

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 28 1980

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Fox, Herbert Maximilian House

AND/OR COMMON  
Historic Fox House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER NE of Becker  
South end of Sherburne County Road 69 (in vicinity of Village of  
Santiago, MN

CITY, TOWN Becker vic. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

On Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge VICINITY OF 6th

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE  
Minnesota 22 Sherburne 141

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER Not in use

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (if applicable) U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

STREET & NUMBER  
Federal Building, Fort Snelling

CITY, TOWN STATE  
Twin Cities, MN 55111

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Sherburne County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER  
City Hall, Highway 10 & Main Street

CITY, TOWN STATE  
Elk River, MN 55330

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Historic Fox House

DATE Spring 1978  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

CITY, TOWN STATE  
Twin Cities, MN 55111

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Fox House is a free standing, rural pioneer farm house. The original section of the Fox House is one and one-half story structure constructed from timber. It dates to the mid-nineteenth century. However, subsequent additions have been made to the structure throughout its existence. These additions have been made to the rear of the original structure. Front and two gable ends have retained original configuration. The original building measures approximately 16'3" in width and 21'4" in length.

There are four rooms on the first floor of the building. These at present comprise a bedroom, pantry, bathroom and general-purpose room which was later a kitchen. The second floor originally consisted of two sleeping areas. One is a defined bedroom, whereas the other is an open area adjacent to the stairwell. There is a full cellar under the building which is accessible either through the pantry or from the exterior through a hatchway. Although further research is necessary to determine the original room arrangement, it is supposed that the first floor originally consisted of three rooms: the present kitchen and bathroom (perhaps formerly a bedroom) and the bedroom.

Wall construction utilized 2" thick vertical planks, 14" across, nailed to the lower sill and the second floor sill. The planks extend to the roof line with no other strengthening members. The walls are butt-joined at the corners and nailed together. This is a combination of slab and balloon style construction. There are no vertical posts inside the walls to add support. The exterior planks are load bearing. Four inch horizontal clapboards were nailed directly over the planks. There were no battens.

In the interior, furring strips were attached directly to the planks and then lathed and plastered. The original plaster is still intact and in good condition. The building sits over a cellar of rough stone walls. The soil is sandy and there are no signs of frost heaving.

The structure has a common gable roof with shake shingles. There are two doors, one on the north side and one on the south side. Each wall has two windows. Windows are of the characteristic two-over-two arrangement and measure approximately 30" in width and 50" in height surrounded by 4" casings. The chimney is located in the center of the house.

In 1876 the Fox House was a part of a homestead that had 80 acres of land (Map 1). The barn was located about 300' south of the house. About 25' northeast of the house was a milk house, a semi-subterranean structure with eaves coming within two feet of the ground, designed to provide cool storage for milk. A windmill nearby pumped cold water into the milk house. Approximately one hundred feet to the north of the milk house was a sunken root cellar (dimensions 15'x30'). Several hundred feet further north was an orchard with a Duchess variety apple trees and one plum tree. Throughout the orchard grew Siberian Squill plants, brought originally from England

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input 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 checked="" 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 1876 (precise date in that year is unknown) BUILDER/ARCHITECT Not known

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Fox House is significant as an early example of pioneer architecture in Minnesota, employing an unique structural building technique (1) and representing a small subsistence-type rural farm house of the mid-nineteenth century (2).

### Structural Building Technique

The house is built without studwalls; even the corners do not have posts. The vertically arranged oak planks are completely load bearing. This is the only known example of this type of home construction in Minnesota.

The alterations done to the house over the last one hundred years did not significantly affect the original structural design, specific features or decorative elements of the house. The additions at the southern and eastern sides of the house can be removed without causing any changes in the original structure. By removing the bathroom on the ground floor the interior can be restored to the original design. The missing portions of the outside clapboard can also be restored. Minor repairs needed for the doors and windows are possible.

In spite of the fact that the windmill is the only original outside structure remaining at the site, the present setting is not out of the character with the house. The newer buildings in the proximity of the house are the storage shed, boxcar, granary, barn and silo. In addition there is a small man-made pond nearby (Map 2). Most of these buildings are shaded from the view of the house by fully grown trees. None of the buildings is closer than about 75 feet to the house. The man-made pond is also not in the view of the house. It is located at the elevation of 1,000 feet while the house is at the elevation of 1,012 feet.

### Historic Context

The house is in the area settled by the North European immigrants. They tended to settle on isolated farmsteads where they could make a living of the local land resources.

Water was of primary importance when determining potential sites. The nearby St. Francis River served that purpose well--year around water was available at 18' below grade. The river also served as a transportation route and it powered saw mills and flour mills. The oak planks of the Fox House were cut by a circular saw in nearby Santiago.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

in 1860's or early 1870's. The the late 1870's eight sugar maples were planted just north of the Fox House.

The house is located on a slightly raised peninsula above what was originally the marsh and wet meadowland of the nearby St. Francis River. North and west of the house were cultivated fields. The road led northeast of the house, eventually connecting it with a nearby town of Santiago.

Today fields and marshy areas are still present. Of the original eight sugar maples, only one survives; the rest are offshoots. The windmill is the only outbuilding still remaining. The original road was realigned.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET

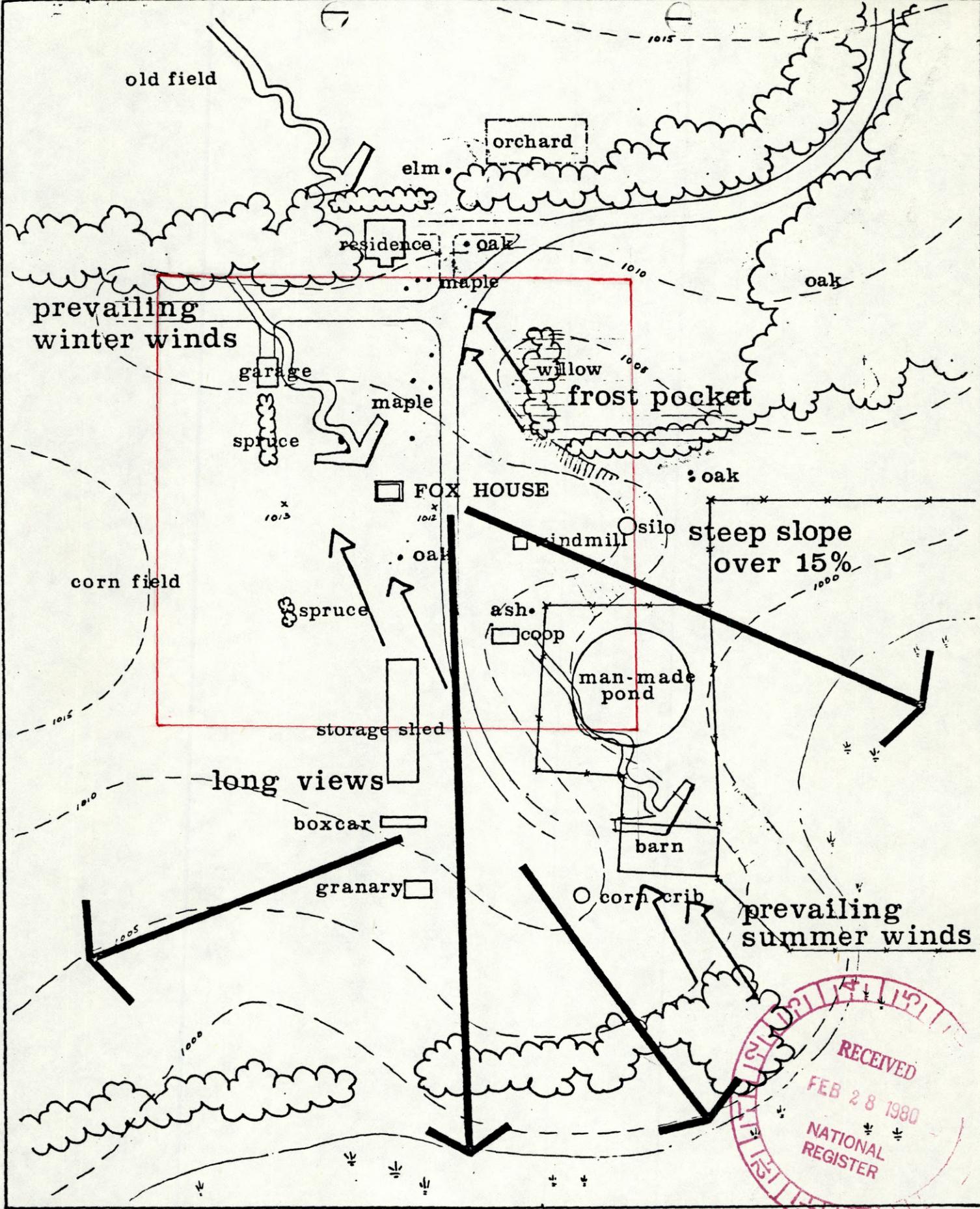
ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Building materials were another consideration. Along the St. Francis oak was plentiful. Farther to the North, pine was available. Stone necessary for foundations could be found locally. Additionally, wild meadows provided free hay. One of these meadows was located about a mile to the East of the Fox House and was used annually. Corn and potatoes were grown on the surrounding fields.

The land on which the house is located was a part of an 80-acre parcel purchased by Ole Martinsen June 30, 1876. By fall 1876 the land passed through the ownership of Samuel P. Glidden, when Herbert Maximilian Fox and his wife Eleanor bought it. By that time the land increased to 160 acres and the value had risen to \$1,000. It is not known who built the house-- Ole Martinsen or Samuel Glidden. However, Bill Fox, grandson of Herbert Fox, recalls from the conversations with his grandfather a mention that the house was built prior to Herbert Fox's purchase.

The house is located at the Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge consists of 30,479 acres. The pressure for residential and agricultural space that has been a contributing factor to the destruction of many similar rural-type historic structures, does not exist here. A unique structural design, representativeness of subsistence type livelihood that the house typifies and the location in a relatively unaltered environment make this structure worthy of preservation.

The potential for the archeological remains of the former outbuildings has not been tested empirically, however the modification of the land within the nominated area has been minimal and therefore the potential still exists.

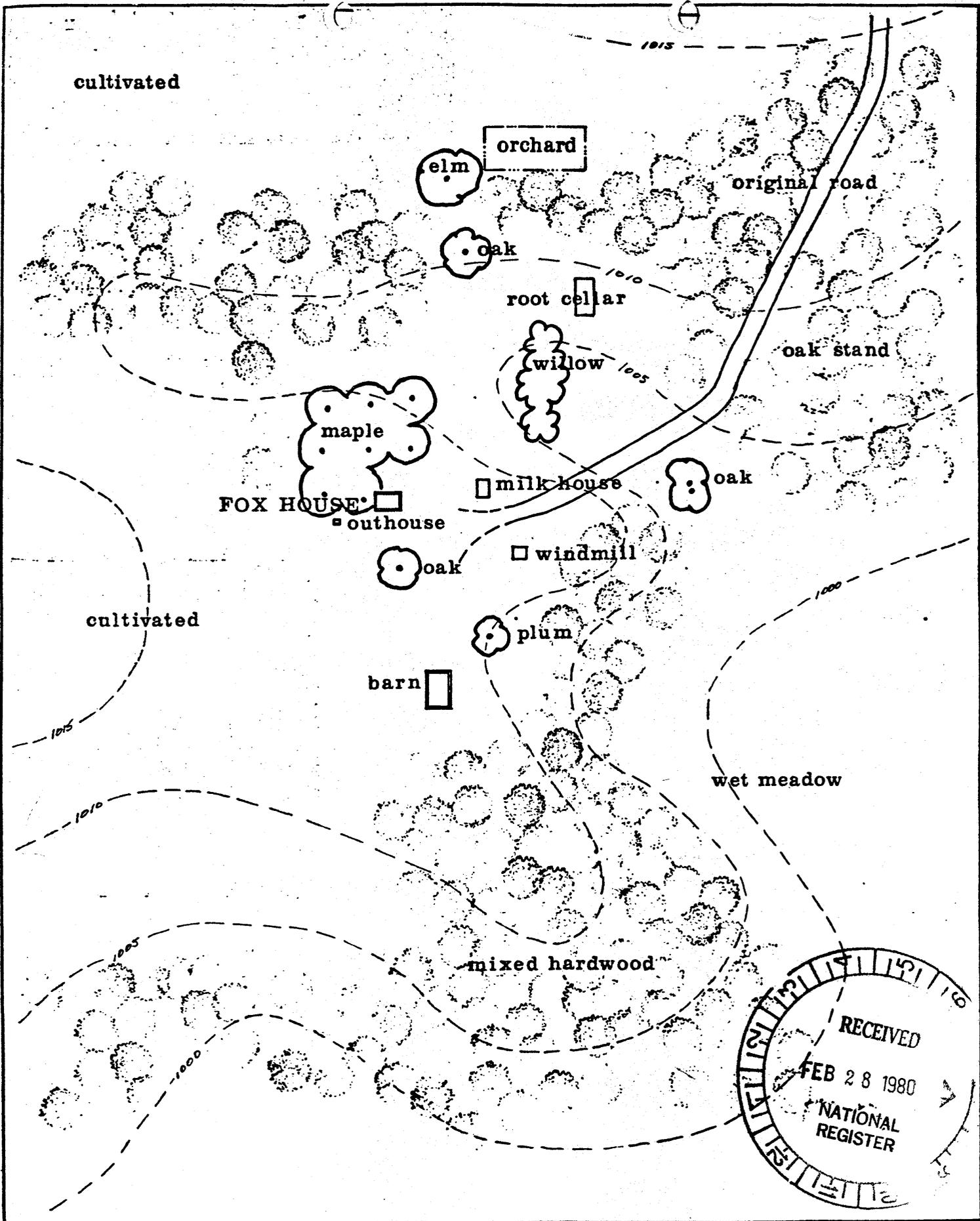


HISTORIC  
FOX  
HOUSE

**EXISTING CONDITIONS**  
 — historic property boundary

Scale 1"=50'  
 Contour Interval 5'  
 MICHAEL FOX  
 June 1978

Map  
**2**  
 Sheet



HISTORIC  
FOX  
HOUSE

EXISTING CONDITIONS  
CIRCA 1878

Scale  $1"=50'$   
Contour Interval 5'  
MICHAEL FOX  
June 1978

Map  
**1**  
Sheet



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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

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**Note: These changes apply to  
Fox, Herbert, Maximilian House in  
Sherburne County, Minnesota.**

**REFERENCE NUMBER:** 80002175

**STATE:** MINNESOTA

**COUNTY:** Sherburne

**RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC):** Fox, Herbert M., House

**CITY:**

**VICINITY OF:**

**ADDRESS:** U. S. Hwy. 10

**CERTIFICATION DATE:**

**REMOVED DATE:**

**COMMENTS:**

*Nina M. Archabal*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Nina M. Archabal**  
**State Historic Preservation Officer**

**JUN 17 1988**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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

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Fox, Herbert M., House Sherburne County, MINNESOTA  
80002175

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVAL

Herbert M. Rapsley 2/4/94



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

January 14, 1994

Ms. Carol Shull, Chief of Registration  
National Register of Historic Places  
Interagency Resources Division  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
PO Box 37127  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

Dear Ms. Shull:

RE: Documentation pertaining to the relocation of the Herbert  
Fox House, U.S. Highway 10, Becker Township, Sherburne  
County, Minnesota #80002175

In November, 1981 the above property was relocated in accordance  
with 36 CFR 800 and 36 CFR 60.14 (5). A copy of the Memorandum of  
Agreement is attached. This move occurred during a period of  
staff reduction and the documentation was never submitted to your  
office.

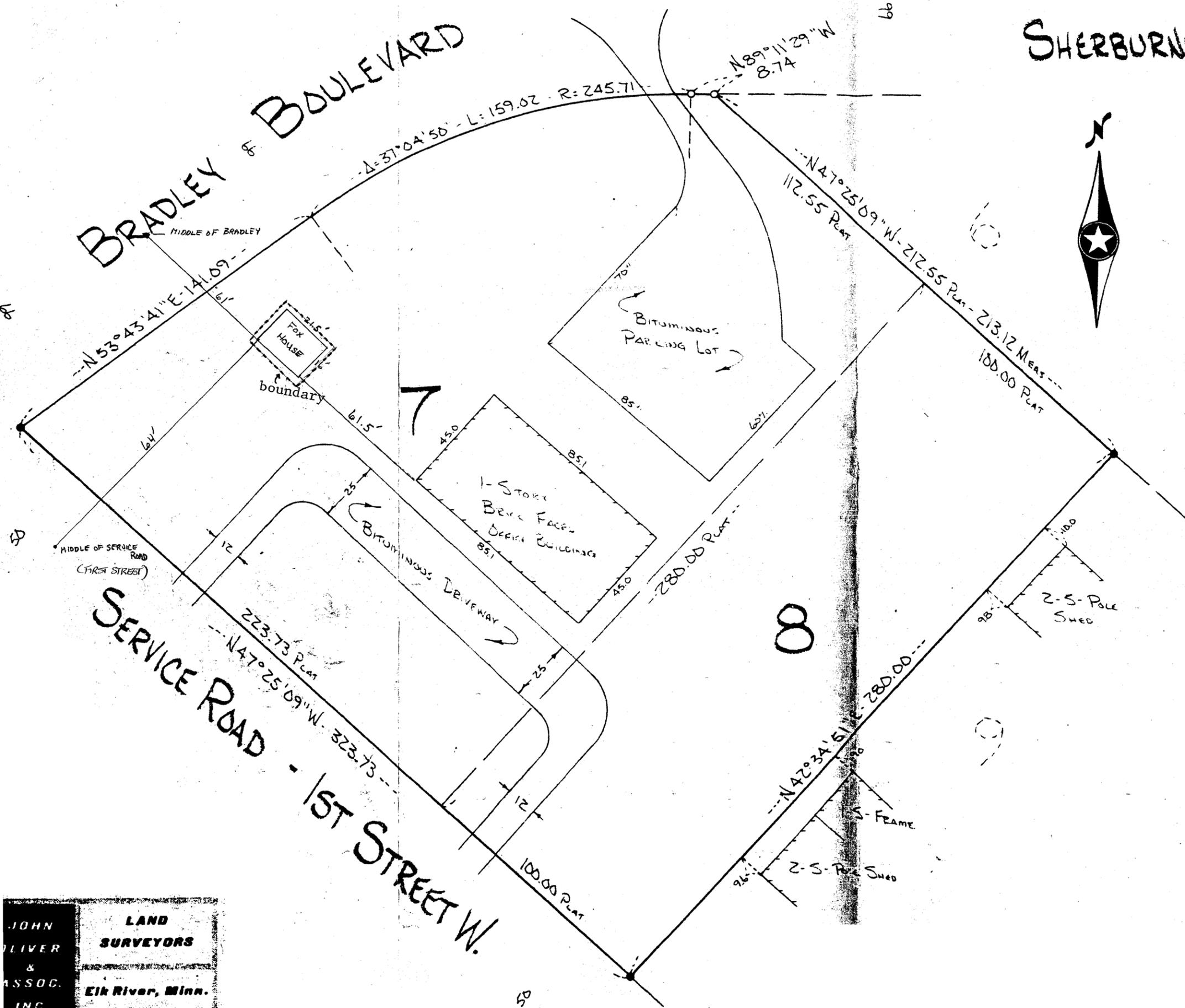
This correspondence serves to notify you that the above property  
was moved on 18 November 1981. Also included are photographs  
showing the property on its new site, and a new U.S.G.S. map.  
Acreage is less than one. The boundary description is noted on  
the enclosed map entitled: Herbert Fox House, Date 1981.

If your staff has questions regarding this documentation, please  
have them contact Susan Roth, National Register Historian at  
612/296-5434 or at the address below.

Sincerely,

Ian R. Stewart  
Deputy Director for Interpretive Programs  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Minnesota Historical Society

SHERBURNE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



SCALE: 1 INCH = 40 FEET  
 ORIENTATION OF BEARINGS IS ASSUMED  
 DATE: JUNE: 1981 JBK  
 JOB NUMBER: 3065 BOOK: 74/38  
 ○ DENOTES IRON PIPE SET WITH A PLASTIC  
 PLUG STAMPED RLS 8194.  
 ● DENOTES IRON PIPE BY US FOR A PREVIOUS SURVEY.

Herbert Fox House, Becker Twp., Vicinity of Becker,  
 Sherburne Co., MN  
 Date: 1981  
 Scale: 1 inch = 40 Feet  
 - - - - = boundary

Lots 7 and 8, Block 3, EVERGREEN PARK, Sherburne  
 County, Minnesota.

I hereby certify that this survey was prepared by me or  
 under my direct supervision, is correct to the best of my  
 knowledge and belief, was executed in accordance with the  
 current Minimum Standards for Property Boundary Surveys  
 adopted by the Minnesota Land Surveyors Association, and  
 that I am a duly registered Land Surveyor under the laws  
 of the State of Minnesota. This certificate shows the  
 location of all buildings attached to said land, and the locati  
 of all visible encroachments, if any, from or on said land.  
 No liability is assumed except to the client for whom this  
 survey was prepared, his heirs, and assigns, and said  
 liability is assumed only for the actual cost of this survey.

*John O. Oliver*  
 John O. Oliver, Land Surveyor  
 Minnesota Registration No. 8194

Date: June 24, 1981

**JOHN OLIVER & ASSOC. INC.**  
**LAND SURVEYORS**  
 Elk River, Minn.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: PROPOSED MOVE

PROPERTY NAME: Fox, Herbert M., House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MINNESOTA, Sherburne

DATE RECEIVED: 04/04/06      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 04/26/06  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 05/12/06      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 05/19/06  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 80002175

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: Y    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: Y    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    5-19-06 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM. /CRITERIA Approve  
REVIEWER Edgar Beall DISCIPLINE Historian  
TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE 5/19/06

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

Herbert M. Fox House, Becker, Sherburne County, Minnesota (80002175)

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, I hereby certify that this material which requests that the Fox House remain in the National Register following its move meets documentation standards, and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.14. In my opinion, the property on its new location will retain the qualities that caused it to be listed in the National Register.

  
Signature and title of certifying official

3/30/06  
Date

Britta L. Bloomberg  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Minnesota Historical Society  
State or Federal agency and bureau

# Documentation on the Proposed Relocation of the Herbert Fox House, Becker, Sherburne County Minnesota

Prepared by  
Sherburne County Historical Society  
December, 2005



## 36CFR60.14(b) (i) The reasons for the move.

### Background

In 1996, Sherburne County received a gift from Bill and Margaret Cox of 220 acres of agricultural land just north of the city of Becker, Minnesota. The property was divided into three parcels designated for three purposes: preservation of open space, use by the Sherburne County Historical Society or for other historical purposes, and the future site of the Sherburne County Fairgrounds. The Sherburne County Historical Society has built a new museum on the designated 50-acre parcel and will be moving to its new building in spring 2006. The parcel also includes a portion of oak savanna, a native but quickly vanishing landscape. The Fox House is proposed for relocation to this portion of the property. The current site of the Sherburne County Historical Society and the Fox House is owned by Sherburne County and will be sold by the County when the Society has moved to its new facility. Thus, the Fox House will need to be moved in spring/summer 2006.

The Fox House is believed to have been built in 1875 by Samuel Glidden. The one and one-half story house is a rare example in Minnesota of vertical plank construction, a method of building used in Plymouth, Massachusetts, as early as 1627. Referred to as "plank" construction, wall construction used two-inch thick vertical planks, 14" across, nailed to both the lower sill and the second floor sill. The planks extend to the roofline with no other strengthening members. The walls are butt-joined at the corners and nailed together. There are no vertical posts inside the walls to add support. The exterior planks are load bearing. Four-inch horizontal clapboards were nailed directly over the planks with no battens. In the interior, furring strips were attached directly to the planks and then lathed and plastered.

### The First Move

In 1965, 30,700 acres in Sherburne County were designated as the Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge under the management of the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife. Prior to habitat restoration, the Fox House was slated for demolition. As demolition began, refuge staff discovered its unusual method of construction. Work was halted and the Minnesota Historical Society and State Historic Preservation Office were contacted. Staff from both agencies inspected the house and determined that its vertical plank construction rendered the property architecturally significant and eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The Fox House was listed in the National Register on April 10, 1980.

In 1981, the U.S. Fish and Wild Life staff concluded that the proposed construction of a water impound pool would result in the physical isolation of the house, making adaptive re-use of the property impractical. After consultation, the parties in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Section 800 of the regulations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation agreed under a Memorandum of Agreement that the Fox House would remain on the National Register during its move to a new location provided by the Sherburne County Historical Society. Prior to relocation, the property was recorded according to the Historic American Buildings Standards (HABS). The 20-mile move from Santiago Township to its present site adjacent to the current Sherburne County Historical Society building at the intersection of First Street, a service road running parallel to Highway 10, and Bradley Boulevard in the city of Becker was made on November 16, 1981

Once the house was moved, Miller, Dunwiddie Associates, a Minneapolis architectural firm with extensive experience in historic restoration developed a restoration plan. Local contractors and volunteers completed the majority of the work. In 1988, the Sherburne County Historical Society was a recipient of the "Excellence in Preservation" award presented by the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota for the society's renovation of the Fox House.

### **The Proposed Move**

Although moving the Fox House for a second time is a necessity, the move is also seen as an improvement for its setting and interpretation. When the Fox House was originally moved to its current location, it sat on the fringe of the Becker city limits, with a mostly rural setting to its north and west. Since then, the city has grown significantly and commercial development has continued another one-half mile down First Street, eliminating any pretense of a rural setting. Limited space at the current site has hampered efforts to properly interpret the house. The new location provides an opportunity to return the house to a more appropriate rural setting and to expand the possibilities for interpretation and community education. SCHS plans to showcase the Fox House as an example of historical construction methods and to interpret the early history of a rural family in a physical context that is more compatible with its original location.

### **(ii) The effect on the property's historical integrity.**

When the house was listed in the National Register in 1980, it retained integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Following its 1981 relocation, the house lost its integrity of location and association; however, it retained integrity of design, materials workmanship and feeling. The integrity of feeling embraced the physical conditions of the original site, but subsequent residential and commercial development has seriously compromised this aspect of integrity. The close proximity of U.S. Highway 10, that over the years has become very busy highway, has distracted from what was once a compatible setting.

The proposed move will retain the house's integrity of design, materials, workmanship and feeling and will return a large measure of the house's integrity of setting because its new location will be in a fairly secluded rural setting in an oak savanna highly reminiscent of the vegetation and topography present at the original location.

Consideration was given to the appropriate orientation of the house on the new location. An earlier study that identified the original position of the house, outbuildings, roads, and vegetation (natural and domestic) was referenced when selecting the location for the house. However, since no compelling historical or environmental factors were evident that would indicate a specific orientation, the house will be oriented to maximize the visitor experience.

As was done with the 1981 move, the Sherburne County Historical Society will contract with a professional house mover with demonstrated experience moving historic structures. Once moved, the house will be set on a cement block foundation with field stone overlay from the ground level to the first floor joists, following the same restoration plan used during the first move.

### **(iii) The new setting and the general environment of the proposed site.**

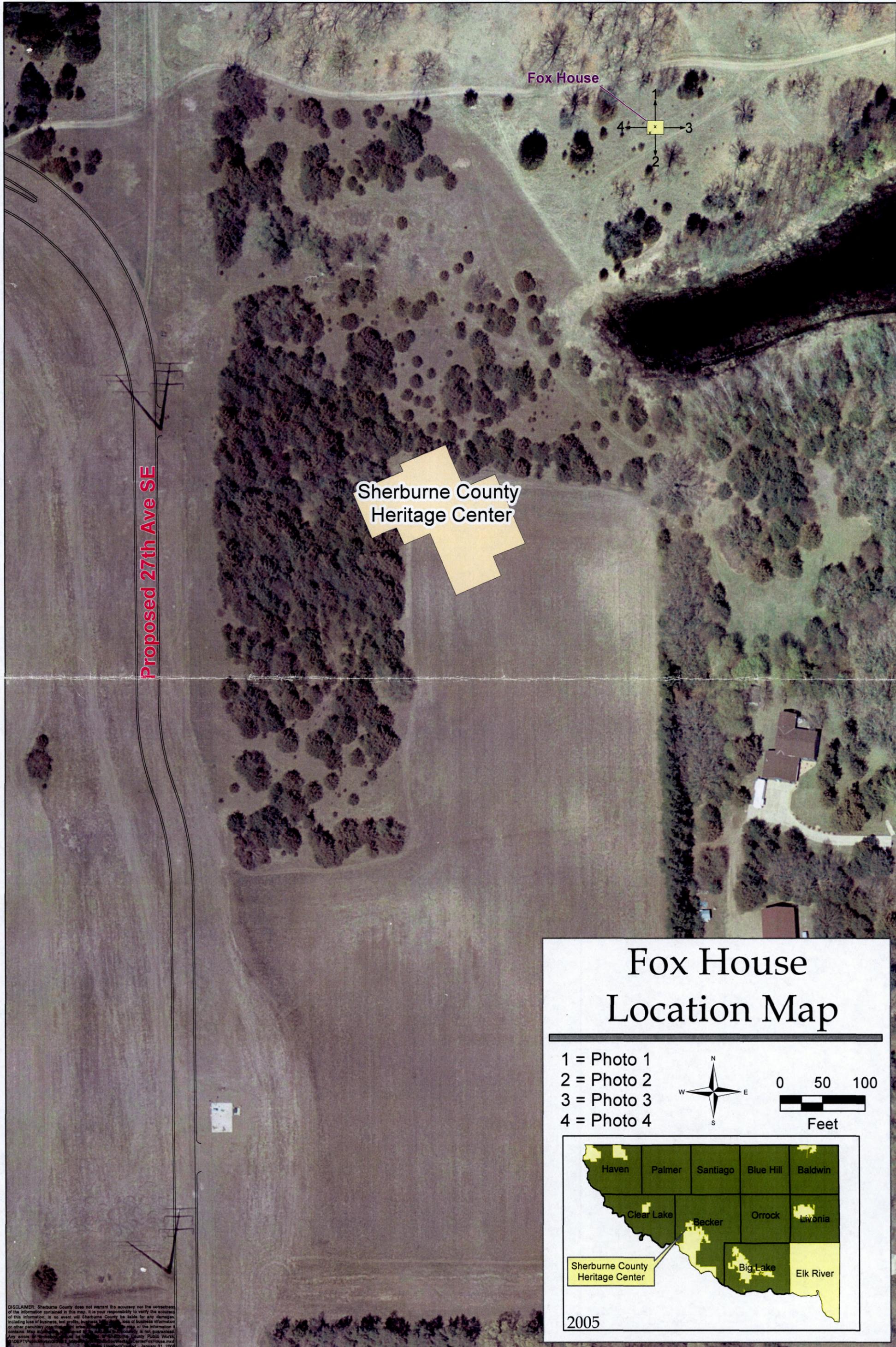
Because the proposed site is approximately 45 meters from Clitty Lake, it had some probability for prehistoric archaeological sites although no surface finds have ever been reported from this location. On 16 October 2005, Dr. Richard Rothaus, archaeologist at St. Cloud State university, and Dr. Barbara Scott, archaeologist with Sherburne County Historical Society, conducted field testing to make sure no archaeological resources would be disturbed by putting the Fox House on the proposed site. The footprint of the house is quite small so only two tests were deemed necessary (location noted by an X on the map). The first shovel test was put in at UTM Zone 15, NAD 27 0430404, 52029501 (+/- 4m). This shovel test was 0.75 m deep and all the soil was screened in a ¼" screen. The top 10 centimeters were sandy loam. This transitioned into a clean tan sand with few pebbles and no cobbles. The second test location was approximately 2m west of Test 1. A 1.5m x 0.5m trench had already been dug for a utility line. All the soil that had been removed from this trench was also screened. The soil was of the same type as in Test 1. There were no finds from either test, nor were there any finds from surface surveying. Given the negative results of the shovel tests and the lack of surface finds, it is unlikely that the Fox House will disturb a significant archaeological site.

The site is relatively flat with trees and brush surrounding it. The land slopes as it nears the lake to the south and east of the site. The Fox House would sit in the heart of an oak savanna landscape, a historically predominant landscape in Sherburne County that now remains in only 0.2% of the county. The area of the proposed site is recognized as being a significant landscape remnant and is identified as Dry Oak Savanna-barrens on a map published by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources entitled Natural Communities and Rare Species of Sherburne County, Minnesota (1993). The Fox House was originally located in an area dominated by oak savanna. The proposed setting is very

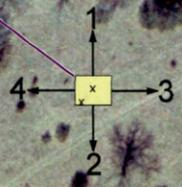
secluded with minimal views of the new Historical Society building. The move would cause very little disturbance to the natural vegetation.

Xcel Energy recently awarded the Sherburne County Historical Society a \$20,000 environmental grant that will be used for developing interpretive signage along the Society's new trail system that will pass by the Fox House. The Society's Interpretive Plan, which was developed with the help of Dr. Tom Woods, a recognized environmental historian, emphasizes the Fox House's unique construction. The house will serve as the centerpiece in the wider story about early building techniques and house construction in Sherburne County.

**(iv) Photographs showing the original and proposed location (see attached).**



Fox House

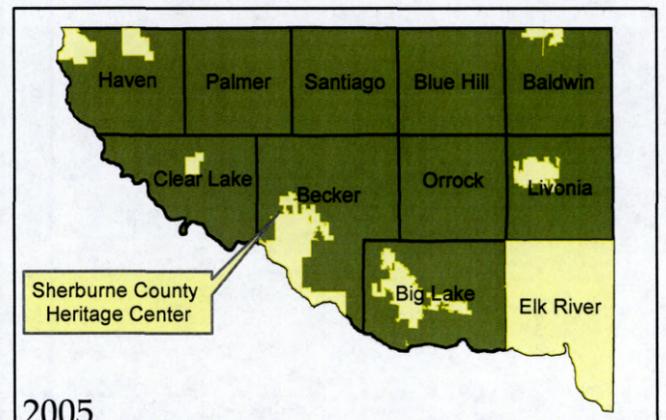
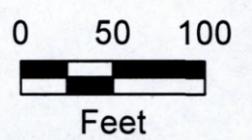


Sherburne County Heritage Center

Proposed 27th Ave SE

# Fox House Location Map

- 1 = Photo 1
- 2 = Photo 2
- 3 = Photo 3
- 4 = Photo 4



2005

DISCLAIMER: Sherburne County does not warrant the accuracy nor the correctness of the information contained in this map. It is your responsibility to verify the accuracy of this information. In no event will Sherburne County be liable for any damages, including loss of business, lost profits, business interruption, loss of business information or other pecuniary loss that may arise from the use of this map or the information it contains. Map information is derived from public sources and its accuracy is not guaranteed. Any errors or omissions should be reported to the Sherburne County Public Works Department, 1000 1st St. SW, Sherburne, MN 56283. Updated/Created: January 31, 2006



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY NAME: Fox, Herbert M., House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MINNESOTA, Sherburne

DATE RECEIVED: 11/28/06 DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/11/07  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 80002175

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 1.4.07 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Additional Documentation Accepted*

**Entered in the  
National Register**

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept

REVIEWER Edouard Beal

DISCIPLINE History

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE 1.4.07

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Herbert M. Fox House

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Name of property

Sherburne Co., MN

---

County and State

Section   2   Page   1  

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2. Location

street & number: 10775 27<sup>th</sup> Ave SE

city or town: Becker

zip code: 55308

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Herbert M. Fox House

Name of property

Sherburne Co., MN

County and State

Section 5 Page 1

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: public-local

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Herbert M. Fox House

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Name of property

Sherburne Co., MN

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County and State

Section   6   Page   1  

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions: RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Herbert M. Fox House

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Name of property

Sherburne Co., MN

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County and State

Section   10   Page   1  

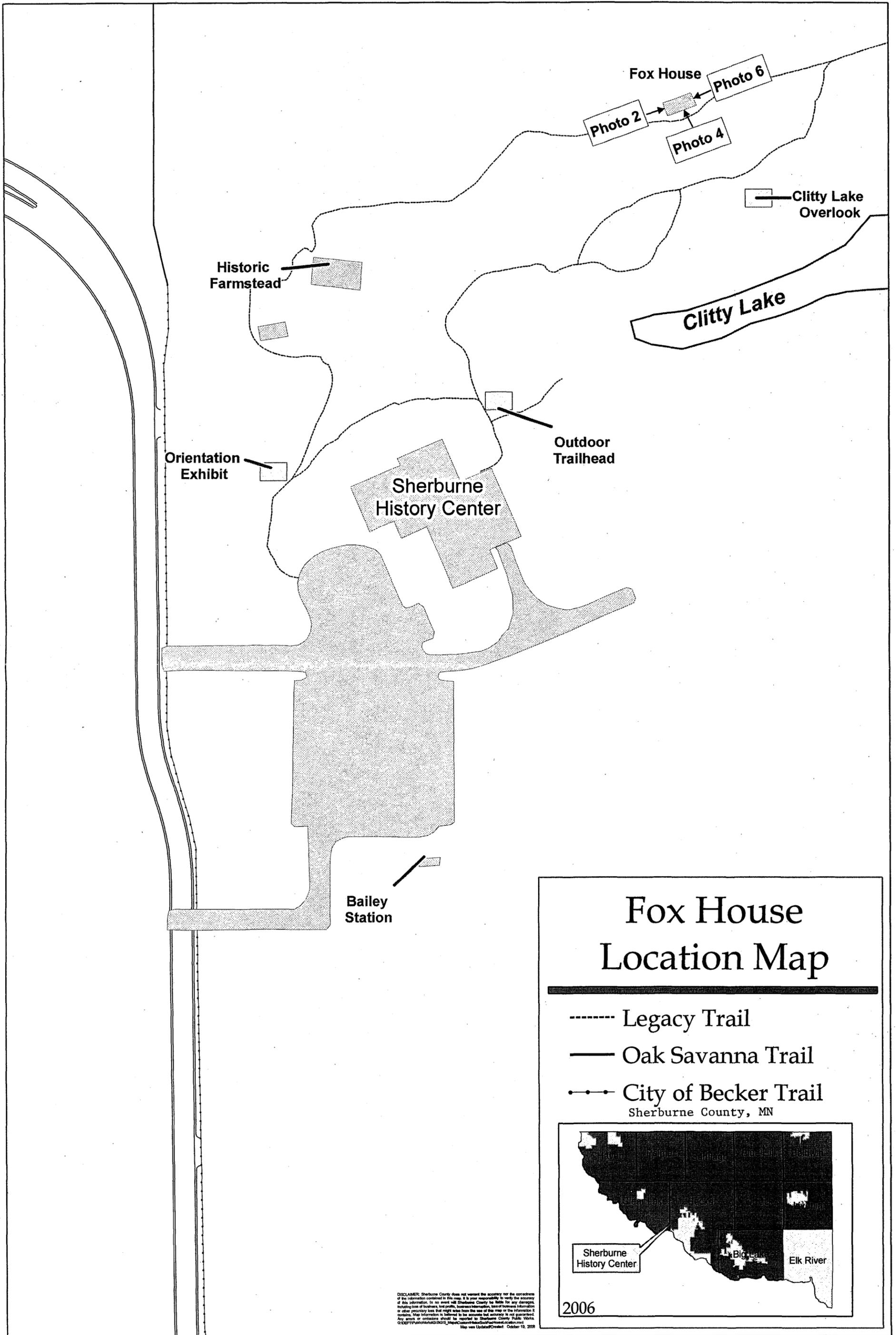
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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 9.15 acres

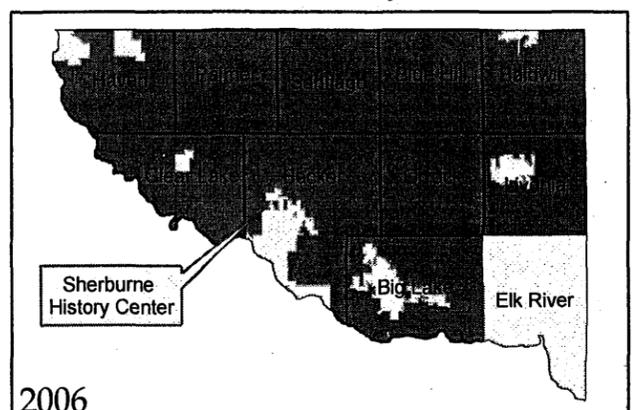
UTM References: Zone 15; Easting: 430460; Northing 5029540

Verbal Boundary Description: South three hundred feet of the west half of the southeast quarter of section twenty-four, township thirty-four, range twenty-nine.



# Fox House Location Map

- Legacy Trail
  - Oak Savanna Trail
  - City of Becker Trail
- Sherburne County, MN



DISCLAIMER: Sherburne County does not warrant the accuracy nor the correctness of the information contained in this map. It is your responsibility to verify the accuracy of this information. In no event will Sherburne County be liable for any damages, including loss of business, lost profits, business interruption, loss of business information or other opportunity loss that might arise from the use of the map or the information it contains. Map information is believed to be accurate but accuracy is not guaranteed. Any errors or omissions should be reported to Sherburne County Public Works. Q:\DEPT\Public\Marketing\GIS\Map\Custom\Map\FoxHouseLocation.mxd  
Map was Updated/Checked: October 10, 2006