

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

527

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

RECEIVED 2280

JUL - 3 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Noerenberg Estate Barn
Other names/site number: N/A
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 2865 North Shore Drive
City or town: Orono State: MN County: Hennepin
Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local
Applicable National Register Criteria:
 A B C D

<u>Barbara Mitchell Howard</u>		<u>June 24, 2015</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title: Barbara Mitchell Howard, Deputy SHPO, MNHS		Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		

In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

Joe Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

8.18.15
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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u>2</u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u> </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE/animal facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER/storage

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Classical Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD; CONCRETE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Noerenberg Estate Barn is located at 2865 North Shore Drive in Orono, 18 miles west of Minneapolis. The barn was built on the Lake Minnetonka estate of Frederick and Johanna Noerenberg, which is now known as Noerenberg Memorial Gardens. The property is managed by Three Rivers Park District.

Located near the shore of Maxwell Bay, the barn is a large, T-shaped building covered with a cross-gable roof. The building is two stories high with a full basement that is exposed along the lakeside elevation. The building is clad with cedar siding with mitered corners. The interior of the barn included space for horses, cows, and other livestock, a tack room, a large hay loft, work space, and areas for storage. The barn retains excellent integrity.

The barn is distinguished by its elaborate design and detailing, both on the exterior and the interior. The building is characteristic of the barns constructed on the "gentleman farms" on Lake Minnetonka's estates during the late 19th and early 20th century in contrast to the utilitarian barns built on average farms throughout Minnesota.

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Narrative Description

The Noerenberg Estate Barn is located on the former Frederick and Johanna Noerenberg estate, which consists of 73 acres with 8,490 feet of shoreline on Lake Minnetonka in Orono. It remains the largest undeveloped lakeshore property on the lake. The estate is bisected by North Shore Drive. The area to the south of North Shore Drive is located on Crystal Bay and included the main house, a carriage house, a pump house, a picturesque boathouse and gazebo, and acres of lawn and gardens as well as meadows and groves of trees. This portion of the estate is open to the public and is now known as Noerenberg Memorial Gardens. (See Figure 1.)

The estate also included a working farm. The focus of the farming operation was on land on the north side of North Shore Drive on Maxwell Bay. The farm included cultivated fields, pastures where the farm animals could graze, vegetable gardens, fruit trees, as well as the farm buildings. Some areas remained heavily wooded. A natural resources analysis characterized the land as consisting of various forest types ranging from lowland to old-growth. The area also contains grasslands, wetlands, and marshes along the lake. The trees are predominantly sugar maple and basswood.

The primary entrance to the farm is located on North Shore Drive, opposite the estate's main entrance gates. The farm road, which remains unpaved to this day, extends to the north past the water tower to the large barnyard area adjacent to the barn. There is a large open area along the west side of the road where plants and vegetables were planted in smaller plots. Several original fruit trees are located along the east side of the road. From the barnyard, the farm road turns to the west, continues through a former meadow, and loops back to North Shore Drive. Just west of the barn, a road branches off and extends down the hill toward Maxwell Bay, providing access to the barn's lower level.

Remnants of original fence posts and fencing are found on the estate. The posts are concrete, hexagonal in shape, with rounded finials. The posts were made on the estate in molds that still exist and are stored in the barn. The fencing between the posts was a style known as twisted-wire. There are several surviving fence posts near the barn and water tower. Fencing along both sides of North Shore Drive that extended the entire length of the estate was rebuilt by Three Rivers Park District using the original molds for the posts. A company in Colorado produced an exact replica of the twisted-wire fencing. The elaborate fence posts and fencing reflect the complex design and construction that was possible on Lake Minnetonka's estates rather than the simple fencing found on the typical Minnesota farm.

The buildings and structures on the nominated property include the barn, the water tower, and a fuel storage structure. Neither the original fence posts located near the barn and water tower nor the replicated fencing along North Shore Drive are included in the resource count.

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Barn

The barn is a large, T-shaped building constructed on a hillside overlooking Maxwell Bay. (See photo 1.) The building is 65 feet long and 23 feet wide with a 23 foot by 23 foot extension on the north side. The building is two stories high with a full basement that is exposed along the lakeside elevation. The foundation and basement walls are poured concrete and a reinforced concrete slab forms the floor for the first story. The remainder of the building is frame construction.

A cross-gable roof with wood shakes covers the barn. The barn is clad with cedar siding with mitered corners. Design details include a water table that extends all around the building, flared eaves, and a dentil course under the eaves and in the gable ends. (See photo 7.) The building is painted white with dark green trim.

The first story of the south facade features a modern overhead door positioned at the center. (See photo 5.) The overhead door was installed by the Noerenbergs in the modern era for its convenience. However, the original upward-opening door, an innovation at the time, is still in place on its original tracks on the interior. Service doors are placed to each side of the overhead door, which are then flanked by six-over-six double hung windows. While the placement of the doors and windows is not exactly symmetrical, their positioning creates a balanced façade. The second story of the south façade features a central bay that projects out from the face of the building. The bay is covered by a gable roof and contains the doors to the hay loft. (See photo 6.) The diamond-shaped doors conform to the angle of the roofline. The original track is still in place that was used to hoist hay into the loft.

The first story of the east elevation features five, square casement windows spaced evenly along the wall. (See photo 10.) The windows are divided into two lights by a single vertical mullion. The windows correspond to the five horse stalls on the interior, with one window for each horse. The second story features a Palladian style window arrangement centered in the gable end. It contains a panel of three, six-over-six double hung windows with a rounded, louvered opening positioned over the central window. The rounded opening is completed with a wooden keystone.

The basement level of the barn is exposed along the west elevation. (See photo 8-9.) This elevation features a carefully ordered arrangement of doors and windows. The basement level contains a wooden door at the center that is flanked by four-over-four double hung windows, all evenly spaced along the wall. The first story contains two, six-over-six double hung windows, both evenly spaced. Finally, the second story contains the same Palladian style window arrangement that is found on the east elevation. Taken together, the openings from the basement through the second story form a triangular arrangement.

The north elevation includes the north wall of the main portion of the building and the central wing that projects to the north. (See photo 2.) Beginning with the main portion of the building, the basement wall on the east side contains one wooden entrance door. The wall on the west side includes two, two-over-two double hung windows. On the first story, both the east and west

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sides contain one, six-over-six window. At the basement level, each of the three elevations of the projecting wing contains one, six-over-six window. The west elevation also includes a wooden entrance door. On the first story, all three sides of the projecting wing contain one, six-over-six window. The third story of the north elevation of the projecting wing contains one six-over-six window with a rounded louver at the top, the same louver used in the Palladian style windows. The louvered openings provided additional ventilation in the loft. Of particular note is the exact alignment of the windows on all three floors of the north elevation of the projecting wing.

The cross-gable roof features flared eaves and gable returns. The ridge cap includes decorative finials at each end. Two square ventilators with louvered sides project from the central ridge. Each ventilator is covered with a hip roof. The ventilators feature decorative finials, although the vertical portion of the finial at the west end has been removed and is in storage. A chimney projects from the center of the ridge near the west end of the building.

The interior of the main level includes a large open area providing work space, room for storage, the farm office, stables for the horses, and the tack room. The open area occupies over half of the main level and extends from the central portion of the building to the west end. The farm office is partitioned off from the open area in the southwest corner of the building. There is also a small storage room that is partitioned off from the office. Because the office includes a chimney with a flue, it appears the room was heated at one time. The walls of the large open area and the office are clad with plaster.

The tack room is positioned in the building's extension to the north and may be separated from the main area of the barn with a large sliding door. (See photos 11-12.) This door is identical to the original overhead exterior door that is still on its tracks. The door features a twelve panel design. The four panels across the top contain windows, while the remaining eight panels are recessed and feature diagonal bracing. The tack room contains an original carriage that belonged to the Noerenbergs. The walls and ceiling of the tack room are clad with bead board.

The stable is located at the east end of the building. (See photos 13-15.) There is also a sliding door that separates the stable from the main part of the barn. The sliding door is similar in design to the sliding door to the tack room, only slightly smaller and without windows. The floor of the stable is paved with brick while the walls feature a wainscot built with bur oak. The upper wall surface and the ceiling are clad with bead board. There are five stalls along the east wall. The stalls are built with two inch thick bur oak. Each stall has its own window. The original hardware is still in place as well as water troughs and feed shoots that convey hay to each stall from the loft above. The floor of each stall has a recessed trough covered by a steel grate that helps to keep the stalls clean. The troughs feed into another trough that runs parallel to the stalls and exits the building to the south. The stable also contains a cast iron sink with an ornate spigot. (See photos 16-17.)

The lower level can be accessed either from the exterior or a stairway in the stable. It includes stanchions for the cows in both the west end of the building and the extension to the north. There are five stanchions in each area, along with feed and water troughs. The cement floors

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contain troughs, or "cleaning alleys," for the efficient removal of manure. The floor for the stanchions in the north extension is partially covered with wooden planks. This would have been a more comfortable surface than concrete for the cows to stand upon, particularly in the cold winter months. The walls and ceiling in the extension are clad with bead board. (See photo 18.) Several pens for additional livestock are located in the east end of the lower level. The central portion of the lower level is a large open area that was used for storage.

The second story loft can be accessed from a stairway in the stable. The loft is one large open area used for the storage of hay and grains. Unlike the first story, the building's stud walls are exposed in the loft and reveal brick infill between the studs at several locations throughout the loft. The brick added strength to the walls and its purpose was probably to help the building resist wind shear. From inside the loft, it becomes apparent how the large exterior loft doors operate. From the exterior, they appear to be two large doors that are angled at the top to conform to the shape of the gable roof. There are actually two sets of doors. There are two lower doors that open inward. If a larger opening is desired, two upper doors that are on tracks can slide to each side. Centered between the doors is the original track that was used to convey hay into the loft.

Shafts are still in place that conveyed feed to the animals on the lower levels. The loft also contains a large built-in wooden bin that was used to store grain. The ventilation system is also visible from inside the loft. The rooftop ventilators not only cool the loft, but ductwork from the other levels of the barn carries hot air into the ventilators as well.

The building's chimney is exposed in the loft, just inside the west wall. The chimney is immediately adjacent to the middle window of one of the Palladian style window arrangements. Its specific placement within the building avoids disrupting the careful composition of the west elevation.

The barn was restored in the 1990s. A new roof was installed with wood shakes to match the original. Doors and windows were replaced with replicas as needed. The deteriorated siding was also replaced with identical cedar siding that was installed with mitered corners to match the original siding. Finally, the paint had almost worn completely off the barn and it was repainted back to its original white color with green trim. Historic farm equipment and artifacts from the gardens are stored in the barn.

A definitive date of construction has not been identified for the barn. However, the estate's head gardener, Ray Forde, stated the barn was built in about 1912. This is a logical date to assign to the barn based on the building's reinforced concrete structural system, which was not commonly used until well after the turn of the century.¹ Nor has an architect for the barn been identified. However, based on the building's elaborate design and detailing, and its complex structural system, it is likely an architect was involved. One possibility is the Minneapolis firm of Boehme

¹ Unpublished interview with Mr. and Mrs. Ray Forde dated June 1985 located in the archives of Three Rivers Park District, Plymouth, Minnesota.

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and Cordella, which had a long business association with Frederick Noerenberg. The firm designed a number of buildings for Noerenberg's Minneapolis Brewing Company.

The barn is considered a contributing building.

Water Tower

The water tower is located along the west side of the road, directly south of the barn. (See photos 3-4). It features an elevated steel storage tank with a hemispherical bottom that is capped with a conical roof. The tank holds 48,000 gallons of water. The tank is supported by four steel legs that rest on concrete footings covered with sandstone caps. The word "Carnegie" in a stylized font is stamped along the steel legs, signifying the Carnegie Steel Company. Steel plates affixed to the legs are stamped with the word "Inland," signifying the Inland Steel Company. The large size of the water tower is unusual among the residential water towers built on Lake Minnetonka during the era. It has an industrial scale.

Water was pumped into the water tower from the pump house on Crystal Bay and provided water for the estate through a gravity-flow system. Today the water tower is still in use and provides water for the gardens, but the water is pumped from a well rather than the lake.

An exact construction date for the water tower has not been determined. However, it is known that the current tower replaced the original water tower, which had a wooden tank. In terms of establishing a construction date for the water tower, the earliest elevated American water tanks were built with wood and featured a flat bottom. A steel tank with a hemispherical bottom became the industry standard from the 1890s to be about 1940. The earliest steel tanks had an elongated appearance. In time, the major companies involved in water tower construction developed some variations on the hemispherical form. The elongation of the tank was diminished, which allowed the overall height of the tower to be lessened.² The Noerenberg's tank is this same type of tank. A water tower with a similar appearance was built in Deerwood, Minnesota in 1915. The use of the stylized Carnegie stamp also helps to determine the date range. The same stamp has been found on several bridges that were constructed in Minnesota between 1905 and 1910.³ Presumably the Noerenberg's wooden tank had a useful lifespan, and based on the design of the current water tower it is likely that it was constructed at approximately the same time that other upgrades were being made to the farm, such as the construction of the barn in about 1912.

In 2014 the tower's concrete footings and sandstone caps were rebuilt due to deterioration. The new footings and caps match the originals in terms of design and materials.

The water tower is considered a contributing structure.

² Alexa McDowell, *National Register of Historic Places Nomination for the Elk River Water Tower*, State Historic Preservation Office, Minnesota Historical Society, September 21, 2011.

³ Renee Hutter Barnes, Historian, Minnesota Department of Transportation, e-mail message, June 4, 2013.

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Fuel Storage Structure

A fuel storage structure is built into the hillside near the barn. (See photo 2; center right.) It is positioned along a reinforced concrete retaining wall that extends from the southwest corner of the barn. The wall supports the adjacent roadway. The retaining wall also forms the east wall of the storage structure. The remaining walls and the roof structure are also reinforced concrete. The fuel storage structure is approximately twelve feet long and seven feet wide. The entrance to the structure is formed by a large opening on the north side. It is not known if there was ever a permanent door in place. The structure provided a fire-proof storage space for flammable fuels. Because of its reinforced concrete construction and position along the barn's retaining wall, it seems certain that the fuel storage structure was built at the same time as the barn. The concrete is in somewhat deteriorated condition.

The fuel storage structure and the retaining wall are considered a single contributing structure.

Assessment of Integrity

The barn retains excellent integrity. There have been no alterations to the barn and both the interior and exterior of the building retain their pristine historic appearance. The water tower also retains excellent integrity, while the fuel storage structure has experienced some deterioration. One minor change was made to the farm road. The road now turns slightly to the east where it meets North Shore Drive. This was done to keep the road in alignment with the main entrance to the estate on the opposite side of the road. After the estate was bequeathed to the public, the main entrance gates were widened and moved a short distance to the east in order to provide more space to accommodate modern vehicular traffic. The farm has experienced some loss of integrity with the removal of the remaining farm buildings. These buildings included the farmhouse, a granary, a shed, the chicken coops, and a greenhouse. However, a number of these buildings were not substantial structures and they lacked footings and foundations. The barn was the most important building on the farm and the most significant architecturally. Together the barn and water tower represent the most identifiable features of the farm and the most visually prominent. Moreover, the farm retains its original boundaries, acreage, and lakeshore, as well as the barnyard area, unpaved roads, and remnants of original fencing, which help to preserve the farm's original setting, feeling, and association. (See photo 19.)⁴

⁴ An archaeological evaluation has not been conducted on the Noerenberg estate. An evaluation may identify archaeological remains that could be the subject for a future update to the National Register nomination. Additionally, Three Rivers Park District has developed an archaeology management plan that is employed whenever ground-disturbing activities take place in order to identify any archaeological resources.

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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.)

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
1912

Significant Dates
1912

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
UNKNOWN

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Noerenberg Estate Barn is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under National Register Criterion C in the area of architecture. Larger estates often included working farms that connected their owners to the land and were seen as a way to experience the positive aspects of rural life. The Noerenberg Barn represents the high-quality design and construction that was possible on the estate farms and it remains a rare surviving farm building from Lake Minnetonka's estates constructed during the Country Place Era. While nearly all the large estates have been demolished or subdivided, the Noerenberg Barn retains its original acreage, shoreline, and pristine setting on Maxwell Bay.

The Noerenberg Estate Barn is associated with the *Historic Context Study of Minnesota Farms, 1820-1960*. The barn meets the eligibility guidelines defined in the study for listing individual farm buildings in the National Register of Historic Places. The barn retains exceptionally high integrity and is considered eligible for the National Register because it embodies distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction and displays high artistic value.⁵

The period of significance for the Noerenberg Estate Barn is 1912, the date associated with its construction. The barn is significant at the state level.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Noerenberg Estate Barn is associated with the Country Place Era, a period during the late 19th and early 20th century when wealthy residents sought relief from the heat and congestion in urban areas and built large estates in idyllic rural areas. The estates were known for their elaborate homes and extensive landscapes where owners could spend their leisure time in a world far removed from city life. Working farms were often included in larger estates as a way for the owners to become connected with the land and to experience the healthy qualities that were believed to be associated with rural life. But these gentleman farms were not simply a diversion; rather, they were managed as serious operations. Since cost was not a factor, farm buildings were often substantial structures that were designed by the same architect who designed other buildings on the estate. The best agricultural practices from the period were implemented. The Noerenberg Estate Barn is an outstanding example of the high quality construction that was possible on the gentleman farms from the Country Place Era on Lake Minnetonka. It is distinguished by its reinforced concrete construction, carefully articulated elevations, and high-style design features such as its dentil courses and Palladian style window treatments. The interior features distinctive single panel sliding doors, finished interior spaces with wood paneling, a brick-paved stable, and a sink with an ornate spigot. The building

⁵ Susan Granger and Scott Kelly, *Historic Context Study of Minnesota Farms, 1820-1960*, Volume 3, Minnesota Department of Transportation, June 2005, 7.20.

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includes an unusually large number of windows that result in a high level of interior illumination and complex ventilation and feed delivery systems, which also improved the comfort of the farm animals. All these features distinguish the Noerenberg barn from Minnesota's average farms where practical considerations influenced the design and construction of farm buildings. Historian Susan Granger, who is an authority on Minnesota's farms and farm buildings, noted that the barn is unusual for its size and elaborate architectural detailing. She stated it is not typical of the barns constructed on average farms in Minnesota, which usually feature utilitarian buildings.⁶ Both the water tower, which is of an industrial size, and the reinforced concrete fuel storage structure also reflect the construction that was possible on gentleman farms.

The Noerenberg Estate Barn is also a rare surviving farm building from the estate farms on Lake Minnetonka. The popularity of Lake Minnetonka, urban sprawl, and skyrocketing land values lead to the demolition or subdivision of nearly all the large estates of the Country Place Era. At times the main house might survive on a smaller parcel of land, but the estate setting was lost. Estate farms were even less likely to survive as the open lands were prime for development and farm buildings were no longer in use. The few surviving farm buildings from Lake Minnetonka's gentleman farms have usually been converted to new uses and are now located in residential subdivisions. But the Noerenberg estate was bequeathed to the public by the Noerenberg family with its lands and lakeshore completely intact. The farm area still retains much of its historic landscape including its unpaved roads, wooded areas, remaining meadows where farm animals once grazed, and its expansive shoreline along Maxwell Bay. The Noerenberg Estate Barn continues to reside within the pastoral rural setting that first brought the Noerenberg family to Lake Minnetonka over 100 years ago.

Frederick D. Noerenberg

Frederick D. Noerenberg was born in Bietzicker, in the province of Pomerania, Prussia, in 1845, the son of Carl C. and Wilhelmina Noerenberg. He came to the United States with his family in 1860 at the age of 15 and settled in St. Paul. In 1868 he married Caroline Richmond and they had two sons, Frederick W. (1870-1907) and Edward C. (1873-1944). From 1870 to 1875 he operated a hotel in St. Paul and was later employed at the Christian Stahlmann brewery. His wife, Caroline, died in 1875. Three years later he married Johanna Sprungmann.⁷

F. D. Noerenberg Brewing Company

In 1875 Noerenberg moved to Minneapolis and continued working in the brewing business. In 1877 he became a partner with Anton Zahler, who in 1874 founded the City Brewery on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi River near 20th Avenue South. Within two years City Brewery was the second largest producer of beer in Minnesota. When Zahler died in May 1880, Noerenberg

⁶ Interview with Susan Granger by Rolf Anderson on March 28, 2013.

⁷ Rev. Edward D. Neill and J. Fletcher Williams, *History of Hennepin County and the City of Minneapolis* (Minneapolis: North Star Publishing, 1881), 605. Albert Nelson Marquis, ed., *The Book of Minnesotans* (Chicago: A. N. Marquis & Company, 1907), 378. Major R. I. Holcombe and William R. Bingham, *Compendium of History and Biography of Minneapolis and Hennepin County, Minnesota* (Chicago: Henry Taylor and Company, 1914), 421.

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took full control of the company, serving as its president.⁸ The brewery was renamed the F.D. Noerenberg Brewing Company. The *1888 Minneapolis City Directory* lists the address of Noerenberg's brewery as, "Bluff, cor(ner) 20th Avenue South." His residence was listed at the same address, a densely populated area adjacent to the industries along the Mississippi River.

The Minneapolis Brewing Company

In 1890 several breweries consolidated and formed the Minneapolis Brewing and Malting Company. These included the Germania Brewing Association, the F. D. Noerenberg Brewing Company, the Heinrich Brewing Association, and the John Orth Brewing Company. John W. Orth was named President and F. D. Noerenberg was First Vice President. Because the Orth brewery was considered the largest and most modern facility, it was chosen as the principal company plant. The Heinrich and Germania plants were also used for several years, but the Noerenberg brewery remained idle, although it was leased to the Imperial Brewing Company from 1901-1905. In 1891-92 the company constructed the facility that was to be its home for the next 83 years. Built on the site of the Orth brewery at 1215 Northeast Marshall Street, this immense complex was one of the largest and most modern facilities in the nation (NRHP, 1990). Over the next decade annual production capacity reached a half-million barrels. In 1893 the company reorganized as simply the Minneapolis Brewing Company.⁹ The company was later renamed the Grain Belt Brewing Company. In 1903 Noerenberg was named President of the company.

Wilkommen on Lake Minnetonka

In 1890 Frederick Noerenberg purchased 73 acres on Lake Minnetonka, with 8,490 feet of shoreline on Crystal and Maxwell Bays. Construction of an eight-bedroom Queen Anne style mansion and other estate buildings began shortly thereafter and soon Noerenberg and his family were year-around residents on the lake, which was unusual at a time when other wealthy residents of Minneapolis were generally building seasonal homes. The *1892-93 Minneapolis City Directory* lists his address as Markville, Lake Minnetonka. Markville was a location on Smith's Bay just to the east of the Noerenberg property that included a post office and train station.¹⁰ Noerenberg could ride to Markville in his horse-drawn carriage, take the North Shore Line of James J. Hill's Great Northern Railroad from there to Wayzata, and proceed to Minneapolis by train for his work at the Minneapolis Brewing Company.

Noerenberg is attributed with petitioning to have the public roadway that traversed his property moved further to the north away from the lake to provide a buffer for his home. A map of Lake Minnetonka from 1890 shows the roadway near the shoreline of Crystal Bay. A map from 1896

⁸ Michael C. Worcester, "From the Land of the Golden Grain: The Origins and Early Years of the Minneapolis Brewing Company," *Hennepin History* (Fall 1992): 9.

⁹ Worcester, 6-13.

¹⁰ According to *Minnesota Place Names*, the post office was also called Markville. Peter M. Mark, a traveling druggist, opened the post office in 1889. It was renamed to its present name, Crystal Bay, in 1907.

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shows the roadway relocated to its current location to the north.¹¹ This change divided the estate into two distinct areas; a 15.98 acre area south of North Shore Drive on Crystal Bay for the residential area and a 57.83 acre area to the north on Maxwell Bay where the farm was located.

There were also other major modifications to the property to form the landscape of the estate. Noerenberg created a large meadow on the west side of the property along Crystal Bay by infilling a low-lying area along the shore. A notation on an historic photograph of the meadow states, "Milton Stubbs did team work when the house (was) built about 1893. Granny Gibson Bay filled in as meadow."¹² The photo depicts the large meadow, the original fence, and a line of trees planted along the roadway. Noerenberg also dredged a channel along the west side of his property that connected Crystal and Maxwell Bays and he built a bridge over the channel. The waterway is still known as the Noerenberg Channel.

In addition to the ornate Queen Anne style mansion with a green tile roof, a carriage house, a combination boathouse and gazebo, and a pump house were built on the Crystal Bay portion of the property. Formal gardens were established in an area east of the house and many trees were also planted. The Noerenbergs were avid travelers and were known for the trees and specimens they collected and brought back to the estate. Among the trees they were known to have planted include Scotch Pine, Norway, Spruce, Paper Birch, Ohio Buckeye, Sugar Maple, American Elm, Common Hackberry, and native Oak. The design of the grounds of the estate reflects the English Landscape style, with expansive lawns, gardens, and groves of trees, all in a naturalistic, rather than geometric, arrangement.

The estate evolved over time and new buildings were added and some existing buildings were modified. Following a trip to Japan in about 1907, the upper portion of the Queen Anne style boathouse and gazebo was rebuilt in an exotic Oriental style popular during the period. The steep roof was replaced with a lower pitch, pagoda-style roof with flared eaves.

Noerenberg named his estate "Wilkommen," German for welcome¹³. The name rang true as the Noerenbergs were known for entertaining their friends and relatives and for their large parties. Frederick Noerenberg's attachment to the estate was noted in a biographical sketch from 1914 that stated, "Mr. Noerenberg is a lover of nature and has made his home at Crystal Bay, Lake Minnetonka, where he spends most of his time."¹⁴ (See Figure 2.)

The Noerenberg Estate Farm

The farm was built on the north side of the property along Maxwell Bay and included the barn, water tower, and various ancillary structures such as a granary, a shed, chicken coops, a greenhouse, and a farm house where the farm manager lived, and later the head gardener, Ray

¹¹ George W. Cooley, *Map of Lake Minnetonka, Hennepin County, Minn., 1896*, Borchert Map Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

¹² The photograph is in the collections of the Western Hennepin County Pioneer Museum, Long Lake, Minnesota.

¹³ The Noerenbergs spelled the word "Wilkommen," with one letter "l" rather than two, which is the expected German spelling.

¹⁴ Holcombe, p. 421.

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Forde. The north side of the property contained cultivated fields, meadows where the farm animals would graze, vegetable gardens, and fruit trees. The farm animals included horses, dairy cows, sheep, chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, and guinea hens. The large vegetable garden included tomatoes, potatoes, corn, squash, and other vegetables.

Like the south side of the property, the farm evolved over time. Major improvements were made in the early twentieth century when the current barn was built in about 1912. The new barn likely replaced an earlier barn at the farm. The design for the barn gave it an appearance consistent with the other major buildings on the estate, which featured high-style design features, and were painted white with green trim. The original water tower with a wooden tank was also replaced with the current water tower in the same time period.

A comprehensive depiction of the farm is provided by an historic aerial photograph. The photograph was taken on September 12, 1937 and provides detailed information about the farm as it would have appeared in close proximity to Frederick and Johanna Noerenberg's lifetimes.¹⁵ (See Figure 3.) The photograph depicts cultivated fields along North Shore Drive toward the west end of the farm and at the southeast side of the farm bordered by North Shore Drive and Old Crystal Bay Road. Large pastures were located in an area to the west of the barn and also along the far west side of the property near Maxwell Bay. Smaller garden plots are shown along the main farm road. The extremely low water levels are very apparent in the photograph. Ray Forde commented that during the drought years of the 1930s it was possible to grow hay far out into the lake. The photograph also depicts how a large portion of the land on the Crystal Bay side of the estate supported the farming operation. Both the Noerenberg meadow at the west side of the property and the land at the east side are shown as pastures.

Forested areas on the estate are also depicted in the photograph. These include a large area to the east of the barn and an area on the far northwest portion of the estate that extends into Maxwell Bay. But even forested areas were utilized for the farm. Historic fencing that is still in place encloses the forested area east of the barn allowing the cows to graze under the tree cover on hot summer days.

The Design of the Noerenberg Barn

No architect has been identified for the design of the Noerenberg Barn. One possibility is the Minneapolis architectural firm of Boehme and Cordella. The partnership was formed in 1902 by Christopher Boehme (1865-1916) and Victor Cordella (1872-1937). While the firm is best known for their design of the Swan Turnblad mansion (now the American Swedish Institute) in Minneapolis in 1903-07 (NRHP, 1971), they had connections with the brewing industry and designed buildings for a number of brewers. At the Minneapolis Brewing Company's main facility in northeast Minneapolis (NRHP, 1990) they designed the bottling house in 1906 and a warehouse in 1910, which was the first reinforced concrete building at the complex. Boehme

¹⁵Aerial Photography of Minnesota, County of Hennepin, Mark Hurd Airmapping Corporation, September 12, 1937, Sheet 6, page WN-25-2291, Agricultural Adjustment Administration, United States Department of Agriculture, Borchert Map Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

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and Cordella's partnership was dissolved sometime in 1911 and subsequent commissions were awarded solely to Christopher Boehme. According to the *Improvement Bulletin*, a regional construction periodical, Boehme handled the 1911 brick and reinforced concrete addition to the office building. In 1913 there was a "shop" addition at the complex that was probably handled individually by Boehme.¹⁶

The firm, and later Christopher Boehme, also designed or remodeled buildings for the Minneapolis Brewing Company in other parts of the city. The buildings are usually described as stores, offices, or taverns. A short distance to the south of the main brewery, the firm designed a tavern on East Hennepin Avenue in 1907. The tavern is located in the St. Anthony Falls Historic District (NRHP, 1971). In February 1911 the firm prepared plans for a new store front at 212 South 3rd Street. Another remodeling project from August 1911 for a store at 155 1st Avenue South only mentions Christopher Boehme. That same month Boehme prepared plans for a three story store and office at 510-03 Central Avenue. In September 1912 Boehme prepared plans for a one story brick addition to a saloon at 1700 2nd Street Northeast.¹⁷

Boehme and Cordella also designed buildings for the Gluek Brewing Company and for Gluek family members. In 1902 the firm designed a carriage house for the Minneapolis home of John and Minnie Gluek (NRHP, 1990).¹⁸ The carriage house is similar in design to the Georgian Revival style of the main house and features elaborate detailing and elevations that are carefully articulated. The building includes a gabled-roof second story bay that projects out over the first story and provides access to the hay loft. The Noerenberg barn features a similar bay. Perhaps most notable is a Palladian style window arrangement on the south end wall that is similar to the window arrangements on the Noerenberg barn.

Because of their long association with the Minneapolis Brewing Company, and the many commissions that were executed, it is possible that Frederick Noerenberg turned to his long-time architects for the design of his barn. Additionally, the engineering requirements of the reinforced concrete structural system would have necessitated professional expertise. There are also similarities between the Gluek carriage house and the Noerenberg barn. For these reasons, it is possible that Boehme and Cordella, or Christopher Boehme individually, was involved in the design of the barn.¹⁹

¹⁶ Michael Koop, *National Register of Historic Places Nomination for the Minneapolis Brewing Company*, State Historic Preservation Office, Minnesota Historical Society, March 1988. *Improvement Bulletin*, October 7, 1911, 21.

¹⁷ *Improvement Bulletin*, February 4, 1911, 22; August 12, 1911, 21; August 26, 1911, 20; September 28, 1912, 22.

¹⁸ Paul Clifford Larson, *National Register of Historic Places Nomination for the John G. and Minnie Gluek House and Carriage House*, State Historic Preservation Office, Minnesota Historical Society, July 12, 1989.

¹⁹The *Improvement Bulletin*, a regional construction periodical published weekly in Minneapolis, was the primary source consulted in an effort to identify the architect of the Noerenberg Barn. However, the holdings that have been located are incomplete. For the time period in which it is believed the barn was constructed, the following issues were consulted: January 7, 1911, February 4, 1911, March 4, 1911, and April 1, 1911 from the Minnesota Historical Society, and June-November 1911 and June-November 1912 from the Center for Research Libraries, Chicago, Illinois.

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Lora Noerenberg Hoppe

Frederick Noerenberg died on July 18, 1932 at age 86. He had remained president of the Minneapolis Brewing Company until just shortly before his death. His wife Johanna died on April 6, 1938 at age 82. The three children from Noerenberg's second marriage to Johanna then inherited the estate: Harold K. (1891-1964), Winnefred (1880-1961), and Lora Noerenberg Hoppe (1887-1972). They continued to manage the property in the tradition of their parents.

Of the three children, Lora Hoppe assumed the most active role in the management of the estate.²⁰ She also studied horticulture at the University of Minnesota and brought her professional training to the property. Lora hired Ray Forde as a gardener. He had previously worked part-time on the estate for Frederick Noerenberg while in high school. Forde recalled that when he was hired by Lora there were about 17 employees on the estate caring for the house, the farm, and the gardens. There was a chauffeur, a cook, a laundress, maids, and farm hands to operate the farm. Lora developed large cutting gardens and filled her family home with fresh flowers and also supplied flowers to local hospitals and the nearby Lafayette Club.²¹ Remarkably, the Noerenberg farm continued to operate into the modern era. Sheep were still grazing in the meadows as late as the 1960s and Ray Forde continued to harvest hay into the 1970s. Ultimately, Forde worked on the estate for a remarkable 54 years, retiring in 1981.

When Lora Hoppe died in 1972 she bequeathed the estate to the public as a memorial to her parents. Her will stipulated that the area of the estate south of North Shore Drive should be maintained for "public park purposes as an arboretum for flowers, shrubs and trees" and for "general display garden purposes." The northern portion of the estate was to be maintained as a natural area. For reasons that are unclear, the will also stated that the family's Queen Anne style mansion had to be razed. Additionally, her will stipulated that no intensive activities could take place on the grounds, such as swimming or picnicking, in order to preserve the serene atmosphere of the estate.²² Today the property is managed by the Three Rivers Park District and is known as Noerenberg Memorial Gardens.

The Country Place Era

The Country Place Era began in the last decades of the 19th century when wealthy Americans built elaborate country estates as a respite from city life. By the 1890s urban centers were overcrowded and rife with disease. At the same time there was an expanding upper class made possible by an increase in wealth that accompanied the growth of big business. Additionally, the restorative qualities of nature and the wholesomeness of rural life were being promoted during the Progressive Era as well as by individuals such as noted landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted.

²⁰ Lora was the only child of Frederick and Johanna Noerenberg to marry. Her husband, William Hoppe, died in an automobile accident several years after they married.

²¹ Unpublished interview with Mr. and Mrs. Ray Forde dated June 1985 in the archives of the Three Rivers Park District, Plymouth, Minnesota.

²² Will of Lora N. Hoppe in the archives of Three Rivers Park District, Plymouth, Minnesota.

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Wealthy individuals began to construct new estates in scenic areas on the outskirts of cities made accessible by new rail lines and later the automobile. While an architect might have been engaged to design the new residence, the services of landscape architects were often sought for complex tasks such as siting the house and other buildings, creating plans for the arrangement of the grounds, and designing landscape features. The Country Place Era estate not only provided relief from deteriorating urban centers, they also began to assume importance as artistic creations that would confirm their owner's cultural status, and, in the tradition of Olmsted, preserve areas of distinctive landscape beauty.²³

The programmatic requirements and the design philosophy for Country Place Era estates were defined in a 1917 publication titled *An Introduction to the Study of Landscape Design* by Henry Vincent Hubbard and Theodora Kimball. Both Hubbard and Kimball were associated with the Landscape Architecture program at Harvard University.

In developing a piece of land for his home in the suburbs or in the country, a man expects the property to satisfy certain fairly definite desires. Often he has been a city dweller, who has been looking forward through half a lifetime to this fruition of his work and increasing prosperity. For him commonly his out-of-town property represents ease, leisure, space, outdoor beauty

In the great majority of designs for private places which the landscape architect makes, in our time and country, the owners are not very widely different one from another in their way of living and in their more important requirements in use and enjoyment for living on their land. Each man will wish, first of all, a proper and convenient house in scale with the life which he expects to lead. He will also wish to own a piece of land which, together with the house, satisfies his sense of possession and plainly expresses his ownership. Usually a part of that expression will be some sense of boundary between what he owns and the neighboring properties. He will want a place for hospitality, for entertainment of his friends; and for himself and for his friends he will want a variety of interesting things to look at and a number of interesting things which can be done. Further, he will wish to enjoy the expanse of free spaces, he will be glad to have a piece of property from which a distant view is obtained. He may wish to take more or less active exercise of various kinds; he will also wish an opportunity to sit and rest, at his ease.²⁴

By the turn of the twentieth century, country life had become very fashionable. This growing appeal did not go unnoticed by the architectural press.²⁵ In 1902, the editor of *Architectural Record* reported that:

²³ Robin Karson, *A Genius for Place: American Landscapes of the Country Place Era* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2007), xv-xix.

²⁴ Henry Vincent Hubbard and Theodora Kimball, *An Introduction to the Study of Landscape Design* (New York: The McMillan Company, 1917), 247-248.

²⁵ Christopher Vernon, "Wilhelm Miller: Prairie Spirit in Landscape Gardening," in *Midwest Landscape Architecture*, ed. William H. Tishler (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2000), 176.

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[Americans] have decided that they do not take enough interest in the country, and now with perhaps even greater enthusiasm, they are preparing to make themselves more familiar with nature. Bird books are being published by the score and sell as well as romantic novels. Books about all kinds of gardens are almost equally in demand, and a hot fight is on between the advocates of the formal and the so-called 'natural' garden. Within the last six months two periodicals devoted to different aspects of country life have been started, and will, we hope, have a most prosperous existence.²⁶

The new magazines were *Country Life in America* and *House and Garden*. The first editor of *Country Life* was Liberty Hyde Bailey, a renowned botanist and horticulturalist from Cornell University. Bailey stated that:

Country Life in America is a country magazine for the country man, and for the city man who wants to know the country; it is not a city magazine that sees the country afar off and takes it for granted.... We hope that the smell of the soil will be on its pages.²⁷

Country Life featured a wide range of articles. For example, the July 1916 issue included articles on large estates as well as very specific articles on fireplaces and mantel details, roof gutters, growing dahlias, birds, sports, and farm animals.

Periodicals were very influential during Country Place Era and their affect was seen on the estates on Lake Minnetonka. George Nelson Dayton learned that Rose Farm was for sale from an advertisement in *Country Life* magazine.²⁸ He proceeded to purchase the property and renamed it Boulder Bridge Farm. Another periodical from the era was *The House Beautiful and the American Suburbs*. The July 1912 issue featured Belford, the Wayzata estate of James Stroud Bell and his wife Sally Ford. The name Belford was derived from a combination of their surnames. The article contained a site plan and 10 photographs of the property including images of the William Channing Whitney designed Mediterranean style mansion and the elaborately landscaped grounds by landscape architect A. Phelps Wyman that featured a Japanese water garden.²⁹

The Country Place Era continued into the twentieth century, inspired by nostalgia for nature and the attributes of rural life. Prestigious architects and landscape architects designed country estates that were built throughout the United States.

²⁶ "American Country Life and Art," *Architectural Record* 11 (January 1902): 112, quoted in Vernon, 176.

²⁷ Liberty Hyde Bailey, "What This Magazine Stands For," *Country Life in America* 1 (1901), 24-25, quoted in Vernon, 176.

²⁸ Deborah Morse-Kahn, *Boulder Bridge Farm: As It Was 1926-1950* (Minneapolis: Bolger, Vision Beyond Print, 2004), 22.

²⁹ Lilian Washburn Newlin, "Belford, A Renaissance House," *The House Beautiful and the American Suburbs*, July 1912, 33-36.

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Gentleman's Farms in the Country Place Era

Estates from the Country Place Era often included a working farm. Nationally, the best known estates from the era incorporated immense farming operations including George Vanderbilt's Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina, the du Pont's Winterthur Estate in Wilmington, Delaware, and the Webb's Shelburne Farms in Shelburne, Vermont. Frederick Law Olmsted, who was the landscape architect for Biltmore and also had a hand in the design of Shelburne Farms, was known to have encouraged his clients to include farming operations on their estates.

Working farms were often an important part of an estate and were viewed as a way for a "gentleman" to become connected with the land. The gentleman farms varied in their size and scale and their focus. Some were involved in experimental farming or raising certain animals or crops. Many gentleman farmers were interested in creating model farms and worked to improve sanitary conditions for cattle and increase milk production. Because they did not need to farm for a living, gentleman farmers were able to experiment with new building materials and could incorporate new technologies for tasks such as milking cows. They could run their farms based on efficiency, cleanliness, and the use of new devices.³⁰ The gentleman farmer often approached his farm with the same determination that brought such great success in his professional life.

Unlike the average farm, estate farms were often designed by architects and publications from the period provided detailed information about the design of farm buildings. A book on estate farms was written by Alfred Hopkins, an architect who designed many farms in New York State. He was the architect for the farm complex at Louis Comfort Tiffany's estate in Oyster Bay as well as Frederick Vanderbilt's farm on his estate in Hyde Park. His book, *Modern Farm Buildings*, balanced practical considerations with the aesthetic potential of the estate farm. When discussing the "artistic possibilities of the farm building," he wrote:

As the home needs the adornment of shrubs and trees and flowers, so do the fields and meadows require the amiable presence of animals to complete the picture; and indeed it may be argued that they and not man are the real tenants of the soil, and to house them properly and fittingly is a problem that no artist need despise. The various buildings necessary for their several uses are capable of such an infinite variety of groupings, that the requirements of the farm would seem to offer more scope to the architect than do the problems of the house. There are the tall towers for water or ensilage; the long, low creeping sheds for the storage of wood, farm implements and machinery; and the huge protecting and dominating structure required for the proper housing of the hay, grain and straw. With these buildings in effective combination and appropriately placed among the fields, the picture of the farm can be made so pleasing, and the idea of going back to Nature as the source of all sustenance so ingratiating, that it would be possible to build up an

³⁰ Cynthia G. Falk, *Barns of New York: Rural Architecture of the Empire State* (Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 2012), 58-61.

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effective philosophy on the principal that the architecture of the home should be made to resemble the architecture of the farm, rather than the other way about.³¹

Modern Farm Buildings includes photographs of many large and elaborate estate farms. They are often large complexes of buildings that represent a variety of architectural expressions ranging from log and stone construction to the Tudor Revival style. Many are highly landscaped and Hopkins points out the importance of providing landscaping for the farm. But beyond the physical appearance and aesthetic qualities of farm buildings, he discusses their practical requirements in great detail based on the best research and scientific knowledge of the day. Through floor plans, diagrams, and illustrations Hopkins discusses the ideal design features for various farm buildings including the cow barn, horse barn, hay barn, sheep barn, pig barn, dairy building, chicken house as well as other farm buildings such as the root cellar and ice house. Often his recommendations are from the standpoint of efficiency, particularly when several functions are contained within the same building or complex. Or he might emphasize how to achieve the most sanitary dairy building. But Hopkins also focuses on the living conditions of the farm animals. He discusses the ideal size of a horse stall versus the space required for a cow, as well as the type of floor surfaces, such as concrete, brick, or wood, that will provide the most comfort to a particular animal.

Hopkins' ideas about the architectural design of estate farms were echoed in the May 1916 issue of *Country Life in America* in an article titled, "The Consistent Farm Group," that encouraged the owners of gentleman's farms to hire an architect to design their farm buildings.

Why have an architect for a barn? Why not if you have an architect for your house? Isn't a barn as difficult to plan as your house? Isn't its sky-line of ridges, gables, and ventilators, its tower-like silo, its lower attendant tool shed, corn crib, and outhouses as prominent in the landscape as the roofs and chimneys of your house?³²

The article included examples of estate farms designed by architects. The designs featured a variety of styles including the Colonial Revival style. In each case, the farm buildings were integrated into a cohesive complex through their architectural designs.

Even at the time it was acknowledged that a gentleman's farm was not expected to earn a profit. When discussing the gentleman farmer Hubbard and Kimball noted that, "He may wish to make his life as much as possible that of a "country gentleman," and so he may develop at least a part of the estate as a farm, even though he knows that it may never be a financially successful farm."³³ The difficulty in realizing a profit was confirmed by Albert C. Loring who owned Woodend Farm located at the west end of Lake Minnetonka. Loring operated a large dairy and had milk delivered around the lake in a specially built refrigerator boat. When customers

³¹ Alfred Hopkins, *Modern Farm Buildings* (New York: Robert M. McBride and Company, 1916), 15-16.

³² Alfred Morton Githens, "The Consistent Farm Group," *Country Life in America*, May 1916, 27.

³³ Hubbard, 248.

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complained that 10 cents a quart was too high, Loring commented, "They shouldn't groan, it costs me \$2 a quart to put it on the market."³⁴

The willingness of the gentleman farmer to invest in both the aesthetic qualities of the farm as well as the most effective and efficient farming operation resulted in both an architectural legacy and an impact on farming in general. While the average farmer did not have the resources of the gentleman farmer, the innovative farming techniques developed and practiced on estate farms during the Country Place Era helped facilitate the broader implementation of modern farming practices.³⁵ On Lake Minnetonka, the gentleman farmers set high standards for milk production with a low-bacteria count and sold high quality livestock to average farmers at a low cost, which greatly improved the productivity of their herds.

The Country Place Era and Gentleman Farms on Lake Minnetonka's Estates

As the era of the great resort hotels on Lake Minnetonka was coming to an end in the late 19th century, wealthy residents began to acquire tracts of land and built elaborate summer homes and estates, reflecting a local manifestation of the Country Place Era that was taking place nationally. Some of the state's best known families built estates on Lake Minnetonka, which was located west of Minneapolis and became the focus of the Country Place Era in Minnesota. These included the Peaveys, Pillsburys, Boveys, Crosbys, Bells, McKnights, Daytons, and Loring. The larger estates often consisted of 25-100 acres with prominent locations and extensive lakeshore. The estates were often organized into a variety of use areas relating to domestic, service, and recreational functions and included a number of buildings. In addition to the main house, an estate might include a guest house, staff quarters, a carriage house, service buildings, a water tower, a boat house, and other buildings related to recreation. The estates were distinguished for both their architecture and landscapes and the owners often utilized the services of the best known architects and landscape architects of the day. In addition to impressive designs for the estate buildings, the grounds on many estates featured expansive lawns, elaborate gardens, and numerous landscape features. The Country Place Era estates created a world far removed from city life and the overall affect was no less than awe-inspiring.

A number of the estates on Lake Minnetonka included working farms. While some of the best known estates, such as Southways and Belford, were not known to include farming operations, a surprising number included highly-developed gentleman farms that become important components of the estate. It is also notable that a number of women, such as Lucia Peavey Heffelfinger and Carolyn McKnight Christian, were as active in their farming operations as some of the men.

Sometimes existing farm buildings were acquired when land for an estate was purchased. These buildings might be incorporated into the estate farm and new buildings would be added as needed. New farm buildings might resemble the straightforward designs typical of average

³⁴ Frances Loring Partridge, "Upper Lake Memories...or an Eventful Auto Trip in 1899," *Hennepin County History*, (Summer 1960): 18.

³⁵ Falk, 64.

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farms, but often the farm buildings were designed by the architect who designed the main house or other estate buildings. The farm buildings might reflect the style of the main house in order to create a unified design for the estate as a whole. Farm buildings might feature high-style designs and elaborate interior spaces that the average farmer could never afford.

A farm might contain a variety of buildings including one or more barns, a granary, storage sheds, a dairy for processing milk, a chicken coop, a greenhouse, and quarters for the farm manager or hired help. Livestock on the estate farm might include horses, cows, sheep, pigs, and goats. Dairy cows were particularly popular and competitions emerged to determine which farm had the highest milk production and butter fat content. Chickens, turkeys, ducks, and geese were also common. The farms contained large fields to grow feed for the animals. There were vegetable gardens and orchards, and berries were also grown. Gentleman farms varied in size. Some were of a smaller scale while the largest resembled commercial operations.

The following are among the best examples of the estates on Lake Minnetonka that included gentleman farms.³⁶

Hill/Shevlin/Tenny Farm

Beginning in about 1880, "Empire Builder" James J. Hill began to buy farmland on Crystal and Smith's Bays near the Noerenberg Estate. The "North Shore Branch" of Hill's Great Northern Railroad extended across the property to reach the Lafayette Hotel that he had built on the south shore of Crystal Bay. Hill also established a farm that supplied the nearby hotel. He pastured one of the first herds of purebred Aberdeen Angus cattle in the state and began experimenting with purebred Jerseys and Ayrshires that furnished milk and butter to the hotel. When the hotel was destroyed by fire in 1897, Hill moved his dairy herd to his farm at North Oaks, 10 miles north of St. Paul.

Hill sold his 200 acre farm to lumber baron Thomas Shevlin. At that time it is believed the farm contained at least two large barns. Shevlin built a large summer home on the property and continued the farming tradition. Later his son-in-law, D.D. Tenney, managed the farming operation and imported purebred Guernseys. Two of Tenney's high-producing cows sold at auction for over \$12,000 apiece.³⁷

³⁶ In addition to the estates on Lake Minnetonka, the Maywood estate (NRHP, 1970) near Rochester is an example of a Country Place Era estate in outstate Minnesota. The estate also included an extensive farming operation. Two impressive stone and wood barns with Colonial Revival style details still survive along with several additional farm buildings. The farm is now on a separate parcel from the main house and is used as an event center. Also, there may have been examples of gentleman's farms in Morrison County. Lumberman Charles Weyerhaeuser and his wife Maud owned a farm at Lake Alexander and M. M. Williams, who was interested in innovative farming techniques, owned a farm west of Little Falls. But little is known about either property.

³⁷ Meyer, "Dairying Around Lake Minnetonka," *Hennepin County History* (Fall 1977): 4. James J. Hill's North Oaks Farm grew to over 5,000 acres and included 34 buildings. Beginning in the 1950s, the farm was gradually subdivided to form the North Oaks residential community and the majority of the farm buildings were razed. Three of the original farm buildings, which remain on a five acre parcel, are listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP, 1997).

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While Thomas Shevlin's large summer home still survives on the property, the farmland was subdivided and the farm buildings were demolished. However, the limestone foundation survives from one of the barns along with the circular, concrete base of an attached silo. A concrete foundation also survives from a second farm building.

Highcroft Farm

The most celebrated Lake Minnetonka estate was Highcroft, built by grain merchant Frank H. Peavey and his wife Mary. The estate comprised over 100 acres with expansive views of Wayzata Bay. Architect William Channing Whitney designed the immense Georgian Revival style mansion in 1895. Interiors were by noted designer John Bradstreet. Landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted planned the grounds and gardens that cascaded from the house down toward the lake. Later landscape work was completed by Warren Manning, who had worked for Olmsted and later moved to Minneapolis.

Highcroft also had a working farm where Peavey bred Guernsey cattle and other livestock. A Wayzata plat map from 1898 depicts the farm complex located south of the main house near present day Ferndale Road. At that time the farm included five buildings. Historic photographs depict the buildings surrounded by acres of crops, vegetable gardens, and pasture land. The main barn was a large building covered with a gable roof with two tall ventilators that featured louvered sidewalls and peaked roofs. Six, large double-hung windows were positioned in each of the gable ends. The barn included several Colonial Revival style features, perhaps in an effort to create a consistent architectural expression along with the main house. A building constructed near the barn featured a gambrel style roof, which was also the same type of roof that was employed on the main house. The building was first used as a carriage house, and later as a garage with staff quarters on the second story.³⁸

After Peavey's untimely death in 1901, his daughter, Lucia, and her husband, Frank T. Heffelfinger, made the estate their primary home and continued the farming tradition. By 1930 its herd of top-producing purebred Guernseys was winning prizes at state fairs and national competitions. Highcroft and Boulder Bridge Farm were the only farms "east of the Rockies" to enter their herds of Guernsey cattle in the 1939 Golden Gate Exposition in San Francisco. Following Lucia's death in 1941, no one in the family shared her interest in dairying and the herd was sold. The estate was eventually subdivided and the mansion was demolished in 1953.³⁹ The farm buildings were also demolished with the exception of the gambrel-roofed carriage house, which was converted into a residence. Today the building resides on Highcroft Road on a small parcel of land in a residential subdivision.

³⁸ The 1898 Wayzata plat map and the historic photographs are found in the archives of the Wayzata Historical Society, Wayzata, Minnesota. Meyer, "Dairying Around Lake Minnetonka," 12.

³⁹ Larry Millett, *Once There Were Castles: Lost Mansions and Estates of the Twin Cities* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2011), 323-328. Ellen Wilson Meyer, "Dairying Around Lake Minnetonka," 12.

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Woodend Farm

Beginning in 1901, Albert C. Loring, president of the Pillsbury Flour Mill Company, began to purchase land at the west end of Lake Minnetonka near Boulder Bridge Farm. In time he acquired nearly 1,000 acres that were incorporated as Woodend Farm. The farm was named for a suburb of Lynn, Massachusetts, where Loring's wife spent her childhood. Loring built a Tudor Revival style house and a large dairy farm. The farm included two immense, gable-roofed barns that were joined with a one-story connection. There was also an adjacent tower. Because of its large size, the tower may have incorporated both a water tower and a silo. Like the house, the barns and tower were designed in the Tudor Revival style. The farm also included a yellow-brick dairy building and several large greenhouses.

Loring imported purebred Guernseys direct from the Isle of Guernsey and the herd gained a national reputation by the mid-1920s. Workers in the dairy building were required to take shower baths before sterilizing and separating the milk, which set a high standard for its low-bacteria count.

Woodend later became the property of Loring's son-in-law, H.R. Ward. In 1939 the herd was still listed among the top ten around Lake Minnetonka, but Ward soon gave up the expensive dairy operation. The greenhouses still remained as a commercial operation and were known as Woodend Greenhouses.⁴⁰

Today the Loring house still survives on a hill overlooking Lake Minnetonka, but a row of modern homes have been built between the house and the lake. The yellow-brick dairy building also survives and was used as a residence at one time. But the Tudor-Revival style barns and the tower and greenhouses have all been demolished. A portion of the Woodend Farm property, including the dairy building, became part of the Lake Minnetonka Regional Park.

Cris-Cros Farm

Cris-Cros Farm was established in 1909 near Wayzata Boulevard and Crosby Road. Its name was derived from two of its owners: Carolyn McKnight Christian and flour miller Franklin M. Crosby, who was her brother-in-law. Sumner T. McKnight, Carolyn's father, was the third partner. Each owned 40 acres of the farmland, which included a dairy herd and truck garden. The farm was managed by Fred Feser, and later by F. W. Locke, who developed a herd of registered Guernseys that at one time achieved the highest butterfat content in the state.

Sumner McKnight had a large cabin on the property where he liked to entertain. Carolyn Christian also had a cabin on her acreage, but all three owners maintained summer homes in the nearby and very fashionable Ferndale area of Wayzata. F.W. Locke, along with two hired men, bottled the milk and raised fruits and vegetables to supply the families of the three owners.⁴¹ The

⁴⁰ Meyer, "Dairying Around Lake Minnetonka," 4. Frances Loring Partridge, 17-18. Miller Dunwiddie Architects, "Historic Structures Report for Schmid Farmhouse Ruins, November 22, 2013, 13-14.

⁴¹ Meyer, "Dairying Around Lake Minnetonka," 5-6. Ellen Wilson Meyer, "Tales from Tonka: Oh, Those Golden Guernseys!," *Wayzata Weekly News*, n.d., in the files of the Wayzata Historical Society.

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farm also raised pigs that were advertised for sale in the *Wayzata Reporter*. The advertisement stated, "For sale, eight weeks old Yorkshire pigs, call on Fred Feser, Cris-Cros Farm, Wayzata."⁴²

The partners gave up active management of Cris-Cros Farm in the late 1930s, although Locke operated the dairy on a rental basis for several years until he returned to his own farm in Brooklyn Center. Shortly after his departure, an article in the *Minneapolis Star* dated October 15, 1944 reported that, "Lake Minnetonka Real Estate Activity Reaches All-Time High." The article noted that residential developments would be underway "as soon as the postwar building boom starts." By that time a portion of Cris Cros Farm had already been divided into 53 residential home sites in a subdivision called Holdridge Circle.⁴³

A barn from Cris Cros Farm was known to have survived until at least the late 1970s, although at the time it sheltered several horses rather than a Guernsey herd. A photograph of the barn from the 1970s depicts a typical barn building covered with a gambrel roof. One building still survives from Cris-Cros Farm. The building is located on Blackberry Lane and has been converted into a residence. It may have been a small horse barn and features a stone foundation and vertical board and batten siding. Even the sliding doors are still in place, but they now remain open and flank the front door to the house.

Boulder Bridge Farm

Boulder Bridge Farm was originally known as Rose Farm, the country estate of Edmund J. Longyear, a wealthy mining engineer. Longyear purchased the 90 acre property on Smithtown Bay in 1905 and built a sprawling, stone and shingle-clad Dutch Colonial style house. He also built a large barn and established a gentleman's farm raising cattle and horses.

The Longyear family owned Rose Farm until 1926 when George (Nelson) Dayton bought the property. Nelson was the son of George Draper Dayton, the founder of the Dayton Department Store in Minneapolis. Nelson wanted a country home for his family and he also wanted to establish a model dairy farm that would follow scientific practices and assist other dairy farmers in the area.

Each spring, Nelson, his wife Grace, and their five sons, Donald, Bruce, Wallace, Kenneth, and Douglas moved from their home in Minneapolis to the farm, returning in the fall. Nelson and Grace renamed the property "Boulder Bridge Farm" after a stone bridge that crossed over a lagoon as it entered Lake Minnetonka.

Nelson hired Leslie V. Wilson to serve as the superintendent of the farm. Wilson was a professor of dairy husbandry at the University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus. His task was to make Boulder Bridge Farm nothing less than the finest breeding and show farm in the state of

⁴² "Wants and For Sale," *Wayzata Reporter*, July 4, 1912, n.p.

⁴³ Quoted in Meyer, "Dairying Around Lake Minnetonka," 5-6.

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Minnesota. Dalt Long, who had a University of Minnesota agriculture degree and veterinary certification, was hired as head horseman. Olaf Kjome was hired as head dairy herdsman.

Work began to modernize the farm and seek out the best livestock in the country. Purebred Guernseys were purchased for the dairy herd along with Belgian draft horses to work the fields. Two 100-foot barns were built to house the growing herds and a 65-foot addition was made to the original barn. Nelson wanted to raise all the feed needed to support the dairy herd and purchased an additional 300 acres of land located nearby to grow alfalfa, corn, and oats. Land adjacent to the farm's original 90 acres was purchased for a poultry farm that included chickens, turkeys, geese, and ducks. He also purchased Shropshire sheep and Hampshire and Yorkshire sows. In 1935 Nelson purchased an additional 400 acres in nearby Victoria, making Boulder Bridge Farm the largest of the gentleman's farms on Lake Minnetonka.

Both the cattle and horses were traveling regularly on tour around the country to shows in specially built railroad boxcars. In any given year the itinerary might include the State Fairs of Minnesota, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Iowa; the National Dairy Show at Columbus, Ohio; the Waterloo Dairy Congress in Iowa; and the International Livestock Show in Chicago.

Boulder Bridge Farm's herds of Guernseys and Belgians continued to sweep the regional and national shows into the 1940s. Dairy production and quality continued at all-time highs. The milk was known for its low bacteria count as well as its high butterfat content. The Guernsey herd had grown from its original nine animals to over 225 head of cattle. In the 24-year history of the farm, 1,700 Guernsey calves had been raised and registered with the American Guernsey Cattle Club, the herd had won 598 blue ribbons around the country, and 219 championships at national shows, including eight National Grand Champion awards. Moreover, Nelson realized his dream of raising the level of Guernsey cattle conformation and production in the state and made the very best of his herd affordable and available to Minnesota farmers.⁴⁴

Historic photographs depict the very impressive farmyard that was distinguished by its size and scale. It included five barns, a number of smaller farm buildings, a farmhouse, as well as pastures and enclosures for the cows and horses. The shingle-clad main barn was particularly impressive and featured three clay-tile silos, and shed dormers with round-arched windows.

When Nelson Dayton died in 1950, the family decided it was time to sell Boulder Bridge Farm. The Guernsey herd was sold on October 6, 1950 in an auction with over 3,000 in attendance that attracted national attention.⁴⁵ The estate and farmlands were sold later that year. In 1976 a developer bought the original 90 acre property and began developing the Boulder Bridge Farm community, which now consists of 40 homes.⁴⁶ The original house survives along with the main barn, a smaller barn, and a livestock shed, which are now used by the Boulder Bridge Farm Homeowner's Association.

⁴⁴ Morse-Kahn, 9-65.

⁴⁵ The archives of the Excelsior Lake Minnetonka Historical Society contain a copy of the Boulder Bridge Farm auction catalogue.

⁴⁶ Bette Hammel, *Legendary Homes of Lake Minnetonka* (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2010), 30-35.

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Locust Hills Farm

Locust Hills Farm was originally called Carpenter's Point after H. M. Carpenter who purchased the property in 1875. It consisted of land south of McGinty Road and extending to Gray's Bay to the south and Wayzata Bay to the west. The property remained in the Carpenter family until 1933, although nine lots on Wayzata Bay were partitioned and sold in 1916. But the remaining property east of Bushaway Road, over 70 acres, remained intact.⁴⁷ The property was purchased in the late 1930s by Charles and Margaret Sweatt, who operated the property for over 60 years as one of the great estates of the Country Place Era. Charles Sweatt was an executive at Honeywell, a company founded by his father, William R. Sweatt.

The main entrance road to Locust Hills was off Bushaway Road. Upon entering the estate grounds, the road crossed a bridge over a picturesque lagoon that extended into the estate from Gray's Bay. The road proceeded through the grounds and up a hill to the highest point of land where the main house was located. The oldest portion of the house dates to the late nineteenth century. There were several subsequent additions until the house sprawled across the hillside. The estate also included an impressive stone and stucco Craftsman style garage and caretaker's quarters, staff quarters, and a guest house. In 1942 the architectural firm of McEnary and Kraft prepared plans for a horse and cow barn. Plans for a farm equipment building followed in 1945. Both were large, brick buildings designed in a picturesque Norman Revival style. The finely-detailed buildings featured steeply pitched hipped roofs with dormers and gables and multi-pane casement windows. Locust Hills Farm raised cows and horses, as well as chickens, pigs, ducks, and goats. One of the dairy cows won first prize at the Minnesota State Fair.⁴⁸

The highly landscaped grounds included acres of lawn, extensive gardens, pastures, a paddock for the horses, a swimming pool, and tennis courts. Locust Hills even had its own resident swans that resided in the lagoon in the summer and spent the winter in their own pool in the barn. It was so time-consuming to mow the immense lawns that Alma Thomallo, who managed the estate for the Sweatt family for many years, commented that once the groundskeeper finished mowing it was usually time to start all over again.⁴⁹ The estate was also known for its annual "Country Fair," to which the public was invited.

Locust Hills defied the passage of time and continued in the tradition of the great estates on Lake Minnetonka from the Country Place Era until Margaret Sweatt died at age 100 in 2001. In 2006 the property was sold and subdivided into 47 home sites. The terrain was altered and all buildings and structures were razed with the exception of the two Norman style farm buildings. The barn and equipment building are now used by the Locust Hills Homeowners Association. The barn was converted into a clubhouse.

⁴⁷ Irene Stemmer, *History of Bushaway Road and Its Neighborhood, 1858-2009* (2009), 8-9.

⁴⁸ Interview with Henry L. Sweatt by Rolf Anderson on October 15, 2014.

⁴⁹ Interview with Alma Thomallo by Rolf Anderson in July 2004.

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The End of the Country Place Era

Eventually, economic conditions precipitated by the Great Depression and World War II brought the Country Place Era to an end throughout the United States. Locally, the popularity of Lake Minnetonka, urban sprawl, and skyrocketing land values also prompted the subdivision of nearly all the large estates and gentleman's farms from the period.

Historian Paul Larson commented about the problems in preserving the large Lake Minnetonka estates. He describes the Highcroft estate as well as several other estates known for their large homes. Larson also discusses the problem of maintaining the vast acreages of the large estates and how, unlike Frederick and Johanna Noerenberg's children, subsequent generations were not always inclined to take on the challenging responsibility.

In a supreme stroke of irony, the three most pretentious Minnetonka summer monuments of the 1890s, each designed to be habitable for winter occasions, shared the same fate as the crude seasonal dwellings of the prior decades. Searle's lonely venture on Big Island ended with the premature death of his wife, the loss of his fortune, and a consuming fire. Katahdin also fell to fire early in the century, and Highcroft was bulldozed in 1953 to make way for a subdivision.

Even without fire or changing land use, the neoclassical giants were doomed from the beginning. It took a ton of coal to get the Katahdin heating system working, and Highcroft required eleven carloads just to make it through the fall season. The ambitious landscaping schemes of all three demanded an owner unusually devoted to horticulture, and none had children of like enthusiasm. Similar problems overcame Cedarhurst, R.M. Bennett's replacement (to Whitney's plans) of Charles Gibson's estate at Northome. Half-solving the heating requirements of a monstrous house and surrounding it with acres of meticulously managed land was as much of a death warrant as constructing a humble cottage on a tiny lot in one of the outmoded rustic styles.⁵⁰

Architecture historian Larry Millett also commented on the bygone era:

Mansions of course still stand in showy abundance all around Lake Minnetonka, but the age of the great estates is all but over, and there will be no new Katahdins or Highcrofts on the lovely wooded shores where Charles Gibson came long ago in search of a cooling summer breeze.⁵¹

As Lake Minnetonka's estates were sold and subdivided, estate farms and farm buildings were unlikely to survive, particularly along the shoreline. Open farm lands were prime for development and farm buildings were no longer in use. While there are several surviving

⁵⁰ Paul Clifford Larson, *A Place at the Lake* (Afton: Afton Historical Society Press, 1998), 62.

⁵¹ Millett, 306.

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buildings from the estate farms on Lake Minnetonka, such as the fine barn at Boulder Bridge Farm, they have been modified for new uses and now reside in residential subdivisions. Their original settings have been lost.

Conclusion

The Noerenberg Estate Barn is a rare surviving reminder of an era that has nearly vanished from the shores of Lake Minnetonka. The barn retains pristine historic integrity and reflects the high quality design and craftsmanship that characterized the gentleman's farms from the Country Place Era. The barn is distinguished by its substantial reinforced concrete construction, careful composition, and high-style detailing. The elaborate finished interior features carefully crafted doors, a brick-paved stable, and wood-paneled spaces. From a functional standpoint, the building's ventilation and feed-delivery systems are unusually complex. The property is also notable for its industrial-sized water tower and its ornate fence posts. All these features were beyond the reach of the average farmer and separate the property from the typical Minnesota farm. But the Noerenberg Estate Barn also stands apart from the surviving farm buildings from Lake Minnetonka's estates. When compared to the few remaining buildings, the interior of the Noerenberg barn is particularly elaborate and has not been modified in order to introduce new functions. Moreover, the barn remains on its original acreage and has not been compromised by suburban development and encroachment. The Noerenberg Estate Barn stands tall along the wooded shores of Maxwell Bay, recalling the pastoral rural setting that inspired Frederick and Johanna Noerenberg to leave Minneapolis and settle on the idyllic shores of Lake Minnetonka.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Archival Collections

Archives. Excelsior Lake Minnetonka Historical Society, Excelsior, Minnesota

Archives. Three River Park District, Plymouth, Minnesota

Archives. Hennepin History Museum, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Archives. Western Hennepin County Pioneer Museum, Long Lake, Minnesota.

Archives. Wayzata Historical Society, Wayzata, Minnesota.

Interviews

Gasch, Robert. Historian, Western Hennepin County Pioneer Museum, Long Lake, Minnesota. Interview by Rolf Anderson, October 27, 2014.

Janhke, Thomas. Forestry and Horticulture Senior Manager (ret.). Three Rivers Park District, Plymouth, Minnesota. Interview by Rolf Anderson, December 26, 2014.

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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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
Name of repository: Three Rivers Park District archives

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 6 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

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Or
UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Zone: 15 | Easting: 453 125 | Northing: 4978 100 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary is defined by the south shoreline of Maxwell Bay to the north and the northern edge of North Shore Drive's right-of-way to the south. The east boundary is defined by a north-south line 200 feet to the east of the center point of the barn and the west boundary is defined by a north south-line 200 feet west of the center point of the barn.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the Noerenberg Estate Barn and associated structures, the farm road, and the barnyard. The barn and barnyard represent the focal point of the working section of the farm and retain the highest historical and physical integrity.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Rolf T. Anderson
organization: _____
street & number: 212 West 36th Street
city or town: Minneapolis state: MN zip code: 55408
e-mail roanders6@aol.com
telephone: 612-824-7807
date: March 1, 2015

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

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Photo Log

Name of Property: Noerenberg Estate Barn
City or Vicinity: Orono
County: Hennepin State: Minnesota
Photographer: Rolf T. Anderson
Date Photographed: October 15, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 19. Barn, south and west elevations from Maxwell Bay, looking southeast
- 2 of 19. Barn, south and west elevations from Maxwell Bay, looking southeast
- 3 of 19. Water tower, looking north
- 4 of 19. Water tower base, road, and barn, looking northwest

Name of Property: Noerenberg Estate Barn
City or Vicinity: Orono
County: Hennepin State: Minnesota
Photographer: Phillip C. Mueller
Date Photographed: October 2014

- 5 of 19. Barn, south elevation, looking north
- 6 of 19. Barn, hayloft doors, looking north
- 7 of 19. Barn, roofline detail, looking northeast
- 8 of 19. Barn, south and west elevations, looking northeast
- 9 of 19. Barn, west elevation, looking east
- 10 of 19. Barn, east elevation, looking southwest
- 11 of 19. Tack room and carriage, looking north
- 12 of 19. Tack room and carriage, looking northwest
- 13 of 19. Stable, looking northwest
- 14 of 19. Stable, looking northeast
- 15 of 19. Horse stall, looking east
- 16 of 19. Sink, looking northwest
- 17 of 19. Spigot, looking northwest
- 18 of 19. Stanchions, looking northeast
- 19 of 19. Barn and road, south and west elevations, looking northeast

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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Figure 1: Contemporary aerial view of the Noerenberg Estate depicting boundary of the estate. Image from Three Rivers Park District.

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Figure 2: Frederick Noerenberg and his family on Crystal Bay c. 1900. Image from Three Rivers Park District.

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Figure 3: 1937 aerial view of the Noerenberg Estate. Note the low water levels of the 1930s. Image from the Borchert Map Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.

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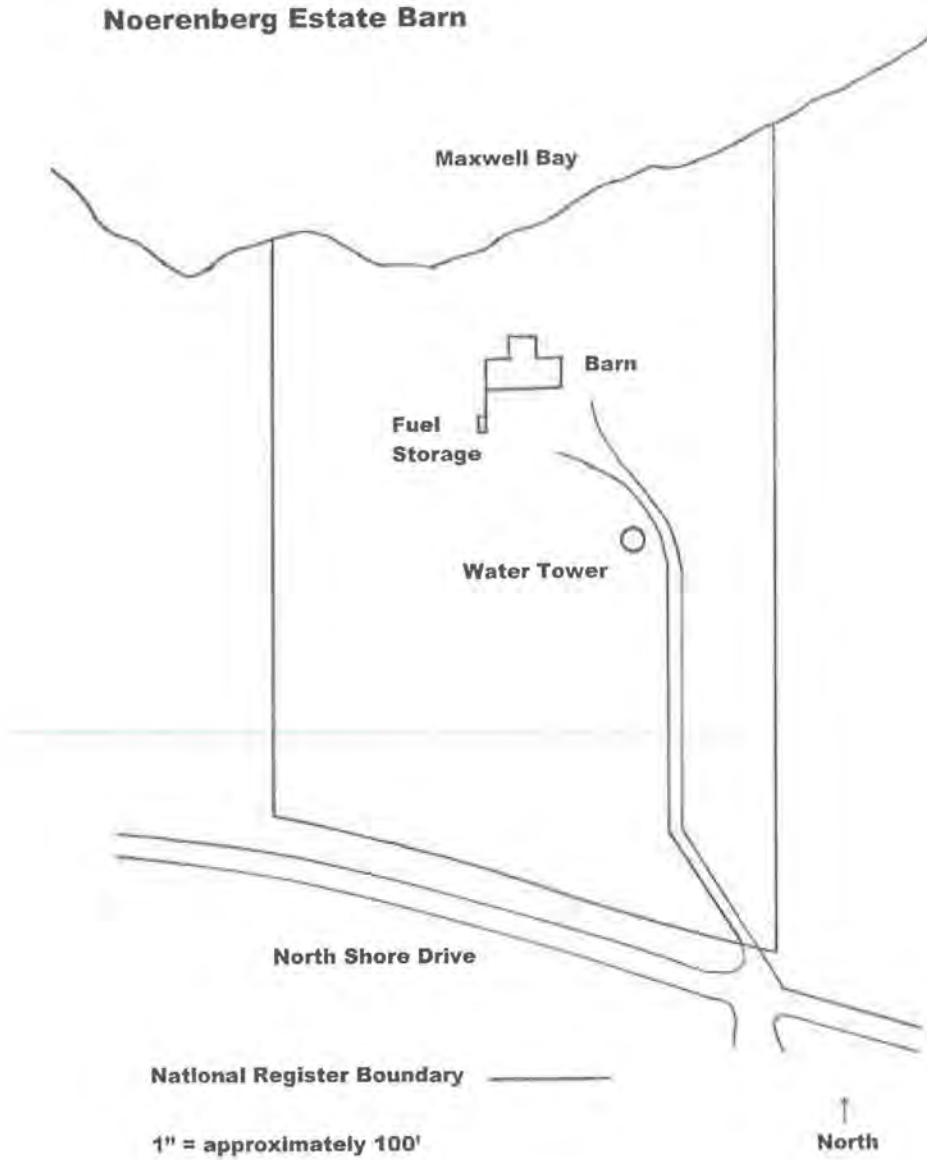


Figure 4: Noerenberg Estate Barn site plan with National Register boundary.







































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Noerenberg Estate Barn
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MINNESOTA, Hennepin

DATE RECEIVED: 7/03/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/24/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/10/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/18/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000527

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 8.18.15 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

Minnesota Historical Society
State Historic Preservation Office
345 Kellogg Blvd West, St. Paul, Minnesota 55102
651-259-3451

RECEIVED 2280
JUL - 3 2015
Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

TO: Stephanie Toothman, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Denis P. Gardner

DATE: June 25, 2015

NAME OF PROPERTY: Noerenberg Estate Barn

COUNTY AND STATE: Hennepin County, Minnesota

SUBJECT: National Register:
 Nomination
 Multiple Property Documentation Form
 Request for determination of eligibility
 Request for removal (Reference No.)
 Nomination resubmission
 Boundary increase/decrease (Reference No.)
 Additional documentation (Reference No.)

DOCUMENTATION:

- Original National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
- Multiple Property Documentation Form
- Continuation Sheets
- Removal Documentation
- Photographs
- CD w/ image files
- Original USGS Map
- Sketch map(s)
- Correspondence
 - Owner Objection
 - The enclosed owner objections
 - Do Do not constitute a majority of property owners

STAFF COMMENTS: