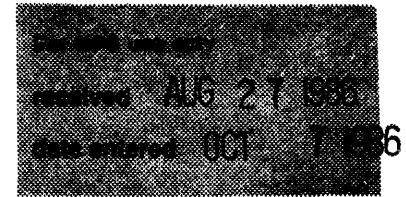


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Item number 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 Page 43

NAME: Niels Nielsen Fourteen-Side Barn Farm (historic, common, and preferred)

LOCATION: Vicinity of Noonan, North Dakota 38, Divide County 023

CLASSIFICATION: Status Unoccupied; Present Use Agricultural

OWNER OF PROPERTY: Arlos Nielsen, Columbus, North Dakota, 58727

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Register of Deeds Office, Divide County Courthouse, Crosby, North Dakota

DESCRIPTION: The former Niels Nielsen barn is constructed with 14 sides that measure 14' from corner-to-corner and a 56' interior wall-to-wall measure. The barn has identical wall panels on the exterior, each with a pedestrian door and window to the left. Every other panel has another window at the eave level. Windows are fixed sash with four light, two-over-two. A large door is located on the barn's north side. The roof has a gambrel profile in fourteen sections, rising from wall corners below, and terminates in a low cupola. Asphalt shingles cover the roof.

Inside, support posts are 4" x 4." There is an interior wood stave silo with a 14' diameter is formed by 2"x 4" boards. The foundation is a combination of rocks and poured concrete. The sill is a 4" x 4" timber. Some wall support is given by 2" x 4" studs. The rafters are 2" x 8" lumber. The distance from the floor to the roof is 10.' The plate is made of double 2" x 6," boards. The barn has been electrified.

Inside the mow studs of 2" x 6" provide support all the way up to the roof plate level, which is 6' above the mow floor. At the top of the silo there is a framework which supports the system of tracks which help move the hay in and out. The track is suspended from some hooks that are attached to each one of the rafters.

In 1970 the barn was converted to a horse barn with eight individual stalls. A heater was put in to keep the animals warm. Initially the barn was used by cattle, for which center-facing pie shaped stalls with hay mangers served. Electricity was added to the barn at a late date.

SIGNIFICANCE: Date: 1914

Architect: Chicago House wrecking Company

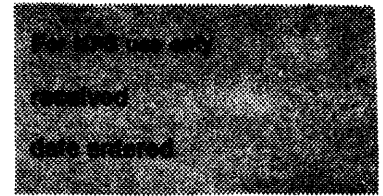
Builder: Niels Nielsen

The former Niels Nielsen barn is an important representative of the round barn theme because it illustrates the popularity of pre-cut kits sometimes used in their construction.

Niels Nielsen, born in Denmark in 1880, came to America as a child. At the age of 23 he homesteaded the farm southeast of Noonan, North Dakota. Eventually Nielsen's farm grew to 800 acres in size, which ranked among the larger operations in the county.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 8 & 10

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Advertisements for pre-cut buildings milled at the Chicago House Wrecking Company appeared in agricultural journals along with ads from similar companies after 1910. The company offered salvaged building parts, double hung windows, fixtures, doors, etc., as well as newly cut buildings requiring assembly. The Chicago company's ads in the Dakota Farmer from 1910-1912 carried an image of a barn matching the Nielsen's in all details but the diameter of the barn and silo (60' and 16' respectively). Prices varied from \$865-955 for the building, rising over time. What acquainted Nielsen with the barn and the company is unknown, but it is conspicuous that he spent his youth in the location where the House Wrecking company operated. Eleven years separate his arrival in North Dakota and construction of the barn. There is a strong possibility that he selected a building company with which he had a familiarity, and the Chicago company likely would have been one such supplier.

Nielsen's dwelling probably also was ordered as a pre-cut kit, for it included electrical fixtures for which he had no external hookup. The home was constructed two years after the barn, suggesting satisfaction with the former. The design of the barn and electrical/mechanical devices in the home share the distinction of being at the vanguard of pre-World War I technology among North Dakota's rural buildings.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage of nominated property: Less than one acre

Quadrangle name: Columbus, SW, N. Dak., 1949 (Photo revised 1981)

UTM References:

Zone: 13

Easting: 649775

Northing: 5410545

Verbal Boundary Description: The nominated property is located in the Northwest quarter of the Southwest quarter of the Northwest quarter of Section 25, Township 162 North, Range 95 West, and includes the fourteen-sided barn and a protective area fifteen feet around the barn's perimeter.