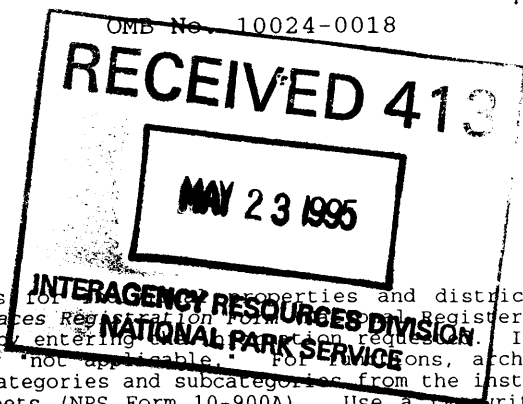


United States Department of Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for 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 information in the designated space. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For questions, 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 Karl, Art Farm  
other names/site number Ned and Lola Dixon Farm

2. Location

street & number Intersection of Hwy 21 and Hwy 14  
city or town West Gem Township N/A not for publication vicinity x  
state South Dakota code SD county Brown code 013 zip code 57401

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 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.)

- SHPO

5-16-95

Signature of certifying official/Title

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.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State of 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.  
See continuation sheet.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

7/17/95

Entered in the National Register

Karl, Art Farm  
Name of Property

Brown, South Dakota  
County and State

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property (check only one box) apply)	Category of Property (Check the count)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include listed resources within as many boxes as	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-state	<input type="checkbox"/> site		<u>          </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		<u>          </u> objects
		<u>9</u>	<u>11</u> Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Rural Architectural and Historical Resources of Brown County, South Dakota

0

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling  
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE  
Storage, Agricultural outbuilding, Animal Facility

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling  
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE  
Storage, Agricultural outbuilding, Animal Facility  
VACANT/NOT IN USE

**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  
walls WOOD/weatherboard  
roof WOOD/shakes  
other METAL  
GLASS

**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 the National Register listing.)

Areas of Significance  
(Enter categories from instructions)

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.

Architecture

Period of Significance

1917

Significant Dates

1917

Karl, Art Farm  
Name of Property

Brown, South Dakota  
County and State

Significant Person  
(Complete if Criterion B is  
marked above)

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

N/A

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

Cultural Affiliation

B removed from its original location.

N/A

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

Architect/Builder

E a reconstructed building, object, or  
structure.

Unknown

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age achieved  
significance within the past 50 years.

### Narrative Statement of Significance

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

### 9. Major Bibliographic 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 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:  
Dacotah Prairie Museum, Aberdeen, SD

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 160 acres

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

1 <u>1/4</u> <u>5/4/6/1/1/9</u> <u>5/0/2/5/8/4/0</u>	3 <u>1/4</u> <u>5/4/6/0/2/5</u> <u>5/0/2/5/8/4/0</u>
Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
2 <u>1/4</u> <u>5/4/6/1/1/9</u> <u>5/0/2/5/6/6/0</u>	4 <u>1/4</u> <u>5/4/6/0/2/5</u> <u>5/0/2/5/8/4/0</u>
Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 Christina Slattery and Barbara M. Kooiman  
organization U.S. West Research, Inc. date 10 February 1995  
street & number 421 Main Street, Suite 306 telephone 608/782-3338  
city or town La Crosse state Wisconsin zip code 54601

Karl, Art Farm  
Name of Property

Brown, South Dakota  
County and State

**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 Ned and Lola Dixon  
street & number RR 4 Box 377 telephone 605/225-2532  
city or town Aberdeen state South Dakota zip code 57401

**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, DC 20503.

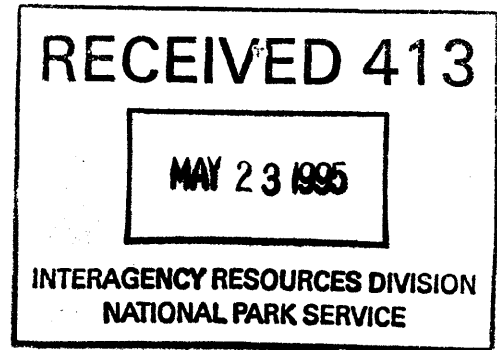
NPS Form 10-900-a  
(Rev. 8-86)  
Wisconsin Word Processing Format  
(Approved 1/92)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 1

Karl, Art Farm, West Gem Township, Brown County,  
South Dakota



**Section 7: Architectural Description**

The Art Karl Farm is located in West Gem Township in Brown County, South Dakota, at the intersection of Highway 21 and Highway 14 in the Northwest quarter of Section 15. The Craftsman Style house was constructed in 1918 and contains a number of stylistic features. The Art Karl Farm includes twenty buildings and structures, including houses, garages, sheds, a barn, silos and an elevator. The landscape around the main house is densely wooded to the north and west to screen the house from the road and large shrubs on the east side. The area behind the garage and new house is also moderately wooded. A dirt path from both the west and the north of the house allow access to the property, connecting and creating a passageway through the farmstead, behind the house and in front of the barn.

A. House  
1918  
Contributing

The two-story hipped building displays Craftsman Style influences and displays an irregular plan and an asymmetrical facade. The house has a concrete foundation, weatherboard siding on the lower two-thirds and wood shakes on the upper one-third, and the roof displays asphalt shingles. There are two interior brick chimneys on the northwest and southeast sides of the roof. The roofline displays exposed rafter ends.

The main (west) facade of the building has a northern section which is set back, a central entrance with a gable covered entry and concrete stairs, with brick side rails leading to the doorway. The gable entryway includes large Craftsman Style brackets and exposed rafter ends on the roofline. The wood slab door has a diamond pane and there is also a metal screen door. On either side of the entrance there is a trio of first story windows, which are original and display twelve-over-one panes. Another identical set of trio windows is found on the northern end of the setback section of the house. The second level includes groupings and individual windows, also with the twelve-over-one panes.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 2

Karl, Art Farm, West Gem Township, Brown County,  
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The south elevation has a protruding bay section with a hipped roof cover, also featuring exposed rafter ends, which serves as a built-in cabinet on the interior. The south elevation also contains a single twelve-over-one sash window on the first level and two identical windows on the second level. At the foundation line there are two small basement hopper windows with three vertical panes.

The east elevation includes a side entrance to the house featuring a wood slab door with a single rectangular pane and a metal screen door. The elevation also exhibits a single window over the door which rests between the two levels, as well as single and paired windows on the first floor and second floor. All the wood windows are original and display wood sills and lintels, as well as twelve-over-one panes. At the foundation line there are two basement windows with three vertical panes.

The north elevation faces the road and a number of large shrubs and trees screen the house from the road. The north elevation also exhibits windows with twelve-over-one panes and wood sills and lintels.

The interior of the house has two floors, attic and full basement. The first floor contains a kitchen, mud room, dining room, living room and enclosed porch, while the second level has four bedrooms, a bath and a porch addition. The main entryway is located between the living room and the dining room and the area between the two rooms is divided by an oak colonnade, with glass cabinets below, facing into the living room. The entrance also has an interior vestibule door with fifteen glass panes. The stairway is located directly in front of the main entrance and displays square wood spindles and a large square newel post. The living room has a wood coffered ceiling, and a central brick fireplace which extends down into the basement. The north wall of the living room originally had a door on either side of the fireplace, leading to a sleeping porch, but the door to the east has been replaced with a built-in bookshelf. The door to the west remains and is a wood door with fifteen glass panes.

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Section 7 Page 3

Karl, Art Farm, West Gem Township, Brown County,  
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The first floor interior features oak woodwork with many Craftsman Style design features. The entire first level has wood baseboards about eight inches wide and wood floors. The second floor has maple floors. There is a solid wood pocket door between the living room and the dining room. The dining room features a built-in oak cabinet with a leaded glass window above, a chest of drawers in the center with a mirror above and two glass door cabinets on either side.

**B. Main Garage**  
ca. 1918  
Contributing

The main garage is constructed with the same materials as the main house (A) and also has Craftsman Style influences. The building includes a rectangular floor plan, concrete foundation, frame construction with weatherboard siding about four inches wide and a gable roof of asphalt shingles. The gable ends exhibit wood shakes and the roofline has exposed rafter ends and round metal ridge ornaments at the ends. The west elevation of the garage has a five panel door and the south elevation displays two garage doors, constructed of vertical wood panels, with five small fixed window panes in the upper half. The east elevation displays a single four-over-four fixed window. The garage, constructed contemporary with the main house, is well maintained and contributes to the architectural significance of the farm.

**C. Steel Shed**  
Date unknown, moved to site  
Noncontributing

The steel shed is located to the east of the main house (A) and main garage (B) and to the north of the Quonset (D). The steel shed has a rectangular plan on a concrete foundation, frame construction, and a gable roof, with exposed rafter ends, covered with asphalt shingles. The walls are covered with varied widths of corrugated metal siding, and the gable ends display asbestos shingles. The west elevation displays two six-over-six sash

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Section 7 Page 4

Karl, Art Farm, West Gem Township, Brown County,  
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windows with wood frames and mullions. The east elevation displays a modern glass sliding patio door. The steel shed, which was moved to the site, retains little integrity and therefore is a noncontributing building to the architectural character of the farmstead (Tennant and Robey 1989).

D. Quonset Shed  
ca. 1948  
Noncontributing

The Quonset shed has a rectangular floor plan and a typical curved roof, with a centrally located large metal vent. The all-metal building sits on a concrete foundation and displays sliding metal doors on the west elevation. The Quonset is connected to the steel shed to the north by a lean-to addition displaying a wood door with four glass panes on the west elevation. The integrity of the Quonset is fair however, because of its age does not contribute to the architectural character of the farmstead.

E. Chicken Coop/Oil Shed  
ca. 1915  
Contributing

This shed, located to the south of the Quonset (D), has a rectangular plan, a shed type roof of corrugated metal and displays exposed rafter ends. The shed rests on a concrete foundation and has horizontal weatherboard siding about six inches wide with corner boards. The south elevation displays a five panel wood door and two four-over-four fixed windows on either side of the door. This structure was originally a chicken coop, but now is being used as an oil shed. The shed is in good condition and contributes to the architectural character of the farmstead.



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**National Register of Historic Places  
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Section 7 Page 5

Karl, Art Farm, West Gem Township, Brown County,  
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F. Old House  
ca. 1906  
Contributing

The house has an open rectangular plan, a wood foundation, weatherboard walls, and a gable roof with wood shakes and a metal ridgetop ornament. The building displays corner boards, and four-over-four sash windows on all elevations and the south and west elevations each have a four panel wood door. The old house, moved onto the site, is in poor condition due to lack of maintenance, but does retain integrity because it has undergone very few modifications and thus is a contributing building to the historic character of the farm.

G. Chicken Coop  
ca. 1917  
Contributing

The chicken coop, located about twenty feet to the east of the old house (F), has a rectangular plan, a wood foundation, weatherboard siding walls and a shed roof covered in corrugated metal. The west elevation has four-over-four fixed windows and the south side displays a hinged wood door cut out from the siding that is divided in half horizontally allowing for the opening of only the top half of the door. The chicken coop was moved onto the site (Tennant and Robey 1989). The chicken coop is in fair condition and retains a high degree of integrity, therefore it is considered to be a contributing structure on the farm.

H. Shed  
ca. 1917  
Contributing

This wood shed, located to the east of the old house (F) and chicken coop (G), is a one-story building with no foundation, a front gable roof with wood shingles, and weatherboard siding exterior walls. A front opening without a door is found on the

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 6

Karl, Art Farm, West Gem Township, Brown County,  
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south elevation and the north elevation displays a single rear window. The shed was moved onto the site (Tennant and Robey 1989). The shed is in poor condition, but retains integrity and is considered to be a contributing building on the farm.

I. Shed  
ca. 1980s  
Noncontributing

The shed, located to the south of the drive that runs through the property and to the west of the modern house, is a one-story building with a rectangular plan and a side gable roof. The frame shed, moved to the site, includes two modern overhead garage doors and a wood door on the north elevation (Dixon 1994). The building has a concrete foundation, modern wood siding on the north elevation and metal (tin) siding on the other elevations and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The gable ends on the east and west elevations display original wood siding. The west elevation has two four pane windows and there are no windows on the east or south elevations. Modifications to the shed have detracted from the architectural character of the building and therefore it is evaluated as a noncontributing resource of the farm.

J. Shed  
ca. 1918  
Contributing

The shed, located to the south of the driveway through the property and between the modern house (K) and the frame shed (I), is a one-story frame building with a front gable roof with asphalt shingles. The open plan building does not have a foundation and is constructed with lap board siding, covered with metal siding on the east, west and south elevations. The upper gable ends display the original wood siding. Double wood sliding doors provide access to the shed on the north elevation. The condition of the shed is good and the structure contributes to the integrity of the farm.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 7

Karl, Art Farm, West Gem Township, Brown County,  
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K. Modern House  
ca. 1976  
Noncontributing

The modern house, located on southeast corner of the property, is a one-story, side gable, frame house with an attached one-car, side gable garage on the west side. The frame house has a concrete foundation, modern wood siding, and an asphalt roof. The west end of the house is inset and the entrance is located to the far west, next to the attached garage. The main (north) facade displays two small one-over-one sash windows on the east end and a five-part bay window on the west end. The garage has a single modern garage door and a wood slab door with one pane to the east. The west elevation of the garage displays two small fixed windows and the south elevation displays two sash windows, a sliding patio door and a large fixed picture window at the east end and a raised wooden deck. The house is in good condition, but because of its recent construction it is not a contributing building to the architectural character of the farm.

L. Granary  
ca. 1915  
Contributing

The granary, located to the north of the machine shed (T) and just south of the driveway through the property, is a one-story structure with a rectangular floor plan and open space interior. The granary has a side gable roof with asphalt shingles and a metal ridgetop and ridge ornament. The gable ends each have single four vertical pane windows. The structure has a foundation of poured concrete footings and displays weatherboard siding about ten inches wide. The north elevation has a sliding wood door. The granary is in fair condition and retains a high degree of integrity because it remains in much of its original condition, therefore, the granary is a contributing structure of the Art Karl Farm.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 8

Karl, Art Farm, West Gem Township, Brown County,  
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M. Barn  
1910-1915  
Contributing

The wood barn, located to the south of the main residence features shed roof additions on both the east and the west sides covered with asphalt shingles. The barn has a gambrel roof with wood shakes, a concrete foundation and drop siding walls. The east and west additions display steel/metal siding and the windows have been covered with the siding. The north elevation displays a large central opening on the main building with large sliding door, two wood doors, several small two-over-two fixed windows and four small two-over-two fixed windows openings on both sides. The south elevation also displays a peaked hay hood at the end of the gambrel.

N. Silo  
ca. 1950s  
Noncontributing

This silo, approximately thirty feet tall, is located to the west of the grain elevator and is connected to the elevators operations. The silo has a circular plan, concrete foundation, metal siding, and a metal low dome roof. The silo is in good condition, but is not old enough to be considered a contributing resource of the farm.

O. Elevator  
ca. 1906/moved onto the site in 1966  
Noncontributing

The frame elevator, covered with metal siding, has a rectangular plan and rests on a concrete foundation. The structure has an elevated gable roof with metal/steel siding. The north elevation displays hinged double wood doors and the south elevation has a wooden sliding door, while the upper level windows of the elevator have been blocked in. The grain elevator was moved to the site from the railroad tracks in Nahon in 1966. As a result

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 9 Karl, Art Farm, West Gem Township, Brown County,  
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of the move and the structure's modifications, the integrity of the grain elevator is compromised and it is not considered to be a contributing resource of the farm.

P. Silo  
ca. 1970s  
Noncontributing

This A.O. Smith Harvestore metal silo is the shortest one of the group, measuring approximately twenty-five feet in height. It has a concrete foundation with metal sides and roof. The silo is in excellent condition, but because of its construction date is not a contributing structure of the farm.

Q. Silo  
ca. 1970s  
Noncontributing

This A.O. Smith Harvestore metal silo, located to the east of the elevator, is tall, narrow and approximately forty-five feet in height. The silo has a concrete foundation and metal sides and roof. The silo is in excellent condition, but does not contribute to the architectural character of the farm because of its modern construction date.

R. Silo  
ca. 1970s  
Noncontributing

The A.O. Smith Harvestore metal silo, also located to the east of the elevator, is the tallest of the group of four silos in the immediate area, measuring approximately fifty feet in height. The silo has a concrete foundation and metal sides and roof. The modern construction date determines the silo to be a noncontributing element of the farm.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 10

Karl, Art Farm, West Gem Township, Brown County,  
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S. Silo  
ca. 1950s  
Noncontributing

This silo, approximately forty feet in height, is a cement stave silo with a low dome roof and rests on a concrete foundation. The silo is in good condition and retains a high degree of integrity, but it does not meet the fifty year age requirement and is a noncontributing resource of the Art Karl Farm.

T. Machine Shed  
ca. 1970s  
Noncontributing

The machine shed is located to the east of the elevator (O) and silos (P,Q,R,S) and to the southeast of the barn (M). The open one-story frame building has a front gable roof and a concrete foundation and the roof and walls are covered in metal siding, blocking in windows on the east and west elevations. The north and south elevations have large openings, without doors, to allow equipment in and out. The machine shed is in poor condition and lacks integrity, thus it is considered to be a noncontributing resource of the Art Karl Farm.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 1

Karl, Art Farm, West Gem Township, Brown County,  
South Dakota

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**Section 8: Statement of Significance**

The Art Karl Farm is located in West Gem Township in Brown County, South Dakota. At the time of the establishment of the farm and the construction of the large two-story cube, Craftsman Style influenced residence, the town of Nahon was only a few miles to the east. The Art Karl Residence, constructed in 1918, is an excellent example of the two-story cube style in a rural setting. The Art Karl Farm includes twenty buildings and structures related to the development of the farmstead. The Art Karl Farm is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C: Architecture because the residence includes a number of Craftsman Style details, has undergone very few modifications and retains a high degree of integrity. The Art Karl Farm can be placed in the historic context "Depression and Rebuilding (1893-1929): Changing Rural Patterns and the Impact of the New Farm Technologies" as defined by the South Dakota Historical Preservation Center in *Historic Contexts for Historic and Architectural Resources in South Dakota*. The Art Karl Farm can also be evaluated in accordance with the Multiple Property Document "Rural Architectural and Historical Resources of Brown County, South Dakota."

History of the Area

West Gem Township, located in west central Brown County, South Dakota, was formally organized in March 1884 (Brown County Territorial Pioneer Committee 1970, 106). The township had a large Scandinavian settlement, as well as other immigrant groups including Germans, which were the next dominant. The first post office was established in 1883 in the home of E.S. Nelson (Brown County Territorial Pioneer Committee 1970, 107). Nahon was named as a post office site in the hopes that a town would grow, but one never developed (History Committee of Brown County Museum and Historical Society 1980, 45-46).

The town of Nahon was laid out in the northwest corner of Section 15 in 1906 when the Minneapolis and St. Paul Railroad was built to Aberdeen ("Brown County Towns -Nahon" Dacotah Prairie Museum).

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Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 2

Karl, Art Farm, West Gem Township, Brown County,  
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Nahon did become the site of a double and a single grain elevator, which operated until about 1960. In the early days of the elevators, both a lumber yard and a stock yard were erected in connection to the elevators and the railroad ("Brown County Town Files - Nahon," Dacotah Prairie Museum).

Art Karl Farm

The property of the farm, Section 15, Township 22, Range 63 West, was first sold by the United States government to John Culbert on 9 December 1881 and he remained the owner of most of the property until at least 1911 (Coe & Howard Title Co. 1940 and Ogle 1911).

In 1906, a portion of the Northwest quarter of Section 15, was owned by Floete, Cory and Bemis Co. and they had the area subdivided into town lots, blocks, streets and alleys for the town of Nahon. In December of the same year, a portion of the land was sold to the Minnesota, Dakota, and Pacific Railway Company for the construction of their railroad line (Coe & Howard Title Co. 1940).

The original section of the Art Karl Farmstead property was the Northwest quarter of the Northwest quarter of Section 15. A 1925 plat map indicates that the Northwest quarter of Section 15, southwest of the railroad tracks was owned by Emma and A.F. Karl (F.C. Carriel 1925). Karl owned the property until 1933 when it was acquired by the South Dakota Rural Credit Union. The credit union rented the property until about 1940, when they sold it for \$3,500.

Ned and Lola Dixon purchased the farm in 1942 for \$6,500, and by 1960 Ned Dixon owned a total of 329.30 acres in parts of Sections 15 and 16 (Thomas O. Nelson Co. 1960). Ned Dixon has since purchased about 130 acres, thirty of which were originally owned by the railroad, and also about 12 1/2 acres have been traded off, so he currently owns a total of 559.40 acres in Section 15 and Section 16 (Midland Atlas Company 1991).

Ned Dixon farms the property with his son and the main crops



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Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 3

Karl, Art Farm, West Gem Township, Brown County,  
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today (1995) are corn, sunflowers, wheat, barley and rye. Prior to the Dixons owning the property the land was farmed primarily for wheat.

The farmstead includes a main house, barn and some seventeen related outbuildings. Many of the buildings have been moved onto the property including the old house, chicken coop, and the elevator. The elevator, owned by the Farmers Union Grain Company, was purchased and moved from the Nahon Railroad section in 1966, and is operating as its original use today.

A tornado/wind in 1943 damaged many buildings and structures on the property. A silo and a garage were left in ruins, but the house and the barn survived.

The 1918 house is the second house to be built on the site. Although the area was prepared for rural electrification earlier, the house was not electrified until circa 1947, because the onset of World War II halted the process (Dixon 1994). The house had running water much earlier than electricity because an artesian well on the site produced enough water pressure that running water was even provided upstairs.

### Architecture

The Art Karl residence, constructed in 1918, is an excellent example of the Craftsman Style applied to a two-story hipped roof residence. The Craftsman Style, typified by the choice of materials and simple, unique detailing, became popular in the United States following the turn of the century and continued popularity into the 1920s (McAlester 1989, 454). The typical Craftsman Style residence displays low roofs, overhanging eaves, often with exposed rafter ends, and exposed roof beams, distinctive doors and windows which are related to the Prairie Style and display multiple panes, often over a single pane or are divided by vertical panes over a single pane. The Art Karl residence displays a number of the typical Craftsman Style details, including a low pitched hipped roof, large overhanging eaves, exposed rafter ends, and multiple pane windows, even

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featured in the basement windows and doors. Not only does the roofline portray the Craftsman Style element of exposed rafter ends, but so does the roof of the bay and the covered entryway, which display a gable roof supported by triangular bracket supports.

The interior woodwork of the house also shows an attention to detail and displays Craftsman Style influences. The interior door is a multiple pane glass door and built-in features include bookshelves in the living room, a china cabinet in the dining room and colonnade divider between the entryway and the living room. The size and prominence of the Art Karl residence demonstrates the success of the original owner. The residence is larger and includes more architectural features than the typical farmsteads of the county, which are often of a smaller scale and a vernacular form.

In addition to the main house, the garage, barn, chicken coop, old house and sheds contribute to the architectural context and significance of the farmstead. These buildings and structures were constructed prior to the main house or contemporary with the main house and function as support facilities for the farm.

In conclusion, the Art Karl Farm is an excellent example of a Craftsman Style residence. The house has undergone very few alterations and retains a high degree of integrity.

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**Section 10: Geographical Data**

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Art Karl Farm are the Northwest 1/4 of Section 15 of Township 122 North and Range 63 West.

Boundary Justification

The defined boundaries of the Art Karl Farm are those historically associated with the property at the time that Art Karl built the house.

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**Photographs**

The following information applies to all photographs.

Karl, Art Farm  
West Gem Township  
Brown County, South Dakota

Photographer: Barbara M. Kooiman  
Date: July 1994  
Negatives: Located at the South Dakota Historical Preservation  
Office, Vermillion, South Dakota

Photo #1 of 15  
Exterior, Main House (A)  
Photographer facing northeast

Photo #2 of 15  
Exterior, Main House (A)  
Photographer facing northwest

Photo #3 of 15  
Exterior, Garage (B)  
Photographer facing northeast

Photo #4 of 15  
Exterior, Garage (B)  
Photographer facing southwest

Photo #5 of 15  
Exterior, Steel Shed (C) and Quonset (D)  
Photographer facing southeast

Photo #6 of 15  
Exterior, Chicken Coop/Oil Shed (E)  
Photographer facing northwest

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Photo #7 of 15  
Exterior, Old House (F)  
Photographer facing northeast

Photo #8 of 15  
Exterior, Chicken Coop (G)  
Photographer facing northwest

Photo #9 of 15  
Exterior, Shed (H)  
Photographer facing north

Photo #10 of 15  
Exterior, Shed (J) and Shed (I)  
Photographer facing southwest

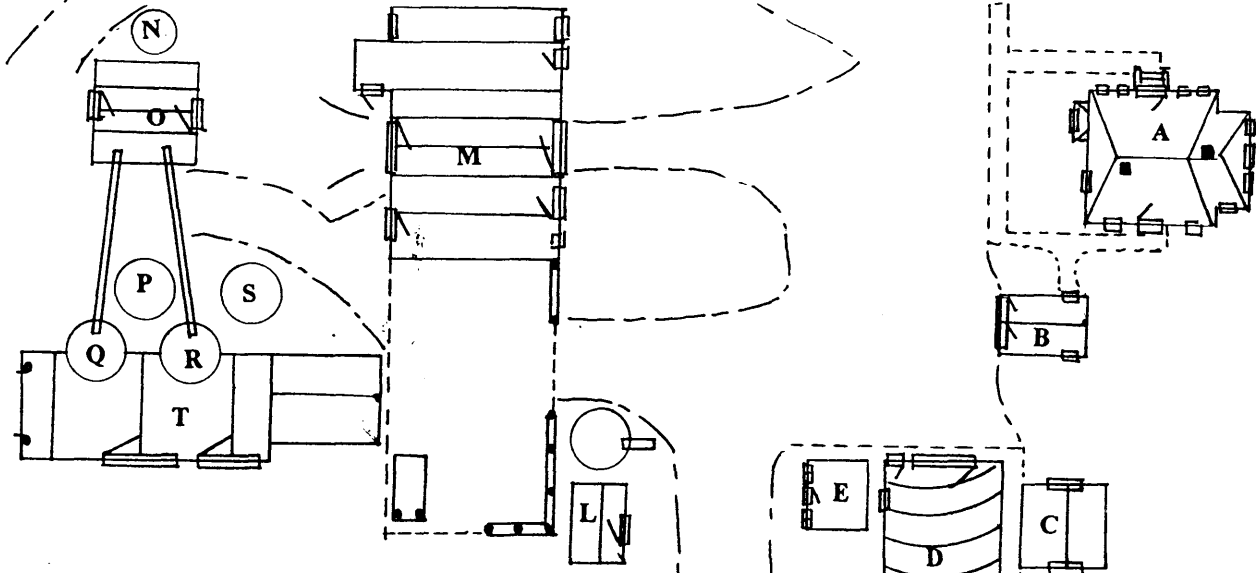
Photo #11 of 15  
Exterior, Modern House (K)  
Photographer facing southeast

Photo #12 of 15  
Exterior, Barn (M)  
Photographer facing southeast

Photo #13 of 15  
Exterior, Silos (N,P,Q,R,S), Elevator (O) and Machine Shed (T)  
Photographer facing west

Photo #14 of 15  
Exterior, Elevator (O) and Silos (N,P,Q,R,S)  
Photographer facing southeast

Photo #15 of 15  
Exterior, Machine Shed (T)  
Photographer facing south



**Karl, Art Farm  
West Gem Township, Brown County, SD**

- A = House (contributing)
- B = Garage (contributing)
- C = Steel Shed (noncontributing)
- D = Quonset Shed (noncontributing)
- E = Chicken Coop/Oil Shed (contributing)
- F = Old House (contributing)
- G = Chicken Coop (contributing)
- H = Shed (contributing)
- I = Shed (noncontributing)
- J = Shed (contributing)
- K = Modern House (noncontributing)
- L = Granary (contributing)
- M = Barn (contributing)
- N = Silo (noncontributing)
- O = Elevator (noncontributing)
- P = Silo (noncontributing)
- Q = Silo (noncontributing)
- R = Silo (noncontributing)
- S = Silo (contributing)
- T = Machine Shed (noncontributing)

