DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

APR 2 8 1975

DATE ENTERED

FOR NPS USE ONLY

JUN 2 6 1975

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CONDITION

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__FAIR

__DETERIORATED __RUINS

__UNEXPOSED

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_ALTERED

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__MOVED DA

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The <u>Toogood Barns</u> are a group of three stone buildings, two of which are interconnected, and situated on the southern edge of Rochester, Minnesota. Located on the valley floor and a short distance from the South Branch of the Zumbro River, the barns are the only surviving remnants of the old Toogood Farm which covered a considerable portion of this section of the city. The barns are still located on open land, but abut a growing residential subdivision to the east and south. In size the north barn is approximately 25 feet by 80 feet and situated about a quarter mile north of the larger complex. The latter is approximately eighty feet wide at the street and about forty feet deep.

The north barn was built to house the large cattle herd and has a large hay loft above. The large, square south barn is a combined granary and horse barn with the grain bins being located along the west wall and the horse stalls along the east. The second story is again used as a hay loft with chutes feeding the stalls below. The other stone building was formerly the hog house and carpentry shop with the latter on the second floor. A frame one story machine shed spans the two buildings. Still surviving despite a recent street improvement program is a stone fence which starts at the west end of the building and follows southwesterly along S.W. 16th Street for roughly one block.

Toogood Barns are in relatively good condition; the structural condition of the stone bearing walls, especially the large south complex, being in very good shape. Only slight structural cracks have developed, in the south complex and the most significant problems seem to be the restoration of the deteriorating frame machine shed spanning the two stone barns and the retucking of the stone mortar joints. The southwest corner of the north barn should be restored as it exhibits a major structural crack. However, it should be noted that the crack originates from a tornado which, according to local sources, struck the building in the 1870s and lifted the roof. The building is stable and has not appreciably deteriorated since that incident. However for cosmetic reasons and to avoid any complications from climatic changes the crack should be repaired and the building retucked. Of special interest to the north barn is the stone fence which encloses the barnyard. Originally made of dry laid slag stone pieces, the fence has deteriorated to a point where only a portion of it still stands. The shake roofs on all the buildings appear to be in good condition.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	Al	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	ECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	X AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<u>-</u> 1700-1799	_ART SW ST	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
X_1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	_INDUSTRY,	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	X_OTHER (SPECIFY)
		LINVENTION		Immigration & Settlement

SPECIFIC DATES

Ca. 1870

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

William F. Toogood

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built ca. 1870, the <u>Toogood Barns</u> are one of the state's finest stone farm complexes remaining in Minnesota. Built by William F. Toogood, a native of Massachusetts, the buildings are reminescent of the barns of Pennsylvania, Ohio and New England and reflect the Yankee heritage of the early pioneers in Minnesota.

William Toogood came to Minnesota in 1855 settling in Pleasant Grove, a small village about ten miles to the south and one of the first three settlements in Olmsted County. He moved to Rochester after the Civil War and then soon resettled (approximately 1868) on the present farm site. According to local remembrances, the buildings were built by Toogood in conjunction with an unnamed German stone mason who later, served a spell as one of the farmhands.

The buildings are handsome, well proportioned examples of agricultural architecture. The stone craftsmanship is excellent. They stand as a reminder to an earlier, less sophisticated period in midwestern agriculture and as part of fast disappearing heritage of early stone architecture in the state.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Toogood family files

<u>History of Olmstead County, Minnesota</u>. Illustrated by Hon. Joseph A. Leonard, pub by Goodspeed Historical Association, Chicago, 1910.

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