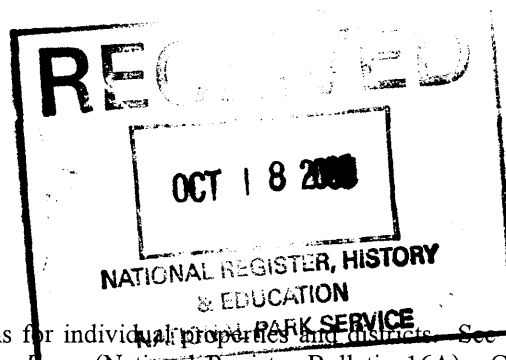


United States Department of Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



1372

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Nansen Agricultural Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number vicinity of Mn. Hwy. 56 and Co. Hwys. 14 and 49

not for publication N/A

city or town Holden and Warsaw Twps.

vicinity Kenyon

state Minnesota code MN county Goodhue code 049

zip code 55053 and 55946

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title
Ian R. Stewart, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

10/12/00

Minnesota Historical Society
State or federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.
(___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or federal agency and bureau

Nansen Agricultural Historic District
Name of Property

Goodhue County, Minnesota
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.
See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
See continuation sheet.
- removed from the National Register.
- other (explain) _____

Edson H. Beal Signature of the Keeper 11-15-00 Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property Category of Property
(check as many as apply) (Check only one box)

- private ___ building(s)
- public-local district
- ___ public-state ___ site
- ___ public-federal ___ structure
- ___ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include listed resources in the count)

	Contributing	Noncontributing
buildings	94	51
sites	53	1
structures	43	32
objects	0	0
total	190	84

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne and Italianate
LATE 19th AND 20th CENTURY REVIVALS

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE and CONCRETE
walls WOOD
roof ASPHALT and METAL
other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Nansen Agricultural Historic District
Name of Property

Goodhue County, Minnesota
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying
the property for the National Register listing.)

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE

A Property is associated with events that have made a
significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons
significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of
a type, period, or method of construction or represents
the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or
represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose
components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information
important in our prehistory or history

Period of Significance
1870-1948

Significant Dates
N/A

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious
purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age achieved significance
within the past 50 years.

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous Documentation on File (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 Other state agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: Minnesota History Center

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4683.4 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>1/5</u> Zone	<u>5/0/6/0/4/6</u> Easting	<u>4/9/1/4/0/7/6</u> Northing	3	<u>1/5</u> Zone	<u>5/0/4/0/8/0</u> Easting	<u>4/9/0/8/0/8/2</u> Northing
2	<u>1/5</u> Zone	<u>5/0/6/0/4/0</u> Easting	<u>4/9/0/9/0/6/0</u> Northing	4	<u>1/5</u> Zone	<u>5/0/3/0/1/8</u> Easting	<u>4/9/0/8/0/8/2</u> Northing

Kenyon, MN, 1968, photoinspected 1980

Sogn, MN, 1968, photoinspected 1980

see continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Christina Slattery, Kathryn Franks, and Amy Squitieri, Architectural Historians
organization Mead & Hunt, Inc. date January 5, 1999
street & number 6501 Watts Road telephone 608-273-6380
city or town Madison state Wisconsin zip code 53719

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps: A U.S. Geological Survey map (7.5- or 15-minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs: Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items: (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Nansen Agricultural Historic District
Name of Property

Goodhue County, Minnesota
County and State

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip _____ code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Nansen Agricultural Historic District
Goodhue County, Minnesota

Description

Introduction

The Nansen Agricultural Historic District is located in southwestern Goodhue County about midway between the Twin Cities and Rochester in southeastern Minnesota. Kenyon, located 3 miles southwest of the valley, is the closest city. The central and southwestern sections of Goodhue County are gently rolling prairie, and the majority of the county has a fine, loamy clay subsoil. In the county's southwestern section this soil occurs at the surface, making the area highly productive for farming. The swales and sloughs found throughout the county provide good drainage, further enhancing farming opportunities.¹

Major geographical features that define the character of the Sogn Valley are:

- The winding Upper Little Cannon River and its tributaries.
- The tree-lined valley ridges running primarily north and south following the contour of the river and its tributaries.
- Forested areas along ridges that were historically owned by several families and used as woodlots, averaging 5 to 10 acres in size.
- Broad, low-lying areas historically and currently used as fields and pastures for crop production and cattle grazing.

Composed of 30 individual farms – most of which are about 80 to 200 acres in size – tied together as a unified, distinguishable whole, the Nansen Agricultural Historic District encompasses 7.3 square miles in the southern portion of the Sogn Valley. The district's boundaries include the northeastern section of Holden township and a small portion of southeastern Warsaw township along Co. Hwy. 14. Historically, the hills and the valleys of the Sogn Valley defined transportation routes. Co. Hwy. 14 is the district's major transportation route and runs north-south through the valley center. Other roads within the district follow section lines, property lines, or routes dictated by the valley's topography.

The Nansen Agricultural Historic District is a farming community that began in the mid-1850s. The availability of land, suitability of soil and topography for farming, and the presence of natural resources – water, timber, and limestone – attracted Norwegian immigrant groups who

¹ Theodore Ludwig Nydahl, "The Early Norwegian Settlement of Goodhue County, Minnesota," (Ph.D. diss., University of Minnesota, 1929), 4-5.

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spearheaded much of the rural settlement and agricultural development of the Sogn Valley.

The district contains 274 resources: 190 contributing and 84 noncontributing. Manmade features include 94 contributing buildings with 20 farmhouses, 25 barns, and a cheese factory. The district includes 53 contributing sites, largely comprised of the agricultural fields. One contributing field has been attributed to each historic farm, as indicated on the 1914 Atlas and Farmers' Directory of Goodhue County, Minnesota. The system of roads through the district generally follows historic routes and is counted as one contributing structure. Other contributing sites include five woodlot areas and a non-denominational cemetery. The district also contains, 51 noncontributing buildings, including houses, barns, and a former school converted into a residence. Noncontributing resources within the district are categorized based on recent construction dates, which are outside of the district's period of significance, and significant changes that have diminished their historic integrity.

The majority of the noncontributing buildings within the district are situated within the domestic space of the farm cluster. Most modern resources within the district are sited in the same manner as historic buildings. For example, a new barn may rest on the same site as the historic building. At the Bestal Farm (GD-HOL-014), a new metal barn replaced the historic structure that was destroyed in a storm. The modern ranch house on Ole A. Flom Farm (GD-WAR-023) is situated among historic agricultural buildings, including the barn and granary. As demonstrated through these examples, the introduction of newer, sometimes noncontributing, buildings does not significantly impact the historic appearance of the overall landscape. The district's rural character is most obviously conveyed through its rolling landscape with vistas of planted and fallow fields, woodlots, and occasional farm clusters.

Land Uses and Activities

The Nansen Agricultural Historic District is characterized by land uses and activities related to the area's agricultural history. Existing land uses closely reflect historical practices. Original settlers farmed the land for subsistence and later to provide a living. The soil and climate within Goodhue County were well suited for wheat production and this crop dominated in the 1870s. Most farms ranged in size between 80 and 200 acres throughout the district's period of significance, though a few examples grew beyond 200 acres.

In the 1880s, wheat production declined due to deterioration of the soil from single-crop plantings and the appearance of chinch bugs and other pests that led to crop failure. After 1890, farmers were forced to diversify and plant new crops, including corn, oats, barley, rye, hay, alfalfa, potatoes, and flax. Contour plowing allowed farmers to plant rows of crops on hillsides while minimizing erosion. This technique is still employed on some of the district's sloping land. In addition, farmers turned to stock-raising and dairy farming, which grew in importance in the twentieth century.

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Historic land use features evident in the district include fields, pastures, woodlots, and a cemetery. Located on the north side of Co. Hwy. 49 in Section 3 of Holden Township, the cemetery served local residents who were not members of a church congregation. The 14 extant grave markers date from c. 1864 to 1901.

The majority of farms in the district maintain small dairy operations and sow fields for stock feed production. Contour strip plowing and planting is practiced on slopes. Present land uses and activities have remained largely agricultural – including fields, pastures, and woodlots – with the average farm size still ranging between 80 and 200 acres. A few hobby farms and ex-urban residences are located within the district, but most of the land surrounding these properties has remained in agricultural use. In a few cases, new agricultural activities are being practiced. For example, the Watsons participate in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Paul Johnson is experimenting with grape harvesting.

Patterns of Spatial Organization

The spatial organization of settlement in the Sogn Valley is primarily defined by topography, natural water features, and vegetation. Farms were established within the valley near the Little Cannon River, its tributary streams, and near natural springs.² For example, Anders Erickson Haugen (GD-HOL-025) established his farm near a natural spring in Section 2 of Holden Township, while Martin S. Gjellum (GD-HOL-045) chose a spot along the Little Cannon River in Section 10 of Holden Township.

Open expanses of fields and pastures are interrupted by forested areas, the Little Cannon River, and, on a smaller scale, rows of conifers and deciduous trees that demarcate property lines and provide a screen from prevailing winds. Three forested areas that historically served as woodlots remain within the district boundaries, representing the continuity of the district's spatial organization. Though shared by several families and clearly divided on early plat maps, these forested areas show no clear distinction between one person's small lot and the next. Rows of trees planted along property lines are common. For example, a windrow of cedar and pine trees demarcates the domestic space on the Henry Johnson Lee Farm (GD-HOL-034).

The spatial organization of land in the Sogn Valley was affected by the government land survey and laws established for land settlement. Land in Goodhue County was first opened for settlement in 1851 and farm sizes were limited to the amount of land a household was allowed to claim. As early as 1854, during early settlement of the valley, each household could purchase up

² The 1894 Plat Book of Goodhue County, Minnesota (Minneapolis: C.M. Foote and Company, 1894), marks the presence of springs near buildings on individual properties.

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Goodhue County, Minnesota

to four connecting 40 acres at \$1.25 per acre. Therefore some of the farms exhibit odd shapes created from the connection of two or more 40-acre plots.³

Vegetation Related to Land Use

Field crops, grass pastures, and wooded areas are the predominant types of vegetation related to land use within the Nansen Agricultural Historic District. Agricultural lands are actively used for crop and livestock production. Common crops are corn, hay, alfalfa, beans, and oats, which are grown to feed the dairy and beef cattle, sheep, hogs, chickens, and horses. As one example, fields – planted in corn – surround the Ole A. Melhouse Farm (GD-WAR-026) on three sides. A fence line and driveway separate the field crops from the house and outbuildings on the Simon Gjellum/Neseth Farm (GD-HOL-028).

Forested areas are interspersed between open fields and remain on ridges, near the river, and on sites that historically served as woodlots. Woodlots are small parcels of wooded land – usually 5 to 10 acres in size – that were historically kept for a personal wood supply. Wooded land could not be bought from the government in tracts of less than 40 acres. Since most people did not need 40 acres for personal use, timbered land was often subdivided and resold soon after the date of its first sale.⁴ The district's historic woodlot areas appear on the 1914 plat map (see attached).

Four woodlot areas, which are primarily comprised of deciduous trees, remain within the Holden Township portion of the district, and one remains in Warsaw Township. The integrity of these woodlots has been maintained by local residents through involvement in the CRP, which is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and administered through the Farm Service Agency. The CRP has also assisted Sogn Valley residents in retaining the open character of fields that are no longer planted in crops, by providing a cost-sharing program to plant abandoned fields in native prairie plants.⁵ Some of the small lots have been consolidated into adjacent farms in recent years.

The domestic space of individual farms features ornamental plantings and windrows, which commonly consist of coniferous trees such as cedar, pine, and spruce. The yard of the G.K. Norsving Farm (GD-HOL-021) includes ornamental flowers, such as peonies and roses, and trees, including silver maple and cottonwood. Windrows are used throughout the district to shield the domestic space of the farms from prevailing winds or roadways. The K. Estrem Farm

³ Curtis Schneider, Vang Lutheran Church Anniversary Book (Minnesota, n.p., 1992), 4.

⁴ Hildegard Binder Johnson, Order Upon the Land: the U.S. Rectangular Land Survey and the Upper Mississippi Country (New York, London, Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1976), 140.

⁵ Chuck Schwartau, Goodhue County Extension Service, interview with author, 11 September 1998.

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(GD-HOL-022) is protected by windrows of cedar trees on two sides of the house. Likewise, a windrow shields the Bestal Farm (GD-HOL-014) from northern winds.

Deciduous trees related to the domestic space are commonly found in groves. These include walnut, silver maple, and oak – the most common indigenous trees in the area. Demonstrating this is the Martin A. Flom Farm (GD-HOL-030), which includes a large grove of walnut trees in the front of the house.

Circulation Networks

The Nansen Agricultural Historic District has one type of transportation network – roadways. The valley is divided by Co. Hwy. 14, a north-south roadway that runs through the center of the valley. In the late 1960s, Co. Hwy. 14 was altered to eliminate several sharp turns in Sections 12 and 14 of Holden Township.⁶ Three sections of former public road Co. Hwy. 14 are maintained as private or shared-access roads. Presently, Co. Hwy. 14 is a two-lane asphalt road with a gravel shoulder.

In Minnesota, many section lines became public roads after 1873.⁷ Within the district, several roads follow section lines, including Mn Hwy. 56, Co. Hwy. 49, Co. Hwy. 44, 410th Street, and 420th Street, which follows the old Co. Hwy. 14 route. Two roadways deviate from this pattern: Co. Hwy. 14 in the upper portion of the district, and Bow Trail, which runs north and south in the western part of the district.

These roads are both dictated more by topography than by political boundaries and follow the natural contours that weave through the valley. In particular, Bow Trail (also locally referred to as Lover's Lane) is a gravel road that twists and turns following the contours of the valley. All but Co. Hwy. 14 are two-lane gravel roads without shoulders. Since the present road pattern largely follows historic routes (see attached historic plat maps) the entire road network is evaluated and counted as a contributing structure within the district. Culverts and bridges over the district's many streams are an integral part of this network.

The district includes remnants of a former public road, extending from Co. Hwy. 44 near the cemetery.⁸ This road appears on historic plat maps from 1877 through 1933 (see attached historic plat maps).

⁶ Harvey Huyser, interview with author, 27 August 1998.

⁷ Johnson, 140.

⁸ Sandra Olson, interview with author, 19 August 1998.

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Historic and current railroad routes lay on all four sides of the Nansen Agricultural Historic District, providing regional transportation of goods and services. Highways connect the agricultural district to surrounding communities and regional centers.

Boundary Demarcations

Geographically, the Nansen Agricultural Historic District lies within a portion of a valley and is defined by its ridges. The ridges create physical, as well as visual and audio barriers for the valley interior. Fields, fences, and roadways mark property boundaries within the district's agricultural landscape. Within individual farms, domestic and agricultural space is delineated by fences, small stone walls, shrubs, windrows, and vegetation demarcations such as a mowed lawn around the house. The mowed lawn surrounding the T. Olson Melhus House (GD-HOL-015) separates this farm's domestic space from its pastures and crop land. The Anders Erickson Haugen Farm (GD-HOL-025) includes a low, dry laid limestone wall. An electric fence defines the cattle area at the Henry Johnson Lee Farm (GD-HOL-034). A wood fence marks the pasture on the B. Knutson Norsving/B. A. Nelson Farm (GD-HOL-023).

Response to the Natural Environment

The Nansen Agricultural Historic District extends about 4 miles in the southern portion of the Sogn Valley. The entire valley is about 9 miles long with the hamlet of Sogn near its center. The Little Cannon River and several small tributaries run through the valley. Farms were often settled near natural water sources – the Little Cannon River, one of its tributaries, or a natural spring. The 1894 plat map of Goodhue County denotes eight springs within the historic district.

The presence of three of these springs has been confirmed and their locations are noted on the district boundary map. One spring actively supplies water to a trough in the M. O. Maring Farm (GD-HOL-026) yard. Another spring can be found in a low-lying field near the Anders Erickson Haugen Farm (GD-HOL-025). The third spring exists on the historic Nels Askelson Flom Farm (GD-HOL-035). Other springs could not be verified.

The hilly terrain helped drain the soil, making it good for farming. Farmers still gain advantage from the district's sloping topography. Small ponds, such as the one at the Ole H. Pynten Farm (GD-HOL-004), have been created for some of the farms by channeling runoff from higher field areas. A small stream runs along the roadside near the Bestal Farm (GD-HOL-014) with a culvert crossing over it to carry the property's driveway up the hill to the house.

Early settlers often chose sheltered sites tucked into the hills to establish their homesteads. The availability of resources often dictated the building materials used to construct residences and agricultural buildings. Warsaw Township had an abundance of limestone, which settlers used to construct dugouts during the period of early settlement. Thick limestone walls make up three sides of the original dugout that now serves as the basement for the Anders Erickson Haugen

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Farmhouse (GD-HOL-025). Similarly, the limestone walls evident on the lower level of the M. O. Maring's chicken house (GD-HOL-026) may represent an early dugout.

Other local materials, including logs from woodlot areas, were used to construct buildings.⁹ For example, the barn of the Anders Erickson Haugen Farm (GD-HOL-025) displays early wood peg construction. The current owner of the Simon Gjellum/Neseth Farm (GD-HOL-028) describes the barn's heavy timber beams as connected with pegs.

Cultural Traditions

Settlement of western Goodhue County was led by Norwegians who came directly from Norway or moved from earlier settlements in Illinois, Wisconsin, or Iowa. Norwegians first settled in other areas surrounding the Sogn Valley, such as Zumbrota and Wanamingo Township 3 years after Goodhue County land was opened for settlement in 1851.¹⁰ The first Norwegian settlers made their homes in the Sogn Valley area as early as 1854, coming from Washington Prairie, Iowa, and Valdres, Norway.

A.E. Hagen settled in the Sogn Valley by 1894, but arrived in Minnesota as early as 1860.¹¹ T.O. Melhus, who owned a farm in the district by 1877, was born in Norway and had five children with his native Norwegian wife, Nora, all born in Minnesota. Later settlers, such as Mr. Bestal who owned a farm in the district by 1914, were born in Minnesota but had parents who were born in Norway.¹² District residents, such as Henry Johnson Lee and Simon Simonson, passed their farms on to children, Martin Lee and Hannah (Simonson) Neseth, respectively.¹³

The buildings constructed by Norwegian immigrants when they first came to Sogn Valley in the 1850s and 1860s may have been culturally distinctive. For example, Norwegians who crafted stone and earthen dugouts and log agricultural buildings may have followed methods used in their homeland. One early log house, built by 1864, was located on the Ole H. Pynten property (GD-HOL-004). However, the structures that survive today were largely constructed after 1870 and show an assimilation of standard Midwestern construction techniques and materials.

The predominance of Norwegians in the area is evidenced by the local names such as Holden,

⁹ Harold Severson, Goodhue County Heritage (Goodhue County Heritage, 1963), 75.

¹⁰ Schneider, 4.

¹¹ Minnesota Census, 1885, population; 1894 Plat Book of Goodhue County, Minnesota.

¹² Minnesota Census, 1910, population.

¹³ Minnesota Census, 1885, population; plat maps 1894, 1914, and 1916.

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Norway, Sogn, Nansen, Aspelund, and Vang. The buildings and farm units remaining within the Sogn Valley Rural Historic District show no evidence of distinctive Norwegian building construction or settlement patterns. Instead, settlers adapted to typical building patterns and materials commonly found within the region. Crop selections were also typical of the region and not particular to the Norwegian settlers.

Clusters

Farms are the primary clusters within the historic district, and commonly include a house, barns, and related outbuildings surrounded by fields and pastures. Most clusters of buildings are located within 50 to 100 feet of the road. For example, the 12 buildings and structures on the Ole A. Melhouse Farm (GD-WAR-026) are located near Co. Hwy. 14. Exceptions include a handful of farms that are located approximately one-fifth of a mile from the main road, such as the P. O. Underdahl Farm (GD-HOL-044) on Co. Hwy. 44. Within the district, a few farms are located on both sides of a road. For example, at the B. Knutson Norsving/B. A. Nelson Farm (GD-HOL-023) on Bow Trail, the house and garage are located on one side of the road and the barn and outbuildings are found on the other side. In this case, the buildings are within 50 feet of the road.

Generally, outbuildings and agricultural structures, such as silos and windmills, are located close to the house. In exceptional cases, such as at the Anders Erickson Haugen Farm (GD-HOL-025), newer farm structures are sited some distance away from the original farm cluster.

Historically, the crossroads community of Nansen located on Co. Hwy. 14, 3.5 miles south of its intersection with Co. Hwy. 9, was a small cluster featuring a general store and post office, cheese factory, and whey house. The cheese factory and whey house remain (GD-HOL-004). This cluster of community buildings served surrounding farms.

Contributing Properties

Thirty farms represent the primary property type within the Nansen Agricultural Historic District. On these farms, some resources date to the earliest period of settlement in the mid-nineteenth century, while other resources date to the twentieth century. Buildings and structures on individual farms were evaluated as contributing resources if they appeared to have been constructed within the period of significance, 1870-1948, and retain sufficient historic integrity.

Whenever possible, construction dates were attributed to buildings based on their construction materials and architectural form and on information supplied by current owners. However, most of the vernacular outbuildings could not be assigned a date because their forms and materials were used over many decades, making the date of construction difficult to distinguish. In a few instances, a date on the barn door offers evidence of the building's construction, such as the "1898" painted on the Henry Johnson Lee Barn (GD-HOL-034).

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- *Farmhouses*

Contributing farmhouses within the district are primarily frame construction with clapboard siding and represent vernacular forms. The earliest extant houses, dating to the mid-to-late nineteenth century, are gabled ell, side gable, or cross gable form vernacular houses.

Vernacular house types are represented in the district by the c. 1890 cross gable form John Olson Farmhouse (GD-HOL-018) and the c. 1910 gabled ell form G. K. Norsving Farmhouse (GD-HOL-021). The K. Estrem Farmhouse (GD-HOL-022) is a two-story gabled ell without architectural details. Front porches, which were probably once open, have typically been enclosed.

Some of the residences display limited Italianate details, such as decorative wood window hoods, or Queen Anne details, such as decorative spindle work, millwork, and wall treatments, including fish scale shingles in gabled peaks. The Ole A. Melhouse Farmhouse (GD-WAR-026) demonstrates a common house type with its side gable form and decorative Italianate style window hoods. Also displaying Italianate window hoods and side gable form is the Anders Erickson Haugen Farmhouse (GD-HOL-025), dating to the 1870s. The house is built on top of the settler's first residence, a dugout, dating to c. 1860. The three-room dugout built into the hillside features thick stone walls and serves as the basement for the present house. The Martin S. Gjellum Farmhouse (GD-HOL-045) is a c. 1890 frame, clapboard building that displays a combination of Queen Anne and Italianate style decorative details.

During the early twentieth century, c. 1900-1920, the two-story cube was a popular vernacular form for residences within the district. These two-story buildings have hipped roofs, symmetrical facades, dormers or gabled roof peaks over the main entrance, and limited architectural details. For example, the Bestal Farmhouse (GD-HOL-014) displays this vernacular form. Its limited Colonial Revival details include a palladian window in the front gable peak and a classical porch. T. Olson Melhus Farmhouse (GD-HOL-015) also displays two-story cube form with clapboard siding and fish scales in the gable dormers. The Martin A. Flom Farmhouse (GD-HOL-030) and the Bottolf Peterson Lee Farmhouse (GD-HOL-033) represent larger versions of the two-story cube form known as the American Foursquare.

- *Other Domestic Buildings*

Contributing buildings with domestic uses include summer kitchens, outhouses, and garages constructed near the farmhouse. These vernacular buildings typically feature frame construction and clapboard, droplap, or shiplap siding. The two-bay, frame, hipped roof garage at the K. Estrem Farm (GD-HOL-022) is a representative example of a contributing domestic building within the district. Outhouses, such as the one at the M. O. Maring Farm (GD-HOL-026), were often relocated to fresh sites.

- *Barns*

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Barn types within the district include gambrel or gable roof buildings with timber frame or balloon construction, stone or concrete block foundations, and vertical board and batten or clapboard siding. A small number of barns are bank barns, featuring a raised foundation with an earth ramp leading to the main level. The Ole A. Melhouse Farm (GD-WAR-026) features one of the largest bank barns within the district with its central entrance accessed by way of an earthen ramp. Two concrete silos flank this bank barn.

Dairy barns are commonly found within the district and date to the early twentieth century when dairy farming became prevalent. The emergence of dairy barns in the Sogn Valley landscape reflect the need for farmers to create barns that served new agricultural practices and technologies that arose in the twentieth century. Many of the dairy barns feature an attached milk house, often a one-story gable form, constructed of concrete block. The T. Olson Melhaus Farm (GD-HOL-015) displays a typical, vertical-sided dairy barn with attached milk house.

Smaller barns found within the district were used as small animal barns for calves, pigs, or sheep. These smaller barns also display gable and gambrel form, frame construction, clapboard or vertical board siding, and stone or concrete foundations. A young stock barn at the P. O. Underdahl (GD-HOL-044) displays a gable roof and frame construction, common for this property type. However, a pig house at the same farm features brick construction, which is unusual for the district.

- *Granaries*

The majority of the farms in the district retain a granary, which is commonly a two-story gabled frame building with clapboard siding that originally stored the wheat grains. Most of these buildings pre-date the larger dairy barns, and reflect the earlier agricultural period when wheat crops predominated. Granaries often display shed-roofed additions that were built to serve new purposes during the period of agricultural diversification. The Ole A. Melhaus Farm (GD-WAR-026) and the M. O. Maring Farm (GD-HOL-026) display good examples of granaries with shed additions.

- *Agricultural Outbuildings and Structures*

The farms within the district include a variety of contributing outbuildings and structures, such as brick and concrete silos, grain bins, chicken coops and brooder houses, machine sheds, corn cribs, pump houses, and windmills. The Henry Johnson Lee Farm (GD-HOL-034) demonstrates the variety of contributing outbuildings and structures that can be found on a farm within the district. This property's brick silo, windmill, pump house, and corn crib are all classified as contributing resources. The Ole A. Melhaus Farm's turkey house (GD-WAR-026) is one of the district's more unusual agricultural outbuildings. Many of the farms, including the Anders Erickson Haugen Farm (GD-HOL-025) and the B.

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Knutson Norsving/B. A. Nelson Farm (GD-HOL-023), have a windmill.

Other Contributing Properties

The Nansen Agricultural Historic District includes a road network and bridges as contributing property types. The majority of roads within the district remain low traffic, two-lane gravel roads and follow routes similar to their historic routes. Culverts built within the historic period are considered contributing elements of the road network. Other contributing structures include the visible remnants of former public road stretches of Old Co. Hwy. 14, and the Old Co. Hwy. 14 bridge.

The Nansen Cheese Factory and Whey House (GD-HOL-004) are two contributing commercial buildings within the district. Contributing sites within the district include a non-denominational cemetery dating to the 1860s, agricultural fields, woodlots, springs, windrows, walnut groves, and foundations of former buildings. Three foundations – likely of a house, a barn, and an outbuilding – are visible at the Bottolfson/Lars Underdahl Property (GD-HOL-039) on Co. Rd. 44. The foundations are contributing sites within the historic district. The Nels Askelson Flom Farm (GD-HOL-035) also displays a contributing stone foundation.

Noncontributing Properties

Noncontributing properties within the district were constructed after the period of significance (post-1948), or display significant alterations or deterioration that have diminished the integrity and historic character of the property. Two noncontributing examples, the c. 1910 two-story cube house on the historic Nels Askelson Flom Farm (GD-HOL-035) and the c. 1910 gabled ell house on the Ole Larson/T. H. Lee Farm (GD-WAR-021), are historic buildings that were moved into the district recently and, therefore, cannot contribute to the farm's historic character. District No. 54 School (GD-HOL-037), which served as a school from at least 1877 to 1933, is noncontributing due to the wide siding and front and rear decks and dormers that have been added in recent years. These changes significantly alter the building's historic appearance as a school.

Noncontributing resources are largely modern agricultural buildings and structures and include: grain bins, metal pole buildings, Harvestore silos, and propane tanks. Large grain bins situated on the Anders Erickson Haugen Farm (GD-HOL-025) are set apart from the property's grouping of historic buildings and structures. Noncontributing resources also include residences that have been substantially altered, including the application of new exterior siding, new windows, and additions to the building. Other noncontributing structures include modern bridges of metal or concrete construction, such as the newly constructed bridge over the Little Cannon River (GD-HOL-046).

Small-scale Elements

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Culverts and drainage ditches are two types of small-scale elements found throughout the district. Culverts are used to divert the Little Cannon Creek and its tributaries under roadways. Within farms, small-scale elements include abandoned wells, concrete or stone walkways, boundary fencing, stone walls, and foundation remnants. The cistern at the Martin A. Flom Farm (GD-HOL-030) exemplifies a small-scale element that is counted as a contributing structure. Though distinguishable historic features, most small-scale elements are not prominent enough individually to include in the district's resource count. Culverts are an integral component of the roadway network and are included as an element within this larger contributing resource.

Archeological Resources

The Nansen Agricultural Historic District may have archeological research potential, especially with regard to the history of agricultural practices and the ethnic heritage of the area's first settlers. This archeological potential remains unassessed at present; therefore, this nomination does not address *Criterion D* or list archeology as an area of significance.

Historic Integrity

The Nansen Agricultural Historic District exhibits a high level of historic integrity. The district retains integrity of its original spatial organization, circulation network, field patterns, density of development, and agricultural buildings that relate to its period of significance. These features are augmented by the continued agricultural use, which has been the district's primary industry since the 1860s. The farm fields, plantings, buildings, and structures clearly evoke the historic period, serving to distinguish the district from the surrounding area.

The valley's landscape features and cultural resources clearly reflect the historic and current association with agricultural practices and demonstrate the seven aspects of integrity – location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The district retains its place within the valley landscape and therefore has integrity of *location*. This landscape exhibits integrity of *design* through its continued agricultural land use and the spatial relationship of its farms. The district as a whole and the individual farms display integrity of *setting* through their relationship to surrounding physical features and open space.

Contributing resources within the district reveal a choice and combination of materials characteristic of the district's period of significance, 1870-1948. The overall retention of historic materials ensures the district's integrity of *materials*. Integrity of *workmanship* is evident in the district's primarily vernacular buildings and fields maintained through farming practices. The district relays integrity of *feeling* by conveying a sense of agricultural life in the Sogn Valley between 1870 and 1948. The district can easily be perceived as an area where agricultural activities and rural lifestyles were conducted over a period of time, lending it integrity of *association*.

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Changes to the Nansen Agricultural Historic District have been limited and do not diminish its historic integrity. Changes within the district include the minor realignment of roadways, limited introduction of non-historic land uses (CRP implementation and hobby farms), replacement and alteration of buildings, and construction of new buildings. The district as a whole retains the physical components and historic associations that tangibly convey the evolution of an agricultural landscape that has continued to the present largely uninterrupted. Though the farming tradition continues, more recent activities and buildings are not exceptional enough to justify extending the period of significance beyond 1948.

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Property Inventory

Key: *B* = Building *S* = Site
 ST = Structure *O* = Object

Historic Name	Address	Inventory No.	Historic Acreage <i>*taken from 1914 atlas</i>	Resource Type	Resource Description	Contributing	Non-Contributing
Ole Larson/T. H. Lee Farm	39970 Co. Hwy. 14	GD-WAR-021	80	House	c. 1900 gabled ell moved onto the property		1 (B)
				Shed	Frame construction with metal siding		1 (B)
				Chicken Coop	Frame construction with droplap siding and shake roof	1 (B)	
				Windmill	Metal remnant	1 (ST)	
				Agricultural Fields		1 (S)	
Total resource count						1 (B) 1 (ST) 1 (S)	2 (B)

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Historic Name	Address	Inventory No.	Historic Acreage <i>*taken from 1914 atlas</i>	Resource Type	Resource Description	Contributing	Non-Contributing
Larson/ Lillesve Farm	39635 Co. Hwy. 14	GD-WAR-022	120	House	c. 1890, cross gable, frame construction, clapboard siding, details in gable ends	1 (B)	
				Barn	Gable, frame construction with vertical siding, cupola and attached milk house	1 (B)	
				Summer Kitchen	Gable with frame construction	1 (B)	
				Granary	Frame construction	1 (B)	
				Windmill	Metal	1 (ST)	
				Pole Building	Gable form, modern, metal		2 (B)
				Blacksmith Shop/ Ice House	Gable with shed roof, stone foundation, and shiplap siding	1 (B)	
				Agricultural Fields		1 (S)	
Total resource count						5 (B) 1 (ST) 1 (S)	2 (B)

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Historic Name	Address	Inventory No.	Historic Acreage <i>*taken from 1914 atlas</i>	Resource Type	Resource Description	Contributing	Non-Contributing
Ole A. Flom Farm	39274 Co. Hwy. 14	GD-WAR-023	215.6	House	c. 1960 modern ranch		1 (B)
				Mobile Home	Modern		1 (B)
				Barn	Gable barn with stone foundation and frame construction, attached milk house	1 (B)	
				Granary	Gable frame structure with clapboard siding	1 (B)	
				Shed	Gambrel structure of modern construction		1 (B)
				Garage	Modern construction		1 (B)
				Agricultural Fields		1 (S)	
Total resource count						2 (B) 1 (S)	4 (B)

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Historic Name	Address	Inventory No.	Historic Acreage <i>*taken from 1914 atlas</i>	Resource Type	Resource Description	Contributing	Non-Contributing
Ole Charlson Farm	39235 Co. Hwy. 14	GD-WAR-024	120	House	c. 1910, two-story cube with clapboard siding	1 (B)	
				Barn	Pole building, modern		1 (B)
				Second House	Modern, split-level		1 (B)
				Calf Barn	Shed roof, deteriorated condition		1 (B)
				Granary	Gable form with shed roof, clapboard siding	1 (B)	
				Shed	Gable form, frame construction	1 (B)	
				Outhouse	Gable form, frame construction	1 (B)	
				Silo	Concrete	1 (ST)	
				Windmill	Metal	1 (ST)	
Grain Bin	Modern, metal		1 (ST)				

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Historic Name	Address	Inventory No.	Historic Acreage <i>*taken from 1914 atlas</i>	Resource Type	Resource Description	Contributing	Non-Contributing
Ole Charlson Farm (cont.)				Agricultural Fields		1 (S)	
				Windrow	Cedar trees near the original house	1 (S)	
Total resource count						4 (B) 2 (ST) 2 (S)	3 (B) 1 (ST)

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Historic Name	Address	Inventory No.	Historic Acreage <i>*taken from 1914 atlas</i>	Resource Type	Resource Description	Contributing	Non-Contributing
Ole A. Melhouse Farm	38755 Co. Hwy. 14	GD-WAR-026	284.75	House	c. 1880, side-gabled clapboard frame with Italianate detailing	1 (B)	
				Barn	Gambrel-roofed bank barn with vertical siding, concrete block foundation	1 (B)	
				Granary	Gable building with clapboard siding	1 (B)	
				Pump House	Cubical concrete block construction with a pyramidal roof, shake shingles	1 (B)	
				Turkey House	Large wood frame structure	1 (B)	
				Brooder House	Pentagonal frame structure with same type roof, vertical plank siding	1 (B)	
				Silo	Vertical concrete block construction	2 (ST)	
				Machine Shed	Frame construction building with metal siding		1 (B)
				Grain Bins	Modern		3 (ST)
				Agricultural Fields	Corn fields surround the property on all sides	1 (S)	
Total resource count						6 (B) 2 (ST) 1 (S)	1 (B) 3 (ST)

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Historic Name	Address	Inventory No.	Historic Acreage <i>*taken from 1914 atlas</i>	Resource Type	Resource Description	Contributing	Non-Contributing
Ole H. Pynten Farm	41390 Co. Hwy. 14	GD-HOL-004	80	Cheese Factory	c. 1904 frame building with clapboard siding and stone foundation, concrete block garage addition	1 (B)	
				Whey House	Frame structure with clapboard siding and new raised concrete block foundation	1 (B)	
				House	c. 1980 modern		1 (B)
				Barn	Modern pole building		1 (B)
				Chicken Coop	c. 1950, gable, wood frame building		1 (B)
				Garage	Modern		1 (B)
				Outhouse	Gable form with frame construction	1 (B)	
				Silo	Brick	1 (ST)	
				Fence	Wood		1 (ST)
				Pond			1 (S)
				Agricultural Fields		1 (S)	
Total resource count						3 (B) 1 (ST) 1 (S)	4 (B) 1 (ST) 1 (S)

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Historic Name	Address	Inventory No.	Historic Acreage <i>*taken from 1914 atlas</i>	Resource Type	Resource Description	Contributing	Non-Contributing
Bestal Farm	41525 Co. Hwy. 14	GD-HOL-014	80	House	c. 1913, two-story Colonial Revival style, frame construction	1 (B)	
				Barn	Gambrel form, metal construction		1 (B)
				Granary	Gable with frame construction	1 (B)	
				Window	Located on north side about 50 ft from the house	1 (S)	
				Agricultural Fields		1 (S)	
Total resource count						2 (B) 2 (S)	1 (B)

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Historic Name	Address	Inventory No.	Historic Acreage <i>*taken from 1914 atlas</i>	Resource Type	Resource Description	Contributing	Non-Contributing
T. Olson Melhus Farm	5344 410th Street	GD-HOL-015	100	House	c. 1910, two-story cube with clapboard siding and fish scales in the gable dormers	1 (B)	
				Barn	Gable form with stone and concrete foundation and vertical siding	1 (B)	
				Small Animal Barn	Gable form with clapboard siding, concrete block foundation, and metal roof	1 (B)	
				Barn	Metal pole building with shed roof		1 (B)
				Shed	Frame construction with gable roof and vertical siding	1 (B)	
				Silo	Concrete	1 (ST)	
				Windmill	Metal	1 (ST)	
				Windrow	Cedars along two sides of the house	1 (S)	
				Agricultural Fields		1 (S)	
Total resource count						4 (B) 2 (ST) 2 (S)	1 (B)

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Iver Dalbotten/ Oscar Maring Farm	40764 Co. Hwy. 14	GD-HOL-017	160	House	c. 1938 Tudor Revival style house with stucco exterior	1 (B)	
				Barn	Gabled bank barn with limestone foundation, board and batten and metal siding	1 (B)	
				Garage	Frame building with gable roof and metal siding	1 (B)	
				Shed	Gable form with concrete block foundation	1 (B)	
				Granary	Frame gable building with large pole building attached		1 (B)
				Calving Shed	Frame gable building with clapboard siding	1 (B)	
				Office	Modern		1 (B)
				Pole Building	Modern gable form with metal siding		2 (B)
				Grain Bin	Modern metal construction		3 (ST)

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Iver Dalbotten/ Oscar Maring Farm (cont.)				Silo	Concrete	1 (ST)	
				Agricultural Fields		1 (S)	
Total resource count						5 (B) 1 (ST) 1 (S)	4 (B) 3 (ST)

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John Olson Farm	40199 Co. Hwy. 14	GD-HOL-018	40	House	c. 1890 Cross Gable with frame construction and clapboard siding, front addition and new windows	1 (B)	
				Garage	Modern		1 (B)
				Walnut Grove		1 (S)	
				Agricultural Fields		1 (S)	
Total resource count						1 (B) 2 (S)	1 (B)

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G.K. Norsving Farm	40410 Bow Trail	GD-HOL-021	160.13	House	c. 1910 two-story gabled ell with siding	1 (B)	
				Barn	Round roof barn with concrete block foundation and shake roof	1 (B)	
				Granary	Gable roof building with stone foundation and shake roof	1 (B)	
				Machine Shed	Frame building with metal siding and shed roof		1 (B)
				Pole Barn	Modern metal building		1 (B)
				Shed	Modern building with a shed roof		1 (B)
				Silo	Concrete	1 (ST)	
				Corn Crib	Open rectangular structure constructed of wood	1 (ST)	
				Fence	Modern		1 (ST)

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Historic Name	Address	Inventory No.	Historic Acreage <i>*taken from 1914 atlas</i>	Resource Type	Resource Description	Contributing	Non-Contributing
G.K. Norsving Farm (cont.)				Windrow Agricultural Fields	Spruce trees	1 (S)	
Total resource count						3 (B) 2 (ST) 2 (S)	3 (B) 1 (ST)

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K. Estrem Farm	40371 Bow Trail	GD-HOL-022	120	House	c. 1910 gabled ell of frame construction with clapboard siding	1 (B)	
				Barn	Gambrel bank barn with flared eaves, limestone foundation, board and batten siding, and metal roof	1 (B)	
				Shed	Frame building with gable form and shiplap siding		1 (B)
				Garage	Two-bay frame building with pyramidal roof	1 (B)	
				Windrow	Cedar trees on two sides of the house	1 (S)	
				Agricultural Fields		1 (S)	
Total resource count						3 (B) 2 (S)	1 (B)

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B.Knutson Norsving/ B.A. Nelson Farm	40580 Bow Trail	GD-HOL-023	162.5	House	c. 1900 two-story gabled ell with historic additions, new windows, and siding	1 (B)	
				Barn	Gable barn with vertical siding and cupola, poor condition	1 (B)	
				Granary	Frame gable building with metal pole building attached		1 (B)
				Shed	Hipped roof and frame construction, poor condition		1 (B)
				Outhouse	Frame with droplap siding	1 (B)	
				Garage	Hipped roof, frame building	1 (B)	
				Silo	Brick, constructed by A.C. Ochs Brick and Tile Company	1 (ST)	
				Corn Crib	Gable roof, open frame construction	1 (ST)	
				Windmill		1 (ST)	
				Fence	Wood, marks the pasture	1 (ST)	

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B.Knutson Norsving/ B.A. Nelson Farm (cont.)				Agricultural Fields		1 (S)	
Total resource count						4 (B) 4 (ST) 1 (S)	2 (B)

S.P. Bakken Farm	Co. Hwy. 44 (T110N- R18W-11)	GD-HOL-024	120	Mobile Home	Modern		1 (B)
				Agricultural Fields		1 (S)	
Total resource count						1 (S)	1 (B)

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Historic Name	Address	Inventory No.	Historic Acreage <i>*taken from 1914 atlas</i>	Resource Type	Resource Description	Contributing	Non-Contributing
Anders Erickson Haugen Farm	40783 Bow Trail	GD-HOL-025	106.98	House	c. 1870, two-story, cross gable with Italianate window hoods, attached modern greenhouse, garage	1 (B)	
				Barn	Gable, peg construction, vertical siding, shake roof	1 (B)	
				Windmill	Metal, partial	1 (ST)	
				Pump House	Gable, frame construction, under the windmill	1 (ST)	
				Well	Concrete cover	1 (ST)	
				Chicken Coop	Frame construction	1 (B)	
				Pole Building	Side gable, modern, metal		1 (B)
				Pole Shed	Front gable, modern, metal		1 (B)
				Spring	Two springs located in low area of field	1 (S)	
				Grain Bin	Modern, six attached grain elevators		1 (ST)
				Grain Bin	Modern, metal, three attached		1 (ST)
Agricultural Fields		1 (S)					
Total resource count						3 (B) 3 (ST) 2 (S)	2 (B) 2 (ST)

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M.O. Maring Farm	40210 Co. Hwy. 14	GD-HOL-026	170+	House	c. 1870, cross gable with historic kitchen wing, (1900) clapboard siding	1 (B)	
				Barn	Gambrel with limestone foundation and vertical board and batten 1909	1 (B)	
				Granary	Gable with shed roof addition, frame construction	1 (B)	
				Garage	Gable, vertical board	1 (B)	
				Chicken House	Two-story gabled building with vertical siding on second level. The lower level consists of three limestone walls built into the side of the hill, and may have been an early dugout house	1 (ST)	
				Corn Crib	Wire	1 (ST)	
				Wood Shed/ Sauna	Frame construction, droplap siding	1 (B)	
				Silo	Concrete	1 (ST)	

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 Goodhue County, Minnesota

Historic Name	Address	Inventory No.	Historic Acreage <i>*taken from 1914 atlas</i>	Resource Type	Resource Description	Contributing	Non-Contributing
M.O. Maring Farm (cont.)				Spring	Connected to milk house through the pen	1 (S)	
				Agricultural Fields		1 (S)	
Total resource count						6 (B) 3 (ST) 2 (S)	

Simon Gjellum/ Neseth Farm	4789 Co. Hwy. 44	GD-HOL-028	160	House	c. 1880, two-story, gabled ell with Italianate details	1 (B)	
				Barn	Gable with gambrel addition, stone and tile foundation, vertical siding, cupola	1 (B)	
				Granary	Gable, frame structure with skylights and garage addition		1 (B)
				Shed	Gable, frame construction, vertical siding	3 (B)	
				Corn Crib	Frame	1 (ST)	
				Fence	Wood	2 (ST)	

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Historic Name	Address	Inventory No.	Historic Acreage <i>*taken from 1914 atlas</i>	Resource Type	Resource Description	Contributing	Non-Contributing
Simon Gjellum/ Neseth Farm (cont.)				Agricultural Fields		1 (S)	
Total resource count						5 (B) 3 (ST) 1 (S)	1 (B)

Martin A. Flom Farm	5049 420th Street Way	GD-HOL- 030	176	House	c. 1910, American Foursquare with clapboard siding, enclosed entrance porch, and garage attached to the rear	1 (B)	
				Barn	"M.A. Flom -1913" inscription on barn door. Gambrel bank barn with brick foundation and board and batten and vertical siding	1 (B)	
				Barn	Gable form with clapboard and board and batten siding	1 (B)	
				Small Animal Barn	Gambrel form with brick construction	1 (B)	

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Historic Name	Address	Inventory No.	Historic Acreage <i>*taken from 1914 atlas</i>	Resource Type	Resource Description	Contributing	Non-Contributing
Martin A. Flom Farm (cont.)				Harvestore Silo	Modern		1 (ST)
				Cistern	Concrete cover visible on a raised earth platform	1 (ST)	
				Walnut Grove	Large grove of walnut trees in front of house	1 (S)	
				Agricultural Fields		1 (S)	
Total resource count						4 (B) 1 (ST) 2 (S)	1 (ST)

O.I. Haugen Farm	4929 420th Street Way	GD-HOL-031	80	House	Being remodeled		1 (B)
				Garage	Modern, three-bay		1 (B)
				Pump House	Pyramidal frame structure under the windmill	1 (ST)	
				Windmill	Metal remnant	1 (ST)	
				Agricultural Fields		1 (S)	
Total resource count						2 (ST) 1 (S)	2 (B)

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Nansen Agricultural Historic District
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Historic Name	Address	Inventory No.	Historic Acreage <i>*taken from 1914 atlas</i>	Resource Type	Resource Description	Contributing	Non-Contributing
Bottolf Peterson Lee Farm	Co. Hwy. 14	GD-HOL- 033	160	House	c. 1918, two-story, American Foursquare with clapboard siding, front porch, and hipped roof rear porch	1 (B)	
				Barn	Gambrel bank barn with vertical siding and concrete foundation	1 (B)	
				Barn	Gable, frame construction	1 (B)	
				Silo	Concrete	1 (ST)	
				Shed	Shed roof, particle board siding		1 (B)
				Windrow	Cedar trees	1 (S)	
				Agricultural Fields		1 (S)	
Total resource count						3 (B) 1 (ST) 2 (S)	1 (B)

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Nansen Agricultural Historic District
 Goodhue County, Minnesota

Historic Name	Address	Inventory No.	Historic Acreage <i>*taken from 1914 atlas</i>	Resource Type	Resource Description	Contributing	Non-Contributing
Henry Johnson Lee Farm	42183 Bow Trail	GD-HOL-034	120	House	c. 1910 gabled ell with clapboard siding, some new windows	1 (B)	
				Barn	Date on door reads 1898. Gambrel with stone foundation, vertical siding, shed addition, and tile milk house addition	1 (B)	
				Shed	Gable form and metal construction		1 (B)
				Pole Building	Modern, metal		1 (B)
				Mobile Home	Modern		1 (B)
				Grain Bin	Metal, open		2 (ST)
				Silo	Brick	1 (ST)	
				Windmill	Metal remnant	1 (ST)	
				Pump House	Located under the windmill	1 (ST)	
				Fence	Electric fence marking the cattle area		1 (ST)
Corn Crib	Gable form and frame construction	1 (ST)					

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Historic Name	Address	Inventory No.	Historic Acreage <i>*taken from 1914 atlas</i>	Resource Type	Resource Description	Contributing	Non-Contributing
Henry Johnson Lee Farm (cont.)				Windrow	Cedar and pine trees, located on three sides of the house	1 (S)	
				Agricultural Fields		1 (S)	
Total resource count						2 (B) 4 (ST) 2 (S)	3 (B) 3 (ST)

Nels Askelson Flom Farm	42069 Bow Trail	GD-HOL-035	160	House	c. 1910, two-story hipped roof building moved to the site from Faribault		1 (B)
				Barn	Gable form with frame construction	1 (B)	
				Garage	Gable form, constructed of metal and wood plank	1 (B)	
				Chicken Coop	Plywood construction		1 (B)
				Foundation	Rock	1 (S)	
				Fence	Wire, modern		1 (ST)
				Agricultural Fields		1 (S)	
Total resource count						2 (B) 2 (S)	2 (B) 1 (ST)

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Historic Name	Address	Inventory No.	Historic Acreage <i>*taken from 1914 atlas</i>	Resource Type	Resource Description	Contributing	Non-Contributing
District No. 54 School	41474 Co. Hwy. 44	GD-HOL-037	1	School	Side gable form with three roof dormers. Has undergone a number of alterations, including concrete foundation, wide siding, and front and rear decks. Currently used as a residence.		1 (B)
				Garage	Modern, metal construction		1 (B)
				Small Garage	Gable form with shiplap siding and asphalt roof	1 (B)	
Total resource count						1 (B)	2 (B)

Hans Bottolfson/ Lars Underdahl Farm	Co. Hwy. 44	GD-HOL-039	205	Barn Foundation	Stone, located next to the silo	1 (S)	
				House Foundation	Sunken foundation of limestone and brick, located across the road from the barn foundation	1 (S)	
				Foundation	Concrete block foundation near the barn, likely an outbuilding	1 (S)	
				Agricultural Fields		1 (S)	
Total resource count						4 (S)	

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Historic Name	Address	Inventory No.	Historic Acreage <i>*taken from 1914 atlas</i>	Resource Type	Resource Description	Contributing	Non-Contributing
A. N. Dahlbotten Farm	Co. Hwy. 44	GD-HOL-042	190	House	c. 1900 two-story, cross gable with clapboard siding	1 (B)	
				Summer Kitchen	Hipped roof, frame construction	1 (B)	
				Garage	Concrete block, gable roof		1 (B)
				Shed	Gable form, metal		1 (B)
				Outhouse	Gable, frame construction	1 (B)	
				Granary	Gable, metal sided		1 (ST)
				Machine Shed	Gable form, metal		1 (B)
				Barn	Gable, frame construction, clapboard siding	1 (B)	
				Pole Barn	Modern, metal, gable form		1 (B)
				Grain Bin	Open, metal		1 (ST)
				Brooder House	Round, frame construction	1 (B)	
				Corn Crib	Wood	1 (ST)	

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Historic Name	Address	Inventory No.	Historic Acreage <i>*taken from 1914 atlas</i>	Resource Type	Resource Description	Contributing	Non-Contributing
A. N. Dahlbotten Farm (cont.)				Corn Crib	Metal		3 (ST)
				Agricultural Fields		1 (S)	
Total resource count						5 (B) 1 (ST) 1 (S)	4 (B) 5 (ST)
P. O. Underdahl Farm	3502 Co. Hwy. 44	GD-HOL-044	200	House	c. 1915 two-story gabled ell with siding and some modern windows	1 (B)	
				Main Barn	Gambrel roof, frame construction	1 (B)	
				Young Stock Barn	Gable roof, frame construction	1 (B)	
				Machine Shed	Gable, frame construction	1 (B)	
				Granary	Gable roof, frame construction	1 (B)	
				Pig House	Gable roof, brick construction	1 (B)	
				Pole Buildings	Modern, metal		2 (B)

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Historic Name	Address	Inventory No.	Historic Acreage <i>*taken from 1914 atlas</i>	Resource Type	Resource Description	Contributing	Non-Contributing
P.O. Underdahls Farm (cont.)				Garage	Gambrel roof, concrete block construction	1 (B)	
				Grain Bin	Modern, metal		5 (ST)
				Silo	Concrete	1 (ST)	
				Corn Crib	Wood	1 (ST)	
				Windrow	Spruce trees on three sides of the house	1 (S)	
				Agricultural Fields		1 (S)	
Total resource count						7 (B) 2 (ST) 2 (S)	2 (B) 5 (ST)

Martin S. Gjellum Farm	3209 Co. Hwy. 44	GD-HOL-045	166	House	c. 1900, two-story hip roof with gable addition, displays Queen Anne and Italianate details	1 (B)	
				Main Barn	Gambrel with gambrel and shed roof additions, stone/concrete block foundation and vertical siding	1 (B)	

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Historic Name	Address	Inventory No.	Historic Acreage <i>*taken from 1914 atlas</i>	Resource Type	Resource Description	Contributing	Non-Contributing
Martin S. Gjellum Farm (cont.)				Secondary Barn	Gable, frame construction	1 (B)	
				Machine Shed	Gable with shed roof addition, frame construction with clapboard siding	1 (B)	
				Shed	Gable, clapboard siding	3 (B)	
				Chicken Coop	Gable with clapboard	1 (B)	
				Pole Building	Modern, metal		1 (B)
				Outhouse	Gable, clapboard siding and shake roof	1 (B)	
				Grain Bin	Open form, metal		1 (ST)
				Silo	Concrete	1 (ST)	
				Windmill	Metal, partial	1 (ST)	
				Corn Crib	Open form with a shed roof	1 (ST)	
				Foundation	Concrete, approximately 10 feet x 30 feet	1 (S)	
				Agricultural Fields		1 (S)	
Total resource count						9 (B) 3 (ST) 2 (S)	1 (B) 1 (ST)

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Historic Name	Address	Inventory No.	Historic Acreage <i>*taken from 1914 atlas</i>	Resource Type	Resource Description	Contributing	Non-Contributing
T.H. Braaten Farm	41938 Mn Hwy. 56	GD-HOL-048	40 (partial acreage)	House	c. 1920 two-story, gabled ell with clapboard siding	1 (B)	
				Barn	Gambrel, concrete block foundation, vertical siding	1 (B)	
				Quonset	Round roof, vertical wood siding	1 (B)	
				Shed	Gable, frame construction	1 (B)	
				Garage	Gable, modern		1 (B)
				Corn Crib	Gable, frame construction	1 (ST)	
				Agricultural Fields		1 (S)	
Total resource count						4 (B) 1 (ST) 1 (S)	1 (B)

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Historic Name	Address	Inventory No.	Historic Acreage <i>*taken from 1914 atlas</i>	Resource Type	Resource Description	Contributing	Non-Contributing
E. Rude Farm	Co. Hwy. 44 (N½ NW¼ of T110N-R18W-15)	GD-HOL-058	95	Agricultural Fields		1 (S)	
Total Resource Count						1 (S)	

A. J. Johnson/O.J. Wing Farm	Inter-section of Co. Hwy. 14 and Co. Hwy. 44	GD-HOL-057	103 (partial acreage)	Agricultural Fields		1 (S)	
Total Resource Count						1 (S)	

T. E. Odegaard Farm	off Co. Hwy. 44	GD-HOL-059	40	Agricultural Fields		1 (S)	
Total Resource Count						1 (S)	

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Resource Type	Current Name	Approximate Location	Resource Description	Contributing	Non-Contributing
Road Network				1 (ST)	
	Bow Trail	T110-R18-2, 3, 11, and 14	Gravel, two-lane road that winds through the valley. Marked as a minimum maintenance road between Co. Hwy. 14 and Co. Hwy. 44. Two culverts are found on Bow Trail.		
	Former Public Road	T110-R18-3	Abandoned section of road, two track, 1914 plat shows it connecting with MN Hwy. 56		
	Co. Hwy. 44	T110-R18-1, 2, 10, and 11	Gravel, two-lane road traveling east-west. Four culverts are found on Co. Hwy. 44 and one is found just off of Co. Hwy. 44.		
	Co. Hwy. 49	T110-R18-1, 2, and 3, and T111-R18-34, 35, and 36	Gravel, two-lane road traveling east-west along the section line		
	410th Street	T110-R18-1 and 12	Gravel, two-lane road along the section lines, travels east-west		
	420th Street (Old Co. Hwy. 14)	T110-R18-11 and 14	Gravel, two-lane road follows the path of Old Co. Hwy. 14. An abandoned section of Old Co. Hwy. 14 remains visible.		
	Co. Hwy. 14	T110-R18-1, 12, and 14; T111-R18-25 and 36	Co. Hwy. 14 runs north-south through the valley. Paved, two-lane road.		

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	Old Co. Hwy. 14		Three abandoned sections of Old Co. Hwy. 14 are visible: Approximately one-fifth mile of abandoned road through the Dalbotten/Maring Farm (GD-HOL-17) T110-R18-1; abandoned road at a corner was softened to a curve (T110-R18-12); and the extension of present 420th Street along the section line (T110-R18-11 and 14).		
		GD-WAR-025 (T111-R18-36)	Three-span steel girder bridge over the Little Cannon River, c. 1990 (Bridge No. 25509)		1 (ST)
		GD-WAR-027 (T111/110-R18-36/1)	Concrete girder bridge over the Little Cannon River, 1987 (Bridge No. BR25578)		1 (ST)
		GD-HOL-016 (T110-R18-1)	Concrete girder bridge over the Little Cannon River, 1969 (Bridge No. 25508 FAS 6269-2)		1 (ST)
		GD-HOL-043 (T110-R18-10)	Steel girder bridge over the Little Cannon River, 1915 (Bridge No. L0522)	1 (ST)	
		GD-HOL-046 (T110-R18-10)	Bridge over the Little Cannon River, 1998 (Bridge No. 25581)		1 (ST)
		GD-HOL-047 T110-R18-12	Old Co. Hwy. 14 bridge, concrete abutment and metal rail (Abandoned)	1 (ST)	
		GD-HOL-061 T110-R18-12	Concrete pipe arch bridge, 1968 (Bridge No. 92639)		1 (ST)
Total resource count				2 (ST)	5 (ST)

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Resource Type	Inventory No.	Approximate Location	Resource Description	Contributing	Non-Contributing
Woodlots	GD-WAR-29	T111-R-18-36 (NE Section)	Approximately 40 wooded acres (<i>*taken from 1914 atlas</i>) divided into small parcels	1 (S)	
	GD-HOL-054	T110-R18-2 (NE Section)	Approximately 120 wooded acres (<i>*taken from 1914 atlas</i>) divided into small parcels	1 (S)	
	GD-HOL-055	T110-18-3 (SE Section)	Approximately 160 wooded acres (<i>*taken from 1914 atlas</i>) divided into small parcels	1 (S)	
	GD-HOL-056	T110-18-12 (NW Section)	Approximately 40 wooded acres (<i>*taken from 1914 atlas</i>) divided into small parcels	1 (S)	
	GD-HOL-060	T110-R-18-10 (SW Section)	Approximately 20 wooded acres (<i>*taken from 1914 atlas</i>) divided into small parcels	1 (S)	
Holden-Warsaw Cemetery (Old Hauge Cemetery)	GD-HOL-053	T110-R18-3 (NE Section)	Five extant stones. Twenty grave sites used from 1855 to 1904 Located off of Bow Trail near the Warsaw Township line	1 (S)	
Total resource count				4 (S)	

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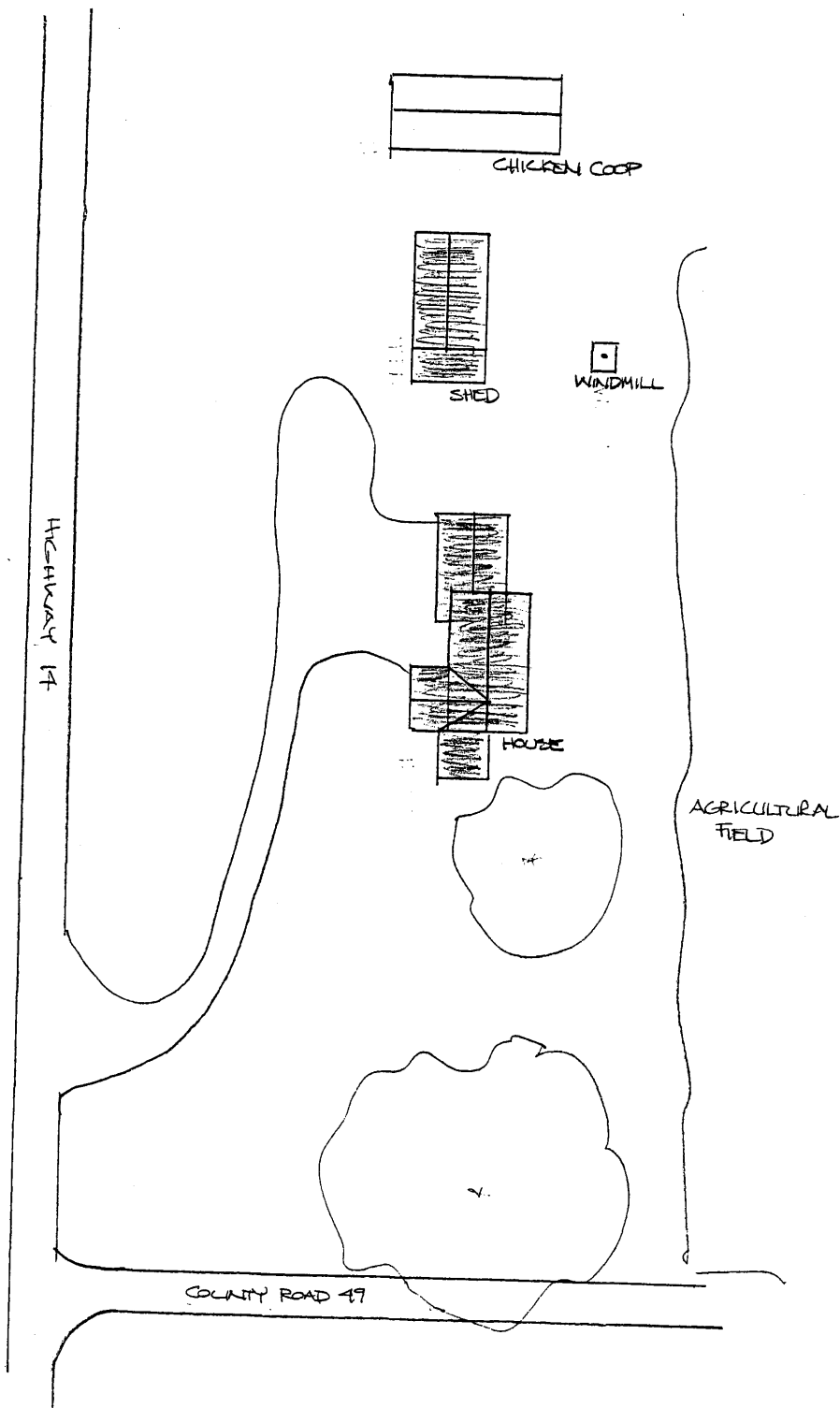
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Nansen Agricultural Historic District
Goodhue County, Minnesota

Ole Larson/T. H. Lee Farm
GD-WAR-021



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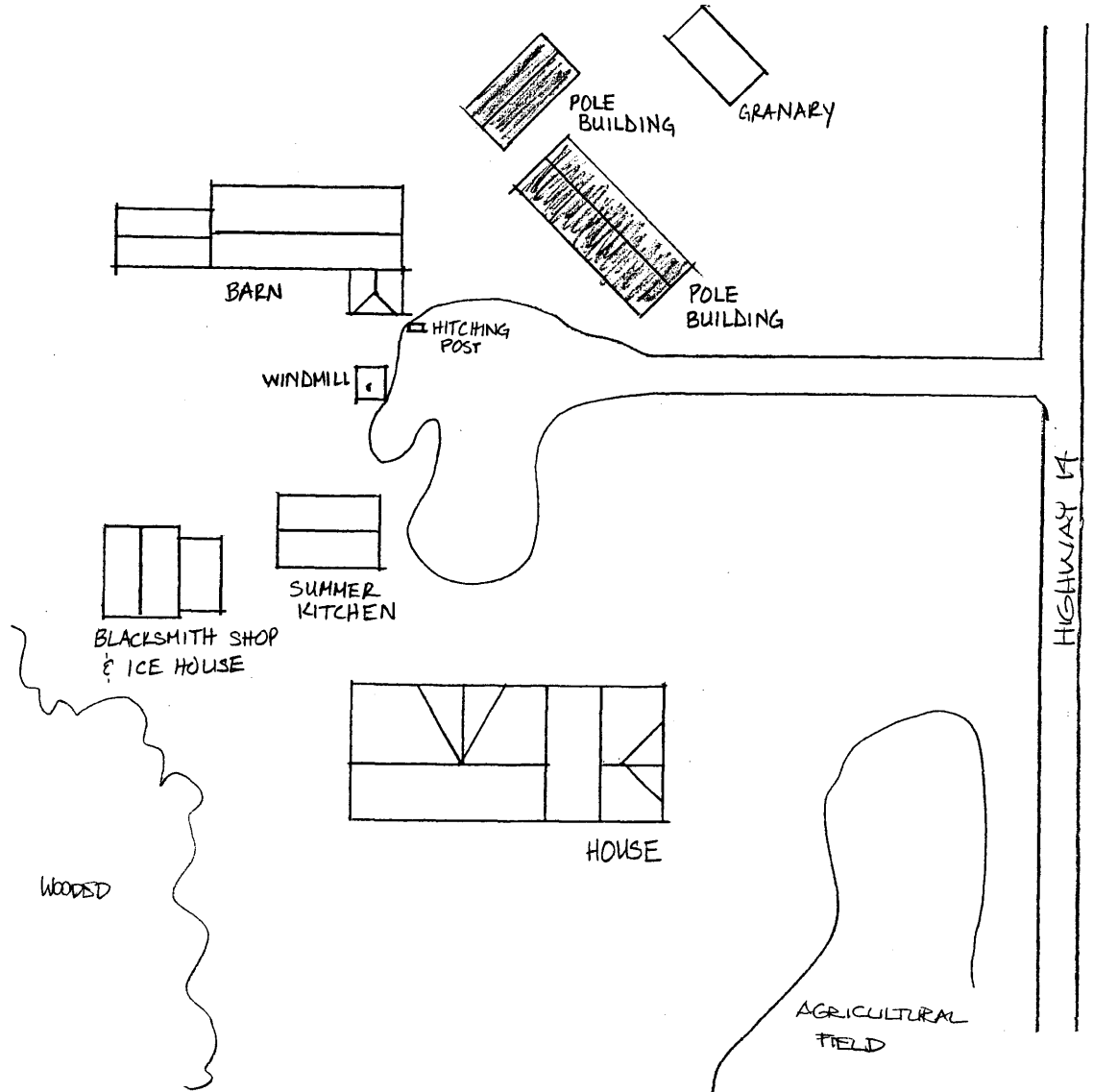
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Nansen Agricultural Historic District
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Larson/Lillesve Farm
GD-WAR-022



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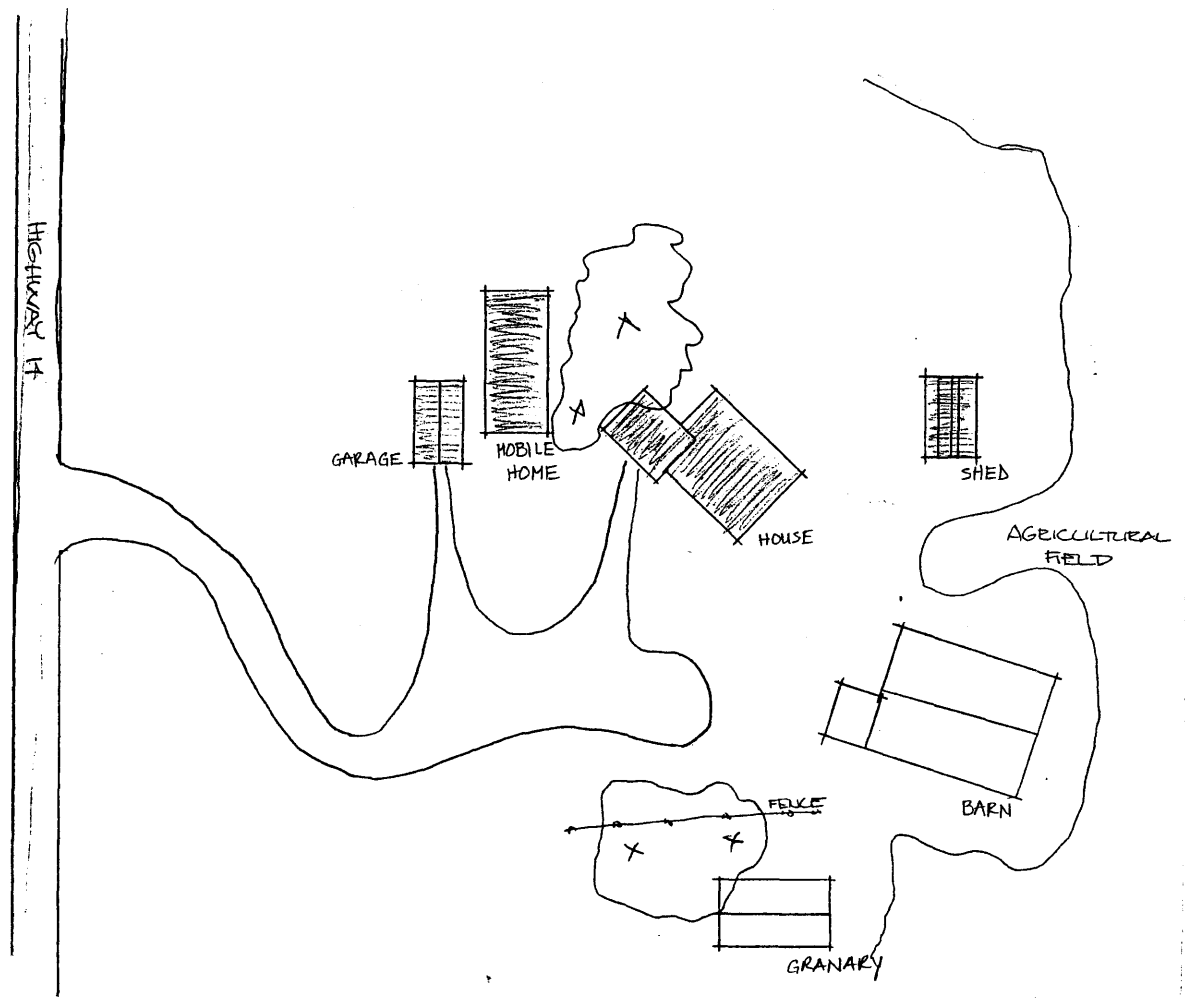
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Nansen Agricultural Historic District
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Ole A. Flom Farm
GD-WAR-023



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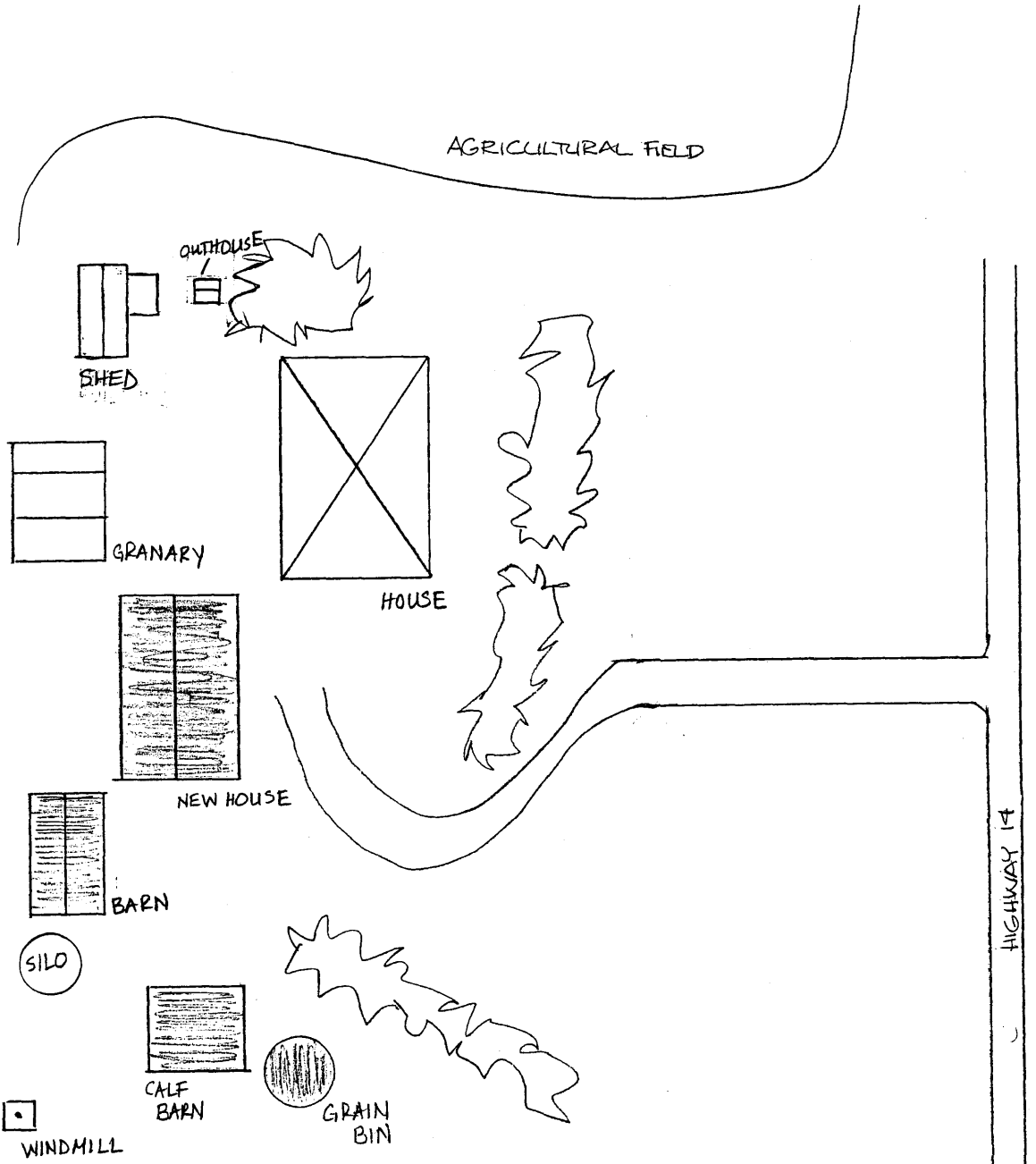
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Ole Charlson Farm
GD-WAR-024



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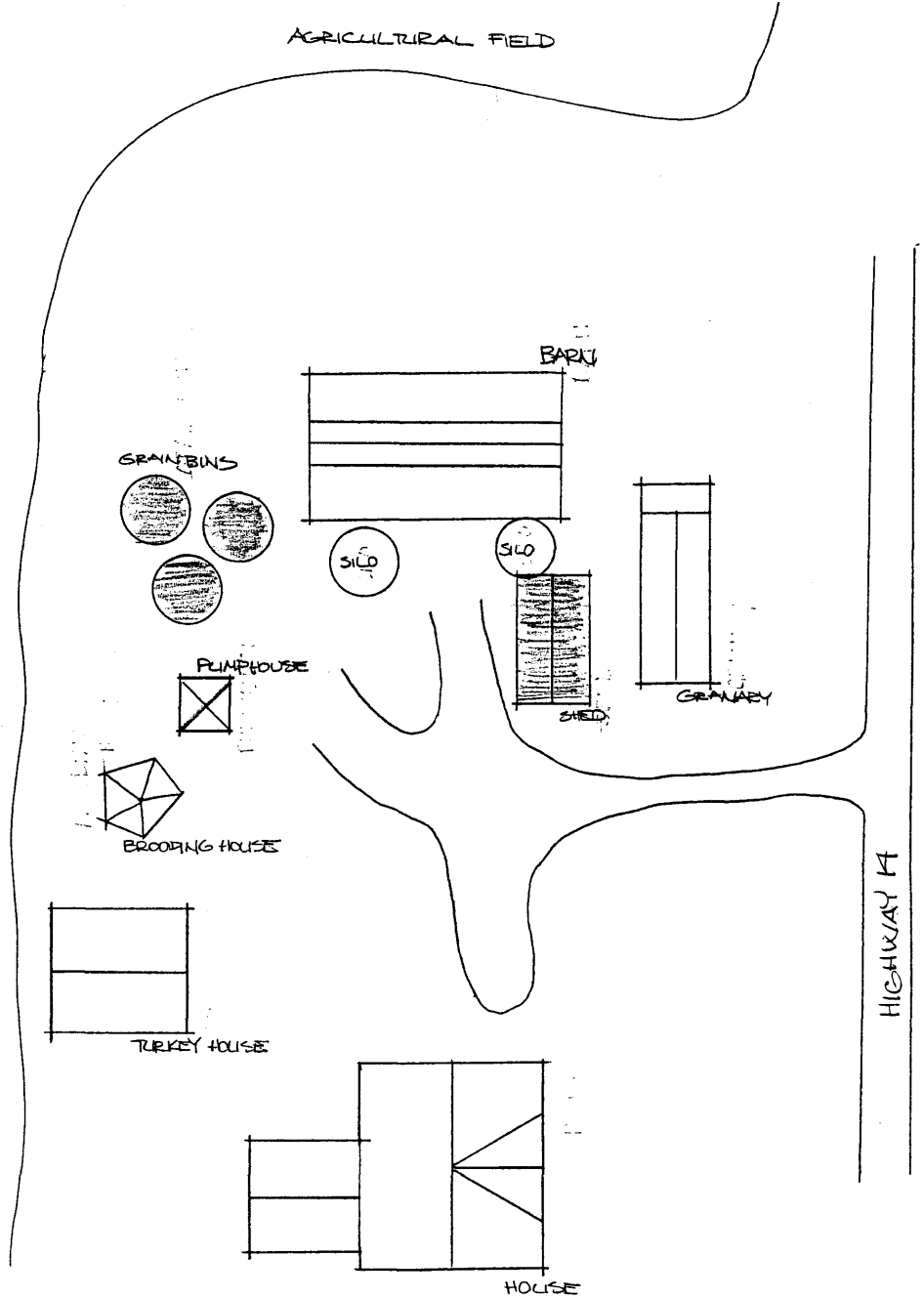
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Nansen Agricultural Historic District
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Ole A. Melhouse Farm
GD-WAR-026



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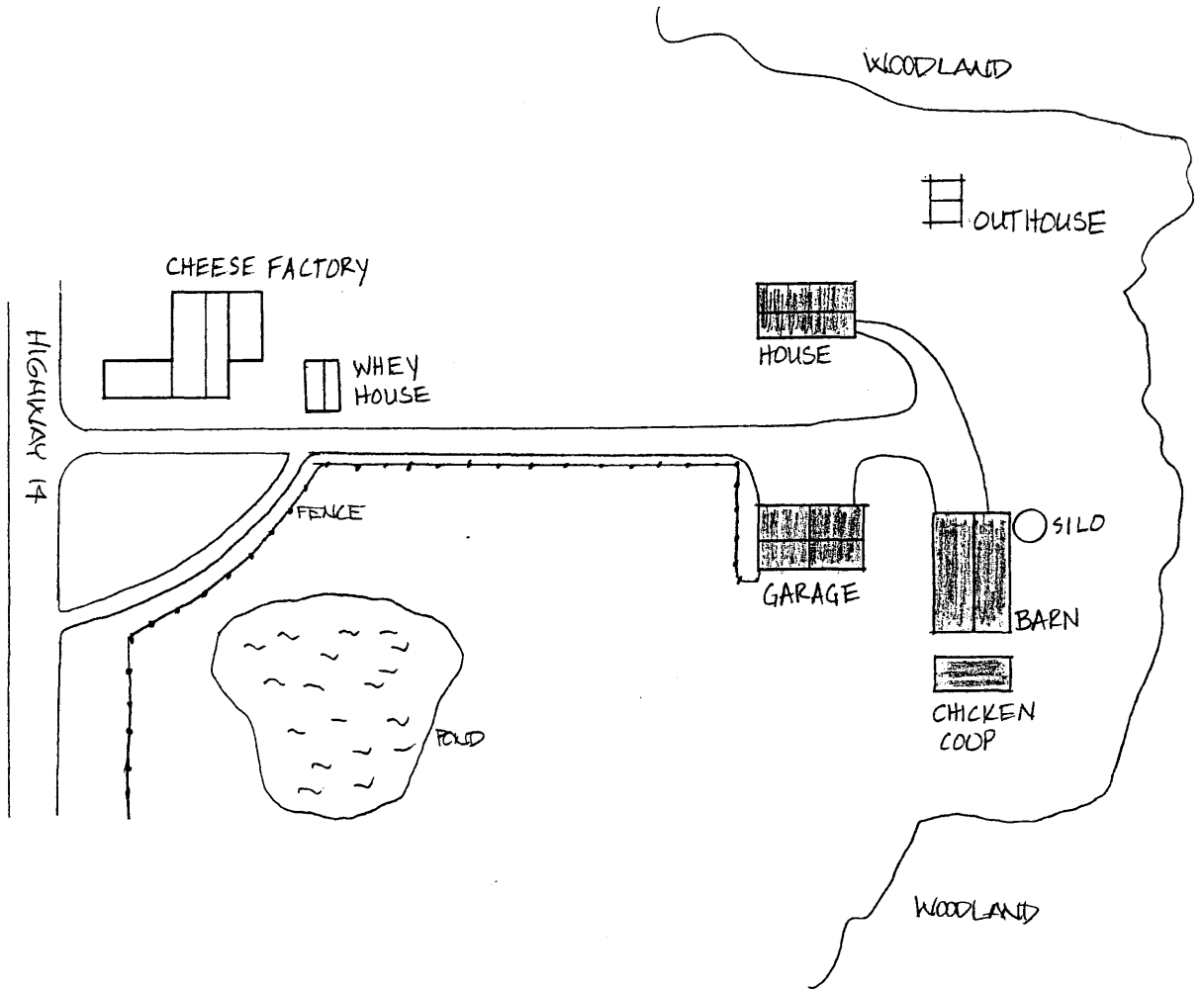
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Nansen Agricultural Historic District
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Ole A. Pynten Farm
GD-HOL-004



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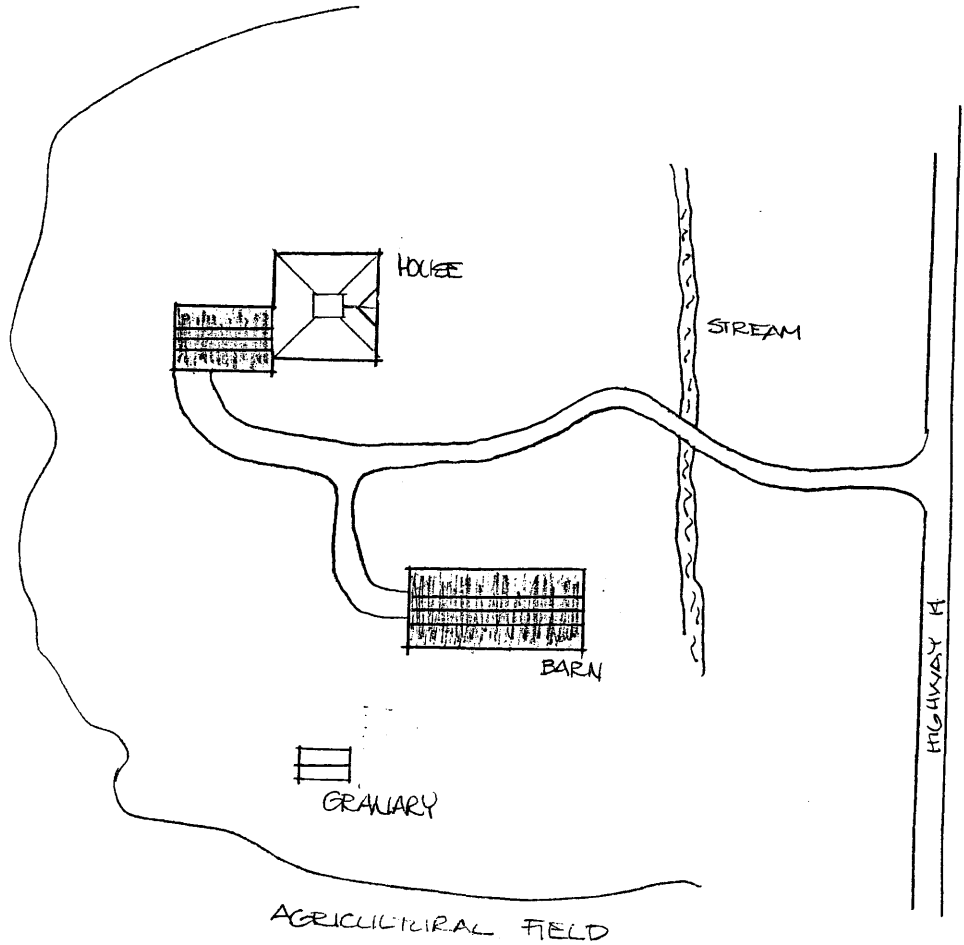
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Nansen Agricultural Historic District
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Bestal Farm
GD-HOL-014



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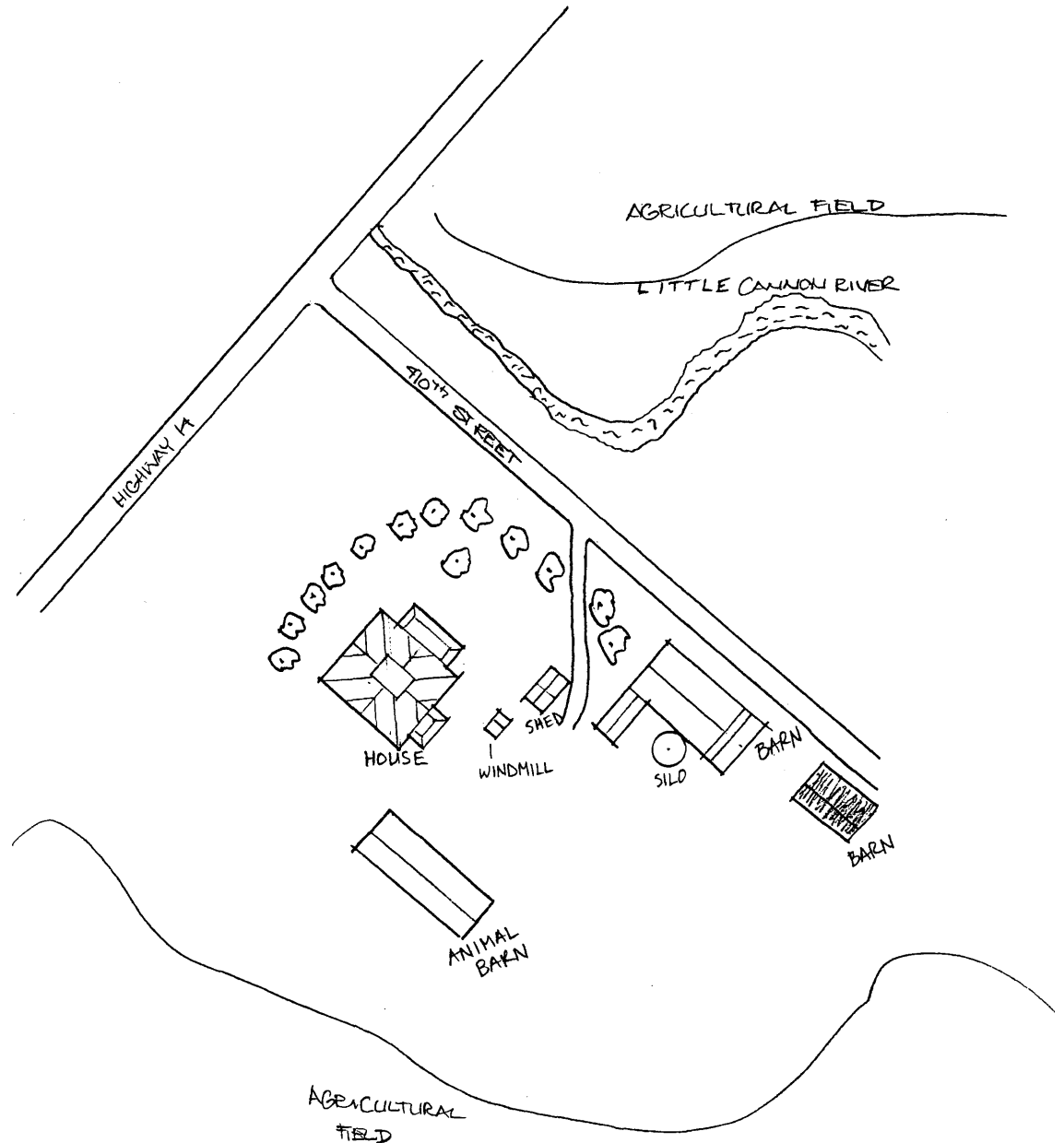
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Nansen Agricultural Historic District
Goodhue County, Minnesota

T. Olson Melhaus Farm
GD-HOL-015



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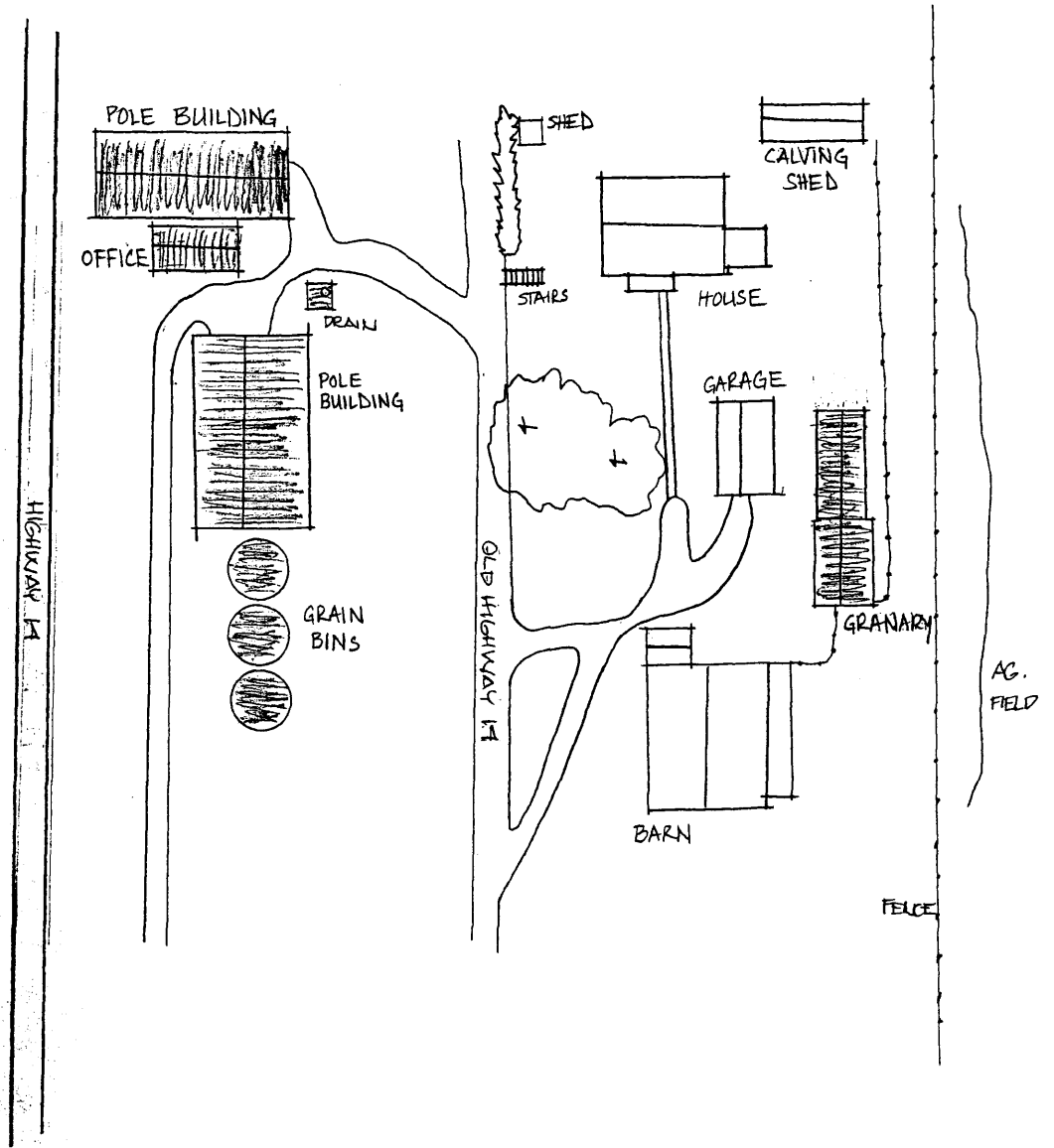
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Nansen Agricultural Historic District
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Iver Dalbotten/Oscar Maring Farm
GD-HOL-017



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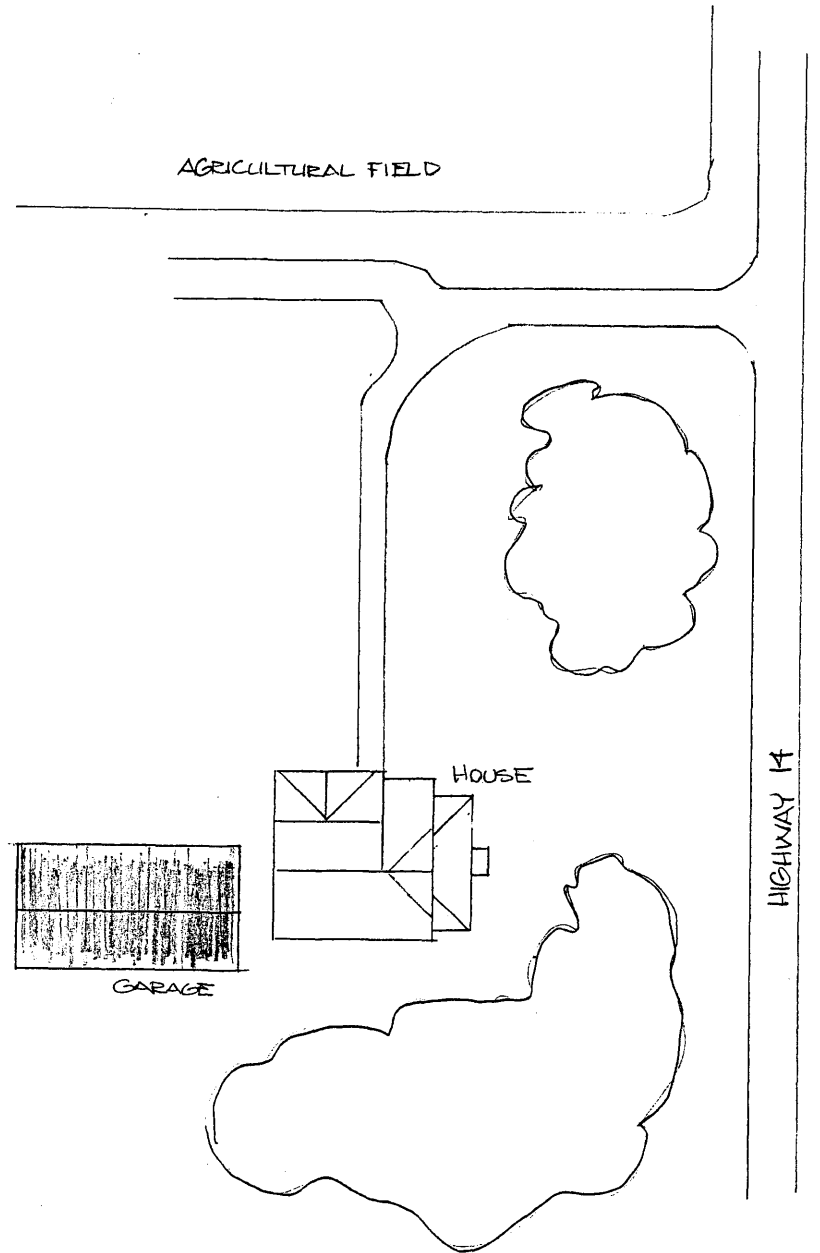
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Nansen Agricultural Historic District
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John Olson Farm
GD-HOL-018



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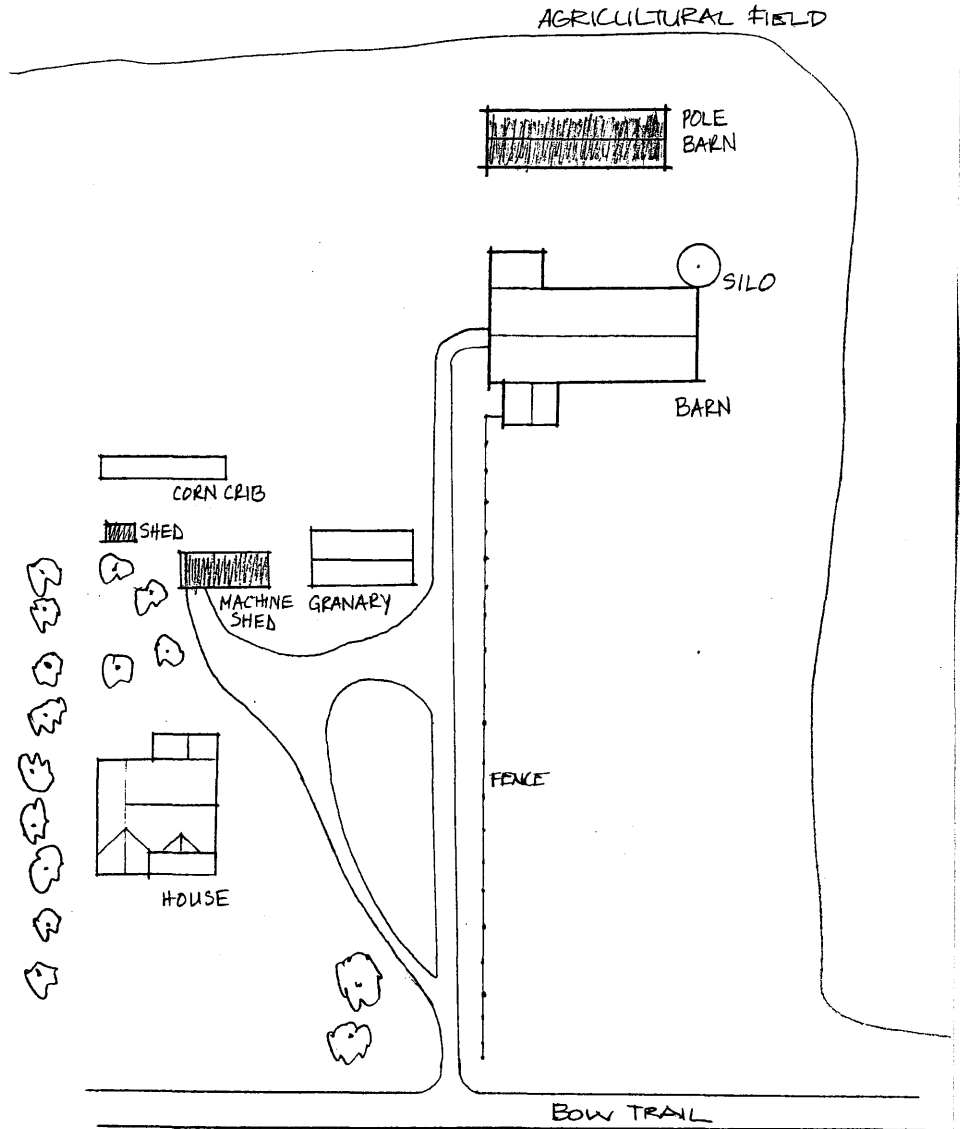
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Nansen Agricultural Historic District
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G.K. Norsving Farm
GD-HOL-021



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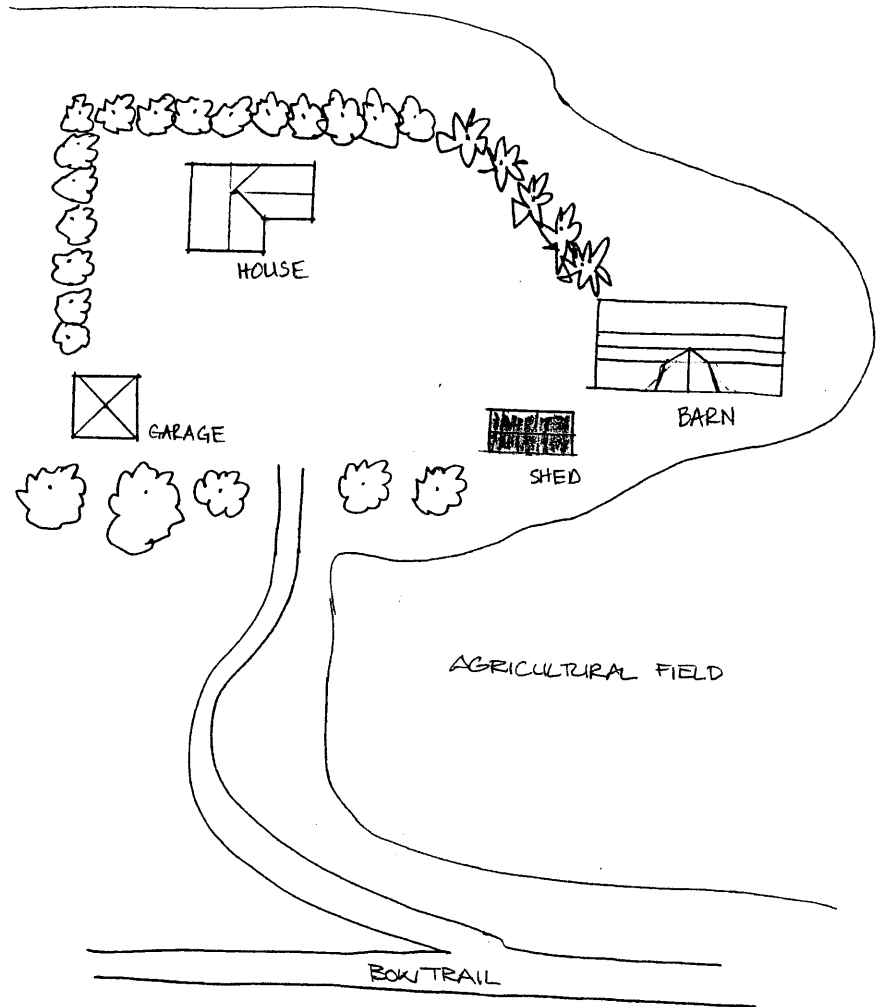
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Nansen Agricultural Historic District
Goodhue County, Minnesota

K. Estrem Farm
GD-HOL-022



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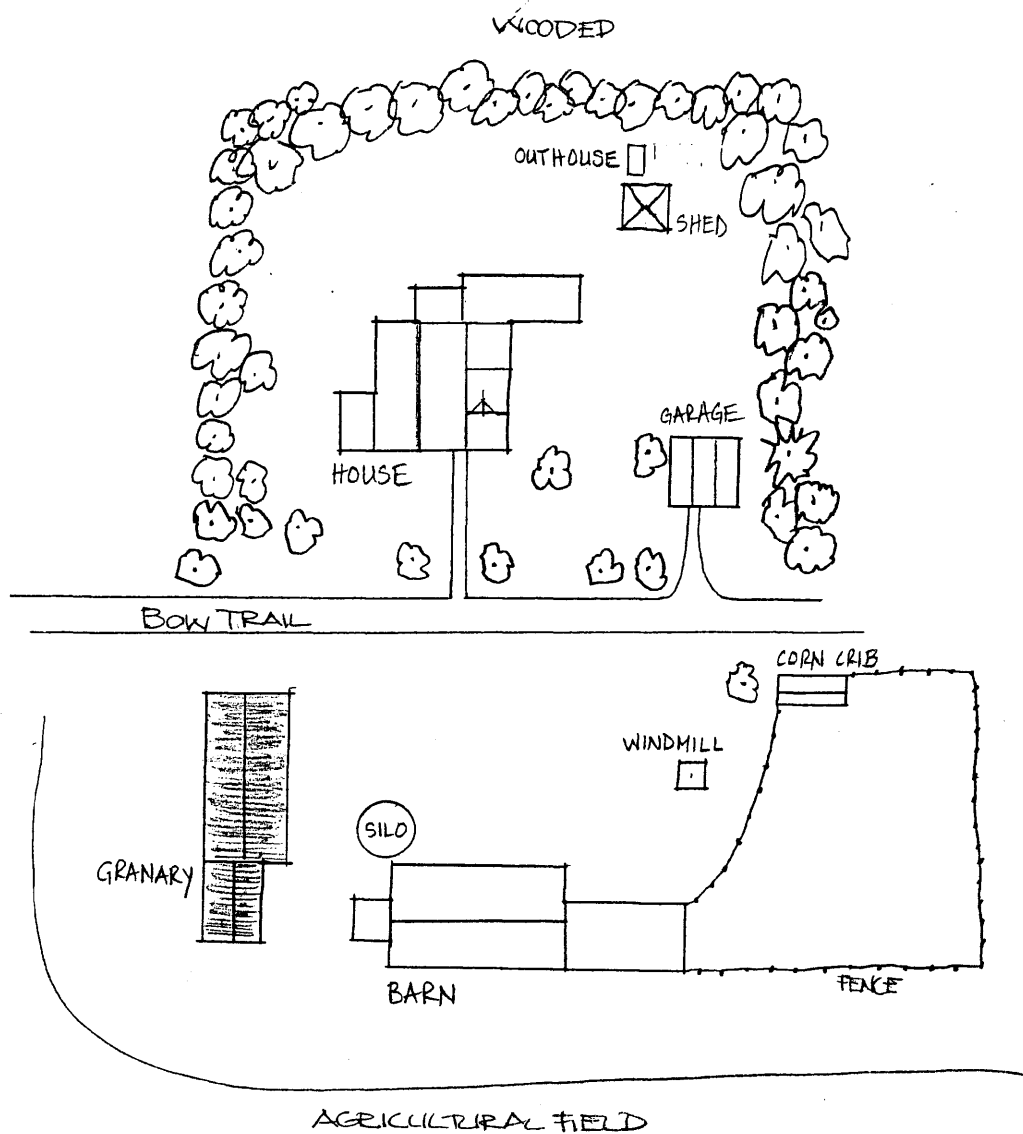
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Nansen Agricultural Historic District
 Goodhue County, Minnesota

B. Knutson Norsving/B. A. Nelson Farm
 GD-HOL-023



KEY

NO SCALE ↑
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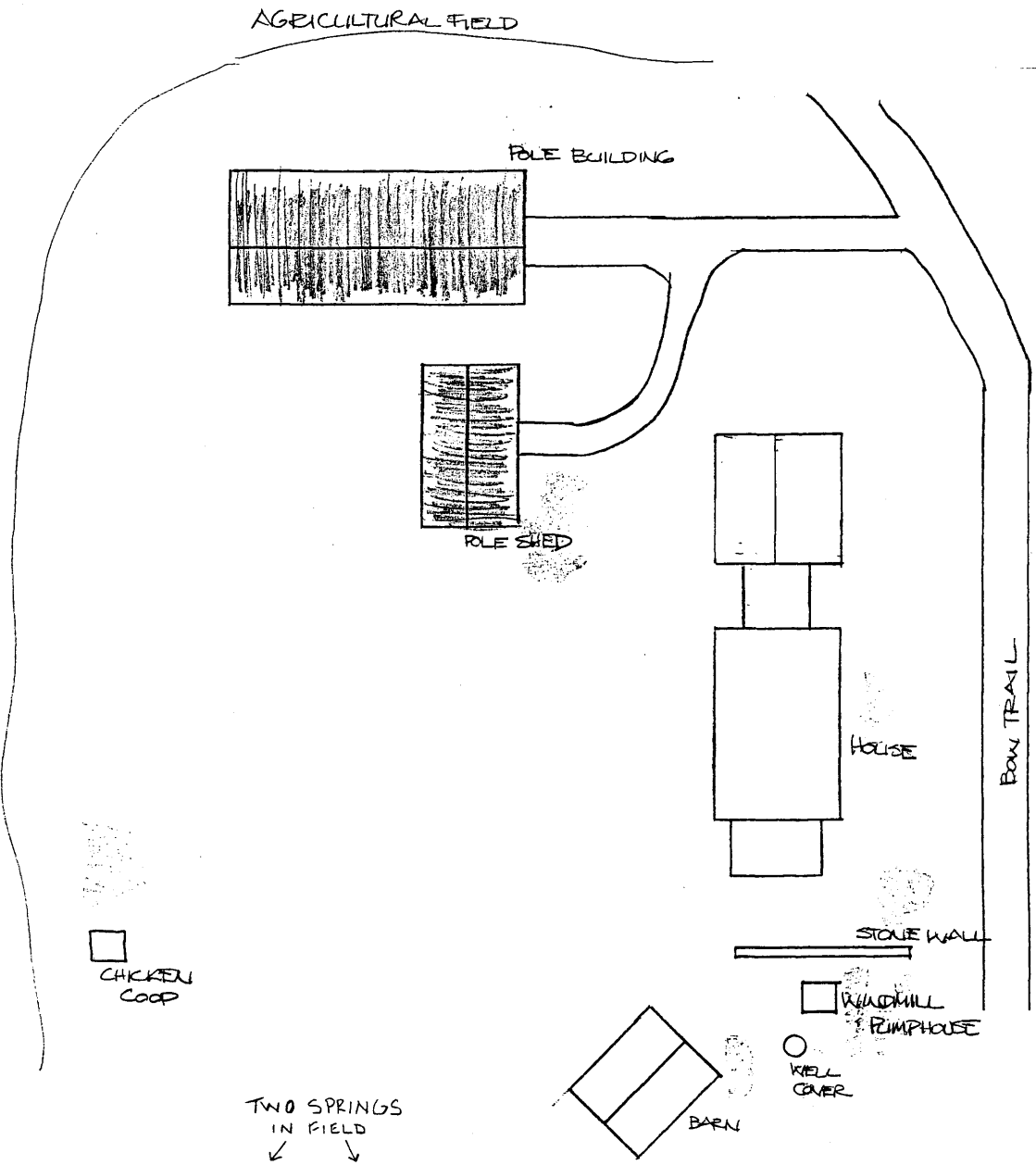
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Nansen Agricultural Historic District
Goodhue County, Minnesota

Anders Erickson/Haugen Farm
GD-HOL-025



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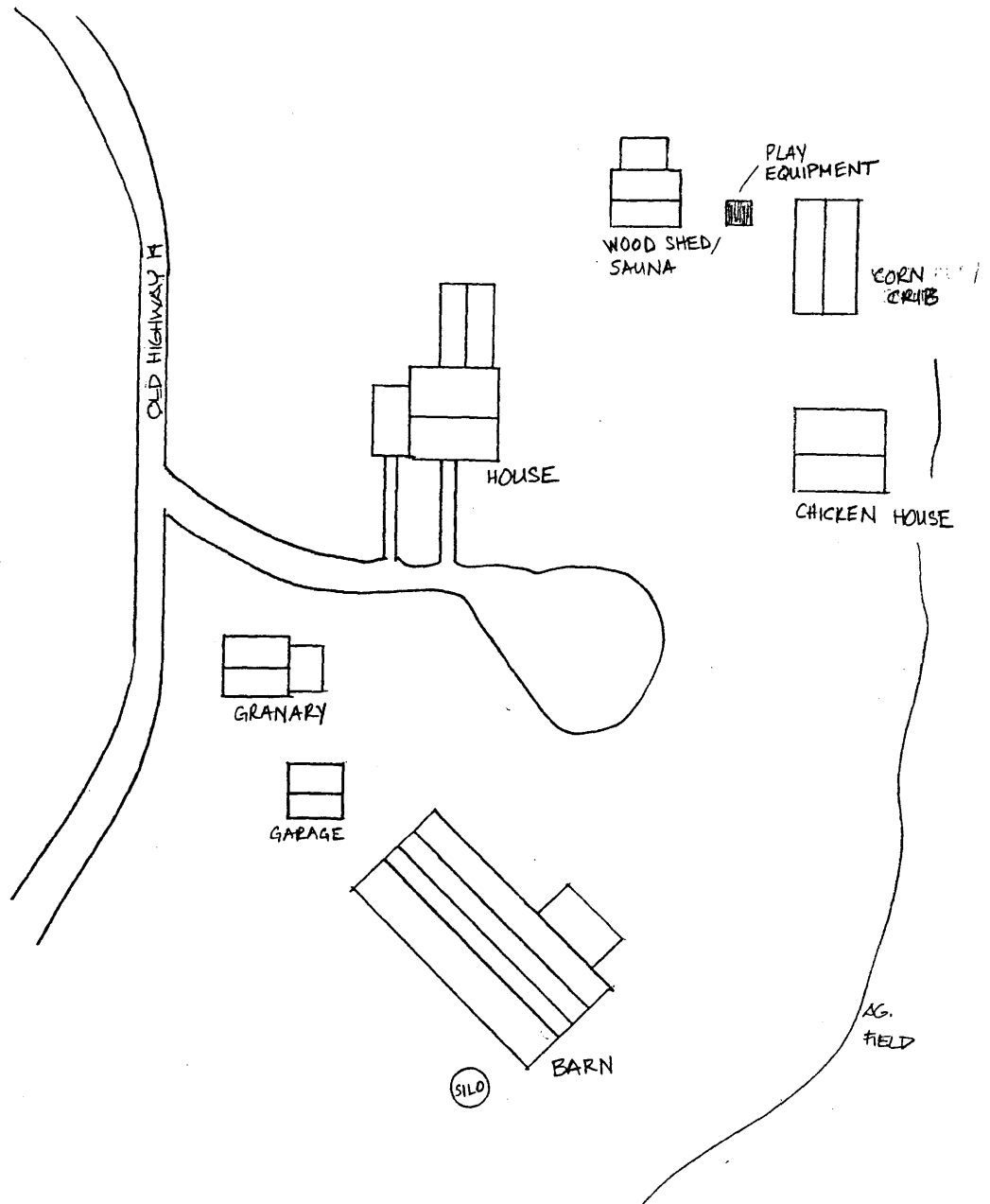
United States Department of the Interior
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Nansen Agricultural Historic District
Goodhue County, Minnesota

M. O. Maring Farm
GD-HOL-026



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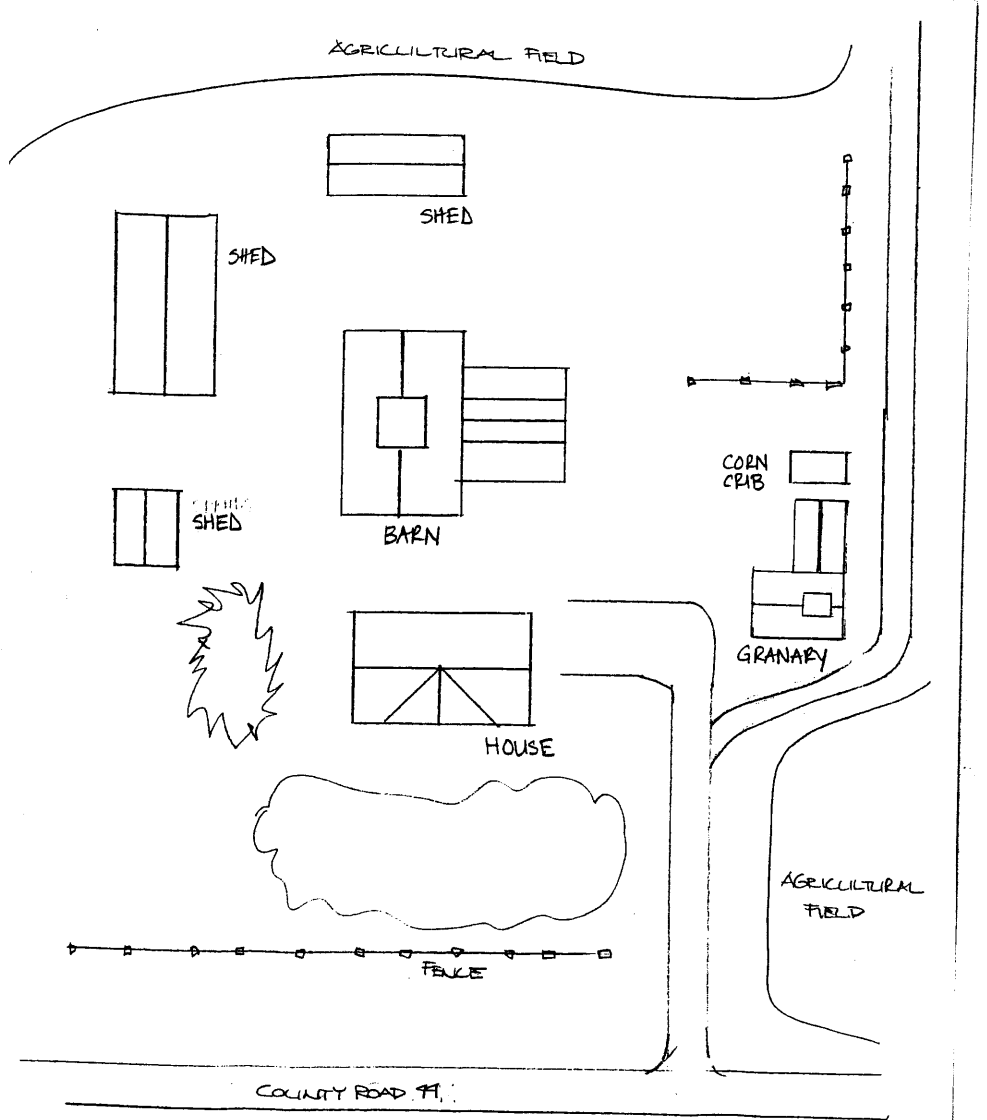
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Nansen Agricultural Historic District
Goodhue County, Minnesota

Simon Gjellum/Neseth Farm
GD-HOL-028



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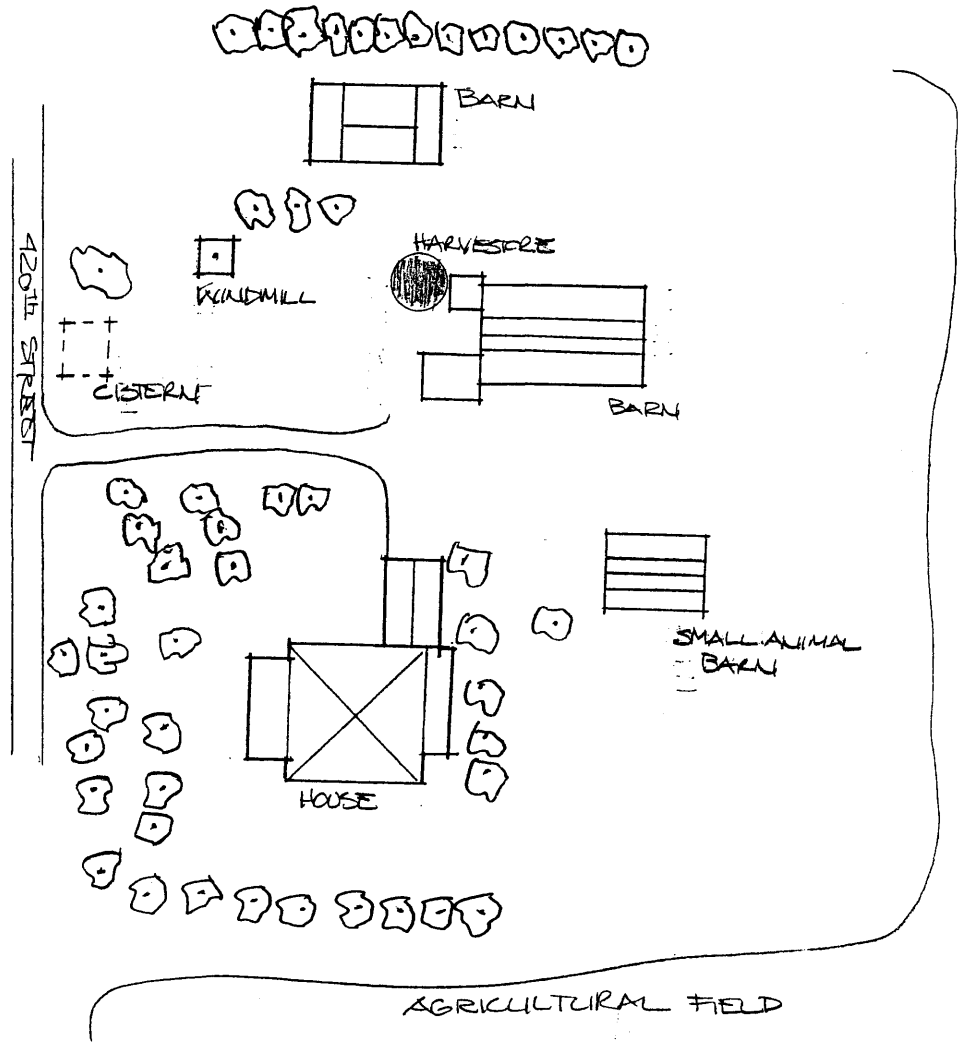
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Nansen Agricultural Historic District
Goodhue County, Minnesota

Martin A. Flom Farm
GD-HOL-030



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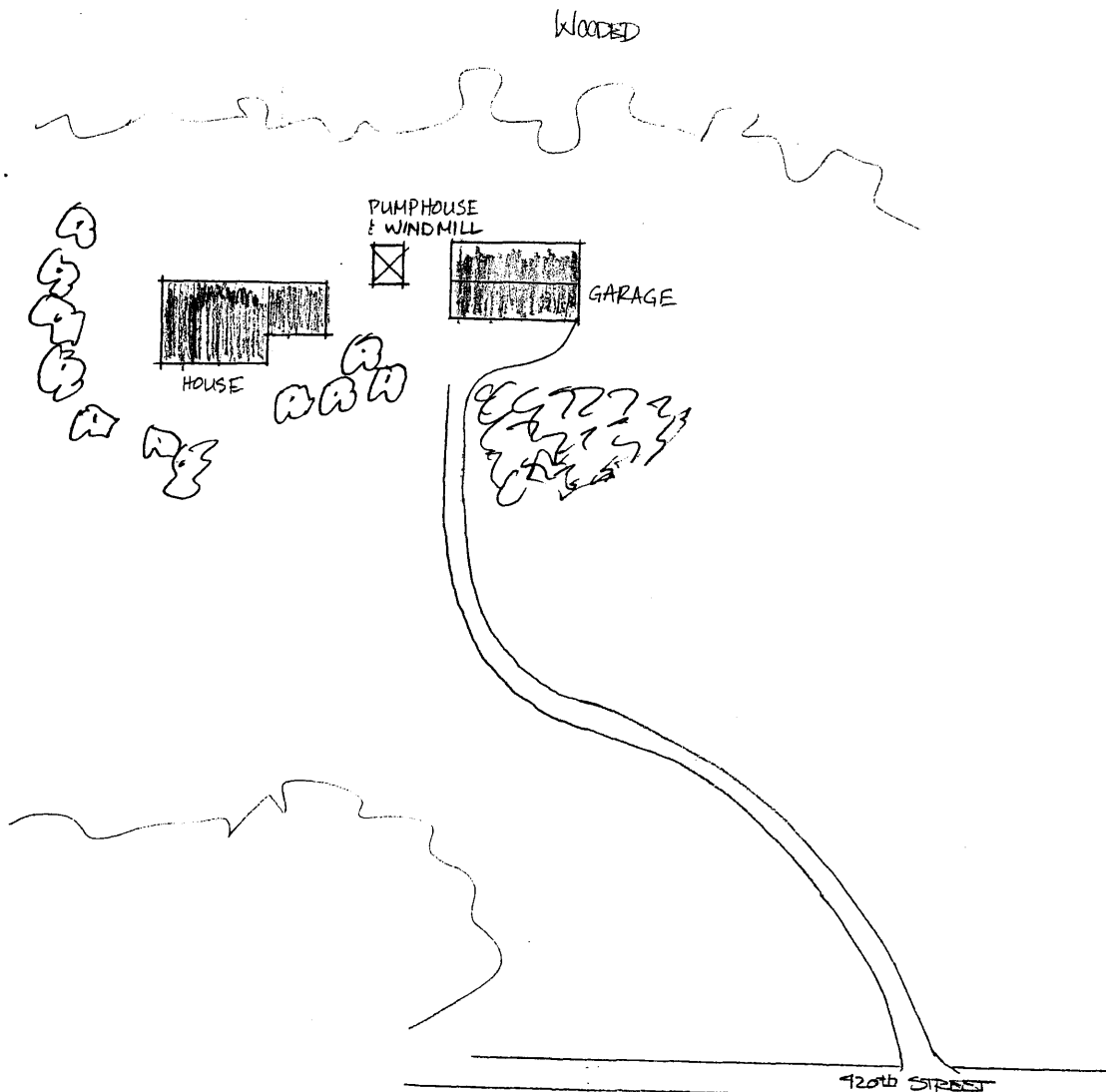
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Nansen Agricultural Historic District
Goodhue County, Minnesota

O. I. Haugen Farm
GD-HOL-031



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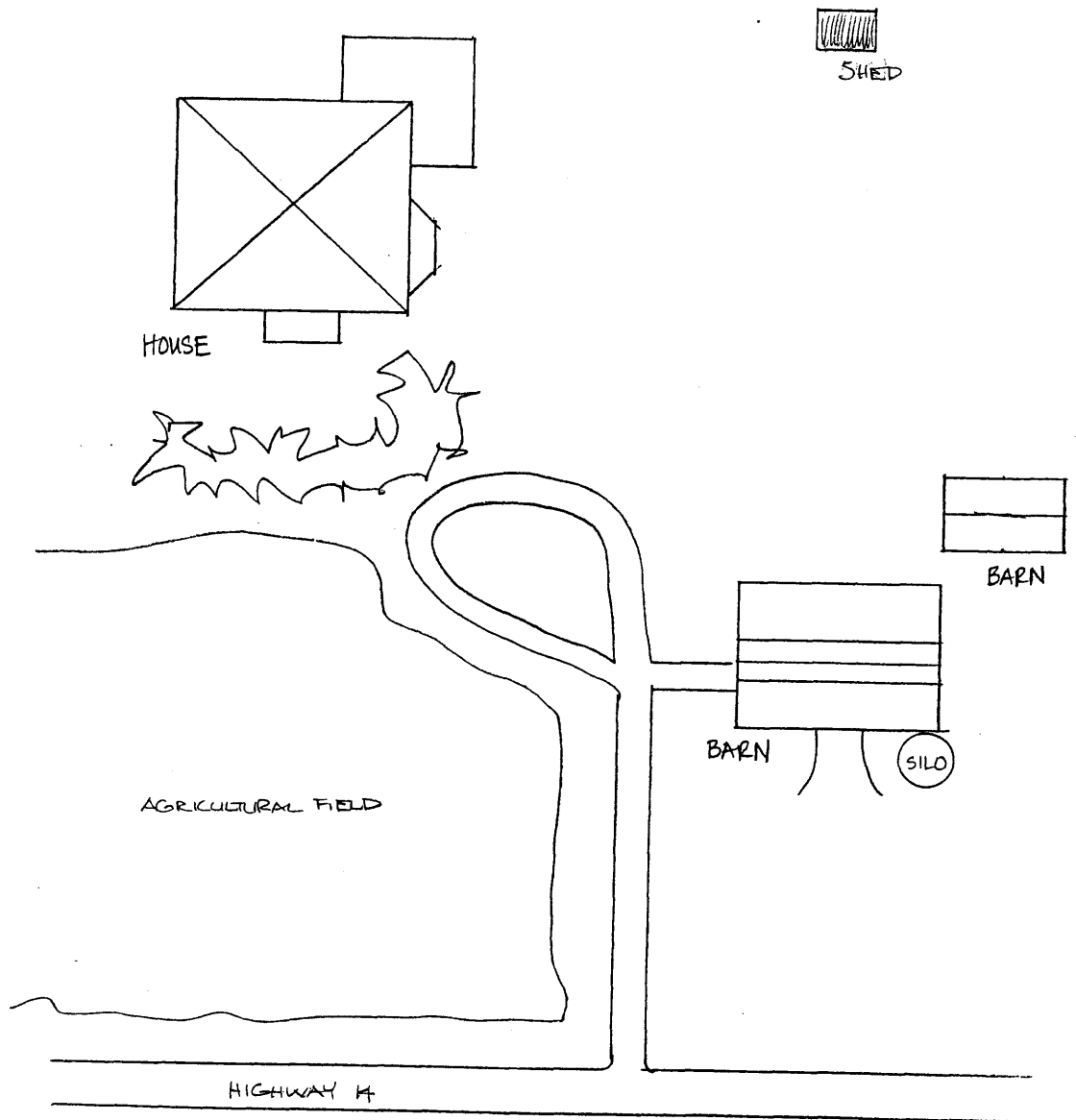
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Nansen Agricultural Historic District
Goodhue County, Minnesota

Bottolf Peterson Lee Farm
GD-HOL-033



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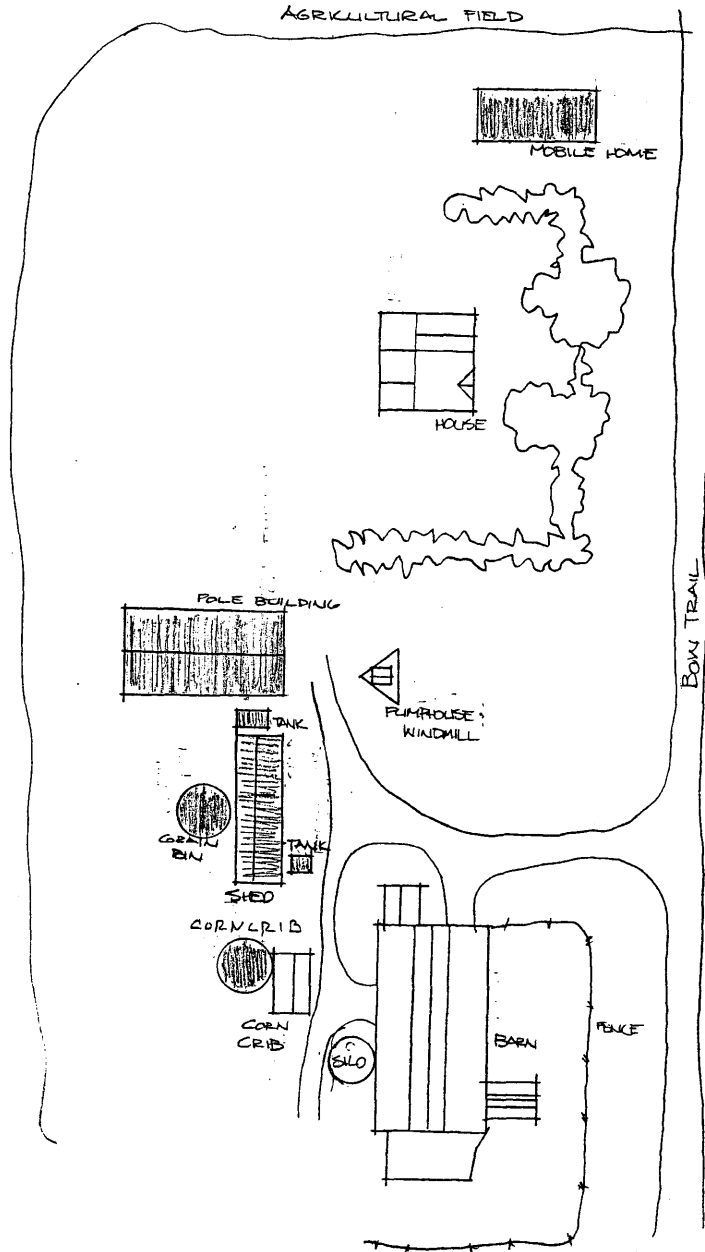
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Nansen Agricultural Historic District
Goodhue County, Minnesota

Henry Johnson Lee Farm
GD-HOL-034



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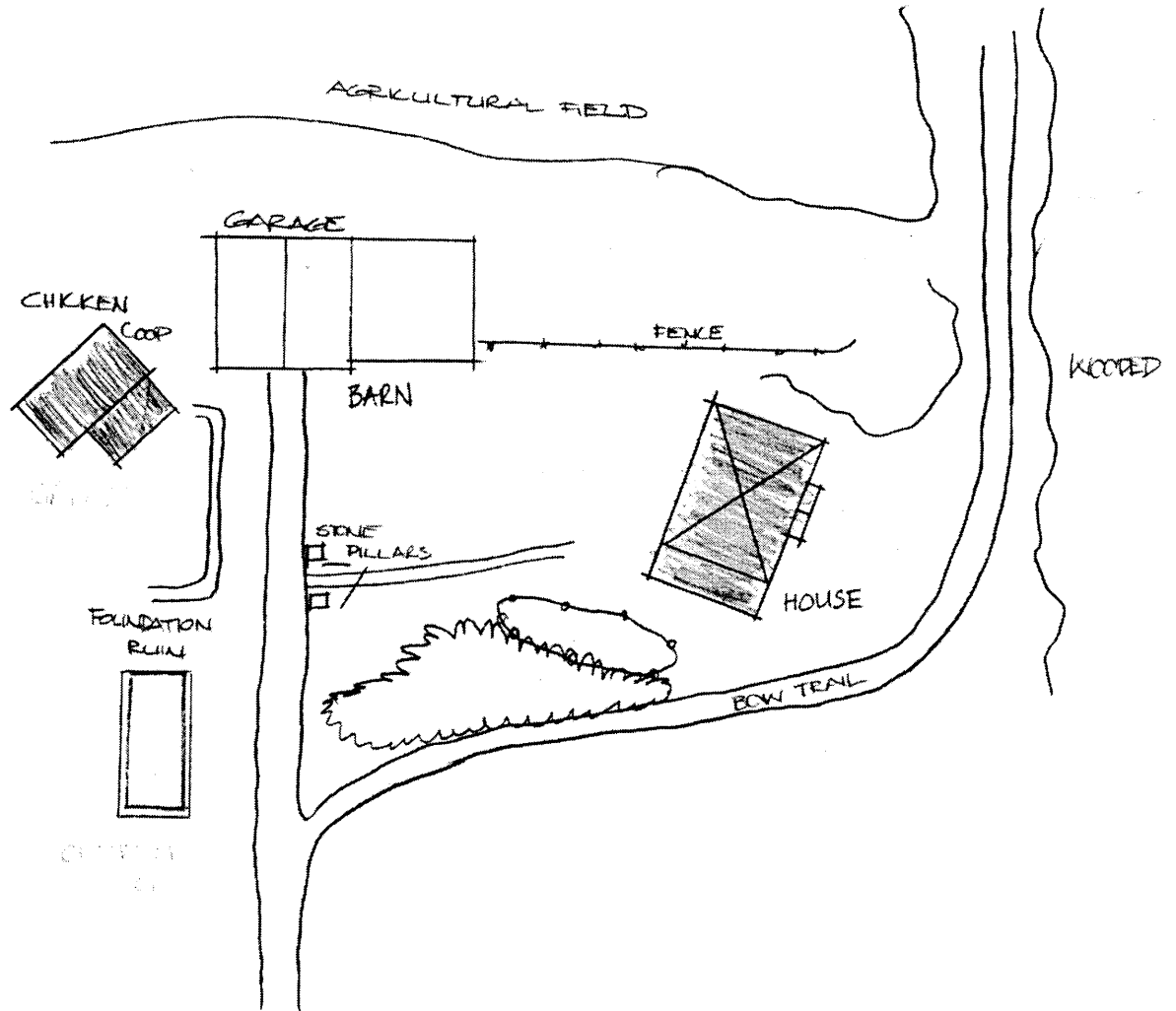
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Nansen Agricultural Historic District
Goodhue County, Minnesota

Nels Askelson Flom Farm
GD-HOL-035



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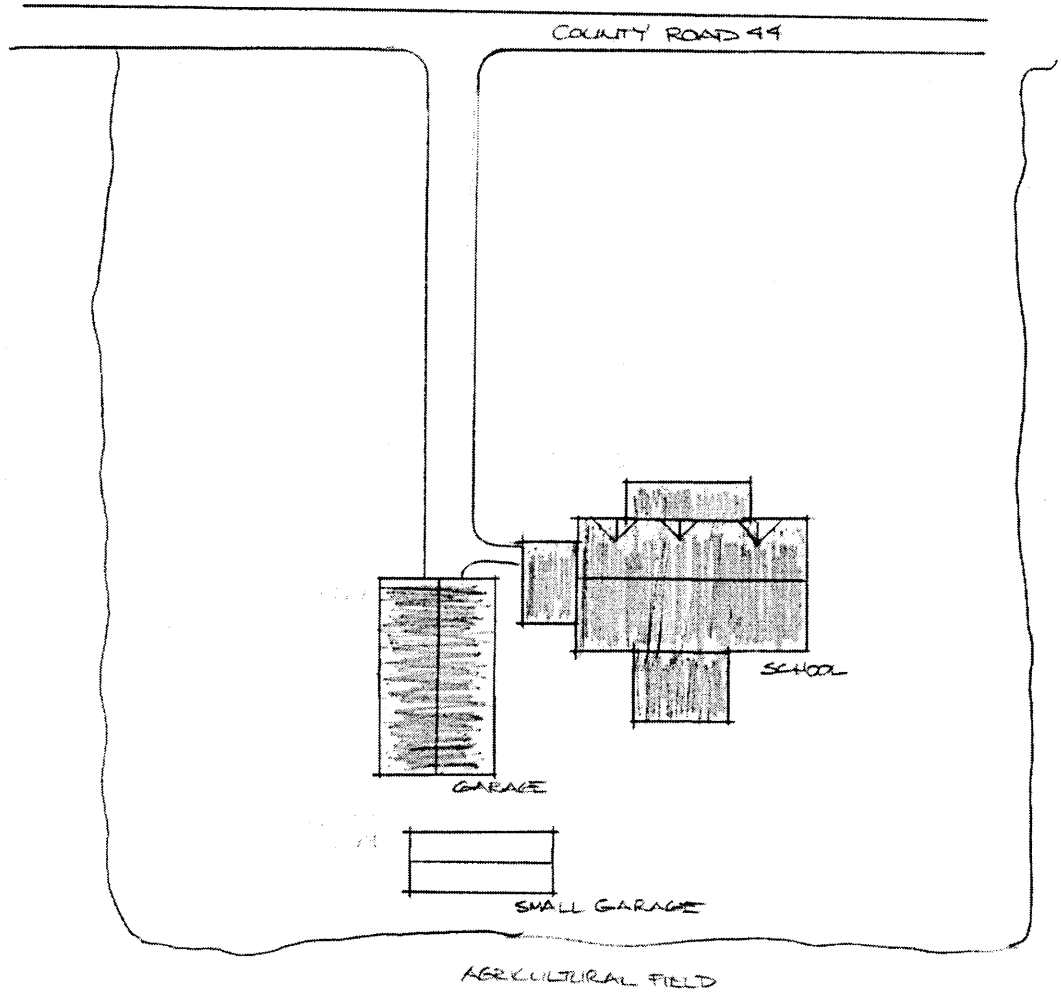
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Nansen Agricultural Historic District
Goodhue County, Minnesota

District No. 54 School
GD-HOL-037



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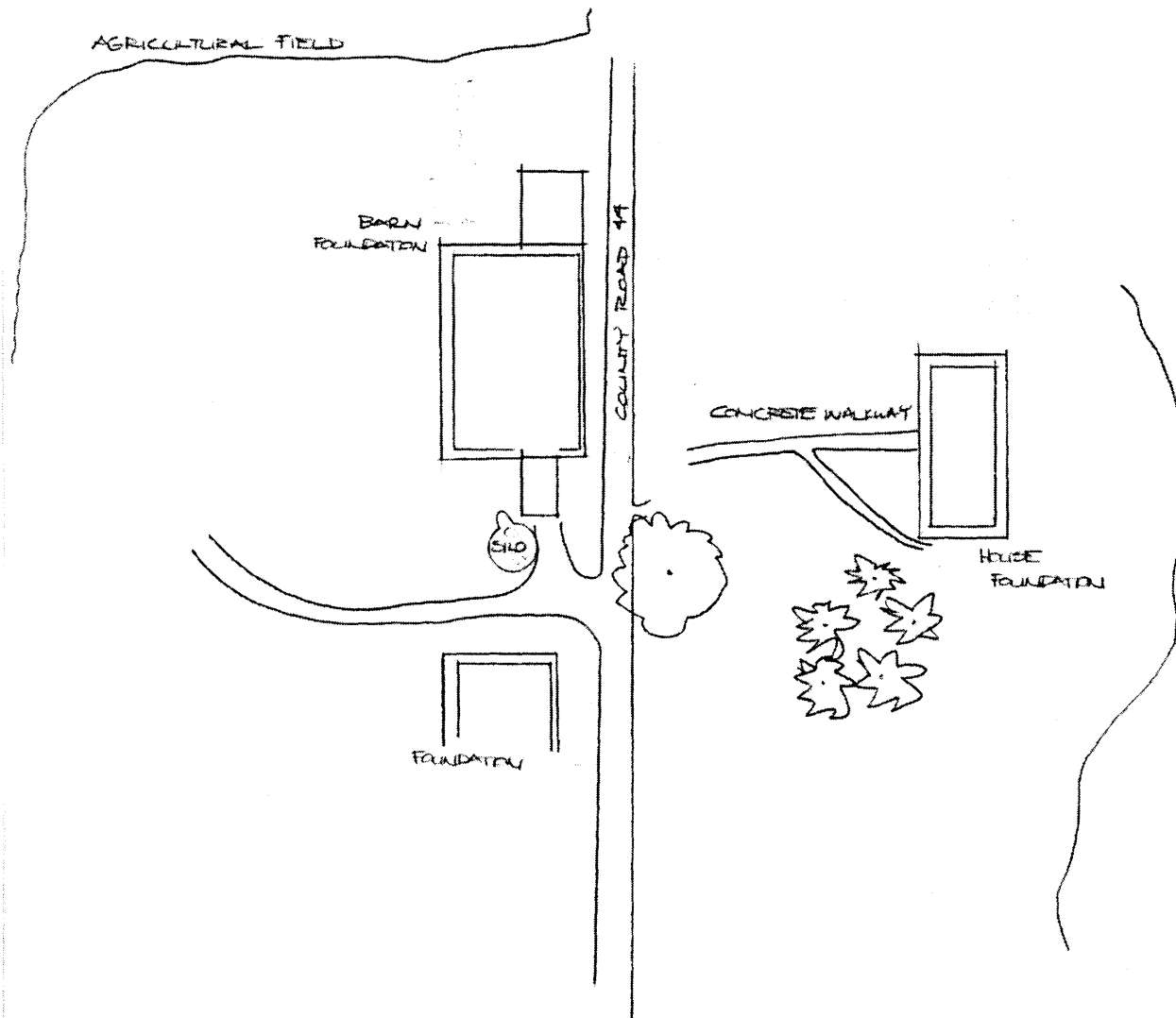
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Nansen Agricultural Historic District
Goodhue County, Minnesota

Hans Bottolfson/Lars Underdahl Farm
GD-HOL-039



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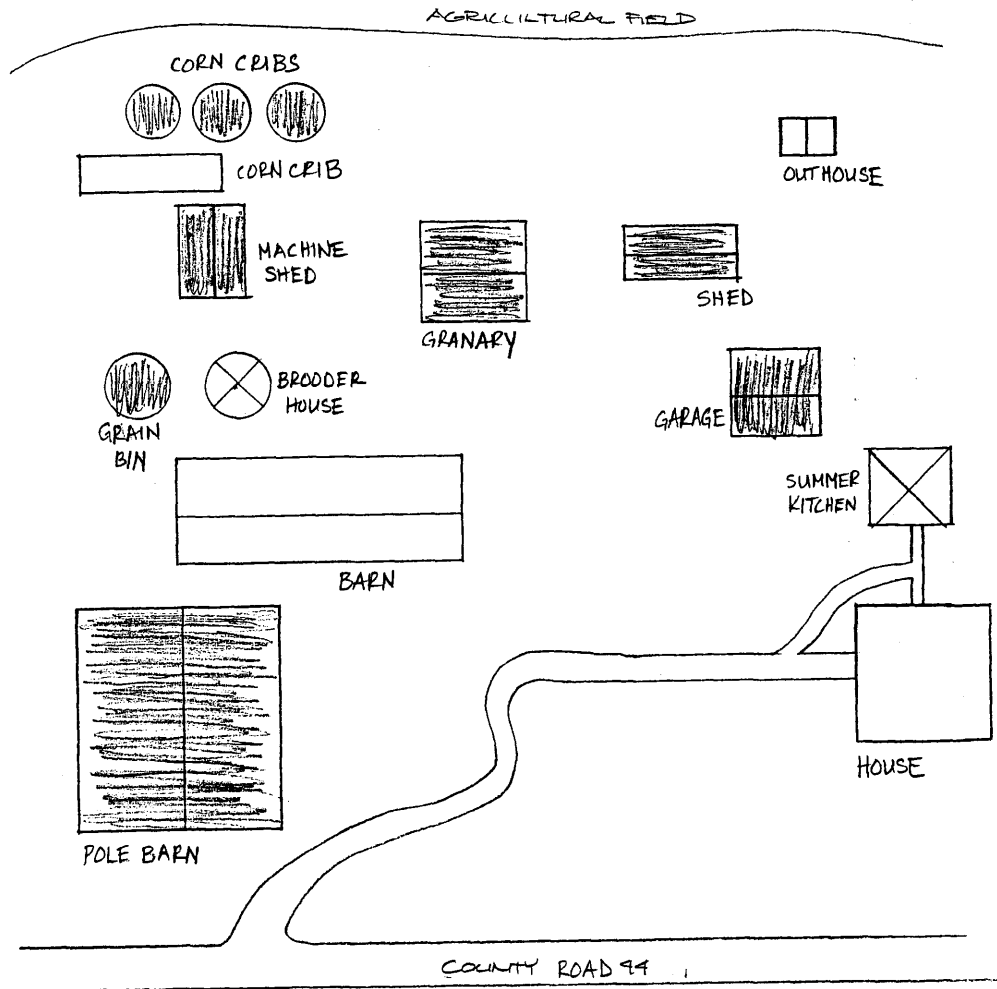
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Nansen Agricultural Historic District
Goodhue County, Minnesota

A. N. Dahlbotten Farm
GD-HOL-042



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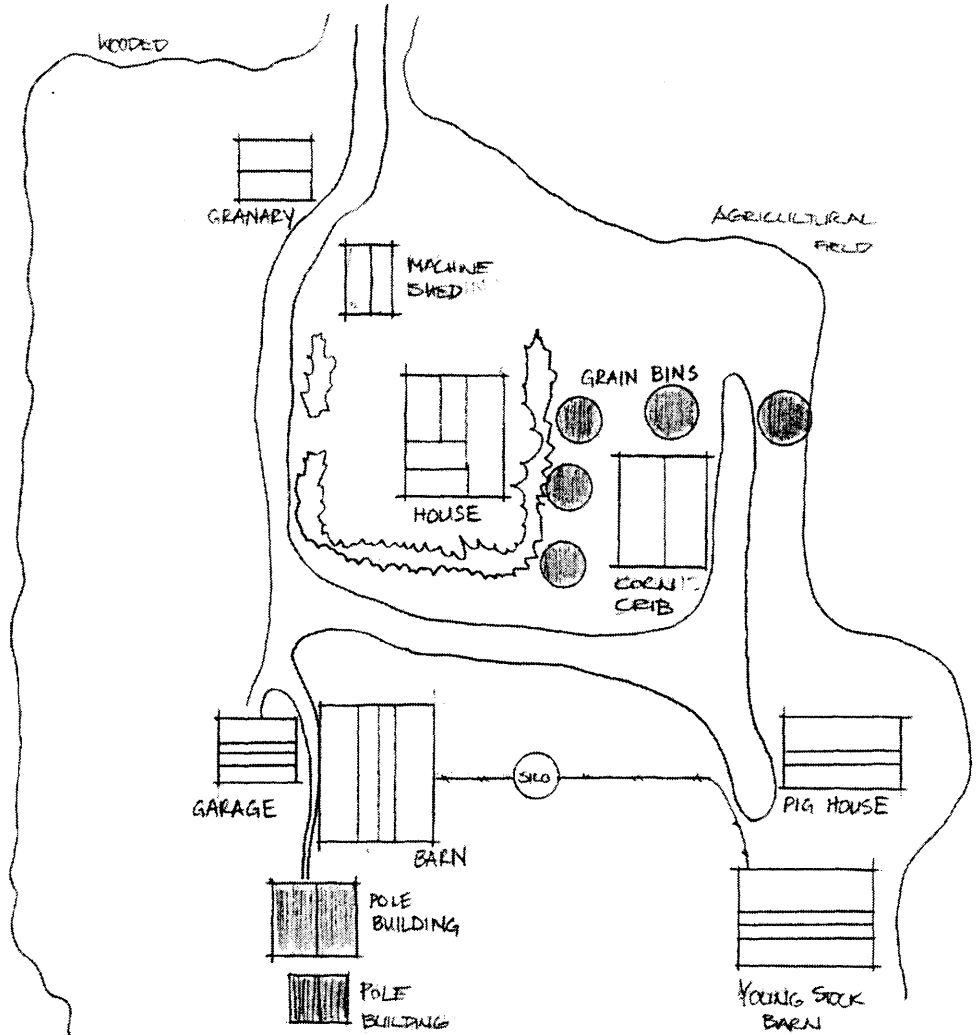
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Nansen Agricultural Historic District
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P. O. Underdahl Farm
GD-HOL-044



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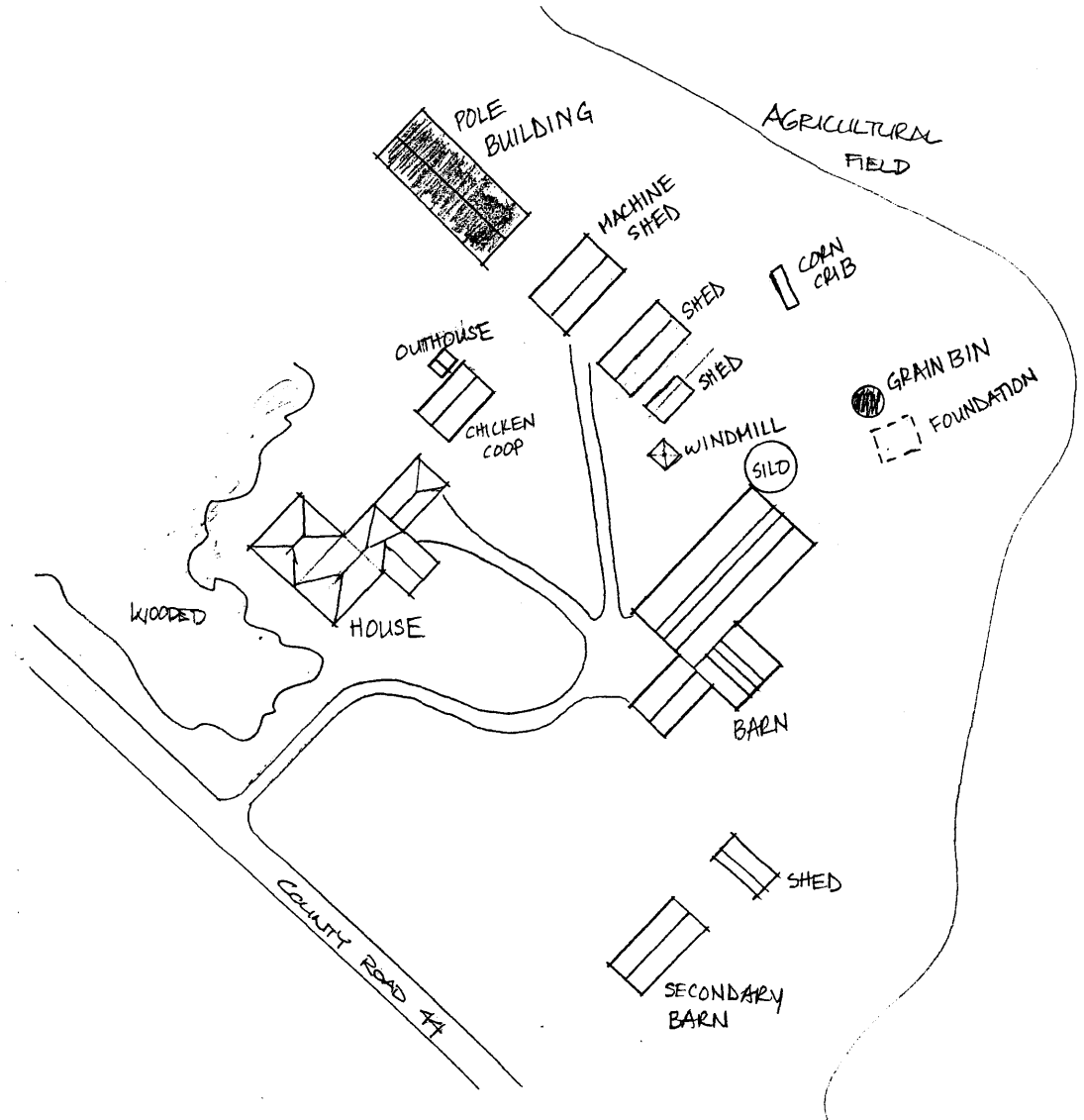
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Nansen Agricultural Historic District
Goodhue County, Minnesota

Martin S. Gjellum Farm
GD-HOL-045



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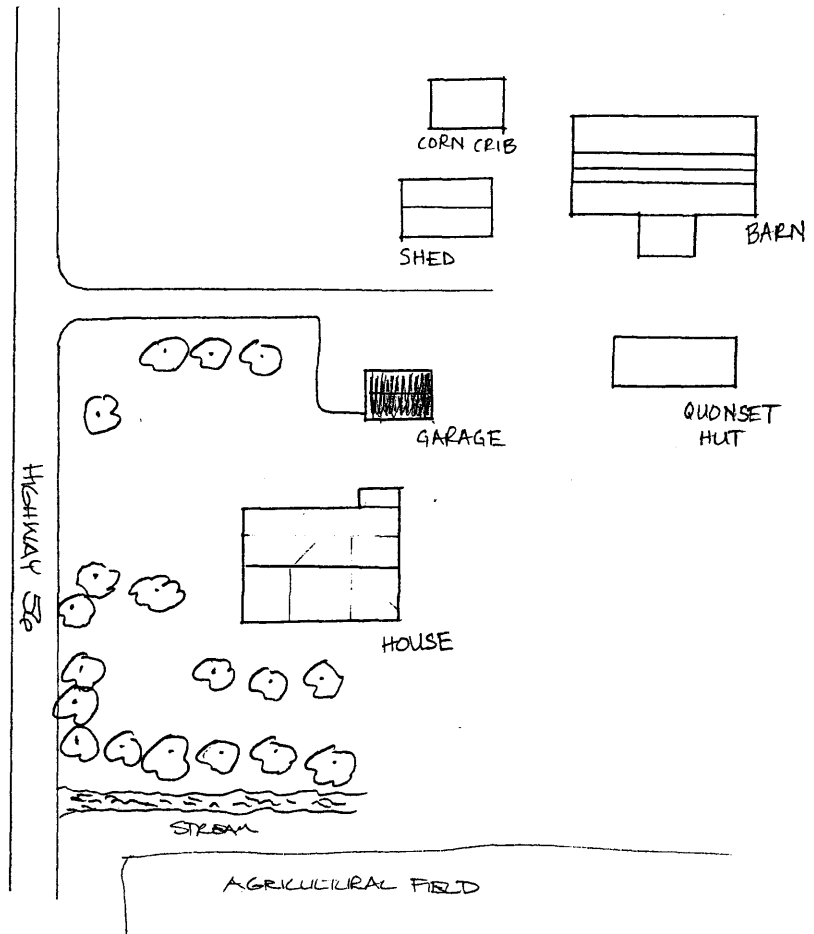
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Nansen Agricultural Historic District
Goodhue County, Minnesota

T. H. Braaten Farm
GD-HOL-048



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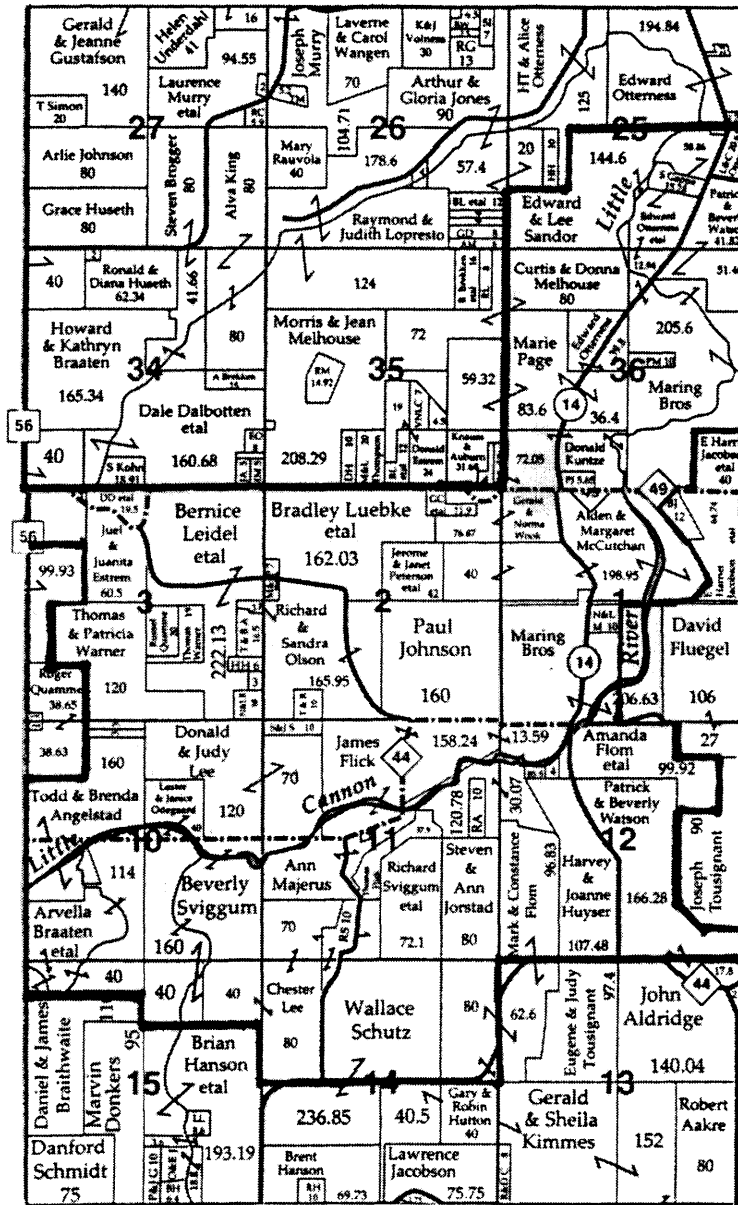
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1996 Atlas & Plat Book, Goodhue County
Warsaw Township (T 111 N, R 18 W)
Sections 25, 36
Holden Township (T 110 N, R 18 W)
Sections 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15



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Statement of Significance

The Nansen Agricultural Historic District is significant at the local level under National Register *Criterion A* as a distinctive landscape representing a continuum of agricultural practices in southeastern Minnesota. The Nansen Agricultural Historic District derives its significance from its ability to convey historic agricultural land use patterns during its period of significance. The period of significance for the Nansen Agricultural Historic District begins in 1870 when the district can first be documented as an intensively farmed landscape. The 1860 agricultural census records 3,160 acres of improved land and 16,111 acres of unimproved land in Holden township.¹⁴ By 1870 much of the land was improved and the census records 17,199 acres of improved land and 1,713 acres of unimproved land with 2,776 acres of woodlots in the township.¹⁵ The increase in the amount of land improved for agricultural practices between 1860 and 1870 begins the period of the Sogn Valley's distinctly agricultural landscape. The period of significance ends in 1948 – the typical 50-year ending date for National Register properties. Between 1870 and 1948, farming practices continued and evolved within this landscape.

The Nansen Agricultural Historic District relates to and exhibits the history of the state contexts- *Early Agriculture and River Settlement 1840-1870* and *Railroads and Agricultural Development 1870-1940*. As Norwegian immigrants moved into and settled the area, agriculture began at a subsistence level in the Sogn Valley. Wheat became the first cash crop of the valley and was grown almost exclusively until the 1880s, when environmental circumstances affected wheat production. Diversification introduced new crops, livestock, and dairy cattle. Diversified farming practices continued as Minnesota's farming industry experienced ups and downs through World War I and the Great Depression. World War II brought another boom in the area's farm economy.

Located in a valley amidst rolling terrain, the Nansen Agricultural Historic District has sustained an agricultural landscape for almost 150 years. Despite economic pressures, many Sogn Valley farmers continue to work the same land their Norwegian great-grandparents farmed. The Sogn Valley's significance results from this continuum of use and changes in farming technology manifested in the agricultural buildings and intact field patterns that constitute the majority of the district. This continuum is evidenced in the existence of dugouts that relate to the period of early settlement; granaries that relate to the period of wheat farming that existed until the 1880s; and large gambrel dairy barns with attached milk houses that relate to the period of agricultural diversification and dairy farming that flourished from the 1880s until the 1920s. The landscape itself possesses tangible features of the early settlement and agricultural practices. These include

¹⁴ Minnesota Census, 1860, population.

¹⁵ Minnesota Census, 1870, population.

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wooded areas that were originally divided into small woodlot parcels, abandoned roads and early travel routes, and a non-denominational cemetery that dates to the early 1860s.

The combination of the continuum of use, the isolation of the valley, and the physical boundary created by the valley's land form configuration have enabled the Nansen Agricultural Historic District to retain a high level of historic integrity. Despite the pressures of ex-urban development posed by the Twin Cities and Rochester (which are about 40 miles away and within commuting distance) and the need to consolidate and specialize farming practices, the Nansen Agricultural Historic District retains many features that define this agricultural landscape initiated in the mid-nineteenth century and continued through the twentieth century.

Comparison to Surrounding Area and Other Agricultural Landscapes

The district possesses a continuity of farms linked by common agricultural practices and traditional, Midwestern agricultural buildings and farmhouses. This portion of the Sogn Valley stands apart from the surrounding area due to its continuity of historic resources and land use patterns that evoke an evolving agricultural landscape. The present field patterns are much like those revealed on the 1914 plat map, though crops have changed over time.

While many sloping hillsides and narrow valley beds are planted with crops, the topography does not lend itself to large-scale farming. Though the occasional modern house appears on a hillside, the district does not contain the residential groupings found in many agricultural areas within commuting distance of the Twin Cities.

Although Norwegians were the primary settlers, this area is not unique for its association with this ethnic group. This prominent group of immigrants settled in all of Minnesota's major agricultural regions, including the plains of the Red River Valley, the prairies of southern and southwestern Minnesota, and the hilly southeast.¹⁶ Other Norwegian settlements are concentrated nearby in Rice County.

Unlike many other agricultural landscapes in central and southeastern Minnesota, the Nansen Agricultural Historic District retains agricultural activities, spatial patterns, and circulation networks consistent with historic activities. Historic farming areas in Carver and Stearns counties, for example, have not survived intact. In Carver County, new housing has sprung up in groupings or as stand alone properties in the midst of active farms. Stearns County remains largely agricultural, but farm sizes have increased dramatically in response to changing farm

¹⁶ Carlton C. Qualey and Jon A. Gjerde, "The Norwegians," in *They Chose Minnesota: A Survey of the State's Ethnic Groups*, June Drenning Homquist, ed. (St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1981), 230.

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practices. The historic integrity of the Sogn Valley district makes it unusual in comparison to other agricultural landscapes in central and southeastern Minnesota. However, other rural historic districts may exist as distinguishable entities in Minnesota.

Sogn Valley Norwegian Settlement and Community Establishment

The Sogn Valley in Goodhue County was settled in the mid-1850s, primarily by Norwegian immigrants. Although land in Goodhue County was not offered for sale by the government until 1855, many immigrants came to the southeastern portion of the Minnesota Territory in 1841, after the government had granted settlers preemption rights to occupy unsurveyed land in the territory. In 1851, after the treaty negotiations with the Traverse des Sioux and Mendota, the Minnesota Territory was officially opened for settlement and the land survey was initiated in 1853. By the time the first government land was available for sale in 1855, thousands of settlers – including large numbers of Norwegians – had already poured into the region.¹⁷

The Root, Zumbro, and Cannon River valleys, which entered the Mississippi River from the west, served as travel corridors to the interior of the Minnesota Territory.¹⁸ These valleys served not only as pathways for early settlers, but also provided wood for building materials and fuel.¹⁹ In the early 1850s, Norwegians established settlements at Red Wing, Houston, and Nicollet, and in Fillmore, Carver, and Dodge counties.²⁰ Beginning in 1854, railroads from the eastern United States reached the Mississippi River, increasing the flow of immigrants from 5,000 a season to about 35,000 a year.²¹ Settlers also traveled by steamer with the option of stopping at “any point on the Mississippi River from St. Louis to St. Paul.”²²

Norwegians were the third largest group of settlers in Minnesota and predominated in the Sogn

¹⁷ John R. Borchert and Neil C. Gustafson, Atlas of Minnesota Resources and Settlement (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 1980), 199.

¹⁸ Edward Van Dyke Robinson, Early Economic Conditions and the Development of Agriculture in Minnesota (Minneapolis: Bulletin of the University of Minnesota, March 1915), 43.

¹⁹ Borchert and Gustafson, 205.

²⁰ “100 Years of Farming,” The Farmer, April 2, 1949.

²¹ Robinson, 44.

²² “Minnesota: its advantages to settlers, 1869,” 39 (from Pioneering the Upper Midwest, web site, Library of Congress).

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Valley.²³ Beginning in the early 1800s, Norwegian settlement of Minnesota occurred in successive stages beginning in the southeastern corner of Minnesota, then spreading westward and northwestward.²⁴ Norwegians came to Minnesota in three types of groups: (1) older settlers from the Norwegian colonies in Illinois, Wisconsin, and Iowa; (2) immigrants who stopped off a year or two in Wisconsin and then came to Minnesota; and (3) immigrants who came directly to Minnesota from Norway.²⁵

Settlers' nativity in the Nansen Agricultural Historic District included Norway, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. For example, A.G. Flom, born in Norway in 1848 and his wife Helena, born in Norway in 1845, arrived and settled in Goodhue County by 1871.²⁶ By 1877, the Floms owned 160 acres of land. Norwegian-born B. Knutson Norsving and his wife, Syneva, arrived in Minnesota by 1871 and owned a farm within the district by 1877.²⁷ In another example, Nels and Christina Mikkelson made a stop in Wisconsin prior to settling in the Sogn Valley by 1877 (GD-HOL-042).²⁸ Halvar and Rangan Pynten and their children, John and Ole, who settled the Ole H. Pynten Farm (GD-HOL-004) were all born in Norway.²⁹

Some of the immigrants entering southeastern Minnesota in the spring of 1855 stopped in Wanamingo Township. The first Norwegians came from Washington Prairie, Iowa, and Valdres, Norway. When they found all the land had been claimed, they traveled 6 miles northwest into Holden Township and found land along the Little Cannon River in the Sogn Valley. Holden was not as exclusively Norwegian as Wanamingo Township, as Germans began settling the western part of the township in 1855. However, Holden and Wanamingo townships were the center of the Norwegian colony in Goodhue County.³⁰ The 1877 plat map shows Norwegian names, such as Simonson, Melhus, and Dalbotten, in eastern Holden Township and throughout Wanamingo Township, while the 1885 census records confirm the nativity of these early settlers.

²³ The Germans were the largest immigrant group in Minnesota, the Swedes the second largest.

²⁴ Carlton C. Qualey, "Pioneer Norwegian Settlement in Minnesota," in Minnesota History, (12:247-280), 247.

²⁵ Nydahl, 14.

²⁶ Minnesota Census, 1885, population.

²⁷ Minnesota Census, 1885, population; Map of Goodhue County, Minnesota, (1877).

²⁸ Minnesota Census, 1860, 1885, population.

²⁹ Minnesota Census, 1885, population.

³⁰ Nydahl, 14, 30.

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Warsaw Township, which constitutes the uppermost portion of the Nansen Agricultural Historic District, was also settled predominantly by Norwegians. During 1855 and 1856, Warsaw Township was claimed by Norwegians and Yankees – the Yankees locating in the north and the Norwegians in the south.³¹ The 1877 plat map shows Norwegian names, such as Ole A. Flom, in southern Warsaw Township, while the 1885 census records confirm the nativity of this early settler.

All the government land in Holden and Warsaw townships had been claimed by the fall of 1855, and by 1856 virtually all of the land of Goodhue County had been claimed. Settlers who came in after 1856 commonly purchased farms from previous settlers, many of whom were Yankees. It is surmised that these Yankees purchased land for speculative purposes, as many sold their land to incoming Scandinavians. Thus, land often changed ownership several times in the 1850s, 60s, and 70s.³² As noted in an 1869 advertisement promoting the state and its agricultural capacity: “Good wild land can be had from second hands at from \$1.00 to \$15.00 per acre, according to the distance from good trading towns, steamboat landings, and railroads.”³³

Circulation and communication networks were established in the Sogn Valley in the mid-1850s. The first state road was laid out in the southern section of the Sogn Valley area in 1856, and in 1857 a post office was established in the township on this road at the hamlet of Norway.³⁴ By the late 1860s and 1870s, the railroad brought increasing numbers of immigrants to Minnesota. The first railroad came near the Sogn Valley in 1869, stopping in Owatonna; and 10 years later a railroad line stopped in Goodhue County at Zumbrota, southeast of the Sogn Valley. As Minnesota’s agricultural potential became evident, many Norwegian immigrants made the state their destination and the railroad enabled them to come to Minnesota directly, rather than stopping off in Wisconsin or Iowa.³⁵ By the mid-1870s Norwegians had claimed much of Minnesota’s desirable farming land.³⁶

The present roadway network had largely evolved by 1877 as shown on the plat map of Goodhue

³¹ Nydahl, 33.

³² Nydahl, 33-37.

³³ “Minnesota: its advantages to settlers, 1869,” 39.

³⁴ C.A. Rasmussen, A History of Goodhue County, Minnesota, (United States: s.n., 1935), 160.

³⁵ Qualey, “Pioneer Norwegian Settlement in Minnesota,” 249, 250.

³⁶ Qualey, “Pioneer Norwegian Settlement in Minnesota,” 252.

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County from this year. Though route names and numbers have changed, in some instances more than once, the course of the roads has remained largely the same. A couple segments of road have been relocated or abandoned, but the majority of the network continues to serve the transportation needs of district residents. With the exception of Co. Hwy. 14, the Sogn Valley's narrow roads are gravel or dirt.

Nansen

Outside the county's larger communities, hamlets catered primarily to the local markets, as well as servicing the surrounding agricultural region. In the Sogn Valley, a few small hamlets – Sogn, Nansen, and Norway – with not much more than a post office and general store – formed to serve the daily needs of the farmers. The village of Sogn, located just north of the Nansen Agricultural Historic District, included a general store, post office (1892-1903), blacksmith shop, garage, and a cheese factory. Norwegian was the main language spoken in town.³⁷ Sogn retains its cheese factory and several homes, but lacks integrity as a hamlet due to the loss and alteration of many of its historic buildings.

Tucked into the hills of the Sogn Valley, a few miles south of Sogn, the hamlet of Nansen was established in 1898. Located in Holden Township, Nansen was named after the Arctic explorer, Fridtjof Nansen. Although it was not a village of much consequence, Nansen did have a post office (1898-1905), general store, and cheese factory. The Nansen store and post office were located on the Ole H. Pynten Farm (GD-HOL-004). The post office closed with the establishment of rural delivery service. The general store served local residents until it was destroyed by a fire in July 1936.³⁸ The hamlet served as a center for social activities, including dances at the second floor of the cheese factory and ball games in the field across the road from the factory and store.

Nansen's extant cheese factory and whey house (GD-HOL-004) is the second cheese factory on the property and the only surviving features of this former hamlet. Local farmers attempted to form a cooperative in 1913, but it was not until 1921 that a farmer's group gained possession of the factory and began the Nansen Cooperative Dairy Association. In 1938 the membership reached its peak with more than 50 members. Due to competition from larger concerns, the cheese factory was closed in 1956.³⁹

³⁷ Dottie Hammer, "Sogn – Then and Now," Goodhue County Historical Society vertical files, 1975, n.p.

³⁸ Harold Severson, ed., "We give you Kenyon," 70.

³⁹ Severson, 70.

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***Agriculture
Subsistence Farming (mid-1850s-1860s)***

Norwegian settlers in the Sogn Valley initially practiced subsistence farming, growing only enough crops to feed their families and stock animals. An early advertisement targeted at prospective settlers highlighted Minnesota's farming potential and recommended: "Those who intend to open farms should be here in the spring, so as to have their ground breaking done before the first of August." Estimates for purchasing and breaking land, hiring laborers, and buying lumber for houses were also offered.⁴⁰

Pre-settlement vegetation in Goodhue County was mainly mixed grassland and hardwood forest, so settlers improved land by clearing woodlands, hauling away the wood, cultivating the grassy prairie soil, and building temporary structures. Early structures were commonly a log cabin or a "dugout." Settlers built dugouts by digging into the side of a hill and constructing log or limestone walls on three sides. These primitive shelters were often used for several years, until a permanent house could be built. Settlers often built on top of a dugout, using the early rock structure as a foundation for the new house.

Farm implements introduced in Minnesota in the 1850s included the reaper, which was designed for cutting both grains and hay. At this time, most plows were homemade or fashioned by a local blacksmith. Breaking plows were used extensively for clearing land during this decade. The first threshing machines also appeared in the state, serving to separate grain from the straw. Nearly all the machinery, including horse rakes, spades, and hoes used in the state were imported from the east at a significant expense. In what may have been typical for southeastern Minnesota, a Fillmore County pioneer listed the farm equipment owned by local farmers, including lumber wagons, sleighs, plows, scythes, spades, shovels, and iron wedges.⁴¹

Residential buildings were usually sited near a spring or creek to provide easy access to water, and near the edge of a forest to be near a wood supply. Shelters were often built on the lee side of a hill to provide protection against the wind. Over a period of time, settlers added livestock and increased their agricultural activities. Small outbuildings were constructed to house animals, equipment, and used for crop storage and production.⁴² Larger barns were uncommon in early

⁴⁰ "Minnesota: its advantages to settlers, 1869," 39.

⁴¹ Merrill E. Jarchow, "Farm Machinery in Frontier Minnesota," Vol. 23 of Minnesota History (1942), 316-27.

⁴² Carlton C. Qualey, "A Typical Norwegian Settlement: Spring Grove, Minnesota," (Norwegian American Studies and Records, 9:54:66, 1936), 60.

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years.⁴³

Specialized Wheat Farming (1860s-1880s)

Settlers continued subsistence farming until improved transportation and progress in opening land for cultivation made a cash crop economy possible.⁴⁴ Wheat first became the leading crop in the southeastern section of Minnesota, along the Mississippi and adjacent to older wheat-raising districts, and later spread north and west.⁴⁵ In 1856, Fife (hard spring) wheat was introduced in Minnesota, and by the 1860s, this type of wheat was almost exclusively grown.

Wheat was well suited to the soil and climate of Goodhue County and was the county's first cash crop. The county produced more than 150,000 bushels of wheat in 1860. By 1880, Goodhue had nearly 200,000 acres in wheat, producing a crop of more than 2.4 million bushels.⁴⁶ The fields that were used for grain growing in the early pioneering years were small and widely scattered. Fields were commonly marked by zig-zag wooden rail fencing.⁴⁷

The amount of Goodhue County land occupied by farms increased from about 128,000 acres in 1860 to 428,000 acres in 1880.⁴⁸ The county had 773 farms in 1860 with an average size of 166.1 acres and 9.6 people on each farm; by 1880, Goodhue County had 3,306 farms with an average of 129.5 acres and 6.5 residents.⁴⁹ During this same period, the county's population more than tripled from 8,977 to 29,651.⁵⁰

Specialized wheat farming had an effect on the circulation routes of the county. Grain roads emerged as farmers found it necessary to transport their crops to market. Several grain routes out of Goodhue County led to the two major grain markets in Hastings and Red Wing. Many

⁴³ "Minnesota: its advantages to settlers, 1869," 39.

⁴⁴ "Goodhue County Survey of Standing Structures," (Goodhue County Site Inventory Files, Minnesota Historical Society, 1978), n.p.

⁴⁵ Robinson, 45.

⁴⁶ Robinson, 260.

⁴⁷ Nydahl, 45.

⁴⁸ Robinson, 248.

⁴⁹ Robinson, 256, and 300-01.

⁵⁰ Robinson, 252.

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Norwegians in Warsaw and Holden townships used Hastings as their grain market more commonly than they used Red Wing, and traveled a road that was located 1 mile east of the county's western border. This road followed a northerly route and crossed the Cannon River at a point just below the town of Randolph.⁵¹ These old routes generally followed higher ground in order to circumvent marshes and densely wooded areas. Today, county and state highways tend to follow these early grain roads, many of which took the shortest possible route across the county and ran in a diagonal line, cutting across section lines.⁵²

Although it was only a temporary phenomenon, the wheat boom transformed the living standards of Goodhue County farmers. Farmers were elevated from the difficult and arduous period of settlement to a new level of prosperity that has continued, with only minor interruptions, to this day. It was during this period of prosperity that many farmers were able to abandon their primitive log cabins and barns, and erect substantial, commodious farm buildings, many of which are still standing.⁵³ Today, many of the Sogn Valley farms retain the small, gable-roofed granaries that are characteristic structures of the wheat farming industry. During the period of specialized wheat farming, farm sizes within the district ranged between about 80 and 200 acres.⁵⁴

Diversified Farming Trends: 1880s-1920s

In spite of the prosperity of wheat, different types of agriculture began to prevail in Goodhue County as early as 1873. For example, in 1874 Goodhue County had wheat crops, cows, and wool production and, together with three other southeastern counties, contributed to nearly 33 percent of the state's hay crop.⁵⁵ By the 1880s, factors arose that greatly reduced the importance of wheat in the agricultural economy of Goodhue County. Crop failures created high prices and poor yields in the state in the late 1870s.⁵⁶ The main cause of wheat production decline was the practice of overplanting, which caused soil fertility deterioration after several decades of single-crop planting. Moreover, chinch bugs and other pests appeared in the early 1880s, which led to almost total crop failure.

⁵¹ Nydahl, 48.

⁵² Nydahl, 49.

⁵³ "Goodhue County Survey of Standing Structures."

⁵⁴ Map of Goodhue County, Minnesota (Red Wing, Minn.: Warner & Foote, 1877).

⁵⁵ Robinson, 79.

⁵⁶ Robinson, 79.

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These factors resulted in a near abandonment of wheat-growing by Goodhue County farmers. The number of acres of wheat dropped from 199,142 acres in 1880 to 32,580 acres in 1890.⁵⁷ During the same decade, the number of acres in oats more than doubled from 29,794 in 1880 to 59,266 in 1890.⁵⁸ Acres in hay and corn also doubled, while county acreage planted in barley quadrupled during this decade.⁵⁹

Although wheat continued to be grown after this time, it was only one of several crops in a more diversified agricultural scheme.⁶⁰ This diversified agricultural scheme included planting corn, oats, barley, rye, hay, alfalfa, potatoes, and flax. These were planted in shifts, in relationship to market conditions. By planting a variety of crops, farmers were able to recondition the depleted soil. Many farmers, especially those in the hillier sections, turned toward stock-raising as their principal means of support.⁶¹

Between 1880 and 1910, the percent of Goodhue County land in farms increased from 87.2 to 94.1 percent.⁶² The number of farms decreased however, falling from 3,306 in 1880 to 3,040 in 1910.⁶³ Following this trend, the average size of a county farm grew from 129.5 acres in 1880 to 152 acres in 1910.⁶⁴ The county's population remained relatively flat during this period, with only about 2,000 residents added to the 1880 count of 29,651.⁶⁵

A discourse written in 1890 advised farmers to change their practice of relying upon wheat and raise other grains, as well as livestock.⁶⁶ Another recommends against expending all one's labor

⁵⁷ Robinson, 260.

⁵⁸ Robinson, 261.

⁵⁹ Robinson, 263, 264, and 273.

⁶⁰ "Goodhue County Survey of Standing Structures."

⁶¹ "Goodhue County Survey of Standing Structures."

⁶² Robinson, 248.

⁶³ Robinson, 257.

⁶⁴ Robinson, 301.

⁶⁵ Robinson, 253.

⁶⁶ N.W. McLain, "A Sermon on the Gospel of 'Mixed Farming' by an 'Ex-Bonanza Farmer,'" *Diversified Farming in Minnesota* (N.p., 1890?), 8.

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and skill upon a single crop and suggests that the farmer become well acquainted with the soil, climate, and market demands in order to choose which crops to produce.⁶⁷ Development associations operating in Minnesota during the 1910s encouraged bigger and better crops, including corn, potatoes, and alfalfa. County agricultural agents also worked to develop agriculture in the state.⁶⁸

Labeled as a “stock and grain farm” on the 1894 plat map, the 80-acre K. Estrem Farm (GD-HOL-022) and the 80-acre O. I. Haugen Farm (GD-HOL-031) exemplified diversification of farming practices. Henry Johnson Lee’s 1898 gambrel barn (GD-HOL-034) and Martin A. Flom’s 1913 gambrel bank barn (GD-HOL-030) both date from the diversification era. The introduction of the gambrel barn type demonstrated the need for a new type of agricultural building resulting from changes in agricultural production.

Though most farms in the district remained between 80 and 200 acres, some farms grew during the era of diversification. Ole A. Flom consolidated two farms when he purchased 120 acres from neighbor Peter Olson sometime between 1877 and 1894, bringing the Flom Farm (GD-WAR-023) size to 200 acres. Similarly, 44.5 acres were added to the Ole A. Melhouse Farm (GD-WAR-026) during this period, bringing its total to 284.75.⁶⁹ The original 80-acre Severson Farm was purchased by neighbor P.O. Underdahl (GD-HOL-044) by 1914, making a 160-acre farm. The farm had expanded again by 1916 as Underdahl added another 40 acres. In another example, the T. H. Braaten Farm (GD-HOL-048) grew from about 131 acres to 234 acres between 1916 and 1933.⁷⁰

By the 1870s and 1880s, the dairy industry was taking on major importance in southeastern counties. According to census reports, the number of dairy cattle in Goodhue County rose from 9,461 in 1880 to 21,667 in 1890, peaked in 1920 at 43,756, and leveled off at about 36,000 from 1940 through the 1960s.⁷¹ By 1900, Minnesota had joined Wisconsin, New York, and California as a premier dairy state.⁷² Goodhue County was one of the state’s leaders in cheese production.⁷³

⁶⁷ McLain, 3.

⁶⁸ Adolph P. Eberhart, “How the State of Minnesota is Making Strides in Better Farming,” The Banker-Farmer, July 1914.

⁶⁹ Map of Goodhue County, Minnesota (1877) and 1894 Plat Book of Goodhue County, Minnesota.

⁷⁰ Plat maps, 1894, 1914, 1916, and 1933.

⁷¹ Robinson, 276-77.

⁷² Clifford E. Clark, Jr. ed., Minnesota in a Century of Change: The State and its People Since 1900 (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1989), 270.

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With dairy herds growing to an average of 25 cows per farm, the small barns that were prevalent during the wheat period soon became outmoded. Many farmers began to erect entirely new structures designed especially for dairying, although some farmers were able to recycle smaller wheat barns by making additions and alterations. Especially after 1900, barns several times larger than their predecessors began appearing on farms throughout the county. After some experimentation, the long narrow gambrel-roofed form emerged as the most popular style for dairy barns.⁷⁴ Many of these gambrel forms, such as the c. 1900 barn on the Ole A. Melhous eFarm (GD-WAR-026), were built using timber frame construction. The dairy barns commonly have an attached milk house used for cooling and bottling milk, and a large silo, built of brick, tile, or concrete block. The gable roofed Iver Dalbotten/Oscar Maring barn (GD-HOL-017) has an attached milk house, while the Henry Johnson Lee Farm (GD-HOL-034) displays a fine brick silo.

Smaller barns were built for housing young calves. The Ole Charlson Farm (GD-WAR-024) includes a deteriorated calf barn with a shed roof. A frame calving shed with clapboard siding remains intact on the Iver Dalbotten/Oscar Maring Farm (GD-HOL-017).

Agricultural Continuance: 1920s-1948

In response to changes in technology and economic conditions, the agricultural economy of southeastern Minnesota fluctuated between 1920 and 1948. Federally assisted rural electrification projects brought electricity to even remote areas in the 1930s, easing daily tasks around the farm.⁷⁵ The Great Depression collapsed the farm economy, but government programs of the New Deal allowed many farmers to keep farming the land. World War II helped farmers out of the depression and into a period of increased agricultural production. Agricultural chemicals increased crop yields and diminished livestock losses.

Increased mechanization on the farm, such as the tractor, allowed farmers to work twice as much land with the same amount of time and labor. For example, between 1920 and 1940 the number of farms with tractors increased from 8 to 49 percent.⁷⁶ Continuing technological advances led to

⁷³ Robinson, 138.

⁷⁴ "Goodhue County Survey of Standing Structures."

⁷⁵ Robert A. Britton, "Minnesota Agriculture," Geography Department, Background Paper No. 5 (Science Museum of Minnesota, 1983), 7.

⁷⁶ Clark, 263.

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a general trend toward consolidation of farms after World War II as farmers were forced into greater production to meet increasing capital requirements. Statewide, the average farm size increased and the number of farms decreased. By 1950, nearly 85 percent of the state's farms had electrical power.⁷⁷ Consolidation has continued nationwide as the average farm size grew from 175 to 428 acres between 1940 and 1981.⁷⁸

The trend toward larger farms had little effect on the Nansen Agricultural Historic District. Though some district farms consolidated during the historic period – many by 1894 – the overall farm size changed little after World War II. Modifications have occurred to existing agricultural outbuildings, including additions and widening openings, and the construction of new outbuildings. For example, modern metal pole buildings have been added to the cluster of agricultural buildings at both the P. O. Underdahl Farm (GD-HOL-044) and the Anders Erickson Haugen Farm (GD-HOL-025) to accommodate new farm machinery.

Since World War II, urban development has encroached on agricultural lands in Minnesota, particularly within the Twin Cities commuting corridor. Statewide, the number of farms declined from 179,000 in 1950 to 99,000 by 1974. During this same period, the average size of farms increased statewide from 184 to 280 acres.⁷⁹

The Nansen Agricultural Historic District is unusual, considering these trends, in that it has remained largely unaffected by these changes. Guarded by the valley ridges, it retains many of the character-defining features that reflect a continuum of historic farming practices. At present, the district's largest farms are around 200 acres.⁸⁰ However, some farmers rent land from

⁷⁷ Theodore H. Fenske, "The Land Became Theirs . . . A Century of Farming," The Farmer (April 5, 1958), 10.

⁷⁸ John A. Jakle, Derelict Landscapes: The Wasting of America's Built Environment, (Roman & Littlefield, 1992), 198.

⁷⁹ Borchert and Gustafson, 61, 62.

⁸⁰ 1996 Land Atlas and Plat Book, Goodhue County, Minnesota (St. Cloud, Minn.: Cloud Cartographics,

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neighbors, leading to a greater overall farm size. Operating farms within the Sogn Valley district plant fields in crops such as corn, alfalfa, hay, and soybeans, and several farms keep dairy cattle. More recent agricultural practices within the district include tree farms, hobby farms, horse farms, and native prairie restorations.

Conclusion

The Nansen Agricultural Historic District is significant locally under *Criterion A: Agriculture*. Due to its high level of integrity, the district tangibly Nansen Agricultural Historic District has largely been unaffected by ex-urban development and retains historic landscape characteristics, including farms, field patterns, historic land uses, and transportation networks. Many farms have matured to century farm status, as younger generations continue their predecessor's tradition of farming. In comparison to surrounding areas, the district stands out as a distinguishable historic agricultural landscape.

Inc., 1996).

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UTM References

5	<u>1/5</u> Zone	<u>5/0/2/0/3/6</u> Easting	<u>4/9/0/9/0/2/2</u> Northing	8	<u>1/5</u> Zone	<u>5/0/4/0/8/4</u> Easting	<u>4/9/1/2/0/8/2</u> Northing
6	<u>1/5</u> Zone	<u>5/0/1/0/6/0</u> Easting	<u>4/9/0/9/0/3/8</u> Northing	9	<u>1/5</u> Zone	<u>5/0/4/0/8/6</u> Easting	<u>4/9/1/4/0/7/6</u> Northing
7	<u>1/5</u> Zone	<u>5/0/1/0/6/4</u> Easting	<u>4/9/1/2/0/8/2</u> Northing	10	<u>1/5</u> Zone	<u>5/0/5/0/2/8</u> Easting	<u>4/9/1/5/0/1/0</u> Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Nansen Agricultural Historic District is shown as the solid line on the accompanying map "Nansen Agricultural Historic District" and is delineated by the polygon whose vertices are marked by the UTM reference points listed above.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Nansen Agricultural Historic District encompasses a landscape that represents the area's agricultural heritage through the integrity of its resources. The valley's ridges create a visual and physical boundary for the district and were in large part the impetus for the district's edges. The topographical boundary line was then examined with an equal consideration to:

- The valley's physical character
- Continuity of historic resources
- Presence of new development and intrusions
- Historic property ownership

Historic property ownership lines from the *Atlas and Farmers' Directory of Goodhue County, Minnesota – 1914* define land ownership for a middle point of the district's period of significance (1870-1948).

The district boundary lines were refined by applying and assessing the effect these four factors have on the historic character of the area. The northern boundary line was adjusted to eliminate a concentration of noncontributing buildings by using the historic property ownership for the district's edge. The eastern boundary was assessed using the ridges of the valley as the visual

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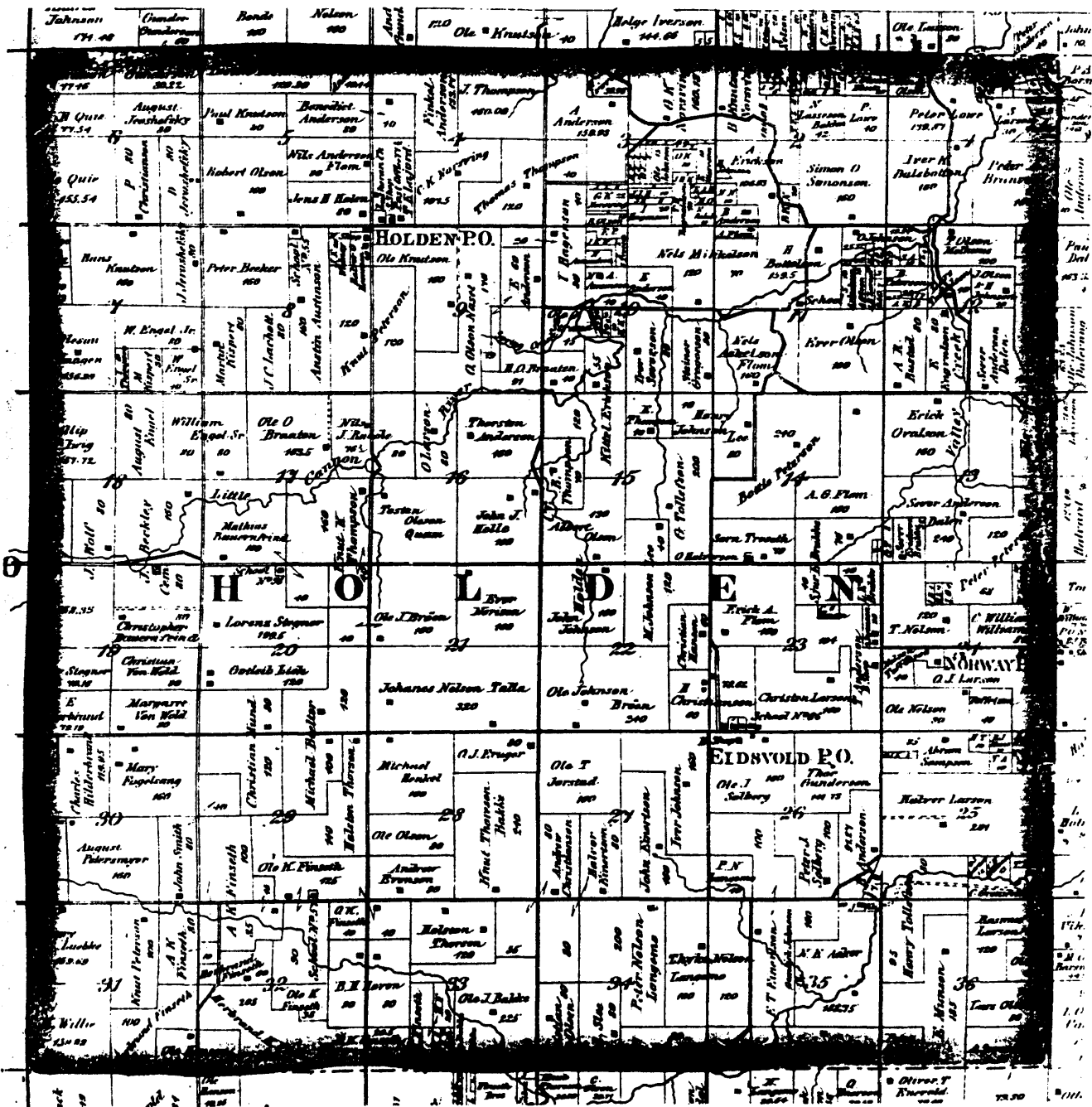
Nansen Agricultural Historic District
Goodhue County, Minnesota

barrier and eliminating concentrations of noncontributing resources beyond the ridges. The historic property ownership lines from 1914 generally follow a line along the tops of the ridges and were used as the district's eastern boundary line. The southern boundary was first delineated to border the top of the valley ridge and was refined based on the presence of contributing resources and the application of historic property ownership lines. The western boundary loosely follows the valley's ridges and was defined to eliminate Mn Hwy. 56, a two-lane paved highway, since its traffic is not in keeping with the rural character of the district. Mn Hwy. 56 is also at a higher elevation than the lower valley area. In general, the integrity of historic resources diminishes and the number of modern intrusions increases outside of the district boundaries.

Holden Township

Township 110 North

Range 18 West



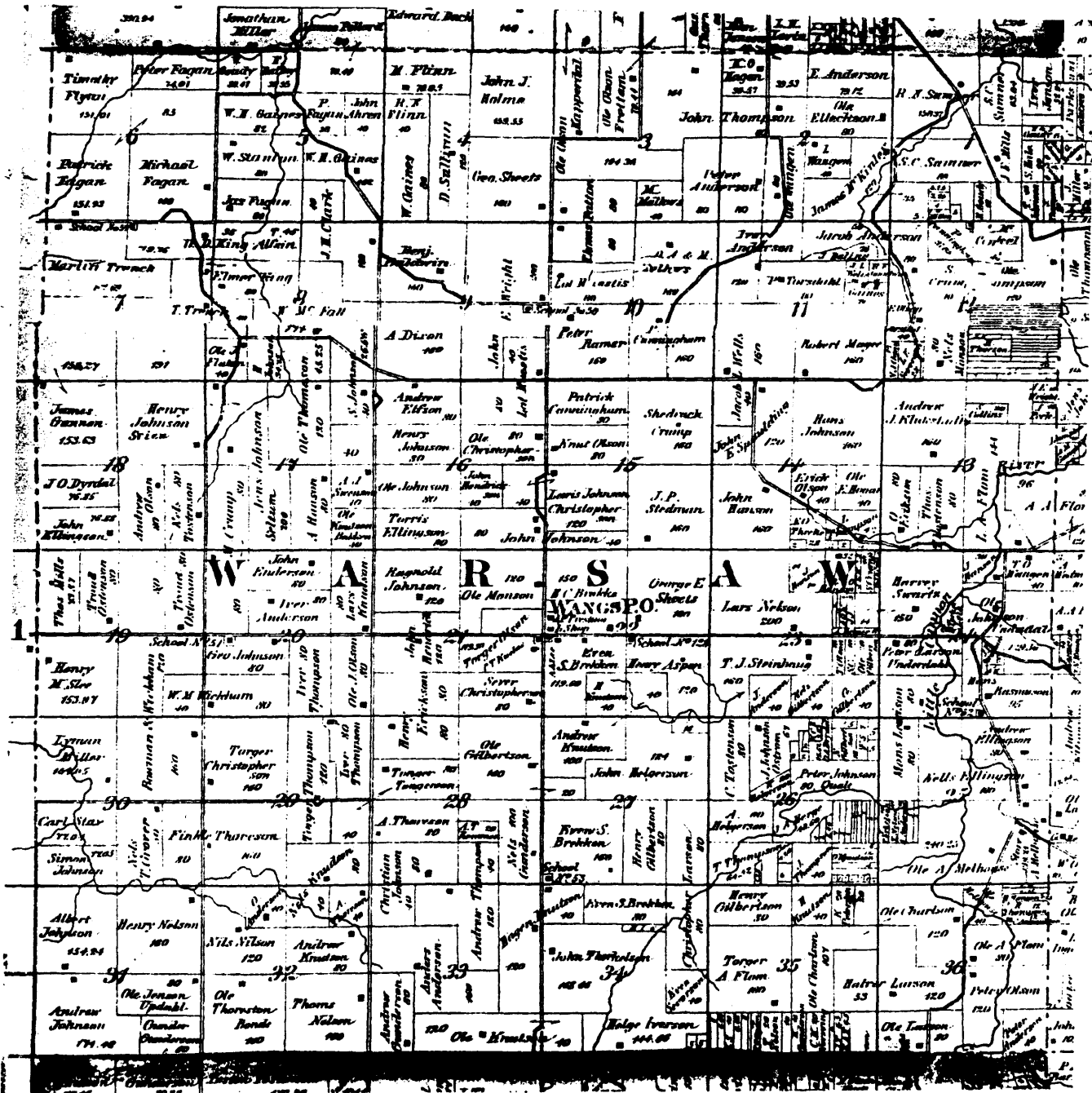
Map of Goodhue County, Minnesota
and vicinity. MN: Warner and Foote, 1877.

Nansen Agricultural Historic District
Goodhue County, Minnesota

Warsaw Township

Township 111 North

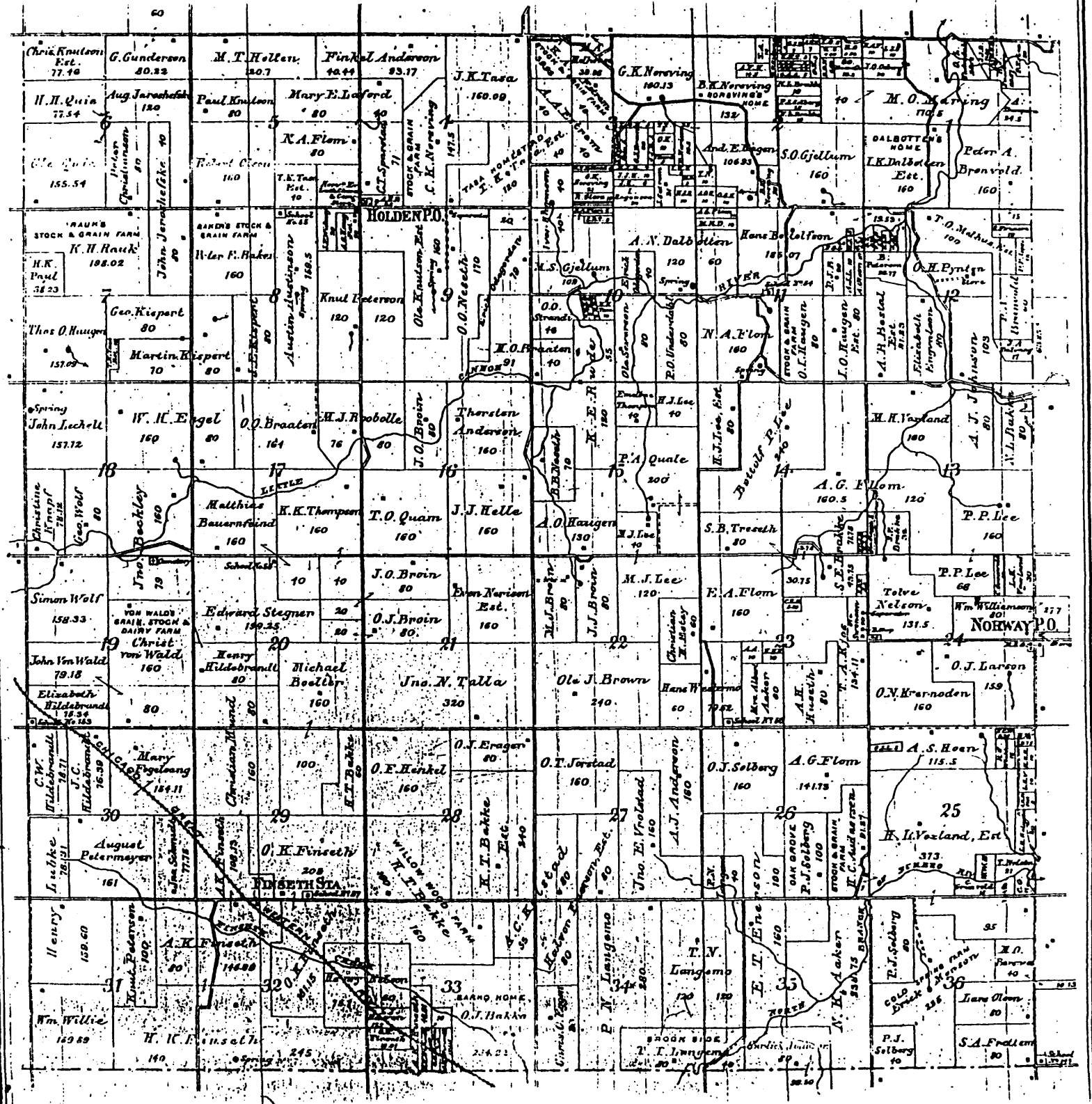
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Map of Goodhue County, Minnesota
Red Wing, Mn: Warner and Foote, 1877.

Holden Township
Goodhue County

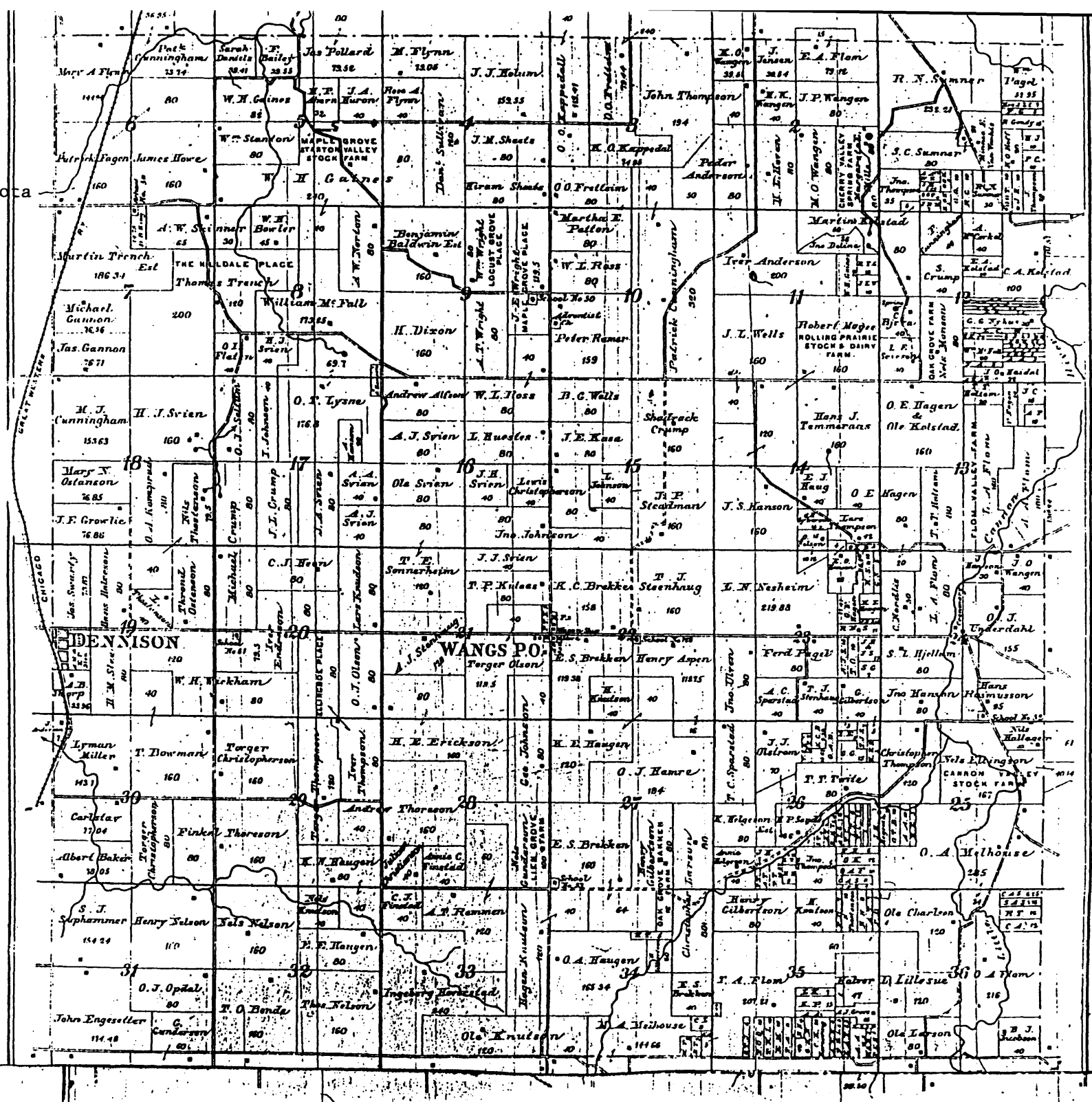
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Historic District
Goodhue County, Minnesota



1894 Plat Book of
Goodhue County, Mn
Minneapolis: C.M.
Foster and Co., 1894

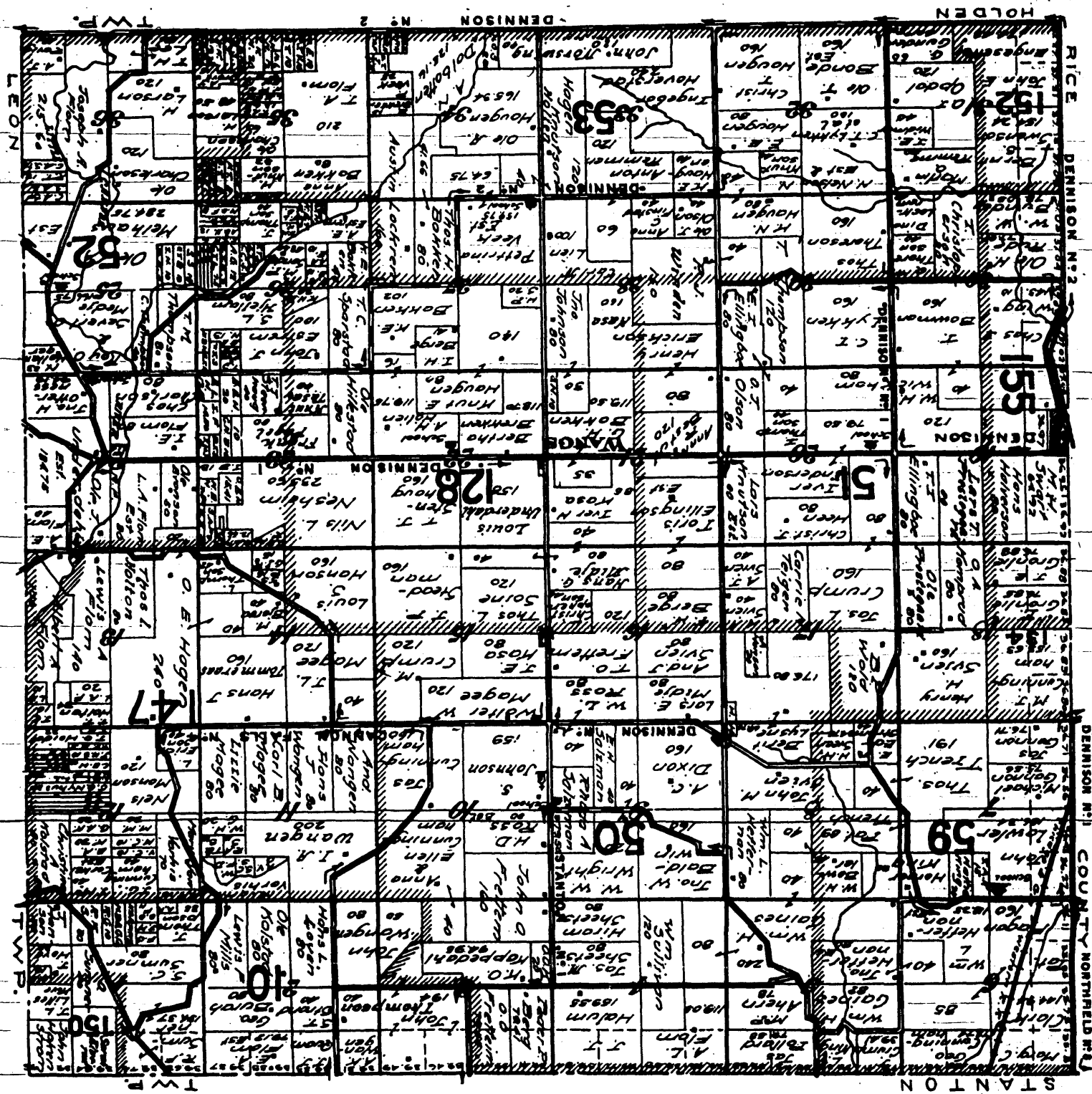
Warsaw Township
Goodhue County

Nansen Agricultural
Historic District
Goodhue County, Minnesota



1894 Plat Book of
Goodhue County, Mn
Minneapolis: C. M.
Foster + Co., 1894.

Atlas and Farmers' Directory of Goodhue County, Minnesota
 St Paul, Minn: Webb Publishing Co., 1914



Nansen Agricultural
 Historic District
 Goodhue County, Minnesota

Scale 1/4 inch to one mile

WARSAW

TOWNSHIP
 Township 111 North
 Range 18 West of the 5th P.M.
 GOODHUE COUNTY
 MINNESOTA

REFERENCES:
 Rail Road — School
 Wagon Road — Church
 Com. Line — Houses
 Creek — Cem.
 School Districts

MAP OF HOLDEN TOWNSHIP

Scale Inches to one Mile

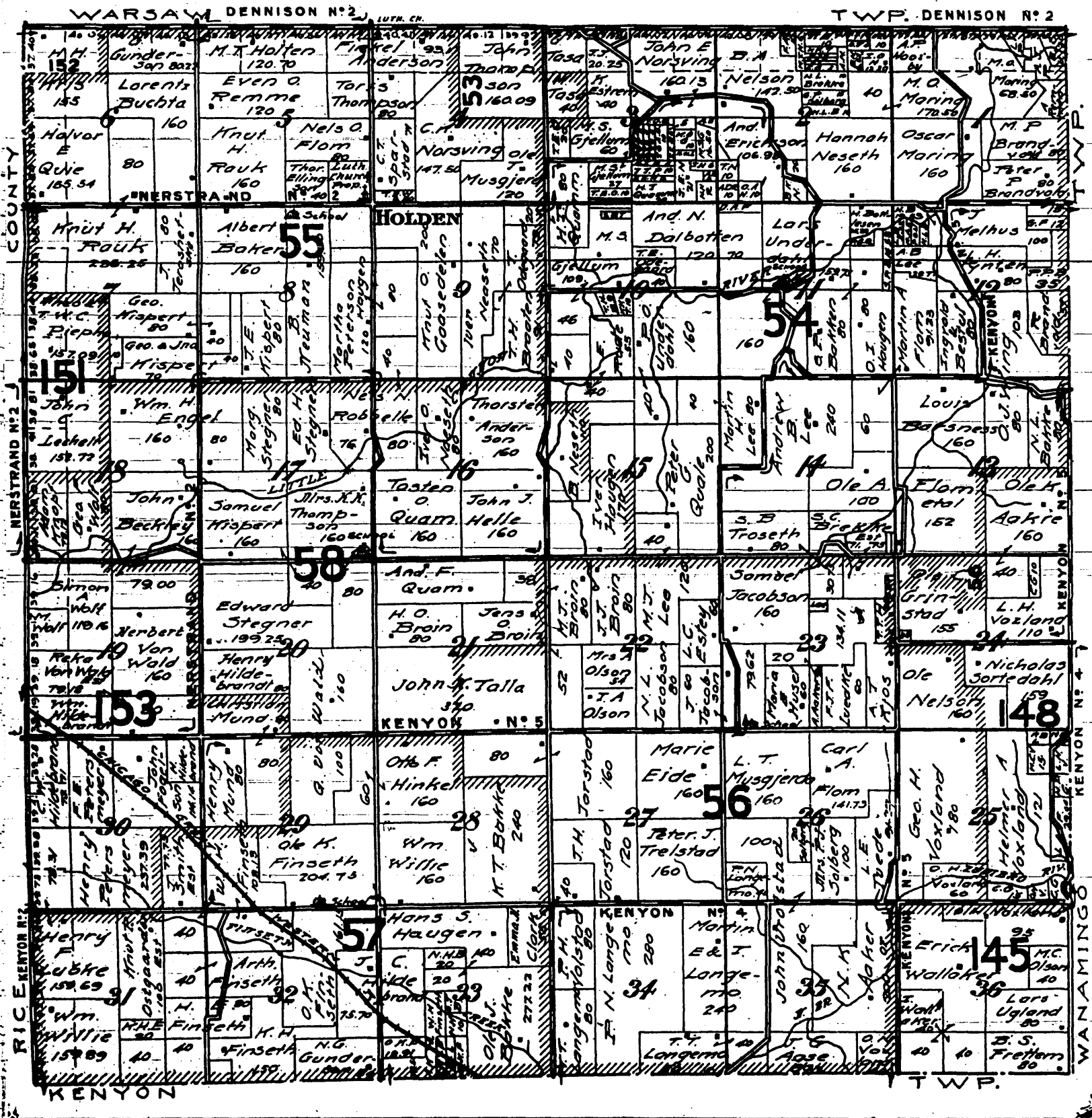
Township 110 North

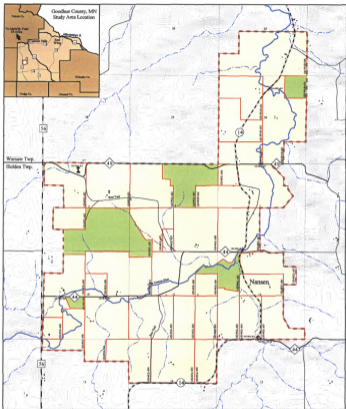
Range 18 West of the 5th P.M.

GOODHUE COUNTY MINNESOTA.

Nansen Agricultural
Historic District
Goodhue County, Minnesota

REFERENCES:
 Rail Road — School —
 Wagon Road — Church —
 Corp. Line — Houses —
 Creek — Cem. —
 School Districts





LEGEND

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| | Historic farm | | Nansen Agricultural Historic District boundary |
| | Historic woodlot | | Watershed boundary |
| | Watershed boundary | | IF boundary |
| | Bridge | | State highway |
| | Nansen Agricultural Historic District boundary | | County road and highway |
| | Watershed boundary | | County road |
| | IF boundary | | Township road |
| | IF boundary | | Section line |



**Nansen
Agricultural
Historic District**
Goodhue County, Minnesota
Historic Features

April, 1999

Source: McCreff, Kathleen; Mary J. Johnson, Land Surveyor (1998), Sage Valley Rural Historic District Draft National Register, Registration Form, Map and Plans (1998), GSDP Draft Map

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY NAME: Nansen Agricultural Historic District

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MINNESOTA, Goodhue

DATE RECEIVED: 1/09/01 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/24/01
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 00001372

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 _____ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Additional Documentation Accepted

RECOM./CRITERIA *Accept*

REVIEWER *Edson Beall* DISCIPLINE *Historian*

TELEPHONE _____ DATE *2/5/01*

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

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Sogn Valley Rural Historic District
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Historic Name	Address	Inventory No.	Historic Acreage <i>*taken from 1914 atlas</i>	Resource Type	Resource Description	Contributing	Non-Contributing
Bestal Farm	41525 Co. Hwy. 14	GD-HOL-014	80	House	c. 1913, two-story Colonial Revival style, frame construction	1 (B)	
				Barn	Gambrel form, metal construction		1 (B)
				Granary	Gable with frame construction	1 (B)	
				Windrow	Located on north side about 50 ft from the house	1 (S)	
				Agricultural Fields		1 (S)	
Total resource count						2 (B) 2 (S)	1 (B)

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Resource Type	Inventory No.	Approximate Location	Resource Description	Contributing	Non-Contributing
Woodlots	GD-WAR-29	T111-R-18-36 (NE Section)	Approximately 40 wooded acres (<i>*taken from 1914 atlas</i>) divided into small parcels	1 (S)	
	GD-HOL-054	T110-R18-2 (NE Section)	Approximately 120 wooded acres (<i>*taken from 1914 atlas</i>) divided into small parcels	1 (S)	
	GD-HOL-055	T110-18-3 (SE Section)	Approximately 160 wooded acres (<i>*taken from 1914 atlas</i>) divided into small parcels	1 (S)	
	GD-HOL-056	T110-18-12 (NW Section)	Approximately 40 wooded acres (<i>*taken from 1914 atlas</i>) divided into small parcels	1 (S)	
	GD-HOL-060	T110-R-18-10 (SW Section)	Approximately 20 wooded acres (<i>*taken from 1914 atlas</i>) divided into small parcels	1 (S)	
Holden-Warsaw Cemetery (Old Hauge Cemetery)	GD-HOL-053	T110-R18-3 (NE Section)	Five extant stones. Twenty grave sites used from 1855 to 1904 Located off of Bow Trail near the Warsaw Township line	1 (S)	
Total resource count				6 (S)	