NPS Form 10-900-a (3-82)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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1. <u>Name</u>: NAN Ranch, survey numbers 16,17,32-40

2. Location: approximately 2 miles north of Dwyer (Faywood) and 4/10 of a mile east of Highway 61

4. <u>Owner</u>: W.B. Hinton, NAN Ranch, Route 15, Box 1425, Faywood, N.M. 88034

7. Description: Photos 58-63; map 14. At the southwest corner of the complex, a large courtyard, 240' by 180', is formed by the Brockman House Compound (survey # 16, described below), the McElroy House (#17), the servants quarters and bath house (#39) and a seven-and-a-half foot wall. To the east of this courtyard is a bunkhouse (#38) and to the north are a gardener's house (#40), a foreman's house (#37) and a small cottage. Beyond these residential buildings to the north and east are the service and farm buildings including two barns (#s32,36), two multi-vehicle garages (#33), grain silos (#36), a blacksmiths shop and power plant (#35) and a chicken house and other small sheds (#34).

Small concrete irrigation gutters radiate from the original irrigation ditch constructed by John Brockman and now lined with concrete which passes through the complex. There is extensive landscaping including Italian and Arizona cypress, cedar, cottonwoods and mulberry trees, privet hedges and roses, hollyhocks, iris and English Ivy which is not described in more detail here because a separate nomination addressing the historic significance of this landscaping is being prepared by landscape architect Baker Morrow. The first number given in the following descriptions are the field survey numbers which are keyed to map 15.

16. John Brockman House Compound. Brockman House: photo 59; ca. 1880; 2-story section at SE corner of compound with L-shaped plan, 1-story sections on south, east and north sides; foundation unknown; stuccoed adobe; asphalt shingled gable roofs with wall dormers; 6/6 double hung windows, wood casement windows probably added in remodeling ca. 1928. Ranch Caretaker's House: west side of the compound; 1928; concrete foundation; stuccoed walls; asphalt single gable roof with hipped porch and minor additions; 6/6 double hung windows with concrete sills. In 1928 designated for foreman and married employees.

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17. John T. McElroy House; photo 58; Trost and **Trost** architects; 1928; Spanish Colonial Revival; L-shaped **plan**; concrete foundation; stuccoed walls; red clay tile gable, hipped and shed roofs; wood casement windows, 6/6 double hung windows some with round heads; double and single doors; wrought iron lamps and grills, cast Solomonic columns, exposed wooden lintels, posts and double corbel bracket capitals (zapatas).

32. Storage Barn; concrete slab; wood frame and **stucco**; corrugated metal gable roof; sliding windows and lar**ge doors**. Small shed due west has same materials.

33. Garages: a six-car and a four-car garage with the same materials as #32 except asphalt shingle roofing.

34. Chicken House: same materials as #32, except wood casement windows and single doors.

35. Blacksmith Shop/Power Plant; photo 63; same materials as #32 except tall (ca. 4') moniter roof with vents, 6/6 double hung windows; single doors, one with shed roofed porch with wooden Salomonic columns.

36. Cattle Barn; photo 62; same materials as #32. Corrals of concrete posts and pipe rails. Slaughter House, due north: same materials except walls concrete up to ca. 4', 6/6 double hung windows and single doors in d/w/w/d symmetry. Two concrete grain silos with conical metal roof due south.

37. Foreman's House; photo 61; faintly Bungalow style; concrete foundation; (frame) stucco walls; asphalt shingle gabled roof with moderate overhang, exposed rafters wooden brackets; 6/6 double hung windows; large sun porch.

38. Bunk House; long single file plan; concrete foundation; frame stucco; corrugated metal shed roof; 4/4 double hung windows; two hinged garage doors, 7 single doors. Designated in 1928 for cowboys.

39. Servants Quarters; 2-story, 3-car garage first floor, quarters second floor; concrete foundation; frame stucco; asphalt shingle gable roof exposed rafters; 1/1 double hung windows. Designated in 1928 for Negro servants but used today for Texas A&M summer archeological teams which

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conduct digs on the ranch. To the south: bath house, laundry and smoke house. To the southwest: wooden arbor and swimming pool, photo 60, 20'x60', lined with white tile and surrounded by red clay tile deck.

8. <u>Significance</u>: This property, first under John Brockman and later as the NAN ranch, has been the premier ranch on the Mimbres since the earliest days of settlement, and as such it meets Criterion A as a prominent reminder of that early settlement and of the importance of agriculture in the valley's economy. The buildings also meet Criterion C as good, well preserved examples of a variety of architectural styles and types: the Brockman house as an example of the mixing of the Anglo-American I-house type with the New Mexico Vernacular tradition, the McElroy House as an outstanding Spanish Colonial Revival style house, and the remaining buildings as example of the more typical utilitarian construction at New Mexican ranches during the period.

Brockman, a customs agent at Mowry City ten miles to the south, began developing this property in the late 1860s and, by 1869, had a mill operating and large fields under cultivation. In 1881, he patented his homestead claim to the property. Three sides of the Brockman compound (# 16) appear to have been built some time before 1883 when archeologist Adolph Bandelier on his visit to the valley described Brockman's house as a plazita. An 1890 report in the Silver City Enterprise, under the heading "A Model Ranch," noted that during the previous year Brockman had 18 acres of alfalfa, 5 of peaches, pears, cherries and grapes and 1500 apple trees under cultivation and had produced 140 tons of alfalfa, 150 tons of corn, 30,000 pounds of peaches and grapes and 18,000 of apples, a bad year compared to the 50,000 pounds of apples produced the preceding year. A report on the 1902 flood noted the "old Brockman ranch" among the three principal places on the Mimbres.

In 1901, Brockman had sold the property to the NAN Ranch and Cattle Company. The NAN ranch had developed during the 1880s and 90s up Gallinas Canyon which empties into the Mimbres River just above Brockman's homestead. The new Owner moved the NAN headquarters to the Brockman house. In 1927, the NAN was purchased by John T. McElroy of El Paso, a Texas cattleman with interests in the stockyards and Peyton Packing Company in El Paso. McElroy and his wife engaged the United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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El Paso architectural firm Trost and Trost and the following year set about remaking the headquarters. The old Brockman place was refurbished for use as their residence while the new construction preceded. The center piece was to be a new house which would cost \$100,000 out of the anticipated \$300,000 worth of improvements. A large courtyard attached to the McElroy and Brockman houses boasts elaborate landscaping and a swimming pool. Sixteen additional buildings were erected in 1928 including additional residences and a bunkhouse for employees, barns, garages, a laundry, power plant, slaughter house, and chicken and smoke houses. When the property changed hands in 1945, the NAN Ranch totaled 100,000 acres and the Silver City Enterprise called the headquarters "one of the show places of Southwest New Mexico." Landscape architect Baker Morrow, who has compiled the Registry of Historic Landscapes for the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division, based on extensive field survey, has called the NAN headquarter the best country place developed in the state during the 1920s.

The Brockman House built about 1880 combines a two-story section which appears to be based on the I-house type of the eastern United States, while the one-story portions which complete the courtyard continue the Spanish-Mexican courtyard house tradition. As with the similar Perrault Compound (# 3) six miles to the north, this fascinating mixture of Angloand Hispanic-American types deserves further study.

The McElroy house and the other buildings of 1928 were designed by Henry C. Trost, head of Trost and Trost, the leading architectural firm in west Texas. New Mexico and Arizona during the first three decades of this century. The house is a fine essay in picturesque house design with high arched-ceiling public rooms radiating off of the octagonal sun room and the asymmetrical massing manipulated to provide each bedroom with light on two sides, a sleeping porch and a small attached patio. The wrought iron, cast stone and exposed wood details are used to accent and balance the careful picturesque compositions of all sides. It is the best architect-designed house, and arguably the best designed building of any type, built in Grant County during this period; the only comparable quality buildings are Trost's own Silver City National Bank of 1923 and the Grant County Courthouse of 1930. The house along with its landscaped grounds and high-walled courtyard with swimming pool

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represent a conspicuous degree of luxury compared to modest vernacular architecture seen elsewhere in the Mimbres valley. The other buildings of 1928 represent the activities, and number and type of personnel on a large Southwestern ranch of the period. Away from the McElroy House, there is a gradual decline in the intensity of landscaping and in the quality of building materials and details which reflects an historic social hierarchy of owner, guests, caretaker and servants. ranch foreman, married hands and cowboys.

10. Geographical Data: Approximate Acreage: 18 Quadrangle Name: Dwyer, N.M. Scale: 1: 62,500 UTM References: I 13 223300 3616650 J 13 223650 361**6650** K 13 223650 3616250 L 13 223300 3616250 Verbal boundary: A rectangle, roughly 750' by 1000', as shown in map 14 defined by two north/south lines, one ten feet to the east of the silos and one ten feet west of the McElroy house; and two east/west lines, one ten feet south of the McElroy House and one ten feet north of the blacksmiths shop. Since this is an unplatted area, this boundary has been created to include only the historic buildings at the NAN ranch headquarters.



14. NAN Ranch Historic Resources of the Mimbres Valley, 1987

N - Photos - Not to scale

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Clyde A. Bloodgood House

Luciana B. Grijalva House

Menard-Galaz House

Acklin Store

Antonio Torres House

Mauricio Portillo Homestead

Jesus Valencia House

George O. Perrault Compound

San Juan Teacherage

NAN Ranch

Joyce Biebelle Route 15, Box 1850 San Lorenzo, NM 88057

John Justus Box 38 Peralta, NM 87042

Robert Galaz Route 15, Box 2375 San Lorenzo, NM 88057

Santa Fe Mountaineering Center Route 4, Box 34c Santa Fe, NM 87501

Antonio Torres 1310 E. Belmont Ave. Anaheim, Ca. 98205

Santiago & Bersabe V. Hinojosa Box 121 Hanover, NM 88041

Refugio Valencia San Lorenzo, NM 88057

Charles Disert Route 15, Box 800 San Lorenzo, NM 88057

Charles Disert Route 15, Box 800 San Lorenzo, NM 88057

W.B. Hinton, NAN Ranch Route 15, Box 1425 Faywood, NM 88034 NPS Form 10-900-a (8-88)

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