

NATIONAL REGISTER  
LISTED

APR 12 2010

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# 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 McKimmons, John, Barn  
other names/site number 149-324

## 2. Location

street & number KS HWY 99, 1/4 mile S of Westmoreland or 1/2 mile N of Hartwich Rd  not for publication  
city or town Westmoreland  vicinity  
state Kansas code KS county Pottawatomie code 149 zip code 66549

## 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.)

*Patrick J. Selmer* 3-1-10  
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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

John McKimmons Barn  
Name of Property

Pottawatomie 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	0	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.)

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Agricultural/Subsistence: Animal Facility (Barn)

Recreation and Culture: Outdoor Recreation (Picnic Area)

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Bank Barn

foundation Stone: Limestone

walls Wood: Weatherboard

roof Composition Shingles

other

**Narrative Description**

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

John McKimmons Barn  
Name of Property

Pottawatomie 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 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  
Exploration/Settlement

#### Period of Significance

Circa 1865-1906

#### Significant Dates

1865

#### Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

#### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

#### Architect/Builder

McKimmons, John

#### 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:

Kansas State Historical Society



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Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas MPSSection number   7   Page   1  **PROPERTY DESCRIPTION**Property Summary

The John McKimmons Barn is located in central Pottawatomie County, about one-quarter mile south of the town of Westmoreland, Kansas. The barn is on the western edge of Section 3 in Pottawatomie Township, on the east side of Highway 99 that runs from Wamego to Westmoreland. The barn sits north of Rock Creek at the base of Mount Ephraim and to the north of Oregon Trail Park.

Highway 99 runs through the original land owned by John McKimmons dating to 1858. The highway cuts along the edge of Sections 3 and 4 dividing the original farmstead. John Reese, current owner of the property east of the highway, does not own the land west of Highway 99, which includes part of the original farmstead including the 1857 log cabin that is reportedly extant within the existing house today. The house has been moved back from the highway and its original location. A small, unidentified stone outbuilding also sits west of the highway. Other related structures to the east of Highway 99 include a pole shed, a silo, and a hog barn. There is a steel building built on the property to the east of the highway that was constructed within the last several years. The barn is the best extant resource reflective of the early settlement of the property.

The barn is a two-and-a-half story structure made of native stone and wood. The lower floor is stone with the second story being constructed of weatherboard. The building has a gabled roof that faces the east toward Rock Creek, and west toward Highway 99. It has a new roof complete with composition shingles that was repaired within the last five years. The barn's north wall is built into a gentle sloping hill, making it a bank barn. However, it is interesting to note a significant difference between this bank barn and other bank barns. The McKimmons barn has no second floor entry levels that can be accessed from the ground. There are no stairs or earthen ramps to the second floor. There are doors on the upper level that allowed for hay and grain to be moved in, but a wagon or cart would have to pull up next to the building and unload instead of pulling into the building. Another unique feature of the barn is the forebay.<sup>1</sup> It extends ten feet from the south wall of the barn. The forebay is held up by three wood supports. This overhang was used for storage of hay and also kept snow from piling up by the entrances at the south end of the structure, since these three doors are the only entrances accessible from the ground.

Elaboration

The west façade has two openings, one on the second floor and one on the lower level. The centered door on the second level is a large sliding door that allowed for loading and unloading of wagons to the hay loft and granaries. It has been repaired with new boards to replace rotted wood, but it retains the original hardware. The lower opening is a small window on the ground floor. It does not contain a sash.

<sup>1</sup> A forebay is an integral part of a structure's upper story that significantly overhangs the story below. A barn, often on a hillside, may have a forebay (usually on its downhill side) that is supported by a series of heavy posts or pillars.

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The north elevation of the barn includes two lower level windows for circulation and two upper story doors. The doors on the upper level provide access to the granaries, however each door is narrow; no more than three feet in width.

The east façade has another small window opening on the bottom level. The east façade also has a large wood, swinging door on the upper level, underneath the hay hood on the gabled end of the roof, which helped to raise hay into the loft.

The forebay on the south end of the barn is the unique feature of the building and stands out the most when approaching it. The west end of the forebay is closed by the ground level stone wall. On the east however it is open. Since most Kansas winter storms blow in from the northwest, the closed wall kept the snow from piling in front of the doors. The open east end allowed animals to enter the barn to feed freely in the winter and served as a cool spot in the summer time.

The construction of the barn seems utilitarian and functional, with no greatly ornate details. Everything has a purpose and nothing is extremely elegant. The stones that make up the lower level are all different sizes. The wooden slats that make up the second story are also of varying sizes. The barn is in good condition and has had many repairs in recent years, such as the roof and the sliding door on the west side. The current owners have undertaken other conservative measures to preserve the barn as well. Concrete bases have been placed under all of the original structural piers holding the building up. This was done to help prevent any additional sagging of the floor in areas. There are a few boards missing on the east façade of the building that are scheduled to be replaced with like materials.

There are other interesting aspects of this barn as well. There is an opening in the floor of the west granary that leads to the lower level and the feeding trough. The shaft has a hand-operated door, which was used to start and stop the flow of grain to the lower level. The trough and the grain shaft are extant inside the lower level of the building. Beside the trough is the ladder that leads to the upper floor. Going up this ladder is the only way to get to the second floor from the ground level. There is a hole cut in the floor, which allows for access. The hole was probably used to throw hay from the second floor right into the feeding trough as well.

The McKimmons Barn is a rather unique historic structure that remains from the 1860s. It combines a design, the bank barn form, which was widespread in the hillier parts of Kansas, but also contains elements not found in other barns of the same style.

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The McKimmons Barn of Pottawatomie County is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as part of the "Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas" multiple property listing under Criterion A in the areas of Agriculture and Exploration/Settlement, and Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The barn is an example of the Bank Barn property type as defined by the multiple property document.

Context

Built in the early 1860s, the McKimmons Barn is nestled into the side of a gentle sloping hill facing south toward Rock Creek where, just a few years prior to its construction, thousands of travelers along the Oregon Trail had camped and passed on their journey westward. The trail stretched from Independence, Missouri, to the west coast, crossing through northeast Kansas, and was traveled by some 300,000 people between 1841 and 1860.

This area around Rock Creek and Scott Spring has significant and well-documented associations with the Oregon Trail. Specifically, travelers on the Oregon Trail camped at Scott Spring and crossed Rock Creek here. Kansas SHPO archeologists studied the area east of HWY 99 and south of Rock Creek in 1999 as part of a Phase II archeological investigation in advance of a proposed road project. The report notes that the area around the modern bridge was a major Oregon Trail crossing and that a well-known campground was situated on both sides of the creek. A trail-related grave was discovered during construction of the bridge, and was relocated to the west side of the highway, south of Rock Creek. The area studied included land immediately south of Rock Creek and around Scott Spring, which still flows today. A cursory examination of the area north of the creek – where the barn is located – also was undertaken. Because this area had been heavily disturbed on both sides of the highway by the development and longtime use of the McKimmons farmstead, there was little justification for an intensive survey.<sup>2</sup> As a result, this nomination does not include Criterion D-related arguments.

This barn represents one of the earliest-settled farmsteads in the area and was likely chosen for its proximity to Scott Spring and a well-traveled road. A more general state and national context of this early, pre-Civil War period can be found in the "Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas" multiple property document under the theme *Breaking Sod: Pre-Railroad Farming*.<sup>3</sup> Generally, this context discusses early rural development in Kansas after the opening of the Kansas Territory to settlers in 1854 until the late 1860s when railroad development began impacting agricultural settlement and markets. It was during this early

<sup>2</sup> Timothy Weston, "Archeological Survey of a Bridge Crossing Over Rock Creek South of Westmoreland in Central Pottawatomie County (Project Number 99-75 K-6421-01)," Kansas State Historical Society, 1999. Other applicable sources include: G. L. Franzwa, *Maps of the Oregon Trail*, (St. Louis, MO: The Patrice Press, 1982), 52-53;

<sup>3</sup> Davis, Christy and Brenda Spencer. "Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas," Multiple Property Documentation Form, National Register of Historic Places, 2008. Pgs. E3-E10.

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period in the 1850s and 1860s that the McKimmons settled near Scott Spring along Rock Creek in Pottawatomie County.

Bank barns are somewhat common in Kansas, but early examples are found particularly in counties settled by persons of Pennsylvania-German (also called "Pennsylvania Dutch") heritage. Because many date to the early decades of the state's history and generally rely upon banks or hills, they predominate in the early-settled counties of Eastern Kansas. Bank barns are sometimes called "Pennsylvania Barns" or "Pennsylvania Dutch Barns."

The McKimmons Barn is an example of the Bank Barn property type as defined by the "Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas" multiple property document,<sup>4</sup> and is constructed of local materials. Bank barns are built into a hillside or earthen bank and are usually characterized by exterior entries at two levels; however the McKimmons Barn is only accessible on the lower level. As with other bank barns, hay was stored on the upper level and could easily be transferred through openings or chutes from the upper level to the livestock area below.

Kansas bank barns are generally two-and-a-half stories high – with some exceptional examples being three-and-a-half stories high. Most have a stone exterior with a wood-framed interior. However, some are wood-framed with horizontal or vertical cladding and stone or concrete foundations: The earliest examples are timber-framed with mortise-and-tenon joints. By the late nineteenth century, farmers combined timber-frame construction with balloon framing techniques, sometimes creating hybrids where timbers, which served as structural supports, and other framing members were nailed or braced together. Like the McKimmons Barn, most Kansas bank barns have gabled roofs.

#### Property History

The McKimmons farmstead was originally settled by John and Elizabeth McKimmons in 1858, shortly after their marriage. Elizabeth came to Kansas from Iowa in 1855 with her first husband, Isaac Hazen, and young son, Washington Brazil Hazen. Isaac and Elizabeth purchased property from a Mrs. Adamson, with the intention of creating a farm. Isaac died shortly after arriving in Pottawatomie County and left the land to his wife. John McKimmons came to Kansas from Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. After arriving in Pottawatomie County, he met the widow Hazen and married her on October 22, 1856 at the Jenkins schoolhouse. The Reverend Charles E. Blood, pastor of the First Congregational Church in Manhattan and Founder of Bluemont Central School, was the officiant.<sup>5</sup>

After John and Elizabeth were wed, the couple moved to the land originally purchased by Elizabeth and her first husband. John filed the original land patent on which the barn sits in 1859, although it was not registered until 1863.<sup>6</sup> John and Elizabeth built their homestead at the base of Mount Ephraim along Rock Creek, near where the Oregon Trail forded the creek.

<sup>4</sup> Davis and Spencer, "Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas." F46-F48.

<sup>5</sup> Bradley, Marian and Jim, Local Historians. Electronic Mail correspondence with author, October 18-December 2, 2009.

<sup>6</sup> Pottawatomie County Register of Deeds. Book D, page 36. June 10, 1863.



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John McKimmons was the postmaster for the area and named the post office after his home county in Westmoreland, Pennsylvania. This name was then adopted by residents for the new town of Westmoreland, which today is the county seat. John ran the post office out of his cabin, built in 1858, which was the only structure documented on the property at that time.<sup>7</sup>

The McKimmons Barn was built in the years following John and Elizabeth's settlement of the area. A precise date of construction is not known, however tax records offer some insight. From examining tax records of the time (1861-1868), there were several substantial increases in property values, indicating the construction of new buildings and improvements.<sup>8</sup> Although this does not provide a definitive date in which the barn was constructed, it suggests that Mr. McKimmons was improving his land steadily. Tax records show a large increase in value between 1865 and 1866. The real property value in 1865 was \$416.00, by 1866 the value had increased to \$650.00.<sup>9</sup> This evidence points to some improvement: possibly the construction of the barn. More evidence to support the construction of the barn in the 1860s is located in the Agricultural Schedule of the 1870 Census. In 1870, Mr. McKimmons had improved 25 acres of his 162-acre farmstead, with a total farm value of \$3500. Comparing Mr. McKimmons farm with the other farmers of the area shows that Mr. McKimmons had built some structures on his improved acreage.<sup>10</sup> The value of the farm is high compared to so few improved acres that it is reasonable to conclude that Mr. McKimmons had built the barn prior to the 1870 Census.

Mr. McKimmons had a well-established farmstead by 1870. He had six horses, seven milk cows, five other cattle and eight pigs, all evidence that the barn was built to house these animals. The McKimmons farm was also quite diverse. Along with the livestock, he raised wheat, Indian corn, oats, Irish potatoes, hay, and sorghum.<sup>11</sup> Mr. McKimmons would have utilized the granaries and hayloft in the barn to store his harvests.

John and Elizabeth had six children, in addition to W. B. Hazen, a child from Elizabeth's first marriage, while living on the farm. The children oldest to youngest were Margaret, Sarah, Mary, William, Emma, and John Jr.<sup>12</sup> Margaret died sometime between 1860 and 1865. Emma and William also died before reaching adulthood. John Sr. passed away in 1896, while Elizabeth died in 1906. They are buried along with most of their family in Old Westmoreland Cemetery.<sup>13</sup> The land was then passed to John McKimmons, Jr. who sold

<sup>7</sup> Praireland Planning Inc. "Pottawatomie County: Heart of the Oregon Trail, County Development Plan 2020." in The Pottawatomie County Comprehensive Plan, 1994.

<sup>8</sup> Pottawatomie County Tax Rolls, 1861-1868. Microfilm Collection, Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, KS.

<sup>9</sup> Pottawatomie County Tax Rolls, 1861-1868. Microfilm Collection, Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, KS.

<sup>10</sup> State of Kansas, Agricultural Census 1870 & 1880. Microfilm Collection, Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, KS.

<sup>11</sup> State of Kansas, Agricultural Census 1870 & 1880. Microfilm Collection, Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, KS.

<sup>12</sup> State of Kansas, 1865 Kansas Census. Microfilm Collection, Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, KS.

<sup>13</sup> City of Westmoreland Cemetery Records, Pottawatomie County, Kansas. Old Westmorland Cemetery and Westmorland City Cemetery.

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the land in 1926 to Bert Shehi.<sup>14</sup> John Jr. died in 1943 and is buried with his wife and children in Westmoreland City Cemetery.<sup>15</sup>

John and Mary Beth Reese purchased the land on which the barn is located in 1997. In Brenda Spencer's original survey of the property in 2007, the barn was listed in fair condition; however with the recent improvements made by the owners, the McKimmons Barn is now in good condition. The roof and the sliding door on the west end are major reasons for this upgrade in condition. Work has also been done to stabilize the building while maintaining its integrity. Concrete blocks have been placed under the braces holding up the forebay and floor of the second level to keep the building from sagging. Also, the owners have helped to control the erosion of the hill on which the barn sits into Rock Creek. John and Mary Beth now use the barn to host picnics and other recreational activities. Brush has been cleared away from the south end of the barn to make way for a round picnic table.

Summary

The McKimmons Barn is an excellent example of a Bank Barn. The barn's construction typifies the ingenuity of the early settlers in this region of Kansas. The building and the development of the farmstead were important to the early settlement of the area because it demonstrated the viability of farming in this portion of Pottawatomie County. The barn is nominated as part of the "Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas" multiple property listing under Criterion A in the areas of Agriculture and Exploration/Settlement, and Criterion C in the area of Architecture.

<sup>14</sup> Land Deeds, Pottawatomie County Courthouse, Westmoreland, Kansas.

<sup>15</sup> Bradley, Marian and Jim, Local Historians. Electronic Mail correspondence with author, October 18-December 2, 2009.

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State of Kansas, Agricultural Census 1870 & 1880. Microfilm Collection, Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, KS.

State of Kansas, 1865 Kansas Census. Microfilm Collection, Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, KS.

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The nominated property is the McKimmons Barn, which includes a perimeter of twenty feet of land surrounding the barn. The barn is located on the original McKimmons Farm on the western edge of Section 3, of Pottawatomie Township (Township 8), Range 9, Pottawatomie County, Kansas. The barn sits alongside Kansas State Highway 99, about one-quarter mile south from State Street in Westmoreland or one-half mile north of Hartwich Road.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The nomination only includes the McKimmons Barn and a perimeter of land. All other structures on the property either do not relate to the period of significance or do not retain sufficient integrity to be included within the nominated boundaries.

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**PHOTOGRAPHIC INFORMATION**

Property: McKimmons Barn

Location: KS HWY 99, 1/4 mile S of Westmoreland, Pottawatomie County

Photo 1: Northwest corner showing the north elevation (left) and west elevation (right), facing southeast.  
Photograph taken by Brenda Spencer, October 11, 2007

Photo 2: South elevation showing forebay, facing north. Photograph taken by Brenda Spencer, October 11, 2007

Photo 3: Southwest corner showing the west elevation (left) and south elevation (right), facing northeast.  
Photograph by Caitlin Meives, January 12, 2010.

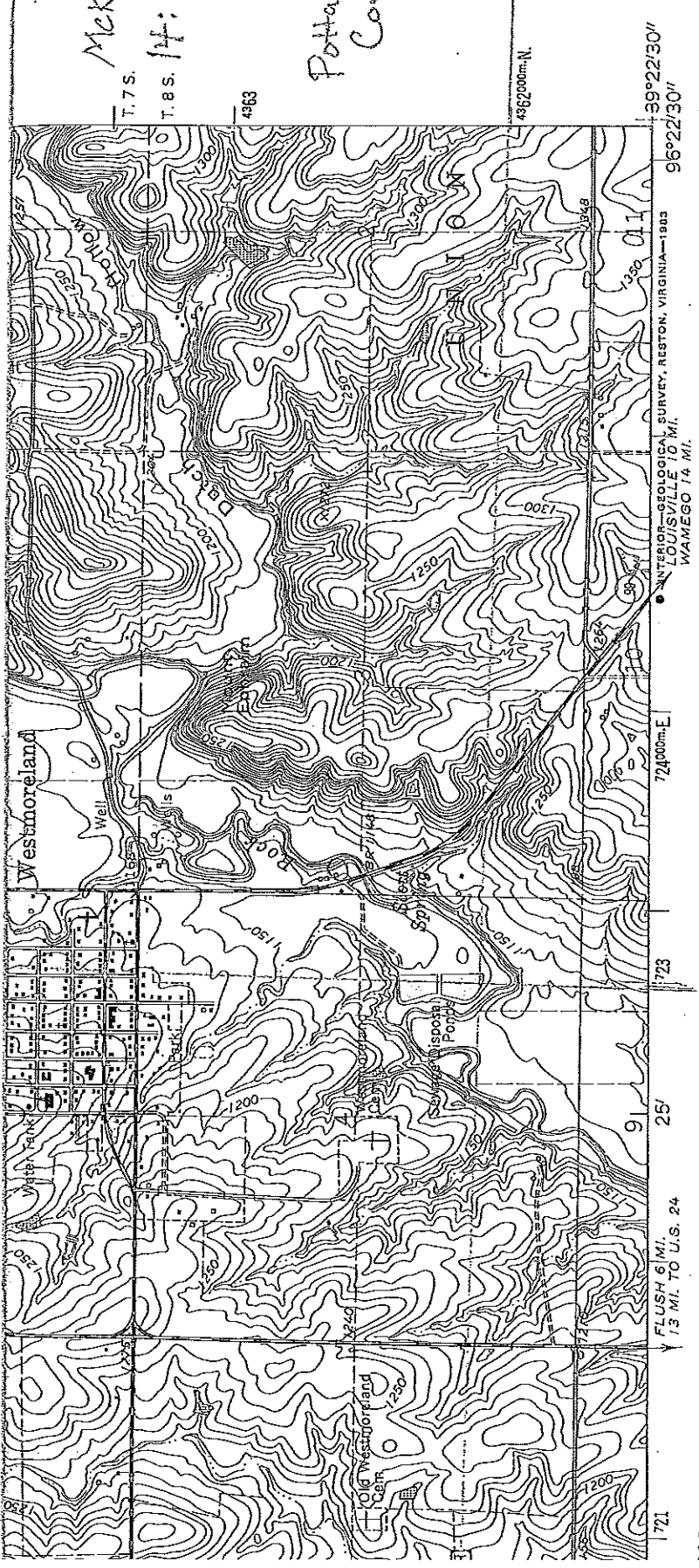
Photo 4: Northwest corner showing the north elevation (left) and west elevation (right), facing southeast.  
Photograph taken by Caitlin Meives, January 12, 2010.

Photo 5: West elevation, facing east. Photograph taken by Caitlin Meives, January 12, 2010.

Photo 6: Interior of barn, ground level. Photograph taken by Brenda Spencer, October 11, 2007.

Photo 7: Interior of barn, upper level. Photograph taken by Brenda Spencer, October 11, 2007.

Photo 8: Interior of barn, upper level, showing grain bin. Photograph taken by Brenda Spencer, October 11, 2007.

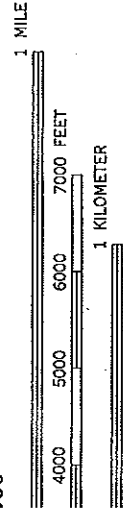
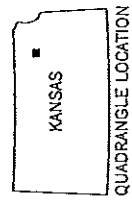


Mekimmons Barn  
 T. 7 S.  
 R. 14 E. 723 380 E  
 4362530 N  
 Pottawatomie  
 County, KS

(LOUISVILLE)  
 6762 IV SE

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Medium-duty \_\_\_\_\_ Light-duty \_\_\_\_\_
- Unimproved dirt \_\_\_\_\_
- State Route ○



10 FEET  
 DATUM OF 1929

MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 FLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
 LAWRENCE, KANSAS 66044  
 SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

WESTMORELAND, KANS.  
 N3922.5 W9622.5/7.5

1964  
 PHOTOREVISED 1983  
 DMA 6762 IV NW-SERIES V878

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial  
 photographs taken 1981 and other sources  
 This information not field checked. Map edited 1983