

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received DEC 5 1984

date entered FEB 21 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Thompson Barn

and/or common Thompson-Wohlschlegel Round Barn (preferred)

**2. Location**

street & number Three miles east of Harper on US 160 and 1/2 mile south on County Road 1485  
(NE 1/4, NE 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec. 9, T32S, R6W) N/A not for publication

city, town N/A  vicinity of Harper

state Kansas code 020 county Harper code

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Dale Wohlschlegel

street & number Route 2, Box 101

city, town Harper  vicinity of state Kansas 67003

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Harper County Courthouse

city, town Anthony state Kansas 67003

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title None has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date N/A  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

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## 7. Description

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**Condition** excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved

date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Thompson-Wohlschlegel Round Barn is a circular structure approximately 80 feet in diameter. Its three-tier domed roof rises to a height of 75 feet. The first story consists of a central space 29 feet in diameter, surrounded by a circular access lane about 9 feet wide, and an outer circle of stalls and storage bins about 16 feet wide. The outer walls of the first level are made of rough-faced concrete blocks. A timber frame inside carries the second story hay loft, which covers the stalls and the access lane, but is open over the central space. The external walls as the second story level are clad with vertical boarding siding. Above the hay loft floor the interior of the barn was originally an uninterrupted open space, but in recent years bracing posts have been added. The domical shape of the roof is interrupted by two clerestory sections, the lower having wood shingle siding and the upper fitted with vertical-slat louvers. On the east side of the barn is a two-story gable-roofed projecting block, faced with vertical board-and-batten siding with wood shingles in the gable. This block is flanked by two round, conical-roofed silos, about 13 feet in diameter, made of concrete block.

The farmstead contains several other buildings, but this nomination applies to the barn only.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1912-13 **Builder/Architect** Bill Russell, Carpenter  
Z.C and C.R. Thompson, designers

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Thompson-Wohlschlegel barn is one of the largest and most elaborate examples remaining in Kansas of the round barn of the early twentieth century. The round barns of Kansas were mostly built in the first two decades of the twentieth century, and were considered at the time to be highly innovative and progressive buildings. Only a few examples of the distinctive barn type now remain in the state.

The plans for the building were drawn by Z.C. Thompson, the original owner, and his son C.R. Thompson. They began forming the concrete block in 1910. Actual construction began in 1912 and was completed the following year. The carpentry work was executed in six months by a team of 15 carpenters under the direction of Bill Russell of Anthony, Kansas. The overall cost of construction was \$16,000.

The property was purchased by the Wohlschlegel family in 1942. Dale Wohlschlegel has owned it since 1981.

THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND IS SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Interviews by Dale Wohlschlegel with Alma M. Mathes (daughter of the original owner), Arch Thompson (son of the original owner), and Joe Wohlschlegel (who witnessed construction). Long, Paul F. "The Round Barn of Harper County" Kanshistique August, 1975.

This nomination was prepared from materials submitted by the owner, Dale Wohlschlegel.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Danville, KS

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 

1	4	5	9	1	5	2	0	4	1	2	5	7	7	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification A circle of 60 foot radius centered on the center of the barn, which stands in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 9, T32S, R6W.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard J. Cawthon, Architectural Historian

organization Kansas State Historical Society

date November 21, 1984

street & number 120 West 10th

telephone (913) 296-3251

city or town Topeka

state Kansas 66612

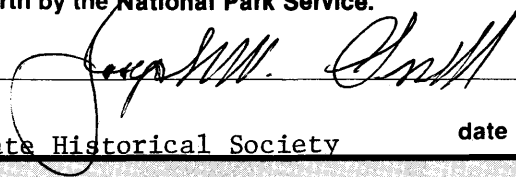
## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society

date November 21, 1984

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register



date 2/21/85

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration