

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**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 Oliver H. Kelley Homestead

AND/OR COMMON
Oliver H. Kelley Farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

2 miles southeast of Elk River on U.S. 10

...NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Elk River

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

006

VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota

CODE

27

COUNTY

Sherburne

CODE

141

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME (Minnesota Historical Society) Mrs. Grace Bingle

STREET & NUMBER

Box 118

CITY, TOWN

Elk River

VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota 55330

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Sherburne County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Elk River

STATE

Minnesota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Historic Sites Survey

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Oliver H. Kelley and his family lived at this Minnesota farm from 1850 until late 1870. Two houses were built there. The earlier one was the home in which Kelley established his office as first executive secretary of the National Grange. The present house was probably completed after 1870, but no records have been found to confirm its construction date.

After 1870 when Kelley left the farm, relatives, outside owners and tenants resided on, owned, or farmed the site. The 189 acre farm area retained its original dimensions.

In 1931 the Minnesota Historical Society marked it as a historic site but nothing was done to preserve or interpret it. In 1935 the farm was bought by the National Grange. During 1936 extensive work was done on the site, including grading the grounds, replacing the roof and windows, remodelling the front porch and lowering ceiling heights about one foot. Many furnishings were donated to fill the house--mostly of the 1890-1900 period and in styles more luxurious than those to which the Kelleys were ever accustomed.

In 1961 the Grange presented the farm to the Minnesota Historical Society for preservation as the birthplace or organized agriculture. In 1975 the Society was proceeding with plans to restore the Homestead as an operating farm of the period 1855-1870. A diagram of the farm yard plan is included in this form.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES 1850-1870 (period of occupandy) BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Oliver Hudson Kelley was the founder of the Order of the Patrons of Husbandry, the National Grange. He homesteaded his Minnesota farm from 1850 to late 1870, founding the Grange in 1867. The Kelley Homestead represents the beginnings of rural activism, first articulated by the Grange and later reaching its fullest expression in the Populist movement of the 1890's.

When Minnesota Territory was formed in 1849, it had a population of less than six thousand settlers. In that year Oliver H. Kelley arrived in St. Paul and in 1850 homesteaded a claim on the Mississippi near present-day Elk River.

Kelley lived and worked on the frontier as a farmer for fifteen years. Since he had little rural experience, he was an avowed "book farmer" who advocated experimentation, advanced methods, and increased communications among farmers.

In 1864 Kelley received a position as a clerk in the U.S. Bureau of Agriculture, and for most of the next two years he travelled in Minnesota and the South studying farm conditions. His observation of the wretched conditions in the post-war South led to the formation in 1867 of the National Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry.

As designed by Kelley, the Order with its branches, called Granges, was a secret organization resembling the Masons. Its purposes were to help educate farmers and their families and to enrich their social life. A radical innovation was the admission of woman as full and equal members.

Intent on making the order a success, Kelley returned to his farm in 1868 to devote all his time to organizing Granges. By 1867 Minnesota had organized the nation's first State Grange as well as thirty-seven active local Granges.

The Grange became increasingly vocal in the defense of farmer's interests as it grew in strength. Its members were especially active in setting up cooperatives to sell produce, fighting exploitation by railroads and by the middlemen with whom they had to deal.

With his health failing from overwork, Kelley gave up his Minnesota home in 1870 and moved to Washington, where he continued to serve as secretary of the National Grange until 1878. This was the period of the Grange's greatest influence. Beginning in the 1880's the radical consciousness which the Grange first instilled in farmers went beyond that group's moderate goals. The Populists supplanted the Grangers, calling for nationalization of railroads, a progressive income tax, a bi-metal currency and other radical innovations.

Kelley died in 1913, his Patrons of Husbandry now an excepted, respectable organization. It remains as such today.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Oliver H. Kelley Homestead," informational pamphlet, Minnesota Historical Society.
 "What is a Living History Farm?" special report, Minnesota Historical Society

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 189

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 5	4 5 8 3 0 0	5 0 1 2 4 8 0	B	1 5	4 5 8 2 8 0	5 0 1 1 0 6 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1 5	4 5 7 1 1 0	5 0 1 1 6 0 0	D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary line is contiguous with the boundaries of the 189 acre Oliver H. Kelley Farm, now owned by the Minnesota Historical Society (see map A). These are the original lines as Kelley owned them. Except for a caretaker's home near U.S. 10 and a projected visitor's center, the property is undisturbed by intrusions.

See continuation sheet.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Stephen Lissandrello, Historian, Landmarks Review Project

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

DATE

12/30/75

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street, NW.,

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

Designated: July 19, 1964
 Boundary Certificate
 Henry T. Gentry
 Feb 14 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

4/24/79

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 1

Beginning at the western edge of the access road to the property which also intersects U.S. 169, proceed southeast along the western curb of US 169 450', more or less, to a point; thence south 3,000' to the eastern bank of the Mississippi River; thence northwest along siad bank 4,500' to a point; thence east to the western edge of the access road; thence northeast along the western edge of the access road to the point of origin.