

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received 6/5/85
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic H-T Ranch
and/or common

2. Location

street & number N/A not for publication
city, town Amidon vicinity of
state North Dakota code 38 county Slope code 087

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Herb Herauff
street & number 817 Eleventh Avenue West
city, town Dickinson vicinity of state North Dakota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds
street & number Slope County Courthouse
city, town Amidon state North Dakota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no N/A
date N/A federal state county local
depository for survey records N/A
city, town N/A state N/A

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The two remaining structures that once were part of the H-T Ranch are located about ten miles west of Amidon, North Dakota, and are separated by the North-South run of Deep Creek. The ranch complex, once consisting of about ten buildings, survives in the large ranch house dwelling named "Shackford," and in the log-walled barn. Perched midway up a bluff, Shackford faces eastward in the direction of the barn. The ranch house has three stories and the barn has one and a half, and both are regular in their shape: the log ranch house is square and the log barn is rectangular. Both buildings display their bark-less log-walled exteriors which are supported by posts of saw-timber and are chinked with a mortar material of recent vintage. Both buildings have tongue and groove hardwood paneling on the interior walls and ceilings. A two-tiered veranda surrounds all but the west side of Shackford. The alterations to both properties are evident more on the interiors than on the exteriors: the latter retain the general configuration and feeling that they had in the 1890's when they were constructed. The most significant alteration has occurred in the ownership of land associated with the ranch, necessitating a severe reduction in the boundary size.

From the 1890's when ranching operations were at their peak, until 1906 when the ranch corporation dissolved, several buildings and structures stood on the site. In addition to the two which survive, two other buildings had similar size, and presumably, as much importance to the ranch. A long rectangular structure, similar in proportion and size to the remaining barn, housed ranch hands. A second significant-but-absent structure, a large horse barn, was transported to the site in pieces from a satellite ranch in Gladstone, 60 miles east. Photographic evidence suggests it may have stood until the 1930s (Palmer and Connelly, 1924). Connelly identified one of the absent structures as the home of the black cook; it sat behind Shackford further up the hill. Except for the large barn, the missing structures were of simple construction with unbroken gable or shed roofs. Two bridges connected Shackford with the rest of the complex, but presently neither survive. Two other unused out buildings rest near Shackford, and have marginal significance.

The main feature, Shackford, measures 36' x 36' at the first floor basement and 35' x 35' at the main or second floor. The long barn measures 31' x 62'10". The fenestration on the main floors of both buildings is characterized by window frames attached to the vertical posts that run the height of the floor, thus interrupting the horizontal effect of the timbers. On Shackford, one-over-one double hung windows predominate with two on the west side, four on the north side, five on the south side, and one in the dormer of the east side. On Shackford's front (east) side no type of window dominates: the second floor has a one-over-two sash on either side of the door; on the first floor a double hung four-over-four and another 12-paned sash flank the door. The long barn has fixed sashes, double two-over-two lights separated by a wooden mullion, with three separate two-over-two lights in the east gable. Shackford's veranda extends 7'7" from the house on all sides, and the rustic porch posts retain the stumps of their former branches. Both Shackford and the long barn have cedar shingled roofs. Shackford has a hipped roof with flared and broadly projecting eaves on the south and east sides, and is crowned by a balustraded deck. The chimney is situated on the west (back) side and gabled dormers puncture the roof on the other three sides. The long barn has a gable roof with gabled dormers facing north and south. The base of

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Shackford and the chimney are of native cut stone. The logs for both buildings came from the ranch's logging operations which were located, when in operation, eight miles to the north (Henke, p. 1091).

A north-south wall divides the interior of both floors into a large and small bay, and the third story encloses an open area lighted by dormers on all but the west (back) side. The original dining room (20'10" x 16'10") occupies the large bay of the first floor. The kitchen and laundry room abut in the smaller bay of the same floor. On the story above, a large L-shaped living room warmed by a fireplace and paneled with tongue-and-grooved hardwood, and a bedroom (20'2" x 11'2") take up the large bay. The smaller bay contains three bedrooms, two the same size as the aforementioned and a third at 7'10" x 11'2." The stairways are placed in the southwest corner of both floors.

Relatively little alteration has occurred to change the design or feeling of the exterior on either building. When the ranch house was vacant during the 1930s it fell into a state of decay (Henke, p. 1096). The purchaser of the ranch in 1940 spent several years in rehabilitating the ranch house and barn to make them both livable, usable, while preserving as much of the original fabric as possible. Additions to the interior of Shackford, such as linoleum tile and knotty pine paneling in the basement, and carpeting on the living room floor, constitute the major changes, and do not give a false historic impression. The interior of the log barn exhibits more drastic change: the stalls that once existed (Henke, p. 1092) are entirely gone, a concrete floor has been poured, and access to the once-used upper floor is not apparent. But in both buildings the effect of severe weather, changing ownership, and periods of neglect have had rather little adverse effect on property. The original site now includes modern living quarters and contemporary structures associated with ranching.

The significance of the H-T Ranch is a product of both the unusual architectural character of Shackford and the long bard and the vast quantity of land once controlled by the ranch company. Both features of the property have changed: many historic buildings have vanished while modern structures have been added to the site; and the 60,000 acres once part of the ranch holdings and containing a huge visual horizon have been reduced to 1,500 contiguous acres under single ownership. The question of boundaries is complicated by these conditions.

Regulatory procedures for listing on the National Register concerning notification of property owners make it unadvisable to try to draw nomination boundaries which correspond to the ranch's original property lines. This option would necessarily involve many owners as well as include a host of intrusive non-historic structures. The regulations would give the many owners of smaller parcels of land which formerly belonged to the entire ranch a chance through objections to keep the cultural resource from being listed. The legal implications of listing, too, would make such an arrangement ill-advised; property owners would encounter unexpected hurdles in disposing of their natural resources. In short, to draw nomination boundaries to match the original ranch perimeter would be awkward, risky, and artificial today.

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Similarly, within the 1,500 contiguous acres still owned by the ranch enterprise, a high concentration of contemporary structures exist which intrude upon the feeling of the historic complex. To draw nomination boundaries which coincide with present property lines would include more ahistoric than historic structures. This condition would present no owner-related problems but creates an inaccurate feeling in terms of historic components and visual impressions.

There are no natural features on the site which would function as visual boundaries to naturally enclose the two structures while excluding the nonsignificant ones. Shackford is located in a meander of Deep Creek which could arguably be said to serve as a natural boundary. However, the stream encompasses only three sides, and no other natural feature provides a clear line to seal off the site. Also, the site has lost integrity through removal of a dwelling directly west of Shackford and the loss of two footbridges which once connected to Shackford to the larger complex. Coupled with this problem, the long barn has no clear topological or visual features surrounding it which would enclose it and exclude the contemporary.

Another option, that of reducing the boundaries to include only the land on which the buildings sit, would compromise the vast-land aspect of the cultural resource as did the options above, but would most accurately limit geographical definition. However, due to National Register guidelines, the buildings must be enclosed within a continuous, albeit in this case arbitrarily drawn, parcel of land, so as to be considered a single cultural resource. Therefore, boundary lines have been drawn ten feet around the perimeter of both buildings. Lines are drawn to connect the two eastern vertices of the boundary around Shackford with the two western vertices on the long barn's bounds, thus defining a narrow strip of land between the two structures. See the enclosed aerial photograph of the site for illustrations.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates Ca. 1896 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The ranch house (Shackford) and associated barn signify and symbolize several historic traditions in North Dakota's past. The ranching corporation, the Little Missouri Cattle Company, established in 1883 by Pennsylvanian Arthur Clark Hidekoper, testifies to the financial promise and the romantic appeal of the west to Americans east of the Mississippi. The house served as headquarters for the ranching interest, whose significance stems from its ownership of tremendous expanses of land and whose grazing range encompassed an even vaster area. The structure Shackford contains architectural elements which draw upon bungalow and cottage styles contemporary with its construction while showing a sophistication previously unidentified in this region of the state. The H-T Ranch buildings serve as a significant artifact in illustrating the settlement history of the badlands.

Hidekoper was part of a family of wealthy Dutchmen. As was customary for many young men from eastern families of attainment, one would go to the Adirondacks, Appalachians, or further west during the warmer months to enjoy the reinvigorating effect of the frontier air. Wheeler gives an account of the factors which led Hidekoper west:

"Hidekoper was part of a wealthy Dutch family from Meadville, Pennsylvania, that had acquired its fortune by assisting the revolutionaries during the war of independence. The Hidekopers were paid with large land grants in Pennsylvania. In the fall of 1879, Hidekoper and a group of gentlemen from Meadville were invited by their Congressmen, S. B. Dick, to take a trip over the Northern Pacific Railroad to its western terminus, Bismarck The wild and contagious fever of the frontier got into Hidekoper's blood during the trip, and he resolved to return to the area some day In the fall of 1881 he made his resolution good: he organized a small hunting party and headed for the Bad Lands near Medora (Wheeler, pp. 15-16)."

Based upon similar reports (for example Lang, p. 255; Henke, p. 1090) of Hidekoper's initial encounter with part of western North Dakota, one understands that the Pennsylvanian did not come merely for the sport and curative value of the air. In his two trips west he realized the opportunity that the broad vistas in western North Dakota offered for livestock production, a business that his family continued and profited from in Pennsylvania. Thus, in 1882, he invested in a ranching concern which is reported with various names and partners: the Custer Trail Cattle Company with Howard and Alden Eaton (Wheeler, p. 17); Missouri Cattle Company (Palmer and Connelly, p. 5); H-T Ranch with Sidney Tarbell (Noyce, p. 193). In 1884 Hidekoper applied substantial capital to establish a more permanent claim in these affairs. Out of this greater commitment the H-T Ranch was conceived and began its great growth.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Deep Creek South

Quadrangle scale 7.5'

UTM References

A

1	3	6	1	2	6	5	5	5	1	4	9	2	6	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification The boundary includes the two significant buildings and the land surrounding them at a distance of 10 feet, and a strip of land between the two buildings which measures approximately 250' x 52'. For justification, see description; for illustration see photo map.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marty Perry, Architectural Historian

organization State Historical Society of North Dakota date April 25, 1985

street & number North Dakota Heritage Center telephone (701)224-2672

city or town Bismarck state North Dakota 58505

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Alois B. Spielman

title State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota)

date 5/1/85

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Beth Groszono

Keeper of the National Register

date 7/5/85

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

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Marquis de Mores owned the only other significant livestock operation in the southwest corridor of the state in the 1880s. These two figures, Hidekoper and de Mores, were followed by a rush of competitors, so that "by the end of the 80's . . . ranching had developed into an industry in the Bad Lands" (Lang, p. 254). Lang adds, however, that of the many area ranches the H-T was "the most notable." Although Lang offers little information to explain how it was so notable, its great size, stock population, and range area mark it as a sizeable operation.

Hidekoper's family background, and a disastrously hard winter of 1886 - 1887 turned his attention from cattle to horses. In 1887 he formed the Little Missouri Horse Company (Noyce, p. 193). He started with 600 horses purchased from the Eaton brothers and de Mores. By only 1889 he had expanded to include show horses by adding 6 purebred Percheron mares and 1 stallion brought in from France (Henke, p. 1090). Reports also vary on the number, placing it at 26 Percherons, 20 mares and 6 stallions ("H-T Ranch Recalls Halcyon Period of Old West When Prize Horses Roamed the Range," p. 200) or 35 mares and 6 stallions (Wheeler, p. 18). By 1900 the Little Missouri Horse Company had 4,000 horses and sold them to cities for street car conveyance and to farmers for a variety of uses (Wheeler, p. 18).

While his stock grew in numbers, Hidekoper increased his land base. To his 1882 acquisition of 23,000 acres of railroad lands in Billings (now Slope) County he added 40,000 acres in 1887. He bought all railroad holdings in Townships 134, 135, 136, and Ranges 102, 103, and half of Township 136 Range 104. The unfenced government land added 125,000 acres for grazing to that which the H-T owned (Ellis, pp. 30-31).

Hidekoper added satellite support facilities as needed. He took claim of a logging camp on the Little Missouri River, which produced rails for fences and logs for buildings; he bought the Sherman Ranch on Cedar River around 1900 for \$60,000 (Johnston, p. 304). Ellis reports of two outlying camps under H-T control known as Spear Ranch and Buffalo Ranch (p. 31). At Gladstone, on the railroad 60 miles to the east, he had stables, barns, and corrals built where he wintered 500 of his finest horses and had colts broken, as well as boarding and bunkhouses for the hands (Lang, p. 267; Johnston, p. 304). His range land may have encompassed over 4,000 square miles. One report defines it as everything east of the Little Missouri River as far as Gladstone, and everything south of the Northern Pacific rails into South Dakota (Parker, p. 8). This area comprises part or all of the present day counties: Stark, Billings, Slope, Bowman, Hettinger, and Adams.

This "bigness" gave Hidekoper success until the early 1900s when several events kept his corporation from being able to support those numbers, and ultimately, led him to sell the business. During the Winter of 1886-1887, too, the area had more livestock than it could feed: three large Texas ranches had driven over 100,000 cattle into Bad Lands grazing areas, while grasshoppers, drought, and an early severe winter eliminated grass and left thousands of Hidekoper's cattle starving (Wheeler, p. 17). Hidekoper liquidated his Badlands holdings in 1906 after a series of occurrences strained the profitability of the ranch: the government opened the Bad Lands to homesteading, which closed the formerly free grazing land to Hidekoper's stock; financial burdens were

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added by property taxes; the rise of machine transportation reduced the national demand for horses (Wheeler, p. 18). Through an agent Hidekoper sold 70,000 acres in what was the largest real estate transaction of 1906 in North Dakota ("H-T Ranch Sold," p. 1). A story in the Fargo Forum told that in 1906 he sold several thousand horses to brokers in St. Louis in what was billed as the largest horse sale in the world. The same news article simply pronounced the H-T Ranch as the biggest and most important in the state from 1889 to 1905, and "one of the largest horse raising outfits in the world" ("Halcyon," p. 10).

As Wheeler said, it was "a time of bigness" in the west, and that size spelled both success and failure for the H-T. Its size might be measured not only in acreage or head counts of animals, but in the legend-like accounts which grew up around it. The authors' disagreement over some details, and the inflation of numbers in some accounts, indicates the inability of normal concepts of size and number to give mental definition to the scale of H-T operations. These conceptualizations had a presence in the national consciousness around the turn-of-the-century, and certainly were among the consideration which led Hidekoper to invest. However, in the years that he was a partner in the corporation, he never lived for more than a few months in Shackford.

The fact that Pennsylvania rather than North Dakota was home to Hidekoper may explain the highly unusual style of Shackford. One author (Lang, p. 257) refers to the building as a "modern bungalow." Three elements of the bungalow, a broad roof overhang, modest size, importance of the porch, have traces in Shackford. The roof does project the veranda is a prominent feature, and the house is apparently small sized in contrast to the expanse of its setting. However, these elements give the building more the feel of a bungalow than taking their inspiration directly from that form. Actually, elements of other styles can be seen. For instance, the timbers and porch supports echo somewhat the stick style as interpreted in California bungalows. The bungalowoid form was evolving in 1896, when Shackford was constructed, and didn't achieve mature expression until the second and third decades of the twentieth century. Consequently, Shackford's debt to this building type cannot be direct as Lang implies. At best, some of the elements that were changing the design of residences at the turn of the century found their way into Shackford.

The building would also fit within the tradition of cottage construction. Members of Hidekoper's social group had the means to maintain summer homes by the ocean and/or winter homes in the south. These homes served two purposes: they provided escape from the extremes of temperature, and they gave their owners a certain status. One's social standing profited further by the construction of seasonal homes which displayed stylistic sophistication in line with current architectural tastes. A cursory search through one pattern book of cottage homes (Pallisers New Cottage Homes) published just a few years before Hidekoper constructed Shackford, reveals plans and elevations of houses with remarkable similarity to his. Plate 60, design 173 shows a modest southern house-form with open construction, multi-faceted two-tiered porch, and informal treatment of textures on the roof and walls. Plate 62, design 179, calls for a larger house with a square-plan whose room arrangement is variable. The text which accompanies the designs is worded to satisfy both aesthetic and social considerations

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of people, like Hidekoper, who maintained seasonal residences. These factors suggest that Shackford represents an unusual but identifiable stylistic import to the state. Until an architectural survey can be completed of that region of the state there can be no certainty about the unusualness of the property, or whether its notoriety started a succession of similar types of structures to be built. In the absence of an adequate survey, the listing of this property and associated buildings would give it the visibility to serve as a reference point from which to begin to erect an architectural context in that area of the state. At this point it is doubtful whether another property will match it in design or integrity.

After Hidekoper sold in 1906 the property changed hands several times. The land was parcelled and sold by a land holding company. This reduced the H-T's land to 5,000 acres under single ownership. During the 1920s Shackford was used as a Dude Ranch and the cattle barn was converted into a "refectory," following the example of the practice in larger cities to reuse the obsolete stables as eateries (Palmer and Connelly, p. 3). Through the sensitive preservation treatment of the present and previous owner, the buildings are being maintained with a minimal loss of integrity.

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Johnson, Andrew, "The H-T Horse Ranch," Fifty Years in The Saddle: Looking Back Down The Trail, (Watford City, North Dakota: Fifty Years in The Saddle Club, 1963).

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Palmer, Bertha and M. J. Connelly, "North Dakota Ranch Furnished Setting for Interesting Historic Events," Minot Daily News, March 8, 1924, p. 5.

Palliser's New Cottage Homes, (New York: Palliser, Palliser and Company, 1887).

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Personal interview with Herb Herauff, owner, November 7, 1984.

Wheeler, L. Ray, "The Old H-T," North Dakota Horizons, Vol. 5, No. 3 (Summer, 1975), pp. 14-18.

N1

H-T Ranch, Slope County, North Dakota
Aerial Photograph
United States High Altitude Photo Service
1983
Scale: Unknown

19

48

147

127

255

long barn
fence line
Deep Creek
shackford

