

RECEIVED

SEP 3 1987

NATIONAL REGISTER

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 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 Semevolos Farm
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number N/A N/A not for publication
city, town Butte vicinity
state North Dakota code ND county McLean code 055 zip code 58723

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	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing:
Ukrainian Immigrant Dwellings and Churches in North Dakota from Early Settlement Until the Depression

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.

James E. Sperry August 28, 1987
Signature of certifying official State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota) Date

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:)

Carol O'Shuel

10-16-87

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE; storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Ukrainian Dwelling

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation NONE
walls EARTH

roof WOOD: shingle
other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The farmstead formerly owned and occupied by the Semevolos family is located on slightly rolling prairie land in northeast McLean County. The site is visible to the north from a point on State Route 53 between Butte and Kief, North Dakota, and is accessible via a dirt road which connects the site to the Highway. Between the farm and the highway the short dirt road crosses the Minneapolis-St. Paul-Sault St. Marie (Soo Line) Railroad tracks. The site today is abandoned and is surrounded by agricultural fields. The site consists in the dwelling, a metal grain bin, a privy, a garage, and a barn. This nomination is for the dwelling only.

The dwelling used by the Semevolos family measures 30' north-south x 18' east-west. Rammed earth serves for both structural system and exterior surface. The original main entry, marked by a pedestrian-sized door, is on the east side. The south wall has been removed recently to become the new main entry for building materials. The building rests upon a foundation of what appears to be poured concrete. The walls are a rather consistent 20" width. At the southwest corner of the building is a large wooden post supporting the roof. Since the south wall has been removed, the timber may have been inserted recently to stabilize the roof.

A hipped roof with small clerestory windows at the terminus of each ridge covers the building. The north-south ridgetline surmounts the wood shingle covered roof. The roof bears a smoke opening close to the northernmost point of the ridge. The rafter ends extend beyond the wall plane to be visible from the exterior of the building. They are 2" x 4" boards set on 24" centers. The loft space of the house is unfinished, and apparently was not used. The brick chimney extends to the roof but does not protrude above the ridge level.

The interior currently has an earth floor with some remains of wooden floor boards. Many pieces of large metal pipe now occupy the floor. Walls are stucco on top of lath. The interior contains only two rooms, one an entry chamber, 9' north-south x 6' east-west, in the northeast portion of the building which opens to the outside on the east wall. That entry chamber also houses the stairway in the north side of the room, along the wall. The rest of the interior is not partitioned into other rooms. Interior walls on the west side of the ante chamber are unfinished, which may suggest a third chamber north of the main living space. That third room would have measured 9' north-south and the entire east-west distance of the house less the space taken by the entry chamber. Remnants of the chimney are evident on the inside of the building and the stack remains protruding from the ceiling down to the first floor, while the stove itself is gone.

See continuation sheet

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

Window and door openings on the building are distinctive. One window on the east side is covered with metal. A large lintel beam flared upward from inside-out caps the door and window openings in a style which slightly resembles the wall openings on German-Russian earth houses. The doors consist in simple vertical boards nailed together on the inside and on the outside. The door between the entry chamber and the main living quarters is blue in color.

As a site this small farm appears to retain very good integrity of features. No on-ground evidence suggests that other buildings now-demolished or -removed populated the site. Other buildings could have been on site whose locations are now under cultivation in the field to the east.

Individually the house and garage have undergone the greatest recent alteration. The house has seen change in the removal of the southern wall to aid in movement of stored material in and out of the building. The garage appears to have been partially dismantled in an effort to reuse its wood. Neither doors, nor finish clapboards, nor roof shingles are present on the feature. Its strongly unfinished appearance suggests the building may have been cannibalized for its exterior materials.

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 N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
Ca. 1906

Significant Dates
ca. 1906

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Architect and Builder unknown

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

Architecturally the former Semevolos house is significant as a near "textbook" example of one of two identified Ukrainian immigrant building types. The house exhibits features typical of the "Galician subtype" erected by Ukrainians in western Alberta (Noble, Vol. II: 144-145). Some of those features are 18' x 27' dimensions (this dwelling measures 30' x 18'); long side entry, a hipped roof with non-used loft space. The blue color of the door also serves as an indicator of the Galician subtype (Lehr: 203-206). The house also exhibits characteristics of the "Bukowinian subtype" (Noble: 146) in its entry chamber adjacent to the stove and the absence of a chimney above the roof plane.

Several characteristics of the house do not conform to Lehr's paradigms, particularly with regard to exterior surface materials and structural system. This contrast may be explained by native building materials available in Alberta (timber) vs. North Dakota (abundant earth, scarce wood). Despite the common occurrence of log buildings in Alberta, Ukrainians were familiar with earth construction while in Russia. Ukrainians are credited with having provided Germans migrating through nineteenth century Russia with earth construction techniques which the latter group brought to the Great Plains (Stumpp, 1968: 58; Sherman, 1974: 185-186). Indeed, Ukrainian buildings in Billings County, another area of concentrated Ukrainian settlement in North Dakota, employ earth-construction methods, especially wattle and daub or timber framing with earth infill (See NDCRS 32BI56, 32BI458, site lead at E 1/2, NE 1/4, SE 1/4 Section 22, T 141 N, R 99 W; uninventoried sites in State Land Department photo collection, SHSND Archives). Few, if any, houses, however, have been recorded in this state which adhere so closely to characteristics outlined in research on Ukrainian traditional housing elsewhere. The house is significant for retention of the ethnic form which persists through variations of time, space, and building materials.

Historic associations hold less promise in establishing significance independent of architectural association. John and Rose Semevolos homesteaded the property in Spring, 1903 (Diamond Jubilee: 146). The biography of the Semevolos family related two unspecified trips to Virginia. Conceivably they visited with Stundist families, i.e., Ukrainian evangelical protestants, located near Yale, Virginia. This association,

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A
 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 # _____

See continuation sheet H 1 - H 4 of Context Nomination form

Primary location of additional data:
 State historic preservation office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Specify repository:
Division of Archeology and Historic Preservation, SHSND

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than One acre

UTM References

A 14 379530 5298405
Zone Easting Northing
C _____

B _____
Zone Easting Northing
D _____

N/A See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is located in northeast McLean County, North Dakota, approximately 830' west and 1300' south of the northeast corner of section 11, Township 150 North, Range 78 West of the Fifth Principal Meridian. The nominated area includes the earth-walled house, which is the only dwelling in the northeast quarter of the section, and an area 10' surrounding the perimeter of the house.

N/A See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated area includes the dwelling, which is the only structure on the site which represents the theme of Ukrainian immigrant folk architecture as described by the context statement.

N/A See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title L. Martin Perry/Architectural Historian
organization Stat Historical Society of North Dakota date 7/15/87
street & number Heritage Center telephone 701-224-2672
city or town Bismarck state North Dakota zip code 58505

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 1

although not necessary to support justification for significance, could be pursued to establish the association of the house type with Ukrainian immigrant religious groups. Nothing mentioned in the biography suggested that Semevolos family members were significant in local, state, or national history.

Consultation with the current owner and county atlases yielded other names of the property's prior owners/tenants. John Serenates is listed as the owner in 1914 (Ogle, 1914: 16), but Rose Semvales (sic) is listed as owner in 1937 (McLean County Atlas, North Dakota: 57). Attempts to reach local residents with these surnames yielded no information. Since the biography of the Semevolos family identifies the present owner as associated with the property, one may infer that interim occupants did not attain sufficient local significance to warrant listing in the family history.

The former Semevolos dwelling is a significant representative of a recognized ethnic building type. The ethnic group to which it is associated, Ukrainians, form an important population in the settlement history of McLean, Ward, Sheridan, and McHenry Counties (Sherman, 1983: 24-25, 39-40, 58-59, 73, 137). The house retains enough of the characteristics which make it important to satisfy integrity standards; it may be the best preserved example of the Galician subtype inventoried until concerted survey efforts directed at identifying such buildings is undertaken. For these reasons the house should be considered eligible to the National Register and the area protected. The significance of the outbuildings on the farm is unknown until assessments of Ukrainian and other small scale farming operations are made, contexts developed, and comparisons made. It is possible that this farm would fare well within such a comparison. Until that evaluation has occurred the entire site should be protected.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photos Page 1

Semevolos Farmstead
Between Kief and Butte, McLean County, North Dakota

Photo Credit: L. Martin Perry
Date of photo: September 8, 1986
Location of negative: State Historical Society of North Dakota
North Dakota Heritage Center
Bismarck, ND 58505

Exterior of dwelling, view to northwest.
Photo 1 of 4

Semevolos Farmstead
Between Kief and Butte, McLean County, North Dakota

Photo Credit: L. Martin Perry
Date of photo: September 8, 1986
Location of negative: State Historical Society of North Dakota
North Dakota Heritage Center
Bismarck, ND 58505

West surface of south wall, view to east.
Photo 2 of 4

Semevolos Farmstead
Between Kief and Butte, McLean County, North Dakota

Photo Credit: L. Martin Perry
Date of photo: September 8, 1986
Location of negative: State Historical Society of North Dakota
North Dakota Heritage Center
Bismarck, ND 58505

Interior, at plate level, rafter and joist, view to east.
Photo 3 of 4

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Photos _____ Page 2

Semevolos Farmstead
Between Kief and Butte, McLean County, North Dakota

Photo Credit: L. Martin Perry
Date of photo: September 8, 1986
Location of negative: State Historical Society of North Dakota
North Dakota Heritage Center
Bismarck, ND 58505

Interior, ground floor, view to north.
Photo 4 of 4
