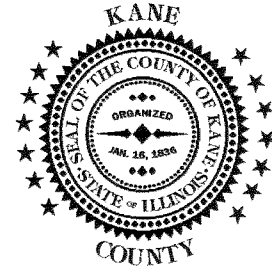


Kane County Historic Preservation Commission  
c/o Kane County Development Department  
County Government Center  
719 Batavia Avenue  
Geneva, IL 60134



## KANE COUNTY REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES LANDMARK NOMINATION FORM

Nomination Number: 49  
Date Received: 10/25/2012

### Nomination Information

Detailed instructions for completing this form, preparing the required attachments, and submitting a nomination are attached. When completing this form, please print in ink or type. Questions regarding the preparation and submission of nominations, or the Kane County Register of Historic Places in general, may be forwarded to the Kane County Preservation Planner at 630-208-5347.

1. Name of property: Seven Oaks Farm
  
2. Common address of property: 36W778 Red Gate Rd., St. Charles, IL 60175
  
3. Tax assessor's parcel number(s) included (in whole or part): 09-16-101-007  
09-16-101-008  
09-16-101-005  
09-16-153-011
  
4. Description of property boundaries: The properties are identified and described in attached legal description documents.
  
5. Is the property, or any part thereof, listed in the Kane County Register of Historic Places, the Illinois Register of Historic Places, or the National Register of Historic Places?  
 No  
 Yes    ➤     Kane County Register of Historic Places  
 Illinois Register of Historic Places  
 National Register of Historic Places

**KANE COUNTY REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**LANDMARK NOMINATION FORM**

6. **Criteria for Designation:** Indicate which of the following criteria for designation apply to the property. (Check all that apply.)
- Property has character, interest, or value which is part of the development, heritage, or cultural character of the community, county, state or nation.
  - Property is the site of a significant local, county, state or national event.
  - Property is identified with a person who significantly contributed to the development of the community, county, state or nation.
  - Structure(s) embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a period, type, method of construction, or use of indigenous materials.
  - Property is identified with the work of a master builder, designer, architect, or landscape architect whose work has influenced the development of the area, the county, the state or the nation.
  - Structure(s) embodies elements of design, detailing, materials, or craftsmanship that are of architectural significance.
  - Structure(s) embodies design elements that make it structurally or architecturally innovative.
  - Property has a unique location or physical characteristics that make it a familiar visual feature.
  - Structure(s) is a particularly fine or unique example of a utilitarian structure with a high level of integrity or architectural significance.
  - Property is suitable for preservation or restoration.
  - Property is included in the Illinois or National Register of Historic Places.
  - Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important to prehistory, history, or other areas of archaeological significance.

7. **Attachment Checklist:** The following items should be prepared and submitted with this nomination form.

Attachment #1: Written Statement

Attachment #2: Maps (with cover sheet)

Attachment #3: Photographs (with cover sheet)

Attachment #4: Property Owner(s) and Signature(s) of Consent for Nomination

**KANE COUNTY REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**LANDMARK NOMINATION FORM**

8. Name(s), address (es), telephone number(s), and signature(s) of person(s) submitting this nomination.

Name of Nominator: DEBORAH CAHN

Home Address: 36 W 780 PED GATE RD.  
ST. CHARLES, IL 60175

Phone Number(s): H: (630) 762-9565 W: (773) 218-7300

Signature: Deborah Cahn 9.17.12  
(Signature) (Date)

Name of Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number(s): H: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ W: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature) (Date)

Name of Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number(s): H: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ W: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature) (Date)

# LANDMARK NOMINATION – ATTACHMENT #1

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## Written Statement

*Prepare a written statement on this form when nominating a property for the Kane County Register of Historic Places. See nomination instructions for guidance regarding the content and purpose of the statement. Please print in ink or type. (Attach continuation sheets if necessary.)*

### Historic Significance

The historic plat map shows that David Long, the first owner of 104 acres in 1860 had a house on the property as the first building on the site and no outbuildings. Still owned by Long in 1871 the plat map shows a house with one outbuilding behind it. Henry Ford owned in 1892, map shows a house and two outbuildings. By 1904 it was in the Fred Berndt estate. (1)

The Berndt family moved to St. Charles township in the 1880s (2) and farmed Long View farm until 1937 when Colonel E. J. Baker bought it from them. The Berndts had done well in farming having built the dairy barn, silos, milk house, attached feed shed, chicken coop, machine shed and garage. (3)

Edward J. Baker was born in St. Charles on the 30th of September, 1868. Baker claimed to be partially raised on a farm and would later attribute his love of agricultural life to that. The early part of his career was spent working as a clerk in a hardware store and then St. Charles Mercantile Company. Governor John R. Tanner then appointed him to be inspector of grain and railroads and warehouses, which he did for ten years until 1907. (4)

In 1905 his brother-in-law bought him the 290 acre Silver Glen farm and on it he had 50 head of Holstein. (5) Then approximately 10 years later he inherited his sister's, fortune. Baker continually invested in the City of St. Charles and the farming industry in Kane County. Baker had amassed a total 1500 acres in eight separate farms. With each farm he bought he improved them with nice homes and dairies with pure-bred stock. (6)

Baker received his inheritance from his sister in 1918. Along Red Gate Road Colonel Baker had bought three farms, Red Gate Farm (purchased in 1928), Twin Pines Farm and Longview Farm. Longview Farm was purchased in 1937 from the Berndt family which had been farming there since the 1890s. As noted in his obituary, when Baker bought his farms he enhanced them with state of art buildings. When Baker bought Longview the Berndts had already made significant improvements in the buildings, most notably the gambrel roofed, ramped dairy barn. According to real estate documents provided by Deborah Jahn the horse stable was built by Baker. (3)

Tom and Donna Moore purchased Long View farm from Col. Baker's Estate in 1961. Tom Moore was a two-time recipient of the Equestrian of the Year, from USA Equestrian, first in 1986 and repeating the feat in 1994, was a renowned Saddlebred trainer and the founding father of the United Professional Horsemen's Association. Moore is the only person in history to have been named Equestrian of the Year twice by the sport's national federation.

Moore won his first World's Championship at age 16 and went on to win more than 200 World's Championship titles. In 1994, Moore earned the "triple crown" at Lexington Junior League Horse Show in taking home the tri-color in the Open Fine Harness, Open Three-Gaited and Open Five-Gaited championships, a feat not easily accomplished. He also trained many amateurs and junior

## LANDMARK NOMINATION

### Attachment #1 (Continuation Sheet)

Page 2

exhibitor horses to world championship titles. This superior horseman and showman dedicated himself to the American Saddlebred and the show ring, and was among the sport's most respected judges. (7)

Within the Saddlebred industry Tom Moore was also known for his design abilities of the horse ring. Moore designed the show ring at the Illinois State Fair grounds which today is considered one of the best show rings in the nation. (8)

Tom Moore made his own contributions to the farm by rehabilitating and re-adapting the horse stable. He doubled the length of the stable and added an indoor arena to the back of the stable. (8) The most interesting feature of this addition being the end sheds where the horses could turn their buggies around. Moore also adaptively re-used the machine shed as a stallion barn. Additionally, Moore likely built the run-in shed just south of the stallion barn since it does not appear on the Baker property inventory. (3)

The next two owners of the farm were also American Saddlebred trainers, Chat Nichols followed by David Kerger, and were able to use the farm as Moore had. Deborah Jahn was renting barn space on the farm from David Kerger when she was given the opportunity to buy it. (8)

Now known as Seven Oaks Farm, it is owned by Deborah Jahn, horsewoman and wife of German born internationally renowned Chicago architect Helmet Jahn. Deborah Jahn purchased the farm in 1998 and has continued to grow the farm by adding extra acreage, a ring and new buildings. Her husband designed the guesthouse on the property and has adaptively re-used a barn that used to be on a neighboring farm. (10) Her stewardship of the farm has been excellent maintaining the farm buildings in their original character. When the original house was destroyed by a plumbing flood she chose to rebuild the house in the original foot print in a simple style that complimented the rest of the farm and is very much in the character of Kane county's historic vernacular residences.

#### **Architectural Significance**

The residence in previous pictures and as noted in the Rural Structures Survey had elements of Italianate style such as segmental arch windows.

According to real estate documents provided by Deborah Jahn the horse stable was built by Baker and kept all of the other farm buildings working with their original function. As the property passed from one horse farm owner to the next there are modifications to the structures as needed. Tom Moore bought the farm from the Baker Estate in 1961. He doubled the length of the stable and added a practice arena to the back of the stable. He likely added the very long run-in shed just to the south of the other horse stable on the farm. (3&8)

**Horse Barn-** Built in 1937 by Colonel Baker, frame, wood clapboard, side gable with dormers story and a half barn. In 1961, the length of the barn was doubled and an indoor arena with several sided turn-around sheds was added to the back of the barn. The addition matched the original building in style and materials.

## LANDMARK NOMINATION

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### Attachment #1 (Continuation Sheet)

Page 3

**Dairy Barn-** Built in 1932 by the Berndt family, gambrel roof, frame with board and batten siding, concrete and stone foundation. Roof material is now standing seam metal mirroring the roof material on the farms second dairy barn.

**Machine Shed/Stallion Barn-** Built in 1924 by the Berndt family as a machine shed. Tom Moore likely converted it to a stallion barn circa 1961.

**Run-In Shed-**Most likely built by Tom Moore circa 1960. Frame with wood siding.

**Guesthouse-** Built in 2000, designed by Helmut Jahn. It is a gable front two story house, clad in a gray standing seam metal siding.

**Converted Dairy Barn to Studio-** Barn originally from Twin Pines Dairy farm. Built circa 1924. The gambrel roof barn was re-clad with standing seam gray metal. The roof is clad in a galvanized standing seam metal. An innovative design for skylights was installed on either side of the ridge beam. Windows were cut on both side of the haymow to allow more light into the living space. The windows are covered in a new design for exterior shades that regulate the amount of light in the living space. A single lane lap pool was dug out of the floor of the barn where the aisle would have been. (11)

Additional buildings include a Morton Building run-in shed and a granary converted to a residential structure.

# LANDMARK NOMINATION

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## Sources Cited

1. Historic Kane County Plat Maps
2. *Kane County Farmer Registry, 1918 online*
3. Real Estate documents from the Estate of E.J. Baker, supplied by owner Deborah Jahn
4. *History of Kane County, Illinois by Joslyn & Joslyn 1908*
5. St. Charles Heritage Center Research File on E.J. Baker
6. *St. Charles Chronicle Obituary 1-21-1959*
7. Tom Moore Obituary
8. Interview with Jim Cooke, Owner of Red Gate Farm, Wednesday 9.26.2012
9. Kane County Recorder's Office, Documents on file
10. *Chicago Tribune "Country Living: Deborah and Helmut Jahn spread their wings at their horse farm in Kane County". 9.15.2002*
11. *Architectural Lighting Magazine "Rustic Minimalism, An Illinois Barn is given new life and light as an architectural retreat", September 1, 2007.*

## **LANDMARK NOMINATION – ATTACHMENT #2**

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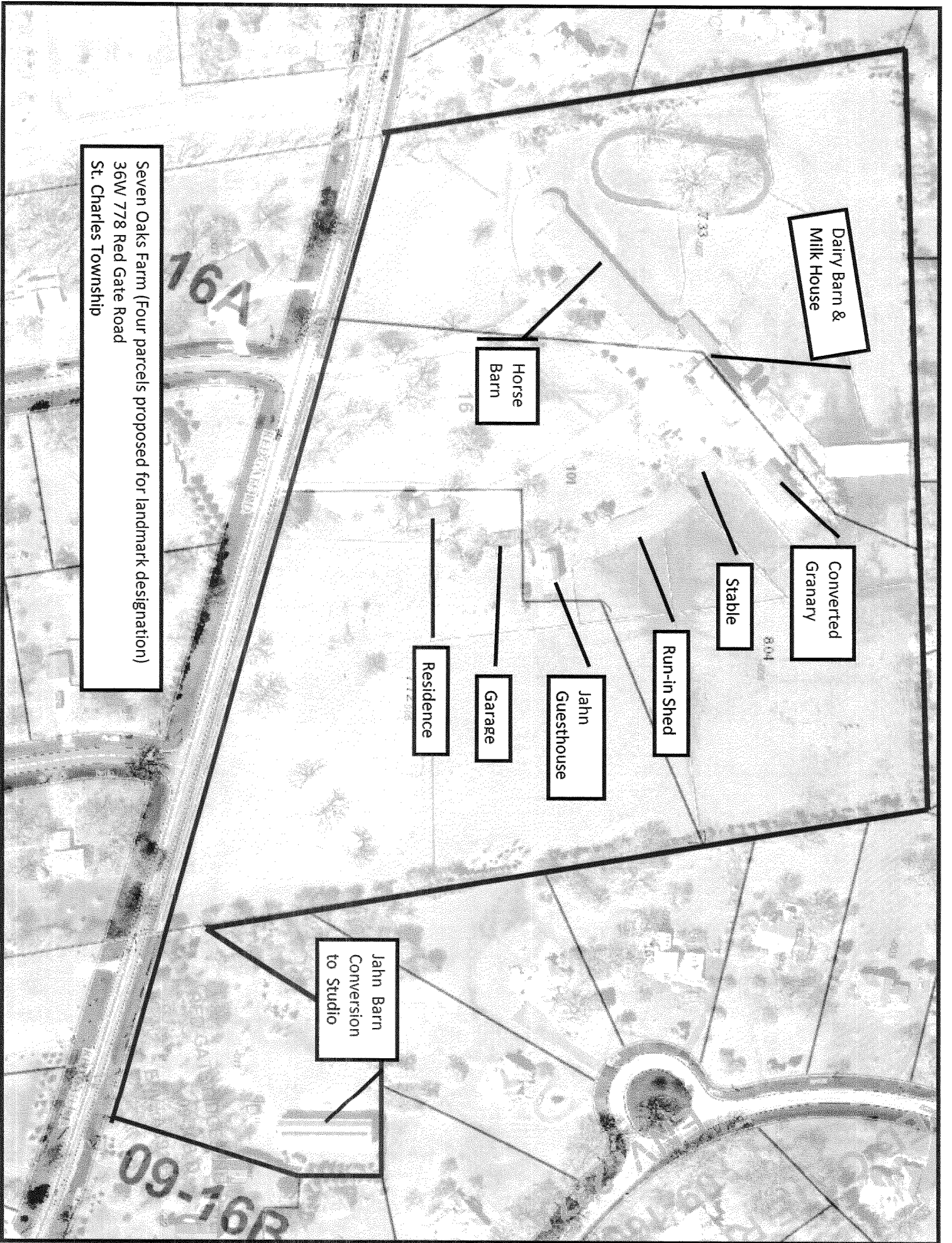
### **Cover Sheet for Maps**

The following maps are included with this nomination:

- Map showing the location of the nominated property in Kane County; and
- Site plan showing the boundaries of the property and the location of each building, structure, and/or object on the property.



Location of Seven Oaks Farm within the county



Dairy Barn & Milk House

Converted Granary

Stable

Run-in Shed

Jahn Guesthouse

Garage

Residence

Horse Barn

Jahn Barn Conversion to Studio

Seven Oaks Farm (Four parcels proposed for landmark designation)  
36W 778 Red Gate Road  
St. Charles Township

76A

09-16R

733

16

101

804

ST. CHARLES TOWNSHIP

# LANDMARK NOMINATION – ATTACHMENT #3

## Cover Sheet for Photographs

The following photographs are included with this nomination:

<b>Photo #</b>	<b>Date Taken</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Location/View</b>
1	9/13/2012	Seven Oaks Farm Horse Barn and front paddock	From the south
2	9/13/2012	Seven Oaks Farm Horse Barn and practice ring	From the north.
3	9/13/2012	Seven Oaks Farm	Overall view from the north
4	9/13/2012	Seven Oaks Farm Dairy barn	From the north
5	9/13/2012	Seven Oaks Farm Dairy barn	From the south
6	9/13/2012	Seven Oaks Farm Stallion stable and run-in shed	From the southwest
7	9/13/2012	Seven Oaks Farm Residence	From the south
8	9/13/2012	Seven Oaks Farm Garage	From the west

*(Attach continuation sheets if necessary.)*

**LANDMARK NOMINATION**

<b>Photo #</b>	<b>Date Taken</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Location/View</b>
9	9/13/2012	Seven Oaks Farm Guest house	From the southwest
10	9/13/2012	Seven Oaks Farm Guest house	From the east
11	9/13/2012	Seven Oaks Farm Jahn Barn	From south
12	9/13/2012	Seven Oaks Farm Jahn Barn	From east
13		<i>Long View Farm</i>	<i>Aerial during E.S. Baker ownership</i>

