



**Name of Property:** Kimball Village Site  
**City, State:** Rural Westfield, Iowa  
**Period of Significance:** A.D. 1100-1250  
**NHL Criteria:** 4 and 6  
**NHL Theme:** I. Peopling Places  
 1. Family and the life cycle  
 3. Migration from outside and within  
 4. Community and neighborhood  
 6. Encounters, conflicts, and colonization  
 V. Developing the American Economy  
 1. Extraction and production  
 2. Distribution and consumption  
 6. Exchange and trade

**Previous Recognition:** 2010 National Register of Historic Places  
**National Historic Context:** I. Cultural Developments: Indigenous American Populations  
 B. Post-Archaic and Precontact Developments  
 10. Plains Hunters and Gatherers  
 11. Plains Farmers  
 1994 *Village Sites of the Middle Missouri Subarea CE 1000–CE 1800*

**NHL Significance:**

- The Kimball Village Site (13PM4) is an exceptionally well-preserved, late precontact Plains Village site of the Big Sioux phase of the Middle Missouri tradition.
- This outstanding example of an early, single component Plains Village site was occupied



circa CE 1100-1250, based on radiocarbon dates and cross-dating of diagnostic artifacts and exotic trade items. Located on a broad natural terrace of the Big Sioux River in the shadow of Iowa's Loess Hills, Kimball Village is marked by a mound rising over a meter above the modern floodplain surface.

- Distinguishing physical characteristics of the Kimball Village site include the presence of numerous, tightly spaced rectangular earth-and-timber lodges aligned in rows, an apparent encircling palisade, distinct stratigraphic layers, and abundant storage pits; bone farming implements and botanical evidence signifying maize-based horticulture; large quantities of nondomestic animal bone refuse, stone tools, and an elaborate bone tool industry testifying to hunting and large mammal processing.
- In its original, approximately 900 year-old location, the Kimball Village site embodies all of the distinctive characteristics of early indigenous farmers, settlements, and material culture that typify early Plains Village sites. This was a transformative chapter in North American midcontinental history when people switched from hunting and gathering and small-scale crop production to a nucleated sedentary lifestyle based on intensive maize horticulture and compact villages of substantive timber lodges. Concomitant changes included new forms of community structure, socio-political organization, and intersocietal interaction.

**Integrity:**

- The Kimball Village site exhibits an extremely high level of historic integrity. The site is in excellent condition, especially relative to other sites of its kind, and has a very high level of archeological integrity to answer nationally significant questions pertaining to the formation of the Neolithic stage of nucleated village life on the Plains. No IMM sites of the Big Sioux phase have been designated as NHLs.
- There are no intrusive artifacts or features at the site, the artifact and feature assemblages are complete, and the quality and quantity of artifacts and features are outstanding. The lack of modern intrusions and the site setting as it was during the time of occupation—on the floodplain of the Big Sioux River and in the shadow of the Loess Hills bluffs—conveys a sense of how it must have felt over a millennium ago.

**Owner of Property:** Dr. Robert and Mrs. Kathryn Rasmus

**Acres of Property:** 1.9 acres

**Origins of Nomination:** The nomination is the consequence of a cultural resource survey of seven western counties of Iowa funded through a grant to the University of Iowa, Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA), from Golden Hills Recreation and Development of Oakland, Iowa. OSA was charged with nominating potentially NHL eligible properties to gain federal recognition of significant sites along the Loess Hills National Scenic Byway.

**Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:**

- Although the precise location of Kimball Village will remain restricted for security reasons, its existence and status as an NHL will be publicized and interpreted in various



ways at such public locations as the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center (Sioux City, IA). With its location at the north end of the Loess Hills National Scenic Byway, it will be included in brochures and website development related to the Byway and promoted by Golden Hills Resource Conservation and Development (Oakland, IA). The University of Iowa, Office of the State Archaeologist, is also expected to feature Kimball Village prominently in its public outreach programming.

**Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:** None known.

**Landmarks Committee Comments:**

**Landmarks Committee Recommendation:** Designation. Dr. Mills moved, Dr. Allan seconded; unanimous approval.

**Public Comments Favoring Designation (received as of 5/4/2016):**

Howard Croweagle

Kevin Pape, Park Ranger, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Stone State Park, Sioux City, Iowa

Lance M. Foster, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska, White Cloud, Kansas

Leesa A. McNeil, Iowa State Reserves Advisory Board, Sioux City, Iowa

Joe Artz, Senior Geoscientist and GIS Analyst, EarthView Environmental, Inc.

Leslie A. Ambrosino, President, AIA, Association of Iowa Archeologists, West Des Moines, Iowa

Wayne L. Phipps, Chair, Iowa State Preserves Advisory Board, Jefferson, Iowa

**Advisory Board Recommendation:**