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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

JAN 05 1983

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Ries, Nicholas T., Farmstead

other names/site number Nick Spartz Farmstead

2. Location

street & number Off Codington County Highway No. 3

not for publication

city, town Kranzburg

vicinity

state South Dakota

code SD

county Codington

code SD 029

zip code 57245

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

private

public-local

public-State

public-Federal

Category of Property

building(s)

district

site

structure

object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

5

1

6

Noncontributing

2

2

4

buildings

sites

structures

objects

Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously

listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
South Dakota SHPO

Date

12/20/82

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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.

other, (explain:)

*Both Croonen Boland*

2/11/88

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/ Animal Facility

AGRICULTURE/ Storage

AGRICULTURE/ Agricultural Outbuilding

DOMESTIC/ Single Dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/ Animal Facility- Work in progress

AGRICULTURE/ Storage

AGRICULTURE/ Agricultural Outbuilding

DOMESTIC/ Single Dwelling

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Agricultural Pattern Book

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Wood

Steel

roof Asphalt

other Metal

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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Located west and south of Kranzburg, South Dakota, the Nicholas T. Ries farmstead is an intact example of early twentieth century farmsteads in South Dakota. The barn, the house, and the other outbuildings are representative of rural pattern book architecture as applied to agricultural properties, including the use of pre-fabricated buildings. Surrounded on three sides by shelter belts, the farmstead is bisected by a U-shaped driveway. The contributing buildings include a barn, house, chicken coop, granary, windmill, and outhouse. The non-contributing buildings consist of a machine shed/granary, hog barn, silo, and corn crib. The entire collection of buildings is structurally sound and the recently repainted facades indicate a high level of maintenance.

The buildings are:

1. Barn. (Contributing) Featured most prominently on the farm, the 1915 barn originally served as a dairy and horse barn. Built on a poured concrete foundation, the structure has double wall construction with a ten inch gap between the outer and inner walls, is sheathed in vertical siding, and utilized the Shawver roof truss construction method. This gambrel roof is covered with blue asphalt shingles, and is appointed with a metal cupola. On the main level of the north facade, a double door is flanked by two elongated, fixed windows with six lights and plain surrounds. On the east facade, eight elongated rectangular windows with nine lights are regularly placed along the first story. The upper level north facade contains a large hay door flanked by two small, single sash windows in the gable end. An interior wall divides the barn into north and south bays. The north end originally housed horses and the south end housed the dairy cow operation. Nick Spartz's grandson, Leon, a third generation family member, is currently converting the interior of the barn to a hog farrowing confinement unit. An upper story hay loft, with Shawver truss framing, remains intact as initially constructed and continues to be used as a hay storage area.

The Nick Spartz family settled on the farm in 1921, and in 1940, they added the milk house to the east side of the barn. In 1947, they built a shed addition to the west to house cattle. Integrating well with the overall structure of the barn, these additions provided enhanced facilities as the milking operation was modernized and the size of the cattle herd was increased.

2. Silo. (Non-Contributing) In 1945, a cement block silo was erected to replace the wooden stave silo used by the Ries family.

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At that time, the Spartzes also constructed a rear addition that enclosed the area extending to the silo. Dimensions of the structure are thirty-five feet in height and fourteen feet in diameter. The silo includes a metal feed chute along the outside and a dome-shaped metal roof.

3. House. (Contributing) Facing the county road, the 1902 one-and-one-half story, rectangular, wood frame farmhouse, rests on a concrete block and rock foundation. Fenestration on the east facade consists of the symmetrical placement of four double sash windows (one-over-one) with plain surrounds. On the south facade, from west to east, there are two double sash windows, a centrally located entrance door, and a single rectangular window. Original ornamental bargeboard decorates the east gable end. The gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The original porch was enclosed and new brick steps were added in 1935. Improvements on the west portion were made in 1947. A north entry addition was constructed in 1949 to accommodate bathroom facilities. Structurally sound, the well-maintained farmhouse presents a fine appearance of an early twentieth century rural dwelling.

4. Chicken Coop. (Contributing) The chicken coop was constructed by the Ries family in approximately 1915 on a poured concrete foundation. The one-story structure has four regularly-spaced, single-sash, four-light windows with plain surrounds. Four matching windows pierce the 1935 west addition. Constructed by the Spartz family, the added portion blends with the original building. Rectangular in shape, the building has a "salt-box" type gable roof with the ridge line offset from the axis of the building. The roof is covered with wooden shingles. Currently used for storage, the building functioned as a chicken coop until approximately 1955.

5. Granary. (Contributing) The wooden frame style granary was built for the Spartz family in 1935. The gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles that match those on the barn. Constructed on a poured concrete foundation with a concrete floor, the building is square-shaped and retains its use as a grain storage facility.

6. Windmill. (Contributing) Located slightly east of the barn, the 1936 steel windmill was assembled on the ground and hoisted to its upright position. It is identified as a Monitor W Series Windmill, a model manufactured by the Baker Manufacturing Company from 1933 to 1960. The steel tower super-structure is

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topped by a gear box and a "wheel that consists of curved sheet-steel blades attached with riveted steel wheel clips to curved flat-steel rims" (Baker, p 142).

7. Outhouse. (Contributing) The small, one-story wood frame outhouse was constructed on a concrete foundation. It was provided through Works Projects Administration (WPA) funding as part of a county project. The WPA distributed pre-fabricated outhouses nationwide in the forties. Six-light windows are framed by flared surrounds on the east and west facade and a door is placed on the south facade. A shed roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

8. Hog Barn. (Non-Contributing) The 1922 one-story hog barn was the first animal facility constructed by Mr. Spartz. Built on a poured concrete foundation, the wood frame rectangular building measures about twenty-four by forty-eight feet. A gambrel roof is covered with blue shingles that match those of the other outbuildings. The structure was sealed with corrugated steel in 1984, and continues to be used as a hog barn.

9. Machine Shed/Granary. (Non-Contributing) The wood frame Machine Shed/Granary was moved to its present location in the thirties. The rectangular building, with a shed roof, contains one single light window. It is currently used for storage.

10. Corn Crib. (Non-Contributing) The 1953 corn crib is a wire mesh structure topped by a galvanized cone.

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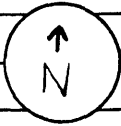
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Site plan on reverse side

(SHELTER BELT)



OUTHOUSE

CHICKEN COOP

GRANARY

MACHINE SHED/  
GRANARY

HOUSE

BARN

HOG BARN

CORN CRIB

SILO

WELL/  
PUMP

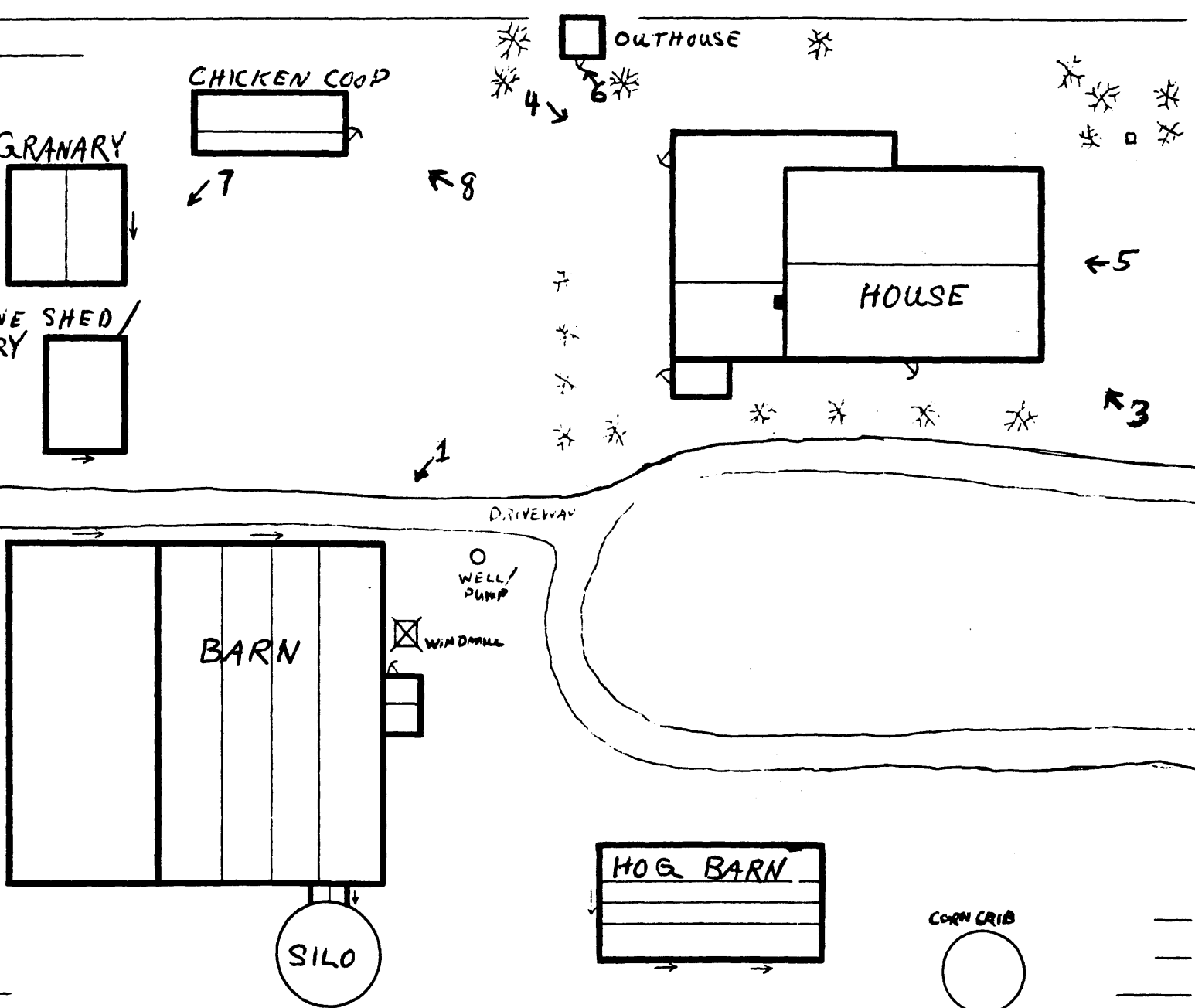
WINDMILL

DRIVEWAY

(SHELTER BELT)

CODINGTON CO. HY. # 3

NUMBERS WITH ARROWS INDICATE PHOTO # and DIRECTION CAMERA FACING



**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

AGRICULTURE

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1902-1940

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.



**9. Major Bibliographical References**

See continuation sheet

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

South Dakota Historical Preservation Center

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 12 acres

UTM References

A 

1	4
6	6
3	7
2	0

4	9
6	9
5	7
0	

Zone Easting Northing

C 

1	4
6	6
3	9
4	0

4	9
6	9
3	8
0	

Zone Easting Northing

B 

1	4
6	6
3	9
4	0

4	9
6	9
5	8
0	

Zone Easting Northing

D 

1	4
6	6
3	7
2	0

4	9
6	9
3	8
0	

Zone Easting Northing

Quad: Kranzburg SW. Scale: 1:24000.

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Sherry De Boer, Consultant date September 29, 1987

organization National Trust for Historic Preservation telephone 605-692-7104

street & number 1412 Third Street state South Dakota zip code 57006

city or town Brookings

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The Nicholas T. Ries farmstead is significant in the areas of architecture and agriculture. Relating to Criterion C, the property is significant as a distinctive collection of agricultural buildings that are intact examples of rural pattern book architecture. Relating to Criterion A, the development of the Ries farmstead symbolizes the dramatic changes that occurred in the designs of agricultural outbuildings as the buildings were reconstructed from generation to generation.

The ten buildings comprising this farmstead were constructed as replacements for the early pioneer buildings of this rural homestead established in 1891. The combined rebuilding efforts of the Ries and Spartz families are representative of the development of farm related structures from 1893 to 1941. Those buildings constructed from 1893 to 1929 are significant for their association with standardized or pattern book structures that emerged as a result of changing rural building patterns. Those constructed between 1929 and 1940 are associated with local events surrounding the Great Depression. Under the South Dakota State Historical Preservation Plan, these properties fit the historic contexts labeled: V. Depression and Rebuilding E. Changing Rural Patterns and Impact of New Farm Technologies 1. Pattern Book Structures and VI. The Great Depression.

Created during territorial days as a part of assorted counties, Codington County was organized in August, 1878, with Kampeska as the county seat. After an election, Watertown became the county seat in October, 1878. The county was named for Reverend Codington, a Presbyterian minister who made Watertown his place of headquarters at the time of the city's settlement. An 1889 Public Opinion account describes Codington County as "402,585 acraes of gently rolling land, one-fourth of which is under cultivation" and a place where there is no government land in the county because it is "all taken up by settlers" (Kant, 14). Platted in 1878, Kranzburg is proclaimed "one of five good railroad towns outside of Watertown" in that citation.

Nicholas Ries, the son of Bernard and Mary Toss Ries of Niederdonvon, Luxembourg, was a member of a group that immigrated as an entire community to America as a result of religious oppression. Originally settling in Dakota County, Minnesota, the family relocated in the Kranzburg area in the early 1880's, with Bernard Ries filing his homestead patent on Section 14 in Kranzburg Township in 1891. In 1875, the Winona and St. Peter

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Railroad Company offered for sale several parcels of land. Section 15 in Kranzburg Township was among those properties. Peter Hiniker of Hastings, Minnesota, purchased the Northeast quarter section, with the subsequent sale of the quarter in 1891 to Bernard's son Nicholas T. Ries for \$1200. Ries established a farming operation consisting of a farmhouse, windmill, four outbuildings, and a few trees, as depicted in an early photo of the farmstead. The farmhouse is the only survivor of the collection of buildings photographed in the early 1900's. Although there is no record of the Ries's first shelter, the 1902 house undoubtedly replaced an earlier dwelling. A later photo illustrates the existence of the no longer extant wooden stave silo, possibly constructed concurrently with the barn. The land was purchased by Nick Spartz of Ashton, Iowa on December 12, 1919. He and his wife Agnes moved to the Kranzburg area in 1921 and began farming.

In 1926, the Spartz family experienced the frustration and anguish of a sheriff's sale. In fact, during the decade of the 1920's, many farmers in South Dakota witnessed collapsed product prices and a very real preview to the Great Depression. Unlike many neighbors, the Spartz family recovered title to their property a few years later. They continued to develop and enlarge their farmstead. Today, the farming tradition is carried on by the second and third generations of the Spartz family.

The first replacement structure on the Ries farm was the barn, constructed in 1915, and highly reflective of changing patterns in barn construction and the use of new construction materials. It serves as an outstanding example of the Gambrel Roof Plan Truss barn construction method popularized by John L. Shawver and others between 1915 and 1940. The introduction of new building materials, including the vertical inter-locking siding, the asphalt shingles, and the concrete foundation, serves as the basis for construction of later outbuildings on the farm.

Retaining the distinctive characteristics of a turn of the century farmhouse, the Ries house features decorative bargeboard, simple framing, and narrow clapboard siding typical of rural dwellings. The home is an intact example of what Gotfried and Jennings term the "Basic Homestead House," a "straightforward, well-composed dwelling...that stood for the basic requirements of American shelter. The facade is organized around a center axis running from the apex of the gable to the ground level"

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Nicholas T. Ries Farmstead

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(Gottfried and Jennings, 187). Classical in orientation, the facade of the house is a linear temple front with thin corner boards carrying a low, wide pediment. The use of cornice returns in the gable end and symmetrical fenestration placement reflects this classical alignment. The presence of additions does not alter the original integrity of this homestead house. (Modifications occurred from the functional necessity of modernizing the home for kitchen and bathroom facilities).

Designs for the construction of outbuildings were all influenced by the availability of guidebooks through the Department of Agriculture and through information published by land grant colleges. Widely available after 1914, the published information caused "standard, pattern book designs which vary little from place to place over a 20 or 30 year span of time" (Torma, 15). The chicken coop, granary, hog barn, and machine shed are examples of popular, standardized designs for animal facility and storage-related function agricultural structures.

An integral part of every farm during the depression era, the windmill provides an important aerial focal point for the farm setting. Visual inspection of the tail of the 1936 windmill reveals the words, "Monitor"; "Baker Mfg Co."; and "4080". According to a guidebook on windmills, the Monitor W series windmill was manufactured by the Baker Manufacturing Company of Evansville, Wisconsin from 1933 into the 1960's, and the mill's "distinctive silhouette remains a significant part of the rural landscape in many part of the country" (Baker, p 142). Built as the last model constructed by this company, the windmill was characterized as having an unusually hardy iron gear case. Advertised as the "Iron Vault Case", promotional materials boasted that bullets could not penetrate the monitor case.

The WPA-financed outhouse serves as a reminder of government assistance during the Great Depression years. Distributed throughout the county and the state, the outhouse is representative of a pre-fabricated structure related to a trend that changed the face of rural landscapes. Its standard design consisted of a wood frame structure, covered with a shed roof, and highlighted by the small, single-sash windows.

The period of significance for the farmstead, 1902 to 1940, was derived from the construction dates of the buildings in two recurring phases of development. Structures are gradually replaced as older buildings become obsolete with construction

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activity in each decade of the twentieth century until 1940. The wooden stave silo is replaced in 1945 followed by a void in construction activity until the corn crib is erected in 1953. Although the government-financed outhouse does not meet the fifty year criterion, its construction is an integral part of the continuum of construction. Since it was constructed prior to 1941, it is included as a contributing aspect of the farmstead, according to specifications in the Supplement to National Register Bulletin 16 policy guidance (p.14).

The Spartz family has recently repainted each building on the farm, providing a clean, well-maintained appearance to the entire farmstead. The windows have been restored to their earliest presentation, with the effect of returning the barn to its original appearance. The interior conversion of the barn to a hog farrowing confinement unit has returned the historic function of the barn as an animal facility. These restorative efforts have been influenced by the National Trust and the Successful Farming magazine as a demonstration project for the "Barn Again!" program.

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Baker, T. Lindsay. A Field Guide to American Windmills. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1985. 142-143; 408.

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Gottfried, Herbert, and Jan Jennings. American Vernacular Design: 1870 to 1940. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold Company, 1985.

Historic Photos (c. 1902 & 1916) in the possession of Agnes Spartz, Ries/Spartz Farmstead, Watertown, South Dakota.

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Personal Interview by Sherry DeBoer with Joanita Kant Monteith at Watertown, South Dakota, August 12, 1987.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Consisting of the entire farmstead, the nominated property is bounded by a polygon whose four vertices are the UTM points: 14/663720/4969570, 14/663940/4969580, 14/663940/4969380, 14/663720/4969380. These lines coincide with the south edge of the section road for the northern boundary, the west edge of Codington County Highway No. 3 for the eastern boundary, the south edge of the shelter belt for the southern boundary, and the west edge of the shelter belt for the western boundary. the property is located in the Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 15, Township 116 North, Range 51 West (5th Prime Meridian), in Codington County, South Dakota.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary lines of the nominated property are set to include all features of the farmstead, including shelter belts, but to exclude public roadways.