United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Section number CZ 13 Page 1 Mathias Merkwan Barn

Site # CZ 13

- 1. Mathias Merkwan Rubblestone Barn.
- 2.. Ziskov Township Tabor Vivinity South Dakota Code: 046

First Congr. District Yankton County Code: 135

- 3. Building; Privately owned; NA acquisition; Occuppied; Restricted access; Agricultural.
- 4. Helen (Mrs. Joseph) Hale RR 1, Box 283 Tabor, SD 57063

- 5. Register of Deeds
 Yankton County Courthouse
 Yankton, SD 57078
- 7. Good; Altered; Original Site.

The Mathias Merkwan Barn is a well-preserved rectangular rubblestone masonry barn on a working farm in western Yankton County. Its masonry walls measure 53' by 24'7" and are set directly flush with the ground without the benefit of excavation. The exterior surfaces are covered with a very recent stucco veneer over an older coat of plaster. A three-to-eight-inch-high watertable surrounds the building. Atop the masonry wall is a 2'4"-high wood fram wall, on top of which are set the rafters. Large hewn timber joists and a machine-cut plate are set into the masonry wall. A gable roof was constructed of 27 common rafters spaced 24 inches apart covered with horizonal boards and modern corrugated steel sheets. The rafters are tied by transverse braces near the peak of the roof.

The building is entered via two small doors along the west axial wall and one large door at the south gable end. There are three fixed-sash windows on the east axial facade. Second-story hay loft openings are found at each gable end. A ladder-stair is located in the northwest corner of the barn, and two hand-made wooden mangers occupy the east axial wall. Interior space is divided by wooden stalls. A single 8-inch-square air vent is located about five feet above ground level in the northeast corner of the east axial wall.

Located a few yards to the west of the barn is the farm house, part of which is constructed of logs. This house fits the 3-bay coaxial linear form discussed in the overview; however, it has undergone extensive modification of the interior and some alteration of the exterior.

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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 detered 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 l-a; John & Kate Merkwan House, CZ l-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 invnetory of all structures, their function, dates & details of construction, and surrounding vegitation) WITH NORTH ARROW SITE NAME: Mathias Merkers CZ SURVEY #: 13 SECTION SHELTER / GROVE SHELTER /GROVE BABLE- ROOF, WEED FRAME MACHINE STORAGE BLAG. ARCHED -ROOF HEN HOUSE MODERN TRAILER (UN USED) HamE LANDENNER (UKCUPTIED SMALL GABLE-ROCE BARM X 3 SHED-ROVE ADD OUTHOUSE VAULTED -CELLAR RECTANGULAR
HOUSE W/2
SHEIN ROCE
ADDITIONS ON
AND TOURS
ORIGINAL WALLS
ORIGINAL WALLS
OR 1000 SHED ROCK त्का 中 EL RUBIBLE-STOVE SA UF 4035) BARN CONTRIBUTING) SHED RUGE STORAGE BLOG GARAGE TRIANGUAR DOS HONE 75 64 0 ST4845 CRIB WINDINILL SHED - ROOF STORAGE HOG HOUSE 13 LDQ.