

Washington, DC

12/22/93

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name University of Illinois Experimental Dairy Farm Historic District
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 1201 West St. Mary's Road [NA] not for publication
city or town Urbana [NA] vicinity
state Illinois code IL county Champaign code 087 zip code 61801

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments [].)

William L. Ahur / SHPO 12-21-93
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
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 Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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
See continuation sheet [].

Signature of the Keeper	Date
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Experimental Dairy Farm Historic District
Name of Property

Champaign, Illinois
County/State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not count previously listed resources.)

Contributing	Noncontributing
5	3 buildings
0	0 sites
0	0 structures
0	0 objects
5	3 Total

Name of related multiple property listing.
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Round Barns in Illinois

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/animal facility
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/storage
EDUCATION/research facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/animal facility
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/storage
EDUCATION/research facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Round Barn
Craftsman

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
 walls Weatherboard

 roof Shingle
 other N/A

Narrative Description

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

Experimental Dairy Farm Historic District
Name of Property

Champaign County, Illinois
County/State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

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
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

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.

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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

Periods of Significance

c. 1908-1943

Significant Dates

1908

1910

1912

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Kell and Benard, Architects

White, James M., Supervising Architect

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State Agency

Federal Agency

Local Government

University

Other:

Name of repository:

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Experimental Dairy Farm Historic District
Name of Property

Champaign County, Illinois
County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property approximately 6

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

16 395540 4438740
A. Zone Easting Northing

16 395730 4438740
B. Zone Easting Northing

16 395670 4438610
C. Zone Easting Northing

16 395540 4438610
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 The URBANA Group and Preservation and Conservation Assoc. date August 1993

street & number 202 South Broadway, Suite 206, P.O. Box 1028 telephone (217) 344-7526

city or town Urbana state IL zip code 61801-9028

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 Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

street & number 354 Henry Admin., 506 S. Wright date August 1993

city or town Urbana state Illinois zip code 61801

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Experimental Dairy Farm Historic District, Champaign County, Illinois
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Narrative Description

The University of Illinois Experimental Dairy Farm Historic District is located in the southwest portion of Urbana on a small ridge line (see Locational Map/Continuation Sheet). The area is known as the South Farms because of its historical location south of the main campus quadrangle where the majority of buildings are located at the University of Illinois. The historic district is surrounded by land owned and used by the university. Due to its location on a ridge, the historic district is highly visible, particularly from the south where the lower laying open farm land is used for experimental crop production. To the north, sloping down from the district, are located a horse pasture, corn plots, and a few university buildings. Open land is also found to the east and west with the modern College of Veterinary Medicine complex located to the southeast. The historic district is surrounded by cottonwood trees, mulberry bushes, climbing roses, and other plant life (photos 1 and 2) and contains three round dairy barns, the related farm manager's house, and a historic storage building. The following buildings are located in the historic district but are noncontributing: a garage, a brick dairy laboratory, and a cattle shed.

Bound by St. Mary's Road on the north, the remaining portion of the University of Illinois Experimental Dairy Farm Historic District is bound by a fence row line to the south and west and a treeline on the east. Historic photographs document that the southwest portion of the fence line has not been moved, but that the present fence line to the east of Barn #1 was constructed after 1948 (photo 1). St. Mary's Road, along the northern boundary, was constructed by 1911 (See Historic Photo View/Continuation Sheet, page 12). The three round barns are located within approximately 500 feet of each other. In front of the first barn built (Barn #1) is a residential building (Manager's House) with a circa 1951 garage. The second barn to be built (Barn #2) is located about 150 feet southwest of Barn #1. A small storage building was constructed before 1934 behind Barn #2. The last barn built (Barn #3) is located directly west of Barn #1 and northwest of Barn #2. Barns #2 and #3 are separated by about 150 feet. A rectangular two-row cattle shed was constructed for storage purposes directly west of Barn #3. Two gravel drives, located to the east and west of the Manager's House, provide ingress and egress into the historic district from St. Mary's Road. The east drive heads south, past the garage and toward Barn #1's entry ramp where it forks into the barn and to the west around Barn #1. The western drive also heads south past the Manager's House and garage, to meet the eastern drive at Barn #1. The two drives join only to split around Barn #2. The drives meet again on the west side of Barn #2 and continue to the ramp of Barn #3. Utility lines dot the site near the Manager's House, south between Barn #1 and Barn #2, and north between Barn #2 and Barn #3.

Although the historic district has changed over time with the loss of two buildings, which are described below, these losses have not effected the district's integrity. The western drive once went past Barn #3 turning sharply north to St. Mary's Road, thus providing a third point of access to the district. Directly southwest of Barn #3 was located a silo; it was still extant in a 1950 photo (See Historic Photo View/Continuation Sheet, page 11). North of the former drive extension, directly east of Barn #3, was located a small gabled roof building. Historic photographs show the building's size and scale as resembling a shed or outbuilding. Located between Barn #2 and Barn #3 was a building oriented to the east-west.

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This two-story residential appearing building had a gable roof, windows on both stories, and a chimney on the north slope of the roof; human-scaled doors are evident on the north and west sides of the building. (photo 1) South of the building was a small grassy open area that presently serves as part of the gravel drive. Buildings that appear to be of similar scale and form are located near the university's south quadrangle; they are used as classroom/offices by the College of Agriculture. The building set between Barn #2 and Barn #3 may have been used as a laboratory; it is not present in the Historic View photograph from circa 1912. The later brick laboratory appears to have been a garage which was converted into a milking laboratory in 1956.¹

Construction dates have largely been determined by written documentation and historic photographs. Surprisingly, the University of Illinois has a limited historical map collection; most of the early historical maps do not extend to the south far enough to include the South Farms nor the historic district. The earliest map to include the historic district dates to 1919 (See Historic Map/Continuation Sheet). The University Archives, the College of Agriculture, the Office of Planning and Facility Management, and the Operation and Maintenance Division have all been searched for additional maps.

Manager's House: 1908, Craftsman/Tudor Revival influence (photo 2). Square plan, two-story with basement, brick & stucco foundation, stucco and wood shingled walls, gable roof with lower cross gable (asphalt shingle) and center brick chimney on south slope. The main, north elevation, has a stucco basement and first story; the second story has random-width square-cut wood shingles with a slight bell-cast flare above a molded string course. The lower cross gable is stucco with vertical "half timbering" and an apex ventilation grill. There are overhanging open eaves with exposed notched rafter tails and a plain frieze board. The east side of the gable roof sweeps downward in the northeast corner to cover the one-story recessed porch with its deeply recessed one-light over two-panel door with one-light storm door. The porch has a wood deck and three wood steps between stucco cheek pieces with wood caps; it is now enclosed with the east side opening blocked with wood and the original entryway made smaller. The windows consist of a single three-light basement awning sash; two double-hung sash on the first story (8/1: middle, 12/1: west) and two twelve-over-one sash on the second story, all with plain wood sills and very narrow molded wood surrounds.

The west elevation has a center four-light over three-panel door (one-light over one-panel storm door) with a twelve-over-one sash to the north and a smaller raised six-over-one sash to the south; there are two basement sash. On the second story there is an off-center twelve-over-one stair sash with a twelve-over-one sash to the north and a smaller six-over-one sash to the south. The cross gable and eaves have similar detailing as the north elevation.

The east elevation has a basement sash to the south below a raised triple window with fixed diamond lights; a semi-hexagonal bay (6/1, 12/1, 6/1) is to the north; the second story has two twelve-over-one windows. Detailing of the gable is the same as the west elevation.

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The west corner of the south, rear, elevation has a one-story hip roof, window-enclosed porch with three simple posts and two pilasters, a wide frieze board, and simple boxed eaves; the porch is supported on brick piers with a wood deck and three wood steps and wood railing. The entry has a one-light over two-panel door with an eight-light over one-panel storm door; there is a twelve-over-one window to the east of the entry under the porch. East of the porch are two twelve-over-one sash on the first story and a single six-over-one sash on the second story centered above the two lower windows. Contributing.

Garage: circa 1951, no style. Rectangular plan, one-story, concrete foundation, wood drop siding with corner boards, hip roof (asphalt shingle) with plain boxed eaves. The east elevation has a four-light and twelve-panel wood overhead garage door; the north elevation has a four-light and three-panel pedestrian door at the west end. Non-contributing.

Barn #1: 1908, no style (photo 7). Round plan, two oversized stories over basement, brick (five course common bond) foundation, square cut wood shingled walls, circular gambrel roof (wood shingle). The 60-foot diameter barn is located on the side of a hill, sloping gently to the south and east; the northwest section is excavated to expose the basement on all sides. The basement has a wide opening set into the south side to allow entry of dairy cattle; a manure unloading rail is attached above the doorway. There are fifteen six-over-six double-hung sash around the basement story (one opening has been infilled with brick); a single solid-metal pedestrian door is located on the northeast. The first story has two oversized doorways located on the north and west, each with a concrete bridge or ramp leading up to it. The north ramp has brick walls connected to the basement; the west side of the ramp has two four-light casement sash while the east side has a six-light over three-panel wood door. Concrete steps from the end of the ramp lead down to the doorway. The west bridge/ramp is open below. Each oversized doorway is closed by two sliding doors hung on exterior rails, each door being made of two sections hinged together so as to follow the circular wall of the barn. The lower two-thirds of the door sections are wood panel, while the upper third is composed of fixed twelve-light sash; the west doorway has a small pedestrian door inset in one panel. Eight six-over-six double-hung sash are found on the first story, located above basement sash; a single four-panel pedestrian door is above the basement cattle entry and has no exterior access. The second story has seven six-over-six double-hung sash; all the sash have wood surrounds and drip caps. The double sloped roof flares at the edges with open eaves and exposed rafter tails.

On the interior of the barn is a center wood silo with exposed framing and sheathing on the outside and plaster inner walls; the silo runs from the basement to the apex of the roof (photo 9). The basement has a milking room located under the north ramp with an exterior entry on the east and a passage into the main basement. A feed alley encircles the silo and is separated from the rest of the basement by metal support columns. The east half of the basement has wood mangers next to the feeding alley and is divided through the center by metal columns; the west half has concrete and metal stanchions set on a slightly raised concrete floor. A recessed concrete drain trough and concrete walkway are behind the stanchions. The walls and roof of the upper stories have exposed framing and sheathing; there is a wide wood plank first

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floor. The east half of the barn has an upper story wood platform supported by metal columns used for additional storage. Contributing.

Barn #2: 1910, no style (photo 10). Round plan, two oversized stories, concrete foundation, vertical wood siding, circular triple-slope (wood shingle) roof (photo 3). The 60-foot diameter barn is located on a level section of land with oversized entries oriented to the northeast and southwest. Rectangular five-foot projections house oversized straight doors with diagonal siding. The projections have shed roofs terminating in rounded edges. Six-light fixed sash flank the doorway and are located on the sides of the northeast projection; the southwest projection has no sash, although there is some evidence that they may have existed in the past. Between the projections on the northern elevation are eight six-light sash on the first story; the eight four-light sash of the second story are slightly off-set from the first story sash. The southern elevation of the barn is divided into thirds by two entries consisting of normal-sized, vertical wood-sided exterior slider doors with inset four-light sash; the entries are covered by wood-shingled pent roofs. Three six-light sash separate the two entries while two six-light sash are located between these entries and the northeast and southwest projections. A flush pedestrian doorway is found to the immediate right of the southwest projection with a four-light sash above on the second story. Two four-light second-story sash are also located between the two slider doors and between the eastern slider door and the northeast projection. A small flush hay loading door is located beneath the four-light sash to the immediate right of the western slider doorway. The barn is sheathed in two courses of vertical wood siding, the upper course being shorter (photo 11). The triple-slope roof terminates with a flare and has open eaves with exposed rafter tails.

The interior space is divided into two stories with the lower, at-grade level having a concrete floor. A large open storage area is found on the north half of the first story, while the southern half has been enclosed as a shop/workroom that follows the circular outline of the barn. The southeast portion of the workroom is a modern enclosure with drywall walls and ceiling and dates from the late 1980s; the southwest portion contains remnants of the original horse stalls and food bins remodeled for modern use. Modern wood pull-down steps in the workroom area provide access to the second story which has two levels; the lower level is located above the shop/workroom enclosure, the upper level is supported by metal columns with steel I-beams and columns added for additional load-bearing capacity. Both levels are have wide wood decking. A wedged shaped opening is located in front of the northeast door with an added hoist supported on an I-beam grid of posts and horizontal members. Exposed wall and roof framing can be seen throughout the interior. The track, six platforms, and some pulleys of a circular hay loading trolley are still in place at the second roof slope and an original water spigot and concrete trough are extant to the south of the northeast entry. Contributing.

Building #857 (Barn #3): 1912, no style (photo 12). Irregular plan (barn with wing), two stories in height over basement, concrete and brick (five/six course common bond) foundation, square cut wood shingled walls, circular triple-slope (wood shingle) roof with cupola. The building is composed of two parts: a circular 70-foot diameter barn and a rectangular brick wing projecting to the southwest. It is

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located on the side of a hill, sloping gently to the south and west; the north section is excavated to expose the brick basement on all sides.

The first story of the round barn has two oversized doorways located on the northeast and northwest, each with a concrete bridge or ramp leading up to it. The northeast ramp's south side has a brick wall connecting it to the basement with paired six-light casement sash below double rowlock segmental arches (photo 13). The north side of the ramp continues as a projecting wing of the basement that follows the circular contour of the building ending at the northwest ramp. Two six-light fixed sash and a wood at-grade door are located on the brick and concrete south side of the northwest ramp. The projecting basement wing has a very shallow painted metal roof and a below-grade concrete light well. Nine six-light fixed sash with concrete sills follow the curve of the wing.

Between the northwest ramp and the southwest rectangular wing three six-over-six sash flank an at-grade vertical wood door. A small wood-shingled enclosure with an almost flat asphalt shingle roof is to the south of the northeast ramp. A two-light fixed sash is on the enclosure's east elevation and a door leading down concrete steps to the basement is on the south side. Inside the enclosure are doorways leading to an office area below the northeast ramp and into the barn basement; a six-over-six light sash is to the south of the basement door. Eleven six-over-six sash, a solid vertical wood door with a manure loading track above, and two additional sash are located between the enclosure and the southwest rectangular wing. A concrete path follows the contour of the barn around the east to the wing.

The northeast and northwest first story oversized doorways are located beneath wood-shingled pent roofs supported on oversized wood brackets; two oversized wood doors slide into rectangular "pockets" inside the barn. On the exterior, the barn appears to be two stories. Three nine-over-nine light windows on the first story and three six-light fixed sash on the second story are between the two doorways. Four nine-over-nine sash are located between the northwest doorway and the southwest extension. Four windows on each story are located between the northeast doorway and the extension. Random-width painted wood shingles cover the exterior, divided by a wood belt course; there is a wood watertable between the brick basement and the first story.

The wood shingled circular roof is comprised of three slopes topped with a thirteen-sided wood cupola with a conical roof, four wood louvered vents and a small roof access door on the east side (see Historical Photo View/Continuation Sheet). There is a slight bell cast or flare to the roof's edge; the eaves are open with exposed rafter tails.

A two-story hyphen connects the round barn with a one-story rectangular brick wing on the southwest. The hyphen is similar in construction to the barn with a brick base and wood-shingled upper story. It has a wood-shingled gable roof with rake boards and open eaves; a twelve-light window is centered in the gable. The east elevation of the hyphen has at-grade double wood doors with flanking six-light windows: a six-light sash to the left and a four-over-four light sash to the right. A twelve-light sash is off-center to the

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south on the second story. The west elevation has brick side walls flanking a center horizontal clapboard section. A vertical wood door is centered in the clapboard section flanked by a four-over-four window toward the round barn and a six-light window toward the wing.

The southwest rectangular wing is one-story composed of five-course common bond brick with a very shallow gable roof; open eaves with exposed rafter tails support a metal manure unloading rail on the eastern and western elevations. The wing's eastern elevation has four vertical wood doors separated by either single or paired nine-over-nine light sash; the two south end sash are high nine-light hoppers. On the southwest elevation there is a wood door at the east end, two nine-light hopper sash, a wood door with a manure unloading rail above the doorway, and three nine-light hopper sash at the west end; the shallow gable has vertical wood siding. The western elevation has four central six-over-six windows; to the south are a door, a six-light sash, and a door; to the north are a door, a six-over-six window, a door with transom, and a nine-over-nine light window. The northern elevation next to the hyphen has two nine-over-nine sash to the east of the hyphen and one to the west. A construction plan sketch and ground level plan sketch show a large gambrel roof barn in place of the rectangular wing. There is no evidence that this barn was ever built, although the current wing may be its first story. (See Construction Plan Sketch of Barn #3 & Ground Level Floor Plan Sketch of Barn #3/Continuation Sheets, pages 19,20)

The interior of the round barn's first story has a center concrete silo with two wood chutes on its southern side; the remainder is all open space without intervening floors although there is a wood ladder with a small platform at the top toward the southwest. Open construction with exposed framing and sheathing is found on the walls and roof and there is very narrow wood flooring. A doorway to the hyphen is located on the southwest. The upper story of the hyphen has a storage closet in the northwest corner, wood stairs to the basement in the southwest corner, a trap door in the southeast corner and machinery in the northeast corner. Located below the northeast ramp of the round barn is a small office with concrete floors and walls; the projecting basement wing serves as a milking area with tile walls but a concrete floor and ceiling (photo 16). The wing has two levels with the upper level nearest the exterior windows reached by a ramp from the barn's basement and a ramp leading to a storage area below the northwest ramp. One-light over wood-panel windows divide the wing from the main basement area. The storage area has a door to the exterior and one to the barn's basement. A feed alley encircles the silo and hay chutes allowing access to the twenty-one concrete and metal stanchions located on the western side of the barn and to the nineteen stanchions on the eastern side (photo 15). The stanchions are slightly raised from a recessed drain trough and outer walkway; all of the flooring is concrete. A walkway from the office area below the northeast ramp divides the two stanchion sections as does a wider cattle entry that leads to the basement of the hyphen. Storage areas are located within the hyphen and there are double doors leading to the exterior on the east and to the southwest rectangular wing on the south. The interior of the rectangular wing has a concrete floor and wood ceiling; a manure unloading rail runs down the center of the building which is used as housing for cows in wood and metal stanchions. A storage room is located in the northwest corner. (See Historic View/Continuation Sheet) Contributing.

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Storage: before 1934, no style (photo 17). Rectangular plan, one-story, concrete foundation, wood drop siding with corner boards, gable roof (asbestos shingle) with open eaves and exposed rafter tails. The north elevation has a central vertical wood door with flanking paired six-light awning sash with simple wood surrounds. There are center paired six-light awning sash in the center of the east elevation below the apex wood-louvered ventilation opening. The south elevation has paired six-light awning sash to the east and west and slightly off-center to the west; off-center to the east is a vertical wood door. A small wood hyphen connects this earlier built building with the brick dairy laboratory on the west elevation. The hyphen is slightly inset from the south and deeply inset from the north elevation with a lower gable roof, wood drop siding, and single four-light sash on the north and south elevations. The interior of the building is open and clad in painted plywood on the walls and ceiling with a concrete floor. Contributing.

Dairy Laboratory: 1956, no style. "L"-plan, one-story, concrete foundation, five-course common brick (Flemish headers), gable roof (wood shingle) with open eaves and exposed rafter tails. The east elevation of this building has an "L"-plan with a short leg projecting to the east and a long leg to the north. A large overhead garage entry at the east corner of the east leg's north elevation has been infilled with brick and six-light over one-panel double doors with screen doors. The center eight-over-eight light window is flanked by the double doors and a single eight-light over one-panel door in the "L"-corner. The east elevation of the long leg has a four-light over one-panel door in the "L"-corner; a large opening to the north of the doorway has been blocked with particle board out of which is a motor housing supported on a platform. Four eight-over-eight light sash with concrete sills and wood surrounds are in the center of the long leg. Wood lintels are above all the eight-over-eight sash and the infilled double-door opening. Two very small four-over-four sash are located at the north end of the long leg. A brick chimney with concrete cap is found to the north on the east slope, a curved ventilation hood is to the southeast of the chimney. The east elevation gable end of the short leg has a recessed small wood hyphen connecting it to the wood storage building; a brick chimney is on the south slope. The north elevation gable end of the long leg has a very small four-over-four sash in the east corner. Four-light over one-panel doors flank a central eight-over-eight light sash. A flat roof porch supported on three metal poles with a vertical wood privacy screen shields the above four openings. Paired eight-over-eight light sash are to the south of the porch assembly. The gable has a large metal louvered vent in what appears to be an original paired sash opening with a concrete sill. The west elevation has a very slight "L"-plan with the south end projecting to the west about two feet. This gable end has a single eight-light over one-panel door with three concrete steps with side pipe railings to the south. A large opening to the north has been infilled with brick. On the north building section, two sets of eight-over-eight light sash flank two single center eight-over-eight sash; there is a single similar sash at the north end. The south elevation has six eight-over-eight sash, the west sash opening has been infilled with wood and a large metal ventilation hood. The interior of the south building section has a concrete floor, white painted brick walls, and a plywood ceiling. Twelve stanchions are arranged to the west; concrete steps to the basement are located at the east end of the stanchions. The north leg of the building has concrete block walls and contains laboratories, offices, storage areas and restrooms. Non-contributing.

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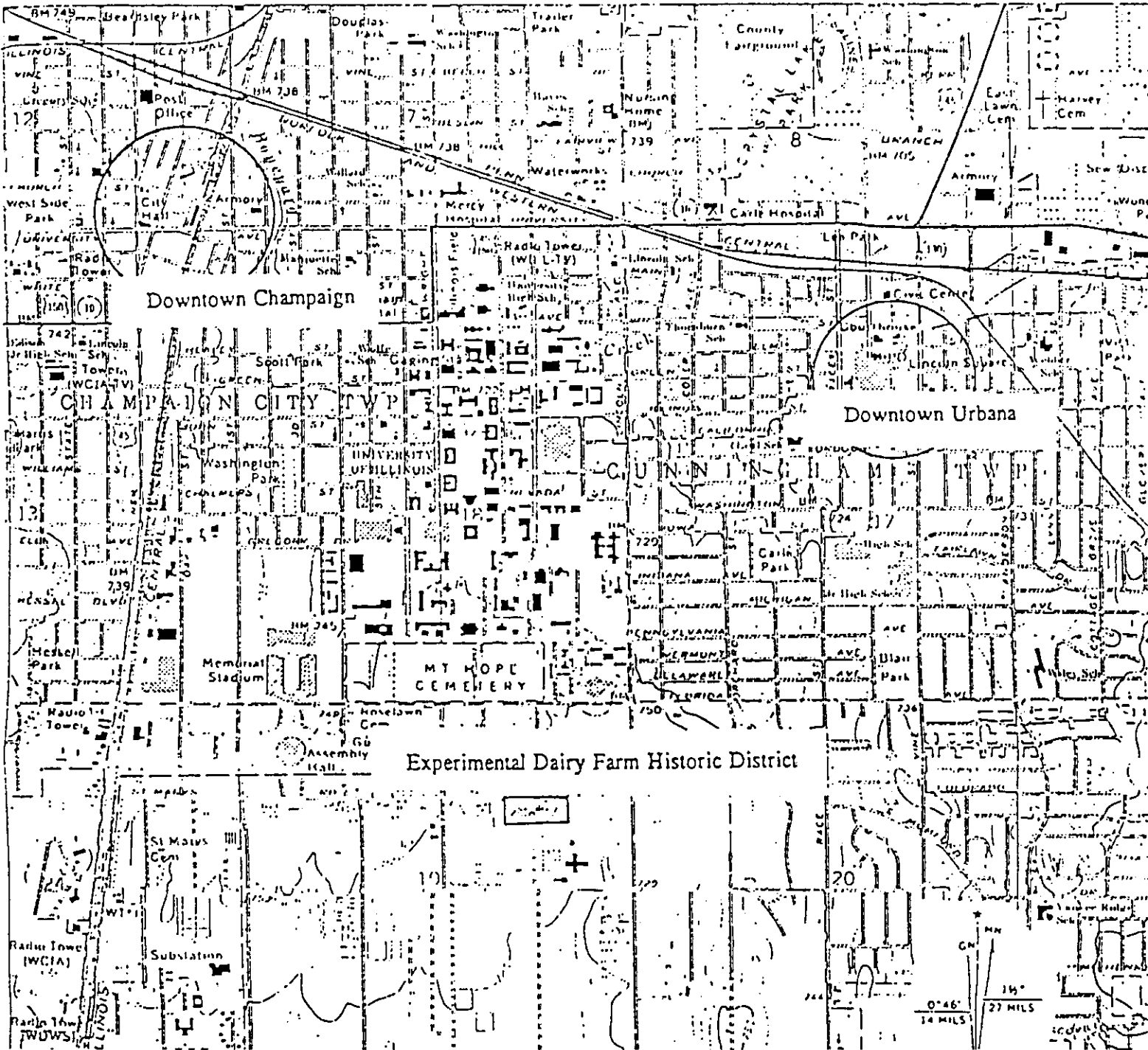
Cow Shed: post 1950, no style. Rectangular plan, one story, concrete foundation, vertical wood drop siding walls, modified gable (asphalt shingle). The north and south elevations each have six six-light slider sash; those on the south side are asymmetrically placed, those on the north are symmetrically placed. A vertical wood door is located at the south edge of the west elevation and there is a ventilation hood located below the gable apex. The east elevation has a wood door at the south edge with a six-light slider sash to the north; a ventilation hood is also located below the gable apex. A manure unloading rail is attached to this building above the doorway. This elevation may have had a larger opening originally as the siding appears to have been altered. The interior is divided into six large wood stalls with a corridor running along the south side of the building; the ceiling is open to the rafters. Non-contributing.

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Locational Map

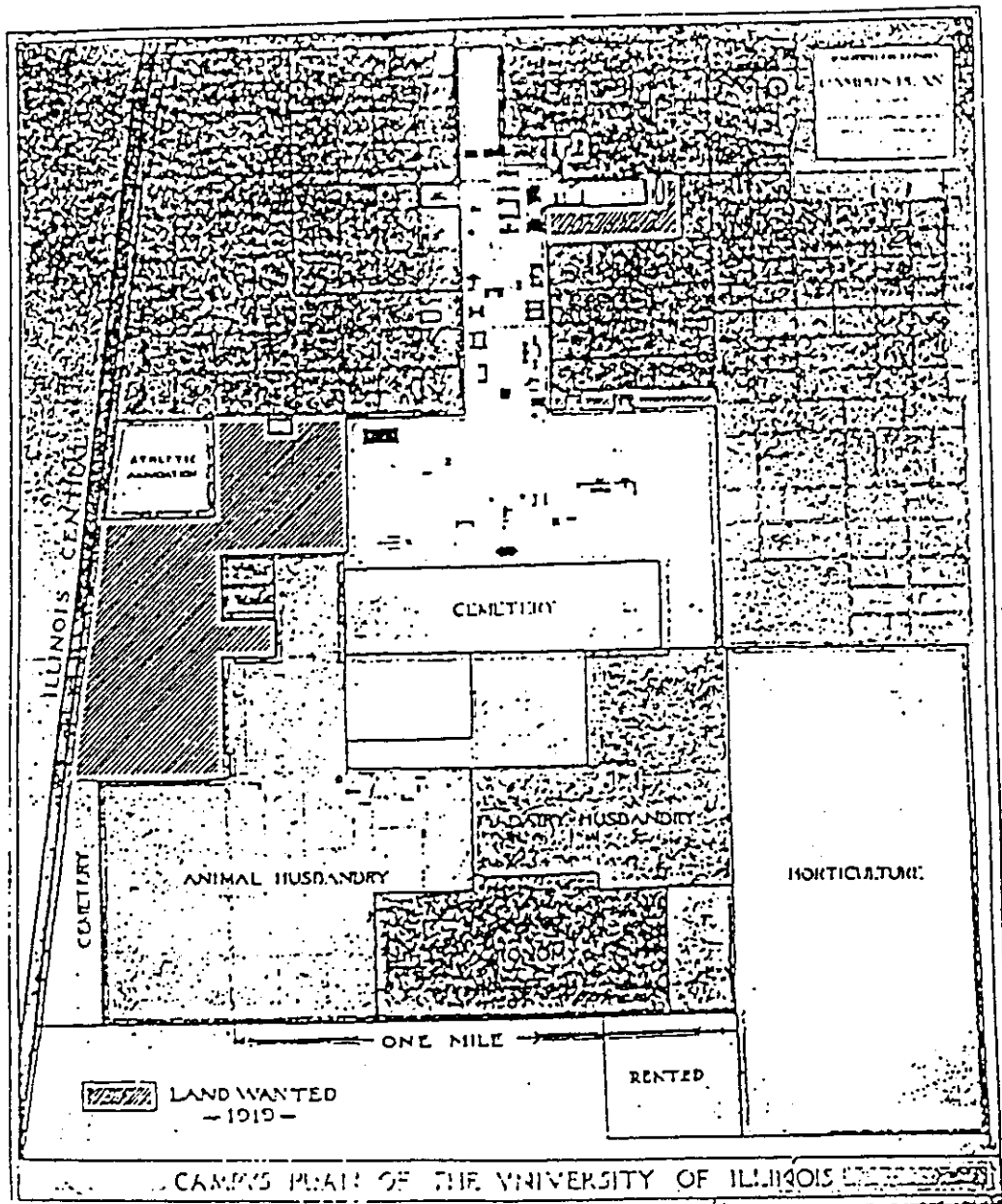


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1919 Historic Map



Source: James, Edmund Janes, Sixteen Years at the University of Illinois, Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1920.

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Historic View



Looking Northwest

Source: University of Illinois Archives, circa 1950, photographer unknown.

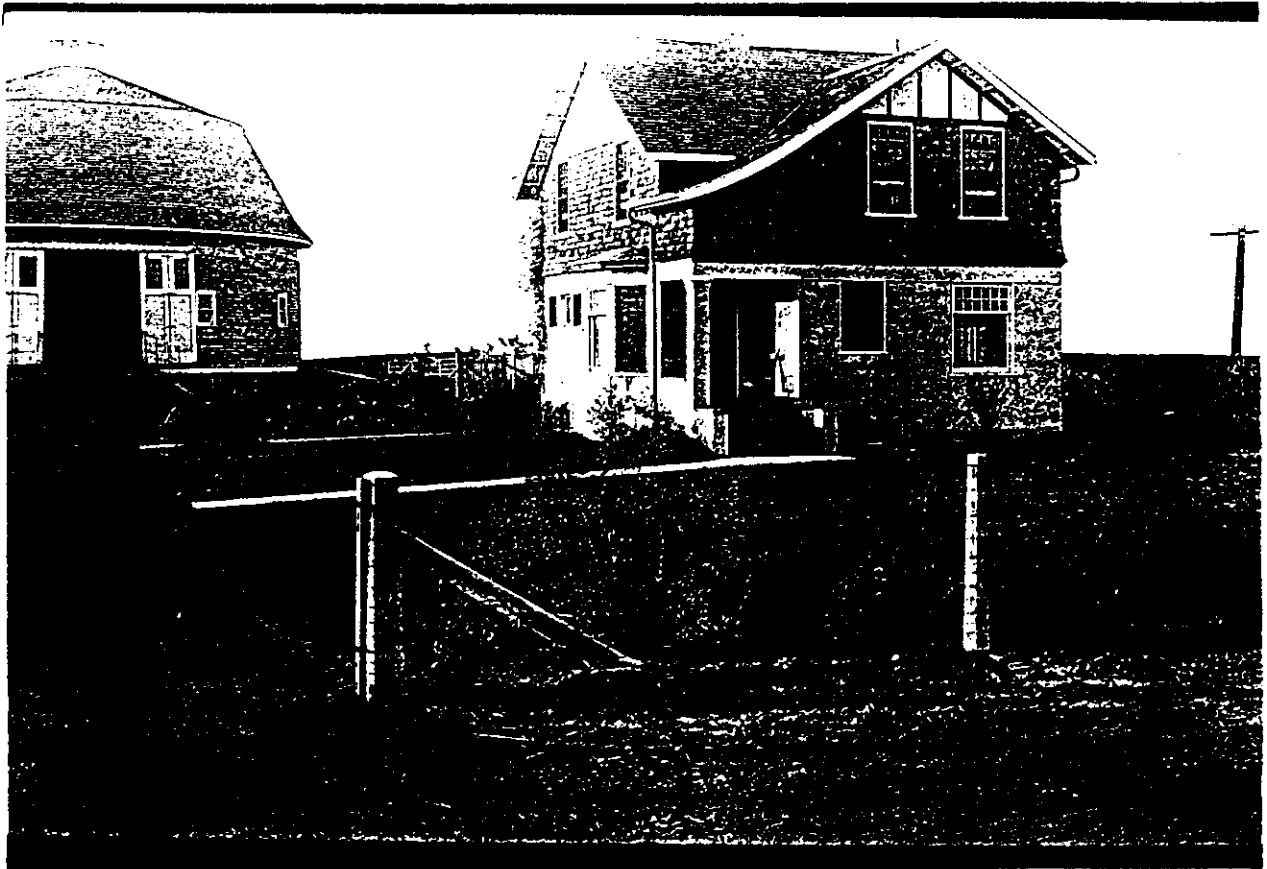
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Historic View



Looking Southwest; Manager's House and Barn #1.

Source: University of Illinois Archives, circa 1908, photographer unknown.

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Historic View



Looking Northeast. Illustration of Construction of Barn #2; Barn #1 shown completed.
Source: University of Illinois Archives, circa 1910, photographer unknown.

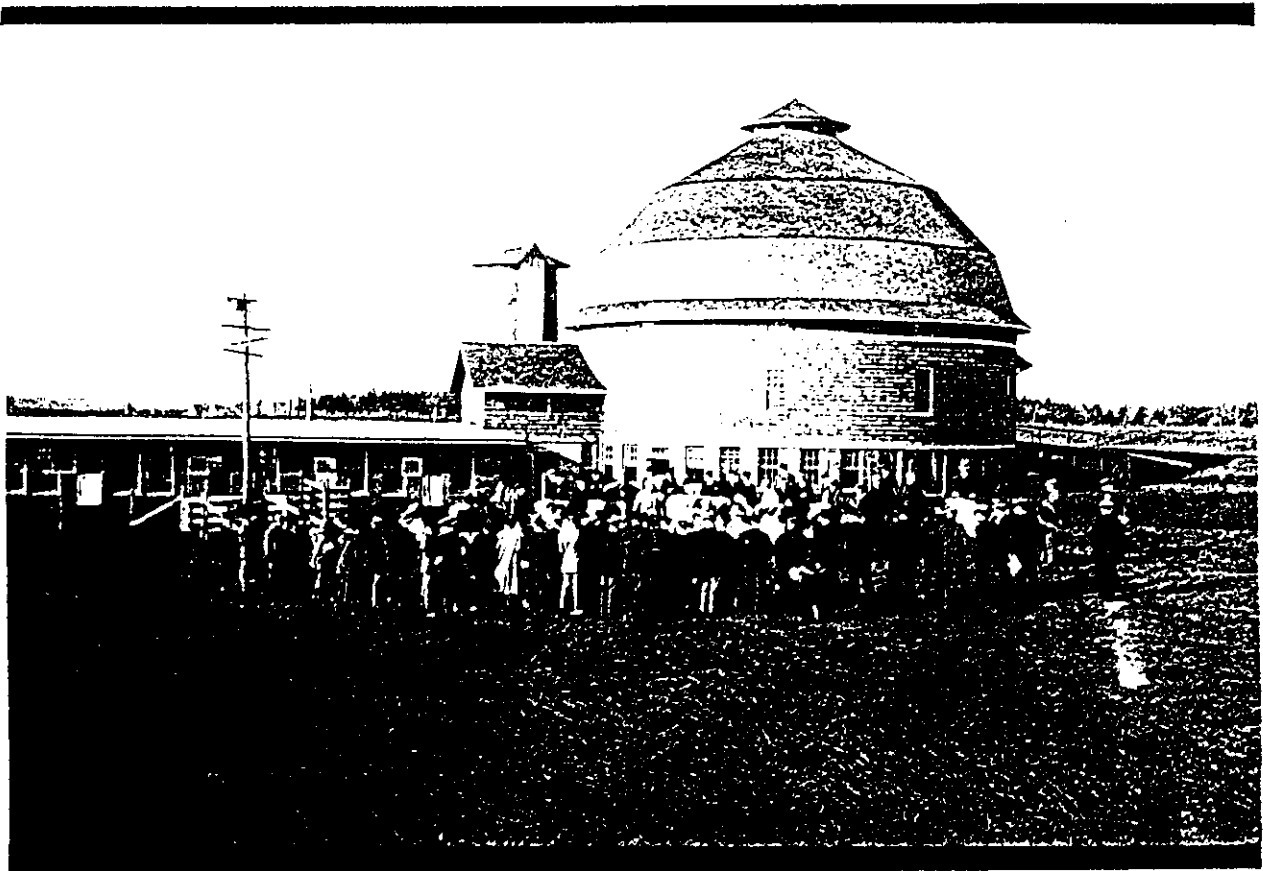
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Historic View



Looking Southwest. Barn #3.

Source: University of Illinois Archives, circa 1912, photographer unknown.

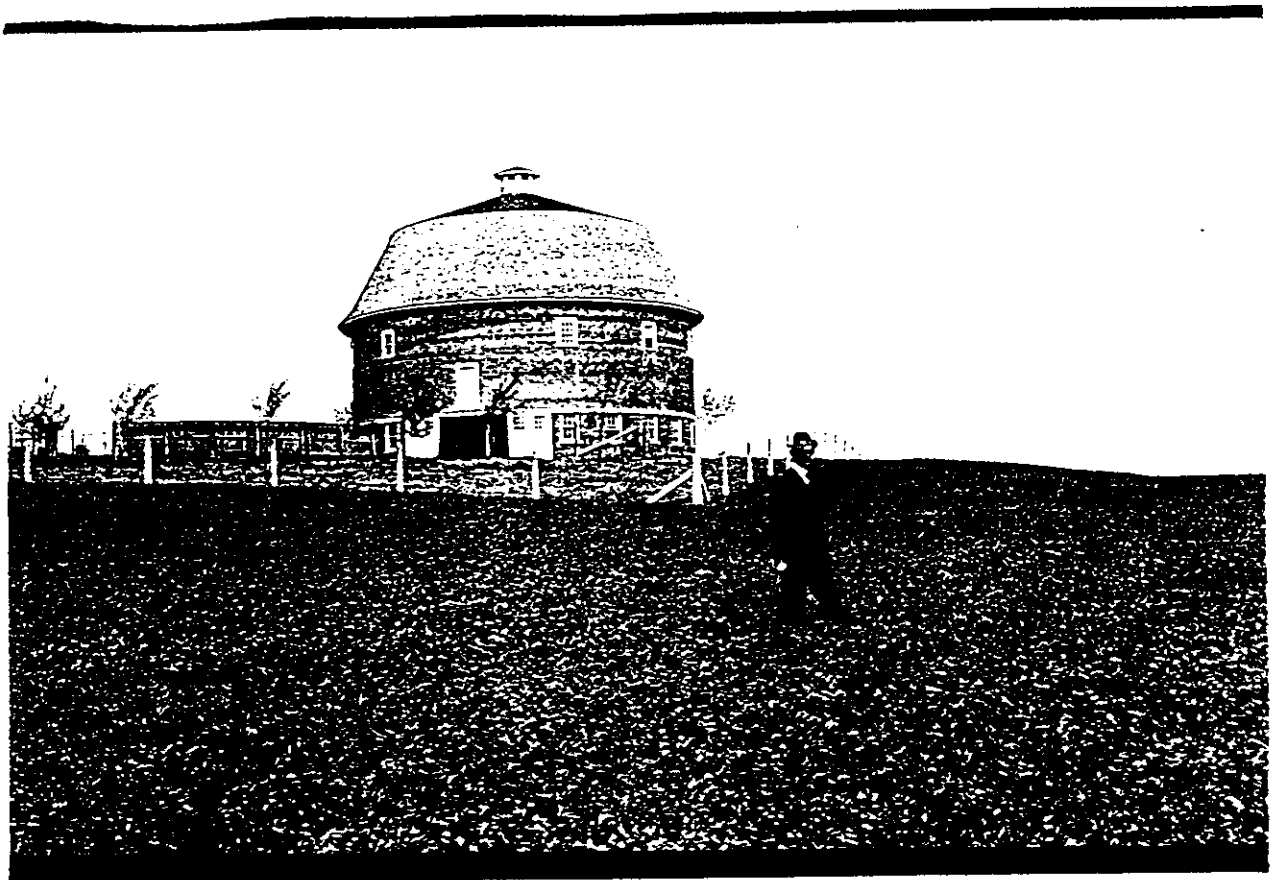
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Historic View



Looking Northwest. Barn #1

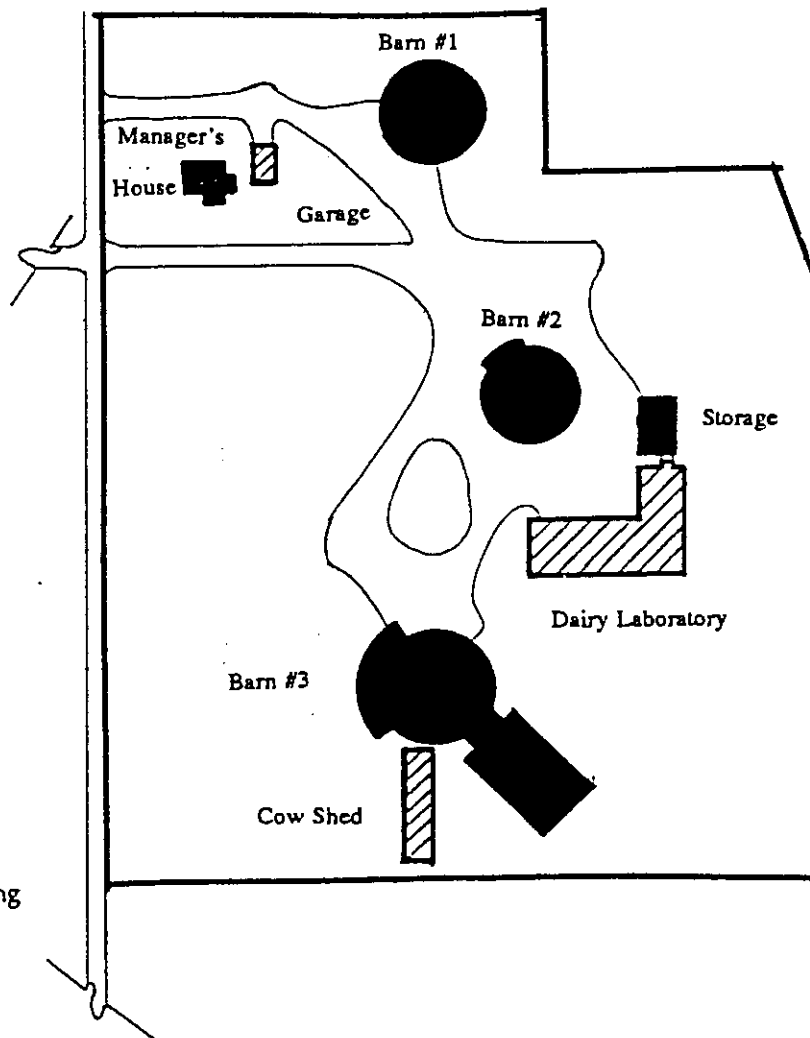
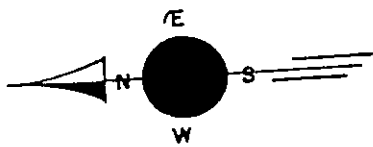
Source: University of Illinois Archives, circa 1908, photographer unknown.

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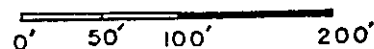
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Sketch Map



KEY

-  boundary
-  non-contributing
-  contributing

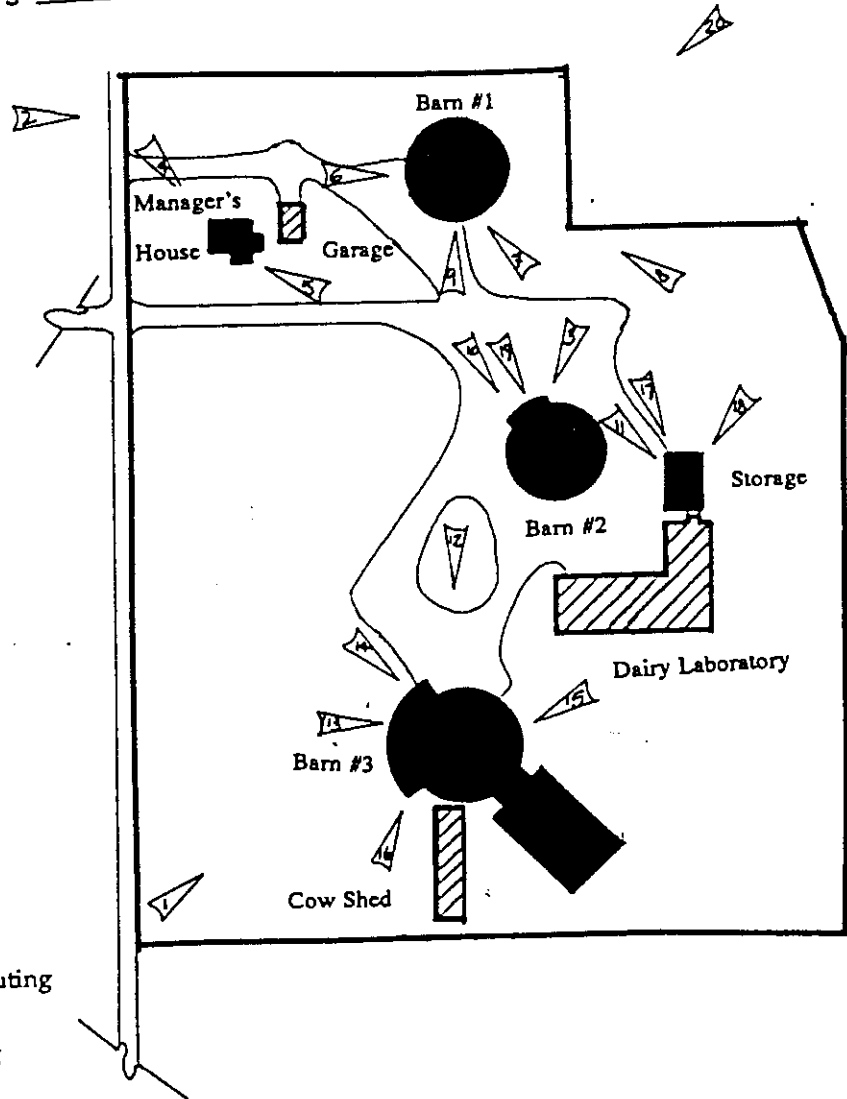
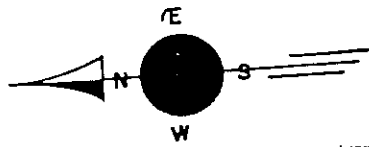


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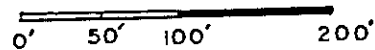
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Photo View Map



KEY

-  boundary
-  non-contributing
-  contributing
-  photo view

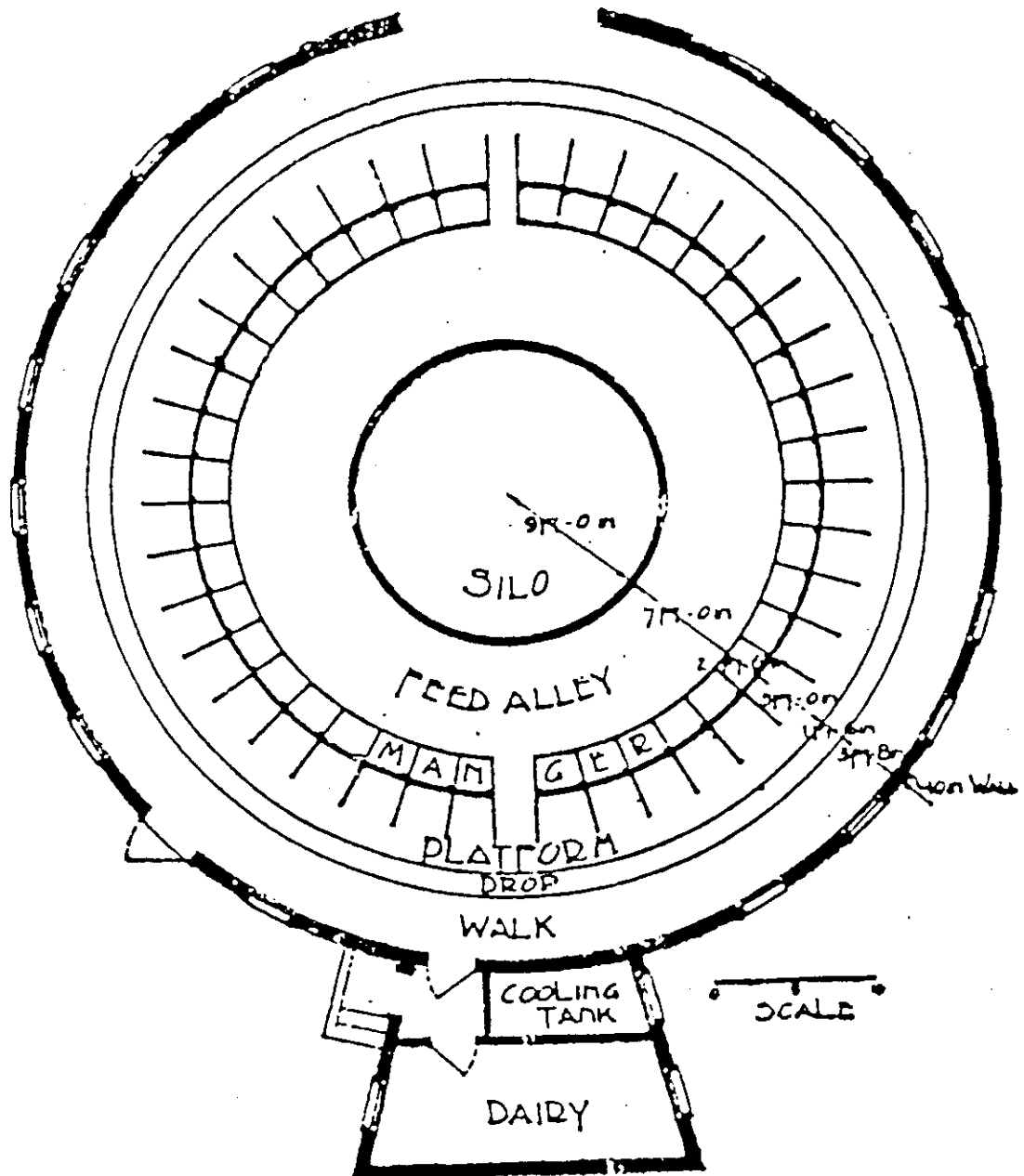


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Basement Level Floor Plan of Barn #1
from Agricultural Experiment Station, Bulletin 230

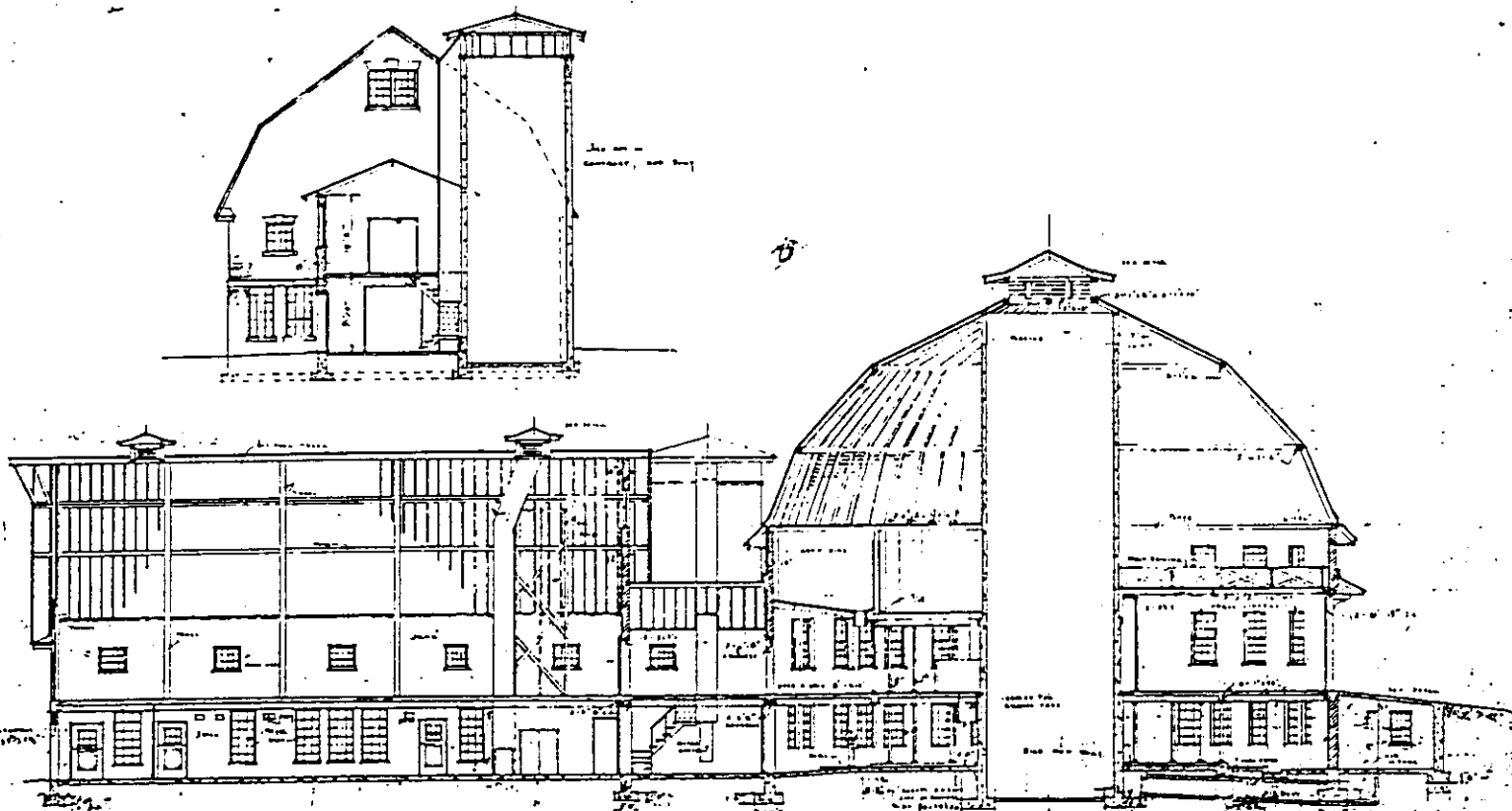


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Construction Plan Sketch of Barn #3
from University of Illinois Operation and Maintenance Division



LONGITUDINAL SECTION

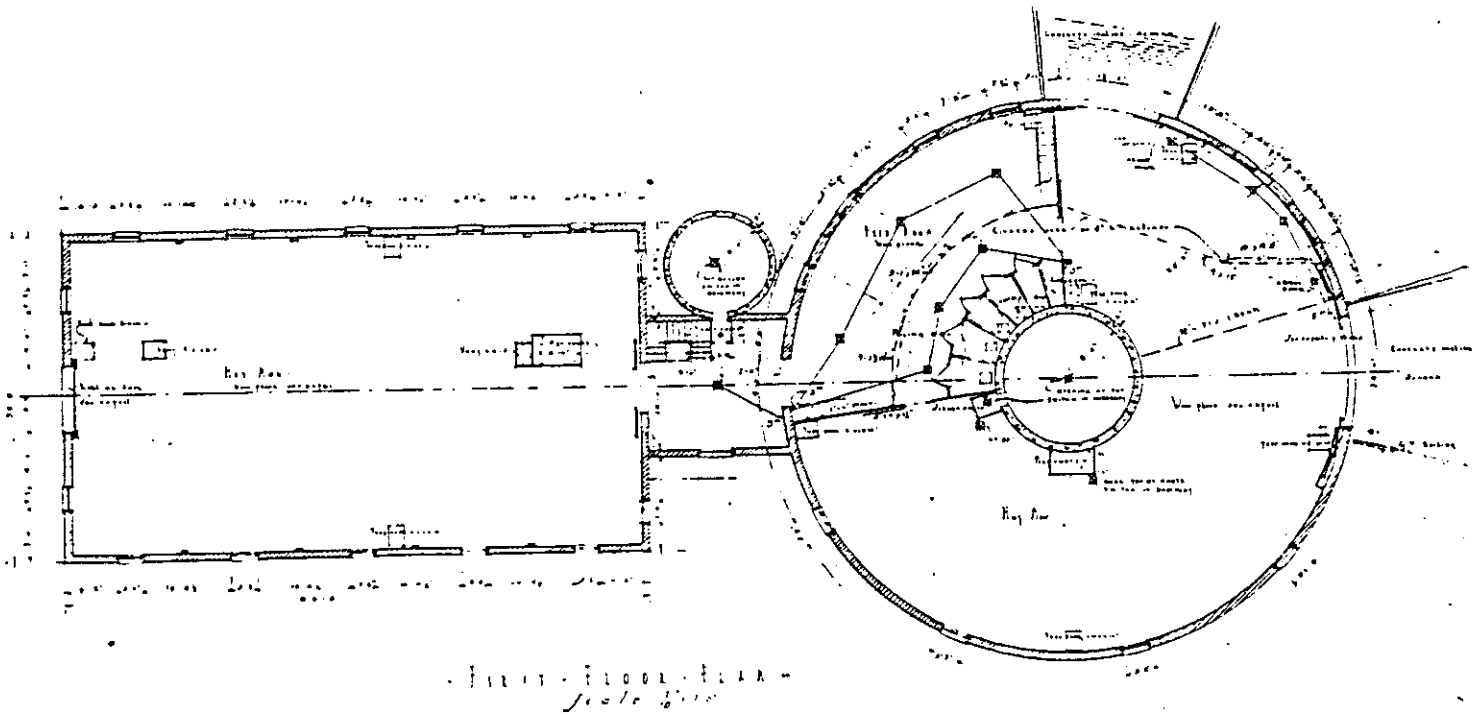
EXPERIMENTAL DAIRY BARN SOUTH PARK

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Ground Level Floor Plan Sketch of Barn #3
from University of Illinois Operation and Maintenance Division



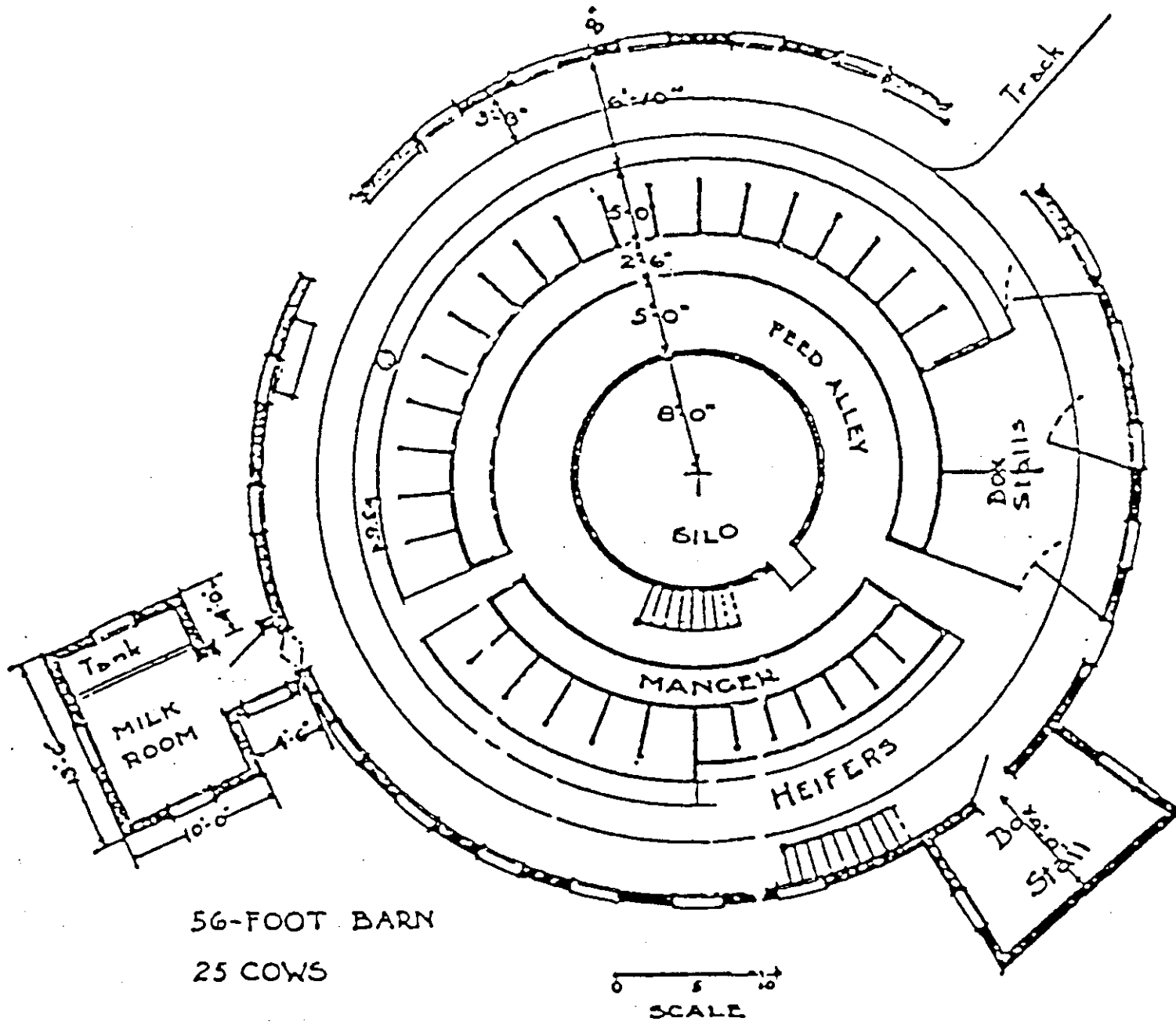
EXPERIMENTAL DAIRY BARN SOUTH FARM

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Basement Level Floor Plan of Barn #3
from Agricultural Experiment Station, Bulletin 143



56-FOOT BARN
25 COWS

0 5 10
SCALE

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Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary

The University of Illinois Experimental Dairy Farm Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for Agriculture and Criterion C for Architecture. The agricultural and architectural significance of the historic district is linked because scientific agricultural methods helped shape the design of the round barns. The Experimental Dairy Farm is part of the University of Illinois' Agricultural Experiment Station and has been run by the College of Agriculture since 1908. The period of significance for the historic district, 1908-1943, represents a time when the Experimental Dairy Farm, through the civic-minded College of Agriculture, helped spread scientific principles of agriculture across the state of Illinois. Both farm families and urban dwellers have benefitted from the advancements in dairy science that the Agricultural Experiment Station has been promoting since the beginnings of the Experimental Dairy Farm. In addition, the three round barns in the historic district meet Criterion C as representative examples of a significant agricultural building type as claimed in the "Round Barns in Illinois" multiple property listing. The three round barns, the manager's house, and a historic rectangular storage building are contributing buildings in the historic district. The noncontributing buildings consist of a garage for the manager's house, a brick dairy laboratory, and a rectangular cow shed, all of which are post-1950 construction.

Background

On July 2, 1862, President Lincoln signed the Morrill Land Grant Act that gave 30,000 acres of land to each member of Congress for a state institution establishing Colleges of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts.² In March of 1867, a portion of this land became the site of the newly-established Illinois Industrial University, now the University of Illinois.³

In the early 1870s, sixty percent of the population lived on small farms in rural America.⁴ Farmers were producing enough food to sustain their families but little, if any, in excess. The College of Agriculture, founded to help rural farmers, had a slow beginning. The inefficiencies within the College of Agriculture were exemplified through the low production of dairy products. Production was insufficient during the 1870s to allow for sales to the faculty, the proceeds of which were to help fund the department.⁵

Financial relief came for the College of Agriculture in 1887 with the Hatch Act, which granted \$15,000 annually to each state for practices in agriculture.⁶ This money provided the needed funds to research problems associated with scientific agriculture. The Agricultural Experiment Station was formed the next year and the College of Agriculture began to grow.⁷ In 1899, Dean Eugene Davenport replaced Dean George E. Morrow and organized the College of Agriculture into four departments: agronomy, animal husbandry, dairy husbandry, and horticulture.⁸ The new organization made significant positive changes within the College of Agriculture. By 1919, the faculty for each of the four departments had at least doubled.⁹ In the early 1920s, plans were being made to build and locate the following College of

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Agriculture buildings on South Farms: Beef Cattle Feeding Plant and Animal Husbandry Storage, Swine Plant, Poultry Plant, Horse Barn and Implement Storage, Tractor Laboratory, Purebreed Dairy Cattle Barn, and Dairy Manufactures Laboratory.¹⁰ Edmund Janes James, University of Illinois President from 1904 to 1920, believed that education and research were necessary tools for an advancing civilization. President James planned a dual role for the College of Agriculture, both as an agent to spread information throughout the state and as a research laboratory for practical science and classroom instruction.¹¹ The College of Agriculture "expanded fastest and most powerfully, that impressed itself most upon the people of the State and that assumed in many ways the real primacy at the University."¹²

As a part of this new-found growth, the College of Agriculture started constructing buildings to accommodate an influx of students and research faculty. The first round barn and manager's house were built in 1908. In 1910, the College of Agriculture removed much of its funding from the general university accounts to become more self-supporting. The College was then responsible for building at least "one permanent building each year till the agricultural interests were fully housed."¹³ Around 1910, the Agronomy and Horticulture buildings, Farm Mechanics building, beef cattle barns, and the second and third round dairy barns were built. "New barns were erected, better machinery was bought, and a fuller use was made of the farm as an object lesson to the agriculture students."¹⁴ Enrollment in the College also increased at a twenty percent steady rate each year. President James admitted to the College of Agriculture's dominance at the University of Illinois in 1917, "in tacit reference to it, the University of Illinois is a one-sided institution."¹⁵

After the establishment of the Agricultural Experiment Station in 1888, the College of Agriculture was divided into three active components: classroom instruction at the University of Illinois, the Agricultural Experiment Station, and a state wide Extension Service.¹⁶ Classroom instruction consisted of classes ranging from home economics, to poultry, to dairy. In 1904, the Agriculture faculty consisted of 27 and increased to 136 by 1914; student enrollment increased from 339 to 1,014 within the same ten years.¹⁷

The Agricultural Experiment Station was established to administer research activities within the College.¹⁸ The Department of Dairy Husbandry wanted to increase milk productivity to promote efficiency. Responding to the department's needs, the Experiment Station built an Experimental Dairy Farm incorporating three round barns at the South Farms. The Agricultural Experiment Station dispersed results and interesting information to thousands of farmers throughout Illinois through their Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletins. University President James said, "Numerous and expensive publications are necessary."¹⁹ These bulletins and innovative experiments helped farmers in Illinois make efficient and educated choices about farm management. Through the Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletins #143 and #180, news about the advantages associated with the round barns spread throughout Illinois.

In 1901, the College of Agriculture organized the Extension Service throughout the state, allowing each county to have a county extension advisor, also called a farm advisor. These advisors would use the resources of the University of Illinois and the College of Agriculture to answer farmers' questions and to

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run small county experiments. By 1916, the College of Agriculture was answering 100,000 letters from interested and innovative farmers annually. The Extension Service also sent 110,000 informational newsletters to rural constituents.²⁰ In 1902, a youth movement called 4-H began in Winnebago County, Illinois.²¹ It began as a scientific agriculture club for children ages 9-18, sponsored by the University of Illinois through county extension advisors and volunteer leaders. Dean Davenport of the College of Agriculture, volunteered university students to go to 4-H meetings and report on what experiments the Agricultural Experiment Station was researching. In 1915, the Smith-Lever Act provided federal aid and 4-H flourished.²² The College of Agriculture hoped that when the scientific-minded youngsters in 4-H grew up, they would attend the University of Illinois.

Information from the College of Agriculture was also spread at county fairs and the annual State Fair in Springfield. The state subsidized fairs demonstrated better farming methods to farmers. Farmers were encouraged to display their best animals and/or produce for others to learn.²³ Dean Davenport recognized that the University received considerable "support by rendering substantial service to State Agriculture."²⁴

Significance

The goal of dairy farming was to produce the largest amount of milk per acre of feed at the lowest possible cost, while the mission of the Experimental Dairy Farm was to study the problems of country life and to develop methods for dealing with them.²⁵ A major problem facing dairy farmers in Illinois was that dairymen were "not getting the profits they should from the money and labor invested in the business of producing milk."²⁶ Wilber John Fraser, the great promoter of round barns in Illinois, wanted farming in Illinois to be efficient, convenient, and profitable.

Wilber Fraser strove to make farming methods more efficient and convenient for dairy farmers in Illinois. Fraser was born in Will County near Plainfield, Illinois in 1869. He received his Bachelor's degree in Dairy Husbandry in 1893 from the University of Illinois and went on to become an Instructor in Animal Husbandry and to receive a Master of Dairy Husbandry degree from the University of Illinois in 1902.²⁷ By 1904, Fraser was an Assistant Professor of Dairy Husbandry in the Agricultural Experiment Station. Fraser founded the American Dairy Science Association in 1906; today it still has an active, strong membership.²⁸ In 1908, he became a Professor of Dairy Husbandry and the first Chief of Dairy Husbandry in the Agricultural Experiment Station.²⁹

Fraser's colleague in the College of Agriculture was H. C. Crouch. During the early 1900s, the idea of establishing an Experimental Dairy Farm to research dairy problems was receiving broad support and acceptance. Crouch, with his family, traveled from New England to accept the position of manager at the Experimental Dairy Farm around 1907-1908.³⁰ At the same time (1908), Fraser spent the summer overseas learning from the farmers of Great Britain, Holland, and Denmark.³¹ This trip provided Fraser with the inspiration to improve the efficiency of American dairy farms. Together, Fraser and Crouch led the promotion of round barns in Illinois for they believed that the construction methods used in building

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round barns incorporated the idea of using scientific principles to help agriculture, while meeting the farmers' goals of low cost and high milk yields through "common sense" design.

Fraser believed that for a dairy farm to be efficient, the cows should be fed with feed raised on the farm; this was a common means of both controlling farm expenses and the diets of the animals. However, it made dairy farming a very labor intensive business, since a dairy farmer was not only a herdsman, but also a planter and harvester. Even milking the cattle was a time consuming task. Milking schedules varied, but a common schedule was a twice a day pattern at 5:30 am and 4:00 pm. In addition, the cattle had to be moved indoors for milking to insure the sanitary collection and storage of the milk. Some dairymen, to promote efficiency and cost savings, even delivered their own milk; this occurred most commonly during the Depression. The use of cow manure for crop land fertilization was another way farmers strove to reduce costs. But the collection and spreading of this manure added another component to the dairy farmer's work day. The round-the-clock labor associated with dairy farming forced the farmer to live on the farm. Thus, for efficiency of travel and convenience, a manager's house was planned as a part of the University of Illinois' Experimental Dairy Farm. Crouch, his wife, and two daughters were the first residents of the manager's house.³²

Uniformly good cattle, economical feeding and health, and sanitary methods are qualities of successful production of milk and other dairy products of high quality.³³ Additionally, Fraser taught that "the amount of milk and butterfat produced per acre is, generally speaking, the final test of profitable dairying where all the feed is grown on the farm."³⁴ At the Experimental Dairy Farm, where in 1908 twenty cattle were kept on the food produced on twenty acres of University of Illinois land, Fraser demonstrated and challenged the norms of dairy farming through various experiments. For example, Fraser felt that the most efficient cows only came with raising crops that contained a maximum amount of digestible nutrients, especially protein which was essential for dairying. Therefore, to raise crops that did not yield anything but the maximum amount of digestible nutrients would be wasteful. In order to compare the digestible nutrients contained in different varieties of hay, Fraser planted timothy hay, the type extensively grown on midwestern dairy farms in the early 1900s, and alfalfa hay. Tests found that the timothy hay contained less than one-tenth as much digestible protein as alfalfa hay.³⁵ The results of these experiments were published and spread throughout Illinois through the Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletins and The Illinois Agriculturist, a student publication of the College of Agriculture. As a result, farmers in Illinois were provided information on the benefits of planting alfalfa and gained the knowledge that cattle can digest some nutrients better than others. With this information, Illinois' dairy farms had an opportunity to become more productive.

The advances made in dairy farming at the Experimental Dairy Farm extended well beyond the University of Illinois campus. Nine-tenths of all milk produced in Illinois was destined for consumption in Chicago.³⁶ In 1872, the city of Chicago consumed 20,112 gallons of milk a day. Unfortunately, the milk arriving in Chicago was often spoiled or contaminated.³⁷ During the Spring of 1898 Jane Addams of Hull House started an effort to clean up Chicago's milk supply.³⁸ Through the University of Illinois, Addams

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contacted Fraser and H. S. Grindley, Professor of Food Microbiology and solicited their help.³⁹ In 1898, Professor Grindley and Jane Addams wrote an article for the Agricultural Experiment Station Circular 13, to report the findings of the Chicago milk contamination study.⁴⁰ Continuing this inquiry, Fraser and his daughter Gladys, around 1910, inspected milk stations along the route to Chicago to identify sources of contamination. Fraser wanted to see if the source was either the family farmer, who was practicing unclean collection and storage methods, or the milk station's unsanitary storage and transportation system. Fraser found the primary source of contamination to be the family farmer. Miss Fraser remembers seeing farmers bringing in "open tanks of milk with manure floating on top" to the milk stations.⁴¹

A second study of the Chicago's milk supply was conducted in July, 1957 for the purpose of checking quality.⁴² The study was to determine if Chicago milk could maintain good quality at a reasonable temperature (40 or 50 degrees) for at least five days without making the milk undesirable to drink. This study challenged the state legislation which limited milk sales in Illinois and required milk dating. The results showed that milk stored under five days in temperatures not exceeding 50 degrees would keep.⁴³ Through this study the Experimental Dairy Farm continued a commitment begun sixty years earlier to insure a good quality milk supply for Chicago.

Results of significant experiments at the Agricultural Experiment Station were sent to Illinois farmers through informational Bulletins, which were published frequently, but not on a fixed schedule. These Bulletins gave farmers the most current scientific information and new options in farming practices. For example, in December 1928, the Agriculture Experiment Station published in Bulletin 316 results from experiments conducted on feeding mineral supplements to dairy cattle. W. B. Nevens, Assistant Chief in Dairy Cattle Feeding, wrote an article on salt requirements for cattle. The safe amounts of salt were at question because it was observed that too much or too less negatively effected the reproductive systems of cattle.⁴⁴ It was found that a safe amount was one percent added to feed mix in addition to the salt already provided in feeding boxes.

Another Bulletin published by the Agricultural Experiment Station highlighted ways to decrease transportation costs for dairy farmers. In 1933, only two-fifths of what consumers were paying for milk reached the farmer, the other three-fifths were absorbed in transport, processing, selling, and distribution costs.⁴⁵ Transportation costs were determined to be the costs that were most closely controlled by farmers. The study, conducted by the Agricultural Experiment Station found that manufactured dairy products such as cheese, cream, and the like, would be best produced in small local plants in order to decrease milk transportation costs. Likewise, hauling routes should be rearranged in order to reduce the distance milk was hauled and to increase the volume of milk per trip. The authors went into great detail showing strategies for rerouting transport routes, even the arrival times of trucks at receiving stations were to be scheduled so as to avoid waiting. The Bulletin also encouraged farmers to keep complete records of transportation costs.

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In December 1942, the Agricultural Experiment Station began promoting through the Bulletin single breed herds for dairy farming. At the time, small farms often had different types of dairy cattle mixed within the same herd. In the Bulletin it stated that mixed-breed herds had lower rates of production and decreased flavor and quality in the milk than herds with a single-breed. The Bulletin stated that particular breeds should be chosen according to demand, region, and type of farming.⁴⁶ These factors were important to dairy farming and the Agricultural Experiment Station wanted to show the advantages of the five major breeds of dairy cattle: Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Holstein, and Jersey. The following criteria were incorporated with breed information and presented to Illinois dairy farmers to help them choose the best breed for their farm: adaptability to climate and region, type of market demand to be met (cheese, milk, other dairy product), preference for a particular breed, dominance in the community, vigor of calves, feed supply, carcass value, and probable sale of surplus animals.⁴⁷ The Bulletin stated the following about dairy farming during the early 1940s, "America's dairy industry has gained a prominence today it has never before enjoyed, wartime conditions having vastly increased the public's appreciation of the nutritive qualities of dairy products."⁴⁸

Brucellosis of cattle, commonly called Bang's Disease, is a disease that effects animals and humans. Bang's Disease causes infected cattle to abort their calves and causes undulant fever in humans. The disease cost Illinois cattle owners four million dollars in 1943.⁴⁹ In response, Circular 54 was published to give Illinois farmers the most recent detection, prevention, and controlling information on Bang's Disease. Diagnosis of a Brucellosis-infected herd was discussed in detail especially since infected cattle could look perfectly healthy; only a blood test could confirm the infection. The Agricultural Experiment Station provided information on the nature of the disease and its method of spread among cattle and humans.⁵⁰ Prevention through calf vaccination was stressed. In addition, watching for infected cattle (called spreaders), feeding sick cattle pasteurized milk, and cleaning of contaminated farms gave farmers options in controlling the disease.⁵¹

Architecture

The architectural and agricultural significance of the buildings within the University of Illinois Experimental Dairy Farm Historic District is intertwined due to the fact that the three round barns were purposely designed to meet and promote the scientific principles of dairy farming. According to the minutes of the September, 1908 meeting of the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois, appropriations were given to build a round barn and manager's house on the south farms.⁵² Architects Kell & Benard, under the supervision of University Architect James M. White, designed the round barns. No further information on Kell & Benard can be found in University of Illinois sources. The construction of the first of the three round barns took place in late fall of 1908.⁵³ H. C. Crouch's The Illinois Agriculturist circular, Fraser's Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin 143, and the University of Illinois Board of Trustees Reports of 1908 and 1912 document that barns were built every two years from 1908-1912. The construction and use of each round barn resulted in improved construction design methods which were incorporated into the next barn.⁵⁴ For example, through the use of different construction techniques, Barn #2 was constructed

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without scaffolding, and Barn #3 incorporated a wing in its original design which allowed for more cattle storage. Fraser thought that dairy barns in the United States were usually "untidy, uninviting, and in many cases absolutely filthy places where, to the disgrace of civilization, human food is produced."⁵⁵ In the round barn design, animals, equipment, hay, and all barn tools had a designated place.

A typical round barn has a silo in the center, livestock on the ground floor, and a large hay loft or haymow on the upper level. Many barns, including round ones, were built on small inclines or banks or along a highly visible ridge line. This construction technique would allow the farmer to drive a wagon with hay into the haymow on top of the bank while cattle could be driven from the pasture into the bottom of the barn for milking or storage.⁵⁶ "Barns should be built into a knoll or a bank, so the main floor is accessible by wagon and the lower level used for the animals."⁵⁷ In keeping with this idea, two of the three round barns at the University of Illinois Experimental Dairy Farm are located on an incline.

Fraser felt that the planning, construction, and arrangement of dairy barns could be made more efficient. "People do not stop to consider the savings in a year or a lifetime by having the barn so conveniently arranged that there is a saving of only a few seconds on a task that has to be done two or three times every day."⁵⁸ All labor was done within the barn: milking was performed at least twice a day, the cattle were fed, and for six months of the year the cattle continuously occupied the barn.⁵⁹ Fraser thought that "the amount of time and strength wasted in the useless labor in poorly arranged buildings is appalling."⁶⁰

According to Fraser, round barns had agricultural advantages associated with their construction that made them more convenient, efficient, and less costly than conventional rectangular barns. Advantages of round barns over rectangular barns included: increased square footage, large area for storage of mow and silage, stronger construction, better wind resistance, good ventilation, economical construction, and ease in feeding.

Fraser and Crouch argued that more square feet are contained within a circle than any other geometric figure with the same linear measurements. This shape gave round barns, with their domed roof structure, a large hay storage area in the haymow because no vertical roof members obstructed the space. The haymow furnished storage plus the stored hay provided insulation for the animals living below.⁶¹ The large haymow was one of the main attractions of the round barns to dairymen.⁶² During the early 1900s, a common dairy herd averaged twelve to twenty head of cattle. Expansion of the herd often required expanding the barn. One disadvantage of a round dairy barn was that expansion opportunities were thought of as costly and defeating the efficiency of the barn.⁶³

The circular construction of the round barns produced a stronger building because it took advantage of the tensile, instead of the flexural strength, of lumber. Green boards were soaked in water for several days to make the wood pliable. The boards were then wrapped horizontally around posts planted in a circle. This horizontal pattern of boards gave it strength over rectangular barns.⁶⁴ Fraser compared the strength of round barns to the strength of a barrel. "A barrel, properly hooped and headed, is almost indestructible,

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and much stronger than a box."⁶⁵ "The strength is because the stress comes on the hoops in a lineal direction."⁶⁶ The "hoops" on the round barns are the boards wrapped around the barn in a horizontal direction. The "heads" would be the foundation and the trusses and other roof members. (See Historic Photo View/Continuation Sheet, page 13)

Wind resistance is another advantage of round barns. The strong prairie winds can get no direct hold on the walls or roof of round barns. "All exposed surfaces of a round barn are circular, as both the sides and roof are arched, which is the strongest form of construction to resist wind pressure."⁶⁷

Roof ventilation for dairy barns was a requirement of health codes. Dairy farmers once used cupolas as aesthetic boxes to break up hard roof lines.⁶⁸ Cupolas became a functional way to ventilate. "Their lowered sides help to vent the air of a building and at the same time protect the contents [cattle and mow] from both weather and wild animals."⁶⁹ The cupolas on Barns #1 and #2 were removed due to poor maintenance; Barn #3's cupola is still intact.⁷⁰

Since the construction of a barn is a large cost to a farmer, Fraser believed a that barn should last at least his/her lifetime. Round barns were shown to be more economical to construct than rectangular barns. Fraser proved that the construction costs of round barns could be between thirty-four to thirty-eight percent less costly than rectangular barns.⁷¹ Another cost saving characteristic was that no scaffolding was required inside or out if vertical siding or a domed shaped roof were used.⁷² "A rectangular barn within the same square footage as a round barn would require twenty-seven percent greater cost for material if it were of plank frame construction and fifty-three percent more if it were of timber construction."⁷³ In addition to such advantages as "strength, tightness, light, warmth, dryness, ventilation, good room arrangement," round barns have economy of materials.

The ease of feeding was enhanced by the round barn's special architectural features for distributing silage, hay, and grain. The feed and mow were dropped down either an interior chute or the center silo to cattle below. "The feeding commences at the chute, where it is thrown down, and is continued around the circle, ending with the silage cart at the chute again ready for the next feeding."⁷⁴ Farmers standing in the center of the barn merely forked the hay around the silo where the cattle would be positioned in stalls for eating. This arrangement of space decreased the amount of needed labor and time.

"The round barns built by the University of Illinois and the University's round barn bulletin gathered widespread attention in the agricultural midwest. The impact can be noted even today with farmers, whose father or grandfather built a round barn reveal time and again the barn was built as a result of what was being done 'over at the University.' Indeed, it is possible that the University's sponsorship led to the popularity of the style which peaked in the decade following the bulletin's publication."⁷⁵

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"Centric barns caught the attention and gained the admiration of innovative and practical people wishing to advance agriculture practices for the benefit of everyone."⁷⁶ Round barns were owned by a variety of people including wealthy farmers who could take the risk, innovative and progressive farmers, or students of the University of Illinois who had worked with the round barns and knew their possibilities.⁷⁷ "The round barn wasn't just a passing fancy to people. The people who built them viewed them as a real technological improvement over the old way of farming."⁷⁸ Through Agriculture Experiment Station Bulletins and Crouch's article on the success of the second round barn in The Illinois Agriculturist, the idea of the round barn spread from the University of Illinois to many dairy farms across Illinois.⁷⁹

Conclusion

Round barns still dot the Illinois countryside. Fourteen round barns in Illinois were listed on the National Register of Historic Places in a multiple property listing entitled, "Round Barns in Illinois"; some have since been demolished.⁸⁰ Due to the significant concentration of the three round barns, the manager's house and related outbuildings, and the historical physical development of the complex as a working farm, the Experimental Dairy Farm is most appropriately seen as a historic district. The barns were built to be perfectly functional and to provide efficiency to the everyday processes of the dairy farmer.

Modern farming practices require larger equipment than what the round barn can efficiently hold.⁸¹ Even by 1910 the abundance of power tools was saving the farmer many hours of labor.⁸² A 1910 editorial in The Illinois Agriculturist explored the needs of the modern farm. "In this age of machinery and labor saving devices, we find that the farm, as well as the shop and the factory is sounding its need for power and we see how extensively this call is being answered."⁸³ By the early 1920s in Illinois, the construction of round barns was rare and the popularity behind round barns declined. There are many suggestions on why round barns lost their popularity. The standardization of the construction industry after the Civil War resulted in a decline in timber framing and could be one possible reason. The mechanization of farm equipment, which was designed for use and storage in rectangular barns, is another. A further reason considers the fact that the rich soil of Illinois is better suited for crop production than dairy farming.⁸⁴

The University of Illinois Experimental Dairy Farm was replaced with larger facilities about 1960.⁸⁵ However, the historic district was retained and maintains a high degree of integrity. Presently, around twenty cattle are kept in the historic district. The three round dairy barns are in use for small herd dairy experiments. Barn #1 has cattle in the lower level and provides storage in the haymow; Barn #2 is used for storage of fertilizer and equipment; and Barn #3 contains hay in the loft and cattle in the adjoining wing and lower level. The Manager's House is used for storage of exhibits for the College of Agriculture.

Endnotes

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4. Richard Gordon Moores, Fields of Rich Toil: The Development of the University of Illinois College of Agriculture, (Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 1970), 1.
5. Ibid, 175.
6. Edmund Janes James, Sixteen Years at the University of Illinois, Urbana, IL: The University of Illinois Press, 1920), 7.
7. "Round Barns in Illinois," National Register of Historic Places, 1980.
8. Nevins, 174.
9. James, 211.
10. Leon Deming Tilton and Thomas Edward O'Donnell, History of the Growth and Development of the Campus of the University of Illinois, (Urbana: The University of Illinois Press, 1930), 218.
11. Jerome L. Rodnitzsky, "Farm and Town: The University of Illinois and the Farmer: 1904-1918," Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society 72, (1979), 16.
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13. Ibid, 226.
14. Ibid, 175.
15. Ibid, 224.
16. Douglas Bauling interview.
17. Nevins, 225.
18. Ibid, 224.
19. James, 212.
20. Rodnitzsky, Jerome, 18.
21. Donald F. Tingley, The Structuring of a State: The History of Illinois, 1899 to 1928, (Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 1980), 52.

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22. Ibid, 52.
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24. Nevins, 225.
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27. Illi, (Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 1895), 84.
Illi, (Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 1902), 26.
28. Dr. James Robinson, Professor of Dairy Science, interview held at the University of Illinois campus, Urbana, Illinois, 22 June 1993.
29. Illi, (Urbana, IL: University of Illinois, 1908), 25.
30. Gladys G. Fraser, daughter of Wilber John Fraser, interview held at Ms. Fraser's home in Urbana, Illinois, 25 June 1993.
31. "Professor Fraser's Trip," The Illinois Agriculturist XIII (November, 1908), 15.
32. Gladys G. Fraser interview.
33. Fraser, "Suggestions," 461.
34. Wilber John Fraser, "Systems of Dairy Farming," The Illinois Agriculturist XV (December 1910), 3.
35. Ibid, 3.
36. John H. Keiser, Building for the Centuries: Illinois, 1865 to 1898, (Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 1977), 135.
37. Bessie Louise Pierce, A History of Chicago, (Chicago: Alfred A. Knopf Inc., 1957), 57.
38. Jane Addams and H.S. Grindley, "A Study of the Milk Supply of Chicago," Agricultural Experiment Station Circular 13, 1898.
39. Pease, 199.

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40. Addams.
41. Gladys Fraser interview.
42. L. D. Witter, P. H. Tracy, and H. K. Wilson, "Keeping Quality of Pasteurized Grade A Milk Offered for Sale in the Chicago Market," Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin 646, July 1959.
43. Ibid, 18.
44. W. B. Nevens, "An Experiment in the Free-Choice Feeding of Mineral Supplements to Dairy Cattle," Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin 316, December, 1928.
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51. Ibid, 11.
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54. H. C. Crouch, "The Latest in Circular Barn Construction," The Illinois Agriculturist, (November 1911).
55. Wilber John Fraser, "Economy of the Round Dairy Barn," Agricultural Experimental Station Bulletin 143, February 1910, 494.
56. John Fraser Hart, The Look of the Land, (Englewood, NJ: Prentice Hall Inc., 1975), 135.

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58. Wilber John Fraser, "Possibilities of the Round Dairy Barns," The Illinois Agriculturist, XIV (March 1910), 27.
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61. Dexter W. Johnson, "Using Old Farm Buildings," Agricultural Engineering Research Report No. 88-1, (July 1988), 4.
62. Wayne Price, "The Round Barn in Illinois," Historic Illinois (February 1983), 10.
63. Buz Swerkstrom, "Like Chocolate Chip Cookies, Round Barns are Hard to Resist," Milwaukee Sentinel, 6 July 1989, 1.
64. Swerkstrom, 1.
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66. Ibid.
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68. Rosemary Hilbert, "Concentric Barns in Wisconsin, Learning to Think Round," manuscript given to author through the Wisconsin SHPO (April 1987), 12.
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74. Fraser, "Possibilities," 27.
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77. Price, 12.

78. Swerkstrom, 1.

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82. Editorial, The Illinois Agriculturist XIV (1912), 1.

83. Ibid.

84. See the "Round Barns in Illinois" multiple property listing for a more complete discussion of the decline of round barns in Illinois.

85. Stanley J. Bush, Operation and Maintenance Division; interview held at the University of Illinois campus, Champaign, Illinois, 28 June 1993.

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Verbal Boundary Description

Commencing at a point occupied 49 feet due west of a fire hydrant in the northwest corner of the historic district, just south of the existing St. Mary's Road pavement, go due south 457 feet following the east edge of an unimproved dirt road. At said point, just outside of the existing fence line, go due east 395 feet, a point currently marked by a utility pole. Then go 90 feet north east to a point marked by a second utility pole. Then go from said point 147 feet due north from said point. Then go 52 feet due east following the fence line. Then go from said point 290 feet due north to a point just south of the paved surface of St. Mary's Road. Then go due west for 949 feet to the point of origin.

Boundary Justification

The historic district includes the round barn grouping, the related residential building, and other dairy-related outbuildings which comprise the experimental complex. The grounds included within the historic district represent the remaining acreage which was utilized as part of the original dairy complex and which retains historic integrity. The boundaries were identified through historic photographs of the complex. The immediately surrounding acreage outside of the historic district continues in agricultural use, and provides an appropriate context for the historic district. Substantially removed to the southeast of the historic district is the University of Illinois' Veterinary Medical College complex.

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Form Prepared By

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Section 7 (building descriptions)



United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

P.O. BOX 37127
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20013-7127

IN REPLY REFER TO

The Director of the National Park Service is pleased to inform you that the following properties have been entered in the National Register of Historic Places. For further information call 202/343-9542.

FEB 11 1994

WEEKLY LIST OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON PROPERTIES: 1/31/94 THROUGH 2/04/94

KEY: State, County, Property Name, Address/Boundary, City, Vicinity, Reference Number NHL Status, Action, Date, Multiple Name

COLORADO, PUEBLO COUNTY, Colorado Building, 401--411 N. Main St., Pueblo, 92000315, NOMINATION, 4/17/92
ILLINOIS, CALHOUN COUNTY, Kamp Store, Jct. of Oak and Broadway, NE corner, Kampsville, 94000027, NOMINATION, 2/04/94
ILLINOIS, MACON COUNTY, Wabash Railroad Station and Railway Express Agency, 780 E. Cerro Gordo St., Decatur, 94000029, NOMINATION, 2/04/94
ILLINOIS, ROCK ISLAND COUNTY, LeClaire Hotel, Jct. of 19th St. and 5th Ave., Moline, 94000025, NOMINATION, 2/04/94
ILLINOIS, WABASH COUNTY, Beall--Orr House, 503 Cherry St., Mt. Carmel, 94000028, NOMINATION, 2/04/94
ILLINOIS, WHITE COUNTY, Haas, L., Store, 219 E. Main St., Carmi, 94000026, NOMINATION, 2/04/94
KANSAS, RENO COUNTY, Graber, John P. O. House, 208 E. 6th St., Hutchinson, 93001518, NOMINATION, 1/27/94
KENTUCKY, HARDIN COUNTY, Fort Duffield, E of US 31W off West Point Marina Rd., West Point vicinity, 93001584, NOMINATION, 1/31/94
MARYLAND, WASHINGTON COUNTY, Hagerstown Historic District, Roughly bounded by Prospect and Canon Aves., Memorial Blvd. and the CSX RR tracks., Hagerstown, 93001551, NOMINATION, 2/02/94
MASSACHUSETTS, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, Tewksbury State Hospital, Jct. of East and Livingston Sts., Tewksbury, 93001486, NOMINATION, 1/21/94 (Massachusetts State Hospitals And State Schools MPS)
MINNESOTA, SHERBURNE COUNTY, Fox, Herbert M., House, US 10 NW of Becker, Becker vicinity, 80002175, ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION, 2/04/94
NEW JERSEY, HUDSON COUNTY, Stevens, Edwin A., Hall, Fifth St. between Hudson and River Sts., Hoboken, 94000009, NOMINATION, 2/04/94
NEW JERSEY, SALEM COUNTY, Smith, William, House, Jct. of NJ 45 and Bassett Rd., Mannington Township, Salem vicinity, 94000008, NOMINATION, 2/04/94
NEW YORK, ALBANY COUNTY, New Scotland Avenue (Troop B) Armory, 130 New Scotland Ave., Albany, 93001536, NOMINATION, 1/28/94 (Army National Guard Armories in New York State MPS)
NEW YORK, ERIE COUNTY, Tonawanda (25th Separate Company) Armory, 79 Delaware Ave., Tonawanda, 93001539, NOMINATION, 1/28/94 (Army National Guard Armories in New York State MPS)
NEW YORK, MONROE COUNTY, Hipp--Kennedy House, 1931 Five Mile Run Rd., Penfield vicinity, 94000003, NOMINATION, 2/04/94
NEW YORK, MONROE COUNTY, Wallace, Timothy, House, 2169 S. Clinton Ave., Rochester vicinity, 94000004, NOMINATION, 2/04/94
NEW YORK, NEW YORK COUNTY, 369th Regiment Armory, 2366 Fifth Ave., New York, 93001537, NOMINATION, 1/28/94 (Army National Guard Armories in New York State MPS)
NEW YORK, NEW YORK COUNTY, 69th Regiment Armory, 68 Lexington Ave., New York, 93001538, NOMINATION, 1/28/94 (Army National Guard Armories in New York State MPS)
NORTH CAROLINA, ALAMANCE COUNTY, McCauley--Watson House, NC 1754 (Blanchard Rd.) SW side, 1.5 mi. NW of jct. with NC 62, Union Ridge vicinity, 94000022, NOMINATION, 2/04/94
NORTH CAROLINA, HALIFAX COUNTY, Kehukee Primitive Baptist Church, NC 1810 NE side, just E of jct. with NC 125, Scotland Neck vicinity, 94000023, NOMINATION, 2/04/94
OREGON, DOUGLAS COUNTY, Gardiner Historic District, Roughly bounded by 3rd, Camp, 2nd, Pitt, Spring, Front and Garden Sts., Gardiner, 93000003, NOMINATION, 1/31/94
OREGON, MULTNOMAH COUNTY, United States Steel Corporation Office and Warehouse, 2345 NW. Nicolai St., Portland, 93001561, NOMINATION, 1/31/94
PENNSYLVANIA, CHESTER COUNTY, Gregg, Joseph, House, 500 Chandler Mill Rd., Kennett Township, Kennett Square vicinity, 94000007, NOMINATION, 2/04/94
PENNSYLVANIA, FAYETTE COUNTY, Douglas, John S., House, 136 N. Gallatin Ave., Uniontown, 94000006, NOMINATION, 2/04/94
PUERTO RICO, VIEQUES MUNICIPALITY, Casa Augusto Delerme, 7 Benitez Guzman St., Isabel Segunda, 93001555, NOMINATION, 2/02/94
PUERTO RICO, VIEQUES MUNICIPALITY, Delerme--Anduze House, 361 Antonio Mellado St., Isabel Segunda, 93001556, NOMINATION, 2/02/94
PUERTO RICO, VIEQUES MUNICIPALITY, Smaine--Oritz House, 341 Antonio Mellado St., Isabel Segunda, 93001554, NOMINATION, 2/02/94
SOUTH CAROLINA, CHARLESTON COUNTY, Sunnyside Plantation Foreman's House (Boundary Increase), N of jct. of Peters Point and Creekwood Rd., Edisto Island, 94000024, NOMINATION, 2/04/94 (Edisto Island MRA)
UTAH, WASHINGTON COUNTY, Santa Clara Relief Society Hall, Approximately 3036 W. Santa Clara Dr., Santa Clara, 93001577, NOMINATION, 2/02/94 (Mormon Church Buildings in Utah MPS)
WISCONSIN, CHIPPEWA COUNTY, Cornell Pulpwood Stacker, Cornell Mill Yard Park, Cornell, 93001425, NOMINATION, 12/23/93