

- John Fehrken Barn, 1915
- John Hale Barn, 1881
- The Mule Barn, 1910
- George Hanson Barn, 1885
- Fred W. Kiehnhoff Barn, 1888
- Earle Dutton Barn, 1925
- J.A. Symms Barn, 1880
- Godfrey Nuzum Barn, 1856

**NOTE:** These barns are on private property and permission must be received from the owners before going onto the property. Please respect the rights of the property owners.

**T**hese barns are part of the byre and bluff barns of Doniphan County, (ca. 1860-1933), and were nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in 1986 under criterion for their architectural significance. The limited occurrence of this type and the high degree of architectural integrity, make this grouping of vernacular agricultural structures extremely rare.

The Doniphan County barns were part of the Smithsonian Traveling exhibit, "Barn Again! Celebrating an American Icon," telling the story of Kansas farm life. To the general public, barns represent both our rural past and our agricultural present.

**Other significant barns:**

- John Streib Barn, (Circa 1890)
- Mathew Eylar Barn, (Circa 1933)
- Mission -Herring Barn, (Circa 1860)
- M.D.L. Williams Barn, (Circa 1909-1910)
- Vander Weide/Steinweden, (Circa 1880)
- White (T.L.)Barn, (Circa 1927)
- Chrystal (Herman)Barn, (1870)
- Silvers -Bauman Barn, (1905)
- Doniphan Station Mill Barn, (1855)

Photos courtesy of Greg Beechner, St. Joseph, MO.

The tour and brochure are sponsored by Doniphan County Economic Development Commission, the Native American Heritage Museum and Glacial Hills RC&D.

**For Information call:**  
(785) 442-3304 or (913) 365-2604

# HISTORIC BARN TOUR



A Guide For Drive-By Touring of Historic Barns Around Doniphan County, Kansas



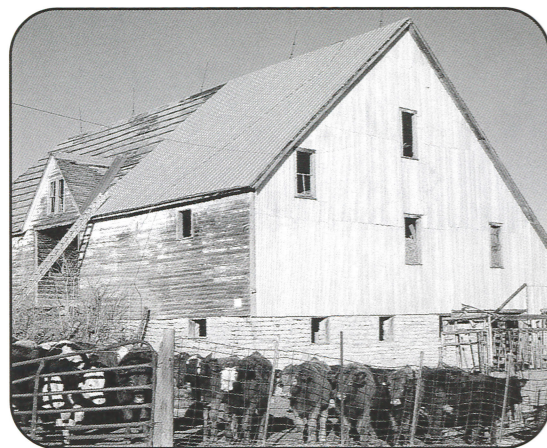
**DONIPHAN COUNTY KANSAS**

The John Fuhrken Barn (ca.1915) is an octagonal structure with a circumference of 192 feet. It was planned so as to give every possible inch of space for utility purposes. It contained a harness room; five double stalls and one single stall; room for 20 or more cows and calves; and in the center, two bins for oats and corn, with a 1500 bushel capacity.



The Fuhrken barn is one of a very few remaining round barns left in Kansas. Because of its unique architecture, a TV commercial was filmed at this location using this barn as a backdrop.

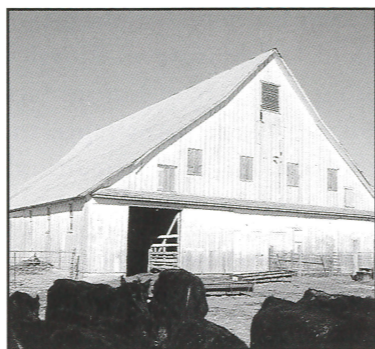
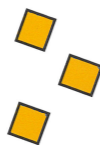
*Cover Photo*



The J.A. Symns Barn (ca.1880) was constructed for Symns who emigrated from West Virginia in 1865. The barn is a three-bay, center entrance, full byre, horizontally lapsed, gable roof structure with a limestone foundation and a threshing floor. Nailed, planked framing supports the superstructure. There are granaries in the western bay of the threshing floor, and a staircase between the threshing and byre levels.



The John Hale Barn (ca. 1881) was constructed for John Hale, a native of Sandusky, Ohio, who emigrated to northeast Kansas in 1879. The barn is a three-bay, full byre, board and batten, gable roof, and limestone foundation structure with a threshing floor, a fore bay, and louvered venting. Nail, post and beam framing support the structure. All sides of the barn contain tall, arched louvered vents on the threshing floor and in the gable.



This barn, planned and built in 1910 as a mule barn, features an unusual design with four mule pens at ground level and four feeding platforms located in the corners. The barn has standard tongue and groove construction and is both pinned and pegged. The date inscribed in cement is still visible as are Charles Starr's initials carved on the wall of the harness room. The barn is historically tied to the Charles Hale Barn. Many farmers in this region made a living providing mules for the army in Fort Leavenworth.

The Godfrey Nuzum Barn was constructed for Godfrey Nuzum, a Virginia native who settled in Doniphan County in 1855. It is a two and one-half story, gable entrance, limestone and German lapsed barn ("Ohio" style barn). The barn's western wall is built into an embankment. Pegged, post and beam plank-framing support the superstructure.



Ramped entrances supported by limestone retaining walls lead to doors at the threshing floor level. A hay hood projects from the roof of the north side. Windows pierce the limestone and wood walls on all three levels.

The George Hanson Barn (ca.1885), was originally constructed as a draft animal barn, but is now used for hay storage. This one-story, three-bay, gable entrance, board and batten barn has a full byre with a limestone foundation and a wooden shingled roof. Its superstructure is supported by mortised and tenoned, post and beam construction. The barn has a north-to-south orientation, measuring 40 feet from north to south and 28 feet from east to west. The byre is built into the northern embankment. The stone for the foundation was hauled by a team and wagon from White Cloud, Kansas.

Structurally the barn today is still much the same as it was when first built.



The Earle Dutton Barn (ca.1925) is a three story structure and was constructed as an elevator. During grain harvest, a loaded wagon would drive through one side of the second floor, first stopping at the scales just inside. After being weighed, the wagon would be pulled further in where a room-screw would be turned, tilting the floor vertically to dump the grain. The grain would travel down a chute to the first floor where a stream driven auger/conveyor system would lift the grain to the dormer.



The Fred W. Kiehnhoff Barn (ca. 1888) was constructed for the Kiehnhoff family who emigrated from Russia in 1908.

It is a one-story, three-bay, vertically planked and limestone foundation barn with a partial byre, metal sheathed gable roof, threshing floor, and hayloft. Mortised and tenoned, post and beam framing support the superstructure. A gable roof, wooden springhouse projects from the southeast corner of the barn.

