

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED DEC 21 1976

DATE ENTERED

NOV 17 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1** NAME

HISTORIC

**

CROCKER RANCH

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

One and one-half miles north of Matfield Green on K-177
E½, Sec. 31, T 21 S, R 8 E

CITY, TOWN

Matfield Green

 VICINITY OF

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

No. 5 Joe Skubitz

STATE

Kansas

CODE

20

COUNTY

Chase

CODE

017

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

 DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

 IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

 OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

 YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO

PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

H. Mason Crocker

STREET & NUMBER

Box 419

CITY, TOWN

Brady

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Texas

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Chase County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Cottonwood Falls

STATE

Kansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1975

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kansas State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Topeka

STATE

Kansas

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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

The Crocker Ranch is a collection of buildings that reflect the growth and development of ranching in Kansas. Only one building, a stone provision house, remains from the original farm which was started in the 1860's. Other major buildings on the ranch include a house built around the 1880's, a barn built in 1906, the main house constructed in 1908-1909 and later remodeled, and a grain elevator dated 1915-16. The ranch is located just north of the small community of Matfield Green. Crocker creek which runs to the south of the main complex and the Santa Fe railroad tracks which run across a built-up ridge to the west visually enclose the property.

The impressive L-shaped Doric portico on the main house is the dominating feature of the ranch. The house, which faces east, is a large, rambling, two and one-half story frame structure. Though the exterior of this house has been extensively remodeled, it still retains its basic configuration. Originally the house had an elevated one story L-shaped veranda and a round tower with a spire at the southeastern corner. The veranda has been replaced by the Doric portico with a pediment. The spire has been removed, and the circular corner now has octagonal sides. A one story addition on the north side of the east facade serves as an attached garage. Fixed shutters were also added during the remodeling.

The house is basically a large two story block with a high hip roof. There is a projecting two story wing to the south and a one story wing to the west. Originally there was a wide dormer facing east, but this was removed when the pediment was constructed. The fenestration pattern, which was not altered during the remodeling, utilizes large double-hung windows which occupy a high proportion of wall space. The roof is surfaced with cedar shakes.

The provision shed has been constructed of native coursed rubble. It has a pitched roof surfaced with cedar shakes and a single door on the east facade.

The house built in the 1880's is a one and one-half story frame building with a one story T-shaped addition. The exterior has been covered with white painted clapboard, and the house has a simple gable roof covered with wood shingles. The roofline is broken by two wall dormers with gable roofs on the east facade.

The grain elevator, barn and silos are located just west of the main house. The first story of the barn has been constructed of coursed rubble. There are heavy stone lintels over the openings. An inscription reading, "Crocker Bros 1906" has been carved in the lintel of the central opening. The exterior wall of the second story has been constructed of board and batten and painted white. The roof, which is pitched, is covered with cedar shakes and is accented by a centrally placed cupola.

The grain elevator is a two story wood frame structure with a stone foundation. The roof is hipped and surfaced with cedar shakes and is crowned by a cupola with a hipped roof. There are sliding wood doors on the east and west facades. There is also a one story frame wing with a shed roof on the west facade.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Crocker Ranch just north of Matfield Green is a fine example of an early 20th century ranch complex still in daily use.

The Crocker family came to Chase county after the Civil War. Erastus B. Crocker settled on the south fork of the Cottonwood river in 1866 and soon had established a successful farming and ranching operation. He was active in politics, holding various local offices and serving one term in the state legislature. After the death of his first wife, Harriet, in 1870, Crocker married Mrs. Anna E. Mason in 1871. They had two children, Edward Grey Crocker and Arthur Thompson Crocker. E.B. Crocker died in 1876. His widow married William F. Dunlap in 1880; Dunlap ran the Crocker farm and engaged in extensive ranching operations until he and Mrs. Dunlap moved to Strong City in 1896.

Edward and Arthur Crocker were associated in ranching operations under the firm name of Crocker Brothers apparently from 1891. By 1918 they had a 10,000 acre cattle ranch which was one of the most extensive in the area. The brothers married sisters, daughters of Henry Brandley, another prominent Chase county pioneer.

The Edward Crockers lived on the Crocker home place in the small frame house which was likely built in the 1880's. In 1908 they began planning a new house. According to family records the architect was Charles Gross of Emporia. The Chase County Leader, Cottonwood Falls, at various times in the fall of 1908 identified local carpenters and craftsmen who were working on the Crocker house, including John Martin, Will Jones, Jim Quinn, Will Beach and Charles Remy. By February, 1909, the house was completed. The February 16 Leader reported that the Crockers had gone to Kansas City to buy furniture for their new home.

The old residence, which had been located just south of the new house, was moved to the north and west of it, and was used by ranch employees. The only building remaining from E.B. Crocker's time is a stone provision shed dating to the 1860's. A stone and frame barn was built in 1906, and a frame granary was erected in 1915 or 1916. The ranch house was modified from a Victorian appearance by the later addition of the classic porch.

The property ownership has remained in the Crocker family. It is an outstanding example of an early 20th century working ranch.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chase County Centennial 1872-1972 (n.p., 1972), pp. 153, 154.

Chase County Historical Sketches, Vol. I (Chase County Historical Society, 1940), pp. 174-176.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 8 - 9

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,4	71,30,0,0	4,22,85,8,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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 Richard Pankratz, Director, Historic Sites Survey
Cornelia Wyma, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION Kansas State Historical Society

DATE December 6, 1976

STREET & NUMBER 120 West Tenth

TELEPHONE 913-296-3251

CITY OR TOWN Topeka

STATE Kansas

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Nyle H. Miller

TITLE Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society

DATE December 13, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Robert B. Rettig

DATE 11/17/77

ATTEST

Charles H. ...

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 11-16-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

9.

Chase County Historical Sketches, Vol. II (Chase County Historical Society, 1948),
pp. 331, 332.

Chase County Leader (Cottonwood Falls), January 17, 28, March 3, April 17, 21, August 4,
18, 21, September 8, November 10, 17, December 11, 1908; February 16, 1909.

Connelley, William E., editor, History of Kansas and Kansans (Chicago, Lewis Publishing
Co., 1918), pp. 2614, 2615.

"Death of E.B. Crocker," Chase County Leader (Cottonwood Falls), April 20, 1876.

Ellsworth, D.A., compiler, "History of Chase County," Chase County Leader (Cottonwood
Falls), 1935-1936.

Handbook of the Kansas Legislature, 1905 (Topeka, Crane and Co., 1905), p. 133.