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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 10-9000a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Vinland Fair Association Fairgrounds Exhibit Building
Other name/site number 045-0340-0131

2. Location

Street & number 1736 N. 700 Road not for publication
City or town Baldwin vicinity
State Kansas Code KS County Douglas Code 045 Zip code 66006

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.)

Richard D. Carls DSHPO December 4, 2003
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. Signature of the Keeper: Linda M. Cluland Date of Action: 1/23/04
 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:)

Vinland Fair Association Fairgrounds
Exhibit Building

Name of property

Douglas County, KS

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.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter Categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture: fair

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture: fair

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Functional

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Wood: Weatherboard

roof Metal: Aluminum

other

Narrative Description

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

Name of Property Vinland Fair Association
Fairgrounds Exhibit Building

County and State Douglas County, KS

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)

Architecture _____

Entertainment/ Recreation _____

Period of Significance

1927- 1953 _____

Significant Dates

1927 _____

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A _____

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:

- 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 # _____

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

Name of repository: _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Vinland Fair Association
Fairgrounds Exhibit Building
Douglas County, Kansas

Section number 7 Page 1

The Vinland Fair Exhibit Building, which faces south toward the Vinland School on the adjacent property, was the first structure erected by the Vinland Grange in 1927 after the members purchased the four-acre pasture tract as a site for a permanent fairgrounds. Within a few years the Grange, assisted by community members, had constructed a livestock barn to the northeast of the exhibit building and a food stand to the south and west.

For several years concessions were sold from a tent located on the site of the present concession stand, which is about ten feet southwest of the exhibit building and immediately north of the food stand.

The livestock barn is a pole barn with a metal roof. Both the concession stand, affectionately called "the pop stand," and the food stand are also pole barn structures with hedge post and native lumber timbers framework and metal roofs. The stage to the southeast of the exhibit building was first constructed in the 1930s and later remodeled to match the style of the other buildings in the 1990s. An arena on the west side of the property, outlined by a white board fence, constitute the improvements on the fairgrounds.

The Vinland Fair Exhibit Building is a one-story wood post and frame barn that has wood siding and metal roofs. The center part of the structure, from front to the back rises above the long sides of the building. This center part of the building has a pitched roof with the long sides having shed roofs (see diagrams).

The size of the structure (overall dimensions of 60'-2" in length and 42'4" in width) is in the size range of other Midwestern fair buildings of the same era. Another common feature was the clerestory or monitor roof which had a specific purpose. The windows in the top-story walls let the maximum amount of light into the interior of the building, while leaving the lower-story walls unbroken for displays. Additionally, the clerestory provided an excellent ventilation source. The height of the roof in the center is 21'2" and the height of the shed roof is 12'5". The East and West walls have a height of 7'4". The opening for the sliding doors measures 9'6" in width and 8'9" in height.

The lower walls have a wood sliding door at the front (south side) and back (north side) and no windows. The upper section of the east and west sides each have eleven six-pane glass windows. On the north and south ends of the window clusters on both sides of the building are boarded areas approximately the width of two windows.

Other significant building features include an interior concrete slab floor having an attached concrete slab sloping slightly from the front door on the south. The interior load-bearing structure is comprised of columns, each one being three 2" X 6" rough sawed boards that are attached together. Each column is attached to several feet of 2" X 6" rectangular steel tubing that is set into a concrete pier that is flush with the floor. The walls have a wood frame structure onto which vertical wood siding has been attached on the outside. Wood wafer board, added in the 1980s, is on the inside of the lower walls.

(8-86)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Vineland Fair Association
Fairgrounds Exhibit Building
Douglas County, Kansas

Section number 7 Page 2

The southeast quadrant of the interior wall used for the farm department displays has 1" X 12" wood boards attached, which were donated by a local farmer when he tore down an old barn in the 1970s. The lower sections of roof have sheet metal attached to 2" X 4" wood sheathing and 2" X 6" rafters. The upper roof sections have the same sheet metal attached over older corrugated metal which is attached to rough-sawed native 1" X 6" sheathing and 2" X 6" rafters.

Other features include electrical service that connects to the building on the south side and supplies power to four ceiling fans, several lights and outlets, and two furnace motors. Electric power was first extended to the nearby Vinland village in 1926, but electrical service was not a part of the fairgrounds initially. Through the years the electrical service has been updated at the fairgrounds.

A water faucet, added in the 1980s, is located on the inside at the southeast corner.

The exterior walls are painted white, and the metal roofs are galvanized metal. There is no basement or loft.

The only major structural changes to the Fair Exhibit Building were put in place in 1997 and 1998. The board members discovered that the hedge post foundations had both rot and extensive termite damage below the ground level. The original concrete floor also was badly cracked and broken to the point that it was dangerously uneven and constituted a safety hazard.

The fair board engaged a house mover to slide the main structure to the west. A hired concrete contractor devised a new foundation method (concrete piers enclosing rectangular steel tubing to replace the hedge posts below ground level) and poured a new cement floor. After the work was complete, the building was moved back to its original location.

The foundation and floor work did not change the above-ground appearance of the structure, only stabilized the building.

The only other major change to the fairgrounds occurred in 1992 when the fair board purchased an "L" shaped 10-acre tract of pasture on the west and north sides of the original four-acre fairground. The west line of the original four-acre fairgrounds matched the west line of the school grounds on the south. The new tract of the fairgrounds places the arena on fair property as well as providing considerable parking area.

(8-86)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Vineland Fair Association
Fairgrounds Exhibit Building
Douglas County, Kansas

Section number 8 Page 1

The Vinland (Kan.) Fair Association Fairgrounds Exhibit Building is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its historical association with the national Grange movement and its mission to promote education, commerce and entertainment for rural areas. The Vinland Grange which was responsible for the construction of the exhibit building in 1927. The grange was particularly interested in operating a fair to serve as an educational and social activity for its members and the surrounding community. The building is an example of the vernacular architecture in rural areas throughout America in the latter part of the Nineteenth Century and the first half of the Twentieth Century.

It also is being nominated under Criterion C for its characteristics as a typical Midwestern fair exhibit building of the 1920s. The story of its planning and construction is an example of the community spirit of rural America. It is unique because the community organizations that have owned and supported it for 75 years have maintained the building architecturally as it was constructed by community members, and have continued the fair for 95 years as an event devoid of commercialism. The structure is so much a part of the community that it is often used by local organizations to house non-commercial events.

The grange movement played a central role in the lives of thousands of nineteenth and early twentieth century American farmers and their families. The Vinland chapter was one of the oldest in Kansas and served the southern Douglas county community for over one hundred years. The primary purposes for the granges was to provide feed, seed, and machinery at reasonable prices to Grange members. By helping farmers to survive economically when prices for farm produce and the costs of shipping were out of their hands, the Grange contributed not only to its members' welfare but also to the creation and growth of a new type of cooperative purchasing and marketing in American agriculture. The grange movement also emphasized the education and social interaction of farmers, and in that way, contributed greatly to the establishment of the county and village fair system.

The construction of the Exhibit Building was one of the significant events of the Vinland Fair's history. The fair, called the Vinland Grange Fair, was first held in the fall of 1874 at the one-room Vinland Grade School, about three-fourths of a mile north of Vinland. Shelves were placed in the school house for the home economics, horticultural and agricultural displays.

The young Vinland Grange No. 163 had been organized a little more than a year before, on May 24, 1873. The rural life fraternal organization was one of hundreds nationally which were dedicated to the education and economic and social betterment of Grange members. The organization of fairs provided opportunities for education, socializing and community betterment.

The success of the first fair led to a second and larger fair on the school grounds. The following year in 1876, the event was moved to the John Roe Grove. The Grangers rented tents to house fair exhibits, and constructed make-shift hitching posts for horses and cattle and temporary pens for sheep and swine. An additional tent provided shelter

(8-86)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Vineland Fair Association
Fairgrounds Exhibit Building
Douglas County, Kansas

Section number 8 Page 2

for older visitors and women with small children. Concessions were served from another tent.

The attendance at the fair, which featured speakers such as Gov. Charles Robinson, was growing, and interest was piqued in holding a fair which might cover more territory. The Kaw Valley Fair was organized at nearby Lawrence with a Vinland Granger, William Roe, as president, and the Vinland Grange Fair was abandoned.

The Vinland Grange members still were interested in fairs and annually took top placing with their elaborate horticultural, home economics and agricultural displays or booths at the Kaw Valley Fair and later at the Bismarck Grove Fair (organized by the Union Pacific Railroad Company). In 1880 the Grange took second place with an elaborate agricultural and home economics products exhibit at the Bismarck Grove Fair and second place in the Topeka Fair the same year. The premium for the Topeka Fair was \$500, a fabulous sum for that era, which the Grange divided with the Coal Creek Library, located in Vinland. For a few years, the Vinland Grange Fair was discontinued, but the Vinland Grange members continued to enter displays at the Bismarck Fair. In 1900 the Bismarck Fair disbanded.

In the fall of 1907, the Vinland Grange members decided to reopen their own fair. This time it was held in the Hoskinson-Stevens Grove three-fourths of a mile east of Vinland. It was so successful the Grange members voted to continue the fair annually. For several years it was held in the same grove with tents and temporary hitching posts and pens for the exhibits.

The fair became the social highlight for residents of southern Douglas County. It grew from a one-day affair to a two-day event. One of the main attractions of the fair was the elaborate displays constructed on hay wagons by school children and their respective school district community members. Entire communities and school children worked to create the displays of agricultural and home economics products and school projects. Keen competition among the one-room rural school districts built interest in the displays, greatly increasing community spirit and fair support. That community support carried over into the construction of the exhibit building and other structures on the fairgrounds.

When the fair was held in the grove, it was burdensome for Grange members to annually set up the temporary tents, shelving, pens and livestock tie racks. The event occurred during the fall harvest and winter wheat planting season which complicated the lives of the Grange male members trying to erect tents and temporary display shelves and hitching posts. The Grange minutes of Sept. 19, 1925, reported that "work on the fairgrounds was to begin one week from next Monday, Sept. 28. Come all week, your help is needed."

Discussion began in the Grange meetings on buying land for a fairgrounds where improvements could be established and more permanent facilities constructed. The April 17, 1926, minutes reported that the "Grange is

(8-86)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Vineland Fair Association
Fairgrounds Exhibit Building
Douglas County, Kansas

Section number 8 Page 3

considering buying land from Charles and Maud Hemmingway." Mrs. Hemmingway was a niece of Mr. and Mrs. William E. Barnes who owned the 160 acres directly north of Vinland. After a series of offers and counter offers, the Grange decided to buy four acres immediately north of the high school grounds. Although the real estate deal had not been completed with the Hemmingways, the Grangers agreed to hold the fair in 1926 on the property with the home economics and agricultural products housed in the adjoining Vinland Rural High School.

Heavy rains forced a week's postponement of the fair in late September. It was held the first weekend in October.

The Nov. 20, 1926, minutes carry the report that the committee, composed of B.A. Stevens, George Kelley and H. W. Miskimen had purchased the four acres from the Hemmingways at \$150 an acre with a clear title. Plans for adding improvements to the fairgrounds began immediately.

The Feb. 5, 1927 minutes record that "plans for erecting a Fair Display Building were implemented." The Building Committee consisted of B.A. Stevens, Henry Miskimen and John Laughlin. Stevens reported that trees in the amount of 5,000 to 6,000 (board) feet for lumber had already been cut.

Just two weeks later, on Feb. 19, 1927, the Grange secretary recorded that the building committee had determined that a tile building would cost \$748.88 and a cheaper grade of tile, \$630.80. For a concrete foundation with car siding for walls, the building cost would drop to \$471.19. It was decided to meet Feb. 26 to decide on a plan for a building. At the Feb. 26 meeting B.A. "Bert" Stevens reported that the "saw mill would start sawing Monday morning." In the Grange meeting discussion that followed, a building of 42' X 60' was talked of, but no specific plan was decided.

No records were found about the sawing of the dimension lumber from native trees, but the March 5, 1927, Grange minutes stated that the Grange planned to have an oyster supper for the men who helped with logs, getting them ready and hauling them to the mill. Their wives also were invited. Fred Gottstein, now 96, a Vinland area resident who has attended all of the fairs until 2002, said that the lumber was sawed on the Bert Stevens' property and that only the roof and the siding materials were purchased.

From area newspaper reports and oral histories it is known that several benefits were held to raise money for the materials other than the native lumber dimension materials. For instance, Gottstein was the star of a 12-person cast in the comedy, "Wears Silk Socks," which was presented several nights at the Vinland Rural High School auditorium. Proceeds were used to purchase the metal roofing for the building. Another newspaper report shows that Mrs. Staffron's piano pupils presented a benefit recital for the building fund.

(8-86)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Vineland Fair Association
Fairgrounds Exhibit Building
Douglas County, Kansas

Section number 8 **Page** 4

No records were kept on who directed the building's construction nor who worked on the building, but older members of the community agree that it was a community effort, completed with volunteer labor led by Charlie and Olson, well-known local carpenters and members of the Vinland Grange. Charlie Olson also helped with the architectural planning of the building, a role that he filled on several other Vinland-area structures.

Later there was considerable discussion about insuring the building. Gus Olson, secretary of the Grange finally reported in December 1927 that he had insured the building with the Farmers Union Insurance Co., for a period of three years. The premium was \$20 for coverage of \$800 on the building and \$200 on the contents.

In Jan. 7, 1928, meeting T. P. Stevens gave a report of the fair building committee showing receipts of \$451.82 from all sources. A total of \$428.56 had been paid out for lumber, paint and roofing, leaving a balance of \$23.26, which was turned over to the treasurer of the fair committee.

By August of the same year, the Grangers realized that the exhibition building could have multiple community uses. They agreed to allow Frank Hagerman, a local farmer, the privilege of storing his threshing machine in the building for \$1 a month. It was an economically prudent decision. Hagerman threshed for many of the Grangers and it was important to keep the machine in good repair by storing it inside out of the weather elements.

The same month, the members also agreed to offer the use of the fairgrounds and the building to the Vinland Methodist Church for a Sunday School picnic.

Interest in the exhibit building and the fairgrounds grew. By 1931, the Vinland Grange members were hosts for the annual County Grange picnic at the fair. Later it was decided to have an annual county Grange picnic at the Vinland fairgrounds.

On Sept. 5, 1931, the Grange voted that the trustees be granted the authority to let the grounds for picnics, reunions or parties as they see fit. Later the Vinland Grange Fair Board voted that no commercial exhibits nor sales would be allowed at the fairgrounds, a rule which is still in place today.

Other structures, including the food stand, the concession stand, the livestock barn, the storage area and the stage, have been added through the years at the fairgrounds, all with volunteer labor and proceeds raised by community members, principally at the concession and food stands at the fair.

The fair has remained largely a "home-made" community event, with volunteers serving as superintendents of the exhibits and superintendents of the entertainment. Volunteers also operate the food and concession stands.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Vineland Fair Association
Fairgrounds Exhibit Building
Douglas County, Kansas

Section number 8 Page 5

Children's events are planned throughout the three-day affair. Bicycle races, foot races, baseball throws, bale tosses, pedal tractor pulls, pet parades, box turtle races, nail-driving contests and competitions in tractor driving skills.

During the early fairs, horse shows featuring saddle, driving and work horses were a major part of the competitions. As agricultural practices modernized, the tractor came to the forefront. In the mid-1950s, the Vinland Fair began presenting tractor pulls and some 20 years ago, the tractor pulls gradually were transformed into antique tractor pulls, featuring tractors built before 1958. Today, the annual antique tractor pull at the fair is the largest fair event. It draws tractors from Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska, and several hundred attendees.

In the mid-1980s, the Vinland fair board members revived a fund-raising event which had been conducted for the benefit of the fair by the Grange members during the 1930s through the early 1960s. It was the Whole-Hog Sausage and Pancake supper, usually held during the winter months or early spring. The Grangers had held the supper at the Grange Hall because it could be heated.

The modern-day fair board installed a propane-fired furnace in the fair exhibit building to provide heat for the supper guests. The exhibit building provides more space for the event and has the added advantage of bringing area residents to the fairgrounds. Three years ago, the fair board installed electric heaters overhead in the building.

The exhibit building also houses family reunions, school events from the adjoining Vinland School (such as the Founders' Day each spring), weddings, receptions, volunteer firemen benefits and the Vinland United Methodist Church Living Nativity for three nights prior to Christmas.

The Vinland Grange founded and directed the fair from 1907 to 1976. With interest in the Grange beginning to wane, the fair board members (who were all male Grange members), decided to give the fair and the property to the Vinland community as a nonprofit organization. On July 7, 1976, the Vinland Fair Association was incorporated in the state of Kansas as a nonprofit organization. The board members were to be elected by the community members from among the community residents.

In recent years, the number of board members has been increased to nine positions, with married couples filling each position. Annually the community is invited to a comment session about the fair, followed by the election of three board positions for three-year terms.

(8-86)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Vineland Fair Association
Fairgrounds Exhibit Building
Douglas County, Kansas

Section number 9 Page 1

Major Bibliographical References

Books:

The Grange in Kansas 1872-1973, Topeka: Patrons of Husbandry, 1973, 141p.

Woods, Thomas A., Knights of the Plow, Ames, Iowa: Iowa State University Press, 1991, 210 p.

Documents:

Elizabeth Dale Wilson, Vinland, Kansas: Survival of a Vernacular Settlement M.Arch Thesis, University of Kansas, December, 1994, typed, 145 p.

Nimz, Dale E., Historic Preservation Survey and Research Report Baldwin City and Palmyra Township, Douglas County Kansas, Prepared for the Kansas Historic Preservation Department, FY 1988, typed 25 p.

Ambler, Cathy J. "Look of the Fair: Kansas County Fairsapes 1854-1994" Thesis (Ph.D.) University of Kansas. 1996.

Roe, William A History of the Vinland Grange Fair 1874-1954, printed in Atchison, 6 p.

Secretary's Records, Vinland Grange, No. 163, 22 books, 1873-1985 (one missing 1896-1901) (From the Collection of Herschel and Anne Hemphill).

Summary Report, "Vinland Grange No. 163: 1952 Community Service Report" Grange Master H.N. Hoskinson, Secretary.

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Newspapers:

Baldwin Ledger, 1952, weekly, articles on Grange activities during January, February, and March.

Lawrence Journal-World, November 18, 1980, The Area Report, "75 Years of Dedication to the Grange."

Lawrence Journal-World, August 18, 1985, "Recalling Grand Old Days at the Vinland Grange." p. 2C.

(8-86)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Vineland Fair Association
Fairgrounds Exhibit Building
Douglas County, Kansas

Section number 9 Page 2

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Baldwin Tele-News, weekly, November 28, 1980, "Bertha Weiler Honored for 75 Years in Grange, Story by Loren Liteer.

Lawrence Daily Journal-World, September 21, 1927, Page 2. "Vinland."

Lawrence Daily Journal-World, September 27, 1927, "Vinland."

Lawrence Daily Journal-World, November 17, 1927, "Vinland."

Lawrence Daily Journal-World, September 20, 1928, Front Page. "Many From Here to Visit Vinland Fair."

Baldwin Ledger, September 24, 1926, Front Page. "Vinland Fair Next Week."

Baldwin Ledger, October 1, 1926, Front Page. "Vinland Fair Postponed."

Baldwin Ledger, October 8, 1926, Front Page. "Another Good Fair."

Oral Interviews:

Fred and Bernice Gottstein, March 2002, tape-recorded by Miles and Nora Cleland.

Max and Doris Moore, July 2002, interview by Miles and Nora Cleland.

Herschel and Anne Hemphill, September 2002, interview by Nora Cleland.

Katharine Kelley, September 2002, interview by Nora Cleland.

Moleta (Laughlin) Schmidt, October 2002, interview by Nora Cleland.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

Vineland Fair Association
Fairgrounds Exhibit Building
Douglas County, Kansas

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property stands on the NW 4, SE 4, SE 4, SW 4, S.10, T. 14S., R. 20E in Vinland, Douglas County, Kansas. This is a rural property located on a fourteen acre tract that is used as a fairgrounds. The nominated building stands near a concession stand to the south and outhouses to the north.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property stands on a fourteen acre tract that has historically been used as a fairgrounds. The nominated property represents the first structure on the land. Only the structure and a small perimeter of land around it are being nominated to the National Register.