

CFR 1117

Unger Enterprises

# Century Farm & Ranch Program Application

Date 5-24-06

Type of designation (please check)  Century Farm  Century Ranch

Legal owner's name Unger Enterprises contact Steve Unger

(Please attach contact information if different than legal owner)

Mailing address Redacted for Privacy

Telephone Redacted for Privacy E-mail address Redacted for Privacy

County Wash. Location of farm or ranch (distance from nearest town) 5 miles south  
2 miles west of Hillsboro

Township 15 Range 3W Section 26

Original family owner(s) or founder(s) Frank Unger

Date (year) this farm or ranch was acquired by founder(s) 1906  
(Attach verifying documentation. See Application Qualification #7)

Founder(s) came to Oregon from North Dakota

Who farms or ranches the land today? Steve Unger

Relationship to original owner (See Appl. Qualification #5. Please explain lineage) grandson

Are any of the original buildings still in use? Yes  No  Listed on National Register? Yes  No

If yes, please describe \_\_\_\_\_

History of crops or livestock raised on farm or ranch (use additional pages, as needed) goats, dairy  
beef, chickens for eggs, hay, wheat, seed crops, potatoes,  
strawberries, nursery stock,

How many generations live on the farm or ranch today? two  
Please list names and birth years Steve Unger 1950 Irene Unger Fish 1952  
Erin Fish 1997

[ Please submit two or three pages of family history narrative, including, but not limited to generational transfers of the farm or ranch. You are also encouraged to submit photos of the property.]

(Please continue application on next page.)

**Statement of Affirmation**

I, Stephen M Unger (pres. Unger Enterprises)  
hereby affirm and declare that the farm or ranch which I own Redacted for Privacy

Redacted for Privacy, in the County of Washington

has been owned by my family for at least 100 continuous years, as specified in the qualifications for the Century Farm & Ranch Program, on or before December 31 of the current calendar year. Further, I hereby affirm that this property meets all other requirements for Century Farm or Ranch honors, including that the farm or ranch has a gross income from farming or ranching activities of not less than \$1,000 per year for three out of the five years immediately preceding making this statement. I understand that the application materials will become property of the Oregon Historical Society Library and be made available for public use. By signing below, I understand that I am consenting to the use of both information and photographs.

Stephen M Unger  
Signature of Owner

5-24-06  
Date

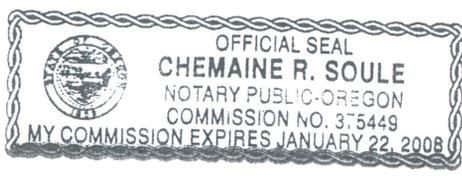
**Certification by Notary Public**

State of Oregon Washington  
County of Washington

Be it remembered, that on this 24th day of May, 2006, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said county and state, personally appeared the within named Stephen Unger, known to me to be the identical individual described in and who executed the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same freely and voluntarily.

In Testimony Whereof, I have set my hand and affixed my official seal the day and year last above written.

Chemaine R Soule



Notary Public for Oregon

My Commission Expires 1-22-08

**Fees**  
Application Fee (includes one certificate) \$ 50.00  
Additional Certificates (\$15 each) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total enclosed \$ 50.00  
Make checks payable to:  
**Oregon Agricultural Education Foundation or OAEF**

**For office use only**  
Date Received 2006  
Approved?  Yes  No  
Authorization \_\_\_\_\_  
*Century Farm & Ranch Program Coordinator*  
**OHS Library**  
MSS 1604 Program ID No. C7R117

## History of the Frank Unger Farm

Frank Unger, first child of Frederick Unger and his first wife Anna Marie Mayer, was born September 6, 1869 in Des Moines, Iowa. Frank homesteaded in North Dakota for a short time and moved to Oregon in the early 1900's.

The present 80 acre farm on Unger Road is seven miles southwest of Hillsboro, Oregon about 25 miles from Portland. It was purchased by Frank Unger in 1906 from the Johnson families. They operated several sawmills in the area, one across the road from the barn. The farm was originally 160 acres and cost \$3,700. One of the Johnson families lived in a house near the existing red machine shed until the mill closed. The house, which was divided into two parts, was later the home of John Vogl (Hermina's uncle) and Fred Lachnit (son of Frank's sister, Clara Unger Lachnit). Marie (Unger) Keim recalls as a child the annoying sound of the sawmill. It closed during her grade school years.

The farm was heavily wooded and each year the boys cleared around 3-4 acres of land. Potatoes were always planted on the new ground. The family began to raise milk goats after Pat's allergic reaction to cow's milk. There were as many as 50 goats at one time. The kids took turns herding the goats in unfenced areas of the farm.

Frank had worked as a cheese maker in Tillamook before his marriage to Hermina, and he used his skills to make goat cheese on the farm. Goat milk, cream, cheese and meat were all sold to provide a livelihood for the family. The cream was removed from the milk and sold to the Forest Grove Creamery. The meat was a popular item with Italians in Portland for a special Easter meat.

The children attended Firdale Grade School on Firdale Road south the farm. This meant a mile and a half trek down the road and through neighboring property. It involved crossing a creek on a fallen log and climbing a stile over a fence. Since only German was spoken at home, the oldest children, Tone and Louise, had an especially hard time adjusting to the school environment. The children spent many hours on the farm playing with a hoop and wheel, a popular game in those days. A long T bar was used to push a small wheel and keep it rolling as long as possible. Paths on the farm were well worn from its frequent use.

On August 2, 1934 after a trip to Portland, Frank suffered a heart attack in Portland and died at the age of 64. Tone, the oldest in the family, was 21 and Pat, the youngest, was 10. Tone already had a job away from home and Bill, the second oldest son at age 15, took over running the farm. Ferd, age 14, worked for a neighbor hand milking 4 or 5 cows twice a day.

Bill met his wife Margie in Hillsboro. His Grandma Vogl (Hermina's mother) lived across the street from Margie's family, the Lawrence Vandeheys. They married in 1941 and moved into a log house, south of the main house, as soon as it was completed the same year. Family members helped neighbor John Markum cut trees from the property and remove the bark. The total cost to build the house was \$1,000.

Bill raised strawberries, potatoes, cannery peas, and grain. Neighbors exchanged labor when the peas and grain were ready for harvesting and in some cases worked around the clock. If necessary, the crew was fed breakfast, lunch and dinner and a midnight meal. The goats were sold and 10-12 milk cows were purchased. Initially they were milked by hand, later with a milking machine. The milk was sold in large milk cans.

Hermina hired Mr. Harold to build the present stucco house. With the family's help it was completed in 1943. Its unique construction of brick and tile walls with an airspace between was unusual for this area and time period. Hermina lived in the new house until 1952 when her house in Hillsboro near St Matthew Church was completed. She enjoyed gardening and quilting and at age 79 traveled to Germany to visit relatives she had corresponded with over the years. She died December 26, 1983 at age 95.

Bill and Margie and five children moved from the log house to the stucco house when Hermina left the farm. Bill and Margie eventually had three more children. Bill was well known in the area for raising strawberries and later potatoes. The present potato cellar was built in two sections, the second half completed in the early 1960's. Bill enjoyed stocking the irrigation pond with Rainbow trout and inviting friends and family over to fish.

On January 24, 1978, just short of his 59<sup>th</sup> birthday, Bill suffered a heart attack and died. His sons Steve and Matt who had already taken over most of the farming continued to run the place. Matt later purchased a farm nearby and Steve began to work the place on his own. His family moved into the farmhouse in 1984 when Margie moved into Hillsboro. Bill and Margie's daughter Irene lives in the log house with her family. The farm is presently planted in grain and seed crops, but strawberries were a primary crop for many years.

#### **Ownership History**

1906- Frank Unger

1934- Hermina Unger

1950-William Unger

1978- Unger Enterprises (family Corporation)

FROM T. C. Johnson et. al.  
 TO Frank Unger

Filed for Record April 13th 1906, at 10-00, o'clock A. M.  
 E. I. Kuratli  
 Recorder of Conveyances.  
 By Deputy.

Know all Men by these Presents, That we, T. C. Johnson and Hettie Johnson his wife, E. C. Johnson and Mary Johnson his wife, Calvin Johnson and Ethel Johnson his wife, N. G. Johnson unmarried, and George S. Johnson, unmarried of Washington County of State of Oregon, in consideration of the sum of Thirty Seven Hundred Dollars (\$3700) to us in hand paid by Frank Unger, of Washington County of State of Oregon, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged; have bargained and sold, and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell and convey unto said forever Frank Unger and unto his heirs and assigns, all the following bounded and described real property, situated in the County of Washington and State of Oregon:

lying, being and situate in Washington County, Oregon, and more particularly described as,  
 All of the South West quarter of section twenty six (26) in Township one (1) South, Range three (3) West of the Will. Mer., containing one hundred and sixty acres (160).

Together with all and singular the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances thereto belonging or in anywise appertaining, and also all of our estate, right, title and interest therein and thereto, together with the dower and claim of dower, hereinbefore real property

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the above described and granted premises unto the said Frank Unger and unto his heirs and assigns forever. And we, T. C. Johnson and Hettie Johnson, E. C. Johnson, Mary Johnson, Calvin Johnson, Ethel Johnson, N. G. Johnson and George S. Johnson, grantor above named do covenant to and with Frank Unger,

the above named grantees his heirs and assigns that we are the owner s in fee simple of the above described and granted premises, that they are free from all incumbrances and every part and parcel thereof; that the same is free from all incumbrances

and that we will and our heirs, executors and administrators shall warrant and forever defend the above, granted premises, and every part and parcel thereof, against the lawful claims and demands of all persons whomsoever.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hand s and seals, this 12th day of April 1906

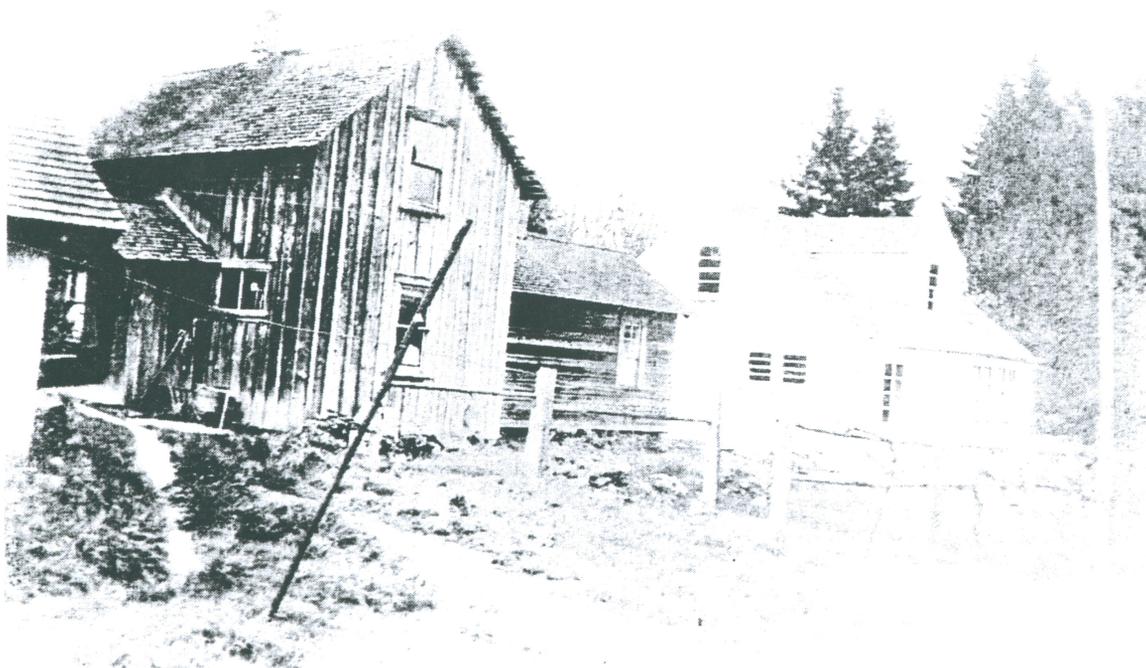
In our presence,  
 Geo. R. Bagley  
 Marie Tunzot

T. C. Johnson  
 Hettie Johnson  
 E. C. Johnson  
 Mary L. Johnson  
 Calvin Johnson  
 Ethel Johnson  
 N. G. Johnson  
 G. S. Johnson

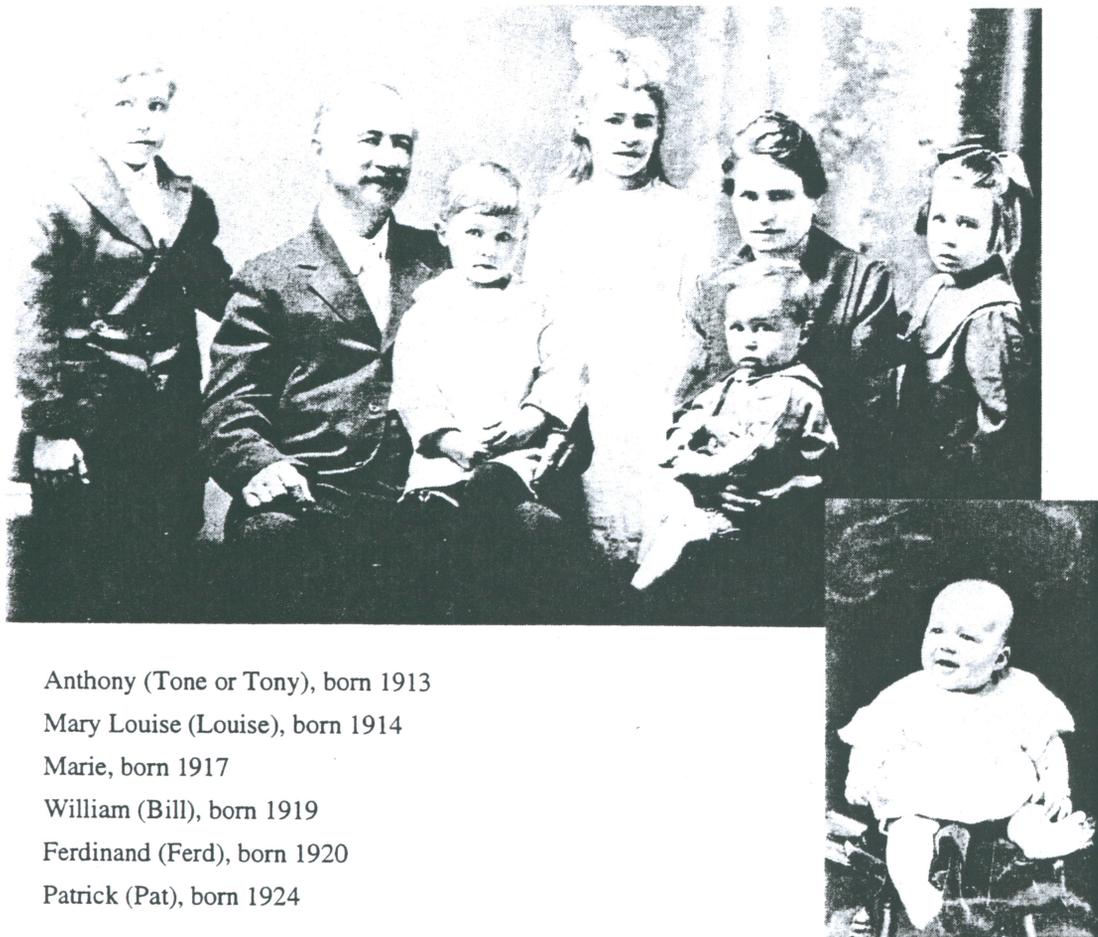
STATE OF OREGON,  
 County of Washington County ss. THIS CERTIFIES that on this 12th day of April 1906 before me the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, personally appeared the within named T. C. Johnson and Hettie Johnson his wife, E. C. Johnson and Mary Johnson his wife, Calvin Johnson and Ethel Johnson his wife, N. G. Johnson, unmarried and George S. Johnson, unmarried, known to me to be the identical persons described in and who executed the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that they executed the same freely and voluntarily and for the uses and purposes therein expressed.



Geo. R. Bagley  
 Notary Public for Oregon.



The original farmhouse and the new stucco house side by side.



Anthony (Tone or Tony), born 1913

Mary Louise (Louise), born 1914

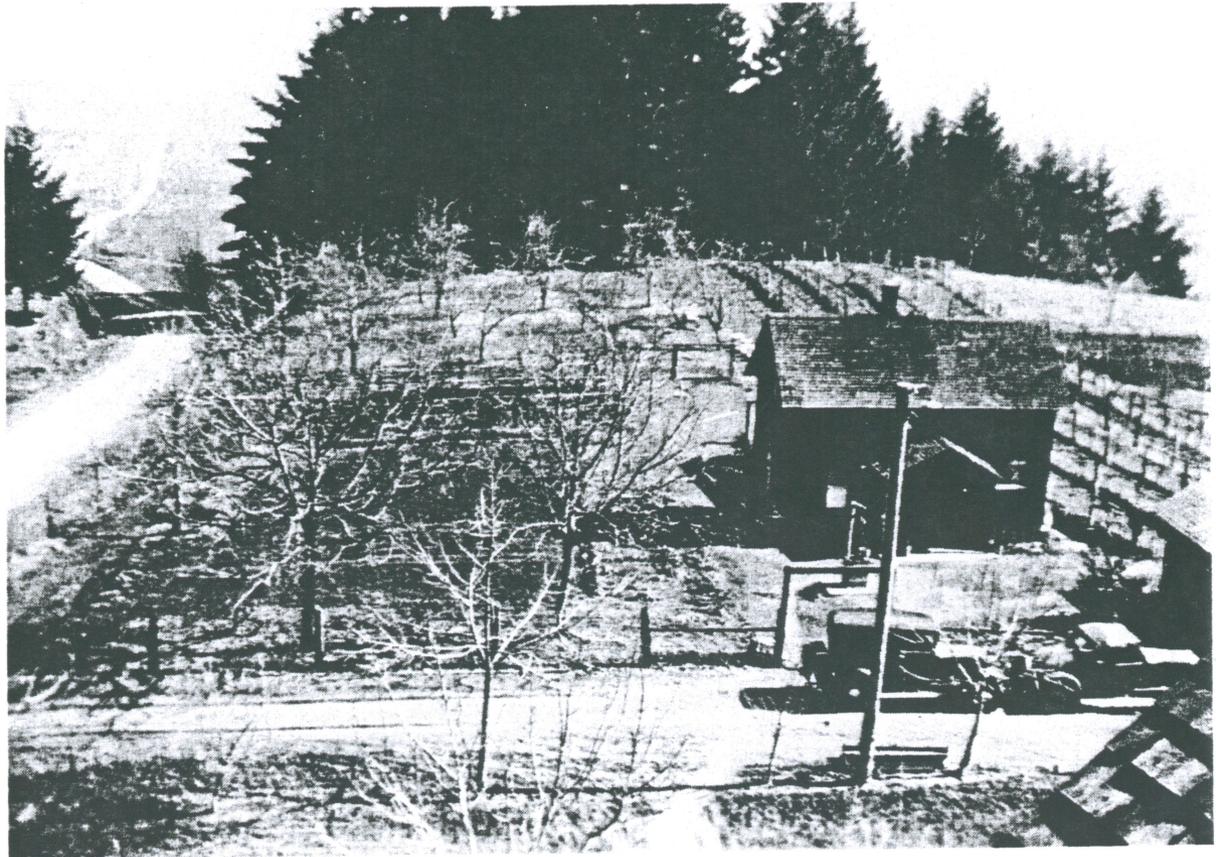
Marie, born 1917

William (Bill), born 1919

Ferdinand (Ferd), born 1920

Patrick (Pat), born 1924

In the family picture, from left to right are Tone, Frank holding Bill, Louise, Hermina holding Ferd and Marie. Pat, the youngest, is in the separate photo.



The original farmhouse where Frank and Hermina and six children lived. The picture was most likely taken from the top of the barn silo. Unger Road is seen on the left and the view is towards the east.