_ not for publication

code

003

United States Department of the Interior **National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms Type all entries—complete applicable sections

John H. Slaughter Ranch

04

code

Name

historic San Bernardino Ranch

and or common

Location

street & number

city, town

Doug1as <u>_X</u> vicinity of

county

Arizona state

Classification 3.

Category	Ownership public	Status	Present Use	X museum
building(s)	private	<u>_x</u> unoccupied	commercial	park
structure	x_ both	work in progress	educational	private residence
site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	entertainment	religious
object	in process	$_x_yes: restricted$	government	scientific
	being considered	\underline{x} yes: unrestricted	industrial	transportation
		`no	military	<u>x</u> other wildlife preserve

Owner of Property 4.

See continuation sheet name

street & number

vicinity of

Cochise

city, town **Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cochise County Courthouse

street & number

Bisbee city, town

state Arizona

state

Representation in Existing Surveys 6.

titie	has this property been determined eligible? yes $_x$ _ no
date	federal state county local
depository for survey records	
city, town	state

7. Description

Condition

	Check one	
deteriorated	<u>x</u> unaltered	
<u>×</u> ruins	X_altered	
<u>x</u> unexposed		

Check one \underline{X} original site

__ moved date __

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

San Bernardino Ranch lies in the San Bernardino Valley, a lowland area of the Sonoran desert well-watered by natural springs. Due to the presence of a year around water supply, the San Bernardino Valley was the site of encampments by Indian tribes, Spanish, Mexican, and American military troops, missionaries, and immigrants into the 19th century. A prehistoric habitation site and a number of bedrock mortars have been located within the NHL boundaries. Evidences of the first permanent Anglo occupation of the valley, a fortified hacienda constructed in the 1820s by the original grantee of the San Bernardino Mexican land grant, can be found just south of the international border. The hacienda was probably constructed atop the remains of a Spanish fortification that was begun in the 1770s but was abandoned when increased danger from the Apaches threatened. The remaining archaeological and architectural resources within the landmark boundaries date primarily from the period of John Slaughter's cattle ranching operations on the land grant acreage between 1884 and 1922.

The original Mexican land grant of 1821 provided for a 100,000-acre ranch spanning both sides of the present U.S.-Mexico border and stretching from the Perilla and Pedregoza Mountains on the west to the Peloncillos and Guadalupes on the east and from the watershed of the San Simon Valley south to Pitaicachi Peak. Although Slaughter did not obtain the full amount of the original Mexican land grant, he was able, through leasing of public land and acquisition of nearby ranches, to gain control of approximately 100,000 acres of the San Bernardino Valley, including most of the springs and streams that fed the Rio San Bernardino. San Bernardino Ranch became the headquarters of a cattle empire that spanned both sides of the international border.

The ranchhouse compound, located about a quarter-mile north of the border, contains nearly all of the landmark's remaining architectural resources. The buildings constructed by the Slaughters include the ranchhouse, ice house, wash house, commissary/cook's house, water tank, car shed, and the nearby granary.

Construction of the ranchhouse probably began about 1893, following the 1887 earthquake that destroyed the earlier Slaughter buildings on the ranch. Its adobe construction type borrows from the Spanish-Mexican building tradition and its hipped rooflines and wide verandas recall the Southern plantation background of its owners. The house appears to have been built in two phases, with the initial phase consisting of six equal-sized rooms--three on either side of a central hall, and a short time later, the addition of a family dining/living room, kitchen, cowboy dining room, and bathroom. The nearby railroad stations at Benson and Wilcox allowed the Slaughters to obtain mail order items for the construction and furnishing of the ranchhouse, such as the California redwood found throughout the house, the turned porch columns, the diamond-paned living room window, and the dining room china cabinet. After the property was sold by the Slaughter family in 1937, later owners modified the house with the addition of roof ventilators and porch enclosures. The present owner has restored the house to the Slaughter period of occupation through historical research and physical evidence.

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 1900–	archeology-historic	community planning conservation economics education engineering X. exploration/settlement	 literature military music philosophy politics/government 	religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation <u>x</u> other (specify) cattle ranching
Specific dates	1884-1922	Builder/Architect		

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

San Bernardino Ranch was the center of a cattle-ranching empire that spanned up to 100,000 acres on both sides of the international boundary of the U.S. and Mexico from the 1880s to the 1920s. The San Bernardino Valley, a wellwatered area occupying southern Arizona and northern Mexico, had long been the site of prehistoric occupations, military encampments, and Indian and immigrant trails. Located on the frontier of Spanish, Mexican, then American territory, the valley was subject to Apache depredations and had no permanent Anglo occupation until the 1820s when a Mexican soldier, Ignacio Perez, established a cattle ranch on a land grant embracing much of the valley. Perez abandoned the ranch in the 1830s because of the Apache danger and the valley was again vacant until John Horton Slaughter, a Texas cattle rancher, leased a portion of the Mexican land grant in 1884. Provided with a constant water supply through springs and wells, Slaughter was able to develop the ranch into a 100,000-acre empire that supplied beef, fruit, and vegetables to the surrounding settlements and military posts. Slaughter had previously operated the second-largest cattle ranch in the nearby San Pedro Valley. He gained a reputation as a respected lawman during two terms as sheriff of Cochise County, served a term as a representative to the Arizona Territorial legislature, and helped found the smelter town of Douglas in 1901. Slaughter's occupation and development of the San Bernardino Ranch took place during the era when the "wild West," particularly the Arizona Territory, was building stable, law-abiding communities, and freeing itself from the fear of attack by Indians, Mexican marauders, and the lawless element of frontier society. Slaughter's prowess as a lawman and his contributions to the settlement and security of southeast Arizona are well-chronicled in history. The San Bernardino Ranch, where Slaughter spent the last half of his life, illustrates his talents as a cattle rancher who successfully ran an immense operation on both sides of the border, a lawman who was able to create a secure situation for his family and employees in the often unstable border area, and an influential businessman who took an active part in local political, military, and commercial matters.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Ignacio Perez, son of a prominent Sonoran mine-owner and a soldier with the Mexican army during the war of independence, obtained a land grant of nearly 100,000 acres of the San Bernardino Valley from the Mexican government in 1821. Despite its agricultural and range potential provided by numerous springs, the valley had never been permanently occupied by Europeans because of the constant threat of Apache attack.

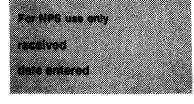
9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geo	ographic	al Data	·····		
Acreage of nomin Quadrangie name UTM References	ated property <u>2</u> College Peak	05.88 s, AZ		Quadrang	gle scale <u>15'</u>
A 1 2 6 6 Zone Eastin		6 7 6 7 0 ing	B <u>1 2</u> Zone	6 6 4 6 5 0 Easting	314 617 61710 Northing
C [1]2 [6]6]4 E []] []		6 8 4 5 0	D <u>1</u> 2 F <u>1</u>		
	y description and	•			
	and counties for j			county boundaries	
state		code	county		code
		code	county		code
11. FOR	m Prepa	геа ву			
name/titie	Ann E. Hust	on, Historia	a		
organization	National Pa	rk Service, M	Western Region	date February	1986
street & number	450 Golden	Gate Ave., B	ox 36063	telephone (415) 5	56-7741
city or town	San Francis	co,		state California	94102
12. Sta	te Histor	ric Pres	ervation	Officer C	ertification
The evaluated sig	nificance of this pro	operty within the	state is:		
	_ national _	state	local		
665), I hereby non according to the c	I State Historic Pres ninate this property criteria and procedu servation Officer si	for inclusion in f ires set forth by f	the National Registe	er and certify that it h	ct of 1966 (Public Law 89– nas been evaluated
titie 		-	<u> </u>	date	
For NPS use a I hereby cer	only tify thet this proper	ty is included in	he National Registe	r date	9/30/86
Keeper of the	National Register	·	V		
Attest:				date	
Chief of Regis	tration				

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet	Item number	4	Page 1

Johnson Historical Museum of the Southwest P.O. Box 1897 Sun City, Arizona 85372

U.S. Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2 P.O. Box 1306 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

International Boundary and Water Commission, U.S. Section The Commons, Building C, Suite 310 4171 North Mesa El Paso, Texas 79902 (Administers a 60-foot strip along the United States side of the international border)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HPS use only received dete entered Page 2

Ranged along the north and west sides of the house are the remaining ranch buildings. To the west of the kitchen porch are two small stone buildings.
The southernmost, with a hipped roof and ventilator, was the ice house. The
other, to the north, with a gable roof, was the wash house. Just north and
east of the wash house is a two-room adobe building with hipped roof which
served as a commissary and cook's house. Farther to the east stands a stone
car shed with a gable roof built by Slaughter when he purchased his first
car. The picket fence that enclosed this compound during the Slaughter era
has been reconstructed by the present owner. On a slight rise behind the wash
house and ice house is a water tower mounted on a high stone base. Just north
of the compound is a hip-roofed stone granary building.

Item number

7

The commissary/cook's house was probably constructed at about the same time as the ranchhouse. Slaughter built the commissary as a convenience for his employees, as Bisbee and Tombstone, the closest towns, were 45 and 65 miles away until the establishment of Douglas in 1901. The commissary was frequented by ranchhands and their families and by local Mexicans and Indians. The room on the east side of the building was used as the cook's residence. The remaining buildings were probably constructed after 1900. A bunkhouse, privy, and chicken coop also stood within or near ranchhouse compound during the Slaughter era, but are no longer extant.

East of the ranchhouse compound is a large pond built by Slaughter for water storage. The pond is located in a natural wash that Slaughter dammed for water retention. Slaughter's stone dam has been restored and slightly raised.

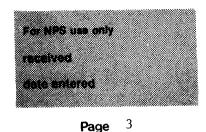
Several corrals, loading chutes, and dip vats near the eastern boundary of the landmark are remnants of Slaughter's cattle ranching operations. The corrals are made of mesquite held together by two strands of wire at top and bottom.

Several structures in the vicinity of the compound were built by later owners--a barn on the site of the original Slaughter barn, a blacksmith shop that replaced the Slaughters', and the pumphouse near the granary--and do not contribute to the landmark's significance.

Archaeological resources associated with the Slaughter ranch include the remains of an adobe schoolhouse, a residence occupied by the Howell's--John Slaughter's in-laws, and a Chinese dwelling.

Remains of the adobe schoolhouse (site no. SB-3), which was used earlier as the Slaughters' residence while the ranchhouse was being completed, are located just east of the pond. The ground has been differentially disturbed by construction, road grading, and placing and removal of a large trailer house, however, the site is in fair condition and retains sufficient integrity to be an important research source. The remains are of a masonry-foundation adobe-wall building that was approximately 16 to 17 feet square. A few

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



temporally diagnostic artifacts are associated with the building. Additional adobe building remains may be present to the west and south of the identified ruin.

Item number

7

Remains of the Howell House (site no. SB-15), built in the 1890s by Jimmy Howell (John Slaughter's wife's brother) for himself and his mother, are about a mile southeast of the ranchhouse compound. Remains of three structures have been identified, including two concrete-mortared basalt fieldstone foundations measuring 37 ft. by 39. ft. and 41 ft. by 55 ft., of which the larger was the Howell residence. Artifacts dating to an early twentieth-century occupation are associated with the site.

A house foundation and artifacts associated with a Chinese residence on the Slaughter ranch are located southeast of the ranchhouse compound, about 65 feet north of the boundary. The site consists of a partial basalt fieldstone foundation, a large rock pile, and a large quantity of trash. A portion of the site has been damaged by bulldozer activity. This site is unique in that it is the only site within the NHL boundaries containing evidence of John Slaughter's Chinese laborers. Numerous fragments of Chinese ceramics representing rice bowls, rice wine bottles, ginger or soy sauce jars, and a Chinese milk glass gaming counter are associate the site with occupation dates of 1905-1915.

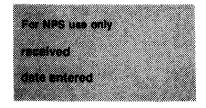
A feature not directly related to the Slaughter family or cattle ranching, but associated with protection of the ranch and the security of American settlements in the border area in the early 20th century, is the U.S. military encampment site located on a mesa across the pond from the ranchhouse compound. The encampment was an outpost from the Douglas fort, established in the early 1910s to provide protection to American citizens and property during the Mexican Revolution. The mesatop outpost was surrounded by a rock perimeter wall containing fortified positions for gun emplacements or observation points. The encampment consisted mostly of a tent city with a more substantial commissary building and some rock shelters. Remnants of the encampment consist of a walled enclosure (perhaps a corral), a number of rock foundations, and two rock-lined walks. Portions of the stone wall enclosure were removed by later owners to construct the new pumphouse and compound enclosure wall. The outpost saw its greatest activity during the 1910s. After 1918 it was used primarily for practice marches and target shooting and was abandoned in 1933.

A number of additional archeological sites related to the Slaugher occupation of the San Bernardino Ranch have been identified, but do not appear to have sufficient integrity or significance to be contributing elements of the landmark.

4

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



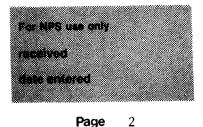
Continuation sheet Item number 7 Properties Contributing to the Significance of the National Historic Landmark

Page

Ranchhouse Commissary/Cook's house Ice House Wash House Car Shed Water Tower Granary Masonry Dam Corrals, loading chutes, and dip vats Military outpost site (SB-1) Schoolhouse site (SB-3) Howell house site (SB-15) Chinese house site (SB-12)

Properties not listed above may be considered non-contributing to the NHL.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



OMB No. 1024-0018

Expires 10-31-87

A Spanish garrison established an outpost in the 1770s just south of the
presentday international border, cleared a site on a rise 20-30 feet above the
valley floor, and began construction of a fortification. The soldiers
abandoned the site before completing construction of the fort, because the
garrison was too isolated for effective defense against the Apaches.

Item number

8

It was probably on the site of the abandoned fortification that Perez constructed his hacienda, hoping to create a buffer between Sonora and the Apaches. The hacienda occupied two acres and was built on a courtyard plan surrounded by an adobe fortification wall. Perez started ranching operations with 4,000 head of cattle brought from Tumacacori in 1821. Unable to defend his property from Apache depredations, Perez abandoned the ranch in the mid-1830s. Only sand- and brush-covered mounds now remain to show the location of the hacienda. The land grant property remained unoccupied until John Slaughter obtained a lease to it in 1884.

John Slaughter, born in Louisiana in 1841, was a Texas cattleman who moved west to Arizona in the late 1870s. After the Civil War, many Texas cattle ranchers were attracted to the Arizona Territory by the opportunities for supplying beef to the ever-increasing numbers of military posts, Indian agencies, mining camps, and railroad construction crews. Slaughter undertook various commercial and ranching enterprises in southern Arizona, and by 1881 he had the second-largest cattle ranch in the San Pedro Valley.

In 1884 Slaughter purchased a 99-year lease on 65,000 acres of the San Bernardino land grant. The Slaughter family remained in Tombstone so that Slaughter's two children (from his first marriage) could attend school. The Howells, his wife's parents, lived on the ranch property and managed the cattle operations there for Slaughter. In 1887 a major earthquake destroyed all of the Slaughter's buildings on the ranch--two adobe houses, stables, a milkhouse, and a smokehouse. The location of these early Slaughter buildings is unknown. Sometime after the earthquake, Slaughter began construction of the present ranchhouse. John and Viola Slaughter moved to the ranch permanently in 1891, following the expiration of Slaughter's second term as Cochise County sheriff. They lived in a three-room adobe building east of the ranchhouse site until their house was completed, about 1893.

The portion of the San Bernardino land grant leased, and later purchased, by Slaughter lay 1/3 in the United States and 2/3 in Mexico. In 1891, a U.S. claims court investigated the transfer of the Mexican land grant and left Slaughter with only 2,300 acres on the U.S. side of the border. Slaughter eventually acquired control of approximately 100,000 acres spanning the border through purchase of neighboring homesteads and lease of public land. Slaughter developed artesian wells on the eastern portion of the ranch which made possible the cultivation of about 500 acres, farmed mostly by tenant farmers and Chinese gardeners. He constructed the remainder of the buildings in the ranchhouse compound and built a large pond nearby for water storage.

United States Department of the Interior **National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only 3

Page

About 150 people, including Mexican and Yaqui cowboys and Chinese laborers,
lived on the ranch in small houses scattered on both sides of the border. The
Chinese settlement south of the border grew truck farm produce which the
farmers sold in Bisbee and Douglas. Viola Slaughter introduced Chinese cooks
into the ranch kitchen.

Item number

8

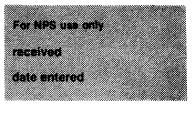
Although the Slaughter children continued their education in California and the Midwest after the family moved to the ranch, there were a number of school-age children in the vicinity--children of ranch-hands and the fosterchildren taken in by the Slaughters. In 1902 the Cochise County Board of Supervisors established the Slaughter School District at the San Bernardino The number of pupils was probably fewer than twenty at any one time. Ranch. The adobe building occupied by the Slaughters during construction of the ranchhouse served as the schoolhouse.

The early 1900s were the most prosperous of the ranch. Greater protection was afforded ranchers in Southern Arizona by the Arizona Rangers, and the establishment of Douglas formed a ready market for cattle and produce as well as a source of goods and supplies. There were always people staying at the ranch--relatives, friends, military, lawmen, health-seekers, and paying boarders. In addition, the Slaughters took in a number of foster children from broken or impoverished homes in the vicinity. Food supplies for the ranch came from many sources. Range cattle supplied meat and milk, and there was always a garden, a strawberry patch, a vineyard, and orchards with apples, apricots, figs, and other fruits. The ice house and spring house contained large quantities of canned and perishable foodstuffs.

The Mexican Revolution, which began in 1910, tested Slaughter's skills in managing the portion of his ranch south of the border. Pancho Villa's raids in Sonora and Chihuahua were a constant source of concern for Americans living near the border. The U.S. cavalry maintained a garrison at Douglas for twenty-three years and established an outpost on the San Bernardino Ranch in the early 1910s. The strength of the outpost varied from 10-man detachments to perhaps 600 during the "Pancho Villa scare" of 1915-1916. Citizens of Douglas and the American soldiers stationed on the border to protect American lives and property during the revolution witnessed the battle for Agua Prieta, opposite the border from Douglas. Villa's army at one time entered the San Bernardino Valley and acquired supplies from San Bernardino Ranch on the south side of the border. The San Bernardino outpost occupied a hilltop fortification on a mesa across the pond from the ranchhouse compound. The encampment was little more than a tent city surrounded by a rock fortification, and saw minor use after 1918. In 1933 the outpost was abandoned.

In May of 1921 Jesse Fisher, Viola's cousin and the ranch foreman, was murdered at the ranch. Shortly thereafter, the Slaughters moved from the ranch to Douglas. Slaughter was eighty years old by this time and had turned over most of the ranch operations to his foreman and tenants. John Horton

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



OMB No. 1024-0018

Expires 10-31-87

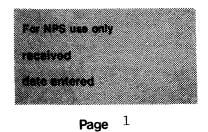
Continuation sheet	Item number	8	Page	4

Slaughter died in 1922 and the ranch was then leased to various tenants until it was sold to Marion Williams in 1937.

In 1982 the Johnson Historical Museum of the Southwest purchased the property for the creation of a ranch museum. The ranchhouse has been restored to the period when the Slaughters occupied it and is open to the public.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Doyle, Gerald A. and Associates. "Johnson Historical Museum of the Southwest at San Bernardino Ranch: Preliminary Analysis of Historic Photographs of John Slaughter's Ranch House Compound," October 1982 (In National Park
Service landmark file, San Francisco).
Larew, Marilyn. Draft National Historic Landmark form, dated 1978 (In National Park Service landmark file, San Francisco).
Stone, Lyle and James E. Ayres. "A Description and Evaluation of Archaeological Resources, San Bernardino Ranch National Historic

9

Item number

- Landmark, Cochise County, Arizona," August 1982 (In National Park Service landmark file, San Francisco).
- Wells, Reba N. Draft historical report of the San Bernardino Ranch, 1983. (Located at Johnson Historical Ranch office in Sun City, Arizona).

. Various articles in The Cochise Quarterly, Vol. XX, No. 4, Winter 1985.