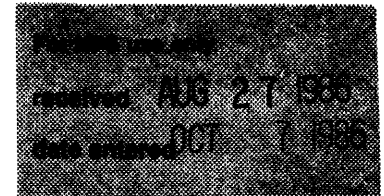


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NAME: Sylvanus Marriage Octagonal Barn (historic and preferred)

LOCATION: Vicinity of New Rockford, North Dakota 38, Eddy County 027

CLASSIFICATION: Status Occupied; Present Use Agricultural

OWNER: Ken Reis, RR 1 Box 168, New Rockford, North Dakota 58356

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Register of Deeds, Eddy County Courthouse, New Rockford, North Dakota

DESCRIPTION: The eight sided octagonal barn constructed for Sylvanus Marriage in about 1902, is located five miles south and two miles east of New Rockford on flat drift prairie in central North Dakota. The building, once part of a modest farm operation for which it was the largest building, currently continues its function of sheltering livestock within the expanded farm enterprise. The barn measures 29' per side and has a 64' wall-to-wall diameter. The main entry is on the south side above which, imbedded in concrete is a horse shoe.

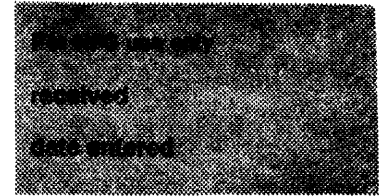
No photographic images are known of the barn as it originally existed but local residents reveal in interview that the barn appears much as it did formerly. The barn stood above a cut stone foundation and had exterior siding at the mow level. A gable roofed hay dormer projected from the west side of the mow, and the octagonal cupola contained tripled 3-over-3 fixed pane Windows all the way around. Little could be learned from informants concerning the original configuration of interior spaces.

The barn stands today with much the same features as it originally did with the exception of the rock foundation. That foundation had badly deteriorated by 1952, at which time stabilization measures required replacement. The owner, Mr. Albert Haas, selected poured concrete as a substitute material to serve as support for the structure, to which he added dropped siding with 1"x 6" corner boards. Later, probably during the late 1960's-early 1970's Haas added metal siding to the upper portion of the barn, presumably for maintenance reasons. The metal siding was attached in a way which preserved the barn's profile even in sensitive areas, particularly in the hay dormer and other mow openings. The original material exists beneath the metal skin which makes possible future restoration of its historic appearance.

The interior spaces of the barn appear to have been subjected to few changes. The lower floor consists of two open spaces, a central circle bounded by 4"x 6" mow floor posts, and a circular outer alley between the posts and barn wall. The doubled 3"x 12" mow floor joists and 2"x 10" ceiling beams are common sizes found in the state's historic barns. The barn's stall-less organization of space was used by Marriage to corral his horses. A historic labor saving device on the ground level is a sliding feed carrier suspended from a track above a feed trough. The troughs are adjacent to the wall and the track circulates through the whole space, so that feed can be

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administered quickly over a large area with little effort.

The existence of the tall 4"x 4" roof posts signals an earlier construction, and suggests the mow is in its original condition. The cupola windows flood light into the space. Studs of 2"x 4" and 2"x 6" give support to the walls and serve as rafters. The barn is presently in excellent structural condition.

SIGNIFICANCE: Date: Approximately 1902
Architect/Builder: Unknown

The former Marriage farm octagonal barn is significant for illustrating of the theme of round barn construction in its octagonal shape and for its continued use and maintenance.

The fate of North Dakota's round barns parallels that of all the state's barns with regard to longevity and maintenance concerns. In general, few farmers have preserved historic barns when expense exceeds the barn's utility. After the second World War farmers found large, permanently sited barns less functional than more transient animal shelters of pole and finally steel frame construction. Older barns without use were idled and abandoned to decay. The former Marriage octagonal barn eluded such a fate partly because of the strength and adaptability of its interior space, and partly due to the benevolence of a prior owner.

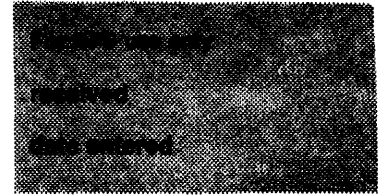
Albert Haas owned the farm during most of the years after the second World War while operating an implement dealership in New Rockford. Local informants indicate that Haas was not actively engaged in the labor of farming, but used the farm as a retreat. It is likely that he was attracted to the farm initially because of the distinctiveness of the structure. Since the farm enterprise was not his primary source of income, he may have found it economically justifiable to maintain the barn, rather than to remove the structure for a more efficient one when the foundation developed problems.

An undefined amount of altruism can be attributed to Haas in preserving the structure. The barn was constructed to serve the farm's needs according to the kind of agriculture practiced in the early 1900's. Such farming was conducted with animal power on a smaller scale in the New Rockford area. Within four or five decades, agricultural requirements and machine power increased the scale of farm organization, rendering obsolete the buildings surviving from the Marriage farm. Haas upgraded the farm during his tenure by constructing new buildings adapted to modern farming. Presently, the octagonal barn is the single surviving historic building on the farm. Given the low proportion of surviving round and rectangular barns, and Haas' program of farm modernization, the former Marriage octagonal barn is remarkable in its continued existence. The barn is a conspicuous effort on Haas' part to preserve an important relic from the past in a way which allowed the building to contribute to continued farm operation.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage of nominated property: Less than one acre

Quadrangle: New Rockford SE, 1950

UTM References: UNAVAILABLE ON QUAD MAP IN METRIC MEASURE

Zone: 14

Easting: 2 346 675 FEET

Northing: 227 000 FEET

Geographic Coordinate System location:

Latitude: 47° 36' 50"

Longitude: 99° 05' 50"

Verbal Boundary Description: The nominated property is located in the Southwest quarter of the Northwest quarter of the Northwest quarter of Section 28, Township 148 North, Range 66 West and includes the property on which the octagonal barn stands and a zone of protection extending fifteen feet around the perimeter.