NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 10024-0018
(Revised Feb. 1993)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

250

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Deesten Farmstead

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 3611 Highway 95 South N/A not for publication

city or town Moscow N/A vicinity

state Idaho code ID county Latah code 057 zip code 83843

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 _nationally _statewide X locally. (_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

14 Feb 08

Signature of certifying official/Title Date
KENNETH C. REID, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _meets _does not meet the National Register criteria. (_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is: Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

for Edson K. Beall 4-2-08

√ entered in the National Register.
_____ See continuation sheet.
_ determined eligible for the National Register.
_____ See continuation sheet.
_ determined not eligible for the National Register.

_ removed from the National Register.

_ other, (explain:)_____

Deesten Farmstead
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County, and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

x private
__ public-local
__ public-State
__ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

x building(s)
__ district
x site
__ structure
__ object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
8	1	buildings
4		sites
		structures
		objects
12	1	Total

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

Historic Agricultural Properties of Latah County, 1855-1955

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling
Agriculture/Subsistence/storage, processing, agricultural outbuilding, animal facility
Landscape: garden, forest

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling
Agriculture/Subsistence; storage, agricultural outbuilding, animal facility
Landscape: garden, forest

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne
Neoclassical
Other

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls aluminum, weatherboard
roof asphalt, metal
other

Narrative Description

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

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

Deesten Farmstead
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County, and State

8. Statement of Significance

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

x **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" on all 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.

x **F** a commemorative property.

_ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture

Period of Significance

1900 - 1955

Significant Dates

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

_ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
_ previously listed in the National Register
_ previously determined eligible by the National Register
_ designated a National Historic Landmark
_ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
_ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

x State Historic Preservation Office
_ Other State agency
_ Federal agency
_ Local government
_ University
_ Other

Name of repository:

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 10.5 acres

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	1/1	4/9/8/1/2/0	5/1/6/8/4/1/0	2	1/1	4/9/8/3/4/0	5/1/6/7/8/8/0
3	1/1	4/9/8/2/4/0	5/1/6/7/7/7/5	4	1/1	4/9/8/0/6/0	5/1/6/8/1/0/0

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property.)
The farmstead is an irregularly shaped parcel in the NE ¼ of Section 1, Township 38 N, Range 6 W, Boise

_ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the buildings, plantings, trees, and memorial site historically related to the property.

_ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Suzanne Julin

organization Suzanne Julin, Public Historian date August 23, 2007

street & number 1001 East Broadway Stop 2 PMB telephone 406/544-8606

city or town Missoula state MT zip code 59802

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

  A **Sketch map** for historic districts and/or properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
- **Photographs:** Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.
- **Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

name Jonathan and Christa Davis Martin and Vivian Deesten

street & number 3611 Highway 95 South 2805 Highway 95 South telephone Davis, 208-882-9007; Deesten, 208-882-5805

city or town Moscow state ID zip code 83843

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

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

Narrative Description

The Deesten Farmstead is located approximately four miles south of Moscow, Idaho, on the west side of U. S. Highway 95. The farm is located within the Palouse prairie and surrounded by its rolling hills. The farmstead is an excellent example of the evolution of a prosperous diversified/subsistence farm in the Palouse during the period of significance, 1882 to 1955. The property includes eight contributing buildings and four contributing sites that date from the period of significance and retain good integrity. One building is non-contributing because it was constructed after the period of significance.

The Deesten Farmstead represents a significant part of the agricultural history of Latah County. The farm developed as a diversified enterprise that included an orchard, a large garden, chickens, cattle, and horses. Many farmers in the Palouse sacrificed orchards and chicken operations in order to concentrate on growing wheat and other lucrative grain crops; the Deesten Farmstead illustrates the persistence of subsistence farming coupled with the economic benefits of grain production.

Field #	Name	Category	Class	Date
1.	Farmhouse	Building	Contributing	c. 1905

The Deesten farmhouse was built between 1904 and 1910 and replaced an earlier house that stood immediately to the west. The house is Queen Anne in style with Neoclassical elements. The one and one-half story house rests on a concrete foundation. Its aluminum siding is appropriate in scale and appearance. The main façade faces the highway almost directly to the east. A porch extends nearly the full width of the façade, supported by Ionic columns. A Palladian window is centered above the porch between narrow four-over-four pane windows on each side; a nine-pane window is found in the gable end. The porch shelters the original front door, which is flanked by two rectangular windows in original surrounds. Lattice extends from the floor of the porch to the ground.

The north-facing façade features a porch which wraps around to west, also supported with Ionic columns. The porch covers approximately three-fourths of the northern façade. One rectangular window appears to the east of the porch; four windows and a door are under the porch roof. Wooden steps lead to the doorway. A Palladian window appears on the second story above the entry. A single, four-paned, fixed frame window is located above the Palladian window in the gable.

The west-facing façade holds an enclosed porch which was constructed about 1950; this remodeling removed several of the original porch columns. Aluminum windows appear in the enclosed porch and a new door provides access. A small wooden deck area surrounds the enclosed porch. Two rectangular windows appear on the second floor between two smaller windows; a nine-pane window appears in the gable.

The southern façade holds a small entry porch supported by square columns that shelters an entry door. Two rectangular windows and a casement window appear to the west of the porch and one rectangular window is on the east. Two rectangular windows are on the second level, with a nine-pane window in the gable. Original wooden sashes of many of the windows have been replaced with vinyl, but replicate the appearance of the original windows; the pattern of fenestration is unchanged.

The cross-gabled roof is covered in asphalt shingles. Eaves are boxed and feature prominent returns. A red brick chimney emerges from the cross-gable.

The interior of the farmhouse retains many of its original features, including crown moldings in several rooms, original cabinets and cupboards in the kitchen and dining room, pantry fixtures, and the staircase, which retains its original finials and finish. A bathroom off the downstairs hallway is probably original, but has been enlarged. Another bathroom has been installed in a former storage space on the second floor. The house has a half-cellar which was originally a root cellar with an outside door.

2 Garden and raspberry bushes Site Contributing c. 1900

A garden to the south of the house includes historic raspberry bushes planted in the early 20th century.

3. Smokehouse Building Contributing c. 1920

A small front-gabled smokehouse is built of horizontal tongue and groove siding. The smokehouse has no windows; a plank door faces north. The roof is covered with corrugated metal.

4. Chicken House Building Contributing 1925

The Chicken House is located to the southwest of the farmhouse. It is covered in horizontal siding; the northern façade holds an entry door and rectangular windows appear on the other three sides. The roof is covered in metal and holds a cupola with louvers on two sides. A fenced enclosure is to the west. The building retains its original nest boxes and is in use as a chicken house.

5. Orchard Site Contributing c. 1900

The orchard is located south and west of the farmhouse and represents the thriving fruit orchards on many Latah County farms in the late 1890s and early 1900s. Apple, plum, and cherry trees continue to produce fruit.

6. Equipment shed Building Contributing c. 1920

This large front-gabled shed is sided in horizontal wood and features log support posts set in concrete. One of the support posts has been cut and removed. The low pitched roof is covered in corrugated metal. The building is deteriorating and doors have been removed. Construction date is unknown, but it is believed to have been built in the 1920s when mechanization on Palouse farms began requiring storage buildings for such equipment.

7. Granary Building Contributing c. 1900

This small, two-story granary is a prominent feature of the Deesten Farmstead. The granary is of cribbed construction with board and batten on the upper level. The foundation is concrete. A steeply pitched gable roof is covered by corrugated metal. A threshing room has been removed from the building. A ladder appears on the east façade.

8.	Barn	Building	Contributing	c.1910

This broken-gable roof barn is on a concrete foundation and features horizontal wood siding. The roof is covered in corrugated metal and features a hay hood on the north-facing façade, and hay-lifting equipment remains in place. Sliding doors provide access to the north and south ends of the barn. Small windows appear in the gables and four small rectangular windows are on the east façade and three on the west. The interior of the barn has no loft; areas for hay storage are on each side of a central aisle A rear section of the barn may have been used for milking operations.

9.	Shop	Building	Contributing	c. 1949

The front-gabled shop is on a concrete foundation. Its original wood siding is covered by corrugated metal, which also covers the roof. The north and south facades each feature four small square windows with vinyl mullions added. Two small square windows on the west façade are boarded over. A large sliding door is on the east façade. The interior holds original cabinets.

10.	Garage	Building	Contributing	c. 1952

This rectangular garage with end-gabled roof sits on a concrete foundation and is sheathed in corrugated metal. The south-facing façade is open.

11.	Horse Shelter	Building	Noncontributing	c. 1980

A small frame horse shelter is located southeast of the farmhouse.

12.	CCC Grove	Site	Contributing	c. 1935

The Civilian Conservation Corps, a New Deal program that employed young men to work on conservation projects, planted these trees on the farmstead as a conservation measure.

13.	Memorial Site	Site	Contributing	c. 1920

A Moscow civic club placed a sign at this site memorializing the first non-Indians to make camp in the area. The sign has been removed but posts indicating its presence remain.

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Deesten Farmstead is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion A, under the Multiple Property Documentation "Historic Agricultural Properties of Latah County, Idaho, 1855-1955." The Deesten Farmstead represents the development of a diversified/subsistence farm in Latah County, Idaho. The largely intact farmstead retains most of its original buildings, which illustrate its development during the period of significance, 1900 to 1955. The farmstead also includes a historic fruit orchard and tree groves planted by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the 1930s.

The Deesten Farmstead is located approximately four miles south of Moscow, Idaho on the west side of U. S. Highway 95. It is surrounded by the rolling hills of the Palouse prairie.

Agriculture in Latah County

Latah County, located in the panhandle of northern Idaho, is approximately one thousand square miles in size. The eastern and northern portions of the county contain timbered and mountainous areas. The southwestern portion of the county is part of the Palouse prairie, an area containing rich loess soils which are especially conducive to the production of wheat and other grains. The fertility of the Palouse has contributed to the development of this area as a particularly prosperous farming region.

Early History, Initial Settlement and Farm Economy

The Palouse, Nez Perce and Coeur d'Alene Indians lived in and traveled through portions of present-day Latah County before white settlement began. In the early nineteenth century, the tribal groups began to interact with explorers, traders, and missionaries. Between 1830-1850, as western-bound settlers showed an interest in the area, the pressures of the westward movement in general impacted the native groups. Beginning in 1855, gold rushes in present-day eastern Oregon, western Montana, and Idaho brought gold-seekers to the general area and some of them began to realize the agricultural potential of the Palouse prairie. The development of steamboat transportation on the Snake River and the 1859 completion of the Mullan Road from Fort Benton in Montana Territory to Walla Walla in Washington Territory offered permanent settlers a way to get products to market and to receive supplies. The pressures of settlement affected the native groups, and beginning in 1855, the United States government made treaties with these tribes that resulted in their cession of large areas of land. By 1900, most of the tribal members were living on reservations.

Initially, settlers developed ranching operations in the area of the Palouse west of present-day Latah County. They lived in the bottomlands and grazed cattle on the hillsides where native bunch grass provided a rich source of feed. As the area became more crowded with people and the stock overgrazed the hillsides, ranches began to be replaced by farms. These transformations were particularly encouraged by the farmers' realization that the Palouse hillsides were ideal for dry-land farming of wheat. During the 1870s, farmers began to spread east into areas now in western Latah County, and by the early 1880s, most of the best Palouse lands had been claimed or purchased. The coming of the railroads to Latah County in the 1880s further accelerated the growth of farming by providing more convenient way to ship cash crops to market than wagon or steamboat. Railroads opened up international markets to Latah County farmers. Although wheat became an increasingly important crop, most Palouse farmers during this era continued to practice a diversified type of farming, growing and raising products for home use and local sale as well as cash crops. Farmers raised chickens, hogs, and cattle for eggs and meat, and milked cows—often selling their surplus to augment their income. Many farm families planted fruit trees including apple, peach, cherry, pear, and plum, and sold the fruit commercially, shipping their products by rail. They grew large gardens for vegetables for home use. Diversified farming helped farmers maintain a degree of self-sufficiency as the developed their farm holdings.

Wheat as Dominant Crop

Wheat began to overshadow other farm products as farmers realized they could till the Palouse hillsides and take advantage of the rich soil, the mild climate, and the ample moisture that produced bumper wheat crops. The acquisition of horse-drawn implements helped them to work larger areas of land; because the grades on Palouse hills could be as steep as forty degrees, farmers needed large teams of horses or mules to operate the machinery. As many as forty-four horses could be required to pull heavy machinery up the steep slopes and into the equally steep gullies. Farmers who expanded wheat operations needed not only more land but also more draft animals, bigger barns, and more efficient machinery. A cycle of expansion—increasing the size of operations to make more cash, and putting more cash toward the operational needs—began to typify many Palouse-area farms.

Palouse farmers saw a brief crisis in the 1890s. The Panic of 1893, a national financial depression, ended that decade's boom. Wheat prices dropped from eighty-five cents to twenty-three cents a bushel; in addition, the Palouse country saw a wet, cold spring and summer in 1893 that led to almost total crop failure. Farmers were unable to pay their debts and many area merchants were forced out of business. Wheat prices rose again, however, and the crop failure of 1893 proved to be the exception to the rule. In 1909, Whitman County, immediately to the west of Latah County, had the highest per-capita income of any county in the nation, much of it attributable to its wheat production. The Palouse portion of Latah County enjoyed similar fortune, and farm families continued to expand operations and to build imposing homes and barns that showcased their prosperity.

As wheat increasingly became the source of Palouse farmers' success, other products were phased out. Fruit orchards, in particular, fell victim to the desire for more wheat acreage. Fruit prices had fallen by 1910 due to increased competition in the Northwest, and farmers could make more money by removing the orchards and planting the ground to wheat. Similarly, pasture used for market cattle could yield more profit when it was used to grow wheat, and many farm families phased out their market herds. In other areas of the county, diversification was still a key to farmers' economic survival; in the fertile Palouse, wheat became king.

World War I and the 1920s

World War I brought even greater increases in wheat profits. The war in Russia and Europe curtailed agricultural production there, and prices for U.S. farm products rose as a result. In the prosperous period between 1910 and 1913, Palouse farmers were receiving wheat prices as high as eighty cents a bushel. By 1915 some varieties of wheat were selling for $1.40 a bushel, and after the war, prices rose to $2.00 a bushel and higher. These prices encouraged Latah County wheat farmers to continue expanding operations, and they planted twice as much wheat during the war years as they had in 1909. Similar farm expansion took place in other parts of the country, and many farmers suffered when agricultural prices began to fall as European producers recovered from the war. Some farmers found they could not pay the debts they had incurred in order to increase their capacity. In Latah County, wheat prices remained good for most of the 1920s and many wheat producers continued to farm intensively in order to increase production and profit.

That intensive farming included increased mechanization. Palouse farmers with the means and large expanses of land began to obtain motorized tractors and other equipment. At the same time, they continued to use draft animals longer than many other American farmers, due to the steep grades of the Palouse hillsides. As machines developed to meet this challenge, farmers continued to expand their holdings. By 1930, one out of ten Palouse farms were one thousand acres or larger in size. With the onset of that decade's Great Depression, Latah County farmers faced new challenges

The Great Depression

The fertile soils and favorable climate of the Palouse country shielded its farmers from the worst of the 1930s agricultural depression, but did not spare them entirely. Low prices for agricultural products challenged the robust local agricultural economy, and national programs designed to address the problems affected farm operations. By the end of 1932, the price of wheat reached a low of thirty-eight cents a bushel, down dramatically from the $2.00 post-World War I price or the $1.50 per bushel farmers had been receiving before the 1929 stock market crash. Farmers across the country were struggling to survive low prices and other problems including drought and insect infestation.

After Franklin Roosevelt became President in 1933, his administration, as part of their New Deal program, initiated legislation that would address farm problems. Many of the resulting projects and programs affected Latah County farmers. The Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1933, for example, was designed to decrease agricultural surplus, and farmers received government payments for reducing production by cultivating fewer acres of land. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), instituted to provide jobs in conservation work for unemployed young men, established CCC Company 1503 near Bovill in 1934 but relocated it to Moscow in 1935. The first Soil Conservation Service CCC camp in the Northwest, Company 1503 built dams, rechanneled waterways, reinforced waterway beds, and planted trees on ridge tops, slopes, and eroded areas to counter the effects of erosion.

Electrification also changed farm life in Latah County during the 1930s. In 1934, less than 9 percent of county farms received service from electric systems provided by small local companies and cooperatives. In 1935, President Roosevelt created the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) by executive order. The agency promoted the development of rural electric systems through loans, the encouragement of cost-efficient system design and construction, low-cost energy purchases, and the development of local cooperatives. By 1940, nearly 60 percent of Latah County farms received electricity through cooperative-held lines and were able to enjoy modern amenities and labor-saving devices that had been available to town-dwellers since the 1920s.

The 1930s also brought advances in cooperative grain storage and marketing. As early as the 1880s, some farmers built granaries to store grain for their own use or to hold their product in anticipation of favorable prices. Early elevators were made of wood, usually with cribbed construction. To reduce fire danger and prolong the life of the buildings, many wood elevators were eventually covered with metal siding. From the 1880s, farmers across the country formed non-profit cooperatives to store and market grain. During the 1930s, these cooperatives were encouraged by government programs that loaned money to cooperatives that in turn helped farmers store and market their products. In Latah County, the Grain Growers Cooperative gave farmers an alternative to commercial grain storage and marketing companies. During the 1930s and early 1940s established a system of grain storage facilities in the county.

The Great Depression in Latah County exerted a pronounced effect on the countryside. Government projects planted trees, built dams, and altered waterways. Government programs encouraged electrification and cooperative storage and marketing programs. As a result, landscapes were altered, farms were modernized, and grain storage units consolidated.

World War II and the Post-War Period

With the outbreak of World War II and an increased demand for agricultural products, the depression of the 1930s ended for American farmers. In Latah County, wheat continued to dominate the market; by 1944, it was selling for more than $1.30 a bushel. Peas and lentils were increasingly important and profitable crops. Large-scale commercial farming continued to reward those farmers who could afford to expand their operations. Those who could not found their economic situations more and more precarious and small, diversified farms were increasingly likely to go up for sale and be absorbed by large commercial operations.[1]

Farmsteads in Latah County

In general, historic farmsteads in Latah County can be divided into three categories:

- Pioneer subsistence homesteads date from the earliest settlement era and are compact sets of buildings of rustic construction. Most pioneer subsistence homesteads were modernized or absorbed by larger farm operations.

- Diversified/subsistence family farms did not expand into significant commercial operations but continued to provide for families through a combination of products raised for market and products raised for home use. Members of farm families often contributed to the operations of the family farm by working at cash-paying jobs. Farmstead buildings will reflect farm diversification.

- Expanded Commercial farmsteads illustrate the development of large, prosperous agricultural operations which expanded to hundreds of acres and focused on particular cash crops rather than diversified products or products for family use. In many cases, commercial farms grew from the diversified/subsistence model and may retain elements from that stage; these farmsteads are particularly significant in illuminating the evolution of the larger units.

Deesten Farmstead

The Deesten Farmstead is an example of a well-developed diversified/subsistence farm in Latah County. Although the farm is located in the fertile Palouse prairie and eventually included a significant grain growing operation, the variety of its buildings and plantings reflect the persistence of a diversified farm lifestyle in Latah County rather than an expanded commercial farm.

In 1882, William Plummer received a patent to the land that includes the Deesten Farmstead. Plummer owned the land until 1904, when he sold it to Albertina Deesten Slater, widow of John Henry Deesten. John Henry Deesten and Albertina Schoenhorst both were German immigrants. John Henry Deesten, born in 1851, came to the United States with an uncle when he was fourteen; according to family history, they stowed away in crates in order to make the ocean passage. Albertina Schoenhorst, born in 1863, immigrated with her parents and the family homesteaded near Genesee. John Henry and Albertina married about 1880 when Albertina was seventeen. The couple had five children: Emma, Anna, Albert, Christian, and Louisa.[2]

John Henry Deesten was a part owner of the Juliaetta Brewing Company, located at the corner of Water and Third Streets in that town. After his death, Albertina married Jacob "Diamond" Howarth, who also owned an interest in the brewery. They divorced in 1899. In 1901, she married Frank Slater of Edwall, Washington. They lived there for at least three years; Albertina's daughter Anna was married at their home in Edwall in 1904. After John Henry Deesten's estate was settled, Albertina Deesten Slater used to money she inherited to purchase the Latah County farm from William Plummer. Albertina Deesten Slater may have had the large farmhouse built; it was in existence by 1910 when one of the Deesten children's wedding was held there. The new house replaced the original farmhouse, which was located to the west of the present home site. She may have also added the barn to the property. The presence of the imposing house and large barn helped to convey the prosperity of the Deesten farm.[3]

After a little more than a decade on the farm, Albertina Deesten Slater sold the property to her son Christian and she and her husband moved off the property in 1916. Christian Deesten and his wife Caroline operated the farm and raised two sons, Martin (Bud) and Henry, during the World War I and Great Depression years. The Deestens were successful in building a diversified farm that produced both food for the family's needs and market products. The operation was labor intensive and the family often hired men to help with work on the farm. The Deestens raised pigs, sheep, and chickens; milked cows; and tended the mature fruit orchard, large garden, and raising grain crops. They modernized the house by adding a bathroom and added several buildings to the farmstead, including the chicken house, smokehouse, and equipment shed. In the mid-1930s, Civilian Conservation Corps workers planted trees to the east and south of the farm buildings.[4]

After Christian and Caroline Deesten retired from farming and moved to Moscow in 1939, Bud and Henry Deesten lived on the farmstead and operated the farm, expanding its acreage and operations. Bud married and moved to another farmstead in the area with his wife Vivian in 1941. Henry married in 1952 and continued to live on the farmstead with his wife, Lillian until his death in 1989. Lillian stayed on the farmstead until her death in the mid-1990s, when the property was sold to the Dolney family. In the late 1990s, the Dolneys sold the property to the Bader family. In 2004, the present owners, Jonathan and Christa Davis, purchased the farm and now live on the farmstead with their children. Martin and Vivian Deesten continue to own a small portion of the farmstead at the foot of the historic orchard.[5]

Summary Statement of Significance

The Deesten Farmstead is significant due to its association with the history of agriculture in Latah County, Idaho. Albertina Deesten Slater purchased the farm during a period of increasing agricultural prosperity in Latah County. During the ensuing decades she and her descendents expanded the farm into an operation growing not only cash crops but also meat and produce for family use. Unlike other Palouse area farmers who sacrificed fruit orchards, chicken operations, and other activities to grain production, the Deesten family continued to operate a diversified family farm. The buildings, plantings, and trees on the farmstead reflect the development of such a farm during the period of significance, 1900 to 1957.

Endnotes

1. Adapted from Suzanne Julin, "Latah County, Idaho Agricultural Properties," Multiple Property Documentation Form, 2007.

2. Ann Sharley, "Deesten/Davis Farmstead," Field # US95-22, Idaho Historic Sites Inventory Form, March 9, 2005; Information provided by Christa Davis, current owner of property, April 3, 2007. Mrs. Davis has conducted extensive research into the history of the Deesten family.

3. Herman W. Ronnenberg, "Juliaetta, Genesee, Moscow—the Breweries of Latah County," *Latah County Historical Society Quarterly* 8 (Spring, 1979), pp. 1-2.; Wise, Marion, Abstract of *Genesee News* compiled for Latah County Historical Society, 1995, noting issues of July 15, 1901 and July 1, 1904; Information provided by Christa Davis; Sharley, "Deesten/Davis Farmstead;" Deesten farmstead photograph, in possession of Christa Davis.

4. Information provided by Christa Davis.

5. Sharley, "Deesten/Davis Farmstead;" Information provided by Christa Davis.

Major Bibliographical References

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Deesten Farmstead photograph c. 1920. In possession of Christa Davis.

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UTM References (con't.)

5. 11 497780 5168005

6. 11 497700 5168270

Deesten Farmstead
Latah County, Idaho
Photographs taken by Suzanne Julin
April 3, 2007
Negatives held by Idaho State Historic Preservation Office

1. Deesten Farmstead
   View to West

2. Deesten Farmstead: House
   View to Southeast

3. Deesten Farmstead: Smokehouse
   View to Southeast

4. Deesten Farmstead: Chicken house
   View to Southwest

5. Deesten Farmstead: Orchard
   View to West

6. Deesten Farmstead: Shop
   View to Northwest

7. Deesten Farmstead: Granary
   View to Northwest

8. Deesten Farmstead: Barn
   View to Northwest

9. Deesten Farmstead: Machine Shed
   View to Northeast

10. Deesten Farmstead: Garage
    View to West

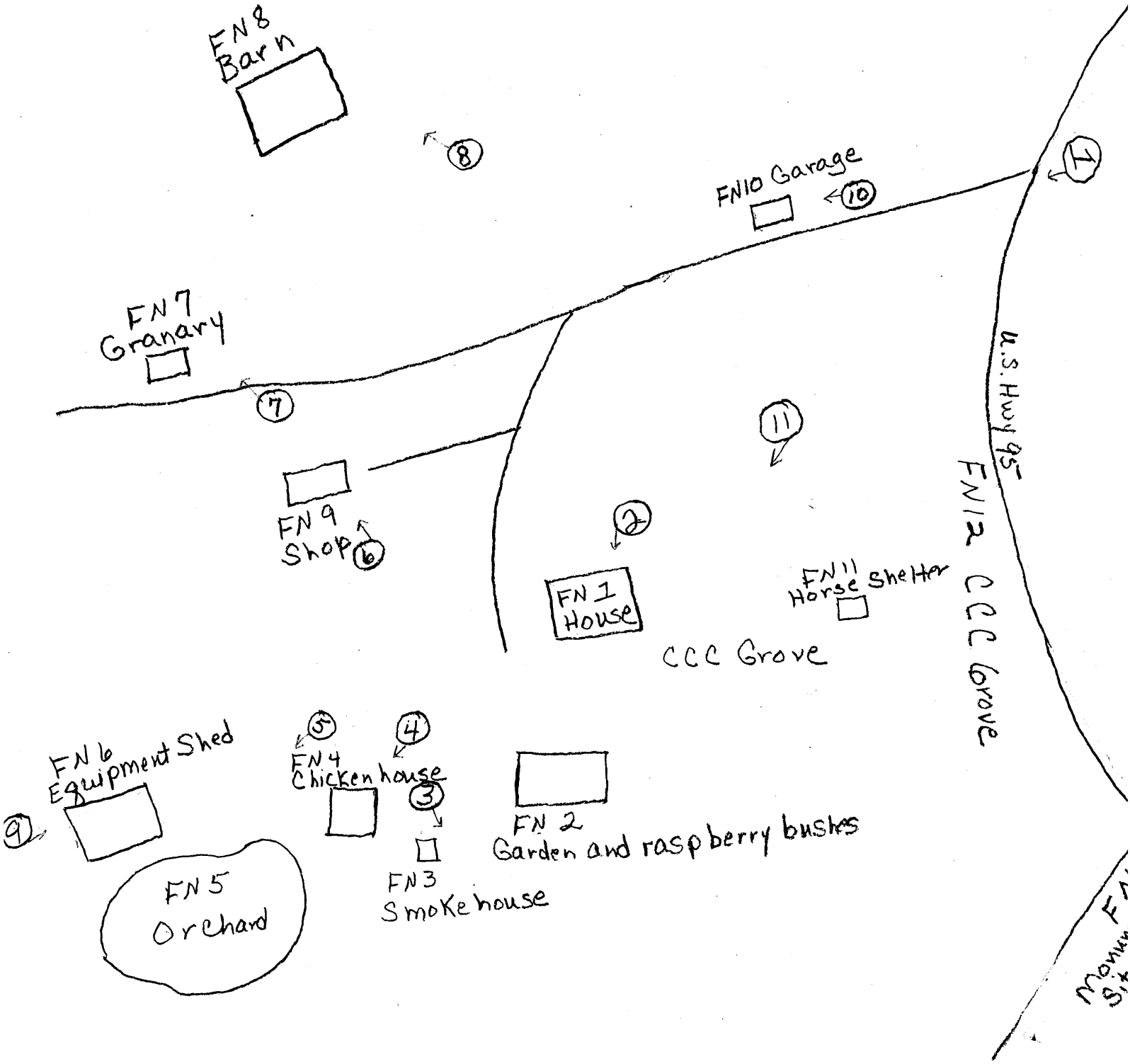
11. Deesten Farmstead: Horse shelter and CCC Grove
    View to Southeast

Deesten Farmstead
Moscow, Latah County, Idaho

Not to Scale

N

Photograph Vantage Points



Deesten Farmstead
3611 Highway 95
Moscow ID
Latah County Idaho
Suzanne Julin
April 3, 2007
View to West
Photo 1/11

Deesten Farmstead: House
3611 Hwy 95S
Moscow, Latah Co., ID
Suzanne Julin
April 3, 2007
View to S
Photo 2/11

Deesten Farmstead: Smoke house
3611 Hwy 95S
Moscow Latah Co ID
Suzanne Julin
April 3, 2007
View to SW
Photo 3/11

Deesten Farmstead: Chicken house

3611 Hwy 95S
Moscow, Latah Co, ID
Suzanne Julin
April 3, 2007
View to SW
Photo 4/11

Deesten Farmstead / Orchard
3611 Highway 95S
Moscow Latah Co ID
Suzanne Julin
April 3, 2007
View to W
Photo 5/11

Deesten Farmstead: Shop
3611 Highway 95S
Moscow Latah Co. ID
Suzanne Julin
April 3, 2007
View to NW
Photo 6/11

Deesten Farmstead: Granary
3611 Highway 95S
Moscow Latah Co ID
Suzanne Julin
April 3, 2007
View to NW
Photo 7/11

Deesten Farmstead; Barn
3611 Highway 95S
Moscow Latah Co ID
Suzanne Julin
April 3, 2007
View to NW
Photo 8/11

Deesten Farmstead: Machine Shed

3611 Hwy 95S
Moscow, Latah Co, Idaho
Suzanne Julin
April 3, 2007
View to NE
Photo 9/11

Deesten Farmstead, Garage
3611 Hwy 953
Moscow Latah Co ID
Suzanne Jan
April 3, 2009
View to W

Photo 10/11

Decsten Farmstead;
Horse Shelter + CCC Grove
3611 Hwy 95 S
Moscow, Latah Co, ID
Suzanne Julin
April 3, 2007
View to SE

Photo 11/11