

200

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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 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 BERTHUSEN BARN & PRIVY
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 8837 BERTHUSEN ROAD not for publication _____
city or town LYNDEN vicinity X
state WASHINGTON code WA county WHATCOM code 073
zip code 98264

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official

2/27/03
Date

WASHINGTON STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
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 commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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]
Signature of Keeper: Edson H. Ball Date of Action: 4.27.03

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

	Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u> 1 </u>			buildings
			sites
<u> 1 </u>			structures
			objects
<u> 2 </u>			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

 NONE

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: AGRICULTURAL/SUBSISTENCE

Sub: ANIMAL FACILITY

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RECREATION/CULTURE

Sub: MUSEUM

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

 OTHER: UTILITARIAN

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation NONE

roof WOOD: SHINGLE

walls WOOD: VERTICAL BOARDS

other

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

See Continuation Sheet

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.)

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheet

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE _____

AGRICULTURE _____

Period of Significance

1887- 1944 _____

Significant Dates

1887 _____

1901 _____

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

HANS BERTHUSEN (Builder) _____

JACK JENSEN (Builder) _____

9. Major Bibliographical 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):

- 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

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property _____ Less than one acre _____

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1 10 536097 5423134
 Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
 Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
 Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
 Zone Easting Northing

_____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

See Continuation Sheet

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

See Continuation Sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title _____ Patrica A. Relay _____

organization _____ Lynden Pioneer Museum _____ date _____ June 2002 _____

street & number _____ 217 West Front Street _____ telephone _____ (360) 354-3675 _____

city or town _____ Lynden _____ state _____ WA _____ zip code _____ 98264 _____

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____ CITY OF LYNDEN _____

street & number _____ 323 WEST FRONT STREET _____ telephone ___(360) 354-4270 _____

city or town _____ LYNDEN _____ state _WA_ zip code ___98264 _____

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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7

Page 1 of 2

**BERTHUSEN BARN & PRIVY
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Narrative Description:

Located approximately one mile northwest of the incorporated City of Lynden, Washington, the Berthusen Barn and Privy are located in a 230 acre community park, called Berthusen Memorial Park. Originally the homestead site of Hans C. & Lida H. Berthusen, the barn and privy are the only remaining features from the farmstead. Also on site, but not part of the nomination, is a twenty acre virgin forest (protected from disturbance by terms of the Berthusen's will), several outbuildings to house the collection of the Puget Sound Antique and Tractor Club, a c. 1970s caretaker's house and a hewn log cabin (both moved to the site). The remaining farm acreage is rented to local farmers. The barn and privy belong to the City of Lynden.

Completed in 1901, the Berthusen Barn is comprised two sections, an older 1887 English style barn, and a large Bank barn addition. In 1901, Hans Berthusen and Jack Jensen tripled the size of the barn giving the new structure a footprint of 188'0" x 128'0". The barn is approximately 50 feet high at the main peak of the side gabled roof, which is covered with wood shingles. The exterior is clad with vertical plank siding, painted red. On the east façade, six fixed four-pane windows with decorative arched hoods are highlighted with white painted arches. Here two large sliding doors centered on the façade allow access to the interior. The north and south elevations are windowless and void of doors. The west façade has an open basement level, reminiscent of a Bank barn. The first or main floor has four small rectangular openings without glass for windows and ventilation. One large rectangular opening is found in the 1887 section of the barn on the west elevation. It also is void of glass.

Constructed using materials acquired from the local area, the barn was assembled using a variety of round logs and hand hewn timbers. Joined by mortise and tenon, and secured with wooden pegs, the main Bank barn addition is a large open space, which rises uninterrupted to the roof rafters. Here twenty-four columns support the massive roof forming four isles inside the building. The floor of the building is dirt in the first isle through the entry, then changes to wooden planks as the barn covers the basement level.

Inside the Berthusen Barn, the form of the 1887 barn is still visible. Here the east exterior wall of the older barn has become an interior wall. The 1887 section of the structure is divided into several compartments and includes a hayloft. On the upper level of the loft is a small mill grinder. Painted green with yellow pin stripes, the grinder is attached to a chute constructed from a hallowed out log. The chute is approximately five feet long and ten inches in diameter and is capable of pivoting from side to side. The grinder is powered by a wood drive wheel, approximately four feet in diameter, and has wood spokes and a metal hub. It is reported that a small blacksmith shop and a water tank, used to exist in the 1887 portion of the barn.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7

Page 2 of 2

**BERTHUSEN BARN & PRIVY
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Narrative Description: (cont'd)

The basement or lower level of the barn is open to the elements on the west side and has a dirt floor. Here you will find open pens and feeding troughs to keep the livestock and their food dry.

Maintenance to the barn has been ongoing. In May 1971, roof and floor beams were repaired and the structure was straightened and braced. In October of 1985, the barn again required an extensive amount of restoration and the south end of the barn was re-roof and some rafters were replaced in-kind. At that time, guide wires were installed on each rafter to pull in the bulging exterior walls.

Located just southeast of the barn is a large hollowed out cedar stump privy. This contributing feature, has a conical roof clad with cedar shingles. The privy is approximately eleven feet tall, twenty-one feet in circumference at the base, fourteen foot circumference at top, and is four feet across on the inside.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8

Page 1 of 3

**BERTHUSEN BARN & PRIVY
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Narrative Statement of Significance:

The Berthusen Barn & Privy are historically significant under criterion A as a property that is associated with the farming history of Whatcom County, Washington. The barn is also significant under criterion C, as well preserved intact example of a heavy timber frame barn constructed in Whatcom County, and the privy as an unusual building form. The barn, a bank barn, is also unique as a rare barn form in the State of Washington as evidenced by a search of over 50,000 inventory forms at Washington State Historic Preservation Office.

Criterion A

Like many barns, the Berthusen Barn, represents vital characteristics of local communities, which in turn form both regional and national identities. According to Charles Klamkin, a noted barn historian, barn builders took the stone and timber from fields they were clearing and incorporated them into their barns. Each farmer built his barn according to the number and type of animals he owned and located his barn in relation to the contours of the land. (Klamkin, 1973, pg. 2) Such structures embody numerous significant attributes of identity: agriculture, architecture, engineering, exploration / settlement, and transportation. Today, the rural barn, as indicated by Michael J. Auer, author of *The Preservation of Historic Barns*:

“...presents a forceful image of community spirit...Old Barns, furthermore are often community landmarks and make the past present, Such buildings embody ethnic traditions and local customs; they reflect changing farm practices and advances in building technology...they represent a whole way of life.” (Auer, 1989, pg. 1)

Perhaps the most extraordinary part of Northwest history is how ordinary the people were who settled in the forests and turned them into the farms, towns and industrial areas of today. One such settler was Hans Berthusen.

Well known to residents of the Lynden, Washington area, Hans Berthusen's family immigrated to the United States, from Norway, in 1864, settling in Marshall County, Iowa. In 1879 Hans, then age 19, set out on his own. Hans arrived in Seattle in 1882. He then travelled north with companion Mark Stone. Together, in 1883, they claimed two 160 acre parcels in the Bertrand Creek area. By 1887, Hans built his first barn on his newly homesteaded property. On Christmas Eve 1889, Hans Berthusen married Eliza Lida Hawley, daughter of a local Lynden merchant. Over the years, the farm operations grew and the need for a new larger barn arose. With help from Jack Jensen, a family friend, Berthusen built a new barn. The barn was completed in 1901, enclosing the 1887 structure.

Constructed originally for storage of hay, crops, cattle and other sundries, Berthusen utilized the 1901 expanded space to sell excess commodities from his farm. According to local oral histories, the Berthusen's never had more than twenty-five head of cattle. With big trees and a creek, the Berthusen homestead was a favourite place for children, and Hans spent many hours carving fanciful wood toys to entertain the local children.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8

Page 2 of 3

BERTHUSEN BARN & PRIVY
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Narrative Statement of Significance: (cont'd)

Although originally constructed as an agricultural structure, the barn, over time, transcended it's original capacities to become a community resource and meeting place. And today the Berthusen Barn has become a local and regional landmark.

Criterion C

The Berthusen Barn is also historically significant as a property that embodies the distinctive characteristics of a bank barn, a rare barn form in Washington state. The bank barn, also called the Pennsylvania Barn, German barn or Sweitzer barn, was first built in the early 1700s. Its origins are probably Swiss.

The bank barn form derives its name from a simple but clever construction technique: the barn is built into the side of a hill, thus permitting two levels to be entered from the ground. The lower level housed animals, the upper levels served as threshing floor and storage. The hillside entrance gave easy access to wagons bearing wheat or hay. (Fodder could also be dropped through openings in the floor to the stabling floor below.)

Bank barns were ordinarily constructed with their long side, or axis, parallel to the hill (such as the Berthusen Barn). Many were constructed on the south side of the hill, a placement which gave animals a sunny spot in which to gather. The Berthusen Barn however is located on a north and south axis opening the east-side to the elements. To take further advantage of the protection its location afforded, the second floor was often extended, or cantilevered, over the first. The overhang or projection of the forebay sheltered animals from inclement weather and helped keep the doors clear of straw which was throw into the stockyard for feed after grain had been threshed on the upper level. In some bank barns, like the Berthusen Barn, the projecting beams were not large enough to bear the entire weight of the barn above. And in these cases, columns or posts were added beneath the overhang for structural support.

While barns have not been systematically surveyed in the state of Washington it appears that bank barns are a rarely utilized barn type within the state. A search of the state inventory records did not turn up any comparable bank barns in the entire state. Discussions with State Historic Preservation Office staff also noted the lack of bank barns. Staff knew of only one other bank barn in the state, in Whitman County on the east-side of the Cascade mountains just outside the city of Tekoa. Reasons for this missing barn type are unknown at this time. As such the Berthusen Barn is a unique structure, which embodies a rare barn form and the distinctive characteristic of a type.

The privy, carved from a large cedar stump, is also a rare resource on the cultural landscape in Washington. While Washington is known for its large abundance of trees, few grew to the size that would accommodate a privy like the one found on the Berthusen Farm.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8

Page 2 of 3

**BERTHUSEN BARN & PRIVY
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Narrative Statement of Significance: (cont'd)

In summary, historic barns, like Berthusen Barn, form a historical, cultural, and environmental foundation. Homesteaders like Hans Berthusen heard the intriguing stories of the Pacific Northwest. Like many others he arrived in the Puget Sound area before any great development had occurred. Between 1882 and 1892 the population of Whatcom County jumped to 3,700. (Roe, 1980, pg. 43) As millions of immigrants entered the United States in the nineteenth century, many of them were searching for an identity which included owning a home. In conception of nationhood, to become American was to own a parcel of land with a detached home. (Smeins, 1999, pg. 26) Utilized for agricultural purposes, characteristically individual in architectural style, engineered through frugality and ingenuity, Berthusen's Barn, like many other historic barns, link the past to the present. Serving as a community land mark, the barn is the focal point of Hans & Lida Berthusen Memorial Park. It serves as a reminder that the early barn builder was a farmer, a woodsman, who could cut trees and with tools, forged by himself, could build houses as well as barns of true architectural merit.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 9

Page 1 of 1

**BERTHUSEN BARN & PRIVY
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Bibliography:

- Auer, Michael J., **The Preservation of Historic Barns**, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Preservation Assistance Division, October, 1989.
- Berthusen Memorial Park: Environmental Impact Assessment, Bellingham, WA.: Huxley College of Environmental Studies, Western Washington University, 1992.
- Brettman, Allan, "Mother Nature Gives Barn A Shot at Rebirth", Seattle Times, Seattle Wa, September 15, 1996, Start Page, B 2, UMI-ProQuest Direct, Online, (January 13, 2002)
- Edson, Lelah, **Pioneers Along The Bend of The Nooksack, Bellingham, Wash.:** Office of County Superintendent, 1945.
- Halsted, Byron D., Phd., (Ed.) **Barns, Sheds And Outbuildings**, The Stephen Greene Press, Brattleboro, Vermont, 1977.
- Hawley, Robert Emmett, Skqee Mus; or, **Pioneer Days On The Nooksack**, Bellingham, WA, Whatcom Museum of History & Art, 1971.
- Higgins, Richard, "Raising The Roof North Andover Farmer Intervenes to keep Threatened Barn Up And Running", Boston Globe; Boston, Mass; Oct. 28, 2000, Start Page: B.1, UMI-ProQuest Direct, Online, (January 13, 2002)
- Hunsby, George, **The Timber Beast**, Bellingham, Wash. : George Hunsby, 1984?
- Klamkin, Charles, **Barns: Their History, Preservation, and Restoration**, Hawthorn Books, Inc, New York, 1973.
- Koert, Dorothy, **Portrait of Lynden, Lynden, WA**, Lynden Tribune, c., 1976
- Koert, Dorothy & Galen Biery , **The Wilderness Days: Lynden, 1858 - 1904**, Everson, WA, c. 1989.
- Montgomery, David, "One Downright Uplifting Experience; Old Fashioned Barn Raising at National Building Museum Offers Glimpse of Another Era", The Washington Post, (Pre 1997 Full Text); Washington D.C.; March 1, 1994; Start Page bo 3: UMI-ProQuest Direct, Online, (January 13, 2002)
- Reed, Caroline, **Underpinning, Frontier Publishing**, Seattle Wa., 1989.
- Roe, Jo Ann, **The North Cascadians**, Madrona Publishers, Seattle, 1980.
- Roth, Lottie Roeder, **History of Whatcom County**, vol. 2, Pioneer Historical Publishing Co., Chicago, 1926.
- "Shoring Up The Future of Vermont's Old Barns Preservationists and Farmers Work To Restore The Structures That Attract Tourists And Revenue To The Picturesque State", Christian Science Monitor, (Pre - 1997 Full Text); Boston, Mass.; September 20, 1994; Start Page NOPGCIT, UMI-ProQuest Direct, Online, (January 13, 2002)
- Sloan, Eric, **American Barns & Covered Bridges**, Funk & Wagnalls, New York, 1954.
- Smeins, Linda E, **Building An American Identity**, Alta Mira Press, Walnut Creek, London & new Delhi, 1999.
- Upton, Dell, **Architecture In The United States**, Oxford University Press, Oxford, New York, 1998.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 10

Page 1 of 1

**BERTHUSEN BARN & PRIVY
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

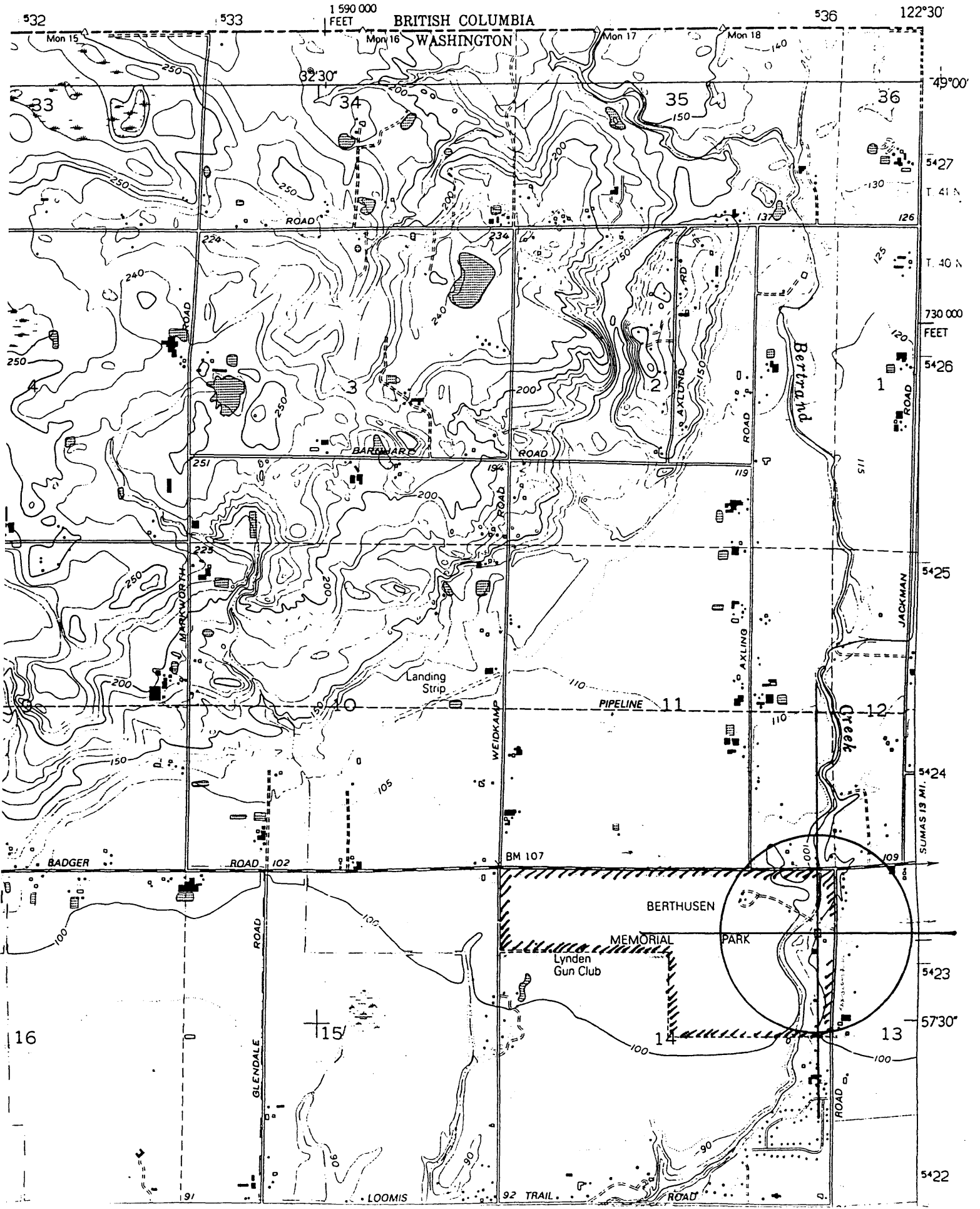
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

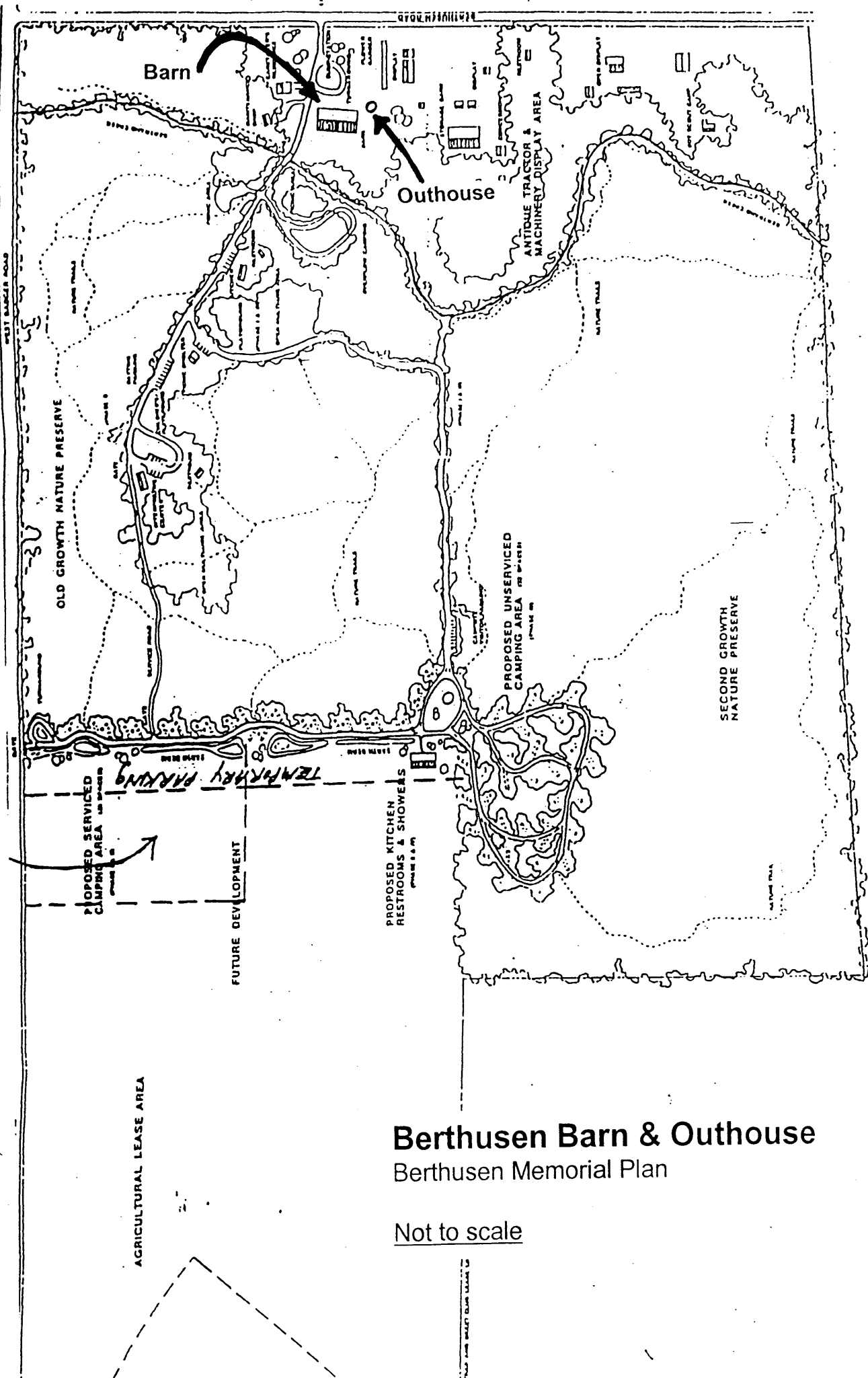
The nominated property includes the Berthusen Barn, the stump privy, and the immediately surrounding land, which includes approximately 10 feet from the footprints of the structures.

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

The nominated property includes the Berthusen Barn, the stump privy, and the immediately surrounding land. The remainder of the farmstead site has been altered and does not reflect the historic period of significance.

BERTRAND CREEK QUADRANGLE
WASHINGTON-WHATCOM CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

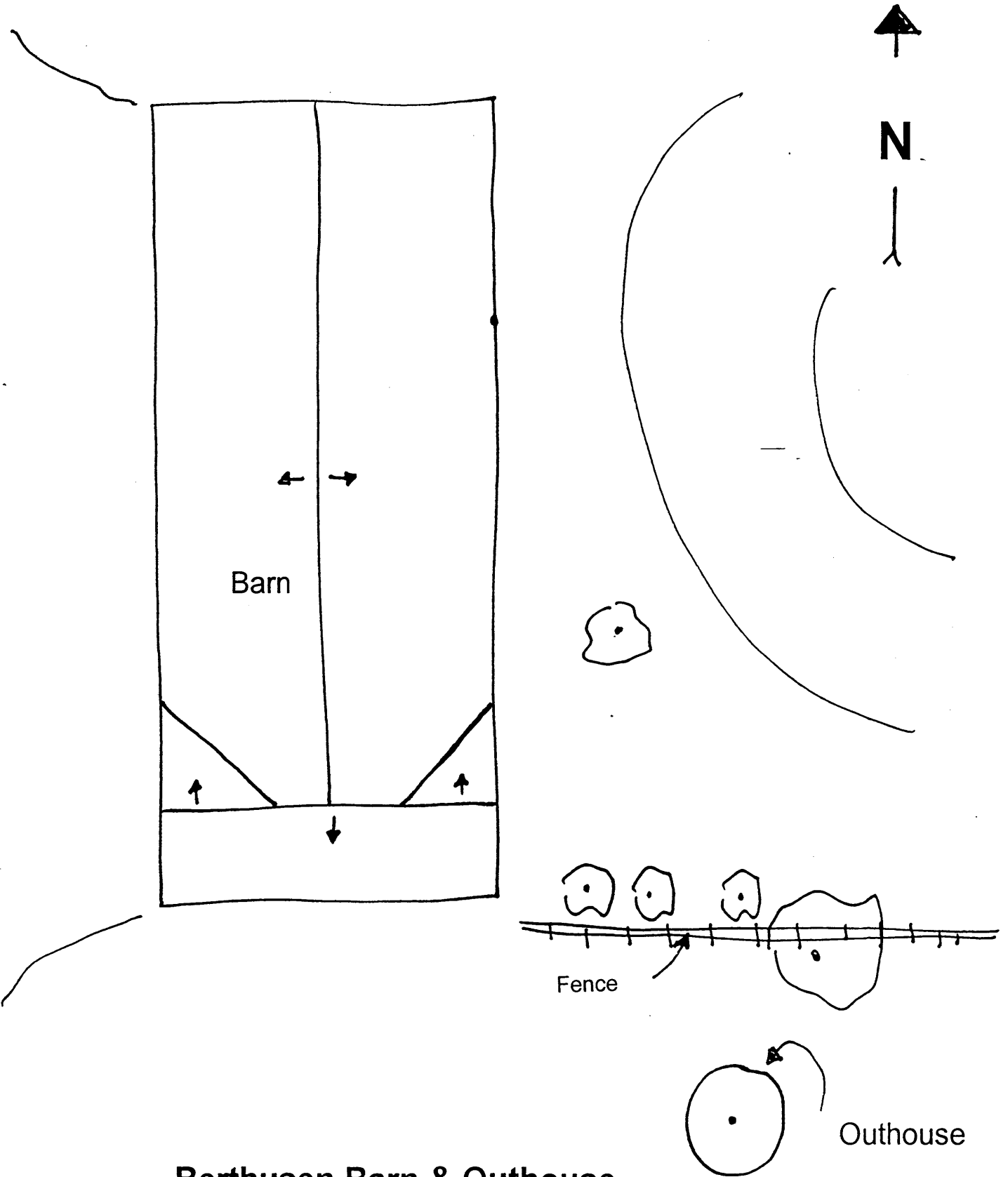




Berthusen Barn & Outhouse

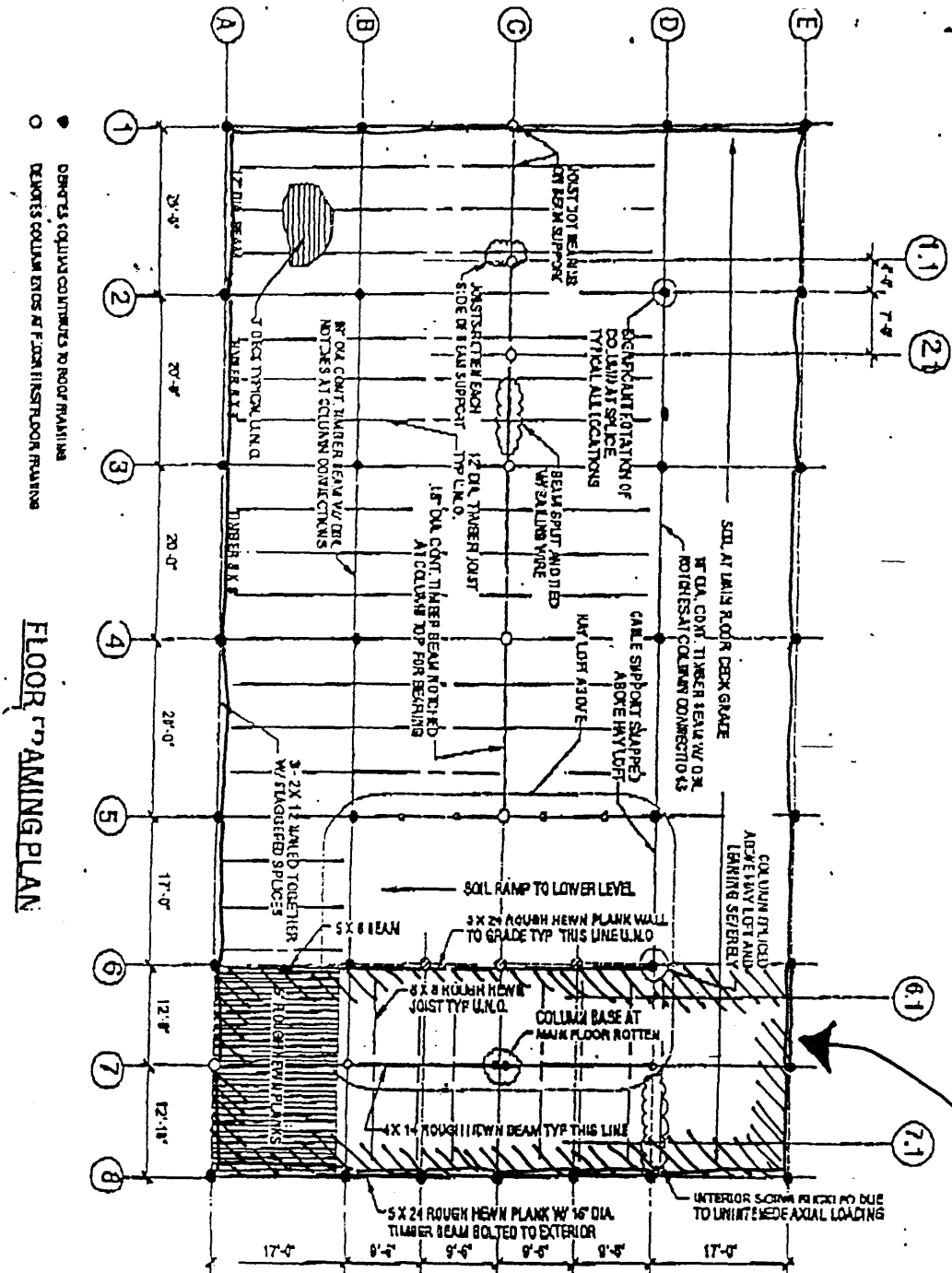
Berthusen Memorial Plan

Not to scale



Berthusen Barn & Outhouse
 Site Plan

Not to scale



- DIRECTS COLUMN CONNECTIONS TO ROOF FRAMING
- DIRECTS COLUMN ENDS AT FLOOR IN INST. FLOOR FRAMING

FLOOR FRAMING PLAN

1887 Barn

Berthusen Barn & Outhouse

Barn Plan

Not to scale