United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places
## Registration Form

OMB

Leithoff
Name

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 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Leithoff-Powers Ranch Historic District

other names/site number Deer ~~Creek~~ Horn Ranch; 061-0000-0279

### 2. Location

street & number N2, S25, T12S, R6E and S24, T12S, R6E ☐ not for publication

city or town Junction City ☒ vicinity

state Kansas code KS county Geary code 061 zip code 66441

### 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.)

Ramon Powers, SHPO April 7, 1995
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Kansas State Historical Society
State of 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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby 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:)

Leithoff-Powers Ranch Historic District
Name of Property

Geary 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)

- [ ] building(s)
- [x] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

**Number of Resources within Property**
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|---|---|---|
| 8 | 2 | buildings |
| | | sites |
| 6 | | structures |
| | | objects |
| 14 | 2 | 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**

0

## 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**
(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture: agricultural outbuilding
Domestic: single dwelling
Landscape: unoccupied land

**Current Functions**
(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture: agricultural outbuilding
Domestic: single dwelling
Landscape: unoccupied land

## 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Ell-shaped limestone house; crossgable roof
Other: Rectangular limestone house; gable roof
Other: Rectangular frame barn; gable roof
Other: Rectangular frame shed, shed roof
Other: Circular clay tile silo

**Materials**
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: limestone; concrete
walls Stone: limestone; wood; metal
roof Metal; Asphalt shingles, Wood: shingle
other Brick

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

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

☒ **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 is 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 its 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.

Geary County, Kansas
County and State

**Areas of Significance**
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Agriculture

**Period of Significance**
1873-1924

**Significant Dates**
1873, 1890, 1905, 1915, 1924

**Significant Person**
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
Leithoff, Lebrecht Louis and Powers, Hale

**Cultural Affiliation**
N/A

**Architect/Builder**
Leithoff, Lebrecht Louis
Powers, Hale

**Narrative Statement of Significance**
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibilography**
(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 listing (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:
Kansas State Historical Society

Leithoff-Powers Ranch Historic District
Name of Property

Geary County, Kansas
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 221 Acres

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

| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 14 | 697140 | 4317900 |
| 2 | 14 | 698362 | 4317940 |
| 3 | 14 | 698362 | 4317120 |
| 4 | 14 | 697580 | 4317120 |

☒ 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 Michele Risdal, National Register Program Assistant
Martha Hagedorn-Krass, Architectural Historian

organization Kansas State Historical Society date April 7, 1995

street & number 120 West Tenth Street telephone (913) 296-5264

city or town Topeka state KS zip code 66612-1291

## 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 the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

## Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name John Dauner

street & number 485 West River Road telephone

city or town Pratt state KS zip code 67124

**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.

The Leithoff-Powers Ranch Historic District (c. 1873-1915), also known as Deer Horn Ranch, is located in Jefferson Township, in the vicinity of Junction City in Geary County, Kansas (pop. 19,305). The nominated area is a contiguous 221 acre tract located in N2, S.25, T.12S, R.6E and S.24, T.12S, R.6E. The property contains sixteen resources: two limestone houses (c. 1873 and c. 1890), three barns (c. 1905, c. 1905 and 1960), three sheds (c. 1905), one bridge (1915), two silos (c. 1905 and 1960), two corrals (c. 1905), rock wall fragments (c. 1905), well (1873), and a large stone marker (1873). The nomination includes all extant buildings and structures associated with the time of historical significance, which is the time period from 1873 until 1932.

The nomination includes a 221 acre tract of land that encompasses the sixteen buildings and structures which comprise the nucleus of the Leithoff-Powers Ranch. The nominated buildings and structures are surrounded by a ring of hills to the north, east, and south. These hills provide a natural boundary for the nomination. A dirt road winds through the nucleus of the ranch complex. Two houses and the outbuildings and structures lie north and south of the dirt road. Significant to the nomination is the inclusion of so much agricultural land. Contiguous historical acreage held at this location include 673 acres in 1885 and 1,710 acres in 1915. Today the size of the ranch has grown to 2,400 contiguous acres.

The ranch is located in the Flint Hills, a distinctive agricultural sub-region of the North American Plains. The Flint Hills are an area of rolling-to-rough limestone hills that nearly bisect east central Kansas from north to south. The Flint Hills constitute the largest remaining expanse of tall grass prairie on the continent. The thin soils of the uplands, largely unbroken, are blanketed with native tall grasses: predominately big bluestem, and also little bluestem, Indian grass, and switch grass. This expanse is dissected by a myriad of rivers and creeks, the bottoms of which are richly soiled, containing bands of timber, and is well adapted to raising feed grains and forages. The nominated structures and buildings are surrounded by a ring of limestone hills to the north, east, and south. These hills provide a natural boundary for the nomination, Highway 57 is the boundary to the west.

Geary County like many other areas of the Plains lacked timber and responded by utilizing the natural stone resources for construction. The early settlers, mostly Germans and Swedes, brought the skills and traditions of stone masonry construction to the limestone in the Flint Hills. Wood was used for the construction of roofs and outbuildings. The limited nature of timber in the area was expressed in the Junction City Union on May 20, 1865. "USE STONE. People in this county are perfectly reckless of the timber. Where such an abundance of splendid building stone exists, and timber comparatively scarce, the extravagant destruction of timber is without excuse. In building dwelling houses, outhouses, fences, use stone, thereby securing something permanent and adding to the wealth of the country." The inhabitants of the Leithoff-Powers Ranch responded to the geography of the land by constructing stone houses, partial stone barns, and stone walls.

The southern 80 acres of the property, located in the N2, NW4, of Section 25, was purchased by Lebrecht Louis Leithoff (1835-1907) and his wife Henrietta Wolter Leithoff (1837-1911) in June 1873. The Leithoffs purchased the property from Adolph Kurtze for $700, who had acquired the property from the Kansas Pacific Railroad Company in February 1873 for $360. The Leithoffs also purchased 40 acres in the SE4, SE4, Section 23 from Kurtze at this time.

The Leithoffs farmed their land, the 1885 Kansas State Agricultural Census lists the value of the ranch and improvements at $3,000, and shows that Leithoff paid $600 in wages, including board. The value of the ranch had decreased from the 1875 valuation of $4,000. Crops raised in 1885 include 80 acres of winter wheat, 70 acres of corn, and 55 tons of hay. Livestock maintained in 1885 includes, 8 horses, 6 cows, 27 cattle, and 50 swine. The family maintained an orchard of 11 apple trees, 5 plum trees, 10 cherry trees, and 10 peach trees. They also maintained a vineyard and produced wine for the soldiers at Fort Riley.

The extant resources that are associated with the Leithoff family include the c. 1873 stone house, the c. 1890 stone house, the well (1873), and the large stone marker (1873). Both houses are built into the hillside, exposing parts of their lower stories. The c. 1873 house provided shelter for the Leithoffs until 1890, when the larger house was constructed. The c. 1873 house is a simple rectangle with a gable roof. A vaulted basement stands beneath the house. The c. 1890 house is an ell-shape with a cross gable roof. A centrally located gable defines the facade's roof line, and contains the date stone bearing the inscription, "L. LEITHOFF. 1890." The quality of stonework on both houses is very high. A limestone patio connects the two buildings. A deep well is also included in this complex, its water is pure and still used for drinking purposes.

A son, Charles Leithoff (b. 1872) sold the Section 25 property to Pomeroy W. Powers (1852-1915) in 1905. The Powers owned the property until 1932, and continued to maintain the property through the 1940s. Powers never lived on the ranch, but instead purchased it for his son Hale P. Powers (1875-1946), who ran a large cattle operation at the ranch. Hale inherited the ranch after his father's death. Hale was active in county affairs, and as a Geary County commissioner was instrumental in much of the road construction in the county for sixteen years, beginning in 1915. Hale was an original promoter of the Geary County Farm Bureau and the Geary County Health Department. Hale and his wife Lula Pierce Powers lived at the ranch until 1924, when they moved to Junction City. Hale moved to Los Angeles, California in 1928, the ranch was foreclosed upon in 1932. Hale's son Pierce Hale Powers (1906-1986) lived on the ranch and maintained the property through the 1940s.

The Kansas Agricultural Census reports for 1915 indicate that Hale Powers maintained 1,710 acres in the ranch, ran 272 head of cattle, sold $1,200 worth of dairy products, sold $2,000 worth of animals, and had a 40 foot spring well with a windmill. One hundred acres of winter wheat, 50 acres of corn, 20 acres of oats and 20 acres of rye were grown in that year.

The extant resources associated with the Powers family are: 2 barns, 3 sheds, 1 silo, 2 corrals, and rock wall fragments, all dating from c. 1905, and a former county bridge dating from 1915.

The Leithoff-Powers Ranch Historic District as a whole retains a high degree of architectural and structural integrity. Through photographs taken c. 1910, c. 1915 and c. 1940, major changes to the complex that can be noted are the addition of a new porch on the c. 1890 house, changing color treatments on the c. 1890 house, and different well structures. A c. 1915 photograph indicates that a spindlework porch replaced the porch presently there. Painted on the wooden gable of the spindlework porch is "DEER HORN RANCH." A c. 1900 photograph shows that the trim on the building was painted a darker color which contrasted with the white on the porch. In the 1940s all wood on the house was painted white. The wooden trim on the house today is painted dark brown. A draw well is located south of the main house. The well is presently covered with wooden planks but historic photographs indicate two different well structures.

A one-story shed sheathed in vertical planks and surmounted by a gable roof lies directly north of the c. 1873 limestone house. The building has a western facade orientation. A two-story barn lies just northeast of the shed. The barn is composed of limestone blocks on the first floor and board and batten siding on the second. The barn is surmounted by a metal roof and has a northern facade orientation. Southeast of the barn is a clay tile silo with no roof. Another barn lies east of the other barn. The two-story, gable roof frame barn has a southern facade orientation. Vertical plank siding clads the building. Limestone blocks compose the first floor on the north elevation. North of the barn are fragments of native, limestone cattle pens. A horizontal plank and vertical post corral stand south of the barn. A one-story, wooden frame building sided with metal and surmounted by a metal shed roof lies east of the corral.

The extant resources associated with the Powers family were constructed shortly after Pomeroy W. Powers bought the land in 1905. These buildings and structures are constructed northeast and southeast of the buildings built by Lebrecht Leithoff. The location of the barns, sheds, corrals, and rock fragments of the cattle pens show the layout of a turn of the century cattle ranch. Closest to the Leithoff buildings are the barns and silo. The rock fragment pens are located north of the barns, and the two corrals are located east and southeast. The cattle corrals and sheds are positioned closest to the cattle pastures which are to the east.

The Leithoff-Powers Ranch Historic District as a whole retains a high degree of architectural and structural integrity. Through photographs taken c. 1910, c. 1915 and c. 1940, major changes to the complex that can be noted are the addition of a new porch on the c. 1890 house, changing color treatments on the c. 1890 house, and different well structures. A c. 1915 photograph indicates that a spindlework porch replaced the porch presently there. Painted on the wooden gable of the spindlework is "DEER HORN RANCH." A c. 1900 photograph shows that the trim on the building was painted a darker color which contrasted with the white on the porch. In the

1940s all wood on the house was painted white. The wooden trim on the house today is painted dark brown. A draw well is located south of the main house. The well is presently covered with wooden planks but historic photographs indicate two different well structures.

The nominated buildings and structures are surrounded by a ring of hills to the north, east, and south. These hills provide a natural boundary for the nomination, Highway 57 acts as the western boundary. A dirt road east off the highway winds through the nucleus of the ranch complex. Two houses stand east of the highway and north of the dirt road. The ell-shape of the c. 1890 house creates a southeast patio that is bounded by the c. 1873 house. The outbuildings and structures lies north and south of the dirt road. South of the houses a 1915 bridge sits in the pasture. The road the bridge was on is non-extant. The area is scarcely populated with trees. Emerging limestone ledges are found around the pastures.

INVENTORY

1. Main House (c. 1890) Contributing

The two-story, rusticated limestone house is built into a hill with the southern elevation being fully exposed. The tradition of building a house into a hill, Bank house, is German. The house has a rusticated limestone foundation and is surmounted by an ell-shaped, cross gable roof. The house has a western facade orientation with a center gable. A circular limestone date stone is placed over the window lintel in the gable. Inscribed on the stone is "L. LEITHOFF. 1890." A stone shed addition, date unknown, projects from the east elevation of the east/west gable. A door pierces the south elevation of the addition.

The exterior of the house is constructed of native limestone quarried nearby, the exact location is unknown. Bush hammered limestone lintels and thresholds with finished edges surmount and underscore each door and window respectively. The corners of the house are defined by finished edges. The house has been repointed with concrete. A wooden fascia board defines the roof line. Three brick chimneys rise from the cross gable roof: a chimney with corbelling at the bottom rises from the center of the east/west gable, another chimney with corbelling at the bottom rises from the center of the north/south gable, and a plain chimney from the southeast corner rises where the gables meet. A c. 1920 photograph indicates only two chimneys, the southeast corner chimney is not present. The photograph also shows that the two chimneys were corbelled at the top, date removed unknown.

A wooden porch dominates the west facade of the building. Four square piers support a gable roof. A wooden balustrade composed of two horizontal rails terminated by piers, with a row of vertical balusters between the rails spans the space between each pier. Limestone blocks support the porch. A small window pierces the center of the porch foundation. The porch is accessed from the north by four concrete steps facing west that lead to a concrete platform, the porch is

to the south. A c. 1915 photograph indicates that this porch replaced a spindlework porch. The spindlework porch is composed of six turned posts which support a gently sloping roof. The roof has wooden cresting with a wooden gable over the entrance. Painted on the gable is "DEER HORN RANCH". A wooden balustrade composed of two horizontal rails terminated by turned posts, with a row of turned vertical balusters spans the space between the posts. A spindlework frieze is upheld by decorated brackets. The porch was accessed from the west by six wooden steps with wooden railings on both sides.

Fenestration is comprised primarily of 2/2 double hung sash in singular groupings. Small rectangular windows with six lights pierce the basement. An oriel window fenestrates the south elevation.

A garage door pierces the south elevation. The garage door leads to what was historically the distillery. Lebrecht Leithoff specifically designed the house so the door was large enough to back his buggy inside and load with jugs of wine to deliver to the soldiers at Fort Riley.

The ell-shape of the house creates a southeast patio that is bounded by the c. 1873 limestone block house. The patio is paved with limestone blocks. Four limestone steps on the south side lead to the patio. Doors on both the south and east elevations give access to the patio. The east door has been boarded up, date unknown, and a window put in its place. A cellar door on the east elevation leads to the basement.

The exterior of the building retains a high degree of architectural and structural integrity. Except for the a new porch, the major change to the building has been its color treatments. A c. 1900 photograph indicates the porch was painted white with a darker contrasting trim. The window and door surrounds were the dark contrasting color. In the 1940s all wood was painted white. The wooden trim on the house today is painted in a dark brown.

The interiors of the first and second floors retain their original floorplan and detailing. The first and second floorplans are aligned around the center staircase, which is placed in the entry hall. The first floor is arrange in an ell-shape with one room leading into another. The second floor is reached by a dog-legged staircase. All rooms on the second floor are accessed by one room leading into another.

The hallway features the entry door and staircase. Entry occurs through a panelled door surmounted by a transom on the west wall. The dog-legged staircase is aligned directly across from the door. The door surround is defined by thin pilasters rising from the base blocks, meeting the head blocks at the head of the door or window, with the entire casing being held together by a molded head casing. The molded profiles of the pilasters are bead-and-cove. At the top corners of each door and window are bull's eye corner blocks. First floor baseboards are defined by a rounded top with a bead-and-cove band at the top. All doors have their original

locksets and knobs.

Two parlors are located north and south of the entry hall. An oriel window dominates the south wall of the south parlor. The surrounds of the oriel window are defined by thin pilasters rising from the base blocks, meeting the head blocks at the head of the door or window, with the entire casing being held together by a molded head casing. The molded profiles of the pilasters are bead-and-cove. At the top corners of each door and window are bull's eye corner blocks. Beneath each window is diagonal tongue and groove paneling. The door and other window surrounds are the same except the window have the molded pilasters rising from the sill. Each window, except the oriel window, has a deep sill.

Directly behind the north parlor is the kitchen and the lean-to addition. The door and window surrounds and baseboards have the same design as the woodwork in the entry hall. A straight staircase is located on the east wall of the kitchen. The back stairway leads to the east bedroom.

A dog-legged staircase in the entry hall rises to the second floor. A balustrade on the landing defines the opening of the staircase. A hallway connects the north and south bedroom and another bedroom is reached from the north bedroom or back stairs. The trim surrounding the doors starts at the base blocks and rises to the head casing. The profiles of the trim are flat. The window surrounds are composed exactly like the door surrounds except the pilasters rise from the sill. Each window has deep sills. The baseboards, which carry throughout the second floor, are plain. All doors have their original locksets and knobs.

A basement stands beneath the building. Load bearing limestone walls define three rooms. The rooms were historically used as a distillery and wine cellar with a connecting room between. The south garage door accesses the distillery and an east cellar doors with nine steps leads to a barrel vaulted wine cellar.

2. House (c. 1873) Contributing

A two-story, limestone house sits on a limestone foundation and is surmounted by a corrugated metal roof which covers the original wooden shingles. The house has a southern facade orientation. The exterior of the house is constructed of native limestone, rusticated blocks. The building has been repointed with concrete. A c. 1900 photograph indicates three narrow, wooden bands placed on the upper half of the south facade. The purpose of these bands is unknown.

A door pierces the western bay of the south facade. The building is fenestrated with small six light rectangular windows. Two windows pierce the wall directly beside the door. A smaller window is located on the eastern bay of the south facade and on the center of the second floor. Two windows pierce the east gable. A single window pierces the west gable. A door pierces the north elevation. Since the building is built into a hill, the north door enters into the second

floor.

The interior has original hardwood floors and tongue and groove ceilings.

3. Well (1873) Contributing

A draw well is located south of the main house. The hand dug well has limestone walls and a finished limestone opening. The well is presently covered with wood planks. There is presently no structure above the well, but historic photographs indicated two different well structures.

A c. 1900 photograph indicates a wooden well structure. This well structure was surmounted by a gable roof. Wooden planks cover the bottom half of the structure and wooden lattice work defines the upper half. A wooden lattice work door allows access to the well on the north side.

A later photograph, c .1940, indicates a wooden structure painted white. A short circular structure with no roof surrounds the well. Two pilasters rise from opposite sides of the well to be connected with a wood casing. The bucket hangs from this frame.

4. Stone Marker (1873) Contributing

A stone marker lies south of the drive and north of the bridge. The trapezoidal marker is painted white. A 1993 photograph shows the marker was painted in a contrasting color with the letters "OK". The front of the marker faces northwest toward Highway 57. Since the photos the paint was removed revealing the inscription "1873 DEER HORN RANCH".

5. Bridge (1915) Contributing

A limestone block stone bridge lies south of the house. The former county road the bridge is on is non-extant. Concrete sides with metal rails define the edge over looking the dry drainage creek.

6. Shed (c. 1905) Contributing

A one-story, board and batten shed stands south of the drive and northeast of the house. The shed sits on a concrete foundation and is surmounted by a gable roof. The building has a northern facade orientation. Four large sliding doors compose the south facade. Two windows with six lights pierce the western elevation. The western bay of the south elevation is pierced by a six light window. The building maintains a moderate degree of architectural and structural integrity.

7. Corral (c. 1905) Contributing

A horizontal plank and vertical post enclosure stands south of the drive and east of the shed. The pens and chutes were constructed to load cattle onto trucks. The pens and chutes maintain a high degree of architectural and structural integrity.

8. Shed (c. 1905) Contributing

A one-story shed sided with vertical plank siding lies north of the house. The building is surmounted by a gable roof and sits on a concrete foundation. The facade faces west. Entry occurs through a door on the northern bay of the west facade. A window pierces the western gable and another window pierces the western facade. Two windows pierce the east elevation. Four windows with internal shutters span the length of the south elevation. The foundation to the south has settled causing the north wall to bow out. The building maintains a moderate degree of architectural and structural integrity.

9. Barn (1960) Noncontributing

A one-story, rectangular metal barn sits on a concrete foundation and is surmounted with a metal, gable roof. The building has a southern facade orientation. A sliding door pierces the south facade. On either side of the door two square windows pierce the building. A small window is placed in the gable.

10. Silo (1960) Noncontributing

A circular, concrete block silo lies to the southeast of the metal barn. The building sits on a concrete foundation and is surmounted by a conical roof.

11. Barn (c. 1905) Contributing

A two-story barn stands northeast of the metal barn. This building sits on a limestone foundation and is surmounted by a corrugated metal, gable roof. The building has a northern facade orientation. The first floor is composed of limestone blocks while board and batten siding sheathes the second floor. The limestone has been repointed with concrete.

A two-story, sliding door pierces the north facade. A small window pierces the north gable. Centered on the first floor of the west, east and south elevations is a one-story, sliding door. Above each one story, sliding door is door on the second floor. The building maintains a moderate degree of architectural and structural integrity.

12. Silo (c. 1905) Contributing

A circular, clay tile silo stands southeast of the barn. The silo has a concrete foundation and no

roof.

13. Barn (c. 1905) Contributing

A two-story, gable roof frame barn sits on a limestone foundation. The building has a southern facade orientation. Vertical plank siding clads the building. Limestone blocks rise to the first floor on the north elevation. The limestone has been repointed with concrete. The roof is covered with wooden shingles. The barn is built into a hill, so the three elevations are entered through the basement.

Two doors pierce the south facade. A large door in the gable of the south facade provides access to the second floor hayloft. A door with two four light small windows on each side pierce the basement on the west elevation. Two small windows are centered in the west gable.

Horizontal plank and vertical post pens define the first floor interior of the barn. Placed in the pens are wooden hay feeders for animal. The second floor interior is a large hayloft. The building maintains a moderate degree of architectural and structural integrity.

14. Rock Wall Fragments (c. 1905) Contributing

Native limestone block and rubble walls are laid up north of the building nucleus. The walls run east/west. The fragments were once pen walls, which formed part of a much larger complex of stone pens.

15. Corral (c. 1905) Contributing

A horizontal plank and vertical post enclosure stands north of the drive and east of the houses and barns. The pens and chutes were constructed to load cattle onto trucks. The pens and chutes maintain a high degree of architectural and structural integrity.

16. Shed (c. 1905)

A one-story, wooden frame building is sided with metal and surmounted by a metal, shed roof. The building has a northern facade orientation. The shed sits on a concrete foundation. The building has an open north facade used for storage. The building maintains a moderate degree of architectural and structural integrity.

The Leithoff-Powers Ranch Historic District (c. 1873-1915), also known as the Deer Horn Ranch, is located south of Junction City along Highway 57. The ranch is being nominated to the National Register under criteria A, B, and C for its historical association with events relating to the settlement of Geary County and the ranching industry, its historical association with the Lebrecht Leithoff family and the Hale Powers family, and for its architectural significance as a composite grouping of relatively intact ranch buildings and structures.

The area of the ranch that is being nominated is a contiguous 221 acre tract located in the N2, S.25, T.12S, R.6E and the S.24, T.12S, R.6E of Jefferson Township, Geary County. The nominated tract is part of a larger, 2,400 acre tract. The property contains sixteen resources: two limestone houses (c. 1873 and c. 1890), three barns (c. 1905, c. 1905 and 1960), three sheds (c. 1905), one bridge (1915), two silos (c. 1905 and 1960), two corrals (c. 1905), rock wall fragments (c. 1905), well (1873), large stone rock (1873).

The nominated buildings and structures are surrounded by a ring of hills to the north, east, and south. These hills provide a natural boundary for the nomination, Highway 57 acts as the western boundary. A dirt road east off the highway winds through the nucleus of the ranch complex. Two houses stand east of the highway and north of the dirt road. The ell-shape of the c. 1890 house creates a southeast patio that is bounded by the c. 1873 house. The outbuildings and structures lies north and south of the dirt road. South of the houses a 1915 bridge sits in the pasture. The road the bridge was on is non-extant. The area is scarcely populated with trees. Emerging limestone ledges are found around the pastures.

The ranch is located in the Flint Hills, a distinctive agricultural sub-region of the North American Plains. The Flint Hills are an area of rolling-to-rough limestone hills that nearly bisect east central Kansas from north to south. The Flint Hills constitute the largest remaining expanse of tall grass prairie on the continent. The thin soils of the uplands, largely unbroken, are blanketed with native tall grasses: predominately big bluestem, and also little bluestem, Indian grass, and switch grass. This expanse is dissected by a myriad of rivers and creeks, the bottoms of which are richly soiled, containing bands of timber, and is well adapted to raising feed grains and forages.

Significant in this nomination is the inclusion of so much agricultural land. Contiguous historical acreage held at this location include 673 acres in 1885 and 1,710 acres in 1915. Today the size of the ranch has grown to 2,400 contiguous acres. The nomination includes all extant buildings and structures associated with the time of historical significance, which is the time period from 1873 until 1932. The nomination also includes a significant amount of agricultural land, to provide the rural landscape context.

Geary County like many other areas of the Plains lacked of timber and responded by utilizing the natural stone resources for construction. The early settlers, mostly Germans and Swedes,

brought the skills and traditions of stone masonry construction to the limestone in the Flint Hills. Wood was used for the construction of roofs and outbuildings. The limited nature of timber in the area was expressed in the Junction City Union on May 20,1865. "USE STONE. People in this county are perfectly reckless of the timber. Where such an abundance of splendid building stone exists, and timber comparatively scarce, the extravagant destruction of timber is without excuse. In building dwelling houses, outhouses, fences, use stone, thereby securing something permanent and adding to the wealth of the country." The inhabitants of the Leithoff-Powers Ranch responded to the geography of the land by constructing stone houses, partial stone barns, and stone walls.

The southern 80 acres of the property, located in the N2, NW4, of Section 25, was purchased by Lebrecht Louis Leithoff (1835-1907) and his wife Henrietta Wolter Leithoff (1837-1911) in June 1873. The Leithoffs purchased the property from Adolph Kurtze for $700, who had acquired the property from the Kansas Pacific Railroad Company in February 1873 for $360. The Leithoffs also purchased 40 acres in the SE4, SE4, Section 23 from Kurtze at this time.

The Leithoffs emigrated from Providence, Rhode Island to Geary County in 1868. The couple was born in Anhalt, East Germany (Prussia), and joined a large group of native Germans in Geary County. The Leithoffs are listed as naturalized American citizens in the 1900 U. S. census. Lebrecht and Henrietta raised their family of six children at the property in Section 25.

The Leithoffs farmed their land, the 1885 Kansas State Agricultural Census lists the value of the ranch and improvements at $3,000, and shows that Leithoff paid $600 in wages, including board. The value of the farm had decreased from the 1875 valuation of $4,000. Crops raised in 1885 include 80 acres of winter wheat, 70 acres of corn, and 55 tons of hay. Livestock maintained in 1885 includes, 8 horses, 6 cows, 27 cattle, and 50 swine. The family maintained an orchard of 11 apple trees, 5 plum trees, 10 cherry trees, and 10 peach trees. They also maintained a vineyard and purportedly produced wine for the soldiers at Fort Riley.

In 1880, the year before prohibition became law in Kansas, 226,249 gallons of wine were produced in the state. Bulletins published by the Kansas State Agricultural College and the Kansas State Horticultural Society between 1866 and 1901 provide information on many varieties of grapes, tending to focus more on the making of unfermented grape juice rather than wine.

The extant resources that are associated with the Leithoff family include the c. 1873 stone house, the c. 1890 stone house, the well (1873), and the large stone marker (1873). Both houses are built into the hillside, exposing parts of their lower stories. The c. 1873 house provided shelter for the Leithoffs until 1890, when the larger house was constructed. The c. 1873 house is a simple rectangle with a gable roof, a vaulted basement stands beneath the house. The c. 1890 house is an ell-shape with a cross gable roof. A centrally located gable defines the facade's roof line, and contains the date stone bearing the inscription, "L. LEITHOFF. 1890." The quality of

stonework on both house is very high. A limestone patio connects the two buildings. A deep well is also included in this complex, its water is pure and still used for drinking purposes. There is presently no well structure, but historically two structures stood above the well. A stone marker inscribed with "1873 DEER HORN RANCH" faces northwest toward Highway 57.

A son, Charles Leithoff (b. 1872) sold the Section 25 property to Pomeroy W. Powers (1852-1915) in 1905. The Powers owned the property until 1932, and continued to maintain the property through the 1940s. Powers never lived on the ranch, but instead purchased it for his son Hale P. Powers (1875-1946), who ran a large cattle operation at the ranch. In 1920 Hale Powers grazed 1,000 steer of his own and 700 steers belonging to outside parties. Hale inherited the ranch after his father's death. Hale was active in county affairs, and as a Geary County commissioner was instrumental in much of the road construction in the county for sixteen years, beginning in 1915. Hale was an original promoter of the Geary County Farm Bureau and the Geary County Health Department.

Hale and his wife Lula Pierce Powers lived at the ranch until 1924, when they moved to Junction City. Hale moved to Los Angeles, California in 1928, the ranch was foreclosed upon in 1932. Hale's son Pierce ~~Hale~~ Horace Powers (1906-1986) lived on the and maintained the property through the 1940s.

The Kansas Agricultural Census reports for 1915 indicate that Hale Powers maintained 1,710 acres in the ranch, ran 272 head of cattle, sold $1,200 worth of dairy products, sold $2,000 worth of animals, and had a 40 foot spring well with a windmill. One hundred acres of winter wheat, 50 acres of corn, 20 acres of oats and 20 acres of rye were grown in that year.

The extant resources associated with the Powers family are: 2 barns, 3 sheds, 1 silo, 2 corrals, and rock wall fragments, all dating c. 1905, and a former county bridge dating from 1915. All ranch outbuildings and structures lie northeast of the house except the bridge, one shed and one corral which lie south of the houses.

The extant resources associated with the Powers family where constructed shortly after Pomeroy W. Powers bought the land in 1905. These buildings and structures are constructed northeast and southeast of the buildings built by Lebrecht Leithoff. The location of the barns, sheds, corrals, and rock fragments of cattle pens show the layout of a turn of the century cattle ranch. Closest to the Leithoff buildings are the barns and silo. The rock fragment pens are located north of the barns, and the two corrals are located east and southeast. The cattle corrals and sheds are positioned closest to the cattle pastures which are to the east.

The Leithoff-Powers Ranch Historic District as a whole retains a high degree of architectural and structural integrity. Through photographs taken c. 1910, c. 1915 and c. 1940, major changes to the complex that can be noted are the addition of a new porch on the c. 1890 house, changing

color treatments on the c. 1890 house, and different well structures. A c. 1915 photograph indicates that a spindlework porch replaced the porch presently there. Painted on the wooden gable of the spindlework is "DEER HORN RANCH." A c. 1900 photograph shows that the trim on the building was painted a darker color which contrasted with the white on the porch. In the 1940s all wood on the house was painted white. The wooden trim on the house today is painted dark brown. A draw well is located south of the main house. The well is presently covered with wooden planks but historic photographs indicate two different well structures.

The ranch passed through several different owners after the Powers interest in the property closed. Most recently it was owned by the Larry Cory family, who purchased the ranch from the Hutchinson Apache Energy Income Fund in 1984. In 1993 Cory sold the property to John Dauner, the current owner, who is restoring both the buildings and the land. Dauner is a cattle rancher from Pratt who runs cattle on the ranch and employs a hired hand to live on site and manage day to day operations.

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**UTM References**

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Leithoff-Powers Ranch Historic District is located in the N2, S.25, T.12S, R.6E excepting the 19 acre parcel standing to the west of Highway 57 (61 acres); NW4, NE4, S.25, T.12S, R.6E (40 acres); S2, SW4, S.24, 12S, R.6E (80 acres); and SW4, SE4, S.24, 12S, R.6E (40 acres) of Jefferson Township, Junction City vicinity, Geary County. The nominated district is located in a rectangle with the southwest corner cut off at the angle Highway 57 runs that includes 221 acre tract that encompasses the sixteen buildings and structures which comprise the nucleus of the ranch, as well as agricultural land. The 221 acre tract represents the historical core of the ranch, which now encompasses 2400 acres. The nominated property is surrounded by a ring of limestone to the north, east and south. These hills provide a natural boundary and Highway 57 is the natural boundary to the west. The district is represented on the White City NW quadrangle map that is included as part of the nomination by AB-BC-CD-DE-EA.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

Leithoff-Powers Ranch Historic District is located near Junction City in Geary County, Kansas. The district is located within a rectangle with the southwest cut off at the angle Highway 57 runs and includes a 221 acre tract that encompasses the sixteen buildings and structures that comprise the nucleus of the ranch, as well as agricultural land. The 240 acre tract represents the historical core of the ranch, which now encompasses 2400 acres. The nominated property is surrounded by a ring of limestone to the north, east and south. These hills provides a natural boundary and Highway 57 is the natural boundary to the west.

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(JUNCTION CITY)

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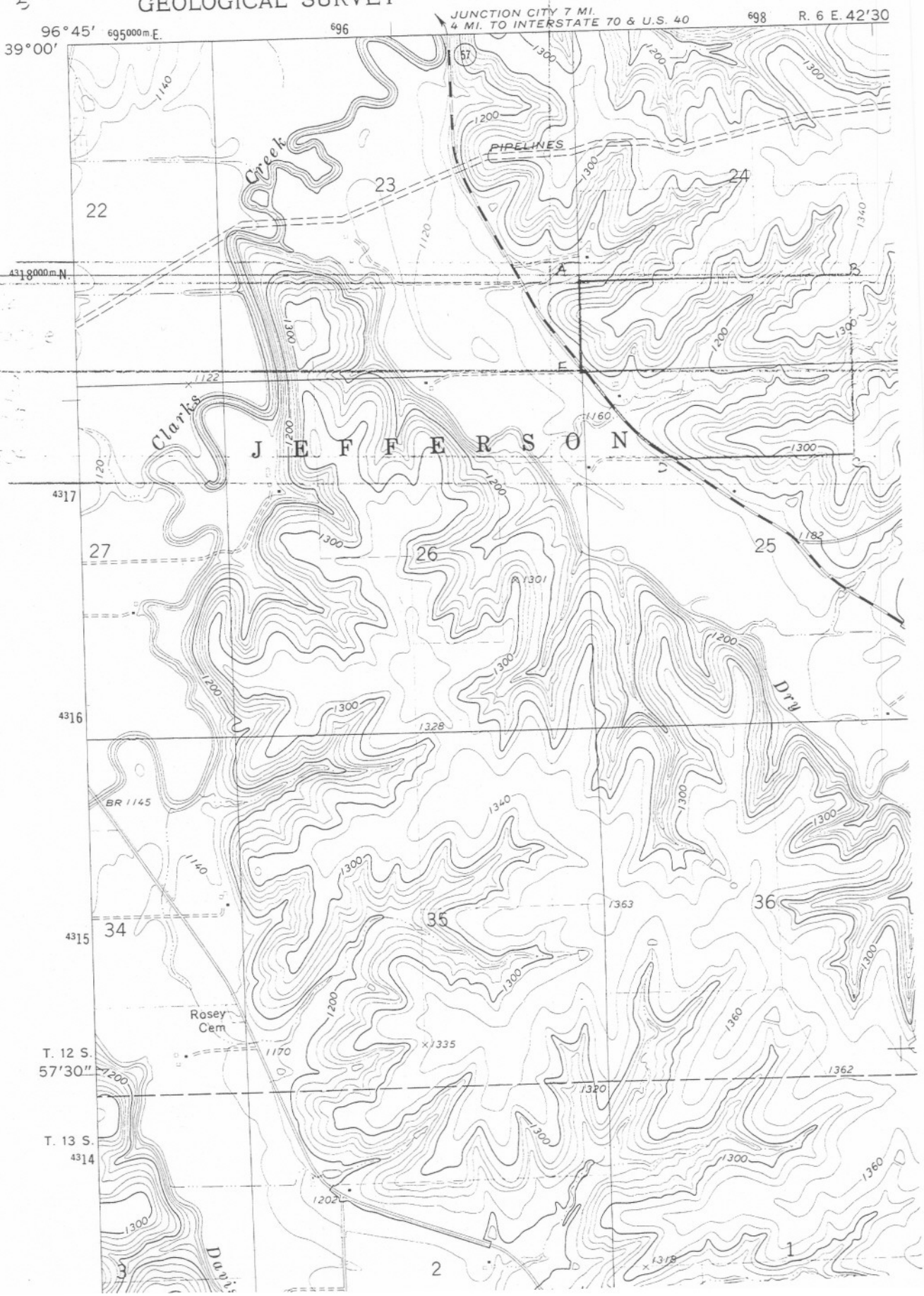
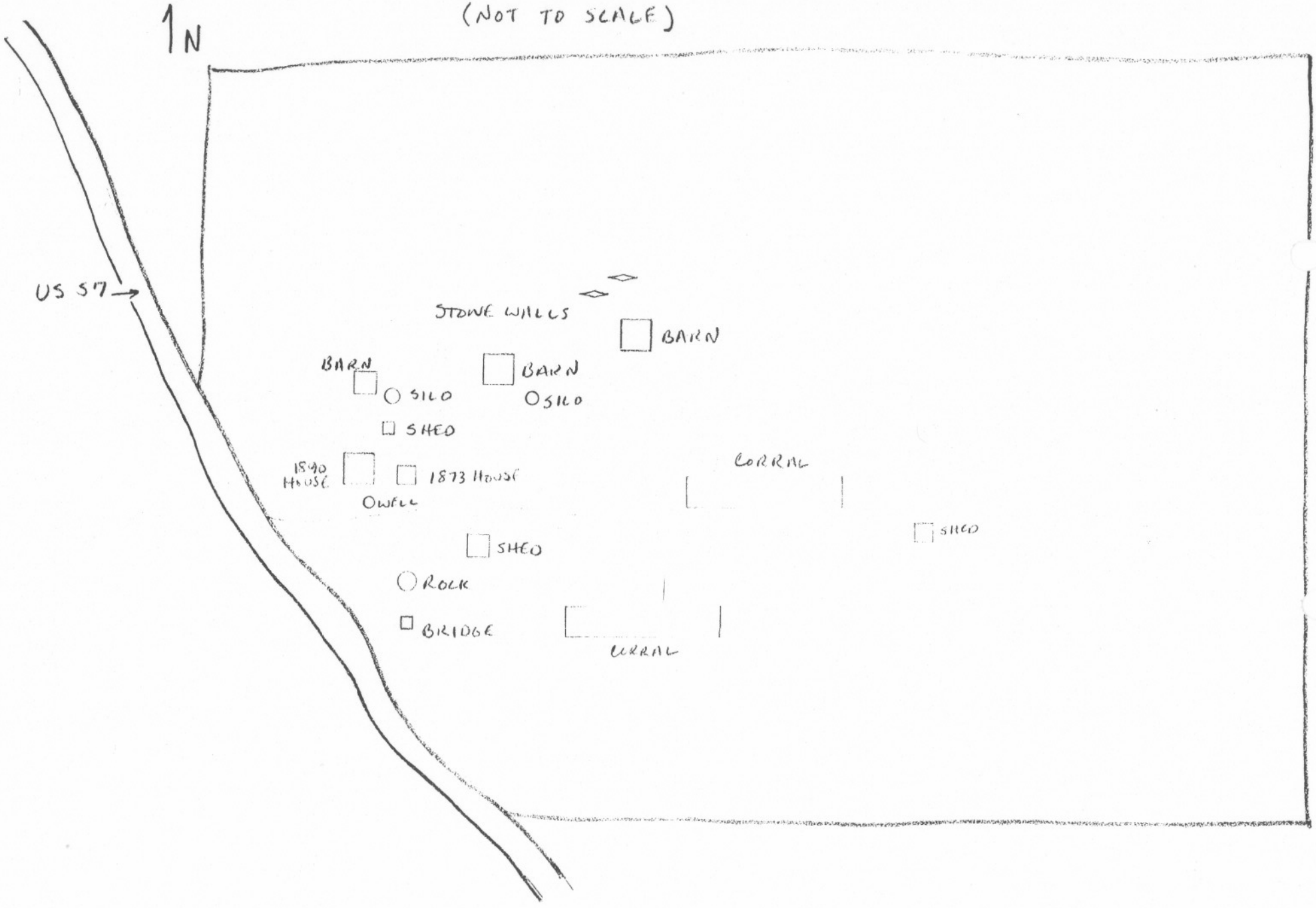
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



LEITHOFF, POWERS RANCH HISTORIC DISTRICT
JUNCTION CITY VIC., GEARY COUNTY, KANSAS
(NOT TO SCALE)