

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 Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries on a letter quality printer in 12 pitch, using an 85 space line and a 10 space left margin. Use only 25% or greater cotton content bond paper.

1. Name of Property

historic name Holsten Family Farmstead
 other names/site number Holsten, Albert, Farmstead

2. Location

street & number W1391 Weiner Road N/A not for publication
 city/town Town of Columbus N/A vicinity
 state Wisconsin code WI county Columbia code 021 zip code 53025

3. Classification

Ownership of Property Category of Property No. of Resources within Property

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	contributing	noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>9</u>	<u>5</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-state	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<u>9</u>	<u>5</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

N/A

4. State/Federal agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] _____ Date 7/27/92
Signature of certifying official
State Historic Preservation Officer-Wisconsin

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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:)

**entered in the
National Register**

[Signature] 9/18/92

[Signature] _____ Date

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling
Agriculture/animal facility
Agriculture/storage

Domestic/single dwelling
Agriculture/storage
Agriculture/storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Materials

(enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls brick

Italianate

roof asphalt

other wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance

INTRODUCTION

The Albert Holsten farmstead has been the home of the Holsten family since 1876. It was recognized as a Century Farm in 1979. The resources on the farm include a cream brick, gabled-ell farmhouse with both Italianate and Gothic features, dating to 1889. A timber-framed Greek Revival farmhouse was on the site when the present Mr. Holsten's grandparents arrived in 1876 and, based on a comparison to similar structures seen in the area, probably dates to the 1840s or 50s. An extensive garden, orchard and grounds exemplify a highly developed vernacular gardening tradition. The farm buildings evidence the successful role the Holstens played in the local farming community as leaders in diversified farming made profitable through cooperative processing and marketing. The integrity of the two houses and the garden is exceptional; the agricultural buildings are intact and in fair to good repair. The Holstens came to Columbus township in a secondary migration from Jefferson County. They are German Lutherans, exemplifying a pattern described in Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin (CRMP) Vol 1, "Settlement" 2-3.

DWELLINGS

The brick farmhouse consists of a two-storey section perpendicular to the front elevation, which faces west, a one and one-half storey ell extending to the south, and a single-storey section extending across the back of the house with gables facing north and south. The brick portion of the house is 36' by 45' overall. A wooden addition, built in 1910, extends east from the rear of the house. A sun porch was added on the south side of this addition in the 1950s.

The brick portion of the house has two wooden porches, one along the front (west) wall of the ell, the other sheltering the back entrance, which faces north. Both have been enclosed, although the original posts and ornamental brackets are preserved on the rear porch. A wooden bay window faces south from the ell, toward a garden and orchard. The bay window is approximately 6' by 3' and is supported by fluted columns with bullseye capitals.

The gables of the house are ornamented with bullseye windows with quatrefoil mullions. The front facade bears a stone plaque which reads: "H Holsten 1889." All windows and doors including those in the stone foundation have segmental arches accented with bricks set vertically above them. Brick "keystones" are slightly raised from the plane of the wall. The somewhat elongated windows have stone sills. The exterior woodwork is painted white; the window sash is original. Separate chimneys for each

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wing of the house are centered on the axes of the front gable and ell, and in the middle of the east wall of the rear section, respectively. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles.

The brick work is an example of a local style of the 1870s-90s, featuring lavish Italianate ornamentation. It is found on farmhouses in the vicinity and on storefronts in Columbus, Lodi and Sun Prairie. The occasional addition of Gothic details is seen here in the bullseye attic windows.

The plan of the house features a single large room in the ground floor of the ell, ornamented by the bay window. Entry is directly from the front porch into this room. Doors lead from it to a room in the front of the two-storey section of the house, to an enclosed, curved stairway to the second floor, and to the kitchen. The kitchen is also reached from the two-storey section of the house through a pantry, now converted to a bath. Opposite the north-facing kitchen entry, an enclosed stair leads down to the cellar. The kitchen has been expanded into the wooden addition at the rear of the house. From the addition a door leads to the sunporch. In the original sections of the house the white-painted architrave mouldings, with bullseye corners, are particularly fine. The templates and planes for these mouldings have survived and are kept in the house. The parlor and kitchen are wainscotted with beaded shiplap.

Immediately to the southeast of the brick house is an earlier house. (Building C) It is timber-framed, mortised, with tenons and pegs. It measures 16' square, with parallel orientation. The door is centered on the north wall, and has a wide plank lintel on which a tag reads "Insured Security New York." The wide fascia, boxed eaves, gable returns and low pitched roof, and its hand-adzed timbers indicate an early date for this building. The farm was purchased in 1876 for \$5650, and family tradition holds that this building housed the Holstens until the brick house was built in 1889. It was then converted to a granary, a not uncommon sequence, and the windows were covered with clapboards. Original clapboards are seen on the rest of the exposed surfaces of the building, except for an area repaired with drop siding on the north wall. A one-storey machine shed, added early in this century, is appended to the south and east sides.

Other buildings of the settlement era in the vicinity include sections of the Gamidge and Endres farm houses, at N1097 Columbia County and 1479 Highway 151 in Dane County, respectively, and the Davison house at 2111 Highway 151 in Dane County. Each of these structures is of timber frame construction, with a central chimney in a wall that divides its interior into two unequal portions, and with a low roof pitch. The typical

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Greek Revival features of heavy cornice, gable returns and small windows under the eaves are seen also on these houses. The modal size for local houses of this type, (including one described in the Renk manuscript in the microform collection of the State Historical Society) appears to have been 16' by 20' or 24'. Thus the Holsten house is relatively small. It is the only local example known to retain its original eave detailing and clapboards. Its interior is partially sheathed to create bins for grain storage; nonetheless the original floor, roof boards and partitions can be seen, making it a very rare survival of the pre-Civil war domestic setting of small farmers in the area.

LANDSCAPE

The garden south of the brick house evidences a continuing family interest in horticulture: there is an orchard of 40 apple trees, a row of cherry trees, a grape arbor, perennial and vegetable beds and a variety of specimen trees. The orchard yields one of many cash crops raised by the Holstens, the fruit was marketed in Columbus and is still sold locally.

A grove in front of the house includes three oaks, three cedars, five catalpas, an elm and a maple. A large maple shades the corner of Weiner Road and Highway 73 and the north side of the house is shaded by a row of maples along Weiner Road. The cedar trees are mementos of regular journeys made by Henry Holsten and his family during the 1870s and 80s to visit family left behind in Jefferson County. According to family tradition, the horses were always watered at Rock Lake near Lake Mills. On one such occasion Henry Holsten removed the cedar trees from the shore of the lake and brought them home to plant in front of his new house. The farmstead had been the site of an oak grove prior to settlement: two oaks (not extant) were used as witness trees in the original survey, to place the quarter section post at what is now the corner of Highway 73 and Weiner Road. Three very large oaks remain from the grove, including one which is nearly 6' in diameter. To the south of the house, plantings include several white pines, which are non-native in this part of Wisconsin. Now mature, they are as large as the trees seen in the remnant forest which is preserved here and there in the northern counties of the state.

AGRICULTURAL BUILDINGS

Southeast of the two houses is a corn crib (Building F) with slatted walls slanting toward its base. The corn crib has a cement floor and is 24' by 27'. A central aisle was used in the 1920s to store a self-propelled steam

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engine that was an essential part of the harvest in the neighborhood. The barn stands 120 feet east of the house, forming a partially enclosed yard. It is a complex of three structures whose axes run north and south. The oldest section is 34' square and may have been on the property as a threshing barn prior to 1876. It was raised onto a stone foundation by Henry's son, William, about 1913. There is an earthen ramp contained by fieldstone walls on the west side, from which a short wooden bridge leads to the hay mow. This part of the barn was used for calves and hogs and for raising colts. The south end of the barn complex is a gable-roofed wooden building with a cement floor, supported by 24' posts. Built in 1900 at a cost of \$1000, and measuring 40' by 60', it housed dairy cows in transverse stanchions until 1950 when axial rows and gutter cleaners were installed. Connecting the two barns is a 16' by 34' section with a hay mow over a shed open to the east. It was built by Albert and William Holsten in 1934. All three sections of the barn have board and batten siding, painted red. Near the south wall of the barn is a small building (Building I) that housed poultry. It was originally attached to the Greek Revival farmhouse (Building C). Sometime after 1889 it was moved to its present location. Next to it, attached to the barn, are two sheds constructed in the 1920s and 30s. Two smaller chicken coops were built to the east of the barn (Buildings J, K) by Albert Holsten as his poultry operation developed into a commercial venture during the 1920s and 30s.

The corn crib, barn and poultry sheds are in good condition. A garage which housed a horse-drawn threshing machine is in fair to poor condition. A privy, in fair condition, (Building D) stands near the original farmhouse. It came to the farm from Columbus, which achieved municipal water and sewer in 1910. With its horizontal lap siding, it was an improvement over its predecessor (no longer extant), which had vertical siding and was then, for a time, used as a smoke house. This sequence illustrates the pervasive re-use and conversion of buildings that seems typical of Wisconsin farmsteads.

INTEGRITY

The brick farmhouse is substantially intact as it was built in 1889. The wooden additions at the rear are inconspicuous except from the farmyard and do not detract from the attractive proportions of the three brick sections of the house. Although the porches are enclosed they are in the original scale and location and the rear porch preserves the fabric of the original. The earlier farmhouse has wooden lean-to sheds, housing farm machinery, attached to two walls. Its front facade, east gable and west wall are exposed. The interior is partially converted to a granary.

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Evidence of a central chimney can be seen in the interior roof boards. The tile silo which stood near the northwest corner of the barn has been removed. At the extreme south end of the farmyard is a shop, constructed of concrete block, about 20' by 30'. (Building H.) Another post-World War II building (G) covered in asbestos siding, stands between the corn crib and the orchard. It was moved from a neighboring farm in 1950. Four small, movable hog houses (L-0), dating from about 1950, stand at the east edge of the farmyard. With these exceptions, the farmyard preserves an appearance dating to the 1920s and 30s. Buildings have been coded as contributing to the significance of the farmstead if they reflect the changing farm economy prior to 1941.

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Inventory of Buildings

A)	Cream brick farmhouse	1889	C
B)	Barn	c 1870, 1900, 1913, 1934	C
C)	Timber frame house with attached machine shed	c 1850 c 1910	C
D)	Privy	c 1910	C
E)	Garage for threshing machine	c 1880	C
F)	Corn crib	c 1910	C
G)	Outbuilding	Post WWII	NC
H)	Concrete Block Shop	1947	NC
I)	Chicken house	c 1920s	C
J)	Chicken house	c 1920s	C
K)	Chicken house	c 1920s	C
L)	Hog House	c 1950s	NC
M)	Hog House	c 1950s	NC
N)	Hog House	c 1950s	NC

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: ___nationally ___statewide xlocally

Applicable National Register Criteria xA ___B xC ___D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions) Period of Significance Significant Dates

<u>Social History</u>	<u>1876-1941</u>	<u>1889</u>
<u>Architecture</u>	<u>c.1850-1934</u>	
	Cultural Affiliation	
	<u>N/A</u>	
Significant Person	Architect/Builder	
<u>N/A</u>	<u>unknown</u>	

State significance of property, and justify criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

INTRODUCTION

The Holsten farmstead is locally significant under Criterion A because of the leadership roles played by the Holstens of three generations in organizing cooperative ventures which are an important aspect of the social history of the community. The farmstead is also significant under Criterion C for its exceptionally fine brick farmhouse, built in 1889, for an earlier timber-framed Greek Revival farmhouse, and for a variety of buildings relating to the development of agriculture in this area. The garden and a grove of trees in front of the house are contributing landscape features which reflect a horticultural tradition in its continuing evolution on the site.

The property acquired its significance between 1876, when Henry and Wilhelmina Holsten bought it, and 1941*. By the latter date its buildings and landscape reflected 65 years of continuous agricultural development and community leadership. During the following 50 years Albert and Ruth Holsten, the third generation of Holstens on the site, have maintained both its historic fabric and its significance as the site of various cooperative enterprises and the home of leaders in the community. The Holsten farmstead is an outstanding example of the evolution of a farm complex in the context of Wisconsin wheat farming, diversified farming and industrialized dairying, an evolution which proceeded here from a German ethnic tradition. These topics are discussed in CRMP Vol 1, "Settlement" 2-1 ff, and Vol 2 "Agriculture" parts 2,5,6,8,9, and 10.

As the geographer Carl O. Sauer noted in 1962, in commemoration of the Homestead Act (reprinted as Chapter 4 in Selected Essays, see bibliography) "In the western migration there was an Old Testament sense of fulfillment that should not be forgotten...(p. 58) "Settlers were in the process of re-grouping themselves in neighborhoods to their liking...Property passed

*The Period of Significance 1876-1941 is for Social History. The Period of Significance for Architecture is c1850-1934, which encompasses the date of earliest construction on the site to the most recent construction of greater than 50 years old.

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from one hand to another at a price reflecting, perhaps, the improvements made more than the rise in land value...(p 60-1)...(Germans) knew how to plow and work the soil and keep it in good tilth, how to care for livestock, how to arrange and fill their working time...The bond of common customs and language showed up strongly in the German settlements." (p 70-2)

HISTORY OF THE HOLSTEN FAMILY

Henry Joachim Holsten and Wilhelmine Florentina Johanna (Ebert) Holsten were the children of German immigrants who came from Prussia in the first wave of German immigration and settled at Farmington, in Jefferson County. They moved to Columbus township in 1876, joining Mrs. Holsten's sister and brother-in-law, August Fritz. Fritz had come to Watertown in 1857 and relocated near Columbus after the Civil War, following a pattern described in CRMP Vol 1 "Settlement" 2-1 ff. by acquiring land that had been cleared by Yankees, close to a growing market and the railroad. The Holstens and their neighbors developed a highly diversified farming operation. They were leaders in a variety of ventures which strengthened the cohesive community typical of German settlement. These include the organization, in 1885, of Springbrook creamery and ice house, the first in the area. Historian Eric E Lampard (see bibliography) notes (p. 91) that "Though commentators might disagree concerning the origins of the factory system, they were unanimous in recognizing its revolutionary import. The first factory associations were usually originated in neighborhoods of anything up to a dozen or more farmers, but there was great variety..." (p. 100) The Holstens' acquaintance with cooperatives may have begun before their move to Columbus from Jefferson County. Lampard reports (p 103) "The 'coop' dairymen of Jefferson County may well have been the pioneers of that form of associative enterprise in the state. As early as 1870 'a dozen farmers built a strictly cooperative cheese factory' about two miles north of Lake Mills...One farmer was elected manager..." It was not until 1885 that Henry Holsten and August Fritz were able to organize the creamery that provided the outlet for local milk, until it burned in 1920. Lampard notes (p 116) that the number of creameries in the state rose "from 40 in 1880 to 265 in 1891." Creamery products rose 2700%, coming mostly from "Kenosha, Walworth, Rock, Sauk and parts of Dane County.: August Fritz is noted in the 1914 history of Columbia County (see bibliography) as the founder of the creamery, at the boundary of his property, near the Holsten farmstead.

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The importance of the cooperative movement to the development of the family farm in Wisconsin may not always be remembered in assessing the significance of resources associated with farming. While the family farm as a concept is cloaked in nostalgia and various old-fashioned virtues are associated with it, its social history tends to get reduced to sentimental generalities about people whose lives centered on church and family, and who toughed it out through hard times. Cooperatives are the source of some of the major rural services and the origin of commercial companies of today, such as Midland, Cenex, Farm Services, Ocean Spray, Land O'Lakes, Equity Coop Livestock Sales Association and Associated Milk Producers Inc. (AMPI.) (Schaars, p. 122-3) Kenneth D. Ruble, in the forward to his laudatory account of the Land O'Lakes Coop observes that "Farmers, by cooperating with each other for the good of all, pioneered new trails in the milk frontier. It took courage and tenacity - yes and loyalty - for their opposition was many-fold. Scoffers called the cooperative plans a 'crazy dream.' And when the dream was brought to life, they were opposed by both men and money...By demonstrating the value of cooperation, middlewest dairy farmers have welded themselves into a social and economic force. They learned the hard way, but they have begun a pattern for years to come...In the last half-century the cooperative movement has blossomed into thousands of associations throughout the United States...(they) proved that by pulling together, farmers can build both their own income and benefit the consumer at the same time. And proved too that on a platform of square dealing, they can command complete respect and confidence from producers, consumers and businessmen."

Henry Holsten was one of several co-owners of a horse-drawn thresher which was kept on his farm and served farms in the neighborhood. His son, William Frederick Holsten, was born the year his parents moved to the farm. He became co-owner and later, sole owner of a steam-powered, self-propelled thresher, silo-filler and corn shredder, and thus organizer of one of the crews that were a major focus of agricultural practice into the 1920s. Today, when each corporate farm has enormous investments in its own machinery, it is not obvious how important the threshing crew was to the farmers it served. With the thresher, farmers who were already converting from wheat growing to dairying could continue to grow some grain for home use, cattle and poultry feed and as a source of income in a diversified mix which helped to insulate them from vagaries of the weather and the market. Threshing was also an important social activity which brought neighbors together in a joint effort. Women converged on the farmhouse as each farm was visited in turn, to prepare enormous noon-day meals for the crew. The owner(s) of the machine therefore had

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a large responsibility to maintain an equitable and efficient organization. The Holstens' machine also powered a corn shredder and silo filler, thus promoting the use of silage, which was the key to a year 'round milk supply for the creamery. Lampard (intro. p. x) notes that "Ensilage and silos provided the long-sought solution to winter dairying problems, while research at the University...related a cow's yield of milk to her intake of digestible nutrients. Further adaptation of German feeding principles resulted in the development of a 'balanced dairy ration.' CRMP Vol 2 "Agriculture" part 11 notes that Dane County led the state and nation in creamery production. (The Holsten farm is less than a mile from the Dane County line.)

William Holsten continued as an elected officer of the creamery until it burned in the 1920s. He was among the organizers of the Columbus Shipping Association, and the Columbus Poultry Association. He was treasurer of the Town of Columbus, a long-time member of the district school board and was honored for his role in the bond drives of World War I. In 1936 he organized the effort to bring electricity to the farms of the area through the Rural Electric Administration, a New Deal program which transformed many parts of rural America. The Columbus REA is recognized in the Schaars history (p. 123, see bibliography) as one of the two earliest electric co-ops in the state. The REA program required that farmers organize in each locality and secure agreements from a minimum number of neighbors before funds were released. Holsten's role, and its early completion, is an indication of his status among his neighbors at that time. William's wife, Anna Louise (Westphal) Holsten, was a 4-H leader.

William's son, Albert Frank Lawrence Holsten, present owner of the farm, was a long-time member of the Soil Conservation Board, another New Deal program organized along the lines of the REA. He grew seed corn for 27 years, a position of trust in that the development and maintenance of hybrid corn strains is crucial to the continued success of the crop. In 1940 he married Ruth Johanna Elizabeth Kohlstadt. They both have been 4-H leaders and Ruth has been town assessor. In 1945 she started the local Homemakers Club. Albert Holsten has been clerk of the school board, a regent of Lakeside Lutheran High School, and is secretary-treasurer of a group that cooperatively owns a crop spraying machine. He developed the family poultry flock, participating in the poultry association begun by his father. In the 1920s and 30s, he sold hatching eggs to the University of Wisconsin for use in developing standards for the breed. Thus the significance of the farmstead as the home of leaders in the community has been maintained in the period since 1941.

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The tradition of Holsten leadership and participation in cooperative efforts to improve the agricultural practice and daily life of the locality has spanned over 100 years. The farmstead is significant in the social history of the locality for having been their home and the locus of many of the organizations in which they participated.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

As Carl Sauer has noted (p. 72, see bibliography) "The logistics of home location is an attractive and hardly investigated field of study, as is indeed the while question of the rural landscape and its changes. The location of the house and farm buildings involved conservation of energy in the work of the farm, cultural preferences of different colonizing groups, microclimatic adjustments, and esthetic satisfactions." Sauer describes the family farm of his youth (pp 87-8) as it appeared to him circa 1963: "The barns in particular tell of the passing of the family farm...The farm orchard, once as ubiquitous as the horse, is now about as rare. The common element was the apple tree...A well kept orchard had a dozen kinds or more. Sour cherries, also known as pie cherries, were perhaps next in importance...The kitchen garden and its topography also are passing into oblivion. The potato patch of several kinds early and late, the beds of carrots, beets, turnips, cucumbers, melons, beans and peas climbing on tented poles, tomatoes, rhubarb, asparagus, cabbages and berries. In season fresh, for the rest of the year stored, canned, or dried, these supplied cellar and pantry with the needs of the family....One could make a fair guess of national and sectional origins by what was grown in the gardens."

The horticultural tradition represented by the Holsten farmstead is seen in the carefully tended garden, extensive orchard and especially in the grove of trees at the front of the house. These have been described in Section 7. The grove preserves three oaks which pre-date settlement, one of them exceptional in size, being over 6 feet in diameter. The 1835 land survey mentions two oaks, now gone, as witness trees to set the quarter section post at the northwest corner of the farmstead. The two old oaks front of the house, together with a third between the house and the old farmhouse are thus the remnant of a grove that occupied the site at the

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time of the survey. The present yard and garden are the combined result of the grove and 150 years of European occupation, planting and cultivation.

The Holsten grove and garden contribute to the setting and association of the farmstead. Its distinguishing characteristics are large size, variety of plantings and esthetic quality. The layout of the garden is shown on the accompanying sketch map.

ARCHITECTURE

The cream brick farmhouse is a relatively late example among a number of large farmhouses constructed in and around Columbus in the 1870s and 80s. Most of these can easily be classified as Italianate in style for their bracketed eaves and arched windows. Examples can be seen on Highway 73 one mile north of York Center, 3/4 miles east of Highway 151, and at 6791 Wilburn Road in Dane County, on Highway 151, one-half mile south of Bristol Road, on Wendt Road .8 miles north of County "K" at Boelte and Hall Roads, and on Duburg Road .2 miles south of Highway 16 in Columbus County. These are all two-storey and rectangular in form. Gabled-ell houses in cream brick are seen on Highway 151, .3 miles northeast of Bristol road, and at 1422 Highway 151 and 6721 Elder Lane in Dane County. The gabled-ell houses are much smaller in scale and simpler in outline than the Holsten house. The Holsten house is finely proportioned in a blend of Italianate and Gothic styles. Its porches, bay window and fine brick work, and the number of rooms and fine interior finish indicate a desire on the part of the Holstens to realize a high esthetic standard. Its construction in 1889 represented the fruit of over a decade's work during which time Henry and Wilhelmine and the four children born to them after their arrival in 1876 lived in the 16' by 16' house already on the property.

The latter house has been described and discussed in Section 7. It is a dwelling typical of the first houses built in the area, surviving in a relatively unchanged state. Its importance is its contribution to an understanding of the evolution of the Holsten farmstead and as a representation of a typical pattern of adaptive re-use in rural farmsteads.

The Holsten farmstead complex is locally significant under Criterion C as an example of a rural farmstead. Farm buildings and farm complexes in Southeast Wisconsin are the result of an evolution which began in the settlement era, with buildings associated with wheat farming. In the area around Columbus, this period is represented by small timber-framed farmhouses in Greek Revival style and threshing barns with wide openings

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in their axial walls. Beginning in the 1880s, an increasing emphasis on dairying saw the elevation of the threshing barns onto stone foundations, and the construction of larger barns. As market access improved a variety of fruits and vegetables, chickens and hogs were raised, in addition to the cows that would eventually make Wisconsin the "dairy state." Horses were bred for sale and for show. Larger and more specialized farm implements were introduced. These activities added milkhouses and a variety of special-purpose coops, pens and sheds to the typical farmstead. In the 20th century industrialized dairying brought further expansion and new construction of barns. Throughout this evolution, buildings were frequently moved, remodelled and put to new uses.

The Holsten farmstead illustrates this history through its retention of a Greek Revival farmhouse as a granary, its threshing barn raised on a stone foundation, and attached large dairy barn, its variety of special purpose buildings and the fact that its granary, chicken coop and privy were moved from other locations and/or converted from earlier uses. The barn clearly portrays the stages in the development of agriculture in the area: its earliest section was originally a threshing barn used in the wheat growing of the post-settlement period, to process and store grain. In a common evolution which is described in CRMP Vol 2 "Architecture" 5-2, it was raised on a stone foundation and become an animal and hay storage facility. The larger section of the barn represents the expansion of the dairy industry at the turn of the century when the cooperative creamery organized by Henry and his brother-in-law and their neighbors was at its most profitable. The sheds that are attached or stand nearby were used for poultry, horses and hogs, and are indicative of the Holstens' ability to diversify their farm operation in concert with their neighbors and in response to changing opportunities. The corn-crib-garage, implement sheds attached to the original house, and the garage for a threshing machine represent the importance of the machines they housed.

As a whole the farmstead is significant as the workplace of the Holsten family, as an example of the impact of the German ethnic tradition on the Wisconsin landscape, and for the evolution of local agricultural practice it represents.

United States Department of the Interior
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Page 1 Holsten Family farmstead
Town of Columbus Columbia County, WI

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS); See continuation sheet
 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
Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 2.8 acres

UTM References

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

C /

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jane Eiseley, Historic Preservation Consultant
organization n/a date October 16, 1990
street & number 122 E Gilman St #206 telephone 608 257-1940
city or town Madison state WI zip code 53703

NPS Form 10-900-a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processing Format
(Approved 1/92)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Photos Page 1 Holsten Family Farmstead
Town of Columbus, Columbia County, WI

Photographic Documentation

The following information applies to all photos:

Holsten Family Farmstead
Town of Columbus, Columbia County, WI
Photos by Jane Eiseley
Date: July 1989
Negatives at State Historical Society of Wisconsin

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 of 7 Holsten House (Map Code A) | detail, looking east |
| 2 of 7 Holsten House | looking southeast |
| 3 of 7 Holsten House | detail, looking northwest |
| 4 of 7 Holsten House | interior detail |
| 5 of 7 Holsten Barn (Map Code B) | looking east |
| 6 of 7 Vegetable Garden | looking southwest |
| 7 of 7 c1850s farmhouse (Map Code C) | looking southwest |

NPS Form 10-900a
(Rev. 8/86)
Wisconsin Word Processor Format
Approved 2/87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number ___ Owner Page ___ Holsten Family Farmstead
Town of Columbus, Columbia Co. WI

The Owners of the Holsten Family Farmstead are

Albert and Ruth Holsten
W1391 Weiner Road
Columbus WI 53025

WEINER ROAD

HWY 73

KEY TO FEATURES

- A) Brick farmhouse
- B) Barn
- C) frame house & machine shed
- D) Privy
- E) Threshing machine garage
- F) Corn crib
- G) Post WWII outbuilding
- H) Concrete block shop
- I) Chicken House
- J) Chicken House
- K) Chicken House
- L) Hog House
- M) Hog House
- N) Hog House



NO SCALE

□ - Contributing

▨ - Noncontributing

HOLSTEN FAMILY FARMSTEAD
TOWN OF COLUMBUS, COLUMBIA COUNTY, WI

