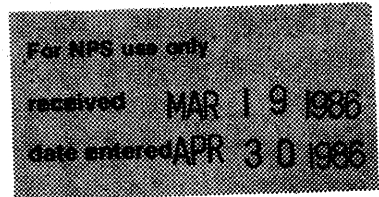


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SITE 37

NAME Nicholas Augustus Viken Homestead

LOCATION About four miles west of South Dakota Highway 79 on a north/south section road north of the Hope Cemetery Road, East Butte Unorganized Territory, Butte County (019), South Dakota (046)

OWNER Kenneth Viken
RR
Newell, South Dakota 57760

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

DESCRIPTION Good, altered (slightly), original site

The house (contributing) is a two story wood-frame, balloon construction L-plan house with a gable roof. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles, and red brick chimneys rise from the ridgelines in both the east and north wings of the ell. A one-story wood-frame addition is located in the southeast opening of the ell. All of the windows in the structure are double-hung single pane with the exception of a large picture window in the south elevation of the addition. The north elevation has four windows with a very small one in the shed entry attached to the east wing of the ell. The south elevation has five windows. There are five windows in the east elevation and one door in the shed entry. There are no openings in the west elevation.

The structure of primary interest at the site is a rectangular pen adobe barn (contributing) that was built in 1917. The adobe walls of the barn are constructed of blocks which are 14 inches thick which were hand sawed by Nicholas Viken while he was building the structure. The front facade is pierced by three openings; the hay door in the gable, and two doors on the ground floor. There is one door in the north elevation. The shed addition is open on the east side and is used for storage. A low hip-roof addition is attached to the north and west sides of the shed addition. Three quarters of the original barn roof is covered with a corrugated metal roof. The remainder of the roof is original and covered with cyanide can tops that Mr. Viken bought at the gold mines in Deadwood and brought up to his homestead.

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A series of six other wood-frame outbuildings contribute to the historical character of the farm. The granary (contributing), built in 1916, is located north of the barn and is covered in shiplap and has a steeply pitched gable roof covered with corrugated metal.

Built in the 1920s, the hog house (contributing) is a low one-story rectangular pen with a cyanide can roof.

Another shiplap covered outbuilding (contributing), presently used for storage is situated at the northeast corner of the adobe barn. It was built in the early 1920s and has a decorative wooden ventailor in the center of the ridge line.

An outhouse (contributing), construction date unknown, with a steeply pitched gable roof is located north of the house, although no longer in use it illustrates the technological advancements made in plumbing at the site.

A shiplap storage building (contributing) with a moderately pitched gable roof is located to the northeast of the house. It is painted white and has a vertical plank door, its construction date is unknown.

A medium sized wood-frame shed-roofed cow barn (contributing) is situated northwest of the adobe barn. It is in fair condition and the construction date is unknown.

Four additional outbuildings (non-contributing) are located on the property. A small wood-frame outbuilding, covered in corrugated metal; a trailer; and another outbuilding are all located north of the house. A wood-frame feed building is located at the northwest corner of the site.

SIGNIFICANCE 1900-Present, vernacular architecture, settlement.

Dates: 1914-1917, ca. 1920s. Builders: Nicholas Viken and
Kenneth Viken

The Nicholas Augustus Viken adobe barn is the only adobe barn recorded in the survey area. At the present time, no other structures of this type are known to exist in the vicinity. Both the barn and the house were built between 1914 and 1917. According to Kenneth Viken, present owner of the site and son of the original homesteader, the barn was built of adobe in order to save money.

Nicholas Viken emigrated to Iowa from Norway in 1884 when he was twenty-one after he graduated from college. Later Nicholas moved to Minnesota where he

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learned English at the academy in Wilmar. In 1888 he moved to the Black Hills and worked at the D&D Smelter in Deadwood. In 1895 he married, and in 1905 Nicholas and his wife moved to a site along Horse Creek in Butte County to homestead. The original homestead shack was dismantled and the boards were used in the gable ends of the adobe barn.

Significant as an excellent example of a Norwegian-American adaptation of an American vernacular tradition, the adobe barn is the only known example of an adobe barn in northwestern South Dakota. The only alteration to the barn, a corrugated roof, does not change the building structurally, and could be easily replaced.

The site which has remained in the same family represents an intact Norwegian-American site plan, as all the buildings were constructed by the original homesteader or his son. The property is well maintained and in a very good state of preservation and contributes to the significance of the site.

QUADRANGLE NAME Newell, South Dakota

UTM REFERENCE 14/620680/4952100

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

ACREAGE About 9 Acres

PHOTO REFERENCE NUMBER

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

[about 20 feet from The Feed Bldg and Hog House on The North; 30 feet from The cow barn on The West, and 20 feet from The outbuilding on The east]

Bounded by a windbreak of elms on the north, east and west, an imaginary line 20 feet from the south wall of the house runs east to west across the site to form the southern boundary. The site is located in the SE quarter of the NW quarter of Section 26, Township 9 north, Range 5 east in Butte County.

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