

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



**SITE INFORMATION**

\*SURVEY DATE: July 21, 2011 \*ADDRESS: 1103 Hwy 50  
\*SURVEYOR: Jim Stone \*COUNTY: Clay  
\*CITY: Vermillion

LOCATION DESCRIPTION: S. D. Hwy 50 and Hwy 19 intersection, first place east on the North side of Hwy 50

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Lee Tract 1, SE ¼ and SE ¼ of the SE ¼ of section 11, 11 – 92 –52, Clay County, Vermillion

\*QUARTER 1: SE ¼ & SE 1/4  
\*QUARTER 2: SE 1/4  
\*TOWNSHIP: Vermillion  
\*RANGE: 52  
\*SECTION: 11  
ACRES: 11

OWNER NAME: Verna Saito  
OWNER ADDRESS: 1103 S. D. Hwy 50  
OWNER CITY: Vermillion  
OWNER STATE: South Dakota  
OWNER ZIP: 57069  
QUAD NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

OWNER CODE 1: P  
OWNER CODE 2: F S L P  
OWNER CODE 3: F S L P

**HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE**

\*DOE: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*DOE DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
REASON INELIGIBLE: \_\_\_\_\_

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

NOMINATION STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE LISTED: \_\_\_\_\_  
REFERENCE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
HISTORIC DISTRICT RATING: C or NC  
PERIOD: \_\_\_\_\_

CATEGORY: \_\_\_\_\_  
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: Barn built 1915, have receipt for down payment and paid receipt for final payment. Barn is in good condition.

**STRUCTURE DETAILS**

\* = REQUIRED FIELD

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SHPO ID: 11 CL 0000582  
 \*PROPERTY NAME: Collar barn  
 OTHER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CURRENT FUNCTION: Storage FOUNDATION: Poured concrete

CURRENT SUBFUNCTION: \_\_\_\_\_ ROOF MATERIAL: Asphalt shingles over Cedar shingles

HISTORIC FUNCTION: Agriculture ROOF SHAPE: Gambrel

HISTORIC SUBFUNCTION: Livestock barn, grain and hay storage STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: Balloon framing

STYLE: Gambrel roof

OCCUPIED: YES TYPE: 1 story w/ huge hayloft

ACCESSIBLE: YES WALLS: 2x6 walls, 1x6 drop siding pattern 106

STORIES: 2 SIGNIFICANT PERSON: W. Benajor Collar and Benajor W. Collar

\*DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1915 CULTURAL AFFILIATION: English

ALTERED/MOVED NOTES: Original site, milk cow stanchions have been removed.

INTERIOR NOTES: Poured concrete foundation and floor, 6x6 posts and 6x6 beams. Three rows of posts and beams run North to South, with 2x8 floor joists and 3/4" flooring for hayloft floor. Box stalls, granary and calf pens are still in place. Modified braced rafter truss system.

OTHER NOTES: 36' wide (East to West) by 50' long (North to South). 8' ceiling on the first floor and 28' high (hayloft floor to the peak) in hayloft. Barn has (11) 4 over 4 double hung window on the first floor, three 45" x 7' swinging doors and one 8' x 7' sliding door. Dormers on the East and West off the hip with four - 4 light (8 x 10 barn sash) in each dormer. Metal cupola.

\*PHYSICAL NOTES: Barn is in very good condition, needs some minor attention.

\*UTM ZONE: \_\_\_\_\_ \*RESTRICTED: Y or N

\* = REQUIRED FIELD

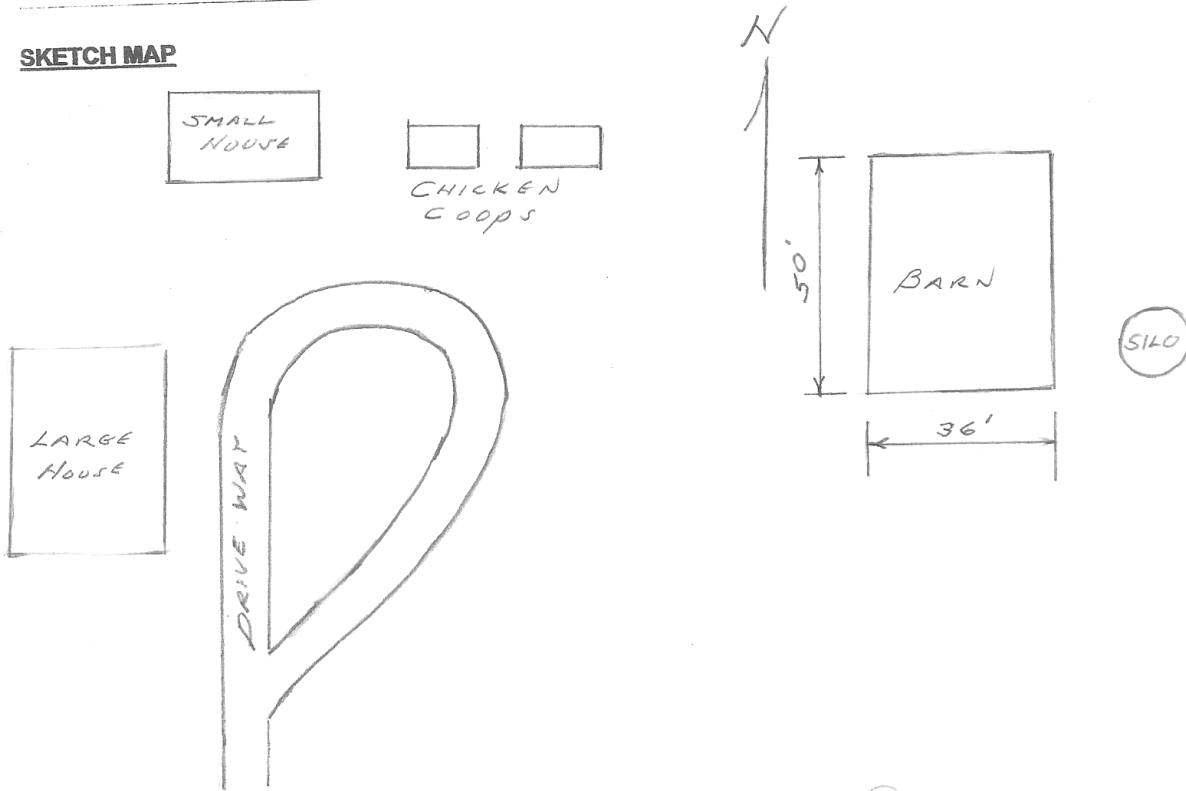
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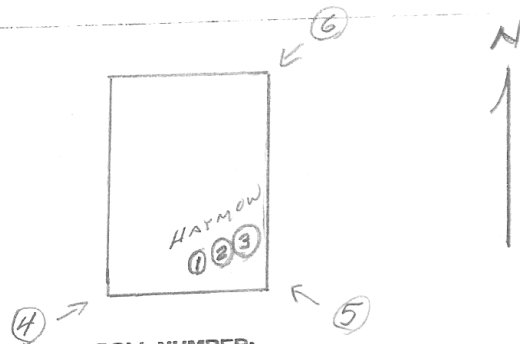
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**SKETCH MAP**



**PHOTOGRAPHS**



PHOTOGRAPHER: \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE OF PHOTO: \_\_\_\_\_

ROLL NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHOTO NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
CAMERA DIRECTION: \_\_\_\_\_

\* = REQUIRED FIELD

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**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Jim Stone  
**DATE OF PHOTO:** July 21, 2011

**ROLL NUMBER:** 1  
**PHOTO NUMBER:** 1  
**CAMERA DIRECTION:** NW corner of hayloft



**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Jim Stone  
**DATE OF PHOTO:** July 21, 2011

**ROLL NUMBER:** 2  
**PHOTO NUMBER:** 2  
**CAMERA DIRECTION:** NW corner of hayloft

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**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Jim Stone  
**DATE OF PHOTO:** July 21, 2011

**ROLL NUMBER:** 3  
**PHOTO NUMBER:** 3  
**CAMERA DIRECTION:** NW corner of hayloft,  
note 2x6 bracing added



**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Jim Stone  
**DATE OF PHOTO:** July 21, 2011

**ROLL NUMBER:** 4  
**PHOTO NUMBER:** 4  
**CAMERA DIRECTION:** Looking NE, SW corner

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**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Jim Stone  
**DATE OF PHOTO:** July 21, 2011

**ROLL NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**PHOTO NUMBER:** 5  
**CAMERA DIRECTION:** Looking NW, SE corner



**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Jim Stone  
**DATE OF PHOTO:** July 21, 2011

**ROLL NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**PHOTO NUMBER:** 6  
**CAMERA DIRECTION:** Looking SW, NE corner



## **Pioneer Days as I Remember Them**

By Hattie E. (Hodgin) Collar

January 26, 1926

I was born near the little town of Springville, Linn County, Iowa August 22, 1862.. In the fall of 1864 I came with my parents to Vermillion, Dakota Territory, traveling the distance of three hundred miles with ox teams and covered wagon. Of course I don't remember the trip as I was but two years old but I remember the oxen (Buck and Berry) and could describe them perfectly. You can imagine how fast we traveled when I tell you that my folks said I walked a great deal of the way behind the wagon until we came to the place where the rattlesnakes were so numerous they were afraid I would be bitten by them.

We would travel all day sometimes without finding a watering place. Our stopping place on arriving at Vermillion was the Wm. Shriner home stead a mile north-west of town (and owned by us at the present time). They had been here three or four years and had a claim picked out for us, that is, we could buy another man's right to a claim. We bought the right to what is now the Huetson place a mile out from east Main Street. There was a little log cabin on the place, just one room with log walls with plastering between the logs. There was a dirt roof for I remember the grass and weeds grew up there in the summer. How plainly I can see the arrangement of that little cabin room just where the bed, stove, and the table stood and the cupboard which father had made from some cottonwood boards with no paint or varnish finish. Another piece of home made furniture I especially remember was a bench with a low shelf underneath. Another little incident, which indelibly impressed upon my mind is the fright I received by a snake dropping on my shoulder as I passed out of the cabin door one day. I can feel it yet when I think of it.

There were no trees in those days except along the rivers, and one could see for miles in every direction but the grass on the bottoms grew so high and thick that a man riding on horseback could hardly be seen. So for the first few years we were here we would often imagine Indians lurking in the high grass, in fact, we were in fear of the Indians most of the time as there had been some bad massacres not far away, the worst being of the Wiseman family just across in Nebraska. It was too terrible to think about. I remember one day when mother and I were alone in the cabin, we saw Indians coming down the road with their stick vehicles. These were made of two long poles, one fastened to each side of a pony with the other ends dragging on the ground. They fastened two or three sticks across from pole to pole and on this contraption they carried their luggage. When mother saw the Indians coming she called me in the house and locked the door and we crawled back into the corner so if they came and looked into the windows as they sometimes did, they couldn't see us, but they passed on without stopping to our great relief.

One summer father and some of the neighbor men went up in the Bloomingdale district to make hay and the women and children would get together in one of the cabins as they were afraid to stay alone. They would worry for fear the Indians would raise up out of the tall grass and attack the men at their hay making.



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At this time the Missouri River ran on this side next to the old town which was then on the bottom and most of the claim holders had a few acres of timber land across the large bend of the river seven or eight miles from the town where they went in the winter to cut and haul trees from which to make their fuel for the year. It seemed like such a long, long way when they had to go with oxen. They would start before daylight and not get home until dark with a small load of logs. It was at these times that we were in fear of the terrific snowstorms, which swept across these prairies so often in the winter. It would snow hard all night then about eight or nine o'clock the wind would come up very suddenly from the north-west and blow a perfect gale for three days and nights. The snow would become so fine that it would go through any crevice that air could penetrate and you could hardly see a foot ahead of you. It was almost certain death to be caught out in one.

It was about this time that the word blizzard originated and was added to the dictionary. Sometimes the snow would drift so that it would cover some of the cabins so they would have to dig out. Many people froze to death and many were made cripples for life.

Another thing we had to look out for in pioneer days were prairie fires. There was nothing north or west of us but vast prairies as far as the eye could see and in the fall the grass was dry, one had to be very careful about starting fires for if the wind started up it would often cross the small streams or plowed firebreaks.

About the only sounds to be heard at night in those days were the howl of wolves and the yelp of coyotes. The wolves would come close around the cabins at night and send out their lonesome howls, but I love to think of the early morning sounds. The drum, drum, drum of the prairie chickens and the meadowlark, the pioneer bird (I love him best of all). How he cheered us with his songs, even now when I first hear the lark of spring I can see the burnt black prairies and hear the crunch of the burned grass under the wagon wheels, for there were no roads then when we went anyplace, we just struck out across the prairies and the larks were always there.

Another very attractive thing to me were the prairie flowers. It seemed as if the grass was full of blossoms of all colors.

In the spring of 1866 my brother Alonzo was born and that next summer my little playfellow brother Arthur died and was buried in the cemetery, which was on the hill just north of the depot.

In the winter of '66 and '67 father was a member of the legislative body and we moved to Yankton, the capitol, and boarded some of the other legislators. I remember three of them, John Trumbo, Hans Gunderson the ex-governor's father and a Mr. Hanson, I have forgotten his first name. We lived in Cal Moodys house. I remember the Indians often coming and sitting around while we were eating.

I attended Sunday school in the old log schoolhouse and Rachel Ross (Austin) was my teacher, she was also my first district school teacher in the log school house at Fairview.

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Courtesy of Cleo (Collar) Erickson, (Hattie E. (Hodgin) Collar was her great aunt)

**The Collar Farm**  
By Cleo (Collar) Erickson

Benajor W. Collar was born February 8, 1835 at Morris, Otsego County, New York, the son of Lyman Collar and Loes (Utter) Collar. He died on March 16, 1916 at his home in Clay County, South Dakota. He was the youngest in a family of six sons and four daughters and lived in New York until he was sixteen, when he accompanied his parents to Waupaca County, Wisconsin. He married Charlotte Morey on June 7, 1856 and they continued to live in Wisconsin until 1860 when they moved to Jones County, Iowa.

One year later they came to Clay County, Dakota Territory and homesteaded in Vermillion Township. To this couple were born eight children. They were, Egbert Leroy, William Augustus, Willis Benajor, Violetta and Rosetta (twins), Charlotte, Flora Belle and Ella. The children all lived in Clay County except Ella who married and moved to Winterset, Iowa and Rosetta who married and moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Their first home was a sod house built on the fair grounds road, now known as Princeton Street. The house was on a knoll just south of the by-pass on the west side of the road. The family lived there until cottonwood trees were cut down and lumber sawed so that the family home could be built where the Jehovah Witnesses church now stands.

I remember going into that house many times when I was a little girl. A family by the name of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Sherk lived there. Aunt Vic was my grandmother's cousin. I was about eleven years old and would go to help them clean house as they were elderly people by that time. It was a wonderful old house. There were two front doors, one into the living room and one to the dining room. There was no electricity or running water, so each day the lamps had to be filled with "coal oil", and the lamp chimneys washed and the wicks trimmed. The water supply was a cistern on the east side of the house. One would take the wooden lid off, lower a pail that had a long rope on it into the cistern and pull up a pail of water. It was not unusual to see bugs or crickets in the water. The supply of water was from the rains each year that ran off the roof into the troughs on the house and into the downspouts connected to the cistern.

The house was quite large. There were three large bedrooms upstairs, two bedrooms downstairs, living room, dining room, kitchen and pantry and a large wood shed attached to the back of the house. I remember so well the pantry as it was so dark. All of the cooking pots and pans were hung on the walls. The floors had wide boards and the stairway went up in the dining room behind a closed door. When the old house was torn down a Majolica plate in perfect condition was found in the wall along with a flask of whiskey with the seal still intact. The rest was pushed into the stone lined basement, covered with dirt and left. The lot was later sold to the church. At the time this house was the family home, the barn and barnyard was across the road and south of the existing barn. The land south of the barn is very good soil and wonderful gardens have been grown in that area.

Benajor W. Collar was quite a colorful man. He not only homesteaded, but bought adjoining property and when he died, left each son and daughter land. My grandfather, Willis Benajor Collar, was left with the home place. Willis married Pearl Dye on February 27, 1896. They had one son, Gordon, born March 26<sup>th</sup>, 1899 on the home place. The small house, which is now located back of the large house. It was moved there when the large house was built by Willis and Pearl in 1918. They lived in the small house until that time. The large house was built by a contractor named Andrew Meleen. He came here from Sweden and lived in Vermillion. His wife was also

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from Sweden. Three houses of about the same size and style were built at that time, one being my grandfathers, the O'Connor house on Franklin, now the Goebel Bed and Breakfast and the Chris Nelson home ten miles north of Vermillion. The house cost between six and eight thousand dollars. Every board was sawed by hand. Mrs. Meleen was a good friend of my grandmother Pearl and they spent many hours together in the dining room quilting. I can remember my grandmother tearing rags or cutting strips for her log cabin quilts. She kept her sewing machine in the kitchen and there were always scraps of fabric around. Today the house looks much the same except for the kitchen. Grandmother had a "work bench" covered with zinc along the south wall. The stove was located across the southwest corner, the sink was hung on the west wall north of the dining room door and the wood box where wood and cobs were kept sat under the drain board for the sink. A large pantry was on the north of the kitchen and doors opened from both the kitchen and the dining room into the pantry. On the east wall of the pantry stood a large icebox. It held 100 pounds of ice and had a door on the back so it could be filled with ice from the porch to save dripping water all the way thru the kitchen into the pantry.

My father, Gordon, lived with his parents until he was married to Myrtle Severson on August 22, 1921. They moved into the small house and I was born in that house on November 13, 1926. When I was old enough, it was always fun to walk over to grandma's house on the little narrow sidewalk and then around her house all the way to the mailbox to pick up the mail. In June of 1937, my grandmother Pearl died and in the fall of that year we moved into the large house with my grandfather Willis. He lived with us until his death in June of 1945. The small house became the hired man's house. Several families who worked for my father lived there. My father was a grain farmer, but his love of cattle and horses were his main interest. He would buy several hundred head of cattle at a time and feed them to sell to packers. However, he disliked milking cows so my grandfather always did that when he was alive. Mother raised lots of chickens and I can remember gathering a huge pail of eggs one day only to get part way to the house and dropping the pail and breaking every egg in the pail. We washed all the eggs and placed them in twelve dozen egg crates and took them to town on Saturday night. We traded them for groceries for the next week. Saturday night was the highlight of the week. Everyone dressed up, farmers and city residents alike, and came to town to shop and visit. The streets and side streets of Vermillion were filled with people and cars. What fun we had walking and visiting.

There were many buildings on the farm. Next to the two-car garage was the icehouse. My father would go to the Missouri River in the winter when it was frozen over and cut ice, haul it home and pack it in straw. We would then have ice for the warm weather. When we got a refrigerator the icehouse was turned into a building to store grain. Other buildings and one of my favorites was the wood shed. It stood east of the small house and was a long narrow building. It had three doors on the south side and the first door was to the room that held cobs, which were used for the cook stove, the center room had the wood which had been split into stove lengths and the east room had large chunks of wood which waited to be split. The axes and wedges were stored in that room. The center room also was a place that the butcher block was stored. When the folks butchered a steer or hog, the butcher block was hauled into the kitchen and mother scrubbed it until she was satisfied that it was clean and then dad would bring in a quarter of beef or hog and cut it up. No one had invented freezers at that time so many times mother would cut the meat into small pieces, cook it and can it in glass jars. She also made a salt solution and placed the meat in that solution in twenty or thirty gallon Red Wing crocks with a large rock placed on top so the meat would stay in the solution. When ready to use, the salt had be soaked out and then cooked.

In 1936, the winter was so severe and there was so much snow that my friends and I would walk up a snow bank onto the north side of the roof of the wood shed and coast down with our sleds. Several times we went to country school in the bobsled pulled by dad's horses. We would stop and pick up other kids on the way. We thought it was great fun and we stayed warm all huddled together in the sled. Dad would put straw on the floor of the sled and cover us with blankets. We loved it.

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Mother's chicken coop was east of the wood shed and just east of that stood a huge corncrib.

The large barn, which still stands today, was built in 1915. The cost was \$1927.50. I will include a copy of the bill, which Benajor W. Collar paid to John Hanson, the builder. The barn was completed the fall before Benajor died. The west side of the barn was for the cows and calves. There were stanchions for the cows to put their heads into while they were being milked. This would help to keep them standing still. A long alley way divided the barn down the center so we could feed the animals. The east side of the barn was for the horses. My father had two pair of mules, one pair was named Jack and Jenny. I can't remember the names of the others. He also had two or three teams of horses that he used in the fields. The haymow upstairs held all the hay for feeding the cattle and horses. There was a large hole in the center of the floor upstairs and another one at the north end of the floor. This is where the hay was thrown thru to the first floor.

There were large cattle sheds located north of the corncrib and another northeast of the barn. These had doors on the south side. In the winter they had lots of straw on the dirt floors so the cattle could bed down. The sheds gave the cattle a comfortable place to be in case a strong north wind or snowstorm would hit the area.

I lived on the farm with my parents until I married Norris Erickson on July 27, 1947. We moved into Vermillion to a small apartment at that time. My parents continued to live there until March of 1970 when my father died. Mother built a small home in Vermillion. Up until that time, only Collars had owned the land and the buildings.

As I think back, I appreciate the life I had growing up. I am happy that my children had a chance to live in this area growing to adulthood. South Dakota may have hot and cold weather, but it doesn't last long. I guess the saying, "If you don't like the weather here, just wait 30 minutes and it will change" is very true. We have a beautiful state and beautiful people. May it always stay that way.

Written by Cleo (Collar) Erickson

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VERMILLION, S. D. Sept 22, 1915 NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK** 78-68  
OF VERMILLION, S. D.

PAY TO THE ORDER OF John Hanson \$ 600<sup>00</sup>

Six hundred DOLLARS

B. W. Collier

Statement of Account

Vermillion, S. D., Oct 11 1915

M Padbury

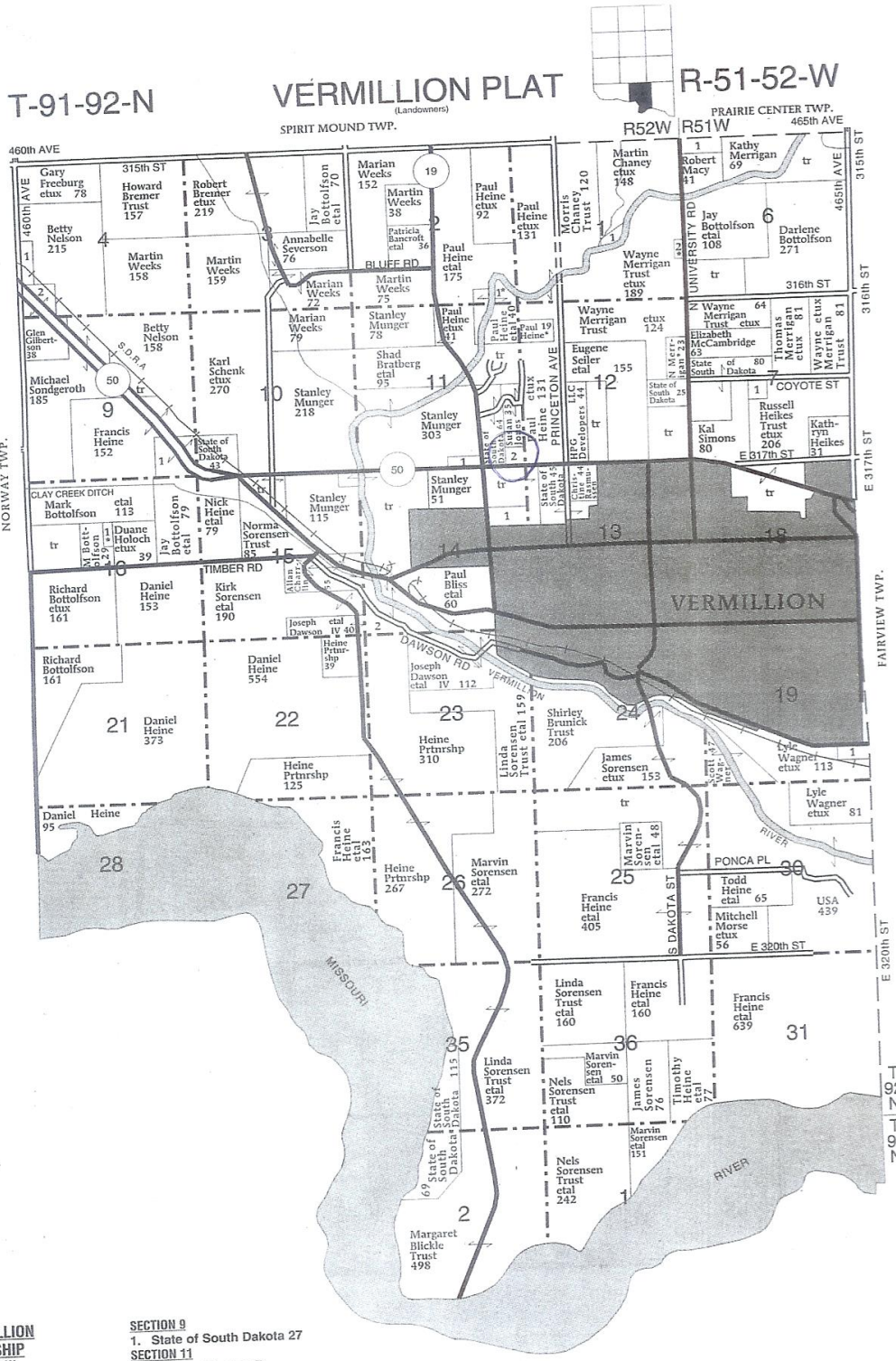
IN ACCOUNT WITH

**JOHN HANSON  
GENERAL CONTRACTOR**

|                                 |                |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| <u>Balance forward</u>          | <u>1917 00</u> |
| <u>Extra on gates</u>           | <u>10 50</u>   |
|                                 | <u>1927 50</u> |
| <u>Pay CR</u>                   | <u>600 00</u>  |
|                                 | <u>1327 50</u> |
| <u>OCT 20 1915 Paid in full</u> |                |
| <u>John Hanson</u>              |                |

REQUIRED FIELD

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



**VERMILLION TOWNSHIP**

- SECTION 1N**
- 1. Frazee, David 8
- 2. Berkout, Jan 5
- SECTION 2N**
- 1. Heine, Paul 15
- SECTION 4**
- 1. Gilbertson, Glen 13
- 2. State of South Dakota 12
- SECTION 6**
- 1. Scholten, Harry 12
- SECTION 7**
- 1. Mason, Brian 8

- SECTION 9**
- 1. State of South Dakota 37
- SECTION 11**
- 1. Munger, Eleanor 7
- 2. Saito, Verna 9
- SECTION 14**
- 1. Vermillion Fertilizer & Grain Elevator Inc 22
- 2. Heine Prtnrshp 21
- SECTION 16**
- 1. Halverson, Ernest 6
- SECTION 19**
- 1. Sorensen, Grant 11

DIXON CO., NE