

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received **NOV 25 1986**  
date entered **MAY 7 1987**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic T.L. White Barn- Byre and Bluff Barns of Doniphan County (TR)

and or common P. Kent Symns Barn

**2. Location**

KS 7

street & number SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , S26, T4S, R20E not for publication

city, town Bendena X vicinity of

state Kansas code 20 county Doniphan code 43

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name P. Kent Symns etux

street & number Rt. 2

city, town Atchison vicinity of state Kansas 66002

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds

street & number Doniphan County Courthouse

city, town Troy state Kansas 66087

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Doniphan County Cultural Resources Survey has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes  no

date 1985 \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county  local

depository for survey records Kansas State Historical Society, 120 W. 10th

city, town Topeka state Kansas 66612

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

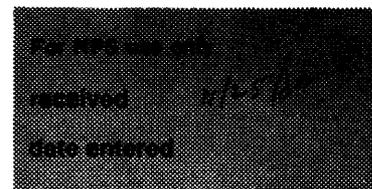
The T. L. White Barn (ca. 1927) is located on the P. Kent Symms Farm near Bendena, Kansas (pop. 150). The one-story, center entrance, poured cement barn has a full byre with a pressed metal shingled, gambrel roof. The superstructure is supported by nailed, plank framing. The barn has a north to south orientation, measuring forty-seven feet from east to west and thirty-three feet from north to south. The byre is built into the north and west embankments.

The north elevation is comprised of an off-center, single, wooden rolling door. The east and west elevation exhibit two rectangular window openings in their wooden gable ends, two square windows pierce the poured cement wall at the hay floor level. The east elevation has several access doors at the byre level. The southern elevation is comprised of six stall windows at the byre level and two windows at the hay floor level. The byre level is heated and air-conditioned. The barn is painted a light grey.

Originally constructed as a stock barn, the barn is now used for hogs. The building maintains a high degree of structural and architectural integrity.

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access to the second story.

While the byre or bluff barn presented a practical solution for Doniphan County's rolling topography, harsh winters, and high winds, it was not the most common solution. The byre and bluff barns built between 1860 and 1933 generally cost from \$2,000.00 to \$3,000.00 and while this may have been cost effective investment, it was an expensive investment. In addition, the higher degree of skilled craftsmanship required to construct a byre or bluff barn as opposed to most barns without foundations also hindered their construction. While the byre and bluff barns of Doniphan County are a sturdy survivor of a barn type built in Doniphan County between 1860 and 1933 they are not prolific, being far outnumbered by more inexpensive, rectangular wooden barns without foundations.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** ca. 1927      **Builder/Architect** Unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The T. L. White Barn (ca. 1927) is being nominated to the National Register as part of the Byre and Bluff Barns of Doniphan County (ca. 1860–1933) nomination. Constructed for T. L. White, the barn is the only nominated example of a poured cement byre barn. The gambrel roof structure retains its original metal shingles and it is used for hog farming.

The eighteen nominated barns share a common feature in that at least one side of each barn's foundations is embedded in an earthen bank or bluff; the majority of the barns are built into shallow banks, two of the barns are built into bluffs. These vernacular wooden and cement structures span a seventy year construction period and exhibit various masonry foundations, skeletal structures, and superstructures. The byre and bluff barns of Doniphan County are an excellent example of a vernacular form of architecture which was built to take advantage of the hilly topography of the county. These barns are representative of approximately thirty byre and bluff barns identified in a 1984–1985 cultural resource survey of Doniphan County. The remaining barns are too altered and/or deteriorated to be included in this nomination. Most of the nominated barns were constructed for stock and dairy cattle and remain in active use on working farms. The relative rarity of byre and bluff barns in Doniphan County and the high degree of architectural and structural integrity maintained by the nominated barns make this thematic grouping of vernacular agricultural structures extremely significant.

Doniphan County (est. 1855) experienced a substantial population increase in the twenty years following the Civil War, with many settlers moving from Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Germany. The barn building traditions brought by these settlers combined with the suitable topography contributed to the building of the byre and bluff barn type in Doniphan County. Most of the nominated barns are three-bay, center entrance, gable roof structures with limestone foundations, a full byre, a threshing floor, and a hay loft. There are groupings of period types, such as the board and batten barns with louvered vents from the 1870s and 1880s, the large, gambrel roof barns from 1910s, 1920s and 1930s, and the gradual transition from post and beam construction to plank framing. In 1891 J. D. Walters of the Kansas State Agricultural College called the byre (bank)/bluff barn an "all-purpose barn of the Kansas farmer" in an article entitled "The Barn," which was published in the Quarterly Report of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture. Walters described the bank barn as follows:

It gives a warm basement for the milk cows and cattle, and an accessible second story for the draught animals—for tools, machines, harness, and grain—and a roomy attic, or loft, for hay, straw, and fodder. In many states this form is objectionable for sanitary reasons, but in the dry climate of Kansas it is preferable to any other, unless there should be an unusually moist ledge directly against or under it...The building should be located so that the basement will be partly in the ground on the north and west, and so that a low embankment, or filling, on these sides will give

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached sheet.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than 1 acre.

Quadrangle name Bendena

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 15 316090 4393715  
Zone Easting Northing

B                    
Zone Easting Northing

C                  

D                  

E                  

F                  

G                  

H                  

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The nominated property is located on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , S26, T4S, R20E in Doniphan County, Kansas on a tract measuring 67 x 53 feet, whose northeast corner is 14.1 feet directly northeast of the northeast corner of the barn's foundation. Beginning at the northeast corner of the parcel the boundary proceeds 53 feet south, 67 feet west, 53 feet north, and 67 feet east to the point of beginning.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Martha Gray Hagedorn, Architectural Historian

organization Kansas State Historical Society

date October 28, 1986

street & number 120 W. 10th

telephone 913-296-5264

city or town Topeka

state Kansas 66612

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society

date October 28, 1986

### For NPS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register

date 5/7/87

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

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