

HISTORIC NAME:	Thormodson Barn	APR 16 1979	COUNTY:	Brown
CURRENT NAME:			CITY/TWP.:	Linden Township
LEGAL DESC.:	T108 R30 Sec. 28 E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$. Starting at a point 330' west of the center point of said Section 28, thence north 165', thence west 330', thence south 330', thence east 330', thence north 165' to POB.		ADDRESS:	Off State Highway 257
CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:	
Building <u>X</u>	Excellent _____	Local <u>X</u>	Primary <u>Agriculture</u>	
Structure _____	Good _____	State _____	Secondary _____	
Object _____	Fair <u>X</u>	National _____	Others _____	
District _____	Deteriorated _____			
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:	Yes _____ No <u>X</u> Restricted _____	PRESENT USE:		
VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD:	Yes <u>X</u> No _____	Barn		
OCCUPIED:	Yes <u>X</u> No _____			
DATE CONSTRUCTED:	1912	ORIGINAL USE:	Barn	
ORIGINAL OWNER:	Theo. Thormodson	ARCHITECT/BUILDER:	George Lee - Design & Builder	
OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Luther Thormodson RFD Hanska, MN 56041		ACREAGE:	Less than one acre approx. 2.5	
LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Brown County Historical Society 27 No. Broadway; New Ulm, MN 56073		UTM REFERENCE:	15 / 384725 / 4887170 Hanska Quad.	
FORM PREPARED BY:	Dennis Gimmetad			
DATE:	January 1979			

DESCRIPTION:

The Thormodson Barn was constructed in 1912 on a Linden Township Farm then known as the Pioneer Stock Farm.

The massive frame structure is composed of a large 16-sided unit, with a full-height rectangular extension to the north. The lines of the two planes of the gambrel roof on the rectangular section extend around the multi-sided roof over the southern area.

A sliding door with covered hayfork track and two wooden cupola-ventilators mark the loft area in the northern section. The ventilator shafts for these cupolas extend along the roof line in the loft to the lower stall areas, where adjustable grilles regulate the inflow of air from the exterior. A third cupola at the apex of the 16-sided section caps a central poured-concrete interior silo. An elevated tank to serve the building's water system, now removed, was located adjacent to this silo near the top of the loft area.

Twenty-four stanchions surround the silo in a circular arrangement. The rectangular portion of the barn contains calf pens, an area for milking separation, and a horse area. Located at the north end of the immense loft area are several wooden grain bins.

The exterior of the building is sheathed in pressed metal. A portion of the wooden shingle roof has been replaced with asbestos shingles.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Round or many-sided barns, in vogue with progressive farmers around the turn of the century, are encountered relatively often in the areas of the state that early developed concentrated dairying or livestock operations. However, the more crop-oriented operations of southwestern Minnesota have produced relatively few of these structures.

The Thormodson Barn is a rare area exception. The sixteen sides of its southern section may make it, technically, somewhat more unique on a larger scale as well.

Linden Township farmer Theodore Thormodson hired builder George Lee to construct the barn in 1912, as he was expanding his Red Polled cattle breeding operation. The farmstead itself had been homesteaded by the Thormodson family in 1858 and remains in the family today.

The many-sided barns were interesting experiments in "machines for cattle housing", especially those which incorporated the central interior silo. The Thormodson Barn is significant as the only known example of this agricultural building fad in Brown County and as one of few such buildings in southwestern Minnesota.