

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

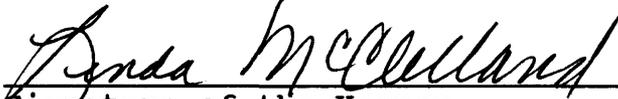
NRIS Reference Number: 95000765

Date Listed: 06/30/95

Property Name: Streeter, Norman B., Homestead  
County: Custer State: South Dakota

Rural Resources of Eastern Custer County MPS  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
Signature of the Keeper

June 30, 1995  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 7. Description

The historic and current functions are hereby amended to read:

- AGRICULTURE: storage
- AGRICULTURE: animal facility
- AGRICULTURE: agricultural outbuildings
- DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Section 10. Geographical Data

Acreage is ten acres.

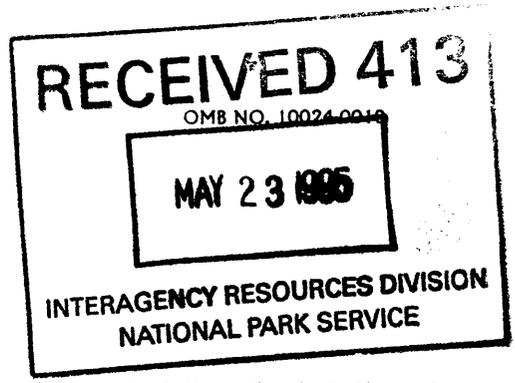
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Melissa Dirr, National Register coordinator for the South Dakota, State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment on June 30, 1995.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 an 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: Norman B. Streeter Homestead

other names/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: rural Custer County

N/A for publication

city or town: Buffalo Gap

x vicinity

state: South Dakota code: SD county: Custer code: 033 zip code: 57722

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 39 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend this property be considered significant:  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

*SHPO*

*5-16-95*

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.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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 the Keeper

Date of Action

*Linda McChellard* *6/30/95*

Norman Streeter Homestead

Custer County, South Dakota

Name of Property

County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

**Number of Resources with Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal

building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
9	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
9	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

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

Rural Resources of Eastern Custer County

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/cattle ranch  
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/cattle ranch  
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Western U.S.  
Other: Vernacular

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: concrete, sandstone  
walls: weatherboard, stucco, metal  
roof: asphalt, metal, wood shingle  
other: brick, metal

**Narrative Description**

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

Norman Streeter Homestead

Custer County, South Dakota

Name of Property

County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or boxes for the criteria qualifying the property.)

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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture  
Architecture  
Economics  
Exploration/Settlement

**Period of Significance**

ca. 1880-1925

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

A. owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes

B. removed from its original location

C. a birthplace or 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

**Significant Dates**

1889

**Significant Person**

Norman Streeter  
Harry Streeter

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Gideon Parker  
Norman Streeter

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(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 Building 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Norman Streeter Homestead

Custer County, South Dakota

Name of Property

County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property:**

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

- 1. 13 630590 4821590
- 2. 13 630780 4821380
- 3. 13 630580 4821590
- 4. 13 630790 4821380

**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: Linea Sundstrom, Ph.D.

organization: N/A

date: 12/30/94

street & number: 1320 E. Lake Bluff Blvd.

telephone: (414) 963-0288

city or town: Shorewood

state: WI

zip code: 53211

**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 SHPO or FPO.)

name: Eben and Eva Streeter

street & number:

telephone: (605) 833-2661

city or town: Buffalo Gap

state: S.D. zip code: 57722

**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.).

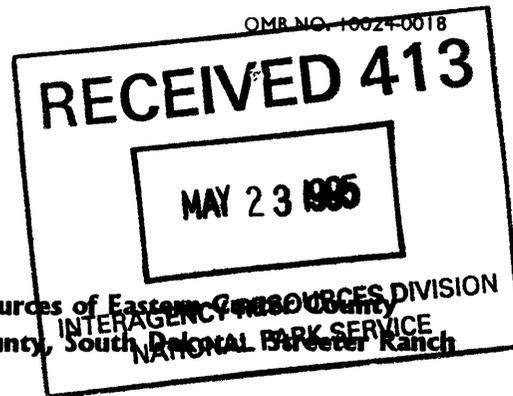
**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, D 20503.

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Rural Resources of Eastern Custer County  
Custer County, South Dakota  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
INTERAGENCY RESOURCE DIVISION  
National Register of Historic Places



7. Narrative Description

The Norman Streeter Homestead district comprises the ranch house, barns, and various outbuildings on ten acres of the original homestead around which the Streeter Ranch was formed. Norman B. Streeter homesteaded the property in 1889. Streeter also purchased the adjacent homestead of Gideon Parker who had occupied property since 1886. The ranch is now owned by Eben Streeter, the grandson of both Parker and N.B. Streeter. The nine contributing properties are: the ranch house, a shed, a privy, a root cellar, a machine shed, two barns, a cattle shed, and a granary/garage. The Streeter Ranch is located in the southeastern Black Hills in an area of low relief known as the Red Valley or Racetrack. The Red Valley is a zone of low hills and terraces formed in non-resistant shales lying between the higher Black Hills uplift and a resistant ring of sandstones forming the outer hills. The ranch is located on a branch of Beaver Creek, which forms a natural pass into the Black Hills known as the Buffalo Gap a few miles southwest of the ranch. Parker had located his claim along the trail leading from the eastern foothills through the Buffalo Gap to Custer City and other gold rush towns in the interior Black Hills. This old trail is now Custer County Road 5 and Wind Cave National Park Road 5, running north to south about midway between U.S. highways 79 and 385.

The Streeter ranch is located on a low terrace of Beaver Creek, surrounded by low, rolling hills bounded by much higher ridges to the east and west. Beaver Creek is a small perennial stream that runs southwest from the interior Black Hills to the Cheyenne River. The ranch vicinity is grassland, dominated by buffalo grass and other short grasses. Cottonwood trees line the valley of Beaver Creek and ponderosa pines cover the higher hills above the Red Valley. The southern boundary of Wind Cave National Park is located a few miles north of the Streeter Ranch; otherwise it is surrounded by other cattle ranches.

A 1901 photograph of the Streeter Ranch buildings shows the house, two large barns, a cattle shed, a granary, and other outbuildings (ECCHS 1970). The cluster of buildings appears much the same today. One large hay-barn shown in the photograph was lost in a prairie fire about 1920. The house in the photograph is shown without the later additions that added a kitchen, two bedrooms, and a porch. Otherwise the 1901 photograph matches the homestead as it appears today.

A U-shaped driveway leads west from the county road to the house and outbuildings. This driveway crosses the creek and then runs south

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along the stream for a short distance before turning north to the house and yard. The road loops around the south end of the house, providing access to a parking area between the house and outbuildings. A few native cottonwood and juniper trees cluster around the house and yard.

The house is the oldest and perhaps the most representative of the historic structures on the Streeter homestead. Built in 1889 or 1890, the original house was a simple, one story, gable roofed building with a rectangular floor plan. The foundation is not visible, but may consist of sandstone slabs from local quarries. The original house measured about 30 x 25 feet and probably had two or three rooms. It is possible that the attic was used temporarily as a bedroom as well, as the Streeter family had seven children by 1891. The building was enlarged by extending the roof line to the south sometime soon after its original construction. This first addition may be an enclosed porch, as the level of the floor is slightly lower in the added section. Two more rooms were added on by attaching another, essentially identical, house to the original house, sometime after Norman Streeter purchased the second Parker homestead about six miles north of Streeters'. This may have been around 1914, when Parkers moved to a different ranch. This formed a T-shaped addition on the north end of the house.

Two or three smaller additions were made to the south side of the house, to form a kitchen, bathroom, and a small parlor to house a piano. These rooms were formed by adding small shed-roofed claim shacks to the original house, as Streeters acquired these through land purchases. These formed an L-shaped extension from the southwest corner of the original house. Concrete slabs were placed east and west of the south with porches extending over them to provide a protected entryway on each side of the house. Another door leads out from the kitchen addition.

The house has stucco cladding added after a 1937 hailstorm stripped the original cedar siding. One of the small shed additions on the south end of the house is partially clad in Insul-Brick. Significant interior details include the original sink units and cabinets in the kitchen addition, original flooring and beaded siding in some rooms, an original hand-blown glass window between the kitchen addition and the original house, and a piano and china cabinet around which the shed additions were built. The house is still occupied as a ranch house.

The Streeter ranch house with its series of additions reflects the process of consolidation of individual land holdings into larger parcels upon which viable cattle ranches could be developed. Each new acquisition of a homestead by the Streeters represented both more land and more material for expanding the house, which provided shelter for up

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to 13 persons, as the family expanded. Closure of the open range necessitated that small ranchers expand their land holdings in order to have sufficient pasturage for their cattle or horse herds. During the first two decades of the 20th century both the ranch and the house grew. Norman Streeter and his son Harry had a reputation for openness to innovations in cattle-raising and in other areas of ranching. The ranch house reflects this attitude. Such innovations as indoor plumbing and concrete walks and porches were added as they became available in the area.

A cluster of four buildings is located west of the south end of the house on the other side of the U-shaped driveway that encircles the south end of the house. The privy is a wood-frame structure built over a concrete slab foundation. It has shiplap siding and a shed roof with wood shingles. This privy is in excellent condition and is still used occasionally. Between the house and privy is a small wood-frame shed with a gabled roof. A shed-roofed addition is attached to the west side of the building. The building is clad in corrugated metal and shingled with wood. It is in good condition. The building is used as a workshop, as it was historically. A root cellar is the third of the cluster of buildings located west of the house. This is constructed of a wood frame over a concrete base. It is clad in corrugated metal. These are flat stone retaining walls on the south side of the building. This building is in excellent condition. It is still used for food storage, although it now contains a purchased freezer. A corrugated metal machine shed is located to the south of these buildings. The building has three rolling garage doors, also made of corrugated metal. This building is also in excellent condition and is still used for the storage of farm machinery.

Three large buildings--a barn, cattle shed, and a granary--are located north of the ranch house. These are separated from the house and yard by barbed-wire fencing. The first of these is a large, wood-frame barn. The original building was a rectangular, gable-roofed structure over an unmortared stone foundation. Large, shed-roofed wings with concrete foundations were added to the east and west sides of the building. The entire building has corrugated metal roofing over original wood shingles. This building is in fair condition and is still in use as a barn. This barn forms the southwest corner of a barbed-wire fence corral. The northeast corner is formed by a large, L-shaped cattle shed. This is a post building with horizontal board bracing. The vertical board walls and gable roof are covered with corrugated metal. It has no foundation. The north wing contains ten cattle stalls, open to the

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south. The east wing is enclosed. The building is in excellent condition and is still used for cattle.

Outside the southwest corner of the corral is a combination garage and granary. This building is a two-story, gabled-roofed, wood-frame structure built over a foundation of flat stones. It is clad in corrugated metal. It has tongue-and-groove horizontal board outswinging garage doors. It is in excellent condition and retains its original use.

The final building is a rectangular barn located west of the other buildings. This is a post building with horizontal board braces. The walls are vertical boards. The building faces south and has eight vertical board doors on the south side. Each measures 2x3' and leads into a 6x6' pen. This building is in poor condition, but is still used as a cattle feeder.

The Streeter ranch buildings retain a high degree of historic integrity. Except for minor modernization to the house, the buildings appear essentially the same as they did historically. The addition of corrugated metal siding and roofing, and the addition of concrete footings and slabs to some of the buildings represent early 20th century innovations that improved the durability and sanitation of the buildings. The buildings are of simple, utilitarian design, reflecting their functions on a working ranch.

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8. Statement of Significance

The Norman B. Streeter Homestead historic district is significant in the areas of exploration/settlement, economics, and agriculture under Criterion A; in the area of architecture under Criterion C; and in the areas of politics and government and agriculture under Criterion B. The district relates to the historic context "Permanent Rural and Urban Pioneer Settlement: Farm and Ranch Structures" as defined in the South Dakota State Plan for Historic and Architectural Resources (SDHPC 1989). The district is associated with the early settlement of the eastern Black Hills and with attempts to develop economically viable ranching methods. The period of significance, 1880-1925, encompasses both the period of construction of the buildings included in the district and the period when the Streeter Ranch was being transformed from a homestead to a prosperous cattle ranch. The architecture is typical of late 19th and early 20th century homesteads and ranches in the area. The house with its series of additions illustrates the trend toward consolidation and expansion of individual land holdings in early 20th century western South Dakota. Norman B. Streeter filed on the homestead in 1889 and started a diverse farming and stockraising enterprise. Later that year he purchased the adjacent Gideon Parker homestead and began specializing in cattle and horses. Streeter was a state representative and one of the county's most prominent citizens. His son, Harry, who took over the ranch, introduced a number of agricultural reforms to the county and was a director and president of the Production Credit Association and the Federal Land Bank. The property is still owned by the Streeter family and is still a working cattle ranch. Its appearance has changed very little in the past 80-90 years. The district retains a very high degree of historic integrity.

Historical Background

The Streeter homestead is located on Beaver Creek just inside the eastern Black Hills in eastern Custer County, South Dakota. The ranch is located in an area of rolling hills and terraces between the higher interior Black Hills to the west and a series of high sandstone ridges to the east forming the outer edge of the Black Hills. The homestead area is grassy, with heavy ponderosa pine forest covering the mountains to the east and west. With its heavy natural cover of buffalo grass, permanent water in Beaver Creek, and protected location, this has been

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prime grazing country for thousands of years. An ancient buffalo migration route follows Beaver Creek from the eastern plains into the protected areas of the eastern Black Hills. Stone drive lines used in prehistoric times to drive bison over a high bluff are still visible on the Sanson Ranch two miles northwest of the Streeter homestead.

When Norman B. Streeter first came to the Black Hills in the spring of 1887, he quickly realized the potential of the area for stock-raising. He moved to the area two years later and devoted the next two decades of his life to building a successful ranching operation.

Norman Streeter was born October 29, 1855, at East Waterloo, Iowa, to Mary Anderson Streeter and James W. Streeter. He was the first of eight children. He attended public school in Black Hawk County, Iowa. After completing school, he farmed and dealt in livestock. He married Etta L. Green of Southbridge, Massachusetts, in 1877. They resided in Grundy Center, Iowa for the next 12 years. In the spring of 1887, Streeter came to the Black Hills via the new Chicago and North Western branch line to deliver a load of horses to the Miner (7-11) Ranch near the town of Buffalo Gap. He decided to return to the area to settle with his family. He returned early in the spring of 1889 and filed a homestead claim on the property that is the core of the Streeter Ranch today. A short time later he was joined by Etta and their six young children, Mabel, Myra, Bertha, Nell, Harry, and Charles.

Streeter added to his land holdings by purchasing the adjacent homestead of Gideon Parker. Parker's house was moved to the original Streeter homestead to form the northern wing of the house. The family engaged in a combination of farming and raising cattle, pigs, and poultry. In rainy years, they were able to raise grain. In dry years, Streeter worked at the Miner Ranch. In later years, he recalled working all day at Miner's to get a sack of Red Dog flour to feed his family pancakes (ECCHS 1970). Five more children were born after the family moved to Dakota Territory: James, Jay, Anna, Edith, and Jerry. The children attended country schools at the Martin Valley school and at a school near the Streeter and Sanson homesteads, and at public schools in Buffalo Gap and Custer.

A combination of persistence, savvy, and hard work brought the Streeters into more comfortable circumstances by the turn of the century. Streeter's knowledge of stock-raising and livestock marketing gave him a distinct advantage over the "greener" homesteaders entering the area. He took advantage of the availability of open range to expand his horse-raising operations. This was a diverse operation including draft horses, saddle horses, and polo ponies. The eastern Custer County

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horse breeders soon gained a reputation for fine animals and demand for their horses was high both locally and regionally. Streeter, like other successful local ranchers, used homesteading to his advantage, first by filing his own homestead on prime grazing lands and then by buying out other homesteaders. Through these purchases, he was able to acquire an adequate land-base to survive the closure of the open range. Although the loss of open range land necessitated a shift from horses to cattle, it did not mean the end of Streeter's ranching ventures, as it did for many of the large corporate cattle outfits. Streeter was active in promoting the interests of stockgrowers. He was a founding member and secretary of the Fall River County Stock Growers Protective Association, organized in 1891.

A 1901 photograph of the Streeter homestead shows the extent to which Streeter's efforts were paying off. The foreground photograph shows the eleven Streeter children and Mr. and Mrs. Streeter with their favorite horses. In the background is the cluster of ranch buildings including the house, two large barns, the L-shaped cattle shed, and miscellaneous smaller buildings. About the same time, Streeters engaged a photographer to take a portrait of Mrs. Streeter and the three youngest children, who had not been born when an earlier family photograph was taken (ECCHS 1970).

By this time, the ranching operations were secure enough for Streeter to devote more time to civic affairs. He served on the school board and helped promote a local telephone company, the Cheyenne River Telephone Company, of which he was an officer. He helped build the first telephone line to his ranch and ultimately to the town of Custer, thus linking Buffalo Gap with the county seat. In 1908, Streeter was elected Custer County treasurer. He moved to Custer with Etta and the younger children during his term of office. In 1912 he was elected state representative from Custer County. He was reelected in 1914, at which time he was living in Buffalo Gap and working as cashier of the Buffalo Gap State Bank. In that position, he oversaw the much of the successful direction of the bank (Smith 1915:727).

When the elder Streeter left the ranch in 1909, his three oldest sons, Harry, Charles, and James, took over the ranch. By this time, Streeter and his elder sons had incorporated the ranch, now grown to 4000 acres, as the Beaver Valley Stock Ranch (Smith 1915:727). Charles married in 1913 and moved to his wife's homestead adjoining the Streeter ranch. In 1919 he moved to Buffalo Gap and started a combination hardware store and saddle shop. (This business was in the building referred to in the Buffalo Gap historic commercial district nomination

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as the Griffis store.) Etta Streeter died in 1920, Norman in 1936. After Charles married, James and Harry ran the ranch together until Harry's death in 1948. The three brothers took an active interest in agricultural innovations. They operated a threshing operation for a year, having purchased a new threshing machine. Harry introduced cotton-cake cattle feed to the area, for a time acting as local sales agent for the product. He also introduced a vaccine for black leg disease to area ranchers. His agricultural interests included conservation and financial concerns, as well. Harry served as director of the Soil Conservation Service, and director and president of the Production Credit Association and the Federal Land bank.

Harry's son Eben took over the ranch in 1948. His mother, Hazel Parker Streeter, was the daughter of Gideon Parker, from whom part of the original ranch had been purchased. Eben and his wife Eva Deeming Streeter are the current owners of the ranch.

Apart from the shift from horses to cattle and the adoption of modern ranching methods, the Streeter Ranch has followed much the same pattern throughout its century of existence. It is typical of the medium sized cattle ranches that were established by early settlers in the Black Hills. These ranches started as claims or homesteads, but tended to expand quickly as the less prosperous homesteaders sold off or abandoned their claims. The high demand for beef and horses during the latter decades of the 19th century allowed the local ranches to compete successfully with the multi-million dollar Texas cattle outfits that came into the western Dakotas to graze their huge herds on the vast expanses of open range remaining there. The cattle bonanza was short-lived in the northern plains and the big outfits soon sold out, leaving the remaining ranges to the pioneer ranchers. The Black Hills Stockgrowers Association and later the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association had formed as protective associations and helped assure the survival of the small ranches.

Significance

The Streeter Homestead historic district is significant under Criterion A in the area of exploration and settlement, as an early homestead in eastern Custer County. The architecture and arrangement of buildings in the district are typical of late 19th century pioneer cattle ranches built around individual homestead claims. The collection of barns, cattle sheds, and smaller outbuildings exemplify many of the

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earliest permanent buildings erected in rural portions of western Dakota Territory. The ranch house was constructed in stages, from buildings acquired as the original homestead was expanded through acquisition of other homesteads. As one of the first successful cattle ranches in the eastern Black Hills, the Streeter ranch provides an important reminder of pioneering efforts to establish a livestock industry in western South Dakota.

The district is also significant under Criterion A in the area of agriculture. The Streeter Ranch was typical of other eastern Custer County ranches in its early emphasis on horse raising and its later specialization in cattle. The house, barns, outbuildings, and corral exemplify the basic facilities of a late 19th century ranch. As one of the earliest successful agricultural ventures in the area, the Streeter Ranch undoubtedly served as an example to other agricultural entrepreneurs in the area. The eastern Custer County horse-breeders were famous for their polo ponies and Arabian mixes. The efforts of the eastern Custer County ranchers, including Streeters, to improve their horse and cattle breeds are reflected in the quality of livestock in the area today. Streeters' innovations in stockraising and dry farming techniques were recognized by their contemporaries (Smith 1915:727).

The district is significant under Criterion A in the area of economics. The Streeter homestead illustrates the transformation from mixed crop farming and stockraising to specialized horse or cattle operations undergone by the homesteaders who survived the droughts and economic depressions that characterized the early settlement of western South Dakota. The ranch house and the ranch itself illustrate the process of consolidation of land holdings by which viable ranches were built from homestead claims. The many abandoned homesteads that dot the western plains illustrate the failures of the homestead era. The Streeter homestead illustrates its successes. Streeters were involved in several economic ventures apart from stockraising. During the period when grain farming was being tried in the area, they purchased a thresher and paid for it by threshing grain for other area farmers and ranchers. Harry Streeter introduced new cattle feeds and vaccinations into the area and supplemented his ranch income by supplying these to other stockraisers. A 1915 biography described Norman Streeter and sons as successful cattle and horse raisers and alfalfa growers. Their economic success was attributed to their being "up-to-date and progressive in the management of their affairs" (Smith 1915:727).

The district is significant in the area of architecture under Criterion C. The form and placement of the ranch buildings typify late

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19th century homestead-based ranches of the region. The simple rectangular form of the barns reflects New England gable-door barn design (cf. Hubka 1984). The larger barn was expanded from this basic form by the addition of single-story wings along each side. The L-shaped cattle-shed is typical of the area. (This building is listed in the South Dakota historic context on homesteading and agricultural development as an example of a National Register eligible cattle shed [Brooks and Jacon 1994:75].) The other outbuildings are also well-preserved examples of typical turn-of-the-century western Dakota ranch buildings. The ranch house is significant both for its typical vernacular design and construction and for its series of early additions. The house and its additions illustrate the typical kinds of wood-frame houses and shacks constructed by early homesteaders in the region, including shed-roofed single-room shacks and single-story rectangular two-room houses.

The process of acquiring and piecing together smaller buildings into a visually attractive house required skill and ingenuity. The second kitchen addition retains Insul-Brick siding at the back. Otherwise, stucco cladding serves to make the additions less conspicuous from outside the building, despite their variations in size and roof pitch. Interior details, by contrast, clearly reflect the process of expanding the house by stages. An exterior window with hand-blown glass panes remains near the doorway between the kitchen and the living room. The original kitchen fixtures are intact on the south side of the room and provide an excellent example of early indoor plumbing. Other additions were built around a large piano and china cabinet. According to the present occupants of the house, these items cannot now be removed from the house without removing the parlor wall.

The district is also significant under Criterion B in the areas of politics and government, and agriculture. Norman B. Streeter served in local, county, and state government, as described above. He also developed successful stockraising operations that served as examples to other agricultural entrepreneurs in the area. His son, Harry Streeter, also served in local government. He was a director of the Soil Conservation Service and introduced several new agricultural products to the area. He also served as president and director of the Federal Land Bank and the Production Credit Association.

In summary, the Streeter homestead historic district is a significant example of a late 19th century homestead/ranch. It illustrates several historical trends, including the failures and successes of the homestead movement in western South Dakota. It provides

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a visual statement of the process by which small homestead claims were transformed into viable ranches. Norman Streeter and his sons were typical of those who survived the weeding-out process that drove most homesteaders from the western Dakotas during the early decades of the 20th century. Streeter had come to the area with the intention of raising livestock. He succeeded in this enterprise because he understood livestock, the livestock markets, and the economic potential of the local environment. The Streeter homestead historic district looks much the same today as it did one hundred years ago. The district is an exceptionally well-preserved example of early ranching in eastern Custer County.

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10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description:

The Norman B. Streeter homestead district comprises ten acres surrounding the ranch buildings. This area is described as: the south 2/3 of the NE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 and the northern 3/4 of the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 11, Township 6 S., Range 6 E.

Boundary Justification:

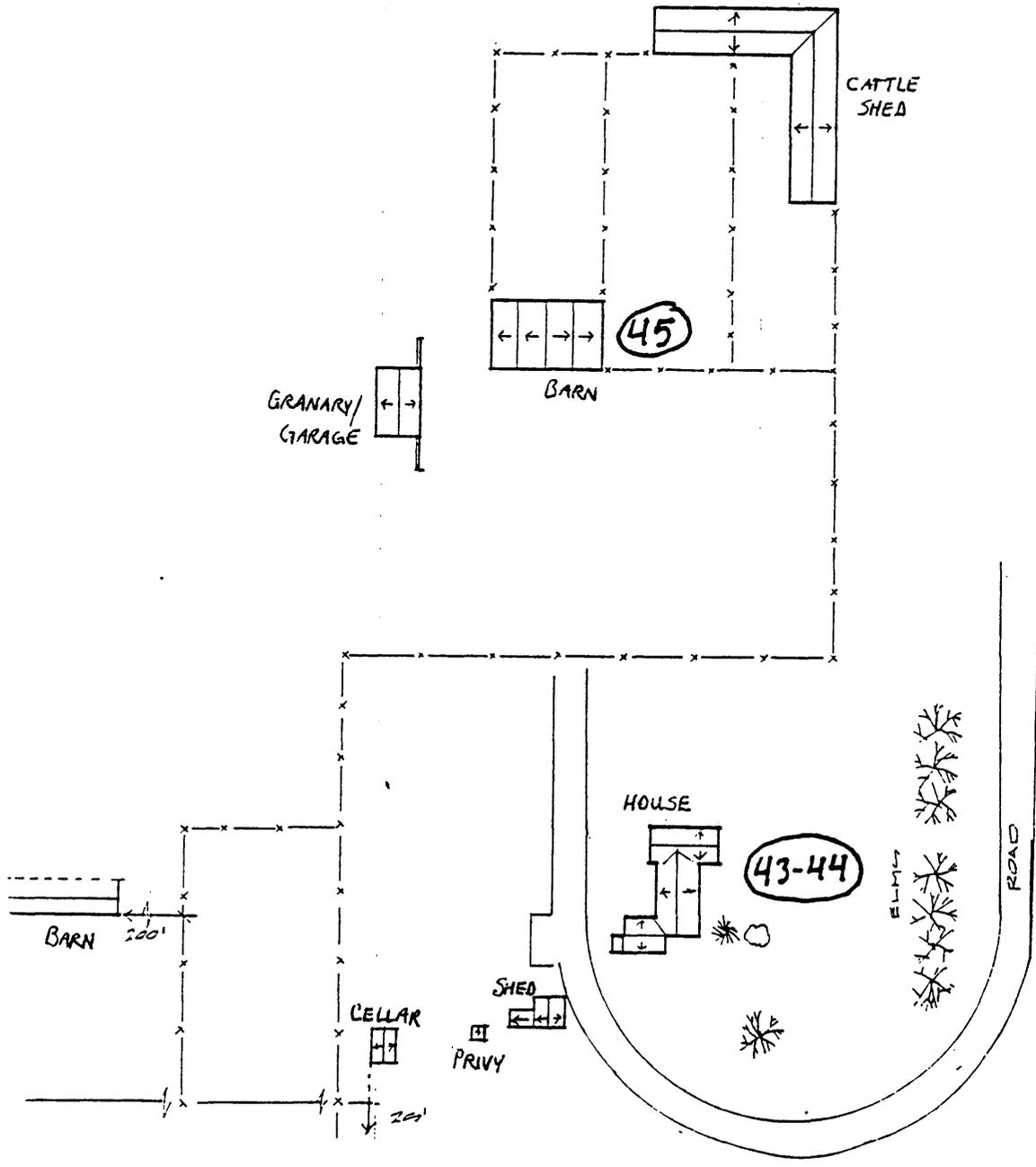
The boundary of the Norman B. Streeter homestead district was drawn to enclose all significant buildings, as well as the ranch yard. The remaining ranch acreage is not included in the district because it comprises a large amount of land with very few built resources.

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Sketch Map of Norman B. Streeter Homestead

SITE PLAN

0 60 FT.  
APPROX. SCALE



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Photographs

All photographs are of properties in Custer County, South Dakota. The photographer is Linea Sundstrom. All photographs were taken in July 1994. The original negatives are archived at the South Dakota Historical Preservation Center in Vermillion, S.D.

#	SUBJECT	DISTRICT	DIR	DATE	COMMENTS
1	view of Main Street	Buffalo Gap Commercial	N	7.25.94	
2	view of Main and 2nd Streets	Buffalo Gap Commercial	NE	7.25.94	
3	view of 2nd Street	Buffalo Gap Commercial	NW	7.25.94	
4	view of 2nd and Main	Buffalo Gap Commercial	SW	7.25.94	
5	Nolan Feed and Seed Co.	Buffalo Gap Commercial	SE	7.25.94	
6	Nolan Feed and Seed Co.	Buffalo Gap Commercial	SW	7.25.94	
7	Alexander Hotel	Buffalo Gap Commercial	NW	7.25.94	
8	Alexander Hotel	Buffalo Gap Commercial	NW	7.25.94	detail of roof
9	Alexander Hotel Annex	Buffalo Gap Commercial	N	7.25.94	
10	Alexander Hotel Annex	Buffalo Gap Commercial	N	7.25.94	detail of stone masonry
11	Marty Store	Buffalo Gap Commercial	NE	7.25.94	
12	Marty Store	Buffalo Gap Commercial	N	7.25.94	detail of front
13	Isham Barber Shop	Buffalo Gap Commercial	N	7.25.94	
14	Texaco Station & Cafe	Buffalo Gap Commercial	N	7.25.94	
15	Dalbey General Store	Buffalo Gap Commercial	E	7.25.94	
16	Dalbey General Store	Buffalo Gap Commercial	S	7.25.94	detail of stone masonry
17	Wilson Hotel	Buffalo Gap Commercial	SE	7.25.94	
18	Woodmen Hall and park	Buffalo Gap Commercial	NE	7.25.94	
19	Woodmen Hall	Buffalo Gap Commercial	NW	7.25.94	detail of roof bracket
20	A.D. Clark Store	Buffalo Gap Commercial	SW	7.25.94	
21	A.D. Clark Store	Buffalo Gap Commercial	W	7.25.94	detail of door latch
22	A.D. Clark Store	Buffalo Gap Commercial	W	7.25.94	detail of roof brackets
23	Buffalo Gap State Bank	Buffalo Gap Commercial	W	7.25.94	
24	Buffalo Gap State Bank	Buffalo Gap Commercial	N	7.25.94	
25	Buffalo Gap State Bank	Buffalo Gap Commercial	W	7.25.94	bank vault
26	Buffalo Gap Town Hall	Buffalo Gap Commercial	NW	7.25.94	
27	Peoples Telephone	Buffalo Gap Commercial	NW	7.25.94	
28	Citizens Bank	Buffalo Gap Commercial	W	7.25.94	
29	Citizens Bank	Buffalo Gap Commercial	NW	7.25.94	detail of doorway

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30	Eugene Griffis Store	Buffalo Gap Commercial	NW	7.25.94	
31	Eugene Griffis Store	Buffalo Gap Commercial	W	7.25.94	detail of door hardware
32	Buffalo Gap Cong. Church	Buffalo Gap Commercial	SW	7.25.94	
33	Buffalo Gap Cong. Church	Buffalo Gap Commercial	SE	7.25.94	detail of steeple showing stickwork
34	Buffalo Gap Auditorium	Buffalo Gap Commercial	SE	7.25.94	
35	Buffalo Gap Auditorium	Buffalo Gap Commercial	S	7.25.94	
36	Warren-Lamb Hotel	Fairburn Commercial	SW	8.6.94	
37	Charles B. Smith Store	Fairburn Commercial	SE	8.6.94	
38	Charles B. Smith Store	Fairburn Commercial	NE	8.6.94	
39	IOOF Hall	Fairburn Commercial	SE	8.6.94	
40	IOOF Hall	Fairburn Commercial	NE	8.6.94	
41	IOOF Hall outbuildings	Fairburn Commercial	E	8.6.94	
42	Streeter Ranch	Norman B. Streeter Homestead	NW	8.6.94	
43	Streeter Ranch house	Norman B. Streeter Homestead	SW	8.6.94	
44	Streeter Ranch house	Norman B. Streeter Homestead	E	8.6.94	
45	Streeter barn	Norman B. Streeter Homestead	NW	8.6.94	