

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: REMOVAL

PROPERTY NAME: Rodman Octagonal Barn

MULTIPLE NAME: North Dakota Round Barns TR

STATE & COUNTY: NORTH DAKOTA, La Moure

DATE RECEIVED: 5/29/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/14/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 86002753

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 7.14.15 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

REMOVED
from
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA

REVIEWER

DISCIPLINE

TELEPHONE

DATE

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



**STATE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
OF NORTH DAKOTA**

RECEIVED 2280

MAY 29 2015

**Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service**

Jack Dalrymple
Governor of North Dakota

**North Dakota
State Historical Board**

Calvin Grinnell
New Town - President

A. Ruric Todd III
Jamestown - Vice President

Margaret Puetz
Bismarck - Secretary

Albert I. Berger
Grand Forks

Gerold Gerntholz
Valley City

Diane K. Larson
Bismarck

Chester E. Nelson, Jr.
Bismarck

Sara Otte Coleman
*Director
Tourism Division*

Kelly Schmidt
State Treasurer

Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State

Mark Zimmerman
*Director
Parks and Recreation
Department*

Grant Levi
*Director
Department of
Transportation*

Claudia J. Berg
Director

*Accredited by the
American Alliance
of Museums since 1986*

Date: 26 May 2015

86002753

To: J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper
National Register of Historic Places

From: Lorna Meidinger/Claudia J. Berg
Architectural Historian/State Historic Preservation Officer, ND

Re: Request for Removal from the National Register of Historic Places

Name of Property: Rodman Octagonal Barn, 32LM75

Address: Twp 134 R 65 Sect 24, NE 1/4 of SE 1/4 of NE 1/4

State: North Dakota

City/Township: Edgeley vic.

County: LaMoure

Reason for Removal: The property has ceased to meet the criteria for listing because the qualities which caused it to be originally listed have been lost or destroyed (36 CFR 60.15(a)).

Date and Nature of Change: The building has been demolished.

Comments:

When listed in 1986, the property retained all seven types of integrity (location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association). Demolition of the barn resulted in a total loss of integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Prepared by:

Lorna Meidinger, Architectural Historian
State Historical Society of North Dakota



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J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street NW (MS 2280)
Washington DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether,

Enclosed please find four memos requesting removal of demolished buildings from the National Register of Historic Places.

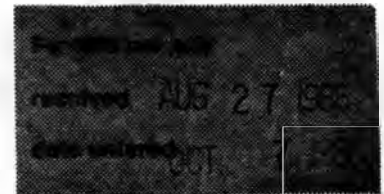
Though I am saddened by the loss of this historic North Dakota property, we will continue to seek out new properties to represent our history in the National Register.

Sincerely,

Claudia J. Berg
State Historic Preservation Officer
(North Dakota)

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

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 Page 23

NAME: Robert Abell Round Barn

LOCATION: Vicinity of Burnstad, North Dakota 38, Logan County 047

CLASSIFICATION: Status Occupied; Present Use Agriculture

OWNER OF PROPERTY: Bert Abell, Burnstad, North Dakota

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Register of Deeds, Logan County Courthouse, Napoleon, North Dakota

DESCRIPTION: Robert Abell built this round barn in 1942 as a holding area for his expanding livestock operation. The barn sits in the center of the collection of buildings, near the property's lowest elevation.

The barn has a sixty foot diameter, a truncated conical roof covered with wood shingles, and south side opening. Dimension lumber (2"x 6") gives wall support and forms the 99 rafters. A circle made by six large posts spaced eight feet apart provide vertical support for the roof at the point where the rafters connect. A lamination of six curved 1"x 4" boards make up the sill and wall plate (see photo). The walls are horizontal wood siding bent to shape.

The integrity of the barn is excellent. The only change from construction is the replacement of the bottom sill, required due to rotting. The replacement sill is firmly planted into the ground and not very apparent.

SIGNIFICANCE: Date: 1942
Architect and Builder: Robert Abell

The Abell round barn is an exceptionally significant illustration of the theme of round barn construction in North Dakota. The forty-four year old structure was created apparently without outside influence and represents a transitional structure in the history of the theme and the larger phenomenon of barn construction.

The present owner recalls details of the construction, the cost of \$800 and the absence of plans. He cited the conventionally recognized benefit, the efficiency of space and more square feet per construction dollar, as reasons for its construction. However, many features of the barn are variations on the round barn theme.

The most noticeable departure is the single story construction. The absence of a mow covered by a self supported roof, as well as the use of support posts also were not common round barn construction solutions after the second decade of this century. Its spartan interior of dirt floor and no stalls are also conspicuous.

These abnormalities may be best explained with reference to the other structures on the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet

Item number

8 & 10

Page

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farm. The buildings built on site prior to the 1940's were of stud construction, permanently sited and meant to remain so. On the other hand, those erected after the round barn are of pole construction or were moved to the site, affording flexibility of location and easier mobility as relocation might become necessary. Casual observation suggests that this is true of farm buildings throughout the area. The round barn employs both types of structural systems, stud and pole, and is situated in the center of the farm's temporal continuum. Its hybrid structure speaks of its transitional nature in the architectural history of the farm. Its support system is a product of the vernacular building knowledge possessed by its builder.

It is also a product of a phenomenon which is national in scope, that of designing buildings in the most efficient manner possible. That impulse led farmers to experiment with the octagonal, and eventually the round shape for farm structures. The elder Abell, apparently without direct influence, engaged in that experiment in creating this resource. The barn's present owner, the builder's son, recalls no plans or other design inspirations which might account for the unusual expression. Its anomalous appearance testifies to its creation in a cultural vacuum. Its exceptional importance derives from its presence as an experimental solution to farm economics.

Those same experiments led to the abandonment of the traditional barn during the 1940's for more flexible pole barns and metal frame structures throughout the state. The construction system of this round barn probably would have been conceived as obsolete for any date after the mid-1940's. The Abell barn is architecturally related to the historical barn building practice, and is nominated thusly. Its mow-less roof with post supports introduces the construction system and barn types which succeeded historic barns. Thus, it is an especially important indicator of changing building technologies and farming practices in general. And it is exceptionally significant for providing a temporal limit for the round barn phenomenon specifically.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA: Acreage of nominated property: Less than one acre.

Quadrangle Name: Lehr, NW N. Dak., 1982

UTM References: Zone: 14

Easting: 463480

Northing: 5135755

Verbal Boundary Description: The nominated area is located in the West half of the Northwest quarter of the Southwest quarter of Section 34, Township 134 North, Range 70 West. The nominated area includes the round barn and the land on which it stands and a surrounding fifteen foot zone of protection.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name North Dakota Round Barns Thematic Resources
State Divide and other counties, NORTH DAKOTA

Substantive Review *Conn Beth Grosvenor 10/1/86*

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Baker, Cecil, Round Barn

*Entered in the
National Register*

for Keeper

Melvin Byers 10/7/86

Attest

50 2. Abell, Robert, Round Barn

Substantive Review

Keeper

L. J. Byers 10/7/86

Attest

3. Funseth, Carlott, Round Barn

*Entered in the
National Register*

for Keeper

Melvin Byers 10/7/86

Attest

50 4. Cote, Urbain, Round Barn

Substantive Review

Keeper

L. J. Byers 10/7/86

Attest

5. Gerhardt Octagonal Pig House

*Entered in the
National Register*

for Keeper

Melvin Byers 10/7/86

Attest

6. Glick, Levi, Round Barn

Substantive Review

Keeper

Beth Grosvenor 3/25/87

Attest

7. Marriage, Sylvanus, Octagonal Barn

*Entered in the
National Register*

for Keeper

Melvin Byers 10/7/86

Attest

8. Myhre, Jens, Round Barn

Substantive Review

Keeper

Beth Grosvenor 10/1/86

Attest

9. Nielsen, Niels, Fourteen-Side Barn Farm

*Entered in the
National Register*

for Keeper

Melvin Byers 10/7/86

Attest

10. Patterson Octagonal Barn

Substantive Review

Determined Eligible
Keeper

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Attest *Eligible: Beth Grosvenor 10/1/86*

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



Robert Abel Round Barn
Round Barn Thematic Nomination
Burnstad vicinity, Logan County, ND

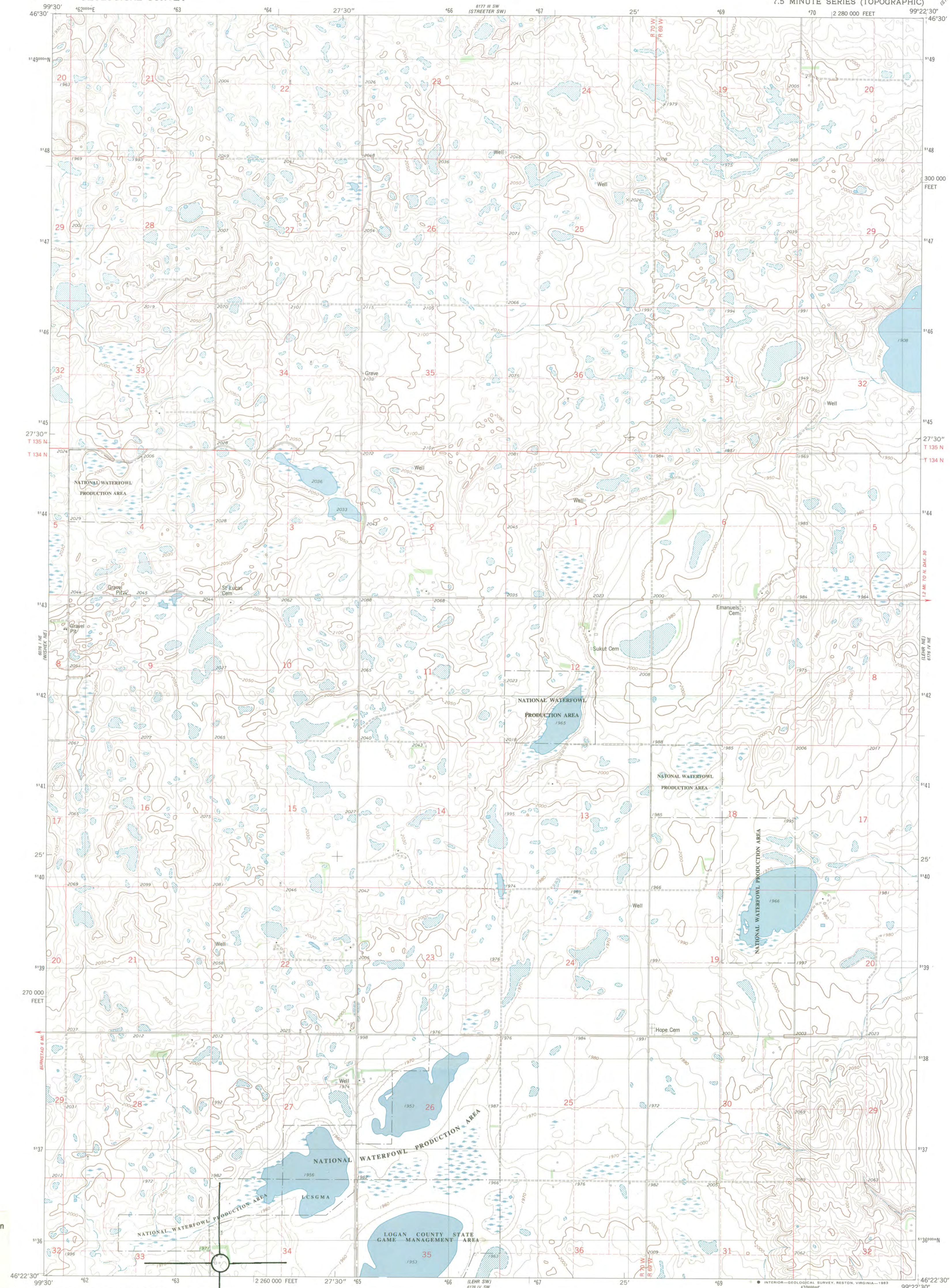
Photo credit: L. Martin Perry

Date of photo: March, 1986

Location of negative: State Historical Society of North Dakota
North Dakota Heritage Center
Bismarck, ND 58505

Direction to South.

Photo 1 of 12



Robert Abel Round Barn
Round Barn Thematic
Burnstad vicinity
Logan County, ND
Zone: 14
Easting: 463480
Northing: 5135755

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA

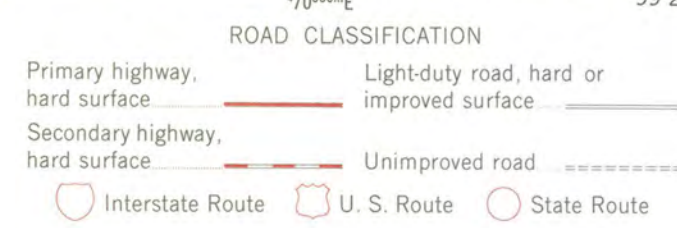
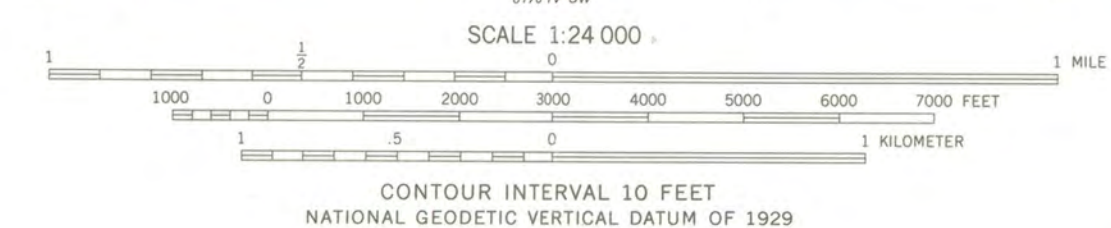
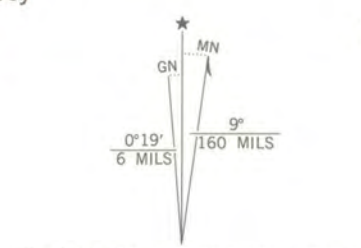
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1976. Field checked 1978. Map edited 1982

Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: North Dakota coordinate system, south zone (Lambert conformal conic)
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 14
1927 North American Datum

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 6 meters north and 31 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs
This information is unchecked



LEHR NW, N. DAK.
N4622.5-W9922.5/7.5

1982

DMA 6176 IV NW—SERIES V871

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Abell, Robert, Round Barn (North Dakota Round
Barns TR)
Logan County
NORTH DAKOTA

Substantive Review

AUG 27 1986

Working No. _____
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/2/88
Date Due: 9/25/86 - 10/11/86
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 10-7-86
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☒ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria Accept - A/C
Reviewer Grover
Discipline Historic
Date 10/1/86
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use
----------	---------------------------------	----------------------	-------------

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
		<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection