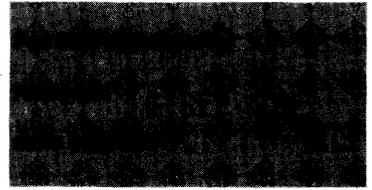


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**



**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Peterson, Andrew, Farmstead

and/or common The Rock Isle Farm

2. Location

street & number NE of Waconia on MN 5 State Highway 5 ___ not for publication

city, town Waconia Laketown Township Waconia vicinity of congressional district 2nd

state Minnesota code 22 county Carver code 019

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture ___ museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial ___ park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational ___ private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment ___ religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government ___ scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial ___ transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military ___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. & Mrs Ward Holasek

street & number Route 1, Box 16

city, town Waconia ___ vicinity of state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Carver County Courthouse - Register of Deeds

street & number

city, town Chaska state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Survey of Historic Resources has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes no

date 1978 ___ federal state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society -- 240 Summit Avenue-Hill House

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Five elements of the original Peterson Farmstead remain intact in their original location (see figure 1). The farmhouse, built between 1867 and 1870, is a two story frame structure with a simple gable roof oriented east-west. The house is somewhat unusual in that it was originally and still is, sheathed with vertical siding. Triangular windows embellish the gables. The buff-brick kitchen wing was added at a somewhat later date. The porch on the south side was rebuilt in its present configuration after Peterson's death and rests on a concrete foundation. Also dating to Peterson's lifetime are the North and South barns. Both are relatively small, story and a half "bank-barns" built of hand hewn framing on field-stone foundations, and sheathed in board-and-batten siding. The north half of the "Log House" is of hand-hewn horizontal log construction; the south half is a later addition of hewn timber frame construction. The original purpose of the building is not certain, but it was used as a granary during Peterson's life. Notes in Peterson's handwriting recording grain transactions with his neighbors embellish most of the flat surfaces inside the building. The smoke house is of buff brick, and is also part of the original farmstead. Later additions to the farm include the dairy barn, machine shed, and a tenant farmer's house, now demolished. The garage immediately to the north of the house was built recently by the present owner. Perhaps the most significant missing element is Andrew Peterson's orchard, which is gone completely.

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 type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The importance of the Andrew Peterson farm lies both in the preservation of the farmstead and in the historical stature of Andrew Peterson himself.

Andrew Peterson was born in Sweden in 1818 and emigrated to Burlington, Iowa in 1850, where he worked briefly as a nurseryman. In 1855, shortly before he journeyed to Minnesota, Peterson began the diary which he continued to his death and which was to bring him posthumous fame.

While in Burlington, Peterson joined a group of Swedish Baptists under the leadership of Fredrik Olaus Nilsson, who had fled Sweden to escape religious persecution. In the spring of 1855 the group moved to Minnesota and established claims in what was to become Laketown Township in Carver County. Peterson's diary records the construction of his first log house in 1855 and the establishment of the Scandia Swedish-Baptist Church in his house on August 1, 1855. This church founded the Minnesota Swedish Baptist Conference. Terse, unembellished entries record his marriage to Elas in 1858, the construction of his new house between 1867 and 1870, the birth of his nine children, and his increasing prosperity and prominence in the local community. The diary is also a priceless sociological record that details the seasonal rhythm of hard work that was pioneer life and the system of barter, shared labor, and mutual aid vital to the settlers' success.

During his lifetime Andrew Peterson was best known for his efforts to develop varieties of apples and other fruits that were hardy in Minnesota. Peterson began his experiments in 1856. By the 1870s he had discovered several Russian apple varieties that bore well and were hardy in Minnesota. By 1875 his principal income came from selling hardy apple trees. He continued his experiments throughout his life and his efforts were primarily responsible for the establishment of a viable fruit industry in Minnesota. Peterson died in 1898. Peterson's diary was donated by his family to the Minnesota Historical Society in 1939.

Peterson seemed destined to become a historical figure of minor significance in Minnesota. However, in 1948 the prominent Swedish novelist Vilhelm Moberg discovered the diary and made extensive use of it in his trilogy about the Swedish emigration of the 19th century (The Emigrants (1951), Unto a Good Land (1954), The Last Letter Home (1961)). Andrew Peterson's life indirectly became part of the broader popular culture in 1971 when two movies based on Moberg's trilogy were released - "The Emigrants" and "The New Land."

PLEASE NOTE: The manuscript for this nomination was prepared before the one paragraph limit for significance statements was stipulated.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Qualey, Carlton C., 1972. "Diary of a Swedish Immigrant Horticulturalist, 1855-1898" in Minnesota History, v. 43, no. 2, pp. 63-70. Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approx. 8.5 Acres

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name Victoria, Minn.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	5	4	4	2	7	3	0	4	9	6	7	8	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing							

C

Zone		Easting				Northing							

D

Zone		Easting				Northing							

E

Zone		Easting				Northing							

F

Zone		Easting				Northing							

G

Zone		Easting				Northing							

H

Zone		Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification T 116, R24, Sec. 8, SE $\frac{1}{2}$, SE $\frac{1}{2}$,
From A Point 330 feet West of the intersection of the North edge of Highway 5 and the Eastern boundary of section 8, Northerly 1157 feet, Westerly 415 feet, Southerly 415 feet, Easterly 165 feet, southerly 742 feet, and Easterly 250 feet along Northern edge of Highway to point of beginning.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ted Lofstrom, Archaeologist

organization Minnesota Historical Society - SHPO date 1978 (January)

street & number 240 Summit Avenue-Hill House telephone 612-296-9069

city or town St. Paul state Minnesota

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national state ___ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Russell W. Fridley

Russell W. Fridley

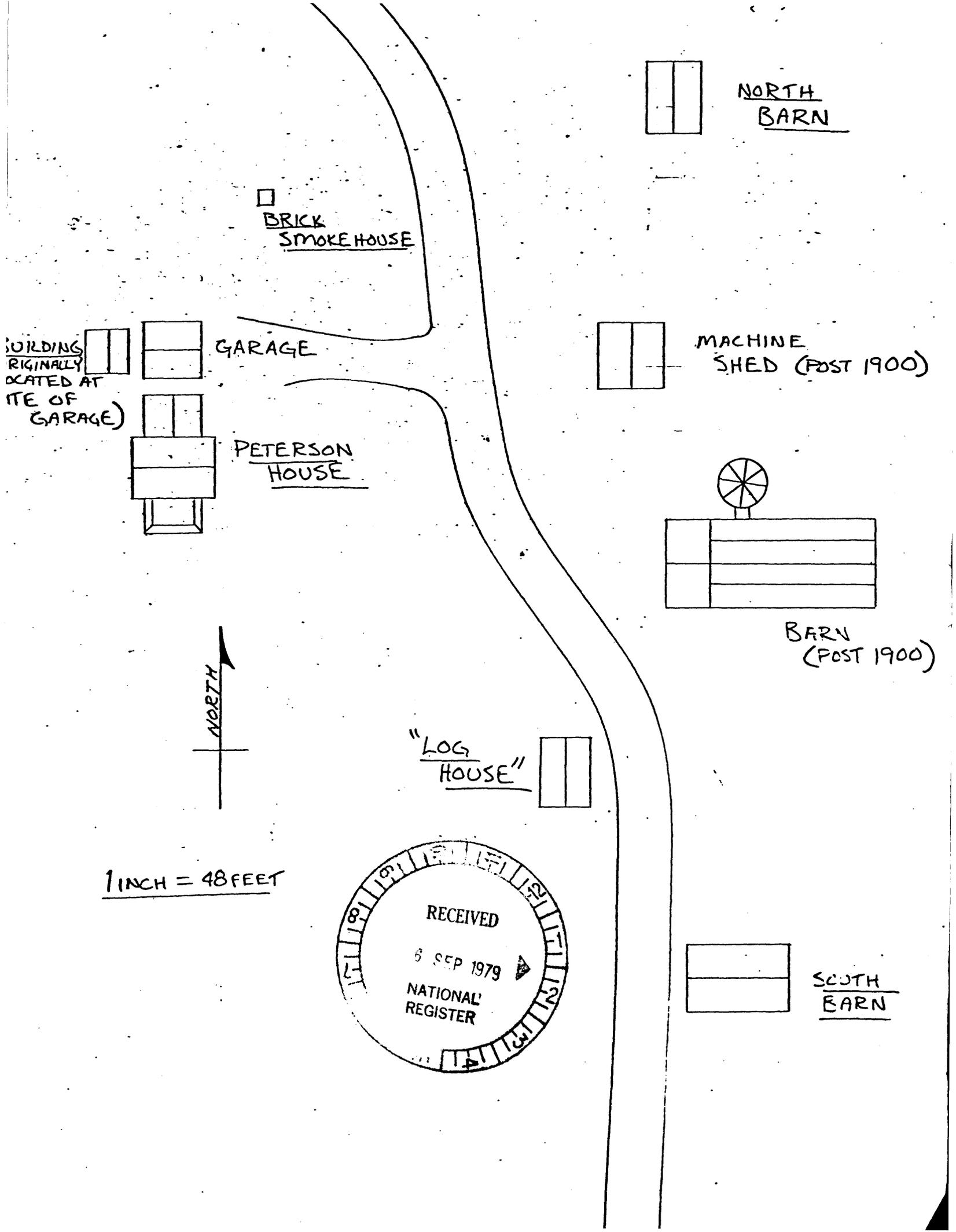
title State Historic Preservation Officer date 8/30/79

For HCRS use only

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

Carol Shull date 10-11-79
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: W. Ray Luce date Oct 10, 1979
Chief of Registration



NORTH BARN

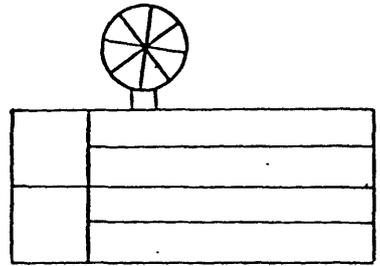
BRICK SMOKEHOUSE

BUILDING
ORIGINALLY
LOCATED AT
SITE OF
GARAGE)

GARAGE

MACHINE SHED (POST 1900)

PETERSON HOUSE

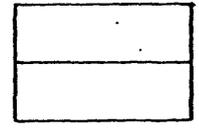
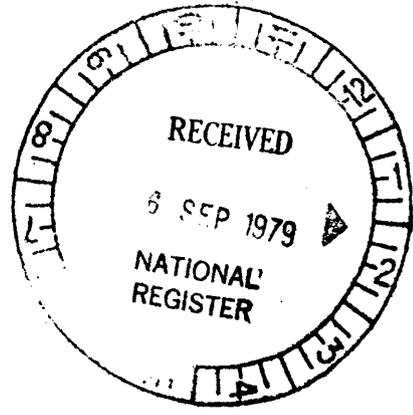


BARN (POST 1900)



"LOG HOUSE"

1 INCH = 48 FEET



SOUTH BARN

Common Name: The Rock Isle Farm
 Owner's Name and Address: Andrew Peterson Farm
 Mr. and Mrs. Ward Holasek
 Route 1, Box 16
 Waconia, Minnesota 55387

Community:
 Address/Legal Desc.:
 SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 8, T116 R

Classification:
 Buildings X Structure _____ Object _____ District _____

Acreage:
 4 acres

Condition:
 Excellent X Good _____ Fair _____ Deteriorated _____

Verbal Boundary Desc.:
 (see map)

Open to the Public:
 Yes _____ No X

Visible from the road:
 Yes X No _____

Occupied:
 Yes X No _____

Present Use:
 Farm

History:
 Date Constructed: 1870 Original Owner: Andrew Peterson
 Architect/Builder: Andrew Peterson Original Use: Farm

UTM Reference:
 15/443290/4967860

Description:
 Five elements of the original Peterson Farmstead remain intact in their original location (see figure 1). The farmhouse, built between 1867 and 1870, is a two story frame structure with a simple gable roof oriented east-west. The house is somewhat unusual in that it was originally and still is, sheathed with vertical siding. Triangular windows embellish the gables. The buff-brick kitchen wing was added at a somewhat later date. The porch on the south side was rebuilt in its present configuration after Peterson's death and rests on a concrete foundation. Also dating to Peterson's lifetime are the North and South barns. Both are relatively small, story and a half "bank-barns" built of hand hewn framing on field-stone foundation, and sheathed in board-and-batten siding. The north half of the "Log House" is of hand-hewn horizontal log - cont.

Level of Significance:
 Local _____
 State X
 Nation _____

Status:
 Survey Date
 Local 10/76
 State 12/77
 Nat'l. Reg. _____
 Nat'l. Land. _____
 HABS/HAER _____

Significance:
 The importance of the Andrew Peterson farm lies both in the preservation of the farmstead and in the historical stature of Andrew Peterson himself.
 Andrew Peterson was born in Sweden in 1818 and emigrated to Burlington, Iowa in 1850, where he worked briefly as a nurseryman. In 1855, shortly before he journeyed to Minnesota, Peterson began the diary which he continued to his death and which was to bring him posthumous fame.
 While in Burlington, Peterson joined a group of Swedish Baptists under the leadership of Fredrik Olaus Nilsson, who had fled Sweden, to escape religious persecution. In the Spring of 1855 the group moved to Minnesota and established claims in what was to become Laketown Township in Carver County. Peterson's diary records the construction of his first log house in 1855 and the establishment of the Scandia Swedish-Baptist Church in his house on August 1, 1955. This church founded the Minnesota Swedish Baptist Conference. Terse, unembellished entries record his marriage to Elsa in 1858, the construction of his new house cont.

Theme/s:
 Primary Immigration and Settlement
 Secondary _____
 Other Horticulture

Local Contact/Org.:
 Heritage Committee
 Carver County Historical Society

Prepared by and date:
 Edward Lofstrom
 January 1978

Description -- continued

construction; the south half is a later addition of hewn timber frame construction. The original purpose of the building is not certain, but it was used as a granary during Peterson's life. Notes in Peterson's handwriting recording grain transactions with his neighbors embellish most of the flat surfaces inside the building. The smoke house is of buff brick, and is also part of the original farmstead. Later additions to the farm include the dairy barn, machine shed, and a tenant farmer's house, now demolished. The garage immediately to the north of the house was built recently by the present owner. Perhaps the most significant missing element is Andrew Peterson's orchard, which is gone completely.

Significance -- continued

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