

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 John R. Hale Barn - Byre and Bluff Barns of Doniphan County (TR)

and/or common Webb Barn

2. Location

KS 120

street & number NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, S10, T3S, R19E not for publication

city, town Highland 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 Ed C. and Sandra Lee Webb

street & number N/A

city, town Highland X vicinity of state Kansas 66035

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

<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 John R. Hale Barn (ca. 1881) is located on the Ed and Sandra Lee Webb Farm near Highland, Kansas (pop.954). The one-story, three-bay, double center entrance, board and batten barn has a full byre with a limestone foundation and metal sheathed gable roof. The superstructure is supported by nailed, post and beam framing. The barn has a north to south orientation, measuring forty-eight feet from east to west and thirty-two feet from north to south. The byre is built into the northern embankment.

The northern elevation is comprised of two centrally located, vertically planked, hinged double doors separated by a tall, arched louvered vent with an ornate surround. The doors are flanked by like louvered vents on each side. An earthen ramp leads to the doors, exposing the barn's limestone foundation on the east and west sides. The east elevation is comprised of two tall, arched louvered vents on the threshing floor level surmounted by an arched louvered vent in the gable. Two vents pierce the elevation's foundation. The west elevation is similar in design, however a wooden projection, measuring the height of the threshing floor level, extends from the center of the wall and a shed extends from the byre level. The threshing floor level of the southern elevation is comprised of two small, vertically planked, hinged doors in the center bay separated by a tall, arched louvered vent. Two similar vents flank the doors on each side. The byre level stands below this, with a forebay supported by the limestone foundation walls at either side. Five wooden stall doors pierce the foundation wall. Wooden rectangles cover the southern byre wall, affecting rustication.

Five lightning rods stand on the roof ridge. The barn is painted white.

The byre maintains its granary, feeding stalls and bins. The hay storage areas on the threshing floor level are elevated. Tongue and groove panelling is used on the low wall space of the threshing floor. Built-in ladders rise from these walls.

Originally constructed as a mixed-use barn, the building is now used for hay storage and dairy cows. 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 a metal roof. This is an alteration common to many of the barns included in this nomination.

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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.

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input 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. 1881 Builder/Architect Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The John R. Hale Barn (ca. 1881) 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 John R. Hale, the barn is an example of a three-bay, double entrance, full byre, board and batten, gable roof, and limestone foundation structure with a threshing floor, a forebay, and louvered venting. Hale, a native of Sandusky, Ohio, emigrated to northeast Kansas in 1870. By 1915, Hale owned 2,370 acres in Doniphan County in addition to holdings in other Kansas and Missouri counties. The Doniphan County farms remained in the Hale family until the 1930s.

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

Acree of nominated property Less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Highland

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 15 306040 4408780  
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 NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, S10 T3S, R19E in Doniphan County, Kansas on a tract measuring 68 x 52 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 52 feet south, 68 feet west, 52 feet north, & 68 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 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 *Joseph M. Hall*

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

*Beth Crossena* date 5/7/87  
for Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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