

20 September 2022

Keeper of National Register
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington DC 20240

To Whom It May Concern:

The attached submitted file contains the true and correct copy of the following nomination to National Register of Historic Places with embedded maps, images, and correspondences.

Joseph Reynolds Ranch Yard and Stage Stop

Please feel free to contact me at 605-773-3458 or chrisb.nelson@state.sd.us with any questions.

Sincerely,



Chris Nelson
Historic Preservation Specialist

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of PropertyHistoric name: Joseph Reynolds Ranch Yard and Stage StopOther names/site number: Reynolds Stage Stop

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)


2. LocationStreet & number: [REDACTED]City or town: Rochford State: SD County: PenningtonNot For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☒**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 X A B X C D

	<u>9-21-2022</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>SD SHPO</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

United States Department of the Interior
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In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

**State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government**

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ___ entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:

☒

Public – Local

☐

Public – State

☐

Public – Federal

☐

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Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s) ☐

District ☒

Site ☐

Structure ☐

Object ☐

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>8</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u>2</u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>11</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register n/a

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Agriculture/Subsistence: animal facility

Domestic: single dwelling

Other: stagecoach stop

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic: single dwelling

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: Timber-Framed Barn

Other: Multi-Level Barn with Gambrel Roof

Late 19th and Early 20th Century Movements: Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundation: Stone, Concrete; Walls: Wood (weatherboard), Metal (tin); Roof: Metal (tin), Asphalt.

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Joseph Reynolds Ranch Yard and Stage Stop is located in the north fork of North Castle Creek in the central Black Hills. Pasture characterizes the valley with primarily Ponderosa Pine trees buffering the transition between high elevation prairie and granite mountain outcroppings. South Rochford Road bisects this portion of the valley and the ranch yard adjoins it to the west. Two modern houses and outbuildings not associated with the ranch are located east of South Rochford Road.

Prominent built features of the ranch yard include a timber-framed barn (c.1877), a Craftsman style house (1920), and gambrel roof barn (c.1943). A smaller house (c.1920), bunkhouse (c.1920), small barn/outbuilding (c.1877), and privy (c.1920), comprise the remainder of the ranch buildings. Also present is a relatively undisturbed section of the Cheyenne-to-Deadwood trail dating to circa 1876-77.

Integrity of the ranch yard is good. Hand-hewn logs, square-notch joinery, mortis-and-tenon joinery, and rough-cut dimensional lumber is found on the earliest buildings while later structures, such as the Craftsman style house and c.1943 multi-level barn with a gambrel roof, represent standardized construction improvements found on maturing ranches. These varied buildings convey integrity of materials, design, and workmanship from different eras of the ranch.

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The historic setting has been altered. The houses and outbuildings east of South Rochford Road do impact the viewshed of the ranch yard. Additionally, as the ranch modernized over the years nonessential corrals, enclosures, and accretion piles were removed along with the installation of some new fencing and gates. These impacts are minimal when considering the great condition of the buildings, structures, and stage trail segment.

Narrative Description

Barn

c.1943

Contributing

This two-story, gambrel-roof barn was built in c.1943 after a c.1881 one-and-a-half story side-gable barn was destroyed by fire. It measures approximately 80'x 40' and has a one-story, gable roof addition on the north elevation that measures approximately 60'x 15'. The addition is original to the c.1881 barn; it survived the fire and the c.1943 barn was built adjoining it.

General characteristics of the barn include a stone/concrete foundation, wood-framed walls, pressed metal siding, seam metal roof, sliding track doors, multi-pane fixed wood windows with plain wood surrounds, and metal cupolas.

East Elevation

This elevation has two hinged wood doors; one is large and the other is of a more standard width. In between the doors are three, four-pane windows. On the second story are two, eight-pane windows. In the gable is a four-pane diamond-shaped window. Centered on the middle of this elevation is a metal diamond-shaped ornament with the letter "Y" in it.

South Elevation

This elevation has a large wood track door at the southwest corner and five, four-pane windows. Above the middle window is a hay door covered in metal.

West Elevation

This elevation has no openings on the first floor and two, eight-pane windows on the second floor.

North Elevation

This elevation has a large wood track door at the northwest corner, three four-pane windows, and a standard width door. The addition is also attached to this elevation.

Interior

The first floor contains a central aisle flanked by stanchions and pens. Varying sizes of lumber comprise the pens and stanchions. The floor is wood plank. The barn has a braced, self-supporting roof with rafters, plates, and studs of 2"x 6" lumber. The space between each rafter is 22", making the braces 24" on center. The hayloft is also braced with posts and beams and has a wood plank floor.

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Addition

The addition has vertical board siding and a corrugated tin roof. The east elevation is open. A wooden corral fence encompasses a small area in front and connects with metal gates in front of the barn.



Undated photo showing the original barn that burned with surviving addition.
From *The Reynold's Ranches* by Laurie Bozzetti, (page 12).

Barn

c.1877

Contributing

This two-story gable barn is of timber-framed construction. It measures approximately 80'x 40' and is sited parallel to a historic section of the Cheyenne-to-Deadwood trail. A wooden fence runs east from the barn to South Rochford Road. General characteristics of the barn include a stone foundation, hand-hewn posts and beams used in the framing, vertical board siding, round rafters, mortis-and-tenon joinery, and a corrugated tin roof (date unknown) over rough-sawn lumber planks of varying dimensions.

The east elevation has a small opening near the center; a wood ladder accesses this opening. The west elevation has a larger opening near the center and is missing some siding. The west elevation is also banked into the hillside and has a stacked stone wall at the basement level. The north elevation has a small opening in the gable. The south elevation has two large central openings; one accesses the main level and the other the basement level. A vertical wood door on a track is located on the basement level; it appears inoperable.

Interior

The structural system uses mortis-and-tenon and pegged-mortis-and-tenon joinery. Hewn beams, posts, and braces are found throughout. Peeled round logs comprise the rafters and are also used as horizontal structural members in the walls. Hewn beams with rough-cut lumber of

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varying dimensions form stanchions on the east side of a central aisle in the basement. The basement floor is dirt.



Undated photo showing the c.1877 barn (top left).
From *The Reynold's Ranches* by Laurie Bozzetti, (page 4).

Small Barn/Outbuilding

c.1877

Contributing

This is a one-story structure with a shed-roof lean to. It has a stone foundation, vertical board siding, and a corrugated tin roof over planks of varying dimensions. The main volume is a hewn log crib with square notch joinery that has been encapsulated in vertical board siding. Inside the log cribbed portion outlines of window openings are visible. It is likely this was an early log cabin living quarters that was converted into a barn/outbuilding for livestock at an early point in the ranch's history. The gable roof and shed roof are lumber framed.

The north elevation has two large vertical-plank doors on the lean to and a small plank door on the gabled volume. The west elevation has two window openings. The south elevation has two large plank doors on the lean to volume. The east elevation has no openings. Adjoining, but not connected to the gabled volume, is a privy.

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Privy

c.1920

Contributing

The rectangular privy adjoins, but is not attached, to the small barn/outbuilding. It has a gable roof covered in corrugated tin. It has exposed rafter tails, lap weatherboard siding, and corner boards. Its construction appears contemporary to the 1920s Craftsman house.

Stone Water Trough

c.1877

Contributing

This is believed to be a rock watering trough. It measures approximately 25'x 4'. It is located directly east of the timber-framed barn.

Well

c.1877

Contributing

This well is located southeast of the c.1943 barn. It has been capped with large, flat stones.

Craftsman Style House

1920

Contributing

This is a side gable Craftsman style house. Characteristic of the style found on the house include multi-pane fixed wood windows, multi-pane-over-one wood windows, exposed rafter ends, brackets, stone porch supports with tapered wood piers, weatherboard siding, a stone chimney, a brick chimney, and dormers with fishscale shingles in the gable. There is an addition on the northeast corner (rear) of the house that appears from its design to be early to the house, possibly built as a muck room.

East Elevation

This is the front of the house. It is symmetrical. The porch has four stone/wood piers with wood stairs leading to the porch. The centrally located door is wood with a four-light window; a wood and glass storm door is also present. Flanking the door are paired four-over-one windows with decorative wood shutters. Centered above the door in the roof is a gabled dormer with paired four-pane windows. The dormer also features weatherboard siding, wood shingles, brackets, rafter ends, and flared eaves.

South Elevation

The south elevation has three pairs of four-over-one windows; two sets are on the main level and one in the gable.

West Elevation

The west elevation is covered primarily by the addition (described separately below). The south portion of the west elevation has two, fixed four-pane windows. There is also a roof dormer that matches the one on the east elevation.

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North Elevation

The addition partially wraps around onto the north elevation. The east portion of the north elevation has a fixed, four-pane window and stone chimney stack.

Addition

The addition attaches to the west elevation of the house and wraps around onto the north elevation. The north elevation of the addition has a wood door with a glass window; a wood storm door with a window is also present. To the east of the door is a four-over-one window. The west elevation of the addition has no openings. The west elevation has a wood Chicago Style window and a wood panel door. A wood porch with no railing is found on this elevation. A wood ramp leads to the porch.

House/Garage

c.1920

Contributing

This is a small side-gabled house with a shed roof addition, both of which sit atop garages banked into the hillside. The gabled volume has exposed rafter ends, weatherboard siding, and four-over-one wood windows. Its construction appears contemporary with the 1920s Craftsman house. The addition has weatherboard siding and smaller one-over-one wood windows. Entrances are found on the north and south elevations and each have a wood door with a glass light. A small porch is located on the north elevation.

The garages have stacked stone walls and wood plank garage doors mounted with heavy-duty metal hinges. The south garage doors have fixed four-pane windows. Garage floors are concrete.

Outbuilding/Shed

c.1920

Contributing

This is a rectangular outbuilding with wood drop siding, corner boards, wood windows and a gable roof clad in asphalt shingles. The east elevation is the front and contains a wood door with six-lights over two vertical wood panels. Paired, fixed four-pane windows are also found on this elevation. The east elevation has a wood door with a six-light window over three horizontal panels. The north and west elevations have no openings.

Section of Cheyenne-to-Deadwood Trail

c.1877

Contributing

Approximately 400 feet of the old trail is visible and undisturbed in the ranch yard. It passes directly north of the c.1877 barn.

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Bunkhouse

c.1920

Contributing

This is a two-story rectangular building measuring approximately 15'x 30'. It has a concrete foundation, metal siding, and a gable roof with exposed rafters. The roof is clad in metal. Windows are wood, multi-pane in fixed and one-over-one configurations with simple wood surrounds.

The east elevation is the façade. It has a central wood plank door flanked by four-over-four windows. A six-over-six window is located in the gable. There is a metal light above the door. The north and south elevations are identical with four six-over-six windows on the main level and four six-pane fixed pain windows below the eaves.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Exploration/Settlement

Agriculture

Transportation

Architecture

Period of Significance

c.1877-1962

Significant Dates

c.1877

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Joseph Reynolds Ranch and Stage Stop is significant under **Criterion A** for **Exploration/Settlement, Agriculture, & Transportation**. It is also eligible under **Criterion C** for **Architecture**. The level of significance is regional to the Black Hills. The period of significance is circa 1877 to 1962. The period of significance begins with Joseph Reynolds' association with the land and ends in 1962 with the death of Willis, his son, who inherited the ranch from his father and lived there his entire life.

Criterion C - Architecture

The timber-framed barn, multi-level barn with gambrel roof, small barn/outbuilding, and Craftsman style house exhibit significant characteristics and methods of construction. The hand-hewn beams, posts, and poles along with the mortis-and-tenon and pegged-mortis-and-tenon joinery of the timber-framed bank barn represent traditional building techniques rarely found in South Dakota. The multi-level gambrel roof barn constructed in c.1943 is significant as a late example of a popular Midwest barn type. The hand-hewn log crib of the small barn/outbuilding represents the first generation of buildings constructed on Black Hills' ranches. It also demonstrates the material adaptations that occurred on buildings as ranches matured and covered older building with new wall cladding, roofs, and additions. Finally, the Craftsman style house represents one of the most popular architectural styles occurring in South Dakota from about 1910 to 1930.

Criterion A – Exploration/Settlement

The Joseph Reynolds Ranch is significant for the role it played in the settlement of the Black Hills. It is also a manifestation of the dissolution of the Sioux Reservation as established by the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868. The rapid farm and ranch development that occurred in the aftermath of the Agreement of 1876 in the Black Hills is a case study in westward expansion of the United States.

Criterion A – Agriculture

The homestead is also eligible for its association with early agriculture in the Black Hills. The ranch raised cattle, horses, hay, and oats that augmented the local economy. This included the large mining and logging industries that developed in the Black Hills. This impact increased as Joseph's sons, Willis and Fred, acquired additional land and farmed their separate properties together as one large ranch.

Criterion A – Transportation

The ranch also has significance as a stage stop on the Cheyenne-to-Deadwood trail. One of four wagon routes into Deadwood gulch, the Cheyenne-to-Deadwood trail brought people, food, equipment, and a variety of merchandise into the isolated Black Hills beginning in 1876. The timber-framed barn and trail section in the ranch yard represent rare trail-related resources and convey early Euro-American influence in the region.

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Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Joseph Totten Reynolds and Family

Joseph Totten Reynolds was born 30 January 1843 in Kentucky to James P. and Sulima Almira (Totten) Reynolds.¹ James was a farmer who around 1860 moved to Iowa.² It is at this time that seventeen-year-old Joseph left home for the gold fields around Georgetown, Colorado.³ Over the next fifteen years he held several jobs in the western mining frontier including freighter, trapper, hunter, as well as working various placer claims.⁴ After reading an article about Lt. Colonel George Armstrong Custer's 1874 expedition into the Black Hills that confirmed the presence of gold, Joseph and four companions departed Colorado for Dakota Territory.⁵

The Black Hills were part of the Sioux Reservation established by the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868. It was illegal for Reynolds to enter the reservation, a detail he was aware of but chose to ignore. Upon arriving at Fort Laramie in present-day Wyoming, Reynolds and the other gold seekers found the U.S. Army guarding the Platte River. Not to be deterred, Joseph made the acquaintance of a freighter hauling American Indian supplies onto the reservation. Joseph made an arrangement with the freighter that allowed him and his partner Jim Corniel (or Cornirl) to hide their mining equipment amongst the supply train. After crossing the river on the government ferry and clearing the fort, the partners slipped away from the supply train with their saddle horses, one burro, and ten-day's worth of supplies.⁶ The pair traveled at night and ran out of food before finding the Custer Expedition's wagon ruts at French Creek near present-day Custer, South Dakota. Joseph and Jim recovered (technically stole) some placer gold but soon returned to Fort Laramie for supplies. After recruiting additional partners, Joseph and Jim snuck back onto the Sioux Reservation and continued to prospect.⁷

At the end of summer of 1875, troopers from Colonel Richard Dodge's command warned Joseph and his partners that American Indians were attacking trespassers and that all miners were to meet in Custer City where the U.S. Cavalry would escort them to Fort Laramie.⁸ According to Joseph's son Fred, Joseph paid a man with an empty wagon \$40 to haul 2,400 pounds of ore from Custer City to Fort Laramie.⁹ In Agnes Wright Spring's monograph, *The Cheyenne and Black Hills Stage and Express Routes*, she stated:

¹ <https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/discoveryui-content/view/93304786:60525>, accessed 26 May 2022.

² <https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/discoveryui-content/view/5548456:7667>, accessed 26 May 2022.

³ Laurie Bozzetti. *The Reynold's Ranches*. (unpublished manuscript, 2017) 1.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Bozzetti, 1-2; Jessie Y. Sundstrom, editor. *Custer County History to 1976*. (Rapid City, SD: Printing Inc., 1977), 22.

⁸ Ibid, 1.

⁹ Ibid, 2.

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"Joseph Reynolds of Georgetown, Colorado, who had bribed his way into the Hills in May, with a freighter of Indian supplies, made hurried arrangements with Case Brothers to haul out the 2,250 pounds of quartz which he had mined. In Cheyenne he sampled the ore and then sent it to Georgetown, Colorado to be tested. The highest grade samples yielded seventeen dollars per ton of quartz. This was said to have been the first large shipment of ore transported on wheels, out of the Black Hills, for treatment."¹⁰

Since Joseph had paid the freighters two cents a pound to haul it to Georgetown and it only assayed at \$17 a ton, he lost nearly \$30 dollars in the venture.¹¹

Before the military removed them, the miners west of what would become Custer City formed the Cheyenne Mining District, also known as the Bear Rock District, to protect their claims. The military also encouraged them to lay out a townsite before departing in anticipation of their return. The men drew numbers out of a hat to determine lot choice and made the name Custer City official.¹²

After leaving the Black Hills, Joseph returned to Iowa and married Emmaroy Lucia Owens on 5 October 1875. In April of 1876, the couple returned to Custer City where they lived for approximately one year as Joseph worked several of his claims. After determining the claims insufficient, they relocated to high prairie land on the North Fork of Castle Creek in what would become Pennington County.¹³



Joseph Totten Reynolds Emmaroy Lucia Owen Reynolds

From *The Reynold's Ranches* by Laurie Bozzetti, (page 12).

¹⁰ Agnes Wright Spring. *The Cheyenne and Black Hills Stage and Express Routes*. (Glendale, CA: The Arthur Clark Company, 1949), 69.

¹¹ Fred W. Whitley. "A History of Custer City, South Dakota 1874-1900." *South Dakota Historical Collections*, v.37, (1974), 253.

¹² Bozzetti 2; Sundstrom, 22.

¹³ Bozzetti, 2.

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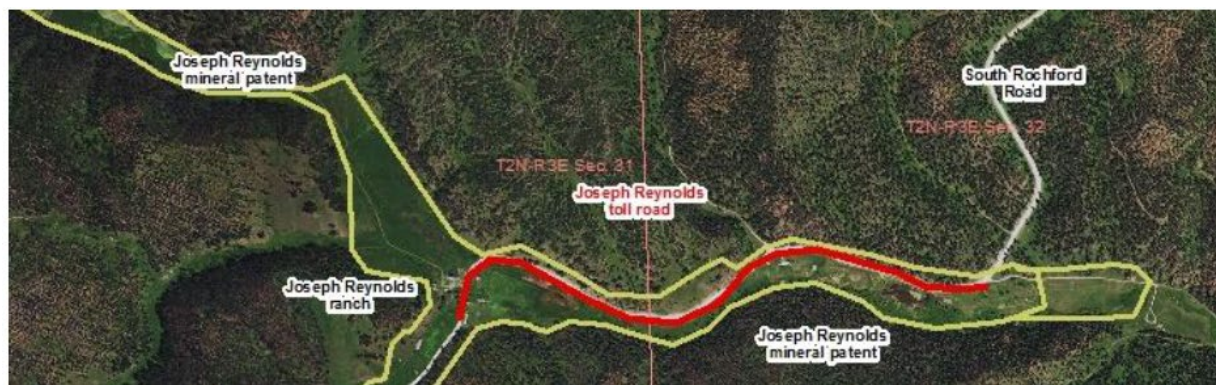
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Joseph began cutting hay to sell in Deadwood where it went for around \$100 dollars a ton. There were no roads between his ranch and Deadwood, so he started building one. By the time he got within four miles of Deadwood his plans hit a snag. Centennial Prairie to the north of the mining camp was flooding the market with cheaper hay, dropping the price to \$40 per ton. At this rate, Joseph's venture became unprofitable. He sold the road to another party and broke even on his investment.¹⁴ The Cheyenne to Deadwood Stage Company began using this road and the Reynolds Ranch became an early stop on the trail.¹⁵

Joseph built another toll road sometime between 1877 and 1914 that went east/northeast towards Rochford. According to grandson Ivan, a pack mule could use the road for 10 cents, a horse for 12.5 cents, and wagon and team for 25 cents. This toll road is now incorporated into the South Rochford Road. Family members could not recall when the toll road was discontinued.¹⁶



This aerial shows the toll road (now South Rochford Road) on Joseph's mineral patent land.

From *The Reynold's Ranches* by Laurie Bozzetti, (page, 3).

In 1879, Joseph expanded the scope of his ranch. He and D.T. Harrison shipped some of the first breeding herds of Herefords into the Black Hills, though Ben Eager who ranched east of Custer also imported Herefords in the early years and likely preceded Joseph and Harrison's venture.¹⁷ In 1880-1881, Joseph made a trip through Kentucky, Illinois, and Iowa to purchase purebred Jersey and Registered short-horn cattle. He bought a bull and four Jersey heifers from the Clifton Stock Farm in Jessamine County, Kentucky, and added some additional shorthorns at a sale in West Liberty, Iowa. He shipped them to Pierre, the railroad terminus at the time, then drove them overland to his ranch.¹⁸ In 1886, he returned to Iowa and purchased a purebred shorthorn bull calf that cost \$500.¹⁹

Cattle weren't the only additions to the ranch. Between 1878 and 1888 Joseph and Emmaroy had five children: Emma Lillian (1878), Nellie (1880), Willis (1883), Fred (1885), and Elsie May (1888). The children left behind recollections of growing up on the ranch and in the 1960s Fred

¹⁴ Ibid, 3.

¹⁵ *Black Hills Daily Times*, 7 October 1881; *Lead Daily Call*, 21 August 1917.

¹⁶ Bozzetti, 3.

¹⁷ Bob Lee and Dick Williams. *Last Grass* 91.

¹⁸ Bob Lee and Dick Williams. *Last Grass* 91.

¹⁹ *Custer County Chronicle*, 10 July 1886.

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wrote about some of his memories.²⁰ One of his responsibilities was to take care of the horses kept at the ranch yard. He also recalled that his father had about 200 wild horses out at pasture and that bears and mountain lions preyed on them considerably in the early years.²¹

Fred also recalled that harvesting hay was a major chore and took a long time to complete. It would be pitched into wagons by hand and then later thrown out to be baled. Most bales weighed 125 pounds and were hauled to Rochford then shipped to Lead and Terraville where they fetched \$10-\$12 per ton. Fred also related harvesting, sacking, and hauling oats to Rochford and that the family made most of their money in the early years selling oats.²² As the ranch matured and railroad lines expanded, raising livestock for sale in Omaha, Nebraska became the primary focus of the operation.²³

In 1914, Joseph and Emmaroy moved with daughter Emma to Custer. Emma never married and took care of her invalid mother all of her life until their deaths in 1921. When Joseph died in 1919, Willis inherited the ranch. However, Willis did not receive patent to the land until 1922 when the "Seven Hills and Seven Hills No.3 lode mining claims" were "ventured and paid for" by the heirs of Joseph T. Reynolds.²⁴ Joseph had filed the mineral certificates on the land in 1902.²⁵ Online research at the Bureau of Land Management General Land Office Records did not indicate a Homestead Entry Survey had ever been completed (or at least digitized) for Joseph's ranch.²⁶

²⁰ Bozzetti, 13.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Ibid.

²³ Ibid, 18.

²⁴ General Land Office Records, Retrieved 6 June 2022.

<https://glorerecords.blm.gov/details/patent/default.aspx?accession=884209&docCl ass=SER&sid=ggc2cksg.lsy#patentDetailsTabIndex=1>

²⁵ General Land Office Records, Retrieved 6 June 2022.

https://glorerecords.blm.gov/details/cdi/default.aspx?doc_id=873431&sid=dhbchn3 x.zlk#cdiDetailsTabIndex=1

²⁶ General Land Office Records, Retrieved 6 June 2022.

<https://glorerecords.blm.gov/search/default.aspx>

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Joseph Reynold's patent for the Seven Hills Placer Claim.
From *The Reynold's Ranches* by Laurie Bozzetti, (page 38).

The date of the 1922 patent likely reflects the ranch's location within the Black Hills Forest Reserve. The Black Hills Forest Reserve, created in Lawrence and Pennington counties, is one of several federal reserves signed into existence by President Grover Cleveland in 1897. The executive order aimed to protect forests against fire, wasteful lumbering practices, and timber fraud.²⁷ Subsequent federal laws would allow settlers already living on agricultural lands in the Black Hills to file for patents on select parcels.

Willis married Rachel Johnson in 1935. Willis lived on the ranch his entire life and was buried there when he died in 1962. Others buried in the family cemetery include Willis' sons, Joseph and Art, and Art's wife Madonna. Engraved on Willis' tombstone are the words "Born and lived his lifetime on this ranch."²⁸ In the early 1980s, Willis' son Art sold the ranch.²⁹

Epilogue

Willis and his younger brother Fred bought additional homesteads that adjoined the original Joseph Reynolds Ranch. Some of this property became known as the Fred Reynolds Ranch. The brothers also acquired their uncle David Reynolds homestead, creating an area of adjoining land that came to be called Reynolds Prairie.³⁰ The Lakota call this area Pe'Sla. In 2017, an alliance of American Indian tribes purchased the Fred Reynolds Ranch/Pe'Sla property.³¹ According to current tribal caretaker Joe Buck Colombe, the name came from a time when Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull were camped in the area and witnessed two buffalo bulls fighting. One scraped a piece of hide off the other's head and created a bald spot on his skull. Since this

²⁷ John F. Freeman, *Black Hills Forestry*. (Boulder, Colorado: University of Colorado Press, 2014), 33-34.

²⁸ Bozzetti, 15.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Ibid, 19.

³¹ Ibid, 24.

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mountain prairie was a “bald spot” in the Black Hills, they named it Pe’Sla.³² The original Joseph Reynolds Ranch, however, was never part of Pe’Sla.

The Joseph Reynold’s Ranch in the Context of Early Black Hills Settlement and Agriculture

U.S. Army Lieutenant Gouverneur Kemble Warren was one of the first Euro-Americans to document the agricultural possibilities of the Black Hills. Accompanying General Harney as a topographical engineer on the Sioux Expedition of 1855, Warren’s orders to gather information on the plains was prompted by the likelihood of more conflicts with American Indians as settlement pushed west.³³ While exploring the Hills again in 1857, Warren noted that American Indians had driven buffalo into the many meadows of the region and guarded them for later slaughter. Warren saw this as translatable to future cattle production.³⁴

Lt. Colonel George Custer’s 1874 expedition detailed the potential aggregate wealth of the Black Hills. This wealth was measured not only in minerals, but also in the land itself and what it might become. Reports “were effusive” concerning the stock-raising potential of the region.³⁵ Custer wrote “In no portion of the United States, not excepting the famous blue grass of Kentucky, have I ever seen grazing superior to that found growing wild in this hitherto unknown region....cattle could winter in these valleys without other food or shelter than that to be obtained from running at large.”³⁶ A.B. Donaldson, botanist for the Custer expedition, declared the grazing and dairying potential of the Black Hills as better than that of western New York and the Western Reserve in Ohio.³⁷ An article about Custer’s expedition published in late 1874 in *Harper’s Weekly* further praised the stock raising and agricultural potential of the region.³⁸

Geologist Walter Jenney and geological assistant Henry Newtown also detailed the potential value of the Black Hills during their 1875 expedition. While their primary goal was to assess mineral values, in particular gold, Jenney, along with Colonel Richard Dodge, his military escort, recorded the agricultural potential of the Black Hills in their reports. Jenney noted, “The grazing potential of the Black Hills is most excellent. Nine-tenths of the whole area is covered by a thick growth of the finest wild grasses. It constitutes the great future wealth of the region, and its

³² Ibid, 17.

³³ James D. McLaird and Lesta V. Turchen. “Exploring the Black Hills, 1855-1875: Reports of the Government Expeditions. The Dakota Explorations of Lieutenant Gouverneur Kemble Warren, 1855-1856-1857.” *South Dakota History*, v.3, no.4, (1973), 363-364.

³⁴ Hyman Palais. “The Cattle Industry in the Black Hills.” *Black Hills Engineer*, v.XXVIII, no.1., 2. (See also Lieutenant G.K. Warren. *Preliminary Report of Exploration in Nebraska and Dakota in the years 1855-56-57*. (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1875), p.19.

³⁵ Harry F. Thompson, editor. *A New South Dakota History*. (Sioux Falls, SD: Center For Western Studies, 2009), 261.

³⁶ General G.A. Custer, “Report of General Custer to the Department of Dakota, St. Paul, Minnesota, August 2, 1874, via Fort Laramie.” In *Senate Executive Document No. 32, 43rd Congress, 2nd Session, (1875)*. Reprinted in *South Dakota Historical Collections*, VII (1914), 583-594.

³⁷ Palais, “The Cattle Industry in the Black Hills,” 4.

³⁸ Ibid, 4.

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value can hardly be over estimated (sic).”³⁹ Jenney continued, “No matter how rich the gold placers in the Black Hills may prove to be, the great business in this region in the future, will be stock-raising and dairy farming.”⁴⁰ Jenney went on to conclude that the abundance of water, sheltering characteristics of the valleys, and quality of the grass would encourage livestock production.⁴¹ Colonel Dodge agreed with the men he was escorting stating, “The valleys (in the Hills) are broad and covered with excellent grasses. It will be some day the grazing grounds of miriads (sic) of cattle.”⁴² Dodge also noted that the short growing season may inhibit crop production, but that the grazing available will someday “furnish cattle, butter, and cheese for a nation.”⁴³

The agricultural potential of the Black Hills wasn’t news to everybody. American Indians, as well as French fur traders and those of mixed French and American Indian ancestry who spent time in the area, were well aware of the region’s potential. According to Hyman Palais in his article “The Cattle Industry in the Black Hills,” Nicholas and Antoine Janis may have been the first to introduce cattle into the Black Hills.⁴⁴ They had a ranch at their fur trading post near what became Custer City. They didn’t stay long, though, and relocated to Pine Ridge with their Lakota wives.⁴⁵

In early 1876, Captain E. LeGro brought in a small herd of cows to Rapid City. Later that year, a large ranch was established near Deadwood and several smaller herds were pastured on the Centennial Prairie between Deadwood and Spearfish.⁴⁶ Towards the end of 1876, John and Erasmus Deffenbach brought several herds from Wyoming into the Deadwood area.⁴⁷ These small herds, along with others, were the genesis of the cattle industry in western Dakota Territory that expanded tremendously within a decade.

However, all of this early ranching activity was taking place upon the Sioux Reservation illegally. The U.S. Army was unable and unwilling to stop the trespassers, leaving Congress to find a solution. That answer came with the Sioux Agreement of 1876, which removed the Black Hills from the reservation.⁴⁸ It was a heavy-handed arrangement that the Lakota were all but

³⁹ Palais, “The Cattle Industry in the Black Hills,” 5-6, As quoted from Walter P. Jenney and Henry Newton, *Report On The Geology and Resources of the Black Hills of Dakota*. (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1880), 317-320.

⁴⁰ Palais, “The Cattle Industry in the Black Hills,” 5-6.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² Wayne R. Kime. *The Black Hills Journals of Colonel Richard Irving Dodge*. (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1996), 58.

⁴³ Kime, 58.

⁴⁴ Palais, “The Cattle Industry in the Black Hills,” 9.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Ibid, 10.

⁴⁷ Ibid. See also George P. Baldwin, “Cattle Industry of the Black Hills” in the *Black Hills Illustrated*, (Chicago: Blakely Printing Co., 1904) pp.59-63.

⁴⁸ This agreement is also referred to as the “Agreement of 1877.”

Negotiations for the agreement concluded on 27 October 1876. Congress ratified the agreement in 1877. Either usage is correct; 1876 is used in this document.

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forced to sign or face starvation as the government was prepared to withhold annuities promised under the 1868 treaty. Enough Lakota signed to satisfy the government and the agreement took effect when Congress ratified it in 1877. The legality of this action was questioned for years. In 1980, the United States Supreme Court Case United States v. Sioux Nation of Indians acknowledged that the Black Hills had never been paid for and awarded the Sioux Nation plaintiffs \$106,000,000. The tribes have not accepted this money. It sits in a bank account accruing interest while they continue to demand the return of the Black Hills.

By the time Joseph Reynolds began raising stock in 1879, large cattle herds were already coalescing in and around the Black Hills. Cattlemen by the name of Gregory and Frease brought the first large herd into the central Hills in 1878 and established a 2,500 head operation on Elk Creek.⁴⁹ Around this same time, James Woods located a herd of 3,000-4,000 head around Rapid City.⁵⁰ Cattle in Pennington County accrued in such numbers that it became necessary to record brands to avoid confusion.⁵¹ By the early 1880s, the cattle ranges of the Black Hills were considered well-stocked.⁵²

According to the 1880 United States agricultural census, the early ranches in Dakota Territory were started with stock that accompanied the gold seekers for “food and freight.”⁵³ The cattle in the southwestern part of the Territory, which included the Black Hills, primarily came from herds in Montana Territory, Wyoming Territory, and Colorado. These cattle were noted to contain a large percentage of “Texas blood.”⁵⁴ The 1880 census also noted that by 1 July 1880 there were approximately 40,000 cattle in the Black Hills south to the Nebraska state line.⁵⁵ This comprised about one-fifth of the cattle in Dakota Territory.⁵⁶

Cattle ranching in the Black Hills was as diverse as the geography of the hills themselves. Larger herds owned by foreign and eastern investors tended to range in the foothills while those on the interior were smaller, family-owned operations. Hyman Palais, citing the *Pennington County Brand Books 1879-80* in his article “The Cattle Industry in the Black Hills” detailed that of the mountain herds Joseph Reynold’s was one of the largest.⁵⁷

⁴⁹ Palais, “The Cattle Industry in the Black Hills,” 10.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Ibid, 11.

⁵² Ibid, 12-13.

⁵³ U.S. Department of Agriculture, *Census of Agriculture 1880*, v.3, (Washington, D.C.: Department of the Interior, 1880), 65-66.

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ Ibid, 17.

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Photo featured in "The Cattle Industry In Black Hills," *The Black Hills Engineer*, v.XXVIII, No.1., page 17.
The Joseph Reynolds' Ranch, date unknown.

The harsh winter of 1886-87 devastated cattle ranchers in and around the Black Hills. Many went out of business due to heavy losses, though ranches protected within interior valleys fared better. The severe winter ended the open range system and ushered in the era of fenced pastures and the practice of putting up hay for winter fodder.⁵⁸ Most of the ranching outfits that survived were smaller operators like Reynolds who lived and invested in the Black Hills, which benefited local markets and improved the early economy.⁵⁹

Along with raising livestock, early settlers in the mountain ranches also raised crops. Cereal grains including oats, barley, wheat, rye, and flax were cultivated throughout the Black Hills though more commonly at the lower elevations and foothills.⁶⁰ The mountain ranches, like Reynolds, raised oats and hay for animal fodder. In 1910, oats was the largest cash crop produced in Pennington County and would remain that way until 1920 when demand decreased as tractors and automobiles began replacing horses.⁶¹ Pennington County farms and ranches produced 72,000 tons of hay in 1910.⁶²

Vegetables such as potatoes, beans, cucumber, parsnips and carrots were also raised at upper elevation ranches, like those of Ed Wolfe and a Mr. Brown living near Crook City as well as M.G. Tonn near Deadwood in the late 1870s.⁶³ Though stock raising and the cultivation of hay

⁵⁸ Ibid, 41; James Steele, et al. *The History of Agriculture in South Dakota: Components for a Fully Developed Historic Context*. (Pierre, SD: South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, 2013), 14.

⁵⁹ Palais, "The Cattle Industry in the Black Hills," 43.

⁶⁰ Ibid, 66-72.

⁶¹ Bozzetti, 18; U.S. Department of Agriculture, *Census of Agriculture 1910*, v.VII, (Washington, D.C.: Department of Commerce, 1913), 557.

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ Hyman Palais. "Agricultural History in the Black Hills." *The Black Hills Engineer*, vol.xxviii, no.1, (Sept 1942), 66-67.

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and oats were the primary agricultural activities of the Reynolds family, it's reasonable to assume that raising vegetables, pigs, chickens, dairy cows, etc. were part of the ranch's operation. Most farms and ranches in the early days of Dakota Territory operated on the subsistence model of producing for the family first and selling the excess.⁶⁴ While the Reynolds Ranch was likely similar, evidence of such practices are not currently seen in the built environment or landscape of the ranch yard. However, a 1901 photograph shows several smaller structures/pens that were likely used for subsistence agricultural practices and removed as the ranch became more specialized. Its continuation and growth into a multi-family operation between Willis and Fred make it an important example of a mature ranch that played a significant role in the local economy for decades.

Transportation Significance of the Reynolds Stage Stop

Stage and Freight Trails into Deadwood

Deadwood was the epicenter of a national gold rush in 1876. Two years earlier, an expedition led by Lt. Colonel George Custer had confirmed the existence of gold in the southern Black Hills. News of the discovery spurred an influx of prospectors and speculators determined to trespass upon the Sioux Reservation, which included the Black Hills. The military was unable, and to a degree unwilling, to eject the intruders. When it became apparent that no military solution was viable, the issue was mollified with the Agreement of 1876 that removed the Black Hills from the reservation.

Even before the Agreement of 1876 was legally settled, the rapid development of Deadwood was underway. Starting in 1876, trails from the four cardinal directions – Sydney, Nebraska (south), Cheyenne, Wyoming Territory (west), Bismarck, Dakota Territory (north), and Fort Pierre, Dakota Territory (east) were carrying thousands of tons of freight and people into Deadwood and the other mining camps of the northern Black Hills. Though the Fort Pierre-to-Deadwood trail would eventually put the others out of business, all four played a significant role in the rapid settlement of the Black Hills from 1876 to 1880.

The Sydney-to-Deadwood route was a popular departure point because the Union Pacific Railroad stopped in Sydney and a well-used trail connected Sydney with Fort Robinson fifty miles south of the Black Hills.⁶⁵ The bridging of the Platte River in December of 1876 made the 267-mile trip to Deadwood even more convenient and the Sydney-to-Deadwood trail was the most popular early route. In the spring of 1877, John Gilmer and Monroe Salisbury, prominent entrepreneurs in the western stagecoach business, assumed primary control of the route.⁶⁶ Between thirty and eighty people a day departed along with fifty to seventy-five freight wagons. In 1878 and 1879, an estimated twenty-five million pounds of freight shipped across the trail.⁶⁷

⁶⁴ Steeley, 1.

⁶⁵ Phillip S Hall. "The Ephemeral Chamberlain Road: A Freight Trail to the Black Hills." *South Dakota History*, v.26, no.1, (Spring 1996), 2.

⁶⁶ Ibid, 2-3.

⁶⁷ Ibid, 3.

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The Bismarck-to-Deadwood trail was laid out in December of 1875.⁶⁸ Bismarck was the western terminus of the Northern Pacific Railroad in 1876 and a natural jumping off point. A merger between the Northern Pacific Railroad and several stage companies based out of Minnesota created the Northwestern Express, Stage, and Transportation Company. It began operations in April of 1877 and was the largest outfit to use the trail. Between 1877 and 1880 the Bismarck-to-Deadwood trail became a heavily used route to the Black Hills for freight and passengers.⁶⁹

The Cheyenne-to-Deadwood trail commenced formal operations in the spring of 1876. In 1874, Congress authorized \$15,000 for a bridge over the North Platte River at Fort Laramie to “accommodate military traffic of the 1876 campaigns.”⁷⁰ The bridge was also a huge boom for civilian traffic coming from Cheyenne, which was also a stop on the Union Pacific Railroad.⁷¹ A pony express service from Cheyenne to the mining camps had been started in 1875, but Frank Yates and W.H. Brown’s Pioneer Stage Line soon put it out of business.⁷² In early 1876, John Gilmore, Monroe Salisbury, and Mathewson Patrick’s operation, which the Wyoming legislature had granted a commercial transportation monopoly to, took over the line.⁷³ Gilmer, Salisbury, and Patrick organized the construction of a chain of road ranches, assembled personnel, and purchased equipment including six hundred horses, thirty Concord Stages manufactured by Abbott and Downing of New Hampshire, and \$70,000 worth of other equipment from Wells Fargo and Company.⁷⁴

Unlike the Sydney, Bismarck, and Cheyenne trails, the route between Fort Pierre and the Black Hills had been in existence for years. Possibly an old American Indian trail, fur traders and later G.K. Warren’s expedition traveled this route in 1855 when exploring for General William S. Harney.⁷⁵ By the second half of 1876, large freight outfits were establishing themselves on the trail. Fred Evans and his partners formed the Sioux City and Black Hills Transportation Company, of which Evans became the sole owner of by 1878.⁷⁶ Other big outfits to use the trail included the Northwestern Express, Stage, and Transportation Company; the Merchants Transportation Company; the Wyoming Stage Company, and other passenger services. The end of the Fort Pierre-to-Deadwood trail began in 1886 with the arrival of the Fremont, Elkhorn, and

⁶⁸ Ibid, 4.

⁶⁹ Todd Kapler. *Historic Resources Along the Historic Bismarck to Deadwood Trail National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form*, (1992), E-3 & E-4.

⁷⁰ Merrill J. Mattes. “Fort Laramie Park History 1834-1977.”
https://www.nps.gov/foia/learn/historyculture/upload/foia_history.pdf.
Accessed 22 June 2022.

⁷¹ Mattes; Hall, 3.

⁷² Hall, 3.

⁷³ Mattes; Hall, 3.

⁷⁴ Mattes; Irma Klock. *All Roads Lead to Deadwood*. (Lead, SD: self-published, 1979), 27.

⁷⁵ James D. Osburn, et al. *Fort Pierre-Deadwood Trail*. (Wasta, SD: Cheyenne River Press, 2008), 3.

⁷⁶ Ibid, 6-7.

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Missouri Valley Railroad in Rapid City.⁷⁷ It was the last of the trails to succumb to the evolving railroad system.

All four trails offered the same essential services to varying degrees: food, shelter, and water. A variety of building and structures were used along the trails including log barns, log cabins, sod houses, and other expedient outbuildings. The stage and freight companies built some buildings while others were private property incorporated into the route. This favored both the companies and the private owners who enjoyed the extra revenue. One of these beneficiaries for a short duration was Joseph Reynolds.

The Reynolds Ranch – A Stop on the Cheyenne-to-Deadwood's Indian Creek Route

In the early years, when the Cheyenne-to-Deadwood stage route passed through Custer City, the trail went by the way of Indian Creek. This became known as the Indian Creek Route.⁷⁸ It was one of two major routes to depart from the Hat Creek Station. The other was the Jenny Stockade Route.⁷⁹

The Indian Creek Route ran fifteen miles eastward from Hat Creek Station to the Harding Ranch on Indian Creek. The ranch featured a partial dugout/log structure that housed a kitchen, bedroom, and store. Near this structure, the Cheyenne and Black Hills Stage Company dug a stable into a clay bank for the horses. The ranch was also a regular telegraph and meal station.⁸⁰

The trail continued down Indian Creek for twelve miles then veered six miles to Indian Springs (aka Prairie Springs). Five miles past the spring was the Cheyenne River Ranch stage station. J.W. Dear built this stop in 1876 and maintained a telegraph and traveler accommodations. It is said that Persimmon Bill Chambers and his gang of horse thieves used this ranch as their headquarters for a time.⁸¹ Chambers was suspected of several murders in the Hills but was never charged.⁸²

Approximately four miles north of the Cheyenne River Ranch, near the entrance to Red Canyon, was the Red Canyon station. This was also called Camp Collier after Major W.S. Collier who had established a stockade. A well-frequented establishment known as Harlow's Eating House was located here. The next stopping points were Spring-On-The-Hill located twelve miles north of the Red Canyon Station and Spring-On-The-Right nine miles away. Many travelers stopped at these resting points.⁸³

Continuing eight miles northerly the trail reached Pleasant Valley where James Fielding kept a dinner station. From here, the trail arrived in Custer City. The original trail north out of Custer City to Deadwood was apparently used for a short duration until a new fifty-two-mile trail was

⁷⁷ Ibid, 25.

⁷⁸ Agnes Wright Spring. *The Cheyenne and Black Hills Stage and Express Routes*. (Glendale, CA: The Arthur H. Clark Company, 1949), 123.

⁷⁹ Ibid, 127.

⁸⁰ Ibid, 124.

⁸¹ Ibid, 124.

⁸² Paul L. Hedren. *Fort Laramie and the Great Sioux War*. (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1998), XXI.

⁸³ Spring, 124-125.

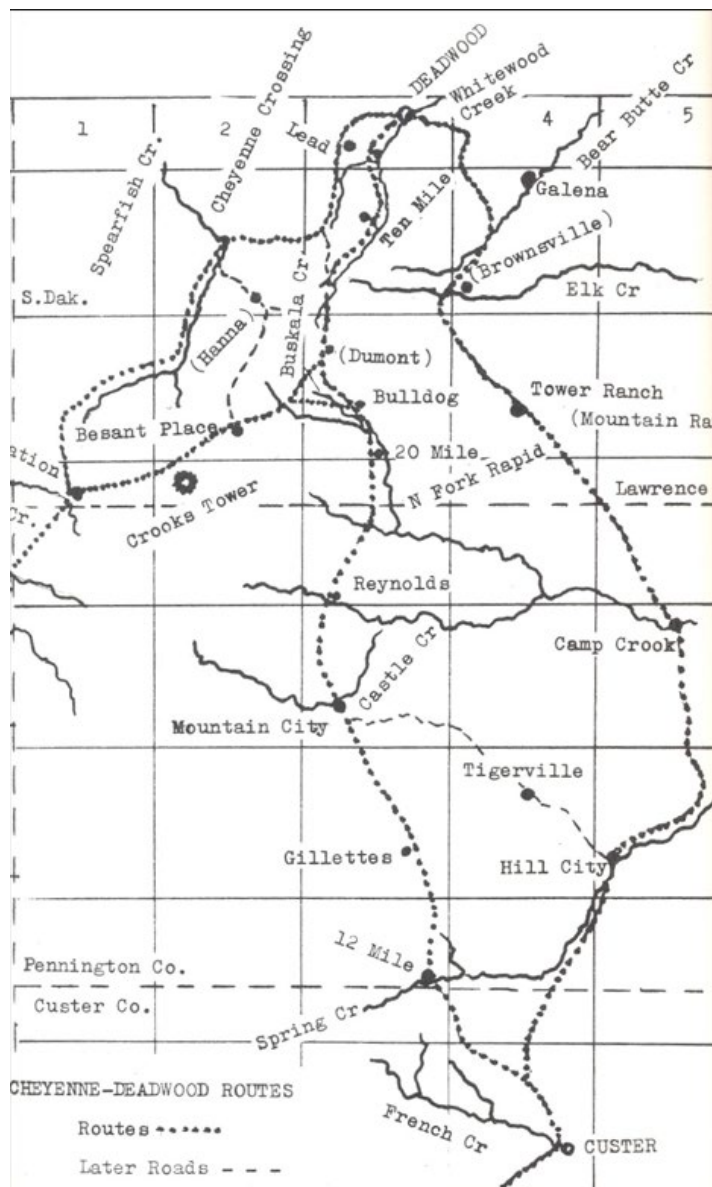
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established in the spring of 1877. On this new route, the first stop north of Custer City was Twelve Mile Station on Spring Creek. Next was the Log Cabin House stop owned by a man named Gillette. Six miles beyond Gillette's was Mountain City (aka Deerfield). Three-and-a-half miles further was the Reynolds Ranch. Joseph T. Reynolds was the proprietor of this road stop.⁸⁴ From here, the route went to the Bulldog Ranch on Rapid Creek. It is said the ranch was named for the bulldogs the owner kept to prevent passing bullwhackers from killing her chickens.⁸⁵ Lastly, the trail went to the head of Whitewood Creek and down into Deadwood.⁸⁶



Route showing the Reynolds Ranch, from *All Roads Lead to Deadwood*

⁸⁴ Ibid, 126.

⁸⁵ Robert K. DeArment. *Assault on the Deadwood Stage: Road Agents and Shotgun Messengers*. (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 2012), 216.

⁸⁶ Spring, 127.

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by Irma Klock, (page 48).

Trail-Related Resources

Though no systematic inventory of historic resources relating to the trails that departed Sydney, Cheyenne, Bismarck, and Fort Pierre for Deadwood has ever been completed, cultural resource managers and local historians have recorded several sites. The Archeological Resource Management System (ARMS) database for South Dakota includes fifteen sites associated with the trails, thirteen of which are considered eligible for listing in the National Register. These sites are primarily comprised of roadbeds and/or wagon ruts. They are located within the Black Hills and surrounding prairie. Additionally, four archeological sites are listed in the National Register as part of the *Historic Resources Along the South Dakota Portion of the Bismarck to Deadwood Trail Multiple Property Listing*.

Extant buildings or structures associated with trails are rare. Only the barn at the Joseph Reynolds Ranch and a well near Piedmont associated with the Sydney to Deadwood Trail are recorded in the South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office's survey files as of 2021. However, documentation by local historians has recorded additional buildings, structures, and ruins likely associated with the four main trails into Deadwood. This information is not comprehensive and much is outdated.

The late archeologist Laurie Bozetti documented some of these stage-related resources from the 1990s until around 2017. In an unpublished report "Stage Stops," she visited several stops with buildings or structures. Along the Cheyenne-to-Deadwood Trail she recorded six sites including the Joseph Reynolds Ranch. She also recorded two sites with log buildings in Red Canyon, but could not confirm their association with the trail. One cabin appeared stylistically to postdate the trail and the other cabins lacked historical research at the time to establish them as stage stops. Another building near ruin was located north of Bear Mountain. It is a frame building with a lean to that would also require more research to confirm its presences when the trail was in use. The Bulldog Ranch north of Nahant was a stage stop and possibly retains resources from the trail's period of usage. Like the Joseph Reynolds Ranch, the Bulldog Ranch contains buildings that also postdate the trail's period of usage. Additionally, another stage stop -Ten Mile Station - was mostly ruins when recorded in the 1980s.⁸⁷

Bozzetti also looked at a limited number of stage stops on other trails. The Carstens Ranch on the Bismarck-to-Deadwood trail retains a gable-and-wing house supposedly dating to the trail's period of usage. Also within this vicinity are the ruins of a rock tollbooth associated with the trail and the archeological site of the Thompson Road House. In her research, Bozzetti only found one stage stop on the Fort Pierre-to-Deadwood trail with extant buildings. This was the Climax Post Office and Stage Station, which is comprised of a few gabled, wood-framed buildings.⁸⁸

Architectural Significance of the Reynolds Ranch

⁸⁷ Laurie Bozzetti. "Stage Stops." (unpublished report, 2017).

⁸⁸ Ibid.

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The Craftsman house represents a popular early-twentieth century residential style while the barns embody three distinct building techniques. The other structures – house with garages, bunkhouse, privy – are complimentary to the architecture of the ranch yard but do not convey individual significance of a style, type, or method of construction.

Craftsman House (1920)

The Craftsman style was fashionable nationally from about 1905 to 1930 and was the most popular architectural style between 1905 and 1920. Most of the landmark and high style examples are located in California where architects Charles Sumner Greene and Henry Mather Greene were credited with creating the style. The two brothers practiced together in Pasadena from 1893 to 1914. Others contributed to different degrees in the broader movement, but the Greene brothers are credited as the originators. The Arts and Crafts movement, as well as Oriental architecture and the work of Gustav Stickley, influenced the development of the style.

Craftsman homes are distinguishable. There are some basic architectural features that are representative of the style and four main subtypes are identified in Virginia and Lee McAlester's *A Field Guide to American Houses* (1984). The subtypes include: front-gabled, cross-gabled, side-gabled, and hipped-roof. Like every architectural style, details and layout vary per subtype. Identifying features of the style include: low-pitched gable roof with wide eave overhang, exposed roof rafters, decorative beams or braces under the gable, full- or partial-width porch supported by tapered square columns, and elevations of one to one-and-a-half stories.⁸⁹

In rural South Dakota, a styled home - such as Craftsman, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, etc - was often the second or third generation dwelling constructed on a farm or ranch that replaced a sod house, log cabin, or simple gable, side-gable, or gable-and-wing house. Craftsman houses in rural settings are not uncommon in South Dakota, yet those with integrity are increasingly rare. Common alterations include replacement siding and windows, metal roofs, and large additions.

The Reynolds Ranch Craftsman house has excellent integrity. Its multi-pane windows, wood siding, exposed rafter tails, brackets, dormers with shingles, flared eaves, and a porch with tapered piers on stone bases are defining characteristics of the style. The addition to the rear of the house appears early and does not impeded the house's ability to convey its significance.

Timber-Framed Bank Barn (c.1877)

The oldest technique used in barn building was heavy timber-frame construction, sometimes referred to as "post-and-beam" construction, which was the common framing system employed throughout North America from Colonial times. Timber framing utilized large wooden posts and beams up to a foot thick that were fitted together with interlocking joinery and fastened with tapered wooden pegs or dowels. This kind of structural system required a large number of heavy pieces of wood, preferably hardwood, which had to be cut and shaped with cross-cut saws, broadaxes, and adzes before they could be carefully fitted together to form a rigid, self-supporting framework. Construction of farm barns using heavy timber framing was limited

⁸⁹ Virginia Savage McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2013), 567.

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geographically to southeast South Dakota and the Black Hills, where there was abundant native timber. The type of timber used for framing determined to a great extent the size of the barn. When whole sticks of timber in the required lengths were not available, sills and plates were spliced together at the bents or the width of the barn had to be reduced.⁹⁰

This barn's western elevation is banked into the slope of the hillside. Stacked granite stones comprise the basement wall of this elevation while timbers support other basement elevations. Bank barns allowed for easy wagon access to the upper level as well as "walk-out" stables at the basement level. Timber-framed bank barns are rare in South Dakota and occur more frequently in the southeastern part of the state.⁹¹

Bank barns are generally found east of the Missouri River and are historically used for mixed crop and livestock farming. At the time of their popularity in the later nineteenth and early twentieth century, bank barns were considered ideal for the Midwest where farmers needed shelter for livestock, fodder, and surplus grain. The design was also suited for dairy operations.⁹² It is probable that this barn was used to house both horses and livestock in the basement and hay and oats in the loft. One supposition is that stagecoach teams were exchanged here while it operated as a stop on the Cheyenne-to-Deadwood route.⁹³ It is also possible the loft provided overnight accommodations for travelers.



Interior view of framing (left) and the barn banked into the road of the Indian Springs Route of the Cheyenne-to-Deadwood trail.

Small Barn (c.1877)

Most early Dakota homesteaders were subsistence farmers who sheltered their animals in small, temporary structures. Logs were used in southeastern South Dakota and the Black Hills where suitable hardwood and pine species were available. Both hewn and round logs were used in barn

⁹⁰ Robert Vogel. *Common Farm Barns of South Dakota 1857-1958*. (Pierre: SD, State Historic Preservation Office), E-16.

⁹¹ Ibid, F-42 & F-43.

⁹² Ibid, F-43.

⁹³ Laurie Bozzetti. "Stage Stops." (unpublished report, 2017).

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construction with a variety of notching techniques dependant upon the skill of the builders. Log barns were often replaced with plank-framed barns and repurposed into other uses.⁹⁴

Early log barns were often comprised of one rectangular crib (supporting framework) with walls up to ten feet high and gable roofs made of split logs, poles, rough-cut boards, or brush. They were built by hand with saws, broadaxes, and adzes. A common sizing of the crib was sixteen to eighteen feet. Saddle notching, a very simple form of wall joinry, appears to be most commonly used though more complicated notches were also employed. Some barns were chinked while others were not to encourage ventilation. Log barns also used for human occupation were more likely to be chinked. Most small log barns were never intended for long term use and were often converted to another function on the farm.⁹⁵

Conversion to another use often meant improvement. In the case of this barn, a frame addition, framed gable roof, and vertical wood siding were added to the structure by at least 1913 (photo evidence) but likely earlier. The c.1877 timber-framed bank barn and an early, large gabled barn (burned 1941) were the primary barns on the ranch. The improvement to the small, log barn was likely due to a change in use.

Gambrel-Roof Barn (c.1943)

This barn replaced an original gable barn that burned in 1941. It is of standardized construction with hayloft above a first-level which contains stables and stanchions for livestock. The metal siding and roof may be original or an early addition. No photos of the barn without the metal were located.

Using the classification system developed in the *Common Farm Barns of South Dakota Context*, this barn is classified as a multi-level barn with gambrel roof. This type of barn was common throughout South Dakota and the Midwest. The gambrel roof is the defining or identifying feature of this type. Some have labeled the distinctive roof shape as iconic.⁹⁶

A gambrel roof has four surfaces with two different pitches. The upper slope is approximately 30 degrees and the lower slope may be as steep as 60 degrees. Gambrel roofs are self-supporting and the cantilevered trusses are built entirely of two-inch dimensional lumber. Considerable storage space is provided above the main floor and because the roof is entirely supported by the exterior wall framing, haymows in gambrel roof barns may be 30 feet high from the floor to the hay carrier-track and are unobstructed by posts. In ground plan and structure these barns are very similar to multi-level barns with gable roofs—some would argue that the cantilevered roof and plank frame construction are merely adaptations of the traditional three-bay folk barn form. Dimensions vary greatly, but they are almost always longer than they are wide. Most examples from South Dakota are built entirely with dimensional lumber and feature plank framing built up from 2x6, 2x10, and 2x12 lumber. Wall cladding is weatherboard siding, often tongue-and-groove pine or fir boards.⁹⁷

⁹⁴ Vogel, E-15.

⁹⁵ Vogel, F-40 & F-41.

⁹⁶ Vogel, F-41.

⁹⁷ Ibid, F-42.

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The gambrel roof first appeared in American domestic architecture during the seventeenth century but it was not adapted to farm barns until after balloon framing was perfected in the nineteenth century. The use of plank-framed trusses enabled farmers to erect barns with gambrel roofs that eliminated the need for timber posts, tie-beams, and purlins and thus allowed for much larger haymows. By the early 1900s, the gambrel roof had come to epitomize the “big red barn” image of the barn as the farmer’s factory.⁹⁸

This c.1943 barn was built towards the end of the gambrel-roof barns’ era of popularity. By the 1950s, changes in agricultural practices favored the construction of pole barns. This last barn constructed on the Reynolds Ranch has significance as a final generation gambrel-roof barn.

⁹⁸ Ibid, E-28.

Joseph Reynolds Ranch Yard and Stage Stop
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U.S. Department of Agriculture, *Census of Agriculture 1910*, v.VII, Washington, D.C.:
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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

☐ previously listed in the National Register

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

Joseph Reynolds Ranch Yard and Stage Stop

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☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): PN03800001

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approx. 4.6

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

2. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

3. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

4. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☒ NAD 1983

1. Zone: 13 Easting: 596053.44 Northing: 4882198.28

2. Zone: 13 Easting: 595954.88 Northing: 4882193.65

3. Zone: 13 Easting: 595944.96 Northing: 4882068.63

4. Zone: 13 Easting: 595902.63 Northing: 4881987.27

5. Zone: 13 Easting: 595954.88 Northing: 4881958.17

6. Zone: 13 Easting: 596021.03 Northing: 4882051.44

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7. Zone: 13

Easting: 596052.12

Northing: 4882175.1

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

See Map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Per the owner's request, only the ranch yard is included within the boundary. This encompasses the historic buildings, structures, and sites associated with the ranch and stage stop.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: CB Nelson

organization: SD State Historic Preservation Office

street & number: 900 Governors Drive

city or town: Pierre state: SD zip code: 57501

e-mail chrisb.nelson@state.sd.us

telephone: 605-773-3458

date: 16 June 2022

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Joseph Reynolds Ranch Yard and Stage Stop
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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Joseph Reynolds Ranch Yard and Stage Stop

City or Vicinity: Rochford vicinity

County: Pennington

State: SD

Photographer: Ted Spencer

Date Photographed: 1 May 2021

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 25.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
Tier 2 – 120 hours
Tier 3 – 230 hours
Tier 4 – 280 hours

Joseph Reynolds Ranch Yard and Stage Stop

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The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.



SD_PenningtonCounty_JosephReynoldsRanchYardandStageStop_0001. Looking north at c.1877 barn.

Joseph Reynolds Ranch Yard and Stage Stop
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SD_PenningtonCounty_JosephReynoldsRanchYardandStageStop_0002. Looking west at c.1877 barn.

Joseph Reynolds Ranch Yard and Stage Stop
Name of Property

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SD_PenningtonCounty_JosephReynoldsRanchYardandStageStop_0003. Interior c.1877 barn.

Joseph Reynolds Ranch Yard and Stage Stop
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SD_PenningtonCounty_JosephReynoldsRanchYardandStageStop_0004. Interior c.1877 barn.

Joseph Reynolds Ranch Yard and Stage Stop
Name of Property

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SD_PenningtonCounty_JosephReynoldsRanchYardandStageStop_0005. Looking north into basement of c.1877 barn.

Joseph Reynolds Ranch Yard and Stage Stop
Name of Property

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SD_PenningtonCounty_JosephReynoldsRanchYardandStageStop_0006. Interior c.1877 barn.

Joseph Reynolds Ranch Yard and Stage Stop
Name of Property

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SD_PenningtonCounty_JosephReynoldsRanchYardandStageStop_0007. Looking northwest at c.1943 barn.

Joseph Reynolds Ranch Yard and Stage Stop
Name of Property

Pennington, SD
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SD_PenningtonCounty_JosephReynoldsRanchYardandStageStop_0008. Looking northeast at c.1943 barn.

Joseph Reynolds Ranch Yard and Stage Stop
Name of Property

Pennington, SD
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SD_PenningtonCounty_JosephReynoldsRanchYardandStageStop_0009. Interior c.1943 barn.

Joseph Reynolds Ranch Yard and Stage Stop
Name of Property

Pennington, SD
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SD_PenningtonCounty_JosephReynoldsRanchYardandStageStop_0010. Interior c.1943 barn.

Joseph Reynolds Ranch Yard and Stage Stop
Name of Property

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SD_PenningtonCounty_JosephReynoldsRanchYardandStageStop_0011. Looking southwest at small barn.

Joseph Reynolds Ranch Yard and Stage Stop
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Pennington, SD
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SD_PenningtonCounty_JosephReynoldsRanchYardandStageStop_0012. Interior of small barn.

Joseph Reynolds Ranch Yard and Stage Stop
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Pennington, SD
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SD_PenningtonCounty_JosephReynoldsRanchYardandStageStop_0013. Looking west at Craftsman house.

Joseph Reynolds Ranch Yard and Stage Stop
Name of Property

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SD_PenningtonCounty_JosephReynoldsRanchYardandStageStop_0014. Looking northwest at Craftsman house.

Joseph Reynolds Ranch Yard and Stage Stop
Name of Property

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SD_PenningtonCounty_JosephReynoldsRanchYardandStageStop_0015. Looking north at Craftsman house.

Joseph Reynolds Ranch Yard and Stage Stop
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Pennington, SD
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SD_PenningtonCounty_JosephReynoldsRanchYardandStageStop_0016. Looking west at Craftsman house.

Joseph Reynolds Ranch Yard and Stage Stop
Name of Property

Pennington, SD
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SD_PenningtonCounty_JosephReynoldsRanchYardandStageStop_0017. Looking southwest at Craftsman house.

Joseph Reynolds Ranch Yard and Stage Stop
Name of Property

Pennington, SD
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SD_PenningtonCounty_JosephReynoldsRanchYardandStageStop_0018. Looking northwest at bunkhouse.

Joseph Reynolds Ranch Yard and Stage Stop
Name of Property

Pennington, SD
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SD_PenningtonCounty_JosephReynoldsRanchYardandStageStop_0019. Looking west at outbuilding.

Joseph Reynolds Ranch Yard and Stage Stop
Name of Property

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SD_PenningtonCounty_JosephReynoldsRanchYardandStageStop_0020. Looking west at privy.

Joseph Reynolds Ranch Yard and Stage Stop
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Pennington, SD
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SD_PenningtonCounty_JosephReynoldsRanchYardandStageStop_0021. Looking west at trough.

Joseph Reynolds Ranch Yard and Stage Stop
Name of Property

Pennington, SD
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SD_PenningtonCounty_JosephReynoldsRanchYardandStageStop_0022. Looking east at well.

Joseph Reynolds Ranch Yard and Stage Stop
Name of Property

Pennington, SD
County and State



SD_PenningtonCounty_JosephReynoldsRanchYardandStageStop_0023. Looking north at ranch yard.

Joseph Reynolds Ranch Yard and Stage Stop
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SD_PenningtonCounty_JosephReynoldsRanchYardandStageStop_0024. Looking east at ranch yard.

Joseph Reynolds Ranch Yard and Stage Stop
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SD_PenningtonCounty_JosephReynoldsRanchYardandStageStop_0025. Looking south at c.1877 barn and
Cheyenne-to-Deadwood trail segment (running along fence behind barn).

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Sketch Map



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Photo Log Map

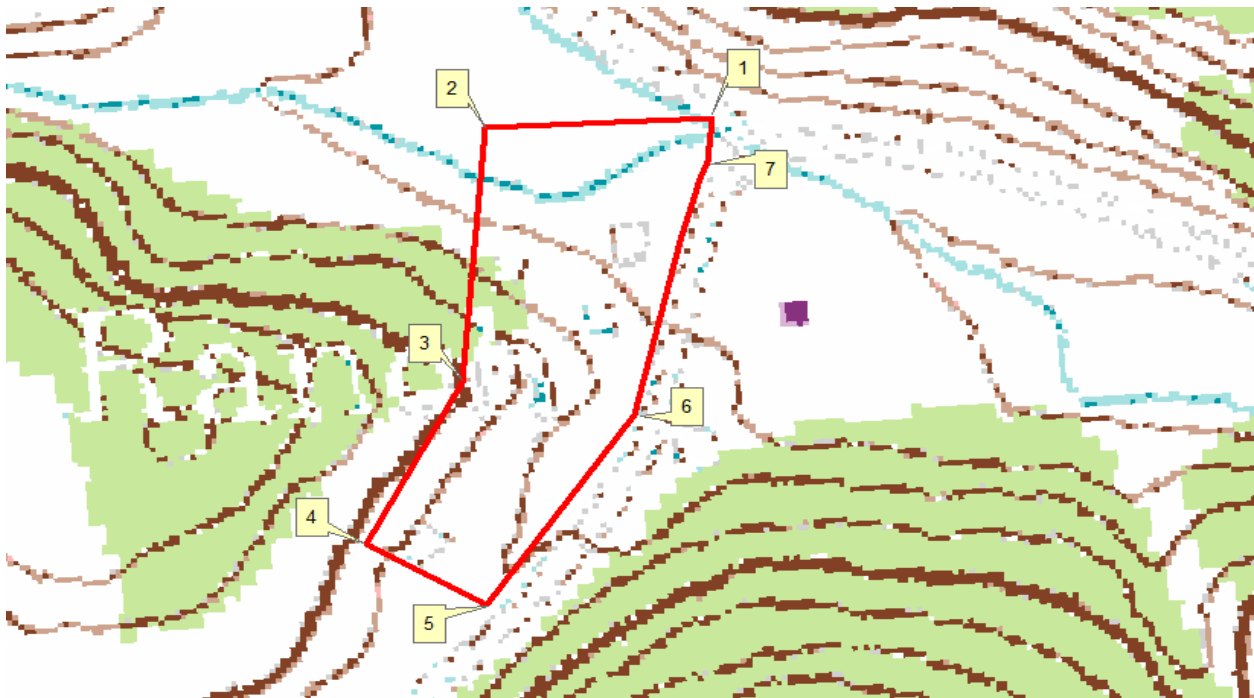


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SD_PenningtonCounty_JosephReynoldsRanchYardandStageStop. Created in ArcMap 16 June 2022 with FSA imagery.



SD_PenningtonCounty_JosephReynoldsRanchYardandStageStop. Created in ArcMap 16 June 2022 USGS 7.5" Quadrangle Map.