

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

For NPS use only

received JUL 23 1985

date entered SEP 25 1985

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

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

1. Name

historic Henry Gippe Farmstead

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number U.S. Highway 59 N/A not for publication

city, town Tunsberg Township vicinity of Watson

state Minnesota code 22 county Chippewa code 023

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Jan Holte

street & number Rt. 3, Box 274

city, town Cornelius N/A vicinity of state Oregon 97113

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Chippewa County Courthouse

street & number 11th Street and Washington Ave.

city, town Montevideo state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1983-84 federal state county local

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

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	N/A
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Henry and Mari Gippe Farmstead is located in Section 26 of Tunsberg Township in Chippewa County. The farm is situated along Highway 59 on the wooded banks of the Chippewa River, one mile southeast of Watson, Minnesota. The farmstead consists of a farmhouse, a two story barn, a milk house, a granary, a chicken house, and a garage/woodshed.

The Gippe house is the oldest of only a handful of brick farmhouses known to be standing in Chippewa County and is one of the largest and most ornate farmhouses in the area. The two story, twelve room house was constructed of soft reddish brown bricks which were handmade by the Gippe family using sand and clay excavated from the property. The bricks were laid in four and five course American bond on a granite fieldstone foundation. The house was constructed in a modified T-shaped plan, with the main facade facing north and open porches on three sides. The porches on the north and east facades have shed roofs, square columns with chamfered corners, cut-out brackets and fretwork with gouged ornamentation, and square balusters. The present shed roofed porch on the south facade is probably a replacement of an original open porch. Window and door openings are spaced somewhat regularly and are segmental arched in shape with brick sills and voussoirs with projecting headers. Most windows are 2/2 sash. The house is in good condition. Exterior alterations have included the removal of one chimney and minor alterations to the porches.

Located northwest of the house on the farmstead is a two story gable roofed barn constructed in 1890. The barn was built into the hillside, and has a granite fieldstone foundation and board and batten siding. At the corner of the barn is a small gable roofed milkhouse, probably contemporary with the barn. To the east of the house is a gable roofed granary with shiplap siding and 4/4 sash, built circa 1890. South of this building is a chicken house and a garage/woodshed, probably built at the turn of the century. All of the buildings on the Gippe farm are in good condition and none have been altered substantially.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1887-ca. 1910 **Builder/Architect** Henry Gippe

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Henry and Mari Gippe Farmstead, located in Tunsberg Township one mile south-east of Watson, Minnesota, is historically significant as one of the first permanent farmsteads established in Chippewa County and as the home of the Gippe family, important early pioneers and prominent farmers in the area. The farm is also significant as the home of daughters Louise and Hilda Gippe who managed the farm after their parents' deaths and became important local educators. Architecturally, the Gippe house is significant as one of the largest and most ornate farmhouses in the area and as the oldest of only a handful of brick farmhouses known to be standing in Chippewa County.

Henry Gippe (1832-1910) was one of the first four permanent settlers in Chippewa County. Gippe was born in Germany and immigrated to the United States in 1863. After stopping first at the German settlement of New Ulm, Gippe moved westward to Chippewa County in 1865. He arrived in the county with two companions, Daniel G. Wilkins and John Silvernale. Wilkins, Silvernale, and Gippe each constructed a cabin along the wooded west bank of the Chippewa River: Wilkins at the future site of Chippewa City (an extinct village which predated Montevideo), Silvernale near the future site of Watson a few miles to the north, and Gippe between his two companions on the present Gippe farm.

Gippe built a shelter of tree bark on his land in the fall of 1865 and later that year built a log cabin on the river bank. He worked slowly to break farmland, travelling over seventy-five miles to New Ulm for supplies in a dugout canoe. A prairie fire destroyed his log home circa 1867 and that year he built a new log house and a log barn near the site of the present farm buildings. Gippe became a well known figure among early pioneers in the area. He learned to speak Norwegian and English as well as his native German and was an early member of the Zion Norwegian Lutheran Church. In 1871 he married Mari Kolkind, a thirty-three year old Norwegian immigrant. The couple had three children born in the log house, Louise (born 1873), Hilda (born 1875), and Frederick who died in infancy. The Gippes became prominent small grain farmers and owned a horse drawn power mill for grinding their crop. They were the first farmers in the area to raise sheep and had hogs and a large dairy herd. The Gippes farmed their original quarter section home-stead claim until 1883 when they doubled their holdings by purchasing an additional quarter section of land for \$1,200 from the Hastings and Dakota Railroad.

In the summer of 1886, after the family had lived approximately nine years in the log cabin, Henry Gippe and his brother Frederick, a carpenter, began making bricks by hand from sand and clay taken from the property. The family built a twelve room house the summer of 1887. The house was built on a fieldstone foundation and had outside walls constructed of brick laid three layers thick, and interior walls of brick laid two layers thick. The log house was moved from its original site and used as a granary and chicken house. In 1890 the family built a two story board and batten sheathed barn on a fieldstone foundation west of the house. The barn had quarters for horses, cows, and other livestock and was used for grain threshing, corn husking, and storage of straw and hay. A milk house was built adjacent to the barn circa 1890. Three other farm out-buildings, a granary, chicken house and garage/woodshed were constructed around

(continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Moyer, L.R. and O.G. Dale. History of Chippewa and Lac Qui Parle Counties.
 2 vols. Indianapolis: B.F. Bowen and Co., 1916.
Montevideo American News, May 1, 1969 and November 2, 1972.

(continued)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 10 acres

Quadrangle name Clarkfield NE Quad, MN

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UTM References

A

1	5
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2	8	1	3	2	0
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4	9	8	5	9	0	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

B

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2	8	1	5	2	0
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4	9	8	5	9	0	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

C

1	5
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2	8	1	3	2	0
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4	9	8	5	7	0	0
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D

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2	8	1	5	2	0
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4	9	8	5	7	0	0
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E

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The property nominated is all that which is located in the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section twenty-six; Township 118 North, Range 41 West; Tunberg Township, Minnesota.

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

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan Granger - Field Assistant

organization State Historic Preservation Office
Minnesota Historical Society

date April 1984

street & number Fort Snelling History Center

telephone (612) 726-1171

city or town St. Paul

state Minnesota 55111

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Russell W. Fridley

Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date

7/1/85

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

9/25/85

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

For NPS use only

received 7/23/85

date entered

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Continuation sheet Henry and Mari Gippe Farm Item number 8,9

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8. the turn of the century.

While daughters Louise and Hilda Gippe were involved in all aspects of farming work, their parents encouraged the girls to pursue careers in education as well. Both Louise and Hilda completed high school and attended Carleton College and the University of Minnesota. Hilda graduated from the University in 1905 and Louise in 1908. Both women returned to Chippewa County and taught school in the nearby town of Watson and in rural school districts. In 1907 Hilda was elected Superintendent of Schools for Chippewa County, a position she held until 1915. In this post she supervised approximately ninety schools in the county, visiting each by horse and buggy and later in her own Model T car. In 1915 Hilda enrolled at Columbia University where she received her Master's degree in education and did post-graduate work before returning to the farm. Louise, on the other hand, stayed at the Gippe homestead and continued to teach school until Henry Gippe's death in 1910 when she and her sister and mother began to manage the farm. Both Louise and Hilda were charter members of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, worked for women's suffrage and compulsory school legislation, and were active members of the Farmers Union and the Zion Norwegian Lutheran Church. Hilda also served as chairman of the county welfare board.

Louise and Hilda Gippe continued to operate the Gippe farm on a large scale until 1952 when they hired a farm manager. They farmed and were involved in civic and neighborhood projects all of their lives. In 1964 the sisters established a \$20,000 scholarship grant for local college-bound high school students. Hilda Gippe died in 1969. Louise died in 1972, three months after her 99th birthday. She was Chippewa County's oldest citizen at her death. In recent years the farm has been owned and operated by several parties. In 1981 the Gippe log house, built circa 1867, was given to the Chippewa County Historical Society and moved to the society's Pioneer Village in Montevideo where it has been restored. The Gippe farmstead in Tunsberg township still contains the brick farmhouse, the 1890 barn, the milk house, granary, chicken house and combination garage/woodshed. The present farm is approximately 270 acres.

9. Minneapolis Tribune, August 9, 1959.

Gippe Collection, Chippewa County Historical Society, Montevideo, Minnesota.

Henry and Mari Gippe Farm

Sec. 26, Tunsberg Twp., Chippewa County



Barn



granary



House



chicken house



garage/woodshed



Chippewa River



Highway 59