

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 8 1975

DATE ENTERED APR 28 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1** NAME

HISTORIC Rising Hail Colony

AND/OR COMMON

Chalk Rock Colony / Seven Mile Creek Colony

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

5mi NW of Greenwood along Seven Mile Creek
T95N, R65W, Section 36, SW 1/4 of NW 1/4

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Greenwood

 VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

No. 2

STATE

South Dakota

CODE

046

COUNTY

Charles Mix

CODE

023

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Yankton Sioux Tribes

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Greenwood

VICINITY OF

STATE

South Dakota

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Lake Andes

STATE

South Dakota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

South Dakota Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1974

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Historical Preservation Center

CITY, TOWN

Vermillion

STATE

South Dakota

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR
 DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

About half a mile from the Missouri River and just north at Seven Mile Creek is the deteriorated remains of Rising Hail Colony. From the bluffs of the river that overlook the settlement, the viewer sees a group of buildings isolated and neglected with native grasses overgrowing the property and buildings standing windowless and unattended. Once this was a thriving colony of thirty to fifty people, but now it is a symbol of an experimental commune that attempted to restore part of the Yankton Sioux's tribal life.

The colony consists of eight buildings and all use chalk rock as their main construction material. This soft, bleached-white colored rock is of native origin taken from the banks of the Missouri River. Seven of the structures are almost identical and are in close proximity to each other. These one story buildings served as homes for the families and all have a rectangular floor plan, a gable roof with wood shingles, a basement and chimney, some now gone, on the rear slope of the roof. Opening placement includes one window on each side of the door in the front, one on each side of the house and two in the back. Other elements are flat lintels, lugsills, and exposed rafters.

The only other structure is a single story barn with one major door opening and eight windows on each side.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

1938

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Rising Hail Colony is a landmark representing an abortive attempt by C.R. Whitlock, former Superintendent of Rosebud Reservation, to stimulate recovery among the Yankton Sioux by establishing a commune. Whitlock's effort represented the tendency of New Dealers to encourage American Indians to return to the ways of the old cultures. Evidently, Whitlock believed that Yanktons could turn their clocks back about a century, and ignore the training they had received in American capitalism since their treaty in 1858.

Congress voted appropriations for two colonies in 1938--one called Andrus and the other Rising Hail. The latter was named after an important chief who occupied land approximately one-half mile to the north. The purpose was to rehabilitate landless Yankton people by providing jobs, homes, and loans to buy equipment and livestock. The result was to be an all-Indian commune.

At its zenith, the experiment consisted of about 1,500 acres of land, ample livestock, orchards, fruit and vegetable gardens, and considerable farm produce--all of which were shared by the occupants. It was unique not only as a communal endeavor but also because all of the buildings were constructed from "chalk rock," a soft building substance mined along the banks of the Missouri River.

Established as "Rising Hail Cooperative Development Association," and based upon a constitution and bylaws of its own, the colony was eligible for loans from the government. Its members borrowed about \$8,000 to get started. Eight or nine families of thirty to fifty people pooled their money and belongings such as machinery, livestock, and tools when they entered. By 1942 they shared an annual profit of approximately \$13,000 and they owned 35 milk cows, 165 cattle, 150 feeder pigs, 30 brood sows, 30 horses, 400 laying hens, and 500 chicks. They harvested 300 acres of corn and smaller quantities of wheat, oats, barley, hay, sorghum, and fruit. All things considered, it was a success.

Yet, by 1949 all but three families had moved away; and subsequently, the cooperative was dissolved. After that it became a family enterprise by the Cournoyers, to whom Congress appropriated money for improvements. The Cournoyers lived in the cottages until recently, and Steven was still farming the land in 1974.

The colony probably failed because it lacked firm leadership such as that provided by chiefs in the old days when Yanktons lived by communal rules. Maybe there was too much friction over the division of responsibilities and work for survival. Surely it failed in part because of the success of the "peace policy" of President U.S. Grant. By the

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

LITTLE BRONZED ANGEL, Marty, South Dakota.
 LAKE ANDES WAVE
 YANKTON PRESS AND DAKOTAN.
 Personal interviews by Roger Bromert with Steve Cournoyer, August Nylander, and Joseph Packard (American Indian Research Project, University of South Dakota).
 Yankton Sioux Tribal Documents, Richardson Room, I.D. Weeks Library, University of South Dakota, Vermillion.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

U-M LK 00

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 7 1/2

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	4
5	4
2	1
1	6
0	

4	7
1	6
1	1
3	0

B

C

D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Joseph F. Rockboy

ORGANIZATION

Historical Preservation Center

DATE

January 1975

STREET & NUMBER

USD Alumni House

TELEPHONE

605-677-5314

CITY OR TOWN

Vermillion

STATE

South Dakota 57069

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

SIGNATURE

[Handwritten Signature]

4-3-1975

TITLE

Cultural Preservation Director / SHPO

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

4/28/75

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

APR 24 1975

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE one

1930s it was too late for Yanktons to act in the spirit of cooperation which once distinguished them, after having been "educated" by two generations of missionaries and Indian Agents in the importance and wisdom of the individual economic responsibility.

Another important aspect of the Rising Hail Colony is the use of chalk rock as the construction material found on all the buildings. The structures lack ornateness and are without any particular style, but the use of this stone taken from the nearby banks of the Missouri River gives the colony architectural uniqueness. This material was more apparent in architecture during the early years of settlement in Dakota Territory but not much later on. There are few remaining chalk rock structures and these are among the last built.

Although the colony falls outside of the fifty year rule, it should be included in the National Register because of its importance as an interesting facet of New Deal Indian policy, as a tale of the economic misfortunes of the Yankton Sioux, and as a measure to preserve the chalk rock structures that may be gone by 1988. Rising Hail deserves architecturally and historically national recognition.