

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received JUL 29 1985

date entered SEP 12 1985

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

1. Name

historic Ellingson Farm District

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number N/A

not for publication

city, town Rural Hillsboro X vicinity of Hillsboro

state North Dakota code 38 county Traill code 017

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name William J. Ellingson

street & number 459 Centennial Drive

city, town Roseville vicinity of state Minnesota 55113

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Traill County Courthouse, Register of Deeds

street & number P O Box 148

city, town Hillsboro state ND 58045

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date N/A  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" 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

The Ellingson farm is located approximately one mile north and two and a half miles west of Hillsboro, North Dakota. The farmsite consists (Figure 1) of an original homestead cabin, built during the early 1880s, a second generation main farmhouse, built in 1898, and associated structures: a frame grain elevator, large barn, brooderhouse, pumphouse, two garages, a well, outhouse, and shelterbelts and plantings.

A shelterbelt of mature trees extends along the north and east sides of the buildings. To the south and east of the main house are a double row of mature elm trees, with a lilac hedge closer to the main house. Outbuildings and the farmyard are situated west and southwest of the main house. Plantings and outbuildings are so located as to shelter the main house from prevailing north and northwest winds. The grain elevator is at the south end of the site, separated from the other outbuildings and main house by an east-west driveway.

The original homestead cabin, located north of the main farmhouse was built in a simple rectangular shape with a gabled wood-shingled roof. An east wing at right angles was added sometime after 1908 and the cabin was converted to a cook house and bunk house for hired help. The homestead cabin is sheathed in shiplap siding which matches the barn and outbuildings. The structure has simple corner boards, corniced window trim, and two-over-two double hung windows. The roof is now asphalt shingles. The east wing is of similar materials except that the windows have six-over-six lights. Brick chimneys are located at the west and east ends of the building.

The large house, built in 1898, to replace the original cabin is Queen Anne inspired. It is wood frame and irregular in shape, with a complicated cross-gabled and truncated hipped-roof line (Photos #12, 13, 15). The house has a fieldstone foundation, lap siding, corner boards, scalloped shingles in the gable ends, and returned eaves. Open porches on the east and south are supported by Tuscan columns. The north (rear) porch is enclosed (Photo #13). Windows are original double-hung with wooden sashes, one-over-one lights, and corniced moldings. Bay windows in the parlor and dining room have a large fixed-light center window with stained glass transoms (Photos #7). The square rear hall window is surrounded by colored glass squares (Photo #12). In the scalloped gable ends are fan lights set in curved molding.

No additions have been made to the structure and alterations are remarkably few. The wood shingled roof has been replaced with asphalt shingles. Scroll saw and spool millwork was removed from the gable ends and open porches before 1920, but some of this material from the gables is stored in the attic. Turned porch columns were replaced by Tuscan columns probably in the 'teens. The front porch railing and roof balustrade, and the truncated hipped roof area balustrade have been removed. Clapboard siding has replaced the original porch balustrade. These minimal alterations were made, however, during the farm's formative years.

The interior of the house is exceptionally well preserved, having suffered almost none of the expected updating in the course of its history. The floor plan (Figure 2) is entirely unaltered. The house, which faces east, opens into a front hallway (Photo #8) and a parlor on the north. The hallway contains the original staircase with decorative newel post and original finish.

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The parlor is dominated by an elaborate round-edge pressed metal ceiling (Photo #6). The woodwork on the first floor is pine, stained the original reddish-brown to resemble cherry. The floors throughout the house are maple. The walls are plaster and lath throughout.

The ceilings in the other downstairs rooms are unornamented metal. Heat is currently supplied by several stoves, but the original system was hot water radiators. The house contains no fireplaces. Four-panel pocket doors (Photo #3) open from the parlor into the dining room and from the dining room into a north room now used as a bedroom. Another north room off the parlor which may have been a library is also used as a bedroom today.

The dining room opens on the kitchen and pantry to the rear. The kitchen and pantry have pine floors and oak woodwork and cabinetry in original condition. The kitchen floor is partially covered with vinyl flooring. The kitchen and pantry cabinetry (Photo #10) is grooved Eastlake style inset with frosted glass doors over the counters. Off the pantry a set of back stairs is the only access to two upstairs rooms above the kitchen originally used for servants' quarters.

These servants' rooms have no access into the family bedrooms at the second floor. This arrangement indicates a strict separation of family from hired help, and the family's desire for privacy and social segregation. The second story floor plan includes four bedrooms, a bath, and an angled hallway in the front part of the house. This portion of the house is now unused. The second floor doors are panelled with glass transoms, and the millwork is similar to that on the first floor.

All of the outbuildings on the farm predate 1923, except the pumphouse, which was built in the late 1920s or early 1930s (before REA). West of the homestead cabin are two garages, a small single one and a larger double one to the east (Photos #26 and 27). Both garages have gabled wood shingle roofs and are sided in shiplap. The single garage is the older one, dating from the early automobile touring days in the late 'teens. The double garage was erected before 1923 (Photo #26) to house machinery.

The pumphouse (Photo #30) is situated southwest of the small garage. This small rectangular frame building is sheathed in shiplap, with corner boards, 4-over-4-wood framed windows, wood-shingle gabled roof, and rear chimney of brick. It is the most recent building on the farm, having been constructed between 1926 and 1932 to provide electricity to the farm before the local Delco electric plant took over several years later. It is currently used as a henhouse in the winter and is electrified.

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South of the pumphouse is the barn, built to house cattle and hay (Photo #36). It is lap sided with corner boards and a gambrel roof. It has sliding doors on tracks at ground level and as access to the loft. Today this barn is used for pigs.

To the southwest of the barn is the brooderhouse, a low long frame structure of shiplap siding and wood shingle roof topped with two metal vents, locally referred to as "cupolas" (Photo #31).

Southeast of the barn is a grain elevator, a tall rectangular frame building about 25 feet tall with lap siding, asphalt shingle roof, and a shed on the east side.

The outhouse (Photo #18) is located directly north of the cabin. It has a simple wood shingle gabled roof, is sheathed in shiplap with corner boards, and has a door opening on the east side. Inside are two seats of different heights: high for adults and low for children. The well (Photo #24) lies west of the main house within easy reach of the kitchen.

The layout of the farmyard and associated buildings has changed very little over the years. As the farm prospered, buildings were added to the west and south of the original cabin. The original barn with wooden silo was a long rectangular structure with gable ends facing north-south. It sat directly west of the small garage and north of the pumphouse, and had a shed-roofed addition along its west side. The silo blew down in 1957 and E.O. Ellingson removed the remainder of the old barn in 1959-60.

An ice house (location unknown) and a small chicken coop southeast of the new barn were also removed at the time of electrification. The brooderhouse replaced the functions of these buildings.

## 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 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 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** 1882, 1898, pre-1932 **Builder/Architect** unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Ellingson farm is significant for its association with its builders, Christian (1842-1908) and Edwin O. Ellingson (1873-1966) and is an outstanding, virtually intact, example of a small mixed-farming operation from the settlement period in the Red River Valley. Edwin O. Ellingson, the second generation son of Christian, made a unique contribution to Traill County politics and agriculture as school board member, township supervisor and assessor, state representative, secretary-treasurer of the Taft Farmers' Elevator Company, and president of the Eldorado Elevator and Trading Company.

Christian and Anne (1851-1916) Ellingson were born in Gudbrandsdalen, Norway, and first settled in Wisconsin. Arriving in Dakota Territory in 1880, Christian filed his original homestead entry for 160 acres in 1882 and built the homestead cabin which still stands on the Ellingson farm. He received title to his claim in 1890.

Christian's son, Edwin O. Ellingson, was born in Amherst Junction, Wisconsin, and received his education in the common school and at a business college. From the time of the Ellingson move to Dakota Territory, Edwin helped his father with the farm, gradually taking over more of the family operation. Before 1920, Edwin had served on the school board, as township supervisor, and as township assessor. He had also been secretary-treasurer of the Taft Farmers' Elevator Company for nine years. He successfully ran for state representative as a Republican and served in the legislatures of 1921, 1923, and 1925, representing District # 8 from Hillsboro. His association with the elevator cooperative was long-lived. By 1951, Edwin Ellingson was president of the company which had been reorganized as the Eldorado Elevator and Trading Company. Asked in 1951 why the elevator was built in the small hamlet of Taft, Ellingson explained that in the days of horse-drawn wagons, the distance of a mile or two made quite a difference to farmers hauling grain and returning with fuel and supplies.

In 1898, Edwin O. Ellingson and his wife, Olga (1883-1958), built the main house and continued to farm with the older Ellingsons. From the first cash crop of wheat, the operation gradually diversified and grew. By 1920, the farm had expanded to 880 acres. In 1951, it was 560 acres. Traditional Norwegian farms took the path of diversification, but differed in size. They are small, ranging from 3.9 to 18.5 acres and have 3-8 cows, 6-10 sheep and goats, a few pigs, and 8-15 hens. Farmers supplement their farm income with fishing. The Ellingson farm raised small grains: oats, wheat, and barley, principally. As a general purpose farm, the operation included Angus and Holstein cattle, 60 Hampshire and Spotted Poland China hogs, and white leghorn chickens. By 1950, the farm had only one retired horse, a holdover from the days before mechanization. The complex of buildings on the site reflect the general nature of the operation. None are large, but all are sufficient: the barn for hay, cattle and pigs; the elevator for grain; and the brooderhouse for chickens.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 9 acres

Quadrangle name Hillsboro NW, N. Dak. &

Quadrangle scale 7.5' series

UTM References Hillsboro, N. Dak.

A	<u>1</u> <u>4</u>	<u>6</u> <u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>5</u> <u>2</u> <u>5</u> <u>7</u> <u>9</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<u>1</u> <u>4</u>	<u>6</u> <u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>5</u> <u>2</u> <u>5</u> <u>7</u> <u>7</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<u>1</u> <u>4</u>	<u>6</u> <u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>3</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u>	<u>5</u> <u>2</u> <u>5</u> <u>7</u> <u>9</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>
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D	<u>1</u> <u>4</u>	<u>6</u> <u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>3</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u>	<u>5</u> <u>2</u> <u>5</u> <u>7</u> <u>7</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>
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E	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
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F	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
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G	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
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H	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
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Verbal boundary description and justification NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 14, T146N,R51W, Norway township, Traill County, North Dakota. Beginning at the NE corner of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sect. 14 then 625' south, 625' west, 625' north, 625' east to the point of beginning (to include the farm-house and all associated outbuildings).

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

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>
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state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>
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# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. Norene A. Roberts, President

organization Historical Research, Inc.

date October 22, 1984

street & number 5535 Richmond Curve

telephone (612)929-2921

city or town Minneapolis

state Minnesota 55410

# 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 National Park Service.

Alois B. Spielman  
State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota)

date 7/1/85

For NPS use only

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

*Ruth Grovono*  
Keeper of the National Register

date 9/12/85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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The main house is notable for its careful layout, fine stained glass, and functional qualities. Its interior retains the original feeling and associations, and is in virtually original condition. The rear of the house is oriented to the work of the farmyard. Servants' quarters are strictly separated from the family living spaces. The large size of the house and its formal floor plan are indicative of the Ellingson family's status as successful farmers. The unpretentious maple, pine, and oak woodwork reflect careful husbandry. The stained glass, elaborate parlor ceiling, and modern utilities and bathroom suggest progressive, successful adaptation to life in the Red River Valley. Respect for earlier generations can be seen in the integrity and excellent condition of the house's interior today.

The Ellingson farm is an excellent example of a successful small mixed-farming operation in the Red River Valley region. This type of farm succeeded by refusing to rely on a single crop or cash animal and provided an economic and political base for immigrants in an area known principally for its huge commercialized bonanza farms. The Ellingson farm is unusual in the integrity of its building complex, which reflects prudent management on a small scale by each generation of occupants.

Two types of Norwegian family farms dominated the Red River Valley: mixed operations and dairying operations. The Ellingson farm was chosen as the outstanding example of the mixed type for a 1951 visit by Einar Gerhardsen, Prime Minister of Norway. At the time of the Prime Minister's visit, Edwin O. Ellingson had been retired for five years and was living in Hillsboro. The farm was run by his son, Clarence (1905-1959), a member of the third generation to live on the place. After Clarence's death in 1959, the farm passed to his sisters. Today it is owned by a fourth generation family member, Clarence's son, William Ellingson.

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Abstract of title, Ellingson Farm, and homestead certificate No. 5586, Document # 12474 for Christian Ellingson, Traill County Courthouse, Hillsboro, North Dakota.

Card file of North Dakota state senators, representatives, and officers, Archives, State Historical Society of North Dakota.

Fargo Forum articles:

May 21, 1951

May 24, 1951

September 16, 1951

Interviews with William J. Ellingson and Belinda Ellingson Mellem, of Roseville, Minnesota and Minot, North Dakota (family members).

Voters Guide, September 1, 1920. Published by the Joint Campaign Committee, Fargo, North Dakota, p. 31.

Yester Years in Traill County. Dallas, Texas: Taylor Publishing Company, 1976, Vol. 2, p. 77.



FIGURE # 1  
Sketch of farmstead at Ellingson Farm  
Rural Hillsboro, N.D.

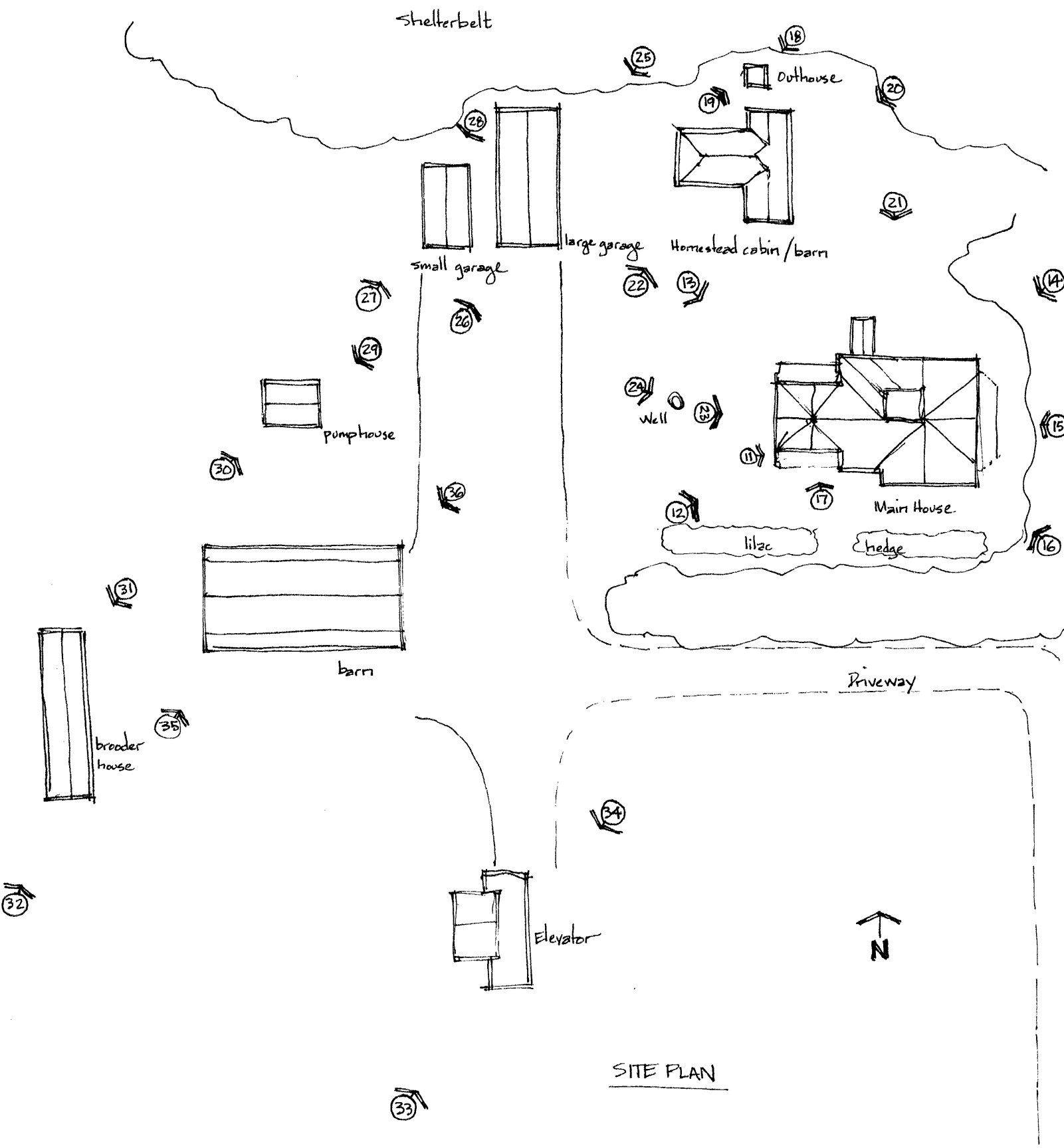
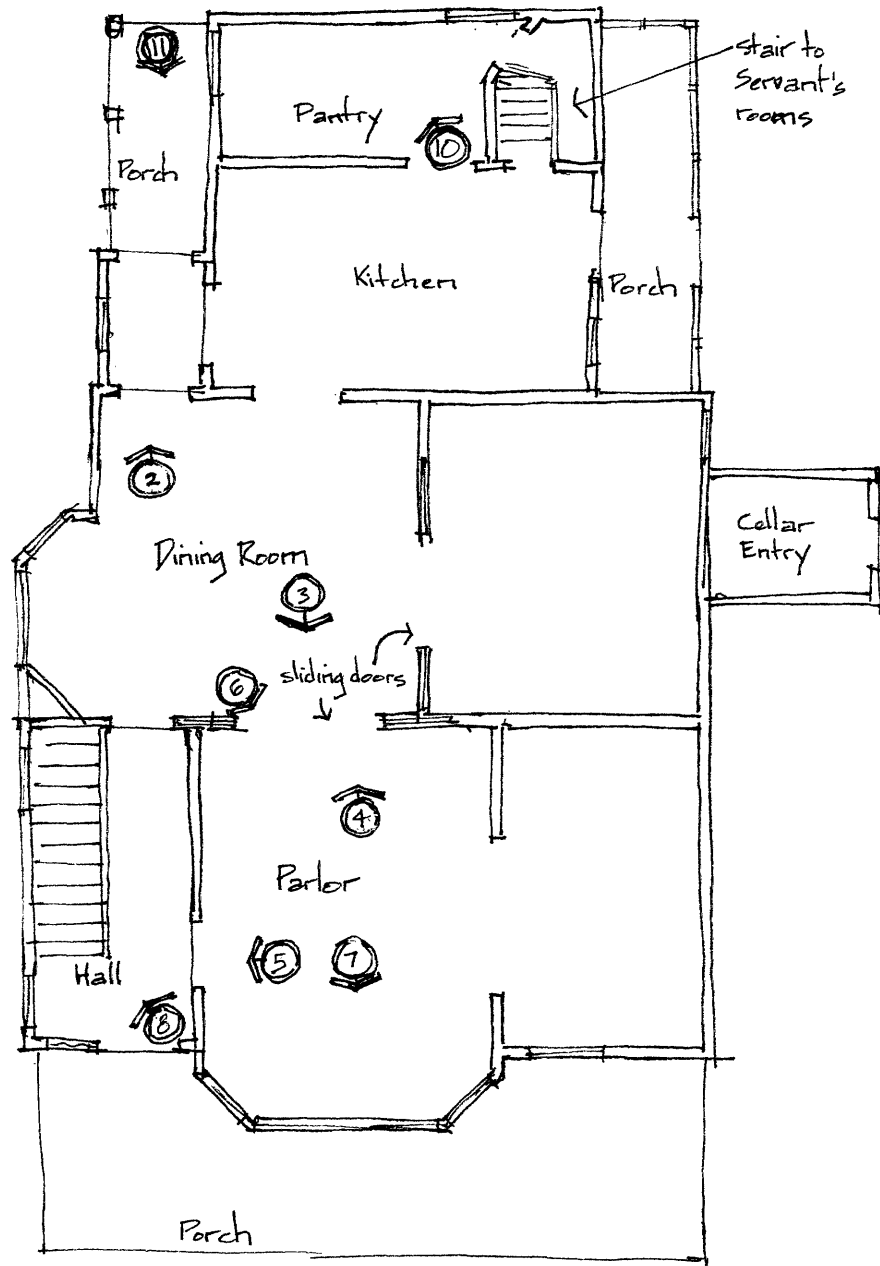
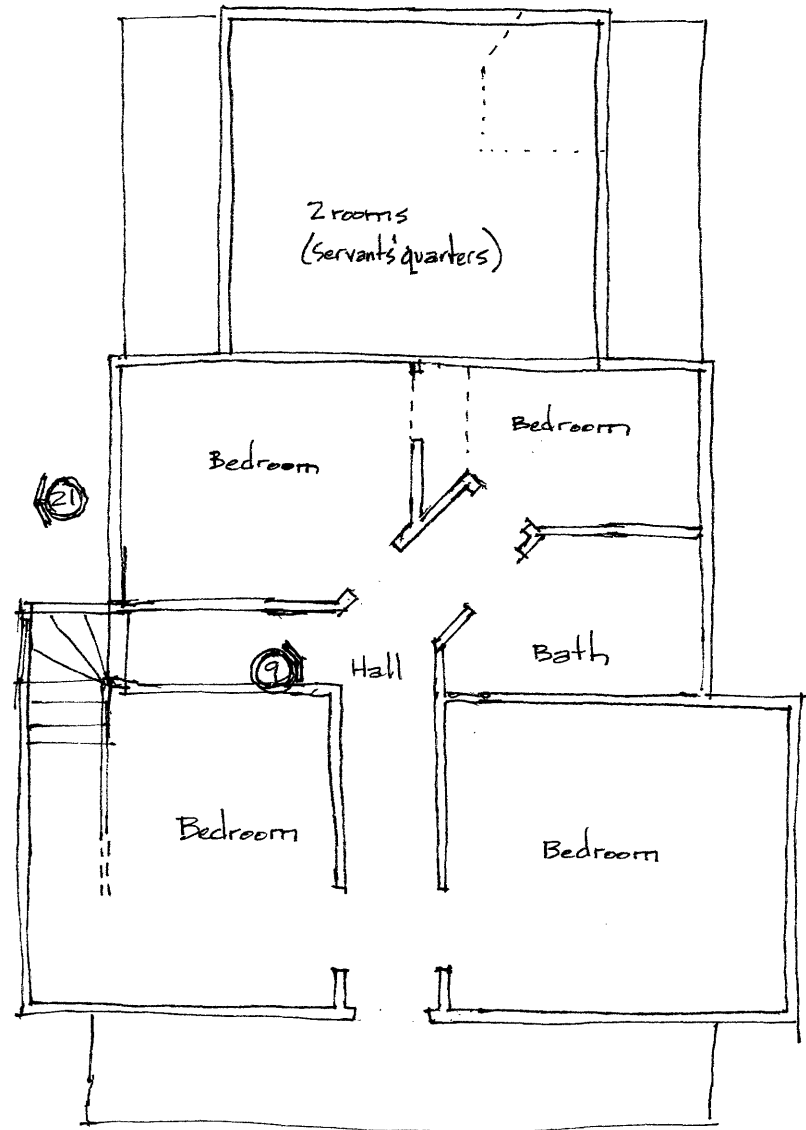


FIGURE # 2  
 Sketch of farmhouse at Ellingson Farm  
 Rural Hillsboro, N.D.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN