

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 95000145

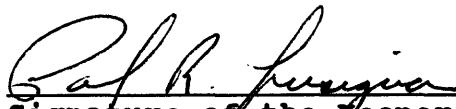
Date Listed: 2/23/95

Spanning, John Otto, Family Farm
Property Name

Sweet Grass MT
County State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

2/23/95
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Resource Type:

The Resource Type is changed from buildings to **district**, in order to better reflect the diversity of resources and their scattered location across a large farmstead [see NR Bulletin 16A page 15].

This information was confirmed with Chere Jiusto of the MT SHPO.

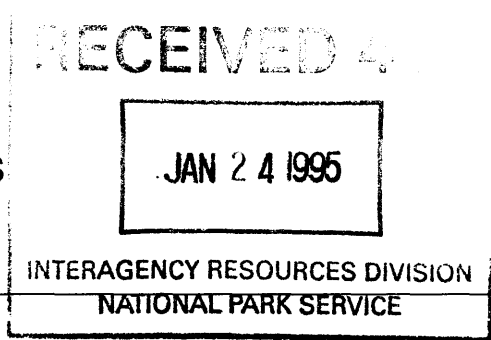
DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

145

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



1. Name of Property

historic name: John Otto Spanning Family Farm

other name/site number:

2. Location

street & number: seven miles east of Big Timber

not for publication: n/a
vicinity: x

city/town: Big Timber

state: Montana

code: MT

county: Sweet Grass

code: 097

zip code: 59011

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Maull Shof Signature of certifying official/Title 12-27-94 Date

Montana State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency or bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register see continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register see continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register see continuation sheet
- removed from the National Register see continuation sheet
- other (explain): _____

Carl R. Ferguson Signature of the Keeper 2/23/95 Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Buildings

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of Resources within Property	
Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>3</u>	<u>1</u> building(s)
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> sites
<u>2</u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>6</u>	<u>1</u> TOTAL

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

Domestic: single dwelling, multiple dwelling, secondary structure
 Agriculture: Subsistence - animal facility
 agricultural field, irrigation facility, storage

Current Functions:

Domestic: single dwelling, secondary structure, vacant
 Agriculture: Subsistence - agricultural field, vacant

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Late 19th and Early 20th Century
 American Movements: Bungalow

Materials:

foundation: stone
 walls: stucco
 roof: wood/shingle
 other: wood/weatherboard

Narrative Description

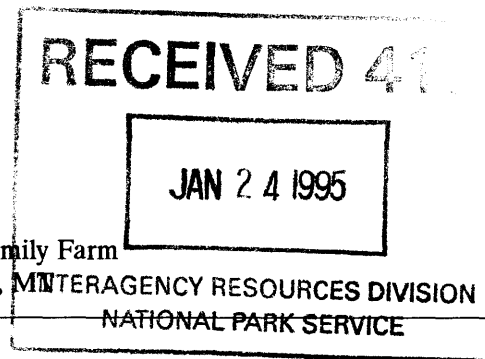
The John Otto Spannrng Family Farm is located about seven miles east of Big Timber, the county seat of Sweet Grass County, and northwest of Grey Cliff, the second largest town in the county. The farm, comprising all or part of six contiguous sections, has a total acreage of 2,280 surveyed acres. It has two frontages on the northeast side of the Yellowstone River. The longer of the two, forming the southwest border of the farm in Section 27, carries for about a mile and a quarter along the river and is flanked by fertile bottom lands. The topography of the farm, comprising fields, pasture, meadows, coulees, and some arid rock outcroppings, is generally rolling and occupies the edge of a broad plateau which overlooks the Yellowstone River. The higher elevations of the farm are marked by broad meadows used for pasturage and hay. The land at the lowest elevation, the bottom lands on the northeast side of the Yellowstone River, is used now almost exclusively for hay just as it was in the 1930s and 1940s during the Spannrngs' ownership. At various points in time, both during the period of historical significance, 1917-1944, and afterward, tracts of the farm's acreage have been used successively for various purposes; lines of both abandoned and well-maintained barbed wire fencing occur throughout the acreage as evidence of former and present uses. Today, large tracts of the farm continue to be used for hay-making while the complex of buildings making up the farm seat are used as a seasonal residences by the farm owner and his family.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7

John Otto Spannring Family Farm
Sweetgrass County, MT



Page 1

Access to the farm is from the north, down a narrow 0.7 mile road forming a right-of-way across the ranch which lies to the north of the Spannring farm, between it and Howie Road, a gravel road which continues to the west and its junction with US 191. The farm lane enters Section 15 at its northeast corner and continues in a southerly path to the complex of farm buildings. These four architectural resources are located in a coulee in the southeast corner of Section 15, two on each side of the farm lane. The main farm road (visible on the USGS map) then passes across the southwest corner of Section 14 and continues through the west half of Section 23 in an irregular fashion. Near the center of Section 23 it turns to the southwest and exits the section at its southwest corner where it enters Section 27. The farm lane then continues downgrade to the bottom lands where it follows a wedge-shaped path to the edge of the Yellowstone River.

The principal geological features marking the grass-covered landscape of the Spannring farm are the rock outcroppings which occur at various points in the terrain. They have the appearance of ground level quarries and provided the stone with which the house and barn were built in the 1920s. There are several small springs across the acreage. One is located near the Spannring family house and was probably used until a well was dug for farm and family use. Another occurs at the head of a coulee in Section 14 which was the water source for the O'Dowd homestead.

As noted above, the farm complex of four stone and frame buildings is located in the southeast corner of Section 15. There are two structures of note which are located in isolated positions. The older of the two, probably dating to the 1920s or earlier, is a small earth cellar, dug into a low hillside and protected by a frame door; except for some scattered foundation stones, boards, and other objects in the grass, it is the sole physical reminder of the occupation of the south half of Section 14 as a homestead by Edward O'Dowd. The second contributing structure is a poured concrete revetment, situated at the northeast edge of the Yellowstone River, which formed a part of the pumping station for irrigating the lower fields of the Spannring farm; it was probably erected shortly after September 1934 when the Spannrings acquired part of Section 27. Except for the bunk house, relocated to the farm complex about 1939, there are no surviving physical evidences of the former Newmier homestead which stood on Section 27.

The farm complex consists of four buildings, of stone and frame construction, which are located in a protected position in a coulee at the southeast corner of Section 15. They are positioned in an informal fashion on either side of the farm lane and set in a grass-covered lawn which is maintained as the house grounds. There are two principal buildings, the house and the barn, and two secondary buildings, a bunk house and a garage. On the hill to the south of the house and along the lowest run of the coulee, there are volunteer trees, mainly pines, cottonwoods, and choke cherry, vines, and other native plant material.

The Spannring Family House (contributing building)

The Spannring family house, erected in 1920 by John Otto Spannring and his four sons, is a one-and-a-half-story stone and frame bungalow covered with a side-gable roof of cedar shingles installed in 1990. The house, minus the enclosed front (south) porch and the rear (north) porch, is essentially a square, measuring thirty-three feet on each side. The appearance of the house derives from the original construction in 1920, a series of improvements effected by members of the Spannring family (principally in 1924, 1928, and the early 1930s), and the restoration of the house by the present owner during the summers and early autumns of 1988 through 1991.

The first substantive change in the house's appearance occurred in 1924 when the front (south) porch was enclosed and fitted with a quartet of double-hung three-over-one sash windows across the south elevation and a single window on the east end. The enclosed porch was one large area and had the appearance of a sun room; it was probably first used for domestic-related work and leisure. About four years later, in 1928, the mortared stone elevations of the house were

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7

John Otto Spanning Family Farm
Sweetgrass County, MT

Page 2

covered with stucco for weatherproofing. The third major change effected in the house's appearance was a series of modest remodelings in the early 1930s, about 1932. On the exterior of the house, the major change was the removal of a door in the center of the west gable end of the house. The opening was partially infilled and fitted with a four-over-one sash window. This change coincided with the remodeling of the kitchen, the piping of running water into the house, and the addition of a first-story bathroom. It is possible that other changes might have been made to the space in the northwest corner of the first story, part of which was used as a separator room for the family's dairy operations. Whether the outside door in the western-most bay of the rear (north) elevation is original or was added at that time is unclear. After the present owner acquired the house in April 1988, he undertook repairs and restoration work which continued until 1991. In 1988 the stucco was repaired on the house and storm windows were installed; a replacement cedar shingle roof was put on the bunk house. A replacement roof of cedar shingles, from British Columbia, was put on the house in 1990. In 1991, the present shed porch, carrying across the rear (north) elevation was built, a replacement cedar shingle roof was put on the barn, and the garage was relocated to its present location and largely rebuilt.

The seat of the Spanning family farm survives today restored to the appearance it enjoyed during the Spanning family's occupation of the place. The first-story stone masonry walls of the house and the enclosed porch are covered with rough-finished stucco. Most of the window openings are fitted with one-over-one double-hung sash windows except for the three-over-one sash windows on the enclosed porch and the four-over-one sash window in the center of the west gable end. On the east and west gable ends, the stucco-covered stone elevations rise above the first-story level. The bottoms of the windows illuminating the second level are inset in these stuccoed walls. The upper frame gable ends of the house are sheathed with square-edge wood shingles. The side-gable roof of the house features exposed rafters with shaped, decorative ends below flush-sheathed eaves; the eaves on the gable ends are fitted with triangular brackets typical of the 1920s bungalows. A brick flue stack rises through the near-center of the roof. The front (south) elevation is five bays wide with pairs of three-over-one double-hung sash windows flanking the center entrance. The front door features one glazed pane above a large wood panel. A shed roof dormer rises in the center of the roof and it has two small rectangular openings fitted with single-pane casement windows. The west gable end of the house is three bays wide on the first story and two on the second level. On the east elevation there are two symmetrically placed windows on the first story and a (third) window on the east end of the enclosed porch; there are two windows on the second story. A concrete-bordered planter carries across the entire east gable end of the house. Because of the enclosure of the south porch, the north elevation now functions as the primary entrance to the house. Here, an open shed porch, twelve feet in depth, carries across the entire elevation. The porch is supported by square-in-plan posts and has exposed rafters. The brick paved floor extends for twelve feet on the east and forms an open terrace. The interior of the house is finished with pine floors, plaster walls, and ceilings sheathed with either tongue-and-groove ceiling or plaster board. The existing five-panel doors and other architectural woodwork is original; the doors opening from the kitchen into the dining and living rooms were taken down at some point in the past. The window and door openings in the house have recessed two-part moldings; the windows and doors in the enclosed porch have plain board surrounds. Gothic-Revival style grilles over the heat vents survive in place.

On the south, in the enclosed porch, there is a pair of rooms flanking the center entrance hall. The doorway openings from the hall into each room are fitted with fifteen-pane French doors. The room in the southeast corner is a bedroom; the northwest corner of the room has been partitioned off and enclosed as a small closet. The room in the pendant southwest corner of the former porch is the dining room; it has a built-in china cupboard in the northeast corner. At the north end of the entrance hall, the original front door opens into the family living room. It has a three-shelf bookcase recessed into the east edge of the north wall (under the staircase) and a metal ca. 1930 chandelier. A doorway in the center of the living room's west wall opens into the large kitchen which occupies the space behind the center and south bays of the house's west elevation. The kitchen is visually divided by a bracketed arch which separates the cooking area in the north end from the eating area on the south. The wood cabinets on the west and north walls appear to date to the ca. 1932 remodeling effort. There is an L-shaped built-in bench in the eating area. The kitchen opens into a shallow hall, in

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7

John Otto Spannring Family Farm
Sweetgrass County, MT

Page 3

the near center of the house, which communicates with a rear hall, laundry room, and half-bathroom in the northwest corner, a bathroom in the rear center of the house, and the bedroom in the northeast corner. The bedroom retains its full complement of five-panel doors opening into the hall, the bathroom, and a closet under the staircase. The bathroom is fitted with replacement white fixtures as is the half-bathroom off the rear hall.

A five-panel door opens from the hall into the enclosed stair which rises to the second story and a large hall. There are three small bedrooms across the south front of the house, a single bedroom at the west end, and a full bathroom and a half-bathroom on the north side. The walls are plastered. The pine floors are covered with carpet except in the southeast corner bedroom where the flooring is painted. The door and window openings are fitted with plain board surrounds. The five-panel doors retain their original metal knobs. In two of the bedrooms and the half-bathroom, there are board and batten doors into storage areas in the adjoining attic spaces.

Garage

(non-contributing building)

The garage, relocated to this site and largely rebuilt here in 1991, is a small rectangular frame building on a poured concrete floor. It originally stood to the west of the house and now it stands to the southwest of the dwelling. It has a two-by-four frame structural system covered with flush board sheathing which, in turn, was covered with Masonite weatherboards in 1991. The gable roof is covered with cedar shingles and the shallow eaves are sheathed. The large opening on the east gable end is fitted with double-leaf, side-hinged board-and-batten doors finished with cross-braces. There is a conventional door opening at the west end of the north elevation; it is fitted with a wood door, likewise featuring decorative cross bands. Near the center of the west gable end is a window opening fitted with a reused six-pane sash. The garage is painted red. It is a non-contributing building.

Bunk House

(contributing building)

The bunk house is said to have been relocated to this site, west of the house, from the former Newmier homestead on Section 27. Joseph W. and Simon L. Spannring acquired the acreage of Section 27, lying on the northeast side of the Yellowstone River, in 1934, from Simon and Gertrude Weldinger. The appearance and finish of the bunk house probably dates to the relocation here in the later 1930s, probably about 1939 when Walter Spannring was married and left the family farm. The exterior elevations are covered with smoothly-finished stucco which is painted red; the simple door and window surrounds are painted green. The low-pitch gable roof is covered with cedar shingles. The bunk house has a three-bay front (south) elevation; single window openings occur on the east, north, and west sides. The front door has a square glass pane above three horizontal panels. The screen door has two panels below the mesh screen. The interior of the bunk house was renovated between 1964 and 1988 as a small one bedroom apartment. The west half of the building is one large room which functions as a kitchen, dining area, and living room. The east half includes the entrance hall, a bathroom, a bedroom, and large closet. The ceilings of the entrance hall and bedroom retain their sheathing of tongue-and-groove ceiling. The other wall and ceiling surfaces are either painted plaster or plaster board or wall-papered. The door and window surrounds are plain boards; the five-panel doors are said to be reused from a renovation of the Grand Hotel in Big Timber. The wood floors are covered with sheet vinyl except for carpet in the bedroom and closet.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7

John Otto Spannring Family Farm
Sweetgrass County, MT

Page 4

Barn (contributing building)

The barn, the largest building in the farm complex, is a rectangular stone and frame building covered with a dominant gambrel roof of cedar shingles. The ridge of the roof is surmounted by a four-sided cupola which is fitted with louvers; it functions as a ventilator for the upper reaches of the barn loft. The ground level of the barn is built of stone masonry covered with rough-coat stucco; the upper level of the barn is frame. It is built on a southeast/northwest axis and features wide principal doorways in the center of the southeast and northwest elevations. Those openings are covered with top-mounted sliding board-and-batten doors which are finished with cross braces. There are small squarish window openings, inset in the stone walls, to each side of these main doors; they are fitted either with four-pane windows or board and batten blinds. The southeast gambrel end is sheathed with German siding. At the top of the elevation there is a large squarish opening fitted with board-and-batten doors for unloading hay; there are single four-pane windows to either side. The opening is protected by an extension of the roof which also shelters the hay hoist carrying under the ridge line of the roof. The rear (northwest) elevation of the barn, sheathed with flush vertical boards, has three small windows and a board-and-batten door in the extreme north corner.

The long northeast side elevation of the barn has six openings which are generally evenly-spaced along the stuccoed stone wall. Five are squarish in shape and contain four-pane windows. The larger, sixth opening is an entrance and is fitted with a board-and-batten door. The southwest side of the barn is also six bays wide; however, its five windows and a door are asymmetrically spaced across the elevation. The window openings are fitted with four-pane windows: the board and batten door opens into the milk room. The interior of the barn is laid out on a center passage plan and is similar to dairy barns of the period whose plans were promoted by state agricultural boards. Whether the plan of this barn was endorsed and circulated by an agricultural agency of the state of Montana is not known at present. The center passage has a poured concrete floor with shallow inset drains on either side. The northeast side of the passage is given over to a series of small stalls, two at the southeast end and three at the northwest end, which flank a large stall in the near center of this side. A long wood feed trough remains in place for the two stalls at the southeast end. The partitions forming the stalls are made up mostly of horizontal boards.

The space on the southwest side of the passage is occupied, moving front (southeast) to back (northwest) by a grain/feed room, a well room, a milk room, and a large open stall area which might have been where the milking was done. The grain/feed room, well room, and milk room are well finished. In each of them the exterior stone walls are covered with smooth stucco whereas the stone masonry elsewhere in the barn is exposed. The interior frame walls of the grain/feed room are flush-sheathed to near-ceiling height. The well room, with its spring-fed water source, is fully stuccoed. The frame walls of the milk room are sheathed with tongue-and-groove ceiling. The original doors for these three rooms have been lost.

A simple stair rises along the northwest wall of the milk room to the loft. It is a large single space with a wood floor. Along the northeast side there are four original openings in the floor, fitted with wood doors, which functioned as hay chutes for the stables below. There is a later, sawn chute here as well. On the southwest side there are two original hay chutes above the feed room which suggest that the feed room was once, earlier, used as a stable. Despite some modest alterations to the original fittings of the barn interior, it retains a remarkable degree of integrity and represents an important phase of small-scale dairying in Sweet Grass County. (It is probable that some of the usages of the interior spaces of the barn, including the grain/feed room, have changed over time. Further research into dairy barn construction in a wider context will enhance the full understanding of the ways in which the barn was used and its spaces adapted.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7

John Otto Spannrng Family Farm
Sweetgrass County, MT

Page 5

Edward D. O'Dowd Homestead Site (contributing site)

The 320 acres of the south half of Section 14 comprised the homestead of the bachelor Irishman Edward D. O'Dowd (1871-1946) who was a long-time friend of the Spannrng family. On 29 March 1943, O'Dowd conveyed his 320-acre homestead to Joseph W. Spannrng. Three years later, at his death in 1946, the body of Edward D. O'Dowd was interred in the Spannrng family plot in Mountain View Cemetery at Big Timber. The site, abandoned since 1943 (and perhaps even earlier), is marked by few evidences of human occupation. The principal features, visible from a distance, are a dead cottonwood tree and the frame timbers of the partially collapsed roof of a root cellar. At the site there are low stacks of stone which mark the foundation of O'Dowd's small frame house. There are also a few boards visible in the grass and other vegetation which is slowly covering the site. One poignant reminder of O'Dowd's life here is the cast iron top of his four-burner cookstove which also lies in the grass. There are also some few other metal fragments of uncertain use. To the south of the site is a small coulee and a spring where he obtained his water. Except for his gravestone in Mountain View Cemetery, the visible fragments marking the site (and probably others now covered over by grass and vegetation), are the sole reminders of the life of O'Dowd. As such they represent the successive phases of homesteading, abandonment, and consolidation which characterize significant parts of the Sweet Grass County agricultural landscape.

O'Dowd Earth Cellar (contributing structure)

This modest cellar is the sole surviving physical structure associated with the homestead of Edward O'Dowd. The cellar is dug into a low hillside to the west of the O'Dowd house site. The front of the cellar is protected by a board-and-batten door which remains in place. The wood roof of the cellar has mostly collapsed. According to family tradition the cellar was used for wine storage by O'Dowd who made wine from the native choke cherries. Metal rings from casks survive in the bottom of the cellar.

Concrete Revetment (contributing structure)

The revetment is a V-shaped concrete structure poured at the northeast edge of the Yellowstone River. It was erected to serve as the foundation for the pumping machinery used to irrigate the bottom lands of Section 27. A Parma water lifter system was installed here; it has been lost. Sections of galvanized metal pipe lie near the revetment but higher on the river bank. The revetment probably dates to 1935. Joseph W. and Simon L. Spannrng purchased a part of Section 27 from Simon and Gertrude Weldinger in April 1934.

Integrity Assessment

Although some forty-five years have passed since the death of Joseph W. Spannrng in 1949 and the end of the family operation of the John Otto Spannrng Family Farm, the property, the landscape, and the buildings have survived remarkably little changed. From 1949 until 1964, when Voney Hoffman Spannrng sold the farm out of the family, she had rented the farm to local farmers and ranchers. During that period, it appears that hay and crops were grown in the good upland fields and the bottomlands just as was done during the Spannrngs's period. Other parts of the property were used as pasturage as they had been earlier. The longest term lessee during this period from 1949 to 1964 was the Moore family who, for about a decade, occupied the Spannrng house and the farm buildings while farming its fields. It was Moore who introduced strip crop farming onto the existing fields which has been continued to the present. He grew wheat, barley, and hay on the farm.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7

John Otto Spannring Family Farm
Sweetgrass County, MT

Page 6

From 1964 until 1988 when the farm was acquired by Edward H. Clement, the property was held by a succession of owners either as investment property or for some agricultural use. During this period of mostly absentee ownership, those who owned the land and those who worked (or rented) it continued planting the fields and using the larger areas for pasture. In short, the fields of the Spannring farm and the acreage given over to pasturage remained largely intact and in uses that were the same or similar to those during the period of historic significance. The extent to which the house, barn, and bunkhouse were used by these successive owners is unclear at present. What is certain, however, is the fact that during this long period--approaching half a century--there were virtually no significant changes to the barn and the house. Those buildings have survived largely intact to the present. During this period there was some deterioration in the physical condition of these buildings; however, this was checked by the current owner who undertook a series of repairs and restoration efforts after acquiring the farm. The only changes of note which occurred to the buildings after the period of significance was the refitting of the interior of the bunkhouse; that work occurred between 1964 and 1988. Those changes and improvements did not significantly alter the historic fabric of the building.

Now, fifty-one years after the farm reached its historic (and present) size in 1943 and forty-five years after the death of Joseph W. Spannring in 1949, the historic buildings and the fields, pastures, paths, waterways, and other areas making up the landscape of the Spannring farm continue to convey and represent the life and occupation of the farm during its period of historic significance.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C

Areas of Significance: Exploration/Settlement
Agriculture
Architecture

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): B

Period(s) of Significance: 1917.- 1944

Significant Person(s): N/A

Significant Dates: 1917, 1920, 1925, 1926, 1928, 1943

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Spannring, John Otto and Spannring, John
Herman and Spannring, Joseph W.**Narrative Statement of Significance****HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND SIGNIFICANCE**

Much of the history of Montana in the first half of the twentieth century is associated with patterns of settlement and agriculture which occurred in the first two decades of the century, principally between 1900 and 1918. This era has been characterized in both the scholarly and popular press as the "Homestead Boom." The John Otto Spannring Family Farm in Sweet Grass County reflects the significant events of that period and it is representative of patterns which marked the homesteading and settlement of thousands of acres in the Treasure State. Unlike many of the homestead efforts of this era which succeeded for a few years and then failed--mostly on arid lands where dry farming was attempted--the Spannring family established this (their second) homestead on relatively fertile and watered lands formerly belonging to the Northern Pacific Rail Road Company. The acreage which constitutes the core of the present farm was acquired in five transactions between 1917 and 1943, and it was farmed by members of the Spannring family from 1917 until 1949. The property remained in family ownership until 1964. During the sequence of transactions up to 1988, when the present owner acquired the ranch, the core 2,280, plus or minus, acres has remained intact.

The arrival of John and Mary Spannring and their four children, immigrants from Inzell, Germany, who came directly to Montana in 1910, their homesteading of a small 200-acre tract between 1911 and 1916, the receipt of a homestead certificate from the United States Land Office in Bozeman on 16 May 1916, the purchase of a Case tractor in 1916, and the acquisition of the core 1,276.55 acres of this larger property in 1917, are events which were common to many thousands who settled and homesteaded on farms in Montana in the pre-World War I period. So, too, was the threat to the family's ownership of the property in 1924-1925. While thousands of their fellow homesteaders lost their farms during the 1920s, the Spannring family held onto the family farm, built a stone house in 1920, and a large stone and frame dairy barn in 1926. In these efforts and in the modest success which marked their joint family enterprise through the 1920s, the Spannring family was both representative of broad patterns in Montana and exceptional on a local level. Steadily, they increased their fortunes and the acreage of their farm, adding a thousand acres to it between 1934 and 1943. As a result, the John Otto Spannring Family Farm is important as an intact representation of the events of the "Homestead Boom" of the early-twentieth century and as an important place, reflecting the events of the agricultural and social history in Sweet Grass County in the years afterward. Here, a single family triumphed over the adversities of drought, crop failures, grasshoppers, and the Depression to create, maintain, and enlarge a farm which they called home and which sustained them from 1917 until 1949. The John Otto Spannring Family Farm is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C in a local context.¹

The tract of 1,276.55 acres, comprising fractional Section 15 and all of Section 23, Township 1 North, Range 15 East, Montana Principal Meridian, and forming the core of the Spannring farm, was a part of the vast acreage granted to the Northern Pacific Rail Road Company by the United States Government. The railroad company was chartered in July 1864 by Congress; it was to link Lake Superior to the north Pacific Coast. As an incentive for the construction of the railroad, the federal government agreed to grants of twenty sections (640 acres) per mile of railroad line constructed in the states of Minnesota and Oregon and forty sections per mile for line constructed in the little-populated territories which lay between those states. The alternate checkerboard sections granted to the Northern Pacific Rail Road Company eventually totaled some 44,000,000 acres of which 17,000,000 were in the Montana Territory. As a consequence,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8

John Otto Spannring Family Farm
Sweetgrass County, MT

Page 2

the Northern Pacific Rail Road Company became the second largest landowner in the Montana Territory and the state of Montana once statehood was granted in 1889. After extended adversity and reorganizations, the Northern Pacific Rail Road Company completed and opened the track between St. Paul, Minnesota, and Portland, Oregon, in September 1883. The railroad tracks stretched across Sweet Grass County and a station was established at Big Timber, the county seat.²

With millions of acres of vacant land and hundreds of miles of track through unsettled country, the Northern Pacific Rail Road Company undertook an aggressive marketing and advertising campaign to sell the land to businessmen, farmers, and ranchers who, in turn, would provide business to the railroad company. The formation of an immigration service, the organization of a land company, and the advertising campaigns developed by the railroad company are part of the history of Montana in the later-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. These events occurred during the period in which immigrants to Montana also obtained federal land under the provisions of the Homestead Act of 1862, the Enlarged Homestead Act of 1909, and the Three-Year Homestead Act of 1912.³

On 23 April 1906, the Northern Pacific Railway Company conveyed to John P. Halverson of Howie, Sweet Grass County, Montana, sections and parts of sections totaling 5,122 acres which included the 1,276.55 acres forming the core of the future Spannring farm.⁴ Shortly thereafter, on 11 May 1906, Halverson and his wife, cited in the deed as "now of St. Paul, Ramsey County, Minnesota," sold one-half of their recently purchased property to George O. Rostad and Peter H. Becken, also of Howie, Montana.⁵ Rostad and Becken held the acreage for less than a year, until 2 March 1907, when they conveyed it and some 2,400 other acres to F. S. P. Lindsay of Helena, Montana.⁶ Neither Halverson, Rostad, nor Becken ever occupied the lands of the future Spannring farm and neither did Lindsay who, in October 1908, sold the property to the Glass-Lindsay Land Company of Montana.⁷ Five years later, on 19 July 1913, fractional Section 15 and all of Section 23 formed part of a holding which William Glass of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota, conveyed to the Citizens State Bank of Big Timber, Montana.⁸ The bank held the property until 1916. During the decade from 1906 until 1916, the core 1,276.55 acres which would form the core of the Spannring farm, was held by real estate speculators or investors.

It appears likely that the series of transactions involving these lands during this period was probably typical of the manner in which the vast holding of the railway company was transferred in ever smaller or combined acreages through middle men down to the final purchaser, the farmer, who would make the property his home. Fractional Section 15 and all of Section 23, Township One North, Range 15 East, was first set apart as a separate tract on 14 July 1916 when the Citizens State Bank of Big Timber conveyed the property to Oscar Nepsted of Grey Cliff, Sweet Grass County, Montana.⁹ Oscar Nepsted and his wife Mary held the land for some nine months, until 28 March 1917, when they conveyed it to John O. Spannring, March Spannring, John H. Spannring, and S. L. Spannring of Grey Cliff, Montana.¹⁰

The John Otto Spannring family, who cultivated their 1,276.55 acres as a farm for over thirty years, were immigrants of German stock and they had been residents of Sweet Grass County for about six years. John (Johann) Otto Spannring was born on 24 November 1867, and on 25 October 1895 he was married to Mary (Maria) Maier; the bride was born on 25 August 1869. Four children were born to the couple in Inzell, Germany in the first dozen years of their marriage; Mrs. Spannring gave birth to the couple's first child, John Herman Spannring, on 8 June 1897; the second son, Simon L. Spannring, was born on 18 October 1898; Joseph W. Spannring, a third son, was born in 1901; and six years later, in 1907, Mrs. Spannring gave birth to Mary, the couple's only daughter.¹¹

According to a family memoir prepared by Simon Spannring, his father had established a saw mill and a small factory in 1903; there he manufactured children's wagons and skis. John Otto Spannring soon became involved in local politics. In 1910, because of his political activities and certain financial difficulties which arose from the financing of the mill and factory, he determined to emigrate from Inzell to the United States. His choice of Montana as a destination had been influenced by Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Wimmer, residents of Livingston, Montana, who had visited with the Spannring's in

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8

John Otto Spannring Family Farm
Sweetgrass County, MT

Page 3

Inzell. John Otto Spannring, his wife Mary (then pregnant with the couple's fifth child), and their four children departed Bremen in the fall of 1910 and disembarked in Baltimore, Maryland, after a voyage of twelve days. They traveled by train to Chicago and thence to Livingston where they arrived in October 1910. Walter Spannring was born in Livingston on 10 December 1910. He was the last born of the couple's five children and the only one to be born in their newly-adopted state of Montana.¹²

The Spannring family remained in Livingston, presumably with or near the Wimmers, during the winter of 1910-1911 and into the spring. John O. Spannring worked as a coach cleaner for the Northern Pacific Rail Road, his wife Mary stayed at home with the three-year-old Mary and the new-born Walter, and the three sons were enrolled at the Eastside School in Livingston when they began to learn the English language. The elder Spannring's ambition was to farm, and in 1911 he took up a 200-acre homestead in the Millionaire Flat area south of Reed Point in Sweet Grass County. With the passage of the Enlarged Homestead Act of 1909, Spannring could have taken up 320 acres, but for reasons now unknown, he took up only 200 acres. The circumstances of the family's agricultural operations on the homestead are detailed in an account prepared by Simon Spannring.

In the winter of 1911, John Sr. and John Jr. cleared a tract of timber at \$1.00 a day to buy our first horse at \$125. By 1913 we had 2 wagons, 4 horses, a walking plow, disc harrow, and planted 7 acres of wheat. In the summer we contracted to stack hay at \$1.00 per ton. In the summer of 1916 we bought a Case tractor and 4 bottom plow, and John Jr. used it to break sod at \$4.00 per acre. In the fall we bought a grain separator. John Jr. threshed grain, with the help of neighborhood crews consisting of 8 men with teams and bundle wagons, in various neighborhoods for 4 cents per bushel.¹³

In the five-year period required to obtain title to the homestead, John Spannring and his three sons acquired not only the land but also mules, valuable farm equipment, and the critically important tractor. The certificate for the homestead was dated 16 May 1916 and the deed for the 200-acre homestead was made on 13 July of that year.¹⁴ The experiences of the Spannring family during the six-year period, from arrival in Montana in October 1910 to receipt of their homestead deed in July 1916, were similar to those of other immigrant homestead families in Sweet Grass County and central Montana.

Given the fact that the deed for the two sections of land, located nine miles east of Big Timber, was made to John and Mary Spannring and their two eldest sons, it is clear that John O. Spannring planned to make the new farm a family place. The farm indeed prospered during the first years and it would have succeeded as Spannring intended had not the long-term drought set in during 1919. The strong commitment of family members to this farm is one of the factors which set it apart in the history of Sweet Grass County. Although John Herman Spannring, the eldest son, left the farm upon his marriage in 1921 his three younger brothers remained committed to the family enterprise and put the farm before their individual, personal interests. For most of the history of the family operation of the farm, Walter, Simon and John Spannring remained bachelors and did not marry until 1939, 1943, and 1948, respectively.

There is a family tradition that the Spannring family built a house and barn on the new homestead in 1916, a few months before actually acquiring title to the property on 28 March 1917. In 1988, Simon Spannring drew a sketch of the adjoining house and barn which were of stone and frame construction, respectively. They stood south of the present (1920) house and were built into the north face of a low hillside. The two-room stone house had a gable front, twenty-feet wide, with a center door flanked by small windows; there was a single window on the ten feet wide east side elevation. The frame barn, sixteen feet wide, adjoined the house on the west. There was no interior communication between the house and the weatherboarded barn which had a door and small window on the north front elevation. The seven-member Spannring family occupied the house until 1920 when they built a new dwelling which remains the farm residence to the present.¹⁵ The extent to which this stone house was typical of those built by homesteading families in Sweet Grass County

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8

John Otto Spannring Family Farm
Sweetgrass County, MT

Page 4

is not known. Stone was probably used for this first house--and the later house and barn--because it could be easily obtained from outcroppings and surface quarries on the property.

John O. Spannring also had experience as a stone mason. The family residence on the Becker homestead, immediately to the southwest of the Spannring farm, was built of logs. It stands, unoccupied, to the present.

The one-and-a-half-story stone house, built of stone from the farm, was simply finished in the then popular Bungalow style. It represented a major accomplishment for the Spannring family; together with the tractor and machinery, it was the most impressive evidence of their thrift and enterprise. In retrospect, it was the family's good fortune to construct the house in 1920, at the outset of a long period of drought. Had they postponed building a new dwelling, it might well have been smaller and less impressive. John O. Spannring was the mason who raised the house's stone elevations. His sons were the carpenters for the dwelling.¹⁶ On 30 July of the following year, John Herman Spannring (1897-1986) was married to Helen Regina Weisbeck (b. 1901); he departed the Spannring farm with his wife and relocated to a small ranch near Grey Cliff. The family occupying the new stone house was reduced to six in number, and in 1922, Simon Spannring left the farm for employment with the Northern Pacific Rail Road Company. He sent a part of his earnings back to the farm to help the family through the increasingly lean years of the early 1920s.¹⁷

The family did not altogether escape the calamities which were befalling many of their Sweet Grass County neighbors and other Montana homesteaders due to the extended course of the drought. The family was also to suffer a personal loss. In 1924, John Otto Spannring died, and he was buried in Montana View Cemetery in Big Timber.¹⁸ Through events which may or may not have been associated with his death, the Spannring family suffered financial difficulties. On 9 August 1924, the family's 1,276.55-acre farm was put up at auction at the court house in Big Timber. The property was bid in at \$11,119.30 by H. M. Allen. A year later, on 8 September 1925, a sheriff's deed for the farm was made to Mr. Allen.¹⁹ It appears that the family had continued to occupy the farm; however, they had not been able to satisfy the indebtedness against it during the year-long grace period. The fact that the Spannrings were working to redeem the farm was later proved, on 21 November 1925, when H. M. Allen and his wife, of Billings, Montana, conveyed the farm to Joseph W. and Simon L. Spannring, the middle sons of the family.²⁰ Mary Spannring presided over the household until her death in 1928. That same year Mary Spannring was married to Harvey Wagner; the couple eventually relocated to Bozeman. Also, in 1928, the Spannring brothers added a more fashionable and weatherproofing stucco to the stone elevations of the house.²¹

From 1925 until 1939, the year in which Walter Spannring (1910-1991) was married to Winifred Lanagan (b. 1917), the Spannring farm was operated by the bachelor brothers Joseph and Walter. Simon Spannring, also a bachelor, functioned as a somewhat silent partner and co-owner of the farm and continued to support it through his public-work earnings. Simon Spannring's role was probably a critical one in 1926 when the brothers built a stone and frame dairy barn. The stone was taken from outcroppings on the farm.

The barn was a modern facility and featured stables and stalls, stanchions for milking the Jersey and Gurnsey cows, a feed/grain room, a well room, and a milk room. (The cream was separated from the milk in the separator room on the northwest corner of the house. Both were put in cans and hauled to the creamery in Big Timber for sale.) The upper frame level of the barn was a single large loft for the storage of hay. The continuous sale of milk and cream in Big Timber was one sure way the Spannrings assured themselves a steady income.²²

The other factor was diversified farming which was practiced by others along the Yellowstone River. Wheat was a principal cash crop; the Spannrings threshed not only their own crops but those of the neighbors as well. The family raised

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8

John Otto Spannring Family Farm
Sweetgrass County, MT

Page 5

some beef cattle, hogs, and chickens for their own consumption, and they had a large vegetable garden for growing principally potatoes and cabbages, staples of the German diet.

Between 1934 and 1943, the Spannring farm was increased by purchases of land totaling just over one thousand acres. The first and most important of these acquisitions was the purchase of 289 acres of Section 27 which included large fertile bottom lands on the northeast side of the Yellowstone River. Here the Spannrings raised alfalfa for hay, having purchased pumping equipment for irrigating these broad low-lying fields. The purchase of the Section 27 acreage was made jointly by Joseph W. and Simon L. Spannring from Simon Weidinger and his wife Gertrude on 16 April 1934.²³ A year later, on 15 April 1935, Joseph W. Spannring acquired 160 acres of Section 26 which lay immediately south of the brothers' jointly-owned Section 23; it included good fields for hay and pasture.²⁴ Two years later, on 23 April 1937, the brothers acquired 240 acres of Section 22 which lay along the west side of Section 23 and half of the south boundary of Section 15.²⁵ According to Simon Spannring's memoir, these three purchases of farm land, totaling some 789 acres, were made despite repeated crop failures in the 1930s. What he did not mention is the fact that these purchases were probably facilitated by his steady employment with the Northern Pacific Rail Road Company.

Outside public-work income was undeniably the means by which many families held onto their farms in Montana and elsewhere in the lean Depression-era years. At the end of the 1930s, on 7 October 1939, Walter Spannring (1910-1991) married Winifred Lanagan (b. 1917), a daughter of Joseph Lanagan (d. 1945) who owned the neighboring farm on the southwest side of the Yellowstone River; the newly-wed couple then removed to their new farm south of Livingston, Park County, Montana.²⁶

The operation of the Spannring farm remained in the hands of the bachelor brother Joseph W. Spannring and hired hands after 1939. Beginning in 1941, with the entry of the United States into World War II, agriculture in Montana entered a period of great prosperity which continued through the post-war period and into the early 1950s. Prosperity came to the Spannring farm as well, and the years of the 1940s were the most prosperous ones which members of the family enjoyed on their second, primary homestead.²⁷ The 1940s also comprise the last years in which members of the Spannring family both owned and operated the farm. For many years, members of the Spannring family had been friends with a neighbor, a bachelor Irishman named Edward D. O'Dowd (1871-1946). His homestead farm of 320 acres was located in the south half of Section 14 which carried across the north boundary of the Spannring's Section 23 and on the east side of Section 15. On 29 March 1943, Edward D. O'Dowd conveyed the south half of Section 14, Township 1 North, Range 15 East, to Joseph W. Spannring.

The only surviving physical evidence of this homestead are a few stones and boards, an earth cellar, dug into the low hillside, and a few scattered objects, including the top of a four-burner iron stove, which lie in the grass, a half century after being abandoned.²⁸ This was the final addition to the Spannring holding and raised the farm acreage to a total of 2,286 acres--the size which it remains now, a half-century later. Eight months after the purchase, on 23 November 1943, Simon Spannring was married to Rose Katherine Nebelung (1896-1989).²⁹ In 1946, when Edward D. O'Dowd died, he was buried in the Spannring family plot in Mountain View Cemetery in Big Timber.

The fortunes of the Spannring family and their farm, increased by good crops and good prices in the 1940s, came to a halt at the end of the decade. In 1948, Joseph W. Spannring, who had remained a bachelor, was married to Voney Hoffman. A year later, in 1949, he died and was buried beside his parents in the family plot at Mountain View Cemetery. The operation of their homestead, by members of the Spannring family, came swiftly to a halt.³⁰ At his death, Joseph W. Spannring co-owned 1,805.55 acres of the family farm in partnership with his older brother Simon; he owned 480 acres in his own name. On 18 December 1950, Simon L. Spannring conveyed his undivided one-half interest in the jointly-held lands to his brother's widow and heir.³¹ As a result, Voney Hoffman Spannring came into possession of the entire

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8

John Otto Spannrng Family Farm
Sweetgrass County, MT

Page 6

Spannrng family farm. She held the property until 25 January 1964 when she sold the farm to John L. and Bonnie F. Ludwick of Baker, Montana.³² It appears that she rented the farm acreage to area farmers and ranchers in the 1950s and early 1960s.

Between 1964 and 1988 the John Otto Spannrng Family Farm passed through a series of ownerships and was held for either investment or agricultural use. The principal buildings, including the house, barn, and bunkhouse, deteriorated during this period. On 12 April 1988, William J. Hancock and Cecil W. Warbington, representatives of the estate of Warren J. Hancock, conveyed the former Spannrng property (surveyed at 2,280 acres, more or less) to Edward Henry Clement, a former banker and preservationist, of Salisbury, Rowan County, North Carolina.³³ Clement and his wife have restored the 1920 Spannrng family bungalow as a summer residence and stabilized the other outbuildings on the farm. They have continued the fields and pastures in agricultural use.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The architectural significance of the John Otto Spannrng Family Farm lies in the survival of the farm seat and the barn as representative examples of those building forms in Sweet Grass County. Given the fact that so many farms were homesteaded in Montana in the "Homestead Boom" in the early twentieth century, and that the bungalow was the predominant residential building type of those years, the bungalow was often the first major permanent domestic building erected on a homestead, family farm, or ranch in the 1910s, 1920s, and early 1930s. The family house on this farm is important as the first permanent dwelling erected on the Spannrng Family Farm and as a representative and largely intact example of the most popular residential building type of its era. The impressive and well-preserved gambrel-roof barn is likewise significant as the first and only permanent barn erected on this farm. It is also important as a largely intact example of a building form which was constructed throughout Montana as well as throughout much of the agricultural landscape of the United States. These great gambrel roof barns reflect not only the agricultural practices of individual farms but also the ambition of state governments and their agencies to improve agricultural production and dairying in the opening decades of the twentieth century. The survival of the interior stables and partitioned spaces in the barn reflect not only the scale of the Spannrng's relatively small operation but also important features of barn design of that period.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATION B

There are two moved buildings on the John Otto Spannrng Family Farm, to be considered in light of this nomination. The first, the bunk house, is a contributing building within the farm complex and meets Criteria Consideration B for eligibility. It is a historic building which from all available information was moved to its present location in 1939, well within the period of significance for this property. The relocation of this building from the Newmier homestead ties to the pattern of homestead consolidation which factors in the overall significance of this historic property. It also reflects a very common pattern in the use of outbuildings on Montana farmsteads and ranches, where outbuildings were regarded as almost semi-mobile, often being shifted around within building complexes or moved from one property to another as ownership, agricultural practices and land use patterns changed with time.

The second moved building on the farm, the garage, does not meet Criteria Consideration B, and is non-contributing due to loss of integrity since it was moved and rebuilt in 1991.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8

John Otto Spannring Family Farm
Sweetgrass County, MT

Page 7

ENDNOTES

1. Malone, Michael P., Roeder, Richard B., and Lang, William L., MONTANA, A HISTORY OF TWO CENTURIES (Seattle, Washington: University of Washington Press, 1991), pp. 232-253. A discussion of the Homestead Boom, 1900-1918, forms a critical chapter in this book: this discussion forms the context within which the significance of the John Otto Spannring Family Farm is evaluated. Hereinafter cited as Malone, MONTANA. Also, Vichorek, Daniel N., MONTANA'S HOMESTEAD ERA (Helena, Montana: American Geographic Publishing, 1987).
2. Malone, MONTANA, pp. 172-177.
3. Malone, MONTANA, pp. 238-240. Schwantes, Carlos A., "Landscapes of Opportunity: Phases of Railroad Promotion of the Pacific Northwest," MONTANA, THE MAGAZINE OF WESTERN HISTORY, Volume 43, Number 2 (Spring 1993), pp. 38-51.
4. Sweet Grass County Deeds, Book 15, page 78, Office of the Register of Deeds, Sweet Grass County Court House, Big Timber, Montana. Hereinafter cited as Sweet Grass County Deeds.
5. Sweet Grass County Deeds, Book 15, page 79. The deed conveyed 2,555.71 acres.
6. Sweet Grass County Deeds, Book 13, page 254. Rostad, Becken, and their wives were the grantors. The deed conveyed 4,915.79 acres.
7. Sweet Grass County Deeds, Book 15, page 286. Lindsay and his wife Jane were the grantors. The acreage was the same conveyed in the above deed. It seems probable that Lindsay was a principal in the Glass-Lindsay Land Company which was incorporated in Montana.
8. Sweet Grass County Deeds, Book 17, page 412. The deed conveyed 3,354.33 acres.
9. Sweet Grass County Deeds, Book 22, page 45. The purchase price was not cited: the revenue stamp was for \$0.50.
10. Sweet Grass County Deeds, Book 22, page 112. The purchase price was not cited: there is no revenue stamp reference in the deed book.
11. Information on the family of John Otto and Mary (Maier) Spannring was obtained from three principal sources. Author's interview with Winifred Lanagan Spannring, Livingston, Montana, 9 August 1993 (Notes of the interview are in the author's possession), hereinafter cited as Spannring Interview. Mrs. Spannring, born 6 March 1917, is the daughter of Joseph John and Winifred (Leyden) Lanagan. She is the widow of Walter Spannring (1910-1991) who is buried at Calvary Cemetery, Livingston, Montana. The couple was married at St. Joseph's Church, Big Timber, on 7 October 1939; a wedding dance was held in the loft of the dairy barn on the Spannring farm. Mrs. Spannring made available to the author a photocopy of a family memoir prepared by Simon L. Spannring (1898-1993) in/about 1988: it was submitted as a part of the application for a certificate of registration for Johann Spannring in "The American Immigrant Wall of Honor" presented by the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, Inc. She also provided to the author a photocopy of Simon Spannring's sketch of the family's first house and barn erected on the farm. Tandy, Patricia A., "John Herman and Helen Spannring," (and) Spannring,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8

John Otto Spannring Family Farm
Sweetgrass County, MT

Page 8

Simon, "Simon and Rose Spannring Family," (and) Spannring, Winifred, "Walt and Win Spannring Family," HISTORY OF PARK COUNTY, MONTANA (Dallas: Taylor Publishing Company, 1984), pp. 441-443. These genealogical sketches will, hereinafter, be cited by the author's name. Obituary for Simon L. Spannring, LIVINGSTON ENTERPRISE, Livingston, Montana, 30 July 1993. Mary Spannring Wagner, the only surviving child of John Otto and Mary Spannring, resides in Bozeman, Montana. The presentation of information concerning the family and the operation of the farm occurs through a combination of facts from the above sources.

12. Spannring Interview. Simon L. Spannring memoir. Simon Spannring genealogical sketch.
13. Simon Spannring genealogical sketch.
14. Sweet Grass County Deeds, Book 18, page 545, and Book 21, page 235.
15. Spannring Interview. Simon Spannring's sketch of the house and barn. This stone house and the adjoining barn were afterward used as a granary and slowly fell into disrepair. Winifred Spannring remembers that they were largely lost by her marriage to Walter in 1939. In his family memoir, Simon Spannring wrote, "We constructed a two-room house, one room serving as a kitchen and living room and one for a bedroom for Mom, Dad, and Walter. Mary slept on a rollaway in the living room. We also built a small barn for the cow and horses. We moved the grainery [sic] near the house for a bedroom for John, Joe and me until we built the house in 1920." The origin of the grainery [sic] is unknown: like the original house and barn, it, too, is long lost.
16. There were three significant changes made to the Spannring house in the 1920s and early 1930s. The first of these occurred shortly after the house was built and by 1924. It involved the enclosure of the front (south) porch as a single space illuminated by the four pairs of double-hung sash windows flanking the center door. Later, perhaps about 1932, the area was partitioned to create single rooms on either side of the front hall. In 1928, before Mary Spannring's death, Joseph W. and Walter Spannring covered the stone house with stucco; this was apparently done to protect the mortar binding the stones. When the house was built in 1920, there was a door in or near the center of the west gable end which opened into a shallow passage with the separator room on the left (north) and the kitchen on the right (south). About 1932, that door was closed up and the kitchen was enlarged and refitted to take in the passage. The house's first bathroom was also added at this time. The present kitchen cabinets were probably installed during this remodeling effort; however, they could have been installed later. Spannring Interview.
17. Spannring Interview. Patricia A. Tandy genealogical sketch.
18. The Spannring family plot is enclosed with a low cement border and planted with irises and a lilac shrub. A grey granite family marker, ornamented with thistles, bears the family name. Burials in the family plot were recorded during a site visit by the author on 9 August 1993.
19. Sweet Grass County Deeds, Book 30, page 278-279.
20. Sweet Grass County Deeds, Book 30, page 356.
21. Spannring Interview.
22. Spannring Interview.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8

John Otto Spannring Family Farm
Sweetgrass County, MT

Page 9

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23. Sweet Grass County Deeds, Book 28, page 620.
 24. Sweet Grass County Deeds, Book 34, pages 294-295.
 25. Sweet Grass County Deeds, Book 41, page 601. Richard J. and Stella A. Wright were the grantors.
 26. Spannring Interview. Winifred Spannring genealogical sketch.
 27. Malone, MONTANA, pp. 308-309, 318-320. Spannring Interview.
 28. Sweet Grass County Deeds, Book 37, page 440. The sensation of coming upon these remnants of O'Dowd's homestead, experienced during the field recording of the farm on 10 August 1993, was akin to the evocative description of a like experience described by Daniel N. Vichorek in the "Foreward" of MONTANA'S HOMESTEAD ERA, pp. 4-5. According to Spannring family tradition, Edward O'Dowd made wine from the native choke cherries, and he used the cellar to store it. The wood top of the cellar is collapsed. From the hilltop, one can see the rusted rings from his wine barrels lying in the dust.
 29. Obituary for Simon L. Spannring, LIVINGSTON ENTERPRISE, 30 July 1993.
 30. Spannring Interview.
 31. Sweet Grass County Deeds, Book 42, page 173.
 32. Sweet Grass County Deeds, Book 51, pages 498-500.
 33. Sweet Grass County Deeds, Book 68, page 844.

PHOTOLOG

All photographs submitted were taken by Davyd Foard Hood on August 10, 1993. Images are labelled on the back of each photograph; negatives are housed at the MT SHPO office.

9. Major Bibliographic References

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 2,280

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	12	590520	5072420
B	12	589340	5073680
C	12	588980	5075310
D	12	592140	5072840
E	12	590520	5072420
F	12	589340	5073680
G	12	588980	5075310

Legal Location (Township, Range & Section(s)): Secs. 14, 15, 22, 23, 26; T1N, R15E

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries for the John O. Spannring Family Farm are delineated on the accompanying USGS map.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the John Otto Spannring Family Farm is drawn to include the original acreage acquired by John Otto Spannring and his family in 1917 and the tracts which were subsequently acquired and incorporated into the family farm by his sons during the years of 1934 through 1943. The farm reached its maximum size in 1934, 2,285.55 acres (adjusted by survey to 2,280), and it has remained that same size to the present--a half century later.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Davyd Foard Hood
organization: date: 10 June 1994
street & number: Isinglass, 6907 Old Shelby Road telephone: 706-462-4331
city or town: Vale state: NC zip code: 28168

Property Owner

name/title: Mr. Edward H. Clement
street & number: 310 South Ellis Street telephone:
city or town: Salisbury state: NC zip code: 28144

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9

JOHN OTTO SPANNRING FAMILY FARM
SWEETGRASS COUNTY, MT

Page 1

9. References

HISTORY OF PARK COUNTY, MONTANA. Dallas, Texas: Taylor Publishing Company, 1984.

LIVINGSTON ENTERPRISE. Livingston, Montana, 30 July 1993.

Malone, Michael P. and Roeder, Richard B. and Lang, William L., MONTANA: A HISTORY OF TWO CENTURIES. Seattle, Washington: University of Washington Press, 1991.

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Spannring, Winifred Lanagan, interview with Author, Livingston, Montana, 9 August 1993.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10

JOHN OTTO SPANNRING FAMILY FARM
SWEETGRASS COUNTY, MT

Page 1

