

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

HISTORIC NAME: Cota Round Barns

COUNTY: Benton *St. C. 1 vic*

CURRENT NAME:

CITY/TWP.: St. George Twp

LEGAL DESC.:

ADDRESS:
County Road 48 west of Duelm

See continuation sheet - page 2

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <u>X</u>	Excellent _____	Local <u>X</u>	Primary <u>Engineering</u>
Structure _____	Good <u>X</u>	State _____	Secondary <u>Agriculture</u>
Object _____	Fair _____	National _____	Others _____
District _____	Deteriorated _____		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:	Yes _____ No <u>X</u> Restricted _____	PRESENT USE:
VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD:	Yes <u>X</u> No _____	Barns
OCCUPIED:	Yes <u>X</u> No _____	

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1920-23 ORIGINAL USE: Barns

ORIGINAL OWNER: Al Cota ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Al Cota

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:	ACREAGE: Less than one acre <u>3 1/2</u> approx
Willard P. Lorette	
RR 2, Box 70	Dennis & Mari Anne Neis
Foley, MN 56329	Rte. 1
	Foley, MN 56329

LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.:	UTM REFERENCE:
Benton County Historical Society	Duelm, MN Quad. 7.5
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379	westernmost barn 15/425900/5047520
	easternmost barn 15/426120/5047550

FORM PREPARED BY: Mark Haidet
DATE: November 1980

DESCRIPTION:

The Cota Round Barns are located in a picturesque setting north of County Road 48 one mile west of Duelm in south central Benton County. The barns were originally situated on a single farmstead; the property, however, has since been divided and the barns are now on separate properties. Together the conspicuous barns comprise a unique local landmark.

The westernmost barn, measuring 60' in diameter, was erected about 1921. Its reinforced concrete walls are capped by a conical variation of a gambrel roof broken only by a central 35' tall monolithic concrete silo. Ground level fenestration consists of three doors and eighteen evenly spaced four-light windows on the southern three quarters of the structure. Five small doors provide access to the second level haymow. Exterior alterations are limited to replacement of the original cedar shingles with asphalt shingles and the large split door on the south side.

The easternmost barn, erected in 1923, is a bank barn, slightly smaller in diameter than its predecessor. Like the earlier barn, it is constructed of reinforced concrete and capped by a similar roof pierced by a central 44' tall monolithic silo. Ground level fenestration consists of two doorways and a row of evenly spaced window openings. The haymow is accessible through two doorways, one being large enough to accommodate small farm machinery. The original wood shingles have been replaced with asphalt shingles.

The interior of both barns originally consisted of several stalls with a central manger circumventing the silo. Several interior features remain intact although most have been removed.

Cota Barns

Benton County
St. George Township

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Cota Round Barns are significant for their association with a locally well-known artisan whose concrete work is highly visible throughout south central Benton County and the neighboring area. Al Cota, a veterinarian and part-time farmer, had a reputation for being innovative. He left veterinary medicine about 1913 to become one of the first contractors in the area to work with reinforced concrete. Constructing monolithic silos and building foundations, he quickly developed a reputation among area farmers, who, in shifting to diversified farming and dairying, needed storage facilities for feed. As business increased, Cota hired and trained several crews. He supervised the expanding business until the mid-1930s when failing health forced his retirement. Cota-trained crews, however, continued erecting silos through the 1940s. The two round barns were erected in the early 1920s after Cota had established himself as a contractor. They were designed for use on the Cota stock farm and for advertising the advantages of concrete as a construction material. The barns are a locally recognized landmark.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

From point of beginning; which is situated 560 meters north and 170 meters west of the SE corner of section 28, T36N R29W; westward 100 meters, thence south 40 meters, thence west 160 meters, thence south 40 meters, thence east 260 meters, thence north 80 meters to point of beginning.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:


Mrs. Elmer (Cota) Lind. Several conversations with Mark Haidet, July–November 1980.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper 
1/19/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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**Note: These changes apply to
Cota Round Barns in Benton County,
Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 82002936

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Benton

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC):

CITY:

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS: Co. Hwy. 48

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

**Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer**

JUN 17 1988
Date