

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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NATIONAL
REGISTER

Section number CZ 1-b Page 1 John & Kate Merkwan House

Site # CZ 1-b

1. John & Kate Merkwan Log and Rubblestone House.
2. Lincoln Township
Tabor Vicinity
South Dakota Code: 046
- First Congr. District
Bon Homme County Code: 009
3. Building; Privately owned; NA acquisition; Occupied; Restricted access;
Agricultural.
4. Laddie Merkwan
RR 2, Box 68
Tyndall, SD 57066
5. Register of Deeds
Bon Homme County Courthouse
Tyndall, SD 57066
7. Good: Unaltered; Original site.

The John and Kate Merkwan House, located only a few yards south of the Merkwan House/Barn (CZ 1-a), is an L-shaped structure built in two phases. The earliest section is a single-pen log dwelling with dimensions of 16'5" by 18'7". A later two-bay addition of rubblestone construction projects on an axis perpendicular to the initial structure. Dimensions of the later structure are 24'6" by 1'2". The first chimney is located at the north gable end of the log structure (now the center of the building). Another chimney is located at the partition wall in the stone addition. The log walls have been covered with clapboard siding, while the stone walls have a stucco veneer. Both exterior treatments include a coat of white paint. A screened L-shaped porch on the east facade addresses two entry doors that face east and south. An intersecting gable roof is constructed of common rafters placed 24 inches apart, horizontal boards, and wooden shingles. A lateral wind brace was later installed in the northwest corner of the roof.

Interior walls display a variety of coverings. The log bay reveals a brown floor and trim paint with a more recent reddish-brown coat on top. Circa-1920's oil cloth covers the walls and ceiling. The rubblestone section includes a wainscoat, worn linoleum floors, and dark green, gray, and turquoise paint.

8. 1869-1899; Architecture, Exploration/Settlement, Czech Ethnic.

Specific date unknown. John Merkwan Sr., builder.

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John & Kate Merkwan House

Significant in architecture, the John and Kate Merkwan House is one of several Czech L-shaped houses in South Dakota; however, it differs from most in that it was built in two separate phases. It is a rare example of the use of the perpendicular ell as an extension of the dwelling. The Merkwan House also displays in one structure two distinct construction technologies, log and stone masonry, both common to early Czechs in the state. At present it is used as a storage facility for the owner's seed corn business and is kept in good condition.

The Merkwan House is also significant in the history of Czech settlement in the state. Born at Chvolsjvce, Bohemia in 1826, John Merkwan Sr. emigrated to Dakota Territory sometime before 1880. He brought his second wife Kate (Catherine) Randel and several of their children to this farm in Bon Homme County. He is responsible for constructing most of the historic buildings on the farmstead. His second son, Thomas, was born at Stryace u Prachadic, Bohemia in 1863 and later became the owner-operator of the farm. Thomas' son Anton was born in 1900 and is the father of the present owner, Laddie Merkwan. The family has long held membership in St. Wenceslaus Catholic Parish in Tabor, SD.

Major biographical source: Dennis L. Povondra, The Plavec and Merkwan Families, (Gregory, SD: Privately Printed, 1973), 4-5, 7-8.

10. Acreage: less than one acre. Scale: 1/24,000.
Quad: Kloucek Lake. UTM: 14/ 605260/ 4762150.

This site consists of an L-shaped house. The western boundary is an imaginary line lying 10 feet from the westernmost wall of the house and running parallel to that wall. The northern boundary is an imaginary line lying 10 feet from the northernmost wall of the house and running parallel to that wall. The eastern boundary is an imaginary line lying 10 feet from the easternmost wall of the house and lying parallel to that wall. The southern boundary is an imaginary line lying 10 feet from the southernmost wall of the house and running parallel to that wall. The site is located in the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 33, Township 95 North, Range 58 West, in Bon Homme County.

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SITE PLAN OF FARMSTEAD CONTAINING CZ 1-b ON REVERSE SIDE

SITE NAME: J. H. K. MERWAN
CZ SURVEY #: 1-a + 1-b

SITE NAME: J. H. K. MERWAN
CZ SURVEY #: 1-a + 1-b

HOG HOUSE

SHEETER BELT

GLA CONSTR.
MACHINE
STAGE

POLE CONSTR	
MACHINE	
STORAGE	

LIVE STOCK	
CORAL	

(FEED LOT)

OPEN
FRONT

SHED ROOF
POLE CONSTR.
(BY L. MERVAN

STEEL
W GATE

Silo

SHED
ROOF
ADD

HOUSE/BARN
1-a
(Contributing)

SELF-PLANTED
ELM
TREES

(FEED LOT)

GRAINERY
BUILT BY
PRESENT
OWNER'S
GRAND FATHER
(THOMAS MERKMAN)

13490

WOOD FRAM
BLOG BY
L. MERWA
TO REPLA
ORIG. RUC
(RUBBLE
STONE - ?)
HEN. HUNT

STEEL
GATE

ENTRY TO
CELLAR

1/3 mi driveway
(Access to S.D.H. 25)

GRAIN
STORAGE

She

LOG/STONE	
HOUSE	
1-b	

✓ CEDAR
TREES

SHEETER BELF

OUT	BLAG.		
COVERED	W/	BRICK-	
LIKE	ASPHALT		
	SHEETS		

~~OLD cut-house~~