

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Site #40

1. Hendrick and Waldur Hendrickson (Henry Lehtola) Farm
Henry Lehtola Farm
2. 2 miles west of Lake Norden, Hwy. 28
Lake Norden Vicinity
South Dakota 046 Hamlin 057
3. buildings; privately owned; NA acquisition; unoccupied;
agriculture
4. Hilda Lehtola
Nursing Home
Lake Norden, South Dakota 57248
5. Register of Deeds
Hamlin County Courthouse
Hayti, South Dakota 57241
7. good; unaltered; original site

The Hendrickson farm is comprised of ten structures sited on a rise above a bend in Dolph Creek. While the land slopes downward on all sides of the farmyard, the yard itself is flat and creates an informal "courtyard" arrangement. The placement of the buildings is unusual for an East River, South Dakota farm.

The house (contributing) dates from 1895-1896 and is the third dwelling. The first two were a dugout and sod house, both destroyed. A one-and-one-half story residence, the frame house is a hall/parlor plan, rectangular-pen form with an integrated rear shed. A central doorway on the front facade is flanked by a window on either side. On the south, side facade, a door leads from the farmyard into the kitchen; two windows pierced the main block of this facade. The side, north facade, has two windows in the main block and the rear has three windows. All of these windows are 2/2, double-hung sash. A mortared stone foundation supports the house which is covered in original horizontal boarding. A brick chimney rises from the center of the roof ridge.

Adjacent to the house is a frame outhouse (contributing) revealing the small amount of change that has taken place on the farm.

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A small shed (contributing) to the west of the house is built of frame and has a gable roof. No foundation underlies this small tool shed. Flush horizontal planks comprise the walls.

Aligned in the same row and to the west of the shed is a frame garage (non-contributing) which rests on a concrete pad. Of more recent construction than the other structures, the garage has horizontal-board siding, hinged double doors and a gable roof.

Finally, the frame granary (contributing) completes the row. This building is raised on stone pillars which are built beneath each axial floor joist. The gable-roofed structure has three doors and two small, square windows on the front facade and two grain hatches in the roof. Undoubtedly, this is one of the earliest buildings on the farm dating c. 1885-1915.

To the rear of the granary is a metal circular silo (non-contributing). At the far east end of the yard, on the edge of the ravine, is the barn (contributing). This structure is a gambrel-roofed, Shawver Truss, frame barn. An original ventilator pierces the roof. The building rests on a foundation of poured concrete, which may be a second foundation.

A crude, plywood and frame, shed-roofed feeder (non-contributing) is built to the south of the barn.

Across the farmyard from the barn and directly opposite the kitchen door of the house is the summer kitchen (contributing). Rectangular in shape, the building has horizontal board siding and a gable roof covered in shingle. It rests on a stone foundation. The interior was subdivided into two rooms and although it has been partially gutted, wallpaper and stovepipes holes are still visible.

The sauna (contributing), located between the barn and the summer kitchen, is the most interesting building on the site. Constructed of frame, the building has an attached chicken-coop, shed addition (probably original) on the rear, axial facade. The building is covered in wood shingle and rests on an unmortared stone foundation. Measuring 14' 5 1/4" in length, the sauna is 10' 3 1/2" in width with the coop addition adding another 12' 3".

On the interior the sauna is divided into two rooms which have been blackened with smoke from the stove. This is a sayusauna and has a rare, surviving conical stone kiuas. Hilda Lehtola remembers the sauna

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being built when she was a child which dates it prior to 1910. In recent years the sauna has been used for storage and several of the benches on the rear, west wall have been removed. A small smoke flue is controlled from the inside with a latch.

- 8. 1800-1899, 1900 - ; Finnish folk and American vernacular architecture; settlement, Finnish ethnic history.

Dates: 1881-c. 1925 Builder: Henry Lehtola and Erick Kangas

The Hendrickson/Lehtola farm is significant as an example of Finnish rural settlement in Hamlin County. Further, the farm has remained in the same family and reveals an intact Finnish-American site plan and a rare, surviving savusauna with original kiuas. The state of preservation of the farm contributes to the significance of the site.

Hendrick and Walbur Hendrickson, who changed their name to Lehtola when they came to America in 1880, were born in Ylikiiminga, Oulu Province. As Apostolic Lutherans, no doubt, they were encouraged to migrate by the founder of the Hamlin County Finnish colony, Torsten Estensen, who was an Apostolic minister. The Lehtolas traveled with five other families and were housed during the first winter by the Matt Rautio and August Kinnunen families. In 1881 they moved onto this site, building first a dugout and then a sod house. Slowly, Henry, with the help of his neighbor, Erick Kangas, built the other buildings. The building on the farm was completed by c. 1935.

Henry Lehtola was a skilled man who supplemented the meager farm income with other work. He made caskets and furniture and also worked for the Chicago, North Western Railroad.

His daughter Hilda, inherited the farm and worked it, until retirement in 1983. She is 91 years old.

Although three smoke saunas survive intact in South Dakota, this sauna has, in addition, an extremely rare conical, stone kiuas. While later, non-smoke kiuas are self-contained metal furnaces, the very early kiuas in America was a primitive stone furnace. A hearth of flat stone was laid on which the fire was built. Over the fire pit was built a vaulted, stone casing made of unmortared stone which allowed the stone to expand and contract. Often metal was used to help support the arch or "roof" of the fire pit. The wood fire was kept burning for half a day and allowed to die out before the bath was taken. Over this time the rocks had

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heated and the bather simply splashed dippers of cold water onto the rocks to create steam. Of course some of the smoke of the unvented fire remained in the room and was allowed to escape through a roofed vent in the ceiling.

The plan of this site adds to the interest of the farm. Typically, South Dakota farms in the East River area have buildings aligned on a series of axes; each axis has a particular function, such as woman's work—summer kitchen, chicken coops, house, or heavy machinery work—barn, granary, garage, machine shed. In contrast this farm has a plan which creates an informal courtyard. Enclosed courtyards are a characteristic of farmyards and western and central Finland, while more open farmyards were common in eastern Finland. A more loose version of these arrangements were used in some attempt to place the buildings so they all open into the large, flat, open yard.

10. Acreage: 4 Scale: 1:24 000
 Quad: Gertson Slough

UTM:
14/638360/4938120

Verbal Boundary Description

The farm site is bounded on the north by the shelterbelt, on the west by the west edge of the farm lane and the ravine, as indicated on the USGS Quad maps. On the south and east the edge of the ravine, as indicated on the USGS Quad map form the boundaries. On the north this line is 10 feet from the north wall of the house. On the west the line is 50 feet from the west wall of the house. On the south and east the line is 30 feet from the south wall of the sauna and east wall of the barn, respectively. The site is located in the NW/NE quarter, Section 24, T113N, R54W.

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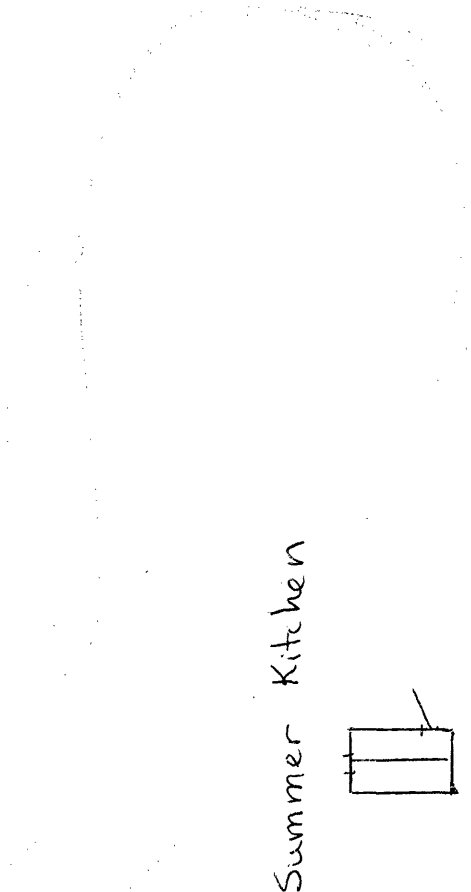
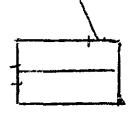
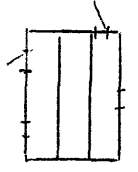
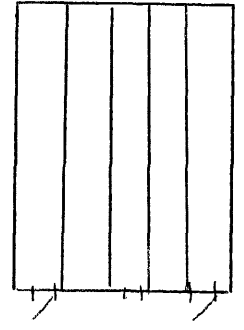
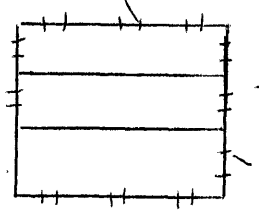
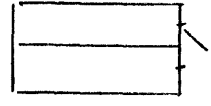
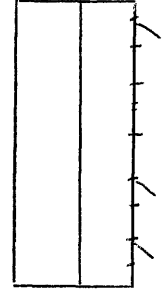
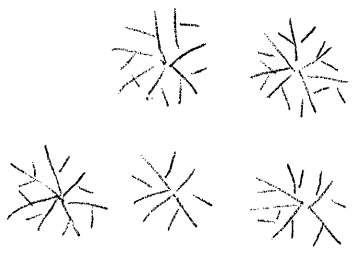
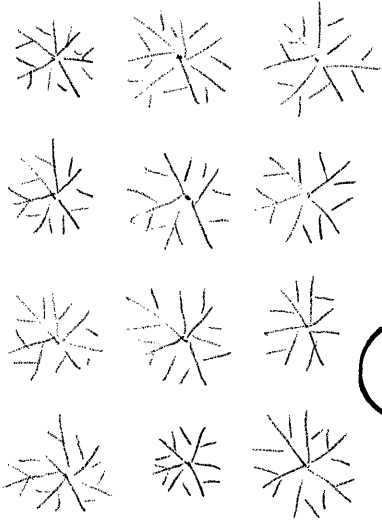
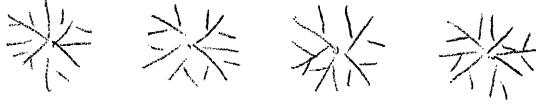
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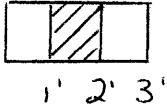
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Scale



HENDRICKSON
(LEHTOLA) SAUNA
Hamlin Co, SD
pre 1910

