

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 instructions.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Dickens Round Barn

Other names/site number: John and Agnes Dickens Round Barn

Name of related multiple property listing:

South Dakota's Round and Polygonal Barns and Pavilions (NR Ref#64500589)

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

2. Location

Street & number: 27882 473rd Avenue

City or town: Worthing State: SD County: Lincoln

Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☒

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national x statewide local
Applicable National Register Criteria:

 A B x C D

Jay D. Vogt
Signature of certifying official/Title:

12-17-2018
Date

SD SHPO

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby ~~certify~~ that this property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain:)

for 
Signature of the Keeper

3/11/19
Date of Action

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 ☐

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Agriculture/Subsistence: Animal Facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Vacant: Not in use

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: Round Barn

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundation: concrete; Walls: ceramic tile; Roof: asphalt

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Dickens Barn (1917) sits on an active farm in La Valley Township near the town of Worthing. The farmyard is approached via a gravel entrance road leading east off 473rd Avenue. The farmyard does not sit on a main section line road, but is recessed into a quarter section about one-third of a mile from 473rd Avenue and one-sixth of a mile from 279th Street. The current farmyard is laid out in an upright tilde shape surrounded by cultivated fields. To the north is a shelterbelt and house. In the middle is the Dickens Round Barn and a modern machine shop. To the south is another modern farm building. Individual trees and small shelterbelts are found throughout the uncultivated portions of the farmyard.

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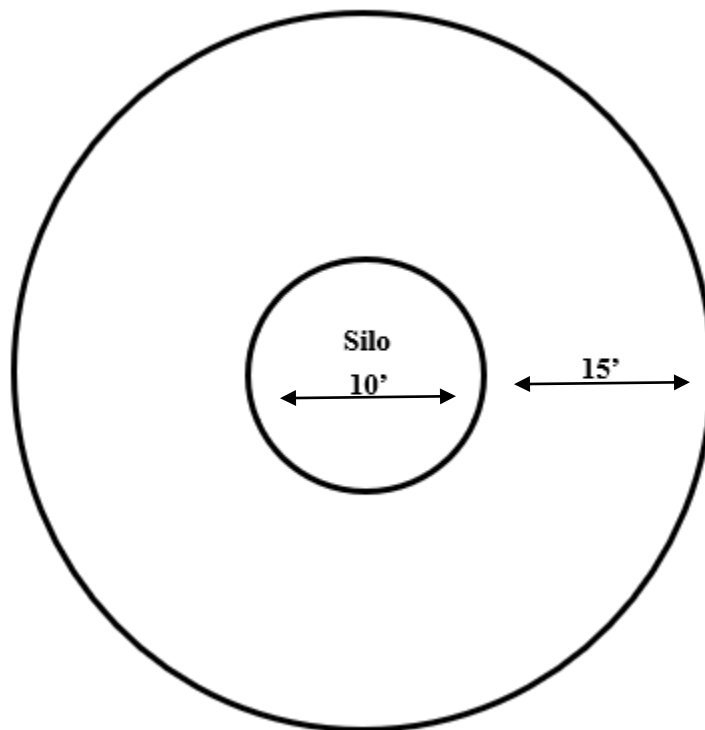
The Dickens Round Barn is forty feet in diameter. The interior silo is ten feet in diameter. It is constructed of hollow clay tile bricks and has a self-supporting gambrel roof clad with asphalt shingles. Windows have four vertical lights; window openings are covered with wood. The barn is the only historic building with individual integrity remaining in the farmyard, yet its rural setting allows the barn to convey its significance. The barn itself has seen minimal alterations. Two door openings have been infilled with wood frame while another has been infilled and downsized with a fiberglass door. The fourth opening retains wood doors and strap hinges. However, these changes are minimal and the barn still visually conveys its integrity of materials and design. Elements of workmanship survive in the exterior pointing and interior truss construction. Integrity of feeling and association are high given the quality of the barn's location, setting, design, workmanship, and materials discussed above. The barn conveys its architectural significance when one views it from the inside or outside.

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Narrative Description

Though a relatively complicated building to construct in its time, the Dickens Round Barn is rather simplistic architecturally. The barn rests on a poured concrete foundation and has a gambrel roof clad in asphalt shingles; the silo's dome roof is metal. The diameter of the barn is 40'. The interior silo's diameter is 10'. The space between the barn wall and the silo wall is 15'.



Dickens Round Barn interior layout

The barn has a braced, self-supporting roof with rafters, plates, and studs of 2"x 6" lumber. The space between each rafter increases from top to bottom. At the top, where the roof engages the silo, the space between each rafter is 8". At the bottom, where the roof engages the wall, the space between each rafter is 22". These rafters overhang the wall creating a slight eave. Sistered 2" x 6" braces (which support the hayloft) radiate from the silo wall to the exterior wall; the space between each brace is 8" where it attaches to the silo and 22" where it attaches to the wall. Steel hangers on the silo wall and exterior wall hold the braces. The silo opening is braced with steel. There are no stanchions or stalls inside the barn.

On the exterior, there are four openings spaced equidistantly. These openings have a concrete lintel. The northeast opening has double wood doors. These doors are not original. The opening on the southwest is infilled with wood and a modern fiberglass single door. The openings on the northwest and southeast have been framed in with wood. Metal light fixtures are centered over

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each of the four openings. Between each door opening are two windows containing four vertical panes. It is not known if these window are original. These windows have been covered with wood. There are a total of eight of these windows on the barn. On the west and south sides of the barn, directly below the eaves, are small loft doors built of vertical boards with X-bracing and strap hinges. The small doors are roughly the same size as the window openings. The silo's dome is covered in seam metal.

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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.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1917

Significant Dates

1917

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Dickens Round Barn (1917) is eligible for the National Register under **Criterion C** for **Architecture**. It is being nominated under the *South Dakota Round and Polygonal Barns and Pavilions (1995)* Multiple Property Listing (MPL). The Dickens Round Barn was determined eligible during this study. Seven property types are defined in the multiple property documentation form. The Dickens Round Barn falls under the *Final Period Southeastern South Dakota Hollow Clay Tile Round Barns* property type. Under this property type, it is significant for embodying the distinctive characteristics of the last stage of round barn building in South Dakota. It illustrates the incorporation of hollow clay tile construction in round barn design. Defining features of this property type include hollow clay tile construction, true round plan, round interior silo, and a self-supporting roof not requiring extra supports except for the silo. Additionally, per the MPL, the Dickens Round Barn represents a unique trend of mail order barn plans specific to Lake, Lincoln, McCook, and Minnehaha counties in southeastern South Dakota around the Sioux Falls area.

The barn's **Period of Significance** is **1917**, the year it was built. The MPL indicates that *Final Period Southeastern South Dakota Hollow Clay Tile Round Barns* were constructed 1917-1921. The MPL does not specifically mention a level of significance, but statewide significance is implied. Also, other barns nominated under the MPL are at the statewide level. The Dickens Round Barn is also considered significant at the **statewide level**.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

John and Agnes Dickens

The owners of the farm at the time of the barn's construction were John and Agnes Dickens. John was born in 1863 in Wisconsin, but moved with his parents to Fayette County, Iowa by 1880.¹ In 1892, John moved to Worthing in Lincoln County, South Dakota, where he worked as a carpenter.² In 1895, John married Agnes Mausbach, daughter of Lincoln County farmers Tillman and Annie Mausbach, of Worthing.³ At this time, the couple began farming the SW1/4, S34, T99N, R50W, in La Valley Township, Lincoln County.⁴ Their 160-acre farm adjoined

¹ United States Federal Census (1900). Retrieved from https://search.ancestrylibrary.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=1900usfedcen&h=59835797&indiv=try&o_vc=Record:OtherRecord&rhSource=6224

² "Services Held Friday For Lincoln Co. Pioneer" *The Lennox Independent* (Lennox, SD), 12 November 1936.

³ Tillman Mausbach. Retrieved from <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/50962045>

⁴ "Services Held Friday For Lincoln Co. Pioneer" *The Lennox Independent*, 12 November 1936.

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Agnes' parent's farm. Her parents were early settlers and were considered prosperous farmers in the county.⁵

John and Agnes farmed for 30 years. Records from the *Dakota Farmers' Leader*, *The Chester White Journal*, and *The Aberdeen-Angus Journal* indicate they raised sheep, swine, and Angus cattle, which was also what Agnes' parents raised.⁶ It is also likely they cultivated the land and kept other livestock. (A photo from the 1950s shows a silo, granary, and other gabled outbuildings, demonstrating the diversification of the farm) The couple had five children: Miriam (who died in infancy), Susie, George, Tillman, and Millard who tragically drowned at age two in the creek near the farmyard.

In 1917, the Dickens family constructed the hollow clay tile round barn. The MPL indicates that local informants believe the hollow clay tile came from Mason City, Iowa, perhaps from the Mason City Brick and Tile Company. It is possible the barn is linked to the Johnston Brothers firm based out of Fort Dodge, Iowa. Four barns near the Dickens Round Barn can be traced to this firm. Johnston Brothers offered both plans and materials, and possibly crews, for round barn construction. No patent plates or stamped bricks, however, directly link the Dickens Round Barn to Johnston Brothers. It is possible that John, a carpenter before he became a farmer, constructed the barn based on plans obtained from the Johnston Brothers or another firm like the Loudon Company of St. Paul, Minnesota. Since many carpenters charged more for labor to build round barns, due to their unfamiliarity with such structures, it is reasonable to assume that John may have undertaken the project himself based on his carpentry experience.⁷

The Dickens family farmed until 1926, at which time they retired to Worthing.⁸ By 1921, their sons had assumed a role in the operation as the trade publications of the time referred to them as J.W. Dickens and Sons of Sleepy Hollow Stock Farm.⁹ As of 1929, son Tillman and his wife Margaret were living on this farm raising Chester White Hogs and White Leghorn Chickens.¹⁰ His brother, George, lived northwest a few miles on a farm owned by Agnes, which was likely an inheritance from her family as other Mausbach land bordered it.¹¹ Tillman was still on the farm in 1963, but it was out of family ownership by the early 1980s.¹² John Dickens passed away in 1936 and Agnes in 1961. Rick Juel is the current owner.

⁵ *Dakota Farmers' Leader* (Canton, SD), 27 February 1903.

⁶ *Dakota Farmers' Leader* (Canton, SD), 17 February 1905; "Frank E. Mausbach's Sale Report" *The Chester White Journal*, v.12, (March, 1921), 89; "Sell Pair of Bulls" *The Aberdeen-Angus Journal*, v.IV, no.25 (July 1923), 8.

⁷ Scupholm - 1994 - pp. 164-65

⁸ Lincoln County History Committee. *The History of Lincoln County*. (Freeman, SD: Pine Hill Press, 1985), 341.

⁹ "Sell Pair of Bulls" *The Aberdeen-Angus Journal*, v.IV, no.25 (July 1923), 8.

¹⁰ *Atlas and Farmers' Directory of Lincoln County, South Dakota*, (St. Paul, MN: Web Publishing Co., 1929), 22.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² *Atlas of Lincoln County South Dakota*, (Fergus Falls, MN: Thomas O. Nelson Co. 1962, 11; *Atlas of Lincoln County South Dakota*, (Milbank, SD: Midland Atlas Company, 1983), 11.

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Supporting Documentation from the Multiple Property Documentation Form

The South Dakota's Round and Polygonal Barns and Pavilions (1995) MPL classifies round barns into seven categories:

1. Early Period Polygonal/Round Barns
2. Middle Period Polygonal/Round Barns
3. Final Period Polygonal/Round Barns
4. Final Period Southeastern South Dakota Hollow Clay Tile Round Barns
5. Sale Barns
6. Polygonal Hog Houses
7. Polygonal Exhibit Pavilions

The Dickens Round Barn is classified as a Final Period Southeastern South Dakota Hollow Clay Tile Round Barn. The context for this classification is discussed below. Note, in the following context the term “round barn” is used to reference both *round* and *polygonal* structures built to house livestock.

Overview of Round Barn Construction Before 1900

The round barn is a rare structure in the United States; one historian estimates its “numbers may never have exceeded 1000 nationally.”¹³ Although the round barn appeared as early as 1793 in the United States, it was not until the last quarter of the 19th century that the form received the publicity and study which led to its peak popularity nationwide from approximately 1905-1920.¹⁴

Most round barns built in the United States before 1900 are octagonal. Elliot Stewart, a Cornell University lecturer and editor of the Buffalo, New York, based agricultural publication *Live-Stock Journal*, is “credited with the initial design and promotion of the octagonal barn in the United States.”¹⁵ After building an octagonal barn with a self-supporting sectional conical roof on his New York farm in 1874, Stewart publicized it in the journal he edited. Publicity about his barn appeared in several other periodicals and books over the next ten years. “In 1884 a pleased Stewart noted his satisfaction not only with his own octagonal barn but also with the fact that some 30 or 40 had been built in various parts of the country – among them five in Pennsylvania, three in Indiana, four or five in Illinois, two in Minnesota, and several in Kentucky.”¹⁶ Stewart maintained his creation was superior to rectangular barns because it was cheaper to build, contained more space, had a self-supporting roof, was more wind-resistant and had a shorter

¹³ Martin L. Perry, *National Register of Historic Places Thematic Nomination for North Dakota Round Barns*, (Bismarck, ND: State Historical Society of North Dakota, 1986), 7-1.

¹⁴ Lowell Soike, *Without Right Angles: the Round Barns of Iowa*, (Des Moines, IA: Iowa State Historical Office of Historic Preservation, 1983), 5.

¹⁵ John T. Hanou, *A Round Indiana: Round Barns in the Hoosier State*, (West Lafayette, Indiana: Purdue University Press, 1993), 9.

¹⁶ Lowell Soike, *Without Right Angles: the Round Barns of Iowa*, (Des Moines, IA: Iowa State Historical Office of Historic Preservation, 1983), 11.

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distance between any two points in the barn.¹⁷

Another noted octagonal promoter built his barns much closer to South Dakota. Lorenzo Coffin, described by Iowa barn historian Lowell Soike as “one of Iowa’s leading agricultural improvement spokesmen of his day,” built an octagonal barn on his farm near Fort Dodge, Iowa in 1867.¹⁸ Unlike Stewart, Coffin built a barn needing interior supports for the roof.¹⁹ Although Coffin did not immediately promote his barn, details and pictures of it did appear in Iowa agricultural papers and journals in the early 1880s.²⁰

The octagonal form was popular among South Dakota’s early round barn builders and became a standard feature of sale barn plans. As in many other Midwestern states, South Dakota’s octagonal barns usually predate their circular counterparts. Unlike these states, however, all of South Dakota’s octagonal barns have post-1900 construction dates. Several of the state’s early octagonal barns resemble the exterior of Stewart’s prototype but require roof supports like Coffin’s barn.

Michigan barn historian Carrie Scupholm concluded the following about the two major octagonal barn promoters,

“Elliot Stewart and Lorenzo Coffin epitomize ‘practical farmers’ that promoted ideas for improving farming practices in agricultural journals. Both men achieved some success in convincing a few of their fellow farmers to copy their innovative barn designs, however most of the credit, and much of the glory for instigating the round barn ‘boom’ of the 1890s and 1900s would lie with men more closely tied to academia.”

The most prominent of these academics was Franklin King, a professor of Agricultural Physics at the University of Wisconsin. King did pioneering work on silo construction in the 1880s and by 1891 published his conclusions that the cylinder was the preferred form for the silo. Drawing and expanding on his silo research, King designed a true round barn with a circular interior silo in 1889. The major disadvantage of King’s barn was that the roof required support. Despite this fact, “So successful was this plan that King promoted it in numerous agricultural publications between 1890 and 1900, including all six editions of his own popular textbook on agriculture.”²¹ The silo and true round form became standard features in round/polygonal barns nationwide.

The self-supporting roof, clay tile construction, rise of mail order plans, barn design services, and precut kit barns are innovations that impacted South Dakota’s round/polygonal barns. They are discussed in more detail as follows.

¹⁷ Ibid, 11.

¹⁸ Ibid 12; 15.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid, 17-18.

²¹ Hanou, 14.

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South Dakota's First Round/Polygonal Barns

Only four South Dakota round barns ever built predate 1910: the 1903 Nold Polygonal Hog House in Potter County, the 1905 Lillebridge Round Barn in Brookings County, the 1907 Drolle Sale Barn in Yankton County and the 1907 Horticulture Pavilion at the State Fairgrounds in Huron. Little is known about the history of the Drolle Sale Barn and Horticulture Pavilion. The Drolle Sale Barn was built for hogs and has an octagon plan and sectional conical roof. Its appearance is very similar to the Svien Barn discussed below. The cruciform, 16-sided Horticulture Pavilion predated, and may have been an inspiration for, other concentric exhibit pavilions built around 1920 and discussed below.

Like the earliest round barns in the United States, the Nold Hog House was the product of an innovative builder willing to experiment. John Nold built his 20-sided hog house with a sectional conical roof in 1903, approximately 15 years after proving up his homestead claim. He used hollow clay tile, considered a non-traditional material at the time, for the walls. The building had its own scale, pit silo, grain elevator, gravity feed system, grinder and moveable hog pens. In addition to the hog house, Nold built a 16-sided house for his family. Besides his architectural abilities, Nold was also a blacksmith, agriculture equipment inventor, rancher and gardener.

Little information exists about the history of the Lillebridge Barn, a true round barn with a conical roof. Although its exterior resembled the barn designed by University of Wisconsin professor Franklin King and was first published in the agricultural press in 1890, the Lillebridge Barn did not have an interior silo, one of the key features that made the King barn an important prototype.

The Lillebridge Barn along with two 1910 barns, the Svien Barn in Day County and the Emminger Barn in Codington County, make up the First Period Polygonal/Round Barn property type, the precursor to the Middle and Final Period Polygonal/Round Barn property types associated with South Dakota's round barn building boom. The defining features of the First Period property type are the roof requiring support and the absence of an interior silo. These barns are true round or octagonal in plan with conical, sectional conical or gambrel sectional roofs. Early Period barns have smaller diameters than Middle and Final Period barns. Because the Early Period barn cupolas do not top a silo, they tend to be much smaller than those on later barns with silos.

The 1910 to Early 1920s Barn Boom

The South Dakota boom in round barn building, especially in East River regions from 1910 to the early 1920s, was aided by several factors including the changing needs of established operators, the rise of new, specialized agricultural industries, increased interest and promotion of agricultural education/research and a healthy farm economy caused by the increased food demands of the World War I years. By 1910, the East River region had been permanently settled for 20-40 years. Well-established farmers and ranchers needed bigger structures for their expanding operations. In addition to light truss gambrel and gothic arch barns, these operators

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built round barns as second-generation agricultural buildings, usually to replace original, smaller livestock shelters.

Many of these successful operators expanded and diversified into livestock in the late 1890s and early 1900s in direct response to drought and low cattle prices that plagued South Dakota crop farmers during the Great Dakota Bust of 1889-1897. Cattle, hog raising and dairying emerged as major South Dakota industries at this time. Increased livestock numbers created a demand for larger, more efficient barns.

Round barn manufacturers and agricultural experiment station bulletins promoted the round barn as an ideal way to meet these new requirements. Firms such as the Loudon Machinery Company of Fairfield, Iowa; Sears, Roebuck and Co. of Chicago; the Chicago House Wrecking Company of Chicago, and Gordon-Van Tine Company of Davenport Iowa, offered plans and precut kit barns for sale. Silos, a convenient way to store large amounts of feed for long periods of time, were also promoted as important components of the round barn package. As in other states, most of South Dakota's late barns (excluding the sale barn, hog house and exhibit pavilion property types) have true round plans, a change from octagonal plans found in many earlier barns. Eleven of the twelve South Dakota round barns built in 1914 or later for which plan form data is available have circular plans. In commenting on this later generation of true round barns in Iowa, Lowell Soike stated, "...barn uses became more specialized. Strictly dairy barns appeared more often, as did barns that held special registered stock. Others served as farm sales barns for marketing rather than for raising and housing animals."²²

The healthy farm economy in the last half of the decade, due to increased food demands of the World War I years, was probably the most important factor in round barn development. Prosperous times meant more money in every operator's pocket. With more disposable income, farmers and ranchers could afford to expand their operations. Because the round barn was a new and relatively experimental concept to most South Dakota agricultural operators, building one of these structures represented somewhat of a gamble on the part of the farmer or rancher. Prosperous times made it easier for these operators to take a risk and try the round barn form, promoted in the agricultural community and press as the latest in efficiency and convenience. South Dakota round barn construction peaked at twelve in 1916-1920 before dropping off during the farm depression years of the 1920s. "When the wartime demands disappeared as the European agricultural economy recovered, farm prices plummeted, creating a farm depression. By 1924 South Dakota had the highest per-capita state debt in the nation."²³ Also contributing to the drop-off was the decreasing popularity of the round barn concept in the agricultural press in the late 1910s into the 1920s.

²² Lowell Soike, *Without Right Angles: the Round Barns of Iowa*, (Des Moines, IA: Iowa State Historical Office of Historic Preservation, 1983), 32.

²³ Allyson Brooks and Steph Jacon, *Homesteading and Agricultural Development in South Dakota*, (Vermillion, SD: State Historical Preservation Center, 1994), 25-26.

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Technological Advances and Boom Period Barns

Although information on important developments in the history of round barn buildings such as the interior silo was available as early as the 1890s, South Dakota round barn builders did not take advantage of this advance until after 1910. Farmers and ranchers in other states such as Iowa, Indiana, and North Dakota were also slow to adopt this new technology. Although there is always a lag between the time a concept is first introduced and the time it gains mainstream acceptance, it may have taken longer in this case because the round barn itself was a foreign concept to most potential builders and the initial (approximately pre-1910) distribution of the information did not reach nearly as many people as later advertisements.

In his National Register nomination for North Dakota's round barns, L. Martin Perry observed that although the *Dakota Farmer* promoted the silo concept as early as 1888 (the first known silo in South Dakota was built in 1894), it was not until a number of manufacturers began offering prefabricated silos by mail that the concept really caught on with farmers and ranchers. Perry writes, "By 1909 no fewer than eight manufacturers offered ready-made silos or portable steel grain bins in the *Dakota Farmer* ads. By 1909, the silo had ceased existence as an individual creation or folk phenomenon, it had become part of a newly emerging industry."²⁴

An interior silo is the key difference between Early and Middle/Final Period barns. The first South Dakota round barn ever built with an interior silo may be the Crane Round Barn in Brown County. The Crane Barn has a round interior silo and an estimated construction date of 1910. The Crane Barn, however, bears a strong resemblance to a 1918 Sears catalog design and may date from this later period. The polygonal interior silos in the 1911 Anderson Polygonal Barn in Hand County and the 1913 Haider Polygonal Barn in Faulk County, both from the Middle Period property type, are also likely candidates for the earlier interior silos in South Dakota round barns. These are the only two polygonal silos in South Dakota's round barns. The circular interior silo is a rectangular feature in the two Final Period barn property types. Circular interior silos are found in three of six Final Period barns for which silo data is available and all seven of the Final Period Southeastern Hollow Clay Tile Round Barns.

The Final Period Barns exhibit another technological advance widely adopted during the boom period; the self-supporting gambrel roof. Like the interior silo, the self-supporting gambrel roof concept had been around for a while but took several years to become widely publicized and adopted as a standard round barn feature. Its first documented appearance is on a Warren County, Indiana, barn built by prolific Indiana builder Benton Steele and his crew in 1901. One of Steele's crew members, Horace Duncan, supervised the 1902 construction of a three-pitch gambrel roof barn in North Dakota, just across the state line from Artis, South Dakota.²⁵ No evidence exists to suggest either Steele or Duncan ever worked in South Dakota. Steele and his partner, Frank Detratz, approached professor C.B. Dorsey of the Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station in 1903 in an attempt to gain "authoritative support" for their barns with gambrel roofs.²⁶ Professor Dorsey apparently liked what he saw and had Steele and Detratz build him a barn.

²⁴ Perry, 7-9.

²⁵ Hanou, 18.

²⁶ Ibid, 25.

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This contact was the impetus for other staff at the Experimental Station to construct three round barns on campus beginning in 1908.²⁷ This led to the 1910 publication of *Bulletin No. 143: Economy of the Round Dairy Barn* by the Experiment Station. This popular publication “incorporated the self-supporting roof as an integral and necessary element of round barn design.”²⁸ This design feature was widely used in South Dakota after 1915. All Final Period and five of seven Final Period Southeastern Hollow Clay Tile Barns have this type of roof. These roofs are all two pitch except for the Plant Barn in Grant County (now demolished) which had a three pitch gambrel roof.

A third innovation with a distinct and well documented effect on South Dakota’s round barns is the use of hollow clay tile as a building material. Clay tile was relatively affordable and was easier to clean, more sanitary and more resistant to deterioration than wood. The overwhelming majority of South Dakota’s round barns are wood frame structures except for the Final Period Southeastern Hollow Clay Tile Round Barns, clustered around the Sioux Falls area and built between 1917 and 1921. Iowa, by far, has the most hollow clay tile barns in the region with a total of approximately fifty built.²⁹ North Dakota has only one, Nebraska has three, and South Dakota has seven.³⁰

The use of clay tile as a building material started in Iowa. “In 1908 Professor J.B. Davidson and Matt King of the Iowa Experiment Station at Ames, working with a local tile manufacturer, had pioneered the use of clay tile in a round silo. The engineers first used rectangular drain tile for the wall of the silo and then encouraged the local tile works to make hollow curved tile. Once achieved, the curved clay tile gave Ames station engineers the means to suggest a plan for a round clay-tile barn.”³¹ Several clay tile manufacturers in Adel, Mount Pleasant and Mason City, Iowa went into the business of making curved tiles for barn construction. Soike identifies the Johnston Brothers Clay Works of Fort Dodge, Iowa, as the leaders in the construction of the hollow clay tile barn in Iowa. They built their first barn in 1910 and constructed fifteen more hollow clay tile barns in Iowa, approximately 33 percent of the total number of Iowa clay tile barns. The majority were built between 1914-1918 and the last one in the 1920s. All the Johnston Barns in Iowa are easily identified by a smaller size dark color tile used in the lower part of the exterior walls and larger dark color tile used in the remainder of the wall. Soike reports that one farmer in east-central Iowa “acted as a salesman for the Johnston Brothers Clay Works, which supplied at a minimum the materials and general plan for the barns.”³²

Four of South Dakota’s hollow clay tile barns are directly traceable to the Johnston Brothers firm. Two, the Angel (1920) and Stark (1921) Barns in McCook County have the distinguishing two-size tile construction. The Goff (1918) in Lake County had a Johnston Brothers patent plate

²⁷ Ibid, 25-26.

²⁸ Lowell Soike, *Without Right Angles: the Round Barns of Iowa*, (Des Moines, IA: Iowa State Historical Office of Historic Preservation, 1983), 29.

²⁹ Lowell Soike, (Personal Correspondence, 1995).

³⁰ Perry, 34; Carol Ahlgren, *Ehlers Round Barn National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form (1995)*, 8-3.

³¹ Lowell Soike, *Without Right Angles: the Round Barns of Iowa*, (Des Moines, IA: Iowa State Historical Office of Historic Preservation, 1983), 30.

³² Ibid, 53.

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on the silo ladder and the Stevens/Winters Barn (1920) in Minnehaha County has an inscription in one of the tiles that identifies "Johnston" as the barn builders. No information is available about the builders of the Angel and Goff Barns. The Stark barn was built by a local crew using tile that came from Sioux City. The owners of the Steven/Winters Barn reported that the barn contractor was from Iowa. The inscription on this barn identifies George Irvine Clay Works as the probable tile supplier. This information suggests Johnston offered farmers a number of options for building their barns. A farmer could order plans and possibly the materials from Johnston and erect it using either locals or a crew supplied by Johnston. Soike also reports the existence of a travelling crew based in Sioux City that erected a Johnston Brothers barn in Tama County, located in central Iowa, in 1917.³³ Considering the proximity of Sioux City and known construction dates, this crew may have built one or several of the South Dakota barns. It is also unknown whether this crew worked exclusively for the Johnston Brothers. Two hollow clay tile barns not directly linked to the Johnston Brothers are located in the vicinity of the four barns described above. The Johnston Brothers or a similar firm's design may have been constructed by the Sioux City crew or a similar group. Informants reported that the tile for the Dickens Barn came from Mason City, Iowa, perhaps from the Mason City Brick and Tile Company mentioned by Soike. The only other tile barn in South Dakota, the Throop Barn (1919) in Lake County, was, according to the owner who has the original plans, designed by the Loudon Company of St. Paul, Minnesota. This may be a reference to the Loudon Machinery Company of Fairfield, Iowa, a well-known firm that sold round barn plans.

As the above discussion of hollow clay tile barns indicates, during the boom period many South Dakota round barn builders took advantage of a fourth innovation: mail order plans, barn design services, and precut kit barns. Excluding the sale barn, hog house and exhibit pavilion property types, ten of the eighteen South Dakota round barns built between 1910-1921 are directly linked or bear a strong resemblance to precut catalog barns. In addition to the four Johnston Brothers and one Loudon Company hollow tile barns discussed above, the known likely-catalog designs in South Dakota are: a 1914 Grant County barn, the Anderson Barn (1911) in Hand County and the Crane Barn (reported 1910, probably late 1918) in Brown County that appears to be a Sears, Roebuck design; the Sturdevant Barn (1918) in Jones County that is a Gordon-Van Tine Company of Davenport, Iowa, design and the Bartholamue Barn (1919) originally located in Jones County and now located in Jackson County that is a Chicago House Wrecking Company design. Except for the Sears, Roebuck, examples of all these companies' barns are also found in Iowa, Indiana and North Dakota with the earliest examples dating from 1910 and 1911. Vicki Cwiok of the Sears Archives in Chicago reported that Sears offered precut barn designs from 1911-1917 at the back of their precut homes catalog. Starting in 1918, barns and other outbuildings were marketed in separate catalogs.³⁴

The End of an Era: South Dakota's Last Round Barns

The interior silo, self-supporting gambrel roof, and the use of hollow clay tile as a construction material were improvements that made round barns more efficient, convenient, structurally

³³ Ibid, 53.

³⁴ Vicki Cwiok, (Personal correspondence, 1995).

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sound, and popular in South Dakota from 1910-1921. Sale barns and hog houses were the only South Dakota round barn property types built after 1921. The last true round barn built was the 1921 Stark Barn in McCook County. A depressed farm economy and the decline of the round barn's image in the agricultural press after approximately 1920 were the causes of this rapid decline in construction.

Barn historian Carrie Scupholm offers the following account of the round barn's decline in the agricultural press.

“Many of the initial supporters of round barns, especially farm journal writers and authors of agricultural texts, turned against them. University of Minnesota professor of dairy husbandry, Clarence H. Eckles introduced a section on round barns in the initial version of his textbook *Dairy Cattle and Milk Production*. However by 1923, a revised edition of Eckles' book noted that “The round barn has not won its way in popular favor. Its disadvantages are difficulty in filling the silo, and the impracticability of increasing its size by building additions.”³⁵ The most noteworthy attacks came from C.F. Doane, a former student of Franklin H. King. Although initially supporting King's point of view as a student, Doane's subsequent experience led him to reject it. Even King's place of research, the Wisconsin Agriculture Experiment Station, turned its back on the round barn in 1916. Researchers F.M. White and C.I. Griffith found rectangular barns to be more satisfactory than round ones and cited several reasons why they did in *Bulletin No. 266: Barns for Wisconsin Dairy Farms*.³⁶

Scupholm goes on to comment on practical reasons for the rapid decline in round barn construction nationwide after the early 1920s. Although her comments are specifically geared to dairying, her observations are relevant for all round barns used to house livestock.

“To farmers and barn builders alike, compared to rectangular balloon-frame barns, round barns were more complicated to build. Many carpenters were uncertain how to construct a round barn and preferred to simply stay with rectangular convention. Realizing the extra difficulty involved in circular construction, carpenters frequently charged more for their labor if asked to build a round barn. At times the added cost of labor was enough to offset the farmer's savings in the lower cost of building materials. Adding to the round barn's demise was the fact that its main selling point – the fact that it was arranged to conserve valuable manual labor – became less of a concern as more and more machines and labor-saving devices became standard. When round barns were being touted as models of labor-efficient design, the care of dairy cattle was labor intensive. As the number of farmers choosing to specialize in dairy farming rose during the early twentieth century, the number of labor-saving devices for the

³⁵ Clarence Eckels, *Dairy Cattle and Milk Production*, rev. ed. (New York: The MacMillan Company, 1923), 543.

³⁶ F.M. White and D.I. Griffith, *Barns for Wisconsin Dairy Farms*, (Madison, WI: Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin No. 266, 1916), 6.

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handling of dairy cattle increased. Consequently, the supposed efficiency of the round form became comparatively less important and its higher construction cost was unjustifiable.”³⁷

Scupholm’s comments about round barns after the Great Depression and World War II are also highly accurate for all round barns even though her comments specifically mention dairying.³⁸

“By the time farmers could afford to build again, round barns – and traditional barns in general – had ceased being practical. Many of the disadvantages of round barns became major obstacles with respect to the changes that the industrializations of dairying was having on the old practices, especially the need to comply with state regulations regarding milk production. For farmers to stay operative they had to enlarge their herds. It was difficult to expand the size of a round barn, it did not adapt well to the new technologies being introduced into dairying, and those same technologies made operational efficiency based on the circular plan seem unimportant in comparison to the wonders of mechanization. Often, prefabricated one-story pole-barns were built, rather than attempting the remodel of the round barn. It is ironic that round barns, born of a desire for efficiency, were outdated by increasing efficiency.”³⁹

Conclusion

Although some of the early developments in the round barn’s evolution were slow to reach South Dakota, the state’s collection of these barns provides an accurate example of this building type’s development nationwide. Major developments originated in the round barn hotbed states to the east of South Dakota and eventually filtered west. The small number of round barns in South Dakota compared with states to the east and the small number of West River barns underscores the fact that the state is on the western border of round barn proliferation. The extremely low number of round barns west of the Missouri River emphasizes these buildings were more suited to smaller East River operations than large scale West River ranch operations.

The Dickens Round Barn is an excellent example of the *Final Period Southeastern South Dakota Hollow Clay Tile Round Barns* property type in South Dakota. Under this property type it is significant for embodying the distinctive characteristics of the last stage of round barn building in South Dakota. It illustrates the incorporation of hollow clay tile construction in round barn design. Defining features of this property type include hollow clay tile construction, true round plan, round interior silo, and a self-supporting roof not requiring extra supports except for the silo. Additionally, per the MPL, the Dickens Round Barn represents a unique trend of mail

³⁷ Carrie Jane Scupholm, *Farms and Factory: Round Barns and the Search for an Ideal Form for the Michigan Dairy Barn*, (M.A. Thesis, Cornell University, 1994), 164-65.

³⁸ Ibid, 165-166.

³⁹ Ibid, 165-66.

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order barn plans specific to Lake, Lincoln, McCook, and Minnehaha counties in southeastern South Dakota around the Sioux Falls area.⁴⁰

⁴⁰ Ibid, 144.

Dickens Round Barn
Name of Property

Lincoln County, SD
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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Brooks Allyson and Steph Jacon. *Homesteading and Agricultural Development Context*. Vermillion, SD: State Historical Preservation Center, 1994.

Cwiok, Vicki. Personal Correspondence, 1995.

Eckles, Charles H. *Dairy Cattle and Milk Production*. rev. ed. New York: The MacMillan Company, 1923.

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Scupholm, Carrie Jane. *Farms as Factory: Round Barns and the Search for an Ideal Form For the Michigan Dairy Farmer*. M.A. Thesis, Cornell University, 1994.

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Soike, Lowell. Personal Correspondence (1995).

White, F.M. and D.I. Griffith. *Barns for Wisconsin Dairy Farms*. Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin No. 266. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin, 1916.

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Newspapers and Journals

Dakota Farmers' Leader (Canton, SD), 27 February 1903 – 17 February 1905.

“Frank E. Mausbach’s Sale Report” *The Chester White Journal*, v.12 (March 1921), p.89.

“Sells Pair of Bulls” *The Aberdeen-Angus Journal*, v.IV, no.25, (July 1923), pp.8.

“Services Held Friday for Lincoln Co. Pioneer” *The Lennox Independent* (SD) 12 November 1963.

Electronic Documents

United States Federal Census (1900) Retrieved from

https://search.ancestrylibrary.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=1900usfedcen&h=59835797&indiv=try&o_vc=Record:OtherRecord&hSource=6224

Tillman Mausbach Retrieved from <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/50962045>

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 # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
 - ☐ Other State agency
 - ☐ Federal agency
 - ☐ Local government
 - ☐ University
 - ☐ Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): LN00000486

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☒ NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Zone: 14 | Easting: 683167.31 | Northing: 4801844.36 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary is a circle with a UTM center of Z=14, E=683167.31, N=4801844.36 and a radius of 25 feet.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary is a circle with a UTM center and 25-foot radius. This covers an area extending five feet around the barn. (see also map on continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: C.B. Nelson and Steph Ahrendt (MPL author)
organization: South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office
street & number: 900 Governors Drive
city or town: Pierre state: SD zip code: 57501
e-mail chrisb.nelson@state.sd.us
telephone: 605-773-3458
date: 1 September 2018

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Dickens Round Barn

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Dickens Round Barn

City or Vicinity: Worthing vic.

County: Lincoln

State: SD

Photographer: Liz Almlie

Date Photographed: 8 June 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 18.

SD_LincolnCounty_DickensRoundBarn_0001

Photo taken from the farmyard looking towards the SW at the exterior of the barn.

SD_LincolnCounty_DickensRoundBarn_0002

Photo taken from the farmyard looking towards the SE at the exterior of the barn.

SD_LincolnCounty_DickensRoundBarn_0003

Photo taken from the farmyard looking towards the NE at the barn loft door (close up).

SD_LincolnCounty_DickensRoundBarn_0004

Photo taken from the farmyard looking towards the NE at the exterior of the barn.

SD_LincolnCounty_DickensRoundBarn_0005

Photo taken from the farmyard looking toward the E at the silo (close up).

SD_LincolnCounty_DickensRoundBarn_0006

Photo taken from the farmyard looking toward the NW at the exterior of the barn.

SD_LincolnCounty_DickensRoundBarn_0007

Photo taken from the farmyard looking toward the W at the light above the door (close up)

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SD_LincolnCounty_DickensRoundBarn_0008

Photo taken inside the barn looking towards the NE at the barn floor.

SD_LincolnCounty_DickensRoundBarn_0009

Photo taken inside the barn looking up the silo at the silo roof and barn roof (not recorded in photo map).

SD_LincolnCounty_DickensRoundBarn_0010

Photo taken inside the barn looking up at the silo roof (not recorded in photo map).

SD_LincolnCounty_DickensRoundBarn_0011

Photo taken inside the barn looking towards the N at the silo.

SD_LincolnCounty_DickensRoundBarn_0012

Photo taken inside the barn looking towards the NW looking at the roof and wall.

SD_LincolnCounty_DickensRoundBarn_0013

Photo taken inside the barn looking towards the NW at barn's interior.

SD_LincolnCounty_DickensRoundBarn_0014

Photo taken inside the barn looking towards the NW at a window (close up).

SD_LincolnCounty_DickensRoundBarn_0015

Photo taken inside the barn looking towards the NW at the loft door (close up).

SD_LincolnCounty_DickensRoundBarn_0016

Photo taken inside the barn looking towards the SE at the interior of the barn.

SD_LincolnCounty_DickensRoundBarn_0017

Photo taken inside the barn looking towards the SW at the top of the silo.

SD_LincolnCounty_DickensRoundBarn_0018

Photo taken inside the barn looking towards the SW at the base of the silo.

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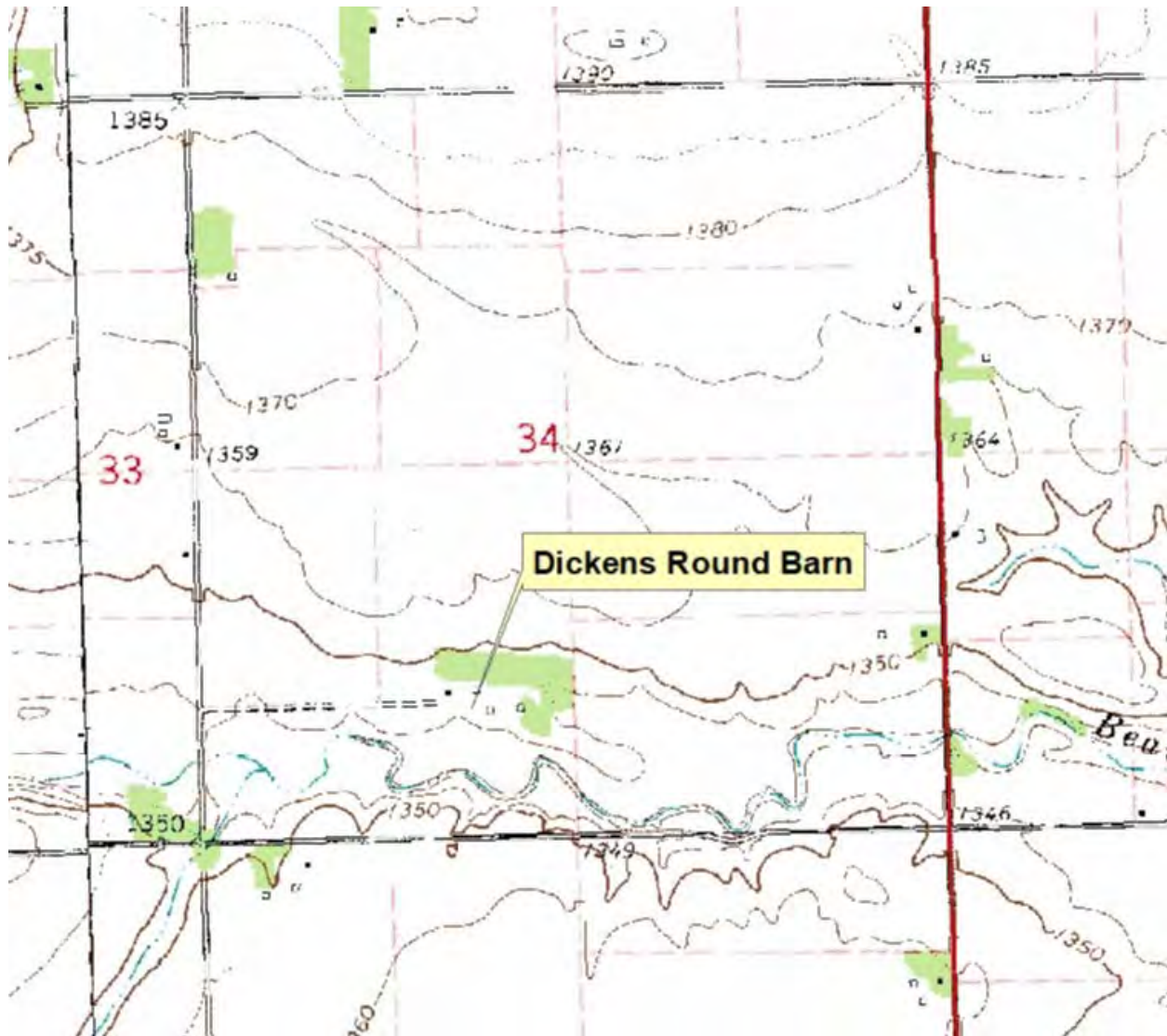
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1



SD_LincolnCounty_DickensRoundBarn: SE1/4, SW1/4, T099N, R50W, S34; UTM Z=14 E=683167.31
N=4801844.36. 7.5 Minute Quadrangle Map, 1:12,000. Produced in ArcMap 5 September 2018.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10

Page 2



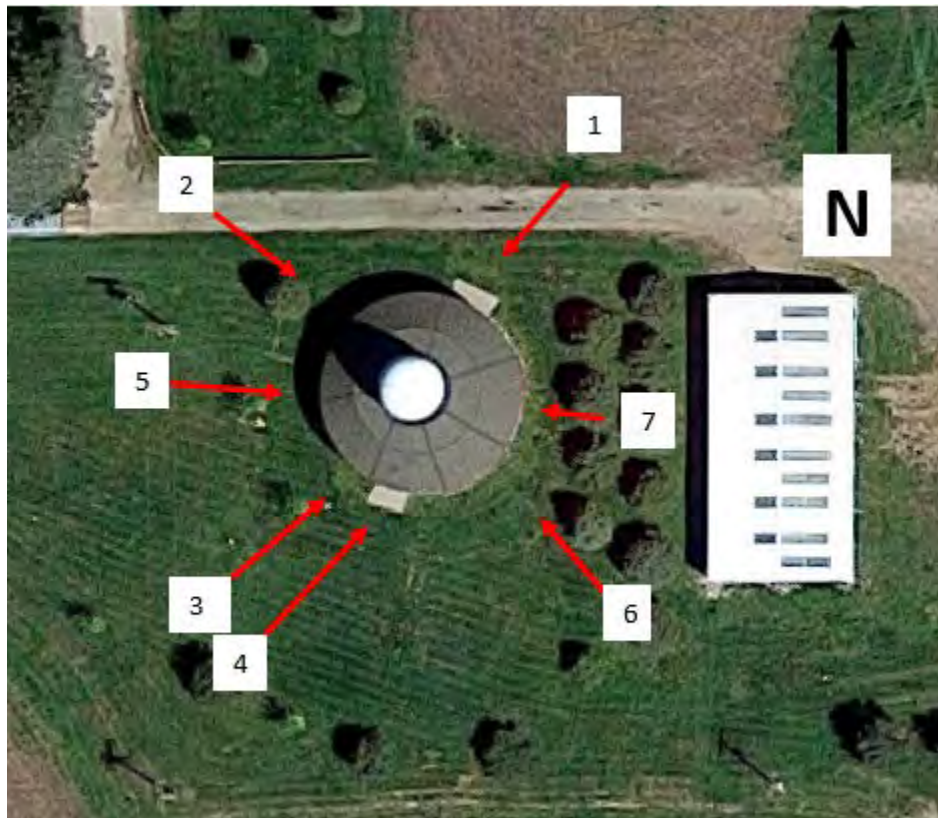
SD_LincolnCounty_DickensRoundBarn: SE1/4, SW1/4, T099N, R50W, S34; UTM Z=14 E=683167.31
N=4801844.36. 7.5 Minute Quadrangle Map, FSA 2016 Imagery, 1:4,000. Produced in ArcMap 5
September 2018.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 3

PHOTO KEY MAP – EXTERIOR

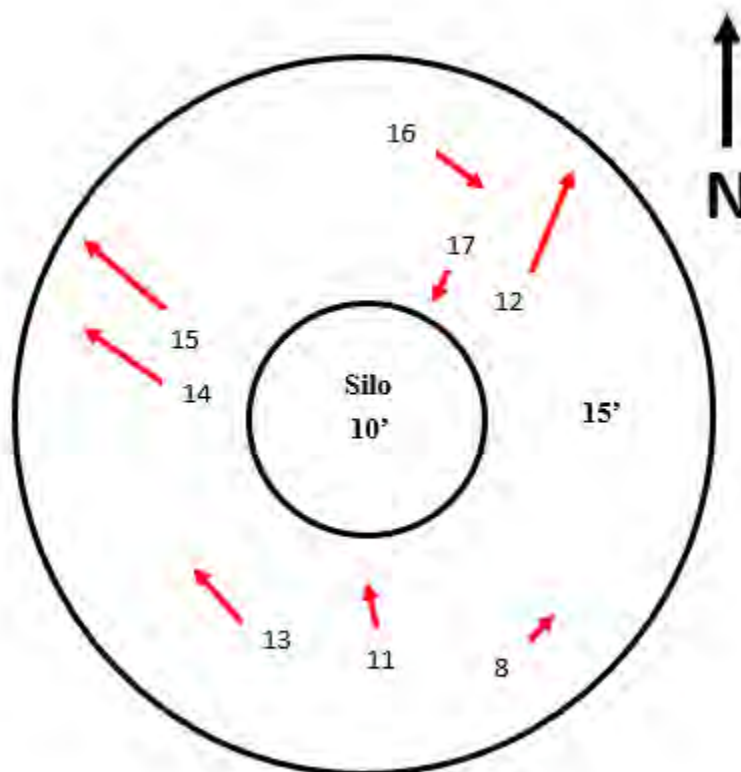


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Section number 10 Page 4

PHOTO KEY MAP – INTERIOR



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 5

BOUNDARY MAP







































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 1/28/2019 Date of Pending List: 2/12/2019 Date of 16th Day: 2/27/2019 Date of 45th Day: 3/14/2019 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal	<input type="checkbox"/> PDIL	<input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue
<input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Photo
<input type="checkbox"/> Waiver	<input type="checkbox"/> National	<input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary
<input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission	<input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource	<input type="checkbox"/> Period
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> TCP	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years
	<input type="checkbox"/> CLG	

☒ Accept ☐ Return ☐ Reject 3/11/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Recommendation/
Criteria

Reviewer Central Unit Roger Reed [Signature] Discipline

Telephone Date

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



19 December 2018

Keeper of National Register
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington DC 20240



To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copies of the following nominations to the National Register of Historic Places.

Dickens Round Barn, Worthing vicinity, Lincoln County, SD
Perkins Congregational Church, Springfield vicinity, Bon Homme County, SD
Roosevelt School, Belle Fourche, Butte County, SD
Chambers Dugout, Belle Fourche vicinity, Butte County, SD
First Presbyterian Church of Groton, Groton, Brown County, SD
Haakon County Courthouse, Philip, Haakon County, SD
Solomon and Martha Hann Homestead, Nemo vicinity, Lawrence County, SD
Rapid City Commercial Historic District Amendment, Rapid City, Pennington County, SD
Jackson Boulevard Historic District, Spearfish, Lawrence County, SD.

Number of property owners: 55 Number of objections: 5

Please contact Sofia.Mattesini@state.sd.us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Sofia Mattesini
Historic Preservation Specialist