

NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL SITE FORM

PAGE 1

Field Code SHSND-AB-1x SITS# 32 SLX336

SITE IDENTIFICATION
Map Quad PRetty Butte Site Name Clark Ranch
Map Quad _____ Site Name _____

LTL ___ TWP 134 R 105 SEC 4 QQQ _____ QQ 8 Q 8
LTL ___ TWP _____ R _____ SEC 5 QQQ _____ QQ 5 Q 5
LTL ___ TWP _____ R _____ SEC _____ QQQ _____ QQ _____ Q _____
LTL ___ TWP _____ R _____ SEC _____ QQQ _____ QQ _____ Q _____

NAD 1983, UTM 5144948 N ZONE 13N
NAD 1983, UTM 585604 E

Subsection:
1 = N½
2 = E½
3 = S½
4 = W½
5 = NE¼
6 = SE¼
7 = SW¼
8 = NW¼

City: _____
Street Number: _____
Street Name: _____
Urban Legal Description: _____

SITE DATA

Total # Architectural Features: 6
Fieldwork Date: 05/16/2016
Reconnaissance Survey Intensive Survey

Project & Principal Investigator:
Slope County site visit; Amy Bleier, SHSND
Report Title & Author(s):
N/A

Contracting firm or Agency completing the form:
SHSND

Additional Information:
Information from landowner, Merle Clark

SHSND USE
Area of Significance 2 Ecozone 22 Verified Site 1 CR Type 2
Area of Significance _____ Ecozone _____
Area of Significance _____ Ecozone _____

Recorded By A Bleier & L Meidinger, SHSND Date Recorded 05/16/2016
(First Name & Last Name) (mm/dd/year)

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**NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL SITE FORM
PAGE 2—Feature Data**

Field Code SHSND-AB-1x

SITS# 32 SL x336

Complete one Page 2 for each architectural feature at the site.

Architectural Feature # 2

Construction Date _____

Feature Type 9

Condition 5

Feature Date 3

Context 30

Plan Shape 5

Structural System 12

Primary Exterior 12

Style Utilitarian

Original Owner's Ethnicity _____

Secondary Exterior _____

Architect/Builder _____

Other Information: built as a one-room school; moved to current location

Foundation _____ Stories 1.0

Roof/Cornice gable

Window _____

Dating Method(s): materials, owner interview

Feature Preservation Recommendation(s) (Check all that apply):

- Individual nomination
- Contributes to a potential district
- No nomination potential
- Will not contribute to a district
- Potential district—feature would be a contributing element if other properties constitute a district
- Thematic nomination potential
- Component of a historic site or landscape
- ^a Moved (specify all applicable choices)—a) relocation occurred within a historic period; b) recreates original site, orientation, landscape, & spatial relationships; c) compatible in context with neighboring structures; d) relocation has damaged eligibility
- Historical associations require further investigation

Recorded By A Bleier & L Meidinger, SHSND
(First Name & Last Name)

Date Recorded 05/16/2016
(mm/dd/year)

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NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL SITE FORM
PAGE 3—Feature Data

Field Code SHSND-AB-1x

SITS# 32 SL x336

Complete a Page 3 for each feature.

1. Feature Description, Integrity, Eligibility:

Feature 2 is a log cabin built as a schoolhouse in the early 1900s according to the current owner. The building was moved to the Clark Ranch later, after the school closed. One small opening and a walk door are visible on the facade end.

Recorded By A Bleier & L Meidinger, SHSND Date Recorded 05/16/2016
(First Name & Last Name) (mm/dd/year)

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**NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL SITE FORM
PAGE 4—SITE DESCRIPTION**Field Code SHSND-AB-1xSITS# 32 SL X 336**Complete one Page 4 for the entire site.**

2. Owner's Contact Information:

Merle Clark, Marmarth, ND. Permission is required to access this private land.

3. Access (to rural areas):

From Marmarth, head east on Hwy 12 to 76th St SW and turn northeast. Follow this main road along the edge of the badlands for approximately 14.5 miles. The last part of the road is called Indian Hills Trail Road. Several small roads intersect and branch off along the way.

4. Site Area (ft²): 43,5605. Description of **SETTING**:

The Clark Ranch sits in the Little Missouri River valley with the river to the west and badlands to the east. Just north and south are areas that are used as hay fields and the rest is open ranch land used for cattle. There are also several fences visible in the aeriels around the buildings, two of which may be cattle pens. Also visible is a modern water tank.

Recorded By A Bleier & L Meidinger, SHSND Date Recorded 05/16/2016
(First Name & Last Name) (mm/dd/year)

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**NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL SITE FORM
PAGE 5—SITE DESCRIPTION**

Field Code SHSND-AB-1xSITS# 32 SL X 336**6. Summary of ALL Site Features & Evaluation of Significance:**

The home place of the ranch consists of a residence, garage, two wood storage buildings, a modern metal storage building and a modern water tank. A more detailed recording of the site is necessary for the evaluation of significance and assessment of integrity.

Mr. Merle Clark's grandparents homesteaded here in the 1890s and at present, Mr. Clark owns 8.5 sections of land in Slope County.

According to Mr. Clark, Theodore Roosevelt signed the contract for ownership of his Maltese Cross ranch at the property to the north of Clark's, Section 32 or 33 in T. 135N, R. 105W (personal communication with A. Bleier, May 16, 2016).

Recent inhabitants of the homestead:

1966: Elmer Clark (owner; rancher) Margrette (wife); Merle (child)

1975: Merle Clark (owner; rancher, Slope County Commissioner); Linda (wife); Ward and Christie (children)

1983: Merle Clark (owner; rancher); Linda (wife); Ward and Christie (children)

2008: Merle Clark (owner; rancher; auctioneer)

2011: Merle Clark (owner; rancher)

Elmer Clark is the father of Merle Clark

7. References/Comments:

Plat maps of Slope County, ND: 1966; 1975; 1983; 2008; 2011

1976 Slope Saga. Slope Saga Committee, Slope, North Dakota.

2016 "Merle Clark." Digital Horizons, www.digitalhorizonsonline.org, accessed 05/25/2016.

Recorded By A Bleier & L Meidinger, SHSND Date Recorded 05/16/2016
(First Name & Last Name) (mm/dd/year)

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NDCRS SITE FORM ATTACHMENTS SECTION

Field Code SHSND-AB-1x

SITS# 32 SLx336



Recorded By Amy Bleier & Lorna Meidinger, SHSND
(First Name & Last Name)

Date Recorded

5/16/2016
(mm/dd/year)

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Feature 5

Feature 4

Feature 1

Feature 2

Feature 3

Feature 6



Section Line

RESTRICTED DATA - PROTECTED BY THE NORTH DAKOTA CENTURY CODE

Detail of 32SLX336
1:1,000, NAD 1983
Sec. 4 & 5, T. 134 N., R. 105 W.
Slope County, ND
Data: ND SHPO
05/16/2016, A. Bleier

Ward and Christine. Elmer passed away in 1969 and Merle now runs the ranch for his mother.

Ethel married Bill Thompson. They met while both worked at the First National Bank in Marmarth. They had two sons, Bill and Lyle. Bill is an engineer for Boeing Aircraft in Seattle. Lyle is also an engineer, living in Chicago.

Laura married Leslie Gibbs, a nephew of Frank Gibbs who owned the hardware store in Marmarth. Leslie eventually took it over. They had one son, Jack, who is now an accountant in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Les passed away when Jack was seven and after he was grown and through college, Laura married Wick Mendenhall of Arizona.

Ethel and Laura, both widows now, live in Phoenix, Arizona.

DAVE WORKMAN

Dave Workman relinquished his homestead. This was known as the Dave Workman Flat, which Campbell's filed on, they were brought here by Joe Bilyeu.

PERSHING TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS EAST AND WEST PRETTY BUTTE

Mrs. Sam White had taught in the Kansas City School System and was determined that her children be educated. The family endured many inconveniences to make the opportunities possible. The White girls went to school in a dugout in a bank with a pole roof covered with boards and hay. This building had a floor and building paper on the inside walls which was quite special. The building paper was red and blue, the blue side turned to the room for a pleasant appearance. Three sides were dug into the bank with one wall of split cedar which had a window and a door. This dugout was up on Horse Creek. Mrs. Milton Thayer was the first teacher. The first year (1904) Hazel White stayed with the Watson family. Pupils in the dugout school were : Ruth Watson, Ruth LeSeur, Marguerite White, Hazel White and Stanton Rakes. School terms varied from three months to seven months in the early years.

The following year (1905) Mrs. White and the girls lived in the cabin Sam had built up near the school. In 1906, Mrs. White and the girls moved to Sentinel Butte for the term, coming to the ranch on weekends when possible. Sam thought it best to solve the problem of the children's education by building a school near home.



White School taught by Flossie Nichols (Spethman) in Pretty Butte School District

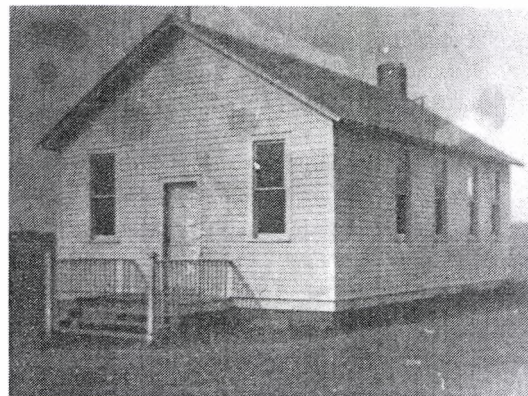
Sam White and his neighbor, James Drysdale, built a school. It was split cedar logs set upright in a trench. A stockade form plastered with river sand, mud and lime. A crude roof of roofing paper was held down with sod. This school was built in 1907 on Section 32 SE 1/4 135-105 which was not in Pershing Township. The first pupils in this school were the White girls and the two Drysdale girls, Lillian and Madge.

In 1908 the White School was dismantled and rebuilt on a location at the mouth of Cache Creek S 1/2 of Section 7 between the Campbells and Whites. This is the year that permanent school records were started.



Florence Campbell, Alvah Sayres, Ethel White (curls), Grace Campbell, Laura White petting the dog "Dutch", Helen Apel, Dan Campbell, Ruby Campbell, and Flossie Nichols - teacher.

School was in session in the stockade school building until Hall T. Campbell built a frame school in 1912 during vacation. The stockade school was torn down. The new frame structure was known as Marmarth #2 White School and later West Pretty Butte.



This frame building replaced the stockade school

There were no children to attend school in the forties so the building was sold to Harry Hendry. He moved it to his home place in Crawford Township.

Later Clarks and Campbells built a small building of old telephone poles which housed the last sessions of school in this township. This building can be seen at the Merle Clark Ranch.



Mrs. A. S. Lamb-teacher, Sayres, Campbell, Wheeler, Walsh families went to school-1913.



Closed in the fifties--A beautiful setting near the river

Some later pupils were Angeline Flesch 1918-1919; Harmon Olstad 1920-1921-1922-1923; Mable Walsh 1916-1917-1918; Christian Taylor 1916-1917; Helen Apel 1915-1916; John Kean 1917-1918; Viola Heinrich 1918-1919; Marjory Butler 1923-1924; Lawrence Henke 1925-1926.

There was another school in the district. In 1912 Conner School was opened. It was located in Mound Township, but was a part of Marmarth #2. This school closed in 1914. It was moved to Pershing Township (across the line) and reopened in 1926. It remained open until 1941 when the pupils went to Mound School. Joe Henke bought the building.

The school district was annexed to Marmarth District. Children from the west half of the township attend school at Marmarth and high school at Baker, Montana. The children in the east half of the township attend the elementary and high school in Rhame. The division is necessary because roads are inadequate.

Rainy Butte Township T135N-R98W

HISTORY OF RAINY BUTTE TOWNSHIP

Rainy Butte was the name adopted for this township when it was organized in 1912. This name had been given to the three buttes in the township years ago by the Indians.

The first pioneer to come into this locality was John Clark, a rancher. He had his horses near the spring on section 21. Later he took up a homestead on section 26.

Homesteaders began coming into this region about this time. Among the earliest ones were: Carl Eckerman, Victor Frederick, Angus Neil, E. N. Erickson, Peter Oslund, Victor Sigstrom, Frank Loomis, Ferdinand Clausen, Emil Johnson, P. O. Linden, Philip Heick, J. A. Elliot, Miss Ida Duntly (now Mrs. J. A. Elliot), M. O. Werdahl, C. J. Asse, P. L. Lewis, George Marson, George DeWalt, Marinus Rome, U. B. Harris, Carl Sawanson, Joe Briski, John Briski, Carl Holgren, Hjalmer Jacobson, Nels Slatteboe, John Kruzich, Albert Schroeder and O.C. Anson. Later came Carl Peterson, Tom Sather, C. G. Anderson, J. O. Hansel, Henry Gatzke, Alvin Felix, Alfred Felix and others.

These pioneers, in order to get their lands, had to choose a piece of land that was open. Then they had to file the application for homestead entry at the government land office at Dickinson, North Dakota. After five years of residence, the homesteaders had to prove up on their patent.

Building materials in those days were hard to get, for they had to be brought across the country from Dickinson. This town was thirty-five miles away. Most of the people had no horses and little money, so many of them built sod houses. Many of these were improperly constructed and had to be replaced by structures of wood or stone. A few of the sod houses are still standing. One is on the Ferdinand Clausen place on Section 12. Another may be seen on the Louis Stimac place, which is in E-6 Township.

People had to travel on foot until they were able to obtain horses. A few yoke of oxen were in the locality and these were owned by John Briski, Peter Oslund and Hjalmar Jacobson.

The mail was brought to New England from Dickinson. Here a post office had been established long before the influx of settlers. The homesteaders received their mail and supplies from New England. Building materials had to be brought out from Dickinson. When the railroad went through Scranton, they obtained their building supplies from there as it was five miles closer. Grain was hauled to both places. Three days were taken for the round trip and each trip was well remembered.

In the early days, several townships comprised a school district. Rainy Butte Township was represented by Carl Ackerman. The first school was kept in one of the two rooms of Leonard Ellison's sod shack. U. B. Harris taught several terms there. Among the pupils were the Ellison girls, Jack Hansel and Francis Stimac of E-6. The first school house was built on Section 15 about 1910. Later it was moved to Section 33. The first teachers were Carl and Marie Ackerman (now Mrs. Henry Peterson). Among the pupils were the Marson and DeWalt children.

During this time a school was conducted in the sod shack belonging to J. D. Johnson on section 32. It was conducted for one year. Martin Sandberg started the term and Fern Wilson of Dovre finished it. The pupils attending the school were Frank and Pauline Kruzich, Walter and Rocella Anderson, Freda and Henry Gatzke, Ilene and Estella Ellison and Joe Briski. The Carroll children from Carroll Township attended there for a while also.

The next school house was built on section 29 about 1913. The school officers were composed of George DeWalt, P. L. Lewis, and John Briski. The teacher for the first term was Frances Penney from Fargo. The Briski and Hansel children attended there.