

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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SITE MD-29

NAME Stevens Ranch

LOCATION MC Road 4 about 5 miles east of Piedmont, Southwest Meade Unorganized Territory, Meade County (093), South Dakota (046)

OWNER Robert and Lorraine Ehrich
Box 757
Piedmont, South Dakota 57769

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

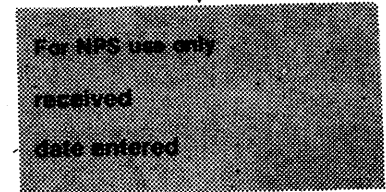
DESCRIPTION Excellent, altered (slightly), original site

Located on the gently rolling land of the Elk Creek valley, the Stevens Ranch is about five miles east of Piedmont. It is in excellent condition and retains much of its historic integrity. The ranch is composed of a total of ten structures with eight contributing and two non-contributing. The one-and-one-half story stone house sits south of Elk Creek and is surrounded by elms and lilacs.

The original stone house (contributing) is a T-Plan with an addition in the southeast corner of the tee and another addition attached to the northwest corner of the tee. Distinctive feature include the large block quoins on the corners and the rough coursing of the stone. The stone has been worked somewhat to give a flat surface on the exterior wall, although the technique in other ways has some of the informality of rubble masonry construction.

The south elevation which faces Elk Creek Road has two windows and one door in the ground floor and one pair of windows in the gable. The west elevation has one window with a four light transom with three verticle muntions above it an a pair of windows in the apex of the gable. The north (rear) elevation has two windows in the ground floor which have been replaced and filled in with coursed stone. A single window is located in the gable. Each window is topped by a segmental brick arch and has smooth finished tan sandstone surrounds. The use of brick lintels in the house is a refinement over the stone slab lintels in the older house. The house, composed of coursed rubble, features roughly cut large tan sanstone block quoins. An enterance to the cellar is located in the north elevation. A double header brick segmental arch tops the door in the south elevation which has a four panel screen door.

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A red brick chimney rises from the east-west ridge line of the roof which is covered in composition shingles. A shed roof addition added to the south elevation and two gable roof additions on the north elevation are covered with verticle siding.

The Stevens Ranch has a complete assemblage of outbuildings which contribute to the historical integrity of the site. The original coursed rubble stone homestead house (contributing), located northeast of the amin house, on a low bluff overlooking Elk Creek, features a wood shingle gable roof with a double window dormer south of the central door and a pair of two-over-two light windows in the southeast (front) elevation. Antother small eindow pierces the gable end which faces the main house.

Northeast of the original stone homestead house is a gable roof log barn (contributing) with board and batten shed roof additions on the axial sides of the barn. The log barn which is painted red, is constructed of square hand hewn logs and has a pair of large doors in the front elevation. The left side is a large Dutch door which are very rare in the survey area. The interior space is divided into eight stalls on the main floor with a hay loft on the second floor. The barn has wide wood plank flooring and is in an excellent state of repair.

North of the house is a wood-frame outbuilding (contributing) which is used for storage. It has a moderately pitched-gable roof which is covered in cedar shake shingles.

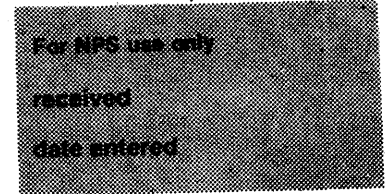
Painted white, a wood-frame garage (contributing) and matching dog house (contributing) are located north of the house. Both structures have gable roofs covered in cedar shake shingles, and are covered with clapboard.

A large wood-frame, gabled-roof barn (contributing) is located at the northern edge of the site. It is painted white and the roof is painted green as are all cthe outbuildings located father away from the house.

A wood-frame chicken coop (contributing) is located east of the barn.

North of the chicken coop is a white wood-frame granary (contributing). It is a rectangular pen with a gable roof. A door is located in the front of the granary. South of the granary is a metal Butler building (non-contributing).

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East of the log barn is a large white wood-frame garage combination machine shed (non-contributing).

SIGNIFICANCE 1800-1899, settlement, vernacular architecture

DATES: ca. 1880, unknown BUILDER: Unknown

The Stevens house, which is said to have been constructed in 1880, is an exceptionally fine structure and is architecturally significant because of its sophistication and high level of craftsmanship. Only one of two one-and-one-half-story coursed stone masonry structures encountered in the survey area, the house features architectural design elements traditionally found only in stone masonry buildings in western South Dakota urban areas.

The detail in the two-story house exhibits a great degree of refinement over the original stone homestead house with the use of brick lintels instead of the stone slab lintels, large sandstone quoins and a rough coursing of the stone. The original stone was built prior to 1880, and is one of the oldest structures in the region.

The log barn is an important structure and appears to be Anglo-American. There are rare large intestices between the logs, and long, slats or boards are used as infill. This detail is very typical of South Dakota log buildings. The logs are notched in a diamond notch, and significantly, do not extend into the gable. The barn is in excellent condition, very well made, and is a large imposing structure. It is one of the few log barns to be observed outside of the Black Hills region in northeastern South Dakota. Significantly, it is the only log barn in the survey, and has flanking board and batten shed-roofed additions on the axial sides which was a popular style in the state in late nineteenth century.

In conclusion, the site is in an excellent state of preservation and has been in continual use since its construction. The property is extremely well maintained as are the grounds and outbuildings.

QUADRANGLE NAME Blackhawk, South Dakota UTM REFERENCE 14163514014899020

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000 ACREAGE About 8 Acres

PHOTO REFERENCE NUMBER

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the site are formed by four imaginary lines. The north line lies 10 feet from the the northwest corner of the wood-frame barn; the east line lies 10 feet from the east wall of the machinery garage; the south boundary lies 10 feet from the southwest corner of the house; the west line lies ten feet from the northwest corner of the outbuilding west of the house. The site is located in the NW quarter of the NE quarter of Section 8, Township 3 north, Range 7 east of Meade County.

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