

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

| |
|---------------------------|
| STATE: South Dakota |
| COUNTY: Lawrence |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |
| ENTRY DATE DEC 31 1974 |

1. NAME

COMMON:
Frawley Historic Ranch

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Centennial Valley, R. R. 2

CITY OR TOWN:
Spearfish

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
No. 2

STATE: South Dakota CODE: 046 COUNTY: Lawrence CODE: 081

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress | Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Ranching</u> |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Henry Frawley II, Henry Frawley III

STREET AND NUMBER:
R. R. 2

CITY OR TOWN:
Spearfish

STATE:
South Dakota

CODE:
046

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Lawrence County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Sherman Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Deadwood

STATE:
South Dakota

CODE:
046

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
South Dakota Historic Sites Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: June, 1974 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Historical Preservation Center

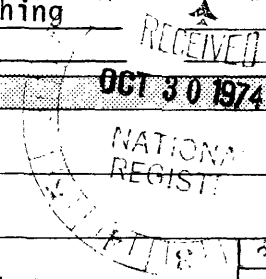
STREET AND NUMBER:
USD Alumni House

CITY OR TOWN:
Vermillion

STATE:
South Dakota

CODE:
046

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:
COUNTY:
ENTRY NUMBER:
DATE:
FOR NPS USE ONLY

DEC 31 1974

7. DESCRIPTION

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|--|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One) | | | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
| | (Check One) | | | (Check One) | | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Frawley ranch is located in the Black Hills about seven miles north of Deadwood and seven miles east of Spearfish in Centennial Valley. Abundant winter and summer grasses create a fertile grazing area for this 4,750 acre livestock operation. The terrain is mostly flat except for Elkhorn Peak that rises 4,555 feet and dominates the skyline. Enhancing the natural setting is a profusion of hard woods, ponderosa pines, wildflowers and wildlife. Except for Interstate 90 and U.S. Highway 85, the tract of land remains much as it was hundreds of years ago.

With the arrival of the whiteman, this area consisted of several small homesteads which for various reasons were obtained by Henry J. Frawley I. By 1913, the ranch reached its present size and was divided into four sections: upper, middle, lower, and east ranches.

A portion of the upper section was the original homestead bought by Frawley in 1891. A fire in 1912 destroyed two adjacent courtyard barns except for the cutstone portions. These structures were rebuilt the following year and constitute two of the finest buildings of the ranch. The smaller of these two main barns is a two story cutstone building with tin covered gable roof of medium pitch. A cupola, hay hoist, and a gabled dormer are utilized along with flat and segmented surrounds. Three closely spaced doors and a large stable opening lead to the courtyard. The remaining three sides are a combination of red horizontal siding and cutstone with shed roofs and open livestock stalls. Other features include a snubbing post, tac room, large haylofts, horses' stalls, and carriage stalls.

The larger courtyard's main barn is a combination of horizontal siding and cutstone with the entire south wall of the latter. It has three open stalls with the main entrance offset to the left. Several cupolas are used on the tin covered gable roof. Livestock stalls, a small corral and several haylofts are utilized in the remaining two story gable complex.

The middle ranch's most significant building is the Anna and Marion Draper roadhouse built in 1888. Originally, this seventeen room house served as a hotel and eating establishment for travelers in the Black Hills. Since Henry Frawley bought the acreage in 1912, it has been used for several purposes. It is a two story Neo-colonial style with tar paper covering the original clapboard siding. Wood shingles cover a medium hip roof and a large front dormer. Two flat topped bay windows were built on the front and left side. The remaining openings are flat with lintel and slipsill surrounds with muntin. A small rear addition to the house has little effect upon the building, which is undergoing private restoration.

The lower ranch has two important structures: the grainery and a bunkhouse. The two level grainery is constructed of cutstone on the first story and red horizontal siding on the second. A tall grain grinding section sets on top of the tin-covered gable roof and all the apparatus for this type of building still exists. A one story bunk house constructed of striped pine logs with a double saddle notch and lime mortar chinking has undergone restoration. This building has a board and batten gable with a cutstone

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1876-1913**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Frawley Ranch is one of the largest and best run cattle ranches in western South Dakota. It is also a living illustration of the failure of the 160 acre homestead concept on land ill-suited for farming. The growth of the Frawley Ranch to its present 4,750 acres was made possible by the acquisition of unsuccessful homesteads, and the application of suitable uses to the natural and economic environment.

Among those who prospered in the Black Hills was Henry J. Frawley. He represented not the itinerant prospector, but the professional class of men who came to provide services and to gain wealth. Frawley migrated from Eau Claire, Wisconsin, to Deadwood in 1877 with a law degree from the University of Wisconsin. He soon became successful by representing such clients as the Burlington, Chicago, and Quincy railroad, the American National Bank, and several mining companies. In 1890, he married Christiana Anderson (1870-1942), daughter of James Anderson, a prominent dairy man and state legislator. About this time, Frawley obtained a tract of land in the Centennial Valley which formed the beginning of his vast ranch.

The valley was named for the Centennial Party who were the original group of settlers to this region in 1876. The area's native grasses were excellent for livestock grazing but unfortunately the soil and rain were unsuited for farming 160 acre plots. Gradually, then, homesteaders sold out or failed to meet mortgages and Henry Frawley bought their lands. With the death of Christina Anderson Frawley's mother, he acquired a large tract of good grazing land. By 1913, the ranch reached its present size and Frawley became the largest real estate owner in Lawrence County.

When Henry Frawley Sr. died in 1926, the responsibility of running the ranch became that of his wife and his two sons, Henry J. II, and William who died in 1933. With the marriage of Henry to Anne Hanna in 1935, the management of the ranch was theirs. Henry II was a graduate of Notre Dame preparatory school and college where he received his bachelor degree in philosophy. Anna came from a prominent family in Rochester, New York, and attended college in San Rafael, California, where she prepared for social work and teaching. They kept the ranch operating during the depression and severe drought years.

The only child, Henry J. Frawley III took over the management of the ranch in 1962. Like his father, he also attended Notre Dame where he studied business and drama. "Hank" Frawley completed his Masters work in

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Andreas, A.T. HISTORICAL ATLAS OF DAKOTA. Chicago, Illinois. 1884.
 Arthur, Eric and Witney, Dudley. THE BARN: A VANISHING LANDMARK IN NORTH AMERICA. Greenwich, Conn.: New York Graphic Society, Ltd., 1972.
 Robinson, Donane. HISTORY OF SOUTH DAKOTA. Chicago: American Historical Society, 1930. Two Volumes.
 Abstracts of the Frawley Ranch.
 Oral interviews: Henry Frawley II, June 26, 1974
 Henry Frawley III, June 27, 1974
 Anne Hanna Frawley, June 26, 1974

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | | O R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES | | | |
|--|----------|---------|---------|---------|---|---------|--|--|
| CORNER | LATITUDE | | | | LONGITUDE | | | |
| | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds | | |
| NW | 44° | 30' | " | 103° | 44' | 39" | | |
| NE | 44° | 30' | " | 103° | 40' | 9" | | |
| SE | 44° | 26' | 44" | 103° | 40' | 9" | | |
| SW | 44° | 26' | 44" | 103° | 44' | 39" | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **4,750 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
|--------|------|---------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Scott Gerloff, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: **Historical Preservation Center** DATE: **July, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:
USD Alumni House

CITY OR TOWN: **Vermillion** STATE: **South Dakota** CODE: **046**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: *James E. Gillihan*
 Title: **Historic Preservation Officer**
 Date: 10-10-74

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

A. R. Mortensen
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: **DEC 3 1 1974**

ATTEST:
Ronald M. Greenberg
 Keeper of The National Register
DEC 3 1 1974

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

| | |
|------------------|--------------|
| STATE | South Dakota |
| COUNTY | Lawrence |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | DEC 31 1974 |

RECEIVED
OCT 30 1974
NATIONAL REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

DESCRIPTION--Page 2

foundation and is in excellent condition.

The east, or James Anderson complex, consists of three significant buildings. A cutstone barn of the Danish type has an "L" floor plan and a jerkin head roof. The two story structure has a hay loft and a large front opening and flat surrounds for all the openings. Built into the side of the hill is a one story cutstone spring house. This low pitched gable roof structure is still in operation. Seeping into the main room is an underground spring that keeps the water level over a foot deep. Initially, this was used to keep dairy products fresh, but now is used in the watering system for the cattle.

Situated on the side of a hill is the hip cottage home which because of the slope appears to be one story from the front but is two from the rear. Wood shingles and a single stack chimney at the center of the cutstone house adorn the roof. Segmented windows and surrounds are utilized along with a similar arch and fan light above the main door. Offset to the left of the facade are three wood encased windows that extend slightly from the walls. This building and the other two are undergoing private restoration and along with their building materials and location create a picturesque setting.

Other sites of the ranch include:

Evidence of Sioux burial grounds at the top of Elkhorn Peak.

The Anderson-Thybo cemetery started in 1880 has several graves of early settlers who were members of the Anderson family.

Polo Canyon cabin was relocated here because of interstate construction. It is a one and one-half story structure built in 1884 of square cut logs with a four-by-four to which they are butted. The outside has been covered with horizontal siding for protection but the logs and lime mortar chinking are exposed in the interior. This structure has undergone private restoration.

The Centennial Valley schoolhouse is a one-story gable structure built in 1809 located at the middle ranch. The outside has been covered with tar paper but the interior is the same including desks, stoves, and the equipment used in a country school.

A two-story cutstone pump and separator room is also located on the middle ranch. Built in 1888, it served as the means to pump water into the Draper roadhouse from a hand-dug well and was also used in the dairy process.

Scattered around the ranch are the remains of seventeen homesteads. These sites consist of foundation, dugouts, dams, hand-dug wells and cultural debris and are a remembrance of a bygone era.

The artistic natural setting, Indian burial ground, homestead remains: and ranch buildings provide a unique picture of the life in western South Dakota. Nature and man have combined to create visual impact upon the onlooker.

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|------------------|-------------|
| STATE | |
| South Dakota | |
| COUNTY | |
| Lawrence | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | DEC 31 1974 |

OCT 30 1974
NATIONAL REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

DESCRIPTION--Page 3

PRINCIPLE SITES ON THE HISTORIC FRAWLEY RANCH:

1. There are the remains of seventeen homesteads located throughout the ranch. These sites vary in what evidence remains of their existence. Sometimes a complete foundation exists; other times, it's a pile of rocks; and still other times, it shows an area of land that has been dug out. These sites are important for they are a testimony to the homesteaders of the nineteenth century.
2. Frawley Blacksmith building is a one and one-half story structure with a gabled roof and covered with tar paper. It is important because it still has the blacksmith's equipment stored inside. It represents another era and another mode of transportation--the horse.
3. The hand-dug well was left over from 1876. It is rock lined and the depth is about seventy-five feet. It was covered by a house in 1886. The water is still used in the Frawley ranch operation.
4. Henry Frawley's home was put together of two old homestead houses around 1886. It is an A-frame house that has been stuccoed but the interior has not changed. It is a good example of a ranch house.
5. Two courtyard barns are described in detail in the description.
6. Centennial Valley schoolhouse is described in the description.
7. The Anna and Marion Draper Spring Building is described in the description.
8. The hand-dug well on the Draper Roadhouse is still operating and goes down over fifty feet. It is a rock lined well.
9. The Draper Roadhouse is described in detail in the description.
10. Another hand-dug well is found on the Draper Roadhouse site; this was used to water the livestock.
11. James Carrol home, 1896, is a two and one-half story house with a gabled roof. It has horizontal siding and a dormer, another good example of a rural home.
12. James Carrol-Henry Frawley Barn complex is described in the description.
13. James Carrol log bunkhouse is described in the description.
14. The James Anderson ranch complex is described in detail in the description.

Note the importance of all these sites is that they represent ranching life and homesteads around the turn of the century.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

| | | |
|------------------|--------------|-------------|
| STATE | South Dakota | |
| COUNTY | Lawrence | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | | DATE |
| | | DEC 31 1974 |

(Number all entries)

DESCRIPTION--Page 4

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF THE HISTORIC FRAWLEY RANCH:

I. Range 3 E Township 6 N

SE 1/4 of NE 1/4 Section 11
SE 1/4 of Section 11

S 1/2 of SW 1/4 Section 12
NW 1/4 of SW 1/4 Section 12
S 1/2 of SE 1/4 Section 12
NE 1/4 of SE 1/4 Section 12

All of Section 13

NE 1/4 of NW 1/4 Section 15
NE 1/4 of Section 15
SE 1/4 of Section 15
SE 1/4 of SW 1/4 Section 15

NE 1/4 of Section 22
S 1/2 of SE 1/4 Section 22

N 1/2 of NW 1/4 Section 23
N 1/2 of NE 1/4 Section 23
SE 1/4 of SE 1/4 Section 23

NW 1/4 of NW 1/4 Section 24
NE 1/4 of Section 24
SE 1/4 of Section 24

N 1/2 of NE 1/4 Section 25
SW 1/4 of NE 1/4 Section 25

NW 1/4 of NW 1/4 Section 26
SW 1/4 of NW 1/4 Section 26
NE 1/4 of NE 1/4 Section 26
SE 1/4 of NE 1/4 Section 26
SW 1/4 of Section 26
SE 1/4 of Section 26

E 1/2 of NE 1/4 Section 27
E 1/2 of SE Section 27

II. Range 4 E Township 6 N

SW 1/4 of NW 1/4 Section 7
SW 1/4 of NE 1/4 Section 7
SW 1/4 of Section 7
W 1/2 of SE 1/4 Section 7

All of Section 18

SW 1/4 of Section 19
NW 1/4 of Section 19

NE 1/4 of NW 1/4 Section 30

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OCT 30 1974
NATIONAL REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

OCT 30 1974

(Continuation Sheet)

| | | |
|------------------|--------------|-------------|
| STATE | South Dakota | |
| COUNTY | La wrence | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | | DATE |
| | | DEC 31 1974 |

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
(Number all entries)

SIGNIFICANCE--Page 2

drama at Yale but forsook an acting career for a rancher's life. Frawley applies modern business principles to raising livestock, so the ranch continues to prosper. With this management process, he has attempted to have the land reach its full potential at the same time he has striven to preserve the cultural and natural resources of the property. Many of the original buildings have been maintained or restored, and the natural beauty of the region defended against polluters.

Before any whiteman came, this area was a holy place and hunting grounds for Sioux Indians. Scattered remains of aboriginal habitation exist in the form of arrowheads, various flints, and burial grounds. Indentations and rock bases of Sioux burial scaffolds atop Elkhorn Peak bear witness to the presence of an important ceremonial place and provide one of the awesome sites in South Dakota.

Agriculture in the Centennial Valley began with the arrival of homesteaders in the 1880s. Seventeen visible sites consisting of dugouts, cutstone foundations, dams, hand-dug wells, and cultural debris testify to the earnest but futile attempts at farming. Gradually, the disenchanteds sold their lands to Frawley who put it to a different use--a large livestock ranch. Frawley's operation grew to an excess of 5000 acres by 1900 and became the largest ranch in Lawrence County. The size necessitated dividing the spread into four sections and the employment of a number of hired hands. The advent of mechanization and shortage of labor led to changes that resulted in the present modern operation. By making sympathetic use of the land and adjusting to economic realities, the Frawley's have established a tradition of success where others failed.

The Frawley Ranch was significant in other ways. It was located along early routes for several stagecoach and freight companies. The Centennial Park and Hotel, a major stage stop for Black Hills traffic destroyed by fire in 1883, stood on the site of the present Frawley home. Only the hand-dug well remains to signify the hotel's existence.

Anna and Marion Draper replaced the hotel with one of their own to the north of the original. Their seventeen room structure is one of the few of its type still standing.

Another significant sight on the ranch is the Centennial Valley School house, 1895. This structure provided education for two or three generations of local school children. Its original desks, blackboard, and stove exist in good condition, even though the school closed in 1936.

Many of the sites on the ranch are important for architectural reasons. Among these are two well-preserved courtyard barns of cutstone and horizontal siding that are unique styles in the United States. The Draper roadhouse is important because of its original purpose and is more ornate and larger than

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| STATE South Dakota | |
| COUNTY Lawrence | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | DEC 31 1974 |

(Number all entries)

SIGNIFICANCE--Page 3

most rural houses. The three main structures on the Anderson ranch show a continuity in materials: cutstone and excellent examples of rural architecture. Two types of log cabins--round log and square log--relate how homes of this type were built. All these sites show the type of architecture used on ranches and homesteads in the late nineteenth century.

The ranch encompasses visually and historically the procession of western rural life from the American Indian through homesteaders to the large ranch. The site is also a testimony to the success of one family where many others had failed.

¹Eric Arthur and Dudley Witney, THE BARN: A VANISHING LANDMARK (New York Graphic Society LTD.; Greenwich, Connecticut, 1972), p. 62.

