

80002085

HISTORIC NAME: Lincoln County Fairgrounds

COUNTY: Lincoln

CURRENT NAME: "

CITY/TWP.: Tyler

LEGAL DESC.: See continuation sheet - page 4

ADDRESS: Strong and Marsh Streets

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_ Restricted X

PRESENT USE:

VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

Fairgrounds

OCCUPIED: Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

DATE CONSTRUCTED: See text

ORIGINAL USE: Fairgrounds

ORIGINAL OWNER: Lincoln County Agricultural Association &amp; Fair Association

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: See text

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Lincoln County Agricultural Association &amp; Fair Association, Tyler, MN 56178

ACREAGE: Less than one acre

24

UTM REFERENCE:

LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Lincoln County Agricultural Association and Fair Association, Tyler, MN 56178

Tyler, MN 7.5

A. 14 / 728220 / 4907180

B. 14 / 728600 / 4907180

C. 14 / 728600 / 4906880

D. 14 / 728220 / 4906880

FORM PREPARED BY: Susan Roth

DATE: May 1980

## DESCRIPTION:

The Lincoln County Fairgrounds are bounded on the south and east by Strong and Marsh Streets, northwest of the main commercial district in Tyler, Minnesota. Eighteen structures comprise the 24 acre site.

The Commercial Building, built in 1929 by Chris T. Hanson and Jens Jaspersen, was originally used as a dance hall and operated independently of the fair. The 1½ story frame building is rectangular in plan with clapboard siding, a gambrel roof, and a six-sided one story band shell extension to the east. The hall was purchased by the Fair Association in 1942 and is currently used as a commercial exhibit building.

The American Legion Canteen abuts the Commercial Building on the south. Built in 1930 by the American Legion, the one story frame building is rectangular in plan with clapboard siding and a gable roof with wood shingles. Attached to the east end of the building is a one story open beverage stand with a gable canopy.

The 4-H Canteen, built in 1935, is a rectangular building of frame construction with a low hip roof and clapboard siding. The building is constructed of lumber taken from the 1895 Tyler Public School which was moved to the fairgrounds in 1905 and used as an exhibit hall until its dismantling in 1934. Two extensions were later added to the east end of the canteen.

The Grand Stand, built in 1930 by Larson Bros. at a cost of \$1,290, is of frame construction, rectangular in plan and open on three sides. Stepped or tiered bleacher seating is located on the north side of the building overlooking the race track. A wood canopy supported by rectangular posts and braces covers the structure.

Located immediately to the south of the grandstand is the Ticket Booth built in 1930 and the American Dairy Association Concession Stand. Both are square in plan with clapboard siding and pyramidal roofs.

The Cattle Barn, built in 1964, is a low, rectangular structure open on all sides. Sheep and hog pens are located along the sides of the building. The center is used as a show arena. The low gable roof is supported by rectangular posts and braces.

(See continuation sheet)

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The Childrens' Barn was originally the poultry exhibit building. Built in 1934 by the Civil Works Administration, the 1½ story structure features clapboard siding, a gable roof with wood shingles, and a red, mock barn door attached to the main entrance.

The 4-H Club Building is one of the most imposing structures on the fairgrounds. Built in 1937-38 from the plans of W.P.A. architect Beutow, the two-story structure features a gable roof with regularly spaced wall dormers, an eight foot high first story of random coursed stone, and board and batten siding on the second story. First floor window openings are capped by concrete lintels. The building houses 4-H exhibit and dormitory space.

The Horse Barn, originally a stock barn, was built in 1930 by Chris Hanson at a cost of \$1,410. The structure is rectangular in plan with a wood shingled gable roof, clapboard siding, and double sliding doors.

The Barrow Show Barn, built ca. 1921, is rectangular in plan with a seamed metal gable roof, clapboard siding, and double doors. Roofed pens are attached to the east side of the building.

The Exhibit Building located at the center of the fairgrounds, was constructed as the 1895 Tyler Public School. In 1934, at a cost of \$600, the school was converted into the present structure. The 1½ story frame building incorporates two rectangular wings linked by a one story concourse forming a distinctive horseshoe shape. The structure is sided with clapboard. The gable roofs of the side wings are covered with wood and asphalt shingles and pyramid-roofed cupolas with flagpoles project from the roofs. Eaves are supported by scroll-sawn brackets. Entrances in the wings are accented by small gable hoods and are flanked by two double hung windows. A plain pedimented portico supported by scroll sawn brackets and square columns accent the double door concourse entrance.

The Log Cabin was moved to the fairgrounds in 1942. It was built in 1873 in Royal Township by Jonas Swenson, reported to be the first settler in the township. The rectangular building is constructed of hand hewn oak logs fastened with wooden pegs. At the time of the move, the shingles on the gable roof were replaced.

The School Exhibit Building was constructed by George Holm in 1930 at a cost of \$250. The one story rectangular building is of frame construction with clapboard siding and a gable roof. Turned posts support an open front canopy. Entry is by way of a ten-paneled double door. In 1936 an extension was added to the west side of the building.

The Secretary's Office, a square building of frame construction with vertical clapboard siding and a low pyramidal roof, probably was constructed in 1934 of lumber taken from dismantled 1895 Tyler Public School building.

The Shower was built as a nursery by the Civil Works Administration in 1934. The Womens' Rest Room was built in 1930 by George Holm. Both buildings, rectangular in plan, are of frame construction with clapboard siding and gable roofs with wood shingles.

The Mens' Rest Room, built in 1945, is a rectangular building of frame construction with clapboard siding and a gable roof.

The Entrance Gate, thought to have been constructed by the Civil Works Administration in 1934, is composed of cast concrete obelisks decorated with fluted panels.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Lincoln County Fairgrounds is significant for its association with Lincoln County agriculture and the strong tradition of an annual county agricultural fair, and for the virtually unaltered and well-maintained condition of the fairgrounds complex. The first attempt to hold a county fair in Lincoln County was in October of 1880, but an early blizzard cancelled the event. By 1904 renewed interest in a fair resulted in the incorporation of the Lincoln County Agricultural Society and Fair Association. In September 1905, on land deeded from the Winona and St. Peter Railroad, the three day event was held. The fair has been sponsored yearly since that time, with the exception of 1918 when a tornado destroyed much of Tyler. The Lincoln County Fair is part of a phenomena of American agricultural life that has brought farm families together to meet in a social and professional setting and exchange ideas about agriculture in their area. Although assembled in a piece-meal fashion over a period of 45 years, the fairgrounds is free of the modern clutter associated with many county fairs. The cohesiveness of the fair buildings, the simplicity and integrity of their design, and their construction by local builders and WPA crews serve to enhance the original goal of the fair to focus on the agricultural pursuits of the county.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

A tract of land located in the Northwest Quarter of Section 3, Township 109 North, Range 44 West, City of Tyler, County of Lincoln, State of Minnesota, being more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the Northwest corner of Lot 1, Block 40 of the Seventh Railway Addition to said city of Tyler, as filed and recorded in the office of the County Recorder in and for said Lincoln County, thence North  $89^{\circ}59'00''$  East, assumed bearing, along the North line of said Lot 1, 198.5 feet; thence South  $09^{\circ}43'20''$  West along the East line of said Lot 1, 229.21 feet; thence South  $80^{\circ}15'40''$  East 165.00 feet; thence North  $09^{\circ}43'20''$  East 45.80 feet to a point on the North line of Lot 2, Block 50 of said Seventh Railway Addition; thence South  $80^{\circ}16'40''$  East along said North line 265.89 feet; thence South  $09^{\circ}43'20''$  West along the East line of said Lot 2, 187.50 feet; thence South  $55^{\circ}49'02''$  East 214.94 feet; thence South  $09^{\circ}43'20''$  West 118.50 feet to a point on the North Right of Way line Elm Street; thence North  $80^{\circ}16'40''$  West along said North Right of Way line 145.65 feet; thence South  $09^{\circ}43'20''$  West 70.00 feet to a point on the South Right of Way line of said Elm Street; thence South  $80^{\circ}16'40''$  East along said South Right of Way line 145.65 feet to a point on the West Right of Way line of McGoudy Street; thence South  $09^{\circ}43'20''$  West along said West Right of Way 400.00 feet to a point on the North Right of Way line of Strong Street; thence North  $80^{\circ}16'40''$  West along said North Right of Way 626.54 feet to a point on the East Right of Way line of School Street; thence North  $09^{\circ}43'20''$  East along said East Right of Way line 400.34 feet; thence North  $80^{\circ}16'40''$  West along the North line of Lot 1, Block 30, of the Fourth Railway Addition to the City of Tyler, as filed and recorded in the office of the County Recorder in and for said Lincoln County, to a point on the Easterly Right of Way line of Marsh Street; thence North  $09^{\circ}43'20''$  East along said Easterly Right of Way 614.50 feet to the Point of Beginning.

79-420

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

"Addition to Lincoln County Fair Grounds. Log Cabin Erected by Jonas Swenson in Royal Township in 1873," Ivanhoe Times, 1942.

"Lincoln County, Fair. An Event in the History of Lincoln County," Tyler Journal, 15 September 1905, p. 1.

Secretary-Treasurer Record Book, Lincoln County Agricultural and Fair Association, 1905-1952.

Tasker, A.E. Early History of Lincoln County, Lake Benton News Print, 1936.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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DATE ENTERED	DEC 12 1980

Lincoln County Fairgrounds - Lincoln County

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Although starkly simple in appearance, the nineteen structures of the Lincoln County Fairgrounds are a reflection of the strong agrarian traditions that predominate in the southwest region of the state. With ten buildings constructed before 1930 and an additional four built by WPA crews, the complex is highly and unusually representative of the physical settings of rural fairs during the early decades of the century. The utilization of local contractors and laborers on the entire complex, including the more recent buildings, reflects a self-sufficient and utilitarian attitude toward building design.

1962  
Cattle Barn

Grand Stand 1930

A.D.A. Stand  Ticket Off.

1935  
4-H Canteen

Commercial Bldg 1929  
1930  
American Legion Canteen



1934  
Childrens Barn

Horse Barn 1930

Barrow Barn 1921

1934 (1895)  
Exhibit Bldg

1945  
Mens Rest Room

1930  
4-H Bldg

1912 (1872)  
Log Cabin

School Exhibit Bldg 1930

1934  
Sec. Office

1934  
Shower

1930  
Womens Rest Room

1934  
Gate