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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 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 Janko, Jan F. and Antonie, Farmstead District
other names/site number Site Number 57-00620

2. Location

street & number 4021 Vista Road N/A not for publication
city or town Ely vicinity
state Iowa code IA county Linn code 113 zip code 52227

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 Munkin, DSHPO 5-2-00
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.)

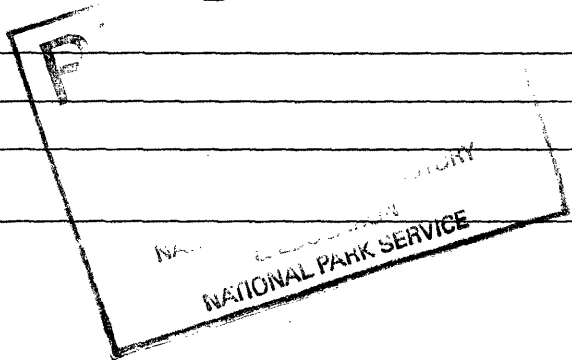
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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:)

Signature of the Keeper Edsel W. Beall Date of Action 9-14-00



Janko Farmstead District
Name of Property

Linn County, Iowa
County and State

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>5</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>6</u>	<u>1</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

Early Settlement & Ethnic Archeological and Architectural Properties of Linn County, Iowa

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/Subsistence/agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/Subsistence/agricultural outbuilding

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Gable-front-and-wing house

OTHER: Heavy Timber Frame barn

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/Limestone

walls WOOD/weatherboard

roof ASPHALT

other _____

Narrative Description

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

Janko Farmstead District
Name of Property

Linn County, Iowa
County and State

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 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.)

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

ETHNIC HERITAGE/European/Bohemia

Period of Significance

1875-1930

Significant Dates

1875

1887

1893

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Janko, Jan F.

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Janko Farmstead District
Name of Property

Linn County, Iowa
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.6 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	[1]5	[6]1[5]7[0]0	[4]6[3]6[5]1[0]	2	[1]5	[6]1[5]8[3]0	[4]6[3]6[5]1[0]
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
3	[1]5	[6]1[5]8[3]0	[4]6[3]6[4]6[0]	4	[1]5	[6]1[5]7[0]0	[4]6[3]6[4]6[0]

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Leah D. Rogers/Consultant

organization Linn County Historic Preservation Commission date July 27, 2000

street & number 217 NW 5th Street telephone 319-895-8330

city or town Mt. Vernon state IA zip code 52314

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the complete 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 Richard A. and Rosella M. Netolicky

street & number 4021 Vista Road telephone 319-848-7113

city or town Ely state IA zip code 52227

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**Janko Farmstead District
Linn County, Iowa****Narrative Description**

The Jan F. and Antonie Janko Farmstead district is located on the south side of Vista Road in the NE1/4 of Section 36, T82N-R7W, College Township, Linn County, Iowa, in the vicinity of the town of Ely (Figure 1, Page 7). The farmstead is sited on a hilltop and sideslope, with the house facing north (Figure 2, Page 8). The house is at the highest elevation, with the two barns located downslope to the west-southwest of the house and the chicken house, corncrib and two garages located to the west and southwest of the house. Of these, the house and basement barn date from the late 1880s, the second barn dates from 1893, the original core of the chicken house appears to date from the 1880s, and the corncrib and the smaller of the two garages date from the early twentieth century. The second garage is a modern addition to the farmstead. The house, both barns, the chicken house, the older garage, and the corncrib are considered contributing buildings and structures to the farmstead district, while the modern garage is considered a non-contributing structure. The modern garage is non-contributing because it was built after the period of significance (i.e., after 1930).

Bohemian immigrant Jan F. Janko was associated with the construction of the house, the two barns, the chicken house, and possibly the corncrib and older garage. The chicken house was probably enlarged during the tenure of subsequent owner, Joseph Cesticky, with the second garage built during the current owner's tenure. Cesticky was of Bohemian descent, as is the current owner, Richard Netolicky. Thus, from 1875 to the present, the extant farmstead has been associated with the Bohemian ethnic group.

House (Iowa Inventory #57-00621)

According to Richard Netolicky, the house was built in 1887. This is a T-shaped gable-front-and-wing house two stories in height, with the front portion oriented as a side gable facing north towards the roadway. It is clad with the original clapboard siding and has a wide friezeboard and bedmold underneath the eave overhang. The foundation is local limestone faced with cement, while the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The windows include both 1/1 and the original 2/2 double-hung windows with a few modern inserts on the sides and rear of the house. The front porch is an open portico porch supported by chamfered posts with scroll-sawn brackets under the eaves. The rear (southeast corner) porch was enclosed after 1972. A two-story rounded bay window graces the east gable end of the front portion of the house. The front door is a newer replacement, and the original door may have had sidelights. Generally, the house retains good integrity.

Gabled Basement Barn (Iowa Inventory #57-00622)

This is the older of the two extant barns having been built c.1887 and is a gabled basement barn with board-and-batten siding, an asphalt-shingled roof, and a limestone foundation quarried locally. A supported shed-roofed overhang is present at basement level on the south side. The overhang roof is supported by sawn posts set on rock and concrete piers. The supports are joined to the sawn cross-beams with mortise-and-tenon joinery. The basement level was used for animal stalls, some of the partitions for which are still in place. The interior framing of the upper level of the barn is heavy timber with mortise-and-tenon joinery and sawn posts and beams. The upper level is entered through wide, open-out doors on the north side. At present, there is no ramp extending up to this doorway and it is reached via a ladder that one pulls down. Otherwise, the upper level was reached via a trap door up from the basement level. Hay entered through the mow door in the east gable end. The bent configuration is of a type that lacks a "big beam" or a single, continuous cross-beam. Instead, the vertical supports are single beams that extend from loft floor to the roof and are tied together with cross-pieces or "girts" in-between each post. This type of construction generally represented a second stage in heavy timber frame construction in the Eastern United States and would have been transplanted to the Midwest with the early settlers (Glassie 1974). The presence of sawn timbers further indicates

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National Park Service**

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**Janko Farmstead District
Linn County, Iowa**

that this barn was built sometime after the initial settlement of this area and would have required the presence of a sawmill in the vicinity. Therefore, it is suspected that this barn was built in the 1880s around the time that the house was built c. 1887.

Gabled Barn (Iowa Inventory #57-05513)

The date of construction of this barn is much more certain given that one of the foundation stones is inscribed with the date "1893." The foundation is a combination of local limestone and cut fieldstones, with the datestone being limestone. This gabled barn is not a basement barn; rather, it is a one-level gabled barn on a raised stone foundation. It is oriented in the same side-gabled orientation as the other gabled basement barn, with both in an east-west line with one another. A shed-roofed addition was made to the south side of this barn. The interior shows a simple bent configuration with three vertical posts supporting one horizontal cross-beam (Glassie 1974). The outer posts are sawn timbers with the cross-beam joined to these posts via mortise-and-tenons. The central posts are milled poles similar to telephone poles but not treated with creosote. The milled poles, in fact, represent later additions or replacements. The shed addition is constructed similar to the main core, with the beams and support posts of sawn timbers joined by mortise-and-tenon. Some of the posts rest on the stone foundation, while the shed addition posts rest on a concrete foundation. The barn is entered through pass doors on the east gable end and the north side, or through the sliding doors on the shed addition. The entire interior of the barn and shed is now a single open space, the original exterior wall between the barn and shed having been removed in more recent years to accommodate machinery.

Corncrib (Iowa Inventory #57-05514)

The corncrib has a cut fieldstone foundation banked into the slope. The structure has vertical board siding and an asphalt-shingled roof. This structure was probably built in the early twentieth century, possibly the 1910s-1920s.

Chicken House (Iowa Inventory #57-00624)

This structure has a poured concrete foundation, an asphalt-shingled roof, and vertical beaded-board siding. It has a shed-roofed addition on the south side. The main portion of the structure is actually two gabled units joined at the gable end aligned along an east-west axis. The gabled unit on the east side of the structure has older siding fastened with machine cut nails indicating that a portion of this building dates from before 1890 and is suspected to have been built in the 1880s. The additions to the west and north, however, appear to date from the 1940s-1950s. Because the original core was built during the period of significance, this outbuilding is considered contributing.

Garages (2)(Iowa Inventory #57-00623 and #57-00625)

The northernmost garage (#57-00625) is a small, one-stall front-gabled structure that has vertical board siding, an asphalt-shingled roof, and a concrete foundation. It is the older of the two garages and was moved to its present location. It probably dates from the 1910s-1930s. The second garage (#57-00623) is a modern, side-gabled structure with three stalls. It was added to this farmstead after 1972.

The current owner, Richard Netolicky, is a local historian and is committed to the preservation of this farmstead. It is in the interest of the continued preservation of this farmstead and in recognition of its local significance that this nomination is being set forth.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 3**Janko Farmstead District
Linn County, Iowa****Statement of Significance**

The Jan F. and Antonie Janko Farmstead District is locally significant under Criterion A for its representation of the Bohemian immigrant settlement of this rural neighborhood and under Criterion C for its architectural significance as a well preserved Bohemian immigrant farmstead in southern Linn County. Furthermore, it is significant under the Early Settlement Era multiple property document form, specifically within the context of Bohemian Immigrant Rural Settlement. The period of significance is from 1875-1930, with significant dates being 1875 when the property was purchased by Jan Janko; 1887 when the house and the older barn were built; and 1893 when the second barn was built.

The Janko Farmstead meets the registration requirements for the Property Type: Buildings, Structures and Sites Associated with the Bohemian Immigrant Rural Settlement of Linn County by retaining a high degree of architectural integrity and for its association with the first wave of Bohemian immigration and settlement in this county. The extant farmstead was built by Bohemian immigrant Jan Janko, who emigrated from Bohemia in 1864 and purchased this farmstead property in the Ely-Western vicinity in 1875 from Isaac and Nancy Cox. Janko replaced the older buildings in the late 1880s-1890s, with a new house and two new barns of his own. Thus, the significance of the extant property is its association with the later development of this farmstead by Bohemian immigrant Janko and his replacement of the earlier pioneer buildings with newer buildings of his own. It is an interesting contrast with some of the older Bohemian immigrant buildings in the neighborhood as well as a good representative of the late nineteenth century agricultural buildings of this same area.

The available historic maps show a farmstead at this location by 1859, with Isaac Cox listed as owner (McWilliams and Thompson 1859). While the 1869 map continued to show Cox as owner (Thompson and Everts 1869), the obituary for "John" Janko stated that he had "settled on his farm in 1864 living ever since" on that property (*Cedar Rapids Republican* 1911). However, land transfer records show that he did not purchase this property until May 8, 1875, from Isaac and Nancy Cox. The 1881 map shows "John" F. Janko as the owner of this property (Warner and Foote 1881). The Janko family retained possession until 1923 when Joseph and Mary A. Cesticky purchased the farmstead. In 1967, the Cestickys sold it to F. Glen and Doda S. Wessale, who in turn sold it to current owners, Richard A. and Rosella M. Netolicky, in 1972 (Property abstract transcribed by Richard Netolicky). Thus, the chain of ownership for this property went from Isaac and Nancy Cox from c.1859 to 1875; John F. and Anna Janko from 1875-1923; Joseph and Mary Cesticky from 1923-1967; F. Glen and Doda Wessale from 1967-1972; and Richard and Rosella Netolicky from 1972 to the present. Except for the Cox family, the remainder of these owners are either Bohemian immigrants or of Bohemian descent.

Jan F. Janko was a Bohemian immigrant who emigrated from Bohemia in 1864 but did not purchase the subject property until 1875. This property is situated in the rural neighborhood surrounding the Church of the Moravian Brotherhood. This church is now called the First Presbyterian Church and is located in Section 35 just under three-quarters of a mile from Janko's farmstead. Janko was born on December 25, 1850, and died on March 8, 1911. He is buried in the church cemetery. His wife, Antonie (a.k.a. Anna) Janko, was born in 1853 and died in 1928. When the farmstead was sold in 1923 to the Cestickys, the owners listed on the warranty deed included "Antonie Janko, widow; John F. Janko and wife Frances; Joseph W. Janko and wife Mary; Frank Janko and wife Anna V.; and Lizzie Asenbrenner and husband Thomas" (Property abstract transcribed by Richard Netolicky). While it is assumed that John F., Joseph W., Frank, and Lizzie (Elizabeth) were the children of Jan and Antonie Janko, the 1911 obituary of Jan Janko listed only two sons named "Wesley and Louis" among his survivors (*Cedar Rapids Republican* 1911).

The 1910 U.S. Population Census listed John and Anna Janko as living in College Township. Jan Janko was then 60 years of age, while Anna was 57. There were no other occupants listed in their household. It was also noted that both had been born in "Austria-Bohemia" and had been married for 37 years. There was a second Janko household listed in College Township in 1910—the household of John F. Janko and his wife Frances. They had two daughters and two sons named Agnes G., "Micu." Charles, and "Carloin." Edward Asenbrenner was listed as living in the same household and working as a laborer. John F. Janko, Frances Janko, and Edward Asenbrenner all had been born in "Austria-Bohemia" (1910 U.S. Population Census). At

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**Janko Farmstead District
Linn County, Iowa**

present, the relation of all these Jankos is uncertain but it is more than likely that they are in some way related given the proximity of their settlement and their linkages in land transfer and census data.

Joseph Cesticky had been born in 1887 and died in 1964. His wife Mary had been born in 1894 and passed away in 1986. They are also buried in the First Presbyterian Church Cemetery located nearby.

The Janko Farmstead District retains a high degree of integrity and has been well cared for and maintained by its various owners. While none of the extant buildings date from the Early Settlement Era of Linn County in general (i.e., 1830s-1860s), it does reflect the early settlement of Bohemian immigrants in Linn County, who settled this rural neighborhood in the late nineteenth century as well as the success of the Bohemian agricultural settlement in this rural neighborhood into the twentieth century. The house, two barns, corncrib, and chicken house represent the expansion and success of this farmstead in the 1880s-1920s.

The Janko Farmstead is an interesting contrast to some of the other Bohemian farmsteads in this neighborhood in that it appears that there was no small gabled cottage built as the first house on this property. The extant house was built 12 years into Jan Janko's ownership of this property and, while a gabled house, it is larger than the typical Bohemian cottage found in this area (Rau 1992; Rogers 1998). One reason may be that there was already a house on this property when Mr. Janko purchased it in 1875. That house would have been built by Isaac Cox and was probably a log cabin or log house. The fact that Janko replaced that older house entirely rather than adding on as was the more typical custom of the Bohemian immigrants in Linn County is an interesting feature of this farmstead.

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Janko Farmstead District
Linn County, Iowa

Major Bibliographic References

Cedar Rapids Republican

1911 John Janko Obituary. *Cedar Rapids Republican*, March 10.

Glassie, Henry

1974 The Variation of Concepts Within Tradition: Barn Building in Otsego County, New York. *Geoscience and Man* V:177-235, 69.

McWilliams and Thompson

1859 *Map of Linn County, Iowa*. McWilliams and Thompson.

Rau, John E.

1992 Czechs in South Dakota. *To Build in a New Land: Ethnic Landscapes in North America*, edited by Allen G. Noble. The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore and London.

Rogers, Leah D.

1998 *Early Settlement Era Archaeological/Architectural Resources of Linn County: Site Intensive Survey/National Register Evaluations*. Prepared for Linn County Historic Preservation Commission and the State Historical Society of Iowa.

Rogers, Leah D., and William C. Page

1996 *Linn County Comprehensive Planning Project Phase Five: Archaeological, Historical, and Architectural Survey Subsection P*. Prepared for Linn County Historic Preservation Commission and the State Historical Society of Iowa.

Thompson and Everts

1869 *Map of Linn County, Iowa*. Thompson and Everts, Geneva, Illinois.

Warner and Foote

1881 *Map of Linn County, Iowa*. Warner and Foote, Minneapolis and Philadelphia.

Western Historical

1878 *History of Linn County, Iowa*. Western Historical, Chicago.

Other Sources:

1885 Iowa State Population Census

1910 U.S. Population Census

Property abstract transcribed by Richard A. Netolicky

Truhlar Cemetery Records, First Presbyterian Church, College Township

Land Transfer Records, Linn County Recorder's Office, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

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**Janko Farmstead District
Linn County, Iowa**

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Janko Farmstead District is shown as the dashed line on the accompanying map entitled "Plan Map of the Janko Farmstead District."

Boundary Justification

This boundary includes all of the extant buildings historically associated with the Janko Farmstead.

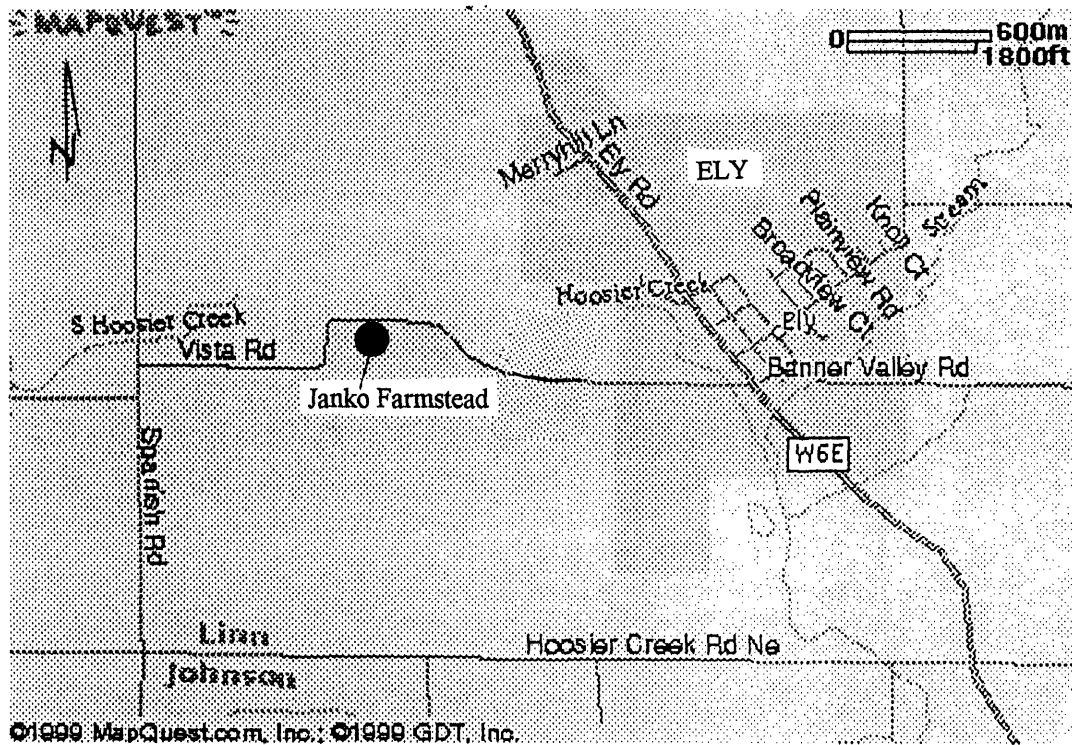
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Janko Farmstead District
Linn County, Iowa

Figure 1. General Location Map of Janko Farmstead District



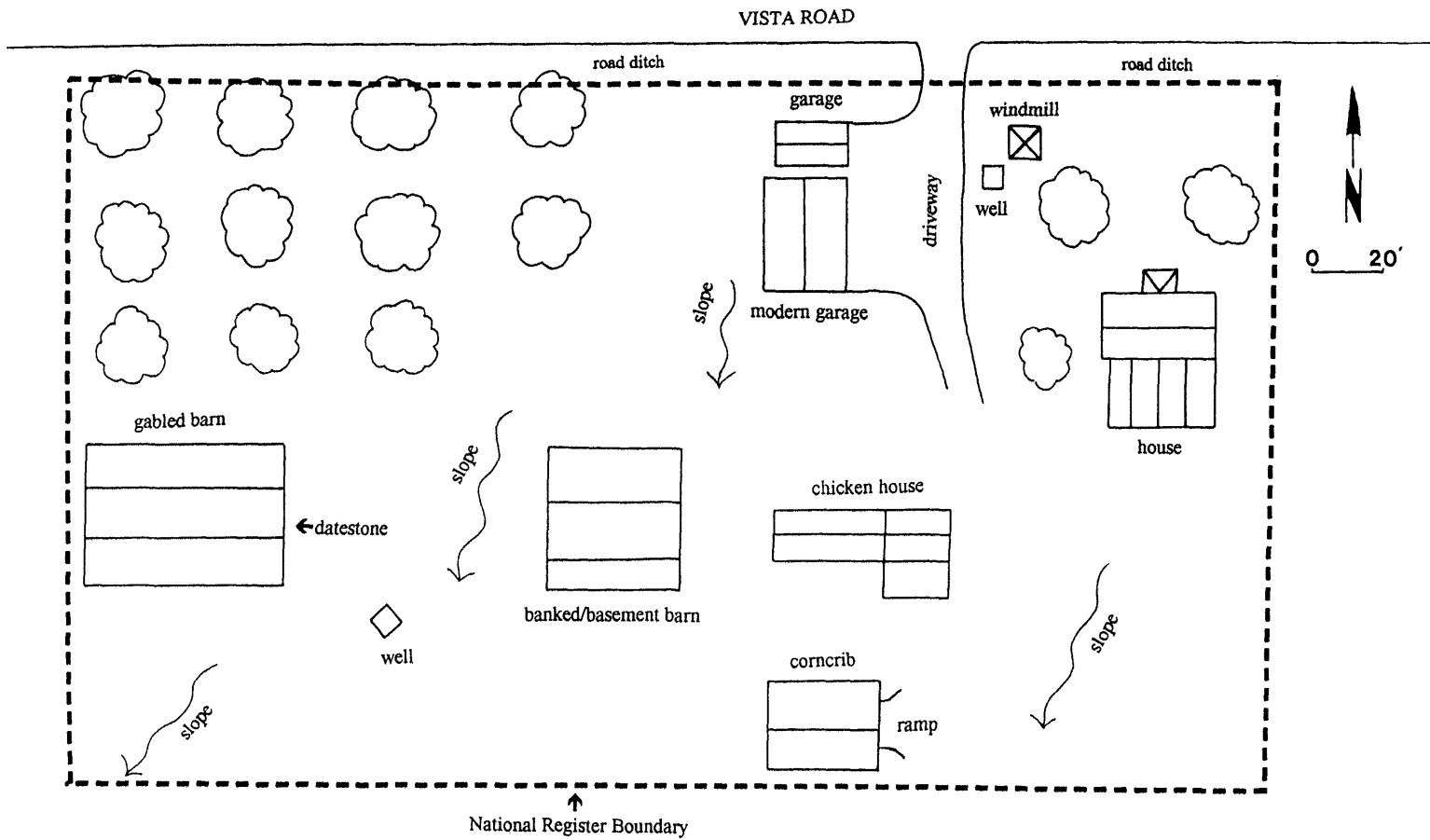
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Janko Farmstead District
Linn County, Iowa

Figure 2. Plan Map of the Janko Farmstead District



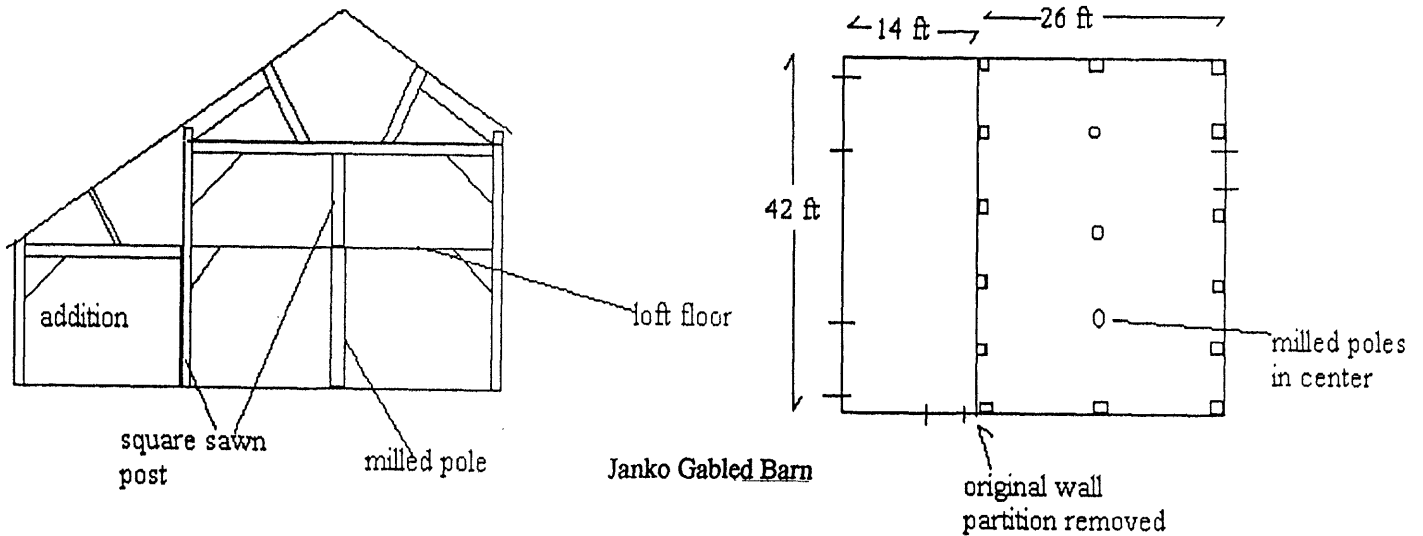
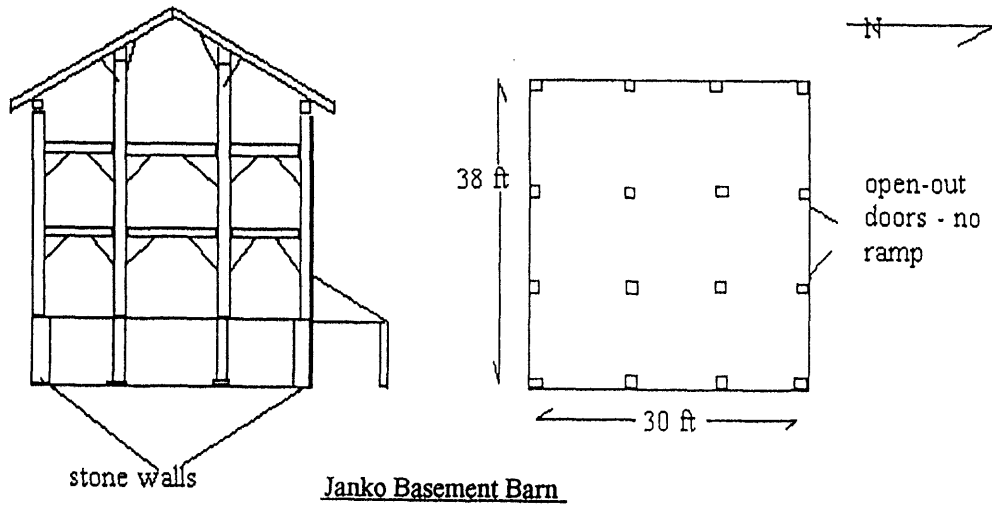
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Janko Farmstead District
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Figure 3. Floor Plans and Bent Configurations of the Gabled Basement Barn and the Gabled Barn



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**Janko Farmstead District
Linn County, Iowa**

Photographs

Photographer: Leah D. Rogers

Date of Photographs: February 2000

Location of Negatives: State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines

- #1 General View of Farmstead, View to the ENE
- #2 General View of Farmstead, View to the ENE
- #3 House, View to the SW
- #4 Detail of Front Porch on House, View to the South
- #5 Gabled Barn, View to the NNE
- #6 Gabled Barn, View to the NW
- #7 Gabled Barn, View to the South
- #8 Detail of Inscribed Datestone on Gabled Barn, View to the West
- #9 Gabled Basement Barn, View to the East
- #10 Gabled Basement Barn, View to the NE
- #11 Corncrib, View to the WNW
- #12 Chicken House, View to the North

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Janko Farmstead District
Linn County, Iowa

Map Showing Direction of Photographs

