NPS Form 10-900
(3-82)

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Expires 10-31-87

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

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

1. Name

historic John Silvers Barn - Byre and Bluff Barns of Doniphan County (TR)

and/or common Bauman Barn

2. Location N of Wathena

street & number SW¼, Sw¼, NE¼, SW¼, S33, T2S, R22E ___ not for publication

city, town Wathena X vicinity of

state Kansas code 20 county Doniphan code 43

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	X occupied	X agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	N/A in process	X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	N/A being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Frederick and Vernon Bauman

street & number N/A

city, town Wathena X vicinity of state Kansas 66090

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
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	_X_ original site
_X_ good	___ ruins	_X_ altered	___ moved date _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The John Silvers Barn (ca. 1905) is located on the Frederick and Vernon Bauman Farm near Wathena, Kansas (pop. 1,418). The one-story, three-bay, gable entrance, board and batten barn has a full byre with a limestone foundation and a metal sheathed, gable roof. The superstructure is supported by nailed, plank framing. The barn has an east to west orientation, measuring thirty-eight feet from north to south and forty-four feet from east to west. The byre is built into the north and east embankments.

The east elevation is comprised of three hinged doors on the hay floor level, surmounted by a hinged hay door and hood in the gable peak. The southern elevation is comprised of four square windows piercing its hay floor level wall and three access openings into the byre below it. The access doors are separated by board and batten partitions. The limestone foundation walls are visible on the east and west corners of the southern elevation. The west elevation is comprised of a visible foundation wall with two vent windows at the foundation's top and two rectangular vent windows in the gable. The north elevation is comprised of a centrally located, hinged door flanked by two hinged shutters. The barn is painted white.

The barn maintains its original function as a dairy barn and maintains a high degree of architectural and structural integrity. The significant alteration to the barn has been the replacement of the original roof with a metal roof. This is an alteration common to many of the barns included in this nomination.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
___ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
X 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates Ca. 1905 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The John Silvers Barn (ca. 1905) 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 John Silvers, the barn is an example of a three-bay, gable entrance, board and batten, gable roof and limestone foundation structure with a full byre. The property remains in active agricultural use and is still owned by descendents of the Silvers family.

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

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.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Wathena

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	15	332350	4410760
B			
C			
D			
E			
F			
G			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property is located on the SW¼, SW¼, NE¼, SW¼, S33, T2S, R22E in Doniphan County, Kansas on a tract measuring 64 x 58 feet, whose northeast corner is 14.1 feet directly northeast of the northeast corner of the barn's foundation. Beginning at the northeast corner of the parcel the boundary proceedss 58 feet south, 64 feet west, 58 feet north, and 64 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 X 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 November 17, 1986

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

BIBLIOGRAPHY-Byre and Bluff Barns of Doniphan County

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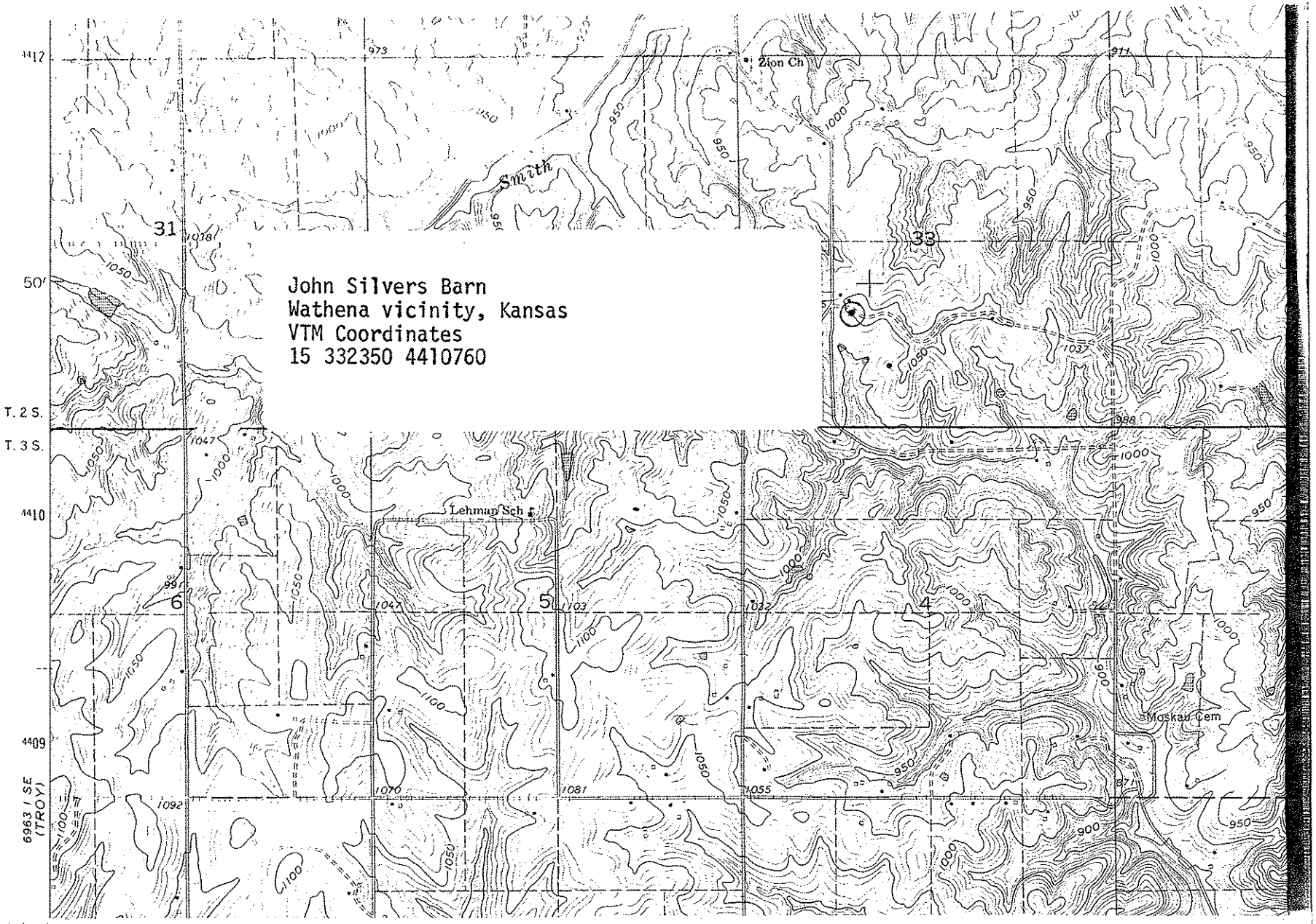
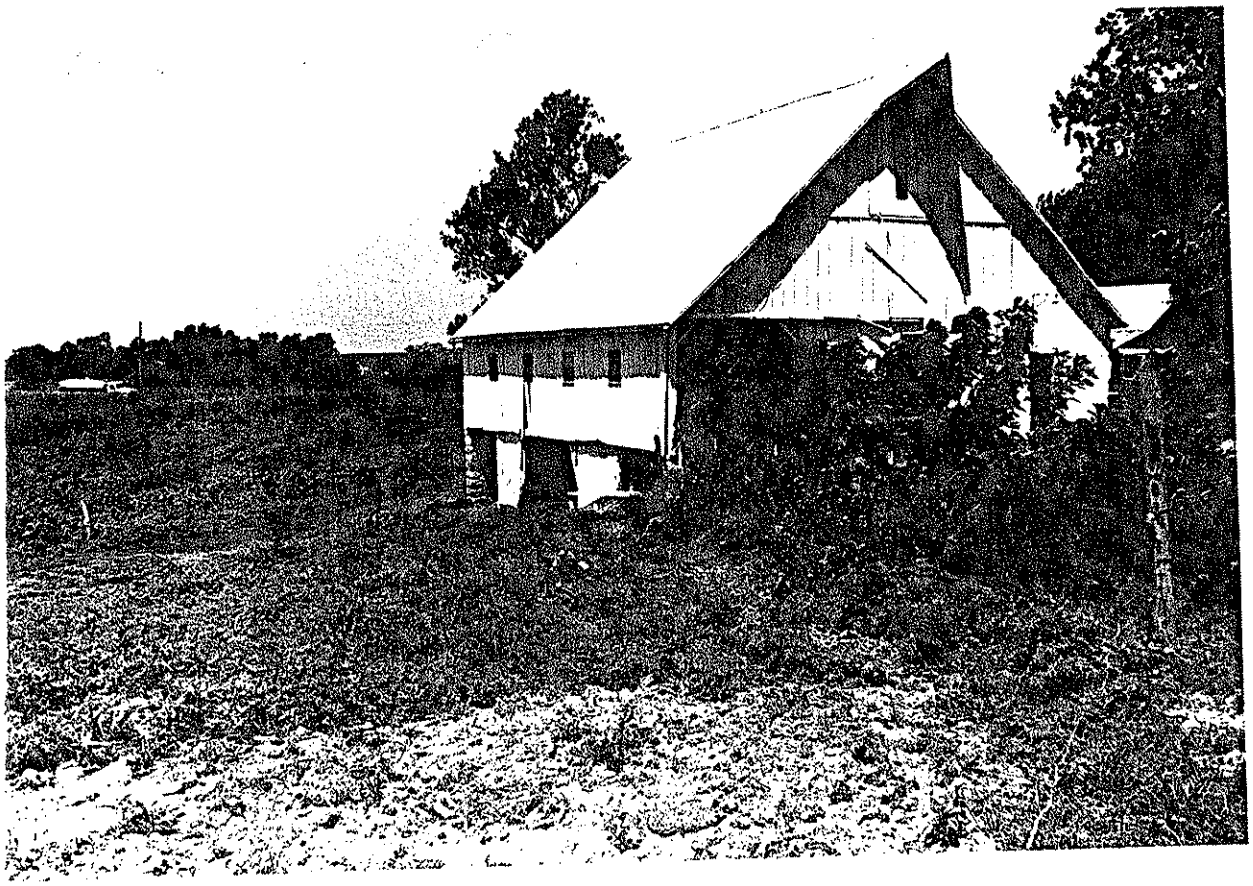
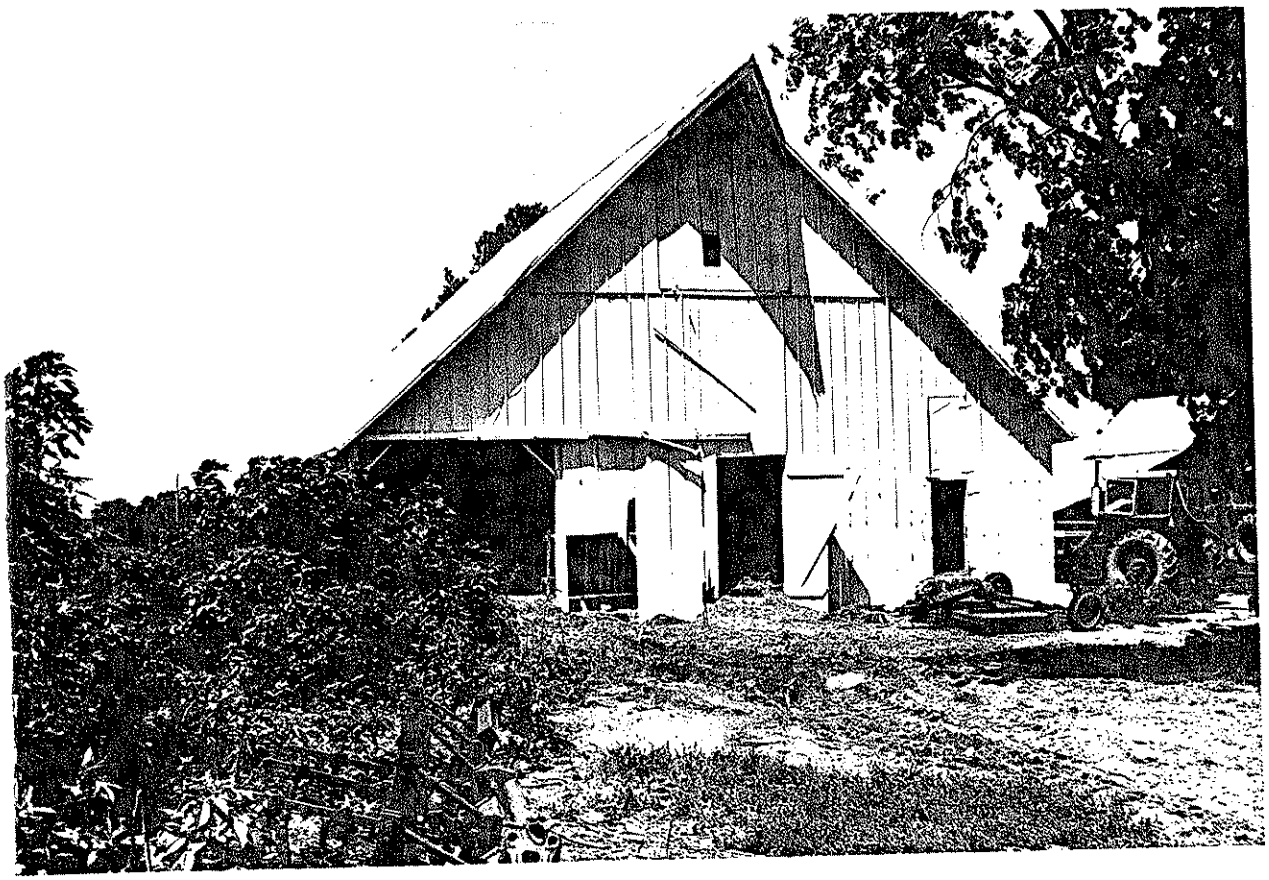
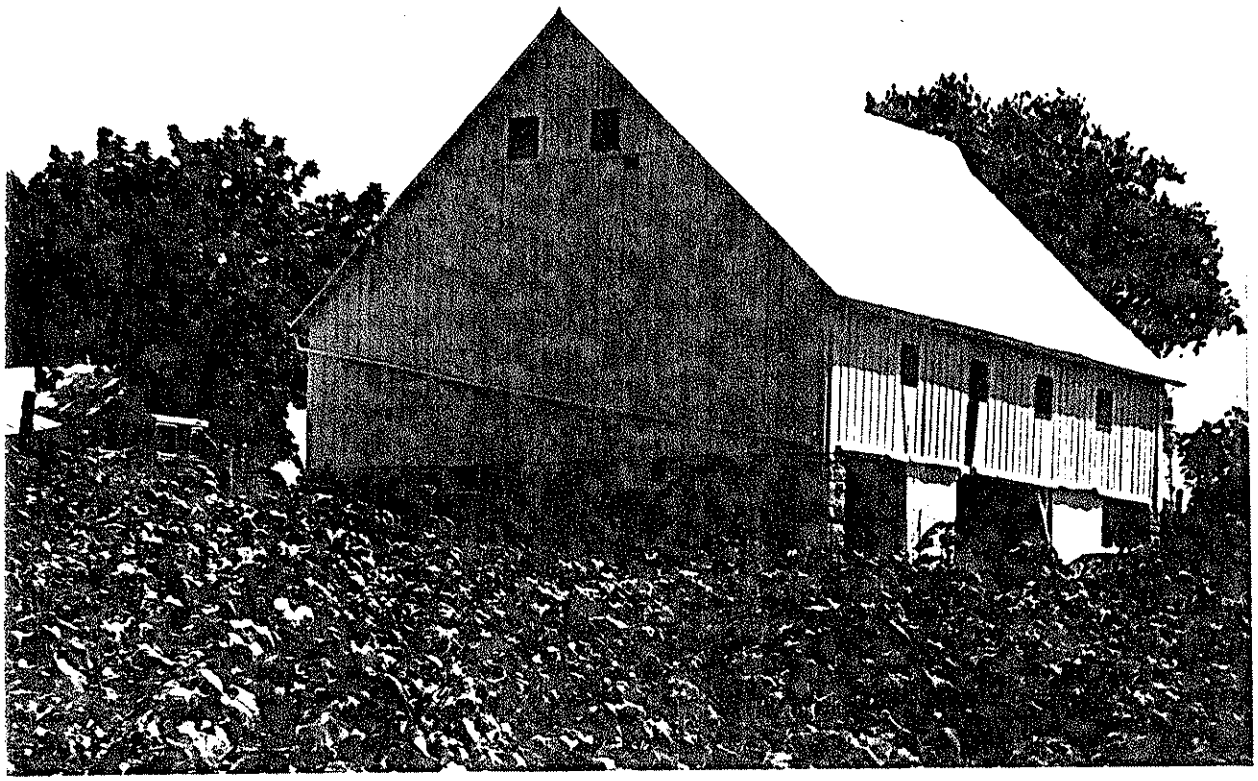
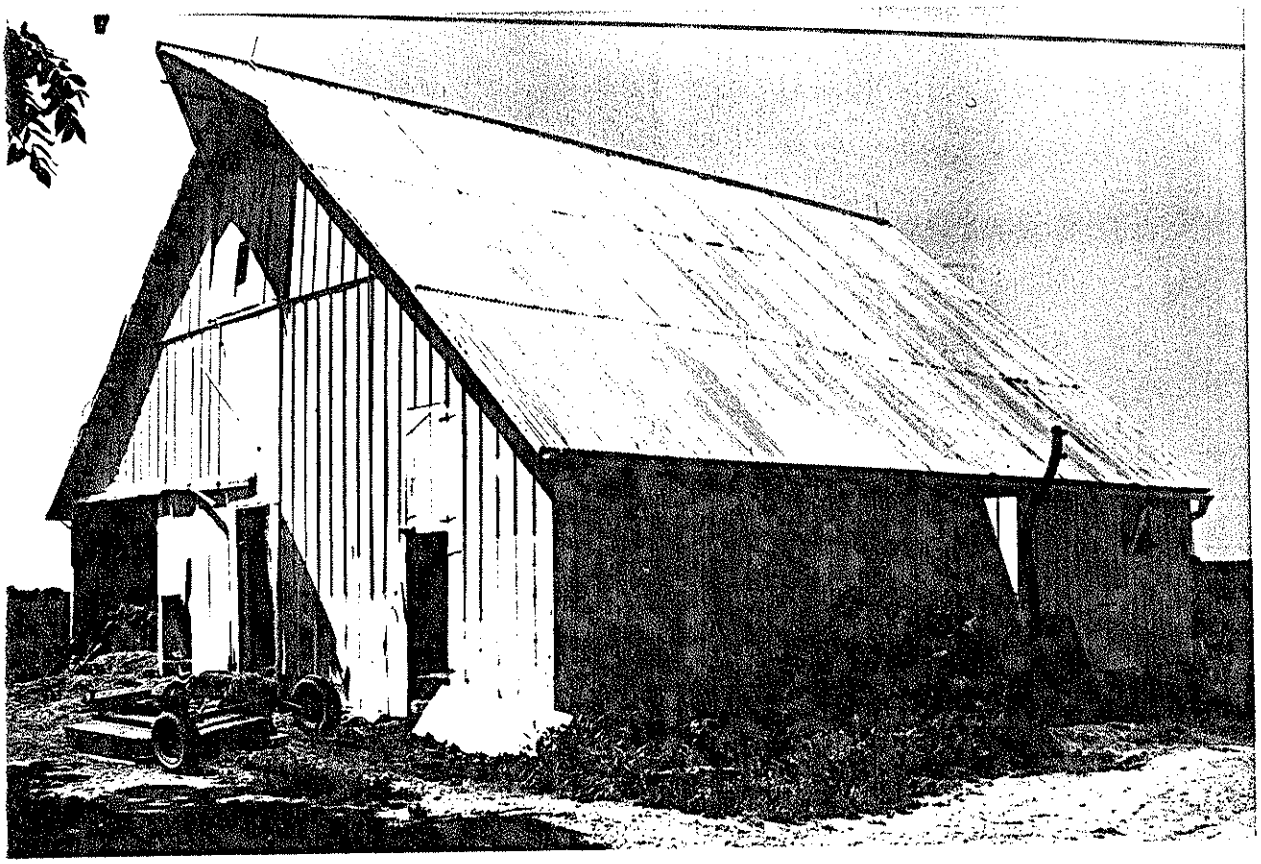
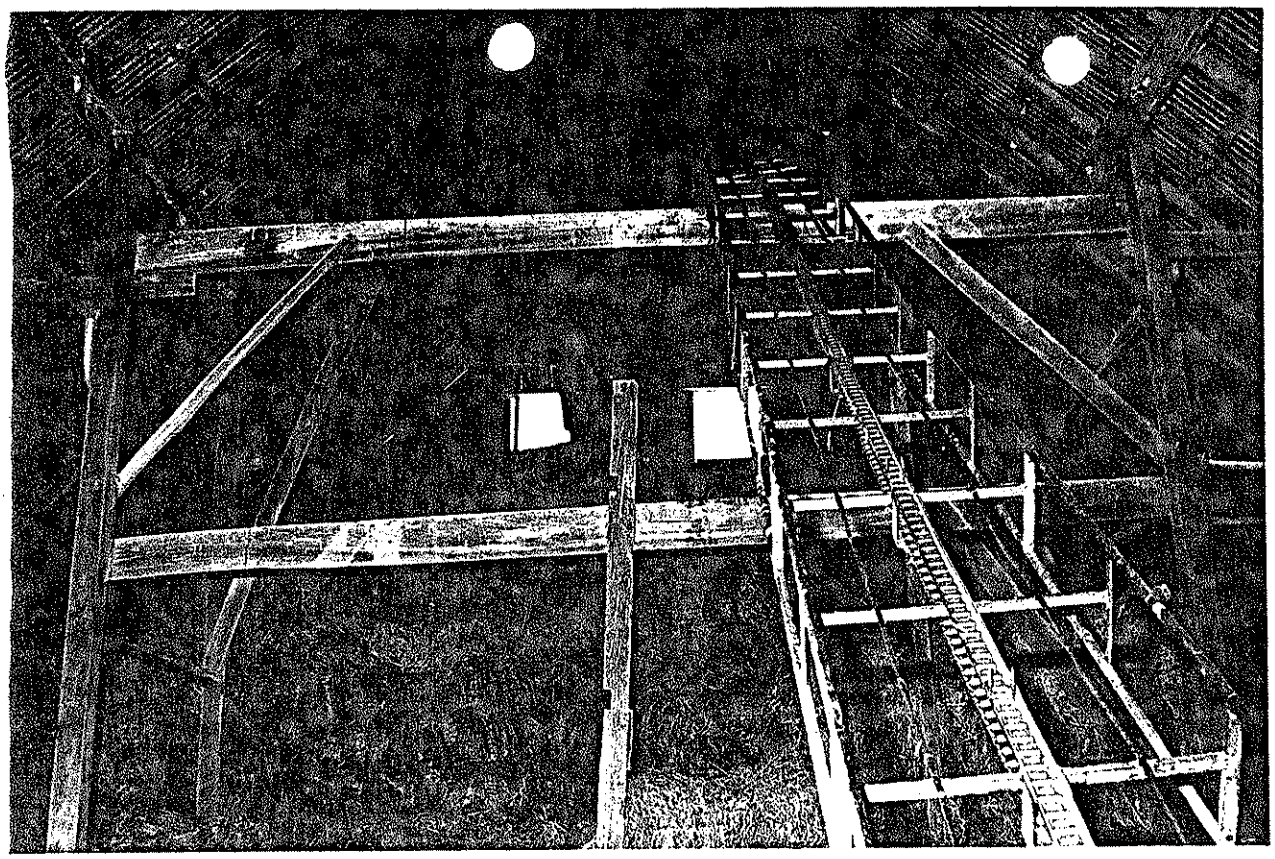
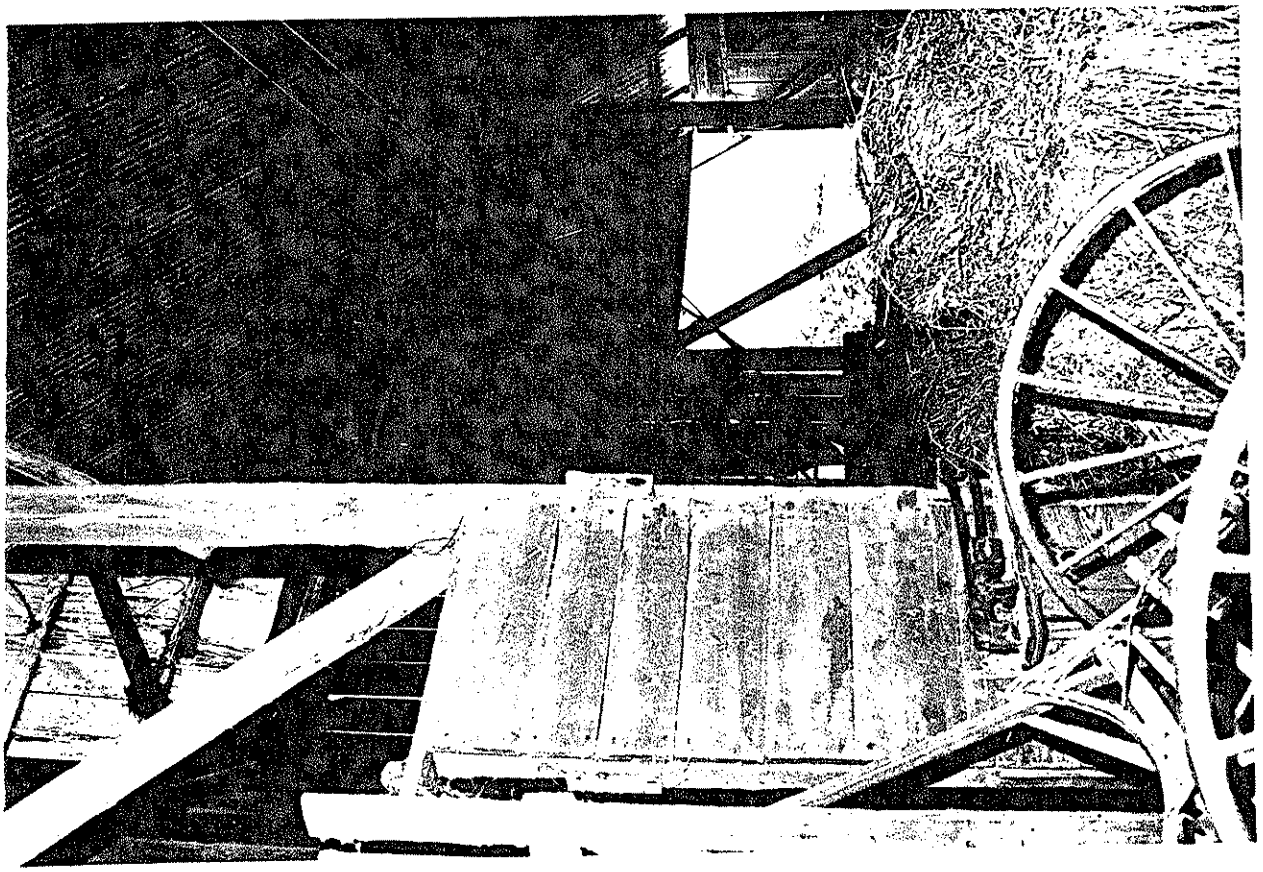

John Silvers Barn
Wathena vicinity, Kansas
VTM Coordinates
15 332350 4410760
Zion Ch
Smith
Lehman Sch
Moskau Cem
T. 2 S.
T. 3 S.
6963 I SE
(TROY)
31
33
6
5
4

John Silvers Barn
Wathena vicinity, Kansas
Martha Hagedorn
July, 1986
Kansas State Historical Society
South & East elevations, NW view
1 of 6

John Silvers Barn
Wathena vicinity, Kansas
Martha Hagedorn
July, 1986
Kansas State Historical Society
East elevation, West view
2 of 6

John Silvers Barn
Wathena vicinity, Kansas
Martha Hagedorn
July, 1986
Kansas State Historical Society
South & West elevations, NE view
3 of 6

John Silvers Barn
Wathena vicinity, Kansas
Martha Hagedorn
July, 1986
Kansas State Historical Society
North & East elevations, SW view
4 of 6

John Silvers Barn
Wathena vicinity, Kansas
Martha Hagedorn
July, 1986
Kansas State Historical Society
First level (Threshing floor) West view
5 of 6

John Silvers Barn
Wathena vicinity, Kansas
Martha Hagedorn
July, 1986
Kansas State Historical Society
First level (threshing floor) SE view
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