NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 5/31/2012)

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Wientjes Barn and Ranch Yard

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 11703 299th Ave [ ] not for publication

city or town Mound City [x] vicinity

state South Dakota code SD county Campbell code 021 zip code 57646

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ **national** ___ **statewide** x **local**

Jay D. Vogt SDSHPO 05-29-2013
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register ___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register ___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:)

for Edson K. Beall 7.30.13
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Wientjes Barn and Ranch Yard
Name of Property

Campbell County, SD
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

x	private
	public - Local
	public - State
	public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

x	building(s)
	district
	site
	structure
	object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	**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. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Agricultural/Subsistence: Animal Facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Agricultural/Subsistence: Animal Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: Multi-Level Barn with Gambrel Roof

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete; Other: rock aggregate
walls: Wood
roof: Metal: Tin; Wood: Shingle
other: Metal: Steel; Tin

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Wientjes Barn and Ranch Yard is located in rural Campbell County in north central South Dakota. The land surrounding the barn is a mix of rolling hills. The agricultural land around the barn is a mix of cultivated fields and pasture. The ranch yard has a mix of old and new buildings. The barn and its associated corrals and chutes are on the west side of the ranch yard. The house (2009) to the south and metal machine shed (c.1980) to the north are modern and not within the boundary. To the north, east and west of the farmyard are shelterbelts.

The barn (1909) has a gambrel roof and two leans that were original to its construction. The barn is square measuring 64 x 64 feet. It has a cement and rock aggregate foundation, lap wood siding, four-pane windows, and a tin roof that was added in the early 1970s. Original wood shingles remain under the tin. There is one ventilator on the roof line; another ventilator is missing. The barn is painted red with white trim. To the west, north and south of the barn are a series of chutes and corrals associated with the operation of the barn. The interior remains largely unaltered. On the main level are cattle stables, horse stables, saddle room, milking parlor, grain storage, and machine storage. The hayloft is open.

Narrative Description

Barn (1 Contributing Building)

East Elevation

The east elevation is the front of the barn. There are three large sliding doors on the main level; one central door and one on each lean. To the north of the central door are two four-pane windows. To the south are three four-pane windows and a regular size door that opens to the saddle room.

There are also doors above each lean that access the space at the edges of the hayloft. The door above the north lean is a sliding door. The door above the south lean is a hinged door. Centered in between these doors in the main portion of the hayloft is a sliding door.

In the gable is a large hayloft door flanked by four-pane windows. The loft door is protected by a hanging gable-type hay hood.

North and South Elevations

The north elevation has five four-pane windows and a near-center hinged wood door that opens into the machine storage area. The south elevation has six four-pane windows and a near-center hinged wood door that opens into the cattle stables.

West Elevation

The west elevation has three large sliding doors on the main level; one central door and one on each lean. Above the central door is a sliding door that accesses the loft. In the gable are two window openings. They used to contain four-pane windows.

Interior

The interior can be divided into the central portion and the north and south leans. The main portion has a central aisle. Square 6”x 6” girder posts support 2”x 10” girders on either side of the aisle. Some of these support posts are round cottonwood posts, presumably replacements cut from the nearby Missouri River.

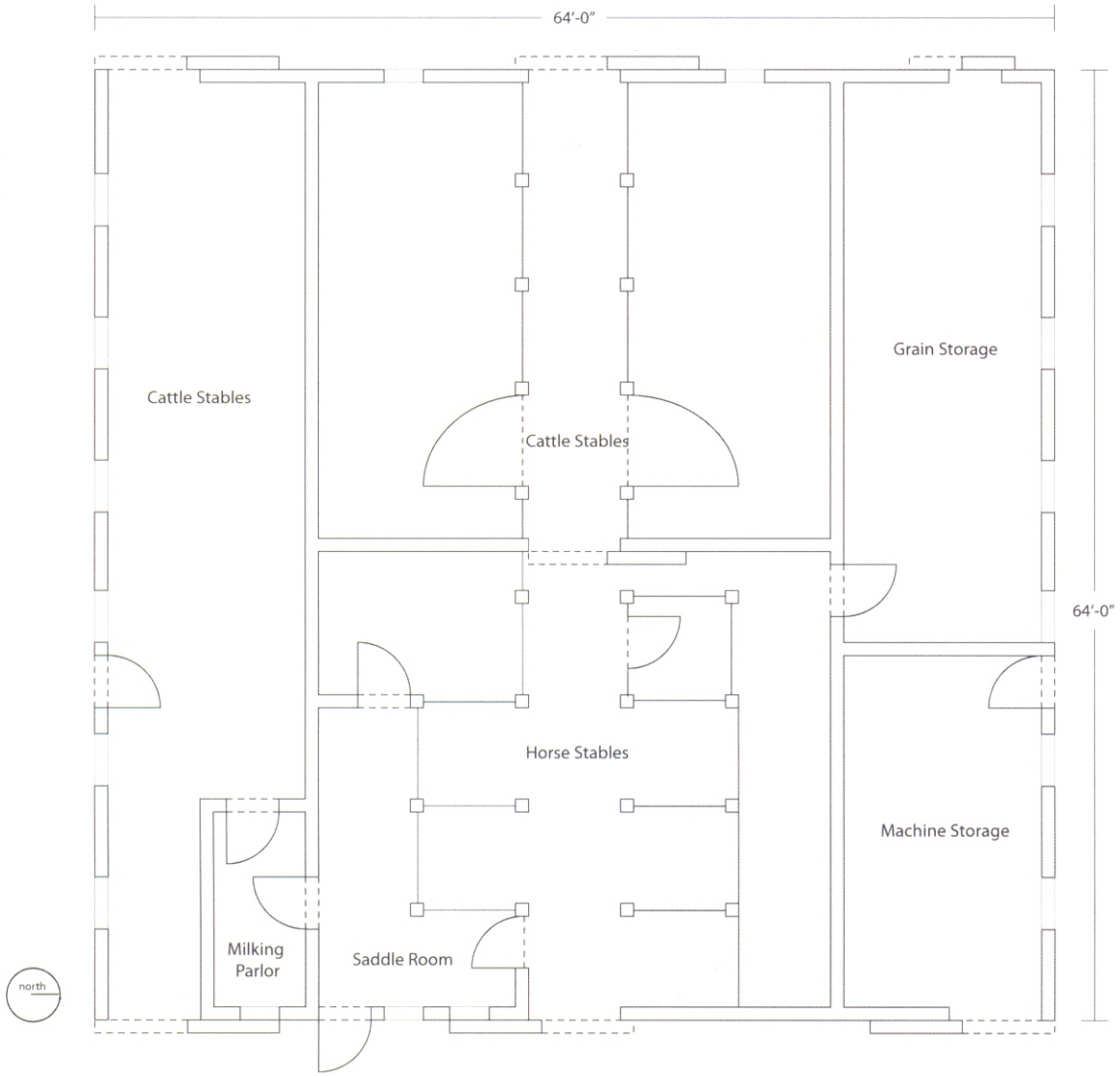
The eastern half of the main portion is horse stables. The stables are constructed with a variety of lumber with most in 2”x 6”, 2”x 8”, and 2” x 10” dimensions. There are five stables along with two small storage areas. Also located next to the stables is the saddle room, which has a couple of wood work benches. There is a ladder to the hayloft in the saddle room.

The western half of the main portion is cattle stables. The cattle stables are constructed with a mix of permanent wood frame stall walls and movable metal gates. These stables are more open than the horse stables.

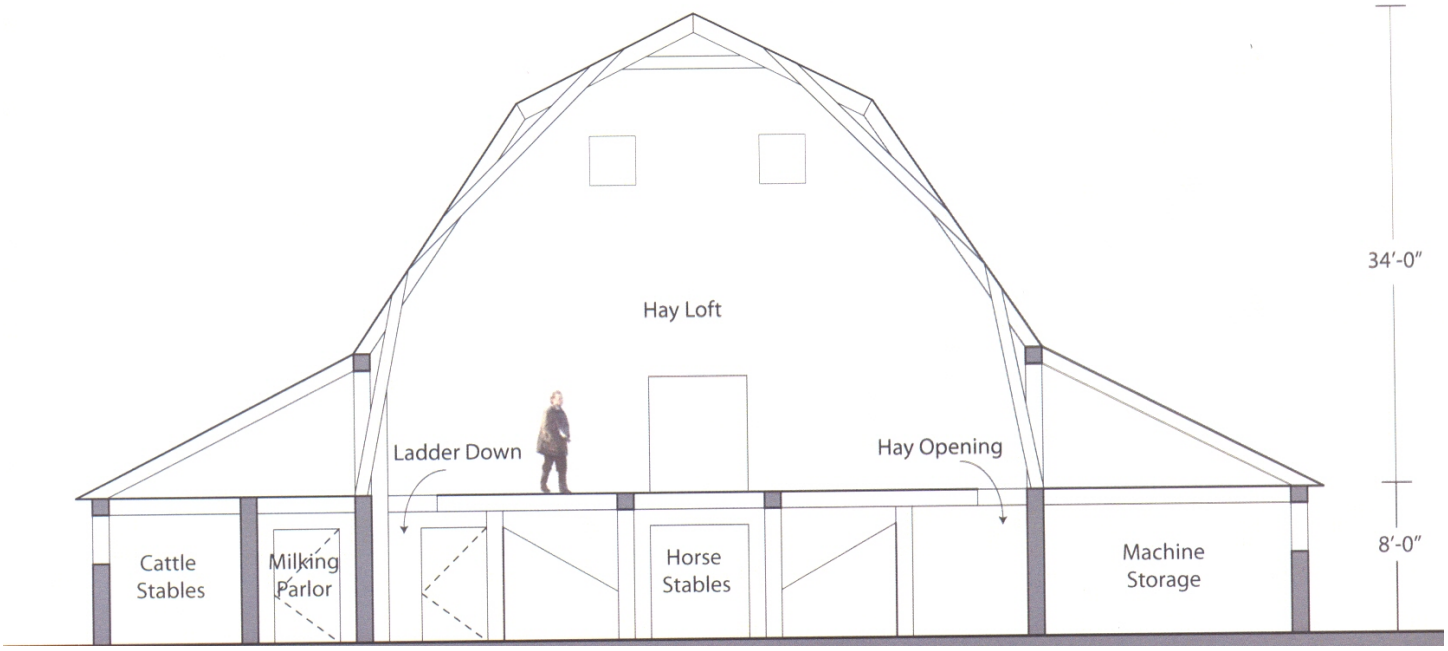
The south lean is mainly cattle stables. The area is mainly open with a wood feed bunk of the same dimensional lumber as the other stalls. Located at the eastern edge of the cattle stables is a small milking parlor.

The north lean is divided into two areas. To east is the machine storage room and to the west is the grain storage room.

The barn has a braced, self-supporting roof with rafters, plates, and studs of 2”x 6” lumber. The space between each rafter is 22”, making the braces 24” on center (this indicates a prevalent structural plan for this period that became standard by 1910 in many gambrel barn mail-order plans). The hayloft is open and can hold 90 tons of hay. The ropes to operate the hay door and swing remain in place.



First Floor Interior Wientjes Barn (Jessica Garcia Fritz Sketch)



Wientjes Barn Profile Looking West (Jessica Garcia Fritz Sketch)

The Ranch yard including the Corrals, Loading Chutes, Branding/Vaccination Area, Feeding Troughs, Wells and Calf Shed (see map) (1 Contributing Site)

These features are primarily constructed out of, and feature a combination of, dimensional and rough wood lumber, steel gates, corrugated tin, barbed wire, hog wire, round wood posts, square wood posts, metal posts, and rubber tractor tires. Some of these materials are historic while others are replacement materials. Also, some of the materials, such as steel gates, are movable features that are interchangeable within the yard.

West Corral
The west corral is located directly west of the barn. The corral is enclosed primarily with barbed wire strung on wood and metal posts. Round wood posts were used originally and have been augmented in spots with steel posts. The south side of the corral uses some vertical lumber, steel gates and corrugated tin. The east side of the corral borders the barn and pole barn (the pole barn is not within the boundary); a combination of steel gates and barbed wire strung on round wood and metal posts along with some hog wire compose the rest of the east side. The north and west sides are primarily barbed wire strung on round wood and steel posts. There is a metal gate at the northwest corner. Inside this corral running parallel to the east, west and north fence are wood feed bunks. These bunks sit approximately two feet off the ground and are two feet wide.

South Corral
The south corral is located directly south of the barn. It connects with the west corral at its northwest corner. The east, north, and west sides of this corral are mainly steel gates supported by round and square wood posts. Part of the west corral has corrugated tin on it and another section has hog wire. The south side has hog wire and metal gates, also supported by round and square wood posts and metal posts.

Calf Shed (Dairy Shed)
Where the two corrals meet, there is a calf shed. The calf shed has a shed roof, vertical wood boards, and a corrugated tin roof. The building has an opening on the east elevation with a metal gate. The calf shed uses a rough post-and-beam construction method. The building measures roughly 50 x 25 feet. The calf shed used to house 12-15 Holstein dairy cows.

Branding and Vaccination Area
This area is located just south of the barn and borders the south wall of the barn. This area is mainly composed of metal gates supported by round and square wood post. Some vertical wood fencing is also used. This area borders the chutes and both corrals.

Loading and Squeezing Chutes
These are located to the southeast of the barn outside the branding/vaccination area and south corral. The chutes are mainly constructed of round posts and metal gates. The loading chute, which is used to move cattle to and from semi-trucks, is wood. There is a chain metal “CC” at the top of the loading chute.

Wells
There is an old tractor tire converted into a well along the fence of the south and west corrals.

Wientjes Barn and Ranch Yard
Name of Property

Campbell County, SD
County and State

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.

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.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

circa 1909

Significant Dates

Circa 1909

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Builder: Bert Wientjes and Hal Stensby

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance is the date of construction.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Wientjes Barn and Ranch Yard with its adjoining system of chutes, corrals, branding/vaccination area, calf shed, and well are eligible under Criterion C for Architecture. The barn is a good example of a multi-level barn with gambrel roof and is a locally significant type in Campbell County. The adjoining system of chutes, corrals, vaccination/branding area, feeding troughs, and calf barn add to the significance and increase the understanding of the use of the barn and architectural designs/changes associated with the barn. Like most working ranch yards, the resource contains a mix of historic and modern materials, such as the use of metal gates. However, non-historic materials do not destroy the ability of the property to convey the period and methods of construction it represents. Rather, the use of non-historic materials in the yard portion further demonstrates the adaptation and availability of new materials into a working farm operation. According the *South Dakota Homesteading and Agricultural Development Context*, adaptations of ranch yards should be considered along with barns and outbuildings.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

General Significance of the Wientjes Barn

Common farm barns are an enduring symbol of South Dakota's agricultural heritage and represent the most recognizable class of farm buildings which make up the rural built environment. The architectural characteristics of the various common barn types reflect broad patterns of settlement and agricultural development. Overall, the differences between the common farm barns of South Dakota and those of neighboring states are minor and relate primarily to the sequence of settlement. Because permanent settlement and the development of commercial agriculture in South Dakota lagged behind that of other Midwestern farming regions, its farm barns are more a reflection of contemporary vernacular rather than folk architecture themes.[i]

South Dakota farm barns represent a set of scarce, non-renewable cultural resources that make an important contribution to the state's distinctive character and regional identity. There are presently no reliable estimates of the number of historic farm barns which remain standing in the state as a whole or in any of its subdivisions, for there has not yet been a comprehensive inventory made of barns in all of the state's sixty-six counties. Although there has been an ongoing federal census of agriculture since 1860, the census returns have not enumerated farm buildings or categorized them by age, as it has with housing since 1940. However, the agricultural census returns do take account of the number of farms and these data describe a major decline in the number of farms since 1935, when there were 83,400 farms in the state. It is reasonable, therefore, to assume that common farm barns will shortly become scarce, at least locally. In neighboring Minnesota, the state historic preservation office recently estimated that 75% of the farm barns built before 1930 had been lost by the year 2000. The prevailing view among South Dakota preservationists is that historic barns are the architectural equivalent of an endangered species.[ii]

History of the Wientjes Barn

Note: The following history is from Willis "Bill" Wientjes, current owner of the Wientjes Ranch. He was interviewed in late December 2012 by granddaughter Jessica Garcia Fritz.

How Bill Wientjes Came to own the Wientjes Barn

Claus Wientjes was a stowaway from the Netherlands. He came to the United States as a teenager and ended up in Chicago. He was in Chicago during the Great Chicago Fire, so he was in the United States by 1871. Claus eventually moved west and homesteaded in South Dakota in 1906. He purchased 1,400 acres of land from a Mr. Price (the size of the farm would also be increased when sons Albertus and Fredrick later purchased land under the Homestead Act). Claus never lived or worked on the homestead, but purchased it for his four sons: Fred (Fredrick), Jacob, John, and Burt

[i] Robert Vogel. *Common Farm Barns in South Dakota 1857-1958 Historic Context.* (Pierre: SD, South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, 2007), F-48.
[ii] Ibid, F-48.

(Albertus, but everyone called him Jerry). The land was divided among the four of them. Jacob and John originally worked the land with the Wientjes Barn. Hal Stensby built the barn for the brothers in circa 1909. A square house was built in 1906 to the east of the barn. This is how the Wientjes farm started.[iii]

In 1938, the Depression hurt John and Jacob and they could no longer make a go of it. The land was sold to Dr. Spiry from Mobridge. Dr. Spiry bought the land where the barn now sits and some other land that John and Jacob owned. Since the doctor was not a farmer, he leased the land to Fredrick Wientjes and he along with his family moved to the farm. At that time there was a "North Place" and a "South Place". The North Place is where the barn sits and where Bill now lives. The South Place is where Bill's brother Bud currently lives and where Fredrick and his sons settled.[iv]

During World War II, Dr. Spiry was concerned that he would be drafted, so he sold the land to Frederick for $20,000. Frederick farmed this land and during the war rented the South Place to Bud. Fredrick and Emma had 13 children (Clarence, Ray, Bud, Bernice, Violet, Lavonne, Al, Hank, Fred, Calvin, James, Phyllis and Willis or Bill). Bill was born in 1938 and was the youngest of the children.[v]

Frederick's sons worked on the farm until his death in 1964. At that time, the farm was split between Bill and James. The two continued to run the farm until James' death in 1990. The two were successful in running the farm and were honored by the publication *Successful Farmer* in the 1970s. After James died, his son Ross took over and the homestead remains split between Bill and Ross.[vi]

Corn, wheat, oats, flax, barley and soybeans were grown in the early years with alfalfa being introduced later. Many of the crops grown were used to feed livestock. Livestock production and raising of feeder crops have historically been the primary agricultural practices in Campbell County.[vii] Campbell County is in a transitional area between grain farming and ranching lands, though modern farming practices are blurring this transition.[viii] Beef production remains a leading enterprise.[ix]

The Architecture of the Wientjes Barn – a Multi-level Barn with Gambrel Roof

Using the classification system developed in the *Common Farm Barns of South Dakota Context*, the Wientjes Barn is classified as a multi-level barn with gambrel roof. This type of barn was common throughout South Dakota and the Midwest. The gambrel roof is the defining or identifying feature of this type. Some have labeled the distinctive roof shape as iconic.[x]

A gambrel roof has four surfaces with two different pitches. The upper slope is approximately 30 degrees and the lower slope may be as steep as 60 degrees. Gambrel roofs are self-supporting and the cantilevered trusses are built entirely of two-inch dimensional lumber. Considerable storage space is provided above the main floor: because the roof is entirely supported by the exterior wall framing, the haymows in gambrel roof barns may be 30 feet high from the floor to the hay carrier-track and are unobstructed by posts. In ground plan and structure these barns are very similar to multi-level barns with gable roofs—some would argue that the cantilevered roof and plank frame construction are merely adaptations of the traditional three-bay folk barn form. Dimensions vary greatly, but they are almost always longer than they are wide. Most examples from South Dakota are built entirely with dimensional lumber and feature plank framing built up from 2X6, 2X10, and 2X12 lumber. Wall cladding is weatherboard siding, often tongue-and-groove pine or fir boards.[xi]

[iii] Personal Correspondence from Jessica Fritz 7 January 2012.
[iv] Personal Correspondence from Jessica Fritz 7 January 2012.
[v] Personal Correspondence from Jessica Fritz 7 January 2012.
[vi] Personal Correspondence from Jessica Fritz 7 January 2012.
[vii] Brooks, Allysion and Steph Jacon. *Homesteading and Agricultural Development Context*. (Pierre: SD, South Dakota State Historical Society Press, 1994),7.
[viii] Ibid, 7.
[ix] Ibid, 7.
[x] Robert Vogel. *Common Farm Barns of South Dakota 1857-1958*. (Pierre: SD, State Historic Preservation Office), F-41.
[xi] Ibid, F-42.

The gambrel roof shape (named for the crooked shape of a horse's hind leg) is a curb roof with two differently pitched surfaces on each elevation, with the lower roof usually steeper than the upper. The gambrel roof first appeared in American domestic architecture during the seventeenth century but it was not adapted to farm barns until after balloon framing was perfected in the nineteenth century. The use of plank-framed trusses enabled farmers to erect barns with gambrel roofs that eliminated the need for timber posts, tie-beams, and purlins and thus allowed for much larger haymows. By the early 1900s, the gambrel roof had come to epitomize the "big red barn" image of the barn as the farmer's factory.[xii]

Interior Characteristics
Stables

The major agricultural production processing and storage component of a farm barn is the stable, which is usually located in the lowest level of the barn. In a bank barn, the stable is partly below ground level, underneath the main floor. The basic requirements of a good barn stable were that it be strongly built, durable, and keep animals, their fodder, and farm implements dry. These basic requirements were not always met by the builders, however, and some of the old barn stables are little more than crude cellars.[xiii]

The floor plans of barn stables varied considerably. Log and sod barns, for example, were often little more than a single room with the livestock on one side and fodder against the opposite wall. In contrast, a large livestock barn provided two or more rows of stalls separated by feeding passages, with specialized rooms for processing and storage, a concrete floor, and an attached silo. Dairy farmers as a group probably paid the most attention to stable layout, materials, and fixtures, and the stables in dairy barns built after 1900 are fundamentally different from those in older barns because of their emphasis on sanitation and ventilation. Dairy barns have washable concrete floors, often grooved to provide better traction for the cows, with gutters located behind the stalls to carry off the manure and urine. By the end of the nineteenth century, it was common to stable cattle and horses in box stalls, usually on opposing sides of the barn, and in a well-appointed dairy barn the cows were usually held in stalls with wood or iron stanchions, with space also provided for the care of calves or colts, for maternity care, and for storing cream cans. Most older general purpose barns have only one aisle or feeding alley, running down the center of the stable, while large livestock and feeder barns have two or three aisles as well as cross alleys, anywhere from four to eight feet wide. Although the interior walls of the stables in most general purpose barns were left unfinished, stables for horses or sheep were sometimes rendered snug and warm by a double thickness of boards, with diagonal sheathing or boxing on the inside wall, creating a dead air space between the interior and exterior walls that could be packed with straw for insulation. The ceilings in dairy cow and horse stables are also sometimes tightly paneled with a double thickness of beaded boards, with paper in between. The stables in dairy barns are usually finished with concrete or cement plaster. Face brick and glazed tile block were also used where a washable surface was required.[xiv]

Nineteenth-century barns were notorious for their poorly ventilated stables, many of which were veritable dungeons. "A whole volume might be written upon the bad effects of ill-ventilated and badly-lighted stables for horses," fumed *Breeder's Gazette* publisher James H. Sanders. Loose-fitting windows and doors and cracks in the siding allowed in a certain amount of fresh air, but in cold or windy weather many stables were damp and foul-smelling. With the recognition that damp stables were dangerous to the health of livestock came the development of a variety of barn ventilating systems. Before rural electrification, South Dakota farmers illuminated their stables by hanging kerosene lanterns from the overhead beams. Because tipped lanterns were a leading cause of barn fires, sometimes the lanterns were hung from adjustable cords passed through pulleys so that they could be easily moved but would not be tipped over during farm chores. During the early settlement period, it was sometimes necessary to provide rooms in the barn for farm laborers. This practice was becoming increasingly rare by the early 1900s, but South Dakota farm lore is filled with references to men who slept, at least temporarily, in the barn. While pioneer era farm barns tended to be small, dark, and cramped, with low headroom and poor ventilation, the part of the barn that would have offered the most comfortable quarters, with its straw-filled mangers and box stalls, was the stable.[xv]

[xii] Ibid, E-28.
[xiii] Ibid, E-33.
[xiv] Ibid, E-33.
[xv] Ibid, E-33.

The stables in the Wientjes Barn housed both cattle and horses. Team horses were introduced to the farm immediately in 1906 and four teams (eight horses) were kept along with saddle horses up until the mid-1980s. These Clydesdales were used to plant and harvest the fields and to take feed to the cattle. In the summer the Clydesdales pulled a rubber-tired cart and in the winter a sleigh with runners crafted by Bill. The team horses worked split-day shifts. In the morning the first team would work a 4-5 hour shift and then in the afternoon a second team would work a 4-5 hour shift. These horses were housed in stalls of the Wientjes Barn. Individual stalls still remain on the east side of the barn while the stalls on the west side were converted to larger group pens. The first tractor arrived on the farm in circa 1940, but horses were continually used for work on the farm for the next 40 years.

The first floor of the Wientjes Barn also had other uses including a milking parlor. Starting in the 1940s, approximately 12-15 milk cows were kept. They were housed in the calf shed to the west of the barn but brought to the milking parlor of the barn daily. The barn also housed cattle as needed. During the Blizzard of 1966, 200 of the 400 calves were stored in the barn. Winds reached up to 100 miles per hour and the farm was without power for three days. Only six of the 400 calves died in the storm.

Lofts and Haymows

Multi-level farm barns usually have sturdy wooden floors built over the stable area, often built of quarter-sawn oak or hard pine boards, which forms a loft over part or all of the stable area. In barns with basements, the loft is the third level, corresponding to the attic in a dwelling. Because very few farms could afford a separate outbuilding for hay storage, the loft usually contained the haymow. Hay was placed in the mow through the hay door, located near the top of the gable-end wall. Overhead tracks and carriers for moving hay and straw were installed in barns constructed after about 1900 and most older barns were eventually retrofitted with hay bale moving equipment. The ridge of the barn roof is often extended to create a hay hood that extends over the hay-loading door to provide some protection for the pulley mechanism used to hoist the hay into the loft. When fodder is needed in the stable area, the bales or loose hay are thrown down chutes leading to the feed room. Most farm barns have some kind of stairway or ladder for to facilitate passage between the main floor and the loft.[xvi]

Haymow size and placement play an important role in barn design. The earliest haylofts were little more than wooden scaffolds for loose hay—the term haymow referred to the mass of hay laid up in a barn and not the structure itself. Traditionally, both fodder and grain were stored in raised lofts where they could be easily passed down to livestock in the stable. Haymaking became more important whenever farmers kept more livestock, and new labor-saving devices like the mechanical pick-up hay baler made large haymows more practical. South Dakota farmers eventually built barns with haymows where fifty or even one hundred tons of roughage could be safely stored. The need for more haymow space also led directly to the adoption of the gambrel roof form and framing systems that eliminated the need for interior posts.[xvii]

The primary objective in hay-making is to dry the green plants (which may be alfalfa, clover, prairie grass, or oat hay) sufficiently so that the hay can be stored safely without heating or becoming moldy. Nineteenth-century homesteaders often cut, cocked, and stacked their hay by hand with sickles and scythes, although horse-drawn mowers, rakes, loaders, and stackers were available by the 1870s. The labor-saving hay fork and hay carrier were in wide use throughout the north-central states by the early 1900s. Although green hay cures rapidly in the swath, it was usually raked into windrows or stacked in large conical hay cocks to cure. After the hay cured, it was gathered up and loaded into specially-built wagons, called hay ricks, for transport to the barn. If it was not stacked in the field, hay was hauled from the windrow using a buck rake, generally regarded as the most efficient method of handling hay until the introduction of the pick-up hay baler in the 1940s. Fully automatic, one-man hay balers were not widely seen in South Dakota until after the Second World War, when some farmers also began using field choppers, which allowed them to produce large amounts of loose hay that was more convenient to feed to livestock and took up less space than baled hay. The traditional small rectangular hay bale was bound with sisal twine and weighed about seventy pounds.[xviii]

Before the modern farming era, the transfer from hay rick to haymow was usually made inside the barn, where the loose hay was lifted up into the haymow using a hay sling or grapple fork. Baled hay became common in the late nineteenth

[xvi] Ibid, E-34.
[xvii] Ibid, E-34.
[xviii] Ibid, E-34

century with the adoption of the stationary hay baler or hay press, and several models of horse-powered hay forks and hay stackers were available for loading and unloading baled hay. South Dakota farm barns built after 1880 were usually equipped with some form of the bale spear, pulley, and track system that hoisted baled hay into the barn loft through a large door in the gable-end. Once the hay had been placed in the mow, it caused more worry, anxiety, and disappointment than any other crop. No matter what method is used in handling and storing the hay, the farmer needs to carefully judge how to arrange the mow so that the various kinds and qualities of hay are available when needed. For example, late-cut hay, which is put in the barn last, is usually of a poorer quality than early-cut hay. Hay is also very sensitive to weather conditions at the time of harvest: hay that is too dry has lower nutritional value, but if it is stored too wet it can quickly become rotten or moldy. The most serious hazard associated with hay storage is fire caused by spontaneous combustion in the haymow. If the moisture content of the hay is too high when it is put in the mow, rapid fermentation can occur in which a large amount of heat is produced within the mass. If the mass of hay becomes hot enough, if will smolder or burst into flames, often with catastrophic results. Various steps are taken to prevent haymow fires. To allow better air-flow in the pile of hay bales, farmers will usually stack the bales on-edge in crisscross fashion in order to leave small spaces between the layers of bales. In the nineteenth century, farm advice books recommended building barns with over-sized haymow doors or leaving small gaps between the boards in the gable-wall siding to provide air flow.[xix]

Another widely used approach to ventilating large haymows was to construct one or more dormer windows along the upper surface of the roof, where they provided natural light to the loft as well as ventilation. Dormers were most often built on large barns with Gothic arch or gambrel roofs, where they added visual interest to the barn by breaking up the monotony of the large expanse of roof surface. The most common dormer shapes are those with low side walls and hip or shed roofs. Barns with segmental or eyebrow dormers, with and without side walls, are rare but not unheard of. Most dormer windows are fitted with casement sash, though some large dormers have double-hung windows.[xx]

The Wientjes Barn hayloft is large and allowed the farm to support many head of cattle during the winter. Hay was put up in the barn every year and the barn can hold 90 tons of loose hay. Metal ridgeline ventilators kept the hay fresh while stored over many months. The braced, self-supporting roof with rafters allowed the hayloft to function at a high capacity.

Construction Methods and Materials

The oldest technique used in barn building was heavy timber frame construction, sometimes referred to as “post-and-beam” construction, which was the common framing system employed throughout North America from Colonial times. Timber framing utilized large wooden posts and beams up to a foot thick that were fitted together with interlocking joinery and fastened with tapered wooden pegs or dowels. This kind of structural system required a large number of heavy pieces of wood, preferably hardwood, which had to be cut by the scribe rule and shaped with cross-cut saws, broadaxes, and adzes before they could be carefully fitted together to form a rigid, self-supporting framework. Construction of farm barns using heavy timber framing was limited geographically to southeast South Dakota and the Black Hills, where there was abundant native timber. The type of timber used for framing determined to a great extent the size of the timber sticks, oak being much stronger than cottonwood, for example. If oak was not available, and the builder had access to another hardwood such as maple or cottonwood, he used them. If suitable timber sticks for framing could not be obtained locally, the builder had to either purchase hardwood timber produced elsewhere or use pine. When whole sticks of timber in the required lengths were not available, sills and plates needed to be spliced together at the bents or the width of the barn had to be reduced. Because of the large timbers and special skills needed to assemble them, heavy timber frame barns were expensive to build. Oak timbers of sufficient length and thickness for heavy framing became increasingly hard to come by after 1890.[xxi]

Because much of South Dakota is naturally treeless prairie and hundreds of miles distant from the nearest sources of native hardwood timber, relatively few barns were framed entirely with heavy timbers. The predominant structural system was plank framing, a modification of the balloon framing system, which utilized dimensional lumber with nailed joints for the bearing walls, joists, and rafters. Balloon framing may have been invented in 1832 by George Snow in Chicago and was the standard in home and commercial building construction by the 1850s. Because it called for identical pieces of two-inch milled lumber that were joined with nails instead of wooden pegs, plank frame construction was cheaper, faster, and required much less skill than traditional timber framing. The largest pieces of lumber used were usually 2X12 boards,

[xix] Ibid, E-34
[xx] Ibid, E-34
[xxi] Ibid, E-16.

which could be obtained from just about any lumber yard. Another significant advantage of plank framing was that it allowed for taller, wider barns with self-supporting roofs, which greatly increased the space available in the loft for storing hay and other fodder.

John L. Shawver, inventor of the celebrated "Shawver Truss," described plank framing in an address before the Wisconsin Farmers' Institute in 1896:

> "In the old-style barns we were accustomed to using square timbers, and the rule was to put a great many timbers horizontally in the barn. Now, you can take a piece of square timber, and unless it is thoroughly braced and supported in all places, it will bend and give way. Now, if you take a piece of timber, thin but wide, you have only two-thirds as much material in this piece as in the other . . . If you put it on edgewise it is impossible to bend it to the same extent that you do the other. Another thing, in the old style frames we usually put up our frames with short braces having a run of three or four feet. The result was that they would not have enough purchase. The long braces will have a great deal more purchase than the short ones; if you put in a brace sixteen feet long you will have sixteen times as much resisting power as one only four feet in length. With a short brace there will be a tendency for that barn to go one way or the other, but as soon as you put in your long brace, forming two triangles, it becomes firmly established, and there is no possible chance for it to give way. Geometry teaches us that the strongest possible figure that we can secure is the triangle, and here we have it. You will notice that this bent is made up entirely of triangles, and we have secured great strength."[xxii]

Farm barn construction in South Dakota during the great rural building boom of 1896-1929 was spurred by the availability of cheap mass-produced building materials, especially softwood lumber. The overwhelming majority of the barns that survive to the present day were built of yard lumber that was freighted in on railcars from the big mills in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Texas, Louisiana, Washington, and Oregon. Lumber yards, a vital adjunct to the development of commercial farming, were located in every town and village in South Dakota with a railroad siding. Eastern white pine was the most important timber species logged in the Great Lakes region, the center of large-scale lumbering during the second half of the nineteenth century. The first decades of the twentieth century saw the growth of the great Southern and Western timberlands, which provided most of the construction lumber used in the twentieth century. From the late 1870s through the 1920s, the Black Hills was also an important source of construction lumber, chiefly Ponderosa pine. Because of its high bending and compression strength, Douglas-fir from the Rocky Mountains and Pacific Northwest was regarded as an ideal wood for barn framing, while eastern white pine and southern yellow pine made excellent dimension lumber for structural work. Occasionally, a South Dakota farm barn was shingled with bald cypress imported from the Gulf Coast.[xxiii]

There was general agreement among barn experts that a journeyman carpenter with a crew of four men could raise a forty-by-sixty-foot plank-framed barn in about one week, with another week for finishing work. James Harvey Sanders, publisher of The *Breeder's Gazette* and an ardent proponent of farm barn planning, described the erection of a plank-framed barn:

> "Get one carpenter to superintend the job; three or four men can find employment and the more men the shorter the job. Pike up joists six or eight high and square; mark and cut off with a small crosscut saw; pile each sort out by itself so you can get hold of it quickly and surely. Never make splices without breaking joints and use a block 2' long at the splice. Spike together well as splices are everywhere. Use spikes 6" long and drive in a plenty; they are cheap. Put bents together on the ground, though you may finish spiking them together after raising, as spikes should be driven from each side. Raise the bents and brace up temporarily until you have two standing, then put on a box plate, plumb very carefully, then put in long side braces and one or two pieces of nail girts. That will make the frame very rigid. You can now continue to raise the bents one at a time and continue putting on plates and braces as fast as they are raised."[xxiv]

By the late 1880s much of the lumber available to South Dakota barn builders was being milled to uniform sizes, though there was wide variation in the dimension standards used by mills located in different parts of the country. It was not until the 1930s that the various regional lumber manufacturers agreed to a uniform standard for each class of common stock. Most of the building lumber used in South Dakota farm barns was produced far from where it was used; indeed, some of it was shipped great distances. Local mills also produced boards and timbers to non-standard specifications, although by the early 1900s construction lumber was no longer milled locally outside of the Black Hills. Therefore, many of the boards

[xxii] Ibid, E-18.
[xxiii] Ibid, E-18.
[xxiv] Ibid, E-18.

would have had to be ripped or planed on the farm and fitted into place. Consequently, it is not at all uncommon to find a barn built with lumber that is of non-standard thickness, width, or length. Similar discrepancies existed in other construction materials.[xxv]

Construction of the Wientjes Barn is fairly standardized. Dimensional lumber appears to be in consistent widths, lengths, and thickness. On the interior, non-standard lumber of varying sizes and widths are used on stables, pens and benches, which is not uncommon as these spaces are damaged, replaced and altered over the working life of a barn. The source of the lumber is unknown, though its standardization suggests that it was not ripped or planed on site. Materials for the barn may have been shipped in from the east or west as the railroad was across the state by the time of its construction in 1909.

The barn also has a common bracing system with rafters spaced 22". This plan was commonly used in kit barns from about 1905-1930 by companies such as Gordon-Van Tine and Sears, Roebuck and Company. This type of plan was also available in builder's journals, United States Department of Agriculture guidelines, and from state land-grant colleges. The standardization of cut lumber, expansion of the railroad, prefabrication technology, and standardization of agriculture contributed to the dissemination of suitable barns throughout the Midwest.

The Ranch Yard including the Corrals, Loading and Squeezing Chutes, Branding/Vaccination Area, Feeding Troughs, Wells and Calf Shed

The barn and ranch yard features all function together as an agricultural unit. They are all related to the operation and function of the barn and contribute to its significance. The ranch yard is very intact for its age and still functions like it did historically.

In 2012, around 340 head of cattle (170 cows, 20 bulls, and 160 calves) were kept on the farm. Bill recalls that this number is about average over the years. Beef cattle were kept mainly over the years including Hereford, Angus, Semitol, and plenty of crossbreeds. At one point Holsteins were also kept for milking and numbered 12 to 15.[xxvi]

Bulls are kept and not turned out into pasture until June. In August or September, the heifers receive a pregnancy test and are typically given an ultrasound to determine if there was a conception. If a pregnancy is lost, the heifer is often rebred. The heifers are tagged according to the 20 day periods in which they will give birth (orange for the first 20 days, yellow for the next 20 days, and blue after that). Gestations periods for most beef cattle are around nine months, although Semitols gestate longer. Bill attended the Curtis Breeding school in Chicago in 1965 and learned how to artificially inseminate heifers. He's used that knowledge on the farm ever since as a considerable amount of breeding was done through artificial insemination from 1965 through the 1990s.[xxvii]

At the Wientjes Ranch, brandings occur in June and are performed in the branding area to the south of the barn. Vaccinations are also performed at this time. Calves are also vaccinated again in October, two weeks before they are weened. Calves are often sold after the first of the year, depending on the markets.[xxviii]

New cattle are unloaded into the corrals near the barn, branded in the early spring and then turned out to grass. The turning out to pasture time also depends on the feed situation. Fall is the big shipping time for the farm. This usually happens around Thanksgiving, but it is extremely dependent on markets. Cattle are brought in from pasture (using horses and all-terrain vehicles) and are loaded up through the chute (one cow at a time) into semi-trucks where they are often shipped to the Mobridge Livestock exchange. In the winter, the calves are kept in the corrals and fed until being turned out to pasture in March. Cows and bulls are kept in a pasture to the west of the barn.[xxix]

[xxv] Ibid, E-20.
[xxvi] Personal Correspondence from Jessica Fritz 7 January 2012.
[xxvii] Personal Correspondence from Jessica Fritz 7 January 2012.
[xxviii] Personal Correspondence from Jessica Fritz 7 January 2012.
[xxix] Personal Correspondence from Jessica Fritz 7 January 2012.

National Register Eligibility for the Wientjes Barn and Ranch Yard
The Wientjes Barn is eligible under Criterion C for architecture as a good local example of the multi-level gambrel roof barn. Its design and construction characteristics, including its two original leans, represent an important barn form in Campbell County, South Dakota. There are currently (2013) no barns in Campbell County listed on the National Register. The Wientjes Barn has good overall integrity, especially for a working barn. Despite the addition of the tin roof, other character-defining features remain to express qualities of materials, design, workmanship, setting, feeling and association. The barn retains its original wood siding, its four-pane windows, doors, and interior and exterior configuration.

The Wientjes Barn and Ranch Yard with its associated corrals, loading chutes, branding/vaccination area, feeding troughs, wells and calf shed also represent a significant design. These features provide insight on how cow/calf operations in this region operated. Working, intact features such as these are becoming rare as agricultural practices change. Increased commodity prices are changing land use patterns. Marginal land historically used as pasture is being cultivated, decreasing space to turn out cattle. High prices for corn and other feed are also changing the size and operation of cattle herds. Many barns and yards like the Wientjes' are no longer used. Consequently, they are removed or left to deteriorate. The Wientjes Barn and Ranch Yard with its associated features have good integrity and represent an intact example of a working ranch.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

Overview of South Dakota's Agricultural History
It would be difficult to understate the importance of agriculture in South Dakota history. Despite the sharp reduction in the number of family farms and ranches and shifts in other sectors of the economy since the late 1950s, agriculture remains a dominant industry in the state as well as its most extensive land use. The ongoing transformation of its rural built environment is reflected in the heritage of South Dakota farm barns.[xxx]

In broad, general terms, the history of South Dakota agriculture during the settlement period, which ended about 1917, was chiefly the story of the westward movement of the farming frontier from the older settled parts of the Midwest onto the northern plains, the continuous opening of new land for speculation and production, the modification of traditional farming practices by the introduction of improved machinery, and recurring cycles of economic boom and bust. Secondary themes include the emphasis on wheat farming, the rise and decline of open range livestock ranching, and the attempts to cultivate large areas of semi-arid land using dry-land farming techniques. During the post-settlement period, South Dakota agriculture entered an entirely new phase, characterized by radically different patterns of land use and production. The four decades after 1917 were marked by the steady industrialization of agriculture, as manifested by increased mechanization, the expanding role of government in agriculture, and overproduction of staple crops and livestock. Other outstanding factors in the changing face of rural South Dakota have been the rise in the standard of living, marked shifts in the number and size of family farms, and the increasing economic and functional obsolescence of traditional agricultural buildings. The year 1958 was selected as the terminal date for the *South Dakota Homesteading and Agricultural Development Context* because it generally corresponds to the beginning of the post-industrial or "agri-business" era in South Dakota agricultural history.[xxxi]

Euro-Americans had been prodding and probing what is now South Dakota for nearly a hundred years before the first pioneer farms were established near present-day Sioux Falls in 1857-58. After Congress authorized the organization of Dakota Territory in 1861, the rectangular survey began to prepare the way for opening the interior to settlement and various schemes were advanced to promote immigration. The region's reputation as part of the "Great American Desert" retarded agricultural development and Dakota remained a scantily populated borderland until the late 1860s. The first significant wave of immigrants began moving into the territory after the Civil War, and the influx of settlers soon reached boom proportions. Free land under the Homestead Act of 1862 was a strong inducement to take up quarter-sections of prairie land along the Big Sioux, Vermillion, and James rivers, and the territory's attractions were widely proclaimed in a torrent of guide books, pamphlets, newspaper articles, and magazine features. Several successive years of good crop growing conditions and the approach of railroads then being constructed across Iowa and Minnesota also helped

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[xxx] Ibid, E-1.
[xxxi] Ibid, E-1.

encourage agricultural development. However, neither cash grain farming nor stock raising were practical on a commercial scale due to the lack of transportation facilities and markets.[xxxii]

The First Dakota Boom of 1868-73 was an illusion for most of the territory's agriculturists. The Panic of 1873 hit the region especially hard and was followed by several years of depressed prices for farm products. The financial depression would have held up agricultural development in any event, but to the economic crisis was added a succession of natural disasters in the form of droughts and grasshopper plagues. Most of the homesteaders were left impoverished and many farms were abandoned. The cycle of boom-and-bust repeated itself during the Great Dakota Boom of 1878-87, which was marked by a tremendous increase in immigration and agricultural expansion. During the years 1875-86, abundant rainfall occurred over the Great Plains, a phenomenon which received an immense amount of attention in government reports and the popular press. Attracted by the prospects of grain farming, the East River country became dotted with prairie homesteads and there was wild speculation on the progress of the territory, which was believed to be on the verge of being admitted to statehood. The rapid influx of settlers afforded a ready market for grain, beef, and other farm products, but it was the railroads that were the primary motive behind late-nineteenth century agricultural expansion. Until the first train rolled into Sioux Falls in 1878, the Missouri River and a primitive network of overland trails were the territory's only routes of immigration and commerce. Two major Midwestern railways, the Chicago & Northwestern and the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, penetrated Dakota in the late 1870s and quickly caught up with the leading edge of settlement. By 1881, both railroads had pushed their main lines as far west as the Missouri River and were busy constructing a skeleton network of branch lines.[xxxiii]

Homesteaders found the Dakota prairies relatively easy to cultivate. Steel plows, mechanical reapers, threshing machines, and mowers had all been invented before the Civil War and new models were available that were specially adapted to western prairie farming. Farms were taken up in 160-acre tracts that could be "proved up" in five years or commuted for cash. Many homesteaders stayed in one place only long enough to prove up or commute their claims, then sell or rent the land to an actual settler. The conventional wisdom was that a prairie farmer could acquire all the land he wanted, grow wheat, and become prosperous in the span of three or four years. The reality was much more stark. Homesteading in Dakota was no bonanza for the average settler. Environmental hazards included hot winds, extremes of high and low temperature, blizzards, hail, frost, floods, noxious weeds, prairie fires, and insect infestations. The greatest and most persistent threat to agriculture, however, was drought.[xxxiv]

Handicapped by climate and inaccessibility, agricultural development in the West River country was slow, and a kind of hollow frontier developed during the 1870s, when the leading edge of settlement leapfrogged the Missouri. The search for precious metals played a major role in the exploration and initial settlement of the Black Hills, where the discovery of gold in 1874 was followed by the establishment of subsistence farming and livestock herding. Between the eastern fringe of the farming frontier and the mining settlements of the Black Hills stretched a vast territory of grassland that was widely regarded as unfit for any kind of agricultural use until it was discovered that the longhorn cattle of Texas not only could survive the harsh climate of the northern plains unsheltered but flourished on the natural forage provided by the short-grass prairie. The slaughter of the great northern buffalo herd and the reduction of the Sioux nation cleared the way for the expansion of the "cattle kingdom" into western Dakota, and by 1885 a number of large cattle outfits had moved in and were in control of large holdings. Except for the mining camps and Indian reservations, the whole region was one vast, unbroken stretch of grazing territory where cattle could be turned out to forage on the free grass of the public domain—stockmen rarely owned more than small portions of the land, which they obtained for little or nothing, on which their herds ranged. After the annual roundup the steers were trailed eastward to the railheads, where they were loaded on railcars for shipment direct to the packers, while the bulls, cows, and calves were kept for breeding stock or sold to newcomers who were streaming onto the northern plains looking to cash in on the "beef bonanza". Sheep also became a profitable form of livestock ranching enterprise on the high plains, beginning with flocks of Mexican sheep that were driven up from Nebraska. Contrary to popular folklore, cattle and sheep ranching coexisted to a considerable extent on the open range. Homesteaders and barbed-wire fences nibbled at the edges of the range, although very little land was actually placed under cultivation before the late 1890s.[xxxv]

[xxxii] Ibid, E-2.
[xxxiii] Ibid, E-2.
[xxxiv] Ibid, E-2.
[xxxv] Ibid, E-2 - E-3.

Severe blizzards and drought in 1886-87, and a devastating drop in beef prices caused by overproduction, signaled the close of the great open range cattle boom. Inflated values were wiped out and many of the large cattle companies failed. Meanwhile, the return of droughts and crop failures turned the East River homesteader boom to bust and the wild optimism of the mid-1880s quickly gave way to despair as thousands of settlers were bankrupted. Even more striking than the sharp reduction in crop and livestock production was the precipitous decline in population, with some counties losing more than half their population in a matter of months, one of the factors which delayed South Dakota statehood until 1889. A large proportion of the homesteaders never "proved up" or obtained their patent through commutation and moved away, and thousands of farmsteads were either abandoned or sold. Droughts and crop failures persisted through the early 1890s and the national depression brought on by the Panic of 1893 further retarded agricultural development.[xxxvi]

Agriculture during the settlement period was labor intensive and production was distributed over large areas with tens of thousands of small, fairly diversified farms where the bulk of the state's population lived. Farmers not only employed most of the work force, they owned several hundred thousand work animals (e.g., 720,060 horses in 1925) and were near-continuously engaged in building construction activities of one kind or another. Farm production emphasized a few important commodities: spring wheat, barley, flax, corn, and beef cattle. Undoubtedly the most striking feature in the early agricultural history of the state was the predominance of wheat as the main field crop. (By 1909, South Dakota ranked third in the nation in wheat production.) Land was so easily acquired that it perpetuated old-fashioned and wasteful farming practices—when his land wore out from growing wheat year after year, the prairie homesteader usually found it cheaper to take up new land than to care for the old. Even more harmful to agriculture was the mania for speculation in land as a commodity, which made farming less efficient and encouraged settlers to take up claims in areas which were totally unsuited to general farming on 160-acre homesteads. Most homesteaders literally scratched out a livelihood under near-subsistence conditions, constrained by the underdeveloped rural infrastructure and harried by droughts, prairie fires, blizzards, and locusts. Nevertheless, there were many careful, progressive farmers and ranchers whose enterprises became increasingly efficient and specialized. Overall, the development of grain farming and livestock ranching depended largely upon markets and transportation, and because of the mature railroad system and the expanding domestic market for foodstuffs, at the turn of the century South Dakota was on the verge of developing a sustainable agricultural economy based on the production of cereal and meat.[xxxvii]

Agricultural historians sometimes refer to the years from 1896 to 1920 as the Age of Prosperity. In South Dakota, this period was marked by another surge of immigration and amazingly rapid settlement of large areas hitherto undeveloped. By 1917, practically all of the arable land in the state had been claimed and occupied, thanks to the government's liberal land policies and the mania for dry-land farming. South Dakota agriculture boomed as never before during the First World War when the market prices of farm products reached record levels; and while the war in Europe triggered a great increase in demand for American agricultural exports, the biggest market expansion was in the United States, created by the explosive growth of the non-farm population between 1890 and 1920. East River farmers especially saw substantial improvement in income and quality of life and the rising tide of rural prosperity triggered a great building boom, perhaps the biggest in the state's history. As agriculture became more commercially oriented, subsistence farming gradually disappeared and farmers began to start thinking of themselves as businessmen.[xxxviii]

The final chapter in South Dakota's homestead era took place between 1902 and 1917, when the last of the great Indian reservations were opened up to settlers. Convinced by dry-land farming propagandists that "rain follows the plow," settlers fanned out across the West River country to take up enlarged homesteads on sub-marginal land where they tried to make a living growing wheat on land that was physically unsuited for cultivation. After the onset of a severe drought in 1915, much of the topsoil that had been exposed by dry farming was deflated by wind erosion; huge dust storms, precursors of the 1930s "Dust Bowl," swept over the high plains, destroying crops and livestock. Most of the West River homesteaders lost their farms and were forced to migrate elsewhere. For a generation, the trend in agriculture throughout most of the West River country was backward.[xxxix]

[xxxvi] Ibid, E-3.
[xxxvii] Ibid, E-3.
[xxxviii] Ibid, E-3 – E-4.
[xxxix] Ibid, E-4.

Notwithstanding a postwar recession and several years of bad crops, trends which were operative before the turn of the century continued to modify farming during the 1920s. Great advances were made in farm mechanization, highlighted by a 162% increase between 1920 and 1930 in the number of South Dakota farm families owning at least one tractor. The same period saw automobile ownership more than double, with 86% of farm families owning a car at the time of the 1930 census. In the southeast, farmers embraced the Corn Belt farming system, with its emphasis on corn and other feed crops and livestock. Increasing numbers of farmers turned to dairying in order to increase their profit margins, although many small herds were liquidated during the 1930s and 1950s because of drought and a major drop in the price of milk. Wheat and other small grains continued to dominate farm output, especially in the northern and central parts of the state.[xl]

The farm crisis of the early 1920s and the Great Depression of 1929-35 wiped out much of the farm wealth that had accumulated during the era of prosperity. Chief among South Dakota farmers' problems, aside from the near-collapse of the general economy and depressed commodity prices, was the persistence of drought. Outbreaks of wheat rust and grasshopper infestations further reduced crop yields and forced many farmers to leave the land. The average value of an acre of South Dakota farmland fell from over $200 in 1920 to less than $50 in 1940, while the market prices for wheat, corn, and beef did not return to 1919 levels again until after the Second World War. Nevertheless, the number of farms and agricultural production actually increased during the 1930s, despite tremendous population shifts. The adversity of the Great Depression was followed by a spectacular expansion of farming brought on by the Second World War which greatly improved the financial condition of most farm and ranch families. The postwar years saw the trend toward farm enlargement resume and accelerate, although much of the increase was offset by the increasing number of family farms that passed out of existence. New kinds of farm machinery, electric power, and improved highways helped lighten the work and improve the quality of life on thousands of farms.[xli]

By the middle of the twentieth century three distinct type-of-farming regions had developed within the state's borders. The Corn Belt system of mixed feed crops, grain, and livestock farming predominated in the east and east-central areas, where corn was the major field crop. Because corn cropping draws heavily on soil fertility, farmers grew oats, wheat, soybeans, and hay as the transitional crops in a three- or four-year rotation. A large proportion of the crops raised were used to fatten beef cattle and hogs, although there were also many large farms where corn, oats, and soybeans were cultivated as cash crops. The practice of fattening beef cattle on grain in farm feedlots, which had been evolving in eastern South Dakota since the 1880s, became more widespread after 1935, although the region was regarded as under-stocked with feeder cattle throughout most of the 1950s due to the persistence of drought conditions. Because of its cooler climate and less productive soils, the counties in northeast South Dakota historically had a higher proportion of dairy farmers and a considerable amount of dairy farming continued to be carried on in the southeast corner of the state as well because of its close proximity to major markets for fluid milk. Farming in the north-central counties was dominated by spring wheat and small grains, as it had been since the days of the homesteaders, and increased mechanization significantly enlarged the acreage that could be farmed by a single family. Barley and flax were also grown on a commercial scale and most grain farmers also raised some cattle as well as small acreages of corn and hay. The western half of the state was part of the range livestock region where beef cattle and sheep were the most important enterprises. Three-fourths of all land west of the Missouri River was used for grazing, although less than half of it was privately owned. By the late 1950s, the trend away from raising steers on grass was well underway and most of the cattle raised on the western range were being shipped as calves or yearlings to farms and feedlots in the Corn Belt to be fattened on grain before they were sold for slaughter. However, drought and shortages of range feed made the 1950s a difficult decade for cattlemen.[xlii]

As with other sectors of the South Dakota economy, the transformation of agriculture and rural life between 1857 and 1958 was driven by long-term economic shifts, as well as periods of economic and environmental crisis. Among the most influential trends were technological development, the rise of consumer influence in agricultural production, and the increasing integration of South Dakota farming and ranching into national and global markets. Technological developments in agriculture were particularly influential in driving change on the farm and the pace of change, already rapid during the late-nineteenth century, became extraordinarily rapid during the post-settlement phase in the state's history. Advances in farm mechanization and transportation led to ever-increasing economies of scale that spurred rapid

[xl] Ibid, E-4.
[xli] Ibid, E-4.
[xlii] Ibid, E-4 – E-5.

and far-reaching shifts in farm size, accompanied by an equally rapid decline in the number of farms and in the farm population. From near complete reliance on animal power in 1900, South Dakota farmers rapidly embraced mechanical power threshers, combines, tractors, and trucks became routine adjuncts to farming by 1940. Advances in plant and animal breeding increased yields and quality and helped generate unprecedented growth in agricultural productivity. At the same time, the structure of farms and the built environment also underwent tremendous transformation.[xliii]

Campbell County History

The first known inhabitants of Campbell County were the Arikara Indians who lived in villages along the Missouri River. Small pox epidemics and pressure from other tribes, primarily the Sioux, devastated their population to the point where they moved north into what is now North Dakota to join the Mandan and Hidatsa tribes. Related groups of Dakota, Nakota, and Lakota Indians, collectively referred to as the Sioux, were the dominant groups in the Dakotas during the period of contact with white explorers, traders, and settlers.

Two things of significance shaped what would become Campbell County in the 1860s that would pave the way for eventual settlement. First, Dakota Territory was created in 1861. This allowed for the formation of a territorial legislature which in turn began the process of the surveying and creating counties. The second important development was the Fort Laramie Treaty of the 1868 which removed American Indians to reservation lands, most of which were west of the Missouri River.

Campbell County was organized in 1883 and named after Norman B. Campbell, a member of the legislature from Bon Homme County.[xliv]

There were 318 farms in Campbell County in 2007 with an average size of 1,261 acres.[xlv] Approximately half the land in county was cropland and the other half was pasture land. Wheat, corn, and forage crops (hay, silage, and green chop) were the predominant crops produced.[xlvi] Cattle overwhelmingly dominated livestock production with over 37,000 cattle and calves in production.[xlvii]

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[xliii] Ibid, E-5.
[xliv] A Century of Memories 45
[xlv] 2007 Census of Agriculture. United States Department of Agriculture website http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Online_Highlights/County_Profiles/South_Dakota/cp46021.pdf. Accessed 29 September 2012.
[xlvi] Ibid.
[xlvii] Ibid.

Wientjes Barn and Ranch Yard
Name of Property

Campbell County, SD
County and State

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 Record # _____
____recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

____State Historic Preservation Office
____Other State agency
____Federal agency
____Local government
____University
____Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	14	405463	5061056	3			
2				4			

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
See map four boundary explanation.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
The description includes only the areas associated with the Wientjes barn and yard.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title C.B. Nelson
organization SD State Historic Preservation Office date 3 January 2013
street & number 900 Governors Drive telephone 605-773-3458
city or town Pierre state SD zip code 57501
e-mail Chrisb.nelson@state.sd.us

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Wientjes Barn

City or Vicinity: Mound City vicinity

County: Campbell State: SD

Photographer: C.B. Nelson

Date Photographed: 8 July 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1 of 14 (Direction facing)

SD_CampbellCounty_WientjesBarnandRanchYard_0001.tif	Northwest
SD_CampbellCounty_WientjesBarnandRanchYard_0002.tif	East
SD_CampbellCounty_WientjesBarnandRanchYard_0003.tif	North
SD_CampbellCounty_WientjesBarnandRanchYard_0004.tif	West
SD_CampbellCounty_WientjesBarnandRanchYard_0005.tif	West
SD_CampbellCounty_WientjesBarnandRanchYard_0006.tif	South
SD_CampbellCounty_WientjesBarnandRanchYard_0007.tif	West
SD_CampbellCounty_WientjesBarnandRanchYard_0008.tif	North
SD_CampbellCounty_WientjesBarnandRanchYard_0009.tif	Northeast
SD_CampbellCounty_WientjesBarnandRanchYard_0010.tif	West
SD_CampbellCounty_WientjesBarnandRanchYard_0001.tif	West
SD_CampbellCounty_WientjesBarnandRanchYard_0011.tif	North
SD_CampbellCounty_WientjesBarnandRanchYard_0012.tif	South
SD_CampbellCounty_WientjesBarnandRanchYard_0013.tif	West
SD_CampbellCounty_WientjesBarnandRanchYard_0014.tif	Southwest

Wientjes Barn and Ranch Yard
Name of Property

Campbell County, SD
County and State

Property Owner:

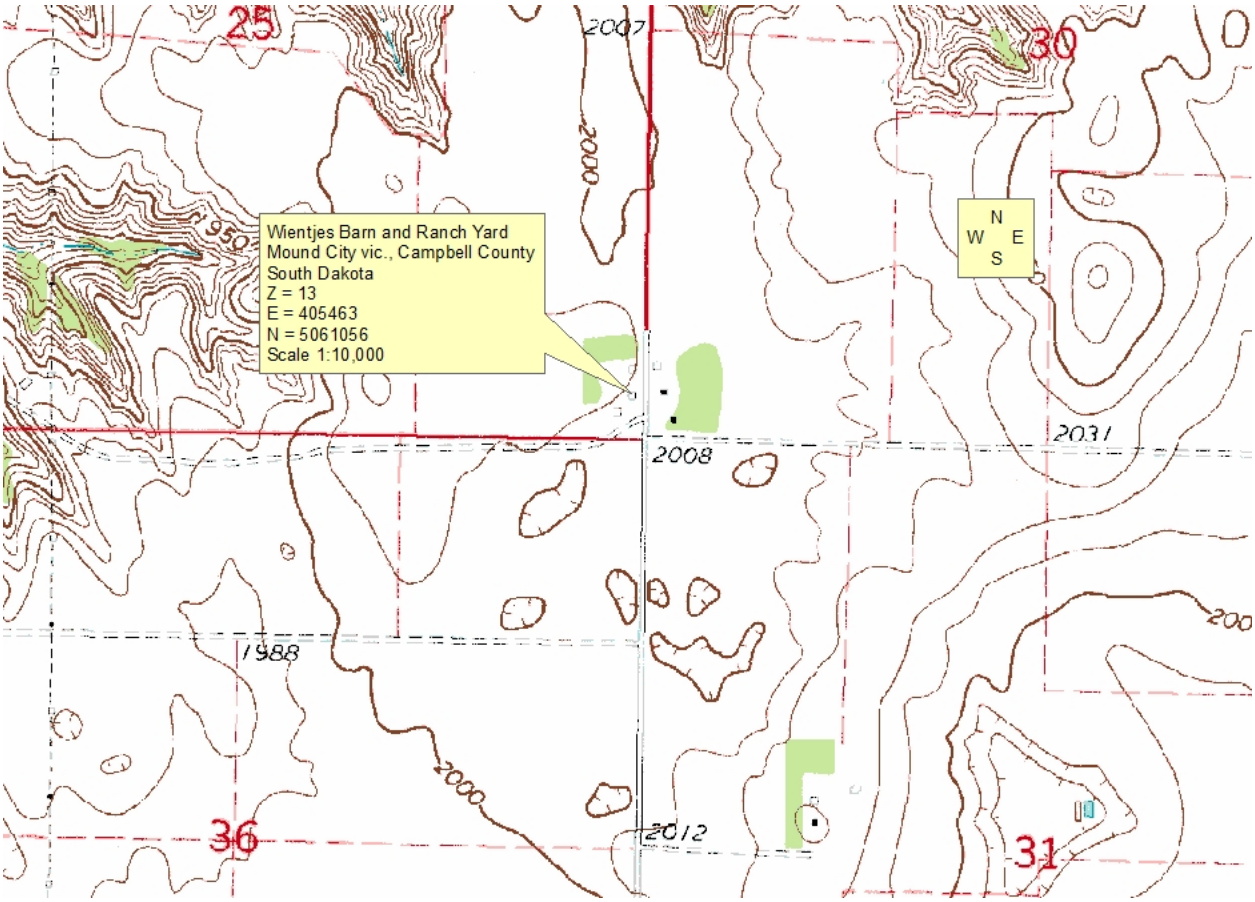
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Bill Wientjes

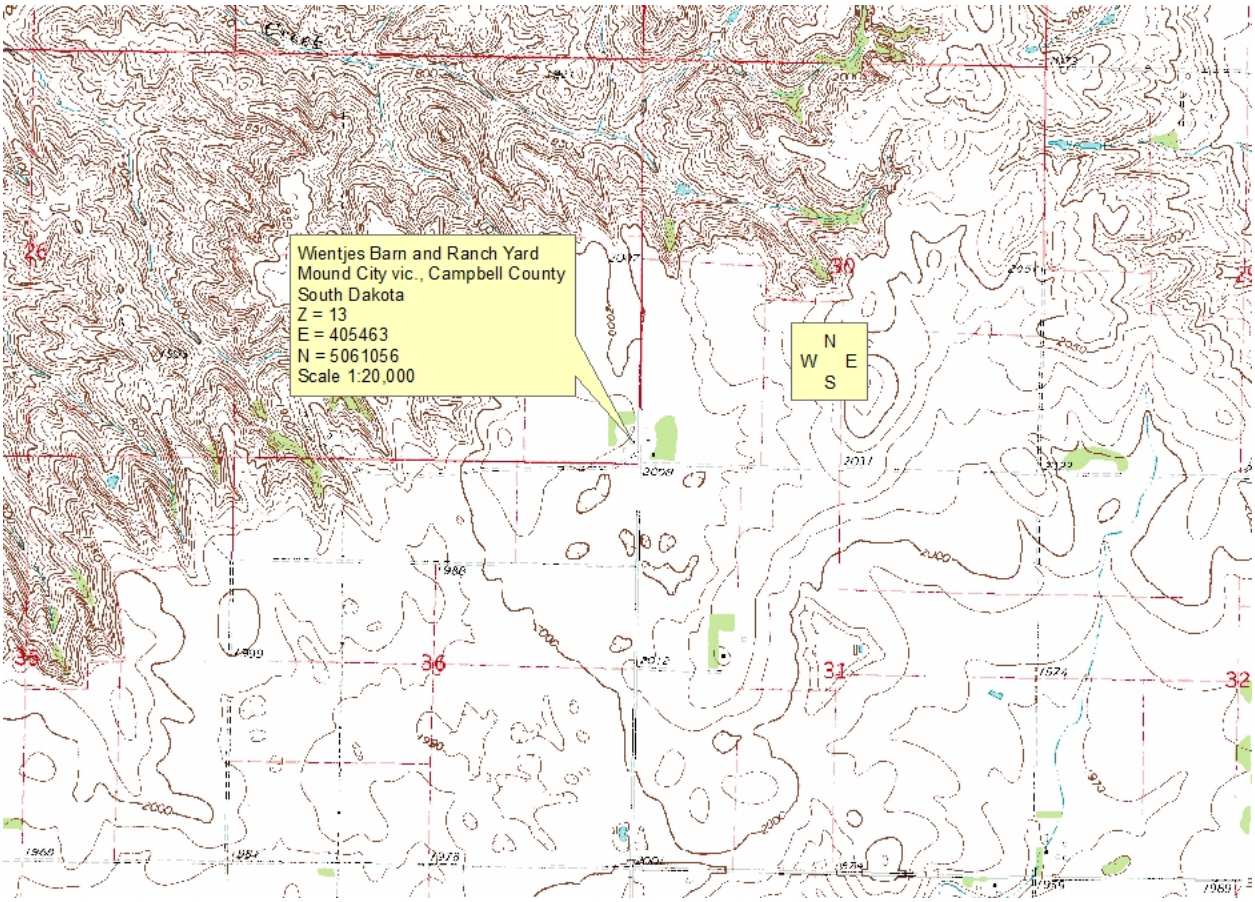
street & number 11703 299th Ave telephone

city or town Mound City state SD zip code 57646

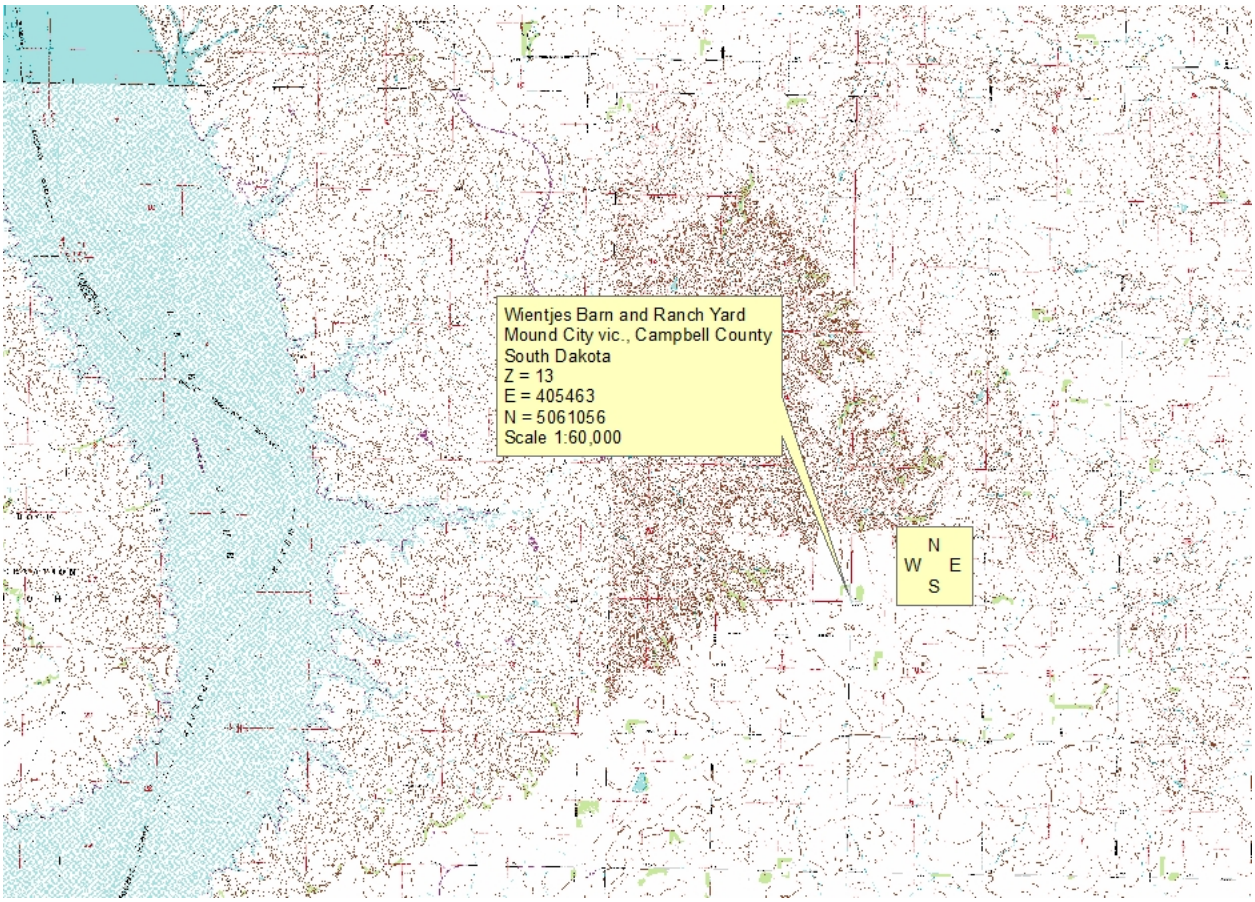
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



Map created in ArcMap 10 on 05/05/2013.

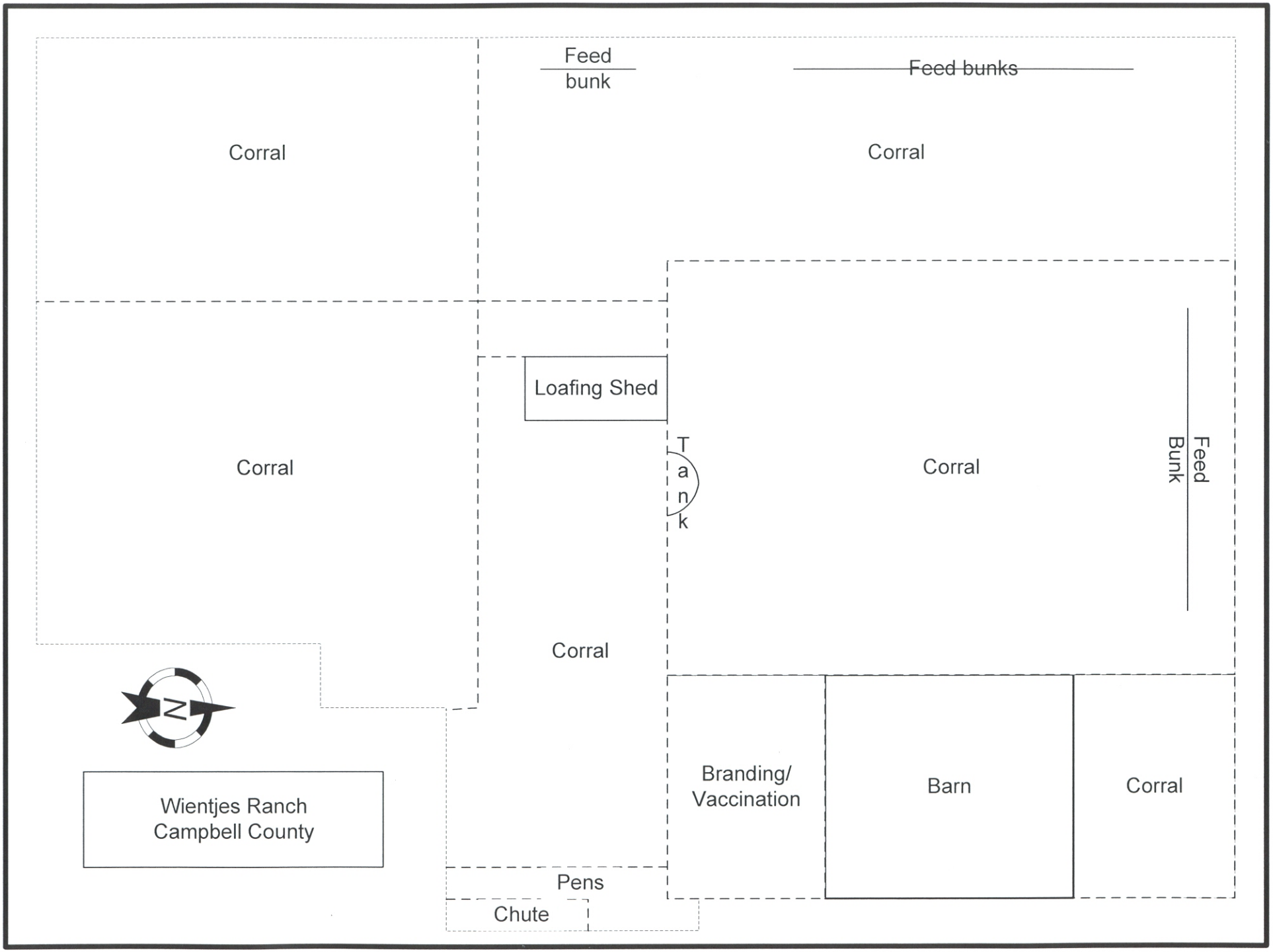


Map created in ArcMap 10 on 05/05/2013.



Map created in ArcMap 10 on 05/05/2013.

Map created in ArcMap 10 on 05/05/2013.


Feed bunk
Feed bunks
Corral
Corral
Loafing Shed
Corral
Tank
Corral
Feed Bunk
Corral
N
Branding/ Vaccination
Barn
Corral
Wientjes Ranch
Campbell County
Pens
Chute

POLARIS