

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received OCT 1 1986
date entered NOV 6 1986

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

1. Name

historic Schmitt, Gottlieb, House

and/or common Menno Heritage Museum

2. Location

street & number 150 W. Poplar

N/A not for publication

city, town Menno

N/A vicinity of

state South Dakota

code 26

county Hutchinson

code 067

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Menno Historical Society

street & number 150 W. Poplar

city, town Menno

N/A vicinity of

state South Dakota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hutchinson County Courthouse, Register of Deeds Office

street & number 140 E. Euclid Street

city, town Olivet

state South Dakota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A N/A federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A

state N/A

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located on a street which has both residential and commercial buildings, the Schmitt House in Menno is a two-story rectangular frame (original siding) dwelling with a one-story rear addition, an enclosed rear porch and a porch extending the length of the front facade. The house was originally built around a house that existed on the lot in 1888. (1)

The front porch is supported by slender columns and displays nicely turned scroll work and brackets. Two brick chimneys project from the gable roof. Narrow rectangular windows with the original decorated surrounds flank the centrally located front entrance. The west (side) facade has four narrow one-over-one sash rectangular windows with the original decorated surrounds on both the first and second levels of the building. The east (side) facade has a bay window and paired narrow one-over-one sash rectangular windows with the original decorated surrounds on the first level, and two narrow one-over-one sash rectangular windows with the original decorated surrounds on the second level. The rear has two narrow one-over-one sash rectangular windows with the original decorated surrounds and a small rectangular attic window. The house measures approximately 46 feet by 20 feet.

The interior displays hardwood floors and elaborately decorated door and window surrounds. The first floor includes a front parlor, a dining room, a kitchen, and an enclosed porch. A small bedroom is located off the parlor. A narrow staircase leads to the second floor which has three bedrooms and an attic over the kitchen. The building has recently been restored for use as a museum.

A frame privy (non-contributing) with a shed roof is located to the rear of the house. This structure was donated to the Menno Historical Society and moved to the backyard of the Schmitt house. A small barn, summer kitchen and cistern were also located on the property but have since been removed.

¹Oral interview with Ed C. Kuhlman, son-in-law of the Schmitts, August 1983.

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 type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		
				German-Russian ethnic		
Specific dates	1888	Builder/Architect	Gottlieb Schmitt, builder	history		

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Gottlieb Schmitt house in Menno is significant in the areas of settlement, and German-Russian ethnic history. The house is associated with an early German-Russian immigrant, Gottlieb Schmitt, who with his family was among the first settlers in Menno, a predominately German-Russian community. Constructed in 1888 around a pre-existing dwelling that may have exemplified German-Russian folk architecture (1), the house today retains many of its original architectural features including its frame siding, front porch with slender columns and nicely turned scroll work and brackets, narrow one-over-one sash rectangular windows, interior door and window surrounds, and hardwood floors. The house, in essence, embodies a typical Menno residence of the late nineteenth century.

The area surrounding Menno was largely settled by a group of immigrants called Germans from Russia (German-Russians). These Germans had lived in Russia for over 100 years, initially moving there after 1763 at the invitation of Catherine the Great and her successors. By 1871, many of the privileges granted to the German-Russians had been withdrawn so these people began to immigrate to North America. Margaretha Schmitt, a widow, and her two children, were among these immigrants. In April of 1876, the Schmitts left Bergdorf, South Russia, and arrived in Yankton, Dakota Territory, where widow Margaretha married Martin Preszler. The two later moved to Menno with her children, Gottlieb and Margaretha. Gottlieb Schmitt was born on March 3, 1867 to Margaretha and her first husband, Jacob. On February 21, 1888, Gottlieb married Karolina Preszler (1868-1951) daughter of Johann and Salomea Preszler of Menno. (2) Also during this year, Gottlieb and Karolina Schmitt built their house at 150 Polar Street in Menno and had their first child, Karolina or Carrie (1888-1974).

Gottlieb's family came to Menno at its infancy stage but the community rapidly began to grow. The influx of German-Russian immigrants into the area as well as the construction of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad line which reached Menno by 1879 (3) contributed to this growth. Gottlieb was among the first merchants in the community. With his marriage into the Preszler family, he became a partner in Preszler and Company, a general merchandise store. Johann Preszler, Karolina Schmitt's father, had started the business with Gotthilf Haisch. The April 21, 1887 issue of The Rural Voice, an early Menno newspaper, printed the following announcement:

"A double store 44' X 50' is soon to be erected on the west side of Main Street on the site of the old bank building. Gotthilf Haisch is building it and will occupy it with a large stock of general merchandise." (4)

In 1915, the family business was sold to the Holscher Brothers but Gottlieb Schmitt continued to work with the new partnership. He also continued to own the building itself until his retirement in the 1930's. Gottlieb Schmitt died June 15, 1957. The Menno Historical Society purchased the old Schmitt house in 1983 for \$2,000.00

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Menno

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

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

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries of the property are contained within the legal description: Lot 2 of Block 3, Town of Menno, Hutchinson County, South Dakota

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dorothy Harnisch, President (with the assistance of: Melanie Betz, State Historical Preservation Center, Vermillion, SD)

organization Menno Historical Society date August 11, 1986

street & number Box 223 telephone 605/387-2867

city or town Menno state South Dakota

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

title Director, Office of History date 9-26-86

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

date 11-6-86
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

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The Gottlieb Schmitt house relates to South Dakota Historic Context: IV Permanent Rural and Urban Pioneer Settlement (1858-Present), B Ethnic Enclaves 3. German-Russians (1871 to Present). For additional information, see "German-Russian Folk Architecture in South Dakota" multiple resource nomination and German-Russian Folk Architecture in Southeastern South Dakota by Michael Koop and Stephen Ludwig, State Historical Preservation Center, Vermillion, South Dakota, 1984.

¹Oral interview with Ed C. Kuhlman, son-in-law of the Schmitts, August 1983. Although there is little evidence of the original house (construction date unknown) a batsa brick was found in the attic of the house. Batsa brick was used, a commonly used building material of the German-Russians.

²Menno-The First 100 Years. Also, Gottlieb Schmitt's obituary.

³Yankton Press and Dakotan, October 28, 1979.

⁴The Rural Voice, April 21, 1887.

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German-Russian Folk Architecture in Southeastern South Dakota. Michael Koop and Stephen Ludwig. State Historical Preservation Center, 1984.

German-Russian Folk Architecture in South Dakota. Thematic multiple property nomination.

The Hutchinson Herald. September 29, 1983.

Menno-The First 100 Years

Oral Interview with Ed C. Kuhlman, son-in-law of Gottlieb Schmitt, August 1983.

The Rural Voice. April 21, 1887.

The Yankton Press and Dakotan. October 28, 1879.