

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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 Mathew Eylar Barn (1) - Byre and Bluff Barns of Doniphan County (TR)

and or common Anderson Barn

2. Location

S of Denton, off KS 20

street & number NE 1/4, SW 1/4, SW 1/4, SW 1/4, S35, T4S, R19E not for publication

city, town Denton 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 checked="" 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 Anderson Ridge Farms & Lowell Anderson

street & number N/A

city, town Denton X vicinity of state Kansas 66017

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 X no

date 1985 federal state county X local

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

city, town Topeka state Kansas 66612

# 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved      date \_\_\_\_\_

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

The Mathew Eylar Barn (1) (ca. 1933) is located on the Anderson Farm near Denton, Kansas (pop. 156). The one-story, center entrance, vertically planked, metal sheathed, gambrel roof barn is built into the side of a bluff with a cement supporting wall. The superstructure is supported by nailed balloon framing. The barn has a north to south orientation, measuring one hundred and twenty feet from east to west and fifty-two feet from north to south. The barn is built into the northern bluff.

The northern elevation is comprised of a center, projecting, gabled entrance with hinged, double leaf doors. The metal sheathed, gambrel roof slopes flank the doorway on either side. Two rectangular window openings light the upper gambrel sides of the east and west elevations. Access to the basement level is provided on the western side. The southern elevation is comprised of a centrally projecting gable with rectangular window openings. The gable is flanked by the two sided slope of the gambrel roof and underscored by a projecting shed roof which covers the loafing parlour. Access to the basement is provided through the loafing parlour. The interior maintains its wagonway access from the northern elevation but that is the only extant upper story flooring in the barn. The barn is painted red.

Originally constructed as a stock barn for Angus cattle, the barn is now used for hog raising. The building maintains a high degree of architectural and structural integrity. The significant alteration to the barn has been the replacement of the original roof with the current metal sheathing. This is an alteration common to many of the barns included in this nomination.

# 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** Ca. 1933      **Builder/Architect** Unknown

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

The Mathew Eylar Barn (1) (ca. 1933) is being nominated to the National Register as part of the Byre and Bluff Barns of Doniphan County (ca. 1860-1933) nomination under criterion C for its architectural significance. Constructed for Mathew Eylar in 1933, the large gambrel roof, cement bluff wall barn served Eylar's large Angus cattle breeding operation with its sister structure, the Mathew Eylar Barn II. Eylar, a Doniphan County native, managed the Hatch Book Typewriter Company in New York City before establishing the cattle breeding operation. Eylar sold his large farm in 1944, the property is now owned by the Anderson family.

The eighteen nominated barns share a common feature in that at least one side of each barn's foundation 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

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property Less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Denton

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 15 305840 4391600  
Zone Easting Northing

B           
Zone Easting Northing

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The nominated property is located in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , S35, T4S, R19E in Doniphan County, Kansas on a tract measuring 140 x 72 feet, whose northeast corner is 14.1 feet direct northeast of the northeast corner of the barn's foundation. Beginning at the northeast corner of the parcel the boundary proceeds 72 feet to the south, 140 feet to the west, 72 feet to the north, & 140' to 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 West 10th

telephone 913-296-5264

city or town Topeka

state Kansas 66612

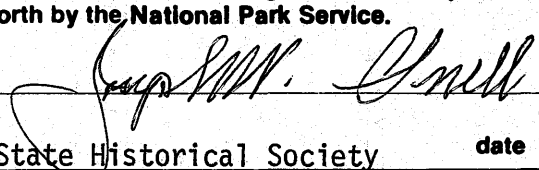
# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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

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

Peter Grosseno

date 5/7/87

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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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 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.