United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register.

[] See continuation sheet.

□ determined not eligible for the
 National Register.
 □ removed from the National
 Register.
 □ other, (explain:)

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items. 1. Name of Property historic name Minor, Josias L. and Elizabeth A., Farmstead District other names/site number _____Site Number 57-00508 2. Location ______[X] vicinity city or town _____Ely state lowa code IA county Linn code 113 zip code 52227 3. State/Federal Agency Certification As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] nomination [1] 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide N locally. (L) see continuation sheet for additional comments). 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 for additional comments.) Signature of certifying official/Title Date State or Federal agency and bureau 4. National Park Service Certification I hereby certify that the property is: Mentered in the National Register. See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the

Linn County, Iowa Minor Farmstead District Name of Property County and State 5. Classification **Ownership of Property Category of Property Number of Resources within Property** (Check as many boxes as apply) (Check only one box) (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.) [X] private building(s) Contributing Noncontributing [X] district public-local 4 0 buildings 1 public-State [_] site [] public-Federal ____ sites 1 structure [] object 0 1 structures objects _____<u>1</u>___Total Number of contributing resources previously listed Name of related multiple property listing in the National Register (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) Early Settlement & Ethnic Archeological and Architectural Properties of Linn County, Iowa N/A ______ 6. Function or Use **Historic Functions Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions) (Enter categories from instructions) DOMESTIC/single dwelling DOMESTIC/single dwelling AGRICULTURE/Subsistence/outbuilding AGRICULTURE/Subsistence/outbuilding 7. Description **Architectural Classification** Materials (Enter categories from instructions) (Enter categories from instructions) foundation STONE/Limestone OTHER: Half-Timbered Cottage

walls WOOD/weatherboard

roof ASPHALT

other ____

Narrative Description

OTHER: Heavy Timber Frame Barn

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Minor Farmstead District Name of Property	<u>Linn County, Iowa</u> County and State
8. Statement of Significance	
Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
	ARCHITECTURE
[X] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	AGRICULTURE
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
[X] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	Period of Significance 1855-1870
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	
Criteria Considerations	Significant Dates
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)	1855
Property is:	1856
religious purposes.	Significant Person
□ B removed from its original location.	(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
□ C a birthplace or grave.	<u>N/A</u>
D a cemetery.	Cultural Affiliation
[_] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	
[_] F a commemorative property.	
[] G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.	Architect/Builder Minor, Josias L.
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)	·
9. Major Bibliographical References Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or mere previous documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:
[_] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested	[X] State Historic Preservation Office _ Other State agency
previously listed in the National Register	Federal agency
previously determined eligible by the National Register	Local governmentUniversity
designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey	Other Name of repository:
#	
[_] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	

Name of Proper		_			County and S			
10. Geogra	phical Da	ata						
Acreage of	f Property	y <u>1 acre</u>						
UTM Refer (Place additiona		nces on a continuation shee	t.)					
Zone Eas	ting		Zone	Easting		rthing		
3 [1]5] [6]1	<u>]5]0]0]0]</u>	[4]6]3]9]9]6]0]	4 <u>[1]5]</u>	[6]1]4]9]: [] See cont	3]0] [4]6]: tinuation sheet	3]9]9]0]0]		
Verbal Bou (Describe the bo		escription he property on a continuatio	n sheet.)					
Boundary (Explain why the		ion vere selected on a continua	tion sheet.)					
11. Form P	repared l	Ву						
name/title _	Leal	n D. Rogers/Consulta	nt					
organization	Linn Cou	unty Historic Preserva	ation Comn	nission		_ dateJul	y 27, 2000	····
street & num	ber <u>21</u>	7 NW 5 th Street				_ telephone _	319-895-8330	
city or town	M	t. Vernon		_ state	IA	_ zip code	52314	
Additional		ntation th the complete form:						
	Thing items the	in the complete form.						
Continuation	on Sheets	3						
Maps								
A U	SGS map	(7.5 or 15 minute se	ries) indica	ting the pr	operty's loc	ation.		
A SI	ketch ma _l	p for historic districts	and prope	rties havin	g large acr	eage or numei	ous resources.	
Photograpi	hs							
Rep	resentative	e black and white p	hotegrap	hs of the	property.			
Additional (Check with the		O for any additional items)						
Property O (Complete this it	wner em at the req	uest of SHPO or FPO.)						
name <u>Myra</u>	a Anderser	າ						
street & num	ber	2503 White Eagle	Trail SE	_ telephor	ne <u>319-3</u>	364-5060		
city or town		Cedar Rapids		stat	e <u>IA</u>	zip code	52403	
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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

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Minor Farmetoad District

Narrative Description

The Josias L. and Elizabeth A. Minor Farmstead District is located on the west side of Ely Road in the SW1/4, Section 13, T82N-R7W, College Township, Linn County, Iowa (Figure 1, Page 8). The farm is sited on a broad upland divide with the house on the highest spot and the two barns slightly downslope to the south and southwest (Figure 2, Page 9). A summer kitchen is located directly behind (west) of the house and is attached to that building by a covered breezeway. A modern metal grain bin is sited directly west of the summer kitchen. Contributing buildings to this district include the house, the two barns and the summer kitchen, with the grain bin considered non-contributing because it is a modern addition to the farmstead. A machine shed is also located to the northwest of the house but is outside of the National Register boundary for this district.

House (Iowa Inventory #57-00509)

This is a very interesting old house having been built shortly after the farmstead was homesteaded, i.e., within two years of initial settlement. According to Myra Andersen (Personal communication 1998), a Minor family descendant, this farmstead was established in 1846, with the smaller barn built first and the house built the following summer, indicating a construction date for the house at c.1847. However, according to the 1878 biography for Josias L. Minor, he settled this farmstead in September of 1855; therefore, based on that date the house would have been built in the summer of 1856. Either way, the house represents a rare survival of an Early Settlement Era house and is significant regardless of its exact date of construction. The 1.5-story house is T-shaped and is of half-timbered construction with straw used as infill in-between the posts and beams. Half-timbered construction is a European Medieval traditional building style that was brought to this country during the Colonial Period by European immigrants (Harris ed. 1977:275; Howe et al. 1987:109). It has been noted that "this construction technique later spread to the Midwest as Germans migrated there in the nineteenth century" (Howe et al. 1987:109). It has been observed as a common building technique in the German and Pennsylvania-Dutch settlements of Ohio (Wilhelm 1992:66). The use of a mixture of clay, grass, and straw as nogging instead of brick was also observed in eastern Ohio half-timber construction (ibid.:67). Perhaps this type of construction was familiar to the Minor family from their earlier settlement in Pennsylvania.

The front-gabled core of this house measures 30.5 ft x 22.75 ft and has 6/6 double-hung windows, which are original to its construction. The siding is wide replacement siding applied in the 1970s and covers over the original front door, which was centered on the east gable end and flanked by single 6/6 double-hung windows, one of which remains and the other replaced with a reduced-sized window. The limestone foundation was later faced with concrete. There is a partial cellar underneath the front-gabled core and a small crawl-space underneath the side-gabled ell, which is on the south side of the house. The entire roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The side-gabled ell is either original to the construction of the house or was added at some point in the late nineteenth century. While it appears to be original to that construction, the windows are 2/2 double-hungs of a somewhat later vintage than the 6/6 double-hungs in the front-gabled core. It is possible that the 2/2 windows represent a remodeling of that ell in the late nineteenth century. There are two shed-roofed appendages off either side of the side-gabled ell. The east-side appendage is an open porch (now screened-in) that has the original chamfered posts but has had the decorative scroll-sawn brackets removed that were visible in an early 1900s photograph of this property (Figure 3, page 10). The westside appendage has always been enclosed and had a 2/2 double-hung window that has since been replaced with a small-sized window. The entire house is connected to the summer kitchen to the rear (west side) by a gable-roofed open porch or breezeway. The early 1900s photograph of this property (see Figure 3, page 10), also shows a latticework rail around the front porch on the side-gabled ell and a second front porch consisting of a small hip-roofed portico covering the central front door on the front-gabled core of this house. Both the rail and the portico porch have been removed.

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Gabled Barn #1 (Iowa Inventory #57-05515)

This small gabled barn measures 21 feet x 20 feet and is located to the northwest of the larger barn (#2, below). It has a shed-roofed addition to the south side and a pole addition to the west side. The barn faces east and is entered via a central pass door. The siding is vertical board-and-batten, with the roof covered with sheet metal. The foundation is also of concrete and represents a later replacement of what was probably a limestone foundation originally. The interior configuration is now open on the ground level, with most of the vertical supports and any stalls having been removed. The posts and beams are a combination of sawn and hewn timbers. The loft floor is entirely supported by the vertical posts and cross-beams and is an open space to the rafters. Reportedly, this was the first barn built on this farmstead within the first year of settlement and was built even before the house was constructed. As such, it would date from c.1855 according to biographical data for Josias Minor (Western Historical 1878) or c.1846 according to family history (Myra Andersen, personal communication 1998). While it has been modified on the interior and by the replacement of the foundation, this barn retains sufficient integrity to be considered contributing to the overall integrity and significance of this farmstead. Historically, this barn housed draft horses in the main core and sheep and hogs in the shed addition (Myra Anderson, personal communication 2000).

Gabled Barn #2 (Iowa Inventory #57-05510)

This gabled barn is banked into a slight slope but has no basement level. The barn measures 46 feet in depth by 30 feet in width. There is a shed-roofed addition that wraps around the south and west sides that adds 17 feet to the depth and 14 feet to the width. This is an old addition that was made to the barn about five years after the original construction, probably in the 1860s-1870s (Myra Andersen, personal communication 1998). The original part of the barn was probably built in the late 1850s-1860s but was the second barn built on this farmstead. The smaller barn (#1 above) was the original barn built the first year that the farmstead was established (i.e., c.1855) (Myra Andersen, personal communication 1998).

The barn has vertical board-and-batten siding on the front (north) gable end, with later beaded-board siding on the east side that represents a replacement of the original siding. The roof is presently covered with sheet metal that overlies a wood-shingled roof. The windows are all fixed four-panes, most of which represent later additions to this barn. The foundation is also a later replacement being a concrete foundation. It was not uncommon to jack up an older barn in the early twentieth century and pour a concrete foundation underneath. The original foundation would have been limestone. The interior of the ground floor has a north-south center aisle flanked by milking stalls. The framing is a combination of hewn vertical posts and doubled-plank horizontal supports. There is an interesting arched-effect using thick planks in-between the vertical supports along the west side of the original core. The plank framing all represents later additions/modifications of the original interior, while the hand-hewn vertical posts would be original. When the sheds were added to the south and west sides, the south and west walls of the original core were removed, so that the interior became an open space. More recent additions to the interior ground floor construction include a series of steel posts that were added to stabilize the building.

The loft level is an open space. The bent configuration is a simple bent with three vertical supports (two side and one center), with a single big beam as the crossbeam. There is some evidence that there were additional vertical supports that have since been removed; the evidence being mortises cut into the beams and posts, although the mortises are not consistent in their arrangement. Usually, where mortises are present with no members tenoned in, it is assumed that the beams or posts may have been salvaged from an older barn. This is not clear in this case, however, because according to family history, this barn was built on this farmstead at a very early date and at a time when there would have been few if any other barns in the area from which to salvage timbers (Myra Andersen, personal communication 1998). The beams and posts are all hand-hewn, while the angled bracing and vertical struts are all sawn. The joinery is pegged, mortise-and-tenon. The purlins supported by the side vertical supports are spliced beams. Interestingly, the rafters and plank undersheathing of the roof appear original to the barn construction.

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					_

While there have been some modifications through the years, this barn retains sufficient integrity as an Early Settlement Era barn to be considered contributing to the overall integrity and significance of the farmstead.

Summer Kitchen (Iowa Inventory #57-05516)

This is also a very interesting old structure and is located to the rear of the house and is connected to it by a breezeway or open porch. It is, however, a separate structure. The kitchen is a small gabled structure with a sheet metal roof, horizontal drop siding, and limestone foundation. The windows are the original 6/6 double-hungs. A brick chimney rises from the roof ridge. There is a small, shed-roofed addition that was later added to the south side. This structure appears contemporaneous with the house and may have been built in the late 1850s. As such, it represents a rare survival of a mid-nineteenth century dependency. It is also possible that this building may have served as the first house on this property since it was nearly a year before the present house was built after the farmstead was initially settled. This building is considered contributing to the overall integrity and significance of this farmstead.

Grain Bin

There is a modern, prefabricated metal grain bin located due west of the house and summer kitchen. As a modern addition to this farmstead, the grain bin is considered non-contributing.

The current owner, Myra Andersen, is a descendant of the Minor family and is interested in the preservation of this farmstead and in the recognition of its historical significance. The property is currently used as a rental residential property, although the barn is used to stable horses by the owner.

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Statement of Significance

The Josias L. and Elizabeth A. Minor farmstead is locally significant under Criterion C for its architectural significance as a well-preserved Early Settlement Era farmstead, including the house, two barns, and the summer kitchen, and under Criterion A for its historically significant association with an Early Settlement Era family who were prominent in the settlement of College and Putnam townships. This farmstead is rare survival an Early Settlement Era farmstead and is the only known example recorded to date in Linn County where so many of the primary buildings from the original settlement are still standing and in such good condition (Rogers and Page 1996). The fact that the farmstead has always been in the Minor family's possession likely accounts for the preservation of the homestead buildings. This farmstead also reflects the Minor family settlement in the Ely vicinity. Such family-clustered settlements were typical of many early settlements in the county. The period of significance is from 1855 when the farmstead was established and the small gabled barn constructed to 1870 when the other early buildings had been built and the early settlement period for this farmstead was coming to an end. Significant dates include 1855 when the first barn was built and 1856 when the house and likely the summer kitchen were built. The second barn was built in the 1860s-1870s but the exact date of construction is unknown.

This farmstead district meets the registration requirements for the Property Type: Buildings, Structures, and Sites Associated with the Early Settlement of Linn County, Iowa: late 1830s-1870 because it retains good integrity and is a good example of an Early Settlement Era farmstead in Linn County. Specifically, this farmstead retains the original house, summer kitchen, and barns built in the 1850s-1860s by the initial settler of this farmstead, Josias L. Minor. The house, in particular, is an uncommon survivor of a half-timbered cottage that has straw infill instead of brick. Furthermore, this farmstead is a good representation of the Early Settlement Era because it has remained in the Minor family's possession from 1855 to the present, with very little alteration or additions to this farmstead through the years.

This farmstead was represented on the 1859 Linn County map on property then owned by "J.L. Minor" (McWilliams and Thompson 1859). It was situated on the west side of the main stage and post road angling to the northwest from Ely to Cedar Rapids.

The Minor family hailed from Pennsylvania but originated in England (Myra Andersen, personal communication 1998; Western Historical 1878:794). They were among the early settlers of College Township, with the earliest arrivals having been W.F., Josias, and Sam Minor (Brewer and Wick 1911:288). According to the list of the Old Settlers Association of Linn County, Iowa, Samuel "Miner" arrived in 1856 (Soden 1998). Samuel Minor was the patriarch of the family, with son Josias Lowrey Minor born in 1822 to Samuel and wife Ella. Josias also had a brother named Samuel and a son named Samuel Pierson Minor, who was born to Josias and his wife Elizabeth Armstrong (Toolan 1998).

Josias L. Minor was born in Greene County, Pennsylvania, on May 5, 1822. He married Elizabeth Armstrong in 1846, and together they had twelve children: William F., Samuel P., Alice J., Mary, Armstrong, Albert, Emma, Sarah, Ada, Sherley, John L. (died in infancy), and George B. (died at age 21) (Western Historical 1878:794). By 1878, he owned 306 acres valued at over \$12,000. He held several township offices throughout his life, and he and his wife were members of the Baptist Church (ibid.). In 1878, son, Samuel P. Minor, was listed as a farmer in Section 10; however, according to land transfer records he obtained the subject farmstead in 1886 following his father's death on August 23, 1883. Josias Minor was buried in the Rogers Grove Cemetery in Putnam Township. Samuel P. Minor lived on this farmstead until June 18, 1914, when he passed away, with his widow Rhoda Minor remaining the owner until her death in 1944. At that time, Paul Pierson Minor, who had been renting the homestead since 1914 became the owner and remained so until his death in 1972 at the age of 79 (Family history information supplied by Myra Andersen). The property remains under Minor family ownership to the present day.

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Josias L. Minor migrated to Linn County in September 1855. He was listed in the 1856 Iowa State population Census for Putnam Township as a 36-year-old farmer who had been born in Pennsylvania. Other members of his household included wife, Elizabeth (age 27), sons William F. (age 9), Samuel P. (age 8), and George B. (age 3), and daughters Alice J. (age 5) and Mary M. (age 1). Also living in the household was John L. Minor aged 21, likely a younger brother of Josias. All of the Minor family household members had been born in Pennsylvania.

The 1860 U.S. Population Census listed the Minor household as including: "Josiah" L. and wife Elizabeth; sons William F., Samuel, George, Armstrong, and Albert; and daughters, Alice and Mary. Also then living in the household was Andrew J. Minor aged 17, perhaps another younger brother of Josias.

By the time of the 1870 U.S. Population Census, the Minor household included: "Josiah" and wife Elizabeth; sons Samuel, George, Armstrong, and Albert; and daughters, Alice, Mary, Emma, and Sarah E.. Son, William F. Minor, appears to have reached his majority and moved out of the family home.

Agricultural census data for Josias Minor's farmstead showed a prosperous farmstead at an early date. In 1860, his farming operation was listed as having 200 acres of improved ground, with 44 acres unimproved for a total farm valuation of \$3500. Farm implements were valued at \$125, with \$498 worth of livestock on hand. He had four horses, four milk cows, 17 other cattle, and 16 swine. Crops raised included wheat (515 bushels), Indian corn (800 bu), oats (250 bu), and Irish potatoes (125 bu). Minor produced 300 pounds of butter and had cut 15 tons of hay. By 1870, he had added 96 acres to his landholdings, with 280 acres improved and 60 unimproved for a total farm valuation of \$10,400, quite a sum for the times. Farm implements on hand were valued at \$425, with \$1900 in livestock. He had nine horses, two mules, four milk cows, 24 other cattle, 43 sheep, and 74 swine. Crops raised included wheat (240 bushels), Indian corn (800 bu), and oats (450 bu) (U.S. Agricultural Census 1870). By these data, Minor's farmstead would have been counted among the more prosperous in the township by the end of the Early Settlement Era and was a farmstead fully involved in market production.

By the early 1900s, there was a cluster of Minor family farmsteads in the vicinity of the original homestead reflecting the pattern of family-oriented settlements in Linn County in the mid-late nineteenth century (Rogers 1998; Rogers and Page 1996). This particular farmstead remains in the Minor family's possession to the present day, with Myra Andersen, a descendent of Josias Minor, the present owner.

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Other Sources:

1856 Iowa State Population Census

1860 and 1870 U.S. Population Censuses

1860 and 1870 U.S. Agricultural Censuses

Personal communication with Myra Andersen, 1998 and 2000

Minor family history and historical photographs provided by Myra Andersen

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Minor Farmstead District is shown as the dashed line on the accompanying map entitled "Plan Map of the Minor Farmstead District."

Boundary Justification

This boundary includes all of the extant buildings historically associated with the Minor Farmstead.

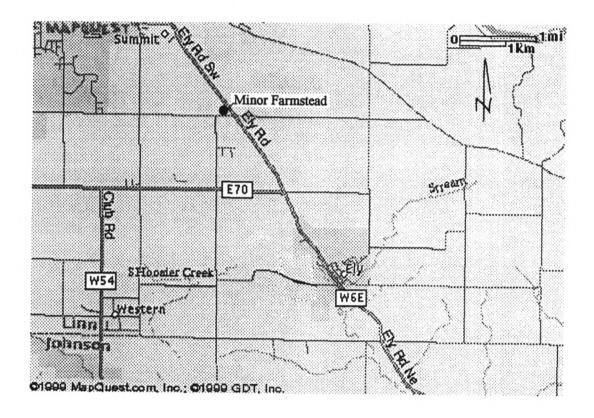
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Minor Farmstead District Linn County, Iowa

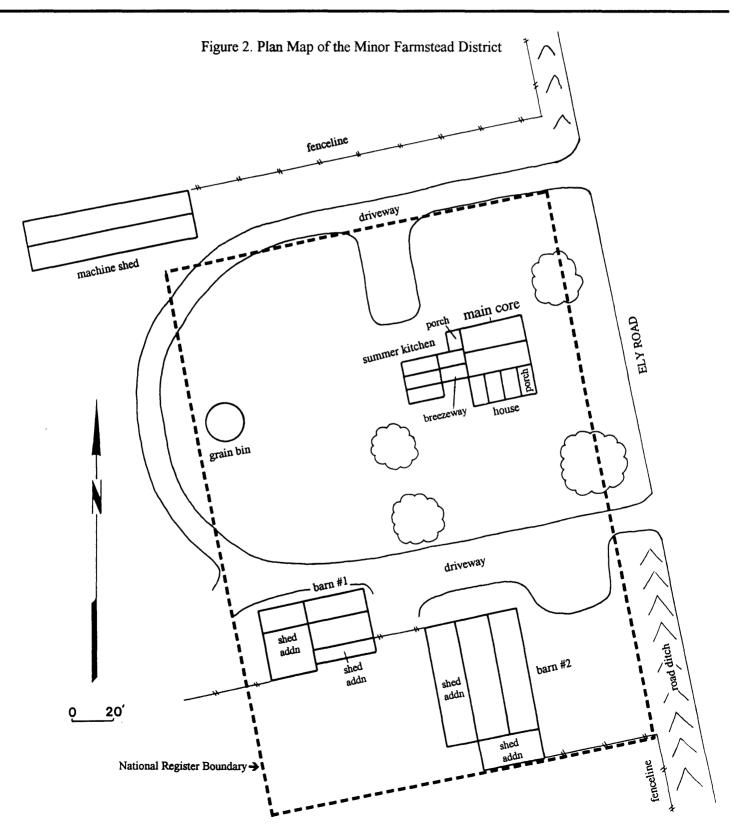
Figure 1. General Location Map of Minor Farmstead District



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Minor Farmstead District Linn County, Iowa

Figure 3. Early 1900s Photograph of the Minor House, View to the WNW



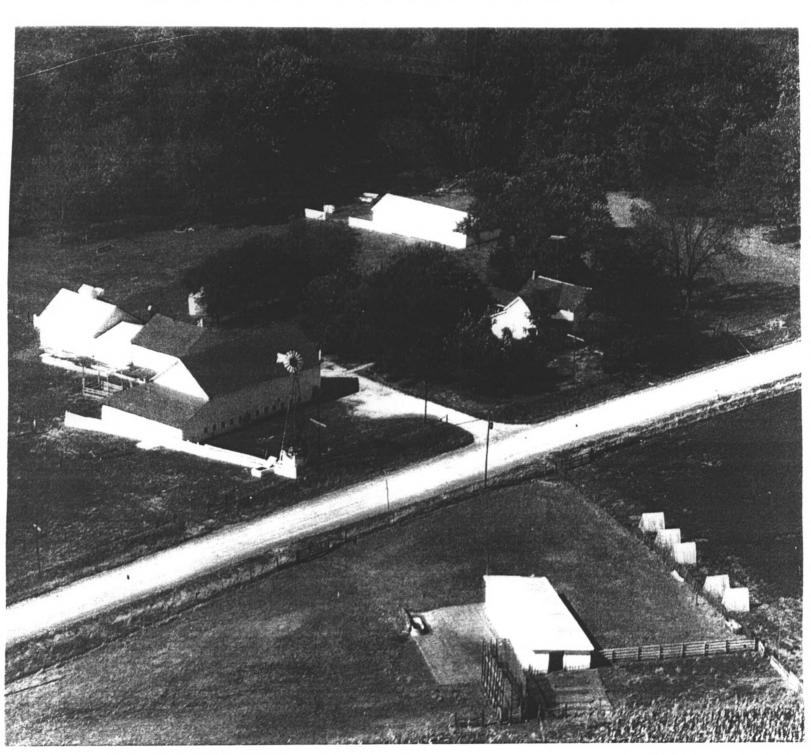
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Minor Farmstead District Linn County, Iowa

Figure 4. Circa 1950s Aerial Photograph of the Minor Farmstead, View to the NW



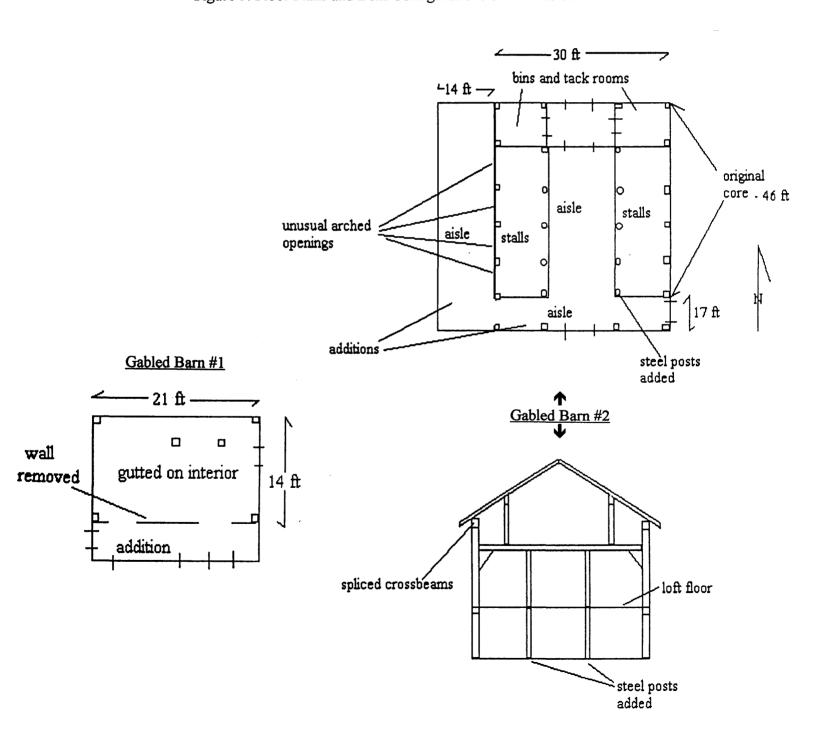
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Minor Farmstead District Linn County, Iowa

Figure 5. Floor Plans and Bent Configurations of the Gabled Barns



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Minor Farmstead District Linn County, Iowa

Photographs

Photographer: Leah D. Rogers

Date of Photographs:

February 2000

Location of Negatives: State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines

- #1 General View of Farmstead, View to the NNW
- #2 Original Portion of House. View to the SW
- #3 House, View to the NW
- #4 House and Summer Kitchen, View to the ESE
- #5 Summer Kitchen, View to the NW
- #6 Summer Kitchen, View to the South
- #7 Barn #2, View to the NW
- #8 Barn #2, View to the SW
- #9 Interior of Loft of Barn #2, View to the WNW
- #10 Interior of Loft of Barn #2, View to the NW
- Interior of Ground Floor of Barn #2 Showing Cross-Beam Detail, View to the NW
- #12 Barn #1, View to the WSW

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Minor Farmstead District Linn County, Iowa

