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# 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 Toes, Peter, Barn

Other names/site number Toes Family Barn; KHRI # 197-287

Name of related Multiple Property Listing Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas MPS

## 2. Location

Street & number <u>25709 Hessdale Road</u>		not for publication
City or town <u>Alma</u>		vicinity
State <u>Kansas</u> Code <u>KS</u> County <u>Wabaunsee</u> Code <u>197</u> Zip code <u>66401</u>		

## 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

*Patrick Zollner* 9-3-13  
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:)

*Jan Edson K. Beall* 10-30-13  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only **one** box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		<b>Total</b>

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

0

**6. Function or Use**

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

Agriculture: Animal Storage

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

Vacant / Not in use

**7. Description**

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

Other: Bank Barn

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Stone: Limestone

walls: Stone: Limestone

Wood: Board-and-Batten

roof: Wood: Shingles; Metal: Tin

other:

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### 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 Peter Thoes Barn is located five miles south of Alma in Farmer Township, Wabaunsee County, Kansas. The two-story bank barn was built in two phases in the late 1870s or early 1880s using stone quarried from the surrounding hills and timber from the nearby Mill Creek valley. It is situated on a farmstead that includes an old stone residence and a few outbuildings, which are owned separately from the nominated barn. The house is a contemporary of the barn, but has been altered considerably in recent years and is not eligible for listing in the National Register; the barn is the primary extant resource reflecting early Wabaunsee County resident Peter Thoes' agricultural pursuits.

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### Elaboration

#### *Bank Barns<sup>1</sup>*

Bank barns are characterized by exterior entrances on two levels. Builders generally achieved bi-level access in one of two ways. 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. Builders could also achieve access on land without a natural bank or hill by constructing an earthen or masonry bridge or ramp on one side. On the back side, an exposed lower or basement level is generally reserved for animal shelter. The second level, which is accessible through a broadside opening on the hill or bridge/ramp side, typically provides space for hay storage.

Historically, the broad-side opening allowed farmers to drive wagons filled with loose hay into the upper part of the barn, where they then used hay forks to raise the hay into haymows, which often flanked the wagon bay. Because this unique design allowed farmers to fill the haymow from inside the barn, bank barns did not require hay doors or hay hoods. Once stored in the haymow, hay could easily be transferred through openings or chutes from the upper levels 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 bank barns have stone exteriors with wood-framed interiors. 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. With the exception of a few barns with hipped or gambrelled roofs, most Kansas bank barns have gabled roofs.

#### *Setting*

The farmstead is situated on a hillside above a relatively large flood plain created by the East Branch of Mill Creek, taking advantage of both the fertile valley and the tall-grass rangeland rising to the northeast. The Thoes Barn faces southeast and was built into a slope above a small, seasonal tributary to the East Branch. The barn's setting has changed very little and continues to convey the unique topography of the former Mill

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<sup>1</sup> This information about bank barns comes from Christy Davis and Brenda Spencer, *Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas* National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form (Topeka, KS: Kansas Historical Society, 2007), F-46 through F-47.

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Creek Settlement. However, the construction and scale of the barn itself is representative of the changes to the land brought on by the late 19<sup>th</sup> century technology-driven push to diversify and expand flint hills farmsteads.

#### *Exterior (big section)*

This two-story, broad-side bank barn has a stone lower-level/foundation, gable roof, and a wood-frame upper story that serves as a loft. The second story is clad with vertical board-and-batten siding. The roof is wood shingle, covered with tin and contains two small, wood-frame ventilation cupolas with gable roofs. The second-story loft is accessed at ground level on the north elevation. Approximately one-third of the east end of the barn collapsed in the late 1990s or early 2000s. Today, this missing section is noted only by foundation remains, and the east wall of the barn is exposed on the second story and covered in tin on the first story.

As is characteristic of all bank barns, both the upper and lower levels of the Thoes Barn may be accessed at grade. The lower (masonry) level is accessible through two rectangular, square-cut livestock openings and one man door raised over a small stone stoop topped with a concrete slab. Each opening is vertically oriented, spans from the ground to the second story and is topped with a wood beam header. Two small window openings provide light/ventilation for animals. All openings are randomly spaced. The upper (board-and-batten) level contains a single, small window opening on the south end and a large opening at north end to dispense hay from the loft. The bank-side façade contains two large, square openings and one man door crowned with a unique gabled dormer with window. The south gable-end contains one, small window opening off-centered at the top of the lower level.

The fenced barn yard stretches south of the barn and is partially enclosed with a dry-laid stone fence.

#### *Interior (big section)*

The plan configuration is typical of the property type. The barn's lower level is comprised of two principal spaces. The east half of the lower level was designed as a loafing shed, primarily for sheep. A crude partition comprised of a mix of cut lumber and rough-hewn logs divides the space roughly in two. The west side of partition contains cow stalls and a calving area. A central, wood ships ladder leads to a small opening to the upper floor loft. The loft is characterized by open space with bins on the west end that held oats for horses.

Materials and construction too, are typical of barns in Wabaunsee County, but with some interesting details. Native limestone was used to construct a roughly two-foot-thick wall that provides a solid lower-level structure and insulates animals from harsh weather conditions. The abundance of local stone made possible a dense masonry pattern that has held up well, due in part to a minimal amount of mortar. A small portion of the bank-side interior masonry wall near the center of the lower level space has deteriorated due to moisture build-up/ground pressure. The structural carpentry, also indicative of available resources, is characteristically crude but ingenious. Unique rough-hewn posts that rise from the ground floor support large, rough-hewn beams fastened with half-lap joints. Uniform milled 2x6 joists rest on these beams as do additional rough-hewn posts that penetrate the second-story floor and rise to the roof structure, terminating in a three-prong support attached to purlins supporting the rafters.

#### *Small Section*

An earlier, stone section is extant at the south end of the big barn. It, too, features a gable roof with wood shingles covered with tin. Its smaller massing is indicative of the agricultural progression that took place in Wabaunsee County in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The big section was constructed at a slightly different angle and staggered from this earlier barn to better utilize the grade, creating a small dead-end alley between barns. The stonework here is dense, with limited mortar, too. Lower level access is through a square-cut livestock opening. This façade is also characterized by one small window opening, two large stone buttresses and a

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narrow board-and-batten strip sheathing the upper story knee-wall. The south gable end contains a centered, horizontal window opening on the second story and a tiny off-centered opening on the ground story. The top story (west-façade) is accessed through a door that is crowned by a gabled portico protruding from roofline. The interior plan is open and is currently used for storage.

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, a one-car garage with a gable roof was attached to the north elevation of the big barn, but it has been removed in recent years.

### *Summary*

The Thoes Barn embodies the distinguishing characteristics of the Bank Barn property type and although some of the historic fabric is gone, the barn's original design and use is clearly conveyed. Other regional construction techniques such as the incorporation of native limestone masonry and the creative use of scarce local timber provide a direct physical link to historic agricultural trends in Wabaunsee County.

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**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**

Agriculture

Exploration/ Settlement

**Period of Significance**

c.1855-1894

**Significant Dates**

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Toes, Peter

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Toes, Peter

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance is circa 1855-1894, the years Peter Toes is associated with this property.

**Criteria Considerations (justification)**

N/A

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### 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

Early Wabaunsee County settler Peter Thoes established his home and farmstead shortly after the Kansas Territory opened for settlement in 1854. It was near the Pottawatomie Indian Reserve, which at that time occupied about one-third of what is now Wabaunsee County. Thoes lived on and farmed this same property (in what became Farmer Township) until his death in 1894. The sprawling and iconic barn on Thoes' property was developed in phases from the late 1870s to the early 1890s. It is situated on a farmstead that includes Thoes' stone residence and a few later outbuildings, which are owned separately from the nominated barn. The house burned in 1922, was partially rebuilt, but has been altered considerably in recent years and is not eligible for listing in the National Register; the barn is the primary extant resource reflecting early Wabaunsee County resident Peter Thoes' agricultural pursuits. The Peter Thoes Barn is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A as part of the *Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas* multiple property nomination for its local significance in the area of agriculture. It also is nominated under Criterion B for its local significance in the area of exploration/settlement for its association with early Mill Creek Valley settler Peter Thoes.

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### Elaboration

Brothers Peter and Joseph Thoes were among the first settlers in Wabaunsee County (then Richardson County, but changed to Wabaunsee in 1859), arriving in early 1854 not long after Kansas Territory was opened for settlement. The Thoes brothers immigrated to the United States in 1851 and were among a wave of Germans immigrating to the US in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. According to historian Eleanor Turk, 34.7 percent of those immigrating to the United States between 1850 and 1859 were German. Economic and political factors in Europe as well as the Kansas Territory factored in to the number of Germans making their way to Kansas. In fact, "the first 'peak' year of German immigration was 1854, when more than 250,000 set out for America," the same year the Kansas Territory was opened for settlement.<sup>2</sup>

After spending the winter of 1854 in Westport, they returned along with their brother-in-law Ed Krapp in March 1855 to live along Mill Creek in present-day Farmer Township. As with many early settlers, the selection of their farmsteads was affected by the location of the Pottawatomie Indian reservation to the north and by the nearness of roads and creeks or rivers. Thoes' farmstead was less than 10 miles northwest of the Santa Fe Trail, a major commercial route connecting Westport and Independence, Missouri with Santa Fe and approximately 25 miles southwest of the Kansas River at Uniontown (now Willard). (Figures 3 & 4). The men would return to Westport, "a busy, bustling outpost town located at the junction of the Missouri River with its tributary, the Kansas (Kaw) River," several times for supplies and even additional settlers.<sup>3</sup> This cluster of adjacent Thoes family farmsteads became the location of the area's first post office<sup>4</sup> and the district 8

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<sup>2</sup> Eleanor L. Turk, "Germans in Kansas: Review Essay," In *Kansas History* 28 (Spring 2005): 46, 50, and 54. In her essay, Turk notes that "despite the varied sects of German immigrants in Kansas, historians have focused on Russian Germans, who began arriving in the state in large numbers in the 1870s, and less on German-born immigrants like Peter Thoes.

<sup>3</sup> Linnie Baker Edwards, *Alma: And Shire Town of Wabaunsee County, Kansas; Its First Fifty Years, 1855-1905*, (Master's Thesis, Kansas State College, Manhattan, 1956), 15.

<sup>4</sup> Wabaunsee County Historical Society, "New Branches from Old Trees": *A New History of Wabaunsee County* (Alma, KS: circa 1975), 813.

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schoolhouse.<sup>5</sup> Others who settled along and near Mill Creek by 1856 included Henry Schmidt, William Drebing, B. Cline, J. Metzger, Joseph Treu and one or two others.<sup>6</sup> Thoes family historian Reverend Stanley Padgett argues this small settlement that took root before the Civil War and the founding of Alma was "The First Alma."<sup>7</sup>

The brothers and Ed Krapp assisted each other in building their first homes.<sup>8</sup> Peter's first house was made of logs and built close to the banks of Mill Creek, but it was inundated by floodwaters in 1858. He built a second log house on higher ground to the east, and then a third cabin was built still higher. This third log house was eventually boarded up and a stone wing added, but it was destroyed by a fire in 1922. The house was rebuilt using salvaged stone for the first story walls while the upper story was constructed of wood.<sup>9</sup> Today, this house is extant (though considerably altered) and situated along Hessdale Road near the barn.

The Thoes brothers assisted representatives of the Cincinnati Colony in planning a town site along Mill Creek in 1855; however, lots never sold and many of the colonists returned to their native Ohio. A second attempt to establish a community in the area came in 1857 with the arrival of German immigrant Gottlieb Zwanziger, a representative of the St. Louis Company. These efforts failed, but Zwanziger remained and became a part of the Alma Town Company in 1866.<sup>10</sup>

It was during these months following the close of the Civil War that residents voted to establish the permanent location of a county seat. When the county had first organized in 1859, Wabaunsee was designated as the county seat, though it was not centrally located. As newcomers populated the county in the early 1860s, the location of the county seat was discussed again and again. An election was held in January of 1866, and although Peter Thoes' place received 27 votes to be the location of the county seat of government, no place received a majority of votes and a second election was held March 6, 1866.<sup>11</sup> The legality of the election was questioned and a final election was held in November 1866, with the primary contest between Wabaunsee and Alma. Alma won by 28 votes. The issue resurfaced in 1871, but Alma remained the county seat.<sup>12</sup> Thoes served on the committee to oversee the construction of a courthouse in 1871.<sup>13</sup>

Early county historian Matt Thomson notes that in 1861, there were two voting precincts in Alma Township – the place of holding elections in the east precinct was the house of Peter Thoes.<sup>14</sup> Thoes' place was also the

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<sup>5</sup> Matt Thomson, *Early History of Wabaunsee County, Kansas, With Stories of Pioneer Days...* (Alma, KS, 1901), 58. According to Thomson, "The first school in district 8 was taught by G. B. Woostrow, who received for his services \$15 per month. The school house was of logs...was valued at \$200 and was located about 200 yards southwest of the present site, on the farm of Mr. Peter Thoes."

<sup>6</sup> William Cutler, *History of the State of Kansas*, vol. 2 (Chicago: Andreas Publishing Co., 1883), 991.

<sup>7</sup> Rev. Stanley D. Padgett, "Contest for 'The Alma,'" In *Wabaunsee County Historical Society newsletter* (Third Quarter, 2011): 2. *Wabaunsee County Signal-Enterprise*, 18 April 2013. Padgett was raised on the Thoes farmstead and is Peter Thoes' great-grandson. The name of the town Alma in Kansas is believed "to have come from Alma in Crimea, the name of a stream made famous by a battle in which the western allies defeated the Russians during the Crimean War." (Peter Thoes' father, Johannes Thoes, fought at this battle.) John Rydjord, *Kansas Place-Names* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1972), 195.

<sup>8</sup> Interestingly, the first recorded lawsuit in Wabaunsee County was between Peter Thoes, who accused Ed Krapp of stealing gravel from his farm. Thoes brought suit in June 1860 and demanded a jury trial. He was ultimately awarded nine dollars in damages. Cutler, *History of the State of Kansas*, vol. 2, 991.

<sup>9</sup> Padgett, "Contest for 'The Alma,'" In *Wabaunsee County Historical Society newsletter* (Third Quarter, 2011): 2.

<sup>10</sup> Wabaunsee County Historical Society, *Stories of the Past: The Third Edition of Wabaunsee County History* (Alma, KS: 2000), 286.

<sup>11</sup> Thomson, *Early History of Wabaunsee County*, 11.

<sup>12</sup> Cutler, *History of the State of Kansas*, 992.

<sup>13</sup> Thomson, *Early History of Wabaunsee County*, 326.

<sup>14</sup> Thomson, *Early History of Wabaunsee County*, 321.

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location of district 8 school, which was formed by united districts 1 and 2 in 1862. Area residents referred to school district 8 as "Thoes' district."<sup>15</sup> (Figures 3 & 5.)

Peter Thoes was born in what is now Germany in 1821 and immigrated to the United States in 1851. He married Ernestine (Lena) Dieball in 1862 in Wabaunsee County. The couple had five children: Albert, Ernest, Mrs. Olga Morris, and Hulda, Amelia dying at the age of 14 years.<sup>16</sup> Lena, who was much younger than Peter, was born in Germany in 1846 and immigrated with her family to the United States. She lived most of her life on the farmstead south of Alma, and died in November of 1942.<sup>17</sup>

### **Agriculture**

Peter Thoes took advantage of the Kansas-Nebraska of 1854, which opened the Kansas Territory to permanent white settlement. Thoes' farming operation – as reflected in the census and in the construction of this large stone barn – mimics the broader trend in early Kansas agricultural history of starting small with a subsistence farm and gradually building a significant income-producing business.<sup>18</sup> According to *Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas* multiple property nomination, "Most early Kansans were subsistence farmers who augmented their living by bartering farm goods, like eggs and butter, for manufactured goods, from flour to fabric. In the years before extensive railroad networks, transportation expenses prohibited broad markets for farm goods. Farm markets usually fell within a fifty-mile radius."<sup>19</sup> In 1880, the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad constructed a branch line passing just west of the Thoes barn connecting Manhattan, Alma and Burlingame. (Figure 5). The railroad provided an opportunity to expand farming markets and brought more people to the area.

According to the document *Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas*,<sup>20</sup>

German immigrants were among the first to farm in Kansas, many of them involved in the early free-state movement. The Kansas Pacific railroad marketed railroad trust lands to Pennsylvania-Germans, who migrated in large numbers beginning in the 1870s. While some came to Kansas directly from Pennsylvania, others came from Pennsylvania German settlements in Ohio. A contingent of German Baptist Brethren and Brethren in Christ, also known as Dunkards, settled in Doniphan, Brown, and Dickinson Counties.<sup>21</sup> Germans maintained a tradition of housing their cattle in barns in winter, building their barns to serve the dual purpose of hay storage and housing for livestock. Despite their popularity, these buildings tend to be in fair to poor condition and many are under threat of demolition.

By the end of the Nineteenth Century, families of German heritage had 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. The bank design gained favor with farmers of all ethnic backgrounds, remaining popular into the Twentieth Century. In their 1919 catalog of pre-cut barns, Sears offered their gable, gambrel, and

<sup>15</sup> Ibid., 45 and 54.

<sup>16</sup> Thomson, *Early History of Wabaunsee County*, 283.

<sup>17</sup> *Topeka Journal*, 27 November 1942.

<sup>18</sup> For a complete understanding of early agricultural history in Kansas, see "Breaking Sod: Pre-Railroad Farming," and "Promised Land: Railroad, Immigration, Wheat and Cash In the 1870s," In Christy Davis and Brenda Spencer, *Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas* National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form (Topeka, KS: Kansas Historical Society, 2007, E-3 through E-14.

<sup>19</sup> Davis and Spencer, *Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas*, E-5.

<sup>20</sup> Davis and Spencer, *Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas*, F-47 and F-48.

<sup>21</sup> As referenced in James Shortridge, *Peopling the Plains: Who Settled Where in Frontier Kansas* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1995), 127.

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arch-roof barns with masonry first floors that allowed farmers to create a bank ramp to access a second-floor entry on the barn's broad side.

Peter Thoes was a farmer with a 160-acre farmstead worth approximately \$1500, according to the 1860 federal census. Comparing the 1860, 1870, and 1880 agricultural census, figures for the Thoes' farm illustrate a growing operation. Within 20 years, the farm increased 500 acres to a value of \$11,000.<sup>22</sup> (See tables 1, 2 and 3.) The 1880 farm's census figures illustrate the need for a large barn to house animals and store hay. It is not known exactly when the barn was built, but the 1885 *Atlas of Wabaunsee County* notes a barn on Thoes' property in the same location as the present-day barn. (Figure 5) The barn's physical appearance suggests it was completed in stages. Additionally, this author recalls his grandmother, Alberta Thoes Padgett, saying that Peter Thoes had built a "huge new barn" in the 1890s. It became the centerpiece of the farmstead.

Not long after the completion of the barn, Peter Thoes was fatally injured while bringing a load of hay into the barn through the large center door. His head struck a cross-beam leaving him paralyzed and near death.<sup>23</sup> He died a short time later in 1894 at age 73. The farm remained in the Thoes family until 1977 – first with Peter's son Ernest Thoes and then his grandson Elwin Thoes. These later generations of the Thoes family operated the farm much as Peter had. In the 1920s and 1930s, the barn was the site of frequent barn dances in the summer and fall. Typically held on Saturday nights, the hat was passed to pay the band. Former members of bands that performed at the Thoes barn included Oliver Diehl, Joey Diehl, George Diehl, Viola Diehl, Walt Geisler, Bud Thoes, and Elmer Redmon.<sup>24</sup> The *Alma Enterprise* announced social events – including barn dances. Two such announcements have been found referencing barn dances at the Thoes barn: "Old time Dance at E. W. Thoes' barn Friday night, August 17," and "Wally Schutter, Sam Clark, Garfield Stewart and their wives attended the dance at Thoes' barn Friday night."<sup>25</sup>

In recent years, the barn has been vacant and unused. It suffered a partial collapse of the east side in the late 1990s. Today, Peter Thoes' great-great-granddaughter Martha Ross owns the barn, though not the adjacent house and farmstead.

**Table 1: 1860 Non-Population Census – Schedule 4 Productions of Agriculture<sup>26</sup>**

Alma Township, Wabaunsee County

Acres of Land

Improved: 40

Unimproved: 120

Cash Value of Farm: 1500

Value of Farming Implements and Machinery: 100

Livestock on Hand June 1, 1860

<sup>22</sup> Ancestry.com. *Selected U.S. Federal Census Non-Population Schedules, 1850-1880* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010.

<sup>23</sup> Peter Thoes Obituary, *Alma Signal*, 2 June 1894; *Eskridge Star*, June 1894.

<sup>24</sup> *Stories of the Past: The Third Edition of Wabaunsee County History* (Alma, KS: Wabaunsee County Historical Society, 2000), 457.

<sup>25</sup> *Alma Enterprise*, 10 August 1928 and 7 September 1928.

<sup>26</sup> Ancestry.com. *Selected U.S. Federal Census Non-Population Schedules, 1850-1880* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010.

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Horses: 5

Milch Cows: 6

Working Oxen: 2

Other cattle: 8

Swine: 15

Value of Livestock: [illegible]

Produce during the year ending June 1, 1860

Indian Corn, bushels of: 1000

Irish Potatoes, bushels of: 100

Hay, tons of: 15

Value of Animals Slaughtered: 170

**Table 2: 1870 Non-Population Census – Schedule 3 Productions of Agriculture<sup>27</sup>**

Alma Township, Wabaunsee County

Acres of Land

Improved: 100

Woodland: 70

Other Unimproved: 370

Present Cash Value

Of Farm: 8000

Farming Implements and Machinery: 200

Total amount of wages paid during the year, including value of board: 100

Livestock on Hand June 1, 1870

Horses: 15

Milch Cows: 30

Working Oxen: 0

Other cattle: 50

Swine: 10

Value of Livestock: 2600

Produce during the year ending June 1, 1870

Spring Wheat, bushels of: 230

Winter Wheat, bushels of: 750

Indian Corn, bushels of: 1200

Oats, bushels of: 60

**Table 3: 1880 Non-Population Census – Schedule 2 Productions of Agriculture<sup>28</sup>**

Farmer Township,<sup>29</sup> Wabaunsee County

<sup>27</sup> Ancestry.com. *Selected U.S. Federal Census Non-Population Schedules, 1850-1880* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010.

<sup>28</sup> Ancestry.com. *Selected U.S. Federal Census Non-Population Schedules, 1850-1880* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010.

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Acres of Land

Improved Tilled: 150

Improved, Permanent meadows, pastures, orchards, vineyards: 400

Unimproved Woodland: 60

Other Unimproved: 50

Farm Values

Of Farm, including land, fences, and buildings: 11,000

Farming Implements and Machinery: 500

Of Live Stock: 3150

Labor

Total amount of wages paid during the year, including value of board: 200

Weeks hired labor in 1879 upon farm (and dairy) excluding housework: 50

Estimated value of all farm productions (sold, consumed, or on hand) for 1879: 300

Grasslands

Mown acres: 40

Hay (in tons) harvested in 1879: 40

Livestock on Hand June 1, 1880

Horses: 18

Milch Cows: 12

Other cattle: 118

Calves dropped: 26

Sold living: 23

Slaughtered: 3

Died, strayed, and stolen and not recovered: 9

Butter made on the farm in 1879: 350 lbs

Swine: 80

Barnyard poultry: 30

Eggs produced in 1879: 200

Produce during the year ending June 1, 1880

Barley: 5 acres, 25 bushels

Indian Corn: 45 acres, 1200 bushels

Sweet Potatoes: 1 acre, 25 bushels

Orchards – 1879

Apple: 1 acre, 20 trees

Forest Products

Amount of wood cut in 1879: 20 cords

Value of wood products sold or consumed: 140

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<sup>29</sup> Alma Township was subdivided into Farmer Township and others in 1873.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: Wabaunsee County Historical Society

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** Less than one acre

**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)

- |   |                               |                                 |   |           |            |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|-----------|------------|
| 1 | <u>38.966510</u><br>Latitude: | <u>-96.256750</u><br>Longitude: | 3 | _____     | _____      |
|   |                               |                                 |   | Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2 | _____                         | _____                           | 4 | _____     | _____      |
|   | Latitude:                     | Longitude:                      |   | Latitude: | Longitude: |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (describe the boundaries of the property)

The barn is on a tract of land in the Northwest Quarter of Section 36, Township 12 South, Range 10 East of the Sixth Principal Meridian, Wabaunsee County, Kansas described as follows:

Beginning at a point that is S 89°39'02" E 1329.11 feet and S 00°20'58" W 1620.87 feet from the Northwest Corner of the Northwest Quarter of said Section 36, being Corner 1 marked by a 1/2" rebar; thence S 39°16'51" W 170.11 feet to Corner 2, marked by a 1/2" rebar; thence N 47°43'35" W 58.51 feet to Corner 3, marked by a 1/2" rebar; thence N 37°57'14" E 167.32 feet to Corner 4, marked by a 1/2" rebar; thence S 50°30'59" E 62.31 feet to the point of beginning, containing 10,180 square feet.

**Boundary Justification** (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundary includes the barn, the land on which it sits and a 20-foot perimeter, as described above. This small portion of the farmstead includes the building with the greatest integrity that is associated with Peter Tooes and the Tooes family's agricultural business.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Reverend Stanley Padgett, Sarah Martin & Matthew Holtkamp  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number 1450 Meadow Run Drive telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Prosper state Texas zip code 75078  
e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

name Martha Ross  
street & number 2 Muirfield Court telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Trophy Club state Texas zip code 76262

**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: Thoes, Peter, Barn  
City or Vicinity: Alma, Farmer Township  
County: Wabaunsee State: KS  
Photographer: Sarah Martin  
Date Photographed: 17 May 2012

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

- 1 of 11: Overall view of barn's south elevation and barn yard, camera facing NE
- 2 of 11: South elevation of big barn, camera facing N
- 3 of 11: North elevation of small barn, camera facing S
- 4 of 11: North elevation of big barn, camera facing SW

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- 5 of 11: East elevation of big barn, note foundation of section that is gone in foreground, camera facing W
- 6 of 11: West elevation of both big and small barns, camera facing E
- 7 of 11: Interior, basement level, camera facing W
- 8 of 11: Interior basement level, camera facing SW
- 9 of 11: Interior, staircase up to loft, facing N
- 10 of 11: Interior, close-up of wood structure
- 11 of 11: Interior, loft space, facing S

**Figures**

Include GIS maps, figures, scanned images below.

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**Figure 1: Aerial Image**

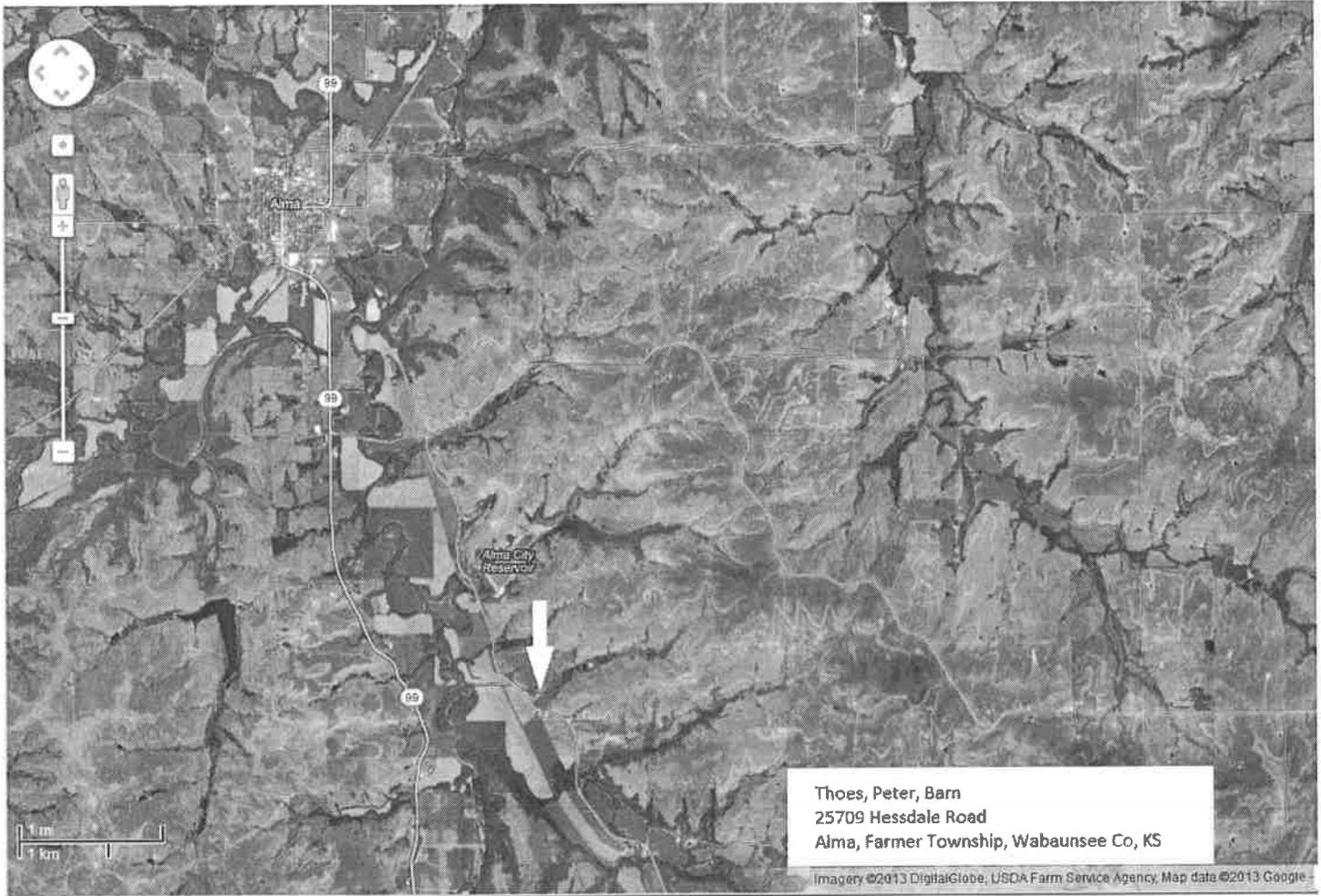


Google.com (2013)  
Thoes, Peter, Barn  
Farmer Township, Wabaunsee County, Kansas  
Latitude / Longitude: 38.966510 / -96.25675

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**Figure 2: Contextual Map**

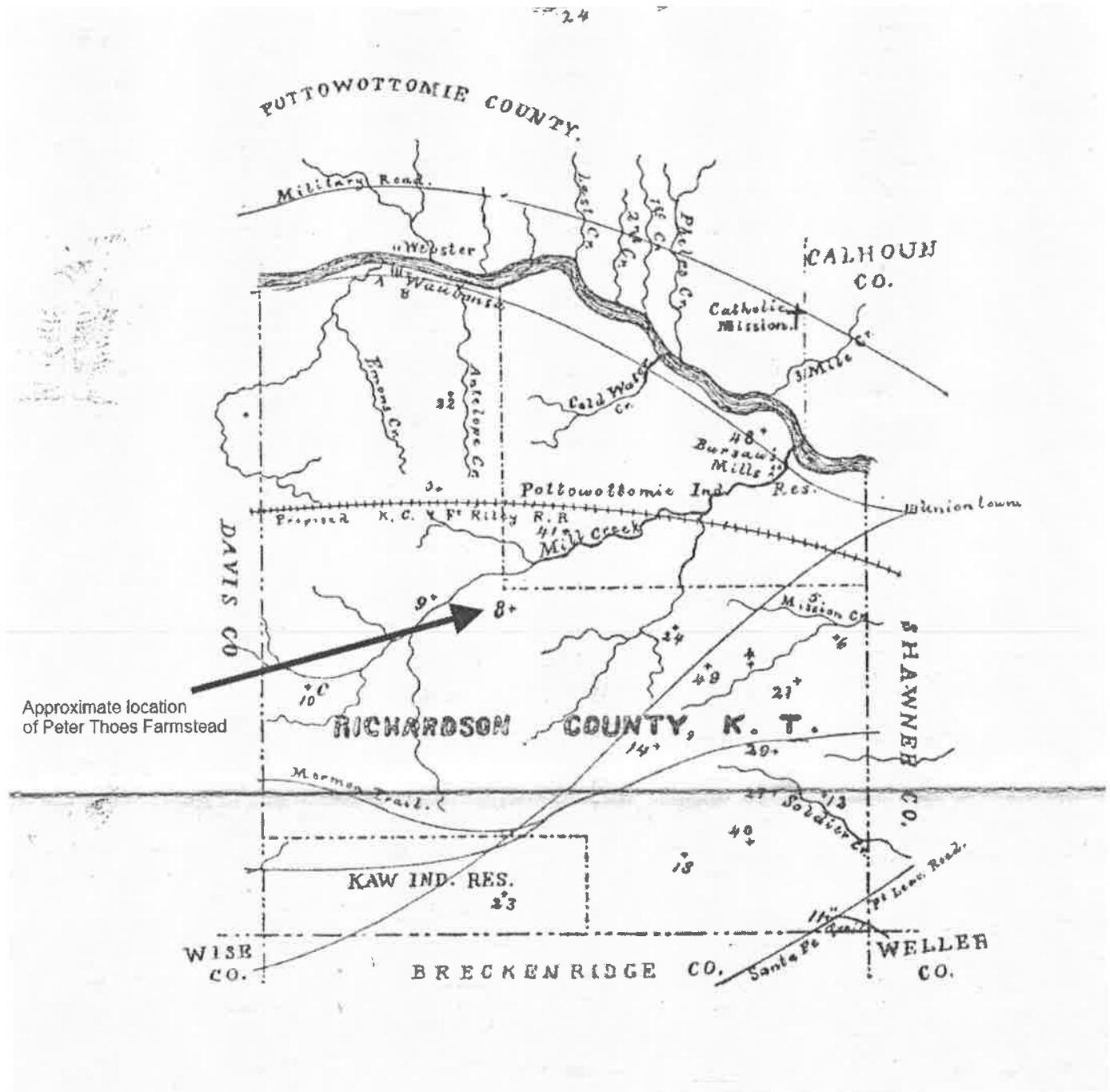


Google.com (2013)  
Tooes, Peter, Barn  
Farmer Township, Wabaunsee County, Kansas  
Latitude / Longitude: 38.966510 / -96.25675

Thoes, Peter, Barn  
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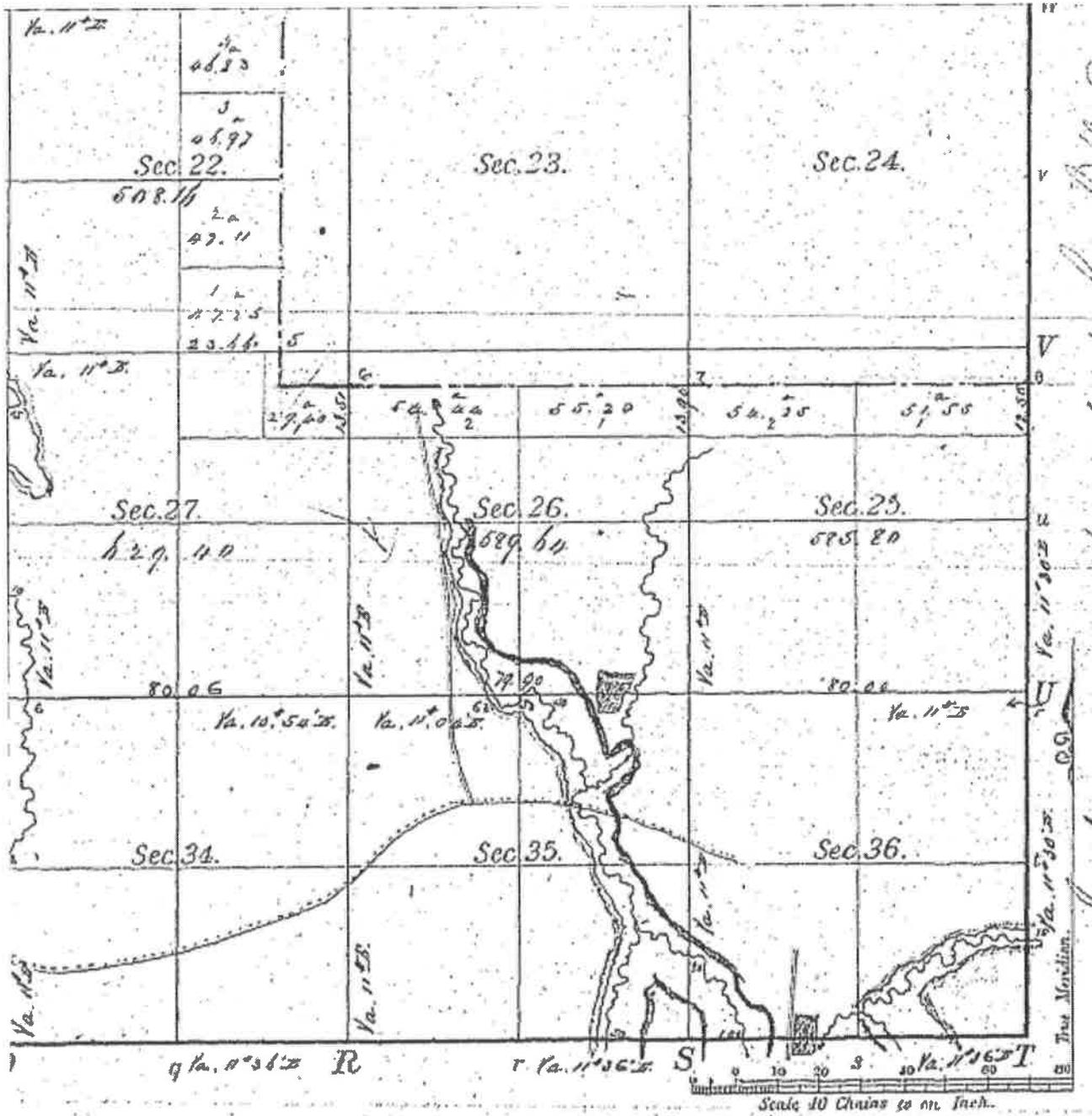
**Figure 3:** 1855 Map of Richardson County (now Wabaunsee County), showing approximate location of Peter Thoes Farmstead in relation to Pottawatomie reservation, Uniontown, and Santa Fe Trail. Accessed online at: <http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/221049>.



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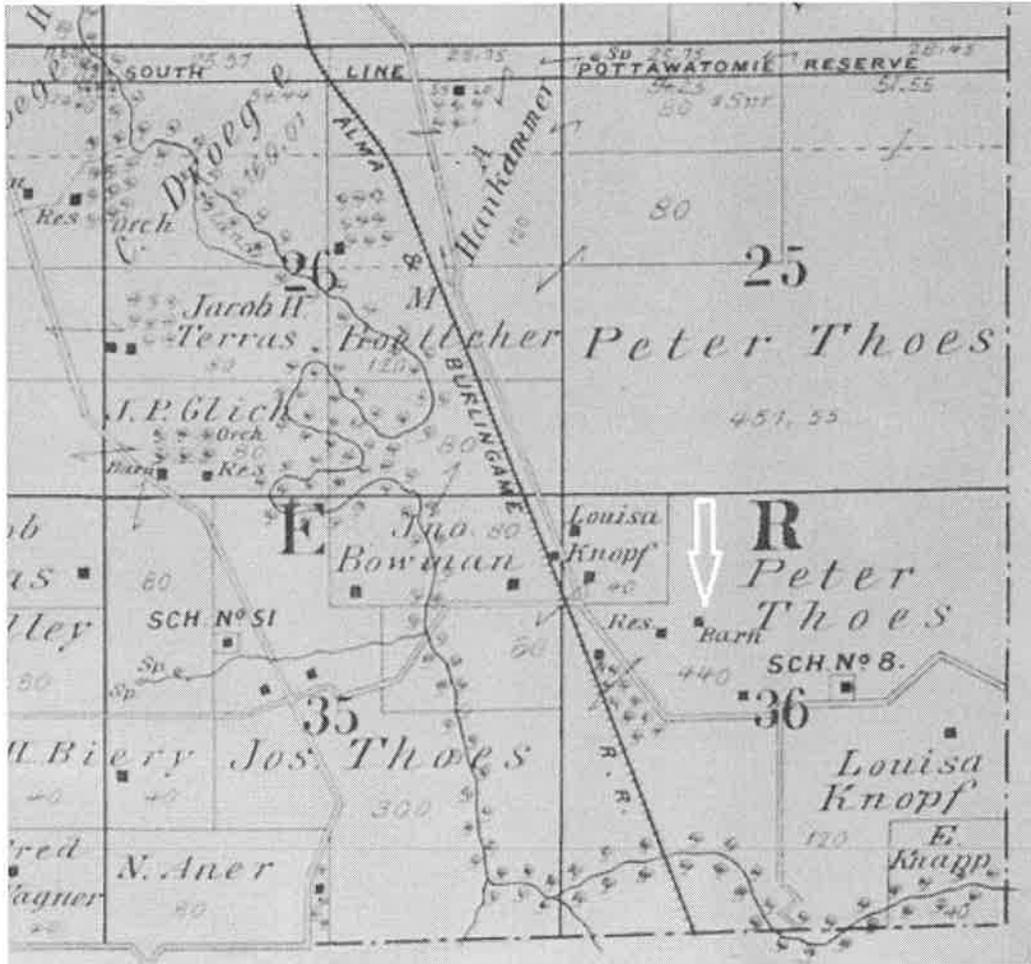
**Figure 4:** 1858 General Land Office map showing Section 36, where Peter Thoes settled. He later built his barn in the NW quarter of Section 36.



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**Figure 5:** *Atlas of Wabaunsee County, Kansas* (Chicago: Gillen and Davy, 1885), 21. Accessed online at [kansasmemory.org/item/224006](http://kansasmemory.org/item/224006).



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**Figure 6:** *Standard Atlas of Wabaunsee County, Kansas* (Chicago: Geo. A. Ogle, 1902), 42. Accessed online at [kansasmemory.org/item/209398](http://kansasmemory.org/item/209398)

