000758

NPS Form 10-9000
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

Listed 11/19/91

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

91001713

1. Name of Property

historic name: Beckman, Oscar and Christina, Farmstead

other name/site number: Beckman, Milo and Emma, Farmstead / 000758

2. Location

street & number: Southwest corner New Sweden-Shelley Road and Highway U.S. 20

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Idaho Falls

vicinity: X

state: ID county: Bonneville code: 019 zip code: 83402

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private

Category of Property: buildings

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
9	5	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
9	5	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: New Sweden and Riverview Farmsteads and Institutional Buildings, 1894-1941

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this ✓ nomination ____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ✓ meets ____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. ___ See continuation sheet.

Thomas J. Lee 10/8/91

Signature of certifying official Date

Idaho State Historical Preservation Office

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register criteria. ___ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

____ entered in the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
____ determined eligible for the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
____ determined not eligible for the National Register
____ removed from the National Register
____ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: DOMESTIC Sub: agriculture/subsistence

Current : DOMESTIC Sub: agriculture/subsistence

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Queen Anne
Colonial Revival

Other Description: Basilica barn

Materials: foundation earth, stone roof wood, asphalt
walls wood, metal other n/a

Describe present and historic physical appearance. _X_ See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: locally.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance: Architecture
Ethnic heritage
Exploration/settlement

Period(s) of Significance: 1894 1941

Significant Dates : 1896 1940

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Jacob Severin Adolphson, Ray Bell,
Milo Beckman

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.
_X_ See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

_X_ See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

_ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
_ previously listed in the National Register
_ previously determined eligible by the National Register
_ designated a National Historic Landmark
_ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
_ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

X State historic preservation office
_ Other state agency
_ Federal agency
_ Local government
_ University
_ Other -- Specify Repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 80 acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	12	408930	4816480	B	12	409260	4816460
C	12	408930	4815620	D	12	409240	4815630

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: _X_ See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: _X_ See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Jennifer Eastman Attebery, Architectural Historian

Organization: Idaho State Historical Society Date: August 5, 1991

Street & Number: 210 Main Street Telephone: (208) 334-3861

City or Town: Boise State: ID Zip: 83702

The Oscar and Christina Beckman Farmstead is located at the corner of two section-line roads, the Shelley-New Sweden Road and U.S. Highway 20. The farmstead parallels Highway 20 in an elongated layout. The farmstead plan is a scattered one in which there are three groupings of buildings. From east to west, the groupings include a domestic group, a group of old outbuildings, and a group of new outbuildings. The first grouping is domestic and includes two houses and a washhouse/bunkhouse (buildings 1, 2, and 3). In this grouping, building 1 replaced an earlier house that occupied close to the same place, and building 2 is a modern addition to the grouping. Access to the domestic part of the farmstead is via a lane off of the Shelley-New Sweden Road.

The second group of buildings is separated from the domestic grouping by a space of several yards and is visually separated by the distinction between the landscaped yard around the houses and the hardpacked earth of the farmyard. The second grouping consists of contributory outbuildings (buildings 4-10) arranged in a vague courtyard plan but with few of the buildings actually contiguous. Most of the outbuildings functioned for animal shelter and feeding or for machinery storage and maintenance. This grouping represents the farmyard as it gradually accumulated buildings during the period ca. 1896 to 1930. Lost from the assemblage were several pre-1900s straw sheds, that is outbuildings with balloon frame construction and roofs of pole rafters and straw and dirt roofing. The primary access to the farmyard is via a lane off of U.S. Highway 20.

The third grouping consists of new outbuildings (buildings 11-14) set several yards west of the older grouping and separated from the older grouping by corrals. The buildings in this grouping function for crop and feed storage. Lost from this assemblage of buildings is a machine shed built in the World War II period. The primary access to this area of new outbuildings is via a lane off of U.S. Highway 20.

Inventory of buildings:

1. house contributory
   built 1910-1911
   carpenters: Jacob Severin Adolphson (house), Klingstrom (decorative woodwork)
   Photo 1

A one and one-half story Colonial Revival-Queen Anne style house with a gable roof, gabled wall dormer centered on the facade, eaves returns, Queen Anne shingles in the dormer gable space, and swans-head bargeboards at the eaves. The house originally had a single-pile, double-cell plan with two front doors leading off of a front porch with turned millwork. Milo and Emma Beckman altered the house in the 1950's with new siding, a reconfigured front porch, enlarged windows, and a rear addition. The building is white. This building replaced an earlier house which was located about three feet west. Photographs and descriptions of the earlier house by Milo Beckman suggest that it may have had an enkelstuga plan.

2. house non-contributory
built ca. 1980s

3. washhouse/bunkhouse contributory
built 1909 or earlier
carpenter: Milo Beckman (addition)

A one-story balloon frame building with a shingled gable roof and horizontal siding. Milo Beckman built an addition to the east side of the building in 1928. In 1931-1934 this building was used to put up spud-pickers from the Eastern states. The building is painted white.

4. automobile garage contributory
built ca. 1918

A one-story balloon frame building with a shingled gable roof and horizontal siding. Painted red with white trim.

5. bunkhouse contributory
moved from the Oscar and Carolina Fast Farm (one mile south), ca. 1930

A one-story balloon frame building with a shingled gable roof and horizontal siding. Milo Beckman moved this building onto the farm to accommodate spud-pickers from the Eastern states. Painted red with white trim.

6. granary contributory
built ca. 1896

A one-story balloon frame building with a shingled gable roof and horizontal siding. The building is painted red with white trim.

7. buggy shed contributory
built before 1900

A one-story balloon frame building with a shingled gable roof and horizontal exterior siding and horizontal interior sheathing. Small gabled cupolas in the roof date from the building's adaptation as a chicken coop. The building is painted red with white trim.

8. machine shed contributory
built ca. 1914
carpenter: Jacob Severin Adolphson

A one-story balloon frame building with a shingled gable roof and horizontal siding. This building was constructed with lumber left over from construction of the barn. The building is painted red with white trim.

9. barn contributory
built ca. 1914
carpenters: Ray Bell, Jacob Severin Adolphson (bracing)

A basilica-plan barn with half-story loft. Structure is balloon frame, with extra support from a post and beam structure running lengthwise through the building's first story. The foundation is lava rock. The building has a gable roof with a pointed hay hood on the east exposure. There is a large hay door below the hood. A pyramidal-roofed cupola straddles the ridge of the roof. Siding is horizontal. There are two-over-two double-hung sash windows with pedimented moldings. The roof is shingled with wood shingles. The building is painted red with white trim. This building was constructed by a shingler, but extra bracing was added by Adolphson after the building showed some signs of weakness.

10. pig shed contributory
built ca. 1916
carpenter: Jacob Severin Adolphson

A one-story balloon frame building with a metal gable roof and horizontal siding. There is a gabled cupola centered at the roof ridge. The building is painted red with white trim. The metal roofing is an alteration; original roofing materials were wood shingle.

11. potato cellar non-contributory
built 1988

Constructed by a local contractor. The structure has packed-earth walls, round timber rafters set on concrete bases, straw and dirt roof.

12. potato cellar non-contributory
built ca. 1953
builder: Milo Beckman

Concrete walls with a lumber rafter roof.

13. and 14. granaries non-contributory
moved onto Beckman Farm 1990

Two pre-fabricated metal granaries. These structures replaced a machine shed built by Milo Beckman during World War II.

The Oscar and Christina Beckman Farmstead is historically significant for its association with the settlement and development of the rural ethnic community of New Sweden. The farm reflects the ethnic heritage of its builders and their creative adaptation of ethnic heritage to American lifeways. The farm is architecturally significant for its display of Swedish and American farm layout, architectural styles, house and barn plans, and construction materials and techniques as they were used by Swedish-American builders.

The Beckman Farm represents the first (1894-1905) and second (1905-1920) eras of New Sweden development. The Beckmans were among the earliest New Sweden immigrants, coming to the settlement in 1896 from Oakland, Nebraska. They farmed briefly at a location slightly south and east of the current farm before establishing themselves at a location close to Oscar's brothers Andrew and Gust Beckman and Charles Holmer. (The brothers had changed their last name from Anderson, which was too common among New Sweden settlers. Beckman was derived from Becke Gaarden, the name of the ancestral farm in Sweden; Holmer, from the name of their Swedish parish.) Oscar was active as a member of the New Sweden Irrigation District, the Mission Covenant Church, and the New Sweden Pioneer Association. Milo was active in the irrigation district and served as a school board member from 1933-1942.

The early farmhouse and the straw shacks of the Beckman Farm are gone, but the granary and buggy shed remain to represent some of the more substantial construction accomplished by farmers during the earliest phase of New Sweden development. The majority of the Beckman buildings date from the period of community-building, when New Sweden farmers began to establish profitable enterprises. In particular, the Beckman Farm includes a farmhouse typical in plan and style (double-cell type, Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles, white exterior paint, gabled wall dormer above the entrance). Other features typical of the New Sweden farms include distinct domestic and farmyard groupings, a scattered farmyard suggestive of a courtyard plan, and the presence of a variety of outbuildings, typically painted red, including a basilica barn, pig shed, garage, and a machine shed.

The farmhouse and outbuildings and their arrangement exhibit the cultural choices of the Beckmans and one of the area's skillful Swedish-American farmer-carpenters, Jacob Severin Adolphson. As discussed at some length in the New Sweden and Riverview MPL, these cultural choices represent a creative blending of American and Swedish heritages.

The Beckman Farm retains the core of its farm layout from the period of significance, a majority of buildings dating from the period of significance, and a majority of buildings still intact enough to represent the history of community development and the process of ethnic adaptation. All but one building moved into the farmyard assemblage are located at their original locations, and few buildings have been lost from the farmstead. The building moved into farmyard has been at its current location long enough to have achieved contributory status as a part of the farmyard during the period of significance. The farm retains its original rural set-

ting at a section corner. Individual buildings retain their architectural character sufficient to represent the styles, types, layouts, materials, and construction techniques from the period of significance. The farmhouse is the most compromised of the farmbuildings, but it retains stylistic and typological features sufficient to convey the association with its period of construction in combination with the other highly intact buildings of the farmstead. In the context of other extant New Sweden and Riverview farms, this farm as a whole possesses excellent integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Anderson, Chas. E., et. al. After Fifty Years. Caldwell, Idaho: Caxton Printers, 1941. Pp. 42, 43, 64, 86.

Beckman, Milo. Personal communication. 7 August 1990, 27 February 1991, 28 June 1991, 26 July 1991.

Deed records on file at Bonneville County Courthouse, Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Photographs in personal collection of Milo Beckman.

U.S. Census. 1900, 1910.

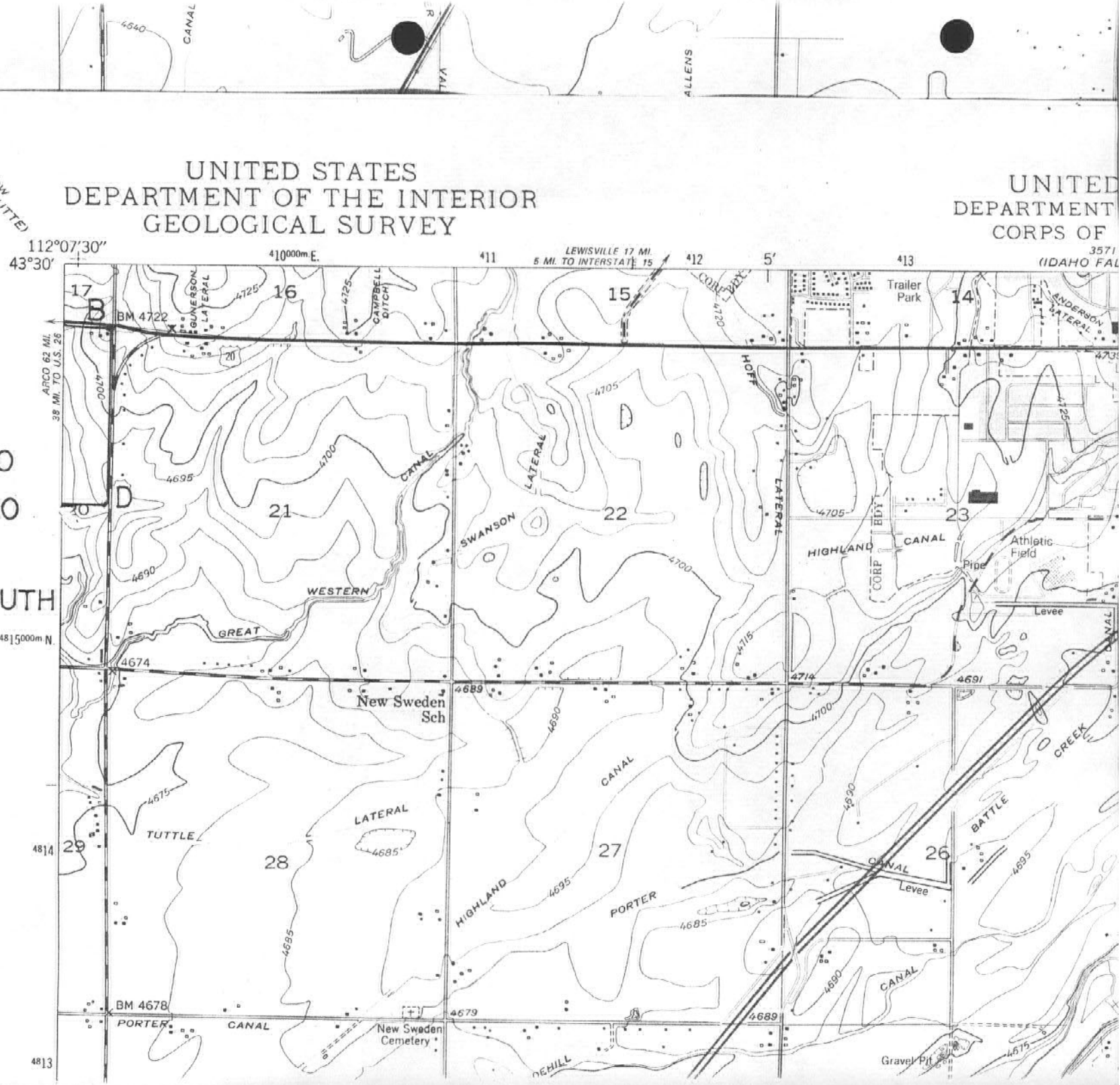
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nomination includes the Oscar and Christina Beckman Farmstead and the property on which it is located, the E2 NE4 section 20 T2N R37E, Boise Meridian.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Boundaries for the nomination are identical to boundaries for the Oscar and Christina Beckman Farmstead as it was acquired and developed by the Beckmans during the period of significance.

BECKMAN, OSCAR
AND CHRISTINA
FARMSTEAD
B: 409260·4816460
D: 409240·4815630
ZONE 12
IDAHO FALLS SOUTH
QUAD (ID.)

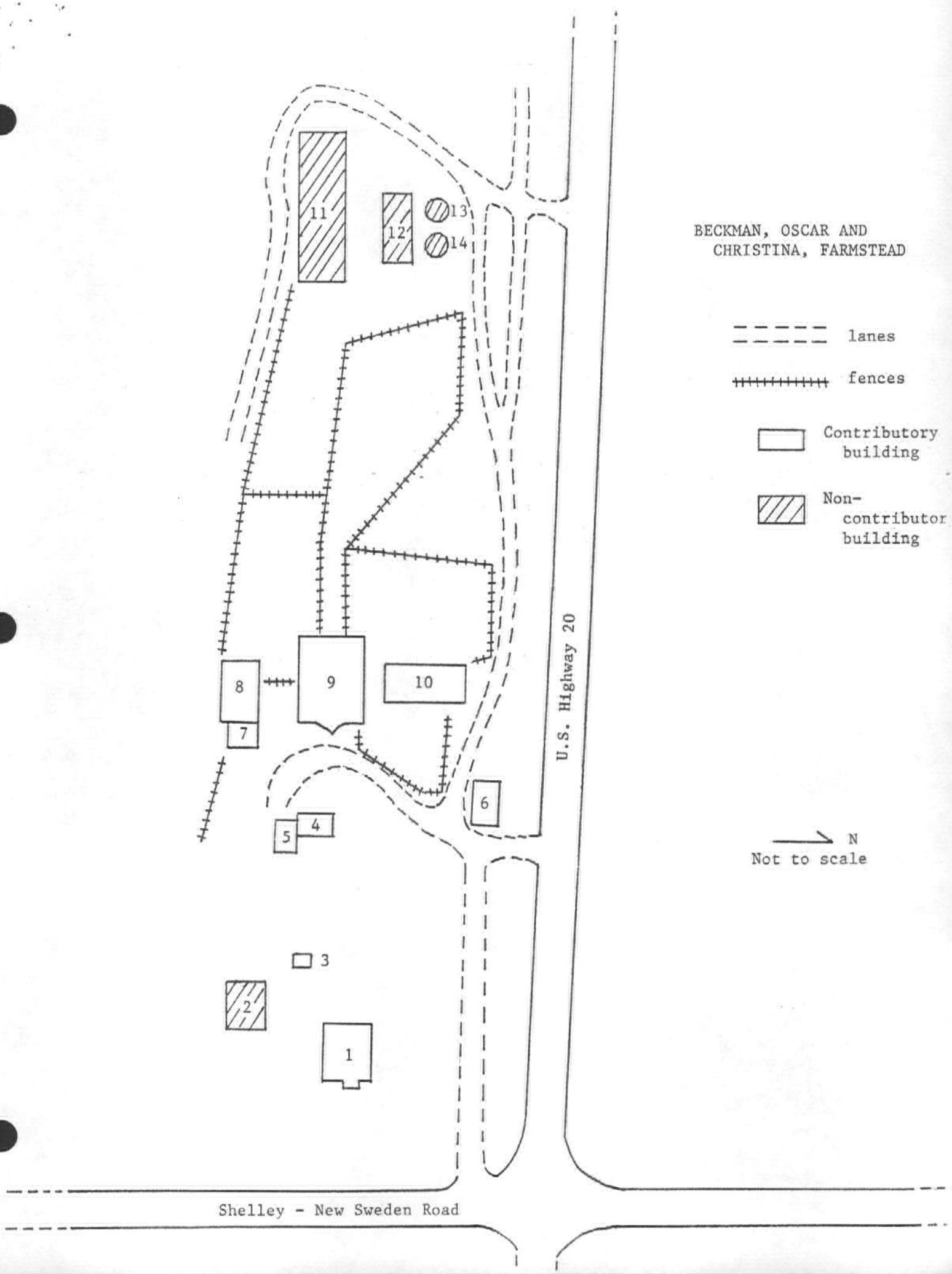


STATES
OF THE AR
ENGINEERS

WOODVILLE QUADRANGLE
IDAHO
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

3571 II SE
(IDAHO FALLS NO

BECKMAN, OSCAR
AND CHRISTINA
FARMSTEAD
A:12·408930·
4816480
C:12·408930·
4815620


BECKMAN, OSCAR AND
CHRISTINA, FARMSTEAD
lanes
fences
Contributory building
Non-contributor building
N
Not to scale
U.S. Highway 20
Shelley - New Sweden Road
1
2
3
4
5
6
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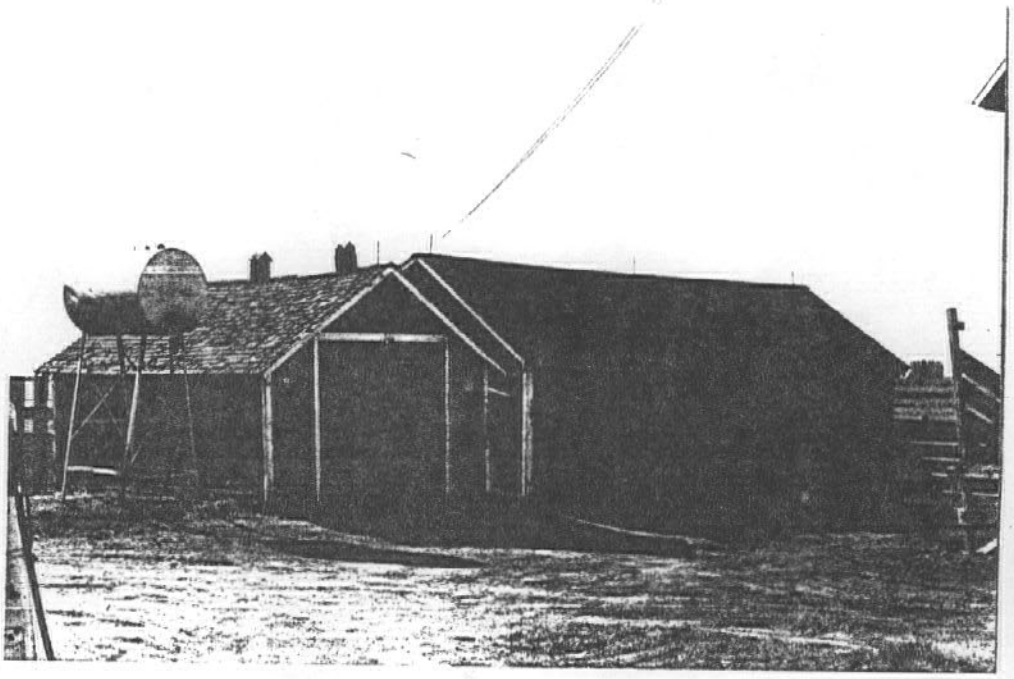
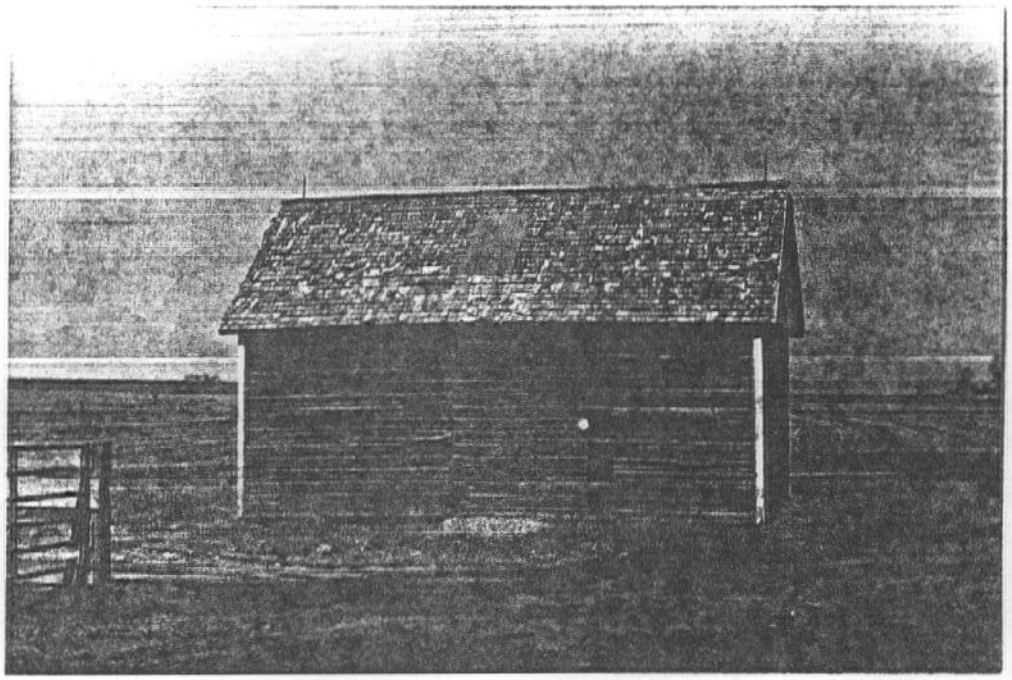
12
13
14

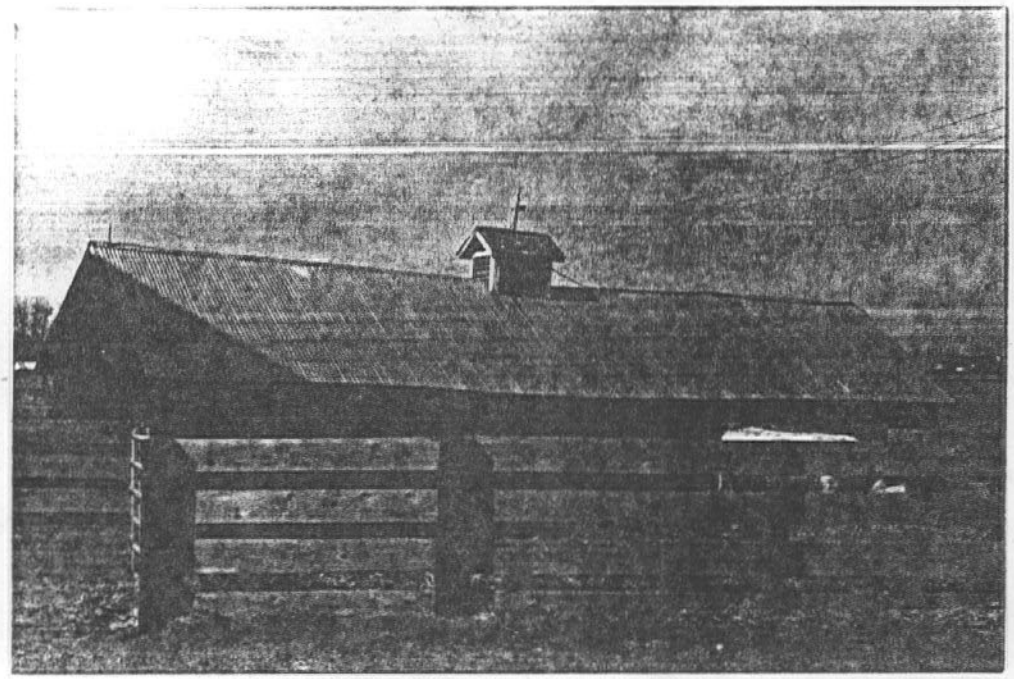


Beckman, Oscar and Christina, Farmstead
Vicinity of Idaho Falls
Jennifer Eastman Attebery
2/91
ISHS
NE
Buildings 7 and 8 -- Buggy and machine sheds

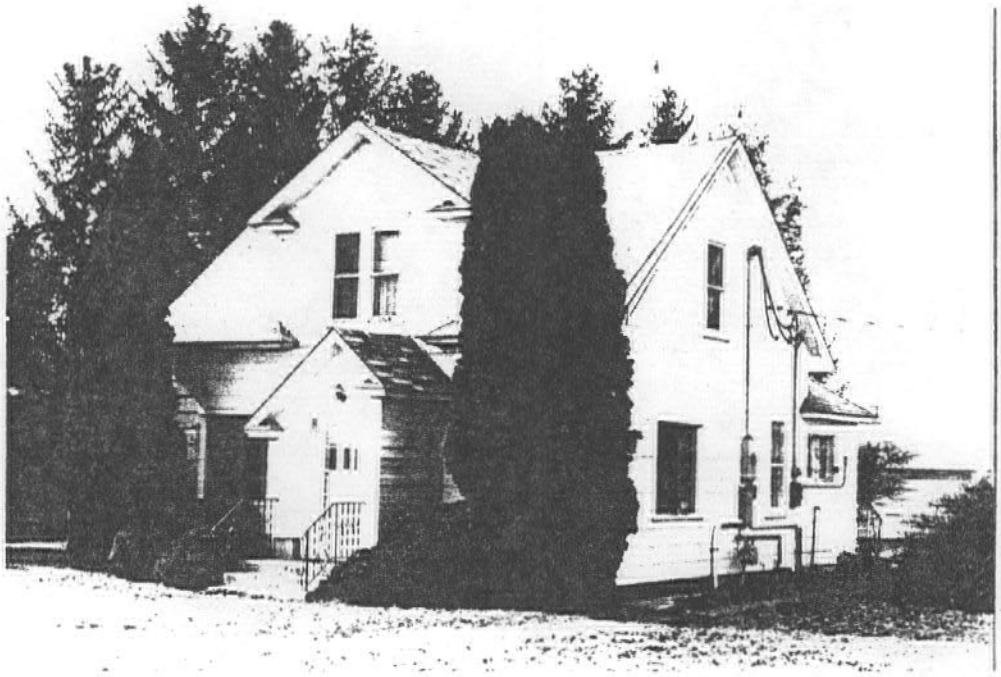


Beckman, Oscar and Christina, Farmstead
Vicinity of Idaho Falls
Jennifer Eastman Attebery
2/91
ISHS
S
Building 6 -- Granary

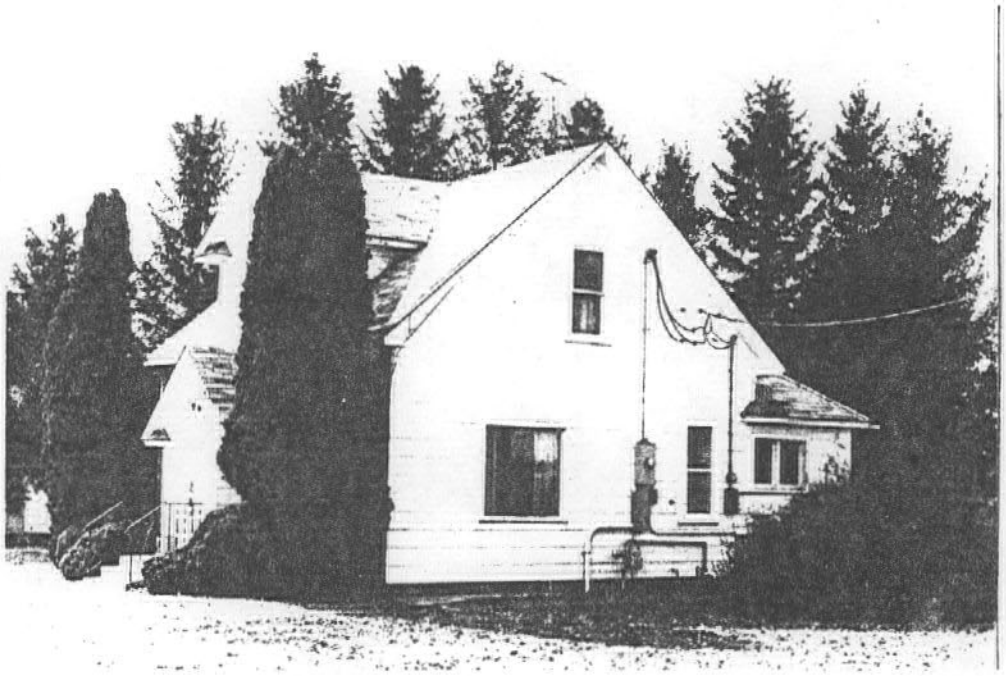
Beckman, Oscar and Christina, Farmstead
Vicinity of Idaho Falls
Jennifer Eastman Attebery
2/91
ISHS
NE
Building 9 -- Barn



Beckman, Oscar and Christina, Farmstead
Vicinity of Idaho Falls
Jennifer Eastman Attebery
2/91
ISHS
SE
Building 10 -- Pig shed



Beckman, Oscar and Christina, Farmstead
Vicinity of Idaho Falls
Jennifer Eastman Attebery
2/91
ISHS
ENE
Building 1 -- House



Beckman, Oscar and Christina, Farmstead
Vicinity of Idaho Falls
Jennifer Eastman Attebery
2/91
ISHS
NE
Building 1 -- House

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 91001713 Date Listed: 11/19/91

Oscar and Christina Beckman Farmstead
Property Name

Bonneville ID
County State

New Sweden and Riverview Farmsteads and Institutional Buildings MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Antoinette J Lee
for Signature of the Keeper

11/19/91
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Statement of Significance: The Period of Significance is amended to read: 1896-1941.

This information was confirmed with Elizabeth Egleston of the Idaho state historic preservation office.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)