

GEORGE SPANGERBERGER FARMSTEAD
2012 W. Illinois Ave.
South Hutchinson Vicinity
Reno County
Kansas

HABS No. KS-77

HABS
KS-77

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
Midwest Support Office
1709 Jackson Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68102-2571

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

GEORGE SPANGERBERGER FARMSTEAD

HABS No. KS-77

For more information about other structures at the George Spangerberger Farmstead, see:

HABS No. KS-77-A	George Spangerberger Farmstead, Residence
HABS No. KS-77-B	George Spangerberger Farmstead, John Siegrist Claim House
HABS No. KS-77-C	George Spangerberger Farmstead, Privy
HABS No. KS-77-D	George Spangerberger Farmstead, Chicken House
HABS No. KS-77-E	George Spangerberger Farmstead, West Tool Shed
HABS No. KS-77-F	George Spangerberger Farmstead, East Tool Shed
HABS No. KS-77-G	George Spangerberger Farmstead, Garage
HABS No. KS-77-H	George Spangerberger Farmstead, Pole Building
HABS No. KS-77-I	George Spangerberger Farmstead, Barn

Location: 2012 W. Illinois Ave., 1.65 miles west of the intersection of U.S. Highway 50 and Kansas Highway 96, South Hutchinson Vicinity, Reno County, Kansas

USGS Hutchinson, Kans. Quadrangle, UTM Coordinates: 14.590360.4207680

Present Owners: Kansas Department of Transportation

Present Occupant: Vacant

Present Use: Vacant Farmstead

Significance: The George Spangerberger Farmstead has historical ties with the Kansas settlement boom period of the 1880s, the economic dominance of agriculture from the 1880s to 1917, the period of mechanization between ca. 1900-39, and the recent past since 1939.

Part I. Historical Information

A. Physical History

The George Spangerberger Farmstead is located in Reno County, Kansas, which includes 808,651 acres. The general terrain of the county is gently undulating prairie with areas that are nearly level (Mohler 1889:399). The site is located in Reno Township, approximately one mile west of the city of Hutchinson. The Spangerberger Farmstead, commonly known as the George Harold Walters Farmstead, is located in the east half of the southwest quarter of Section 27, Township 23 South, Range 6 West of the Sixth Principal Meridian. With the exception of the John Siegrist Claim House, the main farmstead buildings have southern orientations which front US-50 Highway.

Although some acreage on the farm is under cultivation, most of the land is in pasture. The nine buildings associated with the farm are clustered near the southwest corner of the real estate, near, and in some cases within, a cluster of trees. The most extensive area of cultivation is immediately south and east of the barn. Another smaller cultivated parcel is west of the house and is bounded by trees, US-50 Highway, and a county road. A large pasture is located north of the buildings. The large pasture north of the house contains both natural and man-made features. This undeveloped area includes a few buffalo wallows and remnants of wagon ruts associated with the old Sun City Trail.

U.S. Highway 50 forms the most visible boundary for the tract containing the George Spangerberger Farmstead. This highway, which forms the south boundary of the farmstead, follows the section line between Sections 27 and 34, Township 23 South, Range 6 West. The farm complex lies within the Arkansas River drainage. The river, which runs roughly northwest to southeast in this vicinity, is located approximately 3.3 miles east and 2.3 miles north of the farm buildings.

B. Historical Context

The George Spangerberger Farmstead has historical ties to four period of Kansas development. The farm is closely connected with the Kansas settlement boom period of the 1880s, the economic dominance of agriculture from the 1880s to the early 1900s, the period of mechanization between ca. 1900-39, and the recent past since 1939. These periods are defined in the state's historic preservation plan (Kansas State Historical Society, Historic Preservation Department [hereafter cited as KSHS, HPD] 1984).

The period between the close of the Civil War in 1865 and the turn of the century, is referred to in the Kansas historic preservation plan as the "Period of Rural and Agricultural Dominance." This period saw the transformation of Kansas from an underdeveloped frontier into a state with a diversified economy based on agriculture, but also including manufacturing and industry. In 1865, population was concentrated in the eastern third of the state, where many American Indian groups still resided and where EuroAmerican settlement, tied to Missouri River and overland commerce, had developed since 1854. In the 1860s-70s, most of the Immigrant Indian groups were relocated to reservations in Oklahoma, opening much land to settlement. Starting with the late 1860s, the construction of railroads in Kansas began in earnest. Railroad construction was a significant force in structuring the location of towns throughout Kansas and in fostering the agricultural development of the western part of the state (Lees 1989:73).

In general, settlement moved across Kansas from east to west in reflection of the increasingly marginal environment, in agricultural terms, of the western part of the state. By 1870, settlement covered roughly the eastern half of the state and by 1890 the entire state was settled. The establishment of settlement in Kansas during these years, and particularly in the western half of the state between about 1870-90, was in part a response to the availability of land and in part a response to promotional efforts of the railroads and of local town developers. The

railroads were responsible for attracting many European immigrants to Kansas, and even promoted, with some success, the immigration of entire groups to the state. Group immigration during the 1870s-80s created distinctive ethnic pockets throughout the state, and particularly in its western half where German-Russian Mennonites and Roman Catholics, Swedes, and Czechoslovaks settled in significant numbers (Lees 1989:73).

The transition of the western part of the state from a frontier was not without hardship, part of it coming from conflict with disgruntled Plains Indians. An Indian war starting in 1864 led to the establishment of forts Dodge, Harker, Hays, and Wallace in western Kansas to supplement forts Leavenworth, Riley, Larned, and Zarah which had been established previously. In 1867-68, several hundred settlers were killed by Indians, and several military and civilian expeditions were mounted to punish those guilty of the depredations. Hostilities occurred again in 1877, when a large group of dissatisfied Cheyenne left their Oklahoma reservation and crossed Kansas on their way north, killing many settlers in the process (Lees 1989:74).

The economy of the state during the 1865-1900 period focused on agriculture, and became significantly tied to wheat agriculture and to livestock production and processing. This is referred to in the state historic preservation plan as the "Period of Rural and Agricultural Dominance." During the first two decades of this period (1865-85), the state became a transshipment point for cattle which were driven from Texas to the rail heads in central and western Kansas (Lees 1989:74).

In the decades following the Civil War, the vast majority of Kansans lived and worked on farms. Eighty to ninety percent of the state's population consistently reported farm residence or agricultural employment to census takers. These people, and the farms they built, are central to the rural Kansas landscape (KSHS, HPD 1984:I-18).

The boom that had characterized the development of Kansas following the Civil War ceased by 1890, and an economy supported by overextended investment collapsed. This had the greatest impact in the western half of the state, where the marginal environment quickly proved itself incapable of supporting the population level that had become established there. The economic downturn also encouraged the development of industry and mining for oil, gas, coal, and salt (Lees 1989:74).

Between 1900-39, referred to as the "Time of Contrasts," Kansas continued to develop in agriculture, but major changes came from the industrial sector and from improvements in transportation. During this period, agriculture became increasingly mechanized and diversified, and the automobile began to become a dominant means of transportation for people and goods. Industrial expansion in southeastern Kansas occurred in the area of mining of zinc, coal, and oil, and in the production of cement, glass, and brick. In central Kansas, salt production from mines continued to grow. The production of oil and natural gas eventually spread across southern Kansas (Lees 1989:74).

International events that had a significant effect on Kansas during this period were World War I (1914-18), the Great Depression (1929-39), and the beginnings of World War II (1939-45). Many Kansans served in the armed forces, while others produced crops and manufactured items vital to the military efforts. The "Dust Bowl" drought of the 1930s, although affecting primarily the southern and central Great Plains, had a significant effect on western Kansas (Lees 1989:74-75). Numbers of Kansans whose personal economies were affected by the depression and/or the drought left the state.

During the "Recent Past," since 1939, major changes occurred in the state. Many of these changes were affected by national and international events such as World War II, the Korean War (1950-53), the Vietnam War (1965-75), the end of the cold war, and the emergence of a world economy. A major population trend during this period was the decline of rural towns and farmsteads, resulting in the abandonment of many farms and communities. A number of large scale construction projects significantly changed the landscape during this period. Federally funded reservoir construction projects built dams creating large lakes and inundating stream valleys. The transformation of transportation, which had begun during the preceding period, continued with the further decline of railroads and

a major increase in highway and airline traffic. More Kansans turned to employment in industry and commerce, moving to the state's expanding urban centers. While agriculture remained an important part of the state economy and a major source of international exports, there was a steady decline in the number of family farms (Lees 1989:75).

Kansas farms are more than the sum of individual houses, barns, and outbuildings. The buildings on any Kansas farm were built to serve practical ends. Within them farm activities took place, and crops and animals were sheltered. Different farming methods and different crops and animals necessitated different farm layouts. The dramatic changes in agriculture in Kansas between 1865 and 1900 had their impact on the buildings erected on Kansas farms and ranches (KSHS, HPD 1984:I-18).

On arriving in eastern Kansas in the 1850s-60s, farmers had continued to plant the same crops and follow the same practices that they had in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri. Most raised corn, which was easy to grow on unbroken land and fed both family members and a few livestock. In addition, potatoes, squash, sorghum, and other crops were grown and locally consumed. River-bank areas were preferred, but even the small stretches of prairie in eastern Kansas could be farmed with traditional methods if a family was willing to dig for water and haul wood (KSHS, HPD 1984:I-18).

Rather quickly, all this began to change. As farmers moved into the arid sections of central and western Kansas, they discovered the need for larger farms and the expensive new farm machinery which was beginning to be manufactured. New methods of farming came into wide use. National transportation networks involved farmers in worldwide markets, and the possibility of good profit from cash crops encouraged farmers to specialize (KSHS, HPD 1984:I-18).

By the end of the nineteenth century, basic patterns of Kansas agriculture had been established--patterns reflected in the buildings on Kansas farms. Diversified agriculture remained somewhat common in eastern Kansas. Along the northern border of the state, corn was the dominant crop, sometimes sold and sometimes fed to hogs which were being raised for market. Corn remained the chief crop of the state into the twentieth century, but by the 1880s wheat was beginning to rival it in the central and western sections, and ranching was becoming a major business in the state. Winter wheat, introduced to central Kansas by the Mennonites in the 1870s, quickly became the most profitable crop there. The Flint Hills developed as a cattle raising area. The rainy years of the 1880s and experimentation with irrigation raised hopes of farming and ranching on the High Plains. Sugar beets were among the crops tried. The droughts of the 1890s sent many who had settled in western Kansas back to wetter regions. Some remained, however, learning to cope with the dry environment (KSHS, HPD 1984:I-18-19).

In addition to the type of farming being done, ethnic traditions sometimes affected the building and placement of farm structures. Although in the late nineteenth century nearly all American farms were composed of detached buildings, an occasional Kansas farmstead had a connected house and barn or a chain of connected outbuildings. This type of building was probably derived from German-Russian farmsteads in eastern Europe, although there is also a connecting-barn tradition in northern New England. In addition, the specialized buildings which were believed to be necessary differed from group to group. Some immigrants may have continued to build structures which were more specifically suited to the countries from which they came than to Kansas. In his study of the German-Russian Catholics of central Kansas, Albert Petersen included information on the type and placement of outbuildings. His study indicated the possible differences in ethnic traditions regarding these matters. It may be that traditional methods of building and traditional building types were retained in these minor buildings for a longer time than they were in the more prominent houses and barns (KSHS, HPD 1984:I-18-19).

By the late nineteenth century, there was an abundant amount of agricultural literature which advised farmers on all subjects, including which outbuildings were needed and how they should be arranged. Great concern was shown in these publications for sanitation and cleanliness and the placement of wells and privies. Such publications were widely available in Kansas--some printed locally, others issued by the Kansas State Board of

Agriculture. The extent to which they were used remains unknown (KSHS, HPD 1984:I-18-19).

A flood of architectural publications also became widely available from the 1840s to the end of the nineteenth century. These publications described construction techniques, building plans, and stylistic features. New methods of construction, such as the "balloon frame," were introduced through these publications, and became practicable when railroad connections made a wider range of building materials readily available. Although homes were the buildings most frequently discussed, schools, churches, business, and farm buildings also received attention. Books and magazines offered plans and drawings which could be followed by those wanting to adopt the new styles. Aesthetic discussions were often combined with advice on practical matters, such as plumbing, ventilation, or heating. These publications went to great lengths to teach Americans to consider these new styles as the ultimate in beauty and to appreciate the ways in which such architecture could enhance morality and virtue. Some Kansans adopted, wholly or in part, the newer ideas being put forth by experts, while others continued to follow vernacular traditions in building (KSHS, HPD 1984:I-6, 10).

C. Specific History of the Farmstead:

1. Dates of Construction: The extant buildings associated with the Spangerberger Farmstead were constructed between ca. 1876-1960. No good documentation was found providing construction dates of the farm structures. Estimated dates of construction are based upon assessor records and information provided by descendants and past owners.

The oldest buildings on the farmstead are the claim house and the main residence. The claim house was originally built ca. 1876 on a nearby quarter section and was relocated to the Spangerberger Farmstead in 1908. The main residence was erected ca. 1878-1912. The southern portion was built first and the northern portion was added in 1912. The buildings closest to the main residence and claim house include the chicken house, privy, and two tool sheds. The chicken house was constructed ca. 1930. The privy and both tool sheds were built ca. 1940. The garage, pole building, and barn are grouped along the eastern part of the farm complex. The barn is the oldest building in this grouping. It was originally constructed between ca. 1880-1900. Following a violent summer storm in 1948 a replacement barn was reconstructed on the same site incorporating the few remaining elements. The garage was built ca. 1912, with the attached lean-tos added on the east and west sides ca. 1960. The pole building was also constructed ca. 1960.

2. Original and Subsequent Owners: Since the construction of the first extant structure on the farm, the Spangerberger Farmstead had only four private owners. The farmstead site was originally part of a much larger grant of land to the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad. The property was owned briefly by James and Virginia Cooper, but no evidence was found that they ever lived at the farm. Eberle W. and E.J. Thomson were reported as the owners of the farm from 1878-87. The farm was owned by George and Mary Spangerberger from 1887-1945. George is reported as the owner of the entire southwest quarter of Section 27 on the 1902 (Northwest Publishing), 1912 (Hutchinson Blue Print), and 1918 (Ogle) atlases of Reno County. Subsequently the farmstead was owned by the Spangerberger's grandson and his wife, George Harold and Margaret O'Hara Walters, until the property was purchased by the Kansas Department of Transportation in 1997 for construction of a new highway interchange.
3. Historic Events and Persons Associated with the Farmstead: The George Spangerberger Farmstead is associated with the early trade and settlement period in western history. The Sun City Trail, also referred to as the Sunrise Trail, a cutoff from the Santa Fe Trail leading to Camp Supply, was used by western traders, soldiers, and travelers alike during the later half of the nineteenth century. According to Reno County historian Naomi Stiggins (1990), the trail was credited with cutting off at least a week of travel from the regular route of the Santa Fe Trail. While no documentation could be found showing that the Sun City Trail officially crossed Section 27, family history passed down to Mr. Walters indicates that the wagon ruts in the pasture northeast of the Spangerberger Farmstead

are remnants of this transportation route. However, the map of the Sun City Trail in Naomi Stiggins' (1990) article shows the route as running east-west through Section 22 to the north of the Spangerberger Farmstead parcel. In 1872 Reno County was established. The county quickly became one of the most densely populated counties in the state, ranking sixth in population density by 1887, averaging 24.71 people per square mile. By 1895 the route across the pasture was probably no longer in use as Spangerberger had his entire acreage fenced (Decennial Census of Kansas 1895).

According to the Abstract of Title for the property, Section 27, Township 23 South, Range Six West of the Sixth Principal Meridian was part of a land grant issued by the State of Kansas to the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad Company. The firm received patent for the property on May 19, 1873. Four years later, the railroad transferred title to Virginia V. F. Cooper for the price of \$1,280. The Cooper's were not enumerated in Kansas on the 1870 federal census, or listed on the January 18, 1872 census roll of Reno County (Ploughe 1917). Four months after acquiring the property, Cooper and her husband James C. Cooper, transferred ownership to E. W. Thomson for the price of \$960.

Eberle W. Thomson, and his wife E. J., owned the real estate from April 11, 1878 until February 27, 1887. An 1885 (Carpenter & Woods) county map showed the owner of the southwest quarter of Section 27 as "E.W. Thompson." No enumeration was found for Eberle Thomson (or for an E.W. Thompson) on the manuscript returns of the 1880 federal or 1885 state censuses. Therefore, it seems unlikely that the Thomsons resided on the farmstead during their nearly nine year ownership of the quarter section. They appear to have been absentee owners. However, the farmstead may have been occupied by tenants with improvements begun on the property during that period. The oldest part of the residence, the southern section, the smokehouse, corn crib, and barn all may have been built during this period.

In February 1887, a lawyer acting for the Thomsons sold the property to George Spangerberger for \$4,000 (May Abstract & Title Company, No. 46502). Spangerberger, whose parents had emigrated from Germany, was born in Ohio. He lived briefly in Illinois, where ca. 1874 he married his wife, Mary E. Siegrist (Reno Co. Genealogical Society 1989; U.S. Census 1880). Mary, the daughter of John and Elizabeth (Yontz) Siegrist, was born on October 19, 1854 at San Jose, Illinois (Personal Communication with Walters, September 9, 1994). George and Mary arrived in Kansas prior to 1877-78 when their daughter Clara E. was born. They may have come to Kansas with Mary's family in 1876. The Spangerberger family was enumerated on the 1880 federal census as residents of the nearby town of Hutchinson. George, aged 28, was listed as a white male, a native of Ohio, and a store keeper. His wife, Mary, was reported as 25-year-old white female, a native of Illinois whose parents were both born in Pennsylvania. Her occupation was reported as "H[ouse] Keeper." The other member of the Spangerberger household in Hutchinson was their 3-year-old daughter, Clara, who was born in Kansas (U.S. Census 1880; Reno Co. Genealogical Society 1989).

Mary Spangerberger's parents already owned the northwest quarter of Section 27 and southwest quarter of Section 22 when Mary and George acquired the Thomson property in Section 27. Both Siegrist parcels were immediately north of the Spangerberger's new farm. John Siegrist was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania on January 18, 1823, to Christian and Hettie Siegrist, members of the Mennonite church. On April 24, 1848, John married 18-year-old Elizabeth Yontz, daughter of Jacob and Fannie Yontz. The couple moved to Tazewell County, Illinois shortly after their marriage. In 1876 John and his oldest son traveled to Reno County, Kansas to purchase property in advance of moving the family. The Siegrist family moved to Kansas and settled on the southwest quarter of Section 22 later that year. This is where John Siegrist built his claim house. By 1877 Siegrist had constructed a new frame house on the parcel, reportedly one of the best in the county (Ploughe 1917:328-330).

John Siegrist's family was enumerated on the 1880 federal census in Reno Township. At that time John was reported as a 57-year-old, white male, a native of Pennsylvania, with the occupation of farmer. His household included five other individuals: his wife, Elizabeth (aged 49, born in Pennsylvania, "Keeping House"); their son, George (aged 18, born in Illinois); two daughters, Nettie F. (aged 14, Illinois native) and Annie M. (aged 8, born

in Illinois); and a nephew, Amos Siegrist (aged 21, Illinois native, farm laborer) (U.S. Census 1880). According to Ploughe's (1917) *History of Reno County Kansas*, the Siegrist family, of Pennsylvania-Dutch extraction, was one of the county's most progressive and substantial farm families. Several Siegrists settled in the area in 1876 (Ploughe 1917:328). The 1880 agricultural schedule to the federal census reported that John Siegrist owned a farm valued at \$3,500 including 160 improved acres. At that time he had five horses, one mule or ass, four milch cows and five other cattle, twenty-two swine, and thirty poultry (U.S. Census 1880). During the next five years Siegrist doubled his farm acreage and increased his livestock holdings. The agricultural schedule accompanying the 1885 state census reported that John Siegrist owned a 320 acre farm valued at \$15,000. He had 180 acres under cultivation, 120 acres in prairie and eleven acres in trees. His livestock included six horses, four milch cows, twenty-two other cattle, and seventy-seven swine (Kansas Census 1885). The Siegrist family had one of the most extensive hog operations in the county (Ploughe 1917:330). This interest may have contributed to George Spangerberger, John's son-in-law, becoming involved in swine production.

John Siegrist died on August 15, 1907 at the age of 85. He is buried in Eastside Cemetery in Hutchinson. He was survived by his widow, Elizabeth, and their five surviving children, two sons, Jacob L. and George W. Siegrist, and three daughters, Mary Spangerberger, Hettie, and Annie (Ploughe 1917:330; Reno Co. Genealogical Society 1980:315).

The 1895 state census enumerated five individuals in the Spangerberger household in Reno Township. George Spangerberger was reported as a 43-year-old, white male, a native of Ohio, who made his living farming. Mary E. Spangerberger was 40 years of age, with a reported occupation of "H[ouse] Keeping." They had two children living at home, a daughter, Clara E. (aged 17), and a son, George (aged 13), both born in Kansas and at school. The agricultural schedule accompanying this census indicated that George Spangerberger owned 160 acres, all fenced, 100 acres of which were cultivated. The farm land and improvements were valued at \$6,000 with \$75 worth of farm implements. In 1895 Spangerberger sowed fifty acres in corn, fifteen acres in oats, three in sorghum, and had one acre in alfalfa. Another sixty acres consisted of a fenced prairie meadow. The livestock on the farm consisted of six horses, five milch cows, eleven other cattle, and thirty-two swine. They had 260 fruit trees that were bearing, including 100 apple, 100 peach, twenty-five plum, and thirty-five cherry. Of the 178 fruit trees that were not yet bearing fruit, 150 were peach, twenty-five apple, and three pear. During the previous year the family sold \$50 worth of poultry and eggs, made 1,200 pounds of butter, cut eight tons of prairie hay, and slaughtered or sold to slaughter \$1,000 worth of livestock (Kansas Census 1895). According to the Spangerbergers' grandson, George Harold Walters, they planted milo and wheat and maintained approximately 225 chickens, selling the eggs to the Reno Creamery. Mary Spangerberger spent many hours canning and quilting.

George Spangerberger died October 21, 1938, at the age of 86 years. Mary died at age 90 on September 19, 1945 in Reno County, Kansas. Both are buried in Memorial Park Cemetery in the north half of Section 18, Township 23 South, Range 6 West, Reno Township, Reno County, Kansas.

On March 9, 1903, George and Mary Spangerberger's daughter, Clara E., married Max H. Walters in the bride's home. They were the parents of the farm's last private owner, George Harold Walters. Max and Clara Walters had a farm near Whiteside where Max farmed and worked as a railroad employee. Their only child was George Harold Walters, the last private owner of the Spangerberger Farmstead. George Harold Walters made several of the porch modifications for his grandparents while they lived at the farmstead. As a boy Walters often visited his grandparents' farm. He recalled the first time he stumbled upon the trail ruts in the pasture. He literally fell into them while with his grandfather. He asked his grandfather about the 12" trenches crossing the land, and George Spangerberger said they were part of the Santa Fe Trail.

On June 25, 1927, George Harold Walters married Margaret O'Hara, the daughter of H.P. O'Hara, in Partridge, Kansas (Reno Co. Genealogical Society 1982:261). The couple had two children, Barbara and Joan (Tri-Tabula 1970). After the death of his grandmother Mary Spangerberger in 1945, George Harold Walters inherited part of the property after the death of his grandmother. He purchased the remainder from other heirs, paying \$350 per

acre, and moved his family to the farm. Walters worked at a local paper mill until his retirement in 1968. From 1945 until his retirement he worked the farm as a second occupation, often putting in 16 hour work days between the two jobs. The Walters maintained a garden, which was approximately one-half acre in size. Margaret Walters canned nearly everything they grew in the plot, including potatoes, beans, beets, corn, celery, tomatoes, and other produce. Many of the items are still stored in the cellar. Margaret Walters died in 1987 (personal communication, Sheryll White with Walters, 1994). In his last years Walters maintained his residence at the farm, and leased the acreage around the home place. George Harold Walters died in 1996.

4. Present Owners and Farm Use: At present the George Spangerberger Farmstead is owned by KDOT. George Harold Waters, since deceased, was the owner of the farm prior to purchase by KDOT. After being purchased by KDOT the farmstead was leased until recently as a rural residence. It is now standing vacant. The land is intended for use as a highway intersection connecting U.S. Highway 50 with a new by-pass southwest of Hutchinson.

Part II. Architectural Context

The George Spangerberger Farmstead is located 1.65 miles west of the intersection of U.S. Highway 50 and Kansas Highway 96, a short distance southwest of South Hutchinson in Reno County, Kansas. It is accessed from U.S. 50 to the south. This road was merely an unpaved section-line road when the farmstead was established in the later portion of the nineteenth century. U.S. Highway 50 was built after Mr. Walters assumed ownership. According to Mr. Walters, the drainage design for the roadway has resulted in the pasture frequently experiencing more flooding or standing water than existed before the highway was built. One of the results of this runoff is erosion of the trail ruts. The damage from water is compounded by the pasture being rented for grazing of cattle. A combination of wet ground and cattle has resulted in wagon ruts being trampled (personal communication, Sheryll White with G.H. Walters, 1994).

The total number of buildings associated with the farmstead during its early occupation is not known. Mr. Walters provided some information concerning nonextant buildings that were removed prior to the 1940s. These included a smokehouse and corncrib. The exact location of the smokehouse was never firmly established, although the impression received was that it was north of the residence. The corn crib was demolished prior to, or ca. 1912. This nonextant building was located in the general vicinity of the garage (personal communication, Sheryll White with G.H. Walters, 1994).

The Spangerberger Farmstead currently contains nine structures. All of the farmstead buildings are clustered on the north side of U.S. Highway 50. The unpaved driveway separates the buildings into two groupings. Six structures are situated west of the driveway. The other three farmstead buildings are located east of this driveway.

The six farmstead buildings situated west of the driveway include the main residence and five nearby outbuildings, the claim house, the privy, the chicken house, and two tool sheds. The main building in the farmstead complex is the one-story, frame, hip-roofed residence. As originally built ca. 1878-90, during Kansas' period of the economic dominance of agriculture, the residence consisted only of the southern portion of the present structure, containing four rooms and a front porch. The residence was expanded during the period of mechanization, between ca. 1900-39. In 1908 the claim house was temporarily attached to the rear of the house. The permanent northern addition to the residence was built ca. 1912, adding a dining or general entry room, a kitchen, a utility room, and two porches. The original hip roof, which was torn off the residence during a violent summer storm in 1948, was replaced with a new roof of the same type. As late as the 1950s, the house yard was fenced with a wood picket gate providing access into the yard on the east along a sidewalk leading from the driveway to the east porch. The one-story, gable-roofed, frame claim house is located a short distance northwest of the residence. The claim house, which was built ca. 1876 during the settlement boom period in Kansas, was moved to the farmstead site in 1908 from a neighboring quarter section to the north. It was connected to the north side of the house as a north-south oriented addition. The claim house addition was removed from the rear of the residence and the structure was

moved to its present location ca. 1912, where it has served a variety of functions. A simple plywood-clad privy located west of the residence appears to have remained in use even after indoor plumbing was available. The privy was relocated from a site north of the tool sheds to a new location west of the residence and south of the chicken house ca. 1940. A replacement outhouse may have been constructed at the time the location was changed. The single-story, frame chicken house with a fenced enclosure to the south is situated northwest of the house. This structure also was built during the state's period of mechanization, ca. 1930. Two simple, one-story, frame tool sheds situated directly north of the house were built ca. 1940.

The three farm structures located east of the driveway (the barn, garage, and pole building) were constructed and altered between ca. 1880-1960. A four board fence connects the north side of the barn, south side of the pole building, and east side of the garage, forming a corral or animal pen. The two-story barn was originally built ca. 1880-1900, during Kansas' period of the economic dominance of agriculture. The 1948 summer storm which tore the roof from house also ripped the original gable roof from the barn and demolished two of the exterior walls. Only the north and east walls of the barn were intact enough to be incorporated in the rebuilding of its gambrel roof replacement. The one-story, clapboard-clad garage was built ca. 1912, during the state's period of mechanization. Metal-clad, pole-construction lean-tos were added on the east and west sides of the garage for equipment storage ca. 1960. The corrugated metal-clad pole building northeast of the garage, which is open on the south side, was also built ca. 1960.

Other changes have occurred which have altered the appearance of the farmstead. At least two, and possibly three, of the extant farmstead buildings have been moved from their original sites. The claim house was moved at least twice, the privy location changed, and the chicken house may have been relocated. Additions were made to other structures, massive repairs and reconstruction undertaken on some, and a few buildings were demolished (personal communication, Sheryll White with G.H. Walters, 1994). Indoor plumbing and electricity were installed before 1950. Mr. Walters indicated that electric service was added during the 1920s (personal communication, Sheryll White with G.H. Walters, 1994). However, the electrical system actually may not have been added until 1941. The Kansas Power and Light Company was granted a right-of-way across part of the property on April 8, 1941 (May Abstract & Title Co. No. 46502). A bathroom was added to the house before rural water was available by converting the small bedroom west of the second parlor into a bathroom during the 1930s. A barrel on the west side of the house supplied water for the shower system and an old tin tub in the bathroom. The farmstead became part of the rural water system sometime between 1948 and 1950 (personal communication, Sheryll White with G.H. Walters, 1994).

Part III. Sources of Information

A. EARLY VIEWS: From the collection of George Harold Walters (now deceased), Reno County, Kansas

- * Wedding Photograph of George and Mary E. (Siegrist) Spangerberger
- * Photograph of George and Mary E. (Siegrist) Spangerberger later in life
- * Photographs of George Harold and Margaret Walters
- * Photograph of Spangerberger and Walters Families on front porch, ca. 1918
- * Photograph of Joan Walters (age 4) sitting on porch steps, ca. 1948
- * Photograph of Joan and Margaret Walters sitting in east house yard, ca. 1950
- * Photograph of Joan and Barbara Walters sitting on east porch, ca. 1950

- * Photograph of Joan Walters standing on east porch, ca. 1950
- * Photograph of Joan and Barbara Walters standing near nonextant gate between driveway and east porch, ca. 1950
- * Photograph of Joan Walters (age 5) Sitting on porch steps, ca. 1950
- * Photograph of Joan and Barbara Walters sitting in west house yard with barrel from shower system in background, looking northeast, pre-1950
- * Photograph of Joan Walters sitting on front porch steps, looking northeast, ca. 1952
- * Photograph of Joan Walters sitting on porch steps, looking northeast, ca. 1952
- * Ca. 1952 aerial Photograph of George Spangerberger Farmstead, looking northeast

B. INTERVIEWS:

George Harold Walters (now deceased), interviewed by Sheryll L. White, notes on file in Archeology Office, Kansas State Historical Society

Stiggins, Naomi, interviewed by Sheryll L. White, notes on file in Archeology Office, Kansas State Historical Society

C. BIBLIOGRAPHY:

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No. 46502 Abstract of Title to the Following Described Real Estate Situated in Reno County, Kansas East ½ of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 27, Township 23 South, Range 6 West of the 6th P.M. , 1953.

Miscellaneous Primary Sources

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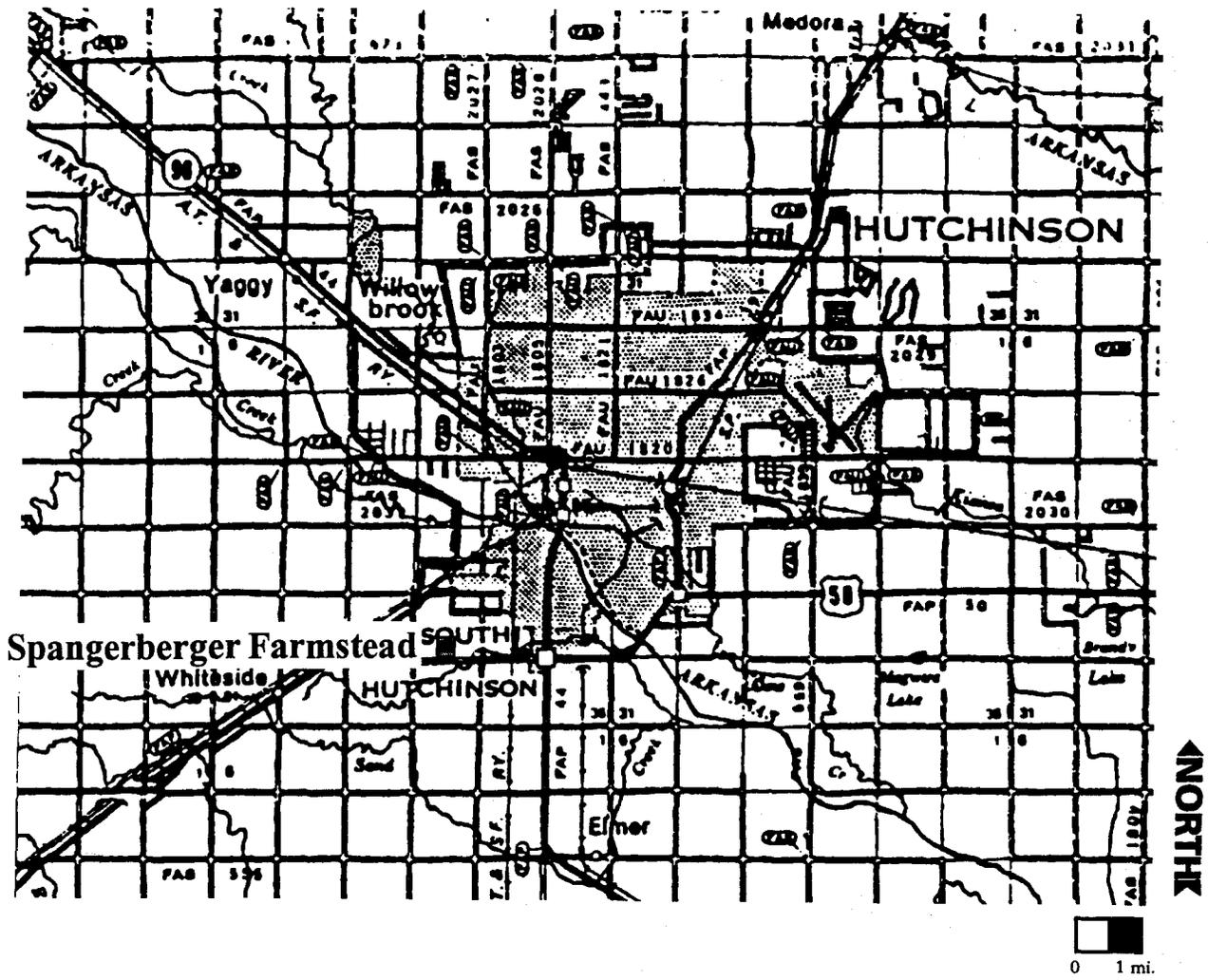
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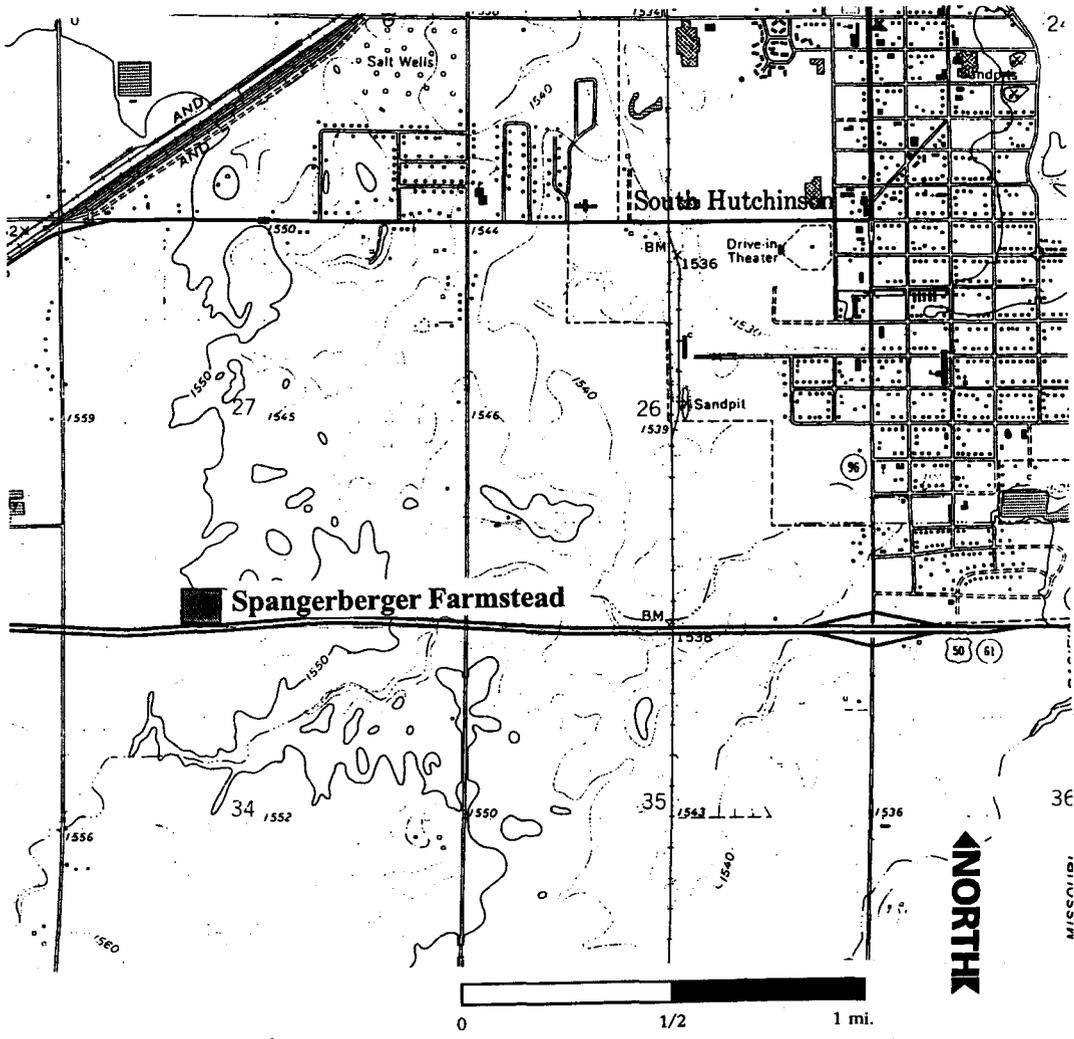
Part IV. Project Information

The project at the George Spangerberger Farmstead was undertaken in response to plans by the Kansas Department of Transportation to modify U.S. Highway 50 in Reno County [Project 99-78 K-5046-01] through construction of an interchange for the South Hutchinson By-Pass. This project was under the review of the Federal Highway Administration. The project was undertaken by the Archeology Office of the Kansas State Historical Society under the Cooperative Agreement for Highway Archeological Salvage Program with the Kansas Department of Transportation. After initial review of the proposed highway project, an Activity II inventory was recommended and conducted at the farmstead. After review of the Activity II results, the State Historic Preservation Office, recommended Activity III documentation and research, as the farmstead appeared to be eligible for the National Register as a unit under Criterion C. The Activity III report was submitted on October 12, 1994. The complex was later determined to be National Register eligible and the Historic American Buildings Survey documentation (Activity IV) was initiated.

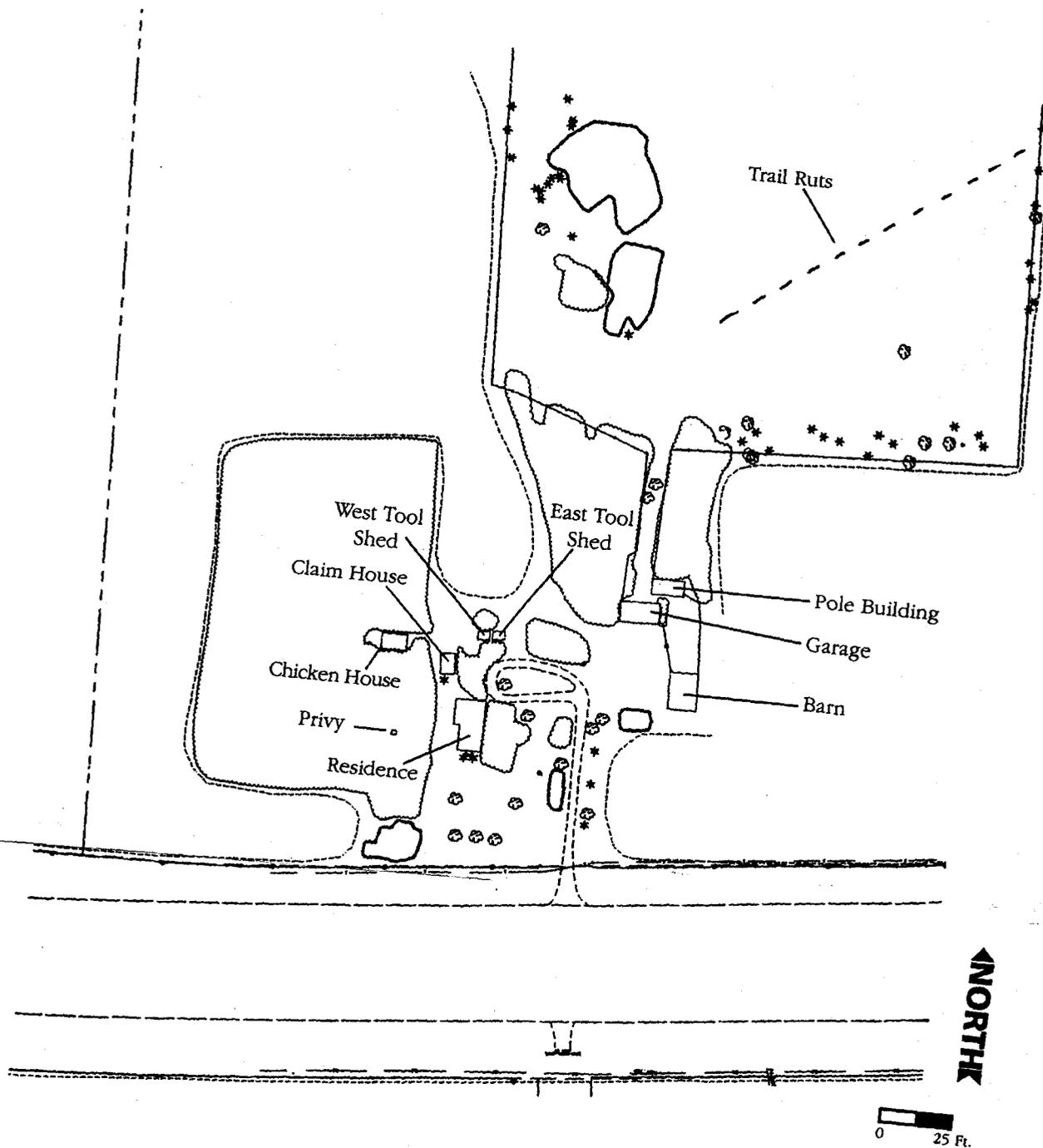
The Activity IV documentation of the Spangerberger Farmstead was completed during the 1997 field season. The documentation was undertaken by Marsha K. King and Timothy Weston (Kansas State Historical Society) with the assistance of Dale Newton (Kansas Department of Transportation). Sheryll L. White was the project historian for the Activity II and III projects. White conducted the bulk of the research associated with the project and prepared the Activity reports from which the historic information and historical context sections were taken. Marsha K. King conducted limited additional research and compiled and prepared the HABS document. Graphics were drafted by Wolfgang Guzman (Kansas State Historical Society). The photography was produced by Larry Colcher, Kansas State Historical Society photographer.



LOCATION OF THE GEORGE SPANGERBERGER FARMSTEAD ON THE
1988 KDOT GENERAL HIGHWAY MAP, RENO COUNTY, KANSAS.



LOCATION OF THE GEORGE SPANGERBERGER FARMSTEAD ON THE
1960/1978 USGS HUTCHINSON, KANS. QUADRANGLE MAP.



SITE PLAN OF THE GEORGE SPANGERBERGER FARMSTEAD.