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INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Island Field Ranch House

other names/site number 115-3200-0001

2. Location

street & number NE/4, SE/4, SE/4, SW/4 - 35-18-4 not for publication

city or town Lincolnvillie vicinity

state Kansas code KS county Marion code 115 zip code 66858

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Ramon Powers SHPO March 17, 1995
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Kansas State Historical Society
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the 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:)

Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper Entered in the National Register 5.11.95 Date of Action

Island Field Ranch House
Name of Property

Marion County, Kansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic; single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic; single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Clapboard; rectangle t-shaped, cross gable roof

Other: Limestone; rectangle; gable roof

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone; limestone

walls Stone; limestone, wood, clapboard

roof Asphalt shingles

other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Agriculture

Period of Significance

c.1897

Significant Dates

c.1897

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

G.H. Wight

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

G.H. Wight

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Kansas State Historical Society

Island Field Ranch House
Name of Property

Marion County, Kansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	4
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6	7	8	2	4	0
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4	2	5	6	0	8	0
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Zone Easting Northing

3

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Zone Easting Northing

4

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 See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

Michele Risdal, National Register Assistant
name/title Martha Hagedorn-Krass; Architectural Historian

organization Kansas State Historical Society date March 17, 1995

street & number 120 West Tenth telephone 913 296-7080

city or town Topeka state KS zip code 66612

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Roy and Judy Houdyshell

street & number Route 1, Box 64 telephone _____

city or town Lincolnvillle state Kansas zip code 66858

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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The Island Field Ranch House (c. 1897) is located in Clear Creek Township, Marion County Kansas, near Antelope (pop. 15). The house is located in NE/4, SE/4, SE/4, SW/4-35-18-4. The two story ranch house sits on a rusticated limestone foundation and is surmounted by a T-shaped, cross gabled roof. The building has an eastern facade orientation with overall measurements of approximately thirty-six feet east to west and sixty-six feet north to south.

A stone house (c. 1890) with a full basement stands north of the house and is included with the nomination. The limestone block house sit on a limestone foundation and is surmounted by a gable roof. A wooden fascia board defines the roof line. Large finished quoins mark the corners of the gable walls. Limestone lintels and thresholds surmount and underscore each door respectively. The building has a southern facade orientation that is pierced by a door. A window pierces the south and north elevations. The building has been repointed with concrete. A broken stone wall projects from the west elevation. The Wight's lived in this house while the wooden ranch house was being built.

Other outbuildings form part of the ranch complex. North of the house is a granary. A wash house lies west of the house. Southeast of the wash house is a pump house built c. 1950 by Alvin Loveless. Before the pump house was completed, water was pumped down from the south hill. A twelve by thirty-two one-story wooden chicken coop stands west of the wash house. Two limestone hay sheds with cement foundations stand north of the house. The sheds have a southern facade orientation with measurements of sixteen by ninety-six and twenty by forty-eight.

The overall rectangular form of the main house is surmounted by an asphalt shingled, T-shaped, cross gable roof. Decorative detailing is not emphasized on doors, windows or wall surfaces. Remnants of the Victorian period appear in the house with its projecting bay and canted walls. Wooden clapboard siding sheathes the building. Two brick chimney rise from the east/west gable roof.

A porch originally covered the east facade and eastern bay of the south elevation. A c. 1930 photograph indicates an indeterminate number of Tuscan columns supporting a gently sloping roof. The porch was removed c. 1940. The southern bay of the west elevation is comprised of a porch. The porch was enclosed to create three utility rooms c. 1955 and was expanded around the corner. A 1943 photograph indicates the porch originally had four columns supporting a sloping roof. There are five entrances to the house. Two entrances pierce the eastern bay of the south elevation and the east facade while three entrances pierce west elevation of the porch. The entrances on the west elevation became non-accessible when the porch was enclosed.

Fenestration is comprised of 1/1 double hung sash windows in singular groupings. A bay window fenestrates the eastern bay of the south elevation. The northeast and southeast corner of the building are canted. The cant is decorated with a 1/1 double hung sash window and a hood.

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The interiors of the first and second floor retain their original floorplan and detailing. Pine woodwork is employed for all treatments on the first and second levels. The first floor is arranged around a central hall, there is no importance placed on the staircase, which is located behind a pocket door on the south wall of the central hallway. The second floor is reached by a double return staircase. All rooms on the second floor are accessed by a double load hallway that curves at its terminus.

Seven rooms, three of which were originally the west porch comprise the first floor. Entry into the house occurs on the south wall of the sitting room or the east wall of the parlor. The trim surrounding the windows and doors is a molded pilaster finish design. This is defined by thin pilasters rising from baseblocks, meeting the head blocks at the head of the door or window, with the entire casing being held together by a molded head casing. The molded profiles of the pilaster are bead-and-cove. At the top corners of each door and window are corner blocks incised with a wheat motif. All doors have their original locksets and knobs. Tall plain baseboards with a bead-and-cove top define the floor line.

A wooden pedestal colonnade divides the northeast parlor from the southeast parlor. The colonnade visually divides the floor space into rooms. The colonnade is composed of two Tuscan columns placed on paneled pedestals. A bay window fenestrates the south wall of the parlor.

A dining room, kitchen and back entry way are located toward the back of the house. The door and window surrounds are simpler than the woodwork in the parlor and sitting room. The surrounds are defined by thin wood pilasters rising to meet the head casing. The corner blocks are defined with bull eye's. Plain baseboards define the floor.

A double return staircase in the hallway rises to the second floor. The western room off the stairs was built at a later date than the rest of the upstairs. It has deteriorated because the materials used to build the room are of inferior quality. The east hallway leads to three bedrooms, dressing room, bathroom and linen closet. The trim surrounding the doors on the east side starts at the base blocks and rises to the headcasing. The molded profiles are bead-and-cove. The corner blocks are decorated with a simple incised floral motif. The window surrounds are composed exactly like the door surrounds except the pilasters rise from the sill. The baseboards, which carry throughout the second floor, are tall with a bead-and-cove top. All doors have their original locksets and knobs. The rooms off the corridors all have the same molding and trim for the doors and windows.

The interior of the first and second floor of the house have a great deal of visual continuity. The public rooms on the first floor, though, have more detail. All room's carry the decorative theme of corner blocks, either a floral motif or bull eye's.

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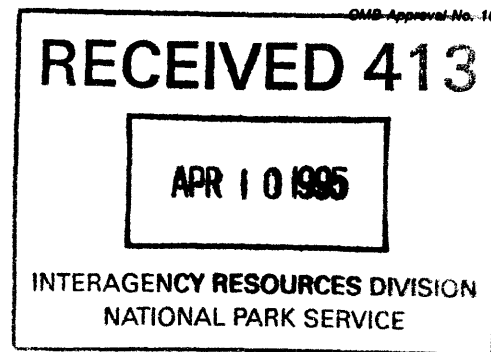
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The Island Field Ranch House and its ancillary stone house are significant in that they remain as part of the nucleus which once was comprised of fourteen buildings and structures. The buildings are intact to a high degree. The dwelling's front porch has been removed and the north and west elevations porch on the was enclosed. To the west of the house stands a stone horse barn, a large cement cattle tank, and a water well. A stone wall which extended along the highway bordering the ranch was destroyed in a 1983 road widening project. The Island Ranch House retains a high amount of architectural integrity as an example of a Flint Hill's wooden ranch house.

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The Island Field Ranch House (c. 1897) is being nominated to the National Register under criterion B for its historical association with G. H. Wight, a farmer/stockman and under criterion C for its architectural significance as a T-shaped, cross gabled farmhouse. The nomination also includes a gable roofed, limestone block house (c. 1890). The ranch house and the ancillary stone house were once the nucleus for the Island Field Ranch.

Situated in the center of the Flint Hills, a distinctive agricultural sub-region of the North American Plains, lies the Island Field Ranch. The Flint Hills are an area of rolling-to-rough limestone hills that nearly bisect east central Kansas from north to south. The Flint Hills constitute the largest remaining expanse of tall grass prairie on the continent. The thin soils of the uplands, largely unbroken, are blanketed with native tall grasses: predominately big bluestem, and also little bluestem, Indian grass, and switch grass. This expanse is dissected by a myriad of rivers and creeks, the bottoms of which are richly soiled, containing bands of timber, and is well adapted to raising feed grains and forages.

The Flint Hills of Kansas, along with their southern extension, the Osage Hills of Oklahoma, contain nearly all of the nation's extant native tall grass prairie. In pre-settlement days this prairie stretched east as far as Indiana and Kentucky, north into Canada, and south into Texas. Today only one percent remains, preserved initially from the settler's plow by geology--extensive strata of limestone lay just below, or in many places jut out from, the shallow soils of much of the Flint Hills uplands--and later, among the potentially arable sections of the Flint Hills, by economics--a system of grazing transient stocker cattle during the spring and summer, then in the fall sending them on to market as feeders or fattening them on corn raised in the rich bottom lands of the streams that flow through the Flint Hills.

The ranch is located in Clear Creek Township, Marion County, near Antelope, Kansas. Marion County is one of the oldest counties in Kansas; having existed, with changing boundaries, since the first territorial legislative of 1855. The property of the ranch was first homesteaded by T.J. Wise on February 17, 1866. After returning from the Pikes Peak Gold Rush, T.J. Wise built the first cabin in Marion County in 1858, which was west of the present house near East Creek.

The ranch was established by G. H. (Gideon Henry) Wight (1859-1936) in 1884 with his purchase of 120 acres in the SW/4 35-18-4 from L. Witridge. As the ranch gradually grew larger, between 1885 and 1895, Wight increased his acreage from 200 to 1505 acres. By 1917 the ranch included 2040 acres, most of this land was clustered around the original tract in Section 35.

Wight emigrated with his parents from Toledo, Ohio to Clear Creek Township in 1872. Wight married Rebecca Ann Hammer in 1882. In 1884, he bought a farm near Antelope and lived in two rooms of all that was left of the first log cabin built by T.J. Wise. The couple had three children: Henrietta, Alvin and William. For many years the family lived in a two-story, log house along Clear Creek that dated from the 1860s. Rebecca Ann passed away in August 1891, Wight

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married Amelia Utting in 1893. In 1897 Wight built the frame ranch house and stone spring house that are the subject of this nomination.

The house provided a new home for the Wights, as well as lodging for the ranch hands, who quartered on the second floor and also in small houses south and east of the ranch nucleus. Local Indians occasionally stopped at the ranch to collect the dead cattle that G.H. Wight saved and donated to the Indian community. In 1921 the Wights left the ranch and moved into a bungalow they had constructed in Antelope.

Wight was a farmer/stockman who dramatically increased his land holdings in Clear Creek Township over a thirty year period, and invested heavily in the cattle industry. Wight's cattle herd grew gradually. The census reports show 196 head in 1895, 487 head in 1905, and 700 head in 1915. The value of animals sold in these years ranged from \$6,000 to \$28,000 to \$20,000 respectively.

Wheat and corn were big producers in 1905 and 1915, Wight planted 75 acres in corn and 300 acres in wheat in 1905 and 200 acres in both corn and wheat in 1915. Wight established a large orchard around 1895, with almost 200 non-bearing apple, pear, peach, plum and cherry trees cited in the 1895 census.

Between 1885 and 1895 the value of ranch increased from \$4,000 to \$21,000. The ranch was valued at \$50,000 in 1905, the buildings were valued at \$10,000. In 1895 the farm was fenced with stone, board, hedge and wire. In addition to being a major land owner, G.H. Wight was also a active member of the community. In the fall of 1926, G.H. Wight bought the Methodist Church in Lincolnville and moved it to Antelope.

The most imposing building on the Island Ranch is the large two story wooden ranch house built c. 1897 under the direction of G.H. Wight. The rectangular form of the main house is surmounted by an asphalt shingled, T-shaped, cross gable roof. Decorative detailing is not emphasized on doors, windows or wall surfaces. Remnants of the Victorian period do appear in the house with its projecting bay and canted walls. Wooden clapboard siding sheathes the building.

The Island Ranch House is an example of a late nineteenth century, wooden farmhouse found in Kansas. The exterior simplicity of the wooden, T-shape house allows for the incorporation of Victorian embellishment. The embellishment can either be heavy or light. Fenestration is always symmetrical. With the ability to adorn the exterior of the house in varying amounts of decoration, this type of wooden house typifies turn of the century wooden Kansas farmhouses.

A limestone block house (c. 1890) stands north of the house. The limestone block house sits on a limestone foundation and is surmounted by a gable roof. Large quoins mark the corners of the

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gable walls. Limestone lintels and thresholds surmount and underscore each door respectively. The Wight's lived in this house while the wooden ranch house was being built. The native stone, gable roof dwelling is traditional of vernacular stone buildings found in the Flint Hills of Kansas.

Other outbuildings form part of the ranch complex. North of the house is a granary. A wash house lies west of the house. Southeast of the wash house is a pump house built c. 1950 by Alvin Loveless. Before the pump house was completed, water was pumped down from the south hill. A twelve by thirty-two one-story wooden chicken coop stands west of the wash house. Two limestone hay sheds with cement foundations stand north of the house. The sheds have a southern facade orientation with measurements of sixteen by ninety-six and twenty by forty-eight.

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SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Kansas State Agricultural Census, 1875-1915.

Federal Census of Marion County, 1880.

Houdyshell, Judy. "Island Field Ranch House." National Register nomination draft, 1992.

Map of Clear Creek Township; 1902, 1917, 1933.

Nienstedt, Marjorie. Antelope History.

Marion County History Book, p.117.

Tax Roll of Clear Creek, 1889.

Vajnar, Jane. Marion County Record. "Town has Booming Past." Summer, 1991, p.7.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Island Ranch House is the nominated two acre tract NE/4, SE/4, SE/4, SW/4-35-18-4, which is part of the larger ranch, in the vicinity of Lincolville, Marion County, Kansas. The nominated area is comprised of a two acre tract that encompasses the ranch house and a stone house. The tract of land is bounded by Highway 77 on the east, East Creek on the west, and by pasture land to the north and south.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The Island Ranch House is located near Lincolville in Marion County, Kansas. The area is two acre tract located in NE/4, SE/4, SE/4, SW/4-35-18-4. The two acre tract encompasses the ranch house and stone house that comprise the nucleus of the ranch, this tract is part of a larger acreage that is historically associated with the ranch.