

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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SITE MD-87

NAME Jacob and Elizabeth Raskob Ranch

LOCATION South Dakota State Highway 34, about 9 miles northeast of Sturgis, Southwest Meade Unorganized Territory, Meade County (093), South Dakota (046)

OWNER Bernard Bruch  
HC 75 Box 75  
Sturgis, South Dakota 57785

CLASSIFICATION Buildings, private, NA acquisition, occupied, restricted access, private residence, agriculture

DESCRIPTION Excellent, unaltered, original site

Situated about nine miles northeast of Sturgis on the north side of South Dakota State Highway 34, the Jacob and Elizabeth Raskob Ranch includes nine structures which date from 1898. Built in 1900, the two-story tan sandstone block house (contributing) sits amid spreading elms. The structure is noteworthy because it exhibits a higher level of technical expertise and style than is commonly found in the turn-of-the-century ranch houses on the western South Dakota prairie.

Constructed of rock-faced coursed tan sandstone blocks, the house features roughly cut arched sandstone keystones above all the ground floor windows, a tongue-and-groove entablature below the cornice and delicately pedimented dormers in the second story. The date 1900 is chiseled into the crown above the keystone over the paired windows in the east elevation. All bays are supported by rock-faced tan sandstone lintels, which enhanced by the tan ribbon mortar, complete the monochromatic look of the structure.

A large rectangular pen with a pyramidal roof, the house has a one-story porch with turned columns on the front elevation which faces north. A friezelike row of delicate spindles tops the columns and parallels the edge of the porch. The front door is located to the right of the center of the facade and is flanked by double-hung windows. One window, a partial dormer cuts through the flat entablature and rises through the center of the roofline. The east elevation which faces the highway, is symmetrical with a pair of windows in the center with a single window and door equally spaced from the center. Two second story

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partial dormer windows rise through the roofline above the single windows in the ground floor. Three windows penetrate the rear, south elevation, two in the ground floor with the third in the second story. The west elevation has three windows in the ground floor and two in the second story and an entrance to the basement. The interior space is spacious and appears to be in its original form.

North of the house is a large gabled-roof wood-frame barn which is painted red (contributing). It was built in 1898. Wood-frame shed additions flank the east and west axial sides of the barn. The barn is in good condition and the roof is covered with composition shingles.

A small wood-frame gabled-roof outbuilding (contributing) with a shed addition is located east of the barn and is used for storage. The walls are covered with verticle planks. The roof is covered with corrugated metal.

Southeast of the barn is a large wood-frame granary (contributing) with a gable roof. The granary has a raised cement foundation has a shed addition on the south end used as a garage.

A small coursed stone outbuilding (contributing) with a hipped roof and white wood cornice which resembles the house in miniature is located northwest of the house. It has large sandstone quoins, double-hung windows and is used for storage.

Located off the northwest corner of the house is a small board and batten outbuilding (contributing). It has a steeply pitched gable roof covered in composition shingles. The building is used for storage.

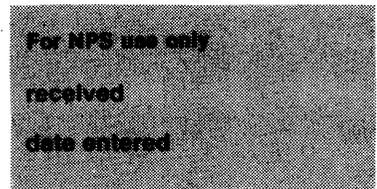
A wood-frame garage (contributing) with shed additions on the axial sides is located southwest of the house. It has a gable roof covered with composition shingles.

West of the garage is a white wood-frame outhouse (contributing). No longer in use, it has a gable roof covered in composition shingles.

Another board and batten outbuilding (contributing) is located west of the outhouse. It has a gable roof and is used for storage.

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SIGNIFICANCE 1800-1899, 1900-present, vernacular architecture, settlement

DATES: 1898, 1900, ca. 1920s BUILDER: Jacob Raskob

Built in 1900, the Jacob Raskob house is a fine example of turn-of-the-century Romanesque Revival architecture in South Dakota. The house is a rare rural example of stone architecture common to urban areas in western South Dakota, and is significant for its level of detail and craftsmanship. Jacob built the twelve room house from stone he hauled from Bear Butte mountain located about four miles west of the site.

In 1883 Jacob Raskob emigrated to Iowa from Orsfeld, Germany. He emigrated with another couple, the Matt Bradts with whom he worked for two years in Osage, Iowa before he moved to Deadwood. Jacob later moved to Sturgis where he worked on the construction of St. Martin's Academy as a laborer. He later moved to the Bear Butte Valley where he worked for Henry and Theodore Karrels. It was during this time that he purchased the ranch.

Elizabeth Stein Raskob and John, their seven year old son, emigrated from Germany in 1889. The Raskobs had four more children, Theodore, Kate, Pete, and Margaret.

Due to its unusually large size, and excellent location on a major South Dakota highway, the Roskobs ran a kind of road house or stage stop for travelers. This is the only ranch house in the survey area that was used in such a manner.

The barn is in good condition and is well maintained. Gable roof barns with flankings side shed additions of this age and size are uncommon in western South Dakota and therefore contributes, as all the buildings do, to the overall significance of the property. The site exhibits various forms of vernacular architecture and is an excellent example of a turn-of-the-century ranch plan.

QUADRANGLE NAME Fort Meade NE, South Dakota UTM REFERENCE 14J733420/4924900

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000 ACREAGE Approximately 4 acres

PHOTO REFERENCE NUMBER

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The site boundaries are formed by a set of imaginary lines with the exception of a slight bluff that forms the western boundary as three outbuildings are situated on the bluff. The north boundary is a line that lies ten feet north of the north wall of the barn; a line ten feet from the east wall of the outbuilding east of the barn forms the east boundary; a line ten feet from the south wall of the garage forms the southern boundary. The northern boundary is completed by a line that lies ten feet from the west wall of the outbuilding west of the outhouse that intersects the bluff. The site lies in the NE quarter of the SE quarter of Section 23, Township 6 north, Range 6 east of Meade County.

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