

PH 006 7091

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

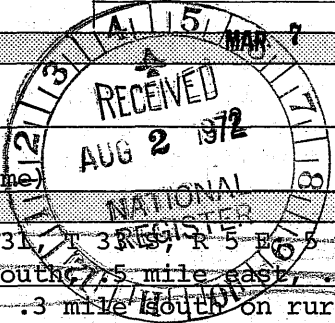
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Kansas
COUNTY:	Cowley
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: Chesbro Ranch

AND/OR HISTORIC: Magnolia Ranch (preferred name)



2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: ~~NW 1/4, NW 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec. 31, T 38 N, R 5 E~~ 5 miles south of Winfield on US 77, 1.5 miles east, .5 mile south, .5 mile east, 4 mile south, CITY OR TOWN: .7 mile southeast, 1.5 miles east, .3 mile south on rural roads. Winfield vicinity

STATE: Kansas CODE: 67156 COUNTY: Cowley CODE: 035

10.5 miles SE

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mr. and Mrs. Kent Chesbro

STREET AND NUMBER: Rural Route 3

CITY OR TOWN: Winfield STATE: Kansas CODE: 67156

STATE: Kansas

COUNTY: Cowley

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Register of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER: Cowley County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Winfield STATE: Kansas CODE: 67156

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: NONE

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Magnolia Ranch house located in rural Cowley county near Winfield is a two and one-half story early Renaissance style structure with a full basement. The building is a rectangle with small appurtenances on two sides and measures approximately 50 feet long and 30 feet wide. The exterior walls are constructed of stone laid in a random ashlar pattern. The coarse facing of the stone gives a massive appearance to the building. Standing seam metal roofing covers the hip roof, and the overhang is supported by widely spaced pairs of brackets with double brackets at the corners. Two large observation towers which occur at the center of the roof admit light into the attic. A number of chimneys with stone caps protrude from the roof.

Window openings in the building are simple rectangles with double hung sash windows. The stone sills and lintels are ornamental in shape and provide a decorative touch to the building. The lintels are cut stone and extend partially down each side of the window openings. The south front entrance occurs at a large porch which has wood columns and decorative wood arches.

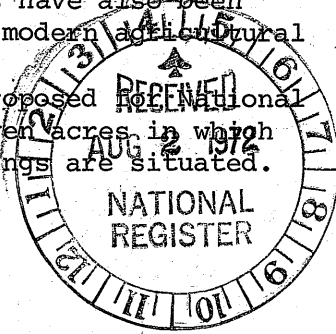
There are five large rooms in the basement, each with large arched doorways and walls two feet thick. On the main floor are six large rooms, a pantry and two entrance halls--one containing a large ornate stairway and the other opening into the kitchen and the dining room. Ceilings are at least 10 feet high. The dining room has a large bay window on the south, and the dining room, parlor, and the former office of Colonel Greene each have a fireplace. On the second floor a long hall runs the length of the house. Three large bedrooms are placed on each side of the hallway, and additionally a bathroom, dumbwaiter shaft and storage room are located on this floor. The attic is a large room on the third floor and has the two observation towers or cupolas.

Included in the ranch complex are three small stone buildings west of the residence which were used as an ice house, a smoke house and an outhouse. Northeast of the house are two large buildings of rubble stone construction, the shorter one a barn and the longer used as stables.

A large frame porch which once wrapped around the east and portions of the north and south facades has been removed. The center window on the second floor of the east facade has been walled up and now contains a stone with the construction date "1883" in raised numerals. Some modifications have also been made to the two large barns to adapt them for modern agricultural usages.

The area of the Magnolia Ranch complex proposed for National Register nomination consists of the six to seven acres in which the house, two barns and three small outbuildings are situated.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

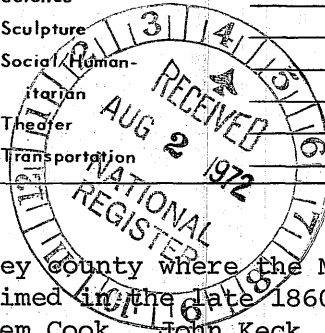
- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1883

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal-- | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Western settlement</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The land in south central Cowley county where the Magnolia Ranch is now situated was first claimed in the late 1860's by three brothers--Pete, Bill and Lem Cook. John Keck, the next owner of the property, lived there only two years before selling the land to Col. Arthur H. Greene of New York City, who had been an officer in the Union army. Greene, a wealthy coffee broker prior to the Civil War, lost a leg in the war and afterwards sold his business and moved to Kansas. He established a large ranch and farm operation 12 miles southwest of Winfield and engaged the Vermilia family to farm and keep house for him. It was this family which planted the Magnolia trees that gave the ranch its name.

In 1883 Greene had a 23-room house, outbuildings and a corral built from stone quarried about two miles northwest of the ranch. An area newspaper, the Arkansas City Democrat, reported on October 23, 1883, that "Allen and Braggins have been awarded the contract to paint the \$30,000 residence on the Magnolia farm in Pleasant Valley township." The house, which was said to have been the finest in the vicinity, was probably completed a short time later. The ranch itself was reportedly one of the best equipped in the state, Greene having imported English draft horses and Galloway cattle. The ranch also became known for its lavish parties when Greene and a nephew who lived with the wealthy old bachelor began entertaining regularly, with guests from numerous Kansas communities and as far as New York.

After the Vermilias left, Greene hired various other personnel to manage the ranch. In the spring of 1900 the Linn family became the overseers and shortly thereafter Greene and Linn started raising chickens in addition to cattle and horses. A young Dutch immigrant, John Templar, was also an employee for a time; he later married one of the Linn daughters, and their son George, who was the only child ever born in the ranch house, is now a U. S. district judge for Kansas.

Colonel Greene sold the Magnolia Ranch to R. D. McKowen of Atlanta, Illinois, a "magnetic healer," in the early 1900's and moved to California. The McKowens did not live on the ranch except for a brief time during the summer of 1904. Mr. and Mrs.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arkansas City Democrat, October 23, 1883.
 "Magnolia Farm," unsigned manuscript compiled in 1939, copy filed with Historic Sites Survey, Kansas State Historical Society.
 "Magnolia Farm . . . 1883 Showplace," Arkansas City Daily Traveler, July 30, 1971.
 "Magnolia Ranch House Is Interesting Cowley Landmark," Winfield Courier, May 2, 1961.
The Official State Atlas of Kansas (Philadelphia, L. H. Everts and Co., 1887).

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 684500
 4111580
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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0 . "	0 . "		0		"
NE	0 . "	0 . "		37	08	05
SE	0 . "	0 . "		96	55	22
SW	0 . "	0 . "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 6-7 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Richard D. Pankratz, Planner
Charles L. Hall, Architectural Consultant

ORGANIZATION: Kansas State Historical Society DATE: July 18, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: 120 West Tenth Street

CITY OR TOWN: Topeka STATE: Kansas 66612 CODE: 20

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Nyle H. Miller
Nyle H. Miller

Title Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society

Date July 18, 1972

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

Robert M. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 3/7/73

ATTEST: [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 3-5-73

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Kansas	
COUNTY Cowley	
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(Number all entries)

- The new owners of the Magnolia Ranch are Jim and Mary McFarland, Rural Route 3, Winfield.

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8. Kent Chesbro, the present owners, rented the farm from the McKowen estate from 1945 until 1960 when they purchased the property.
- The Magnolia Ranch buildings are one of the few remaining rural complexes of historic stone buildings in Kansas which continue to serve their original use. The residence is an excellent example of early Renaissance architecture exhibiting many of the traits of the Vernacular style. The magnificent house together with the accompanying outbuildings make this one of the more important rural architectural complexes in the state.

