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The Cornish Griffin Round Barn, 2015 S. West Fox Lake Road, is in need of restoration. The barn is the

only known glazed-tile round barn in Indiana and was constructed approximately in 1918.

Move afoot to restore round barn

BY TIFFANY YODER
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FOX LAKE — The Cornish Griffin Round Barn, 2015 S. West Fox Lake Road Angola, has seen some better days.

The barn is in need of restoration, and the Wood-Land-Lakes Resource Development & Conservation Council has undertaken the cause. The barn is one of only two round barns remaining in Steuben County and the only known glazed-tile round barn in Indiana.

“That’s one of the reasons I thought it would be a good project to restore,” said James Penick, coordinator for the Cornish Griffin Round Barn Restoration Project.

The barn was built somewhere between 1918 and 1920, according to Cornish Griffin, whose father John Griffin built the barn and house. The blocks the barn is built with were made of fired clay in Brazil.

The barn, like many other round barns, is built with a silo in the center.

The round shape of the barn allowed easy access to the silo from any section of the barn. Typically these barns were used in dairy operations. The cupola is the upper portion of the silo, where the tiles on the outside form a decorative pattern. The roof of the silo used to have a dormer for filling the silo but its roof has collapsed.

Owners Mike and Jobi Ash would sign a preservation easement with Historic Landmarks Foundation of

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BARN: Structure of rare barn is in excellent shape

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Indiana, permanently protecting the barn from demolition and major structural changes, if restoration funds are pledged. The barn is already on the National Register of Historic Places and the Ash family does not have the necessary funds, estimated at \$75,000-100,000, to restore the barn themselves.

“Not too many of us can drop \$100,000 out of our pocket and restore a barn,” said Penick.

In addition to protecting the

barn, having a Preservation Easement would allow school groups to tour the barn at any time and open the barn to the public for tours a few specific days each year.

Among the things needing work are the roof of the silo, silts and the doors to the barn. Though some work is needed, Penick said the barn has held up well over the years.

“The structure itself, brick and tile, is in excellent shape,” he said.

The Wood-Land-Lakes Resource Development &

Conservation Council is seeking funding for the project. The council is looking for funds through various grants, groups and individuals, and the Ash family will contribute as well. Once funding is obtained, it will be turned over for restoration. When that is complete, a plaque will be placed near the barn thanking major contributors and a public acknowledgment will be given for all contributors.

Further information is available by contacting Penick at 665-7447.