

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC J A Ranch

AND/OR COMMON Goodnight Ranch

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Pala Duro Rural Route

---NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN Pala Duro Canyon

VICINITY OF

STATE Texas

48

CODE

COUNTY Armstrong

011
CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE | PUBLIC ACQUISITION | ACCESSIBLE | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: |

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. Montie Ritchie

STREET & NUMBER Palo Duro Rural Route

CITY, TOWN Clarendon

VICINITY OF

STATE Texas 79226

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. County Clerk, Armstrong County

STREET & NUMBER Box 309

CITY, TOWN Claude, Texas 79019

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE None

DATE
---FEDERAL ---STATE ---COUNTY ---LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located in the Palo Duro Canyon of the Texas Panhandle, the J A Ranch Headquarters is a large and attractive complex consisting of 9 major constructions dating from various periods in the history of the ranch. Without question, the most impressive of these buildings is the Ritchie Ranch House.

The Ranch House consists of two sections. The first section built was the original log cabin homestead (see photograph no. 3). This building dates from before the Civil War. The second part of the building is the main section. This building is constructed of stone with a frame second story. Both sections of the house has two stories. The ranch house contains more than 16 rooms.

Entering from the south porch entrance of the cabin, one steps into the study. Furnished in tasteful, though not exotic, modern furniture, one is impressed by the farm atmosphere maintained in the interior decor. A hallway runs north-south through the house with adjoining rooms located on either side. On the west side of the hallway is the formal dining area. Most striking in the room are the many original art treasures of the great masters, including Chagall. These paintings are kept lighted when Mr. Ritchie occupies the house. In the center of the dining area is a table which seats 12. Keeping in harmony with the other decor of the house, the dining room appears, likewise, quite rustic and the table and chairs appear to be made of hand hewn logs with only veneer finish. On the north side of the house are the personal apartments of Mr. and Mrs. Ritchie. There is a personal bedroom-dressing room suite in this section of the house. There is a narrow stairwell with balustrade which circles to the second floor. On this level are a number of bedrooms including several guest rooms.

The original log section has recently been refurbished. On the interior of the cabin extensive remodeling has taken place to accomodate the housekeeper. Wall to wall carpeting has been placed on all floors and the staircase to the second floor. Likewise, there has been general modernization of the apartment which includes new plaster, paint, etc.

Both the log and main sections of the house have recently seen alterations on the exterior. Siding placed on the house sometime during the early 20th century has been removed and the original log work has been exposed and stained. On the main house, stones have been repointed and cast iron railings have been placed on the porch which runs the length of the east elevation. On the second story, old shingles have been removed and replaced with new ones. Most striking in appearance is the present painting of the house which has greatly altered its appearance.

The Bunk House, built c. 1878, sits across the street on the south side of the Ranch House. A one story frame and stone structure, the bunk house has a porch which extends the length of the east elevation and circles tn the south side. To the north, the frame section appears an addition of a later period.

(continued)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

| | | | |
|----------------|-----------|-------------------|-------------------|
| SPECIFIC DATES | 1879-1889 | BUILDER/ARCHITECT | Charles Goodnight |
|----------------|-----------|-------------------|-------------------|

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Charles Goodnight (1836-1929), soldier, plainsman, and pioneer cattleman of the Staked Plains, dominates the history of the cattle frontier in Texas. He stood with two or three other men in decisively influencing the pattern by which, in the years after the Civil War, the open range cattle industry developed. He blazed several important cattle trails of the West. The first rancher in the Texas panhandle, he guided the growth of the industry in that area. By the turn of the century he had earned the reputation as possibly the most important scientific breeder of range cattle in the West. By the time of his death, he was internationally recognized as an authority on the industry.

Of the three sites associated with Goodnight in the panhandle, the J A Ranch headquarters in the Palo Duro Canyon is most fittingly appropriate in signifying the contributions of this cattle baron to the cattle industry. From there, between 1879 and 1889, he directed the J A enterprise during its most successful years. With the backing of John G. Adair, an Irishman and prosperous farm owner, Goodnight managed the spread, and guided the J A on its long and profitable history. Under Goodnight's management, the J A grew to encompass 700,000 acres of grassland supporting 40,000 heads of cattle.

Located in a wide section of the Palo Duro Canyon, the ranch is still a large and active concern, owned by Mr. Montie Ritchie, one of Adair's Irish descendents.

BIOGRAPHY

Charles Goodnight (1836-1929), soldier, plainsman, and pioneer cattleman of the Staked Plains, dominates the history of the cattle frontier of Texas. He came west with his family at the age of nine and settled in Milam County, where, during his early years, he laid the foundation for the vast knowledge of Indians and great skill at plainscraft for which he later became noted. After serving with the Texas Frontier Regiment during the Civil War, he entered the cattle business. In the post-war years he made himself famous by blazing cattle trails and leading great herds to more profitable markets than Texas afforded. With Oliver Loving, in 1866 he laid out the Goodnight-Loving Trail from Fort Belknap to Fort Sumner, New Mexico, then pushed an extension--the Goodnight Trail--north through Colorado to Wyoming. In 1875 he blazed a trail from Alamogordo, New Mexico, to Granada, Colorado, and in 1877 a trail from the Panhandle north to Dodge City, Kansas. From 1868 to 1876 he built up a ranch in

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Burton, Harley, A History of the J A Ranch (Austin, 1928).
 Haley, J. Eyatts, Charles Goodnight, Cowman and Plainsman (Norman, Okla., 1949).
 Goodnight Papers, University of Texas
 Sheffy, L.F., "The Old Home Ranch Site," Panhandle-Plains Historical Review,
 Vol. XIX (1946).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approximately 40

UTM REFERENCES

| | | | | | | | |
|---|------|----------------|-------------------|---|------|--------------|-----------------|
| A | 1, 4 | 3 0, 0 1, 6, 0 | 8 8 15, 4 8, 0, 0 | B | 1, 4 | 0, 0 0, 0, 0 | 8 8 5 4 4, 0, 0 |
| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| C | 1, 4 | 2 9, 9 5, 7, 0 | 3, 8 5, 4 6, 4, 0 | D | 1, 4 | 2 9 9 7 5, 0 | 8 8 5 5 0, 0, 0 |
| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet.

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Joseph S. Mendinghall, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey

DATE

(202) 523-5464

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street, N.W.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C. 20240

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

Designated: Dec 19, 1968
 Boundary Certified:
Joseph S. Mendinghall
 DATE Oct 17, 1968

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Joseph S. Mendinghall

DATE

11/2/68

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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On the inside there are a number of rooms including the dining room and game room. There has also been placed a three room apartment in the bunk house for the cook and his family. On the west side of the bunk house is a one-story frame addition in which are the actual sleeping quarters for ranch hands. These quarters can comfortably accomodate up to 12 persons on double bunks. Rustic furnishings make the bunk house an impressive facility. On the walls are photographs of past cattlemen of the J A and other historical mementoes are located throughout the building.

The Post Office (Photograph no. 9): was formerly a one-story frame structure with gabled roof and porch which extends around the west and south facades. There is a cement addition on the rear of the structure which has a cast iron door and is used as a vault. The Post Office is presently used for office space. On the walls are various photographs of the founders of the Goodnight operation, including Goodnight himself and Mr. Ritchie's father and grandfather. The original building has been covered with flagstone, the same material as several of the newer buildings. Furnishings are quite simple. Several desks which date back to the late 19th or early 20th century sit along the wall.

The Corral and Stables (Photograph no. 10): is also one of the original structures of the headquarters. A one story building built of rubblestone has an exposed facade on the west side. The fence for the corral is also constructed of rubblestone and in sections is more than six feet in height.

The Ranch Hands House: There are two ranch-hand houses. One located on the entrance road is a one story frame building with gabled roof. This building sits adjacent the Ritchie Ranch House and is occupied. On the north side of the headquarters is another ranch hands house. Originally constructed of clapboard, the one and one-half story building has been stuccoed. There is an enclosed porch on the south side. From all indications the interiors of both the ranch houses are modernistic.

The other structures at the headquarters are 20th century and quite modern, These structures include the garage which has parking facilities to accomodate seven vehicles and the trail bosses' house, located at the entrance to Palo Duro. These structures are shown in photographs no. 11 and no. 8 respectively. These modern structures do not contribute to the national significance of the landmark. However, when taken in total, Palo Duro is an impressive complex. It consists of approximately 20 acres.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

eastern Colorado, but in the latter year decided to relocate in the Texas Panhandle.

This area, the Llano Estacado, had only the year before been wrested from the Kiowas and Comanches, and Goodnight was the first of the many cattlemen to bring herds into the country. The first Goodnight spread--the "Old Home Ranch"--was located in Palo Duro Canyon a few miles below the site of Mackenzie's battle with the Comanches, September 27, 1874. Established in the fall of 1876, it consisted of corrals and picket houses built from timber cut in the canyon. In 1877 Goodnight formed a partnership with John G. Adair, an Englishman who had become a prosperous New York broker. With Adair furnishing financial backing and Goodnight managing the spread, the J A began its long & profitable history. In 1879 Goodnight moved the ranch headquarters to Turkey Creek, farther east, in order to be closer to the railroad. Here new ranch and residence buildings were constructed of logs and, later, a great stone house was built for the Adairs to live in when at the ranch. Under Goodnight's management, the J A Ranch grew to encompass 700,000 acres of grass land subsisting 40,000 head of cattle. An advocate of herd improvement, Goodnight developed outstanding cattle by mixing Hereford bulls with his Texas longhorns. He also built a large, domesticated herd of buffalo. He helped found, in 1880, the Panhandle Stockmen's Association. Forseeing the end of the open range, he terminated his connection with the J A Ranch in 1889 and settled on a smaller ranch of his own with headquarters at the village of Goodnight. Here he lived out the remainder of his long life, vigorous and clear-minded until his fatal heart attack in 1929.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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From the point of intersection of Palo Duro Rural Road and a back road, just outside the entrance gate, proceed in a westerly direction along the south sedge of this road continuing in a southerly direction to a point of intersection with a creek; thence southeasterly along the north bank of this creek to the 2800' contour line; thence proceed in a northerly direction along the said contour line to a point parallel to the point of origin, thence proceed west to the point of origin.