

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received NOV 25 1986

date entered JAN 3 1987  
MAR 3 1987

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

1. Name

historic Byre and Bluff Barns of Doniphan County Thematic Resources Nomination

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number See inventory and individual nomination forms N/A not for publication

city, town N/A vicinity of N/A

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

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input 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	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thematic	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple ownership - See individual nomination forms

street & number N/A

city, town N/A vicinity of N/A state N/A

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 eighteen nominated byre and bluff barns of Doniphan County (ca. 1860-1933) are located south of US Highway 36 in Doniphan County, Kansas (pop. 9,268), with the exception of three barns, which are located north of the highway. The land south of the present highway has a gently rolling terrain, historically attracting stock and dairy cattle farmers. The land north of the highway borders the Missouri River and is rimmed by massive bluffs of unstable, loess soil.

Most of the nominated barns were built to house stock and dairy cows and remain in active agricultural use. These vernacular wooden and cement structures 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.

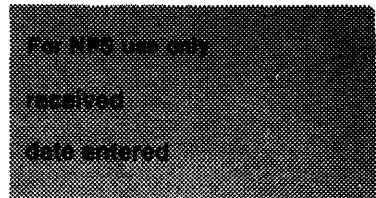
Twelve of the eighteen barns are one-story, three-bay, center entrance, wooden structures with limestone foundations and gable roofs. Eleven of these twelve structures have full byre or basement levels. All of the barns are characterized as one-story, having either a threshing or a hay floor on the ground level and a byre or basement level, eleven of the barns have extant hay lofts. Fourteen of the barns are built into a northern embankment.

There are groupings of period types, such as the six board and batten gable roof barns constructed in the 1870s and 1880s whose louvered venting forms an integral part of their styling; the three, large, gambrel roof, cement barns of the 1910s and 1930s, two of which were built into bluffs; and the gradual transition from mortised and tenoned, post and beam construction to nailed plank and balloon framing.

The byre and bluff barns of Doniphan County are relatively rare. The nominated barns maintain a high degree of structural and architectural integrity, the common alteration affecting many of the buildings has been the replacement of the original roof with a metal roof.

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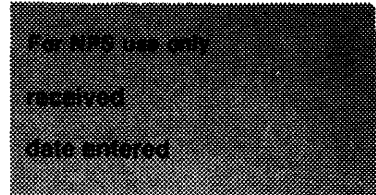
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Inventory—Byre and Bluff Barns of Doniphan County

1. Nicholas Bohr Barn—Troy vicinity, SE1/4, Section 3, Township 4S, Range 21E
2. Godfrey Nuzum Barn—Sparks vicinity, N 117 1/2 acres of SE1/4, Section 7, Township 2S, Range 19E, except 6 1/2 acres in NE corner
3. Mission—Herring Barn—Highland vicinity, SW1/4, SE1/4, Section 24, Township 2S, Range 19E
4. J. A. Symms Barn—Bendena vicinity, NE1/4, Section 26, Township 4S, Range 20E
5. Fred W. Kienhoff Barn—Wathena vicinity, W1/2, SW1/4 Section 2, Township 4S, Range 21E
6. Chrystal Herman Barn—Wathena vicinity, E1/2, NW1/4, Section 1, Township 4S, Range 21E
7. George Kinkhead Barn—Troy vicinity, 10 acres in the SW1/4, SW1/4, NE1/4, Section 17, Township 3S, Range 21E, except 1/6 acres near SE corner
8. T. L. White Barn—Bendena vicinity, NW1/4, Section 26, Township 4S, Range 2
9. Dr. John S. Long Barn—Highland vicinity, beginning at a point 1200' north of the SE corner of Section 34 Township 2S, Range 19E, thence west 900', thence north 750', thence east 900', thence south 750' to the point of beginning.
10. John R. Hale Barn—Highland vicinity, NE1/4, Section 10, Township 3S, Range 19E
11. William Ritenour Barn—Leona vicinity, S1/2, NE1/4, Section 16, Township 3S, Range 19E
12. John Streib Barn—Leona vicinity, NW1/4, Section 17, Township 3S, Range 19E, except two tracts; Begin at the SW corner of said quarter section running N 40 rods, thence E 37 22/25 rods, thence S 40 rods, thence W to POB and begin 40 rods N of SE corner of said quarter thence N 43 rods 10', thence W 73 rods 5', thence S 43 rods 10', thence east to point of beginning.
13. George Hanson Barn—Leona vicinity, W1/2, W1/2, Section 29, Township 3S, Range 19E
14. Mathew Eylar Barn (1)—Denton vicinity, All of Section 35, Township 4S, Ran 19E, except NW1/4

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15. Mathew Eylar Barn (2)—Denton vicinity, All of Section 36, Township 4S, Range 19E, except NE1/4					
16. M.D.L. Williams Barn—Bendena vicinity, SW1/4, Section 20, Township 4S, Range 20E					
17. Albert Albers Barn—Bendena vicinity, N 93 acres of SW1/4, Section 21, Township 4S, Range 20E					
18. John Silvers Barn—Wathena vicinity, E1/2, SW1/4, Section 33, Township 2S, Range 22E					

## 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 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** Ca. 1860-1933

**Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The byre (bank) and bluff barns of Doniphan County (ca. 1860-1933) are being nominated to the National Register under criterion C for their architectural significance. These eighteen vernacular wooden and cement structures 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 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 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.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached sheet

## 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property See individual forms

Quadrangle name See individual forms

Quadrangle scale See individual forms

UTM References See individual forms

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See individual forms

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 October 28, 1986

For NPS use only

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

*Patrick Andrews*

date 1/9/87

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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National Park Service**

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received  
date entered

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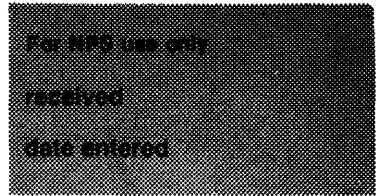
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The byre and bluff barns built between 1860 and 1933 generally cost from \$2,000.00 to \$3,000.00 and while this may have been cost effective investment, it was an expensive investment. In addition, the higher degree of skilled craftsmanship required 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.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY—Byre and Bluff Barns of Doniphan County

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Item number

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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Byre and Bluff Barns of Doniphan County TR  
State KANSAS

Nomination/Type of Review

1. Albers, Albert, Barn

~~Substantive Review~~ Substantive Review

COVER Keeper

Attest

Keeper

Attest

Keeper

Attest

4. Eylar, Mathew, Barn No. 1

~~Substantive Review~~ Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

Keeper

Attest

5. Eylar, Mathew, Barn No. 2

~~Substantive Review~~ Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

6. Hale, John R., Barn

~~Substantive Review~~ Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

7. Hanson, George, Barn

~~Substantive Review~~ Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

8. Kienhoff, Fred W., Barn

~~Substantive Review~~ Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

9. Kinkhead, George, Barn

~~Substantive Review~~ Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

10. Mission--Herring Barn

~~Substantive Review~~ Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

Patrick Andrews 1/9/87

Date/Signature

Beth Grosvenor 5/7/87

Beth Grosvenor 5/7/87

Beth Grosvenor 5/7/87

Beth Grosvenor 5/7/87

Beth Grosvenor 5/7/87

Beth Grosvenor 5/7/87

Beth Grosvenor 5/7/87

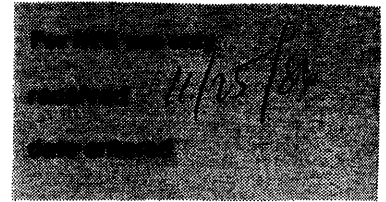
Beth Grosvenor 5/7/87

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Beth Grosvenor 5/7/87

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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Byre and Bluff Barns of Doniphan County TR  
State KANSAS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

11. Nuzum, Godfrey, Barn

~~Substantive Review~~

Keeper

Beth Grosvener 5/7/87

Attest

12. Silvers, John, Barn

~~Substantive Review~~

Keeper

Beth Grosvener 5/7/87

Attest

13. Strieb, John, Barn

~~Substantive Review~~

Keeper

Beth Grosvener 5/7/87

Attest

14. Symns, J. A., Barn

~~Substantive Review~~

Keeper

Beth Grosvener 5/7/87

Attest

15. White, T. L., Barn

~~Substantive Review~~

Keeper

Beth Grosvener 5/7/87

Attest

16. Williams, M. D. L., Barn

~~Substantive Review~~

Keeper

Beth Grosvener 5/7/87

Attest

17. Long, Dr. John S., Barn

~~Determined Eligible~~

~~for~~ Keeper

Patrick Andrews 1/9/87

**DOE/OWNER OBJECTION**  
Substantive Review

Attest

18. Ritenour, William, Barn

~~Determined Eligible~~

Keeper

Beth Grosvener 5/7/87

**DOE/OWNER OBJECTION**  
Substantive Review

Attest

19.

Keeper

Attest

20.

Keeper

Attest