

HENRY E. WILLIAMS FARMSTEAD
0.2 miles west of the intersection of
U.S. Highway 50 and County Road No. 614
Cedar Point Vicinity
Chase County
Kansas

HABS No. KS-75

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Great Plains Systems Office
National Park Service
1709 Jackson Street
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HENRY E. WILLIAMS FARMSTEAD

HABS No. KS-75

For more information about other structures at the Henry E. Williams Farmstead, see:

HABS No. KS-75-A	Henry E. Williams Farmstead, Smokehouse
HABS No. KS-75-B	Henry E. Williams Farmstead, Converted Chicken House
HABS No. KS-75-C	Henry E. Williams Farmstead, Garage

Location: 0.2 miles west of the intersection of U.S. Highway 50 and County Road No. 614, Cedar Point Vicinity, Chase County, Kansas

USGS Cedar Point Quadrangle, UTM Coordinates: 14.693360.4238450

Present Owners: Lorraine Walker, and the Kansas Department of Transportation

Present Occupant: Lorraine Walker

Present Use: Farm Residence

Significance: The Henry E. Williams Farmstead has historical ties with the Kansas settlement boom period of the 1880s, the economic dominance of agriculture from the 1880s to 1917, and finally the architectural influences of the Craftsman movement and pattern book buildings promoted during the early part of the 1900s.

Part I. Historical Information

A. Physical History

U.S. Highway 50, the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad tracks, and two unpaved county roads (Nos. 36 and 614) form the most visible boundaries for the wedge shaped tract containing the Henry E. Williams Farmstead. The highway, which forms the south boundary of the farmstead, crosses the north portion of Section 32, Township 30 South, Range Six East on a southwest-northeast alignment. It is parallel with, and lies north of, the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad tracks. The two unpaved county roads form the western and northern boundaries of the Williams home place. The road on the western boundary (County Road No. 36) ends at its intersection with U.S. Highway 50. The road on the north side of the Williams Farmstead (County Road No. 614), which was the old alignment of Highway 50, follows the Section line and intersects U.S. Highway 50 and the railroad to the east of the farmstead. In this area, the railroad tracks were laid in the same general alignment as the Cottonwood River. The buildings associated with the home place are in the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 32. The Cottonwood River and its tributary, French Creek, also cut through part of Section 32. French Creek, which runs through the north half of Section 32, on the west, south, and east of the home place, joins the river approximately one mile southeast of the farmstead.

The farm was laid-out with a dominant northern orientation which fronted the old roadway (now County Road 614) immediately north of the house. The old highway intersects new U.S. Highway 50 a short distance east of the farmstead. A grassy lawn extends from the house to this road on the north. The barn is situated west of the house across the drive. A cultivated field extends west of the lawn and barn area. This field is bounded on the west by a county road which runs south along the half-section line to the highway. Modern U.S. Highway 50 extends diagonally in a southwest to northeasterly alignment at the rear of the farmstead. A small fenced pasture stretches from this highway to the rear of the garage. East of the house is a wire fenced pasture area that surrounds the converted chicken house, now a horse shed. A broken row of mature trees separate the pasture fence from the yard of the residence.

B. Historical Context:

The Henry E. Williams Farm has historical ties with the Kansas settlement boom period of the 1880s and the economic dominance of agriculture from the 1880s-1917. The period between the close of the Civil War in 1865 and the turn of the century, is referred to in the state's historic preservation plan as the "Period of Rural and Agricultural Dominance." This period saw the transformation of Kansas from an underdeveloped frontier into a state with a diversified economy based on agriculture, but also including manufacturing and industry. In 1865, population was concentrated in the eastern third of the state, where many American Indian groups still resided and where Euroamerican settlement, tied to Missouri River and overland commerce, had developed since 1854. In the 1860s and '70s, most of the Immigrant Indian groups were relocated to reservations in Oklahoma, opening much land to settlement. Starting with the late 1860s, the construction of railroads in Kansas began in earnest. Railroad construction was a significant force in structuring the location of towns throughout Kansas and in fostering the agricultural development of the western part of the state (Lees 1989:73).

In general, settlement moved across Kansas from east to west in reflection of the increasingly marginal environment, in agricultural terms, of the western part of the state. By 1870, settlement covered roughly the eastern half of the state and by 1890 the entire state was settled. The establishment of

settlement in Kansas during these years, and particularly in the western half of the state between about 1870-90, was in part a response to the availability of land and in part a response to promotional efforts of the railroads and of local town developers. The railroads were responsible for attracting many European immigrants to Kansas, and even promoted, with some success, the immigration of entire groups to the state. Group immigration during the 1870s and '80s created distinctive ethnic pockets throughout the state, and particularly in its western half where German-Russian Mennonites and Roman Catholics, Swedes, and Czechoslovaks settled in significant numbers (Lees 1989:73).

The transition of the western part of the state from a frontier was not without hardship, part of it coming from conflict with disgruntled Plains Indians. An Indian war starting in 1864 led to the establishment of forts Dodge, Harker, Hays, and Wallace in western Kansas to supplement forts Leavenworth, Riley, Larned, and Zarah which had been established previously. In 1867-68, several hundred settlers were killed by Indians, and several military and civilian expeditions were mounted to punish those guilty of the depredations. Hostilities occurred again in 1877, when a large group of dissatisfied Cheyenne left their Oklahoma reservation and crossed Kansas on their way north, killing many settlers in the process (Lees 1989:74).

The economy of the state during the 1865-1900 period focused on agriculture, and became significantly tied to wheat agriculture and to livestock production and processing. During the first two decades of this period (1865-85), the state became a transshipment point for cattle which were driven from Texas to the rail heads in central and western Kansas (Lees 1989:74).

In the decades following the Civil War, the vast majority of Kansans lived and worked on farms. Eighty to ninety percent of the state's population consistently reported farm residence or agricultural employment to census takers. These people, and the farms they built, are central to the rural Kansas landscape (Kansas State Historical Society, Historic Preservation Department [hereafter cited as KSHS, HPD] 1984:I-18).

The boom that had characterized the development of Kansas following the Civil War ceased by 1890, and an economy supported by overextended investment collapsed. This had the greatest impact in the western half of the state, where the marginal environment quickly proved itself incapable of supporting the population level that had become established there. The economic downturn also encouraged the development of industry and mining for oil, gas, coal, and salt (Lees 1989:74).

Between 1900-41, Kansas continued to develop in agriculture, but major changes came from the industrial sector and from improvements in transportation. During this period, agriculture became increasingly mechanized and diversified, and the automobile began to become a dominant means of transportation for people and goods. Industrial expansion in southeastern Kansas occurred in the area of mining of zinc, coal, and oil, and in the production of cement, glass, and brick. In central Kansas, salt production from mines continued to grow. The production of oil and natural gas eventually spread across southern Kansas (Lees 1989:74).

International events that had a significant effect on Kansas during this period were World War I (1914-18), the Great Depression (1929-39), and World War II (1939-45). Many Kansans served in the armed forces, while others produced crops and manufactured items vital to the military efforts. The "Dust Bowl" drought of the 1930s, although affecting primarily the southern and central Great Plains, had a significant effect on western Kansas (Lees 1989:74-75). Numbers of Kansans whose personal economies were affected by the depression and/or the drought left the state.

Kansas farms are more than the sum of individual houses, barns, and outbuildings. The buildings on

any Kansas farm were built to serve practical ends. Within them farm activities took place, and crops and animals were sheltered. Different farming methods and different crops and animals necessitated different farm layouts. The dramatic changes in agriculture in Kansas between 1865 and 1900 had their impact on the buildings erected on Kansas farms and ranches (KSHS, HPD 1984:I-18).

On arriving in eastern Kansas in the 1850s and '60s, farmers had continued to plant the same crops and follow the same practices that they had in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri. Most raised corn, which was easy to grow on unbroken land and fed both family members and a few livestock. In addition, potatoes, squash, sorghum, and other crops were grown and locally consumed. River-bank areas were preferred, but even the small stretches of prairie in eastern Kansas could be farmed with traditional methods if a family was willing to dig for water and haul wood (KSHS, HPD 1984:I-18).

Rather quickly, all this began to change. As farmers moved into the arid sections of central and western Kansas, they discovered the need for larger farms and the expensive new farm machinery which was beginning to be manufactured. New methods of farming came into wide use. National transportation networks involved farmers in worldwide markets, and the possibility of good profit from cash crops encouraged farmers to specialize (KSHS, HPD 1984:I-18).

By the end of the century, basic patterns of Kansas agriculture had been established--patterns reflected in the buildings on Kansas farms. Diversified agriculture remained somewhat common in eastern Kansas. Along the northern border of the state, corn was the dominant crop, sometimes sold and sometimes fed to hogs which were being raised for market. Corn remained the chief crop of the state into the twentieth century, but by the 1880s wheat was beginning to rival it in the central and western sections, and ranching was becoming a major business in the state. Winter wheat, introduced to central Kansas by the Mennonites in the 1870s, quickly became the most profitable crop there. The Flint Hills developed as a cattle raising area. The rainy years of the 1880s and experimentation with irrigation raised hopes of farming and ranching on the High Plains. Sugar beets were among the crops tried. The droughts of the 1890s, sent many who had settled in western Kansas back to wetter regions. Some remained, however, learning to cope with the dry environment (KSHS, HPD 1984:I-18-19).

In addition to the type of farming being done, ethnic traditions sometimes affected the building and placement of farm structures. Although in the late nineteenth century nearly all American farms were composed of detached buildings, an occasional Kansas farmstead had a connected house and barn or a chain of connected outbuildings. This type of building was probably derived from German-Russian farmsteads in eastern Europe, although there is also a connecting-barn tradition in northern New England. In addition, the specialized buildings which were believed to be necessary differed from group to group. Some immigrants may have continued to build structures which were more specifically suited to the countries from which they came than to Kansas. In his study of the German-Russian Catholics of central Kansas, Albert Petersen included information on the type and placement of outbuildings. His study indicated the possible differences in ethnic traditions regarding these matters. It may be that traditional methods of building and traditional building types were retained in these minor buildings for a longer time than they were in the more prominent houses and barns (KSHS, HPD 1984:I-18-19).

By the late nineteenth century, there was an abundant amount of agricultural literature which advised farmers on all subjects, including which outbuildings were needed and how they should be arranged. Great concern was shown in these publications for sanitation and cleanliness and the placement of wells and privies. Such publications were widely available in Kansas--some printed locally, others issued by the Kansas State Board of Agriculture. The extent to which they were used remains

unknown (KSHS, HPD 1984:I-18-19).

A flood of architectural publications also became widely available from the 1840s to the end of the nineteenth century. These publications described construction techniques, building plans, and stylistic features. New methods of construction, such as the "balloon frame," were introduced through these publications, and became practicable when railroad connections made a wider range of building materials readily available. Although homes were the buildings most frequently discussed, schools, churches, business, and farm buildings also received attention. Books and magazines offered plans and drawings which could be followed by those wanting to adopt the new styles. Aesthetic discussions were often combined with advice on practical matters, such as plumbing, ventilation, or heating. These publications went to great lengths to teach Americans to consider these new styles as the ultimate in beauty and to appreciate the ways in which such architecture could enhance morality and virtue. Some Kansans adopted, wholly or in part, the newer ideas being put forth by experts, while others continued to follow vernacular traditions in building (KSHS, HPD 1984:I-6, 10).

C. Specific History of the Farmstead:

1. Dates of Construction: With the exception of one structure constructed in 1887, the extant buildings at the Williams Farm were erected ca. 1911 to ca. 1917. Documentation for the construction of three structures has been found, and it is believed Williams probably recorded the dates the other buildings were erected. However, such information has not been retrieved during this research phase. Estimated dates of construction are based upon assessor records and Williams family information.
2. Original and Subsequent Owners: Since the construction of the first extant structure on the farm, the Williams farmstead had only four private owners. Christopher Columbus Williams purchased the farm from the Robbins family, Mary E., Ida B., and Herbert A. Robbins on March 7, 1884. Williams owned the farm for one year before his death in 1885. The other three owners were: Henry Embree Williams (1885-1954), Christopher Simon Williams (1954-62), and Archie L. and Lorraine E. Walker (1962-95). The Kansas Department of Transportation acquired additional right-of-way along the southern border of the farmstead in 1995. In this last title transfer the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) acquired ownership of three farm structures: the garage, smokehouse, and converted chicken house.
3. Historic Events and Persons Associated with the Farmstead: The Williams were early settlers of Chase County. The history of the farm reflects the strong ties the family had with the land, the house, personal identity, and family tradition. Henry E. Williams was the son of Christopher Columbus Williams. Henry was a progressive farmer interested in incorporating labor saving ideas and in maintaining meticulous journal entries about farm activities. Familiar with farm literature and mail-order building designs, Henry apparently erected at least one structure advertised in a mail-order catalog. It is likely other buildings at the home place originated from mail-order plans.

Christopher Columbus Williams and his family moved from Bedford, Indiana to a farm northwest of Cedar Point, Chase County, Kansas in 1883. When the family moved to Cottonwood Township the population of Chase County was 6,081 (Andreas 1883:1355). Of this number, slightly more than 1,000 persons lived in Cottonwood Township. The location selected by Christopher was greatly influenced by the earlier migration of two brothers and a sister. His brothers, James K. and Isaac, had settled in neighboring Marion County while his sister, Lucy Williams Crawford, then resided in Chase County. Christopher first purchased the farm of Frances Bernard in 1883. The following year he expanded his holdings through the acquisition of the Robbins' farm.

This second farm purchased in 1884, which cost Christopher \$8,000.00, was adjacent to the Bernard farm. After ownership transferred from the Robbins to Christopher, he moved his wife and six children into the wood two-story Robbins House. The Robbins' tract was described in Chase County land records as being the west half and northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 32, Township 20, Range Six East; also the west half of the southeast quarter of Section 32, except all that part east of the previously mentioned tract that was southeast of the Cottonwood River; also that portion of Section 32 lying in the southwest quarter and east and north of said river, except five acres formerly deeded by the Robbins in an estate settlement.

Christopher Columbus Williams was born near Bedford, Indiana on July 31, 1837. He was the son of Pryor and Anna Williams, one of their seven children. Christopher married Elizabeth Ann Embree in 1861. They had six children before moving to Kansas. All of their offspring were born near Bedford, Indiana. They included: Henry Embree, born October 25, 1862; Sallie Belle, born September 24, 1864; Alice Elizabeth, born February 3, 1866; Hanna Embree, born May 26, 1869; Franklin Embree, born June 16, 1871; and Nellie Belle, born January 25, 1875 (Chase County Historical Society [hereafter cited as CCHS] 1966:229; C. C. Williams, Chase County Probate Court, Probate Case No. 1099 [hereafter cited as CC 1099], May 14, 1885).

Christopher Columbus Williams died in Chase County on January 29, 1885. By the time of his death Christopher had amassed ownership of more land in Cottonwood Township, and had accumulated personal property worth \$6,000.00 (CC 1099). According to his will, his estate was to be divided between his wife and children. He bequeathed the ownership of the land to his sons Henry, then aged 22, and Franklin, then a 13-year-old. His wife, Elizabeth Ann Embree Williams, who lived until 1917, received life tenancy of the home place. By January 1885, the livestock inventory of the farm included: 105 hogs and twenty-one suckling pigs, fifty-one steers, thirty heifers with four suckling calves, twenty-two yearling calves, seventeen cows, one 3-year-old bull, five mares, one plow horse, and one roan horse. Farm equipment included: six wagons, three cultivators, one Buckeye Mower, one self-binding harvester, one sulky rake, and some piece of equipment manufactured by the Deering Company (CC 1099).

In 1894, Christopher's heirs divided ownership of the farm and the home place between Henry and Franklin. Henry retained control and title to the residence and the northwest part of the northeast quarter and west half of the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter in Section 32. Franklin owned the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter and east half of the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter and northwest quarter of the southeast quarter, except that portion lying east and south of the Cottonwood River in Section 32 (Chase County, Real Estate Records [hereafter cited as CCRER], March 3 and August 1, 1894). Although the land was divided, Franklin, who never married, continued residing in the family home until his death on November 13, 1952 (Chase County, Probate Court Case No. 2495 [hereafter cited as CC 2495], November 21, 1952).

The extended Williams family lived on the farm. This included Franklin and his mother, and Henry, his wife, and their three children. On January 30, 1901, Henry married Mary Matilda Swengel. They had three children: Christopher Simon, Esther Elizabeth, and Bertha Alice.

Census records provide an insight into how the Williams Farm was used. The 1905 Kansas Decennial Census listed the value of the entire farm, including buildings and 428 acres, as \$15,000.00 (Kansas Decennial Census 1905 [hereafter cited as KDC 1905]). Although the entire holding was fenced with wire and hedge, 80 acres remained unimproved. According to the agricultural schedule in this census, cultivated grasses on the farm included bluegrass and alfalfa. Both tame and prairie hay were cut. Other crops grown and harvested included wheat, corn, oats, and Irish potatoes. Seventeen stands

of bees were kept. Like their father, Henry and Franklin kept horses, milch cows, other cattle, swine, and poultry. The census also listed the water sources for the farm as both a well, which was 30' deep, and the river (KDC 1905).

Between 1905-15, the amount of hay cut on the farm increased from 120 tons to 190 tons (KDC 1905; Kansas Decennial Census 1915 [hereafter cited as KDC 1915]). Crops grown in 1915 included corn, sorghum, feterita, Irish potatoes, kaffir, and alfalfa. The number of stands of bees dropped to fifteen, while the value of poultry and eggs sold tripled. The number of horses increased between these two enumerations from nine to twenty-one, and four mules were present in 1915. Milch cows, other cattle, and swine were also included in the Williams livestock inventory (KDC 1915).

Henry's mother died in 1917. She was buried in the Florence Cemetery, beside the grave of Christopher Columbus Williams, her deceased husband (Chase County Historical Society, Obituary File [hereafter cited as CCHS, OF], unknown source and date).

Henry increased the farm acreage he owned to 882 acres (CCHS 1966:229). Henry's occupancy of the Williams house was interrupted when the family moved to Manhattan, where they resided from 1920-32. Henry moved the family to the college town so that his children could attend Kansas State University. In preparation for the move, he sold the livestock on the farm and rented out the acreage. He purchased a large house in Manhattan which the family occupied until returning to the farm in 1932, after the youngest child graduated. The family spent the summers visiting the farm during those college years. Mary Matilda, Henry's wife, died in 1937. The children married and established separate households.

Between 1937-54 the farm was more closely linked to the brothers Henry and Franklin rather than to Henry's family. During this period, rural water and electrical systems were connected to the house and barn. The Walkers believe they were added about 1948. The brothers continued renting out most of the farm acreage. A few horses and chickens were apparently the only livestock kept at the home place (Archie Walker interview by Sheryll White, May 5, 1995).

In 1952, the Williams family occupancy of the farm ceased. The previous year Henry had been severely injured in an automobile accident. Following his recovery, he lived with his daughter Esther Elizabeth and her family in Ohio (CCHS 1966:230; CC 2495). Franklin continued living at the farm until his death on November 13, 1952. According to probate records, at the time of his death, Franklin had an estate valued at \$13,480.00, most of which was based upon the value of his real estate holdings (CC 2495). After Franklin's estate was settled in 1954, Henry transferred ownership of the farm to his only son, Christopher Simon Williams. Christopher rented out the home place and associated land.

4. Present Owners and Farm Use: At present ownership of the Henry E. Williams Farm is divided between Lorraine Walker (her husband, Archie, died during 1995) and KDOT. Archie and Lorraine Walker were the owners of the entire farm until the KDOT purchase.

Archie and Lorraine Walker rented the property for approximately ten years before acquiring ownership. On January 2, 1962, they purchased the farm. The transaction included several tracts. The first contained nearly 60 acres and was the east half of the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter and the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter, except that portion lying south and east of the Cottonwood River, all in Section 32, Township 20 South, Range Six East of the Sixth Principal Meridian. The second parcel was the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter except the right-of-way of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad and except the right-of-way of U.S. Highway 50

South; also, the west half of the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter, also all that part of the southwest quarter which lies north and east of the middle of the Cottonwood River; also all that part of the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter which lies westerly of the middle of the Cottonwood River. All of this second parcel was located in Section 32, Township 30 South, Range Six East. The third tract was the west half of the northwest quarter of Section 28, Township 20 South, Range Six East. The first and second parcels were cut by U.S. Highway 50.

From 1957, until the sale to KDOT, the Walkers rented out the cultivated fields. They resided in the Williams home, and retained operational control of 480 acres in grass.

Archie Walker shared a long history with the Williams family and property. In 1929, Walker's father, Aaron Walker, rented a Williams owned farm south of the home place. Archie Walker was 9 years old when his family moved onto this rented farmstead, which was south of the railroad tracks and part of the larger Williams farm. The land occupied by the Walkers had an old wood silo, which was torn down during the 1930s.

In 1995, KDOT acquired additional right-of-way along the northern edge of existing U.S. Highway 50, from the southern border of the farmstead. In this title transfer KDOT acquired ownership of three farm structures: the garage, the smokehouse, and the converted chicken house. The new highway right-of-way extends approximately 90' north of the existing roadway, placing the new easement less than 30' from the south side of the farm house.

5. Physical History of the Farm: Only one extant structure on the farm was constructed during the early settlement period. The limestone cave was constructed by Christopher Columbus Williams. Written on the cave ceiling are the following words: "BUILT 1884. By C. C. W.. PLASTARD [sic] 10/3, 1939 H. E. W." The "signature" probably refers to Henry Embree Williams. This notation indicates that one of the first improvements made by the Williams family was the construction of this limestone cave to the south of the house in 1884. Christopher built the cave. His son, Henry E. plastered the underground structure on October 3, 1939 ("H. E. W. 1939").

Several physical changes occurred on the farm from 1911-21. The barn and chicken house were built in 1911, the Robbins-Williams House was destroyed by a fire in 1916, and another residence and a garage were constructed in 1917. The Williams family had originally occupied a nonextant two-story national folk style house on the Robbins-Williams farm, which probably predated Christopher's ownership of the land. In 1916, a fire destroyed this original farm house. Family and local folklore credit a wind carried ember from a train as the cause of the fire which destroyed the ca. mid-1800s house. This blaze also may have destroyed other buildings. Although appraiser records listed the smokehouse as being built in 1911, the cooling house, foundation, and smokehouse were probably constructed after the 1916 fire (Archie Walker interview with Sheryll White, May 5, 1995).

The total number of buildings associated with the farm during the Williams family's early occupation is not known. It is known that a wooden silo was located south of the railroad tracks. An historical photograph in the family collection labeled "Feeding Cattle 1920" shows two structures that apparently were associated with the farm. However, family members and the Walkers have no idea where these nonextant buildings might have been located. These nonextant structures may have been south of the tracks, near the wooden silo.

The home place currently contains six buildings, one with a cave underneath, and one foundation. All were constructed near the Williams House. The cooling house, foundation, and smokehouse were built within a few feet of the extant dwelling, which was erected on the site of the old residence. The

smokehouse was erected above the cave. The garage was constructed only a short distance south of the house. The barn and chicken house were built furthest from the dwelling. The barn was erected west of the extant residence and the chicken house to the east of the dwelling.

Other than the cave, the barn and chicken house are the only buildings whose construction has been documented as being undertaken before the fire. According to Henry Williams' 1911 journal, the barn and a chicken house were built that year. A loose page in the journal referenced a mail-order plan in the Chicago House Company Catalog. This documentation included notations for lumber required. If such a design was used in 1911, it was probably the plans for the barn. This supposition is based upon the amount of square feet of lumber and the number of lumber load notations scribbled on the page, and the use of screws instead of nails in the assembly of certain parts of the structure.

Williams' 1911 journal indicates that materials were delivered in June for the construction of the barn, and the fenced lot associated with the building was staked off in December of the same year. The materials included lightning rods costing \$45.00, gas pipe at 70 cents, thirteen loads of lumber costing \$1.00 per load, and miscellaneous hardware. Williams hired workers for the construction of the barn. A carpenter and one helper erected the building. They received 35 cents per hour. The carpenter, T. H. Beck, worked forty-five and one-half days, earning \$158.20. His helper, J. G. Fisher, received \$159.00. Along with the existing lightning rods, the barn originally had three lightning rods with unique patterns selected by Henry. One featured a tractor, the second a convertible automobile, similar to the eight passenger Studebaker which was his first car, and the third rod incorporated the image of a horse. The one with the automobile was located near the ventilation hood. All three were stolen from the roof one day when the Walkers were not home.

Other building plans that Williams may have acquired from catalogs include the chicken house, smokehouse, and residence. This speculation is based upon the interior arrangements, materials, and floor plan found in structures where the supply of general contractors and architects are limited. The chicken house was well constructed and built of apparently good quality lumber. The granary in the poultry building is similar, although smaller, than those in the barn.

The smokehouse was used as a meat and food storage building. A small northeast corner area, similar to a closet, had rods and hooks for hanging meat. A wide, open staircase in the extant smokehouse led to the gable area or loft where additional storage space was available. Although a small concrete projection was constructed near the northeast corner of the east foundation of the building, the curing process may have been accomplished in a nonextant building immediately north of the smokehouse. These two structures were separated by only a few inches. The only known function of this nonextant building, which had a slightly slanted shed roof, was the sheltering of a generator which provided electrical power for the pump that drew water from the well and for the electric lights in the house.

The concrete dairy building was built near the stairs at the rear of the house. Immediately in front of this building were the well and cistern. A pump drew the water from the well into water troughs in this building where milk and food were stored. An underground pipe system between the building and barn provided the means by which the circulated water could be drained from the troughs and reused in the barn for livestock. This water system may have been added to the barn later if the dairy building was constructed after the barn was built. There was no obvious fire or smoke damage visible on the small concrete building.

Documents suggest that the Williams House and garage were probably both constructed in 1917, soon after the fire. Only three other buildings in the Cedar Point area were constructed of brick; all were

built of the same dark red color brick. Williams bought his brick from local merchant W. H. Grimwood and Son. Of these brick buildings, two are public buildings; one is a commercial store in Cedar Point and the other is a schoolhouse. Another two-story brick residence was built southeast of Cedar Point at about the same time the Williams House was erected. This other residence was built for and occupied by a competitive friend of Henry Williams. Both houses are distinctively different from typical farm houses in the area. Both reflect the strong Craftsman influence prominent during the post World War I period.

Henry Williams exhibited strong familial ties in the construction of his residence. He ordered a limestone engraved tablet from Bedford, Indiana that was quarried from the area near his father's birth. The engraving on the stone read: "1884 Williams Bedford, Ind." The stone marks one of the square, brick, porch columns located on the north porch of the main facade of the house. Behind the stone the family placed a metal box with family items. The box was sealed by rivets. During the past decade, Henry's daughter, Bertha made arrangements with the Walkers for the removal of the box. The container was opened. The contents included some family photographs and documentation in Henry Williams' handwriting itemizing construction costs of the house, and the statement that the family expected to move into the home by Thanksgiving 1917. Bertha told the Walkers that although the family hoped the Thanksgiving celebration would be in the new house, the move was approximately a week after the holiday. Some of the papers were photocopied, and family photographs were added of the Walker's three daughters, and the box resealed, returned to the porch column, and the stone reset.

The opening of the box provided the following information. The Robbin-Williams house burned on September 26, 1916. One month later, the National Fire Insurance Company paid the Williams \$738.50 for damages. Construction of the new house began in June 1917. A list of people employed in the construction was included. The main carpenter was T. H. Beck, who was also responsible for erecting the barn in 1911. Beck's helpers were a man named Waddle, J. H. Brown, and B. A. Pinkston. James Graham was the bricklayer, E. A. Carpenter was the brick tender, and W. W. Wright was responsible for the concrete. Lumber and brick came from the R. E. Hall Lumber Company. W. H. Grimwood and Son supplied the brick, lumber, and hardware. The Walkers recalled Henry's son, Christopher Simon, saying his father had paid the main carpenter \$5.00 per day for ten hours of work and other workers \$1.00 per day.

Part II. Architectural Context

The Henry E. Williams Farmstead is located 0.2 miles west of the intersection of U.S. Highway 50 and County Road No. 614, a short distance northeast of the town of Cedar Point in Chase County, Kansas. It is accessed either from U.S. 50 to the south or from County Road No. 614 to the north.

The six structures comprising the Henry E. Williams Farmstead are clustered in one general location. The main building in the farmstead complex is the two-story residence, which has a one-story concrete porch dwelling and a northern orientation. It was originally built fronting the main east-west roadway (old Highway 50), which was dirt surfaced. Three structures and a foundation are located behind the residence within the fenced house yard. The three outbuildings, which are all situated on the south or southeast of the residence, include: a brick one-story garage with hip roof clad in asphalt shingles; a well or cooling house with a flat concrete roof and concrete foundation; and a tall one-story, wood smokehouse with front gable roof clad in asphalt shingles, which stands above an earlier stone cave. Remnants of the concrete foundation sills of a nonextant structure are also located within the house yard behind the dwelling. With the exception of the garage, the group of structures clustered near the house are in extremely close proximity to one another. The distance between the northwest

corner of the smokehouse and rear porch of the residence is 29'. The cooling house, which is nearest the dwelling, is less than 3' from the porch steps. A converted chicken house is situated in the pasture southeast of the house, and is separated from the residence by a fence. The gambrel roof barn stands across the driveway to the west of the house.

The farmstead reflects the architectural period of Craftsman-Prairie School dominance and the period of agricultural prosperity that helped spur the popularity of pattern book architecture for rural America during the early twentieth century. The structures on the farm are in generally good to excellent condition. Few alterations have been made to the buildings. Most alterations and/or changes were made about 1970. The Walkers added vinyl siding to the exterior wood surfaces of the residence, garage, barn, and smokehouse. They also made a few interior modifications inside the house, and they converted the chicken house into a horse shelter. The Kansas Department of Transportation now owns the shelter. The Walkers currently rent out most of the farm land. Some of the buildings are no longer used or only used for storage; most have had replacement siding installed over original material. The barn is no longer used. The cooling house is used only for storage. The garage is still used for its original function. The smokehouse and cave are empty; until the state acquired these two structures, the smokehouse was only used for storage.

Part III. Sources of Information

A. EARLY VIEWS: From the collection of Bertha (Williams) Coryell (now deceased), daughter of Henry E. Williams, Junction City, KS.

* Photograph of Christopher Columbus Williams, b. 7-31-1837, d. 1-29-1885.

* Photograph of Elizabeth Ann (Embree) Williams, b. 1-13-1839, d. 1-17-1917, m. Christopher Columbus Williams.

* Photograph of Chase County Farm home of C. C. Williams family and Henry Williams family, burned in 1916.

* Wedding picture of Henry Williams and Mary Matilda Swengel, m. 1-30-1901.

* Home of Henry E. Williams, Built in 1917.

D. INTERVIEWS:

Coryell, M. R., Senior and Junior (Coryell Senior was married to Bertha Williams, daughter of Henry E. Williams), May 10, 1995, 623 Crestview Drive, Junction City, KS, interviewed by Sheryll L. White.

Walker, Archie and Lorraine, May 5 and 12, 1995, Henry E. Williams farm (Route 1, Box 5), Cedar Point, KS 66843, interviewed by Sheryll L. White.

E. BIBLIOGRAPHY:

1. Primary and Unpublished Sources

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Land Records (deeds). Chase County Register of Deeds Office, County Courthouse,

Cottonwood Falls, KS.

Probate Court Records. Chase County Probate Court, County Courthouse, Cottonwood Falls, KS.

Chase County Historical Society

Obituary Files. Chase County Historical Society, Cottonwood Falls, KS.

Kansas State Decennial Census (Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka)

Population and Agricultural Schedules, 1905.

Population and Agricultural Schedules, 1915.

Miscellaneous Primary Sources

Coryell, M. R., Jr. to Sheryll White. Correspondence, May 16, 1995.

White, Sheryll, "Henry E. Williams Farmstead, Chase County, US Highway 50, Contract No. K3216." Ms on file, Archeology Office, Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka.

Williams, Henry E., Personal Journal. In possession of M. R. Coryell, Senior, 623 Crestview Drive, Junction City, KS.

2. Secondary and Published Sources

Andreas, A. T., *History of the State of Kansas*. R. R. Donnelly & Sons, Chicago, 1883.

Chase County Historical Society, *Chase County Historical Sketches*, vol. III. Chase County Historical Society, Cottonwood Falls, KS, 1966.

Kansas State Historical Society, Historic Preservation Department, *Kansas Preservation Plan: Study Unit on the Period of Rural/Agricultural Dominance (1865-1900)*. Kansas State Historical Society, Historic Preservation Department, Topeka, 1984.

Lees, William B., *Kansas Preservation Plan Section on Historical Archeology*. Kansas State Historical Society, Historic Preservation Department, Topeka, 1989.

Northwest Publishing Co., *Plat Book of Chase County, Kansas Compiled from County Records and Actual Survey*. Northwest Publishing Co., Minneapolis, 1901.

Part IV. Project Information

The project was undertaken in response to plans by the Kansas Department of Transportation to modify U.S. Highway 50 through Chase County [Project 50-9-K3216-01 BRF-NHS-50-5(36)]. This project was under the review of the Federal Highway Administration. The project was undertaken by the Archeology Office of the Kansas State Historical Society under the Cooperative Agreement for Highway Archeological Salvage Program with the Kansas Department of Transportation. After initial review of the proposed highway project, an Activity II inventory was recommended and

conducted at the farmstead. After review of the Activity II results, the State Historic Preservation Office, in a letter dated August 25, 1994, recommended Activity III documentation and research, as the farmstead appeared to be eligible for the National Register as a unit under Criterion C. The Activity III report was submitted on July 14, 1995. The complex was later determined to be National Register eligible and the Historic American Buildings Survey documentation (Activity IV) was initiated.

The Activity IV documentation of the Henry E. Williams Farmstead was completed during the late fall of 1995. The documentation was undertaken by Sheryll L. White and Timothy Weston (Kansas State Historical Society). Sheryll L. White was the project historian for the Activity II and III projects. White conducted all of the research associated with the project and prepared the Activity reports from which the historic information and historical context sections were taken. Marsha K. King (Kansas State Historical Society) compiled and prepared the HABS document. Graphics were drafted by Mike Irvin (Kansas State Historical Society). The photography was produced by Larry Colcher, Kansas State Historical Society photographer.