



Bronson Farm

Kanabec County  
Arthur Township

Barn with attached Machine Shed (ca.1880s-90s). A small gable-roofed frame barn with attached shed on the east side which, in turn, is attached to a gable-roofed machine shed.

Milk House (ca.1905). A small gable-roofed structure with shingled sheathing.

Horse Barn (ca.1880-81) A large gable-roofed structure flanked by two concrete silos (ca.1950s). The barn's original protruding upper section was destroyed in a windstorm in the 1950s and the roof was modified at that time.

Dairy Barn (ca.1880s-90s). A structure similar to the horse barn. It originally had an extended central portion flanked by two wood silos. The barn was altered after the 1950s storm damaged the west part of the farmstead.

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**SIGNIFICANCE:**

Bronson Farm is significant primarily for its association with Kanabec County's logging industry, the county's dominant theme during the nineteenth century. It is also significant as one of the earliest and, since shortly after its establishment, the largest farmstead in the county. Farming operations were frequently associated with the larger logging concerns. The logging farms served as local headquarters and warehouse facilities. They were also used for the summering of numerous work horses and oxen required for extensive logging operations and for the production of food and feed for winter logging seasons. Isaac Staples, a prominent Stillwater lumberman and holder of the greatest amount of timber acreage in Kanabec County, including 50,000 acres on Ann River and its tributaries, developed the farm in 1880. Several buildings, including the large dwelling and store, were erected that year. On his retirement in 1888, Staples sold his Kanabec County lands to the Ann River Logging Company, a syndicate comprised of Frederick Weyerhaeuser and other prominent lumbermen. At the time, the 600 acre farm was the largest in the county. The Ann River Logging Company operated the farm until 1901 when the timber on Ann River was virtually exhausted. The Company's holdings were then transferred to the Ann River Land Company and sold to settlers. Hiram Elliott, owner of the Elliott Packing Company of Duluth, purchased the farm in 1902 and operated a successful stock farm until his death in 1938. The farm became known as Bronson in 1882 when the railroad was constructed through the region and the farm was designated a post office.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

Minneapolis Tribune. December 16, 1888.

Pine County Record. August 21 and 28, 1880.

Ziegler, Frank. "KEN-A-BIG": The Story of Kanabec County. Mora: B & W Printers, 1977.

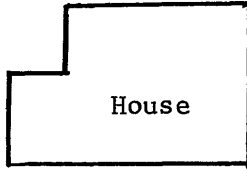
Bronson Farm

- Map showing approximate locations of buildings; not drawn to scale

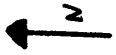


Chicken House

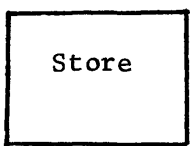
Summer Kitchen



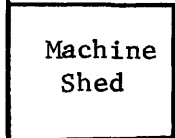
House



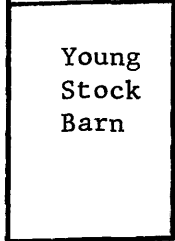
Shed



Store

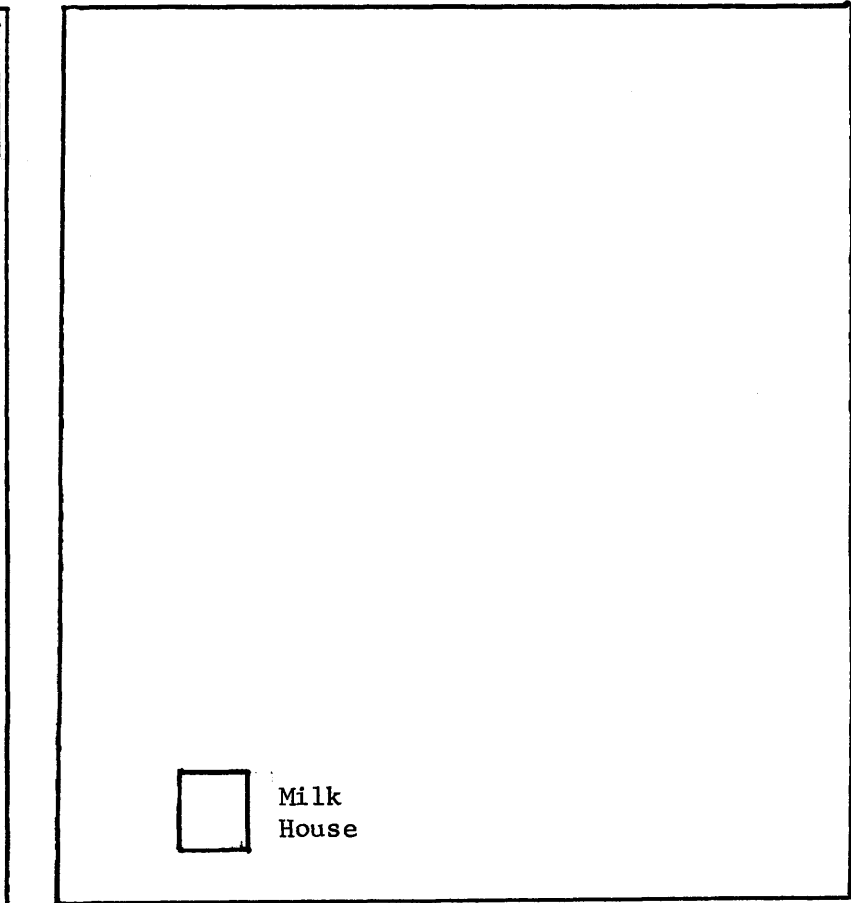


Machine Shed



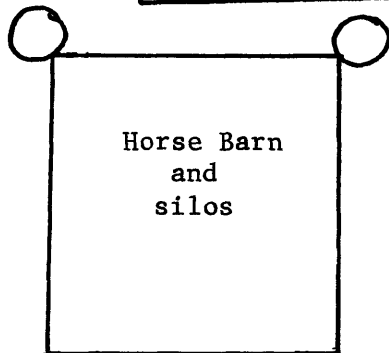
Young Stock Barn

Lake

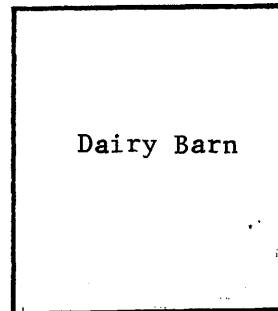


Milk House

State Highway 23



Horse Barn and silos



Dairy Barn

Cattle Shed





United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

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**Note: These changes apply to  
Bronson Farm in Kanabec County,  
Minnesota.**

**REFERENCE NUMBER:** 80002085

**STATE:** MINNESOTA

**COUNTY:** Kanabec

**RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC):** Ann River Logging Company Farm

**CITY:**

**VICINITY OF:** Mora

**ADDRESS:** Mn. Hwy. 23

**CERTIFICATION DATE:**

**REMOVED DATE:**

**COMMENTS:**

*Nina M. Archabal*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Nina M. Archabal**  
**State Historic Preservation Officer**

**JUN 17 1988**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**