

Friends of the Farm

Presents

A Walking Tour of the Historic Holz Family Farmstead



EAGAN

ESTABLISHED 1860





HOLZ FARM HISTORY

What is now the Historic Holz Farm was bought and sold several times before Wilhelm and Elisa Holz purchased it in 1893. The property was sold to Louisa and Otto Holz Sr. in 1909

Farm life in the early 1900's was self-sustaining. The primary income for Otto Sr. was from the farm. He also did carpentry work, building the house in 1911. He did some blacksmithing and was active as an Eagan Township Road Overseer for eighteen years, maintaining his assigned section of the roadway.

In the 1920s and 1930s the Holzes, like other farmers of the time grew much of their own food. Cattle ate grass in the pasture and drank water from the lake. Corn, oats, and hay were grown to feed livestock. Horses provided the power to till the land and harvest crops. Hogs provided meat for the family in the form of homemade ham, bacon, bratwurst and blutwurst (blood sausage). Chickens were raised for meat and eggs. Eggs were used to trade for other commodities such as sugar and flour. Cream and milk from the cows provided butter and cheese and were sold for cash. Apples and berries were made into preserves and sauces that could be stored and used in the winter. Large vegetable gardens were common and onions were raised as a cash crop.

Otto Jr. and Ella Trapp were married in 1933 and lived on the farm with Otto's parents. They purchased the farm from Otto Sr. and Louisa in 1938. Otto and Ella worked and lived on the farm until 1993. A large flower garden started in the 1900s was maintained by Ella during her entire life on the farm.

Otto Jr. practiced the conservative farming that was traditional in the area, using horses for farming. A Farmall H tractor was purchased in 1940 but Otto Jr. continued to use horses until the mid 1950s.

In the 1940s the farm driveway went south from the granary, then turned and went straight east to Highway 3 (South Robert Trail). At that time the road was called "Jefferson Highway" because it was the Jefferson Bus Line route from Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada to St. Paul and points south.

Table of Contents

Holz Farm History	1, 2
House.....	3
Barn.....	4
Granary	4
Chicken House.....	5
Corn Crib.....	5
Smokehouse.....	5
Milk House.....	6
Hillside Shed.....	7
Blacksmith Shop.....	7
Outdoor Toilet	7
Shed	8
The Pit	8
Plow & Tractor	9
Field Cultivator & Disk.....	10
Grain Drill.....	10
Holz Farm Self-Guided Tour	11
Holz Farm Map.....	12
Friends of the Farm.....	13

During the 1940s the Holzes owned a small herd of Guernsey cows that they milked by hand. They hauled milk in eight gallon cans to the end of the driveway, where it was picked up and shipped to the creamery.

Electricity came to the farm in 1940. Electric lights and water pumps made for easier and more reliable ways to get chores done. A refrigerator, washing machine, and electric lights were major conveniences. The wood cook stove remained an important part of the home. Visitors were always offered baked goods fresh from the oven and a cup of egg coffee (boiled coffee with an egg added to settle the grounds).

World War II altered life for everyone, including the Holzes. Employees of the Gopher Ordnance Munitions Plant traveled between St. Paul and Rosemount, passing the Holz Farm driveway and creating a “rush hour” during shift changes. The rationing of gas, rubber and metal for use by the military caused shortages and altered farming practices. Tires and replacement equipment were difficult to obtain.

In the 1970s a part of the farm that was used as pasture was sold and developed as South Oaks. A second portion of the farm, used as cropland, was sold in the 1980s and developed as Manor Lake Addition.

Otto Jr. and Ella died within two weeks of each other in 1993. They are buried in the Trinity Lone Oak Church Cemetery. The farm was sold to a developer and then purchased by the City of Eagan in 1995.



The research for the history section was compiled from several sources. Don Holz contributed much of the family history notes. Karl Drutowski searched through official records for area history information. The “Lone Oak Years: A History of Eagan, Minnesota”, 1985, Viking Press, was a great resource.



This **house** was built in 1911 to replace the original one, which stood about 300 feet to the south. Otto Holz Sr. hired a number of carpenters to help him with the construction. Originally, the south entrance was an open porch, which was later enclosed. The partial basement was built with fieldstone, some of which are very large. For the first few years the home was heated with a parlor stove. It was replaced by a wood burning furnace in the 1920s. The dining room floor patch and floor grate that stands behind the kitchen cook stove are what remains of that furnace. The cook stove heated the east end of the kitchen. Under the kitchen is a cistern (a large concrete tank) that was used to store rain water that was caught in rain gutters and channeled to the cistern. The water was pumped into the kitchen using a hand pump and was used for washing hands, bathing and washing clothes. Drinking water was carried from the milk house well to the house in buckets. This home looks about the same as it did in the 1940s.



This **wood burning kitchen stove** is original to the Holz farmhouse. It was purchased by Otto and Ella in 1933 and was Ella’s favorite. Even in later years when the kitchen also had an electric stove, Ella continued to use the wood burning stove for her baking.



The **barn** was built in 1928, replacing one that was destroyed by fire. The concrete foundation walls were made with rocks and sand from the farm mixed with cement. The post and beam construction of the barn makes for a very strong building.

Loose alfalfa, timothy and clover hay was hauled into the doorway of the barn and hoisted into the haymow by a hay fork (a rope and pulley device), dropped and then stacked on both sides of the haymow. This hay was used to feed cows and horses during the winter and spring.

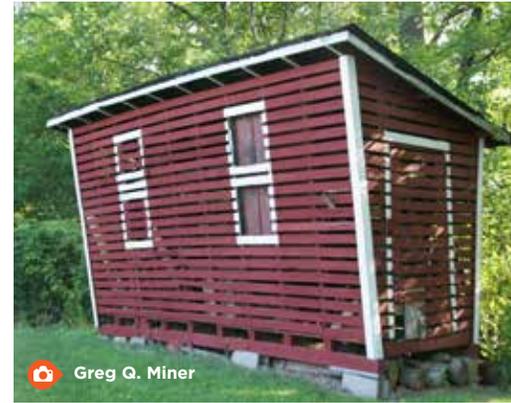
The farm had only a small dairy herd of Guernsey cows that were milked by hand through the 1940s. Ella helped milk the cows, as did women on most other farms.

During the 1920s, when Otto Jr., his dad and his brother were farming they had six horses. In the '30s they kept four, and they had only two when the Farmall H was purchased in 1940.

The **granary** was built before 1900. It features hand wrought latches made by Wilhelm Holz. This building was used to store grain, such as oats, for feeding the horses, cows and chickens. When there was a large crop of grain, some was carried in bags up the stairs. The shed addition to the south end of the granary was added in 1947. The oak tree on the front (east) side of the granary is one of the largest oak trees in Eagan.



The **chicken house** was built in the early 1900s and was saved from the 1928 barn fire. Otto and Ella raised laying hens and sold eggs on their "egg route" in St. Paul.



corn crib

The ears of corn were hand-picked in the fall and shoveled into the corn crib through openings on the west side of the crib. The wide spaces between the boards allowed the corn to dry for storage.

The **smokehouse** built in 1922 was used to smoke meat including sausage, bacon and ham. A license plate was added to show the year it was built.



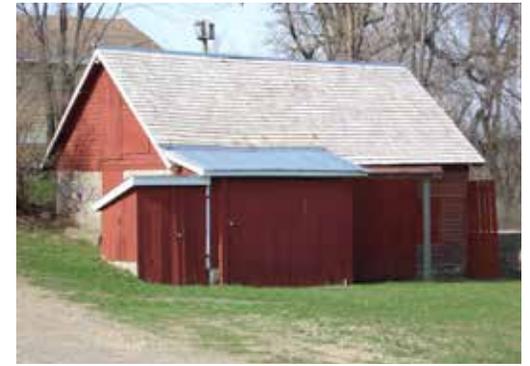


Milk was carried from the barn to the **milk house**. There it was strained into 8 gallon cans and placed into the “milk tank” to be cooled with cold well water. These 8 gallon cans were hauled to the edge of Highway 3, placed in a milk box and picked up by the milk truck driver. The driver, Fred Uitdenbogerd, delivered the “grade A” milk to the Twin Cities Milk Producers’ Creamery in the Midway area of St. Paul. A windmill stood over the east end of the milk house. It pumped water to the milk tank and livestock tank for the farm animals. The windmill was removed after electricity was installed in 1940. Portions of the windmill legs can be seen around the milk house foundation. Inside the milk house you will see the milk tank and a separator used to separate cream from the milk.



Inside the Milk House

The **hillside shed** was built in the early 1900s and was used to store machinery. The “bump out” on the south side served as a garage for the Holzes’ 1938 Chevrolet. Many farms accommodated cars in this manner. Gas for the car and tractor was stored in the smaller addition. East of the building a concrete slab and foundation wall remain where a hog shed addition stood.



The **blacksmith shop**, built by Friends of the Farm volunteers, represents a small 1940s blacksmith shop. Otto’s grandfather, Wilhelm Holz, had a blacksmith shop in Eagan from the 1870s until 1935.



This **outhouse** (outdoor toilet) is located in the area east of the house. Imagine using the outhouse on a cold winter night.





This **shed**, built in 2001, replaces a shed built in the 1800s that was beyond repair. The original shed was used to store the corn binder, wagon, corn planter, seeder, etc.



The **pit** is all that remains of the 1928 wooden silo that stood at the northwest corner of the barn. The silo stored chopped corn that was used to feed the cows. It was removed by Otto Jr. in the 1970s. An earlier wooden silo burned in 1928 along with the barn.



Otto Jr. used a Farmall Model H **tractor** to pull the farm implements used in preparing the soil and for planting and harvesting crops.



The tractor pulled **plow** was used to break the ground and turn under remaining plant material, that nourished the soil for the next year's crop.



The **disk** was used to break up clods of dirt and stalk remnants left after plowing. Its use was somewhat similar to that of the field cultivator.



A **field cultivator** was used to prepare the plowed soil for planting.



The **grain drill** was used to plant small seeds and grains such as wheat, rye and oats.

Friends of the Farm

Friends of the Farm has its organizational roots at historic Holz Farm in Eagan. Friends of the Farm is dedicated to cultivating an appreciation of farm life of the 1940s.

The group is a non-profit land stewardship organization staffed by volunteers who plan and conduct a wide variety of activities and events. The activities provide entertainment along with educational, historical and cultural perspectives appealing to a wide range of interests and ages.

Volunteer Information

Please join Friends of the Farm, help plan, educate and connect with others in the community.

We need members and volunteers to help keep this 1940s farm preserved and alive.

For information on joining Friends of the Farm and volunteering your time and talents at Holz Farm please contact:

City of Eagan Parks & Recreation

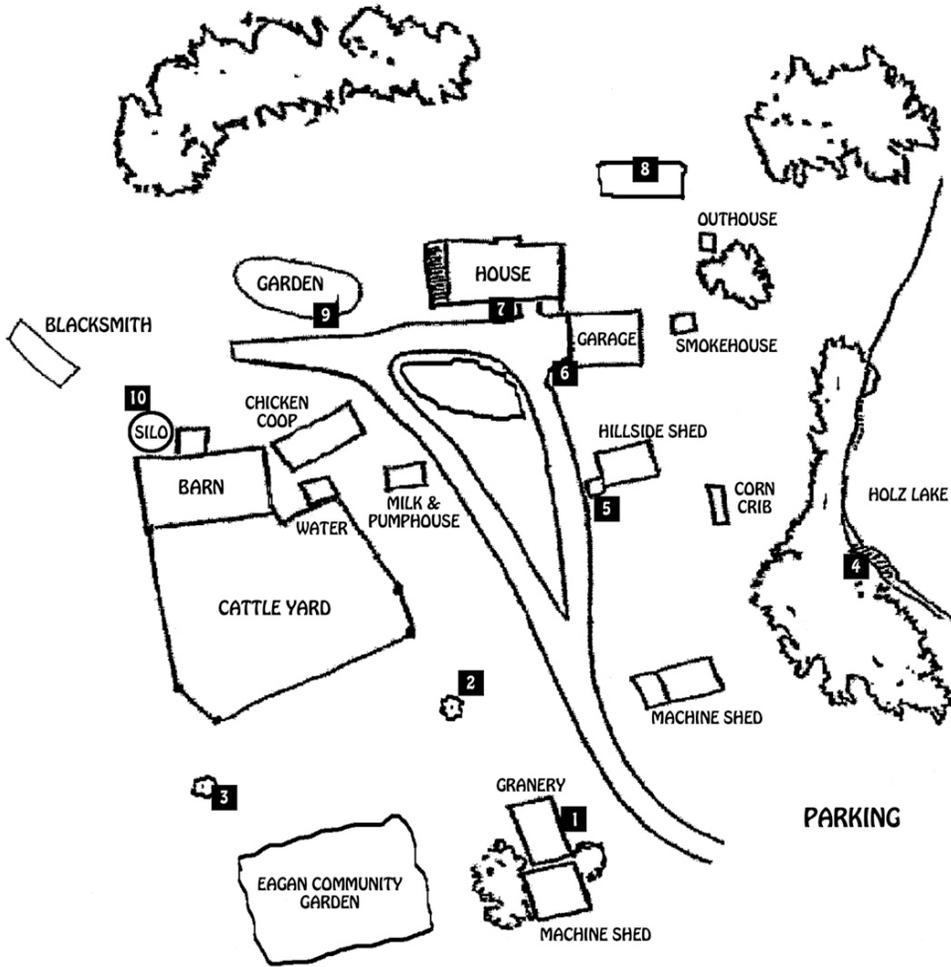
(651) 675-5500

www.cityofeagan.com

The dates and times of our annual events, including the Spring Festival, Lone Oak Days, An Old Fashioned Holiday and other special events, can be found on the City of Eagan web page and in local publications.



Holz Farm Map Self-Guided Tour



Welcome to Holz Farm, a 1940's era farmstead.
Follow the posts **1** to learn interesting features of the farm.
See other side for information on each landmark.
We hope you enjoy your visit!

2010 Eagle Scout Project - Tyler Becker

Holz Farm Self-Guided Tour

(2010 Eagle Scout Project - Tyler Becker)

Follow the
Numbered
Posts



1. 20 feet to the left is one of the largest Bur Oak trees in Eagan. It is believed to be about 200 years old. It is one of the many large Bur Oak trees on the farm.
2. The small oak tree that you see here is actually right over the spot where the hand dug water well once was. It was about 20 feet deep.
3. To the left is the inlet of the drainage pipe for the onion field. The outlet is down by the lake (#4). Wow that's pretty deep! Can you imagine digging that by hand? That's a lot of work!
4. 6 feet left, towards the lake is the hand dug drainage pipe outlet that leads all the way up to the onion field. It was dug with the help of some surrounding farmers.
5. About 20 feet to the south is where the original farmhouse stood prior to 1911.
6. At this spot, the barnyard dog drove the Ford Model T truck into Holz Lake. The dog jumped into the truck, bumped it into gear and drove it down the hill into the water!
7. This house was 100 Years old in 2011.
8. This is where the brooder house stood to raise baby chicks. As many as 200 chicks lived here before they were moved to the chicken coop by the barn.
9. This gate is a piece of the original garden fence that stood there almost 80 years ago. It has traveled to California and Missouri before returning home.
10. The wooden silo was taken down in 1978 for safety but stood as tall as the barn. It now has a deck built on its foundation.



Thank you for visiting Historic Holz Farm

“There are two spiritual dangers in not owning a farm. One is the danger of supposing that breakfast comes from the grocery, and the other that heat comes from the furnace.”

-Aldo Leopold-1948