

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

APR 15 1980

HISTORIC NAME: Femco Farm #2

COUNTY: Wilkin *Kent vic.*

CURRENT NAME: Gerald Krump Farm

CITY/TWP.: Roberts Township

LEGAL DESC.: SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 36, T. 135, R. 48

ADDRESS:  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile off County Road 153

<b>CLASSIFICATION:</b>	<b>CONDITION:</b>	<b>SIGNIFICANCE:</b>	<b>THEME/S:</b>
Building <u>  X  </u>	Excellent <u>  X  </u>	Local <u>  X  </u>	Primary <u>  Agriculture  </u>
Structure <u>      </u>	Good <u>      </u>	State <u>      </u>	Secondary <u>      </u>
Object <u>      </u>	Fair <u>      </u>	National <u>      </u>	Others <u>      </u>
District <u>      </u>	Deteriorated <u>      </u>		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes <u>  </u> No <u>  X  </u> Restricted <u>  </u>	PRESENT USE:
VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes <u>  X  </u> No <u>  </u>	Farmstead
OCCUPIED: Yes <u>  X  </u> No <u>  </u>	

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1922	ORIGINAL USE: Farm
ORIGINAL OWNER: Frederic E. Murphy	ARCHITECT/BUILDER:

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Gerald Krump Route 1 Kent, MN 56553	ACREAGE: Less than one acre <u>      </u> 10 acres <u>  X  </u>
	UTM REFERENCE: <i>see continuation sheet</i> 14 / 679745 / 5147320
LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.:	Abercrombie 7.5 quad
FORM PREPARED BY: Tom Harvey	
DATE: September 1979	

**DESCRIPTION:**

Femco Farms #2, originally consisting of 1200 acres, was the second in importance of Frederic Murphy's five farms. It included a full complex of farm buildings and today is the only farm retaining significant integrity.

The original farmstead consisted of twelve structures of which nine remain standing. A chicken coop, a windmill, and a small house used by Mr. Murphy when he visited the farm have been razed. Two corn cribs and a small shed have been added to the original Femco operation. The nine original buildings all constructed around 1922 are:

1. Foreman and workers house: 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -story, square floor plan house with a pyramidal roof. Rear, low additions were part of the original farm. The original siding was covered with modern materials.
2. Granary: A two-bay structure with drive-through loading ramp and an extended monitor along the roof peak.
3. Milk house: Small, single-story building with double front doors.
4. Dairy barn: Actually two, large gambrel-roofed barns attached by a lower gambrel-roof connector. These huge barns were central to the Holstein dairy operations. The U-shaped arrangement was originally fenced-in to form a cattle-yard. The right-side barn has been altered by replacing the original door with an oversized machinery door.
5. Silo: A double, concrete-stave silo attached to the rear of the dairy barn.
6. Hog barn: A low, open shelter now used as a cattle shed.
7. Sheep barn: A long, gable-roofed building similar to the dairy barn with its extended gable hay-hood and sliding entrance doors.
8. Horse barn: The original gable barn has been lowered and a garage-type door installed, but the barn retains the hay-hood found on the other barns.
9. Machine shed: A gable-roof building, altered only by an added garage-type door.

See continuation sheet

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Femco Farm #2 - continued

SIGNIFICANCE:

Wilkin County's Femco Farms was an important Minnesota experiment in diversified farming. Frederic E. Murphy, who became publisher and president of the Minneapolis Tribune Company in 1921, felt diversified farming was the answer to many of the problems of agriculture. He established five farms in Wilkin County, with approximately 5000 acres, to experiment with stock raising, crop rotation, and soil fertilization. Murphy's emphasis was on purebred livestock - Duroc-Jersey hogs, Shropshire sheep, Percheron horses, and White Orphington chickens - and his greatest successes were with Holstein dairy cattle. At one time Femco Farms had 20 of the top producing dairy cows in the world. Frederic Murphy died in 1940, and the Frederic E. Murphy Company Farms were auctioned off.

Femco Farms #1 and #2 were the main farms in the system. #1 was the center of the operation. #2 rivalled it in its complex of buildings. #2 is in the best condition today. It originally consisted of 1200 acres and was the secondary center for the Holstein herd.

Femco Farms have had a lasting impact on the agricultural history of Wilkin County - and through breeding stock, on U.S. agriculture.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 14 1980

DATE ENTERED JUL 17 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

Femco Farm #2  
ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

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Amendment to Femco Farm #2 -- Roberts Township -- Wilkin County

Amended verbal boundary description:

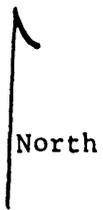
From a point on the south section line of Section 36, Township 135, Range 48, 550 feet west of the southeast corner of Section 36; 500 feet north; thence 600 feet west; thence 500 feet south; thence 600 feet east to point of origin.

Amended acreage:

approximately 7 acres

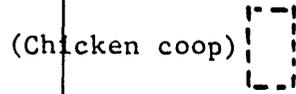
FEMCO FARM # 2  
Roberts Township  
Wilkin County, Minn.

600'

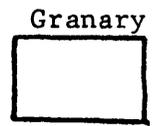


500'

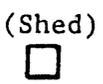
500'



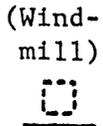
(Chicken coop)



Granary



(Shed)



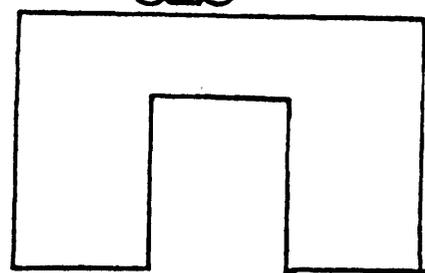
(Wind-mill)



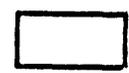
MILK House



Silos



Dairy Barn



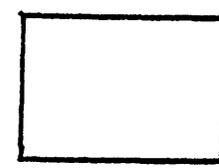
Hog Barn



(Corn crib)



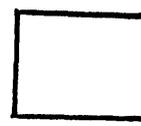
(Dwelling)



Sheep Barn



Foreman and Workers' House



Horse Barn



(Corn crib)



Machine Shed

600'

Township Road

550' west of  
Southeast corner  
of Sec. 36

(not to exact scale)