

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number CZ 13 Page 2 Mathias Merkwan Barn

Although it provided information to the study of Czech building patterns, the house is not eligible for listing. Just northwest of the house is a vaulted root cellar.

8. 1869-1899; Architecture, Exploration/ Settlement, Czech Ethnic.

Specific date unknown. Mathias Merkwan, builder.

Significant in architecture, the Mathias Merkwan Barn is one of the best-preserved examples of Czech masonry barns in the survey area. Its form, method of construction, and special features, such as the mangers and ventilation port, fit the model outlined in the overview. Modern exterior treatments to the roof and walls have not deterred from the significance of the building to the theme of this nomination. It is also one two sites within one mile of each other that contain both a masonry barn and a modernized log house. At present, the building is used as an occasional shelter for animals and as a storage facility for straw and hay.

The Mathias Merkwan Barn is also significant in the history of Czech settlement in the state. Mathias (Mike) Merkwan was born in Chvolsjce, Bohemia, in 1853. He was the second child and oldest son of John Merkwan Sr., who is represented by other buildings in this nomination (see John & Kate Merkwan House/barn, CZ 1-a; John & Kate Merkwan House, CZ 1-b; and John Merkwan Jr. House, CZ 6). He came to Dakota Territory with his parents and siblings sometime before 1880. Mathias Merkwan married Katherine Rada, with whom he had eight children. The first three children died before the age of seven, due to the many untreated diseases that plagued early Dakota settlers. Both Mathias and Katherine are buried in the St. Wenceslaus Catholic Cemetery at Tabor, SD.

Major Biographical source: Povondra (1973), 4-6.

10. Acreage: less than one acre. Scale: 1: 24,000.
Quad.: Tabor. UTM: 14/ 611560/ 4755980.

The boundaries of this property are imaginary lines that connect to form a rectangle that is centered on the rectangular barn. Each line lies 10 feet from the exterior walls of the barn. The site is located in the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 19, Township 94 North, Range 57 West, in Yankton County.

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SITE PLAN OF FARMSTEAD CONTAINING CZ 13 ON REVERSE SIDE

SITE PLAN (Complete inventory of all structures, their function, dates & details of construction, and surrounding vegetation) WITH NORTH ARROW

SITE NAME: Mathias Meek Way
CZ SURVEY #: 13

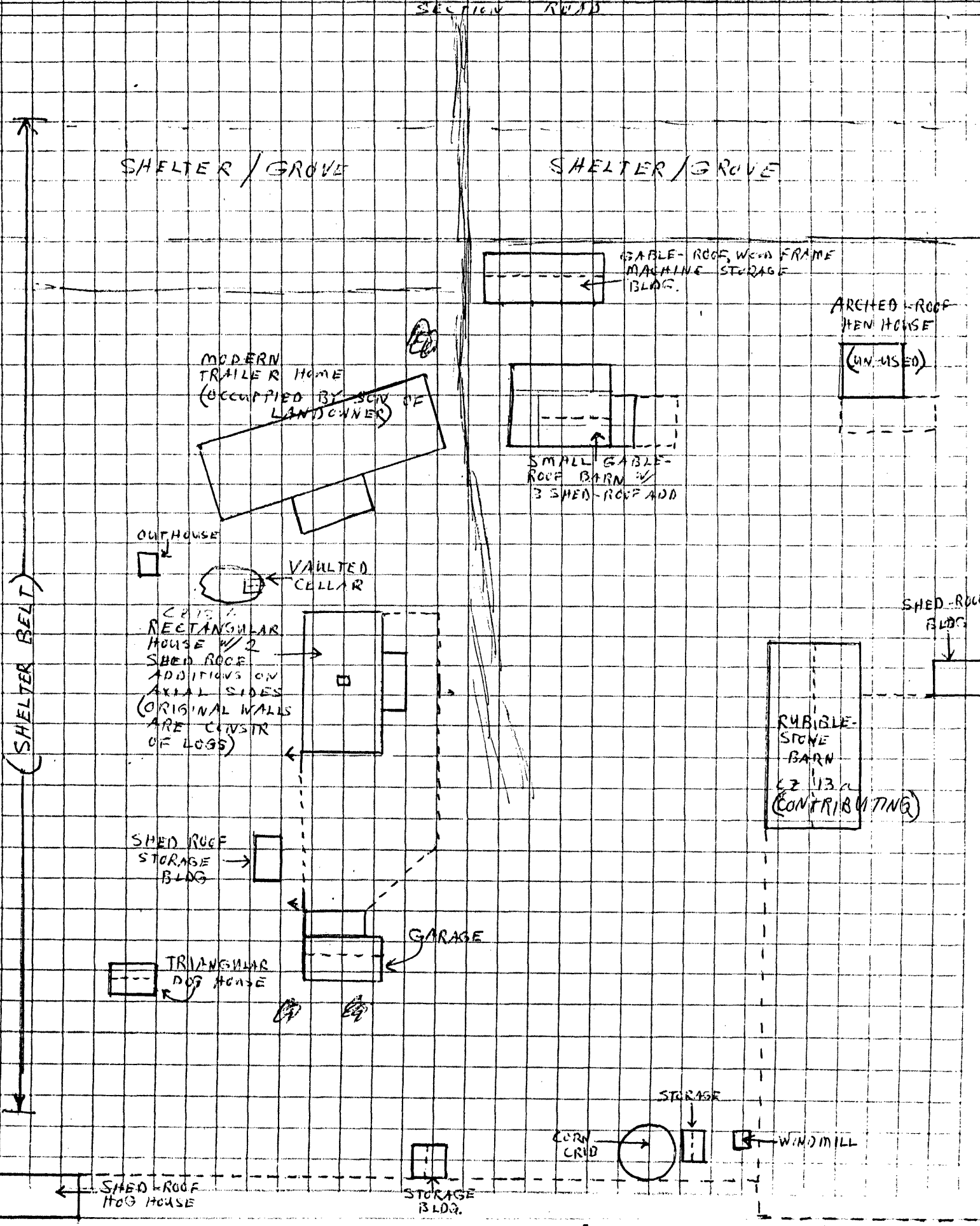


SECTION ROAD

SHELTER / GROVE

SHELTER / GROVE

(SHELTER BELT)



MODERN TRAILER HOME (OCCUPIED BY SCV LANDOWNER)

OUTHOUSE

VAULTED CELLAR

CATS / RECTANGULAR HOUSE w/ 2 SHED ROOF ADDITIONS ON AXIAL SIDES (ORIGINAL WALLS ARE CONSTR OF LOGS)

SHED ROOF STORAGE BLDG

TRIANGULAR DOG HOUSE

GARAGE

GABLE-ROOF, WOOD FRAME MACHINE STORAGE BLDG

SMALL GABLE-ROOF BARN w/ 3 SHED-ROOF ADD

ARCHED-ROOF HEN HOUSE (UN-USED)

RUBBLE-STONE BARN CZ 13 (CONTRIBUTING)

SHED-ROOF BLDG

STORAGE

CORN CRIB

WINDMILL

SHED-ROOF HOG HOUSE

STORAGE BLDG