

**MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM**

JAN 29 1980

HISTORIC NAME: Wulf C. Krabbenhoft Farmstead COUNTY: Clay

CURRENT NAME: Otto W. Krabbenhoft Farmstead CITY/TWP.: Elmwood Township

LEGAL DESC.: SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 4, T. 138, R. 47, and NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 9, T. 138, R. 47. From a point on County Road 69, 1000' east of the SW corner of Section 4: 350' north, 400' east, 500' south, 100' west, 150' north, and 300' west to point of origin.

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <u>X</u>	Excellent <u>X</u>	Local <u>X</u>	Primary <u>Agriculture</u>
Structure _____	Good _____	State _____	Secondary _____
Object _____	Fair _____	National _____	Others _____
District _____	Deteriorated _____		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:	Yes ___ No <u>X</u> Restricted ___	PRESENT USE:
VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD:	Yes <u>X</u> No ___	Residence, farmstead
OCCUPIED:	Yes <u>X</u> No ___	

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1890-1910 ORIGINAL USE: Farmstead

ORIGINAL OWNER: Wulf C. Krabbenhoft ARCHITECT/BUILDER:

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Otto C. Krabbenhoft Sabin, Minnesota	ACREAGE: Less than one acre 3-4 acres
---	--

LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.:	UTM REFERENCE: 14 / 681210 / 5184380 Sabin 7.5 quad.
FORM PREPARED BY: Tom Harvey	
DATE: October 1979	

**DESCRIPTION:**

The Krabbenhoft farmstead, located on the east bank of the Buffalo River, consists of five principal buildings. (Some minor buildings, including a garage and outhouse, are not included in the nomination). The five buildings include the residence and four agriculturally oriented structures, including a grain elevator, horse barn, cow barn, and machine shed.

- Farmhouse: The 1901 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -story, central-hall ell plan farmhouse shows elements of several architectural styles. The south facing symmetrical front facade has a projecting entrance pavillion with projecting cornice. The first level is an open porch with turned columns, spindles along the porch frieze, and machine-carved brackets. The open pavillion gable has a Palladian window and decorative eave trim. The pavillion is flanked on each side by four windows, two on each floor. The east side facade has a multi-paned picture window and the west facade has a bay window. The ell wing extends off the northwest corner and has a screened porch with decorative woodwork on its east side. The roof of the main portion of the house is a slightly bell cast truncated hip, with dormers on the east and west sides, and wrought iron roof cresting. The elements add up to a mix of classical and Queen Anne styles.
- Grain Elevator: The 1911 grain elevator has a capacity of 12,000 bushels of grain. The elevator is of the same design as found at rail sidings, though its diminished scale and broader, but lower, shape, give the elevator a distinctive appearance. The rear loading ramp located on the north side is suitable for wagon use only.
- Cow Barn: The small cow barn, constructed in 1900 with a later shed addition, is now used to house chickens. The barn has a small vented cupola with a cross-gable roof located on the barn's gable roof ridge.
- Horse Barn: Constructed in 1890, the horse barn was originally located southwest of the house. It was moved to its present location about 1945. The barn is almost an enlarged version of the cow barn with its gable roof and cross-gabled cupola. The horse barn has an extended hay hood and a stamped-metal horse motif weather vane.
- Machine Shed: Located across the township road opposite the horse barn is the 1905 machine shed. The machine shed has a low-gable roof, double swinging doors and a diamond-shaped window above the doorway.

The farm buildings are kept in immaculate condition. The red with white trim agricultural structures, arranged in a L-plan around an open-field, contrast sharply with the white-clapboard dwelling.

JAN 29 1980

Wulf C. Krabbenhoft Farmstead - continued

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Krabbenhoft farmstead is an outstanding example of a successful Red River Valley family farm of the turn-of-the-century. The agricultural success of Wulf C. Krabbenhoft is reflected in the house and farm structures. Krabbenhoft left Germany in 1866 and lived in Iowa and California before homesteading in Clay County in 1872. He purchased the site of the present farmstead and, along with other purchases, increased his holdings to 1,880 acres. A 1918 county history comments on the private grain elevator as a symbol of his success, "He was an excellent farmer and... had an admirable farm plant in full keeping with his extensive operations, one of the features of which was a grain elevator of his own." The Krabbenhoft farmstead stands in comparison to the corporate bonanza farms established in the Red River Valley. Otto Krabbenhoft, the youngest son of W.C. Krabbenhoft, now owns the farm.

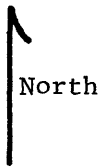
Source: History of Clay and Norman Counties, John Turner and C.K. Semling, editors. B.F. Bowen and Company, Indianapolis, 1918.

MAY 7 1980

KRABbenhOFT FARMSTEAD  
Elmwood Township  
Clay County, Minnesota

SITE PLAN

JAN 29 1980



South Branch Buffalo River



House



Hedge



Grain Elevator



Cow Barn



Horse Barn



Township Road



Machine Shed

MAY 7 1980

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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

---

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper Melvin Lynn  
11/19/89

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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

---

**Note: These changes apply to  
Krabbenhof, Wulf C., Farmstead in  
Clay County, Minnesota.**

**REFERENCE NUMBER:** 80002021

**STATE:** MINNESOTA

**COUNTY:** Clay

**RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC):**

**CITY:**

**VICINITY OF:**

**ADDRESS:** Co. Rd. 69

**CERTIFICATION DATE:**

**REMOVED DATE:**

**COMMENTS:**

*Nina M. Archabal*

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

JUN 17 1988

**Date**