United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only		
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date entered		7 10 -

7 1987

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms* Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic	George M. Moore Farm	nstead			
and/or common	"Moorland"		ала <u>н талары сала калыкан ал</u> арынын кал		
2. Loca	ation				
street & number	r off County Highw	ay 4		N/A	not for publication
city town Mide	dletown Township	_X_ vici	nity of Ja	ckson	
			ing of the		
state Minne	esota code	22	county	Jackson	code 063
3. Clas	sification				
Category district X building(s) structure site object	Ownership public _X_ private both Public Acquisition N/A in process being considered	Status X occupie unoccup work in Accessible yes: res yes: unr X no	bied progress tricted	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park yrivate residence religious scientific transportation other:
4 Owr	ner of Proper	·t.			
street & number					
	Spirit Lake	N/A vicii		state _I	owa 51360
5. Loca	ation of Lega	al Desc	riptio	'n	
courthouse, regi	istry of deeds, etc. Jacks	son County (Courthous	8.≹	
street & number	4th and Sherman	Streets	`		
city, town	Jackson			state M	Innesota 56143
6. Rep	resentation	in Exis	ting S	urveys	·····
	nnesota Statewide His		° U		
title Sit	tes Survey	h	as this prop	erty been determined elig	gible?yesno
date 198	35-86	····	andra Angle (Maria Angle (Maria)	fêderal X state	è county local
depository for si	urvey records State Hist	coric Presen	vation 0	<u>ffice. Fort Snellir</u>	ng History Center
city, town	St. Paul			State M	Innesota 55111

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair	<pre> deteriorated ruins unexposed</pre>	Check one X unaltered altered	Check one X original s moved	site date	N/A
•			inoved	uate	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The George M. and Ora Moore Farm Home ("Moorland") is located in Section 31 of Middletown Township on the Minnesota-Iowa border in southern Jackson County. The 2.87 acre building site is located on a hill overlooking the region's Spirit lakes and consists of three buildings, a house, office building, and garage, standing in a wooded yard bounded by hedges. At the northwest corner of the site is the main entrance marked by a pair of curving gates constructed of randomly laid rocks. A set smaller of smaller gate posts marks an auxiliary entrance at the southwest corner of the yard. Across a gravel road to the west is an altered farmstead with a farmhouse, barn, and various small outbuildings which was originally connected with the Moore property but is not included in the nomination.

Moorland's handsome Craftsman style house, office, and garage were constructed in 1917. The architect and contractor of the buildings is not known, although Joe Prokes of Jackson, Minnesota, was the stone mason. Stone for the gate posts, chimneys, and porch piers was collected from the shore of Big Spirit Lake.

The Moore house is a large gable roofed stucco-covered bungalow with a heavy roofline designed to simulate thatchwork. A deep porch, encompassed by the roof and supported by square stone piers, spans the south facade and forms a porte cochere at the southwest corner of the house. The house has a gable and shed roofed dormer on the south (main) facade and a gable roofed dormer on the north facade. The house has traditional Craftsman style 6/1 sash windows, mock half-timbering, and a shallow bay window on the east facade. There are exterior granite chimneys on the west and east facades. The exterior of the house is basically intact with the exception of a recent asphalt shingled roof.

The interior of the Moore house is basically intact and has five bedrooms, one with an adjacent nursery. The interior has plaster walls, solid oak exposed beams in the living room, kitchen, and study ceilings, and oak wainscoting, bookcases, cupboards, and wood trim. French doors with bevelled glass panes lead from the living area to the porch.

Southwest of the house is a small gabled roofed, stucco-covered office building which matches the main house in design. The office has an exterior granite chimney, mock half-timbering, and a gable roofed overhang above the western entrance. The interior has an open fireplace and oak counters. The exterior of the office is basically intact with the exception of a recent asphalt shingled roof.

At the north edge of the property behind the house is a two story, gable roofed garage, also designed to match the house. The garage has stucco-covered walls, mock-half timbering, and an exterior endwall stone chimney. The garage is also intact with the exception of recent asphalt shingles.

The nomination includes three contributing buildings (house, office, and garage).

8. Significance

Specific dates	1917	Builder/Architect U	inknown	
:		invention	, ,	other (specify)
	communications	industry	politics/government	transportation
1800–1899	commerce	exploration/settlemen	it philosophy	theater
1700–1799	art	engineering	music	humanitarian
1600–1699	X architecture	education	military	social/
1500–1599		economics	literature	sculpture
	archeology-historic	conservation	law	science
	archeology-prehistoric		landscape architecture	religion
Period	Areas of Significance—C	heck and justify below	•	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The George M. and Ora Moore Farm Home (also called "Moorland") in southern Jackson County is significant as a handsome Craftsman style farm home complex which is one of Jackson County's most architecturally distinctive rural sites. Built as the home of a wealthy farmer, Moorland is unique in the region as a rare residential site which stands in marked contrast to the more modest farmhouse complexes typical in the area.

George M. Moore (1890-1971) was the son of a prominent Jackson, Minnesota, family who graduated from the University of Wisconsin in animal husbandry in 1912 and married Ora C. Nelson (1890-1976), a teacher, in 1915. The Moores raised one daughter. The couple began to farm on a quarter section of land in Middletown Township in 1915. Two years later they built Moorland, from which they managed a large farm which eventually encompassed more than several hundred acres. Farm operations were administered from Moorland's office building which overlooked a farmhouse for employees, barns, and other outbuildings standing across the road to the west.

In addition to his farming activities, George M. Moore was a director of the First National Bank of Jackson (which had been founded by his father) from 1915 to 1927. He was an organizer of the local Farmers' Cooperative Creamery and Rural Electric Association, a 32 year elder of the Presbyterian Church, and active in other civic affairs. Ora Moore was active in the local Farm Bureau, the Presbyterian Church, helped organize the Middletown Township women's club, and was treasurer of the township school board for more than 30 years. The couple lived at Moorland until the 1970's.

Moorland was included in a historic sites survey of Jackson County conducted recently by the State Historic Preservation Office. The survey staff identified the house as probably the most architecturally sophisticated farm home of its age in the county. The staff further determined that with its overall site design, multiple matching buildings, and accompanying stone gate posts, Moorland forms an entire building complex which is unmatched the region. Built after the height of Jackson County's agricultural development following the construction of rail lines through the county at the turn of the century, Moorland fits within the Agricultural Development and Railroad Construction Context of the State Historic Preservation Office's preservation planning framework. The site represents a later, architecturally sophisticated successor to the first generation farmsites established in the county following railroad construction.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Jackson County Pilot, August 9, 1978.

History of Jackson County. Vol. II. Jackson County Historical Society, 1978.

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Verba	l boundary descript	ion and justifica	tion	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
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state	N/A	code	N/A			,		NT / A
51010	IN / A1	code	N/A	county	N/A		code	N/A
state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A		code	N/A
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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Per NPS use only received date entered

George M. Moore Farmstead, Middletown Twp., Jackson County, Minnesota
Continuation sheet Item number 10 Page 1

The nominated property is all that which is located on a tract of land in the North Half of the Northeast Quarter $(N_2^L NE_4^L)$ of Section Thirtyone (31), Township One Hundred One (101) North, Range Thirtyfive (35) West, described as follows: Commencing at a point 1060.7 feet West of the Northeast Corner of Section 31; thence S $.01^{\circ}52'W$ a distance of 554.2 feet; thence N 51°11'W following the Centerline of the Township Road a distance of 357.6 feet; thence N. $.00^{\circ}24'E$ following the Centerline of the Township Road a distance of 332.3 feet; thence East along the north line of said Section 31 a distance of 290.0 feet to the point of commencement. United States Department of the interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Helow Jun . 19/89 10 Keeper ____

United States Department of the interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Note: These changes apply to Moore, George M., Farmstead in Jackson County, Minnesota.

REFERENCE NUMBER: 86003604

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Jackson

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC):

CITY:

VICINITY OF: Jackson

ADDRESS: off Co. Hwy. 4

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

nuia M. archabal

Nina M. Archabal State Historic Preservation Officer JUN 1 7 1988

Date