

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1 Name of Property

historic name Hosmer Dairy Farm Historic District

other names/site number Walnut Springs Farm

2 Location

street & number County Farm Road 522, approx. 1/2 mile southwest of junction with Route E [n/a] not for publication

city or town Marshfield [X] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Webster code 225 zip code 65706

3 State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] 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 [X] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [] nationally [] statewide [X] locally.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments [])



Signature of certifying official/Title Claire F. Blackwell/Deputy SHPO

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments [])

Signature of certifying official/Title

State or Federal agency and bureau

4 National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date

[] 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
See continuation sheet []

5 Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	2	1	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	0	0	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	0	0	structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	0	0	objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	2	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing.

n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

6 Function or Use

Historic Function

AGRICULTURE/animal facility

Current Functions

AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding

7 Description

Architectural Classification

OTHER: bank barn

Materials

foundation limestone [dairy barn]
 walls wood
 roof metal
 other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8 Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

Property is:

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

Architecture

Periods of Significance

circa 1900

Significant Dates

circa 1900

Significant Person(s)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9 Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State Agency

Federal Agency

Local Government

University

Other:

Name of repository: _____

10 Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2 acres

UTM References

A. Zone	Easting	Northing	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	497550	4134500			
C. Zone	Easting	Northing	D. Zone	Easting	Northing

[] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11 Form Prepared By

name/title see continuation sheet

organization _____ date _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Mike and Cathy Brown

street & number Route 2, Box 145A telephone 417/859-7955

city or town Marshfield state MO zip code 65706

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section 7 Page 1

Hosmer Dairy Farm Historic District
Webster County, MO

7. Description

Materials:

foundation concrete [horse barn]
walls concrete
wood
roof metal

Summary: The Hosmer Dairy Farm Historic District is located on Farm Road 522 in western Webster County. It includes approximately two acres and consists of three agricultural buildings important to the Hosmer dairy operation between circa 1900 and 1948; two buildings are contributing barns--the circa 1900 dairy barn and the circa 1900 horse barn. A circa 1926 tomato cannery building is counted as noncontributing; two silos attached to the dairy barn are not counted. Both contributing buildings are in good condition and have retained their historic integrity, remaining virtually unchanged from the period of significance. The farmstead buildings sit in close proximity to one another and to Farm Road 522, which is part of the Old Wire Road. They are surrounded by fields of hay on gently sloping hills and small wooded areas. The North Fork of the Pomme de Terre River runs through the back of the farm.

Narrative: At its greatest extent the Hosmer Farm consisted of 850 acres along both sides of the present Webster County Farm Road 522. The southern portion of the original farm, consisting of 330 acres, includes two historic barns, the most impressive of the buildings constructed for the Hosmer dairy operation, as well as a number of minor historic buildings and several nonhistoric buildings and structures, including a modern residence. The northern portion of the original farmstead, which is under different ownership, includes a historic Hosmer house, a number of historic tenant houses, several extant minor building, and the remanants and ruins of other minor buildings.

The nominated area is only two acres of the 330 acre tract south of Farm Road 522. The barns of the Hosmer Dairy Farm Historic District are unusual in that they are two of the larger and older barns in the area, and the integrity of the two buildings has been well maintained. Locally, the farm is known as the Walnut Springs Farm, the name derived from several small springs on the farm, one of which was used to cool butter and cream while they awaited shipment to market. The springs also provided a dependable water supply for the farm's stock.

The two barns, one a dairy barn with two attached silos and the other a horse barn, are the contributing buildings within the district. A non-contributing building, a tomato cannery which has been converted to a work shop, is located between the two barns. The dairy barn, built circa 1900, is a bank barn and sits parallel to Farm Road 522, with its front gable end facing east. Its foundation and lower level walls are constructed of native limestone block. The mortise and tenon frame is covered with board and batten walls, while the gable roof is covered with corrugated tin which is painted black. The imposing scale of the barn--a rectangle 60' x 114'--is its most prominent feature. The barn is five bays in width and eight bays in length. The complex system of beams, braces, posts, rafters and other elements of

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Webster County, MO

the exposed framework is a major component in the character of this barn. Upon entering the barn, the entire expanse of the building can be viewed.

The sloping ground of the region was ideal for building bank barns. Bank barns allowed two levels to be entered from the ground. The lower level housed animals and the upper level served as hay storage. The earthen bank on the front of this barn leads to a large, wagon doorway on the upper level. This allowed easy access to wagons unloading grain or hay in the haymow. In the peak of the roof a wooden track allowed a hay fork to glide along to unload hay along the length of the barn. This hayfork was especially helpful in filling another haymow floor directly above the center aisle. From openings in the wood plank floor, hay could be dropped into the feeding aisles on the lower level. This lower level had stanchion room for 100 cows. According to an old blueprint, a metal stanchion system was installed in 1928 to update the dairy barn. Prior to that, it is assumed that wooden stanchions were used. The metal stanchions have been removed, but some have been located, and the current owners plan to restore them. Wide feeding aisles separated each pair of stanchion rows, allowing easy access to the feed troughs. The feeding aisles, troughs, manure gutters and floor areas are of concrete construction. Along the south side of the barn three single doorways allowed the milk cows to enter the building from the lot. These doorways have been widened slightly to allow easier access to the barn. Originally, there were cupola vents on the roof (see photo #1), but they no longer exist, however, the louvered vents in the front and back gables are intact.

At the front of the barn is a silo made of curved, concrete blocks, rock faced with margins. Built in 1908, according to a contemporary newspaper article, it was the first silo in Webster County. It originally measured 40' tall and 17' in diameter. The silo still stands, although a large section was damaged by lightning within the past few years. On the back, or west, side of the barn is a concrete silo built around 1913.

East of the dairy barn, lying almost perpendicular to Farm Road 522, stands the horse barn, also a bank barn, which was built in early 1900. It measures 36' x 80' and faces north. The foundation and lower level walls are built of concrete block, which are rock-faced with margins. The double-hung, four over four, wood windows in the lower level have deteriorated under their plain lintels, however, the current owners have taken care to purchase similar wood windows for replacement. Covering the mortise and tenon frame of the upper level are board and batten walls. The wood-frame gambrel roof is covered with corrugated tin which has been painted black. The gambrel roof is one of the barn's more distinguishing features.

The haymow of this barn is accessible by an earthen and concrete bank on the front. The bank leads to a large wagon doorway, which allowed wagons easy access for unloading grain and/or hay. Hay could be stacked to the top of the haymow by a hayfork gliding along a metal track in the peak of the roof. This rectangular barn is three bays in width and eight bays in length. Toward the front of the barn, on the upper level, are five horizontal sliding windows, two of them on the west wall and three on the east wall; these windows are now deteriorated are being replaced to closely match the original. A large opening in the wood plank flooring allowed hay to be dropped to the stabling area below. The lower level had stalls for the work horses and mules, as well as dairy calves. Although the stalls have

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Hosmer Dairy Farm Historic District
Webster County, MO

been removed, the process of rebuilding them is currently under way. Two narrow walk-through doors on the south side have been widened, allowing easier access for horses and equipment. A window on the east side has been replaced by a single door. The floor of the lower level is partially concrete and partially dirt. The owners plan to paint both barns white, returning them to their original appearance.

Between the dairy barn and the horse barn stands the tomato cannery, which faces north toward the road. This building is 40' x 40' and was partially built in 1926 by J.R. Popejoy, as noted by an inscription in the concrete floor. Twelve plain fieldstone columns, made of stone gathered from the farm, support a low gable roof made of wood frame covered with metal. The north gable end retains its original beveled wood siding, while the siding on the south gable has been replaced. Originally, there were no walls on this building, only the columns which supported the roof. One wood louvered vent in the front gable and two in the back allow for attic ventilation. The attic area, accessible by a ladder, possibly provided storage space when the building was used as a cannery.

After the government closed most small tomato canneries due to uncontrolled conditions, the cannery was used as a machine shed by the Hosmers. Starting in 1971, it was used as a buggy shop by Amish owners. In 1992, the present owners enclosed the shed to make a carriage shop, where they repair horse-drawn carriages and wagons. The walls are made of unfinished plywood on the interior and rough cedar plywood siding, painted white, on the exterior. The original columns can still be seen from both the interior and exterior. There are two windows and a single door on the back of the building. Although these changes significantly affected the integrity of the cannery itself, the owners were careful to do the renovations in a manner that was sympathetic to the other buildings; while the building is counted as noncontributing, its general design is still apparent.

Farm Road 522, on the northern boundary of the farmstead, lies on the historic Old Wire Road. The Cherokee Indians, on their removal to Oklahoma in 1837, came along this path before it was established as a road by the government in 1842, as the most accessible route from St. Louis, Missouri, to Fort Smith, Arkansas. This same route was used by the Burden and Woodson Stage Line from 1858 to 1870, providing transportation between St. James and Springfield, and a stagecoach stop was maintained at the farm site. Before that time, it was known variously as the "Osage", "Indian", or "Kickapoo" trail and was used by Indians and settlers moving west. During the Civil War, the thoroughfare was used extensively by both Federal and Confederate troops. The route earned the name "Wire Road" in 1862, when the Federal government built a telegraph line through this corridor, with stations at St. Louis, Rolla, Lebanon, Marshfield, and Springfield. The Confederates and their partisans would continually frustrate the Federal Army by periodically cutting the telegraph wire. After the war ended, the government no longer maintained the telegraph line, but for many years afterward, the old telegraph poles were still visible along the road, contributing to the lasting name of the route. The lower portions of some of the telegraph poles still remain along the perimeter of the old Hosmer Dairy Farmstead and are now used as fence posts.

The Hosmer Dairy Farm is now the home of the Michael L. Brown family and is used to raise beef cattle and hay. All of the buildings, contributing and non-contributing, found within the proposed district are in good physical condition and they are being carefully maintained and restored by the current

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**Hosmer Dairy Farm Historic District
Webster County, MO**

owners, sustaining the property's high level of integrity. Upon completion of the planned restoration, the Browns hope to open the farmstead to the public, allowing tours of the buildings, which will be used to display period farm machinery and antiques.

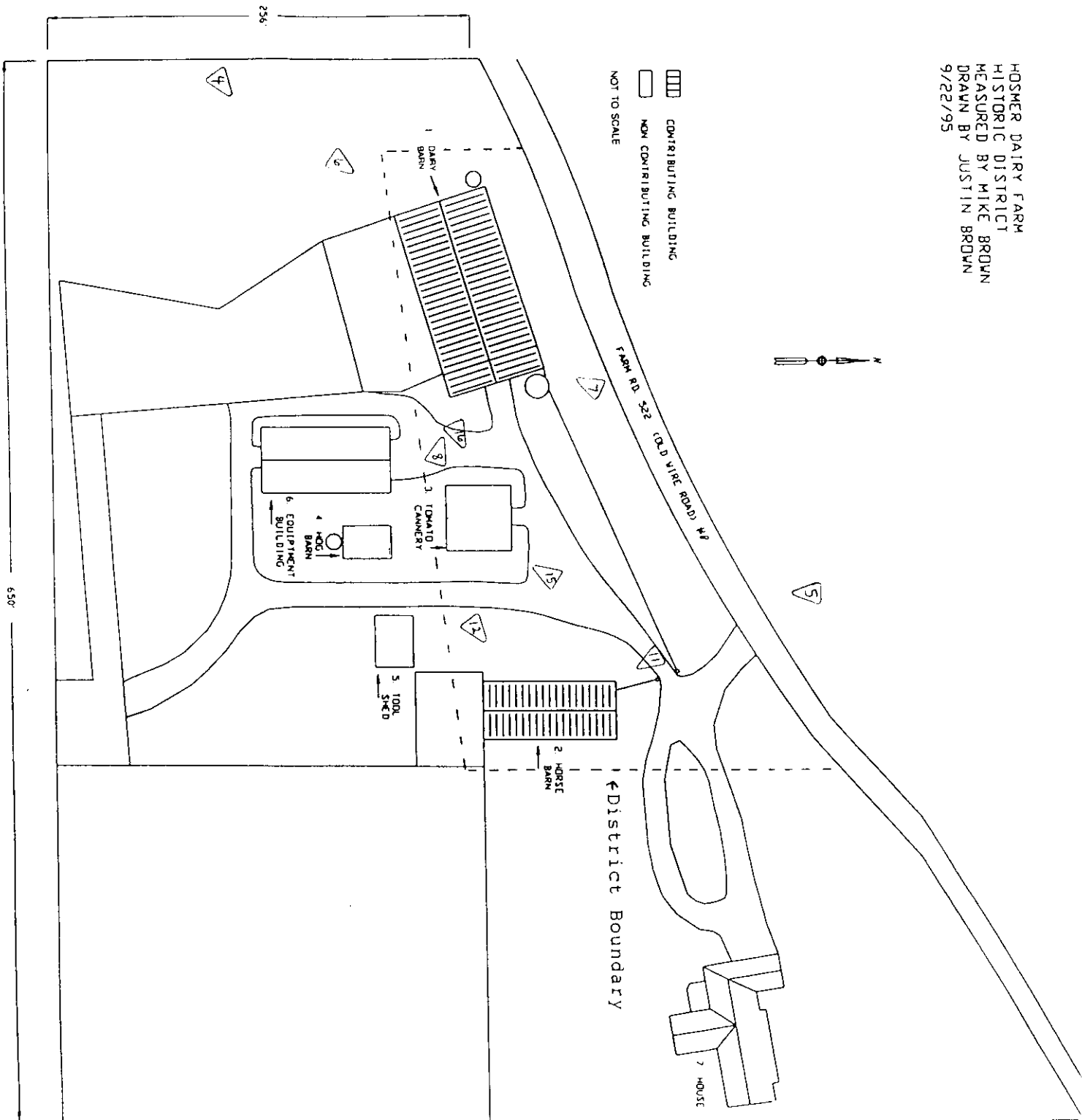
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Webster County, MO

HOSMER DAIRY FARM
HISTORIC DISTRICT
MEASURED BY MIKE BROWN
DRAWN BY JUSTIN BROWN
9/22/95



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**Hosmer Dairy Farm Historic District
Webster County, MO**

Summary: The Hosmer Dairy Farm Historic District, Farm Road 522, Marshfield vicinity, Webster County, is significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture. The district consists of three buildings, two contributing buildings--a circa 1900 dairy barn and a circa 1900 horse barn--and a noncontributing tomato cannery building. In their design and scale, the two barns reflect the progressive ideals which helped to transform agriculture in southwest Missouri in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Constructed by or for a successful and progressive Webster county farmer, the barns provided a model of successful commercial agriculture which helped initiate the southwest Missouri's dairy industry, which has become a multi-million dollar business. The design of the barns was well in advance of local practices and reflects trends and techniques which would only later be advocated by the progressive agricultural press. The period of significance is restricted to the construction date of the barns, circa 1900.

Narrative: In 1871, Edmund J. Hosmer came to Marshfield, Missouri, from Concord, Massachusetts, where his father farmed and was friend and neighbor to Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Louisa May Alcott, and Henry David Thoreau; Thoreau mentions Farmer Hosmer, Edmund's father, in his book, Men of Concord. In 1882, Edmund Hosmer, along with his nine-year-old son, John Elston, returned to Concord to attend Emerson's funeral.

While working in the mercantile business in Marshfield in the 1870s and 1880s, Edmund Hosmer and his wife began acquiring Missouri farmland. About 1890, they took up farming on four hundred acres of land in Webster County. Of this original 400 acres, 330 acres make up the current Walnut Springs Farm. Hosmer first tried raising mules, then beef cattle, but had little success with either. After a study of the soil and its possibilities, he decided that dairy farming was best suited for this area. According to Edmund's son, John, "The dairy was started primarily for the building up of the soil. It did that and more. It built the best farm house, the best barns in the county, and bought the best machinery. It was a public benefaction in that it made two blades grow where there previously was only one."¹

As a pioneer in good farm management, Edmund Hosmer was able to transform poor Ozarks farmland into one of the finest farms in southwest Missouri by the early 1900s. The farm produced its own feed for the dairy cows, which provided dairy products for sale; and all waste and manure was used to build up the soil. Hosmer also added hogs to his production, and the skim milk and buttermilk left from making butter was fed to the hogs, very little was wasted. Everything Hosmer accomplished was intensely practical in its character; new construction, as well, had to be justified, so old, dilapidated farm buildings were used until profits and production justified their replacement.

Around 1900, a new dairy barn and a new horse barn were built. The dairy barn provided enough stanchion room for 100 cows, which were milked by hand. The number of men hired to do the milking averaged from eight to fifteen, dependant on the season. According to Hosmer descendants, Harlow Shapley, later the astronomer who discovered the structure of galaxies, was a farm hand for a brief period, but was reputed to be unable to plow a straight furrow. Many of these hired hands lived on the

¹John Hosmer, "Who's Who in the Ozarks", The Ozarks Magazine, June-July, 1916, p.12.

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Hosmer Dairy Farm Historic District
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farm in small, concrete houses which Hosmer had constructed. The bustling farm became known by the local community as "Hosmer Town". Many community social events were held in the Hosmer Grove. One account of a family reunion states that, with friends and neighbors, the number attending was estimated at one thousand.

In 1908, Hosmer built the first silo in Webster County. He believed the dairy farmer could dispense with the high-priced grain he bought by producing his own rations, using silo alfalfa hay and cottonseed meal. This, in turn, would increase the farmer's profit. Other dairy farmers in the area followed his lead and built silos on their farms as well. They, too, cheapened their rations and got better results. According to John Hosmer, "While the majority of neighbors used only timothy hay and cut it late, Hosmer used clover and cut it early, because the station analysis told that in the bloom it was at its best."² Not only did Hosmer build the first silo in the county, he also brought the first cream separator, the first manure spreader, the first hay loader, the first tedder, the first delivery rake, and the first gasoline engine to the area. The Hosmers were the first in the area to build terraces in their fields. While neighbors rolled rocks around the fields two or three times each successive season, Hosmer got rid of them finally by putting them into walls or along the creek; portions of these walls still exist near the farm buildings (see photos #2 and #3, for example).

Hosmer exemplified the ideal of a progressive farmer and his farm illustrated fundamental changes in attitude toward farm management and toward crops and soils among many late nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century farmers. Although the traditional unit of agriculture remained the "single-family farm homestead,"³ the farm had largely completed its transition from semisubsistence to commercial agriculture and was regarded and managed as a unit of production in a market economy. Hosmer's study of his soils and his emphasis on commercial production mark him as an agricultural entrepreneur.⁴ This entrepreneurial nature was also reflected by his willingness to adopt the new technology which revolutionized late nineteenth-century agriculture.

By 1916, the Hosmer Dairy Farm was the largest butter dairy farm in Missouri, encompassing 850 acres along both sides of the Old Wire Road, later Farm Road 522, an example of a farmstead divided by a public road in the animal specialty region of the Corn Belt.⁵ Hosmer probably hoped to use what

²John Hosmer, "Who's Who in the Ozarks", The Ozarks Magazine, June-July, 1916, p.12.

³Clarence Danhof, Change in Agriculture: The Northern United States, 1820-1870, (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1969), p. 3.

⁴Adam Ward Rome, "American Farmers as Entrepreneurs, 1870-1900," Agricultural History 56 (January 1982): 37-49.

⁵Glen Trewartha, "Some Regional Characteristics of American Farmsteads," Annals of the Association of American Geographers 38 (September 1948): 215-217.

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Hosmer Dairy Farm Historic District
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was still a rudimentary road system for access to local markets and rail transportation.⁶ The ninety cows on the farm yielded ninety pounds of butter daily, processed on the farm before there were any creameries in nearby Springfield. The butter was shipped to Springfield, Joplin, and St. Louis; butter prices reached a record high of \$.50 per pound in 1916. According to a Springfield newspaper, "The butter made on the farm was of such high quality, enough could not be produced to satisfy the demand of big cities of the state for 'Hosmer Butter'."⁷ Years later, when the farm stopped making sweet cream butter, cream was sold instead.

In 1926, the Hosmers again expanded their farming operation by building a tomato cannery. Tomato canneries were prevalent in the area during the early 1900s. At one time, the Hosmers had fifty acres of land planted in tomatoes.

In early 1900 Edmund's son, John, became a partner with his father in the dairy business. By his own account, John gave all the credit to his father for the accomplishments made on the farm. John continued to operate the dairy after his father's death in 1910; he finally sold the farm in 1948, thus ending the Hosmer family connection with the historic farm.

By following the Hosmer example, other area farmers were able to improve their operations and gain a level of financial security. Before Hosmer, very few farmers had enjoyed commercial success in this area. Historical accounts show that from 1824, when the first settlers came to this county, until about 1870, there was little in the way of commercial agricultural production in Webster County. During this period the settlers depended mainly on the native grasses to produce pasture for their livestock. Stock trading, instead, was the farmer's livelihood. As the county became more settled, the native grasses began to disappear and this brought about the necessity of growing grain and other cultivated crops.

In 1892, some large apple orchards were planted, but, due to crop failures in 1902 and 1903, orchards subsequently declined. The growing of tomatoes for canning purposes was introduced about 1900 and expanded rapidly, but ended almost completely by 1940. Around 1925 Webster County was one of the largest strawberry producing counties in the state, but this, too, lasted only a few years.

Since 1910, the dairy cow has gained gradually in importance, and, by 1950, Webster County was noted as one of the leading dairy counties in the United States. From 1945 to 1955, over 300 Grade A milk barns were built in the county which had 20,000 dairy cows from which \$2,750,000 worth of dairy products were marketed each year. The county had been noted many years for its outstanding Jersey cows before other dairy breeds gained in popularity. Jersey was the breed of dairy cows used by the Hosmers on the farm that paved the way for dairymen all over Webster County.

⁶Danhof, pp. 4-9.

⁷"Farm That Pioneered Dairying in Southwest Missouri Sold", Springfield Leader and Press, August 14, 1948.

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In a few years, Hosmer not only proved that farming was profitable, but also that progressive farming techniques improved the soil. "Making a success of his own farm was only the beginning of Hosmer's useful work. By his example and advice, many are following his plans, all succeeding; and the influence he has set in motion will continue to spread, like the ripple from a stone cast into smooth water. Though the cause of the wave may be forgotten, the effect will never die."⁸

Building a barn is one of the greatest single financial expenditures a farmer will make in a lifetime, and barns, usually constructed by master carpenters, were built to last a lifetime or longer. The fact that the Hosmers built, not one but two, large barns--one for dairy cattle and one for work stock--is evidence of the success attained by the Hosmers. Both barns resemble examples included in Farm Knowledge, "A Complete Manual of Successful Farming" distributed by Sears, Roebuck and Company beginning in 1918, well before Edmund Hosmer constructed his progressive barns. The ideal dairy barn, according to the Sears manual, was "a manufacturing place for a perishable and easily contaminated product, as well as a comfortable home for the animals."⁹ The Hosmer dairy barn most closely meets the criteria for a general-purpose dairy barn, which both housed animals and stored feed. Although the Hosmer barn's original stalls have been removed and its roof is gabled, its elongated form is similar to the manual's illustration of a sample general dairy barn (see figure). Except for its banked configuration, the Hosmer horse barn also closely resembles an illustration from Farm Knowledge. The caption for the figure of a stallion and mare barn notes: "The professional breeder must build attractive structures in which to receive buyers as well as efficient one in which to care for his stock (see figure)."¹⁰

The early barns of New England were usually three-bay barns, like their European antecedents. Most often they were simple, rectangular frame shells, two stories high with straight gable roofs and large double doors on either side leading to central threshing floors. From New England, three-bay barns went westward with the wheat frontier. Originally these barns were not built to accommodate livestock. Eventually farmers began to modify their barns by building beneath it a solid masonry ground floor with stables for dairy cows. The ground floor had numerous windows to admit light and air to the area where the cows were milked. The idea of two-level barns, with crops and livestock under the same roof, was first introduced to North America by Pennsylvania German farmers. Pennsylvania German barns are massive structures 80 to 100 feet long and fifty to sixty feet wide. One side had an earthen ramp or bank up which the farmer could drive loaded hay wagons to the loft or upper level. Some of the new barns built after 1850 had their main entrances at the ends rather than on the sides. The raised three-bay barns were usually referred to as "bank barns."

⁸John Hosmer, "Edmund Hosmer", The Marshfield Mail, August 7, 1910.

⁹E.L.D. Seymour, ed., Farm Knowledge, rev. ed., 4 vols. (New York: Doubleday, Page and Company for Sears, Roebuck and Company, 1919), 3:406.

¹⁰*Ibid.*, pp. 408 and 412.

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Hosmer Dairy Farm Historic District
Webster County, MO

The Hosmer dairy barn and horse barn are excellent examples of this type of bank barn. Each barn has an earthen ramp leading to the hay floor of the upper level through large double doors located on the front end of each barn. The horse barn is a typical three-bay barn (three bays across the front) with eight bays along each side. The dairy barn expands the typical three-bay barn by having five bays across the front and eight bays along each side. The enormous size of these barns is directly related to the large size of the farm and is characteristic of the Pennsylvania German barn.

Distinctive building materials contribute to the picturesque character of barns, but most farmers have used whatever material was most readily at hand. The lower level walls and foundation of the dairy barn were made of limestone, which was quarried on the farm site. Skilled craftsmen were probably needed to cut the limestone blocks. Because the lower level walls of the horse barn are made of poured concrete blocks, it was probably built after the dairy farm.

The exposed structural framework of both barns is a major component of their historic character. Mortised, tenoned and pegged beams are arranged in "H"-shaped units with columned aisles alongside a central space. The load-bearing timbers are of enormous dimensions, and the complex system of beams, braces, posts, rafters, and other elements of the revealed framework create an impressive sight.

The long, sweeping, gable roof and large size of the dairy barn are characteristic of the Prairie or Western barn. The gambrel roof of the horse barn allows for more storage space under the eaves, and gambrel roofs require more skill to build. In most areas they did not become common until after 1880.

Barns are classified into two groups according to major use: (1) general purpose and (2) specific purpose. In the general purpose barn, all of the barn requirements of the farm are met by one principal structure. The specific purpose barn is designed to care for a single class of livestock that comprises a major enterprise of the farm. The Hosmer farm was unique in that it had, not one but two, specific purpose barns--the dairy barn, which accommodated dairy cows engaged in milk production and the horse barn maintained for work stock. Both of these barns are excellent examples of turn-of-the-century bank barns with a specific purpose.

Because of the care provided them, these barns today retain integrity of design, materials, and workmanship, and still reflect their original purpose. The high level of craftsmanship in the construction of these barns gives them an aesthetic value above many contemporary structures, and they have long been highly regarded by the local community.

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Hosmer Dalry Farm Historic District
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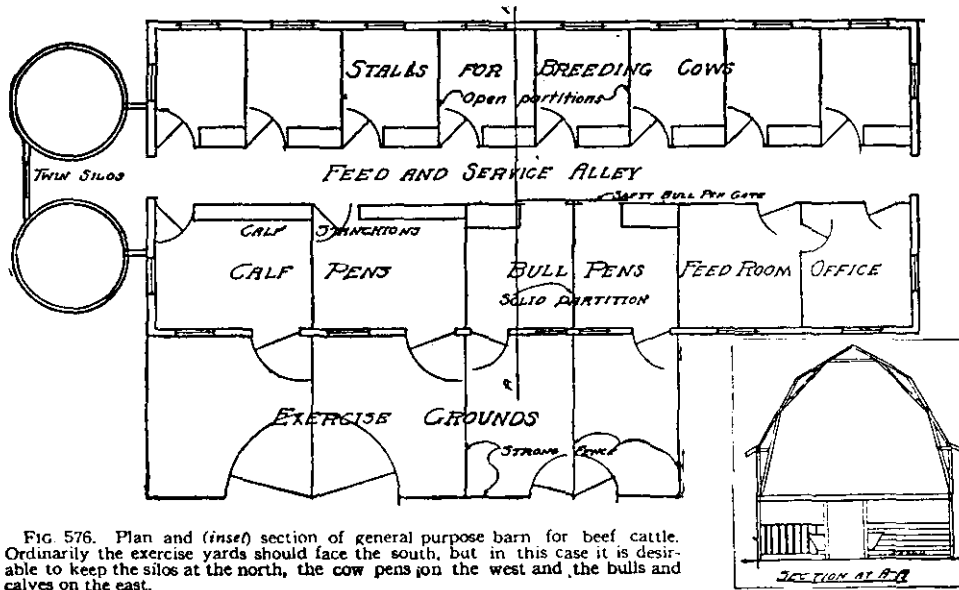


FIG. 576. Plan and (inset) section of general purpose barn for beef cattle. Ordinarily the exercise yards should face the south, but in this case it is desirable to keep the silos at the north, the cow pens on the west and the bulls and calves on the east.

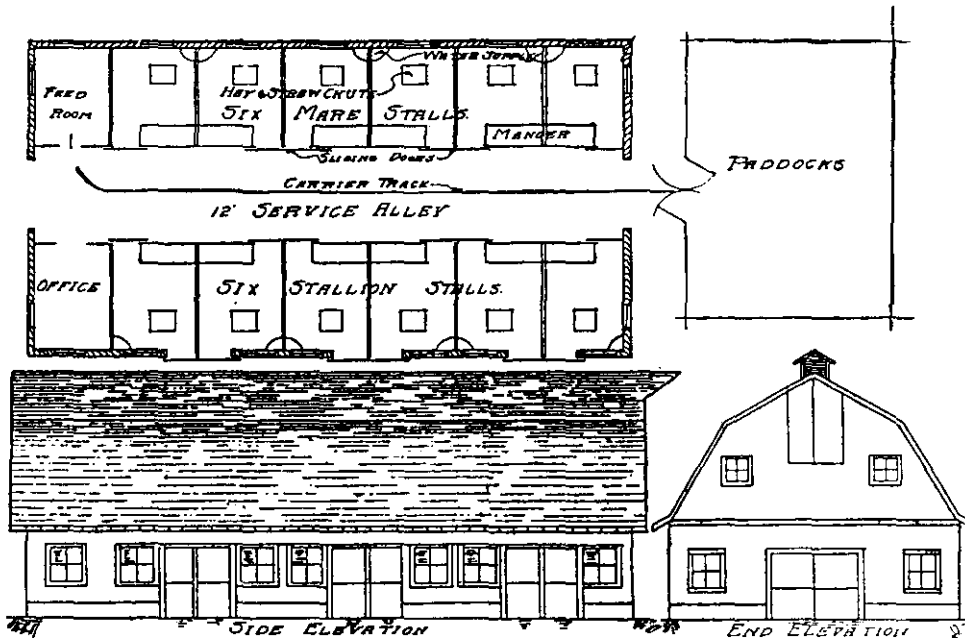


FIG. 580. Plan and two elevations of a stallion and mare barn. The professional breeder must build attractive structures in which to receive buyers as well as efficient ones in which to care for his stock.

SOURCE: SEYMOUR, FARM KNOWLEDGE, 3:409 AND 412.

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10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description:

From the Southeast corner of the NW 1/4, of the SE 1/4, of Section 33, Township 31 North, Range 19 West, Webster County, Missouri, proceed 839.0 feet North; then proceed 1405.0 feet South 44 30' West along South Right-of-Way Line of Webster County, Farm Road 522 to the Point of Beginning; then proceed Southwesterly along the South Right-of-Way Line of said Farm Road 522, 478.0 feet; then proceed South 70.0 feet; then proceed Northeasterly 406 feet, to a point 210.0 feet South of the Point of Beginning; then proceed 210.0 feet North to the Point of Beginning.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary of the Hosmer Dairy Farm Historic District has been drawn to include two contributing buildings, the dairy barn and the horse barn, which were a small but significant part of the original farmstead; one historic but noncontributing building, the tomato cannery building, is included within the boundary, which includes approximately two acres. A number of nonhistoric or altered buildings, including a modern dwelling, are part of the current farmstead but are excluded. The original Hosmer Dairy Farm encompassed, at its greatest extent, 850 acres. That farm was divided by the current Farm Road 522, historically referred to as the Old Wire Road. Currently, ownership of the historic farmstead is also divided, with the Michael Brown family owners of the portion south of Farm Road 522; the owner of the portion north of the road proved unsympathetic to National Register listing and refused to cooperate with the Browns in their efforts to list the entire historic farm. Unfortunately, the Hosmer House, a number of tenant houses, and other outbuildings and remnants of outbuildings, as well as substantial acreage, lie north of Farm Road 522; the road itself would contribute to a larger district which would include these additional resources. Although there is some expectation that the northern portion of the original farmstead may eventually come under sympathetic ownership, it was deemed expedient to restrict the current boundaries to those historic buildings most important to and reflective of the commercial success of Hosmer's agricultural activities. A number of noncontributing buildings, including a new house and new support buildings, detract from a larger district which would still only represent a portion of the original Hosmer Farm.

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With the exclusion of much of the original acreage of the farm, it was determined by the SHPO that it would be difficult to justify agricultural significance for only two barns. Therefore, the barns are presented as significant as examples of types of buildings constructed by a progressive agriculturist in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century and as types of buildings which provided a model for other farmers in the region.

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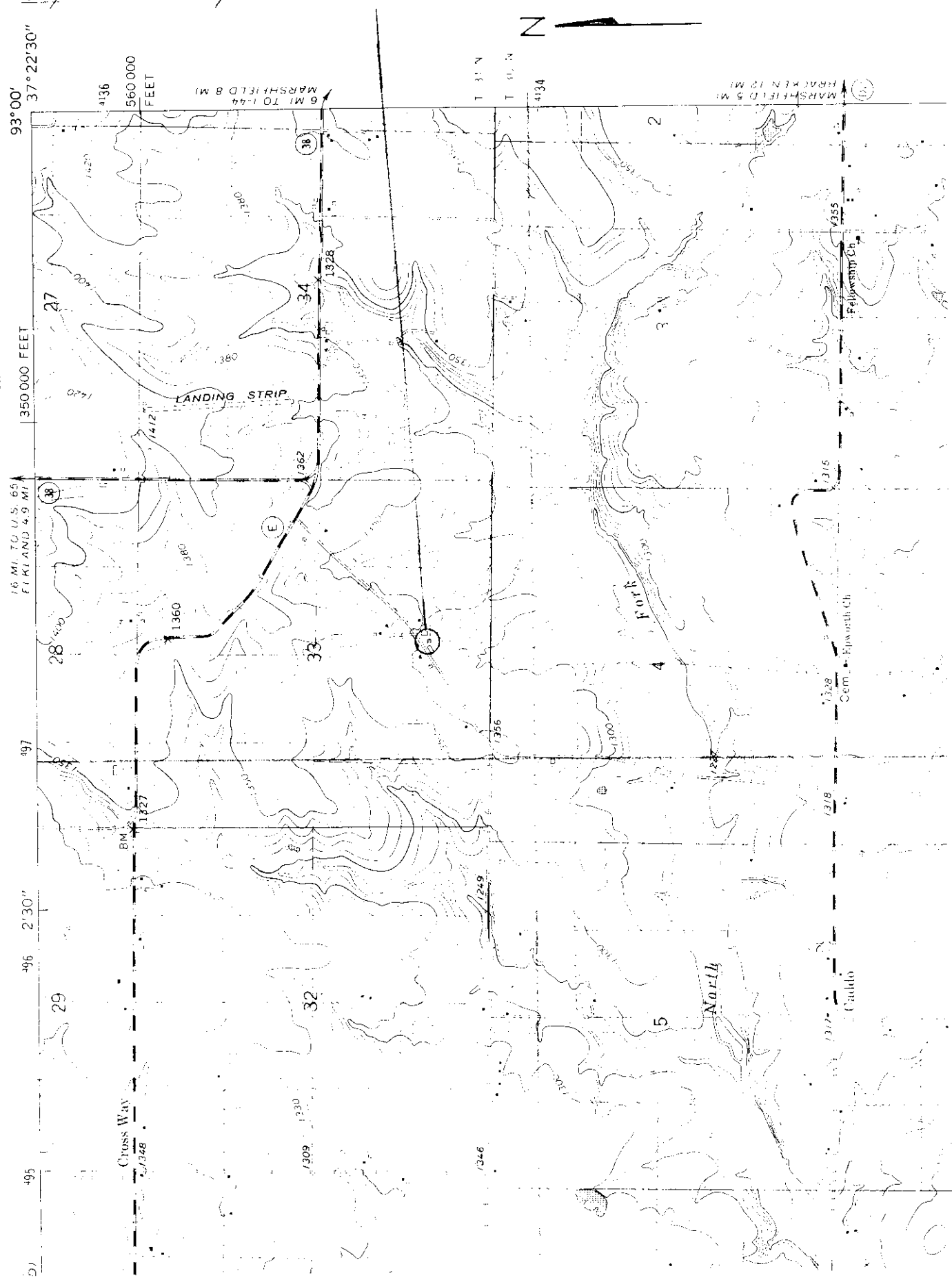
HOSMER DAIRY FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT WEBSTER COUNTY, MO

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MISSOURI
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SE 4 STRAFFORD 15' QUADRANGLE

STRAFFORD QUADRANGLE
MISSOURI
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SE 4 STRAFFORD 15' QUADRANGLE

MISSOURI





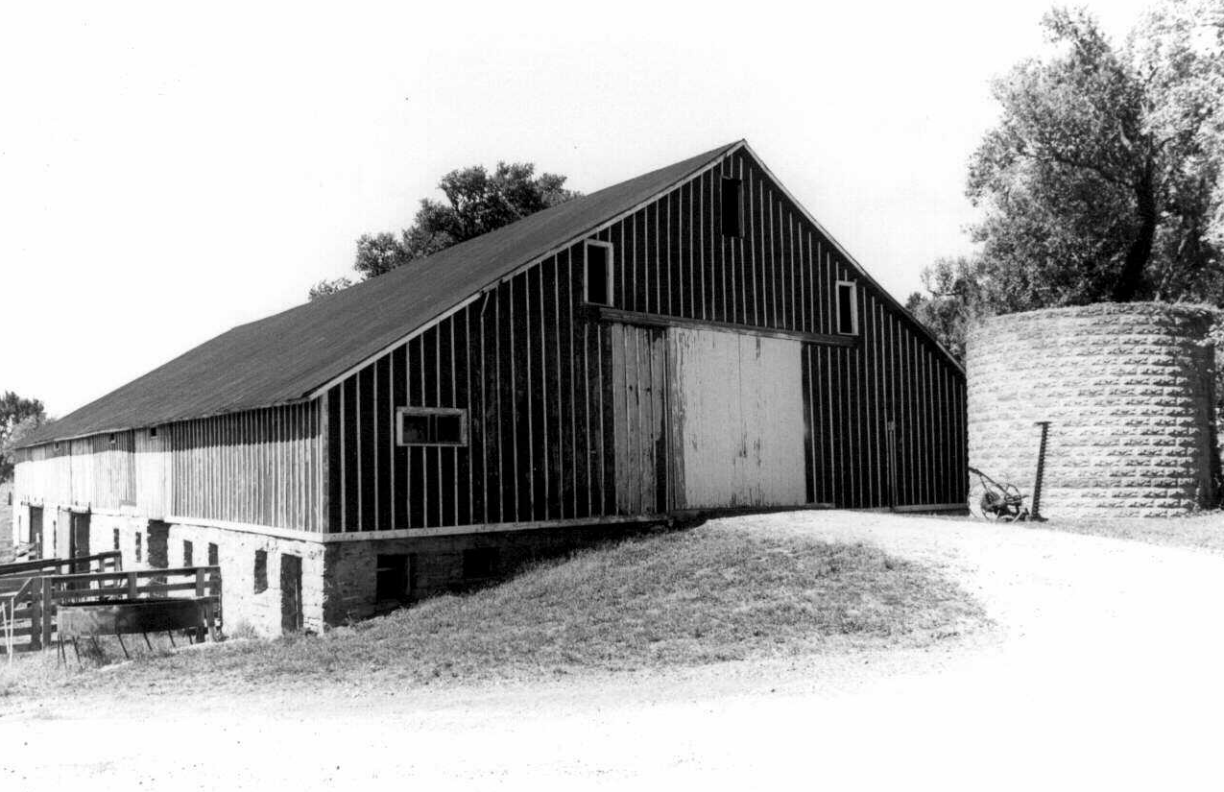
















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