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OCT - 4 2005

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 Alfred and Magdalena Schmid Farmstead

Other names/site number NeHBS# RH00-529

2. Location

Street & number RR 1

Not for publication

City or town Dawson

Vicinity

State Nebraska

Code NE

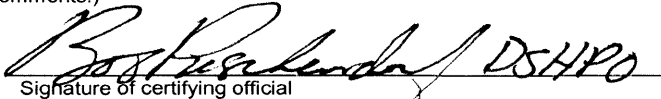
County Richardson

Code 147

Zip code 68337

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 of certifying official

9/28/05
Date

Nebraska State Historical Society
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 this property is:

entered in the National Register.

see continuation sheet.


determined eligible for the National Register.

see continuation sheet.

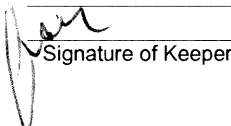
determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain): _____


Signature of Keeper

11-16-05
Date of Action


Signature of Keeper

Alfred and Magdalena Schmid Farmstead
Name of Property

Richardson County, Nebraska
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	
8	1	Buildings
		Sites
		Structures
		Objects
8	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- DOMESTIC / Single dwelling
- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTANCE / Animal facility
- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTANCE / Agricultural outbuilding
- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTANCE / Storage

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- DOMESTIC / Single dwelling
- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTANCE / Animal facility
- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTANCE / Agricultural outbuilding
- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTANCE / Storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

No Style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Foundation Limestone, Concrete
Walls Wood
Roof Metal, Asphalt
Other

Narrative Description

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

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.)

- X 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 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.)

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.)

Agriculture

Period of Significance

1910 - 1925

Significant Dates

1910

1917

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Cordell, Charlie

Alfred and Magdalena Schmid Farmstead
Name of Property

Richardson County, Nebraska
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 5

UTM References (place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet).

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1.	15	254047	4434615	3.			
2.				4.			

[] 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 Stacy Stupka-Burda with A. Allan Schmid
organization Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office date 08/05/2005
street & number 1500 R St telephone 402-471-4770
city or town Lincoln state NE zip code 68501-2554

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/title see continuation sheet
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determined 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, (15 USC 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

Alfred and Magdalena Schmid Farmstead

Name of Property

Richardson County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 7 Page 1

The Alfred and Magdalena Schmid Farmstead (Schmid Farmstead) is an early 20th century farm complex situated approximately ¼ mile west of Spring Creek, an intermittent stream in southern Richardson County. Richardson County is located in the extreme southeast corner of Nebraska, and the Schmid Farmstead is located only 2 miles north of the Nebraska-Kansas state line. The terrain surrounding Humboldt is typical of dissected plains found throughout the county and the Great Plains¹. The population of Richardson County in 2000 was 9,531, and the economy of the surrounding area is primarily agricultural in nature.

Located in rural Richardson County, Nebraska, the Schmid Farmstead is comprised of 9 buildings, including a house, four barns, a washhouse, a garage, and two chicken coops. Each of these buildings is considered contributing with the exception of one chicken coop. The collection of buildings that complete this farmstead are highly visible when approaching the farm from the east. A long driveway accessed from the section line road allows access to the Schmid farmstead. The buildings on the Schmid Farmstead are arranged so that a central courtyard is formed.

The largest of the four barns is also the oldest extant building on the farmstead. Built sometime prior to 1910, the large gable end hay barn (also known as the cattle barn) is 55 ½ feet wide x 56 feet long. The hay barn is clad with vertical board-and-batten siding and is currently painted red. A family photo dated 1912 shows that the battens were once painted white. The roof is covered with galvanized tin, and the foundation is limestone. Two centrally placed sliding doors on the east façade open into the central courtyard. These doors are large enough to accommodate both machinery and animals; a smaller human sized Dutch door is located to the right of the sliding doors, and a hinged door or window is located slightly above and to the left of the Dutch door. The hinged haymow doors are centrally placed on the gable end below the hay sling. Three two over two windows are present along each side of the hay barn. A single sliding door is present on the west façade of the barn, as is a second human sized Dutch door. These doors open into a corral. A small fixed window is situated immediately under the peak of this gable end. The interior of this barn stalls for cattle as well as a small workshop.

The horse barn measures 36 feet wide x 40 feet long and is situated southeast of the hay barn and was constructed prior to 1916. Once again, the gable end faces the central yard. Clad in vertical board-and-batten siding, this barn is also painted red. On the north gable end, a centrally placed Dutch door opens into the central courtyard, as do the haymow doors on the second level. A small hay hood covers the haymow doors. A smaller hinged door or window is located above and to the west of this Dutch door. The east side of this barn contains three window openings and another Dutch door. The south facing gable end has two Dutch doors that open into another corral. The roof is covered in galvanized tin and the foundation is concrete. The interior of this barn contains horse stalls and a bin for oats.

The granary is located northeast of the horse barn. Vertical board-and-bat covers this barn and is painted red. The barn measures 58 feet wide x 36 ½ feet long. The roof of this barn has a gable end, but instead of steep pitch, there is a change in pitch that makes the barn look as if it has large wings. This type of barn is sometimes called a shed-roof barn². Large sliding doors on the gable end open to the north and to the south, rather than into the courtyard. As is typical in granaries, exterior openings are kept to a minimum. The interior of the granary contains grain bins as well as a corn crib. Machinery storage is located under the "wings" on each side.

¹ Soil Survey of Richardson County, Nebraska. United States Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service in cooperation with University of Nebraska Conservation and Survey Division. November 1974.

² The Old Barn Book: A Field Guide to North American Barns and Other Farm Structures. Allen G. Noble and Richard K. Cleek. Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick, New Jersey. 1997.

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Alfred and Magdalena Schmid Farmstead

Name of Property

Richardson County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 7 Page 2

The Schmid farmhouse is large and imposing. Charlie Cordell a man from nearby Bern, Kansas, constructed the square, hipped roof frame house for the Schmid family in 1917. Built to replace an earlier house, the new home cost \$5,000 to construct and was attached to a two-story portion of the first house, which contained the kitchen and a bedroom of the former house³. Clues to the age of the older portion of the house are apparent in the original double hung two over two windows on the second story. Windows in the remainder of the house are double hung, single paned windows. The house features a rusticated concrete block foundation and porch supports with a wrap around porch. The house is clad in narrow lap aluminum siding, and the roof is asphalt.

The fourth barn, a hog barn, was constructed around 1920. This barn is located southwest of the main collection of farm buildings. Set apart from the other farm buildings, this barn faces east. The hog barn is 38 feet wide x 50 feet long, and as with the other barns is clad in vertical board-and-batten siding painted red. This gable end barn has a shed extension on the west side. The east gable end contains two large sliding doors with a hinged door or window in between the doors. The haymow doors are centered under a small hood in the gable end. The west gable end has a large sliding door with a smaller hinged door / window near the east end. The shed addition also contains a sliding door, as well as an area that enclosed by a wooden fence but is otherwise open to a corral. The second level, or the haymow level has one large window, as well as a hinged wooden window under the westernmost eave. Five windows are evenly spaced along each side of the barn.

The remaining four buildings include two chicken coops or brooder houses, a 2-car cinder block garage constructed in 1918, and a small gable end frame washhouse. The washhouse and the garage are located directly south of the house and as could be expected, are within easy reach of the house. One chicken coop is located west and slightly north of the hay barn and is now used to house peacocks. The final chicken coop is located north and east of the granary. This chicken coop is the only building on site that is counted as non-contributing due to its current condition.

Overall, the Alfred and Magdalena Schmid Farmstead retains a high degree of integrity. All seven aspects of integrity, location, materials, design, workmanship, setting, feeling and association are well represented by this historic farmstead. Though the house is clad in artificial siding, the overall feeling of the house and its association with this collection of barns and outbuildings remains unchanged.

³ Echos of the Past: The Autobiography of Florence Beutler Schmid. Privately published. 1988.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Alfred and Magdalena Schmid Farmstead

Name of Property

Richardson County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 8 Page 1

The Alfred and Magdalena Schmid Farmstead is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A at the local level for its association with agriculture. This farmstead exemplifies a diversified farming operation prior to the mechanization of agriculture in Richardson County; moving from horse-powered implements to machine-powered implements. The built environment on this farm, clearly illustrates a diversified farming operation beginning in the late 19th century and continuing on into the twentieth century. The period of significance begins in 1910, the date of the construction of the earliest barn, and extends to 1925 to encompass the construction of the final barn.

History

Alfred Schmid, born in Switzerland in 1868, came to the United States in 1890. He arrived in southeast Nebraska by 1892 and with his mother Anna (Marmet) Schmid, purchased 200 acres in Richardson County for \$9,000.⁴ In 1894, Alfred married a young woman from a neighboring village in Switzerland, Magdalena Kanel. Alfred and Magdalena had six children; three boys and three girls.

Alfred purchased additional acres in 1906 and in 1911, each time acquiring 160 acres. It was undoubtedly around this time that he began expanding the built environment of the farmstead as well. While the exact construction date of the hay barn is unknown, it is believed to be around 1910. This barn is certainly well established in a family photo dated 1912. The built environment indicates that the nineteen-teens continue to be a prosperous time for the Schmid family as the horse barn, the granary, a new house, and a garage are all constructed during this time frame. The fourth large barn, the hog barn, is in place by 1920.

Alfred Schmid was undoubtedly a man very aware of progress, and in the same decade as his largest expansion of the built environment of the farmstead, he purchased a Hart-Parr tractor. Acquired in 1915, the Hart-Part tractor began the mechanization of the Schmid farmstead and would ultimately led to the obsolescence of one of his newly completed barns, the horse barn.

In 1927, Alfred Edward Schmid began farming in partnership with his father Alfred Schmid. Alfred E. married Florence Beutler in 1930 and they lived and farmed together on the Schmid farmstead. Alfred E. and his family survived the difficult years of the Depression, but family records confirm that this time period was an extremely difficult time to be a farmer on the Great Plains. Alfred E. continued to farm into the 1970's, continuing to modernize as necessary throughout his career.

Summary

Alfred Schmid began farming in Nebraska during a decade that had seen a 97.1% increase in the rural population of Nebraska. The State has not since experienced a double-digit increase in the rural population since.⁵ Double-digit changes in population are not recorded again until 1940, when the change, is unfortunately, negative. From the beginning of the Schmid Farmstead, the farming operation was highly diversified. Cattle, hogs, horses, chickens, corn, oats, and wheat were products of the farm. The built environment reflects this diversification, and it was this diversification that enabled the Schmid family to survive the lean times. A. Allan Schmid, grandson of Alfred sums it up by stating "the

⁴ Unless otherwise noted, Schmid Family history is taken from Schmid Farm: The Architecture of Evolving Agriculture. Alfred Allan Schmid. Privately published, no date.

⁵ Historical Statistics of the United States, 1790 – 1970. Volume II – The Midwest. The University of Alabama Press, University, Alabama. On file, Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office.

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Alfred and Magdalena Schmid Farmstead

Name of Property

Richardson County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 8 Page 2

character of the land and climate at the western edge of the corn belt made mixed farming sensible, and the barns reflect that, holding grains, hay and animals—hogs, cattle and horses.”⁶

The Schmid Farmstead typifies a diversified farming operation prior to the national transition to mechanization. The Farmstead is a rare collection of agricultural buildings with excellent individual integrity that also has an extremely rare integrity of inter-building spatial and visual integrity. It is quite rare to find a working farm that does not have some evidence of mid-late 20th century farming practices: metal sheds, fuel tanks and metal grain bins. The Schmid Farm is a rare representation of the end of an era, the final years before mechanization completely changed the way American farms looked.

The buildings associated with the Schmid Farmstead exhibit the classic features of a farm prior to mechanization. The buildings are arranged in the traditional courtyard style of the era, an arrangement colloquially known as a barnyard. The residence forms the base of a rough square, with the additional sides of the square formed by the larger buildings that comprise the major units of a working farm of the era: Horse barn, granary and hay/cattle barn. All these buildings open onto the barnyard, allowing each building to be accessed by the farmer with a minimum of walking between any given two buildings. The formal entry of the residence faces away from the barnyard. However, as was quite typical, the most commonly used entry of the residence opens into the barnyard.

The hog barn was built last and, not unusually, outside the confines of the courtyard proper. The hog barn is located outside the barnyard in order to maintain decent spacing of the buildings. Note, however that the hog barn is located furthest from the residence than any other outbuilding. Undoubtedly, this location is an attempt to help alleviate the cause of the most odiferous of barnyard smells: a swine farrowing barn.

By the end of World War I, the mechanization of agriculture was well under way. However it was not been unusual at the time for farmers to continue older farming practices during a transitional period. Additionally, early tractors, wagons and tractor-pulled implements easily fit into barn spaces originally intended for horse-drawn wagons and implements.

As machinery grew larger and more powerful, the spaces that accommodated earlier tractors and implements were insufficient, and farmers constructed large, usually metal structures. Small, interior granaries, designed for feeding relatively small numbers of animals on a smaller scale were replaced by large metal grain bins used for storing grain that was sold as a commodity. And as mechanization took hold, it is a rare farm today that does not exhibit large, above-ground fuel tanks, often located within the barnyard.

As evidenced by the design of these buildings, there was a distinct period in American agriculture when the massive changes on the landscape brought about by mechanization occurred side-by-side with an earlier era. Each of the major outbuildings had hay mows, for feeding both livestock and horses. The location of the oat bin in the horse barn is further evidence of the pre-mechanized characteristics of the Schmid Farmstead. The existence of a granary hearkens to a time when harvested grain was utilized at least as much for livestock feed as for a commodity. The Schmid Farmstead is a very well preserved and rare example of this era. The Alfred and Magdalena Schmid Farmstead is eligible for listing in the National Register for its association with agriculture in Richardson County.

⁶ Ibid. p. 7.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Alfred and Magdalena Schmid Farmstead

Name of Property

Richardson County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 9, 10, 11 Page 1

Bibliography

Dodd, Donald B. and Wynelle S. Dodd

1976 Historical Statistics of the United States, 1790 – 1970. Volume II – The Midwest. The University of Alabama Press, University, Alabama. On file, Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office.

Noble, Allen G. and Richard K. Cleek

1997 The Old Barn Book: A Field Guide to North American Barns and Other Farm Structures. Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Schmid, A. Allan

Schmid Farm: The Architecture of Evolving Agriculture. Privately published. No date. On file, Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office.

Schmid, Florence Beutler

1988 Echos of the Past: The Autobiography of Florence Beutler Schmid. Privately published, on file, Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office.

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of this historic property includes 5 acres surrounding the farmyard, buildings, corrals and the driveway, as per the property owner's request.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of this historic property include those buildings and structures historically associated with the operations of the farmyard itself.

Property Owners

Elizabeth Todd Schmid
1327 George ST
Lansing MI 48910

John Alfred Schmid
12829 Doe Lane
Darnestown, MD 20878

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Alfred and Magdalena Schmid Farmstead

Name of Property

Richardson County, Nebraska

County and State

Section photos Page 1

The following information pertains to the following photographs:

Alfred and Magdalena Schmid Farmstead
Richardson County, Nebraska
Photographer: Stacy Stupka-Burda, NeSHPO
February 2005
Negatives in the collection of the NeSHPO

Photographs

Photograph	Description of Photograph	View
1 of 10	View of Schmid House to R; wash house to L	W
2 of 10	View of Schmid House	N
3 of 10	View of washhouse at center. House is R; garage is L	W
4 of 10	Garage at center. Wash house at R; brooder house is L	W
5 of 10	View of hay barn	SW
6 of 10	View of horse barn	S
7 of 10	View of granary	SW
8 of 10	View of barns; horse barn is L; hay barn is near center; granary is R	NW
9 of 10	View of hog barn	SW
10 of 10	View of Brooder House	S-SW

Alfred & Magdalena Schmid Farmstead
Richardson County, Nebraska
NeHBS# RH00-529
Map not to scale



Hog Barn
(contributing)

Horse Barn
(contributing)

Granary
(contributing)

Cattle Barn
(contributing)

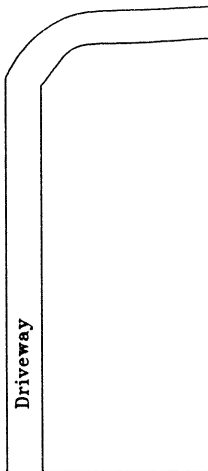
Brooder House
(contributing)

Chicken Coop
(noncontributing)

Garage
(contributing)

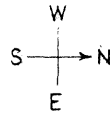
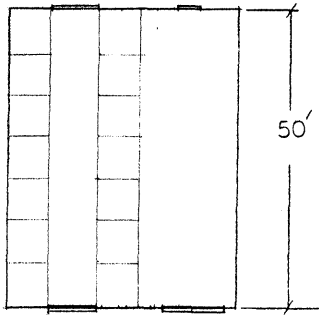
Wash house
(contributing)

House
(contributing)

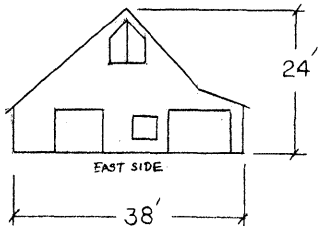


Driveway

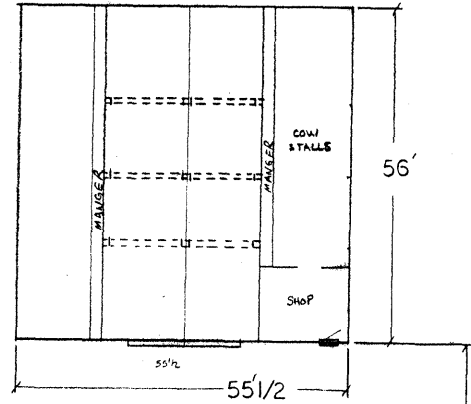
County Road



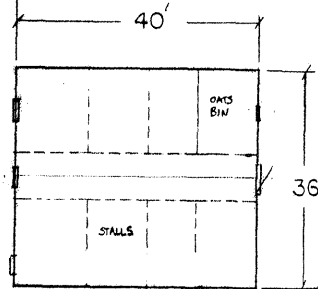
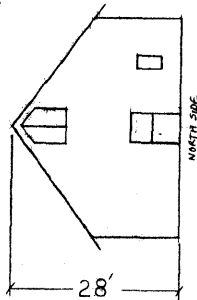
SCHMID FARM - BARN		
SCALE:	APPROVED BY:	DRAWN BY: JAT
DATE: 8/16/02		REVISED:
		DRAWING NUMBER:



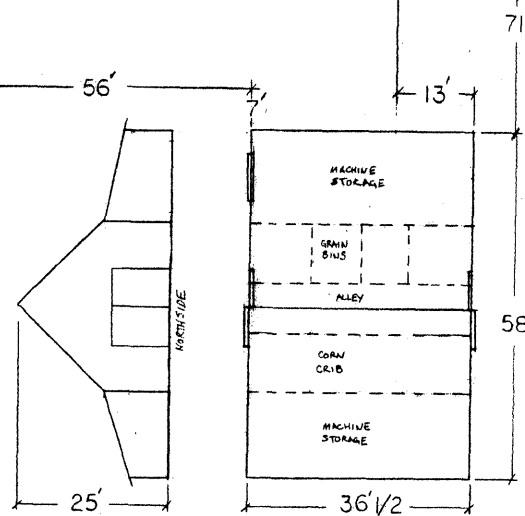
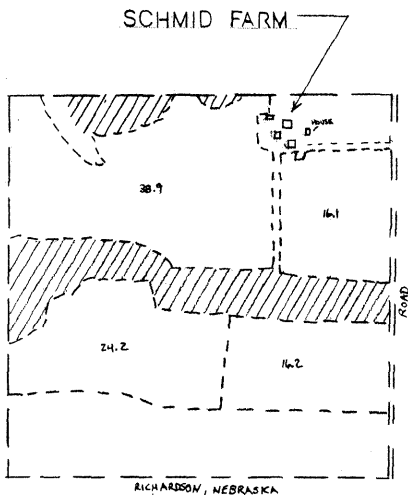
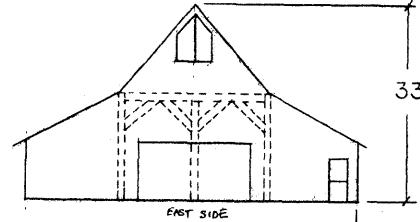
HOG/CATTLE BARN



COW BARN



HORSE BARN



GRANERY