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 National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property			
historic name Gottfried Gustav Pitz Barn			
other names/site number Pitz-Muller Barn, NeHRSI	# CC00-344		
2. Location			
street & number 903 Livingston Road			not for publication
city or town Plattsmouth		X	vicinity
state Nebraska code NE county	Cass code 025	zip coo	
3. State/Federal Agency Certification			
I hereby certify that this _X_ nomination reques for registering properties in the National Register of Hereby requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property _X_ meets does not property be considered significant at the following lev national statewideX_ local Signature of certifying official/Title Director/SHPO, Nebraska State Historical Society State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National statewide	listoric Places and meets the procest meet the National Register Criteriel(s) of significance: 07-03-12 Date	dural and	d professional
Signature of commenting official	Date	-	
Title	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Go	vernment	
4. National Park Service Certification			
entered in the National Register determined not eligible for the National Register other (explain)	determined eligible for the N removed from the National F		jister
Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action		-

(Expires 5/31/2012)

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(Expires 5/31/2012)

Gottfried Gustav Pitz Barn

Name of Property

Cass County, Nebraska County and State

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Gottfried Gustav Pitz Barn located just outside of Plattsmouth is an example of a banked barn built in 1883. Situated near the Missouri River, the barn was once one of several buildings that were utilized by a market gardener or truck farmer, a farmer who grew one or more vegetable crops on a large scale for shipment to markets. The small 16 x 16 barn housed one horse to provide labor and transportation and one cow to provide milk for the family. The banked barn is constructed of brick and frame and has a dry-laid brick ground floor. The Gottfried Gustav Pitz Barn is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with agriculture and under Criterion C for its architectural significance.

Narrative Description

This one and a half story structure has a brick foundation and walls on the first floor, and vertical frame above. The small barn measures only sixteen feet by sixteen feet, and is built into a small hill so that one may access both floors from ground level on two different sides of the building. The steeply pitched gable roof was originally covered in cedar shingles, but was covered in tin in the early 1960s. The barn has a door on the south facade, and a haymow door on the east. The haymow door is elevated from ground level for ease of unloading hay from a wagon. The barn has two windows. The window near the door on the south is a glass, four-lite fixed window, while the window on the west side is an open "muck out" window for cleaning out the stalls.

The first floor of the barn has a dry-laid brick floor, and only two stalls: one for a horse and one for a cow. The stalls are separated by a simple wood partition, and there is a manger along the east wall that supplied each stall with feed. The second floor has a wood plank floor and is simply a large open space for storing hay for the animals below. The barn has never had electricity and has experienced only minor repairs since it was built. There is a metal band around the perimeter of the brick portion of the building, which was added in the 1970s to secure the walls.

The barn once sat on a thirty-acre farm and was accompanied by an 1882 farmhouse, a pigsty, and a chicken coop. The property overlooks the Missouri River and is steeply hilled. The old farmhouse has been replaced with a modern house built in 2002, and the pigsty and chicken coop are no longer extant.

In terms of historic integrity, the barn itself retains excellent integrity of materials, design, location, workmanship, feeling and association. The setting has changed significantly. The property is no longer a working farm, but the barn sits in a grassy lawn as an ancillary building to a modern house. The change in the setting of the Pitz-Muller Barn precludes the nomination of the entire property as a farmstead, but does not inhibit the building's ability to convey its significance.

Gottfried Gustav Pitz Barn

Name of Property

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Cass County, Nebraska

County and State

8. Statement of Significance Applicable National Register Criteria Areas of Significance (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property (Enter categories from instructions.) for National Register listing.) ARCHITECTURE Property is associated with events that have made a **AGRICULTURE** significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high Period of Significance artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack 1883-1962 individual distinction. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. Significant Dates 1883 Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.) Significant Person Property is: (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.) A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes. **Cultural Affiliation** B removed from its original location. German a birthplace or grave. a cemetery. Architect/Builder E a reconstructed building, object, or structure. Gottfried Gustav Pitz a commemorative property. less than 50 years old or achieving significance

Period of Significance (justification)

within the past 50 years.

The Period of Significance begins from the date of construction, which was 1883. Since the barn has been continually owned and used by the same family, the Period of Significance extends through the arbitrary fifty-year cut-off date of 1962.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Gottfried Gustav Pitz Barn Name of Property

Cass County, Nebraska County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Gottfried Gustav Pitz Barn, located on the fringes of Plattsmouth, Cass County, Nebraska, is eligible for listing at the local level under Criterion A for agriculture and Criterion C for its architectural significance. This petite barn, containing only two animal stalls, was used by Gustav Pitz to house his cow and his horse. It was one of four original buildings on the property, but is the sole remnant of the site's truck farming or market gardening history, during which the family kept bees, raised grapes for wine making, and grew vegetables for market. The Gottfried Gustav Pitz Barn is the only known bank barn of its size in Cass County, Nebraska. The barn also serves as a rare remnant of truck farming or market gardening in this region of Nebraska.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A: Agriculture

Gottfried Gustav Pitz described himself in the 1910 Census as a "truck farmer." However, Mr. Pitz was more likely a market gardener, selling his produce in nearby Plattsmouth and Omaha. Both market gardening and truck farming are horticultural practices of growing one or more vegetable crop on a large scale for shipment to markets. What differentiates the two is the location of the market: market gardeners delivered produce to markets anywhere within a few miles to approximately 50 miles, while truck farmers delivered produce on a large regional or national scale. The two industries are very similar and intertwined within the "new" vegetable-producing business that developed towards the end of the nineteenth century.

The Pitz farm was located just outside of Plattsmouth, a mere twenty miles south of Omaha. Although Gustav only extended his market as far as Omaha, the Pitz farm was poised in a good position for shipping goods, as Plattsmouth had a railroad station, a new railroad bridge from Iowa (built in 1882), and easy access to the Missouri River. Given the hilly terrain of Pitz's land, the farm lent itself better to market gardening or truck framing than to a large scale tilled agricultural pursuit such as wheat or corn, which was much more prevalent in Nebraska. Mr. Pitz, who operated a 30-acre farm, was not a typical Nebraska farmer. According to the 1910 US Census, only 8.3% of farms in the West North Central region (which includes North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Iowa, and Missouri) were between 20 and 50 acres; the averaged-size farm was over 200 acres. Furthermore, only 3% of Nebraska's total value of crops in 1910 came from vegetables. According to Gustav's great-grandson, Morgan Muller, Mr. Pitz sold vegetables, raised grapes for wine, and kept bees for honey. Grape cultivation on the Pitz farm lasted until shortly after Gustav's death in 1925, but was discontinued soon after his son Otto inherited the farm. Otto did, however, maintain the beehives and continue to grow and sell vegetables locally. The younger Pitz also grew blackberries and black raspberries for sale and personal consumption.

Market gardening, and later truck farming, was in part a product of the industrial revolution, which produced the transportation system and the markets necessary for the movement and sale of crops. During this time, factory jobs brought people to cities where garden space was not available. To supply city dwellers with fresh produce, local farmers on the outskirts of towns, or market gardeners, began to grow fruits and vegetables to sell in the local markets. The produce industry changed, however, as innovations in transportation and refrigeration developed. With the use of waterways, the completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869, and later, refrigerated trucks, perishable fruits and vegetables could be efficiently transported over long distances. However, to make the more substantial transportation methods financially feasible, farmers had to grow produce on a "farm" scale, as opposed to a "garden" scale, resulting in the shift from market gardening to truck farming. Nationwide, growing urban populations demanded the produce provided by the market gardeners and truck farmers; however, the truck farming movement spread most notably throughout the Atlantic seaboard and the far South. While Nebraska communities were recipients of the truck farmer's produce, the Plains region was not a major player in the truck farming industry.

Both market gardening and truck farming required far less acreage to make a living than other cash crops. Farmers found it profitable to devote small amounts of acreage to certain truck and garden crops to gain the best profits. The return on these crops was often greater than those of cash crops. The difficulty of truck farming and garden marketing was the

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Gottfried Gustav Pitz Barn

Name of Property

Cass County, Nebraska County and State

sheer risk of the venture. Market determined price, yielding high or low returns based on supply and demand. As time passed between 1869 and the middle of the 20th century, a high number of farmers were drawn to market gardening and truck farming because of the profits that may be seen, but at the same time, the large number of farmers grew so much produce that the glut affected their returns. By the 1920s, mechanization, concentration, and specialization in farming would change the produce industry. It was at this time that vegetable production became a mainly southern endeavor because of favorable climates and inexpensive labor.

Criterion C: Architecture

As a market gardener or truck farmer, Gustav Pitz would not have required the use of very many large animals other than what was required for his family's use. The family had one cow and one horse, largely used for transportation. Such a small number of animals would not require a very large barn, and thus a modest two stall barn was constructed for their care.

The barn is banked, or built into a partially excavated hill, to provide warmth for the animals through the insulation of the soil, as well as ease of entrance into the upper story. This is a typical method of barn construction in Germany, and was no doubt modeled after examples Mr. Pitz viewed in his youth. The barn is so simple, in fact, that it largely defies categorization in agricultural resource manuals. *The Pennsylvania Barn* shows an illustration of a "primitive two level log barn" banked into a hill. So near to Plattsmouth (established in 1854) and the railroad, in 1883 the Pitz family would have access to other more sophisticated building materials like brick and lumber, and would not have to rely on logs for the barn's construction. Other manuals similarly lack examples of barns of this diminutive size, but do show illustrations of root cellars and spring houses that are similar in scale and style to this building.

While there may have been other petite barns such as this one in Nebraska, one could speculate that either their usefulness was short-lived and they have not survived, or that in resembling other smaller ancillary buildings on farmsteads, they have not been recognized for their association with market gardening or truck farming. The Gottfried Gustav Pitz Barn serves as the only known building of its type and size, with an association to this type of farming, to remain in Cass County.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

Gottfried Gustav Pitz emigrated from Germany to the United States in 1868 when he was nineteen. He and his brother first arrived in Wisconsin, where his brother remained, and it was in Wisconsin that he first met his wife, Helen. Mr. Pitz's name first appears in Plattsmouth, Nebraska in the April 1880 census of Cass County, where he is listed as living with the August Beins family. The U.S. Census from that year lists Pitz as a "laborer" on the Beins farm. In 1883, Pitz married Helen Schmidtman of Wisconsin. During the same year, he bought thirty acres of land overlooking the Missouri River and built a house and barn. The Schedule of Agriculture enumerated in June of 1885 shows that in 1884, Pitz harvested one bushel of grass seed, owned one milk cow, and fifty chickens. Four hundred dozen eggs were produced that year as well. He also had one acre of Indian corn that produced 40 bushels and was starting an apple orchard with one-half acre of apple trees. The Pitz family continued to own the property after Gustav's death in 1925. His son Otto and daughter-in-law Anna lived on the farm and continued Gustav's endeavors of bee keeping and vegetable production.

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Gottfried Gustav Pitz Barn

Name of Property

Cass County, Nebraska County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Cass County Assessors Record, 1968, for Section 19, Township 12, Range 14, Lot 109, Exc. Hwy. NE 1/4 NE 1/4.

Cass County Census, April 1880, Plattsmouth Precinct, page 60.

Earle, F.S. "Development of the Trucking Interests," Yearbook of the United States Department of Agriculture, 1900. Washington: Government Printing Office. 1901.

Ensminger, Robert F. The Pennsylvania Barn: Its Origin, Evolution, and Distribution in North America. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. 1992.

Federal Census, 1880, Plattsmouth Precinct, District 262, page 16.

Federal Census, 1910, Plattsmouth Precinct, District 15, page 3.

Gordon, Stephen C. How to Complete the Ohio Historic Inventory. Columbus: Ohio Historical Society. 1992.

Interview with Morgan Muller, great-grandson of Gottfried Gustav Pitz. June 21, 2011.

Landreth, Burnet. Market Gardening and Farm Notes, Experiences and Observations in the Garden and Field of Interest to the Amateur Gardner, Trucker and Farmer. New York: Orange Judd Company. 1893.

Nebraska Census, 1885, Plattsmouth Precinct, Schedule 1, District 113 ½, page 21; Schedule 2, page 17, Enumeration District 113 ½.

Nebraska Census, 1900, Plattsmouth Precinct, Enumeration District 15, page 6.

Plattsmouth Journal, March 5, 1925, "Death of G.G. Pitz", page 6, column 3.

Stout, Gerald J. Successful Truck Farming. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1958.

Thirteenth Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1910, Abstract of the Census, Statistics of Population, Agriculture, Manufactures and Mining for the United States, the States, and Principal Cities. Washington: Government Printing Office. 1913

Thompson, Homer C. Vegetable Crops. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc. 1923.

Thomson, Charles Halton. Armstrong Undergraduate Journal of History. "The 'Poker Game': The Failure of Truck Farming as a National Agricultural Enterprise." 2011.

Work, Paul and John Carew. Vegetable Production and Marketing. New York, New York: John Wiley and Sons. 1955.

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Gottfried Gustav Pitz Barn Name of Property						Cass County, Nebraska County and State		
Previous documentation on file (NPS): preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)previously listed in the National Registerpreviously determined eligible by the National Registerdesignated a National Historic Landmarkrecorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #				Primary location of additional data: X				
Historic Re	esources Survey	Number (if assigned):	CCO	0-344				
10. Geog	raphical Data							
(Do not inclu	de previously listed re	ess than one esource acreage.) on a continuation sheet.)						
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Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting		Northing	
Zone	Easting	Northing	4	Zone	Easting	-	Northing	
Verbal Bo	undary Descrip	tion (Describe the boundaries of the	prope	erty.)				
NE ¼ NE	% Section 19, T1	2N- R14E						
Boundary	Justification (E	xplain why the boundaries were selec	ted.)					
The bound	lary includes the	footprint of this barn only.						
	Prepared By							
11. Form			J-70.7	0 EN 7 WY	in an im San San San	Llistoria	10 200	
11. Form I	H. Margo Prent	tiss, Curator; Jill Dolberg & Au-	drey	Mohr (N	ebraska State	HISTORIC	cal Society)	
name/title		tiss, Curator; Jill Dolberg & Aud Historical Society	drey	Mohr (N	ebraska State date Noven		12.33	
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name/title organizatio street & nu	on Cass County	Historical Society	drey	Mohr (N	date Noven	nber 23 (402) 29	, 2011	

Maps: A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

Submit the following items with the completed form:

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Gottfried Gustav Pitz Barn	
Name of Property	

Cass County, Nebraska
County and State

- Continuation Sheets
- Additional items: (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Gottfried Gustav Pitz Barn

City or Vicinity: Plattsmouth

County: Cass State: Nebraska

Photographer: Patrick Haynes Date Photographed: March 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

Photo #1 of 8 (NE_CassCounty_GottfriedGustavPitzBarn_01)

East façade, camera facing West.

Photo #2 of 8 (NE_CassCountyGottfriedGustavPitzBarn_02)
East façade (left) and North façade (right), camera facing southwest

Photo #3 of 8 (NE_CassCounty_GottfriedGustavPitzBarn_03)

South façade (left) and East façade (right), camera facing northwest Photo #4 of 8 (NE CassCounty GottfriedGustavPitzBarn 04)

West façade (left) and South façade (right), camera facing northeast

Photo #5 of 8 (NE_CassCounty_GottfriedGustavPitzBarn_05)
North façade (left) and West façade (right), camera facing southeast

Photo #6 of 8 (NE_CassCounty_GottfriedGustavPitzBarn_06) Exterior detail of South façade brickwork, camera facing north

Photo #7 of 8 (NE_CassCounty_GottfriedGustavPitzBarn_07)
Barn interior, ladder to loft, camera facing east

Photo #8 of 8 (NE_CassCounty_GottfriedGustavPitzBarn_08)

Barn interior, stalls, camera facing northeast

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

name Mr. Max A. Muller

street & number 903 Livingston Road telephone (402) 298-8773

city or town Plattsmouth state Nebraska zip code 68048

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTI	ON: NOMINA	TION			
PROPERTY Pit NAME:	z, Gottfrie	d Gustav,	Barn		
MULTIPLE NAME:					
STATE & COUNTY	: NEBRASKA	, Cass			
	AY: 8/27			PENDING LIST: 45TH DAY:	
REFERENCE NUMB	ER: 120005	64			
REASONS FOR RE	VIEW:				
	IL:	N PERIC	D: N	LESS THAN 50 TO PROGRAM UNAPPENATIONAL:	
COMMENT WAIVER		REJEC	T 8/27	2012 DATE	
ABSTRACT/SUMMA	RY COMMENTS				
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TELEPHONE		D	ATE	/	
DOCUMENTATION	see attached	d comment	s YK se	e attached SLR	Y/NT
If a nomination	n is return	ed to the	nominat	ing authority,	tho
nomination is					che



Gottfried Gustav Pitz Barn Plattsmouth vicinity

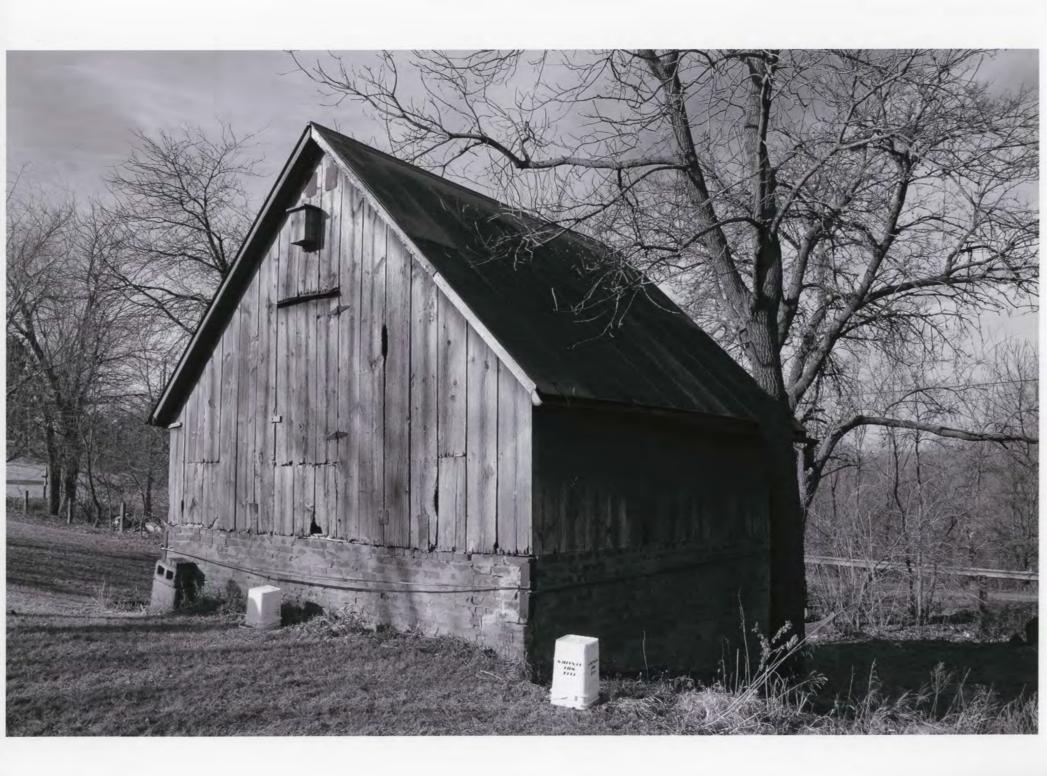
Cass County, Nebraska

Photo 1 of 8

Ne HRSI # CC00-344

NE- Cass County-Gottfried Gustav Pitz Barn-01

East facade, camera facing west



Gottfried Gustav Pitz Barn

Platts mouth vicinity

Cass County, Nebraska

Photo 2 of 8

NeHRSI# CC00-344

NE_ CassCounty-Gottfried Gustav PitzBarn-02

East facade (left) and north facade (right), camera facing South west

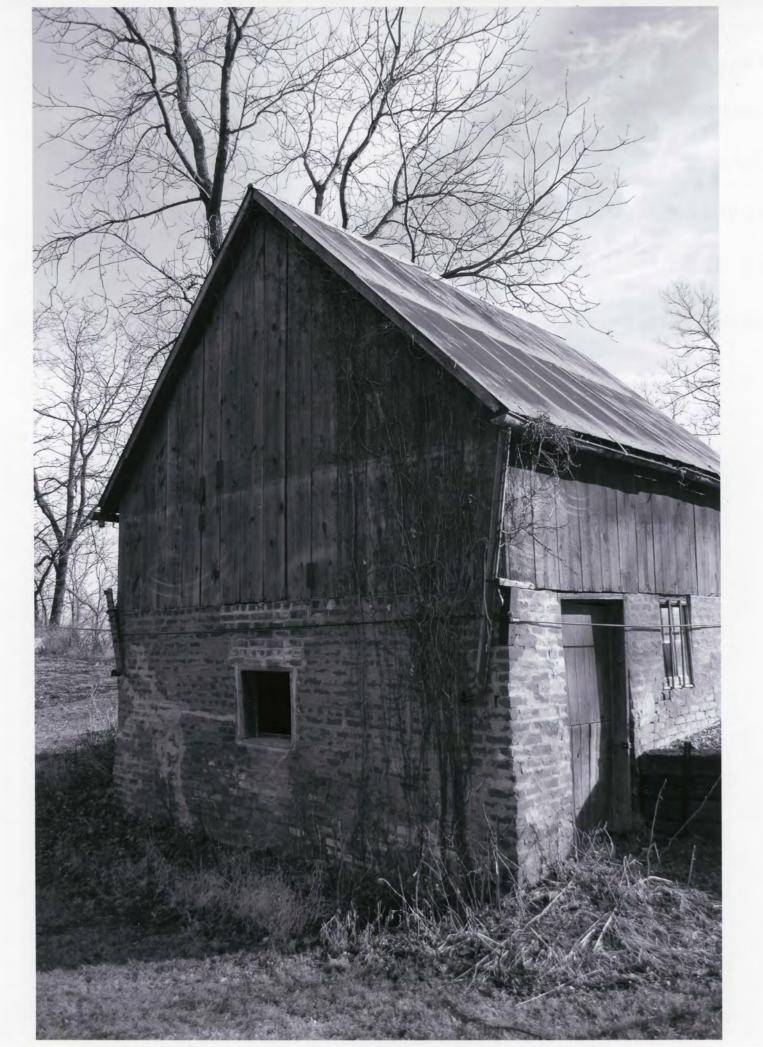


Gottfried Gustav Pitz Barn Plattsmouth vicinity Cass County, Nebraska Photo 3 of 8

NeHRSI# CC00-344

NE_ Cass County - Gottfried Gustav Pitz Barn-03

South facade (left) and East facade (right), camera facing north west



Gottfried Gustav Pitz Barn Platsmouth vicinity

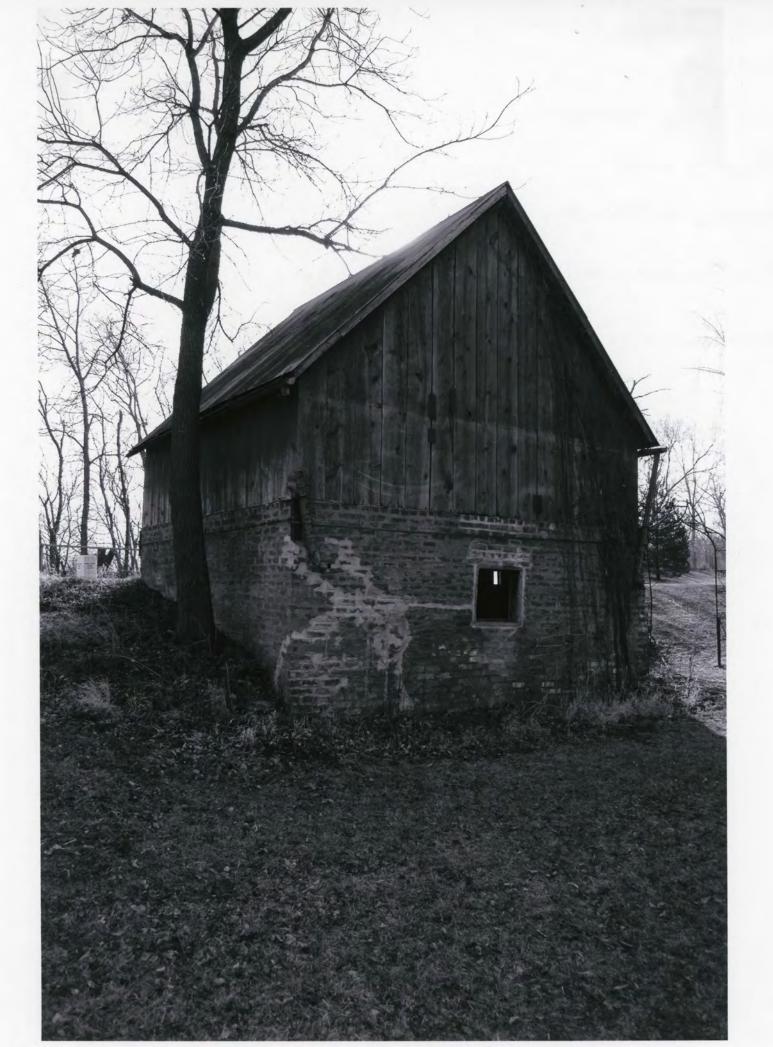
Cass County, Nebraska

Photo 4 of 8

Ne HRSI # CC00-344

NE_ Cass County - Got+fried Gustav Pitz Barn_04

West facade (left) and south facade (right), Camera facing northeast



Gottfried Gustav Pitz Barn Plattsmouth vicinity

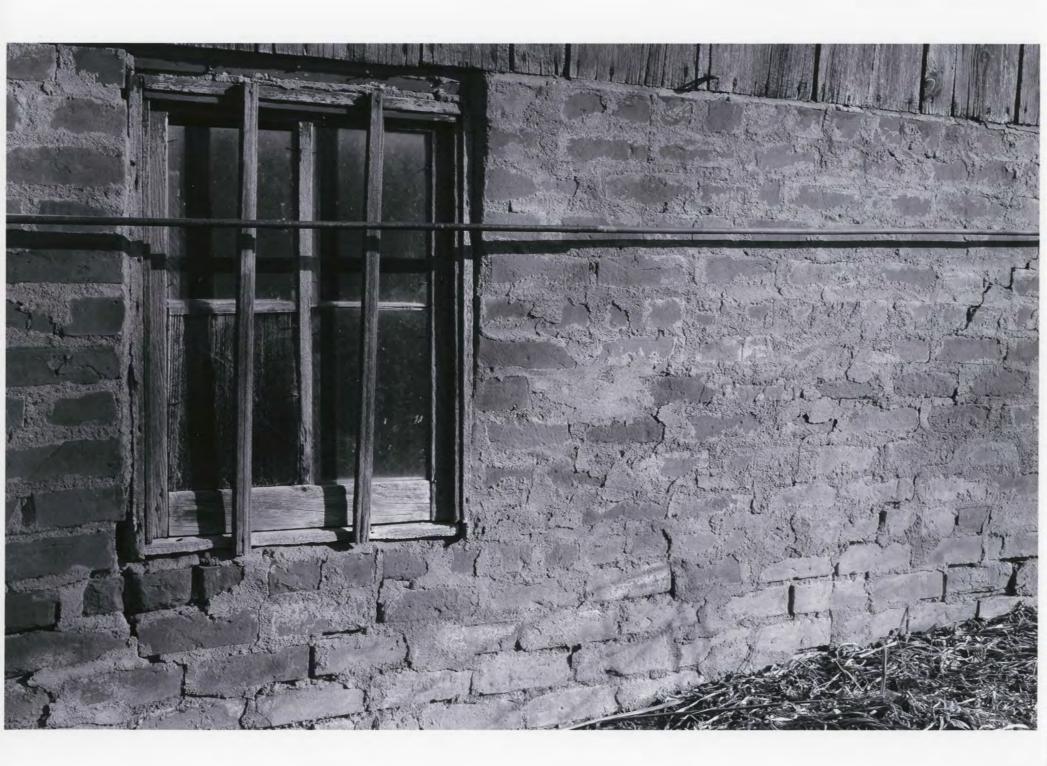
Cass County, Nebraska

Photo 5 of 8

NeHRSI # CC00-344

NE_ Cass County_ GotHeried Gustav Pitz Barn_05

North Facade (left) and westfacade (right), camera facing South east



Gottfried Gustav Pitz Barn

Plattsmouth Vicinity

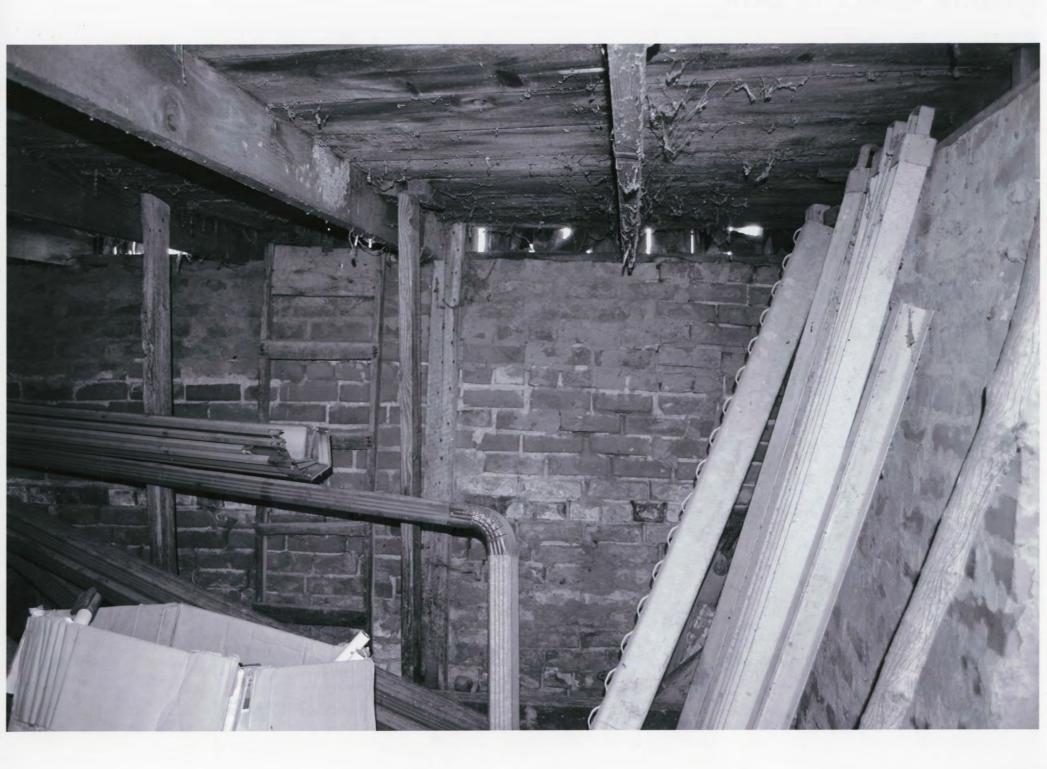
Cass County, Nebraska

Photo 6 of 8

NetRSI # CC00-344

NE_ Cass County - Gottfried Gustav Pitz Barn-06

Exterior detail of South facade brickwork, camera facing north



Gottfried Gystav Pitz Barn

Plattsmouth vicinity

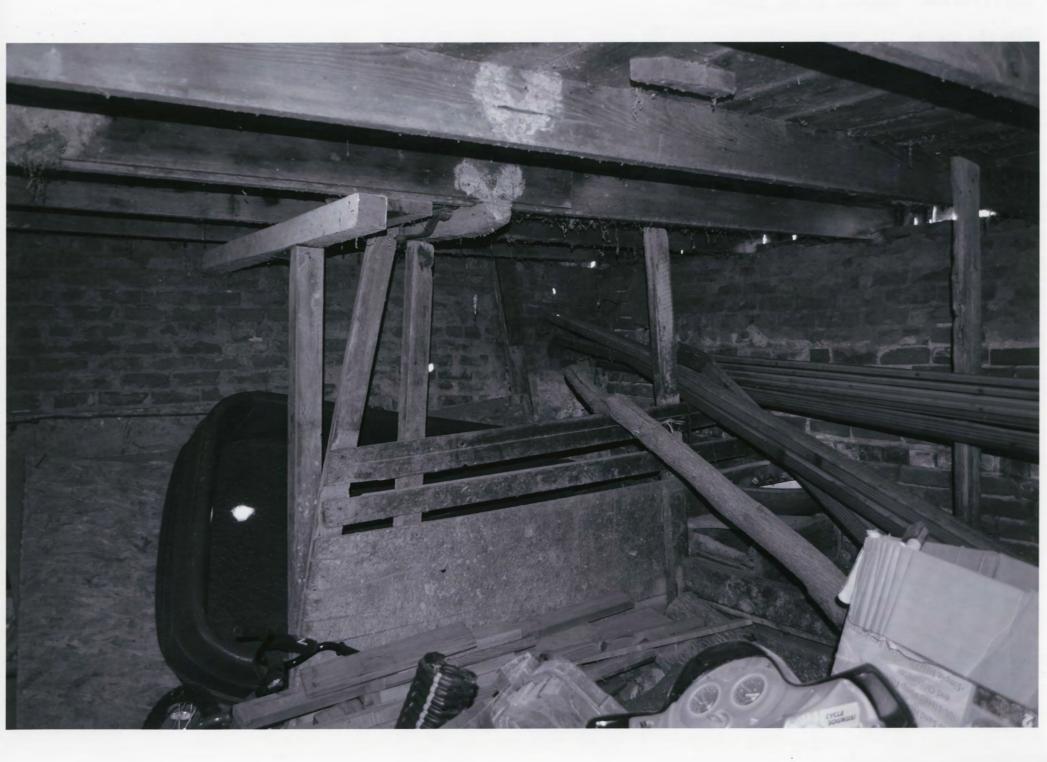
Cass County, Nebraska

Photo 7 of 8

NeHRSI# CC00-344

NE - Cass County - Gottfried Gustav Pitz Barn-07

Barn interior, ladder to loft, camerafacing east



Gattfried Gustav Pitz Barn Plattsmouth vicinity Cass County, Nebraska

Photo 8 of 8

NeHRSI # CC00 - 344

NE- Cass County-Gattfried Gustav Pitz Barn-08

Barn interior, Stalls, camera facing northeast



JUL 1 3 2012

NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

July 6, 2012

J. Paul Loether
National Register—National Historic Landmarks Programs
National Park Service
1201 "I" Street NW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

RE:

Gottfried Gustav Pitz Barn

Cass County, Nebraska

Dear Mr. Loether:

Please find enclosed the National Register of Historic Places nomination form for the above resource. This form has met all notification and other requirements as established in 36 CFR 60.

If you have any questions concerning this nomination, please let me know.

Sincerely,

L. Robert Puschendorf

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure