

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

MAR 15 1982

HISTORIC NAME: Pietenpol, Bernard H., Workshop & Garage COUNTY: Fillmore

CURRENT NAME: CITY/TWP.: Forestville Twp.

LEGAL DESC.: Beginning at a point 13 rods north of the southwest corner of the southwest quarter of section 33, Township 102, Range 12, running thence east 50 ft.; thence north 30 ft.; thence west 50 ft.; thence south 30 ft. to point of beginning. ADDRESS: Cherry Grove Village, east side CSAH 5
Spring Valley, Minn.

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <u> X </u>	Excellent <u> </u>	Local <u> </u>	Primary <u> Invention </u>
Structure <u> </u>	Good <u> X </u>	State <u> </u>	Secondary <u> Engineering </u>
Object <u> </u>	Fair <u> </u>	National <u> X </u>	Others <u> Transportation </u>
District <u> </u>	Deteriorated <u> </u>		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes No X Restricted PRESENT USE: Garage and Workshop

VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No

OCCUPIED: Yes X No

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1921 ORIGINAL USE: Garage and Workshop

ORIGINAL OWNER: Bernard H. Pietenpol ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Bernard H. Pietenpol

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Bernard H. Pietenpol
Spring Valley, MN. 55975 ACREAGE: Less than one acre X

LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Fillmore County Historical Society,
Box 193, Preston, MN 55965 UTM REFERENCE:
Cherry Grove Quad.
15 / 557450 / 4826160

FORM PREPARED BY: Robert M. Frame III, Ph.D.
DATE: February 5, 1981

DESCRIPTION:
Located in the tiny hamlet of Cherry Grove, the Pietenpol Workshop and Garage is a small, one story, wood frame structure with low pitched gable roof and modest false front. The building is sheathed in pressed metal siding. Fenestration consists of irregularly spaced one-over-one double-hung and fixed sash of varying dimensions. A large double garage door and small entrance door are located in the front (west) facade. The interior consists of garage area, workshop area, and a small office. The structure remains largely as it was when built in 1921.

SIGNIFICANCE:
The Pietenpol Workshop and Garage is significant as the building in which were constructed all of the prototype airplanes of Bernard H. Pietenpol (1901-), who has been officially recognized by several aircraft organizations as "the father of the homebuilt aircraft movement in the United States." In the airplane heyday of the 1920, self-taught pilot and aircraft designer Pietenpol designed and built small, lightweight planes which could be powered by the readily available Ford Model A and T engines. In 1929, two years after Minnesotan Charles Lindberg's famous flight, Pietenpol received notoriety for piloting one of his auto-engine-driven planes from Cherry Grove to Minneapolis. He began marketing plans for the cheap, easily-constructed aircraft which were known as the Pietenpol Air Camper and Sky Scout. They were widely publicized in a series of articles he wrote for Modern Mechanics and Inventions magazine in 1931. Between the 1920s and 1975, Pietenpol built over twenty prototype planes in his small 1921 workshop, flying them from a nearby grass airstrip. Through his plans, Pietenpol and his small planes have become known worldwide by builders and pilots. The formation of the International Pietenpol Association has accorded him additional recognition.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:
St. Paul Dispatch, July 18, 1929, p. 1.
Agri-News (Rochester, MN), Nov. 13, 1980.
Pietenpol-authored articles in Modern Mechanics & Inventions, April, May, & June, 1931.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper *Helmut Lyman*
1/19/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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**Note: These changes apply to
Pietenpol, Bernard H., Workshop and
Garage in Fillmore County,
Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 82002949

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Fillmore

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC):

CITY:

VICINITY OF: Spring Valley

ADDRESS: Co. Hwy. 5

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

**Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer**

JUN 17 1988
Date