

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

| |
|------------------|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |
| RECEIVED |
| DATE ENTERED |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Pavelka Farmstead (WT00-104)

AND/OR COMMON

Antonia Farmstead

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Bladen

VICINITY OF

Third

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Nebraska

031

Webster

181

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

__DISTRICT

__PUBLIC

__OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

__PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

__COMMERCIAL

__PARK

__STRUCTURE

__BOTH

__WORK IN PROGRESS

__EDUCATIONAL

__PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

__ENTERTAINMENT

__RELIGIOUS

__OBJECT

__IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

__GOVERNMENT

__SCIENTIFIC

__BEING CONSIDERED

__YES: UNRESTRICTED

__INDUSTRIAL

__TRANSPORTATION

__NO

__MILITARY

__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

State of Nebraska

STREET & NUMBER

1500 R Street

CITY, TOWN

Lincoln

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Nebraska

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Webster County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Red Cloud

STATE

Nebraska

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Webster County: Showing places alluded to by Willa Cather

DATE

1960 (Carrie Miner Sherwood)

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL Private

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Willa Cather Historical Center, Nebraska State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Red Cloud

STATE

Nebraska

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET Owner of Property ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 2

Haldine P. and Lyra M. Johnson
Route 2, Box 57
Minden, Nebraska 68959

7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Pavelka farmstead is located on the Divide in north-central Webster County, Nebraska and in the northern part of a small but substantial Bohemian settlement concentrated primarily in Batin and Glenwood townships. The Webster County Divide is a long, narrow stretch of flat-lying plains which extends east-west between the watersheds of the Big Blue River on the north and the Republican River on the South. The land-form changes immediately south of the farmstead to the hilly dissected plains which constitute the major land-form of the county.

The farmstead is located near the northeast corner of the property which is included in this nomination. The surrounding farmlands are those which were farmed by John Pavelka during the period of historic importance associated with this site.

The farmstead is a group of buildings representative of a modest, central Great Plains farm of the turn of the century. Additionally, the grouping, arranged in courtyard fashion around the well, is highly reminiscent of typical eastern European farmyard arrangements (see photocopy #13). The house is located along the east edge of the courtyard nearest the road. A tool shed, dog house, granary, two fowl houses and a shop enclose the northern edge of the courtyard while the barn and its associated fencing close the west. An earlier, nineteenth century house with a later shed addition and the corn crib serve to enclose the south edge. This early house has been almost totally dismantled and covered with corrugated metal and has purportedly seen use as a granary as well as a garage or shed. Substantial shelterbelts further enclose the farm group on the north and south while remnants of the orchard are still extant in the north shelterbelt. A brick-vaulted cave or food cellar is located just southwest of the house.

Notable features of the farm group include the house, the barn and the cellar. The house is a one-and-one-half story frame structure comprised of two sections (one moved in, the other added on). The house has seen some remodeling. The original structure is the gabled portion along the north. Oriented with its gable facing the road, this one story, two-room building was moved in from "the southeast" after 1905. Entrance was gained through the south facade. About 1911, Joe Pavelka built the one-and-one-half story wing to the south creating the present ell configuration. Notable features of the addition include the hip-roofed dormers in the loft space, the clipped-gable roof and the return cornice. The addition also incorporated a shed-roofed, ell-shaped porch which has since been enclosed.

The house has been altered in several ways. The kitchen originally the west room of the moved-in structure, was moved to the west room of the addition in 1934. Plumbing was added at some later date which altered the plan of the addition. The cupboards from the original pantry were removed and reinstalled in the new kitchen. The present configuration of the house is illustrated in the plan (photocopy #14).

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

The barn is fairly typical of such structures built in the early twentieth century. A frame structure, its walls are sheathed with shiplap which have in turn been covered with corrugated metal on all sides except the west. The low, livestock level is divided by the feed aisle which runs east-west. Modern milk stanchions have replaced the earlier wood ones in the north half of the barn. Original horse stalls and a small granary still occupy the south half of the ground level. A large hay loft is provided under the lumber-trussed gambrel roof. Notable features, in addition to the gambrel roof, include the flared eaves, the large vertically sliding hay door on the south and the metal vent atop the roof.

All of the other outbuildings on the property are of standard frame construction with the exception of the larger chicken house which is tile. This building was originally a shed-roofed structure which has been altered with frame construction to its present gabled appearance. Exterior finishes are of considerable variety and include clapboard, vertical boards, corrugated metal and tar paper.

The remaining feature of note is the brick-vaulted cellar. This structure was completed sometime after the addition was made to the house and is in excellent condition.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Ethnic heritage |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1905-11 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Joe Pavelka

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Pavelka farmstead is significant as the setting for Willa Cather's Book V, "Cuzak's Boys," of My Antonia, and the short story, "Neighbor Rosicky." Additionally, the site's significance to Czech-American cultural heritage is considerably enhanced through Cather's use of the site in these writings.

Willa Cather, noted American author, spent most of her youth in and around Red Cloud, Nebraska.¹ She was later to say, "The ideas for all my novels have come from things that happened around Red Cloud when I was a child...I always intended to write, and there were certain persons I studied..."²

Cather had known Annie Sadilek Pavelka while growing up in Webster County but lost touch with her when she left to live in the East. When they again met, Annie was married and living on this farm on the Divide with her husband and children. Cather recreated the setting of that reunion in My Antonia, perhaps her most acclaimed novel.

"On my way East I broke my journey at Hastings, in Nebraska, and set off with an open buggy and a fairly good livery team to find the Cuzak farm. At a little past midday, I knew I must be nearing my destination. Set back on a swell of land at my right, I saw a wide farm-house, with a red barn and an ash grove, and cattle-yards in front that sloped down to the highroad...The boys escorted us to the front of the house, which I hadn't yet seen; in farm-houses, somehow, life comes and goes by the back door. The roof was so steep that the eaves were not much above the forest of tall hollyhocks, now brown and in seed. Through July, Antonia said, the house was buried in them; the Bohemians, I remembered, always planted hollyhocks. The front yard was enclosed by a thorny locust hedge, and at the gate grew two silvery, mothlike trees of the mimosa family."³

-
1. See "Willa Cather House", National Historic Landmark nomination by Robert S. Gamble, July 19, 1971 (Webster County, Nebraska).
 2. Bennett, Mildred R. The World of Willa Cather. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1961, pp. 46-47. (quoted from an interview by Eleanor Hinman, Lincoln Sunday Star. November 6, 1921.)
 3. Cather, Willa. My Antonia. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1954, pp. 329.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

The house is also prominent in one of Cather's short stories, "Neighbor Rosicky." Rosicky looks back from the edge of his land and "Over yonder on the hill, he could see his own house, crouching low, with the clump of orchard behind and the windmill before..."⁴

To the South of the house is the fruit cave that Cather describes in My Antonia.

When we descended, they (the boys) all came down after us, and seemed quite as proud of the cave as the girls were. Ambrosch, the thoughtful-looking one who had directed me down by the plum bushes, called my attention to the stout brick walls and the cement floor. 'Yes, it's a good way from the house,' he admitted. 'But, you see, in winter there are nearly always some of us around to come out and get things.'⁵

The various ethnic cultures which existed in and around Cather's childhood home played a significant role in Cather's writings.⁶ This is particularly true of the Czech heritage portrayed in My Antonia.⁷

"It is unusual for an American, be he or she ever so kindly and broad-minded, to entirely grasp the psychology of a foreign people, but Miss Cather has done it thoroughly."⁸

Beyond the site's explicit connection with a family of Czech background (arriving from Czechoslovakia, ca. 1889), the farmstead's courtyard arrangement and the sense of enclosure it achieves appears to bear a strong relationship to its more compact Czechoslovakian counterpart.⁹ While it is not unusual for rural cultures to prefer the back door to the front door for everyday as well as guest use, the orientation of the Pavelka house with

4. Cather, Willa. "Neighbor Rosicky". Obscure Destinies. New York: Random House, Inc., 1974, pp. 17-18.

5. Cather, Op. Cit., p. 33

6. Bennett, Op. Cit., p. 119.

7. Ibid., p. 203.

8. Rosicky, Rose (Comp). A History of Czechs (Bohemians) in Nebraska. Omaha: Czech Historical Society of Nebraska, 1929, p. 207.

9. Stano, Pavol. "Ludove Stavitelstvo v Rejdovej" Slovensky Narodopis 2 (1957), pp. 172-173; Salzman, Zdenek and Vladimir Scheufler. Komarov: A Czech Farming Village. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc., .974, pp. 26-27.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

the major (and only) entrance facing the courtyard away from the road, indicates the survival of a major eastern and central European preference.¹⁰ One might also note, in this respect, the orientation of the original gabled portion of the house and the dormered and clipped-gabled addition.

-
10. Ibid and Murphy, D. "A Survey of Historic-Architectural Sites in the Sunshine Bottom Area of Boyd County, Nebraska." typed ms., Nebraska State Historical Society, November, 1977, p. 20.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 160

QUADRANGLE NAME Bladen

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A

| | | | | | |
|------|---------|----------|----|----|------|
| 14 | 538 | 4710 | 44 | 59 | 2510 |
| ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | | |

B

| | | | | | |
|------|---------|----------|----|----|------|
| 14 | 539 | 2610 | 44 | 59 | 2510 |
| ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | | |

C

| | | | | | |
|------|---------|----------|----|----|------|
| 14 | 539 | 2610 | 44 | 58 | 4510 |
| ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | | |

D

| | | | | | |
|------|---------|----------|----|----|------|
| 14 | 538 | 4810 | 44 | 58 | 4410 |
| ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | | |

E

| | | | | | |
|------|---------|----------|--|--|--|
| | | | | | |
| ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | | |

F

| | | | | | |
|------|---------|----------|--|--|--|
| | | | | | |
| ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | | |

G

| | | | | | |
|------|---------|----------|--|--|--|
| | | | | | |
| ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | | |

H

| | | | | | |
|------|---------|----------|--|--|--|
| | | | | | |
| ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 27, Township 4 North, Range 11 West, encompassing the historic farmlands of John Pavelka and Anton (Anna) Sadilek Pavelka, major character in Willa Cather's My Antonia.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ann E. Billesbach, Curator
ORGANIZATION

D. Murphy, Survey Architect
DATE December, 1978

Willa Cather Historical Center
STREET & NUMBER

Nebraska State Historical Society
TELEPHONE

Box 488, (402) 746-2653
CITY OR TOWN

1500 R Street (402) 432-2793
STATE

Red Cloud, Nebraska 68970

Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Miriam E. Kmetz 12/26/78

TITLE Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Bennett, Mildred R. The World of Willa Cather Lincoln: University of
Nebraska Press, 1961.

Cather, Willa "Neighbor Rosicky" Obscure Destinies New York: Randon
House, Inc., 1974.

Cather, Willa My Antonia. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1954.



Photo 1– view of house and cellar looking northeast
Photo by Dick Spencer, 1978, NSHS (7804/8:5A)



Photo 2– detail view of brick vaulted cellar looking east
Photo by Dick Spencer, 1978, NSHS (7804/8:11A)



Photo 3– view of house looking southeast
Photo by Dick Spencer, 1978, NSHS (7804/5:33)



Photo 4– view of house looking northwest
Photo by Dick Spencer, 1978, NSHS (7804/8:6A)



Photo 5– view looking north-northeast showing shed and barn
Photo by Dan Kidd, 1978, NSHS (7811/11:8)



Photo 6– looking west from house showing corn crib, former house and barn
Photo by Dan Kidd, 1978, NSHS (7811/11:26)



Photo 7– general view looking northeast at outbuildings along north edge of farmyard
Photo by Dan Kidd, 1978, NSHS (7811/11:10)



Photo 8– view of granary looking northwest
Photo by Dan Kidd, 1978, NSHS (7811/11:19)



Photo 9– view of large chicken coop looking north
Photo by Dan Kidd, 1978, NSHS (7811/11:16)



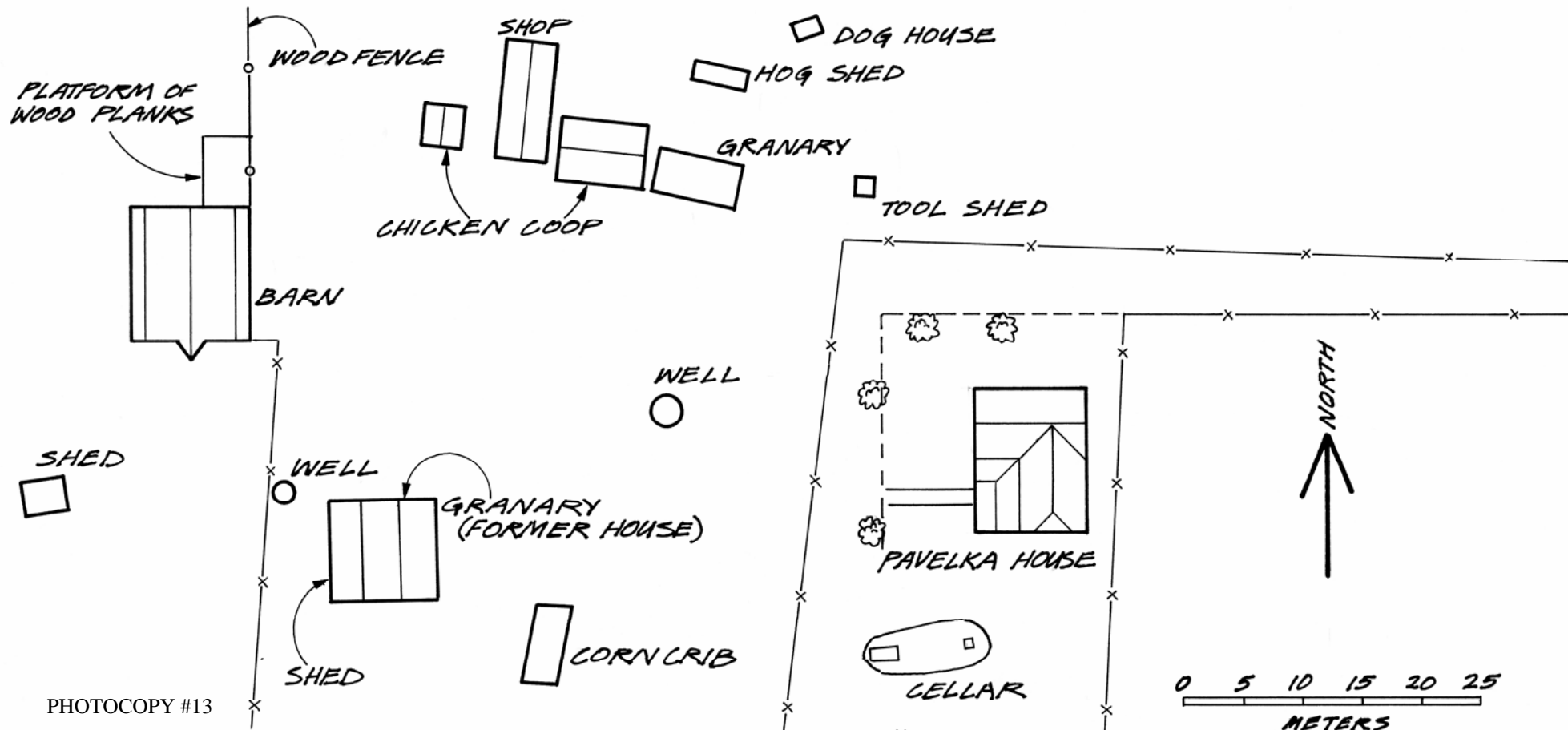
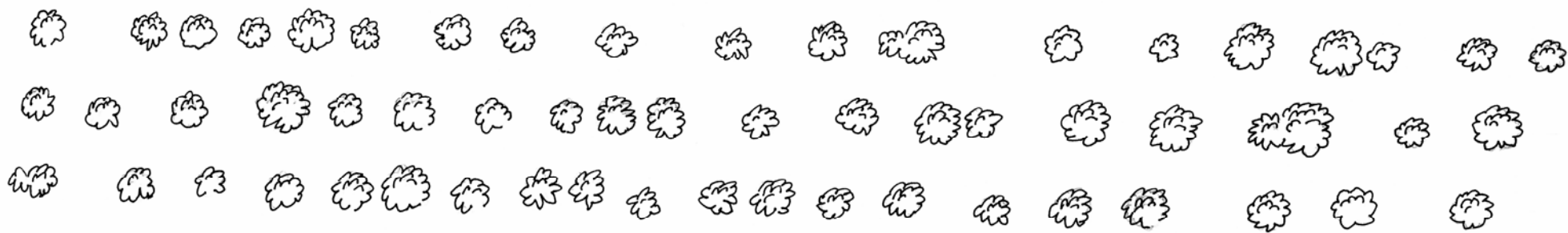
Photo 10– view of shop looking north
Photo by Dan Kidd, 1978, NSHS (7811/11:15)



Photo 11– view looking northwest showing barn, granary (former house) & corn crib
Photo by Dan Kidd, 1978, NSHS (7811/11:21)



Photo 12– detail of door hood on former house (granary) looking northwest
Photo by Dan Kidd, 1978, NSHS (7811/11:20)



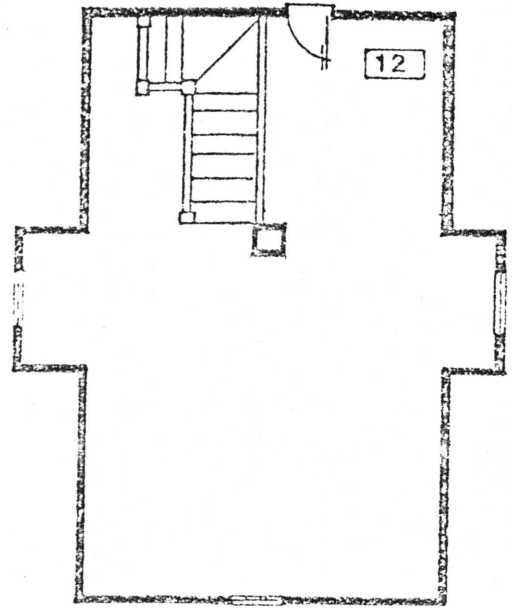
PHOTOCOPY #13

PAVELKA FARMSTEAD (W100-104) WEBSTER COUNTY, NEBRASKA

DRAWN BY STEVE RYAN FROM RON
KIVETT FIELD NOTES, NOVEMBER 1978.



- 1 PORCH
- 2 PANTRY
- 3 N.W. ROOM
- 4 N.E. ROOM
- 5 CLOSET
- 6 KITCHEN
- 7 CLOSET
- 8 CORRIDOR
- 9 CLOSET
- 10 BATH
- 11 S.E. ROOM
- 12 ATTIC



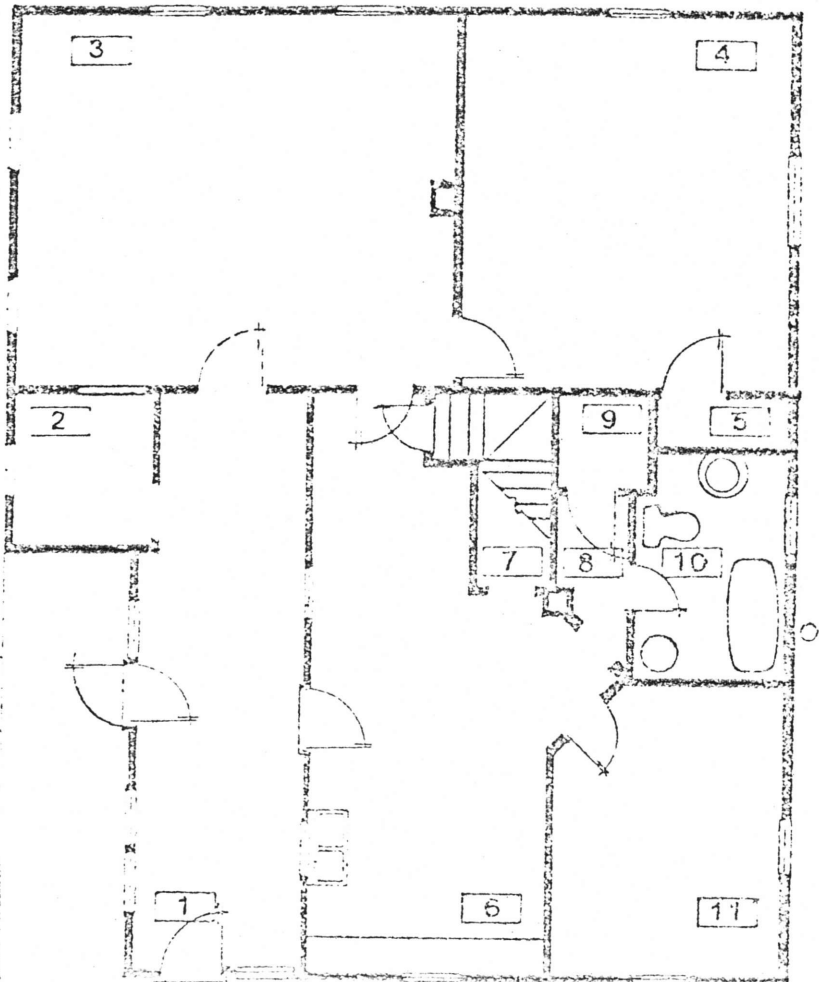
SECOND FLOOR PLAN

SCALE ————— 1/8" = 1'-0"

Photocopy #14

PAVELKA FARMHOUSE
 Webster County, Nebraska
 WT00-104

Jerry Berggren, A.I.A.
 August, 1978



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SCALE ————— 1/8" = 1'-0"