

GEORGE SPANGERBERGER FARMSTEAD, JOHN SIEGRIST CLAIM HOUSE
2012 West Illinois Avenue
South Hutchinson vicinity
Reno County
Kansas

HABS No. KS-77-B

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
MIDWEST SUPPORT OFFICE
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1709 Jackson Street
Omaha, NE 68102

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

GEORGE SPANGERBERGER FARMSTEAD, JOHN SIEGRIST CLAIM HOUSE

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- Location:** The Claim House is located at 2012 W. Illinois Ave., north of the residence, northeast of the privy, and southwest of the two tool sheds, South Hutchinson Vicinity, Reno County, Kansas.
- Present Owners:** Kansas Department of Transportation
- Present Occupant:** None
- Present Use:** Vacant Building
- Significance:** The Claim House contributes to the historic character of the George Spangerberger Farmstead. Even though this structure is not original to the farmstead, having been moved to the site later, it still represents the oldest period of settlement in this portion of the state.
- Description:** The George Spangerberger Farmstead John Siegrist Claim House is presently located 28' northwest of the main residence, 34' southeast of the chicken house, and 29' southwest of the west tool shed. The claim house was constructed ca. 1870-80, probably by John and Elizabeth Siegrist. Mary Stallman Hawks, a grand daughter of the Siegrists, indicated that the claim house was originally located on the Siegrist claim approximately one mile north of the Spangerberger Farmstead (personal communication with Marsha King, 1997). An 1885 county map showed "J. Seigrist" as the owner of the northwest quarter of Section 27 and the southwest quarter of Section 22.
- John and Elizabeth (Yontz) Siegrist moved to Reno Township in Reno County, Kansas in 1876, acquiring ownership of the southwest quarter of Section 22 and the northwest quarter of Section 27, Township 23 South, Range 6 West. These two adjacent parcels of land were situated immediately north of the Spangerberger Farmstead site. John Siegrist was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania on January 18, 1823, to Christian and Hettie Siegrist, members of the Mennonite church. On April 24, 1848, he married 18-year-old Elizabeth Yontz, daughter of Jacob and Fannie Yontz, also of Lancaster County. The couple moved to Tazewell County, Illinois shortly after their marriage. In 1876 John and his oldest son traveled to Reno County, Kansas to purchase property in advance of moving the family. The Siegrist family moved to Kansas and settled on the southwest quarter of Section 22 later that year and built his claim house. By 1877 Siegrist had constructed a new frame house on the parcel, reportedly one of the best in the county (Ploughe 1917:328-330).
- John Siegrist's family was enumerated on the 1880 federal census in Reno Township. At that time John was reported as a 57-year-old, white male, a native of Pennsylvania, with the occupation of farmer. His household included five other individuals: his wife, Elizabeth (aged 49, born in Pennsylvania, "Keeping House"); their son, George (aged 18, born in Illinois); two daughters, Nettie F. (aged 14, Illinois native) and Annie M. (aged 8, born in Illinois); and a nephew, Amos Siegrist (aged 21, Illinois native, farm laborer) (U.S. Census 1880). The Siegrist family, of Pennsylvania-Dutch extraction, was one of the county's most

progressive and substantial farm families. Several Siegrists settled in the area in 1876 (Ploughe 1917:328). The 1880 agricultural schedule to the federal census reported that John Siegrist owned a farm valued at \$3,500 including 160 improved acres. At that time he had five horses, one mule or ass, four milch cows and five other cattle, twenty-two swine, and thirty poultry (U.S. Census 1880). During the next five years Siegrist doubled his farm acreage and increased his livestock holdings. The agricultural schedule accompanying the 1885 state census reported that John Siegrist owned a 320 acre farm valued at \$15,000. He had 180 acres under cultivation, 120 acres in prairie and eleven acres in trees. His livestock included six horses, four milch cows, twenty-two other cattle, and seventy-seven swine (Kansas Census 1885). The Siegrist family's hog operation was one of the most extensive for that period in Reno County (Ploughe 1917:330).

John Siegrist died on August 15, 1907 at the age of 85. He is buried in Eastside Cemetery in Hutchinson. He was survived by his widow, Elizabeth, and their five surviving children, two sons, Jacob L. and George W., and three daughters, Mary, Hettie, and Annie (Ploughe 1917:330; Reno Co. Genealogical Society 1980:315). Mary, the Siegrist's oldest daughter, born October 19, 1854, at San Jose, Illinois, married George Spangerberger ca. 1874 (personal communication, Sheryll White with G.H. Walters, 1994). George and Mary arrived in Kansas prior to 1877-78, first settling in Hutchinson.

The claim house has been moved at least twice since it was originally built. According to family historian Naomi Stiggins, this building was relocated to the Spangerberger farmstead in 1908 by George and Mary (Siegrist) Spangerberger. At that time it was attached to the north end of the original four room house, which is the southern portion of the present residence. Connecting doorways were cut through the north wall of the main residence and the south facade of the claim house and the two buildings were joined. According to George Harold Walters, the claim house was oriented on a north-south axis, similar to its present arrangement, but as a rear addition to the main residence. The rectangular claim house had three partitions, or was partitioned into three sections near that time. The center partition of the claim house, which contained the original front and rear exterior doorways, was used as the kitchen of the remodeled residence. At this time a new doorway was added in the south wall of the claim house which opened into the main residence. The other two partitioned rooms functioned as bedrooms (personal communication, Sheryll White with G.H. Walters, 1994).

In 1912, the claim house was again relocated when the north addition was built onto the main residence. At that time, the claim house was moved to its present location, northwest of the main residence. The function of the claim house changed and it became the wash house.

During the 1940s, the function of the claim house again altered, it became a carpentry shop. At this time a dry sink, which had been located in the center section of the building, was relocated to the northwest corner. The soft brick chimney collapsed, and the room partitions were removed. The claim house was again altered between 1948-50. Plywood was placed over the original wood and windows as a security measure after equipment was stolen from the building (personal communication, Sheryll White with G.H. Walters, 1994).

The claim house is a rectangular, wood-clad building with plywood covering most of the original vertical board exterior walls, as well as several windows and one door. It has a gabled, asphalt shingle roof. Measuring approximately 22'-0" x 14'-6", the building features three entries, situated in the east, west, and south walls. The wood doors on the east and

south walls are of the four panel type. The vertical board door on the west side was of the four-light variety. There appear to have been seven windows in the claim house. The single window in the east facade, which was a four-over-four-light double-hung window, has been boarded over. Two adjacent single windows in the south wall have been replaced with aluminum storm windows. Both single windows in the west wall, which were probably originally of the four-over-four-light double-hung type, have been boarded over, with the southern of these covered on both the interior and exterior. A gap visible on the interior of the north wall is the probable location of two adjacent single windows which were covered when the plywood was added on the exterior of the building.

The George Spangerberger Farmstead, John Siegrist Claim House is in overall poor condition. The exterior is covered with plywood. The partitions which once divided the claim house into three rooms, have been removed. Remnants of the early plaster interior wall finish, the beadboard ceiling, and the wood flooring remain on the interior. Faded wallpaper remnants also are still present in a few locations inside the building. The north and west exterior doors are intact under the plywood, as are remnants of four-over-four windows and vertical wood siding.

Sources:

Interview with George Harold Walters (now deceased), interviewed by Sheryll L. White, notes on file in Archeology Office, Kansas State Historical Society

Interview with Naomi Stiggins, interviewed by Sheryll L. White, notes on file in Archeology Office, Kansas State Historical Society

Kansas State Decennial Census, Population and Agricultural Schedules, 1885, 1895, 1915, (Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka)

Ploughe, Sheridan, *History of Reno County, Kansas: Its People, Industries, and Institutions*, vols. I & II. B. F. Bowen & Co., Indianapolis, 1917.

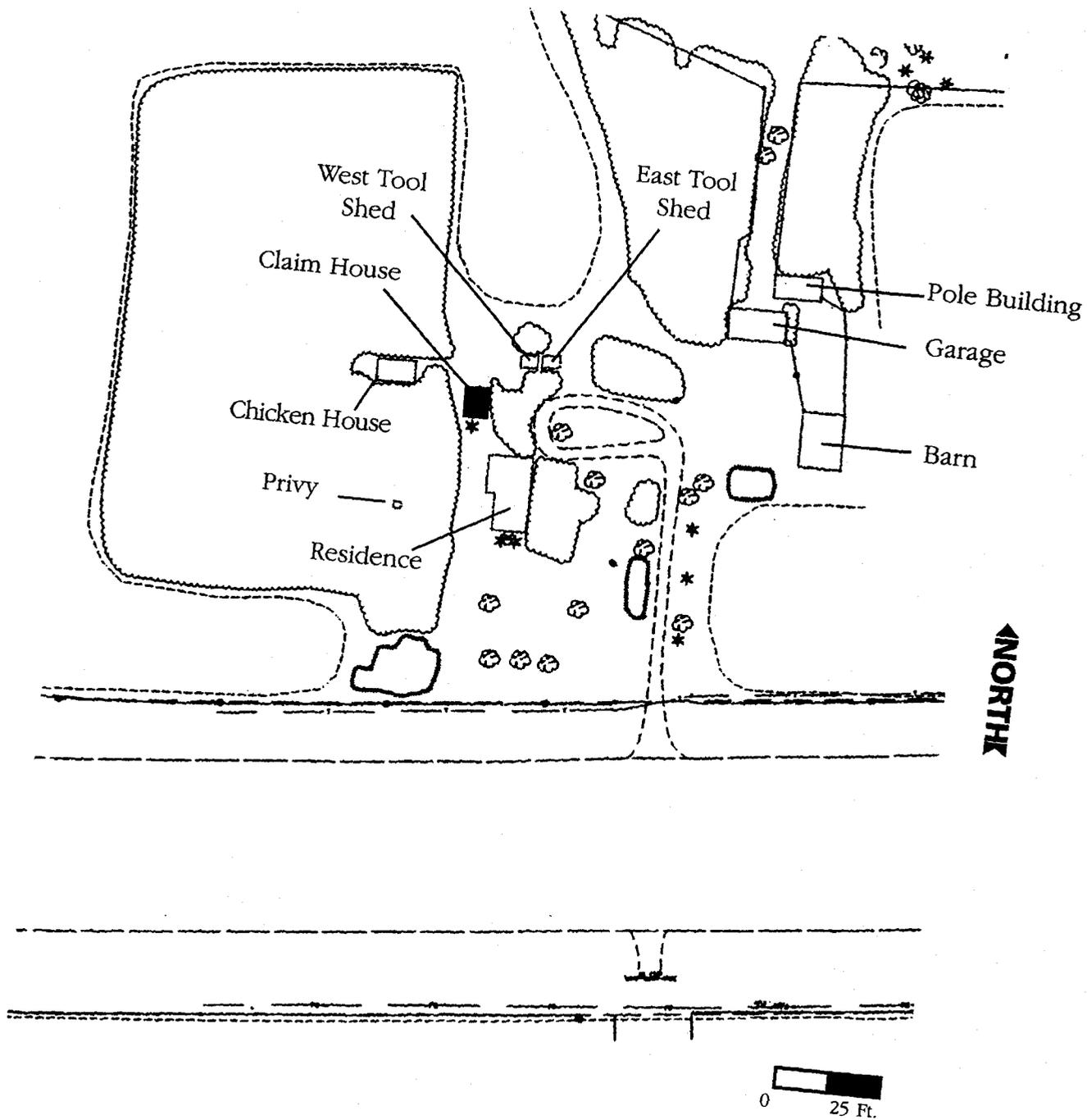
Reno County Genealogical Society, *Cemetery Records of Reno County, Kansas, 1865-1978*. Reno County Genealogical Society, Hutchinson, Kansas, 1980.

United States Manuscript Census Returns, 1870, 1880, 1890 (Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka)

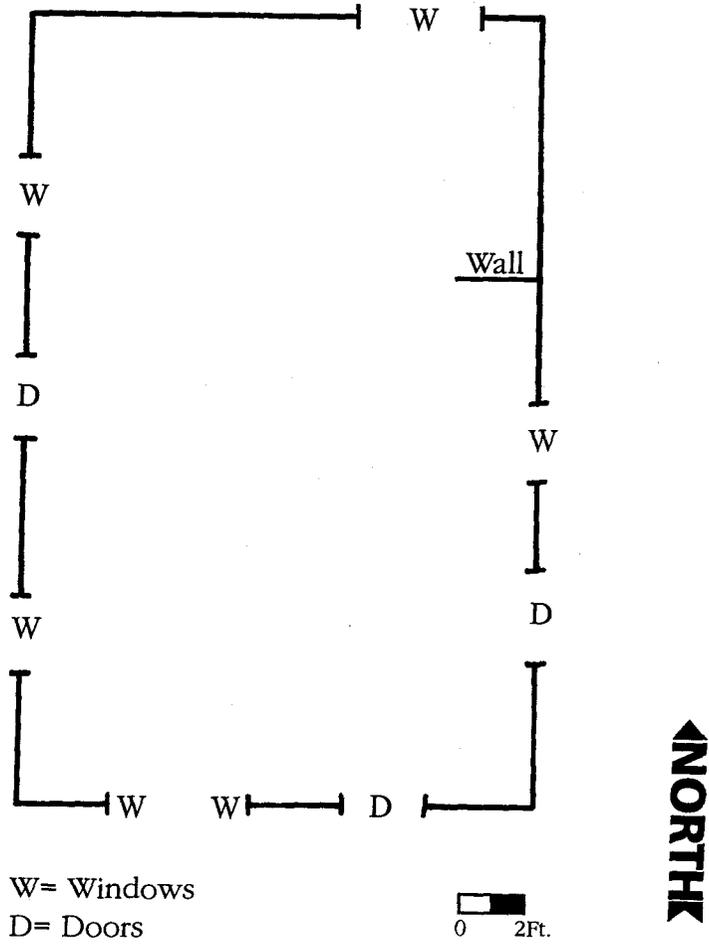
White, Sheryll, "Eberle Thomson, George Spangerberger Farmstead, A1 Site, Activity III Report," Contract 96-78 K-5046-01, Reno County, Hutchinson Bypass Alignment A. Ms on file, Archeology Office, Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka.

Historian:

Sheryll L. White was the historian for the Spangerberger Farmstead project. White conducted the basic research and interviews and prepared the reports from which the historical information was taken. Marsha K. King conducted limited additional research, drafted the HABS documentation, and compiled and prepared the HABS document.



SITE PLAN SHOWING THE LOCATION OF THE
GEORGE SPANGERBERGER FARMSTEAD, JOHN SIEGRIST CLAIM HOUSE.



FLOOR PLAN OF THE GEORGE SPANGERBERGER FARMSTEAD, JOHN SIEGRIST CLAIM HOUSE.