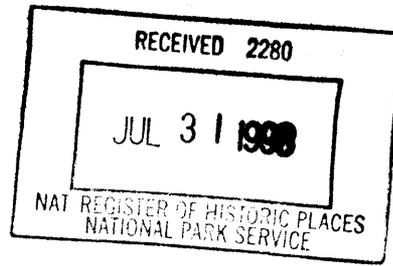


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



1123

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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 any 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 Stellmacher, Gus and Emma, Farmstead

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number 32404 Tangent Loop N/A not for publication

city or town Tangent ■ vicinity

state Oregon code OR county Linn code 043 zip code 97389

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*James Hamrick*

July 20, 1998

Signature of certifying official/Title Deputy SHPO

Date

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office

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 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 from the National Register.
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

*Elson H. Beall*  
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

8-28-98

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**STELLMACHER, GUS AND EMMA, FARMSTEAD (c.1901-1905)**

32404 Tangent Loop Road

Tangent vicinity, Linn County, Oregon

**COMMENTS OF THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE**

The historic farmstead developed by Gus and Emma Stelmacher south of Albany in the heart of Oregon's Willamette Valley between 1900 and 1905 is situated on fertile bottom land of the Calapooia River drainage. It lies about a mile east of that section of the long, straight north-south alignment of the Southern Pacific Railroad and Highway 99E (Pacific Highway East) which runs between the crossing of the Calapooia and the tiny railroad station community of Tangent, a few miles to the north.

The remnant holding of the 180-acre farmstead is a tax lot of 4 acres fronting on Tangent Loop Road. The nominated area, however, is confined to little more than half the tax lot (2.54 acres) to include the contributing features, which are a barn of c. 1901, a house completed in 1905, and assorted small outbuildings. The immediate setting for these features is demarcated by a wire fence and consists of an open field to the west and a stand of firs, oaks and other deciduous trees shading the residence adjacent to the road. The stock barn stands back and offset from the southwest corner of the house about 80 feet. It is accessible from a driveway bordering the south yard. Detached accessory buildings immediately behind the house are a non-historic carport (1979), pumphouse of 1909, and a board and batten-clad, gable-roofed storage shed of c. 1910. At a far remove, in the open field, stands a sheep shed of c. 1935. In all, there are six contributing features, including a concrete buggy step used at the place before the advent of the automobile.

The stock barn is believed to have been built within a year of the Stellmachers' acquisition of their farm in 1900. Its footprint is 52 x 48. It is described as a three-bay, front-gabled, end-opening barn with hay hood and lean-to attachment on the north side. The barn has a sawn lumber frame and board and batten siding. The interior is organized traditionally with a center aisle flanked by stock stalls on the south and grain bins on the north. Present roof cover is sheet metal over shingles. It is significant in Linn County as a well-preserved example of the Western barn of the transitional phase of Willamette Valley farming (1900-1919) when mechanization and experimentation were introduced.

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The farmhouse is a commodious vernacular version of Queen Anne architecture which is among the six or seven best, intact examples of its stylistic type in rural Linn County. When classified as Queen Anne architecture according to particular plan type, however, which is to say T-shaped as opposed to the central hip-roofed core volume with varied projections, the house is rarer still as a representative of type in the county today. Comparison of current and historic views show how remarkably intact the house and barn are in their setting. The only feature obviously lost since the view of c. 1915 was taken is the picket fence which lined the door yard. The south section of picket fencing along the driveway is a recreation of the original.

The house of wood frame construction rises from a concrete foundation as a two-story, T-shaped volume with a single story veranda encircling the north side wing. The rear porch was enclosed to capture space for a bath and sewing room in a modest remodeling undertaken by the current owners in 1979. The gable roof has a boxed cornice with pent cornice returns. The front gable of the primary longitudinal wing is distinguished by a geometric gable vent, a paired second story window assembly, and a single story bracketed polygonal parlor window bay. The house is clad entirely with drop siding except in the facade gable, where the siding is variegated shingles.

The principal entrance is in the stem wing, sheltered by the veranda finished in the Queen Anne/Eastlake tradition with shed roof, boxed cornice and frieze with spindle work skirting, and turned posts from which the fan brackets are missing. The beveled northeast corner of the wrap-around veranda is marked by a pedimented gable. Window openings characteristic of the period and building type are tall, with architrave framements, and are fitted with double hung, one-over-one sash. Originally, there were two tall brick chimneys with corbeled caps. The south chimney was removed, and the north chimney was rebuilt as a stub flue.

The interior reflects good quality mill work of the day, which is natural-finished and varnished cedar. The walls are surfaced with sheet rock. Noteworthy features include a dogleg staircase, window and door trim of beaded surrounds with bull's-eye corner blocks, original hardware, and several distinctive art glass windows.

The Stellmacher Farmstead is eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C as a well preserved agricultural ensemble meeting criteria for significance set forth in the Oregon Agriculture Context prepared in 1989 and Linn County's Historic Barn Context (1997). The historic period of significance spans nearly 40 years. By the scale and functional relationship of its buildings, this operational nucleus represents a typical early 20th century Willamette Valley farm in transition to mechanization and diversification. The point is made that wheat and livestock production gave way in the 1940s to grass seed at this family farm and others throughout the Valley.

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The German-born Gus Stellmacher (1856-1937) emigrated to the United States in his youth. He married the former Emma Garber in Wisconsin in 1882. The Stellmachers were drawn to Oregon by the family members who had preceded them. They lived in the Tanget area before acquiring their spread. Their household included their own four children, a hired hand and his relations. Gus Stellmacher left the farm operation to his son, Walter, before his death in Albany in 1937. The current owners, the Goods, are the first owners of the property since the family sold the farm in 1978.

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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing

Non-contributing

5

1

buildings

sites

1

0

structures

6

1

objects

Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: Single dwelling  
Agriculture Animal facility  
Agriculture Outbuilding  
                   
                   
                   
                   
                 

Cat: Domestic Sub: Single dwelling  
Agriculture Storage  
Agriculture Outbuilding  
                   
                   
                   
                   
                 

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Queen Anne, vernacular  
          
        

foundation concrete  
walls wood: drop siding  
wood: shingle  
roof wood: shingle  
other           
        

**Narrative Description**

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

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### SITE

Gus and Emma Stellmacher developed their farmstead in the heart of the Willamette Valley on the fertile bottom land of the Calapooia River drainage. Between 1900 and 1905, the Stellmachers created this farmstead just south of Albany and a mile east of the Southern Pacific Railroad alignment and Highway 99E. The farmstead is located two miles southeast of Tangent in a vast rural setting on the west side of Tangent Loop (C.R. 401). The remnant property (4.10 acres) is surrounded by neighboring grass fields with Lake Creek and a stand of scrub oak bordering its southern edge. The nominated property (2.54 acres) is outlined by a wire fence on its southern, northern and western edges, and Tangent Loop on its eastern edge.

A house, barn, and several outbuildings are situated on the nominated property. The house proper sits 56 feet away from Tangent Loop and is framed by deciduous trees, firs and rhododendrons. A stock barn is located approximately 80 feet southwest of the house. A water tower once stood between the house and barn, approximately 35 feet southwest of the house. It can be seen just above the huge oak trees to the south of the house in the historic photo. The water tower's pads still remain and are located in close proximity to a pump house and carport. A storage building is located three feet off the northwest corner of the house. The site of a demolished chicken coop is located approximately 240 feet west of the house. A sheep shed is located approximately 255 feet west of the house just north of the chicken coop site. A buggy step is located on the gravel shoulder of Tangent Loop adjacent to the front walkway.

The house is ringed by concrete walkways and rhododendrons installed in 1979. Along the southern edge of the yard beside the driveway is a re-creation of the original picket fence. It consists of alternating 1"×2" pickets and 1"×8" kick board like the original; however, 4"×4" posts are placed at more frequent intervals to give the fence more strength than the original. Between the fence and the house are the two massive oak trees visible in the historic photo.

### HOUSE

The Gus and Emma Stellmacher House is significant architecturally as the most intact rural residence with Queen Anne features in Linn County. The finely crafted home is located at 32404 Tangent Loop, 1¾ miles southeast of the town of Tangent. Built c.1905 for Gus and Emma Stellmacher, it is front-gabled with a side-wing, typical for a Willamette Valley farmhouse; however, its extensive Queen Anne decorative program is unusual. Its principal decorative features are a polygonal bay topped with a balustrade; a wrap-around porch with turned posts, spindles, and brackets; and an ornate gable treatment with five different types of sawn shingles. There are three leaded-glass windows, one of which is considered very rare.<sup>1</sup> The interior is nearly intact and retains its original woodwork, doors, trim, and hardware. The residence is in excellent condition.

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## HOUSE EXTERIOR

The house is sheathed in channel rustic drop siding with a 4¾" exposure. Corner boards are 1"×5" and lay on top of the siding. Windows are 1/1 double-hung sash windows with lamb's tongues. The windows are trimmed with plain boards and capped with a crown moulding. The 6½" watertable consists of a watertable board, cap and moulding. The frieze is topped by a small moulding where it meets the soffit. The soffit is boxed in. The fascia board is partially covered by a crown moulding where it meets the shingles. The roof is pitched at approximately 40° and is sheathed in wood shingles. The chimney on the east-west ridge has been removed. The chimney on the north-south ridge has been rebuilt and simplified.

### East Elevation

The east elevation is the principal facade and faces Tangent Loop. Most of the Queen Anne ornamentation is presented on this elevation. The dominant feature is the parlor's three-sided bay window. The window bay has apron panels composed of diagonal boards forming a V-shaped pattern. A wider center sash is flanked by two standard 1/1 double-hung windows. The upper sash of the center window is a leaded glass panel composed of clear hexagonal shapes in a honeycomb pattern. Jeff Senders appraised the stained glass windows in the house and believes this to be the only window of this type in the area, as most use a diagonal square pattern instead of hexagonal.<sup>2</sup> The bay has tongue and groove panels over each window and three-part scroll brackets terminating each trim board. The roof of the bay uses imbricated shingles to mirror the shingles in the gables (i.e., spherical, rectangular, and lozenge shapes). The polygonal bay is topped with a short balustrade composed of turned balusters and newel posts capped with ball finials.

The wrap-around Queen Anne porch begins on this facade, wrapping around the chamfered corner of the kitchen and continuing along the north elevation. The porch has turned posts, a spindle frieze, and a low railing of turned balusters. Three-part scroll brackets terminate each of the turned posts and match those on the bay. The porch has a shed roof with boxed-in eaves and a pediment at the chamfered corner. The pediment contains shingles mirroring the imbrication in the gables.

The front gable is filled with six different shingle shapes: rectangular, hexagonal, sawtooth, concave, and fishscale. The fishscale shingles are located beneath the concave shingles so that the effect is that of a course of shingle circles. The frieze board beneath soffit has a concave profile. In the center of the gable is a pentagonal window. The cornice terminates in eave returns that are capped in fishscale shingles.

From the porch, a visitor can enter the dining room or the parlor. The dining room door is preceded by an original wooden screen door. The door itself has two panels (side-by-side) with an etched window, a common acid-etched doorlite of a Roosevelt Elk. However, according to Senders, most of the windows of this type in the area are in poor condition, yet this one is completely intact and undamaged.

From the porch, a visitor can also enter the parlor. The parlor door consists of three horizontal panels below a stained-glass panel in a lily motif. The window is composed of antique glass around 100 years old, according to

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Senders. For this window type, it has many different colors and several different grains including large and small ripple, hammerback, and glue-chip. There are also several hand-ground bevels, and an exceptionally rare flashed dark mauve, probably from Germany.

### North Elevation

The north elevation continues the decorative program of the east elevation. The gable ends are identical and the porch continues the same Queen Anne details. The door into the kitchen from the exterior has an original wooden screen door. To the right of the kitchen door is the door to the boxed-in stair leading to the hired hand's room upstairs.

### West Elevation

The west elevation discontinues the decorative program of the east and north sides. The gable does have eave returns; however, the returns are not shingled with fancy cut shingles and neither is the gable itself. There is no pentagonal window in the gable either. Siding splicing under the bathroom windows on this elevation indicate that at one time taller windows existed here.

### South Elevation

The south elevation is the plainest of the four sides. It originally had only three windows: parlor, bedroom, and stair hall. In 1979, a 14'x35' wooden deck was built abutting the south elevation. The deck is built of 2"x6" joists, 4"x4" posts, and 2"x4" decking. A lattice skirting surrounds the deck. The deck is low profile with a minimal rail and is concealed by shrubs. To access the deck, two 6' sliding glass doors were inserted into the south facade, replacing two original 1/1 double-hung windows. The sliding glass doors were carefully trimmed to match the rest of the house using salvaged trim from a neighboring house undergoing demolition.

### Foundation

The foundation system is comprised of 6"x8" beams running east to west supported by 10"x10" posts resting on concrete pads. The beams support 1<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub>"x7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>" joists running north to south, 2' on center, and measure 15' long. The decking is 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" tongue and groove.

## HOUSE INTERIOR

The room layout at the Stellmacher House is fairly intact, the only modifications being at the back of the house off of the kitchen and the insertion of an upstairs bath. Woodwork throughout the house is original, cedar, and varnished to a high gloss. It is all in excellent condition. Ceiling height downstairs is 9'6" and 7'11" upstairs. Internal framing consists of 1<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub>"x3<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub>" studs throughout sheathed in 6<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>"-wide tongue and groove.

Doors are typically four-paneled measuring 2'5" wide and 6'7" tall. The doors are trimmed with a 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>" wide board scribed with two principal channels in a series of ovolos. The upper corners are finished with corner block

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patera measuring 5½" square and contain a series of four rings in a bull's eye motif. The vertical trim terminates 10½" above the floor at a plinth block capped with a complex moulding. Doors downstairs typically have single-pane, clear glass transoms. Door hardware typically consists of a 7" oval escutcheon with an oval knob and skeleton key hole.

The typical 1/1 double-hung window measures 2'3" wide and 5'9" tall. The windows are trimmed in the same fashion as the doors with a 5½" wide board scribed with two principal grooves and corner block patera. The upper corners are finished with patera measuring 5½" and containing a series of four rings. The stool is bull nosed measuring 1"×3" and is supported by an apron. Window stops finish in an ovolo and measure ½"×1½". All of the double-hung windows are operable with sash cords, pulleys, and counterweights intact.

Baseboards are 8¾" tall, channeled, and are capped with a complex moulding. The house is carpeted throughout except in the kitchen, adjoining bathroom, and upstairs bedrooms where there is vinyl. A modern cornice moulding is used on the ground floor where wall meets ceiling.

The most invasive change to the interior of the house has been the application of sheetrock to all wall surfaces. Downstairs, the sheetrock was applied over the plaster which lessened the reveal of the trim work. Since the upstairs was never finished, the sheetrock application had less of an effect on the trim work.

### **Downstairs - Dining**

The original dining room now serves as an entry hall and measures 13'×14'. The dining room is accessed through an exterior door in the east wall. The north wall is dominated by a wood pellet stove at the location of the original stove. The new stove sits on a 5'×3'8" brick and tile hearth. Wood veneer paneling surrounds a 5'×4'10" brick veneer backing wall for the pellet stove. Left of the stove is the entrance to the kitchen. Its door has been removed from its hinges and is stored in the barn. The west wall has a door into what is now the sewing room. The south wall has three doors all with transoms. The right door leads to the bedroom, the center door to the stair hall, and the left door into the parlor. The east wall contains the exterior door flanked by 1/1 double-hung windows typical to the house.

### **Downstairs - Parlor**

The parlor measures 15'×15' at its widest. The parlor can be accessed from the dining room, through an exterior door in the north wall, or through a sliding glass door in the south wall. The room is dominated by the three-sided bay in the east wall. The north wall contains the two entry doors. The door into the parlor from the dining room was removed from its hinges and is stored in the barn. The entire west wall is covered in a grass-textured board where a fireplace was once located. The south wall contains a sliding glass door, part of the 1979 remodel. It is trimmed out identically to other doors and windows in the house as trim boards were obtained from a neighboring house that was being demolished. There is a central ceiling fan.

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### **Downstairs - Kitchen**

The kitchen measures 12'6"×14'. The kitchen can be accessed from the dining room or through an exterior door in the north wall. The kitchen underwent a full remodel during the 1979 remodel. New cabinetry was installed throughout; the original cabinets were removed and reinstalled in the storage shed and in Richard Good's shop a few miles away. The north wall contains an exterior door, double-hung window without lamb's tongues, and cabinetry. The northeast corner of the room is chamfered and contains a sink and double-hung window without lamb's tongues. The chamfered corner was an early modification to the house which included the probable removal of a door and the placement of the five windows in this corner. The historic photo does not assist in confirming this; however, splices in the siding and the more modern style of window points to an early modification of this corner. The east wall has a pair of double-hung windows without lamb's tongues and cabinetry. The south wall contains the door into the kitchen from the dining room, an electric stove, and cabinetry. The door was removed from its hinges and is stored in the barn. The west wall contains the door into the bath. A second door opening from the kitchen into the bathroom was filled in during the 1979 kitchen remodel. That door is also stored in the barn.

### **Downstairs - Bedroom**

The downstairs bedroom measures 15'×13'. The bedroom can be accessed from the dining room or through a sliding glass door in the south wall. The west wall contains a typical 1/1 double-hung window. The south wall contains a sliding glass door, part of the 1979 remodel. It is trimmed out identically to other doors and windows in the house as trim boards were obtained from a neighboring house that was being demolished. The east wall has two 12" speaker grills, 7'7" off the floor. The north wall contains the entry from the dining room and a closet with bi-fold doors created during the 1979 remodel with space borrowed from the sewing room.

### **Downstairs - Sewing Room**

The sewing room measures 9'×9'. Originally the room measured 12'×9'; however, a new wall was erected in 1979 on the south end of the room to provide a closet for the adjoining bedroom, trimming 3' off of the sewing room in the process. The west wall contains a typical 1/1 double-hung window. The north wall is unadorned. The east wall contains the entry from the dining room.

### **Downstairs - Bathroom**

The downstairs bathroom was remodeled extensively during the 1979 rehabilitation. This room was originally two rooms, an arch representing the original wall location. With the parting wall removed, it now measures 13'6"×9' at its widest point. The south wall has a modern sink, mirror, and toilet. The west wall has a pair of double-hung windows without lamb's tongues; however, the windows are trimmed identically to those in the rest of the house. A modern tub and vanity are also on the west wall. The north wall contains a modern utility closet with bi-fold doors for a washer, dryer, and forced-air furnace. On the east wall is the entry to the kitchen, a modern shower stall, and a small cabinet under the stairs for the hot water heater. The baseboard common throughout the house is continued in the bathroom.

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### Downstairs - Stair Hall

The stair hall measures 15'×6' and is accessible only from the dining room. The dogleg stair is quite ornate with and open string and turned balusters and newel post. The rounded rail is 3¼" surmounting 1¾" turned balusters. The lower newel is a 6" turned shaft post with a 5½" ball finial. The upper newel is a 4¾" chamfered post with 4½" ball finial. The stairs have a 11½" tread, 7½" rise, and a 1½" nose. A small cove moulding is under the nosing. The underside of the staircase is finished in a four-panel motif with 3¼" tongue and groove making up the panel infill. Under the stairs is 3'10" tall door trimmed in the fashion of the house. There is a modern lantern light fixture hanging from the center of the ceiling.

### Downstairs - Secondary Stair (Hired Hand's Stair)

The secondary stair is an L-shaped, boxed-in stair with winders. It is accessed through an exterior door adjacent to the exterior door into the kitchen and leads to the north bedroom (i.e., the hired hand's room). It is perilously narrow at 2' wide with 10" treads and 9½" risers. The floor in the north bedroom is cut back 2'4" to accommodate the stairs arrival and is covered with a plywood hatch. The stair is no longer used.

### Upstairs - East Bedroom

The east bedroom measures 15'×13'. Entry is through the east wall from the stair landing. The west wall has a pair of 1/1 double-hung windows, looking out over the bay window, trimmed in simple 5¼" boards. The south wall is unadorned. The north wall contains a closet which may have been inserted soon after construction, as the door's style and hardware are early but do not match the rest of the house. Baseboards are plain 9" boards without a cap.

### Upstairs - West Bedroom

The west bedroom measures 15'×13'. Entry is through the west wall from the stair landing. The east wall has a pair of 1/1 double-hung windows trimmed in simple 5¼" boards. The south wall is unadorned. The north wall contains a 1/1 double-hung window and a closet which may have been inserted soon after construction, as the door's style and hardware are early but do not match the rest of the house. Baseboards are plain 9" boards without a cap. The scuttle to the attic is located in this room.

### Upstairs - North Bedroom (Hired Hand's Room)

Originally unfinished, the north bedroom was most likely the hired hand's room. It could be accessed from either the south end of the room at the formal interior stair or from a two-foot wide L-shaped staircase that led directly to the exterior. Originally the room was 23'×14'. In 1979 a small bathroom was inserted into the southwest corner of the room. In the center of the room is the original chimney flue from the former fireplace below. The north wall contains a pair of 1/1 double-hung windows. The east wall also contains a pair of 1/1 double-hung windows. The south wall is where the door to the main stair is located along with a bank of modern cabinets. The west wall has the new bathroom, the trap door to the secondary stair, and wood veneer paneling. There is a 4" rounded base moulding at the floor.

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### Attic

Access to the attic is through the west bedroom. Skip sheathing is 1"×4" spaced 8" on center supported by 1¾"×3¾" rafters. Ceiling joists are 1¾"×5¾". The remaining chimney is 1'6"×1'6" formed from bricks 8½"×2¼"×4". There is an average of 10" of blown-in pink insulation blanketing the attic.

### OTHER ELEMENTS

#### Stock Barn

The stock barn is a three-bay, front-gabled, end-opening rectangular stock barn. The stock barn was built for Gus Stellmacher sometime in the first few years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Stellmacher purchased the property in 1900. He supposedly built this barn several years before the house was built c.1905.<sup>3</sup> The patent date on the roller doors is 1901, which assists in confirming that the barn was not built before 1901.

There is a large roller door in the center of the east elevation to access the interior. The interior of the barn consists of a center aisle flanked by grain bins to the north and stalls with stanchions to the south. There is a hay hood above the large roller door to service a hay fork and track system that is still intact. There are roller doors at either end of the south bay to access the stalls. A lean-to is attached to the north side of the barn and is accessed by a roller door on the east end. The floor has been removed in the lean-to which is now used for equipment storage and a shop. The south elevation has had its fenestration covered with corrugated metal.

The barn measures approximately 52'×48'. The foundation system consists of 6"×6" beams supported by several different post systems, the majority of which are oak posts resting directly on the ground. The frame consists of a variety of large-scale, full-dimension, circular-sawn members. Bents are formed by 6"×6" posts and girts. Canted purlin posts and horizontal connecting members are 4"×4". Knee braces (3"×4") are simply notched into the posts and secured with spikes. The floor structure in the southern bay consists of 2"×8" decking over 3"×4" stringers supported by 2"×6" joists on top of 6"×6" beams. (The floor in this area of the barn was overbuilt to livestock.) The hayloft floor structure consists of 1"×12" over round joists averaging 5" in diameter and 18" on center. The walls of the south and west elevations are board and batten with 1"×12" boards and ¾"×2¾" rectangular battens. The north lean-to wall is board and batten with 1"×11½" boards and ¾"×2¾" shaped battens. As typical, the east elevation has no battens to allow for ventilation and light. The gable roof is sheathed in corrugated metal over wood shingles. The roof is constructed of 1"×4" skip sheathing 8" on center laid over 2"×4" rafters 18" on center. Cut nails are present in the sheathing only; wire nails are used elsewhere in the structure.

#### Pump House

The pump house was built as a replacement to the 1909 water tower. It has a gable roof and is square in plan, measuring approximately 8'×8'. It is sheathed in channel rustic lap siding with a 7" exposure. Corner boards are 1"×5" and lay on top of the siding. Eaves are boxed in and are finished with a 6" fascia and rake board. Corrugated metal roofing covers wood shingles. Wire nails were used in its construction. The building sits

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directly on the ground. Inside is a modern electric pump and pressure storage tank. The building's trim, siding type and size, and structure indicate a construction date circa 1920.

### Storage Shed

The storage shed is sited three feet away from the kitchen porch. It has a gable roof and is rectangular in plan, measuring approximately 13'×18'. The walls are board and batten with 1"×12" boards and 1"×4" battens; however, there are no battens on the north elevation. Corrugated metal roofing covers wood shingles. On the north elevation there is a sliding six-pane window. On the east elevation there is a door. On the south elevation are several rings formerly used to tie up horses. The inside is sheathed in 7" horizontal boards. The rafters are full dimension 2"×4". Inside the storage shed are some of the original kitchen cabinets, now used as canning cupboards. The remainder of the original kitchen cabinets are in Richard Good's shop a few miles away. The building's siding type and size, trim, window, and structure indicate a construction date circa 1910.

### Chicken Coop (demolished 1998)

The chicken coop had a shed roof and was rectangular in plan, measuring approximately 8'×6'. It was sheathed in 1"×12" applied vertically. The structure consisted of full dimension 2"×4" and rested directly on the ground. The minimal building had a plywood roof covered in corrugated metal. Wire and cut nails were used in its construction. There was a small window opening on each elevation near the top of the wall with two windows appearing on its east facade. A small door for chickens was on the north elevation. A larger door for humans was on the east facade. The building's sheathing, trim, and structure indicated a construction date circa 1935. The coop had fallen into disrepair and was finally demolished by the owners in 1998.

### Sheep Shed

The sheep shed has a shed roof and is rectangular in plan, measuring approximately 15'×10', with its long side open to the east. It is sheathed in channel rustic lap siding with a 7" exposure. It has no corner boards. Its structure consists of full dimension 2"×4" and rests directly on the ground. The minimal building has a corrugated metal roof supported by 1"×6" skip sheathing over 2"×4" full-dimension rafters. Wire nails were used in its construction. Inside is a hay rack used in feeding sheep. The building's siding type and size, trim, and structure indicate a construction date circa 1935. The building is no longer used and is in a dilapidated condition.

### Buggy Step

The buggy step is a contributing object and is formed of solid concrete. It measures 3' deep, 4' wide, and 21" high with three 7" risers and 12" treads. Originally it was used as an aid to getting into and out of a buggy. Today, it is used as a base for a mailbox.

### Carport

The carport is a non-contributing building that does not add to the historic associations of the property. It was built in 1979 and is located behind the house discretely placed off the southwest corner of the house parallel to the driveway. It has a shed roof and measures approximately 18'×30'.

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### Endnotes

1. Jeff Senders. *Stained Glass Commentary, Good Residence, Tangent, Oregon*. March 10, 1994.
2. Ibid.
3. Staff Report to Linn County Historic Resource Commission on HR-6-92/93 and HR-6a-92/93. Linn County Planning and Building Department, Albany, Oregon, September 20, 1993.

**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)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- 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.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- 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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Agriculture

**Period of Significance**

c.1901 - 1939

**Significant Dates**

c.1901 (barn construction)

c.1905 (house construction)

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**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 more continuation sheets.)

**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:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Linn County Planning Department

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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The historic farmstead developed by Gus and Emma Stellmacher in the period from c.1901 to 1939 meets National Register Criteria A and C. It is a well-preserved and maintained agricultural ensemble that meets registration requirements set forth in Oregon's Agricultural Context Statement (1989) and Linn County's Barn Context Statement (1997). The farmstead illustrates the functional relationship of the farmhouse and outbuildings on a small farm during a period of agricultural diversification and experimentation. Within the ensemble, two components, the house and barn, are excellent examples of their respective resource types. The period of significance represents the time from which Stellmachers began to farm the property in c.1901 to the point that wheat production gave way to grass seed production in the early 1940s. This operational nucleus has high integrity and represents a typical early 20<sup>th</sup> century Willamette Valley farm in transition from animal muscle to machine power.

The property's buildings and layout are tangible reminders of turn-of-the-century rural farm life. The house stands as a testament to the rural homeowner's desire to be fashionable yet have a home that functions as a farmhouse. The barn rises as a symbol of wheat farming when wheat was the dominant crop in the Valley. Each of the buildings on the site attest to life on the farmstead at the time in which they were built, helping to define farming in the Valley at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The nominated property encompasses, in addition to the farmhouse and accessory buildings, the landscaped yard, service areas, and pasture. All of these areas have retained their visual character from the turn of the century to the present.

### FARMING IN LINN COUNTY

By 1850, approximately five years after the first pioneers claimed land within the present day boundaries of Linn County, there were 138 farms, most of which were planting wheat.<sup>1</sup> Prior to mechanization, a farmer was limited in the amount of wheat planted by a very short harvest time. With the advent of harvesting equipment in the 1860s and an increase in drained acreage, the size and number of farms in Linn County increased. With the arrival of the railroad in 1871 and further technological innovations, wheat production took off. Linn County saw its peak in wheat production in 1897, at which point yields began to decline, farming diversified, and dairy farming gained a foothold.<sup>2</sup>

Prior to 1870, most barns were constructed with a heavy timber frame, a low pitched roof, and a large threshing floor. With the adoption of the hay hoist and threshing machine, barns built after 1870 were larger, had taller and more steeply pitched roofs, and did not need a threshing floor. With the arrival of the new century, barn construction became more standardized yet there was a great deal of experimentation.

The Stellmacher barn exemplifies this period of transition, as it incorporates many elements from both the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The barn uses the most typical type of framing in Linn County: the sawn timber frame.<sup>3</sup> It

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also has a fairly common three-bay configuration. However, there are vestiges of its 19<sup>th</sup> century roots. Both cut and wire nails are used in its construction. Knee braces are notched into the posts but are then secured with spikes. The barn uses both windows and a non-battened east side to provide light and ventilation. It has a hay fork with exterior loading door, yet has a rear gable door to allow the hayfork to be operated by a draft animal.

After World War I, farming became more specialized and standardized. The tractor began to dominate, and between 1920 and 1950, most farms in the United States switched from draft animals to mechanical power.<sup>4</sup> The Stellmacher barn continued to be used during this period in its original role as grain, hay, and animal storage without major modification. The Stellmachers switched from wheat to grass seed in the 1940s along with the rest of the Willamette Valley. Today, the area around the farmstead is still planted with grass seed. The land within the boundaries of the nominated property is fallow.

### COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

The house was chosen as a good candidate for a comparative analysis as there appeared to be few rural Queen Annes in Linn County. There are many front-gable, side-wing rural farmhouses in Linn County; however, few of these farmhouses display the extensive Queen Anne ornamentation of the Gus and Emma Stellmacher House. There are many Queen Anne-style houses with more elaborate decorative programs and true Queen Anne massing in Linn County; however, these houses are restricted to urban areas. In an attempt to prove these two hypotheses, a comparative analysis of rural Queen Anne's was performed.

The following comparative analysis was selected from the Queen Anne style residences listed in the Linn County Cultural Resource Inventory and coupled with field reconnaissance. There are six rural properties listed as Queen Anne in the Inventory. The six buildings were investigated and compared to the Stellmacher House in terms of integrity and Queen Anne precepts.

#### **Aaron Baltimore House** - 35898 Spicer Drive, 5 miles north of Lebanon

The Aaron Baltimore House is a fine example of a vernacular Queen Anne farmhouse that incorporates both Queen Anne massing and detailing. It was built in 1885 as a home for Aaron Baltimore, a carpenter, horse breeder, and farmer. It is 1½ stories with an irregular massing common with Queen Annes though much more restrained. It has a front bay with a hipped roof and brackets, and a sunburst pediment over its bracketed front entry porch. The house has had aluminum slider windows inserted into its front and east facades. The Baltimore House does have a sense of Queen Anne massing that the Stellmacher House does not have; however, the Baltimore House does not have a decorative program on par with the Stellmacher House.

#### **Dobrovsky House** - 37300 Richardson Gap Road, 4 miles southeast of Scio

The Dobrovsky House is an excellent example of the final gasp of the Queen Anne style. It was built in c.1912 and has the irregular massing of a Queen Anne with the restrained detailing of the Colonial Revival. It is a large

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2 ½ story house with 1/1 double-hung windows and lap siding. For its Colonial detailing, the house has classical columns with brackets and a spindle rail, vestigial eave returns, unadorned windows, and a pedimented porch entry. Since its decorative program is Colonial Revival, the house cannot be properly compared to the Stellmacher House.

**William Mealey House** - 44335 North River Road, 5 miles northeast of Sweet Home

The William Mealey House is a front-gable, side-wing home with Queen Anne detailing. It has a jerkin head roof and 1/1 double-hung windows. For its Queen Anne detailing, the house has both a two-story and one-story bay, diamond shingles in the gables, and turned porch posts with a spindle frieze and brackets on the wing's porch. Since 1983, it has lost its two-story Queen Anne front porch in its entirety. The house is comparable to the Stellmacher House, though its more limited decorative program and loss of its front porch rank the Mealey House below the Stellmacher.

**Morrison-Richardson House** - 43303 Burmester Drive, 8 miles southwest of Jordan

The Morrison-Richardson House is quite similar to the Stellmacher house in its front-gable, side-wing plan and Queen Anne detailing. It was built c.1904 and is sheathed in channel rustic drop siding pierced by 1/1 double-hung windows. For Queen Anne elements, the house has chamfered, bracketed corners on the front gable end and bracketed and turned porch columns. However, that is where the decorative program ends. The Stellmacher House displays Queen Anne decorative elements much more extensively.

**James A. Pierce House** - 23655 Rowland Road, 5 miles east of Harrisburg

The Pierce House is an excellent example of a rural farmhouse with minor Queen Anne detailing. It has a fine gravel approach on a long drive through cultivated fields. The house was built in 1900 for \$1200 by James A. Pierce, a lawyer in Eugene. The structure is two-story and nearly cruciform in plan. It has channel rustic drop siding and 1/1 double-hung windows. Like the Stellmacher House, the Pierce House has a projecting bay on the front facade, turned porch posts with a spindle frieze, and pattern work in the gables (here scalloped boards laid diagonally to give a decorative shingle effect). Over time, the house has lost its chimneys, ridge cresting, and picket fence. It has gained aluminum storm windows, an enclosed porch, a composition shingle roof, and the pockmarks that come with blown-in wall insulation. It is in good condition. The Pierce House is comparable to the Stellmacher House in age and size; however, the Queen Anne decorative program on the Stellmacher House is more extensive than the Pierce's.

**Thompson House** - Boston Mill Road, 1½ miles east of Shedd

The Thompson House is a two-story building originally built in the Italianate style in the 1890s. It has lost its belvedere, and gained a new surface of wood shingles and aluminum storm windows. Its rear porch has been filled in. The house has very little ornamentation but does have a square, flared-eave tower on its front elevation. The house does have some of the Queen Anne's massing but its decorative program is so minimal as to not be nearly on par with the Stellmacher House.

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### Conclusion

After visiting all of the rural properties listed on the Linn County Historic Resource Inventory as Queen Annes, it is evident that the Gus and Emma Stellmacher House is the most intact, Queen Anne-detailed, rural farmhouse in Linn County. Coupled with the highest integrity found, the house displays a greater amount of Queen Anne ornamentation on a simple farmhouse plan than any other in Linn County, as identified to this date.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Gus and Emma Stellmacher Farmstead is located on a portion of the former Commodore Knighton Donation Land Claim. In 1900, Gus C. Stellmacher purchased approximately 120 acres in the location of the current house from E.L. Bryan. That same year he purchased an additional 60 acres adjoining this parcel to the north. Based on tax records, it appears that the Stellmachers had the current house built sometime around 1905, as there is a considerable property improvement indicated on the 1906 tax assessment.

Gus[t] C. Stellmacher was born in Germany on May 19, 1856 and came to the United States when he was a young man. His brothers and sisters were Alfred, Ernest, William Conrad, and Bertha. Gus was living in Wisconsin when he married Emma Garber at Janesville in 1882. Around 1880, William Conrad ventured out to Oregon, soon to be followed by his father, Conrad, and his brothers and sisters. Gus and Emma Stellmacher emigrated in 1886. Gus and Emma lived in the Tangent area before purchasing the land for the farmstead in 1900.

The Stellmachers children were Martha (Archibald), Cora (Ellingsworth), Lydia (Johnson), and Walter. In 1905, six children with the last name of Jones (ranging in age from 2- to 17-years-old) also lived in the Stellmacher household. The Jones' were possibly the hired hand (Jesse, age 17) and his siblings.

Gus Stellmacher died in December 1937. At the time of his death, he was residing in Albany and his son Walter was operating the Tangent farm. Upon Gus' death, the farm was passed on to Walter. Walter Stellmacher and his wife, Tressie, continued to farm until they moved to Tangent in 1961. Walter then leased out the farm to the current owners, Richard and Laurretta Good. Upon Walter's death in 1978, the property was sold to the Goods. During those intervening 17 years, the house sat vacant.

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Stellmacher, Gus and Emma, Farmstead  
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### Endnotes

1. Mary K. Gallagher. *Historic Context Statement: The Barns of Linn County, Oregon, 1845-1945*. Linn County Planning Department, Albany, Oregon, 1997, p. 3.
2. Gallagher, p. 43-44.
3. Gallagher, p. 83.
4. Gallagher, p. 101.

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### Major Bibliographic Information

*Albany Greater Oregon*. Albany, Oregon, December 31, 1937. Gust C. Stellmacher obituary.

Gallagher, Mary K. *Historic Context Statement: The Barns of Linn County, Oregon, 1845-1945*. Linn County Planning Department, Albany, Oregon, 1997.

Linn County Assessment Rolls, 1900-06.

Linn County Deed Records, Book 64, Page 497 and Book 65, Page 594.

Linn County Probate Records, G.C. Stellmacher Probate, 5856.

Oregon State Census of Linn County, 1905.

Senders, Jeff. *Stained Glass Commentary, Good Residence, Tangent, Oregon*. March 10, 1994.

Smith, Elaine C. *Historic Resources Inventory, Linn County, Oregon 1982-83*. Linn County Planning and Building Department, Albany, Oregon, 1984.

Speulda, Lou Ann. *Oregon's Agricultural Development: A Historic Context, 1811-1940*. State Historic Preservation Office, Salem, Oregon, 1989.

Staff Report to Linn County Historic Resource Commission on HR-6-92/93 and HR-6a-92/93. Linn County Planning and Building Department, Albany, Oregon, September 20, 1993.

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 2.54

Tangent, Oregon 1:24000

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>10</u>	<u>492590</u>	<u>4929930</u>
2	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

	Zone	Easting	Northing
3	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
4	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title David Pinyerd

organization N/A date February 28, 1998

street & number 2248 Potter Street telephone 541-686-6135

city or town Eugene state OR zip code 97405

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name/title Richard and Laretta Good

street & number 32404 Tangent Loop telephone 541-928-7933

city or town Tangent state OR zip code 97389

**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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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### Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated area is located in Township 12S, Range 3W, Section 18, Willamette Meridian, in Linn County, Oregon. The area is delineated by a wire fence defining a rectangle adjacent to Tangent Loop Road on the property's eastern edge. The rectangle measures 410' east-west and 270' north-south. Its northeast corner is situated 1025 feet south of the northeastern corner of the Commodore P. Knighton Donation Land Claim (DLC 60). The area within the fence equals 2.54 acres and is situated within the 4.10 acres owned by Richard and Lauretta Good, as described on Linn County assessor's map 12-3W-18, tax lot 601.

### Boundary Justification

The nominated area comprises the nucleus of the original 180-acre Gus and Emma Stellmacher Farmstead. The area was delineated to include the house, barn, and all contributing outbuildings. The nominated property also encompasses the landscaped yard, service areas, and pasture. The 2.54 acres basically trims off the area of Lake Creek on the southern edge of the property. Comprised of wetland and scrub oaks, this area was not used by the Stellmachers as a wood lot or for any other identifiable purpose.

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### Photograph Descriptions

All of the 14 photographs enclosed with this nomination are of the Gus and Emma Stellmacher Farmstead at 32404 Tangent Loop in the vicinity of Tangent, Linn County, Oregon.

Photographs 2 and 4 are copies of an original tinted print of the Stellmacher Farmstead. The original hangs in the Stellmacher House. The photographer is unknown. The date is estimated to be c.1915 based on plant growth and the presence of the water tower which was erected in 1909 and was demolished c.1920.

Photographs 1, 3, and 5-14 were taken by David Pinyerd in April 1994. The negatives are stored in the file for this property at the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office.

#### No. 1 of 14

This is the view from the east of the Gus and Emma Stellmacher Farmstead. The barn is to the left of the house and is set back further from the road. The large oaks that appear to the left of the house are approximately as old as the house.

#### No. 2 of 14

This is a print of an original photograph of the Gus and Emma Stellmacher Farmstead c.1915. The view is similar to that in No. 1 and emphasizes the integrity of the house. The original water tower is just visible over the oak trees to the left of the house.

#### No. 3 of 14

This is the east elevation of the Stellmacher home. The loss of chimneys and porch brackets are the only alterations apparent on this elevation.

#### No. 4 of 14

This is an enlargement of No. 2 to show the details of the house more clearly.

#### No. 5 of 14

This is the north elevation of the Stellmacher home obscured by cherry trees.

#### No. 6 of 14

This is the west elevation of the Stellmacher home. The storage building (c.1910) is to the left.

#### No. 7 of 14

This is the south elevation of the Stellmacher home. The two modern sliding glass doors are visible, as is the recreated picket fence.

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**No. 8 of 14**

The c.1910 storage building and the house from the northwest.

**No. 9 of 14**

The pump house (c.1920) from the southeast.

**No. 10 of 14**

The sheep shed (c.1935) from the southeast.

**No. 11 of 14**

The exterior door into the parlor with its original stained glass lite.

**No. 12 of 14**

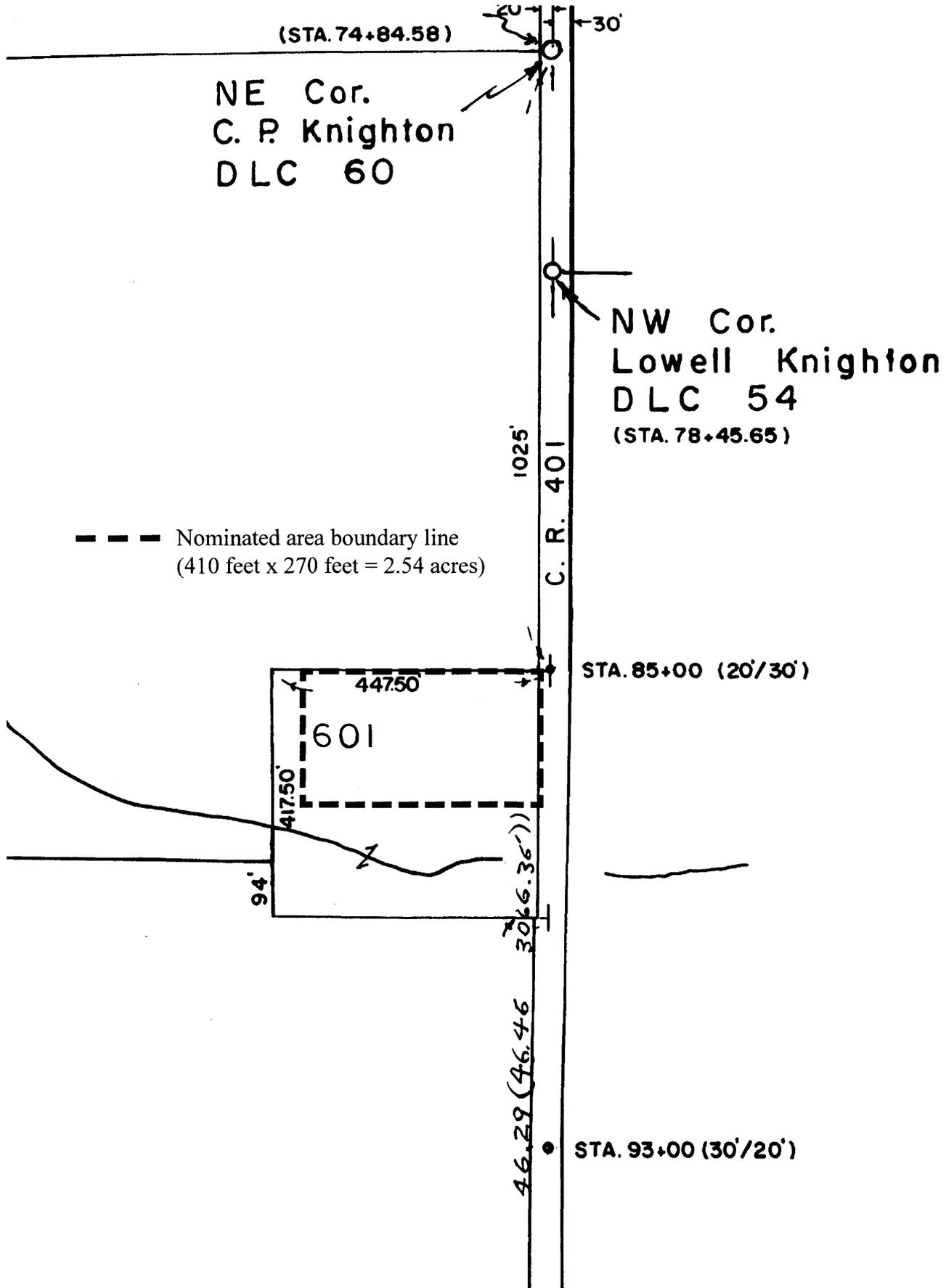
The main staircase to the second floor.

**No. 13 of 14**

The east elevation of the c.1901 barn.

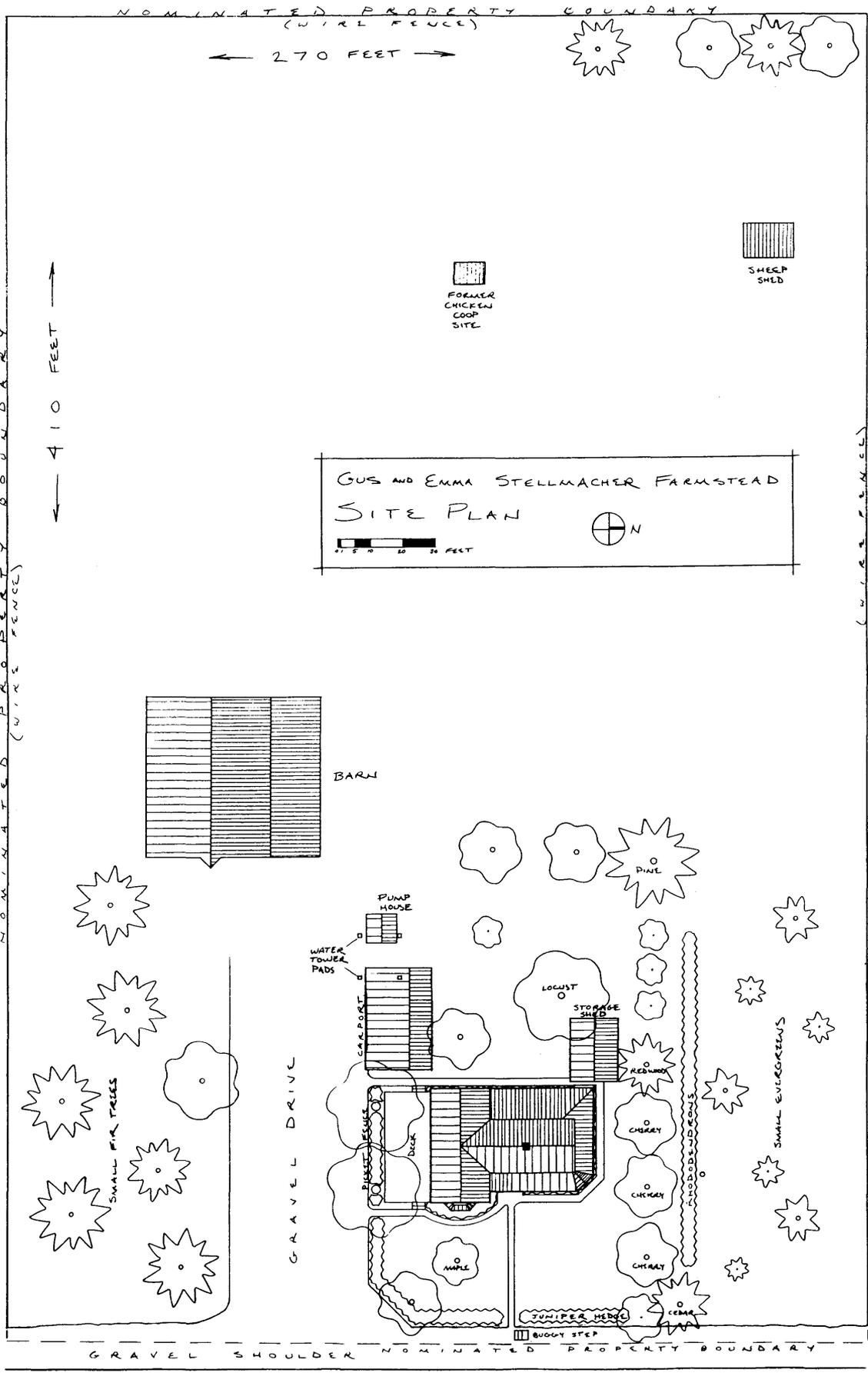
**No. 14 of 14**

The interior of the barn facing the southwest corner.



See Map 12 3W 17

Gus and Emma Stellmacher Farmstead, Map 12-3W-18 (Linn County), Tax Lot 601



GRAVEL SHOULDER NOMINATED PROPERTY BOUNDARY

TANGENT LOOP ROAD C.R. 401

NOMINATED PROPERTY BOUNDARY (WIRE FENCE)

NOMINATED PROPERTY BOUNDARY (WIRE FENCE)

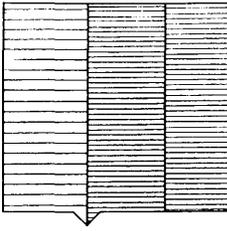
NOMINATED PROPERTY BOUNDARY (WIRE FENCE)

← 270 FEET →

← 410 FEET →

GUS AND EMMA STELLMACHER FARMSTEAD  
SITE PLAN

0 5 10 20 FEET



BARN

PUMP HOUSE

WATER TOWER PADS

CAMPBELL

LOCUST

STORAGE SHED

REDWOOD

CHERRY

CHERRY

CHERRY

MAPLE

JUNIPER HEDGE

Cedar

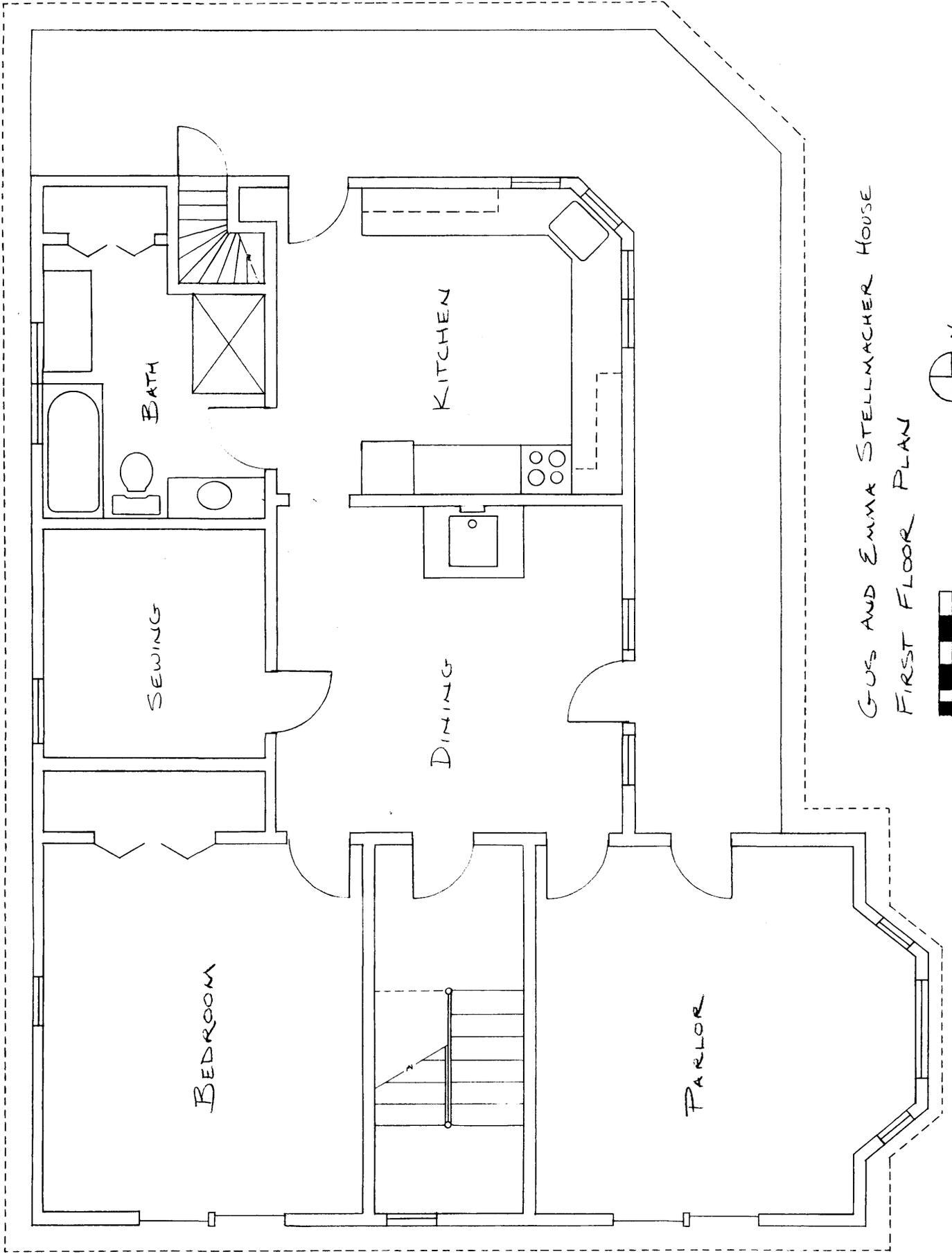
BUOY STEP

GRAVEL DRIVE

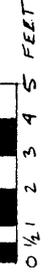
SMALL EVERGREENS

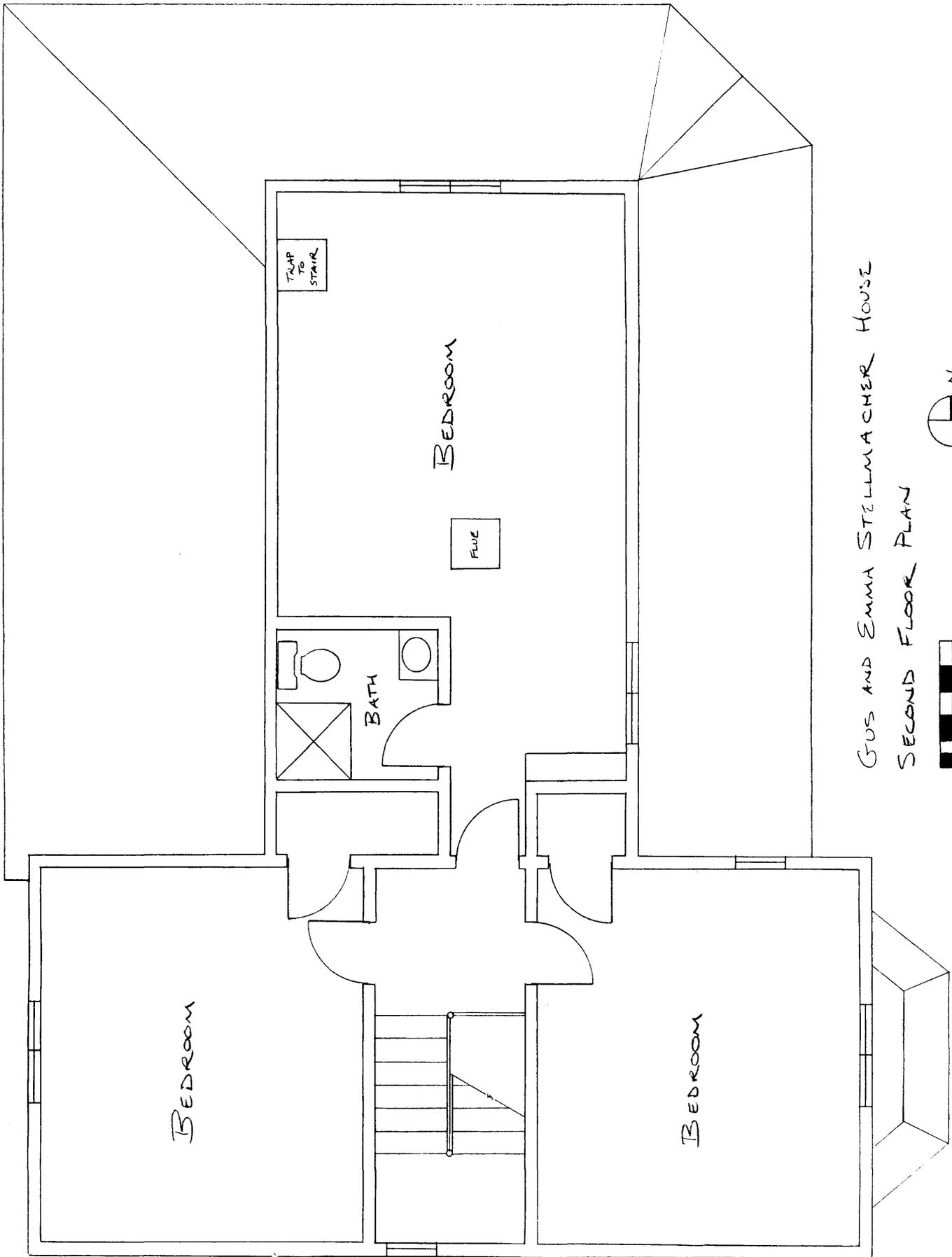
SMALL FIR TREES

NOMINATED PROPERTY BOUNDARY (WIRE FENCE)



GUS AND EMMA STELLMACHER HOUSE  
FIRST FLOOR PLAN





GUS AND EMMA STELLMACHER HOUSE

SECOND FLOOR PLAN

