

Historic Name: Gilfillan

80002143

Common Name:

County: Redwood
Redwood Falls m.c.
Community: Paxton
Township
Address/Legal Desc.:
State Highway 67

Owner's Name and Address: Anna Gilfillan
Route 4
Redwood Falls, Minnesota 56283

Classification:

Acreage:
Approx. 35 acres

Building _____ Structure _____ Object _____ District X

Condition:

Verbal Boundary Desc.:
T112 R35 Sec. 36 NE SW
The nomination includes
all of the above 1/4 Section
lying North of State
Highway 67

Excellent _____ Good X Fair _____ Deteriorated _____

Open to the Public:
Yes _____ No X

Visible from the road:
Yes X No _____

Occupied:
Yes X No _____

Present Use:
Agriculture

History:

UTM Reference:
Morgan Quadrangle, 15minute
Lat. Long.
A. 44° 27' 51" 94° 59' 29"
B. 44° 27' 37" 94° 59' 29"
C. 44° 27' 37" 94° 59' 47"
D. 44° 27' 51" 94° 59' 47"
Level of Significance: 47

Date Constructed: Multiple Original Owner: Charles D. Gilfillan
Architect/Builder: Multiple Original Use: Agriculture

Description:

Gilfillan is located in Paxton Township adjacent to the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad between the towns of Morgan and Redwood Falls. The Gilfillan family operations included, at one time, the home farmstead and 35 individual farms in four Redwood County townships. Both in common usage, and for the purpose of this nomination, the title "Gilfillan" is used to denote only the complex of buildings that make up the main farmstead: the "home place".

Local _____
State X
Nation _____

As with virtually all functioning farmsteads, Gilfillan has been continually altered as the processes and products of agriculture have changed since the operation was established in 1880s. However, the general layout of the farmstead, as well as a number of individual structures, has remained constant since the first decades of the century.

Status:
Survey _____ Date _____
Local _____
State _____
Nat'l. Reg. _____
Nat'l. Land. _____
HABS/HAER _____

The depot and elevator, once located on (see continuation sheet)

Significance:

The Gilfillan farm has been under the management of two generations of the Gilfillan family for most of its existence. Charles D. Gilfillan began the operation in the 1880s, and after his death in 1902, his son, Charles O., assumed management. Charles O. died in 1962; his wife Anna continues to reside at the farm, which remains in operation on a reduced scale.

Theme/s:
Primary Agriculture
Secondary Settlement
Other Social/Humanitarian

In 1882, Charles D. Gilfillan purchased approximately 8000 acres in Paxton, Morgan, Sherman, and Three Lakes Townships, some in partnership with fellow St. Paulite Joshua H. Sanders. The land was located within the boundaries of what had been the Dakota Reservation before 1862, and had been offered for sale by the government in the 1860s. Partially because purchasers could easily obtain a large number of contiguous sections (the alternate-section railroad grant did not extend into the reservation lands), several speculators invested in large tracts in the area. Much of the Gilfillan land was originally purchased by speculator J.W. Paxton.

Local Contact/Org.:

Charles D. was born in New Hartford, New York, in 1831 and came to Minnesota via Missouri in the 1850s. He was significant in the developing years of St. Paul (see continuation sheet)

Prepared by and date:
Dennis A. Gimmetad
September 1978

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Description:

the railroad siding south of Highway 67, have both been removed, and the siding area is not included in the nomination. The other buildings are located a short distance north of the highway. A fieldstone gateway marks the entrance to a tree-lined drive to the main house. To the east, a second gate is located at the service drive which leads to the employees' housing, office, and other buildings of the farmstead.

Early standing buildings of the farmstead are the main dwelling (ca.1882, somewhat remodeled), the managers dwelling (1916), the bookkeepers dwelling (1916), combination machine shop, garage, and seed storage building (1920), (barn 1916), octagonal well house (1920), and bunkhouse (date uncertain). An office building with pergola leading to the main dwelling and a machine shed were added in the 1930s. A milk house, hog house, garage, (all of concrete), and hen house (of frame) were constructed in the late 1940s and early 1950s. The farmstead also includes a metal-walled machine shed and two metal grain storage bins. Structures are white-sided and red-roofed, a scheme said to have been adopted by Charles O. Gilfillan (son of the founder) after a trip to Denmark.

Significance:

as the creator of the city's water system (which he sold to the city in 1882). He functioned as a lawyer, a state legislator, and as vice-president of the First National Bank of St. Paul. He was also instrumental in the organization of the Republican Party of the territory.

After the mid-1880s, Charles D. concentrated his efforts on his farming enterprises in Redwood County. As both a promoter and developer of scientific mixed farming, his influence over area agriculture was considerable. Historian Merrill Jarchow compares his advocacy of improved farming methods in southwest Minnesota to similar efforts elsewhere by J.J. Hill, and concludes "to both of these men, Minnesota farming owes a considerable debt". Local accounts contemporary with Charles O.'s management of the operation point to a continuing leading influence for area farmers.

During Charles O.'s management, most of the tenant farms of the operation were sold to the individual farmers. The operation today includes two of the tenant farms and the main farmstead.

Charles D. was a central force in the founding of the Minnesota Valley Historical Society (organized 1895) and financed the Society's marking of Sioux Uprising sites with granite monuments (see Honnor-Hoskin nomination). The philanthropy of Charles O. is evident in a number of colonial style community buildings in the county financed by him in the late 1930s and early 1940s (located in Morgan, Redwood Falls, Clements, and Wabasso). Charles O. also established memorial funds for benefit of residents of the township, county, and state.

Gilfillan is significant as an area leader in advanced farming practices, as an example of one consequence of the land alienation procedures of the reservation lands, and as the most clearly identifiable site linked with a family important both to the development of Redwood County and the City of St. Paul.

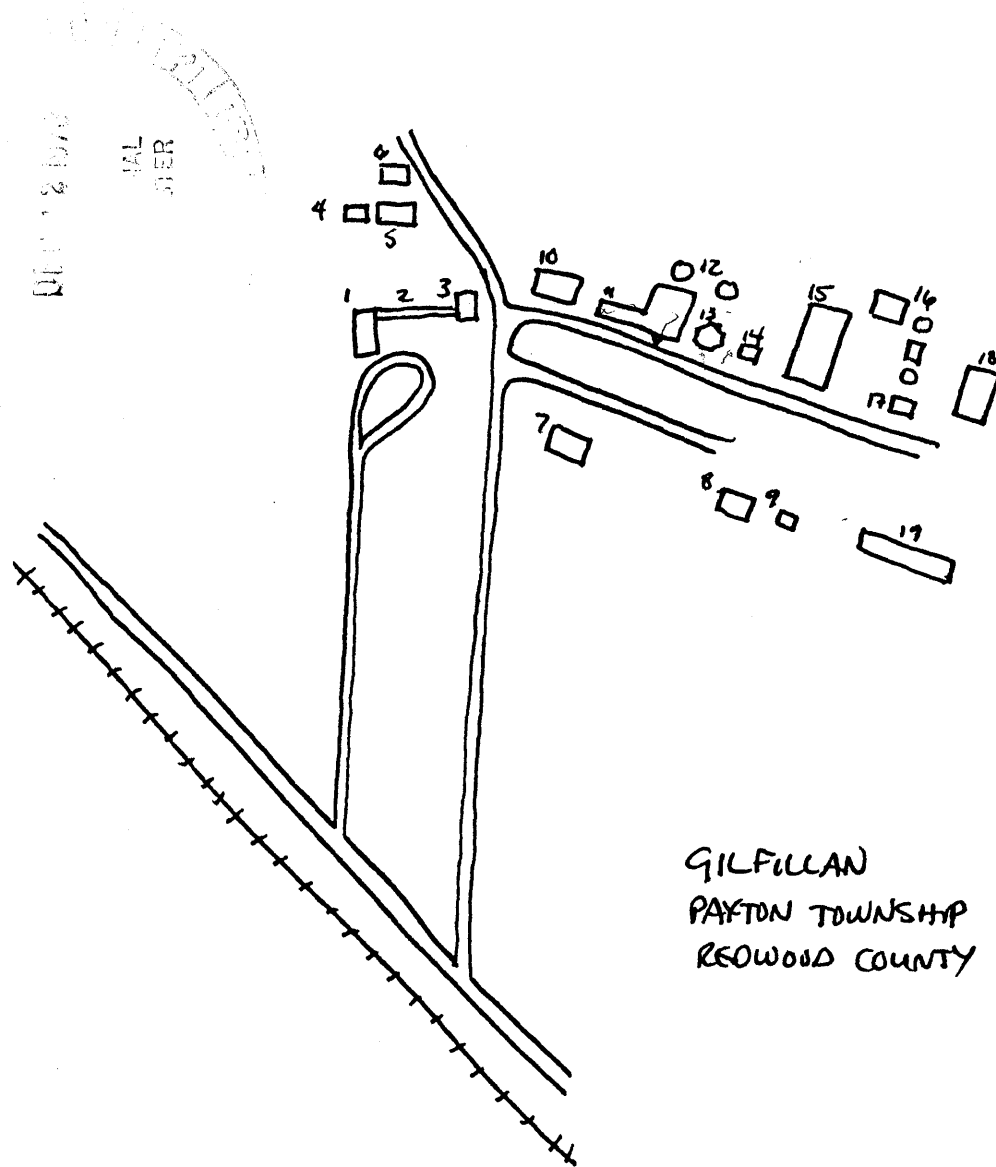
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1. MAIN DWELLING
2. PERGOLA
3. OFFICE
4. BUNKHOUSE
5. CABETAKERS DWELLING,
6. GARAGE
7. MANAGERS DWELLING
8. BOOKKEEPERS DWELLING
9. GARAGE
10. MACHINE SHOP, CARAGE,
SEED STORAGE
11. CATRE SHED & BARN
12. SILOS
13. WELL HOUSE
14. MILK HOUSE
15. MACHINE SHED
16. GRAIN STORAGE
17. HEN HOUSE
18. HOG HOUSE
19. MACHINE SHED



GILFILLAN
 PAYTON TOWNSHIP SECTION 34
 REDWOOD COUNTY

AUG 11 1980

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Note: These changes apply to
Gilfillan in Redwood County,
Minnesota.

REFERENCE NUMBER: 80002143

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Redwood

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC):

CITY:

VICINITY OF: Redwood Falls

ADDRESS: Mn. Hwy. 67

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988

Date