United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received 0CT | 1986 date entered N V 6 \sim 8

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

Type all entries—complete applicable	e sections		
1. Name			
nistoric Schmitt, Gottlieb, Hou	se		
and or common Menno Heritage M	useum		
2. Location			
street & number 150 W. Poplar			$\underline{\mathrm{N/A}}$ not for publication
city, town Menno	N/A vici	nity of	
state South Dakota co	ode 26	county Hutchinso	on code 067
3. Classification			
Category district public building(s) structure site object being considered	Status X occupie unoccup work in Accessible X yes: res no	progress eduction control eduction	culture
4. Owner of Prope	erty		
name Menno Historical Societ	У		
street & number 150 W. Poplar			
city, town Menno	N/A vici	nity of	state South Dakota
5. Location of Leg		_ 	
	utchinson Cou	nty Courthouse, Re	egister of Deeds Office
street & number 140 E. Euclid	Street		
olty, town Olivet			state South Dakota
6. Representation	n in Exis	ting Survey	ys
title N/A	h	as this property been de	etermined eligible? yes _X n
date N/A		${ m N/A}$ fede	ral state county loca
depository for survey records $^{ m N/A}$			
city town N/A			

7. Description

Condition excellent deteriorated good ruins fair unexposed	Check one unaltered X altered	Check one _X_ original site moved date	
---	-------------------------------	--	--

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.

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

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799X 1800–1899 1900–	agriculture architecture art	community planning conservation economics education engineering X exploration/settlement	landscape archited law literature military music philosophy politics/governme	science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater
Cassidia datas	1999	Builder/Architect Cott	lich Schmitt bui	7 .

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

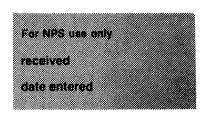
See Continuation Sheet

GPO 911-399

10. Geograph	ical Data		
Acreage of nominated property		cre	
Quadrangle name Menno	***************************************		Quadrangle scale 1:24000
UTM References			
	4 7 8 8 0 1 5	В	
Zone Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting Northing
chi hiti		D L	
		F L	
$G \cup I \cup I \cup I \cup I$		н 📖	
Verbal boundary description The boundaries of th of Block 3, Town of List all states and counties	e property are co Menno, Hutchinson	n County, South	
state N/A	code	county	code
state	code	county	code
11. Form Prep	ared Ry		
/4*44 .	servation Center		
street & number Box 223		tel	lephone 605/387-2867
ity or town Menno		sta	ate South Dakota
	oric Pres	ervation (Officer Certification
The evaluated significance of th	is property within the s	state is:	
national	state	local	
As the designated State Historic 665), I hereby nominate this prop according to the criteria and pro State Historic Preservation Offic	perty for inclusion in the cedures set forth by the	ne National Register	ric Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89- and certify that it has been evaluated vice.
itle Director, Office of	History		date 9-26-86
For NPS use only			
I hereby certify that this pr	operty is included in the	ne National Register	. 1
flelorens	Tyen		date //-6-86
Keeper of the National Regis	ster		
Attest:			date
Chief of Registration	Marian Company of the		

United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 2

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.

Oral 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.

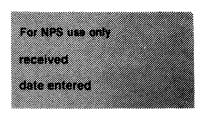
²Menno-The First 100 Years. Also, Gottlieb Schmitt's obituary.

³Yankton Press and Dakotan, October 28, 1979.

⁴ The Rural Voice, April 21, 1887.

United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page

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.