

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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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 Swan Land and Cattle Company Headquarters
AND/OR COMMON Swan Land and Cattle Company Headquarters

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Wyoming Route 313
CITY, TOWN Chugwater VICINITY OF COUNTY Platte CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 001
STATE Wyoming CODE 56 COUNTY CODE 031

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: office

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME John W. Burns
STREET & NUMBER P.O. Box 97
CITY, TOWN Wheatland VICINITY OF STATE Wyoming 82201

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Platte County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Wheatland STATE Wyoming

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historic Sites Survey
DATE 1964 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Historic Sites Survey
CITY, TOWN Washington STATE D.C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" 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

Of the more than one million acres owned at one time, 5,614 remain. They are no longer administered from the old Swan Lake and Cattle Company Headquarters, which now consists of four buildings facing east in a row towards the site of an old stagecoach road no longer in existence. The northernmost of these is the general store, built in 1913 with white clapboard siding and black corner boards. The 52' x 90' structure has a heavy wood plank porch across the main facade which is badly decayed. The red asphalt gable roof is pierced by three chimneys, one of which is crumbling, and a shed-roof dormer in the loft.

The second most northerly building is the manager's house. This 31' x 40' structure has a 25' x 43' addition to its rear. A gable roof is on the main building with a shed roof on the addition and a hip roof on the front porch and sun room. All are covered by red asphalt shingles. There are several fine details within, but settling has resulted in serious structural damage. Built in 1876, it is presently unoccupied.

South of the manager's house is white clapboard office building presently used by Russell Staats, officer manager for Swan Land and Cattle since 1927. The 1918 office contains the company's complete records from 1927 through the present. The southernmost building is a large red barn, probably built around 1876. The four structures are surrounded by a wire fence surmounted by decorative ironwork. Several large cottonwoods near the buildings were planted in 1888.

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 type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" 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 1884

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Swan Land and Cattle Company was one of the several well-known foreign stock companies, which operated in the United States. It was one of the largest cattle companies in the United States and operated for over 70 years.

Organized in Scotland in 1883, with a capital of \$3,000,000, the Swan Land and Cattle Company had over 113,000 head on the books when the severe winter of 1886-1887 struck, reducing the company's herd to about 57,000 in 1887. The company's cattle ranged from Fort Fred Steele, Wyoming, on the west, to Ogallala, Nebraska on the east, and from the Union Pacific Railroad to the Platte River. Its principal range was the Chug and Sybille Creeks, and over the mountains to the Laramie Plains. The company held over 1,000,000 acres of land. Going into bankruptcy after the hard winter of 1886-1887, the company reduced its inventory was was placed under the capable management of John Clay, well-known stockman on the Northern Plains. Under Clay, the company was put on a much sounder basis. The company subsequently reduced its capital, and the cattle herd was cut down to 40,000 in 1893. In 1896, Clay quit. The company continued to run about 40,000 head until 1904 when it went into the sheep business. At the peak of the company's sheep business in 1911, the company ran about 112,000 head. The company continued its operations until 1945, when it began liquidating. The home office and a small parcel of land of old headquarters at Chugwater is still in operation-

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Burns, Robert H., Wyoming's Pioneer Ranches, 1955.
 Historic American Buildings Survey, "Swan Land and Cattle Company Headquarters," 1974.
 Mattison, Ray H., "Swan Land and Cattle Company Headquarters," Historic Sites Survey report, 1959.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 60

UTM REFERENCES

A	13	5157130	46121840	B	13	5152200	46213810
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	13	5147160	46213810	D	13	5147160	46218110
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The 5,614 acres still belonging to the Swan Land and Cattle Company are not included in the landmark site. This is due to their being disconnected both visually and administratively from the Company Headquarters. Included are the four buildings described in section 7 and the adjacent, c. 1884 cottonwood trees, which together with the rest of the included property provide an historic, unobtrusive setting for the buildings. Two small frame structures and three gasoline tanks do not contribute to the national significance of the landmark. (cont'd)

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

Stephen Lissandrello, Historian, Landmarks Boundary Review Project

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

1100 L Street, NW.

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Washington

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

Landmark Designated:

Boundary Certified:

Mar 23 1978

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

4/3/78

ATTEST

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS

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

Swan Land and Cattle
Company Headquarters

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

Beginning at the confluence of Chugwater Creek and Ramsey Ditch, proceed in a southwesterly fashion approximately 2,000' along the eastern bank of Chugwater Creek to a point; thence west approximately 1,500' to a point; thence north 1,000'; thence in a northeasterly direction approximately 450' to a point; thence east approximately 2500' to Chugwater Creek; thence southeasterly along the eastern bank of Chugwater Creek to the point of origin.