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NATIONAL REGISTER

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Gano Grain Elevator and Scale House

other names/site number 047-2860-0009, Ardell West Grain Elevator and Scale House

2. Location

street & number See Continuation Page  not for publication

city or town Kinsley  vicinity

state Kansas code KS county Edwards code 047 zip code 67547

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.)

Ramon Pover State Historic Preservation Officer  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date July 21, 1993  
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 Patricia Andrus Date of Action 9/21/93

**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
1		structures
		objects
2		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:  
Storage, grain elevator and  
Scale House

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

Vacant/Not in Use

**7. Description**

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

Other: Utilitarian  
Grain Elevator and Scale House

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete  
walls Wood, Weatherboard  
Metal, Aluminum  
roof Metal, Aluminum; Wood, Shingle  
other

**Narrative Description**

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

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.)

- [x] 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.
[x] 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

Industry

Period of Significance

1915-1943

Significant Dates

1915

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Bowers, Mr. - Builder

Kirk, Roy - Builder

Primary location of additional data:

- [x] State Historic Preservation Office
[] Other State agency
[] Federal agency
[] Local government
[] University
[] Other

Name of repository:

Gano Grain Elevator and Scale House  
Name of Property

Edwards County, Kansas  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Less than 1 Acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	4	4	5	6	3	8	0	4	1	9	4	8	0	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

  
2 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

3 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

  
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 Martha Hagedorn-Krass, Architectural Historian

organization Kansas State Historical Society date July 21, 1993

street & number 120 West Tenth Street telephone 913-296-5264

city or town Topeka state Kansas zip code 66612

**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.)

name Carl and Cordelia Froetschner

street & number 903 East 7th Street telephone 316-659-2977

city or town Kinsley state Kansas zip code 67547

**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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The Gano Grain Elevator and Scale House (c. 1915) is located at Ardell, a siding along the main line of Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad tracks, four miles southwest of Kinsley in Edwards County, standing south of US Highway 50 and west of County Road 9. The complex is comprised of a studded, balloon frame, country grain elevator and frame scale house.

The grain elevator and scale house stand as part of a complex that once included a dwelling, a garage, and a chicken house. The dwelling and chicken house are non-extant, the garage remains intact; these buildings stood to the west. The siding is non-extant. A frame grain elevator of the same vintage stands east of this complex, across the gravel county road.

The integrity of the grain elevator is moderately high, although basic changes in technology have affected its appearance. The metal siding may be original to the structure. The man lift and the power sources have been modified to accommodate changes in technology, the man lift is still operative.

The Gano grain elevator is an example of a studded, balloon-frame, country grain elevator with a 15,000 bushel capacity. The balloon-frame elevator is a building with internal grain bins built on the principle of balloon-frame construction. Wooden studs are employed as vertical members, the studs are planked over on the interior to form the bins. The Gano grain elevator is sheathed with metal sheets, which provide some degree of fire protection and resulted in a better insurance risk.

The elevator was built with two planks that tilted the wagons to dump the load. When farmers started using trucks to bring grain to the elevator, a lift was installed to tilt the front end of each truck to unload it. The smaller scales that sat on wooden platform scales were replaced with larger scales that sat on concrete platforms at this time. Grain was dumped into a pit below the driveway and traveled up to a cupola by way of a vertical belt and bucket conveyor. The grain was spouted from the cupola into waiting railroad cars or storage bins in the central structure.

The elevator is a rectangular structure with an eastern facade orientation. The elevator measures 26' from east to west by 26' from north to south, and it stands 32' tall. A cupola caps the modified hip and gable roof, measuring 9' from east to west by 14' from north to south, and standing 18' tall. The power house projects from the elevator's eastern elevation, measuring 10' from east to west by 12' from north to south, and standing 8' tall.

The rectangular scale house maintains a southern facade orientation, measuring 24' from east to west and 12' from north to south, it stands 8' tall. The frame building is sheathed with German lap siding, wooden shingles cover its gable roof. The scale house stand 25' to the east of the grain elevator. The scale stands in front of the scale house.

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The Gano Grain Elevator and Scale House (c. 1915) is being nominated to the National Register under criteria A and C for its historical association with the growth and development of the grain storage industry in Edwards County and for its architectural significance as a complex that includes a studded, balloon-frame, country grain elevator and frame scale house.

The complex is located at Ardell, a siding along the main line of Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad tracks, four miles southwest of Kinsley in Edwards County, standing south of US Highway 50 and west of County Road 9. Ardell is located between Offerle and Kinsley. Historically it is spelled Ardel, but more recently it has been spelled Ardell. In 1908, the small, frame station that was located at Ardell was identified as Taft. In 1915, the rural crossing was called Ardell.

The grain elevator and scale house stand as part of a complex that once included a dwelling, a garage, and a chicken house. The dwelling and chicken house are non-extant, the garage remains intact. The siding, which is a short track connecting a railroad directly with the premises of a business concern, such as a grain elevator, is non-extant. A frame grain elevator of the same vintage stands east of this complex, across the gravel county road.

The integrity of the grain elevator is moderately high, although basic changes in technology have affected its appearance. The metal siding may be original to the structure. The man lift and the power sources have been modified to accommodate changes in technology, the man lift is still operative.

The grain elevator is a nineteenth-century innovation. Until railroads began to transport grain from farm to market, country grain had been stored in flathouses. Grain elevators provide storage, marketing, and loading facilities for the farmer's products. "Many early grain elevators, more simple in design and used mainly as handling facilities, were built of wood frame and covered with corrugated, galvanized skin. Due to their small size, these 'country elevators' were a place for farmers to unload their grain and in turn the grain was soon loaded out on railroad cars. Long periods of storage were unheard of at these early facilities." (Davis, 1982)

Grain elevators are typically located along railroad right-of-ways. Soon after 1900 there were small elevators dotting the western Kansas landscape along the railroad tracks at seven to ten miles apart. Their capacity varied between 10,000 and 20,000 bushels. By 1915, most small, western Kansas towns had two or three elevators.

The complex at Ardell was constructed by the Rock Milling and Elevator Company in 1915. The Rock Milling and Elevator Company was established in 1898 by George E. Gano and J. R. Baker. In 1900 Rock Milling and Elevator Company built their first Edwards County

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elevator at Kinsley. "This new elevator, built this season, is one of a line of sixteen elevators and warehouses, owned by this enterprising firm, located at Kinsley, Pawnee Rock, Great Bend, and other grain centers. They are among the large buyers and shippers of grain of Kansas, and have built up a great and steadily growing business." (Kinsley Mercury; 9 December 1900) By 1920 the company claimed six of the thirty-two grain elevators operating in Edwards County. The Rock Milling and Elevator Company elevators were located along the Santa Fe line at Ardell, Belpre, Kinsley, Lewis, Offerle and Omar. (Etrick, 1920)

Gano and Baker purchased a narrow strip of land next to the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad right-of-way to construct the Rock Milling and Elevator Company grain elevator and other buildings at Ardell in April, 1915. The construction of the Kansas Grain Company's elevator at Ardell may have stimulated the Rock Milling and Elevator Company's decision to build at Ardell as well. "In putting in a new 12,000 bushel elevator at Ardel the Kansas Grain Company is opening some new territory. A great deal of wheat is raised near there and a fair crop will mean a good business for the new institution." (Kinsley Mercury, 22 April 1915, p. 1) Until 1915, no buildings other than a small, frame depot marked the rural crossing.

The Spring and Summer of 1915 brought the construction of at least five new elevators to the southwestern section of Edwards County. The Kinsley Mercury reported on the construction of four elevators in April, 1915, including the Kansas Grain Company elevator planned for Ardell. The construction of the Rock Milling and Elevator Company's elevator at Ardell is noted by the Kinsley Graphic in June, 1915. It appears that while Gano and Baker had planned for the construction of two Rock Milling and Elevator Company elevators at Kinsley and Offerle, they may not have anticipated the Ardell situation. When the competition that Kansas Grain Company's Ardell elevator would provide became apparent, Gano and Baker built a third Rock Milling and Elevator Company elevator at Ardell, resulting in a line of company elevators from Kinsley to Offerle.

"Four new elevators with an approximate capacity of between 65,000 and 75,000 bushels will be in process of construction in a short time, and work has begun on two of them. Two of these elevators will be in Kinsley, the Kinsley Grain and Lumber Company and the Rock Grain Company, the Kansas Grain Company at Ardel and the Rock people at Offerle.... The two elevators at Kinsley will each be of about 18,500 bushels capacity, the one at Ardel about 12,000 and the one at Offerle about 18,000." (Kinsley Mercury, 22 April 1915, p. 1)

Construction of these elevators moved along at a rapid pace, taking one month to complete. Several builders are identified as working on the construction of five grain elevators in the Offerle column of the "County Correspondence" sections of both the Kinsley Mercury and the Kinsley Graphic.

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Roy Gorten of Piedmont, Oklahoma built the Rock Milling and Elevator Company elevator in Offerle in April and May, 1915. (Kinsley Graphic; 15, April 1915, p. 4, 6 May 1915, p. 10; Kinsley Mercury; 6 May 1915, p. 10) The Kansas Grain elevator at Ardell was completed in late May, Ed Wilson became the first manager at this elevator. (Kinsley Mercury; 22 April 1915, p. 1, 3 June 1915, p. 9) Rock Milling and Elevator Company responded to the construction of Kansas Grain elevator at Ardell by employing Mr. Bowers and Roy Kirk to build the Rock elevator at Ardell in June. (Kinsley Graphic, 3 June 1915, p. 8, 24 June 1915, p. 8) Cecil Sturgeon of Kinsley built the Farmer's Elevator in Kinsley in June, the first car of new wheat was shipped from this elevator at the end of June. (Kinsley Graphic, 3 June 1915, p. 8, 29 June 1915, p. 10)

Biographical information about Mr. Bowers and Roy Kirk is not accessible at this writing. Based on newspaper accounts, it is known that both men left to build another elevator in Kent, Reno County upon completion of the elevator at Ardell. (Kinsley Graphic, 24 June 1915, p. 8)

Upon completion of the grain elevator at Ardell, the Rock Milling and Elevator Company contracted with the Santa Fe railroad for the construction of the three hundred foot railroad siding in July, 1915, the siding cost \$590.64 to construct. (Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Co., 3 July 1915) Presumably, the construction of the scale house, the dwelling, the garage, and the chicken house occurred soon thereafter.

Gano bought Baker's share of Rock Milling and Elevator Company in 1918, and went on to establish the largest grain company in Kansas. Rock Milling and Grain Company was absorbed by the Gano Grain Corporation in 1931, which was subsequently merged with the New York City based Bunge Corporation in 1947. Gano then organized the Gano-Horace Grain Company, which was purchased Bunge in 1959.

George E. Gano (1871-1952) was born and raised in Pawnee Rock and moved to Hutchinson with his family in 1904. His vast holdings were described as "an empire of Western Kansas and Colorado wheat land and steel and concrete storage tanks." (Garden City Telegram, 1 July 1952) In 1928 he owned and operated a chain of forty-five elevators in southwestern Kansas and held 15,000 acres of wheat under cultivation. Bunge acquired the 3,300,000 bushel concrete terminal at Hutchinson and more than 70 country elevators with a 2.5 million bushel capacity at the time of the 1947 merger with the Gano Grain Corporation. The Ardell property did not transfer to Bunge until 1959.

The Gano grain elevator is an example of a studded, balloon-frame, country grain elevator. Its design is very likely based on those published in the Grain Dealers Journal, a Chicago based publication which produced four editions of Plans for Grain Elevators between 1904 and 1918. The balloon-frame elevator, commonly referred to as a studded elevator, is a



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building with internal grain bins built on the principle of balloon-frame construction, employing wooden studs as vertical members, which are planked over on the interior to form the bins. Wood remained the construction material of choice for the country grain elevators from their inception in the 1870s until the 1940s, but the extreme fire hazards and high insurance rates for wood elevators precipitated the grain industry's experimentation with steel, tile and brick construction in the 1890s. The Gano grain elevator is sheathed with metal sheets, which provide some degree of fire protection and resulted in a better insurance risk.

"The advantage of studded construction was economy with minimal strength, which worked best in small elevators.....all wooden country elevators tend to be similar to each other....the state-of-the-art wooden elevator at the end of the nineteenth century was not very different from its descendant in the 1940s, in terms of overall conception and plan, and basic equipment installed and services provides. There were evolutionary, if not revolutionary changes; but these changes were more matters of increases in handling capacity and speed rather than fundamental alterations in design and conception." (Frame, 1990)

The elevator was built with two planks that tilted the wagons to dump the load. When farmers started using trucks to bring grain to the elevator, a lift was installed to tilt the front end of each truck to unload it. The smaller scales that sat on wooden platform scales were replaced with larger scales that sat on concrete platforms at this time. The grain was dumped into a pit below the driveway and traveled up to a cupola by way of a vertical belt and bucket conveyor. The grain was spouted from the cupola into waiting railroad cars or storage bins in the central structure. The fate of the little elevators was doomed when the wheat haulers started using semi-trucks to deliver wheat to market. (Froetschner, 1991)

In 1953, Mills Mutual, a Topeka company that carried insurance on many of the small elevators, hired the R. N. Crawford and Co., Inc. to draw up an appraisal report for the Ardell complex. The report noted the following:

This elevator is in fairly good physical condition. Housekeeping was fairly good and machinery is receiving good care. Lights in the elevator are in rigid threaded conduit but the lights are open. The portable protection extension lights do not have dust tight globes. Lightning protection is standard with bonds and grounds on elevator. The metal cladding is tight and in good condition. The premises around the plant are clean.

Three phase electric power is furnished from an outside source. The motor driving the air compressor in the attached power house is an open motor. The other two motors are totally enclosed. The wiring to the leg motor and truck lift motor are in rigid conduit. The wiring to air compressor motor is in thin wall tubing. There is no surge protection.

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Five gallon pump tank in cupola and water barrel on work floor provide adequate first aid fire protection along with CTC extinguishers.

A rate savings of approximately \$.075 per \$100.00 of fire insurance can be made in the frame, iron clad elevator if the motor driving the air compressor is replaced with a totally enclosed motor. The present motor is an open 3 HP, Howell, 1800 rpm motor. (Crawford, 1953)

Bunge Corporation attained the Ardell property in the 1959 merger with the Gano-Horace Grain Corporation and closed the Ardell West elevator in 1961. The Bunge Corporation sold the Ardell West elevator and other buildings in the complex to Carl and Cordelia Froetschner in 1962. The Froetschners actively used the elevator for their own grain storage needs until several years ago.

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**SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

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Marshall, James. Santa Fe: The Railroad That Built An Empire. (New York: Random House, 1945).

Ogle, George. Edwards County Map. (Chicago: Ogle Publishing, 1906).

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Schoeff, Robert W., "The Grain Elevator," The Rise of the Wheat State: A History of Kansas  
Agriculture, 1861-1986, ed. George E. Ham and Robin Higham. (Manhattan, KS:  
Sunflower University Press, 1987).

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The property is located on a tract of land 110' x 234' (.6 acres) in the NE/4, NE/4, SE/4, SE/4, S. 2, T. 25S, R. 20W, of Trenton Township, Edwards County, Kansas, standing south of US Highway 50 and County Road 9. Pt, SE/4 Beginning at the intersection South line of the Railroad Right of way and East line Section. Then South 110 then Southwesterly 264 the North 110 then Northeasterly 264 less Road right of way.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundary includes a .6 acre tract of land which contains the nominated grain elevator and scale house. The grain elevator and scale house stand as part of a complex that once included a dwelling, a garage, and a chicken house. The dwelling and chicken house are non-extant, the garage remains intact. The siding, which is a short track connecting a railroad directly with the premises of a business concern, such as a grain elevator, is non-extant.

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**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

**NRIS Reference Number: 93000943**

**Date Listed: 9/21/93**

**Gano Grain Elevator and Scale House**  
**Property Name**

**Edwards**  
**County**

**KS**  
**State**

**N/A**  
**Multiple Name**

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**This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.**

*Latika Andrus*  
**Signature of the Keeper**

9/21/93  
**Date of Action**

=====  
**Amended Items in Nomination:**

**Classification:**

The correct resource category for this property is Structure. [The grain elevator is the dominant resource]

**Verbal Boundary Description:**

The verbal boundary description is revised to read: ...in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , **Section 3**, T. 25S, R. 20W,....

This information was confirmed with Martha Hagedorn-Krass of the Kansas SHPO.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

**National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**