

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

HABS No. KS-77-A

HABS

KS-77-A

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, RESIDENCE

HABS No. KS-77-A

Location: The Residence is located at 2012 W. Illinois Ave., east of the privy, southeast of the chicken house and claim house, and south of the tool sheds, South Hutchinson Vicinity, Reno County, Kansas.

Present Owners: Kansas Department of Transportation

Present Occupant: None

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: The Residence contributes to the historic character of the George Spangerberger Farmstead.

Description: The George Spangerberger Farmstead, Residence is situated on the west side of the driveway approximately 160' north of the north edge of US-50 Highway. Five other farmstead structures cluster around the residence. The privy is located approximately 20' west, the chicken house is 73' northwest, the claim house is 28' northwest, and the tool sheds are 63' north. The residence is across the driveway from the other three farmstead buildings, and is 195' west of the barn and 164' southwest of the garage. A gate, now nonextant, once separated the house yard from the driveway. It was located at the east end of a sidewalk that extended east from the east porch.

The one-story, irregular plan, main residence is constructed of wood with a southern orientation. Weatherboard siding is present on all but the north facade. The north wall, and part of the west, has wood shingles. The enclosed porch at the north end of the east facade has vertical wood siding blocking the view of the original weatherboard wall of the house. Buckling has occurred along the concrete-pointed stone foundation in the southern portion of the house. The foundation in the northern portion of the residence is of concrete block construction.

The house was constructed in two sections. The southern part measures approximately 24' wide x 28' long; the northern section is approximately 30' wide x 26' long. Each portion has a hip roof clad in composition asphalt shingles. The house features a hip roof with small gable above a centered entry on the south facade. The gable is decorated with lattice detailing. The center gable above the entry was originally accented in a matching smaller gable set in the (nonextant) porch roof. Chimneys are in both the north and south sections of the house. In the southern part the chimney is centered while in the north wing it is nearer the north end of the house.

The residence features two enclosed porches. An enclosed rear porch on the northeast corner of the house faces east. A center entry wood and screen door provides access from this porch to the driveway area. The east porch, which measures 7'-2" x 24'-9", still retains some of the classical round columns. This porch was probably enclosed ca. 1955. At that time, the two center columns were removed. Another smaller enclosed porch is located on

the west side of the residence. This porch measures 5'-9" x 14'-10". The west enclosed porch has an exterior door near the northwest corner providing access to the west side yard.

Most windows are one-over-one-light double-hung sashes. At least one window has been removed. A double-hung window with leaded glass in the upper section is a focal point of the east side of the original portion of the residence. The enclosed east porch has two bands of four six-light fixed windows on the east and another band of three six-light fixed windows on the north. The center entry wood frame and screen door is flanked by three-light sidelights. The west enclosed porch features an exterior door at its north edge and a band of four six-light fixed windows on the west and another band of six-light fixed windows on the south wall.

Not including the two enclosed porch doors, the house features three exterior doors. These openings are located on the south, east, and west walls. The original section of the house was designed with the main entrance on the south side. The main entrance of the north addition has an eastern orientation which has been enclosed within the east porch. The house was constructed with oval, etched glass and multiple wood-panel doors for both the south and east sides. The older of these doors, whose glass light has since been replaced, also includes wood scroll work. The third entrance, which has an aluminum screen door, is located on the west side and is directly across from the main entrance of the east wall. This third entry provides access to the west enclosed porch leading directly to the privy, chicken house, and claim house.

Originally the residence consisted only of the southern portion, containing four main rooms. With the addition of the newer northern portion of the house and modifications necessary to add a bathroom, the residence now has five main rooms, a bathroom, and a utility room. In addition, there are the two enclosed porches and a partial cellar with a trap door entrance in the floor of the east enclosed porch. The cellar, which measures 12'-6" x 22'-6" from stone wall to stone wall, has a dirt floor. The distance from dirt cellar floor to the first floor joists is approximately 6'-2". The cellar construction is somewhat unusual, and may have been excavated when the bathroom and indoor plumbing was added. In each of the four cellar walls 2'-6" of stone foundation stem wall with concrete pointing is visible. Another 3'-6" of excavated earth is battered to slope to within 6" of the foundation. Presumably this was intended to provide stability to the base of the foundation. The soil in these walls is riddled with rodent burrows, many of which have been filled with debris. A portion of the battered slope has collapsed along the east cellar wall.

The house was designed with four main rooms in the southeast, southwest, northeast, and northwest corners. The front or south door provided entry into the main parlor in the southeast corner of the residence. This room, which measured 13'-4 1/2" x 13'-4", was later converted for use as the main bedroom by building a 2'-4" x 7'-1" closet in the northwest corner of the room. The main entry parlor has a single window in both the south and east walls. A double doorway originally connected this room to the 9'-4" x 12'-4 1/2" room in the southwest corner of the house, but this door has since been closed. The southwest room had one window in both the south and west walls. A secondary parlor or living room, measuring approximately 14' x 15', was situated immediately north of the main parlor in the northeast corner of the house. This room has a large window facing east, and interior doors connecting the main parlor, the dining room, the bathroom, and a closet. As originally built, the residence probably had a bedroom, measuring approximately 12' x 10', located in the northwest corner, west of the second parlor. The western portion of this room was later converted into a bathroom, measuring approximately 4'-10" x 7'-1", with a 4'-10" x 2'-8"

linen closet at the south end. The bathroom has a small window in the west wall and the entry door to the linen closet is inside the bathroom. The eastern portion of this northwest bedroom became part of the second parlor. A 3'-2" x 9'-4" closet was created between the bathroom linen closet and the room in the southwest corner.

Two main rooms, a utility room, and both enclosed porches were added in the northern portion of the residence. A dining room or general entry room, which measures approximately 15'-3" x 15'-3", is located north of the second parlor. Exterior entrance to the dining room is available through exterior doors on both the west and east sides. Two windows in the east wall of the dining room face onto the east enclosed porch. The kitchen, located north of the dining room at the far north end of the residence, measures 15'-3" x 9'-11". There are two windows in the north wall and one in the east wall of the kitchen. A door near the north end of the west wall of the kitchen provides access to a 5'-6" x 10'-4" utility room. This room, located north of the west enclosed porch, has a single window in the north wall.

The southern half of the main residence may have been built during the Thomson family ownership, possibly beginning shortly after the Thomsons acquired the property in April 1878. Since it appears likely that the Thomsons never resided on the farmstead, it is likely that tenants started construction. It is also possible that George and Mary Spangerberger may have built the south portion of the residence after they purchased the parcel in 1887. In 1908 the Spangerbergers moved her father's claim house from his neighboring property to the farm and attached it to the north side of the house as a kitchen and bedroom addition. The claim house was removed and the northern portion of the house was added in 1912. This new addition to the residence included a kitchen and a general entry or dining room.

During the ownership of the Spangerberger and later the Walters families, the main residence underwent a number of renovations and modifications besides the addition, removal, and construction of rear wings. An initial interview G.H. Walters, the last private owner, indicated that a porch originally extended across the entire south facade of the house. There is some discrepancy to this statement. Mr. Walters later stated that the porch had not extended across the entire facade, but had always been much smaller, appearing as it did in the ca. 1952 aerial photograph. He said the only difference between its appearance at that time and earlier was the addition of the lattice work, added about 1935 or 1936. During the mid-1930s, spindle posts, like those in a ca. 1918 family photograph, were removed. A ca. 1948 family photograph of the south facade of the residence shows the same relative distance beneath the windows to the porch floor. However, the number of porch steps in the later photograph seems greater than seen in the earlier photograph. In a later interview, Mr. Walters was insistent that the only difference between the original porch and that present in 1948 was the removal of the posts and the addition of the lattice work. The concrete stoop presently in place on the south facade was constructed after the early 1950s. The oval etched-glass window in the door of the south facade was replaced with a rectangular opaque glass after the original glass was shattered when a gust of wind blew the door shut. This replacement also occurred after the early 1950s.

The most extensive exterior renovations on the main residence involved the replacement of the roof, which was torn off the building during a violent summer storm in 1948. The original roof was hip. This same type was selected as a replacement. Mr. Walters stated firmly that the oval window in the south entry door was not broken at this time, and no porch changes were made as a result of this storm.

According to Mr. Walters, indoor plumbing and electricity were installed before 1950 and electricity had been added during the 1920s (personal communication, Sheryll White with G.H. Walters, 1994). However, the electrical system 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). Walters stated the electric company providing the service required that homeowners purchase electric stoves and refrigerators from the corporation in order to receive the service. The farmstead became part of the rural water system sometime between 1948 and 1950. A bathroom had been added to the house prior to that date. A small bedroom off the second parlor was converted into a bathroom during the 1930s. A family photograph of the west facade of the rear addition of the residence showed a barrel that was part of the shower system for the bathroom. An old tin tub was the first bathtub in the house (personal communication, Sheryll White with G.H. Walters, 1994).

The George Spangerberger Farmstead, Residence is in fair condition, but is scheduled for removal or demolition as part of a highway project.

Sources:

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

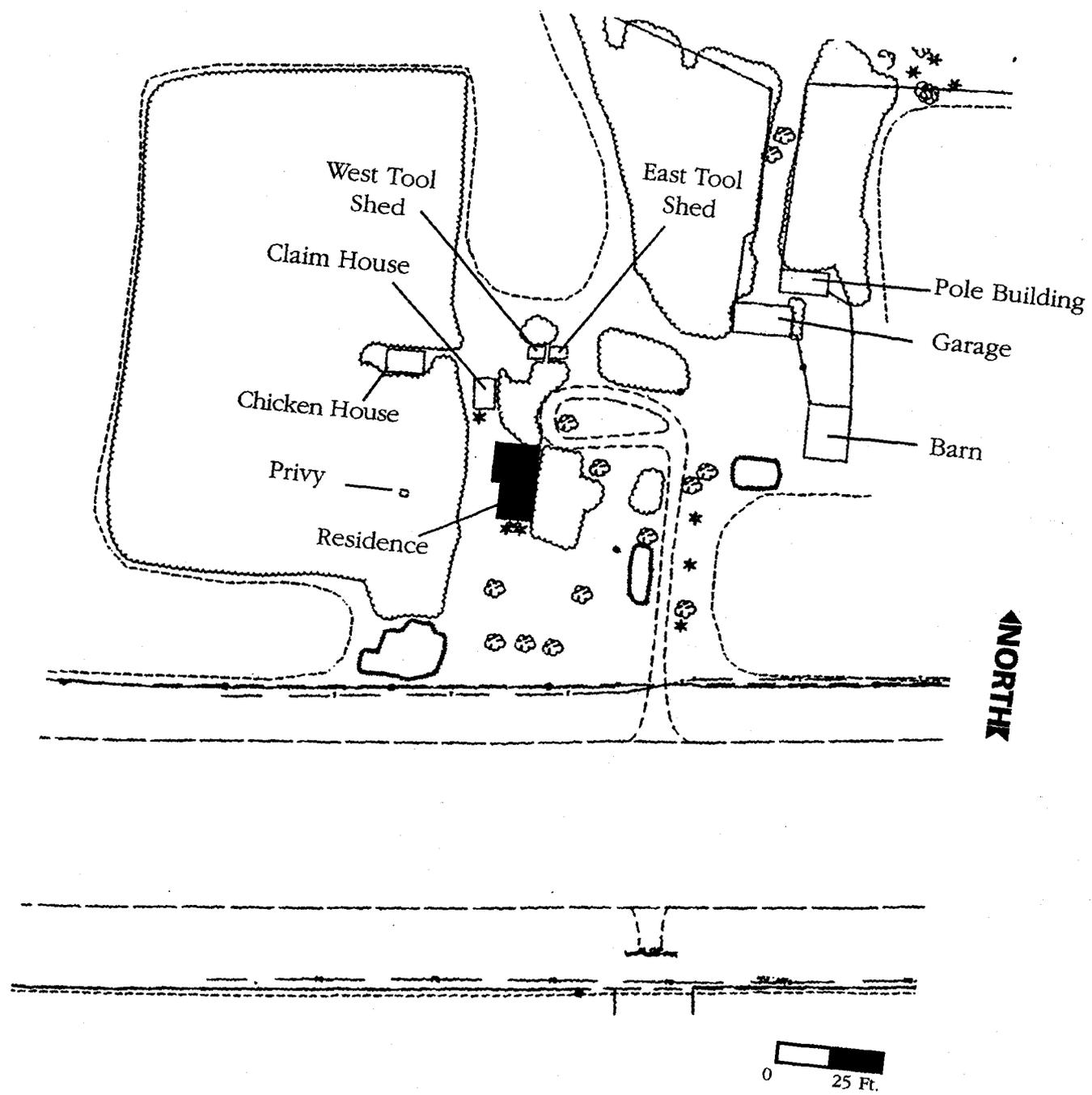
Interview with Naomi Stiggins, interviewed by Sheryll L. White, notes on file in Archeology Office, Kansas State Historical Society

May Abstract & Title Company, 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, (May Abstract & Title Company, Hutchinson, Kansas)

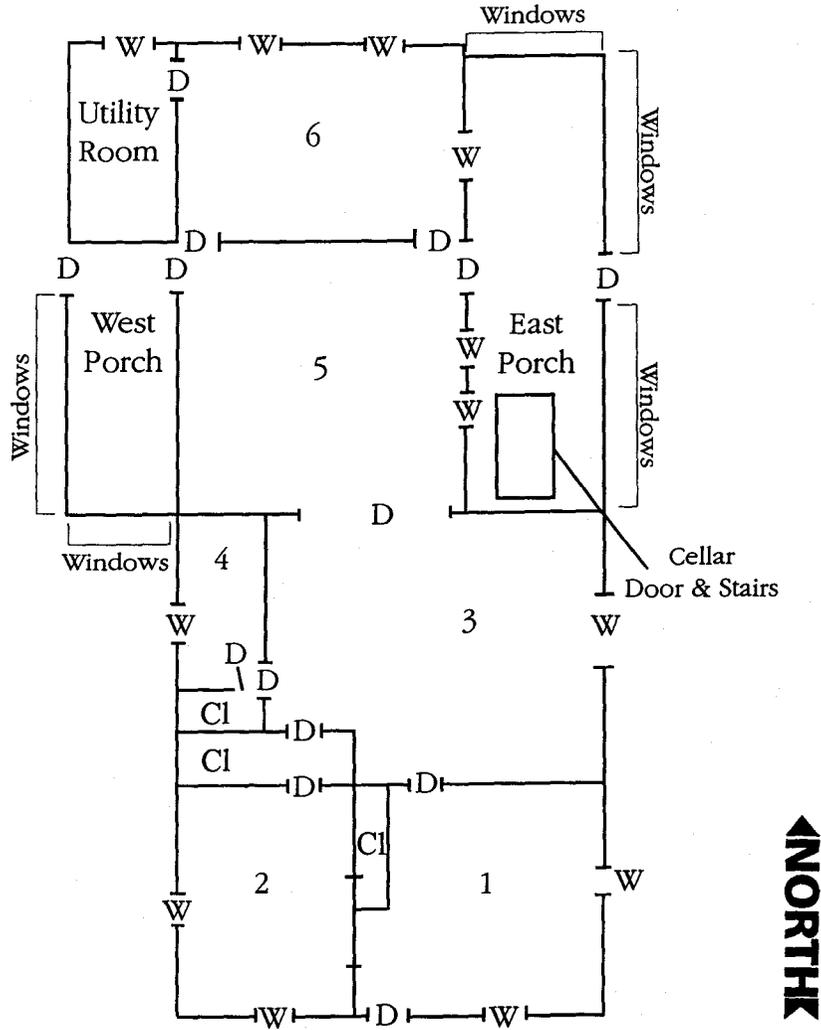
White, Sheryll, "Eberle Thomson, George Spangerberger Farmstead, A1 Site, Activity III Report," Contract 96-78 K-5046-01, Reno County, Hutchinson Bypass Alignment A. Ms on file, Archeology Office, Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka.

Historian:

Sheryll L. White was the historian for the Spangerberger Farmstead project. White conducted the basic research and interviews and prepared the reports from which the historical information was taken. Marsha K. King conducted limited additional research, drafted the HABS documentation, and compiled and prepared the HABS document.

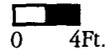


SITE PLAN SHOWING THE LOCATION OF THE GEORGE SPANGERBERGER FARMSTEAD, RESIDENCE.



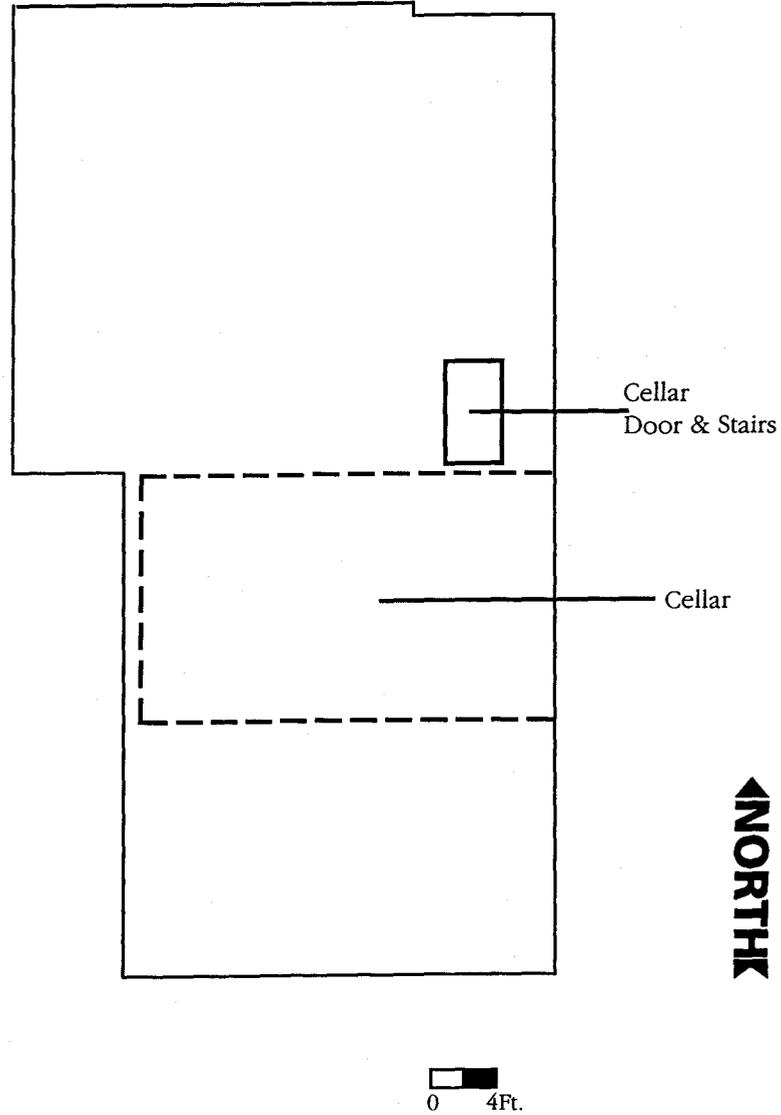
W= Windows

D= Doors



- 1 Main Parlor
- 2 Southwest Bedroom
- 3 Secondary Parlor or Living Room
- 4 Bath
- 5 Dining or General Entry Room
- 6 Kitchen
- Cl Closet

FLOOR PLAN OF THE GEORGE SPANGERBERGER FARMSTEAD, RESIDENCE.



PLAN OF THE GEORGE SPANGERBERGER FARMSTEAD, RESIDENCE, CELLAR.