

NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 8/86)  
NPS/CHS Word Processor Format  
(Approved 03/88)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

JAN 09 1989

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

**NATIONAL  
REGISTER**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable". For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printers in 12 pitch. Use only 25% or greater cotton content bond paper.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name: DeLaney Barn 5AH.457  
other names/site number: The Silo, The Milk Barn, Bresnahan Ranch (5AH.271)

**2. Location**

street & number: 200 South Chambers Road (N/A)not for publication  
city, town: Aurora (N/A)vicinity  
state: Colorado code: CO county: Arapahoe code:005 zip code:80012

**3. Classification**

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
( ) private	(x) building(s)		
(x) public-local	( ) district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
( ) public-State	( ) site	_____	_____ sites
( ) public-Federal	( ) structure	_____	_____ structures
	( ) object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

No. of contributing resources  
previously listed in the  
National Register 0

**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this (x) 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 (x) meets ( ) does not meet the National Register criteria.  
( ) See continuation sheet.

Barbara Sudler 1-3-89  
Signature of certifying official Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Colorado Historical Society  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ( ) meets ( ) does not meet the National Register criteria. ( ) See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Commenting or Other Official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal Agency and Bureau

**5. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

(x) entered in the National Register.  
( ) See continuation sheet

Andrew Byers 2/9/89

( ) determined eligible for the National Register. ( ) See continuation sheet

\_\_\_\_\_

( ) determined not eligible for the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_

( ) removed from the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_

( ) other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACE  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 2

DeLaney Barn

built slightly into a southwest facing slope. This berming may be the result of the construction of an earthen reservoir embankment to the east. The first story doorway faces south-southwest in the direction of the farmhouse located a quarter of a mile away across Toll Gate Creek.

The installation date of the existing doorway is unknown. The original opening for the silo appears to have been a trapezoid opening approximately 34 x 48 inches cut into the eastern elevation and lower portion of the roof. This opening would have been accessed by a conveyor for the purpose of filling the structure with silage. The silage was possibly removed through an opening and chute on the southwest side of the building which has since been replaced by the existing ground floor doorway.<sup>5</sup> It appears that when the doorway was cut other alterations were also made to convert the silo into its present form -- a barn.

These modifications include a second story floor, a second story doorway on the east side, exterior windows, and stanchions on the lower floor. The silo roof opening has been sealed and today, a large side opening exists directly below the original. The dimensions of the new door are 34 X 71 inches. Most of the remodeling took place on the interior. A plank floor was installed seven feet above the original dirt floor. It is of post and beam construction with support stringers of rough cut 2 X 8 inch pine or fir over which is laid 3/4 X 4 inch wood flooring. There is a central opening in the floor to the lower level for cattle feeding. The interior walls are clad with 1/2 X 5 inch tongue and groove planed lumber of studs roughly spaced 12 to 14 inches. The dimensions of the studs themselves are 1 5/8 X 7 1/2 inches. The first floor door is flanked by four windows on the left side and two on the right. In addition, three other windows are found on the east and north sides. Eight of the nine windows face east, south and west. This may indicate a desire to add light and winter sun to the interior. Apparently sixteen windows were envisioned at one time but only nine were completely cut through the exterior clapboard. The eight unfinished openings on the interior have since been repaired with newer materials. The floor plan consists of a central feeding crib which had six feeding bins. The only material utilized in this construction was wood. No commercial or prefabricated materials were used.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACE  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 3

DeLaney Barn

Today the weathered building stands vacant. Old lumber and materials stored in the barn have been sifted through and strewn about by vandals. The walls of the loft are covered top to bottom with graffiti. Some of the support studs are rotting and need replacement as do sections of the exterior clapboard walls. On the exterior, there are numerous small metal plates nailed over woodpecker holes, however, new generations of woodpeckers have made new holes and are now residing within the walls.

The barn sits on a one acre site near the banks of West Toll Gate Creek. The stream has retained its original course over the years, however, now it has cut deeply into the ground and no longer flows into the reservoir directly east of the barn. According to Alice DeLaney Crowley, the family simply walked across a foot bridge laid over the stream. Today erosion has lowered the creek bed by at least fifteen feet. The banks are nearly vertical, unstable, and erode constantly. The barn is not now in any danger, yet a flash flood or sudden runoff could change the course of the flow and become a potential hazard. Otherwise, the natural features of the property appear to have changed little since Alice DeLaney Crowley was a small girl.

Paradoxically, the expansion of Chambers Road threatened the existence of the farm, yet without its presence the thousands of Aurorans who drive by daily would not have the opportunity to pass by and observe a landmark of their community. The entire property, named the DeLaney Farm, is part of an open space project sponsored by the City of Aurora. Over the next three to five years all of the buildings and structures will be stabilized and the major structures, including the barn, will be restored. Stabilization of the structure is scheduled to begin in the spring of 1988 and will follow the Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACE  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 4  
DeLaney Barn

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<sup>1</sup>Eric Sloane, An Age of Barns (New York: Funk and Wagnalls, 1975?), pp. 41-43.

<sup>2</sup>Martha Hagedorn-Krass, "Round Barns: A Part of Kansas' Building Heritage," Kansas Preservation, November / December 1987, p. 5.

<sup>3</sup>Literature searches and personal conversations with Chris Pfaff of the Colorado State Historical Society (Centennial Farms Project), Barbara Norgren of the Colorado State Historical Society, Mary Humstone of the National Trust for Historic Preservation (Barn Again!), and Dr. James E. Hansen of the Colorado State University Archives have led to the conclusion that this may be the only historic round barn in Colorado.

<sup>4</sup>Hagedorn-Krass, p. 5.

<sup>5</sup>Alice DeLaney Crowley, personal communication January 13, 1988. Ms. Crowley, who is the oldest living descendant of John and Bridget DeLaney, remembers the 'silo' while it was in use.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:      ( ) nationally      ( ) statewide      (X) locally

Applicable National Register Criteria      (x) A ( ) B (x) C ( ) D  
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)      ( ) A ( ) B ( ) C ( ) D ( ) E ( ) F ( ) G

**Areas of Significance**

(enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture

Architecture

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

N/A

**Period of Significance**

c.1900 to 1938

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Delaney Barn is a rare example of round barns in Colorado. In fact, it may be the only round barn in Colorado. The barn has architectural significance because, as the only known round barn in Colorado, it is the best example of a type and method of construction. The barn is also significant to the broad patterns of the history of agriculture because it is representative of the "new" turn of the century ideology of "scientific" agriculture. The barn evokes a time when agriculture was developing on the Colorado high plains and is a striking example of the craftsmanship, technology, and expertise employed by area farmers.<sup>1</sup> The DeLaney Farm is also known as the Bresnahan Ranch, because of a subsequent owner.

The barn was constructed near the turn of the century on a farmstead owned by the John DeLaney family. DeLaney arrived in Colorado in 1862, an emigrant to Central City from Neenagh, Tipperary County, Ireland. He and his wife, Bridget, accompanied her parents to Central City and operated the Central City Bakery from 1862 until 1870, when they began raising horses on Toll Gate Creek, east of Denver.<sup>2</sup> DeLaney became keeper of the Toll Gate Stage Station on the North Smoky Hill Trail, an early route from the east into the Denver region. The Toll Gate station was an active location at this time -- tolls of ten cents per passenger and twenty five cents per horse were collected, as well as helping traffic cross the bridge that spanned the creek.<sup>3</sup> In addition, the DeLanays assisted passengers, served meals, and handled postal duties.<sup>4</sup>

(x) See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACE  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 2

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DeLaney Barn

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Agriculture in Colorado from the late 1870s to the early 1900s was a thriving industry, supplying Denver and the mining towns with needed food and other supplies. The great open prairie around Denver was being cultivated to fill those needs.<sup>5</sup> Many farmers had to adapt to a new type of agriculture, dryland farming. They were open and willing to try innovative ideas that might make their task easier. Much of what they learned was by observation, exchanging information, reading agricultural journals, bulletins, and books.<sup>6</sup> The round barn is one example of the progressive techniques farmers employed to succeed at the difficult task before them.

At the turn of the century, the DeLaney barn was referred to as "The Silo" and, because no specific source for the barn design is available, the use of this term may account for its unusual design.<sup>7</sup> The first reported use of silos occurred in New York state in 1878, and siloing itself was considered a revolutionary method of storing crops.<sup>8</sup> It appears, from the materials and dimensions, that the DeLaney silo never functioned efficiently, resulting in its conversion for use as a barn.

In the period between 1900 and 1910, many round barns were constructed throughout the Midwest. Publicists of the "new scientific" agriculture claimed that these barns were time and labor saving, had more interior space, and were more resistant to the wind than the usual gable roofed barns. Others countered that round and polygonal barns "often lacked adequate ventilation and lighting, and were considered expensive to build."<sup>9</sup> Additionally, such a barn required astonishing skill and expertise on the part of the carpenter. In comparing photographs of this barn with others surviving in Kansas, it is particularly notable that this example used horizontal placement of the clapboards, and that it is truly round, rather than merely polygonal. These attributes, together with the craftsmanship evident in the roof trusses, demonstrate the builder's skill, and meet the National Register's criteria for significance of buildings which represent a type, period, and method of construction.

Fortunately, what remains in Aurora today is one of the most striking farm buildings in Colorado. This perfectly round barn fits especially well into the early twentieth century wave of round and polygonal barn construction.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACE  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 3

DeLaney Barn

An equally important consideration is that traditional farming and ranching are declining in America and as a result, the barn of the past is becoming an endangered species.<sup>10</sup> Every attempt to preserve, protect, or call attention to these special vernacular buildings is a tribute to our agricultural heritage. Also significant is the DeLaney Barn's link to the progressive agricultural movement which has contributed to America's role as the leading producer of farm products in the world. Today, as a part of a municipal open space project, the DeLaney Barn gives the Aurora community a sense of its roots -- a direct link with the area's past, and serves as a focal point for the community's pride and its appreciation.

Endnotes for Section 8

<sup>1</sup>David McComb, "Agriculture and Society of Colorado," (Fort Collins: n.p., 1981), pp. 9-18.

<sup>2</sup>Rebecca A. Hunt, "The Gully DeLaney Site: A Sense of Place. An Interpretive and Exhibit Plan," October 3, 1986, Manuscript Aurora History Museum, Aurora, Colorado, p. 4.

<sup>3</sup>Margaret Long, A.B., M.D., The Smoky Hill Trail: Following the Old Historic Pioneer Trails on Modern Highways, (Denver, Co.: The W.H. Kistler Stationary Co., 1953).

<sup>4</sup>Oscar O. Winther, The Transportation Frontier: The Trans-Mississippi West, 1865-1890, (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1966), p. 66.

<sup>5</sup>William E. Pabor, Colorado As An Agricultural State, (New York: Orange Judd Co., 1883), pp. 27-36.

<sup>6</sup>McComb, "Agriculture," p. 9.

<sup>7</sup>Alice DeLaney Crowley, interview with author, January 13, 1988.

<sup>8</sup>Frank Sherman Peer, Siloing: Ensilage and Stable Construction. rev. ed., (New York: the author, 1885, 1900), p. xi.

<sup>9</sup>Martha Hagedorn-Krass, "Round Barns: A Part of Kansas' Building Heritage," Kansas Preservation, November / December 1987, p.5.

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACE  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 4

DeLaney Barn

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<sup>10</sup>Mary Humstone, "How Your Barn Can Make History," Successful Farming, June 1987, p.10.

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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Arthur, Eric Dudley, The Barn: Vanishing Landmark in North America. Boston: New York Graphic Society, 1972.

(x) See continuation sheet

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- ( ) 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:
- ( ) State Historic Preservation Office
  - ( ) Other State agency
  - ( ) Federal agency
  - (x) Local government
  - ( ) University
  - ( ) Other

Specify Repository:  
Aurora History Museum, Aurora, Colorado

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of property: 1 acre

**UTM References**

A 1|3 5|1|6|5|0|0| 4|3|9|5|7|6|0|  
Zone Easting Northing

B | | | | | | | | | | | |  
Zone Easting Northing

C | | | | | | | | | | | |  
Zone Easting Northing

D | | | | | | | | | | | |  
Zone Easting Northing

( ) See continuation sheet

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

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Beginning at a point 1550 feet north and 460 feet east of the Northeast Corner of the intersection of East Alameda Avenue and South Chambers Road then continue East 208.7 feet, thence North 208.7 feet to the point of beginning. The boundary of the nomination is approximately 1 acre.

( ) See continuation sheet

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**Boundary Justification**

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The boundary includes that portion of the DeLaney Farm which has been historically associated with the round barn.

( ) See continuation sheet

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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Name/Title: Ramona G. Hutchinson and Lewis A. Hutchinson

Organization: City of Aurora, Parks and Recreation Date: January, 1988

Street & Number: 2701 West Lake Telephone: (303) 484-7601

City or Town: Fort Collins State: CO Zip Code: 80521

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACE  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 2

DeLaney Barn

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- Ditmer, Joanne. "The Past Has a Place in Aurora's Present, DeLaney Farm Takes On New Life," The Denver Post, Living and Arts, July 31, 1987, Sec.3, 1e and 2e.
- Glasier, Lloyd J. "Preliminary Report on the Tool Gate Stage Station, Fort Morgan Cutoff and N. Smoky Hill Routes." Manuscript Aurora History Center. March 1981.
- Hafen, LeRoy and Ann W. Hafen. Colorado: A Story of the State and its People. Denver: The Old West Publishing Co., 1944.
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- Humstone, Mary and John Walter. "How your barn Can Make History," Successful Farming, Des Moines: Merideth Corporation, June 1987, p.85.
- Long, Margaret, A.B., M.D. the Smoky Hill Trail: Following the Old Historic Pioneer Trails on the Modern Highways. Denver: The W.H. Kistler Co. 1953.
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- Pabor, William E. Colorado As An Agricultural State. Its Farms, Fields, and Garden Lands. New York: Orange Judd Company. 1883.
- Peer, Frank Sherman. Soiling: Soiling Crops and Ensilage-Barn, Stable, and Silo Construction. rev. ed. New York: the author. 1900.
- Radford, William A. Practical Country Buildings: A Handbook of Economical and Common Sense Plans for the Construction of Dwellings, Barns, Stock, and Implement Sheds, Icehouses, and All Types of Farm Structures. Wausau, Wisconsin: The Northern Hemlock and Hardwood Manufacturers' Association. 1912.

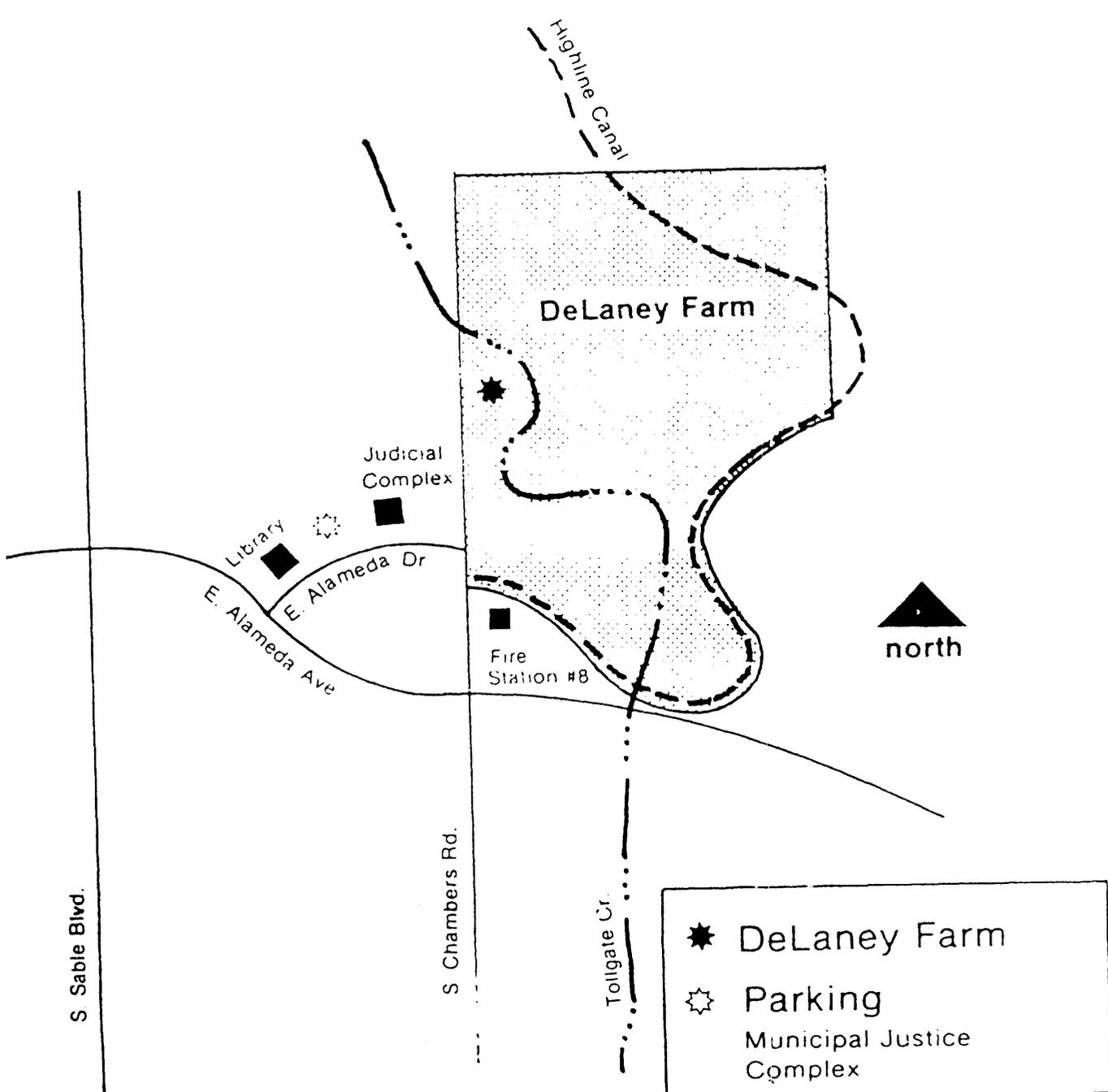
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACE  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 3  
DeLaney Barn

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- Root, Frank A., William E. Connelley. The Overland Stage to California: Personal Reminiscences and Authentic History of the Great Overland Stage Line and Pony Express From the Missouri River to the Pacific Ocean. Topeka, Kansas: the author, 1901.
- Rudofsky, Bernard. Architecture Without Architects: A Short Introduction to Non-Pedigreed Architecture. New York: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1965.
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- Steinel, Alvin T., and D.W. Working. History of Agriculture in Colorado 1858 to 1926. Fort Collins: The State Agricultural College, 1926.
- Stone, Wilbur Fisk, ed. History of Colorado. 4 vols. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1918 - 1919.

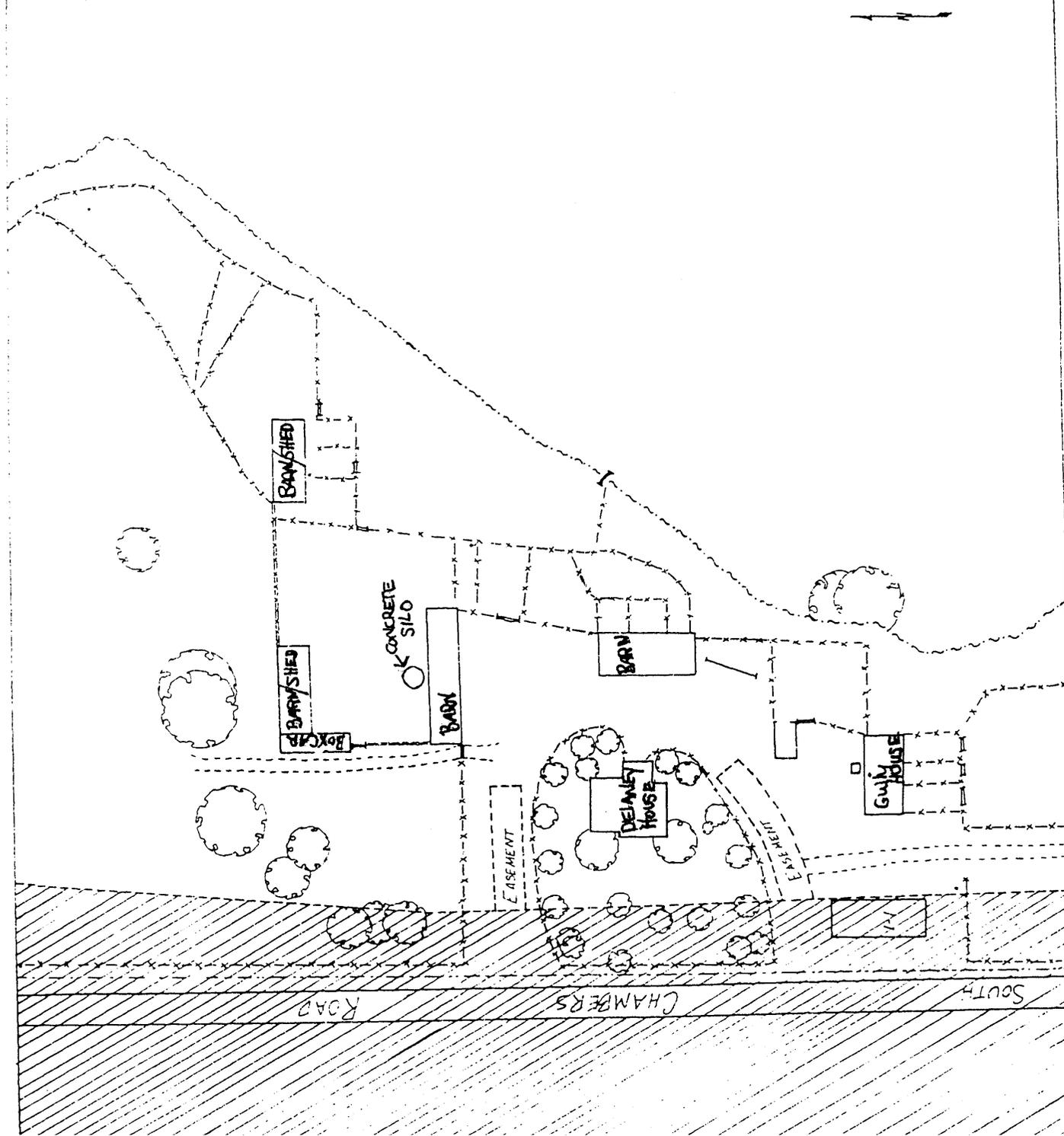


- ★ DeLaney Farm
- ☆ Parking
- ☆ Municipal Justice Complex

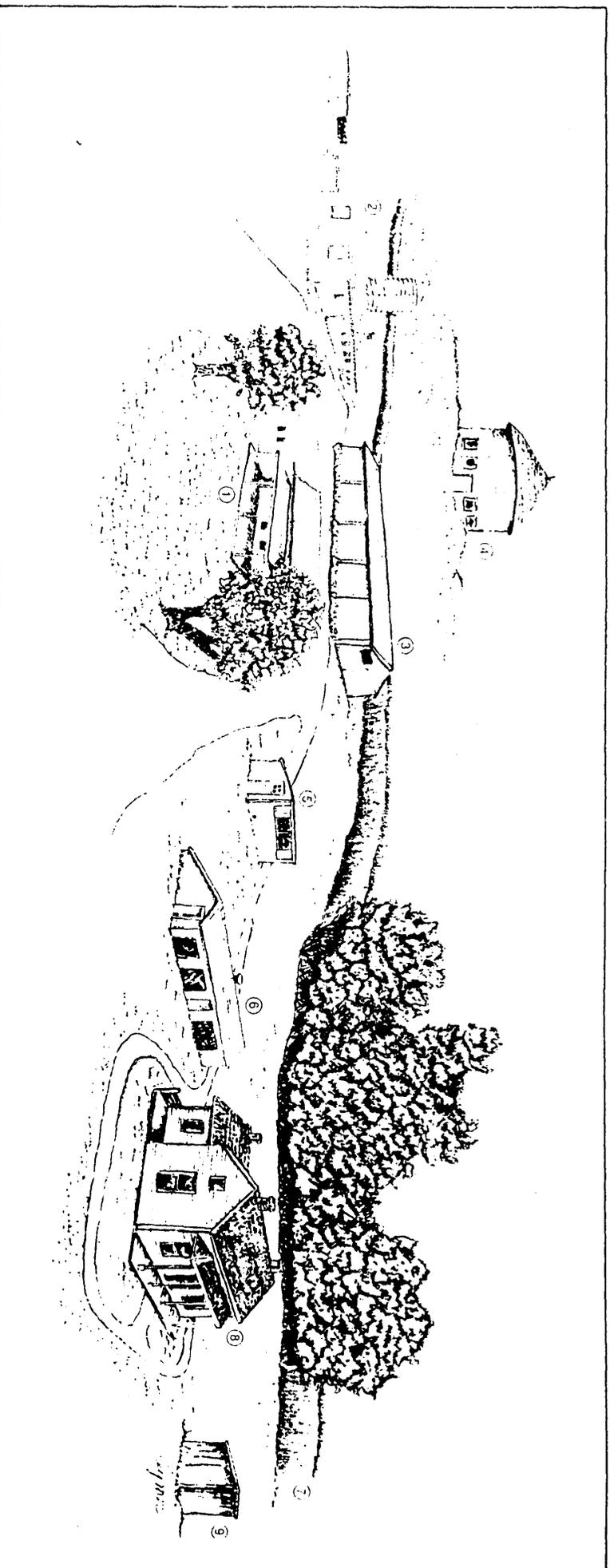
ROUND  
BARN

SCALE: 1" = 50'

KEY	
	WEST TOLLGATE CREEK
	FENCE AND GATE
	SIX FOOT WOOD FENCE
	DIRT ACCESS ROAD
	BURIED GAS PIPELINE
	S. CHAMBERS EASEMENT
	TREES AND FOLIAGE
	CLOTHESLINE
	WATER PUMP
	CONCRETE SLAB
	CHICKENCOOP



# DeLaney Farm and Gully Homestead



- 1. DeLaney House**  
Briget and John DeLaney built this frame house in 1892. Their son, John, and his wife Mary Hogan DeLaney raised their 3 children here. Later, tenants rented the property and it was eventually sold to William Bresnahan who ran boarding stables.
- 2. Barns and Concrete Silo**  
Built by William Bresnahan during his more recent ownership. Barn had long center feed trough.
- 3. Three Sided Barn/Shed**
- 4. Round Frame Barn**  
Built by DeLaney's circa 1895, this is believed to be the last round wood barn in Colorado. The silo originally stored food for the DeLaney animals and was later used as a milk barn by tenants renting the farm.
- 5. Chicken House**  
From the Bresnahan period.
- 6. Equipment Shed**  
From the Bresnahan period. The DeLaney's first large barn stood about where this shed and the chicken house now stand.
- 7. Tollgate Creek**
- 8. Gully Homestead**  
Thomas and Temperance Gully built this house in 1871 on the banks of Tollgate Creek east of Chambers Road at Mississippi Avenue. After Thomas' death, Thomas Jr., inherited the house and later sold it to his brother John. John and Elizabeth Gully raised their family of five here and two sons lived on the Gully Ranch until 1962. The City of Aurora moved the house and small stable to the south to the DeLaney Farm in 1983.
- 9. Stable**  
Tollgate School students used this stable for their horses in about 1920. The school sat on the Gully property.