

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

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**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **DEC 14 1982**
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Christopher Knoell Farmstead

and/or common Knoell-Bang Farmstead

2. Location

street & number NA NA not for publication

city, town Fremont *vicinity* vicinity of

state Nebraska code 031 county Dodge code 053

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	NA <input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Bang

street & number Rural Route 1

city, town Ames vicinity of state Nebraska

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds, Dodge County Courthouse

street & number Southwest corner 5th and Park Street

city, town Fremont state Nebraska

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date On-going federal state county local

depository for survey records Nebraska State Historical Society

city, town Lincoln state Nebraska

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>NA</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Christopher Knoell farmstead represents an example of a well-preserved early farmstead in eastern Nebraska. The homestead still retains the majority of representative structures used in the farming and cattle raising operations of the Christopher Knoell and Lyle Bang families from the 1800's to the present. The most significant building of the farmstead is the two story brick Italianate house built in 1888. The barn, built in 1908-09, is situated directly west of the house. The remaining farm buildings, including a garage, wash house, chicken shed, privy, cob house, corn crib, granary, machine shed, cattle shed and an additional small shed, are arranged in an extended yard effect around the brick house. The farmstead is surrounded by natural features including winding creeks and virgin prairie lands, as well as large windbreaks to the north and east. The nomination includes 160 acres of land. The farm is still occupied and operated as a family farm. Structural and historical integrity of the site have been preserved except for alterations made to the house including the installation of a wrought iron railing on a second story walkout porch, and the removal of two exterior chimneys.

The Christopher Knoell farmstead is located in Nickerson township of Dodge county approximately six miles northwest of Fremont, the county seat. The site lies in the valley between the Elkhorn and Platte rivers, with Rawhide Creek running through the southwestern-most portion of the farmland. An additional small creek flows along the northeast edge of the farm buildings. The main farm group is located on land obtained by Christopher Knoell in 1871.

The remaining lands include crop fields, pasture, virgin prairie and additional creek bottom lands, which were purchased by Christopher Knoell in 1869 and 1871. The lands included in the nomination are representative of the historic Knoell agricultural farm and are only those immediately adjacent and intimately associated with the farmstead. This nomination does not include the entire area of the historic farm which by 1919 included 1093 acres - some of which is now owned by other persons.

The farmstead is a relatively compact group of buildings including some twelve separate structures situated in an extended farm yard arrangement. Access to the site is directly into the yard along a quarter mile land from the northwest. The dwelling is the focal point of the farmstead, with the garage, barn, chicken shed and privy occupying the northern boundary. The yard is terminated at the southeast end of the grass lane by the granary and corn crib (see sketch map). The majority of the outbuildings (see sketch map, site #'s 1-7, 11, 12) are arranged in a grid-like pattern leaving the southern boundary open. In William Tishler's The Site Arrangement of Rural Farmsteads he states: "the most convenient disposition of the outhouses of a farm. . . is in the form of a long rectangle, or a square, as the case may be, open at one side, -- generally at the south, -- so as to admit the air to the cattle in the yards, and allow sufficient sunshine to them in winter." Perhaps this is the reasoning Christopher Knoell incorporated into the layout and operation of his farm and cattle raising business.

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The following list, according to the Historic American Building Survey formula, describes the significant structures and sites included in the farmstead (see sketch site plan for items #1-12).

1. House: brick, cross-shaped in plan, 8.56 x 14.7 meters (28'1" x 48'3"), two stories, low-pitched hip roof with wide eaves, paired brackets, two story bay window, four original porches, Eastlake detailing, second story walkout, tall, narrow one-over-one pane windows with stilted flat arched stone window hoods and lugsills, stone belt course, lower level walkout, 1888, two exterior chimneys (north, west facades) have been removed, original balustrade on second story has been replaced with wrought iron, Italianate style.

2. Barn: wood frame with clapboarding, rectangular shape, 8.7 x 15.45 meters (26'6½" x 50'8½"), gable roof, "turkey tail" overhang over loft door, 1908-09.

3. Garage: wood frame with clapboarding, rectangular shape, 3.21 x 6.8 meters (10'6" x 22'4") one story, gable roof. Lumber from original house was used in construction. Late 1930's.

4. Chicken shed: wood frame with clapboarding, rectangular shape 3.74 x 9.8 meters (12'3" x 32'2") one story, one room, shed roof, strip windows.

5. Wash house: wood frame with clapboarding, rectangular shape, 3.15 x 5.0 meters (10'4" x 16'5") one story, gable roof.

6. Privy: wood frame with clapboarding, square, 1.28 x 1.29 meters (4'2½" x 4'3") gable roof.

7. Cob house: wood frame with clapboarding, rectangular shape with shed roof addition to the east, 4.97 x 6.26 meters (16'4" x 20'6½"), one story.

8. Corn crib: wood frame, rectangular shape, 9.7 x 15.34 meters (31'10" x 50'4"), one story, gable roof, cupola.

9. Granary: wood frame with clapboarding, rectangular shape, 4.7 x 9.29 meters (15'5" x 30'6"), one story, gable roof.

10. Marchine shed: wood frame with clapboarding, rectangular shape 11.05 x 12.23 meters (36'3" x 40'1½"), one story, gable roof, c. 1910.

11. Shed: wood frame with clapboarding, square, approximately 1.8 x 1.8 meters (6' x 6'), gable roof.

12. Cattle shed: wood frame with metal siding, rectangular shape, shed roof.

One natural site should be noted. It is an 12 acre area of virgin prairie land, located directly southwest of Rawhide Creek.

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The Knoell house was built by Christopher Knoell in 1888. The earlier, original home was a one-and-one-half story, two room wooden structure that was built just northwest of the present brick house. The house is no longer extant. The Christopher Knoell farmstead has remained in the family for five generations. In 1974, the house was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Bang. Mr. Bang is a nephew of Theodore Knoell, oldest son of Henry Knoell, son of Christopher Knoell, builder of the house. The house is presently occupied by Mr. Bang's son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Scott Bang.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1888+ **Builder/Architect** The Knoell Family

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Christopher Knoell farmstead is significant to the early settlement of Dodge County and to the development of agriculture in Nebraska. The farmstead remains as an excellent example of the "typical" Nebraskan farm, remarkably intact, with the majority of buildings still extant. Architecturally significant, the Christopher Knoell house exemplifies the Italianate style of architecture, which was popular in the United States during the last half of the 19th century. In Nebraska, the residence may well be one of the state's finest small-scale Italianate dwellings. The house is historically significant to Dodge County through its association with an early pioneer family, demonstrating their endeavors for residential comfort and style.

Architecturally, the Knoell house remains as one of Nebraska's fine examples of the Italianate style of architecture. The Italianate style was popular in the United States during the 1840's-1880's, characterized by low-pitched, heavily bracketed roofs, rectangular plans and tall, narrow windows. The house is devoid of excessive detail, as is characteristic of most extant examples of the style in Nebraska. The Eastlake detailing found on the two front porches is common to many late 19th century styles in Nebraska. The bay window is a standard feature of the style in the state. In American Architectural Styles 1600-1940, R. T. Panek states: "Italian types are the most subdued. There may be a classically decorated entrance porch, usually there are bay windows, and always there is a bracketed cornice." The Italianate mode in general exemplified the tendency to move away from the Rigid classicism of the well-defined revival styles toward the more romantic associations that the picturesque styles offered. The Italianate style gave opportunities to develop and experiment with the theory and practice of the picturesque, and offered more flexibility and freedom in conception and execution.

Christopher Knoell was born in Germany in the year 1832 and came to the United States with his family in 1847, landing at New York harbor. They traveled to Wisconsin where his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Knoell, established a home and employed Christopher in the farm work. In the early 1860's the Knoell family came to Dodge county, and in 1864 Mr. Henry Knoell purchased 160 acres and leased farmland to his son, Christopher. In 1869 Christopher purchased 160 acres of land adjoining his father's land and by 1875 he owned 520 acres. Mr. Knoell served as one of 42 volunteers who organized a company to control Indian troubles

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 160 acres

Quadrangle name Fremont West, Nebr.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A	1 4	7 0 4	9 0 0	4 5	9 6	4 0 0
	Zone	Easting		Northing		

B	1 4	7 0 4	9 1 0	4 5	9 5	6 1 0
	Zone	Easting		Northing		

C	1 4	7 0 4	1 2 5	4 5	9 5	5 8 0
	Zone	Easting		Northing		

D	1 4	7 0 4	1 0 0	4 5	9 6	3 1 8
	Zone	Easting		Northing		

E						
	Zone	Easting		Northing		

F						
	Zone	Easting		Northing		

G						
	Zone	Easting		Northing		

H						
	Zone	Easting		Northing		

Verbal boundary description and justification The property is located in the W $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$, and the E $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ in Section 32, T18N, R8E, and includes all of the contiguous historic lands associated with the farmstead that remain in single ownership and that adequately represent the historic Knoell farmstead in type of farm operation.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	NA	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joni Gilkerson, Preservation Associate

organization Nebraska State Historical Society date September, 1982

street & number 1500 R Street telephone (402) 471-3850

city or town Lincoln state Nebraska

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Marrion D. Knell 12/8/82

title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society date

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register

J. Delores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

date 1/13/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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within the area. After his discharge, he traveled to Iowa City, Iowa to purchase threshing machines to set up a business for himself in custom threshing and haying. In doing so, he became one of the earliest threshers to harvest the golden grain in the Elkhorn and Platte valleys. The original home (no longer extant) was a one-and-one-half story, two room frame structure that was located immediately northwest of the brick house. The present brick house was built by Mr. Knoell and his family beginning in the spring of 1888. They began hauling the brick in 1887, from the Hooper brickyard in Hooper, Nebraska. As one of the early pioneer settlers of Dodge county, Mr. Knoell became one of the prosperous farmers in the community, acquiring a total of 1093 acres at the time of his death.

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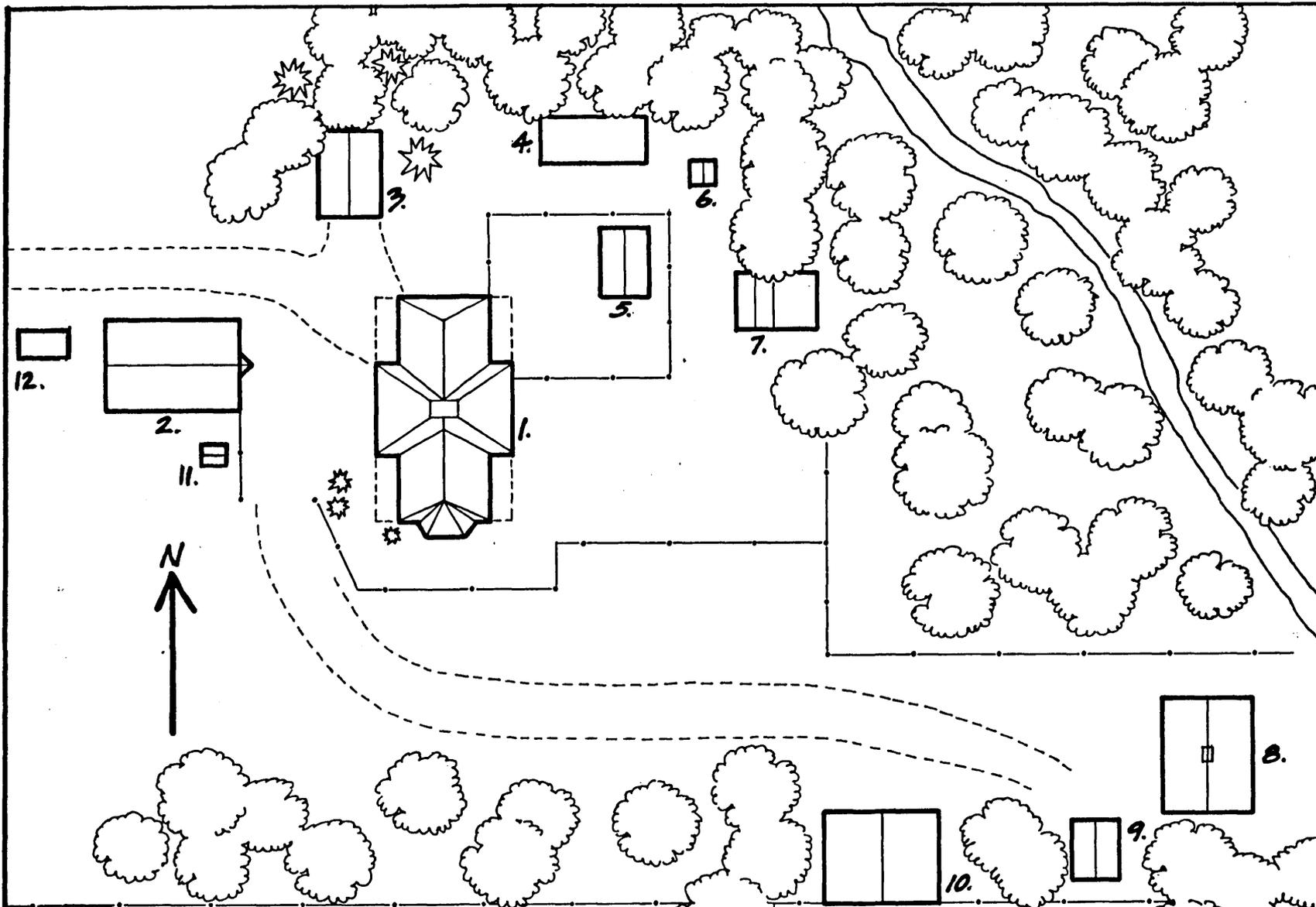
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**CHRISTOPHER KNOELL FARMSTEAD
(DD00-50)
RURAL DODGE COUNTY,
NEBRASKA — NO SCALE —**

MAP DRAWN BY STEVE RYAN FROM FIELD
NOTES BY JIM FAGLER AND JONI GILKERSON,
NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, AUG. 1982.

KEY:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. HOUSE | 7. COB HOUSE |
| 2. BARN | 8. CORN CRIB |
| 3. GARAGE | 9. GRANARY |
| 4. CHICKEN SHED | 10. MACHINE SHED |
| 5. WASHHOUSE | 11. SHED |
| 6. PRIVY | 12. CATTLE SHED |