

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet Fruitdale Store Item number BU-5F Page 1

SITE 5F

NAME Fruitdale Store

LOCATION Northeast corner of Water and Main Streets in Fruitdale, Butte County (019), South Dakota (046)

OWNER James D. Martindale
Box 56
Fruitdale, South Dakota 57742

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

DESCRIPTION Very good, unaltered, original site

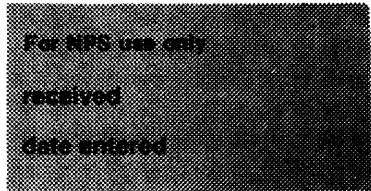
The Fruitdale Store was for many years the only retail store in the town of Fruitdale (1983 pop. 88). The store proper composes most of the structure; however living quarters now occupy the western half of the structure. The store is a simple wood-frame rectangular building with a flat, corrugated metal covered roof. The front elevation faces east on Main Street in downtown Fruitdale.

A high, shed roofed porch spans the entire front of the building which is surmounted by a false front that rises about three feet above the roof of the porch. Seven wooden columns support the porch. The columns have rounded shafts with square elongated capitals, scalloped ornamental edging at the bases and simple square bases. The store has a pair of double wooden doors and plate glass windows in the front elevation. Another door, a large window composed of plate glass sections, and one double-hung window are in the western residential section of the front elevation. Facing Water Street the west elevation has five windows and one door. The false front wraps around the west elevation from the front of the building. The north elevation has been covered with corrugated metal and has one window and one door. Covered in corrugated metal, the east elevation has no openings. The store exterior is painted white and has white trim.

A wood-frame shed roofed outhouse is located north of the store at the edge of a garden. Shrubby and flower beds run along the entire length of the west side.

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Continuation sheet Fruitdale Store Item number BV-5F Page 2

SIGNIFICANCE 1900-Present, architecture, commerce, ca. 1910

2

DATE ca. 1910

BUILDER Unknown

The Fruitdale Store derives its significance from its architectural simplicity and its importance as the only known co-operative mercantile general store in the two county area. One of the oldest known photographs of early construction in downtown Fruitdale shows the store already completed at the corner of Main and Water Streets while other downtown buildings were in various stages of fabrication. The building has remained unchanged since its construction in the early twentieth century.

The cooperative store had its foundation during the 1840s in England and became part of the larger cooperative movement that reached the United States in the same decade, as well as and was an important force in the development of many industries in Scandinavia. To a large extent the cooperative movement in the American frontier west can be attributed to the Scandinavian immigrants who settled the northern plains and the wheat triangle of the Dakotas and Montana.

Snoma, a Finnish town started in the 1880s about one-and-one-half miles from the Belle Fourche River and ten miles east of Belle Fourche, may have been instrumental in the establishment of the Fruitdale Co-operative Mercantile Company. After the Chicago and North Western Railway started laying track east from Belle Fourche the Fruitdale townsite was laid out in 1909 at a strategically placed location on the 880 acre H.M. Stearns ranch. Prior to that time Stearns alfalfa ranch and Fruitdale Apiary, of some renown, were located in Snoma. With the creation of the new town on the railroad, many of the Snoma businesses moved to the more favorable location and by the spring of 1911 even the Snoma post office was forced to close.

The Fruitdale Co-operative Mercantile Store remains in Fruitdale as a symbol of the democratic pioneer values that created South Dakota. It was that spirit of cooperation that enabled the homesteaders, farmers, and ranchers to win the struggle and ultimately conquer the harsh environment of the northern plains, a part of the last American frontier.

QUADRANGLE NAME Fruitdale, South Dakota

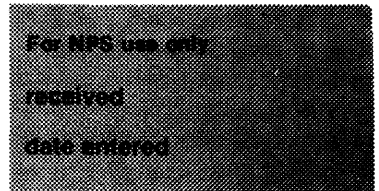
UTM REFERENCE 14/603400/4946820

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

ACREAGE Less than one

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Continuation sheet Fruitdale Store Item number BU-5F Page 3

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The site boundaries are formed by the intersection of Water and Main Streets on the west and south, and intersecting fence lines on the north and east (approximately 10 feet from the building). The site is located in Fruitdale, the NW quarter of the SE quarter, Section 12, Township 8, North Range 3, East in Butte County, South Dakota.

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Continuation sheet *FRUITDALE STORE*

Item number *BU-5F*

Page *4*

