

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>SOUTH DAKOTA</b>
COUNTY: <b>JACKSON</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE: <b>JAN 11 1974</b>

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**PRAIRIE HOMESTEAD**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: *N of Interior Co. 16A/25 40*  
**NE 1/4, Section 12, T 3S, R 18E**

CITY OR TOWN: **near Interior** CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: **No. 2**

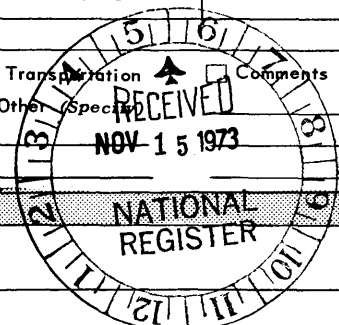
STATE: **SOUTH DAKOTA** CODE: **46** COUNTY: **Jackson** CODE: **071**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		<input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		



**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: **Keith L. Crew**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Rural Route**

CITY OR TOWN: **Interior** STATE: **South Dakota** CODE: **46**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: **Jackson County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Kadoka** STATE: **South Dakota** CODE: **46**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: **South Dakota Historic Sites Survey**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1968**  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: **South Dakota Historic Preservation**

STREET AND NUMBER: **W.H. Over Dakota Museum - University of South Dakota**

CITY OR TOWN: **Vermillion** STATE: **South Dakota** CODE: **46**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_

ENTRY NUMBER: **JAN 11 1974**

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Prairie Homestead consists of three buildings on about 100 acres of prairie grassland. The largest and most important of the structures is the home itself, a combination of three types of early prairie dwellings: the dugout, the sod house, and the claim shanty. Built in 1909, the house began as a man-made cave dug halfway into a side hill and covered with sod. The roof is supported with cottonwood logs. Interior panels of horizontally-laid rough boards, nailed to regularly-spaced upright poles, cover the lower half of the sod walls. The front of the house is of log construction with siding covering the exterior. A small frame shanty abandoned by less successful pioneers was attached to the north side of the original home. The wall-paper and wooden floors of the shanty provide a contrast with the other half of the house. This 10' x 15' frame building's interior is simply furnished as an early living room.

A storage cave, barn (moved to the site), and chicken coop complete the farmstead. All are "dug in" to the hill--except the barn, which has board and batten walls. The barn blends in well with the other features.

All of the buildings are unpainted.

Prairie Homestead stands on the crest of a low ridge about 75 yards from and facing Highway 40. Adjacent to the highway is a small, recently-constructed log building and a graveled parking lot (estimated capacity about 10 vehicles). These features are only partially hidden from the sight by several nearby elms. They distract from the prairie environment what a totally accurate restoration would demand, but are necessary for the maintenance of the site. A good view of the prairie is available when facing the buildings. To the west and south of Prairie Homestead lies virtually nothing but open prairie and the Badlands.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**6. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **built 1909**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal             | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric            | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic               | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture           | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce               | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications         | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation           |   |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Prairie Homestead is a unique combination of three types of construction used on the prairie: the dugout, the sod house, and the claim shanty. It is the best representation of an early homestead in the state.

The sod house was built in 1909 by Edgar I. Brown who homesteaded 160 acres near the Dakota Badlands. Although the Brown family moved away several years later, the "soddie" and its claim shack addition remained occupied until 1949. In 1966, a local rancher (who has lived in the area since 1910) began restoring the homestead to its original condition. Restoration included replacing sod slabs that had eroded and the reconstruction of a sod storage cave near the house. An old barn was moved onto the property to house machinery of the period. To complete the restoration, the house was furnished with items that a typical homesteader's shanty would contain.

Tourism was the main purpose for restoring the homestead, but care has been taken to keep the site an authentic representation of an early farm.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Patent Record #192937, General Land Office, Chamberlain, SD.

Prairie Homestead, interpretive pamphlet, Keith and Dorothy Crew, Interior, SD.

Ray H. Mattison to Superintendent - Badlands National Monument, August 21, 1964.

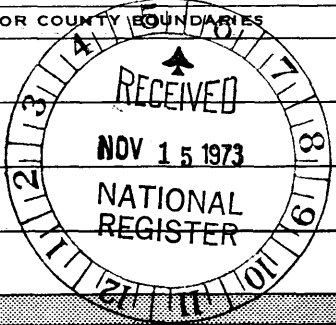
**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	43°	47'	58"	101°	54'	36"			
NE	43°	47'	58"	101°	53'	06"			
SE	43°	48'	22"	101°	54'	18"			
SW	43°	48'	22"	101°	54'	36"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **100**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



NW 14/266600/4854270  
 NE 14/266300/4854290  
 SW 14/265960/4854490  
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Paul Putz - Research Assistant**

ORGANIZATION: **South Dakota Historic Preservation**      DATE: **7 Nov 73**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**W.H. Over Dakota Museum - University of South Dakota**

CITY OR TOWN: **Vermillion**      STATE: **South Dakota**      CODE: **46**

**12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National       State       Local

Name: *Dr. James E. Gillihan*

Title: Historic Preservation Officer

Date: 7 Nov 73

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

*DR. Mark...*  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 1/11/74

ATTEST:  
*Charles A. ...*  
Acting Keeper of The National Register

Date: 1-7-74

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY NAME: Prairie Homestead

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: SOUTH DAKOTA, Jackson

DATE RECEIVED: 5/08/09 DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/21/09  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 74001891

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

\_\_\_ACCEPT \_\_\_RETURN \_\_\_REJECT \_\_\_\_\_DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA

*Accept*

REVIEWER

*Ethan H. Beall*

DISCIPLINE

*History*

TELEPHONE

DATE

*6-3-09*

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

Prairie Homestead  
Name of Property

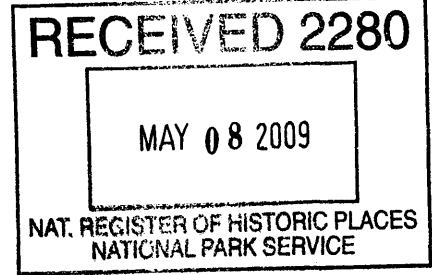
Jackson County, South Dakota  
County and State

NPS FORM 10-900-A  
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet



Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page # \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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  nationally  statewide  locally. (\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jay D. Voigt Signature of certifying official Date 04-29-2009

South Dakota SHPO  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. (\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page # \_\_\_\_\_

## 5. Classification

### Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

### Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

### Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page # 1

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

No Style

### Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Earth

roof Earth, Wood

walls Earth, Weatherboard

other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Prairie Homestead is located in the vicinity of Interior, Jackson County, South Dakota. The district contains two buildings and two structures on 100 acres of land. The house was constructed in 1909 and the other buildings were constructed within a couple years of this date. For this reason, circa dates are used.

#### House Contributing 1909-1913

The house is a combination dugout, sod house, and claim shanty. Part of the house is a cave dug into the hillside (dugout) that transitions out of the hillside into a sod house with sod walls covered with clapboard. The roof is built of cottonwood poles and covered with sod. The 10' x 15' claim shanty was attached in 1913 to the north side of house. The claim shanty has a gable roof and wood clapboard siding.

#### Storage Cave Contributing Circa 1909



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

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page # 2

---

This is a simple man-made cave dug into the hillside. The cave has infilled over the years and is dug out as needed.

**Barn**  
**Contributing**  
**Circa 1909**

The barn is a rectilinear structure with a gable roof. It is of wood construction.

**Chicken Coop**  
**Non-contributing**  
**Circa 1965**

The chicken coop is a non-contributing structure that was built outside the period of significance. It was constructed in a manner that blends in with the historic surroundings.

Prairie Homestead

Name of Property

Jackson County, South Dakota

County and State

NPS FORM 10-900-A  
(8-88)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

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

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page # 3

---

## Geographical Data

### Verbal Boundary Description

NE ¼, S12, T35, R18E

### Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the original homestead.