

Structure/Site Information Form

IDENTIFICATION 1

Street Address: Off Utah Highway 35 near the Diamond Bar X Ranch, Summit County, Utah. UTM: 12 486160 4489100 Woodland

Name of Structure: Verner O. Hewlett Ranch House T. 3 S R. 7 E S. 16

Present Owner: Barbara M. Smoot
1448 Roxsbury

Owner Address: Salt Lake City, Utah 84108

Year Built (Tax Record): _____ Effective Age: _____ Tax #: _____

Legal Description: Commencing 70° 20' W 2050 ft and N 44° 15' E 32 ft and N 21° 20' W 401 ft from S 1/4 Sec 16 T3S R7E Salt Lake B&M, thence N 21° 20' W 184.7 ft to fence corner on Bench Creek Road, S 73° 0' W 317 ft to center of Provo River, thence down center of river S 24° 53 1/2' E 295 ft, NE'ly 307 ft to beginning 1.71 acres

Kind of Building: _____

STATUS/USE 2

Original Owner: Verner O. 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-Resource
 Deteriorated Major Alterations Not Contributory State Register Thematic

DOCUMENTATION 3

Photography: Date of Slides: 1985 Slide No.: _____ Date of Photographs: 1985 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 Unpublished report, 1985.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.

Hewlett, Venice. Telephone interview with Roger Roper, January 14, 1985, Salt Lake City.

Cooley, Herman. Telephone interview with Roger Roper, January 9, 1985, Woodland, Utah.

Architect/Builder: none/Frank Turnbull

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 Verner O. Hewlett Ranch House is a 1 1/2 log house with a concrete foundation and a hip roof with gable roof crosswings. Although the front entrance is located on the south facade, the east elevation is the most prominent, featuring a large gable roof crosswing with a large, multi-pane picture window. That crosswing was added c. 1930, approximately one year after the cabin was constructed.¹ A smaller gable roof crosswing projects toward the south from the southeast corner of the house. Gable dormers are on both the north and south slopes of the hip roof over the main block. There is a cobblestone chimney on the south slope of the roof. The exterior walls are made of horizontal logs which have been flattened on both their upper and lower surfaces in order fit together snugly. The ends of the logs extend 8-12 inches beyond the corners, creating a rustic appearance. The house is virtually unaltered on the exterior. The interior has recently been remodeled.

There are four other log buildings on the property, of which only the guest house, built c. 1930, is considered to contribute to the significance of the house. The guest house is located to the south of the main house, and it is virtually unaltered. The other three buildings include a garage and two outbuildings, all of which were probably built within the past 50 years.

(See Continuation Sheet)

Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date: 1929-30

Built in 1929-30, the Verner O. 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. Both had built summer homes on the ranch in 1929, Lester near the ranch home of his wife's parents, and Vern on property which the Stewarts had sold to him in the extreme southwestern corner of the 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 (See Continuation Sheet)

Verner O. Hewlett Ranch House
Description Continued:

Notes

¹Telephone interviews with Mrs. Vern Hewlett and Herman Cooley.

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and a business venture, for the Stewarts it served perhaps more importantly as a recreational retreat to which they could bring their families in the summer. The same holds true for the Hewletts, who purchased most of 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 J. 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. Although the ranch had been and still was an important part of the Stewart family's life, Barnard's heirs were forced to sell it because they were unable to assume the financial and operational responsibilities.

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 sheds, and sheep sheds, 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 probably the largest dairy 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.

Vern Hewlett purchased the property for his summer home from Barnard Stewart in the late 1920s. The property is located on the extreme southwestern corner of the ranch on the north bank of the Provo River, which puts it in Summit County instead of Wasatch County, where most of the other Stewart Ranch buildings are located. Vern and his wife, Venice, worked up the design for this house and hired Frank Turnbull, a builder from the nearby town of Woodland, to construct the house.¹ Turnbull, with the help of Herman Cooley, the ranch foreman, and others also built the guest house adjacent to the cabin. Electricity was brought to the house c. 1930, and plumbing was installed several years later. The house was owned by the Hewletts for almost 40 years until just after Vern's death in 1969, when it was sold to Richard and Barbara Smoot, the current owners.

Verner O. Hewlett was born in 1894 to Orson H. and Emily Anderson Hewlett. After attending local public schools and the University of Utah he began working for the family business, Hewlett Brothers Company, manufacturers of jams, jellies, etc. He eventually became president of that company, and also served for a time as president of the Utah Manufacturers Association and as chairman of the General Church Processing and Manufacturing Committee of
(See Continuation Sheet)

Verner O. Hewlett Ranch House
History Continued: p. 3

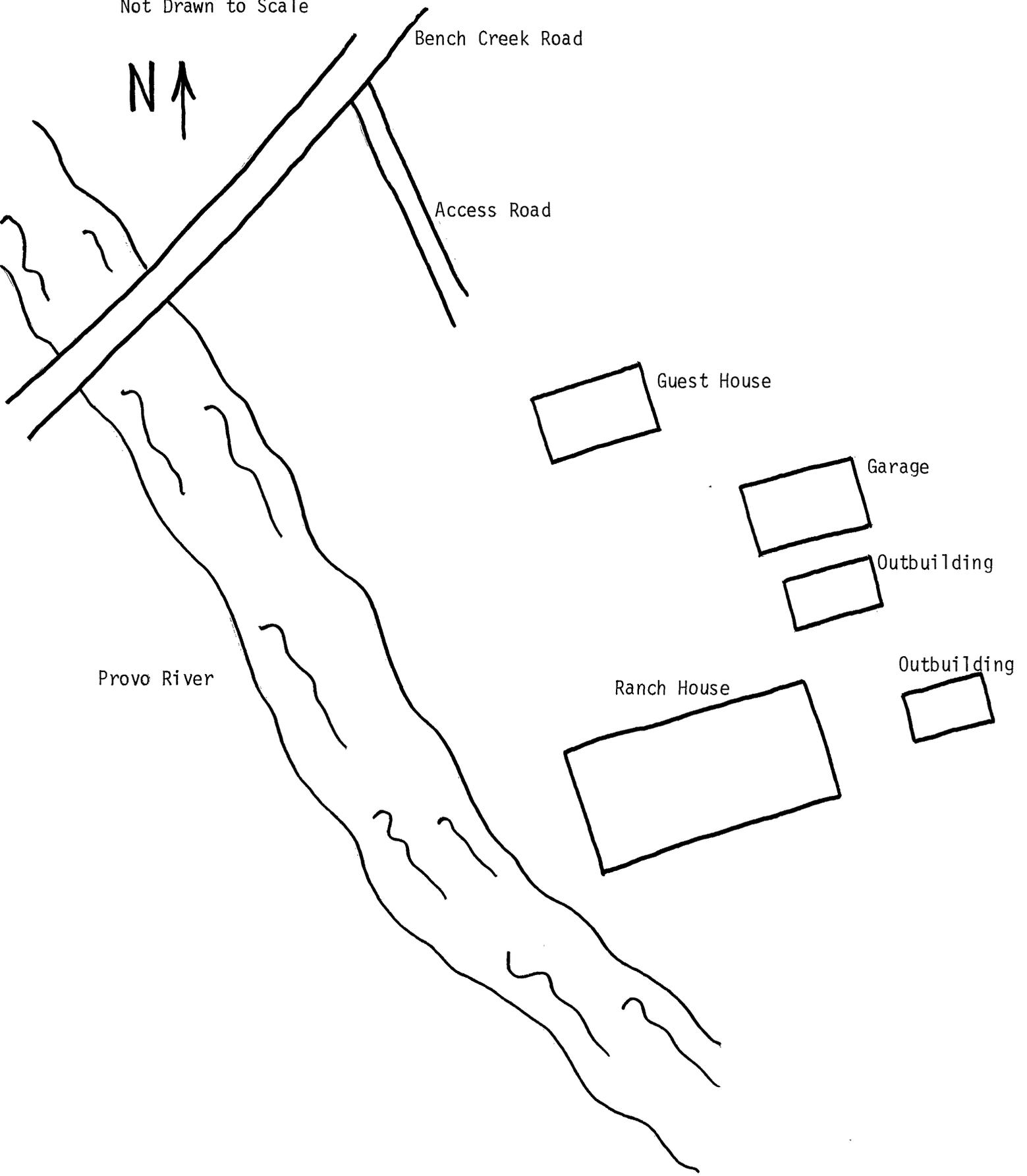
the LDS Church Welfare Committee. Vern lived in several houses in the Salt Lake area which are still standing and are more closely associated with his professional life than is this ranch home.

¹Telephone interview with Venice Lambert Hewlett, January 14, 1985.
Also, telephone interview with Herman Cooley, January 9, 1985.

Verner O. Hewlett Ranch House
Summit County, Utah

Site Plan

Not Drawn to Scale



Bench Creek Road

Access Road

Guest House

Garage

Outbuilding

Provo River

Ranch House

Outbuilding