



**United States Department of 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 an 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 Shelton, William and Mary, Farmstead
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| street & number | N2397 County Highway K | N/A | not for publication |
| city or town | Town of Seven Mile Creek | N/A | vicinity |
| state Wisconsin | code WI | county Juneau | code 057 |
| | | | zip code 53948 |

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title *[Signature]* SHPO Date *June 18, 2004*

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 official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau

Shelton, William and Mary, Farmstead

Juneau County

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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.

See continuation sheet.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Edson H. Beall

8/4/04

for
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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 structure
- site
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

| contributing | noncontributing |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 7 | buildings |
| | sites |
| 2 | structures |
| | objects |
| 9 | 0 total |

Name of related multiple property listing:
(Enter "N/A" if property not part of a multiple property listing.)

None

Number of contributing resources is previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/animal facility

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/storage

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/Not in use

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation stone

walls wood

stucco

roof asphalt

other metal

Narrative Description

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

Shelton, William and Mary, Farmstead
Name of Property

Juneau County
County and State

Wisconsin

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the 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.

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 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.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Social History

Period of Significance

1925-1940

Significant Dates

1925

1927

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Roth Brothers Construction Company

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Shelton, William and Mary, Farmstead
Name of Property

Juneau County
County and State

Wisconsin

9. Major Bibliographic References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):

- 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:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.83 acres

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

1 15 736890 4845550
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

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 Joan Rausch

organization

street & number W5722 Sherwood Drive

city or town La Crosse

state WI

date 4 November 2003

telephone (608) 788-5932

zip code 54601

Shelton, William and Mary, Farmstead

Juneau County

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

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 SHPO or FPO.)

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------|
| name/title | Karen Baggot | date | November 2003 |
| organization | | telephone | 608-788-5932 |
| street&number | 1111 Oak Street | zip code | 53965 |
| city or town | Wisconsin Dells | state | WI |

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 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 Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 1

Shelton, William and Mary Farmstead
Town of Seven Mile Creek, Juneau County, Wisconsin

Start

The William and Mary Shelton Farmstead is located at the top of a small hill, historically known as Keegan Hill, approximately five miles southeast of Mauston, Wisconsin. This 1.83 acre historic core of the farmstead features a stucco covered, two-story house and a one-story garage on the west side of Juneau County Highway K and a basement dairy barn, a milk house and silo, a granary, a small animal house, a windmill, and a machine shed on the east side of the CTH K. Taylor Road extends east from CTH K through the east half of the farmstead along the front of the granary and the machine shed. All of the buildings on the farmstead contribute to the early 20th century character of this historic farmstead.¹

1. SHELTON FARMHOUSE Construction Date: 1863; Remodeled: 1925 Contributing

This two-story, 28-foot wide x 35-foot long, side gable house is a hewn-timber frame building with 24-foot posts. It is characterized by a shingled gable roof, cement-stucco covered elevations and a rough stone and concrete block foundation. This house is further characterized by rectangular Craftsman style windows featuring four vertical panes over clear plate glass, regularly spaced on the south elevation, but irregularly spaced on the remaining elevations. Window arrangements composed of double windows flanked by single windows are situated to either side of the entrance. The entrance is located in the center bay of the east elevation. An open, one-story, 10 foot x 31 foot porch that is covered by a shingled shed roof and supported by battered porch columns resting on the closed railing extends full-length across the front elevation. Screen panels cover the rectangular openings as well as the porch columns and the entrance door in the center bay. An enclosed, full-length, nine-foot wide porch covered by a shingled roof and by part stucco and part horizontal wood-sided elevations is attached to the rear of the house. Paired one over one windows and an entrance to the basement on the north end of the rear (west) elevation, as well as an entrance to the porch on the south elevation further characterizes this rear porch.²

The interior of the two-story Shelton farmhouse features 12-foot tall ceilings, plastered walls, oak floors, as well as stained oak woodwork and paneled doors throughout the house, except in the kitchen where the woodwork is painted white. Large cast iron radiators used for the steam heating system are found in each of the rooms. The farmhouse features a 13-foot x 35-foot open space that extends across the front (east) half of the first floor. A wide, flat arch visually divides this space. The space south of the arch is occupied by the 18-foot long dining room while the 17-foot long living room uses the space north of the arch. The arched opening is accented by dark oak woodwork that extends down to the built-in oak cabinets situated at the base of the arch. The glass doors on the cabinets open into the living room space. The decorative iron light fixture, installed when the house was remodeled around 1925, light the living room. A closet and an open

¹ The dates of construction were based on the style and method of construction and on information from the Shelton family members except for the house and the barn, which were based on local newspaper sources.

² *Juneau County Chronicle*, 18 September 1924,; *Mauston Star*, 3 September 1925; *Milwaukee Journal*, 29 August 1925.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Shelton, William and Mary Farmstead

Section 7 Page 2

Town of Seven Mile Creek, Juneau County, Wisconsin

stairway to the upper story along the west wall of the living room are directly across the room from the front entrance. An enclosed stairway, which is the original stairway in the house, also leads to the upper story from the west wall of the dining room. A door at the north end of the west wall of the living room leads to the first floor bedroom and bathroom at the rear of the house, while a door to the kitchen is located at the south end of the west wall of the dining area.

The 11.3-foot x 13.5-foot kitchen is located at the rear in the southwest corner of the house. This small kitchen, which was remodeled along with the rest of the house in 1925, displays built-in, painted, white cabinets with paneled doors along two of the walls, as well as painted, white woodwork. The kitchen floor is covered by linoleum. Space for a small eating area is situated next to the window along the south wall. Doors lead from the kitchen directly to the rear porch and to a small hallway that gives access to an interior door to the basement, storage areas and to the bedroom and bath in the northwest corner of the house. A third doorway connects the kitchen to the dining area at the front of the house. The nine-foot wide rear porch is divided into two rooms. Paired, one over one windows and an exterior entrance door on the south wall further characterizes this porch.

The upper story of the Shelton house is divided into four bedrooms and a bathroom connected by a long hallway. Each of the well-lighted bedrooms features a large, walk-in closet. The 10-foot x 5.8-foot bathroom installed when the house was remodeled in the 1920s is located approximately in the center of the upper floor. White bathroom fixtures, including a tub, stool and pedestal sink, in the style associated with the 1920s remain in the bathroom. A built-in linen closet is adjacent to the bathroom in the hallway.

The basement of the Shelton farmhouse displays random-laid, rough stone walls and a part concrete and part dirt floor. Concrete block at the top of the stone foundation was added to increase the height of the basement and a concrete floor was poured in part of the basement when the house was remodeled in the mid-1920s. The basement, which has doors to the interior as well as to the exterior of the house, features storage for food and fuel. The basement also displays equipment necessary for the operation of the heating, water and electrical systems of the house. Remains of the older technological systems used in the house such as the on-site Delco generator and bits of the original wiring that supplied electrical power for the house and the barn are still evident in the basement.

Around 1925, the Shelton family's mid-19th century farmhouse house was remodeled extensively to "make the house modern." The original, clapboard covered house built in 1863 featured an off-set front entrance, living quarters that undoubtedly included a parlor on the first floor, an open loft on the upper story, as well as a cellar with a dirt floor under the house. As part of the remodeling, the exterior of the house was covered by cement stucco, new windows and doors were installed, and an open, full-length front porch and a full-length, enclosed rear porch were added. The floor plan of this early, side gable farmhouse was remodeled to have spaciousness in the living area, a kitchen with an efficient working area and privacy in the sleeping area on the upper floor. Modern technological conveniences installed when the house was improved in the mid-1920s include indoor plumbing and bathrooms, electricity from an on-site generator, a hot-water heating

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Shelton, William and Mary Farmstead

Section 7 Page 3

Town of Seven Mile Creek, Juneau County, Wisconsin

system, and running water. The 1920s architectural character of the Shelton farmhouse has been well preserved.³

2. GARAGE

Construction Date: c. 1930s

Contributing

This single-car garage is a small, frame building covered by a shingled gable roof and horizontal clapboard siding. A swinging, double-leafed service door further characterizes the garage. The garage is located adjacent to the Shelton farmhouse on the west side of Juneau County Highway K.

3. SHELTON FARMSTEAD BARN

Construction Date: 1927

Contributing

This frame, 35-foot wide x 98.5-foot wide basement barn is a shingled, gambrel-roof, Wisconsin all-purpose dairy barn characterized by vertical board siding and a raised, random laid, cut-stone foundation on the front (west) and side elevations, and random laid rough-stone foundation on the rear (east) elevation. Two metal ventilators and multiple lighting rods are located on the roof of the barn.⁴

Small diamond shape windows in the gambrel peaks and two additional rectangular windows on the front gambrel end (west) light the haymow. Multiple rectangular windows with nine lights regularly spaced along the north and south elevations and similar windows flanking the doors on the east and west end elevations of the stone foundation provide ventilation and light for the stable area on the lower story. Entrances with sliding doors in the center of the gambrel ends lead to the service alley or driveway through the center of the barn. Additional sliding doors on the west end of the north and south elevations provide access to the drive-through that was used to fill the haymow. A small, gable roof, frame shed connects the concrete slab silo to the barn.

The Shelton barn plan features hay and grain storage on the upper level and a stable for the cattle and horses on the lower level. The basement of the barn displays one and three-fourths foot thick walls constructed of random laid, cut limestone quarried from the Shelton farm. The seven and one-half foot high foundation of the Shelton barn is characterized by the distinctive pattern created by the mortaring style of the masonry. A thick wall of stone also forms the interior wall between the drive-through and the stable area. The interior of this all-purpose dairy barn accommodates 21 cows facing out along the south wall and an additional six cows facing out between the calf pen and the horse stalls along the north wall. A bullpen occupies the northeast corner of the stable. The stable has a concrete floor that features a driveway through the center of the barn flanked by gutters and concrete feeding alleys with concrete mangers along the north and walls. The cow stalls are equipped with iron Humane stanchions bolted into the concrete floor and iron water cups. The barn features a water system, in which

³ For historic photograph of the Dawes House before it was remodeled by the Shelton family, see: "Old Dawes House on Keegan Hill", *Juneau (Mauston) County Chronicle*, 18 September 1924, Photograph, p. 1; Karen Baggot, Interview, Shelton Farmstead, Mauston, Wisconsin, 26 June 2003.

⁴ *Mauston Star*, 23 September 1926; *Juneau County Chronicle*, 23 September 1926.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Shelton, William and Mary Farmstead

Section 7 Page 4

Town of Seven Mile Creek, Juneau County, Wisconsin

the water pumped by the windmill south of the barn is piped to the concrete water tank in the southwest corner of the stable and flows by gravity to the individual water cups. A doorway to the frame shed between the barn and silo is located approximately in the center of the south wall. A row of hinged window ventilators with nine small lights and iron shields along the sides of the windows are spaced at regular intervals along the north and south elevations. The barn plan also features a 13-foot wide drive-through on the west end of the lower floor. Timber logs are used to form a removable ceiling in the drive-through area. Doors in the stone wall between the drive-through and the stable give access to the former horse stall area and to the driveway through the center of the barn. Windows with nine small lights flank the wide doorway to the driveway.⁵

The haymow displays plank truss framing. Trusses built of two-inch oak planking spaced at 14-foot intervals support the roof. The truss contains long support posts of two planks extending from the juncture of the mow floor and the sidewall up to the purlin plate that holds the roof. A single rafter runs from the plate to the ridge. A hay fork hangs on a track that runs under the roof ridge the entire length of the barn from the drive-through on the west end to the east end of the barn. A tin-lined, funneled grain bin is located along the north wall at the west end of the barn. A tin-lined chute leads to the former site of the horse stalls directly beneath in the stable. The upper story of the barn is accessed through the hay chutes in the floor and from the space above the wagon drive-through on the west end of the barn.

The interior of the Shelton barn features an elaborate system of ventilation. Four wooden, rectangular-shaped outtake flues extend from the ceiling of the stable above the heads of the cattle, straight up the interior wall of the mow, then in a straight line under the roof to the metal ventilators on the roof. An opening in the ceiling of the stable a short distance from the outer wall through which the foul air from the stable enters the outtake flue is controlled by a wooden damper. Windows that are hinged at the bottom and open inward provide additional ventilation when the outside air is warm. Galvanized shields along the sides of the windows prevent air entering from the sides when they are open and blowing directly on the cattle.

The current Shelton barn was built after fire destroyed the previous barn in September of 1926. Prominent local contractor, Martin Roth, constructed the new barn in 1927. The previous barn was a 34-foot x 72-foot, frame barn with a concrete block foundation, probably constructed between the years 1905 and 1910.⁶

⁵ The thick stone wall with windows and doors between the 13-foot wide drive-through and the main stable may suggest that the two-story drive-through section was added to the original structure. The descendants of William Shelton were unable to provide any information about the possibility of a drive-through addition. The building list of the contractors, the Roth Brothers published in Herbert Samuel Roth, *Reminiscences of Mauston, Writings by Martin Roth and Other Matters*, unpublished paper, Juneau County Historical Society, c. 2000, which is based on information gathered many years after the barn was built and may not be accurate, described the Sheldon barn as a 36 x 80 foot building.

⁶ *Mauston Star*, 23 September 1926; Baggot, Interview, 26 June 2003.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Shelton, William and Mary Farmstead
Town of Seven Mile Creek, Juneau County, Wisconsin

Section 7 Page 5

4. SILO Construction Date: 1927 Contributing

This round silo is a concrete stave silo reinforced by iron cables placed at regular intervals on the exterior of the silo. Silage in the silo was accessed under the cover of the shed, which was built a few years later to connect the silo and the barn.

This concrete silo replaced the rectangular, 12-foot x 30-foot silo previously on the site, which was demolished in the fire when the barn burned in 1926.⁷

5. MILK HOUSE Construction Date: c. 1930s Contributing

This small frame building is covered by a shingled gable roof and painted vertical siding. A window with multiple vertical lights over clear plate glass characterizes the front (west) gable end while the south elevation features smaller windows with two side-by-side lights.

This milk house is adjacent to but separate from the barn. An exterior door on the shed connecting the silo and the barn allowed convenient transportation of the milk from the barn where it was temporarily cooled in the barn's water tank to the cooling tank in the milk house. A water pipe ran from the adjacent windmill to the water tank in the milk house. The milk and milking machines were stored in this building.

6. WINDMILL Construction Date c. 1920s Contributing

This iron structure no longer operates the water pump located under it. The blades of the head of the mill have been lost. The windmill pumped all the water used in the barn and the milk house until a rural electric service company supplied electrical power for the farmstead. The power supplied by the electric company was supplemented by wind power for a time after the advent of the rural electric power system.

7. MACHINE SHED Construction Date: Mid to Late 19th Century

Contributing

The Shelton machine shed is a 23-foot x 64.6-foot timber frame building characterized by a shingled gable roof and vertical wood siding. Four lighting rods are situated on the ridge of the roof. The south elevation features a track for the two sliding service doors that extends the full-length of the elevation. The interior of the shed displays post and beam construction with pegged joints. Long timber pole rafters support the roof. Wooden beams with diagonal bracing support the outer walls of the building.

The machine shed probably was an earlier barn constructed on the farmstead in the mid-19th century. Presently, this building is used for storage.

⁷ Mauston Star, 23 September 1926.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 6

Shelton, William and Mary Farmstead
Town of Seven Mile Creek, Juneau County, Wisconsin

8. GRANARY. Construction Date: c. 1870s-1880s Contributing

This two-story, 20.5foot x 30.5foot, timber-frame granary displays a tin-covered gable roof and horizontal siding. A sliding track door covers the entrance to the building. The interior displays pegged post and beam construction. The lower story of the granary is divided into three storage rooms for grain and a corncrib. The corncrib on the south end of the building features spaced, horizontal wooden slats and a small door on the west elevation. A wooden stairway to the second floor along the front (west) wall leads to a storage room on the second floor. A diamond shaped window in the gable peak lights the upper story. Presently this building is used for storage.

9. SMALL ANIMAL HOUSE Construction Date: Early 20th Century Contributing

This 28-foot x 41.5-foot building features a tin covered gable roof that is extended at the rear of the building. A ventilator is located on the ridge of the roof. A single entrance door opening in the western-most bay of the front (south) elevation and two sets of deteriorating triple window openings characterize the front elevation. This building presently is vacant.

The Shelton Farmstead has been altered very little from its 1920s appearance. A large corncrib between the barn and the machine shed and a straw-covered animal barn southeast of the dairy barn were removed from the farmstead in the second half of the 20th century. The 249.75 acres of land associated with this farmstead was rented to nearby farmers after the animals and equipment were sold when Thomas Shelton retired in 1973. The Shelton farmhouse was occupied until 1997 and is presently vacant. The house and outbuildings were separated legally from the farmstead in 2003.

End

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 1

Shelton, William and Mary, Farmstead
Town of Seven Mile Creek, Juneau County, Wisconsin

Insert

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The William Shelton Farmstead is significant under National Register of Historic Places Criterion A in the area of social history. The farmstead buildings reflect changes in the appearance, farm building forms and uses, and the improvements in housing amenities of an early 20th century farmstead. This approximately 1.83 acre farmstead contains an early farmhouse remodeled and covered by stucco in the mid-1920s, a frame all-purpose Wisconsin dairy barn and slab silo constructed in 1927, a 1930s milk house, as well as a small animal building and other outbuildings and structures. A 19th century, two-story granary displaying hand-hewn, pegged beam construction and a machine and storage shed also characterized by hand-hewn, pegged beam construction contribute to the historic character of the Shelton farmstead. The period of significance begins in 1925 with the remodeling of the farmhouse and ends in 1940. By this date the last of the buildings serving the modern dairy farm had been completed.

The Shelton Farmstead reflects the history of agriculture in the south-central region of Wisconsin. The buildings on the Shelton farmstead evolved as Wisconsin's farm economy evolved from subsistent to dairy farming. The Shelton farmstead shows the influence of the scientific agricultural agencies on the progressive farmers in the late 19th and early 20th century. The agricultural agencies provided expert advice in every aspect of farming from crops and stock to buildings.⁸

The Shelton farmhouse reflects the principles of domestic design and economy that coincided with the progressive farmer's interest in scientific agriculture in the late 19th and 20th century. The Shelton farmhouse originally was constructed around 1863 as a 28-foot by 35-foot, side-gable house covered by horizontal clapboard siding. It was constructed for the frontier farm of Henry Dawes, who moved to the area from Ohio in the 1850s. In the mid-1920s, the front half of the first floor of the Shelton farmhouse was remodeled into one, large open space with an arch and built-in cabinets dividing the living room and dining room. The open space on the upper story was divided into private bedrooms with the large, well-lighted closets, which was considered essential in a well organized, comfortable "modern" farm home. Furthermore, the remodeled Shelton farmhouse features the compact, laborsaving kitchen that was the primary focus of the domestic economists' planning theories in the late 19th and early 20th century. The Shelton family also installed new technological systems including central heat, electricity, bathrooms, and running water that were crucial to the modern house when the Shelton farmhouse was remodeled in the 1920s. Studies in the early 1930s showed that, at the time, only one in ten farm homes had bathrooms and one in four had electricity.⁹

⁸ Frank M. White and Clyde I. Griffith, "Barns for Wisconsin Dairy Farms," Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin No. 266, April 1916, pp. 1-10; N.S. Fish, "Building the Dairy Barn," Agricultural Experiment Station, Bulletin 369, August 1924, pp. 2-32.

⁹ Sally McMurry, *Families and Farmhouses in Nineteenth-Century America* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1988), pp. 209-221; Gwendolyn Wright, *Moralism and the Model Home* (Chicago and London:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 2

Shelton, William and Mary, Farmstead
Town of Seven Mile Creek, Juneau County, Wisconsin

Furthermore, the barn is a well-preserved example of an all-purpose Wisconsin dairy barn featuring the King System of ventilation. The Shelton barn is representative of the work of the College of Agriculture and the Agricultural Experiment Station at the University of Wisconsin. The Shelton barn displays the characteristics of the Wisconsin Dairy barn promoted by the University of Wisconsin beginning in the 1890s and described in Wisconsin's *Cultural Resource Management* manual. The 35 foot x 98.5 foot, plank-frame Shelton barn typically displays a gambrel roof with roof ventilators, a high foundation, rows of windows along the basement wall, and an interior with two rows of stalls divided by a platform running from end to end. In addition, this barn features an elaborate ventilation system researched and designed by Franklin H. King, a University of Wisconsin professor of "agricultural physics" at the University's Agricultural College and Experimental Station. The King System, which controlled the inflow and outflow of air through ventilating shafts regulated by dampers, was promoted as the latest technology in plan books and in the literature of the period.¹⁰

The prominent local construction company, the Roth Brothers Construction Company, built the Shelton family dairy barn after fire destroyed the previous barn in September 1927. Martin Roth and his brother are known to have built approximately 58 barns in the Juneau County area.¹¹

HISTORIC CONTEXT

According to Wisconsin's *Cultural Resource Management* manual, dairying in Wisconsin enjoyed prosperity and expansion for the first three decades of the 20th century, and, by 1915, Wisconsin had become the leading dairying state in the country. Juneau County, established in 1857, joined in Wisconsin's move to dairy farming, but also continued its tradition of diversified farming. In the township of Seven Mile Creek, which was established in 1853, butterfat was the only dairy product as there were no fresh milk and cream plants in the township or in the county in the early years of the 20th century. Despite the economic good times of the period, the rural population and the number of farms began to decline in the first decade of the 20th century and continued for the rest of the 20th century.¹²

University of Chicago Press, 1980), pp. 231-253; H. B White, "The Farm Home For Living," *The Hoard's Dairyman* (May 10, 1927), pp. 494, 542; Mrs Herman Schoen, "Remodeling Our Country Home," *Hoard's Dairyman*, Vol 71 (25 August 1926), pp. 817, 844; *Milwaukee Journal*, August 1925; *Juneau County Chronicle*, 18 September 1924, p. 1; *Mauston Star*, 27 August 1925, p. 1.

¹⁰ Wyatt, Ed., *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin* (Vol 2), (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1983), Architecture, pp. 5-2 to 5-4. "The Ventilation of Dairy Barns," *Hoard's Dairyman* (May 10, 1927), pp. 497, 536, 537; Allen G. Noble and Hubert G. H. Wilhelm, *Barns of the Midwest* (Athens: Ohio University Press, 1995), pp. 158, 228-231; White and Griffith, "Barns for Wisconsin Dairy Farms," Bulletin No. 266, April 1916; Fish, "Building the Dairy Barn," Bulletin No.369, August 1924.

¹¹ *Juneau County Chronicle*, 23 September 1926; Roth, *Reminiscences of Mauston, Writings by Martin Roth and Other Matters*, unpublished paper, c.2000.

¹² Wyatt, *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin* (Vol 2) 1983, pp. 11-1 to 11-10; The history of farming and dairy farming in Wisconsin is chronicled in Robert Nesbit, *The History of Wisconsin, Urbanization and Industrialization, 1873-1893* (Madison: State Historical Society, 1985), pp. 1-45 and John D. Buenker, *The Progressive Era, 1893-1914* (Madison: State Historical Society), pp. 25-79. The

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 3

Shelton, William and Mary, Farmstead
Town of Seven Mile Creek, Juneau County, Wisconsin

Shelton Barn and Outbuildings

William Shelton and his family improved the Shelton farmstead in the 1920s. The Shelton farmstead reflects scientific farming practices and construction technologies, which brought about dramatic changes in American agriculture after the turn of the century. Federal legislation included the Smith-Levy Act in 1914, which provided for the expansion of agricultural extension work under the direction of the state agricultural colleges and the Smith-Hughes Act in 1917, which encouraged the teaching of agriculture in high schools. State and federal publications, cooperative building plan services and the agricultural press disseminated information on various matters, such as the location of farm buildings and better building design. The extension service departments of most agricultural colleges and the college department of agricultural engineering or farm mechanics and horticulture or landscape architecture offered advice on the arrangement and construction of farm buildings. Carpenters and builders, professionals, such as the American Society of Agricultural Engineers, and private design companies also disseminated information and plans. William Radford's architectural company and Orange Judd began publishing plans and specifications for farmhouses, barns, outbuildings, and other farm structures in the late 19th century. The plans for barns, outbuildings and farmhouses and the discussions of related farming theories and practices published in professional and popular farm journals and local newspapers gave the farmers additional opportunities to obtain the latest information on progressive farming practices.¹³

Wisconsin dairy farmers also were encouraged to become efficient and to "modernize" by W.D. Hoard, whose scientific ideas about dairy farming appeared in the agricultural journal *Hoard's Dairyman*, which he founded and edited. Hoard's publication, which was widely distributed throughout the dairy regions of Wisconsin, served the dairy farmers of the Midwest from his headquarters in Jefferson County, Wisconsin, beginning in 1885. Articles in the 1927 May issue, "How Good Dairy Barns Are Built" and its companion article "The Ventilation of Dairy Barns," provided plans for buildings and advice on the "best way" on all related matters. *Hoard's Dairyman* reprinted both of these articles at intervals. The same May edition included the related articles "The Farm Home For Living," and "Shelter for Farm Machinery."¹⁴

history of agriculture in Juneau County is briefly addressed in *Juneau County, The First 100 Years* (Friendship, WI: New Past Press, Inc., 1988), pp. 15-28, 31, 51.

13 Noble and Wilhelm, *Barns of the Midwest*, 1995, pp. 116-117, 213-236; White and Griffith, "Barns for Wisconsin Dairy Farms," *Bulletin No. 266*, April 1916; "How Good Dairy Barns Are Built," *Hoard's Dairyman*, (10 May 1927), pp. 496, 535; White, "The Farm Home For Living," *The Hoard's Dairyman*, 1927, pp. 494, 542; Mrs. Schoen, "Remodeling Our Country Home," *Hoard's Dairyman*, 1926, pp. 817, 844; William Radford published plans for barns, farm houses and outbuildings every week on the Agriculture page of the *Juneau County Chronicle* in the mid-1920s.

14 Noble and Wilhelm, *Barns of the Midwest*, 1995, pp. 107, 228-232; White and Griffith, "Barns for Wisconsin Dairy Farms," *Bulletin No. 266*, 1916; "How Good Dairy Barns Are Built," *Hoard's Dairyman*, 1927, pp. 496, 535; White, "The Farm Home For Living," *The Hoard's Dairyman*, 1927, pp. 494, 542; H.B. White, "Shelter for Farm Machinery," *Hoard's Dairyman*, (May 1927), p. 57; Wyatt, *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin* (Vol 2) 1983, pp. 5-2 to 5-4.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 4

Shelton, William and Mary, Farmstead
Town of Seven Mile Creek, Juneau County, Wisconsin

The Shelton farmstead clearly shows the influence of the farm modernization movement in the late 19th and early 20th century, which was based on the scientific farming practices and construction technology characteristic of that period in the history of agriculture. The Shelton family historians state that William Shelton and his brothers were noted in the community for their knowledge of and interest in the latest technology and scientific farming practices. Surviving correspondence from the 1920s and 1930s between the Shelton family and implement companies such as the Gehl Brothers Manufacturing Company in West Bend, Wisconsin, and the Western Land Roller Company at Hastings, Nebraska, demonstrate their interest in the new technology. William Shelton's son Thomas, who took on the responsibility of the family farm in the late 1930s, maintained the family's reputation as progressive farmers. He had a soil conservation plan prepared by the Soil Conservation Service in 1947 and he received an award in the early 1950s for his soil conservation practices. Furthermore, Thomas Shelton invested in the Mauston Farmers' Cooperative in 1950 and was Director of the Association from 1970 until 1971 as well as Secretary-Treasurer from 1973-1974.15

The interior of the Shelton barn displays plank frame construction, one of the light framing techniques that came into prominence after 1900. The adoption of the hay carrier and hayfork in the mid-19th century and the increasing cost of large timbers used in the labor-intensive solid-frame construction set the stage for a fundamental change in the framing of barns. New framing techniques advocated in the late 19th century gave the farmer of moderate means a solution to the need for an open center to take full advantage of the new hay carrier's capability, while significantly reducing the cost of labor and materials. Several methods of construction were devised in which plank lumber substituted for the heavy timbers used previously, causing much discussion in the agricultural press. In the 1890s, two men, Joseph Wing and John L. Shawver from Ohio, advocated two different types of plank-frame construction that emerged as the two standard types from which numerous variations resulted. Countless gambrel-roofed, plank-frame structures dot the landscape of the Midwest, though such forms were nearly nonexistent before 1900. The Shawver plank frame accounted for one-half of the more substantial barns built in the upper Mid-west.16

Outbuildings and structures, including a mid-19th century granary, a machine storage shed that most likely was an earlier 19th century barn, and a 20th century small animal shed, a separate milk house and a concrete stave silo add to the historic character of the Shelton Farmstead. Silos are a central feature of dairy farms. Silos, used to store winter feed for the dairy herd, had appeared in Wisconsin by 1880. By 1924, Wisconsin had more silos than any other state. Circular concrete silos were being built as early as 1880 in Wisconsin, although most were rectangular and built of wood. Poured concrete and concrete stave silos replaced wood stave silos by the second decade of the 20th century. Milk houses

15 Letters and family papers in possession of Karen Baggot, Baraboo, Wisconsin; Karen Baggot, Interview, Shelton Farmstead, Mauston, Wisconsin, 26 June 2003.

16 Noble and Wilhelm, *Barns of the Midwest*, 1995, pp. 87-90, 147-157; "How Good Dairy Barns Are Built," *Hoard's Dairyman*, 1927; White and Griffith, "Barns for Wisconsin Dairy Farms," *Bulletin* 266, 1916, pp. 1-32.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 5

Shelton, William and Mary, Farmstead
Town of Seven Mile Creek, Juneau County, Wisconsin

also were essential elements on Wisconsin dairy farm. Separate milk storage facilities near the entrance to the barn were promoted as necessary to ensure an uncontaminated milk supply by the agricultural press in the early 20th century.¹⁷

Shelton Farmhouse

The Shelton farmhouse, as remodeled in 1925, reflects the principles of domestic economy that coincided with the progressive farmer's interest in scientific agriculture. This farmhouse displays the technological improvements made available to the progressive farmer in the late 19th and early 20th century. During this period, people throughout the nation were able to form a distinct idea of the kind of house they wanted because of increased communication. The proliferation of popular magazines such as *House Beautiful*, trade journals and publications such as the *American Agriculturalist* and *Hoard's Dairyman* and building plan books offered by publishers such as William Radford and Orange Judd provided ideas, advice, and building plans. The planners in the 19th century had organized their designs primarily around farm production, but by the early 20th century, family life had become the main basis for spatial organization. The early 20th century farmhouse was reduced to only a few basic rooms as its function changed from a place of farm production to that of family activities. The farmhouse now contained only the basic rooms -- kitchen, dining room, living room, and bedrooms. The parlor was replaced by an informal family space where the living and dining rooms were combined into one large room, the kitchen became a well-planned specialized space, and the bedrooms became private retreats. Almost all the literature concerned with the home called for the radical simplification of the house, both interior and exterior, in marked contrast to the ornate Victorian style of the 19th century. Cement stucco became the favored surface for house facades. It cost less, in most cases, than other surfacing materials, while giving fashionable uncluttered lines. In interior design, simplification resulted in plain unadorned walls, spartan interior furnishings, and built-in cabinets and cupboards. The economical use of space based on "scientific planning" was considered to be progressive.¹⁸

In part, the impetus for changes in American domestic architecture came from social reformers. Social reformers and domestic engineers gave widely published advice on the moral ramifications as well as the efficiency of domestic architecture. Among the experts claiming a special role in domestic matters were home economists. They addressed concerns that had been discussed in the agricultural press as well as in numerous trade journals and in popular publications for years. The home economist endorsed the radical simplification of the home proposed by the "modern" architectural experts, and often cited the 19th century designer William Morris, maintaining that functionality should be the basis for all aesthetic choices in domestic design.¹⁹

¹⁷ Noble and Wilhelm, *Barns of the Midwest*, 1995, pp. 108-110.

¹⁸ Wright, *Moralism and the Model Home*, 1980, pp. 231-253; McMurphy, *Families and Farmhouses in Nineteenth-Century America*, 1988, p.163

¹⁹ Wright, *Moralism and the Model Home*, 1980, pp. 150-170, 234-235, 238, 271-273; Mc Murry, *Families and Farmhouses*, 1988, pp. 214-219.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 6

Shelton, William and Mary, Farmstead
Town of Seven Mile Creek, Juneau County, Wisconsin

Information and expectations about home and family were transmitted to rural areas from the increasingly dominant urban culture, accelerating change in function and expectations of home. Changes on the farm itself, awareness of urban lifestyles, and exposure to prevailing images of middle-class womanhood all combined to make farmwomen dissatisfied with their lot. Martha Van Rensselaer, a home economist at Cornell University, began an extension course in the early 1900s entitled the "Farmers' Wives Reading Course" through Cornell's college of agriculture. The course topics included the partnership of farm women in the farm enterprise, the contrast of household drudgery with mechanized field work, the need for labor-saving house design, and the possibility of using time saved for self culture. The moral ramifications attached to domestic architecture by the reformers of the period were applied to farmhouses as well. In his article, "The Farm Home For Living," published in the *Hoard's Dairyman* in 1927, H.B. White pointed out: "The farm home still requires the attention of all the family in its operation and thus is given the training that has so well led to the development of a sturdy, self reliant people...will give the young people ideals of character and patriotism."²⁰

The rural community showed definite signs of change by the early 20th century. Ideas explored by many groups in the 1890s became the basis for new construction in the 1900s. The technological systems became more complex, more costly and more important in house design. The kitchen became the central focus because it more than any other room was to be scientifically planned and operated, using the latest technology. Total square footage was reduced and as the number of room partitions declined, the floor plan opened up. In spite of the economic cost, the farming family, like the middle-class suburban dwellers, wanted the conveniences once considered luxuries and now thought of as necessities. The progressive farmer made his farmhouse modern by installing a water supply operated by a windmill, gas engine or electric motor, a septic tank, a heating plant in the basement, and a lighting plant. When finances would not permit the construction of a new house, progressive farm families remodeled their homes. One Wisconsin farm wife, Mrs. Herman Schoen, following the remodeling of their farm home in the May, 1926 issue of the *Hoard's Dairyman* reported, "Serviceability, comfort, beauty--these three we had in mind when we started planning to remodel our house." She further stated, "These improvements are expensive and put us deeper in debt, but we feel it is a good investment that will pay us big interest in health, happiness and comfort." A federal farm survey in 1934 showed that only one farm home in three had running water or a water pump, only one in four had electricity, and just one in ten had bathrooms, toilets and central heat.²¹

The Shelton farmhouse was constructed c.1863 on the frontier farm of Henry Dawes, who moved to the area from Ohio in the 1850s. It originally was constructed

²⁰ Mc Murry, *Families and Farmhouses*, 1988, pp. 88-102, 209-219; White, "The Farm Home For Living," *Hoard's Dairyman*, 1927, pp. 494, 542.

²¹ Mrs. Schoen, "Remodeling Our Country Home," *Hoard's Dairyman*, 1926, p. 817, 844; McMurry, *Families and Farmhouses*, 1988, pp. 112-128, 209-221; Wright, *Moralism and the Model Home*, 1980, pp. 239; Noble and Wilhelm, *Barns of the Midwest*, 1995, p. 214; Wright, *Moralism and the Model Home*, 1980, pp. 88-92, 235-240

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 7

Shelton, William and Mary, Farmstead
Town of Seven Mile Creek, Juneau County, Wisconsin

as a side-gabled, 28 foot by 35 foot house covered by horizontal clapboard siding with a small, open entrance porch leading to an off-set entrance on the east elevation. This mid-19th century house featured living quarters that undoubtedly included a parlor on the first floor, an open loft on the upper story as well as a cellar under the house. The Shelton family transformed this house into a "modern" farmhouse in 1925. Cement stucco was applied to the exterior of the house to give it the uncluttered lines characteristic of the change in domestic architecture toward simplification and the absence of ornament. A full-length open porch was added to the front elevation, while a full-length enclosed porch was built onto the rear elevations. The house was reconfigured to have spaciousness in the living area, compactness in the working area, and privacy in the sleeping area as recommended by the experts in domestic design and economy in the late 19th and early 20th century. The front half of the first floor of the Shelton farmhouse was remodeled into one, large, open space. Simple oak woodwork without historic ornament accents this space, as well as the remainder of the house. A large, flat arch opening framed by dark oak woodwork visually divides the living room space from the dining room space. Small built-in oak cabinets with glass doors at the base of the arch further characterize this division of space. An open stairway to the upper floor was built directly across the living room from the centrally located front entrance.²²

The Shelton Farmhouse kitchen represents the trend toward compact kitchens that began to appear in many of the progressive farmhouse designs by the late 19th century. The kitchen became the "work room" of the farm wife, and became the focus of attention in most pattern books and women's magazines, as well as the major interest of efficiency experts in domestic science and technology. With the separation of the cooking and eating areas, the size of the kitchen decreased, allowing a more efficient, although solitary, work arrangement. The efficient, idealized kitchen proposed by the domestic engineers had decreased to an average size of 11 foot by 11 foot by the early 20th century. The Shelton farmhouse displays a small 11-foot x 13.5-foot kitchen. Built-in cabinets replaced the 19th century pantry when the Shelton house was remodeled in the mid-1920s and a dining room was created on the south end of the living room space. The large, enclosed rear porch served as extension of the kitchen when weather permitted.²³

When the house was remodeled in 1925, the open loft on the upper story of the Shelton farmhouse was divided into private bedrooms for family members. All of the four bedroom have the large, well-lighted closets considered essential to the "modern" farm home according to reports in farm journals such as *Hoards Dairyman*, as well as in builders journals and farmhouse plans published by various sources. A 5.8-foot x 10.2-foot bathroom was added to a central location on the second floor with the bedrooms arranged around it. The bathroom in a farmhouse was considered a "service" that must be more dependable than any other room by one

²² *Milwaukee Journal*, August 1925; *Juneau County Chronicle*, 18 September 1924, p. 1; *Mauston Star*, 27 August 1925, p. 1.

²³ McMurry, *Families and Farmhouses in Nineteenth-Century Americas*, 1988, pp. 109-128, 209-221; Wright, *Moralism and the Model Home*, 1980, pp. 231-253; Mrs. Schoen, "Remodeling Our Country Home," *Hoard's Dairyman*, Vol 71, 1926.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 8

Shelton, William and Mary, Farmstead
Town of Seven Mile Creek, Juneau County, Wisconsin

progressive farmwife, who wrote about the remodeling of her farm home in a 1926 issue of *Hoards Dairyman*. 24

New technological systems central to the "modern" house were installed when the Shelton farmhouse was remodeled in the mid-1920s. Conveniences installed in the progressive Sheldon farmhouse in the mid-1920s included electricity supplied by an on-site generator, a full bathroom upstairs and a half-bath on the lower story, running water and a hot water heating system. Furthermore, the basement was raised and made convenient to the outside for easy and efficient access. The new basement provided space for the new technological equipment and for the storage of fuel as well as space for the fruit and vegetable cellar.²⁵

Shelton Barn

The Shelton Farmstead also has a well-preserved example of a Wisconsin dairy barn. Constructed in 1927, it features the King System of ventilation. The barn displays the characteristics of the Wisconsin dairy barn described in Wisconsin's *Cultural Resource Management* manual. Furthermore, the design of this barn and its ventilation system are associated with the late 19th and early 20th century research and publications of the College of Agriculture and the Agricultural Experiment Station at the University of Wisconsin.²⁶

The Wisconsin State Experiment Station was organized in 1883. The station was started in 1883 with a staff of three professors. Professor W.A. Henry was made Director of the Station in 1886. Under his tenure, which lasted until 1907, nine departments were organized. In 1909, the Board of Regents transferred the Home Economics department to the College of Agriculture and the department of Agricultural Economics was established. The college held farmers' institutes throughout the state, the earliest in 1886, at which scientists and farmers shared experiences. In 1908, the foundation was laid for the organization of the extension services, which coordinated the efforts of the College to carry the results of research work of all types to the entire state. One result of the close relationship between the work of the experiment Station and the Extension Service was the development of the County Agent system, establishing a resident representative of the University on the local level so that teachings of the Agriculture College could be given to the farmer in a more direct manner. 27

Beginning in the late 19th century, the Agricultural Experiment Station at the University of Wisconsin promoted a barn designed to meet the needs of the growing dairy industry. The gambrel roofed Wisconsin dairy barn promoted by the Agricultural Experiment Station was ideally 36 feet x 100 feet or longer in size,

24 McMurry, *Families and Farmhouses*, 1988, p. 209; Wright, *Moralism and the Model Home*, 1980, pp. 237, 245; Mrs. Schoen, "Remodeling Our Country Home," *Hoard's Dairyman*, 1926, pp. 817, 844.

25 Karen Baggot, Interview, Mauston, Wisconsin, 26 June 2003; Mrs. Schoen, "Remodeling Our Country Home," *Hoard's Dairyman*, 1926, pp. 817, 844.

26 Wyatt, Ed., *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin* (Vol 2) Architecture, 1983, pp. 5-2 to 5-4.

27 H.L. Russell, "New Facts in Farm Science, Looking Backward" Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of Wisconsin, Bulletin 362, December 1927, Madison, WI, pp. 5-11; Noble and Wilhelm, *Barns of the Midwest*, 1995, pp. 117.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 9

Shelton, William and Mary, Farmstead
Town of Seven Mile Creek, Juneau County, Wisconsin

featured roof ventilators, gable end doors, and rows of windows along the basement walls, allowing sunlight for working in the barn as well as for promoting more hygienic conditions for the animals. The Agricultural Experiment Station offered barn plans ranging from a general-purpose barn to a pioneer barn and sent free publications to all residents of the state. A full set of the barn plans published in the Agricultural Experiment Station's bulletin was available to Wisconsin farmers from the Department of Agricultural Engineering for a nominal fee of 20 cents to cover the cost of the blueprint and postage.²⁸

The Shelton barn is a 35 foot x 98.5 foot, plank-frame barn with a shingled gambrel roof on an approximately one and three-fourths foot thick stone foundation. This barn is further characterized by roof ventilators, rows of windows along the stone basement as well as small windows and sliding track service doors on the gambrel ends of the building. The basement or first story contains quarters for cattle and horses, and a drive-through on the west end to load the hay into the long open mow on the upper story and a walkway to the silo and milk house through the south elevation. This barn is aligned in an east to west direction, allowing direct sunlight to enter through the south, east and west windows and indirect light on the north.²⁹

The interior of the Shelton barn is similar to the general-purpose dairy barn plan in the bulletin published by the Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of Wisconsin in 1916. This barn, in which the cows faced out, had the silo to one side of the barn in order to permit a driveway through the center. It accommodated 22 head of cattle and six horses and had two box stalls, a calf pen and a bullpen. The Shelton barn, which is 12.5 feet longer than the barn in the plan published by the Agricultural Station, features a 13 feet wide drive-through running north and south on the west end of the first story of the barn. The drive-through provides a sheltered space to fill the haymow with the aid of the hay carrier invented in 1867 by William Loudon, which was capable of raising the hay perpendicular to the upper story and then carrying the hay anyplace needed in the long haymow. The Shelton barn is further characterized by a gravitational system in which water is dispensed to the individual livestock cups from a water tank in the southwest corner of the barn. The water tank received water through a pipe from the well south of the barn.³⁰

²⁸ White and Griffith, "Barns for Wisconsin Dairy Farms," Bulletin 266, 1916, Madison, WI; Noble and Wilhelm, *Barns of the Midwest*, 1995, pp. 87-90, 228-231; N.S. Fish, "Building the Dairy Barn," Agricultural Experiment Station, Bulletin 369, August 1924, pp. 2-31.

²⁹ The existence of a stone foundation wall with windows separating the stable area and drive-through may suggest the possibility the 13-foot drive-through on the west end of the barn was added to the original construction. The descendants of William Shelton do not feel that the drive-through was an addition and do not have any information that supports the theory. The building list of the contractors, the Roth Brothers in Herbert Samuel Roth, *Reminiscences of Mauston, Writings by Martin Roth and Other Matters*, unpublished paper, Juneau County Historical Society, c. 2000, in which the information was collected many years later before the death of Roth, described the Sheldon barn as a 36 x 80 foot building.

³⁰ White and Griffith, "Barns for Wisconsin Dairy Farms," Bulletin 266, April 1916; Noble and Wilhelm, *Barns of the Midwest*, 1995, pp. 88, 158.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 10

Shelton, William and Mary, Farmstead
Town of Seven Mile Creek, Juneau County, Wisconsin

The method of plank-construction in the Shelton barn is the type advocated by John Shawver. In this type, the barn is opened up by using bent framing comprised of a truss built of a support post of spliced plank lumber that ran from the floor sill where the mow floor meets the sidewall up to the purlin plate that held the roof ridge. Supporting the double-member post was a single-member rafter that ran from the plate to the ridge. Each truss, typically spaced 12 to 14 feet apart, supported the purlin plate that carried the lower end of the upper rafter and the upper end of the lower rafter. The Shawver truss supports both roof and purlin and restrains the outward thrust of rafters and pressure against the plate and walls. John L. Shawver, a man of much construction experience and good writing ability, instituted his plank frame design in Ohio in the 1880s, and by 1902, he advertised that more than 5,000 such barns were in use. Shawver, a frequent contributor to the agricultural publications of the day, also gained further following with his book, *Plank Frame Barn Construction*, published in 1902. Shawver maintained the plank barn used 40 per cent less timber and could be constructed in one-third of the time than the "old-fashioned timber frame" barn.³¹

The interior of the Shelton barn has an elaborate ventilation system researched and designed by Franklin H. King, a University of Wisconsin professor of "agricultural physics" at the University's Agricultural College and Experimental Station. In the first decade of the 20th century, agricultural research conducted by engineers and researchers at agricultural experiment stations and commercial barn planning services began to produce experimental designs and new experimental forms in the quest to build the ideal barn to complement the scientifically managed farm. At the Wisconsin Agricultural College and Experiment Station, William H. King, who gained leadership among agricultural engineers from his 1890s research on a circular barn with a silo in the center, became most noted for his subsequent research for an improved system of barn ventilation. Franklin H. King published his work in the 1908 textbook, *Ventilation for dwellings, rural schools, and stable*, and his ideas were widely circulated by the agricultural press. The agricultural scientists proposed barn ventilation that supplied fresh air without draft was essential for the health and comfort of the animals and their productivity, and consequently provided increased profits for the farmer. They asserted that a good ventilation system, which removed foul odors and excess moisture, made possible the control of barn temperature, the preservation of the building and foodstuffs from mold and rot due to excessive moisture and provided a measure of disease prevention and control. Furthermore, these agricultural experts felt good ventilation made spontaneous combustion in the haymow and feed storage bins less likely. The King System is a gravity system of ventilation that controls the inflow of fresh air and outflow of foul air through ventilating shafts regulated by dampers. Fresh air entered the intakes above the sills, rose between the studding and entered the stable at the ceiling. The insulated outlet flues started near the floor, passed upward inside the stable, through the mow and under the roof, and finally out the ventilator located on the ridge of the roof. The King ventilation system required a stable with a warm wall and tight doors that conserved the heat generated by the animals and exterior walls that were colder

31 Noble and Wilhelm, *Barns of the Midwest*, 1995, pp. 87-90, 147-157, 220-225.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Shelton, William and Mary, Farmstead
Town of Seven Mile Creek, Juneau County, Wisconsin

Section 8 Page 11

than the air in the room, creating movement of air down the outer walls. The resulting circulation forced the warm, moisture-laden air out through the outlet flues. The amount of ventilation required was scientifically calculated dependent on the number and arrangement of the animals housed, dimensions of the barn and the outside surroundings. The King System was promoted as the latest technology in barn plan books of the period such as those published by the Orange Judd Company in the early 20th century and in the bulletins of the Wisconsin Agricultural College and Experiment Station. A ventilation system also could be purchased and added after the barn was built. The King System of natural gravity ventilation had become the accepted standard by 1910.³²

The Shelton barn features a modified King System of ventilation in which the foul air is removed from the ceiling instead of the floor and both the intakes and outtakes are placed on the outer walls of the stable without regard as to which way the cows face or the type of system installed. The ventilation system in the Shelton barn, which now has stanchions for 27 cows along with pens for calves and a bull, but originally had horse stalls and probably fewer cows stalls, has four outlet flues extending from the ceiling of the stable to the metal ventilators on the ridge of the roof. Computation of the amount of air required that was based on data found in King's book, *The Physics of Agriculture*, determined four outlet flues were sufficient for the number of animals originally housed in the Shelton barn. Hinged window ventilators with galvanized iron shields on long north and south elevations provided additional fresh air when needed.³³

The Roth Brothers Construction Company built the Shelton barn in 1927. John Roth, his wife, and two sons moved from Chicago to a Lemonweir township farm in Juneau County, Wisconsin in 1888. Martin Roth was born in 1894 and his brother Herbert a few years later. In 1902, the family moved to another farm in the township of Lindina. Martin Roth, who first learned building skills from his father, was building a variety of farm buildings for his father and his neighbors by the time he was 19 years of age. Martin Roth's studies at a trade school for blueprinting, estimating and woodworking were interrupted when he enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1917. He spent part of his enlistment working in construction for the Public Works Department. Martin Roth continued his construction career when he returned to Wisconsin in 1921. He began to work with his brother Herbert in 1922, and in 1925 they formed the Roth Brother's Construction Company. The Roths survived the Depression era by working for the Works Progress Administration. The partnership continued until the death of Herbert Roth in 1947. Martin Roth died in 1988. Martin Roth, and later the Roth Brothers Construction Company, is known to have built approximately 58 barns mostly in the Juneau County area. They also are credited with church buildings in Mauston, Cazenovia, Union Center, Reedsburg, and La Valle, as well as numerous residences, schools, commercial, and military

32 "The Ventilation of Dairy Barns," *Hoard's Dairyman*, 1927, pp. 497, 536, 537; Noble and Wilhelm, *Barns of the Midwest*, 1995, pp. 158, 195-196, 228-231; White and Griffith, "Barns for Wisconsin Dairy Farms," *Bulletin* 266, April 1916, pp. 9-16; Fish, "Building the Dairy Barn," *Bulletin* 364, 1924, pp. 2-31.

33 Fish, "Building the Dairy Barn," *Bulletin* 364, 1924, p. 20-21; "The Ventilation of Dairy Barns," *Hoard's Dairyman*, 1927. p. 497.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 12

Shelton, William and Mary, Farmstead
Town of Seven Mile Creek, Juneau County, Wisconsin

buildings and nursing homes in the area.³⁴

HISTORY OF PROPERTY

The Shelton Farmstead is located in Section 6 of Seven Mile Creek Township in Juneau County, Wisconsin, on the land purchased by Henry Dawes from the United States government in 1854. In 1859, Henry Dawes, accompanied by his son Rufus Dawes, moved from Malta, Ohio to this property where they cleared the land and constructed the house around 1863. Rufus Dawes also attended the University of Wisconsin during this period. The Dawes worked for the organization of the volunteer civil war company, the Lemonweir Minutemen of Company K, of which Rufus Dawes was made Captain in 1861. He later commanded Company K of the 6th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry at Gettysburg. Rufus Dawes was the father of Charles Dawes, who was vice-president of the United States from 1921-1929 and Nobel Peace prizewinner in 1925. Henry Dawes died in Juneau County in November of 1867.³⁵

The descendents of Henry Dawes sold the property a year later, in 1868, to Ezra Gregory, who sold it again in 1874 to Michael Powers and James Keegan. The Powers and the Keegan families immigrated to Wisconsin from County Waterford, Ireland in the 1850s. Michael Powers obtained title to 129.17 acres of the 260 acres held jointly by the Powers and the Keegan families in Section 6 in 1877. In 1890 he passed it on to his son, Patrick J. Powers, who had married Catherine Keegan, daughter of James Keegan, in 1884. However, according to the 1898 Plat Map of Juneau County, the land continued to be held jointly by Patrick J. Powers and James Keegan's son Patrick, who had married Michael Powers' daughter Alice in 1876. William Shelton apparently obtained the farm of Patrick J. Powers when he married Patrick Powers' daughter, Mary, in 1907. The Shelton family immigrated to America from Ireland around 1840. By 1920, William Shelton owned 249.75 acres of land, of which his son Thomas Shelton became proprietor in 1939. The associated farming operation was discontinued and the farmland rented out to neighboring farmers when Thomas Shelton retired in 1973. Eleanor Shelton used the farmhouse until 1997, after her husband Thomas Shelton died on September 30, 1975. The Shelton family, who continue to be the proprietors of the property, legally separated the farmstead from its 249.75 acres of associated farmland in 2003. The farmstead is slated for rental property.³⁶

³⁴ Roth, *Reminiscences of Mauston, Writings by Martin Roth and Other Matters*, c. 2000.

³⁵ *Mauston Star*, 24 April 1861, 1 May 1861; Mary Ferris, ed., *Dawes-Gates Ancestral Lines, A Memorial Volume Containing the American Ancestry of Rufus R. Dawes*, Vol. 1 (n. p.: 1941), p. 57; Abstract of Property, in possession of Karen Baggot, Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin.

³⁶ Abstract of Property, in possession of Karen Baggot, Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin; *Map of Juneau County (1875)*; *Plat Book of Juneau County Wisconsin* (Rockford: W.W. Hixon and Co, c.1920); *Farm Plat Book and Business Directory* (Rockford: Rockford Map Publishing Co, 1952); *Land Atlas and Plat Book of Juneau County Wisconsin* (1998); Juneau County Genealogy Society, Germantown, Lemonweir Township Cemetery Book 4 (Mauston: Juneau County Historical Society); St. Patrick Catholic Church Records, Juneau County Historical Society, Mauston, WI; Immigration Records, Juneau County Historical Society, Mauston, WI; U.S. Department of Interior, Census Office [Microfilm] Madison: State Historical Society, 1860, 1870; Obituaries of Mrs. Patrick (Catherine) Powers and Mrs. Patrick (Alice) Keegan, *Mauston Star*, 17 January 1929; Juneau County Chronicle, 13 January 1929.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 13

Shelton, William and Mary, Farmstead
Town of Seven Mile Creek, Juneau County, Wisconsin

CONCLUSION

The Shelton Farmstead is eligible for listing under Criterion A in the area of social history. The addition of buildings and the remodeling of the farmhouse reflect efforts to improve the lives of farmers through planning and scientific advancements. The farmstead was constructed in the early 20th century during an era when the experts in the field of scientific agriculture were educating and guiding the progressive farmers. The Shelton family clearly was influenced by the advice and plans in agricultural journals and publications, extension reading courses, as well as by the popular publications that were available to the progressive farmer when they remodeled their farmhouse and built their new barn in the mid-1920s. The design of the Shelton barn embodies the research and work carried out at the College of Agriculture and the Agricultural Experiment Station at the University of Wisconsin, while the house reflects trends toward "modern" living that were publicized in the popular press and in agricultural journals. The farm's agricultural buildings and structures are representative of the types of outbuildings found on a typical farm of the period. The newer outbuildings reflect advances in farming practices. For example the silo represents improvements in grain and feed storage that permitted a year round dairy operation, while the milkhouse reflects the further evolution and improvement of dairy practices. Because the farmstead and its buildings are so well preserved, the complex provides a glimpse into the life of a progressive Wisconsin farmer in the mid-1920s through 1930s.

End

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 1

Shelton, William and Mary, Farmstead
Town of Seven Mile Creek, Juneau County, Wisconsin

insert

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 9 Page 2

Shelton, William and Mary, Farmstead
Town of Seven Mile Creek, Juneau County, Wisconsin

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 10 Page 1

Shelton, William and Mary, Farmstead
Town of Seven Mile Creek, Juneau County, Wisconsin

.....Insert

Verbal Boundary Description

Part of Government Lot 1 and Lot 2, Section 6, T.14N., R.4E.
The Shelton Farmstead is an L-shaped parcel of land commencing at the center line of CTH K, then 216.72 feet east along the rear of the granary, small animal barn and machine shed, then 250.56 feet south along the rear of the barn, then west 214 feet along the south side of the barn, silo, milk house and windmill to the center line of CTH K, then north 112.53 feet along the center line of CTH K, then west 198.51 feet along the south side of the garage, then north 145.41 feet along the rear of the house yard, then east 198.06 along the north side of the house yard to the point of beginning at the center point of CTH K.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Shelton Farmstead property includes all of the buildings presently associated with the farmstead and excludes the agricultural land originally associated with the farm. The agricultural acreage does not contribute to the significance of the property. The property was surveyed in 2003 when it was separated legally from its associated farmland. The boundaries set out at that time were used as the historic boundary of the property.

.....End

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Shelton, William and Mary, Farmstead
Town of Seven Mile Creek, Juneau County, Wisconsin

Section photos Page 1

Insert

Shelton, William and Mary, Farmstead
N2397 CTH K
Town of Seven Mile Creek
Juneau County, Wisconsin
Photographs by Joan Rausch
2003
Negatives at the Wisconsin Historical Society

The above information applies to all the following photographs, except where noted.

Photograph #1 of 26
Shelton Farmhouse (front elevation)
View from east

Photograph #2 of 26
Shelton Farmhouse (north elevation)
View from southeast

Photograph #3 of 26
Shelton Farmhouse rear elevation)
View from northwest

Photograph #4 of 26
Shelton Farmhouse (interior: dining area)
View from north

Photograph #5 of 26
Shelton Farmhouse (interior: living room)
View from south

Photograph #6 of 26
Shelton Farmhouse (interior: kitchen)
View from east

Photograph #7 of 26
Shelton Farmhouse (interior: original stairway)
View from east

Photograph #8 of 26
Shelton Farmhouse (interior: upstairs hallway)
View from north

Photograph #9 of 26
Shelton Farmhouse (interior: upstairs bedroom)
View from northwest

Photograph #10 of 26
Shelton Farmhouse (interior: upstairs bath)
View from east

Photograph #11 of 26
Shelton Farmhouse (interior: foundation)
View from south

Photograph #12 of 26
Shelton Farmstead Garage
View from east

Photograph #13 of 26
Shelton Farmstead Barn (exterior)
View from northwest

Photograph #14 of 26
Shelton Farmstead Barn (exterior)
View from southwest

Photograph #15 of 26
Shelton Farmstead Barn (exterior)
View from southeast

Photograph #16 of 26
Shelton Farmstead Barn (interior: stable)
View from east

Photograph #17 of
Shelton Farmstead Barn (interior: hay mow)
View from east

Photograph #18 of 26
Shelton Farmstead Barn (interior: hay mow)
View from west

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Shelton, William and Mary, Farmstead
Town of Seven Mile Creek, Juneau County, Wisconsin

Section photos Page 2

Photograph #19 of 26
Shelton Farmstead Barn (interior: King Ventilation system)
View from southwest

Photograph #20 of 26
Shelton Farmstead Barn (interior: King Ventilation system)
View from west

Photograph #21 of 26
Shelton Farmstead Windmill
View from southwest

Photograph #22 of 26
Shelton Farmstead Machine Shed
View from southwest

Photograph #23 of 26
Shelton Farmstead Machine Shed (interior)
View from west

Photograph #24 of 26
Shelton Farmstead Granary
View from southwest

Photograph #25 of 26
Shelton Farmstead Granary (interior)
View from west

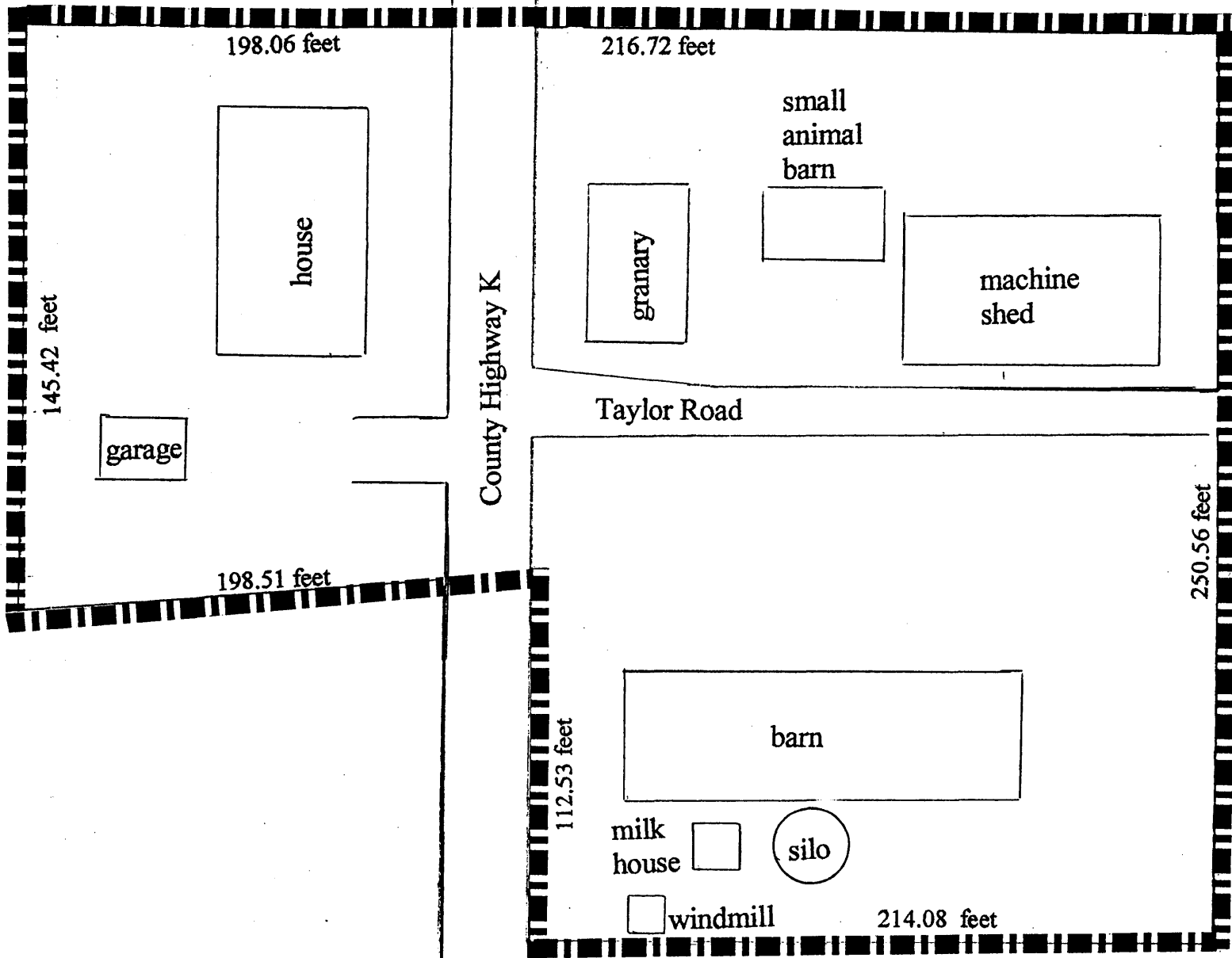
Photograph #26 of 26
Shelton Farmstead Small Animal Shed
View from southwest

End

William and Mary Shelton Farmstead
N2397 County Highway K
Town of Seven Mile Creek
Juneau County Wisconsin

SITE MAP

2003



LEGEND

□ contributing

▬▬▬ surveyed farmstead boundary

Not to scale



28 feet

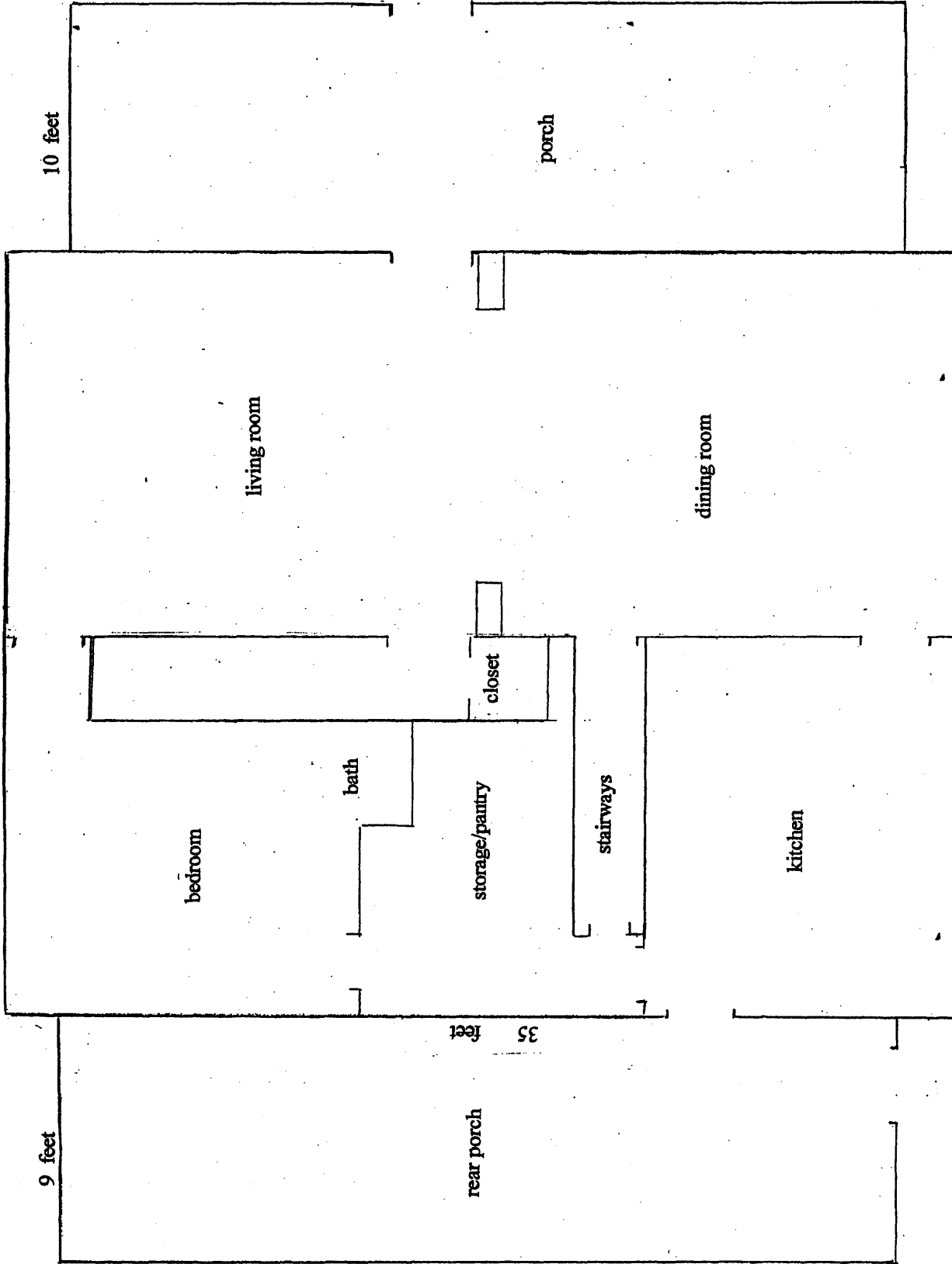
9 feet

10 feet

31 feet

35 feet

31 feet



Scale: 1 inch = 4 feet

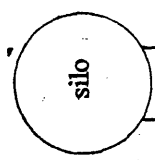
William and Mary Shelton Farmstead
 Town of Seven Mile Creek, Juneau County Wisconsin
 Farm House Floor Plan, 1st Floor
 2003

William and Mary Shelton Farmstead
N2397 CTH K, Town of Seven Mile Creek
Juneau County Wisconsin

Barn Floor Plan, Lower story/stable

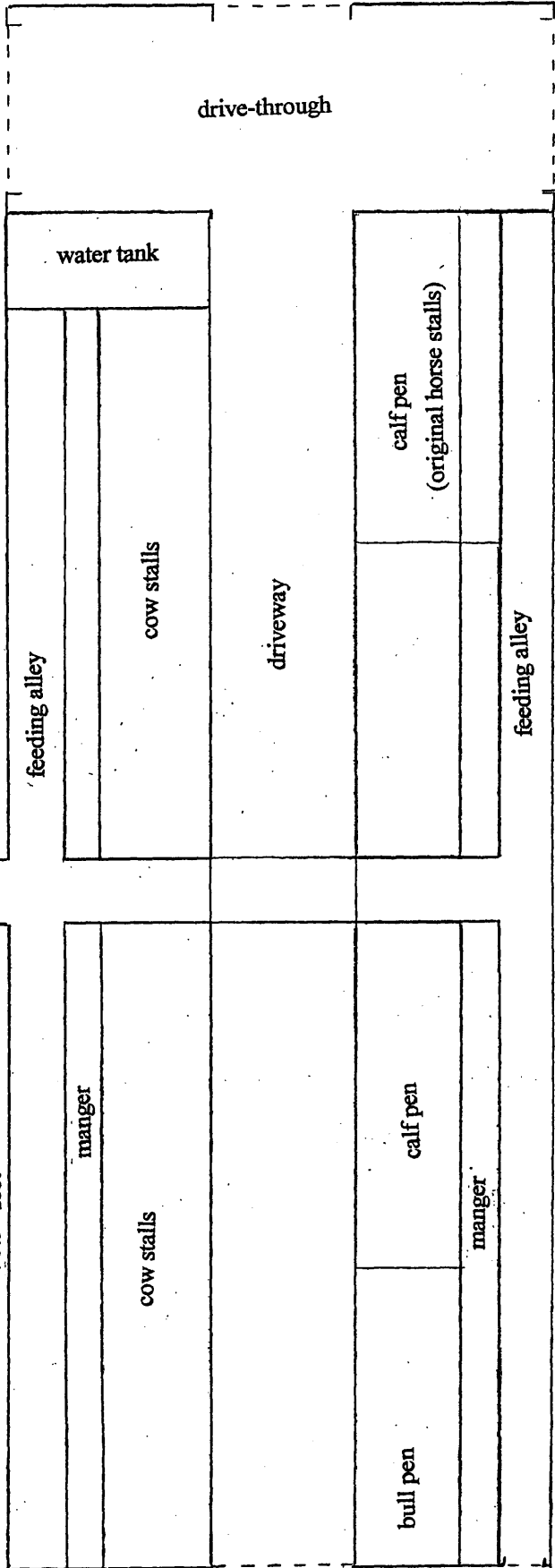
2003

Scale: 1 inch = 8 feet



95.5 feet

35 feet



drive-through

water tank

feeding alley

cow stalls

driveway

bull pen

calf pen

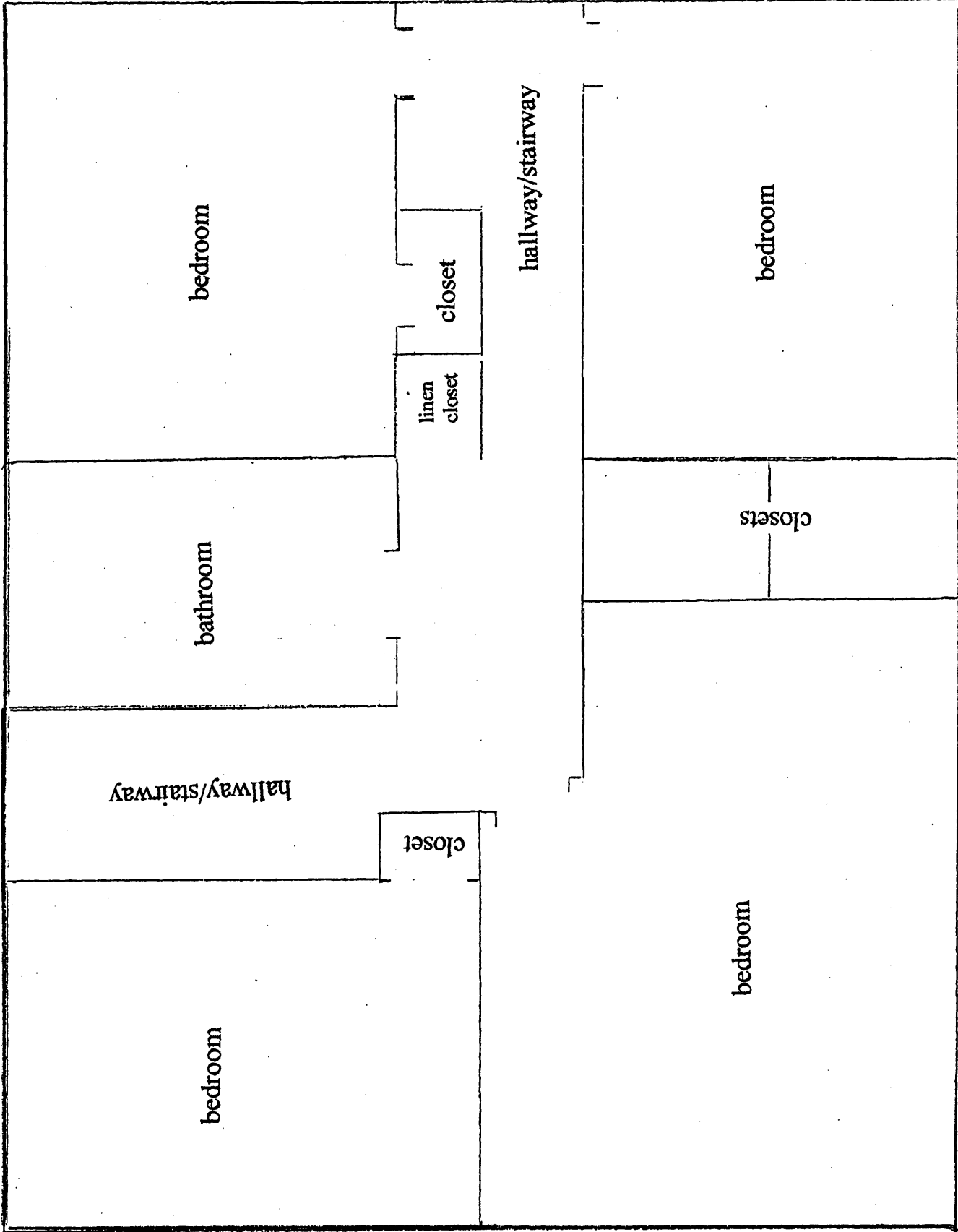
manger

calf pen
(original horse stalls)

feeding alley

water tank

35 feet



28 feet

William and Mary Shelton Farmstead
 Town of Seven Mile Creek, Juneau County Wisconsin
 Farm House Floor Plan, 2nd Floor
 2003



Scale: 1 inch = 4 feet