

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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SITE HN-3

NAME Giannonatti Ranch

LOCATION South side of an east-west section road about 6 miles east of Ludlow, Harding County (063), South Dakota (046)

OWNER Ann Giannonatti  
Box 30 Rt. B  
Ludlow, South Dakota 57755

CLASSIFICATION Buildings, private, NA acquisition, occupied, restricted access, private residence, agricultural

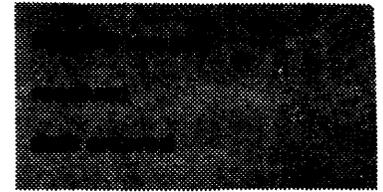
DESCRIPTION Excellent, unaltered, original site

Situated about six miles east of Ludlow on the rolling prairie, the Giannonatti Ranch includes ten structures which date from 1900. Seven of the structures at the site are contributing and three structures are non-contributing. The house is a one-and-one-half-story bungalow which is nearly square in shape. The bungalow has a low pitched, gable roof with the ridgeline oriented east-west. There are two low pitched dormers, one in the front and the other in the rear, each with a set of three double-hung windows. A red brick chimney rises from the ridgeline to the east of center. The roof is covered with pale gray composition shingles.

Entry to the house is gained through an enclosed porch which spans across three quarters of the front elevation. The door in the porch is flanked by three double-hung windows on the left side and a pair of double-hung windows on the right. Entry to the basement is gained through a door at the extreme eastern end of the front elevation. The south elevation has a set of four double-hung windows which are centered under the gable with one double-hung window on either side. A single double-hung window is located under the gable in the second story. The rear of the house has three double-hung windows on the first floor, and three in the basement at ground level. The west elevation has two double-hung windows centered under the gable flanked by a double-hung window on each side.

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Located to the north of the house is a wood-frame outhouse (contributing) which has a gable roof covered with wooden shingles. The structure is constructed of shiplap, and has a shiplap door with a small diamond shaped window.

A large metal garage (non-contributing) is situated off the southwest corner of the house.

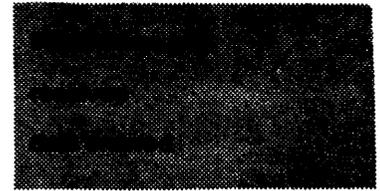
The majority of the outbuildings are located across the driveway from the house and include the following structures. Of primary importance, the unusually large gable roof barn (contributing) was constructed of fieldstone around 1900. The front elevation has a large haydoor in the apex of the gable, a small four pane window is located below it in the first floor. Access to the first floor is gained through a set of arched double doors or a plank door in the front elevation. There are no openings in the north elevation which is constructed of sixteen rows of fieldstone. The east or rear elevation has two windows located in the gable with a small hay door below. Two verticle plank Dutch doors and four two-over-two-lite windows are located in the first floor of the rear elevation. The south elevation has a large haydoor in the center which projects into the roof with a small dormer, below on the first floor are four two-over-two-lite windows. Covered with corrugated steel, the roof has four lightening rods along the ridgeline, with another atop the large wooden ventaltor in the center of the ridgeline.

Situated along the edge of an old creek bed, northwest of the stone barn is a fieldstone smoke house (contributing) which was built in 1926. The structure is a small rectangular pen approximately thriteen by fifteen feet with a door located in the south elevation and a window in the north or rear elevation. The structure is unusual because it has a low domed roof that is supported by three large log purlins. The roof is covered with tar paper. The initials BG, and J 16-26 are etched into the cement above the door.

East of the smoke house is a small wood-frame storage building (contributing) which has been stuccoed over and a gable roof with wooden shingles. This structure was constructed around 1930.

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North of the barn is a small wood-frame storage building (contributing). Covered with shiplap, the building has a gable roof covered with wooden shingles. Its construction date is unknown.

A wood-frame chicken coop (contributing) is located north of the barn. It is almost square in shape and is covered with corrugated metal, and the gable roof is covered with wooden shingles. A wooden ventilator rises from the east side of the roof. The construction date is believed to be in the late 1920s.

Two large contemporary metal storage buildings (non-contributing) are located southeast of the barn.

**SIGNIFICANCE** 1900-Present, architecture, settlement, ca. 1900

**DATES:** ca. 1900, 1926

**BUILDER:** Mr. Giannonatti

The Giannonatti Ranch derives its significance from the architecture of the buildings. One of the earliest ranches located in Harding County, the Giannonatti Ranch has the largest fieldstone barn known to exist in northwestern South Dakota.

According to one of the Giannonatti decendants, the stone buildings were built for the Giannonatti family by itinerant Danish immigrants. This is unusual for two reasons. First, fieldstone was used by early homesteaders as an inexpensive building material. Second, most homesteaders built their own structures, again as a cost saving measure. Very few ranch structures of this nature were built under contract by another individual for the homesteader.

At many sites the barn is often a more impressive structure than the house, and with good reason. The barn shelters the rancher's most important investments: his livestock, machinery and winter feed. Before the introduction of prefabricated units, a farmer's barn, like his home, reflected his folk tradition, conforming to one of several distinctive combinations of plan and elevation.

The Giannonatti stone barn is unusual in this respect in that it represents a Danish folk tradition, as the barn was built by a Dane for an Italian immigrant. In most cases, throughout rural

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western South Dakota the buildings do reflect the building techniques often employed in the landowners native country.

The stone smokehouse, built by Mr. Giannonatti in 1926 is a good example of a vernacular stone building tradition. Although it is built on a much smaller scale than the barn it exhibits a high level of craftsmanship in its construction. Only one other stone smokehouse was encountered during the survey. Thus demonstrating the importance of this site.

The plan of the ranch is typical of many in the region with two rather well defined spacial units; the domestic unit centered around the house where the women's chores would be performed and the agricultural unit where the men's chores were traditionally performed.

The ranch is in very good condition and is well maintained by the present owner.

QUADRANGLE NAME Ludlow SE, SD UTM 13/635640/5075780

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000 ACREAGE About 2 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The site is bounded by the natural topography on the north by a windbreak and a creekbed that lie approximately ten to twenty feet from the exterior north walls of the structures, on the south by a line that lies ten feet from the exterior of the metal pole barn, on the west by an imaginary line that lies ten feet from the exterior of the metal garage that connects to the windbreak, and on the east by an imaginary line that lies ten feet from the exterior of the metal pole barn and goes northwesterly at a 45 degree angle until it intersects the creekbed. The nominated property is located in the NE quarter of the SE quarter of Section 33 in Township 21 North and Range 7 East in Harding County, South Dakota.

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