

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Sittner Farm

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Rural Route T18N R15E S5&6 [] not for publication

city or town Meadow [X] vicinity

state South Dakota code SD county Perkins code 105 zip code 57644

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. Vogt State Historic Preservation Officer 12-18-2007
 Signature of certifying official/Title Date

South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office
 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 certifying official/Title Date

 State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- ☒ 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
☐ See continuation sheet ☐ other, explain

Edson R. Beall
 Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action
2-19-08

Sittner Farm
Name of Property

Perkins County, South Dakota
County/State

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

(Do not count previously listed resources.)

Contributing

Noncontributing

<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing.

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

German-Russian Folk Architecture of
SD

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling
Agriculture/Subsistence: animal facility
Agriculture/Subsistence: agriculture
outbuilding Industry/Processing/Extraction:
energy facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/not in use
Vacant/not in use
Vacant/not in use
Vacant/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: German-Russian Folk Architecture

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	<u>Stone, Earth, Concrete</u>
walls	<u>Wood, Earth</u>
roof	<u>Metal, Asphalt</u>
other	<u>Straw, Clay, Manure, Stone</u>

Narrative Description

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

Sittner Farm
Perkins County, South Dakota

Section number 7 Page 1

DESCRIPTION

The Sittner family farm, also known as the Sunny Side Stock and Grain Farm, is located in Perkins County seven miles northwest of the town of Meadow, South Dakota. The farm is considered a multiple resource agriculture district. Located on the farm are four buildings, three of which are contributing: the rammed earth house, and the wood framed livestock barn and hog barn. The machine shed is non-contributing. There is also a contributing structure on the property, a windmill. Construction occurred between 1918 and circa 1925.

**House: Contributing
1918**

The Sittner House, a ten room rammed earth and wood frame house, was built in 1918 by the Sittner family. The kitchen and upper level are both wood frame construction while the rest of the house is rammed earth, made of clay and straw, covered in wood siding. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles; the original cedar shingles are believed to still be underneath. Homemade plaster made of straw and mud covers the inside of the two foot thick walls while the outside is furred out and covered in clapboard siding. The house also has a large basement. The house is a Gable and Wing type, which is not typical of German-Russian architecture. However, the layout of the spaces and materials used are what categorize the style.

The entrance to the house, as well as two one-over-one fixed pane windows, is located on the wing and faces the east; on the left is the two story front gabled part of the house. There is a one-over-one fixed pane window on the main level as well as an enclosed door, and two one-over-one fixed pane windows on the upper level. The wing of the house, where the entrance is located, is recessed. On the north elevation of the wing of the house is a boarded up window as well as an air conditioning unit to the left of it. There is also a boarded up window on the north side of the gable. There has been hail damage to the north side of the house that has broken out windows and caused considerable damage to the paint and siding, exposing the rammed earth underneath. On the west elevation are two windows: one a glider and the other a one-over-one double hung, while just a one-over-one double hung window is centered on the second story on the gabled end. There are four windows on the south elevation of the house. The two on the first floor are one-over-one double hung and the two on the second floor are glider windows. The central chimney from the heating system is also visible from this elevation.

**Barn: Contributing
Circa 1910**

The facade of the small barn faces the west towards the farmhouse. In the barn is also a second story hay loft. The barn has a gabled roof covered with corrugated metal; on the south elevation is a shed-roof lean-to that also has a metal roof. The entry is centered on the west elevation. There are four-pane windows on all the elevations including the lean-to and also in the gabled ends. Attached to the lean-to is a wooden corral.

**National Register of Historic Places
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Sittner Farm
Perkins County, South Dakota

Section number 7 Page 2

**Hog Barn: Contributing
Circa 1925**

The hog barn has a metal roof, wood clapboard siding and a concrete foundation and sits perpendicular to the farmhouse with the entrance facing the east. The clerestory roof facing the south allows much light to filter inside. There are six four-pane windows across the clerestory. There are also six four-pane windows along the wall underneath the lower shed roof as well as an opening. The east elevation is where the main entrance is centered and is flanked by two small four-pane windows. There is also a door directly across from the main entrance on the west elevation. There are no openings on the north elevation.

**Windmill: Contributing
Circa 1925**

The windmill is located just south of the barn. It stands about 30 feet tall, and as a typical American windmill, constructed of metal. A ladder runs the full height of the structure on the north side and half of the blades are gone.

**Machine Shed: Non-Contributing
Circa 1925**

The machine shed is located just south of the barn and also faces the farmhouse. It is built of similar materials as the other outbuildings. The shed leans toward the east and is collapsing upon itself.

Sittner Farm
Name of Property

Perkins County, South Dakota
County/State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See continuation sheets

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Exploration/Settlement

Architecture

Periods of Significance

1910 - 1956

Significant Dates

Ca.1910 – ca. 1925

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

German-Russian

Architect/Builder

Sittner family: builder

Sittner Farm
Name of Property

Perkins County, South Dakota
County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

- | | | | |
|----|------|---------|----------|
| 1. | 13 | 709415 | 5048159 |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 2. | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 3. | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 4. | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.) See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.) See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Leigh Raderschadt, SHPO Intern

organization South Dakota State Historical Preservation Office date 08/09/07

street & number 900 Governors Dr telephone 605-773-2907

city or town Pierre state SD zip code 57501

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Shane Kolb

street & number 18478 SD Hwy 20 telephone 605-244-7145

city or town Meadow state SD zip code 57644

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
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Sittner Farm
Perkins County, South Dakota

Section number 8 Page 3

SIGNIFICANCE

The Sittner Family Farm is eligible under Criterion A for its association with exploration and settlement in the Northwest region of South Dakota. The property is also eligible under Criterion C for the unique architecture and construction technique that is characterized by the German-Russian culture.

Historical Background

Perkins County is located in the north western part of South Dakota and is largely an agricultural area. Originally part of the Great Sioux Reservation, the area was ceded in 1889 and open to white settlement. The Great Sioux Reservation was established under the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868 and included all of western South Dakota as well as eastern Wyoming and parts of Nebraska and Montana. Through the Surplus Land Acts of 1908 and 1910, the Department of the Interior opened up 1.6 million acres of the Cheyenne River Reservation to be settled by non-native peoples.¹

The homestead years lasted from about 1907 to 1913 and the Perkins County area saw thousands of easterners flooding the area seeking to claim their free land. The Meadow area in particular was settled by people from the Milwaukee Railroad's terminal points at Hettinger, North Dakota and Lemmon, railpoints in the Black Hills, and from Old Evarts near present day Mobridge on the Missouri River. This area dubbed "The Big Meadows" was quickly homesteaded which called for the need of a town.² This area of South Dakota is extremely rural and the economy is largely made up of agricultural and livestock production. However, farmsteads in western South Dakota are rarer than in eastern South Dakota. Eastern South Dakota land is more productive agriculturally and was typically settled with four homesteads per section, or the 160 acres per farm dictated under the Homestead Act of 1860. Western South Dakota receives less rainfall and is predominantly rangeland. The majority of it is too dry to cultivate and has a lesser carrying capacity for livestock. Because of these conditions, western South Dakota did not remain as densely settled as eastern South Dakota and has far less historic farming resources.

The term German-Russian refers to the group of German speaking people who migrated to Russia in the mid-18th century to the middle of the 19th century from the southwest part of Germany as well as present day Austria, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Poland. In 1763, Catherine the Great invited these settlers, who were mainly farmers and craftsmen, to colonize the unsettled Steppe country. Once in Russia they settled along the Volga River and in the Black Sea and Ukraine areas. The Sittners were among the earlier Germans to immigrate and settled along the Volga. Many colonies were created by Germans who came from the same area and who shared similar religious beliefs. Catherine the Great offered the German settlers

¹ Lebeau, Sebastian. Tribal History. <http://www.siooux.org>

² Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd I. Sudlow, Editors. *Homestead Years - Perkins*. (Bison: Bison Courier, 1958), 45

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Sittner Farm
Perkins County, South Dakota

Section number 8 Page 4

more privileges than what the native Russians had, which caused an even larger split between the already divided groups. In 1871, the Russian government abrogated the privileges of the colonists and began to oppress the unique lifestyle the German settlers had become accustomed to. These settlers then migrated to North America and settled large areas of North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and Colorado in regions that were similar to the Russian Steppe. Between 1873 and 1918, South Dakota saw thousands of German-Russian immigrants in the area. The first of these immigrants settled the southeastern part of the state and then spread quickly to the northern part of the state between Mobridge and Aberdeen and finally along the Missouri River. Here too, the German-Russians tended to separate themselves from the American born population. The disparity of language and distinct cultures played a large part in this.³

The German-Russian cultural history is especially important to that of South Dakota due to the large German-Russian population in the state. The culture brought along with it a distinct architectural style which is very fundamental and functional in design. It is a basic one story rectangle arranged around a central heating system typically consisting of a bake oven and chimney and using indigenous materials in the construction, generally with stone, clay and later, lumber. The layout of the house is another distinguishing feature, clustering related spaces together by function, and the logic of the plan is apparent when viewing the structures by these clusters. There are two or three clusters, or bays, one for the parlor and sleeping areas, the second for the entrance and kitchen, and a third either for more sleeping rooms or storage. The heating unit is located between the first and second bays. The loft area was used for either storage or could also be used as bedrooms for larger families. Other significant features of this particular house style that sets it apart include root cellars, exterior siding, and the number and placement of doors and windows.⁴

The buildings that these foreigners built were not the sod shanties of the western boomer, but rather, were constructed to last half a century they were built so substantially.⁵ Building techniques varied slightly, but the fundamental component of all the houses of this style was the use of a basic clay mixture combining clay, soil, and straw. This clay was used as a load bearing material, mortar or insulation when mixed with sticks and stones. There were seven different types of construction: puddled clay, puddled clay with stone, batsa brick (sun-dried puddled clay bricks), rammed earth, masonry, frame, and batsa brick with frame construction as well as a combination of any of these types. The Sittner house was built using the rammed earth method by compressing the clay mixture between vertical wood forms.⁶

John (Johannes) Sittner married Elizabeth Seidel in Odessa in 1899 and had three children before immigrating to the United States and settling in northwest South Dakota under the Land

³ Michael Koop and Stephen Ludwig. *German-Russian Folk Architecture in Southeastern South Dakota*. (Vermillion: State Historical Preservation Center, 1984), 1

⁴ Ibid, 2

⁵ Ibid, 1.

⁶ Ibid, 4.

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Sittner Farm
Perkins County, South Dakota

Section number 8 Page 5

Act of 1820, which was the first time that allowed direct cash sales of land from the United States government to private land owners. Five more children were born in the sod house on the Sittner farm between 1909 and 1918. 1918 was the year in which John and Elizabeth built the ten room house.

The Sittner family built the house, barn, hog barn and machine shed themselves using varying construction methods. The house is made of rammed earth and wood construction, and the two barns are wood frame. The Sittner Farm is representative of the type of structures homesteaders built in Perkins County. It is a mix of ethnic construction methods and conventional agricultural out buildings. Although there have been some alterations to all of the buildings, collectively they retain enough integrity in setting, design, workmanship and materials to be eligible for the National Register.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Sittner Farm
Perkins County, South DakotaSection number 9 Page 6

BIBLIOGRAPHYLebeau, Sebastian. Tribal History. <http://www.siox.org>Lemmon Golden Jubilee Committee. *Lemmon: Half Century of Progress, 1907-1957*.
Lemmon: Golden Jubilee Committee, 1957.Michael Koop and Stephen Ludwig. *German-Russian Folk Architecture in southeastern South Dakota*. Vermillion: State Historical Preservation Press, 1984.

Nelson, Emma. Recollections. Unpublished.

Noble, Allen G. and Richard K. Cleek. *The Old Barn Book*. New Brunswick, New Jersey:
Rutgers University Press, 1996.Sudlow, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd I. *Homestead Years – Perkins*. Bison, SD: Bison Courier, 1958.Torry, Volta. *Wind-Catchers*. Battleboro, Vermont: The Stephen Greene Press, 1976.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Sittner Farm
Perkins County, South DakotaSection number 10 Page 7

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The boundary starts at a point fifty feet northwest of the hog barn, runs east to a point twenty-five feet north east of the barn, then runs south to a point twenty-five feet southeast of the machine shed, runs west to a point fifty feet southwest of the house and then runs north to meet the starting point.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes the buildings historically associated with the Sittner Homestead.
Township eighteen north, Range fifteen east of the Black Hills Meridian, sections five and six.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Sittner Farm
Perkins County, South DakotaSection number 11 Page 8**PHOTOGRAPH LOG**

The following information pertains to photograph numbers 1-5 except as noted:

Photographer: Chris B. Nelson
Date of Photographs: 6/28/07Photo No.Photographic Information

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Southwest Farmhouse (SittnerFarm_PerkinsCounty_SD1tiff) |
| 2 | Northwest Hog House (SittnerFarm_PerkinsCounty_SD2tiff) |
| 3 | Northeast Barn and Windmill (SittnerFarm_PerkinsCounty_SD3tiff) |

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Sittner Farm
Perkins County, South DakotaSection number 11 Page 8**PHOTOGRAPH LOG**

The following information pertains to photograph numbers 1-5 except as noted:

Name of Property: Sittner Farm**County, State:** Perkins County, South Dakota**Photographer:** Chris B. Nelson**Date of Photographs:** 6/28/07**Location of Originals:** South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, Pierre, SD

Photo No.	Photographic Information
-----------	--------------------------

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Southwest Farmhouse (SittnerFarm_PerkinsCounty_SD1tiff) |
| 2 | Northwest Hog House (SittnerFarm_PerkinsCounty_SD2tiff) |
| 3 | Northeast Barn and Windmill (SittnerFarm_PerkinsCounty_SD3tiff) |

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Sittner Farm
NAME:

MULTIPLE German-Russian Folk Architecture TR
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: SOUTH DAKOTA, Perkins

DATE RECEIVED: 1/11/08 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/30/08
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/14/08 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/24/08
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 08000055

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 2.19.08 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

red in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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.



Sittner Farm

Perkins County SD

Chris Nelson

28 June 2007

SD SHPO

Southwest

Photo lot 3

Sittner Farm - Perkins County - SD I + H



Sithner Farm
Penkns County, SD

Chris Nelson

28 Sure 2007

SD SHPO

Northwest

Photo 2 of 3

Sithner Farm - Penkns County - SD 2.tif



Siltner Farm

Pendens County, SD

Chris Nelson

28 Sure 2007

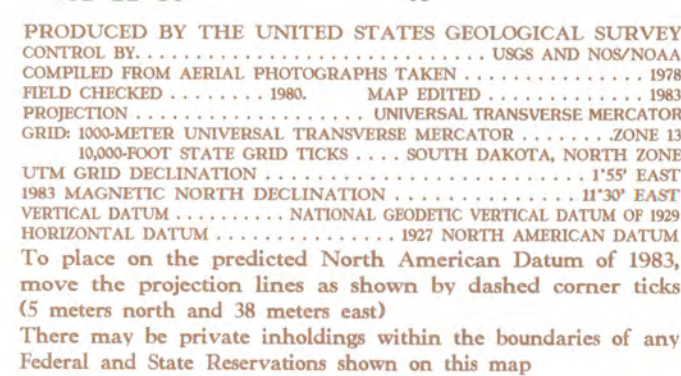
SD SHAD

Northeast

Photo 3 of 3

Siltner Farm Pendens County - SD 3 till

BOXCAR BUTTES QUADRANGLE
SOUTH DAKOTA-PERKINS CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



SCALE 1:24 000

1 000 5 0 0 KILOMETERS
0 1000 2000 METERS

1 000 5 0 0 MILES
0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 8000 10 000 FEET

CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 METERS
SUPPLEMENTAL CONTOUR INTERVAL 2.5 METERS

CONTROL AND FIELD ESTABLISHED ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST METER

To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808
To convert feet to meters multiply by .3048

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

ADJOINING 7.5' QUADRANGLE NAMES
CONTOURS AND ELEVATIONS
IN METERS

BOXCAR BUTTES, SOUTH DAKOTA
PROVISIONAL EDITION 1983

45102-E3-TM-024