

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Swan Land and Cattle Company Headquarters

AND/OR COMMON Swan Land and Cattle Company Headquarters

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Wyoming Route 313

CITY, TOWN Chugwater VICINITY OF _____ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 001

STATE Wyoming CODE 56 COUNTY Platte CODE 031

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	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: office

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME John W. Burns

STREET & NUMBER
P.O. Box 97

CITY, TOWN Wheatland VICINITY OF _____ STATE Wyoming 82201

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Platte County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Wheatland STATE Wyoming

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Historic Sites Survey

DATE 1964 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Historic Sites Survey

CITY, TOWN Washington STATE D.C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" 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

Of the more than one million acres owned at one time, 5,614 remain. They are no longer administered from the old Swan Lake and Cattle Company Headquarters, which now consists of four buildings facing east in a row towards the site of an old stagecoach road no longer in existence. The northernmost of these is the general store, built in 1913 with white clapboard siding and black corner boards. The 52' x 90' structure has a heavy wood plank porch across the main facade which is badly decayed. The red asphalt gable roof is pierced by three chimneys, one of which is crumbling, and a shed-roof dormer in the loft.

The second most northerly building is the manager's house. This 31' x 40' structure has a 25' x 43' addition to its rear. A gable roof is on the main building with a shed roof on the addition and a hip roof on the front porch and sun room. All are covered by red asphalt shingles. There are several fine details within, but settling has resulted in serious structural damage. Built in 1876, it is presently unoccupied.

South of the manager's house is white clapboard office building presently used by Russell Staats, officer manager for Swan Land and Cattle since 1927. The 1918 office contains the company's complete records from 1927 through the present. The southernmost building is a large red barn, probably built around 1876. The four structures are surrounded by a wire fence surmounted by decorative ironwork. Several large cottonwoods near the buildings were planted in 1888.

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 type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1884

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Swan Land and Cattle Company was one of the several well-known foreign stock companies, which operated in the United States. It was one of the largest cattle companies in the United States and operated for over 70 years.

Organized in Scotland in 1883, with a capital of \$3,000,000, the Swan Land and Cattle Company had over 113,000 head on the books when the severe winter of 1886-1887 struck, reducing the company's herd to about 57,000 in 1887. The company's cattle ranged from Fort Fred Steele, Wyoming, on the west, to Ogallala, Nebraska on the east, and from the Union Pacific Railroad to the Platte River. Its principal range was the Chug and Sybille Creeks, and over the mountains to the Laramie Plains. The company held over 1,000,000 acres of land. Going into bankruptcy after the hard winter of 1886-1887, the company reduced its inventory was was placed under the capable management of John Clay, well-known stockman on the Northern Plains. Under Clay, the company was put on a much sounder basis. The company subsequently reduced its capital, and the cattle herd was cut down to 40,000 in 1893. In 1896, Clay quit. The company continued to run about 40,000 head until 1904 when it went into the sheep business. At the peak of the company's sheep business in 1911, the company ran about 112,000 head. The company continued its operations until 1945, when it began liquidating. The home office and a small parcel of land of old headquarters at Chugwater is still in operation-

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Company Headquarters

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

Beginning at the confluence of Chugwater Creek and Ramsey Ditch, proceed in a southwesterly fashion approximately 2,000' along the eastern bank of Chugwater Creek to a point; thence west approximately 1,500' to a point; thence north 1,000'; thence in a northeasterly direction approximately 450' to a point; thence east approximately 2500' to Chugwater Creek; thence southeasterly along the eastern bank of Chugwater Creek to the point of origin.