

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only NOV 25 1986

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received
date entered MAY 7 1987

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

1. Name

historic Herman Chrystal Barn- Byre and Bluff Barns of Doniphan County (TR)

and/or common Alto Benitz Barn

2. Location *W of Wathena*

street & number SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S1, T4S, R21E not for publication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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 Franklin F. Kienhoff etux

street & number 425 N. 25th, Apt. 16

city, town St. Joseph vicinity of state Missouri 64501

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 X no

date 1985 federal state county X local

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

city, town Topeka state Kansas 66612

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<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 Herman Chrystal Barn (ca. 1890) is located on the Franklin F. Kienhoff Farm near Wathena, Kansas (pop. 1,418). The one-story, three-bay, center entrance, board and batten barn has a full byre with a limestone foundation and metal sheathed gable roof. The superstructure is supported by nailed, post and beam framing. The barn has an east to west orientation, measuring twenty-nine feet from east to west and thirty-three feet from north to south. The byre is built into the north and west embankments. A granary projects from the northern part of the barn's eastern elevation, measuring thirty-one feet from east to west and fifteen feet from north to south.

Vertically planked, double leaf rolling doors stand in the center bay of the western elevation. The ramp to this door is nonextant. Aluminum roll siding partially covers the wall of the western elevation. The south elevation is comprised of a high limestone foundation wall with an arched doorway in the center; two, arched louvered vents on the threshing floor level, and a centrally located arched, louvered vent in the gable. The east elevation is comprised of two stall doors at the byre level and an arched, louvered vent at the threshing floor level. A metal sheathed, gable roof board and batten granary with a limestone foundation projects from the northern part of the eastern elevation. The northern elevation is covered with roll aluminum roll siding at the threshing floor level. The gable retains its board and batten cover and its hay door. The barn is painted red.

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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 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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input 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 ca. 1890 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Herman Chrystal Barn (ca. 1890) 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 Herman Chrystal, a native of Wurtemberg, West Germany, the barn is an example of a three-bay, center entrance, full byre, board and batten, gable roof and limestone foundation structure with a threshing floor, a hay loft, and a granary. Chrystal purchased the land on which his barn stands in 1869 from his father, who had purchased it in 1859. Chrystal sold the farm in 1910.

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property ~~Less than 1 acre.~~

Quadrangle name Atchison NE

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

115	321751510	41401031210
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

Zone	Easting	Northing

C

--	--	--

D

--	--	--

E

--	--	--

F

--	--	--

G

--	--	--

H

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Verbal boundary description and justification. The nominated property is located on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S1, T4S, R21E in Doniphan County, Kansas on a tract measuring 80 x 53 feet, whose northeast corner is 14.1 feet northeast of the northeast corner of the barn's foundation. Beginning at the northeast corner of the parcel the boundary proceeds 53 feet south, 80 feet west, 53 feet north, and 80 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 W. 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

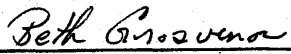
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society date October 28, 1986

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

 date 5/1/87
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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National Park Service

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