sides. Rafter ends are visible at the roofline. A double entry door appears at the south end of the east elevation, followed by a row of eight rectangular, six-pane hopper windows stretching to the north; a small door near the north end is followed by three additional windows. The windows retain the hardware chains that allowed them to be opened from the inside for ventilation.

The west elevation is very similar to the east. The south end exhibits a window and door under a four-pane transom. Nine hopper windows appear from the north to the south. The windows retain the same hardware as the east-side windows.

The rear (south elevation) of the barn has a wide, centered entry door under a six-pane transom. An eight-pane window is located in the peak of the gable end.

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Name of Property Cox Barn
County and State Latah County, Idaho

The interior of the barn presents a wide corridor with a concrete floor, bounded by posts and beams of mortise and tenon construction. To the immediate east of the front entrance, a room built of horizontal wood planks with an entry door holds stairs to the barn loft and the entry to the milk room extension. The extension has a concrete floor and a drainage hole on the east side.

Adjacent to the wood plank room are two pens probably used to hold bulls. To each side of the central corridor, the original metal separators are in place. They accommodated thirty cows. The iron pipe stanchions have been removed but are stored in the barn's loft. Some wooden boards have been added to the separators. Halfway down the central corridor, the floor is raised with access by a ramp. Troughs to each side of the corridor were used to bring grain to the cows. A small, two-track trolley system runs the length of the barn; the system took manure out of the barn and to a dumpsite. The trolley wagon remains in the barn. Openings in the ceiling that slid open to let hay down from the loft remain. The barn contains a ventilation system that moved air through three-foot-wide wooden chutes and up through the cupolas.

The loft holds a vertical board room in which hay and grain were stored before being dropped to the lower room. The remainder of the loft is open, with laminated trusses visible. The hay-lifting mechanisms remain in place.

The Cox Barn is a variation of the Wisconsin Dairy Barn. The Wisconsin Dairy Barn is typically a large barn (36 by 100 feet) with a gambrel or rounded roof, rows of windows to allow ample light, large openings onto the hayloft, hayhoods, and, in many cases, roof ventilators housed in cupolas. The University of Wisconsin School of Agriculture promoted this style of dairy barn beginning in the early twentieth century, based on scientific research.¹

Endnotes

1. Allen G. Noble and Richard K. Cleek, *The Old Barn Book: A Field Guide to North American Barns and Other Farm Structures* (New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 1995; fifth paperback printing, 2006), pp. 25-122-123.

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Section number 8 Page 1

Name of Property Cox Barn
County and State Latah County, Idaho

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Cox Barn is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places on the local level under Criterion A, a property associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. The Cox Barn is nominated under the Multiple Property Document "Historic Agricultural Properties of Latah County, Idaho, 1855-1955." The barn is an excellent example of an early twentieth century dairy barn and represents a large family-owned dairy operation in Idaho during the Period of Significance, 1920 to 1950. The Period of Significance encompasses the construction of the barn and the transfer of the dairy operation to the second generation of the farm family.

The Cox Barn is located on the American Ridge in southwestern Latah County, Idaho. Latah County has a complex agricultural history. Its most successful farmers have been those in the southern and western sections of the county where the rich soils have yielded bumper crops, particularly wheat. Most large, prosperous agricultural operations in Latah County during this period were based on wheat farming, with some diversification including other crops such as peas and lentils, with poultry, cattle, and dairy cows kept mainly for family use. Farms in the more rugged and less fertile northern and eastern sections of the county tended to be smaller and more diversified, with a variety of crops and stock and dairy products consumed by the farm family and sold for cash. The Cox Barn represents a relatively unusual farm operation in Latah County, one devoted mainly to dairy farming.¹

A 1917 dairy farm manual noted that "Dairying requires more labor than most other forms of livestock husbandry, yet recompenses well if done intelligently."² Dairying did indeed require much intense daily labor; cows needed to be fed and milked and milk needed to be processed, no matter what the weather or time of year. The advantages included profitability: butter sold for \$400 to \$600 per ton, while wheat or oats brought only \$25 to \$30 per ton. Because the income was steady, the dairy farmer did not have to depend on a successful annual harvest to pay his bills. Dairying provided a consistent routine that kept the farmer engaged and busy, and it offered an opportunity for farm children to take a productive role in the farm's success.³

Dairy farm manuals of the era recommended standards for barns and for dealing with dairy cattle. For instance, the cows should be individually named and addressed by their names; they should be milked at approximately the same time every day and, if possible, by the same person. Barns should have concrete floors with cushioned floor coverings where the cows stood. If hay was stored in a loft, the floor should be very tight in order to prevent debris from drifting down to the milking area. Ventilation was important in preventing disease in the animals, and manuals recommended a system of ventilation that transferred barn air and fresh air through chutes that ran up through cupolas. Adequate light was also important; dark barns tended to be dirty barns thereby promoting disease as well as providing a depressing atmosphere for those doing the milking. One manual suggested four square feet of glass per cow.⁴

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Section number 8 Page 2

Name of Property Cox Barn
County and State Latah County, Idaho

The Cox Barn reflects this scientific approach to dairy farming. The barn is a variation of the Wisconsin Dairy Barn, typically a large barn (36 by 100 feet) with a gambrel or rounded roof, rows of windows to allow ample light, large openings onto the hayloft, hayhoods, and, in many cases, roof ventilators housed in cupolas. The University of Wisconsin - School of Agriculture promoted this style of dairy barn beginning in the early twentieth century. The barn became the center of William and Lelia Cox's dairy operation on American Ridge.⁵

William Cox was born in Nova Scotia in 1864, the second of ten children. He left home at seventeen and traveled the western United States to find work. He found construction jobs in California, where he was married. Lelia Bonnell was born in 1865 in the same area of Nova Scotia, the oldest of five children, and she and William Cox attended the same school. She became a teacher and married. Both William and Lelia eventually divorced their first spouses. On New Year's Day in 1894, Will Cox walked from Lewiston, Idaho to the Juliaetta area in Latah County to visit friends, the Gammels, who were also from Nova Scotia. They sold him land on American Ridge. He expanded his landholdings with other land purchases and a homestead where he established his first farmstead. He began corresponding with Lelia and they decided to wed. In November 1898, she traveled to Idaho with her nine-year-old son to marry a man she had not seen for nearly two decades. Lelia was in her thirties and thought her child-bearing days were over, but she had eight children with William Cox. They became prosperous farmers, building a large house with indoor plumbing in 1917 on the American Ridge property. About 1920, they built this imposing barn, which could accommodate thirty head of dairy cows. The Cox herd was made up of Ayrshires, a breed originally developed in the county of Ayr in Scotland. By 1917, they were the fourth most popular breed of dairy cattle in the country.⁶

The Cox Barn illustrates the Cox family's success in farming as well as their belief in modern methods. Besides the features associated with scientific dairy farming, the barn complex also included silos. The *Kendrick Gazette* of March 19, 1920, noted that William Cox was one of several area farmers who had recently purchased silos and stated that the popularity of silos indicated resurgence in the dairy and livestock industry after World War I; during the war, wheat prices were so high many farmers had devoted their land to wheat farming. With the end of the war, the profitability of dairy farming again became obvious, and silos were seen as an effective way to preserve the food supply for dairy cows. William Cox invested in two 80 ton silos, which are no longer extant, but are seen in a historic photograph of the barn; their foundations remain in place.⁷

In the 1940s, the third of William and Lelia Cox's children, Andrew T. Cox, bought the farm from his parents' estate and subsequently expanded its acreage. He continued the dairy operation, which he considered the basis of the farm's success. Andy Cox held several civic and organizational offices and was named an Outstanding Farmer of America in 1971. He died at the farm on American Ridge in 1996. The barn no longer serves dairy functions but continues to provide shelter for cattle and horses.⁸

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Name of Property Cox Barn
County and State Latah County, Idaho

Summary Statement of Significance

The Cox Barn is an excellent example of a modern, scientific dairy barn of the early twentieth century. The barn represents a large family dairy operation in Latah County that was largely responsible for the family's prosperity and ability to expand their landholdings. The barn retains very good integrity, having retained its original plan, siding, windows and detail elements, as well as many of its important dairying features, including the manure removal trolley, cow separators, ventilation system, and hay hook mechanism. The barn meets the integrity and registration requirements established in the Multiple Property Document "Historic Agricultural Properties of Latah County, Idaho, 1855-1955" and therefore it is eligible for listing in the NRHP.

Endnotes

1. See Suzanne Julin, "Historic Agricultural Properties of Latah County, Idaho, 1855-1955," Multiple Property Document, 2007, for a summary of Latah County agricultural history.
2. R. M. Washburn, *Productive Dairying* (Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott Co., 1917), p. 19.
3. Washburn, *Productive Dairying*, p. 16; C. H. Eckles and C. F. Warren, *Dairy Farming* (New York: The MacMillan Co., 1919), p. 9.
4. Washburn, *Productive Dairying*, pp. 167, 173, 179, 183-184; Eckles and Warren, *Dairy Farming*, pp. 141, 145.
5. Allen G. Noble and Richard K. Cleek, *The Old Barn Book: A Field Guide to North American Barns and Other Farm Structures* (New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 1995; fifth paperback printing, 2006), pp. 25, 122-123.
6. Peg Neal, "The Legacy of William and Lelia Cox," Gen-Bio C-411, Latah County Historical Society Archives, pp. 1-3.
7. "Farmers Buying Silos," *Kendrick Gazette*, March 19, 1920; Photograph, in possession of Donald Halvorson, property owner; information provided by Donald Halvorson, property owner, May 20, 2009.
8. "Andrew T. Cox, Am. Ridge Farmer, Died Sept. 4," *Kendrick Gazette*, clipping in Gen-Bio C-374, Latah County Historical Society Archives; information provided by Donald Halvorson, property owner, May 20, 2009.

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Name of Property Cox Barn
County and State Latah County, Idaho

Bibliography

- "Andrew T. Cox, Am. Ridge Farmer, Died Sept. 4." *Kendrick Gazette*, n.d. Clipping, Gen-Bio C-374, Latah County Historical Society Archives, Moscow, Idaho. Information provided by Donald Halvorson, property owner, May 20, 2009.
- Cox Barn, Photograph c. 1920. Donald and Charlotte Halvorson private collection.
- Eckles, C. H. and C. F. Warren. *Dairy Farming*. New York: The MacMillan Co., 1919.
- "Farmers Buying Silos," *Kendrick Gazette*, March 19, 1920.
- Julin, Suzanne. "Historic Agricultural Properties of Latah County, Idaho, 1855-1955. National Register of Historic Places, Multiple Property Document, 2006.
- Halvorson, Donald. Information provided to preparer, May 20, 2009.
- Neal, Peg. "The Legacy of William and Lelia Cox." Typescript. Gen-Bio C-411, Latah County Historical Society Archives, Moscow, Idaho.
- Noble, Allen G. and Richard K. Cleek. *The Old Barn Book: A Field Guide to North American Barns and other Farm Structures*. New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 1995. Fifth paperback printing, 2006.
- Washburn, R. M. *Productive Dairying*. Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott Co., 1917.

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Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photos Page 1 Name of Property Cox Barn
County and State Latah County, Idaho

Photographs

Cox Barn

Kendrick, Latah County, Idaho

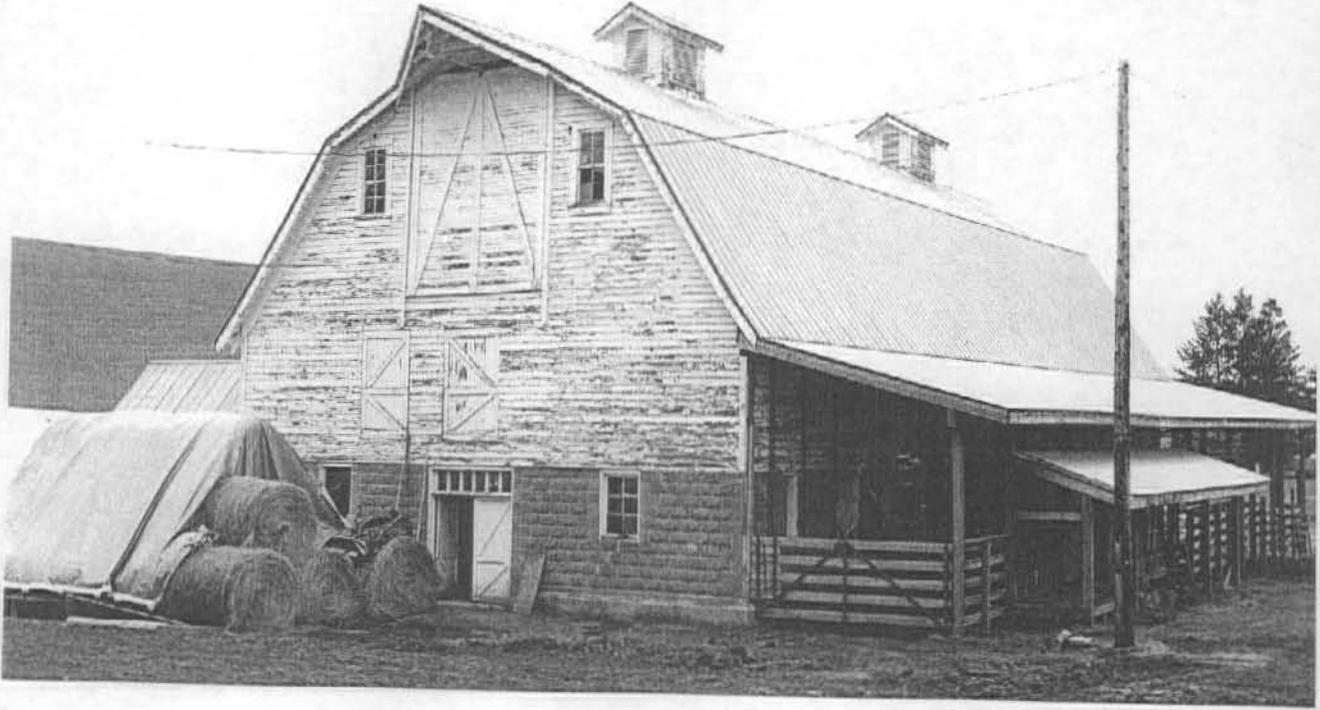
Photographs by Suzanne Julin, May 20, 2009

Negatives held by Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, Boise, Idaho

1. Cox Barn
Kendrick, Latah County, Idaho
View to South
2. Cox Barn
Kendrick, Latah County, Idaho
View to West
3. Cox Barn
Kendrick, Latah County, Idaho
View to North
4. Cox Barn
Kendrick, Latah County, Idaho
View to East
5. Cox Barn, milk room extension
Kendrick, Latah County, Idaho
View to West
6. Cox Barn, milk room extension
Kendrick, Latah County, Idaho
View to North
7. Cox Barn, separators
Kendrick, Latah County, Idaho
View to South

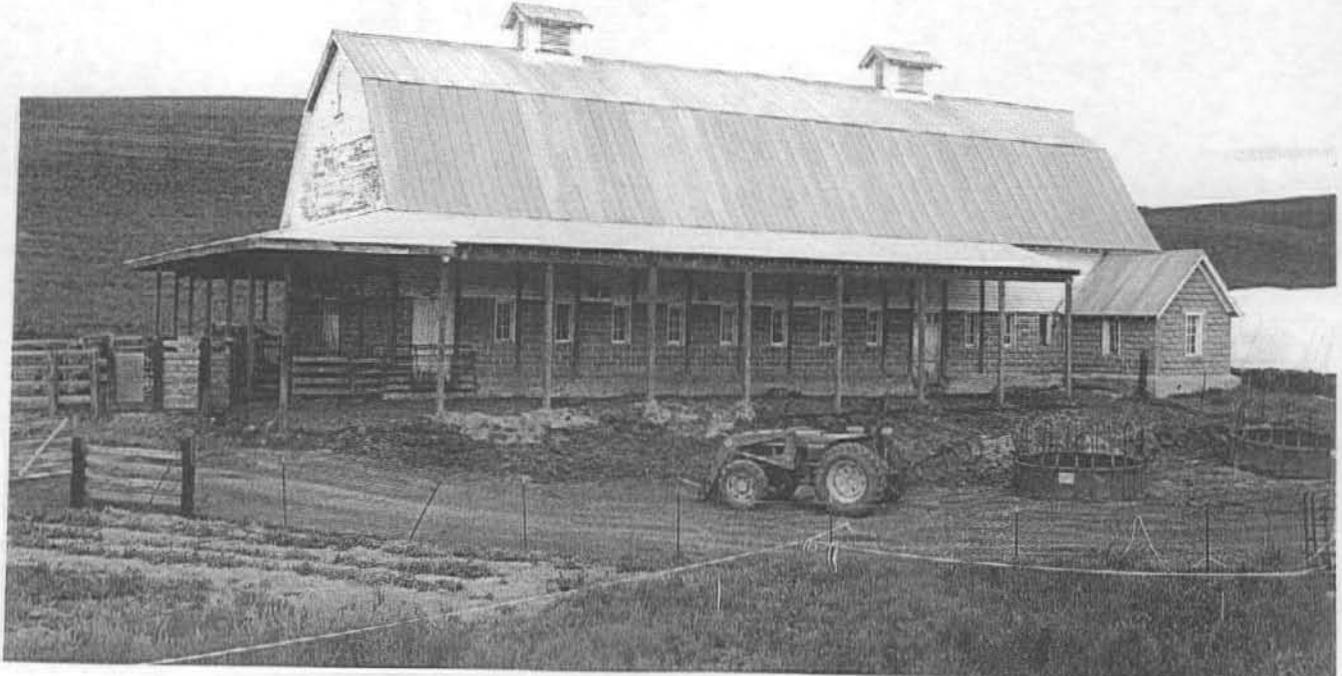
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②



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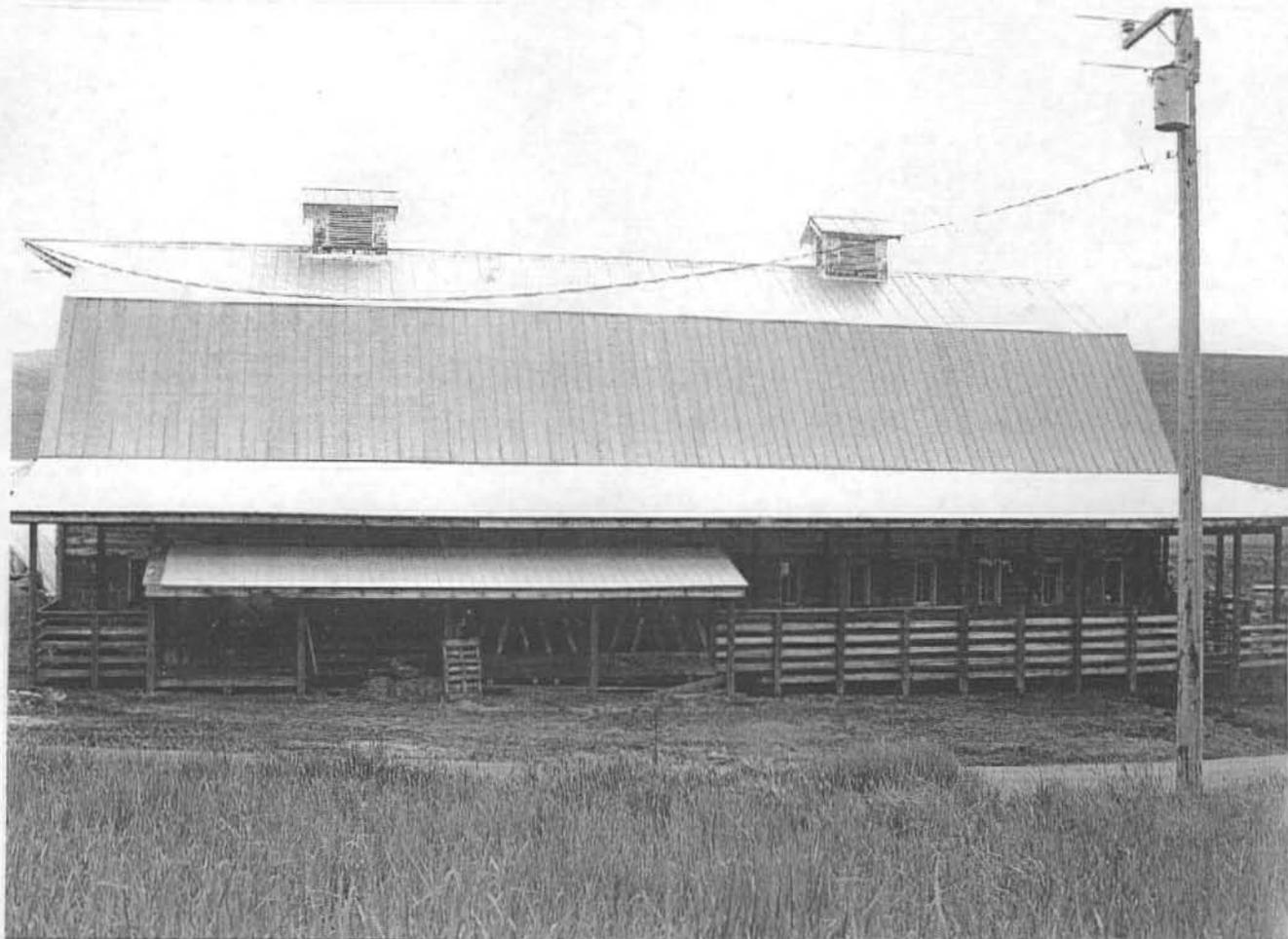
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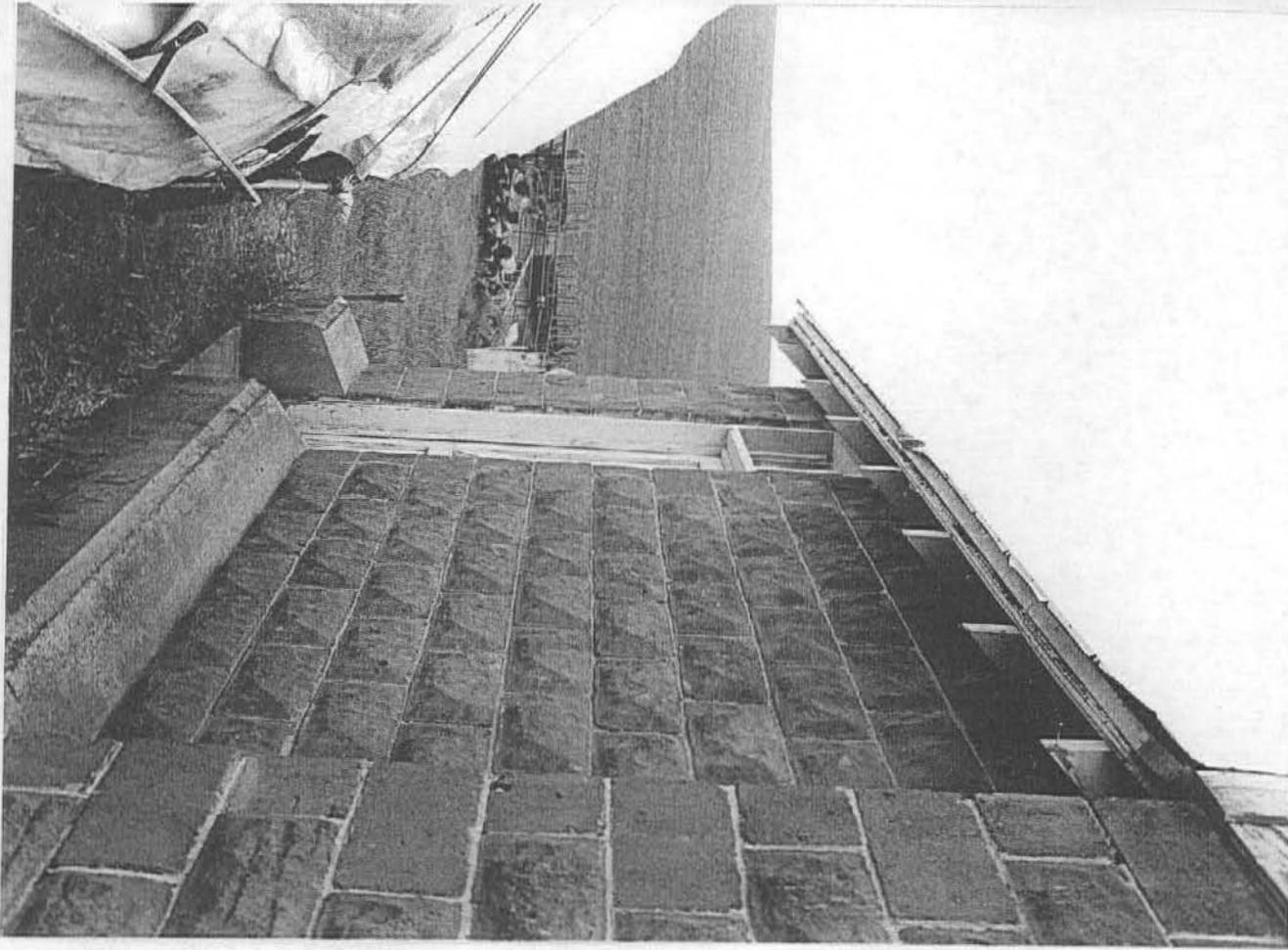
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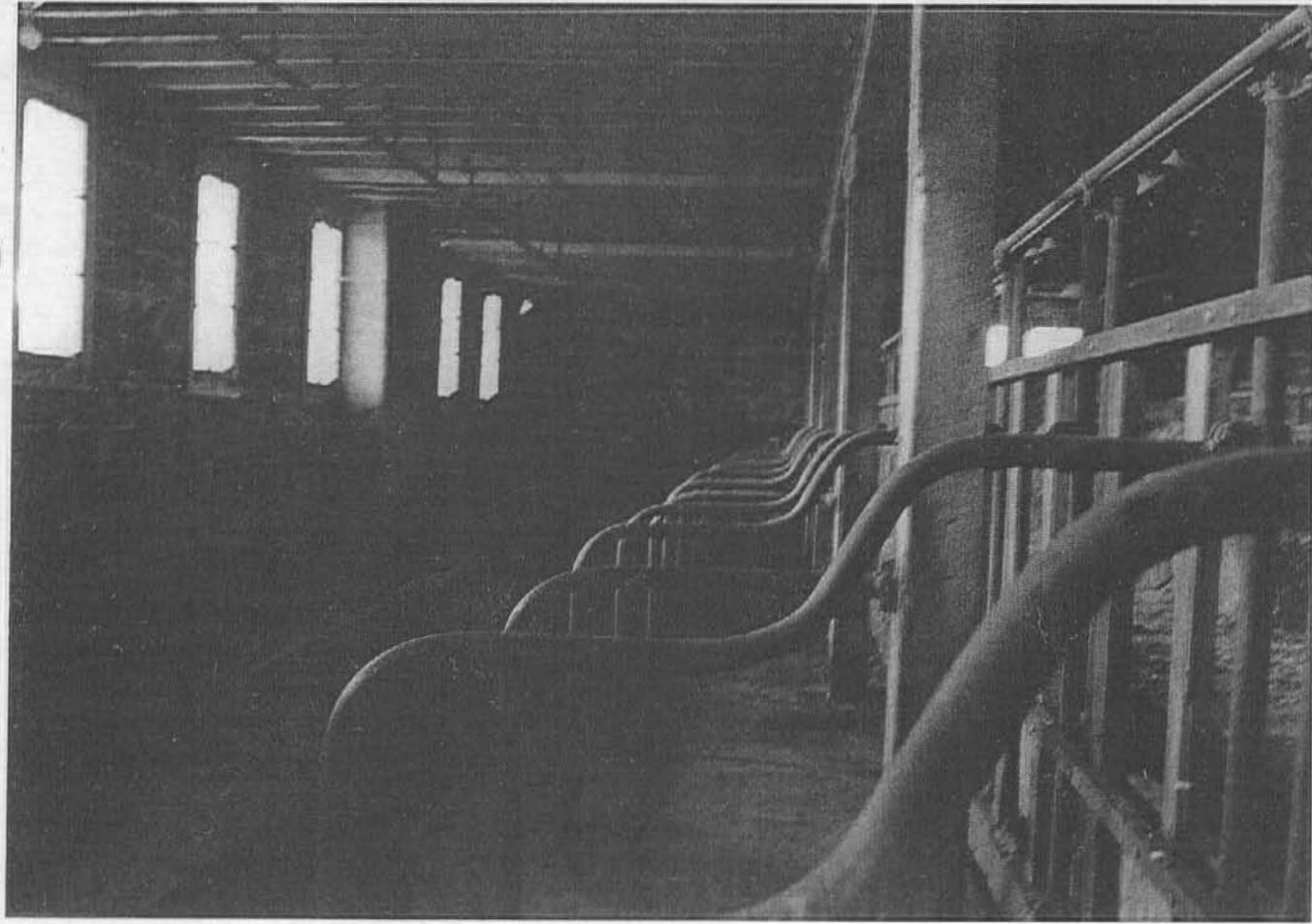


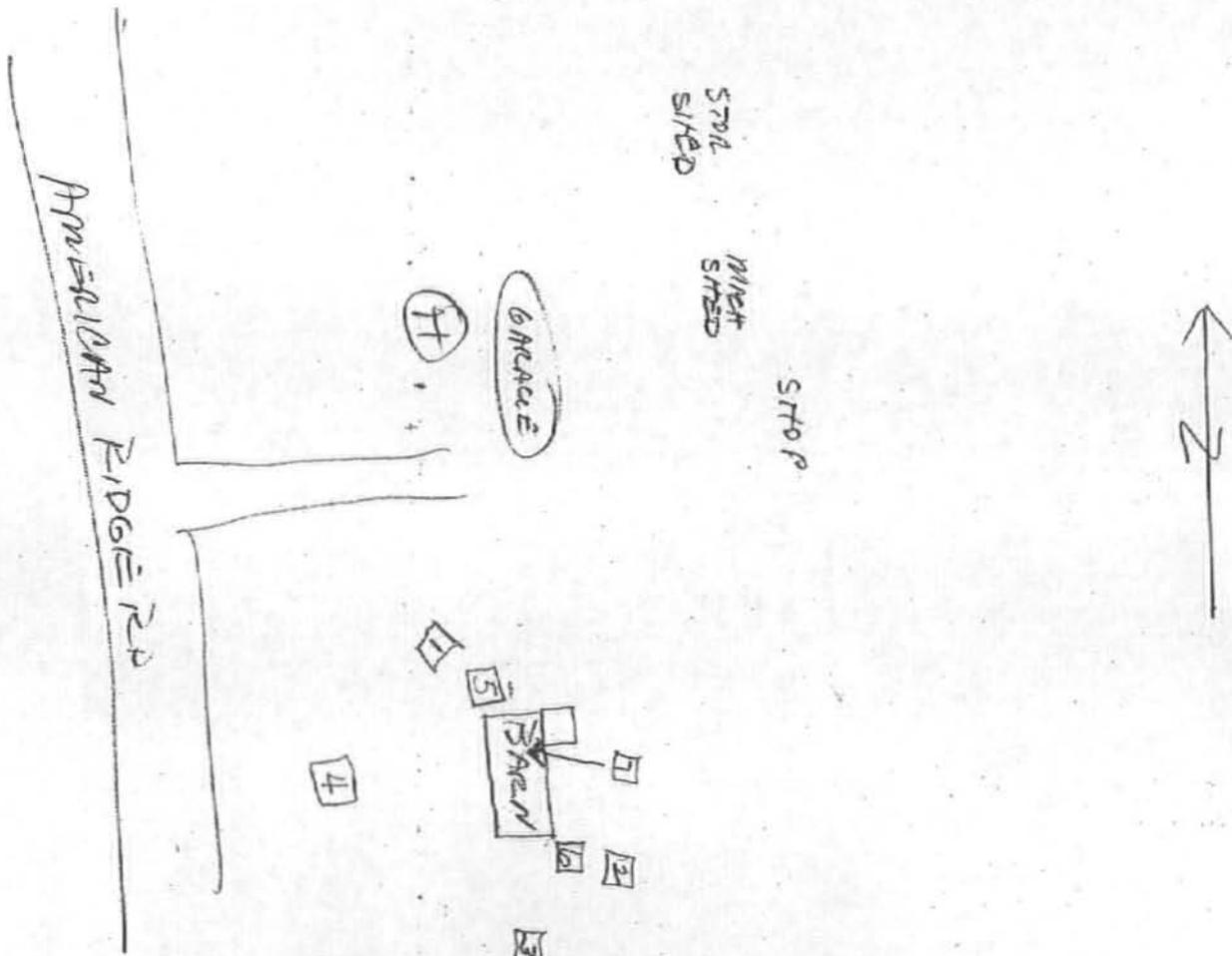
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Cox Barn

Kendrick, Latah County, Idaho

Not to Scale

□ Photograph Vantage Points

Map based on Latah County Assessor's sketch map

North ↑

