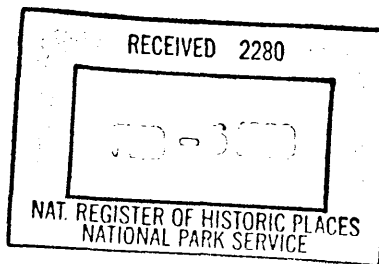


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Snoke Farmstead

other names/site number Snoke-Tate Farmstead (NeHBS # CC00-025)

2. Location

street & number 23416 O Street; State Highway 34 not for publication []

city or town Eagle vicinity [x]

state Nebraska code NE county Cass code 025 zip code 68336

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this [x] 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 [x] meets [] does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [] nationally [] statewide [x] locally. ([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official

1/24/98
Date

Director, Nebraska State Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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 from the National Register.

other, (explain): _____

Edson H. Beall

3/5/98

[Signature]
Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

Snoko Farmstead

Name of Property

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
8	1	buildings
1		sites
1		structures
		objects
10	1	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instruction)

AGRICULTURE/animal facility, agricultural outbuildings
DOMESTIC/single dwelling, secondary structure

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

No style

foundation Concrete
walls Wood
roof Asphalt, wood shingles
other _____

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Agriculture

Architecture

Period of Significance

c1875 - c1917

Significant Dates

c1875

c1884

c1917

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary Location for Additional Data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

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10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property 4 acres

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1.	14	719780	4521160	3.			
2.				4.			

[] See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Patricia S. Peterson
 organization _____ date December 1997
 street & number 3417 South 31st telephone 402 420-5618
 city or town Lincoln state NE zip code 68502

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.**Photographs**Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.**Additional items**

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

Property Owner

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

name/title Robert and Vivian Tate
 street & number 7022 River Road telephone 253 845-0206
 city or town Puyallup state WA zip code 98371-3777

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

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

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Description

The Snoke Farmstead is located in southwestern Cass County in Southeastern Nebraska. The farmstead is a distinctive complex of buildings representative of late 19th and early 20th century agricultural practices in this region of Nebraska. The complex is comprised of ten contributing elements including the house, the barn, a shed which is believed to have been the original dwelling, a wash house, a cob house, a poultry house, a garage, an outhouse, a windmill, and a windbreak. A cattle/hog shed which is in deteriorating condition is considered non-contributing. The resources have outstanding integrity and together contribute to the historic significance of the farmstead as an example of Southeastern Nebraska General Farming in the Period of Expansion and Prosperity, 1876-1919. (NeSHPO *Historic Context Report* 08.01)

The Snoke Farmstead is located 1.6 miles east of the town of Eagle, (1990 population 1,047) in southwestern Cass County on the north side of State Highway 34. The farmstead's alternate address, 23416 O Street, indicates its geographic proximity to Lincoln, the state capital of Nebraska. Lincoln's main street of O Street extends beyond the eastern city limits to 3.6 miles west of the farmstead. Highway 34 is a primary highway from Lincoln to the Missouri River towns on the eastern boundary of Cass County. Plattsmouth, which is the county seat, is about 39 miles east of the farmstead.

The well-preserved farmstead with its house and complex of working buildings is representative of the general farming type of this region of Nebraska. The contributing dwelling, wash house, cob house, barn, poultry house, a non-contributing cattle/hog shed, and the remnants of an orchard reflect the diversity of crops and livestock, and activities, characteristic of the general farming type.

The farmstead stands out architecturally, composed of a house, domestic outbuildings, and agricultural buildings which are simple and functional in design. The house, wash house, cob house, and barn are painted white and roofed with gray asphalt shingles. They are clustered in fairly close proximity. The overall effect provides an architectural presence and strong sense of cohesiveness that defines an intact farmstead representative of the period of 1875 to 1917.

The wood frame, white painted house, with broad front porches spanning each of its two stories, dominates the farmstead. The house is set back approximately 100 yards from the highway. The farmstead's set back gives the complex great presence, serving to frame the house and the outbuildings beyond with a sweeping expanse of lawn. The south-facing orientation of the house captures the sun which illuminates its prominence on the site.

A driveway east of the house leads from the highway into the farmyard, separating the house from the barn and the cattle/hog shed which are located north of the house and east of the driveway. All the remaining outbuildings are arranged north of the house and west of the driveway. While the buildings are not placed in a carefully planned layout, they are set in an orderly and functional arrangement.

Those buildings west of the drive are primarily associated with the domestic activities of the household. The two in closest proximity to the house were built for the convenience of the household—a wash house, and further north, a cob house. A wire clothes line between wood poles runs directly west from the wash house. Beyond the wash line, well to the west and far removed from all the buildings, is a tree-sheltered outhouse. Directly north of the cob

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house is the two-stall garage. The one exception to the domestic nature of the arrangement of the outbuildings west of the driveway is the poultry house, located north and west of the domestic outbuildings. The poultry house is sheltered by trees in the windbreak. Although the function of the building was more closely associated with agricultural practices, it is probable that poultry was primarily the responsibility of those working in the house, and the building's proximity to the house would be a convenience.

The present house is the building furthest south on the farmstead. The furthest building to the north is described by the present owners as the original homestead. Like the other domestic buildings, it also is west of the driveway. It has long been converted to an equipment or storage shed.

East of the driveway are the buildings associated with agricultural activities. The barn is across the drive from the wash house and the cob house. North beyond the barn is a non-contributing shed which served as a cattle or hog barn; this shed is in a state of near collapse, but stalls within are still evident. Remnants of tracks, now grassed over, mark the path for equipment to move to the fields to the north.

Trees, mostly white pine and cedars, on the north and west of the nominated property, form an L-shaped windbreak and a boundary between the farmyard and the fields to the north. Between the poultry house and the windbreak are numerous scattered trees which appear to be remnants of an orchard. Open land east of the barn gradually slopes downward to a tree-lined creek and the far eastern boundary of the property.

Contributing Buildings

The inventory of resources described below corresponds with numbers on the accompanying site plan.

1) House (Photo 1) The house was built c.1884 by Mary M. and Henry Snoke. The wood frame house is architecturally distinctive with its symmetrical front facade featuring full-length porches across the front of the house on each of its two stories; with its pillars or porch supports; and with a prominent, sharp-peaked central dormer with two decorative windows. The dormer, together with the porch supports, accentuates the imposing height of the house. The house measures 36'6"x40'6". It has excellent integrity.

The house is an I-house with an extension at the back which creates a t-shaped plan. The I-house is the core of the c.1884 house. Features on the front facade and the interior are of the Prairie style and reflect a major remodeling which occurred in 1917. The "I" portion of the house has two tall, narrow, 4 over 4 single windows at the east and west ends on both the first and second floors, indicating the house is two rooms deep, somewhat uncharacteristic of the classic I-house. The rear exterior of the house retains the look of the original house with the exception of the L-shaped porch which in recent years has been enclosed; the enclosure does not detract from the integrity of the house.

2) Wash House (Photo 2) Thirty-six feet north of the house and connected to it by a sidewalk is the c.1884 wash house, a wood frame, side-gabled building. It measures 22'4"x9'4". Its wide plank interior walls are unpainted. The exterior walls are painted white. The exterior is of board and batten construction. The wooden battens have been replaced with metal; because they resemble the exterior of the barn with its metal battens, it is estimated that the wash house underwent renovation at the time the barn was built c.1917. The door of the wash house is centered on the south wall facing the house; single 3 over 3 windows are located on either side of the door. The east, west and north walls each have single 3 over 3 windows.

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3) Windmill A windmill stands immediately to the east of the wash house. It is a four-sided structure of angle iron with cross-braces at all levels, rising from a square base upward to the vane which is still intact. A water pump by the Dempster Mill Manufacturing Co. remains inside the base of the windmill.

4) Cob House (Photo 2) Four feet, four inches north of the wash house is the c.1884 cob house. It is a wood frame, gable-front building measuring 10'2"x16'4". The board and batten exterior walls are painted white. The wooden battens have been replaced with metal; because they resemble the exterior of the barn with its metal battens, it is estimated that the cob house underwent renovation at the time the barn was built c.1917. The door is on the left side of the south wall. There are no windows.

5) Garage (Photo 3) North of the cob house is a wood frame, double door garage with loft. The c.1917 building measures 18'6"x26'5". The gable-front building and its folding doors face east; the doors are covered with plain wood panels. Tracks, now overgrown with grass, lead from the north-south drive which turns toward the garage doors. A 3-pane window above the doors features a window surround in the Prairie style. A door on the left side of the south wall provides access from the house.

6) Hen House Northwest of the garage is the poultry house. It is comprised of two different sections, each with gable roof; the section to the east is lower in height. Eleven windows of varying sizes and two doors are on the south facade. The north facade is blank.

7) Outhouse Eighty-four feet west of the house is the outhouse sheltered in a grove of trees. The wood frame building is 6'9"x4'4". It has a gable roof, a door on the east wall, and a small square, single pane window on the north wall. In somewhat deteriorating condition, it remains a contributing element.

8) Barn (Photo 4) The c.1917 barn is 52'x30'6". It is a wood frame building with gambrel roof upon which there are 4 lightening rods and a ridge line cupola, centrally located, for ventilation. A triangular-shaped hay hood shelters a hay door in the west wall on the upper level; a Dutch door is at ground level. There are few windows; on the north wall there is one small square, 2 over 2 window; on the east wall there are two square 2 over 2 windows on the lower level, and two rectangular windows on the upper level. In contrast, there are many doors in the barn, including two large sliding doors, one each on the south and north walls. Next to the sliding door on the north is a Dutch door. On the south wall there are three Dutch doors in addition to the sliding door.

9) Shed and Former Homestead (Photo 5) The building furthest north on the Snoke farmstead is a shed of primitive construction. It is identified as the first homestead where the family lived. It is constructed of wide planks and has a dirt floor, as it did when it was the homestead. It has a low ceiling, braced with king post trusses. There is a door in the center of the east wall which identifies the building style as a side-gabled plan. Irregularities in the placement of planks on outside walls suggest the filling in of windows on the east and south walls. On the south wall, a door has been created out of a window which is partly filled in to create a solid wall beside the door. The north wall has deteriorated to such an extent, it is not possible to determine its features. The building measures 10'6"x30'.

10) Trees The northwest portion of the farmstead remains heavily wooded though the effect is diminishing with the aging and dying of trees. In an L-shaped pattern on the west and north boundaries is a windbreak planted in up to three rows. Other scattered trees are reminiscent of forest; a tax assessment record describes the presence of "forest trees." These trees shelter the outhouse and the poultry house. (Cass County Assessment of Real and

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Personal Property, 1890.) Closer to the garage appear what might be remnants of an orchard, which are also described in assessment records. (Cass County Assessment of Real and Personal Property, 1890.)

Non-contributing building

1) **Cattle/Hog Shed** Seventy-nine feet north of the barn is a c.1875 gable shed variously described in assessment records as a cattle and a hog shed. It is in badly deteriorated condition. The building measures 24'6" x 41'. Stalls are still evident in the interior.

The Snoke Farmstead retains a high degree of integrity. The Farmstead has remained in the family since its founding. The range of intact structures conveys the story of its historical significance.

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Significance

The Snoke Farmstead is significant locally under National Register Criterion A for its association with the history of agriculture in southeastern Nebraska. The farmstead is representative of the General Farming type as defined by NeSHPO *Historic Context Report* 08.01. (Kehlbeck Farmstead National Register Nomination, hereinafter referred to by NeHBS number CC00-36.) The Snoke Farmstead is unique in being illustrative of the evolution of an agricultural property throughout the Period of Expansion and Prosperity, 1876-1919. (NeSHPO *Historic Context Report* 08.01.) (The NeSHPO *Historic Context Report* provides general background on the history and development of agriculture in Cass County, Nebraska, including bibliographic references for additional background.)

The Snoke Farmstead is also significant under Criterion C for its architecture. The farmstead is architecturally significant for conveying the evolution of buildings to accommodate family and general farming practices from the early days of settlement in 1873 to 1917. The period of significance c.1875 to c.1917 spans the farmstead's founding in 1873 to the 1917 remodeling, paralleling the Period of Expansion and Prosperity for General Farming, 1876-1919.

History

In 1870 Henry Snoke, 33, and Mary M. Snoke, 32, moved with their 5 year old daughter Emma to southeastern Nebraska from Iowa in a covered wagon. Initially they lived on the site of the Snoke Farmstead in their covered wagon. From the covered wagon, they moved into what the family refers to as the homestead, a one-room dwelling with a dirt floor. In 1878 they adopted a son, born May 10, whom they named Elton Dwight Snoke. (Tate interview, 8/30/97; Census Report of 1870 in Cox 1979:152; Census Report of 1879.)

Henry Snoke received the land platted as the "west half of the South East quarter section twenty two in Township [Ten] of Range Nine..." as a Patent from the United States in 1873. (United States Patent, Deed Record, Book 1:449) Henry Snoke transferred title to the land to his wife Mary M. in 1874. (Deed Record, Book S:154) The property remained in Mary M. Snoke's name until 1904 when the land was deeded to son Elton D. The plat map of 1905 shows W M Snoke as the owner (an error likely due to the handwriting in the 1902 Tax Assessment record in which Mary's initials MM look like WM). (*Plat Book of Cass County, Nebraska*, 1905:25) In 1905 Elton D. Snoke bought the east half of the southeast quarter, thereby owning the entire southeast quarter as is shown on the plat map of 1918. (Anderson, 1918:33) He and his wife Margaret had five children—Georgia, Harry, Mabel, Donald and Maria. Through the years some of the land was deeded for railroad right of way and to the State of Nebraska for highway easement, and was otherwise divided and sold. However, the 4 acres of land immediately surrounding the farmstead has continued to remain in the family to the present day.

Criterion A - Agriculture

The Snoke Farmstead is significant due to its association with the broad pattern of agricultural history in this part of Nebraska, in accordance with Criterion A, as representative of a General Farming type. The General Farming type is the dominant system or type of farming in southeastern Nebraska, which includes Cass County, as categorized by the NeSHPO *Historic Context Report* 08.01.

General farming represents a distinct type, characterized by a diverse cropping and livestock system. Typically, the cropping system was composed of corn, small grains and hay, grown in rotation on

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relatively small fields. The principal use of the crops was for livestock production, principally for beef cattle and hogs with some dairy cattle production as well. (*Historic Context Report* 08.01. [1988]: 2)

Historically, the general farming type is divided in four significant periods:

The first, 1854-1874, represents the period of initial settlement and a time when agriculture was first being introduced. The period 1876-1919 represents one of prosperity, while the period 1920-1945 is one of depression and drought. The latest period, from 1945 to the present, is generally described as the modern era, one which resulted in drastic changes in the type-of-farming system in the area. (*Historic Context Report* 08.01 [1988]:3)

The significant association of the Snoke Farmstead with agriculture is further illustrated by the farmstead's representation as a General Farming Type in the era of agricultural prosperity. The Snoke Farmstead spans the exact timeframe of what is called the "Period of Expansion and Prosperity: 1876-1919". Within this period, the Snoke Farmstead was settled, developed and expanded, and experienced prosperity.

The general farming system in southeast Nebraska which featured diversified agriculture was "...considered transitional between regions of more specific activity...between the Corn Belt to the east and the wheat region to the west." (*Historic Context Report* 08.01 [1988]:8) In its historical sequence, diversified agriculture followed subsistence farming of the initial settlement period, after experimentation in the 1870s. (*Historic Context Report* 08.01 [1988]: 14) Corn was the most important crop, until increases in the number of horses made oats more important.

By the mid 1880's a basic two-crop rotation of corn and small grain was in place, using the extensive native pastures for hay and roughage for cattle. By the 1890's pasture land in southeast Nebraska was largely depleted, with the result that now a three-crop rotation system was implemented. A slight increase in dairy cattle followed in order to utilize the increased roughage. Beef cattle, dairy cattle and hogs, then, formed the basis of the livestock system which accompanied the corn, small grain and hay cropping system. (*Historic Context Report* 08.01[1988]:15-16)

These patterns in cropping and livestock systems are illustrated in the tax Assessment Records of Personal and Real Property, Tipton Precinct, Cass County, for the property of Mary M. Snoke. The records also convey the evolution and growth of their farm from 1873 to 1919.

Assessment of Personal and Real Property

1873	1884	1890	1902	1919
2 horses	43 acres of corn	1 horse	3 horses	dogs \$ 10
1 neat cattle	15 acres of oats	3 cattle	4 cattle	poultry \$ 20
4 swine	5 acres of rye	52 hogs	8 hogs	hogs \$ 165
	25 fruit trees	32 acres of corn	50 acres of corn	horses \$ 420
	1 acre of forest trees	13 acres meadow	10 acres of oats	cattle \$ 965
		31.35 acres of pasture	25 fruit trees	corn, bushels 550
		12 fruit trees	50 forest trees	hay & alfalfa, tons 10
		2,000 forest trees	40 grape vines	

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Corn was consistently grown by the Snokes, often along with oats, but corn remained the predominant crop on this farm throughout the period. Their experimentation with spring wheat in 1878 and 1879 did not continue. During the 1890s, assessments sometimes reported the proportion of land given over to meadow, perhaps a reflection of depletion of pastures through over production which led to the practice of a rotation system. (Sweedlum, 1940:66) Peak crop production occurred during the period of World War I. Comparisons are complicated by different assessment reporting methods, but the 1918 assessment recorded corn valued at \$2,250; in 1919, 550 bushels of corn were recorded when, in previous years, 200-250 bushels were more usual.

Among livestock, the presence of horses and cattle on the Snoke's farm was consistent throughout the period though numbers varied from year to year. The first year of ownership, the Snokes had 2 horses, 1 neat cattle, and 4 swine. The number of hogs seemed to vary most, ranging from 1 to 52, with 52 in 1890 as the possible peak number; there were a few years when it appears Elton Snoke did not raise them.

Another characteristic of the general farming type was the self-sufficiency of the operation as exemplified in home industry operations such as "...raising of poultry for meat and eggs, vegetable and fruit gardening...and dairying." (CC00-36) Assessments of the Snoke farm reveal that fruit trees were an important part of their farm production from early settlement days. In the early 1870s, when assessment records were more specific, fruit trees were identified as peach, plum, and cherry. Poultry were included in the assessments beginning in 1904 though it is highly likely that poultry had been raised on the Snoke Farm in earlier periods. Grape vines were introduced in the early 1900s.

The self sufficiency, the home industry operations, as well as general farming activities are evident in the Snoke Farmstead. They are inherent in the architecture of the poultry house; in the shed variously described in assessment records as a cattle or a hog shed; of the barn large enough to hold livestock and grains; of the windmill; of the homestead turned into farm equipment storage shed; and of the remnants of the orchard.

Criterion C - Architecture

The architecture of the Snoke Farmstead is significant because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type and period of construction. The juxtaposition of the homestead and cattle/hog shed from the 1870s with the c.1917 barn and remodeled house graphically illustrate this evolution. The construction type and period of construction of the cattle/hog shed and the barn embody the history of agriculture in this region.

The architecture conveys the farmstead's history from its beginnings in 1873 through a remodeling c.1917 in its prosperous farming times. This history spans a period directly parallel with the Period of Expansion and Prosperity from 1876-1919 for the General Farming type. The farmstead is significant because the inventory of the farmstead's buildings and other contributing elements reflect the family's domestic and agricultural industry. The history of the development of the buildings of this farmstead is to be found in family memories, in records of mortgages and tax assessments, and in architectural features and is illuminated by historical developments.

The farmstead has a rare level of historic integrity, both in the buildings themselves and because there are no non-historic intrusions.

The evolution of the farmstead is explored in the following narrative within time periods through decades which roughly conform to the Period of Expansion and Prosperity, 1876 -1919. The designation of the narrative time periods is arbitrary, however, to reflect broad stages in the Snoke family and farmstead history. The time periods, though not based on dates of significance, are intended to illuminate the dates of significance.

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Period 1873 - 1879 This period of initial settlement and agricultural development characterizes this period of the Snoke Farmstead. It is represented in two c.1875 structures: the contributing homestead and the non-contributing cattle/hog shed. The homestead, a dirt-floored dwelling, the first house the family lived in, is identified as the earliest building. At an undetermined time it was converted to an equipment shed. The cattle/hog shed provided shelter for livestock which they had the same year they obtained the land; the increase in the number of cattle and swine in the 1870s are indicative of the need for the building early in their settlement.

The homestead and the cattle/hog shed are the two buildings in the complex located furthest to the north of the road and closest to the fields and were built in close proximity to one another. They stand apart from the remainder of the farmstead both physically and historically.

The placement of the homestead and cattle/hog shed determined the basic arrangement for later development of the farmstead. Currently, the driveway from the highway ends at the garage north of the main house; but tracks or long ruts, now covered in grass, continue north and lead up between the homestead and the cattle/hog shed. The tracks continue all the way to the field and mark the major path from the farmstead into the field. The homestead sits on the west side of the track, or drive, and the cattle/hog shed sits on the east side. That is the pattern for the placement of the more recent buildings: the house and outbuildings serving domestic activities are west of the drive; the barn is east of the drive.

Period 1880 - 1899 The period 1880 to 1899 represents a prime time in the life of Mary and Henry Snoke for raising their family and growing the farm. Their family was enlarged by the arrival of son Elton Dwight in 1878. Three mortgages are recorded in this period: in 1880, 1884, and at the end of the following decade in 1898.

The family, and tax assessment records incorporating the owners' estimates, suggest the house was built between 1880 and 1890. The tax assessments of the period and the mortgages focus the date of construction of the house to the 1880s, particularly 1884. Documentation does not exist to support an 1890 construction date. It is estimated the wash house and the cob house were built c.1884. The house, the wash house, and the cob house are grouped in working relationship to each other; the wash house and the cob house do not appear to be closely aligned with the original homestead.

The c.1884 house incorporates features of two distinctive architectural periods in its development. The dwelling's original form is an "I-house". The "I" portion of the house has two tall, narrow 4 over 4 single windows at the east and west ends on both the first and second floors, indicating the house is two rooms deep, somewhat uncharacteristic of the classic I-house. As was characteristic in this post-railroad period, the house was made more elaborate with an extension to the rear resulting in a t-shape plan. (McAlester 1984:96). An 1897 newspaper report that "Henry Snoke is working on an addition to his house" probably refers to the Snoke Farmstead; it is likely that this addition was the kitchen portion of the house.

The "I-house" style was, according to McAlester, "...particularly favored as modest folk dwellings in the Midwestern states where the relatively long and confining winters made large houses more of a necessity..." (McAlester 1984:96) Gowans indicates that in the late 19th century, the I-style house was "flourishing in...the prairies...all over North America." (Upton and Vlach 1986:387) Kniffen interpreted the I-house as serving as a symbol of "...economic success in an agricultural society..." (Upton and Vlach 1986:387)

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Period of 1900 - 1913 The first decade of the 1900's witnessed the transfer of ownership of the Snoke Farmstead to the next generation. Mary and Henry Snoke deeded the west half (W2) of the south east quarter (SE4) to Elton D. Snoke in March 1904. Mary and Henry Snoke took out a substantial mortgage in October 1904 for \$1,750. Also in October 1904, Elton D. and Margaret Snoke took out a mortgage for \$1,800. In January, 1905, Elton D. bought the east half (E2) of the south east quarter (SE4) from C.S. Baldwin. With these transfers in property, Elton D. Snoke became owner of the entire south east quarter of Section 22, Township 10, Range 9.

These real estate transactions mark a major expansion in the agricultural capacity of the Snoke Farmstead as the amount of land increased from 80 to 160 acres.

Period 1914 - 1919 The prosperity of Nebraska agriculture in this timeframe occurred with World War I. "Farm prices, already higher than any Nebraska farmer had ever experienced," noted James C. Olson, "increased spectacularly during the war....Moreover, the purchasing power of the farmer's dollar was greater than it had ever been before." (Olson 1966:268)

This period of agricultural prosperity for the Snoke Farmstead is evident today in the significant rehabilitation of the farmhouse during this period, construction of an automobile garage, and the construction of the barn. No mortgages were obtained during this period.

The house was remodeled c.1917. (Estimate of owner in 1960 (?) Tax Assessment form; Allen interview, 11/10/97) The changes to the house in this remodeling are distinctive for their consistency of design in the Prairie style which is most clearly evident in the front facade and in the interior. The center front door is bordered by tall, narrow leaded glass windows in a Prairie style pattern, what Poppeliers describes as "...distinctive stylized... geometric patterns". (Poppeliers 1983:80). The porch pillars, or porch supports, in their simple rectangular pattern are representative of the Prairie style. Because there are two porches, one on each story, the porch supports appear to span the two stories and are rather unusual in this respect. The rear exterior of the house retains the look of the original house with the exception of the L-shaped porch which in recent years has been enclosed; the enclosure does not detract significantly from the integrity of the house.

The first floor interior of the house was remodeled to incorporate a new stairway to the second floor; it was built with Prairie style posts and banisters. "Wooden trim in simple geometric shapes were used for stairways [and] built-in cabinets..." notes Poppeliers, which is characteristic of the Snoke stairway and bookcases. (Poppeliers 1983: 80) The bookcases in the living room have leaded glass doors in a Prairie style. The kitchen was updated with cabinets built by an Eagle carpenter, Ralph E. Allen. It is possible that other Prairie style carpentry work, including the stairway, might have been done by Allen as well. (Allen interview, 11/10/97) It is believed these Prairie style elements were built without the involvement of architects, or even plans. It is possible some elements were available as stock parts. The Prairie style emerged, became popular, and declined between 1900 and 1920. According to McAlester, "...the style in its vernacular form was spread throughout the country by pattern books published in the Midwest." (McAlester 1984:440)

The barn, c.1917 construction, is characteristic of barns built after 1900 with its gambrel roof. It bears resemblance to barns depicted in educational and extension materials of the period, as well as to "catalog barns" such as the Sears, Roebuck and Company "Honor Bilt" pre-cut buildings. (Brooks 1994:50) The barn is distinctive for its few windows and its many Dutch doors and wide sliding doors on the north and south facades. The exterior is of board and batten construction with metal battens. The barn was constructed incorporating materials from a previous structure; these materials are evident only from the interior.

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The wash house and the cob house also have exteriors of board and batten construction. It appears wooden battens have been replaced with metal. It is estimated that the wash house and cob house underwent renovation at the time the barn was built c.1917.

The garage, with two stalls and a loft, has the same Prairie style detailing as the house. A small three-pane window above the garage doors has a Prairie style window surround. Three-panel folding doors with windows are now protectively covered with plywood doors.

The garage, c.1917, represents the introduction of the automobile into the Snoke family household. Tax assessment records reveal the ownership of automobiles by Elton Snoke. The family did not have an automobile as of the 1914 assessment. In 1915 and 1916, an unknown number of autos is valued at \$50. In 1917, the value of the family's automobile is \$200. Then in 1918, the family has one automobile, valued at \$1,400. As the latest building in the farmstead complex, and for its association with the automobile, the garage serves as a symbolic transition to a more modern, mechanized farming operation.

Summary and Conclusion

The Snoke Farmstead is significant for its association with agriculture and for its architecture. The farmstead's buildings convey the historical evolution of agricultural and domestic industry and domestic life. The only other farmstead in southeast Nebraska listed on the National Register as representative of the General Farming type is the Kehlbeck Farmstead in Cass County, listed in the National Register September 26, 1985. The Snoke Farmstead is unique in being older in its origins, and therefore, representative of the entire Period of Expansion and Prosperity as detailed in the NeSHPO context report.

The Snoke Farmstead's extraordinary integrity of buildings and landscape contribute to its significance.

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- Mortgage Records pertaining to the West half and the East half of the South East Quarter, Number 22, Township 10, Range 9, Cass County, Nebraska.

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- Tate, Vivian Snoke. 8/28/97; 8/30/97.

Nebraska Nominations to the National Register	NeHBS #
Kehlbeck Farmstead	CC00-36

Newspapers

[Town news section], *The Eaglet* [of Eagle, Nebraska], September 18, 1897. Vol. VI, No. 48, p.1.

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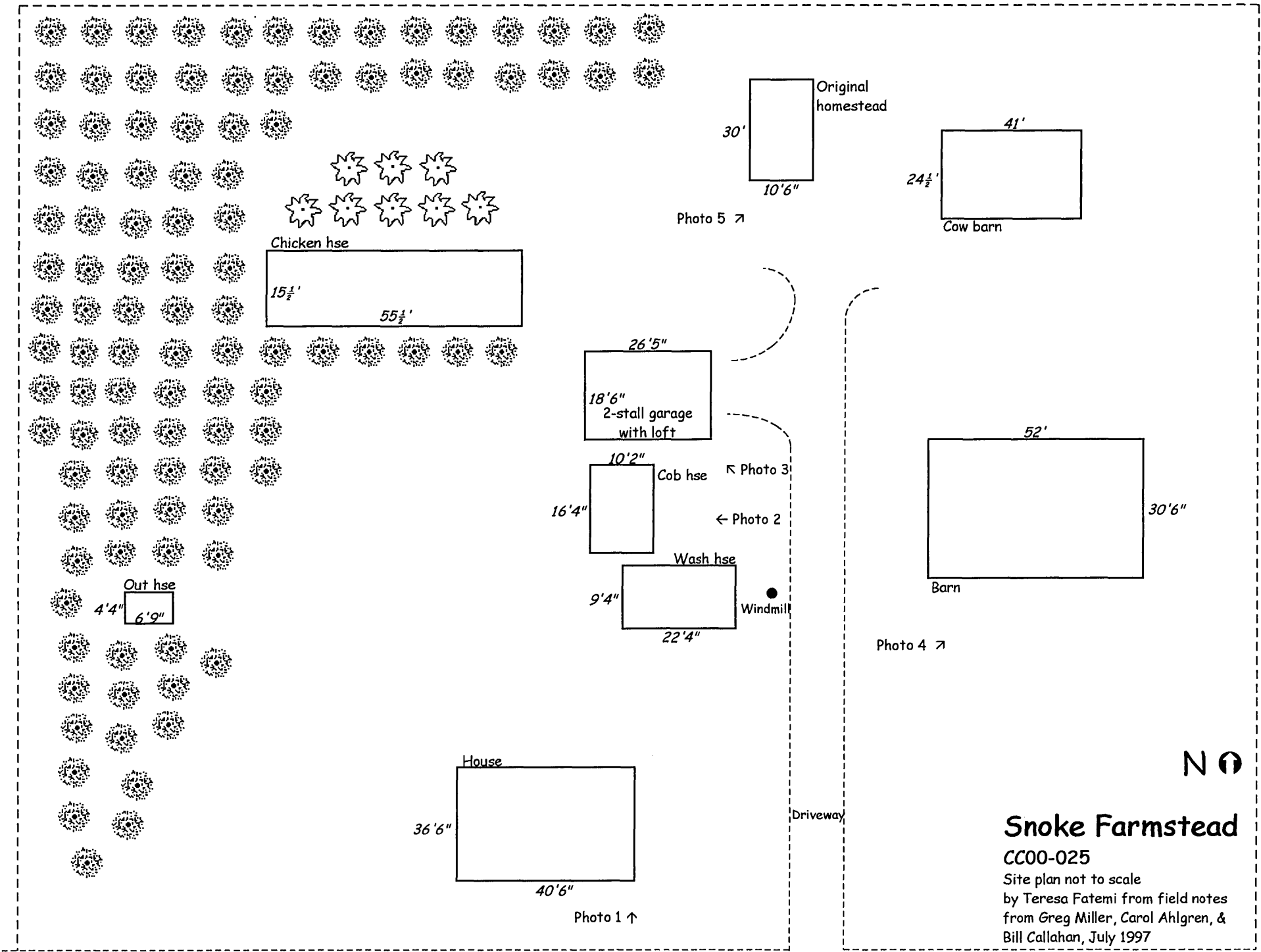
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Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated area is legally described as Tax Lot 19, SW 1/4 of SE 1/4 exc highway 22-10-9.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses a tract of land containing the buildings, site, and structure historically associated with the Snoke Farmstead.



← Highway 34 →



Snoke Farmstead
 CC00-025
 Site plan not to scale
 by Teresa Fatemi from field notes
 from Greg Miller, Carol Ahlgren, &
 Bill Callahan, July 1997