



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 an 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 (Form 10-900-a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Freier Round Barn

Other names/site number: N/A

2. Location

Street & number: 2 miles north, 2 miles east of Draper  not for publication

City or town: Draper  vicinity

State: South Dakota Code: SD County: Jones Code: 075 Zip code: 57531

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination 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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jim Wilson, Acting SHPO 11/7/95  
Signature and title of certifying official Date

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 the Keeper Date of Action

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:)

Edson H. Beall 12.14.95  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Entered in the  
National Register

Freier Round Barn  
Name of Property

Jones County, South Dakota  
County and State

**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 include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>		Total

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

South Dakota's Round and Polygonal Barns and Pavilions

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register** \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/animal facility

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE/animal facility

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Round Barn

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation CONCRETE

walls METAL: Steel

roof WOOD: Shingle

other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Freier Round Barn  
Name of Property

Jones County, South Dakota  
County and State

**Application of Significance 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.
- 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.

**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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1918  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1918  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

M.E. Studervant  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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 Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

Freier Round Barn  
Name of Property

Jones County, South Dakota  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** less than 1

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>1</u>   <u>4</u>	<u>3</u>   <u>8</u>   <u>1</u>   <u>0</u>   <u>4</u>   <u>0</u>	<u>4</u>   <u>8</u>   <u>6</u>   <u>7</u>   <u>4</u>   <u>0</u>   <u>0</u>	2	_ _	_ _	_ _	_ _	_ _	_ _	_ _	_ _	_ _	
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing							
3	_ _	_ _	_ _	_ _	4	_ _	_ _	_ _	_ _	_ _	_ _	_ _	_ _	_ _

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared by**

Name/Title: Steph Ahrendt  
Organization: State Historic Preservation Center Date: August 1995  
Street & Number: P.O. Box 417 Telephone: 605/677-6822  
City or Town: Vermillion State: South Dakota Zip code: 57069

**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 SHPO or FPO.)

Name: Alex and Jean Freier  
Street & Number: Route 1, Box 6 Telephone: 669-2718  
City or Town: Draper State: SD Zip code: 57531

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**Narrative Description:**

Located on the north side of old highway 16/83 in open Jones County plainsland, the Freier Round Barn is a true round wood frame building measuring 60 feet in diameter. The two story barn, built in 1918 for milk cows and horses, has a concrete foundation, vertical steel siding and a conical roof covered with wooden shingles.

The barn has 18 four pane fixed sash windows evenly spaced between four doors. Ten windows appear on the southern half and eight on the northern half of the barn. A large vertical board door with two sliding leaves is located on the southern side. Three vertical board single doors with separate upper and lower leaves are on the west, north and east sides of the building.

Four large triangular horse pens with mangers are located in the southern side of the barn, two on either side of the large sliding door. Nine cow stalls with stanchions appear in the northern side of the barn. Also visible inside the barn is the original vertical board siding and the frames of two original windows that are now covered over. A central 12' square, horizontal board grain bin that rises up from the poured concrete floor into the loft. The corner posts of the grain bin extend up to support the roof plate. The loft floor is open above the large sliding door to allow for easy stocking of the loft. A board ladder on the southwest corner of the grain bin provides access to the loft. The loft floor is made of narrow wooden boards.

The barn has had several changes in its 77 year history. The original two pitch round gambrel roof was completely blown off by a tornado in 1941 and deposited 150 feet to the east. The tornado also destroyed the original round central horizontal board silo. The existing roof and square central grain bin were built in 1941 to repair the cyclone damage. Nine of the original 18 cow stanchions and two of the original horse stalls were later removed, probably in 1948 when the Freiers purchased the property and starting using it for their sheep operation. The original south vertical board sliding door was replaced in the 1960s. The Freiers sided the barn with steel in the late 1980s. Two windows on either side of the north door were covered over during the residing. The barn originally had 5 windows between each of the doors. The new siding matches the vertical placement, unit width, board and batten pattern and red color of the original siding. Deteriorated wood roof shingles were replaced in kind in 1990.

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Physical features of the barn that identify it as an example of the final period polygonal/round barn property type are its true round plan and the details that help identify it as a pre-cut catalog barn. These details are the 60 foot diameter; the concrete foundation extending approximately 3 feet above ground; the number, type and location of the doors and windows; the interior division of space and the original vertical siding visible inside the barn. The central square grain bin and supported conical roof built in 1941 to replace the original self supporting 2 pitch gambrel are unique within the property type.

The Freier Round Barn retains its historic integrity despite being resided in the late 1980s. The integrity is intact because the new siding so closely matches the original in vertical placement, unit width, board and batten pattern and red color. The Freiers report the vast majority of people who pass the barn think the barn has been repainted rather than resided. In addition, the barn is still used to house livestock.

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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 3**Narrative Statement of Significance:**

Under criterion C, the Freier Round Barn is significant in the area of architecture as an example of a the final period round/polygonal barn property type with statewide significance. This is the only known example of a wood frame pre-cut catalog barn erected in South Dakota that still retains its historic integrity. As explained in detail in Section 7, the building's form, architectural detail and historic association represent its respective property type from the historic context "South Dakota's Round and Polygonal Barns and Pavilions". The barn also relates to the historic context "Depression and Rebuilding: Changing Rural Patterns/Pattern Book Structures" as defined in *Historic Contexts for Historic and Architectural Resources in South Dakota*. The barn is an example of the final stage of round/polygonal barn building--affordable pre-cut catalog barns that were the final and outstanding achievement of research and promotion within the agricultural community from the late 19th and into the early 20th century. Manufacturers promoted these barns as easy and affordable to build with none of the problems that plagued earlier round barns. These barns had self supporting roofs with clear span, easily filled hay lofts; sufficient light and ventilation; interior silos and convenient and efficient interior arrangements.

Built by M.E. Studervant in 1918 for \$3,000, the Freier Barn was ordered from the mail order building firm Gordon-Van Tine Company of Davenport, Iowa, or a competitor with very similar round barn designs. The Barrel Barn Plan 214 from the 1917 Gordon-Van Tine catalog, accompanying descriptions and built examples appearing in Lowell Soike's book *Without Right Angles-The Round Barns of Iowa* (Soike 1983: 54-55,84,86) clearly support this conclusion. As originally built, the Freier Barn had the identical exterior appearance of three Gordon-Van Tine designs built in Iowa in 1919. The 60' diameter, two story round form, gambrel roof, board and batten siding, three foot concrete foundation, original central silo, interior stall arrangement, and the twenty windows placed in groups of five between four doors one of which is a large sliding door all match the information on Gordon-Van Tine barns in Soike's book.

Mr. Studervant used the barn for dairy cows and horses. He apparently was satisfied enough with the round form to rebuild the roof rather than demolish the building after a tornado severely damaged the barn in 1941. Alex Freier purchased the barn in 1948 and has used it since then for sheep.

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The Freier Barn is a significant example of the late period round/polygonal barn property type that retains its historic integrity.



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**Bibliography:**

Freier, Alex. Telephone conversation with Steph Jacon, 31 August 1995.

Freier, Alex and Jean. Interview with Steph Jacon. Draper, SD, 15 June 1995.

"Landmark Barn gets new shingles." Murdo, South Dakota *The Murdo Coyote*, Volume 84, Number 40, October 4, 1990.

Soike, Lowell. *Without Right Angles: The Round Barns of Iowa*. Des Moines: Iowa State Historical Department, Office of Historic Preservation, 1983.

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**Verbal Boundary Description:**

The boundaries are a circular parcel that includes only the barn and no other land.

**Boundary Justification:**

The boundary of the nominated property is set to include only the barn.

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All the following information is the same for all photos.

Freier Round Barn  
Jones County, South Dakota  
Photographer: Stephanie Ahrendt  
June 15, 1995  
Negative on file at SD State Historical Preservation Center

Photo #	Description of view
1	Barn, camera facing north
2	Silo, camera facing north
3	Barn interior, camera facing east
4	Barn interior, camera facing north
5	Barn interior, camera facing southeast