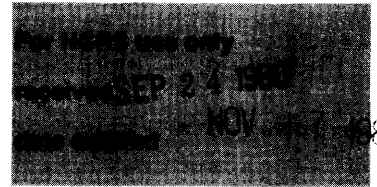


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Circle Cross Ranch Headquarters

and/or common Oliver M. Lee House and Ranch

2. Location

street & number SW of Sacramento _____ not for publication

city, town Sacramento vicinity of congressional district 2nd

state New Mexico code 35 county Otero code 035

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: ranch

4. Owner of Property

name W.W. Shipley

street & number Post Office Box 1329

city, town Lovington _____ vicinity of state New Mexico

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Otero County Courthouse

street & number _____

city, town Alamogordo _____ state New Mexico

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title State Register of Cultural Properties has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date August 29, 1980 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Bureau

city, town Santa Fe _____ state NM

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Main House at the Circle Cross Ranch is a one and one-half stories on a raised basement. On four sides of the main floor is a wood frame veranda. The shingle-covered hip roof is broken by two hip dormers on each side and four brick chimneys.

The raised basement, constructed of poured concrete, is broken by several doors and square wood frame windows with four panes. Only on one side is the basement below grade. This floor served as the ranch headquarters with two kitchens, a mess hall, and Lee's office.

Constructed of board and batten and surrounded by a veranda, the main floor is 50 feet square. The windows are wood double hung sash with plain wood moldings and the four doors are topped with transoms. This floor and the attic served as the family's living quarters with a parlor, dining room, and bedrooms. There are four fireplaces, two of which have the original wood mantles. Generally the interior is quite plain and tastefully designed.

Other structures at the main headquarters are a 50 X 140 wood barn, a blacksmith shop, log barn, and a poured concrete garage.

The log barn served as the Lee family residence until the main house was complete. The cabin was built in 1905, shortly after Lee purchased the ranch. The headquarters is sited at the edge of the forested Sacramento Mountains and the flat range land. Water is supplied by the Sacramento River which runs through the ranch. There is also a mobile home on the property, and it is intrusive.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) ranching
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1906–1908 **Builder/Architect**

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Main House at the Circle Cross Ranch was built in 1906–1908 by Oliver M. Lee, one of the most prominent ranchers in Southeastern New Mexico. The house itself is a well preserved example of the rambling, gracious houses which were typical of ranches.

Lee purchased the 320-acre Circle Cross Ranch for \$5,000 in 1905. This was a high price, but it was excellent ranch land and the Sacramento River runs through the property.

When Lee first arrived in New Mexico 1884, the country was still unfenced ranges. Lee's first ranch was due west of Dog Canyon, near the present site of Alamogordo. Within a few years he was the most powerful person in the Tularosa Basin.

In 1899 Lee sold his Dog Canyon Ranch to Charles E. Eddy of the El Paso and Northeastern Railroad. The town of Alamogordo was laid out on the ranch. He had other holdings in the basin which he concentrated on for a few years.

Then in 1905 he bought 320 acres which was the basis for a huge enterprise, the Circle Cross Ranch. During the next two years he built up the headquarters, including the rambling ranch house. Eventually the Circle Cross Ranch covered 1,000,000 acres, and today it is still large, with nearly 3,000 acres.

By this time Lee was known throughout the State and was one of the most powerful people in Southern New Mexico. Twice he was sent to the State Legislature. From his arrival in New Mexico with the first wave of Texas cattlemen to come into the State, Lee was an able rancher and powerful person.

After Lee's death the ranch was put on the market by Lee Orndorff, an El Paso attorney and associate of Lee. He acquired it in January of 1940 and sold it to C.L. Womack in March. From April of 1942 D.F. Stahman had the ranch. H.G. Cook owned it from 1952 to 1955 and in that year C.D. McSpadden sold it to O.B. Brown. Brown held the ranch from 1955 to 1961. From then until 1969 C.M. Pearson was owner. In 1969 the present owner obtained the property.

The property is significant not only for its architectural value, but also because Lee was one of New Mexico's major ranchers. It is, therefore, important that a small portion of the ranch lands be included in the nomination.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Keleher, The Fabulous Frontier.
 Owner's abstract.
 Owner's application.
 Sonnichsen, Tularosa.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED
UTM NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 40 acres

Quadrangle name Rogers Ruins

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	1	3
4	3	4
0	5	10

3	6	1	3	5	10	10
Northing						

B

1	1	3
4	3	4
0	5	10

3	6	1	3	1	1	10
Northing						

C

1	1	3
4	3	3
6	4	10

3	6	1	3	1	1	10
Northing						

D

1	1	3
4	3	3
6	4	10

3	6	1	3	5	10	10
Northing						

E

Northing						

F

Northing						

G

Northing						

H

Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property encompasses the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 15, Township 19 South, Range 12 East. JUSTIFICATION: This area encompasses the ranch headquarters buildings and the adjacent ranch land.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ellen Threinen / Architectural Historian

organization Historic Preservation Bureau

date August, 1980

street & number 500 Don Gaspar Avenue

telephone (505) 827-2108

city or town Santa Fe,

state New Mexico 87503

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Thomas W. [Signature]

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 9-17-80

For HCBS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Bob [Signature] date 11/17/80

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of [] ration _____