

HISTORIC NAME: Bonde Farmhouse COUNTY: Rice *Nerstrand vic*  
 CURRENT NAME: CITY/TWP.: Wheeling Township  
 LEGAL DESC.: See continuation sheet ADDRESS: County Road 27 and Minnesota Highway 246

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X Restricted \_\_\_\_\_ PRESENT USE: Residential  
 VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_  
 OCCUPIED: Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1875 ORIGINAL USE: Residential  
 ORIGINAL OWNER: Tosten Bonde ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Unknown

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Harold and Earl Bonde Rt 1 Nerstrand, Minnesota	ACREAGE: Less than one acre _____ approx. <u>2.4</u> acres
LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Rice County Historical Society, P.O. Box 5, Faribault, MN 55021	UTM REFERENCE: Nerstrand Quad. 7.5 15 / 493660 / 491080
FORM PREPARED BY: Britta Bloomberg	
DATE: February 1981	

## DESCRIPTION:

The Bonde Farmhouse is located off County Road 27 and Minnesota Highway 246, a quarter mile west of the City of Nerstrand and a mile east of Nerstrand Woods.

The hilltop location and masonry construction of the 1875 farmhouse make it the focal point of the farmstead and a landmark in the area. The two and a half story house is constructed of Nerstrand and Faribault limestone. Its two sections form an L-shape. The original front porch extends across the west side of the north ell and features turned posts, turned brackets, and spindles along the porch frieze, and is topped by a metal railing. All window and door openings on the west side of the north ell are located below the central gabled roof; wider wall spaces are located between other openings. Windows are rectilinear with two-over-two lights and stone sills and lintels. Small slightly-arched windows are centered in the gable ends. A garage at the basement level surmounted by a one story frame addition is located on the east (rear) side of the house (ca.1960). The addition is unobtrusively located partially underground and at the rear of the building and does not detract from the historic character of the house.

The four farm buildings located nearest the house comprised the core of structures constructed by Tosten Bonde during the 1870s and 1880s. Bonde's journal records the construction dates of the buildings. Included are the gambrel roofed barn, constructed in 1870 and remodeled after the turn of the century, the 1883 machine shed (now a garage), the 1887 milkhouse, and 1886 granary. All of the buildings are of white frame construction and noted on the attached sketch map. The additional farm buildings (located east of the historic core of buildings) were constructed after 1960 and are associated with the present hog farming operation. The house located south and east of the stone house was built in 1955 and is occupied by another Bonde family. The boundaries of the property nominated include only the core of historic buildings.

## SIGNIFICANCE:

The Bonde Farmhouse is significant both for its association with a prominent immigrant family and for its notable local limestone construction and outstanding integrity. The farmstead was homesteaded by Einer Bonde who had emigrated from Norway with his family in 1854 to farm the fertile Midwestern soil. After a year in Iowa, the family settled in Wheeling Township in 1855 among a group of loosely organized Norwegian settlers. Einer's son Tosten acquired the farm in 1865 and erected the spacious stone farmhouse in 1875, the year that his father died. Assorted farm statistics, building improvements and family and local notes are recorded in a journal that Tosten kept during the 1880s.

Significance - page 2

Tosten engaged successfully in diversified farming until his death in 1897, and figured prominently in the history of the Norwegian community that centered around the village of Nerstrand. He was a founder of the Wheeling Mutual Insurance Company in 1876, and also served in the state legislature. The stone farmhouse and the core of early farm buildings reflect the success achieved by the Norwegian farmers who cleared and farmed the rich land of Wheeling Township. Bonde family descendents continue to spearhead the Wheeling Mutual Insurance Company, to farm the original family homestead, and reside in the stone house.

Legal Description:

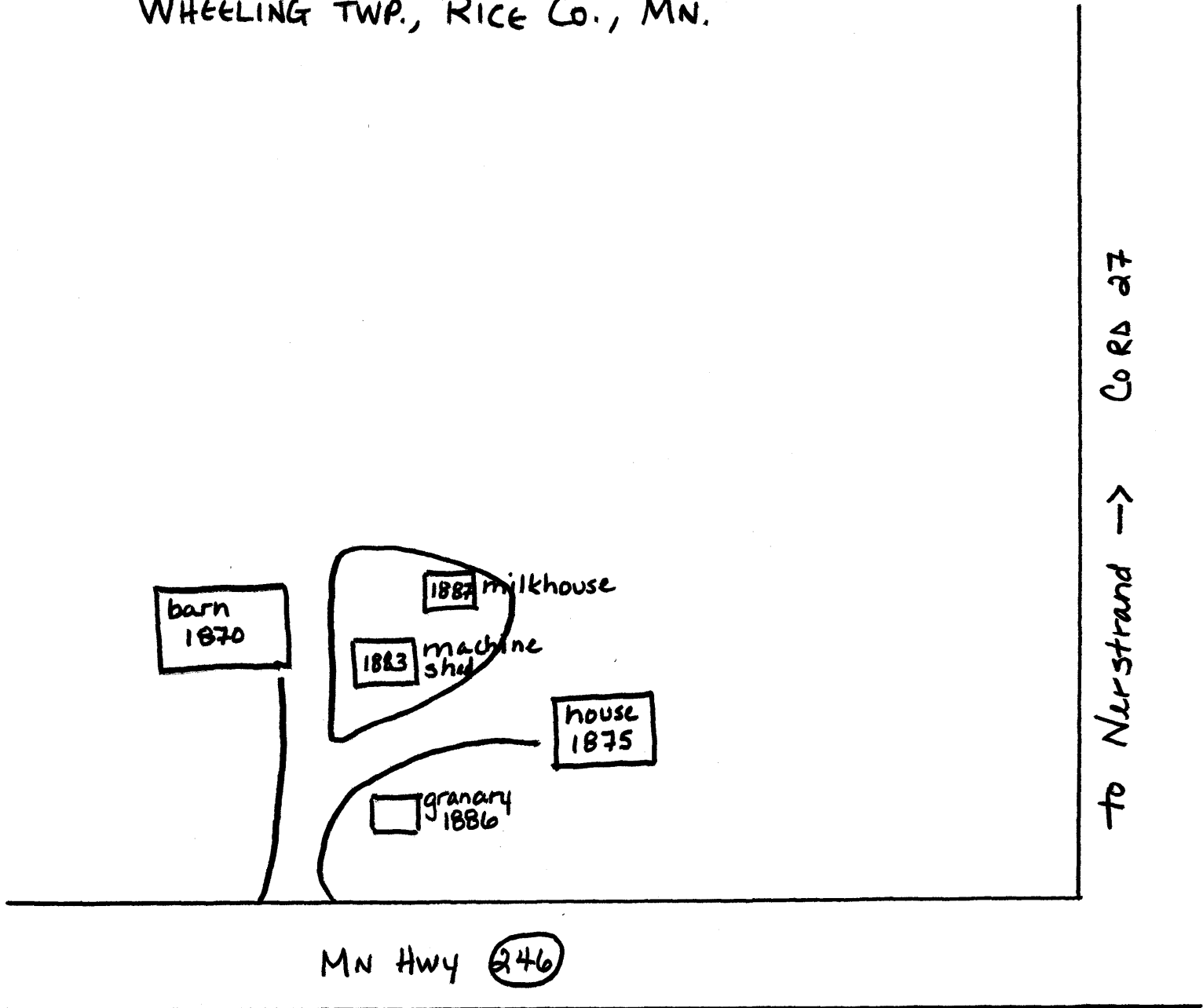
Part of the SW NW SW Section 11, T110 R19. Begin at a point 50 ft. north of the southwest corner of the SW NW SW Section 11. Commence Ely 350 ft.; thence Nly 300 ft.; thence Wly 350 ft.; thence Sly 300 ft. to point of beginning.

Bibliography

Bonde, Tosten, journal, 1880s, property of family.

History of the Nerstrand Community, Nerstrand Women's Club, 1949.

BONDE FARM SKETCH MAP \*  
HISTORIC CORE BUILDINGS INCLUDED  
IN NOMINATION  
WHEELING TWP., RICE CO., MN.



\* map taken from field notes  
and not drawn to scale

