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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

MAR 2

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name LaPierre Barn
other names/site number Louis LaPierre's Horse Hotel

2. Location

street & number Approximately 3.5 Miles Northwest of Scobey on Tande Ranch Road not for publication
city or town Scobey vicinity
state Montana code MT county Daniels code 019 zip code 59263

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] / SHPO 25 February, 2005
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Montana State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comment.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the 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
 - other, (explain:)

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 4/11/05

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- objects

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/animal facility

VACANT

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: Banked Barn

foundation CONCRETE

walls WOOD

roof WOOD/shingle

other

Narrative Description

(see continuation sheet)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" for criteria qualifying the property.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance on one or more continuation sheets.)

(see continuation sheet)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(see continuation sheet)

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 Building Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Area of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1910-1955

Significant Dates

1910, 1916

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Louis LaPierre

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other, name of repository:

Daniels County Museum, Scobey, MT

LaPierre Barn

Name of Property

Daniels County, MT

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property: 1.04 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	<u>13</u>	<u>464880</u>	<u>5410130</u>
B	<u>13</u>	<u>464940</u>	<u>5410130</u>
C	<u>13</u>	<u>464940</u>	<u>5410060</u>
D	<u>13</u>	<u>464880</u>	<u>5410060</u>

Legal location NW ¼ NE ¼ SE ¼ Section 30, Township 36 North, Range 48 East, MPM.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

The property is a rectangular parcel measuring 60 x 70 meters (1.04 acres), centered on the barn. The UTM points at the vertices are A) 464880E, 5410130N; B) 464940E, 5410130N; C) 464940E, 5410060N; D) 464880E, 5410060N. All points are located in Zone 13, NAD27.

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

The boundaries are drawn to encompass the entire barn, including its historic additions and surrounding land historically associated with the resource that retains its historic integrity and contributes to the property's historic significance.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ginny Heaton
organization Daniels County Museum and Pioneer Town date May 2004
street & number 405 Third Avenue telephone (406) 487-5965
city or town Scobey state MT zip code 59263

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name James R. and Karen D. Tande
street & number P.O. Box 188 telephone (406) 783-5211
city or town Scobey state MT zip code 59263

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The LaPierre Barn is a massive, graceful, gambrel-roofed barn dwarfed only by the Big Sky itself and the miles of prairie that surrounds it. Built into a gentle slope, it takes advantage of the rolling topography to offer easy access to both its lower level and its enormous loft. The building measures fifty-four feet wide and is eighty-four feet long. The rafters soar to the ridge thirty feet above the ground. The main gambrel portion of the building was constructed in 1910, and the large addition to the east and north elevations was completed in 1916.

Building description:

The rectangular building rests on a concrete foundation, and is balloon-framed with milled lumber. The original portion of the building boasts a rectangular footprint beneath a tall gambrel roof. A steeple-like, cross-gabled and louvered cupola punches through the ridgeline at the center of the original building. An "L"-shaped addition to the east and north features a shed roof and a hipped roof, respectively. The shed roof to the east is the same pitch as the upper angle of the original gambrel, creating a continuous slope on that side. The north hipped section features the pitch of the upper part of the gambrel on its east slope, but its peak is only half as high as the gambrel. Wood shingles cover all the roof surfaces. Windows throughout the barn are relatively small, wood-framed and trimmed with narrow milled lumber. Each window opening contains four lights.

The east elevation features a pair of vertical-plank double doors within a large centered dormer opening at the second story. A wooden ramp leads to the dormer and into the loft area from the ground level. The first story contains two windows to the south, two windows beneath the ramp area, and five to the north. The terrain slopes gently to the north, and the concrete foundation is exposed above grade on that side of the building. Two evenly-spaced rectangular openings, located at the junction of the foundation and framed wall, provide additional light and ventilation through the north side of the east elevation.

The 1916 gabled addition dominates the north elevation of the building. The concrete foundation wall is visible several feet above ground at the northeast corner of the building, but the hill to the west side conceals most of the foundation there. Across the main level of the elevation, from east to west, is a large sliding door, two windows, a wide door opening, and two more windows. The easternmost door is built of vertical planks, and hangs from a vintage metal slide mechanism above. The two windows are evenly spaced between the two door openings. The main entry has no doors, and is a large open, rectangular passage centered in the elevation. A wide, transom opening is located directly above the entry, and another, smaller rectangular opening is centered above the transom. The westernmost windows are evenly spaced across that side. The north elevation of the loft's gambrel end is visible, and contains two windows, one at both the east and west sides at the pitch intersection. Another window is centered at the peak.

The west elevation consists of the original, two and one-half story gambrel section to the south and the north single story addition. A large wooden ramp bridges the gap between the hillside immediately west and a huge, centered shed dormer opening. The opening leads to the loft space. The first story level features seven windows evenly spaced across the elevation. Fenestration on the north addition is limited to two windows off-center to the south.

Three openings provide easy access to the barn's lower level from the south. That elevation is divided into three bays: the 1910 gambrel bay to the west, a small, one-story gabled extension at the center, and the 1916

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east shed addition. A single, wide opening centered in first story of the gambrel bay has no doors, and is large enough to accommodate animals and farm machinery. A transom opening is present above the doorway, and single window openings to the west and east. Identical window openings are located high at the loft level, and yet another is centered just below the ridge. A small one story extension bridges the two major bays of the elevation, and features a front-gable roof, centered pedestrian doorway, and a wooden louvered vent above. The east bay of the elevation contains a large opening with a transom above, similar in size to that on the gambrel bay. The only window opening on the south wall of the east addition is located high in the loft level.

On the interior, the massive building houses stalls for forty horses, with additional space for dairy cattle. Generally, the one hundred head of cattle owned by Louis LaPierre found shelter in the coulees surrounding the building, but they were kept in the barn during severe weather. The intricate double bracing of the roof structure is visible at the loft level. There, the fir flooring is double and triple joisted, to strong enough to support the loaded hay wagons that would drive through. The loft walls are lined with two-by-twelves to a height of four feet, and hay chutes are located to the middle and sides, so that feed could be dropped directly into the mangers below.

Integrity:

This ninety-five year old barn retains a remarkably high degree of integrity. A testament to its sound design and quality of workmanship, the building, though in deteriorating condition, stands much as it did in 1916. Partial collapse of the 1916 roof does have an impact of the appearance of the building, but overall, it retains sufficient integrity of design and workmanship to convey its significance. Original materials are present throughout, and its location on the open prairies still evokes the setting, feeling and associations of the early twentieth century.

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The LaPierre Barn was constructed in 1910 and expanded in 1916. The massive building is evocative of the exuberance and optimism shared by settlers in eastern Montana during that period. Louis LaPierre, together with other French Canadians from Saskatchewan, was lured to the plains of Daniels County, Montana by the promise of bounty and prosperity. Once settled, LaPierre quickly worked to prove up his homestead and initiated innovative farming techniques while expanding his holdings. His large barn and loft are a testament to his large scale, mechanized methods, using multiple teams of horses and threshing equipment to harvest huge quantities of grain. The architecture of the barn used the topography to its advantage. Its design not only provided easy access to both levels of the building, but also kept the stock comfortable. For these reasons, the building is locally significant and eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C.

Pre-settlement History

Prior to 1900, there were no permanent settlements in the Poplar River Region. White trappers had been working on these plains since about 1829, when the American Fur Company established a trading post at Fort Union, about 85 miles to the southeast. Otherwise, the rich and fertile plains belonged to the Assiniboine and Sioux Indians. Tipi rings, stone tools, and arrowheads can still be found in the fields and grasslands of what is now Daniels County, Montana.

The site of Scobey, about three miles south and east of the LaPierre Barn, is located near the Poplar River on a prehistoric travel route – the Old Wood Mountain Trail. During historic times, Sioux Chiefs Gaul and Sitting Bull used the trail as they moved back and forth across the Canadian border during their final years of resistance to the U.S. Army and encroaching white settlement. Just a few miles north of Scobey, at John Louis Legare's trading post across the Canadian border, the U.S. Cavalry met with Chief Sitting Bull in 1881. In negotiations there, Sitting Bull offer to surrender at Poplar, Montana but the cavalry refused him, directing him instead to surrender at Fort Buford, North Dakota. He did so on July 19-20, 1881.

Scobey established and the first settlement of Daniels County

Largely because of its remote location, non-Indian settlement of this corner of northeastern Montana did not begin for twenty more years. In 1901, Mansfield Daniels, for whom the county was eventually named in 1920, had the vision of starting a settlement along the Poplar River. That year he secured a post office and began building his townsite, which included a blacksmith shop, livery stable, hotel, general store, implement dealer, and saloon, to name a few.

Daniels envisioned the Great Northern Railroad extending a branch line north from the mainline in Poplar, following the Poplar River drainage to his townsite. The railroad did extend northward into the area, but it wasn't the route that Mansfield thought it would be. Instead, in 1913, the railway spurred off the main line at Bainville near the North Dakota border and extended north to Plentywood and then west toward Scobey, named after Mansfield's friend Major Charles Scobey. When the Great Northern reached the area it had already determined where the townsite at the end of its line would be, 1.5 miles northeast of Mansfield's townsite. Eventually, virtually everyone living in Mansfield's Scobey townsite on the river bottom and the business buildings were moved the 1.5 miles northeast to form the new Scobey.

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With the arrival of the railroad Scobey grew rapidly with a flood of homesteaders taking advantage of free land to try their hand at dryland wheat farming. By 1924, Scobey was the largest primary wheat market in the United States and that distinction continued into 1925 and 1926.¹

Dryland Farming

Between 1880 and 1920, advances in dryland farming permitted the establishment of a stable agricultural community on the semi-arid prairies of northeast Montana and southern Alberta and Saskatchewan. Before 1900, farming on the open prairie was a very hit and miss affair, with crops being destroyed by drought or early frost. Only with the application of scientific agricultural methods did farming the prairie become a more viable and predictable enterprise. Developments in technology ranged from the introduction of hard spring wheats like Red Fyfe and later Marquis, to seed drilling and the introduction of bluestoning, a chemical treatment that destroyed crop-damaging smut.

The most significant advances, however, were made in the area of water conservation. Prairie soil contained marginal levels of moisture, and farmers and researchers expended great efforts to optimize techniques of ploughing, discing and summer fallowing so as to capture and conserve every bit of precipitation.

Finally, dryland farming was accomplished on expansive operations. It was a capital intensive operation which demanded a high level of mechanization. The introduction at the end of the 1880s of steam engines changed the face of ploughing and threshing. The age of steam lasted from 1890 to about 1915, when a new invention, the lightweight and inexpensive gasoline tractor sparked a new revolution that permitted farmers to attain a new level of self-sufficiency.

The development of scientific agriculture in Western Canada, and the far northern plains of the United States, in the late nineteenth century was led primarily by Ontario-born agriculturalists in a co-operative effort in which all levels of government participated. Among these scientists was John Bracken, who settled in Saskatchewan in 1906.² Scientific farming took the form of individual and institutional experimentation led by agricultural institutes, universities, experimental farms, and farmers themselves, who communicated their innovations through the many agricultural periodicals.

¹ Mike Stabelton, "History of Scobey," Daniels County Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture website, Scobey, MT, <http://www.scobey.org/history.html>.

² For more information on John Bracken and his influence on dryland farming, see <http://timelinks.merlin.ca/referenc/db0045.htm>. One of the more prominent figures of this scientific revolution was agronomist John Bracken. Bracken had grown up in southern Ontario and was a graduate of the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph. He came to Saskatchewan in 1906 where he worked for the Dominion Agricultural Extension Services and served as a professor at the Saskatchewan Agricultural College. Very early, he made a name for himself not just as a research scientist, but as a scientist sympathetic to the practical difficulties of farming. His books *Crop Production in Western Canada* (1920) and *Dry Farming in Western Canada* (1921) became the definitive scientific texts on dryland farming and water conservation.

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Louis LaPierre's Farm

LaPierre arrived in eastern Montana during a heady time of settlement and advances in farming techniques. Raised in Forget, Saskatchewan, LaPierre was part of a large French community of farmers.³ When he settled near the Poplar River in northeastern Montana in 1910, he quickly set to work, convincing other newcomers to help him build his gambrel barn. The “acre of board feet” it took to construct was hauled from Poplar, sixty miles south.⁴

LaPierre's farm was a going concern even before the United States General Land Office arrived to formally survey the area. Indeed, their map of the township clearly shows LaPierre's building in a swale of the southeast quarter of section 30, T 36 N R 48 E. It is not clear whether he emigrated from Canada in the company of others of French descent, but the surveyor's notes and patentee's names in the township, including Paradis and Durant, indicate a strong French presence in the area early on. Louis and his brother Joe both married into the Paradis family. Three other LaPierre brothers, married into the Audet family, who also hailed from Forget and had moved to the Scobey area. Together these families and others of French descent formed what was later called the French Lane community.⁵

LaPierre filed for 320 acres under the Enlarged Homestead Act of 1909.⁶ He proved his claim and received his patent on June 3, 1919. In meantime, Louis' siblings followed and his brothers Ed, Tom and Seraphin filed entries on surrounding sections. Through family acquisition and cash purchases, Louis LaPierre's farm reached 1500 acres. He was successful enough during the 1910s to expand the barn and build a new expansive farmhouse in 1916.

In addition to his family and his determination, Louis brought with him his keen understanding of farming in the difficult conditions of the prairie. In testament to this experience, was the first in the area to introduce a large custom threshing crew on his wheat farm. By all accounts, he was very proud of his barn and his entire farming operation. Described as a “particular fellow,” Louis fenced his entire farm with a woven fence. The size of his operations and buildings, however, are not indicative of extravagance. Much of his success was due to innovation and sound business sense. For example, LaPierre heard that the operators of the Great Northern Depot in Scobey had ordered a barrow of paint that turned out to be the wrong color. LaPierre negotiated a deal on all fifty-five gallons, and painted all his farm buildings gray.

³ The first Catholic settlers in the Forget area came between 1890 and 1900 from France, Belgium, and Quebec. Most of them were French speaking. They named their settlement after the Honorable A.E Forget, the first lieutenant governor of Saskatchewan. Over 100 communities in Saskatchewan owe their existence to Francophone settlers who came from Quebec, Acadia, Ontario, Switzerland, France, Belgium, the United States and many other parts of the world. Their contribution to the development of the province is illustrated by the many French names on Saskatchewan's map.

⁴ Carl Miller, Jr., interview with Ginny Heaton, Scobey, MT, 2000

⁵ General Land Office Records, Township 36 North, Range 48 E, on file at the Montana Historical Society Research Center, Helena, MT; Daniels County Museum and Pioneer Town, *Daniels County History Book*, (Scobey, MT, 1977) p. 219.

⁶ The Enlarged Homestead Act of 1909 amended the original 1862 Homestead Act to allow for 320-acre claims, rather than 160 acres. Three years later, the act was further amended to reduce the “proving up” time from five years to three.

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One of the dryland farming techniques popular in southern Canada and northeastern Montana during the first decades of the twentieth century was summerfallowing. The system of summerfallowing consisted of rotating land use from one year to the next. By keeping the weeds tilled, soil moisture and nutrient content was preserved. It was soon apparent, however, that in the dry climate of eastern Montana, excessive cultivation and burial of crop residues left the soil very susceptible to the high winds common on the prairies. Indeed, dryfarming, combined with widespread drought in the late 1910s and through the 1920s resulted in thousands of farms literally “blowing away.”

One of the worst droughts of the century in the plains, from southern Alberta and Saskatchewan, through eastern Montana, the Dakotas and Wyoming, began in 1917. In 1919 eastern Montana homesteaders faced humidity that averaged four percent, massive grasshopper infestations, and prairie fires. The effect was devastating. Historian Joseph Kinsey Howard described the continuing disaster:

In the spring of 1920, however, it rained...but the rain stopped and the wind came. These winds were the first “dusters” the northern plains farmer had ever seen. Day after day he watched, first incredulous, then despairing, as the gale whipped his fields into the sky...The ruined homesteaders gathered in little groups in the towns to compare notes...the fourth dry year, and now the wind! Nothing like it had happened before...But the stockmen grinned wryly, knowing it had happened before and would happen again...⁷

By the early 1920s, over 11,000 Montana farms failed, leaving more than 40,000 people in eastern and central Montana destitute. Some farmers turned to the towns for alternate employment; others moved on to more fertile locales. Those that managed to hold on bought up the abandoned homesteads, giving them a broader agricultural base (often thousands of acres), and better prospects for the future.

It is unclear if LaPierre fell victim to these hard economic times or he simply chose to move on. In either case, Louis LaPierre sold his wheat farm, including the LaPierre Horse Hotel, to Carl Miller in 1926. Miller’s son, Carl Jr., surmised: “You can be sure that this barn was a big reason for him to buy it.”

Carl and Ella Miller Family

This history of the Carl and Ella Miller Family was written by Carl Miller, Jr. and printed in Daniels County Museum and Pioneer Town’s Daniels County History Book (Scobey, MT: 1977), p. 773.

Carl Miller was born in Denmark in 1891. In 1912, he immigrated to Hampton, Iowa, then two years later he filed for a homestead south of Scobey in the community of Bredette, Montana. Like Louis LaPierre, Miller was an innovator in farming practices. He quickly picked up the name “wheat king.” He was the first farmer in the area to have a header thresher, equipment now called a combine.⁸

⁷ Joseph Kinsey Howard, *Montana: High Wide and Handsome*, (Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press/Bison Books, 2001), p. 202.

⁸ Information about Carl Miler and his family is taken from Carl Miller, Jr.’s article “Carl and Ella Miller,” in Daniels County Museum and Pioneer Town, *Daniels County History Book*, (Scobey, MT, 1977) p. 773.

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In 1923, Carl married Ella L. Jackson, a native of Blackwater, Virginia. Ella had two children from a previous marriage, named Ellen and Ruth. The couple soon had two more children, Catherine was born in 1924, and Carl, Jr. arrived in 1926. The growing family moved to the LaPierre farm in 1926. Three more children were born while living there – Joan in 1928, Norrene in 1930 (who died in 1934 of pneumonia) and Sylvia in 1940.

Over the years they acquired fairly sizeable holdings of land and ran a good herd of cattle as well as the work horses that were needed to work the land. When there got to be too many cattle for the pasture that was available, he had spring and fall cattle drives to a big pasture near Poplar. He was a hard worker and a progressive farmer and rancher, always willing to try a new method that looked good to him. He was always considered to be an honest man and could be taken at face value. He told it like it was and wasn't afraid to say what he thought.

The depression left a lasting impression on him. He became very thrifty. Although he wasn't one to throw money around, there was always plenty of food on the table and Ella was known as a very good cook. They were very strong supporters of the church and community efforts.

Ella died in 1961 and Carl died in 1967. He worked up until the day he died. Indeed the LaPierre Horse Hotel has not been used regularly for horses and cattle since Carl Sr.'s death. The farm remained in the family, however, and was farmed and ranched by Carl Sr.'s heirs, including Carl Jr., through the 1990s. Most recently, the farm was purchased by Jim and Karen Tande, who keep the farming and ranching tradition going. While the building remains in remarkably good condition, Carl Miller Jr. noted that: "the horse tack is gone. Souvenir hunters – family and friends – have taken it for decorations. There is very little left."⁹

Through the years, both Louis LaPierre and Carl Miller were innovators and experimenters. Both embraced new techniques and machinery to optimize their farming and cattle ranching enterprises. For all their modernization, however, both men recognized the literal need for horsepower. The LaPierre Horse Hotel, later known as Carl Miller's horse barn, housed the stock that kept the property functioning. The barn's associations with the early settlement and agricultural history of the area are evident. Clearly, the building is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A.

Architectural Significance

The building gains additional significance under Criterion C, as an excellent local example of a classic gambrel-roofed banked barn. The massive size of LaPierre's Horse Hotel is indicative of the large-scale farming operation run by its builder. The "acre of board feet" of milled lumber used in its construction is overwhelming, considering the scarcity of timber in the area. Researchers can therefore conclude it was constructed after the railroad arrived in eastern Montana, though the line was over sixty miles to the south. The design itself reflects an intimate understanding of the land and how traditions established in more eastern North American locales could be adapted and improved for use in the wheat farming country of Daniels County. In constructing his barn in 1910, and adding to it in 1916, LaPierre combined his experience, knowledge of the topography, and understanding of both tradition and modern approaches to agricultural technology.

⁹ "The Beauty of Old Barns," *The Billings Gazette Magazine*, November 25, 1990, p. 1E.

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Progressive ideals and the introduction of scientific approaches to agriculture reveal themselves in materials, layout, and architectural details in LaPierre's barn. During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, farm and ranch owners took advantage of widely available and relatively inexpensive "patternbook" plans and kits, as well as circulars and advice from the agricultural experiment colleges and stations in Canada and the United States. Books such as *Radford's House and Barn Plans*, published in 1908 by the Radford Architectural Group offered carefully drawn blueprints and precise materials lists for a myriad of designs. Property owners could choose plans that best suited the terrain, available materials, and projected use of the building from a list of titles that ranged from the relatively simple, gable-roofed "80-Acre Farm Barn" to "Another Cheap Stable" to the ornate "Pretentious Stock Barn."

While the precise layout of barn nominated here does not appear in Radford's 1908 pattern book, architectural elements touted in such publications are present – including the double-braced rafter system, large louvered copulas for ventilation, and the four-light, trimmed windows across the stall levels. Indeed the roof system present in LaPierre's barn is described by Radford: "The wood superstructure is constructed out of plank, and the roof is self-supporting, without posts or purlins, by each set of rafters braced, forming a continuous arch from one sill to the other. This roof gives an enormous capacity to the hay room and is well braced against sagging and wind pressure."¹⁰ Clearly, LaPierre chose the design for its capacity and practicality on the windy plains, and closely followed the advice of the day:

Livestock and dairy barns built on a north-south axis received more direct sunlight and were generally cooler because the prevailing winds created a cross draft through the barn. Barns located on a high, well-drained site north and east of the farmhouse, with windbreaks to the north-west, were drier and utilized the summer's prevailing winds to carry offensive odors and insects away from the farmhouse. Bank barns were considered dark, damp, and difficult to ventilate...farmers who continued to build bank barns were told to build a bridge to the second floor, instead of a dirt ramp, so light and air could enter the basement.¹¹

In North America, banked barns are most commonly associated with the German communities of southern Pennsylvania, although the classic Pennsylvania Barn generally features a gabled roof, and often a cantilevered second story. The bank barn gets its name from a simple but clever construction technique: the barn is built into the side of a hill, thus permitting two levels to be entered from the ground. The lower level housed animals, the upper levels served as threshing floor and storage. The hillside entrance gave easy access to wagons bearing wheat or hay. Fodder could also be dropped through openings in the floor to the stabling floor below. Bank barns were ordinarily constructed with their long side, or axis, parallel to the hill, and on the south side of it. This placement gave animals a sunny spot in which to gather during the winter.

The long swale on LaPierre's farm provided an ideal building lot for his banked barn. With the hillside to the west and north, LaPierre was able to provide shelter for his horse teams and cattle from the heat of summer and cold of winter, and the omnipresent winds. At the same time a sturdy bridge provided easy access to the loft

¹⁰ William A. Radford, ed., *Radford's Combined House and Barn Plan Book* (Chicago, IL: The Radford Architectural Co., 1908), p. 143. See illustration on continuation page 11.

¹¹ Allen G. Noble and Hubert G.H. Wilhelm, eds., *Barns of the Midwest*, (Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press, 1995), pp. 219-220.

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from the hill to the west. The large opening and ramp at the east elevation allowed the threshing equipment and hay wagons to drive through easily.

Though less of a problem on the arid Great Plains, banked barns are notorious for being damp and having poor ventilation. To combat this problem, large cupolas are often located on the ridge. Architectural historians Allen G. Noble and Richard K. Cleek describe the classic design, as found on the LaPierre Horse Hotel:

Architecturally impressive cupolas are a feature of many German banked barns and raised barns. Often the four sides of the square cupolas are pierced by Victorian-style louvers, and ... are capped with fancy roofs and lightening rods.¹²

LaPierre also combated the potential dampness and lack of natural light by bridging the gap between the hill and the barn with a wooden structure, rather than an earthen ramp. He also was sure to install evenly-spaced four-light windows on each elevation.

In addition to the architectural elements of the original 1910 design, the shed and gable extension to the building on the east and north sides are typical and practical. The shed extension allowed rain and snow to drain from the roof structure, without additional valleys to trap moisture. Indeed, the 1916 addition is a logical expansion and adhered to the principals of the day – including emphasis on natural lighting, ventilation, and large openings to accommodate modern equipment.

The LaPierre Barn elegantly combines classic design elements with scientific and modern materials and specifications. That it continues to stand in the harsh elements of northeastern Montana is testament to its sound workmanship and appropriateness to its setting. It remained in use through most of the twentieth century, despite trends toward one story, specialized, low-maintenance buildings after the 1930s and especially World War II. As a fine example of early twentieth century barn design, then LaPierre Barn is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C.

¹² Allen G. Noble and Richard K. Cleek, *The Old Barn Book: A Field Guide to North American Barns & Other Farm Structures*, (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1995), p. 44.

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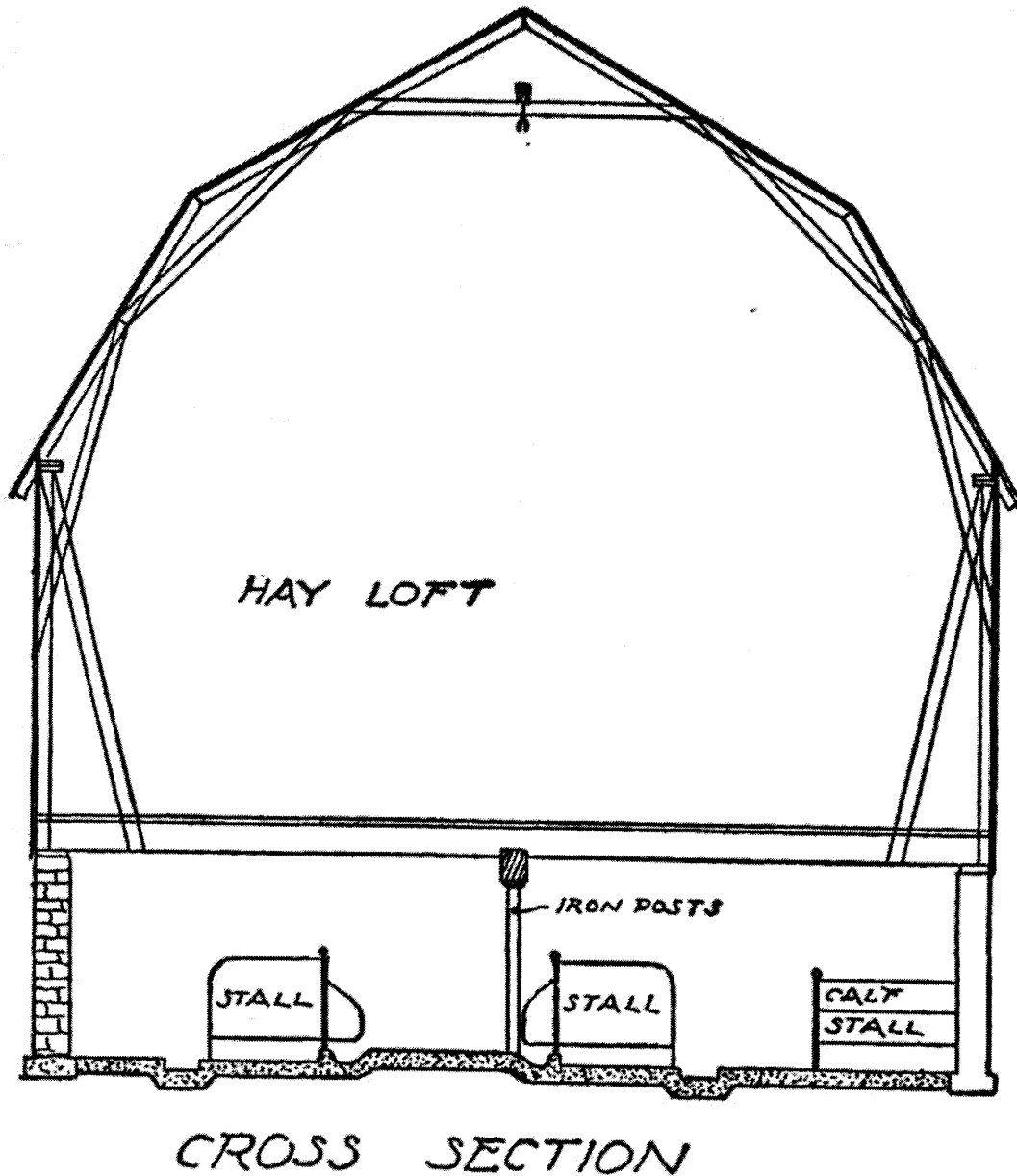
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Though not a plan of the LaPierre Horse Hotel, this illustration does show the basic design of its roof system.
William A. Radford, ed., *Radford's Combined House and Barn Plan Book*
(Chicago, IL: The Radford Architectural Co., 1908), p. 143.

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"Scobey, Seven Months Old." Scobey Parade on July 4, 1914.



LaPierre Horse Hotel c. 1954.

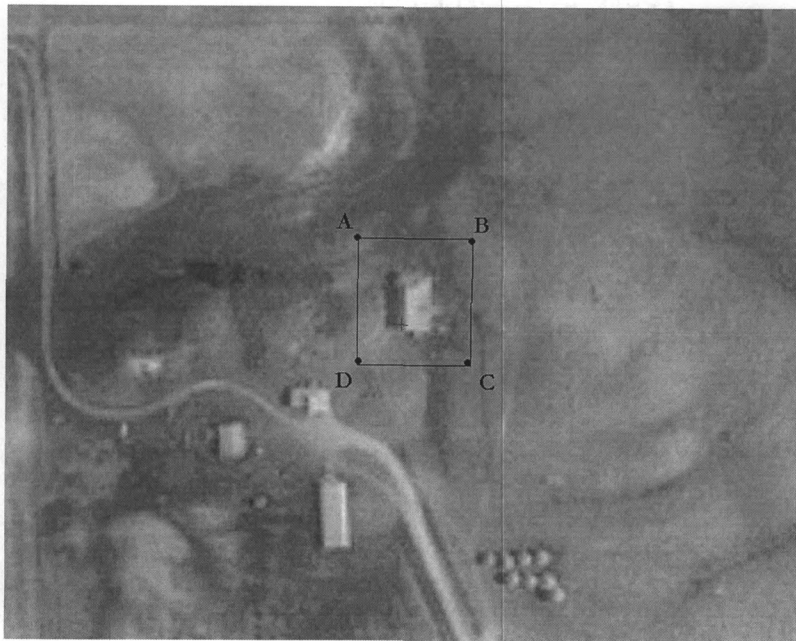
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Orthophotquad – Scobey July 9, 1996.