

Historic Preservation Research Office

Structure/Site Information Form

IDENTIFICATION 1

Street Address: Off Utah Highway 35 near the Diamond Bar X Ranch, Wasatch County, Utah UTM: 12 489320 4491840 Woodland
 Name of Structure: Lester F. and Margaret Stewart Hewlett Ranch House T. 3 S R. 7 E S. 11
 Present Owner: Margaret S. Hewlett
 Owner Address: 1192 E. 2700 South Salt Lake City, Utah 84106

Year Built (Tax Record): _____ Effective Age: _____ Tax #: 945
 Legal Description: _____ Kind of Building: _____

This house is located on an 84.77-acre parcel of land, but the property intended for inclusion in this nomination is only that which immediately surrounds the house. An approximate description of that smaller parcel of land is as follows: Commencing 450 ft S and 100 ft E of NW corner of Sec 11 T3S R7E, thence S 150 ft, E 150 ft, N 150 ft, W 150 ft to beginning. Less than one acre

STATUS/USE 2

Original Owner: Lester F. and Margaret S. Hewlett Construction Date: 1929-30 Demolition Date: _____
 Original Use: residence Present Use: residence

Building Condition: _____ Integrity: _____ Preliminary Evaluation: _____ Final Register Status: _____
 Excellent Site Unaltered Significant Not of the National Landmark District
 Good Ruins Minor Alterations Contributory Historic Period National Register Multi-Resou
 Deteriorated Major Alterations Not Contributory State Register Thematic

DOCUMENTATION 3

Photography: Date of Slides: 1984 Slide No.: _____ Date of Photographs: 1984 Photo No.: _____
 Views: Front Side Rear Other Views: Front Side Rear Other

Research Sources:
 Abstract of Title Sanborn Maps Newspapers U of U Library
 Plat Records/Map City Directories Utah State Historical Society BYU Library
 Tax Card & Photo Biographical Encyclopedias Personal Interviews USU Library
 Building Permit Obituary Index LDS Church Archives SLC Library
 Sewer Permit County & City Histories LDS Genealogical Society Other

Bibliographical References (books, articles, records, interviews, old photographs and maps, etc.):

Epperson, David H. "The Settlement of Pine Valley and Historical Roots of the Stewart-Hewlett Ranch." Unpublished report, 1985. Available at Utah State Historical Society Library.
 Christensen, Marlene Stewart Hewlett. "The Lester Franklin Hewlett Cabin." Unpublished report, n.d.

4 Architect/Builder: none/Fred Sorenson and Joe Larson

ARCHITECTURE Building Materials: log

Building Type/Style: Bungalow variation

Description of physical appearance & significant architectural features:
(Include additions, alterations, ancillary structures, and landscaping if applicable)

The Lester F. and Margaret Stewart Hewlett Ranch House is a one-story log cabin with a pyramidal hip roof and a concrete foundation. The logs in the walls were squared on their top and bottom surfaces in order to provide a tight, even fit that would not require chinking. The corners are joined by lap notching. The main doorway, located on the northern facade, is set off-center and is flanked on one side by a single double hung window and on the other side by a horizontal band of five windows, which wraps around the corner and includes seven windows on the west facade. This band of windows illuminates an L-shaped, enclosed interior "porch," which surrounds the central living room and kitchen on the north and west sides. Log walls with windows and doors separate this porch from the living room and kitchen. A portion of the porch serves as the dining area. Its function as a porch is realized only during the summer months when the windows are swung open. This arrangement of a central living section surrounded by "porches" is very similar to that of the nearby Charles B. Stewart Ranch House, the home of Margaret Hewlett's parents, which was built in 1918-19.

Other interior features of the house include two bedrooms, a bathroom, and a centrally located cobblestone fireplace with an arched opening and a log
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5 Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date: 1929-30

Built in 1929-30, the Lester F. and Margaret Stewart Hewlett Ranch House is one of eight significant buildings on Stewart Ranch, a well preserved turn-of-the-century "recreational ranch" that served for over 50 years as both a working ranch and a recreational summer retreat for its owners, prominent business and professional men from Salt Lake City. Stewart Ranch is probably the best preserved of the recreational ranches that were established on the western edge of the Uinta Mountains, a popular location for such ranches because of both its wilderness appeal and its proximity to Salt Lake City, only about sixty miles away. The ranch was established c.1902 by four Stewart brothers--William M., Samuel W., Charles B., and Barnard J.--who maintained their homes and professions in Salt Lake City while supervising and, to various degrees, participating in the operations of the ranch. The Stewarts sold the ranch in 1931 to Lester Hewlett, son-in-law of Charles, and his brother, Verner, who operated it for 24 years as a successful dairy ranch. During their ownership they, like the Stewarts, continued to live and work in Salt Lake City and used the ranch as both a working ranch and a recreational summer retreat.

The formation of Stewart Ranch began in 1900 when William M. Stewart purchased 160 acres of land in the northern end of Pine Valley and encouraged his three brothers to also purchase property in the valley. Eventually, virtually the entire valley and much of the surrounding land was bought by the Stewart brothers and incorporated into Stewart Ranch, which, at its peak, totalled 2,262 acres. Cattle and sheep were raised on the ranch, as well as hay and grain for feed, and a ranch foreman was hired to manage the operations since the Stewarts had homes and occupations in Salt Lake City and were away from the ranch most of the year. Although Stewart Ranch was a working ranch and a business venture, for the Stewarts it served perhaps more importantly as

Lester F. and Margaret Stewart Hewlett Ranch House
Description Continued:

mantle. A kitchen addition was built on the rear of the cabin in the 1960s, but it does not detract from the original appearance of the cabin because it, too, is constructed of logs, and it is relatively small in scale.

A small log cabin located to the east of this cabin was built several years after the main cabin to accommodate the Hewlett's growing family, but, since that cabin is not yet fifty years old, it is not included in this nomination.

Lester F. and Margaret Stewart Hewlett Ranch House
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summer. The same holds true for the Hewletts, who purchased the ranch in 1931, though under their ownership the ranching activity was given greater emphasis.

Lester and Verner Hewlett purchased almost all of the 2,262-acre Stewart Ranch in September 1931, a few months after the death of Barnard J. Stewart, who had previously taken over the entire ownership and operation of the ranch from his brothers. A 25-acre parcel of land surrounding the Barnard H. Stewart Ranch House was retained by Barnard's widow and children, and a 15-acre parcel around the Charles B. Stewart Ranch House was kept by his family. The Hewletts' purchase of the ranch not only saved it from forfeiture and sale, but also saved their own ranch homes, built in 1929, from the same fate, since they were located on lands owned by Barnard and encumbered with mortgages.

A few years after purchasing the Stewart Ranch and converting it into a dairy ranch, the Hewletts significantly expanded the ranch operations by erecting a large dairy barn, calf sneds, and sheep sneds, and by increasing the size of their herd. With the new, larger facilities and other improvements in the way of selective breeding and more careful management, the Stewart Ranch became one of the top four milk producers in Summit and Salt Lake Counties by the late 1930s.³ With approximately 100 head of dairy cows it was probably one of the largest dairy ranches as well. Stewart Ranch was one of a number of dairy ranches in Summit and Salt Lake counties that joined together to form Hiland Dairy, a cooperative venture that is now one of the largest dairies in Utah. The Hewletts switched from Guernsey cows to the hardier Holsteins in the early 1940s, and at about that same time changed the name of the ranch to the Hewlett Ranch. In addition to the dairy operation, the Hewletts continued to raise sheep and hay on the ranch, and beef cattle, too, for a time. The Hewlett Ranch continued to operate until 1955, when the Hewletts sold out the ranching operation to Edward Clyde, the current owner. The barn and all of the other ranch facilities are still in use as part of the Diamond Bar X Ranch.

On July 4, 1929, Lester and Margaret Stewart Hewlett started their cabin in Pine Valley, Utah on the Stewart Ranch. Margaret Stewart was the daughter of Charles B. Stewart, one of the four Stewart brothers who established the Stewart Ranch around 1903. She grew up spending many of her summers on the ranch with her family. In 1919, she married Lester F. Hewlett, and as their family grew they felt the need for a cabin of their own on the ranch. They hired Fred Sorenson and Joe Larson, contractors from Salt Lake City, to construct this cabin, which took approximately one year to build, although very little, if any, work was done during the winter months. The cabin was built with whole pine logs which were cut from the surrounding area. They were dragged by horse team to the site and partially shaved of their bark.

In addition to his activities with the Stewart Ranch, Lester Hewlett was a successful businessman in Salt Lake City and a prominent leader in a number of LDS church programs. He was born in 1896 to Orson H. and Emily Anderson Hewlett and attended schools in Salt Lake City. In January 1919, he became office manager of Hewlett Brothers Company, his family's successful business which dealt in preserves, syrups, fountain supplies, etc. He later served as vice-president of the company for a number of years. Lester and his father were involved in the establishment of the LDS church's Deseret Industries program, which was introduced as part of the Church Welfare Program in 1939 as a way to provide work for unfortunate and physically handicapped members of

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Lester F. and Margaret Stewart Hewlett Ranch House
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the church. In 1938, President Heber J. Grant of the LDS church called Lester to serve as president of the world famous Mormon Tabernacle Choir. As president he made all tour arrangements and was in charge of all fund raising for the choir. He served in that position until his death in 1962.

Margaret Ann Romney Stewart Hewlett was born October 5, 1899 in Salt Lake City to Charles B. and Katherine Romney Stewart. She was very talented musically, having inherited much of her ability from her mother, who was the first and for many years the only woman Tabernacle organist. Margaret, too, was involved with the Tabernacle Choir, serving as a member for almost 50 years.

The ranch house is not the only house associated with Lester and Margaret Hewlett. Their houses in Salt Lake City at 653 South 1300 East and at 1470 Military Way are still standing, and the latter would probably be the house most closely associated with their lives. This ranch house, however, is the building most closely associated with their activities at the Stewart/Hewlett Ranch.