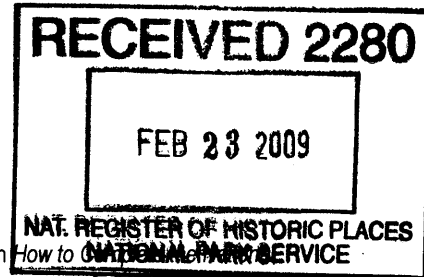


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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 Shafer Barn
Other name/site number _____

2. Location

Street & number County Road 50S, 1/2 mile west of County Road 80E not for publication
City or town Hoxie vicinity
State Kansas Code KS County Sheridan Code 179 Zip code 67740

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.)

Patricia Bolner DSHPO

2-13-09

Signature of certifying official/Title
Kansas State Historical Society

Date

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:)

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

4.8.09

Shafer Barn
Name of Property

Sheridan County, Kansas
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	0	total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
Historic Agriculture -Related Resources of Kansas

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter Categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Agricultural Outbuilding and Animal Facility

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Agricultural Outbuilding

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Gambrel-Roof Barn

Foundation: Concrete

Walls: Wood

Roof: Metal

Other

Narrative Description

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

Shafer Barn

Name of Property

Sheridan County, Kansas

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)

- 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
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1920 - 1958

Significant Dates

1920

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

unknown

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 status: preliminary determination, previously listed, designated landmark, recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey, recorded by Historic American Engineering.

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

Name of repository:

Kansas State Historical Society

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas MPS
Section Number 7 Page 1

Shafer Barn
Sheridan County, Kansas

7. Narrative Description

The Shafer Barn is nestled in the Solomon River valley in east central Sheridan County, south of the community of Tasco. The farmstead is located on the southern edge of a 320 tract of ground, the west half of Section 1, Township 9, Range 27. The farm is bordered by County Road 80E on the west and County Road 50S on the south, accessed by a ¼-mile-long drive off of CR 50S.

Although originally comprised of multiple farm and domestic outbuildings, the farmhouse and barn are the only remaining structures. The farmhouse faces south and the barn, located east of the house, faces west. The site slopes to the north; a retaining wall extends east from the southeast corner of the house and the north bay of the barn is built into the bottom of the hill that rises to the north.

The farmhouse was constructed in 1915 and remodeled after it was sold by the Shafer family in the 1990s. The two-story house is constructed of hollow-clay tile and has a hip roof. A one-story porch spans the width of the front/south facade. A former porch has been enclosed on the east side of the house to accommodate a kitchen expansion. Vinyl siding was installed on the house as part of the 1990s modifications. A cellar, built into the hill and accessed by an opening in the retaining wall, is located east of the house. The house and cellar are not included in this nomination.

The barn was constructed in 1920 and retains its original form. It is a 2-1/2-story frame structure with a poured concrete foundation and steep gambrel roof. A one-story shed bay on the north side of the barn is original to the construction and extends to the east, beyond the main barn. The shed bay is constructed of concrete and was designed as a loafing shed; the portion that extends east of the main barn is open on the south.

The concrete foundation was poured on-site and includes a concrete slab floor in the center and north side of the main barn. The structure is sawn dimensional lumber including four-2" x 8"s for posts and 4-2" x 10"s for joists. The exterior of the barn is horizontal drop siding painted red. The windows and trim are painted white. Photos of the barn during its construction illustrate a wood shingle roof. The existing metal roof was installed in the 1980s but the wood shingles were removed and corrugated metal first installed in the 1950s.

Twelve sheets of a 1922 wall calendar are affixed to the interior wall of the barn. The calendar is from the Foster Lumber Company and includes the tag line "We have plans and material bills for all of these buildings" with illustrations of various buildings including commercial buildings, farm houses and barns. It was originally thought that the advertising materials might indicate that the barn was constructed from a kit purchased from the lumber company; however, the date of the calendar does not correspond to the barn's construction. A notice in the local paper in December, 1920 announced a dance to celebrate the barn's completion. It appears that the calendar was likely hung during the barn's early use rather than reflecting its original construction.

The Shafer Barn was designed to accommodate horses and dairy cattle, as well as hay storage. The interior configuration of the barn reflects its original design and function and the exterior fenestration corresponds to the interior uses. Sliding doors mark the primary barn entrances in the center of the west and east facades. A 2/2 double-hung window is located in the ladies' toilet on the west facade and single doors provide access into the west end of the north shed bay and on the east and south sides of the south bay. The north bay has a wide opening on the east into the shed that extends east of the main barn. Four four-light windows are located along the south side of the barn providing light and ventilation into the horse stalls.

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Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas MPS
Section Number 7 Page 2

Shafer Barn
Sheridan County, Kansas

The haymow features a hay track and large hay door. A gabled hood extends over the track on the west side. The hay door was operated by a pulley and opened by sliding down the exterior facade of the barn. The door and track were used to load hay into the mow, off a wagon parked outside of the barn. The owners still have the hay slings used to lift hay into the mow. The existing door has metal siding but retains the original opening and configuration. Four windows provide light and ventilation into the haymow. The upper windows are four-light sashes; the lower are 4/4 double-hung units. The existing windows are replacement units constructed to replicate the deteriorated original windows. A small, hinged door located at the floor-level of the haymow is the only opening on the upper level of the east facade.

The plan configuration has a wide center aisle that runs east/west through the barn with eight two-horse stalls on the south and sixteen milking stanchions on the north. The north side features a concrete pad with a manure trough. The row of wood stanchions is numbered; each stanchion features a movable lever to hold the cow's head in place while milking. A manger is located on the south side of the stanchions to allow the cows to eat while being milked. Each horse stall includes a built-in manger with holes to tie each horse at the manger. Two trap doors from the haymow allowed hay to be thrown into the center aisle of the ground floor to easily distribute hay into the horse and cattle mangers. One section of stalls and stanchions has formerly been removed but the remainder are in place clearly portraying the barn's original use.

A unique aspect of the Shafer Barn is the fact that it appears to have been designed in part for barn dances. Two rooms are enclosed on the west side, flanking the center aisle, where granaries are found in many barns. However, the south room was original finished with plaster on wood lathe and retains a sign "Ladies Toilet." The only apparent reason to include a ladies toilet in a barn is to provide facilities for females attending the dances. A room was also enclosed on the north side of the west entry and retains a sign that says "Smoking." Presumably to limit the risk of fire, smoking by farm hands and guests was apparently limited to that enclosed room. Another unique feature of the barn was a solar shower located at the southwest corner to allow farm hands to clean-up. An enclosed stairway was located on the east side of the ladies toilet, providing access to the haymow on the upper level.

The haymow is a voluminous space with a tall free-span gambrel-roof. Supporting the supposition that the barn was originally designed to accommodate dances, a raised platform or stage was built in the southwest corner of the haymow, over the women's toilet below. The remainder of the haymow is one large, open space with the two trap doors noted above.

The Shafer Barn reflects the traditional practice of early barns designed to serve multiple uses. The barn was designed to accommodate milking cattle, shelter for horses, hay storage, and livestock protection. In addition to the unique features designed to accommodate dances in the barn, one of the distinguishing characteristics is the craftsmanship portrayed by the functional features like the stanchions and stalls. The interior and exterior of the barn retain a high degree of historic integrity.

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Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas MPS
Section Number 8 Page 3

Shafer Barn
Sheridan County, Kansas

8. Statement of Significance

The Shafer Barn in Sheridan County is being nominated to the National Register under the Multiple Property Submission-*Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas* (Davis and Spencer, 2008). The barn is significant under Criteria A and C in the areas of Agriculture and Architecture. The barn is an excellent example of the "Gambrel-Roof Barn" property type and reflects the traditional, prominent role a barn serves as the centerpiece of a Kansas farmstead.

Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas MPS

Characterized by its roof form, the Shafer Barn is an example of the Gambrel-Roof Barn property type as identified in the *Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas* Multiple Property Nomination. The property type is distinguished simply by the roof form. Gambrel-roof barns are generally 1-1/2 or 2-1/2 stories high with concrete or masonry foundations and wood-framed upper stories with vertical or horizontal wood siding. Like Gable-roof barns, gambrel-roof barns usually feature a center aisle flanked by stalled, stanchions, and/or granaries on the first floor and a haymow above. Hay was historically loaded into the haymow through a large hay door under a hay hood. The hood was designed to cover the hay track on which a fork or sling was used to raise hay into the mow. The hay hood and hay door are often character-defining features of barns in this property type.¹

Gambrel-roof barns were built in Kansas from the 1880s until around 1950 with the methods of construction evolving throughout this period. The style gained favor in the agricultural boom years during and immediately following World War I. Gambrel roofs surpassed gable roofs in popularity in the 1920s as farmers placed a premium on hay storage. By this time, most gambrel-roof barns were balloon-framed construction utilizing a truss roof system that maximized the volume of the haymow and thus, maximized hay storage. Hip or shed bays on secondary facades are common features of the property type.²

The Shafer Barn is a typical representative of the Gambrel-Roof Barn property type. The barn is distinguished by its steep gambrel roof with a hay hood and hay door on the west facade. The plan configuration is a center aisle with horse stalls on the south and milking stanchions on the north. A shed bay on the north is original to the barn's construction. The shed bay extends beyond the main barn to the east and was designed as a loafing shed, open to the south. A unique aspect of the Shafer Barn is that it appears to have been designed to accommodate barn dances. The original design featured a ladies toilet and smoking room on the first floor and a raised platform/stage in the haymow. The Shafer Barn embodies the distinguishing characteristics of the Gambrel-Roof Barn property type and is an excellent example of this popular style of Kansas barn.

The Shafers³

Albert (Bert) C. Shafer was the son of Morrison Pierson Shafer and Ellen Shafer. After Bert's birth, Morrison Shafer, an Ohio native and Civil War veteran who served in the 105th Regiment of the Ohio Infantry, moved his family from his home state to Osborne County, Kansas between 1880 and 1885. By 1885, the household included the Shafer's four children, Elmer (13), Mary (11), Albert (Bert) (8) and Myrtle (7). By 1900, Bert (24)

¹ Christy Davis and Brenda Spencer, *Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas* Multiple Property Nomination to the National Register, 2008. p.52-55.

² Ibid.

³ Except where noted, Shafer family history compiled by current owner, Beverly Turner through correspondence with Maxine McClelland and Ruth Anderson, daughters of Bert and Nellie Shafer, and Edith Foster, Granddaughter of Bert and Nellie.

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Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas MPS
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Shafer Barn
Sheridan County, Kansas

had married and was farming in Osborne County, where he lived with his young wife Mary Danker Shafer (22), their eight-month-old son Morrison, and Mary's sister Dora Danker.⁴

According to the title of abstract, Bert Shafer and Austin Murphy (possibly an uncle) purchased this farm from W.J. and F.L. Robertson in October, 1903. W. J. and F. L. Robertson arrived in Sheridan County between 1885 and 1895. By 1895, the couple was living in Sheridan County's Parnell Township. W. J., a farmer, was born in Kentucky in 1849. His wife, F. L. was born in Missouri in August, 1854. When they arrived in Sheridan County, the couple had no children.⁵

Following the death of Bert's wife Mary L. in October, 1904, Bert took his two sons Morris and Charlie back to Osborne County to his father's (M.P. Shafer), farm south of Downs. Bert married Nellie Mae Richards in November, 1905 and apparently moved back to the land in Sheridan County. The couple lived in a sod house located southeast of the current farmhouse for several years. Maxine McClelland, one of Bert and Nellie's daughters, recalled that her sister Hazel was born in August, 1914 in the sod house. Another sibling, Ruth, was the first child born in the new house, on March 2, 1918.

Bert and Nellie built the existing farmhouse in 1915 and the barn in 1920. A mention in the December 12, 1920 *Hoxie Sentinel* noted, "Bert Shafer will give a big barn dance as he has just finished a large barn, 40 x 60', with a shed 16' x 100'. The mow will hold close to 100 tons of hay. A nice barn isn't the only new thing either, as a fine baby boy took up his home there a few weeks ago."⁶ The barn was a popular gathering place as the site of local dances. Another notice of an upcoming barn dance was found in a June 15, 1922 newspaper. Bert's children recall cleaning out the loft in the late 1930s and having a community party. A local band led by Ed Cooper, provided accordion music.

In addition to Charlie and Morris, children with his first wife, Bert had four daughters and a son (Hazel, Ruth, Mary, Maxine, and Howard) with his second wife Nellie. Nellie died at the age of 54 and Bert Shafer died years later, in 1968. Charlie moved onto the farm in 1943. After the war was over, he moved his family to Hoxie and opened the IGA store in 1947.⁷ Howard and his wife, Freda, moved onto the farm and lived there until they moved to Quinter in 1992. At that time, the farm was sold to Carl and Cheryl Ochs. The Ochs remodeled the house and demolished all of the dilapidated out-buildings. Current owners, Jim and Beverly Turner returned to the area from Denver and purchased the farm from the Ochs in 2001. The barn and surrounding farm served the Shafer family for nearly ninety years. Like many Kansas barns, it was constructed by Shafer himself, with the assistance of his hired help. The barn was always the prominent building on the farmstead and retains that position today. Current owners, Jim and Beverly Turner, are good stewards of this historic resource. The barn is well-maintained as a legacy of the Shafer family history.

In addition to its significance of the prominent physical symbol of the Shafer farm, the barn is significant for its representation of farms in northwest Kansas. Logically, barns in the western half of the state generally date to the early decades of the twentieth century as compared to earlier construction in the eastern part of the state. Shafer purchased the farm in Sheridan County in 1903 but the house and barn were not constructed until 1915 and 1920 respectively, reflecting the later development in that area of the state. These buildings were the first

⁴ 1880 U.S. Federal Census and 1885 State of Kansas Census.

⁵ 1885 and 1895 Kansas Census.

⁶ *Hoxie Sentinel*, 12 December, 1920.

⁷ "Fifty Years Ago – October 23, 1947" reference in the *Hoxie Sentinel*.

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Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas MPS
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**Shafer Barn
Sheridan County, Kansas**

permanent structures on the farm and stand today as an excellent example of an early twentieth century farm in western Kansas.

Summary

The Shafer Barn is significant as an excellent representative of the Gambrel-Roof Barn property type. It reflects the essential and prominent role that barns played on Kansas farms, designed for the multiple purposes of housing livestock and storing hay. The barn also played a social role in the agricultural community as the site of numerous community barn dances. The barn and adjacent farmhouse are the only remaining buildings on the Shafer Farmstead, originally established in 1905. The barn is representative of the period in which it was constructed which coincides with the rising popularity of the gambrel-roof form that gained favor for its large, free-span hay mow. The barn's roof shape and exterior form portray the prominent characteristics of the property type. The Shafer Barn is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under the Multiple Property Nomination, *Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas* as an example of the "Gambrel-Roof Barn" property type.

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Section Number 9 & 10 Page 6

**Shafer Barn
Sheridan County, Kansas**

9. Bibliography

Davis, Christy and Brenda Spencer. "Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas," Multiple Property Nomination to the National Register, 2008.

Historic Photographs provided by Jim and Beverly Turner, scanned by author 14 May, 2008.

Hoxie Sentinel. Clippings from "Years Ago Articles." Provided by current owner, Beverly Turner.

Shafer family history gathered by Beverly Turned from Schafer family decedents Daughters Ruth Anderson and Maxine McClelland, and Granddaughter Edith Foster).

Spencer, Brenda. *Kansas Historic Properties Survey Form* for Shafer Barn, 11 July, 2007.

United States and Kansas Census, 1880, 1885, 1890, and 1895.

10. Geographic Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The nomination is for the Shafer Barn constructed in 1920, and includes a perimeter of 20 feet of land surrounding the barn. The barn is located on the Turner farmstead; a site comprised of approximately five acres on the south edge of the 320 acre farm (West half of Section 9, Township 9 South, Range 27 West, Sheridan County, Kansas). The farmstead sits at the southern border of the farm, accessed off County Road 50S, one-half mile west of County Road 80E.

Boundary Justification

The farm includes the original half-section (320 acres) purchased by Bert Shafer in 1903. After living in a sod house for the first ten years, Shafers built the existing farmhouse in 1915 and the barn in 1920. The house and barn are the only remaining buildings on the farmstead. The farmhouse has been remodeled and vinyl siding installed over the original hollow-clay tile walls; it is not retain sufficient integrity for listing on the National Register.

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**Shafer Barn
Sheridan County, Kansas**

Additional Documentation

Photographs

Photographer: Brenda R. Spencer

Date: All photos were taken May 2008 except where noted

Original Files: Kansas State Historic Preservation Office and author hold original digital image files

<u>Photo #</u>	<u>Camera Direction</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	E	West/front facade of barn
2	NW	South and east facades of barn
3	NW	Loafing shed at northeast corner of main barn
4	W	East facade of barn
5	SE	North and west facades of barn
6	NW	Detail of concrete foundation, wood siding, and window on south side
7	W	Detail of door on east facade
8	E	View down center aisle of barn, looking east
9	NE	Detail of horse stall on south half of barn (taken July 2007)
10	NW	Detail of row on milking stanchion in north half of barn
11	N	Detail of calendar affixed to interior of north barn wall (taken July 2007)
12	E	Loafing shed in north bay
13	SE	"Ladies Toilet" enclosed on south side of center aisle at west end of barn
14	W	Haymow with raised platform/stage and hay door on west end
15	NE	Detail of hay track and platform at east end of haymow (taken July 2007)
16	NW	Detail of replacement window on west facade of haymow
17	E	Detail of sign "Please Don't spit on the ceiling" mounted in haymow
18	N	View of barn and farmhouse coming up the drive

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National Park Service

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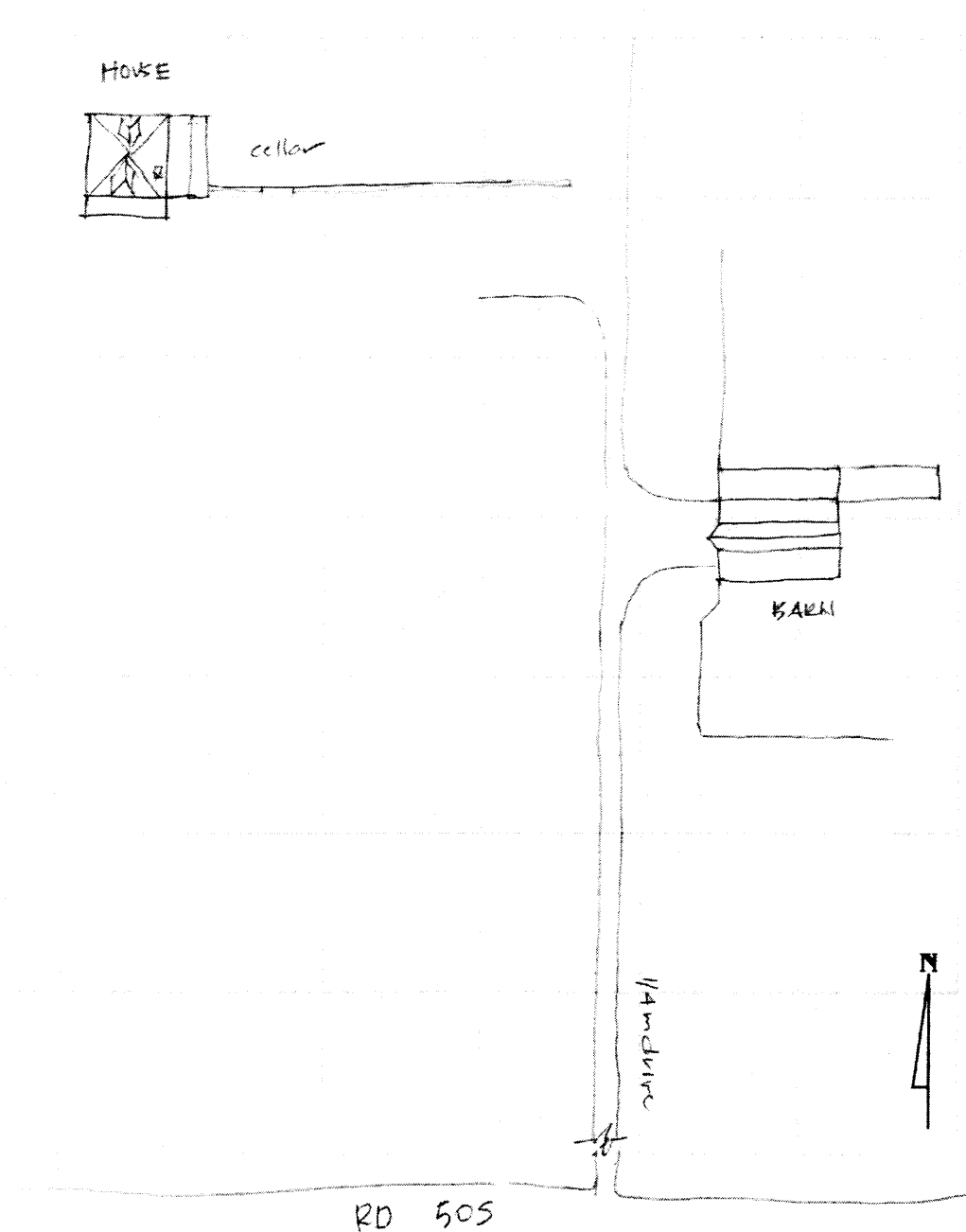
Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas
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Shafer Barn
Sheridan County, Kansas

Additional Documentation

Other

USGS Map Attached
Sketch of Site Plan by Spencer, July 2007.
Historic Photos provided by current owners.



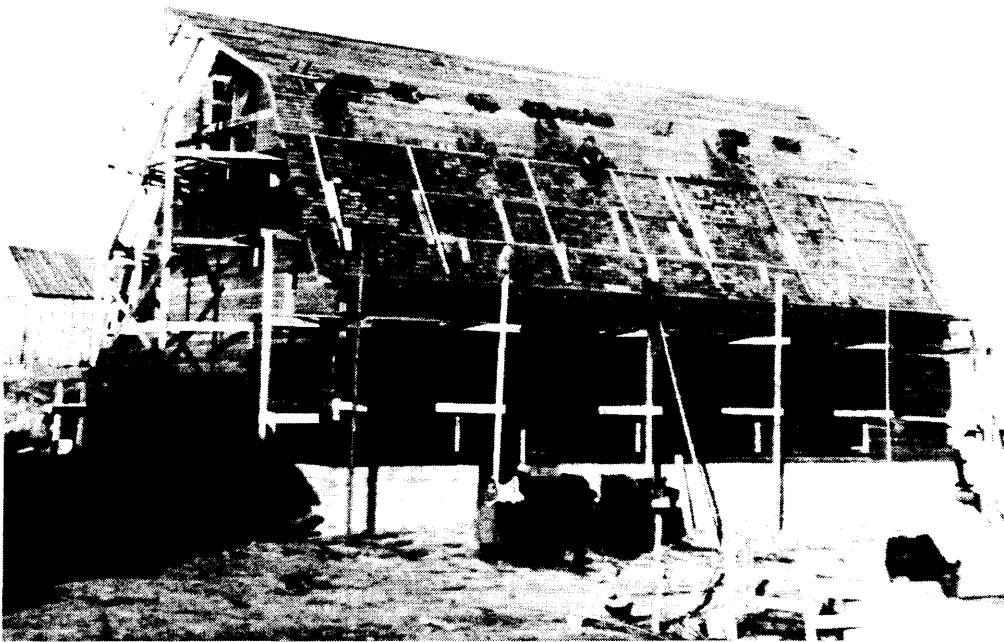
Sketch of Site Plan-Spencer, July 2007

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Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas
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**Shafer Barn
Sheridan County, Kansas**



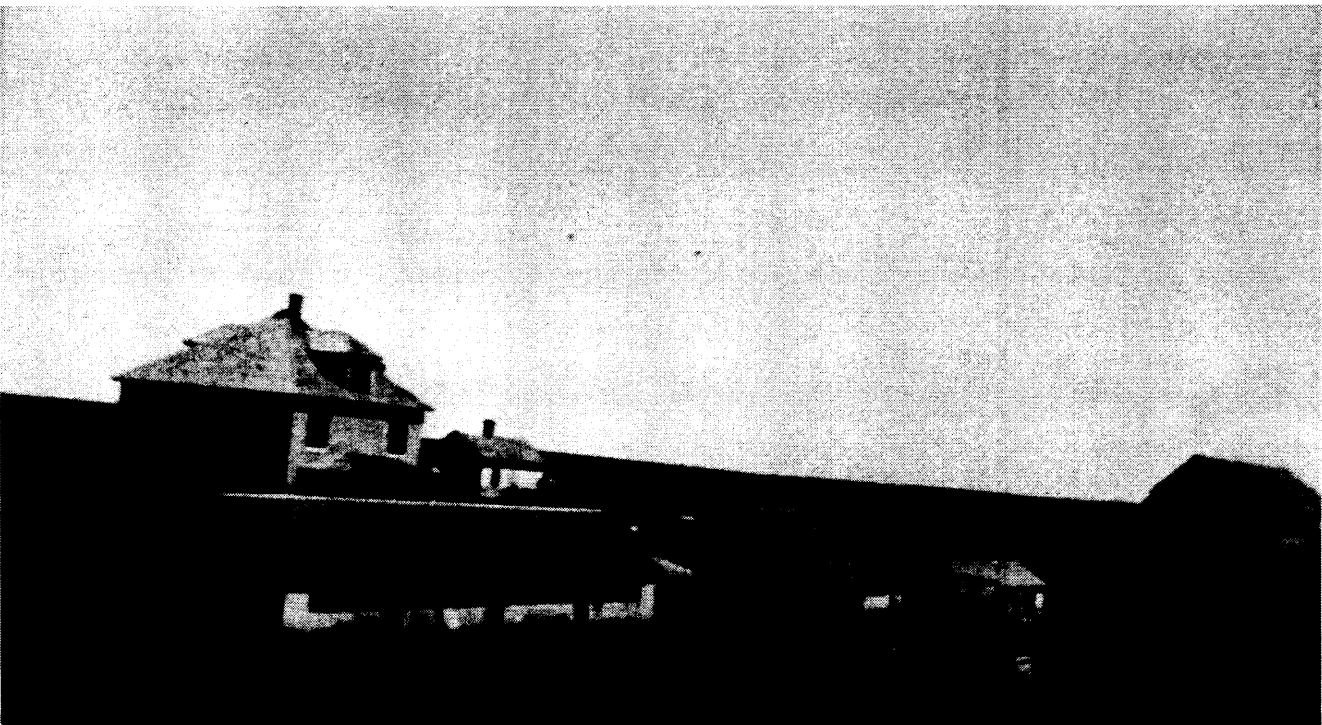
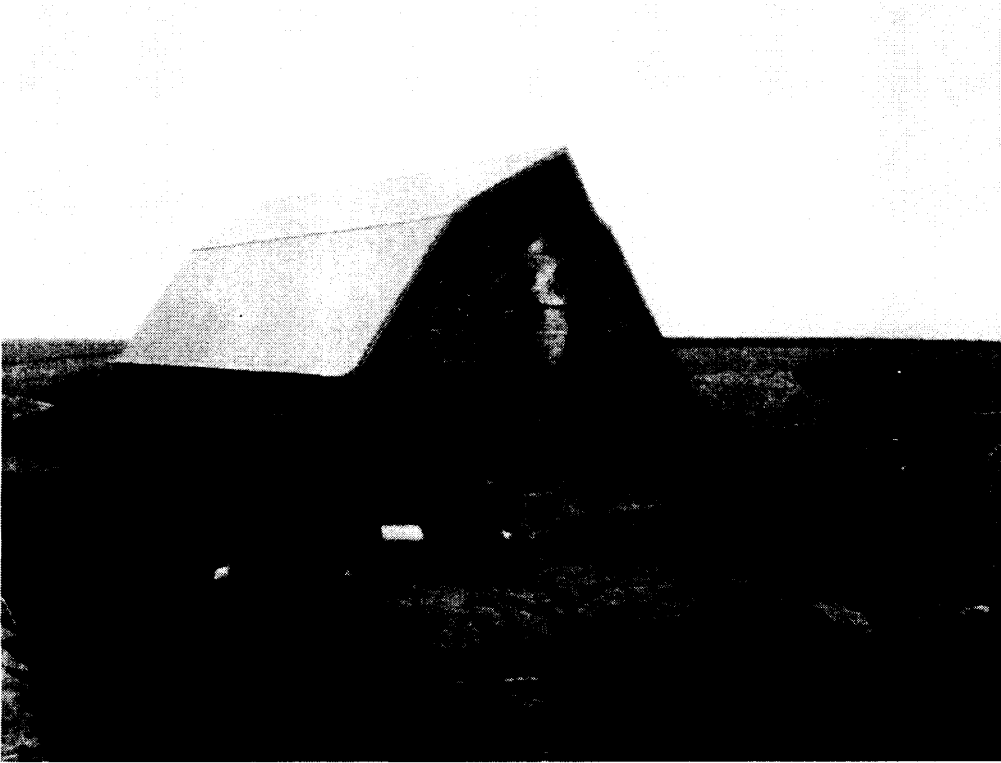
*Upper-Shafer Barn during Construction c.1920
Lower-Early View of Barn, date unknown*

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Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas
Section - Additional Documentation Page 10

**Shafer Barn
Sheridan County, Kansas**



*Upper-Shafer Barn and adjacent out buildings, date unknown
Lower – Later View of Farmstead, c. 1990 prior to removal of outbuildings
All photos provided by Jim and Beverly Turner, current owners*