

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



**SITE INFORMATION**

\*SURVEY DATE: March 12, 2014 \*ADDRESS: 29970 SD Hwy 19  
\*SURVEYOR: Jim Stone \*COUNTY: Clay  
\*CITY: Centerville

LOCATION DESCRIPTION: From Vermillion, intersection of South Dakota Highway 50 bi-pass and South Dakota Highway 19, North 17-1/4 miles, turn right on the (East) side.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: SW 1/4, Exc Tract 1 of 29970 Addn in NW 1/4, SW 1/4 & Exc W 50' & Lots H 2 & H 3, 14 -95 - 52 Riverside Twp.

\*QUARTER 1: SW 1/4 OWNER NAME: Roger Hansen DBA Hansen Properties  
\*QUARTER 2: \_\_\_\_\_ OWNER ADDRESS: 700 Broadway Box B  
\*TOWNSHIP: Riverside OWNER CITY: Centerville  
\*RANGE: 52 OWNER STATE: South Dakota  
\*SECTION: 14 OWNER ZIP: 57014  
ACRES: 148.54 QUAD NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
OWNER CODE 1: P  
OWNER CODE 2:  
OWNER CODE 3:

**HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE**

\*DOE: \_\_\_\_\_ REGISTER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*DOE DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ MULTIPLE PROPERTY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
REASON INELIGIBLE: \_\_\_\_\_

NOMINATION STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_ CATEGORY: \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE LISTED: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNIFICANCE LEVEL 1: N S L  
REFERENCE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNIFICANCE LEVEL 2: N S L  
HISTORIC DISTRICT RATING: C or NC CRITERIA 1: A B C D  
PERIOD: \_\_\_\_\_ 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 repaired w/ poured concrete</u>
CURRENT SUBFUNCTION: <u>Vacant</u>	ROOF MATERIAL: <u>Cedar shingles</u>
HISTORIC FUNCTION: <u>Livestock barn</u>	ROOF SHAPE: <u>Gable roof</u>
HISTORIC SUBFUNCTION: <u>Hay and grain storage</u>	STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: <u>Balloon framing</u>
	STYLE: <u>Gable roof barn</u>
OCCUPIED: <u>Yes</u>	TYPE: <u>Western feeder barn</u>
	<u>6x6 posts and 4x6 beams with 1x12 vertical siding</u>
ACCESSIBLE: <u>Yes with permission</u>	WALLS: _____

STORIES: 2      SIGNIFICANT PERSON: Andrew E. Lee and Charles E. Prentis  
Lee was Norwegian and Charles E. Prentis was a descendant early New England families

\*DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1890 to 1910      CULTURAL AFFILIATION: \_\_\_\_\_

**ALTERED/MOVED NOTES:** Original site. Some horse stalls may have been removed when eight milk cow stanchions were added. If horse stalls were removed for milk cow stanchions, there could have been 22 double and two single horse stalls in the barn. That would be 46 horses to feed, water, groom, harness and unharness each day!

**INTERIOR NOTES:** Three rows of 6x6 posts, 6x6 beams and 2x10 floor joists support the hayloft floor in the center 24' of barn. One row of 6x6 posts and a 4x6 beam and 2x6 joists support the hayloft floor in the East and West 16' wings. 15 double and 1 single horse stalls are still in place on the East side of the barn. A 6'x 8' granary, two 8' x12' box stalls and 8 milk cow stanchions are still in place on the west side.

**OTHER NOTES:** Exterior walls are post and beam construction. 6x6 posts, 4x6 sill, 3x3 girts 4' O. C. and 4x6 beam with 1x12 vertical siding and battens. The posts and beams are mortised and tendon with 3x3 diagonal bracing at the upper part of each post up to the 4x6 beam. Posts are 8' O. C. Two rows of 4x4 posts with a 4x4 beam supporting center of rafters above the East and West lean-to's. Two rows of 6x6 posts with a 4x6 beam support the rafters on each side of the center 24' area of the barn. Rafters are 2x6's. Most of the 3x3's, 4x6's, 6x6's, 2x6's, 2x10's and 2x6 rafters are rough sawn cottonwood. Windows are 8"x 10" four light.

\*PHYSICAL NOTES: Barn is in fair condition.      \*RESTRICTED: Y or N

\*UTM EASTING: \_\_\_\_\_

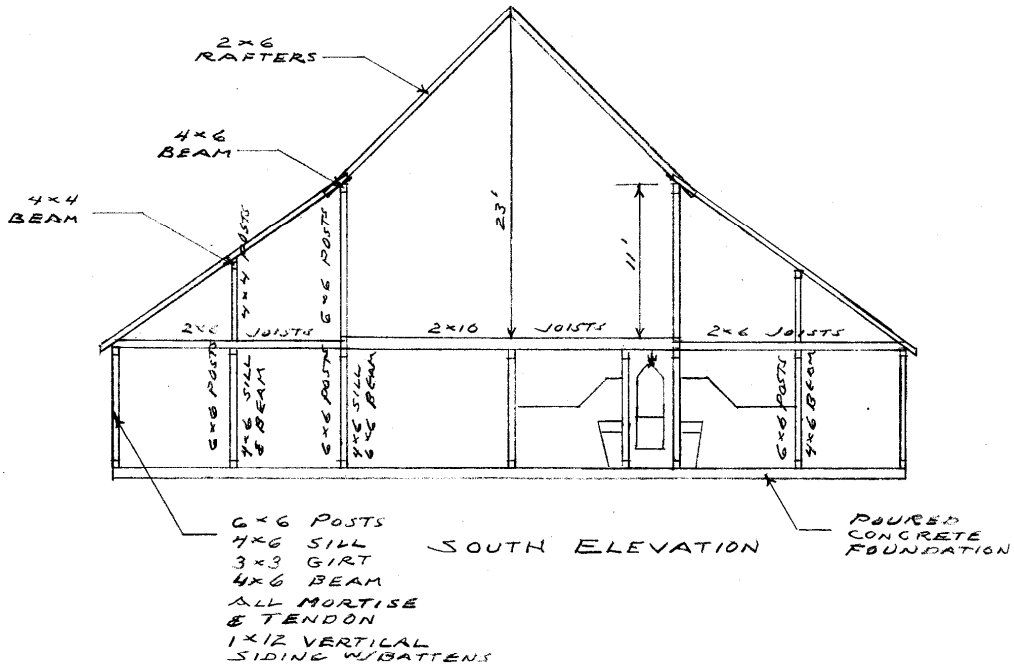
\*UTM NORTHING: \_\_\_\_\_

\* = REQUIRED FIELD

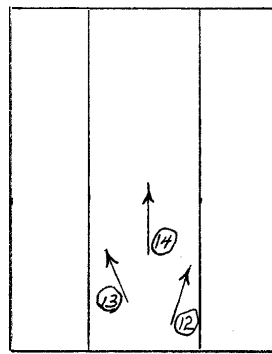
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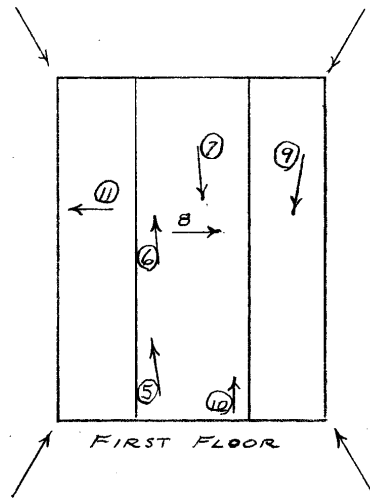
**SKETCH MAP**



**PHOTOGR**



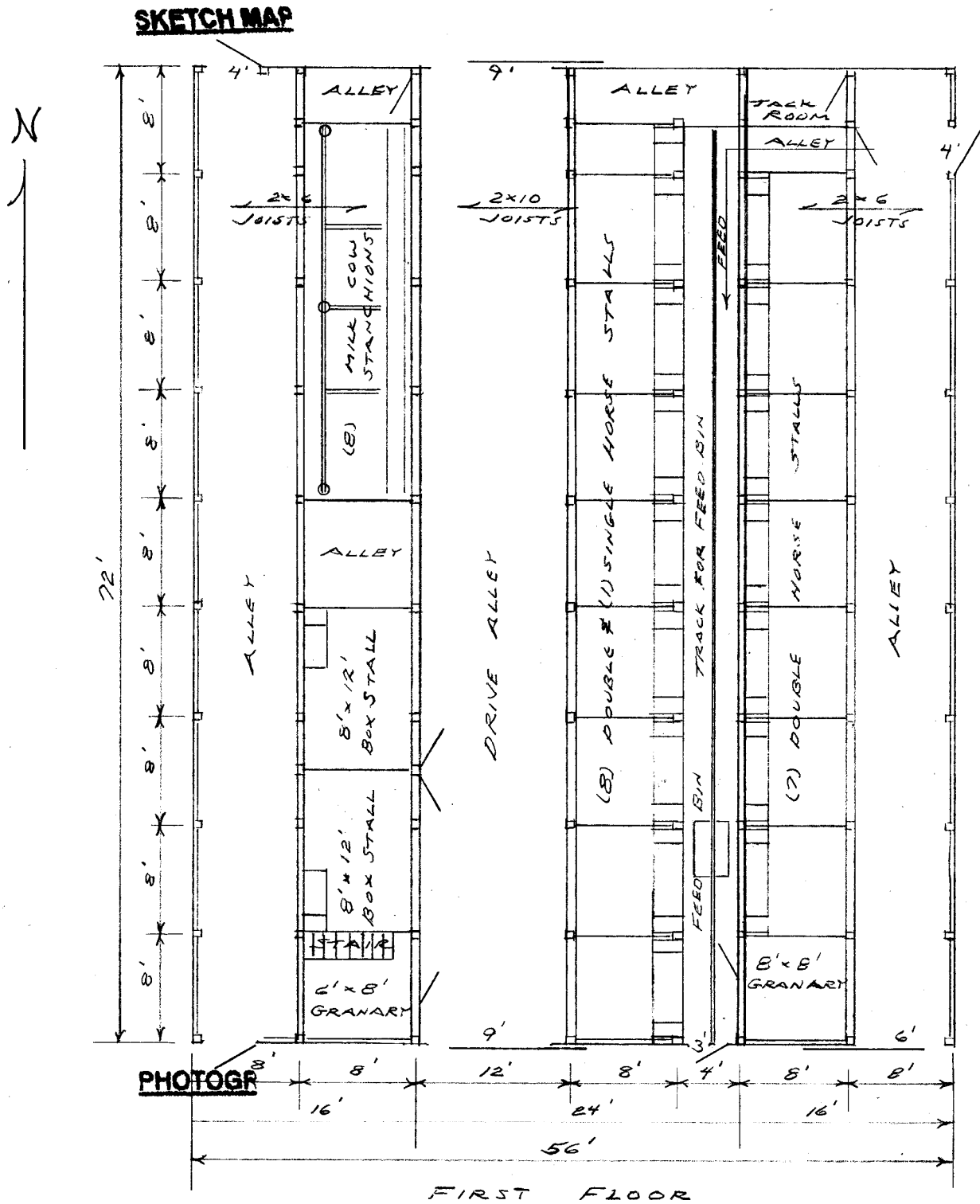
HAYLOFT



FIRST FLOOR

\* = REQUIRED FIELD

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**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Jim Stone  
**DATE OF PHOTO:** March 12, 2014

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



**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Jim Stone  
**DATE OF PHOTO:** March 12, 2014

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

\* = REQUIRED FIELD

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**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Jim Stone  
**DATE OF PHOTO:** March 12, 2014

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



**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Jim Stone  
**DATE OF PHOTO:** March 12, 2014

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

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**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Jim Stone  
**DATE OF PHOTO:** March 28, 2014

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

**First floor, looking NW at 6x6 posts, 6x6 beams and 2x10 floor joists and box stalls in West lean-to.**

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



**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Jim Stone  
**DATE OF PHOTO:** March 12, 2014

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

**First floor, looking NW, 8 milk cow stanchions at North end of West lean-to.**

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

\* = REQUIRED FIELD

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**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Jim Stone  
**DATE OF PHOTO:** March 28, 2014

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

**CAMERA DIRECTION:** First floor, looking SE,  
horse stalls on East wall  
of center barn.



**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Jim Stone  
**DATE OF PHOTO:** March 12, 2014

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

**CAMERA DIRECTION:** First floor, looking East  
into horse stall on East  
wall of Center barn.

\* = REQUIRED FIELD



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**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Jim Stone  
**DATE OF PHOTO:** March 12, 2014

**ROLL NUMBER:** 9  
**PHOTO NUMBER:** 9

**6x6 posts, 4x6 beam and  
2x6 joists in the East  
lean-to and horse stalls  
on the West wall.**

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



**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Jim Stone  
**DATE OF PHOTO:** March 12, 2014

**ROLL NUMBER:** 10  
**PHOTO NUMBER:** 10

**First floor, looking North  
in feed alley, grain feed  
bin with track to roll it  
North, to feed grain to  
horses on both sides of  
alley**

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

\* = REQUIRED FIELD

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**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Jim Stone  
**DATE OF PHOTO:** March 28, 2014

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

**West lean-to, looking  
West, 6x6 posts, 3x3  
girts and 4x6 beam all  
mortised and tendon  
with 1x2 vertical siding.**

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



**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Jim Stone  
**DATE OF PHOTO:** March 12, 2014

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

**Hayloft, looking NE, 6x6  
posts and 4x6 beam  
supporting 2x6 rafters**

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

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**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Jim Stone  
**DATE OF PHOTO:** March 12, 2014

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

**CAMERA DIRECTION:** Hayloft, looking NW, 6x6 posts and 4x6 beam supporting 2x6 rafters.



**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Jim Stone  
**DATE OF PHOTO:** March 12, 2014

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

**CAMERA DIRECTION:** Hayloft, looking North, 16' lean-to on the North side of the barn.

\* = REQUIRED FIELD

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**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Jim Stone  
**DATE OF PHOTO:** March 28, 2014

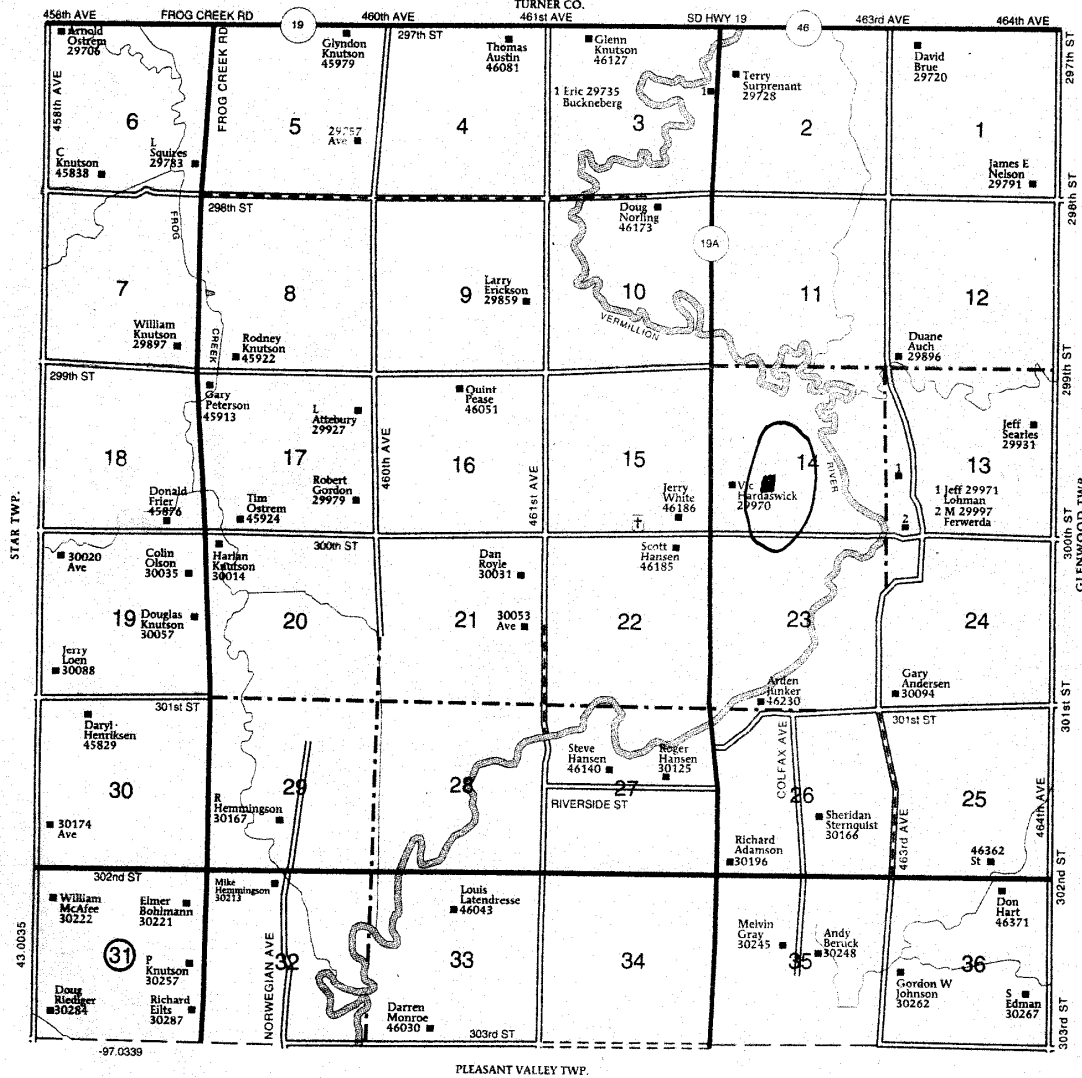
**ROLL NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**PHOTO NUMBER:** 15

**CAMERA DIRECTION:** One of two poured concrete silos, with water storage tank at the top, 16' inside diameter, 69' high with top 12' for water storage.

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**T-95-N RIVERSIDE DIRECTORY R-52-W**  
(Residents - Owners or Renters)



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CLAY CO., SD

**HISTORY**

\* = REQUIRED FIELD

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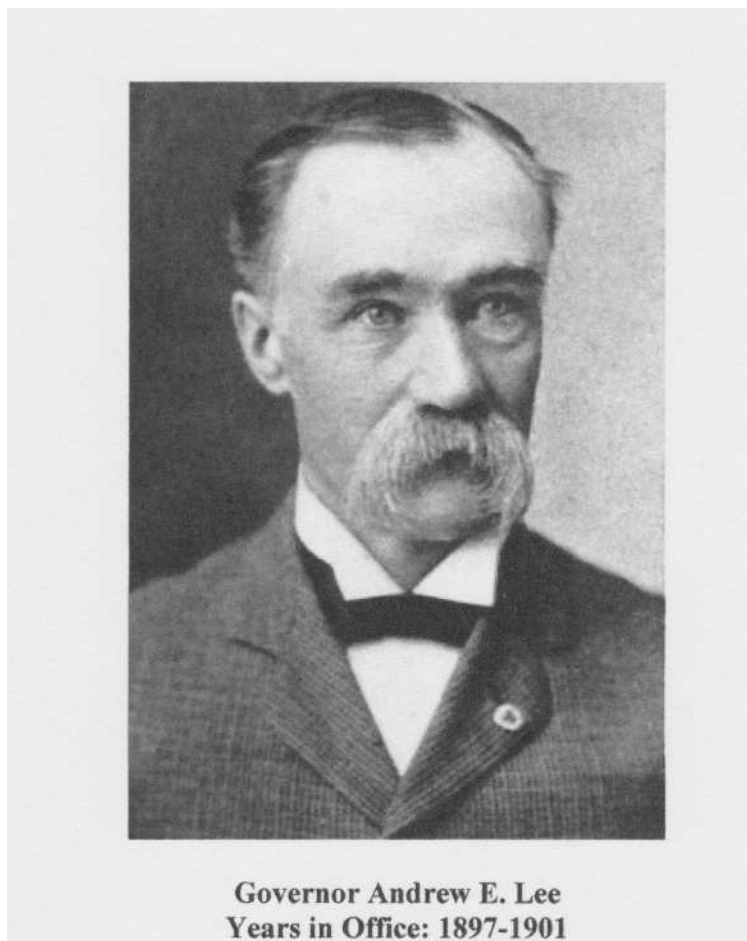


This farm located in the SW ¼ of Section 14, Riverside Township, Clay County was homesteaded by Willard Stanley.

The 1894 and 1901 Clay County Atlas lists Lee and Prentis as the owners.

The 1912 and 1924 Clay County Atlas lists Andrew E. Lee as the owner.

The 1937, 1948 and 1956 Clay County Atlas lists Myrtle Shepard Lee as the owner.



**Andrew E. Lee**

**Andrew E. Lee**

At a young age he moved to the United States with his parents. He spent his childhood on a farm in Dane County, Wisconsin. He moved to Dakota Territory and settled in Vermillion in 1867. Lee and Charles E. Prentis became partners in a mercantile business in 1869. Lee was married to Annie M.

\* = REQUIRED FIELD

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Chappell. They had one daughter. Lee was the brother-in-law of Hans Gunderson and Lyman Burgess, both of who served as members of the Dakota Territory House of Representatives. He was the uncle of Carl Gunderson who served as the Governor of South Dakota. Hans Gunderson married Lee's sister Isabel. Isabel's brother and son were South Dakota Governors. It was known in the family that Andrew Lee and Carl Gunderson did not get along.

In 1896, Lee ran for governor of South Dakota on the Populist ticket and beat A. O. Ringsrud of Elk Point by only 319 votes. Governor Lee served as the third Governor of South Dakota from 1897 to 1901. He was elected to his second term on the Fusion Party ticket, an Alliance of the Independents in the state. The party was formed in 1896 from an alliance of Democrats, Free Silver Republicans and Populists who were opposed to the platform of the state Republican Party. He was the only non-Republican Governor until the election of William J. Bulow in 1926. Populist Governor Lee was instrumental in getting the Initiative and Referendum passed. A major focus during his administration was eliminating inefficiency and mismanagement within State Government. Another major issue during his administration was the organization and return of the state militia, which served in the Philippines during the Spanish-American War.

In 1900, the Populists nominated Governor Lee for Congress and he spoke at the Populist convention in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Lee lost in a Republican landslide, which ended the political influence of the Populists in South Dakota. In 1908, Lee ran unsuccessfully as a Democratic candidate for Governor of South Dakota.

Andrew E. Lee and Charles E. Prentis were also partners in land investments in Clay County. They owned about 7,000 acres of good farmland in Clay County and 16,000 acres of ranchland in western Nebraska. They shipped cattle from the ranch back to Clay County and fattened the cattle on crops raised in Clay County. They had a large operation in Section 14 of Riverside Township in northern Clay County. In 1914 Charles Prentis sold out his share to Andrew Lee and the operation in Section 14 became known as the Lee Ranch.

This was a very large operation. Immigrants and young farmers could always get a job on the Lee ranch to build a nest egg before they started farming on their own. Many of the histories of early farmers in Clay County worked at the Lee Ranch early in their life. Oral history states that they had 76 teams of workhorses at one time. 38 teams were worked for a week and then turned out to pasture for a week to rest up, while the other 38 teams worked that week. The horse barn that is still standing held 22 teams and two single horses. Another horse barn had 20 box stalls, which may have been for riding horses and buggy teams. There was also another horse barn for workhorses, which is gone now.

Andrew E. Lee died in his home in Vermillion, South Dakota on March 19, 1934, the day after his 87th birthday. The Gundersons and the Lees are buried in the old Bluff's Cemetery (Bluff View Cemetery) in Vermillion, Clay County, South Dakota.

**Charles E. Prentis**

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C. E. Prentis, one of the pioneer merchants of South Dakota, actively identified with the business interests of Vermillion, was born September 30, 1847, in Dane County, Wisconsin, a son of John and Catherine P. (Williams) Prentis who were natives of Massachusetts and Vermont respectively and descendants of early New England families. The father was a farmer by occupation and about 1830 made the overland trip to Wisconsin, where he engaged in general agricultural pursuits until his death.

C. E. Prentis attended the public school of his native county to the age of eighteen years and then went east to Poughkeepsie, New York, where he pursued a course in Eastman's Commercial College. Later he returned to Madison, Wisconsin, where he secured a position as bookkeeper, acting in that capacity for one and a half years. Consideration of the opportunities offered in the west led him to the belief that he would find it profitable to try his fortune in Dakota and in company with a friend and associate, A. E. Lee, he determined to engage in general merchandising at Vermillion. It was about the middle of the year 1869 that Mr. Lee reached that place and selected a site in what now is known as the bottoms. A small building was erected and a few months later Mr. Prentis removed to Vermillion, arriving in September, 1869. Both men then went to Chicago, where they purchased a stock of general merchandise and the firm of Lee and Prentis was thus formed and launched into business. From the beginning their enterprise prospered, reliable business methods, unfaltering energy and perseverance winning for them a growing trade. Later a two-story brick building was erected, which they occupied until 1881, the year of the big flood. The little village grew apace and with the increase in its population their trade became larger and larger, for straightforward business methods commended them to public support. With the growth of Vermillion the business center of the city was removed from the bottoms to the present site of the town and in 1881 Lee & Prentis erected their present building, in which they have continued successfully to the present time. Their house is not only widely known through Clay County but also over a greater part of South Dakota and is the largest establishment of its kind in the county. Moreover, in point of continuous existence theirs is the oldest business house in North or South Dakota and has become one of the most important. It meant much in pioneer times when trade facilities were few in their section of the state and it has ever kept abreast with modern progress.

Mr. Prentis, however, has not confined his activities to merchandising alone. He recognized the future value of farmlands throughout the west and began making investments, being at one time the owner of over seven thousand acres in Clay County. In 1914, when prices had greatly advanced he sold practically all of his holdings in the state. He and his partner, Mr. Lee, own and operate a fine ranch of sixteen thousand acres in Nebraska and Mr. Prentis is a stockholder in and the vice president of the Citizens Bank and Trust Company of Vermillion.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of November, 1872, Mr. Prentis was united in marriage to Miss Mary F. Stanley, who died September 14, 1906, leaving a daughter, Kathryn, the wife of Robert Howe Munger, of Sioux City. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September, 1909, Mr. Prentis wedded Mrs. Belle (Stanley) Bell, a sister of his first wife.

In his political views Mr. Prentis has long been a stalwart republican and has filled a number of local offices, to which he has been called by vote of his fellow townsmen, serving at the present time as mayor of Vermillion. He also became the first charter member of the Congregational church, in the work of which he has ever taken an active and helpful interest. He is likewise a member and vice president of the Vermillion Commercial Club and he is a Mason, belonging to the blue lodge, chapter and commandery of Vermillion and to El Riad Temple of the Mystic Shrine at Sioux Falls. He is a lover of outdoor life and enjoys traveling. In nature he is quiet and unassuming but most kind hearted and



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public spirited. His business life has not been void of the trials and tribulations that constitute the struggle of pioneer days and many residents of this part of the state are grateful for the credit and favors extended them in the period of financial depression caused by the grasshopper scourge and other incidents of pioneer life. There have no esoteric chapters in his life history but a manifestation of indefatigable industry and unswerving integrity in all of his business dealings.

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