

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 Albert Albers Barn - Byre and Bluff Barns of Doniphan County (TR)

and/or common Caudle Farms Barn

2. Location

S of Bendena

street & number SE $\frac{1}{2}$ , SE $\frac{1}{2}$ , NE $\frac{1}{2}$ , SW $\frac{1}{2}$ , S21, T4S, R20E

not for publication

city, town Bendena

X vicinity of

state Kansas

code 20

county Doniphan

code 43

3. Classification

Category

- district
- building(s)
- structure
- site
- object

Ownership

- public
- private
- both

Public Acquisition

- N/A in process
- N/A being considered

Status

- occupied
  - unoccupied
  - work in progress
- Accessible
- yes: restricted
  - yes: unrestricted
  - no

Present Use

- agriculture
- commercial
- educational
- entertainment
- government
- industrial
- military
- museum
- park
- private residence
- religious
- scientific
- transportation
- other:

4. Owner of Property

name Caudle Farms, Inc.

street & number N/A

city, town Bendena

vicinity of

state Kansas 66008

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

**Condition**

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered

altered

**Check one**

original site

moved

date \_\_\_\_\_

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

The Albert Albers Barn (ca. 1897) is located on a farm owned by Caudle Farms near Bendena, Kansas (pop. 150). The one-story, three-bay, side entrance, board and batten barn has a partial byre with a limestone foundation and asphalt shingled, gambrel roof. The superstructure is supported by nailed, plank framing. The barn has an east to west orientation, measuring thirty feet from north to south and thirty-six feet from east to west. The byre is built into the north, west, and east embankments.

Several small, hinged doors surmounted by hinged shutters comprise the hay floor level of the east elevation. A hinged, hay door with a hay track stands in the gable peak of this elevation, flanked by a small, square opening on either side. The limestone foundation is visible on the southern half of the east elevation. The southern elevation is comprised of a centrally located, access door on the byre level with hinged shutters standing to its west. The byre level is covered with board and batten. A single, centrally located window opening pierces the hay floor level of this elevation. The west elevation is comprised of a centrally located door accessing the hay floor level, flanked by a hinged shutter on its south and surmounted by three rectangular openings in its gable. The limestone foundation wall is visible in the southern corner of the west elevation. The north elevation has no openings. The manger and stalls in the north bay and two granaries with a stairway to the byre level in the south bay of the hay floor remain. Two lightning rods stand on the roof ridge. The barn is painted grey.

Originally constructed as a mixed-use barn, the barn is now vacant. The significant alteration to the barn has been the replacement of the original roof with asphalt shingles. The building maintains a high degree of architectural and structural integrity.

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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. 1897      **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Albert Albers Barn (ca. 1897) 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 Albert Albers, the American born son of German immigrants, the barn is an example of a board and batten, gambrel roof, side entrance barn with a limestone foundation, a hay loft, and full byre. In 1903, Albers sold the farm on which the barn stood to George Peucker, who bred Hereford cattle.

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

Acreeage of nominated property Less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Bendena

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 15 312960 4395090  
Zone Easting Northing

B                    
Zone Easting Northing

C                  

D                  

E                  

F                  

G                  

H                  

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The nominated property is located on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , S21, T4S, R20E in Doniphan County, Kansas on a tract measuring 56 x 50 feet, whose northeast corner is 14.1 feet direct northeast of the northeast corner of the barn's foundation. Beginning at the northeast corner of the parcel the boundary proceeds 50 feet south, 56 feet west, 50 feet north, and 56 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 *James M. Dault*

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

*Beth Grosvenor* date 5/7/87  
Keeper of the National Register

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

Chief of Registration

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