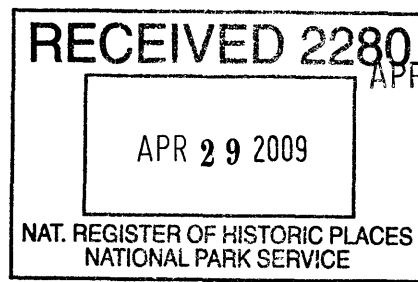


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 Tyden Farm No. 6 Farmstead Historic District

other names/site number E. Tyden Farm No. 6 Farmstead Historic District; Tyden, Emil, Farm No. 6 Farmstead Historic District

2. Location

street & number 1145 300<sup>th</sup> Street not for publication N/A  
city or town Dougherty vicinity X  
state Iowa code IA county Floyd code 067 zip code 50433

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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    nationally    statewide X locally. (    See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Bryan Mitchell, DSHPO April 22, 2009  
Signature of certifying official Date

**STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA**

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property    meets    does not meet the National Register criteria. (    See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official 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):   

Edson H. Beall 6.11.09  
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

Tyden Farm No. 6 Farmstead Historic District  
Name of Property

Floyd County Iowa  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing Noncontributing

- |           |           |            |
|-----------|-----------|------------|
| <u>8</u>  | <u>1</u>  | buildings  |
| <u>  </u> | <u>  </u> | sites      |
| <u>2</u>  | <u>13</u> | structures |
| <u>  </u> | <u>  </u> | objects    |
| <u>10</u> | <u>14</u> | 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)

- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/animal facility
- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural outbuilding
- DOMESTIC/single dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/animal facility
- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural outbuilding
- DOMESTIC/single dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> & EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY MOVEMENTS
- OTHER: CORNBELT CUBE

\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation CONCRETE
- roof ASPHALT
- walls WOOD
- CONCRETE
- other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

Tyden Farm No. 6 Farmstead  
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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
  
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
  
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
  
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE  
ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

circa 1910-1958  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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.

**Significant Dates**

circa 1910  
1936

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Tyden, Emil

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - \_\_\_\_\_ University
  - Other
- Name of repository:  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 7.1 acres

**UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	15	<u>500193</u>	<u>4752332</u>	3	15	<u>500368</u> <u>4752168</u>
2	15	<u>500368</u>	<u>4752331</u>	4	15	<u>500193</u> <u>4752168</u>

\_\_\_\_ 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 Jan Olive Nash with assistance by Jennifer A. Price

organization Tallgrass Historians L.C. date July 2008

street & number 2460 S. Riverside Dr. telephone 319-354-6722

city or town Iowa City state Iowa zip code 52246

**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 Ted and Judy Pitzenberger

street & number 1145 300<sup>th</sup> Street telephone 641-794-3341

city or town Dougherty state IA zip code 50433

=====  
**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 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.

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**7. Narrative Description**

***Summary Paragraph***

Emil Tyden's Farm No. 6, one of eight model farms operated by the prominent Michigan industrialist, is located in the rolling north central Iowa landscape, on acreage dominated by tallgrass prairie until the middle of the nineteenth century. Timber grew only in scattered groves and along the region's major rivers, the Shell Rock a few miles to the east, and the west fork of the Cedar River to the west. Tyden's farmstead is situated on the broad, flat upland between these two southeasterly-flowing watercourses, its location chosen by a previous landowner. About a mile to the west, down the black-top road that runs past Tyden's large white farmhouse, sits tiny Dougherty, Iowa, a cross-roads hamlet that never grew to more than a few hundred people, and now survives with considerably fewer. The nearest shopping town, where gas and grocery choices are available, is Charles City, seat of Floyd County, some 25 miles away to the east. Equally distant in the other direction is the larger city of Mason City, seat of Cerro Gordo County. Emil Tyden's decision in the middle of the 1930s to buy Farm No. 6 put him squarely within some of Iowa's most productive farmland, but also within an agricultural region that remains extremely rural even today.<sup>1</sup> Laid out in a square and protected on the north and west by aging rows of windswept evergreens, the farmstead on Tyden's Farm No. 6 reflects the classic, successful Iowa farmstead of the early twentieth century. Its commodious wood-frame farmhouse sits close to the road, with smaller domestic buildings to its side and behind it. The very large red, gambrel-roof cattle barn is located behind the house, deeper toward the center of the farmstead, and reached by gravel drives that lead off the black-top and past the house and other forward buildings. The barn, with its long cattle-loafing wing, is surrounded by the outbuildings of various sizes and vintages that were required by a self-sufficient farming operation. Notable among these is an unusually large concrete drive-through corn crib. Few modern buildings disturb the historic appearance of this farmstead. The most obtrusive is the steel utility building located near the black-top, in the southwest corner of the farmstead. A few modern round metal seed bins are located in several spots around the farmstead. And while the farmhouse is now clad in vinyl siding, its essential features of size, scale, and overall footprint remain intact, and its role on the farmstead is unmistakable.

**Farmhouse Exterior:**

The 1910 farmhouse's basic form is a cube sheltered by a pyramidal roof (Fig. 1).<sup>2</sup> While this house form puts it in the same architectural family as the American Foursquare, because of its rural location, this building is probably more properly thought of as a Cornbelt Cube, a vernacular form identified by scholars, including cultural geographer Allen G. Noble.<sup>3</sup> The cube's

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<sup>1</sup> The current owners purchased the farmstead in 1994 from Tyden descendents and received an abbreviated abstract, much like a lot owner would in a newly subdivided development. Their abstract does not show "ancient" entries, including the entry that would reveal the circumstances of Emil Tyden's acquisition. Foundation date inscriptions indicate Tyden was actively constructing new farm buildings by 1936.

<sup>2</sup> The Floyd County Assessor's assigned construction dates are assumed to be grounded in some form of historical basis and are used herein with few exceptions. The 1910 dating for the farmhouse is consistent with its physical appearance and materials. Local lore claims the house was a "Sears house" ordered from a catalog, but nothing has been found to either verify or repudiate this.

<sup>3</sup> See Allen G. Noble, *Wood, Brick, & Stone: The North American Landscape*, Vol. I: Houses (1984), 125. Noble wrote that the Cornbelt Cube is sometimes called "four-square," "two-story pyramid," and "prairie square" house, but admitted the connections between the rural Cube and other architectural genres are obscure and not well studied by scholars. James C. Massy and Shirley Maxwell, writing in the *Old-House Journal* (Nov./Dec. 1995), also did not distinguish between the two types, but dedicated most of their discussion to the amenability of their Foursquare type to small urban lots. Based on the author's (Nash) personal observations of both types, *as they occur in Iowa*, a useful distinction can be made. Typically, Cornbelt Cubes are sited in rural areas, and in very small towns where parcels were developed by individual property owners, while the American Foursquare was a favorite of urban developers who filed plat additions subdivided into multiple blocks with many lots; Cubes tend to be earlier than the American Foursquare, often dating to the late nineteenth century rather than the early twentieth century; and Cubes tend to be more commodious than Foursquares, so much so that the Cube's few windows often seemed dwarfed by the expanse of wall surface surrounding them. Cubes also tend to be less decorated than Foursquares, which could be heavily adorned with distinctive stylistic details ranging from Craftsman, to Colonial Revival, to the Prairie School.

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pyramid roof is modified by the addition of gabled dormers on the south front, and the west and east sides, and by the addition of a large and somewhat awkward wing off the northwest, rear corner of the cube itself. This two-story wing, which appears to be original to the house, added both the kitchen downstairs and a bedroom with a balcony upstairs, from which most of the farmstead and the fields beyond to the horizon could be surveyed. Emil Tyden would occupy this bedroom wing during his frequent visits to the farm. The wing presents a proper hipped roof on the south elevation facing the black-top and any approaching visitors, but viewed from the north, or the interior of the farmstead, it reveals an ungainly attachment to the main house's pyramid roof, basically a wood-frame segue attaching two separate roofs. The entire building, including the wing, sits on a rock-face concrete block foundation. White vinyl siding covers the walls but the original wood siding remains underneath. Windows are largely the original one-over-one double-hung sashes, except on the wraparound front porch, which has been enclosed and ventilated with casement windows. A board railing remains along the exterior of the front porch to suggest its former open character. Asphalt shingles cover all roof surfaces. Overall, the house suggests a mildly classically-inspired vernacular abode, where function dominated over form to shelter a large and successful farm family.



Figure 1 The farmhouse on Tyden Farm No. 6 was constructed in 1910, according to local records.  
(Tallgrass Historians L.C., 2007)

**Farmhouse Interior:**

The interior of the farmhouse is divided into three floors with multiple rooms on each. A stairway leads from the kitchen to the basement under the cube, which has concrete floors and walls, and a few partition walls. The ground and second floors are trimmed in rich dark-stained fir (or yellow pine) of the type that might have been ordered from millwork catalogs of the day and hauled in on the railroad. Window and door frames are trimmed with a classically-inspired crown molding, and the main staircase to the second floor—a gateleg corner staircase near the front door—has mortar-board newel posts and clean-lined, straight banister posts. Flat surfaces, such as the doors and the exposed underside of the upper staircase, are styled with evenly-sized inset panels laid horizontally (generally, perpendicular to the framing members). Surface treatments largely have

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been modernized and the bathrooms are updated, though original features have been retained or returned to their historic appearance in some spaces. The enclosed front porch serves as the farm office for the current owners.

**Barn Exterior:**

The large, 1936 barn, with its attached wing, sits on level to slightly-sloping land behind and to the northwest of the farmhouse. The combined barn structure echoes the square corner created by the historic wind break of perimeter evergreens and provides additional shelter for the house against the winter Arctic blasts that are common on Iowa's upland prairie. The ridgeline of the barn is oriented on a north/south line, perpendicular to the black-top road past the farmstead, and presents its gambrel-roofed front end wall to the south and any visitors arriving on the gravel drives. The legends "E. Tyden Farm No. 6" and "1936" appear in large white characters high up on this end wall (Fig. 2). Three large galvanized steel ventilators are positioned along the roof's ridgeline to increase air circulation for the voluminous hay loft within. The livestock wing is attached to the barn at the rear northwest corner and extends north before it turns a 90-degree corner and extends to the east. While the barn is covered by a gambrel roof, the much lower, single-story wing has a gabled roof. The barn is 40 feet wide and 136 feet long; the livestock wing, cattle loafing space, is 30 feet wide and 90 feet long. A low, narrow shed-roofed equipment wing is attached along the long, west side of the barn. Two clay tile silos that were attached to the barn near this side wing are nonextant.



Figure 2 South end wall of the large cattle barn on Tyden Farm No. 6.  
(Tallgrass Historians L.C., 2007)

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The foundation material for the barn and its wings is poured concrete. Because the ground slopes slightly to the south, toward the black-top road at the front of the farmstead, the barn's foundation is raised to waist level at the south end. The imprint "E. Tyden 1936" is pressed into the foundation wall at the southeast corner.<sup>4</sup> Walls are clad with horizontal drop siding, painted red (or white on some sides), and joined at the corners by vertical white-painted trim boards. Two-part Dutch doors allow access to the barn's interior for both livestock and humans, while hay doors are present in both gambrel end walls. The west side shed wing has wagon drive doors on both its end walls. Windows in the barn consist of single and double hopper windows along the ground floor that tilt open to allow for good cross ventilation, and fixed-pane windows higher up. The Dutch doors and some of the fixed windows have decorative crown molding trim, painted white.

**Barn Interior:**

Though the barn once sheltered cattle, it now is used for hogs. Floors are concrete and some upright post supports on concrete piers appear to have been replaced by more hog-resistant steel posts. Hogs are present and running loose in the ground floor of the barn, leaving most of the interior ground floor inaccessible. The ceiling overhead on this livestock floor (which is also the hay floor above) is low and feels uncomfortably close. Above this livestock level, an enormous hay loft occupies by far the largest volume of space within this barn (Fig. 3). The gambrel roof is supported by sidewall trusses, braced to the loft floor at



**Figure 3** The loft floor of the barn on Tyden Farm No. 6 is virtually unencumbered by structural framing because of the sidewall truss system that forms the roof. (Tallgrass Historians L.C., 2007)

<sup>4</sup> This technique of impressing the Tyden name and a construction date into the wet foundation concrete was used frequently. The current owners have one of the implements crafted to make these imprints, which bears the date 1961. This implement is a plate of steel with the letters and the number "19" apparently welded to it. The last two numbers, in this case "61," are affixed with pegs, making them changeable.



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regular intervals, which leave most of the loft space open and unencumbered by a framing system. According to the property owners, the barn's capacity is 25,000 bales of hay. Bales were loaded into the barn from both gable ends; the bale hoist remains extant in the center of the loft.

**Domestic Outbuildings:**

Buildings near the farmhouse served various domestic functions more associated with the house's residents than the agricultural activities of the farming operation. The primary historic domestic outbuildings include a wood-frame wash house (perhaps also used as a summer kitchen, based on its location) immediately behind the house, a small concrete water storage tower, and a clay-tile block auto garage (Fig. 4). Minor and modern resources include a small garden greenhouse and granary. Refer to the list below for construction details and to the site plan included as additional documentation for locations of these buildings and structures.



Figure 4 The white-painted wash house (summer kitchen), seen here in the center foreground, appears to date to the same period as the farmhouse itself. Behind and to the left of the frame building stands the vine-covered concrete water storage tank, no longer used. The rock-face concrete block feed shed is visible over the ridge of the wash house, behind the water tank. The two concrete structures are thought to date to Emil Tyden's ownership period. This photograph was taken from the balcony outside the bedroom wing occupied by Tyden during his frequent visits to oversee his farm properties. (Tallgrass Historians L.C., 2007)

**Agricultural Outbuildings:**

The primary historic outbuildings remaining on the farmstead, described roughly as they sit from east to west include a wooden hen house with an extended shed roof, a squat wooded gambrel-roofed hog house (bearing a 1941 imprint), a rock-face concrete block feed storage shed, an enormous double-bin oval-shaped concrete corn crib (50 feet high and 150 around at the base), a single tall concrete silo next to the west side of the barn, and a large wooden machine shed. Refer to Section 8 for

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images of several of these buildings. Poured or block concrete foundations were used with all these buildings and structures. The corn crib is unusual for its size and is a characteristic of the Tyden-owned farms, though it may be one of the last Tyden-built cribs extant. Built to hold unshelled ear corn, the crib has six overhead bins, two side bins, and a central drive. Overhead bins are filled by an interior elevator. According to its owners, who are currently restoring the structure, this massive crib can hold 22,000 bushels of corn. Refer to the list below for construction details and to the site plan included as additional documentation for locations of these buildings and structures.

**Other Structures and Physical Features:**

Nine steel grain bins, constructed between 1950 and 1980, are positioned around the farmstead. The largest grouping of bins is in the northwest corner of the farmstead, near the inside corner of the evergreen wind break. A pair of bins also sits between the auto garage and the newer steel machine shed in the far southwest corner of the farmstead, and one sits next to the large concrete corn crib. A small, modern metal pig nursery building is located near the barn's west side. Gravel drives have been added to the western side of the farmstead and expanded in places, reflecting the use of large-scale equipment and, especially, semi-tractors and trailers needed to transport grain and hogs to market. The impact of these expanded gravel areas is generally more noticeable by air than on the ground. Refer to the list below for construction details and to the site plan included as additional documentation for locations of these buildings and structures.

**List of Details and Contributing Status:**

The house and the barn are considered the principal historic buildings, but for ease of description all domestic buildings and structures are listed below first, followed by the barn and other agricultural outbuildings. The construction dates are those listed by the local county assessor unless noted with an asterisk, in which case they are based on concrete imprints made in the building or structure foundation at the time of construction. Where the assessor date appears incorrect, a parenthetical circa date has been estimated and given also.

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Construction Date</b>	<b>Contributing/ Noncontributing</b>	<b>Building/ Structure</b>
1. house	1910	contributing	building
2. wash house	1940 (c. 1910)	contributing	building
3. greenhouse	post-1958	noncontributing	building
4. granary (garden related)	post-1958	noncontributing	structure
5. water tower	1950 (c.1920)	contributing	structure
6. auto garage	no assessor date (c. 1936)	contributing	building
7. barn w/wing	1936*	contributing	building
8. hen house	1940*	contributing	building
9. corn crib	1936	contributing	structure
10. hog house	1941*	contributing	building
11. feed shed	1936*	contributing	building
12. machine shed	1936	contributing	building
13. silo	1974	noncontributing	structure
14-22. dryer bins (9)	post-1958	noncontributing	structures
23. metal machine shed	1982	noncontributing	building
24. metal pig nursery	1980	noncontributing	building

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**Integrity Issues:**

The historic farmstead district is in its original location and its setting has changed little over the course of its existence. The presence and arrangement within the farmstead of so many of Emil Tyden's historic farm buildings results in good integrity of feeling and association. Because the largest and most important farmstead buildings and structures are either wood-frame or rock-face concrete, and constructed or occupied during the Tyden ownership period, the farmstead also maintains its historic integrity of feeling, association, design, workmanship, and, overall, of materials. The addition of a number of steel grain dryer bins does not significantly affect the district's integrity since most of them are tucked into the rear corner of the farmstead and hidden from public view by a number of larger buildings. The addition of vinyl siding to the farmhouse and the enclosure of its front porch negatively affect the integrity of the house's materials but the overall size, scale, and clear purpose of the farmhouse are its essential physical features, for historic district purposes, and these are still intact and act together to reduce the impact on the district despite the diminished integrity of materials for the house itself. The recent removal of a small wooden machine shed on the west side of the farmstead is a clear loss of historic fabric, albeit a minor loss in comparison to the mass of wood and concrete fabric remaining extant.<sup>5</sup> The removal of two Tyden-built clay tile silos (one collapsed in 1973, the other was removed at an unknown date) has a more significant impact on the district, but still cannot affect the district enough to overwhelm the integrity of the remaining resources. Finally, the intrusive effect of the large modern steel machine shed is minimized by its placement in the far south corner of the farmstead. Visually, the modern steel buildings and structures are outweighed by the massive presence of the wooden barn and the large associated farmhouse. The historic farmstead district's key physical characteristics are unchallenged by any modern structure that has been added. The farmstead that Emil Tyden built up and operated is unmistakably still Tyden Farm No. 6.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> The original barn associated with the 1910 farmhouse was lost to a fire in 1939, three years after the construction of Tyden's big gambrel-roof barn (*The Iowa Recorder*, October 4, 1939).

<sup>6</sup> A thorough study of the two-county area in which the other seven Tyden farms were located has not been done for economic reasons. It is unknown how many of them still exist or how intact they might be. An associated feed mill operated by Tyden and his associates in nearby Dougherty is extant and in good condition, although no longer used for its original purpose. Though Farm No. 6 may be the best representative of Emil Tyden's progressive agricultural activities in Iowa because it is where he stayed and managed his farms when he was in the state, additional surveys would likely develop information about related properties that could be addressed through a Multiple Property Documentation Form.

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**8. Narrative Statement of Significance**

Tyden Farm No. 6 Farmstead Historic District is locally significant under Criterion A for its association with the Progressive agri-business policies of Tyden Farms between the mid 1910s, when Emil Tyden began buying Iowa farmland for his Tyden Farms, and 1951 when Tyden died; under Criterion B for its association with Emil Tyden, Progressive agriculturalist in Iowa, between c. 1936 when land that became Tyden Farm No. 6 was acquired and 1951; and under Criterion C as a good example of the well-planned rural agricultural buildings built as modern farmsteads and encouraged by Progressives and land grant universities and their agricultural extension offices early in the twentieth century, from and after 1910, the date of the house, the earliest building which was incorporated for use on the Tyden farmstead and in which Emil Tyden made his local headquarters. After making his fortune in other industries, the wealthy Swedish immigrant, Emil Tyden, could afford to both acquire hundreds of acres of north central Iowa farm land as an investment, and spend the capital to use the upgraded materials and methods then promoted as modern, scientific, and efficient to build up his farmsteads. Well into the depths of the Great Depression, Tyden continued to build large-scale barns and massive corn cribs of a size and quality well beyond the ordinary means of most family farmers. The Tyden No. 6 farmstead, where Emil Tyden had a private bedroom suite in the farmhouse and a balcony to overlook his farmstead, served as command central during its owner's frequent visits from Michigan to Iowa to check on his investments, and it was the home farm for Tyden's overall general manager, Art Lindell. As such, Tyden Farm No. 6 Farmstead is the farmstead most closely associated with Emil Tyden and well reflects Tyden's promotion of "sound agricultural planning."<sup>1</sup>

**Emil Tyden and His Modern Farms:**

As an inventor, businessman, and industrialist, Emil Tyden was committed to science, technology, and profitable business practices. Born in 1865 in Sweden, Tyden grew up on his family's farm. Farming, however, offered little advancement, and Tyden, who was mechanically inclined, entered the thriving Swedish carriage trade. In 1882, Tyden caught "America fever" and left for the United States. Once in New York, he headed west, stopping in Moline, Illinois, where for three years his skill with tools kept him employed while he learned English. In 1885, Tyden went to Chicago, to work first for the Kimball Piano and Organ Company, then the McCormick Harvester Company. Finally, he ended up at the Union Pacific Railroad, where his mechanical inventiveness paid off again. Tyden noticed that individual freight cars were sealed by means of a soldering iron and press, a laborious and time-consuming process that often meant delays and lost revenue for the railroad. Thinking about the problem, he invented the "Tyden Self-Locking Seal," a simple, efficient, and tamper-proof device that fit any car door locking mechanism without soldering or pressing, and could not be removed without destroying the lock. The Tyden seal made it possible for one employee to do the job of several. Tyden formed a partnership with his patent attorney, and together they formed the International Lock and Seal Company. Eventually, Tyden became sole owner of the company and in 1899 moved his factory to Hastings, Michigan.<sup>2</sup>

The Tyden Self-Locking Seal sold worldwide and made Tyden a wealthy man. Despite his mechanical inventiveness and business success, however, Tyden never forgot his farming roots nor lost his interest in agriculture. Like many during the Progressive era, Tyden felt a keen interest in farming and rural life and in promoting its modernization.<sup>3</sup> In 1915, Tyden

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<sup>1</sup>"Tyden Plans Fifty Years Ahead," *North Iowa Farmer* Supplement to the *Mason City Globe-Gazette*, September 17, 1941.

<sup>2</sup>"Story of Life," *The Iowa Recorder*, August 21, 1946. Tyden also invented a fire sprinkler system and his company, the Viking Corporation of Hastings, Michigan, began making them in 1920. He also instituted what he claimed was a unique franchising system for the company's numerous branch factories throughout the country.

<sup>3</sup>Earle D. Ross, *Iowa Agriculture: An Historical Survey* (Iowa City: State Historical Society of Iowa, 1951), 124: "The new agriculture involved problems of business management and of rural social organization no less than those of production. Conditions and policies of

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returned to agriculture and began to purchase farms in north central Iowa, improving their drainage and soils, investing in livestock, and constructing fine farmstead buildings. He began by acquiring a single farm located between the towns of Dougherty and Greene. Over the next quarter century, Tyden purchased seven more such farms in the four corners region where Floyd, Cerro Gordo, Butler, and Franklin counties meet, eventually bringing Tyden Farm holdings to nearly 2500 acres of Iowa's richest grain and dairy land.<sup>4</sup>

All eight Tyden Farms were located in north central Iowa, either within the southwest corner of Floyd County's Scott township, or in the north half of Butler County's Bennezette Township.<sup>5</sup> Tyden, however, developed, managed, and staffed his Iowa farms largely from his company headquarters in Hastings, Michigan, where he also maintained his home.<sup>6</sup> To handle local, day-to-day operations, Tyden installed a resident farm manager and hired hands on each of his farms, all working as employees.<sup>7</sup> Art Lindell, the former sheriff of Osceola County, Michigan, was overall general manager of the eight Tyden Farms.<sup>8</sup> Lindell and his family lived on Tyden Farm No. 6, and hosted Tyden during his many visits to his Iowa land.<sup>9</sup>

In 1918, just three years after Tyden's first Iowa land purchase, a local newspaper reported on improvements planned by Tyden, improvements that suggest Tyden's capital-intensive approach to farmland development, modernization, buildings, and expense:

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marketing, tenancy, credit, and taxation brought the study of 'farm management' to a major coordinate status. From a subsection under agronomy [at Iowa State College's Agricultural Experiment Station], it was made a separate section in 1915, the same year that the office of farm management was created in the United States Department of Agriculture."

<sup>4</sup> See generally, Lowell Soike, "Viewing Iowa's Farmsteads," 153-172, in Robert F. Sayre, ed., *Take This Exit: Rediscovering the Iowa Landscape* (Ames: The Iowa State University Press, 1989); "Opening of Tyden Feed, Livestock Firm Drew Many;" *The Iowa Recorder*, August 21, 1940.

<sup>5</sup> Tyden Farm No. 1 was six miles west of the town of Greene. Along with Tyden Farm No. 2, Tyden Farm No. 1 occupied all of Section 2 in Bennezette Township, plus the north half of Section 11. Tyden Farm No. 3 was located in the south half of Section 5 and the southeast quarter of Section 6 in Bennezette Township in Butler County. Tyden Farm No. 4 was located in the north half of Section 24 in Bennezette Township in Butler County. Tyden Farm No. 5 was two miles south and five miles west of Greene in Butler County, located in the south half of Section 14 in Bennezette Township in Butler County. Tyden Farm No. 7 was in the southwest quarter of Section 1 and the north half of the northwest quarter of Section 10 in Bennezette Township in Butler County. The last farmstead, Tyden Farm No. 8 was in the north half of Section 20 in Scott Township in Floyd County.

<sup>6</sup> "Tyden Plans Fifty Years Ahead."

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> "Opening of Tyden Feed, Livestock Firm Drew Many;" "Tyden Plans Fifty Years Ahead."

<sup>9</sup> Tyden's visits to the Lindell home on Farm No. 6 were recorded in the Greene, Iowa, newspaper, *The Iowa Recorder*. Specific visits are mentioned in the issues dated March 30, 1938; August 28, 1940; April 9, 1941; April 16, 1941; June 13, 1945; and April 3, 1946. Like Tyden, Lindell believed in the modern approach to farming and became active in local organizations that had farming and rural interest goals. He was a director of the Floyd County "REA Co-op," a member of the Floyd County Farm Bureau, and active in the "AAA." Emil Tyden also was a member of both the Floyd and Butler County Farm Bureaus ("Tyden Plans Fifty Years Ahead").

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Mr. Tyden...who owns 660 acres of the old Delano farm, of formerly 800 acres, situated some seven miles west of Greene, has the land divided into two farms, one of 260 acres occupied by Elmer Kuhn and the other of 400 acres which Ben Krause will look after. The latter place is being fitted with a new set of buildings, farm machinery and will be stocked with creditable herds of cattle and hogs. The improvements being put on will cost a large sum of money. A car load of fence posts are being hauled out this week. The new owner is a wealthy man and will spare no pains in the fix-up.<sup>10</sup>

In a 1941 interview printed in the *Mason City Globe-Gazette's* farm supplement, Tyden told the reporter: "Don't give me a lot of publicity—all I want you to do is to get across the message that sound agricultural planning can make farming a happy and profitable business."<sup>11</sup> Tyden had intended his eight farms in north central Iowa to be models of a new type of agriculture in which science, technology, and farming combined profitably. An aging and reflective Emil Tyden concluded by telling the reporter: "Agriculture—there's the basis for all industry, for our very existence."<sup>12</sup>

Emil Tyden had begun buying his eight farms during a national agriculture boom that coincided with the Progressive era. Mechanized harvesting machinery had appeared at the turn of the century and, in the years before World War I, farm commodity prices rose due to rapid urban growth and increased demand for farm exports. By 1914, the gross farm income of Iowa – including cash grain, dairy, poultry and livestock – had grown to well over a half billion dollars.<sup>13</sup> Progressives during this prosperous era of "new agriculture" advocated the extensive use of science and technology to improve farming methods and production. In Iowa, the center for "new agriculture" knowledge was the Iowa State College and the Agricultural Experiment Station in Ames. The Experiment Station instituted and supervised county soil surveys and began education programs in drainage, proper tillage, liming, and rotation.<sup>14</sup> They showed farmers the use of legumes for soil building, introduced better adapted varieties of grains and forage plants for different Iowa soils, and made weed identification and eradication a priority. In agricultural engineering, the Agricultural College and Experiment Station disseminated what were felt to be better designs and materials for farm structures, including clay tile blocks and concrete. And experiments in mineral feeds for better animal nutrition and bacteriological investigations resulted in improved butter quality and new cheeses.<sup>15</sup> The "new agriculture" also made business management and planning as important as crop and livestock production.<sup>16</sup>

Though World War I saw increased agricultural production and modernization, the 1920s brought a period of agricultural stagnation and decline leading up to the Great Depression. Despite the deepening economic crisis, Tyden continued to believe in the mission of his farms, buying and building up what became Tyden No. 6 around 1936 and his final two farms in the late 1930s. The farms' employees and hired hands shared their farming equipment and draft animals in the communal spirit of a cooperative. "Together," it was reported in a regional newspaper in 1941, "the farms own 22 horses and nine tractors. They

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<sup>10</sup> *The Iowa Recorder*, March 7, 1918. The two farms mentioned became Tyden Farms No. 1 and No. 2. During World War I, Tyden volunteered and was appointed works manager of the Rock Island Arsenal ("Col. Emil Tyden, Immigrant Who Won Fame, Dies," *Chicago Daily Tribune*, November 24, 1951).

<sup>11</sup> "Tyden Plans Fifty Years Ahead." Two months later, in November 1941, Tyden began leasing the farms to independent farmers instead of employees of his company.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> Ross, *Iowa Agriculture*, 121.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid., 123.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid., 124; Soike, "Viewing Iowa's Farmsteads," 162.

<sup>16</sup> Ross, *Iowa Agriculture*, 124.

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use five bottom 16 inch plows drawn by a caterpillar tractor, a labor saving machine manure loader, and so on.”<sup>17</sup> Not surprisingly, the model Tyden Farms made “the fullest possible use of electricity for lighting, [and] elevators.”<sup>18</sup> Electricity made farming more efficient and farm life more comfortable. As the *Mason City Globe-Gazette* article put it: “Mr. Tyden operates on the principle that nothing is worth doing on the farm unless it can pay for itself in cash profit, in convenience and in better living.”<sup>19</sup> Still, by 1941, when Tyden and his farms received this flattering and extensive newspaper coverage, changes were already in the works, perhaps necessitated by Tyden’s advancing age (he was 76) or Art Lindell’s declining health. Toward the end of that year’s harvest, the newspaper reported, the employees of Tyden Farms would be released and the farms would thereafter be leased by farmers “to operate in their own right.”<sup>20</sup> Newspaper accounts suggest that general manager, Art Lindell, moved from Farm No. 6 to Farm No. 1, and retired completely three years later due to ill health.<sup>21</sup> It is not clear how many Tyden Farms were still owned by Emil Tyden at his death in 1951 at age 86, but Tyden Farm No. 6 was one of them.<sup>22</sup> The steel dating implement owned by the Tyden No. 6 farmstead’s current owners, and bearing the date 1961, indicates at least that Tyden tradition was carried on after his death. These current owners acquired Tyden Farm No. 6’s farmstead in 1994 from the Tyden family.<sup>23</sup>

Tyden Farm No. 6 and its farmstead, then, reflect the individual farmstead most closely associated with Emil Tyden’s version of progressive and scientific “new agriculture,” with its potential for efficient and profitable farming, at least so long as sufficient wealth and optimism remained characteristic of the farm owner. Tyden’s experiment in capital-intensive farm building is unusual on the early-twentieth century Iowa landscape, where family farms predominated and especially unusual for the Great Depression when many family farms were lost to hard economic times. In this respect, Tyden’s operations may well be a clear harbinger of and step toward the corporate farming model of today.

**Tyden Farm No. 6 as a Modern and Efficient Farmstead Type:**

Because of its close association with Emil Tyden, the driving force behind Tyden Farms, the Tyden Farm No. 6 farmstead best represents the larger system of farmsteads and buildings that this out-of-state industrialist constructed on his Iowa farms. When purchased in the mid-1930s, the Tyden Farm No. 6 property already had a farmhouse built around 1910 by a previous owner, as well as a barn that was later destroyed by fire in 1939. Despite the presence of this older barn, Tyden constructed the extant large dairy and cattle feeder barn in 1936, and also put up the large concrete block corn crib, and other smaller wooden outbuildings in that and the following few years.

According to newspaper accounts, Emil Tyden thoughtfully planned and sited new buildings around his farmsteads to aid in the efficiency of the farm operations, for the convenience of its occupants, and to improve the overall aesthetics of the farmstead. “Tyden is a stickler for order,” noted the *Mason City Globe-Gazette* reporter. “Farm lots on his places are laid out almost geometrically—all buildings on line and easily accessible from the road, the farm house, and to each other. Not only

<sup>17</sup> “Tyden Plans Fifty Years Ahead.”

<sup>18</sup> Ibid. In its September 10, 1930 issue, *The Iowa Recorder* had reported that farm manager Charles Crousa “installed a Westinghouse electric plant on the west Tyden farm formerly known as the Wade farm.

<sup>19</sup> “Tyden Plans Fifty Years Ahead.” Tyden continued to operate throughout the Great Depression with a strong entrepreneurial spirit, expanding his farming interests to include a related industry, the production of livestock and poultry feed. In 1940, a crowd of more than 500 attended the formal opening of the Tyden Feed and Livestock Company plant in Dougherty (extant). “Opening of Tyden Feed, Livestock Firm Drew Many.”

<sup>20</sup> “Tyden Plans Fifty Years Ahead.”

<sup>21</sup> Advertisement, *The Iowa Recorder*, December 27, 1941.

<sup>22</sup> “Col. Emil Tyden, Immigrant Who Won Fame, Dies.”

<sup>23</sup> Judy Pitzenberger to Jan Olive Nash, email correspondence, July 8, 2008.

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does it improve appearance—it makes for greater efficiency.”<sup>24</sup> As needed, Tyden also equipped his farms with a common set of farm buildings, including the huge dairy barn and massive concrete corn crib like those seen on Farm No. 6. He also added hen houses, hog sheds, machine sheds, clay tile block garages, block sheds, and water tanks, but only erected a farmhouse once the farming buildings were completed. As written in the 1941 *Mason City Globe-Gazette* feature story: “‘Fine farm houses are fine things,’ Emil Tyden tells people who ask him how he has succeeded in building up and making profitable so many North Iowa farms. ‘They make life worth living. But,’ he goes on, ‘a house won’t grow crops.’ That’s why new houses are the last items to be built on Tyden farms. First comes draining and fertilizing the soil, purchase of modern machinery, erection of fine buildings for the cattle, hogs, horses, and chickens to live in—and for their feed to be stored in. Then—that done and the farm paying for such improvements—is the time for building a house.” Luckily for the Lindell family, Tyden Farm No. 6 came with a commodious farmhouse already built, perhaps the reason it became the central farm for managing the other seven. Finally, all of Tyden’s new buildings had concrete floors, and concrete was used for “feed lots, drives, water tanks and for the tremendous concrete block grain cribs and some silos.”<sup>25</sup> Evidence of this generous use of concrete remains in abundance on the Tyden No. 6 farmstead.

This emphasis on concrete and clay tile products can be found in Farm No. 6’s buildings, in the clay block auto garage, the concrete block feed shed, and, especially, the massive concrete corn crib. Tyden’s initial farm purchase in 1915 had occurred just as Iowa’s second agricultural building boom “came into full stride.”<sup>26</sup> Farmers were turning to concrete and clay products, often promoted as modern and efficient, as alternatives to lumber. Clay tile block was a popular building material in Iowa, especially between 1910 and 1930, when the state’s drainage efforts were in full gear, and the state produced more baked, hollow clay tile blocks than all its neighbors combined. There was a plant within fifty miles of every farm and an extensive available network of railroad lines to deliver them. In addition to laying tiles to drain their fields, farmers used clay tile blocks to build barns, hog houses, poultry and ice houses, round corn cribs, granaries, and silos.<sup>27</sup> The Iowa State College Agricultural Experiment Station built the first clay-tile silo in 1906 and vigorously promoted clay-based building products.<sup>28</sup> Poured concrete, as a construction material, increasingly replaced stone in foundations and dirt floors in farm buildings and concrete blocks—with and without decorative rock faces—could be cheaply produced with locally-owned machines. Concrete block corn cribs and granaries sprouted on Iowa farms everywhere.<sup>29</sup> In 1941, most of the Tyden farms, including Tyden Farm No. 6, had huge cribs “[o]f concrete block construction,” each of which had “vermin proof floors, electric elevators, and over a period of years prove to be big money savers”<sup>30</sup> It is thought a number of the big Tyden corn cribs have been lost, but the one on Tyden No. 6 is being carefully repaired and renovated by the current owners.<sup>31</sup> The main Tyden-built farm buildings constructed on Tyden No. 6 are illustrated in the historic and current images that follow (Figs. 5-12).

Tyden did not abandon the use of wood for his farm buildings, however, when it was appropriate and still made sense, such as in the large barn he built on Tyden Farm No. 6. Built in 1936, the two-story barn has a concrete foundation and sported two adjacent clay-tile silos (nonextant). The hog and hen houses also were wood-framed and covered with horizontal drop siding.

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<sup>24</sup> “Tyden Plans Fifty Years Ahead.”

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Conditions had changed considerably since the 1890s and the end of the first farm building boom, mainly because lumber was expensive and of poorer quality. Soike, “Viewing Iowa Farmsteads,” 162.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid., 163.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

<sup>30</sup> “Tyden Plans Fifty Years Ahead.”

<sup>31</sup> Ted and Judy Pitzenberger, to Jan Olive Nash, July, 2007.



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Figure 5 Aerial view of Tyden Farm No. 6, circa 1940s. All buildings are thought to have been constructed by Tyden except the farmhouse and wash house. Except for the clay tile silos and a smaller wooden machine shed beside them, all these buildings are extant. (Courtesy Ted and Judy Pitzenberger, Dougherty, Iowa)



Figure 6 Art Lindell (left) and Emil Tyden (right) stand in front of the farm buildings on Tyden Farm No. 6 in a staged photograph taken for a long feature article published in the *North Iowa Farmer* supplement to the September 17, 1941 *Mason City Globe-Gazette*. With the exception of the clay tile silos, all the buildings and structures seen are extant today. Current photographs of these buildings follow below.

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Figure 7 The large livestock barn on Tyden Farm No. 6 farmstead was constructed in 1936. Its interior housed a dairy herd in one area, two other areas were reserved for feeder cattle, and the open wing was used for cattle loafing. (Tallgrass Historians L.C., 2007)



Figure 8 Double bin, concrete block corn crib. (Tallgrass Historians L.C., 2007)

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**Figure 9** Rock-face concrete block feed shed. (Tallgrass Historians L.C., 2007)



**Figure 10** Wooden hen house. (Tallgrass Historians L.C., 2007)

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Figure 11 The wooden hog house was constructed in 1941 according to the imprint (below). (Tallgrass Historians L.C., 2007)



Figure 12 Hog house date imprint. (Tallgrass Historians L.C., 2007)

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**Conclusion and the Future of Tyden Farm No. 6 Farmstead Historic District**

Tyden Farm No. 6, then, represents a commercial version of the designs, materials, and technologies adopted by Emil Tyden as progressive and efficient, and promoted by the Iowa State College and its extension services during the first decades of the twentieth century. Tyden spared no expense in setting up his farmsteads and agricultural land to be models of scientific farming, insisting of course, that they needed to be profitable as well. Today, the owners of the Tyden No. 6 farmstead continue to use it as it was intended to be used, for a busy agricultural business, now based on the production of hogs that are allowed to range freely within their sheltering livestock barn. The owners are careful tenders of the Tyden barn and the big corn crib and have been awarded grants over the last few years to apply to the preservation and upkeep of these important farmstead resources. In turn, they open their farmstead to the public once or twice a year so that more people can appreciate the foresight and planning invested in the buildings by Emil Tyden so many decades ago.

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The historic district is bounded on the south by 300<sup>th</sup> Street; on the east by the demarcation line between the grassy yard of the farmstead and row-crop agricultural field; and on the north and west by the historic wind break of evergreen trees (interplanted with younger evergreens); all of which is described as a 9.21 acre parcel in the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of section 29 of Scott Township of Floyd County, Iowa.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary represents the historic farmstead boundary associated with Tyden Farm No. 6.

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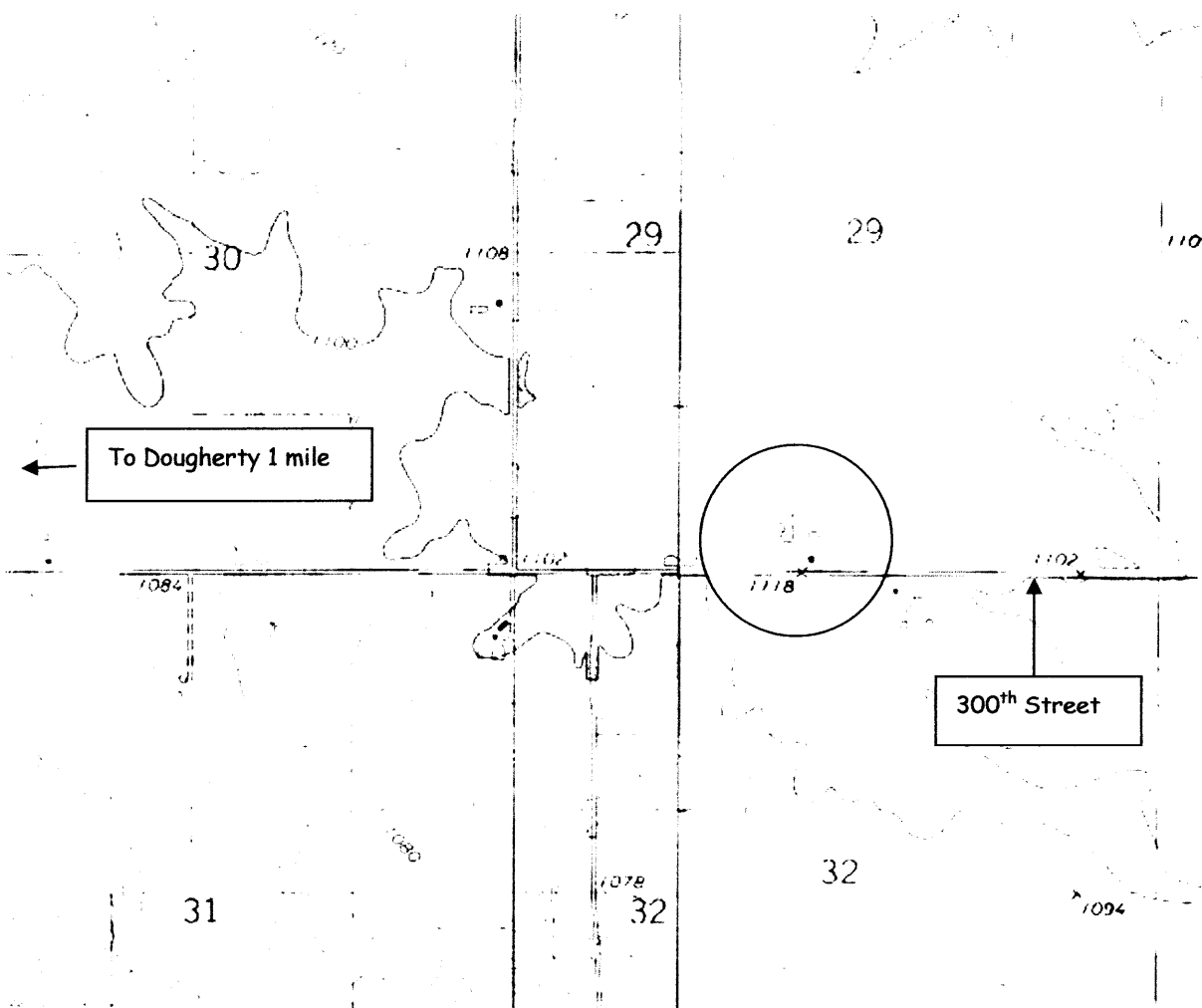
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**Detail of Map of Floyd County, with the location of the Tyden Farm No. 6 Farmstead Historic District circled.**  
(Source: <http://ortho.gis.iastate.edu/> on April 16, 2009)





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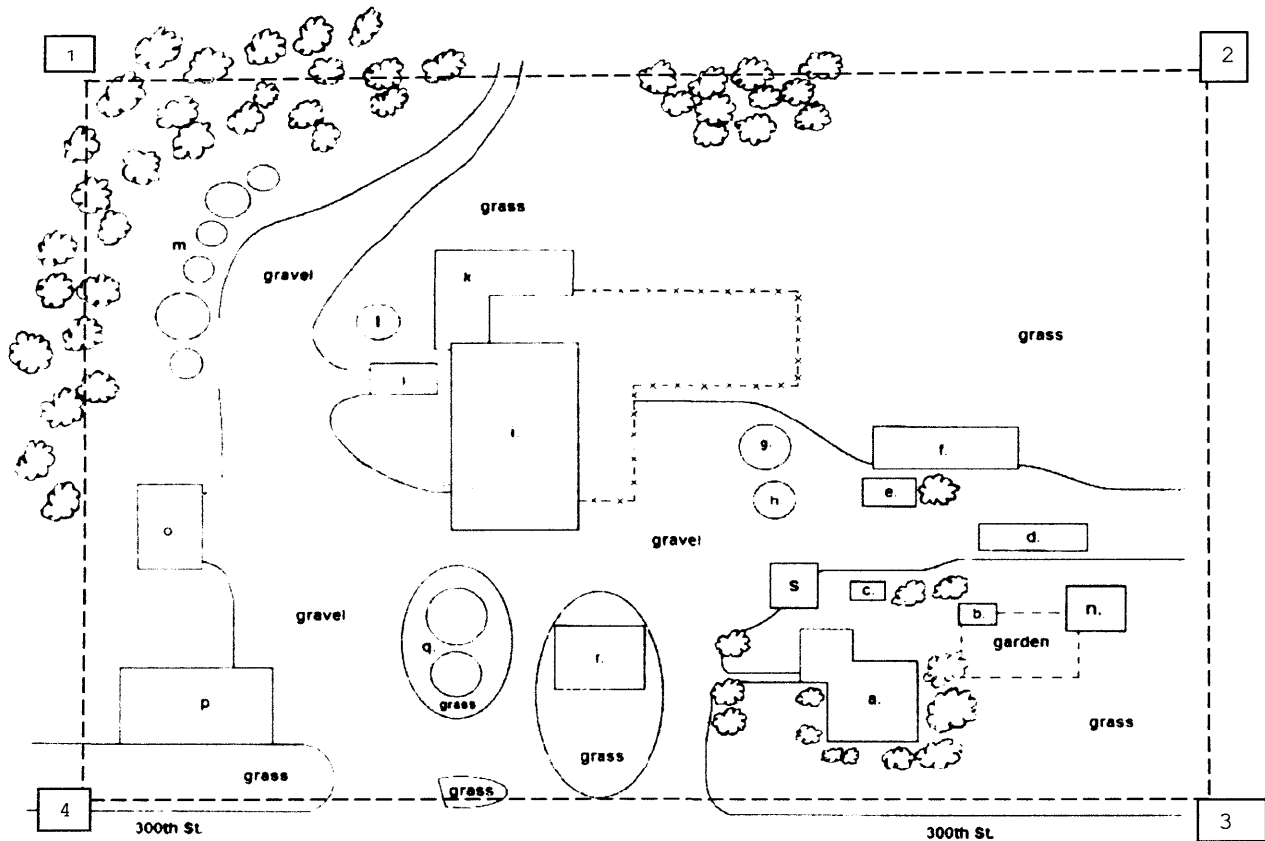
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**Site Plan of the Tyden Farm No. 6 Farmstead Historic District**



Numbers in corner boxes correspond to UTM coordinates. Dashed line denotes boundary.  
(Source: Tallgrass Historians L.C., 2008)



Letters are keyed to the Site Plan above. Numbers in parentheses are keyed to the list of resources on page 6 of Section 7



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- |                  |                      |                               |
|------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| a house (1)      | g corn crib (9)      | m dryer bins (14-22)          |
| b greenhouse (3) | h dryer bins (14-22) | n granary, garden related (4) |
| c wash house (2) | i barn (7)           | o machine shed (12)           |
| d hen house (8)  | j nursery (24)       | p modern machine shed (23)    |
| e feed shed (11) | k barn wing (7)      | q dryer bins (14-22)          |
| f hog house (10) | l concrete silo (13) | r garage (6)                  |
|                  |                      | s water tower (5)             |

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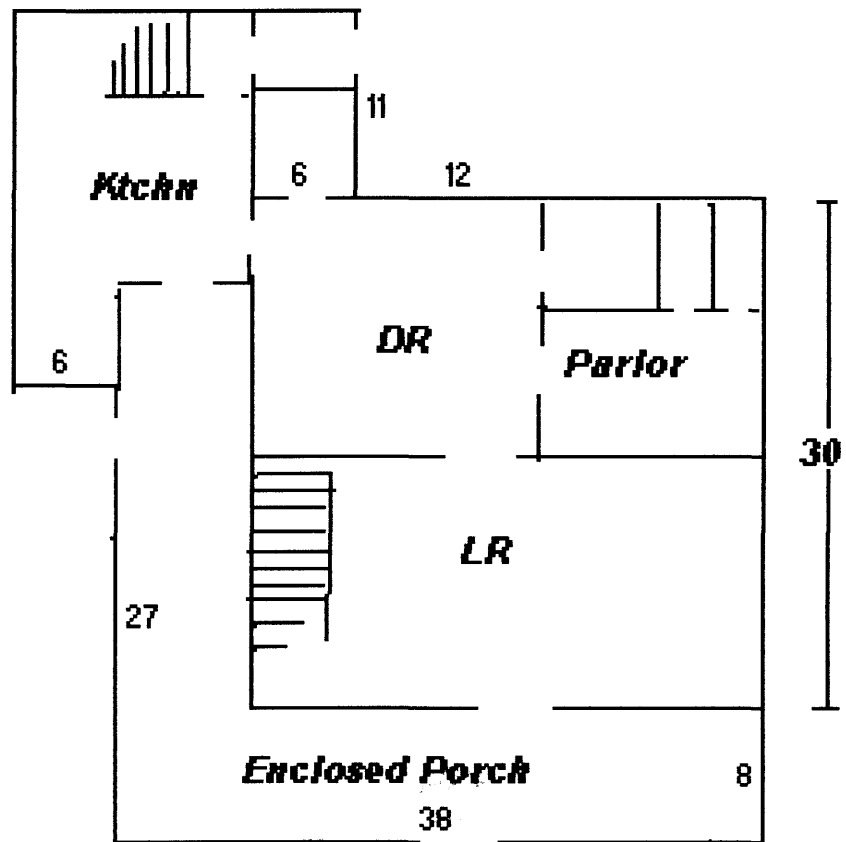
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**Sketch Floor Plan - House - first floor** (Source: Judy Pitzenberger, July 2008)

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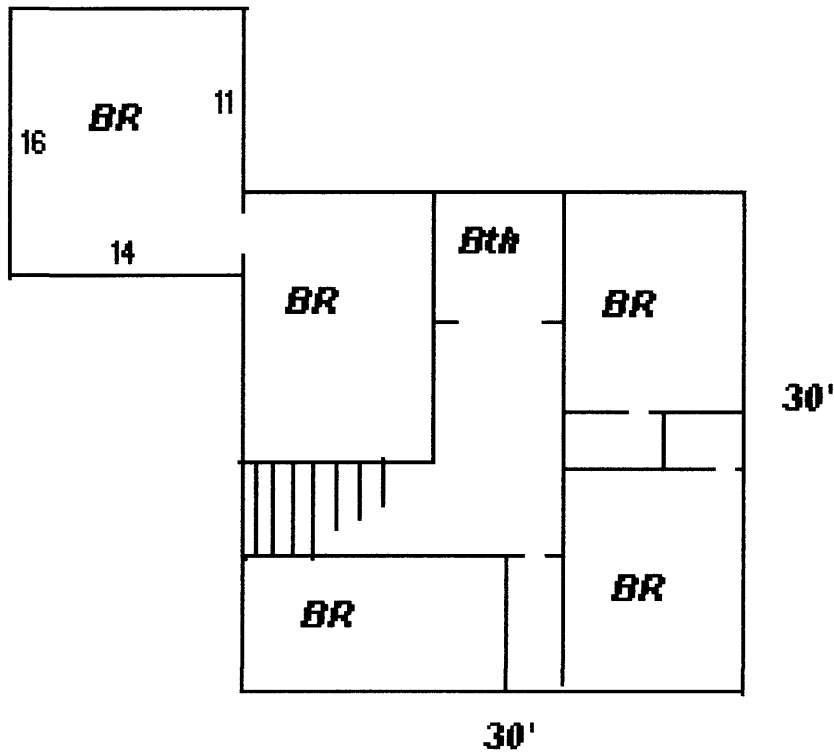
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**Sketch Floor Plan - House - second floor** (Source: Judy Pitzenberger, July 2008)

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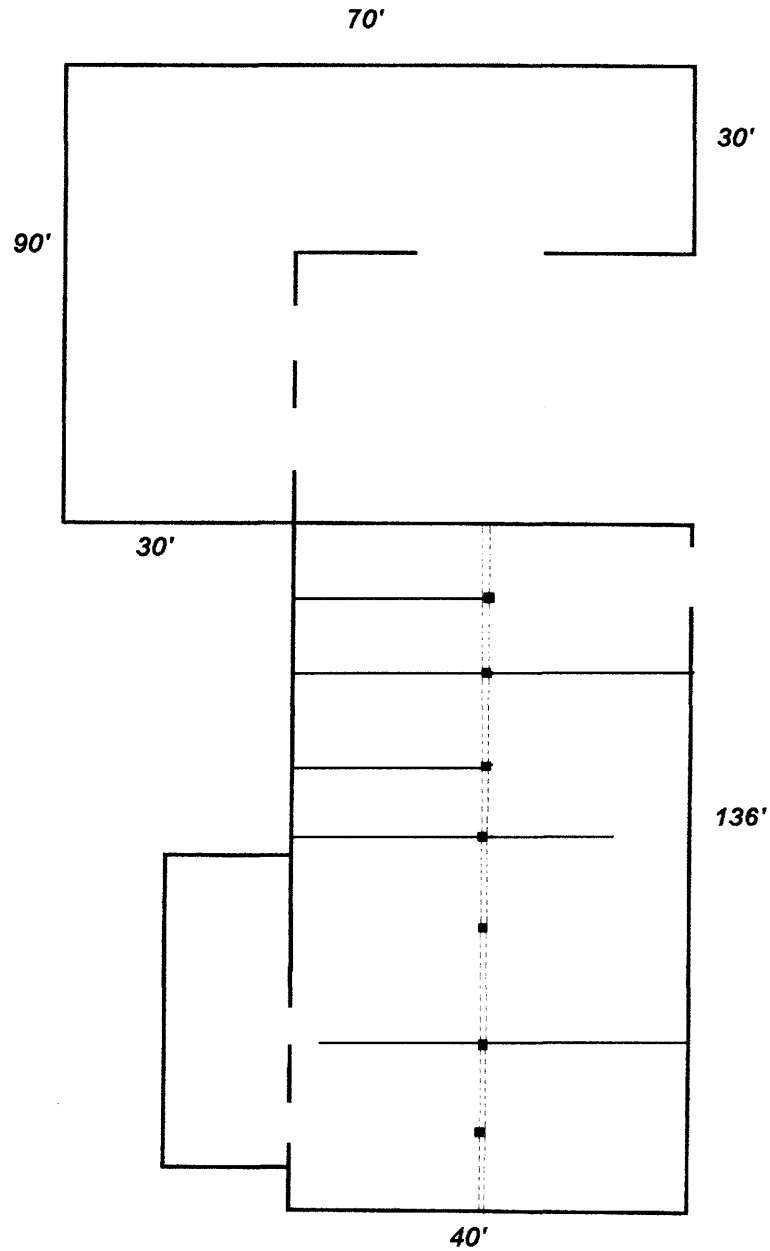
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**Sketch Floor Plan - Barn - first floor** (Source: Ted Pitzenberger, July 2008)

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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**Photographs**

**Name of Property: Tyden Farm No. 6 Farmstead Historic District**

**County and State: Floyd County, Iowa**

**Photographer: Jan Olive Nash**

**Date Of Photographs: July 2007**

**Location of Original Negatives: Tallgrass Historians L.C., Iowa City, IA**

- #1 General view, looking southwest from north edge of district**
- #2 General view, looking southwest, from north edge of district**
- #3 Farmhouse, south front and west side, looking north-northeast**
- #4 Garage, west rear and south end, looking northeast**
- #5 Wash house, looking northeast**
- #6 Hen house, looking southwest**
- #7 Barn and corn crib, looking northeast**
- #8 Barn, looking southeast, with livestock wing at left and pig nursery in center**
- #9 Barn, south end, looking northwest**
- #10 Detail, barn, west side bay, looking northeast**
- #11 Detail, barn, west side bay, looking northeast**
- #12 Corn crib, looking south**
- #13 Hog house, looking east**
- #14 Silo, looking southeast**

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**Photograph Key showing approximate location of camera and direction of view.**

**N^**

