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NPS FORM 10-900 (Rev. 8-86) OMB No. 1024-0018 [SD-SHPO # ECA-OH-597-1/89]
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United States Department of the Interior -- National Park Service
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES -- REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering "NA" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name: "H O" Ranch Log House

other name/ site number: "N Double S" Ranch Log House, Richardson Log House

2. Location

street & number: 3 miles west of Marcus

/NA/ not for publication

city, town: Marcus

/XX/ vicinity

state: SOUTH DAKOTA code: SD county: Meade

code: SD 093 zip code: 57757

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Category of Property

Number of Resources within Property:

/XX/ private

/XX/ building(s)

Contributing

Noncontributing

/ / pubic-local

/ / district

1

buildings

/ / public-state

/ / site

sites

/ / public-federal

/ / structure

structures

/ / object

/ / object

objects

1

0

Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

NA

Number of contributing resources

previously listed in the National

Register: 0

11. Form Prepared by

name/title: Irwin Richardson, owner; with technical assistance by John Rau, SHPO staff

organization: Red Owl Ranch Family Land Ltd. Partnership date:

street & number: 1343 Fulton Street

telephone: 347-3316

city or town: Sturgis

state: SOUTH DAKOTA zip code: 57785

page 2: "H O Ranch Log House
property name

, Meade
county

, SOUTH DAKOTA
state

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

On Field 5/17/90
Signature of certifying official Date

S. O. Holt SHPO
State or Federal agency or bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

- I, hereby, certify that this property is:
- 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) _____

Entered in the
National Register

Shelore Byers 6/21/90

[Signature] _____
Signature of the Keeper Date

page 3: "H O" Ranch Log House
property name

, Meade
county

, SOUTH DAKOTA
state

6. Function or Use (enter categories from instructions)

Historic functions:

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC/Multiple Dwelling

Current Functions:

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Single-Pen Log House

Materials:

(enter categories from instructions)

foundation Wood/Log

walls Wood/Log

roof Earth

other NA

Describe present and historic physical appearance: /XX/ see continuation sheet

8. Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in
relation to other properties: / / / / /XX/

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria /XX/ A / /B / /C / /D

Criteria Considerations / /A / /B / /C / /D / /E / /F / /G

Areas of Significance (enter from instructions)

Exploration/Settlement

Period of Significance

1898-1940

Significant Dates

1898, 1901

1918, 1939

Significant Person

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations,
and periods of significance noted above /XX/ see continuation sheet

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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Situated near Red Owl Creek in the open plains of eastern Meade County, South Dakota, the "H O" Ranch Log House is a single-story rectangular pen dwelling measuring 16-feet by 22-feet. Rising directly from a simple log sill, the walls are constructed of hand hewn timbers connected at the corners with inverted "V" notches. Wide interstices are chinked with a mixture of earthen materials, wood fiber, and cement. The house is capped by a broad gable roof supported by a ridge piece and purlins of heavy hewn timbers. The horizontal plank roof surface is covered with tarpaper and native hardpan. A circa-1939 red brick chimney rises from the north gable end. Originally, heating smoke was vented through a stove pipe that pierced the center of the roof. Wall openings include only a single door in the center of the east axial facade and a stock rectangular window in each gable end.

The interior of the single-room dwelling displays bare log walls, a pine board floor, an open ceiling, and exposed beams. There is no loft. In recent years, weight of the roof caused a crack in one of the transverse beams, which has been stabilized with two steel basement jacks. The house is furnished with vintage furniture, an icebox, and a wood-burning cook stove.

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Under Criterion A of the National Register Criteria, the "H O" Ranch Log House is significant in the area of Exploration/Settlement, because as one of the first houses erected in the region it has long served a vital domestic function in early ranching operations. It was built in circa 1878 by fur traders along Sulpher Creek about six miles north of its present location. In 1898, the building was moved to a site near Red Owl Creek to serve as a ranch house. The property is an excellent, virtually unaltered example of early ranch housing in the western part of the state. Under the South Dakota Historical Preservation Plan, the property relates to the following historic contexts: III. Early Commercial Exploration and Military Experience/ A. Fur Trading Posts; and IV. Permanent Rural and Urban Pioneer Settlement/A. Claim Era.

Dakota Territory was organized in 1861 in the vast lands west of Minnesota. By the end of the decade, the land area of the territory was reduced to just that of the present-day states of North Dakota and South Dakota. Most of the early settlement in Dakota took place in the southeastern corner, but even there development during the first decade was very slow in a large part due to continual fear of Indian attack. In 1868, the region west of the Missouri River was closed to White settlement under terms of the Laramie Treaty, which set up the Great Sioux Reservation in an effort to avoid Indian interference with the then nearly-completed transcontinental railroad. However, rumors of gold in the Black Hills aroused the interest of fortune seekers. In 1874, the U. S. Government dispatched a large, flamboyant force under the command of Lt. Col. George A. Custer to explore the region and to find ways to expel White intruders. Prospectors working for the expedition discovered gold near French Creek, and news of the find spurred a revival of illicit entry. Through negotiations by two successive controversial commissions the government ceded the Black Hills region and opened it for settlement. Yet, the central part of the territory remained closed until subsequent negotiations and enactment of the Dawes Severalty Act of 1887.

Organized in 1889, present-day Meade County is a large tract of land extending some eighty miles east of the foot hills of the Black Hills formation. Much of the land area of Meade County lies in the region secured in the 1887 Dawes Act. By that time, most of the easy placer mining operations in the Black Hills were giving way to serious hard rock ventures. Thus, many unemployed prospectors migrated out of the Hills to homestead on the newly opened plains. Additional homesteaders came from eastern locations. The dry climate best supported grazing; therefore, a substantial ranch economy developed throughout Meade, Butte, Harding, Perkins, Ziebach, and Stanley counties. This region represents some of the last land open for pioneer settlement in South Dakota.

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The property nominated here was constructed in circa 1878 by fur traders who were operating in the region before the days of legal settlement. Although this date of operation is very late for the fur trade in South Dakota, it is likely that independent traders used this small log dwelling as a temporary, minor subpost of a larger regional or main post. (See "19th Century South Dakota Trading Posts," National Register of Historic Places, 1988.)

In 1898, the house was purchased by the Holcomb ("H O") Ranch and moved to its present location, where it served as quarters for hands attending winter grazing stock. The "H O" was an immense ranching operation that ran cattle from Rapid Creek (60 miles to the south) to Bismarck, North Dakota. Because this site was well watered, it also became a popular overnight stop during seasonal roundups.

In 1901, Narcisse Narcelle, a successful mixed blood Indian with extensive ranching interests, bought the place. Emanuel Coya, a noted Mexican stockman, served as Narcelle's foreman and resided in the log dwelling. After Narcelle died in a wagon accident in 1912, his sister Louise, who was married to Harry Sturgis, assumed ownership of the house and ranch site.

In 1918, C. A. "Dick" Richardson (father of the present owner) purchased the property. Under this ownership, the house served as a summer haying camp and as a winter feeding camp. Apparently, the wood floor was installed at this time. Local lore contends that during the long winter months the cowboys held many all-night poker games in the tiny log house.

Current owners, Irwin and Inga Richardson, moved into house in 1939 and added the red brick chimney. A year later, they moved to more substantial quarters at a nearby site, but continued to maintain the old log house as a temporary camp. The Richardsons still live in the house when they visit the ranch and keep it in a good state of repair.

The period of significance of the nominated property extends from 1898, when it began its function at its present location as a ranch dwelling to 1940, the established 50-year cut-off date for the National Register. Its significance is derived from its historically distinguished role in the early exploration, settlement, and development of the ranching industry in the region. The property does not need to meet Criteria Consideration B, since it was relocated prior to its period of significance. [see National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation, Revised Draft, (Washington, NPS Interagency Resources Division, 1989). p. 44]

page 4: "H O" Ranch Log House
property name

, Meade
county

, SOUTH DAKOTA
state

9. Major Bibliographical References /XX/ see continuation sheet

Previous documentation by 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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- /XX/ State historic preservation office
- / / Other State agency
- / / Federal agency
- / / Local government
- / / University
- / / Other

Specify repository:

South Dakota Historical Preservation Center

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property: Less than once acre

UTM References:

A = /13/	/711-180/	/4948-830/	B = / /	/ /	/ /
C = / /	/ /	/ /	D = / /	/ /	/ /
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

Quad: Marcus

Scale: 1:24000

/ / see continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description:

/XX/ see continuation sheet

Boundary Justification:

/XX/ see continuation sheet

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Continuation Sheet**

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Deed Records. Meade County Register of Deeds Office, Sturgis, South Dakota.

"Historic Resources of Rural Butte and Meade Counties, South Dakota (Partial Inventory: Historic and Architectural Resources)," National Register of Historic Places. 1986.

Howie, John. Personal Interview by Irwin Richardson, Rural Meade County, South Dakota. 1989.

Personal Recollections of Irwin Richardson (current owner).

"19th Century South Dakota Trading Posts," National Register of Historic Places, 1988.

White, H. A. "Villy." Personal Interview by Irwin Richardson, Rural Meade County, South Dakota. 1989.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nominated property is bounded by a set of imaginary lines that intersect to form a rectangle around the rectangular log house. The eastern boundary line lies 10 feet east of the east wall of the house and runs parallel to that wall. The southern boundary line lies 10 feet south of the south wall of the house and runs parallel to that wall. The western boundary line lies 10 feet west of the west wall of the house and runs parallel to that wall. The northern boundary line lies 10 feet north of the north wall of the house and runs parallel to that wall. The property is located in the Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 8, Township 8 North, Range 15 East, (Black Hills Meridian) in Meade County, South Dakota.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The boundaries of the nominated property are set to include only the log house.

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1.
"H O" Ranch Log House
Marcus Vicinity, Meade County, South Dakota
by Irwin Richardson
October 1989
Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center
East (front) facade, camera facing west
Photo No. 1

2.
"H O" Ranch Log House
Marcus Vicinity, Meade County, South Dakota
by Irwin Richardson
October 1989
Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center
South facade, camera facing north
Photo No. 2

3.
"H O" Ranch Log House
Marcus Vicinity, Meade County, South Dakota
by Irwin Richardson
October 1989
Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center
West facade, camera facing east
Photo No. 3

4.
"H O" Ranch Log House
Marcus Vicinity, Meade County, South Dakota
by Irwin Richardson
October 1989
Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center
Interior, camera facing northeast
Photo No. 4

5.
"H O" Ranch Log House
Marcus Vicinity, Meade County, South Dakota
by Irwin Richardson
October 1989
Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center
Interior, camera facing west-northwest
Photo No. 5

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6.
"H O" Ranch Log House
Marcus Vicinity, Meade County, South Dakota
by Irwin Richardson
October 1989
Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center
Interior, camera facing southwest
Photo No. 6