

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

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REGISTER

Section number CZ 6 Page 1 John Merkwan Jr. House

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Site # CZ 6

1. John Merkwan Jr. Rubblestone House.
2. Lincoln Township  
Tabor Vicinity  
South Dakota Code: 046
3. Building; Privately owned; NA acquisition; Occupied; Restricted access;  
Private residence.
4. Louis and Stella Merkwan  
RR 2, Box 66  
Tyndall, SD 57066
5. Register of Deeds  
Bon Homme County Courthouse  
Tyndall, SD 57066
7. Excellent; Altered; Original site.

The John Merkwan Jr. House is a stone masonry L-shaped dwelling with three bays sited on a working farm. It rests on a stone foundation. An original thin plaster veneer has been covered with a modern coat of stucco and painted white. Arched window openings are tapered to provide solar lighting and incorporate thick wooden sills. The intersecting gable roof is constructed of common rafters with a very thin ridge piece. Rafter spacing is approximately 25 inches. There are two chimneys. An L-shaped enclosed porch on the east facade serves as a kitchen and entry. The house has no running water facilities. Interior walls are in a good state of repair and are painted in modern pastel hues of blue, peach, and white.

Several yards to the north is a fast-deteriorating single-pen log structure that the owners purport is the original house. In ruins, this building is not eligible for listing, but added to thematic patterns discovered during the survey.

8. 1869-1899; Architecture, Exploration/Settlement, Czech Ethnic.

Specific date unknown. Attributed to John Merkwan Jr.

Significant in architecture, the John Merkwan Jr. House is the best-kept original L-shaped masonry house in the survey area. Its current owners and occupants continue to live in the house without the benefit of running water, just as their ancestors who built it lived.

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The John Merkwan Jr. House is also significant in the history of Czech settlement in the state. John Merkwan Jr., born in Bohemia in 1858, was the son of John Merkwan Sr. who brought his family to Dakota Territory some time before 1880. (See site nos. CZ 1-a, CZ 1-b, and CZ 13.) John Jr. and his first wife Josefa Cihak, who died in 1891, had three children. By his second wife, Catherine Tucek, he had five children, the youngest of whom is the present owner of the property, Louis Merkwan. The Merkwan family has always been held membership of the St. Wenceslaus Catholic Parish.

Major biographical source: Povondra (1973), 4-7.

10. Acreage: Less than one acre. Scale: 1:24,000.  
Quad.: Kloucek Lake. UTM: 14/ 604620/ 4761900.

This property consists of a L-shaped masonry house. The western boundary is an imaginary line lying 15 feet from the westernmost wall of the house and running parallel to that wall. The northern boundary is an imaginary line lying 15 feet from the northernmost wall of the house and running parallel to that wall. The eastern boundary is an imaginary line lying 15 feet from the easternmost wall of the house and running parallel to that wall. The southern boundary is an imaginary line lying 15 feet from the southernmost wall of the house and running parallel to that wall. The site is located in the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 32, Township 95 North, Range 58 West, in Bon Homme County.

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SITE PLAN OF FARMSTEAD CONTAINING CZ 6 ON REVERSE SIDE

SITE PLAN (Complete inventory of all structures, their function, dates & details of construction, and surrounding vegetation) WITH NORTH ARROW

SITE NAME: John + Anna Merkulov (Alais Merkulov)  
CZ SURVEY #: 6

