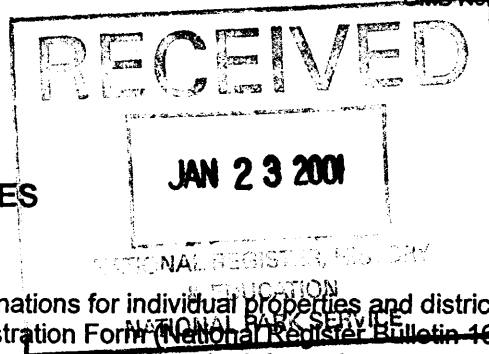


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



172

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Ditchrider House

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number SE 1/4 SW 1/4 Sec. 6, T8N, R5E not for publication N/A
city or town Nisland vicinity N/A
state South Dakota code SD county Butte 019 zip code 57762

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jay D. Voigt _____ 11-17-2000 _____
Signature of commenting or other official Date

SD SHPO _____
State or Federal agency and bureau

=====
4. National Park Service Certification
=====

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register _____

See continuation sheet.

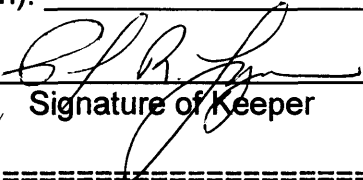
_____ determined eligible for the
National Register _____

___ See continuation sheet.

_____ determined not eligible for the
National Register _____

_____ removed from the National Register _____

_____ other (explain): _____



Signature of Keeper

1/31/2002
Date of Action

=====
5. Classification
=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- ___ private
- ___ public-local
- ___ public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- ___ district
- ___ site
- ___ structure
- ___ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u> 2 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	buildings
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	sites
<u> 2 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	structures
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	objects
<u> 4 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling
Institutional Dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Work in Progress Sub: _____

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements:
Bungalow / Craftsman

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Concrete
roof Wood: shingle and Asphalt
walls Wood: clapboard
other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====

8. Statement of Significance

=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- a owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- b removed from its original location.
- c a birthplace or a grave.
- d a cemetery.
- e a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- f a commemorative property.
- g less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Settlement, Agriculture

Period of Significance 1916-1948 Significant Dates 1916

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (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

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Rapid City Field Office, Rapid City, SD
Belle Fourche Irrigation District Office, Newell, SD

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10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property 25

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	13	614060	4948280	C	13	614440	4948180
B	13	614240	4948280	D	13	614440	4947980
				E	13	614060	4948040

 See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Sarah Goode, Historic Preservation Intern

organization U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Rapid City Field Office date September 25, 2000

street & number 515 9th. St., Room 101 telephone (605) 394-9757

city or town Rapid City state SD zip code 57701

=====
Additional Documentation
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====
Property Owner
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

=====
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

name of property Ditchrider House

county and State Butte County, SD

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Narrative Description:

Immediately north of US Highway 212 and about ½ mile east of the town of Nisland, is this ditchrider's house, one of eleven used by ditchriders on the Belle Fourche Irrigation Project. This small cottage faces south towards the highway and is located between the Sorenson and Mawer laterals, features of the Belle Fourche Irrigation Project. This ditchrider's house is located in a rural area, within view of the small town of Nisland. Some of its decorative elements suggest the Bungalow / Craftsman style: exposed rafter ends, a metal ridge cap with ball finials and six-over-one-light windows. This ditchrider's house remains on its original site, along with a barn, an empty stock pond with dam and the Sorenson and Mawer laterals. There have been minor changes to the exterior and interior of the house since its construction in 1916 by the Bureau of Reclamation.

This house has approximately 800 square feet of living space within a one-story, gable-roofed form. The house is oriented so that the gables open to the north and south. Thick poured concrete forms the foundation and encloses a dirt-floored cellar. The house has a balloon frame structure with an exterior clapboard cladding. A 12' x 8' screen porch is centered on the front (south) facade. In front of this screen porch is a wooden 'stoop'. The rear (north) facade has a 9' x 8' enclosed porch on a concrete slab and a covered exterior stairway leading into the cellar. The main entry into the house is through a door on the south facade, inside the screen porch; another entryway is found in the northern enclosed porch. The windows are all six-over-one-light double-hung sash grouped singly except for the pair of windows on the east facade. All of the windows and doors are currently boarded up to prevent further deterioration and vandalism to the structure. The rafter ends are left exposed, as is typical for the Bungalow style. A small brick chimney extends through the ridge of the main roof. Two types of asphalt shingles currently cover the main roof. A metal ridge cap with ball finials completes the main roof structure. The porch and exterior stair roofs are covered with wooden shingles. As this house has been vacant since the late 1970s, there is some deterioration on the exterior: all of the roofing surfaces are deteriorated, the exterior paint is peeling and some of the windows are missing glass. Except for the asphalt shingles, the exterior materials appear to be original from its construction in 1916.

The interior of this house has a four room plan: a kitchen and living room located in the eastern portion of the house and two bedrooms in the western portion. During the 1960s or 1970s a bathroom was added where two closets had separated the bedrooms. Much of the interior historic fabric remains intact: the 2" wide wood flooring, the built-in kitchen cabinets and five-panel doors. Bright paint on rough-finished plaster, which appears to be the original wall treatment, can be seen under peeling layers of later paint. Modern wood paneling has replaced the original plaster ceilings of the living room and the kitchen. The interior of the house has sustained some deterioration due to water infiltration and vandalism: some of the ceiling plaster has fallen, much of the paint and wallpaper is peeling and some of the windows are missing frames and/or glass.

Earlier property records of the Belle Fourche Irrigation District indicated that at one time there were several outbuildings on this site: a shed, a chicken shed, an outhouse and a barn. Today, only the barn remains standing; the remains of the outhouse can be seen north of the house. The barn is about forty-two yards northeast of the house. It has a simple, rectangular, gable-roofed form with the gable ends facing east-west and a lean-to attached to the south facade. The barn's balloon frame structure is left exposed on the interior and clad on the exterior with horizontal board siding. The dirt-floored interior is divided into two rooms and there are several wooden stalls, cribs and feeders that remain in place. The windows and doors are of various sizes and forms. The barn was most likely built at the same time as the house; records for the construction of other ditchrider houses indicates that barns were often built with the house. The only visible portion of the outhouse is the roof, which is laying on the ground.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7.8 Page 2

name of property Ditchrider House

county and State Butte County, SD

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Narrative Description (continued):

The site also includes several contributing features of the Belle Fourche Irrigation Project. The Sorenson Lateral runs west to east across the northern section of the property. This lateral is about seven feet wide and has no banking except near a concrete pipe that extends under a dirt path at the northwest corner of the property. The Mawer Lateral is about three feet wide and also flows west to east across the southern end of the property, between the house and U.S. 212. Both of these laterals retain their original courses, characters and functions. To the northeast of the barn is a small, currently empty, stock pond with dam. Twenty-three acres of this property are classified as 'irrigable' and could have easily been used for growing crops or grazing livestock.

This site contains several contributing features of the Belle Fourche Irrigation Project: the ditchrider's home with barn and the irrigation laterals, that made settlement and concentrated agriculture possible in this area. All of these elements exist and function today as they did when they were constructed. The historic integrity of this property remains intact.

Statement of Significance:

This ditchrider house served an important role in the operations of the Belle Fourche Irrigation Project and is thus significant for its association with historical events in South Dakota and as an element of national expansion. The presence of this irrigation system stimulated settlement and increased agricultural productivity in an area that would not have otherwise been as productive. This property falls within the South Dakota historic context "Depression and Rebuilding (1893-1929): Changing Rural Patterns / Rural Industries and Agribusinesses".

As American westward expansion continued in the late nineteenth century, many people began to look towards semi-arid western South Dakota as a viable area for settlement. In the 1870s, the Black Hills region was settled by gold-seekers; other portions of western South Dakota were being used as grazing lands by ranchers. The nearby town of Belle Fourche had become an important livestock shipping center by the 1880s. In 1902, Congress passed the National Reclamation Act. This Act established a fund "...to be used in the examination and survey for and the construction and maintenance of irrigation works for storage, diversion and development of waters for the reclamation of arid and semi-arid lands..." (Third Annual Report of the Reclamation Service, 1905:29). In 1903, residents of South Dakota, including some from Belle Fourche, began efforts to encourage the government to look into 'reclaiming' nearby lands. A reconnaissance survey, conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey, was organized in the summer of 1903 to locate sites favorable for reclamation. In May 1904, the Secretary of the Interior authorized the Belle Fourche Irrigation Project. Construction began in 1905 on the Belle Fourche Irrigation Project. After delays due to contractor bankruptcy and construction delays, the first project unit received water in 1908 and the last, and fifth unit, in 1917. Since construction ended in 1916, there has been constant maintenance and replacement of deteriorating and out-of-date features on the project.

One of the ideals of the Reclamation Act of 1902 was to encourage 'homemaking', the creation of small family farms to provide livelihoods to the growing American population. This was promoted on the Belle Fourche Irrigation Project by limiting the size of new farm units to forty acres on public land and eighty acres on private lands. The Irrigation Project had a great impact on the settlement of the surrounding area by encouraging closer settlement of the population. Irrigated land was both more productive and labor-intensive, so people living within the project boundaries tended to live closer together on smaller farms than in areas outside of the Irrigation Project. The Belle Fourche Irrigation Project transformed about 54,000 acres of land from having a predominant use as grazing land to an intensified agriculture of cultivated hay, grains and truck crops, such as pickling cucumbers and sugar beets.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 3

name of property Ditchrider House

county and State Butte County, SD

=====
Statement of Significance (continued):

This irrigation system was not only a product of the government's policy of westward expansion, but also a product of government works programs established during the Depression and World War II. Civilian Conservation Corps Camp BR-2 was active on the project from 1938-1941 and performed much-needed project repairs and improvements. This camp was used during World War II to house German Prisoners of War who were hired out as field hands to neighboring farms.

The ditchrider is part of the team that regulates and maintains the availability of water resources vital to the prosperity of this area. The ditchrider's duty was, and still is, to travel along the irrigation system, control the amount of water delivered to land subscribed to receive water and to monitor water loss (primarily through seepage). The ditchrider was the link between the project farmer and the project management: the farmer would inform the ditchrider when and how much water he needed and the ditchrider would pass that information along to his superiors. Historically there were as many as twenty-two ditchriders; today only eight are needed because of changes in delivery and maintenance technology.

In the early years of the project, houses were built and maintained by the project and then rented to the ditchriders. These ditchrider houses were located at convenient locations within the network of irrigation canals and laterals to facilitate work within the Irrigation Project. Evidence of eleven such ditchrider houses can be found in Reclamation records; only five still exist in any condition. This ditchrider house, currently known as "Ditchrider District #2" and built in 1916, is the only remaining ditchrider house in the government's possession and the only one that remains in good condition with its historic integrity intact. These ditchrider houses were built from 1905 - 1928, as they were needed. No two were exactly alike, but they shared several stylistic characteristics. Exposed rafters, metal ridge caps with finials balls, rough-finished, brightly-colored interior plaster work and similar interior cabinetry are common elements exhibited in the remaining ditchrider houses.

This ditchrider house served primarily as a residence but it also functioned as the ditchrider's office. It was where farmers could leave a written request for more or less water. It was also where the ditchrider could communicate with project management. Each ditchrider house was connected to the project headquarters and construction camps; there was a phone call schedule for each ditchrider where he would pass along any information on water requests he had noted during the previous day's work and receive any new assignments from project management.

The ditchrider who lived in this house not only worked for the Belle Fourche Project but was also a client of the project. 23.8 acres of the property were eligible for irrigation water and could have been used to grow crops as well as to graze livestock. Several of the project histories include letters to the ditchriders from the head engineer, cautioning them not to be working their farms during the hours they were to be riding the ditches. The stock pond on the forty-acre site would have been filled in the fall, if necessary, with Irrigation Project water to provide livestock water during the winter. Several of the other ditchrider houses were located on tracts of land large enough to be used for agriculture.

This ditchrider house reflects its historical association with the Belle Fourche Irrigation Project. It is 'conveniently' located between the Sorenson and Mawer laterals. The other elements could be used today as they were when the house was built in 1916. The ditchrider's history and location of the property within the irrigation system are excellent symbols of the irrigation project's scope and effect. The Bureau of Reclamation is developing a co-operative agreement with the local historical society to open the property to the public as an interpretive site to show the importance of the irrigation project.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 9.10 Page 4

name of property Ditchrider House

county and State Butte County, SD

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Bibliography:

Brownell, Joan. Archival Resources for the Belle Fourche Irrigation Project, South Dakota. Grand Forks: University of North Dakota, 1991.

A Half Century of Irrigation Accomplishments: Belle Fourche Project. Billings, Montana: Bureau of Reclamation, 1960.

Historical Record of Buildings: Belle Fourche Project. Bureau of Reclamation, 1958.

"Operation and Maintenance Report (Head Engineer's Report)", 1907 - 1982.

"Project History (Head Engineer's Report)", 1907 - 1978.

Third Annual Report of the Reclamation Service. 1905.

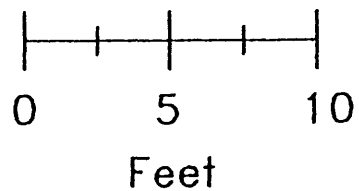
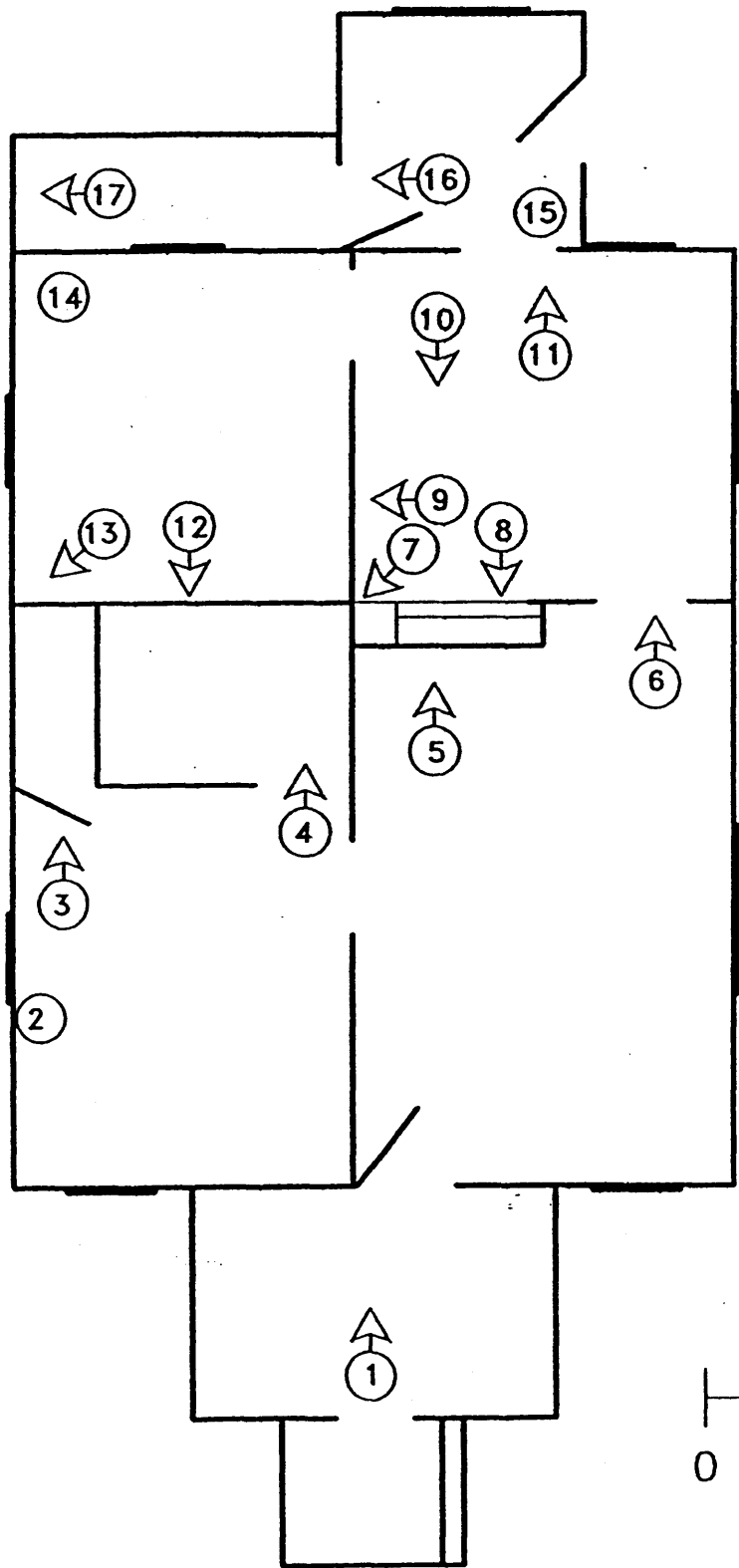
Real Property Buildings. Bureau of Reclamation, 1978.

Verbal Boundary Description:

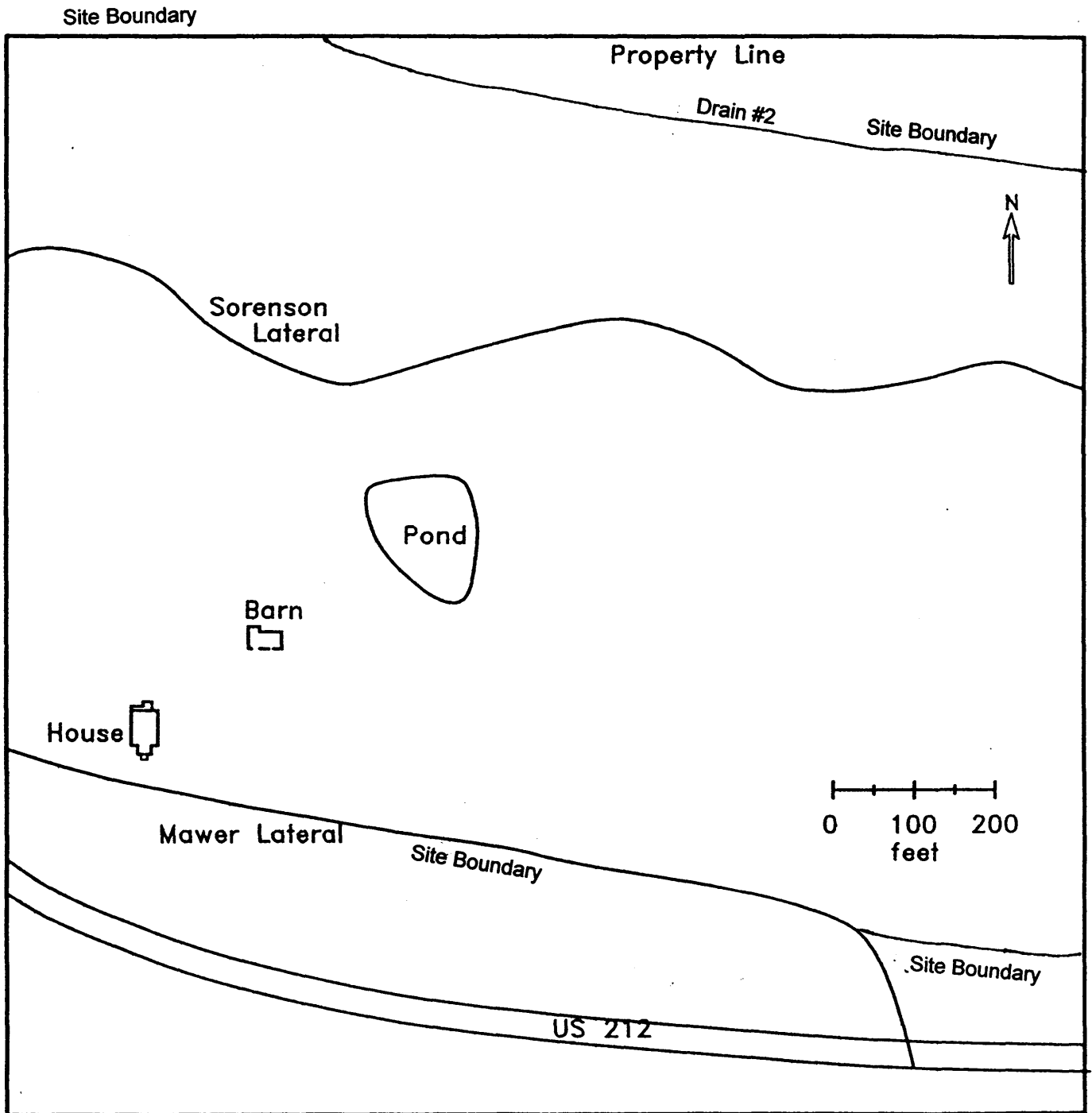
The property on which the Ditchriders House is located on land withdrawn by the Bureau of Reclamation under the (Department of the Interior) Secretarial Order of April 10, 1909, and includes 40 acres. Twenty five acres of the 40 acre plot have historical integrity and are considered in this nomination. They are located in Township 8 North, Range 5 East, in the southeastern quarter of the southwestern quarter, Section 6, Black Hills Meridian (USGS Nisland, SD topographic quadrangle 1951). The east and west boundaries are defined by the legal property lines of the parcel. This is further distinguished by established vegetation and fencing. The southern site boundary lies 75 feet north of the Highway 212 centerline, which is defined by the Mawer Lateral in the west portion of the nomination area. The northern boundary is distinguished by an irrigation feature-Drain #2, except in the northwest corner which is distinguished by the property line and established vegetation and fencing.

Boundary Justification:

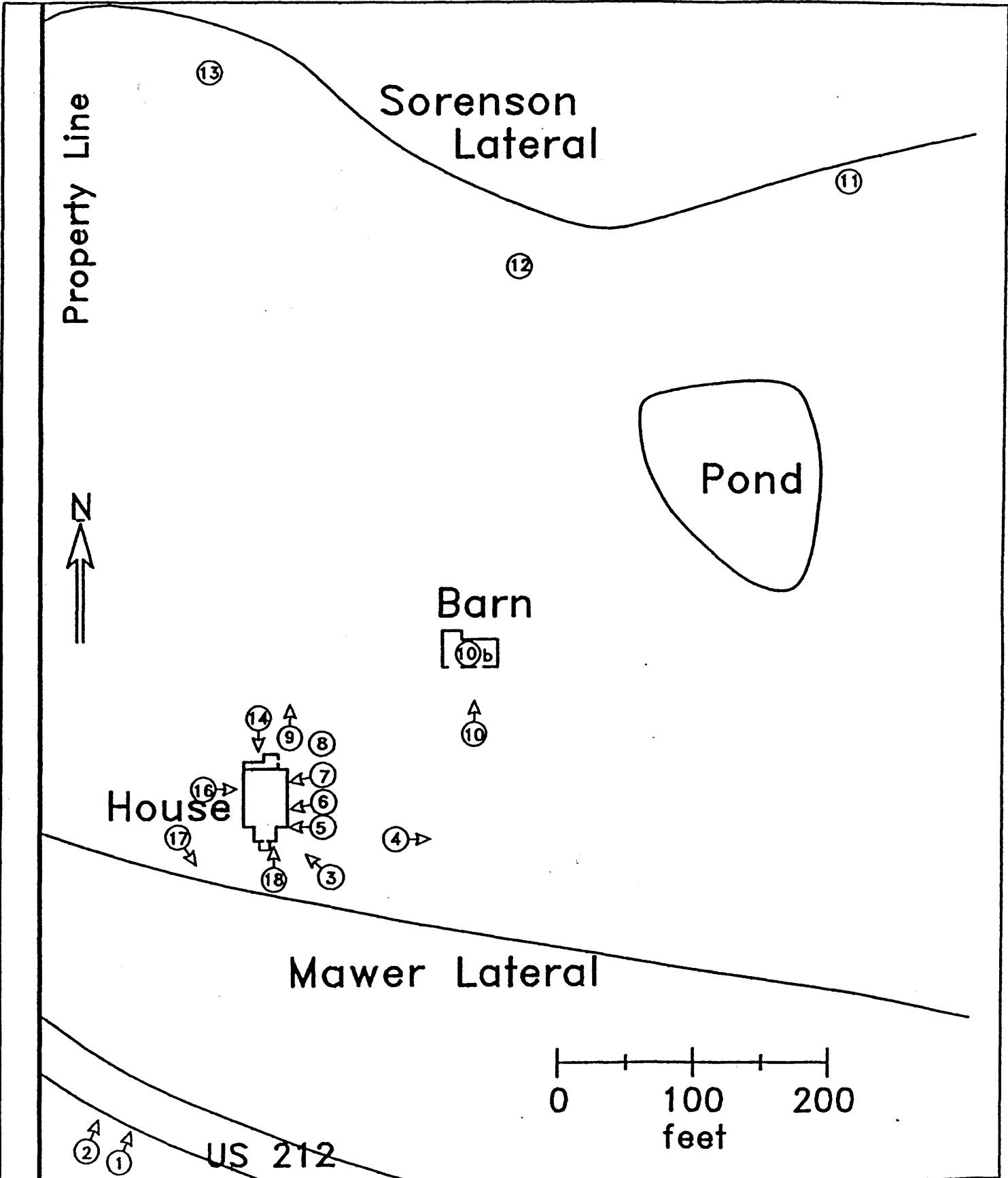
The boundary includes the Ditchrider House, barn, the Mawer Lateral and Sorenson Lateral and fields that have been historically part of the Ditchrider house property and maintain historic integrity (25 acres). The original land withdrawn by the Bureau of Reclamation under the (Department of the Interior) Secretarial Order of April 10, 1909, included 40 acres. A total of 15 acres has been determined to lack historic integrity and therefore are excluded from this nomination. This includes the southwestern portion of the property beginning 75 feet north of the Highway 212 centerline and an area about three hundred feet south of the highway (approximately 12 acres). This has been excluded because of impacts from highway construction and on-going highway repair and maintenance activities. The second excluded area is the northeaster corner of the property, beginning along the southern boundary of the Drain #2 easement (3 acres). This area has been excluded, because of impacts caused by the construction and on-going operations and maintenance activity drain (see the attached Site Plan Map).



Ditchrider House
Interior Photo Key



Ditchrider House Site Plan



Ditchrider House
Exterior Photo Key