

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

AUG 1 1988

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Slaughter-Hill Ranch

other names/site number Cunningham Homestead; Estancia Pavo Real; Canning Farm

2. Location

street & number 1601 E. Second Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Roswell

N/A vicinity

state New Mexico

code NM

county Chaves

code 005

zip code 88201

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

buildings

sites

structures

objects

0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Historic Resources of Roswell, New Mexico and
outlying environs of Chaves County

Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

7-27-88

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain): _____

Melvin Byer Entered in the National Register 8/29/88

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Agriculture/agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture/agricultural outbuilding

7. DescriptionArchitectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Other:Horizontal hewn log

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Log

roof Wood/Shingle

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

SUMMARY

This is a single-room homestead of one and a half stories, built with hand-hewn logs. The owners have sought to preserve the building which is in excellent condition. A later, plastered building placed close to the its east wall, does not significantly obscure the historical appearance of this homestead.

DESCRIPTION

Originally a dwelling which is now used for farm storage, this building is constructed of exposed, horizontal, hand-hewn logs with dovetail joints. The side-gabled roof is covered with wood shingles which have recently been replaced by the present owners. Above the ceiling which is constructed of vigas and boards, is a loft reached through an opening high on the east elevation. This and the single door on the south facade are the building's only openings.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Exploration/settlement

Period of Significance

1878-1919

Significant Dates

N/A

Agriculture

Architecture

Other:ranching

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Slaughter, Christopher Columbus

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SUMMARY

The Cunningham Homestead at the Slaughter-Hill Ranch represents one of the early homesteads built by settlers who came into the region in the late 1870's as farmers rather than ranchers. Unusual in the area for its construction in a material other than adobe, it is architecturally significant as the only example of a first homestead built of hand-hewn logs which remains in the Roswell area. Finally it represents the later presence in the Roswell vicinity of C.C. Slaughter, a well-known Texas cattleman, who established a herd of registered Hereford cattle here which gained national repute as breeding stock. His efforts represent the attempts to improve breeding stock which were made in response to the end of the boom years of the range cattle business.

SIGNIFICANCE (1878-1919)

This hand-hewn log house, built in 1878, was the first homestead of Sam Cunningham, a settler from Missouri. Cunningham was among the first of those who came into the region to farm rather than to ranch. Most early settlers used the most readily available construction material in this treeless terrain, adobe mud. The logs for Cunningham's home must have been hauled in by wagon, possibly from the mountains some seventy miles to the west. In about 1879, Cunningham planted one of the earliest orchards in the Roswell area, concentrating on peaches reputedly grown from seeds sent him by a friend.

By 1898 the farm had been sold, along with several adjoining farms, to renowned Texas cattleman Col. C.C. Slaughter, who at the peak of his career owned a million acres of land in Texas and was the largest individual taxpayer in that state. Managed by his son George Slaughter, the farm in Roswell produced alfalfa to feed Slaughter's Texas herds, as well as large apple crops

9. Major Bibliographical References

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Specify repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A [1|3] [5|4|6|8|4|0] [3|6|9|5|3|2|0]
Zone Easting Northing
C [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

B [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
Zone Easting Northing
D [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary includes the Cunningham Cabin, five feet of land contiguous to the north, west, and south facades, and one foot of land contiguous to the east facade, as shown on the sketch map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The building is surrounded by unplatted land and there are no other significant buildings on the property to be included within the boundary. The five foot boundary of contiguous land has been reduced to one foot on the east because of the presence of another building at a distance of two feet.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Corinne Sze (revisions and additions) John Petronis (original nomination)
organization _____ date July 20, 1988
street & number 1042 Stagecoach Road telephone (505) 983-5605
city or town Santa Fe state New Mexico zip code 87501

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from the farm's noted orchards. Most significantly, it became a nationally-known livestock farm when Slaughter located his famous Herefords there, the first registered purebred Herefords to be brought into the state of New Mexico. His was some of the world's highest quality and most expensive breeding stock.

Christopher Columbus Slaughter, who would come to be known as "The Cattle King of Texas", was born in Sabine County, Texas in 1837. He began in the cattle business with his father, a circuit preacher who also farmed, ranched, and drove Texas longhorns in the pre-Civil War days of the range cattle industry. In his youth the younger Slaughter had participated in legendary frontier Texas exploits as a member of the Texas Rangers and a captain in Governor Sam Houston's Minute Men. Realizing early the potential for increase in the value of range land, he began buying up vast stretches of territory in West Texas and by 1890 owned a million acres. He was also one of the first to recognize the advantage to be gained by improving the native breed of longhorn cattle and began importing shorthorn bulls, which were the first registered cattle brought into the Texas Panhandle. In 1882 he received a record price for his three-year-old steers which was not topped for many years. By crossing shorthorns with Herefords, Slaughter found that he could produce an even better beef animal and his cattle became famous for their size. A four-thousand-pound, four-year-old held the record, which remained unbroken for many years, as the world's largest steer.

Slaughter subsequently developed one of the first large herds of purebred Hereford cattle in the Southwest to gain national recognition. It soon became apparent that his valuable bulls required a different setting and more care than range bulls, and after a period of paying rent to board them with other stock raisers, he established his breeding farm on the Cunningham property near Roswell, New Mexico, which he purchased and named the Slaughter Hereford Home. Here he sought to establish a model breeding farm. He brought over his famous prized bull, Ancient Briton, a first place winner at 1893 Chicago World's Fair, and in 1899 paid the record price of \$5,000 for Sir Bredwell, another Hereford bull, that had placed first at the Omaha, Nebraska Exposition of 1889. Although the Slaughter Ranch in Roswell produced not only prized purebred calves, but also winter feed for animals, apple crops, and fruit and vegetables for the ranch line camps, and it wintered horses from Slaughter's other ranches, the ranch was an extremely expensive venture which cost as much to operate as Slaughter's large West Texas ranches.

After C.C. Slaughter's death in 1919, his estate was divided among his heirs. The Roswell farm eventually became the property of George Slaughter's daughter Eloise and her husband Curtis Hill, a lawyer. Hill retired in 1945

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to devote himself to his and his wife's hobby of raising purebred Hereford cattle. The Hills continued to live on and run the ranch/farm until their deaths in the mid-1970's. It was bought by the present owners after Mrs. Hill's death in 1975.

Although the nominated log homestead was not built by C.C. Slaughter, it is presently the only property in the Roswell area documented as part of his ranching operations which can represent his significant contribution to the history of cattle industry in the Pecos Valley.

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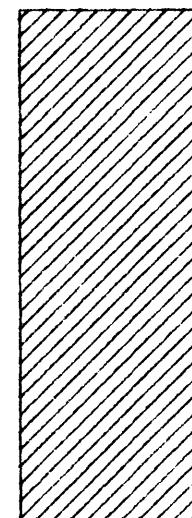
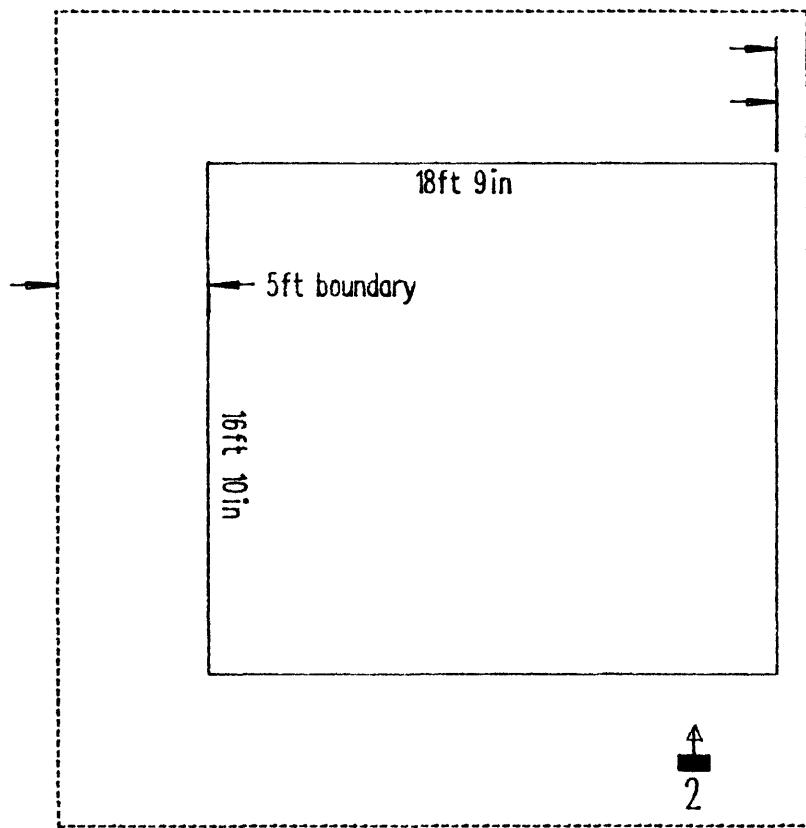
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Stokes, Peggy L. "Log cabin preserved over hundred years," Roswell Daily Record, November 9, 1987.

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SLAUGHTER-HILL RANCH

HISTORIC RESOURCES OF ROSEWELL,
NEW MEXICO AND OUTLYING ENVIRONS

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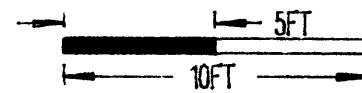


PHOTO POINT