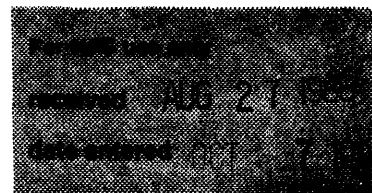


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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



Continuation sheet

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NAME: Urbain Cote Round Barn (historic and preferred)

LOCATION: Vicinity of Dunseith, North Dakota 38, Rolette County 079

CLASSIFICATION: Status Occupied; Present Use Agricultural

OWNER OF PROPERTY: John Myers, Dunseith, North Dakota, 58329

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

DESCRIPTION: The Cote round barn stands in virtually original condition since its construction. Concrete block completes the foundation and wall to the mow level. The mow is enclosed entirely by the roofing system of rafters. The building measures 62 feet in diameter and has two 18 foot wings which project from the east and west. The wings are 16' wide north-south. The roof is hemispherical in shape and is covered with cedar shingles. Gothic arch roofs on either wing, as well as small dormers on the north and south puncture the main roof.

The barn's interior main space is open in the center, affording room for loose stock. Box stalls line up in a circle adjacent to the outer wall. Doubled 2"x 8" and 2"x 10" lumber forms posts which line the alley between the stalls and central open area. The barn has no interior silo. Glass block windows in the block walls, and the mow dormers provide light for the barn. Entry to the mow is achieved by a stairway in the eastern wing.

The interior diameter of the mow is 60' and rafters are 45' in length. The rafters are laminated wood not bent, but straight wood cut on a bias to achieve the curve. The rafters extend to the roof where they join a circular cap below the diminutive cupola thirty feet above the mow floor. The unbroken floor is composed of a double thickness of 1"x 4" vertical grain fir boards.

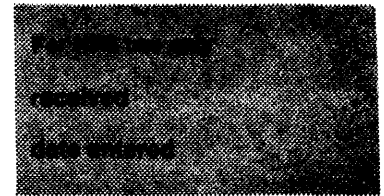
SIGNIFICANCE Date: 1943
Architect/Builder: Urbain Cote

The Cote barn is exceptionally significant for its craftsmanship, its embodiment of the theme of round barn building, and as a state landmark. The position of the resource within view of two major highways allows it to be the state's most recognized round barn.

The Cote family migrated to Rolette County from Eastern Canada sometime during the first decades of this century. Their French-Canadian background is typical of many county residents. Cote and his father were local carpenters who specialized in the construction of barns in the years before World War II. The Cote's purchased the farm in 1943 and constructed the barn that same year.

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Cote reported that the barn was built without plans, but was inspired by another found on the Glick Farm in Surrey, North Dakota, located 100 miles southwest from Dunseith. The Cote's barn has a characteristic appearance because its builders designed it for two particular yet unrelated uses. The first floor was to be used by the cattle and the upper floor was to be used for dances. The resulting building organizes the space to make the two functions compatible.

The Cotes calculated that the mow floor had to carry 100 pounds per square foot to accommodate the dancers. That led to the installation of the double floor boards, an unusual expenditure of materials in hay loft floors. The barn was used by roller skaters during the 1950's and shows little wear or sagging.

Roofing round barns is usually the most difficult construction process, requiring special cuts of rafters, purlins, sheeting, and shingles. The roof altitude resulted from the Cotes' efforts to replicate that found at the Glick's. They calculated that the rafters should be on a 3:4 ratio to the inner diameter. Thus, the 60 foot floor determined that 45 foot rafters would support the roof. The rafters, too, bear a special cut on the bias as opposed to the more common laminated bent board rafter. Their pride in the accomplishment led them to shingle the roof with eight different colors of shingles. The younger Cote remembers that such materials were difficult to obtain due to the effect the World War had on the American construction industry.

The statewide awareness of the barn is seen in its inclusion in a State Historical Society of North Dakota survey in 1976. The staff surveyor noted it to be the only extant example of the type to be found in North Dakota. The present survey solicited informants on locations of round barns, and this barn was the one most frequently mentioned.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage of nominated property: Less than one acre

Quadrangle Name: Dunseith, 1951

UTM References: UNAVAILABLE IN METRIC MEASURE, EXPRESSED IN FEET (SEE MAP)

Zone: 14

Easting: 2106500 FEET

Northing: 658475 FEET

Verbal Boundary Description: The nominated property is located in the Northeast quarter of the Northwest quarter of the Northeast quarter of Section 1 of Township 161 North, Range 73 West, and includes the round barn, the land it is sitting on, and a protective area fifteen feet around the perimeter.