

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received SEP 30 1985

date entered

Continuation sheet

Keltomaki

Item number

Page 1

Site #56

1. John Hill (Keltomaki) Ranch
2. northeast of Brownsville
Brownsville Vicinity
South Dakota 046 Lawrence 081
3. buildings; private; NA acquisition; occupied; restricted;
agricultural, residence
4. Howard and Jeanette Larson
Nemo Rt.
c/o Lead, South Dakota 57754
5. Register of Deeds
Lawrence County Courthouse
Deadwood, SD 57732
7. good and fair; unaltered; original site

The Keltomaki original ranch site consists of nine structures. Sited on a hillside above a branch of Elk Creek and a grassy meadow, the ranch buildings are grouped in two; one group, with domestic functions are fenced within the house yard, while those which are agricultural are grouped within another set of fences.

The house (contributing) is presently unoccupied. A new house is located to the north, outside the boundaries of the site. Dating from 1918 the dwelling is a frame, one-story cube. Surmounted by a pyramidal roof with a chimney in the peak, the house is sited on a hillside and has a large, unmortared stone foundation. On the rear a more recent frame addition has been built. The roof of the addition is a gable and the exterior is covered with reddish-brown tar paper; the foundation is stone mortared with cement. The rear facade has two windows and a door. The original cube has a porch on two sides with doors in the center of the east and south facades opening onto this unroofed porch. On the front, south, facade, the door is flanked by two paired windows. On the east, side, facade the covered-over door is flanked by a single window on either side; on the west is a single window. All windows are 1/1, double-hung sash. The house is covered in unpainted narrow, horizontal, lapped board.

To the rear of the house is a shed-roofed, frame outbuilding (contributing).

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Keltomaki

Item number Site #56

Page 2

Completing the domestic yard is the sauna, (contributing) located below the hill to the southwest of the house. Constructed of railroad ties the sauna dates from the 1920s. Although built of an unusual material, the sauna has the conventional plan of a sauna and measures 14'7½" by 18'9" (as the measurements are irregular, the other two walls measure 14'10" by 18'5"). The building rests on a loosely packed stone and earth foundation. The roof is very unusual. The weight rests on four purlins and a ridge pole, all of which are large (approximately 5" by 5" each) and untrimmed on the gable ends. A sawed 2" by 4" plate rests above the wall and secures the roof. The entrance to the change room is in the gable-end wall, which also contains a window. A single window on the south, side wall lights the bathing room, while a vent window is located on the rear, west, gable-end wall.

On the interior the change room has a bench along the front wall and the floor is littered with debris including Chinese-language publications, (the Black Hills once had a sizable Chinese population). Nails covered with wooden thread spools are found in the partition wall to the north or right of the door. A single-pane glass window allows light from the change room into the bathing room. The bathing room has an unusual kivas. Built of brick mortared together with concrete, the kivas has three walls. Due to the moisture and heat, the walls of the kivas have buckled. The front is open and has three units. The bottom is the firebox, atop which is an iron or steel plate supported by I-beams. On this plate rests two feet of loose stone. The stones are covered with a conical hood, from which rises the hot air pipe. A water barrel is attached by two metal tubes on the west side. A large platform with a single bench lines the rear, west wall.

The steam sauna was used by many neighbors and may have been operated as a public sauna at one time.

In the agricultural yard the site is dominated by a magnificent Finnish log barn (contributing) built in 1918 by John Hill. The barn has doors, flanked by small, home-made, windows in the center of each axial facade. Measuring 24' 1 3/4" by 26' 1 1/2" and 23' 10" by 26' 4", the barn consists of four log walls built to a height of 12' 9". The wood-shingled roof, which appears to be non-Finnish, is gambrel with common rafters made of sawed lumber. Two windows, one cut into the log wall and on the north, in the peak of the vertical board gable, are found in the gable walls.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Keltomaki Item number Site #56 Page 3

An interesting feature are sets of six joists, and two summers which are laid perpendicular to each other. The six parallel joists are located above the two summers. A saddle notch groove at the wall allows the joists to sit on the wall. The summers extend through to the exterior wall, but are cut flush with the wall. The perpendicular joists extend through the wall and the wall log is notched to accommodate them.

The doors are homemade, double or dutch doors. The surviving door is on the east wall and has four, large, hand-forged, metal triangular hinges. While the bottom door has five, sawed, horizontal boards, nailed to seven vertical boards, the top has only four horizontal boards. The height of the door is 6' 3 1/2". Small square windows, measuring 5'11" by 5' 5 1/2" flank the door and have sawed board easements.

Beneath the floor of the barn are seven log sleepers, which are placed parallel to the ridge. The sleepers are cut approximately 4" short of the sill, and rest on unmortared rock piers, which also underlie the corners of the barn. The top of the sleepers are hewn flat.

Typical of Scandinavian log construction the logs are fitted flush with no chinking between the logs. The curve of the lower log fits into the concave groove carved into the upper log with the vara tool. The rows of logs on this barn also alternate between a squared hewn log, measuring approximately 10 1/2" by 10 1/2" and a rounded hewn log, measuring an average 7" by 7". They are notched with a verticle double notch. The larger, squared logs are also planed flat, some 10" to 12" from the notch. All logs are planed flush or flat 12" from the doors and windows.

On the interior the barn has suffered some neglect, however frame stalls are visible on the north and south walls. Sawed boards resting on the parallel joists create the floor of the loft.

To the east of the barn is a chicken coop (non-contributing). This shed-roofed, vertical plank building rests directly on the ground; a door and window pierce the north, front facade.

Immediately to the east of the coop (non-contributing) is a frame gable-roofed shed with a shed unit on the north wall. The walls are board and batten and the building rests on the ground. A door opens on the west, gable-end wall.

Just below the brow of the hill is the entrance to the roof cellar (contributing). The doorway is lined with rock on the outside and a mound over the cellar reveals its shallow depth. The door is nailed shut.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Keltomaki Item number Site #56 Page 4

A garden was once planted to the southeast of the cellar.

A log granary (contributing) built in c. 1920s is located to the north-east of the barn. This is a more crudely-built structure, although it exhibits many Finnish or Scandinavian features. The logs are flush, but not nearly as carefully fitted as the barn. This may have been intentional, so that the grain could dry.

Logs extend all the way up the gable to the roof, as is common in Scandinavian-Finnish log construction. The corners are notched with a vertical double notch. A ridgepole and two large purlins support the roof; both extend beyond the length of the gable wall. The building is small, less than 7' in height. A handmade, six-vertical board door covers the front, south, entrance. The building rests on unmortared stone piers.

The final building is the most crudely-made log structure. Located on the northeast edge of the yard, the hog house (contributing) is built into the slope. The logs are crudely hewn and are fitted with a rough vertical double notch. Each corner is supported on a unmortared stone pier. Similar to the granary the logs extend into the gable. Because the roof is so shallow only a ridge pole and no purlins are used. The hogs enter the building on the south, gable-end.

8. 1900- ; vernacular and folk architecture, settlement, Finnish ethnic history.

Dates: 1900, 1918, c. 1920s.

Builder: John Hill (Jr.)

The John Hill (Keltomaki) Ranch is an excellent example of Finnish folk building traditions coexisting with American vernacular architecture. In addition, the barn is an extremely fine example of Finnish-Scandinavian building techniques. The history of the Hill family also represents the history of the Roubaix community.

Roubaix was one of the earliest and largest of the rural Black Hills Finnish communities. The first Finns settled here in the 1880s to both ranch or farm and to work in the lumbering industry. The Finnish population in 1901 was 80, a large enough number to support both a Finnish Evangelical and Apostolic Lutheran Church.

The Hills were not original settlers here, but are more typical of West River rural Finnish settlement. For, John Hill (Sr.) worked first as a miner before taking up this land in c. 1910.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Keltomaki Item number Site #56 Page 5

John Hill came from Lapua, Finland to American in 1888-1889 and worked in several mines including the Homestake and the Holy Terror in Keystone. In c. 1900 his family, including his wife, Kaisa, two sons and a daughter joined him in Lead. They also came from Lapua.

In c. 1910 they moved to Roubaix and Hill's son, also named John, began erecting the buildings on the site. The house and barn date from about the same time, 1918, while the granary and sauna date from the 1920s. The other buildings probably were built prior to 1935.

The Hills held community saunas for both Finnish and non-Finnish neighbors. They were members of the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church.

While the saunas listed in this nomination are traditionally Finnish folk architecture in terms of their use and form, the Keltomaki log buildings reveal the retention of a construction tradition as well. Of course this was possible because of the plentiful timber available in the Hills. The Finnish or Scandinavian aspects of these construction technique are detailed under #7.

10. Acreage: 4 Scale: 1:24 000
Quad: Deadwood South

UTM:

13/607470/4904340

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the site are four imaginery lines. The north line lies 10 meters from the north wall of the hog house; the west lines lies 20 feet from the west wall of the barn; the south line lies 20 feet from the south wall of the sauna; and the east line lies 20 feet from the east wall of the root cellar. The site is located in the SW/SW, Section 21, T4N, R4E.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

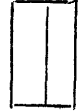
date entered

Continuation sheet J. Hill (Keltomaki) Ranch Item number Site # 56 Page

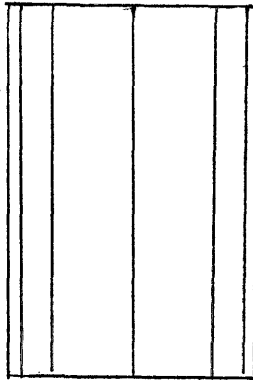
↑
N

Present Residence
& Garage ↑

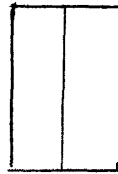
Log
Hog
House



Barn



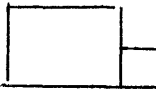
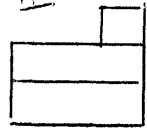
Log
Outbuilding



Root
cellar



Shed



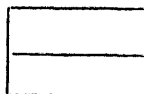
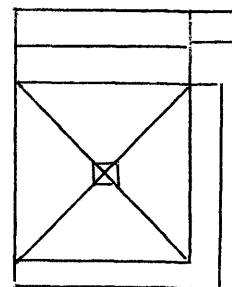
Shed /
coop



Outhouse

Garden

House



Sauna

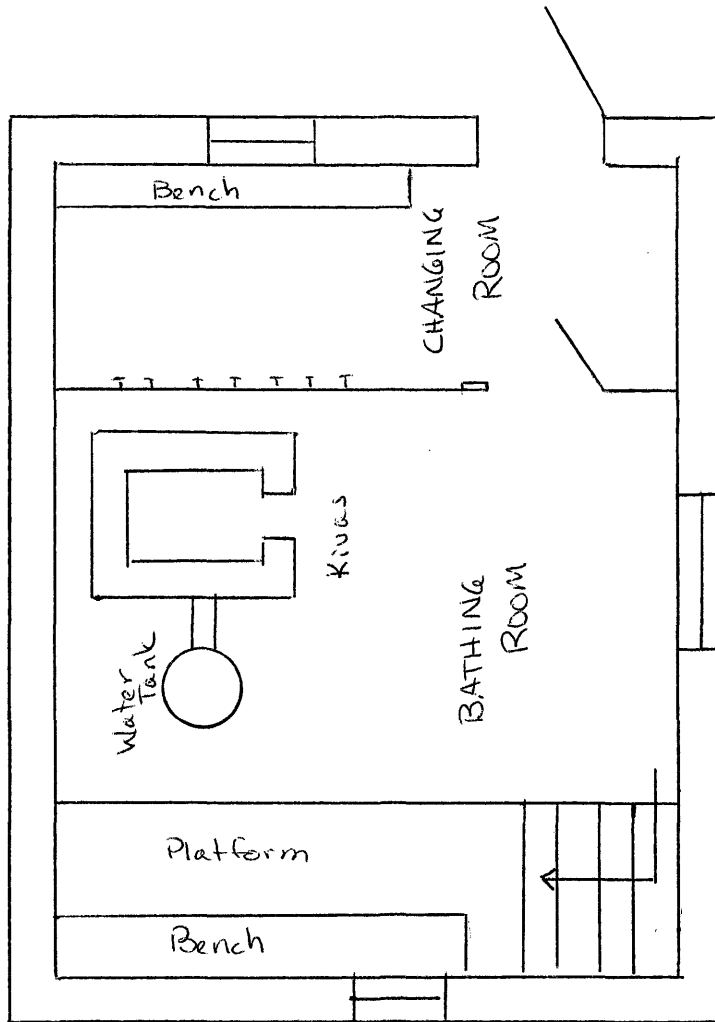
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

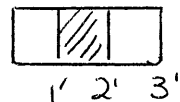
For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet J. Hill (Keltomaki) Ranch Item number Site # 56 Page

KELTOMAKI SAUNA
c 1920s
Roubaix, Lawrence Co
SD



Scale



← N