

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



**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.

1. Name of Property

historic name Chris Poldberg Farmstead
other names/site number Big Rock Stock Farm

2. Location

street & number 0.5 miles south of Hwy. 44 N/A not for publication
city, towns/site number Jacksonville X vicinity
state Iowa code IA county Shelby code 165 zip code 51543

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		<u>1</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		<u>1</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		<u>1</u> objects
		<u>6</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: See continuation sheet
Number 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 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. See continuation sheet.

David L... Signature of certifying official
8/13/91 Date

State Historical Society of Iowa
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:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed for the National Register.

other, (explain:) _____

Beth Boland Signature of the Keeper
10/3/91 Date of Action

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

AGRICULTURE/animal facility

AGRICULTURE/outbuilding

Current Functions

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

VACANT/NOT IN USE

AGRICULTURE/animal facility

AGRICULTURE/outbuilding

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Other: Four-Square House Type

Other: Midwest Three-Portal Barn Type

Materials

foundation brick

walls wood/weatherboard

roof asphalt

other glass

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Chris Poldberg Farmstead is situated on an east-facing hillslope approximately 0.5 miles south of Highway 44, 2.5 miles west of Kimballton, and 1.5 miles southeast of Jacksonville on the west side of a north-south gravel road. It is further situated on the west side of Wolf Creek. The farmstead presently consists of a house, barn, hog house, poultry house, machine shed, cob house, granary, and metal grain bin. Of these, the granary is considered a noncontributing structure because it was constructed after the property's period of significance, while the metal grain bin is not counted as either contributing or noncontributing because of its recent origin, insubstantial construction, and relatively small size. The house is situated on the south side of the cluster of farmstead buildings and structures, with the cob house situated off the rear of the house within the house yard. The west side of the cluster consists of the poultry house, machine shed, and barn, with the grain bin, granary, and hog house forming the north side of the cluster. A dirt lane extends into the farmstead from the gravel road, bisecting the cluster between north and south halves.

A windbreak of trees is present along the south and west sides of the house. Historically, the entire area west, south, and east of the house had a dense tree cover, both natural and planted. Additionally, both sides of the north-south road leading to the farmstead were once lined with trees. The trees planted around the house yard included varieties of pine and fruit trees.

Former buildings and structures included a privy behind the house, a pole cattle shed (1915), north of the metal grain bin, and a corn crib (1904) which was situated to the south of the bin and granary. All of these may be evidenced by archaeological remains. An additional archaeological component might be the remains of the first house built on this farmstead and located off the northwest corner of the extant house. The first house was a one story gabled cottage with a door entry at right and two to three windows at left. A shed-roofed porch covered the entry. A central brick chimney was present at the roof apex.

The present dwelling is defined as a Four-Square house type, gabled wall dormer variant. It is basically square in ground plan and 1.5 stories in height. The frame house rises from a brick foundation. The walls are clad with clapboard and have cornerboards and a friezeboard under the eaves. The formal entry faces east and consists of a central door flanked by fixed-light cottage windows with stained glass headers. The front door has elaborate woodwork and an etched glass pane. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and is pyramidal hipped in shape with centrally-placed triangular gabled wall dormers on all four sides. Each dormer has two double-hung sash windows, unshingled cornice returns, and a decorative woodwork sunburst in the gable peak. Scroll-sawn brackets are present underneath the roof eaves.

XSee continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

	<input type="checkbox"/> nationally	<input type="checkbox"/> statewide	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> locally			
Applicable National Register Criteria	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> D		
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> D	<input type="checkbox"/> E	<input type="checkbox"/> F
Areas of Significance	Period of Significance		Significant Dates			
<u>ETHNIC HERITAGE/European</u>	<u>1907-1924</u>		<u>1907</u>			
<u>ARCHITECTURE</u>			<u>1912</u>			
<u>AGRICULTURE</u>			<u>1914</u>			
	Cultural Affiliation					
	<u>N/A</u>					
Significant Person	Architect/Builder					
<u>N/A</u>	<u>Andersen, Carl Viktor</u>					

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

The Chris Poldberg Farmstead is locally significant under National Register Criterion A within the multiple property historic context of Danish Immigrant Settlement, 1865-1924: Farming Industry because it is associated with an important aspect of that industry, specifically stock farming which was typical of the agricultural development of the Danish settlement area in Shelby and Audubon counties. This type of agriculture focused on livestock raising including cattle and hogs, supplemented with poultry raising and dairy products. The farmstead is also significant under National Register Criterion C within the historic contexts of Danish Immigrant Settlement, 1865-1924: Construction Trades and Industries, specifically carpentry, and Building Trends because the house and contributing outbuildings exemplify the work of skilled Danish immigrant craftsmen and because they embody the characteristics of particular building types associated with the Danish settlement area, specifically those of the Four-Square house type, gabled wall dormer variant, and the Midwest Three-Portal barn type. The craftsmen who constructed these buildings included carpenter/designer Carl V. Andersen and other members of the Jacksonville carpenter gangs who were influential in the construction trade of Jackson Township. The work of these craftsmen is evidenced in the unusual design and decorative embellishments of both the house and barn. The farmstead as a whole is one of the best preserved Danish immigrant livestock farms in the Shelby/Audubon county area. The period of significance extends from 1907 when the house was built to 1924, the established cut-off date for the overall period of significance for Danish immigrant settlement in the two county area. By 1924 the major construction and expansion of this livestock farmstead had been completed. The significant dates include the construction of the house by Carl V. Andersen in 1907, and the construction of the barn in 1912 and the machine shed and hog house in 1914, all three by Jacksonville carpenter gangs.

In the early 1900s, the Poldberg farmstead was called the Big Rock Stock Farm, named for a large boulder located northwest of the farmstead. The rock was dynamited in the early 1900s, and the rubble utilized for the foundation of the corn crib which has since been demolished. The primary stock raised on this farmstead was Shorthorn Cattle and hogs supplemented with poultry. That Poldberg was successful in his endeavors is evidenced by the prosperous buildings of his farmstead and the reputation that he earned locally. One account noted that he was "renowned for his talents with livestock," while another stated that he "carries on a general system of farming, giving due

XSee continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Betsinger, Signe Tronborg. Danish Design Influences in Housing and Home Furnishings in a Selected Community in Southwest Iowa. Ph. D. dissertation, University of Minnesota, 1970, p. 61, 161.

History Book Committee. Kimballton: 1883-1983. Kimballton: History Book Committee, 1983, p. I-138.

White, Edward S. Past and Present of Shelby County, Iowa, Volume I and II. Indianapolis: B. F. Bowen and Company, pp. 661-662. 1915.

Insurance Records in the possession of Burdette Poldberg, 2003 College, Elk Horn, Iowa.

1895 State Population Census.

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:
XState historic preservation office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other
Specify repository:
Bureau of Historic Preservation

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property approximately 2.07 acres

UTM References

A	<u>15</u>	<u>322370</u>	<u>4610100</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>15</u>	<u>322460</u>	<u>4610015</u>

B	<u>15</u>	<u>322460</u>	<u>4610100</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	<u>15</u>	<u>322370</u>	<u>4610020</u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

XSee continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property includes that portion of the historic farm holdings which encompasses all of the buildings and structures of the farmstead itself.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Leah Rogers, Project Director

organization Preservation Partnership Phase III

street & number 520 Franklin

city or town Center Point

date June 30, 1991

telephone 319-849-1271

state Iowa zip code 52213

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section number 3 Page 1

Name of related multiple property listing:
The Ethnic Historic Settlement of Shelby and Audubon Counties: 1860-1941

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A small, open portico porch covers the front entry. This porch has rounded classical columns which support a closed gabled hood which has a small sunburst and a denticulated frieze. The porch originally had a turned balustrade around the porch and along the steps which descend to the east. The balustrade has been removed and the steps replaced. A one story bay window is present on the south side and has a denticulated frieze, a decorative band of wainscoting, and a central, fixed-light cottage window with stained glass header. A porch on the north side of the house was fully enclosed and remodeled on the interior in the 1960s. The east half of this porch was originally a screened-in porch, while the west half was originally enclosed and used as a wash room. The latter had wainscoting around the interior walls which has since been removed. The only other exterior modifications are the alteration of the kitchen window on the rear facade and the blowing of insulation into the walls. The interior of the house underwent some modifications in the 1960s including the removal of a built-in pass-through china cupboard between the kitchen and dining room and the removal of a partition between the parlor and living room.

The barn built in 1912 is defined as a Midwest Three-Portal type, steeply pitched roof variant. This building is clad with board and batten siding and has an asphalt shingled roof. A cross-gabled cupola is present at center of the roof ridge. This cupola and the segmental arched windows and circular vents are characteristic of barns built by the Jacksonville carpenter gangs. This building has mortise and tenon construction, three bents, and three bays on the ground floor. The original bent design appears to have failed early on, and bracing had to be added to correct this flaw.

The remaining contributing buildings include the machine shed, hog house, and cob house, all built in 1914, and the poultry house built in 1923. The machine shed has board and batten siding, segmental arched Jacksonville-type windows, and a sliding double-wide door on the front facade. The hog house also has board and batten siding and segmental arched windows. This building is banked into the slope and has a basement level. All of the outbuildings are in a good state of preservation and have undergone very few modifications. As a whole, the farmstead presents much the same appearance as it would have during the period of significance.

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Section number 8 Page 1

attention to the raising of livestock, in which he has been very successful" (History Book Committee 1983:I-138; White 1915:662).

Chris Poldberg was born in 1862 in Denmark. The original family surname was Andersen and was later changed to Poldberg to avoid confusion with the profusion of other Andersen families. At age sixteen, Chris left school and went to work as a farmhand. Therefore, when he immigrated in 1885 at the age of 23 he was already experienced in Danish agriculture. He settled first at Elk Horn where he was employed as a farm hand for three years thus giving him an opportunity to gain a steady foothold in the new country. In 1888 he married Mary Hoogensen Smith, a widow. They settled on the farm that she owned, having inherited it from her late husband, Fred Smith, who had purchased the farm in 1880 from the railroad. Chris eventually added to the farm's acreage obtaining a total of 280 acres by 1915. By that time, he had also added a new and larger dwelling, a barn, a cattle shed, a hog house, a machine shed, a corn crib, and a cob house. Of these, only the cattle shed and corn crib are non-extant.

During the early years of the farm operation, the Poldbergs hired farm laborers who themselves were new immigrants to the area. For example, in 1895, their household included Chris Hansen, a 22-year-old Danish immigrant, and Richard Hansen, a 45-year-old German immigrant. Poldberg was thus helping others earn their way in the new country as he himself had been helped just ten years prior. Chris and his wife had four sons in addition to the two children from her previous marriage. Chris died in 1940, and his son Nels took over the farm. Nels' son, Burdette became the owner in 1952 upon his father's retirement. The farm remains in the Poldberg family's possession, although it is currently occupied by tenants.

It is known that the house was designed and constructed by Danish immigrant carpenter, Carl V. Andersen in 1907. His crew included James Barmington, Jim Petersen, and Jim Christensen, all of whom were skilled carpenters active in the Jackson Township area and headquartered in the nearby town of Jacksonville. The house plan was designed by Andersen and included a parlor, dining room, kitchen, pantry, and bedroom downstairs, with four bedrooms upstairs. The pass-through china cupboard was similar in design to those in the Marcussen house in Sharon Township which was remodeled by Andersen and the A. M. Petersen house in Jackson Township which was also designed by Andersen in collaboration with James Barmington. Other traits of the house design characteristic of Andersen's designs is the four-square plan, the centrally-placed gabled wall dormers, the elaborate scroll-sawn brackets, and the use of decorative sunbursts in the the gable peaks.

The barn was built in 1912, likely by members of one of the Jacksonville carpenter gangs, although it was not of the type defined by the ethnic survey as a Jacksonville Barn. Rather, this barn is a Midwest Three-Portal Barn with a continuous steeply pitched roof. Of the barns of this type recorded in the Danish settlement area of Shelby and Audubon counties, this barn and that on the Clover Leaf Farm in the Poplar Rural District of Jackson Township are the best preserved examples of this particular barn type. Other extant buildings of note on the Poldberg farmstead likely built by Jacksonville carpenters, include the hog house and machine shed.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The topographic location of the nominated property is as follows according to the USGS quadrangle map, Prairie Rose Lake, Iowa, 1978: E1/2, SE1/4, SE1/4, NE1/4 of Section 27, T79N, R37W, Jackson Township, Shelby County, Iowa. The specific property boundary is described as follows: Beginning at a point 10 feet north of the hog house and starting at the west edge of the gravel road proceed west 300 feet, turn south for 300 feet, turn east for 300 feet to the west edge of the road, and then turn north for 300 feet to the point of beginning.

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Chris Poldberg Farmstead
Jackson Township, Shelby County, Iowa
Leah Rogers, photographer
Original negatives, Iowa Bureau of Historic Preservation

<u>Photo #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Photo #</u>	<u>Description</u>
#1	Farmstead 2/22/91 view to NW	11	Historic photo— S side of house, bay window same as #9 date unknown but after 1907 same as #9 view to N
2	House 2/22/91 view to SW		
3	House Roslea Johnson, photographer 6/13/90		
4	House (rear) 2/22/91 view to NE		
5	Barn 10/13/90 view to NW		
6	Barn and machine shed Roslea Johnson, photographer 6/13/90 view to NW		
7	Hog house 10/13/90 view to NNW		
8	Hog house 2/22/91 view to SW		
9	Historic photo—non-extant house unknown photographer 1890s photo in possession of Burdette Poldberg, Elk Horn, Iowa view to W		
10	Historic photo—extant house same as #9 c. 1910s same as #9 view to W		

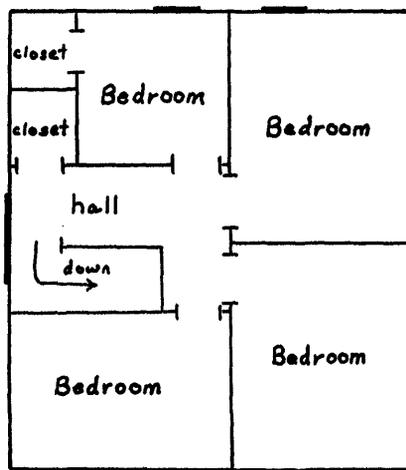
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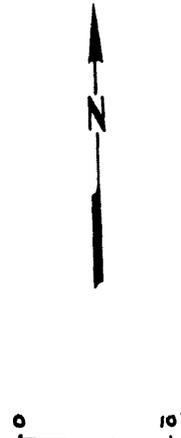
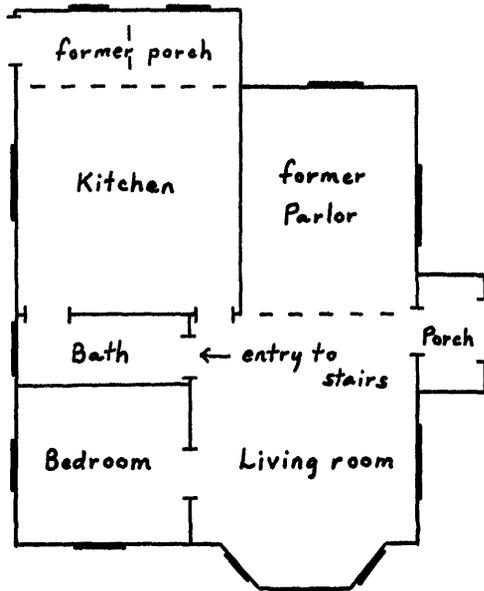
Section number Floorplan Page 1

Chris Poldberg House, Jackson Township, Shelby County, Iowa.

Second Floor



First Floor



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Section number Sketch Page 1

Chris Poldberg Farmstead

