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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Historic name</th>
<th>Fix Farmstead</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other names/site number</td>
<td>#197-294</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name of related Multiple Property Listing</td>
<td>Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas</td>
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2. Location

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Street &amp; number</th>
<th>34554 Old K-10 Road</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City or town</td>
<td>Alma (Volland vicinity)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>Kansas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code</td>
<td>KS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>Wabaunsee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code</td>
<td>197</td>
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<td>Zip code</td>
<td>66401</td>
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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

Applicable National Register Criteria:  ___ A  ___ B  ___ C  ___ D

SEE FILE

Signature of certifying official/Title  Patrick Zollner, Deputy SHPO  Date

Kansas State Historical Society

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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<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>Contributing</td>
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<td>Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register</td>
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### 6. Function or Use

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Historic Functions</th>
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<td>(Enter categories from instructions.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Domestic (single dwelling)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Domestic (secondary structure)</td>
<td>Domestic (secondary structure)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture (storage)</td>
<td>Vacant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agriculture (animal facility)</td>
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### 7. Description

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<tr>
<th>Architectural Classification</th>
<th>Materials</th>
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<td>(Enter categories from instructions.)</td>
<td>(Enter categories from instructions.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Victorian: Italianate</td>
<td>foundation: Stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (National Folk)</td>
<td>walls: Coursed stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vertical &amp; horizontal board, stuccoed tile block</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>roof: Composition shingles, corrugated metal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>other:</td>
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</table>
Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources, if applicable. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary
The Fix Farmstead is a well-preserved farmstead consisting of a large residence with two main sections, an adjacent tenant house, a root cellar, a storm cellar, a garage, and a large barn with a granary addition. Since four building outlines arranged along the creek were recorded in the 1885 Atlas of Wabaunsee County, it appears that the house, tenant house, barn, and an additional building (non-extant) were constructed by that date. The granary addition to the barn may have been constructed c. 1890. The Italianate style section of the residence (constructed c. 1880) is a large rectangular 2 ½-story structure oriented east-west with a truncated hipped roof and flat roof deck. This block is constructed of coursed rock-faced native limestone blocks. An earlier vernacular style section (constructed c. 1866) now forms a rear wing extending from the main block. The earliest section of the house is a rectangular 1 1/2-story structure oriented north-south with a gable roof. It is constructed of shaped irregular native limestone rubble with larger irregular shaped stones defining the building corners.

Elaboration
The Fix Farmstead is situated in a picturesque setting on a west terrace above the West Branch of Mill Creek which winds from southwest to northeast in this location. The farmstead is entered on a long lane extending south from the main road which runs roughly east-west. The Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad tracks also parallel the road north of the farmstead. The hamlet of Volland is located less than a mile southwest of the farmstead.

The Fix House is the southernmost structure with the tenant house to the northeast and a storage cellar excavated into the stream terrace south of the tenant house. Southwest of the Fix House, there is a concrete storm cellar. The garage is directly north of the house. Further to the north, the bank barn also was constructed in the terrace. A large granary was added to the west (uphill) side of the barn forming an ell. There is a roughly semicircular driveway from the lane that provides access to the house, tenant house, and garage, and then circles past the barn-granary to the lane.

1. Residence (c. 1866, 1880), contributing building
Latitude/Longitude: 38.946328/-96.397863

The stone residence consists of two main sections; a smaller gabled block built c. 1866 and a larger Italianate-style front block built c. 1880. There is a one-story wood-frame addition in the building’s southeast rear ell. This appears to be a porch that was enclosed (probably c. 1955). The front façade of the older section is oriented westward. When the first Italianate block was constructed, the orientation changed to face the north. Although the overall architectural integrity of this residence is very good, the building has, besides the enclosed porch addition, a concrete block exterior chimney to the west, and interior alterations that appear to date from the 1950s and 1960s. There are at least two important photographs of the Fix House dated c. 1901 (Figures 5 and 6). A photograph of the J.R. Fix residence was published in Matt Thomson’s, Early History of Wabaunsee County, Kansas. This view of the north (front) façade from the north northwest shows the stone masonry walls, ornamental entrance porch, eave cornice, and roof dormers. Another view of the main block from the southwest shows the rear block with its projecting gable-roofed entry.

There have been some minor alterations and some features have been removed since the historic photographs were taken. Stone slabs forming entrance steps have been removed. Louvered wooden shutters beside the window have been removed. Brick interior end chimneys with ornamental corbelled tops to the east and west have been removed. The iron cresting which ornamented the central flat roof has been removed. In the southwest corner of the Italianate block, a first floor door opening has been filled with stone. In the west façade, one of the two first floor windows has been covered by a large concrete block chimney (constructed c. 1955). On the west side of the south façade of the rear block, a masonry opening which may have been a rear entrance has been partially filled.
with stone and a replacement 2/2 window. The wooden lintel above this opening also appears to have been inserted. In the rear façade of the main block, there are areas of re-pointing with inappropriate mortar and there are similar areas of inappropriate re-pointing on the south and west walls of the rear block.

The rear wing of the existing building was the original Fix family residence and the front block was constructed by 1885. The rear section is a typical example of vernacular stone masonry construction similar to many other structures in Wabaunsee County and the northern Flint Hills region. The front block is an example of the popular Italianate architectural style applied to a fine rural residence. Besides the form and roof type, a significant Italianate feature is the projecting eave with a cornice ornamented with paired brackets. The projecting two-story entrance porch is another Italianate feature. Ornamental stone masonry detailing includes a slightly projecting water table course at the base of the walls, projecting rock-faced stone sills and flat lintels, and rock-faced quoin blocks emphasizing the building corners.

North (Front) Facade

With the construction of the Italianate block in the early 1880s, the orientation of the Fix residence was changed from west to north. The house is two-and-a-half stories with a one-and-a-half story rear wing. The main façade has a symmetrical five-bay front with a two-story wooden entrance porch projecting from the center bay. The central entrance is surmounted by a second-floor entrance to the porch. The wood-frame porch has square posts, upper sawn wooden ornamentation, railings with ornamental turned posts, and a projecting eave with paired pendant ornamentation. Three gabled dormers light the third floor. The dormers have 1/1 double-hung windows and flat horizontal board sheathing. The entrance has a paneled wooden door is flanked by sidelights and surmounted by a transom. The second floor also has a wooden entrance door and storm door surmounted by a transom. On the first and second floor there are wooden double-hung windows with 4-light sashes. The truncated hipped roof has composition shingle roofing with metal roofing on the flat central deck.

East (Side) Facade

There are two bays in the east façade with 4/4 wooden double-hung windows on the first and second floors. Wooden storm windows remain on the first floor.

South (Rear) Facade

Much of the south façade of the main block is obscured by the older rear section and the enclosed wood-frame porch that adjoins it to the east. The main block has two windows on the second floor and three gabled dormers in the roof. A window opening to the west on the first floor of the south façade has been filled with stone.

The rectangular rear block has a gable roof with corrugated metal roofing painted red. A central entrance to this block is on the west façade. There is a wooden glazed four-panel entrance door. A small gabled wood-frame porch with square paired front posts on a concrete floor shelters the front entrance. There are two windows in the first story flanking the entrance. The south opening has a 6-light wooden window and the north opening has an aluminum window in an altered masonry opening. There are two small 6-light windows in the second story of the west façade. The cellar entrance is located in the center of the south façade. It has an entrance door constructed of vertical boards.

West (Side) Facade

Although a portion of the first floor of the west façade is obscured by a large concrete block chimney that has been added, the west façade originally had two bays with windows on the first and second floors. The two upper windows and a first floor window to the south remain with 4-light double-hung sashes.

Other features

Between the main Fix House and the tenant house there is a well and handpump with a hexagonal concrete cap. A dry stone retaining wall runs from the storage cellar to the south.

Interior

The front entrance leads to a central stair hall with two rooms on the east side, a larger room on the west side and a passage to the older rear wing. The rear wing has a room and kitchen to the south. The second floor has four bedrooms arranged around the central stair hall. The third floor has a stair hall with one room on either side. The
cellar under the rear south wing is accessed from the south by an exterior stairwell with concrete steps and a door constructed of vertical boards. Floor joists under the earlier south wing are massive hewn timbers.

Despite some alterations in the 1950s, the Fix House interior has retained most of its character-defining ornamental features. These include the front four-paneled wooden entrance door, raised panels below the sidelights, and a molded door surround with bulls-eye corner blocks. There are broad baseboards with a molded cap, plain wooden window casing, four-panel passage doors and transoms above the passage doors. A circular ornamental plaster medallion ornamnets the ceiling of the northwest room. The most prominent ornamental feature is the central stairway. On the first floor, there is a square newel post with chamfered corners and a turned ball on pedestal cap. The railing has slender turned spindles with a molded railing. The stairway still has its original dark stained finish.

Also in the third story, the original stained finish remains on the doors, baseboard, hook rails, and especially, on the tongue and grooved board paneling that frames the attic hatch entrance and the interior of the roof dormers.

**Alterations**

There is a contemporary metal storm door and aluminum storm windows on openings in the east façade. There is a one-story wood-frame enclosed porch in the southeast corner of the ell (constructed c. 1955). This section has a bay projecting at the northeast corner, an entrance with a wooden door and metal storm door to the east opening to a concrete platform and concrete steps. The enclosed porch is sheathed with wooden lap siding. There are four wooden double-hung windows with aluminum storm windows in the east façade and one window in the south façade. There is a stone masonry cistern with a concrete cap located at the southeast corner of the enclosed porch. The cistern has been heavily plastered with mortar.

A masonry opening in the western part of the south façade appears to have been an entrance. The lower half of the opening has been filled with stone and a small double-hung wooden window the opening is surmounted by a projecting timber lintel.

Ornamental woodwork on the first and second floors has been painted. The first floor interior has been carpeted and an acoustical tile ceiling installed. A large contemporary coursed limestone block fireplace surround has been installed in the corner of the northwest room. A room in the south wing has been paneled. On the east side at the rear of the main block, a hallway has been inserted and a window opening has been altered to provide access to the wood frame wing to the southeast. There is a bathroom in the north part of this addition and a utility room to the south.

2. **Tenant house (ca. 1884, contributing building)**
   
   **Latitude/Longitude:** 38.946328/-96.397863
   
   **KHRI #:** 197-297

The Fix Tenant House is a rectangular one-and-a-half story vernacular style building oriented north-south. The house was constructed into the side of the stream terrace and there are flagstone steps beside the south entrance leading down to the lower terrace level. The main entrance in the south façade is sheltered by a wood-frame shed-roofed enclosure sheathed with vertical boards painted white. The south façade has a single central window on the second floor. The main section of the tenant house is masonry construction with coursed shaped rubble stone blocks. There are smooth-cut flat stone lintels and rough-cut sills. Larger smooth-cut stone blocks accentuate the building corners. The gable roof is covered with corrugated metal roofing. There are two first floor windows in the west façade, a door opening on the second floor in the north façade, and a first floor window in the southeast façade. The wood-frame addition (c. 1940) to the northeast has a raised rubble stone foundation and a shed roof covered with corrugated metal roofing. This addition has composition rolled sheathing in an imitation brick pattern that is affixed to horizontal wood sheathing. The north and east façades have a single 4/4 double-hung window and the south façade has a similar window flanking an entrance to the west. The entrance has a wooden screen door and entrance door with two raised panels surmounted by an opening for a glazed panel.

There are contemporary replacement windows on the first floor in the west and east facades, a replacement door on the second floor in the north façade, and a replacement window on the second floor in the south façade. The present owner plans to demolish this addition.

3. **Storage cellar (ca. 1884, contributing structure)**
   
   **Latitude/Longitude:** 38.946328/-96.397863
Directly south of the tenant house, an aisle with coursed rubble stone walls and descending steps leads to an underground rectangular storage cellar extending west into the terrace bank. There is a hand-dug stone-lined well in the west end of the cellar. The cellar interior has a semicircular roof, white-washed walls, and a gravel floor. It has a deteriorated wooden door surmounted by a wooden vent window. Typically, this structure would have been used for storing milk, butter, eggs, vegetables, fruits, and possibly home-brewed beer and wine.

4. Garage (ca. 1930, contributing building)
Latitude/Longitude: 38.56473/-96.235268

The garage is a rectangular tile block building oriented north-south. It has a gable roof covered with corrugated metal roofing. The south façade has a full-length opening with hinged panel rolling doors constructed of vertical tongue and grooved boards. The gable end has composition shingle sheathing. The west, north, and east facades are stuccoed. There are window openings with slightly projecting flat lintels and sills and deteriorated 4/light casement windows.

5. Barn & granary (ca. 1884, 1890, contributing building)
Latitude/Longitude: 38.946953/-96.397959

Although they are now joined at the roof line, the Fix barn and granary appear to have been constructed in two phases with the barn built first and the granary added as an ell to the west a few years later. There is a north-south interior ramp between the two sections. The main section is a large, rectangular barn oriented north-south with a cross-gable roof. This two-and-a-half-story bank barn was built into the terrace slope which created ground access to the first floor to the east and access from a ramp leading to a western entrance and a third floor loft. The north and south walls, as well as the first floor to the east, are constructed of shaped rubble stone masonry laid in irregular courses. The north and south gable ends, the second floor to the east and west are constructed of a light timber frame with vertical board-and-batten sheathing. The roof is covered with corrugated metal roofing. There is a central roof ventilator with a pyramidal roof. It has wood shingle roofing.

The south façade has four rectangular openings with wooden louvered vents in a diamond-shaped arrangement in the two-story stone wall. There are three smaller openings with wooden louvered vents in a triangular arrangement in the gable end. The east façade has a slightly overhanging forebay. There are five entrances on the first floor and three bays on the second floor. The first floor entrances have Dutch doors constructed of vertical tongue and grooved boards. Between the entrances, there are single 4-light casement windows. The east masonry section has large shaped stone sills. There are two tall openings in the façade to the north and south with two tall central openings flanked by window openings. The north façade has four wooden louvered vents in a diamond arrangement in the north masonry wall with three vent openings in the gable end.

The barn has good architectural integrity, but it is deteriorated. The roof, exterior wood sheathing, and some of the interior framing are deteriorated features. All of the second floor openings in the east façade lack doors and windows. A section of the stone first floor wall in the northwest corner has collapsed, but this section is being reconstructed (November, 2014). There are horse stalls remaining in the first floor. Some of the interior framing appears to have been altered or removed to allow more space for hay storage. A relatively narrow floor constructed of boards laid in a diagonal pattern that extends from the west entrance of the barn through the central part of the loft. This loft floor appears to have been altered, possibly reduced from its historic area.

The granary is a rectangular building with a gable roof oriented east-west. The granary has a central aisle accessible from the west by an earthen ramp with stone masonry walls and another interior ramp to the east. There are four main interior sections in the granary with two grain bins to the north, a corn crib with slatted sheathing to the southwest, and another bin to the southeast. The crawl space with windows under the first floor may have been usable for storage. The building is wood frame construction with horizontal board sheathing. There is rusted corrugated metal roofing installed over deteriorated wooden shingles. The central aisle has wide board flooring laid diagonally and some of the interior sheathing for the grain bins remains. There is a stone-walled cellar under the granary that is entered from the ramp aisle. According to the present owner, this was used as a wine cellar.

The south façade has two adjacent doors to the corn cribs to the west above a small rectangular window opening and a low bin opening and a basement window to the east. The west façade has a wide opening to the central aisle.
Fix Farmstead
Name of Property

Wabaunsee County, Kansas
County and State

Some corrugated metal has been installed over the wood siding in the gable end. The north façade has two bays with two bin doors and two small rectangular window openings in the foundation. Although deteriorated, the granary has good exterior and interior architectural integrity. A two-bay pole frame shed addition was constructed at the southeast corner of the granary after 1955.

6. Storm shelter (early 20th century, contributing building)
Latitude/Longitude:  38.9462221/-96.397969

Near the southwest corner of the main block of the Fix House, there is a storm cellar with a concrete entrance and parapet. This cellar has the remains of a door constructed of vertical boards.

Two other historic outbuildings south and southwest of the Fix house were shown in an aerial photograph dated 1957, but they are no longer extant.¹ Both appear to be wood-frame construction. The larger building to the east is oriented north-south with a shed bay to the east. Because of the banks of windows, it may have been a poultry house. A smaller building was located directly west of this building beside the lane. It is oriented east-west with an entrance in the west façade. According to Verne Claussen, the present owner, another wood-frame building used to house tenants or workers was located southeast of the Fix house. This building also has been demolished.

Southwest of the main house lot on the west side of the lane, there a large contemporary metal building (c. 2012) with a gable roof, side entrance, and open shed bay. Further south, there is another contemporary metal building (c. 2012). These are non-contributing and are not included in the boundaries of the nominated property.

¹ "The above picture is of the John Hubert farm near Volland, more familiarly known as the Fix place." Alta Vista Journal 19 September 1957, p.3, cols. 1-3.
Fix Farmstead
Wabaunsee County, Kansas

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
(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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

- Exploration/Settlement
- Agriculture
- Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1866—1955

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Period of Significance (justification)
The beginning of the period of significance is defined by the approximate date of construction of the first section of the Fix house (c. 1866) and the date when the property with buildings was sold from the estate of the last Fix daughter to the John Huber family (1955).

Criteria Considerations (justification)
The Fix Farmstead is significant under Criterion A because of its association with the early settlement of Kansas and the agricultural and community development of Wabaunsee County. The Fix Farmstead is significant under Criterion C as an example of the Farmstead property type identified in "Historic Agriculture-related Resources of Kansas," National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Document. The Fix house is significant as well.
Fix Farmstead
Name of Property

preserved example of an Italianate-style rural residence. The barn is significant as an example of the bank barn property type.
Narrative Statement of Significance

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Summary

The John Robert Fix and Rebecca Larch Fix Farmstead is historically significant under Criterion A because of its association with the early settlement of Kansas and the agricultural and community development of Wabaunsee County. The property is locally significant. The example of John R. Fix and his family reflects the history of German-Americans who migrated from Pennsylvania to Indiana to Kansas Territory, made productive farms in a new state, and developed a prosperous economy as well as a cohesive rural community in Washington Township, Wabaunsee County. As a well preserved example of an Italianate style residence, the Fix House is also significant under Criterion C. The house has very good architectural integrity and the other buildings on the farmstead complement the residence. Although the barn is deteriorated, it has good architectural integrity and is significant as an example of the bank barn property type. The farmstead buildings as a whole have very good integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The Fix farmstead also is eligible for listing. With the historic house, tenant house, barn-granary, garage, and storm cellar, the farmstead has more than four associated agriculture-related structures.

Elaboration

The John R. Fix Farmstead is associated with broad patterns of agricultural and community development in Wabaunsee County, Kansas. As outlined in the context statement “Historic Agriculture Related Resources of Kansas,” National Register Multiple Property Document, after the end of the Civil War, Kansas evolved from a sparsely settled prairie environment to an agricultural powerhouse. The Kansas Board of Agriculture reported that between 1866 and 1878, the state climbed from 25th to 4th in the production of corn, the state’s first successful cash crop. After John Robert Fix returned from his service in the war, he became a prosperous farmer and stock raiser which enabled him to build the substantial buildings on the farmstead. With a probable construction date of ca. 1884, the Fix House is a primary farm structure associated with the historic context, “The Best and Worst of Times: Ranching, Diversification, and Drought in the 1880s.” The Flint Hills region, including Wabaunsee County, became a prosperous ranching area in the late 1870s and early 1880s.

Because of the farm’s choice location in a fertile valley along the West Branch of Mill Creek, John R. Fix also benefited from a trend toward diversification in agriculture during this period. Farmers could reduce the economic risks of farming by raising multiple crops and livestock. The cellar, large barn, and granary were structures that supported a combination of grain, hay, and livestock production during the period of significance.

Chronology

With his parents, John Robert Fix (b. 1837–d. 1918), his siblings, and family were pioneer settlers of Kansas Territory. Michael Fix and Mary Kissinger, John’s parents, were born in Pennsylvania and married in Berks County in 1836. They moved to Indiana in 1845. Then in 1856, Michael and Mary Fix came to Westport, Missouri by train and crossed the Missouri River to Leavenworth, Kansas Territory. When they traveled west from Leavenworth, the hills along Mill Creek reminded them of the hills in Pennsylvania so they decided to locate a pre-emption claim on the West Branch of Mill Creek in western Wabaunsee County. Although both Michael and Mary had German

2 Davis and Spencer, “Historic Agriculture-related Resources of Kansas,” Registration Requirements – Farmsteads, F-87.
3 John Robert Fix was recorded simply as “Robert Fix,” a single man, in the 1859 Wabaunsee County census and that name appears early tax assessment records. Later, possibly in the 1870s when he served two years as county commissioner, Fix began to use his full name which was recorded as John R. or J.R. Fix in the county atlases after 1885. Therefore, his full name is used throughout this nomination.
surnames and ancestry, their families had lived in Pennsylvania since the Revolutionary War. In Kansas, they chose to settle in Richardson (after 1859 Wabaunsee) County, a county with many German-American settlers.\(^5\)

The Fixes emigrated with nine children, three boys and six girls. John R. Fix was their oldest son. Their last child was born in Wabaunsee County.\(^6\) The Fix claim, patented on September 1, 1860, was located on the northwest quarter of Section 2, Township 13, Range 9E just east of the nominated property.\(^7\) The family first constructed a log cabin, 14 by 22 feet, which had a single room below and an attic above. There was a large fireplace at one end.\(^8\) Later, the Michael Fix family built a stone house.

On July 1, 1861, John Robert Fix enlisted in Company D, 20\(^{th}\) Indiana Infantry and re-enlisted in Company K, on July 12, 1865. He was stationed at Fort Monroe, Virginia during the famous engagement between the Monitor and the Merrimac. Also, he participated in the battle of Gettysburg, and the Seven Days fight which ended in the battle of Malvern Hill.\(^9\) After the Civil War ended, Fix went to Indiana, married Rebecca Larch on December 26, 1865, and they returned to Kansas.\(^10\)

On September 1, 1860, twenty-three-old Robert [sic] received a land patent for the southeast quarter of Section 3, Township 13, Range 9E, just west of his parents' home. According to the “Fix Family History” compiled by the present owner, Verne Claussen, John Robert Fix took over a parcel that his uncle Daniel claimed earlier. Daniel was Michael Fix's brother; he built a cabin on the property whose stone walls still exist on Mill Creek south of the present farmstead. Daniel Fix left Kansas and went to fight Indians with Kit Carson. In 1865 John R. Fix was able to gain title to his pre-emption claim because his five years service in the Union Army substituted for the required five years of residence on the land. On April 15, 1867, Robert Fix [sic] filed the patent for a 160-acre tract, the southeast quarter of Section 3, Township 13, Range 9E, in Wabaunsee County.\(^11\)

John and Rebecca built a sturdy stone house on the banks of Mill Creek (c. 1866).\(^12\) They had one son who died in infancy and eight daughters. Willie, born in 1866, died at birth. Alice, born 1868, married John Cromer and died in 1938. Lida was born in 1870 and died in 1937. Laura, born in 1872, married Robert Brasche and died in 1931. Mamie, born in 1874, married Edward Brasche and died in 1962. Pearl was born in 1882 and died in 1950. Clara, born in 1884, married Charles Layman and died in 1954. Mabel was born in 1887 and died in 1951. Emma, the youngest daughter (birth and death dates unknown), married Fred Maas.\(^13\) Most of the Fix family members and in-laws are buried in the family cemetery north of the farmstead near the railroad right-of-way.

In 1872, John Robert Fix and his neighbor and business partner, Gus Thierer, built a saw mill on Mill Creek northeast of the farmstead. Presumably, this mill provided building material and additional income. The saw mill was recorded in the 1885 Atlas of Wabaunsee County (Figure 2). Also by 1885, the Fixes built a handsome Italianate-style addition in front of the earlier house. Also, they constructed a stone tenant house nearby and a large double drive-through stone barn with a granary addition. The barn had horse stalls below and a large hay loft above. To raise stock and to farm on his 1,000 acres of pasture and bottom land, John Fix needed additional laborers and

\(^{5}\) Riley County Genealogical Society, Pioneers of the Bluestem Prairie (Manhattan, KS: Riley County Genealogical Society, 1976), 514. For another example of early German-American settlers in Wabaunsee County, see the National Register nomination for the Peter Thoes barn, Wabaunsee County, Kansas (2013). The Fix family properties were located in Alma Township until 1873 when it was subdivided into other townships including Washington Township in western Wabaunsee County.


\(^{8}\) Pioneers of the Bluestem Prairie (1976), 514.


\(^{10}\) Pioneers of the Bluestem Prairie (1976), 514.

\(^{11}\) Clausen, Verne, comp. “Fix Family History,” unpublished mss, copy on file KHPO, 3; Abstract of Title, SE1/4 Section 3, Township 13, Range 9E, Wabaunsee County.


\(^{13}\) Clausen, Verne, comp., “Fix Family History,” 4; Abstract of Title SE1/4 Section 3, Township 13, Range 9E, Wabaunsee County.
several teams of working horses. The teams of two to six horses used to plow, plant, cultivate, and put up hay were housed and fed in the large barn. Although bank barns like the Fix Barn were introduced in Kansas by farmers of German heritage, they quickly earned a reputation for efficiency among farmers of all ethnic backgrounds.  

On October 6, 1886, John and Rebecca Fix sold a strip of land through the NE1/4 and SE1/4 of Section 3 to the Chicago, Kansas, and Nebraska Railroad for right of way. Railroad construction in Kansas boomed in the 1880s and the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railroad (parent company of the Chicago, Kansas, and Nebraska RR) extended its tracks through Kansas west to Denver, Colorado and south to Fort Worth, Texas. This railroad line reached Alma, the Wabaunsee County seat, on March 24, 1887 and built west through Washington Township. The hamlet of Volland, eight miles west of Alma, was established to serve the railroad. Volland is less than a mile southwest of the Fix Farmstead. Access to the railroad enabled farmers in Wabaunsee County to ship cattle directly to the Kansas City market which encouraged many of them to shift from subsistence farming to ranching and pasture renting.  

In the 1901 Early History of Wabaunsee County, author Matt Thomson described John Robert Fix as the owner of "a fine farm of 1,000 acres near Volland, besides much other property in Alma and Alta Vista, one of the handsomest country homes in the county. Has served the people two years as county commissioner, making one of our county's most popular officials [sic]. His library is well supplied with the works of the best authors, as well as current literature of the day, enabling Mr. Fix to keep well posted on the issues before the people." Fix served as county commissioner from 1875-1877.

John R. Fix died on August 16, 1918 and Rebecca Fix died on November 10, 1922. They were buried in the Fix family cemetery. Although the burial ground had been established for many years, a formal cemetery agreement was filed in Wabaunsee County on September 17, 1943 signed by A.C. Bower, George W. Thierer, Clara Layman, and Myrtle Munzer as trustees. The agreement created the A.C. Bower Trust Fund "for the upkeep and maintenance of a cemetery plot, permanently known as Fix Cemetery, located on the farm owned by Mabel Fix, Pearl Fix, and Clara Fix Layman." This farm was located in Section 3, Township 13, Range 9 in Washington Township, Wabaunsee County.

Although the Fix Farmstead is historically associated with the Fix Farmstead, the cemetery is now part of the nominated property. This is a polygonal tract north northeast of the farmstead adjacent to the railroad tracks. The cemetery contains approximately 43 internments including 27 related to the Fix family and 10 unrelated friends of the Fix family. John Robert Fix, his wife Rebecca, their daughters, and his parents are buried here.

The cemetery is located on a small bank above a south-facing slope. It has an ornamental cast iron fence and is also surrounded by trees on the east, south, and west. There are a few ornamental trees within the cemetery. The stones range from large elaborately carved headstones to simple grave markers. They range in date from 1866 to 1971. A wide contemporary pipe entrance gate has been installed.

The unmarried Fix daughters lived on the farm until their deaths in the early 1950s. Executors of the J.R. Fix Ranch estate sold the tract containing the nominated property to the John Hubert family in 1955. In May, 1962 John Hubert sold to Verne and Dorothy Claussen, parents of the present owner, Verne Claussen, Jr. The Claussens came to Wabaunsee County from Russell County where their ranch was acquired for the site of Wilson Reservoir. Verne Claussen died on November 12, 2000. Verne Claussen, Jr. purchased the property from his mother in 2003. Mrs. Dorothy Claussen died on September 2, 2011.

18 Abstract of Title, SE1/4 Section 3, Township 13, Range 9E, Wabaunsee County.
The Fix Farmstead is also associated with the nearby railroad hamlet of Volland. Stone letters spelling out “Volland” are displayed on the hill southeast of the Fix farmstead. The sign was constructed in the early twentieth century when Volland was a trading and cattle shipping center.

Agriculture

Documentation from the Federal census schedules for 1860, 1870, and 1880 and from Wabaunsee County tax assessment rolls provides an outline of the Fix family history, agricultural history, and possible indications of the construction dates for the farmstead buildings. Robert Fix [sic], age 23, was recorded in the 1860 census as a farmer with no real estate and a personal estate valued at $200. By the 1870 census, John R. Fix owned real estate valued at $2,000 with a personal estate valued at $1,400. His farm consisted of 22 acres of “improved” or cultivated land, 60 acres of woodland, and 78 acres of “unimproved” or grassland. John Johnson, a 21-year-old farm laborer was also recorded with the J.R. Fix family. John Fix owned two horses, 19 milch cows, 33 other cattle, and 3 swine. He had 18 bushels of winter wheat and 600 bushels of Indian corn on hand. By the 1880 census, Robert [sic] and Rebecca Fix had six daughters. The farm value had increased to $4,000 and the value of livestock was $1,425. Fix owned 45 acres of “tilled” land, 10 acres of woods, and 425 acres of unimproved land. 75 acres of the unimproved land was mowed and produced 75 tons of hay. Robert Fix owned 7 horses, 25 milch cows, 60 other cattle, 4 swine, and 100 head of poultry. In the previous year, the farm produced 600 pounds of butter and 800 dozen eggs. 21

By 1880 John R. Fix was the patriarch of a growing family and the proprietor of a diversified farming operation adapted to the particular landscape of the property on the West Branch of Mill Creek in western Wabaunsee County. In the late 1860s and 1870s, Fix and his neighbor Gus Thierer operated a sawmill northeast of the nominated property which converted the timber along Mill Creek into lumber which could be sold for income and also used to construct farm buildings. In ten years, the area of timber had been reduced from 60 to 10 acres and the cultivated area had increased from 22 to 45 acres. By 1880 when the supply of timber was depleted, the Fix farm produced wheat, corn, butter, eggs, and cattle fattened on grass and hay.

This production may have provided the need and the capital for construction of the Italianate front block of the Fix house, the tenant house, and the large barn-granary. In the tax assessment book for Washington Township, the value of improvements on the J.R. Fix farmstead (SE ¼ Section 3, Township 13 Range 9E) was $400. This same value persisted through 1879. Then the value increased by more than 50% to $640. This may indicate construction of the house or the barn. The assessment record book for 1881 is missing, no value for improvements for J.R. Fix was recorded in 1882 and again there was no assessment for improvements in 1883. The value of improvements on the J.R. Fix farmstead in 1884 was only $480 and the value in 1886 was $400. In 1888, only one total value for the farm, $1,490, was recorded. Finally, in 1890, the value of buildings on the Fix farm increased to $660. This may indicate construction of another building, possibly the granary addition to the barn. 22

An additional source for information about the Fix family, their farming operation and, possibly, construction of the barn-granary was provided by the personal property assessment records. During the period from 1874 to 1890, John R. Fix acquired more horses and increased his cattle herd. By 1887, he had a valuable stallion which suggests that he was breeding horses for his use and for sale. In 1874 Fix owned horses worth $85 and cattle worth $790. In 1876 he had six horses worth $150 and 44 cattle worth $490. In 1880 he had 7 horses worth $220 and 60 cattle worth $700. In the 1880s, the number of cattle ranged from 45 in 1883 to 78 in 1886, but the number of horses steadily increased. J.R. Fix had 12 horses worth $330 in 1883, 10 horses in 1884, 12 horses in 1885, and 13


22 Tax assessment record books, Real estate, John R. Fix, Washington Township, Wabaunsee County, 1874-1890. County Clerk, Wabaunsee County, Kansas.
horses in 1886. By 1887 J.R. Fix owned 17 horses worth $435 and a stallion worth $150. The stallion was recorded through 1890. The number of horses peaked in 1889 with 19 worth $450. 23

From the four building outlines on the J.R. Fix property recorded in the Atlas of Wabaunsee County, it appears that the house and barn were constructed by 1885. Whether J.R. Fix built the barn first to shelter his horses, store hay, and support the production that provided income or whether he built the house first to provide bedrooms for his six daughters (in 1880) is an open question. It is possible that the house was constructed in 1880 when the real estate valuation increased dramatically and the barn was constructed in 1882 when the number of horses increased from 8 to 12. Certainly, the barn was standing by 1885 when the number of horses increased even more. In any case, with the analysis of the property values and livestock numbers correlated with the function of the historic buildings, a more specific profile of the J.R. Fix farming operation during its formative period is possible.

Architectural history
The Fix Farm house is a locally significant example of the Italianate style expressed in a rural residence. Moreover, since the early settlement house was retained in the rear and a more elaborate block constructed in front, the Fix house is a rural residence that was developed in stages over time. 24 The combination of the vernacular settlement house and the later Italianate block is an interesting example in Kansas architectural history. In the Field Guide to American Houses, authors Virginia and Lee McAlester concluded that “the Italianate style dominated American houses constructed between 1850 and 1880.” 25 Architectural historian Martha Hagedorn-Krass went on to conclude that, in nineteenth century Kansas, “the Italianate style provided a template for both rural and urban builders.” 26 Italianate-style architecture in Kansas was mainly constructed from 1865 until 1885. During this period, the state experienced dramatic growth in its population and economy. 27

Since the Fix house was constructed as early as 1880, it is associated with this broad pattern of development in Kansas. Commonly identified features of the Italianate style that appear in the well-preserved Fix house are the rectangular form with its truncated hipped roof, the ornamental projecting entrance porch, and the wide, overhanging eave with ornamental paired brackets. 28

The Fix barn is an example of the “bank barn” property type. As summarized in “Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas,” “bank barns are characterized by exterior entrances on two levels... Most are built into the side of a hill or bank, which creates a natural ramp that provides access to the barn’s second level, usually along the broad side... On the back side, an exposed lower or basement level is generally reserved for animal storage.” 29 The upper levels of the bank barn were used for hay storage and that hay could be dropped through openings or chutes to feed livestock in the lowest area.

Kansas bank barns are generally two-and-a-half stories high and most have stone exteriors with wood-framed interiors. The Fix barn has these characteristics. “Bank barns are common throughout Kansas, but early examples are found particularly in counties settled by persons of Pennsylvania—German heritage” (like the Fix family). “By the end of the nineteenth century, families of German heritage has settled throughout the state, constructing bank barns throughout eastern Kansas and in most of the state’s counties. They are most commonly found in the state’s hillier northeast region, where 35 percent of the barns surveyed were bank barns.” 30 The Fix barn is an example of this pattern of development.

24 For an another example of a house that developed over time, see the National Register nomination for the William C. and Jane Shaft House, Chase County, Kansas.
29 Davis and Spencer, “Historic Agriculture-related Resources of Kansas,” F-46.
Fix Farmstead
Name of Property

Wabaunsee County, Kansas
County and State
Fix Farmstead
Wabaunsee County, Kansas

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

“Abstract of Title,” SE1/4 of Section 3, Township 13S, Range 9E. John R. Fix Farmstead.

Atlas of Wabaunsee County, Kansas (Chicago, IL: Gillen & Davy, 1885).


10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 5 acres.

Provide latitude/longitude coordinates OR UTM coordinates.
(Place additional coordinates on a continuation page.)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84: __________
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

A 38.947192 -96.398389 B 38.947631 -96.397374

Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:
Fix Farmstead

Name of Property

Wabaunsee County, Kansas

County and State

C 38.946731 -96.397015  D 38.946110 -96.397337
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

E 38.946009 -96.398277  F 38.946619 -96.398206
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)
The nominated property consists of an approximately five-acre tract in the NW1/4 of the SE1/4 of Section 3, Township 13S, Range 9E. It is part of a larger parcel described by the Wabaunsee County Appraiser’s records as follows: S03, T13S, R09E, ACRESs 234.3, SE1/4 & TR BEG AT E1/4 COR TH W 26R0, N130 TO SE R/W, NELY ALG R/W 3490 TO E SEC LINE, S 2180 TO POB LESS RR R/W LESS.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)
The boundaries of the nominated property include the historic buildings associated with the John Robert and Rebecca Fix Farmstead and a limited area of land on which the buildings stand. This is a small portion of a larger tract associated with the Fix farm operation during its period of significance. The western boundary is approximately marked by the farm lane and the east by a terrace above the West Branch of Mill Creek. The southern boundary follows the approximate southern boundary of the lot associated with the house and secondary domestic structures. The northern boundary follows the approximate boundary of the corral north of the barn-granary.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dale E. Nimz, consultant
organization For Mr. Verne Claussen, Jr, property owner
date October 15, 2014
street & number P. O. Box 1046
telephone 785-856-1299

city or town Lawrence
state KS
zip code 66044
e-mail dnimz@sunflower.com

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

name Verne Claussen, Jr.
street & number 30920 B Kuenzli Creek Road
telephone 785-456-4179 (c)

city or town Alma
state KS
zip code 66401

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 100 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.

Additional Documentation
Submit the following items with the completed form:

Photographs
Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each digital image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to a sketch map or aerial map. Each photograph must be
numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of
the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn’t need to be labeled on every
photograph.

**Photograph Log**

**Name of Property:** John Robert Fix Farmstead  
**City or Vicinity:** Volland vicinity  
**County:** Wabaunsee  
**State:** Kansas  
**Photographer:** Dale Nimz  
**Date Photographed:** August 28, 2014  

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 20: Fix House, view from north.  
2 of 20: Fix House, view from northeast.  
3 of 20: Fix House, view from northwest.  
4 of 20: Fix House, view from southeast.  
5 of 20: Fix House, view from south.  
6 of 20: Fix House, rear block, view from southeast.  
7 of 20: Fix Tenant House, view from southwest.  
8 of 20: Fix Tenant House, view from northwest.  
9 of 20: Fix Tenant House, view from north.  
10 of 20: Fix Tenant House, view from southeast.  
11 of 20: Fix Garage, view from southeast.  
12 of 20: Fix Garage, view from west southwest.  
13 of 20: Fix Barn, view from south.  
14 of 20: Fix Barn, view from east southeast.  
15 of 20: Fix Barn, view from north.  
16 of 20: Fix Barn, second floor interior, view from northwest.  
17 of 20: Fix Granary, view from south.  
18 of 20: Fix Granary, view from northwest.  
19 of 20: Fix Granary, view from northeast.  
20 of 20: Fix Farm, storm cellar, view from southeast.
Figures

Figure 1: Site Plan, Google Earth imagery, 2014
Fix Farmstead

Name of Property

Wabaunsee County, Kansas

County and State

Figure 2. Map section, J.R. Fix Farm, Section 3-T13-R9E, Washington Township, *Atlas of Wabaunsee County* (1885)

Figure 3. Map section, J.R. Fix Farm, Section 3-T13-R9E, Washington Township, *Standard Atlas of Wabaunsee County* (1902)
Figure 4. Map section, J.R. Fix Farm, Section 3-T13-R9E, Washington Township, *Standard Atlas of Wabaunsee County* (1919)
Fix Farmstead
Name of Property

Wabaunsee County, Kansas
County and State

Figure 5. Historic image of Fix House, c. 1901, Kansas Memory, KSHS

Figure 6. Historic image of Fix House, c. 1901, Kansas Memory, KSHS
Figure 7. Historic image, Fix House, c. 1901, Greg Hoots, Wabaunsee County Museum

Figure 8. Historic image, Fix Family, c. 1901, Kansas Memory, KSHS