NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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

1. Name of Property

historic name KUHRT RANCH

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 2725 ROAD 77 ☐ not for publication

city or town EDSON ☒ vicinity

state KANSAS code KS county SHERMAN code 181 zip code 67733

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.)

Richard D. Pankratz D-SHPO 3/12/01
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 commenting 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:)

KUHRT RANCH
Name of Property

SHERMAN COUNTY, KANSAS
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
- ☐ public-local
- ☐ public-State
- ☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	1	buildings
		sites
1		structures
		objects
4	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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE:
ANIMAL FACILITY; AGRICULTURAL FIELD
AGRICULTURAL OUTBUILDING
DOMESTIC: SINGLE DWELLING

TRANSPORTATION: ROAD RELATED

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE:
ANIMAL FACILITY; AGRICULTURAL FIELD
AGRICULTURAL OUTBUILDING
DOMESTIC: SINGLE DWELLING

TRANSPORTATION: ROAD RELATED

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:
MISSION/SPANISH COLONIAL REVIVAL
OTHER: ELL, GAMBREL ROOF; RECTANGLE, MONITOR ROOF; RECTANGLE, GABLE ROOF

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls STUCCO: STONE; LIMESTONE
ASBESTOS; WOOD: WEATHERBOARD
roof METAL: IRON, TIN; TERRA COTTA
other

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

KUHRT RANCH
Name of Property

SHERMAN COUNTY, KANSAS
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

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.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1907 - 1950

Significant Dates

1907, 1933, 1934

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

WILLIAM AND PAULINE KUHRT

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

BEN H. BYRNES

WILLIAM AND PAULINE KUHRT, PAUL KUHRT

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

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 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:

KUHRT RANCH
Name of Property

SHERMAN COUNTY, KANSAS
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 320 ACRES

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing
(A) 1	14	278300	4377210
(B) 2	14	280120	4377120
(C) 3	14	278500	4376480
(D) 4	14	280800	4376400

☐ 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 DIANA FLANDERS

organization _____ date JUNE 2000

street & number 2725 ROAD 77 telephone 785-899-5306

city or town EDSON state KS zip code 67733

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 BRENT & DIANA FLANDERS

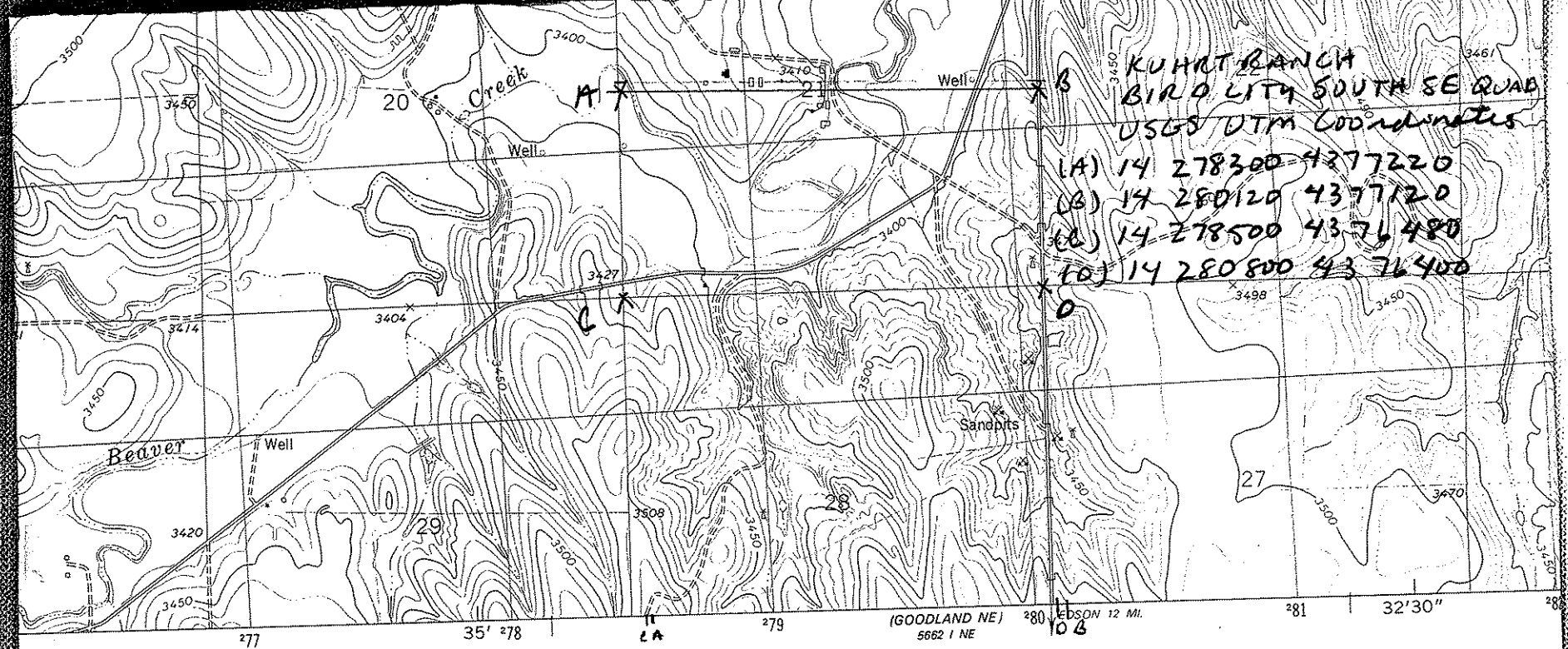
street & number 2725 ROAD 77 telephone 785-899-5306

city or town EDSON state KS zip code 67733

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.

US GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1993 O - 350-416 QL 3



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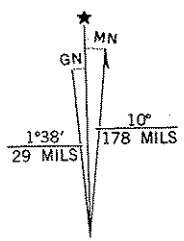

UTM GRID AND 1981 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24 000

1 MILE
7000 FEET
1 KILOMETER

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, LAWRENCE, KANSAS 66044
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

QUAD

The Kuhrt Ranch Historic District (c.1907-1950) is located in Shermanville Township, twelve miles north of Edson in Sherman County, Kansas (pop. 6,820) along county road SH 28. The nominated area is a contiguous 320 acre tract located in S2, S21, T6S, R38W. In addition to the expansive landscape the district contains the nucleus of ranch buildings and structures: limestone house (c.1907,1934), barn (c.1922, 1933), shop (c.1933), bridge (c.1950) and garage (c. 1970). A dry, dusty gravel road descends from the dryland wheat and pasture of the Northwest Kansas highlands into the Beaver Creek Valley. Here, a choice spot along the south fork of the Beaver, lies the Kuhrt Ranch Historic District. A picturesque setting of green, velvet-like alfalfa fields provide the canvas for a backdrop of historic cottonwood and evergreen trees; the Beaver Creek meanders through the willows throughout the setting, the district. Driving northwest down that narrow road, crossing the bridge built by Paul Kuhrt in 1950, one feels like they are entering an oasis in a desert. One encounters a red-roofed barn and shed on the left, a red-roofed machine shop on the right and a red-roofed, limestone, prairie castle nestled in the trees, the nucleus of the Kuhrt Ranch today. Limestone hills provide a natural boundary on the south.

INVENTORY

1. Main House (c.1907, 1934) Contributing
The two-story, limestone house is inspired by Spanish Colonial architecture. Adding individuality to the house is a two-story turret on the east end of the south elevation. The east elevation contains a side wing. The house has a cement, stucco covered foundation. The walls are cement, faced with native limestone. The limestone was quarried from the hills south of the house by the Kuhrt family. All stone work was done by the Kuhrt family, with uncut irregular courses. It is of high quality stone work. A wooden fascia board defines the roof line. Galvanized metal, 6" girth gutters were used on the house. Spanish, red clay tiles cover the side-gabled roof, turret, and wing.

The house has a southern facade orientation. On the east end of the southern elevation stands a two-story turret. Three windows pierce the turret foundation. According to the 1934 house plans, these windows are from the original 1907 part of the house. Five windows pierce the lower level of the turret with six windows piercing the upper level arranged in strict symmetry. Two cement steps lead to the cement porch that is the length of the southern elevation. According to a 1936 photo, the porch did not have a black cast iron railing but, the railing was later added and built by Paul Kuhrt. A single wooden door with six small lights penetrate the center of the lower level of the elevation. Through the years different screen doors have been used. As of now, a black cast iron, storm, screen door is in place. One set of two windows pierce the elevation to the right an left of the door. Directly above, on the upper level a single window and two sets of two windows are in strict symmetry with the lower level windows.

A stone chimney is placed on the gable wall of the west elevation. The foundation of the chimney contains a clean-out door. On the lower level and upper level, single windows pierce the wall on the right and left side of the chimney. To the far right end of the lower level of the west elevation a set of two windows pierce the wall.

The stucco foundation on the northern elevation is penetrated by a cast iron door that was used to transport coal into the basement coal room and a 1907 window. Five single windows pierce the lower level of the elevation. A flat dormer interrupts the roof's slope on this elevation. Red composition shingles cover the walls and roof of the dormer. The north side of the dormer is pierced by a set of two windows. Two 1934 chimneys rise from the roof: a chimney of brick and a chimney of metal. Approximately nine feet north of the north elevation, stands a 1963 native limestone rock wall used for planting flowers. It is the full length of the house and on the east end joins a window and a door that lead to a 1907 cellar.

The eastern elevation contains the side wing on the north end. The side wing has a side-gabled roof, with a southern facade orientation. One single door with nine lights penetrates the southern facade of the wing. The wooden door that was first used in 1934 has been moved to the inside of the house and a steel door replaces it. Two single windows pierce the eastern elevation of the wing. The stucco foundation of the eastern elevation of the house is pierced with two 1907 basement windows on the south end. A single window and one set of two windows pierce the lower level; three single windows pierce the upper level of this elevation of the house.

Fenestration is comprised primarily of double hung sash in singular and double groupings. Small rectangular windows with three lights pierce the basement. Two rectangular, solid pane windows installed in the early 1990s sit right and left of the chimney on the lower level of the house. All windows have cast stone sills. Both door surrounds are cast stone. The storm windows are a 1960s metal variety, replacing the original wood storm windows and screens.

The house sits amid a variety of flowers, trees and a grass lawn. A cement walk just out the door of the side-wing leads north to the cellar door or south to a cement drive way which circles half way around the island of grass directly south and in front of the house.

The exterior of the house retains a high degree of architectural and structural integrity. Except for changes in storm/screen doors and windows, no major changes have taken place after 1934 when the 1907 cement house was added on to and rocked with limestone. The wooden trim around doors and windows has been painted a shade of red since 1934.

The interiors of the first and second floors retain their original 1934 floorplan. The first and second floors and stairway have the original white oak, hardwood floors with two exceptions: the bathroom on the first floor has original ceramic tiles, and the bathroom on the second floor has a hardwood floor laid in 1997. All of the woodwork on the first and second floors and the basement is original, except for the upstairs bathroom in which new woodwork was installed in 1997. All doors are original with their original locksets and knobs. All windows have original hardware. The light fixtures have been changed in the early 1990s with the original ones being stored on Kuhrt Ranch. All walls and ceilings are the original lath and plaster with the side wing porch and basement being cement.

Of course, many different paints and wallpapers have been used in the house through the years.

The main entrance into the house is through the center door on the southern elevation. Entering here leads one into the great room. To the left or west end of the room, a limestone rock fireplace stands with a wooden mantle resting atop. Bookcases are to the right and left of fireplace. A propane insert was installed for the fire in the early 1990s.

The great room is bordered with a wooden crown molding. All window sills are deep. The east end of the great room has a narrow doorway leading into the breakfastnook.

The breakfastnook is in the lower level of the turret. The woodwork is original except for the baseboard which is oak and was installed in the early 1990s. The sills of the five windows are deep. On the east wall stands a built in wooden china-hutch which is original to the home. The north wall has an arched doorway leading into the kitchen.

In the spring of 1990 the kitchen was gutted and remodeled. It does have the original hardwood floor and woodwork. It also has the original 1907 brick chimney exposed on the north wall of the kitchen. The north wall also has a large double doorway which leads to a room once used as a formal dining room.

Entering the diningroom from the south through the double doorway, one views the north yard through two single windows with deep sills. Two options are available: right , leads through a single doorway which hinges the door that at one time was on the exterior of the side wing. This door is wooden with glass lights and panels. This doorway leads to the sidewing, back porch. The floor is cement. On the left of the backporch is a bathroom which also has cement floors. Two cement steps lead from the backporch to a doorway on the left one can use to descend down eleven steps into the basement or, one can use a door on the right to go outside on to a cement walk. The windows in the porch and bathroom have deep sills. The second option in the dining room is to turn left and walk down the mainfloor hallway.

Entering the hallway on the east end and taking an immediate turn right, one will ascend twelve hardwood steps to a landing with one set of two windows with deep sills. This area is the interior of the dormer. From the landing one ascends three more hardwood steps to the upper level of the home. The staircase has a solid wood banister. An upper level hallway gives access to four rooms, one attic, and three closets. The upper level has three bedrooms with a view of the southern yard. All windows have deep sills. One of the bedrooms is in the upperlevel of the turret. The fourth room is a bathroom that once served as a sewing room for Mrs.. Pauline Kuhrt. In 1997 this bathroom was remodeled, keeping the original window with a deep sill. One of the hall closets is lined with cedar.

Entering the lower level hallway on the east end and taking the second turn to the right, one enters a bathroom. This bathroom has the original ceramic tile on the floor and half way up the walls. The pattern of the floor is made up

of two shades of yellow and black tiles. One inch square tiles and one and half inch long rectangular tiles are laid separately making the design of the floor very detailed. The tile design on the walls of the bathroom is made up of four inch square, yellow and black tiles with a border of solid black six inch, rectangular tiles. The workmanship of this room is of very high quality. All the fixtures are original with original light fixtures also.

Next to the bathroom on the right, which is the very northwest corner of the house, is a bedroom which belonged to Pauline Kuhrt. All windows in this room have deep sills.

The basement of the house is all cement. There are four rooms in the basement. The main room is under the turret and is the laundry room. On the west wall of the main room are two doorways: one leading to a storage room and one leading to a pantry; it is lined with wooden shelves. The hopper windows in the basement are original from the 1907 home. All doors in basement are original. At the far north end of the basement, a direct turn left at the bottom of the stairway, is a room which at one time was the coal room. It now stores the boiler which serves as heat for the home. At the bottom of the stairway, a wooden door opens to a cement tunnel. This tunnel extends under the ground to the north for approximately twenty-three feet. Wooden shelves line one wall of the tunnel for storage of garden produce. At the north end of the tunnel is a meat hook that was used in the butchering of animals for meat to eat. Also at the north end of the tunnel is a water well. There is one archway and one doorway at the end of the tunnel: the right doorway and one cement step leads to the cellar, five cement steps lead to the door exiting the cellar which is facing south. The archway leads to a cold-room further north under the ground. Above the archway is a square opening which is accessible from a window that penetrates the rock wall north of the house. The tunnel, cold-room and cellar are original of the 1907 home and are believed to have existed in the 1800's when the Kurt family profited from the selling of milk, butter, eggs and produce. A large plank was laid between the window and the square opening and blocks of ice cut from Beaver Creek were slid down the plank into the cold-room. With the cold-room lined with blocks of ice it served as refrigeration for dairy products and garden produce in the winter and the room was able to keep items cool also in the summer. The water well directly in front of the cold-room was used when the making of butter, butchering of meat and other daily chores took place. The date of the digging of the water well is unknown. The tunnel, cold-room and cellar are cement.

The heating system used in the home to day is steam heat and the boiler runs off of propane gas. All of the radiators in the house are original. In the early 1900s a coal burning boiler was used for the steam heat system. The coal burning boiler is still in the boiler room but not in use today.

Much of the furniture used by the fourth and fifth generation now living in the home today belonged to the Kuhrt family. Some of the pieces belonged to William and Pauline Kuhrt and some belonged to the second generation children.

2. Barn (c.1922, 1933) Contributing
The exterior of the barn maintains a high degree of architectural integrity and a moderate degree of structural integrity. The foundation of the one-story barn with loft and a portion of the walls of the of the barn are cement and in 1933 this cement was covered with stucco. The foundation of the barn has cracks. The southeast corner and the northwest corner of the walls started to crumble and attempts were made to repair the corners with cement. The remaining portion of the walls were weatherboard painted red.

In 1933 asbestos siding was used to cover the weatherboard, it still exists today and is white. The original gambrel roof was covered with three-tab, asphalt, composition shingles; in 1933 red galvanized iron-tiles were put on the barn so the barn roof would match the machine shop roof At this time three cupolas were added to the roof, one on the section of the barn running east to west and two on the section of the barn running north to south. The sides of the cupolas were white weatherboard. Each roof had red galvanized iron-tiles.. The cupolas remain this way today. The wooden trim around the eves and windows was painted white and has remained that way. The barn has an L-shape architectural classification with a northern facade orientation. One single door and a double sliding door penetrate the northern elevation along with seven windows with four lights. The west elevation is pierced with seven windows with four small lights The southern elevation has five windows, one pair of sliding doors, one doorway with sliding door missing, and two small wooden sliding doors that just penetrate the bottom cement half of the wall. The east elevation has four windows with four lights, one set of two sliding doors and one double doorway with missing door that penetrates.

The interior of the barn has a moderate degree of integrity. The milking stanchions have been removed and put in storage and other minor changes have been made. The harnesses used by Paul Kuhrt when working his big team of horses still hang in the loft; the exact location Paul hung the harnesses when he was finished using them.

3. Machine Shop (c.1933) Contributing
The machine shop maintains a high degree of architectural and structural integrity. It is a rectangular, front-gabled, one-story building with loft and partial basement. The foundation and walls are cement with stucco veneer. The foundation and walls have some cracks with attempts to repair being made with cement. With east and west dropped secondary roofs, the middle-top section or loft, is white painted weatherboard. The roof is red galvanized iron-tile. The shop has a southern facade orientation. The southern elevation has two large , sliding doors under the west dropped secondary roof. The middle section has an accordion style door extending into the loft area with two small windows above it. One small window pieces the wall under the east dropped secondary roof. The building was built in a hill the partial basement being on the east side. The eastern elevation has one set of two sliding doors piercing the basement and one window. The main floor of the eastern elevation has nine windows. Seven windows pierce the loft area. One brick chimney extends from the roof. The northern elevation has one large sliding door entering the main floor. Two small windows pierce the loft area. The western elevation is pierced with three windows and

one door on the main floor and seven windows pierce the loft area. The interior of the building retains a moderate degree of integrity. Many of the tools used by the Kuhrt family are stored in this building today.

4. Bridge (c.1950) Contributing
As one drives northwest on county road SH76, one crosses county road SH77 and continues on to a private road, part of the Kuhrt Ranch Historic District nominated area. In 1950, Paul Kuhrt used plywood reinforced with metal to form an arched half-moon bridge. He then poured concrete making the bridge secure and wide enough to handle the farm machinery being used. The bridge crosses the Beaver Creek which is now dry. This bridge retains high architectural and structural integrity.

5. Garage (1970) Non-contributing
Between the house and machine shop sits an outbuilding that was built in the 1970s and is classified as non-contributing because of its date of construction. It blends architecturally with the other buildings and when it reaches the fifty year mark it can be classified as contributing. It is a rectangular, two-story, side-gable roofed building. Being built into a hill, the southern elevation is fully exposed. The building has a southern facade orientation.

The southern elevation is pierced with twelve windows in three groups of four on the top story. Six windows and a single door pierce the lower story. Three garage doors penetrate the east end of the southern elevation. The eastern elevation is pierced with two windows on the top story and three windows and one door on the sower story. The western elevation is pierced with one set of double doors used as an entrance to the top story. This building has a cement foundation, artificial limestone walls with a red, tin roof.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Kuhrt Ranch Historic District (c.1907-1950) is being nominated to the National Register under criterion B for its historical association with the Kuhrt family, a well known Sherman County ranching family, and under criterion C for its architectural significance as a twentieth century ranch complex. The S2, S21, T6S, R38W was acquired by the Kuhrt family between 1891 and 1935. The original 200 acre tracts that contains the current buildings and structure was acquired in 1891 and 1892. The 320 acres being nominated is now surrounded by agricultural land, most of the land being owned by descendants of the Kuhrt family.

The ranch includes the Collier homestead site and the Shermanville townsite. Joseph Collier built the first sod home in Sherman County where the Kuhrt Ranch buildings are today. In 1883, the Shermanville Post Office and general store were started in one room of this soddy. Collier was also said to have dug one of the first wells in the county. Following Beaver Creek west one half mile into SW 4, Section 20, there are two fence posts indicating the site of Shermanville Cemetery and a few huge, dead trees which once gave shade to the students of Shermanville School. While this section is outside the district its history and association with the Kuhrt Ranch are important to note. This quarter section was purchased by the Flanders family in 1983.

The treasurer's book, secretary's book, and original map of the Shermanville Cemetery, also known as the Melstrom's Cemetery are stored at the Kuhrt Ranch and more information can be found in these sources. Some bodies and the remaining headstones were moved to the Goodland, Kansas, cemetery where they can be found today. More information about the school can be found, if desired, by reading the 1887 Speer's teacher's register, the clerk's record book or the deed which are stored at the Kuhrt Ranch.

William Fredrick Kuhrt (1857-1917) and Pauline Kuhrt (1864-1937) purchased the N2SW of S21-6-38 from Joseph Collier on June 7, 1892. William Fredrick Kuhrt was born October 25, at Labis, Germany. He came to America as a young man. After living several places, he settled in Sherman County is 1885, homesteading four miles south of the Colliers. September 12, 1889, he married Pauline Haase. She was born at Arnsdorf, Germany, on May 4, and moved to America in 1888.

The Kuhrts lived in a sod house where their first son Eugene was born. Emilie and Paul followed. Gertrude was born in 1903. The children all attended Shermanville School District 29. The family was raised to work on the farm and to enjoy seeing their venture increase and prosper. Although, the Kuhrts closed the Shermanville Post Office in 1893, they continued to supply the community with goods. They sold poultry, eggs, milk, butter and garden produce. Being an industrious family, the Kuhrts built, what they called a cave. They used this cave and ice from Beaver Creek as a type of refrigeration to store their dairy products and produce.

From information gathered from William Kuhrt's account book dating from 1887-1910, receipts for 1893 were as follows: butter $45.62, chickens and eggs $22.34, cattle $63.15, hay $126.15, potatoes $23.40, cabbage $44.86, and all other receipts $69.23 for a total of $394.75. The expenses for 1893 included: groceries $58.39, clothing $29.34, enters on farm loans $102.65, 1 cow $22.50, all other expenses $182.14 this coming to a total of $395.02 for the year. In 1893 the Kuhrt family ended the year with $.27.

The community known as Shermanville was beginning to transform into the nucleus of the Kuhrt Ranch. In 1904 the buildings on the Kuhrt ranch consisted of the Collier sod house, a sod house built by the Kuhrts, a barn with corrals, a shed and two windmills. Many facts and figures about the Kuhrt Ranch can be known through reading two account books belonging to William Kuhrt. Half of the information in these books is written in German; these books are stored at the Kuhrt Ranch.

In a letter dated December 30, 1904, William Kuhrt states, "I have raised crops every year except the year of 1894. For the past twelve years I have been actively engaged in diversified farming, stock raising, dairying and raising of garden truck. I usually have about three acres in garden and raise on an average of about $500 worth of garden truck each year without irrigation. For the past four years I have milked on an average of fourteen head of cows, which has netted me over $1,600 worth of butter. Last year from one hundred and twenty hens I sold over $800 worth of eggs. This year my corn has made nearly thirty bushels per acre, and my barley thirty-one bushels. I now have eight hundred acres of deeded land, ninety head of cattle, ten head of horses, twenty head of hogs, with my place well improved, and all kinds of farm implements and don't owe a dollar. I believe this is the home of the poor man and the opportunities for getting a start are much better at this time than when I came here."

In 1907, alfalfa was introduced to the valley and as of the year 1911 the Kuhrt family made an increase of $1000 from prairie and alfalfa hay and $1000 for sales of alfalfa seed, besides keeping seed for next year's crop. The family continues to raise alfalfa today.

In 1907, William Kuhrt's father, Friedrich Kuhrt, came to Sherman County to build his son and family a house. The elder Kuhrt was a German stone mason who had immigrated to Illinois. In 1911, according to an article in a historic magazine which is stored at the Kuhrt Ranch today, it is recorded that the Kuhrt Ranch consisted of 1,280 acres of land, with an addition of an elegant cement house which was an imitation of cement brick, a reservoir and pumping station, and a young orchard. In a 1912 picture we see the cement, two story home, both sod houses, three sheds and a barn. Two extant, contributing resources from this time period are the house and the barn; with major changes taking place to the barn in 1922 and to the house in 1934.

William and Pauline Kuhrt were leaders in the community. They both were active in the Shermanville School Board and Cemetery Association. William Kuhrt was also county commissioner for the First district. William died

unexpected in May of 1917. The courageous Pauline Kuhrt was faced with either leaving northwest Kansas or continuing to build the legacy that she and her husband had started.

Pauline and William had six children, four of who survived. Three of these children stayed on what was now know as the Kuhrt Ranch to help their mother. Pauline Kuhrt, her son Paul (1897-1983), son Eugene F. (1890-1958), and daughter Emilie (1895-1976) worked diligently on the Kuhrt Ranch. Daughter Gertrude (1903-1957) helped for some time on the ranch but, unlike her siblings, she soon married and bore one child, Jim Flanders (1935).

On May 19, 1917, William Kuhrt died in the home. He was buried in block 1-lot 17 of the Shermanville cemetery; later his body was moved to the Goodland, Kansas, cemetery. At this time the Kuhrt Ranch was left in the hands of Pauline Kuhrt and her four children. In an interview with Pauline, she is quoted in a November 5, 1927 article saying, "First thing after my husband died I went to find out whether I needed to make out papers to be sure of my citizenship-I didn't want any doubt about that. And then we just started working."

Within 10 years, by 1927, the Kuhrt family had 3,500 acres of western Kansas land farmed so it was in better condition with each passing year. Eight quarters plus eighty acres had been added to land holdings, rebuilding of the barn had taken place, and elevator, machine shed and repair shop had been built. They had 200 acres of wheat, 200 acres of barley, 225 acres of corn, 135 acres of alfalfa and 80 acres of cane for roughage. The rest was in pasture. Pauline Kuhrt had 165 head Shorthorn cattle in all; 12 being milked. To represent the pork production on the farm, 6-8 good polands were kept. They also had a good flock of poultry. Horses were used for farming power with the big-hitch idea; 16 head of horses were kept for this purpose.

The Kuhrt family was very active in 4-H. Many times 4-H members were invited to the Kuhrt Ranch for a day of learning and fun. Livestock judging teams were trained at the ranch and some judging practices were held there. Paul Kuhrt served on township boards and several terms on the Board of County Commissioners. Emilie Kuhrt served many times as a judge for the county fair. State and local agriculture communities, and especially Sherman County, were greatly aided by the Kuhrt family.

Paul was known for his ability to handle eighteen to nineteen head of horses in the field. The machinery used with this large team was designed and made in their own shop. Eugene worked with the livestock, especially the fine Shorthorn herd of 300 cows. He took care of the fences and did not allow anyone else to drive staples in the fences. As the cattle herd improved, the Kuhrt herds were shown in several of the livestock shows and every year brought them more recognition and prizes.

The Kuhrts started in the Shorthorn purebred business in January 1916, with the purchase of four heifers from Warren Watts, Clay Center, Kansas, and a bull from S. B. Amcoats of the same place. They paid $50 for a purebred

bull from Thompson Brothers, Wakarusa, Kansas in August 1917. Pictures of some of the earlier Kuhrt breeding stock reflect types that are a far cry from the herd that was developed. The family bred for a particular type and ended up becoming leaders in the field.

The Kuhrt family prized themselves in the breeding and feeding of shorthorn steers. In 1927, the Kuhrt family entered Sultan's First, a shorthorn yearling, into competition at the National Western Livestock Show and won Grand Champion. The competition was keen and open to the world. The Kuhrt family was known nation wide for their livestock management. They bred, fed and marketed all their own calves as baby beef at the Kansas City market. They often received visitors from around the nation to the ranch; they were open to helping anyone learn better livestock management.

"The Kuhrt herd of Shorthorn cows is uniform, exceptionally low-set, and they annually produce calves which are winners. One steer was declared grand champion over all breeds at the Denver show. The Kuhrts' success with Shorthorns has been due to their care in selecting sires which are low-set and compact, early maturing, yet big when grown out. The cows are heavy milkers, which combined with natural size, results in heavy calves at weaning age. Visitors comment favorably on the Kuhrt calves, and many boys and girls got here for stock to use in feeding projects. This year a vocational agriculture teacher from Texas drove 728 miles to select 7 Kuhrt calves." (Kansas Farmer, May 23, 1936)

As the ranch grew in acres so did Pauline Kuhrt's knowledge in agriculture. She was a model in agricultural management and was painstakingly competent. In 1928, she was honored by the Kansas State Board of Agriculture for outstanding work for Kansas agriculture, one of the few women in Kansas to be thus honored.. She passed this agricultural management on to her children and in 1946, the Kuhrt Brothers received a Certificate of Award from the County Committee on Soil Conservation. The Kuhrt family held statewide esteem but never forgot about their friends, neighbors and local community.

Due to wise management of the Kuhrt Ranch. The Kuhrts were able to improve and add to the agriculture buildings on the ranch. The layout of the buildings and the landscape of the ranch have been for years a wonder to many. Numerous articles for newspapers and magazines have commented on the beauty of the Kuhrt Ranch and yet, it was so efficient. The Kuhrts were able to change the face of the ranch between 1933 and 1934, adding a Spanish Colonial flair to the valley with red pantile roofed buildings. The greatest pride to the Kuhrt family was the home built for Pauline in the year 1934.

On January 4, 1934, Ben H. Byrnes an architect from Salina, Kansas, wrote a letter to Mrs. Pauline Kuhrt soliciting a job. He had been told by Mrs. Kuhrt's nephew that she was planning on building a residence. This letter, along with floor plans for the house and a pencil drawing of the plans for the exterior of the house are stored at the Kuhrt

Ranch today. In April of 1934, the plans were finished. The Kuhrt family bought the plans on June 13, 1934, for $225. The 1907 house was used and transformed into a new 1934 residence with the Kuhrt family doing the construction.

Pauline came to America when she was twenty-four years of age and she missed her home of Germany. She longed for a home resembling the castles she had worked in as a young girl. During the Dirty Thirties when others were having a hard time making ends meet, the Kuhrts used the existing 1907 cement home and transformed it into what was and still is known as the "prairie castle". The years of prosperity were a blessing to the Kuhrts and they used them to also help others. Many neighbors were hired in the transforming of the Kuhrt home and the Kuhrts made a conscious effort to give all the same amount of work so no one would be slighted. This employment gave means to many during a time of despair. The native limestone was quarried by the Kuhrt family, with the help of hired neighbors, from nearby hills and the house was faced by the family. The quality of stone work is extremely high. The roof is tiled with Spanish clay tiles.

During the 1930s the Kuhrts remodeled the 1922 barn and built a new machine shop. In 1927, the interior of the barn was described in this manner: "It is as handy as anyone could want. Bins and feeding arrangements are convenient; over where the milk cows are kept a single handle closes all of the stanchions at one time, and inside tanks keep water available-cool in summer, warm in winter-for the livestock at all times." The exterior of the barn, evident from a photograph, had a cement foundation. The walls were cement half way up and wood, weatherboard, painted red for the remaining portion of the walls. The trim around the doors, windows and eaves were painted white. The roof was covered with three-tab, asphalt, composition shingles. Today, the barn maintains a high degree of architectural integrity and a moderate degree of structural integrity. In 1933, the shingles were replaced with red galvanized iron-tile and asbestos siding covered the wood.

In 1933 the Kuhrt family built an impressive outbuilding after a fire destroyed an existing outbuilding. This building was considered the machine shop. It is an extant, contributing resource in this nomination. The machine shop maintains a high degree of architectural and structural integrity. It is a rectangular, front-gabled building with cement foundation and walls. With right and left dropped secondary roofs, the middle-top section of the north and south ends being white painted weatherboard. The roof is red galvanized iron-tile. This machine shop served as the Kuhrt's home during the year of 1934 when major changes took place to their 1907 home.

According to the 1936 Soil Conservation Program Western Region Work Sheet A, the Kuhrt Ranch had grown to the size of 4,560 total land acreage by the year 1936. Of the lands, 1,490 acres were in crops, 236 acres were in roads, lanes, fences, lots, etc., 60 acres in woods, waste, etc., 2754 acres were in pasture and range land and 20 acres were in wild hay.

In February of 1937, Pauline Kuhrt died of pneumonia in her home. She left behind three, unmarried children, still living at home; Paul, Emilie and Eugene. Daughter, Gertrude, had married Raliegh B. Flanders on August 14, 1931. Raliegh, Gertrude and their son Jim were living in Atwood, Kansas, at the time of Pauline's death.

Much of the Kuhrt success was achieved after William Kuhrt's death but Pauline and her family took up the reins and played a major part in the family's climb to the front as Shorthorn breeders. The Kuhrt Ranch was a model of good management. In everything about it was the demonstration of the guiding hand of one who was painstakingly competent, and that was Mrs. Kuhrt, aided by her children, who carried out her direction. The Kuhrt Ranch was now in the hands of the second generation and progress continued. The family continued in cattle and alfalfa until the 1980s, when cattle was phased out. The ranch continues to produces alfalfa.

Continuing to make improvements on the Kuhrt Ranch, Paul Kuhrt built a bridge in 1950. As one drives northwest on county road SH76, one crosses county road SH77 and continues on to a private road, part of the Kuhrt Ranch Historic District nomination. In 1950, Paul Kuhrt used plywood reinforced with metal to form an arched half-moon bridge. He then poured concrete making the bridge secure and wide enough to handle the farm machinery being used. This bridge is a contributing resource with high architectural and structural integrity.

Today sits an outbuilding northeast of the house, between the house and machine shop. It was built in the 1970s. It is a rectangular, two story, side gable roofed building. The north side of the building is built into a hill. One single door penetrates the top floor on the west end. Twelve windows in three groups of four pierce the top story of the south side with six windows and a single door piercing the lower story. Three garage doors penetrate the east end of the south side. On the east end, two windows pierce the top story, three windows pierce the lower story and one door penetrates the lower story. This building has a cement foundation, artificial limestone walls with a red, tin roof. By the end of the 1970s, the Kuhrt family had acquired 12 sections, 7,680 acres of land. The only land lost was a part of the original Kuhrt homestead, four miles south of the nominated district. Emilie and Paul being the last of the four siblings left on the ranch; Gertrude had died in 1957, leaving one heir to the Kuhrt Ranch, Eugene had died in 1958. In the year 1976 Emilie died and in 1983 Paul died. At this time, Jim and Janice Flanders inherited the Kuhrt Ranch. Jim, Jan and their children continued to run the ranch with pride.

The Kuhrt Ranch Historic District is surrounded with agricultural land. The majority, although not all, of the surrounding land is now owned by Jim or Jan Flanders , or their four children. As many have always benefitted from the labor of the Kuhrt family, today the Brent Flanders family enjoys the fruits of the Kuhrts labor. Brent Flanders, great-great grandson of William and Pauline Kuhrt, his wife Diana and their two children, Paul Kuhrt and Sarah Jane live on the Kuhrt Ranch today. Paul and Sarah are the fifth generation to live on this ranch. The Flanders family are involved in raising alfalfa hay and managing a hunting resort. They are also actively involved in the restoring of both buildings and land.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is located on the S2, S21, T6S, R38W in Shermanville Township, Sherman County, Kansas. The nominated property contains 320 acres that includes expansive landscape and a nucleus of ranch buildings. The property is bounded to the north by the N2, S21, T6S, R38W, to the east by S22, T6S, R38W, to the south by S28, T6S, R38W and to the west by S20, T6S, R38W.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes all land historically associated with the Kuhrt Ranch. The nominated property was acquired by the Kuhrt family between 1891 and 1935. The original 200 acre tract that contains the current buildings and structure was acquired in 1891 and 1892. The 320 acres being nominated is surrounded by agricultural land, most of the land is owned by descendants of the Kuhrt family.