

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Nashold 20-Sided Barn
other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number North side of Cty. Trunk Z, 0.4 mi. east of STH 146h/ not for publication
city, town Fall River WI vicinity
state Wisconsin code WI county Columbia code 021 zip code 53932

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	1	0 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	0	0 sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	0	0 structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	0	0 objects
		1	0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official: [Signature] Date: 1/5/88
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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:) _____
Signature of the Keeper: [Signature] Date of Action: 2-11-88

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture/Animal Facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture/Animal Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Centric Barn

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls weatherboard

roof asphalt (shingles)

other wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

See the attached ground floor plan and
the vertical cross-section views of the barn.

The Nashold 20-Sided Barn

The Nashold 20-sided barn was built in 1911. This detached structure, with its 78' outside diameter, is the centerpiece of a small farmyard nestled in the gently rolling landscape of rural Columbia Co. The barn's 9 ft. foundation wall is of 24" thick fieldstone with a decorative dressed fieldstone exterior. The 17'6" tall hayloft is sheathed in white clapboard siding. Sheltering all is a 20-sectioned, self-supporting gambrel roof, originally clad with cedar shingle but reshingled in the mid-1950's with asphalt shingles. The height of the barn is approximately 70 ft., including its 10' decorative wooden cupola. The 10-sided cupola has louvred windows which ventilate and illuminate the hayloft.

INTERIOR

THE CENTER SILO

The physical interior arrangement of the barn radiates from the center silo. The silo is 40.5' tall and has an interior diameter of 13'. The wall of the lower 12' of this silo is 22" thick fieldstone. The upper, originally of wood staves, was replaced with concrete staves in the 1960's. The beams of the frame hay-loft floor are supported by and radiate from the center silo. This silo has a continuous door on the northwest facing the feed floor. The continuous door allows the door placement to be changed as the height of the fodder in the silo decreases, thus making the job of feeding ensilage much easier. The floor of the silo drops 3' below the poured concrete ground floor of the barn.

GROUND FLOOR

The ground floor accommodates 24 dairy cows, a bull, and young calves, as well as 5 horses. It is illuminated by small, fixed, multi-paned wood windows located immediately below the ceiling on each face of the ground floor that does not contain a door. These windows are about 2' tall and either 1-1/2' or 3' wide.

The feeding floor extends 14.5' from the silo and radiates almost half-way around the barn. A 3' wide semi-circular cement manger separates the feeding floor from the cow stanchions. A gutter separates the stanchions from a walk-way around the perimeter,

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onto which hay from the hay-loft was thrown through feed-chutes in the hayloft floor.

The southeast half of the barn is devoted to a feed mill room, 2 box stalls, a horse barn with 6 stalls, a manure shed, a calf pen and a stationary engine.

A manure carrier track almost completely circles the interior, extending from the horse barn around the cow stalls to the shed.

The milk house was built under the earthen embankment leading to the hayloft. The earthen "roof" keeps the milk house insulated so that it is cool in summer and does not freeze in winter.

HAYLOFT

The hayloft is a large open space, broken only by the center silo and a grain mill constructed of stacked 2x4's next to silo. The earthen embankment leads to a large, transomed sliding door at the south of the loft. This door is 12' wide by 16' tall, extending the full width of the south face. Sliding doors, 8' tall by 12' wide, are located just below the hip of the roof on the southeast and northeast sides.

A hayfork track, no longer functional, hangs from the hip of the roof. The track allowed hay, carried to the loft on a wagon which entered on the southern embankment, to be lifted off the wagon and deposited at the far side of the loft. Both the grain mill and the hayfork track were powered by the stationary engine on the ground floor.

The manure carrier track, hayfork track, Smalley ensilage feeder, grain elevator, and stationary engine are all original features of the barn's design.

OUTSIDE

Approximately 75' to the south is a medium-sized American Foursquare farmhouse, sheathed also in white clapboard siding. A small man-made holding pond beautifully frames the view of the barn from the west. A few small outbuildings dot the yard to the east of the barn.

There is a horse yard to southeast and a cow-yard to the north. To the south is an earthen embankment over milkhouse. An area of 50' surrounding the barn is included in the nomination to encompass these animal yards and the embankment, which are an integral part of the day-to-day environment of the 20-sided barn.

INTEGRITY

The roof has been reshingled. The upper, wood stave portion of the silo deteriorated and was replaced by a taller concrete stave upper of better quality. Many of the stalls and pens were removed during the 1960's by renters raising beef cattle. These will be replaced by replicas of the originals.

These slight alterations to this unusual barn. They do not impair the barn's ability to relate its role in the history of dairying and agricultural experimentation in the Midwest in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Agriculture

Significant Person

n/a

Period of Significance

Construction (Owner)

1911

Architect/Builder

unknown

Significant Dates

1911

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Nashold 20-Sided Barn is an excellent example of a unique dairy-barn form known as a centric barn. The barn is representative of a visually and technologically exciting period in farm experimentation, and at the same time architecturally unique among these centric barns.

The Wisconsin CRMP has identified "Dairy Production" as a specific historical unit under the general theme of Agricultural Development. Within this theme, centric dairy barns have been identified as a specific resource type.

Centric barns are a dramatic example of the slow but constant change and experimentation which has always been an important aspect of farm life. Developed principally for the newly emerging dairying industry, it is ironic that the success of dairying spelled the demise of centric barns.

Of the known 185 centric dairy barns to have existed in Wisconsin, no more than 131 are standing today.¹ Few of these are still in use as dairy barns. To date, only 6 have been listed with the National Register of Historic Places for their agricultural and architectural significance.

ARCHITECTURE

Wisconsin was a wheat growing state up until the late 1880's. But the wheat monoculture led to blight, forcing Wisconsin farmers to search for a new type of farming appropriate to the environment and the economy of their area. The emergence of creameries and cheese factories and the development of the silo to store ensilage allowed for the economical production of milk year-round. Wisconsin, especially southern Wisconsin, embraced dairying as a replacement for wheat farming.

For existing barns, the transition to this new "dairying industry" was spatially accommodated for by raising wheat and threshing barns onto high foundations, usually of fieldstone, to produce the typical dairy barn of Wisconsin, with cows and livestock in the basement and hay storage in the loft above. Round barns were built to utilize dairy-barn space more

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efficiently, to accommodate new dairying technologies including the silo, to utilize newer building technologies, and to withstand the environment more effectively utilize newer building technologies, and to withstand the environment more effectively than raised-barn adaptations could. They took advantage of the newer balloon frame construction method, which allowed more economical barn construction in terms of time, cost, and manpower. Often the silo, crucial to year-round dairying, was located in the center of the centric barn, with cow stanchions and other interior functions arranged radially around the silo.²

Round barn construction took place mostly from 1880-1920 in Wisconsin and the upper Midwest, with few centric barns being built later. Some interesting trends of centric barn construction have been found. Early centric barns tended to be octagonal, and their construction peaked in the 1890's. These were followed by a peak in the construction of true-round barns from the 1900's -1910's. Towards the end of the centric barn construction period a more unusual group of "other polygonal" barns, with the number of sides ranging from 8 to 20, were built. Most of this construction occurred in the 1910's.³

The earliest centric barns often did not include interior silos or the circular arrangement of interior stalls and spaces. This is due as much to the fact that silos were as unusual and as experimental as centric barns during this period, and that even farmers willing to experiment with centric barns still thought mainly in terms of rectangular rather than circular space. Also, the building technology for self-supporting roofs not requiring interior support beams was not well known. With time, experimentation, and an active dissemination of centric barn technology from such sources as farm journals and the University of Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station, characteristic round barn features, including interior central silos, a circular arrangement of stalls, and self supporting roofs became common.⁴

The Nashold barn was built towards the end of the centric barn construction period, during the peak in "polygonal" centric barn construction. It takes advantage of 30 years of centric barn building technology and experience, and includes a center silo, a radially arranged interior, and a self-supported roof. Other less common features included a stationary engine for operating the barn machinery, a hay carrier track, and a mini-feed mill and grain elevator.

The Nashold 20-sided barn is significant among centric barns of Wisconsin. The barn shows great ingenuity in the location of its milk house beneath the earthen embankment to the loft to aid in keeping the milk temperature cool and constant year-round. This milk house location may be unique to the Nashold barn. The use of mechanical equipment ingeniously modified to

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work within the circular environment of the barn also adds to its importance as an example of experimental agricultural design among the centric barns of the state. The barn's individual design, with 20-sides, may be the only such example in the country.⁵ The barn is quite distinct, yet at the same time evocative of all centric dairy barns and Wisconsin's constantly changing rural landscape.

Structurally, the barn is in good condition. A few, small areas of the hayloft floor are rotting, and some windows are broken. Renters raising beef cattle removed some stanchions. Plans to repair these damages will be in keeping with the original design and materials of the barn. Neither the minor damage nor the repair will impair the barn's significance or its ability to relate its role in the agricultural history of Wisconsin and the Midwest.

The barn was built for Albert Petrick, who wanted a unique and superior barn. The Nashold family bought the Petrick farm 5 year after the barn's construction. The barn has played an inspirational role in the Nashold family ever since. Ray Nashold, who was a child when the farm was bought, has written The Round Barn of Fountain Prairie,⁶ a book containing stories, poetry, and family history tied to this most unique building.

As a resource type, the centric barn is a significant element within the history of development of agricultural science in Wisconsin. They are bold expressions of the spirit with which farmers and agriculturists experimented with and developed new technologies and designs to improve their still new field of dairying. Richard Perrin, in Historic Wisconsin Buildings, sums up the importance of all centric barns when he states, "...they are pioneer landmarks in every sense of the word."⁷

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AGRICULTURE

The Nashold 20-sided barn is significant on a state level as representative of the emergence of "scientific" farming practices in the dairy industry in Wisconsin. As stated earlier, Wisconsin agriculture was primarily a wheat mono-culture until wheat blight forced a diversification of agriculture, with an emphasis in southern Wisconsin on the dairy industry. The development of Centric barns coincides with the establishment of the dairy industry and the rise of "scientific farming".

Traditionally, farmsteads consisted of a cluster of small, rectangular buildings. Each building type was designed for a specific chore or duty necessary to the operation of the farm. Buildings were generally small and dispersed on the farm site to lessen the potential damage from accidental fire and to ease construction. The birth of "scientific agriculture" coincided with the establishment of dairying in Wisconsin and was part of the experimentation aimed at increasing efficiency and providing optimal economy in agricultural production. An early manifestation of this rational thinking was the consolidation of separate chores in a single structure, resulting in the erection of larger barns which became the focal point for the emerging dairy industry. Although many farmers merely raised wheat barns on stone foundations, the centric barn offered further "scientific" advantages.

The centric form epitomized the search for a rational arrangement of functions to accommodate this new agricultural industry. Circular forms enclosed the greatest amount of space with the least amount of materials providing economy of construction. The circular form optimized the use of space through a more efficient radial arrangement of functions outward from the center of the hub. It was primarily promoted by farm improvement proponents such as progressive farmers, stock breeders, and agricultural editors who were on the forefront of the rational study of dairy farming practices. Thus the centric barn type is a significant representation of the scientific and innovative character of improvements in the dairy industry.

The Nashold 20-sided barn is a significant element in the study of agricultural history in the state. Because it is one of a limited number of its property type still extant, it is evaluated at a state level of significance. The Nashold barn is one of the most fully developed centric barn designs in Wisconsin. Its design took advantage of decades of experimentation with centric design and therefore exhibits all of the rational design features typically found in later centric barns such as a polygonal design, central silo, and radially-arranged interior. The

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barn's innovative 20-sided construction demonstrates a willingness to experiment with more efficient building forms. The central silo, and ingenious mechanical systems indicate the need to accommodate new dairying technologies and labor saving devices. The barn contains ingeniously modified mechanical equipment, such as the circular manure carrier, hay carrier track, and interior silo filler, which were designed for rectangular barns but adapted to a circular floor plan. Earlier centric barns lacked mechanical equipment; of the later barns, the Nashold barn is the most notable example of the mechanical ingenuity used in adapting technology to centric design. In addition to such general innovations typical of centric barns, the Nashold barn is unique in the placement of the milkhouse beneath the earthen embankment to the barn to take advantage of the "earth-sheltered" location. No other barn with this arrangement has been identified.

Therefore, the Nashold 20-sided barn not only typifies the experimental spirit of scientific dairy farming, but also through its physical integrity and the uniqueness and sophistication as an example of centric design, is a significant structure associated with the history of agriculture in Wisconsin.

* The period of significance for Agriculture is the date of construction reflecting the building's primary importance as a property type.

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Footnotes

- 1 Rosemary Hilbert, Wisconsin Directory of Centric Barns, Madison, WI: unpublished, 1987.
- 2 Lowell Soike, Without Right Angles, Des Moines, Iowa: Iowa State Historical Department, 1983.
- 3 Rosemary Hilbert, Centric Barns in Wisconsin, Madison, WI: unpublished, 1987.
- 4 Ibid
- 5 Lee Hartman, "Michigan's Barns, Our Vanishing Landmarks", Michigan Natural Resources, Vol.45, (March-April, 1976), pp.17-32.
Rosemary Hilbert, Wisconsin Directory of Centric Barns, Madison, WI: privately published, 1987.
Doris Hood, Fulton County's Round Barns, Rochester, Indiana: Fulton County Historical Society, 1971.
Lowell Soike, Without Right Angles, Des Moines, Iowa: Iowa State Historical Department, 1983.
Roger L. Welsch, "Nebraska's Round Barns", Nebraska History, Vol.51 (Spring 1970), pp.48-92.
Stephen T. Whitney, "Round Barns", Vermont Life, Vol.25, (Summer, 1975), pp.8-15.
- 6 RayNashold, The Round Barn of Fountain Prairie, unpublished (Available from Ray Nashold, Route 1, Fall River, WI 53932).
- 7 Richard Perrin, Historic Wisconsin Buildings, Milwaukee, WI: Milwaukee Public Museum, 1962.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Hartman, Lee. "Michigan's Barns, Our vanishing Landmarks", Michigan Natural Resources. Vol.45, (March-April, 1976), pp.17-32
- Hilbert, Rosemary. Centric Barns in Wisconsin. Madison, WI: privately printed, 1987 (Available from Rosemary Hilbert, 15 Sherman Terrace #3, Madison, WI 53704).
- Hilbert, Rosemary. Wisconsin Directory of Centric Barns. Madison, WI: privately printed, 1987. (Available at above address).
- Hood, Doris. Fulton County's Round Barns. Rochester, Indiana: Fulton County Historical Society, 1971.
- Jost, Larry T.. The Round and Five-or-More Equal Sided Barns of Wisconsin. Franklin, WI: privately printed, 1980. (Available from Larry Jost, 9412 Cloverhurst Drive, St. Louis, MO 63123).
- Perrin, Richard. Historic Wisconsin Buildings. Milwaukee, WI: Milwaukee Public Museum, 1962.

See continuation sheet

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Specify repository:
Personal property of Raymond Nashold and Rosemary Hilbert

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property less than 1.0

UTM References

A

1	6	3	3	1	0	3	0
Zone		Easting				Northing	

4	8	1	0	3	6	0	
Zone		Easting				Northing	

B

Zone		Easting				Northing	

Zone		Easting				Northing	

C

Zone		Easting				Northing	

D

Zone		Easting				Northing	

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The property includes the barn and all land within 50 feet of the barn. The barn center is located 250 ft. from the center line of CTH Z in the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 8, T12E, R11N.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This boundary includes the barn's earthen embankment and the surrounding land once used as pasture for cows, horses, and livestock housed in the barn.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rosemary Hilbert
organization n/a date 9/11/87
street & number 15 Sherman Terrace #3 telephone (608) 241-0621
city or town Madison state Wisconsin zip code 53704

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Soike, Lowell. Without Right Angles. Des Moines, Iowa: Iowa State Historical Department, 1983.

Welsch, Roger L.. "Nebraska's Round Barns", Nebraska History. Vol.51 (Spring 1970), pp.48-92.

Whitney, Stephen T.. "Round Barns", Vermont Life. Vol.25, (Summer, 1975), pp.8-15.

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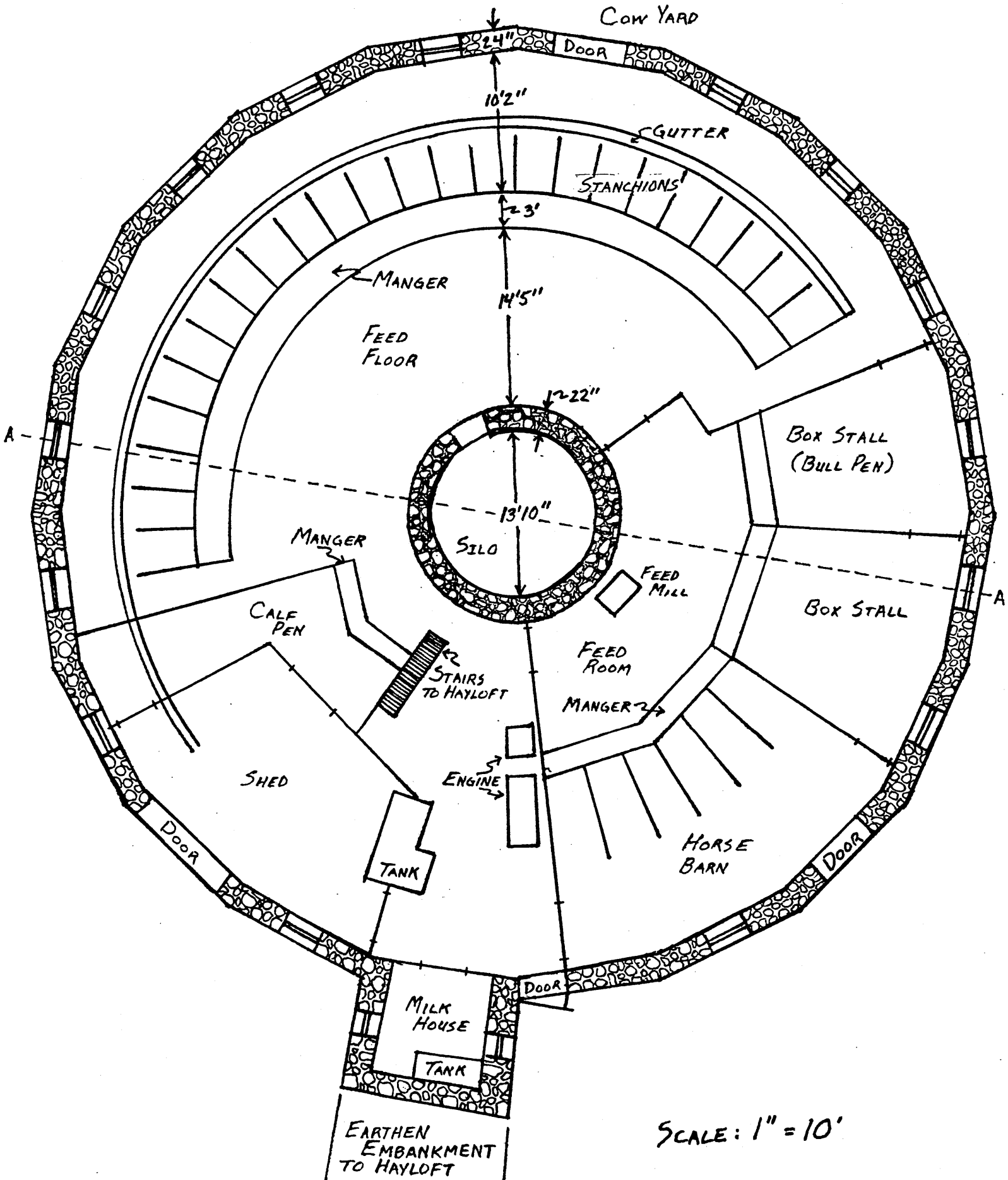
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Owner & mailing address:

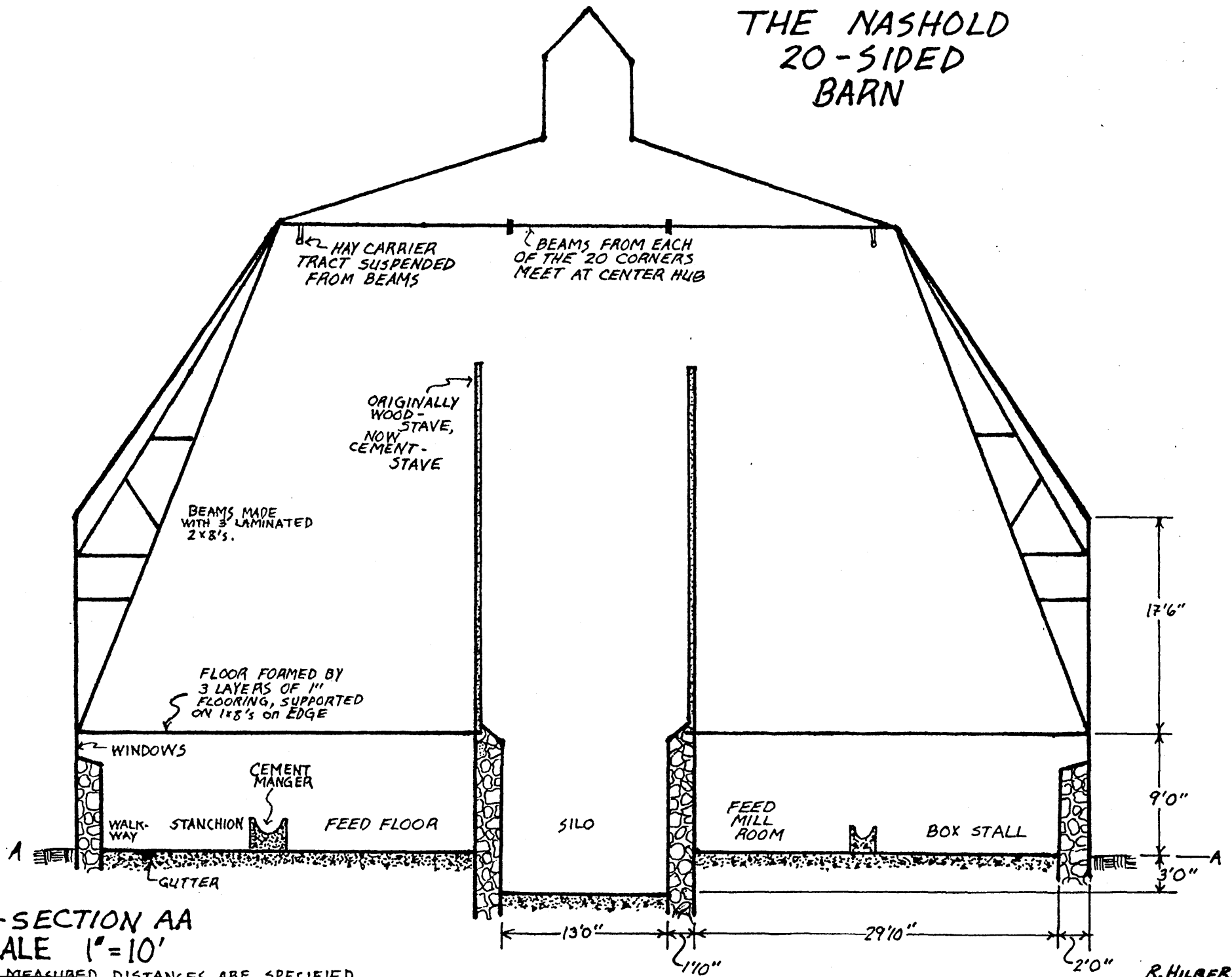
Nashold Farms
c/o Ray Nashold
Route 1
Fall River, WI 53932

THE NASHOLD 20-SIDED BARN



SCALE: 1" = 10'

THE NASHOLD 20-SIDED BARN



CROSS-SECTION AA
SCALE 1"=10'

ONLY MEASURED DISTANCES ARE SPECIFIED

R. HILBERT