NPS Form 10-900
Oct. 1990

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER
LISTED

NOV 05 2005

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 Oak Lawn Farm Dairy Barn

Other name/site number N/A

2. Location

Street & number 12464 NW Meadowlark ☐ not for publication

City or town Whitewater ☒ vicinity

State Kansas Code KS County Butler Code 015 Zip code 67154

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.)

9/22/05

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 herby certify that the property is Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ 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:)

Oak Lawn Farm Dairy Barn
Name of property

Butler County, Kansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- [x] private
- [ ] public-local
- [ ] public-State
- [ ] public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- [x] 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
N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter Categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE / SUBSISTENCE : agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE / SUBSISTENCE : agricultural outbuilding

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:

Late Gothic Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls WOOD: Weatherboard

roof WOOD: shingle

other

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for Natonal 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 it 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

Period of Significance

1926-1955

Significant Dates

1926

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Wiens, Bill;

Wiebe, Jacob

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):
☐ preliminary determination of individual lising (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 #

Primary location of additional data:
☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other
Name of repository:

Name of Property Oak Lawn Farm Dairy Barn County and State Butler County, Kansas

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property **Less than 1 acre**

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	14	667150	4208050
2			
3			
4			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Emilie Hagen, Intern

Organization Kansas State Historical Society Date March 18, 2005

Street & number 6425 SW 6th Avenue Telephone (785) 272-8186 x 240

City or town Topeka State KS Zip code 66615-1099

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

name Delbert G. Wiebe

street & number 12464 NW Meadowlark Road telephone (316) 799-2508

city or town Whitewater state KS zip code 67154

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16) U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

Overview

The Oak Lawn Farm Dairy Barn (c. 1926) is located at 12464 NW Meadowlark Road five miles northeast of Whitewater, Kansas, in Butler County. With its rounded gothic roof, the 80' x 60' L-shaped dairy barn dominates the 80-acre farmstead, which also includes a house, garage, machine shed, and two concrete silos. Although the barn is no longer used for dairy production, the building retains the interior and exterior features of a dairy-producing facility.

The L-shaped barn is wood framed with a concrete foundation and ends facing south and east. The south end is known as the calf shed and the east end is called the milk shed. A small milk house protrudes from the north side and features a smaller gothic roof. A covered entrance attaches one of the silos to the north side of the barn and is considered a part of the barn structure. The windows have wood frames and there are four wood sliding doors on upper rolling tracks.

The wood-shingle roof is a graceful, gothic arch. Its rafters are constructed of bent round one-by-fours, five boards thick. Some of the rafters are of one-inch wide round cut lumber, four boards thick. It is likely that this mix of types was for utilized for stabilization purposes: "Bent-rafter gothic construction, although more economical in labor and materials, proved less rigid than the more expensive sawn type. For this reason, many farmers adopted a combination of the two, with the sawn type spaced every eight to twelve feet and the bent rafters spaced between, twenty-four inches on center."[1] The bent rafters join the wall plate at the first floor level. These rafters were nailed together, since glue lamination was not widely used until the 1930s. The rafters are cross-braced by closely spaced horizontal boards, with the wood shingles fastened to them.

Elevations

The south elevation can best be described as the interior of the "L" configuration. It is comprised of the east-west oriented milk shed, which is intersected by the north-south oriented calf shed at the western end. The gothic calf shed face is dominated by a large double sliding door, directly above which is a small hatch to the haymow. Above the smaller hatch is a larger one, directly below the gothic roof. On either side of the larger hatch are two vertical, two-pane windows. A cantilevered beak protrudes from the roof above the upper portal. The calf shed is rectangular in plan and has diagonal bracing supporting it against the barn wall. The tip is crowned with a lightning rod. To the right, on the side elevation of the dairy shed, two sliding doors lead into the barn. Two shed dormers project from the upper part of the roof at equal intervals. They have horizontal two-paned windows. A multi-paned window hugs the wall near the intersection of the calf and milk sheds.

[1] Allen G. Noble and Hubert G. H. Wilhelm. *Barns of the Midwest.* Athens OH: Ohio University Press, 1995, 162.

The east elevation, also the interior of the "L", features the face of the dairy shed, which shares many features with that of the calf shed. The sliding double door, small hatch, and large high hatch are all similar, but this face lacks windows. The roof on this end also has a beak, but it is shorter, has no bracing, and is triangular in plan.

The north elevation (the exterior of the "L") is comprised of the long east-west oriented milk shed, which is intersected by the calf shed at the western end. The calf shed is oriented along a north-south axis and is perpendicular to the milk shed. Mirroring the south elevation, the milk shed features two shed dormers with horizontal two-paned windows. There are two small multi-paned windows in the first floor wall. Attached to the barn is a concrete silo that stands next to a small milk house that extends northward from the milk shed. The silo was added to the site several years after the barn's construction. The milk house addition features a sliding door with a vertical two-paned window above it.

The west elevation (the exterior of the "L") features a side of the north-south oriented calf shed. Three small square multi-paned windows are centrally located and evenly spaced just below the roofline. A door on each side flanks this window grouping. A window identical to these is situated at the southern edge of the west elevation. There is a larger multi-paned window at the northern end.

With the exception of the concrete dairy shed addition, the barn is sided with vertical wood cladding. It rests on a concrete foundation and features a wood shingle gothic style roof.

Interior

The interior of the barn is divided into several different spaces that have served various functions and are outfitted with much of the original equipment. The south wing is the calf shed. The space in the hinge of the "L" floor plan is known as the elevator room. The central portion of the east wing is a milking room. The milk house extension on the north elevation connects to barn through the milking room. The remainder of the east end is a "loafing area" for the cows. The haymow occupies the entire second story of the barn.

The elevator room contains overhead grain storage bins. Grain is unloaded into a pit within the concrete floor of the elevator room, from which the grain is then elevated to the bins above. The bins have a capacity of 2000 bushels each, and have sloping floors. There is a large sliding door through which grain can be unloaded into the pit.

The milking room and milk house have concrete floors and concrete block walls with stanchions. Many sanitary regulations were in effect by the 1920s, which intended to result in better conditions for livestock and more pure milk and meat products. Thus, "Because concrete is so much easier to clean than wooden floors, sanitary regulations imposed in many areas prohibited the use of wooden floors in dairy stables."[2]

The floor of the haymow in the barn is built upon two-by-twelve joists. Both wings of the haymow still contain the original hay lifting machinery. The beak-like extensions of the roof are part of this system. The setup is similar to the one described here: "With a hay fork running along a track beneath the ridge, large loads of loose hay could be lifted from hay wagons. On some barns this hay track continues outside the gable wall beneath a triangular extension of the roof. When needed, the hay is dropped down from the loft through large wooden chutes or trap doors."[3]

The Oak Lawn Farm Dairy Barn continues to serve as part of a working farm. The barn has running water and originally had gas lighting, though it has since been wired for electricity. The barn is in good condition and retains its historic integrity.

[2] Thomas Durant Visser. *Field Guide to New England Barns and Farm Buildings*. Hanover, NH: University Press of New England, 1997, 98.

[3] Visser, 100.

Overview

The Oak Lawn Farm Dairy Barn (c. 1926) is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its architectural significance as an excellent example of an early twentieth-century, bent-rafter gothic roof style barn. This construction method was popular during the early part of the twentieth century, before modern standardization and industrialization rendered such timber barns obsolete. A local builder worked with the barn's original owner to design and construct the barn using local materials. The wood framed structure is L-shaped, sided with vertical wood cladding, and features a wood shingle roof. The barn remains a part of a working farm owned and operated by descendents of the original homesteaders. With the dairy equipment and spaces intact, the building retains a high degree of interior and exterior architectural integrity.

History

Oak Lawn Farm is situated on 80 acres of land from an original 160-acre tract. Henry M. Wiebe, the grandfather of current owner Delbert Wiebe, acquired the land between 1885 and 1890. Henry emigrated from Germany in 1879 and gained U.S. citizenship in 1890. He and his wife Margaret, who emigrated in 1876, were part of a large wave of German Mennonites who came to Kansas during the late nineteenth century.

Henry and Margaret homesteaded a previously unoccupied tract of land that transformed into a prosperous farm. Family records indicate that in 1895 they produced 140 lbs. butter and 75 lbs. cheese, and planted 40 apple trees and 30 cherry trees, in addition to cultivating 135 acres. By 1925, the focus of the Wiebe farm had changed from crop-based agriculture to livestock. The family continued to produce butter, but now sold livestock and meat and stabled 14 horses. (These horses, according to Delbert Wiebe, were matched pairs kept by the Wiebe's and rented to area farmers for heavy seasonal work.) Henry and Margaret raised six children – Marie, Anna, Emil, Henry, Willie, and Jacob, the last, who was born in 1902. Jacob Wiebe took over the family farm from his father in the 1920s and began planning for the construction of a new barn.

Jacob Wiebe and local builder Bill Wiens, who is believed to have worked on a number of area barns during the 1920s, constructed the Oak Lawn Farm Dairy Barn in 1926. The gothic style roof with bent-laminated-rafters was a popular roof construction type during the 1920s because of its many advantages. According to historian Joy E. Sears, "After the first decade of the twentieth century, the commonly painted red "modern" barn was a large two-story structure with either a gambrel or gothic roof. The ground level of the barn housed animals and large capacity hay storage

on the second level."[4] Farmers praised the gothic barn style for being more economical in both labor and materials. "An unobstructed loft, free from interior braces, had long been an ideal, and it reached perfection in the laminated gothic roof, a visually impressive structure."[5]

Most laminated gothic roof rafters were built at factories and shipped to the construction site because "with the curved rafters seemingly more complicated to build than the quick-and-easy components of home construction, people willingly turned to professionals for guidance"[6]. However, Jacob Wiebe and Bill Wiens built their rafters themselves on site, from local materials.

The gothic style barn was evolving during the time that the barn was constructed. Popular interest in the style increased around 1916 when architectural plans for a bent-rafter barn near Davis, California, were published.[7] There were two types of curved rafters being used, bent and sawed. As was common, Wiens and Wiebe chose to use both methods in the construction of Oak Lawn Farm Dairy Barn. "Bent-rafter gothic construction, although more economical in labor and materials, proved less rigid than the more expensive sawed type. For this reason, many farmers adopted a combination of the two, with the sawed type spaced every eight to twelve feet and the bent rafters spaced between, twenty-four inches on center."[8]

The L-shaped floor plan also makes this barn somewhat unusual, since it was more typical for barns of the type to consist of a single-ridge roofline. Using the L-shape was a creative way to use one barn for multiple functions, as an L is naturally divided into different areas. The multiple sliding doors allow access into any one of the different sections. The original gas lighting system has been replaced with electricity and the barn has running water.

Current owners Delbert and Hazel Wiebe farm the surrounding land that has been in their family for nearly 120 years. Although no longer used for dairy production, the barn continues to serve as part of a functioning farm. The well-constructed barn remains intact and retains a high degree of

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[4] Joy E. Sears. *Barns by Mail: Pre-Cut Kit Barns by Mail-Order Catalog in the Midwest from 1900 to 1930.* University of Oregon: Master's Thesis, 2001, 3.

[5] Noble and Wilhelm, 161.

[6] Noble and Wilhelm, 161.

[7] W. Kirkpatrick. "Gothic roofs for Barns", *Transactions of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers* 14, 1920, 87-91.

[8] Noble and Wilhelm, 162.

architectural integrity. The Oak Lawn Farm Dairy Barn is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as a unique example of the bent-rafter gothic-roof barn.

Bibliography

Kirkpatrick, W. "Gothic roofs for Barns", *Transactions of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers* 14, 1920.

Noble, Allen G. and Wilhelm, Hubert G. H. *Barns of the Midwest*, Athens OH: Ohio University Press, 1995.

Sears, Joy E. *Barns by Mail: Pre-Cut Kit Barns by Mail-Order Catalog in the Midwest from 1900 to 1930.* University of Oregon: Master's Thesis, 2001.

State of Kansas. Agricultural Census. Fairmont Township, Butler County, KS, 1885-1935.

United States. Census. Fairmont Township, Butler County, KS, 1880-1930.

Visser, Thomas Durant. *Field Guide to New England Barns and Farm Buildings*, Hanover, NH: University Press of New England, 1997.

Wiebe, Delbert G. Telephone interview by Emilie Hagen, October 1, 2002.