

P40077526

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE:	IOWA
COUNTY:	MAHASKA
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE:	NOV 20 1974

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON: Nelson Pioneer Farm

AND/OR HISTORIC: ~~Nelson Pioneer Farm~~ House and Barn and outbuildings

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: R. R. #1

CITY OR TOWN: Oskaloosa CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Fourth

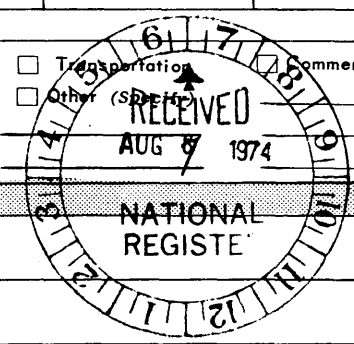
STATE: Iowa CODE: 14 COUNTY: Mahaska CODE: 123

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		



4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mahaska County Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Box 578

CITY OR TOWN: Oskaloosa STATE: Iowa CODE: 14

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Mahaska County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER: South First Street

CITY OR TOWN: Oskaloosa STATE: Iowa CODE: 14

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Nelson Pioneer House and Barn are in their original rural setting on a 350 acres rolling, partially wooded, area. Thirteen of the 350 acres belong to the Mahaska County Museum complex. The Nelson house and barn, stand unaltered among an assortment of other relocated buildings and later constructions whose presence doesn't altogether intrude upon the harmonious interaction of the original buildings. Both the house and barn building are in the remarkable condition for their age and are also fine examples of established building styles and techniques.

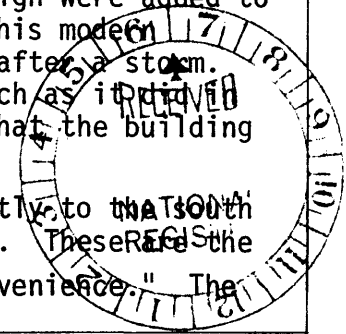
The Nelson house, facing the south side of the nearby barn, was built in 1853. It is a typical two story rectangular brick building, with a finely laid block stone foundation, regularly placed windows, simple dressed stone window headings and a low-sloping gable roof. The wood porches on the front and rear are later (1898-1900) additions. Interesting to note is the extensive use of glass (much of which is original), the brick dentilation under the north side eaves, four well-preserved chimneys and the thick (14") masonry walls of local brick. There are no windows on either the west or the east side so as to protect the interior from strong prairie winds. The interior woodwork (wainscoting, chair rails, door frames, window frames and cabinets) is a combination of walnut, elm, oak, butternut and linden, all obtained locally and prepared in the Nelson's own saw mill. Built-in cupboards and closets appear on either side of the fireplaces on the ground floor. The kitchen, living room and two bedrooms upstairs are all of equal size and flank the central stair and hallway.

Minor departures from the original farm house include the green asphalt roof covering, the absence of the metal downspouts, the painting of the windows headings (grey). The building, now a house museum, was restored in 1964-1965, however, no alterations or additions to the fabric of the original design were made.

The Nelson Barn is remarkable due to its enormous size and its extensive use of glazing. Measuring 61 x 46, the barn was actually used more for the storage of grain (as a granary) than for the shelter of farm animals. The size was determined by the convenient location of four oak trees which serve as the corner posts. The rest of the building is of board and batten construction, also from oak lumber milled right on the site. The rectangular plan and low-sloping gable roof complement the plan and scale of the smaller but equally classically designed Nelson house. The building rests on a foundation of stone gathered from the Skunk River. On the interior, lofts appeared only on the west side. Since the building now serves as a farm implement museum, lofts of like design were added to the east side as well. Even wooden pegs were used for this modern addition. Some timber was repaired or replaced in 1945 after a storm. Photographs show, however, that this building remains much as it was in the nineteenth century. In addition, speculations are that the building was not only a granary but also a distillery.

Three outbuildings (dates of construction unknown) directly to the south of the Nelson House are also included in this nomination. These are the summer kitchen, woodshed and small outdoor privy or "convenience." The

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
IOWA	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	NOV 20 1974

(Number all entries)

7. Description Continued

summer kitchen, a square clapboard building with gable roof, central entry, three windows, a rear-center brick chimney and new wood shingles, was cleaned and repainted in 1964. The woodshed, in slightly more deteriorated condition, is slightly larger with vertical siding (installed with old lumber found on the farm in 1964) and has been converted into an exhibit room for demonstrating meat processing. Although these buildings present varying degrees of authenticity in terms of their exterior and interior appearance, it is thought that they contribute essential elements to the complex of the Nelson Farm as a whole. None of the buildings is so far removed from its original condition that it misrepresents the image of the nineteenth century farm. Indeed, without them, the setting would appear to be quite deprived.

Buildings that are not included in this nomination but that appear on the original 350 acre plot and that are visible when standing near the Nelson House or Barn are: a relocated clapboard, one room schoolhouse, the Prine Schoolhouse, built in 1861; a relocated 1867 log cabin; a modern (1960's) concrete block museum exhibit building whose plan resembles that of the gable roofed barn; a false fronted clapboard store building; and finally, a small pagoda-like ticket booth placed at the entrance of the farm museum complex. Of all the buildings relocated or constructed on the original farm property, only the museum exhibit building could be regarded as an offensive intrusion. However, its plan, if not its materials, does correspond to those of the house and barn and its use could be considered an essential part of the interpretive process for a good understanding of early Iowa farm life.



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1852-1856**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

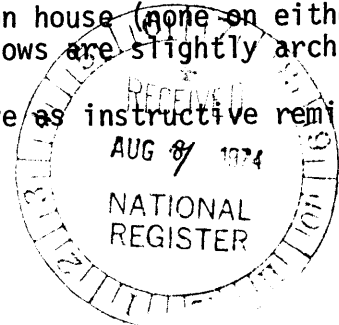
The Nelson Pioneer House (1852-1853) and Barn (1856) are well-preserved examples of early homesteader building. Their significance derives from their own integrity as well as their association with one of the Mahaska County area's earliest settlers and parents of the first white-born child.

Daniel and Margaret Nelson who settled the property in 1844, purchased their 160 acres of farmland one year after it was made available by the federal government in 1843. Their only home for several years was a log structure, non-extant, which rested to the northeast of the present brick house. Nelson family descendants lived in Daniel and Margaret's home until 1941 when it was completely abandoned with most of the original furnishings intact. The Mahaska County Historical Society fell heir to the property and has opened it to the public as a museum complex.

The Nelson House and Barn are examples of very fine craftsmanship which has resulted in their well-preserved state today. Extensive glazing and some innovative design appear in both. For many years the barn was considered the largest structure built in Mahaska County.

Also on the 12 acres acquired by the Historical Society are a relocated schoolhouse, log cabin (much like the original Nelson cabin), store and the first Iowa State Fair ticket booth. A modern concrete block structure fashioned somewhat like the barn was constructed recently to accommodate the growing collection of historical artifacts donated to the Society. Nearby rests the local one story brick schoolhouse (now a pig sty) which was built in part by the Nelsons for the community and has the same window arrangement as the Nelson house (none on either the east or west sides) although the school windows are slightly arched.

The Nelson House, Barn and outbuildings serve as instructive reminders of early successful farm life in Iowa.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Records, descriptive literature, and other reference material in files of the Mahaska County Historical Society at the museum site.

Clark, Dorothy Gahring. "Daniel Nelson, His Family and Homestead. Oskaloosa: Clarkcraft, 1973.

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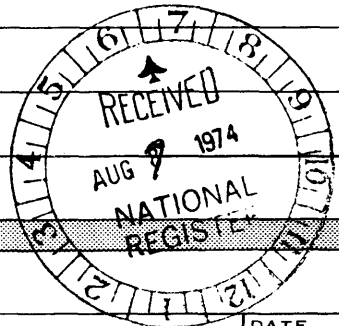
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	41° 20' 20"	91° 38' 20"		41 19 13	92 37 52	
NE	41° 20' "	91° 38' "				
SE	41° 19' 40"	91° 38' "				
SW	41° 20' "	91° 38' 20"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: A. D. Carlson, Director

ORGANIZATION: Nelson Pioneer Farm and Crafts Museum DATE: August 25, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER: R. R. #1

CITY OR TOWN: Oskaloosa STATE: Iowa CODE: 14

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Adrian D. Anderson

Title Historic Preservation Officer

Date 11/12/74

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

AR Wortensen
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 11/20/74

ATTEST:

W. H. ...
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 11/20/74



Store

Cabin

Barn

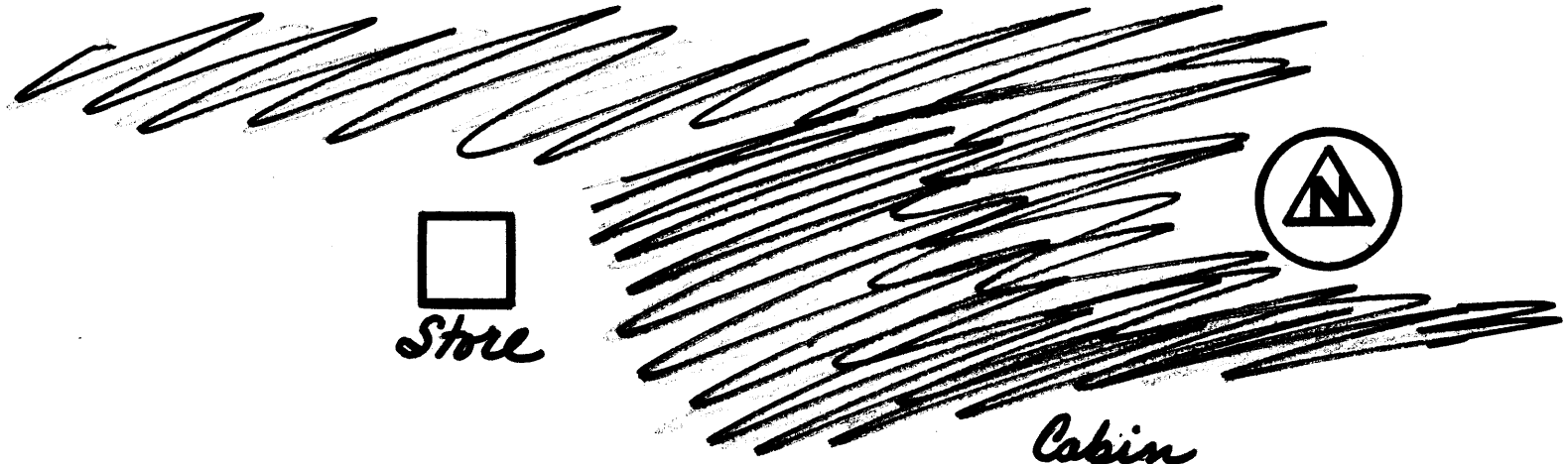
Ticket Booth

Museum

School

House





Store

Cabin

Ticket Booth

Barn

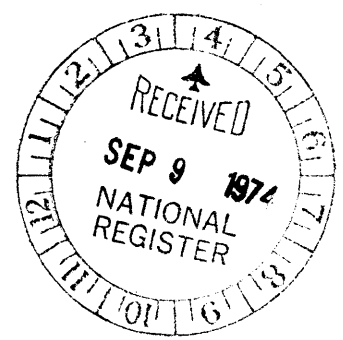
Museum

Tree

School

Tree

House



Outbuildings