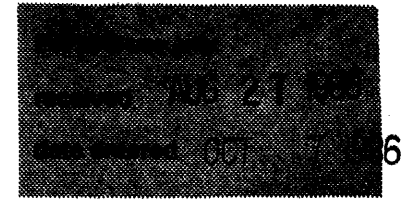


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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



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NAME: Rodman Octagonal Barn (Historic and Preferred)

LOCATION: Vicinity of Edgeley, North Dakota 30, LaMoure County 045

CLASSIFICATION: Status Occupied; Present Use Agricultural

OWNER OF PROPERTY: Howard Salzsieder, Rural Route 1 Box 137, Edgeley, North Dakota 58433

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Register of Deeds, LaMoure County Courthouse, LaMoure, North Dakota

DESCRIPTION: The octagonal barn formerly owned by Luman Rodman is currently located on level plains land in LaMoure County, North Dakota, about four miles east and south of Edgeley. The large building measures 26' to a side, with the east side entry projecting six feet from the rest of the barn. An unusual roof covers the structure consisting of large hay dormers on the east and west sides which form a gable roof with east-west ridge. Into the gable roof slope the flanking three sides' roof planes which bear a hipped configuration. Two window types prevail: double hung 2-over-2 type on the east side and paired single light fixed sash windows on the other elevations. Wood shingles cover the roof. The building sits on a poured concrete foundation in which fieldstones are visible.

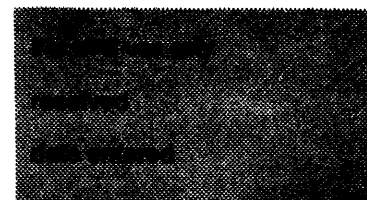
The primary support posts inside the barn are 4" x 8" lumber connected at the top by a lintel. Larger support posts on the first floor are about 10" wide some getting as large as 12" - 14" wide. Studs of 2" x 4" and 2" x 6" support the sides of the hay dormers. Roof support comes from 2" x 6" boards. Access to the mow is via a ladder which is located in the southeast 1/4 of the barn. Horizontal beams in the ceiling vary in size from 4" x 8" to doubled 2" x 10." Rafters measure 2" x 8." At the apex of the rafters, beneath the ridge, is a straight track for moving large quantities of hay.

The feed mixing rooms are located on the south part of the barn on the ground level. There are 4 protruding chutes, which serve as carriers for the feed and lead from the place where feed is mixed. An assortment of doors are found on the inside, apparently having been taken from other buildings as necessary. These include four-paneled doors, vertical board doors, some doors with both horizontal and vertical members, and large sliding doors. A rough hewn door post can be found on the west side of the feeding area. A stall area is located in the southwest corner. A chimney exhaust comes up from the southeast corner and exits through the mow level wall.

The physical integrity of the barn is suffering on the northwest wall. That wall is missing from slow deterioration, but has not caused structural damage to the other walls. Other changes to the barn include the addition of electricity to the barn at an unknown date and the boarding of some exterior windows.

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SIGNIFICANCE: Date: Ca. 1890
Architect/Builder: Luman B. Rodman, possibly

The round barn presently owned by Howard Salzsieder is significant for its embodiment of the round barn building theme and as an artifact of the area's settlement.

Luman B. Rodman was a very early settler in this area of the state, coming from New York via Ypsilanti, Michigan, in 1882. Rodman homesteaded that year, but historical sources have not recorded his subsequent activities. Family members in possession of Rodman's diaries report that he was both architect and builder of the barn building. Germans from Russia settled the area where Rodman's barn is located and several counties to the west beginning in the 1890's, a decade after Rodman and many other Anglo Americans had taken homesteads in the area and left (Sherman, p. 76). The structure is a special representative documenting the presence of this earlier group and a barn form typical of American agricultural design.

Luman came from an area of the country, New York, where octagonal buildings appeared in the form of residences in the 1850's and farm buildings as late as the 1880's. Rodman was very probably familiar with the shape before arriving in North Dakota. The date estimated for construction of the Rodman barn is very early in the North Dakota round barn tradition, but consistent within the larger context of conventional barn construction. The 1890 construction date is derived from the octagonal shape and heavy dimension lumber used in the barn's construction.

The construction history of barns in general in the state, vis-a-vis their structural members, is an evolution of heavy posts to light lumber construction. By the late 1890's farmers had begun to abandon the larger posts which encumbered traffic in the mow for the free space available through balloon framing and the gambrel roof. Cost, too, became another factor which encouraged the conversion. In the tree-poor plains large sized lumber became prohibitively expensive for use in farm buildings, especially when lighter (and cheaper) lumber could be used with new framing systems without a loss of utility. The presence of the heavy posts in Rodman's barn suggests an early construction date, perhaps not beyond 1890.

Despite the damage to a small portion of the wall, the barn conveys the physical characteristics of design, materials, and workmanship, as well as historical associations which make it a significant representative of the round barn building theme. Listing of the barn may make its repair cost efficient if coupled with available tax credits. Listing will also heighten community preservation awareness in this county which has only one other National Register listed property.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

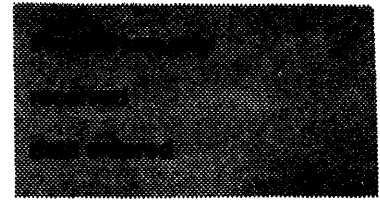
Acreage of nominated property: Less than one acre.

Quadrangle name: Deisem, N. Dak., 1982

UTM References: Zone: 14

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Easting: 516280

Northing: 5139300

Verbal Boundary Description: The nominated property is located in the Northeast quarter of the Southeast quarter of the Northeast quarter of Section 24, Township 134 North, Range 65 West, and includes the land on which the octagonal building stands and a zone of protection extending fifteen feet beyond the perimeter of the building.