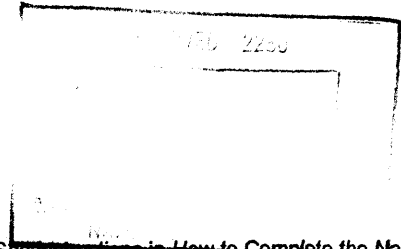


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name Swanson Home

Other names/site number N/A

### 2. Location

street & number 30572 483rd Avenue not for publication

city or town Alcester Vicinity x

State South Dakota code SD county Union code 127 zip code 51023

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination x request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets     does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant     nationally     statewide x locally. (     See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jay D. Vogt  
Signature of certifying official/Title

04-09-2006  
Date

SD SHPO  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property     meets     does not meet the National Register criteria. (     See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.  
    See continuation sheet

    determined eligible for the National Register.  
    See continuation sheet

    determined not eligible for the National Register.

    removed from the National Register.

    other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Edgar H. Beall

Date of Action

5.31.06

5. Classification

Ownership of Property  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property  
(Do not incl. previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Non-Contributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic      Single Dwelling

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic      Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Prairie

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Wood frame

roof Wood

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
x C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1911

Significant Dates

1911

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Swan John Swanson

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property.) SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.) SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
#
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record#

Primary location of additional data:

- x State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM References on a continuation sheet.)

1	Zone 14	Easting 700066	Northing 4758848	3	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	Zone	Easting	Northing	4	Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.) See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.) See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mike Vogel

organization SD SHPO date February 10, 2006

street & number 900 Governors Drive telephone 605-773-6056

city or town Pierre state SD zip code 57501

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Roger and Caren Sonichsen

street & number 30572 483rd Avenue telephone 605-547-2120

city or town Hawarden state IA zip code 51023

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet -

SWANSON HOUSE  
UNION COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA

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## Architectural Description

The Swanson House is a farmhouse located in Union County, seven miles southeast of Alcester. The Prairie Style house was built in 1911.

The façade faces north. The house has wood shingles, cedar wood clapboard siding, a central chimney and a concrete block foundation.

The façade (north elevation) has an open hip-roof porch on the first floor that extends the length of the house and is supported by three round columns. A three step cement staircase located nearer the east end leads to the porch. The porch is supported by concrete blocks on the corners and the space between the porch floor and the ground on the outer sides of the porch is enclosed with a cross-hatched trellis. From left to right on the first floor of this elevation there is a smaller four pane fixed window, the wooden main entrance door with a one pane window in the upper half and a cottage window nearer the west end. On the second floor are two evenly spaced one over one double hung windows. A hip-roof dormer with two small one over one double hung windows exists in the attic portion of the roof.

The east elevation features a hip roof centered three foot wide side bay that extends vertically the height of the house and constitutes almost half of the space on this elevation. On the south end of this elevation is an enclosed porch. From left to right on the first floor there is a two over two double hung window. A metal door leads into the north end of the porch. A four step cement staircase and landing covered with outdoor carpet and equipped with metal handrails leads to the door. Next is a combination of three sliding windows just south of the side bay. On the side bay is a centered metal entrance door and located above the door are a pair of one over one windows that follow the interior stair. On the north side of the side bay is a one over one double hung window. Beneath this window, in the foundation, is a small side by side one pane sliding basement window. The second story features a one over one double hung window on the north and south end.

On the south elevation first floor, from left to right, there is a two pane casement window nearer the top of this floor. Next to the window is the enclosed porch that juts out some eight feet and covers  $\frac{3}{4}$  of this floor on the southeast side. A two over two double hung window is located on the west side of the porch nearer the south end. The south side of the porch features two fixed multi-paned picture windows. On the second floor, from left to right, on the porch roof is a deck surrounded with a wooden railing on the three open sides. In the middle of the second floor and on the west end of the deck is a metal door with a two pane window leading to the house. To the right of the door is a small one pane fixed window and nearer the east end is a one over one double hung window. A hipped roof dormer similar to the one on the north elevation is located in the attic level on the roof of this elevation.

From left to right on the first floor of the west elevation there is a one over one double hung window and a hipped roof bay window on the south end. The bay window has two one over one double hung windows on the north and south sides. The west side of the bay includes a cottage window with leaded glass. Along the foundation are two small side by side one pane sliding windows nearer the north end and a fixed small two pane window beneath the bay. On the second floor there are two one over one double hung windows nearer the north and south ends. A hipped roof dormer similar to the ones on the north and south elevations exists on the roof in the attic section.

A special feature for the majority of the interior of the house is the 3 ½ inch hemlock wood flooring. All of the original ponderosa pine woodwork and staircase, with the exception of the kitchen area that was remodeled in the early 1950's remains in

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet -

SWANSON HOUSE  
UNION COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA

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the house. Except for the bathroom upstairs, all of the lathe and plaster ceilings and walls are still in place. Off of the basement on the east side is a root cellar that is used yet today. The cellar's walls and ceiling are made of chicken wire mesh and plaster.

### Statement of Significance

The Swanson House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as it is a fine example of a Prairie Style house constructed during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century in South Dakota. The style is defined by a low pitched roof, usually hipped, with widely overhanging eaves, two stories, with one story wings or porches.<sup>1</sup>

Alcester, South Dakota is located in Union County in the very southeastern part of the state. The territory that Union County occupies today was inhabited by Sioux Indians prior to 1859. A treaty between the Federal Government and the Yankton Sioux moved them to the reservation further west toward the Missouri River. Immediately following this move, white immigration in the area began.<sup>2</sup>

The early settlers concentrated in the area around Elk Point and Sioux Point at the junction of the Missouri Rivers. Gradually settlers moved northward and it was in the late 1860's and early 1870's that the homesteaders came into the vicinity of what became Alcester.<sup>3</sup>

Union County was first created and organized as Cole County in honor of a territorial legislator, Austin Cole in 1862. January 7, 1864, the legislature rearranged the boundaries of Cole and Lincoln counties and the name Cole was changed to Union. This name was probably chosen because of the strong sentiment existing at the time of the Civil War.<sup>4</sup>

Swan John Swanson traveled the high seas aboard a Swedish Windjammer for twelve years prior to coming to the United States. It is believed that Mr. Swanson served as the chief navigator for the ocean going vessel. In the very early 1900's Swan John decided to immigrate to the United States where many of his relatives from Sweden had gone. He selected Odebolt Iowa, where other Swedish relatives lived, as his first settling point in this country. In Odebolt he spent the most part of a year learning English as well as the American system of finance and farming. While in Odebolt he was encouraged to move north west by another relative with a surname of Olson who had settled in South Dakota as a homesteader. Swan John moved to Union County near Alcester where he purchased a farm from the Townsends which was just east of his relative Olson. For the first several years Swan John lived in a sod and tarpaper home that he built initially approximately ¼ mile north of the existing Swanson House. Mr. Swanson was in the United States for 4 years before he decided to go back to Sweden and get his girlfriend Matilda and bring her back to South Dakota. Along with Swan John and Matilda they brought three other Swedish women who joined their men folk in Iowa, Minnesota and South Dakota.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, (Alfred Knopf, Inc., New York, 1984) p. 438

<sup>2</sup> Edward Elliot Collins, *A History of Union County, South Dakota to 1880*, (Department of History, University of South Dakota, 1937)

<sup>3</sup> Alcester Centennial Committee, *Centennial, Alcester, South Dakota*, 1979 p. 8

<sup>4</sup> Ibid

<sup>5</sup> Roger and Caren Sonichsen, *Personal Correspondence*, 2006

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SWANSON HOUSE  
UNION COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA

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The Swanson House exhibits some of the characteristics of the Prairie Style architecture with the low pitched hipped roof, the wide overhanging eaves, two stories and a one story width wide front porch. The addition on the back end of the house is compatible and doesn't affect the integrity of the house. The Swanson House is eligible under Criterion C as a good example of Prairie Style architecture in early 20<sup>th</sup> century South Dakota.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet -

SWANSON HOUSE  
UNION COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA

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## Bibliography

- Stephen Rogers and Linda B. Schwan, *Architectural History of South Dakota*. South Dakota Historic Preservation Office. Pierre, SD 2000
- Edward Elliot Collins, *A History of Union County, South Dakota to 1880*. Department of History, University of South Dakota. Vermillion, SD 1937
- Alcester Centennial Committee, *Centennial, Alcester, South Dakota*. Alcester, South Dakota 1979
- Roger and Caren Sonichsen, *Personal Correspondence*. Hawarden, IA 2006

## Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary is an imaginary line encompassing the house. It begins at a point five feet northwest of the northwest corner and runs east to a point five feet northeast of the northeast corner. It then runs south to a point five feet southeast of the southeast corner. It then runs west to a point five feet southwest of the southwest corner. It then runs north to the original starting point.

## Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundary includes only the house. No other buildings on the farmstead retain historical integrity or are within the period of significance.