

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER
LISTED

APR 16 2008

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 10-9000a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Oxley Barn
Other name/site number Big Red Barn; 063-4620-0003

2. Location

Street & number 2740 County Road 74 not for publication
City or town Quinter vicinity
State Kansas Code KS County Gove Code 063 Zip code 67752

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.)

Patrick Zollner

2/29/08

Patrick Zollner, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Kansas State Historical Society

Date

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 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:) _____

Oxley Barn
Name of Property

Gove 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	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	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 : storage

AGRICULTURE / SUBSISTENCE: animal facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE / SUBSISTENCE : storage

AGRICULTURE / SUBSISTENCE: animal facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: gambrel roof, wood barn

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: CONCRETE
Walls: WOOD; METAL

Roof: WOOD: shingle

Other:

Narrative Description

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

Oxley Barn
Name of Property

Gove 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)

- 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 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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Agriculture

Commerce

Period of Significance

1911-1939

Significant Dates

1911; 1931-1939

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Flora, Joseph

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Oxley, Benjamin Franklin

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:

Kansas State Historical Society

Oxley Barn
Name of Property

Gove County, Kansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	4	3	9	4	3	7	5	4	3	2	6	1	9	5
Zone		Easting					Northing							

2

Zone		Easting					Northing							

3

Zone		Easting					Northing							

4

Zone		Easting					Northing							

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 Rick Loevenstein
Organization _____ Date 1998; Fall 2007
Street & number 5616 Powell Grove Drive Telephone 804-739-5499
City or town Midlothian State VA Zip code 23112

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 SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Name Elsie and Kenneth Loevenstein
Street & number 2740 County Road 74 Telephone _____
City or town Quinter State KS Zip code 67752

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

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Oxley Barn
Quinter vicinity, Gove County, KS

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Location

The Oxley Barn (c. 1911) is located on a farmstead approximately 1.5 miles northeast of Quinter on the southwest quarter of section 21, township 11, range 26 in Gove County, Kansas. The barn dominates the landscape of the farm. It can be seen for miles around and is visible from nearby Interstate 70. Quinter is a small northwest Kansas town (population 950) located at mile marker 107 of Interstate 70.

Construction

Benjamin Franklin (Frank) Oxley built the barn in 1911 to support his farmstead. The framework of the barn was constructed using 2 x 4s, 2 x 6s, 2 x 8s, 2 x 10s, and 2 x 12s. Fir drop siding sheathes the building. Concrete was used for the foundation. The barn has a southern façade orientation with overall measurements of 54 feet east to west, 68 feet north to south, and a height of 42 feet. A gambrel roof style was used because high open spans in the hayloft provided a large area for hay storage. A traditional central cupola with lightning rod surmounts the roof. The cupola also has a gambrel roof. Five lightning rods line the peak of the barn roof. The lumber for the barn cost \$1,500 and was hauled from Morland, Kansas (about 30 miles north of Quinter). Several years later, a lean-to was added to the east side of the barn. The lean-to provided two additional cattle stalls, a large livestock pen, and additional hayloft storage.

Exterior Characteristics

There are a total of 16 windows on the barn, 12 of which are simple four-pane fixed windows. The hayloft contains four 4/4 double-hung sash windows – two on the north side and two on the south side. Ten plank doors (two sliding, three dutch, and five full-length) provide entrance to the ground floor of the barn. A large hayloft door on the south side was used for loading hay into the barn. Three smaller hayloft doors provide additional access to various areas of the hayloft. Two small doors on the south side were used to load grain into bins located inside the barn.

A wooden frame one-story granary (c. 1911) is also situated on a concrete foundation. The granary has a western façade orientation with overall measurements of 38 feet north to south, 32 feet east to west and a height of 19 feet. Fir drop siding sheathes the building. It is not included in the nomination because of changes and alterations to the exterior.

Interior Characteristics

Seventeen livestock stalls define the interior of the barn. Ten stalls capable of holding 20 workhorses are located on the west side and in the central portion of the barn. Seven stalls capable of holding up to 14

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Oxley Barn
Quinter vicinity, Gove County, KS

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head of cattle line the north side and part of the east side of the barn. All of the stalls have wooden feeding troughs and five of the cattle stalls include stanchions. On the east side of the barn, a large pen with a wooden feeding trough provides an area for additional livestock to be sheltered during inclement weather. Three passageways / feedways provide access to the feeding troughs. Twenty-four hinged doors in the interior provide access to passageways and /or stalls. Two grain storage rooms are located on the south side. A small room located on the northwest corner of the barn was originally used as a tack room. This room later served as a cream separation room when the barn supported a small dairy operation.

The hayloft is impressive in size and provides plenty of storage for hay. The span between the hayloft floor and the peak of the roof is approximately 30 feet. The hayloft floor was constructed using 1 x 8 tongue-and-groove fir planks. Two large openings in the hayloft floor allow hay to be pitched down to the passageways below. The ceiling of the hayloft was fitted with a metal track to which a hay fork or hay cradle could be attached. The metal track and hay fork are still in place. Hay was loaded into the hayloft by opening a large door on the south side. Using a rope attached to pulleys on the metal track, the hay cradle was lowered where it could pick up loose hay or shocks of feed from wagons below. The rope extended across the length of the hayloft and through an access hole on the northwest corner of the barn. A pulley attached to a metal bracket (on the exterior of the barn) guided the rope to the ground where it was harnessed to a horse. The access hole and metal hanger are still in place. The horse was used to raise the hay-filled cradle to the hayloft door and pull it into the barn along the metal track. The hay cradle was then released, dropping the hay.

Current Condition

The barn was used to support cattle operations through the mid-1980s. During this time the barn was used to shelter cattle during inclement weather and the hayloft was used for square bale storage. A portion of the barn is currently being used for storage of farm equipment and other items.

The main structure of the barn is still in very good shape. Beams and joists are straight and solid and the foundation is fine. Flooring in the hayloft is solid and rafters are in good shape. The weakest point of the barn is the north wall. Over the years, water leaked into the barn at the point where the north hayloft wall attached to the floor of the hayloft. This caused some of the wood to deteriorate. In August of 1996, the north wall of the hayloft succumbed to the Kansas north wind and collapsed. It was repaired with metal siding.

The cupola is still extant and was repaired when the north wall was repaired in 2001. In 1955, the original wood shingles on the barn roof were replaced with new wooden shingles. Exterior wood siding is in fair condition. The barn was repainted in 1985 and retains its original red color.

A series of repairs were made to the granary in 2000 including repairing and repainting the deteriorated wood siding and caulking and repainting the wood windows. The granary lean-to continued to deteriorate until it was removed in November 2007. A new concrete floor 32' x 26' for the addition was poured. A

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Oxley Barn
Quinter vicinity, Gove County, KS

new larger lean-to addition is planned that will feature two bays for equipment storage and will be clad with metal siding.

The Oxley Barn retains a high degree of architectural and structural integrity. The surrounding western Kansas farmland provides a contextual setting for the barn.

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Oxley Barn
Quinter vicinity, Gove County, KS

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

The Oxley Barn (c. 1911) is located approximately 1.5 miles northeast of Quinter on the southwest quarter of section 21, township 11, range 26 in Gove County, Kansas. This building is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B because the structure is associated with Joseph H. Flora, a local auctioneer, farmer, and politician. It is also being nominated under Criterion C for its architectural significance as an early 20th century gambrel-roof livestock barn.

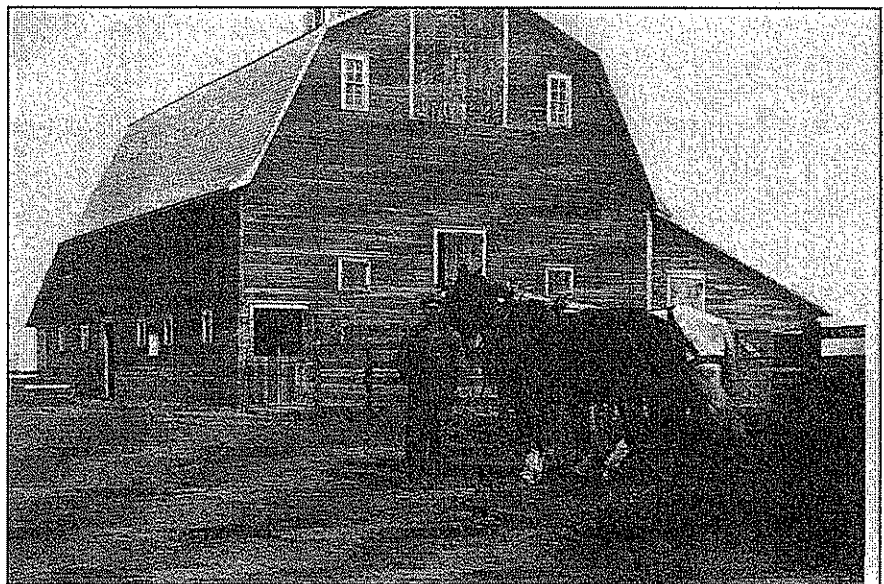
In 1905, Benjamin Franklin (Frank) Oxley and his wife Minnie moved to Quinter from Morrill, Brown County, Kansas. They chose Quinter because of the abundance of farmland and because other family members lived near Quinter. Frank Oxley built the nominated barn and granary in 1911.

The barn was unique in the Quinter area at the time of its construction and would eventually play an important role in providing a market for local farmers. Livestock sales conducted at the barn were very important to area residents because they attracted buyers for meat packers and feedlots, thus providing a strong market for local farmers and stockmen.

The 20th century saw the evolution of the double-sloped gambrel roof barn type. These barns were large and were constructed with balloon framing. Their open spans in the loft provided much storage space for hay. The Oxley Barn is an excellent example of this type of construction. Both structures retain a high degree of architectural integrity and the surrounding western Kansas farmland provides a contextual setting for them.

Historical Significance

In 1909 at the age of 19, Joseph Harrison Flora moved to Quinter and was employed by the Oxleys at their Gove County farmstead. Flora purchased the farm and outbuildings from Frank Oxley in 1916 and continued the farming operation.



Unidentified person standing in front of the Oxley Barn, 1930s

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Oxley Barn
Quinter vicinity, Gove County, KS



Livestock ring east of barn, 1930s

Oxley built a large garage in Quinter and began selling Model-T automobiles. The garage is still extant and currently houses the Quinter Auto Parts store.

Flora had a desire to be an auctioneer and taught himself the trade while plowing fields. He eventually became a well-known auctioneer with a powerful voice. He was also active in local politics, serving two terms as a Gove County Commissioner, as Gove County's Republican Party Chairman, and as district director of the State Forestry Fish and Game Commission. Under his guidance, the Sheridan County State Lake was developed.¹

In the Fall of 1931, Flora began conducting sales of livestock and miscellaneous items at an outdoor sale ring beside the barn. Prior to this time, livestock had to be shipped to Kansas City to be sold. The ability to buy and sell livestock locally was significant to farmers and stockmen in the Quinter area. Large crowds from miles around attended the sales and many items were sold including cattle, mules, horses, hogs, machinery, tools, and furniture. The big red barn became a landmark that area residents associated with these sales. Livestock sales were held on the east side of the barn while furniture and miscellaneous items were sold on the west side of the barn. Livestock pens and a large livestock sale ring were constructed on the east side of the barn.

Horses being offered for sale were kept inside the barn, usually on the west side. Hogs brought to the sale were unloaded using the livestock chute on the north side of the barn. The livestock chute has been removed in recent years. Cattle were uploaded into pens on the east side of the barn using a separate livestock chute. Hay stored in the barn was used for the pens and for feeding livestock being offered for sale.

SPECIAL
Horse and Mule
« « SALE » »

at the Flora Salesground 1 mile East of Quinter

Wednesday, Feb. 19, 1 p. m.

This is my annual Horse and Mule Sale. February is the best month of the year to sell your horses and the right time for the farmers to purchase stock they need for their spring and summer work. I have always done my best to satisfy both purchaser and consignor. Must have both to get a good sale.

Now get your horses and mules ready for this sale and bring them early so our help can get them ready for the auction.

I will have plenty of buyers so do not hesitate to bring your stock for this sale. Don't forget the date—**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19.**

My regular sale is held every Friday. My big miscellaneous and furniture sale will be held the second day of March and Mr. Olson from Denver will be here on that day.

J. H. FLORA
Livestock Commission Co.
QUINTER KANSAS

Advertisement, *Gove County Advocate*, 13 Feb 1936

¹ *Gove County Advocate*, 4 January 1940.

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Oxley Barn
Quinter vicinity, Gove County, KS

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At that time, livestock were sold by the head because machines for weighing were not locally available. At first, buyers and spectators stood around the edge of the sale ring. Later, bleachers were built around the ring. The livestock sales were held in the morning and the furniture was sold after lunch. Truckloads of used furniture were brought in from Denver. Flora conducted sales every Friday from 1931 until his death in December of 1939. Advertisements in the local newspaper (the Gove County Advocate) each week reminded area residents of upcoming sales.

Flora died on December 28, 1939 at age 50. His daughters Elizabeth Lee (19) and Mary Ann (13) inherited his estate. After Flora's death, Eddie Williams, owner of the Colby and Plainville sale barns, leased the sales facilities for a short time. A group of local men (Henry Flora, Paul Herl, Oliver Wylie, and Dale Olson) then took over the operation. The sales continued until 1943 when these same men purchased the old City Hotel, moved it to the northwest corner of Quinter, and converted it into a livestock sales facility. Miscellaneous items were no longer included in the sales. The Quinter Livestock Commission Company is currently situated at this same location.

In 1945, the 480-acre tract of land, including the barn and outbuildings, was sold to Herbert and Laura Sanders. The land sold for \$60 per acre or \$28,800.² Laura Sanders said that many people questioned the wisdom of their purchase. The Sanders proved them wrong by paying for the property in just 11 years. The Sanders farmed, raised chickens and hogs, and ran a small dairy operation for many years. The barn and granary were a part of everyday life as the entire family contributed to the farming operation.

Herbert died in 1974 and Laura died in 1986. Their daughter, Elsie Sanders Loevenstein and her husband Kenneth now own the land on which the barn, granary, and other outbuildings reside.

² *Gove County Advocate*, 28 June 1945.

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Oxley Barn
Quinter vicinity, Gove County, KS

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Auer, Michael J. *Preservation Brief 20: The Preservation of Historic Barns*. Technical Preservation Services, National Park Service. Washington, DC, 1989. Also accessible online at: <http://www.nps.gov/hps/tps/briefs/brief20.htm>.

Gove County Courthouse Records

Faw, Chalmer E. *Our Heritage, 1886-1986, Church of the Brethren*. Undated.

Gove County (KS) Advocate. 30 January 1936; 11 February 1936; 12 March 1936; 29 May 1937; 4 January 1940; 11 January 1940; 28 June 1945.

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Schlick, Bill. Personal interviews regarding his years as hired hand working for Joe Flora.

Tuttle, Albert B. and Mary T, eds. *History and Heritage of Gove County, Kansas*. Quinter, Kansas: Gove County Bicentennial Commission and Gove County Historical Association, 1979.

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Section Number 10 & Photos Page 8 Oxley Barn
Quinter vicinity, Gove County, KS

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is located on the southwest quarter of section 21, township 11, range 26 in the vicinity of Gove County, Kansas on a tract of land measuring 399' x 594'. (The northeast corner of the tract is 273.5' directly north of the northeast corner of the barn. The southeast corner of the tract is 252' directly south of the southeast corner of the barn. The southwest corner of the barn is 40' directly east of the northeast corner of the granary.) Beginning at the northwest corner of the parcel, the boundary proceeds 594' south, 399' east, 594' north, and 399' west to the point of beginning. The nominated area includes only the barn and the land upon which it sits.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated building and the land upon which it sits are included in this nomination. This historic structure is situated on its original location. The surrounding farmland, house, and outbuildings are not included in the nomination boundaries.

PHOTOGRAPIC INFORMATION

Property Name: Oxley Barn
Location: Quinter vicinity, Gove County, KS
Location of Digital Images or Negatives: Kansas State Historic Preservation Office

- Photo 1: Unidentified person standing in front of the Oxley Barn, 1930s, photographer unknown
- Photo 2: Livestock Ring, east of barn, undated photo, photographer unknown
- Photo 3: Southeast corner of Oxley Barn, facing NW
- Photo 4: Barn and farmstead from road, facing NE
- Photo 5: East elevation of Oxley Barn, facing NW
- Photo 6: Northeast corner of Oxley Barn, facing SW
- Photo 7: North elevation of Oxley Barn, facing S
- Photo 8: Close-up of windows on west elevation
- Photo 9: Interior, central corridor, facing S
- Photo 10: Interior, livestock stalls, facing S
- Photo 11: Interior, hayloft, facing S
- Photo 12: Interior, hayloft rafters, facing S
- Photo 13: Interior, hayloft, ceiling detail

Oxley Barn
Finne County, KS
14: 394375E
4326195N

OAKLEY 30 MI. 5962 III SE
AINFIELD 12 MI. (PARK)

