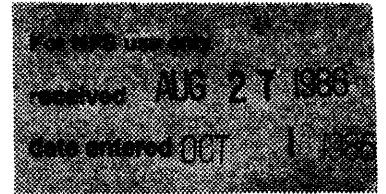


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NAME: Jens Myhre Round Barn

LOCATION: Vicinity of New Rockford, North Dakota 30, Eddy County 027

CLASSIFICATION: Status Unoccupied; Present Use Agriculture

OWNER OF PROPERTY: Mary and Eugene Hartl, Rural Route 1, New Rockford, North Dakota, 58356

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Register of Deeds, Eddy County Courthouse, New Rockford, North Dakota

DESCRIPTION: The former Jens Myhre round barn is located in slightly hilly country in central North Dakota. The farm is situated within an L-shaped shelterbelt to the site's west and north sides. The south side of the property is bounded by the gravelled county road and the east side by a grazing area which terminates in a slough. Power lines crisscross the site.

The round barn at 80' in diameter is large in comparison to others in the state. That size is increased by a west side vehicular ramp to the mow. The ramp is supported by 4 large timbers measuring 4" x 6" which connect the ramp's concrete bulkhead with the barn's poured concrete foundation. The ramp's crossing boards are 2" x 10" lumber. There were two railings which served as guides on either side of the ramp, however, only the south side guide remains. The windows on the round barn are fixed sash, 2-over-2. The door is on a track which makes it slide and the track itself is curved as is each door. The doors are of vertical board, but the rest of the barn is horizontal drop siding. The barn has a wood shingle roof, and a ventilation shaft in the northwest side as well as on the top.

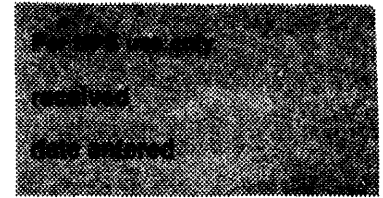
Inside the barn on the ground floor rubble boulders used in construction of the wall foundation are exposed, giving the wall a rougher texture than on the exterior side of the wall which is finished smooth, appearing to have a sand and gravel aggregate. The stalls are arranged in a north-south linear pattern, with two alleys. In middle portion there are space for six stalls, with the north two stalls being used as a feeding manger. The west row also consists in feeding mangers. On the east row of stalls there are two large open stall areas.

Posts which support the barn are 4" x 4." Some of the posts on the east alley have shoulder supports, but those on the west alley posts do not. In the north half of the alley vertical boarding is added to partition off visually those halves of the barn. However, the south half of the barn is open. On the west side of the east alley are metal stations that held animals. The barn's floor joists are triple 2" x 2" boards.

A metal feeding track that runs north-south is found in the both alleys. At the south side of the barn the feed track curves so that both alleys' feed tracks are continuous

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and connected. As the feed carrier moves from the south point of the barn northward curves to the east and exits through a door in the middle of the east side alley. In that way feed could be loaded outside of the barn and brought in without having to be in the barn and taking up space.

The interior of the mow is open without silo or post supports for the roof. One feature of note is the hand wrought wooden manual crank which activates the hay sling system. The barn, although unused, is in excellent condition.

SIGNIFICANCE: Date: 1919
Architect/Builder: unknown

The former Jens Myhre round barn is significant for being an extremely intact surviving example of the round barn theme. Three facts about the barn make it architecturally significant: Its exterior ramp, its interior ground floor space, and its physical condition.

First, it is the only round barn surviving in the state which employed a ramp to the mow area. Photographic evidence show only two others ever used that efficient means of loading the mow. Most round barns may have abandoned that method by the second decade of this century because it was made obsolete by innovative hay moving slings and tracks, many of which survive in the extant barns. To construct a ramp during the late teens may have been perceived as out of fashion and behind the times.

Second, its interior arrangement is a throwback to an earlier period when round barn builders had not resolved the conflict of circular space and rectangular stalls with the circular arrangement of pie shaped stalls. The traditional two alley linear arrangement suggests a vernacular builder who clung to a familiar spatial arrangement while adopting the new enclosure.

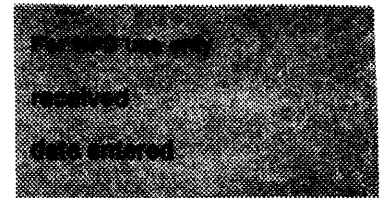
Third, it is quite large and possessed of excellent integrity. This is especially important, for the barn merits further study to untangle its inherent contradictions. The concrete foundation and wall symbolize the barn's collection of old and new technologies. Just as the wall's exterior appears to be modern smoothly finished poured concrete, its interior texture is rough from the broken fieldstones used as aggregate, typical of older concrete practices. Likewise, the round shape of the barn suggests a modern application of the latest technologies in farming, yet the arrangement of stalls is nineteenth century, and frankly inefficient for the shape. Closer inspection and continued interviews may explain these apparently conflicting trends.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Nominated Acreage: Less than one acre
Map Quad: New Rockford, 1950 (Photo revised 1975)
UTM Coordinates: Zone: 14
Easting: 484770

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Northing: 5287875

Verbal Boundary Description: The nominated property is located in the South half of the Southeast quarter of the Southwest quarter of Section 2, Township 149 North, Range 67 West, and includes the land the round barn is standing on and a protective zone extending fifteen feet from the perimeter.