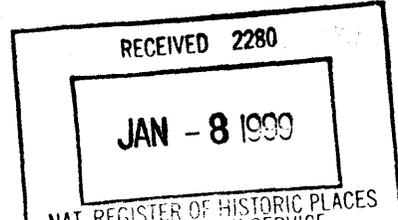


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



121

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

1. Name of Property

historic name LUEDTKE, AUGUST AND VERA, BARN

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 1938 185th Street N/A not for publication

city or town Fairfield  vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Jefferson code 101 zip code 52556

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Patricia Chelmsky DEPT 12-30-98  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

**STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA**  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is :
- entered in the National Register.
  - See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
  - See continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register.
- Other, (Explain)

Edson H. Beall  
Signature of Keeper

2/22/99  
Date of Action

August and Vera Luedtke Barn  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Iowa  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many lines as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one line)

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

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

Louden Machinery Company, Fairfield, Iowa

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: animal facility

OTHER: storage

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE

foundation Concrete

walls Concrete

Wood

roof Metal

other Metal

**Narrative Description**

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

August and Vera Luedtke Barn  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Iowa  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" on one or more lines for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" on all the lines that apply)  
Property is:

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE  
ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1947-1948

**Significant Dates**

1947

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

Luedtke, August

**Narrative Statement of Significance** - (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

**9. Major Bibliography References**

**Bibliography**

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

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- previous determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Record
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository

August and Vera Luedtke Barn  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Iowa  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 1 | 51 | 584120 | 14543260 |

Zone	Easting	Northing
1	51	584120

**Verbal Boundary Description**  
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

2 |    |    |    |    |

Zone	Easting	Northing
2		

**Boundary Justification**  
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

3 |    |    |    |    |

Zone	Easting	Northing
3		

4 |    |    |    |    |

Zone	Easting	Northing
4		

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title William C. Page, Public Historian; Joanne R. Walroth, Project Associate  
organization Jefferson County Historic Preservation Commission date November 15, 1997  
street & number 520 East Sheridan Avenue (Page) telephone 515-243-5740 (Page)  
city or town Des Moines state Iowa zip code 50313-5017

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

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

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

**Property Owner**

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

name Gene M. and Marian L. Luedtke  
street & number 1938 185th Street telephone 515-472-2485  
city or town Fairfield state Iowa zip code 52556

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

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

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

CFN-259-1116

August and Vera Luedtke Barn, Jefferson County, Iowa.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

Constructed in 1947, this is a gambrel-roof barn resting on a poured concrete foundation, with concrete block walls. This building possesses a rectangular footprint and is covered by a gambrel-shaped roof supported by a system of braced rafters. This barn features eleven intact Louden-designed and manufactured dairy stanchions and a hay carrier system, original to the building's construction and installed to facilitate its use as a dairy operation. This barn is presently used for storage.

**BARN**

This is a ground-level, center drive dairy barn, whose gambrel roof features a braced rafter design.

The building rests on poured concrete foundation. It is rectangular in shape and measures approximately 35' x 42'. The first floor walls of the building are solid concrete block to about 8' of height. The remaining exterior walls are clad with vertical wood siding. The framing system of this building, above the concrete block, is balloon. The barn features a braced rafter construction. (See Continuation Sheet 7-6.) The ends of two joists for the hay mow floor are exposed on the exterior wall of the south elevation, where they are tied into the concrete block.

This barn possesses a total of 13 window openings. Two windows flank the hay loft entry door on the north elevation, and two windows are situated at the rear in the mow area. These windows feature four pane sash, which can be moved up and down. The main floor of the barn features four-pane windows, which can be moved up and down. Four of these windows are situated on the east elevation, and five of these windows are on the west elevation. There is no roof ventilator on this barn. There is also no silo associated with this building. This barn has no attached additions or lean-tos.

The barn can be accessed by seven entrances. The north and south elevations each contain three entrances, and the east elevation has one. These entrances feature sliding wooden doors. The doorway on the east elevation features a poured concrete approach.

In the interior, the main floor and the hay mow each contains an area of approximately 1,200 square feet. The main floor is laid out along a central drive, which runs north and south. (See Continuation Sheet 7-5.) Access to the mow is gained by an opening in the mow floor and a ladder to it, located near the center of this central drive. The main floor of this barn is constructed of poured concrete.

The space to the west of this central drive contains three areas. A horse stall is situated in the northwest corner. This stall was constructed with a wood floor to protect horses' hooves. A bull pen is situated in the middle area. Heavy wood members were used to construct the partitions and the gate to this pen. A livestock area is situated in the southern half of the space to the west of the central drive. This livestock area embraces about one-half the floor area of the west space of the barn.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 2

CFN-259-1116

August and Vera Luedtke Barn, Jefferson County, Iowa.

The space to the east of the central drive contains one area. A series of 11 Loudon-manufactured steel stanchions are situated in a row running north and south, so that cows face inward when housed. The central drive, therefore, also serves as the feeding alley for the mangers, which front the stalls. A cleaning alley is located at the rear of these stalls. This alley features a poured concrete trough, about 20" in width and 5" in depth, which facilitates the removal of manure from the dairy stalls.

The hay mow features one large area, unimpeded with interior support columns. A Loudon-designed hay carrier and fork remain in place under the ridge of the barn's roof. (See Continuation Sheet 8-10 for an historic photograph picturing this equipment in operation.)

Only a few alterations have been made to the Luedtke Barn. They include the removal of one of the dairy stanchions. These stanchions originally numbered 12, but at some unknown time in the past, one of these stanchions was removed. Although metal roofing now clads the roof of the barn and is visually distracting, this material is reversible. The historic photograph, referenced above, shows that in the 1940s a wood fence ran east and west in front of the barn and separated it from the farmyard area to the north. This fence is nonexistent.

Presently, the Luedtke Barn is in good condition.

**SITE**

This barn is situated in the southwest quarter of Section 15 in Township 72 North Range 10 West. The National Register boundaries encompass a 120' x 100' parcel of land within the farmstead.

The farmstead possesses several other buildings. These buildings are oriented along a farmstead drive, which runs north and south and accesses the farmstead from 185th Boulevard. A farmhouse stands on the west side of this drive. It is a 1-story, frame, gable-front-and-wing, single-family dwelling, probably constructed in the late Nineteenth or early Twentieth Century. A small barn stands on the east side of the farmstead drive. This barn, which measures approximately 26' x 30' was constructed circa 1947. A modern, single-family dwelling, constructed in 1993, is situated to the west of this farmstead. The owner of the farm lives there now.

The immediate surroundings of the Luedtke Barn are generally level in topography. Land use is agricultural in all directions. The City of Fairfield is located about two miles to the southeast.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

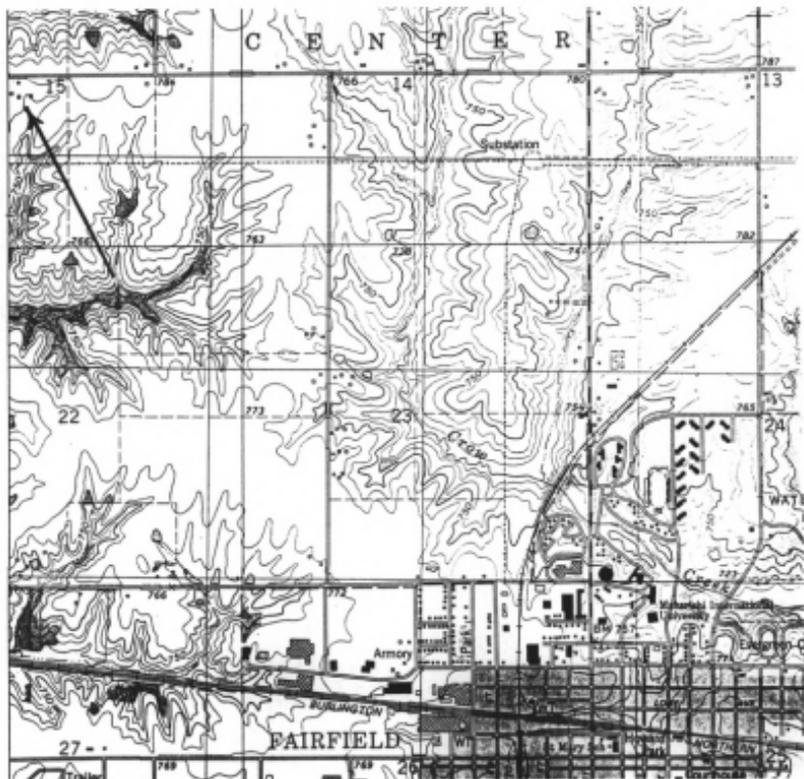
Section number 7 Page 3

CPN-259-1116

August and Vera Luedtke Barn, Jefferson County, Iowa.

## SITE MAP

ARROW LOCATES PROPERTY



Source: U.S.G.S. Map (7.5 Minute Series), Fairfield North Quadrangle, 1980.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

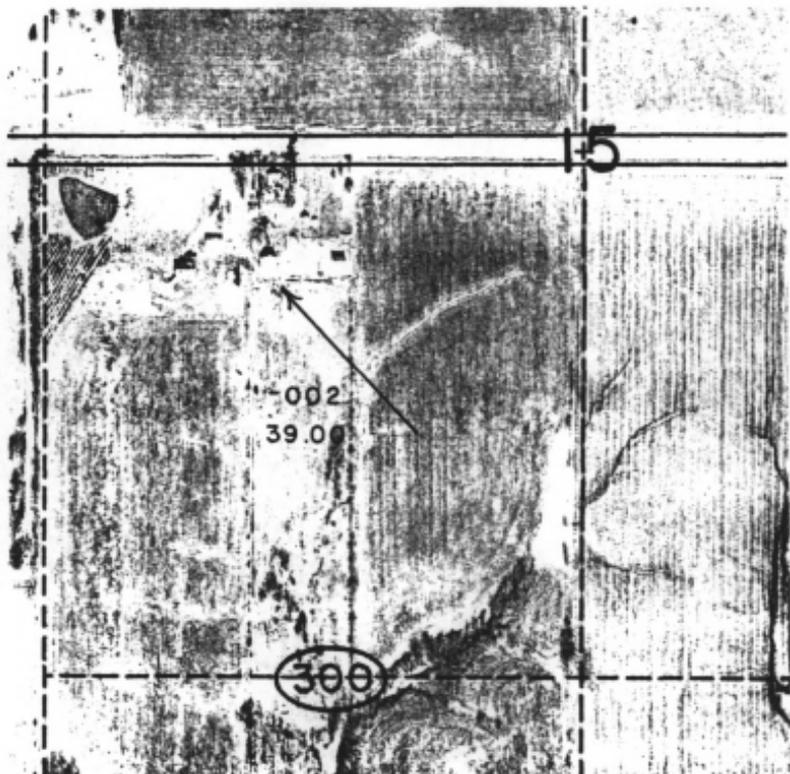
Section number 7 Page 4

CPN-259-1116

August and Vera Luedtke Barn, Jefferson County, Iowa.

## AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH

ARROW LOCATES BARN



Scale: One inch equals 400 feet.

Source: The Sidwell Company, 1994.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

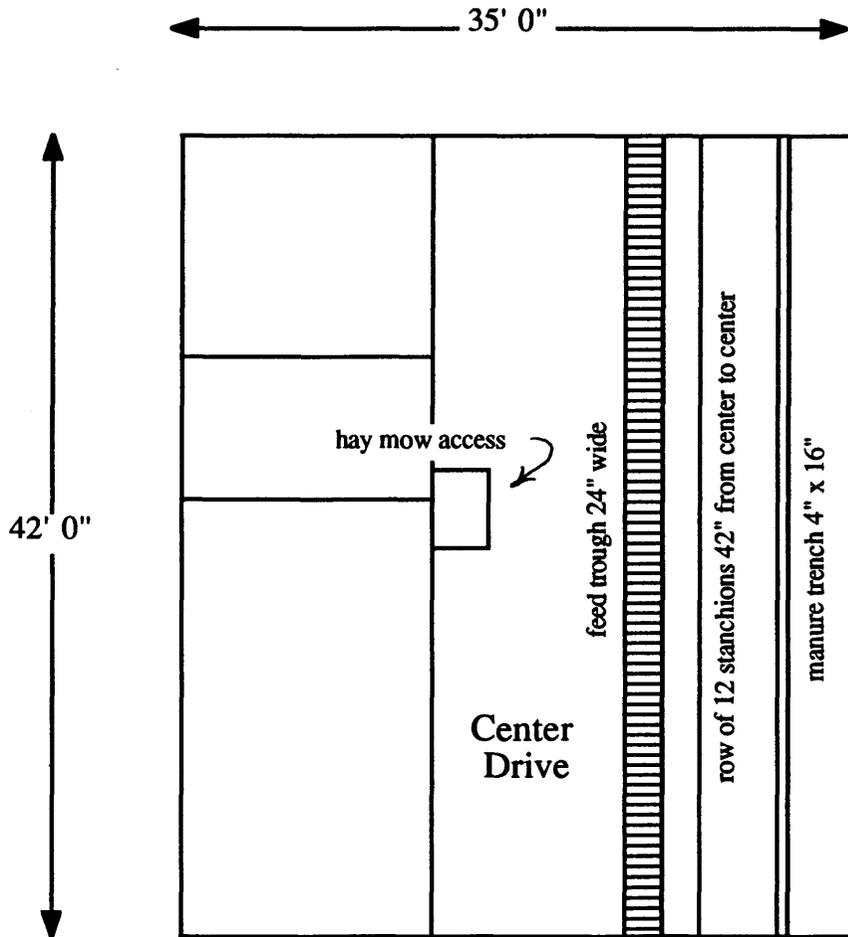
Section number 7 Page 5

CFN-259-1116

August and Vera Luedtke Barn, Jefferson County, Iowa.

## SKETCH OF FLOORPLAN

Ground Floor



all floors concrete

Source: Gene Luedtke measurements and William C. Page computer.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

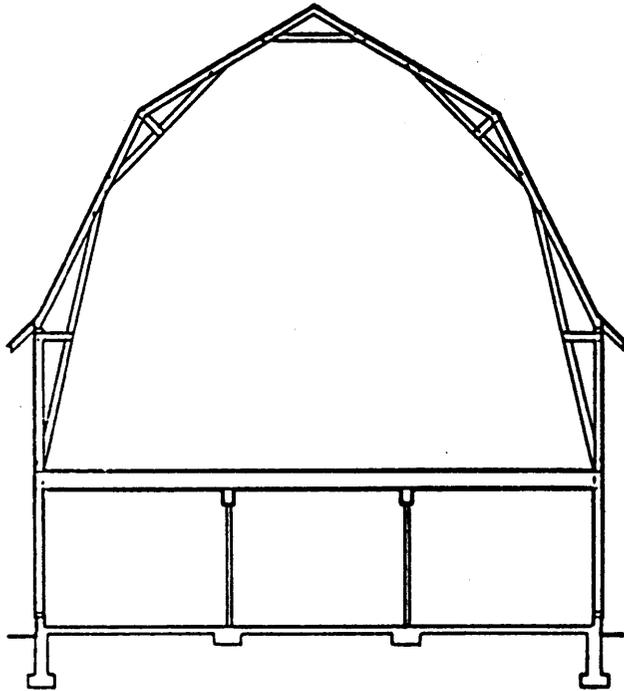
# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 6

CFN-259-1116

August and Vera Luedtke Barn, Jefferson County, Iowa.

## SKETCH OF INTERIOR RAFTER TRUSS SUPPORT



Source: Courtesy of Gene Luedtke.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 7

CFN-259-1116

August and Vera Luedtke Barn, Jefferson County, Iowa.

**SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Built in 1947 for dairy farming, the August and Vera Luedtke Barn possesses architectural significance, under National Register Criterion C. The Luedtke Barn is a good, well-preserved example of a structure influenced by Loudon Machinery Company barn design. The building features a system of braced rafters as advocated by that firm's Architectural Department and constructed by August Luedtke, who had learned the technique while building Loudon-designed barns in the Fairfield vicinity. The concrete block walls of the Luedtke Barn also show the influence of Loudon barn designs.

The Luedtke Barn is significant, under National Register Criterion A, because of its associations with agriculture. The barn provides a good, representative example of a mid-Twentieth Century dairy barn, whose design was influenced by the Architectural Department of the Loudon Machinery Company and whose interior was equipped with Loudon-manufactured equipment. August Luedtke, who built the barn, installed up-to-date Loudon-built dairy stanchions and a hay carrier at the time of its construction. This equipment remains intact today. Although many small dairy operations existed at that time--many equipped with Loudon-manufactured stanchions--this is the only dairy barn, which has preserved that equipment intact, identified to date in Jefferson County,

The period of significance, under Criterion C, for the August and Vera Luedtke Barn is 1947, the year in which it was completed. The period of significance, under Criterion A, is 1947-1948, the period of time within the National Register's 50-year rule in which August Luedtke used the barn for dairy farming.

The property contains one contributing resource for this nomination--the barn and the Loudon equipment, which is attached within it.

**AGRICULTURE**

Built in 1947 by August Luedtke (1907-1986), this barn was originally constructed as a dairy facility and used for that purpose for many years. Equipped with 12 Loudon-designed and manufactured steel stanchions (11 of which survive intact in the barn today), a hay carrier and hay fork, and Loudon door tracks and trolleys, this barn provides a good example how Loudon equipment enhanced a mid-Twentieth Century dairy operation.

August Luedtke usually milked from 10 to 15 cows, often Guernseys, and sold the raw products to the Keosauqua Creamery. A truck from that creamery picked up the products from the Luedtke farm. August continued this milking operation into the 1970s when he developed health problems and ceased dairy farming.

The Luedtke Barn is the only resource, identified to date in Jefferson County, which has preserved its dairy stanchions intact. Dairy farming was common in Jefferson County prior to World War II and many dairy operations are assumed to have been equipped with Loudon-designed equipment. Dairy

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 8

CFN-259-1116

August and Vera Luedtke Barn, Jefferson County, Iowa.

farming in the county declined following the war and many dairy barns were converted to other uses. Others have been razed. An intensive survey of Loudon-designed and equipped barns, conducted in Jefferson County over a four-year period of time, failed to uncover any other example of Loudon-designed dairy stanchions still intact. While the Fred and Vera Fulton Barn in Des Moines Township was designed for Loudon stanchions, they were never installed. (See that nomination in this MPS.) The lack of other surviving examples of Loudon-equipped dairy barns increases the significance of the Luedtke Barn within this context.

#### ARCHITECTURE

The August and Vera Luedtke Barn calls attention to the Architectural Department of the Loudon Machinery Company and its barn designs. The Luedtke Barn is a good, well-preserved example of the firm's braced rafter barn design. The structure also illustrates the concrete block wall type of barn recommended by Loudon. Although this barn was not constructed from custom plans designed by Loudon's Architectural Department, the individual who built it had learned these Loudon techniques from other Loudon-designed barns he had helped build in Jefferson County. This illustrates one way in which Loudon's influence passed into the vernacular building traditions of Jefferson County, Iowa.

The Luedtke Barn features braced rafters to support its roof. According to the Loudon Machinery Company's *Better Barns Book Catalog No. 87* :

BRACED RAFTER BARN--Provides a lot of mow space at low cost. Timbers in the mow are not needed to support the roof and this type of barn can be built up to 38' in width. Studs extend 10' above the mow floor level. Therefore, for a drive-way into mow at floor level, a gable entrance into the mow is needed to clear the hay wagon. Braced rafters are spaced 24' apart and made from stock framing lumber. (Loudon Machinery Company 1954:80)

Built according to this method, the Luedtke Barn survives today with no noticeable signs of structural failure, one testament to Loudon's good design.

Architectural historian Richard Rawson has praised Loudon's braced rafter design:

Compared with that of a traditional post and beam barn, the Loudon dairy barn's braced rafter construction is easier to build and requires fewer hands to frame. The concrete floor is poured into forms of the desired shaped. (Rawson:138)

Rawson's work, *The Old House Book of Barn Plans*, singles out the Loudon Machinery Company as one of only three barn architects featured in his discussion of "modern barns." (The Department of Natural Resources of the Canadian Pacific Railroad and William Radford are the others.) Indeed, Rawson chose many of the graphic cuts for this chapter from Loudon catalogs, lending further credence that the Loudon firm stands as a national leader in this field of architecture. (*Ibid.*:136-157)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 9

CFN-259-1116

August and Vera Luedtke Barn, Jefferson County, Iowa.

Concerning Luedtke's choice of concrete block for the barn's wall material, this was one of several wall treatments recommended by the Loudon firm. Their *Better Barns Book Catalog No. 87* of 1954 urged farmers to "Build Your Barn to Suit Your Likes." These "likes" included a choice of concrete block, wood, brick, tile, poured concrete, or steel for wall materials. Concerning concrete block, the firm noted that:

BUILDING WITH CONCRETE BLOCK--has many of the qualities of glazed or structural tile, and is less expensive to construct. In addition, the concrete blocks are usually available in most communities. (Louden Machinery Company 1954:82)

This catalog also noted that:

CONCRETE BLOCK--Ready-made concrete blocks are easy to handle, install, and will last indefinitely. They are somewhat less expensive than tile, but also less attractive. (*Ibid.*:81)

Native oak was employed for the wooden structural elements of this barn. A saw mill came to the site in 1947 to mill the lumber from local timber. (Gene Luedtke informant interview)

The floorplan of the Luedtke Barn features a head-in arrangement for the animals. The feed alley of the barn consequently also serves as the central hall of the building and saves space. The gutter and the cleaning alley abut the outside walls. Where cows face out, a barn's floor plan required a little extra space. (Rawson:148) The northwest corner stall of the barn housed several work horses.

#### REPRESENTATION IN OTHER CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEYS

This barn was surveyed in 1996 as part of the "Louden Machinery Company, Fairfield, Iowa" hybrid reconnaissance and intensive surveys of that historic context within Jefferson County, Iowa. As one resource within that survey, this barn was evaluated as individually eligible, under Criteria A and C, for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The State Historical Society of Iowa was informed of this determination through the survey report and an Iowa Site Inventory Form.

#### POTENTIAL FOR HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

Although the site's potential for historic archaeology is, as yet, unevaluated, the site identification of nonextant structures associated with this property is not likely. Living memory cannot recollect other resources having stood on this immediate site.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 10

CFN-259-1116

August and Vera Luedtke Barn, Jefferson County, Iowa.

# LUEDTKE BARN

SUMMER 1949



August Luedtke (on hay wagon) unloads a wagon of "loose" hay with Loudon hay carrier equipment. James Luedtke, August's son, sits on a John Deere "B" tractor and powers the equipment. A rope runs from the tractor to a pulley, mounted on a post behind the tractor. The rope then runs behind the barn to another pulley, and thence to the hay fork. Moving the tractor forward raises the fork. When caught on a switch under the ridge of the roof, the fork then moves along a monorail track and carries the hay into the mow.

Source: Courtesy of Gene Luedtke.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Page 11

CFN-259-1116

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August and Vera Luedtke Barn, Jefferson County, Iowa.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Please refer to Section I of the Multiple Property Documentation Form for complete bibliography.

### SECONDARY

Jefferson County Assessor's Office, Assessor's Property Record Card.

Page, William C., and Joanne R. Walroth; *The Loudon Machinery Company, Fairfield, Iowa*; Intensive cultural resources report prepared for and on file at the Jefferson County Historic Preservation Commission and State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines; 1996.

Rawson, Richard; *The Old House Book of Barn Plans*; Sterling Publishing Co., Inc.; New York; 1990.

### ORAL HISTORY

Luedtke Gene M.; Oral informant interview with William C. Page, April 12, 1996, January 28, 1998.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 12

CFN-259-1116

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August and Vera Luedtke Barn, Jefferson County, Iowa.

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

From the center of Section 15 of Township 72 North Range 10 West, thence 700 feet west, thence south 255 feet to the point of beginning, thence 120 feet west, thence 100 feet south, thence 120 east, thence 100 north to the point of beginning.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

Contains all land associated historically with the resource.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10 Page 13

CFN-259-1116

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August and Vera Luedtke Barn, Jefferson County, Iowa.

### LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

1. August and Vera Luedtke Barn  
1938 185th Street  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
Looking southwest  
William C. Page, Photographer  
February 28, 1998
  
2. August and Vera Luedtke Barn  
1938 185th Street  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
Looking northeast  
William C. Page, Photographer  
February 28, 1998
  
3. August and Vera Luedtke Barn  
1938 185th Street  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
Detail of truss  
Looking northwest  
William C. Page, Photographer  
February 28, 1998
  
4. August and Vera Luedtke Barn  
1938 185th Street  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
Detail of Loudon stanchion  
Looking east northeast  
William C. Page, Photographer  
February 28, 1998