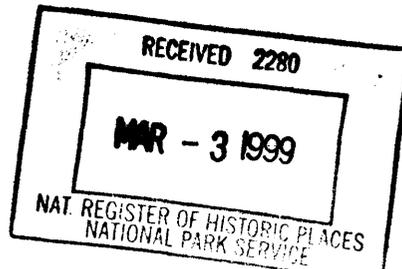


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



420

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name WILLIAM THOMAS TURNER BARN

other names/site number 091-0000-0002

2. Location

street & number 19805 S. MOONLIGHT ROAD  not for publication

city or town GARDNER  vicinity

state KANSAS code KS county JOHNSON code 091 zip code 66030

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Richard D. Parkwitz DSHPO 2/25/99  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
Edson H. Beall

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

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

1

buildings

sites

structures

objects

1

Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: animal facility; barn

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURAL/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural outbuilding; barn

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: frame, cross-gabled rectangular barn

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: limestone  
WOOD: weatherboard  
walls

WOOD: shingle  
roof

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**Architectural description**

The William Thomas Turner barn was constructed for the Turner family in 1898. The barn is located: Turner Acres, lot 2, at the Northeastern corner of 199th street and Moonlight Road, Gardner township, 6-15-23.

The two-level barn appears to be three stories from the exterior. The three levels of windows were installed to provide exceptional ventilation for the drying of grain to feed farm livestock. The barn is an outstanding example of a late 19<sup>th</sup> early twentieth century multi-use barn. It effectively stored machinery, livestock, feed and tools, and later in its use mechanized farm equipment. It is the only barn of its kind in Johnson County and probably, Eastern Kansas.

The barn is 40 feet wide, 62 feet long 45 feet tall (from the summit), and 45 feet long. The ridgeline is capped with two, symmetrical placed, square, louvered ventilator cupolas. The scale of the barn is remarkably large for the last quarter of the 19th century in Johnson County. Barns of this dimension were much more common in Johnson County after 1900 and especially after 1910 when increased technology allowed for larger scale farming operations, as well as larger and better farm buildings.

**West Facade**

The west facade of the structure is two stories tall and features a prominent wall gable in the center of the facade. A four over four, double-hung window is in the gable to provide both light and ventilation to the upper deck hayloft.

A double set of sliding doors embellished with double wood diamonds is on the center of the west facade on the ground floor. The double diamond motif is indicative of the barn builder and designer, Arthur Clinton. Two, four paned casement windows flank the entry doors on each side. These doors provided egress for hay wagons and livestock. A raised platform above the doors on the interior allowed for wagons (and later trucks) to freely load and unload hay for horses and farm animals. There is no fenestration on the second level of the west facade, below the wall gabled, flush, wall dormer and the ground level.

**South Facade**

The south facade rises three levels above the ground, and is the gabled end of the structure. Windows are on all three levels. The first floor was designed with two single entrances on the Southwest and southeast corners of the structure. The double, Dutch door types were intended for pedestrian access only. Another set of double,

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sliding doors with the characteristic double diamond motif of the builder/designer, Arthur Clinton. is located in the center of the facade on the ground level.

On the second level of the barn on the south facade, two, four over four, double hung windows are centered on the facade.

On the third level, one, four over four, wood, double hung window is centered in the attic gable. The patterns of the openings are pyramidal and add to a vertical emphasis of the structure. The double ventilator cupolas on the ridge line continue to pull the eye skyward.

**East Facade**

The east facade of the structure mirrors the west facade, however there is not a prominent windowed, gabled, wall dormer on this elevation. The only opening on the east facade was a set of double sliding doors that mirror those on the west facade, allowing for farm equipment to drive completely through the structure. The large door was replaced with a smaller door in the 1980s.

**North Facade**

The north facade configuration mirrors the south facade of the barn, rising three levels above the ground. Windows are found on all three levels. The first floor differs from the South facade, because double sliding doors are located in the center of the gabled end rather than two single entrances on the Southwest and southeast corners of the structure.

**Construction Materials**

As initially mentioned, the barn was constructed of Louisiana Red Cypress. The barn was featured on page 19, of a trade catalogue for the product, published by the Louisiana Red Cypress bureau.

Cypress is universally known for its strengths and water-resistant qualities that lend for a longevity. This is a large factor in the overall quality of the structure 100 years after its construction. In fact, in the trade catalogue the expensive, but durable cypress is advertised as the 'wood eternal,'

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“...its outstanding characteristic and one which should recommend it to every home builder and industrial user of wood is the remarkable and proved durability of this wood when exposed to the weather, to contact with damp soil, or to the action of chemical reagents.”

The brochure continues with a good summary outline of the strengths of cypress as a building material.

“Red Cypress is a soft, comparatively light wood. It has a close uniform texture and the slow growth of this tree develops a very fine, even grain. It is slightly figured, and takes a beautiful finish. After being properly dried, it is practically free from shrinking, checking, splitting and warping. It has great nail holding power. Red Cypress is very easily worked. For that reason, it is a favorite with carpenters and mechanics---for it saves time in construction.”

In comparison with other commercial softwoods, Louisiana Red Cypress rank above the average in strength and ability to withstand stress and strains . . . ”

The usage of this type of wood in Johnson County is rare. Cypress was and continues to be one of the most expensive woods on the market. While it is clear that its strength as a construction material far surpasses other commonly used woods, its overall cost rendered it prohibitive to most farmers of the day. The use of materials, without the size and design, illustrate Turner’s station within the Johnson County agricultural community. The Turner farmhouse was also constructed of Louisiana Cypress, although the historic integrity has been sufficiently covered to exclude from nomination at this time. It could be possible for the home to be added to the site nomination as an addendum at a future time.

The barn was designed and constructed by a Midwestern United States barn builder, Arthur J. Clinton. Clinton was a resident of Spring Hill, Kansas. He was widely regarded in this region of a premier barn builder. The Midwestern states such as Kansas Missouri and Iowa have been mentioned as other possible sites of additional Clinton Barns.

The cypress barn was constructed atop a limestone pier/ wall foundation, which effectively separates the wood construction from the earth elements and provides an effective waterbarrier, preventing insect infestation and rot.

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**INTERIOR BARN DESCRIPTION**

The interior was built with two levels. The main level for housing livestock and farm machinery the upper lofts for the storage of hay and silage. The first level is divided into quadrants, with north/south, and east/west corridors dividing the interior space. The exterior double doors on the east/west facades allowed for farm vehicles to drive the through and conceivably load and unload hay to the loft of the structure.

The north/south corridor allows for access to the stalls in which the livestock was housed. Feeding troughs are located along the corridor for easy feeding of the animals. The north end of the barn has a double sliding doors for easy access the central corridor. The south end has singular Dutch doors on the corners for pedestrian access to the interior of the stall. Narrow corridors also ran the length of the outside wall of the barn to access the livestock stall for cleaning.

The second floor loft is essentially one large uninterrupted space spanning the entire length and width of the structure. The loft is vertically uninterrupted reaching the openings for the twin cupolas of the roof. This loft was designed to hold unbundled loose hay for stock feed. The windows on the north/south ends, combined with the window on the west facade and the twin cupolas ventilating from the roof provided superior air flow and allowed for silage to dry quickly and without high threat of combustion. Historically most barn fires resulted in spontaneous combustion from drying straw; adequate ventilation greatly reduced the threat of fire. The fenestration and ventilation of the barn served an important purpose beyond ventilation.

**Architectural changes to structures**

The William Thomas Turner barn possesses an unusually high degree of integrity for a utility building of its age.

There have been few integrity compromising alterations to its structure in the past 100 years. All of the alterations made to the structure have been executed in a highly compatible manner to the overall spirit and feeling of the original barn design. The louvered cupolas on the roof of the barn have had the louvers removed, the opening have been refitted with plywood boards to keep out the elements and birds. The solid boards have been painted dark to give the illusion of a recessed opening and draw the eye inward.

A curiosity to the replacements is that although the replacements are historic in their own right some of the windows are different than the original four over four double hung, wood windows which were once contiguous.

The current windows vary from six over six double hung windows to nine over nine double hung windows. Oddly enough, the differences are not immediately apparent.

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The original cladding, hardware doors, decking and interior details, save six livestock stalls remain intact. The historic integrity of the interior is startlingly intact given the age and use of the structure. Most comparable farm buildings of same vintage are usually reconfigured to allow for machinery and shifts in storage needs. Likewise, exteriors are more often than not covered with low maintenance cladding materials, windows and cupolas removed and doors replaced.

The only exterior change to the barn, which can visually be remarked upon, is the change in the windows' mullion configurations.

Name of Property

County and State

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.
XX 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.)

Property is:

- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 #

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1898

Significant Dates

1898

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

CLINTON, ARTHUR J.

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

JOHNSON COUNTY MUSEUM

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property LESS THAN 1 ACRE

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

UTM grid boxes 1 and 2 with values 15, 334260, 4292740

UTM grid boxes 3 and 4

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title RICH LIPPINCOTT / SUSAN FORD, 3628 HOLMES ST. Kansas City, MO. 64109

organization JOHNSON COUNTY MUSEUM date NOVEMBER 1998

street & number 6305 LACKMAN ROAD telephone

city or town SHAWNEE state KS zip code 66217

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

BETTIE TURNER

name

street & number 19805 S. MOONLIGHT ROAD telephone

city or town GARDNER state KS zip code 66030

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications 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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**Significance**

The William Thomas Turner barn is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, architecture. The barn is an outstanding example of turn-of-the-century barn craftsmanship. The barn has been featured in many published items in the past 50 years including calendars, greeting cards, magazines, and trade publications. It is a highly visible landmark in southwestern Johnson County well worthy of recognition. The barn is a rare and highly successful marriage of functionalism and aestheticism.

The William Turner barn, Turner Acres, lot 2, at the Northeastern corner of 199th street and Moonlight Road, Gardner township, 6-15-23 was constructed for the William Thomas Turner family in 1898. The barn, contemporaneous farmhouse, and land remain in family ownership 100 years later.

The massive Turner Barn, of an imposing and impressive style unique to Johnson County, is remarkably well preserved. The barn was designed and constructed by Arthur J. Clinton, a resident of nearby Spring Hill, Kansas, who has been credited with building many barns throughout Kansas, Missouri and Iowa. Clinton was widely regarded in the region as a premier barn builder and the Turner Barn is a fine, artistic example of his work.

The structure's exterior gives the impression of a three-story building, but the interior is two-stories. The first story of the structure was designed to accommodate horses used to work the farm and the second story served as hay mow. The north and south facades of the barn contain gable ends and fenestration on all three stories, in the form of mullioned windows on the upper two stories and sliding doors embellished with contrasting double wood diamonds (a trademark of the builder) on the first story.

The east and west facades contain double sliding doors on the first story, allowing horses (and later machinery) to drive completely through the barn. These doors also contain Clinton's double diamond motif. The west facade faces the road and contains a prominent central wall gable containing a four-over-four, double hung window. The central doors are flanked by two, four-paned casement windows on each side. The contrasting ornamentation of the barn's sliding doors and the fenestration patterns contribute to the vertical emphasis of the barn, culminating in symmetrically placed double ventilator cupolas on the ridgeline. The barn is quite large for its late 19th century construction, before turn-of-the-century technology allowed for the construction of more massive farm buildings.

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The barn's excellent state of preservation is due to the maintenance by the Turner family and its unique materials. The barn was constructed of Louisiana Red Cypress, a material rarely used in Johnson County. Cypress is well known for its lightness, strength and water-resistant qualities. This has contributed to the longevity and preservation of the Turner Barn, which is featured on page 19 of a trade catalogue published by the Louisiana Red Cypress Bureau. That trade catalogue, touting the expensive, but durable cypress as the "wood eternal," stated,

    "...its outstanding characteristic and one which should recommend it to every home builder and industrial user of wood is the remarkable and proved durability of this wood when exposed to the weather, to contact with damp soil or to the action of chemical agents."

In promoting the material for "farm and out-buildings that look good and last for years," the catalogue continued,

    "Most of these structures have relatively more exposed surface than the average house, and the need for protection against decay and against expensive repair bills and replacements is as great--if not greater. Wherever durable material is needed--use Louisiana Red Cypress...for barn and stable construction..."

The desirability of this material made it one of the most expensive woods on the market. While its strength as a construction material far surpasses other commonly used woods, its overall cost rendered it prohibitive to most farmers of the day.

The size, design and material of the barn illustrate Turner's prominence and prosperity within Johnson County's agricultural community of the day. 1905 Gardner Township Census records show that W. T. Turner owned 345 improved acres of farm land and property valued at over \$20,000. The farming operation included production of hay and grain to feed livestock, raising cattle and swine for slaughter, and fenced acreage for grazing. During this era, the barn served as home to the horses that pulled the farm machinery, and storage of the grain and hay needed to feed the livestock.

W. T. "Tom" Turner's success as a farmer led to his respect in Johnson County political circles. His election to the position of County Treasurer was directly based on his accomplishments in the rural community. A 1904 article in The Olathe Register, stated that, "Tom Turner, the democratic

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Nominee for county treasurer, is a man of the highest integrity and ability. He has made a success of his business and will make an accommodating and capable county treasurer.”

When Turner ran for re-election in 1906, the same newspaper, stated, “Tom Turner is an honest, blunt, courageous man. He came to Johnson County years ago, and by the dint of hard work, perseverance and square dealing with all mankind has made a host of warm personal friends, and has earned and owns a splendid home in Gardner Township.”

W. T. Turner’s son, Ollie, took over the barn’s portion of the homestead when the land was divided among the family upon W. T. Turner’s death. The barn continued to serve as a functioning structure on the farm. As the need for work horses declined, the first floor of the barn served as storage for agricultural equipment and grain. Gardner Township 1915 Census records list nine horses, four mules and a tractor among Ollie Turner’s agricultural holdings, yet 1925 records show only two horses.

The farm continued to produce significant amounts of livestock, grain and hay, so the hay mow retained its original use. Conversation with Bettie Turner, widow of Ollie Turner’s son Marvin, place the barn as a functioning structure of day-to-day farm operations to the present. Until eight years ago, the first floor of the structure held farming equipment and the second story served as a hay mow- although in the form of mechanically baled hay since the 1950s.

The Turner Barn is one of a very few primary farm buildings left in Johnson County Kansas. Additionally, its high integrity, use of original materials and historic context remaining completely in tact place it as the only farm building of its type to claim that distinction. Not only does the barn exhibit an exceptional degree of integrity in materials, craftsmanship and feeling, its environs exhibit and equal level of integrity. The farm and surrounding property still maintains the essence of rural Johnson County.

The barn won an honorable mention award in the 1986 National Trust for Historic Preservation “Barn Again” competition, which looked at family ownership, history and architectural integrity of American barn structures.

In addition to its imposing size, and exceptional design, significance can also be found in its construction materials: Louisiana Cypress as thoroughly explained in the building description. The barn was entirely constructed of Louisiana Red Cypress, which accounts for its nearly mint condition on its Centennial. The

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usage of this type of wood in Eastern Kansas is rare. Cypress was and continues to be one of the most expensive woods on the market

**Turner Family History**

In the late 19th century, a farmer's status was measured by peers according to the holdings of property, livestock and the barn in which this was all held. Turner's barn was the external manifestation of his success. One hundred years after the construction, the barn still stands, unchanged---a tribute the area's rich agricultural heritage. It is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places, and the Register of Historic Kansas Places for its landmark context in Southwestern Johnson County, its architectural significance to agricultural barn design, and its contribution to early Johnson County, Kansas and national agricultural history.

The builder of the Turner barn, William Thomas Turner, was one of eleven children born to Edwin and Susan Hendrix Turner. The elder Turners emigrated to Southwest Johnson County from North Carolina in 1857.

The land in Johnson County at that time was described in a local history account as "among the Indians on a quarter (section) of land on prairies as fine as the sun ever shone upon."

Life was not easy for these early settlers. In those days it was the custom, recalled a member of the family for sons to work for fathers until the age of 21. After that, new young farmers married and set up households of their own. William Turner married Marcia Gay in 1874, when he was an established local farmer.

In 1891, he purchased land located at modern day 199th and Moonlight Road. Southwest quarter section of Section six in township 15 range, 23. The farm was originally part of land given to a veteran in exchange for long term military service. The land grant was signed by President James Buchanan.

G.M. Waugh purchased the property in 1860 at auction. He owned it until 1891 when the Turner family acquired it. It has been in the family ever since.

The Turner family in the 19th century represents a typical pioneer family emigrating westward to make better lives for their family. Kansas was widely advertised for its advantages for those wanting

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own and farm land. This property illustrates one family's realization of the dream of many pioneers.

The Turner family has owned and maintained the barn and surrounding property for four generations. The Turners farmed the land until recently as well. It is now being leased to other farmers. The barn has been used until recently and is now used for storage of machinery. On the centennial of the barn's construction, it appears that the land and barn will continue to pass to another generation of the Turner family to maintain.

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**Verbal Boundary Justification**

The nominated property stands on lot 2 of Turner Acres, NW4, SW4, SW4, SW4, S6, T23, R15, Gardner Township, Johnson County, Kansas on a tract of land measuring 60' x 82'. A ten foot perimeter of land surrounds the barn to comprise the boundary of the nominated property. The northwest corner of the tract is directly 14.1' northwest of the barn's northwest corner. Beginning at the northwest corner of the parcel the boundary proceeds 60' east, 82' south, 60' west and 82' north to the point of beginning. The nominated area is comprised of less than an acre.

**Boundary Justification**

The property stands near the northeastern corner 199th St. and Moonlight Road. The property is bordered by 199<sup>th</sup> St to the South, Moonlight Road to the West and undeveloped farmland to the North and East of the barn. The barn sits west of the William Thomas Turner farmhouse. Several lesser farm buildings and storage sheds also stand on the site. The house and outbuildings are historically associated with the barn but are not included in the nomination.