

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0664804

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 15 1978

DATE ENTERED OCT 3 1978

DATA SHEET
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC **** Raymond Rebarchek Colony Farm (AHRs SITE NO. ANC-134)

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *S of Palmer off*
Mile 40 1/2 Glenn Highway

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Palmer

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Alaska, at Large

STATE

Alaska

VICINITY OF

CODE
02

COUNTY

Matanuska-Susitna Div. 170 ✓

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Raymond Rebarchek

STREET & NUMBER
Box 464

CITY, TOWN

Palmer

VICINITY OF

STATE

Alaska 99645

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Recorder Office, Palmer District

STREET & NUMBER District Magistrate Building

CITY, TOWN

Palmer

STATE

Alaska 99645

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Alaska Heritage Resource Survey (AHRs)

DATE

September 30, 1977

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Alaska Division of Parks
Office of History & Archaeology, 619 Warehouse Drive, Suite 210

CITY, TOWN

Anchorage

STATE

Alaska 99501

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Raymond Rabarchek Colony Farm consists of the original 40 acre tract which Mr. Rebarchek drew from the hat as Tract #52 in 1935. The 40 acres consist of a 25 acre hayfield at the west portion of the tract, approximately one acre in natural vegetation in a narrow strip along the north edge of the tract and bordering the secondary road which runs along the north line, two acres of house and barn yard, five acres of pruned and thinned forest just south of the buildings' yard, and the remaining 7 acres in hayfield and pasture, located in the southeast section of the tract. The entire tract is in good farm condition, having been for most of its existence the headquarters of a Grade A dairy farm. It is surrounded by wire fencing.

The two acres of house and barn yard is the site for ten buildings, four silos, a large and pleasant yard around the house, and fenced barnyard. The house, which was altered from its original design with the addition of a large two storey porch on the south side and stucco to cover the log exterior, in 1953, is in excellent condition. It has a full basement, open except for a 6'8" root cellar with concrete walls in the northwest corner, with concrete walls, and is accessible through a four-foot chute at the west side and a stairway from the ground level floor in the approximate center of the basement. The basement is used for the same purposes it was built: the storage of canned goods and produce for the winter. The ground floor of the house consists of four rooms, with a closed-in porch at the south entrance. The porch measures 8' X 18' and currently serves as a utility room. One then enters the kitchen from the porch. To the right is a large living room area (17' X 25') which is partially divided by an archway midway the twenty-five feet, the archway lying east-west. This archway hides the support running through the middle of the house. The northwest quarter of the house consists of the bedroom and bath, accessible from the living room. The very center of the ground floor is used as the stairway up to the second floor, beneath which is the stairway to the basement. The second floor is divided into three bedrooms.

Across the driveway to the west of the house is a small greenhouse, of glass. Just past the greenhouse, and further to the west is a large mobile home, temporarily located on the Rebarchek property and housing one of his children. To the southeast of the house approximately twenty-five feet is the old wellhouse, which Mr. Rebarchek built from spruce logs during the winter of 1935-36, to protect the water well; it is twelve feet by sixteen feet, in excellent condition, and is currently being used as a storage building and sauna.

To the south of the wellhouse is the barn. The main barn, built in the spring of 1936, of three-sided spruce logs, measures 32'X32'X32'. The walls above the eight-foot high log walls, are composed of rough cut spruce lumber. The roof is gambrel, topped by a hip-roofed airvent. The second floor area is used as hay storage. The ground floor originally was rough lumber, but this rotted out and Mr. Rebarchek gradually replaced it with concrete. The space is filled with stanchions, excepting the northwest corner (8' X 8') which is a feedroom. In 1950, to upgrade this barn to Grade A condition, Mr. Rebarchek added two rooms to the barn: the milking parlor, of cement blocks and concrete floor, and measuring 20'X32', and the milk room, separated from the milking parlor by a four foot hallway and two doors, and measuring 12'X16'. The milk room also has a concrete floor and cement block walls.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Rebarchek drew 5.23.35 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In the summer of 1934, Jacob Baker, assistant administrator of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, visited the Matanuska Valley with a group of enthusiastic Anchorage businessmen, interested in increased settlement of the valley. Baker was impressed with the possibilities for agriculture in the Matanuska Valley, and in a visit with Governor of Alaska Troy and O.F. Ohlson, the director of the Alaska Railroad, discussed the possibilities of an agricultural settlement.

The colony idea developed rapidly, both in Alaska and in Washington, D.C. The Department of the Interior cooperated with the FERA in planning the colony, and by the first quarter of 1935, selection of colonists and the procurement and movement of supplies, equipment, and animals was initiated. Of the two hundred projects the FERA implemented throughout the nation to battle the Depression, the Matanuska Colonization Project is the only example of agricultural colonization. In later years, many reasons have come to light for the colonization project, and no doubt there is some merit in each of the reasons; there is no doubt, however, that the Matanuska Colony had a heavy impact on Southcentral Alaska. Despite the replacement of many of the original colonists, the fact is, they were replaced, rather than leaving an empty homestead in the valley. The farming community in the Matanuska Valley has been the most intensive and extensive effort at agriculture in the forty-ninth state. It has been the only effort by the federal government at agricultural colonization.

The Ray Rebarchek house was the first built in the colony, perhaps because Mr. Rebarchek had already begun a house made of round spruce logs in his house site. None of the colonists were allowed to build their own buildings, this work was accomplished by temporary workers under the WPA program, and as Mr. Rebarchek was one of the close neighbors of the WPA camp, Camp Perkins, it didn't do at all for him to outwork them. The foremen came to his building site and informed the colonist that they were going to build his house but that they couldn't build it as he was doing it. The plans called for three-sided logs, so they dismatted his half-up walls and sawed them. However, they sawed them any and every width, which when they attempted to build with the irregular timbers, proved to be unsatisfactory. So, for a third time, with six inch three sided spruce logs this time, the walls rose. The house was not square, but by this time the men and foremen was so impatient that they continued the walls. One night Mr. Rebarchek went to his house a-building, and with the use of some timbers and some ingenuity, squared his house; the next morning, the crew arrived and continued building, never the wiser.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Extensive interviews by Keline (Kelly) Fike with Rebarchek and other colonists; tapes and notes at Southcentral Research Library, Wasilla, AK. ARRC Records, Palmer, Alaska.
 Atwood, Evangeline, We Shall Be Remembered, Alaska Methodist Univ., Anchorage, AK., 1966.
 Miller, Orlando W., The Frontier in Alaska and the Matanuska Valley, Yale University Press, 1975.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 40 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	0,6	318,712,4,5	6,812,818,1,0	B	0,6	319,812,4,0	6,812,815,0,5
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	0,6	318,819,0,1	6,812,815,1,0	D	0,6	318,619,0,5	6,812,818,1,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

387-000

NW 1/4 SE 1/4 Sec. 8, T. 17 N., R. 2 E.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kelly Fike, surveyor

October 11, 1977

ORGANIZATION

Alaska State Fair, Inc.

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 1128

TELEPHONE

(907) 745-4827

CITY OR TOWN

Palmer

STATE

Alaska 99645

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

William W. W. W.

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

MARCH 9, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST: *William W. W. W.*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 DATE: *10/3/78*
 DATE: *9/29/78*

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1 of 1

The east wall of the main barn has three silos lined up along it. Two of the silos are thirty feet high and the third silo is fourteen feet high.

South of the barn is the chicken house, which runs east-west 30'X16'. It was built in 1937. The chicken house is about forty feet south of the barn. A further fifty feet south is the structure which served as a temporary barn until the main barn was constructed. It was built in 1935, to house the Rebarchek cow and calf, and the work horse. It measures 16'X20', and is made of three-sided spruce logs, with a shed type roof. The chicken house is also composed of spruce logs, round and running upright; its roof is also shed type.

West of the main barn sixty feet is a twelve foot high silo, made of corrugated steel. Next to this silo, just south, is a small shed used for storage of small farm equipment. West of this shed about one hundred feet is a quonset hut, running north-south. A second quonset hut is located east of the barn about two hundred feet, and lies north-south.

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ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1 of 1

The Rebarcheks asked for the basement, full size, that had been promised them in the States before they came to Alaska. "No," said the foremen, "we don't have time to build basements." So, Mr. Rebarchek dug his own basement after the house was built.

The crew then threw up a temporary barn, and moved on to another farm.

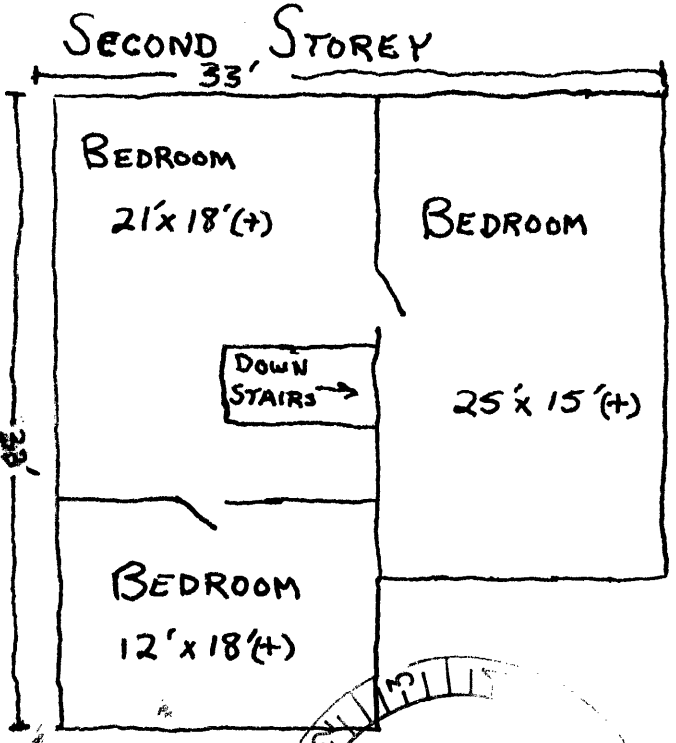
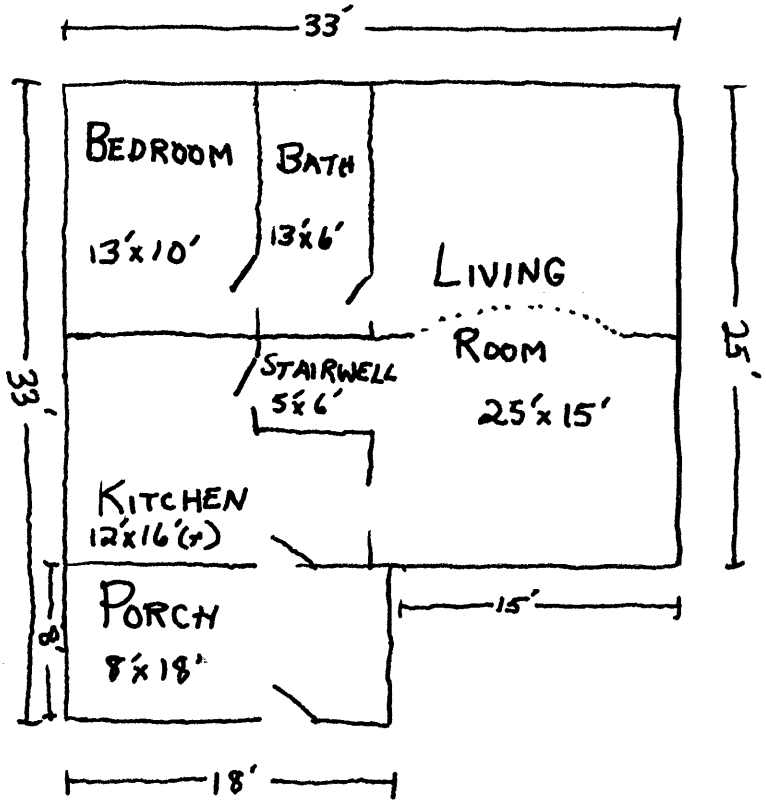
The forty-acre tract, Number 52, has been used for agriculture exclusively since 1935. Mr. Rebarchek has done all the farming on the land since he moved into the house. His barn was also the first built, of the three-sided spruce logs turned out by the community's sawmill.

There have been a number of visitors to the Rebarchek farm in recent years, partly because of its close proximity to the Glenn Highway, the city of Palmer, and its next-door neighbor, the Alaska State Fair. The people come to see a master gardener at work. The world's record cabbage was grown in the garden next to the barn, and an eighty pound head of cabbage is growing there this fall, perhaps a record-breaker.

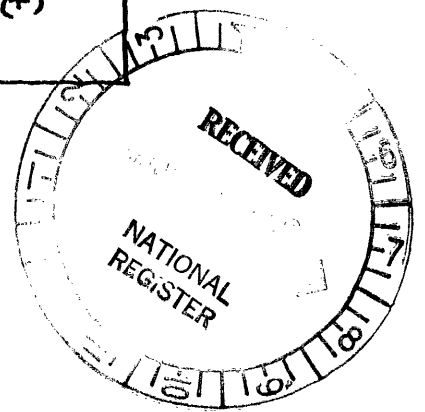
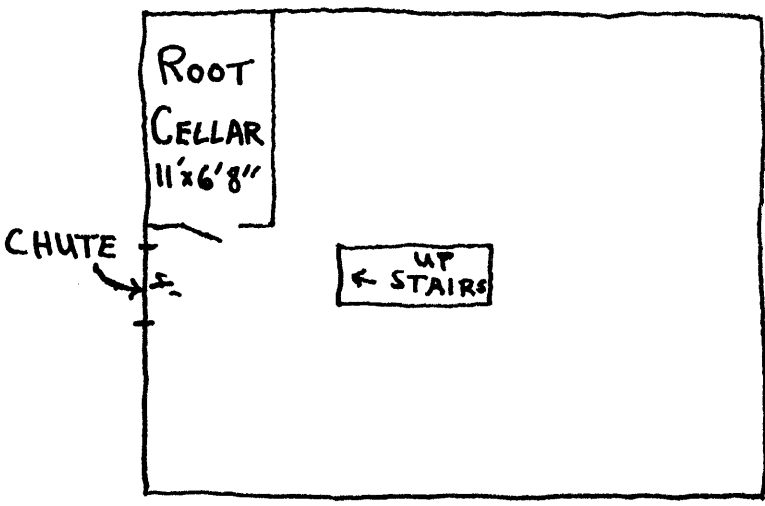
ORIGINAL COLONY HOME : RAYMOND REBARCHEK



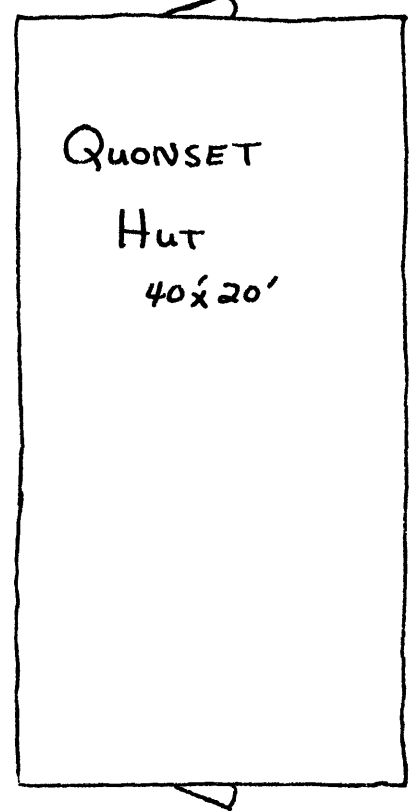
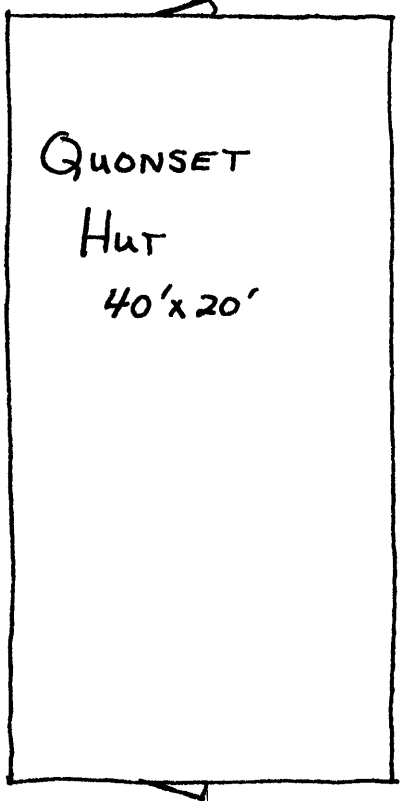
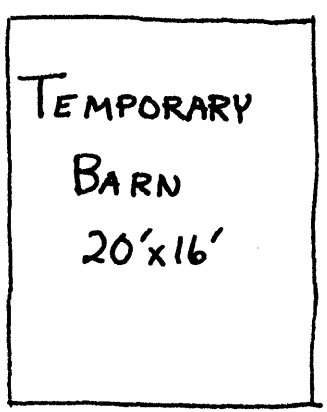
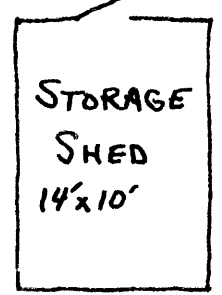
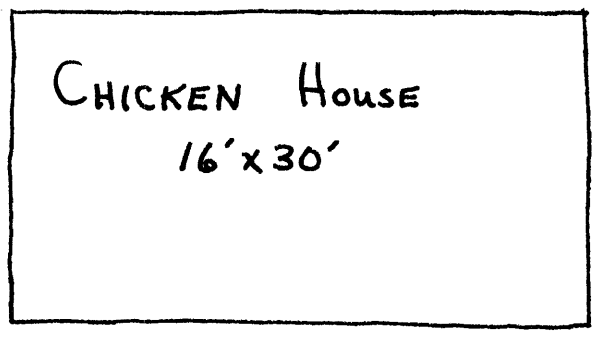
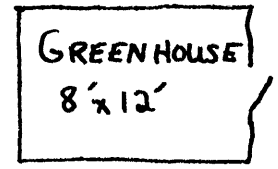
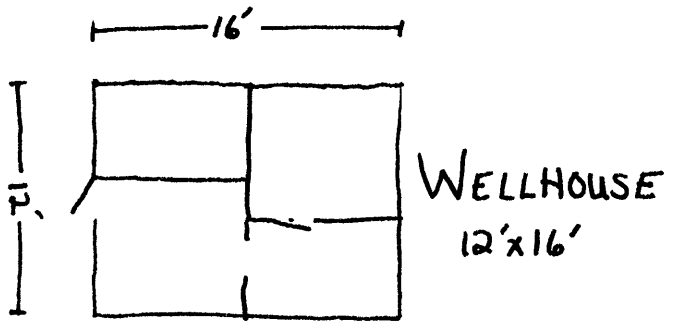
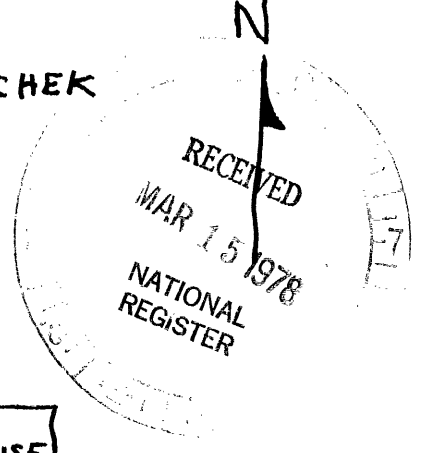
MAIN FLOOR



BASEMENT 25' x 33' x 8'

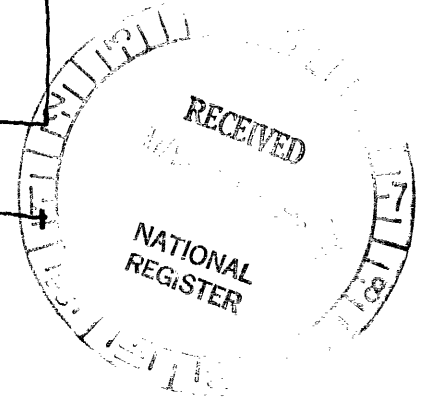
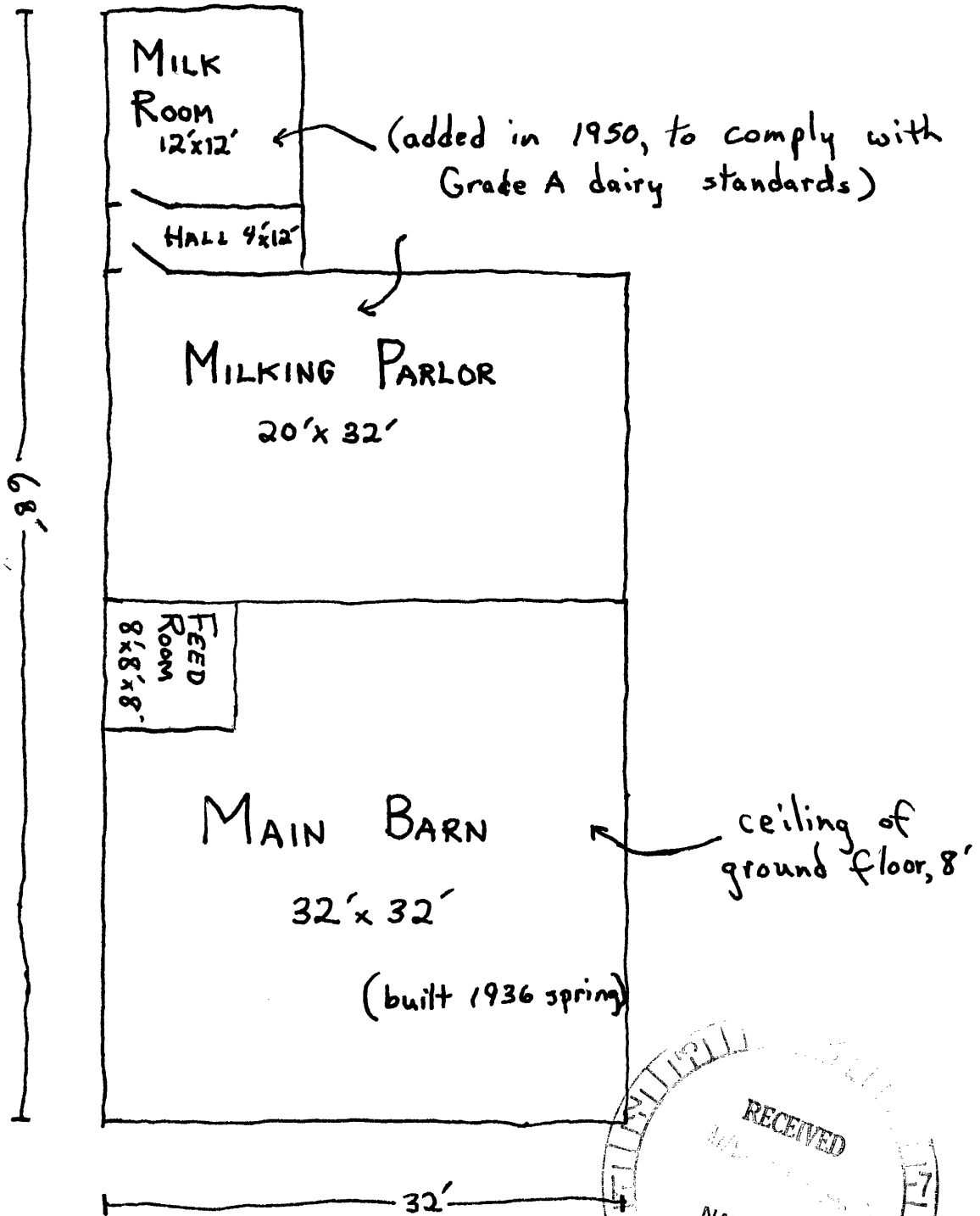


FARM OUTBUILDINGS: RAYMOND REBARCHEK



ORIGINAL COLONY BARN: RAYMOND REBARCHEK

N



SKETCH OF COLONY TRACT #52: RAYMOND

REBARCHEK

40 acres total



SECONDARY ROAD

quonset hut

NATURAL WOODED AREA

temporary mobile home

greenhouse parking

Home

WOODED AREA

wellhouse

25 ACRE

quonset hut

silo shed

BARN

garden area

HAYFIELD

pruned trees w/ some pasturage

silos

chicken house

temporary barn

(fenced w/ barb wire)

HAYFIELD

1320'

1320'

