

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received MAR 17 1987  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic John Bosch Farmstead

and/or common Bosch Farmstead

2. Location

street & number County Highway 4 N/A not for publication

city, town Lake Elizabeth Township X vicinity of Lake Lillian

state Minnesota code 22 county Kandiyohi code 067

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Roland Bosch

street & number Rural Route 1

city, town Atwater N/A vicinity of state Minnesota 56209

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kandiyohi County Courthouse

street & number Becker Avenue W.

city, town Willmar state Minnesota 56201

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Minnesota Statewide Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1984-85  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office, Fort Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota 55111

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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 _____ N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Bosch Farmstead is located on the east side of County Road 4 in Section 9 of Lake Elizabeth Township, between the towns of Atwater and Lake Lillian. The building site is situated on a 218 acre farm.

The Bosch Farmstead includes the following eight buildings constructed between circa 1885 and the 1950's.

Main House. A large 2 1/2 story woodframe farmhouse constructed circa 1885. Its Italianate style design was remodelled in 1912. Located in a large shaded yard at the north edge of the site, the house is now a well preserved example of turn of the century Victorian architecture. It has clapboard siding, a stone foundation, an intersecting gabled roof, and an L-shaped hipped roof porch which spans the main (south) facade and half of the east facade. The western portion of the porch has been enclosed, but the eastern portion retains Tuscan columns and turned balusters. The Bosch farmhouse is ornamented with fishscale shingles and Palladian-inspired arrangements of windows with diamond-shaped panes in the west, south, and east gable ends, an oriel window on the west facade, a bay window on the east facade, stained glass, and detailing at the frieze. The house is in good condition and has been recently painted. Alterations since 1912 have included the enclosure of the front and rear porches and the installation of a new roof.

New House. A one story L-shaped rambler built in 1953 which stands west of the main house. It is covered with wide lap siding and is intact and in good condition. (non-contributing)

Barn. Built before 1900 and located southeast of the main house. The barn has a gabled roof, a fieldstone foundation, and clapboard siding, and small rectangular windows. It has been altered with a two small additions on the east end and a 1950's lean-to addition on the south side. A 1936 concrete silo stands on the north side of the barn. The barn is in good condition and has been recently painted and reroofed.

Granary. Built before 1900 and located northeast of the barn. The granary is a gabled roof building with clapboard siding and an eastern lean-to addition. One of the interior supports for the building is a hand cut, solid oak timber about 14 inches square and 40 feet long. The granary is in good condition and has been recently painted and reroofed.

Sheds. Built circa 1910 as a chicken coop and later expanded into a series of sheds which has compromised original integrity. Located north of the granary, the sheds have been recently painted and re-roofed. Standing west of the sheds are 1950's-1970's metal grain bins. (non-contributing-grain bins/sheds)

Sheds. A series of gable roofed sheds built circa 1910 and covered with siding. Located north of the hog house at the east end of the farmstead. Fair condition.

Hog House. A gable roofed, metal covered building which dates circa 1920 with a 1970's eastern addition. The building stands at the east edge of the site. Fair condition.

Metal barn. Built in the early 1950's and located at the southeast corner of the site. A round-roofed barn, covered with metal siding, with two concrete tile silos at the east end. (non-contributing)

Windmill. Built circa 1920 and located west of the hog house, the windmill is approximately 90 feet in height and consists of a metal tower.

Shed. A round roofed frame building located between larger farm sheds. No date. (non-contributing)

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

John Bosch Farmstead, Lake Elizabeth Township, Kandiyohi Co., MN

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet      Description      Item number      7      Page      2

The John Bosch Farmstead Nomination contains:

5 contributing buildings:

- Main House
- Barn
- Granary
- Sheds (located north of hog house)
- Hog House

2 contributing structures:

- Windmill and silo (1936)

4 non-contributing buildings:

- New House
- Sheds/grain bins (located north of granary)
- Metal barn
- Shed (located between larger farm sheds)

2 non-contributing structures:

- Two silos (1950s)

## 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

**Specific dates** 1931-1937 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Bosch Farmstead in Lake Elizabeth Township, Kandiyohi County, is historically significant as the home of John H. Bosch, founder of the Farmers' Holiday movement in Minnesota and local, state, and national leader of the Farmers' Holiday Association, an important agrarian protest movement of the Great Depression, and as the home of other members of the Bosch family who were active in the Farmer's Holiday.

The Holiday movement developed out of a nineteenth century climate of changes in farming that form a difficult trend which continues to have particular relevance for the future of agriculture today. Beginning in the 1850's rapid technological improvements reduced the ratio of labor to production on farms and made mass production of food increasingly more efficient, squeezing out small family farmers who owned comparably less economic operations. While costs for farmers continued to rise, market prices for farm produce (which were often affected by government policies) fluctuated wildly, often preventing farmers from making a profit or recovering production costs. Farmers, whose numbers fell from 50% of the total U.S. population in 1870 to only about 22% in 1930, felt politically disenfranchised and became involved in a succession of farmers' movements (including the Grange, Populist Movement, and Non-Partisan League) which arose periodically and resulted in fairer railroad shipping practices, the development of agricultural cooperatives, and some government legislation in support of farmers. Urged by the government to produce at maximum levels during World War I and in the years immediately following the War, farmers borrowed to expand their operations and then were caught as credit became tight, prices and land values fell, and federal economic policy increasingly favored industrial rather than agricultural production. After the War, gross annual farm income in the U.S. dropped from \$15.4 billion in 1920 to \$6.7 billion in 1932 and membership in farmers' organizations including the three largest, the Grange, the Farm Bureau, and the Farmers' Union, increased dramatically and paralleled growth in the labor union movement. As the Depression worsened, prices began a sharp downward spiral and farm profitability again reached a crisis point.

The Farmers' Holiday movement was the most successful and aggressive national farmers' protest movement of the Great Depression. The Farmers' Holiday Association was established nationally in May of 1932 as a radical splinter group of the Farmers' Union, the largest and most liberal of the three large farm groups. Credit for the development of the organization is shared by John H. Bosch of Lake Elizabeth Township, Kandiyohi County, and Milo Reno of the Iowa Farmers' Union. (Which of the two men actually started the Holiday and its true birthplace is under debate.) From its inception during 1931 through the peak of its influence in 1933, the movement drew national attention and had a huge impact on agricultural policy and the plight of farmers.

The Holiday Association's primary goal was to obtain government guarantees that farmers would recover at least the cost of production for farm products they grew and marketed. Among the demands of the organization were state embargos on agricultural products sold at less than the cost of production, federal embargos on imported farm products, and state and federal moratoria on foreclosures of farm and chattel mortgages and

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

- Shrover, John L. Cornbelt Rebellion: The Farmers' Holiday Association. Urbana: Univ. of Illinois, 1965.
- Luoma, Everett E. The Farmer Takes A Holiday. New York: Exposition Press, 1967.
- Nass, David, ed. Holiday: Minnesotans Remember the Farmers' Holiday Association. Marshall: Southwest State University Press, 1984. SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 10 acres

Quadrangle name Lake Elizabeth

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

*see UTM's on USGS map*

A	1,5	35,52,9,0	4,98,94,8,0	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The property nominated is all that which is located in the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter, Section Nine, Township 118 North, Range 33 West, Lake Elizabeth Township, Minnesota.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan Granger/Contract Historian  
State Historic Preservation Office

organization Minnesota Historical Society date July 1985

street & number Fort Snelling History Center telephone (612) 726-1171

city or town St. Paul state Minnesota 55111

## 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 Nina M. Archabal

Nina Archabal

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 3/13/87

### For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date

4/23/87

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Bosch Farmstead

Item number 8

Page 1

Item #8 (Significance) continued:

evictions from farmsteads. In addition to active lobbying and demonstrations, the initial tactic of the Holiday was the farm strike in which farmers withheld produce from the market, in some cases refused to plant, and picketed and blockaded major marketing cities in an effort which would, in the short run, cause shortages and raise prices and, more importantly, focus national attention on the plight of farmers and result in favorable legislative action. Beginning in January of 1933 the Holiday membership began its second and most successful series of activities and those that drew the most participation, the prevention of foreclosure sales on overdue real estate and chattel mortgages. Using two primary tactics, demonstrations by large crowds to physically stop real estate mortgage foreclosure sales at county courthouses and "penny auctions" at farmsteads to stop the sale of household goods and machinery to foreclosures chattel mortgages, the Holiday prevented the foreclosure of thousands of farm mortgages nationwide.

At the formal organizational meeting of the National Farmers' Holiday Association in Des Moines, Iowa, in May of 1932, Milo Reno, President of the Iowa Farmers' Union was elected President and John H. Bosch of Kandiyohi County was elected Vice President. The group's first major action, a national farm strike, began on August 8, 1932. By September 11, state organizations had been formed in 11 states, most in the Midwest. Like many farmers' groups, the National Holiday Association was essentially a loosely organized federation of township, county, and state units which frequently operated independently from the national leadership, and its participants and supporters far exceeded the number of actual dues-paying members. From May 1933 through December of 1937 the National Holiday Association published the Farm Holiday News, a newspaper established in February 1933 by A. C. Townley, founder of the Non-Partisan League, and assumed by the Holiday Association in May of that year.

Minnesota's Farmers' Holiday Association unit, established officially on July 29, 1932 in St. Cloud, was the largest in the country and, along with the Iowa state unit, formed the core of the Holiday movement. By September 21, 1932, county units had been formed in 58 of Minnesota's 83 counties, with some counties reporting units in 100% of their townships. The movement was strongest in Southwestern and West Central Minnesota (in Swift County, for example, approximately 1700 of the county's 1900 farmers joined) and most striking and picketing occurred in that region and in the Twin Cities area. The Holiday movement in Minnesota saw less violence than other states, although scuffles were common, and on October 5, 1932, a picketer was shot to death in Canby and on October 12, 1932, a riot in Howard Lake involving 800 people resulted in several injuries.

Minnesota's involvement in the first major farm strike began on September 21, 1932, with parades in many cities and a fireworks display in Willmar. The marketing centers of Montevideo, Worthington, and other several other western Minnesota towns were picketed and/or blockaded during the strike, and on October 7 a blockade of the Twin Cities began with 10 major roads into the cities closed to trucks hauling farm products by October 18. Strikes and picketing continued through the fall of 1933 when the creamery in Montevideo was seized by Holiday members and activists forced the Swift meat processing plant

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

**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    Bosch Farmstead    Item number    8    Page    2

Item #8 (Significance) continued:

in Marshall to close. The first official stopping of a real estate foreclosure sale by Holiday members in Minnesota occurred January 25, 1933, at the Kandiyohi County Courthouse in Willmar. During the next few years, hundreds of foreclosure sales were stopped in nearly all counties in the state and on March 22, 1933, a crowd of several thousand farmers demonstrated against farm foreclosures at the State Capitol.

The Minnesota Holiday movement was led by John H. Bosch, who born in 1898 in Holland Township, Kandiyohi County. His father, John B. Bosch, was a Dutch farmer and intellectual who had actively supported the Populist movement. Most of the Bosch family, and in particular John B. and his sons John H., Richard (who had a graduate degree in economics), Herbert, and Earl, were familiar with progressive political and economic ideas and active participants in the Farmers' Union and Holiday movement. John H. Bosch is credited with leading the first successful prevention of a chattel mortgage sale in 1931 in Lake Elizabeth Township. The same year Bosch, then President of the Kandiyohi County Farmers' Union, began to call for a general farm strike to protest low farm prices and the lack of government support for farmers. In 1931 he was invited by Milo Reno to address the state convention of the Iowa Farmers' Union to secure their support, and spoke at the North Dakota Farmers' Union state convention and the National Farmers' Union annual meeting. When the Farmers' Union would not officially endorse a farm strike, Bosch and Reno formed the National Holiday Association in May, 1932. During the summer of 1932 Bosch, his brothers, and several associates spoke at township meetings and Farmers' Union groups in nearly every county in Minnesota and North Dakota raising support for the Holiday. At the formation of the state unit in July of 1932, Bosch was elected State President. His sophisticated and careful approach to issues and moderate temperament are credited with making Minnesota's Holiday movement more independent, more disciplined, and longer lasting those of other states.

The impact of the Farmers' Holiday movement nationwide was substantial. As farm strikes and picketing began, public opinion and the small town press were generally supportive of the Holiday, although newspapers in major cities were frequently critical. Public support deteriorated as violence occurred during demonstrations and as farmers who were not supportive of the Holiday and were blocked from marketing products began to speak out. The stopping of foreclosure sales was the Holiday's most successful venture and brought an almost immediate response when, during a peak of activity in January and February, 1933, when sales were being stopped in 15 states, county sheriffs and lenders stopped attempting to hold sales, six national insurance companies suspended foreclosures effective January 30, 1933, local Councils of Defense were appointed by county governments to help farmers and lenders negotiate, and in February, 1933, Governor Floyd B. Olson of Minnesota issued a moratorium on farm foreclosures and governors and legislators in eight other states issued full or partial moratoria. The Holiday movement influenced the election of 1932 as candidates on all levels responded to the activities of the Association, and the demands of the Holiday had a substantial impact on the formulation of the agricultural components of Roosevelt's New Deal in the spring of 1933.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

**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 Bosch Farmstead

Item number 8, 9

Page 3

Item #8 (Significance) continued:

After a peak of activity in 1932-1933, the membership and effectiveness of the Holiday movement began to decline as farmers perceived that their immediate crisis had ended with foreclosure moratoria and the optimism of the New Deal, public support for the Holiday had decreased, and the national leadership began to be courted by more radical communist and fascist oriented groups. After Milo Reno's death in May of 1936, Bosch became President of the badly divided National Association and its focus was moved from Iowa to Minneapolis. The group split over a decision to support a third party presidential candidate in 1936 and Bosch became increasingly uncomfortable with the radicalization of the Association's leadership. After the Holiday's last recorded foreclosure sale was stopped in Brown County, Minnesota, in November of 1937, the Farmers' Holiday Association merged back into the Farmers' Union.

The Bosch Farmstead in Lake Elizabeth Township, Kandiyohi County, was originally established in 1868 by Gustav A. Glader, a Swedish farmer, businessman, and state senator. Glader expanded the farm from 280 to 600 acres and in circa 1885 built a farmhouse which was remodelled in 1912 into its present form. In 1914 the farm was purchased by John B. and Jane Bosch and their 13 children. During the period of the Farmers' Holiday, the farm was the home of John and Jane Bosch and various children including John H., Richard, Garrit, Herbert, and Earl. The farmstead was the scene of many incidents and informal meetings associated with the Holiday and most members of the family were active in the Holiday, the Farmers' Union, and Minnesota's newly formed Farmer-Labor Party. After 1937 John H. Bosch eventually left Kandiyohi County and became an insurance salesman in Minneapolis where he lived with his wife and five children. He died in Minneapolis in 1978. The Bosch farmstead in Kandiyohi County is now owned and operated by fourth generation family members.

The Bosch Farmstead was included in an eight month historic sites survey of Kandiyohi County conducted recently by the State Historic Preservation Office. The farmstead was found to be historically significant for its associations with the Bosch family and the Holiday movement, and represents an important political and social component of the State Historic Preservation Office's "Railroad Construction and Agricultural Development" context unit of the Resource Protection Planning Process (RP3) developed recently by the office to aid in the study and assessment of the state's historic sites.

Item #9 (Bibliography) continued:

Shannon, Fred A. American Farmers Movements. Princeton: Nostrand, 1957.

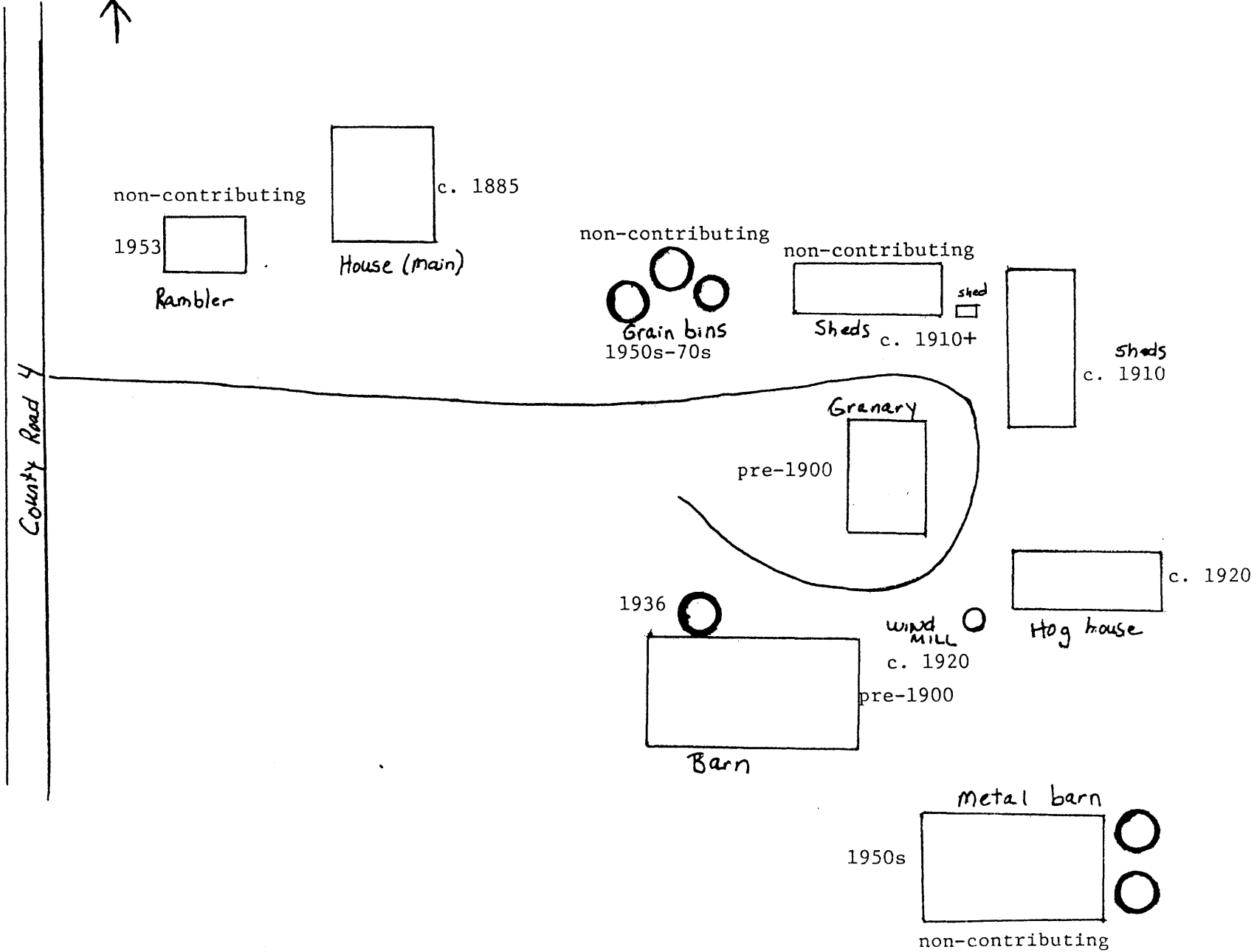
Willmar Tribune, Nov. 13, 1933.

West Central Daily Tribune, Sept. 9, 1978, Dec. 22, 1978.

Lawson, Victor E. Illustrated History of Kandiyohi County. Willmar: 1905.



Bosch Farmstead  
Lake Elizabeth Township  
Kandiyohi County  
Sketch Map



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY Bosch, John, Farmstead  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MINNESOTA, Kandiyohi

DATE RECEIVED: 12/09/08 DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/22/09  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 87000620

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 1-22-09 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Additional Documentation Accepted**

RECOM./CRITERIA

REVIEWER

*Edson Beall*

DISCIPLINE

*History*

TELEPHONE

DATE

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Bosch, John, Farmstead

Name of property

Kandiyohi County, MN

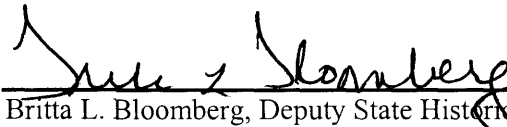
County and State

Section number 2 Page 1

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

National Register Number: 87000620

Location, Street & Number: 8191 Co. Rd. 4 SE

  
Britta L. Bloomberg, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Minnesota Historical Society

12/2/08  
Date