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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

DIVISION OF
NATIONAL REGISTER PROGRAMS
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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 Hanka, Gregorius and Mary, Historic Farmstead
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Off Township Road 6544 not for publication N/A
city, town Tower (Embarrass Township) vicinity
state Minnesota code MN county St. Louis code 137 zip code 55732

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
		<u>6</u>	<u>7</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Rural Finnish Log Buildings of St. Louis County, MN
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.
Signature of certifying official Ian R. Stewart Date 1/25/90
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau Minnesota Historical Society

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. Beth Biland 1/90/90
 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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwellingAGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE:animal facilityagricultural outbuilding

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwellingAGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE:animal facilityagricultural outbuilding

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Log

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stonewalls WeatherboardLogroof Asphaltother

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Gregorius and Mary Hanka Farm has eleven buildings, four of which are log, dating from ca.1910. A "U"-shaped courtyard consisting of the house, two saunas, and double pen drive-through barn is formed in the center of the farmstead approximately 300' east from the gravel county road that provides access to the site. Open hay fields surround the farm on the north, east, and south, and a log field hay barn is located some 500' southeast of the house. Several wood frame outbuildings scattered throughout the site complete the farmstead. The following summary description of the Hanka Farm corresponds to a map enclosed with the registration form.

1) House (tupa), ca.1910, contributing.

The house is a 1 1/2 story, "L"-shaped building that was constructed in two stages: the first around 1910, and the second in ca.1913. A mortared, fieldstone foundation supports the horizontal log walls that are joined at the corners by double notches and covered with drop siding (applied in about 1926). The 19' x 21' west portion of the structure was the original one-and-one-half story, one-room homestead cabin of Gregorius and Mary Hanka and their family. At some time around 1913, a 13'7" x 25', story-and-a-half addition was made to the east gable wall of the original cabin, with the roof line perpendicular to the first section thus forming an "L" configuration. A hipped porch located at the northwest corner was attached in ca.1912. Double hung windows with 1/1 sash (which were shortened in 1975) pierce each wall, and a shed dormer, added in 1932, projects from the south pitch of the original cabin roof. Asphalt shingles cover the gable roof.

2) Sauna, ca.1915, contributing.

The sauna is a rectangular-shaped, one-story log building that measures 12'8" in width and 23'4" in length. It is actually two log buildings joined together by two channeled vertical posts that receive the log ends of the west half of the building. Low in profile, it is constructed on a stone foundation, and has square hewn, double notch corner joints. The gable walls have logs from the sill to the ridge. The interior is divided into two nearly equally-sized rooms by a hewn log partition whose ends project past the exterior side walls. The west gable has a wooden door and an opening for a square window, while the south wall has two similar openings. The gable roof is covered with corrugated metal.

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture
Architecture
Ethnic Heritage: European

Period of Significance

ca.1910-1939

Significant Dates

ca.1910
ca.1915

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Hanka, Gregorius, architect and builder

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

The Gregorius and Mary Hanka Farm is historically significant under National Register Criterion A because it is associated with the work of Finnish immigrants who converted St. Louis County's marginal cutover into useful agricultural land when they settled the area around the turn of the century. It is also architecturally significant under Criterion C as a good example of a moderately-sized Finnish log cutover farm that embodies the traditional, distinctive construction techniques used by Finnish-Americans in the county. The dwelling, farm buildings, and cultivated land represent the first associated property type, (Finnish Log Farms) and characterize the kind of subsistence level farming experienced by these immigrants. The Hanka Farm is representative of the agrarian life style that so many Finns attained in rural St. Louis County during and after their employment in the iron mining and lumber industries (see associated historic contexts, The Iron Range, 1880s-1930s and Northern Minnesota Lumbering, 1870s-1930s). Each log building on the Hanka Farm represents the third historic context, Finnish Log Architecture, 1880s-1930s. They illustrate the common practice by Finns of erecting numerous log buildings each for a specialized function. As a group, these buildings conform to a loosely configured courtyard plan with the house and cattle barn facing each other across the open court. In addition, the placement of the field hay barn a considerable distance from the farmstead is based on an Old World arrangement of farm buildings. The cleared land surrounding the farm and the assorted domestic and agricultural buildings -- the dwelling, sauna, and cattle/hay barn -- demonstrate the successful introduction of raising crops and animals by the Hanka family. Architecturally, the use of a traditional dwelling plan and familiar construction techniques such as chinkless log walls and double notched corner timbering indicate a rich array of building skills and cultural forms that were borrowed from Finland. These log buildings are in excellent condition and relatively unchanged, thereby maintaining their integrity of workmanship, materials, and design. The property retains its association because it is still owned by the original settlers' son. The noncontributing outbuildings (two of which stand on the extreme western edge of the property) are minor and widely dispersed on the farmstead.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

See the Historic Contexts Bibliography

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 69 acres

UTM References

A

1	5
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5	5	9	7	5	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

5	2	8	2	0	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

 Zone Easting Northing

C

1	5
---	---

5	6	0	1	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

5	2	8	1	2	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

B

1	5
---	---

5	6	0	1	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

5	2	8	2	0	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

 Zone Easting Northing

D

1	5
---	---

5	5	9	7	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

5	2	8	1	2	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

W 1/2 of the SW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 12 and the NW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 13 except the southerly 208 7/10 feet of the northerly 475 5/10 feet of westerly 208 7/10 feet of easterly 241 7/10 feet of the NW 1/4 of Section 13, T60N, R15W, Embarrass Township, St. Louis County.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the farmhouse, outbuildings, and cultivated fields that have historically been part of the Hanka Farm and that maintain historic integrity. One acre of the original 80-acre parcel (located in the southeast corner of the property) has been excluded because it is under separate ownership and contains a modern house.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael Koop/Preservation Consultant
 organization N/A date January 1989
 street & number 615 Jackson St. NE telephone 612-623-8356
 city or town Minneapolis state MN zip code 55413

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3) Cattle/Hay Barn, ca.1915, contributing.

This long, one-story building measures about 23' x 58', and has two 23' square log pens spaced about 11 1/2' apart. The cattle barn, or left (west) half, has square hewn logs with double notched corners, full log gables, four purlins, and a ridgepole. The interior is whitewashed and the rather low loft floor of split saplings rests on seven unhewn joists spaced an average of 3'5" apart on center. A door is located in each gable end, and two square window frames (presently covered with plywood) pierce the south wall. The gable roof extends to the east over a 13'-wide former drive-through (enclosed ca.1923) to the west wall of the hay barn.

The hay barn is made of unhewn logs with saddle corner notches. Like the cattle barn, it also has full log gables, four unhewn log purlins, and a ridgepole. An uncommon and distinctive feature is the original sapling floor placed directly across the sill, which is visible on each sidewall where the ends of the saplings protrude through the walls by several inches. Double wagon doors open to the east gable, and a single door punctuates the west elevation. Wood shingles cover the roof.

4) Field Hay Barn (lato), ca.1915, contributing.

The field hay barn is a one-story log building located nearly 500' southeast of the house. It measures 20'5" x 24' and has unhewn, chinkless log walls with numerous spacers and sizeable gaps. Saddle notches are used to join the corners, and wooden dowels are placed in many locations to prevent wall slippage. Two unhewn purlins, a ridgepole, and three log wind braces provide additional stability to the gable roof. Both gable walls have logs up to the ridge, although the west side has an 8'-wide opening from the ground up to the eleventh log (a height of about five feet). The sidewalls have a slight inward taper from the top to the bottom, a characteristic common to many Finnish field hay barns.

5) Garage, 1927, noncontributing.

This is a small, square, one-story wood frame building sheathed with drop siding. It was constructed to shelter the family's Model T automobile.

6) Garage, 1939, noncontributing.

Located about 35' east of the gravel county road, this one-story, wood frame building is covered with vertical half logs. It has a gable roof and two stalls for vehicles covered with hinged double doors.

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7) Wood Shed (puusuoja), 1946, noncontributing.

This building was constructed by Hugo Hanka and is made of round logs and planks.

8) Sauna, ca.1965, noncontributing.

Built by Pat Martila, a neighbor of the Hanka's, the sauna stands on a concrete foundation and has log walls covered with asphalt shingles. It is 10'3" wide and 16'3" long with a gable roof and a door in the west gable end.

9) Privy (kaymala), date unknown, noncontributing.

The two stall outhouse is a wood frame building sheathed with drop siding. It was moved to the Hanka Farm from Tower in the 1940s.

10) Fuel Shed, ca.1960, noncontributing.

This is a tiny wood frame building covered with metal.

11) Mobile Home, ca.1960 noncontributing.

12) Well (kaivo), ca.1910, contributing.

Located just northwest of the sauna, this is the original source of water for the Hanka Farm. It has a newer pump and is considered a contributing structure.

13) Agricultural fields, contributing.

These surround the farmstead on the north, east, and south. The fields are still cultivated for crops and are considered a contributing site.

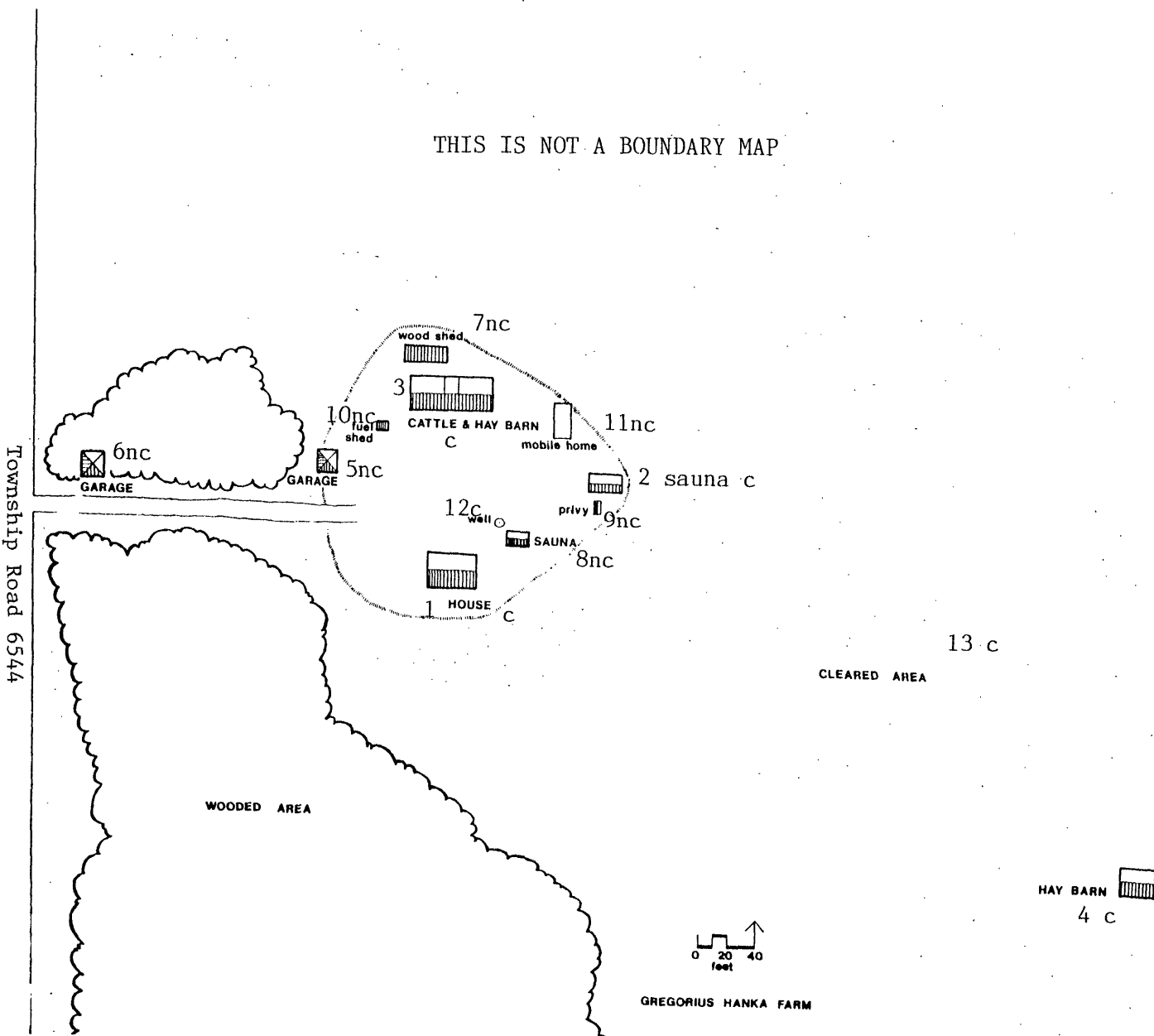
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THIS IS NOT A BOUNDARY MAP



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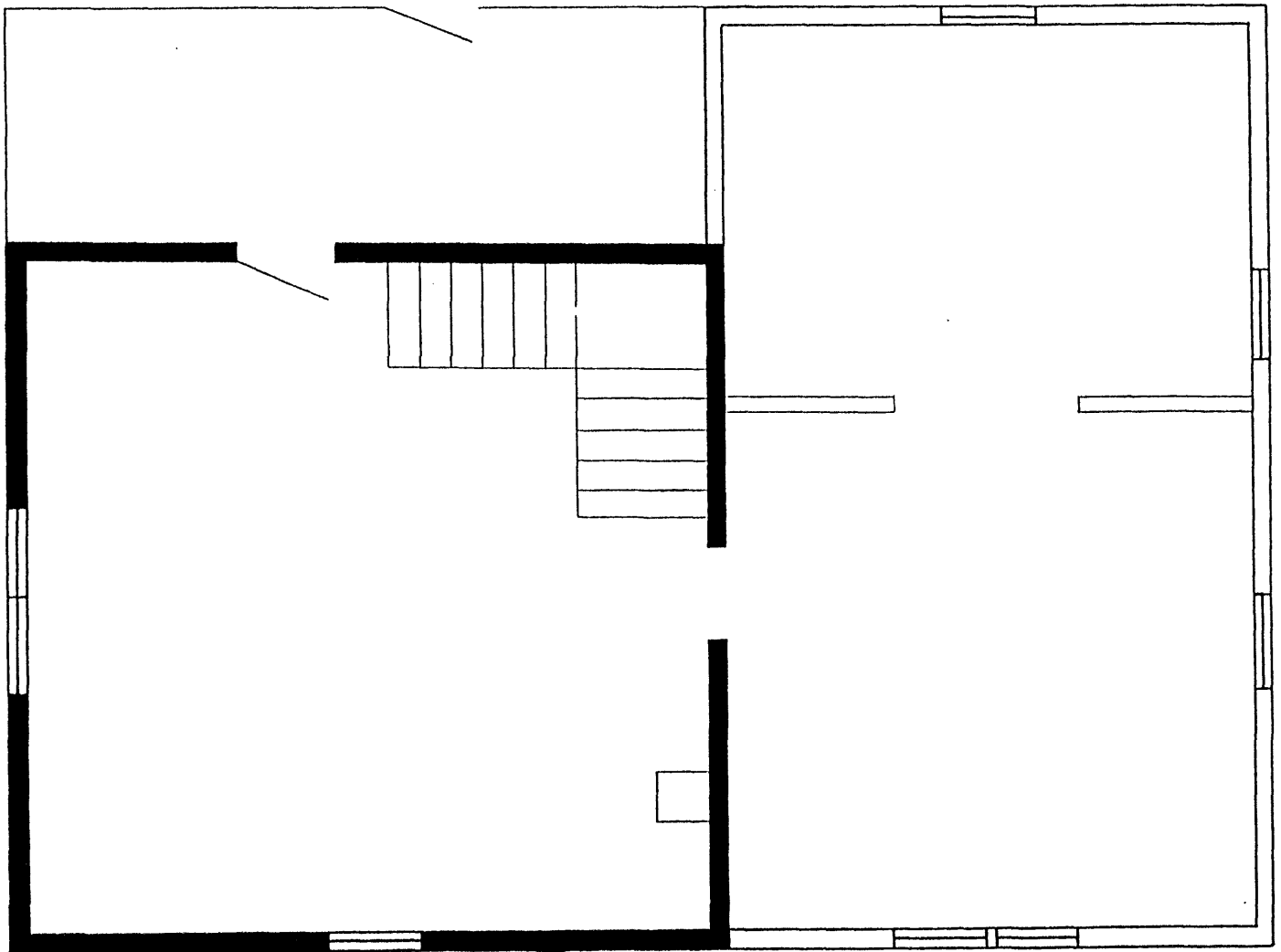
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GREGORIUS and MARY HANKA HOUSE



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Gregorius Hanka was born in 1883 in Jurva, Vaasa on the southwestern coast of Finland. It is not known when he emigrated from Finland, but by 1902 he was employed at a sawmill in Winton, Minnesota, northeast of where he eventually settled. Hanka later took a position at the Pioneer and Range Mines at Ely, after which he labored in the woods making railroad ties, switch sets, and pulpwood. In 1910, at the age of 26, he married Mary Stierna and together they bought an 80-acre parcel of land from the Duluth and Iron Range Railroad, whose tracks ran about one mile west of the Hanka's property. While staying with neighbors, the Hankas erected a one-room log house to which they added another room a few years later. By 1915, several other log buildings including a sauna, hay barn, and cattle barn were constructed on the farm.

It is safe to assume that the Hanka family had accumulated some capital since they were able to buy their land rather than acquire it through the Homestead Act or some other means. Nevertheless, Gregorius found it necessary to supplement their dairy operation (five cows and two calves) with a variety of seasonal jobs and income-producing activities. During the winter he made pulpwood for several businesses including the North Shore Lumber Company and Isaac Lamppa's lumber firm. Cedar and tamarack logs were sold for use as mining timbers and lagging. Surplus cream and vegetables brought in additional income through area cooperative stores or by trade. The farm's sandy loam soil proved to be rich in nutrients and especially suited to growing potatoes; in 1928, despite a dry summer, one acre of land yielded 435 bushels of "Green Mountain" potatoes. Gregorius sometimes took the back seat out of his Model T automobile and drove about twenty miles to Tower where he sold or traded the potatoes for flour, seed, tires, and other supplies.

Using skills he learned in Finland and honed in America, Hanka constructed six log buildings (one field hay barn is no longer extant) with exceptional precision. His broad axe is still kept on the farm, and the smoothly hewn timbers of each building indicate that he used it with deftness and pride. The two-room, one-and-a-half-story house represents a form common in western Finland, and despite its minor alterations, the building still conveys the folk architectural plan. It is worth noting that Gregorius also constructed a house nearly identical to his own for his neighbor, Mike Matson (this house no longer stands; see the Matson National Register form in this document). Located some 500' from the house, the field hay barn illustrates the replication of a cultural form widely known in Finland. The Hanka Farm has additional significance because the original 80-acre parcel of land remains intact, and the property is owned by the son of Gregorius and Mary Hanka.

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90000500

Date Listed: 4/9/90

<u>Hanka, Gregorius & Mary, Hist. Farmstead; St. Louis Co.</u>	<u>MN</u>
Property Name	County State

Rural Finnish Log Bldgs. of St. Louis Co., MN, 1890--1930s MPS
Multiple Name

 This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Beth Boland
Signature of the Keeper

4/90/90
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Item #10. Acreage: The correct acreage is 79 acres.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)