

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Nebraska	
COUNTY: Webster	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
MAR 16 1972	

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Starke Round Barn

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: Postal address: R.R. #2, Red Cloud

CITY OR TOWN: Four and one-half miles east of Red Cloud along U.S. 136

STATE: Nebraska CODE: 31 COUNTY: Webster CODE: 181

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: Percy Rasser

STREET AND NUMBER: Postal address: R.R. #2, Red Cloud

CITY OR TOWN: east of Red Cloud STATE: Nebraska CODE: 31

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: County Clerk, Webster County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Red Cloud STATE: Nebraska CODE: 31

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic Preservation in Nebraska - Preliminary Plan

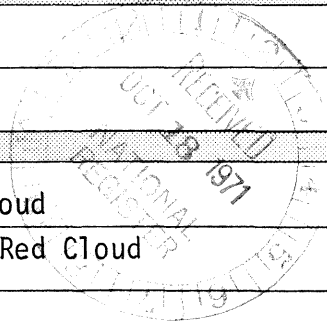
DATE OF SURVEY: October 1970  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Nebraska State Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER: 1500 "R" Street

CITY OR TOWN: Lincoln STATE: Nebraska CODE: 31

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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COUNTY: Webster  
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Starke barn is not a polyhedronal, a type more common in Nebraska, but a true round barn. It is three stories tall and 130 feet in diameter. The central silo, of brick and mortar construction, is 28 feet in diameter and 65 feet in height, with a total volume of 40,000 cubic feet. The roof is a gable and of low pitch, required by the barns great circumference.

The construction method is a combination of balloon framing and heavy timber supports. The entire three level vertical and horizontal support frame is of massive 12 x 12 timbers, which are held together by compressive and balancing tensile forces rather than by nails or pegs, which would be useless as fasteners under the thousands of tons the building was designed to hold.

The barn has three levels: the bottom for animals, the second for machinery, and the third (of loft level) for hay. The three are composed on a split level basis. The bottom level is below ground around the front, but opens into the stock area on the rear. The second level (for machinery storage) is directly accessible from the front portion ground level. The loft (or third level) is the only one that is not directly accessible.

The barn was originally covered with horizontal siding. In the early 1960's the original wood siding was covered over with corrugated iron sheets, and this also covered the windows which originally completely rimmed the lower level. With the exception of this minor alteration, the barn still stands today virtually unaltered since its construction.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |                                       |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |  |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

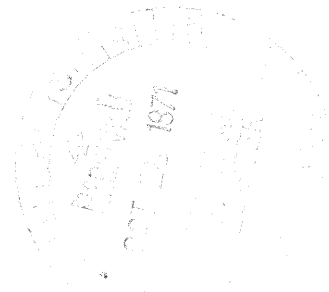
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal             | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric            | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic               | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture           | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce               | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications         | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation           |   |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Starke barn was built in 1902-1903 by the four Starke brothers, Conrad, Ernest, Bill and Chris, who came to Nebraska from Milwaukee at the behest of their homesteading grandfather. The barn cost approximately \$25,000 to build and its expense is purportedly one of the causes that the farm was sold "on the courthouse steps" to the Rasser family (the present owners) in 1930.

Although deviations from the main barn type are found throughout the county, the true round barn is an important part of Americas vernacular architecture, as there seems to be no apparent correlation for the true round form traceable to a European heritage. The Starke round barn is Nebraska's largest round barn and may possibly be one of the largest in the nation.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Welsch, Roger L., "Nebraska's Round Barns," Nebraska History, Vol. 51, No. 1, Spring, 1970.

Files; Nebraska State Historical Society.

Architectural Forum, "American Barns," Vol. 95, August, 1951.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		98° 26' 21"	40° 05' 21"	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Approx. 2 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Persijs Kolberg, Curator of Historic Sites

ORGANIZATION: Nebraska State Historical Society DATE: Oct. 12, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1900 "R" Street

CITY OR TOWN: Lincoln, STATE: Nebraska CODE: 31

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Merrin R. Kwett

Title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

Date Oct. 12, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Connolly  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date MAR 16 1972

ATTEST:

William J. Mullogh  
Keeper of The National Register

Date MAR 20 1972  
JAN

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(Red Cloud)

T.3 N.

10'

T.2 N.

T.1 N.

40° 00'

# STARKE ROUND BARN WEBSTER COUNTY, NEBRASKA



40°05'21"

98°26'21"

E L M C R E E K   S T I L L W A T E R   S T   S T E P H E N

P L E A S A N T   B E A V E R   C R E E K   A L B

G A R F I E L D   G U I D E   R O C K   B O S T W

H I G H L A N D   K A N S A S   W A L N U T   J E W E L L   C O .   H A R B I

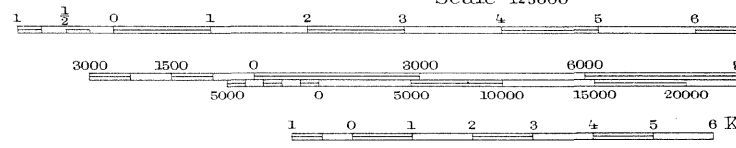
R. 10 W.

20' R. 9 W.

(Mankato)

R. 8 W.

Henry Gannett, Chief Topographer.  
Jno. H. Renshawe, Topographer in charge.  
Topography by R. M. Towson.  
Surveyed in 1893-94.



Contour interval 20 feet  
Datum is mean sea level



structure, and mineral deposits of the area mapped, and several pages of descriptive text. The text explains the maps and describes the topographic and geologic features of the country and its mineral products. Two hundred twenty-five folios have been published.

Index maps of each State and of Alaska and Hawaii showing the areas covered by topographic maps and geologic folios published by the United States Geological Survey may be obtained free. Copies of the standard topographic maps may be obtained for 10 cents each; some special maps are sold at different prices. A discount of 40 percent is allowed on an order amounting to \$5 or more at the retail price. The discount is allowed on an order for maps alone, either of one kind or in any assortment, or for maps together with geologic folios. The geologic folios are sold for 25 cents or more each, the price depending on the

Form 10-301  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

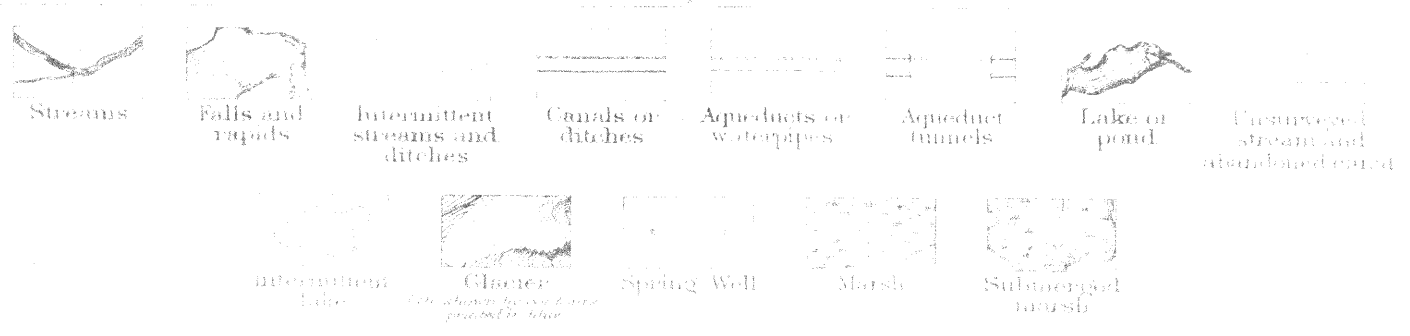
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Nebraska	
COUNTY Webster	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 16 1972

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<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON:		Starke Round Barn	
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Postal address: R.R. #2, Red Cloud			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Four and one-half miles east of Red Cloud along U.S. 136			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Nebraska	31	Webster	181
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE:			
U.S.G.S.; Superior Quadrangle			
SCALE:			
1:250,000			
DATE:			
Surveyed in 1893-94; reprinted 1949			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

WATER  
(printed in blue)



100-108  
National Register of Historic Places