



251

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Soncarty, Edward and Ida, Barn

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 1671 Deep Creek Road N/A not for publication

city or town Potlatch N/A vicinity

state Idaho code ID county Latah code 057 zip code 83855-9775

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Kenneth C. Reid 14 Feb 08
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
KENNETH C. REID, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

Edson H. Beall 4.2.08
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Soncarty, Edward and Ida, Barn
Name of Property

Latah County, Idaho
County, and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

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

Historic Agricultural Properties of Latah County, Idaho, 1855-1955

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture/subsistence:
agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Agricultural/subsistence:
animal facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
walls WOOD
roof ASPHALT
other _____

Narrative Description

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

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" on one or more lines 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" on all that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Agriculture
- Architecture
- _____
- _____
- _____

Period of Significance

- 1928-1955
- _____
- _____

Significant Dates

- 1928
- _____

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

- Unknown
- _____
- _____

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested Other State agency
- 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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

Soncarty, Edward and Ida, Barn
Name of Property

Latah County, Idaho
County, and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property
Less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A 1/1 5/0/8/6/6/8 5/2/0/8/1/6/0 B 1 1/1/1/1 1/1/1/1/1
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

C 1 1/1/1/1 1/1/1/1/1 D 1 1/1/1/1 1/1/1/1/1

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundaries are the footprint of the barn and its horse shelter addition, located within the SE quarter of the NW quarter of Section 31, Township 43N, Range 4W

_ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 1

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries are the footprint of the historic barn and its modern addition.

_ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Suzanne Julin

organization Suzanne Julin, Public Historian

date May 8, 2007

street & number 500 Hartman F

telephone 406/544-8606

city or town Missoula

state MT

zip code 59802

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

* Continuation Sheets

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

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

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

* **Additional Items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

name Larry and Dee Ross

street & number 1671 Deep Creek Road

telephone 208/875-1127

city or town Potlatch

state ID

zip code 83855

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

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

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

Name of Property Soncarty, Edward & Ida, Barn
County and State Latah County, Idaho

Narrative Description

The Edward and Ida Soncarty Barn is located approximately eight miles north of Potlatch, Idaho (air miles) in northwestern Latah County, and approximately one-third mile west of U. S. Highway 95, which runs north and south through the western edge of the county. The barn, highly visible from the highway, is sited on an elevation above an open meadow that stretches between the barn and Highway 95. A modernized house and garage and an outbuilding are to the south of the barn. Timbered hills rise to the north and west, providing a striking background to the structure.

The board and batten barn is thirty feet by forty-eight feet and faces to the east. The barn is painted red with white trim. The original rock foundation piers have sunk, although some evidence of them is still visible. The east-facing main façade holds four square windows in simple wooden surrounds on the lower level. No glazing or glass remains in these windows. The board-and-batten siding is divided at the floor level of the second story with a horizontal board. The upper level contains a large hayloft door centered between two small rectangular windows with vertical mullions but no glass. A triangular hay hood covers the hayloft door and holds a hay fork. The Gothic-arch roof flares very slightly at the gable ends, which are highlighted with returns.

The southern elevation of the barn displays a vertical plank sliding door centered between two entry doors at each end. Both entry doors have simple wooden surrounds and retain original hardware. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles which were laid over the original wood shakes in the early 1950s. A cupola is centered on the ridgeline and features louvers on all four sides and an end-gabled roof.

From the west, the barn displays the same break in siding and gable end fenestration as the main façade. The reveals retain the original shakes used to roof the barn. There are four small, square windows on the lower level; two of them retain the original six-pane glazing. Two rectangular openings appear above the windows and feature board and batten coverings with original hinges.

A horse shelter was recently attached to the north elevation. It extends along eighty percent of the length of the building and consists of a shed roof with pole supports but no walls or foundation. Entry doors identical to those on the south elevation appear at each end of the barn.

The interior of the barn retains cow stanchions and a manure trench on the west and horse stalls on the east. Three sets of interior posts and beams support the structure and the loft floor. The loft is accessed by a ladder on the north wall. The roof rafters are constructed of cut, curved boards approximately 110 inches long, 1 inch thick, and 12 inches wide at their maximum width. These elements are nailed together to form the arch of the roof.

Summary

The Soncarty Barn retains a high degree of integrity. Changes to the barn are limited to the loss of window glazing, the sinking of the foundation rocks, the installation of a new electrical panel near the southwestern door, a small number of replaced internal braces, and the recent construction of the attached horse shelter, which has little affect on the appearance and integrity of the barn. The barn is one of the few Gothic arch roof barns in Latah County. The Edward and Ida Soncarty Barn is an excellent representation of both the Gothic arch form and the significance such a barn to a small, diversified farm operation during the period of significance, 1928-1955.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1

Name of Property Soncarty, Edward & Ida, Barn
County and State Latah County, Idaho

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Edward and Ida Soncarty Barn is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places on the local level under Criterion A, as a property associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, under the Multiple Property Documentation "Historic Agricultural Properties of Latah County, Idaho." It is also eligible for listing on the local level under Criterion C, as a property that embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction, being an excellent example of a Gothic arch truss barn. The Soncarty Barn represents the history of agriculture in Latah County through its illustration of the subsistence style of farming practiced in the far northern section of that county. The Gothic arch roof barn is one of a small number of barns of this style in Latah County and represents a national barn style that developed after about 1915.

Agriculture in Latah County

Latah County, Idaho, is located in the panhandle of Idaho and borders the state of Washington. The county covers slightly over one thousand square miles and contains approximately 697,000 acres. The terrain ranges from wooded hills and mountainous areas in the east and north to the Palouse prairie and boundary farmlands of the south and west. Latah County was established in 1888, the only county in the country to be created by an act of Congress. This unusual legislation carved out the new political unit from Nez Perce County to the south in response to demands by area residents, particularly farmers, for convenient access to government services.

The Palouse region is the dominant natural feature of Latah County and the origin of much of its agricultural prosperity. Part of the Columbia Plateau, the hilly, semiarid Palouse occupies southeastern Washington and a small portion of northern Idaho. It is the result of millions of years of climatic factors including the deposit of large quantities of soil by prevailing winds; these loess soils can reach depths of up to fifty feet and have provided some of the nation's highest wheat yields since farmers began planting the grain. The eastern section of the Palouse, including the portion within Latah County, exhibits steep hillsides less evident in the drier western section. The region's mild climate brings fall and spring precipitation and dry summer months ideal for grain crops. The success of the Palouse as an agricultural area overshadows the county's north and east sections, which contain less cleared ground and more wooded areas than the southern areas, and have shorter growing seasons.

Before white settlement began, the Palouse Indians, who called themselves Na-ha-um, the People of the River, inhabited a wide area including portions of Latah County. Between 1800 and 1850 they began to make contact with white explorers and traders and pressure from westward migration adversely affected the Palouse Indians. In 1855, a treaty between the U. S. and regional tribes gave the Palouse five years to move west to the Yakima reservation. Even before their lands were opened to settlement, white settlers began coming and clashes between the groups resulted in the entry of the U. S. Army. The Palouse and other bands were defeated, and by 1900 most of these Indians were living on reservations.

In the early 1860s, settlers began to set up ranching operations in the Palouse west of present-day Latah County, and by late in that decade they had occupied most of the choice bottomlands in the Palouse, including the Paradise Valley near present-day Moscow. As the 1870s began, more people spread into areas now in western Latah County. The development of agriculture in the area was furthered by farmers' realization that not only the bottomlands were desirable for growing crops, but also the Palouse hillsides offered fertile soil ideal for dry-land farming of wheat. Soon, farmers were tilling any slope not too steep for their machinery. By the early 1880s, most of the best Palouse land was taken, and settlers who did not have the ability or the opportunity to buy existing farms, began to move to the edges of the area, which were less desirable agriculturally.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2

Name of Property Soncarty, Edward & Ida, Barn
County and State Latah County, Idaho

Although wheat would eventually dominate much of Latah County crop lands, most farmers in this period continued to practice diversified agriculture. As wheat became the county's most profitable crop, many other agricultural products were phased out. Even as wheat farming thrived, however, some farmers, many of them limited by soil and climate conditions, farm size, or economic factors, did not expand to significant commercial grain operations.

The earliest settlers broke ground and harvested on a small scale, cutting hay with scythes, for instance, and seeding, binding and shocking grain by hand. As horse-drawn implements and machinery such as gang plows, mowing machines, balers, threshers and combines became available, farmers could work larger areas of land. The Palouse hills, some as steep as forty degrees, required more horsepower than farmers with flat fields needed, and large teams of horses pulling machinery became common sights in the region. Four-horse teams might pull a seed drill, and six-horse teams could plow about four acres of ground a day, even on steep slopes. Between twenty to forty-four horses might be required to pull the heavy combine harvesters up the steep slopes and into the deep gullies. While the advent of this horse-powered machinery helped many farmers expand, it also required significant investment. Not only did they need to buy equipment, they also needed to purchase or raise draft horses and provide feed and barns for them. Because of the need for large numbers of horses to do field work on demanding terrain, Palouse area barns were about twenty feet wider and longer than average-sized American barns. Farmers who did not run large commercial grain operations continued to maintain smaller numbers of horses and build smaller barns.

As gas-powered machines that could be effective on hillsides were developed and marketed, mechanization of farms in Latah County increased. To address the high costs of these changes, many farmers further expanded their holdings in order to create an efficiency of scale; by 1930, one out of ten Palouse farms were 1,000 acres or larger. Many smaller operators—particularly those who farmed on the fringes of the fertile Palouse—could not afford to expand and thus could not generate enough income to justify the cost of new machinery. Mechanization in the 1920s helped reinforce a cycle that had begun in the nineteenth century as farmers pursued the market economy: operators had to expand in order to make more cash; and they had to make more cash (or go further into debt) to fund their expansion. At the same time, farmers who could not expand because of location or individual economic condition operated smaller, more diversified farms. As farmers faced the problems of the 1930s, the terrain in Latah County continued to affect the development of diverse agricultural landscapes and buildings.

The ravages of the Great Depression—both economic and environmental—had a profound effect on American agriculture. Drought, soil loss, and insect infestations plagued farmers trying to raise crops. The national financial crisis affected banks and businesses that the farmers depended upon. Government programs instituted to address agricultural problems brought new regulations and operating procedures. Latah County farmers, on the whole, did not suffer to the extent that farmers in other areas of the country did. High wheat prices at the end of the 1920s helped the prosperity of wheat farmers, and problems of drought and insects were not as severe as those suffered by farmers in the Midwestern section of the country.

Latah County farmers did not escape unscathed, however. In part because of a world-wide wheat surplus, prices began to fall after the summer harvest. Although the stock market crash in October 1929 increased nervousness among farmers, wheat prices at the end of the year were better than they had been twelve months earlier. Growers continued to hope for the best, but those hopes proved futile. As the economic depression wreaked havoc on the nation and the world, agricultural prices dropped and the price of wheat reached a low of thirty-eight cents a bushel by the end of 1932, down dramatically from the \$1.50 per bushel farmers had received before the stock market crash. Still, many large wheat farmers had built up a substantial financial base that helped them survive, while most farmers in the north and east sections of the county had developed diversified farms which provided for the immediate needs of their families.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 3

Name of Property Soncarty, Edward & Ida, Barn
County and State Latah County, Idaho

World War II brought the Great Depression to a final end for the country and for its farmers. As the cycles of drought, wind, and insect infestation ended, the outbreak of war in Europe increased demand for agricultural products. By the end of 1941, wheat imports were up; by 1944, the price per bushel had topped \$1.30, a boon to Latah County wheat growers. Area farmers also profited from peas, a relatively new crop that had been planted during the Depression in part as a way to prevent erosion and replenish the soil.

After World War II, American agriculture became increasingly specialized. As large numbers of Palouse residents had in earlier decades, many farmers nationwide gave up stock-raising, chicken-raising and other efforts at diversification in order to concentrate their lands and assets on particular commercial crops. Small scale farmers, who did not have the ability to invest in the machinery or land required to profit from such specialization, found their economic conditions more and more precarious. Thus, small farms were more likely to go up for sale and to be absorbed by larger operations. This model had been evident in Latah County for decades, due to the opportunities for large-scale wheat farming. Mechanization also accelerated during the 1950s. The number of tractors in Latah and Whitman counties increased by 58 percent, indicating that very few farmers still used horses in farm work, and fences began to disappear after landowners no longer needed to pasture cattle and horses. Operators purchased new machinery, including larger tractors and combines well-suited to the Palouse terrain. The combination of high crop yields and good prices encouraged the long-standing trend toward farm expansion. Palouse farms, already larger than the national average, continued to grow in size.

The history of Latah County agriculture repeats a constant theme. Farmers who were able to acquire and utilize the richest land and concentrate on a profitable crop—usually wheat—prospered and expanded. Those whose lands were less productive and whose economic conditions were less stable continued to follow a more diversified model. They relied on a variety of means—including stock and chickens, dairy products, gardens and orchards—to help feed the family and also to provide some cash income. In addition, they were more likely to supplement that income by working outside the farm, particularly in the logging industry. Thus, the county provides an unusually vivid example of the shift from subsistence/diversified small farming to large-scale, specialized agriculture.

This shift can be seen Latah County's built environment. As one travels from the western Palouse area to the rougher and more timbered areas of the north and east, the farmsteads become more compact, barns less imposing, and farmhouses less elaborate. The trajectory of Latah County agriculture—a trajectory very illustrative of American agriculture as a whole—is visible in its buildings and its landscape.¹

Gothic Arch Roof Barns

Latah County holds a large number of pre-1950 barns built in a variety of styles and for a variety of uses. Nineteenth century barns generally featured gable or split gable roofs that resulted in loft space constricted by the pitch of the roof angles and the cross braces and other features of the support system. The late-nineteenth century development of the gambrel roof resulted from new construction techniques as well as the need to expand loft space to accommodate loose hay for large numbers of stock. The gambrel roof, with two roof slopes on each side of the ridgepole, decreased the need for internal roof support and created more space in the hayloft. The Gothic arch roof, also called the rainbow or round roof, came into use about 1915 and expanded upon this need for maximum hay storage space by eliminating angles and bracing. The Gothic arch roof also provided a particularly attractive and wind resistant roof design. Typically, the roofs were constructed with a series of built-up sawed or cut rafters, or bent and laminated rafters, or a combination of the two. The rafters were constructed to be strong enough to hold the shape of the roof without bracing. Companies including Sears, Roebuck and Co., marketed kits and plans for Gothic arch barn to farmers. In 1916, the *Idaho Farmer* magazine stated that the Gothic arch barn would become widely used, particularly on dairy farms, but the relatively expensive and complicated construction limited the popularity of the Gothic arch barn. Despite this, they were built in large numbers in some parts of the United States, including North Dakota.²

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 4

Name of Property Soncarty, Edward & Ida, Barn
County and State Latah County, Idaho

The Soncarty, Edward and Ida, Barn

The Soncarty Barn illustrates the nature of agriculture in the northern section of Latah County, an area outside the rich soils of the Palouse and characterized by extensive timbered areas. Farms here usually remained small and diversified and farmers often worked off the farm in order to generate a cash income. The Edward and Ida Soncarty Barn represents these small, diversified family enterprises.

Edward Soncarty, of French-Canadian descent—his original family name was Sanscartier—was born on November 14, 1885. He grew up in Illinois and as an adult traveled to the southern California coast, where he worked as a chef. Sometime before 1909 he left California and relocated in northern Latah County, Idaho, where he initially lived with an uncle, George Teas, and worked as a farmhand and as a member of haying crews. Within a few years, he purchased at a tax sale, a small parcel of land in the Deep Creek section of northern Latah County, an area of open meadows and timbered hills. The property held a small hip-roof house and three outbuildings when he took possession and began farming the property.³

One of Edward Soncarty's employers was Gotfried Bysegger, a Swedish immigrant who lived with his family about a mile south of Soncarty's property. Edward Soncarty did farm work for the Byseggers and worked on Gotfried Bysegger's haying crew. On December 21, 1916, he married Bysegger's seventeen-year-old daughter Ida, who was thirteen years his junior. The bride and groom traveled by horse and sleigh to Colfax, Washington, where they were wed at the Presbyterian parsonage. She wore a white dress and a rose in her hair and carried a bouquet of flowers; he dressed in a suit with a carnation boutonniere. The couple honeymooned in Spokane.⁴

Edward and Ida Soncarty enjoyed a relatively elegant wedding and a honeymoon, but returned to a simple life on the farm. They grew some wheat and oats, raised cattle for sale and as a family meat supply, and kept nine or ten milk cows. Like most of their immediate neighbors, the Soncartys could not generate an appreciable amount of cash from property that held so little cleared land, and much of their income was derived from Edward Soncarty's employment off the farm. He worked as a logger, a thresher, and an auctioneer to augment the family's finances. The Soncartys slowly accumulated additional land and eventually their farm was comprised of nearly four hundred acres.⁵

In about 1928, this farm expansion included the construction of a new barn. The Gothic arch roof style of the barn appears to have been a neighborhood trend; three similar barns were built in the vicinity at about the same time. A local farmer, Durrell Nirk, either purchased the pattern for the barn or made the pattern himself, and shared it with his neighbors. Nirk's barn, built about 1927, was the first of the Gothic arch roof barns in the neighborhood. The Soncarty barn was set on a foundation of rock piers and painted red and white. The barn sheltered the family's milking operation and the team of horses they used for haying and logging. Edward Soncarty hunted to provide meat for his family, and he hung any deer he killed in the barn. The loft provided ample storage for loose hay to feed the animals and also served a recreational purpose. Before the loft was filled with hay for the first time, men from the surrounding area and the community of Potlatch gathered to play basketball there.⁶

Ed and Ida Soncarty began to expand their family at about the same time they built the barn. Their first child, Ovid, was born in 1926 but died in infancy. Lowell was born in 1927, Norman in 1930, and Shirley in 1933. Their subsistence style of farming served them well during the years of the Great Depression and they were able to continue providing for their family's needs from their dairy cows, garden, and chickens. Ed Soncarty continued to work off the farm and also began a new enterprise. He put together the elements of a sawmill in the loft of the barn and constructed it to the rear of the farm buildings. The sawmill provided another source of cash as well as lumber for the home the Soncartys began building in about 1937. Construction on the house continued slowly, however, and much of the interior was still unfinished when Ed Soncarty died in 1945. Following his death, the

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 5

Name of Property Soncarty, Edward & Ida, Barn
County and State Latah County, Idaho

three children worked on the farm and at various jobs to help support the family, and Ida Soncarty raised a large garden, canned produce, and sold potatoes. She also tended chickens and sold eggs, and continued to milk cows and sell milk and cream. One of her customers was Hunter's Candy in Moscow, which purchased the Soncarty cream for use in candy production. The Soncartys continued to use horses for farm work until the late 1940s, when they purchased their first tractor. The family installed an electric milking machine in the 1950s and after he returned from service in the Korean War, Norman Soncarty replaced the original hay fork equipment—designed to lift loose hay—with new technology that could accommodate hay bales. The barn continued to be the center of family farm production and to serve a variety of purposes.⁷

In the second half of the twentieth century, Ida and her son Lowell Soncarty continued to operate the farm with the help of Norman Soncarty, who lived with his wife Virginia and their children on a nearby property. The Soncarty grandchildren particularly enjoyed visits to the barn, which continued to shelter the milk cows, Lowell Soncarty's riding horse, and many generations of kittens. Ida Soncarty stayed on the farm until 1987, when she moved to a facility in Moscow. She died in 1991, and Lowell Soncarty inherited the portion of the property that included the buildings. He died in 2000, and Bennett Tree Farms, Inc. purchased the farm the following year. That company sold ten acres and the farm buildings to Larry and Dee Ross, who live in the farmhouse and use the barn as a shelter for their horses.⁸

Significance of the Soncarty Barn

The Soncarty, Edward and Ida, Barn illustrates the history of agriculture in northern Latah County, where the elevation, stands of timber, and lack of cleared ground precluded the large scale farming evident in the Palouse area of the county and resulted in small, subsistence-type family farms. The Soncarty Barn served as a stock shelter, storage space for hay, and center of milking operations for this small farm, and symbolized their success as small-scale, diversified farmers. The barn also represents the Gothic arch roof style that enjoyed popularity after 1915 because of its wind resistance, capacity for hay storage, and striking appearance. Only a small number of these barns remain in Latah County.

Endnotes

1. Adapted from Suzanne Julin, "Agricultural Properties in Latah County," Draft, National Register of Historic Preservation Multiple Property Documentation Form, May 2007.
2. "Barns of North Dakota," <http://www.lib.ndsu.nodak.edu/collections/exhibits/barns/php>, accessed April 14, 2007; Michael and Susan Dailey and Joan L. Brownell, "Oliver and Lucy Bonnell Gothic Arch Roofed Barn," Clyde Park, Montana, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, April 2004, n.p.; John C. Wooley, *Farm Buildings* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1941; second edition 1946), pp. 245-250; Richard E. Phillips, *Farm Buildings From Planning to Completion* (St. Louis, Missouri: Doane-Western, Inc., 1981), p. 227; Michael Karl Witzel, *Barns: Styles and Structures* (St. Paul, Minnesota: MBI, 2003), pp. 96-97; *Patterns of the Past: The Ada County Historic Site Inventory* ([Boise, Idaho: s.n., 2001]), p. 101.
3. Interview with Norman and Virginia Soncarty, April 3, 2007. Hunting license issued to Edward Soncarty in 1909 and photograph taken of him during his time in California, collection of Norman and Virginia Soncarty; Virginia Soncarty to Suzanne Julin, May 20, 2007.
4. Obituary, Ida Soncarty, *MoscowIdahoian/The Daily News*, October 16, 1991, in Latah County Historical Society Museum General/Biography archives; Interview with Norman and Virginia Soncarty; wedding photograph, collection of Norman and Virginia Soncarty.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 6

Name of Property Soncarty, Edward & Ida, Barn
County and State Latah County, Idaho

5. Interview with Norman and Virginia Soncarty.
6. Interview with Norman and Virginia Soncarty; Photographs of Soncarty Barn, c. 1928, collection of Norman and Virginia Soncarty; Virginia Soncarty to Suzanne Julin, May 14, 2007.
7. Interview with Norman and Virginia Soncarty; Obituary, Ida Soncarty.
8. Obituary, Ida Soncarty; Interview with Norman and Virginia Soncarty; Virginia Soncarty to Suzanne Julin, May 20, 2007.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 1

Name of Property Soncarty, Edward & Ida, Barn
County and State Latah County, Idaho

Bibliography

"Barns of North Dakota." <http://www.lib.ndsu.nodak.edu/collections/exhibits/barns.php>. Accessed April 14, 2007.

Dailey, Michael and Susan and Joan L. Brownell. "Oliver and Lucy Bonnell Gothic Arch Roofed Barn." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. April, 2004.

Julin, Suzanne. "Latah County, Idaho, Agricultural Properties." Draft, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form. May, 2007.

Patterns of the Past: The Ada County Historic Site Inventory. [Boise, Idaho: s.n., 2001].

Phillips, Richard E. *Farm Buildings From Planning to Completion*. St. Louis, Missouri: Doane Western, Inc., 1981.

Soncarty, Ida, obituary. *Moscow Idahoian/The Daily News*, October 16, 1991. Latah County Historical Society Museum General/Biography Archives.

Soncarty, Norman and Virginia. Interviewed by Suzanne Julin, April 3, 2007.

Soncarty, Norman and Virginia photograph and documents collection.

Soncarty, Virginia to Suzanne Julin, May 14 and May 20, 2007

Witzel, Michael Karl. *Barns: Styles and Structures*. St. Paul, Minnesota: MBI, 2003.

Wooley, John C. *Farm Buildings*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1941; second edition, 1946.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photos **Page** 1 **Name of Property** Soncarty, Edward & Ida, Barn
County and State Latah County, Idaho

Photographs

Negatives on file at Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, Boise, Idaho.

1. HISTORIC PHOTO: Soncarty, Edward and Ida, Barn.
Potlatch, Latah County, Idaho
Photographer Unknown
[c.1928]
Courtesy collection of Norman and Virginia Soncarty, 1009 Strong Lane, Potlatch, Idaho.
View to West
2. Soncarty, Edward and Ida, Barn
Potlatch, Latah County, Idaho
Photographer: Suzanne Julin
April 2, 2007
View to West
3. Soncarty, Edward and Ida, Barn
Potlatch, Latah County, Idaho
Photographer: Suzanne Julin
April 2, 2007
View to North
4. Soncarty, Edward and Ida, Barn
Potlatch, Latah County, Idaho
Photographer: Suzanne Julin
April 2, 2007
View to Northeast
5. Soncarty, Edward and Ida, Barn
Potlatch, Latah County, Idaho
Photographer: Suzanne Julin
April 2, 2007
View to South
6. Soncarty, Edward and Ida, Barn
Potlatch, Latah County, Idaho
(Stanchions)
Photographer: Suzanne Julin
April 2, 2007,
View to Northeast
7. Soncarty, Edward and Ida, Barn
Potlatch, Latah County, Idaho
Photographer: Suzanne Julin
April 2, 2007
View to Northwest.