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NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS FORM 10-900 (Rev. 8-86) OMB No. 1024-0018 [SD-SHPO # ECA-OH-597-1/89]
[use paper with at least 25% cotton rag content, use NLQ or LQ printer]

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: Roetzel, Ferdinand and Elizabeth, Ranch
other name/ site number: Roetzel Deer Camp, CU-NF-2

2. Location

street & number: 1 mi. NW of juct. of Saginaw & Roetzel Roads /NA/ not for publication
city, town: Custer /XX/ vicinity
state: SOUTH DAKOTA code: SD county: Custer code: SD 033 zip code: 57730

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property:		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
/XX/ private	/ / building(s)	5	8	buildings
/ / public-local	/XX/ district			sites
/ / public-state	/ / site	3	4	structures
/ / public-federal	/ / structure			objects
	/ / object	8	12	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: Rolene Jungemann, Consultant
organization: Custer County Commission
street & number: 3205 W. 43rd St., No. 21
city or town: Sioux Falls

date: October 12, 1990
telephone: 605-361-9954
state: SOUTH DAKOTA zip code: 57106

page 2: Ferdinand and Elizabeth Roetzel Ranch , Custer , SOUTH DAKOTA
property name county 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.

M. F. [Signature] 12/24/90
Signature of certifying official Date

South Dak. 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 Entered in the
- see continuation sheet March 2, 1991 National Register 25 p. 1991
- determined eligible for the National Register
- see continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other, (explain) _____

[Signature] _____
Signature of the Keeper Date

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property name county state

6. Function or Use (enter categories from instructions)

Historic functions:	Current Functions:
AGRICULTURE/Animal Facility	AGRICULTURE/Animal Facility
AGRICULTURE/Agricultural Outbuilding	AGRICULTURE/Agricultural Outbuilding
AGRICULTURE/Storage	AGRICULTURE/Storage
DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling	DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling
DOMESTIC/Camp	DOMESTIC/Camp

7. Description

Architectural Classification: (enter categories from instructions) No Style	Materials: (enter categories from instructions) foundation Concrete, Stone walls Wood Stone, Concrete roof Wood, Metal, Asphalt other Wood
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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
Entertainment/Recreation

Period of Significance
1910-1940

Significant Dates
NA

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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Continuation Sheet**

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The Ferdinand and Elizabeth Roetzel Ranch is situated several miles below the limestone ridge in the forested hills northwest of the city of Custer, in northern Custer County, South Dakota. Designated as Homestead Entry Survey No. 122, marked by metes and bounds, the homestead ranch is approximately one mile northwest of the junction of Saginaw and Roetzel roads. The ranch consists of 20 buildings and structures, of which 8 are contributing resources.

The resources are:

1. House: (contributing), 1910-12. The story-and-a-half wood frame house rests on a mortared foundation of slate and granite gathered locally from nearby White House Draw. Constructed by a local carpenter, this dwelling is clad with horizontal pressed wood siding. An early cellar is believed to be incorporated into the basement of the house. The basement walls are approximately one foot thick, with similarly proportioned footings under the remainder of the house. Wood studs extend from the foundation to the roof line. Applied diagonally over the studs are wall boards varying from 8-inches to 12-inches in width. The wood was milled at the lumbering site 100 yards southeast of the cow and hay barn.

An open porch decorated with dozens of small spindles between each support post wraps around the south and east facades. A well that Ferdinand Roetzel dug by hand is located under the porch and continues to provide a steady supply of water to the house.

The house is capped by a gable roof protected by tin roofing panels, while the hipped porch roof is clad with asphalt shingles. Installed following a 1982 chimney fire, a massive concrete block chimney rises along the northern axial wall.

Fenestration is irregular on all facades. Newer windows have been installed on the second floor.

Due to damage caused by the 1982 fire, the interior of the house has been remodeled. Originally, the first floor consisted of four rooms and the stairwell. The proportions and functions of three rooms have changed. During remodeling, the owners found layers of heavy wallpaper, which had been applied horizontally and used for insulation. They also discovered a 1916 bill of sale to Roetzels for new windows.

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2. House: (contributing), ca. 1933. The second house is a one-story wood frame dwelling built by Frank Roetzel for the private use of his mother, Elizabeth Roetzel, when she returned to the ranch. The rectangular two-room house is supported by poured concrete footings and covered with horizontal siding. Corrugated tin panels shield the gable roof.

3. Bunkhouse: (noncontributing), 1947. Rising from poured concrete footings, the bunkhouse is a one-story, rectangular wood frame building with weatherboard siding. Asphalt shingles and tin roofing panels cover the asymmetrical gable roof. A rear addition, constructed in 1965, caused a change in the pitch of the gable roof. Interior walls are covered with knotty pine paneling.

4. Granary: (contributing), ca. 1910. Rising from a field stone foundation, the granary is a wood frame structure covered with board and batten siding. It is capped by a gabled tin roof. In the 1930s, Frank Roetzel added a shed roof lean-to, which serves as a workshop. In 1966, Arthur Roetzel added a second lean-to to provide space for a chicken coop. Pitch posts were used to create the upright members of the walls in the chicken coop. (1)

5. Cattle and machine shed: (noncontributing), 1952. Located south of the main house, the shed was constructed around a set of pitch posts buried in the ground. The rectangular wood frame building is covered with vertical siding, and the gable roof and shed roof are covered with corrugated tin panels. This building replaced the original barn built by Ferdinand Roetzel.

6. Potato cellar: (contributing), 1906, 1930s. The walls of the cellar were constructed of unmortared stacked slate and packed dirt. Vertical and horizontal logs support the entryway in a post-and-lintel fashion. Joists fabricated from pitch posts support the unmortared slate and dirt roof. The slate roofing is positioned in a shingle-like fashion to shed the water that is not absorbed by the dirt covering. During the 1930s the cellar was refurbished giving the structure its present appearance.

7. Animal shed: (noncontributing), 1975. Clad with vertical plank siding and corrugated tin panels, the animal shed is a one-story pitch pole frame building with a shed roof. It was built by Frank Roetzel.

1.

Pitch posts are the product of a ponderosa pine which has died naturally. The pine sap in the tree becomes very hard 10 to 15 feet from the base of the tree and makes for a very durable construction log.

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8. Cow and hay barn: (contributing), 1912. Located in the grazing pasture to the east of the house, the log cow barn rests on a foundation of loose stone supports. Wide interstices are not chinked to permit open ventilation to facilitate hay drying. Saddle-notched log construction continues into the gables. Visible on the exterior are three joists that run parallel to the ridge. Vertical planks cover the ridgepole and purlins.

9. Privy: (contributing), 1940. Resting on a poured concrete pad, the wood frame building is covered with flush plank siding and capped by a shed roof with asphalt shingles.

10. Privy: (noncontributing), 1947. An updated version of the original privy, the wood frame building is supported by a poured concrete pad. It features electrification, weatherboard siding, and a shed roof. This building may have been relocated to the ranch by Frank Roetzel.

11. Ice Fishing Shed: (noncontributing), 1960s. The simple wood frame portable shed rises from a heavy wood sill. It is capped by a gable roof. It is now used for storage.

12. Pumphouse: (noncontributing), 1967. Supported by 10-foot-deep poured concrete footings, the wood frame gabled building is sided and shingled with asphalt paper.

13. Woodshed: (contributing), 1930s. The wood shed is a wood frame structure rising from a wood sill and is clad with horizontal pine plank siding. It is capped by a shed roof covered with asphalt paper.

14. Grain Storage Shed: (noncontributing), c. 1950. This small rectangular wooden structure was fabricated from a airplane engine crate purchased from nearby Elsworth Air Force Base. It is covered with asphalt paper.

15. Hay shed: (noncontributing), 1971. The hay shed is a pitch pole frame structure covered on the north and west facades with unfinished pine planks. A shed roof is covered with tin panels.

16. Cattle and machine shed: (noncontributing), 1970. Not supported by a foundation, the shed consists of a main gabled bay and two open-front shed-roofed additions. Vertical plank siding and corrugated tin cover the pitch pole frame building.

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17. Spring House: (noncontributing), late 1960s. This wood frame structure with a shed roof was constructed for use as a winter cover for the outlet of a fresh water spring.

18. Portable cabin: (contributing), early 1930s. Resting on skids, the wood frame building is clad with horizontal siding and has a low-pitched gable roof covered with asphalt paper. The portable cabin was used at pitch post camps where posts and logs were made for fences and construction materials. Frank and Arthur, son and grandson of Ferdinand Roetzel, supplemented their incomes by selling thousands of these pitch posts.

19. Brooder house: (noncontributing), early 1950s. Built by Vern Hiller, the wood frame building is not supported by a foundation. Horizontal siding protects the walls while asphalt paper covers the shed roof.

20. Milk house: (noncontributing), 1940s. Built by Frank Roetzel, the structure is constructed entirely of concrete and cinder blocks. The nearly flat roof of the milk house was removed several years ago, but plans have been made to reroof the building.

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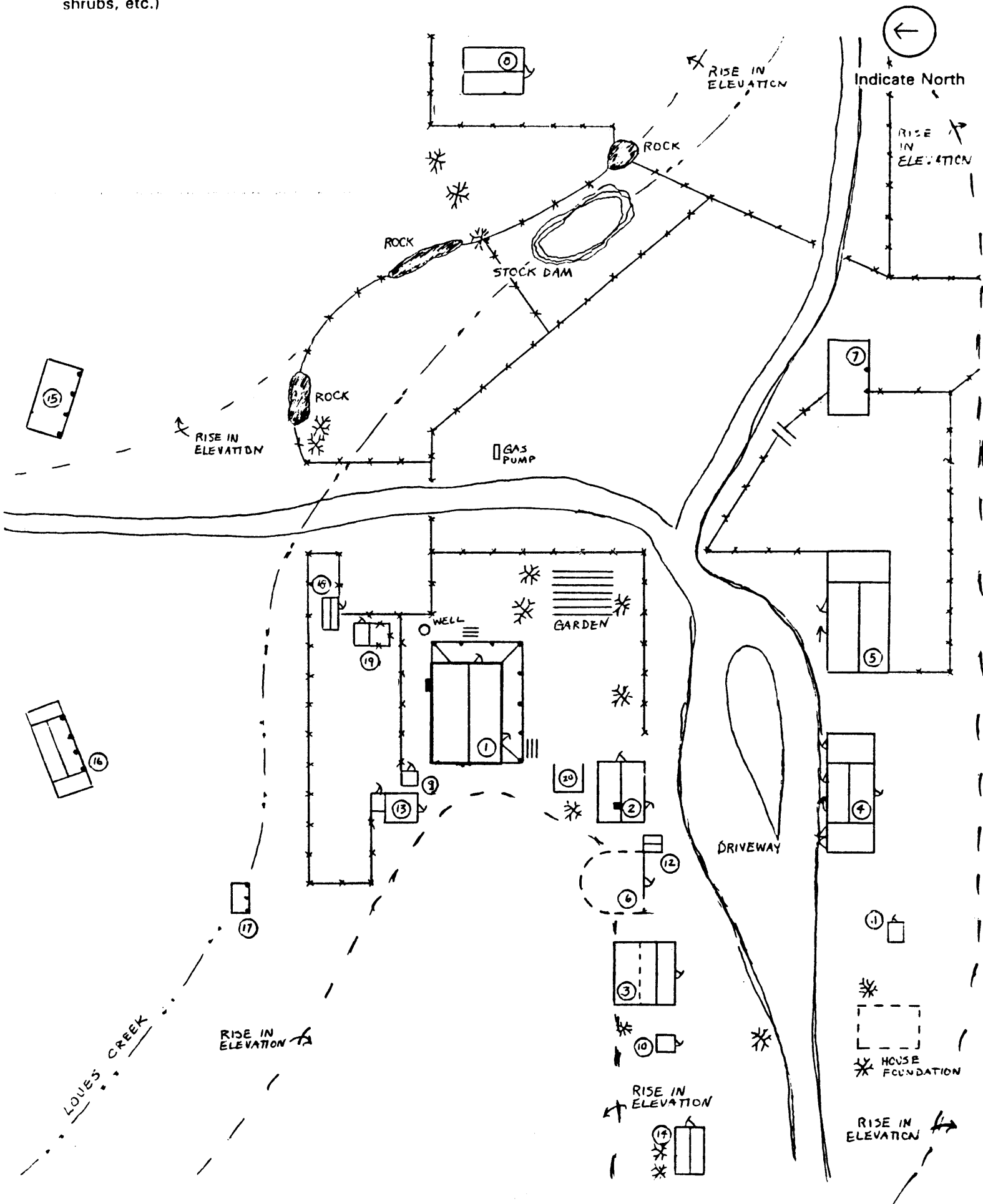
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Sketch map of Roetzel Ranch on reverse side.

Numbers in circles refer to resource numbers as assigned
in Item 7 description.

Site Plan (indicate all door and window openings on buildings, roof shapes, and landscape features such as fences, shrubs, etc.)



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Under Criterion A of the National Register Criteria, the Ferdinand and Elizabeth Roetzel Ranch is significant in the areas of exploration/settlement and entertainment/recreation. It is a well-preserved, example of homestead ranches in northern and central Custer County. It is also one of the few surviving examples of early recreational deer hunting camps in the immediate region. Under the South Dakota Historical Preservation Plan, the nominated property relates to the following contexts: IV. Permanent Rural and Urban Pioneer Settlement, A. Claim Era; C. Farm and Ranch Structures; and V. Depression and Rebuilding, F. Recreation and Tourism.

According to the Sioux Winter Count, the Oglala Teton Sioux arrived in the Black Hills of South Dakota in 1775 and drove the Kiowa tribe from that region. Nearly 100 years later in 1874, rumors of gold in the Black Hills were confirmed by an expedition led by Lt. Colonel George A. Custer. Although the region was closed to non-Indian settlement by the 1868 Laramie Treaty, the news of gold spurred white prospectors to rush into the Black Hills, many of them settling in the area now known as Custer County. On August 10, 1875 a group of miners met and organized Custer City. The county of Custer was established two years later, after the U. S. Government acquired the Black Hills and opened it to settlement.

Very quickly, the easier placer deposits gave out and the focus of regional mining shifted to hard rock ventures in the northern Black Hills, forcing many former prospectors into the ranching industry. As early as 1903, homestead patents were issued on parcels of Custer County land, under provisions of the Homestead Act of 1862. In return for fee simple patent to 160 acres of government land, this law required a homesteader to reside on the land for 5 years and to pay a nominal filing fee. Most ranch claims in the northern and central parts of the county were acquired through the Homestead Act. The Roetzel Ranch was one of these early homesteads.

Ferdinand Roetzel was born in 1857 near Stuttgart, Germany. In 1885 or 1886, he left his homeland bound for the United States. Although he was not an experienced miner, he needed work and for several years worked at the Homestake Gold Mine. Eventually, he returned to Germany and married Elizabeth Rode in 1890. The couple returned to the Black Hills where Ferdinand went to Carbonate, in Lawrence County, to work again as a miner. Four children, Margaret, Frank, Minnie, and Elizabeth, were born to Ferdinand and Elizabeth Roetzel between the years of 1892 and 1907.

Shortly after the turn of the century, Roetzels founded their homestead. A letter sent to the United States government by Ferdinand Roetzel stated his intent to apply for a land patent. According to the letter dated September 4, 1908, a house, barn, two cellars, and a chicken coop were located on the

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property at this time. Primary source records show a patent for this parcel (HES # 122) was awarded to Ferdinand Roetzel on January 23, 1913.

By 1910, construction was under way for a large wood frame house. Completed in 1912, the house was one of the more spacious and decorated homes in the immediate region. Lumber for the house was cut at a mill located approximately 100 yards from the barn. This lumber mill had been constructed to provide timbers for gold mining operations at the nearby Golden Banner Mine. Although its original form remains intact, the present house has undergone several changes, including second floor window alterations and interior modifications due to a recent chimney fire. The historic wrap-around porch, with its hundreds of small wooden spindles, is the most distinct visual feature of the house.

Ferdinand engaged in raising cattle, pigs, and chickens, dairying, and farming. Over the years, several structures were built to accommodate storage and animal shelter needs.

Frank, the second child of Ferdinand and Elizabeth Roetzel, married Helen Doll in 1920. In 1924, Frank and Helen bought the Bear Springs Ranch, approximately three miles west of the Roetzel homestead. They lived there for eight years and saw the birth of three children, Frank Jr., Fred, and Arthur. Following the death of Ferdinand in 1931, the Frank Roetzel family moved to the homestead to be closer to mother Elizabeth. By this time, the ranch began to take on a new role as a resort camp for visiting deer hunters.

Tourism has had a long history in South Dakota, particularly in the Black Hills area with its scenic beauty and recreational potential. It began in earnest as early as the 1890s, and increased remarkably during the 1920s following the development of the automobile and improved roads. The Custer area had much to offer tourists including Jewel Cave-- open since 1902, Custer State Park-- designated in 1919, and Needles Highway-- completed in 1922. These and many other attractions invited the tourists to the area. Plentiful game animals brought many hunters. South Dakota is a major hunting area with much of this activity focused in the Black Hills. With the creation of the Department of Game and Fish in 1909, hunting seasons and licenses were offered to the sportsmen of the region. Several deer hunting camps were established in the Custer area to accommodate these visiting hunters. Roetzel Deer Camp was one of these facilities.

Frank and Helen Roetzel hosted hunters during the deer season at the Bear Springs Ranch. When they moved in 1932 to the homestead ranch, their patrons followed. Frank guided the hunters and Helen, Elizabeth, and several other women provided meals for them in the main house. The deer camp is still in

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operation with Arthur Roetzel, the youngest son of Frank and Helen, continuing to guide hunters during the fall season.

The period of significance of the Ferdinand and Elizabeth Roetzel Homestead Ranch extends from the construction of the oldest extant contributing resource in 1910 to 1940, the established cut-off date for the National Register.

page 4: Ferdinand and Elizabeth Roetzel Ranch , Custer , SOUTH DAKOTA
property name county 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: 10.5 acres

UTM References:

A = /13/	/603-510/	/4855-230/	B = /13/	/603-740/	/4855-240/
C = /13/	/603-740/	/4855-050/	D = /13/	/603-510/	/4855-040/
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

Quad: Berne

Scale: 1:24000

/ / see continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description:

/XX/ see continuation sheet

Boundary Justification:

/XX/ see continuation sheet

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A Brief History of Custer County, South Dakota. Custer, SD: Custer County Centennial Committee, 1961.

Our Yesterdays (1870-1970). Hermosa, SD: Eastern Custer County Historical Society, 1967-1970.

Parker, Watson and Hugh K. Lambert. Black Hills Ghost Towns. Chicago: Sage Press, 1974.

Roetzel, Arthur and Jo Roetzel, present owners. Personal interview by Rolene Jungemann, June 26, 1989.

Schell, Herbert S. History of South Dakota. 3rd edition, revised: Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1975.

Sundstrom, Jessie T., ed. Custer County History to 1976. Rapid City, SD: Printing, Inc., 1977.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is bounded by a set of imaginary lines that intersect to form a rectangle whose vertices are the following UTM points: A.) 13/603510/4855230, B.) 13/603740/4855240, C.) 13/603740/4855050, D.) 13/603510/4855040. The property is located in the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter and the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 25, Township 2 South, Range 3 East (Black Hills Meridian) in Custer County, South Dakota.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the nominated property are set to include all features of the ranch district and to exclude any public lands.

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1.

Ferdinand and Elizabeth Roetzel Ranch
Custer Vicinity, Custer County, South Dakota
by Rolene Jungemann

June 1989

Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center
House (resource no. 1), east and south facades,
camera facing northwest

Photo No. 1

2.

Ferdinand and Elizabeth Roetzel Ranch
Custer Vicinity, Custer County, South Dakota
by Rolene Jungemann

June 1989

Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center
House (ca. 1933 resource no. 2), east and south facades,
camera facing northwest

Photo No. 2

3.

Ferdinand and Elizabeth Roetzel Ranch
Custer Vicinity, Custer County, South Dakota
by Rolene Jungemann

June 1989

Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center
Bunkhouse (resource no. 3), east and south facades,
camera facing northwest

Photo No. 3

4.

Ferdinand and Elizabeth Roetzel Ranch
Custer Vicinity, Custer County, South Dakota
by Rolene Jungemann

June 1989

Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center
Cattle and machine shed (resource no. 5), north and west facades,
camera facing southeast

Photo No. 4

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5.

Ferdinand and Elizabeth Roetzel Ranch
Custer Vicinity, Custer County, South Dakota
by Rolene Jungemann

June 1989

Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center
Potato cellar (resource no. 6) and Pumphouse (resource no. 12),
south facades, camera facing north

Photo No. 5

6.

Ferdinand and Elizabeth Roetzel Ranch
Custer Vicinity, Custer County, South Dakota
by Rolene Jungemann

June 1989

Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center
Granary (resource no. 4), north and west facades,
camera facing southeast

Photo No. 6

7.

Ferdinand and Elizabeth Roetzel Ranch
Custer Vicinity, Custer County, South Dakota
by Rolene Jungemann

June 1989

Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center
Privy, (1940, resource no. 9) and Woodshed (resource no. 13),
east and south facades, camera facing northwest

Photo No. 7

8.

Ferdinand and Elizabeth Roetzel Ranch
Custer Vicinity, Custer County, South Dakota
by Rolene Jungemann

June 1989

Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center
Portable cabin (resource no. 18), west and south facades,
camera facing northeast

Photo No. 8

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9.

Ferdinand and Elizabeth Roetzel Ranch
Custer Vicinity, Custer County, South Dakota
by Rolene Jungemann
June 1989

Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center
Privy (1947, resource no.10), west and south facades,
camera facing northeast

Photo No. 9

10.

Ferdinand and Elizabeth Roetzel Ranch
Custer Vicinity, Custer County, South Dakota
by Rolene Jungemann
June 1989

Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center
Cow and hay barn (resource no. 8), west and south facades,
camera facing northeast

Photo No. 10

11.

Ferdinand and Elizabeth Roetzel Ranch
Custer Vicinity, Custer County, South Dakota
by Rolene Jungemann
June 1989

Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center
Cow and hay barn (resource no. 8), detail of log construction,
south facade, camera facing north

Photo No. 11

12.

Ferdinand and Elizabeth Roetzel Ranch
Custer Vicinity, Custer County, South Dakota
by Rolene Jungemann
June 1989

Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center
Brooder house (resource no. 19), west and south facades,
camera facing northeast

Photo No. 12