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 National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name  Joseph Heptig Barn
other names/site number  KHRI-149-320

2. Location

street & number  12115 Antons Road
not for publication

city or town  Flush
vicinity

state Kansas code KS county Pottawatomie code 149 zip code 66535

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

SEE FILE

Signature of certifying official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register

other (explain:)

 Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
5. **Classification**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ownership of Property</th>
<th>Category of Property</th>
<th>Number of Resources within Property</th>
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<tr>
<td>(Check as many boxes as apply)</td>
<td>(Check only one box)</td>
<td>(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)</td>
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<td>x building(s)</td>
<td>Contributing 1</td>
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<td>district</td>
<td>Noncontributing buildings</td>
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<tr>
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<td>site</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>public - Federal</td>
<td>structure</td>
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</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>object</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of related multiple property listing</th>
<th>Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas</td>
<td>0</td>
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6. **Function or Use**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)</th>
<th>Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Agricultural Outbuilding and Animal Facility</td>
<td>AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Agricultural Outbuilding</td>
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7. **Description**

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<tr>
<th>Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)</th>
<th>Materials (Enter categories from instructions)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OTHER: Vernacular and Gable-Roof Barn</td>
<td>foundation: Stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>walls: Stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>roof: Metal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>other: Hewn timber framing</td>
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</table>
**Narrative Description**

**Summary**
The Heptig barn is a vernacular limestone barn constructed by the current owner’s great grandfather in 1883. The barn has a rectangular footprint and gable roof. It is distinguished by arched openings on the north and south ends corresponding to a center aisle through the barn. Other distinguishing features include a data stone inscribed by the builder “J. Heptig 1883” and shaped stone window lintels and stone sills. The plan configuration is arranged around a center aisle with horse stalls/pens, granaries and corn cribs along the perimeter. A three-quarter length haymow was open at the south end (to the center aisle below) to allow loading hay into the haymow from a wagon inside of the barn — a distinguishing characteristic of the “Vernacular Barn” property type. The interior of the barn is distinguished by hand hewn timber posts and beams.

**Elaboration**
The Joseph Heptig Barn is located on the Heptig Farm southeast of the town of Flush in central Pottawatomie County, Kansas. The farm was historically, and remains, comprised of a quarter section. The farm lies one-half mile east of Flush Road, on Antons Road which borders the farmstead on the south.

The farmstead is comprised of four structures: a frame farmhouse, a small hipped roof shed, a small modern shed, and the stone barn. A gravel drive extends north off Antons Road east of the house and terminates in a circular drive northeast of the house. The barn is located northwest of the farmhouse and circular drive with no out buildings in the immediate vicinity. A shed is located north of a circular drive, east of the barn and a small shed/smoke house is located east of the farmhouse, southeast of the barn. The nomination pertains to the barn only.

Livestock pens, comprised of wood fence and steel livestock panels are located on the west side of the barn. Scrub trees and shrubs have grown up around the west and north sides of the barn.

The barn is two-stories in height with a full-height haymow on the second floor. The exterior walls (including the foundation) are coursed, natural-faced limestone. The gable roof may have originally had wood shake shingles but has had a corrugated metal roof for decades.

The front facade of the barn is the south facade, distinguished by the central arched opening with a single upper opening in the gable end, corresponding to the haymow. A date stone is located above the upper window in the south gable end inscribed “J. Heptig 1883” and a small arched opening is above the date stone. A sliding door was formerly located over the south arched opening (track is visible in historic photos of barn).

The barn is a rectangular footprint running N/S with the grade sloping from east to west. Primary access is through a central north/south aisle with arched openings on each end. The north opening has been infilled with concrete block but the original arched stone opening is visible. Historically a one-story frame shed bay was located along the west side and a single door was located in the center of the west stone wall. This wall recently experienced a collapse where the wall had buckled around the former door opening. The collapsed area is scheduled for repair/reconstruction.

The north facade is a stone wall with no openings except the arched central opening, formerly infilled with concrete block. The west facade also had only a single opening, the former single door in the area that collapsed.

The east facade is comprised of three small window openings along the ground floor and a single central opening on the upper level, corresponding to the haymow. The windows are distinguished by a peaked stone lintel and stone sill; remnants of wood window frames are in place at some window openings but no window sashes are extant.

The interior configuration is laid out around the central aisle on the ground floor. As was common in the 1800’s, the barn had more than one purpose. The west side of the barn was used as a corn crib. There is a door at the center of the west side of the barn where grain was bucketed to feed bunks to feed cattle. The east side of the barn was used as stalls to provide shelter for the draft horses. The center alley of the barn was used to work cattle and to provide shelter for livestock when weather conditions were poor.

The upper floor of the barn was comprised of the haymow used for hay storage and accessed from the interior of the barn by a ladder at the south end of the barn. The south end of the haymow was open to the center aisle below, allowing loading of hay from a wagon inside of the barn (a distinction from most wood-frame barns that had hay hoods where hay was loaded into the haymow from outside of the barn). Windows in the center of the south and east facades allowed exterior access to the haymow and were likely used for loading and unloading hay. A distinguishing feature of the haymow...
is the stepped floor level. The floor level on the east side of the barn was lower, over the original horse stalls on the ground level below.

The barn was used as described until the tractor replaced the horse. The east side of the barn was converted from horse stalls to grain storage and swine farrowing with concrete floor. Two granaries with horizontal tongue-and-groove sheathing were enclosed in the southeast corner of the barn with single doors into each granary from the center aisle. The west side of the barn was still used as a corn crib, but later was used strictly as livestock shelter. The loft continued to be used for hay storage. Even though the original hay fork used to lift loose hay to the loft is still present in the barn, hay in the form of square bales is now moved to the loft by a mechanical elevator.

The interior of the stone barn is wood framing comprised of hand-hewn timbers and sawn lumber. The primary structural components (columns and beams) are hewn timbers, some with bark remaining. Secondary framing members are sawn lumber. Floors are exposed dirt on the ground floor except where a concrete slab was added in the northeast stall area. The floor of the haymow is wood.
### 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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>x</td>
<td>A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.</td>
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#### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Architecture</td>
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#### Criteria Considerations

(Property is:

- Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- Removed from its original location.
- A birthplace or grave.
- A cemetery.
- A reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- A commemorative property.
- Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.)

#### Period of Significance

1883 - 1961

#### Significant Dates

1883

#### Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

- Cultural Affiliation

- Architect/Builder
  - Joseph Heptig - Builder

#### Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance spans from the barn's original construction in 1883 to 1961 - the fifty-year age threshold for eligibility. The barn remains in the Heptig family and part of the original Heptig Farm.

#### Criteria Considerations (justification)
Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary

The Joseph Heptig barn is being nominated to the National Register under the “Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas” Multiple Property Submission. The barn is significant under Criteria A & C in the areas of Agriculture and Architecture. The barn is a good representative of the “Kansas Vernacular Barn” property type reflecting the vernacular tradition of using locally available materials. The barn also has a secondary classification as a “Timber-Frame Barn,” reflecting the hand-hewn timbers used as primary structural components on the barn’s interior. Constructed prior to the farmhouse and as the only stone structure on the farmstead, the barn reflects the important role of the barn as a dominant and essential building on early Kansas farms.

Elaboration

Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas MPS

The Heptig Barn is an example of the Kansas Vernacular Barn property type as identified in the Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas Multiple Property Nomination. The property type is distinguished by the use of native materials, typically limestone, and complex roof forms. Because they are generally masonry construction, Kansas Vernacular Barns lack the large hay hoods and hay doors common among other barn types. Such openings would jeopardize the structural integrity of a masonry wall. Instead, they generally feature a small hay door on the gable end or broad side.¹

The plan configuration is typical of early Kansas barns, particularly those with gable- roofs featuring prominent openings on the gable end, with a corresponding center-aisle plan with stanchions, stalls and/or granaries on each side. The upper floors of gable- roof barns are generally devoted solely to hay storage. Like most Kansas barns, the Heptig Barn was constructed (and later modified) to accommodate a variety of uses – from hay storage to animal shelter and grain storage in the form of granaries and corn cribs.

Although the Heptig Barn has a gable- roof, its native limestone construction is the prominent distinguishing characteristic and like barns defined by this property type, the Heptig barn lacks a hay hood common in most gable- roof barns. As noted in the narrative description above, hay was loaded into the haymow from inside of the barn, a functional characteristic common in the Vernacular property type. The barn also features openings at the haymow providing exterior access. The Heptig Barn is a good representative of the Vernacular property type. Among its character-defining features are its stone details including the arched central openings, the window sills and peaked lintels, the date stone, and small window in the gable end. Unique detailing and embellishments by the barn’s builder is a common vernacular trait.

The Heptig Barn²

The Heptig barn was completed in the year 1883. A hand engraved date stone located at the peak of the front wall has the year the barn was completed and the builder/owner of the barn, Joseph Heptig.

Joseph was born in Tiergarten, Germany on March 12, 1849. Joseph immigrated to America at the age of 19 in 1868 (1900 US Census). He worked in Chicago at a flour mill until the year 1871, the year of the Great Chicago Fire. Joseph then drifted west looking for work where he could find it.

Joseph eventually found work at the Michael Repp farm located in Pottawatomie Kansas. Michael Repp in 1854 was one of the first white men to settle in Pottawatomie County for the expressed purpose of taking up farming and establishing a permanent home. It was on this farm that the first Catholic mass of the community was held by Jesuit Fathers. Michael Repp’s daughter, Mary, was born in 1855, becoming the first white child born in the community. Joseph Heptig fell in love with Mary Agnes Repp (1855-1935), a Kansas native who was a first-generation German American. The two were married on February 1st, 1874.

By 1875, Joseph and Mary were living and farming in Pottawatomie Township, Pottawatomie County, Kansas with their 6- month-old daughter Rosa (1875 Kansas Census). They purchased, from Mary’s father Michael, 160 acres that adjoined the Repp farm for $1300. Joseph and Mary lived in an earthen dugout until they built their house. In 1880, the family had grown to include three children, Rosa (5), Matilda (3) and Charles (1), as well as a German servant named Frances

¹ Christy Davis and Brenda Spencer, Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas Multiple Property Nomination to the National Register, 2008.
² Heptig family history provided by Mike Heptig, current owner and supplemented by census data accessed on-line at ancestry.com June 27, 2011.
Hoover (1880 US Census). According to the 1880 Agriculture Census, the Heptig farm included milk and beef cattle, swine, and chickens as well as corn, oats, and wheat row crops. The native stone barn which was completed in 1883 and the frame house was built one year after the barn.

To the Joseph and Mary Heptig union was born six sons. In 1900, the household included five children (Julius (16), Raymond (12), Peter (10), Stella (8), and Alphonso (5)). By 1910, the Heptig’s son Raymond (1887-1969) had married and was living next door with his wife and infant daughter. In 1920, Joseph and Mary were still living on the farm with their son Alphonso (25). After Joseph’s death in 1921, Mary Heptig lived in the household of her son Anthony, who was farming in Pottawatomie Township in 1930. Mary Heptig died in 1935 (Death Certificate).

Mary and Joseph’s second son, Julius, purchased the farm from his mother in 1929. The Heptig farming operation continued to grow, eventually encompassing 1000 acres. Julius and his wife, Angeline lived on the farm and had five children. Their second son, Dwayne “Pat”, and his wife Lucille replaced Julius and Mary at the farm in 1949. Dwayne “Pat” purchased the farm from his mother Angeline in 1958. Dwayne “Pat” and Lucille had 13 children. Their second son, Mike, and his wife Diane purchased the farm from his mother Lucille in March of 2011. The Heptig farm has remained in the Heptig family since 1875 and expanded to include additional acreage through the years. Mike and Diane purchased the Michael Repp farm in 1996. The Rupp and Heptig farm land adjoin one another and are now considered one farm.

The Heptig barn is representative of early settlement in Pottawatomie County and reflects the importance of the barn to these early settlers. The farm was established in 1875 when recently wed, Joseph and Mary Heptig (great-grandparents of current owner), purchased 160 acres adjacent to Mary’s father’s farm. The barn, constructed by Joseph Heptig was the first permanent structure erected (1883) and remains the predominant structure on the farmstead. The farm has continually been owned and operated by the Heptig family for 136 years. It has grown to be a large family farming operation, now operated by the fourth and fifth generations of Heptigs. The barn is a good representative of the Kansas Vernacular Barn property type reflecting the use of available local materials (limestone and hewn timbers), and construction by local craftsmen (the owner of the farm).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Davis, Christy and Brenda Spencer. “Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas,” Multiple Property Nomination to the National Register, 2008.
Heptig, Mike. Summary of Heptig family and barn history (provided by barn owner), June, 2011.
10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property**  Less than one
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

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

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<th>Zone</th>
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<td>4</td>
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**Verbal Boundary Description** (describe the boundaries of the property)
The barn is located on 160 acres, a quarter-section that spans two different sections: The North Half of the Northeast Quarter of Section 17 and the South Half of the Southeast Quarter of Section 8, all in Township 9 South of Range 9 East of the 6th P.M., in Pottawatomie County, Kansas.

The nominated property includes the Heptig Barn, which is located at 12115 Antons Road. The nominated area is less than one acre and includes the barn and a perimeter of 20 feet.

**Boundary Justification** (explain why the boundaries were selected)
The barn was the first permanent structure constructed on the farm and remains the predominant historic structure.

11. Form Prepared By

**name/title**  Brenda R. Spencer

**organization**  Spencer Preservation  **date**  27 June, 2011

**street & number**  10150 Onaga Road  **telephone**  785-456-9857

**city or town**  Wamego  **state**  KS  **zip code**  66547

**e-mail**  spencer@wamego.net

**Additional Documentation**
Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)
Photographs:
Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property:  Joseph Heptig Barn
City or Vicinity:  Flush Vicinity
County/State:  Pottawatomie County, KS
Photographer:  Brenda Spencer
Date of Photos:  June 20, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1- General view of barn from SE, south/front facade and east facade
2- General view of barn from NW, north/rear facade and west facade
3- West facade (with recent stone collapse in center pending repair)
4- Front/south facade
5- Date stone in south gable-end inscribed “J. Heptig 1888”
6- Typical shaped stone lintel and stone sill at window openings
7- Looking north down center aisle on barn interior, ground level
8- Granaries in SE corner of barn interior, looking SE
9- Former corn crib along west side of barn interior with hewn posts along center aisle (looking N)
10- Detail of hand-hewn timber posts and beams in NE corner of barn interior, looking NE
11- Detail of hewn timber posts and beams
12- Haymow, looking N from south end
13- Detail of hay track and pulley in place at interior of roof ridge, used to raise hay into haymow from ground level (with hay fork)

Historic Views:
Historic images of barn were provided by current owner, Mike Heptig.

Julius and Angeline Heptig with team in front of barn c. 1920s
Julius Heptig with youngest son Bill and a relative (c.1930s)

Julius Heptig on horse with cattle west of barn (west and south sides of barn in background)
Joseph Heptig Barn  
Name of Property

Pottawatomie County, KS  
County and State

**Cattle at manger and silo in foreground, north and east sides of barn in background**

**Cattle in pen west of barn (arched opening is front/south end of barn)**

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**Property Owner:** (complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Mike Heptig</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>street &amp; number</td>
<td>8390 Rockenham Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>telephone</td>
<td>785-494-2994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>city or town</td>
<td>St. George</td>
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<tr>
<td>state</td>
<td>KS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zip</td>
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**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.