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

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 Nordby Farmstead

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 1301 Old Highway 95 N/A not for publication

city or town Genesee, Idaho N/A vicinity

state Idaho code ID county Latah code 057 zip code 83832

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.)

31 March 09

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:

X 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:)_____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5/15/09

Nordby 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
_ site
_ structure
_ object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
7		buildings
2		sites
		structures
		objects
9		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 Idaho, 1855-1955

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic, single dwelling
Agriculture/Subsistence, animal facility
Agriculture/Subsistence, agricultural outbuilding
Agriculture /Subsistence, agricultural field, grove

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic, single dwelling
Agriculture/Subsistence, animal facility
Agriculture/Subsistence, agricultural outbuilding
Agriculture/Subsistence, agricultural field, grove

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals:
Colonial Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete, stone
walls weatherboard, aluminum
roof asphalt, tin
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

Nordby Farmstead
Name of Property

Latah County, 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.

_ **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

1902-1955

Significant Dates

1902, 1949

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Not known

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 _ Other State agency
_ 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
_ Federal agency
_ Local government
_ University
_ Other

Name of repository:

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

Nordby Farmstead
Name of Property

Latah County, Idaho
County, and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 2.85

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

A 1 /1 5 /0 /6 /9 /9 /8 5 /1 /5 /6 /6 /4 /9
Zone Easting Northing

B 1 /1 5 /0 /7 /1 /6 /0 5 /1 /5 /6 /5 /2 /5
Zone Easting Northing

C 1 / 1 5 /0 /6 /9 /1 /0 5 /1 /5 /6 /5 /1 /5

D / / / / / / / / / / / /

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property.)
The property is a triangular shaped piece of land directly west of Old Highway 95 marked by the three U.T.M. Points, within the Southeast quarter of the Northwest quarter of Section 12, Township 37, Range 5 W. The included property encompasses the core built features of the historic farmstead, while excluding open agricultural lands under various use.

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

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encompasses the buildings historically associated with the Nordby Farmstead.

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Suzanne Julin

organization Suzanne Julin, Public Historian date September 1, 2008

street & number 1001 E. Broadway-2 PMB 608 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 Brenda Louise Bruce, Rowena Fredekind, David R. Nordby

street & number 1669 S. Willow Lake Way telephone

city or town Eagle state ID zip code 83616

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 Nordby Farmstead is located approximately one mile northeast of Genesee, Idaho, west of Old Highway 95 in the Palouse area of northern Idaho. A slightly winding driveway leads from Old Highway 95 to the farmstead, which includes the farmhouse, a large barn, and several outbuildings. The farmstead is set against a steep hillside covered in a grove of deciduous trees, primarily locusts. Pine and flowering trees are located to the immediate south of the house. The rolling hills of the Palouse appear to the north and the east.

The Nordby farmstead provides an excellent example of Palouse area agricultural history in Latah County. The large house and multiple outbuildings illustrate the development of the farm and its operations. The large barn, one of the oldest surviving agricultural buildings in the county, represents a Palouse farming operation that required large numbers of draft stock prior to mechanization. The grove on the hillside, planted by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the 1930s to prevent erosion, signifies an important period in the area's agricultural history.

Property Type

The 2007 Multiple Property Document Form "Historic Agricultural Properties of Latah County, Idaho, 1855-1955," identifies farmsteads as a property type and describes three varieties of these properties that exist in Latah County. Pioneer Subsistence Homesteads are a rare property type representing the earliest farming operations in the county. Diversified/Subsistence Family Farms are those farms that 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. They illustrate the persistence of the small family farm model in Latah County. Farmstead buildings are in close proximity to each other and may include a variety of buildings including the farmhouse, a horse/mule barn and/or dairy barn, milk house, chicken house, hoghouse, root cellar, garage, woodshed, and other outbuildings. Groves and orchards may also be present. In general, houses and barns will be smaller and less elaborate than those found on the Expanded Commercial farmsteads. 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. For all farmstead property types, farmsteads must retain a sufficient number of properties to convey its significance. No major intrusions from the post-1955 period should be present and individual buildings, structures, and sites should not display significant alterations from the post-1955 period.

Inventory

FN	Name	Category	Class	Date
1	Nordby Farmhouse	Building	Contributing	1904/1949

The Nordby Farmhouse is a square, two-story cube house with clipped pyramid roof and a one-story extension. The house rests on a concrete foundation and is sided in aluminum which is appropriate in style and scale. The façade faces east. Concrete steps with wrought-iron rails lead to a centered Colonial Revival-style projecting entry. The entry door is framed by vertical rows of glass blocks. Plate glass windows to each side of the door are covered by metal awnings. On the second floor, a single rectangular window is centered over the entrance and paired rectangular windows appear to each side. The windows are one-over-one double- hung. The paired windows carry decorative green wooden shutters. To the north, rounded concrete steps lead to the east-facing entry door of the one-story extension, which covers the rear two-thirds of the north wall. The entry door is covered with a metal canopy on a wrought iron rail.
On the north-facing wall, a one-over-one window appears on the main section of the wall, and the extension carries one single and one paired set of windows. The extension has a hipped roof with a stovepipe rising from it. On the second floor, two single one-over- one windows with shutters are at each end of the wall.

On the west, paired rectangular one-over-one windows appear on the extension; cement steps lead to a slightly off-center, small entry porch. An entry door on the main section of the house is framed by one-over-one windows. On the second level one rectangular window and another smaller window are one-over-one, and both are decorated with green wooden shutters.
On the south, two single-pane windows covered by metal canopies appear on the first floor; two single one-over-one windows with shutters are directly above them.

The house's hipped roof is covered in asphalt shingles and a chimney emerges from its center. The house originally held a nearly full-width, two story porch with turned posts, decorative brackets, and fish scale shingle accents. A balustrade on the porch roof created a second-story porch area. A hipped roof on poles provided shelter over a north-facing entry door.

Oral histories indicate that the house was originally likely designed in the Italianate style, but it was remodeled to its present appearance in 1949. The aluminum siding was added in the early 1950s, and is, in itself, over 50 years old, having taken on its own significance as a historic element on the building. And, although these changes altered the appearance of the house, it is still considered contributing because the changes were made by the long-standing owners of the property – the Nordbys – and reflect the post-war prosperity and continuity of their farming operation and the tastes of the times.

2 Woodshed Building Contributing Date c. 1920

This small, front-gabled shed faces east. It rests on a concrete block foundation and is sided in weatherboard with corner boards. A paneled wooden entry door is centered on the façade. The north wall holds a centered six-light window; the same window space is on the south wall, but the glazing is gone and the space is covered with plastic. No window appears on the west wall. The pitched roof is covered in asphalt shingles. Historic photographs indicate that a larger building was on the site in 1916.

3. Tent house Building Contributing Date 1938

The Tent house was moved from the farm of Oscar Nordby, Rudolph's brother, in 1938. It served as occasional sleeping quarters for hired men as well as a cool summer bedroom for the family. The building sits on a wood foundation and is sided in weatherboard with cornerboards. A door is centered on the north facing façade under a front-gabled roof. On the east wall, the top half of the siding has been replaced by horizontal wood panels; on the west, a band of seven screened windows with no glazing appear under the broad eaves. The east wall probably carried a similar band before the space was filled in with wood and these windows, along with the west wall windows, provided the cooling ventilation that made the Tent house a comfortable place to sleep on summer evenings. No windows appear on the south wall. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles and exposed rafter tails highlight the eaves.

4. Storage Foundation Building Contributing c. 1908

A rock foundation directly to the rear of the house marks the location of the original two-story food storage building. The lower level was used to store milk, fruit, and other perishables. The upper level was used for storage of apples and other orchard fruits, and was accessed by an outside stairway. Some of the original wood framing, including a door and window opening, are visible. Historic photographs show this building in place in 1908.

5. Pumphouse Building Contributing c. 1920

The end-gabled pumphouse is a small, narrow building with the same weatherboard siding and cornerboards as the woodshed and the tenthouse. It rests on a foundation of unmortared brick. A sliding door with original hardware is centered on the east-facing façade. A crumbling wooden step atop a log leads to the door. The north and south walls hold small four-light windows. The west side has no windows. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

6	Garage	Building	Contributing	c.1955

The garage is on a concrete foundation. A double vinyl garage door provides access on the east side. The north and south walls carry six-light centered windows, and three small, even spaced four-light windows are on the south wall. The hipped-roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The garage is the newest building on the Nordby farmstead. It represents the close of the period of significance as the last building constructed on the site. The garage, along with the modifications made to the house, reflect the post-war prosperity of the Nordby family farming operation.

7	Barn	Building	Contributing	c. 1875/1902

The 4200 square foot barn is one of the oldest agricultural buildings in Latah County and its original construction predates the Nordby family's ownership of the property. It once served as a way station on the route between Moscow and Lewiston. The barn is split gable with board and batten siding, painted red. Parts of the original rock foundation have been replaced with concrete. The main entrance to the barn is on the south, where a centered sliding door with original hardware provides access. Four-light square windows are near each end.

On the east side, some of the rock foundation is visible. Split pedestrian doors are at each end of the east wall, but the steps to them have been removed. Three twelve-light windows are centered between the doors; two small four-light windows are set under the eaves, and a vent appears in the roof. The north wall holds a large sliding door on the east end. A smaller sliding door is in the center, with a four-light window to the west. A pedestrian door has been cut into the wall near the west end. On the west side, a horizontal board detail appears below the eaves. Two four-light square windows are evenly spaced on the lower section of the barn, and a door that opens outwards is above the horizontal board detail, leading to a loft area. A vent is in the gable. The barn carries a corrugated metal roof.

The interior of the barn retains its post and beam construction, including a number of hand-hewn beams and peeled log posts. Horse stalls are still in place.

Nordby family history dates the construction of the barn to 1875; the barn was partially rebuilt and enlarged in 1902 after the Nordby family bought the property.

8	Shed	Building	Contributing	c. 1920

The small front-gabled shed has the same weatherboard and cornerboards as the other small outbuildings, but is painted red. It rests on a log foundation. An entry door is on the west end of the south façade. The east and north walls carry six-light, centered windows; on the west wall, a four-light window is centered. The roof is covered in corrugated metal.

9	Grove	Site	Contributing	c. 1938

The hillside north of the Nordby Farmstead held an orchard in the early part of the twentieth century, but severe weather affected the plantings and they died out. During the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps, a New Deal program, planted trees--primarily locusts—on the slope to prevent its erosion.

Summary of Significance

The Nordby Farmstead presents a significant example of the development of a Diversified /Subsistence Family Farm. The Nordby farm was more prosperous than some of the family farms in areas of Latah County that did not include the rich soils of the Palouse, but it remained a diversified family farm rather than an expanded commercial operation. The farmstead retains its 1904 house (remodeled in 1949), the large barn built about 1875, and a number of outbuildings. A garage built about 1955 is the newest building on the farmstead. The buildings exhibit excellent integrity with little post-1955 modification.

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Rudolph and Mildred Nordby Farmstead is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places on the local level under Criterion A, as a property associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history under the category of Agriculture. The Period of Significance is 1902-1955, starting with the re-construction and enlarging of the barn by the Nordby Family shortly after acquiring the property, and ending with the construction of the garage. Despite the fact that the house was modified significantly in the late 1940s and early 1950s, the changes are considered contributing, as they were made by the long-term owners (the Nordbys) during their continued occupation of the property and reflect the prosperity of the family's post war farm, and are representative of the style of the times. The farmstead represents a good example of a diversified family farm in Latah County, Idaho. Its buildings, including a large barn that is one of the oldest agricultural buildings in the county, illustrate the development of the farmstead from the time of its inception in the mid-1870s through the mid-20th century. This property is nominated within the multiple property documentation: "Historic Agricultural Properties of Latah County, Idaho, 1855-1955."

Historic Context: Agriculture in Latah County
Latah County is located in the panhandle of northern Idaho and borders the state of Washington. The county covers slightly over one thousand square miles and contains approximately 697,000 acres. The terrain ranges from wooded hill and mountainous areas in the east and north (a portion of which lies within the St. Joe National Forest) to the rich Palouse prairie and the boundary farmlands of the south and west. The Palouse region is the dominant natural feature of Latah County and the origin of much of its agricultural prosperity. Non-Indian agricultural settlement in the Palouse began in the mid-1850s, and the agricultural economy was particularly enhanced by the development of railroads, which gave farmers an efficient means to market their products and the success of wheat as a cash crop. Palouse area agriculture suffered to some degree during an early-1890s drop in wheat prices and a similar drop during the Great Depression of the 1930s, but the area's rich soils allowed farmers to continue to weather bad times and to prosper in good times in contrast to farmers in many other areas of the country. Increases in prices for agricultural products during the World War II era enhanced this prosperity, and by the mid-1950s, Palouse-area farmers were among the most prosperous in the country.

Property Types
"Historic Agricultural Properties of Latah County, Idaho, 1855-1955" identifies three farmstead property types existing in Latah County. Pioneer Subsistence Homesteads are a rare property type representing the earliest farming operations in the county. Diversified/Subsistence Family Farms are those farms that 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. They illustrate the persistence of the small family farm model in Latah County. 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.

The Nordby Farmstead presents an excellent example of the development of a Diversified Subsistence Family Farm. The Nordby farm was more prosperous than similar family farms in areas of Latah County that did not encompass the rich soils of the Palouse, but it remained a family farm rather than an expanded commercial operation.[1]

The Nordby Family Farm

According to county records recorded in the Nordby family history, Rufus H. Beeman settled in the area in the mid-1870s and took title to the 160 acre parcel that now encompasses the Nordby farmstead in 1881. Nordby family history states that Beeman built the barn on the property in 1875, and he operated a store and way-station from the building at one time, serving travelers on the route between Moscow and Lewiston. In 1884, Beeman and his wife Caroline, having acquired significantly more land, sold 320 acres, including the present farmstead site, to James Dermott for $3200. In 1901, James Dermott and his wife Nettie sold 325 acres, including the farmstead site, to Martin H. Nordby for just under $7500. In 1909 and again in 1916, Martin Nordby and his wife Julia sold portions of the property to their sons, Rudolph, Oscar, and Julius. In 1938, Oscar Nordby sold his eighty acres to a neighbor, reducing the Nordby property holdings to 240 acres, and in 1943, Julius Nordby and his wife Martha signed a quit claim deed to Rudolph Nordby for the land encompassing the present farmstead site.[2]

Martin Nordby was born in Norway in 1858 and came to the United States in 1879. He and his wife Julia, a native of Wisconsin, were married in Iowa in 1882. They came to the Palouse country in 1900 with their children, Oscar, Olga, Rudolph, Lilly, and Julius and settled on their farm property in 1901. They lived in an existing house on the property until they built their farm home in 1904 (after which the original house was removed). A photograph taken in about 1908 shows the farmstead with the two-story house, the imposing barn, several outbuildings, and the orderly rows of fruit trees on the slope to the west. Martin and Julia Nordby operated the farm with the help of their sons from the time they purchased the property until 1916, when they moved to Clarkston, Idaho. Martin Nordby died in 1928 and Julia Nordby died in 1931.[3]

Rudolph Nordby was born in Iowa in 1889. He moved to Idaho with his parents and siblings in 1900 when he was eleven and joined in farming with them after they bought the Beeman property. He graduated from Genesee High school in 1910. In 1916, Rudolph Nordby married Mildred Luvaas, a native of South Dakota who graduated from Moscow High School in 1913. The couple's Moscow wedding was followed by a reception for sixty-seven guests and a honeymoon on the West Coast. The young couple made the Nordby farmstead their home after the elder Nordbys moved to Clarkston.[4] Rudolph and Mildred Nordby raised three children on the farm: Beuletta was born in 1920; Rowena in 1922; and David in 1933. Their first child, Marvin, born in 1918 during the influenza epidemic of that

year, died two weeks later.5 In the family history she prepared, Beuletta Nordby Williams remembered the original appearance of her childhood home. The two-story house had a front porch nearly the width of the house with a veranda on the second floor. The porch was decorated with "elaborate posts and gingerbread trim . . . and a spindle railing." In the summer, Rudolph Nordby would move the beds out to the second floor verandah and spread canvases from the roof of the house to the porch railing to provide protection from the elements. Thus, the Nordby family dealt with the summer heat by improvising a sleeping porch. In 1938, when Rudolph's brother Oscar and his wife left their farm to move to Moscow, Rudolph acquired their "tent house" and moved it to the rear of the Nordby farmhouse. The tent house, although small, was well ventilated and had enough room for comfortable sleeping accommodations on hot summer nights. The tent house remains in place on the Nordby Farmstead.[6]

Beuletta Nordby Williams also remembered the two-story building in the rear of the house that held provisions for the family: "The lower level was the cellar which was built into the hillside. This was where we kept everything which needed to be kept cool. There were many cupboards built against the wall which held at least 200 jars of fruit which mother canned." The milk separator was also kept in this room, and the family stored perishables there even after farm electrification allowed them to install a refrigerator in the mid-1930s. The upper level of this building, accessed by an outside stairway, was used for fruit storage.[7] The rock foundation of the storage building remains behind the Nordby farmhouse.

The Nordby barn was on the property when the family acquired it in 1901. Although they made some changes to the barn, it remains essentially the same. Rudolph and Mildred Nordby used the barn to shelter their sheep and horses and to milk their dairy cows. The barn held approximately ten stalls for horses, which were filled while the Nordbys used horses as draft animals for farming. They bought their first tractor in the early 1930s and phased out of farming with horses, but they continued to milk dairy cows until the 1960s. They also raised hogs, beef cattle, and chickens. The barn has been well maintained and is much as Beuletta Nordby Williams remembered it from her childhood. Other outbuildings include a woodshed, a pump house, and a shed to the rear of the barn. Similarities in construction and family history indicate these buildings were constructed in the early 1920s.[8]

The Nordby Farmstead saw many changes from the time the family acquired the property in 1901 until the end of the period of significance, 1955. The fruit orchard, containing mostly apple trees, died out as a result of extreme weather and the family eventually removed the trees. In the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps terraced the hillside and replanted it in deciduous trees, mostly locusts. The replacement was part of an effort to slow hillside erosion in Latah County. The grove remains a prominent part of the Nordby Farmstead landscape. In 1949, Rudolph and Mildred Nordby remodeled their farm home; their daughter remembered that they engaged a woman from the Genesee area who was an architect to help them with the design. They removed the two-level front porch and replaced it with a Colonial Revival style entry bay, installed plate glass windows and new window treatments including shutters and metal transoms, and replaced a small porch on the north side with a larger addition which

held a combination laundry and bathroom. In the early 1950s, they built a two-car garage and sided the house in aluminum. The siding company gave the family a discount because its highly visible location near what was then U. S. Highway 95 could provide an advertisement for the product.[9]

Rudolph and Mildred Nordby were committed to their farm, their children, and their community. Mildred Nordby was an understanding mother who doled out discipline while her husband was at work on the farm or in various community roles. She was active in church functions, hosted large family holiday gatherings, cooked for harvesters (three meals a day for approximately ten men during harvest time), and baked and canned for the family. Besides being a successful farmer, Rudolph Nordby was a Latah County Commissioner for twenty-four years and served on the Genesee School Board for twenty-six years. He also helped organize the Inland Empire Pea Growers and was a member of the Genesee Warehouse Board and Genesee Producers Board. He served on the Agricultural Adjustment Administration Board, the State Board of Farmers Home Administration, the Idaho Farm Electrification Committee, the Latah Wheat Production Control Association and the Latah County Pioneers Association. He chaired the Genesee Medical-Dental facility's building committee in the 1950s.[10]
In 1974, with their children grown and Mildred in poor health, the Nordbys decided to leave the farm and move to a retirement facility in Spokane. Rudolph Nordby could not bear the thought of a Genesee "goodbye" party, and his children carried their belongings off in several small loads so the neighbors would not realize they were leaving. Mildred Nordby died in 1976 and Rudolph Nordby in 1983, but their farmstead remains in the Nordby family, rented to tenants under the management of their son, David.[11]

Summary of Significance

The Nordby Farmstead is significant under Criteria A and within the multiple property submission, "Historic Agricultural Properties of Latah County, Idaho, 1855-1955," as an excellent example of a Diversified/Subsistence Family Farm in Latah County, Idaho. The MPD registration requirements for this type of property states that the farmstead must retain a sufficient number of buildings, structures and features to convey its significance as a diversified/subsistence farming unit; no major intrusions from the post-1955 period should be present. Individual buildings and structures should not display significant alterations from the post-1955 period. In general, houses and barns will be smaller and less elaborate than those found on the Expanded Commercial farmsteads. The Nordby Farmstead exhibits these characteristics with a large house and barn and then a number of smaller structures, all having excellent integrity to the pre-1955 period. The property illustrates the development of a farm operation that allowed Rudolph and Mildred Nordby to become successful farmers, raise a family, participate in community activities, and improve their property. The Nordby Farmstead is locally significant under Criterion A (Agriculture). Within the context of Latah County, the farmstead is an excellent example of late 19th and early 20th century Palouse region agricultural development. Reflecting the typical patterns of local development over a period of 75 years, the Nordby property is dominated by the historic barn and house and illustrates the persistence of small family farms in the region. The complex features the characteristic elements of the Diversified/Subsistence Family Farm property type identified in the MPS cover document.

Endnotes

1. Information on Historic Context and Property Types is adapted from Suzanne Julin, preparer, "Historic Agricultural Properties of Latah County, Idaho, 1855-1955," National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Document Form, n.d. [2007], E/1-12, F/1-3.

2. Beuletta Nordby Williams, comp., "The Family History of Rudolph Ephraim Nordby and Mildred Luvaas Nordby, Book II, 1988," Archive SC, Genealogies file 9, Mildred Luvaas Nordby and Rudolph Ephraim Nordby, Latah County Historical Society Museum, Moscow, Idaho, 38-46, 50; U. S. Land Patent Records, Nez Perce County, Book 4, 39.

3. Williams, "The Family History," 48-49, 167.

4. Williams, "The Family History," 49-50, 53.

5. Williams, "The Family History," 91-92.

6. Williams, "The Family History," 167.

7. Williams, "The Family History," 168.

8. Williams, "The Family History," 170; "Nordby Farm," Archive Century/Historic Farm, CLG-1986, File 22, Latah County Historical Society Museum, Moscow, Idaho; this file also contains historic photographs of the house, food storage structure, and barn.

9. Information provided by David Nordby to preparer, September 4, 2008; Williams, "The Family History," 100, 169-170.

10. Williams, "The Family History," 50-51, 53, 57, 102.

11. Williams, "The Family History," 96-99, 105, 165.

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Williams, Beuletta Nordby, comp. "The Family History of Rudolph Ephraim Nordby and Mildred Luvaas Nordby. Book II, privately printed, 1988. Archive SC, Genealogies file 9, Mildred Luvaas Nordby and Rudolph Ephraim Nordby. Latah County Historical Society, Moscow, Idaho.

U.S. Land Patent Records, Nez Perce County. Book 4.

Photographs

Nordby Farmstead
Latah County, Idaho
Photographs taken by Suzanne Julin
May 28, 2008
Negatives on file with Idaho State Historic Preservation Office

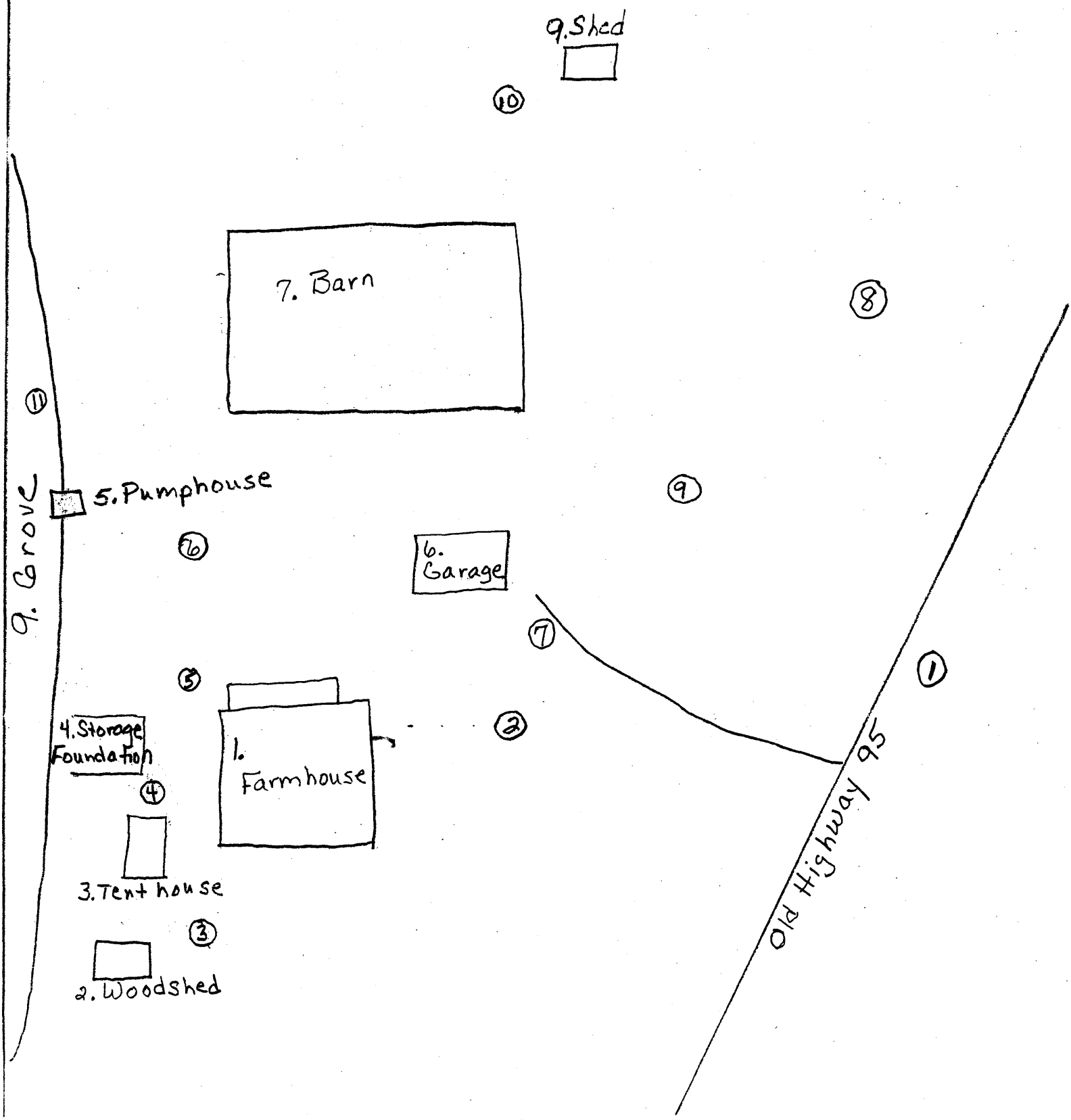
1.	Nordby Farmstead Overview	Facing West
2.	Nordby Farm house	Facing West
3.	Nordby Woodshed	Facing Northwest
4.	Nordby Tent House	Facing South
5.	Nordby Storage Foundation	Facing Southwest
6.	Nordby Pumphouse	Facing West
7.	Nordby Garage	Facing Northwest
8.	Nordby Barn	Facing West
9.	Nordby Barn	Facing Northwest
10.	Nordby Shed	Facing Northeast
11.	Nordby Grove	Facing Southwest

Nordby, Rudolph and Mildred, Farmstead

Genesee, Latah County, Idaho

Not to Scale

Photograph Vantage Points O



IHSI 57-13879
Nordby Farmstead
Facing West
May 28, 2008
Nordby, Rudolph and Mildred Farmstead
NRHP Nomination
Genesee, Latah Co ID
Photo #1 of 11

IHSI
Nordby Farmhouse
Facing West
May 28, 2008
Nordby, Rudolph and Mildred,
Farmstead, NRHP Nomination
Genesee, Latah Co, ID
Photo #2 of 11

SKI-DOO

IHSI 57-13879
Nordby Woodshed
Facing Northwest
May 28, 2008
Nordby, Rudolph and Mildred, Farmstead,
NRHP Nomination
Genesee, Latah County, Idaho
Photo #3 of 11

IHSI 57-13879

Nordby Tent house

Facing South

May 28, 2008

Nordby, Rudolph and Mildred, Farmstead,
NRHP Nomination

Genesee, Latah Co, Idaho

Photo # 4 of 11

IHSJ 57-13879

Nordby Storage Foundation

Facing Southwest

May 28, 2008

Nordby, Rudolph and Mildred,
Farmstead

NRHP Nomination

Genesee, Latah Co., ID

Photo #5 of 11

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Nordby Pumphouse
Facing West
May 28, 2008

Nordby, Rudolph and Mildred,
Farmstead
NRHP Nomination

Genesee, Latah Co., ID

Photo # 6 of 11

IHSI
Nordby Garage
Facing Northwest
May 28, 2008
Nordby, Rudolph and Mildred,
Farmstead
NRHP Nomination
Genesee, Latah Co., ID
Photo # 7 of 11

IHSI 57-13879
Nordby Barn
Facing West
May 28, 2008

Nordby, Rudolph and Mildred,
Farmstead
NRHP Nomination

Genesee, Latah Co., ID
Photo #8 of 11

JHSI 57-13879

Nordby Barn
Facing NW
May 28, 2008

Nordby, Rudolph and Mildred,
Farmstead
NRHP Nomination
Genesee, Latah Co., ID
Photo #9 of 11

IHSJ 57-13879

Nordby Shed
Facing Northeast
May 28, 2008

Nordby, Rudolph and Mildred
Farmstead
NRHP Nomination

Gooding, Latah Co., Idaho
Photo # 10 of 11

IHSI 57-13879

Nordby Grove

Facing SW

May 28, 2008

Nordby, Rudolph and Mildred, Farmstead
NRHP Nomination

Genesee, Latah Co, ID

Photo #11 of 11