United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form  

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

1. Name  

historic Albert Albers Barn - Byre and Bluff Barns of Doniphan County (TR)  
and/or common Caudle Farms Barn  

2. Location  

S of Bendena  
street & number SE 4, SE 4, NE 4, SW 4, S21, T4S1, R2OE  

3. Classification  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Present Use</th>
<th>Code</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>district</td>
<td>public</td>
<td>occupied</td>
<td>X agriculture</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>building(s)</td>
<td>private</td>
<td>unoccupied</td>
<td>X museum</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>structure</td>
<td>both</td>
<td>occupied</td>
<td>X commercial</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>site</td>
<td>Public Acquisition</td>
<td>work in progress</td>
<td>X educational</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>object</td>
<td>N/A process</td>
<td>Accessible</td>
<td>X entertainment</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>object</td>
<td>N/A being considered</td>
<td>X yes: restricted</td>
<td>X government</td>
<td>43</td>
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<tr>
<td>object</td>
<td></td>
<td>X yes: unrestricted</td>
<td>X scientific</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>object</td>
<td></td>
<td>no</td>
<td>X transportation</td>
<td>43</td>
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</table>

4. Owner of Property  

name Caudle Farms, Inc.  
street & number N/A  

5. Location of Legal Description  

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds  

6. Representation in Existing Surveys  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>title</th>
<th>has this property been determined eligible?</th>
<th>X no</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doniphan County Cultural Resources Survey</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>1985</td>
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</table>

depository for survey records Kansas State Historical Society, 120 W. 10th  
city, town Topeka  
state Kansas  

For NPS use only  
received Nov 2 5 1986  
date entered  

vicinity of  

state Kansas  

66008  

state Kansas  

66087  

state Kansas  

66612
7. Description

<table>
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<th>Condition</th>
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<td>___ unaltered</td>
<td>___ original site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>___ good</td>
<td>___ altered</td>
<td>___ moved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>___ fair</td>
<td>___ date</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>___ deteriorated</td>
<td>___ unexposed</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Albert Albers Barn (ca. 1897) is located on a farm owned by Caudle Farms near Bendena, Kansas (pop. 150). The one-story, three-bay, side entrance, board and batten barn has a partial byre with a limestone foundation and asphalt shingled, gambrel roof. The superstructure is supported by nailed, plank framing. The barn has an east to west orientation, measuring thirty feet from north to south and thirty-six feet from east to west. The byre is built into the north, west, and east embankments.

Several small, hinged doors surmounted by hinged shutters comprise the hay floor level of the east elevation. A hinged, hay door with a hay track stands in the gable peak of this elevation, flanked by a small, square opening on either side. The limestone foundation is visible on the southern half of the east elevation. The southern elevation is comprised of a centrally located, access door on the byre level with hinged shutters standing to its west. The byre level is covered with board and batten. A single, centrally located window opening pierces the hay floor level of this elevation. The west elevation is comprised of a centrally located door accessing the hay floor level, flanked by a hinged shutter on its south and surmounted by three rectangular openings in its gable. The limestone foundation wall is visible in the southern corner of the west elevation. The north elevation has no openings. The manger and stalls in the north bay and two granaries with a stairway to the byre level in the south bay of the hay floor remain. Two lightning rods stand on the roof ridge. The barn is painted grey.

Originally constructed as a mixed-use barn, the barn is now vacant. The significant alteration to the barn has been the replacement of the original roof with asphalt shingles. The building maintains a high degree of architectural and structural integrity.
8. Significance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Areas of Significance—Check and justify below</th>
<th>Specific dates</th>
<th>Builder/Architect</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>prehistoric</td>
<td>archeology-prehistoric</td>
<td>Ca. 1897</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
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<tr>
<td>1400-1499</td>
<td>archeology-historic</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</table>

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Albert Albers Barn (ca. 1897) is being nominated to the National Register as part of the Byre and Bluff Barns of Doniphan County (ca. 1860–1933) nomination under criterion C for its architectural significance. Constructed for Albert Albers, the American born son of German immigrants, the barn is an example of a board and batten, gambrel roof, side entrance barn with a limestone foundation, a hay loft, and full byre. In 1903, Albers sold the farm on which the barn stood to George Peuker, who bred Hereford cattle.

The eighteen nominated barns share a common feature in that at least one side of each barn's foundation is embedded in an earthen bank or bluff; the majority of the barns are built into shallow banks, two of the barns are built into bluffs. These vernacular wooden and cement structures span a seventy-year construction period and exhibit various masonry foundations, skeletal structures, and superstructures. The byre and bluff barns of Doniphan County are an excellent example of a vernacular form of architecture which was built to take advantage of the hilly topography of the county. These barns are representative of approximately thirty byre and bluff barns identified in a 1984–1985 cultural resource survey of Doniphan County. The remaining barns are too altered and/or deteriorated to be included in this nomination. Most of the nominated barns were constructed for stock and dairy cattle and remain in active use on working farms. The relative rarity of byre and bluff barns in Doniphan County and the high degree of architectural and structural integrity maintained by the nominated barns make this thematic grouping of vernacular agricultural structures extremely significant.

Doniphan County (est. 1855) experienced a substantial population increase in the twenty years following the Civil War, with many settlers moving from Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Germany. The barn building traditions brought by these settlers combined with the suitable topography contributed to the building of the byre and bluff barn type in Doniphan County. Most of the nominated barns are three-bay, center entrance, gable roof structures with limestone foundations, a full byre, a threshing floor, and a hay loft. There are groupings of period types, such as the board and batten barns with louvered vents from the 1870s and 1880s, the large, gambrel roof barns from 1910s, 1920s, and 1930s, and the gradual transition from post and beam construction to plank framing. In 1891 J. D. Walters of the Kansas State Agricultural College called the byre (bank)/bluff barn an "all-purpose barn of the Kansas farmer" in an article entitled "The Barn," which was published in the Quarterly Report of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture. Walters described the bank barn as follows:

It gives a warm basement for the milk cows and cattle, and an accessible second story for the draught animals—for tools, machines, harness, and grain—and a roomy attic, or loft, for hay, straw, and fodder. In many states this form is objectionable for sanitary reasons, but in the dry climate of Kansas it is preferable to any other, unless there should be an unusually moist ledge directly against or under it...The building should be located so that the basement will be partly in the ground on the north and
west, and so that a low embankment, or filling, on these sides will give access to the second story.

While the byre or bluff barn presented a practical solution for Doniphan County's rolling topography, harsh winters, and high winds, it was not the most common solution. The byre and bluff barns built between 1860 and 1933 generally cost from $2,000.00 to $3,000.00 and while this may have been cost effective investment, it was an expensive investment. In addition, the higher degree of skilled craftsmanship required to construct a byre or bluff barn as opposed to most barns without foundations also hindered their construction. While the byre and bluff barns of Doniphan County are a sturdy survivor of a barn type built in Doniphan County between 1860 and 1933 they are not prolific, being far outnumbered by more inexpensive, rectangular wooden barns without foundations.
10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property: **Less than 1 acre**

Quadrangle name: Bendena

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

**UTM References**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Zone</th>
<th>Easting</th>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
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</table>

**Verbal boundary description and justification**
The nominated property is located on the SE₁, SE₂, NE₁, SW₁, S21, T4S, R20E in Doniphan County, Kansas on a tract measuring 56 x 50 feet, whose northeast corner is 14.1 feet directly northeast of the northeast corner of the barn’s foundation. Beginning at the northeast corner of the parcel the boundary proceeds 50 feet south, 50 feet west, 50 feet north, and 50 feet east to the point of beginning.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>code</th>
<th>N/A</th>
<th>county</th>
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</tr>
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</table>

11. Form Prepared By

**name/title**  Martha Gray Hagedorn, Architectural Historian

**organization**  Kansas State Historical Society  
**date**  October 28, 1986

**street & number**  120 West 10th  
**telephone**  913-296-5264

**city or town**  Topeka  
**state**  Kansas  66612

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

- national
- state
- X local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89–665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

**State Historic Preservation Officer signature**  [Signature]

**title**  Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society  
**date**  October 28, 1986

For NPS use only

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

**Keeper of the National Register**

**Attest:**

**Chief of Registration**
BIBLIOGRAPHY—Byre and Bluff Barns of Doniphan County


Doniphan County, Kansas. Deeds, 1860-1933.

Doniphan County, Kansas. Tax Records and Appraisals, 1860-1933.

Emmert, D.B. Rural Kansan. (Humboldt, Kansas: November 1873–October 1874).

Euler and Euler, Attorneys at Law. Abstractors Index for Doniphan County, 1860-1933.


Kansas State Board of Agriculture. Biennial Reports, 1875-1900.


Walters, J.D. "The Barn," The Quarterly Report of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture. 31 March 1891.
Albert Albers barn

2. Property address/descriptive location (062)
   3 2/3 miles south of K-20 on FAS 1665

3. Legal description (070)
   North 93 acres of the SW 4th Section 21, Township 4S
   Range 20 E

4. Original use
   barn

5. Present use (208)
   barn

6. Other uses

7. Original owner or occupant
   Albert Albers

8. Date of construction (301)
   □ estimated
   □ documented 1897

9. Changes
   □ moved
   □ major alterations

10. Architect (300)
    unknown

11. Builder/contractor
    unknown

12. Is the property architecturally or historically important? If so, why? (continue on reverse if necessary)

   This barn is a part of that group of earth sheltered barns which do not feature the wagonway/threshing floor.

13. Identify any outbuildings and/or other structures associated with this building or structure. (Attach an additional inventory form for each one that has particular architectural or historical interest.)

   There is a farm home some 200 yards to the north and east and also a stone smoke house nearer the house than the barn

14. KSHS Inventory Code (054)
    043-0000-04527

15. County (064)
    Doniphan

16. Survey sequence no.

17. Accessibility
   □ Open to public
   □ Accessible by permission only
   □ Inaccessible

18. Visibility from public road or street
   □ good
   □ poor
   □ not visible

19. Condition (064)
   □ excellent
   □ fair
   □ deteriorated
   □ no visible remains
   □ incorporated into later structure

20. USGS Quadrangle map (if required, see instructions)
    Bendena, KANS

21. UTM Reference (if required, see instructions)
    Caudle Farms, Inc
    Bendena, KS 66008

22. Current owner’s name and address (096, 097)

23. Tenant’s name, and address if different from property address. (See Instructions)

24. Principal material(s) (218)
    wood

25. Style and/or form type (210)
    Rectangle; gambrel roof

28. Registration status and dates (078)
   □ NHL
   □ Listed NR
   □ Approved for NR
   □ Federal DOE
   □ Listed, SR
   □ Local landmark
   □ HABS/HAER
   □ 8/23/86

29. Is this property included in a historic district?
   □ Yes □ No
   □ NR District □ SR District □ Local District

   Name of district (080):

   □ Contributing □ Noncontributing
John Albers, a native of Oldenberg, Germany, emigrated to W. Virginia in 1849 and with another German family, the Ladwigs, to Doniphan Co. in 1859. Albert, the 3rd son of John and Caroline Ladwig Albers, was married in 1897, and was apparently given this land by his father, who had acquired considerable holdings by this time. In 1903 the tract was sold by Albert to George Peuker, who later added quarter section to his holdings. In 1915, Peuker called the farm Pleasant Ridge and advertised that he was a breeder of Hereford cattle. The farm is now owned by Caudle Farms, which had its genesis in the holdings of another area German family, the Rickleffs.

Gambrel roofed barn with byre only under the south half of the structure. There are a hay track and bottom hinged hay door on the east gable, but no hay hood. The foundation is coursed stone, and the south wall of the ground level is board and batten. The upper floor has a center runway with manger and stalls on the north side and two granaries, with stairway to lower level between, on the south. Hay is stored above the granaries and center runway. There are the remnants of 3 dutch doors on the south side, ground level.

33. Sources of information

Genealogical and Biographical History of NE Kansas; 1900 Illustrated Doniphan County, Supplement to the Weekly Kansas Chief 1915
1870, 1880 Censuses
Records in the office of Registrar of Deeds.