**1. NAME**

COMMON: Starke Round Barn

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:

Postal address: R.R. #2, Red Cloud

CITY OR TOWN:

Four and one-half miles east of Red Cloud along U.S. 136

STATE: Nebraska

CODE: 31

COUNTY: Webster

CODE: 181

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY (Check One)</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District □ Building ✓</td>
<td>Public □ Private X</td>
<td>Public Acquisition: □ In Process □ Being Considered</td>
<td>□ Occupied X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Site X Structure □</td>
<td>□ Both</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>□ Object</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- □ Agricultural
- □ Government
- □ Park
- □ Transportation
- □ Comments
- □ Commercial
- □ Industrial
- □ Private Residence
- □ Other (Specify)
- □ Educational
- □ Military
- □ Religious
- □ Entertainment
- □ Museum
- □ Scientific

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER’S NAME: Percy Rasser

STREET AND NUMBER: R.R. #2, Red Cloud

CITY OR TOWN: Red Cloud

STATE: Nebraska

CODE: 31

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

County Clerk, Webster County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Red Cloud

STATE: Nebraska

CODE: 31

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Historic Preservation in Nebraska - Preliminary Plan

DATE OF SURVEY:

October 1970 □ Federal X State □ County □ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Nebraska State Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:

1500 "R" Street

CITY OR TOWN: Lincoln

STATE: Nebraska

CODE: 31
The Starke barn is not a polyhedronal, a type more common in Nebraska, but a true round barn. It is three stories tall and 130 feet in diameter. The central silo, of brick and mortar construction, is 28 feet in diameter and 65 feet in height, with a total volume of 40,000 cubic feet. The roof is a gable and of low pitch, required by the barns great circumference.

The construction method is a combination of balloon framing and heavy timber supports. The entire three level vertical and horizontal support frame is of massive 12 x 12 timbers, which are held together by compressive and balancing tensile forces rather than by nails or pegs, which would be useless as fasteners under the thousands of tons the building was designed to hold.

The barn has three levels: the bottom for animals, the second for machinery, and the third (of loft level) for hay. The three are composed on a split level basis. The bottom level is below ground around the front, but opens into the stock area on the rear. The second level (for machinery storage) is directly accessible from the front portion ground level. The loft (or third level) is the only one that is not directly accessible.

The barn was originally covered with horizontal siding. In the early 1960's the original wood siding was covered over with corrugated iron sheets, and this also covered the windows which originally completely rimmed the lower level. With the exception of this minor alteration, the barn still stands today virtually unaltered since its construction.
The Starke barn was built in 1902-1903 by the four Starke brothers, Conrad, Ernest, Bill and Chris, who came to Nebraska from Milwaukee at the behest of their homesteading grandfather. The barn cost approximately $25,000 to build and its expense is purportedly one of the causes that the farm was sold "on the courthouse steps" to the Rasser family (the present owners) in 1930.

Although deviations from the main barn type are found throughout the county, the true round barn is an important part of America's vernacular architecture, as there seems to be no apparent correlation for the true round form traceable to a European heritage. The Starke round barn is Nebraska's largest round barn and may possibly be one of the largest in the nation.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


Files; Nebraska State Historical Society.


10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>Degrees</td>
<td>Minutes</td>
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<td>NE</td>
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</table>

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

Degrees Minutes Seconds 98° 26′ 21″

Degrees Minutes Seconds 40° 05′ 21″

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Approx. 2 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE: CODE COUNTY: CODE
STATE: CODE COUNTY: CODE
STATE: CODE COUNTY: CODE
STATE: CODE COUNTY: CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Perssjs Kolberg, Curator of Historic Sites

ORGANIZATION: Nebraska State Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER: 1900 "R" Street

CITY OR TOWN: Lincoln, STATE: Nebraska

DATE: Oct. 12, 1971

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☑ Local ☐

Name: ____________________________
Title: Director, Nebraska State Historical Society
Date: Oct. 12, 1971

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: ____________________________

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date: ____________________________
c1907 photo. Photographer unknown.

c1907 postcard of barn. Photographer unknown.

c1968 photo. Photographer unknown.