

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Poplar Rural District
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number See continuation sheet N/A not for publication
city, towns/site number Jacksonville X vicinity
state Iowa code IA county Audubon, Shelby code 009, 165 zip code 51447

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>29</u>	<u>15</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<u>36</u>	<u>19</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: See continuation sheet
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

David [Signature] 8/13/91
Signature of certifying official Date

State Historical Society of Iowa

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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.

removed for the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Beth Boland 4/9/92

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

DOMESTIC/single dwellingAGRICULTURE/animal facilityAGRICULTURE/outbuildingEDUCATION/school

Current Functions

DOMESTIC/single dwellingAGRICULTURE/animal facilityAGRICULTURE/outbuildingVACANT/NOT IN USE**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

Other: Four-Square House TypeOther: Transverse-Frame Barn TypeOther: Midwest Three-Portal Barn Type

Materials

foundation concretewalls wood/weatherboardroof asphaltother wood/shingleglass

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Poplar Rural District encompasses the archaeological remains and cemetery of the rural Danish community Poplar and the best preserved architectural resources of the Jackson #1 School District of that community. The school is prominently sited on a hilltop at the center of the district at the junction of Sections 1, 2, 11, and 12 of Jackson Township, Shelby County, Iowa, with portions of the archaeological townsite extending into the southeast corner of Polk Township in Shelby County and the northwest corner of Sharon Township in Audubon County. With its broad vistas overlooking the rolling farmland of many of the ten farms within the district, the school serves as a focal point for the historic district. The houses are the second homes built for the Danish immigrant settlers by locally prominent Danish immigrant carpenters and their apprentices, such as Carl V. Andersen, Hans P. Boldt, and James Barmington. Barns and outbuildings, keys to the economic success of the immigrant farmers and evidence of their prosperity, were also built by these carpenters, most of whom were headquartered in the town of Jacksonville, such as the early carpenter gang led by Hans P. Boldt. The continuity of structural and decorative elements handed down through the Jacksonville gangs from 1884 until the mid-1900s creates a unifying element in the district. Because of the high degree of preservation of resources and the relative paucity of modern intrusions, the district is unique in retaining much of the feel of the turn-of-the-century rural Danish community.

A total of 55 resources were counted as either contributing or noncontributing to this district. Of these, 36 (65%) are contributing and 19 (35%) are noncontributing. Sheds, metal grain bins, and small outbuildings of indeterminate age and function were not counted. None of the latter are of large scale or highly visible on the landscape.

The 36 contributing resources include 3 houses, 12 barns, 14 outbuildings, 3 corn cribs, 2 granaries/corn cribs, 1 concrete post fence line, and the landscape of the district itself. Landscape components include the siting of the farmsteads on either hilltops or hillslopes, with the latter appearing to have some ethnic linkage with a preference by Danish immigrants to locate their farmsteads on sheltered hillslopes as well as the known and potential archaeological resources of former buildings, sites, and structures.

The only archaeological site recorded to date within the district boundaries is that of the Poplar townsite, which has been designated by two site numbers because it is situated in both Shelby and Audubon counties. This site includes the archaeological remains of the commercial buildings and the church of the former community as well as the remains of the church cemetery. The individual eligibility of this archaeological site could not be determined by the present investigation, therefore, it cannot be individually counted as a contributing or noncontributing resource. It is recommended that a Phase II archaeological investigation be conducted to evaluate the significance of this archaeological

XSee continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

	<u>X</u> nationally	<u>X</u> statewide	<u>X</u> locally				
Applicable National Register Criteria	<u>X</u> A	_B	<u>X</u> C	_D			
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)	_A	_B	_C	_D	_E	_F	_G
Areas of Significance				Period of Significance	Significant Dates		
<u>ETHNIC HERITAGE/European</u>				<u>1884-1923</u>	<u>1884</u>		
<u>ARCHITECTURE</u>							
<u>AGRICULTURE</u>							
				Cultural Affiliation			
				<u>N/A</u>			
Significant Person				Architect/Builder			
<u>N/A</u>				<u>Andersen, Carl Viktor; Boldt, Hans P.;</u>			
				<u>Barmington, James F.</u>			

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Poplar Rural District is significant at the national and state levels under National Register Criterion A within the multiple property historic contexts of Danish Immigrant Settlement, 1865-1924: Danish Communities and Farming Industry because it is associated with the rural community settlement and farming patterns of the largest rural Danish immigrant settlement in Iowa and the United States, with the district still appearing much as it did during the early 1900s. The district is also significant under National Register Criterion C, at the local level, within the historic context of Danish Immigrant Settlement, 1865-1924: Construction Trades, specifically carpentry, because its architectural resources exemplify the work of skilled Danish immigrant craftsmen and their apprentices. These craftsmen were those who headquartered in the nearby town of Jacksonville and were influential in the construction trade of Jackson Township in the early 1900s-1910s and who constructed most of the buildings and structures of this area. The Poplar Rural District is significant in this respect because it exhibits the greatest range of extant resources with a high level of integrity in the region that enable one to examine a sample of the work of these Danish immigrant designers and carpenters. The period of significance begins with the 1884 construction of the oldest extant property in the district, the Jackson #1 original schoolhouse, and ends with the construction of the second Jackson #1 schoolhouse in 1923. This further represents the main period when the district was settled, farmsteads established and developed, and all major farm buildings constructed. During this period, the immigrants were able to achieve a level of prosperity that enabled them to improve their farmsteads with larger houses and a multitude of farm support buildings.

The largest rural Danish immigrant settlement in the United States was the one in Shelby and Audubon counties, Iowa. This settlement not only had the largest number of Danish immigrants, but also one of the greatest concentrations of Danes because in other areas they tended to intermingle rather than form separate communities. In the Shelby/Audubon Danish settlement area there were unincorporated communities like Poplar that were almost exclusively Danish (e.g., in Poplar, 19 of 20 heads-of-households were Danish immigrants while the other was the son of immigrants). The genealogies and family histories of each family in Poplar combined with census data and county records, provide a depth of information concerning the immigrant settlers in Poplar which makes it possible to study their settlement patterns.

XSee continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Andrews, H. F., editor. History of Audubon County, Iowa. Indianapolis: B. F. Bowen and Company, 1915.

Betsinger, Signe Tronborg. Danish Design Influences in Housing and Home Furnishing in a Selected Community in Southwest Iowa. Ph. D. dissertation, University of Minnesota, 1970.

Book Committee. Poplar, Iowa. Audubon: Book Committee, 1985.

Hvidt, Kristian. Flight to America. New York: Academic Press, 1975.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): <input type="checkbox"/> preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested <input type="checkbox"/> previously listed in the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> previously determined eligible by the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> designated a National Historic Landmark <input type="checkbox"/> recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet Primary location of additional data: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State historic preservation office <input type="checkbox"/> Other State agency <input type="checkbox"/> Federal agency <input type="checkbox"/> Local government <input type="checkbox"/> University <input type="checkbox"/> Other Specify repository: <input type="checkbox"/> Bureau of Historic Preservation
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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property approximately 1244.82 acres

UTM References

A	_____	_____	_____	B	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____	_____

XXX See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated district includes that portion of the historic Jackson #1 School District and the archaeological site of the Danish community of Poplar which encompasses all of the significant resources of this district and the farm land historically associated with the included farmsteads.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title <u>Roslea Johnson, Project Assistant</u>	date <u>June 30, 1991</u>
organization <u>Preservation Partnership Phase III</u>	telephone <u>515-964-6461</u>
street & number <u>4785 N.W. 50th St.</u>	state <u>Iowa</u> zip code <u>50310</u>
city or town <u>Des Moines</u>	

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Section 2 continuation:

street & number Roughly bounded by Sections 1, 2, 11, & 12 of Jackson
Township, Shelby County

zip code 51537, 51543

Section 3 continuation:

Name of related multiple property listing:

The Ethnic Historic Settlement of Shelby and Audubon Counties: 1860-1941

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site and that the district nomination then be amended to reflect the results of this evaluation. Other potential archaeological farmstead sites are expected within the district boundaries, but these too must await further investigation to determine their condition and evaluate their significance. These potential sites are discussed below as landscape components, but are not counted individually as either contributing or noncontributing.

The topography of the district is rolling with definable ridgetops, slopes, and swales. This area is drained by Wolf Creek, with the primary intermittent feeders into this creek dissecting all four sections of the district, and Wolf Creek itself flowing near the southern boundary of the district. Drainage is to the southwest. The vegetation is predominated by open pastures and cultivated fields with patchy wooded areas. The latter primarily consist of planted windbreaks surrounding the farmsteads. Historically, there was a natural wooded grove situated in the northeast quarter of Section 1 of Jackson Township. This grove was known locally as the A. M. Petersen Grove, named after the past owner of the property on which it was situated. Historically, the district area was predominated by prairie.

The following is a discussion of the resources of the district by survey site units which are primarily farmstead units. Each site unit is designated by a number assigned by the ethnic survey to facilitate discussion and to cross-reference with the district maps (see attachments). The numerical designation for each unit is the section number in Jackson Township in which the unit is located. Further alphabetical designations are made in order to differentiate units located within the same section.

Site #1A. Martin P. and Fredarikka (Jensen) Henricksen Farmstead, Section 1, Jackson Township, Shelby County, Iowa. Faces the road along the east section line.

HOUSE: Four-Square house type, gabled wall dormer variant with tower. Built c. 1905 by Danish immigrant carpenter, Carl V. Andersen. Contributing building to the district.

Description. The house exhibits a number of typical Andersen traits including oddly angled interior walls, decorative sunbursts, and an elaborate, three-sided, two story tower with scroll-sawn brackets and a flaring hipped roof which is topped with the original finial/weather vane.

Floorplan. The house is square in ground plan with four rooms on each of the two floors, although they are not of equal size. Oddly angled walls are present on both floors that served no practical structural purpose other than to manipulate interior space or simply for effect (see attachment).

Integrity. This well preserved house has had only a few modifications including the renovation of the front porch in the late 1930s involving a reduction of the overall size of the porch and replacing the original round posts with square supports; enclosing the south side porch in 1949; blowing insulation into the walls in the 1980s; and the addition of a basement under the south half of the house in 1949. The latter involved the

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replacement of the south portion of the original rusticated concrete block foundation with clay tile blocks; however, the change is not readily visible from the road as shrubbery around the house effectively masks the foundation. The house is individually significant because it represents the best surviving example of this particular house type variant as designed by carpenter Carl V. Andersen.

BARN: Transverse-Frame barn type, Jacksonville variant. Built in 1898 by one of the Jacksonville carpenter gangs. Contributing building to the district.

Description. This barn differs from the Jacksonville variant as defined in the Danish immigrant barn building trends of the multiple property cover document by having square window surrounds and no circular louvers.

Floorplan. The 34' x 55' barn has horse stalls on the east and cow stalls on the west side of the central aisle and a granary in the southeast corner.

Integrity. Except for the removal of the cupola and the addition of a steel roof, the barn is well preserved but it is threatened by deterioration.

OUTBUILDINGS: Two outbuildings present on this farmstead are contributing buildings to the district. These include the privy built c. 1905 and the root cellar also built c. 1905.

Description. The privy is a two holer, with a gabled roof with cresting on the ridge, cornerboards, and a covered soffit. There is some indication that the privy may have been painted in colors compatible with the historical color scheme of the house exterior. The root cellar is a semi-subterranean key-hole type building and once housed the carbide light plant.

Integrity. The root cellar is well preserved and not seriously threatened with deterioration, while the privy, although well preserved is deteriorating.

STRUCTURE: This consists of a corn crib of undetermined age, although the design is consistent with those constructed during the period of significance. However, because of its undetermined age, this structure is noncontributing to the district.

SITING: The farmstead is sited just below the crest of a south-facing slope. Historically, it was sheltered by the A. M. Petersen Grove, a large grove at the north side of the farmstead. The farmstead is now sheltered by a windbreak on the north and west sides.

ARCHAEOLOGY: The original house to this farmstead was located to the west of the c. 1905 house. The exact location needs to be pinpointed and the significance of this potential archaeological component evaluated.

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Site #1B. Andrew Martin and Annie J. (Rasmussen) Petersen Farmstead, Section 1, Jackson Township, Shelby County, Iowa. Faces the road along the west section line.

HOUSE: Four-Square house type, two-story porch variant. Built c. 1906 by carpenters, James L. Barmington (taught by a Danish immigrant carpenter) and Carl V. Andersen. Contributing building to the district.

Description: The influence of Barmington is evidenced in the exterior design of this house which has a large, open, two story, gable-roofed front porch. This porch exhibits elaborate decorative detailing including shingle siding in the gable peak, spindlefriezes, scroll-sawn brackets, turned spindleposts, and turned balusters on the second floor. The house has two centrally-placed gabled wall dormers on the north and south sides, both of which originally had elaborate scrolled gabled screens, but only the screen in the north gable peak remains. The building rises from a brick foundation.

Floorplan. The influence of Carl V. Andersen is best evidenced in the interior design of the house where there is a broad, oddly angled wall between the parlor and a bedroom and a pass-through china cupboard and dumbwaiter between the kitchen and dining room (see attachment).

Integrity. The house was covered with aluminum siding c. 1976, but the original siding remains intact underneath, and the owners took great pains to obtain aluminum "clapboard" siding as close to the original board width as possible. They also insisted that the soffits retain their original wainscoting covering and that the brackets under the eaves remain in place. The window surrounds did have to be removed, and the decorative woodwork detailing on the one story bay window on the south side was covered over. However, the house retains a high proportion of its original elements and still conveys a sense of historical time and place despite the aluminum siding. The house is significant not only because it is the best preserved example of this house type variant in the area but also because it was built by two carpenters of influence in the Danish settlement area.

BARNs: This farmstead has three barns, all contributing buildings to the district.

Cow Barn, Transverse-Frame type, Jacksonville variant. Built in 1901 by one of the Jacksonville carpenter gangs, likely led by Hans P. Boldt.

Description. The barn has all of the characteristics as defined for the Jacksonville variant by the multiple property cover document.

Floorplan. The 34' 8" x 54' 10" barn has a central aisle with stalls on both sides.

Integrity. The fairly well preserved barn has a metal roof and the cupola has been removed.

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Horse Barn, Transverse-Frame type. Built c. 1912.

Description. The barn has Jacksonville type windows and had the Jacksonville type cross-gabled cupola originally.

Floor plan. The 40'3" x 54'5" barn has a central aisle with stalls on both sides.

Integrity. The fairly well preserved barn has a metal roof and the cupola has been removed.

Sheep Barn, Midwest Three-Portal type, steeply pitched roof variant. Built by carpenter Hans Johnson in 1912.

Description. The four pane fixed windows have square window surrounds typical of Johnson's work. The barn never had a cupola.

Floorplan. The barn has a central aisle with stalls on both sides.

Integrity. There is a metal roof over the wood shingles of the well preserved barn.

OUTBUILDINGS: Contributing outbuildings on this farmstead include a privy built c. 1906, a root cellar built c. 1906, and a garage built in 1922. The noncontributing outbuilding is a hog house built in 1927 after the district's period of significance.

Description. The privy is a one-holer with a shed roof and drop siding. The root cellar is a semi-subterranean key-hole type building. The garage is a small, rectangular building with a hipped roof and exposed rafter tails.

Integrity. The privy, cellar, and garage are all well preserved.

STRUCTURES: Two corn cribs on this farmstead are both contributing structures to the district. The smaller crib was built c. 1901, while the large crib was built in 1916.

Description. Aside from their differing sizes, the cribs are basically the same construction. Both are double cribs with a central, drive-through aisle.

Integrity. Both structures are well preserved. The larger crib has a lean-to addition on the north side.

OBJECTS: A contributing object on this farmstead is a concrete post fenceline situated along the northern boundary on the south side of the east-west section line road. The posts of this fenceline were likely manufactured at the factory in Kimballton and are triangular in cross-section, typical of the posts made at this Danish-influenced factory after 1906.

SITING: The farmstead is sited at the top of a ridge which slopes to the north and south away from the farmstead, therefore, a Danish-influenced landscape component is not in evidence.

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ARCHAEOLOGY: The original house was situated approximately 30-40' to the north of the c. 1906 house and was still standing until 1968 when it was torn down. This house was a rectangular, 1.5 story, "salt box" gabled roof building which faced south. It had four rooms downstairs with one to two rooms upstairs. It sat upon a brick foundation and had two front door entries on the south facade. After the c. 1906 house was constructed, the old house was used as a summer kitchen and a cob house. The site needs to be investigated in order to pinpoint its location and evaluate its potential significance.

Site #1C. Samuel and Annie (Hansen) Johnson Farmstead. Potential archaeological site, Section 1, Jackson Township, Shelby County, Iowa.

SITING: This farmstead was sited in a valley and was protected from the north winds by an 11-18% slope with a northern aspect. On the south is a 14-18% slope. A Danish-influenced landscape component is in evidence, however, the site requires further investigation to determine if significant archaeological deposits are present.

Site #1D. A. Clemmon and Karen Marie (Andersen) Christoffersen Farmstead, Section 1, Jackson Township, Shelby County, Iowa.

HOUSE: The house was originally a gabled ell type, but in its current state it is classified as an aberration because it bears little resemblance to its original design. The house appears from historic photographs to have been built in the early 1900s. The carpenter is unknown. As an aberration of its original design, the house is a noncontributing building to the district.

Description: The house was originally a gabled ell type with centrally-placed gabled wall dormers on the front and side ells. In its current configuration it is a square hipped cottage with a recent concrete block foundation. The house is clad with narrow clapboard which appears to match that in the historic photographs of the house, and the windows also appear to be original, but overall, the house presents a very different appearance from its original configuration and design.

Integrity: In 1953 the house was gutted by fire, and the present house is a remodeling of that building.

BARN: This farmstead has two barns, one contributing and one noncontributing to the district.

Transverse-Frame barn built in 1901. It is a contributing building to the district.

Description: This barn has Jacksonville type windows.

Integrity: It has a newer shed addition on the east and metal siding on the south gable end. The cupola has been removed, and there is a steel roof.

Midwest Three-Portal barn, steeply pitched roof variant, of undetermined

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age. The style is consistent with the period, but because of its unknown age, it is noncontributing to the district.

OUTBUILDINGS: Two outbuildings on this farmstead are contributing buildings to the district. These include a wash house built c. 1910 and a tool shed also built c. 1910. Both were likely constructed by carpenter Mike Petersen, son of a Danish immigrant and taught by Danish immigrant carpenter, Carl V. Andersen. The wash house was moved from Site #2A, the Chris A. and Martha M. (Bonnett) Rasmussen farmstead, where it served a similar function.

Description. Both the wash house and tool shed are small, rectangular, gabled roof buildings with drop siding and Jacksonville type windows.

Integrity. Both buildings are well preserved. The tool shed does have a metal roof.

SITING: The farmstead is sited on a ridgetop with the house situated at a slightly lower elevation than the barn and protected from the north winds by a windbreak. A Danish-influenced landscape component is not in evidence.

ARCHAEOLOGY: It is likely that there was an earlier house on this farmstead; however, its location is not known. This potential archaeological site should be further investigated and evaluated.

Site #1E. Jackson #1 School, Section 1, Jackson Township, Shelby County, Iowa. Both the school building and the storm cellar outbuilding are contributing buildings to the district.

SCHOOL: Located in the southwest corner of Section 1, the schoolhouse faces west at the junction of the west and south section line roads. It was built in 1923 by carpenter Simon Hansen.

Description. The schoolhouse is a front gabled rectangular building with pent, closed gables on both sides of the main core and over the portico entry. The gable ends are covered with wood shingle siding and there is a lunette window in the front gable peak. The roof is covered with metal sheeting, and the soffits are covered with wainscoting. The walls are clad with lapped board siding. The south facade exhibits a bank of windows, five across. The building sits upon a clay tile block foundation, the exterior face of which has been stuccoed. A full basement is present underneath the building and is entered from the west side of the portico entry porch. The main core of the building is entered first from the south through the open end of the portico and then to the west through a door which leads into the school building. Overall, the building imparts a massive, horizontal appearance and measures 46'5" x 24'5."

Integrity. The building is structurally sound with some deterioration because it is standing vacant. There have been few changes to the building since its construction.

OUTBUILDING: A storm cellar is located off the northwest corner of the school and banked into the front slope of the lot. This is a semi-subterranean

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key-hole type building that is entered from the south. The cellar is in a state of deterioration, but is still basically intact and retains a sufficient measure of integrity to be a contributing building.

SITING: The school is sited prominently on a ridgetop at the junction of the section line roads at the center of Sections 1, 2, 11, and 12. The ridge drops off steeply to the west and south, with grades of 11 to 14% to the west and 14 to 18% to the south, providing an expansive view across much of the district.

ARCHAEOLOGY: Archaeological remains of the two privies once located behind the school are evidenced by foundations and depressions visible on the ground surface to the east and northeast of the schoolhouse. A capped well is also present to the east (rear) of the school.

Site #2A. Chris A. and Martha M. (Bonnett) Rasmussen Farmstead, Section 2, Jackson Township, Shelby County, Iowa. Faces the road along the south section line.

HOUSE: The house is a Bungalow type built in 1927 by carpenter Simon Hansen. The house has been resided with incompatible materials. This, coupled with its construction after the period of significance, makes this a noncontributing building to the district.

BARNs: The farmstead includes two barns, both of which are contributing buildings to the district.

Transverse-Frame barn, Jacksonville variant, built in the early 1900s by one of the Jacksonville carpenter gangs.

Description. This barn has all of the characteristics of the Jacksonville variant as defined in the cover document.

Floorplan. The 32' x 40' barn has an 18' shed-roofed addition which was added before 1915.

Integrity. The interior has been completely renovated. Other changes include steel sliding doors on the west end, a metal roof, and the removal of the cupola.

Midwest Three-Portal barn, steeply pitched roof variant, built c. 1914 by carpenter Hans Johnson.

Description. This 48'6" x 50'6" barn has fixed four-light windows with square surrounds and sits upon a rusticated concrete block foundation. It never had a cupola.

Floorplan. Four tiers of rusticated concrete blocks enclose the central floor-to-ceiling hay mow which extends to the north wall. There are open animal stalls at each side of the mow and a grain bin south of the mow between the animal aisles. There is an aisle along the west side of the mow and grain bin, and an open work area at the south end between the animal aisles.

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Integrity. This well preserved building has a metal roof.

OUTBUILDINGS: Two outbuildings are located on this farmstead including a hog house/show ring built c. 1914 and the original Jackson #1 schoolhouse which was moved to this farmstead and used for grain storage. Both are contributing buildings to the district.

Hog House/Show Ring:

Description. This hog house with a two story show ring was built between 1911 and 1914 by carpenters Hans Johnson and Albert Christoffersen. This is a balloon framed building with a central gabled entrance to the show ring that has flanking windows. There are two second story windows in the gable end with another centered above these in the peak. On the south side of the show ring, there are four windows with four windows above, and eight windows in the one story hog house portion of the building. The north side has half as many windows, spaced opposite every other window on the south side. All are fixed four-light windows with square surrounds. The building is clad with board and batten siding and sits upon a rusticated concrete block foundation.

Floorplan. The entire building has been converted into a hog house.

Integrity. The steel roofed building is well preserved.

Original Jackson #1 School: This building was constructed in 1884 and was moved to its present location in 1923 when the new schoolhouse was constructed. It was subsequently converted for use as an outbuilding on this farmstead.

Description. The one room, rectangular, gabled schoolhouse has horizontal siding, flat molded lintel boards, cornerboards, friezeboard, and boxed eaves. Three windows are present on either side of the building, with the entry at the east gable end through a projecting vestibule. The interior has wainscoting and plaster-coated walls.

Integrity. The metal roofed building is well preserved. On the north side, out of view from the road, the central window has been enlarged to make a door opening and a grain chute has been added to the interior. The remaining windows are covered by closed shutters. The building's identification as the old schoolhouse and its careful preservation within view of the new school situated on the hilltop to the east, speak to the significance that this building still holds for the community.

STRUCTURE: One contributing structure and one noncontributing structure are present on this farmstead. The noncontributing structure is a corn crib built in 1926 after the period of significance. This well preserved structure is consistent in style with other structures of this era. The contributing structure is a granary/corn crib.

Granary/Corn Crib: This building constructed in the early 1900s has flanking machine shed additions which were added c. 1914.

Description. The original core of the building has a central drive-through aisle with the granary on the west side and the corn crib on the

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east. This portion of the building has horizontal siding and a Jacksonville type window in the gable end. Around 1914, flanking machine sheds were added by carpenter Hans Johnson. These sheds have vertical siding and square window surrounds.

Integrity. The well preserved building has a steel roof.

SITING: The farmstead is sited so that it is well protected at the base of a 14-18% south-facing slope and an 11-14% west-facing slope, effectively positioned within a swale, but sited for appropriate drainage. Therefore, a Danish-influenced landscape is in evidence.

ARCHAEOLOGY: The original house on this farmstead was a gabled ell house type, 1.5 stories in height, and showing little exterior elaboration. This house was sited to the north of the 1927 house, although its exact location has not been pinpointed in the field. This potential archaeological site should be investigated to evaluate its significance. It is also known that the location of the privy was north of the original house.

Site #2B. Anders and Sophia (Madsdatter) Rasmussen Farmstead, Section 2, Jackson Township, Shelby County, Iowa. Faces the road along the south section line.

HOUSE: The house is a Gabled Ell type and is a noncontributing building because of its poor state of preservation.

Description: The front ell of the house is two stories in height, with the rear ell being 1.5 stories in height. The ground plan is a T-shape. Originally, there was an open portico porch over the front (south) entry with a balcony on the second floor and an east side porch, both of which exhibited distinctive porch posts with elongated cutouts.

Floorplan. The side gabled front ell exhibits a central-passage plan as defined in the multiple property cover document and has a central hallway which contains the staircase and flanked by two rectangular rooms. The rear ell has a single room with the open porch on the east side and an enclosed porch/pantry on the west.

Integrity. The primary integrity problem with this house is the fact that a major section of the brick foundation has collapsed and the building is literally falling down.

BARN: Two barns, one contributing and one noncontributing are located on this farmstead.

Transverse-Frame type, Jacksonville variant: This barn was built c. 1887 by Danish immigrant carpenter, Hans P. Boldt. This may be one of the first barns that Boldt built in Shelby County. It is a contributing building to the district.

Description. This mortise and tenon barn differs from the common Jacksonville variant by having no elaboration of the circular window surrounds.

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Floorplan. The 35' x 54' barn has a narrow center aisle with cow stalls on one side and horse stalls on the other.

Integrity. The interior of this barn is particularly well preserved. The cupola has been removed, but the wood-shingled roof is intact. The barn is vacant and deteriorating.

Midwest Three-Portal type, steeply pitched roof variant: This barn is of undetermined age, but the style is consistent with other barns of the period. However, because of its unknown date of construction, this building is considered noncontributing to the district.

STRUCTURES: A corn crib built c. 1890 on this farmstead is a contributing building to the district. It has a central drive-through aisle with cribs to either side. The structure has sufficient integrity but is in a deteriorated condition.

SITING: The farmstead is sited near the base of an 11-14% south-facing slope which shelters the buildings from winter winds. Therefore, a Danish-influenced landscape is in evidence.

ARCHAEOLOGY: From available data, the present house appears to have been the first and only house on this farmstead; however, this building is fast becoming an archaeological site and there is some potential for significant archaeological deposits in the surrounding house yard including evidence of privies, wells, and refuse pits. This potential should be further investigated.

Site #11A. Toste Peter and Martha (Rasmussen) Petersen Farmstead, Section 11, Jackson Township, Shelby County, Iowa. Faces the road on the north section line.

HOUSE: The original house was a small gabled cottage built c. 1896. While that house remains at the core of the present house configuration, this building as a whole is noncontributing to the district.

Description. The original house was added onto through the years with additions made to three sides of the original core. The house in its present configuration can best be described as a gabled ell with two gabled wall "dormers" on the front (east) facade. One of these dormers is actually the gable peak of the original house.

Integrity. The house has undergone many modifications including a modern addition on the north side, earlier additions to the south and west sides, residing with incompatible materials, and major window and porch modifications.

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BARNs: This farmstead has two barns which are contributing buildings to the district.

Transverse-Frame barn built c. 1896:

Description. This mortise and tenon pegged barn has an unusual bent system. The bents are connected by a series of timber frame members which run from one gable end of the barn to the other. There are plain, round vents in the gable end of the loft and fixed four-light windows with square surrounds. There is no information concerning the configuration of the original cupola.

Floorplan. The barn has a central aisle with space for animals on both sides and a shed across the rear that is open to both sides.

Integrity. The well preserved barn has a metal roof and the cupola has been removed.

Transverse-Frame barn built c. 1920:

Description. This heavy timber framed nailed barn has Jacksonville type windows. There is no exterior hay door, with the hay unloaded on the interior from the central aisle. There is no information concerning the configuration of the original cupola.

Integrity. The interior of the barn has been renovated, the cupola has been removed, and the roof is covered with metal sheeting.

OUTBUILDING: A large, rectangular metal Morton Building is present to the east of the house. This building is modern and therefore noncontributing to the district. It is set back from the section road and is not highly visible within the general vistas of the district.

STRUCTURE: A corn crib of undetermined age, but of a style consistent with the period is also located on this farmstead. This is considered a noncontributing structure to the district.

SITING: The farmstead is sited near the base of an 18-23% east-facing slope. An 11-14% south-facing slope across the road provides protection from the north. Further protection is provided by a windbreak of trees on the north and west sides. A Danish-influenced landscape is therefore in evidence.

ARCHAEOLOGY: The original house is still extant on this farmstead and the former location of an early wash house has been covered over by a modern addition to the house. There may be some potential for significant archaeological deposits in the yard area surrounding the house; however, the extensive additions to the original building indicates a likelihood that any deposits have been adversely impacted.

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Site #11B. John Christensen/John (Jens) and Katie M. Nelson Farmstead, Section 11, Jackson Township, Shelby County, Iowa. Faces the road along the north section line.

HOUSE: This building is a Bungalow type built in 1920. It is considered a noncontributing building because it has been resided with incompatible materials in both board width and type. There is also an enclosed porch addition on the south side.

BARN: Transverse-Frame type, Jacksonville variant. This barn was built c. 1910 by one of the Jacksonville carpenter gangs. This is a contributing building to the district.

Description. The barn has all of the characteristics of the Jacksonville variant as defined in the multiple property cover document. The original cross-gabled cupola retains its lightning rod.

Floorplan. The barn has a cross-aisle plan with a cattle loafing area across the east end. There is a large granary on the north side of the central aisle and cattle stalls on the south. The northwest corner has a milking parlor, and the southwest corner has a grain bin.

Integrity. The well preserved barn is threatened by plans to renovate with steel siding which has been completed on the east end of the building. There is also a metal roof in place.

OUTBUILDINGS: Three outbuildings are located on this farmstead, all of which are noncontributing to the district. These include a garage of undetermined age which is covered with board and batten siding and has a gabled roof addition to the south side; the original house built c. 1905 but later modified for use as a chicken coop to the point that its original configuration cannot be determined; and another small house of undetermined age that was moved onto this farmstead from a farmstead located outside the district.

STRUCTURES: The farmstead also includes one noncontributing corn crib of undetermined age but of a style consistent with the period.

SITING: The farmstead is sited at the base of 14-18% north and west-facing slopes which provide little protection against winter winds. However, some protection is provided by a windbreak to the west and north.

ARCHEOLOGY: This farmstead has little potential for significant archaeological components.

Site #12A. Mikkell Rasmussen/James and Karen Kristine (Andersen) Johnson Farmstead. Potential archaeological site, Section 12, Jackson Township, Shelby County, Iowa.

SITING: This farmstead included two houses and an unknown number of outbuildings and barns. It was sheltered on the north and west sides by 14-18% slopes. The farmstead was located well off the section line road unlike some of the other farmsteads in the district, but was so sited because of a year-round spring at this location. This potential archaeological site should be

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investigated to determine the condition of the deposits and evaluate the site's potential significance.

Site #12B. Jens and Anna Marie (Hansen) Petersen Farmstead, Section 12, Jackson Township, Shelby County, Iowa. Faces the road along the west section line.

HOUSE: The house is defined as a Gabled Double-Pile type, front gabled variant. It is a noncontributing building to the district.

Description. The house faces the farm lane and the barn to the west. Gabled wall dormers are present on the sides of the building.

Integrity. The original siding has been replaced with siding of incompatible width and type. In addition a number of the windows have been replaced and the window surrounds removed. Together, these modifications have seriously compromised the historic integrity of this building.

BARN: Midwest Three-Portal type, monitor roof variant. This barn was built in 1899 by one of the Jacksonville carpenter gangs which included Mike Petersen and was likely led by Carl V. Andersen. Petersen was the son of the farmstead owner, Jens Petersen. The barn is a contributing building to the district.

Description. Although the structure of the barn is different from the Jacksonville variant of the Transverse-Frame barn type, all of the exterior decorative elements are the same. This barn has Jacksonville type windows, circular louvers in the mow that have Jacksonville-type decorative surrounds, two Jacksonville-type cross-gabled cupolas topped with their original weather vanes, and open-out hay mow doors.

Floorplan. The 61' x 56' barn has two aisles that extend from one gable end to the other. The south side of the barn has horse stalls, while the north side has space to feed small livestock. Between the aisles are two rows of stalls for cows, and there is a granary in the southwest corner.

Integrity. The barn is in an excellent state of preservation with the only changes being the replacement of its wood shingle roof with asphalt shingles and a small shed addition on the north side.

OUTBUILDINGS: There are five outbuildings on this farmstead, four of which are contributing buildings and only one noncontributing.

Shop/Tool Building: Built c. 1900-1920 by Mike Petersen. This building is contributing to the district.

Description. This small gabled building with horizontal drop siding has cornerboards, a covered soffit, wood-shingled roof, and three Jacksonville-type windows on both sides.

Integrity. The building is in an excellent state of preservation.

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Garage: Built c. 1910-1920 by Mike Petersen. This is a contributing building to the district.

Description. This small gabled building has horizontal drop siding, cornerboards, a covered soffit, and a Jacksonville-type window in three sides. The west gable end has open-out garage doors.

Integrity. The only modification of this well preserved building is the steel roof.

Garage: Built c. 1910-1920 by Mike Petersen. This is a contributing building to the district.

Description. This small gabled building has horizontal drop siding, cornerboards, a covered soffit, and a Jacksonville-type window in three sides. There are open-out garage doors in the south gable end.

Integrity. This is a well preserved building.

Wash House: Built c. 1900-1920 by Mike Petersen. This building is contributing to the district.

Description. This small gabled building has horizontal drop siding, cornerboards, a covered soffit, and Jacksonville-type windows. There is a chimney in the north gable end and entrance, with a window to the right in the south end.

Integrity. The building is well preserved.

Hog House: Built c. 1940 by an unknown carpenter. Because this building was constructed after the period of significance, it is noncontributing to the district. The building has a clay tile block foundation, horizontal drop siding, and square window surrounds.

STRUCTURE: One contributing structure is present on the farmstead and consists of a corn crib/granary/machine shed built c. 1900 by carpenter Mike Petersen.

Description. This heavy timber framed mortise and tenon pegged building has two bents. It has a wood-shingled roof, horizontal boards on the side and a board and batten covered gable end with pigeon holes and perches. The machine shed portion of this building also has board and batten siding, a covered soffit, and cornerboards.

Floorplan. There is a central drive-through aisle with the corn crib on the north side and the granary on the south. The machine shed is situated on the south side of the granary.

Integrity. The building is in excellent condition and an excellent state of preservation.

SITING: The farmstead is sited so that it is protected by a 14-18% south-facing slope and an 11-14% slope on the northwest. Therefore, a Danish-influenced landscape is in evidence.

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ARCHAEOLOGY: It is not known if the present house on this farmstead was, in fact, the original house. Further investigation should be conducted to determine whether or not significant archaeological deposits are extant.

Archaeological Site 13AB7/13SH7. The village of Poplar was a true "crossroads community" in every sense of the term as it was situated at the intersection of four townships and straddled the Shelby/Audubon county line. Roads extended north-south and east-west through the heart of this community. The above-ground buildings of this community are no longer extant with the exception of two residences associated with the community, although neither of these buildings retain sufficient integrity to be individually eligible for the Register. One of these buildings is situated within the district boundaries and is counted as a noncontributing building to that district. This house is the former blacksmith's residence and had been extensively remodeled. A third residence, the former boarding house for the town, recently burned to the ground. The archaeological potential of this site has not, as yet, been fully examined. The present investigation was able to examine the archaeological remains of the townsite to a Phase I level of investigation, and there does appear to be some potential to provide important information concerning the history of this Danish community. At present, this archaeological site is not counted individually and is considered as a portion of the landscape component of the district.

The archaeological remains of the townsite of Poplar have been officially designated as sites 13AB7 and 13SH7 because the remains are located in both counties (Map 3). The main portions of the town were situated in the extreme northwest corner of Sharon Township in Audubon County and the extreme northeast and southeast corners of Jackson and Polk townships, respectively, in Shelby County. The first general store and post office was situated at the northwest corner of Sharon Township and faced west. This building was constructed in 1892. Historic photographs of this structure show a frame, false-front commercial building with the gable extending above the parapet and a flat roofed addition to the south. A shed-roofed porch covered the facade of the entire building. The store building was 1.5 stories in height. The A. P. Vithen Implement store was built to the east of the general store and faced north. Historic photographs of that building show a frame, false-front commercial building with a rounded appendage on top of the flat parapet. This was a 1.5 story structure. A one story flat-roofed addition was present on the east side of the main building.

A lumberyard operated by Valdemar Rasmussen prior to 1900 was located across the road from the general store in the northeast corner of Jackson Township. To the west of this, in the early twentieth century, was a ball diamond. The lumber building may have faced north. Directly across the road from the lumberyard in the southeast corner of Polk Township was the blacksmith shop which was originally established in 1897 as a small shop. In 1915 a larger concrete block gabled-roofed building was constructed to house the blacksmith operation. This structure was the last of the commercial buildings to be dismantled in Poplar. It operated as a blacksmith shop until 1941.

West of the blacksmith shop was a large two story hall/store building constructed by Valdemar Rasmussen c. 1903. This building housed a variety of businesses on the first floor, while the second floor served as a dance hall,

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gymnastics hall, and community assembly hall. Sometime between 1916 to 1918 the original general store was closed and the inventory moved into the first floor of the Rasmussen hall. A livery barn and harness shop were built to the west of the hall.

Aside from the residences and commercial buildings, the only other building associated with the town of Poplar was the Danish Lutheran Church (Grundtvigian synod) which was located on the hilltop to the north of the blacksmith shop. This church was originally a rectangular frame church with a central tower entry projecting out from the front facade. It had an open bell tower and decorative shingle siding on the tower lantern, spire, and the gable peak of the church building. The windows were pointed-arched and the double front door had a pointed-arched transom. A later addition was made to the south side. The church was built in 1906.

West of the church is a cemetery which contains twenty marked gravesites and possibly two unmarked graves. The inscriptions are all in English. Many are delineated by concrete grave frames likely manufactured at the Kimballton factory. The cemetery is enclosed by a fence. The placement of graves are in north-south rows with the stones facing east. The cemetery is bordered on the west and north sides by a wooded windbreak. Of the persons buried in this cemetery, those that once lived in the rural district include Karen and Clemmon Christoffersen.

It is recommended that the boundaries of the rural district include the archaeological remains of the townsite of Poplar which include the location of the former commercial buildings, the church, and the cemetery. Shovel testing and surface collection in the areas of the former lumberyard and general store and implement shop have indicated a good potential for subsurface features, particularly in the location of the original general store. Late nineteenth to early twentieth century artifacts were collected, and cultural deposits are present below the plow zone. The constraints of the present investigation precluded Phase II-level investigation of this archaeological site, but it is recommended that such an investigation be undertaken to fully evaluate the potential significance of this site and its eligibility for inclusion as a contributing property to the Poplar district. At this point, it can only be considered as part of the landscape component of this district that is a potentially contributing property in need of further archival and field investigation to determine its status. Such an investigation should include an evaluation of the archaeological potential of the boarding house site as well as a determination of other potential archaeological components of the residences once situated to the south of the general store and the residences once situated to the north of the harness shop and livery barn.

Preliminary evaluation of the Poplar archaeological site indicate a good potential for a determination of significance. The townsite presents a relatively unique opportunity to study the remains of an exclusively Danish ethnic community. A number of research questions concerning the manifestation of ethnicity in the archaeological record potentially could be examined at this site including dietary patterning, utilization of space, and refuse patterning, to note but a few.

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Poplar Rural District Summation. All that remains above ground of the rural Danish community of Poplar is the Jackson #1 School District which included Sections 1, 2, 11, and 12 in the northeast corner of Jackson Township, Shelby County. The school, prominently located on a hill in Section 1 at the junction of the four sections, serves as a focal point for the school district just as it did when the area was first settled in the 1880s. The school which was attended by all of the families who resided in the defined rural district further strengthens the definition of this district because it tied the families together through education and social interaction.

The rural topography of the district is rolling farmland, much of it with 10-18% slopes. Gravel roads along each section line delineate each square mile. The area has largely escaped consolidation of farms with most farms established during the early settlement period remaining intact with roughly the same boundaries. Only one farm has been absorbed, and two farmsteads (i.e., Samuel Johnson Site #1C and James Johnson #12A) have been demolished. Most farms consist of 120 acres to 320 acres of crop ground and pasture.

The houses and farm buildings in the area are those that were built for Danish immigrants by Danish immigrant carpenters and their apprentices. The barns were key to the economic success of the farming operations and also reflect the prosperity which the immigrants were enjoying. The houses are the second homes built for the settlers after they became prosperous, usually 10 to 20 years after immigrating. The buildings reflect vernacular and American building traditions and styles as interpreted by the highly skilled Danish immigrant carpenters.

Most of the buildings were built by the Jacksonville gangs of Danish carpenters including Carl V. Andersen, who used innovative and often whimsical designs in his work, and Hans P. Boldt, who seemed to prefer using the same well-tested structurally sound designs repeatedly in his work. All the carpenters were skilled in, and seemed to prefer, complex handcrafted decorative components in their buildings. Most of the barns are either large Transverse-Frame types, many of the Jacksonville variant, or Midwest Three-Portal types as defined in the multiple property document. From historic photographs it was noted that during the historic period, most of the barns had boards that were painted a dark color (likely red) contrasted with white battens, thus imparting a very striking and unifying appearance to the district.

Another factor which adds to the cohesiveness of the district is the use of similar design elements on large farm buildings, including the Jacksonville-type window, as well as on small outbuildings throughout the community. Current owners of several of these farms have painted their buildings a darker color with the window surrounds, cupola trim, and other trim painted white. This presently gives the district a unifying appearance that is reminiscent of the paint schemes during the historic period.

As in Denmark, the historic farmsteads of the Danish settlement area of Shelby and Audubon counties and in the Poplar Rural District are generally sited on hillslopes near or within groves of trees. There were none, however, that approximated the "courtyard" configuration of the enclosed farmsteads typically found in Denmark. Rather, these farmsteads contained a separate residence, barn, and assorted outbuildings, the types of which are dependent on the type of farming conducted historically on the farmstead. In general, the Danish

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immigrant farmsteads, while not enclosed, are characterized by a tight clustering of outbuildings situated behind a farm house which faced the roadway and entry into the farmstead. This clustering can create a rectangular or square "enclosed" space surrounded by buildings which open out into this space, although the buildings are not physically connected as they are in Denmark.

The Poplar Rural District has been identified as a historic district because it is a unique remnant of the largest rural Danish immigrant community in the United States that still appears much as it did during the settlement period in the early 1900s. Contiguous boundaries have been drawn to include the archaeological remains of the townsite of Poplar, the most significant rural buildings, farmsteads with the highest levels of integrity, and complete vistas from prominent sites within the district. Farmsteads with less integrity have been excluded particularly when they are at isolated sites hidden from the view of the rest of the district by the rolling topography. Thus, the extant historic district remnant of the rural Danish community of Poplar appears much the same as it did during the historic period.

The district is composed of the archaeological site of the rural village of Poplar and that portion of the Jackson #1 school district which has the highest level of integrity and includes the schoolhouse and 10 of the 19 farms within that school district. These 10 farms are concentrated in the area that extends from the vista from and around the schoolhouse to the Poplar archaeological site. Eight of the 10 farms in the historic district have extant farmsteads; on the other two, there are potential archaeological sites of these non-extant farmsteads. Each extant farmstead consists of a house, one or more barns, and outbuildings and structures which include privys, garages, root cellars, wash houses, tool sheds, corn cribs, granaries, and machine sheds. One also has a historically significant hog house/show ring.

Through efforts to preserve their Danish heritage, local residents have gathered and maintained unusually rich archival resources including extensive family histories and genealogies for most of the immigrant families within the district; oral histories, written, and photographic information about many of the builders and carpenters; and photographic records from the historic period of most of the houses and barns and some of the outbuildings of this area. This local interest has also resulted in a high level of preservation of the houses and farm buildings despite the modernization of farming practices which has removed all economic incentives for such preservation. This high level of integrity and the relative paucity of modern intrusions from steel bins and metal buildings is also unusual in the Danish settlement area of Shelby and Audubon counties.

The unusually extensive documentation of a rural area and the well preserved architectural resources of the historic district, made it possible to investigate the phenomena of Danish immigrant settlement. Unlike areas outside the district, which evidence much less integrity of resources and many more intrusions, the rural district retains much of the appearance and feel of the turn-of-the-century rural Danish community. Jackson #1 school is sited on a hill in the center of the district overlooking the rolling fields and farmsteads of the southern and western portions of the school district. Because of the topography, fields are relatively small by Shelby County standards, and often follow the contours of the land with some contour and strip farming being used as it was historically. Row crops are interspersed with areas of hay fields and

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pastures. Soybeans have now joined corn which was the major row crop in the historic era. Small grains are no longer important crops. Because of the constraints of farming slopes, farms still look somewhat as they must have in the historic period.

The A. M. Petersen Grove situated south of Poplar and adjacent to the Martin P. Henricksen farmstead is now largely gone, but the windbreaks at most of the farmsteads remain extant. All of the farmsteads except two are extant and one of the non-extant farmsteads, the James Johnson farm, is still marked by the grove which virtually obscured it from the road during the historic period. Most of the fences that once existed in the historic era have been removed except for the fenceline which is supported by concrete posts along the north boundary of the A. M. Petersen farmstead. Historic-era dirt roads along the section lines have been replaced by graveled roads. Thus, the historic district with its schoolhouse, farmsteads, and fields looks much as it did during the Danish immigrant settlement era.

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The following table presents a summary of all the farmsteads in the original Jackson #1 School District, illustrating the selection process of these specific farmsteads for inclusion in the historic district. Those that are not designated by a site number are those that are not included within the rural district boundaries.

Table 1. Farmsteads in Jackson #1 School District Showing Contributing/ Noncontributing Buildings and Structures, Non-Extant Buildings, and Serious Intrusions.

Site #/Name	House	Barn	Outbldgs.	Structures	Objects	Serious Intrusions
1A/M. P. Henricksen	*C	C	C,C	NC	-	No
1B/A.M. Petersen	*C	C,C,C	C,C,C,NC	C,C	C	No
1C/S. Johnson	X	X	X	X	-	No
1D/A. C. Christoffersen	NC	C,NC	C,C	-	-	No
-/Rasmus Hansen	NC	X	X	NC	-	Yes
-/C. C. Koch	X	X	X	X	-	No
2A/C. A. Rasmussen	NC	C,*C	*C,*C	*C,NC	-	No
2B/S. Rasmussen	NC	*C,NC	-	C	-	No
-/J. Mattson	NC	X,X	X	X	-	No
-/S. Jensen	X	X	X	X	-	No
-/C. N. Jensen	C	X	NC	NC	-	Yes
11A/T. P. Petersen	NC	C,C	NC	NC	-	Yes
11B/J. Christensen	NC	C	NC	NC,NC,NC	-	No
-/L. Petersen	NC	C	-	NC	-	Yes
-/C. Nelson	C	C	-	NC	-	No
-/J. H. Nissen	X	X	X	X	-	No
-/L. Jensen	X	X	X	X	-	No
12A/M. Rasmussen/Johnson	X	X	X	X	-	No
12B/J. Petersen	NC	*C	*C,*C,*C,*C,NC	*C,X	-	No
-/S. Madsen	X	C	X	X	-	No
-/L. A. Christensen	NC	X	X	-	-	No

C= contributing, NC = noncontributing, X = non-extant, * = very significant

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There was sufficient information about the Danish immigrants in Poplar to compare with data concerning emigration that the Danish government compiled from 1868-1900 and which Kristian Hvidt (1975) analyzed. Thus, the Poplar community has rich archival resources from a segment of the largest rural Danish settlement in the United States that are complete enough to permit an analysis of the settlement patterns of the Danish emigrants which Hvidt so carefully studied.

The following table is provided to illustrate the ethnic background of the residents of the Poplar Rural District. The data are obtained from the 1900 U. S. Population Census and genealogical information compiled by project participants and local residents (see bibliographic references).

Table 2. Residents of Poplar Rural District in 1900 including Heads-of-Household and Spouse.

Site#/Name	Year Born	Birthplace self/parents	Immigr. Year	Age/Marital Status When Immigr.	Year Settled Poplar	Emigrated From
1A/M. P. Henricksen	1867	Ger/Den-Den	1892	24/S	1898	Lintrup
Fredarikka Jensen	1882	IA/Den-Den	-	-	-	-
1B/A. M. Petersen	1862	Den/	1882	20/S	1882	Lintrup
Annie Rasmussen	1872	IA/Den-Den	-	-	1872**	-
1C/Samuel Johnson	1849	Den/	1867	18/S	1877	Jutland
Annie Hansen	1839	Den/	1870	31/S	1877	Aero
1D/A. Christoffersen	1857	Den/	1881	24/S	1891	Jutland
Karen M. Andersen	1858	Den/	1881	23/S	1891	Jutland
2A/C. A. Rasmussen	1876	IA/Den-Den	-	-	1876**	-
Martha M. Bonnett	1897	Ill/Ger-Ger	-	-	-	-
2B/Sophia Rasmussen	1840	Den/	1871	31/S	1873	Lintrup
Anders Rasmussen*	1846	Den/	1870	24/S	1873	Lintrup
11A/T. P. Petersen	1860	Den/	1880	20/S	by 1899	Lintrup
Martha Rasmussen	1874	IA/Den-Den	-	-	1874**	-
11B/John Nelson	1856	Den/	1869	13/S	1883	Denmark
Katie M.	1846	Den/	1878	32/S	1883	Denmark
12B/Jens Petersen	1848	Den/	1869	21/S	1884	Aero
Anna M. Hansen	1855	Den/	1875	20/S	1884	Aero

* = deceased by 1900

** = born in Poplar

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The settlement of the Poplar district originated in the early 1870s when Danish immigrant farmers began purchasing the lands in Sections 1, 2, 11, and 12 of Jackson Township in Shelby County from the railroad. In 1884 a school was established in this area to serve the educational needs of the growing population. This was followed in the early 1890s with the establishment of a community at the northeast corner of the district to provide a post office and general store to meet the growing commercial needs of the surrounding rural settlement. This community was named Poplar and grew to include a lumberyard, furniture store, implement store, blacksmith shop, livery barn, harness shop, church, and cemetery. By 1900 the town and its rural hinterland was fully settled and developed, with the farmsteads being improved by the construction of bigger houses, new barns, and outbuildings between 1900 and the mid-1910s. The focus of these farming operations was on livestock production including cattle, hogs, and sheep. The town gradually declined to the point that by the 1930s the last business had closed. Today, the town itself is evidenced primarily by an archaeological site.

The Danish settlement area of Shelby and Audubon counties was settled in large part by immigrants who were farmers by vocation and who established themselves on farms as soon as they were financially able. The very nature of agricultural development in Iowa has resulted in a cycle of construction/destruction on every farmstead. More recently, the trend has been toward the total abandonment of farmsteads as properties are consolidated. Therefore, it would be difficult to find a rural district in Iowa that did not include abandoned farmsteads within its boundaries. It becomes even more difficult to find rural areas that do not have major modern intrusions in the form of metal buildings and bins and modern ranch-type houses.

The Poplar Rural District is unusual in the high level of integrity of its farmsteads, barns, outbuildings, and structures and the relative paucity of intrusive metal buildings and bins. It is also unusual in the rich resource of photographic documentation of the houses, barns, outbuildings, and structures from the historic period that is still available. The photographic record and the well preserved resources reveal a wealth of information about the contributions of Danish immigrants to local farming traditions and development.

In 1915 the Danish agricultural settlements in Audubon County were described as follows:

starting as poor men, they now own hundreds of magnificent farms, under a high state of cultivation, with handsome dwellings and home lots, fine barns and farm buildings for sheltering stock and housing grain and hay, fields and pastures thoroughly fenced and stocked with the best breeds of horses, cattle, hogs, poultry, etc. The tidy, thrifty appearance of their farms attest to the industry and prosperity of the owners (Andrews 1915:294-295).

The extensive archival resources from Poplar compared with Hvidt's analysis of Danish emigrant data reveal that the rural Danish settlement of Shelby and Audubon counties as exemplified by the Poplar community was indeed a place where poor emigrants from rural Denmark could become prosperous farmers. In the Poplar Rural District, their "handsome dwellings and home lots" such as the Martin P. Henricksen and A. M. Petersen houses and their "fine barns and farm

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buildings" such as those on the Chris A. Rasmussen and Jens Petersen farms still remain in evidence. Their fields and pastures also still remain, although most are no longer fenced. Cattle and hogs still stock some of the farms, but the horses and poultry are gone. Many of the barn interiors still reflect their historic uses. The siting of farmsteads in the Poplar Rural District also reflects the Danish tradition of building farmsteads into sheltering slopes.

The Poplar Rural District is significant because it is the only area where there are the archival resources of sufficient depth to reveal the poverty of the emigrants from Denmark and the architectural resources with the level of integrity to document the prosperity which the immigrants achieved in Iowa and the farming practices they used to achieve that success.

The carpenters who headquartered in the nearby Danish community of Jacksonville, were a locally significant group of carpenters, many of whom had been trained in Denmark and brought their design and building skills to Jackson Township. Their influence in designing and construction and their tradition of passing on their skills to younger carpenters persisted from the 1880s though the lifeworks of Ras Scott and Hans Johnson who continued to build into the mid-twentieth century. However, the constraints of this study necessitated a focus on the building traditions of the period of Danish immigrant settlement which gradually tapered off and ended c. 1924.

Danish immigrant carpenter Hans P. Boldt began to work in the Poplar area in 1887 and immigrant carpenter Carl V. Andersen, sometime in the 1890s. By 1900 Boldt was teaching the trade to James Barmington, a local resident who married a person of Danish descent. By 1905 Barmington was leading his own crew. In 1908 Ras Scott emigrated from Denmark and joined Barmington's crew. Andersen was leading a crew consisting of Mike Petersen (son of Poplar resident Jens Petersen) and Danish immigrant Viggo Rasmussen by 1900. Shortly after 1900, Hans Johnson (son of Poplar resident Samuel Johnson) spent five years learning the trade from Andersen. After he began working on his own, Johnson was assisted by his brother-in-law, C. Albert Christoffersen (son of Poplar resident A. Clemmon Christoffersen).

As is typical in rural areas, the Poplar Rural District has extensive architectural resources for which the builder was not readily known. Therefore, architectural resources for which the builder is known were compared to those built by unknown individuals and, through this process, the builders were often revealed. For example, Albert Christoffersen had often told the current owners of the Clover Leaf Farm (Chris A. Rasmussen's farm) that he was paid \$1/day to help Hans Johnson build the hog house/show ring on this farmstead c. 1914, and it is known that Christoffersen often worked for Johnson. Historic photographs show that the second barn and the additions to the granary were built by the same date as the hog house. Examination of all three buildings reveals that they have common building materials and utilize the same stylistic elements, in particular, the fixed four-light windows with the simple square surrounds. Thus, the barn and machine shed additions are also attributed to Hans Johnson. Further comparisons revealed that the Midwest Three-Portal type barn, steeply pitched variant, on the A. M. Petersen farmstead is very similar to the Clover Leaf farm's Three-Portal type barn and was built around the same time. In fact, the two barns have the same bent system and windows. Therefore, the A. M. Petersen sheep barn is also attributed to Hans Johnson.

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Similarly, census data document that Mike Petersen, son of Jens Petersen, was working in Carl V. Andersen's carpenter gang by 1900. It can be speculated that Jens Petersen hired the gang for which his son worked to build his barn in 1899. All the decorative details of the barn including the Jacksonville-type windows, cross-gabled cupolas with double-arched louvers, and circular vents with elaborate surrounds, suggest that the barn was built by one of the Jacksonville carpenter gangs which in 1899 would have been led by either Andersen or Boldt. The structure of the barn itself is not of the Jacksonville type. Instead, it has a monitor roof which is unusual in this area, but which is found in the Nicholas Ohms barn in Jackson Township that Andersen built. Further, the barn design is different from any other barn in the area which is also consistent with Andersen's penchant for innovating designs rather than exactly repeating those he had used before as Boldt was prone to do. Thus, the barn design is attributed to Andersen who led the construction crew of which Mike Petersen was a member. The other buildings on the Jens Petersen farmstead are small enough that a crew would not be required to build them. Mike Petersen likely built these outbuildings for his father as they were needed.

The buildings in the Poplar Rural District evidence some of the best preserved examples of the work of individual Danish immigrant designers and carpenters as well as the craftsmanship of the Jacksonville carpenter gangs. The following buildings exemplify the design work of individual members of the Jacksonville carpenter gangs:

- M. P. Henricksen: House - Carl V. Andersen
- A. M. Petersen: House (interior) - Carl V. Andersen
(exterior) - James Barmington
Three-Portal barn - Hans Johnson
- Anders Rasmussen: Barn- Hans P. Boldt
- Jens Petersen: Barn- Carl V. Andersen
Outbuildings - Mike Petersen
- C. A. Rasmussen: Hog House/Show Ring - Hans Johnson
Three-Portal barn - Hans Johnson

Because of the constraints of this study, the context was developed only for the period of Danish immigrant settlement which extended until c. 1924. Should further research be conducted to develop context concerning the influence of the second generation Danish farmers and carpenters, then the corn crib on Chris A. Rasmussen's Clover Leaf farmstead would likely be a contributing structure with the second barn on each of the Anders Rasmussen and Clemmon Christoffersen farmsteads likely being contributing buildings. Most of the corn cribs in the district would likely also be contributing to such a context. These buildings and structures were considered noncontributing to the present context because they could not be accurately dated to determine whether they were built during the period of significance. Further research may fix construction dates of some of these buildings and structures within the present defined period of significance which will result in a revision of the contributing resources to this historic context.

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Section 9 continuation:

1900 U. S. Population Census.

Genealogical, historical data, historic photographs, and legal records compiled by Mae Petersen, Marlene Hansen, Margaret and Orvie Christensen, Virginia and Richard Johnson, Paul Petersen, and Irene Ladd all of Jackson Township, Shelby County, Iowa.

Section 10 continuation:

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated district is bounded by the topographical description as taken from the Kimballton and Jacksonville 1978 quadrangle maps: Beginning at the northwest corner of Sharon Township in Audubon County at the south edge of the gravel road proceed 300 feet east, turning south for 200 feet, turning west for 300 feet to the east edge of the north-south gravel road then proceed south along that road for 0.44 of a mile or 2300 feet, turning west at the center of Section 1 for 1/2 mile, turning south for 1 1/4 miles into the south half of Section 12, then turning west for 1/2 mile, turning north for 1/4 mile, turning west for 1/4 mile into the northeast quarter of Section 11, turning north for 1/4 mile, turning west for 3/4 mile, turning north for 1/2 mile into the southwest quarter of Section 2, then turning east for 3/4 mile, turning north for 1/2 mile, turning west for 1/4 mile, turning north for 1/4 mile, then turning east for 1.44 miles or 7620 feet along the south edge of the east-west gravel road, turning north for 500 feet along the west boundary of the Poplar Cemetery, then turning east for 300 feet along the north boundary of the cemetery to the west edge of the north-south gravel road, then turning south for 500 feet to the point of beginning (see attached maps). This includes property in Sections 1, 2, 11, and 12, T79N, R37W, of Jackson Township, Shelby County, a small parcel in the extreme southeast corner of Section 36, T80N, R37W, in Polk Township, Shelby County, and a small parcel in the extreme northwest corner Section 6, T79N, R36W, of Sharon Township, Audubon County.

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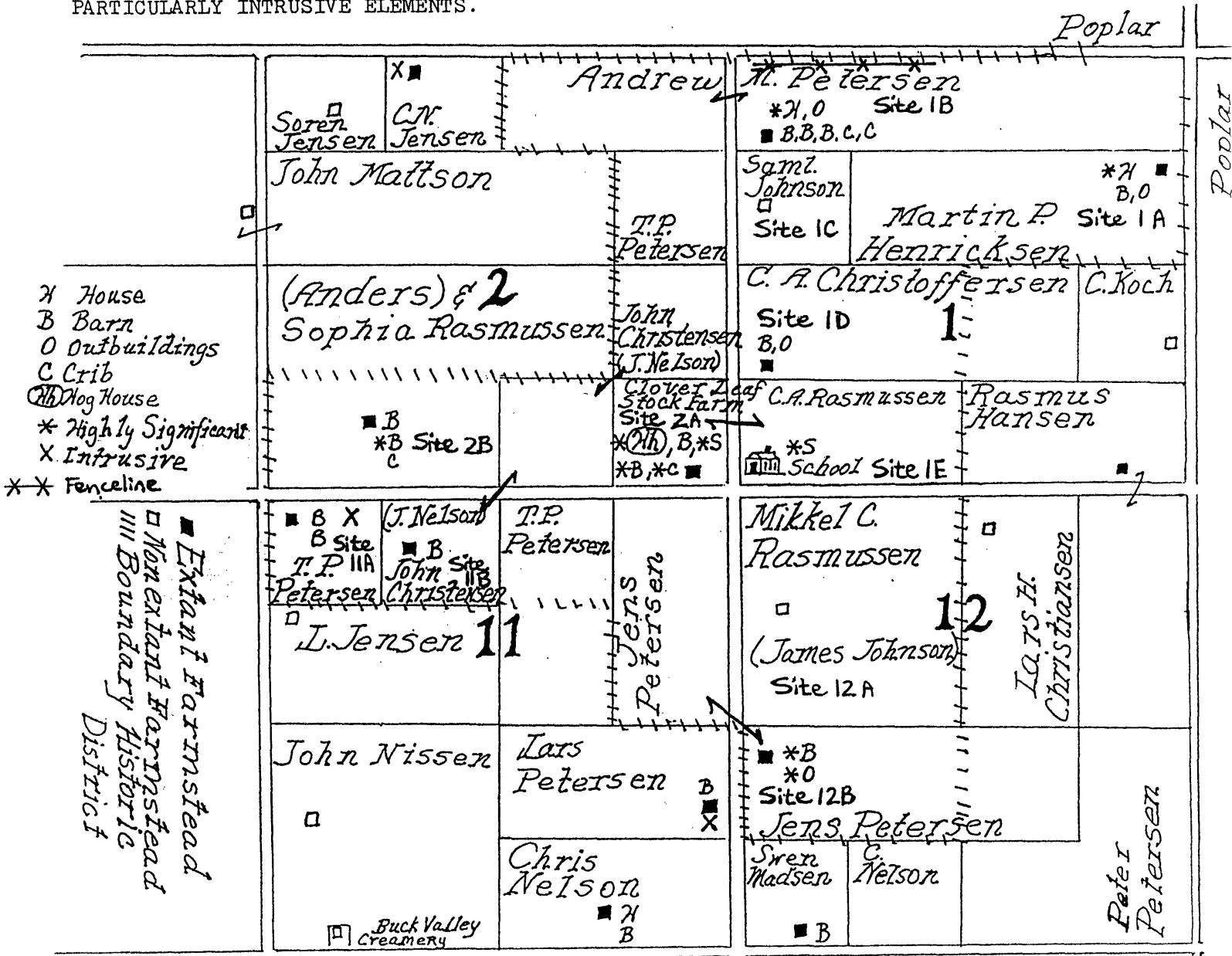
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S 323810/4614740
T 323830/4615160

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MAP SHOWING BOUNDARIES OF POPLAR RURAL DISTRICT AND JACKSON #1 SCHOOL DISTRICT
C. 1900 INCLUDING CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS, HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES, AND
PARTICULARLY INTRUSIVE ELEMENTS.

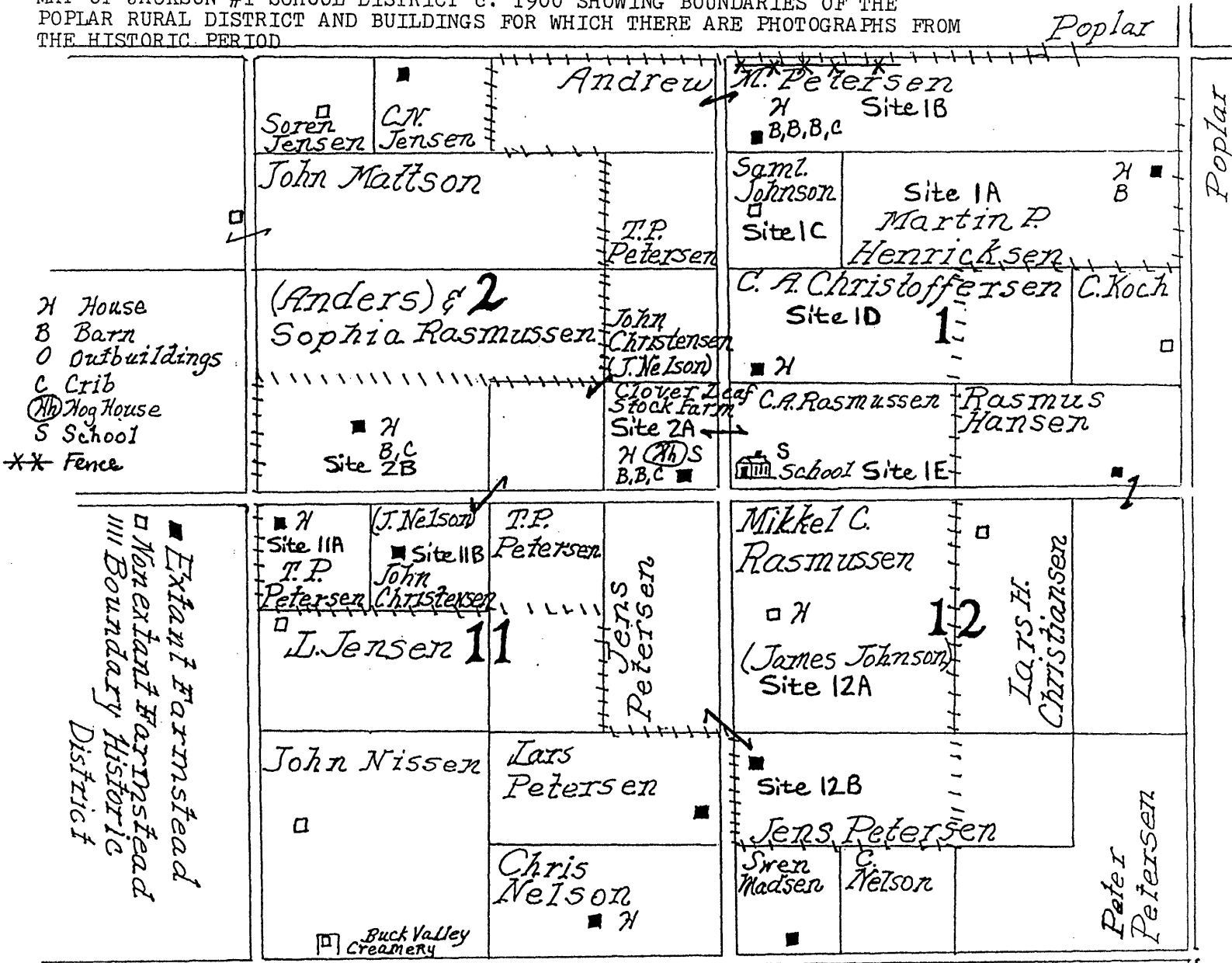


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MAP OF JACKSON #1 SCHOOL DISTRICT c. 1900 SHOWING BOUNDARIES OF THE
POPLAR RURAL DISTRICT AND BUILDINGS FOR WHICH THERE ARE PHOTOGRAPHS FROM
THE HISTORIC PERIOD

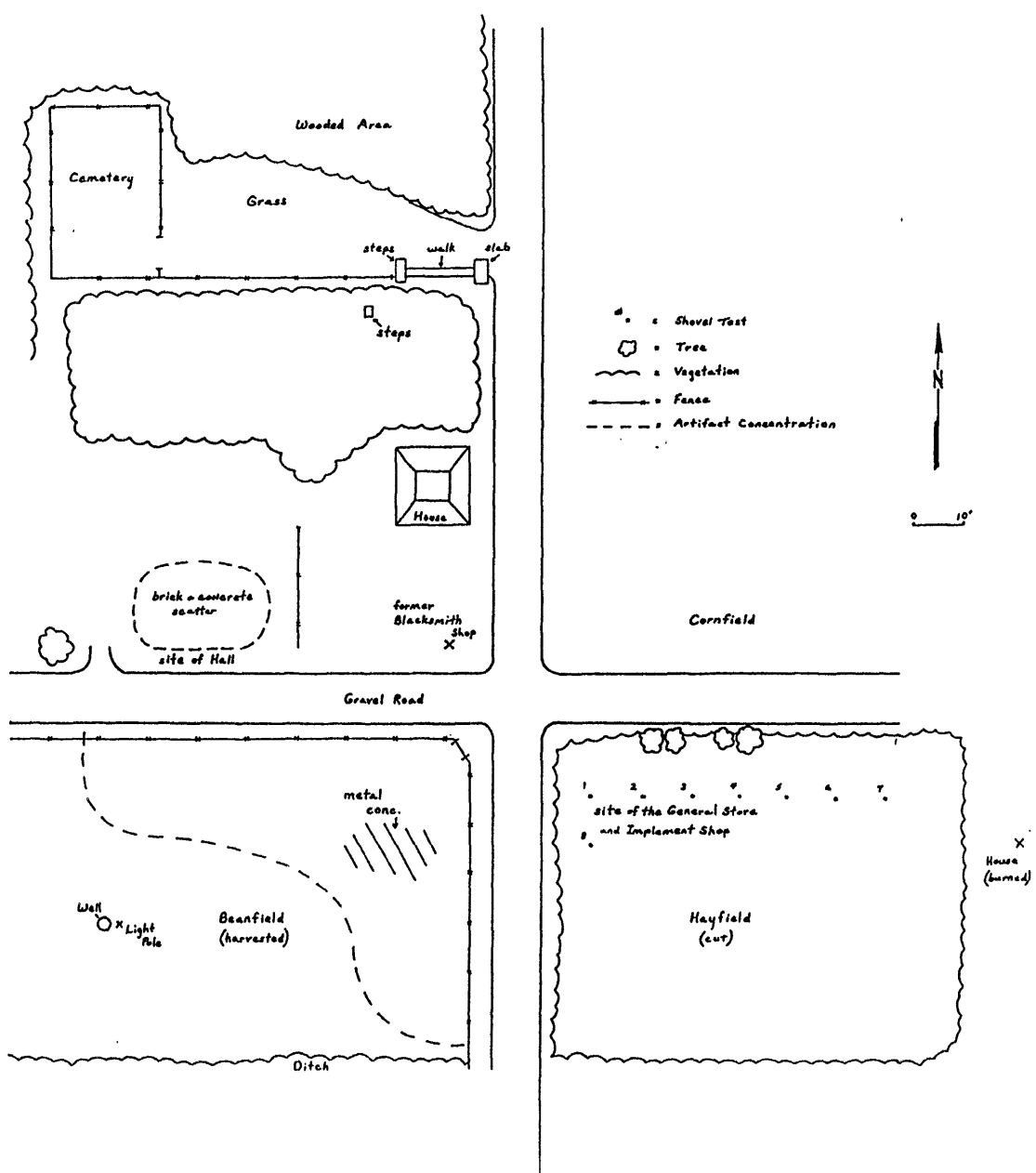


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POPLAR TOWNSITE--ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES 13AB7 and 13SH7, SURFACE FEATURES.



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Section number Photos Page 1

Poplar Rural District
Jackson and Polk Townships, Shelby County, Iowa
Sharon Township, Audubon County, Iowa
Leah Rogers, photographer
Original negatives, Iowa Bureau of Historic Preservation

Photo #	Description	Photo #	Description
#1	Vista from crossroads at Poplar townsite 2/21/91 view to SW	9	Historic photo—Henricksen farm unknown photographer c. 1910s—1920s same as #6 view to W
2	Historic photo—Poplar town unknown photographer early 1900s original photo in possession of Marlene Hansen, Jacksonville, Iowa view to NE	10	Henricksen barn 2/21/91 view to WNW
3	Historic photo—Poplar general store unknown photographer early 1900s view to SE	11	Henricksen privy 2/21/91 view to SE
4	M. P. Henricksen House 2/21/91 view to NW	12	A. M. Petersen House 5/23/90 view to NE
5	same house (rear) 2/21/91 view to SE	13	Petersen house (rear) 2/22/91 view to SW
6	Historic photo—Henricksen house unknown photographer c. 1906—1910 original photo in possession of Virginia Johnson, current resident view to NW	14	Historic photo—Petersen house unknown photographer 1910s view to NE
7	Historic photo—Henricksen farm unknown photographer c. 1906—1910 same as #6 view to W	15	Petersen horse barn 9/16/90 view to ESE
		15a	Petersen cow barn 9/16/90 view to NE
		15b	Petersen sheep barn 9/16/90 view to SW
8	Historic photo—Henricksen house unknown photographer c. 1910s—1920s same as #6 view to NW	16	Historic photo—Petersen sheep barn unknown photographer 1910s view to NW

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Photo #	Description	Photo #	Description
17	Vista from Petersen House 2/22/91 view to SW	29	C. A. Rasmussen Hog house/show ring (note Jackson #1 school in background) 2/21/91 view to ESE
18	Christoffersen House 2/22/91 view to NE	30	C. A. Rasmussen Jacksonville Barn 2/21/91 view to SE
19	Christoffersen Barn 2/22/91 view to NE	31	C. A. Rasmussen Crib/machine shed 2/21/91 view to NE
20	Christoffersen Shed 2/22/91 view to NW	32	C. A. Rasmussen Three-Portal Barn 2/21/91 view to NE
21	Vista from Christoffersen farm towards A. M. Petersen farm 3/7/91 view to N	33	same as #32
22	Jackson #1 School built in 1923 8/8/90 view to NE	34	Historic photo--non-extant C. A. Rasmussen house unknown photographer 1890s--early 1900s original photo in possession of Margaret Christensen, current farm resident view to NW
23	Vista from school 2/21/91 view to SW	35	Historic photo--C. A. Rasmussen Jacksonville Barn unknown photographer early 1900s same as #34 view to NE
24	Vista from school 2/21/91 view to WSW	36	Historic photo--C. A. Rasmussen Clover Leaf Farmstead unknown photographer early 1900s same as #34 view to NW
25	Vista from school 2/21/91 view to WNW	37	Historic photo--C. A. Rasmussen Farm unknown photographer 1911 Original photo in 1911 Shelby County Atlas view to NW
26	Vista from school 2/21/91 view to NE		
27	Vista from school 2/21/91 view to SE		
28	1884 Jackson #1 School 2/21/91 view to SE		

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Photo #	Description	Photo #	Description
38	same as #37	50	Jens Petersen House 5/23/90 view to NNE
39	same as #37 composite view-wide angle	51	Jens Petersen barn 2/22/91 view to WNW
40	Anders Rasmussen House 2/21/91 view to NW	52	Jens Petersen corn crib 2/22/91 view to ESE
41	Anders Rasmussen Barn 2/21/91 view to NE	53	Jens Petersen tool shed 2/22/91 view to SW
42	Vista from hill W of Anders Rasmussen Farmstead 2/21/91 view to E	54	Jens Petersen garage 2/22/91 view to SE
43	Vista from same place as #42 3/7/91 view to ESE	55	Vista from S of District looking towards Jens Petersen Farmstead 2/21/91 view to NNE
44	Vista from same place as #42 3/7/91 view to ENE	56	Vista from Jens Petersen farm looking towards Jackson #1 school 2/22/91 view to N
45	T. P. Petersen House 2/22/91 view to SW	57	same as #56
46	T. P. Petersen 1890 barn 2/22/91 view to SW		
47	T. P. Petersen 1920 barn 2/22/91 view to SSW		
48	John Christensen/Nelson house 2/22/91 view to WNW		
49	John Christensen/Nelson barn 2/22/91 view to ENE		