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Deteriorated				
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McVay Land Company M.D. McVay 2711 Dean Blvd. Minneapolis. MN 55416				appro. 41
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	rm Company Farmstead F39N, R24W, Section 21, Gov he north edge of State High Snake River CONDITION: Excellent GoodX Fair Deteriorated Yes No_X_ Restricted Yes_X_ No Yes_X_ No Staples McVay Land Company M.D. McVay 2711 Dean Blvd. Minneapolis, MN 55416 ec County Historical Societ MN 55051 Haidet	rm Company Farmstead Company Farmstead Company Farmstead Company Restricted Yes X No Yes X No Construct No McVay Land Company M.D. McVay 2711 Dean Blvd. Minneapolis, MN 55051 Aidet County Historical Society MN 55051 Aidet Company Actional Company Actional State State County Control State State County Control State State County Control State State County Control State Con	Company Farmstead EHT+/TWP   T39N, R24W, Section 21, Government ADDRESS:   he north edge of State Highway 23 Snake River   CONDITION: SIGNIFICANCE:   Excellent LocalX   GoodX State   Fair National   Deteriorated Ves   Yes No   Yes No   Goad Restricted   Yes No   Goad ORIGINAL USE: Far   Staples ARCHITECT/BUILDER:   McVay Land Company ACREAGE:   M.D. McVay UTM REFE   ac County Historical Society B. 15 / Laidet	rm COUNTY: Kanabec Z Company Farmstead CHT¥/TWP.: Arthur T39N, R24W, Section 21, Government ADDRESS: State High he north edge of State Highway 23 miles were Snake River way 65 CONDITION: SIGNIFICANCE: THEME/S: Excellent Local X Primary Good X State Secondary A Good X State Secondary A Fair No X Restricted PRESENT US Yes X No CONCESS ARCHITECT/BUILDER: McVay Land Company ARCHITECT/BUILDER: MCVAY

#### **DESCRIPTION:**

Bronson Farm is located southwest of Mora on State Highway 23. The surrounding countryside is predominantly agricultural. The principal structures lie in an L formation on the outside perimeter of a U-shaped driveway. A small lake is situated behind the buildings to the north and the Ann River meanders through the property to the west. The farmstead was developed by Stillwater lumberman Isaac Staples in the 1880s. The Ann River Logging Company owned the property between 1888 and 1901. Although it has proven impossible to date most of the individual structures with precision, the principal structures were erected sometime during the logging era. A chicken house, two concrete stave silos (1950s), and a cattle shed located northwest of the primary structures are the only recent additions to the farmstead. Descriptions of the buildings follow:

Farmhouse/Bunk House (1880). A large rectangular two and one-half story frame structure covered by a gable roof. The principal entrance, adorned by transom light and simple pediment, is situated in the central bay of the symmetrical front gable facade. Windows throughout the structure are double-hung. An enclosed porch shelters the rear entrance. Major alterations include shingles over the original clapboard sheathing, removal of all window pediments except those on the second level on the east and west sides, and the addition of shutters on the four upper level windows on the front facade. The interior's spacious first floor rooms and several small sleeping quarters on the second level, though altered, remain intact, thus providing an important link to the building's original purpose.

<u>Store and Post Office</u> (1880). A rectangular gable-roofed frame structure. A lean-to is located on the west side and the original doors have been replaced with garage doors. The building, which housed a general store and post office during the logging days, is presently used as a garage.

Summer Kitchen (ca.1880s-90s). A small rectangular structure sheathed in clapboard and adorned by simple end boards.

Chicken House (ca.1930s). A gable-roofed frame structure with paired windows on the south side.

Cattle Shed (ca.1950s). An L-shaped tin-sheathed structure.

<u>Storage Shed</u> (ca.1880s-90s). A gable-roofed frame structure located directly behind the store.

(see continuation sheet)

#### Bronson Farm

<u>Barn</u> with attached <u>Machine Shed</u> (ca.1880s-90s). A small gableroofed frame barn with attached shed on the east side which, in turn, is attached to a gable-roofed machine shed.

<u>Milk House</u> (ca.1905). A small gable-roofed structure with shingled sheathing.

Horse Barn (ca.1880-81) A large gable-roofed structure flanked by two concrete silos (ca.1950s). The barn's original protruding upper section was destroyed in a windstorm in the 1950s and the roof was modified at that time.

Dairy Barn (ca.1880s-90s). A structure similar to the horse barn. It originally had an extended central portion flanked by two wood silos. The barn was altered after the 1950s storm damaged the west part of the farmstead.

### SIGNIFICANCE:

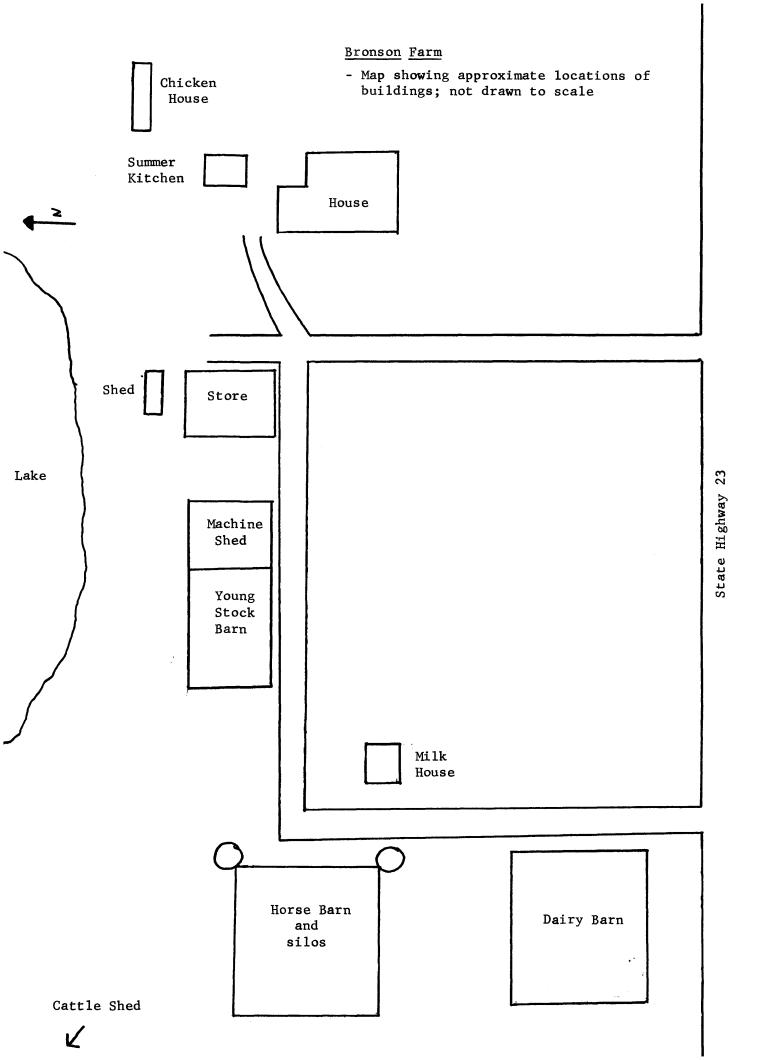
Bronson Farm is significant primarily for its association with Kanabec County's logging industry, the county's dominant theme during the nineteenth century. It is also significant as one of the earliest and, since shortly after its establishment, the largest farmstead in the county. Farming operations were frequently associated with the larger logging concerns. The logging farms served as local headquarters and warehouse facilities. They were also used for the summering of numerous work horses and oxen required for extensive logging operations and for the production of food and feed for winter logging seasons. Isaac Staples, a prominent Stillwater lumberman and holder of the greatest amount of timber acreage in Kanabec County, including 50,000 acres on Ann River and its tributaries, developed the farm in 1880. Several buildings, including the large dwelling and store, were erected that year. On his retirement in 1888, Staples sold his Kanabec County lands to the Ann River Logging Company, a syndicate comprised of Frederick Weyerhaeuser and other prominent lumbermen. At the time, the 600 acre farm was the largest in the county. The Ann River Logging Company operated the farm until 1901 when the timber on Ann River was virtually exhausted. The Company's holdings were then transferred to the Ann River Land Company and sold to settlers. Hiram Elliott, owner of the Elliott Packing Company of Duluth, purchased the farm in 1902 and operated a successful stock farm until his death in 1938. The farm became known as Bronson in 1882 when the railroad was constructed through the region and the farm was designated a post office.

#### **BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

Minneapolis Tribune. December 16, 1888.

Pine County Record. August 21 and 28, 1880.

Ziegler, Frank. "<u>KEN-A-BIG</u>": The Story of Kanabec County. Mora: B & W Printers, 1977.



United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Keeper Helour Jun 1/9/89

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_

Note: These changes apply to Bronson Farm in Kanabec County, Minnesota.

**REFERENCE NUMBER: 80002085** 

**STATE: MINNESOTA** 

**COUNTY:** Kanabec

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Ann River Logging Company Farm

CITY:

VICINITY OF: Mora

ADDRESS: Mn. Hwy. 23

CERTIFICATION DATE:

**REMOVED DATE:** 

COMMENTS:

nuia M. archabal

JUN 1 7 1988

Nina M. Archabal State Historic Preservation Officer

Date