

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

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

received NOV 14 1984

date entered AUG 1 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Frank Uehling Barn (DD00-49)

and/or common Uehling Barn

**2. Location**

street & number N/A N/A not for publication

city, town Uehling  vicinity of

state Nebraska code 031 county Dodge code 053

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Russell Uehling

street & number N/A

city, town Uehling  vicinity of state Nebraska 68063

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Dodge County Courthouse

city, town Fremont state Nebraska

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date On-going  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Nebraska State Historical Society

city, town Lincoln state Nebraska

*red 9/8/85*

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>N/A</u>

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### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Frank Uehling barn is an octagonally-shaped cattle-feeding barn built of frame construction, with bell-cast roof surmounted by a frame vent.

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The Uehling barn is located on a crest overlooking the town of Uehling to the southwest. The prominence of the structure and its siting have made it a local landmark since its construction in 1918.

Built of wood-frame construction, the barn is octagonal in shape, measuring thirty feet on each side. Its "diameter" from side to side measures eighty feet. The walls measure eighteen feet in height while the mammoth bell-cast roof which covers the structure reaches a height of seventy feet above the ground. An octagonally-shaped louvered vent caps the building.

The walls are sheathed with flush boards, and covered with sheets of metal which are impressed with a brick-work pattern. The metal is original. Openings are arranged in a functional manner. Four doors were originally equipped with sliding doors, one located each in the west, southwest, east and northeast facades. Main level walls without doors are punctured with three miniscule window openings. One opening on each facade under the eave provides either light or physical access to the loft floor above. Roof sections are covered with asphalt shingles, under which the original wood shingles are still extant.

An eighteen-foot-in-diameter wooden silo occupies the central portion of the barn. The large loft is completely unobstructed save for the silo in the center. The main level also is primarily open, with the only other obstruction being the grain bin which is located along the west wall adjacent to the door. A silage manger surrounds the silo, while hay mangers occupy the circumference of the building save for the door locations. Openings from the loft above are provided over the mangers. A fence and gate, directly opposing the grain bin, allow division of the main level into two zones.

Nomination of this structure recognizes the key building of an historically significant complex, and excludes adjacent non-compatible, more recent development which falls outside the criteria for period of significance.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1918 **Builder/Architect** Frank Uehling, et. al.

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Frank Uehling barn is architecturally significant as one of a small and finite number of centric barns in Nebraska, and more specifically as an excellent example illustrating the second, progressive phase of such constructions in the state. Historically, the barn was the key structure in representation of Uehling's model farming operation which was a center of pure-bred livestock production in northern Dodge County; today the barn alone represents this significance.

Frank Theodore Uehling was one of the sons of Theodore and Catherine Schwab Uehling, 1847 emigrants from Saxe Meiningen Germany. Franks father platted the town of Uehling, just southwest of the barn, in 1906. Uehling family members have been prominent citizens of the vicinity, and the county, since their arrival here in 1860.

Frank Uehling was born on the farm in 1887. He attended local public schools, and two years at the University of Nebraska College of Agriculture preparing for a career in agriculture and stock raising. Under his direction, his stock farm became one of the model farms of the county and the center of pure-bred livestock raising in northern Dodge County (Bass, pp. 552-553). Other service included being treasurer of the township, member of the school board, and secretary of the Farmer's Cooperative and Mercantile Association of Uehling.

Architecturally the Uehling barn stands as a representative of the second phase of centric barn construction in the Midwest, a manifestation of a "progressive" movement which found few adherents in the agricultural landscape. Promoted first in the 1880's, centric barns were considered functionally more efficient than traditional barns in that, ideally, operations could be performed in a circumferential fashion, with access to every part of the barn from one aisle.<sup>1</sup> In actual fact, however, the nineteenth century barns did not function in that fashion for a variety of reasons--first, early efforts attempted to force multifunctional traditional barns into the octagonal shape, resulting in too-much fragmentation of the space to make them work efficiently, in fact they were less efficient in space utilization than traditional barns; and second, traditional heavy-timber framing methods applied to the early barns were structural nightmares, resulting in excessive structural obstruction of the interior. Because of structural difficulties, the early barns were almost always polygonal in shape, and then primarily octagonal in reflection of Orson Squire Fowler's publications during that time.<sup>2</sup>

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Uehling, Nebraska

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

**UTM References**

A 

1	4
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7	0	7	8	5	0
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4	6	2	3	5	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B 

N	A
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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

N	A
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H 

N	A
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**Verbal boundary description and justification** An independent artifact described by a line located fifteen feet outside the walls of the structure, located in the sw, sw, nw, nw $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 2, T20N, R8E, a rural legal description in the State of Nebraska; excluding any adjacent real estate that lacks historical association or integrity.

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state	N/A	code	county	code
state	N/A	code	county	code

state	N/A	code	county	code
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# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title D. Murphy, Survey Architect

organization Nebraska State Historical Society

date September, 1984

street & number Box 82554

telephone 402/471-3270

city or town Lincoln

state Nebraska 68501

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national     state     local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Marian D. Knelt*

title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

date 10/30/84

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*Beth Grosvenor*  
Keeper of the National Register

date 8/1/85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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The second phase of centric barn construction, that within which the Uehling barn fits, corresponded with the years c. 1905-1920. Two factors distinguish the phase--the introduction of light frame wall plate construction, and specialization of barn function. The adoption of light, or ballroom, frame construction allowed true-round shapes to be built (although polygonal shapes were still constructed), and most significantly allowed the loft floor and roof structures to be carried exclusively by the walls, or by the walls and the central silo. Large spaces, unobstructed by structural members resulted. This in conjunction with functional specialization (e.g., cattle-feeding barns, dairy barns, etc.) finally allowed centric barns to achieve the efficiency of operation which was first touted in the 1880's. The Uehling barn is a prime example in Nebraska of this second, architecturally logical phase of barn construction.

Thirty five centric barns have been identified in Nebraska (Welsch), of which thirty three are believed to be standing. While the Welsch survey was not entirely successful in terms of dating, it appears that at least thirty two of the thirty five constructions were built in the twentieth century. Of the total, sixteen were built of light frame construction, and only twenty four percent were octagonal in shape. The Uehling construction is the only one recorded in Dodge County, and stands today as a well-preserved, locally significant example of the centric-barn phenomenon.

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1. The narrative development of centric barns in this nomination is drawn primarily from Soike's excellent book on the subject.
  2. A Home for All or the Gravel Wall and Octagon Mode of Building (1848).

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Continuation sheet    Bibliography    Item number    9    Page    2

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Bass, Rev. William H., and Thomas Osterman (Eds). History of Dodge and Washington Counties, Nebraska. 2 Vols. Chicago: American Historical Society, 1921.

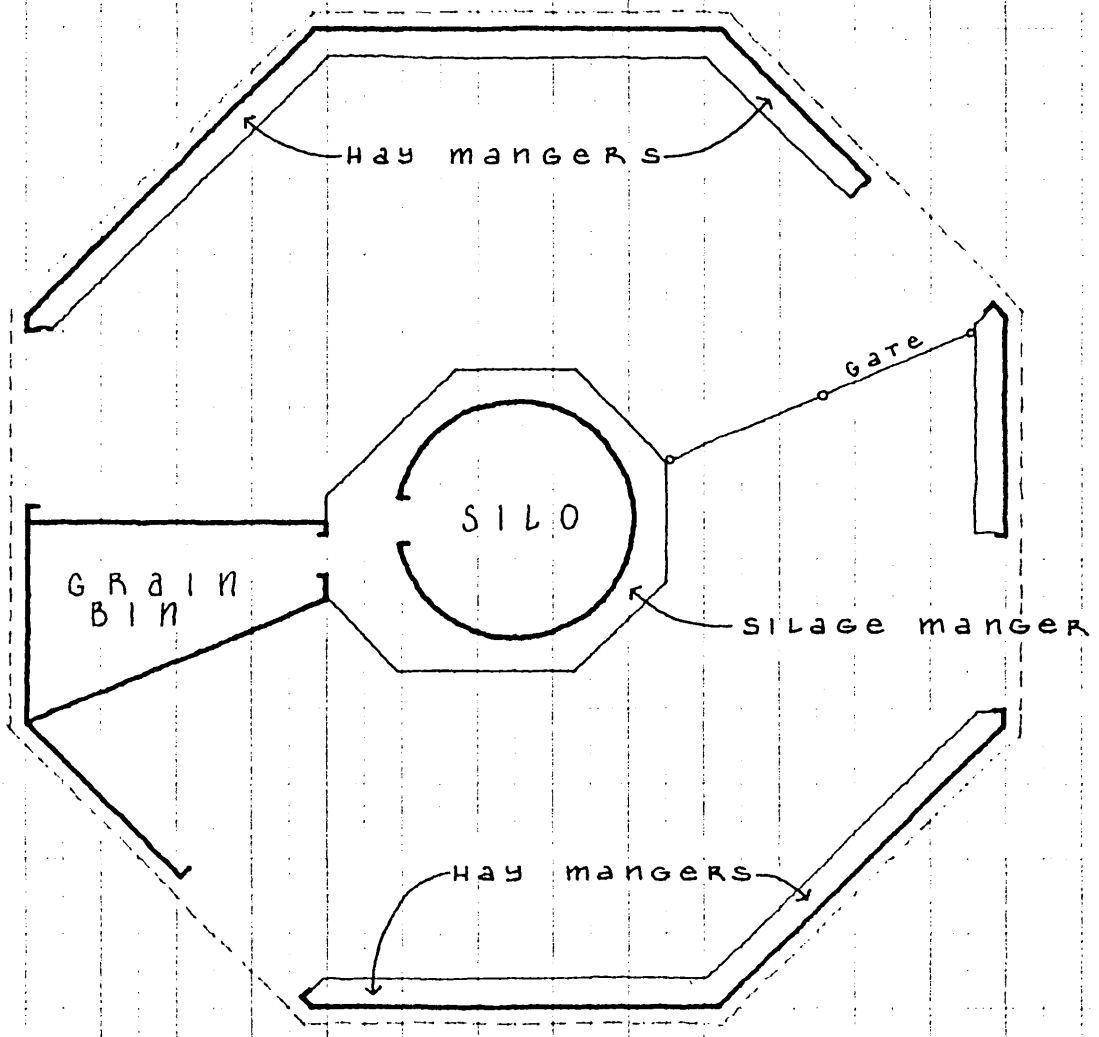
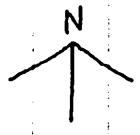
Real, Tammy. "Octagon barn is town's landmark, "Fremont (Nebraska) Tribune, Sept. 28, 1983.

Soike, Lowell J. Without Right Angles: The Round Barns of Iowa. Des Moines: Iowa State Historical Department, Office of Historic Preservation, 1983.

Uehling, Russell. "Uehling Barn (DD00-49)", Nebraska Historical Sites Survey Form, April 11, 1980.

Welsch, Roger L. "Nebraska's Round Barns", Nebraska History 51:1 (Spring, 1970), 49-92.

DDOO-49  
FRANK UEHLING BARN  
RURAL DODGE CO., NEBRASKA



FLOOR PLAN DIAGRAM

DRWG: D. MURPHY, NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
AFTER RUSSELL UEHLING, "UEHLING BARN-- DDOO-49,"  
NEBRASKA HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY FORM, APRIL 11, 1980.