

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED **MAR 24 1982**
DATE ENTERED **JUN 14 1982**

**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

Jacobson Farm
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

SE of Decorah on Rt. 1

STREET & NUMBER

Route 1, Section 2, Springfield Township

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Decorah *vic*

VICINITY OF

2

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Iowa

19

Winneshiek

191

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

__ DISTRICT

__ PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

__ AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

__ UNOCCUPIED

__ COMMERCIAL

__ PARK

__ STRUCTURE

__ BOTH

__ WORK IN PROGRESS

__ EDUCATIONAL

__ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__ SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

__ ENTERTAINMENT

__ RELIGIOUS

__ OBJECT

NA IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

__ GOVERNMENT

__ SCIENTIFIC

__ BEING CONSIDERED

__ YES: UNRESTRICTED

__ INDUSTRIAL

__ TRANSPORTATION

__ NO

__ MILITARY

__ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Norwegian-American Museum

STREET & NUMBER

502 West Water St.

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Decorah

__ VICINITY OF

Iowa

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER

Recorder's Office, Winneshiek County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Decorah

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE None

DATE

__ FEDERAL __ STATE __ COUNTY __ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Two sloping hillsides converging on a spring-fed creek make up the ten acres of meadow on which the eight existing structures of the Jacobson farmstead are located. Four additional buildings once existed on the site, a blacksmith shop, a chicken-sheep shed, a corn crib and a privy. All are well documented by photographs and could be authentically reconstructed.

In accordance with Norwegian tradition, the dwelling house consisted originally of separate units without internal communication. The oldest unit, possibly dating to the year of settlement in 1850, is a two story structure of log measuring 17' by 24' with a roughly north-south orientation. To the west side of this an early lean-to was added with its own entrance but with no opening into the main dwelling. A later addition to the north-west established communication between the two units. A parlor of frame construction, also lacking internal connection with the log structure, was added before 1884 to the north end of the east wall of that structure. The remainder of the house consists of a separate frame building 15' 7" by 33' 7" oriented in the same direction as the log building and with its north wall at the west end almost contiguous with the south wall of the log structure at its east end. The first section of the frame structure was built in 1884, and an extension to the west was added shortly later. A second story was built over this entire new unit in 1908. With the construction of the frame building, a short wall was erected between that building and the old parlor creating an unheated concourse between the original log unit, the parlor, and the separate frame structure. All units remain essentially unaltered except for the loss of a small late extension of the lean-to at its northwest corner known to have existed about 1900.

The interior of the dwelling has also undergone little change except for the addition of new surface materials over the old. All original floors remain as does the wainscoting on the walls and ceilings of all major rooms except for the parlor, the lean-to, and the upstairs bedrooms in the frame structure. These retain their original plaster and board surfaces.

Many of the pieces of furniture in use on the farm in the 1820's remain on the premises. Others currently in possession of the grandchildren may be returned. The location of the furniture and other household objects involves little guess work because of the extensive photographic and literary documentation.

The barn (48' by 72' overall) was constructed in two phases: the original stone structure (32' by 44') in the early period of settlement, and the frame addition (28' by 48') in about the late 1880's. Like the dwelling, it remains basically unaltered except for slight adjustments in the interior framework and the addition of concrete floors at the ground level. Slight shifting of the foundation has led to structural problems in the masonry walls which are now being rectified in accordance with the best practices of historic restoration.

The six other existing structures include a granary (44' by 28'), a storehouse (60' by 27'), a pump and milk house (8'2" by 8'), a shop (8'6" by 16'), grape arbor (7'8" by 13'), and a windmill (10'6" square at the base).

The minor changes which have occurred on the site over the years reflect technological developments and economic trends. The blacksmith shop, which may date from the 1850's, disappeared shortly after 1900. The wooden windmill was replaced with the present metal structure at about the same time. In the late 1940's the corncrib was removed and the area for

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE one

corn storage was reduced to a lean-to on the granary. The privy was phased out in the mid-1950's when plumbing was introduced into the house. The grape arbor was retained, probably for nostalgic reasons, but around 1960 the rough ^{awn} oak posts were replaced by creosote poles.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1930	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1850-1908

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Jacob Abrahamson, Abraham Jacobson

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The historical significance of the Jacobson farm is threefold: the continuity of development which it reveals from the period of settlement in 1850 through three generations to 1930, the extent of remaining physical and written documentation of the farm's history, and the significance of the second generation owner and operator Abraham Jacobson.

Before donation to the Norwegian-American Museum in 1977, the farm was owned and operated by the same family for 127 years. Generations overlapped extensively, leading to gradual evolution rather than sudden change in the social, technological, and economic history of the site. The new did not replace the old but was rather incorporated into it as had been typical of developments in Norwegian rural areas since the Renaissance. This process of accumulative development is exemplified by the house and barn, both of which contain a core unit from the period shortly after settlement but both of which have been enlarged and altered to accommodate changing needs.

The extent of physical documentation for all phases of development on the farm is exceptional. Though crude structures could have been built on the farm prior to the core units of the buildings which now exist, they must have served only temporary needs while the more substantial structures were in preparation. The log core of the dwelling reveals the mastery of log construction expected of a recent immigrant from Norway. The later additions, constructed as independent units in accordance with Norwegian tradition, represent various frame techniques adapted from American builders. The early portion of the stone barn shows several signs of experimentation and lack of expertise in this building technique. Structural problems which must now be corrected in it are in part the result of the builder's inexperience with stone construction. Soft building stone in Norway was rare, which had led to stone being limited to foundations in most rural areas of that country. A later stone addition to the barn reveals better understanding of high masonry construction, a type of building which had by then become standard in Washington Prairie because of rich local deposits of sandstone.

As the bibliography reveals, the Jacobson family was very literate and conscious of history. Detailed records remain in the form of letters, diaries, tax receipts, photographs, etc. which make it possible to document rather precisely the time of construction and alterations of the buildings and to understand their place in the social and economic context of the farm. Much of this documentation is still on the site, and that which remains with the family or has entered archives is accessible. The fact that photography became a hobby in the Jacobson family as early as the 1890's is one of the many circumstances which makes the historical documentation of the farm unique.

Though the farm represents a culture and way of life typical for a large percent of immigrants from rural Norway who continued to reap their livelihood directly from the land in this country, the owner and operator from 1878 to 1910, Abraham Jacobson, was a figure of considerable historic interest. He arrived in America as a child with his parents in 1848, but he

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

see separate sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 10.09 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME LaCrosse NK

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:250,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 610028.0 478094.0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

D [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

E [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

F [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

G [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

H [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Lot 2 of 1 of the East Half of the Northeast Quarter (E 1/2 NE 1/4) and Lot 2 of the Northwest Half of the Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (NW 1/2 NE 1/4 SE 1/4), all in Section 2, Township 97 North, Range 8 West of the 5th P.M.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N.A.			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Steve Johnson, Assistant Curator & Site Supervisor May 3, 1980
ORGANIZATION DATE

Norwegian-American Museum
STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE

502 West Water St. 319 382-9681
CITY OR TOWN STATE

Decorah Iowa

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 DATE March 5, 1982

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<u>William H. Graham</u> KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE <u>6.14.82</u>
ATTEST:	DATE
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION	

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE one

was quick to enter American intellectual and political life. He made connection with the Lincoln family while studying theology in Springfield, Illinois, from 1852 to 1859 and remained in contact with Robert Lincoln later in life. He did social and missionary work in the Dakotas and Canada before accepting a call to a Norwegian Lutheran parish in southern Wisconsin in 1877. After leaving it to take over the family farm in Iowa ten years later, he served as president of a mutual insurance company, carried out horticultural experiments, wrote on historical, cultural, and purely practical subjects in periodicals and newspapers, and served as district representative to the state legislature of Iowa from 1903 to 1905.

In spite of the unique elements in the history of the Jacobson farm, the greatest significance of the farmstead lies in the extraordinarily complete record it contains of the architectural and other physical developments on an upper midwestern Norwegian immigrant farm.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

~~Books~~
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE one

Bailey, Edwin C., Past and Present of Winneshiek County, Iowa, S.J. Clarke
Pub. Co., Chicago, IL, 1913, Vol. 2.

Standard Historical Atlas of Winneshiek County, Iowa, Davenport, Iowa, Anderson
and Goodwin Counties, 1905.

Articles in Periodicals

Jacobson, Abraham, "A Pioneer Pastor's Journey to Dakota in 1861", Norwegian-
American Studies & Records, Vol. 6, pp. 53-65, 1931.

Jacobson, Clara, "A Journey to America in the Fifties", Norwegian-American
Studies & Records, Norwegian-American Historical Association, North-
field, Minnesota, Vol. 12, pp. 60-78, 1941.

Jacobson, Clara, "Memories from Perry Parsonage", Norwegian-American Studies &
Records, Vol. 14, pp. 139-158, 1944.

Newspaper Articles

Numerous newspaper articles by and about Abraham Jacobson (owner and operator
of the farm from 1879 to 1910) and other members of the family are in the collec-
tions at the farm, the collections of family members and the archives of the Norwe-
gian-American Historical Association, Northfield, Minnesota.

Official Documents

Available records include tax receipts from 1852 to 1930, assessor's records
from 1858 to 1903, U.S. and state census records from 1855 to 1900, abstract of
title to the property, and related materials.

Manuscripts

Extensive manuscript material in the form of diaries, letters, unpublished
writings, and the like remain on the farm, with the family, and in the archives of
the Norwegian-American Historical Association.

Photographs

Photographs and glass plates in great numbers showing exterior and interior
views of the farm were taken by members of the family between 1890 and 1950. They
are accessible to the Museum to the family.

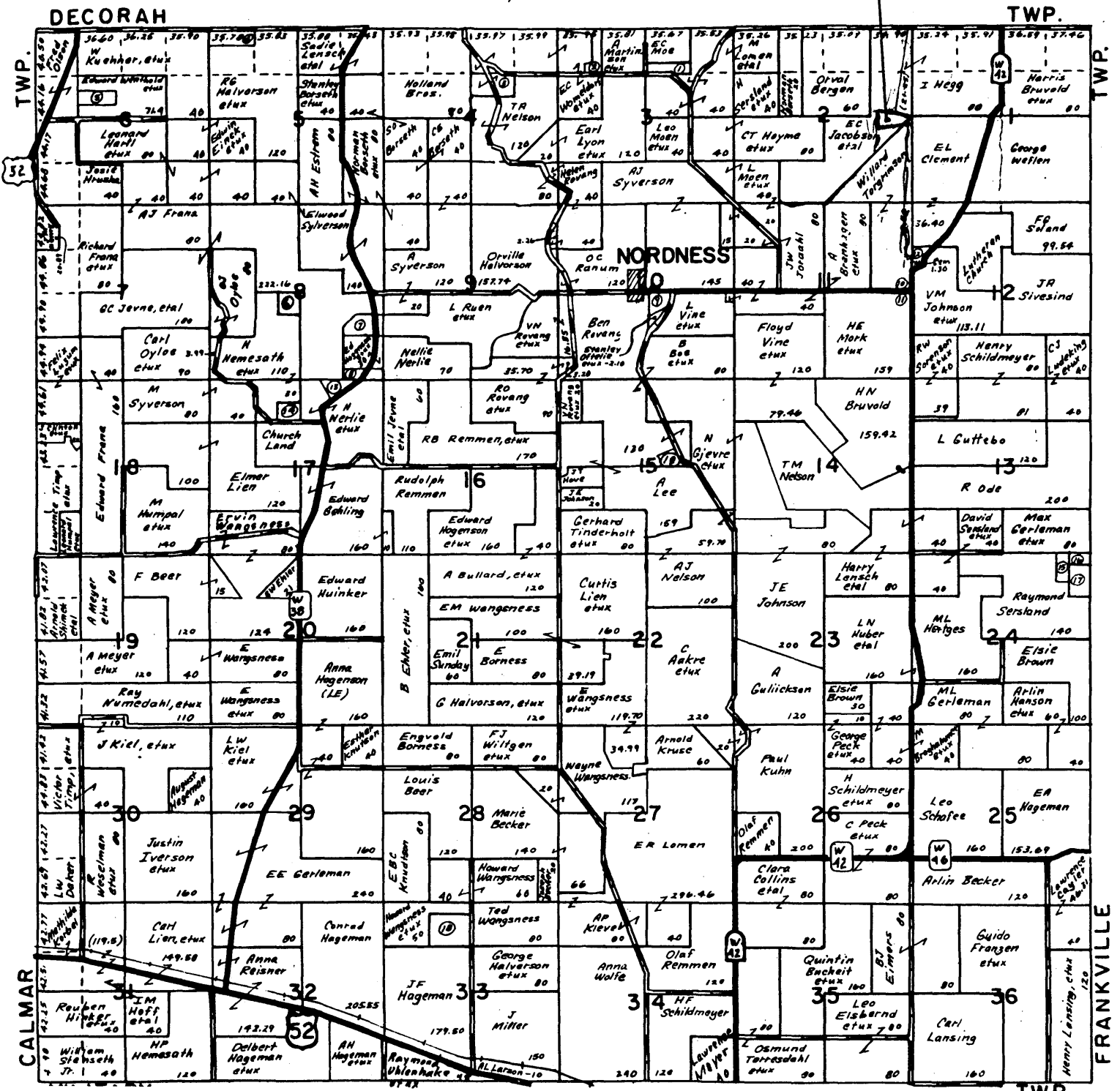
SPRINGFIELD

TOWNSHIP 97 NORTH-RANGE 8 WEST OF THE 5TH P.M.

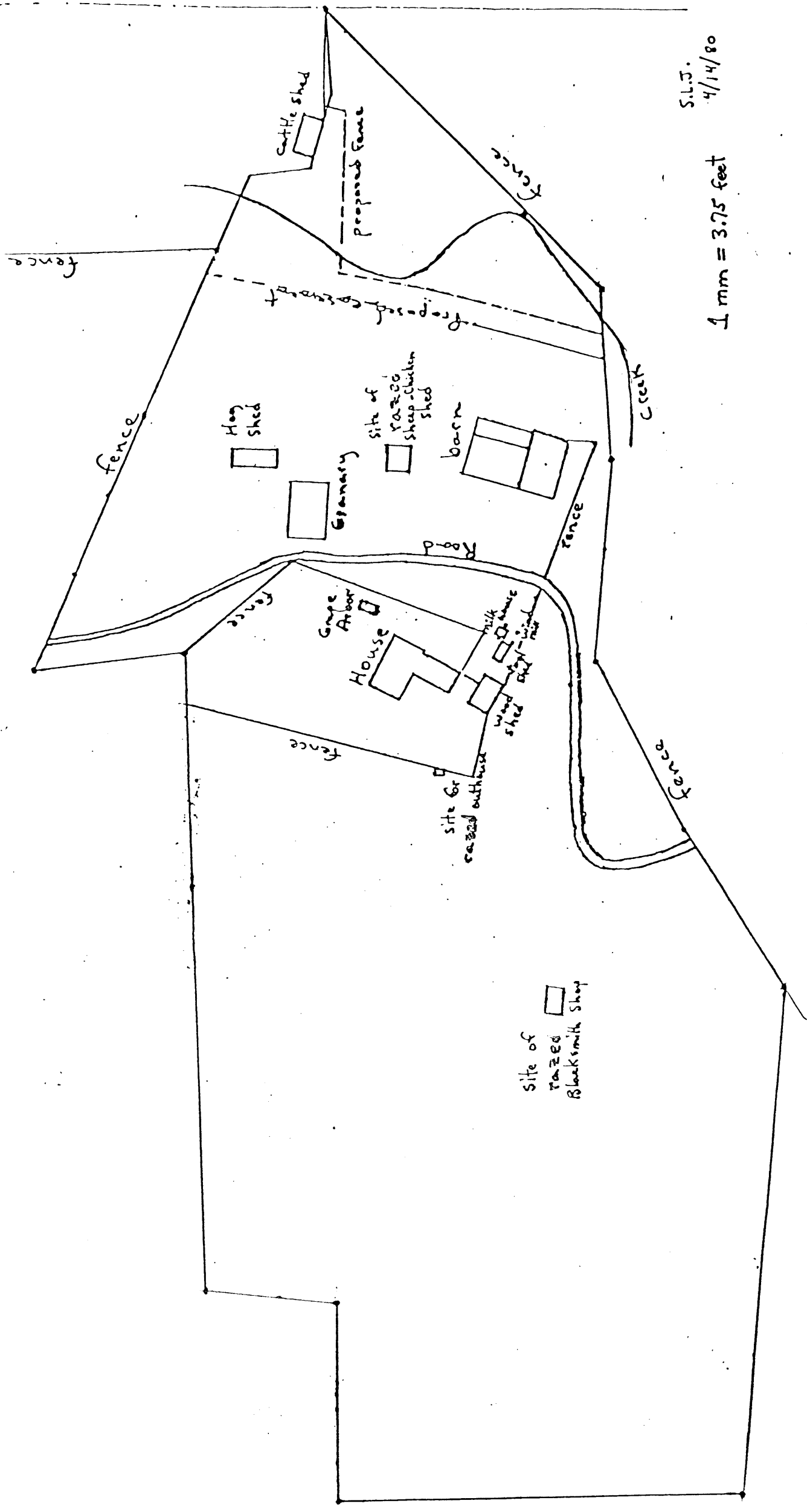
Jacobson Farmsite
Property of Norwegian -
American Museum

Small Land Owners

- 1. Sec. 3 Norman Borseth -10
- 2. Sec. 4 Richard Stuckman, etux -11.36
- 3. Sec. 4 ED Sensor, etux
- 4. Sec. 5 Kelley Meyer, etux -16.91
- 5. Sec. 6 Earl Kopp, etal - 8.625
- 6. Sec. 8 Peter Gunderson
- 7. Sec. 8 Edmund Gerleman -17.84
- 8. Sec. 8 Anna Hageman, (L.S.) -8.83
- 9. Sec.10 Arnold Kruse
- 10. Sec.11 Laura Amahl -50
- 11. Sec. 11 Dalrymple Power Co-op -1
- 12. Sec.12 C.J. Bergmeier -5.89
- 13. Sec.17 Ed Huinker
- 14. Sec.17 Ervin Wangness, etux
- 15. Sec.14 Russell Sjogland
- 16. Sec. 11 Orlando Torsen
- 17. Sec. 11 Leonard Boath, etux
- 18. Sec. 33 Agnes Wangness -30
- 19. Sec. 15 Dan Backes, etux -10



Jacobson Farm Site
 Norwegian - American Museum



S.L.S.
 4/14/80

1 mm = 3.75 feet

Site of
 razed
 Blacksmith Shop