



# MEMO TO HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

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September 22, 2022

TO: Historic Preservation Commission

FROM: Blaine Johnston, Historic Preservation Commission President

RE: Eggers Farmstead Property "Black Cat Farm" (820 S. Black Cat).

**Background:**

This property is on the Ada County Historic Resources Inventory<sup>1</sup> and was recently sold to a residential developer.

**Historic Background:** The Eggers farming legacy started with Drew's great-grandfather, who moved to Idaho in 1918 and owned a dairy on Ten Mile and Overland roads. His son and Eggers' grandfather, Chester Eggers Sr., opened a dairy farm and prune growing business in 1921 on Franklin Road in west Meridian — it was called Black Cat Farm.

Chester Eggers Sr. had a big sign with a black cat made and put it on the corner of Franklin and Black Cat roads. At the time, Black Cat Road was known as Post Road, but years later Ada County renamed the road. Drew Eggers' mint fields are just south of the sign. His family doesn't own the ranch anymore, but he uses the black cat logo on all of his farm machinery.

**Recommendations:**

Since we are not a regulatory commission, we do not have the capability to stop the development or directly have them do anything to save any of the structures.

Meridian Historic Preservation Commission possible tasks:

- Do nothing.
- Photograph the barns and silos.
- Have TAG complete a survey on these buildings.
- If the structures are not removed, can we ask Planning and Zoning to have the developer incorporate some portion of these building into their development?
- Ask Planning and Zoning to have the developer put up signage and with photos and written history of this farm.

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<sup>1</sup> *The Eggers farmstead and silo is on the Ada County Historic Resources Inventory.* Here is a link to an interactive GIS map that has Ada County's Historic Resources Inventory: <https://gis.adacounty.id.gov/arcgis/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8358b69a03894d179a89b6cb8f92a4e0>