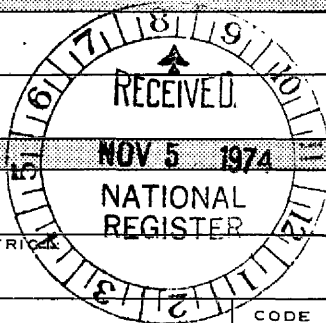


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Minnesota
COUNTY: Carver
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE DEC 30 1974



1. NAME

COMMON:
Wendelin Grimm Homestead

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Wendelin Grimm Homestead

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: SE of St. Bonifacius on Carver Park Reserve

CITY OR TOWN: St. Bonifacius vic. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Second

STATE: Minnesota CODE: 22 COUNTY: Carver CODE: 019

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Nature Center <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Hennepin County Park Reserve District

STREET AND NUMBER: Route 1, Box 32

CITY OR TOWN: Maple Plain STATE: Minnesota CODE: 22

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Carver County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Chaska STATE: Minnesota CODE: 22

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Minnesota Historical Sites Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1972 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Minnesota Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER: Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul STATE: Minnesota CODE: 22

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Minnesota

COUNTY: Carver

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: DEC 30 1974

DATE:

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Wendelin Grimm Homestead, a one hundred and sixty acre tract of land, is located within the three thousand acres of the Carver Park Nature Center Reserve in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 4, T116N, R24W, Carver County, Minnesota

The homestead is part of the soft rolling landscape found throughout the Chaska, Minnesota area. Positioned presently on the homestead are two structures; a house and a barn.

The house was built in 1876 and is a nice cohesive appearing two-story brick farmhouse.¹ At present the farmhouse is vacant. The west portion of the farmhouse is the initial building constructed of area brick and includes a field stonewall basement with earthen floor. Added shortly after is the east portion of the farmhouse. It is a wood frame building with a brick veneer covering. Two wooden additions to this portion of the house serve as entryways to the ground floor. This portion of the house does not include a basement.

The roof is shingled with cedar shakes and the roof line capped with three brick chimneys. The interior of the house has been vandalized and weather damaged. The farmhouse has been completely boarded up by the Carver Park Reserve to prevent further damage by the elements. The windows are two over two panes placed in a semi-elliptical opening with a radiating voussoir arch. The outside entrance to the basement is located on the south side of the building.

A barn is located about one hundred and twenty feet south east of the farmhouse. It was built in early 1950, by a former owner, in a quonset hut style, constructed of wood and asphalt shingles.

Wendelin Grimm bought the homestead with a log cabin, barn and clearing on the homestead.² "The original log building of house, barn, and granary were replaced by him about the year 1875"³ Of the replacements only the farmhouse still stands.

The bronze plaque that is attached to the rock boulder is located about seventy-five feet from the southeast corner of the farmhouse in the front yard. The inscription reads as follows: "Commemorating Wendelin Grimm, resident of Minnesota 1857-1891, who originated Grimm Alfalfa on this farm. Erected June 1924 by Grimm Alfalfa Growers Associations." (The date of Grimm's death is incorrect, he died in 1890.)

The characteristics of the land have not been encroached since the time of Wendelin Grimm's agricultural accomplishments. The fields are no longer utilized for farming but are now incorporated into the wildlife sanctuary of the Carver Park Nature Center Reserve.

It is the one hundred and sixty acre tract of land that is being nominated to the National Register, for it was on this site that Wendelin Grimm developed his hardy perennial strain of Grimm Alfalfa.

1. Carver County Assessor's Office, District 109 Laketown Township, pp.271
2. Kelzer, Frank L., The History of Grimm Alfalfa, pp.1
3. Ibid.; pp.21

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1857-1875**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Immigration</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Grimm Alfalfa is one of Minnesota's main contributions to American agriculture, and its history is an interesting and significant story of a hardy forage plant that was brought to America some one hundred and seventeen years ago by a German immigrant named Wendelin Grimm. Although millions of Europeans migrated to the United States in the course of the nineteenth century, Grimm stands out as an individual farmer-pioneer who made an important specific contribution to American agriculture.¹

He immigrated to America with his wife and three children and made his way to the town of Chaska in Carver County, Minnesota in August of 1857. Wendelin Grimm was born in the 1818 in the village of Kulsheim, located in the Grand Duchy of Baden, Germany. The village of Kulsheim was known for its advances in agriculture and farming. Grimm was nearly forty years old when he left and he would retain and promote the farming methods and interest of his homeland.

One of the possessions that Grimm carried from his homeland was a bag of alfalfa seeds that he referred to as "ewiger klee" - "everlasting clover", as the plant was called in Germany because of its perennial nature.

August 27, 1857, marked the day of the instrument for the purchase of 160 acres of land from John Neunsinger in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 4, T117N, R24W, Carver County, Minnesota.²

The following spring Wendelin Grimm planted his alfalfa seeds and began the long process that over the years would eventually develop the first winter hardy strain of alfalfa in the United States. This alfalfa strain would prove to be very advantageous to American agriculture. The soil of the Chaska area was beneficial to the growth of the crop but Minnesota winters proved to be too severe and winter-killed the majority of the perennial plants. Year after year, Wendelin collected the seeds of those plants that survived and replanted, eventually developing a strain of alfalfa that could withstand the severest of winters, that up to this time, was non-existent in the United States.

"It has been said that he did not understand the 'practical or the scientific importance of his experiment in acclimatization.' But he knew that what he called his 'everlasting clover' was good for beef cattle."³

1. Edwards, Everett E. and Russell, Horace H., "Wendelin Grimm and Alfalfa" Minnesota History, Volume 19, pp.21
 2. Register of Deeds, Carver County, Tract-Book A.
 3. Blegen, Theodore C., Minnesota, A History of the State, pp.396

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blegen, Theodore C., Minnesota, A History of the State, University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, 1963, pp. 395-396.
 Brand, Charles J., "Ancestral Home of Grimm Alfalfa", Fertilizer Review, Vol. 9, September-October, 1934, pp. 8, 10, 13.
 Carver County Assessor's Office, District 109, Laketown Township, pp. 271.
 Carver County Register of Deeds - Northwest quarter, Section Four, Range Twenty-four, Laketown Township. "Tract Index A, B, C, D, E."
 Edwards, Everett E. and Russell, Horace H., "Wendelin Grimm and Alfalfa", Minnesota History, Vol. 19, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, 1938, pp. 21-33.

H/B ME
 15
 4970860
 4970100
 4970110
 4970120
 4970130
 4970140
 4970150
 4970160
 4970170
 4970180
 4970190
 4970200
 4970210
 4970220
 4970230
 4970240
 4970250
 4970260
 4970270
 4970280
 4970290
 4970300
 4970310
 4970320
 4970330
 4970340
 4970350
 4970360
 4970370
 4970380
 4970390
 4970400
 4970410
 4970420
 4970430
 4970440
 4970450
 4970460
 4970470
 4970480
 4970490
 4970500
 4970510
 4970520
 4970530
 4970540
 4970550
 4970560
 4970570
 4970580
 4970590
 4970600
 4970610
 4970620
 4970630
 4970640
 4970650
 4970660
 4970670
 4970680
 4970690
 4970700
 4970710
 4970720
 4970730
 4970740
 4970750
 4970760
 4970770
 4970780
 4970790
 4970800
 4970810
 4970820
 4970830
 4970840
 4970850
 4970860
 4970870
 4970880
 4970890
 4970900
 4970910
 4970920
 4970930
 4970940
 4970950
 4970960
 4970970
 4970980
 4970990
 4971000

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	44°	53'	27"	93°	43'	27"			
NE	44°	53'	27"	93°	42'	48"			
SE	44°	53'	03"	93°	42'	48"			
SW	44°	53'	03"	93°	43'	27"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **160 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
John J. Hackett, Survey Specialist

ORGANIZATION: **Minnesota Historical Society** DATE: **10/1/74**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY OR TOWN: **St. Paul** STATE: **Minnesota** CODE: **22**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Russell W. Fridley
 Russell W. Fridley, Director

Title: Minnesota Historical Society

Date: Oct. 25, 1974

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 12/30/74

ATTEST: [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: DEC 27 1974



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Minnesota	
COUNTY	
Carver	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	DEC 30 1974

8. Significance

Grimm's Alfalfa, in its early years, received little attention and was grown principally within a ten mile radius of his farm by neighbors; who recognized the crop as a permanent source of fodder and fertility to the soil. It was not until the efforts of Arthur B. Lyman, a school teacher-farmer from Carver County, that Grimm's alfalfa was brought to the attention of the agricultural world; this was almost ten years after Wendelin Grimm's death in 1890. Prior to 1900, it was believed by the northern farmers of the United States that it was just impossible to grow a perennial stand of alfalfa. It was also during this time, after the passage of the Enclosure Act of 1871 that a greater demand for a forage crop was created as fences were being erected on the open and vacant fields.

Mr. Lyman met with Professor Willet M. Hays, head of the Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of Minnesota in St. Paul in 1900 and informed him about the stands of alfalfa in Carver County. Mr. Hays conducted an extensive tour of Carver County with Mr. Lyman and seeds were immediately procured and testing undertaken. By 1904, other experimental stations obtained the seeds and in the 1920's Grimm Alfalfa became a standard crop in Minnesota and throughout the Northwestern United States and Canada.

Professor Hays in 1904 officially in a Press Bulletin referred to this hardy alfalfa as "Grimm Alfalfa" for the first time.⁴

The tremendous popularity of the alfalfa crop grew in usage from 658 acres in 1900 in Minnesota to 702,578 acres in 1930.⁵

Dairy farming and other livestock industries advanced in Carver County and in the Northern United States because the alfalfa provided the necessary forage to feed the animals.

"The production of a forage plant so hardy as Grimm Alfalfa, with its permanence, enormous yields, high protein content, economy as a crop, and value as a soil builder and weed throttler, is almost without parallel in plant history"⁶ wrote Everett E. Edwards, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., in 1938.

On June 10, 1924, the Grimm Alfalfa Grower Association gathered at the Wendelin Grimm Homestead and dedicated a bronze plaque to pay tribute to the German pioneer who originated the Grimm Alfalfa on this property.

-
4. Edwards, Everett E. and Russell, Horace H., "Wendelin Grimm and Alfalfa", Minnesota History, Volume 19, pp.26
 5. Ibid., pp.29
 6. Ibid., pp.32

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Minnesota	
COUNTY Carver	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	DEC 30 1974

(Number all entries)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Holmquist, June Drenning and Brookins, Jean A., "Wendelin Grimm's Farm", Minnesota's Major Historic Sites, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, 1972, pp. 56-57.

Kelzer, Frank L., The History of Grimm Alfalfa, an unpublished copy in the Minnesota Historical Society library, Chaska, Minnesota, September 1, 1957, pp. 1-6, 10-16.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper *Helene Lyman*
1/19/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

**Note: These changes apply to
Grimm, Wendelin, Homestead in
Carver County, Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 74001008

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Carver

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Grimm, Wendelin, Farmstead

CITY:

VICINITY OF: Victoria

ADDRESS: off Co. Hwy. 11 in Carver Park Reserve

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988

Date