

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 Brown Barn
Other name/site number _____

2. Location

Street & number 5879 CR4300 not for publication
City or town Independence vicinity
State Kansas Code KS County Montgomery Code 125 Zip code 67301

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.)

Ratni Gelmer DSHPO 2-13-09
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:)

for
Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action 4-8-09

Brown Barn
Name of Property

Montgomery, 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		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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter Categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSITENCE: Animal Facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSITENCE: Animal Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Barn

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: STONE: Sandstone
Walls: STONE: Sandstone

Roof: WOOD/ASPHALT

Other:

Narrative Description

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

Brown Barn
Name of Property

Montgomery, 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)

- 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.
- 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 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.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

ca. 1885-1955

Significant Dates

1885

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

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):

- 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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Brown Barn
Name of Property

Montgomery, 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	2	6	3	1	0	0	4	1	3	5	6	1	8
Zone		Easting						Northing						

2

Zone		Easting						Northing						

3

Zone		Easting						Northing						

4

Zone		Easting						Northing						

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 Christy Davis
Organization Davis Preservation Date 5/30/2008
Street & number 909 1/2 Kansas Ave, Suite 7 Telephone 785-234-5053
City or town Topeka State KS 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 SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Name Jim and Linda Smith
Street & number 4180 CR6000 Telephone (620) 331-4278
City or town Independence State Kansas Zip code 67301

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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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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

**Brown Barn
Montgomery County, Kansas**

7. Narrative Description

The Brown Barn is located in north-central Montgomery County, approximately three miles northeast of the unincorporated town of Sycamore and ten miles north of Independence (pop. 9846). The property is in the northwest quarter of Section 21 of the Sycamore Township. The barn is located on the east side of 2300 Road, south of the intersection with 6000 Road.

The Brown farmstead, established c. 1880, straddles 2300 Road. The barn, built into a hill, overlooks the west half of the farmstead. The barn is the dominant historic structure on the farm. Other resources located on the east half of the farmstead include a frame granary, a small stone hog shed, and multiple grain bins, all located south of the barn. A two-story farmhouse, also constructed of native stone, is the primary structure on the west side of the road. The historic house has experienced multiple contemporary additions and does not retain sufficient historic integrity for listing. Other buildings on the west side of the road include a metal carport, modern machine shed, a frame chicken house, and small stone building reportedly used as a house while the house and barn were being constructed.

The 2 ½ story sandstone and wood barn is rectangular in massing, oriented north to south. The building has a gabled roof with a gabled wall dormer in the center of the east facade. Modern composition shingles were installed ten years ago. This is the second layer of composition shingles added to the original wood shingle roof. The barn's long east elevation is nestled into a bluff out of which the stone for the barn was quarried. Like those of all bank barns, both the upper and lower levels of the Brown Barn may be accessed at grade. The lower level is accessible through four arched openings that form an arcade along the barn's west elevation and a single arched opening on its south elevation. The upper level is accessible at grade through a broadside door opening on the east elevation, accessible from a limestone drive between the bluff and the barn's east elevation. The upper level is also accessible through three additional openings, including a hay hood, on the south elevation and a centered hay door (at the floor level of the haymow) on the west and south elevations. There is only a single opening, a small masonry opening, on the north elevation.

The barn was constructed of sandstone, quarried from its site. The large stones are laid in regular courses. The field stones are rough-hewn. The stones at openings, including the arched openings, are hand tooled and squared. Each stone is marked with a dimple that appears to have aided in hoisting the heavy material into place. Wood framing supports the interior floors and gabled roof. The gable ends, on the north and south elevations and above the entry on the east elevation, are clad in board and batten.

The barn is in fair to good condition and has been well maintained with a sound roof and painted siding. A recent storm lifted some of the shingles on the barn's northwest corner. The masonry is generally in good condition, although there is some structural damage to the barn's northwest corner. There is widespread loose and missing mortar. However, this does not appear to be affecting the overall sound condition of the masonry because the mortar joints are so narrow. Recent heavy ice storms and snow have affected the interior truss system. To address these concerns, the owners have added additional structural supports and gusset plates to shore up the roof trusses.

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

**Brown Barn
Montgomery County, Kansas**

The plan configuration is quite simple and not atypical of the property type because of the opening on the broad side. The barn's lower level is designed to house two principal spaces. The east half of the lower level was designed as a loafing shed, accessed through the arched openings on the west and south elevations. A stone wall divides the loafing shed from the milking parlor. Milking stanchions, which do not appear to be original to the barn's construction, line the east half of the ground floor. A small stair at the back (east) of the stanchions rises to the barn's hay floor, also accessible via the broadside opening on the east elevation through the central wall dormer. The main floor has an open floor plan and was used as a traditional haymow, interrupted only by a small granary on its southwest corner. The barn's framing, which consists of sistered lumber, is exposed and in some places has been reinforced with steel gusset plates. As was typical of Bank Barns, the haymow was accessible at grade, through the drive-in dormer in the center of the east facade. A hay wagon could be driven into the mow to be unloaded. However, unlike most Bank Barns, the Brown Barn also has a hay track typical of traditional two-story barns. This barn was designed with two means for loading hay into the mow, lifted into the mow using a traditional hay fork or sling and the hay track on the south end of the barn, or from a wagon driven into the barn.

The Brown Barn embodies the distinguishing features of the Bank Barn property type and the interior and exterior of the barn retain a high degree of historic integrity, clearly portraying the barn's original design and use.

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

**Brown Barn
Montgomery County, Kansas**

8. Statement of Significance

The Brown Barn in Montgomery 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 Criterion A and C in the areas of Agriculture and Architecture. The barn is an outstanding example of the "Bank Barn" property type and reflects the vernacular tradition of using locally available materials – sandstone quarried on the farm. The barn overlooks the farmstead and represents the important role of the barn as the dominant and essential building on early Kansas farms.

Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas MPS

Although bank barns were constructed during all periods of agricultural development through the early twentieth century, they were the design most commonly employed by the state's early settlers, particularly those who settled in the state's hilly regions. Bank barns are characterized by their on-grade access to two levels, either through the use of a natural or soil bank or by a constructed ramp. The first level is usually reserved for animal shelter. The second level is reserved for hay storage. Because bank barns provide for at-grade access to the interior of the haymow, they do not require hay doors or hay hoods to allow for access to the haymow from the exterior. Most Kansas Bank Barns are 2 ½ stories high and have gabled roofs.¹

The Brown Barn is a good representative of the Bank Barn property type. Among its character-defining features are its gabled roof, on-grade access to two levels and local stone construction. The ramp on the east side provides drive-in access to the barn's haymow, which provided for ample stacks of loose hay. In this barn, the farmer could also pile hay to the rafters by hoisting loose hay through the hay door in the south-side gable. Hay, or feed stored in the haymow granary, could easily be transferred from the haymow to the animal shelter below by way of a trap door located at the broadside entrance on the barn's east elevation.

The Brown Barn

The Brown Barn was constructed ca. 1885 by farmer James B. Brown (ca. 1840-1911). Brown and his wife Samantha (1851-unknown) purchased the property from Theodore Lockwood in 1880.² James Brown served in the New York Cavalry during the Civil War.³ Before moving to Kansas, these multi-generational New Yorkers had been living and farming in Aurora, New York, where they had accumulated a \$5000 estate by 1870.⁴

At the time the Browns bought their Montgomery County farm, they had three sons, George (13), Harry (7) and James (3).⁵ According to local legend, the sons were involved in the barn's construction. However, given their young ages and the quality of the barn's sandstone construction, it is more likely that the barn was constructed by experienced masons. That the Browns may have hired help constructing the barn is evidenced by the fact that, despite their wealth, which would have allowed them to purchase the land, the Browns took out a \$1000

¹ Christy Davis and Brenda Spencer, *Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas* Multiple Property Nomination to the National Register, 2008. p.47-49.

² Abstract.

³ U. S. Civil War Soldiers, 1861-1865.

⁴ 1870 U. S. Census.

⁵ 1880 U. S. Census.

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Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas MPS
Section Number 8 Page 4

**Brown Barn
Montgomery County, Kansas**

mortgage in 1880. The mortgage was released in 1885.⁶ According to Civil War pension records, James Brown was disabled and began receiving a pension in 1891.⁷

A ghost sign on the side of the barn that reads "Home of the Duroc Hog and Hereford Cow," may provide a clue as to the Brown's operation. Red hogs, precursors to Duroc Hogs, were first bred in New York and New Jersey in the early nineteenth century and were brought west by eastern farmers like James Brown. Likewise, Hereford cattle were also introduced to the United States through New York breeders who showed them at the New York State Fair in 1844. Unfortunately, little concrete evidence about the Browns' farm operation exists.

In 1902, the Browns retired to Independence after selling the farm for \$6000 to Charles (Charlie) Zutz, the son of German Independence merchant August Zutz. At the time he purchased the Brown Farm, Charlie Zutz was 28 years old and single. In 1903, Zutz donated one acre of the land for a school for School District #17.⁸ When this school burned, the land reverted back to the Smiths, subsequent landowners.⁹ In 1910, the year Zutz sold the farm to Anna E. Berry and Effie L. Vinall, Charlie was living with his father and also working as a merchant. Charlie and four siblings, by then all in their late twenties and early thirties, were all single and living in their parents' household.¹⁰

Anna Berry and her daughter, Effie Vinall, were both widows when they purchased the farm from Charlie Zutz in 1910. Anna and Effie owned the farm during good times. Not only did the Golden Age of Agriculture offer high crop prices, but also Southeast Kansas was experiencing oil fever. Anna and Effie entered into various oil leases. After her mother's death on December 12, 1919, Anna continued to run the farm.¹¹ Anna and Effie may have converted the farm to a dairy operation.

In 1934, Effie sold the farm to Azmon Smith (1876-1964) and his wife Carrie, who moved to Montgomery County from Oklahoma.¹² In the late 1940s, when Azmon moved to town, his son Leo Smith (1911-1999) and his wife Nora Mae Catron Smith (1917-2005) moved into the stone house. The Smiths operated a dairy. However, they quit dairying in the late 1940s or early 1950s when Leo was diagnosed with undulant fever, a bacterial disease associated with raw milk. Leo and Nora Mae Smith had two children, Barbara and Jim. Leo died in 1999. His son Jim Smith and his wife Linda have owned the farm since Nora Mae died in 2005.¹³ Jim continues to farm the original Brown place and lives nearby. His daughter lives on the Brown Farm.

⁶ Abstract.

⁷ Civil War Pension Index.

⁸ Abstract.

⁹ Jim and Linda Smith (farmers and landowners), interview by Christy Davis, Brown Farm, May 23, 2008.

¹⁰ 1910 U. S. Census.

¹¹ Abstract.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Interview; Social Security Death Index.

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Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas MPS
Section Number 8, 9 & 10 Page 5

**Brown Barn
Montgomery County, Kansas**

Summary

The Brown Barn is significant as an outstanding representative of the Bank Barn property type. Its construction in a bluff overlooking the farmstead portrays the defining characteristic of the property type. As one of the first buildings constructed on the farm by the Brown family in the 1880s, the building also reflects the prominent and essential role that barns played on early Kansas farms, designed for the multiple functions of sheltering livestock and storing hay. The Brown Barn is being nominated to the National Register under the Multiple Property Submission-*Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas* under Criterion C as an example of the "Bank Barn Property" Type and under Criterion A in the area of Agriculture.

9. Bibliography

Abstract. Brown Farm.

Census Data. State of Kansas and United States Federal Census.

Civil War Pension Index.

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

Jim and Linda Smith (farmers and landowners). Interview by Christy Davis, May 23, 2008.

Spencer, Brenda. *Kansas Historic Properties Survey Form* for Brown Barn, October 6, 2007.

U. S. Civil War Soldiers, 1861-1865.

10. Geographic Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property includes the Brown Barn, constructed ca. 1885, and includes a perimeter of 20 feet of land surrounding the barn. The barn is located on the Brown Farmstead, which is located in the northwest quarter of Section 21, Township 31, Range 16, Montgomery County, Kansas. The farmstead straddles 4300 Road, south of its junction with 6000 Road. The barn lies east of 4300 Road.

Boundary Justification

The nomination is restricted to the Brown Barn; it is physically separated from the other secondary farm buildings and structures on the east half of the farmstead. Although the original house remains on the west half of the farmstead, it has been modified over time in a manner so that it does not retain sufficient integrity for national register listing.

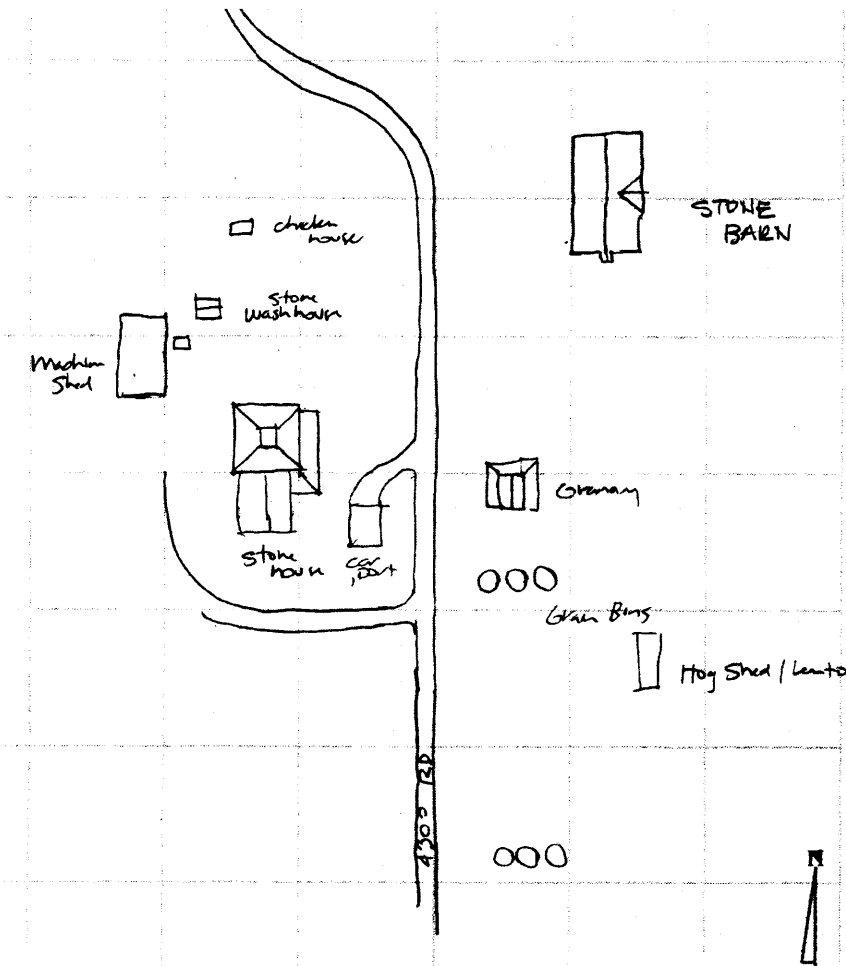
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Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas MPS
Section Number 10 Page 6

Brown Barn
Montgomery County, Kansas

Site Plan



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Section Number Additional Documentation Page 7

**Brown Barn
Montgomery County, Kansas**

Additional Documentation

Photographs

Photographer: Brenda R. Spencer; Christy Davis

Date: October 2007; May 2008

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	Northeast	Exterior, South and West Elevations. (Spencer)
2	Northwest	Exterior, South and East Elevations. (Davis)
3	Southeast	Exterior, North and West Elevations. (Spencer)
4	Southwest	Exterior, North Elevation, showing small ventilation opening. (Davis)
5	Southeast	Exterior, Close-up of archways on West and South elevations. (Davis)
6	East	Exterior, Close-up of ghost sign on West elevation. (Davis)
7	East	Bluff east of barn where stone was quarried. (Davis)
8	South	Interior, overall view of haymow. (Davis)
9	North	Interior, hay door. (Davis)
10	South	Interior, door opening in stone. (Davis)
11	Southwest	Interior, granary in southwest corner of haymow. (Davis)
12	Northeast	Interior, stalls in lower level. (Davis)
13	East	Interior, close-up of additional supports in lower level, added ca. 1940s. (Davis)