

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

AUG - 8 2005

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 10-9000a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Schroeder, Heinrich H., Barn  
Other name/site number 113-0000-0102

2. Location

Street & number 632 29th Avenue  not for publication  
City or town Canton  vicinity  
State Kansas Code KS County McPherson Code 113 Zip code 67428

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.)

[Signature] 8/4/05  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Kansas State Historical Society

State or 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 commenting 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] 9/21/05  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
Edson H. Beall

Schroeder Barn  
Name of property

McPherson Co., KS  
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**  
N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter Categories from instructions)

Agricultural/Subsistence: animal facility

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Agricultural/Subsistence: animal facility  
Agricultural/Subsistence: storage

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

No style

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone  
walls wood: weatherboard  
roof asphalt shingles, metal  
other

**Narrative Description**

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

Name of Property Schroeder Barn

County and State McPherson Co., KS

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- Criteria A through G with checkboxes and descriptions.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture

Period of Significance

1915-1946

Significant Dates

1915

1923, 1946

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Schroeder, Heinrich H.

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): Primary location of additional data:

- Checkboxes for documentation types: preliminary determination, National Register, National Historic Landmark, Historic American Buildings Survey, Historic American Engineering.

Record #

- Checkboxes for repository types: State Historic Preservation Office, Other State agency, Federal agency, Local government, University, Other.

Name of repository:



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The Schroeder, Heinrich H., Barn, completed in 1915, is located in McPherson County, Kansas, approximately two miles west and one one-quarter miles north of the town of Goessel. It is a part of the north half of the southwest quarter of section 36, township 20 south; range one west of the sixth principal meridian.

**Exterior**

The barn is a rectangular structure, roughly 73 feet by 32 feet, with a gable roof. The barn is two stories with a 15-foot wide one-story shed addition on the north (rear) elevation. The structure is plank-frame with painted clapboard siding. It sits on a limestone foundation. The roof of the two-story structure is covered with composition shingles. The roof of the shed addition is covered with terne metal. All windows are original wood windows with true divided lights.

**Front (South) Elevation** - The front elevation faces south. The first floor features two small 2/2 sash wood windows flanking a large opening. In the gable are two 2/2 sash wood windows flanking an oversized hay door. The hay door is protected by an angular hay hood, which projects from the gabled roof.

**East Elevation** – The east elevation features three small square-shaped double-hung 2/2 sash on the south end, a pedestrian door near the center of the elevation, and a wagon door toward the north end of the main building. The shed addition features a Dutch swinging door on the far north side. The roofline extends past the wall surface on both this and the west elevation.

**West Elevation** – The west elevation is nearly a mirror image of the east elevation. It features three small square-shaped double-hung 2/2 windows on the south end, a pedestrian door near the center, and a wagon door near the north end of the building. The pedestrian doors and wagon doors on the east and west elevations are aligned. Above the pedestrian door on the west elevation is a small access door. North of the wagon door is another small 2/2 window. Unlike the east elevation, the shed addition on this elevation features a large opening.

**Rear (North) Elevation** – This elevation features a centered Dutch door flanked on each side by a small square window with four panes of glass. Like the front elevation, this elevation features two double-hung 2/2 windows in the gable.

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**Interior**

**Ground Floor** - The ground floor of the two-story mass of the barn is divided into four sections. Starting at the north end, there is a section consisting of a room on the west side that was originally used for a machine shop. There is a long worktable against the wall of this room. There is a small window in the west wall to the outside, and one on the north wall to the one-story section on the north of the main structure. There is another room on the east side that was used for grain storage. Both of these rooms are accessed by a door on the south wall of the machine stop room that opens into the alley. Both rooms have wooden floors.

Moving south, the next section is an alley, running east/west, where farm implements, and later cars, were parked. Originally there were sliding doors across both ends of this alley, but now there are overhead garage doors. There are openings in the walls of the alley which allowed the grain storage areas to be loaded from the alley. This section of the barn has a dirt floor.

The next section consists of an east/west running hallway, a smaller north/south hallway, two grain storage areas, and the staircase to the loft. There are Dutch doors at the end of the east/west hallway, access doors to the grain storage areas that open into the hallway, and a sliding door that allows access to the most southern section of the barn. The north/south hallway runs from this sliding door to the door that opens into the alley. On the west side of this hallway is the door to the staircase to the loft. All the floors in this section are wooden.

The largest section of the ground floor is the southernmost. There are three sets of matching windows on the east and west walls and a sliding door on the north wall into the main hallway. On the south wall there is a large opening that originally had a sliding door but now has an overhead garage door. There are two windows on the south wall evenly spaced between the door and the corners. This section is all open now with a cement floor but originally the floor was wooden and had stalls on each side for livestock.

**Lean-to addition** - On the north wall of the lean-to addition is a Dutch door in the middle with two small windows evenly spaced between the door and the corners. In the northeast corner there is another Dutch door. On the south wall of this section, where it joins the main barn, there are two openings, high up in the wall that allow access to the loft. These openings have doors attached to pullys on rails that allow them to be opened or closed. The floor of this section is wooden with a manure pit running east/west about 1/3 the total floor length from the north wall. On the west wall of this section there is an opening about ten feet long with an overhead garage door. In the original barn, this opening was not there, and there was a Dutch door in the northwest corner.

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Interior, cont.

**Second Floor** - The entire top floor of the main barn is a hay loft, the north 24 feet of which is elevated by about a foot. In the loft there are matching windows; two on the north side, and two on the south side. Between the windows on the south wall is a large door that can be let down with a rope. Through this door, hay can be loaded into the loft. There is a rail that runs the length of the ridgeline, a carriage, and two pulleys (one on the north end of the ridgeline and one in the west wall) that make up the system for loading hay into the loft.

The hay loading system is described as follows: There was a sling/net laid down in the bottom of the hay wagon. Hay was piled on to a certain depth or weight. Then another sling was laid down on top of that, then more hay, etc., until the wagon was full. The loft door on the south side was lowered, the carriage was brought out and the hay wagon was pulled up next to the barn. The sling was gathered up on all sides by a rope and attached to the carriage. Attached to this load was a trip rope off to the side. The carriage was pulled down the rail by a rope run through a pulley in the north end of the rail and then over to one in the west wall, and then down to a horse on the ground. The horse would then walk westward pulling the carriage and hay down the rail. When the hay was over where it needed to be, the sling would come loose and the hay would fall to the loft floor.

In the loft there is also a smaller door in the west wall above the first-floor hallway. In the loft floor, which is wooden, there are three doors on the east side and four doors on the west side, which open upwards and would allow hay to be dropped down to what were originally stalls for livestock. Access to the loft from the ground floor is through a narrow staircase just south of the central alley.

**Changes** - The barn was built by Heinrich Schroeder and whatever friends and relatives could lend. It was finished in 1915. The roof is the most changed part of this structure. Originally it had a gambrel roof covered in wooden shingles, with two metal cupolas on the ridgeline. On the base of the north cupola were the initials "H.H.S." and on the base of the south cupola the date "1915." In 1946, a tornado took off the roof and it was replaced with a gable roof with asphalt shingles. The rail and carriage of the hay loading system would have had to have been replaced, as well as the south loft wall and the large loft door. Repairs were made, and the barn continued to be the agricultural center of the Schroder farm until Ferdinand sold it in 1964.

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The Schroeder, Heinrich H. barn is being nominated to the national register under Criterion A for its agricultural significance during the Mennonite settlement of the American Great Plains.

Heinrich H. Schroeder was born in Kleefeld, South Russia on October 22, 1852. He was part of the Alexanderwohl congregation of Mennonites who had moved from Germany at the invitation of the Russian government. The Mennonites were renowned farmers and had been asked to help settle the vast Russian plains.

In the late nineteenth century, due to religious differences with the Russian government, the Alexanderwohl congregation began to look for new lands to immigrate to. In light of generous offers of land and help in resettlement by the Santa Fe Railroad, the congregation decided on an area in south-central Kansas around present day Goessel. In 1874, Heinrich Schroeder boarded the *Cimbria* and came to America.

The Mennonite settlers, with their characteristic hard work, thrift, and cooperation began turning the plains of Kansas into small productive farms. In October, 1874, the *Topeka Commonwealth* called them "the thriftiest and most intelligent class of foreigners that ever landed upon our shores," and they predicted that in short order "Kansas will be to America what the country of the Black Sea of Azov is to Europe; her wheat fields." The Mennonite farmers cultivated turkey red wheat, which soon became the main crop of the American wheat belt.

Heinrich Schroeder was one of these Mennonite farmers, and his farm, begun on the 80 acres that surround this property, was typical of the many small family farms begun by these immigrants. Heinrich married Helena Richert on January 6, 1881. They had eight children between the years 1881 and 1899; Albert, Katharina, Sara, August, Ferdinand, Reinhard, Wilhelm, and Walter.

The cash crop for the Schroeder farm was wheat, but prairie grass and alfalfa were grown for hay to feed the draft horses and milk cows. The farm also produced the family's food. A large garden provided vegetables. Chickens, cows, and pigs were all kept to provide the family with milk, eggs, and meat.

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The Schroeder farm prospered. The house was enlarged, and in 1915 a large barn was built that was the hub of Heinrich's agricultural enterprise. The Schroeders utilized barn construction techniques common at the time. New framing methods, which became popular in the early twentieth century, took advantage of balloon-framed walls and roof structures to create an obstruction-free hay loft. Two cupolas, lost in the 1946 tornado, provided for ventilation. The barn provided shelter for the farm animals and storage for grain and hay. The barn housed the various farm implements, and a machine shop/workshop where tools were kept and repairs and maintenance of all kinds was performed.

When Heinrich H. Schroeder died in 1923, his son, Ferdinand, continued farming on the family farm. Ferdinand married Margaret Unrau and they had two children, Melvern and Orpha. Wheat continued to be the main crop, although corn was grown some as well. Sometime in the 1930s Ferdinand made a gradual switch from horses to a tractor. He was able to rent other acreages in the area to increase his farming output. In 1946, a tornado took off the original gambrel roof of the barn, and it was replaced with a conventional gable roof. However the barn continued to be the agricultural center of the Schroeder farm until Ferdinand and Margaret retired from farming.

The Alexanderwohl congregation was one of many groups of Mennonites that immigrated to the American Great Plains in the late nineteenth century. They brought with them the experience and know-how of generations of world-renowned farmers. That experience and know-how would be needed for the settlement of the vast interior plains of this country. In a small part, the successful transformation of these plains into the breadbasket of America is due to the Mennonite immigrant farmers. Heinrich H. Schroeder was one of these immigrant farmers and his barn is part of their story.

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Wedel, David C.,  
The Story of Alexanderwohl; Profile  
Of a Heritage, North Newton,  
Mennonite Press, 1974

Goessel Public Library  
Goessel, KS

Interviews with Melvern Schroeder  
And Orpha Schroeder Voth, grandchildren  
Of Heinrich Schroeder.

632 29<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Canton, KS

Photographs

632 29<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Canton, KS

Original Deed

632 29<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Canton, KS

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

A rectangle approximately 73 by 32 feet on the southwest corner of section 36, township 20, McPherson County, Kansas.

**Boundary Justification**

These boundaries include only the barn which is the only structure on the property with historical significance and integrity.

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**Photographic Information**

The following information is consistent for all photographs:

1. Schroeder Barn
2. McPherson Co., Kansas
3. Photograph by Katrina Klingaman
4. March 21, 2005
5. Negative on file at KSHS

The following information is applicable to specific photographs:

<u>#</u>	<u>Description of View</u>
1.	View from the southeast
2.	View from the northwest
3.	View from the west
4.	View from the southwest
5.	View of hayloft from the north
6.	View of hayloft from the south
7.	View of staircase from the northeast
8.	View of door from the east.