

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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NATIONAL REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name: Aage and Kristine Larsen Homestead

other name/site number: 24SH719

2. Location

street & number: County Highway 516

not for publication: n/a
vicinity: X

city/town: Dagmar

state: Montana code: MT county: Sheridan code: 091 zip code: 59219

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Maude Shep MT SHPO 9-9-93
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Montana State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency or bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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
 see continuation sheet
- removed from the National Register
 see continuation sheet
- other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper Patricia Andrews Date of Action 10/27/93

5. Classification

| | | |
|---|--|-------------------------|
| Ownership of Property: Private | Number of Resources within Property | |
| | Contributing | Noncontributing |
| Category of Property: Buildings | | |
| | <u> 6 </u> | <u> </u> building(s) |
| Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0 | <u> </u> | <u> </u> sites |
| | <u> </u> | <u> 2 </u> structures |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> objects |
| Name of related multiple property listing: Archaeological and Historic Resources of Sheridan County, Montana | <u> 6 </u> | <u> 2 </u> TOTAL |

6. Function or Use

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Historic Functions: | Current Functions: |
| Domestic: single dwelling | Vacant/not in use |
| Agriculture/Subsistence: animal facility | |
| Agriculture/Subsistence: storage | |
| Agriculture/Subsistence: agricultural outbuilding | |

7. Description

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Architectural Classification: | Materials: |
| Other: gabled ell | foundation: concrete |
| | walls: weatherboard |
| | roof: wood shingle |

Narrative Description

The abandoned Aage T. and Kristine Larsen Homestead is located in southeastern Sheridan County, Montana, about three miles north of the community of Dagmar. County Highway 516 runs along the west side of the homestead property. The surrounding countryside is a fairly flat fertile plain, primarily used for cultivation of small grains. The homestead district includes a farmhouse (Feature 1), erected in place of an original homestead shack, and a complete set of outbuildings including a barn (Feature 2), granary (Feature 4), two sheds (Features 3 and 6), and garage (Feature 5). Also on the property are two modern grain bins (Features 7 and 8). The farmhouse and outbuildings all date from the period when the property was occupied by the Larsen family, 1908-1924. Most were likely built in the mid- to late-1910s or the early 1920s. Several of the outbuildings reflect a common design and similar materials, suggesting they were constructed within a limited number of years by the same builder.

The Aage T. and Kristine Larsen Homestead retains excellent integrity. It remains in a rural agricultural setting with few clearly visible modern features on the landscape. Its complex of buildings and structures lies several hundred feet east of the highway; the frontage is currently a hay pasture. The original layout of the complex is maintained, clearly reflecting functional divisions and building placements common to agricultural developments in the early twentieth century. The farmhouse is isolated and fairly far removed from the outbuildings; it stands near the northwest end of the complex and is the most prominently visible building from the highway. The outbuildings are all along the far or eastern edge of the property, which is defined by a fenceline. The barn is situated in the northeast corner of the complex while most of the remaining outbuildings are clustered at the southeast corner. The straggly remains of a once lush belt of deciduous trees and a fenceline runs along the north edge of the property; cultivated fields are to the east and south.

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The farmhouse as well as the outbuildings exhibit varying degrees of deterioration due to abandonment but otherwise remain virtually as built with the exception of historic additions. All easily contribute to the homestead's important historic and architectural associations. The two modern grain bins, located near the barn, are a relatively mild intrusion on the immediate setting of the property; these non-contributing structures do not impinge on the homestead's ability to convey its historic appearance.

Feature 1: Farmhouse (Contributing)

The one and one-half story, wood-frame house is rectangular in plan, has a side-gable roof, and is adjoined on the north by a large one-story addition. The house rests over a full, concrete-walled basement. Exterior walls are sided with four-inch clapboard and are framed at the junctures by plain corner boards. A one-story, square bay projects from the center of the south wall; its flat roof serves as a deck for the balcony. The bay holds a band of three, one-over-one double-hung windows in the south wall and a single, one-over-one double-hung window in the side walls. Most windows elsewhere are also double-hung wood-sash; several no longer have glazing. A small, triangular-head window highlights the peak of both gables. The main entry to the house is on the south, just to the west of the bay. Access to the entry is provided by a two-step concrete stoop; the door has been removed. The wood-shingled roof features wide boxed eaves with pronounced partial returns, beaded soffits, and cornice board trim. A brick chimney is positioned on the roof ridge towards the east. A centered shed-roof dormer rises from the roof slope on the south and north. The dormer on the south has a fully-glazed (multi-light) wood-frame door flanked by double-hung windows. The door opens onto the balcony created by the roof of the bay. The balcony's balustrade is no longer intact; all that remains is a square-column newel post on the east, against the house.

The one-story, gabled addition on the north is a long, rectangular-shaped wing. It is obviously an early modification, displaying the same siding and roof detailing as the original house. The west wall is fronted by a full-width porch, contained under the primary roof. The exterior wall of the west porch has a double-door frame flanked by large window openings; the doors and window glazing are gone. The west and south interior walls of the porch each have a door leading into the addition. Another porch crosses the south two-thirds of the east wall. The east porch is sheltered under an extension of the main roof, and has an open doorway at the north end and three large window openings without glazing. Its interior east wall has a door towards the north and two small fixed windows to the south. A large garage opening fills the north one-third of the east wall of the addition; the garage door is partially detached and drooping.

The interior of the house is finished with lath and plaster walls and wood plank flooring but has been stripped of most wood trim and fixtures. The original unit of the house contains a large living room or parlor at the center, and smaller rooms to the east and west. Off the southwest corner of the living room is a winding, open staircase to the upper level; the staircase features a pine balustrade and steps. The addition is divided into three rooms: a garage on the north; a kitchen on the east; and a large dining room at center.

Feature 2: Barn (Contributing)

The large, one and one-half story barn is located at the northeast corner of the district, about 130 feet east of the house. The original gabled barn has a shed wing addition on the north; projecting from the east end of the wing is a shed-roofed chicken coop. The wood-frame barn rests on an unmortared, rubblestone foundation and is sheathed with drop siding. Centered on the east and west end walls is a large drop-siding door suspended from a metal runner. A swinging haymow

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door is also located at each end at the loft floor level. Windows are 4-light fixed; most are without glass. The wood-shingled gable roof has a square, wooden cupola centered on the ridge. The barn's interior has two rows of posts, supporting decking for the upper-level hay loft.

The shed wing along the north side of the barn appears to be an early addition. It has drop siding and corrugated metal roofing. Exterior access is provided by a suspended, drop-siding door on the west wall. The adjoining chicken coop is a later addition, but also historic. This building rests on a concrete foundation, and features square windows spanning the south and east walls. Exterior access is provided by a person door on the east.

Feature 3: Shed (Contributing)

This gable-roofed shed nearly abuts the south wall of the barn (Feature 2); it was likely original to another location on the homestead and later moved to this spot. It is a rectangular, wood-frame building set on the ground without benefit of a foundation. Exterior walls are covered with drop siding. Wood-shingles on the gable roof are mostly gone. The only entry is centered on the south wall; the door is missing. Window openings on either side of the door and on the gable ends have been boarded. The shed is listing slightly to the east.

Feature 4: Granary (Contributing)

It appears that this building was originally constructed as a small, one and one-half story gabled barn and later enlarged with two shed wing additions and converted into a granary. The entire building is of wood-frame construction, rests on a concrete foundation, and is clad with drop siding. The gabled barn is orientated on a north-south axis; the lower shed wings span its east and west sides. The gable and shed roofs have wood shingle covering, slightly extended eaves, and exposed rafter tails. A square, gable-roofed cupola is centered on the gabled roof ridge.

A large door opening on the south wall of the barn currently provides the only building access. The opening is fronted by a concrete ramp of driveway for vehicle usage; its overhead, vertical board door has become detached and is now lying nearby on the ground. A similar-sized door opening on the north wall has been partially boarded up. The interior of the barn unit is open but divided from the wings by paneled walls. The shed wings are completely contained, having no entries or windows. Both are divided into two grain bins, having wood-plank flooring and paneled walls.

Feature 5: Garage (Contributing)

This garage is located at the southeast corner of the complex. The wood-framed rectangular building rests on a concrete foundation and is sheathed with drop siding. It is topped by a wood-shingled gable roof with slightly extended eaves and exposed rafter tails. Two garage door openings are positioned on the east end wall; both are without doors. Windows are small, 4-light squares; four appear on the west wall and two on the south wall. The building's interior is an open, dirt-floored room with a work bench along the west wall.

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Feature 6: Livestock Shed (Contributing)

A gable-roofed livestock shed is located slightly north of the garage. The wood-frame rectangular shed rests on a concrete foundation and is sheathed with drop siding. The gable roof is covered with wood shingles and has slightly extended eaves and exposed rafter tails. Person access is provided by a pair of wood doors centered on the west wall. A narrow animal door is centered on the east wall; it opens into a fenced pen. Windows are 4-light squares; they appear on all walls and in the gable ends. The interior of the shed has half walls, creating animal stalls either side of a central walkway. A hay loft occupies the gable.

Features 7 & 8: Grain Bins (Non-contributing)

These two structures are grain bins located along the north end of the property near the barn. Both circular-shaped metal bins are modern additions to the homestead.

8. Statement of Significance

| | |
|---|--|
| Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C | Areas of Significance: Agriculture Architecture |
| Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a | Period(s) of Significance: 1908-1942 |
| Significant Person(s): n/a | Significant Dates: 1908, 1915, 1924 |
| Cultural Affiliation: n/a | Architect/Builder: unknown |

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Aage T. and Kristine Larsen homestead is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under Criteria A and C. The farmstead is architecturally significant as a well-preserved example of an early twentieth-century Sheridan County homestead which achieved a measure of success and permanence. The Larsens were among the thousands of settlers who arrived in Sheridan County during the first two decades of the twentieth century, and the homestead they established was initially typical of hundreds of such farms operated during the county's early years of settlement. Most of these early homesteads were either abandoned or merged into larger farm operations, in either case leaving relatively few physical remains. The relative economic success achieved by the Larsens, however, allowed them to expand their farm holdings and increase the number and size of the farm's buildings, resulting in the building complex which survives today. This "second generation" of buildings constructed by the Larsens is again representative, but of the relatively small number of Sheridan County's farms which were able to persevere. The Larsens constructed a full complement of agricultural buildings on their property -- residence, barn, coops, granaries, and garages -- using straightforward yet harmonious designs. In size, configuration, detailing, and function, the buildings at the Larsen farmstead are quintessential reflections of early twentieth-century Sheridan County farm architecture.

The Larsen farm is historically significant as a representation of the early twentieth-century period of homestead settlement in the county. During the period between approximately 1900 and 1918, much of eastern Montana was dramatically impacted by a wave of new settlement in which thousands of homesteaders attempted to establish farms on nearly all of the area's potentially arable land. This "homestead boom" brought much of Sheridan County under cultivation for the first time and resulted in a tremendous relative increase in the county's population. These events, in turn, created substantive, permanent changes in virtually every aspect of the county's economy, lifestyle, and human geography. Aage and Kristine Larsen were both participants in the Sheridan County homestead boom, and their resultant farm reflects that vigorous period of growth and change.

Historical Information

Aage T. Larsen (1885-1948) was a Danish immigrant who came to the United States in 1905 and first settled on this Sheridan County homestead in 1908. His first home on the property was a 12' by 12' shack, made of lumber hand-carried from the railhead at Culbertson. Larsen married Kristine Klies in 1910. The Larsens farmed at this location until 1924, probably constructing all the current historic buildings at the site. In addition to growing wheat, they owned and operated a custom steam threshing outfit and maintained a cattle herd. Aage was a civic leader in the Dagmar community and served in the Montana state legislature from 1921 to 1923.

The Larsens moved into the town of Antelope in 1924, and they retired to Missoula in 1938. Aage died there in 1948.¹ The buildings at the homestead were used by others throughout the historic period; this is evidenced, in part, by the fact that the farm's major buildings are wired for electricity.

NOTE

1. Biographical information on the Larsens is from Magnus Aasheim, comp., Sheridan's Daybreak: A Story of Sheridan County and Its People ([Plentywood]: Sheridan County Historical Association, 1976), 282.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Aasheim, Magnus. Sheridan's Daybreak: A Story of Sheridan County and Its People. [Plentywood]: Sheridan County Historical Association, 1976.

Sheridan County Courthouse, Plentywood, Montana. Office of the Clerk and Recorder. Books 29, 97, and 213.

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 -- Specify Repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: approximately 4 acres

| UTM References: | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|-----------------|------|---------|----------|
| A | 13 | 559890 | 5386360 |
| B | 13 | 560110 | 5386360 |
| C | 13 | 560110 | 5386220 |
| D | 13 | 559900 | 5386220 |

Legal Location: Section 7, 33N, 58E

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for the historic district encompasses about 4 acres of land, measuring 380 feet north-south by 675 feet east-west (see accompanying sketch map). The boundary is defined on the north by the northern edge of a shelter belt of trees, and to the west by the east edge of the right-of-way for County Highway 516. Beginning at a point 105 feet north and 75 feet east of the northwest corner of the barn (feature 2), the boundary extends west along the north edge of the tree belt--and parallel with an east-west fence along the south edge of the tree belt--to a point on the east edge of the right-of-way for County Highway 516. The boundary then continues south along the east edge of the highway's right-of-way 380 feet to a point; then 675 feet east to a point; then north 380 feet to the point of beginning. The district is located in the NW¼ of Section 7, T33N, R58E, M.P.M.

Boundary Justification

The boundary for the district surrounds all the historic buildings known to be associated with the Aage T. and Kristine Larsen Homestead, as well as the central barnyard area. Because the hay pasture between the buildings and the county highway is an integral part of the overall setting of the homestead, it also is included within the boundary. While much other agricultural land surrounding the district was also part of the Larsen farm, no historic features exist in these areas, and they no longer display a visual association with the historic buildings.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Mark Hufstetler, Historian
organization: Renewable Technologies, Inc. date: September 1, 1992
street & number: 511 Metals Bank Building telephone: 406/782-0494
city or town: Butte state: MT zip code: 59701

Property Owner

name/title: Donald and Joyce Anderson
street & number: 132 Fairway, Box 7163
city or town: Missoula state: MT zip code: 59803

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Additional Documentation/Photos

Aage and Kristine Larsen Homestead

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Index to Photographs

Photographer: Mary McCormick/Mark Hufstetler

Date: August 1992

| Photo Number | Description | Direction Facing |
|--------------|---|------------------|
| 1 | House (Feature #1): south and east walls | Northwest |
| 2 | House: west and north sides | West-southwest |
| 3 | House: east elevation | West |
| 4 | House: interior view of entry stairwell | North |
| 5 | Barnyard area: Shed (Feature #3) to left, barn (Feature #2) to center and right | Northwest |
| 6 | Granary (Feature #4): north and east walls | Southeast |
| 7 | Shed (Feature #5) in foreground; garage (Feature #6) to rear | Southeast |
| 8 | Garage (Feature #6): south and east walls. House and barn in background | Northwest |
| 9 | Overview of barnyard area: Barn (Feature #2) at left; shed (Feature #5) and garage (Feature #6) at center, and granary (Feature #4) to right. | Southeast |

County Highway 516

District boundary

Shelter Belt

access lane

F7 & F8: Grain Bins

F2: Barn

F3: Shed

F1: Farmhouse

Well

F5: Shed

F4: Granary

F6: Garage



Aage and Kristine Larsen Homestead
Sheridan County, Montana

Short dashed lines indicate fences

