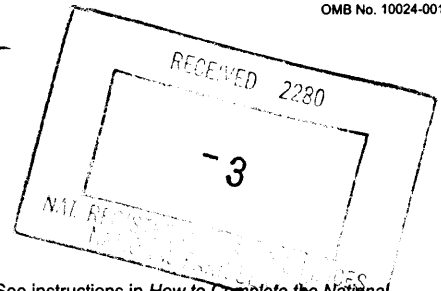


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places 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 Mittleider Farmstead Historic District
other names/site number Rumpel, Albert and Bertha, Farmstead; IHSI #01-19814

2. Location

street & number 575 Rumpel Lane N/A not for publication
city or town Meridian X vicinity
state Idaho code ID county Ada code 001 zip code 83642

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant regionally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Kenneth C. Reid 3/19/03
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
KENNETH C. REID, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

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:)

Carlson K. Beall 3/20/03
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Mittleider Farmstead Historic District
Name of Property

Ada County, Idaho
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>9</u>	buildings
_____	sites
_____	structures
_____	objects
<u>9</u>	Total

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

Historic Rural Properties of Ada County, Idaho

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/storage
AGRICULTURE/animal facility
AGRICULTURE/agricultural
outbuilding

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/storage
AGRICULTURE/animal facility
AGRICULTURE/agricultural
outbuilding

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Wisconsin-Plan Dairy Barn
No Style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls WOOD: Weatherboard
roof WOOD: Shingle
other METAL

Narrative Description

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

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

Mittleider Farmstead Historic District
Name of Property

Ada County, Idaho
County, and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" on one or more lines 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" on all 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.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

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
- Other State agency
- 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
- Architecture
- _____
- _____
- _____

Period of Significance

- 1944-1950
- _____
- _____

Significant Dates

- 1945
- 1947
- _____

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

- N/A

Cultural Affiliation

- _____
- _____
- _____

Architect/Builder

- Mittleider, Christian - Builder
- _____
- _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

- Ada County Development Services

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

Mittleider Farmstead Historic District
Name of Property

Ada County, Idaho
County, and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 2.5 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A 1/1 5/4/9/6/0/0 4/8/2/3/8/7/0 B 1 11111 11111
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

C 1 11111 11111 D 1 11111 11111

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundaries include only the agricultural buildings of the farmstead that are separated by the fence lines from the fields and pastures lying east and south of the buildings. The western boundary is formed by the fence and driveway directly west of the farm buildings and excludes the domestic buildings and landscape. The northern boundary follows the north edge of the private roadway named Rumpel Lane.

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

These boundaries include the agricultural complex, barnyard, and pasture. The agricultural portion of the farmstead is still intact and retains nearly all of its original integrity.

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Madeline Kelley Buckendorf - Consulting Historian
organization The Arrow Rock Group, Inc. date June 2002
street & number PO Box 7333 telephone 208-338-1014
city or town Boise state ID zip code 83707

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/or 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

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code 83642

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.

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Section number 7 Page 1 Name of Property Mittleider Farmstead Historic District
County and State Ada County, Idaho

Site Description:

The Mittleider Farmstead Historic District is located south of Meridian, Idaho, directly adjacent to a private lane (Rumpel Lane) that extends eastward from the Meridian-Kuna Road. The farmstead is located on top of a small knoll that comprises a portion of the gently rolling hills of the Snake River Plain southwest of Idaho's capital, Boise. Originally a semi-arid sagebrush plain, the area is now constituted of irrigated farmland dotted with residential subdivisions. The farmstead is still used for agricultural purposes, and water is provided by the canal system of the Boise-Kuna Irrigation District. The property is bounded on the west side by a fence and driveway separating the domestic portion of the property, on the north side by a fence and Rumpel Lane, and on the east and south sides by fences demarcating adjacent fields and pastures.

Several buildings and structures comprise the Mittleider-Rumpel property. The farmstead arrangement is an "L"-shaped plan, with the house, garage, and lawn area separated from the rest of the buildings by a private driveway. All but one of the agricultural outbuildings still located on the farmstead were built between 1945 and 1950, and constructed by Christian Mittleider. A small loafing shed (see No.9) predates the outbuildings constructed by Mittleider, but its date of construction is unknown. The house, which has been substantially altered, was built between 1937 and 1940. The garage was constructed after 1963. A large chicken house was torn down and replaced by the garage. A wood-framed granary and outdoor privy were also dismantled in the 1960s. All other buildings remain in their original location and are in good to fair condition. [See the attached site maps in the Appendix--one based on a 1960s aerial photograph of the property and the other a present-day map.]

Inventory of Buildings and Structures:

1. Dairy Barn
Construction Date: 1944-1945
Contributing
Builder: Christian Mittleider

The building is a two-story, balloon-framed, banked barn with a gambrel roof and poured concrete foundation. Its construction design reflects barn plans developed by the Agricultural Experiment Station at the University of Wisconsin at the end of the 19th century for the state's expanding dairy industry. The "Wisconsin Plan" barn design spread quickly throughout the United States, and was used in Idaho from 1910 to the 1940s. The barn is 30 feet wide and 48 feet long, and approximately 35 feet in height. The gambrel roof has exposed rafters and flared eaves, and is clad with wood shingles. The "basement" portion of the barn consists of poured-concrete walls that are five feet tall and a poured-concrete floor. The walls above the basement portion, which extend five more feet to the loft floor, consist of wood, balloon framing clad with weatherboard. Directly above the concrete portion of the wall, a single row

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Section number 7 Page 2

Name of Property Mittleider Farmstead Historic District

County and State Ada County, Idaho

of windows wraps around the entire building. They are single-sash hopper windows consisting of four lites framed with wood muntins. A cupola with matching miniature windows and gambrel roof is centered on the roof ridge of the barn. The building is presently used as an animal shelter and feeding area and for storage. Remnants of white paint can be found on the barn's exterior; there seems to have been a coat of cream color paint underneath the white coat.

The building's north façade includes a triple-wide entryway leading to a central alleyway in the stall portion of the basement area. One sliding door remains; two other sliding panels have been removed. Two, four-lite, single-sash hopper windows flank each side of the doorway. Two similar windows flank the hay door above the loft floor, and two more windows are located above the hay door.

The south elevation is banked into the hillside, and a poured-concrete ramp leads to the loft area from the hilltop. Double, hanging doors cover the loft's entryway, and two, two-lite hopper windows are located above the doors. Similar windows located in the basement portion of the façade flank the rampway. Concrete steps lead downward to a single door in the basement area west of the ramp. The door is composed of three wood panels and one lite. East of the ramp, an opening to the basement area has been recently covered with non-matching wood siding; this opening may have been used for loading hay or grain into the basement area.

The barn's west elevation is partially covered by banked earth on its south end. A row of eleven, four-lite, hopper windows is located above the five-foot concrete wall enclosing the basement section. Wood-frame walls with weatherboard siding extend eleven feet from the concrete walls to the roof's eaves. The east elevation of the barn matches its west elevation, except that it contains ten windows instead of eleven.

The interior of the barn consists of the first-story basement section, the second-story loft area, and an enclosed workshop at the north end of the loft area. In the basement section of the barn, the central alleyway extends through the stall section to a concrete wall, which separates the milk room, feed storage room, and hallway that connects the two rooms. The stall section comprises 75% of the basement area, and includes a large, central driveway, concrete slab floor, wood stanchions, concrete feeding troughs, and alleyways adjacent to the feeding troughs. There are eighteen stanchions, nine located on the east side of the barn and nine on the west side, separated by a wide central driveway. The stanchions are situated so that the cows face toward the windows in the barn's exterior walls. This arrangement is described in one farm building manual as a "face-out" stall barn.¹ Directly in front of the stanchions are curved concrete feeding troughs that run the length of the stanchions. Between the feeding troughs and the exterior walls are alleyways that provide access for feeding the cattle. An ingenious system for simultaneously locking the cows into the stanchions is located on both sides of the central alleyway on the north façade. Small wooden handles similar to those on a wheelbarrow are used to trip a lever-and-pulley system that closes and locks all the stanchions at one time. The same system easily unlocks the stanchions. The open basement area between the stanchions has recently been converted into a fenced-in pen area. Wooden panels comprise the fencing, located in the middle and back of the stanchion section. (See sketch of "Basement Interior Floor

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Name of Property Mittleider Farmstead Historic District

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Plan” in the Appendix.)

Located at the south end of the basement section are a milkroom and a feed storage room, connected by a hallway. The milkroom, located in the southwest corner, is well lit by three hopper windows. The interior has been altered and is presently used for medicine storage. The feed room has no windows; there is a covered opening at the ground level on the south façade. This room is presently used for hay storage.

In the basement area, four metal pipe columns support the loft floor. The metal pipe columns are attached to five-piece girders composed of 2" x 12" wood beams nailed together. An iron bolster collar attaches the metal pipe columns to the girders. The rest of the loft floor is braced by 2" x 12" single wood joists that are braced by wood cross-bridging. The loft subfloor is composed of narrow, tongue-and-groove wood boards.

The loft area is accessed by a large, concrete ramp extending to the second story of the barn. The braced framing for the gambrel roof is a simple version with a diagonal brace between the upper and lower rafters at the break in the slope. The rafters are composed of 2" x 6" boards, and the diagonal bracing is composed of two 1" x 6" boards. The bracing is attached to each side of the rafter by four nails. One 2" x 6" board and one 1" x 6" board (sometimes referred to as a “cleat”) tie the diagonal brace to the rafters and the break in the roof’s slope. King posts and collar beams nailed to the upper rafters brace the roof’s ridge. The lower rafters rest on a secondary plate, which attaches the roof’s rafters to the wall studs. The walls extend one foot above the loft floor. Wood “outrigger” boards are attached at a shallow angle to the lower rafter, wall stud, and secondary plate to create the flaring eaves on the gambrel roof. (See the sketch entitled “Roof and Loft Area Framing” in the Appendix.)

An unfinished workshop area is located in the northern one-half of the loft. Its walls consist of wood framing covered with plasterboard, and a central doorway. The workshop area contains a small, enclosed room (possibly a closet) and a wood stove. The stove’s chimney projects above the roof in the northwest corner. Two windows flank each side of the hay door located at the north façade of the workroom area. The workshop area also has an enclosed ceiling framed by 2" x 6" joists. Wood braces forming a “V” shape tie the floor joists to the ends of the collar beams. The wood braces are sets of two 1" x 6" boards; they are nailed to each side of the floor joists and collar beams. According to the builder’s son, Emil Mittleider, the roof truss assembly was prefabricated on the ground, then lifted above the first floor’s walls and nailed to the floor joists and wall studs.²

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2. Hay/Feeder Barn

Construction Date: Circa 1947

Contributing

Builder: Christian Mittleider

The hay/feeder barn, located to the east of the dairy barn, is a one-and-one-half story, wood-framed structure placed on concrete sills. The gambrel roof is clad with corrugated metal, and the walls are clad with weatherboard siding. The hay barn's roof has braced framing similar to the dairy barn's roof framing, but there is no loft area. Iron cables tie the walls together crosswise and lengthwise. The hay barn's roof is topped by a gambrel-roofed cupola similar to the one on the dairy barn.

The east façade of the hay barn includes a central entryway covered by two hinged hay doors that swing outward. The doors have clipped corners at the top, hinged portion, and are clad with wood siding with diagonal bracing. Two openings, which may have originally been windows, are located above the southernmost swinging door on the east facade. The west elevation has a small cow/calf barn attached to it (see No. 3). There is an opening between the cow/calf barn and the hay barn that cannot be seen from the outside of either building. Another small opening is located at the top of the west elevation underneath the roof's ridge. The interior space is open with no separate loft area.

The north elevation of the hay barn has a pent roof composed of wood framing and metal sheeting. The pent roof is attached to the exposed studs under the eaves of the main gambrel roof. Underneath the pent roof, the barn's walls have no siding. Concrete mangers topped with metal vertical poles are located underneath the pent roof, and hay can easily be fed to the cattle from inside the hay barn. The south façade of the building is slightly banked into the side of the hill. Its walls are fully enclosed with wood weatherboard siding. The building is still being used for hay storage and feeding.

3. Cow/Calf Barn

Construction Date: Circa 1947

Contributing

Builder: Christian Mittleider

The cow/calf barn is attached to the hay barn's west elevation, and is directly adjacent to the dairy barn. It is a wood-framed, one-story building with a gambrel roof and a concrete-sill foundation. The roof is clad with wood shingles, and the walls are covered with weatherboard siding. A gambrel-roofed cupola that matches those on the dairy and hay barns is centered on the roof's ridge. The main entryway to the cow/calf barn is covered with a single "Dutch" wooden door. Two hopper windows are located in the barn's south elevation; no muntins or lites are extant. A small shed with a central doorway and tin-clad, curved roof is attached to the north elevation of the cow/calf barn. Originally used to house cows nursing their newborn calves, the barn presently functions as a storage room.

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Name of Property Mittleider Farmstead Historic District

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4. Calf Barn or Nursery

Construction Date: Circa 1947

Contributing

Builder: Christian Mittleider

The calf barn is a one-story, shed-roofed structure with a wood foundation placed on rocks. Its shed roof is clad with wood shingles, and the walls are covered with weatherboard siding. The east, west, and south elevations are completely enclosed by the siding. The north façade contains three narrow entryways that are not covered with doors. The openings lead into interior pens, where young calves were kept while undergoing the weaning process. The area in front of the calf barn has recently been fenced in to form a small outdoor pen.

5. Tool Shed

Construction Date: Circa 1947

Contributing

Builder: Christian Mittleider

The tool shed is a one-story, gable-roofed structure that is set on concrete sills. The roof is clad with wood shingles and the walls are covered with weatherboard siding. Two, two-lite casement windows are located on the tool shed; one is located on the north elevation and one on the west elevation. A wood door is centrally located on the north elevation. A small, gable-roofed cupola with tiny, eight-lite casement windows is centered on the roof's ridge. The shed is presently used for storage.

6. Equipment Shed

Construction Date: Circa 1945

Contributing

Builder: Christian Mittleider

This wood-framed shed is a one-story, saltbox-roofed structure set on concrete sills. The north, west, and east elevations are completely enclosed with wood weatherboard siding. The south façade is open, with the wood support posts exposed. The structure was originally used to hold farm equipment.

7. Loafing Shed

Construction Date: Circa 1947

Contributing

Builder: Christian Mittleider

The loafing shed is a one-story, wood-framed, saltbox-roofed structure set on concrete sills. The north, west, and east elevations are completely enclosed with wood weatherboard siding. On the south elevation

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Name of Property Mittleider Farmstead Historic District

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there is no siding, and the wood support posts are exposed. The structure was and still is used to shelter cows when they were in the barnyard. At present, some hay is stored in the back of the shed.

8. Trench Silo

Construction Date: Circa 1947

Contributing

Builder: Christian Mittleider

The trench silo is constructed of concrete-slab walls that extend as retaining walls beyond the north entrance. The structure has a concrete foundation, and a wood-framed, gabled roof clad with corrugated metal. According to Ken Mittleider, one of the builder's sons, the roof was added after 1950 or may have been added by the Rumpels. The silo is banked into the ground at the top of the knoll, and the entryway faces north. The concrete-slab walls are placed into the trench at a shallow angle, and the metal-clad roof is supported on top of the concrete walls by small concrete posts. Hinged boards cover the interior sides of the small posts and can be hooked open to allow for air circulation underneath the roof. The structure is thirteen feet high (to the roof ridge) and seven feet wide; wide and tall enough to let a small tractor and its operator access the seventy-foot length of the silo. The trench silo was originally used for storing chopped ensilage; it is presently used for equipment and machinery storage.

9. Shed

Construction Date: unknown

Contributing

Builder: unknown

This small structure is located on the northwest edge of the barnyard. The shed is a one-story, wood-framed building with a shed roof and wood sill foundation. The shed is clad on three sides with wood clapboard siding and the roof is clad with wood shingles. All siding was removed from the east elevation. There are openings on the north and south elevations that originally contained windows. The west elevation is completely enclosed. This shed probably originally functioned as a shelter for small animals (perhaps a hog shed or chicken coop), and was later altered to function as a cattle shelter, or loafing shed. It may have been moved to its present site at some time before the 1960s aerial photograph of the property.

Two other original outbuildings, the privy and granary, were torn down after 1963. The driveway to the fields was moved to the east of the trench silo at that time. All of the agricultural outbuildings have undergone little or no alterations.³

The domestic complex, which includes a single dwelling and a garage, are not part of the nomination. The house, which was built circa 1940, has been altered several times and retains little integrity. The garage, built sometime after 1963, does not meet the age requirement for a National Register listing.

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Name of Property Mittleider Farmstead Historic District

County and State Ada County, Idaho

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT:

The Mittleider Farmstead Historic District meets the criteria for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places established in the 2001 Multiple Property Document, entitled "Historic Rural Properties of Ada County, Idaho." The farmstead is eligible under Criterion A for its representation of historic settlement and agricultural development patterns in Ada County from the 1860s to the 1950s. Some of the farmstead's agricultural buildings represent a transition from pre-World War II vernacular building forms to the use of post-war farm building types, materials, and technologies. Other buildings in the agricultural complex reflect the continuation of pre-war building types and plans that are based on the individual builder's background and experience. The domestic complex, which includes a single dwelling and a garage, is not included in the nomination. The house, which was built circa 1940, has been altered several times and retains little or no integrity. The garage, built sometime after 1963, does not meet the age requirement for National Register listing. However, the farmstead's development as a whole typifies agricultural settlement patterns on Ada County's irrigated lands during the 20th century.

The property upon which the Mittleider-Rumpel farmstead was built was first claimed as a homestead before 1910. Its location between two major manmade waterways, the Ridenbaugh Canal and laterals of the New York Canal, made it an attractive property for irrigated agricultural development. In 1910, former Boise Basin miner Orley Soucie purchased the relinquished 80-acre homestead, which was still covered with native sagebrush. By that time the New York Canal had reached the Kuna area, and plans for the United States Bureau of Reclamation's Boise Project promised a sufficient supply of water to the area. Soucie cleared the land, planted alfalfa and red clover, and raised registered Hampshire sheep, cattle, and horses.⁴

Soucie took advantage of various reclamation acts, particularly the Extended Reclamation Act of 1912, to patent his land as a "farm unit" in 1918 and gain more access to irrigation water and a graduated repayment schedule for its use. When the Boise-Kuna Irrigation District was formed in 1924, portions of former New York Canal Company lands were included in the new district, including the Soucie property. Orley and his second wife, Grace, owned the property until 1937, when they sold it to Charles and Frances L. Lane.⁵

The Lanes owned the property from 1937 to 1944. In 1937, they took out a mortgage of \$2,600 from a private individual, (possibly a building contractor) which may have been when the present house was constructed on the property. They also took advantage of a Depression-era New Deal program to make improvements to the farm. In 1940 the Lanes applied for and received a mortgage from the Federal Land Bank of Spokane, made in accordance with the Farm Credit Act of 1937. In November of 1944, the Lanes sold the land to Christian and Mary Mittleider and moved to Meridian.⁶

Born in 1896 at a German settlement in Russia, Christian Mittleider immigrated with his family to the United States when he was 18 months old. The family moved to North Dakota, where there were

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Name of Property Mittleider Farmstead Historic District

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several settlements of German-Russians. As a young man Christian Mittleider followed the pattern of many farmers and laborers from the Dakotas, moving to new, dryland wheat-farming areas in the arid Far West. He and his wife, Mary, moved to the Blackfoot area in 1918, and he entered a patent on a homestead. When their dryland wheat crop was ruined by hail in the early 1920s, the Mittleider family moved to Twin Falls, where they rented a farm and raised dairy cattle for a few years. They then moved to Eagle, where they rented farmland for three years. In 1930, the Mittleiders moved to Stuart Gulch west of Boise, which is presently bisected by North 36th Street. There Christian Mittleider tenant-farmed for Frank Dobson until Dobson's property was repossessed by the Western Land Bank. Mittleider continued to farm the land under bank ownership until 1944. He also raised fruits and vegetables in a large truck garden. On the Stuart Gulch site, Mittleider built a small, banked barn with a gambrel roof, a chicken coop, a root cellar, and other farm outbuildings. Local carpenter and plumber Loris Prohaska, a friend of the Mittleiders who had moved from Eagle to the Stuart Gulch area, helped with the construction of the outbuildings. A carpenter hired by the bank built the house with help from the Mittleider family. The barn and outbuildings on the Stuart Gulch site were smaller versions of the farm buildings Mittleider later constructed on his Meridian property.⁷

Mittleider's background and experience was typical of many builders of vernacular architecture, especially in the Far West. According to his children and Loris Prohaska's son, Forrest, Christian Mittleider had not apprenticed as a carpenter, but seemed to have a "knack" for constructing buildings. He built a few farm buildings around Boise, and later made cabinets. Mittleider never used published building plans, but rather developed his own plans based on his previous construction experience, from working with other carpenters, and by examining the construction of similar buildings. Christian Mittleider was also described as a self-sufficient and independent person of very modest means. Rather than buy precut lumber, he designed a small, portable saw "mill," which he used to cut logs hauled from the Boise foothills into boards of varying sizes.⁸

Christian Mittleider was 49 years old when he and his wife, Mary, purchased the property south of Meridian, the first property that the Mittleider family had owned. Mittleider designed and built the barn and equipment shed in 1945, and other outbuildings sometime between 1947 and 1949. Mittleider and his sons milked 30 cows by hand, until the sons finished school. Ada County's dairy industry experienced another period of tremendous growth after World War II, due to the post-war "baby boom" and new technologies that made it easier to produce and ship Grade A milk. After the sons left the farm, Mittleider had an electric "Surge" milking-machine setup placed in the basement portion of the barn. Christian Mittleider also raised hay and grain, and later did part-time cabinetry work. Some time after 1950, he built a carpentry shop in the loft of the barn, where the ramp provided vehicle access to the loft area. He lined an existing silage pit with concrete slabs, creating a horizontal trench silo where he stored ensilage. [Note: a "trench" silo differs from a silage pit in that it is banked into the ground and has side walls and a floor. Silage pits usually do not have walls or a floor. Another type of silage storage is a "bunker" silo, which is constructed above ground and usually has concrete walls and a floor.] The family also had an extensive truck garden to the west of the house.⁹

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According to Forrest Prohaska and Ken Mittleider (who was 15 years old when they moved to Meridian), Mittleider used his portable mill to cut boards from logs for all of his farm buildings at the Meridian farm—a very unusual practice in Ada County after World War II. At the time Mittleider was building his barn, horizontal dairy parlors and “flat” barns composed of precut lumber and metal poles were being heavily advertised in farm journals such as *The Idaho Farmer*. A few barns based on these newer plans had been built in the Meridian area. Christian Mittleider’s son, Emil, was building what he termed a “parlor barn” with metal pole construction only one-half mile away from where Christian was constructing his barn. Emil tried to talk his father into building the new style of barn, but Christian Mittleider chose to build his barn based on an older plan for dairy barns—a banked, gambrel-roofed dairy barn, fashioned along the lines of the “Wisconsin-plan” dairy barn.¹⁰

Published plans for a “Wisconsin” dairy barn were available in Idaho as early as 1910, and the plan was most commonly used in the state from 1911 to the 1940s. Hallmarks of the Wisconsin plan included a gambrel roof and rectangular floor plan with a large central driveway flanked by rows of stanchions. It was the first plan to promote the use of a concrete slab floor and concrete walls. Increased interior lighting and air circulation were provided by the inclusion of multiple windows, airshafts, and ventilators. The overall design emphasized increased sanitation of the dairy operation, which became necessary with the passage of federal milk purity laws in the 1910s. The majority of area dairy barns based on the Wisconsin plan were built during the first dairy industry “boom” in Ada County, which occurred between 1910 and 1929. A few were built after this time period, but the total number is unknown.¹¹

Christian Mittleider used some of the basic tenets of the Wisconsin plan on the barn he built after 1944, but he also designed the barn based on his previous construction experiences. He included more recent technologies and materials found in newer barn types. The barn’s narrow width of 30 feet, its 9-foot ceiling height in the basement area, its large central alleyway, its multiple windows, its concrete walls and floors, and its large, gambrel roof reflect the older Wisconsin plan. Modern technologies are evident in his use of metal posts to support the wood girders underneath the loft floor and the use of the loft for grain and equipment storage, rather than for hay storage. No hay tracks or hay hood are located in or on the loft area of the dairy barn or in the hay barn, indicating that the hay was baled, rather than stored loose. Though initially there were no automatic milking machines in the basement area, Mittleider added the “Surge” brand of milkers after his sons were grown and had left the farm.¹²

Other outbuildings on the Mittleider farmstead reflect a blend of old and new construction methods and technologies. The construction of the buildings from rough logs by a handmade saw mill and without a published building plan exhibits more traditional and vernacular methods common in Idaho during the early 20th century; these construction methods were especially rare after World War II. Though untrained as a carpenter, Mittleider exhibited his skill at detail work by making miniature gambrel-roofed barn cupolas, exact in scale, on both the dairy and hay barns, and a gable-roofed cupola on the tool shed. The calf nursery also exemplifies a high quality of craftsmanship for a modest outbuilding. Christian Mittleider adapted new

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technologies, as evidenced by the large concrete pad included in the corral area near the barn, and by the modification of the existing silage pit with the addition of concrete-slab walls. All of the Mittleider farm buildings were outstanding in Ada County for their quality of construction and attention to detail.¹³

The Mittleiders sold their property to Albert and Bertha Rumpel in 1963. The Rumpels had previously farmed south of Nampa, approximately ten miles to the west of the Mittleider farmstead. According to Bertha Rumpel, her husband Albert “fell in love” with the Mittleider place the first time he saw it. The Rumpels milked 35-40 cows there, and sold the milk to the Dairymen’s Cooperative Creamery in Caldwell. They also raised hay, grain, and corn, from which they made ensilage. The Rumpels remodeled the house and tore down an old chicken house to make way for a new garage on its site, but these were the only changes they made to the complex. It is not known if the Rumpels added the roof to the trench silo, or if Christian Mittleider added it after the 1950s.

CONCLUSION:

The Mittleider-Rumpel farmstead remains in the ownership of the Rumpel family. The farm buildings continue to be used for agricultural purposes, though the uses of some individual outbuildings have changed.¹⁴

The Mittleider Farmstead Historic District meets the criteria for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places established in the 2001 Multiple Property Document entitled “Historic Rural Properties of Ada County, Idaho.” The farmstead represents historic settlement and agricultural development patterns in Ada County from the 1860s to the 1950s. Some of the farmstead’s agricultural buildings represent a transition from pre-World War II vernacular building forms to the use of post-war farm building types, materials, and technologies. Other buildings in the agricultural complex reflect the continuation of pre-war building types and plans that are based on the individual builder’s background and experience. The buildings and structures are among the least altered examples still extant in Ada County. The farmstead remains as an icon of Ada County’s dairy industry during the first half of the 20th century.

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END NOTES

1. Wallace, J. Ashby, Robert Dodge, and C. K. Shedd, *Modern Farm Buildings* (Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1959), 143-144.
2. Telephone conversation by author with Emil Mittleider, 86-year-old son of Christian Mittleider, Boise, Idaho, 17 April 2002.
3. Notes of conversation by author with Bertha Rumpel and daughter Kathleen (Rumpel) Hammons, Meridian, Idaho, 4 April 2002.
4. James H. Hawley, "Orley Soucie" in Vol. 4 of *History of Idaho: Gem of the Mountains* (Chicago: Clarke Publishing, 1920), 325.
5. See the Abstract of Title for the property, in the possession of Kathleen (Rumpel) Hammons, Boise, Idaho. For information concerning various Reclamation Acts, see Roy E. Huffman, *Irrigation Development and Public Water Policy* (New York: The Ronald Press Company, 1953), 28-40, 992-93. See also Belinda Davis, "A Study of Irrigation and the Development of Ada County" (Boise, Idaho: 1990), on file at the Ada County Historic Preservation Council and the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (hereafter ISHPO), Boise.
6. Abstract of Title; see also *The Meridian (Idaho) Times*, January 1944.
7. Abstract of Title; see also information listed for Christian Mittleider available through the Ancestry.com web site. See also *Polk's Boise City and Ada County Directories, 1930-1950*; *The Gem State Rural Farm Directory*, property ownership map, 1917-1918; *United States Bureau of the Census, 1920* (Washington, D. C.: U. S. Census Office); *Metsker's Ada County Land Ownership Atlas, 1937*. See also notes from telephone conversations with Emil Mittleider; Christian Mittleider's daughter, Ida Lindsey, New Plymouth, Idaho, 1 May 2002; telephone conversations and e-mail from Christian Mittleider's son, Ken Mittleider (born in 1928), Georgia, 18-26 of June 2002; telephone conversation with Loris Prohaska's son, Forrest Prohaska, Eagle, Idaho, 29 May 2002. Notes of all conversations on file with author.
8. Conversations with Emil and Ken Mittleider.
9. *Ibid.* See also notes of conversation with Forrest Prohaska.
10. *Ibid.* See advertisements in *The Meridian Times*, 1945-1947; and *The Idaho Farmer*, 1945-1946, 1949.

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11. Allen G. Noble and Richard K. Cleek, *The Old Barn Book: A Field Guide to North American Barns and Other Farm Structures* (New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 1995). See also Madeline Buckendorf, "The Dairy Barns of Buhl," in *Idaho Folklife: Homesteads to Headstones* (Salt Lake City, Utah: University of Utah Press, and Boise, Idaho: Idaho State Historical Society, 1985).

12. E-mail from Ken Mittleider.

13. See the The Arrowrock Group, Inc., "Ada County Historic Sites Inventory, Phase II" and "Phase III," unpublished reports prepared in 1999 and 2000 for the Ada County Historic Preservation Council (on file at Ada County Community Development Services, Boise, Idaho and at the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, Boise).

14. See the Abstract of Title for the property, in the possession of Kathleen (Rumpel) Hammons, Meridian, Idaho.

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- Polk's Boise City and Ada County Directories: 1930-1950.
- Prohaska, Forrest. Telephone conversation with author. Notes in possession of author, 2002.
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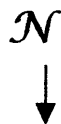
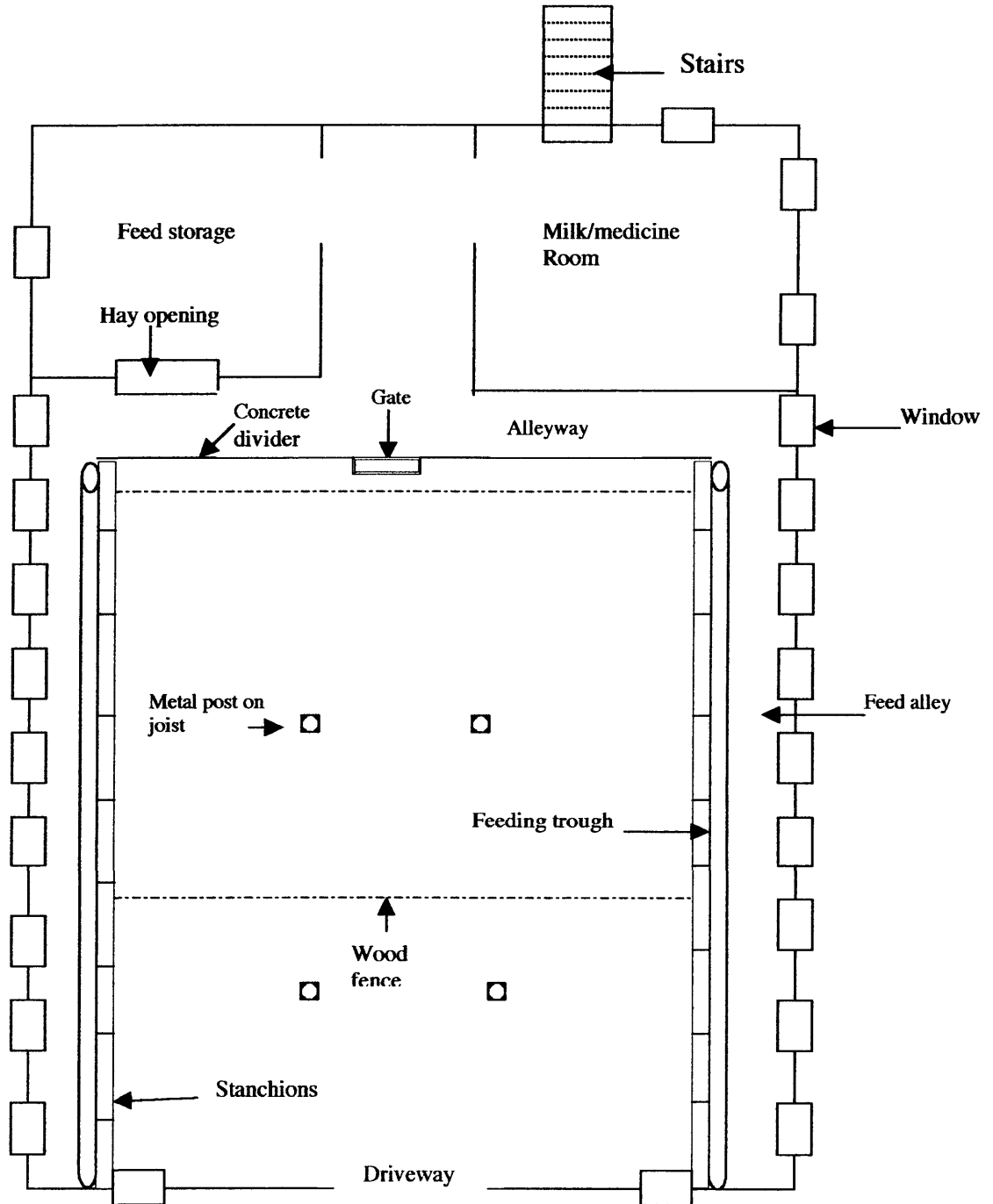
Section number Photos Page 1 Name of Property Mittleider Farmstead Historic District
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PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

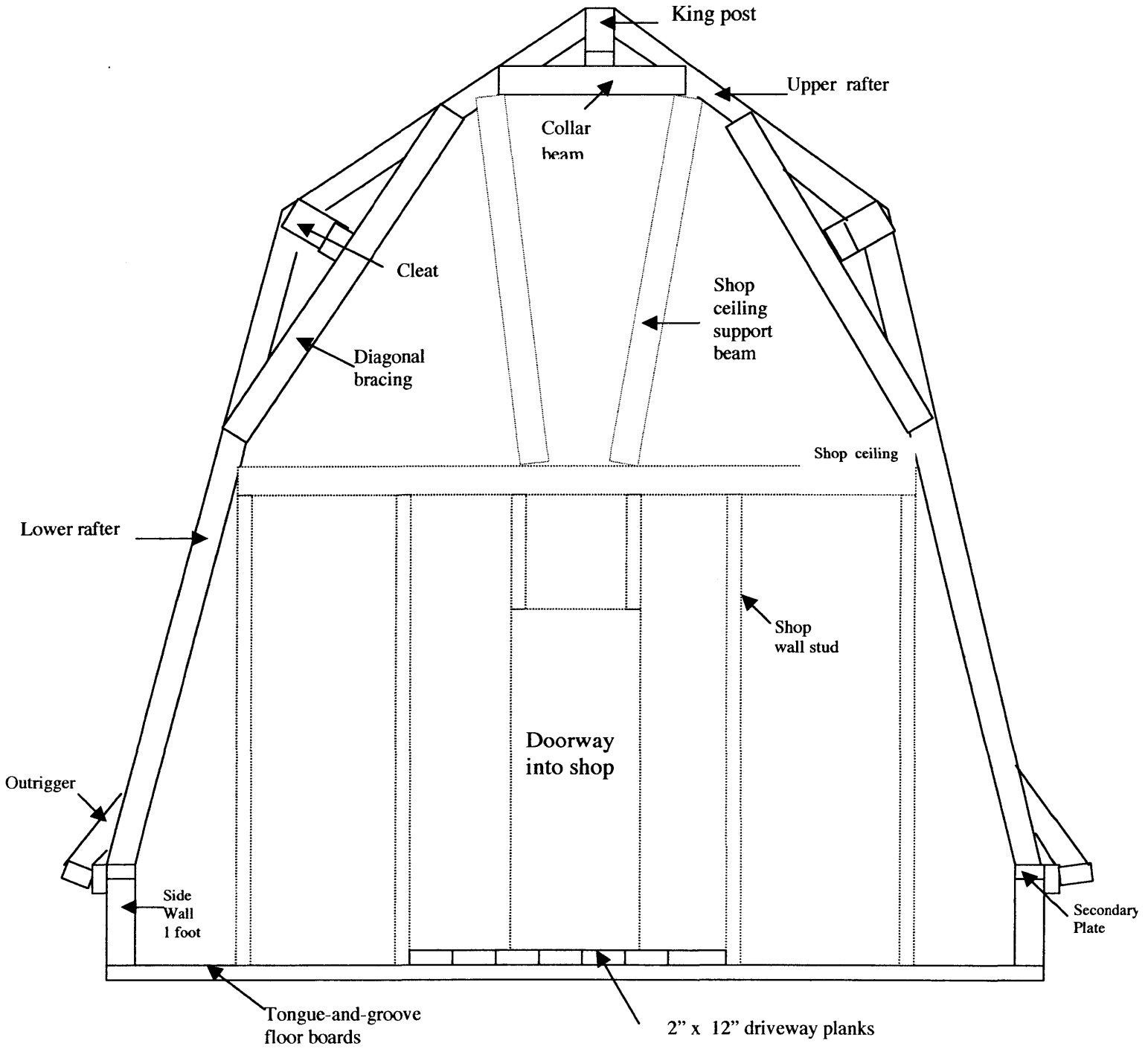
Mittleider Farmstead Historic District
Ada County, Idaho
Photographs taken by Barbara Perry Bauer
Photographs taken, May 26, 1999
Original negatives on file at the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office

- Photo #1 of 10: Dairy Barn - view looking south
- Photo #2 of 10: Dairy Barn - view looking north
- Photo #3 of 10: Hay Barn - view looking southeast
- Photo #4 of 10: Hay Barn - view looking northeast
- Photo #5 of 10: Cow/Calf Barn - view looking east
- Photo #6 of 10: Loafing Shed - view looking northeast
- Photo #7 of 10: Equipment Shed - view looking south
- Photo #8 of 10: Calf Nursery - view looking northeast
- Photo #9 of 10: Toolshed - view looking northeast
- Photo #10 of 10: Trench Silo - view looking northeast

Mittleider-Rumpel Dairy Barn
Basement Interior Floor Plan
5/3/02 Madeline Buckendorf
NOT TO SCALE



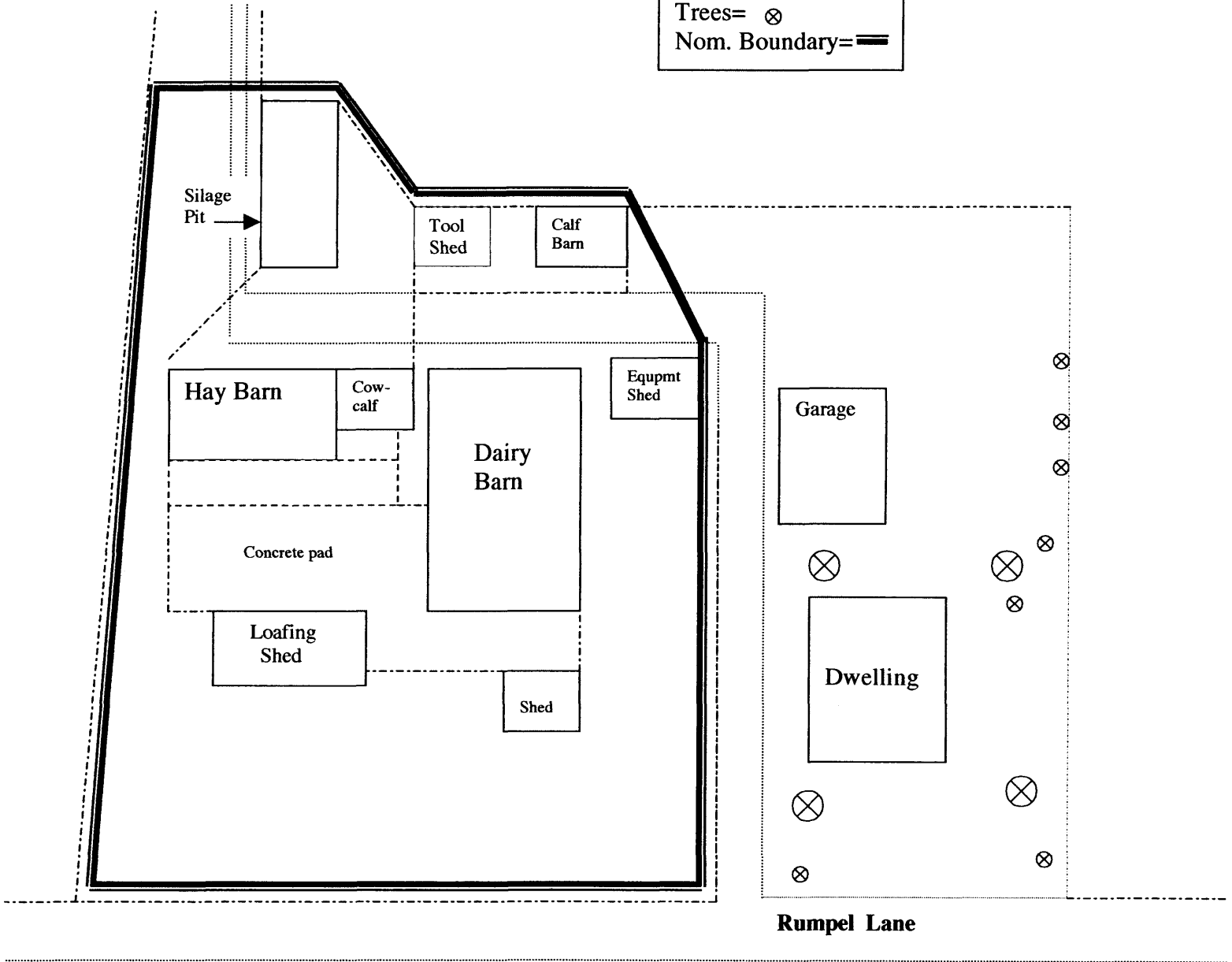
Mittleider-Rumpel Dairy Barn
Roof and Loft Area Framing
5/3/02 Madeline Buckendorf
NOT TO SCALE



View of Interior from South Facade of Barn

Mittleider-Rumpel Farmstead
575 Rumpel Lane
Meridian, Ada County, Idaho
May 3, 2002 Madeline Buckendorf
SITE MAP NOT TO SCALE

Map Key:
Fences= - - - - -
Driveway=
Attachments= - - - - -
Trees= ⊗
Nom. Boundary= = = =



North
↓