

NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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 Faeth Farmstead & Orchard District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 2469 Highway 2 N/A not for publication

city or town Fort Madison vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Lee code 111 zip code 52627

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).

Dorell J. Siske, Deputy SHPO, September 14, 2005
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Lynnda McClelland

9/16/05

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 | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 15 | 6 | buildings |
| 3 | 0 | sites |
| 3 | 0 | structures |
| | | objects |
| 21 | 6 | 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/SUBSISTENCE/animal facility
- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/processing
- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural field
- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/storage
- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural outbuilding
- DOMESTIC/secondary structure

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/animal facility
- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/processing
- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural field
- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/storage
- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural outbuilding
- DOMESTIC/secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

- MID-19th CENTURY/Greek Revival
- LATE VICTORIAN
- OTHER: heavy timber frame

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation STONE/Limestone
- walls WOOD/Weatherboard
- METAL
- roof ASPHALT
- other

Narrative Description

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

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 _____

Period of Significance

c.1873-1960

Significant Dates

1873 _____

1882 _____

1900 _____

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Unknown _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 23 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

| | | | | | | | |
|---|------|--------------|-----------------|---|------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1 | [1]5 | [6]3[2]3[6]4 | [4]4[9]9[3]9[5] | 2 | [1]5 | [6]3[2]1[5]3 | [4]4[9]9[4]7[2] |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 3 | [1]5 | [6]3[2]1[6]7 | [4]4[9]9[1]9[4] | 4 | [1]5 | [6]3[2]1[7]1 | [4]4[9]9[1]9[0] |

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/Member

organization Tallgrass Historians L.C. date July 26, 2005

street & number 2460 S. Riverside Drive telephone 319-354-6722

city or town Iowa City state IA zip code 52246

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 Lynn and Heather Faeth and Loren and Arleen Faeth

street & number 2469 Highway 2 telephone 319-372-1307

city or town Fort Madison state IA zip code 52627

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.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 1**Faeth Farmstead & Orchard District
Lee County, IA****Materials (continued)**

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: CONCRETE

roof: METAL

Narrative Description

The Faeth Farmstead & Orchard District is located on the north side of Highway 2 approximately three miles west of the City of Fort Madison in Lee County in southeastern Iowa (see location maps on pages 17 and 18). The farmstead is situated on the north side of current IA Highway 2, which was built in the early 1920s. Historically, the road that extended east-west past this farmstead was situated farther north than the current highway, with much of this old road still extant and used for a farm drive angling from the northeast to the southwest along the south side of the farmstead (see plan map on page 19). This road is now called 248th Avenue. The old road connects to the newer highway at the west end of the farmstead district. Both roadways travel along a high upland divide in-between the valleys of Sugar and Devil's creeks just north of the Mississippi River Valley. The fifteen contributing buildings of this farmstead include: a house built c.1873; the main barn built in 1882; a second barn built in 1925; a privy, engine house, smokehouse, chicken house, and hog house built in the early 1900s; a stable built c.1890-1910 (and moved to a new location within the district boundary c.1962); a shop/crib built c.1915; an apple packing shed built c.1942; an apple cold storage shed or cooler with loading dock built c.1950; a truck shed built in the late 1940s; a garage built in the 1950s and a machine shed associated with the orchard operation built c.1960 (see plan maps on pages 19 and 20). Of these buildings, the shop/crib, packing shed, cold storage shed, and machine shed were built abutting one another to create a connected orchard processing complex or plant but were built as separate buildings with their own external support walls. As a result, these buildings were counted as separate buildings. The three contributing structures include a pond used in spraying apples built c.1936, a spray tank/house built in 1946, and the old road section. The contributing sites include three historic orchards: the East Orchard established before 1874 and still containing remnant older trees; the Old North Orchard established c.1900 but containing primarily trees planted in the 1970s-1980s; and the North Orchard established in 1940-41 and including some remnant older trees as well as replacement trees planted in the 1970s-1990s as older trees died out.

The six non-contributing buildings include: a post-1940s pre-fabricated garage built in Fort Madison and moved to this farmstead in 1979; a rolled corrugated steel tractor shed built c.1970; a rolled corrugated steel shed built in 1985; a pre-fabricated Wickes brand machine shed built in 1974 and used for storage of apple bins and horse trailers; a concrete block pump house added to the spray pond c.1963-64; and the new salesroom/plant added to the orchard processing complex of buildings in 2004. As with the other buildings in this complex, the new salesroom/plant building is a separate building that abuts, and is connected via doorways to, the older buildings but has its own external support walls. While considered non-contributing, the buildings such as the new salesroom/plant, tractor shed, and pump house, are not considered intrusions because they reflect the modern evolution of the historic apple orchard business that continues to be operated by the Faeth family to the present day. As the years progress, these newer buildings and structures potentially could be considered contributing to the overall farmstead and orchard district.

House (c.1873)

The house was built c.1873 by Adam Faeth, who was the second generation Faeth family member to own this farm property. It appears likely that he built this house upon (or shortly thereafter), or in anticipation of, his marriage to Anna Eberman on November 18, 1873. The original homestead, built by Adam's father, Jacob Faeth, was actually located south of current Highway 2, with the original log cabin built in the late 1840s-early 1850s and destroyed by fire in the 1870s. That cabin was

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**Faeth Farmstead & Orchard District
Lee County, IA**

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still standing by the time of the 1874 Jefferson Township plat map in the southwest quarter of Section 3 on property then owned by "E. Faeth," specifically Elizabeth Faeth, Adam's widowed mother (see map on page 25). By that time, Adam Faeth was shown as the owner of the subject property in Section 4, with a house represented on the 1874 map at the location of the extant house. Therefore, it is concluded that the extant house was probably built by 1874, with the 1873 marriage of Adam and Anna, the likely catalyst for its construction. This house was built on the north side of the old road now known as 248th Avenue, with the front of the house facing east towards roadway where it turned to the southwest at this farmstead location.

The house is a two-story, side-gabled frame house that originally had cornice returns on the gable ends. The house currently has an asphalt-shingled roof, narrow clapboard siding, 2/2 double-hung windows, and a limestone rubble foundation. The original front of the house was on the east side, which now serves as the rear entry of the home. The west side entry is now the formal front entry but was the rear door to the barnyard area historically. The west door is offset to the side and is covered by a Queen Anne-styled portico porch that features turned spindle posts and a turned spindle frieze. Additions to the house include a one-story gabled ell off the northeast corner of the house and two shed-roofed additions off the north side of the house and the gabled ell. It is suspected that the east ell is original to the house construction or was added in the early twentieth century, with the two shed-roofed additions off the north end of the main house being early twentieth century additions. A cellar is located underneath the east gabled ell and is entered from the exterior via a stairway, which has concrete sidewalls covered over by open-out wood doors. The clapboard siding of the house is fastened with wire nails, with a narrow friezeboard under the eave overhang. The corners of the two-story section of the house feature cornerboards capped with simple capitals. Two corbelled brick chimneys pierce the roof at the north and south ends of the house.

A cistern with a metal covering is located off the southeast corner of the east porch. Concrete sidewalks lead south, from the east porch to a gate in the south picket fence along the old road, and from the east porch to the west entry gate. Large pine trees flank the south walk, with several more scattered over the east yard area. The wood picket fence that lines the west and south sides of the house yard is not the original picket fence shown in the late nineteenth century photograph but is an older fence at this same location. The east and north sides of the house yard are bordered with a woven wire fence of early twentieth century vintage. A well with an iron pump is located west of the house but is on the barnyard side of the picket fence alongside the driveway.

More recent modifications to the house have included the insertion of a modern window in the west façade to the left of the doorway, the reduction and replacement of some of the windows on the east gabled ell, and replacement of one of the porch posts on the east porch with a plain square post. The remaining original posts are chamfered and have decorative brackets.

Older modifications can be identified by comparing the current house to a historic photograph taken in the late nineteenth century that shows part of the west and south sides of the house (see photograph on page 24). At the time of the photograph, the house had windows that were more squat than the tall, narrow windows now present on the house, with the original windows appearing to be 6/6 double-hungs (although most of the windows were covered over by wood shutters in the photograph). The west entry door was in the same place; however, there was no evidence of a porch on the west side of the house. There were also two windows, one on the second floor and one on the first floor, which have since been closed off and covered over with siding to the left of the doorway.

The house is a vernacular type that is perhaps best termed a two-story side-gable; however, the overall form originated in the Greek Revival style of architecture, with some Late Victorian stylistic influence represented on this example by the addition in the 1880s-early 1900s of the Queen Anne-styled west porch and the Italianate-styling of the original front (east) porch, which was likely original to the house construction. The 2/2 double-hung windows, the narrow clapboard siding (some of the original wider clapboard siding is still exposed on the rear open porch), and the removal of the cornice returns on the roof, all

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Lee County, IA**Section number 7 Page 3

likely date from a remodeling of the house in the early 1900s. It is known that during Herbert and Emma Faeth's occupation of this farmstead that a dining room and kitchen were added to the house, which would explain one or more of the additions on the north side of the house but also likely signals other updates to the house. Despite these modifications, the house retains good integrity and still conveys a strong sense of its late nineteenth century construction.

Barn (1882)

This well-preserved general purpose barn was built in 1882 by Adam Faeth. It is a side-gabled barn with vertical board-and-batten siding, a limestone rubble foundation, and a metal roof, which was recently added to the building. (The siding was sawn at a mill in nearby Viele, Iowa.) Prominent on the roof ridge is a distinctive octagonal cupola capped with a weathervane and a new metal roof. (The original roofing material for the barn and cupola consisted of wood shingles.) The cupola has alternating rectangular vents and 4/4 double-hung windows for ventilation and light. The date of the barn's construction is labeled at the base of the cupola. The vertical board siding on the barn is fastened with both machine-cut and wire nails, with the battens fastened primarily with wire nails. The barn is currently painted red with white trim and has always been painted red since it was first built.

The barn is banked into a slight slope and has only a partial and low-ceilinged basement area that was used for hog shelter. There are ramps on both the north and south sides of the barn at the location of the cross aisle. Sliding doors cover both of the ramp door openings. The ramps consist of planks on concrete piers, with piled earth continuing the ramp down to ground level. There are pass doors on the north, east, and south sides of the barn, along with a few fixed, two-pane windows including one in each gable end. The pass doors are wood-plank Dutch doors, which are fastened with hinges and are Z-braced in construction.

The interior construction shows post-and-beam heavy timber framing. The posts, beams, and cross braces are all sawn and fastened with pegged mortise-and-tenon joinery. The bent configuration is a simple bent with a single big cross beam and angled bracing (see bent configuration sketch on page 22). The metal hay track and fork are still in place along the roof ridge interior. The loft floor joists are log poles, which have had the bark removed. The interior of the basement level has been reinforced with metal beams and concrete piers in more recent years.

The barn is a variant of the so-called English Barn or three-bay barn, which was originally introduced into the Midwest in association with wheat production, with this barn type used primarily for threshing and storage of grain (Calkins and Perkins 1995; Noble and Cleek 1995). However, this particular example was built after wheat production had declined in Iowa, and the ramped aisle would not have been used for threshing but rather for wagon access to the interior where hay and feed could be off-loaded by hand into the lofts and bins on either side of the aisle. This barn was also used for many purposes when it was first built unlike the classic threshing barn, which often had only one or two uses. In addition, the "threshing bay" aisle that is perpendicular to the main axis of the barn is off-center unlike the true English Barn, which had a centered aisle. This particular barn was used for housing draft and saddle horses, milk cows, and hogs in addition to grain and hay storage.

On the west side of the open aisle on the same floor level is a shop area in the southwest corner, two oat bins in the center, and two ear corn storage bins in the northwest corner (see floor plans on page 21). On the east side of the open aisle, and stepped down to a lower level, is a second open aisle that runs along the long axis of the building and is flanked by stalls with feed bunks. On the north side of this aisle were three to four horse stalls, and on the south side were stalls for cows including one complete with milking stanchions. The upper level of the barn has two hay lofts on either side of the open transverse aisle, with part of the open aisle later covered over with plank flooring for straw storage in the 1930s. Wood ladders provide interior access to both the east and west lofts.

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**Faeth Farmstead & Orchard District
Lee County, IA**

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The only notable modifications to the barn included the concrete paving of the barnyard lot on the south side of the barn in the 1920s (reportedly the first paved feedlot in Lee County) and the addition of a gable-roofed shed to the southwest corner of the barn exterior in the 1920s-1930s. The added shed is low in height and is abutting but not intrusive to the main barn structure. It was built for livestock shelter and storage during the period of significance for this farmstead. Overall, the barn retains a high degree of both interior and exterior historic integrity and is considered a primary contributing building to this district along with the house.

Shop/Crib (c.1915)

This gable-roofed pole building was originally built c.1915 as a work shop and corncrib. It was later converted for use as the orchard sales and work room building. The upper floor was originally used for storing packing materials for the orchard operation. The building currently functions as a work room and storage facility for the orchard operation. It is located northeast of the main barn on the east side of the driveway. It has a corrugated metal roof, poured concrete form foundation, and vertical board siding with no battens. The west gable end has three fixed, four-pane windows and a small sliding door to the left side of the wall. A large sliding door is on the south side of the building. The north and east sides are currently obscured by the recent addition of the new sales room building completed in 2004. The new salesroom building was constructed as a separate building with its own exterior support walls. It abuts the older shop/crib building. This is true of all the connected buildings of the orchard plant complex including the shop/crib, packing shed, cold storage shed, machine shed, and the new salesroom/plant building. All are connected via doorways and a covered aisle but all are constructed as separate buildings with their own exterior support walls. As such, each building in this complex is counted as a separate building within the district (see floor plan detail on page 23). The shop/crib is considered a contributing building.

Lower Barn (1925)

The lower barn was added to the extreme west side of the farmstead and is separated from the main cluster of farmstead buildings. It is located near the west end of the old road remnant where the road now merges with current Highway 2. The barn was built in 1925 by Herbert Faeth and is referred to as the "lower barn" by the Faeth family. This barn was used for the livestock portion of the farming operation. It is a broad-gabled building with a metal-covered roof, vertical board siding with no battens and fastened with wire nails, and a poured concrete form foundation. The original siding was 24-inch wide cottonwood planks; however, the siding was replaced around 1968 with the current pine siding. The interior construction shows pole and plank framing, with a central hay aisle flanked by livestock feeding aisles. The poles still retain some bark, with the plank framing nailed to the vertical poles. Loft floors are above each of the flanking aisles, with the center aisle open to the rafters and used for piling loose hay. The lower barn is considered a contributing building.

Spray Pond (c.1936)

A small pond was built to the west of the barn around 1936 when the Faeths expanded their spraying capacity in order to produce better apples. A concrete block pump house was added to the east bank of the pond c.1963-64. The pond is considered a contributing structure to the district because it was built within the period of significance and was directly associated with the orchard operation of this farmstead. The pump house was built after the period of significance but could be someday considered a contributing structure as it nears 50 years of age because it too was associated with the later evolution of the Faeth orchard and farmstead operation. In 1936, Herbert and Marvin Faeth purchased a horse-drawn, engine-driven John Bean Company sprayer with a 400-gallon steel tank for hand spraying the apple trees. This sprayer was later converted to tractor drawn, with a reciprocating spray boom added. It replaced a horse-drawn, wood-tank spray that had an older Bean pump driven by a four-cylinder Dodge engine. The Faeths also did custom spraying in New Boston, Iowa, for another orchard

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at the time and were early adherents to the benefits of spraying apples reflecting the progressive nature of their orchard operation in the region.

Spray House/Tank (1946)

A metal spray house and tank for the orchard operation were added as a stand-alone structure off the northwest corner of the barn in 1946. The spray house and tank were built by George Jordan and another man from the area. The spray house and tank are considered a contributing structure to the district.

Packing Shed (c.1942)

The packing shed was added to this complex of orchard operation buildings around 1942 and was built by carpenter, Ed Brockman and his father. This building is considered contributing to the district and was historically used for packing the fruit for shipping and sale. It abuts the north side of the shop/crib building and the east side of the cold storage building, with a covered aisle in-between the packing shed and the shop/crib building (see floor plan detail on page 23). The packing shed is a concrete block building, which has steel I-beams and metal pole supports on the interior. A concrete floor was laid on the interior of the packing shed in 1969 replacing an old linoleum floor over dirt. The aisle or alley in-between the packing shed and the shop/crib was originally open and used for storing apple baskets. It was subdivided by a wall in more recent years.

Cold Storage Building (c.1950)

The cold storage building was added to the orchard operation around 1950. It was built by a local West Point, Iowa, carpenter named Raasch. The building is located off the northwest corner of the c.1915 shop/crib and abuts that building and is connected to it via a covered aisle (see floor plan detail on page 23). The cold storage building has a metal-covered shed roof and a poured concrete form foundation. The exterior walls are of wood frame construction, with metal siding on the exterior and cement board on the interior. There are metal posts and beam supports on the interior. The interior floor is a concrete pad floating on four inches of cork adding to the insulation of the building. On the south side of the cold storage building is a wood-framed, shed-roofed loading dock structure, which is also on a concrete foundation and appears to be part of the original construction. The loading dock structure is clad with vertical board siding. A sliding door covers the loading dock opening to right of center. The cold storage building was originally used for the storage of apples in baskets until the late 1960s when the orchard operation switched to crates instead of baskets. It is considered a contributing building.

Old Stable (1890-1910)

A front-gabled, wood-framed storage shed with metal roof and vertical board siding, is located just north of the truck shed on the west side of the driveway north of the barn. This shed was originally built on the south side of the old road (248th Avenue) at a location just south of the farm house (see detail plan map on page 20). It was probably built between 1890 and 1910. It was originally used as a stable for riding and driving horses and as a buggy or carriage shed. It was moved to its current location on the farmstead c.1962. It is considered contributing the farmstead district despite this move because it is an older building associated with the Faeth family farm and was moved within the district boundary.

Smokehouse (early 1900s)

The smokehouse was added in the early 1900s. This building is located in the northwest corner of the front yard of the house and faces south. It is a one-story front-gabled building with a corrugated metal roof and rusticated concrete block wall

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construction. The blocks were homemade using the “Dry Block” process, with the sand and cement packed dry into the forms.¹ The blocks were set in place with a red-tinted mortar. A wood door is on the south front gable end, with small windows or vents located near the eaves on the other sides. In 1918, the family installed a Delco light plant in the smokehouse making the Faeth Farm one of the first in the township if not a larger region to be electrified. The building is considered contributing to the district.

Engine House (c.1900)

This one-story, front-gabled frame building is located in the northwest corner of the house yard and is next to, but not connected to, the new salesroom/plant building. It was originally built as a bunkhouse for hired hands and was located farther back on the farmstead. About 1924, this building was moved to near the box elder tree on the farmstead with the door facing south. At that time, the farm’s Delco light plant was moved from the smokehouse into this building, and the bunkhouse thus became the “engine house.” The Delco plant remained in this building until c.1965. The building was subsequently moved to its current location, with the door now facing west. The engine house has a metal-covered roof, horizontal drop siding fastened with wire nails, and a concrete block foundation. There is a wood door with metal-covered porch hood on the west gable end, with 4/4 double-hung windows on both sides. The windows have thick vertical muntins but thin cross muntins indicating a window type dating from the suspected time period when this building was constructed c.1900. While this building has been moved, it was moved within the district and was built within the period of significance. As such, it is considered a contributing building.

Privy (early 1900s)

This small wood-framed building is located to the north of the house on the north side of the side yard fence. It is located off the northeast corner of the engine house. The privy has vertical wood board siding fastened with wire nails, a wood-shingled gabled roof, and a concrete foundation with concrete vault. This privy likely dates from the early twentieth century in its construction or at least in its placement on the concrete vault. The siding on the privy matches that of the 1882 barn, and it is possible that the privy is an older structure that was reset on a concrete vault in the early 1900s. The privy is considered a contributing building to the district.

Chicken House (early 1900s)

The shed-roofed, wood-framed chicken house is located off the northeast corner of the house yard in the area of the original East Orchard, which dates from the late nineteenth century. The chicken house was likely built in the early 1900s. Emma Faeth had her chickens in this building. The building has vertical board-and-batten siding fastened with wire nails, a metal-covered roof, and a poured concrete foundation. The chicken house is considered a contributing building to the district.

Hog House (early 1900s)

The hog house is a small structure located off the southeast corner of the main barn along the west side of the farmstead driveway just north of the old roadway. It is of frame construction and has a metal-covered shed roof. The horizontal board siding is fastened with wire nails. The hog house is on wood skids and has no foundation. This building is considered contributing to the farmstead district having been built within the period of significance.

¹ Information about the Dry Block method and its use in the construction of the Faeth smokehouse was provided by Claude Turpin of Fort Madison, Iowa (E-mail from Loren Faeth to Leah Rogers dated 7/12/2005).

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Truck Shed (late 1940s)

This rectangular, salt-box gabled pole building is located north of the main barn and west of the driveway. It is open across its east side and was used for truck shelter during the orchard operation of the mid to late twentieth century. It was installed at this location in the late 1940s. The building has a metal roof and corrugated metal siding. It is considered a contributing building to the district.

Garage (c.1950)

The garage is located to the southwest of the house and fronts the gravel driveway into the farmstead proper. The garage is a squat, front-gabled building with a single overhead door, horizontal board siding, an asphalt-shingled roof, and a poured concrete foundation. A pass door and rows of windows are along the south side of the garage. An open shed-roofed carport was added to the north side of the garage. While a later addition to the farmstead, it was built within the period of significance and is considered a contributing building to the district.

Machine Shed (c.1960)

A machine shed was added to the north side of the packing shed c.1960 but is a separate building with its own metal and wood post wall supports and wood-frame wall construction (see floor plan detail on page 23). The east side of the shed is a large open door, with a door opening covered by a sliding door on the west side. The building provided a covered driveway for trucks loading apples for shipping and is considered a contributing building to the district despite the fact that it is less than 50 years of age. It is considered close enough in age to the 50-year cut-off for National Register eligibility because the significance of the Faeth orchard operation has continued well past that 50-year mark, with the construction of this building serving as a logical closing date to the historic district since it served as the last addition to the historic orchard plant complex of buildings. It would be 44 years before the next addition, the new salesroom building added in 2004, would be made.

Old Road

The farmstead district is bounded on the south side by an intact section of the original road that once served as the main road extending past this farmstead. This road evolved out of an early trail that was shown on the 1858 General Land Office original survey plat for T67N-R5W extending diagonally northeast to southwest through the north half of Section 4. By 1874, the road was in its current configuration and linked two Faeth family farmsteads, those of brothers Adam and George. The farmstead of George Faeth was located to the north-northeast and is still standing. A mounting block inscribed with "George Faeth/ 1900" was recovered from that farmstead in 1998 by Marvin Faeth and placed at the subject farmstead along the old road just outside the south gate of the house yard. The road continued in use into the 1920s when current Iowa Highway 2 was routed south of the old roadway in the vicinity of this farmstead. This highway was re-graded and widened in 1978.

According to family oral history, the old road also functioned as a stagecoach road between Fort Madison and Farmington. The stages may have made a stop at the Faeth farmstead. This road headed west from Fort Madison following the upland divide bordering the river and creek valleys. It extended past the Faeth farmstead on its way west to Franklin in Lee County and on to Farmington in southeast Van Buren County. According to Inez Kirkpatrick's stagecoach studies in Iowa, this route was not listed among the main stage routes through Lee County. The main lines were those along the Mississippi River extending through Fort Madison, Montrose, and Keokuk as well as lines radiating out of each of those early towns to the northwest and west. The main hub away from the river was the town of West Point to the northwest of Fort Madison (Kirkpatrick 1975, 1977). While no documentation of a stage line along the road that extended past the Faeth farmstead has

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yet been found, it is likely that a local stage or hack line did use this roadway to connect the towns of Farmington and Franklin with Fort Madison in the late nineteenth century.

The graveled two-track remnant section of the old road within the nominated boundary is approximately 0.125 miles in length. The road is lined with maple trees along the south side of the barnyard just west of the farmstead driveway. It is considered a contributing structure to the farmstead district because it helps maintain the historic look, feel, setting, and association of this farmstead with the original roadway through this area. It may also have some additional significance as an old stagecoach road; however, this use has not been confirmed beyond oral history and remains for future study.

Orchards

The district includes three orchards that were established by the Faeth family including the East Orchard, the Old North Orchard, and the North Orchard. The oldest of these three orchards is the East Orchard located east and northeast of the 1873 house and established by at least 1874 when it was shown on the township plat map (see plat map on page 25). This orchard still contains a few scattered remnant trees dating from the mid-twentieth century plantings but also includes the shoot from a very old apple tree, the root stock of which dates from the late nineteenth century. This tree was originally a Red Bird apple tree variety and grew to a height of 40 feet with a three-foot bole diameter before it broke and split in 1990 and had to be cut down. However, since that time, a shoot has grown up from the roots and has produced an apple tree which is beginning to bear fruit. The new tree will not be a Red Bird variety but rather a grafted variety, the identification of which is unknown at present. Other remnant older trees in the East Orchard include an Ingrahm tree off the northwest corner of the orchard plant complex of buildings, a Roman Stem or Sheep's Nose tree near the chicken house, and a few old-variety Maiden's Blush trees near the fence between the East and North Orchards, among other remnant varieties. In addition to the apple trees, the fencerow along the south side of the East Orchard and the house yard was planted with plum, cherry, and crab apple trees, some of which remain standing.

The Old North Orchard was established northwest of the farmstead buildings around 1900 (see plan map on page 19). This orchard retains only five north-south rows of trees along the north-south field drive. Three of the rows were planted in the early 1970s, with two rows added c.1985. Most of the original trees were removed c.1960-61, although there is one sugar pear tree from the old orchard still standing. The rest of the Old North Orchard is currently in hay.

The North Orchard is located due north of the farmstead and the East Orchard and was first established in 1940 when half of the orchard was planted. The remainder of the orchard was planted the following year. A notable number of the original trees remain standing, although the majority of trees in the orchard represent replanting in the 1970s-1990s. This orchard is planted in east-west rows and originally consisted of multiple rows of the following varieties (starting at the south end of the orchard and heading to the north): Turley Winesap, Lodi Transparent, Wealthy, Jeffries, Sharon, Beacon, Delite (a variety developed by Herbert Faeth on this farmstead), Jonathan, Rome Beauty, Red Delicious, Winter Banana, Red Gold, Jonathan, Grime's Golden, and finishing with additional rows of Jonathan apple trees.

Three other orchards once associated with the Faeth farmstead are located outside of the current National Register district boundary. These include the Old South Orchard and the South Orchard located south of Iowa Highway 2 to the southeast of the district and the West Orchard which was located north of the spray pond in an area now covered with abandoned cars and trucks. The West Orchard was excluded from the district boundary because the presence of the abandoned automobiles detracts from the landscape view of this area and because no fruit trees remain standing on this spot. It is also physically separated from the district by established and long-standing fencelines and a field drive. The Old South Orchard dates back to the late nineteenth century but was converted to black walnut trees in the 1960s, while the South Orchard was established in

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the early 1940s; however, much of this orchard has been replanted in recent years. The South Orchard consisted of Jonathan and Golden Delicious varieties, with most of the Golden Delicious trees now gone and only half of the Jonathan trees still producing. The two south orchards were excluded from the district boundary because of the physical distance from the district by the modern reconstruction of Iowa Highway 2, which resulted in much wider highway and the creation of a deep ditch in-between the highway and the farmstead district.

All three of the orchards within the district boundary are considered contributing sites to the district because they represent the late nineteenth to mid-twentieth century evolution of the Faeth family's orchard business and still retain their integrity of location, association, and setting, with remnant older fruit trees in all three orchards representing survivals of original trees planted by the Faeth family during the period of significance.

Non-Contributing Buildings and Structures

The six non-contributing buildings within the district boundaries include a post-1940s pre-fabricated garage built in Fort Madison and moved to this farmstead in 1979; a rolled corrugated steel tractor shed built c.1970; a rolled corrugated steel shed built in 1985; a pre-fabricated Wickes-brand machine shed built in 1974 and used for storage of apple bins and horse trailers; a concrete block pump house added to the spray pond c.1963-64; and the new salesroom/plant added to the orchard processing complex of buildings in 2004. In addition, are a small shed, a horse trailer, two trailer homes, and a truck trailer, which are placed around the farmstead but were not counted as resources because of either their small size or their mobility and impermanence at these locations. Of the six non-contributing buildings and structures, the pump house built in the early 1960s, the tractor shed added in 1970, and the salesroom/plant facility built in 2004 could become contributing as the district ages and these resources begin to near the 50-years-of-age mark. All are directly associated with the apple orchard business that continues to be operated by members of the Faeth family and reflect the modern evolution of that business into the present day.

The salesroom/plant building was completed in 2004 and is metal-clad and has a monitor roof configuration. The design of the building was selected to complement the older buildings and to provide sufficient modern space in which to expand the orchard operation and retail sales portion of the business. This building has an open front porch, which draws visitors into the main salesroom where a cooler in the northeast corner holds the harvested apples in the summer and fall as well as the cider processed in the back two rooms. The northwest room holds the cider press, while the northeast room is where the cider is stored in tanks, pasteurized, and then put into jugs for sale (see floor plan detail on page 23). While connected to the packing shed via connecting doorways, the new salesroom/plant building is a separate structure with its own exterior support walls. While considered non-contributing because of its recent addition to the farmstead, its construction is in keeping with the historic operation of this orchard business. The Faeths have always taken care in the addition of new buildings to the farmstead, that the older buildings were not adversely impacted in the process.

Integrity

Overall, the Faeth Farmstead & Orchard District retains a high degree of integrity reflecting the Faeth family's multi-generational farm and orchard operation, which continues to the present day. There have only been a few modern additions to the farmstead's buildings and structures, with most of these additions associated with the orchard operation as it has evolved into the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. The landscape, setting, buildings, and apple orchards together still convey a strong sense of time and place and represent the history of a notable and progressive commercial orchard operation in the region.

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1915
1936
1940-42
1946
1950**Statement of Significance**

The Faeth Farmstead and Orchard District in Lee County, Iowa, is considered locally significant under Criterion A for its representation of a successful pioneer family farm in Lee County that evolved into a notable commercial orchard operation beginning in the late nineteenth century and expanding in the early twentieth century into a wholesale and retail commercial operation, which continues to the present day. The farmstead is also considered significant under Criterion C for the survival and high degree of integrity of most of the historic buildings associated with the Faeth family's farm and orchard operation including the house and barn built c.1873 and 1882, respectively. The farm operation is associated with five generations of the Faeth family, with the extant buildings associated with the second through fifth generations, including a building recently added to the orchard commercial business. The period of significance dates from c.1873, when house was built and the East Orchard was established by Adam Faeth, to 1960, which extends five years beyond the arbitrary cut-off date for inclusion in the National Register. However, the end date of 1960 represents a more logical closing date for the historic period of the apple orchard operation as signified by completion of the historic orchard plant complex with the addition of the cold storage shed c.1950 and the machine shed c.1960. The Faeth family's farming and orchard operation has been in continuous operation throughout this entire period and continues as a family operation to the present day. It is noted that several of the post-1960 buildings since added to the farmstead could likely become contributing as they near 50 years of age, with the period of significance for this property potentially expanded in the coming years. Other significant dates for the current district include the construction dates for the major buildings and structures on the farmstead including the house (c.1873), the main barn (1882), the shop/crib (c.1915), the lower barn (1925), the packing shed (c.1942), the spray tank/house (1946), and the cold storage building (c.1950). In addition are the construction dates for the spray pond (c.1936) and the establishment of the East Orchard (c.1873), the Old North Orchard (c.1900), and the North Orchard (1940-41).

Historical Significance

Family patriarch Jacob Faeth and his wife, Elizabeth Neuschaller, immigrated to the United States sometime between 1848 and 1851, finally settling in Lee County, Iowa, where in 1852 they purchased land in Sections 3 and 4 of Jefferson Township and built a log cabin in the southwest quarter of Section 3. They brought with them seven children (Jacob III, Barbara, Elizabeth, John, Conrad, Adam, and Katherine), who had been born in their native home in the area of Pfalz in the German state of Rheinland-Palatinate, specifically in or near the town of Speyer. They added four more children (George, Mary, Susan, and Fred) to the household once they settled in Iowa. Speyer, Germany, is located along the Rhine River in what is a historic fruit and vegetable growing region.²

The 1850 U.S. Agricultural Census for Lee County, Iowa, listed a "Jacob Faith" then owner of 80 acres of land in the county. Since this census would have been taken in 1849, it perhaps can be assumed that the Faeth family had immigrated by 1849

² Except where noted, the Faeth family and farm history was obtained from surviving family members including Lynn, Loren and Marvin Faeth, and from a family genealogy compiled by Art Scholtz, who was a descendent of Fred Faeth.

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settling somewhere in the county. Interestingly, the 1860 agricultural census continued to list him as “Jacob Faith,” with his farm operation then encompassing 120 acres of land. His farming operation at the time was a general one including horses, milk cows, other cattle and hogs, with crops raised including wheat, rye, Indian corn, oats, peas/beans, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, buckwheat, and hay. Products included butter and cheese but also included the production of two gallons of wine and five dollars worth of orchard products indicating some minor fruit production.

The sixth born of the Faeth children was Adam Faeth, who was born in Germany in 1846. He took over the family property in Lee County upon his father’s death in 1868. (His mother, Elizabeth, died in 1876.) It appears from the 1874 atlas map for Jefferson Township that Adam Faeth had established his own farmstead nearby in the northeast quarter of Section 4 and had built the extant house by that date (see map on page 25). It is likely that the house had been built either in anticipation of, or shortly after, his marriage to Anna Eberman in 1873. Adam built the main barn in 1882 for use in the general farming operation but he also established large apple orchards on the farm. According to the 1874 map, the East Orchard had already been established by that date. This map also showed that most of his neighbors had established orchards near their respective homesteads including other Faeth family members, such as his brother George Faeth in the northeast corner of Section 4.

The 1870 U.S. Agricultural Census listed the farming operation of Adam “Fath” as including 60 acres of land, four horses, a milk cow, three other cattle, and five sheep, with products manufactured confined to wool, indicating a small farming operation at that time. By 1880, Adam Faeth had increased the size of the farm and produced 15 tons of hay, had two milk cows, three other cattle, 13 swine, and 80 barnyard poultry and eight other poultry producing 400 eggs. Crops included Indian corn, oats, rye, wheat, and potatoes. While no orchard products were listed for that year, it may be that the orchard was not producing well or had been damaged in a storm. It certainly appears from family history and from the 1874 plat map, that the Faeth family was engaged in raising apples to some degree in the late nineteenth century. By the early 1900s, the family was actively engaged in commercial apple production. Ada Faeth, born in 1915, remembers first-hand her grandmother, Anna Faeth, selling wagonloads of apples in Fort Madison on a regular basis. Since Anna died in 1925, Ada’s recollection would date from the period between 1915 and 1925.

Adam and Anna Faeth had four children: Lewis W. (born 1875), Robert F., Cora (Mrs. Howard Whitcomb), and Herbert A. (born 1886). Another son, Albert died in his first year. Lewis (as it was spelled in the 1914 biography but may be more correctly spelled Louis) established his own “Cloverdale Stock Farm” in Section 2 of Jefferson Township, with Herbert taking over Adam’s homestead in Section 4 upon his father’s death in 1922 (although he had probably begun to take over management of the farm prior to that time). It was noted in a 1914 biography of Lewis Faeth, that his father, Adam Faeth, had been “a representative of one of the oldest pioneer families of this section of the state” and in 1914 was “one of the leading agriculturists” of the county (Roberts and Moorhead 1914:425).

[Jacob Faeth] began the work of development and improvement here in pioneer times and Adam Faeth has carried forward the work thus instituted and by his well directed business affairs has contributed much to the material prosperity of the county, especially along agricultural lines (ibid.).

Herbert A. Faeth married Emma Haffner, and they had two children: Ada (born in 1915, died in 2004) and Marvin (born in 1918). They added new buildings to the family farm including the Lower Barn in 1925, the shop/crib built c.1915, and the smokehouse built in the early 1900s where apple wood-smoked hams and bacon became a family favorite.

The Faeths were quick to adopt progressive methods in apple raising, including grafting and spraying in the late nineteenth century, with their operation among the first in the county to use spraying to improve apple production and quality. By the 1880s, the barrel spray pump was in use, with the earliest sprays a mixture of paris green, kerosene, soap, whale oil, and

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pyrethrum. By 1887, mixtures of lime and sulpher known as the Bordeaux mixture, were in use. It is believed that Adam Faeth began spraying his fruit trees in the 1880s, with Herbert and Marvin Faeth continuing the tradition into the twentieth century. Starting with horse-drawn sprayers with wooden tanks, their spraying operation graduated in 1936 to a horse-drawn, engine-driven sprayer that featured a steel 400 gallon tank and a 30 gallon-per-minute pump. Even later, this sprayer was converted to tractor power and had a reciprocating spray boom. Around 1936, a spray pond was built, with a freestanding metal storage spray tank and housing added in 1946.

In the early 1940s, Herbert Faeth greatly expanded the orchard operation with the planting of the large North Orchard and the new South Orchard, bringing the number of orchards on the property to six and including the original East Orchard, the Old North Orchard, the Old South Orchard, and the West Orchard. Buildings added to the farmstead in the 1940s-1950s consisted primarily of ones associated with the expanding commercial orchard operation including the packing shed (c.1942), the truck shed (late 1940s), the cold storage shed (c.1950), and the machine shed (c.1960) off the rear of the packing shed. Herbert and Emma Faeth also expanded the house with the addition of a new dining room and kitchen. In addition to raising apples, Herbert's farm operation included raising polled Herefords and logging in the winter. But Herbert loved raising apples and during his tenure he developed the Delite variety and strove to graft and establish 100 different varieties in his orchards. He delivered apples by truck to the towns of Kahoka, Missouri, and Bloomfield, Fairfield, Ottumwa, Burlington, and Muscatine, Iowa, during the early to mid-twentieth century rise of the wholesale apple market. Also notable was Herbert's love of music, he having recorded songs and stories in a studio in Ottumwa, Iowa. However, his ownership of the family farm came to a sudden end in 1959 when he died as the result of a tragic tractor accident.

Herbert and his son, Marvin, had also operated other orchards in the area including those on the John Faeth farm and the Storms Orchard. Their apples were sold to the Lagomarcino Grupe Company, a food wholesaler in Davenport and Des Moines and the A&P warehouses in Davenport and Des Moines, with unclassified apples sold to a business in Columbus Junction, Iowa. The A&P store in Keokuk would also take truckloads of apples. By 1960 there were 20 commercial orchards within 20 miles of the Faeth Orchard. Of these 20 orchards, the Faeth Orchard is the only one still in operation.

Marvin Faeth took over the farm operation upon his father's death in 1959 but he had already assumed a large share of the orchard management because of an earlier accident in which his father had lost the use of an arm due to a horse bite. Marvin also was a self-taught mechanic having learned by converting cars into trucks in the early 1930s. With his father, Marvin built the cold storage and packing sheds on the farm. He also helped plant the North and South orchards. Marvin also started an equipment and parts dealership for the John Bean Company because of the growing need in the area for good quality fruit spraying equipment and maintenance of this equipment. In 1941, Marvin married Carol (Moore) and they built a house south of the highway because his parents were still occupying the family farmstead. Upon Herbert's death in 1959, Emma continued to live in the old family home until her death in 1960. After that, the house was rented out; however, the Faeth family continues to own and operate the farmstead and orchard on the property to the present day.

Marvin and Carol had two sons: Loren (born in 1953) and Lynn (born in 1961). "As their family grew Carol devoted full time to the retail sales at the orchard and nurtured 'extra' crops (small fruits and vegetables) to sell with the apples at Farmer's markets" (Faeth Orchards 2004). She also helped with plowing, disking, harrowing, and spraying of the fruit trees and ran the packing and sorting room for the orchard business. "In 2000, Marvin and Carol Faeth received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Iowa Fruit Growers for their work in the production and promotion of Iowa Apples" (ibid.). Carol Faeth passed away in 2001.

The Faeth farm and orchard is currently operated and owned jointly by Loren and Lynn Faeth and their wives, Arleen (Mrs. Loren Faeth) and Heather (Mrs. Lynn Faeth), representing the fifth generation to own and operate this farm. This includes the

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continued operation of the apple orchards and the sale of homegrown and manufactured products including juice, cider, preserves, and jelly in addition to a wide variety of apples. Austin and Ethan Faeth, representing the sixth generation, are already involved in sorting and bagging apples and welcoming visitors to the farm's animal exhibits.

This family history reflects the significance not only of this pioneer family settlement in Lee County, Iowa, but also the establishment of a notable and progressive commercial apple orchard business that persists to the present day. The impact of the Faeth family's contributions to the state's and county's orchard growth and development is further reflected in the lifetime achievement award given to Marvin and Carol Faeth but also in the many contributions of Herbert and Emma Faeth in the development of new apple varieties and their expansion in the early twentieth century of the family's orchard business into a wholesale and retail enterprise that served not only Lee County but neighboring markets as well.

Historically, apple orchards were an important part of southeast Iowa from the earliest pioneer days. Henderson Lewelling of Salem in Henry County is considered Iowa's first commercial nurseryman and eventually settled farther west where he spread apple horticulture to the Pacific Coast. He settled in Salem in 1836 where he planted a small nursery on Cedar Creek that included an orchard with 35 varieties of apples, pears, peaches, plums, cherries and other small fruit. His brother John, joined him in this enterprise in 1841. Their nursery prospered and soon "almost every homestead of the south part of Henry and the north part of Lee County blossomed with trees from their nursery" (Pellett 1941:9). Apples were hauled as far as Ottumwa, Oskaloosa, Marshalltown, and Cedar Rapids, Iowa, from the Salem area. The Lewellings made a number of trips to Indiana and other eastern locations to acquire new tree stock and other plants. When Henderson Lewelling decided to move farther west, he took with him an ox wagon loaded down with 700 grafted fruit trees. While half of the trees died along the trip, enough survived to help establish the orchard industry of the Pacific Northwest (ibid.:9-12).³

The first nursery in Lee County was established in 1841 near Denmark, Iowa, by Rueben Brackett. He and his son, Gustavus purchased some named varieties from the Lewelling nursery. They used those trees to graft onto some of their own seedling trees started from seeds they had gathered at cider mills in their previous home in Ohio. The Brackett nursery thrived in the late nineteenth century and produced as many as 200 varieties of apple trees. Suel Foster of Muscatine, Iowa, also had a successful nursery during this same period (Nichols 1975:81-84). Not known for certain is the origin of the Faeth family's first apple trees, but it is likely that the trees' root stock can be traced to Lewellings' and Bracketts' nursery operations.

Most early orchards in southeast Iowa failed to survive the late nineteenth century largely because of the susceptibility of fruit trees to damage and destruction from droughts, freezes, and blizzards. As a result, most pioneers gave up on commercial orchard production, maintaining only small orchards for their own use. However, as the science of pomology progressed and new, hardier varieties were developed, some persistent and progressive nurserymen and farmers helped keep southeast Iowa in the orchard business into the twentieth century, among them the members of the Faeth family of Lee County. Notable regional nurserymen included the above-noted Rueben and Gustavus B. Brackett, Dr. James Weed of Muscatine, and Kauffman and Borland of Iowa City. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the Iowa State Horticultural Society promoted apple growing in the state, with the Agricultural Experiment Station of Iowa State College (later Iowa State University) conducting studies in apple breeding and promoting scientific advances in the orchard business in the early to mid-twentieth century (Lantz 1928; Jordan 1974). While Iowa's orchard industry developed to a greater extent in western Iowa in the loess hills, southeast Iowa remained prominent well into the twentieth century as evidenced by the successful operation of the Faeth family and others in Lee County.

The Faeth orchards survived the devastating Armistice Day Blizzard of 1940 primarily because there were few young trees at

³ Henderson Lewelling was also noted for his role in the Underground Railroad activities in the Salem area during his years in Iowa.

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that point. Had it occurred a year or two later after the North and South orchards had been established, the effects could have been disastrous. The 1940 blizzard wiped out most of Iowa's orchards; therefore, the minimal damage to the Faeth orchards (some trunks were damaged and the overall effect looked like a burn) placed it among the few to survive relatively unscathed in the state (E-mail from Loren Faeth to Leah Rogers dated March 30, 2005; Page 1993).

The Faeth family practiced trunk or branch grafting to produce their apple varieties, including the Delite variety developed by Herbert Faeth, while some others in the state used top-work grafting (Nichols 1975; Page 1993). Top-working involves making many grafts on an older established tree to change the variety and was typically used to move from an unpopular variety to a more popular one. Grafting often involved grafting winter-tender varieties into the trunk or on the branches of winter-hardy varieties producing stronger varieties that were more weather resistant. The Faeths typically used Hibernial or Virginia Crab as rootstock, with grafted trees obtained from the Stark Brothers Nursery in Louisiana, Missouri, located about 80 miles downriver from Lee County. The Stark trees set out in the early 1940s in the Faeth orchards were three-piece trees consisting of rootstock, an interstem, and the variety on top. The trees set out in the 1960s were also Stark trees, with the Golden Delicious trees having four pieces: a rootstock, two different interstems, and the variety on top. The interstem of these trees tends to be more vigorous than the variety on top.

The Faeth orchards played host regularly to summer field days for southeastern orchard growers up until the 1970s, with field days held at the Faeth Orchard every five to ten years. The Faeths had a history of being at the leading edge of farm and orchard management into the 1960s beginning with Adam Faeth adopting new methods, such as spraying, in the late nineteenth century, continuing with Herbert Faeth who was a leading and learned horticulturalist in the first half of the twentieth century, and peaking in the mid to late twentieth century with Marvin Faeth mechanizing the farm and orchard operations. Today, Loren and Lynn Faeth strive to carry on the family tradition by expanding the on-site retail operation and adding new products, such as cider and juice.

Architectural Significance

The Faeth Farmstead and Orchard District has architectural significance as well in the survival and good integrity of the historic farm buildings associated with this family farm and orchard operation. The survival of the main dwelling and barns along with most of the original secondary dependencies is increasingly rare on Iowa farmsteads where modern buildings are quickly replacing old barns and sheds, or outbuildings are removed altogether. The Faeth farmstead is notable in the survival not only of the late nineteenth century house and barn but also of the early twentieth century house dependencies including a smokehouse and privy and of the early twentieth century agricultural dependencies including a chicken coop, hog house, and the bunkhouse (later used as an engine house). All of these buildings retain a high degree of integrity, with the setting enhanced by the survival of the historic road that once extended past this farmstead.

Most notable are the surviving buildings directly associated with the expanding commercial operation of the Faeth orchard operations in the early to mid-twentieth century. These buildings include the shop/crib building that became the first salesroom for the operation, the cold storage building with loading dock, the packing and sorting room building, the machine shed at the rear of the packing shed, and the truck shed. Recently added to these historic buildings is the next evolution in the family's wholesale and retail commercial operation—the brand new sales room/plant building that includes a commercial cider press. All of these buildings taken as a whole represent a well-preserved late nineteenth to late twentieth century farmstead that became involved in commercial apple production in the early to mid-twentieth century and continues to reflect that function to the present day. As such, these buildings represent a rare survival of a full complement of agricultural buildings and outbuildings that reflect a successful general farming operation but have the added significance of representing a notable and progressive commercial orchard operation in Lee County and southeast Iowa.

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Additional Sources

Faeth family history, photographs, and genealogy was provided via e-mail and in-person communications from Heather Faeth and Loren Faeth (including input from Lynn and Marvin Faeth) and from Tracey L. Scholtz, son of Art Scholtz, who was a descendent of Fred Faeth. Art Scholtz maintained a family genealogy until 1978. An additional source is the Faeth Orchards website at www.faethorchards.com.

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**Faeth Farmstead & Orchard District
Lee County, IA**

Geographical Data

UTM References (continued)

| | | | |
|---|---------|----------------|------------------|
| 5 | Zone 15 | 632174 easting | 4499095 northing |
| 6 | Zone 15 | 632130 easting | 4499091 northing |
| 7 | Zone 15 | 632139 easting | 4499003 northing |
| 8 | Zone 15 | 632222 easting | 4499012 northing |
| 9 | Zone 15 | 632369 easting | 4499109 northing |

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Faeth Farmstead and Orchard District is shown as the dashed line on the accompanying map entitled "Faeth Farmstead & Orchard District Site Plan Map" (see map on Page 19).

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Faeth Farmstead and Orchard District includes the primary buildings, structures, and north and east orchards associated with the late nineteenth century through mid-twentieth century operation of the Faeth family farm and orchard operation.

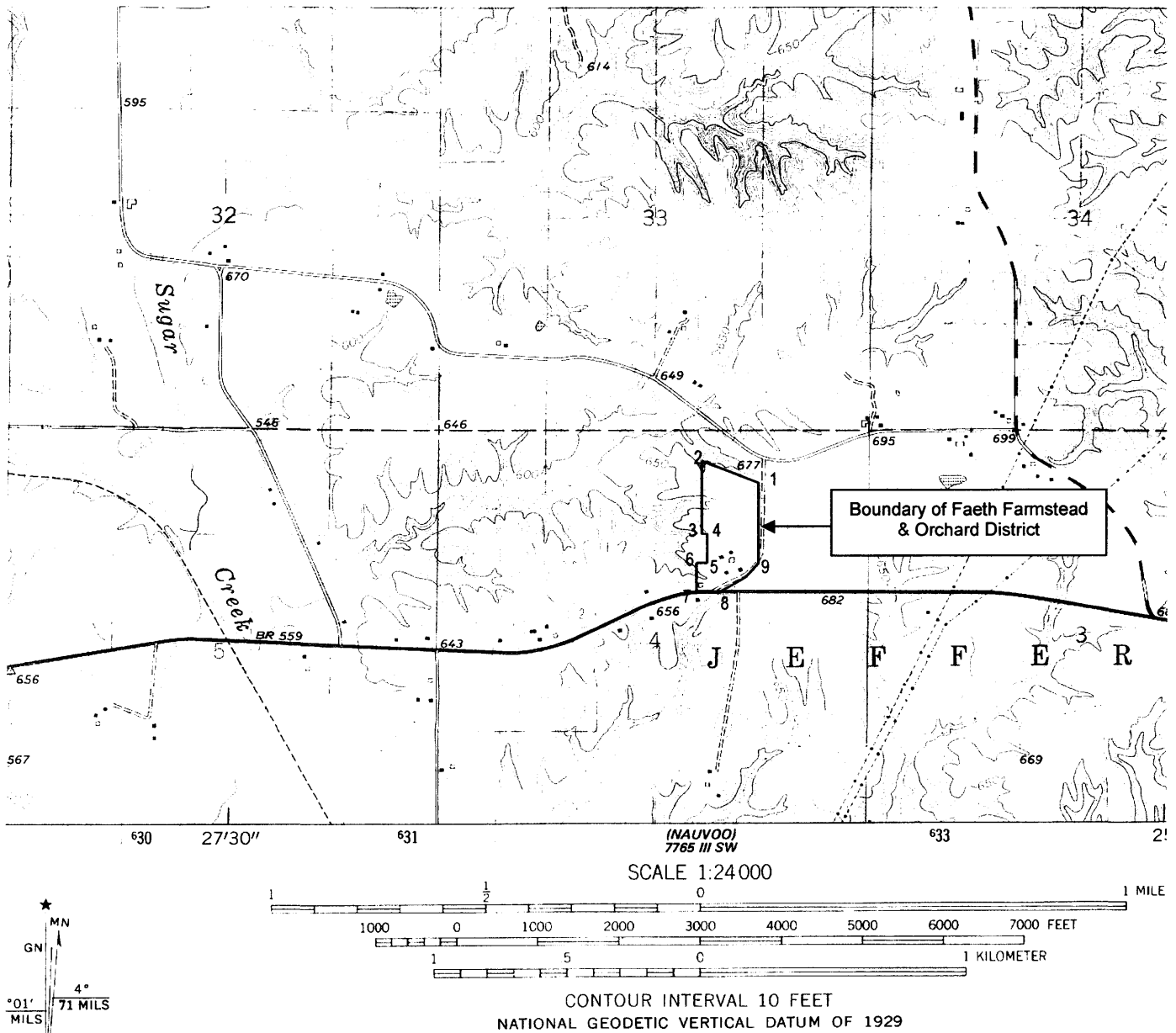
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Faeth Farmstead & Orchard District
Lee County, IA

Topographic Location of Faeth Farmstead & Orchard District
(Source: USGS West Point, Iowa, Quadrangle, 7.5' Series, 1965, photorevised 1975)



Numbered points are keyed to UTM
references in Section 10 and page 16

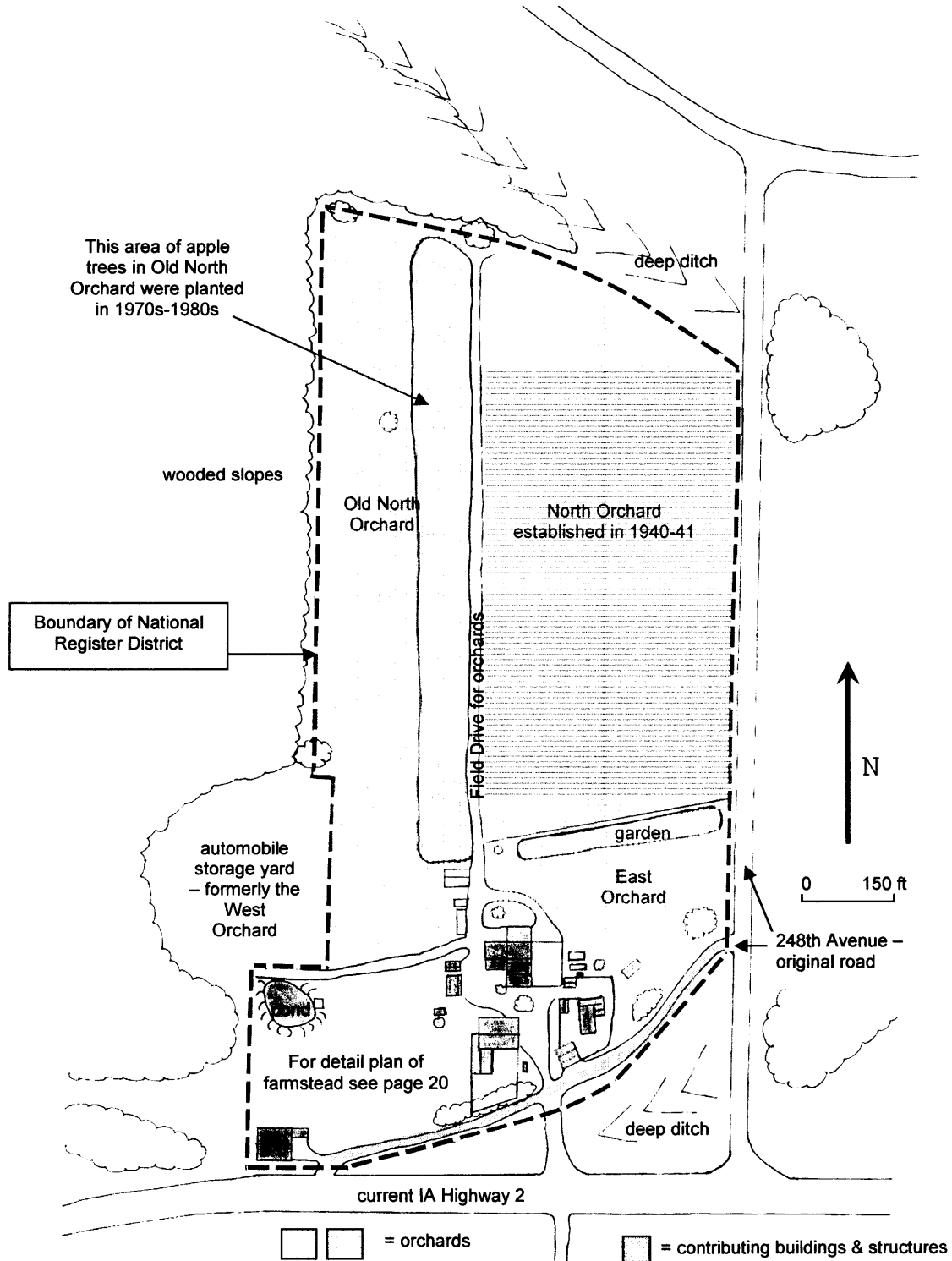
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Faeth Farmstead & Orchard District
Lee County, IA

Faeth Farmstead & Orchard District Plan Map Showing National Register Boundary



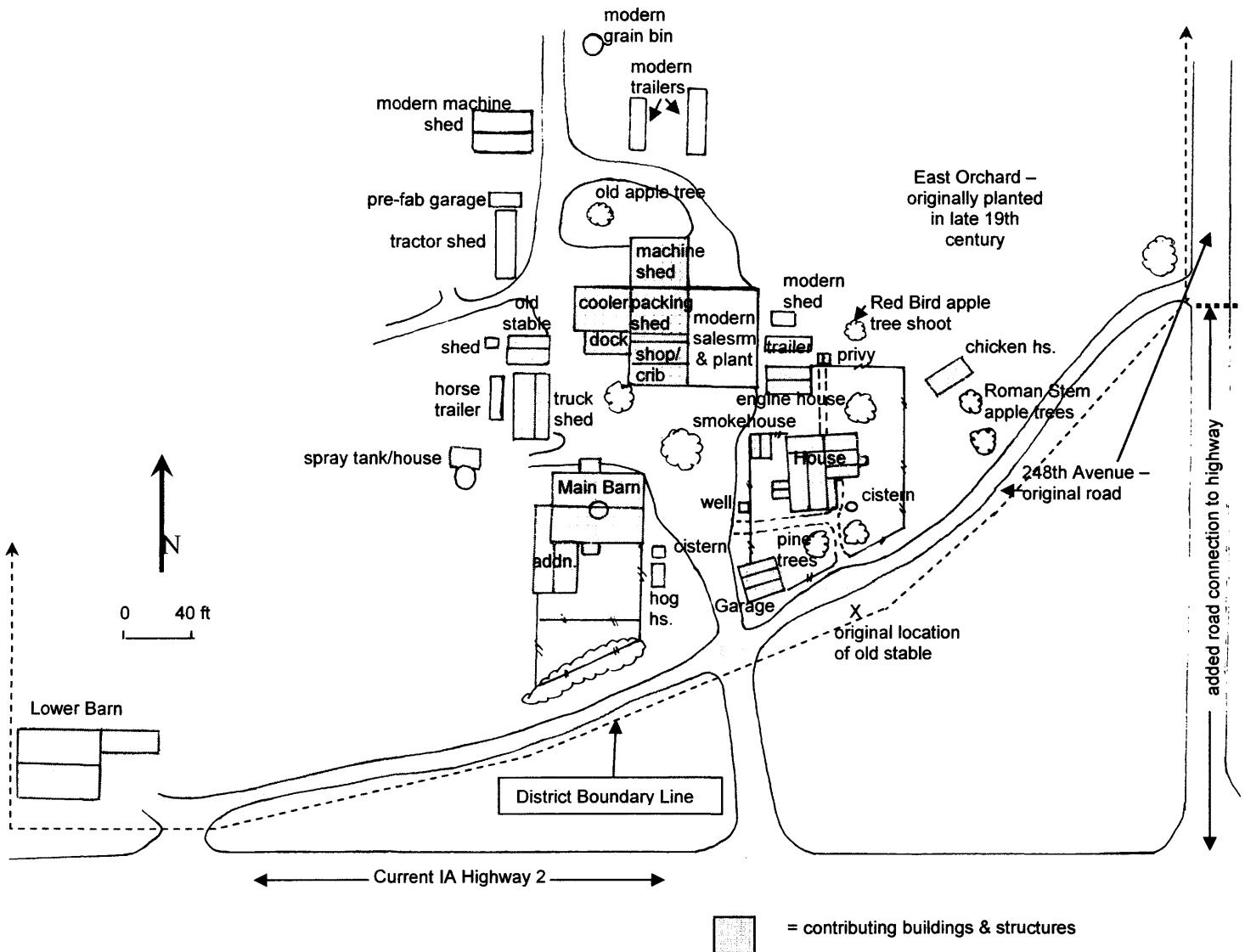
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Faeth Farmstead & Orchard District
Lee County, IA

Faeth Farmstead & Orchard District Detail Plan Map of Farmstead



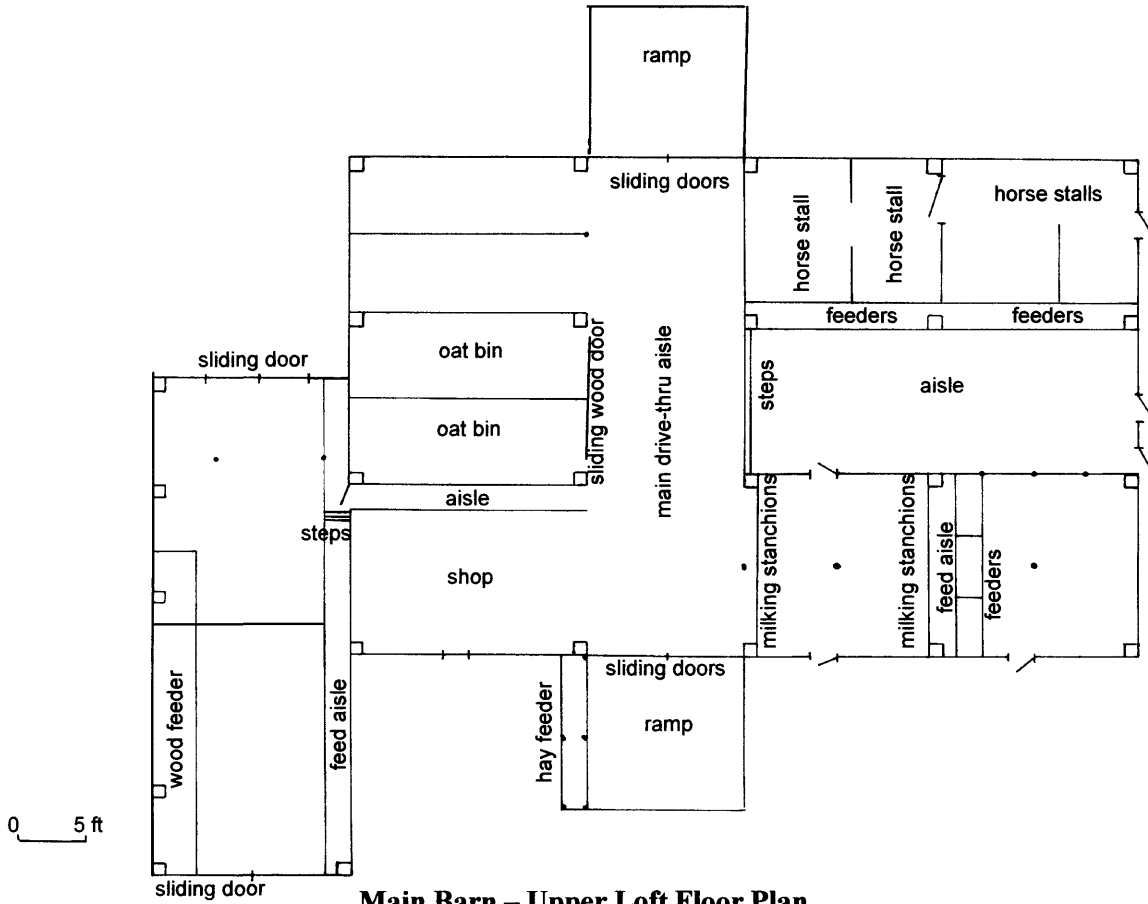
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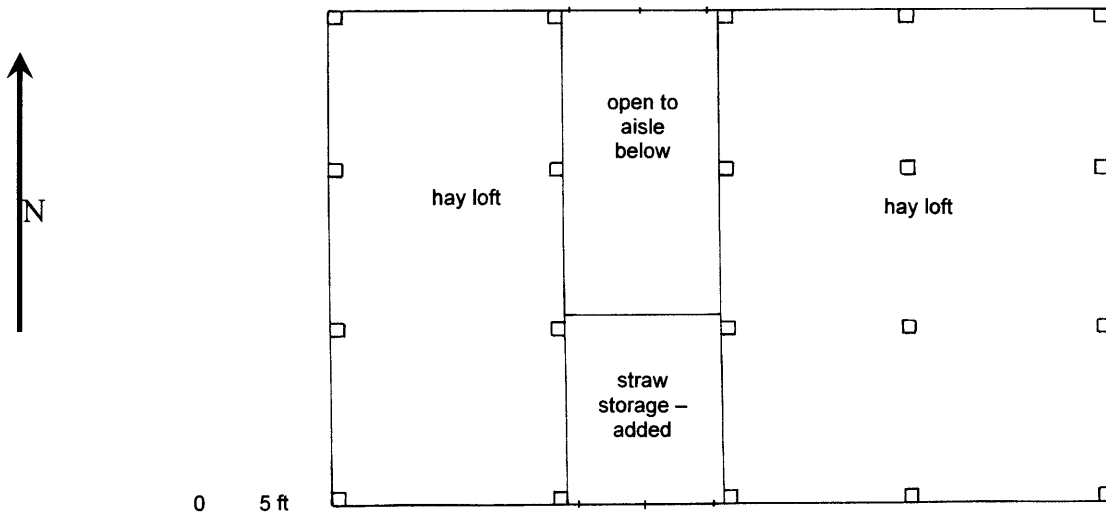
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Faeth Farmstead & Orchard District
Lee County, IA

Main Barn Floor Plan – Ground Floor



Main Barn – Upper Loft Floor Plan



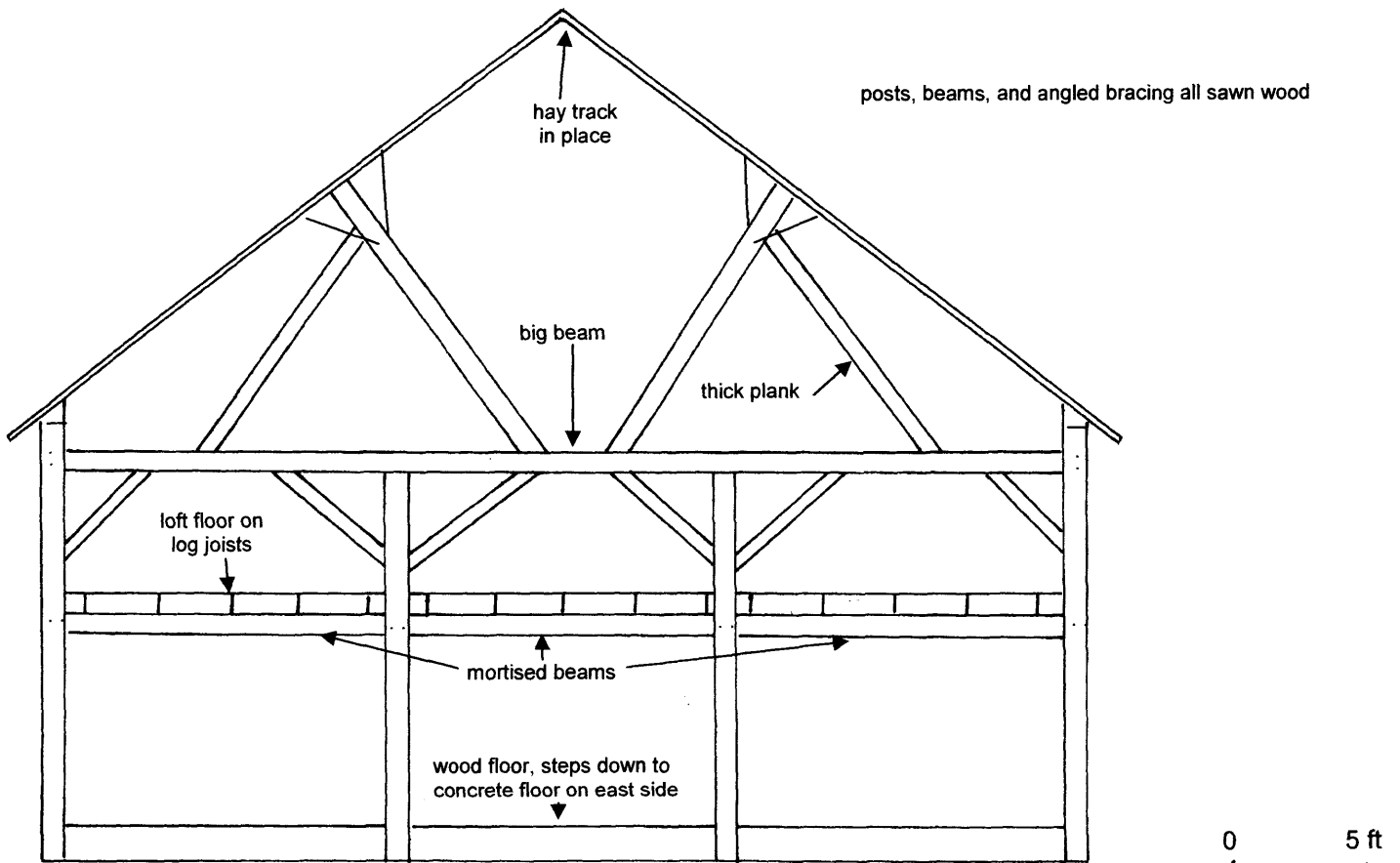
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Faeth Farmstead & Orchard District
Lee County, IA

Main Barn Bent Configuration



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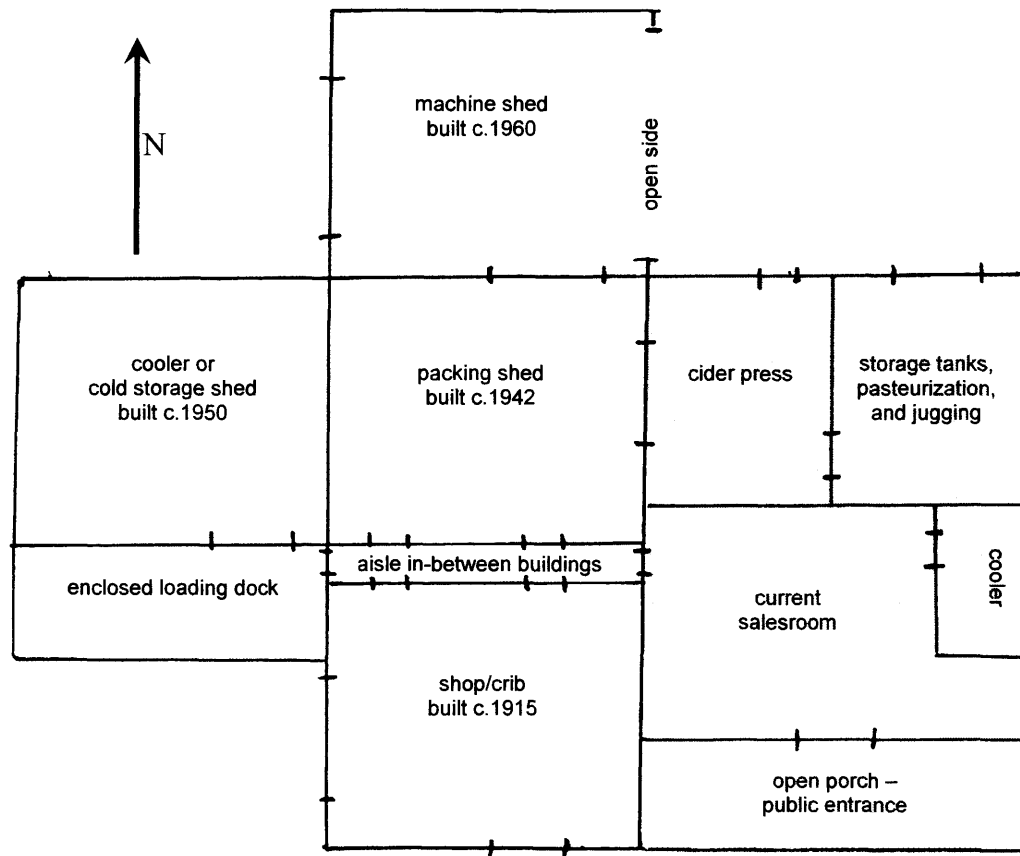
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Faeth Farmstead & Orchard District
Lee County, IA

Floor Plan of Complex of Buildings housing the orchard operations

(Not to Scale)



While all of the buildings abut one another, each has its own integral exterior support walls and they are separate buildings.

new building added in 2004

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Faeth Farmstead & Orchard District
Lee County, IA

c.1890s Photograph of Faeth Family on west side of c.1873 House



While identifications are not certain, it is suspected that the pictured Faeth family members are, from left to right: Louis, Adam, Herbert, Anna's sister, Anna, Cora, and Robert, although the order of Louis and Robert may actually be reversed.

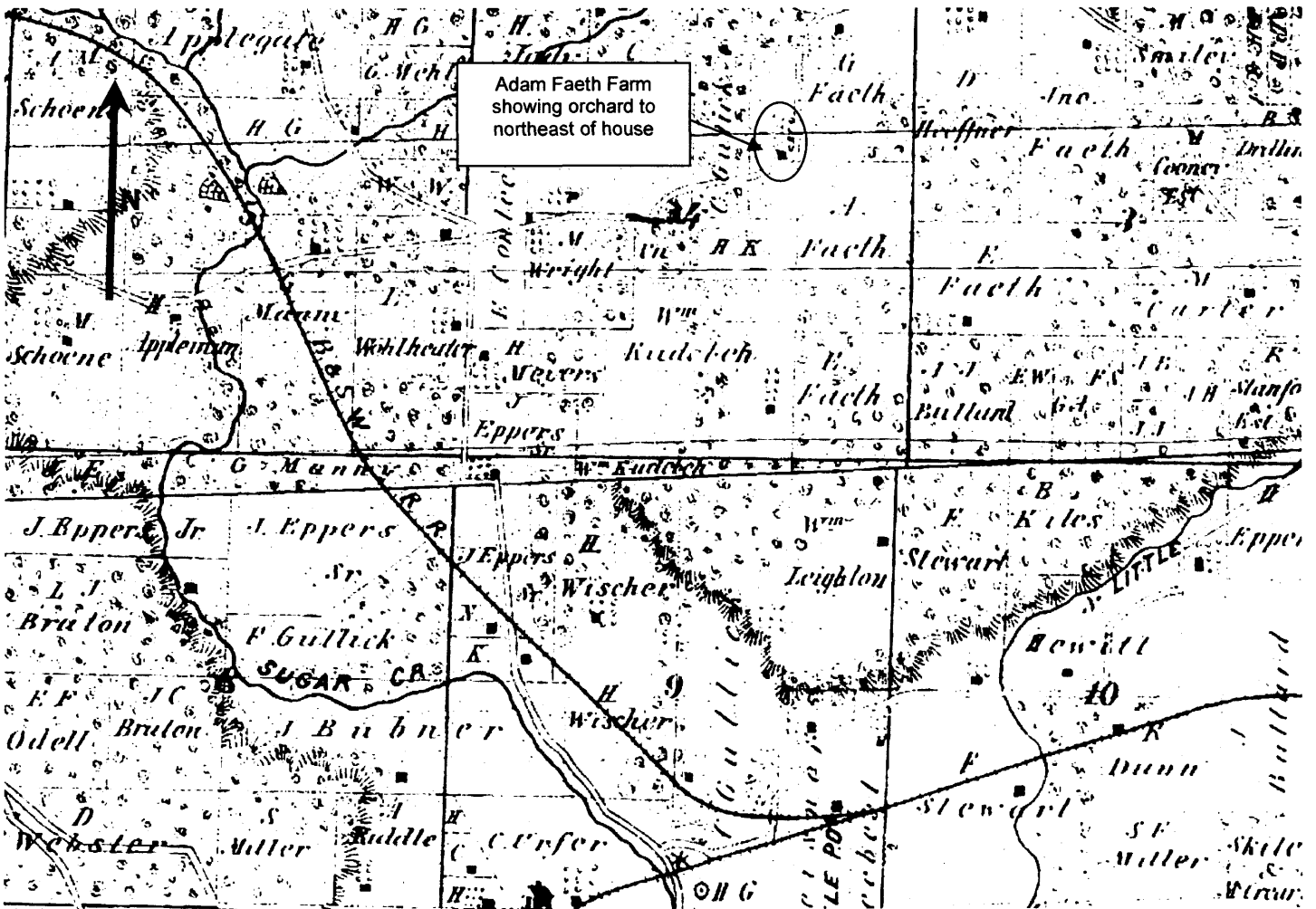
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Faeth Farmstead & Orchard District
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1874 Atlas Map Showing Faeth Farmstead & Orchard Location
(Source: Andreas 1874)



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Faeth Farmstead & Orchard District
Lee County, IA

Faeth Family Photographs
(source: www.faethorchards.com)



Adam and Anna Faeth c. 1880-85



Herbert and Emma Faeth c. 1955



Marvin Faeth in the 1940s



Herbert Faeth showing a graft in the 1950s

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Faeth Farmstead & Orchard District
Lee County, IA

Historic Photographs of the Faeth Orchard Operation



Wagon loaded with loose apples being sorted into bushel baskets by barn
(photo taken in September 1938)



Tractor pulling flatbed with crates of apples
(photo taken c.1954-1957)



Marvin Faeth fighting frost in the apple orchard c.1964-65



Apple sorting and packing c.1945-1950
(Marvin Faeth upper left, Herbert Faeth extreme right, Emma Faeth lower right. Other two in photo are neighbors of the Faeths)

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Section number Documentation Page 28Faeth Farmstead & Orchard District
Lee County, IAAdditional Current Photographs of the Faeth Farmstead and Orchard Operation
(photographs taken March 12, 2005)

Front of new salesroom/plant building, View to the NNE



Rear of salesroom/plant & machine shed to right, View to SSW

Shoot from old Red Bird apple tree in foreground,
with House in background, View to the South

Chicken House in East Orchard, View to the NE

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**Faeth Farmstead & Orchard District
Lee County, IA**

Photograph Log:

Name of Property: Faeth Farmstead & Orchard District
Location of Property: Lee County, Iowa
Name of Photographers: Clark and Leah Rogers, Tallgrass Historians L.C.
Dates of Photographs: October 5 and November 14, 2004, for photographs 1-17 and March 12, 2005, for 17-25
Location of Original Negatives: Tallgrass Historians L.C., Iowa City, Iowa

- #1 General view of farmstead, View to the ENE from Highway 2
- #2 General view of main cluster of farmstead buildings, View to the NE from the old road looking at the main barn and the house
- #3 West side of House, View to the ESE
- #4 South and East sides of House, View to the NNW
- #5 East and North sides of House, View to the SW
- #6 View of Barn (left) and House (right) from old road, View to the ENE
- #7 South and East sides of Main Barn with hog house in center of photograph, View to the NW
- #8 East (front) side of Main Barn, View to the West
- #9 North side of Main Barn, View to the South
- #10 Rear (west) side of Main Barn with spray tank to left, View to the East
- #11 Interior detail of Main Barn bent construction, View to the West from cross aisle
- #12 Interior detail of Main Barn showing work shop area off of cross aisle, View to the SW
- #13 Lower Barn, View to the WNW
- #14 Interior detail of Lower Barn, View to the NW
- #15 Smokehouse, View to the NE
- #16 Engine House, View to the NE
- #17 Cold Storage Shed with loading dock (to left) and Shop/Crib (to right), View to the NE
- #18 Rear of complex of orchard operation buildings with apple tree at left, View to the Se with the machine shed in foreground, the cold storage shed to right, the roof of the shop/crib in the upper right, and the roof of the new salesroom/plant in the upper left
- #19 Truck Shed in foreground and Old Stable (now a shed) in background to right, View to the WNW
- #20 Spray Pond, View to the SE (pump house to left and main barn in upper left)
- #21 East Orchard, View to the North
- #22 Old North Orchard, View to the NNW
- #23 North Orchard, View to the East looking at some of the remnant older trees planted in the early 1940s
- #24 North Orchard to left and Old North Orchard to right, View to the South looking towards the farmstead from the orchard driveway
- #25 NE corner of North Orchard, View to the South with old road (248th Avenue) to left of fencerow

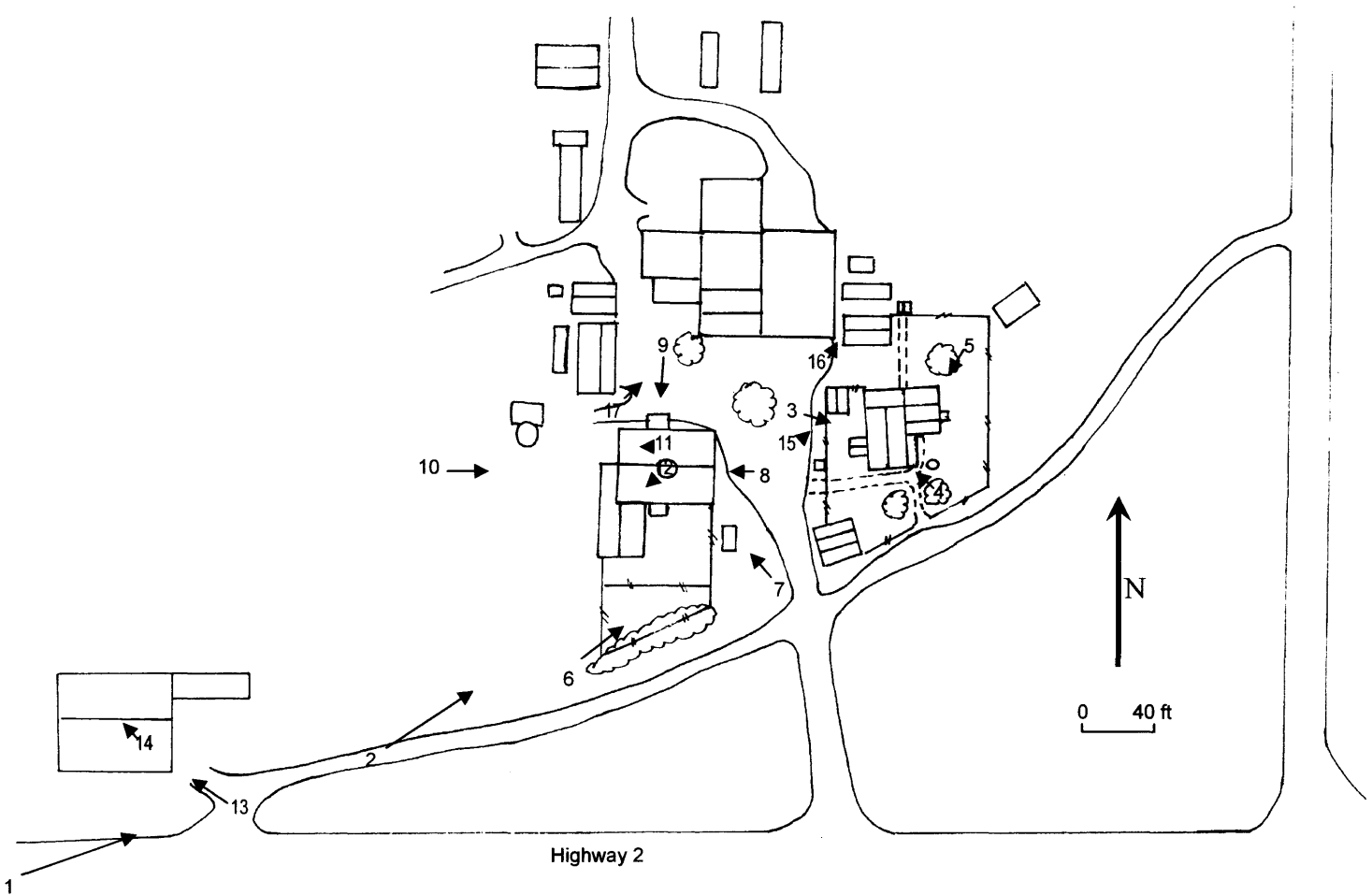
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Faeth Farmstead & Orchard District
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Site Plan Map Showing Direction of Photographs #1-17
(keyed to photo log)



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Faeth Farmstead & Orchard District
Lee County, IA

Site Plan Map Showing Direction of Photographs #18-25
(keyed to photo log)

