

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NAME: Levi Glick Round Barn

LOCATION: Vicinity of Surrey, North Dakota 38, Ward County 101

CLASSIFICATION: Status Occupied; Present Use Agricultural

OWNER OF PROPERTY: John Glick, Rural Route 4, Minot, North Dakota 58701

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Register of Deeds, Ward County Courthouse, Minot, North Dakota

DESCRIPTION: The former Levi Glick round barn is a masonry tile building with an interior concrete stave silo and a parabolic arched roof. The building is sixty feet in diameter and currently functions in agricultural processes. The barn is part of a dairy farm, which it has served since its construction in 1923.

Many features of the barn have been changed through the years. Most evident is the replacement of the original roof in 1949. The original rafters were a composite of four or five 1"x 4" boards bent into steep arcs. They gave the original roof a hemispherical shape and flare at the eaveline. The original roof was higher than the summit of the interior silo, allowing the placement of a metal ventilator cupola on the rooftop. A windstorm in 1949 placed undue stress on the rafters and they collapsed on one side. A new roof was constructed on the structure while the old one still was in place. This required the new roof to be lower in height than the interior silo. A net loss of loft space occurred in placing a new roof. However Glick had at that time converted from loose to baled hay, which required less storage space. The reduced volume of the mow did not interfere with the barn's utility. Currently the silo top projects from the roof center, providing a roof cap as did the original metal cupola.

Other exterior changes include the replacement of the original 2-over-2 double hung windows with glass block and the attachment of a 10'x 18' brick milkhouse addition on the northwest point of the building, which was subsequently sheathed in metal siding. Original and surviving exterior features of the barn include "blue glazed" tile from Kansas City and several ventilation holes in the solid brick wall which allow air circulation.

The barn's interior has many characteristic features of the type. Two concentric spaces, one small around the silo, one larger along the wall, freely circulate on either side of the 6" square posts and rows of stantions. The original roofing system made use of the wide drive-in doors and a pair of slings to hoist the loose hay into the mow. Roof replacement and conversion to baled hay eliminated the need for the sling apparatus.

SIGNIFICANCE: Date: 1923

Builders: Levi Kauffman, Levi Glick, others; Architect: Unknown

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The Levi Glick round barn is a significant architectural resource, the only masonry tile round barn built in the state. The clay tile walls found in the Glick barn represent one of the three main wall construction systems which, along with dimension lumber and heavy timber, support most of the nation's round barns. Other details of its construction required complex engineering, furthering its architectural significance.

The basic integrity of workmanship, materials, and design remain in the barn. The ground level and mow floor contain their original materials which exhibit successful workmanship in construction. The essence of the design is intact, allowing an integrity of feeling of the round barn form.

Additional research may also establish the barn as a historically significant resource. Some facts about the genesis of the barn are known and suggest associations between ethnic groups and vernacular building traditions. Extensive research would be necessary to establish the precise historic significance of the barn in the history of the Mennonites, the particular North Dakota ethnic group associated with the barn. The questions at the end of this statement should be answered to establish the importance of the barn in representing important historic (ethnic) trends.

The Glick barn is located near Surrey in an area which was settled in 1902 by German Mennonites from Ohio and Pennsylvania. Three years prior to their arrival a colony of Mennonites of similar ancestry migrated from Missouri to Kenmare, a town sixty miles northwest from Surrey by the Soo Line railway. The two colonies considered themselves sister congregations, communicating and visiting each other often (Sherman, p. 34).

Among the Kenmare farmers Levi Kauffman erected two round barns on his farm, one of huge dimensions--more than 80 feet in diameter--and a smaller one for swine. Levi Glick of Surrey, according to his grandson (current owner of the farm), was impressed by the large round structure and decided to construct one himself. The crew consisted of about ten laborers, including Mylo Kauffman, son of Levi.

Some construction techniques employed by the workers proved less than enduring in the barn. The original rafters of 1"x 4" laminates and the original wood stave silo required replacement within twenty-five years of installation. Replacement of the roof was accomplished with more pragmatic consideration. Levi Glick's son, a math teacher, calculated the proper load bearing properties of the materials and arcs to ensure maximum durability. For instance, rafters of 1"x 8" and 1"x 6" pine laminate were selected for their strength. The younger Glick and his son, the present owner, were required to perform the task themselves, as well, since no contractors would bid on the complicated job. The need to tailor shingles presented special work for the replacement. The many complexities in replacing the roof are part of the total matrix of problems faced by the original builders of this and any round barn.

Apart from mandatory replacement to the roof, the barn has undergone few alterations. The relatively high degree of integrity may be a result of difficulties inherent in

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working in an unfamiliar form. The special architectural accomplishment of round barns in general is signaled by the Glick barn, which illustrates these complexities through its continued use and relative lack of alterations. The barn is important for representing a currently undefined association between the two communities of similar ethnic composition.. After the destruction of the Kauffman barn in 1965, the Glick barn alone remains to illustrate activities and the round barn theme which the two communities held in common.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. Is there an importance in the fact that the Glick round barn was built by members of a religious ethnic group and that round barns have often been associated with religious groups (eg., Shakers)? More so than place of national origin, religious character has been a distinguishing feature of the Mennonites as an ethnic group. Could the religious connotation of round barns explain the decision to construct the Glick round barn?
2. Members of two predominately Mennonite communities, Surrey and Kenmare, collaborated to construct the Glick round barn. What other activities did these two Ward County settlements share? Did they engage in other examples of building construction? Is the construction of the Glick barn typical or atypical of construction interaction between the two locales?
3. Are there barn or dwelling designs typical of American Mennonite farms? Do these characteristics appear in farms around Surrey and Kenmare? While atypical of Mennonite farms of North Dakota, does the Glick barn represent a type common to the ethnic group nationally?
4. Once the relationship between Surrey and Kenmare (question #2, above) is better understood, what place does the construction of this barn occupy in that relationship? Does the construction of the barn result from social, rather than from religious, relationships between the two communities?
5. Did the relationship between Surrey and Kenmare enhance the viability of either or both settlements? Since the practice of "barn raising" has not been documented to be as common as the use of professional carpenters to construct buildings in North Dakota, is there other evidence of corporate effort to build the two towns? Does the erection of the Glick round barn signify typical attempts in Surrey and Kenmare to provide shelter and outbuildings which facilitated agricultural activities?

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage of nominated property: Less than one acre
Quadrangle name: Surrey, 1948 (Photo revised 1981)
UTM References: Zone: 14
Easting: 338675
Northing: 5343340

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Verbal Boundary Description: The nominated property lies in the Northeast quarter of the Northwest quarter of the Northeast quarter of Section 26, Township 155 North, Range 82 West, and includes the round barn and the land surrounding it at a distance of fifteen feet.