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

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### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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NATIONAL REGISTER

Section number CZ 5 Page 1 Pechan House

Site # CZ 5

- 1. Frantisek (Frank) Pechan Log House.
- 2. Ziskov Township Tabor Vicinity South Dakota Code: 046

First Congr. District Yankton County Code: 135

- Building; Privately owned; NA acquisition; Unoccupied; Restricted access; Vacant.
- 4. Alfred Neved RR 1, Box 116 Yankton, SD 57078

- 5. Register of Deeds
  Yankton County Courthouse
  Yankton, SD 57078
- 7. Fair; Unaltered; Original site.

The Frantisek (Frank) Pechan House is a one-story coaxial 3-bay log structure sited facing east on a vacant farm about one-half mile from the present owner's home. Dimensions of the building are 15'4" by 42'5". Built of horizonal logs hand-hewn to a size of about one-foot square, the walls rest on loose field stones set at the corners. Corner timbering is of carefully-cut full dovetail notches, and the interstices are chinked with mud and grass. Sometime shortly after initial construction, the exterior was sided with clapboard attached by nailer strips. Stock double-hung windows on the south, north, and east facades are in poor condition, but display distinctive pediment-shaped lintels. There is no fenestration on the west axial facade. A single chimney rises from the left interior partition wall of the house. The gable roof is constructed of 21 common rafters spaced about 25 inches apart, covered with horizonal rough boards and wooden shingles. A knee wall the height of a single horizonal log is visible in the loft.

Entry is gained via a single door in the small central bay, which also accommodates the stairway to the loft. Interior floors are painted gray. All walls are covered with a lath-and-plaster treatment. In the south and central bays, walls are painted medium greenover an early coat of light blue. The ceiling, woodwork, and wainscoatng in the south bay are painted light yellow. Walls in the north are painted white, while woodwork is gray and the ceiling is yellow. The house has no plumbing or eletrification.

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The west exterior wall of the center bay is of wood frame construction and appears to be original. Either the builder planned to expand in a perpendicular ell from the center of the structure at a later date, or he exhausted his supply of timber and resorted to boards. In any case, the house is a pure example of permanent log building.

8. 1869-1899; Architecure, Exploration/Settlement, Czech Ethnic.

Specific date, early 1870's. Frantisek (Frank) Pechan, builder.

Significant in architecture, the Pechan House is the best example of Czech coaxial linear houses in the survey area. It is also the purest and best preserved Czech log structure known to exist in the state. At present it is not in immediate danger of irreversible deterioration, but measures must be taken soon to keep weather and vermin out of the house. Its secluded location and frequent visits by the owner, who stores machinery in a nearby barn, prevent vandalism. Registration is the first step in the protection and preservation of this important structure.

The Pechan Log House is also significant in the history of Czech settlement in the state. Frantisek (Frank) Pechan was born in Bohemia He came to Dakota Territory with his father and mother, Joseph and Ludmila, as a member of the first Czech expedition from Chicago in 1869. Frank died in 1919 and is buried in the Lakeport Czech Catholic cemetery (on the site of the "Old Catholic Church" nominated in 1977, see Item 7 overview) about two miles west of the the The family, however, claimed no religious affiliation after the breakup of the Lakeport parish in the early 20th Century. Frank's son Joseph (1878-1940) inherited the farm, but lost it to a mortgage company during the Great Depression of the 1930's. Presently, it is owned by Alfred Nedved, who is married to the great granddaughter of Joseph Pechan Sr., Helen Cwach. Her father, Emil, was the son of Mathias Cwach and Josephine Pechan, the latter being the daughter of Joseph Pechan Sr. and the sister of Frank Pechan.

Major biographical source: Dvorak (1980), 21-3, 29; Helen Nedved, Joseph Pechan, n.p., privately printed, n.d., 2-8, 15.

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10. Acreage: less than one acre. Scale: 1:24,000. Quad.: Tabor N.E. UTM: 14/619190/4752110.

The boundaries of this site are imaginary lines that connect to form a rectangle that is centered on the rectangular house. Each line lies 10 feet from the exterior walls of the house. The site is located in the Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 35, Township 94 North, Range 57 West, in Yankton County.

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SITE PLAN OF CZ 5 ON REVERSE SIDE

