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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

AUG 1 1988

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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 Diamond A Ranch other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Fourteen miles west of Roswell on U.S. 380, N/A not for publication city, town then south two miles on private ranch road, X vicinity Roswell state New Mexico code NM county Chaves code 005 zip code

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes checkboxes for private/public ownership and building/site/structure/object categories. Totals: 2 contributing, 0 noncontributing, 2 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 7-27-88 State or Federal agency and bureau

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. determined eligible for the National Register. determined not eligible for the National Register. removed from the National Register. other, (explain:) Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 8/29/88

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Domestic/multiple dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/multiple dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other:Stone vernacular

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation not visible

walls Stone

roof Metal

other Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

SUMMARY

These two ranch buildings, a headquarters house and a bunkhouse, are similar in style. Both were built of stone in the late 1880's or early 1890's, and have pitched metal roofs. Although they appear somewhat deteriorated, these buildings well express their historical associations.

DESCRIPTION

1. Ranch Headquarters Photos #1,2

The original headquarters house is L-shaped and was built with two-foot-thick stone walls in the late 1880's or early 1890's. The hipped gable roof is covered with metal. A shed-roofed portal, supported by simple square posts, extends along the inside of the L. There is an small cement block and wood addition on the southwest side of the house which was built in the 1930's and is now the front entrance. Windows are generally 2/2. Two original chimneys remain, one of brick on the slope of the roof, and one of stone on the ridge. The interior is somewhat deteriorated, and has been divided into several living units for ranch hands.

2. Bunkhouse Photo #3

The bunkhouse, also of stone and built about the same time as the main house, extends to the rear of it. It has a gabled roof covered with corrugated metal and a shed-roofed portal across the front, supported by simple square posts.

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)
Other: Ranching

Period of Significance
1883-1938

Significant Dates
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
Mossman, Burton (Cap)

Architect/Builder
Unknown

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

SUMMARY

These two working ranch buildings of the late nineteenth century, a headquarters and a bunkhouse, represent one of the large cattle companies, headquartered outside of the Territory of New Mexico, which established vast cattle ranches in the Pecos Valley in the early 1880's. Further, it is associated with the ranching career of Burton ("Cap") Mossman, the founder of the Texas Rangers and a legendary figure in the range cattle business.

HISTORY OF THE RANCH DURING THE PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE (1883-1938)

The history of the ranch began in 1883 when W.E. Anderson, vice-president and general manager of the Anderson Cattle Company of Pueblo, Colorado, homesteaded on 160 acres on the Rio Hondo as the headquarters of the company's ranch. John A. Thatcher was the president of the company, M.D. Thatcher the secretary-treasurer, and Frank G. Bloome a director. A Number of small farms and ranches with water rights along the river were bought and consolidated until the Anderson Cattle company owned many acres of farm and grazing lands. After some merging of properties and corporate rearranging common in the cattle business, the Bloome Cattle Company registered the Diamond A cattle brand in 1899. In 1907, in response to a financial panic, the Diamond A Cattle Company was formed by the Thatcher brothers, and Bloome. In 1925 cowman Burton ("Cap") Mossman pooled his holdings with Bloome and Thatcher in a reorganized Diamond A Cattle Company, that owned several ranches including the nominated properties.

Born in 1867 in Illinois, Cap Mossman had arrived in New Mexico with his family in 1882. His long and colorful career in the range cattle business began when he was made foreman of a ranch at the age of twenty-one. By thirty he was superintendent of the Hash Knife ranch, a huge spread whose cattle grazed lands adjoining John Chisum's range until they were moved to Arizona. When the Hash Knife closed out in 1900, Mossman went into business for

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Hunt, Frazier. Cap Mossman: Last of the Great Cowmen. New York: Hastings House, 1951.

Prichard, Stuart. "Burt "Cap" Mossman Made Mark in the West," Old Timers' Review, Spring 1985, p. 4, 17.

Shinkle, James D. Reminiscences of Roswell Pioneers. Roswell, New Mexico: Hall-Poorbaugh Press, Inc., 1966.

Shinkle, James D. Robert E. Casey and the Ranch on the Hondo. Roswell, New Mexico: Hall-Poorbaugh Press, 1970.

Williams, Ernestine Chesser. "Diamond A Ranch part of area history," Roswell (N.M.) Daily Record, May 11, 1987, p. 7.

See continuation sheet

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 # _____

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 13 513740 3690080
 Zone Easting Northing

C

B
 Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

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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himself. Soon thereafter, the governor of Arizona, knowing Mossman's reputation for putting down lawlessness as a ranch boss and a deputy sheriff, asked him to help form and captain a troop of Arizona Rangers to be patterned after the famous Texas Rangers. After a successful stint in Arizona law enforcement which gave him his nickname, Mossman returned to the cattle business, eventually becoming in 1925 a part owner and general manager of the Diamond A Cattle Company. Although a cattleman, he added sheep to the enterprise which he managed for the next twenty years.

The large rock house and the bunkhouse were built in the late 1880's or early 1890's. An adobe ranch house which had been the headquarters is said to have washed away in 1893. For many years the rock house was occupied by ranch managers; now it has been divided into several units for ranch hands. Although Mossman's Roswell home is listed on the National Register as contributing to the Roswell Historic District, these ranch buildings are the only documented properties associated with his ranching career in the Roswell vicinity.

HISTORY OF THE RANCH AFTER THE PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Diamond A ranch was bought in 1941 by the J.P. White family, who did not continue to use the brand, but ran large herds of both sheep and cattle. Many acres of permanent pasture and a pecan orchard were planted. More recently, several acres have been devoted to vineyards. The ranch is currently owned by Phelps Anderson.

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Verbal Boundary Description

Begin at point A as shown on the sketch map and proceed to point B along a line (AB) which is ten feet from the furthest extension of the facade of the ranch house. From point B proceed to point C along line BC which runs ten feet from the farthest extension of the facade of the ranch house. From point C proceed to point D along line CD which runs ten feet from the facade of the ranch house. From point D proceed along line DE which runs ten feet from the facade of the ranch house to point E. From point E proceed to point F along line EF to which runs ten feet from the facade of the bunkhouse. From point F proceed to point back to the starting point along a line (AF) which passes ten feet from the facade of the ranch house.

Boundary Justification

These buildings are surrounded by unplatted land. There are no other significant buildings to be included within the boundary. The boundaries have been drawn to encompass both buildings and a small strip of contiguous land.

Diamond A Ranch
Historic Resources of
Roswell, New Mexico

