NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 8/86) NPS/CHS Word Processor Format (Approved 03/88)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

## NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable". For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printers in 12 pitch. Use only 25% or greater cotton content bond paper.

### 1. Name of Property

<u>historic name: SLW Ranch</u> <u>other names/site number: Ogilvy Ranch, Crow Creek Ranch, Percheron-Norman Horse</u> Company Ranch; 5WL805

#### 2. Location

<u>street &amp; number:</u>	27401 Weld County Road 58 1/2	(NA) not for publication	
<u>city, town: Gree</u>	ley	( X) vicinity	
state: CO	code: 008 county: Weld	code:123 zip code: 80631	

#### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resource	es within Property
<ul> <li>(X) private</li> <li>() public-local</li> <li>() public-State</li> <li>() public-Federal</li> </ul>	<pre>( ) building(s) (X) district ( ) site ( ) structure ( ) object</pre>	contributing <u>17</u> <u>1</u> <u>12</u> <u>30</u>	noncontributing <u>1</u> buildings sites <u>2</u> structures objects <u>3</u> Total
Name of related multiple property listing:		No. of contributing resources previously listed in the	
<u>Historic Farms and Ranches in Weld</u>		National Regis	ter <u>0</u>

FTB 1 2 1991

31.000

# 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this (x) 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 (x) meets () does not meet the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet. Mum 30/9/ Signature of certifying official Date State Historic Preservation Officer, Colorado Historical Society State or Federal agency and bureau In my opinion, the property () meets () does not meet the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet. Signature of Commenting or Other Official Date State or Federal Agency and Bureau

# 5. 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.
- ( ) removed from the National Register.
- ( ) other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Beth Boland	
Circolum of the Verser	Data
Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action

6. Functions or Use	
Historic Functions	Current Functions
(enter categories from instructions)	(enter categories from instructions)
Domestic/single dwelling	Domestic/single dwelling
Agriculture/animal facility	Agriculture/agricultural outbuilding
Agriculture/agricultural field	Agriculture/agricultural field

7. Description		
Architectural Classification	Materials	
(enter categories from instructions)	(enter categ	ories from instructions)
Other: Vernacular Wood Frame	foundations	Stone
	walls	Wood
	roof	Asphalt
	other	Brick

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

#### Introduction

The SLW Ranch meets the registration requirements specified in the Multiple Property Documentation Form "Historic Farms and Ranches in Weld County, Colorado." Ninetyfour percent of the thirty-three resources within the ranch are associated with the historic context "Ranching in Weld County, 1859-1940." The property type represented is the ranch. Of the total number of resources on the ranch, thirty, or ninety-one percent, are contributing, while three, or nine percent, are noncontributing. The inset sketch map accompanying this form identifies the location of buildings and structures on the ranch and their contributing or noncontributing status. The registration requirements listed in the related Multiple Property Documentation Form were utilized to determine the contributing or noncontributing status of each resource. Among the criteria utilized for evaluating contributing structures were: date of construction, historic associations, integrity of materials, design, setting, and plan.

The nominated district consists of the main ranch building complex, containing the ranch buildings, surrounding pasture, and two ditches, and a discontiguous pasture. The pasture was included in this nomination because it is part of the setting for the ranch buildings and because of the important role it played in the history of the ranch. In the ranch building area there are seventeen contributing buildings, ten contributing structures, one noncontributing building and two noncontributing structures. The pasture has been counted as a contributing site and historic irrigation ditches have been counted as two contributing structures.

(X) See continuation sheet

NPS Form 10-900a (Rev. 8/86) NPS/CHS Word Processor Format (Approved 03/88)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number <u>7</u> Page <u>1</u>

SLW Ranch

The SLW Ranch is located approximately eight miles east of Greeley, northeast of the small town of Kersey, and north of the South Platte River, on Colorado's eastern plains. The ranch encompasses approximately 2,200 acres of land. The ranch buildings, structures, and irrigated pasture are located in approximately eighty acres in Sections 10 and 11, Township 5 North, Range 64 West, Sixth Principal Meridian and discontiguous pasture lands are located approximately one mile to the east in Sections 1, 7, 12, and 18, Township 5 North, Range 63 West. Two sections of pasture land are leased from the state of Colorado.<sup>1</sup> Surrounding countryside is composed primarily of irrigated cropland, pastures, and hay fields. Crow Creek meanders through the pasture acreage from northwest to southeast. The North Fork the Ogilvy Ditch delineates the northern boundary of the main ranch complex and the South Fork of the Ogilvy Ditch forms the extreme southern boundary.

The ranch buildings lie south of the North Fork of the Ogilvy Ditch and north of unpaved Weld County Road 58 1/2. The original ranch house is the building located nearest the road and is the first building encountered when entering the property. Entrance to the ranch is achieved through large iron gates, along a roadway which forks toward the main house and toward the rectangular ranch yard and another house.<sup>2</sup> Hundred-year-old cottonwood trees still line the path toward the main house. The ranch buildings generally face south and the main buildings are located along the edges of the central ranch yard, which provides both access and parking. The barn, corral, storage, and feeding areas are behind the residential area, and surfaced with hard packed earth. The residential area has been planted with grass, trees, flowers, and bushes.

Earliest historic descriptions of the property indicate that, in 1884, ranch owner Lyulph Ogilvy lived in a small frame dwelling. The Ogilvy ranch also included another small frame house, stables, corrals, and hog pens. The corrals were made of unstripped tree limbs. The stable was built of the trunks of cottonwood trees sunk into the ground, with a roof of branches on top. Rough straw, many feet thick, was piled around the enclosure. Against the straw, moist refuse from the stock yard was thrown to form the walls. The resulting structure was reported to be cool in summer, impervious to cold, and provided ready food for the horses, who could eat the straw. The corrals, pens, and stable are no longer extant. Although two small

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>The state sections are not included in this nomination.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>The original entrance gates were donated to the University of Northern Colorado. The University of Northern Colorado recently gave the ranch the current entrance gates.

NPS Form 10-900a (Rev. 8/86) NPS/CHS Word Processor Format (Approved 03/88)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number <u>7</u> Page <u>2</u>

SLW Ranch

frame houses still exist on the ranch, it is impossible to definitively date the buildings or associate them with Ogilvy.<sup>3</sup>

#### Contributing Buildings

In 1885, after receiving title to the ranch, Ogilvy had built a large frame house which he shared with his sister. The **Greeley Tribune** reported that Robert Hall had been contracted to build a "plain wooden structure" with a substantial stone cellar, and modern conveniences, including two flights of stairs, a front room with sliding doors for receptions, closets, a bathroom, and twenty windows.<sup>4</sup> From the time of its construction, the house had indoor plumbing, connected to water from the ranch's windmill and to a water tank on the roof which collected rain water.<sup>5</sup> The house when completed was regarded as a show place and was utilized for community social events, such as dances and feasts.<sup>6</sup> In 1890, the dwelling was described as "a neat frame, roomy, well-furnished and supplied with hot and cold water."<sup>7</sup> It was also reported that the manager of the ranch at that date, Abraham F. Wolf, had set out two groves of trees in the yard.<sup>8</sup> When Harvey E. Witwer took over the operation of the ranch in 1899, the house served as his residence and the headquarters of his operations. From Ogilvy's era to the present, the area where the ranch buildings are located has been known as the "Home Place."<sup>9</sup>

The ranch house stands today as a stately reminder of the Ogilvy era on the ranch (see Building A, inset map). Historic cottonwood trees face the house on the south and west and line the driveway to the residence (1).<sup>10</sup> The large, two-story, frame dwelling has a low hipped roof with overhanging eaves. The plan of the house is rectangular, with an inset, rectangular wing intersecting the rear of the dwelling (2). The southern elevation (3) features a projecting, two-story, squared bay; a central doorway with transom; and tall, narrow, one-over-one light double-hung windows with shutters. A picture window has replaced a set of paired windows on the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>The Colorado Live Stock Record, 6 September 1884. This type of early animal shelter was common in the West. See Byron D. Halsted, ed., Barns, Sheds and Outbuildings, (Battleboro, Vt.: Stephen Greene Press, 1977), 71. <sup>4</sup>Greeley (Colo.) Tribune, 11 February 1885. <sup>5</sup>Stewart Cooper, Manager, SLW Ranch, interview, 8 September 1990. <sup>6</sup>Witwer Scrapbooks, SLW Ranch, Greeley, Colorado. <sup>7</sup>Greeley (Colo.) Sun, 19 July 1890. <sup>8</sup>Ibid.

The Colorado Live Stock Record, 6 September 1884.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup>Numbers in parentheses refer to photographs accompanying this nomination; see Photographic Index for more information on each image.

NPS Form 10-900a (Rev. 8/86) NPS/CHS Word Processor Format (Approved 03/88)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number <u>7</u> Page <u>3</u>

SLW Ranch

second story, and a wrap-around porch, which extended to the western elevation, has been removed.<sup>11</sup> The eastern elevation has a shed-roofed, enclosed porch with board and batten siding and a band of rectangular, single-pane windows. Windows on the eastern elevation are paired, and a picture window has replaced a set of paired windows. The western elevation (2) has a second doorway and paired and single double-hung windows with shutters. A 1950s door surround has been added, and a picture window has replaced a set of paired windows. The house has two corbelled brick chimneys and a stone foundation. Recently, vinyl on steel siding which imitates the original weatherboard siding was added to the exterior of the house. The original siding remains beneath the newer siding. The interior of the house displays many details of its original craftsmanship, including an ornate walnut staircase, pocket (sliding) doors, wainscot, and pilaster doorway trim (4). Attached to the rear of the enclosed porch of the Ogilvy house are three small, originally separate, circa 1890s buildings: the coal house, storage shed, and ice house (see inset map, buildings B, C, D, respectively). To the immediate north of the enclosed rear porch is the coal house (5). The coal house is a shed-roofed, weatherboard-sided building with a large, corbelled brick chimney; a center, paneled wood door on the facade; and square, four-light windows on the western elevation. Attached to the north side of the coal house is a storage building (5). The storage building is shed-roofed with exposed rafters, drop siding, and two paneled wooden doors. Attached to the north side of the storage building is the ice house (5), a shed-roofed building with somewhat deteriorated horizontal board siding and exposed rafters. The rafters sit atop the ice house walls, leaving an opening which provides ventilation on the east. The ice house is of double wall construction, the space between the walls is filled with straw for insulation. A horizontal board fence encloses the yard area west of these buildings.

Associated with the main ranch house is a small garage (circa 1910s) with drop siding and corner boards (see inset map, building E). The garage has a hipped roof with overhanging, enclosed eaves and a brick chimney with concrete cap. One-overone light double-hung windows are on the east and south. A paneled wooden door is on the southern elevation and wooden garage doors are on the western elevation (6). Next to the garage is a small shed constructed of vertical boards (see inset map, building F). At one time, this circa 1900 shed was used as a place to smoke hams.

The SLW Ranch barn was constructed in 1915, following a devastating fire which destroyed the original Percheron-Norman Horse Company barn and its contents. The architect for the new barn was Lathrop C. Stow, father-in-law of Harvey E. Witwer,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup>The date of the porch is unknown. The porch is not mentioned in early descriptions of the house.

NPS Form 10-900a (Rev. 8/86) NPS/CHS Word Processor Format (Approved 03/88)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number <u>7</u> Page <u>4</u>

SLW Ranch

and former mayor of Grand Rapids, Michigan. The barn is a landmark in the area and can be seen from some distance due to its size (see inset map, building G). The three-story, building has drop siding, a flared, cross-gambrel roof composed of intersecting southern and western wings, corner boards, and an evenly-coursed stone foundation (7). The roof has overhanging eaves with decorative beams and two pyramidal-roofed, louvered cupolas (a third cupola blew off during a wind storm). Windows are four-over-four light and are symmetrically placed on the exterior of the building. The southern elevation, which faces the central ranch yard, typifies the building's fenestration, with one window on either side of the sliding, wooden double entry doors of the first floor; one on either side of the double hay loading doors of the second floor, and one in the center of the gambrel end. The southern wing, which contains the ranch office, has a tall, corbelled brick chimney. The eastern elevation of the building features an intersecting gambrel end, which has sliding double doors and a second story hay loading door. The western wing has entrances onto the western corral area (see inset map, structure Z) and three small attached corrals which serve interior box stalls. The western gambrel end has a projecting hood with metal pulley above hay loading doors. The cable of the pulley runs along the apex of the hay loft to the eastern hay door. A corrugated metal shed is attached to the rear of the barn. Two large wooden corrals west of the barn are used for special purposes, such as to hold calves born in the spring.

The barn interior, which has wooden plank flooring, remains virtually intact. The interior includes individual wooden horse stalls; box stalls connected to small exterior corrals; an enclosed tack room with riding implements, including a revolving saddle rack; a carriage room; and a grain mixing room. The horse stalls are constructed of horizontal boards and several are topped with iron bars (8). The ranch office is filled with memorabilia collected over the years reflecting the history of the enterprise (9). The office is furnished with a large iron wall safe, a brick fireplace, a wooden railing with swinging door, built-in wooden storage cabinets, and original office furniture. The carriage area of the first floor is used for storing the wagons and carriages collected by Harvey E. Witwer, Sr., a few of which remain, including a Brunswick trap buggy, a Studebaker cabriolet, and a pony cart.

An immense hay loft fills the second and third stories of the barn (10). A metal cable running from east to west along the top of the roof was used to pull hay into the loft. The loft has wooden plank flooring and a series of hay chutes through which hay was transferred to the floor below for horses and cattle. The second floor also features eight wooden-sided storage granaries. The grain housed in these bins was dropped through chutes to the lower level for mixing and feeding. A sleigh is stored in the hay loft.

NPS Form 10-900a (Rev. 8/86) NPS/CHS Word Processor Format (Approved 03/88)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number <u>7</u> Page <u>5</u>

SLW Ranch

Adjacent to the northeast corner of the barn is a small, shed-roofed building with drop siding, a wooden door, concrete foundation, and no windows (see inset map, building H). Today this shed is used to store salt. This building dates to the early 1900s.

North of the barn is a circa 1900 implement shed with saltbox roofline, drop siding, and bays for storage of farm implements (see inset map, building I). The building has a corrugated metal roof and two, small, four-light windows on the facade (11). Attached to the east side of the implement shed is a circa 1880s blacksmith/work shop (see inset map, building J). The shop has board and batten siding, a wooden floor, and an open doorway beside a nine light window (11). Two-over-two light windows with plain wood surrounds are on the eastern elevation. A single light window has been added to the north elevation. Many historic blacksmithing tools are housed in this building.

A round concrete silo (12), constructed in 1918, was one of the first erected in the region, and was originally used to house corn silage (see inset map, structure K). The corn was blown into the silo through tubes. The silo is no longer used.

A small, rectangular, circa 1900 dairy barn (12) south of the silo has a gabled roof, exposed rafters, wood siding covered with metal, and a stone foundation (see inset map, building L). The barn features a rectangular, gabled, louvered cupola. The southern elevation has four wooden doors with plain wood surrounds which open onto the corral area. On the west is a sliding wooden door. The northern elevation has four-light windows. The dairy barn was originally used for milking cows. Today the building is used for storage.

Attached to the dairy barn on the south is a feeder (12), or covered hay shed (see inset map, building M). Feeders are used to store hay during the summer and feed animals in a protected environment during the winter. The feeder, which was originally a separate building, has a shed roof with exposed rafters, horizontal board siding, a narrow door, a shuttered window on the west, and a stone foundation.

South of this attached feeder are three similar feeders with shed roofs, wide horizontal board siding, and stone foundations (see inset map, buildings N, O, P). The exact construction date of the feeders is unknown, although historic photographs indicate that they are at least fifty years old. The feeders open onto the corral area on the east (12).

Inside the corrals are circa 1900 enclosed feeders. A feeder (13) atop a wood pier on raised concrete base has drop siding, a gabled roof with overhanging eaves, and

NPS Form 10-900a (Rev. 8/86) NPS/CHS Word Processor Format (Approved 03/88)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number <u>7</u> Page <u>6</u>

SLW Ranch

corner boards (see inset map, building Q). A small door in the upper gable end and a large square door in one wall are used to distribute feed. Historic photographs indicate that this building has been moved from another location within the corral area sometime after 1920. A long, rectangular enclosed feeder (14) has horizontal board siding, a gabled roof with exposed rafters, corner boards, and a raised wooden pier (see inset map, building R). The building has a low concrete wall around it.

Attached to the east side of the dairy barn is a metal roofed, separately constructed, wooden shed (15) used to protect animals from the extremes of winter weather and to provide shade during the summer (see inset map, building S). A second, wooden shed (15) is attached on the east of this shed (see inset map, building T). These sheds have been in this location for at least seventy years.

The dairy barn and sheds face a number of wooden corrals used to hold cows and calves during various stages of their growth and to hold bulls prepared for sale (see inset map, structure AA). The corral area (12, 15) contains feeding troughs, water tanks, and a loading chute. The corrals are constructed of wooden boards and posts and have some metal gates. Corrals have been in this portion of the ranch yard for at least seventy years.

South of the eastern corral area is the residential area of the ranch. In addition to the previously-described ranch house, a number of other buildings are located here, including a small, shed-roofed storage building constructed of vertical boards, which dates to the early 1900s (see inset map, building U).

The pre-1920 chicken coop (16) with saltbox roofline and drop siding faces south to take advantage of the light necessary for poultry raising (see inset map, building V). The building is located away from the barn and livestock area, nearer the dwellings than other animal facilities of the ranch. The chicken coop has a wood shingle roof and an ornate louvered cupola with decorative gable ornament. The southern elevation has three wood doors and six two-light windows. The other elevations have no openings. The chicken coop has a concrete foundation.

A small, frame house (17) with drop siding and a gabled roof with exposed rafters faces east (see inset map, building W). The facade features an off-center, paneled and glazed door and a four-over-four light double-hung window with shutters. The house has a brick chimney with concrete cap and a concrete block foundation. Attached to the rear of this house is another small frame house with drop siding, a gabled roof, and one-over-one light double-hung windows with shutters (see inset map, building X). The house has a brick chimney with concrete cap and metal pipe, and a concrete foundation. A cellar door is located on the east. At the junction

NPS Form 10-900a (Rev. 8/86) NPS/CHS Word Processor Format (Approved 03/88)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number <u>7</u> Page <u>7</u>

SLW Ranch

of the two houses is an enclosed entrance. These houses resemble the descriptions of the original 1880s dwellings of Lyulph Ogilvy and his sister, Maude, but no direct evidence was found regarding the dates of these dwellings. The houses have been in this configuration since the early 1940s.<sup>12</sup>

To the west of the SLW Ranch buildings is an open field . On the eastern edge of the field is a concrete water tank originally associated with a windmill which was removed several years ago (see inset map, structure Y). The water tank is a pre-1940 structure.

The Ogilvy Ditch, built in 1881, was constructed with horses and scrapers. The North and South Forks of the ditch were completed by the end of 1882. Today, the SLW Ranch has a small portion of shares in the ditch, and the remaining shares are owned by landowner farmers who use the water for irrigation. The North Fork of the ditch, which runs along the northern boundary of the property, is dirt-lined and approximately fifteen feet wide (18). The North Fork carries approximately fifty cubic feet of water per second. The South Fork of the Ogilvy Ditch marks the southern boundary of the SLW western pasture. The South Fork is also dirt-lined and it carries approximately forty cubic feet of water per second.

The SLW pasture, which has been associated with the ranch since the 1880s, is located approximately one mile east of the ranch buildings. The pasture historically was a key piece of land, utilized for the grazing of horses and cattle. The land continues to serve this purpose and retains its natural integrity.

#### Noncontributing Buildings

To the north of the Ogilvy house is another two story house, which was constructed in 1890 by W. S. McElroy for the Percheron-Norman Horse Company as a cook and bunk house for its staff (see inset map, building AB). In 1890, the **Greeley Sun** described the building as "a neat two-story structure, used entirely for the use of the men. A commodious dining room with accommodation for thirty men, roomy sitting room, a fine large kitchen and pantry, and comfortable bedrooms overhead" made up the building.<sup>14</sup> The side-gabled frame house was stuccoed in the 1940s, and has an addition on the east and a new porch (19). The interior of the building has also been remodeled. These alterations diminish the building's historic integrity.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup>Stewart Cooper, SLW Ranch, Greeley, Colo., telephone interview, 27 October 1990; and Stow Witwer, Jr., telephone interview, 29 October 1990.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup>Stow Witwer, Jr., telephone interviews, October 1990.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup>Greeley (Colo.) Sun, 19 July 1890.

NPS Form 10-900a (Rev. 8/86) NPS/CHS Word Processor Format (Approved 03/88)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number <u>7</u> Page <u>8</u>

SLW Ranch

A metal shed west of the large barn (see inset map, building AC) and a metal shed east of the dairy barn (see inset map, building AD) are less than fifty years old and noncontributing.

#### List of Resources

Contributing Resources

Buildings	1.	(A)	Main Ranch House
j.		(B)	
		(C)	
		(D)	_
		(E)	
		(F)	
		(G)	
			Shed
			Implement Shed
		(J)	
		(L)	
			Shed
			Shed
	14.	(U)	Shed
			Chicken Coop
		(W)	
	17.	(X)	House
Structures	1.	(K)	Silo
		• •	Feeder
		• •	Feeder
	4.	(0)	Feeder
	5.	(P)	Feeder
	6.	(Q)	Feeder
	7.	(R)	Feeder
	8.	(Y)	Water Tank
	9.	(Z)	Corral
	10.	(AA)	Corral
	11.		Irrigation Ditch
	12.		Irrigation Ditch
Sites	1.		Pasture (East)

NPS Form 10-900a (Rev. 8/86) NPS/CHS Word Processor Format (Approved 03/88)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number <u>7</u> Page <u>9</u>

SLW Ranch

### Noncontributing Resources

Buildings 1. (AB) House

Structures 1. (AC) Modern Animal Shelter Shed 2. (AD) Modern Animal Shelter Shed

#### 8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the relation to other properties: ()		
Applicable National Register Criteria Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)	(X) A ( ) B (X) C ( ) D ( ) A ( ) B ( ) C ( ) D	
Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Agriculture Architecture	<u>1880–1940</u> 1885,1915	<u>1880, 1889, 1899</u> <u>1885, 1915,                                     </u>
	Cultural Affiliation N/A	
Significant Person	Architect/Builder	

Significant Person	Architect/Bullder
<u>N/A</u>	W. S. McElroy; Lathrop C. Stow;
	Robert Hall

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

#### Introduction and Statement of Significance

The SLW Ranch is an important representative of the history of ranching in Weld County, Colorado, reflecting several themes integral to the development of that industry and is significant under criterion A for its agriculture and under criterion C for its architecture. The ranch was established by a Scottish capitalist during the early 1880s, when foreign investment in the West played a significant role in the growth of ranching. A horse ranch was established on the property a short time later by a group of prominent American capitalists, reflecting the role of the West as a field for investment and the importance of the horse in late nineteenth century life. Since 1899, the ranch has been representative of the general history of cattle ranching on the eastern Colorado plains, and it has been a forerunner in developing and incorporating new scientific information, technologies, and marketing strategies which have promoted its long and successful history. The built environment of the ranch reflects this complex history through its overall integrity and the diversity of its buildings and structures.

This nomination is an addition to the multiple property submission "Historic Farms and Ranches in Weld County, Colorado." The property is associated with the historic context "Ranching in Weld County: 1859-1940." With the exception of two small shelter sheds, all of the buildings and structures on the ranch were constructed during the period 1880-1940, and all are associated with the agricultural development of the area.

(X) See continuation sheet

NPS Form 10-900a (Rev. 8/86) NPS/CHS Word Processor Format (Approved 03/88)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number <u>8</u> Page <u>1</u>

SLW Ranch

The SLW Ranch is significant under criterion A in the area of agriculture, for its association with the movement of Scottish investors to purchase and develop western ranch lands and establish cattle raising operations during the late nineteenth century. The ranch was originally acquired by the Earl of Airlie as an investment and livelihood for his son, Lyulph Ogilvy, in 1880. The ranch is representative of the widespread practice of British and Scottish families sending second sons to the western United States during that period. The Earl of Airlie was one of the first Scots to investigate the possibilities of investment in large scale cattle ranches by his countrymen. The company which the Earl represented, the Prairie Cattle Company, was the first, and among the largest, of the Scottish-controlled cattle companies in the West. Lyulph Ogilvy, who established the ranch, constructed the main house, and built the irrigation ditch, was one of a number of such foreigners who influenced the history of the West during the development of the plains.

The SLW Ranch is also significant under criterion A in agriculture for its association with the Percheron-Norman Horse Company. The Percheron-Norman Horse Company was a large scale commercial enterprise which supplied horses to meet the needs of farm and city dwellers. The horse company represented a venture which sought to take advantage of the demand for horses during the late nineteenth century, as well as to utilize the open range still available for grazing animals. The demise of the company reflects the changes in technology which led to the growth of the automobile industry, as well as the dwindling of the open range by the end of the century.

In addition, the SLW Ranch is significant for its association with the SLW Ranch Company, which succeeded the Percheron-Norman Horse Company and developed the area into a number of small irrigated farms. The company sold land and buildings to farmers coming to the area to settle. The creation of the farms, which are still in operation on lands adjoining the ranch, resulted in a growth of population led to the erection of an associated SLW Church and School. These buildings, which were later moved off the ranch, were the focal points for the community of the surrounding countryside.

The SLW Ranch is also significant during the twentieth century for its leadership in the development of the Hereford industry in Colorado, maintaining the oldest registered Hereford operation in the state. Herefords were the predominant breed of cattle in the West throughout the early twentieth century, and the SLW Ranch played a pivotal role in the development of the breed. The SLW Ranch also represents the

NPS Form 10-900a (Rev. 8/86) NPS/CHS Word Processor Format (Approved 03/88)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number <u>8</u> Page <u>2</u>

SLW Ranch

agricultural diversity demanded by the stringencies of the Great Depression, when ranch owners assisted in the development of the dude ranching industry in Colorado. The ranch owners were leaders in the dude ranching business on the eastern plains.

The SLW Ranch is also significant under criterion C, for its collection of intact agricultural buildings, whose architecture represents the technologies and lifestyles of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The totality of the ranch buildings and their unchanged setting, provide important insight into the workings of an historic ranch. The stately Ogilvy ranch house reflects the gracious atmosphere which surrounded its Scottish owner as it translated into the pragmatic culture of the West. The design of the barn is of significance, embodying in its details elements seldom found in contemporary barns, such as an immense hay loft, grain rooms, an office, and several wooden horse stalls. The blacksmith shop reflects the necessity of having the ability to repair implements and accessories in a timely manner. The covered feeders represent a rapidly disappearing method of providing food for animals during harsh weather. The concrete silo also represents a structure design which has been superseded. The chicken coop is an excellent example of its type, and is notable for its integrity and its ornamentation. The North and South Forks of the Ogilvy Ditch are an integral part of the ranch, representing the very early method of building irrigation systems with horses and scrapers.

#### Historic Context

David Graham Drummond Ogilvy, the Earl of Airlie, chairman of the Scottish-American Mortgage Company, which developed the great Prairie Cattle Company, Ltd. during the 1880s, was one of the earliest Scots to recognize the value of the American West as an investment opportunity for his fellow countrymen. The Earl made several visits to the United States, and inspected farm and ranch lands in western Oregon and Colorado during his journeys. In February 1881, he wrote that "after having traversed the United States from New York to Puget Sound, and having obtained the best information which I could procure, I have purchased land in Colorado for a near relation of my own, who intends to go out as a settler."<sup>15</sup>

The relative to whom the Earl referred was his second son, Lyulph Gilchrist Stanley Ogilvy, born in 1861. Under the Scottish laws of inheritance, the Earl's first son would receive his father's estate in Forfarshire, Scotland. Lyulph, like a number

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup>Earl of Airlie, "The United States as a Field for Agricultural Settlers," The Nineteenth Century, February 1881.

NPS Form 10-900a (Rev. 8/86) NPS/CHS Word Processor Format (Approved 03/88)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number <u>8</u> Page <u>3</u>

SLW Ranch

of second sons during the period, came to the United States to establish himself, and took up ranching on land purchased by his father. The popularity of investing in ranch lands in the West became a craze among the British and Scottish during the early 1880s.<sup>16</sup> Lyulph Ogilvy accompanied his father on a trip to the United States in 1879 and decided at that time to emigrate and become a rancher.<sup>17</sup> For this undertaking, in 1880, the Earl acquired land in Weld County, Colorado. The Crow Creek Ranch, as it was then known, followed the prevailing practice of utilizing the open range of the surrounding area for its grazing lands.<sup>18</sup> Lyulph Ogilvy believed that the associated pasture contained the "finest grassland in the northeast corner of the state."<sup>19</sup>

Lyulph Ogilvy and his father recognized that the productive value of the ranch land would be greatly increased through irrigation and, along with some associates, the younger Ogilvy constructed a twelve-mile-long ditch from the Cache la Poudre River. The Ogilvy Irrigating and Land Company was composed of Lyulph Ogilvy, Abner S. Baker, Edwin Baker, and Thomas Wilson. Abner S. Baker was also the manager of Ogilvy's ranch and later founded the town of Fort Morgan, where he and Ogilvy developed an extensive irrigation system.<sup>20</sup> The Ogilvy ditch was built with the then current technology using horses and scrapers. The ditch was constructed to convey both irrigation and household water.<sup>21</sup> The cost of the main ditch was about \$20,000. Eleven miles of lateral ditches were subsequently built to distribute water over the entire acreage of Ogilvy's farm land.<sup>22</sup> By May 1881, it was reported that Ogilvy was farming "on an extensive scale," with almost two thousand acres of land fenced and over three hundred acres of grain planted.<sup>23</sup>

In September 1881, on a return trip to the United States to inspect and purchase western lands for the Prairie Cattle Company and visit the ranch he had purchased,

17 Denver Post, 5 April 1947.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup>Maurice Frink, W. Turrentine Jackson, and Agnes Wright Spring, When Grass was King, (Boulder: University of Colorado Press, 1956).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup>The Colorado Live Stock Record, 6 September 1884; and Anne McMillen, "Cattle Dynasty Endures," The Fence Post, 3(24 January 1983).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup>J. D. A.. Ogilvy, Boulder, Colo., telephone interview, 25 October 1990.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup>Leroy R. Hafen, Colorado and Its People, vol. 1, (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1948): 430; and J. D. A. Ogilvy, Boulder, Colo., telephone interview. 25 October 1990.

interview, 25 October 1990. 21 Rocky Mountain News, 17 July 1881.

<sup>22</sup> The Colorado Live Stock Record, 6 September 1884.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup>Rocky Mountain News, 18 May 1881.

NPS Form 10-900a (Rev. 8/86) NPS/CHS Word Processor Format (Approved 03/88)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number <u>8</u> Page <u>4</u>

SLW Ranch

the Earl of Airlie suddenly became ill and died in a Denver hotel.<sup>24</sup> The Earl's death was a major blow to the Prairie Cattle Company, which was the first Scottish group to make a significant investment in western ranching.<sup>25</sup> After accompanying his father's body to Scotland, Lyulph Ogilvy returned to Colorado to the Crow Creek Ranch. The Earl's elder son inherited the Colorado ranch, but he later deeded the property and buildings to Lyulph "for and in consideration of natural love and affection, as well for and in consideration of the sum of one dollar."<sup>26</sup>

In order to effectively manage his ranch, Ogilvy subdivided almost two thousand acres of his land into smaller holdings which he leased along with associated houses and farm buildings. Instead of charging rent, he received a portion of the crops cultivated by each tenant. In his own fields, he grew wheat, oats, potatoes, corn, and forage crops. In addition, Ogilvy raised Berkshire hogs, thoroughbred horses, and selectively bred cattle. Ogilvy, whose father had maintained a herd of registered Angus cattle, was representative of the Scots who elevated the quality of cattle raised in the West through the use of selective breeding. Ogilvy imported some of his stock from Scotland to better his operation. Instead of scrawny, Texas or Mexican cattle, he raised Short-horn cows, bred to pedigreed Polled-Angus, Swiss, and Holstein bulls. These breeding practices led to improvement of the cattle produced for market. Ogilvy was also innovative in his early use of mechanical farm machinery, being the first rancher in Colorado to utilize the steam plow, and he was an early purchaser of hay loaders, reapers and binders, and potato diggers.<sup>27</sup>

Ogilvy was one of the most colorful of the early ranchers in Weld County, and many legends are associated with his ranching days. Known locally as "Lord Ogilvy," he reportedly visited the Earl of Dunraven's estate at Estes Park with his father as early as 1874 and was one of Dunraven's hunting partners after moving to Colorado.<sup>28</sup> At the same time, he was greatly respected for his practical knowledge of ranching, particularly in regard to the care of animals. In 1885, after receiving a formal deed to the ranch from his brother, Lyulph Ogilvy built a large two-story frame residence, which he shared with his sister, Maude.<sup>29</sup> The Ogilvy residence became well-known throughout the area as the site of dances and feasts.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup>Denver Republican, 26 September 1881.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup>Frink, 145.

<sup>26</sup> Deed, David Graham Drummond Ogilvy to Lyulph Ogilvy, 31 October 1885.

<sup>27</sup> Colorado Live Stock Record, 6 September 1884.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup>Carol Rein Shwayder, Weld County-Old and New, vol. 1, (Greeley, Colo.: Unicorn Ventures, 1983): A52.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup>Greeley (Colo.) Tribune, 11 February 1885.

NFS Form 10-900a (Rev. 8/86) NFS/CHS Word Processor Format (Approved 03/88)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number <u>8</u> Page <u>5</u>

SLW Ranch

Ogilvy's interests and activities were wide ranging and he spent his money freely, living "high, wide, and handsome" according to his contemporaries. His ventures soon branched from cattle ranching to other enterprises furthering the development of the West. Together with Abner Baker, he began a contracting business to construct irrigation ditches, grade railroad beds, and other activities which required the investment of substantial amounts of his fortune. To assist with the financial burden of this work, Ogilvy leased his ranch to the Percheron-Norman Horse Company, Ltd., a company which planned to raise horses on an unprecedented scale utilizing open range grazing.<sup>30</sup>

The Percheron-Norman Horse Company was organized in Illinois in 1883 with a capitalization of \$1,000,000. Principals in the company included John M. Studebaker, M. W. Dunham, J. F. Studebaker, and Frederick S. Fish. The purpose of the company was to breed high class draft and carriage horses for factories, mills, quarries, lumbering, and farms. An 1884 prospectus for the company listed its holdings as 3,500 head of mares, geldings, and colts; forty imported Percheron stallions; and six ranches. M. W. Dunham of Wayne, Illinois, was cited as the largest importer and breeder of Percheron-Norman horses in the country. John M. and J. F. Studebaker of the Studebaker Brothers Manufacturing Company, were experienced stockmen and breeders of cattle and horses. Studebaker Brothers Manufacturing Company was organized in 1868 and was one of the largest producers of wagons and carriages in the world.<sup>31</sup> Frederick S. Fish, who later became president of the company, was a son-in-law of Studebaker.

The Percheron-Norman company selected Ogilvy's ranch as its headquarters because of the thousands of acres of grazing lands which it controlled, its available water, and its luxurious pasture lands. Percheron-Norman horses were considered to be well suited to the West, adapted to its climate and food supplies. These horses were considered good candidates for transfer wagons and farm work, as well as for carriages and hacks. Horse raising was generally a profitable business during the pre-automobile era, and there were several early settlers in Weld County who raised horses to sell to cowboys and farmers as well as to city workers.<sup>33</sup>

 $<sup>^{30}</sup>$ J. D. A. Ogilvy, telephone interview.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup>Albert Russel Erskine, History of the Studebaker Corporation, (South Bend, Indiana: n.p., 1918).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup>"Prospectus of the Percheron-Norman Horse Company, 1884" in the Western Range Cattle Industry Study Collection, Colorado Historical Society, Denver.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup>Ernestine Koenig, ed. Pawnee Country: A History, (N.p.: 1979), 9.

NPS Form 10-900a (Rev. 8/86) NPS/CHS Word Processor Format (Approved 03/88)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number <u>8</u> Page <u>6</u>

SLW Ranch

In 1888, Ogilvy, whose funds were depleted by irrigation ventures, particularly construction of a system for Fort Morgan, sold his ranch to a group of investors who were also involved in the Percheron-Norman Horse Company.<sup>34</sup> Ogilvy later owned other ranches in Weld County.<sup>35</sup> He was described by one of his contemporaries as having "been connected with about every enterprise in the development of northern Colorado, having expended in stock and irrigation investments over half a million dollars."<sup>36</sup> His adventures continued as he later enlisted to serve with the Rough Riders during the Spanish-American War and saw action during the Boer War in South Africa. Eventually, his fortune gone, he became a night watchman for the Union Pacific Railroad. In 1909, Harry Tammen, owner of the Denver Post, who knew Ogilvy during his early days in Colorado, hired Ogilvy as the newspaper's agricultural writer, a position which he held for thirty-six years.<sup>37</sup>

The Percheron-Norman Horse Company utilized the Ogilvy ranch as the headquarters of company operations and for special purposes, such as shipping, finishing, and breaking. Five other regional ranches for the raising of Percheron horses were also maintained by the company. The ranch controlled land along the north side of the Platte River for about fifteen miles. The horses were kept mostly on the open range and the Ogilvy Ditch enabled the ranch to raise grain and alfalfa. A large barn, 282 feet long, was constructed on the property to house horses (this barn burned in 1914). By 1890, a two story house had been built to accommodate the ranch hands, complete with a sitting room, large kitchen, dining room for thirty men, and bedrooms. Ogilvy's former house was now the manager's residence.<sup>38</sup> At that date, it was reported that the ranch had 3,500 horses.<sup>39</sup>

In 1899, the then owners of the ranch, J. M. Studebaker and Lafayette Lamb, who was an executive with Weyerhauser Lumber Company, decided to liquidate some of their land holdings and sell the majority of the horses, as the automobile appeared to be replacing animals in many tasks, the open range was disappearing, and Studebaker was

- <sup>35</sup>Warranty Deed, Lyulph Ogilvy to Franklin Murphy, 10 October 1888 and Crow Creek Land Company Business Records, Weld County Clerk and Recorder, Greeley, Colo. <sup>36</sup>Greeley (Colo.) Sunday Journal, 13 September 1959.
- <sup>37</sup>Greeley (Colo.) Tribune, 23 November 1977.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup>J. D. A.. Ogilvy, telephone interview.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup>Hazel E. Johnson, "Percheron-Norman Horse Ranch Was Showplace," Greeley (Colo.) Sunday Journal, 23 September 1962.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup>Donna Spohn, "Stow Witwer: A Chat with an Old Cowhand," Choice Magazine, November 1983; and Hazel E. Johnson, "Percheron-Norman Ranch."

NPS Form 10-900a (Rev. 8/86) NPS/CHS Word Processor Format (Approved 03/88)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number <u>8</u> Page <u>7</u>

SLW Ranch

interested in retiring from active business.<sup>40</sup> A nephew and employee of the Studebakers, Harvey E. Witwer, was sent to the ranch to act as manager during this period. Witwer, who was born in 1872 in Hamilton Missouri, had previously worked for the Studebaker Company selling wagons and harnesses. On 9 March 1899, the SLW Ranch Company was organized with a capitalization of \$150,000 to operate the ranch. The name SLW was formed from the principals in the new company, J. M. Studebaker, Lafayette Lamb, and Harvey E. Witwer.<sup>41</sup>

Fourteen horse sales were held and a large amount of land was parceled into eighty and 160 acre tracts to be sold or leased to small farmers.<sup>42</sup> Each of the farms was fenced and had basic buildings, including a house and barn. For \$100 per acre, the purchaser also acquired water rights to the ditch. A number of farmers, many from Iowa and Illinois, bought these farms through ten year, eight percent interest agreements.<sup>43</sup> While much of the farm land was sold, the ranch kept the rich pastures.

Although the ranch was fully stocked with horses and cattle when he arrived, Witwer began a new program to improve the breeding stock of the enterprise. He noted that bulls imported from the Midwest took time to acclimate to the higher altitude of Colorado. To overcome this problem, the rancher decided to raise his own purebred sires, which he called "Hardy Herefords." He had the support of his uncle in this plan, as Studebaker had brought Herefords from England to his farmland in Indiana as early as the 1870s and was known as a prominent breeder in that state.<sup>44</sup> As part of this upgrading, Witwer purchased five registered Hereford heifers and a herd bull in 1901. These animals were the beginning of a registered herd that would play a significant role in the development of the Hereford industry in the West.<sup>45</sup> Herefords found great popularity in Colorado because they adapted well to the sometimes severe winters.<sup>46</sup> Witwer's reputation and influence among cattlemen steadily grew and he became one of the original members and a director of the

<sup>46</sup>Jackson, "SLW Introduced Herefords."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup>Farm Life, 1919; and Greeley (Colo.) Journal, 9 March 1973.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup>Western Farm Life, 1 November 1939; and Bill Jackson, "SLW Introduced Herefords in Weld," Greeley (Colo.) Tribune, 12 April 1983.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup>Kirk W. Fraser "Stow Witwer, Pioneer Rancher," Majestic Regency Report, 6(summer 1976).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup>Lynn Heinze, "Agriculture Has More Opportunities Now, Owner of SLW Ranch Says," Greeley (Colo.) Tribune, 9 March 1976.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup>Jackson, SLW Introduced Herefords; and Farm Life, 1919.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup>Western Farm Life, 1 November 1939; Record Stockman, 30 April 1942.

NPS Form 10-900a (Rev. 8/86) NPS/CHS Word Processor Format (Approved 03/88)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 8

SLW Ranch

National Western Stock Show, Denver's annual stock show. Witwer's Herefords were the foundation of many herds of cattle on the plains.

In 1914, Witwer raised enough money to buy Studebaker and Lamb's interests in the ranch. He continued to use the name SLW to identify the property. 47 In addition to raising horses and cattle, the main ranch and five leased farms grew vegetables and grains. The chief vegetable crop for farms in the vicinity of the SLW during the early 1900s was potatoes, and the nearby community of Kersey had the biggest potato market in the state. To store corn silage, the SLW had one of the first silos erected in the area, a structure which was built in 1918.<sup>48</sup>

Tragedy struck the ranch in 1914, when the large horse barn burned, causing \$35,000 in losses, a sum only partially covered by insurance. A large new barn was constructed the following year.<sup>49</sup> By World War I, Witwer had increased his herd of registered cattle to more than four hundred.<sup>50</sup>

During the early twentieth century, the population of nearby farm families was large enough to support a school and a church which were built on the ranch.<sup>51</sup> For a few years during the prosperous agricultural period of the First World War, the SLW hosted a Harvest Festival. Much of the organization of the festival was undertaken by Bertha Stow Witwer, Harvey's wife. In 1915, the festival, which drew hundreds of nearby citizens, featured exhibits, speeches, games, a parade, athletic events, and lunch and dinner. The big new barn was cleaned and the horse stalls were used for booths, while the open space served as a dining hall.

As the agricultural economy began to decline in northeastern Colorado early in the 1920s, the SLW was forced to look for further diversification of its activities. In 1923, the SLW became one of the pioneer dude ranches in eastern Colorado.<sup>53</sup> As Stow Witwer later remarked, "we were trying just about everything to make money on the place. During the time we opened up the ranch to visitors, they came from all over

<sup>47&</sup>lt;sub>Ibid</sub>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup>Platte Valley Voice, 21 August 1980.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup>Witwer Scrapbook, newspaper clipping, 10 November 1914.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup>Curtis Taylor, "SLW Herefords that Satisfy," Western Farm Life, 1 November 1939. <sup>51</sup>These buildings were on land lost during the foreclosure action of the 1930s and were moved to another part of the county. Fraser, "Stow Witwer, Pioneer Rancher;" and Stow Witwer, Jr., telephone interview, 21 December 1990. <sup>52</sup>Greeley (Colo.) Tribune, 2 September 1915.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>53</sup>Record Stockman, 30 April 1942.

NFS Form 10-900a (Rev. 8/86) NFS/CHS Word Processor Format (Approved 03/88)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number <u>8</u> Page <u>9</u>

SLW Ranch

the country."<sup>54</sup> The ranch was advertised as the place "where nature always smiles." A brochure distributed during that era, stated the SLW's "charm lies in the fact that it is a REAL ranch, not a resort." Fifteen dudes could be accommodated at one time in the Ogilvy house. Activities included horseback and stagecoach rides, trips to the mountains, and the opportunity to participate in ranch work.<sup>55</sup> Dude ranching activities continued on the SLW until 1942. Stow Witwer served as the first president of the Colorado Dude Ranch Association and the Witwers were active in promoting the industry in Colorado.

Despite these efforts, in 1932, the ranch was foreclosed upon by the Federal Land Bank of Wichita, Kansas. Witwer had borrowed heavily to obtain the land and the depression in agriculture affected his ability to pay off his debts.<sup>56</sup> Witwer was forced to look for work outside the ranch, and in 1932, he was elected treasurer of Weld County, a position which he held until his death ten years later. Witwer's sons, Harvey, Jr. and Stow, took over management of the ranch and were given six months to redeem the property. They were able to get back 3,500 acres of the seventeen thousand previously owned.<sup>57</sup> The family continued to operate the ranch during this period, but leased it from the Federal Land Bank for two years. In 1932, the brothers formed the SLW Ranch Company and became managers of the ranch, which was back in the family's ownership by 1934.<sup>58</sup>

Harvey E. Witwer, Jr. and Stow Witwer ran the ranch as a partnership from 1932 until 1960. The advent of World War II returned prosperity to the cattle industry, and the SLW was able to discontinue its dude ranching activities in 1942. The SLW Ranch continued to play a significant role in agricultural activities in northeastern Colorado, and its owners were leaders in local 4H organizations, the National Western Stock Show, and the Colorado Hereford Association. In 1960, Harvey Witwer, Jr. retired and Stow Witwer formed a new SLW Ranch Company with members of his family. Today, the SLW Ranch continues to raise purebred Hereford cattle. The herd is kept in the pasture during the summer and spends winter months in the corrals. The ranch raises hay, corn, and grain for winter feed. The Witwer family maintains approximately one hundred breeding cows and produces ninety to one hundred calves

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>54</sup>Lynn Heinze, "Agriculture Has More Opportunities."

<sup>55 &</sup>quot;SLW Ranch," Colorado Room, Greeley Public Library, Greeley, Colo.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>56</sup>Greeley (Colo.) Tribune, 21 July 1978.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>57</sup>McMillen, "Cattle Dynasty Endures."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>58</sup>Platte Valley Voice, 21 August 1980.

NPS Form 10-900a (Rev. 8/86) NPS/CHS Word Processor Format (Approved 03/88)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number <u>8</u> Page <u>10</u>

SLW Ranch

per year, continuing the breeding operation begun by Harvey E. Witwer almost a century ago.  $^{59}\,$ 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>59</sup>Witwer Scrapbooks, SLW Ranch, Greeley, Colorado; and Stow Witwer, Jr., Greeley, Colo., telephone interview, 23 October 1990.

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

Airlie, Earl of. "The United States as a Field for Agricultural Settlers." The Nineteenth Century, February 1881, 292-301.

Arnett, R. E. "Ranching in Northeastern Colorado in the Early Eighties." Colorado Magazine. 20 (November 1943): 201-213.

(X) 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 #CO-29

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property: 2,200 acres

UTM References See continuation sheet. Primary location of additional data: (X) State Historic Preservation Office ( ) Other State agency ( ) Federal agency ( ) Local government ( ) University ( ) Other Specify Repository:

(X) See continuation sheet

#### Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the SLW Ranch included in this nomination comprise two discontiguous areas: 1) portions of sections 10 and 11 in Township 5 North, Range 64 West, on which the ranch buildings and western pasture are located and 2) sections 1 and 7 and portions of 12 and 18 in Township 5 North, Range 63 West, which consists of pasture land. A detailed verbal boundary description is included on the continuation sheet.

(X) See continuation sheet

### Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the historic buildings associated with the SLW Ranch, and the pasture lands owned and utilized by the ranch.

( ) See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By	
Name/Title: R. Laurie Simmons, Thomas H. Simmons, and Ch	ristine M. Whitacre
	Date: <u>October 1990</u>
Street & Number: <u>3635 West 46th Avenue</u>	Telephone: <u>(303) 477-7597</u>
City or Town: <u>Denver</u>	State: <u>CO</u> Zip Code: <u>80211</u>

NPS Form 10-900a (Rev. 8/86) NPS/CHS Word Processor Format (Approved 03/88)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number <u>9</u> Page <u>1</u>

SLW Ranch

Major Bibliographical References (Con't.)

Bright, Davilla. "Foreigners and Foreign Capital in the Cattle Industry of the United States." M.A. thesis, University of Oklahoma, 1935.

Colorado Live Stock Record, 6 September 1884.

Colorado Room Collection. Greeley Public Library. Greeley, Colorado.

- Cooper, Stewart. SLW Ranch, Greeley, Colo. Interview. 8 September 1990; and Telephone interview. 27 October 1990.
- Crow Creek Land Company Business Records. Weld County Clerk and Recorder. Greeley, Colo.
- Erskine, Albert Russell. History of the Studebaker Corporation. South Bend, Ind.: n.p., 1918.
- Frink, Maurice, W. Turrentine Jackson, and Agnes Wright Spring. When Grass Was King. Boulder, Colo.: University of Colorado Press, 1956.

Grantee/Grantor Records. Weld County Assessor, Greeley, Colo.

- Ogilvy, J. D. A. Boulder, Colo. Telephone interview. 25 October 1990.
- Percheron-Norman Horse Company Business Records. Weld County Clerk and Recorder. Greeley, Colo.
- SLW Ranch Assessment Records. Weld County Assessor Records. Greeley, Colo.
- Western Range Cattle Industry Study Manuscript Collection. Colorado Historical Society, Denver, Colorado.

Witwer Scrapbooks. SLW Ranch, Greeley, Colo.

Witwer, Stow. SLW Ranch, Greeley, Colo. Interview. 18 October 1990.

Witwer, Stow, Jr. Greeley, Colo. Telephone interviews. July, August, September, October 1990 and January 1991; and Interview. SLW Ranch, Greeley, Colo. 8 September 1990.

NPS Form 10-900a (Rev. 8/86) NPS/CHS Word Processor Format (Approved 03/88)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number <u>9</u> Page <u>2</u>

SLW Ranch

Thomson, Joy Witwer. SLW Ranch, Greeley, Colo. Interview. 18 October 1990.

Worth, Carol Witwer and William. SLW Ranch, Greeley, Colo. Interviews. 8 September 1990.

NPS Form 10-900a (Rev. 8/86) NPS/CHS Word Processor Format (Approved 03/88)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number <u>10</u> Page <u>1</u>

SLW Ranch

UTM References (Con't.)

### Pasture Land Area: (eastern polygon)

A 1:3	5:4:3:4:1:0:	4:4:7:6:0:4:0:	B 1:3	5:4:3:4:2:0:	4:4:7:4:4:3:0:
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
C 1:3	5:4:5:0:0:0:	4:4:7:4:4:6:0:	D 1:3	5:4:5:0:1:0:	4:4:7:1:6:1:0:
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
E 1:3	5:4:3:4:1:0:	4:4:7:1:6:0:0:	F 1:3	5:4:3:4:0:0:	4:4:7:2:8:0:0:
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
G 1:3	5:4:2:8:4:0:	4:4:7:2:7:9:0:	H 1:3	5:4:2:4:8:0:	4:4:7:3:3:6:0:
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
I 1:3	5:4:2:2:9:0:	4:4:7:3:3:6:0:	J 1:3	5:4:2:1:5:0:	4:4:7:3:6:1:0:
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
K 1:3	5:4:1:9:9:0:	4:4:7:3:6:2:0:	L 1:3	5:4:1:9:8:0:	4:4:7:4:0:2:0:
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
M 1:3	5:4:1:7:8:0:	4:4:7:4:0:2:0:	N 1:3	5:4:1:7:8:0:	4:4:7:6:0:4:0:
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
<u>Ranch B</u>	uilding Area:	(western polygon)			
0 1:3	5:4:0:3:4:0:	4:4:7:4:4:0:0:	P 1:3	5:4:0:4:8:0:	4:4:7:4:1:9:0:
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
Q 1:3	5:4:0:5:4:0:	4:4:7:3:7:5:0:	R 1:3	5:4:0:5:1:0:	4:4:7:3:5:9:0:
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
S 1:3	5:4:0:1:7:0:	4:4:7:3:5:8:0:	T 1:3	5:4:0:1:7:0:	4:4:7:3:3:0:0:
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
U 1:3	5:3:9:9:0:0:	4:4:7:3:4:7:0:	V 1:3	5:3:9:9:0:0:	4:4:7:3:5:9:0:
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing

NPS Form 10-900a (Rev. 8/86) NPS/CHS Word Processor Format (Approved 03/88)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number <u>10</u> Page <u>2</u>

SLW Ranch

UTM References (Con't.)

5:3:9:9:7:0: 4:4:7:3:5:9:0: W 1:3 X 1:3 5:3:9:9:8:0: 4:4:7:4:0:2:0: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing Z 1:3 Y 1:3 5:4:0:1:7:0: 4:4:7:4:0:1:0: 5:4:0:1:7:0: 4:4:7:4:4:0:0: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Con't.)

continuation sheet. See also the U.S.G.S. quadrangle maps and the attached sketch map.

#### Pasture Land Area:

In Township 5 North, Range 63 West, 6th Principal Meridian, the following lands: Section 1 (all); Section 7 (all); Section 12 (the Northeast quarter and portions of the Northwest, Southwest, and Southeast quarters); and Section 18 (the North half and the North half of the South half.

#### Ranch Building Area:

In Township 5 North, Range 64 West, 6th Principal Meridian, the following lands: Section 10 (portions of the Northeast and Southeast quarters) and Section 11 (a portion of the Northwest quarter).

OMB No. 1024-0018

NPS Form 10-900a (Rev. 8/86) NPS/CHS Word Processor Format (Approved 03/88)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number <u>Photographs</u> Page <u>1</u>

SLW Ranch

Index to Photographs

Information that is the same for all photographs:

Name of the Property: SLW Ranch Historic District City and State: Vicinity of Greeley, Colorado Location of Original Negative: Colorado Historical Society Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation Photographer: Thomas H. Simmons Date: 17 October 1990

Photo	Descriptive Information
Number	Information
1	Cottonwood lined road to Ogilvy ranch house, view to west.
2	Ogilvy house, western elevation, and yard, view to east.
3	Ogilvy house, view to northwest.
4	Ogilvy house, interior view of stairway, wainscot, and pilaster trim.
5	Ice house, storage shed, and coal house, view to southeast.
6	Garage, view to northeast.
7	SLW barn and western corral area, view to north.
8	SLW barn, interior view of tack room and horse stalls.
9	SLW barn, interior view of office memorabilia.
10	SLW barn, interior view of hay loft, looking east.
11	Implement shed and blacksmith shop, view to northwest.
12	Silo, dairy barn, feeders, and eastern corral area, view to northwest.

NPS Form 10-900a (Rev. 8/86) NPS/CHS Word Processor Format (Approved 03/88)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number <u>Photographs</u> Page <u>2</u>

SLW Ranch

Descriptive Photo Number Information 13 Feeder, view to northeast. 14 Feeder, view to northwest. 15 Sheds and eastern corral area, view to northeast. 16 Chicken coop, view to northeast. Attached houses, view to southwest. 17 North Fork Ogilvy Ditch, view to east. 18 Percheron-Norman Horse Company House, view to north. 19

# **SLW RANCH BUILDINGS**

**Inset Map** 



Numbers indicate photographs referenced in the nomination.

# **SLW RANCH HISTORIC DISTRICT**

**Sketch Map** 



Map 3 of 4

## Map Key

---- District boundary

Base Map Source: <u>1984 Weld County Rural Landowners Guide</u> (Greeley, Colorado: B-C Publishing Co., 1984).



Map Key



Base Map Source: <u>1984 Weld County Rural Landowners Guide</u> (Greel Colorado: B-C Publishing Co., 1984).