

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

MAR 15 1982
Calumet, Inc

HISTORIC NAME: Frank Gran Farmstead

COUNTY: Itasca

CURRENT NAME: Sauber Farmstead

CITY/TWP.: Unorg Terr. at Sand Lake

LEGAL DESC.:

See continuation sheet

ADDRESS:

West of County Road 10
on north bank at Swan River

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <u>X</u>	Excellent _____	Local <u>X</u>	Primary <u>Agriculture</u>
Structure _____	Good <u>X</u>	State _____	Secondary <u>Settlement</u>
Object _____	Fair _____	National _____	Others _____
District _____	Deteriorated _____		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:	Yes _____ No <u>X</u> Restricted _____	PRESENT USE:
VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD:	Yes <u>X</u> No _____	Farm
OCCUPIED:	Yes <u>X</u> No _____	

DATE CONSTRUCTED:	See Description	ORIGINAL USE:	Farm
ORIGINAL OWNER:	Frank Gran	ARCHITECT/BUILDER:	Unknown

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:	Arnold & Ethel Sauber Rte. 1, Box 141 Bovey, MN 55709	ACREAGE:	Less than one acre _____ approx. <u>5.5 acres</u>
LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.:	Itasca County Historical Society PO Box 664, Old Central School, Grand Rapids, MN 55744	UTM REFERENCE:	Warba Quad. 7.5 15 / 476830 / 5227900
FORM PREPARED BY:	Mark Haidet		
DATE:	March 1981		

DESCRIPTION:

The Frank Gran Farmstead is located in a picturesque setting on the north bank of the Swan River in south-central Itasca County. The farm's substantial structures are conspicuous in this region of predominantly small Finnish farmsteads. All buildings are of frame or log construction with most outbuildings painted red with white trim. The buildings are well-preserved. Descriptions of the various structures follow:

Farmhouse (1916) - Designed by Frank Gran from various catalogue plans, the farmhouse is a 2½ story Queen Anne residence located a short distance from the river. It is covered by a complex gable/hip roof. Protruding gables are situated above a two story rectangular bay on the west facade and two story polygonal bays on the south (front) and east facades. Ornamentation includes semicircular fanlights in the attic level of the gable ends, some bracketing, and a wrap-around porch with Tuscan columns, sawn balustrade, and skirting. A recent single story addition is located at the rear of the structure. Interior features include stained glass transoms and oak woodwork.

Dairy Barn (1910) - A 40' by 70' Dutch gambrel-roofed barn located east of the house. Three simple frame cupolas adorn the roof's crestline.

Machine Shed (c. 1913) - A 20' by 60' gable-roofed structure with three large stalls. The three stalls originally included a blacksmith shop, the family garage, and a section for farm implements.

Milk House (1926) - A 1½ story gable-roofed frame structure located immediately west of the barn. An enclosed passageway connects the barn and the milk house.

Log Bunkhouse (c. 1902) - One room of the farmstead's original two room log cabin, with a frame addition. The building has been moved from its original location and sided with tarpaper.

Garage (1925) - A two-stall gable-roofed frame structure.

Granary (1929) - A gable-roofed frame structure with an open tin-roofed shed addition on the west facade.

Chicken House (1932) - A rectangular frame structure painted white and covered by a tin gable roof with exposed rafter tails. An open tin-roofed shed is located on the west side.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Frank Gran Farmstead is significant as a representative example of the more substantial farming operations in Minnesota's cutover region. Settlers carved farms out of Itasca County's cutover areas between 1890 and 1940. While subsistence farming operations predominated, a few large scale enterprises developed. Frank Gran, a Finnish immigrant, ranked among the county's most prominent early farmers. He homesteaded in the vicinity of Swan River in 1901 and engaged

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Frank Gran Farmstead

Itasca County

SIGNIFICANCE - page 2

in logging and farming activities. By the late teens he had acquired several hundred acres of timber land and developed one of southern Itasca County's largest farming operations known for its dairy herd and potato production. Gran's widespread reputation, particularly among contemporary Finnish immigrants, resulted in the township's unofficial designation as Gran Township (T55,R23 was never organized) and in Gran's election as county commissioner in the late teens. Gran sold the farm in 1946 and removed to California. Today, the farm is a recognized local landmark in this area of small farms.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

That part of Gov't Lot 8 in Sec. 31 of T55N, R23W described as follows: From point of beginning; which is situated 350 meters south of the NW corner of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 30; southward 150 meters, thence west 150 meters, thence north 150 meters, thence east 150 meters to point of beginning.

Bibliography:

Gran, Hartley. Letter to Mark Haidet dated February 19, 1981. (In Minnesota SHPO files).
Grand Rapids Herald-Review, October 31, 1914.

Frank Gran Farmstead



- Map showing approximate building locations;
not drawn to scale

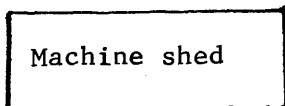
Granary



Garage



Machine shed



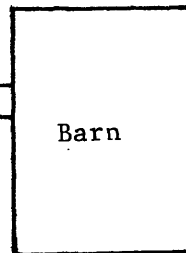
Bunkhouse



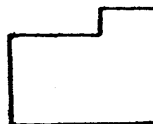
Chicken house



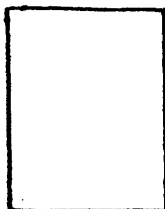
Barn



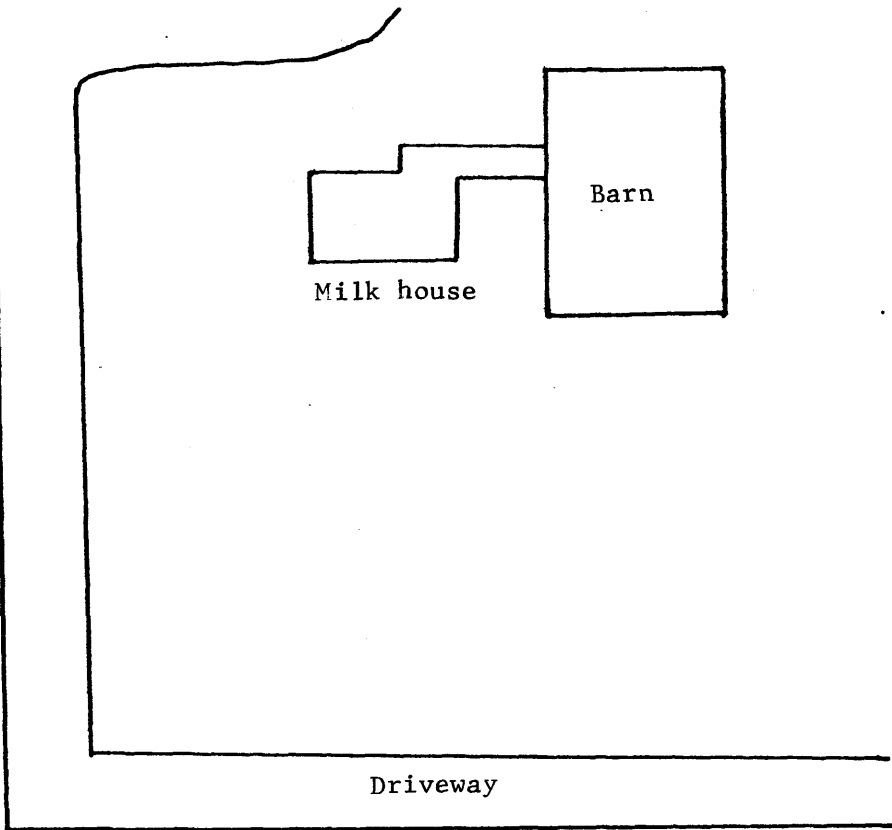
Milk house



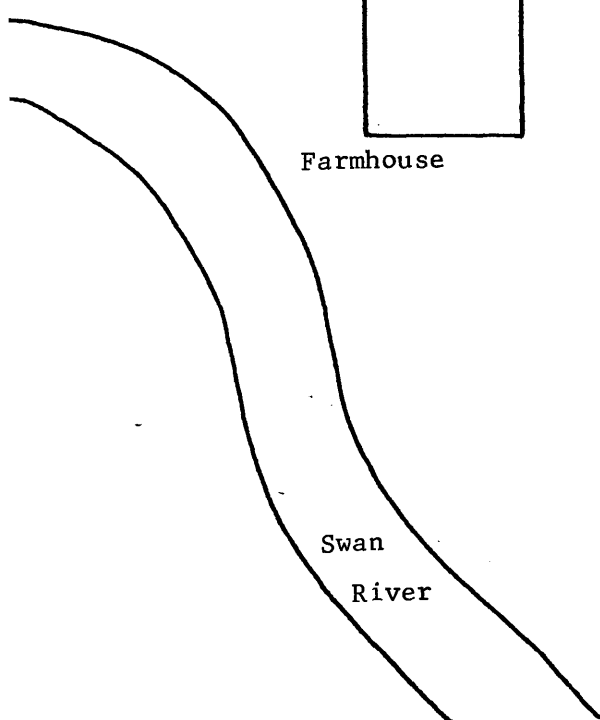
Farmhouse



Driveway



Swan
River



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Note: These changes apply to
Gran, Frank, Farmstead in Itasca
County, Minnesota.

REFERENCE NUMBER: 82002969

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Itasca

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC):

CITY:

VICINITY OF: La Prairie

ADDRESS: Co. Hwy. 10

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988

Date