

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

80002071

HISTORIC NAME: Erickson Farmstead

COUNTY: Isanti

CURRENT NAME:

CITY/TWP.: Athens

LEGAL DESC.: Begin at a point 500 feet west of the NE corner of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 17, T34R23. Commence southerly 400 feet, thence westerly 450 feet, thence northerly 400 feet, thence easterly 450 feet to point of beginning.

ADDRESS: Minnesota Highway 65
and Co. Rd. 56

CLASSIFICATION:

Building X

Structure _____

Object _____

District _____

CONDITION:

Excellent X

Good _____

Fair _____

Deteriorated _____

SIGNIFICANCE:

Local X

State _____

National _____

THEME/S:

Primary AgricultureSecondary Architecture

Others _____

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes _____ No X Restricted _____VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No _____OCCUPIED: Yes X No _____

PRESENT USE:

Residence & Family Retreat

DATE CONSTRUCTED: ca.1915

ORIGINAL USE: Farm and residence

ORIGINAL OWNER: Edward Erickson

ARCHITECT/BUILDER:

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Erickson Diversified Corp.
4567 West 78th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55437

ACREAGE: Less than one acre

4.13

UTM REFERENCE:

Isanti Quad.

LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Isanti County Historical Society,
Box 525, Cambridge, MN 55008

FORM PREPARED BY: Britta Bloomberg

15 / 481365 / 5031900

DATE: December 1979

DESCRIPTION:

The Erickson Farmstead is located in Athens Township at the southwest corner of Minnesota Highway 65 and County Road 56, three miles south of the city of Isanti.

The farmstead is situated on a large landscaped plot separated from the surrounding fields by a white wooden fence. The house and summer kitchen are in a tree sheltered area towards the rear of the lot; the outbuildings are situated both near the road and west and rear of the house.

The two story frame farmhouse was constructed in 1915 and is designed on a square plan. Its narrow clapboard siding is painted yellow with white trim. It features a medium hip roof with hipped dormers on each side and a large front porch that wraps around the northeast corner of the house. A balconied entry porch is located at the rear and a bay window is on the east facade. All of the windows are double hung with one over one lights. Immediately to the east of the house is a gable-roofed, one-and-one-half-story summer kitchen, reconstructed from original plans in 1967. It features an open front porch facing the main house.

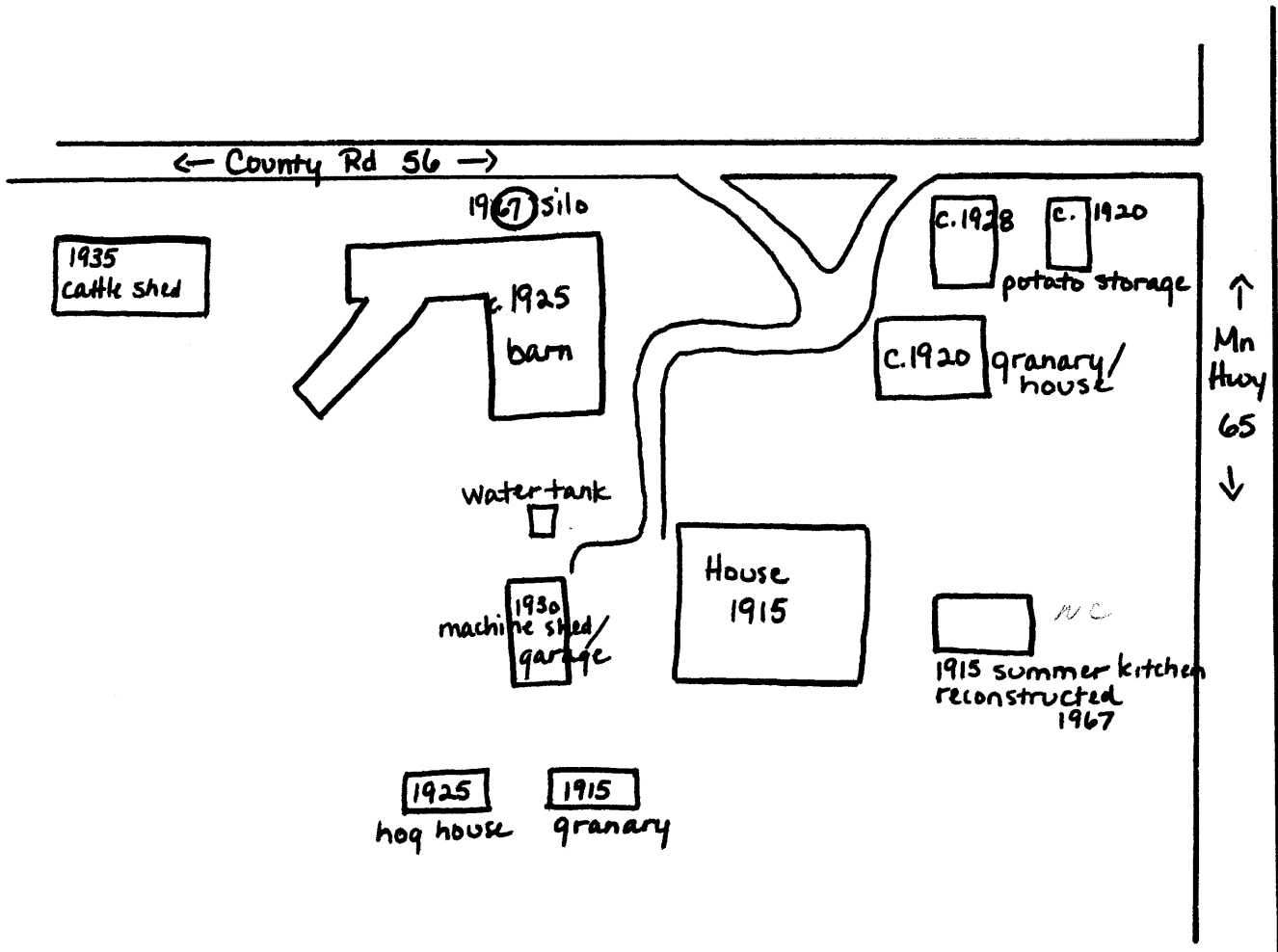
All of the farmstead's outbuildings are of frame construction and painted a bright red with white trim. They include a large rainbow roofed barn, two potato buildings with below grade storage, a granary (now used as the caretaker's house), a hog house, granary, machine shed/garage, and a cattle shed. These outbuildings were nearly all constructed between 1915 and 1930. Also located on the property area metal windmill, and a concrete block water tank, and a tall blue Harvestore silo, which is the most recent addition to the farmstead.

The buildings and grounds are in extremely well-maintained condition.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Erickson Farmstead is significant as a well-preserved early twentieth century farmstead associated both with Isanti County's important potato growing industry and with a prominent local family. Largely constructed during the first quarter of the century, the farmstead represents the prosperity experienced by area farmers during the peak of Isanti County's potato boom. Potatoes became the county's most important cash crop during the 1890s; potato production reached its peak in 1920. The Erickson farm was first developed by Otto Erickson, who immigrated from Sweden in 1868 and became one of the first settlers in the area. Following a common pattern of land transfer from one generation to the next, his son Edward began farming the family operation about the time of his marriage in 1893. Edward replaced the original farm buildings with the present ones after his farming operations had prospered and stabilized early in the twentieth century. The farmstead, distinctive in the county for its impressive scale and extremely well-preserved condition, represents the upper limits of the prosperity achieved by successful area farmers during the county's most successful years of potato production.

ERICKSON FARMSTEAD (ATHENS TOWNSHIP, ISANTI CO.)



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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

**Note: These changes apply to
Erickson Farmstead in Isanti
County, Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 80002071

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Isanti

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Erickson, Edward, Farmstead

CITY:

VICINITY OF: Isanti

ADDRESS: Co. Hwy. 56 and Mn. Hwy. 65

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

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State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988

Date