

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

RECORDED

MAY 27 1987

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

Section number CZ 25 Page 1 Frydrych Farmstead

Site # CZ 25

1. John Frydrych Farmstead.
  
2. Cleveland Township   First Congr. District  
Tyndall Vicinity    Bon Homme County    Code: 009  
South Dakota     Code: 046
  
3. Buildings; privately owned; NA acquisition; Unoccupied; Restricted access;  
Vacant, Agricultural.
  
4. John Fredrich   5. Register of Deeds  
P. O. Box 352    Bon Homme County Courthouse  
Wagner, SD     57380    Tyndall, SD     57066
  
7. Good (unless otherwise noted); Unaltered; Original site.

The John Frydrych Farmstead is situated four miles east of the city of Tyndall, SD. It is a vacant, yet well maintained, early Czech farm site containing eighteen buildings. This site differs from others recorded during the survey in that it remains by itself an eligible property, combining folk buildings with American vernacular farm buildings all in essentially unaltered, integral condition. The farm looks much as it did at the turn of the century with the addition of few modern structures. Partly due to its size and its composition, this property conveys representations of both folk architecture and of the prosperity enjoyed by John Frydrych, one of the earliest Czechs to settle in Dakota Territory.

The buildings are:

1. House. (Contributing) The house is a two-story, cube-shaped structure constructed of pressed bricks and rests on a rubblestone foundation mortared with cement. Bearing some Italianate stylistic characteristics, the exterior displays two bays on the west and north facades and three bays on the east and south facades. Fenestration includes entry doors covered by small open porches in the middle of the east and south facades. Window and door openings on the first floor are capped by brick jack arches; window openings on the second floor include projecting brick lintels. The house is covered by a truncated pyramidal roof with wooden shingles. A single brick chimney rises from the center of the roof.

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The interior arrangement is an odd four-room plan. Decoration includes colored glass window panels and cut corner blocks on door frames.

2. Privy. The outhouse is a gable-roofed, one-story frame structure with a door on the south facade.

3. Laundry. (Contributing) This frame structure is one story in height and has a concrete floor that is flush with the ground. Used as a laundry for the farm, it includes a chimney stack rising from the center of the roof, which facilitated a stove for heating water, and a drainage trough in the center of the floor. A single window pierces the south gable, and entry is gained via a door on the west axial facade. The north end includes a clipped gable or jerkin head treatment, common on Czech buildings in Europe.

4. Barn. (Contributing) An immense folk structure, this bank barn is built of rubblestone masonry and heavy timber frame construction to dimensions of 160 feet by 36 feet. Without the benefit of an excavated foundation, the first story comprises four rubblestone walls, the westernmost of which is banked into the side of a hill. The undressed field stones were mortared with cement that was mixed on the site using native materials. Ceiling joists are large machine-cut timber, attached to a massive wall plate via scarf joints. There is stone and mud infill above the wall plate. The upper level is built of timber frame technology utilizing purlins and king posts. A gable roof is constructed of 81 common rafters placed 2 feet apart, covered by rough lumber and wooden shingles. The roof is capped by two vented wooden cupolas.

Intended for animal confinement, the lower level has eight small fixed sash windows on the east axial facade and two on the south gable facade. A small entry door is located about midway along the east facade. Also, each gable end has a large drive-in door. The upper level, on the other hand, was intended as a hay loft and features a large drive-in door at the center of the west banked axial wall. There are six very small hay doors along the east axial wall and one at the south gable end. Animal stalls and original whitewash are extant on the interior of the barn.

This structure is still used for occasional animal confinement.

5. Chicken Coop This building, intended as a chicken coop, is octagonal in shape and built of wood frame construction. It is fair condition.

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6. Corn Crib. This building is a round, wire mesh corn crib.
7. Modern Granary. This structure is a contemporary circular galvanized metal granary.
8. Outbuilding. This wood frame outbuilding is square in shape and is covered by a pyramidal roof. Although its original use is unknown, there is evidence that it may have been a milk house.
9. Garage. A recent construction, this wood frame garage is used for machinery storage.
10. Outbuilding. This small rectangular wood frame structure is less than a full story in height. It is sheathed with twelve-inch-wide weatherboard siding. A single hand-made window is located on the south gable end, and a door opens along the east axial facade. The smudged interior walls indicate that it may have been used for smoking meats. The building is in fair condition.
11. Chicken Coop. This coop is a wood frame structure with a shed roof. It is in fair condition.
12. Machine Shed. This large wood frame building has verticle siding and a gable roof. Sliding drive-in doors are located on the north gable facade.
13. Dog House. The dog house is built of wood frame construction and has a gable roof.
14. Chicken Coop. A recent addition to the farmstead, this coop is an octagal-shaped wood frame building.
15. Granary. (Contributing) This retangular wood frame granary with dimensions of 40'7" by 20' displays several folk construction characteristics common to early Czech buildings in the state. Such features are floor joists that are notched to fit the wall studs as are the rafters to fit the wall plate. In addition, there is a hand-made ladder-stair in the center of the granary. However, little information presently exists to allow comparison of these traits and the building's basic form to that of other Czech granaries. The building rests on unmortared field stones and has doors in the center of each axial facade. It is sheathed with weatherboard siding and patches of rusted tin sheets. The gable roof is covered with deteriorating wooden

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shingles. Overall, the granary is in fair condition, but cannot be used for its intended purpose in its present condition.

16. Machine Shed. This structure is a modern wood frame machine shed with concrete footings and a gable roof covered with sheet metal.

17. Log House. Several yards to the south of the main body of the farmstead lie the ruins of the original log house. It served as the homestead claim building for John Frydrych. A rectangular structure of the single-pen form discussed in the overview, it measures 17' by 14'10" and rests on unmortared field stones. The horizontal log walls are constructed of two-sided planking technology using tight interstices chinked with mud and small stones. The corners are interlocked with full dovetail notches. Nailer strips on the exterior indicate that the house once was sided, but no other evidence of exterior sheathing is extant. There is one door opening on the north facade and window openings on the south and east facades. None of the roof material, including joists, rafters or chimney evidence, exists. Some of the original lath-and-plaster is present on interior walls. Although the building is in poor condition and cannot be considered an eligible folk building, it provided information used in the formulation of thematic patterns expressed in the overview.

18. Shed. Built of wood frame construction, this small gable-roofed shed may have been used as a granary. At present it is vacant and in fair condition.

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8. 1869-1920; Architecture, Exploration/Settlement, Czech Ethnic.

Specific dates unknown. John Frydrych, builder.

Significant in architecture, the Frydrych Farmstead provides a great deal of information about early Czech folk buildings in South Dakota. The bank barn is the largest Czech barn in the survey area and perhaps in the state. It displays a developed masonry tradition combined with heavy timber frame technology. The barn features several distinctive Czech characteristics such as window openings tapered to the inside, notched timbers, and packing over the wall plate. Although often found on farms of non-Czech background, the laundry and the granary also offer evidence of Czech traditions, including a jerkin head roof and a finely crafted ladder-stair. The brick house may represent a later masonry tradition of Czech influence, but little is known about it at this time. At present, it represents Frydrych's growing prosperity.

Taken as a whole, the site displays a combination of these early folk buildings with later American vernacular farm buildings typical to Czech farmsteads in the survey area. On the Frydrych farm, however, this combination is more pronounced than at other sites, due to the large number of structures in tact, their size, and their integrity. Even though the farm is currently vacant, a few of the buildings are used by neighbors. With little repair, the entire farmstead could be made operational, including using the house for residential purposes.

The Frydrych Farmstead is also significant in the history of Czech settlement in the state. John Frydrych came to Dakota Territory from Bohemia in 1869 and engaged in blacksmithing at several locations. By the 1870's, he filed on this homestead in Bon Homme County. His wife, Josephine, came from Moravia in 1872. In 1885, he was one the charter members of the "Star of the West" No. 41 Z.C.B.J. lodge in Tabor. He continued to expand his farm operation to include several parcels of land around his original homestead. The present owner, John Fredrich, is the grandson of John Frydrych (note spelling change).

Major biographical source: Dvorak (1980), 23, 47; George W. Kingsbury, History of Dakota Territory, George Martin Smith, South Dakota: Its History and Its People, (Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publ. Co., 1915), 337-8.

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10. Acreage: 16 acres.  
Quad.: Tyndall.

Scale: 1/24,000.  
Utms: A. 14/ 599920/ 4758740  
B. 14/ 599720/ 4758740  
C. 14/ 599720/ 4759000  
D. 14/ 600000/ 4759000.

This site consists of the entire farmstead. The northern boundary is the UTM northing line 4759000, which corresponds to the north edge of the shelter belt situated at the north edge of the site. The eastern boundary is the west bank of Snatch Creek. The southern boundary is an imaginary line running east and west and lying 450 meters south of the east-west section road and running parallel to this road. The western boundary is formed by the west edge of the farm lane and an imaginary line continuing directly south from that line. The site is located in the Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 11, Township 94 North, Range 59 West, in Bon Homme County.

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SITE PLAN OF CZ 25 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 FRYDRYCH  
CZ SURVEY #: 25 a/b

