

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

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SITE MD-28

NAME John and Coralin Evans Ranch

LOCATION About 4 miles east of Piedmont on Meade County Road 4, Southwest Meade Unorganized Territory, Meade County (093), South Dakota (046)

OWNER Ralph Evans
Auburn, Iowa 51433

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

DESCRIPTION Excellent, fair, altered (slightly), original site

Built in 1910, the two-story, wood-frame cube house (contributing) at the Evans Ranch is nestled in a stand of large elm trees on a bluff overlooking Elk Creek. The baloon frame house has a pyramidal roof covered with wood shingles, a red brick chimney rises from the center of the roof.

The east elevation has two bays in the second-story, as do the south and west elevations, with four bays in the ground-floor. The ground-floor of the south elevation is pierced by three bays. Two bays are in the ground floor of the west elevation. Three bays penetrate the upper story of the main house and are visible over the addition attached to the north elevation. With the exception of one picture window in the ground floor of the south elevation, all windows are two-over-two light double hung. The date 1910 is etched into the cement steps in front of the door in the east elevation.

The interior space of the house is divided into four large spaces of approximately equal size and features a staircase with the landing centrally located at the southwest corner of the parlor. A combination den-study is on the south side of the parlor and opens into another large room on the west side. A bedroom and bath is located in the northwest corner of the house. Another staircase leads to the dugout basement beneath the house.

The central staircase leads to the four bedrooms on the second floor. A window at the top of the stairs in the north elevation lights the stairwell and the second floor. The two bedrooms on the west side of the house have angled, recessed doors. All the woodwork on the second floor is varnished, with modes cornices. The house has been very well maintained and the only visivble

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interior alteration is a coat of paint applied to the ground floor woodwork. The kitchen and dining room are in the additions attached to the north elevation, north of the parlor.

The log buildings associated with the farmstead represent the early settlement of the site. The original log structure (contributing) built by the Evans probably in 1908, is situated northeast of the house. The structure has diamond notched corners and the gable roof is covered with planks. The ridge piece has collapsed and the structure is used for storage.

Another log structure (contributing), believed to have been built in 1876 has saddle notched at the corners is located northwest of the house at the edge of the bluff that overlooks Elk Creek. A door pierces the east elevation of this one room building with a gable roof. It is used for storage.

A wood-frame outhouse (contributing) with a gable roof is situated off the northeast corner of the original log structure. Although it is no longer in use, the outhouse is important as it was an integral part of turn-of-the-century homesteads.

North of the house is a wood-frame garage (contributing). It has a gable roof and is painted white.

Another wood-frame, gable-roofed outbuilding (contributing) is located north of the garage.

A double-crib log chicken coop (contributing) is situated northeast of the the outbuilding. The coop represents a primitive form of diamond notch corner-timbering. It has a gable roof that is covered with corrugated metal. The coop has verticle plank doors.

Located northeast of the coop is a four stall shed-roofed, open calf shed (non-contributing).

East of the calf shed is another shed-roofed calf shed (non-contributing).

Two corrugated steel Eaton buildings (non-contributing) are located south of the calf sheds. These modern buildings complete the total number of ten structures on the site with seven contributing and three non-contributing buildings located at the northeastern edge of the site.

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SIGNIFICANCE 1800-1899, 1900-present, vernacular architecture, settlement

DATES: ca. 1876, 1910

BUILDERS: Unknown, John W. Evans

With the earliest component of the site believed to have been built in the last quarter of the 19th century, the John and Coralin Evans Farmstead is an excellent example of early log construction in the Elk Creek Valley. The site represents two distinct building phases. The log structures are some of the earliest encountered during the survey.

The only known double-crib log structure in western South Dakota, the log chicken coop is located on the property. It represents diamond notch corner-timbering, which is also rare in the survey area.

The house is a very early cube form house for a rural area and the Italianate details in the proportions of the house; the long, attenuated windows, the general height of the building, and the emphasis on the roof are all rarely found in rural western South Dakota houses. Although the wrap around porch has been removed from the house, it is significant because of its excellent state of repair and detail. In addition, full two-story houses are rare in the survey area, cube houses in particular.

John and Coralin Evans first homesteaded in Charles Mix County in eastern South Dakota shortly after they were married in Armour on September 10, 1900. John was born in 1873 in Iowa. Coralin was born in 1880. In 1908 they moved to the ranch near Piedmont to raise their five children.

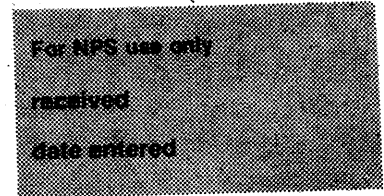
The Evans built a log structure, located northeast of the house, as their first home when they homesteaded the ranch. The wood-frame cube house was built in 1910.

John was a member of the school board for many years, and teachers boarded at the Evans home. All of the Evans children attended rural schools.

The Evans Orchards and gardens were known throughout the region for their fine produce which was sold locally by the family.

John died in 1944 and Coralin died in 1964.

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QUADRANGLE NAME Blackhawk, South Dakota

UTM REFERENCE 14/634076/4898900

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

ACREAGE About 6 Acres

PHOTO REFERENCE NUMBER

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The site is bounded along the northwest by a bluff overlooking Elk Creek which meets an imaginary line ten feet north of the north wall of the calf shed. The eastern boundary is an imaginary line that lies ten feet east of the eastern wall of the calf shed which extends diagonally across the site to an imaginary line which lies fifteen feet south of the south wall of the house. The western boundary is formed by an imaginary line that lies ten feet west of the west wall of the log structure located in the northwest corner of the property. The site is located in the NW quarter of the SE quarter of Section 7, Township 3 north, Range 7 east in Meade County.

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