

Site Number: 5PL.226

## **Please Note**

There is a typo in the National Register Nomination  
regarding the Geographic Data.

The UTM References on page 18 should read as follows:

(NAD 83)

Zone 13 ; 7 1 2 7 0 4 mE 4 5 0 3 0 4 2 mN

Zone 13 ; 7 1 3 5 0 0 mE 4 5 0 3 0 4 3 mN

Zone 13 ; 7 1 3 5 0 1 mE 4 5 0 2 2 4 9 mN

Zone 13 ; 7 1 2 7 0 4 mE 4 5 0 2 2 1 1 mN

3/2017

E.Schmelzer

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Harms Farm  
other names/site number Gansemer Farm / 5PL.226

## 2. Location

street & number CR 21 between CR 30 and CR 32 N/A not for publication  
city or town Haxtun  vicinity  
state Colorado code CO county Phillips code 095 zip code 80731

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

[Signature] Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date 9/18/15  
Signature of certifying official/Title

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, History Coloradc  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register  removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Harms Farm  
Historic Resources of Phillips County, Colorado 1889-1965 MPDF  
Name of Property

Phillips, Colorado  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only **one** box.)

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

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
8	0	buildings
		district
1		site
2		structure
1	3	object
12	3	<b>Total</b>

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

Historic Resources of Phillips County,  
Colorado 1889 - 1965

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling
- AGRICULTURE: Animal Facility
- AGRICULTURE: Agricultural Outbuilding
- AGRICULTURE: Agricultural Outbuilding

- DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling
- AGRICULTURE: Animal Facility
- AGRICULTURE: Agricultural Outbuilding
- AGRICULTURE: Agricultural Outbuilding

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

No Style

foundation: CONCRETE  
walls: SYNTHETIC: Vinyl  
WOOD: Horizontal Siding  
roof: ASPHALT  
METAL  
other: BRICK VENEER

Harms Farm  
Historic Resources of Phillips County, Colorado 1889-1965 MPDF  
Name of Property

Phillips, Colorado  
County and State

---

## Narrative Description

---

### Summary Paragraph

The Harms Farm Rural Historic Landscape District occupies the SE ¼ of Section 22 of Township 8N Range 46W in Phillips County. John A. Nelson acquired the land under the Timber Culture Act in 1894. Nelson sold the property in 1907 and the land passed through a series of owners, likely land speculators. The land appears to have remained undeveloped until purchased by William Gansemer in 1917. Gansemer was one of many who moved to Phillips County from Nebraska during the 1910s, coming in search of good, affordable farm land. He came out to Phillips County with his brother Fred and Fred's brother-in-law Henry Alberts. They began construction of the farm complex building a shack (serving first as a residence and later as a chicken coop) and barn as well as digging the basement of the current house. In 1918, William Gansemer sold the farm to his brother Fred and established his own farm nearby. Fred Gansemer brought his family (wife Johanna and daughters Irene and Gladys) out from Nebraska via emigrant train. Fred established a diversified farming operation planting dryland wheat, corn, millet, and other feed crops and raised sheep, dairy cows, chickens, and hogs. In 1931, Fred turned operation of the farm over to his daughter Irene and her husband John Harms. It was John and Irene Harms who developed the farm as it appears today, which primarily dates to the mid-twentieth century. John and Irene significantly expanded the scope of the livestock operation, focusing on sheep and chickens. At the peak, they had 1,000 lambs and 4,000 chickens. They added three barns, two chicken houses, a Quonset Hut, shop, granary, and grain bin to the farm complex. In 1986, John and Irene retired and their son Virgil and his son Duane took over the farm. Duane and his family have lived on the farm since 1987. The Harms no longer raise livestock, but continue to produce dryland wheat and other crops. The Harms Farm Rural Historic Landscape is an excellent example of a Phillips County farmstead; a working landscape that is associated with the development of agriculture from the 1910s through the 1960s.

---

## Narrative Description

### SETTING

The Harms Farm is located approximately two and a half miles north of Paoli in Phillips County, Colorado. The farmstead complex is located on the west side of County Road 21 between County Roads 30 and 32. Located in northeastern Colorado, Sedgwick County borders Phillips County to the north, Logan County lies to the west, and Yuma County to the south. Chase and Perkins Counties in Nebraska border it to the east. Part of the high plains, the climate of Phillips County is semi-arid with an average annual rainfall of around 18". The elevation of the Harms Farm is 3,907'. There is very little surface water in the county. The only waterway through the county is Frenchman Creek which forms a rough border between farmland to the north and the grazing land to the southeast. The northern part of the county is characterized by rolling plains covered with fields of wheat and corn while the southeastern portion is part of the Sand Hills region and utilized primarily for livestock operations, both cattle grazing and commercial hog farms. Agriculture is the primary industry in the county. Though a relatively small county (688 square miles), the land is intensively used with 432,154 acres in farms as of the 2007 agricultural census. Phillips County ranks eighth in Colorado in the total value of agricultural products sold, with profits divided almost equally between crop and livestock sales. Its top products are corn for grain (with 109,900 acres harvested in 2010), winter wheat (with 105,600 acres harvested in 2010), and cattle (with 33,000 head in the county in 2010). Grain storage is an important part of the agricultural economy as well as the visual landscape with 15,716,110 bushels of grain storage in the county.

A countywide reconnaissance survey of Phillips County was completed in 2011, providing a context for evaluating the Harms Farm. The survey recorded 270 farmstead complexes with historic elements. The characteristic Phillips County farmstead is modest, neatly organized, and Midwestern in character. Most buildings are frame, painted white or red. The typical farm includes a one or one-and-a-half story house, a gable-roofed or gambrel-roofed barn, a garage, metal grain bins, a corral, a Quonset Hut, a machine storage shed, a workshop, a chicken coop and one or more large windbreaks.

Harms Farm  
Historic Resources of Phillips County, Colorado 1889-1965 MPDF  
Name of Property

Phillips, Colorado  

---

County and State

Compared to other farms in Phillips County, the Harms Farm retains a higher than average number of original resources with a less than average amount of modern alterations.

## CULTURAL LANDSCAPE FEATURES

**Land Use Activities:** Originally rolling prairie, Phillips County's native grasses were home to large herds of buffalo, antelope, and deer. The nomadic Arapaho and Kiowa utilized the area as a hunting ground. These Native American tribes were moved to reservations in Oklahoma and Wyoming in the late 1860s and were replaced by cowboys trailing cattle through the region. Homesteaders arrived in Colorado in the mid-1880s, breaking up the sod and converting prairie land to farm land. The soils are sandy loams and silt loams. The sandier soils are well-suited to corn and the silt loams to wheat production. Initially claimed under the Timber Culture Act, the land must have once been covered with groves of trees, but the land has been in agricultural production since 1917. The primary land uses at the Harms Farm have been dryland farming and livestock raising. Fred Gansemer grew dryland wheat, corn, millet, and other feed crops and raised sheep, dairy cows, chickens, and hogs. John Harms continued the dryland farming operations and focused livestock operations on sheep and chickens. Livestock is no longer kept on the farm, but dryland farming continues with wheat, millet, and sunflowers. (The Harms also grow some irrigated crops, but that acreage is outside the boundaries of the district).

**Boundary Demarcations:** The district boundaries reflect the Public Land Survey System (PLSS) created by the federal government to administrate the survey, sale, and settlement of lands west of the original colonies. Used to subdivide and describe land parcels, the PLSS established a grid across the western U.S. based on 6-mile-square townships, which are then subdivided into 36 one-mile-square sections. The Harms Farm is located in the southeastern corner of Section 22 of Township 8N Range 46W. John A. Nelson acquired the property under the Timber Culture Act, which promoted tree planting on the plains by granting 160 acres of land to individuals who successfully established groves of trees. Most farms in Phillips County (including the Harms Farm) have grown from their original quarter section to cover multiple sections, but the checkerboard pattern created by the PLSS still evident in the arrangement of fields and pastures and is easily visible in aerial photographs. Most of the county roads in Phillips County follow section lines, reinforcing the grid pattern. County Road 30 forms the southern boundary of the district and County Road 21 forms the southern district boundary. Farm fields border the district on the west and north. The primary demarcation within the farm is between the farmstead complex and the surrounding crop land. There are no internal divisions or fences within the crop area. The horizontal crop rows extend to all edges of the quarter section. The fields can be accessed from the farmstead complex or from anywhere along County Road 30 or County 21; no fencing separates the fields from the farmstead complex or the roads.

**Patterns of Spatial Organization:** The layout of the Harms Farm is typical of farms in Phillips County. The farmstead buildings are clustered close to County Road 21. The house is closest to the road and faces east onto the road. A driveway leads from the road to the house and then widens into a central work yard. All major buildings are clustered around the work yard. A windbreak extends the length of the north side of the farm complex, sheltering the farmstead complex from the frequent high winds on the plains. Winds are predominately from the north and west in the county. The windbreak also forms a partial boundary around the farmstead complex. Due to the flat topography, windbreaks are highly visible from a distance, indicating the location of farm complexes. Crop fields closely surround the farm complex, coming within 30' of some of the buildings.

**Response to the Natural Environment and Vegetation Related to Land Use:** A large windbreak extends across the north side of the farm complex. Tree planting was an essential part of farmstead development on the plains. The flat, treeless topography of the plains offered no shade or relief from high winds. Trees made the farmstead much more pleasant, providing shade and blocking winds. They also provide habitat for wildlife and helped define the boundaries of the farmstead complex. During the Dust Bowl of the 1930s, the Soil Conservation Service promoted windbreaks as a method for fighting soil erosion. The design of windbreaks became more formalized, following recommended designs.

Harms Farm  
Historic Resources of Phillips County, Colorado 1889-1965 MPDF  
Name of Property

Phillips, Colorado  
\_\_\_\_\_  
County and State

While the location of windbreaks generally dates back to soon after the establishment of farm complex, windbreaks naturally evolve over time with trees dying and being replaced. Windbreaks may also be expanded or farmers may decide to plant different varieties of trees. Rows of elms within the windbreak, believed to have been planted in the 1930s, are dying. New rows of cedars and ponderosa pines are located to the south of the elms, planted around ten years ago. Landscaping has also been used to define the domestic area of the farm complex. A grass lawn, defined by a rock border and planters is located in front of the house. The primary crop on the farm has been dryland winter wheat, which is well-suited to the region's climate. Planted in the fall and harvested in early summer, winter wheat requires a cold period to produce grain. The development of drought resistant winter wheat varieties was essential to the agricultural development of the high plains. Other dryland crops on the farm have included corn, millet, and sunflowers. Dryland crops are those grown without irrigation, depending solely on rainfall. The climate of Phillips County is semi-arid with an average annual rainfall of around 18". The soil is a mix of sandy and silt loams.

**Cultural Traditions:** The history of the Harms Farm illustrates the important role of immigrants in the development of Phillips County agriculture, particularly the role of farmers of German descent who moved to the region from Nebraska. Though William and Fred Gansemer were the sons of a German immigrant and John Harms the grandson of German immigrants, it is impossible to explicitly tie any of the architectural features of Harms Farm to this German heritage. The more clear influence is the agricultural traditions of Nebraska. William and Fred Gansemer and John Farms all lived on farms in Nebraska before moving to Phillips County. Many farmers moved from Nebraska to Phillips County in search of affordable farmland in a familiar climate. Located on the Nebraska border, Phillips County shares a cultural landscape that has more in common with Nebraska than the rest of Colorado. The farm buildings of Phillips County share materials, design, use, and common placement with those of Nebraska. Key features that early twentieth-century Phillips County shared with Nebraska were the large scale production of non-irrigated wheat and corn along with the production of hogs and dairy products. The farm buildings and layout reflected the transplanted agricultural practices with the typical farm including a modest farmhouse located close to the road and surrounded by one or more large, multi-level barns as well as a chicken coop, granary, workshop, and garage. Unlike other areas of Colorado where agricultural complexes featured buildings constructed of locally available materials such as sandstone, log, and adobe blocks, Phillips County farmsteads were built of milled lumber shipped by rail. Due to the flat topography of the county, they also tended to follow a more standard pattern and placement as opposed to the more organic design and placement of buildings in other areas of the state which were adapted to best suit local variations in topography. Nebraskans also seem to have brought values commonly associated with the Midwestern states, with historical publications variously describing Phillips County residents as progressive, industrious, civic-minded, moral, and spiritual.

**Circulation Networks:** The location of the farm on County Road 21 provides easy access to Paoli, approximately two and a half miles south. Paoli offered large grain elevator facilities, a railroad depot, and as access to Highway 6, which runs west to east across Phillips County. A dirt drive (40' to 50' wide) runs through the farm complex, providing vehicular access to the farm buildings. A concrete sidewalk leads from the dirt drive to the front of the house. Near the center of the farm complex the drive widens to become a work yard, a space large enough to temporarily hold horses, livestock, machinery, equipment, and vehicles, facilitating the movement of grain and livestock within and out of the farm complex. The work area also provided an area large enough for tractors, trailers, and other large vehicles to turn around.

**Clusters and Small-Scale Elements:** The farm district includes several key functional groups. On a large scale, there is the cluster of buildings, structures, and objects that comprise the farm headquarters, grouped together on the east side of the section. Within the farmstead complex, features are clustered by function. The residential area consisting of the house, lawn, and clothesline is located on the east side of the complex, closest to the road. The agricultural functions on the farm are clustered to the west of the domestic area, separated from it by the work yard. The agricultural cluster includes work areas, equipment storage, and grain storage with features centered on the barn. Numerous small-scale elements are located within the clusters and help to define their functions. Small-scale elements within the domestic cluster include concrete sidewalks (leading from the dirt drive to the entrance of the house and along the side of the house), the clothesline, rock border, planters, and fencing. Small-scale elements in the agricultural cluster include a wide

Harms Farm  
Historic Resources of Phillips County, Colorado 1889-1965 MPDF  
Name of Property

Phillips, Colorado  

---

County and State

variety of farm equipment and machinery that are key to understanding the farm as a working landscape. Other key small-scale features include the fuel tanks and electrical poles and wiring.

## CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

**Site (est. 1917):** The Harms Farm Rural Historic Landscape District encompasses a quarter of a section (160 acres). The farmstead complex is located on the east side of the district; dryland agricultural fields cover the rest of the district. The district includes fifteen buildings, structures, and objects. In addition to the site, there are seventeen contributing resources (house, three barns, Quonset Hut, wood shop, chicken coop, chicken house, granary, grain bin, and clothesline). The house was constructed in 1918. The remaining contributing resources were constructed between 1947 and c.1960. The complex includes three non-contributing objects: two fuel tanks and a propane tank. Their construction date is not known. The site also includes significant landscape features including the windbreak and landscaping around the domestic area.

### *Buildings*

**House (A; built 1918; 26' x 60'; photos 4 and 5):** The house sits at the east edge of the farm complex, facing County Road 21. The basement was dug in 1917 and the house constructed the following year. It is a one-and-half story frame house with a cross gabled roof. This is very common house type in Phillips County, several other examples of nearly identical houses can be found elsewhere in the county and more can be found in historic photos. This may have been a standard plan available from a local lumber yard or the design of a local builder. Similar designs were also available through catalogs such as the Niagara plan offered by the Ray H. Bennett Lumber Co., Inc. of North Tonawanda, NY. The house is the only building on the farmstead today that was built by Fred Gansemer.

The house is roughly square in plan, with a shed-roof addition at the rear. The addition was likely added in 1945 (according to assessor records the house was remodeled in 1945). It features a front facing gable with two side gables extending from the ridge line to the eaves, pronounced cornice returns, and closed eaves. An interior brick chimney is found near the ridge line. The roof is covered in dimensional asphalt shingles. The house has a basement, sits on a concrete foundation. The front facade features a full-width raised porch with a hipped roof supported by simple square posts. The house retains its historic form, but few original materials. The original siding was replaced with white vinyl siding at an unknown date. A brick veneer appears to have been added at the base of the north and south walls at the same time the siding was installed. All of the original doors and windows have been replaced with aluminum-framed windows and some of the window openings appear to have been altered as well; this may also have been done at the same time the siding was replaced. On the façade, the porch shelters an off-center entrance that holds a multi-light glazed door. The front facade contains two one-over-one sash windows on the main level (with window opening on the left side is smaller than the opening on the right side) and a single horizontal sash window on the gable end. The north side features two large and one small one-over-one sash windows on the main level and two fixed windows on the gable end. The south side contains a three-part window and a horizontal sash window on the main level and a horizontal sash window on the gable end. The addition at the rear of the building has an asymmetrical gable roof, which is split on its north slope. The addition is entered from the south side which features an overhead garage door, a paneled door with a fanlight, and a horizontal sash window.

**Sheep Barn (B; built 1922, moved 1951; 47' x 54'; photos 15 and 19):** The barn is located at the south edge of the farm complex. This building was originally the Haxtun Methodist Church Tabernacle, constructed in 1922. It was located next to the main church building on South Washington Street and was used for Sunday school, athletic activities, and social functions. The building was moved to the farm in 1951, after the church constructed a new building that included a fellowship facility. John Harms paid \$1,260 for the building and paid Mr. Welsh of Wray \$800 to move it from Haxtun to his farm; it was the largest building Welsh had ever moved. John Harms converted the Tabernacle to a sheep barn.

Harms Farm  
Historic Resources of Phillips County, Colorado 1889-1965 MPDF  
Name of Property

Phillips, Colorado  
\_\_\_\_\_  
County and State

The barn is rectangular in plan and topped with a monitor roof covered in corrugated metal. The date of this roofing is unknown. The building sits on a concrete foundation and is clad in horizontal wood siding. The south side has an oversized double door at the center with a single window opening to the left and a pedestrian door and window opening to the right. The window openings are empty, without glazing. Windows originally lined the west and east sides of the building, but most of these have been covered. A central entry opening on the north side (likely originally holding double doors) has also been boarded over. There is also a pedestrian door on the east side. The monitor vent windows are covered in metal sheets matching the rest of the roof. The barn currently stores farm machinery and implements.

**Sheep Barn (C; built circa 1960; 37' x 99'; photos 16 and 18):** The sheep barn is located on the southwestern end of the farm complex. It is a rectangular plan pole barn that faces east with a narrow rectangular addition on its rear (west) side. The exterior walls of the main building are composed of panels of concrete masonry tied with wire and bolts to a series of vertical wood posts. The concrete panels were recycled from dismantled sheep pens. The barn roof rests on interior braced supports. The barn has exposed rafter ends on the eaves, which are open. The low-pitch, front-gabled roof is clad in corrugated metal. A large opening is centered on the east side, but the building otherwise lacks fenestration. An addition is attached at the rear (west) of the building. Also rectangular in plan, although smaller in dimension, it is wood frame with horizontal wood siding. It rests on a concrete foundation. The addition has an asymmetrical gable roof (resembling a saltbox style), and is collapsing in the middle. The south side features two bands of windows with a small door in the middle. The windows are missing their glazing. Two openings are located on the west side, at ground level and a small square opening beneath the gable ridge.

**Barn (D; built circa 1950s; 60' x 35'; photo 13):** The barn is located on the west side of the farm complex and faces east. The barn is rectangular in plan, topped by a tall, steeply pitched front-gabled roof clad in corrugated metal. The walls of the barn are composed of poured concrete panels that are supported by a series of concrete buttresses. The concrete panels were recycled from dismantled sheep pens. There are no window openings on the barn. The front (east) of the building has an oversized sliding door, which hangs on exterior slider rails extending several feet beyond the roof line.

**Quonset Hut (E; built circa late 1950s; 40' x 69'6"; photos 11 and 13):** The Quonset Hut is located at the northwest edge of the farm complex. Quonset Huts were added to many farms in the mid twentieth century. The Quonset sits on a concrete slab foundation and has a double sliding door on the east end with the slider rails extending beyond the building's frame. A single louvered vent is centered above the door. The building features a true Quonset form with a semi-circular cross-section. The Quonset is constructed of long sheets of corrugated steel riveted together. The combination roof and wall system is self-supporting with no visible framing system. The manufacturer is unknown; multiple manufacturers marketed Quonsets in Phillips County during the 1950s. The Quonset is currently used for large farm implement storage.

**Wood Shop (G; built circa 1950s; 30' x 22'; photos 9 and 10):** The wood shop sits near the center of the farmyard, facing east. It consists of two granary buildings that were combined to form the wood shop in the 1950s. It is a rectangular plan building with a front gabled roof of low to medium pitch, with exposed rafter ends. The foundation of the building is concrete and the seam of the two component buildings is visible on the facade (east side) of the building, above the corner of a large sliding door. The building is sided in corrugated metal, although the original red-painted wood siding is intact beneath the gable end on the rear of the building and most of the front face of the building, including the sliding door. The roof is covered in wood shingles on the north slope and corrugated metal on the south slope.

**Chicken Coop (I; built circa 1950s; 20' x 60' 4"; photos 6 and 7):** The chicken coop sits at the north end of the farmstead to the northwest of the house. The chicken coop is a rectangular building comprised of three different shed-roofed sections that have been joined together in a north-south oriented row. The original construction date of the components is unknown; the current configuration dates to the mid twentieth century development of the farmstead. The building faces south and is clad in corrugated metal, although the easternmost of the three buildings is partially clad in



Harms Farm  
Historic Resources of Phillips County, Colorado 1889-1965 MPDF  
Name of Property

Phillips, Colorado  

---

County and State

plywood. All fenestration is on the south side; this includes two pedestrian doors (flush doors covered with corrugated metal) and three bays of horizontal windows.

**Chicken House (J; built circa 1950s; 30' x 101'; photos 6 and 7):** The chicken house is located at the northeast edge of the farmstead. It was in operation until the mid to late 1960s. The rectangular plan building has a gabled roof and sits on a concrete foundation. The building is entirely clad in corrugated metal, and is minimally fenestrated: a pedestrian door and vent are located on each gable end, and a sectional roll-up garage door is located at the west end of the south side. This side also has a small square window opening and an opening with a deteriorated wood garage door. A rotating vent cap and pipe sit in the approximate middle of the roof ridge.

### **Structures**

**Granary (F; built 1947; 15' x 10'; photo 12):** The granary sits behind (west) of the Quonset Hut. Granaries were common farmstead additions in the late 1940s and 1950s as farmers sought to expand their on-farm grain storage capacity. The granary has also been used as a smoke house. The granary is a wood framed, shed-roofed structure, covered with horizontal wood siding. A door opening is centered on the west side. Above the door are three square unglazed window openings. They appear to have been originally protected with hinged coverings composed of vertical boards. No fenestration is present on other sides. The roof is covered in deteriorating red asphalt shingles. The structure currently tilts to the rear.

**Grain Bin (H; built circa 1950s; 57' diameter; photo 11):** The grain bin is located on the west side of the farm complex. The steel circular grain bin rests on a concrete foundation. The roof is partially collapsed.

### **Objects**

**Clothesline (P; date unknown):** A clothesline is located behind the house, just north of the picket fence. It consists of wires suspended between two T-shaped metal posts. The exact construction date of the clothesline is unknown, but it is similar in appearance to clotheslines erected on other farms during the 1940s and 1950s.

## **NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES**

### **Objects**

**Propane Tank (K; date unknown but likely after 1965):** A propane tank is located northeast of the house.

**Fuel Tanks (N; date unknown but likely after 1965):** Two cylindrical, metal fuel tanks raised on metal stands are located on the south side of the work yard.

Harms Farm  
Historic Resources of Phillips County, Colorado 1889-1965 MPDF  
Name of Property

Phillips, Colorado  

---

County and State

## INTEGRITY

The Harms Farm Rural Historic Landscape District is a working landscape that has evolved to meet changing farm needs. Changes reflect Phillips County farming trends, including the replacement of older farm buildings with newer buildings, adapting and remodeling buildings, and the mid twentieth century addition of Quonset Huts and additional grain storage. Most alterations have occurred during the district's period of significance, which extends from 1917 to 1965. The farm as it appears today primarily represents the mid twentieth century development of the farm by John Harms with only the house remaining from the original farm complex established by Fred Gansemer. The fuel tanks and propane tank were added after the period of significance but these features fit with the character of the farm and are small in scale in comparison to the overall size of the farmstead complex.

With view sheds of the surrounding agricultural landscape hardly altered since 1917, the district retains a high degree of integrity of setting and feeling. The historic layout and building relationships are intact. The built features of the farm demonstrate farmers' adaptations to the natural environment (windbreaks and crop types), knowledge of wider farmstead types and trends (common regional house type and farmstead arrangement) as well as the evolution of farming practices (midcentury expansion with specialized buildings for sheep and chicken production). The surrounding agricultural fields are unchanged except for modifications in farming practices. The windbreak has changed over time with trees dying and being replaced, but this is part of the natural landscape evolution. The district also retains a high integrity of association, having been continuously in operation by the same family since 1917. The integrity of design and materials within the district is good except for the house. While the rear addition appears to have been added within the period of significance, other alterations including the installation of vinyl siding, brick and stone veneer, aluminum windows, and asphalt roofing all appear to have been added after the period of significance. However, the overall form of the house and its relationship to the rest of the district is intact. The barns and grain bin retain their original exterior wall materials (wood siding or concrete panels). Many of the farm buildings have been partially or completely covered with corrugated metal sheeting and most of the roofs have been covered with corrugated metal. While the addition of corrugated metal cannot be definitely placed within the period of significance, this has been a common building treatment since the mid twentieth century and most of the corrugated metal appears to date to the 1950s when the farm complex was undergoing major alteration and expansion. The original design of some of the buildings has been altered, but changes were made within the period of significance. The farmstead complex as a whole retains a good degree of integrity, especially as an example of a mid-twentieth century farmstead complex.

Harms Farm  
Historic Resources of Phillips County, Colorado 1889-1965 MPDF  
Name of Property

Phillips, Colorado

County and State

**Resource Count:**

<b>District Resources</b>	<b>construction date</b>	<b>contributing</b>	<b>non-contributing</b>
<b>Site</b>			
Farm		1	
<b>Buildings</b>			
House	1918	1	
Sheep Barn (former Methodist Tabernacle)	1922, moved to farm 1951	1	
Sheep Barn	c.1960	1	
Barn	c.1950s	1	
Quonset	c. late 1950s	1	
Wood Shop	c.1950s	1	
Chicken Coop	c.1950s	1	
Chicken House	c.1950s	1	
<b>Structures</b>			
Granary	1947	1	
Grain Bin	c.1950s	1	
<b>Objects</b>			
Propane Tank	post 1965		1
Fuel Tanks	post 1965		2
Clothesline	c.1950s	1	
<b>Totals</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>

Harms Farm  
Historic Resources of Phillips County, Colorado 1889-1965 MPDF  
Name of Property

Phillips, Colorado  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1917-1965

1917- c.1960

**Significant Dates**

1917

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Fred Gansemer

John Harms

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance for Agriculture begins with the establishment of the farm by William and Fred Gansemer in 1917 and extends to 1965. Since the farm is still in use, its agricultural significance continues to the present, but the period of significance is being ended at 1965 in keeping with the National Register guidelines. The period of significance for Architecture begins in 1917 with the construction of the basement of the house and continues until c.1960 with the construction of the southwestern sheep barn.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary) N/A**

Harms Farm  
Historic Resources of Phillips County, Colorado 1889-1965 MPDF  
Name of Property

Phillips, Colorado  
\_\_\_\_\_  
County and State

### Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Harms Farm Rural Historic Landscape District is locally significant for its association with the development of dryland farming and livestock production in Phillips County from the farming boom of the 1910s through the agricultural changes of the mid-twentieth century. The Harms Farm is locally significant under **Criterion A** for *agriculture* for its association with the history of agriculture in Phillips County and locally significant under **Criterion C** for *architecture* as an excellent example of a Phillips County farmstead from the mid-twentieth century. The farm buildings within the complex are of a type, period or method of construction representative of the twentieth century evolution of farm complexes in Phillips County.<sup>1</sup>

The Harms Farm meets the registration requirements of the Farmstead Property Type as defined in the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) *Historic Resources of Phillips County*.

---

### Narrative Statement of Significance

**Criterion A (Agriculture):** The Harms Farm is significant as an excellent example of a Phillips County family farming operation. The farm has been in continuous operation since 1917 and reflects farming trends in Phillips County, including the farming boom of the 1910s and the evolution from diversified farming to more specialized farm operations in the mid twentieth century. The farmstead in its current form primarily reflects farming practices in the mid-twentieth century. John A. Nelson originally claimed the land under the Timber Culture Act in 1894. After Nelson sold it in 1907, it passed through a series of non-resident land owners until purchased by William Gansemer in 1917. A farmer of German descent from Nebraska, William began development of the farm along with his brother Fred. William sold the farm to Fred in 1918. Fred Gansemer had a diversified farming operation, growing dryland wheat, corn, and millet as well as raising sheep, dairy cows, chickens, and hogs. In 1931, Fred Gansemer passed farm management on to his daughter Irene and her husband John Harms. Initially John Harms continued diversified farming operations similar to his father-in-law, but at midcentury he focused on sheep and chicken production and eliminated other livestock. At the peak, the Harms Farm had 1,000 lambs and 4,000 chickens, making it one of the largest producers in the county. The farm as it appears today includes multiple buildings added by John Harms to house sheep and chickens as well as additional grain storage and a Quonset for farm machinery. The farm is currently operated by Duane Harms, Fred Gansemer's great-grandson.

**Criterion C (Architecture):** The Harms Farm is a good example of a Phillips County farmstead complex. The one-and-a-half story cross-gabled farmhouse is a good representation of a housing form that was common in the 1910s in Phillips County. The farmstead also retains an excellent collection of mid-twentieth century agricultural buildings. Unlike the house which fits the pattern of other farmstead buildings in the county, the mid-twentieth century buildings appear to largely have been the design of John Harms, constructed to meet his particular farmstead needs as affordably and efficiently as possible. The combination of building designs and variety of materials used shows the extent to which the area's farmers could manage their needs by recycling building materials, adapting and reusing buildings and applying do-it-yourself techniques to adjust to changing farm needs. Two barns were constructed reusing concrete windbreaks from sheep pens. John Harms also moved a church fellowship hall onto the property and converted it to a third barn. A wood shop was constructed by combining two granaries. The chicken coop and chicken house also look like they may have incorporated all or part of earlier farm buildings. All are good examples of the frugality and creativity of farmers in creating their farmsteads.

---

<sup>1</sup> The Harms Farm may also be eligible under Criterion D for historic non-aboriginal archaeology, but additional investigation beyond the scope of this nomination preparation is needed. No surveys specifically focusing on non-aboriginal historic archaeology have been conducted at this property, so it is unknown if the farm has potential to yield important information regarding historic archaeology for the period of significance covered by this nomination.

Harms Farm  
Historic Resources of Phillips County, Colorado 1889-1965 MPDF  
Name of Property

Phillips, Colorado  

---

County and State

**Character Defining Features:** Land Use, Boundary Demarcations, Topography, Vegetation, Patterns of Spatial Organization, Circulation Networks, Buildings, Structures and Objects

The Harms Farm is significant for its overall intact rural landscape. It is an excellent example of a High Plains rural farm landscape in northeastern Colorado. The rolling plains surrounding the Harms Farm have changed relatively little since William Gansemer purchased the property in 1917. The land has remained in dryland crop production. The built features of the farm continue to exist in harmony with the natural landscape features. According to the Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes National Register Bulletin, the significant components of a rural landscape include spatial organization, response to environment, circulation networks, boundary demarcations, building, structures, objects, and land use. The Harms Farm Rural Historic Landscape includes all of these components. Overall, the resource retains a high degree of integrity regarding location, feeling, setting, association, and design.

---

**Developmental history/additional historic context information**

*Settlement and Speculation*

The settlement of the northeastern corner of Colorado began in the 1880s, as the lure of open lands drew land seekers from states to the east as well as European immigrants. Initially the absence of wood and water in the region was seen as a barrier to settlement, but as lands further east were filled, homesteaders began to reconsider the farming potential of the High Plains. The settlers acquired land in a variety of ways: The Homestead Act of 1862 granted 160 acres to anyone willing to build a residence, farm the land, and live there for five years. Under the Timber Culture Act of 1873, homesteaders could increase their land holdings by planting and maintaining groves of trees. Those who didn't want to wait the five years needed to "prove up" a claim could purchase land at reasonable prices from the U.S. government or from railroad companies, which received large tracts of land to help fund construction and encourage settlement along the new rail lines. The Burlington Railroad built a line through northeastern Colorado in 1887. The Burlington's land division, the Lincoln Land Company, platted towns along the route. Railroad companies feverishly promoted these new communities, enticing settlers by running emigrant trains with special rates and encouraging immigration by advertising in European publications. Successful settlement meant more business for the railroads, creating a market for commercial goods as well as a shipping point for crops and livestock. During the 1880s the population of northeastern Colorado grew rapidly, and in 1889 Phillips County was one of thirteen new counties created by the state legislature. The region's new residents were popularly dubbed "sodbusters" since the first task on a new farm was "breaking" the land, using a large plow to turn over the thick prairie sod. The thick sod was also cut and used as a building material on the largely treeless prairie.

The following decade saw many farm failures. Too many homesteaders "started in an arid climate, penniless, without any knowledge of the methods needed, and with seed, feed and family supplies to be purchased for six months to two years before any revenue could be expected" (Cottrell 1910, 4). There were large delinquent tax lists during the 1890s. The challenges of settlement were exacerbated by the Panic of 1893, followed by a drought in 1894 during which few farmers succeeded in growing anything. Many gave up their claims and left the region. The population fell from 2,642 in 1890 to 1,583 in 1900. The number of cattle rose from 3,701 to 23,633 during the same period as farm land was turned over to grazing land and the region was promoted for ranching rather than farming.

John E. Nelson received the patent to the SE ¼ of Section 22 of Township 8N Range 46W on December 10, 1894 under the Timber Culture Act of 1873. Created to promote the growth of trees on the prairies, the Timber Culture Act worked similarly to the Homesteading Act. Claimants had to meet the same qualifications and could not claim more than 160 acres. Instead of being required to live on and farm the land, claimants under the Timber Culture Act were required to successfully plant trees. The act initially required the planting of forty acres of trees on each 160 acre claim; this was later

Harms Farm  
Historic Resources of Phillips County, Colorado 1889-1965 MPDF  
Name of Property

Phillips, Colorado  

---

County and State

reduced to ten acres. Each acre was to be planted with 2,700 trees; at least 675 trees per acre had to survive for the claim to be successful. The claimant could make proof and receive a land patent after eight years and had up to thirteen years to make the claim. Since Nelson received the patent in 1894, he filled the initial claim between 1881 and 1886, making him one of the early settlers in the region. Little information could be found on Nelson. Phillips County census records do not include a John E. Nelson, but the name was very common, with others named John E. Nelson appearing in census records elsewhere in Colorado and in Nebraska. In 1905, the county seized the property due to Nelson's failure to pay taxes. County records list Nelson as a widower from Deuel County, Nebraska.

During the 1910s, a new wave of farmers were drawn to Phillips County. The land was fertile but relatively inexpensive compared to areas further east. Federal experiment stations and state extension agencies were developing strains of crops better suited to the arid plains. As they had in the nineteenth century, local boosters worked hard to entice more farmers to Phillips County. Land companies advertised their bargains in newspapers in Nebraska and other states to the east. The railroads also publicized the region, with promotional brochures lauding the productivity of the land, healthy climate, and industrious farmers. This promotion also led to land speculation in Phillips County, with many properties passing through multiple absentee owners before being purchased by a farmer who actually developed it.

In November 1907, Nelson sold the property to H.E. Munson of Logan County, Colorado for \$450 plus an encumbrance to pay the back taxes owed to the county. According to census records, Munson was a lawyer in Sterling. He appears to have bought the property as an investment, selling it to William E. Hass of Kankakee, Illinois for \$1280 in December 1907. Census records list Hass as a bookkeeper and long-time resident of Kankakee, so it seems likely that he never saw the property in Phillips County. In July 1909, Hass sold the property to Walter Mote (a banker) and A. George Cole (a real estate dealer) from Pierce County, Nebraska for \$1600. A couple months later, Mote and Cole sold the land to Arthur S. Biddle, a farmer from Adams, Nebraska for \$2,160. Biddle moved to Phillips County but does not appear to have settled on the farm. He sold the property in 1914 to J.L. Slack of Phillips County for \$6450 and moved to the Amherst area. As of the 1910 census, Slack was an implement dealer living in Holyoke. In 1915, Slack sold the farm to O.E., A.O.E, and J.W. Aufrecht from Sherman, Nebraska for \$2400. The Aufrechts appear to have been brothers, the sons of a German immigrant farmer. In 1917, the Aufrechts sold the property to William Gansemer of Gage, Nebraska for \$3360.

#### *Farm Establishment*

The Gansemers were one of many Nebraska farming families who moved to Phillips County during the 1910s. The county offered a similar climate, offered good farmland, and was more affordable than land in Nebraska. The many settlers arriving from western Nebraska had an advantage since they were already familiar with farming in drier conditions as well as with growing the winter wheat suited to this climate. Limited public lands remained in Phillips County and most of the new arrivals were buying farms rather than homesteading. Prices depended on the quality of the land, the distance from town, and the value of the buildings and improvements. The 1910s were a good time to be a farmer, with a huge demand for crops created by World War I. The United States sought maximum production from its farmers and 1917 achieved the largest crop acreage in the country's history. The production of staple foods, especially wheat and hogs, was particularly encouraged (USDA 1918). On June 19, 1919, the *Haxtun Harvest* reported that "Phillips County, and especially the part of it immediately adjacent to Haxtun, seems to be coming in to its own in the way of land sales. And it would also seem that the people of our neighboring state of Nebraska are quite partial to this part of the world."

Born in 1879, William Gansemer was the child of immigrants, his father Peter from Prussia and his mother Elizabeth from Switzerland. He grew up on a farm in Gage County, Nebraska. In 1917, William moved west to Phillips County to acquire his own farm. He came out to Phillips County in 1917 with his brother Fred and Fred's brother-in-law Henry Alberts. They

Harms Farm  
Historic Resources of Phillips County, Colorado 1889-1965 MPDF  
Name of Property

Phillips, Colorado  

---

County and State

prepared the ground, planted a wheat crop, and constructed a shed to live in (later converted to a chicken house), a barn, and a well. There do not appear to have been any previously existing buildings on the property. They also excavated a basement for the house built the following year. William sold the property to his brother Fred in 1918 for \$4800. He established his own farm nearby. Two other brothers, Edward and John Gansemer, also moved to the Paoli area.

Fred Gansemer was William's older brother, born in 1875. Prior to coming to Phillips County he was farmer in Lancaster County, Nebraska. His wife, Johanna Alberts, was also the child of German immigrants. They had two daughters, Gladys (1907) and Irene (1909). Once the basics were established on the new farm, Johanna came out with the children emigrant by train with their farm machinery, horses, and cows. Fred Gansemer planted most of the farm, growing dryland wheat, corn, millet and other feed crops. He left about 40 acres as pasture for the family's eight dairy cows and six horses. The farm also included hogs, sheep, and chickens. Irene and Gladys married brothers John and Gade Harms in 1925. John and Irene had seven children: Virgil John, Lorraine Mae, Orville Lee, Kenneth Gene, Dennis Lavern, Janet Rene, and Theresa Irene.

In 1931, Fred and Johanna moved back to Nebraska due to Johanna's poor health. Their daughter Irene and her husband John Harms took over the farm. John Harms was born in 1902 in Nebraska. In 1920, he came to Phillips County to help with the wheat harvest on his uncle Henry Harms' farm. He also helped out on neighboring farms including the Gansemer farm where he met Irene. John and Irene lived in various locations in the county before taking over Fred Gansemer's farm in 1931. When they took over the farm they had four horses, two cows, one calf, three hogs, and twelve hens. The early years during the Great Depression were tough with hail, dust storms, and low crop prices.

After Johanna's death in 1933, Fred returned to Phillips County and lived on the farm with Irene and John. Fred Gansemer passed away in 1940. The Phillips County inheritance records document Fred Gansemer as owning the following property upon his death: the SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  and NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 22, a 1935 Plymouth Coach automobile, a McCormick Deering Tractor, thirty-one sheep, miscellaneous farming equipment including a combine, a share in the Paoli Co-op Oil Company, and thirty-nine shares in the Phillips County National Farm Loan Association.

#### *Mid-twentieth Century Expansion*

It was during the 1950s that the farm complex took on its current appearance. American agriculture was changing dramatically during the mid-twentieth century. Many people were leaving rural areas for cities and towns, and farming was no longer the predominant occupation in the United States. At the same time, farms became dramatically more productive, with fewer farmers working larger, more specialized farms. Farmers depended on increasingly costly and complex machinery and needed to plant more acres to get a return on their investment in equipment. Farmers in Phillips County began to transition from general (diversified) farming, with crops supplemented by chickens, dairy cows, and hogs, to focus on single crop production and feeder cattle. Increased crop yields and faster harvests pushed the development of on-farm grain storage. If the local grain elevator was full, on-farm grain bins allowed the farmer to store and then market his own grain. Federal government programs also encouraged grain storage. As a result, steel grain bins were added to farms across Phillips County. Since many barns were no longer being used for livestock, many farmers also created additional grain storage bins within their barns. With much of the new farm equipment too large to fit in the barns, farmers added Quonset Huts to provide multi-functional storage and workshop space.

The Quonset Hut had been developed during World War II in response to the military's need for a prefabricated, portable multi-purpose building that could be shipped anywhere, and erected easily without skilled labor. After the war, the military sold off surplus Quonsets. Some were used for temporary housing for returning veterans and others adapted to a wide



Harms Farm  
Historic Resources of Phillips County, Colorado 1889-1965 MPDF  
Name of Property

Phillips, Colorado  

---

County and State

range of commercial uses. Promoted as a quick, cheap solution to the post-war building shortage, Quonset Huts continued to be popular through the 1950s. The Stran-Steel Company, which developed and produced Quonset Huts for the military during the war, continued to manufacture them after the war, promoting the Quonset Hut as “adaptable to hundreds of farm and industrial uses” and able to fill “a steadily increasing need for low-cost, all-purpose structures” (*Haxtun Harvest*, April 13, 1949). Other manufacturers also started producing Quonset Huts after war. Manufacturers included Stran-Steel, Big Chief, Rilco, and Star-Bilt. The buildings were available through local distributors including Holyoke Lumber and Supply Company, Foster Lumber Company, White Implement Company, Northern Colorado Steel Building, Inc. The Quonset Huts varied in size and design but commonly featured a semi-circular cross section, a frame of curved steel ribs, and walls of corrugated, galvanized steel. Though Quonset Huts were marketed for a variety of uses, they were most commonly used for agriculture-related functions in Phillips County. Farmers rapidly adopted them as all-purpose farm buildings, due to their support-free, open plan interior space that was adaptable to a wide range of uses. Quonset Hut advertisements were common in the Phillips County newspapers after the war. Stran-Steel advertised that its steel Quonset Huts were “fire-safe, rot-proof, sag proof, and warp proof” as well as “simple and speedy to erect” (*Holyoke Enterprise*, May 4, 1950). Rilco advertised that its buildings “provide more space at lower cost than any other type of permanent construction. Engineered for strength and wind-resistance, attractive Rilco buildings can be covered with any type of roof covering. Ideal for use as machine sheds, barns, grain storage, hog or poultry house” (*Holyoke Enterprise*, August 18, 1955).

The development of the Harms Farm was typical in some ways, like the expansion of grain storage with the construction of the granary and grain bin, but was exceptional in others. While many Phillips County farmers were either completely eliminating livestock on the farm or focusing on feeder cattle, the Harms expanded both their sheep and chicken operations. Phillips County farmers had been raising sheep in the county since settlement, but never in particularly large numbers with hogs and cattle generally more popular. However, the 1960s saw a large rise in sheep production in the county. The 1950 Census of Agricultural recorded 3,719 sheep in the county; by 1964 the number had risen to 8,080. The interest in sheep, however, did not last with only 2,890 sheep recorded in the 1974 census. Chickens had also been a standard part of the farm operation, with farmers producing enough eggs for their own use and often some extra to sell in town and make a little supplemental income. By the mid-twentieth century, farmers were raising less of their own food and making more trips to the grocery store. Poultry production became focused onto fewer and fewer farms with much of the production becoming concentrated into a few large vertically integrated companies. Farm production of chickens in Phillips County peaked in the 1930 census with 119,565 chickens in the county. By 1950 the number had fallen to 52,256; by 1964 it was just 16,855. The Harms shipped eggs to Denver, combining their shipments with those of two relatives who also had large chicken operations.

In the 1950s, the Harms added two barns to the farm for the expanding sheep operation. The first was a conversion of a former Methodist Tabernacle in Haxtun, originally constructed in 1922 and moved to the farm in 1951 after the construction of a new church facility. The second barn was constructed using concrete panels from a sheep pen. The Harms also constructed additional facilities for chickens during the 1950s. A Quonset hut and wood shop were also added to the farm complex. And circa 1960 another sheep barn was added. At the peak, the Harms had 1,000 lambs and 4,000 laying hens. As the county census figures above show, this made them leading producers of sheep and chickens in the mid-twentieth century. The size of the farm also grew, expanding to 1440 acres.

John and Irene retired and moved to Haxtun in 1986. The farm was taken over by their son Virgil and his son Duane. Virgil Harms had purchased a farm nearby on the edge of Paoli in 1948 and has served as the mayor of Paoli for several decades. Duane Harms moved onto his great-grandfather’s farm in 1987. There is no longer any livestock on the farm. The farm operation focuses on crops including dryland wheat, millet, and sunflowers as well as irrigated corn (outside the boundaries of the district). Farming is done by Duane and Virgil along with Duane’s aunt and uncle.

Harms Farm  
Historic Resources of Phillips County, Colorado 1889-1965 MPDF  
Name of Property

Phillips, Colorado  
County and State

---

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

---

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Agricultural Development Department of the Burlington Route. "Phillips County Colorado." Published circa 1923.  
Collection of the Phillips County Historical Society and Museum.

Conkin, Paul. *A Revolution Down on the Farm: The Transformation of American Agriculture Since 1929*. Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 2008.

Cottrell, H.M. "Dry Land Farming in Eastern Colorado." Fort Collins: The Agricultural Experiment Station of the Colorado Agricultural College, 1910.

"Edward Gansemer." *Haxtun Harvest*. March 4, 1920.

General Land Office records accessed via [www.glorerecords.blm.gov](http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov)

"Gladys Gansemer Harms." *Holyoke Enterprise*. February 3, 2000.

Harms, Duane. Interviews with Abigail Christman on multiple dates during 2011-2012.

"Irene Gansemer Harms." *Holyoke Enterprise*. September 8, 1993.

"John Gansemer." *State Herald*. July 18, 1919.

Phillips County Colorado Clerk and Recorder property records. Accessed at the Phillips County Courthouse.

*Those Were the Days: 1889-1989 Centennial History Phillips County Colorado*; compiled by The Phillips County Historical Society Book Committee. 1988. Phillips County Historical Society. Holyoke, Colorado.

U.S. Census Records accessed via Ancestry.com

Wishart, David J., ed. *Encyclopedia of the Great Plains*. Lincoln: The University of Nebraska Press, 2004.

U.S. Census records – accessed via [www.Ancestry.com](http://www.Ancestry.com)

USDA. "Agricultural Production for 1918." Washington, 1918.

USDA. Census of Agriculture records. Accessed via [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov)

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other  
Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_  
History Colorado

---

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 5PL.226

---

Harms Farm  
Historic Resources of Phillips County, Colorado 1889-1965 MPDF  
Name of Property

Phillips, Colorado  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 160  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

The UTM reference point was derived from heads up digitization on Digital Raster Graphic (DRG) maps provided to OAHF by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.) (NAD 83)

Zone	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	;	<u>7</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>	mE	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	mN
Zone	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	;	<u>7</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	mE	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	mN
Zone	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	;	<u>7</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	mE	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>9</u>	mN
Zone	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	;	<u>7</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>	mE	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	mN

### Verbal Boundary Description

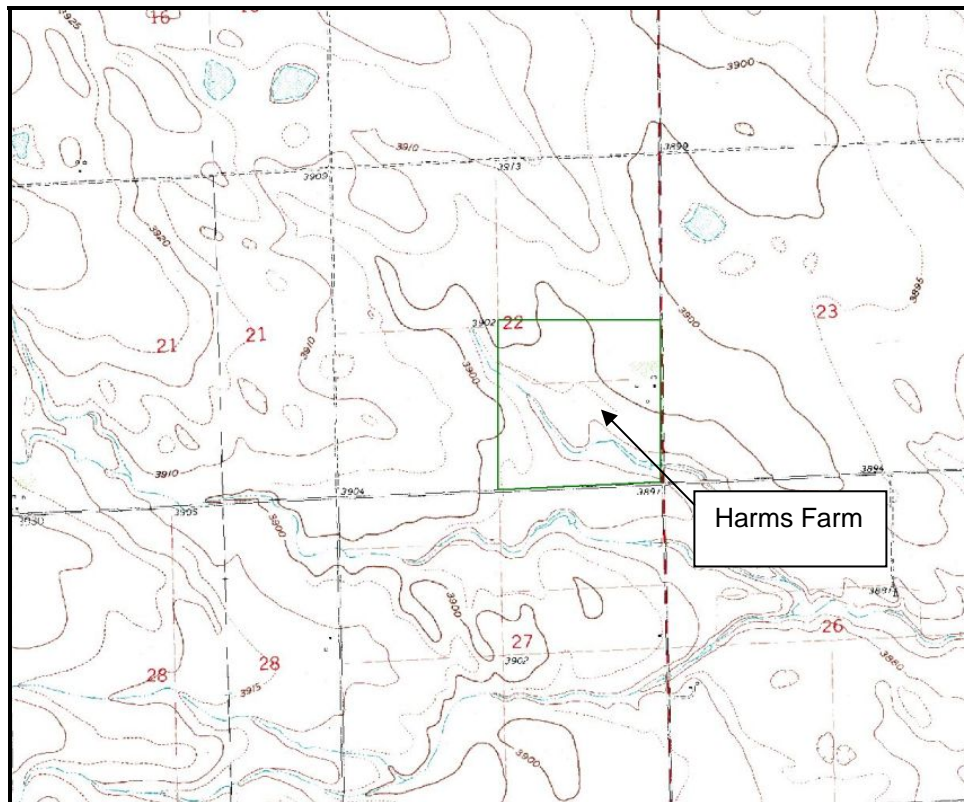
The district boundary encompasses the southeast quarter of Section 22, Township 8N, Range 46W, Haxtun vicinity, Phillips County, Colorado.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the original quarter section of land purchased by William Gansemer in 1917. Though the farm was later expanded, this quarter section remains the center of farm operation and includes all buildings and structures historically associated with the farm operation.

### USGS Topographic Map – Regional Perspective

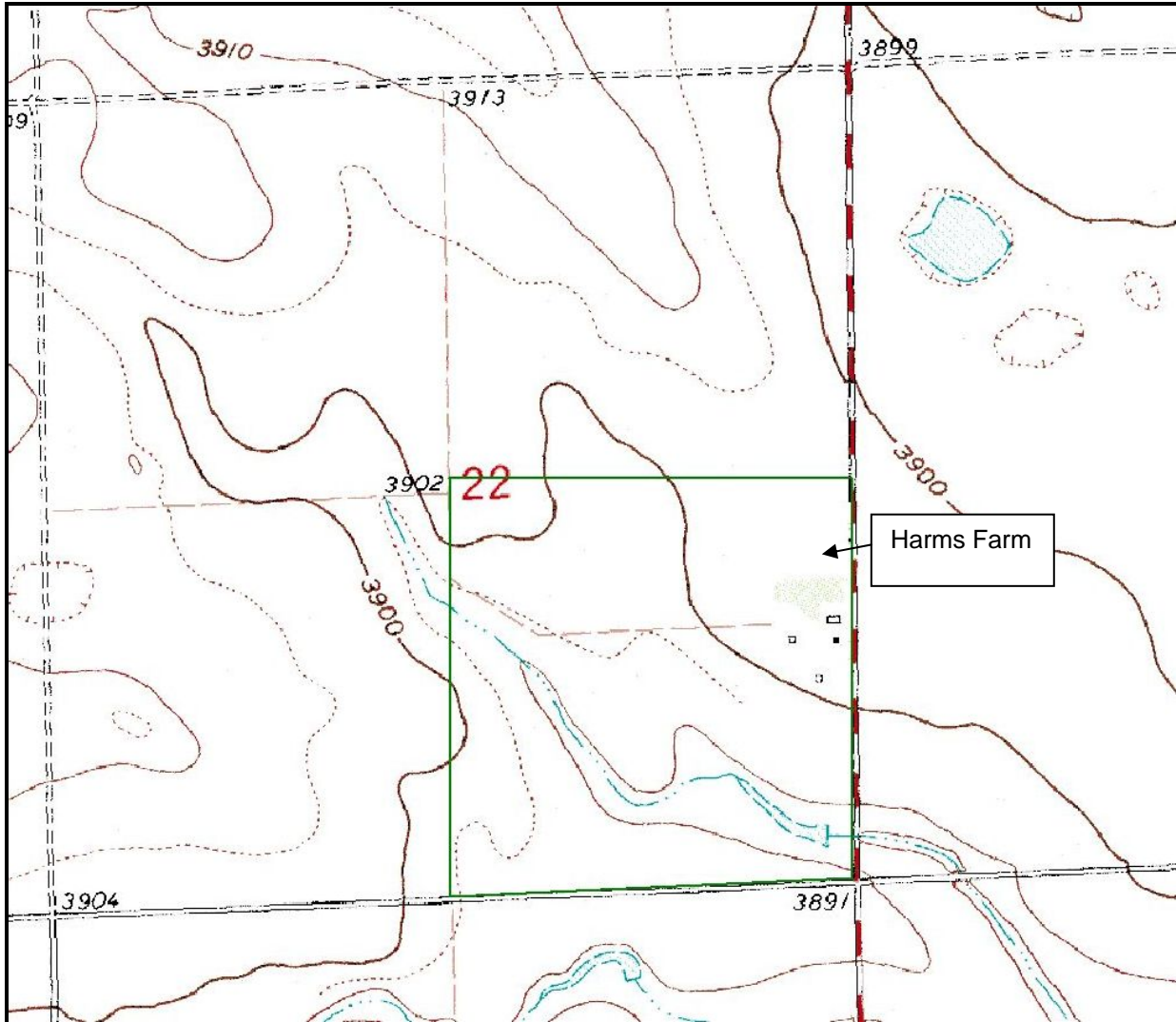
Holyoke NW quadrangle, 7.5 minute series



Harms Farm  
Historic Resources of Phillips County, Colorado 1889-1965 MPDF  
Name of Property

Phillips, Colorado  
County and State

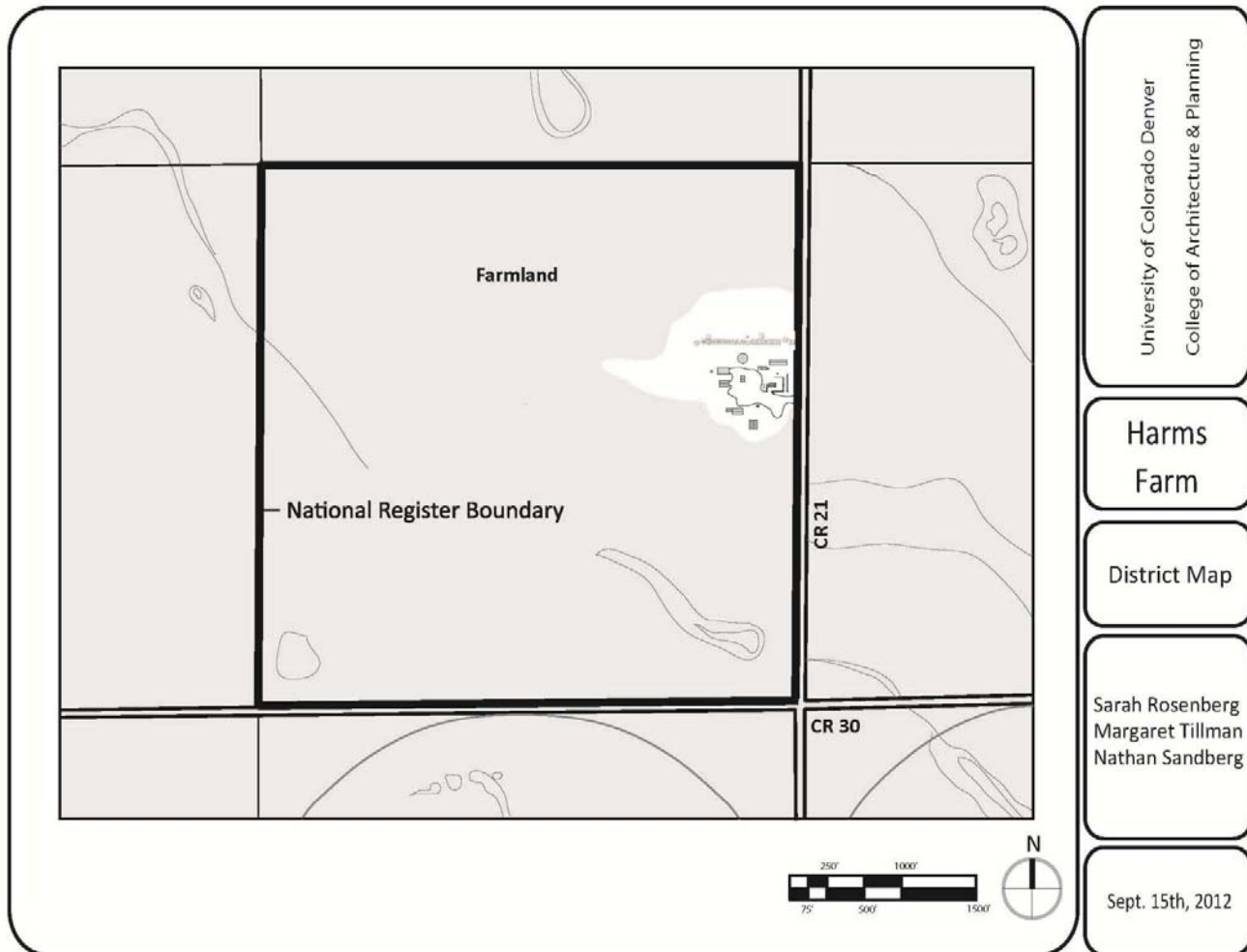
**USGS Topographic Map – Close-up Perspective**



Harms Farm  
Historic Resources of Phillips County, Colorado 1889-1965 MPDF  
Name of Property

Phillips, Colorado

County and State



University of Colorado Denver  
College of Architecture & Planning

Harms  
Farm

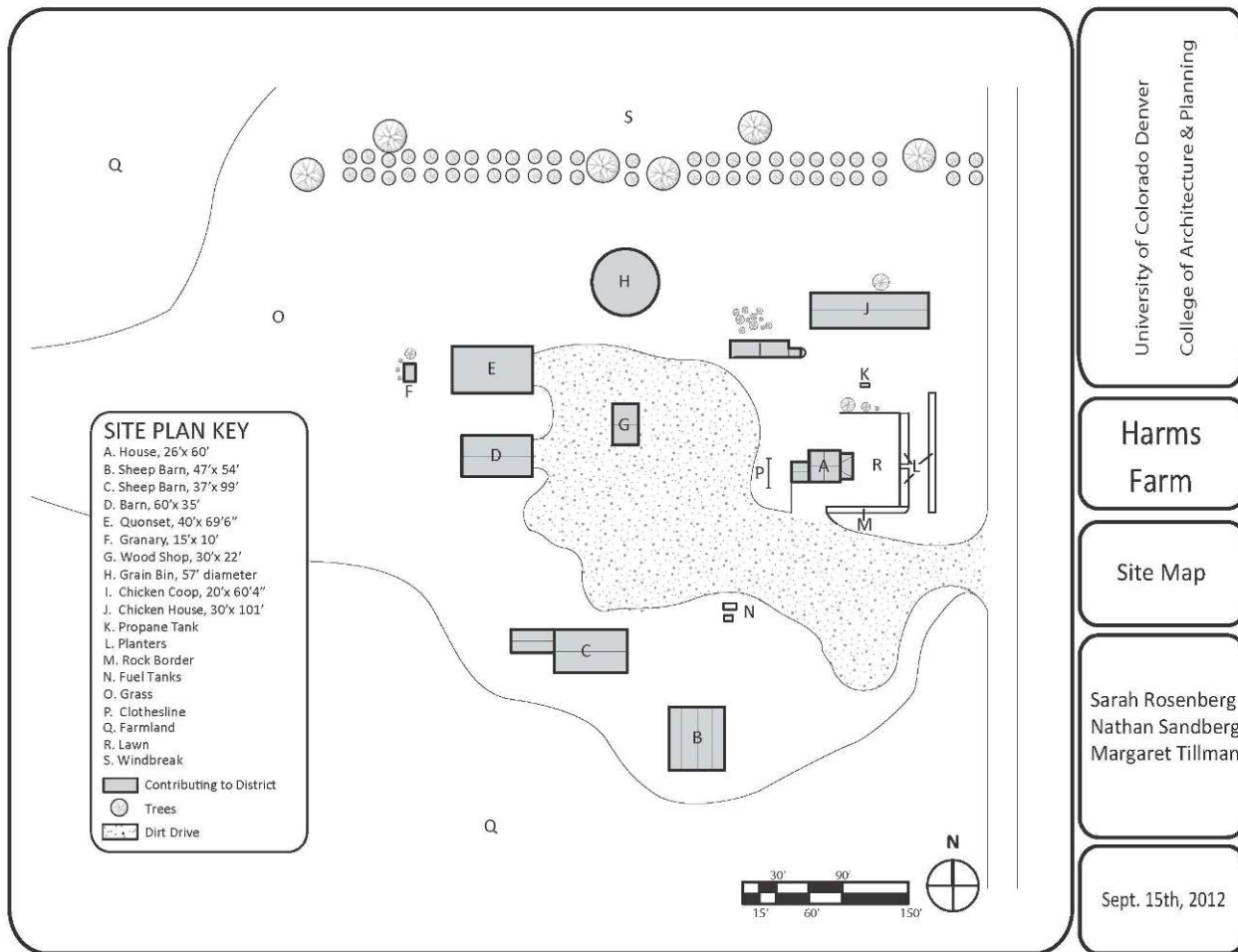
District Map

Sarah Rosenberg  
Margaret Tillman  
Nathan Sandberg

Sept. 15th, 2012

Harms Farm  
 Historic Resources of Phillips County, Colorado 1889-1965 MPDF  
 Name of Property

Phillips, Colorado  
 County and State



University of Colorado Denver  
 College of Architecture & Planning

**Harms  
 Farm**

Site Map

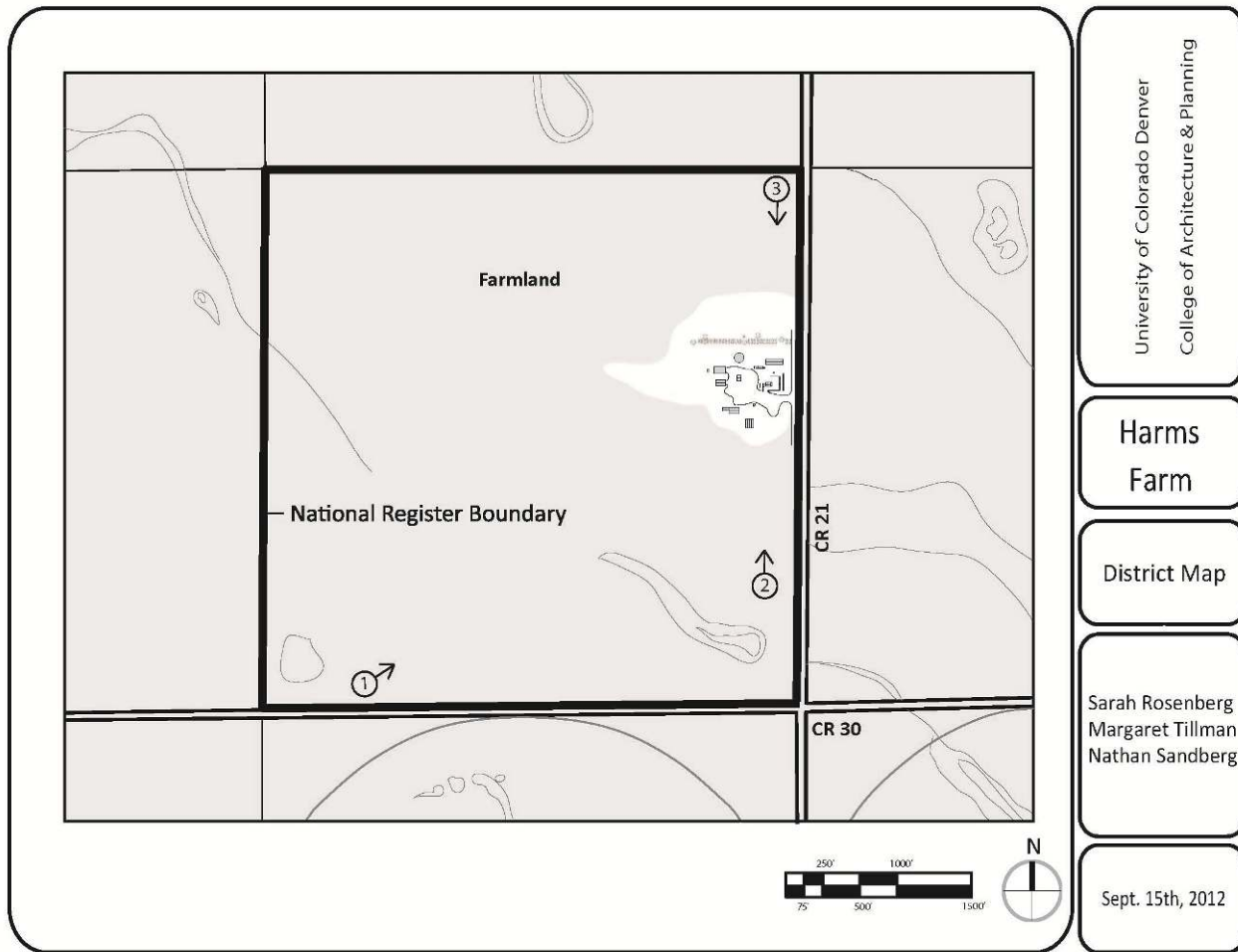
Sarah Rosenberg  
 Nathan Sandberg  
 Margaret Tillman

Sept. 15th, 2012

Harms Farm  
Historic Resources of Phillips County, Colorado 1889-1965 MPDF  
Name of Property

Phillips, Colorado  
County and State

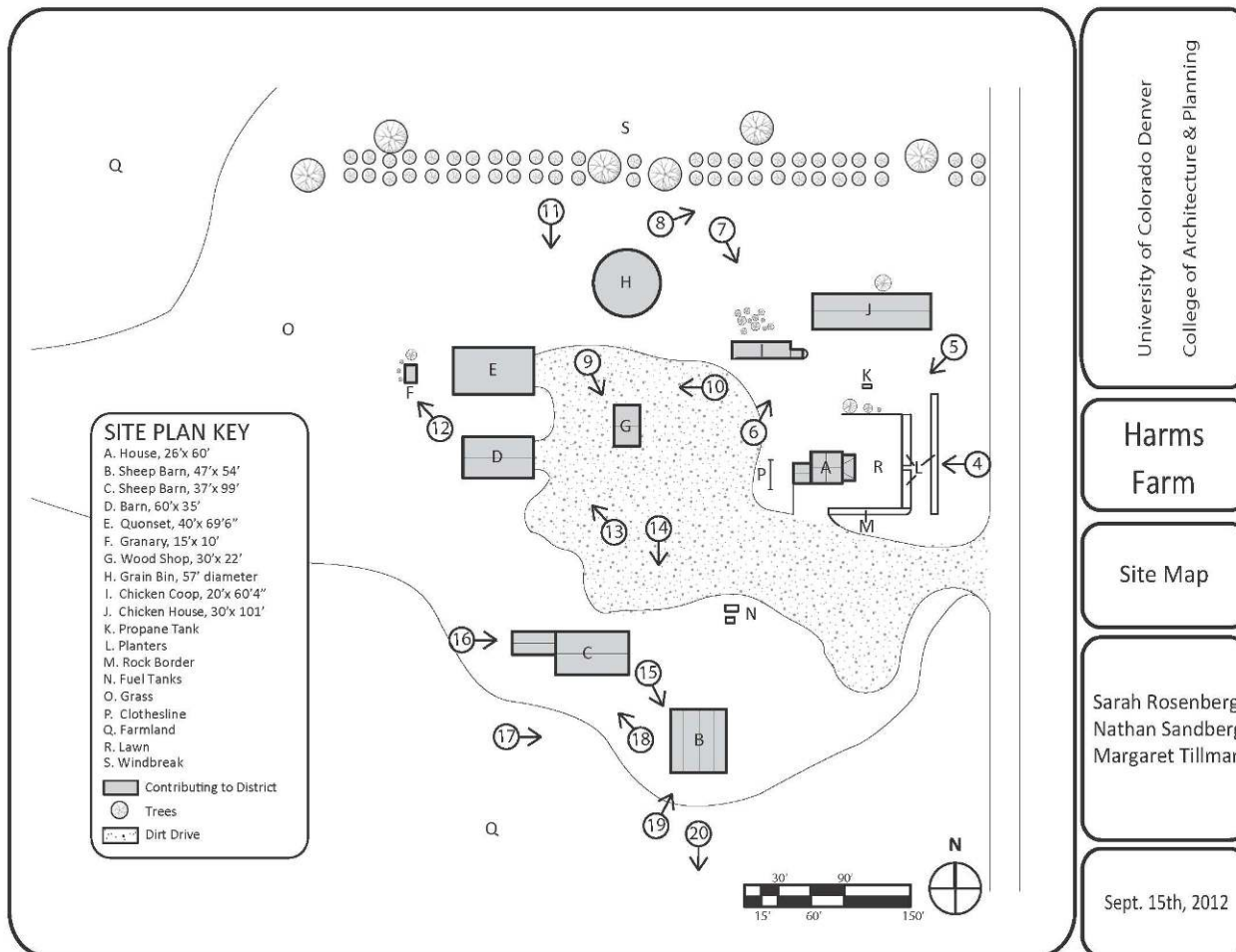
Photo Key to District Map



Harms Farm  
 Historic Resources of Phillips County, Colorado 1889-1965 MPDF  
 Name of Property

Phillips, Colorado  
 County and State

Photo Key to Site Map



University of Colorado Denver  
 College of Architecture & Planning

Harms Farm

Site Map

Sarah Rosenberg  
 Nathan Sandberg  
 Margaret Tillman

Sept. 15th, 2012

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Abigail Christman (for property owner)  
 organization Center of Preservation Research, College of Architecture and Planning, University of Colorado Denver

Date June 2013 | Revised October 2015

street & number Campus Box 126, PO Box 173364

telephone 303.315.5323

city or town Denver

state CO

zip code 80217

e-mail Abigail.christman@ucdenver.edu



Harms Farm  
Historic Resources of Phillips County, Colorado 1889-1965 MPDF  
Name of Property

Phillips, Colorado  
\_\_\_\_\_  
County and State

---

**Photographs:**

---

Name of Property: Harms Farm

City or Vicinity: Haxtun

County: Phillips County

State: Colorado

Name of Photographers: Abigail Christman and Sarah Rosenberg

Photo #1 Site overview, camera facing northeast towards farm (11/08/2012, Christman)

Photo #2 Site overview, camera facing north towards farm (11/08/2012, Christman)

Photo #3 Site overview, camera facing south towards farm (11/08/2012, Christman)

Photo #4 House east elevation, camera facing west (09/15/2012, Rosenberg)

Photo #5 House northeast corner, camera facing southwest (09/15/2012, Rosenberg)

Photo #6 Chicken Coop and Chicken Facility south elevation, camera facing northeast (09/15/2012, Christman)

Photo #7 Chicken Coop and Chicken Facility north elevation, camera facing southeast (09/15/2012, Christman)

Photo #8 Windbreak north side, camera facing northeast (09/15/2012, Christman)

Photo #9 Storage northwest corner, camera facing southeast (09/15/2012, Rosenberg)

Photo #10 Storage and Quonset east elevations, camera facing west (09/15/2012, Christman)

Photo #11 Grain Bin, Quonset, Storage, and Barn northwest corner of site, camera facing south (09/15/2012, Christman)

Photo #12 Granary southeast corner, camera facing northwest (09/15/2012, Christman)

Photo #13 Barn and Quonset southeast corner, camera facing northwest (09/15/2012, Rosenberg)

Photo #14 Sheep Barn and Sheep Barn north elevation, camera facing south (09/15/2012, Rosenberg)

Photo #15 Sheep Barn northwest corner, camera facing southeast (09/15/2012, Christman)

Photo #16 Sheep Barn west elevation, camera facing east (09/15/2012, Christman)

Photo #17 Southwest corner of site, camera facing west (09/15/2012, Christman)

Photo #18 Sheep Barn south elevation, camera facing north (09/15/2012, Christman)

Photo #19 Sheep Barn southeast corner, camera facing northeast (09/15/2012, Christman)

Photo #20 Farmland south of site, camera facing south (09/15/2012, Christman)