

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

DRAFT

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 Cossaart Barn
other names/site number 157-177

2. Location

street & number 3040 Birch Road not for publication
city or town Narka vicinity
state Kansas code KS county Republic code 157 zip code 66960

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 for 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.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
State Historic Preservation Office, Kansas Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- 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:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Cossaart Barn
Name of Property

Republic County, Kansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

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

Contributing Noncontributing

1	_____	buildings
1	_____	sites
2	_____	structures
	_____	objects
	_____	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of KS

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture / Subsistence: animal facility;
agricultural outbuilding

Agriculture / Subsistence: animal facility;
agricultural outbuilding

Extraction: windmill

Extraction: windmill

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Midwest Prairie

foundation Concrete

walls Wood

roof Metal: Steel

other _____

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for 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 N/A

(Mark "x" in all 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

Circa 1916-1959 _____

Significant Dates

Circa 1916, 1937 _____

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A _____

Architect/Builder

Cossaart, Reuben C. (builder) _____

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): N/A

- 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:
Cultural Resources Division, Kansas Historical Society

Cossaart Barn
Name of Property

Republic County, Kansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 14 638345 4427620
Zone Easting Northing
2 _____

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing
4 _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jim Cossaart (with assistance from Sarah Martin, KSHS)
organization _____ date July 2009
street & number 3040 Birch Road telephone _____
city or town Narka state KS zip code 66960

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 Jim and Deb Cossaart
street & number 3040 Birch Road telephone _____
city or town Narka state KS zip code 66960

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 listing. 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 20303.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cossaart Barn
Narka vicinity, Republic County, KS
Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of KS

Section number 7 Page 1

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

The Cossaart Barn, built in about 1916, is located at 3040 Birch Road or 1.2 miles west of Mahaska, Kansas, on a uniquely designated parcel of land – Section 1-1-1 in Albion Township of Republic County, Kansas.¹ Albion Township is located in the extreme northeast corner of the county and includes only a few hundred residents. The Cossart farm is situated on the north side of the gravel road within a shallow valley. The rural surroundings feature rolling hills of grassland used for ranching and farming.

The Cossart farmstead includes other buildings and structures of various periods, but the barn is the oldest and best intact feature on the farmstead. In addition to the barn, the current farmstead includes a 1929 residence, a former granary, a former corncrib, a 1937 Fairbury windmill, and a shed. There is a hedge post barbed-wire fence running down the center of the property that is over 100 years old.

The barn measures fifty feet by forty-eight feet and is approximately thirty feet from ground level to the peak of the roof. High-grade hard southern pine frames the structure with predominately two-inch by six-inch members forming both walls and rafters. It has a single-pitch gable roof covered with a base of cedar shingles topped by corrugated steel. The siding is vertical tongue-and-groove pine. Concrete foundation footings support the barn walls.

The floor plan is divided into three sections. The large central section, reaches from dirt floor to roof peak. This area was used for piling loose hay and, in the 1960s and 1970s, small round bales. A large hay door is near the north peak and was hinged to accommodate the loading of the loose hay. The rope and pulleys can still be seen near the peak. The two flanking sections on the east and west sides feature concrete floors and were used to house livestock. Both sections have large exterior sliding doors on each end. The west section is open; the east section contains stanchions and mangers that housed draft mules and a milk cow or two.

The barn has apparently changed little since it was constructed. It has always been painted white. The cedar shingle roof was overlaid with corrugated steel in 1972. Other than the roof, only small repairs have been made to the doors. Two damaging windstorms occurred in 1998 and 1999 after which both the north and south walls were pulled back into plumb and reinforced with braces on the interior frame.

Current Condition of the Barn

¹ This section touches the original survey marker, established in 1856, and was used as a base reference point for surveying lands in Kansas and five other states. The survey marker was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1987.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cossaart Barn
Narka vicinity, Republic County, KS
Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of KS

Section number 7 Page 2

The barn is still used to house hay bales and to shelter livestock in inclement weather, as well as to occasionally sort cattle in conjunction with a working lot immediately north of the barn. There are a number of wood siding pieces that have deteriorated – particularly near the foundation – but the majority of the siding is in good shape and needs a quality paint job to protect it. There are two walk-in doors that need to be replaced and three large sliding doors that need refurbished.

The most pressing concern with the structure is its east foundation. In about 1985 there was an attempt to correct the collapse of the concrete footing by installing large creosote posts as supports, but this has not been effective. The eastern portion of the barn's foundation needs to be properly stabilized to prevent future problems.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetCossaart Barn
Narka vicinity, Republic County, KS
Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of KSSection number 8 Page 3**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Cossaart Barn is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as part of the *Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas* multiple property nomination under Criterion A for its association with local agricultural history and Criterion C for its architectural significance as a Midwest Prairie-style barn.

*Midwest Prairie Barn Architecture*²

The Midwest Prairie Barn is the archetypal Kansas barn. From the beginning, Kansas farms were much larger than the national average, requiring large teams of draft horses and, in turn, tons of hay. Ranchers, who were managing ever-growing herds of longhorns and beef cattle in the Flint Hills and Southwest region beginning in the 1880s, required great amounts of hay to feed their herds during the long winter months. And Midwest Prairie Barns answered their call. Unlike their Gable-Roof predecessors, Midwest Prairie Barns were ordinarily balloon-framed, constructed entirely of sawn lumber.³ Also called “Feeder Barns,” Midwest Prairie Barns had striking similarities to ethnic Dutch barns, which also had low rooflines and doors in the gable end.⁴ In 1919, Sears catalog offered two feeder barns, one with a gable roof and another with a gambrel roof. They marketed the barns for their “abundance of loft roof for the storage of hay, roughage, etc.”⁵ Midwest Prairie Barns are most common in the state’s Northwest Region, the state’s western wheat belt.

Midwest Prairie Barns are identified by their wide sweeping roofs, horizontal massing, and gable-end entrances. This Property Type includes barns categorized by the National Park Service as “Prairie Barns” and by other sources as “Western Barns,” “Midwest Three Portal,” “Transverse Frame,” and “Feeder Barns.” Unlike Gable-Roof, Gambrel-Roof, and Arch-Roof Barns, with their vertical emphasis, Midwest Prairie Barns are generally as wide, or wider than they are tall and wider than they are long. However, like the aforementioned Property Types, the Midwest Prairie design emphasizes hay storage, with prominent hay hoods and doors, as well as large haymows. Midwest Prairie Barns can be found with both shallow gable roofs and gambrel roofs. Most gable examples feature a continuous roofline that slopes down nearly to grade. However, some have broken roof planes. The feature that distinguishes these examples

² The following three paragraphs about Midwest Prairie Barn architecture are taken from: Brenda Spencer and Christy Davis, *Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas* National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form. (Topeka, KS: Cultural Resources Division, Kansas Historical Society, 2008), F-57 through F-59. Available at: www.kshs.org/resource/national_register/MPS/HistoricAgricultureRelatedResourcesofKSDRAFT_mps.pdf

³ As quoted in Spencer and Davis: Allen G. Noble and Hubert GH Wilhelm, ed., *Barns of the Midwest* (Athens: Ohio University Press, 1995), Chapter 7.

⁴ As quoted in Spencer and Davis: Michael J. Auer, Preservation Brief #20: The Preservation of Historic Barns (Washington, DC: National Park Service, 1989.)

⁵ As quoted in Spencer and Davis: Rebecca Hunter and Dale Patrick Wolicki, *Sears, Roebuck Book of Barns: A Reprint of the 1919 Catalog* (Perfect Paperback: 2005), 25.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cossaart Barn
Narka vicinity, Republic County, KS
Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of KS

Section number 8 Page 4

from Gable-Roof Barns is the typical continuation of the haymow over the side bays. Some Midwest Prairie Barns have gambrel roofs with side shed bays on both sides that create a sweeping roof form.

The interior plans of Midwest Prairie Barns are generally similar to Gambrel-Roof and Arch-Roof Barns, with center aisles flanked by stall bays with full haymows on the second floors. Some examples were built for stacking hay from the ground level to roof with no haymow.

The Cossaart Barn features the distinguishing characteristic of a Midwest Prairie Barn: a large sweeping gable roof that gives it a strong horizontal emphasis. It also includes a hay hood with an outward-swinging door on the north elevation. Its interior is made up of a large, open central section that is flanked by stall bays. The interior is somewhat unusual in that the central section used for hay storage extends from ground level to the roof with no haymow.

Republic County / Albion Township Historic Context

The Cossart farm is located in the extreme northeast corner of Albion Township in Republic County. The county was organized in 1868 and the township in 1870. Local history records Reuben Phillips as having the township's first settlement on the SW quarter of Section 26 in October 1869.⁶ The township's first post office was located at Prairie Grove and operated from February 26, 1872 through October 17, 1883.⁷

Census records indicate that the township population has been in decline since the initial influx of settlers in late nineteenth century.⁸

1887 – 734 **1915** – 583 **1920** – 546 **1930** – 527 **1940** – 420 **1950** – 345 **1960** – 254

The initial rise in population can be partially attributed to the development of railroad lines through the county. According to Frank Blackmar's 1912 history of Republic County,

In 1873 bonds were voted for the extension of the Central Branch railroad into the county. They were never issued as the railroad company failed to keep its part of the agreement. Another attempt was made in 1878 to get a road, this time with the Kansas Pacific. The proposal to issue bonds for \$4,000 per mile was lost at the election. On Dec. 24 of that year the Missouri Pacific ran its first train to Scandia over a line extended from Concordia. In 1880 a branch of the Burlington was extended through the eastern portion of the county. Four years later the Union Pacific was extended from Junction City to Belleville, and a branch of the Burlington & Missouri

⁶ Anona Shaw Blackburn and Myrtle Strom Cardwell, *History of Republic County, 1868-1964*. Belleville, KS: Belleville Telescope, 1964), 39.

⁷ Rita Kvasnicka Orton, *Albion Township: The Early Years, 1870-1900*. N.P. N.D., 1.

⁸ Blackburn and Cardwell, 34.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cossaart Barn
Narka vicinity, Republic County, KS
Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of KS

Section number 8 Page 5

River was extended through the county 18 miles. In 1887 the Rock Island built 54 miles of track, and the next year the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe built 13 miles.⁹

The Chicago Rock Island Pacific line passed through Narka, the main settlement in Albion Township, which was incorporated in April of 1894.¹⁰ Today, it has a population of 78.¹¹

The township has always had an agricultural economic base with primarily small farms at 160 acres or fewer. The 1875 Agricultural Census of Kansas documented several small farms in Albion Township, but “only two men [D. Park and G. Shoup] owned more than 160 acres of land – both owned 320.”¹² Additionally, township maps from 1884, 1904, and 1923 document only a few farms in excess of 320 acres.

Property History

The Cossaart family first appears in county records as landowners noted on the 1884 Albion Township map, which lists R. G. (Reuben Griggs) Cossaart as the owner of this section of land.¹³ The map documents a residence and barn, both of which were later replaced. Since the Cossaarts have owned the land, there have been three residences on the property – the earliest was a sod house, then a small two-story wood frame house, and then the current house built in 1929.

The property deed records this quarter section of land passing from Reuben Cossaart’s widow Sarah Cossaart to her young grandson Reuben C. Cossart in 1901. The younger Reuben made his mark on the farmstead with the construction of a new barn in about 1916 and the construction of a new residence on the property in 1929. Family oral history recalls Reuben hiring a team of men to build the barn.

According to current owner and the fifth-generation Cossaart to live on this property, Jim Cossaart, his grandfather Reuben always had a cow-calf herd, and his Reuben’s son Alvin fattened cattle in the small lot north and east of the barn for many years, from approximately 1950-1970. The cow-calf herd totaled about 80 head of cows between the two of them. “We have always had lots of pasture grass, so there have always been cows. In Grandpa’s [Reuben’s] day, he always had mules as draft animals. He liked their temperament and power, and was very proud of them. He reluctantly gave them up in place of tractor power in the 1950s. Grandpa also had 50-100 head of hogs around, but Alvin hated them and they disappeared by the 1950s.”¹⁴

⁹ Frank Blackmar, *Kansas: A Cyclopaedia of State History, volume II*. (Chicago: Standard Publishing Co.: 1912. Accessed online at: http://skyways.lib.ks.us/genweb/archives/1912/r/republic_county.html

¹⁰ Orton, 4.

¹¹ League of Kansas Municipalities. *Directory of Kansas Public Officials, 2008-2009*. Available online at: www.lkm.org/publications/dokpopop.html

¹² *Ibid.*, 9.

¹³ No Cossaarts were noted in the 1880 Federal Census of Republic County.

¹⁴ Jim Cossart, Email Correspondence with Sarah Martin, 17 September 2009.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cossaart Barn
Narka vicinity, Republic County, KS
Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of KS

Section number 8 Page 6

Alvin Cossart died in 1976, and his elderly parents sold off his cattle and moved off the farm shortly thereafter. Jim returned to the farm in the late 1970s, and by 1990 he had built up his herd to about 50 head.

The barn has always been integral to the working operations of this small farmstead. Historically, the large central section of the barn used for piling and storing loose hay and, in the 1960s and 1970s, small round hay bales. The flanking sections of the barn were used to shelter cattle and mules and for milking. Fenced areas north and east of the barn served as livestock holding areas. Today, the barn serves very similar purposes for Reuben's grandson and rancher Jim Cossaart. As part of his small ranching operation, he uses the barn for hay storage and to shelter calves. The 1937 windmill originally pumped water to the house and to a tank adjacent to the barn for many years. By the mid-twentieth century the windmill was outfitted with an electric motor and pumpjack. Jim Cossaart restored it back to original working condition in 1993.

The property's building stock has evolved and changed over time and, as with any historic farmstead, the residence has been replaced twice and outbuildings have come and gone. A tornado came through the area in about 1920 and destroyed the original windmill and a chicken house. In addition to the barn, the current farmstead includes a former granary, a former corncrib, a 1937 Fairbury windmill, and a shed. There is a hedge post barbed-wire fence running down the center of the property that is over 100 years old and was erected by Reuben C. Cossaart when he was a teenager. The current owners are converting much of the existing cropland (100 acres) back to native grass. The rest of the short/tallgrass prairie on the property has never been broken.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cossaart Barn
Narka vicinity, Republic County, KS
Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of KS

Section number 9 Page 7

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Atlas of Republic County, Kansas. Chicago: Gillen & Davy, 1884.

Blackburn, Anona Shaw, and Myrtle Strom Cardwell. *History of Republic County, 1868-1964*.
Belleville, KS: Belleville Telescope, 1964.

Blackmar, Frank. *Kansas: A Cyclopedia of State History, volume II*. Chicago: Standard Publishing Co.:
1912. Accessed online at: http://skyways.lib.ks.us/genweb/archives/1912/r/republic_county.html

Orton, Rita Kvasnicka. *Albion Township: The Early Years, 1870-1900*. N.P. N.D.

Property Deed. Republic County Courthouse.

Spencer, Brenda, and Christy Davis. *Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form*. Topeka, KS: Cultural Resources Division, Kansas Historical Society, 2008. Available at:
www.kshs.org/resource/national_register/MPS/HistoricAgricultureRelatedResourcesofKSDRAFTmps.pdf

Standard Atlas of Republic County (Albion Township Map), Kansas. Chicago: George A. Ogle & Company, 1904, 1923. The 1904 map is accessible online at:
<http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/209411>

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cossaart Barn
Narka vicinity, Republic County, KS
Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of KS

Section number 10 Page 8

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Section 1, Township 1, Range 1:

E1/2 SW ¼ & SE ¼ Less TR BEG NE COR SE ¼ TH S 2645; & W 836' & N 988' & W 812' & N 1696' & E 1639' & E 20' TO POB LESS ROW

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property includes the barn, the windmill, and the land upon which they sit.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cossaart Barn
Narka vicinity, Republic County, KS
Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of KS

Section number Photos Page 9

PHOTOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Property: Cossaart Barn
Location: 3040 Birch Road, Narka, KS 66960
Date: July 22, 2009
Photographer: Sarah Martin

Digital Negatives on File with the Cultural Resources Division, Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, KS

- Photo 1: South and west (side) elevations, facing NE
- Photo 2: North and west (side) elevations, facing SE
- Photo 3: Haymow on north elevation, facing SE
- Photo 4: West (side) elevation, facing S
- Photo 5: Interior, central section, facing NE
- Photo 6: Interior, central section in foreground, facing E
- Photo 7: Interior, west section, facing S
- Photo 8: Interior, upper section of south wall, facing S
- Photo 9: Windmill, facing N

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

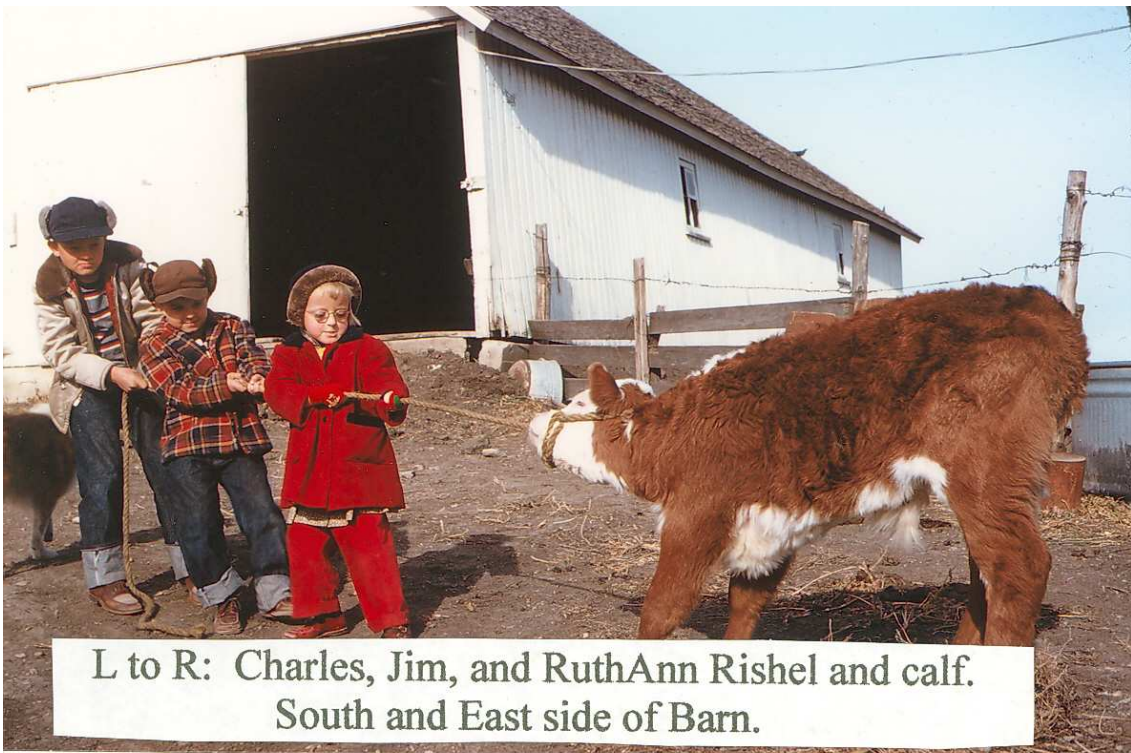
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cossaart Barn
Narka vicinity, Republic County, KS
Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of KS

Section number Add'l
Documentation Page 10



April 1959. My Grandfather getting in the back seat,
Father and Mother in front.



L to R: Charles, Jim, and RuthAnn Rishel and calf.
South and East side of Barn.

