

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED	APR 30 1976
DATE ENTERED	OCT 8 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

~~HISTORIC~~ Seminole Valley Farmstead

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

W of Cedar Rapids

~~Twp. 83 No., R. 8 W., Sect. 13~~

CITY, TOWN

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

VICINITY OF Cedar Rapids

COUNTY

CODE

Iowa

Linn

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME City of Cedar Rapids,

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall

CITY, TOWN

Cedar Rapids

VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. City Hall

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Cedar Rapids,

STATE

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Six structures are included in this nomination: the farm house, summer kitchen, livestock barn, tool shed, (ice house), chicken house, and smoke house. All are situated on their original sites except the summer kitchen, which in 1927 was turned 45 degrees on its site to parallel the house.

The farm is located in a bend of the Red Cedar River, surrounded by wooded hills. It is now part of Seminole Valley Park, a 460-acre tract owned by the City of Cedar Rapids. The farm acreage includes a small orchard and a garden planted with flowers popular with farmwives at the turn of the century.

The two-story farm house, the main structure on the farmstead, is designed in a straightforward, functional manner. Built ca. 1902-3, it is now painted red with white trim. The four over four double sash windows are placed with an unconscious attempt at symmetry. The house contains two porches -- the front has a wooden floor and steep with a small hipped roof topping two turned columns and decorative brackets. The side porch contains similar columns topped by a balcony. The second story opens onto the balcony with a domer-like gable over the doorway.

The gable roof of the house is covered with composition shingles and contains two symmetrically placed chimneys. The grooved verge board facing the roof line adds a simple decoration. The peak of the roof and the domers are topped by metal balls. The interior of the house is in a semi-restored state, with efforts to maintain its original appearance taking priority.

Of the outbuildings, the livestock barn, summer kitchen, and tool shed/ice house are frame structures. The tool shed, possible the oldest outbuilding, is of vertical shiplap construction set on a foundation of field stone. The summer kitchen is of horizontal tongue-and-groove. The pitch of the roof follows that of the house, and it is also painted red and white. It contains three six-over-six windows. The two-story frame barn built in 1915, is set on a foundation of field stone set in concrete. It is of pole construction and vertical batten board. It is also painted red and white.

The chicken house and smoke house were added to the farmstead in the 1920's. Both are of hollow tile construction.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1902-3

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Seminole Valley represents the "premechanized" period of farming enterprise. It is set chronologically and technologically between the barebones subsistence of earliest Iowa pioneer agriculture and today's farm operations, which are heavily mechanized and strongly affected by national and international markets and the ready availability of goods and services.

The location of the farm bears witness to the self-sufficiency of pioneer days. Neaby timbered hills were a source of raw materials. The river and fertile bottomland provided rich soil for grazing and cultivation. The smoke house and ice house were means by which the animal and vegetable harvests were preserved for later consumption.

On the other hand, a livestock barn and a chicken house reveal the farmer's concern for more substantial animal shelter and protection than was often the case in earlier times, when poultry and livestock were largely left to forage for themselves. With the increasing complexity of the farming enterprise, along with the growing availability of household utensils and other domestic goods from eastern factories, the need for expanded storage space resulted in the erection of a tool shed on the farm, and in the home, a wide variety of manufactured items contributed to better living conditions.

Clearly, Seminole Valley was a long way from the austere farming of earlier eras. But it retained much of the self-sufficiency of pioneer homesteads. Seminole Valley Farm is a valuable cultural artifact, situated on the threshold of the twentieth century.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Andreas, A.T. Historical Atlas of Iowa, 1875
 Linn County Atlas, Hedges Assoc., Inc., 1906
 Land Abstract Search, 1972-73
 Recorded Interviews, 2/75-4/75: Joseph Stanek, Mrs: Owen T. Strickel, Jerald Metela,
 Joseph Dostal, Rudolph Jasa, Vlasta Miller Hulshizer
 Unrecorded Interview, 3/75: Dennis Jones

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	5	6	0	5	4	1	0	4	6	5	0	7	5	0
ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

B

ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

C

ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

D

ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Elizabeth Leedom

ORGANIZATION

DATE

February 1976

STREET & NUMBER

2920 Indian Hill Road, S.E.

TELEPHONE

319/265-4757

CITY OR TOWN

Cedar Rapids

STATE

Iowa 52403

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Adrian N. Anderson

TITLE

Director, Div. of Historic Preservation

DATE

4-22-76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

10/8/96

ATTEST: DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

10/2/76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER