

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Listed 6/18/2021

# 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: Curry Farm Historic District

Other names/site number: Pine Grove Farm; Green Acres; Jaeger Farm

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: 12844 Foundation Rd.

City or town: Hartford State: OH County: Licking

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

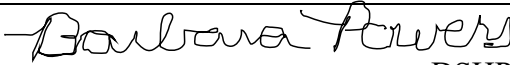
I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D

	
DSHPO for Inventory & Registration <b>May 4, 2021</b>	
<b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<u>State Historic Preservation Office/ Ohio History Connection</u>	
<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	<b>Date</b>
_____	
<b>Title :</b>	<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>

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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:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

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

##### Category of Property

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>5</u>	<u>          </u>	buildings
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>	structures
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE: Agricultural outbuilding; Storage; Agricultural Field

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE: Agricultural outbuilding; Storage; Agricultural Field

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MID 19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY: Gothic Revival

OTHER: Three Gable Barn

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Stone, Wood, Slate, Aluminum

## Narrative Description

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### Summary Paragraph

Located in Hartford Township in northwestern Licking County, the Curry Farm Historic District is 2.8 miles northwest of the small village of Hartford. The farmstead includes a two-story house, barn, chicken coop, small barn, corn crib, and silo. All are contributing resources. The Gothic Revival house dates to c.1840, while the outbuildings date to c.1900. Located on 12.56 acres, the acreage also includes a small vineyard. The overall setting remains rural, agricultural, and the Curry Farm physically represents its significant agricultural history through its historic integrity.

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### Narrative Description

#### Setting

Situated in a rural area of largely flat terrain, the nominated twelve-acre property is surrounded by other farmsteads, including small family farms and larger corporate farms. Throughout the township, there is a smattering of late 20<sup>th</sup> century and early 21<sup>st</sup> century houses on small parcels, near the road. The Curry Farmstead property is accessed by a long driveway on the north side of Foundation Road. (Photos 1-2) A one-acre vineyard is on the west side of the tree-lined driveway. The area in front of the house where the vineyard is now located has historically been a versatile space. It has served as one of several sheep pastures, as well as being rotated for crops from time to time to revitalize and replenish the soil. Sections of white picket fence separate the lawn from the vineyard. The farmhouse is centered in the grass lawn beyond the fence sections.

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Mature trees dot the property and a tree line is near the western property line. (Photo 3) A small barn is situated near the house to the west, and a large flagstone patio abuts the house on the north and wraps around to the west between the barn and the house. The remaining outbuildings are to the north and east of the house – their arrangement forming a courtyard farmstead plan. A well with pump is adjacent to the north elevation of the small barn. A fenced-in pasture for grazing is to the east and north of the large barn. (Photo 4) The southeast corner of the property contains a fallow field of several acres.

An aerial photo from the 1940s shows that the Curry Farm once had another large barn directly east of the house, plus a small metal grain storage bin east of the chicken coop. (see Attachment B) This L-shaped barn had two extensions running to the south. In the 1980s after the property was sold out of the Curry family, the grain storage bin and the southern barn extensions were demolished. An aerial photo taken between 1995-2000 shows the remaining section of the former barn, which was dismantled in 2008. Much of the wood and slate shingles were salvaged, with some of these materials being incorporated into subsequent house renovations. A small concrete block well house in the foreground of the aerial photo has also been removed. The largest alteration in the setting of the nominated farmstead is the removal of the barn, but the Curry Farm otherwise maintains its early 20<sup>th</sup> century appearance.

### House

The c.1840 original farmhouse was T-shaped, but later small additions have been added to the north side of the building (rear elevation) giving it more of an irregular shape. The house has a steeply pitched, standing seam metal, gable roof. (Photo 5) A brick chimney is within the ridgeline near the center of the house. The house rests on a dressed sandstone block foundation. It was aluminum sided at an unknown date, and the windows were replaced, including the second story Gothic windows, in the early 1980s. The arched Gothic Revival window openings are intact though, and the replacement windows were designed to mimic the originals. Additionally, several first story window openings were re-sized, including picture windows in the dining and living rooms.

The façade (south elevation) faces toward Foundation Road. (Photos 1, 5, 7) It has a centered projecting bay with paired Gothic windows set within a pointed arched window opening at the second floor. The first floor has a late 20<sup>th</sup> century picture window within the projecting bay. The projecting bay has decorative bargeboard. The front door is on the east side of the projecting bay at the corner ell. A small one-bay, flat-roof porch covers the door. Supported by a single post at its outside corner, the wood porch has decorative wood trim, which has an Eastlake essence and likely dates to circa 1880s. The porch floor and step are dressed stone slabs. (Photo 6) The west elevation of the façade's projecting bay has a single one-over-one window, and the south elevation of the lateral wall also has a one-over-one window. The west elevation has two one-over-one windows on the first floor and a single Gothic window at the second floor. (Photo 7) The gable end has the same bargeboard as the façade. At the first floor, a

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one-story kitchen addition extends off of the original north elevation. (Photo 8) Added to the house in the early 1900s, it has an off-center gable roof and a poured concrete foundation. There are two rear doors and a paired window in the north elevation. A small single window is in the second floor original roof dormer. The west elevation of the kitchen extension is blank without any openings. The east elevation also has bargeboard in the eave and a single Gothic window at the second floor. (Photos 8-9) The first floor has a one-over-one window opening and a second window opening to the north that was altered into a bay window in 1981. In 1939-40, an addition was built onto the east elevation of the rear kitchen wing, and it now has a tripartite window bay. Between the 1939-40 kitchen addition and the gable end, a one-story enclosed porch was constructed in the 1980s.

On the interior, first floor contains six rooms plus a bathroom and the enclosed porch. The ceilings throughout are drywall, which have been stippled in some rooms. The floors are carpeted except for the wood floor in the kitchen addition. Door surrounds vary throughout the first floor, including an original, simple post and lintel configuration and a typical early 20<sup>th</sup> century profile (Photo 12). Some surrounds, such as in the living room, are of the post and lintel style, but the wood has been replaced with reclaimed barn wood. Most rooms have historic six-panel wood doors. The front parlor room has stained wood baseboards and surrounds as well as a wood cornice. (Photo 10) The front door has a large, ornate carved lintel with floral patterns. The multi-light wood door appears to be from the late 1800s. Two small rooms flank the front parlor. (Photo 11) They each have the same wood surrounds and baseboards of simple profile with a beveled edge. The rear half of the original lateral footprint contains a large open room on the east and a bathroom on the west. (Photos 12-14) The dining room area features a large wood cabinet that is reported to be original to the house, although it was relocated in 1996 to this spot from another room. The living room portion of the open room has wood beams, which are reclaimed wood from the former barn on the property, and an altered, brick fireplace. While in its original location, the original mantle was replaced, and a wood-burning insert has been installed. The staircase is along the western wall of the living room. It has a wood banister and turned spindles. The location of the stairs was changed c.1981, and the configuration was altered from a straight run to an L-shape. The bathroom was remodeled in 2012, incorporating barn siding for the floor and walls. (Photo 15) The early 20<sup>th</sup> century kitchen addition was remodeled by the Curry family in 1952. Remodeled again more recently, the kitchen has an open volume space with exposed wood beam trusses, supporting the gabled ceiling. (Photo 16) The room has barn siding in the gable and wide wood plank flooring. The breakfast nook, which was added in 1939-40, has built-in bench seating. (Photo 17) It extends off the eastern edge of the kitchen and is tucked behind the enclosed porch. The enclosed porch features knotty pine wood paneling harvested from the property. (Photo 18)

The second floor has three bedrooms, plus two full bathrooms that were created in the early 1980s by reducing the size of two bedrooms. The bedrooms and one bathroom are accessed off of a central hallway at the top of the stair landing. (Photo 19) Like the first floor, the ceilings

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throughout are drywall, which have been stippled in some rooms. The ceiling configuration in the bedrooms is angled to conform with the gabled roof. The master bedroom in the south end has wood plank flooring, reclaimed from a barn, simple wood baseboards and surrounds. (Photos 19-20) This room contains the paired Gothic arched window openings. The stained-glass inserts are contemporary and are attached to the interior of the sash. The other bedrooms and the hallway are carpeted. The Gothic window openings in the west and east bedrooms are intact, and the west bedroom also has a contemporary decorative stained-glass section. (Photos 21-22) Baseboards, surrounds, and the wood doors are similar to that on the first floor.

In the basement, hand hewn beams and sawn joists are visible. (Photo 23) Stone block stairs to an exterior cellar door entrance are intact.

### **Large Barn**

Constructed c.1900, an L-shaped Three Gable Barn is to the rear of the farmstead complex. (Photos 4, 24) Measuring roughly 60 feet by 100 feet, the barn is sheathed in vertical, wood board siding. It has a poured concrete foundation and a slate roof. The forward projecting section has a large sliding barn door at ground level. The door is flanked by six-light windows with a wood surround. The lintels are slightly pedimented. The upper level of the projecting bay has five louvered windows with the same surrounds. A gabled hayloft canopy extends 7' out from the roofline, covering the hay loft door opening. The east elevation of the projecting wing has a window opening at the ground level. The lateral wing of the barn has a rolling barn door at the ground level and multiple openings punctuate the upper level. Added c.1940, a shed roof milking parlor is attached to this elevation on the east side of the door opening. It has a standing seam metal roof. The west elevation of the milking parlor has two door openings and an original six-light window in the upper level. Two six-light window openings and two door openings are on the east elevation of the milking parlor. The east elevation has a window opening in the hay loft area. Two six-light windows punctuate the north elevation of the barn at the lower level, on the east end. At the west end of the north elevation, there is a rolling barn door at ground level and a six-over-six window in the gable (photo 25). The west elevation (photo 26) has three window openings and a door opening on the lower level, plus three louvered openings and a hay loft door in the upper level.

The over-all interior of the barn has exposed framing truss work and the exposed wood siding. (Photos 27-28) The beams and joists are sawn members and are of mortise and tenon construction. Some beams retain their tree bark. The two wings of the barn have been separated by a concrete block and wood partition wall, and the lower level is largely open space in each section. The west half has a dirt floor, while the east section has a poured concrete floor. The upper hay loft is an open volume space, encompassing the entire footprint, that also features the exposed truss work and board siding. (Photo 29) The original hay trolley is intact. The interior of the c.1940 milk house addition features exposed wood framework and siding, and it contains six milking stations on the interior. (Photo 30)

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A 12' diameter free-standing metal silo, with a missing roof, is in the ell of the barn. It dates to the early 1900s.

### **Outbuildings**

The small barn is adjacent to the house, built c.1900. (Photo 7) It has board and batten siding and a standing seam gabled roof. The building rests on a poured concrete foundation. The only opening is the single rolling barn door on the east elevation. (Photo 31) The interior has a concrete floor, exposed beams and siding, and a recent loft addition. (Photo 32)

The rectangular wood frame poultry barn is directly behind the house to the north, in the center of the farmstead. (Photos 3, 33) It was built c.1940. It has vertical board siding and an off-center saltbox style gable roof, which is covered with standing seam metal. The building is placed on a poured concrete foundation. The south elevation is divided into two sections. Each one has a door on the western end and two two-over-two window bays to the east of each door. There is a single window opening on the east elevation near the rear corner. The north and west elevations do not have any fenestration. A fenced-in chicken run abuts the north elevation of the poultry house. (Photo 34) The interior has dirt floors, exposed roof planks, and wood trusses. (Photo 35) The interior is divided into sections by wood partitions topped by wire to contain the poultry.

Dating to the early 1900s, a corn crib is east of the house. (Photos 33-34) It has a standing seam metal roof and is elevated off of the ground on stone blocks. The east and south elevations are of vertical wood boards, while the north and west elevations have standing seam metal facing. A door opening is centered on the north and south elevations. The interior has exposed, sawn beams and joists. Wood partition walls divide the interior into smaller storage areas. (Photo 36)

### **Historic Integrity**

The Curry Farm Historic District maintains historic integrity, expressing the seven elements of integrity. It is still in its original location; this rural, agricultural setting remains intact. Comparison of historic maps to contemporary aerial views shows that Hartford Township remains rural, with the land largely in agricultural use. The loss of the older barn and some smaller outbuildings on the property in the 1980s has not diminished the Curry Farm's setting. The layout of the extant outbuildings and their relationship to the farmhouse is intact. The farmstead exhibits the central courtyard plan, with the house, primary barn, and smaller outbuildings roughly encircling an open farmyard. Additionally, the placement of the chicken coop in the center of the courtyard, closer to the back of the house, was a common placement for poultry barns, as the poultry operation was the domain of the housewife. Other features of the historic setting are also intact, such as mature trees in front of the house and behind the barn, the long tree-lined driveway, front pastures, and the location of fence lines. Cumulatively, the buildings and landscape reflect a typical agricultural setting from the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.



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The farmhouse reflects its Gothic Revival architectural style, retaining the key design features defining that style. These features include a steeply pitched cross-gabled roof, decorative bargeboard at the gable ends, pointed arch Gothic window openings. Although the four Gothic windows themselves have been replaced, the original design was replicated. Historic images show that the replacement windows utilized the same sash profile and dimensions as the original windows.

The farmhouse has had some alterations. They include replacement windows, 3-5 first story window openings re-sized with picture windows in the dining and living rooms, and the application of aluminum siding. Interior alterations include the original straight staircase changed to an L-shape, the side entrance to the kitchen enclosed, and 3-4 original door openings either closed-off or relocated nearby to accommodate new room uses. Otherwise, the house retains its basic shape and room arrangement, and the changes do not diminish its overall historic integrity or expression of the Gothic Revival style. Numerous historic materials are present in the house, also illustrating its original workmanship. They include tooled stone foundation blocks, front porch with dressed stone slabs, second floor Gothic window openings, and wood bargeboard on the exterior. On the interior, the farmhouse maintains enough of its historic materials and configuration to express its original design, materials, and craftsmanship. These features include wood baseboards, wood door/window surrounds, and the hand-hewn beams in the basement. Additionally, many materials, such as the knotty pine in the enclosed porch, were harvested on the property.

Some alterations to the property were made by the Curry family during the period of significance. These include the early 1900s rear kitchen wing, an initial kitchen remodel in 1952, the 1939-40 kitchen nook addition, the c.1940 milking parlor addition onto the large barn, and the construction or removal of small outbuildings.

The original design of the Three Gable Barn, reflecting that barn type of gable roof and projecting right angle wing forming an L or T, is intact. Materials and workmanship remain in the large barn. These features include the wood siding, some 6-light windows, and slate roof on the exterior. The interior of the barn still exhibits the mortise and tenon construction, exposed beams and trusses, hay trolley, and open volume space in the haymow. The milk house addition also retains materials from its later era of construction, c.1940.

Materials, craftsmanship, and design are also evident in the smaller outbuildings. The small barn, chicken coop, and corn crib have the original wood and concrete materials from their date of construction. All three of these outbuildings also retain their original footprint and fenestration pattern. The silo is in poor condition and missing its roof, but the metal enclosure is intact, and its function is still obvious.

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Hartford Township has traditionally been agriculturally based. With the presence of fields, pastures, a vineyard, barns, and outbuildings, the Curry Farm Historic District continues to reflect its association with Hartford Township's agricultural history. The extant buildings represent the decades-long ownership of the Curry family and their place in the township's farming heritage. The buildings and landscape convey a late 1800s-early 1900s family farm, and the collective farmstead has a strong sense of time and place.

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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.)

Agriculture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

c.1840-1978  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

c.1840  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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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 Curry Farm Historic District is nominated under Criterion A for its association with agricultural trends at the local level of significance. The property has historically been associated with farming in Hartford Township, and it continues to reflect township and countywide agricultural context, contributing to Licking County's significant sheep farming history. The Curry Farm contains a variety of farm building types that illustrate the evolution of barns and structures in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, such as the then popular Three Gable Barn, metal silo, and chicken coop. Additionally, the c.1840 Gothic Revival residence represents one of the oldest remaining farmhouses in the township and the only known one of that style. Through the arrangement of the buildings in a central courtyard farmstead plan, the evolution of outbuilding types, and the early 19<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse, the Curry Farm is a significant expression of agricultural life in Hartford Township. Although it is now smaller than the original farmstead acreage, the surrounding land is still farmed, and a small vineyard is operated on the property, maintaining an agricultural focus. From 1873 to 1980, five generations of the Curry family owned and farmed the property. The Period of Significance is c.1840-1978, beginning when the house was constructed to when the last Curry family member that farmed the property full-time moved out.

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

### **Curry Farm & Family – General History**

Previous to the Curry family's ownership, which began in 1873, the property was owned and farmed by Jacob Leamon. He had settled in Hartford Township between the 1840 and 1850 census enumeration and he acquired the property between 1847 and 1854, as seen on county maps (see Attachment A). Leamon initially only owned 80 acres, but acquired the adjacent 80-acre parcel to the west by the time that he sold the property to George Curry. A 1917 history of the School Land portion of Hartford Township mentions that Jacob Leamon was a teacher in the first area school, a pre-1858 log building. The Gothic Revival farmhouse is listed in the Licking Co Auditor's records as built in 1840. If the 1840 date is accurate, the original occupant remains unknown, as no historic information has been uncovered to date. Local and family lore relates that the house was an attorney's in the 1840s, and clients entered at the southeast front porch for meetings in the parlor.<sup>1</sup> The large wood cabinet that is reportedly original to the house was in the small southwest room (den), the location of the attorney's office and lawbooks. It is also conceivable that Jacob Leamon was the first occupant of the house, constructing it in the late 1840s, and that the cabinet stored books and items that he used as a teacher.

<sup>1</sup> Correspondence and interview between Edward and Susan Jaeger (current owners) and Lynn Curry-Snell Maioli (George Curry's great-great granddaughter) October 16, 2020.

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George Curry was an immigrant from Scotland, arriving in America in the 1840s. George was one of seven children of a tenant sheep herder from the Cheviot Hills area, located on the border between Scotland and England - well known internationally as the Borders Region. In an April 1850 letter written to George Curry from family members in Scotland, his brother reported on “a good crop of lambs,” his sisters mention sheep, and his brother-in-law says, “you spoke about your lambing and I must tell you about mine...”<sup>2</sup> George left a fairly typical non-landowner tenant shepherd’s existence in Scotland, seeking a better life in a new land of opportunity, and became a successful agriculturally based landowner in America, specializing in Merino sheep.

On February 6, 1855, Curry married Agnes Mulligan in Washington County, Ohio, where he had first settled. They moved to Licking County in 1865, when Curry purchased a farm from Harrison Pumphrey. In 1873, Curry purchased 160 acres from Jacob Leamon, recorded on 10-13-1873.<sup>3</sup> Following George and Agnes Curry, the farmstead became home to four more generations of the Curry family, who lived there until 1980. Subsequent generations included:

- John M. Curry (son): John Curry was born about 1866, just after the family settled in Licking County. He took over the farm in early 1885, upon his father’s death. He married his first wife, Nellie, in 1891. In 1919, he married Dora Shockley, a second marriage for both. He is always noted as a general farmer in the Census reports. He died in 1934.
- Russell L. Curry (grandson): Born in the farmhouse in 1897, John’s son, Russell Curry, next operated the farm. In 1919, he married Mabel DeWitt, and in 1969, they celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in the house. Mabel Curry taught school in Licking County for seven years and was an energetic member of the Hartford Research Club, often presenting research papers. They had two daughters, Dorothy and Kathleen. In early 1976, Mabel suffered a stroke and passed away a little over a year later, on April 18, 1977. Russell’s physical condition was deteriorating during the same time period, and he was moved to a nursing home in Mt Vernon in 1978, living until 1988.
- Dorothy (Curry) Snell & Kathleen (Curry) Lodge (great granddaughters): Both grew up in the Curry house, but neither permanently lived there again upon moving out in adulthood.
  - Dorothy graduated from Miami University in 1945 with a BS in secretarial studies. She married Charles Snell, an Air Force officer, relocating often to locations such as Maryland, Tehran, and Honolulu. They had two daughters, and at the age of 94 she resides with one of them (Lynn Curry-Snell Maioli) in Strongsville, Ohio.
  - Kathleen was a teacher in the early 1950s. She eventually settled in the Youngstown area.

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<sup>2</sup> The current property owners are in communication with descendants of the Curry family, specifically George’s sister Ann, who eventually emigrated to Australia, and his brother, Thomas. The Curry descendants provided the April 30, 1850, letter from multiple family members in Shotton, Scotland, to George Curry in America.

<sup>3</sup> Licking County Recorder Grantee Index identifies the 160-acre purchase as Range 15, Township 4, Quarter 2.

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- Bruce (Curry) Lodge (great-great grandson): Son of Kathleen Curry Lodge, Bruce lived with his grandparents (Russell and Mabel) on the Curry Farm. Bruce was 3-4 years old when his father died in 1961, and then moved in with his grandparents, Russell and Mabel. They raised him, and he worked on the farm until sometime after graduation from Hartford High School, likely in 1976 or 1977. He stayed in the area for a while, until he joined the Navy and moved away.

In 1980, the property was sold out of the Curry family, and the farmstead property was also divided into smaller parcels. Dave Pezzuti acquired a 9.56-acre parcel that included the house and outbuildings, while neighboring landowners purchased the larger, former Curry farmland. He owned the property until 1989, when it was purchased by Ed and Susan Jaeger, who own it at present.

The Jaegers continue the agricultural heritage of the property. In 2020, three acres were added on the east, west, and north sides of the parcel, bringing the parcel's total acreage to 12.56. The poultry building is currently used for laying hens, at a dozen eggs per day. From late summer through year end, the remaining two of the three sections in the poultry building are used for finishing out turkeys (15) and broiler chickens (45) that are processed primarily for extended family use as well as gifts/donations. The small barn, west of the house, is used for wine and apple cider processing each season as well as locating/storing processing equipment for both products, such as crushers, presses, and tanks. The present acreage also supports the one-acre vineyard, plus a four-acre hay field.

### **Criterion A - Agricultural Significance**

Located in Licking County, one of Ohio's leading agricultural counties, the Curry Farm Historic District is a significant representation of the general purpose farm at the local/township level. It is also a notable example of a family-owned farm, operated by four generations of one family for over 100 years. Into the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, the Curry family was known throughout Hartford Township for their flock of sheep, of which Licking County was a statewide leader. The nominated property illustrates typical farmstead configurations associated with a family farm, specializing in one particular livestock. The Curry Farm physically illustrates the township's significant agricultural heritage.

Licking County was established in 1808, and the extant settlement of Newark (founded in 1802) was named the county seat. The western half of the county tends to be flatter, while the eastern half is hilly. Newark eventually became a small industrial center in the late 1800s, but outside the city, the county was largely defined by agriculture, dotted with small villages and crossroad commercial centers. An early county agricultural society was established in 1832, and a small annual fair was held for a few years. In December 1838, the organization sent delegates to Columbus for a statewide meeting that ultimately resulted in the formation of a state agricultural society. The initial county group fizzled c.1840, and a new Licking County Agricultural Society

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was formed in 1848, which resumed operation of an annual county fair. In 1853, a portion of the grounds at the Great Circle earthworks was purchased, and for the next several decades, the county fair was held there.

The migration of central Ohio's Euro-American settlers into Hartford Township, established 1819, occurred in the early 1800s, with the village of Hartford being settled in 1812. Platted in 1824, Hartford<sup>4</sup> experienced slow growth, achieving 106 residents in 1840; 251 in 1850; and reaching 349 in 1880. With a peak population of 455 in 1970, Hartford's population has fluctuated up and down over the decades, averaging around 400 inhabitants, where it stayed in the 2010 Census. Hartford remains the only village in the township, as has been the case since it was formed.

Located in the northwest corner of Licking County, much of Hartford Township possessed very fertile land, which was perfectly suited for agriculture. The 1881 Licking County history denotes the richness of Hartford Township's land for cultivation, which continues today with agriculture being the dominant basis of the township's economy. The legacy of the township's agricultural roots is also reflected by the Hartford Fair. Founded in 1858 by the Hartford Independent Agricultural Society, the agricultural-based fair still operates today on the same grounds, north of Hartford. In 1933, the county fairgrounds property in Newark was turned over to the Ohio Historical Society, and it became Moundbuilders State Park. At this point, Licking County ceased to have an official county fair, and the independent Hartford Fair then served in that capacity. Although the types of agriculture products produced by Hartford Township farmers has changed over time, the community continues to be primarily agrarian with an economy that is commercially agri-centric, including multi-generational family farms and larger corporate farms.

Transportation infrastructure development during the 19<sup>th</sup> century greatly improved the ability for Licking County's farmers to sell their products to a wider market. Connecting Cumberland, Maryland, to Vandalia, Illinois, the National Road was constructed, east to west, in the southern part of the county between 1830 and 1833. The first federally funded highway, the National Road greatly facilitated westward migration into Ohio and states beyond. Significantly, the National Road intersected the Ohio & Erie Canal in southern Licking County, in Hebron. Groundbreaking for the canal took place on July 4, 1825, between Newark and Hebron. The canal was locally operational by 1828 and statewide by 1832. By the mid-1800s, three railroad lines passed through Newark and Licking County south of Hartford Township. In the 1870s, the Atlantic & Lake Erie Railroad traversed Licking County north-south, crossing Hartford Township. Paralleling the western edge of Hartford, this was the first railroad through the township. Along with the railroad, additional early 20<sup>th</sup> century transportation links also

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<sup>4</sup> Hartford is also known as Croton. The post office was named Croton in 1843, due to another Hartford post office previously established in Ohio.



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contributed to the local agriculture markets. A 1907 *Ohio Magazine* article on Licking County agriculture noted that “vegetable growing for the Newark market is a large and growing industry...” and that county-grown grapes and fruits were in great demand for “our own excellent home market of Newark, and others within easy reach by steam or trolley roads...”<sup>5</sup>

#### George Curry, 1873-1884

The 1879 State Agricultural Report<sup>6</sup> shows that Licking County’s agricultural output was typical and on par with other Ohio counties, and excelled at a handful of products. Typical crops included rye, buckwheat, oats, corn, barley, and flax. However, it was noted that Licking County excelled with wheat and potatoes. With respect to wheat, there were 30,900 acres sown, producing 470,851 bushels, or 15¼ bushels to the acre, which was “several bushels above the average in the State, showing this county to be somewhat superior for wheat culture.”<sup>7</sup> Regarding potatoes, Licking County produced 1,660 acres, resulting in 122,248 bushels. “This is an average of nearly seventy-four bushels to the acre—an average reached by but few counties in the State.”<sup>8</sup> The county was 7<sup>th</sup> in the state for production of honey, and it had an average output for fruit trees, including apples.

Having recently been established by George Curry, the Curry Farm is representative of the above county statistics. He was a generalized farmer, harvesting produce and raising a variety of livestock. The 1880 Agricultural Census shows that his farm had 6 horses, 4 milk cows, 4 additional cattle, 30 pigs, and 100 chickens. The farm produced 7,000 eggs, 20 acres (600 bushels) of Indian Corn, 8 acres (480 bushels) of oats, 8 acres (130 bushels) of wheat, and had two acres of apple trees. “For most farmers, owning more than two cows allowed them to engage in market sales. Most butter produced in Ohio was made on the farm; little was produced in creameries until the 20<sup>th</sup> century. By 1860 butter had become a staple of human diet in urban centers and the northeastern states.”<sup>9</sup> Butter production was another area where Licking County was dominant in the 1870s, producing 860,869 pounds, and that “few counties in the State excel this amount.”<sup>10</sup> Producing 1,000 pounds of butter with four milk cows, George Curry’s farmstead represents this state and county trend.

The Hartford Township Directory in the 1875 *Licking County Atlas* identifies and describes the 46 township residents that were landowners/heads of household. Thirty-five of these residents fall under the general business description “farmer” (8 of which are further specified as stock raisers, 4 of which are further specified as fine sheep raisers (wool production), and one additional resident described as a land agent, stock dealer, wool buyer, etc.). The 1881 Licking

<sup>5</sup> Ballou, F.H. “The Agricultural Interests of Licking County,” *The Ohio Magazine* (Vol. 3, No. 1, July 1907), p.83.

<sup>6</sup> As reprinted in *History of Licking County, O.: Its Past and Present*, pages 273-274.

<sup>7</sup> Graham, *History of Licking County, O.: Its Past and Present*, p.273.

<sup>8</sup> Graham, *History of Licking County, O.: Its Past and Present*, p.273.

<sup>9</sup> Gordon, Stephen C. *Brown-Gorman Farm National Register of Historic Places Nomination*, NRHP Ref#12000463, 2012, p.12.

<sup>10</sup> Graham, *History of Licking County, O.: Its Past and Present*, p.273.

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County history specifically noted that Hartford Township was “well adapted to pasturage, and has a local notoriety for its wool product.”<sup>11</sup> Having purchased the 160-acre farm on Foundation Road in 1873, George Curry’s farm falls into this township context.

In addition to Curry’s success as a generalized farmer, he was well-known for his herd of Spanish Merino sheep. Merino sheep were brought to the United States from Spain in 1801, and the first recorded flock in Ohio was in Muskingum County as early as 1807, when Seth Adams relocated there, bringing over two dozen sheep descended from a pair he imported in 1801.<sup>12</sup> By 1870, over 80% of sheep in the United States were Merinos or Merino grades.<sup>13</sup>

Just two years after Curry’s purchase of the farm, it was included as one of five Hartford Township farmstead prints included in the 1875 *Licking County Atlas*. Three of the featured prints were for the township’s most prominent Merino sheep farmers: George Curry, Oliver Willison, and Harrison R. Pumphrey (see Attachment B). Furthermore, the 1881 Licking County history described George Curry as “a farmer and breeder of thoroughbred sheep. He is a breeder and shipper of Spanish merino sheep, which are registered in the Vermont and United States registries. He has a fine flock of eighty head on hand at present.”<sup>14</sup> In the 1880 Agricultural Census, George Curry’s farm had 100 sheep on hand and had generated 1,265 pounds of fleece that spring. By comparison, in the same census, Pumphrey had a flock of 120 sheep and Willison had 200. Examination of the census records indicates that a typical farmer with sheep had an average flock size of 100-200.

Another Licking County farmer, P.F. Cunningham, had a farmstead print in the 1875 *Licking County Atlas*, labeled as “Breeder & Dealer In Thoroughbred Sheep.” Located in Harrison Township, Cunningham had a flock of 100 in the 1880 Agricultural Census. Although James N. Wright held two large parcels, totaling 505 acres, in Hartford Township, his primary farm was in Monroe Township to the south. Wright’s farmstead also had a print, labeled as “Breeder and dealer in Spanish Merino sheep,” and the 1880 Agricultural Census enumerated an exceptionally large flock of 600.

Throughout the United States, from the Colonial era to the early 1800s, sheep raising for wool was exclusively for household use. In 1808, trade restrictions with Europe created a commercial wool market in the United States and an influx of woolen mills that produced fine, medium, and course grades of wool fiber began to occur. This new market and sheep raising, which was operating concurrently with household manufacture, was concentrated east of the Alleghenies

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<sup>11</sup> Graham, A.A. *History of Licking County, O.: Its Past and Present* (Newark, Ohio: A.A. Graham & Co. Publishers, 1881), p.464.

<sup>12</sup> Connor, L.G. “A Brief History of the Sheep Industry in the United States,” *Agricultural History Society Papers*, Vol. 1, 1921, p.104.

<sup>13</sup> Connor, “A Brief History of the Sheep Industry in the United States,” p.138

<sup>14</sup> Graham, *History of Licking County, O.: Its Past and Present*, p.642.

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through 1845. As transportation improved and westward expansion accelerated in the 1830s and 1840s, sheep were introduced in frontier areas. By then, machinery in the woolen mills had also improved, and the wool industry was removed from household manufacture. In 1840, the states of the old Northwest Territory had 3.5 million head of sheep, and Ohio accounted for 2 million of them.<sup>15</sup> The state had become a leader in the wool trade. The 1881 Stark County history noted that, "Ohio wool is known the world over. In quantity it is equal to any state in America, while its quality is unequaled."<sup>16</sup>

Cheaper land in the western states contributed to the continued westward migration of the sheep industry, creating competition with eastern states. As a result, eastern U.S. farmers largely switched to more profitable pursuits, such as dairy cattle, by 1850. This was also true in some regions of Ohio. "A marked increase in dairying took place in the Western Reserve of Ohio during the late forties [1840s]. In southern Ohio beef cattle displaced sheep to a large extent."<sup>17</sup> However, in the central swath of the state between these two regions, sheep raising remained an important endeavor.

By 1870, Licking County was the statewide leader "in the amount of wool produced (over one million pounds)."<sup>18</sup> The 1879 State Agricultural Report detailed Licking County's place in wool production and stated that there were 219,885 sheep. It further reported that

in the raising of sheep and the production of wool, this county largely excels; indeed this may be said to be the 'banner' wool county in the State. No other county can show a number of sheep equal to the above. Harrison comes the nearest, but falls more than twenty-five thousand short. Regarding the wool product, it was nine hundred and seven thousand one hundred and eighty-four pounds, which is more by several hundred thousand pounds than most other counties, and excels Harrison, which stands second-best, by more than one hundred and sixty thousand pounds.<sup>19</sup>

George Curry was one of Hartford Township's leading sheep farmers. He was active in the State Association of Wool Growers. On April 30, 1884, officers from Ohio's county associations met to choose delegates to an upcoming national convention in Chicago. Representing Licking County, Curry attended and was selected as an alternate delegate to the convention. In 1883 and 1884, he also served on the Board of Directors of the Spanish Merino Sheep Breeders' Association.

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<sup>15</sup> Connor, "A Brief History of the Sheep Industry in the United States," p.112.

<sup>16</sup> Perrin, William Henry. *History of Stark County, Ohio* (Chicago: Baskin & Battey, Historical Publishers, 1881, p.156.

<sup>17</sup> Connor, "A Brief History of the Sheep Industry in the United States," p.124-25.

<sup>18</sup> Stutes, Cory. "Licking County Agriculture." *Clio: Your Guide to History*. May 14, 2020.

<sup>19</sup> Graham, *History of Licking County, O.: Its Past and Present*, p.273

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In the 1880 Agriculture Census, George Curry's farm was valued at \$10,000, with an additional valuation of \$300 in implements/machinery and \$2,000 in livestock. The 160 acres was divided into 125 acres of improved land and 35 acres of woodland. Farmstead layouts of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (and earlier) were dictated by topography, weather, convenience to farm fields, land survey systems, and cultural traditions. Passed by Congress in 1796, Licking County is within the United States Military District survey, which divided townships into five-mile-square grids. In these uniform areas, "barns and other farm buildings often line up in rigid conformity with survey lines, and the farmstead has an order imposed by the land division system."<sup>20</sup> As seen in the 1875 farm print, the outbuildings during George Curry's tenure were oriented to the road, following the established grid pattern. Additionally, being in relative flatlands, adjusting for topography was not a consideration, as it might have been in the eastern part of the county. The Curry outbuildings were east of the house, with the westerly winds carrying unpleasant odors away from the residence, but not too distant as to be inconvenient for accessing them from the house.

George Curry passed away unexpectedly on February 24, 1885. The *Johnstown Weekly Independent* reported that Curry was "a well-known stock dealer, and was greatly esteemed by all who knew him. His demise has cast a gloom over the entire neighborhood..."<sup>21</sup>

#### John M. Curry, 1885-1934

George's son, John, took over the family farm after his father's death. John called the property Pine Grove Farm, and he was listed as a general farmer in multiple census years. Within the local agricultural context, John Curry's farmstead appears to have been typical, as well as prosperous. In 1906-07, Licking County's farms were primarily focused on the crops of corn, wheat, oats, and hay and the livestock of sheep, hogs, and cattle. The county was fourth in the state for number of horses owned, and also the third largest hay producer.<sup>22</sup> The 1915 *Rural Directory of Licking County, Ohio* recorded that John Curry owned 305 acres and had 11 horses and 17 cattle. The directory also noted that Licking County "is distinctly a farm county," with a total of 4,307 farms. At 669 square miles, "more than 96 per cent of the entire area of the county is in its farms, and more than 86 per cent is under cultivation."<sup>23</sup>

Most of the extant outbuildings on the Curry Farm – large barn, small barn, and corn crib – were constructed by John Curry. They illustrate the growth and success of the farmstead at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The large Three Gable Barn, built c.1900, especially indicates John Curry's desire and financial ability to improve the farm's operations. The Three Gable Barn type was popular c.1850-1920. To accommodate ever larger mechanized equipment, which resulted in

<sup>20</sup> Noble, Allen G. and Hubert G.H. Wilhelm, editors. *Barns of the Midwest* (Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 2018), p.9.

<sup>21</sup> "Sudden Death," *The Johnstown Weekly Independent*, February 28, 1885.

<sup>22</sup> Ballou, "The Agricultural Interests of Licking County," p.79-80.

<sup>23</sup> *Rural Directory of Licking County, Ohio* (Philadelphia: Wilmer Atkinson Company, 1915), p.7.

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greater yields, barns were designed bigger and taller in size for storage purposes. The “identifying feature of the Three Gable Barn is the wing that projects at a right angle from the gabled or gambrel roof barn.”<sup>24</sup> In Ohio, this barn type was most prevalent in the north-central part of the state. Still oriented to the road grid, the placement of the new barn further defined the central courtyard plan configuration of the Curry farmstead. This common arrangement had the house and barn on opposite ends of the farmyard and smaller outbuildings typically “enclosing” the courtyard. Additionally, the large barn was further set back from the house and into the rear fields, balancing separating the domicile from smell and pests but minimizing the distance to travel between them.

The metal silo, adjacent to the barn, was also added to the property in the early 1900s. Its addition by John Curry represents another investment and modernization effort for the farm, specifically as he transitioned to increasing his dairy herd. Containing stored feed, silos enabled farmers to have larger herds of dairy cows during the winter, and they are a common feature of dairy farms. Late 19<sup>th</sup> century silos were made of wood, but beginning in the 1910s concrete and metal silos became more popular. These structures were heavily marketed to farmers in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century as rat proof and waterproof storage bins.

The time period of John Curry’s ownership coincided with national changing trends in sheep raising. Wool imports into the U.S. from South America, New Zealand, and East Africa caused stiff competition and reduced profits for American farmers in the 1890s and onwards. The increasing cost of land and production also depressed the national wool market. Continued transition to other, more profitable farming pursuits that could be exported additionally reduced the number of sheep in the U.S.

Although sheep farming was on the decline nationally, Ohio remained a top wool producer in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Grouped in the North Central division (Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin), the state had the largest number of sheep within the division every decade from 1840 to 1910, and consistently ranked near the top nationally, especially after 1870. In 1915, Ohio had the largest number of sheep east of the Mississippi and ranked fourth in the U.S., behind Wyoming, Montana, and New Mexico.<sup>25</sup> (See Attachment C)

As it had been in the mid-to-late 19<sup>th</sup> century, Licking County remained near the top of Ohio’s sheep counties in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. “Licking has ever been prominent as a sheep and wool producing county. Indeed, only one county in the State, Harrison, led Licking in 1906, in which year our sheep numbered 87,507 and turned off for the market 562,815 pounds of wool.”<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> Gordon, Stephen C. *How to Complete the Ohio Historic Inventory* (Columbus, Ohio: Ohio Historical Society, Inc., 1992), p.147.

<sup>25</sup> Connor, “A Brief History of the Sheep Industry in the United States,” p.189.

<sup>26</sup> Ballou, “The Agricultural Interests of Licking County,” p.80.

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Like his father and in keeping with state and countywide trends, John had continued raising sheep on the Curry Farm. He was well known enough for the local newspaper to report on his operations. In February 1907, the *Johnstown Independent* wrote that “John Curry and Frank Burrell took a car load of sheep to Cleveland market last week receiving a good price for their stock.”<sup>27</sup>

A 1921 Agricultural History Society paper reported that one of the largest impediments to maintaining a flock of sheep was not competition from imports, unpredictable pricing, or cost of sheep raising, but dogs. “Thousands of farmers who gave up small flocks in years past did so because of dogs...In a recent investigation conducted by the Department of Agriculture dogs were accused of preventing an increase in farm flocks in 60 per cent of replies received.”<sup>28</sup> In 1926, the *Johnstown Independent* reported that in a span of two weeks John Curry lost 23 sheep, plus more injured, due to dog attacks. Curry told the newspaper, “there are entirely too many worthless dogs running at large in the neighborhood.”<sup>29</sup>

Likely occurring under John Curry’s operation, the Curry Farm transitioned to mutton breeds instead of wool sheep. The fine wool market had begun to wane in the early decades of the 1900s, and many sheep farmers converted their flocks to the meat market. In addition to the livestock, it is unknown what crops John raised. With the cattle and sheep, the farm likely dedicated more pasture to crops dominated by hay and some grain required for feed. The entire big barn loft was dedicated to hay storage. Historic pictures from the late 1930s, shows the use of horses to store hay, a carryover from John’s tenure (see Attachment B).

When John M. Curry died in January 1934, the *Newark Advocate* noted him as being a prominent banker and farmer, as well as a member of the Croton Knights of Pythias. Illustrating the prominence of farmers in the social and economic fabric of Licking County, he was one of six founders of the Croton Bank, which was incorporated in 1911. In 1932, John Curry served on the executive committee for the Centerburg Building & Loan Association.

#### Russell L. Curry, 1934 – 1978

John’s sons, Dennis and Russell, were executors of the estate. Russell Curry, who owned and farmed an adjacent property on the south side of Foundation Rd just west of the nominated property, became the subsequent sole owner of the Curry family farm after buying out his brother. Russell changed the name of the farm to Green Acres.

<sup>27</sup> Benoy, Wilbur E. “Croton,” *The Johnstown Independent*, February 7, 1907.

<sup>28</sup> Connor, “A Brief History of the Sheep Industry in the United States,” p.148.

<sup>29</sup> “Croton R.D. 1.” *The Johnstown Independent*, October 14, 1926, p.11.

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In 1950, Licking County had 3,457 farms (a reduction from 3,994 in 1945), taking up 84.8% of the county land area.<sup>30</sup> The average farm size was 107.7 acres in 1950 and 99.4 in 1945. The county ranked 5<sup>th</sup> statewide in number of farms in 1950, behind Trumbull (3,509), Ashtabula (3,843), Stark (3,887), and Darke (4,307) counties. Of the 2,601 farms that reported information in 1950, there were 18,732 milk cows. The same year 2,079 farms reported 49,779 hogs, which was 14,000 more than 1945 at almost the same number of farms. Regarding sheep, 848 farms reported 39,321 head, which was a reduction from 1,229 farms reporting 58,928 in 1945.

Russell raised both livestock and crops, such as corn, beans, wheat, oats, and milo, which was typical for neighboring farms. Continuing the family tradition, the primary livestock was sheep, but Russell also raised hogs and dairy cattle, with as many as 25 milking cows. To accommodate the growing dairy operations begun by his father at the Curry Farm, he added the milking parlor, which had six milking stalls, to the front of the Three Gable Barn. Family descendants describe that of all the livestock, the sheep were Russell's pride and joy. Lynn Curry Snell recalls that for the entire summer of 1961 that she lived with her grandparents on the farm, she was allowed to mess with the hogs and cows, but was warned never to come close to touching her grandfather's sheep.<sup>31</sup>

The poultry barn was added to the farmstead by Russell, c1940. Desiring extra cash for items, such as the children's clothing, schooling and, musical instruments, Mabel compelled him to build it for her to operate an egg business. Mabel established and successfully operated an honor system egg business that allowed clients to enter the kitchen where eggs were stored, deposit their money, then exit with the eggs. Raising chickens and gathering eggs was typically the work of the farm wife, and therefore the chicken coop was located near the back door of the farmhouse. Poultry barns were commonly rectangular, frame construction with vertical board walls, and had a shed roof. Agricultural publications, such as *Ohio Farmer*, wrote "good light and ventilation with due regard to comfort are the essential features of a poultry house."<sup>32</sup> To capture the best sunlight, especially in the winter months, the façade of a chicken coop faces south and contains numerous window and door openings. The coop at the Curry Farm has a gable roof, rather than the standard shed roof, but it otherwise conforms to standards promoted by publications and state agriculture extension programs.

Russell had a hired hand name Earl Nichols who came to work for and live with the Curry family at age 16 and continued to work for them his entire life until the farm was sold in 1980. Earl was considered by the family and neighbors almost as a son. When he and his wife Pearl were married, they moved into Russell and Mabel's former house across Foundation Road.

<sup>30</sup> Statistics in this paragraph taken from: *U.S. Census of Agriculture: 1950, Vol. 1, Part 3, Counties and State Economic Areas, Ohio*, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1952.

<sup>31</sup> Interview between Edward and Susan Jaeger and Lynn Curry-Snell Maioli.

<sup>32</sup> Gordon, *Brown-Gorman Farm National Register of Historic Places Nomination*, p.14.

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In 1976, the Hartford Research Club awarded ten families with a Century Farm designation, and the Curry Farm was among the awardees. Russell had mostly retired from farming by the 1970s, but lived at the farm until 1978. Upon his move into a nursing home, Earl and Pearl Nichols, who still lived nearby, helped oversee the Curry Farm. Dorothy Curry Snell, and her husband Charles, moved back to the farm during the 1979-1980 period to help with completion of the 1979 harvest, as well as prepare the farm for sale in 1980.

### 1980 – Present

By the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, Ohio was losing farms and acreage to development pressure as cities and large metropolitan areas continued to expand outward into traditionally agricultural lands. Between 1978 and 1990, the number of Ohio's farms decreased by 23%, and between 1978 and 2000, Ohio's farmland acreage decreased by 10.7%.<sup>33</sup> This trend followed suit in Licking County, where in 1970, there were 2,000 farms with a total acreage of 290,000, and in 2000 there were 1,530 farms at a total acreage of 247,000.<sup>34</sup> Bordering the Columbus metropolitan area, the southwestern portion of the county continues to be especially vulnerable to new road infrastructure, residential subdivision, and industrial park development. However, at the close of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Licking County remained at the top of Ohio's agricultural counties. In 1996, Licking County was fourth in the state, behind Mercer, Darke, and Wayne counties, for overall farm income and third for poultry, lamb, wool, and specialty livestock at \$66.23 million.<sup>35</sup> Despite increasing loss of farmland to development, in 2015, roughly 225,000 acres, more than 50% of the land in the county, was dedicated to agriculture, containing about 1,500 separate farms within the county.<sup>36</sup> In addition to the family farms, there are large-scale agriculture businesses in Licking County, such as the 500-acre Lynd Orchard which grew out of a 1919 80-acre family farm, and large corporate farms, such as the egg farms outside Hartford, which started to be established in the 1980s.

Contemporary aerial views and windshield survey illustrate that Hartford Township remains rural, with the land predominantly in agricultural use. Of the three featured prints in the 1875 *Licking County Atlas* for Hartford Township's most prominent Merino sheep farmers (George Curry, Harrison R. Pumphrey, and Oliver Willison), only the Curry farm remains. Analysis of current aerial views against the 1875 map shows that a large portion of Pumphrey's 506-acre farmstead is now the site of the Villageview Golf Course. The Oliver Willison family had three parcels designated on the 1875 Licking County Atlas. However, the property at 13311 Foundation Road, which had received a Century Farm designation in 1976 from the Hartford Research Club, does not have any agricultural outbuildings, and at the 1863 Willison Farm, only the 1880 house remains. James N. Wright, another prominent sheep farmer, had two large properties located in the township, with the southernmost one spreading into Monroe Township.

<sup>33</sup> Siegrist, Howard. "Since 1978, Ohio's land in farms has declined 10.7 percent," *The Advocate*, October 26, 2000.

<sup>34</sup> Shaw, Julie. "Farming is big business in Licking County," *The Advocate*, March 8, 2003.

<sup>35</sup> "Licking County ranks high in farm income," *Newark Advocate*, April 29, 1998.

<sup>36</sup> Evers, Dan. "Agriculture an essential part of Licking County," *The Advocate*, September 27, 2015.



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Of the two indicated farmsteads on the Wright property (Section 11 on the 1875 map – Attachment A), neither corresponds with an extant 19<sup>th</sup> century house or farmstead along the west side of present day Clover Valley Road. If there is an extant farmstead associated with Wright, it is located in Monroe Township.

Under the stewardship of the Jaeger family since 1989, the nominated property has continued to serve agricultural functions. Although on a smaller scale than when farmed by the Curry family, the Jaegers have periodically raised sheep and pigs on the property. Utilizing the Three Gable Barn and poultry house, they currently board horses and raise chickens and turkeys. The most active agricultural pursuit on the property presently is the vineyard, and the grapes grown on the farm are sold to local wineries. The 1879 State Agricultural Report noted for Licking County that “the grape and wine production is comparatively good, but this industry is yet evidently in its infancy.”<sup>37</sup> Today, nearly 150 years later, the Jaegers are pursuing an agricultural product that had not yet developed c.1880, when other farm products in the county were king, such as wheat and sheep.

### Conclusion

While no archaeological investigation has taken place on the Curry Farm Historic District, there is potential for locating historic archaeological resources. Additional historic research, combined with archaeological survey and testing, may locate historic sites that have yet to be identified. Below ground structural evidence may survive from 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century farming and domestic activity which would enhance an understanding of agricultural practices from this time period. In addition, there is always potential to encounter unrelated historic and prehistoric archaeological resources. It is recommended that a historic preservation plan be developed that includes a directive that archaeological survey be performed prior to any major land alteration activities on the property.

Hartford Township has traditionally been, and currently remains a rural, agricultural township. As with Licking County as a whole, wool production was one of the economically viable agriculture commodities produced by Hartford Township famers from the middle to late 1800s up through World War 1, after which the fine wool market dried up, causing a transition to raising sheep for meat production. The Curry family was well-known locally for market sheep production through the mid-1900s. Such has been the history of the Curry Farmstead where five generations of the Curry family lived and farmed for over 100 years from 1873 to 1978. The Curry Farm was successfully operated for several generations, making a significant contribution to the development and sustainability of Hartford Township’s agriculture-based economy, which exists to this day. The Curry Farm Historic District continues to reflect a small-scale family farm of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

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<sup>37</sup> Graham, *History of Licking County, O.: Its Past and Present*, p.273.

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Curry Farm Historic District  
Name of Property

Licking, Ohio  
County and State

Newspapers, Articles, Reports, and National Register of Historic Places Nominations

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Curry Farm Historic District  
Name of Property

Licking, Ohio  
County and State

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#### Archives

Correspondence and interview between Edward and Susan Jaeger (current owners) and Lynn Curry-Snell Maioli (George Curry's great-great granddaughter) October 16, 2020. Historic family and farmstead photos were supplied by Dorothy Curry Snell and Lynn Curry-Snell Maioli.

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#### **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):** \_\_\_\_\_

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## **10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** 12.56

Curry Farm Historic District  
Name of Property

Licking, Ohio  
County and State

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| A. Latitude: 40.248418 | Longitude: -82.730978 |
| B. Latitude: 40.248331 | Longitude: -82.729122 |
| C. Latitude: 40.245404 | Longitude: -82.729344 |
| D. Latitude: 40.245485 | Longitude: -82.731177 |

**Or  
UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

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

The nominated boundary encompasses parcel #027-082518-01.000, as identified by the Licking County Auditor. Auditor's website accessed October 27, 2020.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated boundary includes the remaining acreage historically associated with the Curry Farm, during the period of significance (c.1840-1978). The property includes the c.1840 Gothic Revival farmhouse and agricultural outbuildings constructed by the Curry family.

Curry Farm Historic District  
Name of Property

Licking, Ohio  
County and State

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Nathalie Wright  
organization: Historic Preservation Consultant  
street & number: 1535B Lafayette Dr.  
city or town: Columbus state: OH zip code: 43220  
e-mail nwright66@yahoo.com  
telephone: 614-447-8832  
date: February 7, 2021

## 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 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, 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.

## Photo Log

Photographer: Nathalie Wright

Date Photographed: October 2, 2020. Photo #35 photographed June 20, 2018. The photo's accuracy was verified October 2, 2020.

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

Curry Farm Historic District

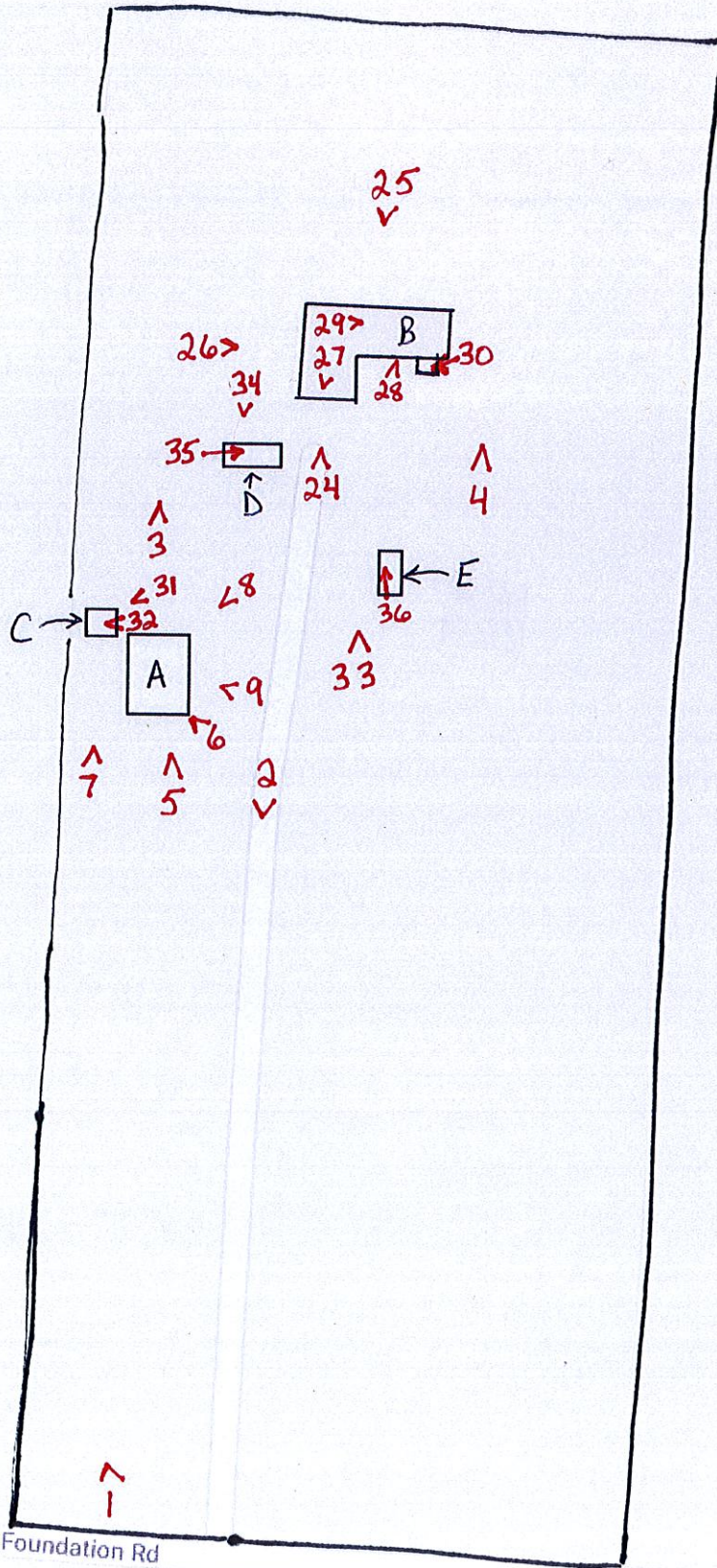
Name of Property

Licking, Ohio

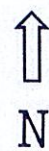
County and State

1. Site and vineyard from Foundation Road, looking north
2. Site and vineyard, looking south
3. Site and poultry barn, looking north
4. Site and large barn, looking north
5. House, façade, looking north
6. House, porch steps and foundation detail, looking northwest
7. House, façade and west elevation, small barn, looking north
8. House, east and rear elevations, looking southwest
9. House, east elevation, looking west
10. House, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, parlor, looking south
11. House, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, den, looking northeast
12. House, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, living and dining rooms, looking east
13. House, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, living room, looking southwest
14. House, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, stairs, looking north
15. House, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, bathroom, looking northwest
16. House, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, kitchen, looking north
17. House, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, kitchen nook, looking east
18. House, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, enclosed porch, looking south
19. House, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, master bedroom and hallway, looking north
20. House, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, master bedroom, looking south
21. House, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, west bedroom, looking northwest
22. House, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, east bedroom, looking east
23. House, basement, looking northwest
24. Large barn, south elevation, looking north
25. Large barn, north elevation, looking south
26. Large barn, west elevation, looking east
27. Large barn, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, looking south
28. Large barn, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, looking north
29. Large barn, hay loft, looking east
30. Large barn, milking parlor, looking southwest
31. Small barn, east and north elevations, looking southwest
32. Small barn, interior, looking west
33. Poultry barn (background) and corn crib, looking north
34. Poultry barn and corn crib (background), looking south
35. Poultry barn, interior, looking east
36. Corn crib, interior, looking north

Curry Farm, Licking County, Ohio – Exterior Photo Key



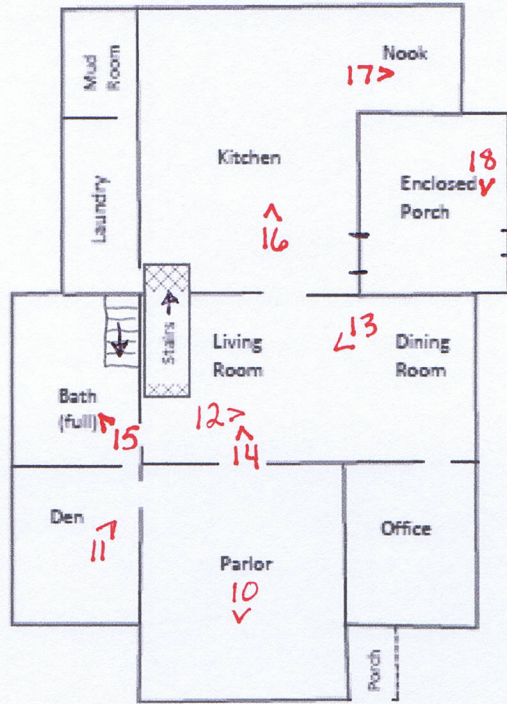
- A. HOUSE
  - B. LARGE BARN
  - C. SMALL BARN
  - D. POULTRY BARN
  - E. CORN CRIB
- ALL CONTRIBUTING
- NR boundary



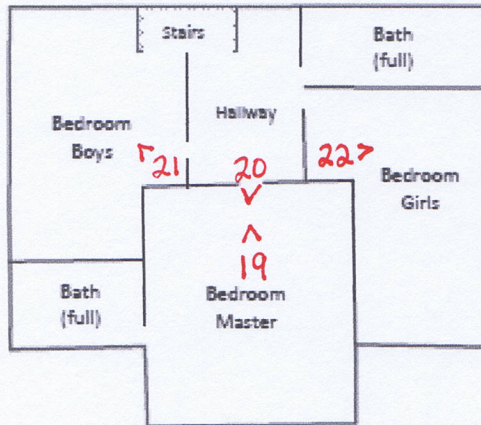


Curry Farm, Licking County, Ohio – Interior Photo Key  
(Not to Scale)

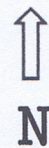
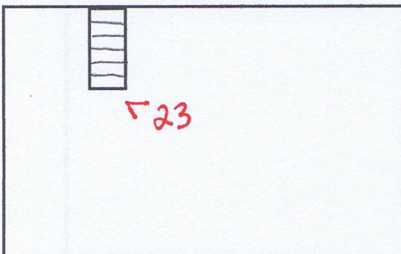
First Floor



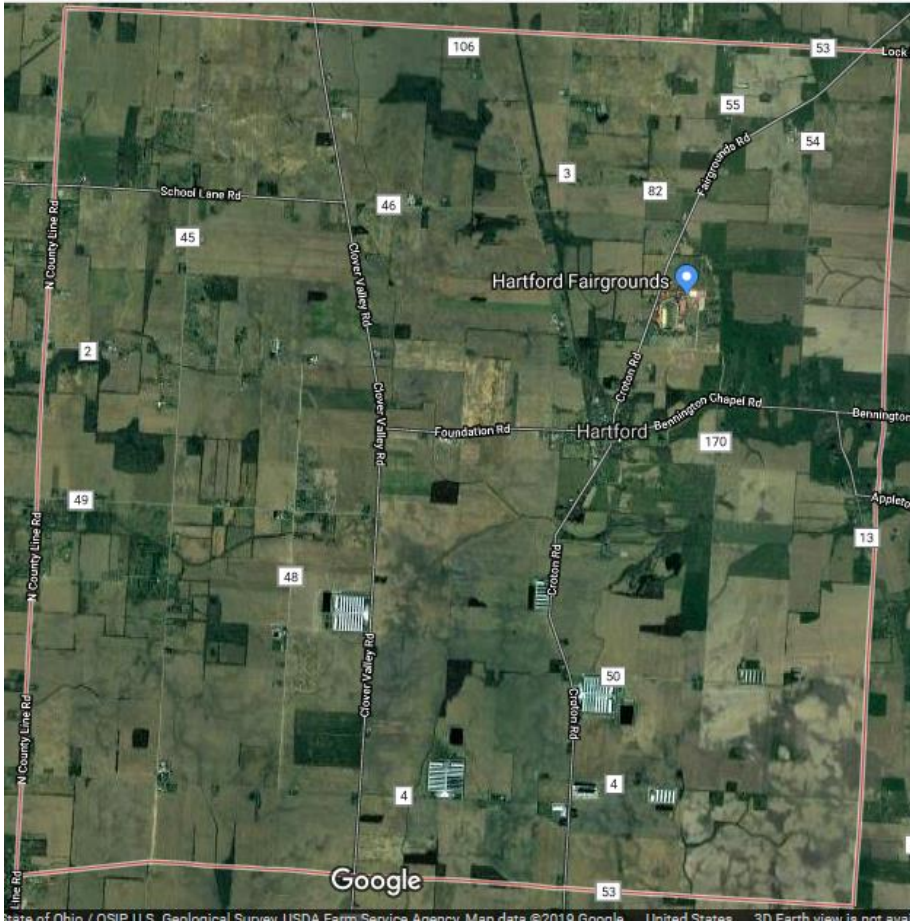
Second Floor



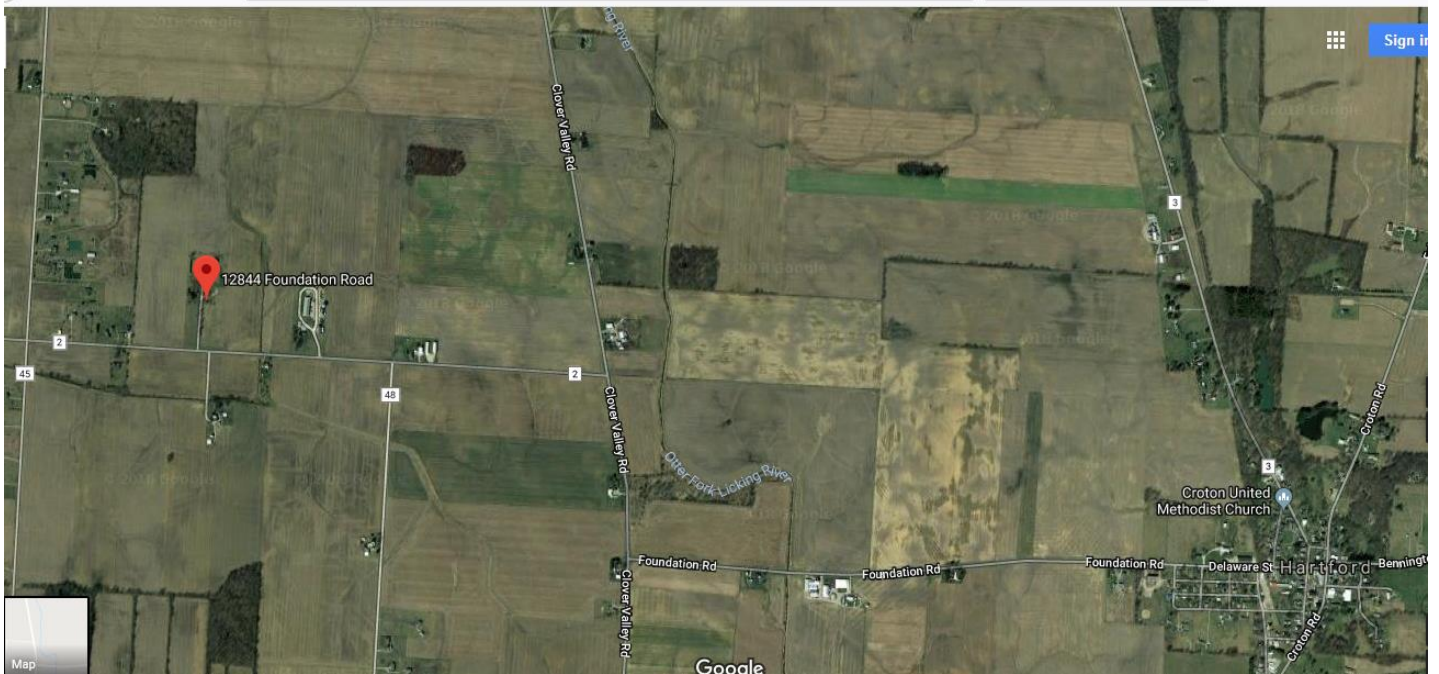
Basement



Attachment A – Maps

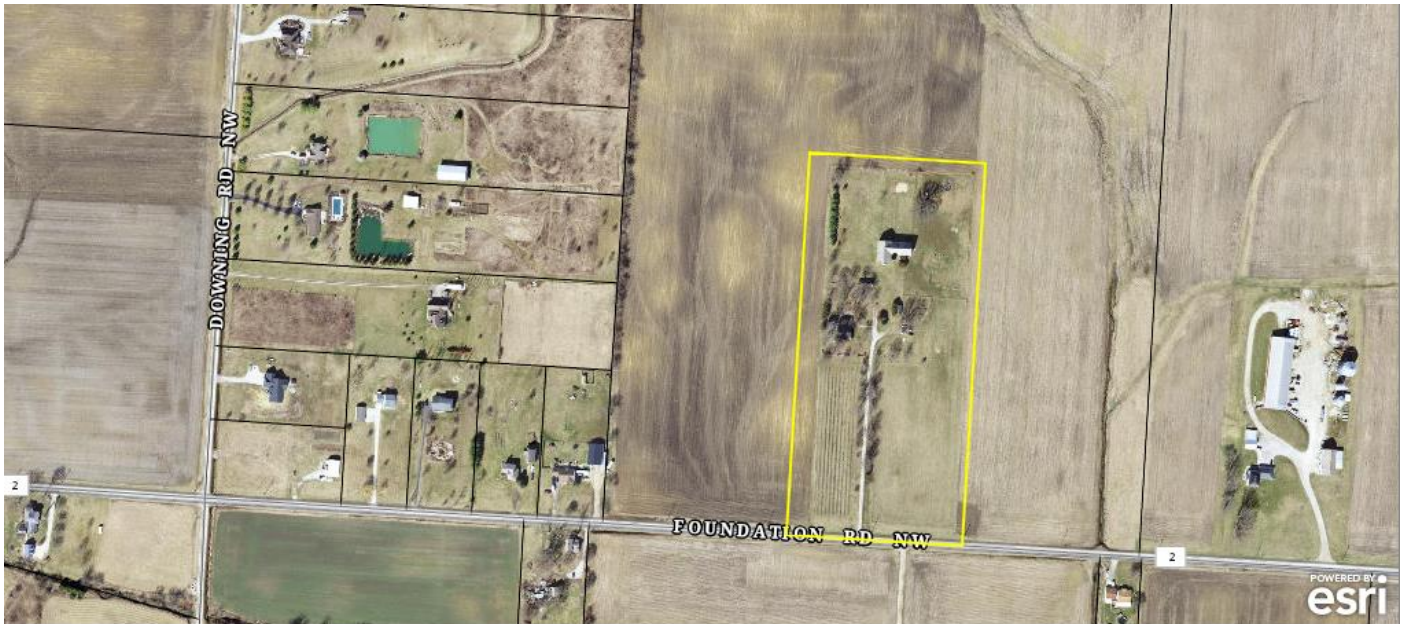


Hartford Township



Hartford Township - 12844 Foundation Rd., Hartford, OH

Attachment A – Maps

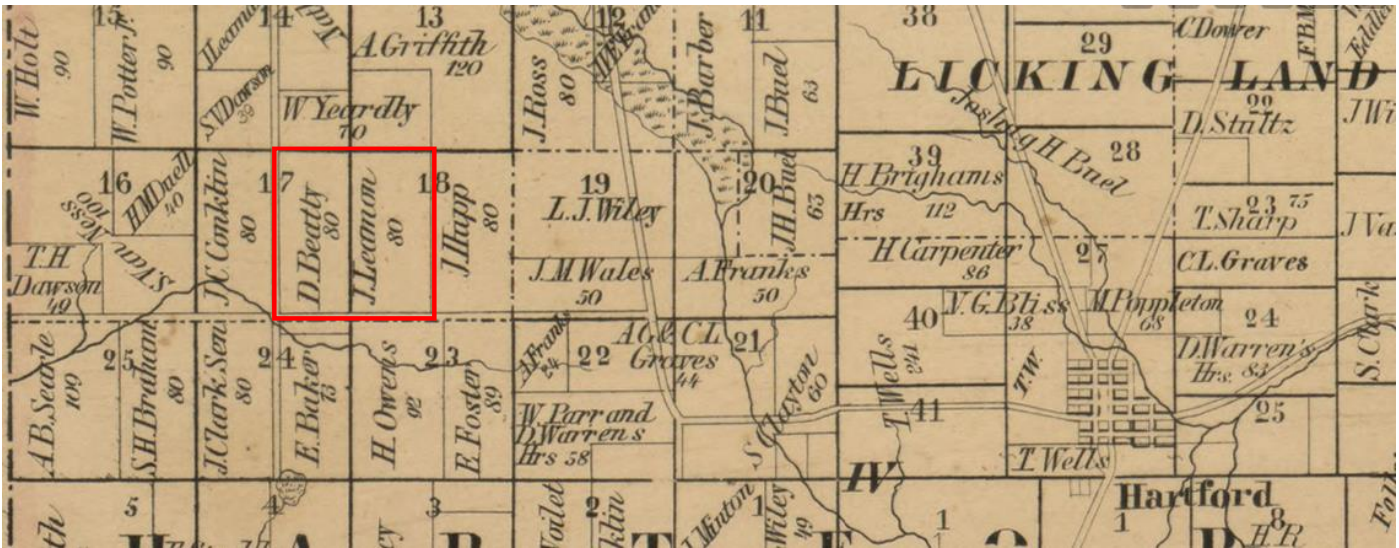


Auditor Map (12.56 acre parcel), Parcel#: 027-082518-01.000. Auditor's website accessed October 27, 2020.



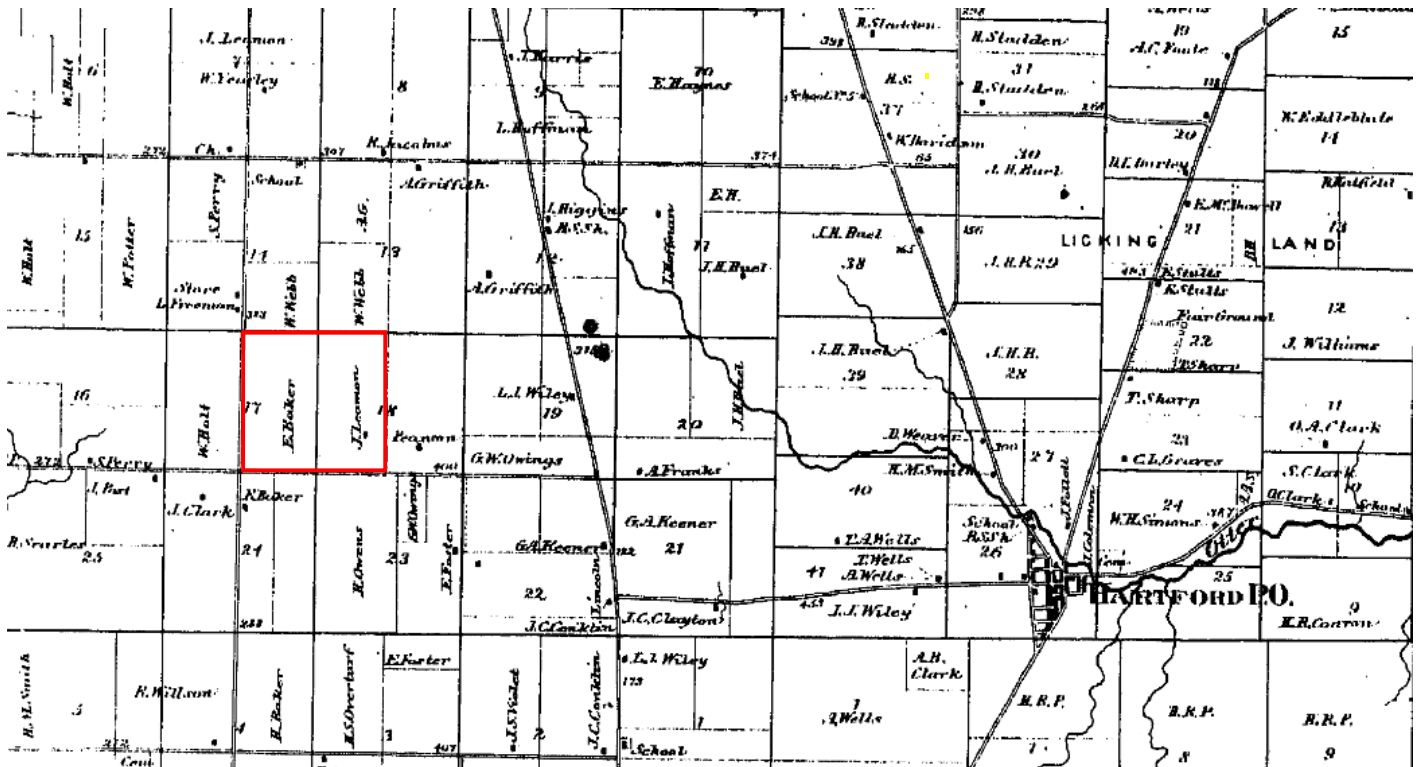
1847 Licking County Wall Map

## Attachment A - Maps



1854 county map detail. From *Map of Licking County*.

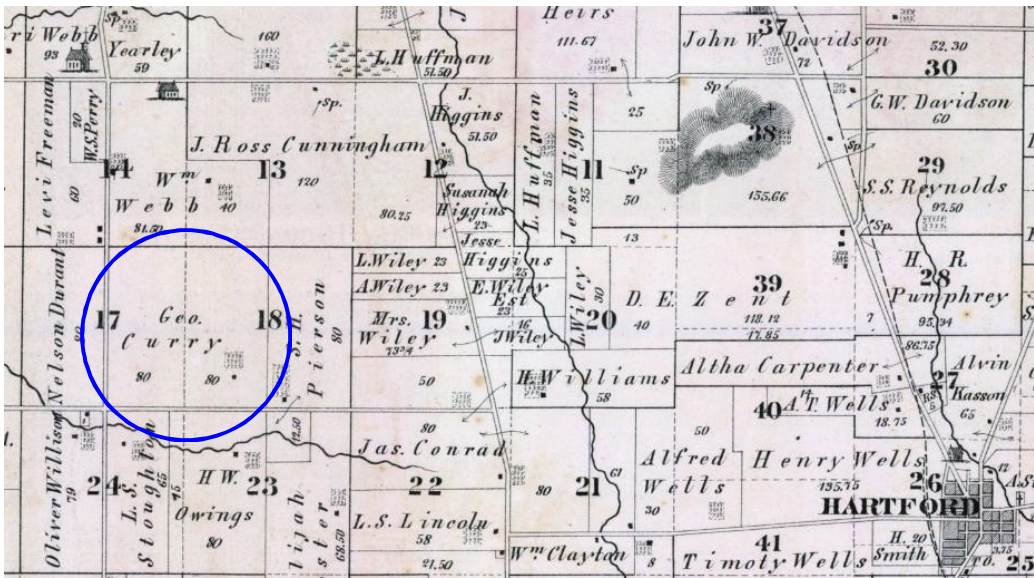
Curry property was two parcels owned by D. Beatty and Jacob (J.) Leamon. The current 12.56 acres is on the Leamon parcel.



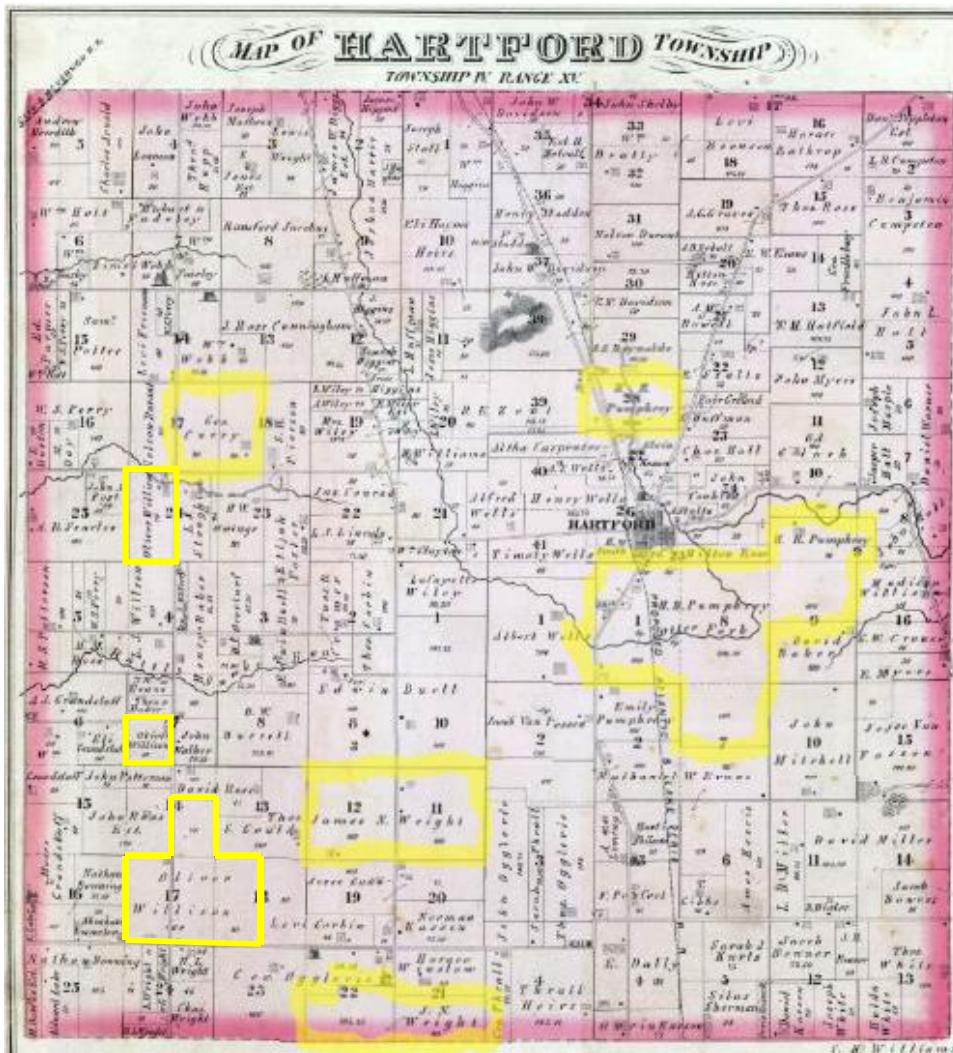
1866 county map detail. From *Atlas of Licking County, Ohio*

Curry property was two parcels in 1866 owned by E. Baker and J. Leamon

Attachment A – Maps

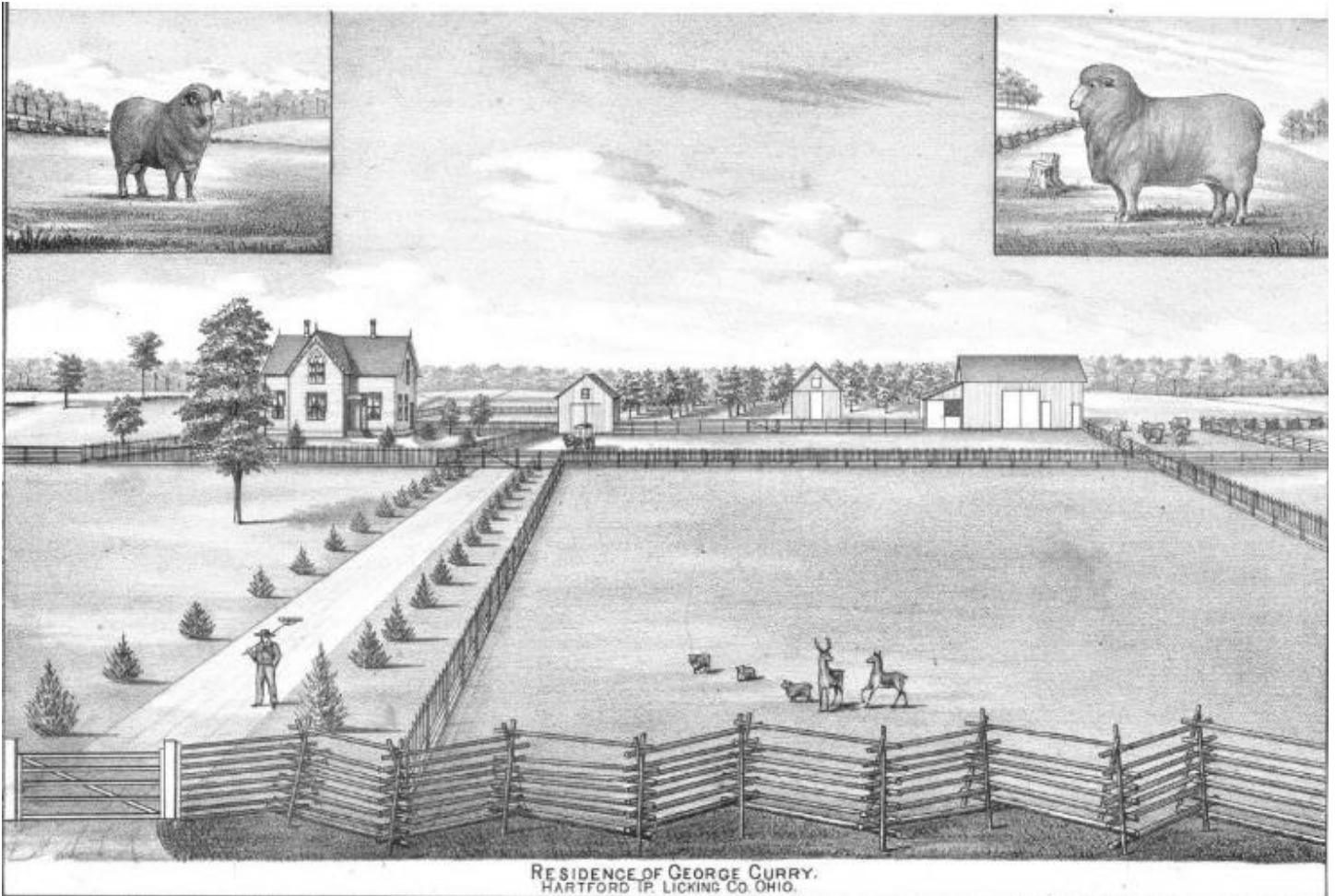


1875 county map detail. From *Combination Atlas Map of Licking County, Ohio*



1875 map showing township's leading sheep farmers. From *Combination Atlas Map of Licking County, Ohio*

Attachment B – Historic Images



Curry Farm, 1875. From *Combination Atlas Map of Licking County, Ohio*



East elevation: 1937 on left, and 1940 on right, with the new kitchen nook. From Curry family archives

**Attachment B – Historic Images**

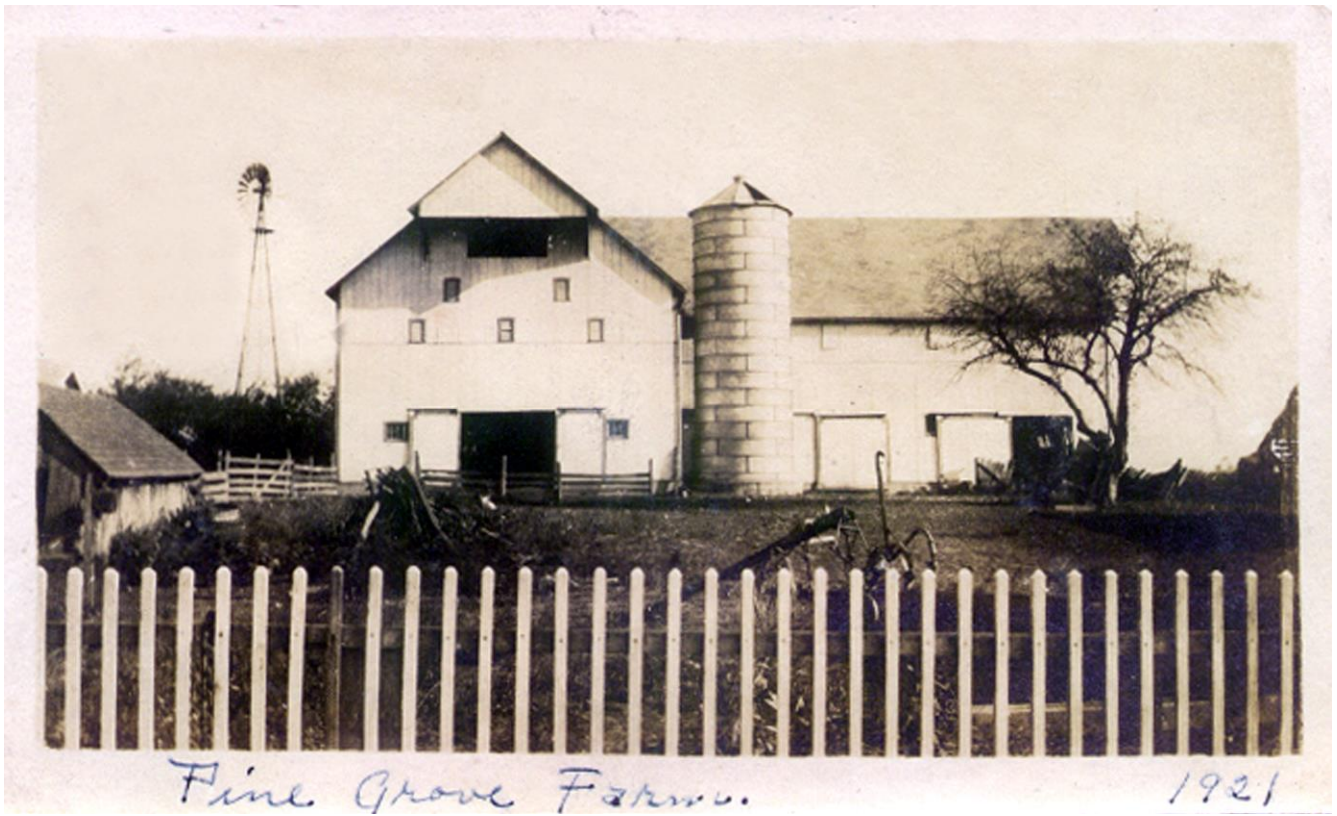


**Façade and front pasture, 1955. From Curry family archives.**



**Façade and front pasture, 1980s. From Curry family archives.**

Attachment B – Historic Images



Large barn, 1921. From Curry family archives.



Large barn, 1939. Haying with Mabel and Kathleen. From Curry family archives.



Attachment B – Historic Images



Large barn and poultry building, 1942. From Curry family archives.

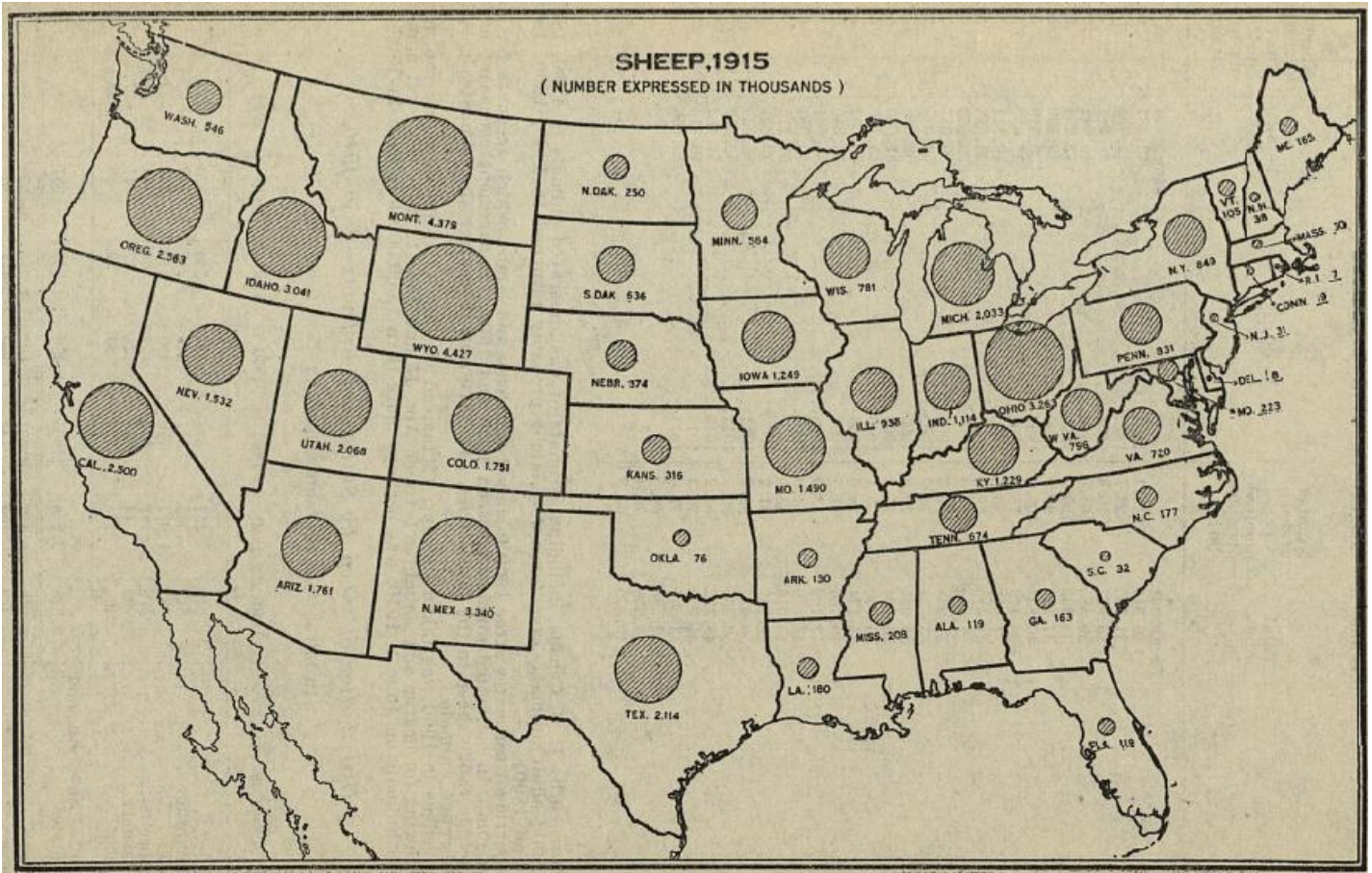


Aerial view, 1940s. From Curry family archives.



Aerial view, c.1995. From Jaeger family archives.

Attachment C – Charts



From "A Brief History of the Sheep Industry in the United States," 1921.