

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 30 1979

DATE ENTERED JUL 10 1979

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Carstens Farmstead

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

S of Shelby on IA 168

CITY, TOWN

Shelby

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

Fifth

STATE

Iowa

CODE

COUNTY

Pottawattamie

CODE

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Historical Society of Pottawattamie County

STREET & NUMBER

Box 2

CITY, TOWN

Council Bluffs

VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa 51501

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Pottawattamie County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Council Bluffs

STATE

Iowa

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Carstens Farmstead is situated 1½ miles south of the I-80 interchange at Shelby. The farm consists of 80 acres of mostly loess-derived soils under the influence of prairie vegetation, about 70 of which are being tilled. The landscape is gently rolling, and the farm structures are grouped together in a wooded area in the north-west portion of the property.

The farmstead contains an interesting collection of structures, including two houses, several barns, granaries, machine sheds, and an assortment of miscellaneous sheds. The barns and granaries are in the best condition, while the rest stand in various stages of abandonment and deterioration. All are of wood construction. Most have simple front-gable roofs (with ventilating cupolas on the barns and granaries), and exteriors are sheathed with board and batten, simple vertical, or horizontal siding. A few structures are covered with galvanized metal sheeting. The structures vary in size, according to their uses, with the barns being the largest. Smallest of the identifiable structures is the outhouse.

Although the structures vary in age and use, they are generally located on the farmstead with a certain practical logic. Nearest the county road is the "living complex" of farmhouse (with attached summer kitchen), outhouse, and a cob house (most likely once used to store cobs for fuel), with the garage a short distance away. Near the garage is the oldest barn (1886), with horse stalls and milking stanchions, and beyond the barn are a corncrib and granary. All these structures, located in the north and west portions of the farmstead, appear directly related to the comfort, food and transportation needs of the farmer.

The structures toward the southeast corner of the farmstead are principally related to production. They include two beef cattle barns and a hog house. Their location (particularly that of the hog house) with relation to the farmhouse is no accident: prevailing winds here are from the northwest. Other structures in this area are a windmill, forge and workshop, feed shed and granary: all support services for animal production.

The three barns are quite similar, with the two beef barns (1903 and 1917) nearly identical. The barns are appropriately oriented against the weather, with their hay hoods on the south side.

### List of Structures and Dates of Construction:

(With the exception of the first farmhouse, structures are listed in a generally clockwise direction from the present farmhouse. Information on building dates obtained in interview, October 1975, between L.J. Soike of SHPO and Henry Carstens (deceased).)

1. Original farmhouse (1872), believed moved from original location, which was probably where the present farmhouse stands.
2. Farmhouse (1888) with
3. Summer kitchen, which may have been built at the same time as the first farmhouse.
4. Cob house (1926).

see continuation sheet

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1872-1930

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Iowa's past development rests upon her agricultural growth, and, since the family farm has largely made it so, it is fitting that certain representative farms across the state be nominated that convey a sense of Iowa's earlier agricultural patterns. Because the face of individual farmsteads is so quickly changing, however, as advancing farm mechanization is rendering most older buildings obsolete, we are fortunate when a farmstead appears such as the one once owned by the Carstens family. It is of importance because it exhibits hardly a trace of the post-World War II specialized, large-scale, heavily-mechanized operations that have left so few Iowa farmsteads untouched. Nearly all of the buildings ever erected on the Carstens farm are still standing, and ownership in the hands of the Pottawattamie County historical society increases the likelihood that their integrity will remain uncompromised in the future.

Western Iowa's livestock region is a less humid agricultural area where beef production surpassed hog production, and its farmsteads have reflected these tendencies. Indicative of the pattern, the Carstens constructed a total of three barns, and two of them were devoted to beef raising. Also, the absence of a silo typifies the western Iowa pattern where farmers found greater success in producing alfalfa hay than in growing corn cut for silage to meet their forage needs. In addition to similarities in the kind and use of buildings, the Carstens' farmstead exemplifies the prevailing regional patterns in the relatively recent origin, modest size and standard wood frame construction of its buildings.

The history of this German immigrant farmstead dates back to 1871 when Johan Carstens, after having spent eight years in America at the mason's trade in Milwaukee, Chicago and Davenport, pushed farther west to begin a new venture in farming. He purchased 160 acres of Pottawattamie County land from the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad and farmed thereafter until 1905 when he and his wife retired to the nearby town of Shelby. Others of the family continued ownership of the farm until 1977. At that time Henry Carstens, Jr. donated the remaining 80 acres of the family farm to the county historical society, in the hope that it will become a witness to changes that farming has gone through from "horse farming to motor farming". Nomination of the farmstead will move this hope one step closer to being realized.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Hopkins, John A., Jr. Economic History of the Production of Beef Cattle (Iowa City, 1928), pp. 110-111, 120, 130.
- Trewartha, Glen T., "Some Regional Characteristics of American Farmsteads," Annals of the Association of American Geographers, XXXVII (Sept. 1948), 215-220.
- Shelby, Iowa Centennial Committee. A History of the Shelby, Iowa Community from Early Times until its Centennial Year of 1970. Privately printed, 1970.
- (see continuation sheet)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 80 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Avoca NW

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	5	2	9	5	3	5	10	4	5	9	5	2	0	10
ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

B 

1	5	2	9	5	3	4	0	4	5	9	4	8	2	0
ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

C 

1	5	2	9	4	5	4	5	4	5	9	4	8	4	0
ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

D 

1	5	2	9	4	5	6	0	4	5	9	5	2	2	10
ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

E 

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

F 

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

G 

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

H 

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The North one-half of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 9, T77N R40W, Pottawattamie Co., Iowa (original farm area included the entire SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of this section)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Lowell J. Soike, Chief, Historical Survey Program ; M.H. Bowers, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

May 1979

STREET & NUMBER

26 East Market Street

TELEPHONE

319/353-6949

CITY OR TOWN

Iowa City

STATE

Iowa 52240

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Adrian A. Anderson*

TITLE

Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

5/18/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*William A. Graham*

DATE

7-10-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: William A. Graham

7-6-79

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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Carstens Farmstead, vic. Shelby, Pottawattamie Co., Iowa

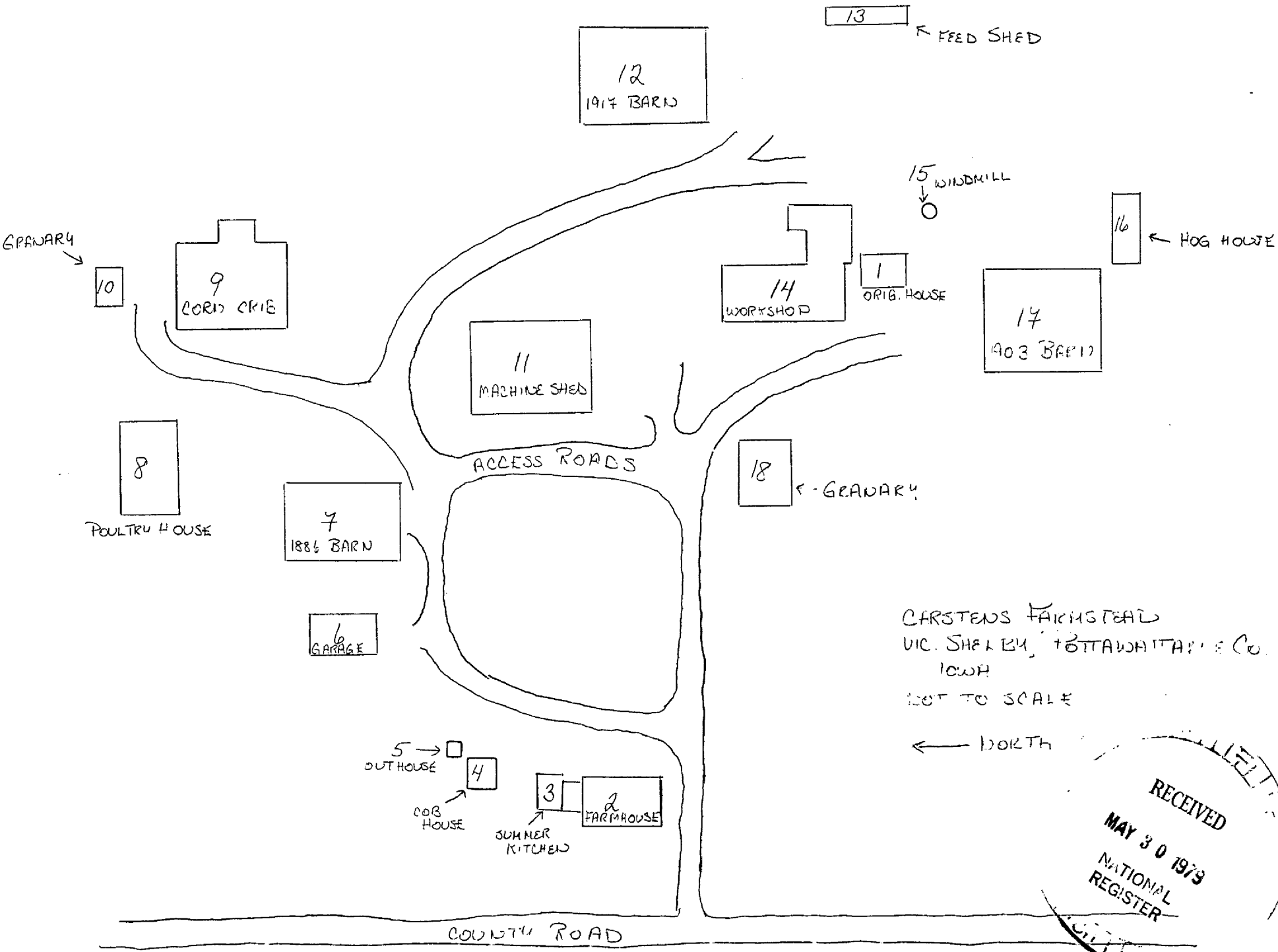
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

5. Outhouse
6. Garage (1917)
7. Horse and dairy barn (1886)
8. Poultry or (hog?) house
9. Corn crib (1930)
10. Granary (does not appear in 1952 aerial view, but is certainly of early construction; probably moved to present site after 1952, though original location is unknown)
11. Machine shed (1920)
12. Beef cattle barn (1917)
13. Feed shed (1919)
14. Forge and workshop (1910, with subsequent additions and modifications)
15. Windmill (1916)
16. Hog house (1919)
17. Beef cattle barn (1903)
18. Granary (1898)

Bibliography, cont.

"Century Farm Survey", being conducted by the Division of Historic Preservation as part of statewide thematic survey of agriculture.



CARSTENS FARMSTEAD  
 VIC. SHELBY, BUTTAWATASKIE CO.  
 IOWA  
 NOT TO SCALE

