

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 99000737

Property Name: Reynolds, Charles B., Round Barn

County: Lyon State: Iowa

Iowa Round Barns: The Sixty Year Experiment TR
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Synda McClelland July 7, 1999
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8. Significance:

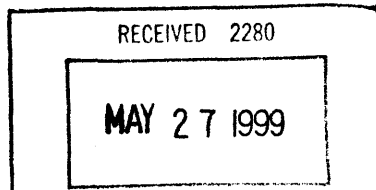
The date "1924" is, hereby, added to the Period(s) of Significance to correspond to the date when the roof was reconstructed, taking on its current design. The nomination justifies this as a significant alteration contributing to the significance of the property under Criterion C.

The Iowa State Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instruction. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name: Reynolds, Charles B. round barn

other names/site number: Jansma, Tunis round barn

2. Location

street and number: 2382 Harrison Avenue

N/A not for publication

city or town: Doon

vicinity

state: Iowa

county: Lyon County

119

zip code: 51235

3. State/Federal/Tribal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Patricia Churkin DSHP
Signature of certifying official/Title

5-18-99
Date

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

State or Federal agency and bureau

American Indian Tribe

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

American Indian Tribe

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- entered in the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other. (explain:)

Linda McMillard

7/7/99

5. Classification**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Iowa Round Barns: The Sixty Year Experiment TR

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture/Subsistence

Historic Subfunctions

(Enter subcategories from instructions)

Agricultural Outbuildings

Animal Facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture/Subsistence

Current Subfunctions

(Enter subcategories from instructions)

Agricultural Outbuildings

Animal Facility

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation

Granite

Walls

Weatherboard

Roof

Asphalt

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is

- A** owned by religious institution or used for religious purposes..
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture
Architecture

Period of Significance

1904

Significant Dates

1904

1924

Significant Person

(Complete if criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation**Architect/Builder**

Reynolds, Charles B.

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

See continuation sheet for additional HABS/HAER documentation.

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
-
-
-
-
-

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 1.00

UTM References Zone 14 244784 Easting 4799641 Northing

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Jansma, Wilmyrna

organization:

date: 6/24/1998

street & number: 1306 Seventh St.

telephone: (712) 439-1733

city or town: Hull

state: Iowa

zip code: 51239-

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.**Photographs**Representative **black and white photographs** of the property**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name: Jänsma, Wilmyrna

street & number: 1306 Seventh St.

telephone: (712)439-1733

city or town: Hü11

state: Iowa

zip code: 51239-

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget. Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

US GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1993 O - 350-416 QL 3

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Narrative Description

The Charles B. Reynold's round barn is located on a farm site a short distance north of the intersection of 240th Street and Harrison Avenue. This is about four miles east of the town of Doon in section 15 of Garfield Township in Lyon County. Reynold's barn is a two-story, true-round type of barn. It measures 70 feet in diameter and is set on a stone foundation, above which the sidewalls extend 20 feet high and are clad with curved horizontal wood siding. The owner designed and built the round barn based in part on ideas of F. H. King and Joseph Wing.

Originally, the roof design was of a straight, conical shape with a large, windowed cupola at its peak (see illustration below). After a windstorm demolished the conical roof in 1924, it was replaced with a gambrel roof of a two-pitch, self-supporting type without interior purlin posts, atop which is a smaller but attractive cupola. The sheathing for the roof was sawed into 1 ½ inch widths for laying on the curve, likely accomplished after soaking them in water to make them pliable

The interior space of the ground level is divided rectangularly. There are four parallel cross-beams, or joist bearers, the longest being on the sides of a 12 foot driveway running clear across the barn. The first floor pens have been arranged slightly to accommodate feeder cattle instead of sheep. The second floor, or mow, is 8 feet above the foundation walls and accessible by a wooden stairway. The driveway was floored over high enough to accommodate a load of hay. Once inside the barn, the wagon's load of hay was taken up by a slack rope carrier through a space of 20 feet in the center. Due to changes in farm practices, the mow floor over the driveway has since been lowered even with the rest of the floor. Throughout its history the first floor was used for feeding and sheltering the animals. The second floor provided storage of feed for the animals.

Today, the barn remains structurally sound but is in need of some exterior maintenance. The south half of the roof was resingled in 1976. The north half is in need of new shingles and the exterior needs repainting.

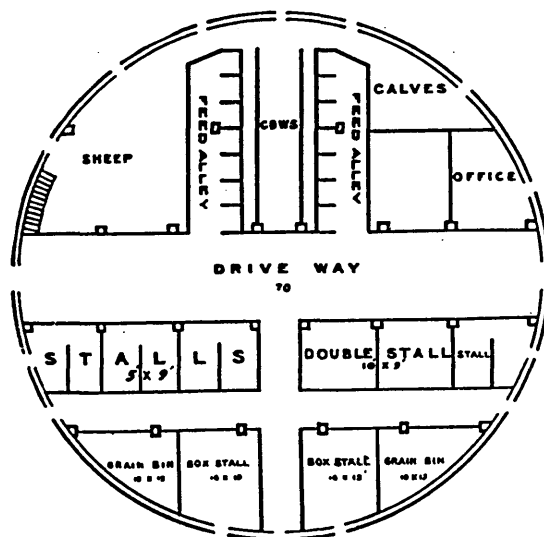
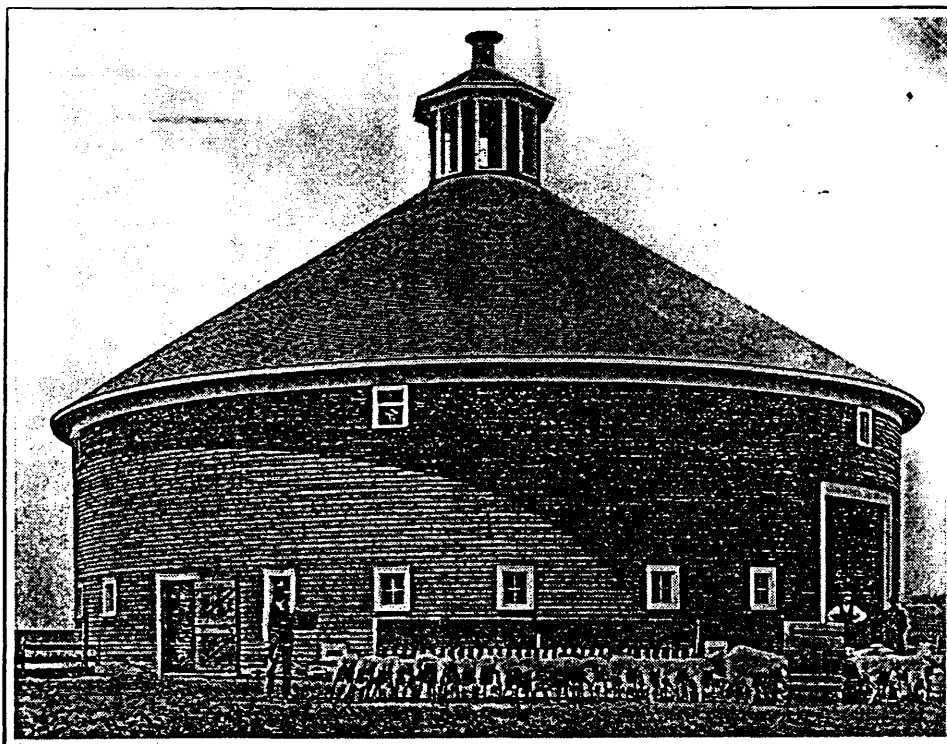
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Reynolds, Charles B. round barn, Lyon County, Iowa



View of Charles B. Reynolds round barn and layout as shown in J. E. Wing, "An Iowa Round Barn," *Breeder's Gazette* 48(August 16, 1905), 273.

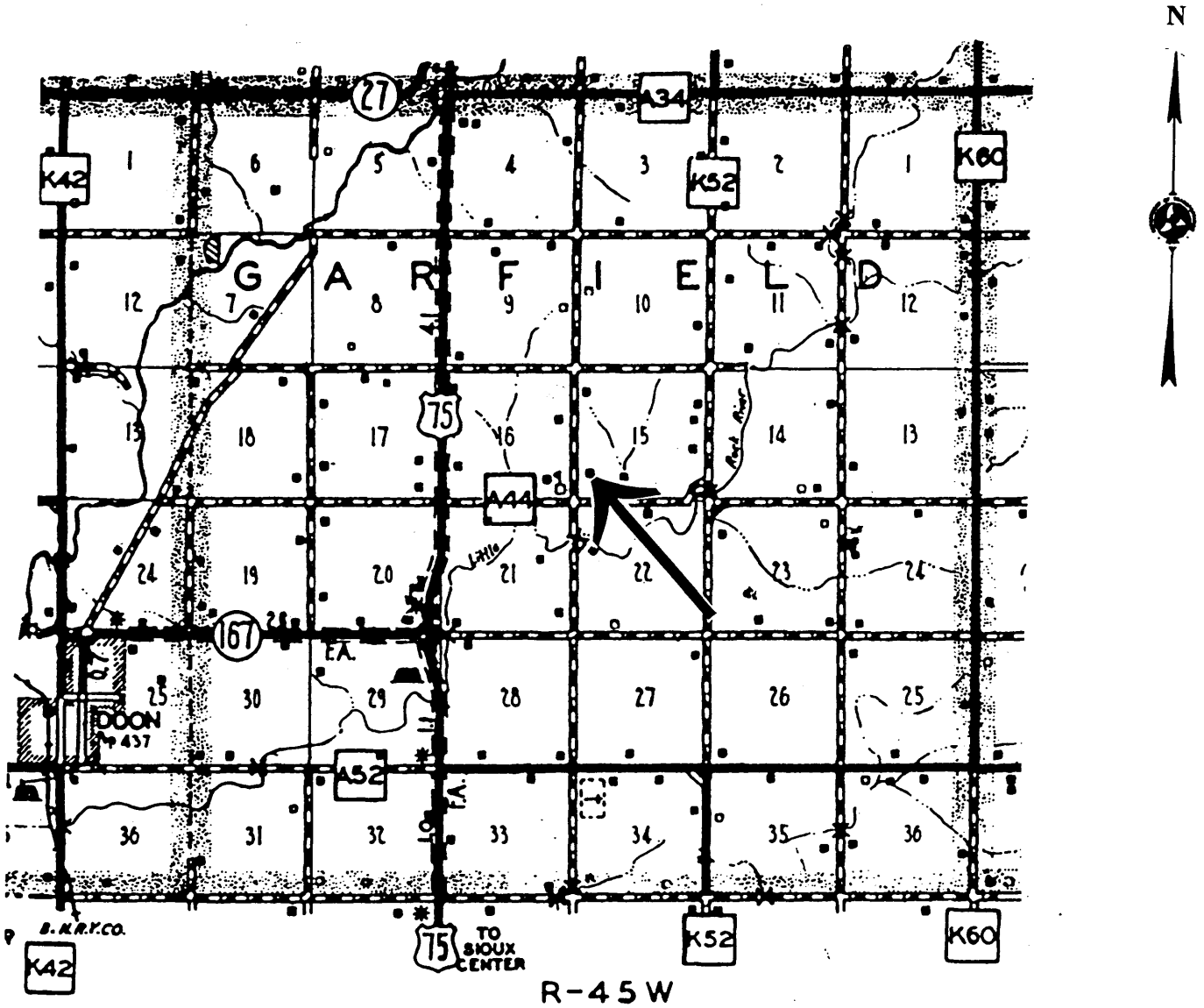
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Reynolds, Charles B. round barn, Lyon County, Iowa



Location of Charles B. Reynolds round barn

Source: Garfield Township excerpt from Iowa Department of Transportation Map of Lyon County, Iowa 1975

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Reynolds, Charles B. round barn, Lyon County, Iowa

Statement of Significance

The property is eligible for the National Register at the local level of significance under Criterion "C" as an important example of evolving round barn development. With the exterior of a true-round shape and an interior organized in a rectangular fashion, this building—among the earliest of Iowa's true-round barns—illustrated the adjustment in thinking that round barn enthusiasts made as they gradually adapted interiors to take advantage of the circular working area.

Historical background and significance

Charles B. Reynolds had little information to go on as he pondered about how to build and operate a circular barn. Being a reader of the Chicago livestock journal, *Breeder's Gazette*, he likely had noticed the write-up about a round barn constructed in Indiana in 1902 and a circular cattle barn in nearby South Dakota featured in a 1903 issue. And he knew of Franklin H. King's model true-round barn design with its conical roof built in 1899 on a Wisconsin dairy farm, which was described in King's *Physics of Agriculture*.¹

Liking what he saw about this innovative type barn and evidently not shy about departing from local building traditions, he began to install the foundation for a seventy-foot diameter barn. Remaining uncertain about interior arrangements, however, he decided to write Joseph E. Wing, the farm building specialist for *Breeder's Gazette* and ask his views.² Wing had gained a wide reputation for promoting the use of clover and for advancing the use of light framing techniques in barn construction. When it came to round barns, however, Wing had doubts about them generally, claiming the lofts were hard to fill and had inconveniently shaped stalls. Wing's reply to Reynolds stated that the seventy-foot barn would "not divide up satisfactorily into stalls in a circle." Also, wrote Wing, a rectangular arrangement would better place "the posts so that they would be in the partitions and not in the way." Such considerations convinced the Lyon County farmer to stick with a traditional layout. The resulting plan—though familiar to octagon barns of the 1880s—would soon be abandoned elsewhere as the true-round form became linked to having a circular interior silo for dairy operations. This linkage, when adopted and publicized in agricultural newspapers, established the driveway and dairy stalls encircling the silo as the most familiar and accepted way to build round barns after 1910.

Numerically round barns comprised only a minor part of the huge numbers of barns erected during the prosperous years between 1880 and 1930. But their stories together became an important chapter of experimentation in the still continuing movement to make farm practices more efficient and economical. The main concentration of round barns in the country lay in the prospering dairy and corn belt areas throughout the Midwest while lesser numbers existed across the northern agricultural farming states.³

The Reynolds barn represented the beginnings of a second phase when true-round barns came to mark round barn development. The first phase had occurred during the 1880s when numerous progressive farmers built octagon barns. This era of octagons owed its origins to numerous articles in agricultural journals by Elliott W. Stewart at

¹ C. B. Reynolds' letter to the editor printed as "Another Round Barn," *Breeder's Gazette* 68 (Sept. 13, 1905), 466.

² See Joseph E. Wing, "An Iowa Round Barn," *Breeder's Gazette*, 48 (August 16, 1905), 273-274.

³ For a general overview of the sweep of round barn trends, see Keith A. Sculle and H. Wayne Price, "Barns of Nonorthogonal Plan," in Allen G. Noble and Hubert G. H. Wilhelm (eds.), *Barns of the Midwest* (Athens: Ohio University Press, 1995), 188-212.

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the national level and, in Iowa, to publicity given to octagon design of Lorenzo S. Coffin, a leading agriculturist of the time. The move toward adopting the true-round form during the 1890s drew upon new circumstances: the growth of dairying in the Midwest with the accompanying development of true-round silos and economical ways of feeding silage to dairy cattle, the greater use of balloon frame construction in building barns, and a time of agricultural prosperity and building construction activity when progressive-minded farmers searched for new and better ways to do things.⁴

Charles B. Reynolds used the round barn primarily for housing sheep. In 1937, the Reynolds family moved from the farm. From 1937 to 1965, other owners used the barn for dairy cows, calves, and cattle. Mr. and Mrs. Tunis Jansma purchased the farm in 1965 and since then the barn has been used primarily for sheltering feeder cattle.

Bibliography

Farm Buildings: New and Enlarged Edition. Chicago: The Breeder's Gazette, 1916. Pp. 50-51.

Reynolds, C. B. "Another Round Barn," *Breeder's Gazette*. 68 (September 13, 1905), Pg. 466.

Sculle, Keith and Price, H. Wayne. "Barns of Nonorthogonal Plan, in *Barns of the Midwest*. Edited by Allen G. Noble and Hubert G. H. Wilhelm. Athens, OH.: Ohio University Press, 1995.

Soike, Lowell J. *Without Right Angles: The Round Barns of Iowa*. Des Moines, IA: Iowa State Historical Department, 1983.

Wing, Joseph E. "An Iowa Round Barn," *Breeder's Gazette*. 48 (August 16, 1905), 273-274.

Telephone interview and correspondence with Faith Reynolds Le Vesconte and Katherine Reynolds (Daughters of C. B. Reynolds) by Wilmyrna Jansma, July, 1997. Correspondence in possession of Wilmyrna Jansma.

Verbal boundary description

A circle 80 feet diameter based on the center point of the barn, and excluding any detached nearby buildings.

Verbal boundary justification

The nominated property includes only the round barn. All other structures are excluded.

⁴ Iowa's legacy of round barn development and building trends is discussed in Lowell J. Soike, *Without Right Angles: The Round Barns of Iowa*, (Des Moines: Iowa State Historical Department, Office of Historic Preservation, 1983).