MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM HLSTORIC NAME: Shady Lane Stock Farm COUNTY: · APR 1 6 1070 Burnstown Township CITY/TWP.: CURRENT NAME: LEGAL DESC.: T109W.R34N.Sec. 16 W2, NW2, NW2 ADDRESS: Highway 14 T109W,R34N,Sec. 17 E4, NE4,NE4 The buildings of the farmstead are located in the central area of the area of land described above. CLASSIFICATION: CONDITION: SIGNIFICANCE: THEME/S: Buildings X Local X Excellent Primary Agriculture Secondary Structure Good State Fair National Others Object Deteriorated District OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: No X Restricted PRESENT USE: Farm Yes X No VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: OCCUPIED: Yes X No

ORIGINAL USE:

ARCHITECT/BUILDER:

DESCRIPTION:

DATE:

DATE CONSTRUCTED:

FORM PREPARED BY:

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

ORIGINAL OWNER:

The Shady Lane Stock Farm (L.E. Potter Farmstead) is located on a Burnstown Township site just east of Springfield.

Various -- See Description

Clarence Moe

RR 2, Springfield 56087

27 No. Broadway, New Ulm, MN 56073

L.E. Potter

LOCAL CONTACT/CRG.: Brown County Historical Society

January 1979

Dennis A. Gimmestad

The pivotal structures of the farmstead - all "second generation" buildings - are the brick farmhouse (1913), the barn and feeding shed (c.1898), the granary (c.1900), and an A.C.O. clay block silo (1911). Also on the property are a brick garage (no date), a block hog house (no date), a metal machine shed (1965) and three grain bins of recent construction.

The farmhouse is a cubical two-story pyramidal roofed structure. Brick for the house was manufactured at the nearby A.C. Ochs Brickyard. A one-story porch extends across the front, and other prominent features are brick relief quoining and a three-sided bay to the south. Lintels and sills are of stone.

The massive barn is an L-shaped gambrel-roofed frame structure sheathed in horizontal siding. The legs of the "L" measure 32x80x20 and 32x48x20. The white trim and red siding emphasize the loft doors and central entrances on both the south and east ends of the "L". Built about 1898, the structure is thought to have utilized one of the first concrete barn floors in the area. A one-story feeding shed is attached to the west of the main barn.

Immediately west of the southern leg of the barn is a clay block silo, built with the standardized plans and materials developed by the Ochs Brickyard. Features of the silo include curved clay block reinforced with metal rods and a domed brick roof, somewhat altered.

The entire farmstead is clearly visible from Highway 14 and is linked by a grove of trees to the northwest and by a variety of plantings in the areas of the buildings.

SIGNIFICANCE:

LaForest E. Potter began farming at a location east of Springfield during the 1880's, and maintained operations at the site until his death in 1942.

A son of an area pioneer who settled in the Springfield area in 1869, Potter developed what became one of the most progressive farms in the area. He was especially important as an area leader in the establishment of cattle breeding operations, purchasing his first hereford in 1896, expanding into breeding a few years later, and maintaining the herd for over 35 years. The first meeting of the Minnesota State Hereford Association

Stock Farm

UTM REFERENCE:

44° 15' 05"

94⁰ 56' 48''

Morgan Quad.

Unknown

ACREAGE: Less than one acre

Latitude

Longitude

8

SIGNIFICANCE - continued

was held at the farm in 1914; Potter served as its president for several terms. He also served as president of the Minnesota Farm Bureau and was instrumental in organizing the Junior Livestock Show and the Central Co-operative Association at South Saint Paul. He was on the National Farm Bureau Livestock Board and a director of the National Farm Bureau Association, as well as a member of the Minnesota Senate and Univerity of Minnesota Board of Regents.

Locally, Potter was instrumental in the organization of the Farmers Elevator and the Co-operative Creamery in Springfield.

The buildings remaining on the farmstead reflect the importance of Potter's operation. The barn, unusually large for the area, was constructed at about the time Potter began his livestock breeding operations. The common cornbelt-cube form of the house is made distinctive through the use of detailing and materials.

Of particular interest is the clay block silo developed at the neighboring A.C. Ochs Brickyard. The only known block silo to have been constructed by the company previous to the one on the Potter farm was of straight blocks and was razed in the 1920's; the Potter silo is thought to be the prototype for the scores of "A.C.O." silos scattered throughout the midwest. Builder of most of the silos, A.C. Blue, boarded at the Potter farm for a number of years. Most of the structures, which continued to be built until about 1944, are easily identifiable by the A.C.O. letters at the top, but the letters are not present on the Potter silo. The reddish color and flattened dome cap of these silos continue to distinguish them as one of the most striking components on today's farmscapes.

The Potter Farmstead is significant as one of the most progressive farms in the area during the early part of the century, especially in regard to livestock-breeding operations; for its associations with a farmer exceptionally active in local, state, and national agricultural associations; and for the presence of a prototype for a locally-produced farmstead structure which appeared, subsequently, over a wide geographic region.

