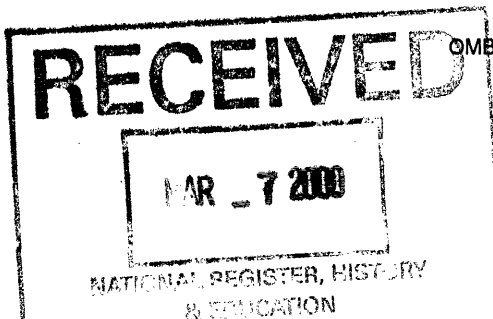


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**



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This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Brugjeld/Peterson Family Farmstead District

other names/site number Lakeside Farm, Peterson Point Historical Farmstead

2. Location

street & number 2349 450th Avenue N/A not for publication

city or town Wallingford vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Emmet code 063 zip code 51365

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (see continuation sheet for additional comments).

Patricia Shilp King PSMPO 2-29-00
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

4/6/00
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
7		buildings
		sites
3		structures
		objects
10		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding

AGRICULTURE/storage

AGRICULTURE/animal facility

COMMERCE/specialty store/blacksmith shop

INDUSTRY/manufacturing facility/sawmill

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE

OTHER: heavy timber frame

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/granite

walls WOOD/weatherboard

WOOD/log

roof ASPHALT

other METAL/tin

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Brugjeld/Peterson Family Farmstead District
Name of Property

Emmet County, Iowa
County and State

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.)

Property is:

- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

ETHNIC HERITAGE

Period of Significance

1870-1950

Significant Dates

1870

1895

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Brugjeld, Peder N.

Peterson, Peder N.

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Brugjeld/Peterson Family Farmstead District
Name of Property

Emmet County, Iowa
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.7 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	[1]5	[3]6[2]0[4]0	[4]7[9]5[9]0[0]	2	[1]5	[3]6[2]1[2]0	[4]7[9]5[8]8[0]
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
3	[1]5	[3]6[2]1[0]0	[4]7[9]5[7]8[0]	4	[1]5	[3]6[2]0[2]0	[4]7[9]5[8]0[0]
							<input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Leah D. Rogers and Gladis D. Recher

organization Consultant and Emmet County Conservation Foundation date February 20, 2000

street & number 217 NW 5th Street telephone 319-895-8330

city or town Mt. Vernon state IA zip code 52314

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the complete form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Emmet County Conservation Department

street & number P.O. Box 155 telephone 712-362-2510

city or town Estherville state IA zip code 51334-0155

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 **Page** 1 **Brugjeld/Peterson Family Farmstead District
Emmet County, Iowa**

Narrative Description

The Brugjeld/Peterson Family Farmstead District is located on the east shore of High Lake in the SE1/4 and NE1/4 of the NW1/4, NE1/4, SE1/4, or Lot 3, of Section 14, T98N-R33W, High Lake Township, Emmet County, Iowa. Emmet County is situated in northwestern Iowa and is along the Iowa/Minnesota state border. High Lake is one of a series of natural, glacial lakes that dot the landscape of Emmet County and is specifically situated in the south-central portion of the county. The farmstead is sited on a spit of land in-between High Lake to the west and Cunningham Slough (a large wetland) to the east. The farmstead buildings face east and are sited on high ground, with the property sloping gently to the west down to the shoreline of the lake. County Road N40/A34 (a.k.a. 450th Avenue) extends north-south in front of the farmstead property, with the driveway into the farmstead coming directly off this county road.

The extant buildings on the farmstead include a log/stone house, a barn, a blacksmith/carpentry/sawmill shop complex, a cook/wash house, a cob shed, a wood shed, a chicken coop, a hog house, a sheep barn, and a corn crib. The oldest building is the log portion of the house, with all of the buildings being more than 50 years of age. The construction span dates from c. 1870 to the early twentieth century. The house, barn, blacksmith shop complex, cook/wash house, chicken coop, hog house, and sheep barn are considered contributing buildings to the farmstead district, with the cob shed, wood shed, and corn crib considered contributing structures.

House (1870 with 1895 addition)

The house is composed of two parts, a log house and a later stone addition. The log house was built c.1870 as a joint effort between Peder N. Brugjeld and his son, Peder N. Peterson, on property that another son, Nils Peterson, had earlier purchased.

The log house is a two-story, side-gabled building that faces the roadway to the east and is situated on the high point of the farmstead. The exterior was clad with clapboard siding, with a full-length open front porch across the facade. The porch posts are chamfered, while the porch floor is a concrete replacement. The foundation is dressed granite fieldstone gathered locally and has been reinforced with concrete on the north side. The cornerboards are plain as are the window surrounds. The windows include 4/4 double-hungs on the east and north sides that are original windows, with 1/1 double-hungs on the south side that are later replacements but still date from within the period of significance. The second floor windows have aluminum storm windows that were added in more recent years. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles, with a wide friezeboard and boxed eaves. There is a diamond detail in the gable peak of the friezeboard on the south side. The cellar is full-width and hand-dug but is a later addition. The cellar door has handwrought hardware manufactured in the farmstead's blacksmith shop. The chimneys have been rebuilt. The front door has a modern storm door, with the main door being a five-panel door of a type that generally dates from 1870-1926 (Jennings and Gottfried 1993:38).

The rear portion of the house is a stone and frame addition made to the house in 1895 by Peder N. Peterson. The construction date is inscribed on the face of one of the rocks in the south wall and reads "BUILT/1895" and has an "X" or cross inscribed next to the panel. The first floor is of stone construction using dressed granite fieldstones. The second floor is of frame construction with clapboard siding on the exterior. This addition is attached perpendicular to the rear of the log house giving the house an overall L-shaped ground plan. An open porch with a second floor balcony is on the south side of the 1895 addition. This second floor balcony originally had an exterior staircase on the west side that led down to the ground. This staircase has since been removed. The porch itself has been refurbished in recent years with turned replacement posts, a new railing around the balcony level, and a concrete floor. The attempt was to recreate the look of the original porch; however, the original posts were thicker, while the replacement posts are much thinner. The original posts are stored in the barn and should be retained and preserved for future restoration efforts.

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**Brugjeld/Peterson Family Farmstead District
Emmet County, Iowa**

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A second porch is on the north side of the addition, with this being a cantilevered porch hood supported by short chamfered posts in a angled, bracing position. The windows of the addition are 2/2 double-hungs original to the 1895 construction and have crown molding on the second floor surrounds. There is a triangular gabled wall dormer on the south side roof.

Interior details of note include most of the original door and lock hardware, with door knobs including white and variegated ceramic and metal knobs. The wooden floors and most of the woodwork appear original to both the log and stone additions. Some of the door surrounds have fluted molding and decorative corner blocks of a geometric motif. The kitchen has a beaded-board ceiling and early twentieth-century cabinetry. On the first floor, one of the log walls has been recently exposed on the interior showing rough-hewn logs measuring 14 to 16 inches wide. The notching type cannot be discerned as that portion is still covered over. The staircase to the second floor is situated in the log portion of the house but was moved slightly to make room for a bathroom on the first floor that was added after 1943.

There is also a large wooden, lidded storage bin in the upstairs hallway of the log house that was actually built inside the house but not built into the structure. The bin must remain at this location because it is larger than any of the door openings.

The interior floor plan of the log portion consists of a large living room with a smaller parlor or bedroom off the northeast corner and the newer bathroom under the stairs. The upstairs has two bedrooms off the south side of an open hallway. The interior plan of the stone addition consists of a kitchen on the first floor with a large bedroom on the second floor that is accessed from the hallway of the log portion and has a doorway that opens out onto the exterior south-side porch balcony.

Barn (1870s-1890s)

The barn was built before 1890 by the Petersons and has a foundation of granite fieldstone, with log piers under the floor joists. The walls are clad with vertical board-and-batten siding that is attached with both machine cut nails and wire nails. The square nails might also include some handwrought nails but appear to be primarily machine cut. This type of nail was in common use after 1840 and was not displaced by the newer wire nail until the 1890s (Nelson 1968). Therefore, it is probable that the wire nails represent later additions and repairs to the siding. The original core of the barn has a front-gabled orientation facing east. This core shows a heavy timber frame construction using hand-hewn timber and pegged mortise-and-tenon joinery. The sills are also hewn with some debarked logs serving as floor joists. The interior bent configuration of the original core shows a single horizontal beam supported by two vertical posts and is a very simple bent type.

There were four shed-roofed additions made to the original core by 1895 based on photographic evidence (Recher 1994:Photo 0-3). The additions were made to the north, south, and west sides of the original core and also have fieldstone foundations and vertical board-and-batten siding. The additions functioned as loafing areas for cows (the west addition), horse stalls (the south addition), and as a wagon shed (the north additions). The north sheds were later modified to accommodate an automobile in the early 1900s-1910s. The entire roof of the barn is covered with corrugated metal sheeting over wide plank undersheathing. The main portion has a bin on the first floor with open stall space, with an upper loft for loose hay.

Of note is a handmade door lock on the horse stall portion of the barn to thwart thieves that were plaguing the area at one time. The lock was made in the farmstead's blacksmith shop.

Blacksmith Shop Complex (late nineteenth to early twentieth century)

This interesting complex of buildings is situated to the west of the house and faces east. It consists of two one-story side-gabled buildings that abut one another and form a linear, partitioned two-room building, with the blacksmith shop in the south portion and the carpentry shop in the north portion. To the rear were added two shed-roofed pole additions that sheltered the sawmill on the south half and lumber storage on the north half. The roof is covered with corrugated metal sheeting that is in

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Section number 7 **Page** 3 **Brugjeld/Peterson Family Farmstead District
Emmet County, Iowa**

poor condition. The walls of the carpentry shop portion are clad with horizontal plank siding fastened with both square and wire nails, with the rear shed additions having vertical board siding fastened with wire nails. The latter suggests that the rear additions were made after 1890. The blacksmith shop has vertical board-and-batten siding fastened with square nails in the siding and wire nails in the battens, indicating that the battens were repaired or added later than the board siding.

The framing of the blacksmith shop is heavy timber using both sawn and hewn beams and posts. The joinery is mortise-and-tenon. The windows are fixed six-panes, while the flooring is plank. The foundation is local fieldstone. The extant forge is of concrete and bears the inscribed date of "May 29, 1914." There are a number of other original equipment, cabinets, and work benches in this building. Perhaps most intriguing of all are the inscribed geometric designs in the cabinet door that are traditional Norwegian motifs.

While the blacksmith shop was primarily associated in the early twentieth century with Nils P. Peterson, son of Peder N. Peterson, it has been noted that he learned the trade from his father and grandfather. One account noted that a huge lock to keep horse thieves out of the barn was made by Peder N. and his father "using their forge" (Hackett 1994:15), while another suggested that the shop was that of Peder N. Peterson and his son, Nils (ibid.:17). Therefore, the blacksmith shop may date from the early years of the farmstead, a date that would account for the heavy timber frame construction of the building. The 1914 date inscribed on the concrete forge confirms that the building was in place by at least that date, with this forge being a later construction associated with Nils Peterson's blacksmithing operation once he retired to the farmstead. Nils had previously opened his own blacksmith shop in Wallingford and "continued working there until arthritis in his feet, legs and hips forced him to quit;" however, farmers still continued to bring their blacksmithing needs "to him at his shop on the farm by High Lake" (ibid.). Many items from this blacksmith shop are now housed at the Emmet County Historical Society Museum in Estherville, while other items remain on site.

Cook/Wash House (early-mid twentieth century)

This front-gabled building faces south and is off the northwest corner of the house. It has corrugated metal siding and roofing and a concrete floor. There is no other wall covering other than the metal siding nailed to the studs. The wooden door is a four-panel with a variegated ceramic knob. The windows are fixed pane. This building likely dates from the early-mid twentieth century occupation of the farmstead.

Cob Shed (early twentieth century)

This small pole structure is collapsing. It has vertical and horizontal board siding fastened with wire nails. The roofing material is corrugated metal sheeting. There is no foundation, just a dirt floor. It was built in the early twentieth century.

Wood Shed (early twentieth century)

This small structure is also collapsing and is situated next to the cob shed, with both situated off the northeast corner of the blacksmith shop complex. The wood shed has vertical board and corrugated metal siding, a corrugated metal roof, and handwrought hinges on the door. The hinges would have been made on site in the blacksmith shop, likely by Nils P. Peterson. The structure appears to date from the early twentieth century.

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Emmet County, Iowa**

Chicken Coop (early twentieth century)

The coop is in poor condition. It is situated south of the blacksmith shop complex and to the west of the barn. It has a broken-gable type roof with both wood shingles and corrugated metal roofing material remaining. The siding is horizontal drop siding fastened with wire nails. The building rests on wood sills. It appears to have been built in the early twentieth century.

Hog House (early twentieth century)

The hog house is located in the southwest corner of the farmstead complex and is also collapsing. It has a gambrel roof covered with corrugated metal sheeting, beveled-board vertical siding fastened with wire nails, and is of pole construction. There is no foundation or sill; one reason that the building is collapsing. It appears to have been built in the early twentieth century.

Sheep Barn (early twentieth century)

The sheep barn is located near the hog house at the south end of the farmstead complex but was originally on the east side of the road and was moved to the present location at an unknown date. It has a front-gabled orientation, corrugated metal roofing, and vertical board-and-batten siding fastened with wire nails. The windows are fixed two-panes, although one is missing. There is no foundation, only a wood sill. This building was probably built in the early twentieth century.

Corn Crib (late nineteenth-early twentieth century)

This is a V-shaped crib of a type commonly seen in log construction; however, this example is frame. It has a corrugated metal gabled roof, horizontal slatted siding fastened with wire nails, and a wood sill. The latter includes some timbers that are hewn suggesting a nineteenth-century construction date, or timbers that were salvaged from an older structure, while the wire nails in the siding suggest a post-1890 construction date, although the siding could be replacement or repair of older construction. Thus, a late nineteenth-early twentieth century general construction date is proposed.

While the walls of this particular crib are not as angled as the “the classic American V-shaped corncrib,” with the sides flaring outward toward the top and imparting the appearance of “a keystone or coffin” from the end view (Roe 1988:16), it probably owes its derivation to this classic type.

This style of corncrib is seen today especially from New Jersey and Pennsylvania to Ohio and in Wisconsin and Minnesota, areas with historical roots in the Delaware valley or ethnic ties to northern Europe. This style of American corncrib originated as a modified European log hayshed of early immigrants.

Some northern European haysheds dating from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries or later have a distinctive V-shape. Their sides flare outward toward the eaves to aid in shedding rain or snow and to keep the hay from packing down. In many the gable ends also flare outward. Contemporary granaries of the region are usually set 2 to 3 feet above the ground on posts or smooth rocks to keep out rats and to aid in drying.

Immigrants from Sweden and Finland were first to introduce European-style log storehouses, granaries, and haysheds to America beginning in 1638....The distinctive V-shape of our American corncrib owes its origin to these haysheds of Europe (Roe 1988:16).

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Section number 7 **Page** 5 **Brugjeld/Peterson Family Farmstead District
Emmet County, Iowa**

Non-Extant Buildings

There is a collapsed chicken house and another collapsed shed that represent former structures on the farmstead; however, both are too far gone to restore. The chicken house structure had planks fastened with wire nails suggesting a post-1890 construction, while the other shed had corrugated metal roofing and vertical board-and-batten siding of unknown construction date but also likely post-1890. There are also remains of a stone foundation/basement at the extreme south end of the farm property banked into the slope. This foundation was for a 30 x 100 ft hog barn that was only partially completed around 1890 but never finished because the first stock of pigs housed in the unfinished barn died of hog cholera. The basement was used as a straw shed and shelter for the farm animals for a time after (Higgins 1978). Some of the stone from the foundation was borrowed in the 1940s for a rip-rap project but the corners remain in place. The location of the hog barn is situated outside of the National Register boundary for the farmstead because it is separated from the farmstead proper by a wide distance of open ground and was never really part of the daily farming operations.

Archaeological Potential

The farmstead does have some archaeological potential but this potential remains for future survey and investigation to determine if significant archaeological evidence is extant.

Current Use of Farmstead

The farmstead property and all extant buildings were donated to Emmet County in 1994 by Maynard Peterson, the surviving Peterson family member. The property is maintained and operated by the Emmet County Conservation Department with the assistance of the Emmet County Conservation Foundation, a non-profit, volunteer group. The property is undergoing refurbishment and restoration for use as an interpretive site and as a historic museum. This nomination is being forwarded by the Emmet County Conservation Department to recognize the significance of this historic farmstead and to enhance preservation efforts of this property.

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Section number 8 Page 6 **Brugjeld/Peterson Family Farmstead District
Emmet County, Iowa**

Statement of Significance

The Brugjeld/Peterson Family Farmstead is locally significant as a rare survivor of a Norwegian immigrant homestead in Emmet County and Northwest Iowa. It is significant under Criterion A as an intact reminder of earlier Emmet County rural life and of its agriculture, of Norwegian-American settlement, and of blacksmithing as a commercial/industrial feature of the rural neighborhood economy. Unlike Iowa farms today, which have undergone constant change and infusion of modern agricultural structures, the buildings of the Brugjeld/Peterson farm together offer a rare glimpse into the way things were laid out and operated during the nineteenth to early twentieth centuries. The farmstead is also significant under Criterion C for the intact representation of a Norwegian immigrant farmstead including both the early homesteading buildings (i.e., the log house and the heavy timber frame barn) as well as the later evolution of the farmstead reflecting a prosperous farming and blacksmithing operation. The survival of the house, barn and the blacksmith shop complex in such historic detail appears unique in this region. The period of significance for the farmstead district is from 1870 to 1950. The 1870 beginning date corresponds to the establishment of this homestead and the suspected construction date of the log house by Peder N. Brugjeld with the assistance of his son, Peder N. Peterson. The end date of 1950 is the arbitrary 50-year cut-off date for consideration of National Register eligibility, and is a date that could be extended as the property ages. The ultimate end date for the Peterson family ownership of the property is 1994. However, most of the extant buildings appear to have been constructed within the 1870-1950 period of ownership. Significant dates include 1870 when the log house appears to have been built and 1895 when the stone addition was made to this house and representing the progressive enlargement and enhancement of this property by the subsequent generations of the Brugjeld/Peterson family.

Farmstead History

Throughout the life of this farmstead, it was owned and operated by the Peterson family, specifically the direct descendants of Peder N. and Gjertrud Brugjeld, who had immigrated from Balestrand parish, Sogn County, Norway, in 1848. Peder Brugjeld was a farmer by trade. He left Norway because the region was becoming overpopulated, and the farms were not producing enough to support the growing population. Peder and his family left for America on the ship *Dorothea* in 1848 (Hackett 1994:12).

They were among the first 30,000 people to leave Norway, probably getting the 'American Fever' from letters written back to Norway saying 'any poor person who will work diligently can become a well-to-do man here in a short time.'

The 11 farm families who left Sogn between 1845 and 1854 were 'well above average in wealth,' according to John Gjerde in his book, 'From Peasants to Farmers.' Peder sold his farm and he and Gertrude and their children, ages 16, 13, 11, 9, 3 (Synneva), and a baby a few months old (Peter N.) left their farm on Sogn Fjord in the mountainous district of Balestrand where farms ranged from three to ten acres in size for mid-America where there were enormous plains to purchase at affordable prices (Hackett 1994:12).

The Brugjeld family settled first on a farm near Spring Prairie in Dane County in south-central Wisconsin.

It was there that their eighth child was born. In 1865 Peder and his family, traveling in a prairie schooner, went to Iowa to homestead in High Lake Township, Emmet County. Peder brought with him \$10,000, 3 teams of horses, and cattle. His sister, Brita Nielsdtr. Brugjeld, who was accompanying the family, died en route and was buried at St. Ansgar, Iowa. Peder's decision to move to Iowa was probably influenced by his sons, Nils, Bottolf, and Ole Brugjeld, and his brother, Lars Nielsen Brugjeld, who had migrated to Emmet County in 1860 and 1861. Peder and Gjertrud's three youngest children, Synneva, 20, Peder N., 17, and Kari, 15, accompanied them to Iowa. Peder and his family

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Section number 8 Page 7 **Brugjeld/Peterson Family Farmstead District
Emmet County, Iowa**

probably lived with one of those sons until his house was built. Peder was 60 years old; his wife 62 when their house was built (Hackett 1994:12; Hackett 1999:1).

The original 160-acre claim made by Peder Brugjeld was located in the NW1/4 of Section 24, T98N-R33W, situated just southeast of the nominated property. On June 23, 1870, Brugjeld signed an affidavit to perfect this claim swearing that he had "settled on and cultivated the land since the 1st day of April 1866" and had built:

a log house 14 x 14, board roof, board floors, one story high, one door and one window, papered inside and plastered outside, and has lived in said house and made it his exclusive home from the 1st of April, 1866, to the present time, and that he has since ploughed, fenced and cultivated about 40 acres, made the following improvements: has good rail and ditch fence around the entire quarter section, has built a log barn 16 x 21 ft. and has dug two wells, cattle sheds for 20 cattle (Affidavit as quoted in Hackett 1999:2).

But in addition to building the one-room home required by the Homestead Act of 1862 on his homestead claim in Section 24, Peder and his son, Peter N. Peterson, built a two-story log home a short distance away in Section 14 on land which an older son, Nils, had obtained from C.H. Blood (Hackett 1999:2). While the 1870 affidavit records that Peder Brugjeld had made the cabin in Section 24 "his exclusive home from the 1st of April 1866" up to the time of the 1870 affidavit, family history and census records indicate that both the parents, Peder and Gjertrud Brugjeld, their younger children, and son, Peter N. Peterson, and subsequently his wife and their children were living together in this house by c.1870 (Hackett 1999:2). It would appear that the claim cabin in Section 24 was used as Peder Brugjeld's exclusive residence until 1870 when the claim could be perfected but that the larger, more comfortable two-story log house was being built in readiness for the family's move to that building by 1870-1871. The farmstead location on the shore of High Lake must have been a more preferable habitation site but the land in Section 24 the more desirable farm ground. Thus, the shrewd juggling act between the two family claims. It is not known what happened to the claim cabin or the log barn built on the Section 24 homestead, perhaps these buildings remained in use as farm outbuildings until the farmstead at the Section 14 location more fully evolved.

The land that the Brugjeld/Peterson family chose to finally settle on "had everything a pioneer was looking for; it had a wooded area to provide logs for building his house and heating it, fences for his land, and shelter for the game his family ate; it adjoined a lake which would provide water and fish, and he had garden and crop land" (Hackett 1994:13). From this a tract of "wild and unimproved land," Brugjeld built "a productive and valuable farm, giving his undivided attention to general agricultural pursuits throughout his remaining days" (Pioneer Publishing 1917:262).

The improvement of the farmstead continued after son, Peder N. Peterson, took over the farm and its operations after his father's death in 1882. It was noted of Peterson in 1917 that "he has worked persistently and earnestly in the development of the place, to which he has added many modern improvements, and his practical methods of tilling the fields resulted in bringing forth good harvests" (Pioneer Publishing 1917:262).

It appears that the Brugjeld/Peterson family had a diversified farming operation that included livestock raising (cattle and hogs), crops, and orchards. Added to these agricultural pursuits, was the exploitation of the natural resources of the area including fishing, hunting of waterfowl, and the cutting and processing of timber. The blacksmith and carpentry shops added a commercial dimension to the operation, particularly in the early twentieth century after Nils Peterson moved his blacksmith business from Wallingford out to the farmstead.

Fish was a major food item, the farm being situated as it was along the east shore of High Lake. The family fished with nets or seines bringing back "wagonloads" of fish, which they would then salt down and smoke (Higgins 1978). The public was also allowed to fish along their shoreline for a small fee (Aust 1994). Prairie chickens and quail were also hunted in the area (Aust 1994; Higgins 1978).

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Peder N. Peterson died in 1917 leaving the farm to his wife, Martha, and their children. Martha Peterson (who died in 1933), son, Nils Peterson (who died in 1949) and daughter, Mary Jane (who died in 1943) and her three children, Blanchard (who died in 1918), Pearl (who died in 1976), and Maynard (who died in 1999) were the primary occupants and operators of the farmstead after 1917 up until 1979 when Maynard Peterson, as the sole survivor, left the farm to live at the Good Samaritan Center in Estherville. "The Point and the acreage across the road were left in a life estate to Emmet County [and] on June 7, 1994, Maynard Peterson deeded the Point to Emmet County" resulting in the present Peterson Point Historical Site (Recher 1994:8-1). Maynard Peterson passed away in October 1999.

The name of Brugjeld or Bruhjell was the name of a farm in Norway where this family lived. It became the surname of everyone living on the farm. The first born son of a couple was named for his paternal grandfather hence the sons of Peder N. Brugjeld named their first born sons, Peder or Peter making for a lot of Peter Petersons in the area. When Peder Nielsen Brugjeld settled in Wisconsin, he dropped his farm surname and Americanized his name to Peter Nielson or Nelson. His sons continued in the Norwegian tradition by taking Peterson as their surnames. Brugjeld itself has been spelled many different ways in the legal records of Emmet County including Brugjel, Brugjeld, Bruggles, Bruggles, and Bruggel. On his headstone in the High Lake Cemetery, Peder's last name is listed as Bruhjell even though he had been going by the surname of Nielson for many years (Hackett 1999:4). Peder's brother, Lars Nielsen Brugjeld, took the Americanized name of Lewis Nelson, with his descendants still going by that surname (ibid.).

Norwegian Immigration and Settlement in Iowa and Emmet County

This story of family immigration and migration from Norway to Iowa was repeated by many who settled in northern Iowa. Beginning in the 1840s, a large number of emigrants were induced to leave Norway primarily because of a dearth of tillable land to support the country's burgeoning population. As a result, between the 1840s-1880s, when Scandinavian immigration to the United States peaked, hundreds of thousands of Norwegians and Swedes headed for America and its newly developing farmlands in the Midwest. The Norwegians settled in larger numbers in Wisconsin and Minnesota, while the Swedes concentrated in Illinois and southern Minnesota (Bergmann 1956:134-136, 145-147). Despite their concentrations in other Midwestern states, a significant number of Norwegians and Swedes eventually settled in Iowa, many migrating from southern Wisconsin, Minnesota, and northern Illinois. The principal Iowa settlements of Norwegians were located in Winneshiek, Monroe, Wapello, and Story counties, while the Swedes settled primarily in Webster, Boone, Montgomery, Henry and Page counties (Bergmann 1959:289-303). However, Scandinavian settlements were also made in other counties of Iowa including the Norwegian settlements in the northwestern portion of Iowa such as that in Emmet and Lyon counties (e.g., Benn editor 1987). The first Norwegian immigrants to settle in Emmet County were seven families that arrived from Wisconsin in June 1860, among whom were Nils and Bottolf Brugjeld and their wives (Emmet County Historical Society 1976:31; Hackett 1994).

The incentive to leave Norway was a declining agricultural economy—too many people and not enough land, while the incentive to immigrate to America was the promise of a better life. The lure of the Midwest was the availability of good, cheap land, particularly after the passage of the Homestead Act in 1862.

The first group of Norwegian immigrants coming to the Midwest settled in the Fox River valley region of Illinois. In 1837, a malaria epidemic devastated these colonies, and many of the survivors pushed northward, seeking better farming land in Wisconsin. Here they established agricultural settlements on the prairies of Rock County, at the southern edge of the state (Tishler 1992:226).

Other early settlements were made in southwestern and northwestern Wisconsin, with the earliest colonies becoming "an important primary destination for other immigrants from Norway" (Tishler 1992:226).

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By 1860, Wisconsin's 44,000 Norwegians constituted nearly half of America's Norwegian population. The state became a center for Norwegian-American life and served as a springboard for the diffusion of Norwegian-Americans into Iowa, Minnesota, the Dakotas, and other regions of the West (ibid.).

The Peterson family followed this pattern by settling first in Wisconsin in an area that had already been settled by Norwegian immigrants, who had likely written back home encouraging others to join them. In fact, there had been a Norwegian settlement established in southeastern Dane County, Wisconsin, as early as 1840 (Tishler 1992:226).

Once there, the older sons of the Peterson family sought out even better opportunities in the new lands then being opened for settlement in northwest Iowa. Nils Pederson Brugjeld and his brother, Bottolf (later taking the name of William), took out claims in Emmet County. On their way back to retrieve Nils' wife, Betsey, who was staying temporarily in Blue Earth, Minnesota, they "met up with a caravan of migrants who were also heading for Emmet County" (Hackett 1994:18). After retrieving Betsey and their wagon, the family joined up with the caravan and "were one of seven Norwegian families, who on June 22, 1860, were the first Norwegian settlers in the county" (ibid.). The other members of the Brugjeld/Peterson family, still in Wisconsin, then followed once the sons were established.

It has been noted that "of the numerous Norwegian immigrants who built their farms in Emmet County along the upper Des Moines River valley during the 1860s and 1870s, nowhere were they so concentrated as in High Lake Township" (Soike 1995). Members of the Brugjeld/Peterson family were among the prominent early pioneers of this township, so much so that in the initial creation of townships in Emmet County, the present High Lake and Twelve Mile Lake townships were originally part of a larger township called "Peterson Township" named after this family (Pioneer Publishing 1917:122; Soike 1995).

Norwegian-American Architecture in Wisconsin and Iowa

The farmstead of the Brugjeld/Peterson family appears to reflect some of the family's Norwegian ethnic identity, particularly the log and stone house. A study of Norwegian immigrant rural dwellings in Wisconsin noted that the earliest dwellings built by these immigrants were usually of log reflecting a common building tradition in their native Norway. One particular study of immigrant housing in Luther Valley of Rock County (just southeast of Dane County where the Peterson family settled) noted three forms of shelter constructed by Norwegians during the early settlement period (1839-1860): timber structures, combination of timber and stone, and stone structures (Tishler 1992:233). The log buildings ranged in size from 144 to 320 square feet and from one to two stories in height.

Both dovetail and saddle corner-notching methods were used, and only one building was built of close-fitting unchinked logs, the traditional northern European method of log construction.

Eventually, when economy, time, and other factors permitted, a more commodious and permanent stone or frame house was built. The original log dwelling was then adapted to other uses, typically that of a granary or storage shed. In some cases, however, the original log structure was enlarged with an addition built of stone (ibid.).

It is interesting that the same pattern of construction was followed at the Brugjeld/Peterson farmstead, with the first house being a small claim cabin of log construction measuring 14 x 14 feet, or 196 square feet in size, and one story in height, albeit built on a nearby parcel of land and not the later farmstead. However, the second house was also of log construction, but was larger in size, measuring 20 x 24 feet or 480 square feet in size, and was two stories in height, with a later addition of stone and frame made to the rear of the house.

Tishler (1992:236) also noted that in Norway, the typical farm often had thirty or more specialized-function outbuildings because of the nature of Norwegian agriculture. However, in America, there appeared to be fewer outbuildings as the immigrants adjusted to, and embraced, American farming practices. In Wisconsin, there appeared to be fewer early

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outbuildings constructed, with even fewer surviving to the present day. One immigrant even remarked on this by writing that "What we call a 'gaard' in Norway is a farm here, and a large farm here consists of dwelling house, a cellar and a stable" (ibid.). The Wisconsin survey documented some log outbuildings including granaries, corn cribs, sheds, chicken coops, and assorted barns (ibid.).

The Brugjeld/Peterson family farmstead did include a number of small outbuildings in addition to the barn that included chicken coops, a hog house, a sheep barn, a corn crib, the blacksmith shop complex, the wood shed, the cob shed, and the cook/wash house. The survival of so many small outbuildings is rather unusual in Iowa; however, most of these buildings date from the later evolution of the farmstead in the late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries and reflect the greater self-sufficiency of Iowa farms into the Great Depression era. What is unusual is that these small buildings were not later removed as they ceased to have a useful purpose on the farmstead. The retention of this farm in the hands of one family until recently likely accounts, in part, for their survival.

As for farmstead layout, the Brugjeld/Peterson family farmstead appears at first glance to be rather haphazard, with several of the buildings, including the barn, the blacksmith shop complex, the wood shed, and the cob shed, set at odd angles to the remainder of the extant buildings, which are oriented more on a north-south axis. The farm buildings are separated by an entry drive into two groups, with those on the north side consisting of the house with the rear yard of the house enclosed by the blacksmith shop complex, the wood shed, the cob shed and the cook/wash house. Those buildings on the south side consist of the barn, with the two chicken coops to the rear and the hog house, sheep barn, and corn crib forming a rough line along the south side. The Wisconsin study noted that while there are as many as five traditional types of farmstead layouts in Norway, the Norwegian farmsteads in Wisconsin were distinguished by variations of only two of these types: the courtyard plan and the linear or double-linear plan where a lane or street divided the dwellings on the higher ground from the barns and outbuildings located downslope (Tishler 1992:236). The Brugjeld/Peterson farmstead arrangement, in its earliest form of only the house and the barn, did follow the placement of the house on the higher ground and the barn on the lower ground with the two separated by a farm lane; however, as the farmstead developed something of a very rough courtyard plan began to emerge. The house and barn form the frontage of the farmstead, with the secondary outbuildings arranged around the west, south and north rear edges of the yards surrounding these primary buildings. But the more likely influence for the arrangement as it evolved was the practical aspects of the location of this farmstead including the prevailing winds of this location, the hardness of the winter of this northerly region, the sloping of the terrain, and the formal frontage of the property dictated by the presence of a main north-south roadway along the east boundary of the farmstead and a lake to its rear.

Most interesting of all the surviving outbuildings is the rural blacksmith shop complex, which appears to be rather unique in this region and is rare in Iowa as a whole. While once a fairly common fixture in the countryside, these rural shops rarely survive intact making the blacksmith shop on the Brugjeld/Peterson family farmstead particularly significant because it remained intact on the interior as a blacksmith shop. As such, it is a remarkable document of a once important rural commercial enterprise. Adding to its uniqueness is the survival of the sawmill and the carpenter's shop, which were additions to the blacksmith shop. Such a complex of rural commercial and industrial enterprises on one farmstead certainly enhances the overall historical and architectural significance of the entire farmstead.

Until the 1920s when tractors and mechanized farm machinery began to come into common use, the use of horsepower for both town and rural purposes created a great demand for associated services including a need for blacksmithing services at convenient locations. Thus, blacksmith enterprises arose not only in town settings but rural ones as well. By 1900, Iowa was the leading horse-producing state, with a total of 6,228 blacksmiths in operation at that time. The year 1900 also reflects a peak period for blacksmithing and horse-related enterprises in the state as well because it was not long after that the automobile began to make inroads into the state's mode of transportation (Caine 1946). When Nils Peterson moved his blacksmith operation from the nearby town of Wallingford out to his family's rural farmstead in the early twentieth century, it did a brisk business. It was later recalled that the customers of the shop who were still waiting around noon time were always invited in to

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lunch. "It was nothing to have 15, 17 people around the table" (Higgins 1978). Nils Peterson died in 1949 but the blacksmith operation had declined long before then, although the shop was kept up and was obviously still used by the family after the formal business had shut down.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Brugjeld/Peterson Family Farmstead District is shown as a dashed line on the accompanying map entitled "Plan Map of Brugjeld/Peterson Family Farmstead District."

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the farmstead buildings, including the house, barn, blacksmith shop complex, chicken coop, cook/wash house, cob shed, wood shed, hog house, sheep house, and corn crib, that have historically been associated with the Brugjeld/Peterson Family Farmstead and that maintain historic integrity.

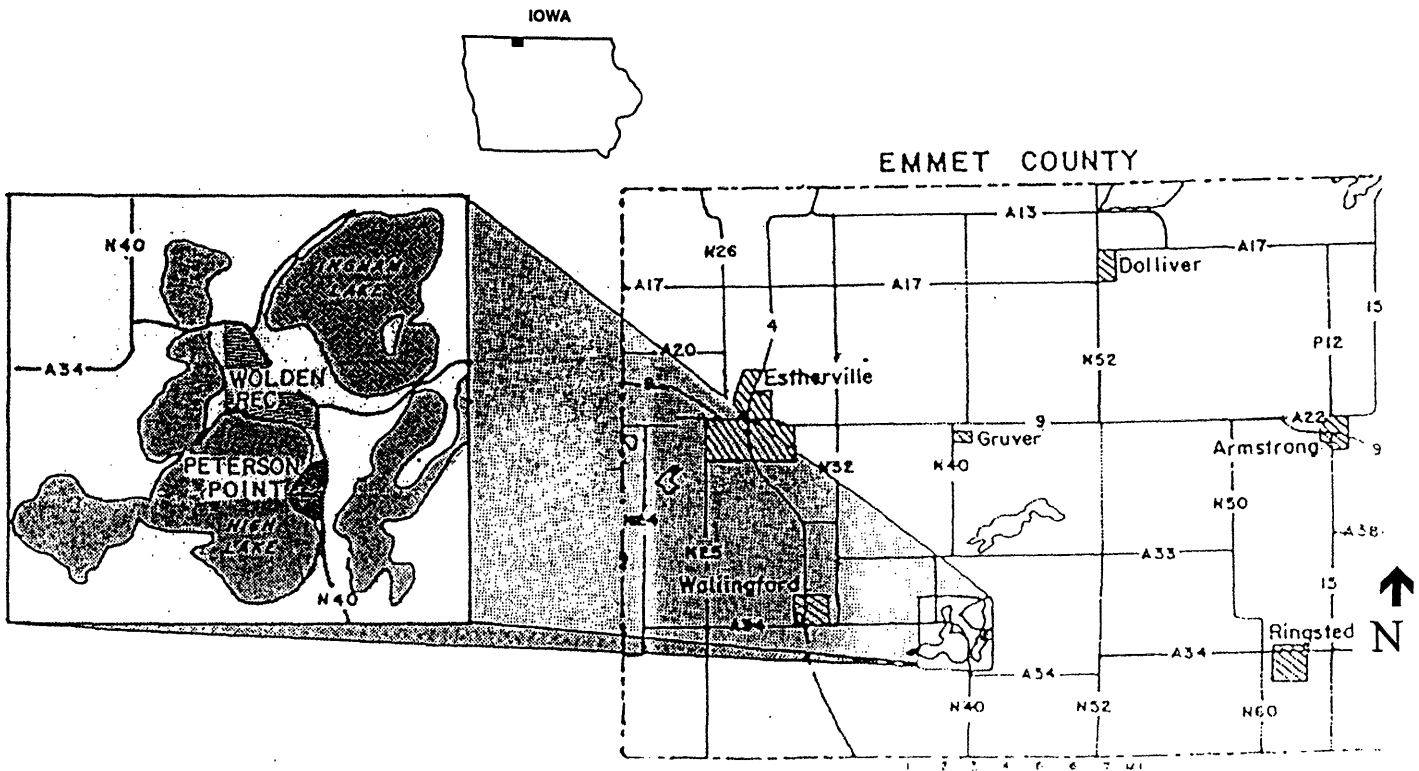
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General Location Map of Brugjeld/Peterson Family Farmstead District



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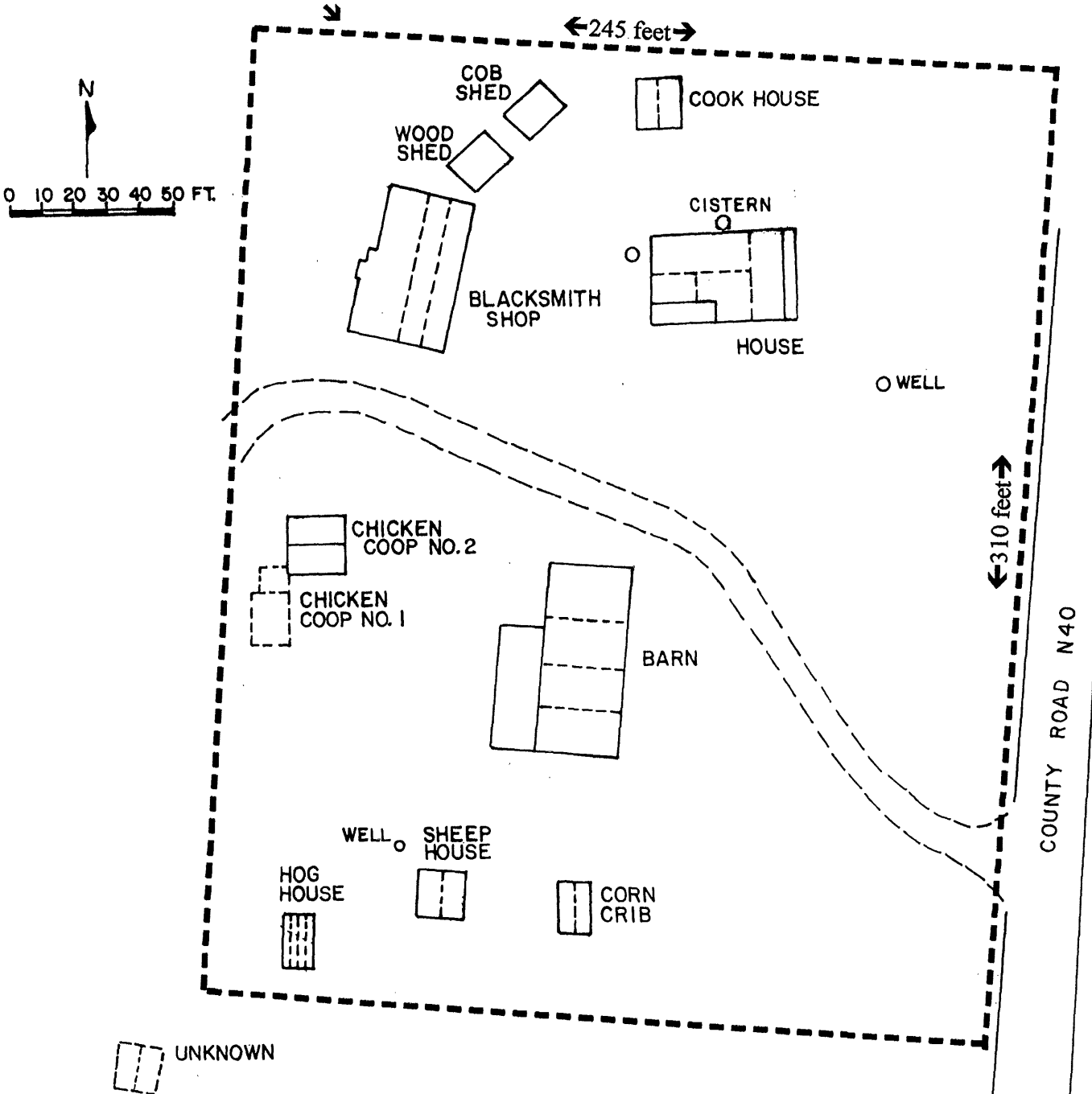
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Plan Map of Brugjeld/Peterson Family Farmstead District
(showing boundary of nominated property)

Boundary of National Register District



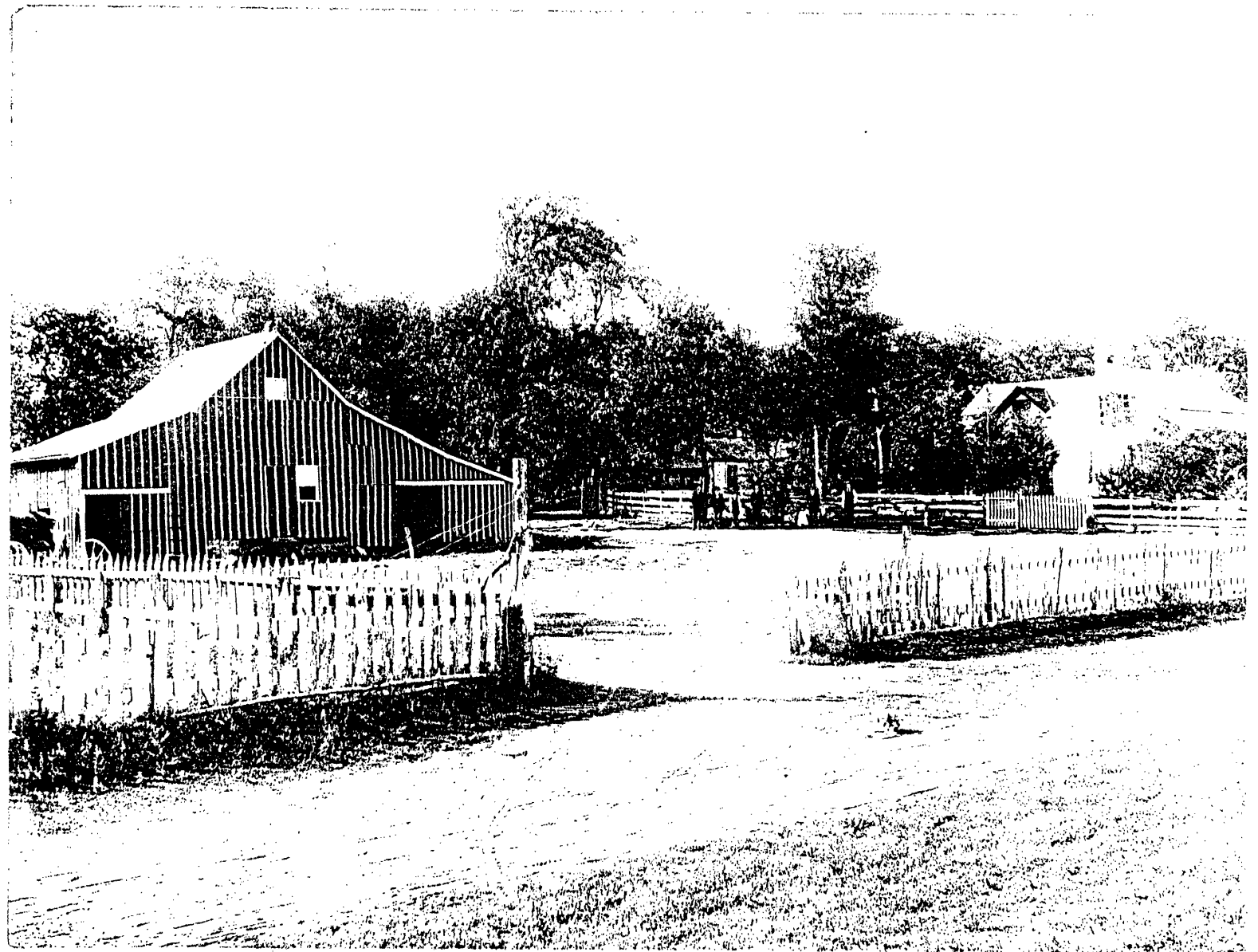
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Photograph of Brugjeld/Peterson Family Farmstead Taken in the Early Twentieth Century



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Photographs:

Name of Photographer: Leah D. Rogers

Date of Photographs: October 19-20, 1998

Location of Original Negatives: Emmet County Conservation Department, Estherville, Iowa

Photograph #:

- 1 General view of farmstead from County Road, View to the NNW
- 2 Front of House showing original two-story log core, View to the NW
- 3 Rear of House showing 1895 stone addition, View to the ESE
- 4 Rear of House showing 1895 stone addition and porch, View to the ENE
- 5 Date Inscription on stone addition of house, View to the North
- 6 Barn, View to the NW
- 7 Rear of Barn, View to the SE
- 8 Blacksmith Shop Complex, View to the NW
- 9 Interior of Blacksmith Shop showing forge, View to the North
- 10 Inscribed heart motifs on cabinets on interior of Blacksmith Shop, View to the West
- 11 Inscribed motifs on cabinets on interior of Blacksmith Shop, View to the WSW
- 12 Handwrought door hardware made in farmstead's blacksmith shop, View to the North
- 13 General view from left to right of the wood shed, cob shed, and cook/wash house, View to the North
- 14 General view from left to right of the sheep barn, hog house, and chicken coop, View to the South
- 15 Corn Crib, View to the North

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Plan Map of Brugjeld/Peterson Family Farmstead District Showing Photograph Directions

Boundary of National Register District

