

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received NOV 25 1986

date entered MAY 7 1987

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

1. Name

historic John Silvers Barn - Byre and Bluff Barns of Doniphan County (TR)

and or common Bauman Barn

2. Location N of Wathena

street & number SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sw $\frac{1}{4}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , S33, T2S, R22E not for publication

city, town Wathena X vicinity of

state Kansas code 20 county Doniphan code 43

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Frederick and Vernon Bauman

street & number N/A

city, town Wathena X vicinity of state Kansas 66090

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds

street & number Doniphan County Courthouse

city, town Troy state Kansas 66087

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Doniphan County Cultural Resources Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1985  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Kansas State Historical Society, 120 W. 10th

city, town Topeka state Kansas 66612

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

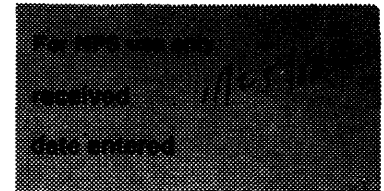
### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The John Silvers Barn (ca. 1905) is located on the Frederick and Vernon Bauman Farm near Wathena, Kansas (pop. 1,418). The one-story, three-bay, gable entrance, board and batten barn has a full byre with a limestone foundation and a metal sheathed, gable roof. The superstructure is supported by nailed, plank framing. The barn has an east to west orientation, measuring thirty-eight feet from north to south and forty-four feet from east to west. The byre is built into the north and east embankments.

The east elevation is comprised of three hinged doors on the hay floor level, surmounted by a hinged hay door and hood in the gable peak. The southern elevation is comprised of four square windows piercing its hay floor level wall and three access openings into the byre below it. The access doors are separated by board and batten partitions. The limestone foundation walls are visible on the east and west corners of the southern elevation. The west elevation is comprised of a visible foundation wall with two vent windows at the foundation's top and two rectangular vent windows in the gable. The north elevation is comprised of a centrally located, hinged door flanked by two hinged shutters. The barn is painted white.

The barn maintains its original function as a dairy barn and maintains a high degree of architectural and structural integrity. The significant alteration to the barn has been the replacement of the original roof with a metal roof. This is an alteration common to many of the barns included in this nomination.

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



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

Continuation sheet 1 Item number 8 Page 1

west, and so that a low embankment, or filling, on these sides will give access to the second story.

While the byre or bluff barn presented a practical solution for Doniphan County's rolling topography, harsh winters, and high winds, it was not the most common solution. The byre and bluff barns built between 1860 and 1933 generally cost from \$2,000.00 to \$3,000.00 and while this may have been cost effective investment, it was an expensive investment. In addition, the higher degree of skilled craftsmanship required to construct a byre or bluff barn as opposed to most barns without foundations also hindered their construction. While the byre and bluff barns of Doniphan County are a sturdy survivor of a barn type built in Doniphan County between 1860 and 1933 they are not prolific, being far outnumbered by more inexpensive, rectangular wooden barns without foundations.

# 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 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** Ca. 1905

**Builder/Architect** Unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The John Silvers Barn (ca. 1905) is being nominated to the National Register as part of the Byre and Bluff Barns of Doniphan County (ca. 1860-1933) nomination under criterion C for its architectural significance. Constructed for John Silvers, the barn is an example of a three-bay, gable entrance, board and batten, gable roof and limestone foundation structure with a full byre. The property remains in active agricultural use and is still owned by descendants of the Silvers family.

The eighteen nominated barns share a common feature in that at least one side of each barn's foundation is embedded in an earthen bank or bluff; the majority of the barns are built into shallow banks, two of the barns are built into bluffs. These vernacular wooden and cement structures span a seventy year construction period and exhibit various masonry foundations, skeletal structures, and superstructures. The byre and bluff barns of Doniphan County are an excellent example of a vernacular form of architecture which was built to take advantage of the hilly topography of the county. These barns are representative of approximately thirty byre and bluff barns identified in a 1984-1985 cultural resource survey of Doniphan County. The remaining barns are too altered and/or deteriorated to be included in this nomination. Most of the nominated barns were constructed for stock and dairy cattle and remain in active use on working farms. The relative rarity of byre and bluff barns in Doniphan County and the high degree of architectural and structural integrity maintained by the nominated barns make this thematic grouping of vernacular agricultural structures extremely significant.

Doniphan County (est. 1855) experienced a substantial population increase in the twenty years following the Civil War, with many settlers moving from Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Germany. The barn building traditions brought by these settlers combined with the suitable topography contributed to the building of the byre and bluff barn type in Doniphan County. Most of the nominated barns are three-bay, center entrance, gable roof structures with limestone foundations, a full byre, a threshing floor, and a hay loft. There are groupings of period types, such as the board and batten barns with louvered vents from the 1870s and 1880s, the large, gambrel roof barns from 1910s, 1920s and 1930s, and the gradual transition from post and beam construction to plank framing. In 1891 J. D. Walters of the Kansas State Agricultural College called the byre (bank)/bluff barn an "all-purpose barn of the Kansas farmer" in an article entitled "The Barn," which was published in the Quarterly Report of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture. Walters described the bank barn as follows:

It gives a warm basement for the milk cows and cattle, and an accessible second story for the draught animals—for tools, machines, harness, and grain—and a roomy attic, or loft, for hay, straw, and fodder. In many states this form is objectionable for sanitary reasons, but in the dry climate of Kansas it is preferable to any other, unless there should be an unusually moist ledge directly against or under it...The building should be located so that the basement will be partly in the ground on the north and

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached sheet

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property Less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Wathena

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 

1	5	3	3	2	3	5	0	4	4	1	0	7	6	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** The nominated property is located on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , S33, T2S, R22E in Doniphan County, Kansas on a tract measuring 64 x 58 feet, whose northeast corner is 14.1 feet directly northeast of the northeast corner of the barn's foundation. Beginning at the northeast corner of the parcel the boundary proceeds 58 feet south, 64 feet west, 58 feet north, and 64 feet east to the point of beginning.

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Martha Gray Hagedorn, Architectural Historian

organization Kansas State Historical Society date October 28, 1986

street & number 120 West 10th telephone 913-296-5264

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 17, 1986

For NPS use only

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

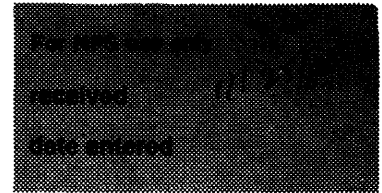
for  date 5/2/87  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet 2 Item number 9 Page 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY—Byre and Bluff Barns of Doniphan County

- Andreas, A. T. History of the State of Kansas. (Chicago: A.T. Andreas, 1883).
- Atlas of Doniphan County, Kansas. (Des Moines, IA: Anderson Publishing: 1927).
- Bird, J.S. Historical Plat Book of Doniphan County, Kansas. (Chicago: J.S. Bird, 1882).
- Doniphan County, Kansas. Deeds, 1860–1933.
- Doniphan County, Kansas. Tax Records and Appraisals, 1860–1933.
- Emmert, D.B. Rural Kansan. (Humboldt, Kansas: November 1873–October 1874).
- Euler and Euler, Attorneys at Law. Abstractors Index for Doniphan County, 1860–1933.
- Everts, L.H. Atlas of Doniphan County. (Philadelphia: L.H. Everts: 1886).
- Gray, P.L. Gray's Doniphan County History. (Bendena, KS: Roycraft Press, 1905).
- Kansas State Board of Agriculture. Biennial Reports, 1875–1900.
- Montgomery, Walter. Illustrated Doniphan County. (Troy, KS: Kansas Chief, 1916).
- Plat Book of Doniphan County, Kansas. (Minneapolis, MN: Northwest Publishing, 1904).
- Radford, William A. Radford's Cyclopedia of Construction, V. 3. (Chicago: Radford Architechtural Co., 1909).
- Sandehn, Nancy. "Byre and Bluff Barns of Doniphan County, Kansas." (National Register nomination draft, 1986).
- Schultz, Greg. "Barns and Cultural Change in Central Kansas." (Unpublished M. Arch Thesis, University of Kansas, 1983).
- Smith, R.F. Doniphan County, Kansas: History and Directory. (Wathena, KS: Smith, Vaughan, 1869).
- State of Kansas. Census, Population. 1860–1930.
- Walters, J.D. "The Barn," The Quarterly Report of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture. 31 March 1891.