

YANKTON COUNTY SURVEY

NAME Nels Merk Farmstead

LOCATION NE 1/4, SE 1/4, Section 11, T96N, R54W

OWNER John N. Nelson

ADDRESS Viborg, South Dakota 57070

DESCRIPTION The Nels Merk Farmstead consists of the main house, the original homestead house, and three period out-buildings. A two and one-half story late Queen Anne-Hip Roof house, constructed in 1914, is the most visually dominant structure on the property. It has a gable and flared hipped roof with a gabled wall dormer on each side. Other Queen Anne features include the asymmetrical design, an open porch, semi-circular window in the front gable, and stained glass.

Another key building is the original house which is a small one story gable structure with a loft. The main door and one window with two over two sash appear on the horizontal portion of the dwelling. A trap door and wainscoating are still present on the buildings's interior. A 1930's large bowed roof barn is also present, with one large door two loft doors and three regular doors. Rectangular, six paned windows are used throughout, and four shed dormers as well as two metal cupolas appear on the roof line. The granary and corn crib are small gable structures.

STYLE Queen Anne Hip-Roof **DATE** 1880's, 1914, 1930's

SIGNIFICANCE

The Nels Merk Farmstead is significant in three areas: architecture, agriculture, and settlement. This resource shows the development of rural architecture in the area with an 1880's homestead, a late 1914 Queen Anne house with local "Hip roof style" overtones and a bowed roof 1930's barn. All of these represent typical building designs for the townships of Yankton County. Also, the present house and barn are unspoiled examples of some of the more ostentatious designs in the area. The buildings also show the development and success of this farm from a small homestead that housed nine people, to the present large home and barn. The settlement era of this area is represented by the original homestead. Since most of these types of structures have disappeared in the resource area, it is a substantial link to the early days of Dakota Territory.

ACREAGE less than 1

BOUNDARIES The nominated property is located 1½ miles north of Turkey Valley Church and 1 mile west of Yankton-Turner County Line.

UTM 14/647970/4778470

OTHER