

FEB 26 1987

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SITE PE-6

NAME Thomas J. Veal Ranch

LOCATION Chance Vicinity
Perkins County (105), South Dakota (046)

OWNER Nobel Veal
Star Route Box 406
Meadow, South Dakota 57644

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

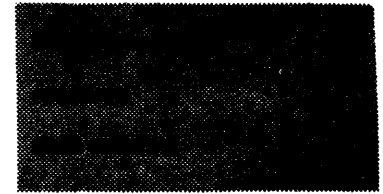
DESCRIPTION Excellent condition, unaltered, original
site

The Thomas J. Veal Ranch is located in the old community of Chance, seven miles southeast of the intersection of South Dakota State Highways 20 and 73, in rural Perkins County. The site consists of thirty-two buildings, ten of the buildings are contributing. Built in 1916, the two-story white frame house (contributing) sits on a hill overlooking the ranch. The structure is noteworthy because it exhibits a higher level of technical expertise and style than is commonly found in the early twentieth century ranch houses on the western South Dakota prairie.

The house is a large rectangle with a hipped roof. A hip-roofed front porch that spans the front (east) facade. Fenestration is in a variety of arrangements and shapes, ranging from the large bay window in the south facade to the large plate glass window in the east facade. The windows are all double-hung with the exception of the plate glass window. The front door has a circular beveled glass window. The house has a flared hipped roof with a hipped roof dormer on the south covered with composition shingles. A red brick chimney rises from the roof north of the ridgeline. An enclosed hip-roofed porch spans the rear (west) facade. It has a poured concrete foundation and a full basement.

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The first floor of the house has a foyer, living room, dining room, kitchen, pantry, two bedrooms and a bathroom. The second floor is entered by a staircase in the foyer. Six bedrooms and one bath are located on the second level of the house. All of the original woodwork remains in the house. It includes door and window surrounds, built-in cabinets in the dining room and kitchen, a built-in cupboard in the bathroom, and molding. The original light fixtures hang throughout the house. No visible alterations have been made to the interior of the house.

Other contributing structures located on the hill northwest of the 1916 house include a rectangular white shiplap gable-roofed chicken coop, a rectangular gable-roofed wood-frame outbuilding and a bungalow house. The house has a hip roof covered in composition shingles and a poured concrete foundation. It is painted white with contrasting trim.

North of the bungalow is a modern brick ranch house and garage (non-contributing).

The agricultural buildings are located on the flats east of the houses. At the extreme north end is a row of six blue corrugated metal Butler buildings (non-contributing). An orchard is located to the west of the buildings. East of the orchard is a large broken gable "cathedral" barn. This barn has a separately roofed, raised, center section. This allows for openings for windows in the upper portion of the center aisle walls, much like a clerestory in a cathedral. Constructed in 1920, the barn is painted white and the roof is clad in composition shingles. Windows and doors of various sizes pierce the facades of this structure.

West of the broken gable barn is a large L-shaped sheep shed. The oldest portion (the south wing) was constructed in 1916, and the more recent section (the east wing) in 1927. It has a gable roof clad in composition shingles. Fenestration occurs on the west, south and east facades. The doors are located in the center of the L in the south and east facades. The sheep shed is of frame construction and painted white.

South of the sheep shed is a large gambrel-roofed barn which was constructed in 1916. A rain hood projects from the roof on the west facade, and beneath it a hay door in the second-story.

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A large sliding door is in the ground floor. Fenestration occurs on the axial side in the form of seven two-over-two light windows. A gabled-roof projection is on the south axial facade. It is frame construction, and painted white, as is the barn. A shed addition is located in the ell formed by the juncture of the projection and the south wall of the barn. The roof of the barn is clad in composition shingles, and the gable roof of the projection with wood shingles.

East of the barn, through the corrals, is a white frame gable-roofed outbuilding. It is built against the wooden fence that connects the barns together into a spatial unit. All of these structures (four) are contributing.

South of the barns is a machinery area. Separated by the natural topography of the site, as well as ten (non-contributing) round blue corrugated metal Butler buildings, used for grain storage, this area consists of four buildings. A large frame gable-roofed gargae (contributing) is located to the south. It is shiplap and painted white. East of the garage is a concrete block shop (noncontributing). Two modern metal pole buildings (non-contributing) complete this area.

Across the driveway, south of the house is a wood-frame chicken coop (contributing). It has a rectangular plan and separate single pitch roofs, opposite in slope and at different heights. A row of windows is located along both sides of the wall joining the two roofs.

SIGNIFICANCE 1900-present, architecture, settlement

DATES: 1916, 1918, 1920s BUILDER: T.J. Veal

The Thomas J. Veal Ranch is an extremely well preserved example of an early twentieth century western South Dakota ranch plan. Few ranches of this size and age survive in this part of the state contributing to the sites importance.

Locally known as "the Big House" or "the Chance Ranch house", the Thomas B. Veal house is the most architecturally significant frame house in Perkins County. The house is built more on an urban scale, than a rural one, and is larger than any other house

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surveyed. Originally built to replace their four room sod house, the Veal house had its own water, sewer and light plant to provide efficient facilities for housekeeping.

According to Mrs. Veal, the house was built by contractors from Minneapolis who built the Foster Ranch House (PE-7) a few miles to the southeast. By any standards the 13 room house was impressive.

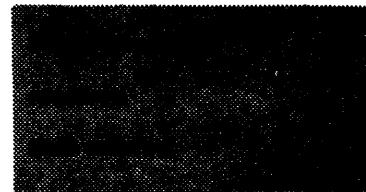
Mr. Veal, who grew up on a ranch near Blunt, South Dakota in the 1880s, was herding cattle not far from the Bismark Trail in April 1900 and decided that with its prime location near good hay and water the site was an ideal spot to settle. Mrs. Veal dedided that the village should be named Chance because of the uncertainties of pioneer life.

The town prospered and by 1910 had a drug store, grocery, Veal's Livery, a hardware store, bank and real estate office. The Chance Record was the growing town's newspaper. Mrs. Veal became the town's first postmistress.

With the drought and depression Chance became all but abandoned with only the Veals remaining at the once thriving prairie town. Today a county road runs through the property cutting it in half and serving the dual purpose of driveway on this seldom travelled road.

The site is in very good condition and well maintained by the present owners. The architectural integrity of the site remains intact, as few alterations have been made to the original structures.

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QUADRANGLE NAME Chance, SD

UTM A(NW) 13/712590/5032140
B(NE) 13/712880/5032140
C(SW) 13/712760/5031830
D(SE) 13/712880/5031830

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

ACREAGE About 15 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the nominated property is considered to be a set of intersecting imaginary lines. As the natural configuration of the buildings is nearly rectangular, the boundaries lie fifteen feet in all directions from the outer most walls of those farthest outlying structures. The site is located in the NE quarter of the NW quarter of Section 28, Township 17 North, Range 15 East in Perkins County, South Dakota.

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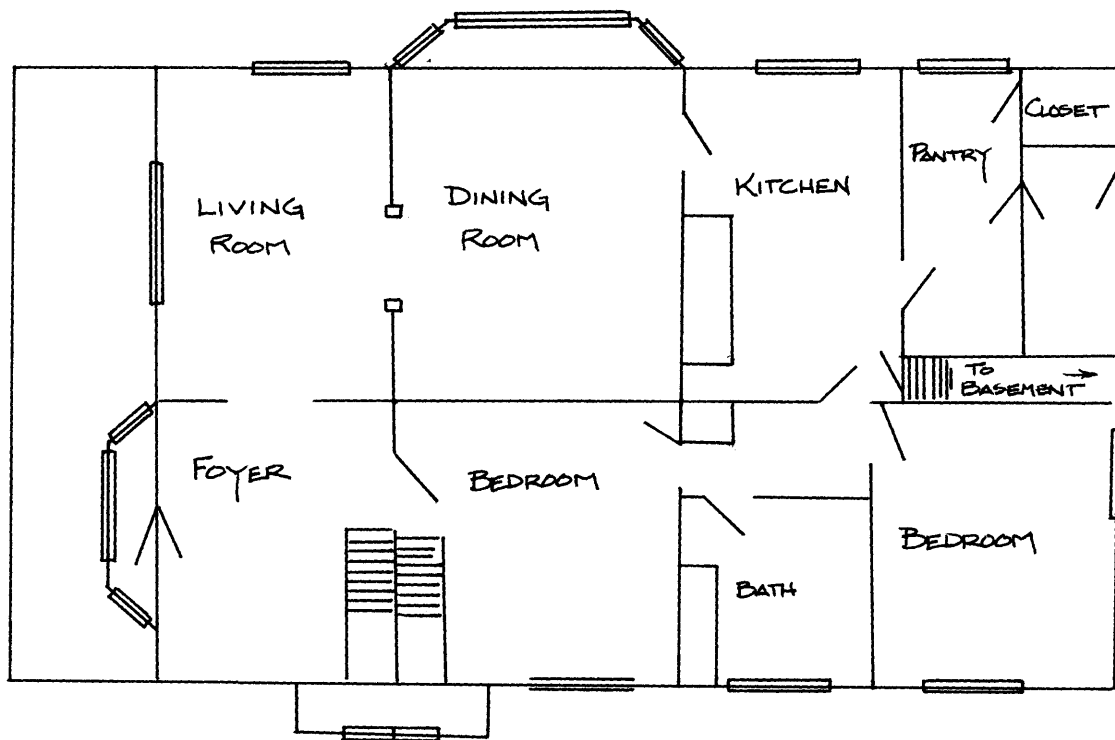
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