

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Site # 2

Page

1

Site #2

Owner Approves

✓ 1. Ludwig Deckert House

2. Campus of Freeman College
Freeman
South Dakota Code: 046

First Congressional District

✓ Hutchinson County Code: 067

3. building, privately owned, NA acquisition, occupied, restricted access, museum

4. Freeman College
748 S. Main
Freeman, SD 57029

5. Register of Deeds
Hutchinson County Courthouse
Olivet, SD 57052

7. excellent, altered (very slightly), moved, 1979

The Deckert House is a gable-roofed, rectangular-shaped frame museum built in c. 1879 that has been completely restored and is in excellent condition. The present front facade has three windows and a door; the rear, likewise has three windows, however the door is displaced to the north. The north gable-end wall has a door, which was added at a later date for an older son, who lived in the loft; a window pierces the loft. On the south facade are two ground-floor and two, loft windows. The house has been painted in traditional colors of cream, dark red and green.

On the interior, the house is two bays in length and double pile in width. The lateral partitions create four rooms of unequal size. In the center of the house is located a walk-in kitchen constructed of batsa brick, which serves as the cooking area and contains a two-burner range and rendering pot. In the loft, situated directly above the walk-in kitchen, is a large clay chimney with a small opening to provide access for the hanging of meats to smoke.

The Deckert House was moved in 1979 to save it from demolition. Freeman College which has a large pioneer museum offered the space and the building was placed in an open field and aligned on a traditional north-south access. Although the siting is not ideal, the building has been meticulously restored and is the only structure still standing which reveals how the houses were originally decorated and furnished. Therefore, its significance overcomes its moving.

8. 1800-1899, architecture, German-Russian ethnic history, c. 1879

The Deckert House is the only structure in South Dakota to have been restored to its original condition. The restoration was accurate and careful. Because the original walk-in kitchen and furnace and bake-oven had been destroyed the museum took these still standing in the Weins kitchen. However, the Deckert House has an oddly reversed plan and the bake oven had to face into the north parlor, which, in the Deckert House, was a bedroom (although originally it may have been the parlor). This reorientation is minor and other details, such as color, furnishings and construction techniques were restored to an exacting standard. The building is open by appointment

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to the general public.

Ludwig Deckert was a Mennonite immigrant who settled within the Mennonite settlement area of eastern Hutchinson County. The Deckert House is one of the earliest frame German-Russian dwellings.

10. Acreage of nominated property $\frac{1}{2}$ acre

Quadrangle name Freeman

UTM References

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

1 4 626600 4800280
Z E N

The Deckert House is bounded by imaginary lines which lie 5 feet in every direction from the house. The house is situated immediately to the south of the Heritage Hall Museum.

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

JUN 29 1984

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 123

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name German-Russian Folk Architecture Thematic Resources
State South Dakota

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Beck, George, House

Substantive Review

Keeper

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Attest

2. Bieber, Johann, House

Substantive Review

Keeper

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Attest

3. Miller, Phillip, Summer Kitchen

Determined Eligible

Keeper

Substantive Review

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Attest

4. Rempfer, Johann C., House

Determined Eligible

Keeper

Substantive Review

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Attest
Determined Eligible

5. Vetter, John, Barn

Substantive Review

Keeper

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Attest

6. Waldner-Tschetter House

Substantive Review

Keeper

Determined Eligible

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Attest
Determined Eligible

7. Weinzirl, Michael, House

Substantive Review

Keeper

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Attest

8. Cihak Farmstead

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

9. Deckert, Ludwig, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

10. Eisenbeis, John, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Attest



Ludwig Deckert House Museum

Site #2

Freeman. South Dakota

Stephen Ludwig

Historical Preservation Center

1982

Interior, firebox in black kitchen

Photo 36



Ludwig Dekcert House Museum Site #2

Freeman, South Dakota

Stephen Ludwig

Historical Preservation Center

1982

(original?) Front, east and side, north fa-
cades

Photo 37



Ludwig Deckert House Museum

Site #2

Freeman, South Dakota

Stephen Ludwig

Historical Preservation Center

1982

Front, east and side, south facades

Photo 38



Ludwig Deckert House Museum

Site #2

Freeman, South Dakota

Stephen Ludwig,

Historical Preservation Center

1982

Interior of loft, chimney and smoking door

Photo 39



Ludwig Deckert House Museum

Site #2

Freeman, South Dakota

Stephen Ludwig

Historical Preservation Center

1982

Interior detail showing brick bake oven

Photo 40

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000793

National Register of Historic Places

Note to the record

Additional Documentation: 2019

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 1-3 Page 1

Ludwig Deckert House (Request Approval for Move)

Name of Property

Hutchinson County, South Dakota

County and State

German-Russian Folk Architecture TR

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Ludwig Deckert House Amendment (Request Approval for a Move)

Other names/site number: NRIS Reference # 84003309

Name of related multiple property listing:

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

RECEIVED 2280

JUN 17 2019

NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

2. Location

Street & number: 880 S Cedar St

City or town: Freeman State: SD County: Hutchinson

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 statewide x local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B X C D

Jay D. Vogt
Signature of certifying official/Title:

06-05-2019

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 4, 7 Page 1

Ludwig Deckert House (Request Approval for Move)

Name of Property

Hutchinson County, South Dakota

County and State

German-Russian Folk Architecture TR

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

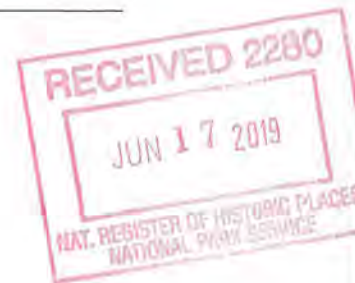
4. National Park Service Certification

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:)


Signature of the Keeper

7/18/19
Date of Action



7. Description

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

Justification for relocation and continued listing on the National Register

As noted in the multiple-property listing for "German-Russian Folk Architecture in South Dakota," the Ludwig Deckert House in Freeman is one of the key resources documenting the architectural heritage of Germans from Russia who settled in South Dakota between 1873 and 1914. These resources were surveyed intensely from 1982 to 1984 and sites selected for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The resources display a number of building forms, materials, and construction methods that are unique to that ethnic settlement group, though some related methods are found in early Czech/Bohemian folk architecture in South Dakota. One of the unique configurations is what has become known as the "Russian oven" and its "most complete version includes a furnace, bake oven, walk-in kitchen, and batsa

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 4, 7 Page 2

Ludwig Deckert House (Request Approval for Move)
Name of Property
Hutchinson County, South Dakota
County and State
German-Russian Folk Architecture TR
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

brick chimney.”¹ The Deckert House is the only known standing house with all these elements present (see Image 1).

From the description of the Deckert House in Michael Koop and Stephen Ludwig’s *German-Russian Folk Architecture in Southeastern South Dakota* context published for the South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office in 1984:

“An outstanding example of frame German-Russian construction is the Deckert house, now a museum located on the Freeman Junior College campus in Freeman. Built circa 1879 by Ludwig Deckert, a farmer and carpenter, the structure exemplifies modest wealth applied to a folk building form.... This kitchen-within-a-kitchen also served as the cooking area and contains two stoves each serving a different purpose. Kiln-fired brick paves the kitchen floor. The range, or cookstove, has two separate fireboxes... The second stove, actually a rendering pot, has a single firebox and a large cooking pot. Each of these stoves is made of kiln-fired brick.... The large chimney, 7’8” wide and 6’1” long, is made of basta brick and has a thin clay covering. A small two-foot square opening in the upper part of the chimney provides access to the smoke chimney.”²

When listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1984, the Ludwig Deckert House was at its present place at the pioneer museum on the grounds of Freeman Junior College. According to the nomination, it had been moved there in 1979 “to save it from demolition,” was “aligned on a traditional north-south [axis],” and restored for use as a museum.

When moved to the museum, it was set on a concrete block foundation with log beams stretched across the gap. Over the years, the weight of the brick oven and chimney has put substantial stress on those few support measures. In its current location, the house also sits on a lower grade and sitting water under the house has also been a perpetual maintenance concern, especially for the weakened supports. In the last few years, museum staff have observed widening cracks at the base of oven walls and along adjoining frame walls. The proposed new location for the house is higher ground about four hundred feet east of its present location, also on the grounds of the Heritage Hall Museum, and provides much better drainage. The move also allows the museum to create a better foundation support for the house and oven. The museum also plans to site a local barn, which has been offered to the museum, north of the house’s new location, creating opportunity for interpreting the agricultural history of Germans from Russia settlement in relationship with the house.

In the new proposed location, the Deckert House will retain integrity of setting and feeling as well as critical elements of material, design, and workmanship. The location of the house on a more open

¹ Multiple Property Listing, “German-Russian Folk Architecture in South Dakota,” National Register of Historic Places, continuation sheet 7-1.

² Michael Koop and Stephen Ludwig, *German-Russian Folk Architecture in Southeastern South Dakota* (Pierre: South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, 1984), 13-14.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 4, 7 Page 3

Ludwig Deckert House (Request Approval for Move)

Name of Property

Hutchinson County, South Dakota

County and State

German-Russian Folk Architecture TR

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

section of the grounds near the barn will, in fact, improve the feeling and association of the house compared to its historical setting.

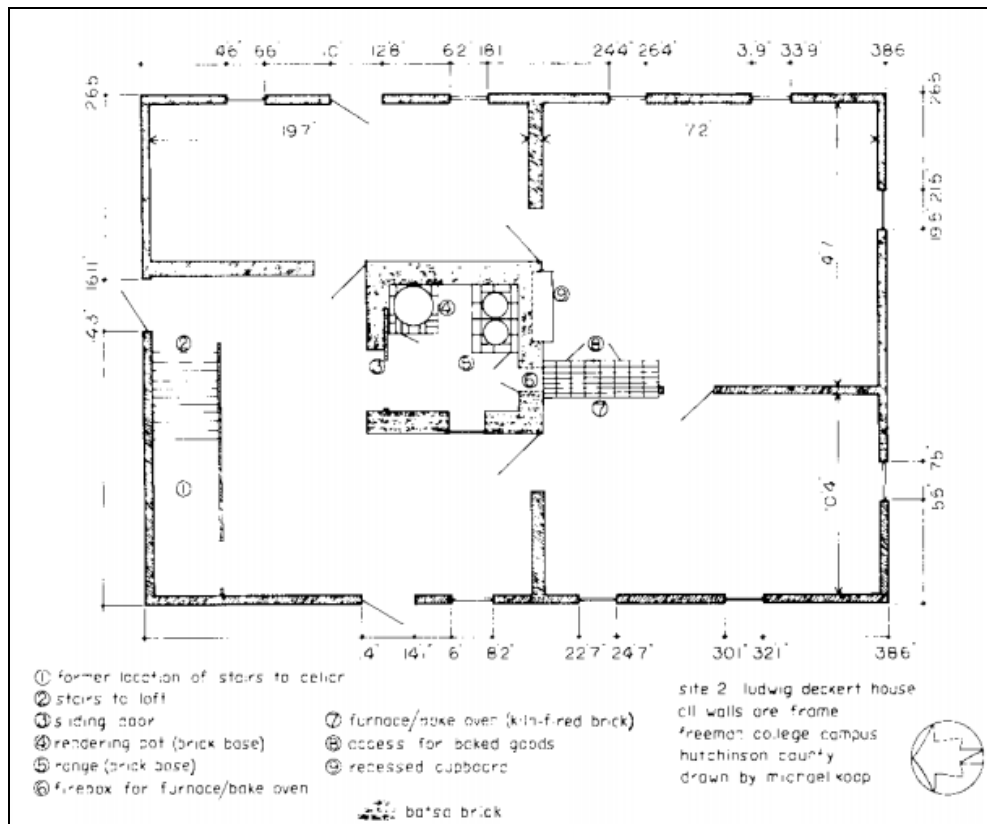


Image 1: Deckert House first-floor plan with Russian oven as shown in Figure 15 of Koop and Ludwig, *German-Russian Folk Architecture*, 13.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

Ludwig Deckert House (Request Approval for Move)
Name of Property
Hutchinson County, South Dakota
County and State
German-Russian Folk Architecture TR
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: n/a

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 43.345938 | Longitude: -97.436279 |
| 2. Latitude: 43.345938 | Longitude: -97.436102 |
| 3. Latitude: 43.345783 | Longitude: -97.436102 |
| 4. Latitude: 43.345783 | Longitude: -97.436279 |

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

The boundary for the Ludwig Deckert House will include the house and its immediate setting on the grounds east of the Heritage Hall Museum at the area defined by the above coordinates.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary for the Ludwig Deckert House will include the house and its immediate setting.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 11 Page 1

Ludwig Deckert House (Request Approval for Move)
Name of Property
Hutchinson County, South Dakota
County and State
German-Russian Folk Architecture TR
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Liz Almlie
organization: SD State Historic Preservation Office
street & number: 900 Governors Drive
city or town: Pierre state: SD zip code: 57501
e-mail: shpo@state.sd.us
telephone: 605-773-3458
date: 7 June 2019

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.)

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: Ludwig Deckert House
City or Vicinity: Freeman
County: Hutchinson State: SD
Photographer: Liz Almlie
Date Photographed: 4 June 2019 (unless otherwise specified)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 11 Page 2

Ludwig Deckert House (Request Approval for Move)
Name of Property
Hutchinson County, South Dakota
County and State
German-Russian Folk Architecture TR
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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

SD_HutchinsonCounty_LudwigDeckertHouseProposedMoveLocation_0001
View of house at current location, camera facing southeast.

SD_HutchinsonCounty_LudwigDeckertHouseProposedMoveLocation_0002
View of house at current location, camera facing southwest.

SD_HutchinsonCounty_LudwigDeckertHouseProposedMoveLocation_0003
View of house at current location with museum to north and adjacent buildings, camera facing west.

SD_HutchinsonCounty_LudwigDeckertHouseProposedMoveLocation_0004
View of museum and grounds, camera facing west.

SD_HutchinsonCounty_LudwigDeckertHouseProposedMoveLocation_0005
View of brick Russian oven, ground floor, camera facing south.
Date Photographed: 5 May 2017

SD_HutchinsonCounty_LudwigDeckertHouseProposedMoveLocation_0006
View of structural damage in brick Russian oven, camera facing south.

SD_HutchinsonCounty_LudwigDeckertHouseProposedMoveLocation_0007
View of brick Russian oven, second floor, camera facing south.
Date Photographed: 5 May 2017

SD_HutchinsonCounty_LudwigDeckertHouseProposedMoveLocation_0008
View of brick bake oven, with damage showing near ceiling, camera facing north.

SD_HutchinsonCounty_LudwigDeckertHouseProposedMoveLocation_0009
View of brick bake oven, with damage showing near ceiling, camera facing northeast.

SD_HutchinsonCounty_LudwigDeckertHouseProposedMoveLocation_0010
View under Deckert house at current location, camera facing south.
Date Photographed: 5 May 2017

SD_HutchinsonCounty_LudwigDeckertHouseProposedMoveLocation_0011
View of grounds behind museum, camera facing northeast.

SD_HutchinsonCounty_LudwigDeckertHouseProposedMoveLocation_0012
View of proposed location on grounds behind museum, camera facing east.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 11 Page 3

Ludwig Deckert House (Request Approval for Move)

Name of Property

Hutchinson County, South Dakota

County and State

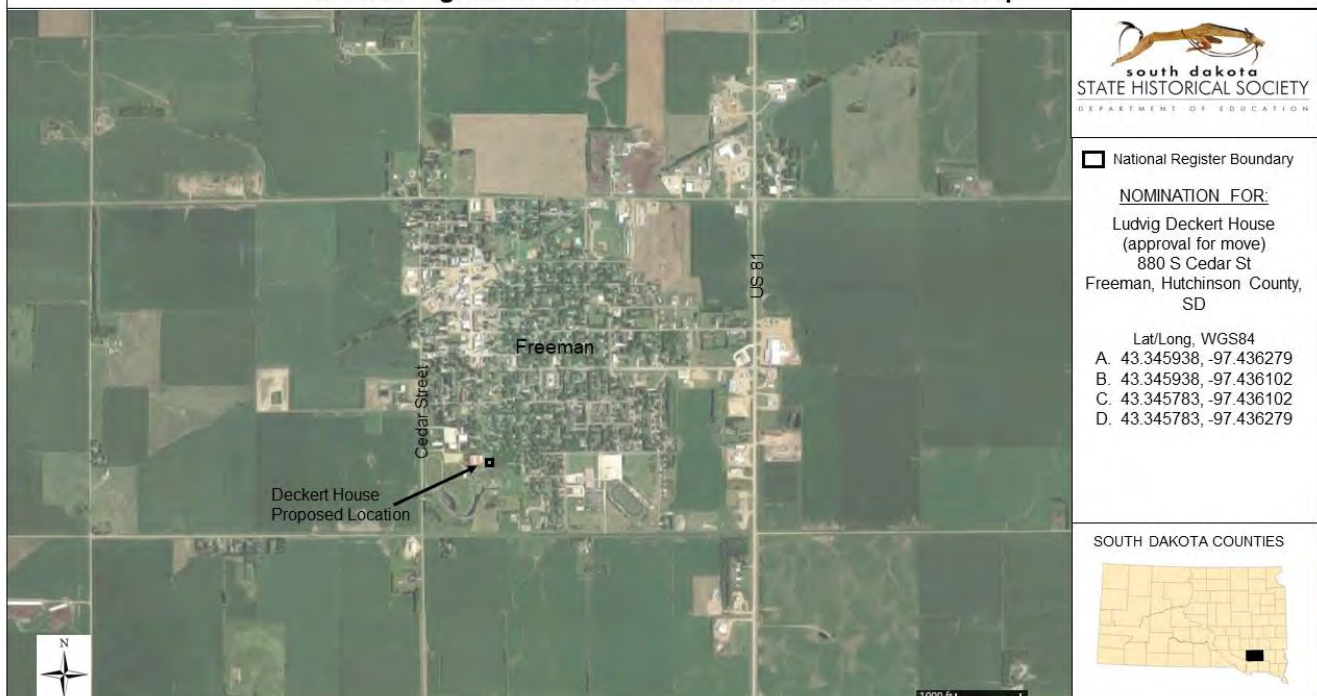
German-Russian Folk Architecture TR

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register of Historic Places Nomination Review Map & Photo Key



National Register of Historic Places Nomination Review Map





Pioneer Deckert House.





Diamond Valley School
District No. 56









Please
do not
climb these
stairs.











National Register of Historic Places
Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Deckert, Ludwig, House (German-Russian Folk
Architecture TR)
Hutchinson County
SOUTH DAKOTA

Working No. JUN 29 1984
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.5.85
Date Due: 7/24/84 - 8/13/84
Action: ACCEPT 8-13-84
Entered in the RETURN
National Register REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed |

Check one

- ☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



11 June 2019

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 copy of an amendment to the following National Register of Historic Places nomination.

Ludwig Deckert House, Freeman, Hutchinson County, SD, NRIS #84003309.

Please feel free to contact me at 605-773-6056 or liz.almliie@state.sd.us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Liz Almlie
Historic Preservation Specialist

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Move

Property Name: Deckert, Ludwig, House

Multiple Name: German-Russian Folk Architecture TR

State & County: SOUTH DAKOTA, Hutchinson

Date Received: 6/17/2019 Date of Pending List: 7/3/2019 Date of 16th Day: 7/18/2019 Date of 45th Day: 8/1/2019 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: MV84003309

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 7/18/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: House was listed in 1984 on the grounds of the Pioneer Museum at Freeman Junior College. The proposed move is for structural repairs on the same property but will convey a more open setting.

Recommendation/
Criteria

Reviewer Roger Reed Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2278 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.