

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 determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Meyers Farmstead Historic District

other names/site number Meyers, Jacob E. and Amanda, Farm; Meyers, John B. and Ella, Farm

Name of Multiple Property Listing _____

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

2. Location

street & number 300 W. Market St.

☐

not for publication

city or town Lisbon

☐

vicinity

state Iowa

county Linn

zip code 52253

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: ___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria: X A ___ B X C ___ D

Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

State Historical Society of Iowa

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | private |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | public - Local |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | public - State |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | public - Federal |

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | building(s) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | district |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | structure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | object |

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 2 | | buildings |
| | | site |
| 2 | | structure |
| 2 | | object |
| 6 | 0 | Total |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE/animal facility

AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding

AGRICULTURE/storage

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/outdoor

recreation

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: Gabled Banked Basement Barn

OTHER: Gabled Feeder Barn

OTHER: Gabled Crib/Hog House

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE/limestone

walls: WOOD

METAL/steel

roof: METAL/steel

other:

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Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph (Briefly describe the current, general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

The Meyers Farmstead Historic District is located near the northwest corner of the intersection of Market and Jefferson streets in the northwest part of the city of Lisbon in southeastern Linn County, Iowa. The street address is 300 W. Market Street, and it is located within the city's corporate limits, as it has been since 1877. The district contains the main agricultural outbuildings and the surrounding site from the Meyers family's former farmstead. The farmhouse is still extant but is now a separate property to the east at 230 W. Market Street. It was separated from the farm property by the extension of N. Jefferson Street circa 2002 when the Meyers Meadow retirement center to the north was built. The extant historic buildings and structures in the district include: a heavy timber frame banked/basement barn with a ramp on the north side; a feeder/hay barn; a combination corn crib/hog house; a concrete silo next to the banked barn; a concrete watering trough and water pump on the south side of the banked barn; and a metal gateway into the property that is marked by two concrete posts at the southeast corner of the district. Significant features of this district include: the origin of the banked barn as a Pennsylvania type barn, which serves as an example of the Lisbon area's German and Pennsylvania Dutch(German) agricultural heritage and the basement of which was remodeled for a "modern" sanitary dairy in the early 20th century following damage to the property from a tornado in 1908; a broad-gabled hay/feeder barn that was built in 1908 to replace a similar barn destroyed by the tornado and reflects the cattle feeding operation of this farm; and the corn crib/hog house, which appears to be an uncommon survivor of this combination outbuilding type in Linn County and reflects the hog feeding operation on this farm. The two barns are contributing buildings to the district, with the corn crib/hog house and the silo counted as contributing structures, and the trough/water pump and the gateway counted as contributing objects. The property retains fair to good historic integrity.

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable.)

(Iowa SHPO Additional Instructions: After the main **Narrative Description**, discuss any physical alterations since the period of significance under the subheading **Alterations**, the seven aspects of integrity as it applies to the property in a **Statement of Integrity**.)

The Meyers Farmstead Historic District lies within the corporate limits of the city of Lisbon, in southeastern Linn County, Iowa (Figures 1-3). It sits on the northwest corner of the intersection of W. Market Street and N. Jefferson Street. The property has been within the city limits since 1877, when the limits were expanded. The farmhouse is extant, but now lies on a separate parcel on the other side of N. Jefferson Street, as the street was extended north of Market Street circa 2002. The farmhouse has also been greatly altered and for these reasons, is not included in the historic district. The farm ground rises gently from W. Market Street, with the barns on the highest point and the crib/hog house on the gentle slope below the main barn. A second crib/hog house structure once stood to the west of this building but was demolished in recent years. North of the crib/hog house are the water trough, banked/basement barn, and silo. The ramp/bridge to the banked barn is on its north side. To the northwest is the feeder/hay barn. The gateway to the property is at the southeast corner at the northwest corner of the intersection of Market and Jefferson streets.

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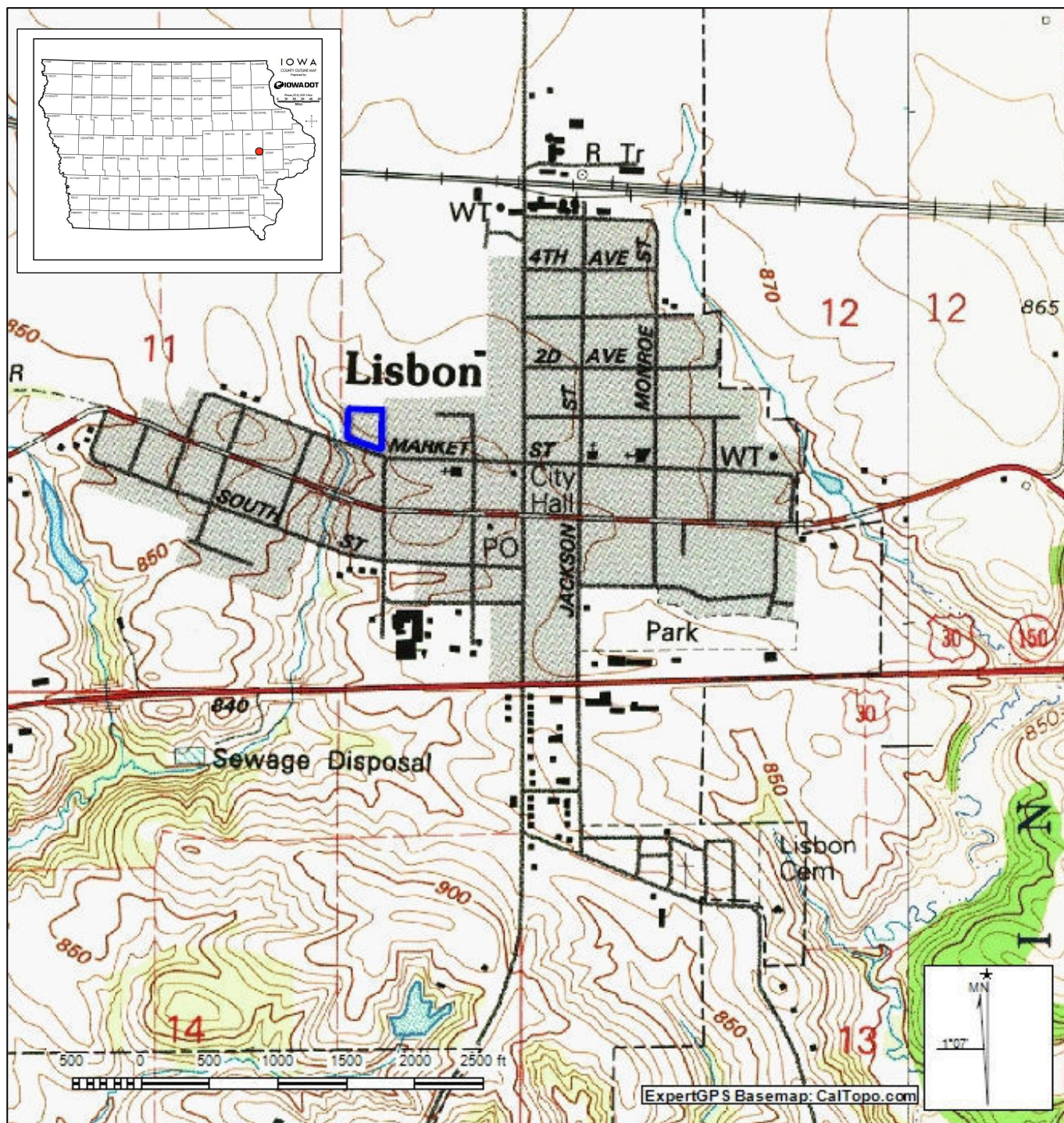


Figure 1. Topographic map showing proposed district boundary (blue outline) in relation to the City of Lisbon.

Inset map shows the location in the State of Iowa as a red dot.

Source: USGS Mt. Vernon, IA Quadrangle obtained from ExpertGPS Pro mapping software, 2020.

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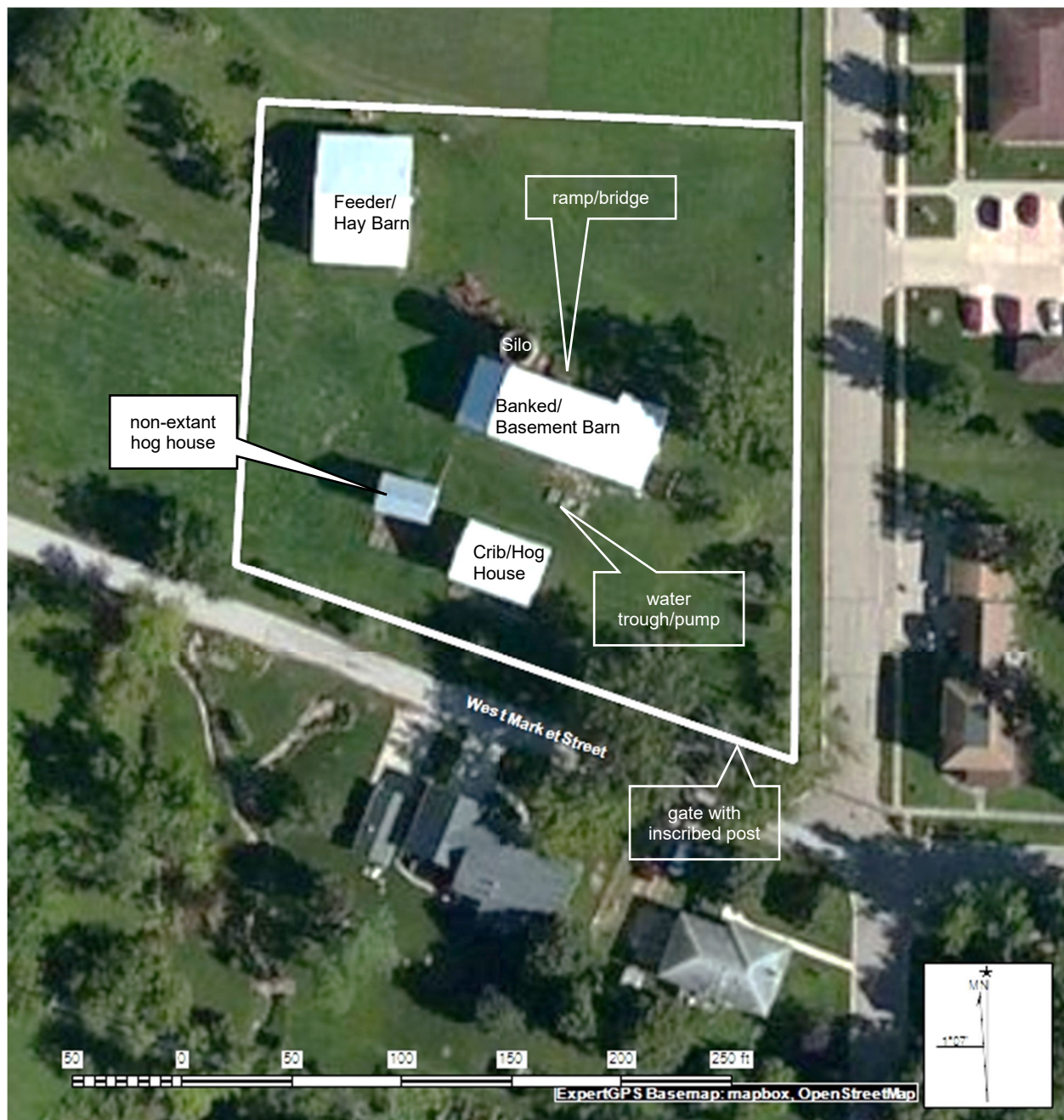


Figure 2. Aerial map showing district boundary (white outline) in relation to the extant barns, the crib/hog house, the watering trough/pump, the southeast gate and inscribed concrete fencepost as well as the former hog house that was recently removed.

Source: Aerial obtained from ExpertGPS Pro mapping software, 2020

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Figure 3. Looking NW at the Meyers Farm buildings from the intersection of Jefferson and Market streets. Photograph taken by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, April 11, 2020.

Gabled Banked/Basement Barn and Silo (1 contributing building and 1 contributing structure)

This is the main barn on this farmstead, both today and historically. It consists of the original heavy timber frame barn, an older shed-roofed addition to the west gable end, and a later gable-roofed extension addition on the east gable end (Figures 4-5). The original section, as repaired in 1908, is that portion that has a full limestone foundation/basement level and originally had an open space under the forebay on the south side, which overhung a partially open livestock loafing area. The basement level was originally used for livestock stalls and feed bunks. According to a Meyers family descendant, the basement was being used for milk cows before the space under the forebay was fully enclosed. The later enclosure allowed for dairy production to be increased (Steve McElmeel, e-mail communication with Marianne Zahorik, January 16, 2020). The full enclosure of the space under the forebay did not happen until after 1908 as attested to by the tornado aftermath photographs.

The north side of the barn is banked into a gradual slope but has the upper portion of the limestone foundation exposed on the north side. The upper level is reached by an earthen ramp/concrete bridge structure (see Figure 4), which is centered on the original portion of the north side. The upper level was used for hay storage. The open center aisle in the upper section bisects the interior north to south and is covered on the north side by large sliding doors on a metal track. There is currently no opening on the upper level on the south side with only a single small window in the west side of the wall on the south side.

There are several basement-level window openings on the north side of the barn, with a concrete stave silo (missing its domed top) just off the northwest corner of the barn (see Figures 4-5). This silo was added after the 1908 tornado, probably in the 1910s since that is when this type of silo construction became popular (Vogeler 1995:108). The painted diamond pattern around the top of this silo would be unique to the company that built it and will require further research to identify. There are also painted letters below one of the diamonds that reads "gcb," which may be the person who painted the diamonds. Historically, there was a wooden gable-roof that sheltered the door from the silo into the west shed. One can still see the outline of where this roof was attached. However, currently the silo is detached from the barn and is counted as a separate structure.

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**Figure 4. Barn looking WSW and showing the north side banked into the slope, with the earthen ramp having concrete side walls and a concrete bridge connecting the ramp to the north centered door on the upper level of the barn. White arrow is pointing to the open space under the concrete bridge.
Photograph taken by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, April 11, 2020.**



**Figure 5. North side of Banked/Basement Barn and concrete silo looking SSW.
Photograph taken by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, April 13, 2020.**

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Silos are distinctive features of dairy farms, and it appears that when this barn was repaired/rebuilt after the 1908 tornado, that the basement level of the barn became a modern sanitary dairy operation, with the milking stanchions from that operation still in place. "With silage, farmers could keep larger herds of dairy cows during the winter, and the cost was lower than dry feed" (Vogeler 1995:108). The basement continued to be used for milking until about 1968 by others, although the Meyers' operation of this farm ceased in 1940 (John B. Meyers as told to Eleanor Butterfield in 1972).

The west gable end of the original barn has a one-story, shed-roofed addition that has a board-formed, poured concrete foundation, vertical wooden board-and-batten siding, and metal roofing like the rest of the barn (Figure 6). The west wall has a small fixed four-pane window to the left (north) of a single open-out door that is covered with board-and-batten siding. There is a small upper door that opens out in the opposite direction as the lower door that is also covered with vertical board siding. The interior of this shed has access to the silo and has a metal manure track railing curving along the ceiling into the shed from the main milking parlor in the original portion of the basement level. The original stone wall of the basement is the east wall of this shed. This, coupled with the concrete foundation under this shed, indicates it was not original to the barn's construction in the 1870s but it was present by 1908 because it is visible in the tornado aftermath photographs. In the west gable end of the original section of the barn, there is a small loft door that is made of vertical boards and hinged on the south side to open out. The east side of the rear shed has two sliding doors on its lower level that slide on a metal track. These doors allowed livestock to access this rear shed where there were feed bunks but also provided access to the manure track for clean-out of the barn's interior.



**Figure 6. Looking at SSE at Banked/Basement Barn and Silo.
Photograph taken by Tallgrass, July 22, 2020.**

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The original forebay section of the barn is discernable on the south side of the original barn by the now wood-sided lower level that has a series of four-pane, tilt-in windows between four human-access doors (Figure 7). This area also now has a two-foot high concrete foundation wall to support this enclosure. This wall would not have been there originally when the forebay would have been open, or only partially open as it was by 1908. The west and east gable ends on the south side have stone walls. As noted above, the upper level of the south wall has only one fixed four-pane window and no other openings. The tilt-in windows are from Clay Equipment of Cedar Falls, Iowa, and have metal slanted sections on the interior into which the windows tilt-in to provide ventilation but are held only partially open to help shed rain.



Figure 7. South side of Banked/Basement Barn looking NNW. Photograph taken by Tallgrass, July 22, 2020.

One of the noted products in the circa 1939 Clay Equipment Corporation catalog was open-air windows for both masonry and wood walls. These are advertised as “all steel, easy to operate” and providing “ample light” and “ventilation without drafts” (Clay Equipment Corporation circa 1939). One illustration of the open-air steel window showed it with a tilt-in steel frame window with four to six panes of glass. The windows in the Meyers air-flow vents are wooden-frame four-pane windows that tilt into the open-air metal winged frames with the Clay Equipment Corp. logo and name (Figure 8). The catalog did note that there was an open-air model that had “no glass” and also ones with wood frames. They also touted a product called “Vita Glass,” which “transmit a large percentage of these ultra-violet health rays” and claimed that “common glass in your barn windows completely screens out the short ultra-violet health rays and eliminates all benefits to your calves of sunshine, the source of Vitamin D” (Clay Equipment Corporation circa 1939:54). While the catalog also listed stanchions and automatic drinking bowls, the extant watering bowls are marked “Klinzing” for the Klinzing Manufacturing Co. of St. Cloud, Wisconsin (Figure 9). Clay Equipment was established in 1900 and is still operating today as part of the Freeman Company, while Klinzing Manufacturing began in 1898 and has operated since 1964 as part of the Agromatic Company. Whether the Clay equipment was added after 1908 or in the 1920s after a new co-operative creamery opened in Lisbon is uncertain; likewise, the Klinzing

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automatic watering bowls could have been added up to 1964 when that company name changed. Regardless, it can be stated this equipment was all installed during the period of significance for this district.¹

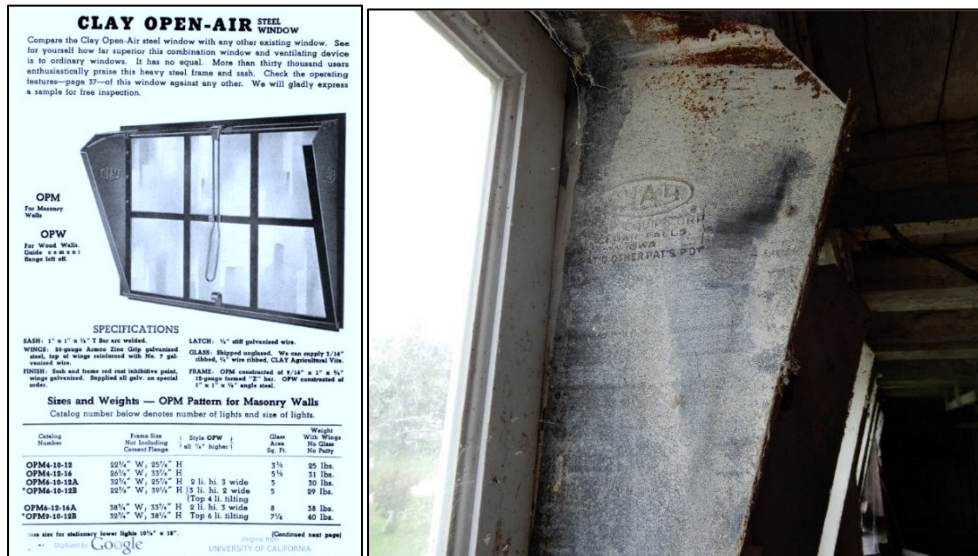


Figure 8. Clay Equipment Co. catalogue entries for Clay Open-Air windows (left) and detail of one of the tilt-in windows with the Clay logo along the south wall of the banked/basement barn looking WSW on October 1, 2019.



Figure 9. Detail of Klinzing-marked automatic watering bowl in the banked/basement barn on July 22, 2020.

¹ Clay Equipment of Cedar Falls was originally incorporated in Iowa in 1900 as the Iowa Gate Company. The company "was always engaged in the design, manufacture, and sale of agricultural products" (Brief History of Clay Equipment Corp. accessed at <https://sites.google.com/site/thefreemanco1/clay-farm-equipment>, January 31, 2020). While its last incorporation record as the Clay Equipment Corporation dates from 1955 and notes the principal office was then still in Cedar Falls, two catalogs published by the "Clay Equipment Corporation" of Cedar Falls, IA, Binghamton, NY, and Oakland, California, in 1928 and circa 1939 indicate that this name and the logo seen on the vents in the Meyers barn certainly pre-date 1955. It continued as such until the 1990s when it was purchased by Top Air Manufacturing. At that time, the company's main facility was moved from its original location in Cedar Falls. It is now part of the Freeman Company, with "Clay Farm Equipment" one of their product lines. Klinzing Manufacturing was founded in 1898 and specialized in "providing America's Dairymen with the industry's highest quality equipment" (About Agromatic Inc., accessed at <https://agromatic.net/history/>, July 2020). The main office was relocated from St. Cloud to Milwaukee, WI in 1960, with the company name changed in 1964 to Agromatic: a division of A.F. Klinzing Co., Inc. Agromatic is still in operation.

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The current east gable end is an extension that was made after 1908 by the Meyers (Figure 10). The upper walls are clad with vertical board siding, with two open-out mow doors in the gable peak that are sheltered by a hay hood under which the metal hay track extended to the exterior. These mow doors are made of vertical boards and are metal hinged on either side. The basement level of the east gable end is a stone wall that matches the style and stone type used in the original barn foundation. This limestone would have been quarried locally either in Lisbon or nearby Mount Vernon. There are two Dutch doors on this end in the stone foundation that are made of vertical boards and hinged on the north side of each. The doors are in two halves, so that the upper door can be opened for ventilation and light, while the lower door remains latched shut to keep livestock inside or out. There is a four-pane window in the foundation to the left of the centered door. The other door is to the right.



Figure 10. East gable end of Banked/Basement Barn looking West. Photograph taken by Tallgrass, April 13, 2020.

The interior of the basement of the original portion of the barn was made into a “modern” sanitary milking operation in the early 20th century. It is known that the full enclosure of the space under the forebay happened after the 1908 tornado, but the Clay equipment may be a 1920s improvement and the Klinzing watering bowls could have been added up to 1964. The improvement of the milking operations reflects the implementation of federal and state regulations in the dairy industry after the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906, which led to a slew of new regulations that resulted in safer and more sanitary conditions for food products in the United States. Some of the new regulations were federal, while others were implemented by the states. In this case, the dairy operation was improved with concrete floors and whitewashed walls and ceilings, metal milking stanchions and automatic watering bowls, and a system for collecting, moving, and cleaning out manure and urine from the floor including a metal track for conveyance and floor drains for cleaning out (Figures 11-16). The milking operation was in the center of the barn, with the front addition used for livestock and horse stalls and feeding areas and the rear addition used as a loafing area for livestock and provided access to the lower level of the silo. The area between the milking parlor and the front addition included another stall and feed bunk and the milk cooling room but the aisle was also used as the tack room. Wooden chutes from the upper loft area conveyed hay and grain to the basement level in various locations. The interior expansion was achieved by the placement of metal posts to support the upper, original hewn cross-beam that would have originally been supported by wood framing and timber posts. The basement ceiling shows where the original squared hewn beams and posts were joined. The wide wooden floor planks of the loft are also visible but whitewashed on the basement’s ceiling.

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Figure 11. Detail of hewn cross beams in ceiling of basement level of Banked Barn of area where original forebay was enclosed and open to the interior removing some vertical posts in the process. Photographs taken by Tallgrass, October 1, 2019.



Figure 12. Interior of milking room of basement level of Banked Barn looking East. Photograph taken by Tallgrass, July 22, 2020.

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**Figure 13. Detail of milking stanchions and watering poles in basement level of Banked Barn looking NNW.
Photograph taken by Tallgrass, October 1, 2019.**



**Figure 14. Center aisle of milking parlor in basement level of Banked Barn looking West.
Photograph taken by Tallgrass, July 22, 2020.**

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Figure 15. Interior of basement-level of Banked Barn looking West. Note metal poles supporting hand-hewn beams in what would have been the original forebay. Photograph taken by Tallgrass, October 1, 2019.



Figure 16. Interior of milk room/washroom just off the milking parlor in the Banked Barn. Photograph taken by Tallgrass, October 1, 2019.

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When the 1908 tornado damaged this barn, a newspaper account of the damage in Lisbon noted of the Jacob E. Meyers farm the “top of hay barn ruined, cattle shed demolished, roof of hog-house damaged” (*Lisbon Sun*, June 12, 1908; see also June 11, 1908). While identified as a “hay barn” that description refers to the function of the upper level, which was the portion of the barn that sustained the damage. The basement level of the banked basement barn was always used for livestock, with the feed stored in the loft above where it could stay dry and be fed to the livestock below.

The interior of the west shed addition shows a pole construction on the interior using debarked and partially debarked poles as both the vertical and horizontal posts and beams. The floor is partially dirt and partially concrete (Figure 17). This addition was already on the barn in 1908. The interior of the east addition shows one doorway was rough-cut through the original east stone foundation wall to gain access into the addition. This addition has stalls and wooden feed bunks for horses and other livestock as needed. The ceiling of the east addition has poles with the bark left on and poles that were debarked and partially debarked for ceiling joists and sawn posts indicative of a later construction date for this section. When this end was added, it widened the width of the barn on the northeast corner. In the original barn basement, there are rooms between the east addition and the milking parlor that had an additional stall, a milk cooling and washroom, a tack room, and access to the loft.



Figure 17. Clockwise from top left: Interior of west shed addition to gable end of Banked/Basement Barn looking WSW; interior of west shed addition to Banked/Basement Barn showing original exterior of west foundation wall of barn; interior of east addition looking north at stalls and wooden feed bunks; and door cut into east wall of original stone foundation for access into east addition and showing tack hanging on the aisle wall.
Photographs taken by Tallgrass, October 1, 2019.

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The interior of the loft level of the original barn reflects the fact that the roof structure was replaced after the 1908 tornado, with the rafters being sawn but tied into the original hand-hewn square cross and side beams (Figures 18-20). The vertical posts are also square hand-hewn timbers with hand-hewn cross beams but having sawn angled bracing. The original posts and beams are fastened together with mortise-and-tenon joinery and hand-made wooden pegs. Some framing elements have been cut or removed in places, which has probably weakened the structure, but having a good roof on the building and keeping the doors and windows shut helps to keep it stabilized so that the wind does not wrack the structure. The flooring appears to be the original wide wooden planks and in fairly good condition. The fact that this barn was hard hit by the 1908 tornado and remained standing and still remains in good condition is remarkable and attests to the strength of the massive timbers used in its original construction. The current bridge ramp up to this level consists of a concrete slab bridge with an open space underneath but is supported by concrete walls, with earth then backfilled up to the level of the bridge (Figure 21). Thus, machinery could easily drive into the upper loft's center aisle for loading and unloading hay and feed. Originally, the ramp was made of stone, some blocks of which remain, with the bridge likely made of timber and wooden planks. Overall, the wooden siding on the original barn is fastened with both machine-cut and wire nails indicating later repairs and continued maintenance of the barn exterior. The barn is currently painted white, with the metal roofing also having a white finish.



Figure 18. Top: Detail of hand-hewn posts and beams, sawn angled bracing, and the mortise-and-tenon, pegged joiner in the upper loft framing of the Banked Barn; Bottom: Detail of hewn joinery of loft wall framing in the Banked Barn looking up. Photographs taken by Tallgrass, October 1, 2019.

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Figure 19. Interior bent framing of loft area of Banked Barn looking East. Note that some original members are missing likely from the 1908 tornado that took off the roof of this building. Photograph taken by Tallgrass, October 1, 2019.



Figure 20. Interior and end wall loft framing of west half of Banked Barn looking west into the shed-roofed addition. Photograph taken by Tallgrass, July 22, 2020.

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Photographs of this barn from the aftermath of the 1908 tornado show that the roof was completely blown off and the east end wall in a state of collapse (Figure 21). However, this photograph also shows that the barn was a Pennsylvania-type barn design and had a forebay on the south side that had the space underneath at least partially enclosed but had stone end walls. This would likely be categorized as “closed forebay” type of the standard Pennsylvania barn type (Ensminger 1992:67), meaning that there were stone end walls that closed in the ends of the forebay rather than the forebay being cantilevered. This barn type reflects the origins of most early builders in the Lisbon community, whose original settlers were groups of United Brethren who hailed from Pennsylvania and settled in Lisbon as a colony. While most of these early settlers were German-born or of German descent, they were referred to as “Pennsylvania Dutch,” a verbal corruption of Pennsifaanisch-Deutsche, which roughly translates to “Pennsylvania Germans.” Pennsylvania Dutch refers to “people originally of eastern Pennsylvania whose characteristic cultural traditions go back to the German immigrants of the 18th century.”² In short, the presence of a Pennsylvania-type barn would not be unexpected in the Lisbon vicinity; however, few of these barns remain standing much less in such good repair and none within the city limits. Of course, the barn was repaired after the 1908 tornado; however, the main structure and framing of the original barn remain intact. It should be noted that it is not unusual for barns in Linn County and Iowa to have new roofs put on through the years.



Figure 21. Photographs of the aftermath of the 1908 tornado on the Meyers Farmstead. Both views are looking NNW with the ruins of the city’s power plant in the left foreground. The Banked/Basement Barn in the right background, the Crib/Hog House in the center, and the second hog house (now non-extant) to left center.
Source: Lisbon History Center.

² (Merriam-Webster online dictionary accessed at [https://www.merriamwebster.com/dictionary/Pennsylvania% 20Dutch](https://www.merriamwebster.com/dictionary/Pennsylvania%20Dutch), January 2019). The Pennsylvania Dutch were associated with a number of religious affiliations including Lutheran, Reformed, German Reformed, Catholic, Moravian, Church of the Brethren, Mennonite, Amish, and several others.

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Feeder/Hay Barn (1 contributing building)

This barn is located to the northwest of the large barn and was built in the early 20th century after the 1908 tornado completely destroyed an earlier barn on this spot (Figures 22-23). As noted above, the 1908 news item in the *Lisbon Sun* (June 12, 1908) indicated that a cattle shed had been completely demolished. The 1908 photographs of the tornado aftermath show a collapsed building on this spot. Therefore, a circa 1908 date of construction appears to be close to the actual date of construction. In fact, it has been reported that this barn was built of material salvaged from the destroyed buildings in 1908.



Figure 22. Feeder/Hay Barn looking West. Photograph taken by Tallgrass, October 1, 2019.



Figure 23. 1908 tornado aftermath photograph looking North with the ruins of the barn located where the Feeder/Hay Shed would be built after the tornado in the upper left (circled). The other buildings include the non-extant hog house in center left, a partial view of the Banked/Basement Barn in center, the Crib/Hog House in the right center, and the non-extant outbuilding to the northeast of the big barn in the upper right.

Source: Lisbon History Center.

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This barn is an extended gable feeder barn that housed hay and provided access for cattle to feed; therefore, it was built to specifically replace the destroyed cattle barn. The feeder/hay barn has a distinctive, broad front-gabled roof that is covered with the same type of white metal roofing as the other buildings (see Figure 22). The walls are covered with vertical boards with no battens and fastened with wire nails as would be expected for an early 20th century construction. The foundation on the south and north walls are made of board-formed, poured concrete but there are limestone foundation walls under most of the east wall, the south half of the west wall, and two interior foundation wall divisions. The stone foundation sections are suspected to either have been salvaged from the earlier barn or are intact portions of the foundation from the older barn that sat on this spot and was destroyed by the 1908 tornado. As noted, the photographs show the older barn as a heap of building debris, but the foundation would still have been at least partially, if not entirely, in place (see Figure 23).

The east gable end has large sliding doors made of vertical boards and slide on a metal track that extends nearly the full width of this end of the barn (see Figure 22). There is a single, entry door just off-center on this side that has a wooden-paneled door similar to a door one would use in their house. To the left of this door is a small wooden door that is hinged on the south side but is more of a window than a door since it does not provide human access into the interior. This door is formed from two vertical boards. There may have been a normal entry door to the right of this smaller door but this area is now covered with vertical boards that appear to be a later patching or enclosure of this opening. The hay mow in the east gable end now has one hinged door that opens out but likely had a second door that is now fixed with an electric light in place. The hay track is under a triangular hay mow hood. The hay mow doors are made of vertical boards.

The south side of this barn is banked slightly into the slope and has a lower entrance level than the east gable end but the barn does not have a basement level (Figure 24). This lower door on the south side is a smaller sliding door that consists of a vertical board door that slides on a metal track.



**Figure 24. Feeder/Hay Barn looking WNW at the south and east sides of the barn.
Photograph taken by Tallgrass, October 1, 2019.**

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The north side of the barn has no openings, with this side covered with vertical board siding and showing a concrete foundation (Figure 25). A metal gate similar to the farmstead entry gate is attached to the northeast corner of the barn. The west side of the barn has a small, hinged door in the gable peak, with a small human access door on the south half and a larger machinery door on the north half of this side (Figure 26). As noted above, part of the west foundation wall is stone, with the rest being concrete. Part of the vertical siding on the west wall has battens.



Figure 25. North side of Feeder/Hay Barn looking SSE. Photograph taken by Tallgrass, October 1, 2019.



Figure 26. West side of Feeder/Hay Barn looking SSE (left) and ENE (right).
Photographs taken by Tallgrass, July 22, 2020 (left) and October 1, 2019 (right).

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The interior shows primarily pole construction using debarked poles; however, there are hand-hewn posts used in the outer wall construction that were likely salvaged from the older, destroyed barn in 1908. The pole members are bolted and nailed together, which would be typical of early 20th century construction. The barn interior shows dirt floors in each of the three sections as subdivided by the internal stone walls, with the north and south sides separated from the open center aisle by wooden pole and frame dividers that would limit the livestock access to the center aisle where hay could be stacked or machinery stored (see Figures 27-29).



Figure 27. Interior of Feeder/Hay Barn showing interior stone walls and lower level of south bay of this barn looking NW. Photograph taken by Tallgrass, July 22, 2020.



Figure 28. Interior of Feeder/Hay Barn looking West in the north bay of the barn (left); and bents in the center aisle formed of poles nailed and bolted together with metal straps looking West (right). Photographs taken by Tallgrass, October 1, 2019.

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Figure 29. Interior of Feeder/Hay Barn showing (Left) the junction of the exterior stone foundation with the concrete foundation in the SE corner of the barn and (Right) a detail of the pole/post framing showing the cross-beam poles attached to the vertical square posts with nails and metal straps.
Photographs by Tallgrass, October 1, 2019.

Corn Crib/Hog House (1 contributing structure)

This structure was built prior to the 1908 tornado because photographs taken after the tornado show this structure standing but damaged (see Figures 21 and 23). The *Lisbon Sun* (June 12, 1908) article actually identified this structure as a “hog-house,” thus confirming its use as such prior to 1908. The roof was hardest hit, which was then repaired afterwards. In fact, the Farmers Insurance Company in Cedar Rapids used this farm as an example of prompt payment for storm damage to agricultural buildings, with a testimonial from Jacob E. Meyers noting that his insurance agent had handed him a check for \$815 “being the full amount of my Tornado Insurance on my barn and in full for all damage to my dwelling” (*The Quarterly Record*, July 1908).

This crib/hog house structure is notable not just because it is a late 19th century corn crib built for storage of ear corn but also because it had a basement level intended for hogs, which is not the typical corn crib structure seen elsewhere in Linn County, at least among those that survive. However, such combination outbuildings, while not as common as stand-alone corn cribs and hog houses, are known on farmsteads of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, including farms in Linn County. Farmers would generally strive to improve the efficiency of their farming operations and combination structures such as this could help in that efficiency. Hogs were an important part of the Meyers’ farming operation, with John B. Meyers noting in an interview with Eleanor Meyers Butterfield in 1972 that his dad (Jacob Meyers) shipped his hogs direct to the railroad. Specifically, the Meyers would drive “120 hogs through the fields to the railroad station.” The Meyers built additional barns “across the tracks” that are just north of the extant barns and drilled a well at that

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location. They could also keep 80 head of cattle in the barns on the north side so they could drive them between the railroad fence and the tracks to the east where they could be loaded at the stock yards at the Lisbon station (John B. Meyers to Eleanor Butterfield, 1972). In fact, the 1880 Federal agricultural census for Jacob E. "Myers" farm operation showed only one milk cow and a few beef cattle but reported 35 swine and 25 poultry. This suggests that the corn crib/hog houses on this property reflected this early emphasis on hog production and one or both may actually have dated from the 1880s.

The corn crib/hog house structure is banked into the south slope and located due south of the big barn. It is a front-gabled structure with the same type of white metal roofing as on the other buildings and vertical board siding with no battens. The siding is fastened mostly with wire nails, which reflects repairs made to this building after 1908, with the tornado photos showing damage to the siding as well. The crib sits on a stone foundation that is fully exposed on the south side (Figure 30).



Figure 30. Crib/Hog House looking NW. Photograph taken by Tallgrass, October 1, 2019.

The east gable end has a centered sliding door on a metal track (see Figure 30). This door is made of beaded board siding. It opens into a center aisle, with the crib area on the north side having a dirt floor, the center aisle a poured concrete floor, and the south side having a wooden plank floor on square and round log joists separating the upper from the lower basement level where the hogs were fed and sheltered. The interior construction of this crib shows vertical poles both debarked and partially debarked resting on stone interior walls, with sawn angled bracing tying the interior posts to the outer walls for support (Figure 31). The structure is further supported by pole cross beams that are debarked and nailed into place. These are tied into square vertical posts on the outer walls that are notched. This type of construction would not be as old as that of the original big barn but the structure looked like it had some age to it in the 1908 photographs, so an 1890s date of construction is postulated.

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**Figure 31. Interior of Crib portion of Crib/Hog House looking west.
Photograph taken by Tallgrass, July 22, 2020.**

The south side of this structure has four hatch-type doors that are hinged on the top in the foundation level. These doors were for hog access into and out of the basement area and would have been left open as needed for ventilation, with times of hot weather requiring all four doors open and colder weather fewer left open (see Figure 30). Additional ventilation was provided by the upper level, which was not air tight, and often would have had the doors open to further facilitate the air circulation through the crib. The upper ventilation included openings in the floor on the sides of the center aisle that are still open into the basement level (Figure 32). While ventilation in the basement was a critical need for the hogs' health, so was keeping the hogs from overheating or getting too cold. This type of basement-level hog house served both purposes quite effectively. Today, this ventilation may not be as obvious because all of the openings are now shut and one of the crib walls of the upper story is now covered with solid metal siding. But one can see in the photographs above and below how open the upper level still is to air flow (see Figures 30-32).

As with any crib structure intended for the use of ear corn storage, ventilation was essential to the building design. Ear corn has to be dried out and then kept dry to keep it from molding and rotting. Air flow through the extant structure was good from top to bottom as attested to by the ability to see through the floor down into the hog floor below and through the siding on the walls, the spaces between the siding on the walls, and the doors and windows on the ends and sides of the structure. The hogs in the basement below were well ventilated but were sheltered from the cold, heat, and wet weather and had access to a penned enclosure on the south side through the four access doors in the foundation.

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Figure 31. Detail of wooden plank floor on south side of Crib/Hog House looking ESE showing the open spaces between the floor and the hewn joists that allowed for additional air flow into the basement level. Note the light visible in the basement level that would have fully lit when the doors were opened. Currently the doors are nailed shut. Photograph taken by Tallgrass, July 22, 2020.

There is a concrete pad just outside the hog doors in the basement level. The south side of the upper crib structure has at least two window openings now boarded over and some indication that there had been something affixed to the left side of this wall that is no longer there. The 1908 photograph shows three openings on this side that appeared to be missing their doors and windows including what may have been a sliding door just off-center to the west (Figure 33). The four hatch doors in the foundation are clearly there in 1908 as is a sliding door on the west gable end.



Figure 33. Two views of the crib/hog house structure in the aftermath of the 1908 tornado. The view to left is looking NE, while the view to the right is looking NW. Both show the south side of this structure with the hog doors in the foundation as they still are. Source: Lisbon History Center.

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The west gable end still has a wooden sliding door like that on the east gable end that slides on a metal track (Figure 34). There appears to have been a small opening in the gable peak that is now covered by a board or plywood. The north side of the crib has no openings and is now covered with white metal siding (see Figure 34).



Figure 34. North and west sides of the crib/hog house structure looking SE (left) and east and north sides looking SW (Right). Photographs taken by Tallgrass, July 22, 2020.

It has been noted that this structure had “three openings in the [upper] wall that would allow the corn to be shoveled out of the crib onto what they called the ‘hog floor.’ They would be fed on the open floor to allow easier clean-up of the corn cobs and manure” (Steve McElmeel, e-mail to Marianne Zahorik, January 16, 2020). In other words, for this structure, the “hog floor” was on the exterior of the south basement wall with the described doors in the upper level of the south wall above (and clearly visible in the 1908 photos) (see Figure 33). In the 20th century, the hog floor was a concrete pad, which is still extant. The hogs had access to the outdoors on the south side where a pen would have kept them from roaming free. The fact that the farmer could drop the corn from the crib down to the hogs for feeding made this an efficient multi-purpose, feeding/shelter/storage structure. In fact, some of the 1908 photo views show the remnants of wooden pens on the south side of this structure as well as the interior cribbing on the north side of the center aisle. The fact that this building was still being used for its original purpose into the late 20th century demonstrates that this was an efficient and useful building that provided a healthy environment for hogs.

Until recently there was a smaller building to the west that was also used for hogs (Steve McElmeel, e-mail to Marianne Zahorik dated January 16, 2020). That non-extant structure also had ear corn storage on the upper floor and the space in the basement level underneath was used for hogs. “This one had a good-sized door above the ‘hog floor’ that corn could be shoveled out of onto the floor” (Steve McElmeel, e-mail to Marianne Zahorik dated January 16, 2020). This structure was also present in 1908 but only suffered minimal damage to its roof. That structure had a front-gabled roof, vertical board siding, and a stone foundation/basement level that had regular-sized openings in the south wall (Figure 35). The non-extant structure was taller and narrower than the extant crib/hog house and may actually have functioned as a granary on the upper level originally and then used later for ear corn.

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**Figure 35. 2013 image showing non-extant crib/hog house (left) in relation to the extant crib/hog house (right) and the large barn (in the background). This view is looking NNE.
Source: Google Street View, 2013.**

Watering Trough/Pump (1 contributing object)

Located between the big barn and the crib/hog house is a rectangular, board-formed, poured concrete watering trough with a water pump encased in a corrugated metal tank beside it (Figure 36). This structure reflects the use of the area on the south side of the big barn as a cattle yard.



**Figure 36. Concrete watering trough and pump looking north towards Banked/Basement Barn.
Photograph taken by Tallgrass, October 1, 2019.**

Southeast Gateway (1 contributing object)

There is an older metal gate at the southeast corner of the property supported by two concrete posts, one of which is inscribed "J.E. Meyers" and what appears to be "1905," "1908," or "1909" (Figure 37). The metal gate is made of pipes for the frame and woven wire for the interior section of the gate. Metal ball caps are on each end post. This type of gate matches a type that was advertised in the Clay Equipment Corp. catalog from circa 1939 as an "adjustable galvanized farm gate" (Clay Equipment Corp. c.1939) (Figure 38). Given the

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inscribed date on the fencepost, it may be that this type of gate was an offering of the Clay Equipment Corp. for many years, or that an older gate was replaced in the 1920s-1930s with this one. Since the Meyers were obtaining Clay Equipment products for the milking parlor in the barn, it would be in the realm of possibility that they obtained other products as well for their farming operation.



Figure 37. Left: Metal gate at SE corner of property looking ESE towards intersection of Market and Jefferson streets and Right: Inscribed/dated concrete gatepost at SE corner of property. Photographs taken by Tallgrass, October 1, 2019.

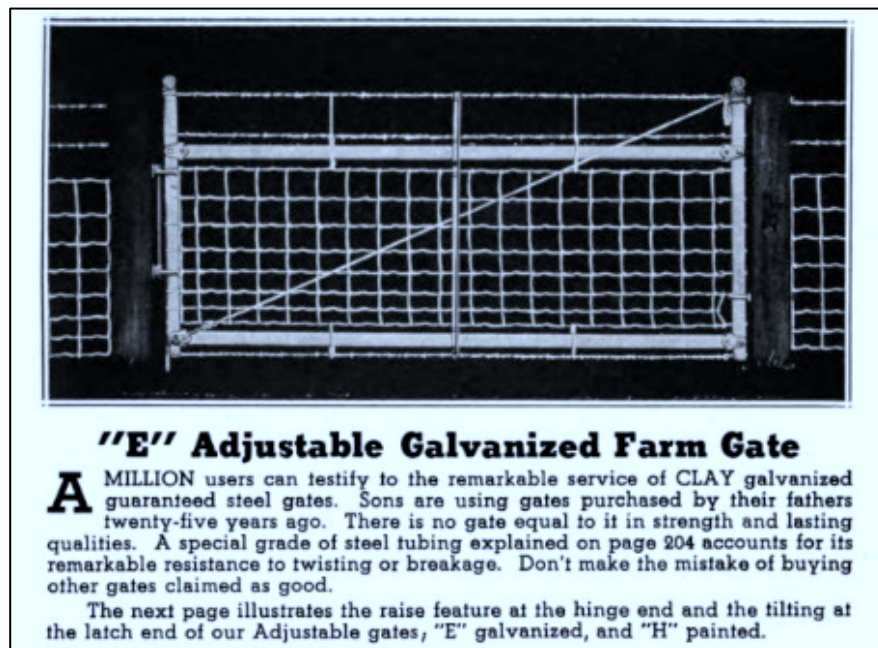


Figure 38. Clay Equipment Co. catalogue entry for an "Adjustable Galvanized Farm Gate" nearly identical to the gate at the SE corner of the Meyers farm property (see Figure 37). Source: Clay Equipment Corporation c.1939.

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Barnyard (future survey and research may find this a contributing site)

Currently, the barnyard is that portion of the former farmstead that surrounds the extant buildings. This is now maintained as a grassy lawn. There are some new tree plantings but there are also older mature trees along the south fence line and to the east of the big barn. A horizontal board fence heads east from the barn towards the east edge of the property.

Aerial images and the 1908 tornado aftermath photos show that in addition to the second hog structure that was recently removed, there was another building to the east of the big barn and two more to the northeast and north that are no longer extant (Figures 39-41). Outbuildings at one time also included a chicken house (north of the big barn) and a smokehouse near the farmhouse. As a result, the site has some potential to contain archaeological remains of former outbuildings, fence lines, pens, and other activity areas that could significantly contribute to the overall site. However, the current study did not include an archaeological survey; therefore, any archaeological potential remains for further investigations to identify and evaluate.

Around 1891, the farmhouse was reportedly cut into two pieces and moved back about 16 feet to its current location at the northeast corner of Jefferson and Market Streets across Jefferson Street from the barns (John B. Meyers, 1972 interview). The Meyers' former house is not included in the district because it is privately owned, separated from the district by the modern street extension, and because it has been greatly modified in the modern era and no longer retains any historic integrity (Figure 42).



Figure 39. Late 1930s aerial image of proposed district (brown outline) with extant buildings identified and non-extant buildings circled with white dashed outlines. Note that Jefferson Street did not yet exist north of Market Street. Source: Aerial obtained from ArcGIS online through the Iowa Geographic Map Server 2020.

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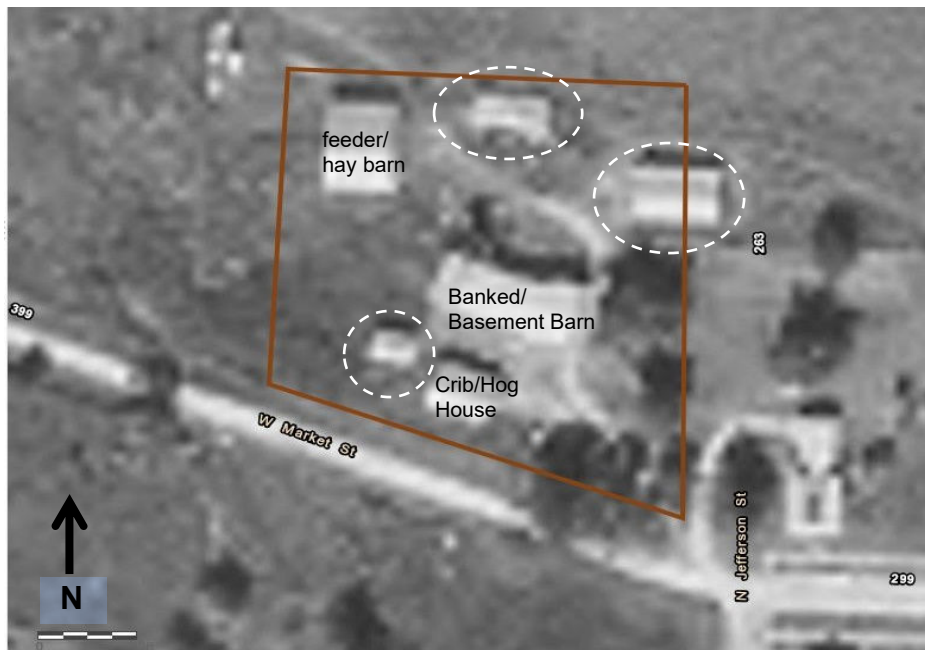


Figure 40. 1970s aerial image of district (brown outline) showing extant (labeled) and non-extant buildings (white dashed outlines). The former Meyers House is the rectangle at the northeast corner of Market and Jefferson streets, Source: Aerial obtained from ArcGIS online through the Iowa Geographic Map Server 2020.



Figure 41. Oblique aerial view of a portion of the proposed historic district (white dashed outline) looking ESE in the mid-1970s towards the downtown commercial area of Lisbon in the upper portion of the image.

Source: Image provided by the Lisbon Historic Preservation Commission. Note that the two non-extant buildings in the northeast corner include a chicken house and a machine shed, with the other non-extant building being the smaller hog house just west of the extant crib/hog house. Also note the dome on the silo was missing by this time and the access lane into the farm was from the southeast corner through the gateway.

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Figure 42. Left: Meyers' farmhouse in April 1921 looking ENE. Source: Lisbon History Center; Right: House in October 2019 looking NE. Source: Tallgrass, October 1, 2019.

Historic Integrity

As for the seven aspects of integrity, the proposed district retains good integrity of design, materials, workmanship, association, and location. The integrity of feeling and setting is considered fair to poor because the property no longer functions as a farmstead and the former barnyard is now grassy lawn. However, there are no new building intrusions, nor has the property been graded or extensively modified. As a result, there may be intact archaeological features and deposits in the barnyard that could be found by future studies to contribute to the district as a site.

The two barns are both considered contributing buildings, with the silo and corn crib/hog house considered contributing structures. The watering trough/water pump and the southeast gateway are both counted as contributing objects.

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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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

circa 1872-1968

Significant Dates

circa 1872, circa 1890, 1908, 1910s-1940

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (if applicable)

Architect/Builder

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Statement of Significance

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations).

The Meyers Farmstead Historic District is locally significant under Criterion A for its association with the important agricultural trends of livestock and dairy farming in Linn County, Iowa, and the Lisbon vicinity in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The presence of creameries in Lisbon during this period was likely part of the impetus for the expansion and modernization of the dairy operation on this farmstead in the early 20th century. The Meyers farming operation is also representative of a livestock operation including both hogs and cattle that tied this farmstead to the nearby railroad line and the shipping depot in Lisbon. In the 19th century, the livestock operation was focused on hogs, but as it evolved in the early 1900s, beef cattle and dairy cows were added. The historic district is also significant under Criterion C for the representation of the extant buildings of both its dairy and livestock production. The two barns and the crib/hog house all retain good integrity and reflect both the late 19th and early 20th century progression of this farmstead primarily by the Jacob and John B. Meyers family up to John B.'s retirement in 1940. These buildings also show the aftermath of a devastating 1908 tornado. The barn is of particular architectural significance as a Pennsylvania-type barn reflecting the influence in the Lisbon community of its early settlers' "Pennsylvania Dutch" roots. However, this barn is also significant for its remodeling in the early 20th century to house a "modern" sanitary dairy operation including fully enclosing the space under the forebay and adding metal milking stanchions, automatic watering bowls, and concrete floors with drains. The barn, while damaged in 1908 and the roof replaced as a result, still retains its heavy timber framing and most of its original elements including plank flooring, siding, and limestone foundation. The concrete stave silo added in the 1910s further attests to the expansion of the dairy operation in the early 20th century. The corn crib/hog house reflects the involvement in the late 19th century in market hog production, which was an early focus of Jacob Meyers' farming operation and is a notable early agricultural outbuilding in Linn County. This type of structure having a basement level for hogs and an upper level for corn storage is a rare survivor in Linn County, one of only two known to still be standing. The district overall retains good historic integrity in most of the aspects of integrity. The period of significance is circa 1872-1968, which encompasses the construction of the big barn circa 1872, the construction of the crib/hog house circa 1890, and the repairs to both buildings and the construction of the new feeder/hay barn in the wake of the 1908 tornado. It also encompasses the shift of the Meyers' farming operation from a focus on hogs and poultry in the 1880s to cattle and dairy added by the early 1900s and then expansion of the dairy operation into the 1910s-1940 along with more involvement in both hog and beef cattle production. The end date of 1968 represents the end of this farmstead's use for dairying. After that time, the buildings were used primarily for equipment storage.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

(Iowa SHPO Additional Instructions: For properties not nominated under Criterion D, include a statement about whether any archaeological remains within or beyond the footprint of the property were assessed as part of this nomination under the subheading **Archaeological Assessment**.)

The Meyers Farmstead Historic District includes two barns, a corn crib/hog house, a silo, a watering trough, and a gateway that constitute two contributing buildings, two contributing structures, and two contributing objects. The former farmhouse for this property is still standing but is now separated by a modern street from the farm buildings and has been greatly altered to the point that it no longer has any historic integrity. Therefore, the house was not included within the historic district. The district, while small, contains important building types that reflect significant aspects of Linn County agricultural development in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. They also reflect the settlement history of Lisbon and the function of this town as an agricultural support community that enabled it to compete with nearby Mt. Vernon, which is only a mile to the west and largely owed its development to the presence of Cornell College from an early date. These communities were often labeled as the "college town" and the "farm town," with Lisbon able to compete with Mt. Vernon's success because of its role as the agricultural depot, shipping point, and service center for the rural environs. The Meyers Farm benefitted from its location within the city limits of Lisbon and its proximity to the railroad, so

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close that the family could drive their stock on foot along the railroad right of way to the depot a short distance from this farm. The farm was also close to the creameries once in this town in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. None of the former creameries are still standing but could be potential archaeological sites in Lisbon.

The Meyers farm buildings collectively are well-preserved examples of late 19th to early 20th century agricultural buildings in the Lisbon area, with the large barn being a representative example of a late 19th century, Pennsylvania-type banked/basement barn that was adapted for use as a modern sanitary dairy operation in the early 20th century. The corn crib/hog house is also a rare survivor of this property type. The cattle feeder/hay barn reflects a later barn type (the extended-gable feeder barn) as well as the cattle raising component of the Meyers farming operation. Each of these buildings retains sufficient integrity to contribute significantly to the farmstead district under Criterion C. The farmstead is also eligible under Criterion A for its historical significance under the context of rural development in Linn County, with this farmstead a notable example of an Expansion Era to early Consolidation Era farmstead, with the combined eras in Linn County extending from 1859 into the late 20th century (Rogers 1992).

History of the Meyers Farm

Henry Meyer III and his wife, Pricilla Livingood, moved from Lebanon, Pennsylvania to Ohio, and then Lisbon, Iowa in 1853. This migration followed closely with other early settlers of the Lisbon vicinity, who also came from Lancaster and Lebanon counties in Pennsylvania, bringing with them the construction methods, farming methods, cultural traditions, and heritage they shared there. Early immigrants to Linn County from that area of Pennsylvania included a colonizing group who migrated to Lisbon in the spring of 1847, when it was still known as Yankee Grove. This group initially consisted of 60 United Brethren members led by their pastor, Christian Hershey. Their settlement gave a tremendous boost to the fledgling community, and they encouraged other Pennsylvania United Brethren to follow. In the following years, many of these friends made their way to Lisbon adding to the growing United Brethren congregation in this community. The influence of this "Pennsylvania Dutch" group in the settlement of this community is reflected in the town's later nickname of "Dutch Town" (Radl 1974:3-4).

While in Ohio, Henry Meyer added an "s" to his surname. Their son, Jacob E. Meyers, was born in 1851. Jacob was a bricklayer and mason, and also farmed the land adjoining their home at 230 W. Market Street. Jacob built five historic brick homes in Lisbon, and three still exist today. Most notable are the twin houses at 225 and 227 W. Main Street. He also helped lay the bricks for a portion of the Commercial Block in Lisbon's commercial historic district and the entryway of the Methodist Church (Interview with John B. Meyers by Eleanor Meyers dated July 1971). Genealogical notes at the Lisbon History Center describe how the Meyers family came to America probably early in the 18th century locating in eastern Pennsylvania where their descendants multiplied and prospered. "Their well-improved farms and commodious and comfortable houses bear abundant testimony to their industry, thrift, intelligence and home-loving characteristics" (Phelps 1930).

According to the Meyers Farm property abstract, the lots where the house was placed were surveyed on August 7, 1859. The owners in 1860 were John and Mary Ringer. The City of Lisbon expanded its corporate limits in 1877 and in so doing added this farm to the city. The city leaders supported the large expansion at this time in an effort to force drinking establishments farther away from the city center, as ordinances had banned the sale of alcohol within city limits. Then, the partnership of Stuckslager and Aurucher acquired the land and in turn sold it on June 6, 1881 to Jacob E. Meyers for \$5,207.50. The abstract for this farm notes that other unnamed properties were also a part of the sale; therefore, the comparatively high price cannot be directly translated into standing buildings or other improvements on the subject property. However, the house and large barn were likely built by that time given the original style and construction of both.

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John B. Meyers was Jacob's youngest son and was born November 8, 1884. In 1913, John B. married Ella Maybauer and purchased a home at 233 Market Street directly across the street from his parents' house. He and Ella lived in their home until they were in their 70s. Ella died in 1967, and John died 11 years later on October 6, 1978. When Jacob E. Meyers died on September 6, 1927, he left the farm to his wife, Amanda; son John B. took over the farming operations before retiring in 1940. His closing-out sale was described in detail in the newspaper, which noted that "the streets near the John B. Meyers farm were full of parked cars" and that the sale had "attracted a crowd estimated at more than a thousand" (*Mt Vernon Hawkeye-Record and The Lisbon Herald*, Feb. 14, 1940). The article also noted that Paul Bowers was going to move onto the farm in March and do the farming, but the property remained under Meyers' ownership, with John B. acquiring the property outright from his siblings in 1947 or 1948 (Mildred Maloney & husband; Gaylord Meyers & wife; Caroline M. Hartung, widow; Stella M. Harlan, widow; M.E. Meyers, widow of J. F. Meyers). Bowers occupied the house "known as the Jake Meyers homestead" across the street from John B. and Ella's house (*Mt Vernon Hawkeye-Record and The Lisbon Herald*, Feb. 14, 1940). A warranty deed dated January 2, 1969 shows that John B. Meyers left the farm to his daughters, Evelyn Jean Badger and Eleanor Louise Butterfield, and in 1983, the farm passed to another family.

The large barn and the corn crib/hog house were standing at the time of a circa 1901 photograph taken from the yard of the Meyers house looking to the WNW (Figure 43). But the clearest photographs of each were taken in the aftermath of the June 7, 1908 tornado (see Figures 21, 23, and 33). The roof of the large barn sustained the most damage, except for a cattle barn to the northwest that was completely flattened by the storm. That barn was replaced with the extant feeder/hay barn, which was reportedly built from material salvaged from the destroyed building. A June 12, 1908, article in the *Lisbon Sun* listed the damage to Jacob Meyers farm as including the following: "top of hay barn ruined, cattle shed demolished, roof of hog-house damaged." While the extant barn and crib/hog-house were damaged and subsequently repaired, both of these 19th century buildings retain their original framing, walls, foundations/basements, and even most of their original siding. Of the extant buildings/structures, only the feeder/hay barn was newly built circa 1908. All three of these buildings/structures reflect the three major components of the Meyers' farming operation in the late 19th and 20th centuries, specifically hogs, cattle, and milk cows.

John B. Meyers' retirement sale documents the size and scope of the farm at its peak under Meyers family operation (*Mt Vernon Hawkeye-Record and The Lisbon Herald*, Thurs. Feb. 15, 1940). Numerous animals, items & machinery were sold along with seed and grain including; clover seed, soy beans, barley, oats, corn, and hay, a team of roan Belgians, an unbroken colt, a sorrel unbroken colt, 15 yr. old white gelding, 2 Holsteins, a Guernsey, a Guernsey cow, a fat short horn yearling heifer, a Holstein bull, 2 white face spring calves, 9 Guernsey heifers, 4 spring calves, 11 head of Shorthorn steer and heifer spring calves, 6 Hampshire spring gilts, 5 Hampshire bred to a Berkshire boar, 5 Hampshire, 10 feeding shoats, a Berkshire boar, and 35 feeders. This 1940 inventory speaks to a diverse farming operation, which included a nearly 20-head dairy herd but also included a variety of livestock for farming purposes and for the market sale of pork and beef. It was noted by a Meyers family descendant that the large barn had milking stanchions for 20 cows.

In 1972, an informal interviews with John B. Meyers was documented by Ira W. Butterfield, John's son-in-law (Hand-written notes from February 27, 1972 interview on file at the Lisbon History Center, Lisbon, Iowa). John B. noted that the large barn housed hay, machinery, feed bin, horses, and a milking operation including an area for milk tanks. The big barn was noted as having been "built over 100 years ago," which indicates a building date around 1872. It was described as having square cut timbers, squared up with broad axe or adz, the beams mortised together and pinned with wooden pins. The overhead stringers are logs flattened on two sides only, except the beams had about a four-foot overhang and they squared the four-foot ends of the logs that showed outside "to make them look better." Above the overhang was an "alley" or walkway along the outer edge of the upper barn. On the opposite side of the overhang are two sliding doors at an incline up to this floor level (above ground level).

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Figure 43. Ruth Ann (left, b.1887) and John Byron (right, b. 1884) Meyers, youngest children of Jacob E. and Amanda Meyers, playing on the farm circa 1901. Farm buildings can be seen in background including the extant basement barn in the center background and the corncrib/hog house to the left side of this view and partially obscured by trees and a large stack of wood. Source: Lisbon History Center.

The interview further noted that when “John Byron [Meyers] was young and living at home yet, the barn was widened by enclosing the overhang area under the alley.” However, this account depends on what would have been considered “young and living at home yet,” since John B. was born in 1884, and the overhang was only partially enclosed by the time of the 1908 tornado (as attested to by the photographs taken at the time). In 1908, John B. would have been 24 years old but since he was five years from marriage and moving out of his parents’ home, it may be that this statement of enclosing the overhang was around 1908. The enlarging also included lengthening the whole barn 16 to 20 feet. The wall at the east end is of limestone from the quarry put up by father (Jacob Meyers) and members of the family. This wall of stone and mortar is about seven feet high. The old wall at east end of the building (parallel to and about 16 feet westerly of new wall), was also of limestone and mortar. It was further noted that the barn timbers were mostly oak. The dairy operation continued until 1968 but was conducted by renters after 1940 when John B. Meyers retired. Mr. Bowers, who had worked as John B. Meyers’ hired hand, took over the farm operations after John retired in 1940. Mr. Bowers farmed the land and used the barns for milking cows and stopped milking in 1968. After Mr. Bowers retired, Walt Novak rented the farm ground and used some of the barns for storage of equipment from his John Deere dealership when it was located on the corner of West Main and North Washington Streets, the current location of Lloyd Table Company (Information provided by Steve McElmeel, 2019).

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Steve McElmeel used the barns and fields for sheep from about 1977 to 1992. Doris, Steve's wife, would teach students from Lisbon school about sheep shearing through an actual demonstration at the barn. They used the barns and fields for horses from October 1983 until about 2010. The McElmeels bought the barns in the spring of 1981. Steve painted the barns several times over the years and also replaced the metal roofing. He was told the roofing was some of the first type of this metal roofing used in this area. It was applied with special metal strips that held the sheets on without any visible nails. That roofing likely dated from the 1908 tornado repairs. Steve and Doris McElmeel were the last owners of the land and barns. The family sold the land to the City of Lisbon on January 31, 2019, with the stipulation that the property and barns be preserved in perpetuity as a park, serving as a lasting legacy for both the Meyers and McElmeel families.

Agricultural Development in Lisbon & Linn County and the Historical Significance of the Meyers Farm

Early Settlement Era (late 1830s to 1859) farmsteads in Linn County consisted of few buildings other than the house, a root cellar, stables, and rudimentary corncribs and granaries. The latter have been described as "rail" structures, while the stables were straw-thatched and easily moved. Hay was stacked outdoors. The reason for sparse outbuildings was that livestock were generally allowed to roam free, and the benefit of barns and sheds was largely unrecognized at this early date or considered an unnecessary expense for a pioneer homestead. In addition, the benefits of manure as a fertilizer were not recognized, so the stables were commonly moved around instead of removing the manure for use on the fields. This was also typical of early agriculture in Iowa in general, and it would not be until the harsh winter of 1858-59, when a larger number of livestock were lost throughout Iowa, that there would be widespread agitation for better livestock shelters. Therefore, it was not until the 1860s, and mainly after the Civil War, that large barns became a common feature on Linn County and Iowa farmsteads (Brewer and Wick 1911:94-99; Geise 1946:250; Ross 1951:20-21; Strong 1990:124; Throne 1973:111).

Lisbon was founded in the 1850s in a grove of trees in the Spring Creek watershed. It was platted along an early road that extended from the Mississippi River town now known as Muscatine to Marion, then the seat of Linn County. Situated only one mile west of Lisbon was Mount Vernon, that was also built along this early road where it intersected with Iowa's Military Road that connected Iowa City, then the state capital, and Dubuque on the Mississippi River. Mount Vernon was platted in 1847, about four years before Lisbon was platted in 1851. In 1853, Mt. Vernon became the home for the Iowa Conference Male and Female Seminary, which eventually grew into present day Cornell College. Immediately the two closely-placed towns competed with one another with overlapping and competing market spheres. Despite economic and social competition between the two towns, each survived as separate communities and both found ways to a niche. Mt. Vernon became the college town with a significant commercial center, and Lisbon became the hub for agriculture. As noted previously, the Meyers property was originally outside of the city limits but was incorporated into the city proper when the limits were expanded in 1877. However, even in its establishment, this farmstead was bordered on the east and south side by the city's plats. As such, it was placed to take advantage of shipping facilities on the railroad and of the in-town industries including a creamery.

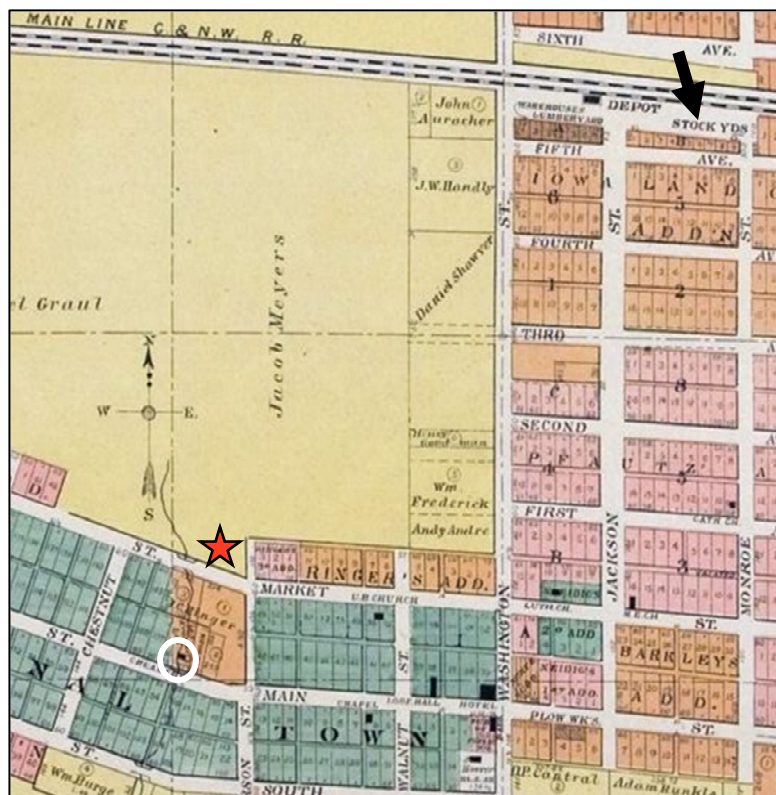
The Expansion Era in Linn County saw the coming of the railroads signaling the end to the frontier conditions of the previous Early Settlement Era. During the Expansion Era, the county's agricultural development moved away from subsistence-level farming into market-oriented agriculture facilitated by the railroads which linked Linn County farmers with regional and national markets. During this period, the settlement of Linn County expanded beyond the groves, creeks, and river valleys into the open prairie until every parcel of land had been entered by 1869. With the easier access to markets, there was an increase on market commodities, particularly corn, hogs, and cattle, all of which are reflected in the Meyers farming operation in the late 19th century and into the early 20th century. The 1880 Federal agricultural census of the Jacob E. "Myers" farm showed only one milk cow that would only have produced for household consumption. Beef cattle were also few in number, with the main livestock being swine (number 35) and poultry (25), which were being raised in numbers indicating market production. He also raised corn, oats, wheat, sorghum, and potatoes, with four

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The large banked/basement barn was originally a multi-purpose barn where a few cows were milked, but other livestock such as horses used in the farming operation were housed. The upper level held the hay and other feed for those animals. It also represents the expansion of Linn County agriculture following the arrival of the first railroad in 1859, a line that literally extended through this farm property, just north of the district boundary. Even into the 20th century, the position of this farm in the town of Lisbon and along this rail line, allowed direct shipping of the livestock from this farm to market.

As the Expansion Era progressed, the dairy industry in the county grew and expanded as well. While the dairy industry was greatest in the north half of the county, the presence of a dairy on the Meyers farm in the early 20th century demonstrates the importance of dairying county-wide. It is known that there was a creamery in Lisbon in the late 19th century operated first by J.W. Freel (beginning in 1879), then by Joel C. Ringer (in 1880), and then by W.S. Furnas (by at least 1894) (Radl 1974:45, 51; Sanborn 1894). Although another account indicated that Ringer was partners in the creamery with J.M. Furnas and W.H. Thompson in the 1880s-1890s, and that the spring used by the creamery also supplied water for the Lisbon public utilities including their steam electric plant and the city water system (Carstens 1964). It is known that the city's plant was just across the street to the south of the Meyers farmstead because it was destroyed by the 1908 tornado. The 1895 map of Lisbon shows the location of the creamery along the creek that drains the Meyers property as well as the location of the livestock shipping point in relation to this property (Figure 44).



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That creamery closed around 1900 (Sanborn 1900), but another of Furnas' business enterprises was a large poultry plant located along Walnut Street in Lisbon and in 1903 had a creamery in it operated by a Mr. Brooks, "a gentleman of long experience as a creamery specialist" (*Lisbon Sun*, February 27, 1903). Furnas died in 1909 and with him his many enterprises; however, in 1912 the *Lisbon Herald* (June 27, 1912) noted that "it is remarkable the amount of cream shipped from the Lisbon depot every day....It has only been a very few years Lisbon possessed a first-class creamery and that was before very many people sold cream." The newspaper went on to advocate for a co-operative creamery, so that a Lisbon company "could receive all the profits instead of giving them to a creamery at some distant locality" (*Lisbon Herald*, June 27, 1912). That plea was finally answered in 1925 when the Co-op Creamery was founded. This creamery purchased milk from farms in the Lisbon vicinity, including from the Meyers farm, and produced one of its best butter products served on luxury passenger rail cars. The Co-op Creamery was in business until 1966. Its location at the corner of W. Market and N. Washington streets, where the current Lisbon city hall and fire department are, meant it was only a few blocks away from the Meyers farm (butter display, Lisbon History Center; Rogers 2007:18). It may have been after the Co-op Creamery was founded in 1925 that the Meyers dairy operation was improved with the Clay equipment including metal stanchions and automatic watering bowls.

The Expansion Era is considered to end in 1913, the year that the Lincoln Highway, the nation's first transcontinental highway, was established through the county and directly through the town of Lisbon (Rogers 2007). While this development can be viewed as another aspect of expansion, the actual results of the rise of the automobile and highway development was a movement towards consolidation of markets, services, industries, and populations (Rogers 1992:42).

The Consolidation Era in Linn County began in 1913 and continued into the late 20th century (Rogers 1992:93). During this era, Linn County agriculture was characterized by specialization, intensification, and mechanization. This industry also consolidated during the 20th century, with farms becoming larger and fewer and more scientific and technological in its implementation and innovations. Mechanized farm equipment became popular after the introduction of the gasoline-powered tractor after World War I. As with the automobile, the advantages of gasoline motorized farm machinery over horse and steam power were quickly recognized and the changeover was relatively rapid. Scientific changes included hybrid seed corn, which was available as early as 1921 having the benefit of freeing the farmers from producing, gathering, and storing their own seed. Livestock breeding also made scientific advances in this era becoming highly specialized and tightly controlled. Federal and state regulations governing agricultural practices also proliferated during this era following the passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906 and similar legislation regarding food safety, sanitation, disease control, and pollution that increased into the late 20th century. The Meyers farm buildings reflect this era in the increase in the production of cattle and hog raising for market and in the installation of the modern sanitary dairy in the basement of the large barn, which also resulted in an increase in the farm's production of dairy products.

The other aspect of the early Consolidation Era was the impact of the state and national economy on farming and farm communities in general. The downturn in the economy that led to the Great Depression of the 1930s actually began in Iowa and the Midwest in the 1920s following the end of World War I. A drop in prices following the war occurred at a time when the costs for machinery, services, taxes, and railroad freights were increasing. Banks and businessmen attempted to assist the farmers in their plight by extending short-term credit and financing mortgages. However, prices continued to fall, while farm debt increased, and many small banks in Iowa began to fail even before the Stock Market Crash of 1929. By the time the Great Depression "officially started," Iowa farmers had already been suffering for nearly a decade (Rogers 1992:93). The deed records of most Iowa counties in the 1930s are filled with tax sales and bank foreclosures on farms that only increased farmland consolidation and corporate ownership. However, it appears that on the Meyers farm, the 1908 tornado may actually have helped propel their farming operation in to the depression era on a sound financial footing because the insurance money for the damage allowed for improvements and expansion that might otherwise have required a mortgage to fund. Therefore the ability to make those improvements without

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having to mortgage the farm made weathering the economic turmoil of the 1920s-1930s that much easier. As a result, when it came time for John B. Meyers to retire in 1940, the farm sale of equipment and livestock showed a farm at the peak of its development as a successful family-owned and operated livestock farm and dairy operation. The family even retained ownership of the property, while a tenant farmed the property and used the buildings as they had long been used by the Meyers until 1968 when the dairy operation ceased and the farming operation shifted using the barns mainly for equipment storage.

The Architectural Significance of the Meyers Farm

The large barn built circa 1872 on this property is of particular significance being a Pennsylvania-type barn reflecting the influence in the Lisbon community of its early settlers' German-Pennsylvania heritage. The interior construction of the original barn showed the hand-hewn heavy timber frame construction typical of the earliest barns in Linn County in the 1860s-1870s. This example, while damaged in 1908 and the roof replaced as a result, still retains most of its original components including the heavy timber framing, plank flooring, siding, and limestone foundation. Originally, this barn had an open space (or at least partially open space) underneath the forebay overhang. This area was fully enclosed after 1908 when the milking parlor in the basement was expanded and modernized. This type of enclosure was not unusual for Pennsylvania barns of the forebay type as farming practices and farming regulations evolved in the early 20th century. By definition, the forebay is actually "the upper-level space to the fore of the barn, extending over the stable wall below" (Ensminger 1995:53). The space under the forebay overhang was to prevent "blockage of the stable doors by straw or snow and avoid[ed] splash erosion of foundation mortar near ground level during heavy rains" (Ensminger 1995:53). However, it was also oriented to provide a sheltered loafing space for cows, cattle, and horses that protected them from northerly winds and faced the sun.

The lower level of the Pennsylvania barn has always been used to house livestock, including cows, beef cattle, and horses. Farmers learned very quickly that stabling and feeding cattle produced stock superior to cattle raised by the pioneer practice of letting them roam (Ensminger 1995:55).

Ensminger (1995:55) has noted that "the forebay is the Pennsylvania barn's diagnostic feature" but "as one examines barns of varying age, size, and construction materials, drastic differences in the size, support, and framing of the barn and forebay emerge." The subject barn best fits Ensminger's Class II The Standard Pennsylvania Barn, 1790-1890; Type A. Closed Forebay Standard Barn (Ensminger 1995:67). It occurred in central and southeastern Pennsylvania through central Maryland and spread west to Illinois, Wisconsin, and Iowa. This type has stone end walls on which "the forebay sill, which rests on top of the forebay beams, is anchored to" (Ensminger 1995:69). The extended stone end walls "enclose" the area in front of the basement level underneath the forebay overhang. Thus, while the level under the overhang of the Meyers Pennsylvania barn was later enclosed with wooden framing and the interior wooden walls removed to obtain more space for an expanded milking parlor, the actual forebay and the stone end walls are still intact. It also appears from the 1908 tornado photographs that there was already wall framing enclosing at least the east half of the area under the forebay overhang. Furthermore, the enclosure was done during the recommended period of significance for this farmstead and represents the evolution of Meyers' use of this barn following the 1908 tornado when the basement level was remodeled to house a "modern" sanitary dairy operation. This remodeling included fully enclosing the area under the forebay to make room for additional milking stanchions. Eventually the dairy included metal stanchions and automatic watering bowls. The barn also housed a milk wash and cooling room, feeding area for cows, and stalls for horses reflecting a multi-purpose barn in its actual function. The concrete stave silo added in the 1910s further reflects the expansion of the dairy operation in the early 20th century.

Ensminger (1995:176) noted in his 1990s study of Pennsylvania type barns that barns of the open- and closed-forebay and posted-forebay types were present in southeastern Iowa based on volunteer surveys conducted in Johnson, Washington, and Cedar counties in the 1980s-1990s.

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The presence of so many Pennsylvania barns in southeastern Iowa should come as no surprise. This area, which is far enough east to permit mixed livestock and grain farming, also lies directly in the path of pioneer movement west (Ensminger 1995:176).

Of the eight Pennsylvania barns reported in Ensminger's study in Cedar County, which borders the southeast corner of Linn County, at least one is no longer standing. That barn was on a farmstead just east of Lisbon on the south side of US Highway 30 and was inventoried and evaluated during the US 30 Bypass studies in the 2000s. That barn, known as the Andre Barn, had been built at an early date in the 1850s-1860s primarily because the house functioned as a stagecoach stop during this early period and a big barn was needed for horse teams and hay. This barn was inventoried as 16-00424 and described as a posted-forebay standard Pennsylvania barn type (Rogers 2000b). Like the Meyers' barn, this barn was later adapted for milking cows, with a concrete block milk house added to its southeast corner. It was still standing in 2000 when it was recommended NRHP eligible (concurred with by the Iowa DOT and the Iowa SHPO) but it had been demolished by the owner by 2010 when the property was revisited for the expanded US 30 bypass study (Rogers 2000b, Rogers and Price 2010).

The only other Pennsylvania barns of the forebay subtype known in the Lisbon vicinity include: one just north of town on the Frederick farm, where historically the area under the forebay overhang had been enclosed with framing by at least the early 20th century (1245 N. Washington Street, 57-10833); a second one farther north at 81 Linn Ridge Road (57-10831) that has a shed roof extending out from the base of the forebay sheltering the south side of the basement level which has been at least partially enclosed under the forebay; and a third to the south of Lisbon (382 Sutliff Road, 57-10840) that also has a shed roof extending out from the base of the forebay sheltering the area in front of the basement level but the area under the forebay was enclosed in the modern era for the Sutliff Cider business (Rogers and Nagel 2013). The Sutliff Road barn is still standing and remains in good condition being used for the cider business, but the Frederick barn, while still standing, is in an advanced state of deterioration. The Frederick house was demolished after it was surveyed, with only the barn still standing but no longer used and no plans to preserve it. The barn on Linn Ridge Road is still standing but was sided and roofed with metal and is in a more deteriorated state than it was in 2013 and appears to no longer be used. As a result, it can be stated that the Meyers barn is one of only a few extant Pennsylvania type barns left in the Lisbon vicinity in both Linn and Cedar counties and retains better historic integrity than the others still standing.

Based on the rural surveys conducted in Linn County from the 1990s to 2010s, other Pennsylvania-type barns include: two in Subsection H, both of which had the area under the forebay enclosed with wood framing (and one of which is now in a state of collapse); one supported forebay type in Subsection A that had a large shed added to one end and a concrete silo attached to the forebay side of the barn; two in Subsection D, one being a supported forebay type in a deteriorated condition in 2013 and the other having the area under the forebay overhang completely enclosed with modern materials; two with cantilevered forebays in Subsection Q; one closed forebay type in Subsection M similar to the subject barn with concrete stave silo and used at one time for a dairy operation but had the ramp removed from the north side; one supported forebay barn in Subsection P; and none in Subsections B, C, E, F, I, J, K, L, N, O, or S (Figure 45). The three noted above north and south of Lisbon are all in Subsection R (Rogers 1992, 1998, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2016; Rogers and Nagel 2013; Rogers and Page 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996; Rogers and Price 2011).

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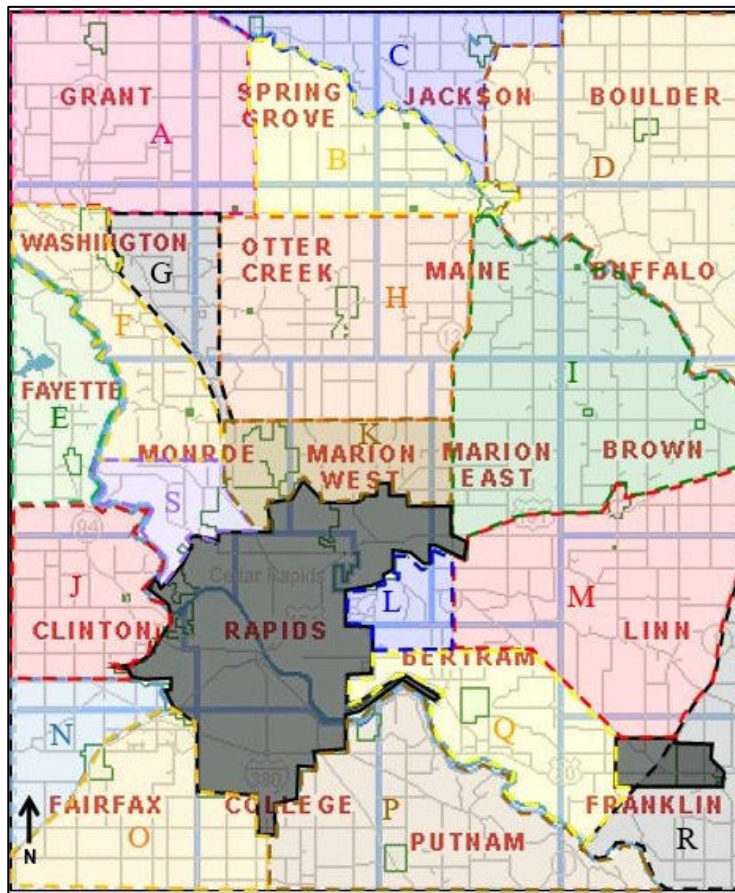


Figure 45. Subsection Survey Map for Linn County Rural Surveys.
Map Source: Linn County Historic Preservation Commission.

The corn crib/hog house on the Meyers Farm is also a notable early agricultural outbuilding in Linn County, with this structure having a basement level for hogs and itself being a dual-purpose storage and feeding structure. Multi-use outbuildings were common on farms of the late 19th and 20th centuries. “Often, resourceful farm people combined functions in a single outbuilding” (PHMC Pennsylvania Agricultural History Project 2015). While the more typical hog house was a stand-alone, ground-level structure, combination corn crib/hog houses are known from historical publications and extant examples as well as from oral history. While not common, corn crib/hog houses were touted in several publications from the late 19th and early 20th centuries for model farms. An 1880 publication on “Model Farms and Their Methods” contained a discussion of the “combined hog-house, granary and corn-crib” that had a hog house below the center driveway floor, which was elevated about two feet above the crib floors. Having the hogs under the crib saved all waste corn and prevented rats from working at the corn in the crib (Prime, ed. 1880). Another example is from 1898 which promoted a design for a hog house that included a loft above the hog floor where up to a 100 bushels of corn could be stored. “If corn is stored above the hog house make two small chutes through which ears of corn can be dropped into the room below, as this will save carrying the corn down a ladder or stairs, and there should be two of them, so as to prevent the hogs from huddling and crowding as they would be likely to do if the corn was a dropped in one place” (Suggestions for Hog Houses, *The National Stockman and Farmer*, April 14, 1898). Combined corn cribs and hog houses were also being promoted in Radford’s plan books for houses and barns in the early 1900s-1920s (e.g. Radford 1908, 1921).

It is known that the Meyers farmstead had two corn crib/hog houses still standing until recently, with the second one removed after 2013 (see Figures 33 and 35). It stood just to the west of the extant building. Oral

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history also indicates that there was another one in the Lisbon vicinity that is no longer standing. It is also known that the Meyers' banked/basement crib/hog house is comparatively rare in its survival in Linn County based on the comprehensive rural surveys conducted by the Linn County Historic Preservation Commission from the 1990s to the 2010s and reported in Rogers 1992, 1998, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2016; Rogers and Nagel 2013; Rogers and Page 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996; and Rogers and Price 2011. There is only one other known extant basement crib/hog house observed during this survey and still standing in south-central Linn County. That crib/hog house was built in 1933 and reportedly designed after an earlier basement crib/hog house in that vicinity (Rogers and Page 1996:105). That crib is now listed as a contributing structure to the Podhajsky/Jansa Farmstead District, which was listed in the NRHP in 2000 (Rogers 2000a). That farmstead was historically part of the Czech immigrant rural settlement in southern Linn County. Another basement crib/livestock structure is located in Lee County, Iowa, on a farmstead that also included a Pennsylvania-type barn. That barn was built in 1884 and the crib in 1894, both are listed in the NRHP as part of the John McGreer Barn and Crib nomination (Rogers 2001). In that example, the corn crib is banked into a slope and has a stone foundation/basement level, which was used for livestock with the feed tossed down from the crib to the barnyard below where the livestock could feed. That operation had both hogs and cattle. It was noted in the nomination that this dual-purpose structure was an unusual survivor of an uncommon type in Iowa (Rogers 2001).

The feeder/hay barn on the Meyers farm is also notable because it represents the cattle feeding portion of the farm operation and because it was built in the wake of the 1908 tornado out of materials salvaged from a similar barn destroyed by that storm. As such it represents one of the improvements on this farm made possible by the insurance money received by the Meyers.

These buildings are significant locally for their association with Lisbon's agricultural industry, which was important throughout the farmstead's active period and the district's entire period of significance. The city of Lisbon in its location just one mile east of Mount Vernon, depended heavily on agricultural production in order to compete with the college-based economy of its neighbor nearby. Among the prominent agricultural businesses of Lisbon were the local creameries and the production and sale of poultry, eggs, beef, and pork, with the Meyers farm having association with many of these businesses as a supplier. The nearby railroad was important to Lisbon's agricultural industry for moving animals and foodstuffs to and from local farms and businesses. The Meyers family utilized the railroad service quite a bit, as is detailed above. This pattern and the Meyers' situation within it, is also demonstrative of the Lisbon area's "Pennsylvania Dutch" German roots. Many of the building and farming methods used here and in the Lisbon vicinity were very much a part of tradition, brought by many of the early settlers via Pennsylvania, as they came west. Furthermore, due to today's modernization and mechanization of American farms, the removal and modification of older buildings on active farms, and the natural loss of historic buildings over time, this farm is left as one of Lisbon's best, extant example of these historic buildings and farming patterns.

Comparable Properties

The Meyers Farm Historic District is unusual in its small area and its inclusion of only the farm buildings and not the farmhouse. However, there are comparable examples of Iowa farm buildings that are listed in the NRHP containing only a few of the historic outbuildings. One of these is the Kenny Farmstead Archaeological District in Jones County, Iowa, where the only resources are an 1880s-1890s hay barn, a well, and the remnant foundation from the circa 1854 log cabin as an archaeological site. In this example, the hay barn was in a state of deterioration, with the archaeological site also having had some impacts from modern activities. However, the hay barn was noted as an uncommon survivor of a late 19th-century pole barn and thus contributed to this small district. This district was listed in the NRHP in 2015 (Krapfl and Rogers 2015).

Another example is the above-noted McGreer Barn and Crib in Lee County, Iowa. In this case, the entire farmstead was considered for nomination as a farmstead district but the property owner wanted to focus on

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just the barn and crib. The house was old but had been greatly modified, like the Meyers house. The basement barn and crib on the McGreer farm were both noted as rare survivors of their types and were the buildings that best represented the prosperous and noteworthy farming operation of John McGreer. The Pennsylvania posted-forebay standard barn was built in 1884, with the basement crib/livestock structure built in 1894. This farm operation raised cattle, hogs and Belgian horses (Rogers 2001).

The Kyte Farmstead District in Clarke County, Iowa, is also comparable having only four buildings, the 1856 house, an English threshing barn, a chicken house, and a privy as the contributing buildings, with the other extant buildings being modern in construction. It was listed in the NRHP in 2000 (Rogers 2000c).

Finally, the Daniel McConn Barn in Lee County, Iowa, was listed in the NRHP in 1999 as a single building because the only other extant buildings included a greatly modified farmhouse and a modern outbuilding. The barn is a circa 1856 banked/basement, double-decker Pennsylvania-type barn (Rogers 2000d).

Though similar, these comparable farm districts are not directly associated with the history of Lisbon or even Linn County. The Meyers farmstead is notable in comparison because it is a good representation of the German/Pennsylvania Dutch-influenced farms once in the vicinity of Lisbon and represents an important part of Lisbon's heritage and farming economy. The banked/basement barn also reflects the importance of dairying in the Lisbon vicinity, with this barn situated in close proximity to both the late 19th century creamery and the 1925-1966 co-operative creamery in Lisbon. The combination corn crib/hog house is particularly notable as a well-preserved example of a rare combination agricultural outbuilding, being only one of two of this type left standing in Linn County. The hay/feeder barn reflects the cattle raising portion of the Meyers farming operation and also represents the farmstead's recovery following the 1908 tornado. The farmstead as a whole was also well situated to take advantage of its location along the main railroad line and its stockyards in Lisbon where the farm's cattle and hogs were driven for shipment to market.

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- 2003 *Survey and Evaluation of Selected Historic Archaeological and Architectural Properties in Subsections J, N, and O, Linn County, Iowa.* Prepared for Linn County Historic Preservation Commission and State Historical Society of Iowa.
- 2006 *Survey and Evaluation of Selected Historic Archaeological and Architectural Properties in Subsections F, G, and H, Linn County, Iowa.* Prepared for Linn County Historic Preservation Commission and State Historical Society of Iowa.
- 2007 *City of Lisbon, Linn County, Iowa: Planning for Preservation Project.* Prepared for Lisbon Historic Preservation Commission and State Historical Society of Iowa. Prepared by Tallgrass Historians L.C., Iowa City.
- 2008 *Phase II Testing and Architectural/Historical Research for Specific Archaeological Sites and Architectural Properties in Subsections F, G, H, J, N, and O, Linn County, Iowa.* Prepared for Linn County Historic Preservation Commission and State Historical Society of Iowa.
- 2016 *Survey and Evaluation of Selected Historic Archaeological and Architectural Properties in Subsections A, K, and S, Linn County, Iowa.* Tallgrass Historians L.C., Iowa City. Prepared for Linn County Historic Preservation Commission and State Historical Society of Iowa.
- Rogers, Leah D., and Cindy L. Nagel
- 2013 *Survey and Evaluation of Selected Historic Archaeological and Architectural Properties in Subsections D, L, and R, Linn County, Iowa.* Prepared for Linn County Historic Preservation Commission and State Historical Society of Iowa. Prepared by Tallgrass Historians L.C., Iowa City.
- Rogers, Leah D., and William C. Page
- 1993 *Linn County Comprehensive Planning Project Phase Two: Archaeological, Historical, and Architectural Survey Subsection E.* Prepared for Linn County Historic Preservation Commission and State Historical Society of Iowa.
- 1994 *Linn County Comprehensive Planning Project Phase Three: Archaeological, Historical, and Architectural Survey Subsections C & Q.* Prepared for Linn County Historic Preservation Commission and State Historical Society of Iowa.
- 1995 *Linn County Comprehensive Planning Project Phase Four: Archaeological, Historical, and Architectural Survey Subsection B.* Prepared for Linn County Historic Preservation Commission and State Historical Society of Iowa.
- 1996 *Linn County Comprehensive Planning Project Phase Five: Archaeological, Historical, and Architectural Survey Subsection P.* Prepared for Linn County Historic Preservation Commission and State Historical Society of Iowa.
- Rogers, Leah D., and Jennifer A. Price
- 2010 *U.S. Highway 30 Mt. Vernon/Lisbon Corridor Preservation Zone (CPZ): Architectural/Historical Intensive Survey and Evaluation Linn/Cedar Counties, Iowa.* TH09-468-2. Tallgrass Historians L.C., Iowa City.
- 2011 *Survey and Evaluation of Selected Historic Archaeological and Architectural Properties in Subsections I and M, Linn County, Iowa.* Tallgrass Historians L.C., Iowa City. Prepared for Linn County Historic Preservation Commission and State Historical Society of Iowa.
- Ross, Earle D.
- 1951 *Iowa Agriculture: An Historical Survey.* The State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City.
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- 1990 *A Prairie Almanac, 1839-1919: an eyewitness account of everyday life in early Iowa,* by Isaac N. Kramer. Bella Vista, Arkansas.

Meyers Farmstead Historic District

Linn County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

Throne, Mildred

1973 "Book Farming" in Iowa, 1840-1870. In *Patterns and Perspectives in Iowa History*, edited by Dorothy Schwieder. Iowa State University Press, Ames.

Vogeler, Ingolf

1995 Dairying and Dairy Barns in the Northern Midwest. In *Barns of the Midwest*, edited by Allen G. Noble and Hubert G.H. Wilhelm, Ohio University Press, Athens.

Other Sources:

About Agromatic, Inc.: Our History. Information concerning the history of Klinzing Manufacturing. Accessed at <https://agromatic.net/history/>, July 2020.

Advertisements of farm sales noting crib/hog house structures, *Davenport Times*, December 4, 1957 and *Postville Herald*, September 27, 1961.

Description of tornado damage on the Meyers farm, *Lisbon Sun*, June 11 and 12, 1908.

Historical June 7, 1908 photographs of tornado damage

Historical plat maps of Linn County dating from 1859, 1869, 1881, 1895, 1907, 1914, and 1921

Interview with John B. Meyers by Eleanor Meyers Butterfield, notes dated July 1971.

Interview with John B. Meyers by Ira W. Butterfield, handwritten notes dated 2-27-1972

John Meyers Obituary, *Mount Vernon/Lisbon Sun*, October 1978.

Meyers Farm Property Abstract

Mount Vernon Hawkeye-Record and Lisbon Herald, February 15, 1940, article about John Meyers farm sale

Lisbon Cemetery Walk 2003; on file Lisbon History Center.

PHMC Pennsylvania Agricultural History Project, 2015. Accessed at www.pphmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/agriculture/field-guide/corn-crib.html, April 2020.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Lisbon, Iowa: 1894, 1900, 1906

Suggestions for Hog Houses, *The National Stockman and Farmer*, April 14, 1898

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | previously listed in the National Register | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | previously determined eligible by the National Register | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | designated a National Historic Landmark | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey | # |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | recorded by Historic American Engineering Record | # |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey | # |

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State Agency
☐ Federal Agency
☐ Local Government
☐ University
☐ Other
☐ Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Meyers Farmstead Historic District

Linn County, Iowa

Name of Property

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.4

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage; enter "Less than one" if the acreage is .99 or less)

UTM Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

| | | | | | |
|---|-----------|------------|---|-----------|------------|
| 1 | 633483.93 | 4642525.36 | 3 | 633559.27 | 4642435.33 |
| | Easting | Northing | | Easting | Northing |
| 2 | 633558.50 | 4642523.42 | 4 | 633481.58 | 4642461.01 |
| | Easting | Northing | | Easting | Northing |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary is shown as the black dashed line on the accompanying map entitled "Topographic location of the Meyers Farm Historic District showing the NRHP Boundary."

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This boundary encompasses the extant historic farm buildings including the two barns, the crib/hog house, the silo, the watering trough, and the gateway to the property. Also within this boundary are the locations of non-extant structures including a second crib/hog house, a chicken house, and part of a machine shed.

11. Form Prepared By

| | | | |
|-----------------|--|-----------|----------------------------|
| name/title | Leah D. Rogers, Consultant, and Ray J. Werner, Project Historian | date | January 15, 2021 |
| organization | Tallgrass Archaeology LLC | telephone | 319-354-6722 |
| street & number | 2460 S. Riverside Drive | email | lrogerstallgrass@gmail.com |
| city or town | Iowa City | state | IA |
| | | zip code | 52246 |

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **GIS Location Map (Google Earth or BING)**
- **Local Location Map**
- **Site Plan**
- **Floor Plans (As Applicable)**
- **Photo Location Map** (Include for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map and insert immediately after the photo log and before the list of figures).

Meyers Farmstead Historic District

Name of Property

Linn County, Iowa

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Topographic location of the Meyers Farm Historic District showing the NRHP Boundary (black dashed outline) and the location of the UTM coordinates (green labeled dots #1-#4).
USGS Mt. Vernon, IA Quadrangle Map obtained from ExpertGPS Pro Mapping Software, 2020.

Meyers Farmstead Historic District

Name of Property

Linn County, Iowa

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Street Map showing location of Meyers Farm Historic District (black outlined) in the City of Lisbon, Linn County, Iowa. Map obtained from ExpertGPS Pro Mapping Software, 2020.

Meyers Farmstead Historic District

Name of Property

Linn County, Iowa

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Aerial site plan map showing district boundary (white outline) in relation to the extant barns, the crib/hog house, the watering trough/pump, the southeast gate and inscribed concrete fencepost as well as the former hog house that was recently removed. Source: Aerial obtained from ExpertGPS Pro mapping software, 2020

**The extant buildings, structures, and labeled objects are all contributing to this district.
Only the site within the district boundary is considered noncontributing.**

Meyers Farmstead Historic District

Name of Property

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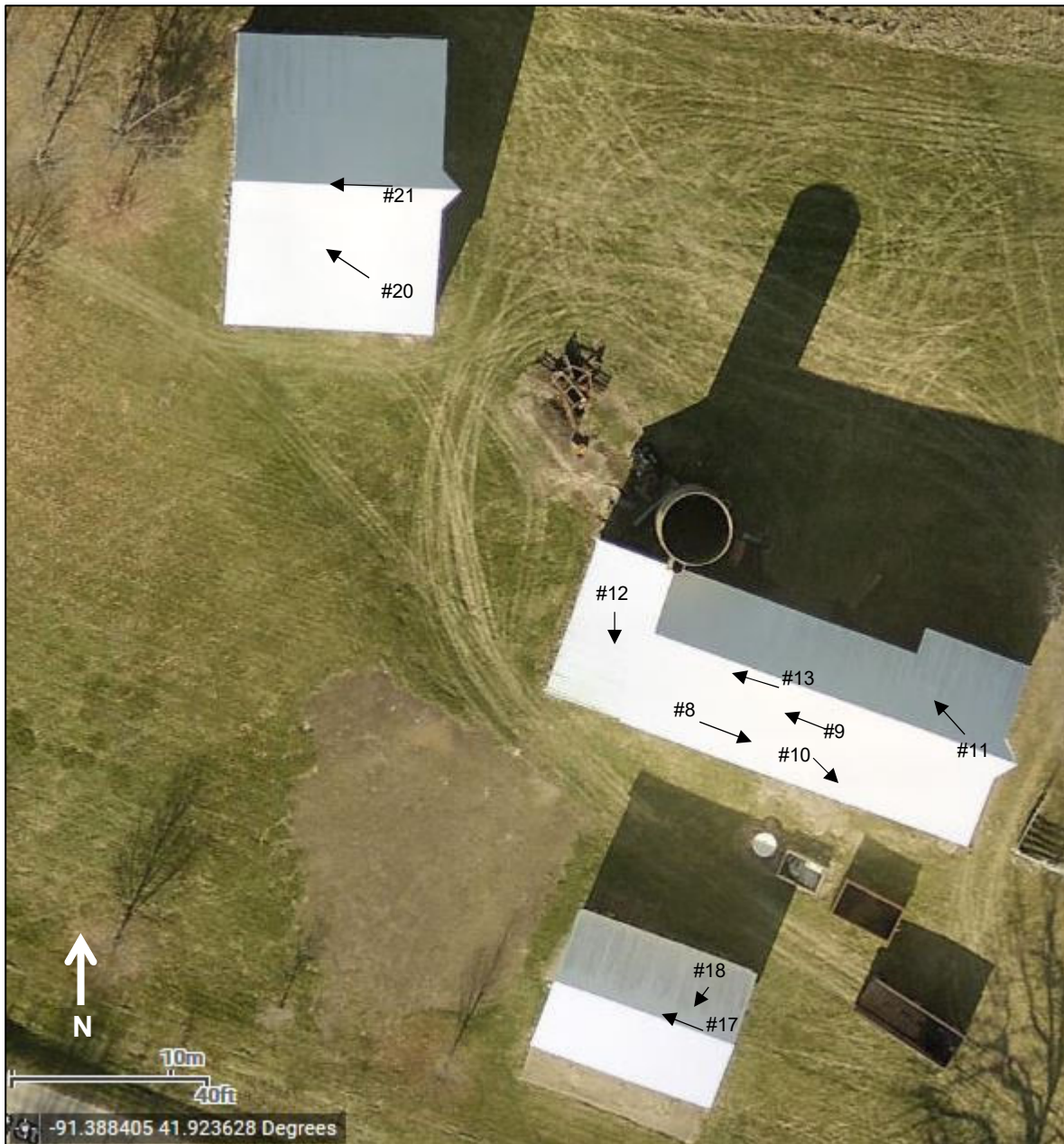
Site Plan Map showing Photograph Directions of exterior photos #1-7, 14-15, 18-19, and 22-23.
Source for base aerial: ExpertGPS Pro mapping software, 2020.

Meyers Farmstead Historic District

Name of Property

Linn County, Iowa

County and State



Site Plan Map showing direction of interior photographs #8-13, 16-17, and 20-21.
Source for map: Linn County Iowa GIS accessed at <https://lcgis.linncounty.org/>, June 2020.

Meyers Farmstead Historic District

Linn County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 pixels, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: **Meyers Farm Historic District**

City or Vicinity: **Lisbon**

County: **Linn** **State:** **Iowa**

Photographer: **Leah D. Rogers**

Date Photographed: **April 13, 2020 (#1), April 11, 2020 (#2-5, 7, 15), July 22, 2020 (#6, 8-14, 16-23)**

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 1 of 23: General view of district looking WNW from intersection of Market and Jefferson streets
Photo 2 of 23: General view of district looking ENE at crib/hog house and two barns from Market Street
Photo 3 of 23: View of barns and crib/hog house looking NE from Market Street
Photo 4 of 23: Crib/hog house and basement barn looking NNE from Market Street
Photo 5 of 23: General view of crib/hog house and basement barn looking NW from gateway entrance
Photo 6 of 23: Banked/basement barn looking NW
Photo 7 of 23: Banked/basement barn and silo looking SW
Photo 8 of 23: Interior of basement level of barn showing milking parlor looking ESE
Photo 9 of 23: Interior of basement level barn showing center aisle of milking parlor looking WNW
Photo 10 of 23: Interior of basement level barn showing milk wash/cooling room looking SE
Photo 11 of 23: Interior of east end addition to basement barn looking NW
Photo 12 of 23: Interior of west end addition to basement barn looking south
Photo 13 of 23: Interior of loft level of banked/basement barn looking WNW
Photo 14 of 23: Crib/hog house and water tank looking SW
Photo 15 of 23: Crib/hog house looking NE
Photo 16 of 23: Detail south side of basement level of crib/hog house looking WNW
Photo 17 of 23: Interior of crib/hog house looking WNW
Photo 18 of 23: Interior of crib/hog house looking SSW at floor joists with spaces open to hog floor below
Photo 19 of 23: Feeder/hay barn looking NW
Photo 20 of 23: Interior of lower portion of feeder/hay barn looking NW
Photo 21 of 23: Interior of Feeder/hay barn looking west at framing
Photo 22 of 23: Concrete fence post inscribed with Meyers' name and date (circa 1908) looking NW
Photo 23 of 23: Metal gateway at SE entrance to district looking SE

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.