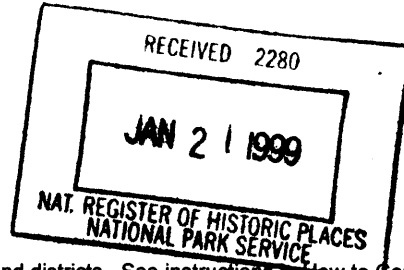


(Rev. 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**



239

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 Thompson Farmstead
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 47339 248th Street not for publication N/A
city or town Dell Rapids vicinity X
State South Dakota Code SD county Minnehaha code 099 zip code 57022

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide x locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jay D. Vogt
Signature of certifying official

01-13-99
Date

SD SHPO
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 commenting or other official Date

Thompson Farmstead
Name of Property

Minnehaha, South Dakota
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:)

Signature of the Keeper Edson B. Beal Date of Action 2/18/99

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- Private
 Public-local
 Public-State
 Public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- Building(s)
 District
 Site
 Structure
 Object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>7</u>	<u>2</u>	Buildings
<u>1</u>		Sites
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	Structures
		Objects
<u>10</u>	<u>3</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic	Sub: Single Dwelling
	Secondary Structure
Agriculture	Animal Facilities
	Storage
	Agricultural outbuilding
	Other

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic	Sub: Single Dwelling
	Secondary Structure
Agriculture	Animal Facilities
	Storage
	Vacant

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Queen Anne
Other: Wisconsin Dairy Barn

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Granite block
Roof Asphalt
Walls Wood clapboard, Clay Tile Block
Other

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

See Continuation Sheets

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)

Agriculture

Architecture

Period of Significance

1878-1948

Significant Dates 1878

1901-02

1932

Significant Person N/A**Cultural Affiliation** N/A**Architect/Builder** House: Robert Lodmell, Dell Rapids, SD

Hog House-Granary: Gunerius Thompson

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheets

9. Major Bibliographical References

(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:** South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office,
Pierre SD

Thompson Farmstead
Name of Property

Minnehaha, South Dakota
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 177.7 acres

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A	<u>14</u>	<u>681450</u>	<u>4850825</u>	C	<u>14</u>	<u>681825</u>	<u>4850630</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
B	<u>14</u>	<u>681820</u>	<u>4850830</u>	D	<u>14</u>	<u>682250</u>	<u>4850635</u>

X See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See Continuation Sheet

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.) See Continuation Sheet

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Lynda B. Schwan, SHPO Staff
Sylvia Knapp, Intern

Organization South Dakota State Historical Society date _____

Street & number 900 Governors Drive Telephone (605) 773-3458

City or town Pierre State SD Zip code 57501

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 Donreath and Delores Swain
street & number 3108 East 12th St. Telephone 605-338-0513
city or town Sioux Falls State SD zip code 57103

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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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:

The Thompson farmstead is located in Dell Rapids Township, Minnehaha County, South Dakota, approximately two miles from Baltic to the south and Dell Rapids to the north. The area is covered by gently rolling fields with shelterbelt rows protecting farmsteads and fields. The Big Sioux River winds its way through this fertile farmland. The home sits prominently beside Minnehaha County Road 110. It consists of a late Victorian era, Queen Anne style house surrounded by four hundred feet of iron fence, a summer kitchen, a Wisconsin Style Dairy barn and silo. Also included are the granite foundation of the original barn, a granite flood wall, a granary, a combination hog house-granary, hog watering system, two chicken houses, a metal shed, and a garage.

HOUSE--Contributing

The house, constructed in 1901-02 by Robert Lodmell of Dell Rapids, was intentionally built in two stages during a two year time frame.¹ The front section, which forms a square footprint was built in 1901. Immediately thereafter, construction commenced on the second, rectangular section. The house was finished in 1902.

Exterior:

The North elevation features two large gable dormers extending from the truncated hip roof. The house has two corbelled chimneys located in line with the gable dormers in the center part of the house. Within each of these dormers is a two light, half-round window. Decorative bargeboards details including spindles in a half-round pattern highlight the gable dormers. At the roofline, located around the entire house, are decorative brackets. On the second floor a single double-hung window is centered below the west dormer, and a pair of double-hung windows are centered beneath the east dormer. There are three more double-hung windows at this level: one on each side of the dormers and one between the dormers on the second floor. On the first floor of this elevation are two sets of tripartite windows. One set is located below the easterly dormer while the second set is positioned between the dormers. There are three more double-hung windows, which align with bays from the second floor. All of the double-hung windows are one over one.

The front or east façade of the house is reached via a driveway from the county road, which extends around to the south elevation. The façade of the house features a centered gable dormer identical to the two on the north elevation. The front façade is three bays wide. On the second floor, directly

¹ Don and Delores Swain, interview by Sylvia Knapp, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, 11 October 1998.

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below the dormer is a door to a second floor veranda. On either side of the door is a one over one double-hung window. Spaced an equal distance from each corner are single double-hung one over one windows. The veranda was surrounded by turned balusters, now removed for repair. The first floor features a hipped roof porch with composite columns, turned baluster railings, and decorative bargeboard at the eaves of the porch. The southeast corner of the porch consists of an enclosed airlock entry with a door to the foyer and a door to the porch. A large plate glass window with a stained glass rectangular window above, is located at the center of the first floor. A single one over one double-hung window is positioned to the left of the large plate glass window.

The South elevation features two large gable dormers extending from the truncated hip roof. Within each of these dormers is a two light, half-round window. Decorative bargeboards details, including spindles in a half-round pattern, highlight the gable dormers. Starting at the east corner of the south elevation the one over one double-hung windows progress in a set pattern: one, one, two pair under the eastern gable, one, one, one, door under western gable, one. The first floor has a small stained-glass window at the east corner to provide light for the foyer. A set of tripartite windows are located beneath the easterly gable dormer on the first floor. An open air porch located on the rear section of the house has been partially enclosed by clapboard siding a third of the way up. During the winter months, the openings are closed in with storm windows. The two entry doors provides access to the porch, one located at the southeast corner and the other slightly off center. The porch also features six turned columns.

The west elevation also features a gable dormer with a two-light half-round window for light in the attic. Decorative bargeboards details, including spindles in a half-round pattern, highlight the gable dormers. The second and first floors both have three evenly spaced one over one double-hung windows. The cellar entrance, which is located beneath the first floor, is protected by a small gable roof structure over the steps leading to the cellar entrance. The cellar is under three-quarters of the entire house.

Alterations to the exterior of the house include the addition of the entry, and enclosing of the front and side porches during the winter. Both alterations are in the historic period. Historically, the house had wood shingles. In 1989 it was re-shingled using asphalt shingles and the leaking skylights were sealed. The new owners, a grandson of Gunerius and Caroline Thompson, and his family have made many repairs, including window frames, new rain gutters, eaves, and spouts.

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Interior:

The front section, built in 1901, contains the formal rooms, which includes: the three parlors, a dining room and foyer with an open staircase. The house is entered from an entry built into the side front porch. The airlock contains a door to the foyer and a door to the porch. At the opposite end of the foyer is the door to the dining room.

All woodwork in the public area of the house is cypress except for oak staircases. This includes a very ornate spandrel between the two front parlors, and door and window casings. The staircase has a unique lozenge fretwork balustrade above turned balusters. Original wallpaper with gilded detail is still on the walls of the foyer, the three parlors and dining room. Gilded astragal molding encircles the foyer. The flooring is alternating light and dark hardwood pieces. The original gas light fixtures remain in the house and have been converted to electric.

The front staircase leads from the foyer to a second floor open landing. From there an L-shaped hall provides access to all the bedrooms on the second floor. All bedrooms contain walk-in closets. The bedrooms also retain their original wallpapers. At the point where the two sections of the house merge, the hall can be closed via a swing door. Positioned near the back stairway, at the end of the hall, is a very large bath with original fixtures, a large linen closet and a dumbwaiter.

The rear section of the house, constructed in 1902, consists of the kitchen, a bedroom, a full bath, a pantry, and staircases to both second floor and cellar. The second floor has numerous bedrooms and a full bathroom.

The attic is reached via a staircase of the same design as that in the front foyer. The attic consists of five rooms, three of which have doors for privacy and closets. The attic also contains a full bathroom and a dumbwaiter. Light is provided by the half-round windows in the dormers and by the two large skylights.

There are very few interior alterations. Due to roof leaks around attic skylights, much plaster was damaged on both the second and first floors.

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SUMMER KITCHEN--Contributing

It is theorized that the summer kitchen was the home of the Thompson's from 1881-1901. It is a rectangular, steep-gabled building featuring one and one-half stories with a basement. It is two bays wide and two bays deep. The south elevation has a door opening into the basement, two window openings on the first floor, and one window opening in the gable end. The east elevation has two window openings on the first floor. The north elevation has a door opening and a window opening on the first floor and a window opening in the gable end. Finally, the west elevation has two window openings on the first floor. There are no windows or doors in the building. Historically, the building was used as a kitchen even before the house was built. It is the oldest extant building on the property.

CHICKEN HOUSE--Contributing

Built in 1919, by Gunerius Thompson, its design was intended to save labor. It is a one and one-half story gable roof building. The first floor housed chickens while the second was used for grain storage. The west elevation has a window opening centered on the first floor with a door at the northwest corner. There is also a door opening in the gable end. The north and south elevations have no openings. The east elevation has one central door on the first floor.

FLOOD WALL --Contributing

The floodwall was constructed along the Big Sioux River to keep high water from eroding away the east bank. It is made entirely of granite blocks from the nearby quarry and is 320 feet in length and four feet in height.

BARN FOUNDATION--Contributing

Located to the east of the current barn are the rubble remains of the original barn foundation. The original barn's date of construction is unknown. This structure was also built entirely of locally quarried granite block.

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BARN--Contributing

The raised foundation, Wisconsin style dairy barn, measures 50 feet wide by 80 feet long. It has twenty-two box stalls for horses and twenty-one stanchions for dairy cows.² Construction was started in 1916 and completed in 1917.

Exterior:

The foundation of the barn on the north elevation is of granite block. The remainder of the three foot high foundation is concrete. The exterior of the barn is clad in five-inch clapboards. The north and south elevations are identical. A row of eight, four-over-four, double-hung windows are spaced evenly on the first floor. The second floor has a central sliding door giving access to the hay mow. Where the first and second floors meet a trim board encircles the barn.

The east elevation has two drive-in, sliding doors and two, four over four, double hung windows. Located at the peak of the roof are two one over one, double hung windows. The west elevation also has two drive-in doors and two four-over-four windows. Between this level and the roof, in the center of this elevation, is a half door. Located in the peak is a hay hood over a drop-down hay door. Flanking the hay door is a one over one, double hung window. The gambrel roof and triangular hay hood is covered with asphalt shingles, as is the small dormer roof located in the lower south west corner of the roof. Originally, the barn had wood shingles. The roof has two metal ridge ventilators.

Interior:

The barn floor is concrete, however the stall floors are lined with timbers. Stanchions and stalls are constructed of fir. The posts are 5"x5" with double 2"x8"'s supporting the hay mow floor. Each side of the barn has a concrete water trough. At the west end of the barn, between the water troughs, are a grain room and a stairway to the haymow. A small door in the center of each long side of the barn allows for access directly from the outside to the second floor and a door in the dormer provides for direct access to the grain bin which is located in the southwest corner. There is a swing down hay door at the east end of the barn. Hay is carried into the barn through this door by means of a track system. Hay is moved from the haymow through doors in the floor.

² Allysson Brooks and Steph Jacon, *Homesteading and Agricultural Context*, (Vermillion, South Dakota State Historic Preservation Center), 50.

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The barn is presently used for storage. Alterations to the barn included: existing horse stalls converted to additional cattle stalls, a pipeline system for dairying installed circa 1960 and a large freezer added to the northeast corner.

SILO--Non-contributing

A round concrete-stave silo is located at the southwest corner of the barn. It was constructed in the 1950's. The silo is approximately twenty-four feet tall. It is non-contributing.

HOG HOUSE-GRANARY--Contributing

Gunerius Thompson designed and constructed the two and one-half story hog house-granary circa 1919. As the main diet of the hogs consisted of grain and corn, the grains were stored on the second floor and the hogs housed on the first floor. This is a bank building with a drive-in gable end door for grain and corn delivery. The building has drop siding; a gable roof with a gable roofed dormer, asphalt shingles, and a metal ridge ventilator.³

The building rests on a granite foundation. The west elevation has four window openings on the first floor while the second floor has a large drive-in door for grain delivery. When the hog house-granary was originally constructed, it had a ramp allowing for access to this area. The ramp is no longer present. The half story, gable end features a central window opening flanked by two, one over one double hung windows.

The north elevation has one centrally located window opening on the second floor and a gable dormer with a closed in window opening. The east elevation has no decorative elements or window openings. Finally, the south elevation has a central entry with three window openings on either side. At the southeast corner, on the second floor, is a sliding door giving access to the grain storage area. The interior of the hog house-granary features a corn storage area in the south side of the structure, with three grain bins for grain storage on the north side.

³Swain interview.

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GRANARY--Contributing

This wood structure was constructed circa 1940. It has a gable roof, one walk door on the east elevation, one very small gable door to accommodate a grain elevator, and clapboard siding.

METAL SHED--Non-contributing

The metal shed was utilized by Agripro seed corn company as an office on the Gunerius Thompson property. Agripro used the office while farming the fertile Big Sioux River Valley Thompson land to grow certified seed in the 1960's. The shed has one entry door on the east elevation and a four pane window on the south elevation. It is currently vacant. The building is non-contributing.

BROODER HOUSE--Non-contributing

The wood frame structure was also constructed circa 1950. It has a gable roof, clapboard siding, a gable end door, and two, twelve pane vertical windows on the north elevation. The brooder house is non-contributing.

WATERING SYSTEM--Contributing

Thompson designed a watering system which leads from the water tank to the chicken house, hog house-granary and barn. This watering system consists of concrete lined laterals running to three areas: the hog yard where it entered covered oval tanks with head holes, the barn where it enters the concrete watering troughs and the chicken house. These tanks and laterals have a pink cast because of the granite in the cement mixture.

GARAGE--Contributing

The garage, constructed circa 1930, is a two bay clay hollow-tile, pyramidal structure with a door between the two garage doors. There have been no alterations but the roof has collapsed. It is not currently in use.

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IRON FENCE

Starting at the front edge of the property on 248th Street, a 400 foot cast iron fence, bounds the west and south elevations of the house. There are three ornate gates providing access to the house and yard; one to the west of the house leading to the porch, one at the southwest corner, and one directly across from the rear porch on the south side. The gates have highly ornate cast iron posts. The cast iron fence was made in Cincinnati, Ohio.

PASTURES

Historically, Gunerius Thompson owned 120 acres associated with this home. Currently, the tillable land includes a portion of the original 120 acres and another 57 acres he acquired years later, totaling approximately 177 acres. The pasture and field areas lie to the south and west of the farmstead site. It has been used to raise grains for the livestock and for commodity.

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NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Thompson Farmstead, located in Dell Rapids Township in Minnehaha County, was originally settled in 1868 at which time Gunerius Thompson's father was the original homesteader. The farmstead is significant under criterion A for its role in the area of agriculture. It is one of the region's earliest intact farmsteads. The farm also utilized a unique watering system for the hogs and a labor-saving combination hog house-granary. All of the farm buildings were constructed with special uses in mind so that the farm could operate more efficiently. It served as an example to other farmers in the region. This property is also significant under Criterion C in that it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type and period. The house is an unusually large example of a late Victorian era farmhouse; specifically, it is unique to the Dell Rapids area as well as the State of South Dakota. The Thompsons' are known to have provided means for fellow Norwegians to immigrate.⁴ The immigrants lived in the Thompson's spacious, 5-room attic while working off their debt. While only the granite foundation remains of the original barn, the barn built in 1916 to replace it is an example of the Wisconsin Dairy Barn. Two chicken houses, a hog house-granary, a metal shed, a flood wall and a summer kitchen round out the structures on the property.

Historical Background

Dell Rapids is a rural community located and named for the nearby palisades on the Big Sioux River. The Dells of the Sioux River are red jasper (quartzite) palisades. Jasper or quartzite is commonly known as granite. This is the granite used in building the foundations and floodwall on the Thompson Farmstead.

The source of economic activity for the Dell Rapids area is mainly agricultural. Some of the best quality farmland in the state of South Dakota is located along the Big Sioux River Valley. The Thompson Farmstead is an example of the farms that flourished along the Big Sioux River in Minnehaha County. Although Gunerius' farm was comprised primarily of cropland, he practiced diversified farming, including dairying and raising hogs.

In 1878, at age 21, Gunerius purchased 120 acres of land from his father. That same year, he married Caroline Thompson (unrelated). According to his descendants, the family lived in a dugout near the Big Sioux River until flooded out in 1881. From 1881 to 1901, when the construction began

⁴Swain interview

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on the house, it is theorized that the family lived in the present day summer kitchen. The summer kitchen predates the main house and it is believed that construction took place during this period.

The design of the Thompson property served as an example for many farmers in Minnehaha County. The property exhibited many of the necessary landscape characteristics for agricultural purposes. First, Gunerius' property is located by the Big Sioux River, exhibiting an important land use. A water system was necessary for agricultural property, especially in South Dakota where droughts are prevalent. By locating the farm next to the river, it allowed for a complex watering system to be developed for the many outbuildings. Also, the location next to the river allowed for ease of transportation of surplus grains and livestock to market. He also utilized a large amount of acreage, 1400 at one time, which provided enough space for grains for his own livestock and surplus for profit. It is at this point, the 1910's, that other farmers in Minnehaha County also start to acquire large tracts of land for the same purposes.⁵

Spatially, the farm property is laid out in a form to best suit the needs of a farmer. The buildings each needed to be within walking distance from the house. Each building that required fresh water is located near the river, allowing for easier flow of water. Granaries are located near the fields from which the crops were being cultivated. Animal storage occurred in buildings located near the main house. Finally, the house was located near the road providing for easy access. Pasture lands surrounded the entire property thus allowing for extreme convenience for farming.

Research shows that the eastern part of South Dakota, know as East River, historically developed as the small acreage farming area, while large-scale ranches became the norm West River.⁶ Gunerius Thompson began acquiring large tracts of property within Minnehaha County. While he started out with a small 120 acres, eventually, he farmed in excess of 1400 acres of some of the finest land in South Dakota, including three farms he purchased for his sons and a son-in-law. This large quantity of land is exceedingly rare for East River. Between 1921 and 1932, a drop in farm prices and real estate value resulted in 34,419 farm foreclosures, affecting forty percent of all farms in South

⁵ Michelle Dennis, *Minnehaha County Historic Sites Survey: Phase II Century Farms*, (Pierre, South Dakota State Historic Preservation Program), 9-11.

⁶ David Erpestad and David Wood, *Building South Dakota: A historical survey of the State's Architecture to 1945*, (Pierre: South Dakota State Historical Society Press), 98.

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Dakota.⁷ During this period, Gunerius lost all but 200 acres and owed \$66,000 for the farms he had invested in for his family members. Upon Gunerius' death, his son Wallace took over the farm, having promised his father he would clear the debt, which he eventually did. During Wallace's tenure the hybrid seed corn company, Pau, now known as Agripro, did research using a plot of Thompson land.

While Gunerius Thompson was a common farmer in South Dakota, his ideas and practices were uncommon for East River. Gunerius began picking up on the trends occurring elsewhere in the United States and was one of the first to apply them to farming in South Dakota. Many local farmers look to his farms as an example of a fine operating system.

In 1901, to improve the farm, Gunerius Thompson began building a new house. It would have 14 bedrooms, 3 parlors, and a bathroom on each floor, including the attic and basement. As his family married, some of them remained on the farm with their spouses and families, which apparently was his intention when he built the house. As he had acquired a great deal of land, hired help was a necessary need. Instead of hiring local men, he made immigration available to family members and friends who were still located in Norway. Once these men were in the United States, they came to the Thompson farmstead and worked the farm as repayment for their move.

The farmstead is designed in a variety of architectural styles. The main house is constructed in primarily the Queen Anne style with some Italianate elements. The house features a low-pitched hipped roof that is characteristic of both styles, as are the two corbelled chimneys located in the central area of the house. Wide overhanging eaves supported by bracketed cornices are classic Italianate features as are rectangular hooded single pane double-hung windows.⁸ The Thompson house has gable dormers with bargeboard details, which are frequently found in the Queen Anne style, as are half-round windows located in the dormers.⁹ Other Queen Anne features are composite columns, turned balusters which are found on the front porch railing and on the second story veranda, and round drop (bead) ornamentation which hang from scalloped porch fascia.

⁷ Ibid, 99.

⁸ McAlester and McAlester, *A Field Guide To American Houses*, (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.), 212

⁹ Ibid, 266.

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The interior of the house also is significant for its elaborate details. The lozenge fretwork balustrade, the original wallpaper with gilded detail, and gilded astragal molding are not typical for a working farmstead. Gunerius put a great deal of time and money into decorating the interior. Also important to the interior of the house is the lay out of the rooms. The attic alone consists of five spacious rooms, three of which have doors for privacy and closets. The attic also contains a full bathroom and a dumbwaiter. Light is provided by the half-round windows in the dormers and by the two large skylights. The thirty-four room house provided enough space for entertaining, sleeping, and eating.

The house is a highly intact example of a Queen Anne style house. The main house is a rather intricate and unique feature to this farmstead and to the state of South Dakota. The house is built on a very large scale, one that is not found on any other farmstead or in the state. Gunerius wanted a home that could house his large family and provide adequate housing for all of the friends and family members that he brought over from Norway.

The barn is a typical version of the Wisconsin Dairy barn. This barn is constructed with the lighter lumber-truss framing system known as the Shawver truss. This system provided more room to store hay on the second floor and allowed the hay sling to pass unobstructed through the haymow.¹⁰ This type of barn was specifically designed to bring efficiency to dairy farming with its two rows of cattle stanchions and the main central aisle running gable to gable providing maximum natural light. Large barns such as this were necessary on farms, especially in South Dakota where the winter months are particularly hard on livestock and horses. It was probably this need for a large space that led to this barn being built. Today the barn retains a majority of its original features.

The barn is a highly intact representative example of a Wisconsin dairy barn. A large number of this type of barn once graced the South Dakota landscape. Due to the large number of small family farms that have been consolidated, this barn is one of the remaining few in the southeastern part of the state with a high degree of integrity. The barn represents a building technique no longer in use and a period of building change in American at the turn of the century.

The hog house-granary and the water system are also significant to the property because Gunerius designed these to help the farm function smoothly. The hog house-granary was a labor saving design because the grain was stored on the second floor and the hogs directly below on the first

¹⁰ Stephen Gordon, *How to Complete the Ohio Historic Inventory*, (Columbus: Ohio Historical Society, Inc.) 150.

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floor. The watering system also saved labor expenditure because it allowed for the free flow of water for each of the livestock buildings saving the men from hauling water from the river. Both of these features are a highly intact engineered system. These elements represent a design concept strictly belonging to Gunerius Thompson.

There are six other outbuildings on the property. These range from storage facilities to a summer kitchen. While they are not exemplary styles, they contribute to the district because they play in integral role in the farming process.

Each building was designed to fulfill a particular need. The house was used as the primary residence of the Thompson family as well as an area to house the men working off their debt. The summer kitchen, while originally designed to function as a temporary residence, later functioned as a cooking facility during the hot Dakota summers. The barn and chicken house were designed to allow for easy storage of livestock. The hog house-granary, designed by Gunerius Thompson, functioned as storage for both livestock and grains. These buildings exemplify what a farmer needs on the property to have a functional farm.

The Thompson Farmstead, settled in 1881, is located in Dell Rapids Township in Minnehaha County. The land, house, and all of the contributing outbuildings are significant in agriculture and their architectural design. It is a unique example of a stylized farmstead that does not exist anywhere else in the county. Although the property is in need of minor repairs, the property still exhibits a high degree of integrity.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property is bound to the north by 428th Street and to the south by the Big Sioux River. Legal boundary: NE Quarter, SW Quarter, W 1/2 of NE Quarter, E 1/2 of NW Quarter. All in S 29, T 104N, R 49, W of 5th PM. Ex Tr 1 of N 1/2 of said S 29.

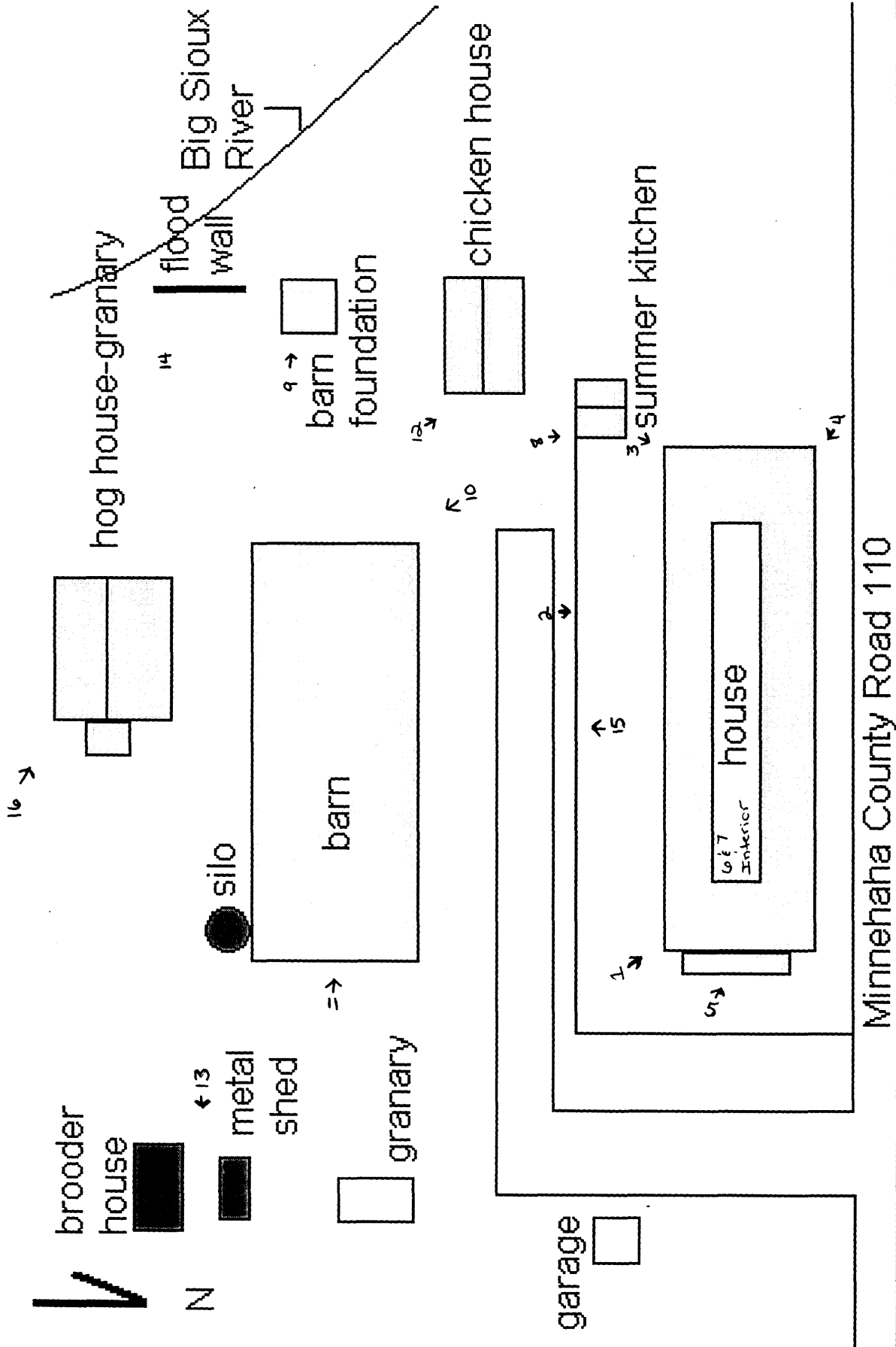
BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes part of the original 120 acres of the Gunerius Thompson farmstead including: the farmhouse, outbuildings, fields, and river. The boundary also includes the rest of the current 177.7 acres. These boundaries exclude land once a part of the property but sold by Thompson or his heirs.

UTM CONTINUATION

E	<u>14</u>	<u>682260</u>	<u>4850020</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
F	<u>14</u>	<u>681915</u>	<u>4850050</u>

G	<u>14</u>	<u>681920</u>	<u>4849570</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
H	<u>14</u>	<u>681445</u>	<u>4849830</u>

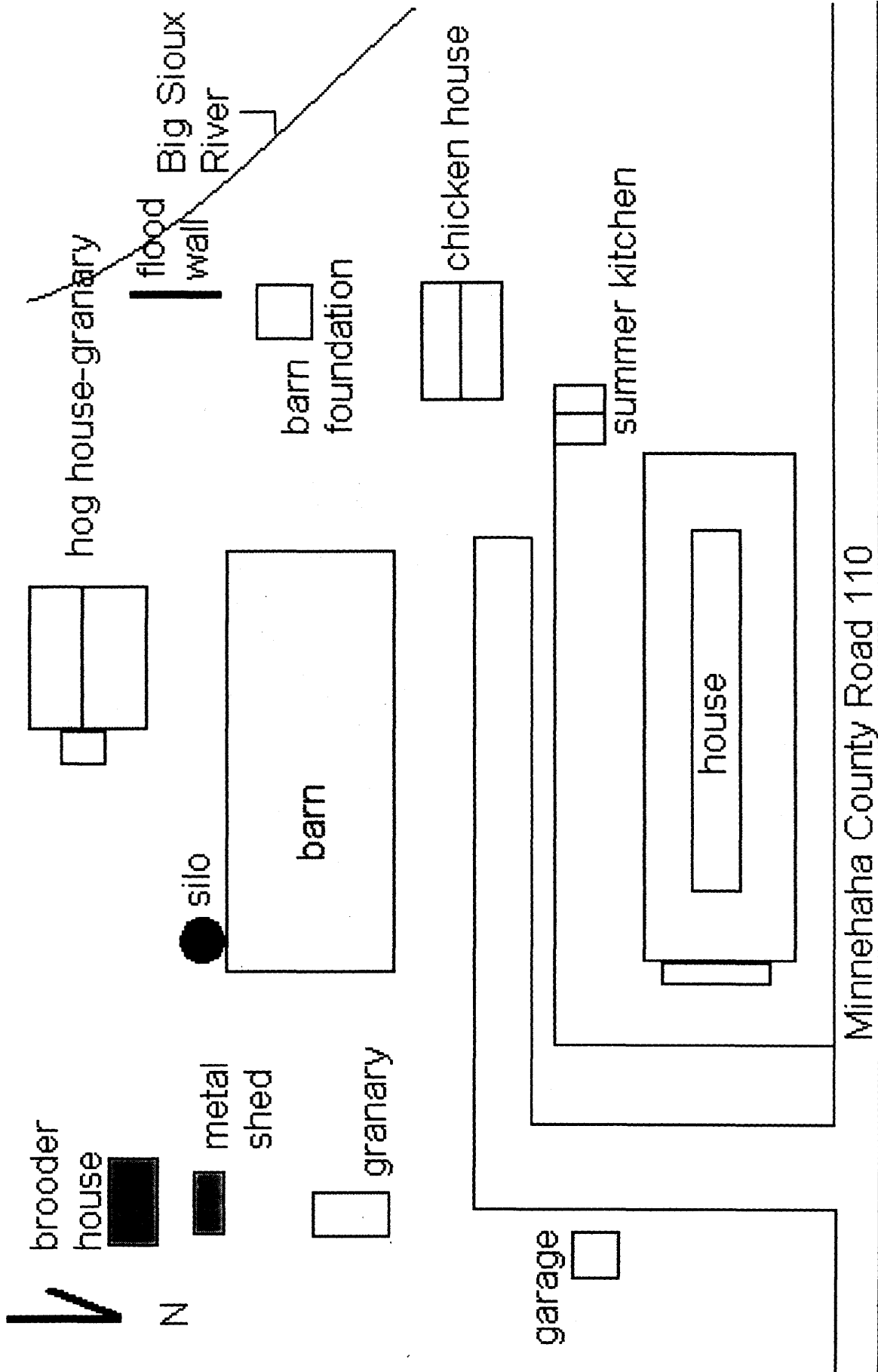


*not to scale

Minnehaha County Road 110

Gunerius and Caroline Thompson Farmstead

- contributing
- non-contributing



*not to scale

Gunerius and Caroline Thompson Farmstead

□ contributing ■ non-contributing