

**SOUTH DAKOTA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE**  
**HISTORIC SITES SURVEY STRUCTURE FORM**



**SITE INFORMATION**

\*SURVEY DATE: December 20, 2012

\*SURVEYOR: Jim Stone

\*ADDRESS: 31494 453<sup>rd</sup> Ave.

\*COUNTY: Clay

\*CITY: Meckling

LOCATION DESCRIPTION: Vermillion, South Dakota Highway 50 bi-pass, West to Meckling, continue 4-1/4 miles to 452<sup>nd</sup> Ave, turn left (South) 3-1/2 miles on the left (East) side

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: SW 1/4, 32 – 93 – 53 Meckling Twp.

\*QUARTER 1: SW 1/4

\*QUARTER 2: \_\_\_\_\_

\*TOWNSHIP: Norway

\*RANGE: 53

\*SECTION: 32

ACRES: 155.56

OWNER CODE 1: P

OWNER CODE 2: \_\_\_\_\_

OWNER CODE 3: \_\_\_\_\_

OWNER NAME: Kyle & Rebecca Jensen

OWNER ADDRESS: 31582 454<sup>th</sup> Ave.

OWNER CITY: Meckling

OWNER STATE: South Dakota

OWNER ZIP: 57069

QUAD NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

**HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE**

\*DOE: \_\_\_\_\_

\*DOE DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

REASON INELIGIBLE: \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

MULTIPLE PROPERTY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CATEGORY: \_\_\_\_\_

NOMINATION STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE LISTED: \_\_\_\_\_

REFERENCE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

HISTORIC DISTRICT RATING: C or NC

PERIOD: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNIFICANCE LEVEL 1: N S L

SIGNIFICANCE LEVEL 2: N S L

CRITERIA 1: A B C D

CRITERIA 2: A B C D

CRITERIA 3: A B C D

CRITERIA 4: A B C D

SIGNIFICANCE NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_

**STRUCTURE DETAILS**

\* = REQUIRED FIELD

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SHPO ID:			
*PROPERTY NAME:			
OTHER NAME:			
CURRENT FUNCTION:	<u>Vacant</u>	FOUNDATION:	<u>Native rock</u>
CURRENT SUBFUNCTION:	<u>Storage</u>	ROOF MATERIAL:	<u>Steel roofing over cedar shingles</u>
HISTORIC FUNCTION:	<u>Home</u>	ROOF SHAPE:	<u>Gable</u>
HISTORIC SUBFUNCTION:	<u>Home</u>	STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:	<u>Logs</u>
OCCUPIED:	<u>Yes</u>	STYLE:	<u>Log cabin</u>
ACCESSIBLE:	<u>Yes with permission</u>	TYPE:	<u>Log cabin home</u>
		WALLS:	<u>Logs with 1x12 vertical siding</u>
STORIES:	<u>2</u>	SIGNIFICANT PERSON:	<u>Calle Nissen Johnsen</u>
*DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	<u>Pre 1869</u>	CULTURAL AFFILIATION:	<u>Danish</u>

ALTERED/MOVED NOTES: Moved to this site 1869. (Question this date as Calle and Marie moved here in 1870 and he moved this cabin from Myron Grove as a second house.) 2/3 of the second floor removed, opening cut in South wall and one piece O.H. door installed in 1947. Front door framed in and a window installed. Lean-to added to the East and West sides. Board floor removed and concrete floor poured. Inside walls plastered on first floor. Lower 3' has tongue and groove wainscoting in the west side. Floor has been replaced in second floor with 2x12's that are milled lumber.

INTERIOR NOTES: Full 4"x8" floor joists for the second floor. These are smooth. The joists are mortised into the North and South Walls. There is a log wall dividing 10' from the east side. This wall goes up through the second floor and to the peak. These logs are mortised into the North and South walls. Log walls go up to the peak on the East and West gable ends also.

OTHER NOTES: Logs appear to be split from 15" logs. They have been surfaced with an adze to 6-1/2" to 8" thick. The inside is almost smooth and the exterior shows log curvature at the top and bottom. Corners are dovetailed. Three 10" logs support the roof. The rafters are full 4" wide x 3" thick hand hewn. Sheathing is rough sawn cottonwood. Windows are 8"x10' six light (3W by 2H) over 8"x10" six light. Logs are drilled and pegged with 1-1/4 dowel pegs to stabilize logs at window openings.

\*PHYSICAL NOTES: Log cabin is in good condition except for windows and roof on lean-to's.

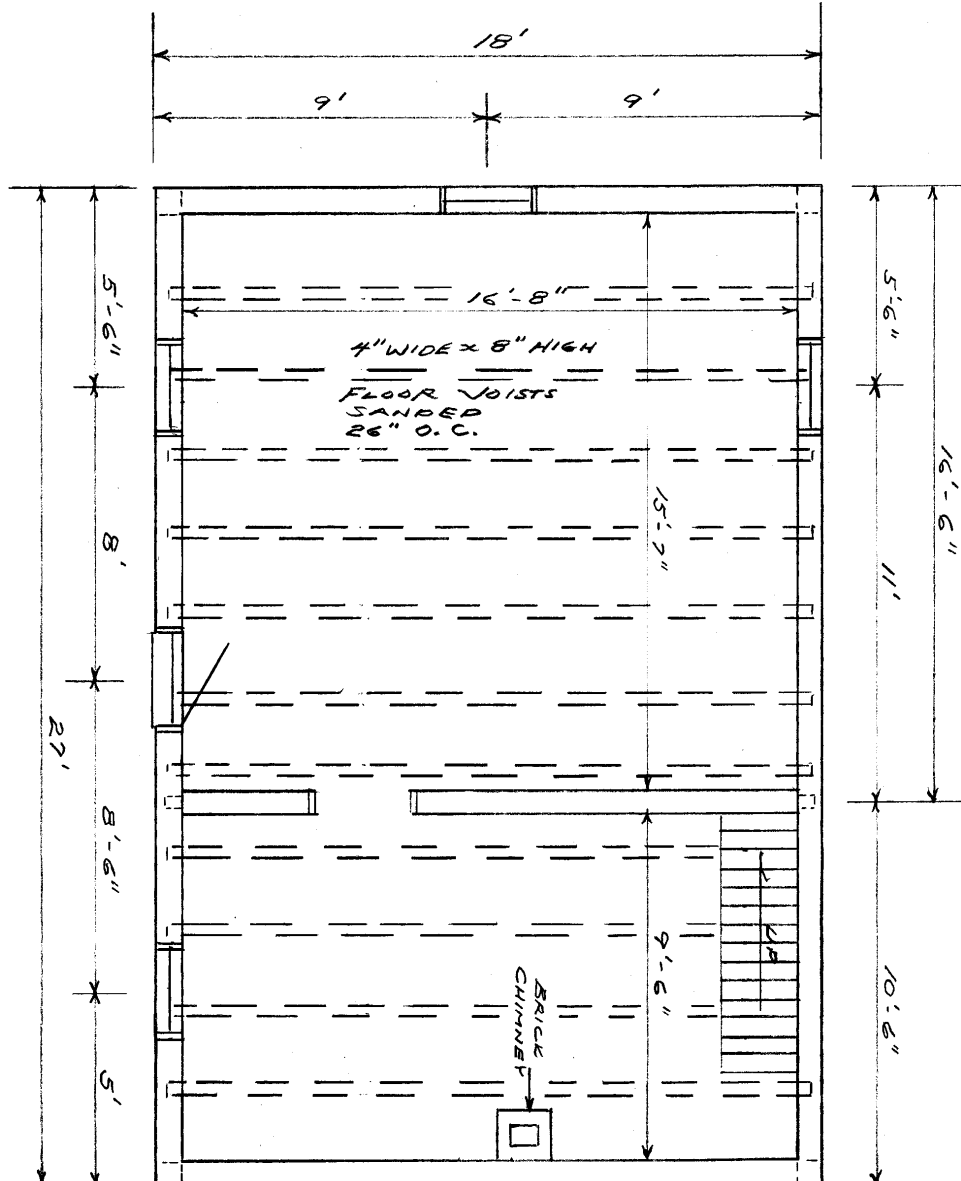
*UTM ZONE:		*RESTRICTED:	<u>Y or N</u>
*UTM EASTING:			
*UTM NORTHING:			

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A.V. STONE  
 DEC. 20, 2012

FIRST FLOOR  
 SCALE - 1/4" = 1'-0"

CALLE NISSEN  
 LOG CABIN  
 31494 453RD AVE.  
 MECKLING, SD. DAK.



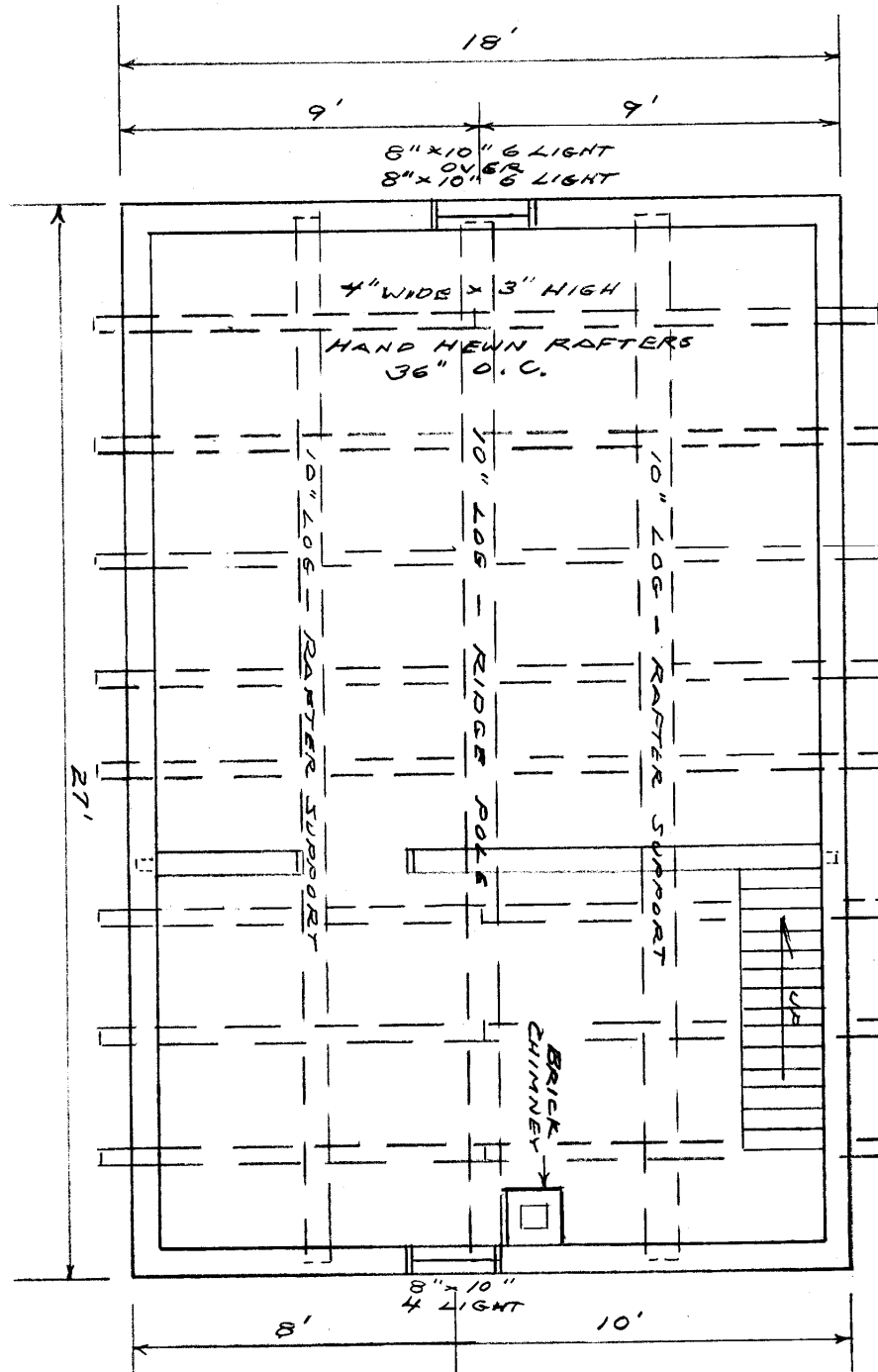
WINDOWS ARE  
 8" x 10" SIX  
 LIGHT 3 W 24  
 8" x 10" SIX  
 LIGHT 3 W 24

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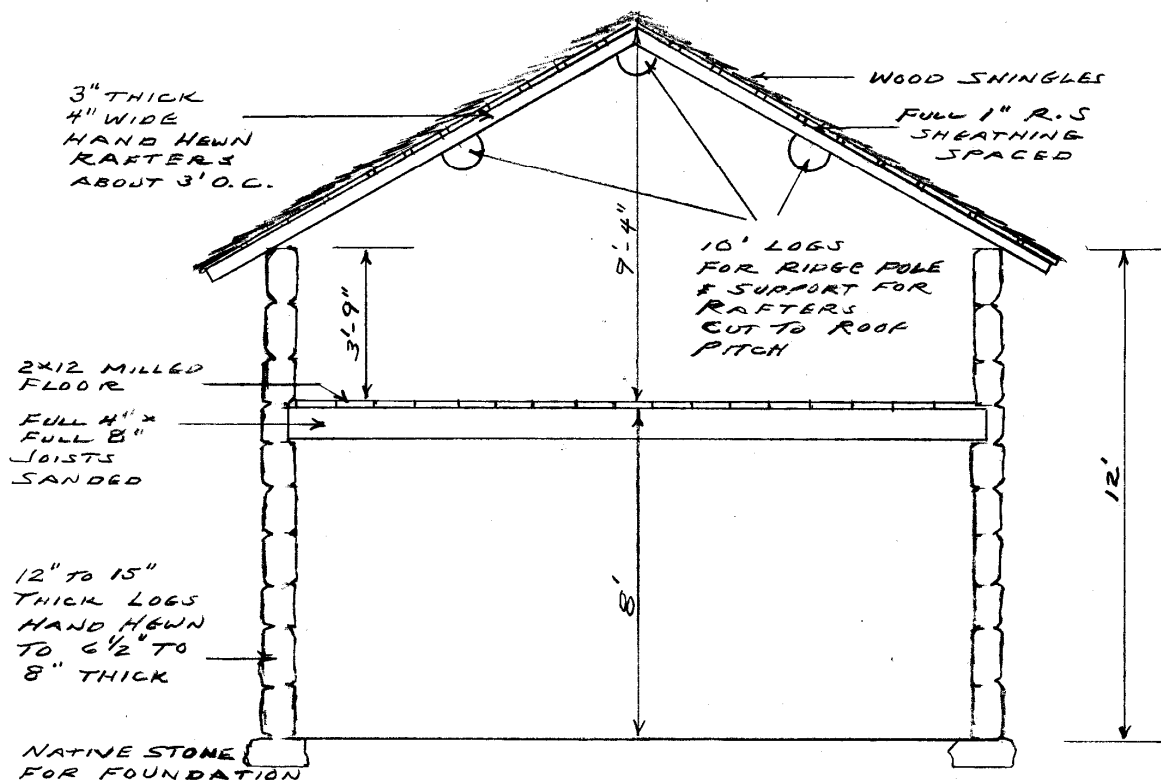
A.J. STONE  
 DEC. 20, 2012

SECOND FLOOR  
 SCALE - 1/4" = 1'-0"

CALLE NISSEN  
 LOG CABIN  
 31494 453RD AVG.  
 MECKLING, SO. DAK.



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EAST ELEVATION

SCALE - 1/2" = 1'-0"

A. J. STONE  
 DEC 20, 2012

CALLE NISSEN  
 LOG CABIN  
 31494 453RD AVE.  
 MECKLING, SO. DAK.



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PHOTOGRAPHER: Jim Stone  
DATE OF PHOTO: December 21, 2012

ROLL NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHOTO NUMBER: 1  
CAMERA DIRECTION: Looking NE, SW corner



PHOTOGRAPHER: Jim Stone  
DATE OF PHOTO: December 21, 2012

ROLL NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHOTO NUMBER: 2  
CAMERA DIRECTION: Looking NW, SE corner



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**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Jim Stone  
**DATE OF PHOTO:** December 21, 2012

**ROLL NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**PHOTO NUMBER:** 3  
**CAMERA DIRECTION:** Looking SW, NE corner



**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Jim Stone  
**DATE OF PHOTO:** December 21, 2012

**ROLL NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**PHOTO NUMBER:** 4  
**CAMERA DIRECTION:** Looking SE, NW corner

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**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Jim Stone  
**DATE OF PHOTO:** December 21, 2012

**ROLL NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**PHOTO NUMBER:** 5

**CAMERA DIRECTION:** First floor, inside West lean-to, looking NE, West wall of cabin, dovetail corners



**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Jim Stone  
**DATE OF PHOTO:** December 21, 2012

**ROLL NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**PHOTO NUMBER:** 6

**CAMERA DIRECTION:** First floor, inside west lean-to, looking SE, West wall of cabin, dovetail corner



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PHOTOGRAPHER: Jim Stone  
DATE OF PHOTO: December 21, 2012

ROLL NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHOTO NUMBER: 7

First floor, inside West  
lean-to, looking SE, top  
of dovetail corner.

CAMERA DIRECTION: \_\_\_\_\_



PHOTOGRAPHER: Jim Stone  
DATE OF PHOTO: December 21, 2012

ROLL NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHOTO NUMBER: 8

First floor, inside West  
lean-to, looking East, 1-  
1-1/4" dowel peg  
stabilizing logs at  
window opening.

CAMERA DIRECTION: \_\_\_\_\_

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**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Jim Stone  
**DATE OF PHOTO:** December 21, 2012

**ROLL NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**PHOTO NUMBER:** 9

**CAMERA DIRECTION:** floor, looking North,  
mortise ends of logs cut  
out to remove interior  
log wall.



**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Jim Stone  
**DATE OF PHOTO:** December 21, 2012

**ROLL NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**PHOTO NUMBER:** 10

**CAMERA DIRECTION:** First floor, looking NE,  
logs cut out to remove  
log wall, note floor joists  
cut off in wall.



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**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Jim Stone  
**DATE OF PHOTO:** December 21, 2012

**ROLL NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**PHOTO NUMBER:** 11

**First floor, looking West,  
floor joists and second  
floor at West end.**

**CAMERA DIRECTION:** \_\_\_\_\_



**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Jim Stone  
**DATE OF PHOTO:** December 21, 2012

**ROLL NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**PHOTO NUMBER:** 12

**Second floor, looking  
NE, top of center wall  
and North log supporting  
roof.**

**CAMERA DIRECTION:** \_\_\_\_\_



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PHOTOGRAPHER: Jim Stone  
DATE OF PHOTO: December 21, 2012

ROLL NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHOTO NUMBER: 13

CAMERA DIRECTION: Second floor, looking, East, top of center wall, note 1-1/4" pegs to stabilize logs.



PHOTOGRAPHER: Jim Stone  
DATE OF PHOTO: December 21, 2012

ROLL NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHOTO NUMBER: 14

CAMERA DIRECTION: Second floor, looking NE, 10" log ridge pole, note top cut to roof slope, 4" x 3" hand hewn rafters

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PHOTOGRAPHER: Jim Stone  
DATE OF PHOTO: December 21, 2012

ROLL NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHOTO NUMBER: 15

CAMERA DIRECTION: First floor, looking NE, 1"  
steel rod supporting  
center log wall.



PHOTOGRAPHER: Jim Stone  
DATE OF PHOTO: December 21, 2012

ROLL NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHOTO NUMBER: 16

CAMERA DIRECTION: First floor, looking NW,  
1" steel rod supporting  
top of log wall, steel O.H.  
door track below.



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PHOTOGRAPHER: Jim Stone  
DATE OF PHOTO: December 21, 2012

ROLL NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHOTO NUMBER: 17

CAMERA DIRECTION: First floor, looking North,  
1" steel rod supporting  
top of log wall, steel O.H.  
door track below.



PHOTOGRAPHER: Jim Stone  
DATE OF PHOTO: December 21, 2012

ROLL NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHOTO NUMBER: 18

CAMERA DIRECTION: First floor, looking West,  
bottom of center log wall  
and 1" steel rod, steel  
track below is for O.H.  
door.



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PHOTOGRAPHER: Jim Stone  
DATE OF PHOTO: December 21, 2012

ROLL NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHOTO NUMBER: 19

CAMERA DIRECTION: First floor, looking East,  
brick chimney, brick  
made and fired on site.



PHOTOGRAPHER: Jim Stone  
DATE OF PHOTO: December 21, 2012

ROLL NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHOTO NUMBER: 20

CAMERA DIRECTION: First floor, looking East,  
brick chimney, brick  
made and fired on site,  
note 8"x10" four light  
window

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**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Jim Stone  
**DATE OF PHOTO:** December 21, 2012

**ROLL NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**PHOTO NUMBER:** 21

**CAMERA DIRECTION:** First floor, looking North,  
8"x10" six light (3W by  
2H) over 8"x10" six light  
window

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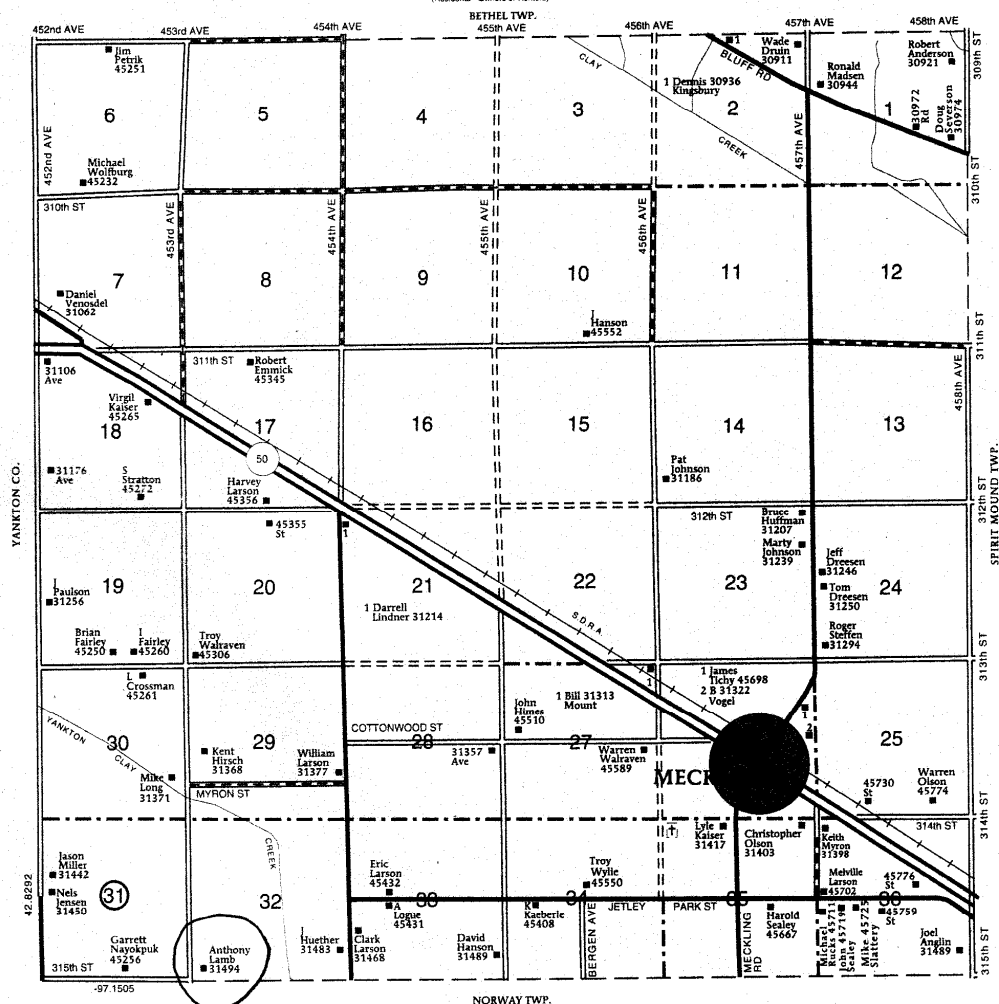
## HISTORIC SITES SURVEY STRUCTURE FORM



T-93-N

MECKLING DIRECTORY

R-53-W





## **HISTORY**

This farm located in the SW ¼ of Section 32, Meckling Township, Clay County was homesteaded by Calle Nissen Johnsen.

The 1894, 1901 and 1912 Clay county Atlas lists Calle Nissen Johnsen as the owner.

The 1924 Clay County Atlas lists Ella Johnson as the owner.

The 1937 Clay County Atlas lists Maria Johnson as the owner

**The Following Is From**  
**Hay Country History**

**A Story of the Pioneers of the Gayville and Meckling, South Dakota Area**  
**Calle Nissen Johnsen log cabin**

Calle Nissen Johnsen and Marie (Hostrup) left from Denmark on April 12, 1870 and immigrated to America. They left from Copenhagen on an immigrant ship "Ocean Queen". The trip across the Atlantic Ocean was 19 days. Their luggage was lost so Marie stayed in New York until the luggage was recovered. Calle Johnson continued on to Dakota Territory to purchase the relinquishment on a quarter of land in Section 32 of Meckling Township. When Marie arrived in Dakota Territory, they were married by Reverend Emil Christenson.

The next morning Marie took stock of her new home: one kettle, one frying pan, a coffee pot, two cups, two plates, two knives and forks, a stove, a bed, a rough table and bench. The home was a small log cabin. The next home was also a log cabin but larger with a lean-to for a bedroom. (The lean-to may have been on the east side, because there is a door into the lean-to built on the east side in the 1930's.) The cabin also had a board floor and a shingle roof. In this house ten of their children were born. Eight of these children reached adulthood. Hans, Peter, Ella, Katherine, Mary (Sorenson), Helena and Christina (Hvistendahl). This log cabin still stands, but the family moved into a fine brick house built in 1882 from brick fired on their own farm. This is where the youngest child was born.

The second log home was moved to this location from the Lake Myron area in 1869. This date may be wrong as there was a log cabin on the farm when Calle and Marie moved here in 1870. This second log cabin is 18' wide by 27' long. The walls are 12' high. The full 4"x 8" floor joists for the second floor were mortised into the north and south walls. The joists are 26" O.C. Only about 1/3 of the second floor is still in place. The mortised part of the floor joists is still visible in the walls, from when the east 2/3 of the second floor was removed. The joists were sawn off flush with the inside of the walls. The second floor flooring has been replaced with 2x12 milled lumber. The original floor may have been cottonwood boards that were planed. The top of the 4"x8" joists show marks where a cove moulding was installed.

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In 1930's the lean-to was added to the east end for a kitchen. This would have been when the first brick house burned and they were building the second brick home that still stands today. They had moved back into the old log cabin.

There is a log wall in 10' from the east end. These logs are mortised in the north and south walls. The lower 8' of this wall was removed in the 1940's to convert the cabin into a machine shop and machine storage. A 1" steel rod supports the top portion of this log wall. This steel rod was made on a forge by a blacksmith. In 1947 the 10' wide by 9' high one-piece overhead door was installed on the south wall at the east end. The logs were sawn down each side and removed for an opening for the door.

No evidence of the board floor remains. A concrete floor was poured when the cabin was converted into a machine shop. No evidence of the native stone foundation remains. They may have poured the concrete foundation in sections by removing a section of stone and pouring concrete. When that concrete was set, they may have moved over and repeated removing stone and pouring new concrete.

The gable ends are logs to the peak. The logs are unique in the fact that they appear to have been split from a larger log. The face on each side has been smoothed with an adze. However it is easy to see that the outside has more curvature top and bottom than the inside of the logs. This produced a smooth wall inside. The corners are dovetailed. At the window openings they drilled a hole down through the logs and inserted a 1-1/4" round peg to stabilize the logs. At some point in time the walls on the first floor were lath and plastered. The lower 3' in the west side has tongue and groove wainscoting.

There are three 10" logs that support the roof. The center log is the ridgepole and has the top cut to the roof slope on each side. The other two logs are about 1/2 the way down to the outside wall and support the rafters. These logs also are cut to the slope of the roof. The rafters are full 4" wide and full 3" thick. They are hand hewn. The roof sheathing is rough sawn cottonwood with wood shingles. The first shingles would have been cottonwood. The later shingles were cedar shingles, as they would last longer.

The exterior of the walls were covered with 1x12 vertical rough sawn cottonwood boards at some time. Battens were applied over the cracks. This is why the logs have not rotted and are in very good condition.

The windows are 8"x10" six light (3 wide and 2 high) over 8"x10" six light, to make double hung units. There were four windows on the first floor and one window in the west gable end. There is one 8"x10" four light stationary window in the east gable end.

There was a porch (lean-to roof) on the south side over the front door and extending to the east side. This was removed when the cabin was converted into a machine shop.

The front door was framed in and the window from under the porch was moved into the doorway.

Lean-to on the west side was added later. The west exterior of the cabin wall is inside of this lean-to and is not covered with siding. The pictures show the dovetail corners and the pegs that stabilize the logs at the window opening. The lath show in the west window opening as the window was removed and it was plastered inside.

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