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 Mathew Elyar Barn (1) - Byre and Bluff Barns of Doniphan County (TR)  
and or common Anderson Barn  

2. Location  

5 of Denton, off KS 20  

street & number NE 1/4, SW 1/4, NW 1/4, S 35, T 4 S, R 19 E  

3. Classification  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Present Use</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>district</td>
<td>public</td>
<td>Occupied</td>
<td>Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>building(s)</td>
<td>private</td>
<td>Unoccupied</td>
<td>Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>structure</td>
<td>both</td>
<td>Work in progress</td>
<td>Private residence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>site</td>
<td>Public Acquisition</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Religious</td>
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<tr>
<td>object</td>
<td>N/A in process</td>
<td>Yes: restricted</td>
<td>Scientific</td>
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4. Owner of Property  

name Anderson Ridge Farms & Lowell Anderson  
street & number N/A  

5. Location of Legal Description  

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds  
street & number Doniphan County Courthouse  

6. Representation in Existing Surveys  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>title</th>
<th>Doniphan County Cultural Resources</th>
<th>has this property been determined eligible?</th>
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<tr>
<td>Survey</td>
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<tr>
<td>date</td>
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depository for survey records Kansas State Historical Society, 120 W. 10th  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>city, town</th>
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7. Description

<table>
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<td>unaltered</td>
<td>original site</td>
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<td>good</td>
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<td>ruins</td>
<td>altered</td>
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<td>unexposed</td>
<td>moved</td>
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Mathew Eylar Barn (1) (ca. 1933) is located on the Anderson Farm near Denton, Kansas (pop. 156). The one-story, center entrance, vertically planked, metal sheathed, gambrel roof barn is built into the side of a bluff with a cement supporting wall. The superstructure is supported by nailed balloon framing. The barn has a north to south orientation, measuring one hundred and twenty feet from east to west and fifty-two feet from north to south. The barn is built into the northern bluff.

The northern elevation is comprised of a center, projecting, gabled entrance with hinged, double leaf doors. The metal sheathed, gambrel roof slopes flank the doorway on either side. Two rectangular window openings light the upper gambrel sides of the east and west elevations. Access to the basement level is provided on the western side. The southern elevation is comprised of a centrally projecting gable with rectangular window openings. The gable is flanked by the two sided slope of the gambrel roof and underscored by a projecting shed roof which covers the loafing parlour. Access to the basement is provided through the loafing parlour. The interior maintains its wagonway access from the northern elevation but that is the only extant upper story flooring in the barn. The barn is painted red.

Originally constructed as a stock barn for Angus cattle, the barn is now used for hog raising. The building maintains a high degree of architectural and structural integrity. The significant alteration to the barn has been the replacement of the original roof with the current metal sheathing. This is an alteration common to many of the barns included in this nomination.
## 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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<td>archaeology-historic</td>
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<td>communications</td>
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Mathew Elyar Barn (1) (ca. 1933) 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 Mathew Elyar in 1933, the large gambrel roof, cement bluff wall barn served Elyar's large Angus cattle breeding operation with its sister structure, the Mathew Elyar Barn II. Elyar, a Doniphan County native, managed the Hatch Book Typewriter Company in New York City before establishing the cattle breeding operation. Elyar sold his large farm in 1944, the property is now owned by the Anderson family.

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

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

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

While the byre or bluff barn presented a practical solution for Doniphon 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 Doniphon County are a sturdy survivor of a barn type built in Doniphon County between 1860 and 1933 they are not prolific, being far outnumbered by more inexpensive, rectangular wooden barns without foundations.
9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than 1 acre
Quadrange name Denton
Quadrange scale 1:24,000

UTM References

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<tr>
<td>C</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 in the NE1, SW1, SW1, SW1, S35, T4S, R1E in Doniphon County, Kansas on a tract measuring 140 x 72 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 72 feet to the south, 140 feet to the west, 72 feet to the north, & 140' to east to the point of beginning.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>state</th>
<th>code</th>
<th>county</th>
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</tbody>
</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

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>title</th>
<th>Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society</th>
<th>date</th>
<th>October 28, 1986</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

For NPS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

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


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.
Mathew Eylar Barn (1)
Denton vicinity, Kansas
Martha Hagedorn
July, 1986
Kansas State Historical Society
West & South elevations, NE view
1 of 3

Mathew Eylar Barn (1)
Denton vicinity, Kansas
Martha Hagedorn
July, 1986
Kansas State Historical Society
North & East elevations, SW view
2 of 3

Mathew Eylar Barn (1)
Denton vicinity, Kansas
Martha Hagedorn
July, 1986
Kansas State Historical Society
Second level, South view
3 of 3