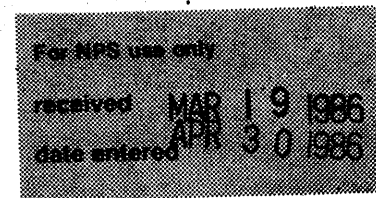


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Continuation sheet Ole and Carrie Johnson Ranch Item number MD-31 Page 1

SITE MD-31

NAME Ole and Carrie Johnson *Ranch*

LOCATION MC Road 7 about 2.5 miles east of Black Hawk, Southwest Meade Unorganized Territory, Meade County (093), South Dakota (046)

OWNER Richard and Josephine Niehoff
RR 2 Box 7440
Black Hawk, South Dakota 57718

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

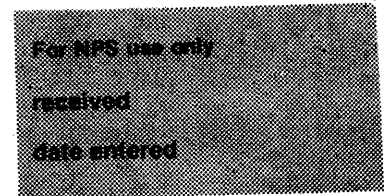
DESCRIPTION Excellent, altered (slightly), original site

Located about two-and-one-half miles east of Black Hawk, the Ole and Carrie Johnson Ranch is situated on the north edge of Box Elder Creek which flows through the southeast corner of the property. Seven buildings are located on the ranch. It is in good condition and well maintained, and retains much of its historical integrity.

The house (contributing) is a one-and-one-half story L plan log structure with a steeply pitched, wood-shingle-covered gable roof. In 1948 a wood-frame addition was built into the southwest opening of the L and encloses what was previously an pen porch. A shed roof enclosed entry was built onto the south side of the addition. A hipped roof enclosed sun porch was added to the front of the house which faces east toward Meade County Road 7. The original house and additions have been covered with clapboard and is painted white with forest green trim and shutters. The west elevation has three windows on the ground floor and one in the upper story, all are single-pane, double-hung with a paired set in the addition. The north elevation has four ground floor windows with one in the gable, the south two ground-floor windows and one door with one window in the gable. The porch on the east elevation runs the length of the house and is enclosed by six windows and one door.

The ranch includes several outbuildings, all of which are contributing. The granary ca. 1882 is a gabled-roof, one-and-one-half story structure which was first used as a residence by the Johnson family while the house was built. It is in excellent condition and the roof has been covered with corrugated steel. The granary is one of the few examples of Scandinavian architecture located

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outside of the Black Hills. The structure exhibits all of the details found in Scandinavian log buildings: logs extend into the gables, double verticle notch, purlins, a ridgepole, and the flush fitting of logs with little or no mortar. A ground floor door with a hay door directly above are located in the south elevation of the structure.

North of the granary is a verticle log chicken coop (contributing). Verticle log construction is extremely rare in the region. The chicken coop has a gable roof covered with cedar shake shingles.

A small wood-frame outbuilding (contributing) is located west of the house. It is used for storage.

South of the house is a wood-frame garage (contributing). It is painted white and has a low pitched-gabled roof.

Located south of the garage is a white wood-frame chicken coop (contributing). It has a shed roof which is covered in cedar shake shingles.

A small rectangular pen outbuilding (contributing) is located east of the chicken coop. It has a moderately pitched side-gabled-roof that is covered in cedar shake shingles.

SIGNIFICANCE 1800-1889, vernacular and folk architecture, Swedish ethnic history, settlement

DATES: ca. 1882, 1880s, 1948

BUILDERS: Ole Johnson, James Calhoon

The Ole and Carrie Johnson Ranch is significant because it preserves outstanding examples of Scandinavian vernacular architecture and encompasses other American building traditions. This site represents one of the earliest pioneered sites in western South Dakota, Swedish ethnic history and vernacular and folk architecture.

Marjorie Calhoon, the former owner of the ranch, states that the log house was built by Ole Johnson after he built the log granary in the 1880s. The granary was used as a temporary house while the large house was being built. The Johnson house and log outbuildings are significant because they represent examples of Scandinavian vernacular log architecture in excellent condition.

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Continuation sheet Ole and Carrie Johnson Item number MD-31 Page 3
Ranch

The Johnson family emigrated to the United States from Lillherdahl, Sweden in 1881. Ole Johnson was born there on January 12, 1837 and Carrie Zakrison was born there on February 24, 1847. The Johnsons were married on April 7, 1867 and had five children, only one of which survived to emigrate to South Dakota. The family arrived in New York and travelled by rail to Pierre, and from there travelled by wagon to Black Hawk.

Homesteading just two-and-one-half-miles from Black Hawk where there was a considerable Swedish population, the Johnsons settled on Box Elder Creek and built Scandinavian log buildings. The house was insulated with sawdust and is the only known one-and-one-half-story Scandinavian log house in the western part of the state.

Ole died on June 3, 1926. Carrie died in April 1937. The Johnsons are buried in the Black Hawk Cemetery.

The buildings on the property are considered to be particularly important because they were the only Scaninavian log buildings located during the survey. They are unusual for the high level of technical expertice employed in their construction, and because they are the only known examples of this construction located outside of the Black Hills where this type of log construction is recorded in the state. The buildings are all in an excellent state of preservation which contributes to the overall significance of the property.

QUADRANGLE NAME Blackhawk, South Dakota UTM REFERENCE 14J638280/4889740

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000 ACREAGE About 4 Acres

PHOTO REFERENCE

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The site boundaries are formed by a set of imaginary lines. On the north the site is bounded by an imaginary line that lies 10 feet from the north wall of the log chicken coop; on the east by a line that lies 10 feet east of the east wall of the outbuilding located southeast of the house; on the south by a line that lies ten feet from the south wall of the wood-frame outbuilding; on the west by a line that lies 10 feet from the west wall of the log chicken coop. The property is located in the SE quarter of the NE quarter of Section 9, Township 2 north, Range 7 east in Meade County.

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Continuation sheet JOHNSON RANCA

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