

**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 determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions 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 any 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 Knapp Ranch
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 13168 450th Avenue not for publication N/A
city or town Ortley Vicinity x
state South Dakota Code SD county Roberts code 109 zip code 57256

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. Vogt
Signature of certifying official

12-13-2004
Date

South Dakota SHPO
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

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.
- other,

(explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall 4.14.05

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>6</u>	<u>2</u>	Buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Sites
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	Structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Objects
<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

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

See Continuation Sheets

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.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a 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.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture _____

Period of Significance

1914-1938 _____

Significant Dates 1914; 1918;
1921; 1929;
1938

Significant Person N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Builder - Laurity Laursen (Big Barn)
Builder – Arthur and Alvah Knapp (North Barn,
Shop, Chicken house, Sheep Shed, Granary)

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheets

9. Major Bibliographical References

(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 #

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: N/A _____

Knapp Ranch
Name of Property

Roberts County, South Dakota
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 8 acres

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>14</u>	<u>640201</u>	<u>5037281</u>	3	<u>14</u>	<u>640368</u>	<u>5037462</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>14</u>	<u>640368</u>	<u>5037281</u>	4	<u>14</u>	<u>640201</u>	<u>5037462</u>

See continuation sheet

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 Jason Haug –
Historic Preservation Specialist

organization South Dakota SHPO date 10-15-2004
street & number 900 Governors Drive telephone 605-773-6296
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)

Knapp Ranch
Name of Property

Roberts County, South Dakota
County and State

Property Owner

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

name Verna Knap
street & number 13168 450th Avenue telephone 605-947-4309
city or town Waubay state SD zip code 57273

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 the 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 Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Knapp Ranch is located in southwestern Roberts County, South Dakota approximately ten miles north of Ortle. The Ranch sits on the west edge of the Coteau Des Prairies, a large plateau rising from the eastern South Dakota flatlands. Since being homesteaded in 1898, the Ranch has been continually owned and operated by the Knapp family. This agricultural district contains six contributing buildings, including two modified Wisconsin Dairy barns, a shop, a granary, a sheep shed, and a chicken coop. There is also a Ranch-style house, a Harvestore silo, and a large pole shed, all non-contributing.

1. Big Barn, 1914, contributing

The Big Barn is a modified Wisconsin Dairy Barn and was constructed in 1914 out of machine-milled lumber shipped to South Dakota by train. The Big Barn measures 100 feet long, 56 feet wide and 35 feet high and is clad in shiplap siding. The barn has a gambrel roof with a lean incorporated into the roof on the north side. The roof also has wood shingles, two metal cupolas along the ridge of the roof, and a triangular hay hood. The south side of the roof has a flare at the bottom. The east and west ends of the gambrel section of the roof have a return from the south eave.

The west elevation features a large pull-down haymow door in the gambrel peak. On each side of the haymow door is a fixed six-light window. The lean section of the elevation has a fixed four-light window as well as a smaller haymow door just below and to the left of the four-light window. On the ground level of the west elevation is a fixed four-light window on the right side of the gambrel section and a sliding wood door in the center of the gambrel section directly below the large haymow door. To the left of the sliding door is a single hinged door between two fixed four-light windows. The left side of the elevation has another sliding door.

The south elevation of the Big Barn has an entry porch with a gambrel roof in the center of the elevation that leads to the haymow. There are two six by twelve foot doors on the entry porch as well as a fixed four-light window in the gambrel peak. At the base of the entry porch is a built-up earthen ramp. On each side of the entry porch are five fixed four-light windows. The east elevation has two fixed six-light windows in the gambrel peak. In the lean section of this elevation is a fixed four-light window. Just below and to the right of this window is a door into the haymow. The ground level of the east elevation features a fixed four-light window on the left side of the gambrel section, a sliding wood door in the center of the gambrel section, and another window in the lean section. The north

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elevation has seven fixed four-light windows in the center and right of the elevation. There is also a single door on the left side of the elevation next to the left-most window.

The basic floor plan of the Big Barn is a center driveway with stalls and mangers on each side. There are also alleys on each side of the driveway with hay chutes above the alleys. At the center are swinging gates into each alley. At the east end of the driveway is an approximately one foot wide opening in the concrete width of the driveway that provides access to a concrete manure pit added in 1968. Inside the entry porch in the haymow is a driveway for wagons of grain to unload into three grain bins. The grain bins are rooms six by eight feet with a rectangular opening in the floor where grain is shoveled into smaller grain bins below. On either side of the driveway are open areas for hay. Along the south wall and equidistant from the center to the north are eighteen hay chutes. They are built into the sides of the roof so that they are also structural members, leaving the floor area completely clear of obstacles. Bracing has been added recently to straighten the barn which extends into the floor space. The front of the hay chutes are made up of gates which can be slid into the frame vertically as hay is piled higher. Originally, a round wood water tank about sixteen feet in diameter and sixteen feet high stood in the northeast corner of the haymow. The lean section of the barn also has hay chutes. Below these chutes is a manger the length of the barn.

2. North Barn, 1929, contributing

The other barn on the Knapp Ranch, historically known as the North Barn, was built as a scaled down version of the Big Barn without the earthen ramp, entry porch, or grain bins. The North Barn measures sixty-four feet long, fifty feet wide, and thirty-two feet high. Like the Big Barn, this barn was also constructed of machine-milled lumber shipped to South Dakota by train. The North Barn has a gambrel roof with a lean incorporated into the roof line on the north side and has over-hanging eaves on all sides. The gambrel roof has a flare at the bottom on the south side. The roof also has a triangular hay hood, wood shingles, and a metal cupola on the center of the roof.

The west elevation features a haymow door in the gambrel peak. On each side of the haymow door is a fixed six-light window. The lean section of the elevation has a fixed four-light window as well as a smaller haymow door that is just below and to the left of the four-light window. On the ground level of the west elevation is a fixed four-light window on the right side of the gambrel section and a sliding wood door in the center of the gambrel section directly below the large haymow door. To the left of the sliding door is a single hinged door between two fixed four-light windows. There is another sliding door on the left side of the elevation.

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The south elevation has seven fixed four-light windows with a single hinged door between the third and fourth windows from the left. The east elevation has two fixed six-light windows in the gambrel peak. In the lean section of this elevation is a fixed four-light window. Just below and to the right of this window is a door into the haymow. The ground level of the east elevation features a fixed four-light window on the left side of the gambrel section, a sliding wood door in the center of the gambrel section. There is another sliding door in the lean section of this elevation along with a swing door that opens into an attached sorting shed about eight feet by ten feet. This sorting shed is located on the extreme left of the north elevation. There are also six fixed four-light windows along the rest of the elevation.

The interior of the North Barn features a center driveway on the south side but without any individual stalls. The lean section of the North Barn is similar to the lean section of the Big Barn.

3. Shop, 1918, contributing

The shop is a simple gable building with a lean-to section on the north side. The shop historically had wood shingles that have since been replaced with metal. The west elevation has an overhead door in the gable section and two hinged wood doors in the lean section. Historically the overhead gable section had hinged doors like the lean section. The south elevation (lean-to section) has two fixed four-light windows. The east and north elevations have no openings.

4. Granary, 1921, contributing

The granary measures forty feet by thirty-two feet. It has wood shiplap siding and wood shingles. Like the barns, the granary has a gambrel roof with a lean. The north side of the granary also incorporates a hip-roofed section into the front of the building. There are two adjacent fixed four-light windows in the gambrel peak of the west elevation. There are also two adjacent fixed four-light windows on the west side of the hip-roof section along the ground level as well as a single fixed four-light window on the right side of the elevation. The south elevation has a wood sliding door in the hip-roof section and another single sliding door in the center of the lean section. There are two fixed four-light windows between the two doors. The east elevation has two adjacent fixed four-light windows in the gambrel peak as well as a single door opening directly below the windows. A sliding door in the hip-roof section is the only opening on the north elevation.

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The hip-roof section features a driveway with a hatch door into which grain can be dumped. The grain flows diagonally into the basement under the main area of the building where it is conveyed via a vertical canvas belt with large metal cups to the first or second floors for cleaning, grinding or storage. Bins stored each type of grain separately. In the lean were areas for storage of sacks of commercial mineral and salt.

5. Sheep Shed, ca. 1938, contributing

The sheep shed is a long gable roofed building measuring sixty-four feet long by twenty-six feet wide. The shed is clad with shiplap siding and the roof with wood shingles. It has a dirt floor and a feed room in the northwest corner. The south elevation has six four-light windows. The west elevation has a window the gable peak and a sliding door in the center of the elevation. There is another window to the right of the sliding door.

6. Chicken House, ca. 1938, contributing

The chicken house has two-stories with a low-pitched gambrel roof clad in wood shingles. The south elevation has a row of four adjacent four-light windows and a single door to the left of the windows. It too has a dirt floor. On the north side is a platform raised three feet with chicken roosts on it. An open stair leads to a hatch door, which opens to a haymow. The east elevation has a fixed four-light window in the gambrel peak and two fixed four-light windows on the ground level. The west elevation also has a fixed four-light window in the gambrel peak and two fixed four-light windows on the ground level. There is also a haymow door between the windows. There are no openings on the north elevation.

7. House, 1955, non-contributing

A Ranch style house is located southwest of the Big Barn. It was built in 1955 and has wood shingles.

8. Pole shed, ca. 1970, non-contributing

A large pole shed stands north of the Big Barn. It has a center driveway with overhead doors on both the west and east elevations.

9. Harvestore Silo, ca. 1970, non-contributing

Just off the northwest corner of the Big Barn is a blue harvestore silo.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Knapp Ranch is eligible under Criterion C as it embodies distinctive architectural characteristics of early twentieth century agricultural buildings in northeast South Dakota. While the basic designs of the Knapp Big Barn, North Barn, and the granary are common in South Dakota, some of their architectural features make them unique. The chicken house represents a distinctive design not common in South Dakota. The other contributing outbuildings, while not individually distinctive, add to the overall integrity of the property as a ranch.

Varying amounts of rainfall resulted in differing types of agriculture developing east of the Missouri River compared to the western part of the state. Large scale sheep and cattle ranches emerged in the dryer western region of South Dakota while smaller farms focused on crops like wheat, corn, and oats as well as dairying developed in eastern South Dakota. The diversified methods of the eastern farms often resulted in the construction of more buildings for animal and grain storage than on the western ranches.¹

Roberts County was organized in August 1883. Most of Roberts County was part of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Indian Reservation established in 1867. The federal government allocated 160-acre sections to the Native Americans and then opened the reservation to homesteaders in 1892. Homesteaders purchased the remaining land for \$2.50 per acre after they had lived on the land for five years.² The Knapps homesteaded in Roberts County in 1898. They moved in 1914 from their homestead site in Alto Township to the present location about one mile west and north in One Road Township to have immediate access to the County Highway being constructed at that time. The Knapp Ranch is unique in that it developed as a ranch in eastern South Dakota. They focused primarily on raising beef cattle, horses, and sheep before later shifting to dairy cattle. To a lesser extent, the Knapps also produced row crops. The types of resources constructed characterized these different types of agriculture on the Knapp Ranch, including a barn for beef cattle, a barn for dairy cattle, a chicken house, a sheep shed, and a granary.

The Knapp Big Barn is a unique modified Wisconsin Dairy Barn. Main characteristics of the Wisconsin Dairy style found in the Big Barn include a long rectangular plan, gambrel roof, a large central aisle, rows of windows on the long sides, and ridgeline cupolas. When the Knapps shifted

¹ David Erpestad and David Wood, *Building South Dakota: A Historical Survey of the State's Architecture to 1945* (Pierre, SD: South Dakota State Historical Society Press, 1997), 98.

² Roberts County History, 41.

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from raising horses to dairy cattle a poured concrete floor with a built-in manure track was added.³ The Barn is also modified by having a lean roof on the north side. Another unique feature to South Dakota found in the Big Barn is the earthen ramp built up to the haymow combined with a gambrel-roofed entry porch.⁴ The North Barn was modeled after the Big Barn and built by Arthur Knapp without the earthen ramp, entry porch or grain bins.

Like the Big Barn, the basic operation of the Knapp granary is common in South Dakota. The exterior architectural features, however, make this granary unique. Early granaries in South Dakota were often gabled wood buildings with interior storage cribs. Many also had steps on the gable end so grain could be carried up and dumped into the bins. Later granaries were more like grain elevators with conveyor belts that could carry the grain to different bins in the granary.⁵ Like later granaries, the Knapp granary has a conveyor belt system that carried grain to the first or second floors for cleaning, grinding or storage. The granary does have a unique roof, however, with a gambrel roof, lean roof, and hip roof all incorporated into one.

The design of the Knapp chicken house is distinctive. Most South Dakota chicken coops were relatively small, one-story buildings with windows and doors on the south side to maximize sun exposure. Many often had half monitor roofs to also increase sun exposure and ventilation.⁶ The Knapp chicken house is unique because it is a two-story, gambrel roofed building. It does have a door and five adjacent windows on the first level of the south side.

³ Allyson Brooks and Steph Jacon, *Homesteading and Agricultural Development Context* (South Dakota State Historic Preservation Center: Vermillion, SD, 1994), 50.

⁴ Allen Nobel and Richard Cleek, *The Old Barn Book: A Field Guide to North American Barns and other Farms Structures* (Rutgers University Press: New Jersey, 1996), 122.

⁵ Brooks and Jacon, 62-63.

⁶ Brooks and Jacon, 57.

Knapp Ranch
Name of Property

Roberts County, South Dakota
County and State

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

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

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The remaining contributing buildings on the Knapp Ranch are vernacular in form with few distinctive architectural elements. The Big Barn, the granary, and the chicken house have distinctive features that make them unique. While not architecturally significant individually, the shop and the sheep shed contribute to the overall integrity of the Knapp Ranch. The Knapp Ranch is thus eligible under Criterion C for its architectural significance.

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Bibliography

Brooks, Allyson and Steph Jacon. *Homesteading and Agricultural Development Context*. South Dakota State Historic Preservation Center: Vermillion, SD, 1994.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. Alfred Knoff, Inc.: New York, 1984.

Nobel, Allen and Richard Cleek. *The Old Barn Book: A Field Guide to North American Barns and other Farms Structures*. Rutgers University Press: New Jersey, 1996.

Roberts County History. Roberts County Centennial Committee, 1961.

Verbal Boundary Description

The property is located in the Southwest Quarter of Section 32 Township 124N, Range 52W, Roberts County, South Dakota. Consisting of the entire farmstead, the nominated farmstead is bounded by a set of imaginary lines that intersect to form a polygon whose four vertices are the UTM points: 640201, 5037281; 640368, 5037281; 640368, 5037462; 640201, 5037462.

Boundary Justification

The boundary for this nominated district includes the approximately eight acres on which the barns and other outbuildings historically associated with the Knapp Ranch set.

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Section number PHOTOS Page # 9

Photographs

PHOTO #1

1. North Barn (left) and Big Barn (right) – Knapp Ranch
2. Roberts County, South Dakota
3. Jason Haug
4. October 2004
5. South Dakota SHPO
6. South and West Elevations, looking Northeast
7. Photo 1 of 8

PHOTO #2

1. Big Barn – Knapp Ranch
2. Roberts County, South Dakota
3. Jason Haug
4. October 2004
5. South Dakota SHPO
6. South and West Elevations, looking Northeast
7. Photo 2 of 8

PHOTO #3

1. North Barn – Knapp Ranch
2. Roberts County, South Dakota
3. Jason Haug
4. October 2004
5. South Dakota SHPO
6. South and West Elevations, looking Northeast
7. Photo 3 of 8

PHOTO #4

1. Shop and Granary – Knapp Ranch
2. Roberts County, South Dakota
3. Jason Haug
4. October 2004
5. South Dakota SHPO
6. North and West Elevations, looking Southeast
7. Photo 4 of 8

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PHOTO #5

1. Granary – Knapp Ranch
2. Roberts County, South Dakota
3. Jason Haug
4. October 2004
5. South Dakota SHPO
6. South and West Elevations, looking Northeast
7. Photo 5 of 8

PHOTO #6

1. Chicken House – Knapp Ranch
2. Roberts County, South Dakota
3. Jason Haug
4. October 2004
5. South Dakota SHPO
6. South and East Elevations, looking Northwest
7. Photo 6 of 8

PHOTO #7

1. Sheep Shed – Knapp Ranch
2. Roberts County, South Dakota
3. Jason Haug
4. October 2004
5. South Dakota SHPO
6. North and West Elevations, looking Southeast
7. Photo 7 of 8

PHOTO #8

1. House – Knapp Ranch
2. Roberts County, South Dakota
3. Jason Haug
4. October 2004
5. South Dakota SHPO
6. South and West Elevations, looking Northeast
7. Photo 8 of 8

Knapp Ranch,
Roberts County,
South Dakota

2. North Barn - c

^
N

8. Pole
Shed - nc

9. Silo
- nc

1. Big Barn - c

County Road 15

7. House -
nc

3.
Workshop -
c

4. Granary -
c

6. Chicken
house - c

5. Sheep Shed - c