

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 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. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Christian Kupke Farmstead

other names/site number The Farm at Long Lane / Ne HRSI #CC00-365

2. Location

street & number 32618 Church Rd.

city or town Murdock

state Nebraska code NE county Cass code 025 zip code 68407

not for publication

vicinity

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this x 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 x 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 x local

Signature of certifying official Michael J. [Signature]

Date 10-24-2012

SHPO, Director/CEO, Nebraska State Historical Society
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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):

Signature of the Keeper For Edison H. Beall

Date of Action 12-19-12

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
9	0	buildings
2	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
11	0	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Agricultural: Animal Facility

Agricultural: Storage

Agricultural: Agricultural Outbuildings

Domestic: Single Dwelling

Functions

Current
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Agricultural: Animal Facility

Agricultural: Agricultural Outbuildings

Agricultural: Agricultural Field

Agricultural: Horticultural Facility

Domestic: Single Dwelling

Work in Progress

Functions

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Colonial Revival

Prairie School

Other: bank barn

Other: Drive-Through corn crib

Other:

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete, Concrete block,
Limestone

walls: Wood: Vertical/Horizontal Board
(Clapboard, Drop/Channel)

roof: Cedar Shingle, Ridged Metal

other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Christian Kupke Farmstead is located in southeastern Nebraska, 3.8 miles north and east of Murdock, (2010 population, 236) and 4.7 miles south of South Bend (2010 population, 99). Situated on the far western edge of Cass

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County, the property is near a corner where boundaries for the townships of Murdock, Ashland, Louisville, and South Bend are drawn. The county seat, Plattsmouth, is located 22 miles away on the opposite end of Cass County. The farmstead is located midway between Lincoln, the capital city, and Omaha, the largest city in the state. Evenly placed between both cities, the farmstead is approximately 21 miles from the outer limits of each town. The farmstead can be accessed by Interstate 80 and Highways 6 and 50.

The landscape is characterized by gentle rolling hills primarily allocated to agriculture: corn and soybeans in rotation. Fountain Creek runs less than 500 feet from the farmstead's current western boundary and passes through what was original farm ground. There are agricultural fields on all sides of the property, enveloping it with commercial crop-growing, much as it has been for decades. The farmstead is located in the southwestern portion of the SW ¼ of Section 36, Township 12 North, Range 10 (South Bend Precinct). The farmstead is now 4.36 acres accessible by a private gravel lane off of paved Church Road. The straight lane is approximately one-quarter mile long and follows a fairly dramatic hill as it crests and then descends toward the lowland ahead. On this lane, the two primary structures in view are the corn crib and farmhouse, as both are nearly directly in line with this lane. The tract of land is a narrow rectangle, extending from east to west in its furthest boundaries. Facing south, the farmhouse capitalizes its sunny exposure and clearly commands attention when approaching the property. The farmhouse sits in the eastern third of the property and to the east of it are two domestic structures: the outhouse and summer kitchen. Directly in front of the farmhouse is a large garden plot that spans from the southern edge of the front lawn to the property's southern boundary where commercially cultivated crops continue southward. To the east there is a small orchard of apple and pear trees that form a north-south boundary on the property's eastern edge. To the north of this is an abandoned garden plot measuring approximately 60'x100' that extends up to the northeast corner of the property. Around the farmhouse is the quintessential windbreak comprised of Eastern Red Cedar, Mulberry, and various Pine trees.

The commercial agricultural buildings all lie in the central and western thirds of the farmstead. The agricultural cluster in these areas includes: a drive-through corn crib, granary, original home site, white barn/tool shed, hen house, bank barn, calving shed, and an outbuilding site. A secondary lane in the form of a grassy meadow path runs from the corn crib to the calving shed and is still evidenced and used, though on a much lighter scale, to tend acreage animals and gain access to the adjacent land and buildings. There are substantial areas of woods in the eastern two-thirds of the farmstead. In the southern portions of the property, where initial settlement occurred by a stream, there is the South Woods. This wooded area follows the stream and extends to the southwestern-most corner of the property. A fairly thin windbreak follows the northern property line and opens up into a more dense and thick North Woods just to the north and west of the hen house. This wooded area extends west past the bank barn. The western-most edge of the farmstead is pastureland from the northwestern corner down to the calving shed to the south. Though portions of the surrounding area are allocated for row crops now, originally it was all pastureland down to the stream.

The Christian Kupke Farmstead includes 11 contributing resources (nine buildings and two sites) and no non-contributing resources. The farmstead is a well-preserved example of an early settled farm that grew during the time of agricultural expansion from its purchase in 1877 through 1962, or 50 years from the current time. Settled by German immigrants, the farmstead was owned by three generations of the Kupke family for over 90 years. The domestic and commercial agricultural structures along with the period farmhouse exist in relationship as if preserved by a time-capsule. Very few alterations, aside from minor cosmetic changes such as paint, have been applied to the farmhouse. The agricultural structures have also changed little since the 1950s and 1960s. Modern infringements such as metal buildings or non-period structures have been avoided entirely, which adds a particular significance to the historic farmstead. Only one material resource, a hatchery, was taken down in c. 2010 due to hazardous deterioration. Otherwise, most structures are in good to excellent condition and continue to be used in a modified manner for current needs.

Contributing Building and Site Descriptions

Summary of Domestic Buildings:

1. The Colonial Revival Farmhouse

Farmhouse Exterior Description

Christian Kupke's son, Charles, constructed the farmhouse in c.1910. The exterior footprint of this house has remained unchanged, and minor remodeling efforts have left the interior room layout intact as well. The front façade of the house faces south looking out down the quarter-mile lane that runs north-south from Church Road. The farmhouse is a two-and-a-half story structure that is three ranks wide with the original horizontal white painted wood clapboard siding. The style of the home is Colonial Revival featuring a strong symmetrical design and a full width, wrap-around porch. The front door is not centered on the structure; instead, two main doors are offset to the left and right sides of the front building face. There

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are concrete steps leading to the main entrance on the left side. There is a smaller set of wooden steps leading to the other door by way of the screened porch on the right side.

The house has a prominent, projecting centered front gable with a high, flat-topped, cedar shake-shingled, hipped roof. Perpendicular to the south-facing center gable are two cross gables facing the east and west. Original amethyst-colored glass balls still grace the lightening rods on the roof. The house features deep eave overhangs that are designed with prominent, simple brackets and wide trim pieces below. The majority of the eave-brackets occur at the roof union at the second story and no brackets are in place at the first story. On the corners of the nearly square structure there are modest, slender pilasters in which there is carved a basic router design. Columns on the front porch were originally unfluted Ionic with bases. The existing columns are now unfluted Doric.

Incorporated into the front porch façade is a low-profile pediment over the first story set of triple windows. As is the case with most Colonial Revivals, the windows are double-hung and rectangular. Triple windows also are common in the revival form.¹ Within the essentially three-story front of the center gable, there are three pairs of triple windows, each positioned directly over those of the story below. The triples at the top are located in the attic. The center window here is slightly higher than the two side windows flanking it, thus creating a pseudo-Palladian window effect. Throughout the first and second story, the majority of windows are original as evidenced by their wavy glass. The majority of these windows are over-sized. All of the original storms have been replaced with new aluminum storm windows (c. 2011).

A secondary style influencing the farmhouse is that of the Prairie School. Specifically, the windows reflect the vernacular incorporation of Prairie into this otherwise Colonial Revival house. The farmhouse features four typical Prairie window-glazing styles. These windows offer one upper-sash wooden muntin window along with numerous leaded glass fixed upper windows. Such windows are common details in Prairie School homes.² For each of the exterior windows and doors there is a simple wood surround that features a small cornice. This same design is repeated in each of the interior window and door surrounds throughout the house.

Originally the front porch was open on both sides of the central gable. In photos taken in the 1940s, it can be seen that the right side of the porch was enclosed and created into a three-season room. The siding on that porch was flush with the siding of the house and columns to the right of the central gable were removed in order to accomplish this. The enclosed porch was opened in conjunction with filming *O'Pioneers* (c. 1991). The missing original columns were found in the corn crib and put back into place as the porch was opened again. After filming, the enclosed porch was modified with screens replacing siding and the columns were kept in place. The foundation of the house is poured concrete and the basement walls have a remarkable height, in part due to the elevated porch height. On the west, north, and east sides of the foundation, decorative stamped concrete blocks are used above-grade to complete the visible top of the foundation walls.

Farmhouse Interior Description

Within the farmhouse itself, all of the original woodwork on windows, doors, and trim remains in excellent condition. Hardware for doorknobs, hinges, registers, and returns is original and looks of aged brass. All doors have locking capabilities with skeleton keys. In the house, no woodwork has been painted with two exceptions: (1) the trim and doors have been painted in bedroom three and the kitchen and (2) the floor has been painted in the office (or maid's room) and bedroom one. The structure also features original hardwood floors in nearly all of the rooms. The floors in the kitchen and dining room are maple while the rest of the house has pine floors. The only rooms without the original wood floors are the bathrooms, which have newly-installed porcelain tile (c. 2010), and the laundry room and pantry that have vinyl flooring. As was noted in reference to the exterior, nearly all of the windows have the original glass and almost all windows are still operational. The original plaster and lathe walls are still intact throughout the house, including the basement ceilings.

When entering the house through the formal wood with beveled-glass entry door, to the left of the central gable, the first room encountered is the entry hall. This room has large west and south-facing windows including one window with a leaded glass transom. To the right is a two-story open staircase with original woodwork. Woodwork on the stairs is continued on the wall below to create a solid wall of wood paneling beneath the banister to the floor. This room leads to either the dining room or the formal parlor. Like all ceiling light fixtures on the first floor, there is no internal wiring due to the house being built prior to electricity. This absence of internal wiring necessitates externally swaged wiring for such ceiling fixtures throughout the first floor.

¹ McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. Lincoln: Alfred A. Knopf, 1985, Pg. 324.

² Ibid., Pg. 440-441.

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The entry hall and formal parlor are separated by ornate woodwork that divides the spaces. The wood decoration includes fluted Ionic Victorian wood columns and two low, small knee walls – also in wood. The parlor has large west and north-facing windows with leaded glass transoms. It also features one set of functioning wooden pocket doors that lead to the smoking room. The smoking room has one large north-facing window with leaded glass transom. This room connects with adjacent rooms by way of two sets of large wooden pocket doors on both interior walls dividing it from the formal parlor (to the west) and dining room (to the south). This room also has a door to the back stairwell.

Entering the dining room from the smoking room, the focal point of this large room is the incredible view of the front lane looking south of the first story set of central triple windows. Here the center window has a leaded glass transom. On the walls there is antique wainscoting in a thick, high relief wall covering with an Arts and Crafts-style design. It appears to be Lincrusta, a composition like linoleum, based on linseed oil. On the east wall there is a built-in, pass-through china cabinet with leaded glass doors that match the Prairie School pattern found on all of the window transoms. Aside from the glass-front cabinets, three wood drawers also are accessible from either the dining room or the kitchen. From this room, access may be had to the entry hall or kitchen.

The kitchen has the original south-facing door that leads to the front porch. There was a second east-facing door to the porch that was walled in during a c. 1969 remodel. Though updated minimally out of necessity, the room's size and shape remain the same. The built-in china cabinet and vintage porcelain enamel "farm-hand" sink remain. Four wall lights are also original, some featuring a variety of simple milk glass shades. The kitchen leads to two attached rooms: the pantry and the laundry room. The pantry has had very few changes to the space. It is a large walk-in room with an east-facing window and an entire wall of built-in storage. The wooden shelves are long, thick, and deep. Below half of them are three large wooden bins lined with metal. All of the bins and drawers have the original hand-forged metal cup pulls. A recent (c. 2011) addition to the pantry is a set of tall oak storage cupboards that are on the north wall and blend in with the rest of the room. The laundry room was created in c. 1969 and re-purposed a storage closet just off the kitchen. This closet was used as a changing room or mudroom for the farmer to store his work clothes. The kitchen also has a door to the back hallway that leads to either the back stairwell (west) or the first-floor bathroom (east).

A closet was converted in c. 1969 to create a first floor bathroom with an original north-facing window. There is rumor that this storage closet had some connection to carbide storage, though a carbide storage "cave" is purported to be in the west side yard, at a yet unknown location, not far from this room. Going up the back stairwell leads to a long central east-west hallway that divides the second story into north and south-facing rooms. This hallway with windows facing east and west was an important source of ventilation and allowed the breezes to be caught in this new farmhouse at the top of the hill. The second floor bathroom has a window facing east. Originally, there was a claw-foot tub that was replaced with a cast iron tub in 1969. Parts of the plaster walls have a subway tile-look stamp patterned into them. This bathroom originally had its own large closet to the south that is now a dressing room with a window facing south.

The master bedroom (also referred to as the ball room) features the second story trio of central south-facing windows. This means that the room has an unobstructed view of the lane and the property to the south. The plaster walls were paneled c. 1969, and then in 2010, the paneling was painted to create an effect similar to bead board. Originally this large room had two large walk-in closets along the east wall. The closet to the south was given a doorway opening that effectively adjoined that closet with the bathroom's original closet.

At the far west end of the upstairs hall, the office (also referred to as the maid's room) is situated on the south side, looking out on the land and gardens. This room most notably has no closets. This is one of two rooms with painted pine floors and it has large windows to the south and the west. On the north side of the central upstairs hall are the three additional bedrooms. All have large windows and generous walk-in closets with original black metal three-prong clothing hooks instead of modern closet rods for hangers. Bedroom one is the largest with painted pine floors. Bedrooms two and three both have pine floors with a dark finish and patina that reveals their age. Entrance to the full attic is accessed through a full stairway in bedroom three's closet.

The attic is floored completely with wood tongue and groove planks and offers towering headroom of a full story. In the gable to the south there is the third set of three central windows that complete the unique front façade. In this trio, the central window is slightly higher than the two side windows, which give a pseudo-Palladian effect. In the smaller gable dormers to the east and west there are diamond Prairie School motif double-hung windows in each. The original narrow wood ladder to the flat roof is still in place, and roof access was possible through a hatch in the attic ceiling. In the full basement, the space was designed with notably high ceilings and a poured concrete foundation.

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2. Summer Kitchen

Just a few steps to the east of the farmhouse is the petite summer kitchen, a painted white structure with original wood clapboard siding. The box-like building has doors to the south and the west and windows to north, east, and west. The floor is tongue and groove wood plank. The walls and ceiling are bead board and overhead there is a full, floored attic. This building was also the ice house and has a basement accessed by lifting cut planks in a small section of floor. On the south wall, there is a brick chimney that runs halfway down the interior wall. A now missing wood stove was hooked into the brick stack to heat water for laundry and cooking. This little building is nestled between the eastern end of the windbreak and two cedar trees to the south. There is an open field to the east and meadow, orchard, and lawn to the southeast. To the south is the garden and fields.

3. Outhouse

In the northeast corner of the farmhouse's backyard, the original outhouse remains undisturbed. Inside the structure there are two commodes, side by side. The outhouse sits quietly at the edge of the main windbreak.

4. Hen House

The hen house is a structure built into a bank. Painted red and outfitted in horizontal clapboard, the doors open on the upper-floor to the south and east. Original nesting boxes and other chicken-raising ephemera are still installed in the coop. The foundation of the building is made of limestone and the taller western stone wall remains unpainted. Underneath the structure there is a sheltered area with a dirt floor where pigs were once kept. There is a primitive small door to the west side of the pigsty as well. This structure has an open meadow to the south, but the north and west sides of the building border the property's north woods.

5. Original House Foundation Site

Situated in the property's South Woods, just feet from a stream off of Fountain Creek, the Original House Foundation Site remains. Located within 30 feet of the white barn/tool shed, this domestic building site has very little visible. Currently there is a large pile of branches that have accumulated over numerous years that make it hard to really see the site in its entirety. A careful appraisal shows a red stone foundation, especially near the southwest corner of the site. To the east of the foundation, there are two circular holes in the ground. The first measures about 4' in circumference and is about 8' deep. It has fairly close proximity to the house and may have been the cistern or somehow related to the "toilet facilities" at the original homestead. The second hole is much deeper – we cannot determine strictly by looking its depth. This hole has a circumference of about 20" and it seems that this may have been an early water well.

Summary of Commercial Agricultural Buildings:

6. Corn Crib

This two-story painted white structure with gapped horizontal wood slats for airflow, is a drive-through style. Ground-floor openings are found to the north and south. On the second story, the doors have the original "D-shaped" door hardware. Looking into that second story, its intricate construction can easily be seen in upper-floor structure bracing. The foundation is made of limestone. Exterior access to four separate quadrants is by way of low, slat-filled door openings and hinged hatches. This structure is also a main feature of the property and is seen along with the house when coming down the lane. It is surrounded by a tear-drop shaped lawn bordered by a gravel loop of lane.

7. Granary

This structure has wide horizontal wood siding, painted red. The limestone foundation has a low crawlspace; there is a low ramp leading up to the building on the east side. The central threshing floor has thick, wide planks and the barn doors open to the west and east. Inside the granary are four rooms off of the central threshing area. Originally enclosed storage rooms, these four rooms have been opened up by enlarging their doorways. The attic is fully floored and it still stores an old fanning mill that was used to clean and separate grain. This building stands just to the west of the corn crib, in an open spot of land. There is a park-like area of lawn to the west of it.

8. White Barn/Tool Shed

This white barn/tool shed has little paint left on it; now it resembles a grayish-white color. Two barn doors open to the east – both facing the site of the original house in the woods. There are also windows facing the north and the west. Inside there are two sections divided by a wooden partition with a dirt floor. This building is just a few feet away from the Original House Foundation Site and it is surrounded by woods to the south and east with open meadow to the west.

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9. Bank Barn

The large red vertical board wooden structure is built into a hill, thus allowing a full basement beneath the barn's limestone walls. The main level of barn is accessible via a ramp to the east that leads to the eastern double-doors. Opposite of these double-doors, there used to be an identical opening to the west. Now, this western opening has been partially walled and filled with windows looking west. Inside the main level, there are thick, wide wood plank floors. Off the central section, there are sections to the south and the north. The section to the south is completely open. The intricate post and beam construction of the barn is exacting, which reflects German craftsmanship. The section to the north is open in the northwest corner and the remaining third of the barn is a feed room and tack room (now used as a chicken coop). Above the feed and tack rooms there is a hay loft. Doors to the tack and feed rooms are original as are the pulls and metal hardware. In the feed room there is a trap door in the floor where feed would have been dropped down below to feeding troughs in the basement of the barn. Beneath the barn, cattle and horses were once kept in this space of high headroom and dirt floors. Three doors facing south give access to the basement, with windows to the east, south, west, and north. This large building faces south and east where it is surrounded by open meadow. To the north, the North Woods border it. To the west, a thicket of wild mulberry trees and tall grasses surround it.

10. Calving Shed

At the most western end of the property stands a red painted wooden structure with poured concrete foundation and dirt floor. This is the only outbuilding that does not have a limestone foundation and its concrete foundation indicates that this structure was perhaps newer than the others, with an estimated construction date between 1930 and 1950. The main opening faces south and has no door at this time. Inside the shed are two wooden swinging gates that were used to direct and corral cattle. One gate directs animals to a smaller door where they could be loaded into a truck or wagon bed. This is the western-most structure, situated at the edge of the property just a few yards from a deep stream, fed off of Fountain Creek. There is open field to the west and mowed meadow to the east and north. To the south there is an area of high grasses leading to the stream.

11. Outbuilding Foundation Site

Within three feet of the west wall of the calving shed is an old outbuilding foundation site that still has its foundational outline on the soil surface. The size of the rectangular foundation outline is nearly identical to the size of current calving shed. The foundation remains are rectangular slabs of limestone and smaller limestone rocks and gravel outlining the building site. It's unknown what that outbuilding was for or when it was destroyed. Notably, the calving shed is a new building compared to the other commercial agricultural outbuildings as is evidenced by its poured concrete foundation. It is estimated that the building was built somewhere between 1930-1950.

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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.)

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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Settlement

Agriculture

Period of Significance

1877 - 1962

Significant Dates

1877

c. 1910

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Depner, Builder

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance lasts from 1877 through 1962, or 50 years from the present. The year 1877 begins this period of focus because it marks the date when Christian Kupke bought this quarter section and set up his family's farmstead. This 85-year period reflects the early agricultural settlement and development of the property by German immigrants. It is also the period within which all of the contributing buildings and sites were constructed.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Christian Kupke Farmstead is significant locally under Criterion A for its contribution toward the history of Agriculture and Settlement in southeastern Nebraska. The property reflectively grew and expanded between 1877 and 1919, during the concurrent period of agricultural prosperity. The use and adaptive re-use of the farmstead structures further reflects historic and economic changes that demanded greater austerity for home and farm following WWI and then a relative return to prosperity during WWII.

The Christian Kupke Farmstead is also significant locally under Criterion C for its contribution toward Architecture as found in the c.1910 farmhouse along with the domestic and commercial agricultural structures. The farmhouse provides an architecturally authentic example of period Colonial Revival style combined with vernacular Prairie School influences. Having had minimal alteration over the years, the house still remains in its original footprint with the vast majority of its original finishes intact. The ethnic influence of the family is also seen in architecture of buildings such as the bank barn that rely heavily on traditional German construction techniques and farming philosophy. The structures and their relationship to each other offer a rare glimpse into farm life in Cass County's early years.

The period of significance begins with Christian Kupke's purchase of the quarter section in 1877 to 1962, or 50 years from the present. During this period of 85 years, the Christian Kupke Farmstead remained in the same family being passed to son Charles and then grandson Louis.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Criterion A: Settlement and Agriculture in Southeastern Nebraska 1867-1962

Nebraska gained its statehood in March of 1867. Since the mid-1850s there had been significant settlement to the territory. For settlers moving westwards, there was hope of a new future and greater prosperity.³ In the earliest days of the Nebraska Territory, there were two primary means for settlers to acquire land: by military bounty land warrants and by the Preemption Act of 1841. For those who qualified, both options generally valued and priced the land at \$1.25 per acre.⁴ Another important milestone in encouraging the growth of settlers within the state was The Homestead Act of 1862. This legislation allowed for qualified persons to obtain 160 acres of land as a grant; a modest fee of \$18 was charged for each quarter section. It required that the applicants were: head of household or twenty-one years of age, either citizens of the United States or had filed a declaration to become such, and that they had never borne arms against the United States or aided enemies.⁵

Foreign-born immigrants from the countries of Germany, Bohemia, and Scandinavia most significantly grew in southeastern Nebraska from 1880-1900.⁶ In the 1860s it's estimated that there were 1.3 million Germans living in the United States. The 1880s brought the heaviest decade of migration from Germany with 1.5 million choosing to leave their European homeland.⁷ In the vicinity that would become Murdock, the predominance of German immigration and settlement is great. Though there were cases of English immigrants acquiring this land first, it was often the German immigrants who came to master the prairie, cultivate the land, and establish their households.⁸

Aside from legislative and immigration patterns that fostered settlement on the Plains, there was development of infrastructure that also drove growth. The town of Murdock, Nebraska traces its beginnings to the Chicago Rock Island Railroad. Situated at the extreme northwestern border of Cass County, it was determined that Murdock was a fitting stop to locate a town as the railroad grew west from Omaha. The trains required a water stop every seven miles along the tracks, so conveniently placed new towns like Murdock were founded to meet this calling.⁹ According to company history,

³ Dick, Everett. *The Sod-House Frontier: Everyday Life in Kansas, Nebraska and Dakota, 1854-1890*. Lincoln: Johnsen Publishing Company, 1954. Pg. 3.

⁴ Ibid., Pgs. 19-20.

⁵ Ibid., Pg. 118.

⁶ Murphy, David. *Historic Context Report 08.01 Southeastern General Farming: The Period of Expansion and Prosperity, 1876-1919*. Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office, 1988. Pg. 14.

⁷ *The Germans in America*. The Library of Congress European Reading Room timeline. Available online at: <http://www.loc.gov/rr/european/imde/germchro.html>.

⁸ Cline, Maxine. *Murdock: A Pictorial History of the Community*. Murdock Historical Society, 2003. Pg. 8.

⁹ Ibid., Pg. 3.

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by 1892 construction had been started for the service from Omaha to Lincoln that would connect to the Colorado line at Jansen.¹⁰

Like Murdock, new towns resulted from the prairie expansion of the "iron horse." The trains benefited these areas and hastened further settlement of the plains. Train and railroad accessibility accelerated settlement of distinct areas, beyond the confines of the river and its access. In general, the advent of the local train with its track, rail cars, and station were seen as excellent economic factors for a community to possess. The railroad was central to economic development in these agricultural communities and it expanded markets for locally-grown livestock and grain.¹¹ According to historian Dr. Everett Dick,

There was great rejoicing when the locomotive drew the first train over the newly laid track. There would be no more weary traveling by coach-and-four from town to town, no more exasperating delays in teaming freight from distant points. A solution to the outstanding problem had been solved. The whistle of the locomotive was a welcome sound. One of the fondest dreams had come true. Frequently the opening of the railroad was accompanied by a great celebration. A large number of citizens of a town loaded onto flat cars and into coaches and traveled to a large town where the linking of the two by iron was celebrated by eating, drinking, smoking, and speech-making. Sometimes great barbecues, parades, and band music, accompanied these first rail excursions.¹²

The period of agricultural prosperity spanned the years of 1876-1919 and halted with the close of WWI. The impact of the early settlement period, the boom years, and then the subsequent years of hardship are well-documented at the Christian Kupke Farmstead.

The Christian Kupke Property Acquisition and History 1876 – 1962

The Christian Kupke Farmstead is an authentic reminder of a family's story, rich in Nebraska pioneer history. Like many who came to Cass County and the Murdock area specifically, Christian and his future wife Louisa immigrated to the United States from Germany. The couple married in Wisconsin in 1864. Christian's sister Anna Kupke Stroy and her family also first settled in Wisconsin after leaving Silesia. In 1876 Christian and Louisa Kupke moved from Wisconsin to Nebraska. It's noted that five of their eight children survived that move. Upon arriving in Nebraska, the Kupke's initially took residence in Eagle.¹³

In March 1877, the Kupkes bought a 160-acre plot from Thomas J. Fountain, an Englishman, for \$1900. Fountain purchased the quarter section from the State of Nebraska at a sale of Common School Lands eight years prior in 1869.¹⁴ This first re-sale of the property challenges the popular notion that Nebraska farms are exclusively results of the Homestead Act of 1862. As it turns out, the Christian Kupke Farmstead was never directly impacted by that important legislation. To make the point further, there is the matter of land acquisition of an adjacent property by Christian's sister Anna. Anna and her husband John Stroy also moved from Wisconsin to Nebraska and purchased a farm to the south of the Kupke's. The Stroy's bought their farm from a man who was unable to hold his military bounty land warrant for service in the Civil War.¹⁵

Initially Christian built a typical German-style dwelling for his family. As was typical of many early settled farmsteads, the house was situated very close to a stream and the farmstead itself was approximately a quarter mile off of the nearest road.¹⁶ The original two-family house was situated just a few yards from the creek and was sited "down the hill" from where the current farmhouse stands. This home was said to be a crude structure with a central wall separating the dwelling – a duplex of sorts.¹⁷ Christian's son Charles was one-year old when the family relocated to Murdock and later he and his wife would share this simple dwelling with his parents. It's important to note that though Nebraska is renowned for its unique

¹⁰ *Yard Clerical Manual* "The Early Years – 1845-1892." Rock Island and Pacific Railroad, c. 1970. Available online at: <http://www.rits.org/www/histories/RIHistory.html>

¹¹ Murphy, David. *Historic Context Report 08.01 Southeastern General Farming: The Period of Expansion and Prosperity, 1876-1919*. Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office, 1988. Pg. 11.

¹² Dick, Everett. *The Sod-House Frontier: Everyday Life in Kansas, Nebraska and Dakota, 1854-1890*. Lincoln: Johnsen Publishing Company, 1954. Pg. 362.

¹³ Cline, Maxine. *Neighborhood History*. Unpublished.

¹⁴ Cass County Nebraska Register of Deeds. Deed documents.

¹⁵ Cline, Maxine. *Murdock: A Pictorial History of the Community*. Murdock Historical Society, 2003. Pgs. 60-61.

¹⁶ Murphy, David. *Historic Context Report 08.01 Southeastern General Farming: The Period of Expansion and Prosperity, 1876-1919*. Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office, 1988. Pg. 22.

¹⁷ Cline, Maxine. *Neighborhood History*. Unpublished, Pg. 2.

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sod houses, built of what was the only feasible frontier construction material, such sod structures were not familiar in this part of the state. The land was reportedly so rich that dugouts and sod houses were not successful due to the abundance of spring rains. To serve the demand for lumber there were saw mills nearby in Ashland, Weeping Water, and Cedar Creek.¹⁸ The first farmhouse no longer stands, but its foundation still marks its location and relationship with the rest of the farmstead.

There was great thought and energy put into designating the farm outbuildings. These wooden and limestone structures show evidence of the builder's German heritage with the "king," Y-beams, and massive rough-hewn posts. This reflection of the family's ethnic heritage in the building design of their barns is consistent with how many early settlers manifest their cultural preferences in barns and homes.¹⁹ These buildings would have been of paramount importance as the Kupke family established the farm and created an infrastructure to support increasingly more substantial farming pursuits in their future.

There are no known records specifying the particular crops and agricultural practices that were undertaken on the farm. When the Kupke's purchased the property in the 1870s, early crops for subsistence were rapidly giving way to more diversified agricultural endeavors.²⁰ New technology along with better seeds and fertilizers helped spur the period of prosperity that spanned 1876-1919.²¹ There is evidence of this use of evolving technology in an antique fanning mill that still remains in the granary attic. Made of wood and metal screens, it is an early piece of machinery, foreshadowing the further technology to come.

By taking a close look at the domestic and commercial agricultural outbuildings themselves, some conclusions about crops and livestock can be deduced. By looking closely between the cracks in the granary floorboards, evidence of wheat sheaf fragments can be seen. According to Christian's great-grandson Wayne Kupke, who helped with farm work at the property in the late-50s and 60s, corn was an important crop and the large corn crib provided storage. Mr. Kupke recalls the sensation of opening the side hatches of the drive-through corn crib to have field mice run up his pant leg, tumbling out as gravity pushed the corn out as well. Great-great granddaughter Nancy Phillips remembers that at some point, the farm grew milo as a livestock subsistence crop, but she noted that it was itchy to harvest and she was glad when her grandfather no longer grew it.²² Her mother, great-granddaughter Janet Wendt remembers alfalfa was grown for hay that fed cattle.²³ Beneath the bank barn is a central channel created with half-height horizontal wood panels on either side with a trap door in the ceiling at the far end. Worn into the top sides of these short walls are smooth, rounded indentations from where cattle fed over the sides. Across the way, at the calving shed, there is an elaborate system in place for corralling livestock and ushering them through a doorway with a loading height that would be correct for a truck or wagon.

Plainly, the farmstead supported a combination of livestock and crops, initially raised for subsistence and later for commercial sale. It is also clear that over time, the farm grew, reflecting the agricultural boom. In 1918, just prior to the end of the period of prosperity, Charles Kupke is listed as owning 318 acres in section 36 (South Bend precinct) and another 85.69 acres in the adjoining section 31 (Louisville precinct).²⁴ At a time when the average farm size was 160-240 acres, the Kupke's holdings totaled over 403 acres, indicating that they ran a larger farm operation than most fellow farmers.²⁵ Understanding that they purchased the initial 160 acres one year into the period of prosperity and then noting the significant growth that they were able to accomplish by 1918, one year before the end of the growth period, the exemplification of that growth is significant.

The development of the rail system that precipitated the town of Murdock itself also provided an avenue for agricultural development. The close proximity to the railroad introduced markets for livestock and grain by way of Omaha and Chicago.²⁶ Likely livestock included: horses, pigs, beef cattle, and chickens. In addition to farming the property, the final

¹⁸ Ibid., Pg. 4.

¹⁹ Murphy, David. *Historic Context Report 08.01 Southeastern General Farming: The Period of Expansion and Prosperity, 1876-1919*. Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office, 1988, Pg. 20.

²⁰ Murphy, David. *Historic Context Report 08.01 Southeastern General Farming: The Period of Expansion and Prosperity, 1876-1919*. Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office, 1988, Pg. 14.

²¹ Ibid., Pg. 15.

²² Phillips, Nancy. Personal interview about family and property history. April 20, 2012.

²³ Wendt, Janet. Personal interview about family and property history. April 20, 2012.

²⁴ Anderson, G.W. *Atlas of Cass County Nebraska*. Mason City, IA: Anderson Publishing Company, 1918.

²⁵ Murphy, David. *Historic Context Report 08.01 Southeastern General Farming: The Period of Expansion and Prosperity, 1876-1919*. Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office, 1988, Pg. 21.

²⁶ Murphy, David. *Historic Context Report 08.01 Southeastern General Farming: The Period of Expansion and Prosperity, 1876-1919*. Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office, 1988. Pg. 3.

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owner during the period of significance, Louis Kupke, also acted as a seed broker, storing sacks of seed in the farmhouse's entry hall and parlor.

Understanding that the period of 1876-1919 was one of significant growth, the Kupke family prospered during this period and built a lasting statement reflecting the period, which still stands today. The new farmhouse was built c. 1910. Most certainly the timing of the building of the current farmhouse coincides well with the agricultural boom period. By 1910, elderly Christian and Louisa had turned over the running of the farm to son Charles and his wife Anna. In 1904 there was a trust deed recorded conveying the property to Charles upon the death of his parents with the understanding that they would be allowed to remain living on the property until their deaths.²⁷ The multi-generational inhabitation that began with the small duplex down the hill continued with the building and occupation of the far grander farmhouse. According to Charles' son Paul, the 14 room farmhouse was built for \$6,000 and completed in c. 1910.²⁸ By the home's completion, Charles and Anna had four children: from eldest to youngest, Carl, Paul, Louis, and Elsie.

By the 1930s, Charles and his wife Anna moved to town, presumably retiring to some degree from farming. Times were quite different by then with the period of prosperity ending with the conclusion of WWI and the agricultural market in recession as a result.²⁹ Charles passed the farm on to his youngest son Louis and his wife Elsie. Married in 1930, Louis and Elsie eventually had two children: Marvin and Janet. As was mentioned earlier, Louis continued to farm and diversified his farm business by also becoming a seed broker. This additional source of income may have greatly stabilized the economic fate of the farm during the period between the World Wars. Years of drought during the early 1930s were followed by the Dust Bowl in the late 1930s.³⁰

During the Depression era, many farmers who held notes on their farms lost them thanks to the dismal farming climate precipitated, not the least of which, by the unfavorable weather. The early 1940s solved the agricultural depression with increased prices and production spurred by WWII. While the Kupkes were certainly thrifty and conscious of saving energy during the 1930s, there is no indication that they were in any danger of losing their farm. Again, Louis' business diversification could have helped, as did the fact that there was no note on the farmstead – it was owned free and clear.³¹ With the introduction of soybeans in the 1950s, Louis followed the prevailing trend and adopted the new, non-diversified bean-corn crop rotation that comprised the new economy.³² He continued to farm and broker seeds until he retired at the end of 1968.

Criterion C: The Classical farmhouse and Adaptable Farmstead

The Farmhouse as a Vernacular Exhibit of Period Style

Compared to its humble, secluded predecessor, the second farmhouse (c. 1910) was built to be prominent and moved up the hill, away from the stream. The new location for the house was on a considerably higher plot, further from the original outbuildings and the functional, commercial activities of the farm. With its elevation and strategically placed windows to the east and the west, the home was reportedly designed to catch breezes. By comparison, the original home site sat at a low point where the air tended to be somewhat stagnant and windless. The early need for protection and enclosure were replaced by other needs for space and desires for comfort. Situated to lie directly at the end of the original lane, the farmhouse offers textbook Colonial Revival styling along with a nod to vernacular incorporation of Prairie School. With its strong symmetrical façade, two and a half-story height, and imposing size of 3800 finished square feet, the new farmhouse makes an important architectural statement that bears noting. As much as the barns and outbuildings reflected the family's German heritage, the new farmhouse reflected the times, and thus establishes significance, because its style represents the period.³³

Like less than 5% of Colonial Revival homes, the farmhouse has a prominent, projecting centered front gable.³⁴ Keeping well with the times, the farmhouse is constructed of wood wall materials that, in vernacular examples of the Colonial Revival, were the norm prior to 1920. According to McAlester and McAlester, "This [Colonial Revival] was a dominant style

²⁷ Cass County Nebraska Register of Deeds.

²⁸ Cline, Maxine. *Neighborhood History*. Unpublished, Pg. 2.

²⁹ Murphy, David. *Historic Context Report 08.01 Southeastern General Farming: The Period of Expansion and Prosperity, 1876-1919*. Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office, 1988, Pg. 19.

³⁰ *Ibid.*, Pg. 19.

³¹ Cass County Register of Deeds.

³² Murphy, David. *Historic Context Report 08.01 Southeastern General Farming: The Period of Expansion and Prosperity, 1876-1919*. Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office, 1988, Pg. 21.

³³ Murphy, David. *Historic Context Report 08.01 Southeastern General Farming: The Period of Expansion and Prosperity, 1876-1919*. Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office, 1988, Pg. 20.

³⁴ McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. Lincoln: Alfred A. Knopf, 1985, Pg. 322.

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for domestic building throughout the country during the first half of this century.³⁵ The other stylistic influence comes from the Prairie School. It is important to note that both stylistic periods overlapped, existing concurrently during the years of 1900-1920. With its iconic styling, both classical and vernacular, in synch with the primary influences of the times, the farmhouse was and is an excellent example of home construction for this period.

Generally speaking, agricultural property types are not elitely aesthetic structures; function and usefulness often trumped style.³⁶ In the renowned landscape and residential architectural expert A. J. Downing's opinion, because a farmer is a "man of nature," he is less sophisticated or cultivated than city dwellers. As a result, farmhouses should "show an absence of all pretension."³⁷ Downing goes on to state that since a farmer's life is not one devoted to aesthetics, then showings of "elaborate taste" are not looked for in farmhouses.³⁸ Despite Downing's dim view, penned in 1850, of the importance of style upon a farmhouse, he alludes to the natural evolution in the role that style might play on the farmhouse of the future:

As soon as our farmers grow wealthy enough to require larger and more architectural dwellings, architects of ability will arise to satisfy those wants.³⁹

Given the period and the unprecedented growth as evidenced in the agricultural and architectural opportunities on the farmstead, perhaps the Christian Kupke farmhouse embodies precisely what Downing was envisioning.

The home was built with some forward-thinking comforts in mind, specifically related to household utilities. Built before electricity was available, the farmhouse was plumbed to allow for carbide lighting throughout the house. Producing a chemical reaction with the element carbide, a bright white flame was created and the house was designed and piped to allow each room to experience light generated by this process. The house also included ducting to each room to provide heat via a coal-powered central heating system. There are no fireplaces, which may be surprising, partially because the question of warmth was addressed with the centralized heating plan.⁴⁰ The farmhouse was replete in the latest technology of the time and in the details of its design, the prosperity of the period was imbued in the farmhouse.

The provenance of the structure's plan has been a subject of much research. There were previous family reports that the house was a kit home, brought by rail car and purveyed by companies like Sears & Roebuck, Montgomery Wards & Company, Aladdin, and the like. Kit homes were constructed on site, but their building materials were made accessible thanks to train access. Homes of this type were popular in the plains due to the lack of native hardwoods for construction in some areas, further they provided financing options at a time before accessible mortgages. These kits labeled each and every bit of the pre-cut home components and carefully organized them in an effort to simplify the building process. Charles' great and great-great granddaughters Janet Wendt and Nancy Philips, respectively, have stated that Louis Kupke disputed those reports.^{41,42} The house's age, size, and style support his refutation of the house being a kit home. Rather, it is presumed that the house likely came from a plan book with many specialty materials ordered and brought by rail.⁴³

In terms of the evolution of the farmhouse and its changes over the past century, it's remarkable to note that no changes have been made to the original footprint or interior floor plan. Though the spaces in the home have been used differently over time according to the needs of the occupants, the structure itself has stayed mainly unchanged. When the house was originally built, it was a two-family home for the elderly Christian and Louise Kupke along with their son Charles, his wife Anna, and their four children: Carl, Paul, Louis, and Elsie. The farm was expanding and operating in a time of relative wealth, so it is conceivable that the house may have also offered lodging to hired help such as maids or farm hands.

As time went on, the youngest son, Louis, inherited the house and farm. His parents did not live with his young family as his grandparents had done with his parents. Louis' older brother Paul and his wife Malinde married and built a bungalow (c. 1930) on family land west of the original farmstead. Paul and Malinde's daughter Eileen was born inside the farmhouse in the smoking room that had been re-purposed as the master bedroom. By the 30s and 40s, the farmhouse was occupied by a vastly smaller immediate family of just four persons: Louis, his wife Elsie and their two children, Marvin and Janet. Coinciding with the depression, drought years, and decline in agricultural growth, the grand house had entire wings shut off with curtains and closed doors and the family conserved energy by residing in a fraction of the overall space. This action

³⁵ Ibid., Pg. 324.

³⁶ Murphy, David. *Historic Context Report 08.01 Southeastern General Farming: The Period of Expansion and Prosperity, 1876-1919*. Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office, 1988. Pg. 23.

³⁷ Downing, A.J. *The Architecture of Country Houses*. New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1969, Pg. 138.

³⁸ Ibid., Pg. 139.

³⁹ Ibid., Pg. 145.

⁴⁰ Cline, Maxine. *Murdock: A Pictorial History of the Community*. Murdock Historical Society, 2003. Pgs. 177.

⁴¹ Wendt, Janet. Personal interview about family and property history. April 20, 2012.

⁴² Phillips, Nancy. Personal interview about family and property history. April 20, 2012.

⁴³ Hunter, Rebecca L. *Professional correspondence regarding kit homes, house plans pre-1915, and guidance on house styles*. March 26, 2012.

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made it unnecessary to heat the unused rooms and thus save precious energy and money. Interestingly, during this period the front door were never used and Louis stored bags of seed in the formal parlor and entry hall – all of the rooms on the west side of the house were unused.⁴⁴ Louis' granddaughter remembers her grandmother forbidding the children to cross the "Iron Curtain" which she hung across the upstairs hallway to prevent access to the west side of the house.⁴⁵

Originally, the house had an open wrap around porch. As some point, prior to 1930, the east side of the porch was enclosed to create a three-season porch. When this was done, the columns on the east side of the house were removed and walls with matching white clapboard exterior siding were constructed with large windows. During hot summer nights, the family would sleep on this porch.⁴⁶ For the filming of the 1992 Hallmark production of *O'Pioneers*, the enclosed porch was restored to the original open porch seen in photos from c. 1910. Following the movie, the McCabes, owners at that time, requested that the screen porch be restored. When the porch was rebuilt following the movie, the columns were retained and walls of screen were constructed just inside of those columns, creating a slightly smaller interior porch-space.

Among the other minor changes to the structure, the kitchen and baths were updated in both 1969 and 2010; the ironwork of the widow's walk has been removed; metal spikes along the central front gable have been removed; one doorway was cut open between two upstairs closets; a closet was re-purposed to make a bathroom (c. 1969); a closet was re-purposed to make a first floor laundry room (c. 1969); and a second exterior door in the kitchen was walled up (c. 1969).

A Distinct Viewpoint: Domestic and Commercial Agricultural Buildings on the Farm

There is an established tradition of "adaptive reuse" related to domestic and commercial agricultural structures due to the great expense of their initial construction and subsequent re-construction.⁴⁷ Following this tendency to re-use rather than re-construct, nearly all of the original farmstead outbuildings are still standing today providing a clear representation of how they related to each other 100 years ago. It is clear that the farm, whose humble beginnings grew as the times improved, also experienced changes in terms of how the buildings were used based on the functions and needs that the buildings served. Because of this sense of economy and resourcefulness, these early examples of domestic and commercial agricultural outbuildings from a period working farm are preserved. Overall, assessing each outbuilding's use of either Type B cut nails or wire nails gives the best clues as to the approximate construction dates of these structures. Of course, due to the typical practice of re-use and routine repairs over time, many buildings exhibit a mixed use of both kinds of nails. Precisely because of this desire and need for resourcefulness and adaptation, nails – either cut or wire – would often be reused:

If a site or structure contains more than one of these types of nails, it may indicate re-use of older nails or modifications to the structure over time. In such cases, it is important to note the relative proportions of one type to another. And remember that, in the "hinterland" areas with less access to stores and factories, older types may be used (and re-used) for several years after they have all but disappeared in urban settings. This is true for many types of artifacts.⁴⁸

Strict records were not kept recording precisely when each of the farmstead's outbuildings were completed. As such, it is impossible to know the exact date that each were constructed. As was typical with many settlers, often, barns were built before permanent houses were finished to ensure that the family could have sustenance and begin the process of producing a livelihood. On the Christian Kupke Farmstead, the outbuildings are significant because of their assemblage, preserved placement, and visible relationship with each other, as they were all once commonplace and functional structures, necessary for farming during this early settlement period.

Most of the commercial farm structures are along an informal meadow lane that runs east-west within the farmstead. Traveling up the informal meadow lane first comes the calving shed and outbuilding foundation site at the far west of the property. At the opposite end, closer to the farmhouse and most of the domestic buildings, is the iconic drive-through corn crib. Between these two building lies the heart of the farmstead activities. The first structure after the calving shed is the bank barn to the north and then the domestic hen house, also to the north and slightly further east. Continuing forward there is the white barn/tool shed in the woods to the south with the original house foundation just a few feet east of it, both

⁴⁴ Wendt, Janet. Personal interview about family and property history. April 20, 2012.

⁴⁵ Phillips, Nancy. Personal interview about family and property history. April 20, 2012.

⁴⁶ Wendt, Janet. Personal interview about family and property history. April 20, 2012.

⁴⁷ Murphy, David. *Historic Context Report 08.01 Southeastern General Farming: The Period of Expansion and Prosperity, 1876-1919*. Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office, 1988. Pg. 23.

⁴⁸ Waechter, Sharon. *How Old is Old? Recognizing Historical Sites and Artifacts*. Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc., June 2010. Available online at: http://www.fire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/archaeology/downloads/Misc_Artifacts.pdf

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near a spring. Going on, the granary is to the north with the drive-through corn crib straight ahead. All of these buildings line along a well-worn path that spans approximately 435 feet.

The western-most structure, sited just a few feet from a spring, is the calving shed and a similarly sized outbuilding foundation site. The calving shed is different from the other outbuildings because it is the only one that has a poured concrete foundation instead of one made of limestone. This immediately suggests that the structure may be newer than the others. Careful inspection of the outbuilding foundation site shows small gravel and rectangular limestone blocks flush to the ground, all just steps away from the current calving shed and the identical footprint size. Presumably the outbuilding foundation site was the original livestock shed that, for some reason, was replaced by the current calving shed. Inside of the calving shed the wooden dual gate system used to corral livestock into different areas of the structure appears quite old. It could be that these components were simply moved from an older building to this current one. Also, large wood beams resting at the top of the poured concrete foundation look similar in appearance and age to the rough-hewn posts and beams found in the bank barn. Interestingly, these posts appear to be re-used because one post has been laid so that it shows notches where this post would have been secured structurally to another wooden member of a previous structure.

Among the commercial agricultural outbuildings found on the farm, the bank barn is the largest and most impressive structure. With its exposed rough-hewn wood posts, wooden peg construction, and exposed king posts in the trussing; the barn gives an accurate view of how early German settlers constructed barns. Like the corn crib, granary, and hen house, the foundation of the bank barn is made of limestone. This barn allowed the farm to shelter, feed, and store food for its livestock, all in one efficiently designed building. Furthermore, both levels of the barn could be accessed from the ground. Bank barns were associated with an agricultural economy that emphasized grain and livestock systems.⁴⁹ Agricultural specialization and new thinking about health related to livestock husbandry decreased the bank barn's popularity by the late 19th and early 20th century.⁵⁰

Animals were housed in the dirt-floor lower level of the barn where three doors gave access to pasture land to the south. The center door leads into a long narrow passageway with wood boards creating a half-height partition. At the end of this alley, there is a trap door in the ceiling above. In the upper level of the structure, there is a narrow feed room with a trap door in the floor that drops to the central area below. Food sources held in the upper story of the barn could be dropped to the animals below. The wood panels on either side of this feeding channel show rounded, cup-like dips from animals resting their heads over the wood restraints to eat. On one of those worn boards, the name "Ernst Achterberg" is carved elegantly into the wood. No information about Achterberg is known, but he likely worked at the farm in some capacity – perhaps in constructing the barn or in working as a farmhand. His name also is notarized as the witness on the trust deed dated March 26, 1904 where Christian Kupke legally conveyed the farm to his son Charles. It is unknown as to whether this autograph was carved before or after the legal instrument signed in 1904, but it does give some context to the barn's age based on this man's presence.

In the upper story of the bank barn the large double doors facing east would allow easy approach for doing chores. An identical set of double doors facing west, due to the hill, opened a story off of the ground. This would have allowed for a wagon or truck to back up to those doors for loading or unloading of materials. These west doors are now fixed. The hayloft to the north provided ample space for storing loosely cut hay at a time before bales became the standard storage form. A Dutch door replete with its original hinges beneath the hayloft was the likely spot for a tack room with access to the feed room next door. In 2010 this room was retrofitted to house chickens. The barn floor is comprised of thick, variable width wood planks up to 17" wide, fastened with Type B cut nails. The north and south-facing ends of the barn's gables each have a martin hole that's shape is best described as a cross between a primitive diamond and quatrefoil.

Frozen in time is the hen house with its simple gabled roof structure. Due to holes and deterioration of its cedar shake roof, the structure has sustained water damage that compromised the flooring, portions of the eastern limestone wall, and the roof itself. Despite this, the building is incredibly intact. Like the bank barn to the west, this building is also built into a bank, offering two distinct levels for housing animals. Pigs were kept in the cool limestone basement with a south-facing opening and wooden gate. This dirt-floored under story had a window to the west and a small Dutch door at the south end of the west wall. The upper story is a generously sized chicken house with a wire mesh partition between the southern and northern sections of the room. The nesting boxes are still in place and various accoutrements used for chicken husbandry can be found scattered in the space. With doors to the east and the south, the hen house would have surely been important to the family as they raised the birds for both eggs and meat.

⁴⁹ DiGiuseppe, Gary. "Bank Barns." *Acreage Magazine*. March 2012, Pgs. 13-15.

⁵⁰ *Ibid*.

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The white barn/tool shed also had a simple gabled roof and has been thought to possibly be the original barn on the property. An examination of the structure's nails indicates the use of primarily wire nails, dating the property to 1890 at the earliest.⁵¹ Of all of the outbuildings, this is the most primitive structure with no brick or stone foundation. The wood siding essentially meets the earth at ground level and the floor is hard-packed dirt. The building may well have housed livestock. Louis Kupke, however, used the building as a toolshed where he had a workbench and tools set up in the northern half. The southern half functioned as a storage room.

Just to the east of the white barn/tool shed is the location of the original home site. A large pile of fallen tree limbs has been accumulated on this spot, filling in the foundation and somewhat obscuring its details above grade. Red rectangular stones form the tops of the foundation walls. It is unknown when this house was torn down. Great-granddaughter Janet Wendt remembers playing by the red rocks of the foundation as a child.⁵² The site is completely enclosed by woods now.

The granary has also been referred to as the garage.⁵³ As a commercial agricultural outbuilding fairly close to the house, it appears to have been adapted to housing an automobile instead of grain once small grain storage became less relevant in the evolving agricultural era. Originally the granary would have been used to store wheat and other small grains. The building has double doors on both the west and east sides to allow for airflow with four areas to collect the grain. The wood floor is similar to the bank barn's with thick, wide planks. Between the cracks, it is still possible to see small bits of wheat and chaff that were presumably threshed in the central aisle way. One relic of this time is a primitive wood and metal fanning mill that is still stored in the attic above. Like most of the outbuildings, the precise date of construction is not known. There are two interesting autographs carved into the wood walls. The first is "Arthur Lehr 1917" and the second is a pin-poked "Louis Kupke."

The corn crib is the first outbuilding to be seen as the property is approached from Church Road and it is also the most eastern commercial agricultural structure on the farmstead. It is notable for its simple white gabled structure with the typical north-south central driveway. Inside of the crib, there is a dirt floor and there is an overhead opening for corn to be discharged to a wagon or truck below. Originally the corn crib had a rectangular vent cut into the eastern slope of the roof. It also had a metal elevator that was removed c. 1990. The current cupola perched at the apex of the roof peak is not original to the barn, nor is it actually a cupola or functional vent. This detail was added in c. 1991 as an aspect of visual staging for the movie production of *O'Pioneers*. This apparent cupola is actually an old outhouse from some other property that's base was cut to sit on the corn crib roofline. In the 1940s and 1950s, Christian's grandsons Louis and Paul used this building to store harvested corn from both of their farm operations.

The construction of the farmhouse in c.1910 necessitated two important domestic structures: the summer kitchen and the outhouse. Both buildings are finished with the same horizontal clapboard as the farmhouse and the summer kitchen's visible block foundation is the same as the farmhouse. Both buildings are arranged in close proximity to the kitchen doors. Important domestic activities were conducted more conveniently with these structures close to the house that was the hub of all domestic activity. The most distinctive aspect of the outhouse is that it features two seats, arranged side by side.

The summer kitchen has a red brick chimney and originally there was a wood stove on the south wall that connected to the flue. In this single-room structure, canned goods from summer garden harvests would be processed. Additionally, aspects of the laundry process were completed in this structure and ultimately hung on a line to dry that ran from the farmhouse to the summer kitchen. The basement of the summer kitchen also acted as an ice house where river ice was cut, packed in straw, and kept underground to cool food during the summer. Access to this basement is through a small section of tongue and groove planks that can be removed for access. It is certainly possible that this underground storage area was also used as a root cellar during the winter months. Domestic buildings such as this made a crucial contribution to the farmstead by ensuring the survival and happiness of the farm family and all those who worked, ate, and lived on the farm.

Overall Significance of Property in Light of Settlement, Agriculture, and Architecture

The Christian Kupke Farmstead is an exceptional example of a southeastern Nebraska farm that grew and expanded during the period of expansion and prosperity between 1876 and 1919. Structures on the property were tailored and re-worked to serve changing needs subsequent to those early boom years. In terms of garnering official recognition, highest priority is given to complete farmstead units that have a full representation of both domestic and commercial agricultural

⁵¹ Visser, Thomas D. *Nails: Clues to a Building's History*. University of Vermont Historical Preservation Program. Available online at: www.uvm.edu/histpres/203/nails.html

⁵² Wendt, Janet. Personal interview about family and property history. April 20, 2012.

⁵³ Ibid.

Christian Kupke Farmstead

Cass County, Nebraska

Name of Property

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structures.⁵⁴ The Christian Kupke Farmstead offers that mix of structures and sites. Furthermore, the farmhouse is a remarkable example of a distinct period home style with vernacular influences that punctuate the influence of the rural farm setting. Given recent trends in agriculture that have threatened the preservation of the historic rural landscape,⁵⁵ recognizing the agricultural and architectural significance of the Christian Kupke Farmstead will ensure that the property's meaningful history is preserved for the present and the future.

Developmental history/additional historic context information

Thomas J. Fountain

In the spring of 1857, Englishman Thomas J. Fountain settled on his farm located on a portion of section 24 in South Bend Precinct. The son of a wealthy stock-broker and farmer, Thomas immigrated with his parents to the United States in 1835 or 1836 at age five. Educated in Middletown, Connecticut, Thomas later served an apprenticeship in the blacksmithing trade. He then worked as a journeyman and, upon settling in Nebraska, became a full-time farmer. The Fountain farmstead was run by Thomas along with his wife Abilena and their three children: Jason, Isabelle, and Lafayette.^{56,57}

In June of 1869, the Fountains acquired additional land, less than two miles directly south of their homestead. This land, the property that would later incorporate and surround the Christian Kupke Farmstead, was first purchased at a Public Sale of Common School Lands of the State of Nebraska. For the price of \$1120, the Fountains expanded their land holding by 160 acres in the SW ¼ of section 36.⁵⁸ The original acquisition of this land from the State of Nebraska is notable and leaves a bit of a legacy after over 140 years. When Nebraska was admitted to the Union in 1867, Congress made land grants for the "support of the common school." In Nebraska, sections 16 and 36 in each township or precinct were designated for these land grants. At statehood, this comprised nearly one-eighteenth of the state's overall land.⁵⁹

Similar to other land-grant scandals of the era, the period prior to 1900 was rife with corruption and half of the original school trust lands were sold off to private owners, like Thomas J. Fountain. Around the turn of the century, preservation of these school lands was given greater priority and the Nebraska Board of Educational Lands & Funds was created. Even today, these lands generate millions of dollars of income for public schools in Nebraska.⁶⁰ Despite the unknown particulars surrounding Thomas J. Fountain's purchase in 1869, we can be assured that his investment in the new State of Nebraska impacted the evolving "Common School."

L. Clark McCabe and Family

At retirement, Louis and Elsie Kupke desired to move to town and anticipated leaving the farm for Murdock. They made the decision to sell the property to a real estate developer from Lincoln who had seen the property while passing through the area on his way to his family's cabin near South Bend. The Kupke's sold the farmstead along with the surrounding quarter section of land in January 1969.

The McCabe family owned the farmstead for just over 40 years, until July of 2010. They did a large amount of basic redecorating upon possession and are credited for such updates as: modernizing the bathrooms and kitchen, wallpapering most of the house, and adding carpets. In the mid-1980s, the farmstead portion of the property was divided from the remainder of the quarter section. The McCabe family sold the farmland acres to the long-standing Stroy family who had been renting the land for farming. The resulting farmstead was designed to contain all of the outbuildings along with the farmhouse as a long horizontal parcel. The long lane off of Church Road became an easement through the Stroy's farmland and remains a visual focal point even today.

Enthralled by the property's historic charm, in 1991 the farmstead was selected as the filming location for Hallmark's adaptation of Willa Cather's novel, *O' Pioneers*. Subsequently, the property has been the site for numerous commercials.

⁵⁴ Murphy, David. *Historic Context Report 08.01 Southeastern General Farming: The Period of Expansion and Prosperity, 1876-1919*. Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office, 1988. Pg. 19.

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, Pg. 25.

⁵⁶ *Portrait and Biographical Album of Otoe and Cass Counties, Nebraska*. Chicago: Chapman brothers, 1889. Pg. 1186.

⁵⁷ Jason Phipps Descendants available online at: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~walkersj/Jasondescendants.htm>.

⁵⁸ Cass Country Register of Deeds.

⁵⁹ Nebraska Board of Educational Lands & Funds. Available online at: <http://belf.nebraska.gov/history.htm>

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*

Christian Kupke Farmstead
Name of Property

Cass County, Nebraska
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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- Yard Clerical Manual "The Early Years – 1845-1892."* Rock Island and Pacific Railroad, c. 1970. Available online at: <http://www.rits.org/www/histories/RIHistory.html>

Christian Kupke Farmstead

Cass County, Nebraska

Name of Property

County and State

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: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): CC00-365

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4.36

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 14 731499 4538136
Zone Easting Northing

3 Zone Easting Northing

2 Zone Easting Northing

4 Zone Easting Northing

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

The nominated area is in the southwest corner of the SW ¼ of Section 36, Township 12 North, Range 10 East (South Bend Precinct), Cass County, Nebraska. It includes 4.36 acres that are bounded by a windbreak to the north, commercial farmland to the east, west, and southeast. The property is bounded by woods and a stream to the southwest. The plat is an irregular rectangle stretching from east to west and including all of the historic buildings and sites.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encompasses a tract of land containing the building and sites historically associated with the Christian Kupke Farmstead.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sabrina Giordano / Owner

organization The Farm at Long Lane, LLC

date May 2012

street & number 32618 Church Rd

telephone 402-452-8004

city or town Murdock

State NE

zip code 68407

e-mail thefarmatlonglane@gmail.com

Christian Kupke Farmstead
Name of Property

Cass County, Nebraska
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Christian Kupke Farmstead
City or Vicinity: Murdock vicinity
County: Cass State: Nebraska
Photographer: Patrick Haynes, Nebraska State Historical Society
Date Photographed: April 26, 2012
Description of Photograph(s) and number:

Photo #1 of 16 (NE_CassCounty_ChristianKupkeFarmstead_01)
View of farmstead from Church Road, camera facing north.

Photo #2 of 16 (NE_CassCounty_ChristianKupkeFarmstead_02)
Farmhouse, camera facing north.

Photo #3 of 16 (NE_CassCounty_ChristianKupkeFarmstead_03)
Farmhouse, camera facing east.

Photo #4 of 16 (NE_CassCounty_ChristianKupkeFarmstead_04)
Farmhouse, camera facing southwest.

Photo #5 of 16 (NE_CassCounty_ChristianKupkeFarmstead_05)
Farmhouse interior, entryway. Camera facing south.

Photo #6 of 16 (NE_CassCounty_ChristianKupkeFarmstead_06)
Farmhouse interior, built-in dining room hutch. Camera facing east.

Photo #7 of 16 (NE_CassCounty_ChristianKupkeFarmstead_07)
Farmhouse interior,
dining room looking into smoking room. Camera facing north.

Photo #8 of 16 (NE_CassCounty_ChristianKupkeFarmstead_08)
Farmhouse interior, 2nd floor, bedroom one. Camera facing northwest.

Photo #9 of 16 (NE_CassCounty_ChristianKupkeFarmstead_09)
Summer Kitchen, camera facing east.

Photo #10 of 16 (NE_CassCounty_ChristianKupkeFarmstead_10)
Outhouse, camera facing northeast.

Christian Kupke Farmstead

Name of Property

Cass County, Nebraska

County and State

Photo #11 of 16 (NE_CassCounty_ChristianKupkeFarmstead_11)
Hen House, camera facing northeast.

Photo #12 of 16 (NE_CassCounty_ChristianKupkeFarmstead_12)
Corn Crib, camera facing northeast.

Photo #13 of 16 (NE_CassCounty_ChristianKupkeFarmstead_13)
Granary, camera facing northwest.

Photo #14 of 16 (NE_CassCounty_ChristianKupkeFarmstead_14)
White Barn/Tool Shed, camera facing southwest.

Photo #15 of 16 (NE_CassCounty_ChristianKupkeFarmstead_15)
Bank Barn, camera facing northwest.

Photo #16 of 16 (NE_CassCounty_ChristianKupkeFarmstead_16)
Calving shed, camera facing northeast.

Property Owner: (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Jason and Sabrina Giordano

street & number 32618 Church Rd

telephone 402-452-8004

city or town Murdock

state NE

zip code 68407

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 18 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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Christian Kupke Farmstead

Name of Property

Cass County, Nebraska

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Information

Page 1



Figure 1: Farmhouse at Christian Kupke Farmstead c. 1910. The photo depicts the home's housewarming, attended by "townspeople," neighbors, and Charles and Anna Kupke with their children Louis, Carl, Paul, and Elsie, as well as Anna's parents, the Schroeders.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Christian Kupke Farmstead

Name of Property

Cass County, Nebraska

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Information

Page 2



Figure 2: Aerial view of Farmstead with boundary in red.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Christian Kupke Farmstead

Name of Property

Cass County, Nebraska

County and State

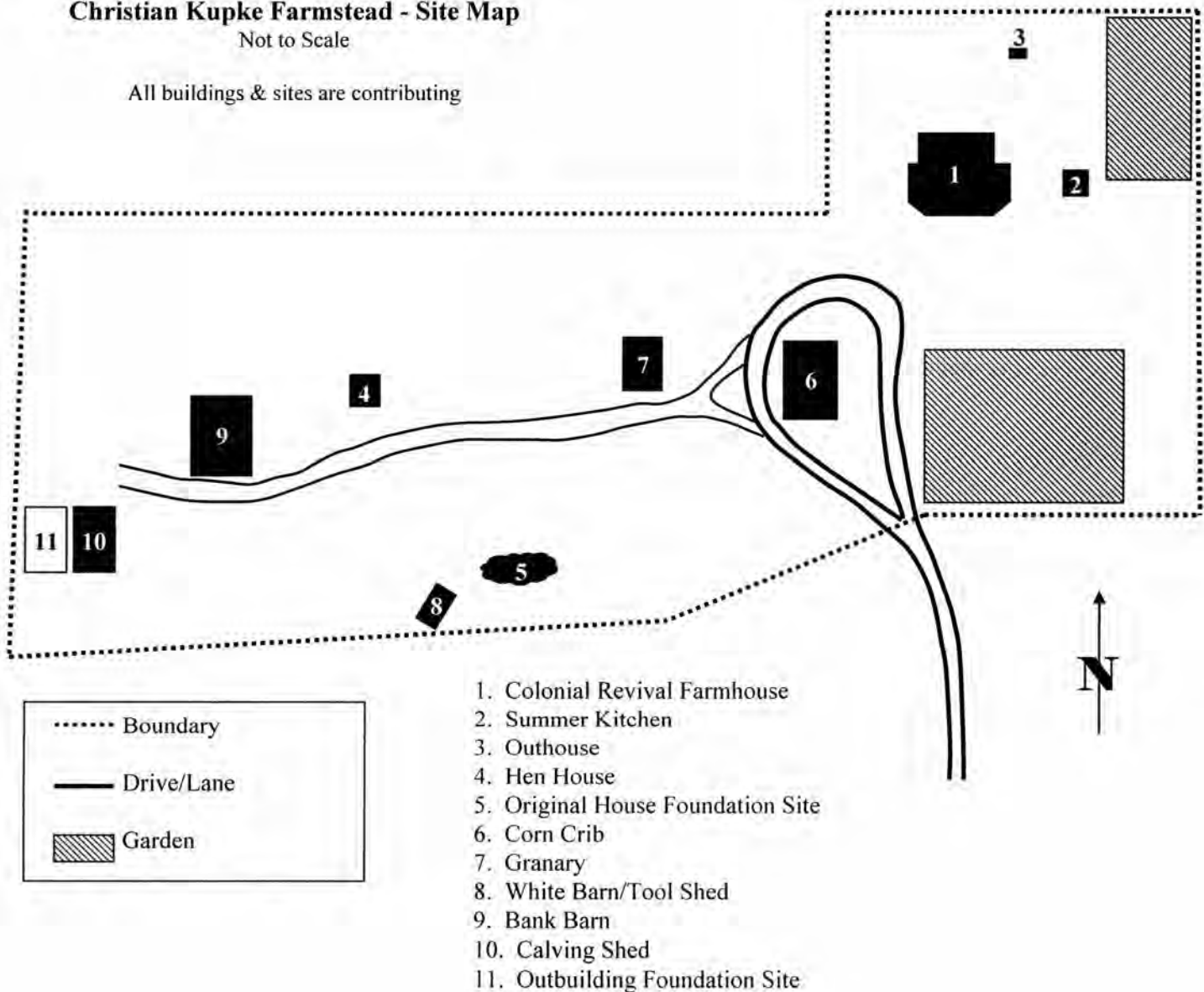
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional DocumentationPage 4

Christian Kupke Farmstead - Site Map

Not to Scale

All buildings & sites are contributing



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Christian Kupke Farmstead

Name of Property

Cass County, Nebraska

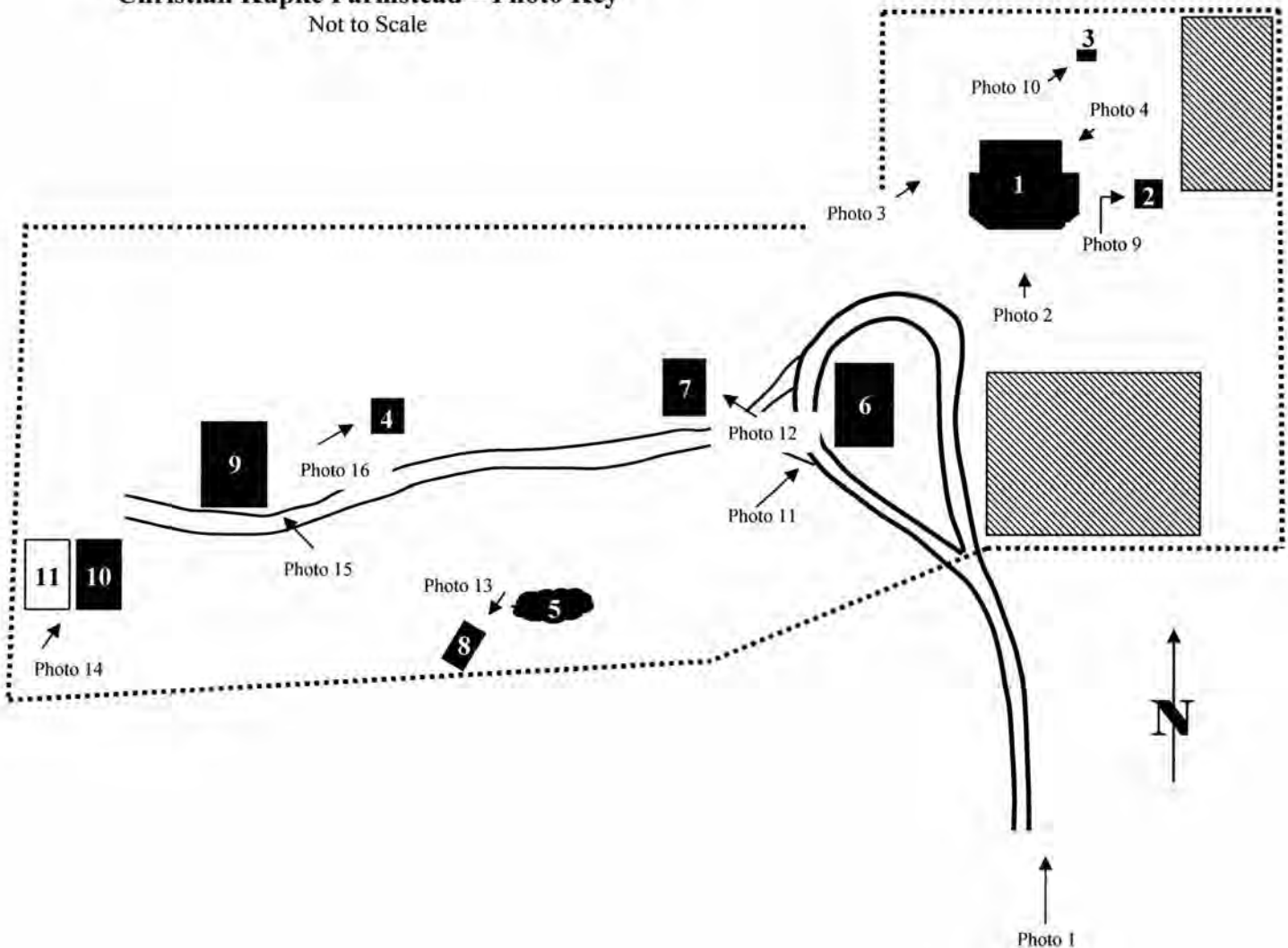
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 5

Christian Kupke Farmstead – Photo Key
Not to Scale



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Kupke, Christian, Farmstead

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEBRASKA, Cass

DATE RECEIVED: 11/02/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/04/12
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/19/12 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/19/12
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12001073

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 12.19.12 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.



Christian Kupke Farmstead

Murdock vicinity

Cass County, Nebraska

Photo 1 of 16

NE- Cass County - Christian Kupke Farmstead - 01

View of farmstead from Church Road, camera facing north.

Ne HRSI# CCOO-365



Christian Kupke Farmstead

Murdock vicinity

Cass County, Nebraska

Photo 2 of 16

NE-CassCounty-ChristianKupkeFarmstead-02

Farmhouse, camera facing north.

NeHRSI#CC00-365



Christian Kupke Farmstead

Murdock vicinity

Cass County, Nebraska

Photo 3 of 16

NE- Cass County- Christian Kupke Farmstead-03

Farmhouse, camera facing east.

Ne HRSI # CC00-365



Christian Kupke Farmstead

Murdock, vicinity

Cass County, Nebraska

Photo 4 of 16

NE - Cass County - Christian Kupke Farmstead - 04

Farmhouse, camera facing southwest

Ne HRSI # C000 - 365



Christian Kupke Farmstead
Murdock vicinity
Cass County, Nebraska

Photo 5 of 16

NE- Cass County - Christian Kupke Farmstead - 05

Farmhouse interior, entryway. Camera facing south.

Ne HRSI# CC00 - 365



Christian Kupke Farmstead

Murdock vicinity

Cass County, Nebraska

Photo 6 of 16

NE - Cass County - Christian Kupke Farmstead - 06

Farmhouse interior, built in dining room hutch. Camera facing east.

Ne HRSI # CC00-365



Christian Kupke Farmstead

Murdock vicinity

Cass County, Nebraska

Photo 7 of 16

NE - Cass County - Christian Kupke Farmstead - 07

Farmhouse interior, dining room looking into smoking room. Camera facing north.

Ne HRSI # CC00 - 365



Christian Kupke Farmstead

Murdock vicinity

Cass County, Nebraska

Photo 8 of 16

NE- Cass County- Christian Kupke Farmstead- 08

Farmhouse interior, 2nd floor, bedroom one. Camera facing northwest.

Ne HRSI # CCOO-365



Christian Kupke Farmstead

Murdock vicinity

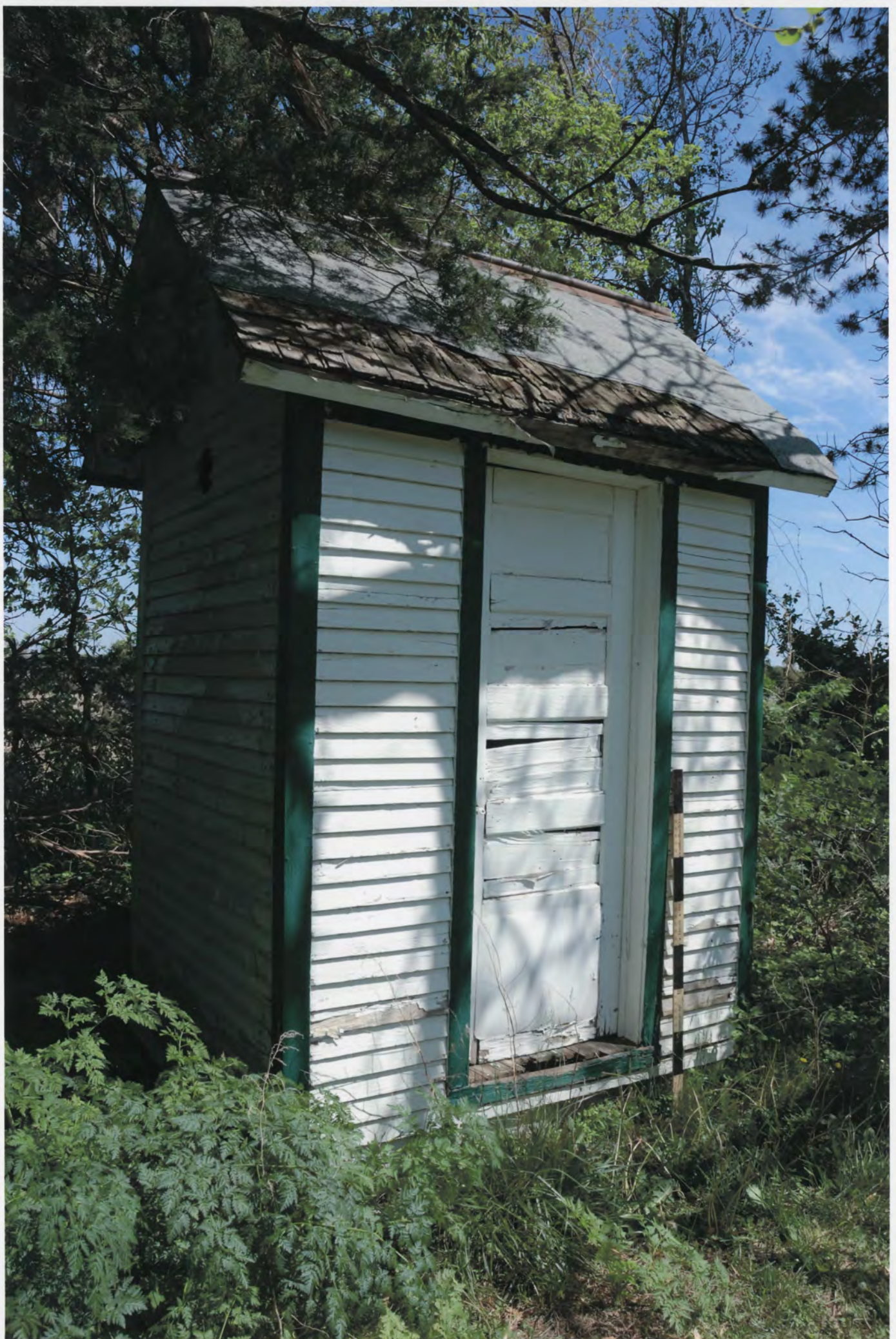
Cass County, Nebraska

Photo 9 of 16

NE- Cass County- Christian Kupke Farmstead - 09

Summer Kitchen, camera facing east.

Ne HRSI # CCOO - 365



Christian Kupke Farmstead

Murdock vicinity

Cass County, Nebraska

Photo 10 of 16

NE - Cass County - Christian Kupke Farmstead - 10

Outhouse, camera facing northeast.

Ne HRSI # CCOB-365



Christian Kupke Farmstead

Murdock vicinity

Cass County, Nebraska

Photo 11 of 16

NE - Cass County - Christian Kupke Farmstead - 11

Hen House, camera facing northeast.

Ne HRSI # CCOO-365



Christian Kupke Farmstead

Murdock vicinity

Cass County, Nebraska

Photo 12 of 16

NE- Cass County- Christian Kupke Farmstead_12

Corn Crib, camera facing northeast.

Ne HRSI# CCOO-365



Christian Kupke Farmstead

Murdock vicinity

Cass County, Nebraska

Photo 13 of 16

NE - Cass County - Christian Kupke Farmstead - 13

Granary, camera facing northwest.

Ne HRSI # CCOO-365



Christian Kupke Farmstead

Murdock vicinity

Cass County, Nebraska

Photo 14 of 16

NE - Cass County - Christian Kupke Farmstead - 14

White Barn / Tool Shed, camera facing southwest.

Ne HRSI# CCOO-365



Christian Kupke Farmstead

Murdock vicinity

Cass County, Nebraska

Photo 15 of 16

NE- Cass County - Christian Kupke Farmstead - 15

Bank Barn, camera facing northwest.

Ne HRSI # C000-365



Christian Kupke Farmstead

Murdock vicinity

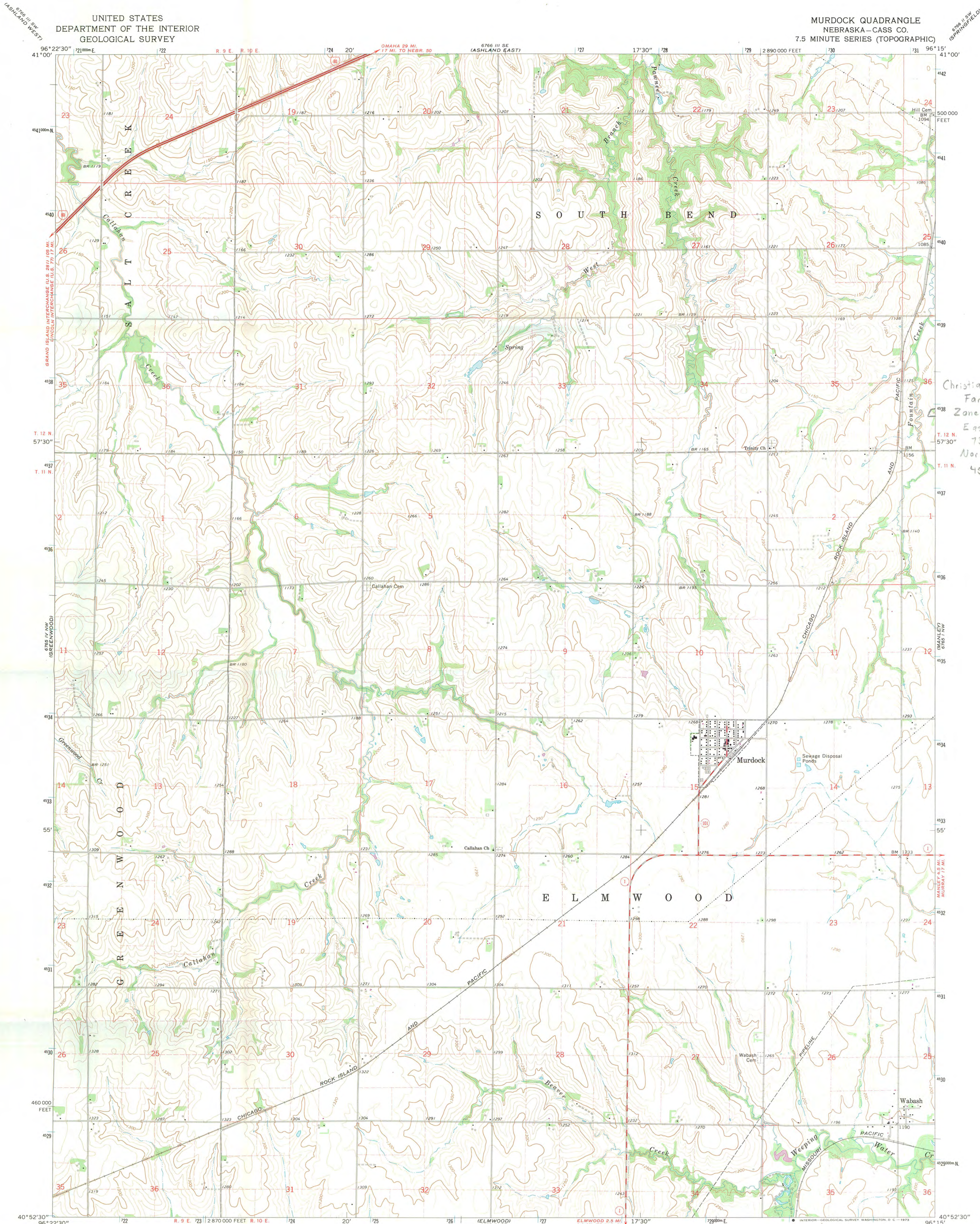
Cass County, Nebraska

Photo 16 of 16

NE - Cass County - Christian Kupke Farmstead - 16

Calving Shed, camera facing northeast.

Ne HRSI # CC00-365



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey as part of the Department of the Interior program for the development of the Missouri River Basin Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1965. Field checked 1966

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum 10,000-foot grid based on Nebraska coordinate system, south zone 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 14, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1972. This information not field checked

UTM GRID AND 1972 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

1°46' 31 MILS

89° 151 MILS

SCALE 1:24,000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET

DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242

A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———

Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———

Interstate Route ——— State Route ———

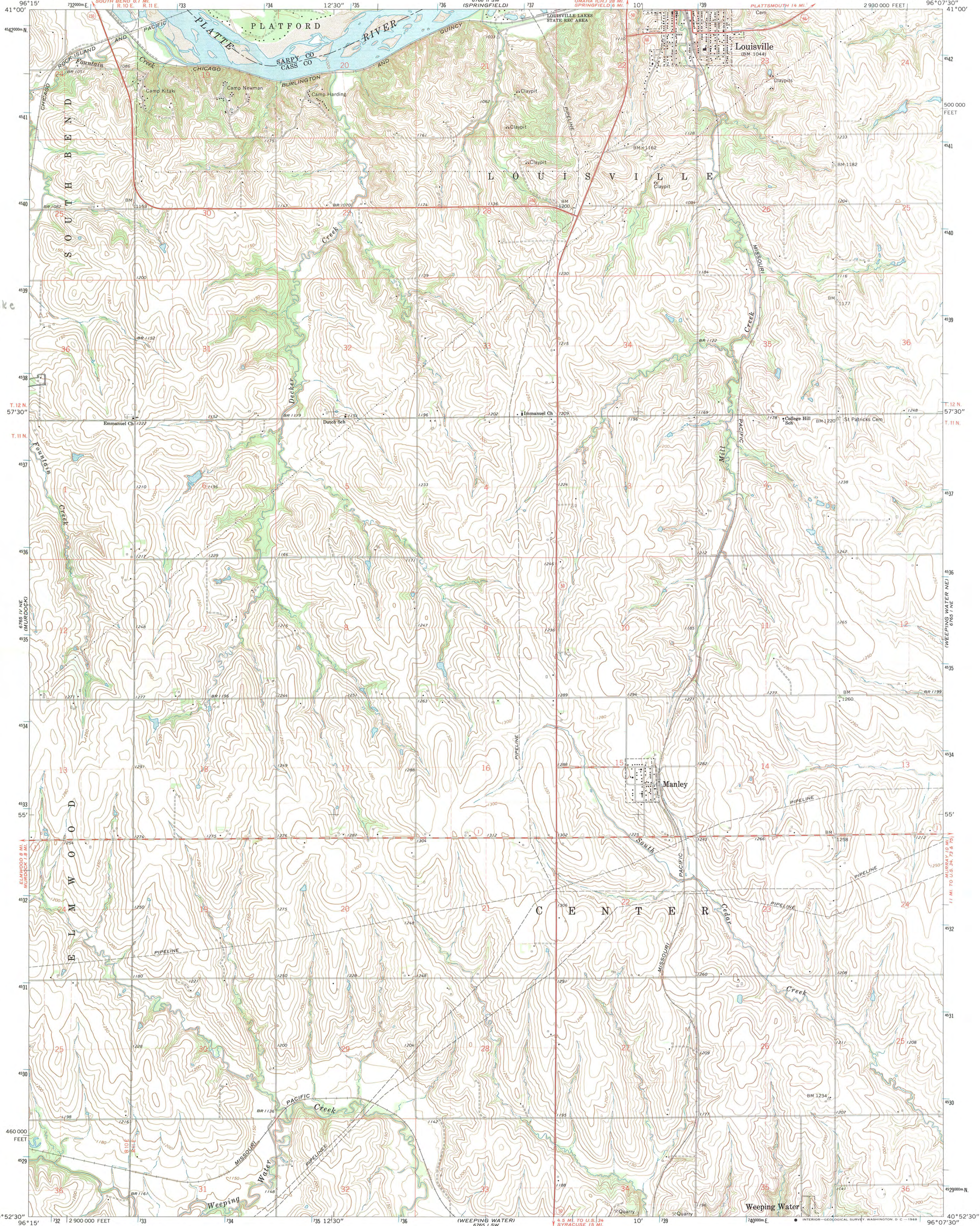
MURDOCK, NEBR.

N4052.5—W9615.7.5

1966

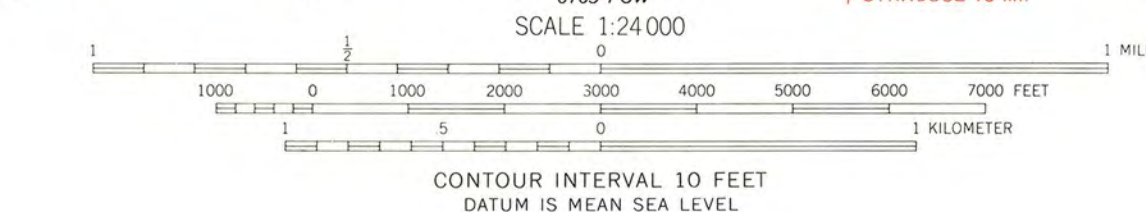
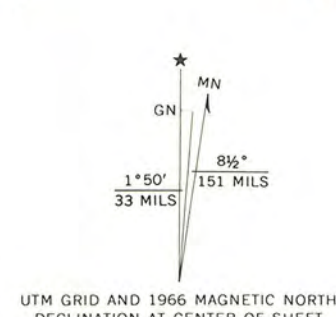
PHOTOREVISED 1972

AMS 6765 IV NE—SERIES V875



Christian Kupke
Farmstead
Zone 14
Easting-
731499
Northing-
4538136

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
as part of the Department of the Interior program
for the development of the Missouri River Basin
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1965. Field checked 1966
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Nebraska coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 14, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



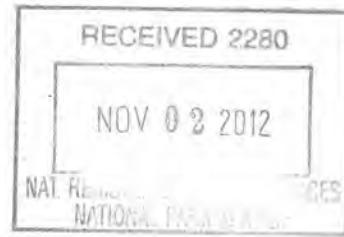
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



MANLEY, NEBR.
N4052.5—W9607.5/7.5

1966

AMS 6765 1 NW—SERIES V875



October 25, 2012

J. Paul Loether
National Register—National Historic Landmarks Programs
National Park Service
1201 "I" Street NW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

RE: Christian Kupke Farmstead (Farm at Long Lane)
Cass County, Nebraska

Dear Mr. Loether:

Please find enclosed the National Register of Historic Places nomination form for the above resource. This form has met all notification and other requirements as established in 36 CFR 60.

If you have any questions concerning this nomination, please let me know.

Sincerely,


L. Robert Puschendorf
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure

1500 R Street
PO Box 82554
Lincoln, NE 68501-2554
p: (800) 833-6747
(402) 471-3270
f: (402) 471-3100
www.nebraskahistory.org