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7. DESCRIPTION		
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Steve F. Jones Ranch house (Spring Hill Farm and Ranch house) is built of native limestone quarried locally. The individual building stones are square cut on all bearing surfaces and have a rough hewn face. The stones are uniform in size and laid in regular horizontal courses. All corners of the building are quoined with the stone blocks projecting from the building's surface.

The house is built on a hillside with a two-story exposure on the upper side and a three-story facade on the lower. The top story is enclosed behind a mansard roof, which is painted white and articulated with dormers and projecting mansard gables. A large porch with classic columns extends along the lower floor of the threestory facade.

A decorative cornice separates the upper story at the bottom of the mansard roof. The cornice projection is supported at the corners by paired brackets.

Windows are simple and rectangular with shallow arched lintels. A large projecting keystone accents the lintel. The window sill is extended to form a flower box and is supported by brackets.

Enhancing the appearance of the house are the surrounding outbuildings. The barn is of rubble stone masonry with smoothed quoin blocks at the corners. The roof is a modified gable. Window openings are rectangular with flat, smoothed lintels and sills. Door openings are simple with shallow arched lintels. An unusual feature of the barn is the two bridges ramping up to the second story loft.

Other outbuildings are squared stone block construction with hipped shingle roofs and simple openings for doors and windows.

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IGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
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SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicab	le and Known) 1881		
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Conservation	Music	Transportation	

The Steve F. Jones Ranch house (Spring Hill Ranch house) is a striking three-story structure built on a bluff overlooking the Fox creek valley north of Strong City.

A native of Tennessee, Jones had ranched in Texas and Colorado before moving to Chase county, Kansas, in 1876. He purchased several farms and ranches and became one of the largest and most important ranchers in the area. Although he was primarily a cattleman and stock-raiser, he had substantial lumber and banking interests in nearby Strong City.

His large stone house was built in 1881 by men who had also worked on the Chase County Courthouse eight years earlier. With its mansard roof and dormer windows the house reflected some of the same Renaissance influence as the Courthouse.

The Jones Ranch house is architecturally significant in that it represents a blending of Renaissance influence and Plains Vernacular architecture: The house and outbuildings together present a composite grouping of rural buildings, using a single building material and functioning as a unit.

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