

Iowa Site Inventory

Office of Historic Preservation
Iowa State Historical Department
East 12th & Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

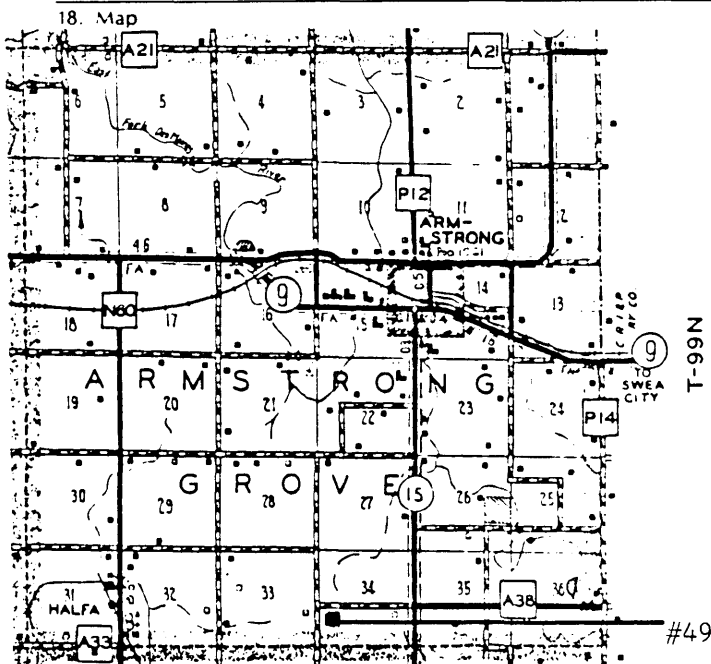
Site Number 49
District Name _____
Map Reference # 49

Identification

1. Site Name Thomsen Round Barn
2. Village/Town/City Armstrong vic. Township Armstrong Grove County Emmet
3. Street Address Off IA 15
4. Legal Location 99 N 31 W 34 SW 1/4
Urban: subdivision block parcel subparcel
 Rural: township range section 1/4 section of 1/4 section
5. UTM Location: zone 15 easting 378,600 northing 4,800,130 Acreage less than one acre
6. Owner(s) Name John G. Thomsen
7. Owner(s) Address 2880 Grand Ave #110 Des Moines Iowa 50312
(Street address) (City) (State) (Zip)
8. Use: Present Out of use 1969 Original Dairy barn

Description

9. Date of Construction 1911-12 Architect/Builder _____
10. Building Type:
 single-family dwelling industrial other institutional religious
 multiple-family dwelling educational public agricultural
 commercial
11. Exterior Walls: clapboard stone brick board and batten shingles stucco
 other _____
12. Structural System: wood frame with interlocking joints wood frame with light members (balloon frame)
 masonry load-bearing walls iron frame steel frame with curtain walls reinforced concrete
 other _____
13. Condition: excellent good fair deteriorated
14. Integrity: original site moved—if so, when? _____
 Notes on alterations, additions (with dates and architect, if known) and any other notable features of building and site:
- See reverse side.
15. Related Outbuildings and Property: barn other farm structures carriage house garage privy
 other _____
16. Is the building endangered? no yes—if so, why? _____
17. Surroundings of the building: open land woodland scattered outbuildings densely built-up commercial
 industrial residential other _____



19. Photo Roll 594 Frame 28 View _____

VBD: A 85' foot diameter, based on center point of barn, includes only barn, excludes nearby granary.

MAY 27 1986

Significance

(Indicate sources of information for all statements)

20. Architectural significance

- a. Key structure/individually may qualify for the National Register
- b. Contributing structure
- c. Not eligible/intrusion

N/A

Continuation of 14. Integrity.

Interior - stalls & pew facing central silo. Concrete foundation. 1st floor cement block. Gambrel roof. Diameter - 65'. Silo - wood stave. 16'. Wood shingles. Owner indicates a large metal cupola was taken down several years ago after a windstorm, but is still preserved in the hay loft.

21. Historical Significance

Theme(s) True-Round; Illinois/Crouch type.

- a. Key structure/individually may qualify for the National Register
- b. Contributing structure
- c. Not eligible/intrusion

The true-round form, central silo, circular interior arrangement, and self-supporting single hip gambrel roof characterize this barn as an Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station / H.E. Crouch type. A 1910 bulletin from the Illinois Ag. Exp. Station successfully promoted the round barn and is responsible, directly or indirectly, for influencing the design of many round barns throughout the midwest. An exception to the Illinois prototypes, this barn is constructed of heavy timber with interlocking joints rather than of wood balloon frame. The low pitch of the roof is a slight variation from other barns of this type.

22. Sources (for primary and secondary sources, give complete facts of publication: author, title, place of publication, date, etc.):

John G. Thomsen, M.D., 207 Glenview, Des Moines, IA 50312

Soike, Lowell J. Without Right Angles. Des Moines, Iowa: Iowa State Historical Department, Office of Historic Preservation, 1983.

Prepared by _____ Date _____

Address _____ Telephone _____

Organization _____

For Office of Historic Preservation Use Only

1. Office Information Sources on this Property

- County Resource File
- Windshield Survey
- National Register
- Grants-In-Aid: _____
- Determination of Eligibility

Review and Compliance Project: _____

- Other _____
- Other _____
- Other _____

2. Subject Traces

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

3. Photo Images _____

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____