NPS Form 10-900
(10-90)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1271

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OMB No. 1024-0018

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1. Name of Property

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historic name: The Botzum Farm

other name/site number: NPS Tract #116-032; List of Classified Structures, Building House (#1879), East Barn (#1880), West Barn (#1881), Machine Shed (#1882), Spring House (#1883), Summer Kitchen (#1884), Privy (#1885), Cabin (#1886), Privy (#1887).

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2. Location

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street & number: 3486 Riverview Road

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Cuyahoga Falls vicinity: X

state: OH county: Summit code: 153 zip code: 44313

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. ___ See continuation sheet.

Barbara Pawn Dept. Head Planning, Inventy & Registration June 25, 1999

Signature of certifying official Date

Ohio Historic Preservation Office -- OH SHPO

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property X meets ____ does not meet the National Register criteria. ___ See continuation sheet.

Ronald M Greenberg

Signature of commenting or other official Date Sept. 22, 1999

National Park Service
State or Federal agency and bureau

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4. National Park Service Certification

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I, hereby certify that this property is:

Edson H. Beall 10/21/99

__✓__ 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 Keeper Date of Action

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5. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Public-Federal

Category of Property: Building(s)

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
__7__	__2__	buildings
__1__	_____	sites
__2__	__1__	structures
_____	_____	objects
_10__	__3__	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Agricultural Resources of the Cuyahoga Valley.

6. Function or Use

Historic: Domestic — Sub: Single Dwelling
Agriculture/Subsistence — Processing

Current : Domestic — Sub: _____
Agriculture — _____
_____ — _____

7. Description

Architectural Classification: Other: Homestead House

Other Description: Two-story front gable

Materials: foundation; Concrete block — roof; Asphalt
Walls; Concrete block — other; metal
Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance. _X_ See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: __local_____.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A and C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance: Agriculture
Architecture
_____
_____
_____
_____

Period(s) of Significance: 1876-1930

Significant Dates : 1884, 1885,1898, 1906

Significant Person(s): N/A
_____

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Botzum Brothers Company

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.
_X_ See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

_X_ See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

_ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
_ previously listed in the National Register
X 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:

_ State historic preservation office
_ Other state agency
X Federal agency
_ Local government
_ University
_ Other -- Specify Repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 23.5

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

1) 17 451080 4558100 2) 17 451160 4558140
3) 17 451220 4558200 4) 17 451340 4558020

X See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: X See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: _ See continuation sheet.

The nominated property contains the buildings and acreage that are historically associated with the agricultural practices of the Cuyahoga Valley and continue to retain historically integrity.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Jeff Winstel, Historian/AICP and Sam Tamburro, Historian

Organization: NPS/Cuyahoga Valley NRA Date: 4/99

Street & Number: 15610 Vaughn Road Telephone: (330) 657-2982

City or Town: Brecksville State: OH ZIP: 44114

Botzum Farm
Northampton Township
Summit County, Ohio

Description

The Botzum Farmstead is located in the southern end of the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area and sets on a gently sloping outwash terrace in the western valley wall. The complex consists of ten contributing resources: seven buildings (house, privy, concrete block summer kitchen, frame summer kitchen, Pomeranian barn, machine shed, and raised bank barn), two structures (well site and fencing), and one historic site (the adjacent field). There are three noncontributing resources within the nominated area: two buildings (cabin and concrete block privy) and one structure (the barbecue grill)(see Figure 2).

Perched above Riverview Road, the farmstead is accessed by a dirt driveway that crosses over the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail and the Valley Railway (NR 1984) and climbs approximately 50 feet to the farmstead plateau. To the south of the farmstead plateau, below the drive, is a former farm field, which is now a designated wetland. A fallow field lies to the west and north of the farmstead. The plateau area is enveloped by wooded valley walls that rise 150 feet in elevation. The Botzum farmstead conveys a feeling of self-containment and separation from the world beyond the wooded hills and below the river valley bluff.

The Barker Village archeological site (NR 1978), a Late Woodland site, is located south of the nominated area. 3 additional sites are located adjacent to the southern boundary of the nominated property (33-SU-93, 33-SU-94 and 33-SU-95). None of the sites are located within the nominated area.

Botzum Farm
Northampton Township
Summit County, Ohio

Description (continued)

The buildings on the farmstead are organized in a loose rectangle, except the privy. The house, a summer kitchen, and privy, located on the east end, are all constructed of molded concrete blocks painted yellow. Two vertical plank, red barns line a small ridge that separates the farmstead complex from the southern wetland. The eastern barn is a small Pomeranian or Posted Fore-bay type adjacent to a larger Bank Barn. A wood frame machine shed is located across from the bank barn and a rectangular wood frame, gable-roofed summer kitchen is located roughly in the center of the complex. A well site is situated between the central summer kitchen and the house. Lengths of barb-wire fence, separated by double gates, partially surround the farmyard area and help define the internal spatial organization and filed patterns of the farm.

The 1906 house is capped by a moderate slope, gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. The north slope is pierced by a plain, brick chimney stack. A simple raking board is located under the gable eaves.

The walls (excepting the gables) are constructed of concrete blocks; molded concrete block covering the first floor walls are used to articulate second floor openings and corners, much in the manner of quoins. Windows and doors throughout the structure are characterized by heavy concrete lintels and smaller sills. All windows, unless noted, are 1/1 double hung sash (see photos 1-4).

The façade's gable wall surface is clad with horizontal clapboards. The facade's gable wall evidences a stepped tripartite window located under the apex. The two side windows have single pane lights and the central double sash window contains a lattice window with diamond

Botzum Farm
Northampton Township
Summit County, Ohio

Description (continued)

shaped lights. A simple cornice line separates the gable from the masonry section of the facade. The second floor fenestration pattern is w-w-d-w and the first floor pattern is w-d-w. Windows are 1/1 sash with wide concrete lintels and narrower concrete sills. The same lintel and sill treatment is used for the door openings. A concrete string course separates the second and first floors and continues around the building as does the concrete water table. The concrete block foundation stones fronting the facade and the second floor door strongly suggest that a full length porch with a balcony was attached to the front of the structure.

The south elevation fenestration consists of three second floor windows and two first floor windows, currently boarded up. North elevation windows are less symmetrically arranged. The second floor contains one end window and a window located between the two floors marking a stairway landing. The first floor is characterized by a central door flanked by two windows. The rear elevation's gable is clad with wood horizontal siding and contains a central double-hung sash window. Two windows are located on the second floor and the first floor is characterized by a screened-in flat roof porch addition that runs the full length of the elevation. The interior of the house retains its original floor plan of rooms grouped around a central hall and dogleg stairwell. Original wood trim and doors also remain.

The 1906 Summer Kitchen located immediately adjacent to the northwest corner of the house is almost a miniature version of the house. The gable-roofed molded concrete block building has a roof chimney stack and contains 1/1 sash windows, horizontal wood clapboard and a door in the gable end (see photo 5-7). The other yellow concrete block building is the privy (1906), which also has a gable roof (see photo 8).

Botzum Farm
Northampton Township
Summit County, Ohio

Description (continued)

The small rectangular wood clapboard Summer Kitchen (circa 1890s) situated in the middle of the farmstead has a gable roof with chimney stack, gable end doors, and plain corner boards (see photos 9-11). The building appears in a 1920 photograph of the farm. A well site capped by a cement slab is located between the farmhouse and the frame Summer Kitchen.

The Pomeranian Barn (1884) is the smaller of the two barns, measuring approximately 24 x 30 feet in plan. It is banked into the plateau's south ridge. The foundation of the barn is constructed of sandstone block. The gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles and the walls are clad with vertical board siding. The northern side contains central sliding barn doors that open onto a central threshing floor. Louvered vent openings with rounded arch heads pierce the west, south, and east elevations. The south elevation contains a central threshing door which opens out onto the former field area below. The cantilevered south elevation is supported by 4 x 4 inch plain posts. Hand-hewn, mortise and tenon posts and beams provide the interior structural framework for the barn. Although the barn's hewn beams suggest an earlier construction date, additional research has not indicated that the barn predates 1884. The fenestration pattern has been slightly altered: a sash window has been cut into the threshing door on the south elevation and a small single panel door has been cut into one of the large double doors on the north elevation. A few sash windows have replaced the original louvered openings (see photos 20-24).

The second Bank Barn (1898) measures 30 x 70 feet in plan—more than double the length of the other barn. An earthen bank leads to the large sliding barn doors on the north elevation. The foundation of the barn is constructed of sandstone block. Small rectangular windows

Botzum Farm
Northampton Township
Summit County, Ohio

Description (continued)

and louvered vents are found on the gable end and south elevations. The interior framing of this barn also evidences hand hewn members and mortise and tenon construction. This barn obviously functioned as a dairy barn as evidenced by the numerous pens and stanchions in the lower level. A few newer windows have been added to the gable ends and the lower level of the south elevation (see photos 14-19).

Across from the large Bank Barn is a two-bay wood vertical plank machine shed (circa 1890s). This two bay structure has a half gable roof, the front slope consisting of a pent roof at a much steeper angle. The entire front elevation of this structure is open (see photo 12 and 13).

Fencing within the farmstead complex consists of barb-wire strung between metal posts, and an occasional wood post. A few double gates break up the fencing, which in sections consists only of remnants. The fencing on the north side contains one of these gates, which provides access to a dirt path leading across the field to a small frame cabin located in a small clearing in the northeast tree line of the property.

The cabin is considered noncontributing because of its distance from the farmstead cluster and its lack of functional association with the agricultural area of significance. Built circa 1930s, the cabin is a small one story, wood frame building with a gable roof, center ridge chimney, south elevation shed roof addition, and a large west elevation porch canopy roof (see photos 25 and 26). Asbestos shingles cover the sides of the cabin. A large barbecue fireplace (noncontributing) and concrete block privy (noncontributing) are located just north of the cabin, within the small clearing (see photos 27 and 28).

A 1910 painting (see attached) of the farmstead by an 18-year-old

Botzum Farm
Northampton Township
Summit County, Ohio

Description (continued)

granddaughter of Conrad Botzum depicts a farmstead set amidst rolling hills and delineated by wood post and rail or snake fences. The viewpoint of the farm appears to have been the hillside southwest of the farmstead. The two barns and the centrally located summer kitchen are easily recognized, although the orientation of the larger barn is skewed, perhaps due to the folk art nature of the painting. The house and adjacent building found in the painting are no longer standing, due to a fire in 1906.[1] An additional outbuilding is depicted along the driveway leading up to the property. It is not clear whether the dark building between the two barns is the machine shed; it appears smaller than the current structure. The cabin is not depicted.

Photographs

All of the following information is the same for all photographs.

Name of Property: Botzum Farmstead
County and State: Summit County, Ohio
Name of Photographer: Sam Tamburro
Date of Photograph: 29 September 1998
Location of the Negatives: Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area

1. Farmhouse, east and south elevations, facing northwest.
2. Farmhouse, south elevation, facing north.
3. Farmhouse, west elevation, facing east.
4. Farmhouse, north elevation, facing south.
5. Concrete Block Summer Kitchen, west elevation, facing east.
6. Concrete Block Summer Kitchen, east elevation, facing west.
7. Concrete Block Summer Kitchen, east elevation, facing west.
8. Concrete Block Privy, west elevation, facing east.
9. Wood Frame Summer Kitchen, east elevation, facing west.
10. Wood Frame Summer Kitchen, north elevation, facing south.

Botzum Farm
Northampton Township
Summit County, Ohio

Photographs (continued)

All of the following information is the same for all photographs.

Name of Property: Botzum Farmstead
County and State: Summit County, Ohio
Name of Photographer: Sam Tamburro
Date of Photograph: 29 September 1998
Location of the Negatives: Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area

11. Wood Frame Summer Kitchen, west elevation, facing east.
12. Machine shed, southeast elevation, facing northwest.
13. Machine shed, east elevation, facing west.
14. Bank barn, north elevation, facing south.
15. Bank barn, southwest elevation, facing northeast.
16. Bank barn, south elevation, facing north.
17. Bank barn, interior, facing east.
18. Bank barn, interior, facing west.
19. Bank barn, interior, facing south.
20. Pomeranian barn, north elevation, facing south.
21. Pomeranian barn, west elevation, facing east.
22. Pomeranian barn interior, facing southeast.
23. Pomeranian barn interior, facing south.
24. Pomeranian barn interior, facing west.
25. Cabin, south elevation, facing north.
26. Cabin, north elevation, facing south.
27. Barbecue, west elevation, facing east.
28. Concrete (cabin) privy, west elevation, facing east.
29. Open field, facing west.

Botzum Farm
Northampton Township
Summit County, Ohio

Photographs (continued)

All of the following information is the same for all photographs.

Name of Property: Botzum Farmstead
County and State: Summit County, Ohio
Name of Photographer: Jeff Winstel
Date of Photograph: April 1993
Location of the Negatives: Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area

30. Farmhouse, south and east elevations, facing northwest.
31. Farmhouse, façade gable apex, facing west.
32. Farmhouse, north and east elevations, facing southwest.
33. Farmhouse, west elevation, facing east.
34. Concrete Block Summer Kitchen, west and south elevations, facing northeast.
35. Concrete Block Summer Kitchen, east elevation, facing west.
36. Concrete Block Privy, south elevation, facing north.
37. Wood Frame Summer Kitchen, north and west elevations, facing southeast.
38. Wood Frame Summer Kitchen, west and south elevations, facing northeast.
39. Bank Barn and Pomeranian Barn, south elevations, facing north.
40. Machine Shed, south and east elevations, facing northwest.
41. Bank Barn, north and west elevations, facing southeast.
42. Bank Barn, south elevation, facing north.
43. Pomeranian Barn, north and west elevations, facing southeast.
44. Pomeranian Barn, north and east elevation, facing south west.
45. Fence, facing north.
46. Cabin, west and south elevations, facing northeast.
47. Farmstead Complex, facing southeast.

Botzum Farm
Northampton Township
Summit County, Ohio

Endnotes

[1] A discrepancy between the 1910 date on the painting and the "house destroyed" entry in the 1906 Summit County Tax Auditors' Duplicate records (-300 house built +1000 net +700). The painting suggests that the frame house and outbuildings existed in 1910, but the tax records strongly suggest that these structures burned and were replaced with the molded concrete block structures in 1906.

Botzum Farm
Northampton Township
Summit County, Ohio

Statement of Significance

The Botzum Farm meets the registration requirements for farmsteads eligible under Criteria A and C as specified in the Agricultural Resources of the Cuyahoga Valley Multiple Property Documentation Form. The Botzum Farm has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places by the Keeper of the National Register on 20 February 1997. This property is being nominated under Criterion A for association with the agricultural practices of the Cuyahoga Valley. The farm is also significant under Criterion C for containing buildings that embody the characteristics of type, period, or method of construction associated with the agricultural development of the Cuyahoga Valley. Consideration of the National Register eligibility of the archeological site noted in Section Seven is beyond the scope of this document. Future research and eligibility evaluation of this site is recommendable.

Historical Background

Like all land in the Cuyahoga Valley, speculators in the Connecticut Land Company originally owned the Botzum Farmstead, Northampton Township Lot 10. Circa 1830s, Richard Howe, Chief Construction Engineer on the northern section of the Ohio & Erie Canal, purchased Lot 10, and owned it until 1876. In 1876, Howe sold Lot 10 to John A. Botzum.

The Botzum Family emigrated from Germany to the Cuyahoga Valley in 1836. Although the Botzum's owned woolen mills adjacent to the Rhine River, John George Botzum feared his five sons would be drafted into the German Army during the Napoleonic Wars and decided to flee the country.[1]

Botzum Farm
Northampton Township
Summit County, Ohio

Historical Background (continued)

During passage, pirates boarded their boat and robbed all of the passengers. As a result, the Botzums landed in New York City without any money. After docking in New York, a dishonest agent attempted to persuade John to migrate to South America with a guarantee of quick fortune. Before confirming the agreement for his trip, John discovered that the agent planned to sell the family into slavery. According to the family history, they were rescued by newly made friends, and headed to Ohio.

After a brief stay in Cleveland, Ohio, they settled in "Niles," a community adjacent to the Ohio & Erie Canal in Northampton Township. John George Botzum worked as a construction laborer for fifty cents a day, while his wife Katherine took in boarders in the family homestead.

The family history states that Botzum originally bought 600 acres of land at $2.00 per acre from the Connecticut Land Company. The Botzum's sold part of the original farm and received sufficient money to build a house and barn.

The 1840 tax records do not list the name Botzum under property or personal taxes for Northampton Township. The 1840 records indicate that George and Michael Botzum were taxed for personal property tax but do not appear in the list for taxes owed on lands. U.S. Census Production of Agriculture for Northampton Township in 1850 lists George Botzum as owning 25 acres of improved land. The average Northampton Township farm in 1850 had 46.5 acres of improved land, George Botzum's farm production is consistent with the township averages for all recorded types of crop and livestock, except for wheat.

In 1860 George Botzum owned the southern part of Lot 75, consisting of 101 acres and valued at $1,190. Lot 75 is located

Botzum Farm
Northampton Township
Summit County, Ohio

Historical Background (continued)

on the east side of the Cuyahoga River while Lot 10, the nominated property, is located on the west side of the river.

Across the river from Lot 75 is Lot 8, owned by Michael Botzum in 1860 and consisting of 59 acres. Adam Botzum owned Lot 58 further to the south and east of John George's property. Although the Botzum family owned a considerable amount of land in Northampton Township from 1860 onward, they did not acquire Lot 10 (the nominated property) until 1876.[2] Prior to 1876, Richard Howe owned Lot 10. Tax records show that a house valued at $300 was built on Lot 10 in 1860. A substantial increase in the property value also occurred in 1871, the value rising from $1,684 to $2,400. Other properties in the township did not reflect this type of increase, suggesting that some property improvement took place that year. The 1874 township map of the lot does not indicate an additional structure.

In 1876 John A. Botzum acquired Lot 10.[3] The 1876 tax record describes the property as west of the canal, less than one acre. In 1883 the property was transferred to Conrad Botzum. The following year a barn was built valued at $200. The 1898 tax records report the construction of another barn, valued at $350. Tax records from 1906 note the house being destroyed, resulting in a valuation decrease of $300. The family history reports the house caught fire. That same year, a new house was built valued at $1,000. This is the current yellow, molded concrete block house.

Conrad Botzum farmed Lot 10 until his death in 1914. The two oldest sons, Charles and Harry, maintained ownership of the farmstead into the mid-twentieth century. The brothers also operated a successful business, the Botzum Brothers Company,

Botzum Farm
Northampton Township
Summit County, Ohio

Historical Background (continued)

which sold everything from planting seeds to construction materials and remained a part of Akron's business community well into the 1950s.[4]

The Botzum Brothers Company heirs owned the farm until 1963, when they sold the property to Mary C.W. Schumacher.[5] In 1991, Schumacher sold the Lot 10 to the National Park Service.[6] Since 1991, the Botzum Farmstead has been owned by the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area. The property is part of the National Park Service's Historic Property Leasing Program and is currently leased by a member of the Botzum Family.

Criterion A: Agriculture

The Botzum Farm reflects the importance of agriculture in the Cuyahoga Valley during the 19th and early 20th century. The farm is associated with the following period of agricultural development described in the Agricultural Resources of Cuyahoga Valley MPD: "Railroads Industrialization and Scientific Farming, 1851-1913." This period was characterized by a cheaper, more reliable method of transportation and an increased demand for agricultural products by nearby urban markets.

The U.S. Census's Productions of Agriculture records indicate that the Botzum Farm experienced a dramatic increase in crop production between 1850 and 1870. In the Summit County townships within the CVNRA's boundaries, the average farm increased their improved lands by 25 acres and unimproved lands dropped by 11 acres. In addition, the average value of a farm tripled and significant increases were experienced in livestock value as

Botzum Farm
Northampton Township
Summit County, Ohio

Criterion A: Agriculture (continued)

well as most other produce categories.[7] The 1850 and 1870 production statistics for the Botzum Farm are consistent with these trends.

The 1850 U.S. Census Productions of Agriculture for Northampton Township lists Richard Howe as owning 116 acres of improved land and 100 acres of unimproved land. Cash value of his farm is listed at $6,480, the highest value listed for the township in that year. His farm contained 60 sheep, compared to the township average of 28. Howe's farm produced three times the average number of bushels of Indian corn and other crop production statistics are consistent with township averages for that year.

The 1870 U.S. Census Production of Agriculture does not have a listing for Richard Howe, although, according to the tax records he still owned Lot 10. The Production of Agriculture records for this year contain numerous listings for the Botzums and provide a picture of an extensive agricultural operation.

Conrad, John A., Michael, John George, and Adam Botzum collectively owned a total of 374 improved acres. In terms of acreage and value, they were average farmers for Northampton Township in 1870 The main area where the Botzums excelled especially, John A., was in raising livestock. Whereas the average farm in the township had 13.1 sheep and produced 63.5 lbs. of wool, John A's farm had 65 sheep and produced 500 lbs. of wool. He also had a considerably higher number of swine (31) than the township average of four.

Additionally, the Botzum Brothers business practices are indicative of the agricultural changes occurring in the valley during the period of "Railroads Industrialization and Scientific

Botzum Farm
Northampton Township
Summit County, Ohio

Criterion A: Agriculture (continued)

Farming, 1851-1913." As the agricultural industry became an increasingly profitable business in the Cuyahoga Valley, the Botzums were able to sell hay, straw, mill-feed, garden seeds, and field seeds to local farmers.[8]

Criterion C: Architecture

Buildings on the Botzum farm are considered architecturally significant because they embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction associated with the agricultural context. The farmstead's buildings are indicative of the encroachment of the twentieth century on the Cuyahoga Valley. Whereas the house and associated concrete block outbuildings are reflective of the mass market residential designs of the early twentieth century, the barns and frame summer kitchen are associated with late nineteenth century farming practices.

The materials used to construct the farmhouse are also telling of the shift agriculture to manufacturing which was occurring in the valley and throughout the United States. When the original frame house and outbuilding burned in 1906, the Botzums replaced it with molded concrete block buildings. By 1906, the Botzum's had grown their agricultural operation into a supplier of products, which included concrete items. A 1905 advertisement inside the front cover of the Akron City Directory lists the Botzum Brothers as dealers in "Grain, hay, straw, flour and mill-feed, garden and field seed, lime, cement, sewer pipe and manufactures of granite wall plaster and artificial building stone."

It is likely that the Botzum Brothers' business interests as well as the desire for fire resistance are reflected in their

Botzum Farm
Northampton Township
Summit County, Ohio

Criterion C: Architecture (continued)

choice of building material for the new farmhouse. Mass production of hollow concrete building block, or "artificial building stone", began around 1900, concurrent with the widespread uses of poured concrete in bridges, roads, and buildings. Pattern books heavily promoted this building material as a novel material with virtues that included durability, fire resistance, and a sanitary quality with its ability to resist rot and vermin.[9]

Molded concrete block was a common building material in the Cuyahoga Valley. The Boston Mills Historic District (NR 11/92) documents three such structures and notes that "hand operated molding machines were operated on site and typically produced blocks for a cluster of buildings."[10] Several Ohio companies were manufacturing portable machines for producing concrete block.

The two-story gable front house shares architectural elements with the Homestead House, as defined by Clem Labine, former Old House Journal editor. The simple gable roof and straight walls created maximum floor space under one roof. Labine attributes the origins of this house to rural working families. Outside of the gable roof, plain walls, and straightforward massing, other characteristics of the type include main entry on the gable end and a full length porch on the front facade.[11]

The Pomeranian or Posted Forebay Barn was constructed in 1885. Associated with the German/Swiss ethnic groups in Ohio, this barn type is characterized by an open forebay, or cantilevered overhang, on the second story.[12] Typically, these barns are built into a hillside and contain a raised basement. The overhang is supported by a series of posts. The down slope location of the forebay provides shelter and a hay-drop for the livestock housed

Botzum Farm
Northampton Township
Summit County, Ohio

Criterion C: Architecture (continued)

below. It is interesting to note that the depiction of this barn in the 1910 painting does not show posts supporting the forebay, giving it the appearance of a Sweitzer Forebay barn rather than a Pomeranian barn.

The 1898 Bank Barn represents the most common type of 19th century barn found in the valley. Defining characteristics of the type evidenced by the Botzum barn include a raised earthen driveway, five bay width, and stone foundation walls.

The frame Summer Kitchen is apparent in a 1925 photograph of the farm and the 1910 painting. Defining elements of the type in evidence include frame construction, rectangular massing, and location behind the farmhouse.

A 1938 mosaic of aerial photographs put together by the Akron Metropolitan Park District includes the southern half of the park. It appears that the wagon or machine shed was a part of the built landscape and the cabin, located to the north of the house and barn, is also apparent.

The machine shed is functionally related to the group of buildings—it reads as a building that was used as part of a farming operation. The cabin and barbecue grill structure, due to their recreational nature and distance from the other buildings, do not appear to be a part of the farming operations and are considered noncontributing.

Period of Significance Justification

The Botzum Farmstead's era of significance could be placed within the period of "Railroads, Industrialization, and

Botzum Farm
Northampton Township
Summit County, Ohio

Period of Significance Justification (continued)

Scientific Farming: 1851-1913," but it extends to 1930, the year the Agricultural MPD for the Cuyahoga Valley defines as the end of the period of significance for farming in the valley. Therefore, the period of significance for the Botzum Farmstead is best defined as 1876 to 1930. Conrad Botzum acquired the property in 1876 and although heir's owned the property until 1963, the agricultural productivity of the farm waned after 1930. Like other farms in the valley, the Botzum Farm succumbed to agricultural competition from other parts of Ohio as well as Western states. With a sharp decline in crop production in the valley after 1930, outside competition reduced the agricultural marketplace to roadside fruit and vegetable stands and only the most fertile farms survived this transition.

Historic Integrity

The Botzum Farm meets the integrity requirements for Associated Property Type: Farmstead, Agricultural Resources of Cuyahoga Valley MPDF. The farm retains an agricultural setting and the field to the north of the farmyard is not overgrown beyond recognition. The 1910 painting indicates that the farmstead retains its integrity of setting, association and feeling. The buildings depicted in the painting that are still extant appear to retain integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. The concrete block house, summer kitchen and privy also retain integrity, alterations being limited to remodeling of the house's kitchen in the 1950s. Alterations to the barns are minimal and do not compromise the integrity of the building type.

Botzum Farm
Northampton Township
Summit County, Ohio

Endnotes

[1] Betty Botzum, "German Passport," Botzum Family Historic Resource File, Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area (Hawkins Library), Everett, Ohio. Cited hereafter as Botzum File.

[2] Summit County Tax Auditor's Duplicates. No tax records exist for Northampton for 1875, but the 1874 records indicate that Howe owned Lot 10.

[3] The 1874 Summit County atlas, however, shows John A. Botzum as already owning Lot 10, along with Lots 7 and 9. A building is depicted on Lot 10 in the atlas, approximately where the current farmstead is located.

[4] Karl H. Grismer, Akron and Summit County, (Akron, OH: Summit County Historical Society, 1952), 664-65.

[5] Summit County Recorder, Deeds, Volume 4267, pp. 263-65.

[6] Summit County Recorder, Official Record, Volume 644, pp. 291-93.

[7] See Jeff Winstel and Kurt Mulhauser, NPS Special History Study: U.S. Census Productions of Agriculture Records, 1850, 1870, and 1880, (Brecksville, OH: National Park Service, n.d.).

[8] The City of Akron and Summit County Directory, 1905, (Akron, OH: N.H. Birch & Company, 1905), 230.

[9] Renee Kahn, "The American Foursquare," The Old House Journal, (February, 1982), 31.

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[10] Jeff Winstel,and Norma Stefanik, "Boston Mills Historic District" National Register of Historic Places (Brecksville, Ohio, Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, 1992), Section 8,9.

[11] Clem Labine, "The Homestead House," The Old House Journal, (March, 1982), 56.

[12] Steve C. Gordon, How to Complete the Ohio Historic Inventory, (Columbus, OH: Ohio Historic Preservation Office, 1992), 145.

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UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
5)	17	451100	4558040

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at Point 1 on the sketch map, proceed east along the tree line a distance of 250 feet to Point 2; thence proceed northeast along the tree line a distance of 632 feet to Point 3; thence proceed south along the tree line and scrub grass a distance of 1,195 feet to Point 4; thence proceed west a distance of 875 feet to Point 5; thence proceed north along the tree line a distance of 500 feet to the point of origin.

Figure List

1. Botzum Farmstead Painting. By L. Dettling, 1910.
2. Botzum Farmstead Sketch Map.
3. Botzum Farmstead Photographic Map.

Figure Index

Figure 1: Botzum Farmstead Sketch Map.

Figure 2: Botzum Farmstead Photographic Map.

Figure 3: Botzum Farmstead Painting.

Figure 4: Botzum Farmstead Photographs.

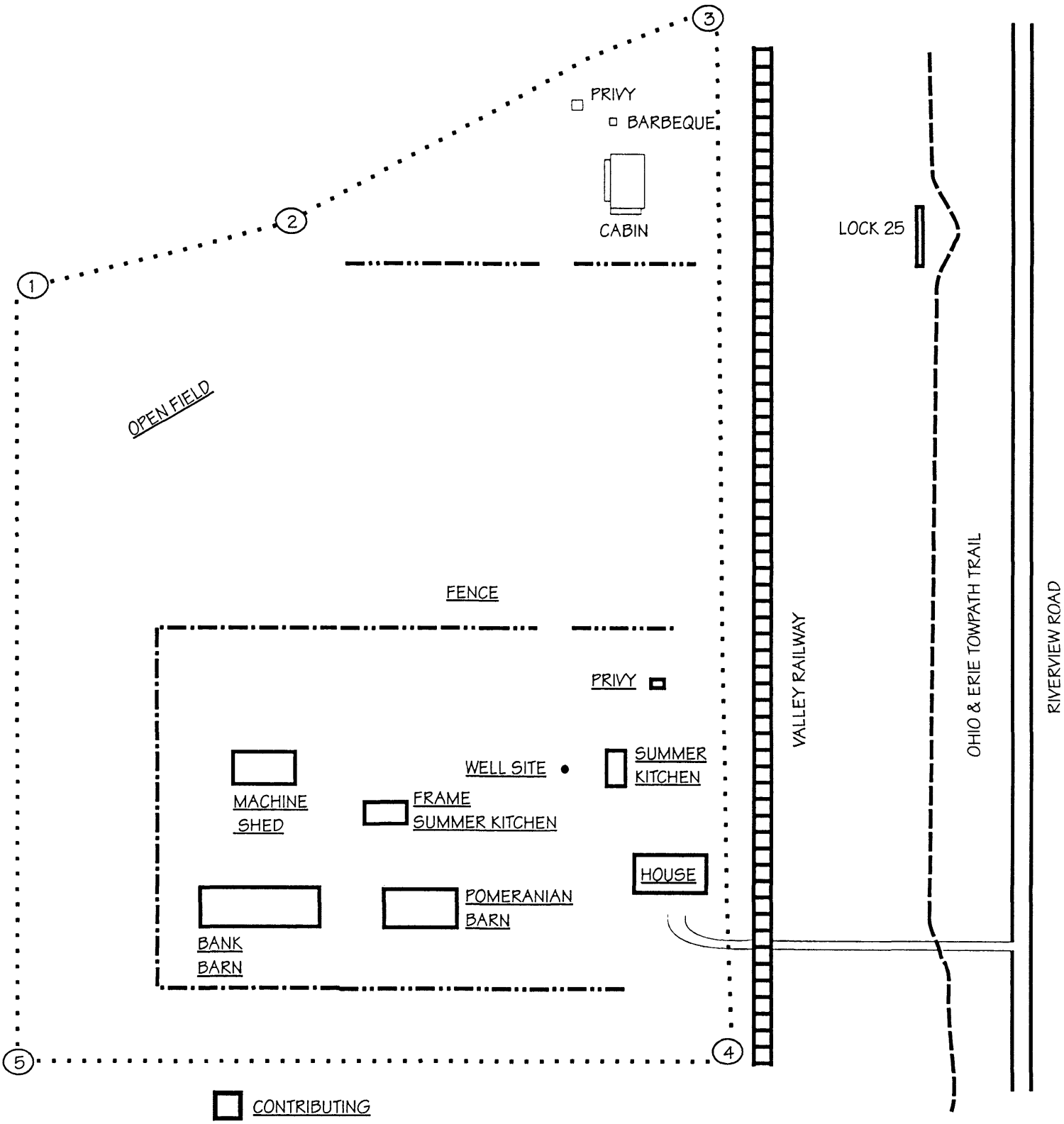

FIGURE ONE
SKETCH MAP
BOTZUM FARMSTEAD
SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO
NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP
OCTOBER 98
CUYAHOGA VALLEY
NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

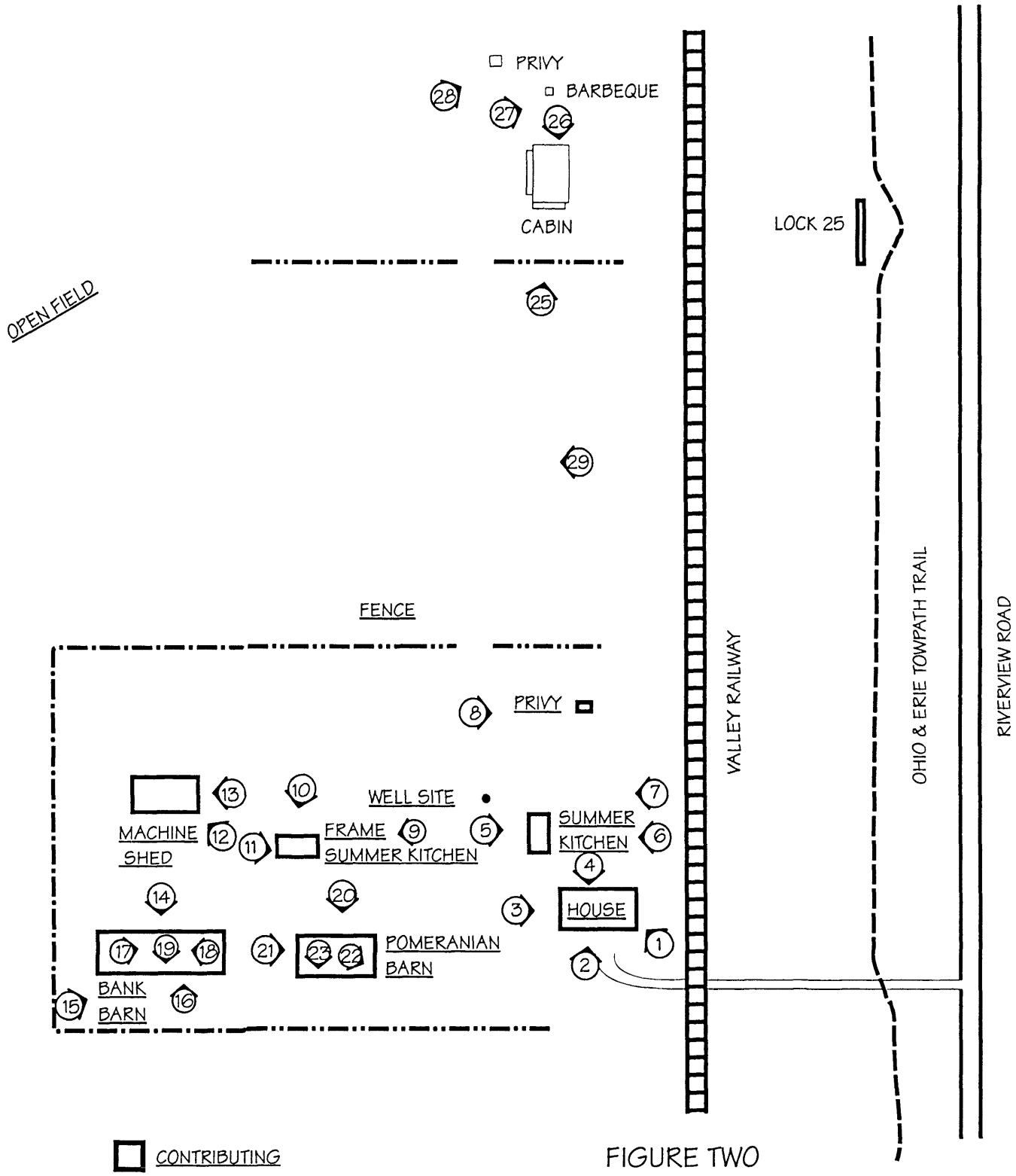

FIGURE TWO
PHOTOGRAPH MAP
BOTZUM FARMSTEAD
SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO
NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP
OCTOBER 98
CUYAHOGA VALLEY
NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

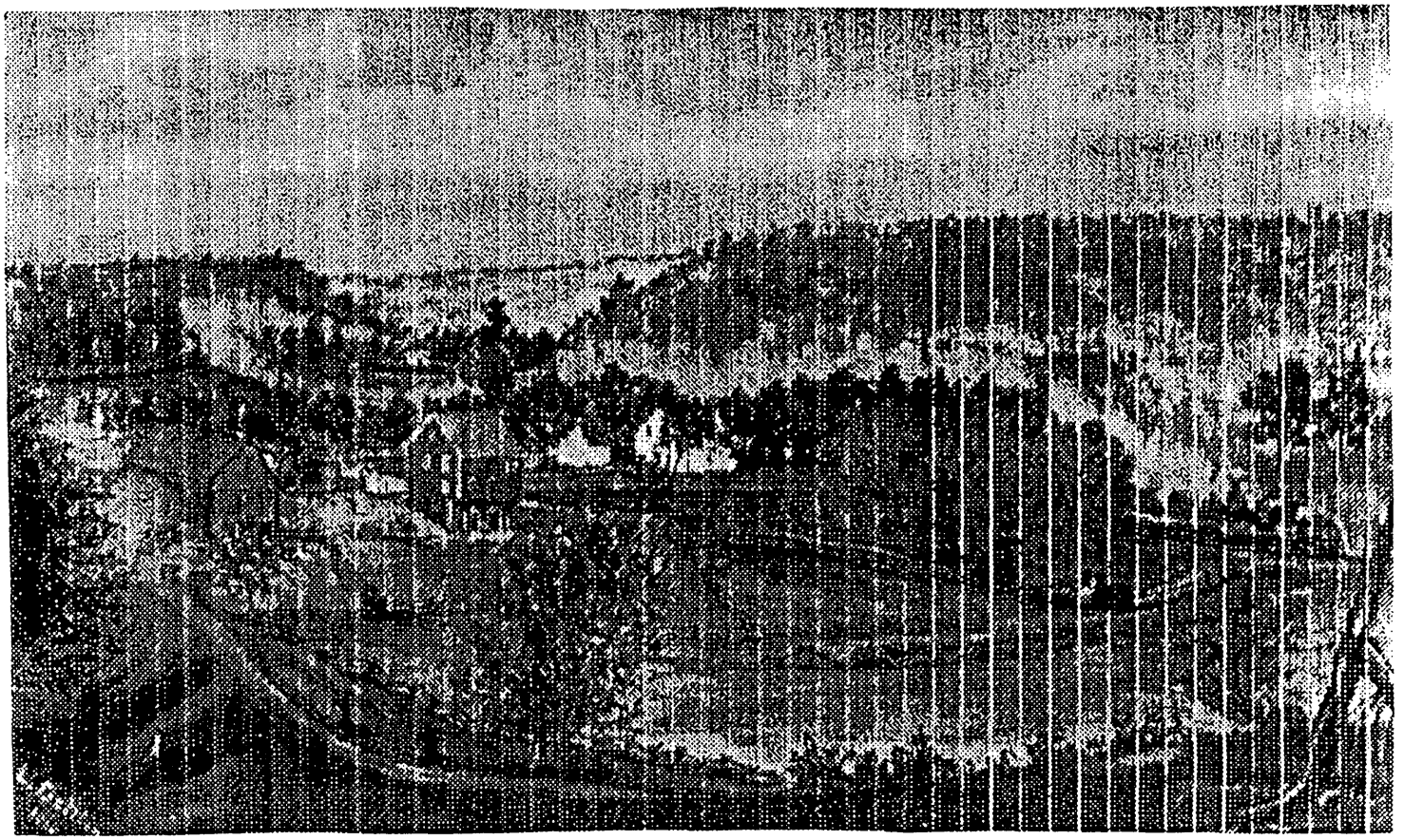

Figure 1
Botzum Farm circa 1910
By L. Dettling (1910)
Northampton Township
Summit County

NO
SMOK

4 9'93

4 9'93

4 8 93

4 93

4 9 93

4 9 93

4 9'93

4 9'93

4 9'93

4 9'93

4 9'93

4 93

4 9'93