NPS Form 10-900
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

OMB No. 1024-0018

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Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

938

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

Historic name Woodland Place Stock Farm

Other names/site number Woodland Ranch, KHRI #157-192

Name of related Multiple Property Listing Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas

2. Location

Street & number 180 Hickory Rd., White Rock Township [ ] not for publication

City or town Courtland [x] vicinity

State Kansas Code KS County Republic Code 157 Zip code 66939

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

_ national _ statewide x local Applicable National Register Criteria: x A _B x C ___D

Patrick Zollner 11-10-15

Signature of certifying official/Title Patrick Zollner, Deputy SHPO Date

Kansas State Historical Society
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property _meets _does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register __ determined eligible for the National Register

__ determined not eligible for the National Register __ removed from the National Register

__other (Explain:)

for Edson H. Beall 12.29.15

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

X	private
	public - Local
	public - State
	public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

	building(s)
X	district
	site
	structure
	object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	0	buildings
1	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
5	**0**	**Total**

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE/animal facility
OTHER (water pumping)
AGRICULTURE/agricultural field
AGRICULTURE/storage

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE/storage
VACANT/NOT IN USE
AGRICULTURE/agricultural field

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER (Midwest Prairie Barn)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

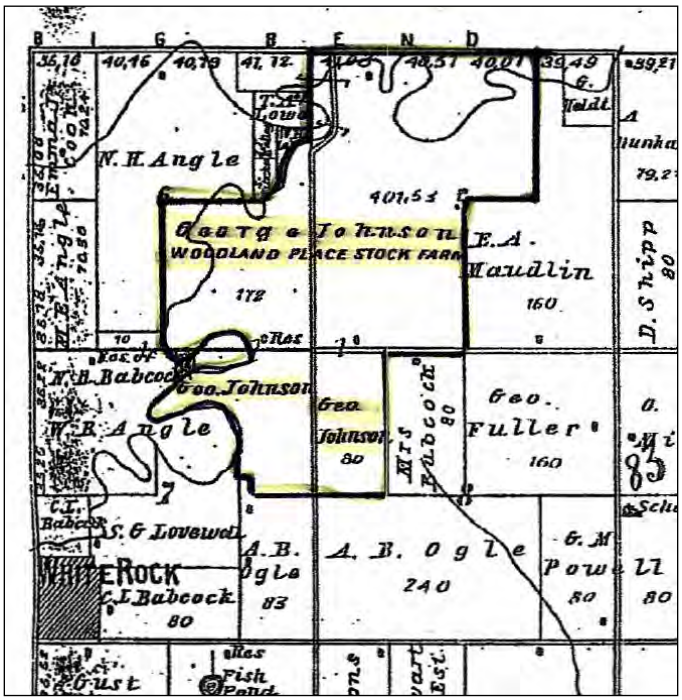
foundation: Concrete
walls: Wood
roof: Wood shingle
other:

Narrative Description

Summary

Woodland Place Stock Farm is located in rural Republic County, Kansas, seven miles north of Courtland, five miles due east of the dam at Lovewell Reservoir, and one mile west of the Courtland Road (30 Road). The nominated 210 acres in the N1/2 of the NE1/4 of Section 7 and the E1/2 of Section 6, Township 2 South, Range 5 West is the extant portion of the historic 880-acre Woodland Place Stock Farm (Exhibit 1). The district is nominated as an Associated Grouping property type of the *Historic Agricultural-related Resources of Kansas* MPS. It is located along the heavily timbered east bank of White Rock Creek in the Republican River Valley. Included within the boundaries are two ca. 1910 Midwest Prairie barns situated within 1/4 mile of each other, a windmill, and a frame tool shed, all contributing resources. Also counted as a contributing resource is the landscape itself; it retains significant elements associated with the farmstead including natural (creek and timber stands) and man-made elements (hedgerows, farm access road, concrete stock tanks, and the site of the original farmhouse, which was destroyed by a fire in the 1970s).

Elaboration

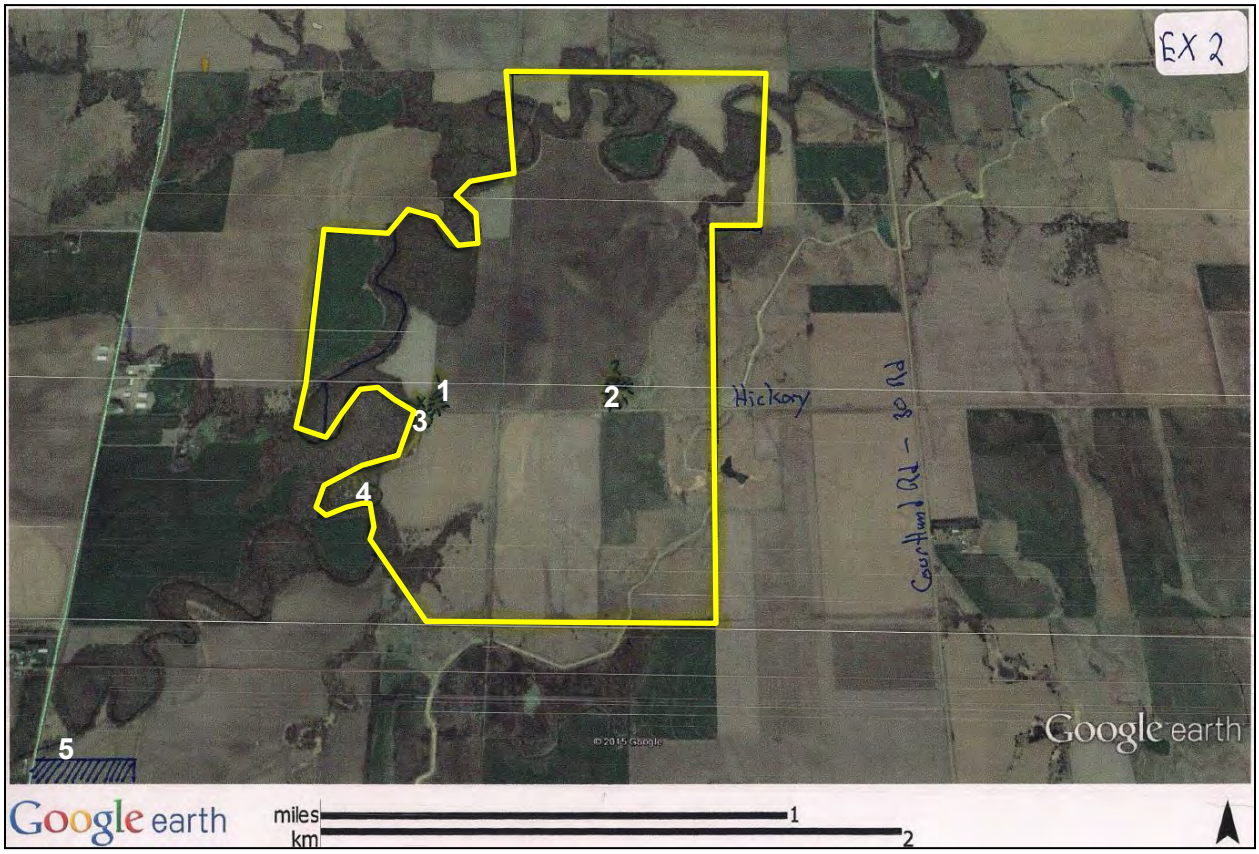


Ex 1: Snippet of 1904 atlas of White Rock Township, Republic County.

Woodland Place Stock Farm, subsequently Woodland Ranch, obtained its name from the heavily forested area running along White Rock Creek and serving as most of the western, northern, and a portion of the eastern borders of the farm. The forest includes a diverse mix of hardwoods (burr oak and black walnut) and hosts a rich variety of wildlife. The farm was historically comprised of three houses, two barns, two tool buildings, a machine shed, and windmill on 880 acres. The nominated district includes the majority of historic resources located on 210 acres.

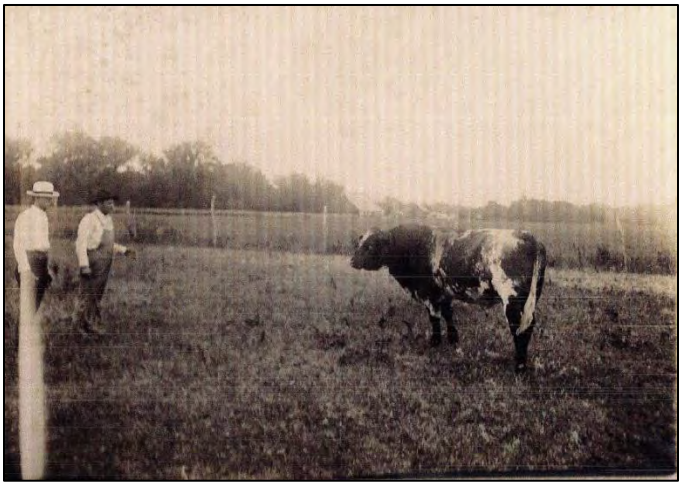
Farmstead Setting (Photos 1 through 10)

Setting for the farmstead is in the creek bottom land within a stand of trees about 200 feet from the banks of White Rock Creek (Exhibits 2 & 3). The North Barn is immediately adjacent to the east bank of the creek and is 150 feet southwest of the farmstead location. A farm access road meanders southwest on the east side of the barns, paralleling the creek then turning east. Looking north, south or east, tillable cropland is visible with the eastern horizon rising slowing out of the valley of the creek for about a mile. Timber runs along the creek in the riparian zone and is prominent from the southwest, west, northwest, and north and a good way to the northeast of the farmstead. The South Barn is south and west of the farmstead location about 1/4 mile and located within a wooded, approximately 5-acre loop of White Rock Creek, hidden from view by a stand of large hedge trees planted many years earlier. No other home is visible from the farmstead with only sounds of equipment and trains in the distance at times. Two old photos from the Elliott estate show the same basic view about 100 years ago with the stand of trees prominent and the North Barn, a smaller barn (no longer present), and the original home visible in the distance (Exhibits 4 & 5).



Ex 2: Aerial image, showing the historic 880-acre farm (highlighted). 1) Joseph & Bertie Elliott House Site; 2) EJ & Lilly Elliott House; 3) North Barn & Windmill; 4) South Barn; 5) Town of White Rock (Defunct)

Ex 3: Aerial image, showing concentration of buildings. 1) North Barn; 2) South Barn; 3) Tool Shed; 4) Windmill; 5) Joseph & Bertie Elliott House Site



Ex 4: Elliott & Lower with Shorthorn bull. North Barn, Windmill, and house in background. ca. 1910.

Ex 5: Roan Shorthorn bull in Section 6, looking south. ca. 1910.

Barns

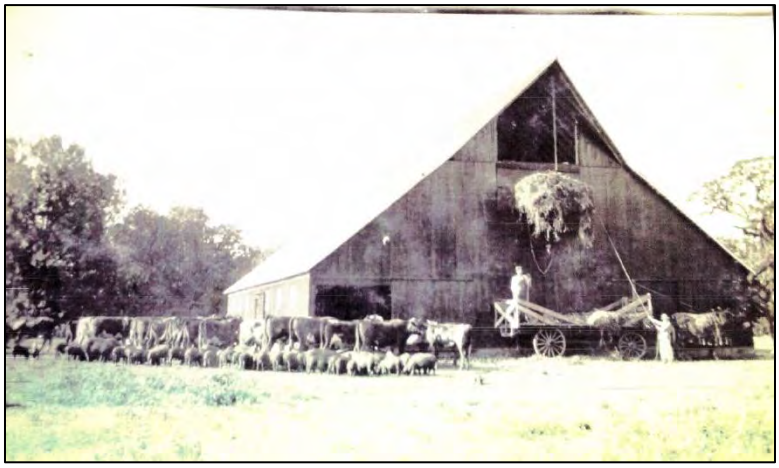
Both barns are Midwest Prairie style and are nearly identical. Each barn is sided with wood originally painted bright red with white trim, traces of which still exist. The wood-shingle gable roofs are intact, though in varying states of repair, and both have lightning rod systems installed, which continue to function today. The floor plan creates three sections in each barn on the ground level with the center section used for equipment storage; livestock pens are along both sides of the center. The loft area above the animal pens was used for hay storage. Loose hay was stored in the areas on either side of the center section of the barn and later small baled hay was stored. One photo (Exhibit 6) shows Bertie Elliott and a hired hand loading loose hay into the hay loft in the South Barn circa 1925. The cable and pulley system is still present in both barns.

1. North Barn
Date: circa 1910
Coordinates (WGS84): 39.899663, -97.917267
Contributing building
Photo(s): 11 through 16
Description: The north barn's primary door faces north, and measures 56' wide x 70' long. From ground to peak is approximately 40'. The concrete foundation supports timber post-and-beam framing with horizontal lap siding. Unlike the south barn, this barn was fitted with metal gutters and electrical service, and the entire main level floor surface is concrete with a formed channel to manage waste clean-up.

Access is possible through multiple doors: two large (center) doors on each gable end (north and south); hay mow door (north elevation) in the gable, hinged on the bottom of the door, so they would drop open when in use; two sliding doors on each side/corner of the main center door; and a sliding door on both the east and west sides (center of length) of the barn giving access to the animal pens. The east and west elevations contain a series of six windows that runs along the length of the barn, originally with four glass panes in each stationary window. To the south of the barn is a metal-fenced corral area.

Condition: The north barn is in poor condition with significant deterioration to the structure. Two walls have been damaged (south and west) from normal deterioration over time, and the north wall has tree damage to both the foundation and the wall, causing collapse of the wall and roof. The windows are missing and require replacement. Main doors have fallen from the structure, and several areas of the foundation are cracked. Most of the siding is in place, yet some requires replacement due to deterioration. Roof surfacing is intact on the east slope yet the shingles show significant wear and new roofing is needed. The west slope has collapsed and requires replacement of most of the west side of the structure from foundation, framing, roof framing, siding, and roofing.

2. South Barn
Date: circa 1910
Coordinates (WGS84): 39.897120, -97.919746
Contributing building
Photo(s): 17 through 24
Description: The south barn also faces north. It is slightly larger than the north barn, measuring 56' wide x 80' long. From ground to peak is approximately 40'. Like the north barn, it has a concrete foundation supporting timber post-and-beam construction. Vertical support posts in the barn are tree trunks in this barn not milled lumber. Vertical 1"x10" wood siding sheaths this barn. Unlike the north barn, only part of the floor surface of this barn is concrete. The center portion remains dirt. Door and window design and location are replicas of the North Barn as described above.



Ex 6: Bertie helping to load hay into South Barn. ca 1925.

Condition: The south barn is in fair condition with deterioration evident, yet it is structurally sound with some exceptions. Foundation cracking requires repair and reframing along two areas (SW corner & west side) and replacement of damaged framing and siding. Wood shingle roof has stood extremely well in light of the age and weather exposure but need replacement to protect the structure from further damage. Two interior structural posts have rotted and require replacement.

Other Resources

3. Windmill
Date: ca. 1910
Coordinates (WGS84): 39.900182, -97.917323
Contributing structure
Photo(s): 25 & 26
Description: The windmill is immediately north of the North Barn (approximately 50 ft), west of the Joseph Elliott house site, and immediately across the section line in Section 6. The Dempster, 8' No 12A model drew water from a well and served water for animals by filling several concrete reservoirs (measuring approximately 7' X 12') adjacent to the windmill and near the South Barn. The frame is metal is mounted on a concrete pad. The structure is approximately 40 ft high.

Condition: The frame is in relatively good condition. The wind vane is removed yet is on site and being kept for restoration efforts. Local company Dales Pump Repair has inspected the windmill confirming it can be repaired. The well is intact and will be used for irrigation once restored.

4. Tool Shed
Date: 1920
Coordinates (WGS84): 39.899213, -97.917202
Contributing Building
Photo(s): 27 through 30
Description: This side-gable building was used to store tools for the farm. It is located 250 feet south of the North Barn adjacent to the crop fields. It is a wood frame structure, measuring 8' by 15', with two rooms and wood floor. The south elevation contains two doors, one to access each room; the north elevation has no openings; the east and west elevations have one square opening centered under the gable.

Condition: The tool shed is in poor condition. The structural integrity has been compromised, causing the frame to lean severely. Restoration is possible if undertaken in the near term.

Integrity

The Woodland Place Stock Farm retains sufficient integrity to be listed under the *Historic Agricultural-related Resources of Kansas* multiple property submission (MPS) as an Associated Grouping property type.

Integrity of Location
The nominated resources all retain their original locations. Neither the barns nor the ancillary structures have been moved; thus, their relationship to each other and their setting is evident.

Integrity of Setting
At one time the 880-acre Woodland Place Stock Farm contained three houses, two barns, two tool buildings, a machine shed, and windmill, as well as, hundreds of acres of agricultural land. The highest concentration of the built resources was located within the nominated 210 acres, and only a tool shed and farmhouse are no longer standing (the house burned in 1977). EJ and Lilly Elliott's house in Section 5 was abandoned with new ownership and is still in place yet in disrepair; it is not included within the nominated boundary. A third house was located somewhere along White Rock Creek north of the main farmstead yet no longer exits. EJ Elliott sold approximately 400 acres in Section 5, containing two residences and the Quonset machine shed, in 1977.

The location of Joseph & Bertie Elliott's farmhouse is known, and future plans include the construction of a new house in the general location of the historic house. The loss of the main farmhouse precludes this being listed as a Farmstead property type; however, this district is eligible as an Associated Grouping, which "must include one or more primary farm structures and one or more secondary farm buildings or related structures."[1] The nominated Associated Grouping contains two primary structures (barns) and two secondary farm buildings or related structures (tool shed, windmill and associated concrete reservoirs). Importantly, the extant resources remain within a landscape that has changed little since its historic period.

Integrity of Design
All built resources within the district retain original materials both inside and outside. No windows, doors, or other historic openings have been covered, nor have any additions obscured the buildings. The barns retain their historic interior configurations as well.

Integrity of Materials
Both barns and the tool shed retain their historic wood siding and roofing materials. In several instances, however, the conditions of the materials are poor to deteriorated.

Integrity of Workmanship
The condition of the district on a macro scale is good; however, individual resources are in various states of repair from good to deteriorated. The two barns are utilitarian in design, so no decorative features were historically found on them. While configured the same, the interiors of the two barns contain different materials that distinguish one from the other (logs versus milled lumber; concrete floor versus dirt floor). The south barn even retains its hay-loading mechanism.

Integrity of Feeling
Though the built resources are not currently being used, their integrity of location, setting, design, materials, and workmanship combine to evoke a "historic sense of a past period of time."[2] Significantly adding to this feeling is the unchanged landscape that is still being used for agricultural purposes.
Integrity of Association
The nominated property retains its ability to communicate both its association with the agricultural history of the land and the historic function of each contributing resource.

[1] Christy Davis & Brenda Spencer, *Historic Agricultural-related Resources of Kansas* multiple property submission (Topeka: Kansas Historical Society, 2007), F88.
[2] Ibid., F84.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

[X] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

[ ] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

[X] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

[ ] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)
Property is:

[ ] A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

[ ] B removed from its original location.

[ ] C a birthplace or grave.

[ ] D a cemetery.

[ ] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

[ ] F a commemorative property.

[ ] G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
Agriculture
Architecture

Period of Significance
1878 - 1925

Significant Dates
ca. 1910

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown

Period of Significance (justification)
The period of significance begins in 1878 when George Johnson had acquired all the land that comprised the Woodland Place Stock Farm and ends in 1925 with Joseph Elliott's purchase of the property, by which time the partnership between Joseph Elliott and W.S. Lower appears to have been dissolved. The period of significance also includes all extant resources constructed within this timeframe for the support of the farm operation.

Criteria Considerations (justification)
N/A

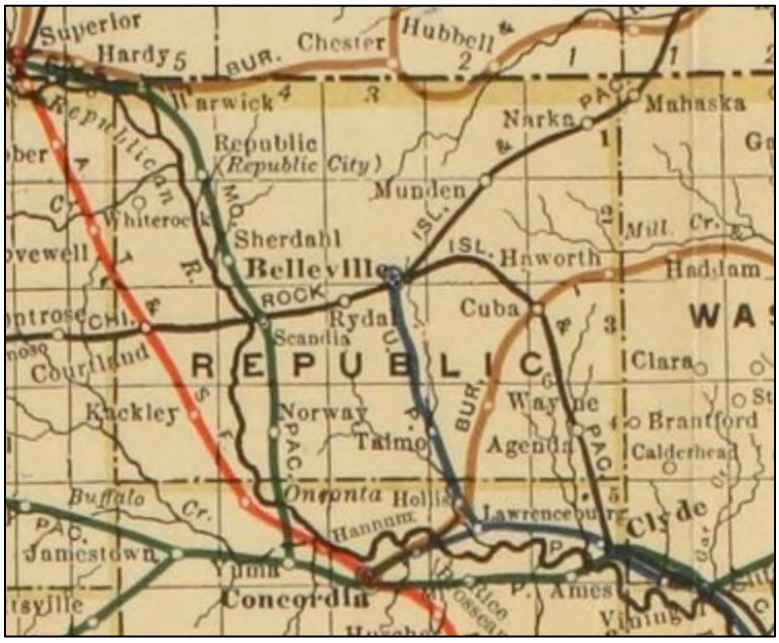
Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary

Woodland Place Stock Farm represents the success of the westward migration into Kansas, the evolution of this part of the Great Plains history into successful agribusiness, and the early agricultural life of north central Kansas.[3] Hard working risk-takers moved into this part of Republic County after Kansas became a state in 1861 and embraced the farming opportunity. The extant barns stand today after serving the family farming business for a century as a testament to the early emigrants to Kansas who helped build the new State and the expansion of the United States. Foundations of the lifestyles and farming success today and the ability to feed the many millions from the abundance of Kansas farms are represented by these standing testaments to the success of their and many others' efforts. Woodland Place Stock Farm is nominated as part of the *Historic Agricultural-related Resources of Kansas* MPS under Criteria A and C for its association with early agricultural history of Republic County and for the barns' example of the Midwest Prairie style. The period of significance begins in 1878 when George Johnson had acquired all the land that comprised the Woodland Place Stock Farm and ends in 1925 with Joseph Elliott's purchase of the property, by which time the partnership between Joseph Elliott and W.S. Lower appears to have been dissolved. The period of significance also includes all extant resources constructed within this timeframe for the support of the farm operation.

Elaboration

Historic significance of the location and the structures is related to the geological record, Indian history, American history of the westward migration, and the agricultural industry and lifestyle growing in North Central Kansas. Woodland Place Stock Farm is located along the White Rock Creek in the Republican River Valley four miles from the confluence of White Rock Creek and the Republican River and three miles from the (Kitkahahki) Pawnee Indian Village on the Republican River.[4]



Ex 7: Snippet view of J.W. Stouffer's Railroad Map of Kansas, 1915-1918.

History of Republic County, White Rock Township

Isaac O. Savage published *A History of Republic County* in 1901 that included the first settlement, topography, and statistics of the area. The following historical recap comes from his book. The United States took possession of what became Kansas as part of the Louisiana Territory on April 30, 1803 through a treaty with France known as the Louisiana Purchase. The territory was previously claimed by Spain going back to Spanish explorer Coronado's explorations in Kansas as early as 1540.

After the Louisiana Purchase, Capitan Zebulon Pike left on July 15, 1806 to explore the new territory at the direction of President Jefferson. He and his party camped on the banks of White Rock Creek (approximately

[3] Brendon Patrick Asher, *Kitkahahki Chipped Stone Technologies: A Comparative Study* MA Thesis (Lawrence: University of Kansas, 2009).

[4] For more information and detail on the Pawnee Indian history of this area, see Asher, *Kitkahahki* & I[saac]. O. Savage, *A History of Republic County, Kansas* (Beloit, KS: Jones & Chubbic, 1901).

eight miles west of the Woodland Place Stock Farm) on September 24, 1806. His assignment was to explore the new territory, take and preserve specimens of the mineral and botanical worlds, and seek friendly relations with the Pawnee Republic and other Indian tribes. Based upon the research efforts of Elizabeth and George Johnson, first owners of Woodland Place Stock Farm, the Pawnee Indian Village in Republic Kansas was identified as the location where Zebulon Pike met with Kitkahahki (Pawnee) Indians.[5]

In 1860 the Kansas Legislature named Republic County and defined its boundaries, both of which have been maintained since then. The first white settlers came to the county in September 1861, making the total population of the county five that year. Nine years later, the 1870 census shows the population increased to 1281. Population in the county reached a peak of 19,002 in 1890 with a steady decline to 4820 in 2013.

White Rock Township is in the farthest western portion of the county with Big Bend Township on the northern border and Courtland Township to the south. It measures 12 miles north and south and six miles east and west. The first resident in this township was Philip Keyser, coming in the spring of 1862; although, he only lasted two months. The first long-term residents, arriving in 1866, included Thomas Lovewell, for whom Lovewell Reservoir is named, and George Johnson, who arrived in 1869 and homesteaded the site that is now the location of the Pawnee Indian Village.[6] Johnson was also the first owner of the nominated property. While the White Rock Township has only 46 residents today (2015), the population reached its peak in 1890 with 651 residents.[7]

The 1870s were years of growth for White Rock Township. The first school opened in 1871 and the first church building opened in 1873.[8] The town of White Rock City was also established in this decade, laid out in 1871 (Exhibits 1 & 2). The town company consisted of Thomas Lovewell and Chester Babcock, among others. Lovewell and Babcock, who both owned land in SW1/4 of Section 7, Township 2 South, Range 5 West, allowed the city to be established on their property – a little over 1/2 mile southwest of the nominated site.[9] The White Rock post office was established in July 1870 with Charles Babcock postmaster.[10]

White Rock City was the first permanent town west of the Republican River in Republic County and the only town in the township. In the county's early years, White Rock City "was by far the most prosperous town in Republic county…having its full complement of establishments devoted to trade and the mechanical pursuits and the best water power in the county, which at one time was utilized by a saw and grist mill, both of which did a flourishing and thriving business."[11] In 1883 the town was home to 200 people.[12]

The extension of the railroad played a key role in the early growth of Republic County and White Rock Township more directly. There were seven railroads that served the entire county – 14th most in the state of Kansas, and more than half were central to the White Rock Township. Railroads developed in the county from the first rail system, Atchison, Republican Valley & Pacific (December 1878), with the last, the Pacific Railroad in Nebraska, Jewell Branch, being completed in 1888. I.O. Savage underscores the importance of rail service to this county and the business of this area of Kansas:

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[5] See Savage, *A History of Republic County,* 13-29, for more information for more details and history of this part of Kansas and the history of Zebulon Pike's expedition. The Pawnee Indian village is now a state historic site.

[6] Orel (Lovewell) Poole, "Many Pioneers Endured Hardships to Settle White Rock," *Belleville [Kansas] Telescope* (June 5, 1958): 3C. George and his wife, Elizabeth, later donated the land to the State of Kansas.

[7] Savage, *A History of Republic County, Kansas*, 150-151; William Cutler, *History of the State of Kansas* Vol. II (Chicago: A.T. Andreas, 1883), 1031.

[8] Savage, *A History of Republic County, Kansas*, 150-151

[9] Tyler Clark, "Warriors at White Rock: White Rock Township and White Rock City, Republic County, Kansas, 1862-1926," Lost Kansas Communities Collection (Manhattan, KS: Kansas State University, 2010), 3-4.

[10] Robert W. Baughman, *Kansas Post Offices*, 2nd ed. (Topeka: Kansas Historical Society, 1961), 138 & 220. Savage records the post office opening in 1871 on page 151.

[11] Savage, *A History of Republic County, Kansas*, 84.

[12] Cutler, *History of the State of Kansas*, 1043.

> There are sixteen stations in the county and four others within a half mile of our northern border, thus affording facilities unsurpassed by any county in Kansas for shipping our immense products to a ready market, the stations being so distributed that there is not a farm house in the county at a greater distance than eight miles from a railroad depot.[13]

Growth of the rail system complemented and worked jointly with the growing success of Republic County agribusiness. Conversely, successful farms and ranches like Woodland Place Stock Farm served as a fitting business customer for the developing rail system in Kansas and the expanding population in the state. Due to decisions to route rail lines away from the town, White Rock City declined. The post office closed in 1900, and by the completion of the 1923 county atlas, the town no longer was delineated.[14] Today no visible evidence exists of the village of White Rock.

From the beginning of record keeping in 1872, the county was in the top three counties in the state for wheat production in nine of ten years. Corn production broke a million bushels for the first time in 1876, and the county, smaller than most counties in the state in size, rapidly grew into a dominant county producer ranking 7th in 1880 and 3rd in 1882, with many years of very strong corn production being in the center of the Kansas Corn Belt.

Ex 8: Snippet of 1884 atlas of White Rock Township, Republic County.

Cattle and swine were dominant products in the county during the first 30 years, 1870 to 1900. Republic County ranked in the top ten counties for swine production most of this time with top three production in many years and 1885 seeing over 81,000 swine in the county – far beyond any other county in the state. Cattle population grew rapidly as well with an increase in the number of cattle over 447% from 1872 to 1900 going from 4944 cattle in 1872 to 27,063 in 1900.[15] Woodland Place Stock Farm contributed to this industry.

Woodland Place Stock Farm and Woodland Ranch

George Johnson was the first owner of the Woodland Place Stock Farm property, acquiring the E1/2 of the NE1/4 of Section 7 and the W1/2 of the NW1/4 of Section 8 through a patent on May 1, 1871.[16] The 1870 census indicated Johnson was a farmer with a real estate value of $8000 ($141,563 in 2015) and a personal estate value of $400 ($7078 in 2015). Johnson expanded his land holdings in 1878 by acquiring the patent to the SE1/4 of Section 6 in that year. By 1884 Johnson – farmer and stock dealer, according to the 1880 census – appears to have had quite a successful farm, as evidenced by the 1884 county atlas. The property in White Rock Township contained several structures, including a couple barns and a house, and a feed lot was located in the loop of White Rock Creek where the South Barn is located today (Exhibit 8). The property was known as the Woodland Place Stock Farm under the Johnsons' ownership (Exhibit 1).

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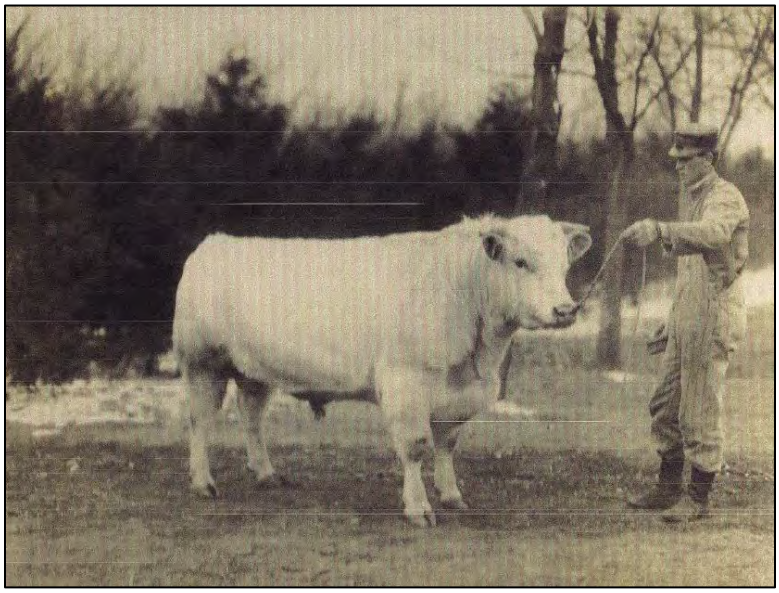
[13] Savage, *A History of Republic County, Kansas*, 87.

[14] *Standard Atlas of Republic County, Kansas* (Chicago: George A. Ogle & Co., 1923), 30; Baughman, *Kansas Post Offices*, 138.

[15] Savage, *A History of Republic County, Kansas*, 97-98.

[16] Certificate #1731 "US Government to George Johnson of Republic County Kansas," General Land Office Records, Bureau of Land Management on-line, http://www.glorecords.blm.gov/details/patent/default.aspx?accession=KS2550__.451&docClass=STA&sid=wpce0n5p.bch#patentDetailsTabIndex=1 (accessed 09/16/2015).



Ex 9: Royal Cumberland Registration # 334808 - Shorthorn bull ca.1923.

George was born in New York in circa 1834, and according to the 1885 Kansas state census, had arrived in Kansas from California. George and his wife, Elizabeth, were married in 1882. She was also born in New York but was much younger than her husband being born in circa 1853. Presumably she had a previous marriage because a daughter, Mary, was 11 in 1885. Mary married William Sherman (WS) Lower in 1900 at the age of 27, and the Lowers received ownership of the farm in 1914.[17] Lower became an important figure in the business of the Woodland Place Stock Farm.

Piecing together census and atlas information, Lower, born in Iowa in 1870, was in Washington County, Kansas, in 1885 with his family.[18] By 1900 he lived in the city of Courtland with his new wife, Mary. The Lowers owned property in Big Bend Township beginning in circa 1904 when they are listed in the county atlas as the owner of the SW/4 of Section 23 (Township 1 South, Range 5 West), about 5.5 miles northeast of the Woodland Place Stock Farm. Across the road to the west, Joseph Elliott is listed as the owner of several parcels in Section 22. Elliott was born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1877 and was living in Big Bend Township by 1885 with his father, James, and the rest of their family.[19] Joseph and Bertie Elliot were married in 1899 and continued to live in this township until 1910; there only child, EJ, was born in 1903. Whether Lower and Elliott met before or after owning adjacent land in Big Bend Township is unknown, but the two formed a successful partnership that ran Woodland Ranch, the name associated with Elliott and Lower's tenure, for almost two decades.[20]

Ledger entries for Lower and Elliott's farm operation affirm they were in business by 1906, as the first entry in the books is from that year.[21] The partnership had Joseph Elliott as the 'on farm partner' and Lower the distant partner. Elliott appears to have been responsible for the day-to-day operations of the farm. Lower's main profession was banking. He went from bank cashier in 1900 to the president of the Republic State Bank in the city of Republic by 1904.[22] By 1920 WS and Mary were living in Concordia, Kansas, where WS was president of the Republic State Bank there. The Lowers relocated to Southern CA in 1923 and purchased a bank in Puente, California (now part of greater Los Angeles) at that time, yet he continued in the Woodland Ranch

[17] Republic County Property Records 1871-1945. The 1923 county atlas still lists George Johnson as the owner.

[18] Lower's father, Levi, received land patents in Washington County in 1876 and 1886, indicating the family may have relocated soon after WS was born. See http://www.glorecods.blm.gov for patent information.

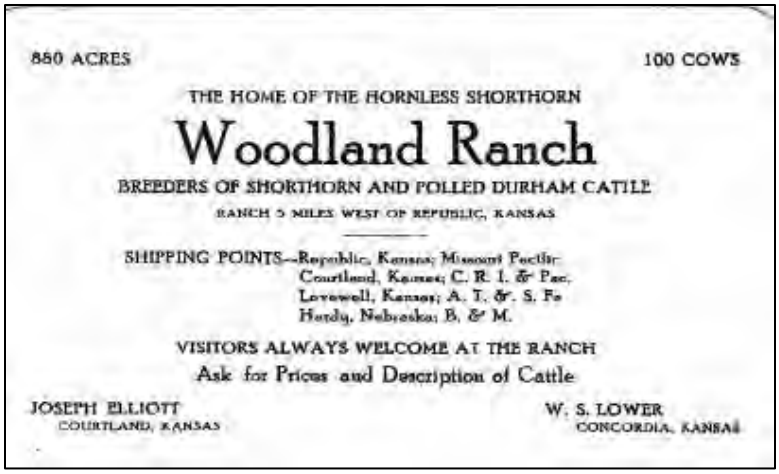
[19] James immigrated to the US from England in 1870. By 1877, he had received the patent to the SE1/4 of Section 13, Township 3, Range 2 West (in Jefferson Township, about 24 miles southeast of the Woodland Place Stock Farm). James still owned the property in 1884, according to the county atlas, but the 1885 Federal Census lists the family in Big Bend Township.

[20] The name change from Woodland Place Stock Farm to Woodland Ranch likely occurred during the time George Johnson was transitioning the farm to Lower and Elliott.

[21] Lower-Elliott business ledger 1906-1920.

[22] 1900 Federal Census; *Standard Atlas of Republic County* (Chicago: George A. Ogle & Co., 1904), 74.

partnership.[23] Joseph Elliott became the sole owner of the property in 1925, indicating that the partnership by that point was dissolved.[24]


880 ACRES
100 COWS
THE HOME OF THE HORNLESS SHORTHORN
Woodland Ranch
BREEDERS OF SHORTHORN AND POLLED DURHAM CATTLE
RANCH 5 MILES WEST OF REPUBLIC, KANSAS
SHIPPING POINTS—Republic, Kansas; Missouri Pacific
Courtland, Kansas; C. R. I. & Pac.
Lovewell, Kansas; A. T. & S. Fe
Hardy, Nebraska; B. & M.
VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME AT THE RANCH
Ask for Prices and Description of Cattle
JOSEPH ELLIOTT
COURTLAND, KANSAS
W. S. LOWER
CONCORDIA, KANSAS

Ex 10: Business card for Woodland Ranch, ca. 1920.

The business ledger discovered among the Joseph and Bertie Elliott estate shows business operations included cattle, swine, chickens, and produce sales. This ledger also has many entries describing the joint, close, and daily work of Joseph Elliott and 'George' working each other's farms. Although 'George' is not addressed by his last name the context and content of the entries would conclude it was George Johnson that Joseph was working with.

Although Woodland Place Stock Farm and Woodland Ranch engaged in raising various crops and animals, records confirm cattle-raising was a primary focus. Ledger records from 1908 for example show income for the first half of the year totaled $2547.74 with 92% of the income for the sale of cattle and hogs.[25] What George and Elizabeth Johnson started as a cattle stock farm evolved to be known as Woodland Place Stock Farm and then Woodland Ranch. Elliott and Lower, with good information from the Joseph Elliott farm ledger, focused on raising Shorthorn and Polled Durham cattle (Exhibit 10).[26] Historic photos from between 1906 and 1920 show examples of their cattle (Exhibits 4, 5, & 9). One of their most prized bulls was named Royal Cumberland. This registered Shorthorn (#334808) was "head herd bull of the Allen Cattle Co. Colorado Springs, CO 1912-1914."[27] Elliott and Lower purchased the animal from an Iowa farm for $3000 by for their Shorthorn cattle operation.

Rail service played an important role in the successful development of Woodland Place Stock Farm and Woodland Ranch due to close proximity of multiple access points to shipping points for cattle to other parts of the nation. During the early 1900s the farm shipped stock from four towns, each served by a different railroad (Exhibit 16), as shown in the following table.[28] By 1915 Woodland Place Stock Farm was centrally located to three rail lines within three-to-eight miles of the farm (Exhibit 7).

Railroad	Rail Shipping Point	Distance from Woodland Ranch (approx.)
Kansas-Missouri Pacific	Republic, Kan.	5.5 miles northeast
Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe	Lovewell, Kan.	6 miles west
Burlington & Missouri River	Hardy, Neb.	8 miles north
Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific	Courtland, Kan.	8.25 miles south

[23] Letter from WS Lower to Joseph Elliott, 1921. The 1930 Federal Census shows WS and Mary as living in California.

[24] Republic County Property Records 1871-1945.

[25] Lower-Elliott business ledger 1906-1920.

[26] The American Shorthorn Cattle Association is the oldest cattle organization in the US now headquartered in Omaha, Nebraska. The Association began in 1872; those raising Shorthorn cattle at that time would have been founding members of the breeders organization. Montie D. Soules, CEO, American Shorthorn Cattle Association, 2015. Records from the Association do not allow access due to age however.

[27] Inscription on back of photograph Exhibit 9.

[28] Savage, *A History of Republic County, Kansas*, 84-87.

Midwest Prairie Barns at Woodland Ranch

Ex 11: Woodland Ranch North Barn ca. 1910.

Over the history of Woodland Ranch the farm raised cattle, pigs, and chickens, as well as grew the crops of corn, soybean, milo, wheat, and alfalfa. The two extant Midwest Prairie barns served to support hay, equipment, and supply storage as well as shelter for cattle, pigs, and horses at times.

In their 2007 *Historic Agricultural-related Resources of Kansas* multiple property submission, authors Christy Davis and Brenda Spencer write, "Midwest Prairie Barns are identified by their wide sweeping roofs, horizontal massing, and gable-end entrances." Large hay mows and hay hoods are characteristic of these barns that were primarily built for hay storage. Davis and Spencer explain this barn type's significance:

> The Midwest Prairie Barn is the archetypal Kansas barn. From the beginning, Kansas farms were much larger than the national average, requiring large teams of draft horses and, in turn, tons of hay. Ranchers, who were managing ever-growing herd of longhorns and beef cattle in the Flint Hills and Southwest region beginning in the 1880s, required great amounts of hay to feed their herds during the long winter months. And Midwest Prairie Barns answered their call.[29]

Woodland Ranch's operation was large enough to require two Midwest Prairie barns. The dates of construction for the two barns are estimated in county records as 1910; although, this date is self-recorded. The 1884 Republic County atlas shows a hay barn near the location of the North Barn (Exhibit 8). Although it is not determined if this is the same barn standing today, judging from the materials used, the age of the North Barn is likely 105 to 120 years old. The South Barn is likely newer constructed in 1910 per Republic County.

Of the eight surveyed barns in Republic County, four are Midwest Prairie. No other surveyed farms contain two barns, however. The Cossart Barn in the northeast corner of the county was built to support the small family farm.[30] A single barn of similar design to the Woodland Ranch barns is located approximately 2.5 miles due east of the nominated site. While this type of barn is common to Kansas, part of the significance of this site is the presence of two on the same farm, hinting at the size of the farm operation at the beginning of the 20th century.

Conclusion

The farm and related structures served the long history of Woodland Place Stock Farm and Woodland Ranch with the Elliott family involved since 1906, purchasing the land in 1925 with ownership passing from one generation to the next. George Johnson began the farm and stock operation and Joseph and Bertie Elliott continued farming the land and raising Shorthorn cattle until they handed-off duties to their only child, son Errett J (EJ) and his wife, Lillie, who farmed the land until retirement in the 1957. Their only child, son Richard J. Elliott, farmed the land until 1977 when about half the farm was sold, and Richard moved from the farm to the town of Superior, Nebraska. Richard personally managed the farm until his death in 2009. Jolynn Elliott Pierce, great-granddaughter of Joseph and Bertie, and her husband, Locke, have managed the farm since 2009. Today, the farm continues to raise corn, milo, soybeans, and alfalfa and support a cattle herd.

[29] Davis & Spencer, F57-F59.
[30] The Cossart Barn (KHRI #157-177) was listed in the National Register in 2009.

The Pierces resurrected the use of the name 'Woodland Ranch' in 2009. Continuing the name helps preserve the historical significance of the ranch, identify one of the most notable features, the wooded forest that is such a large part of the ranch and align with the newly expanded focus on managing the forest for conservation and profit. Most recently the large timber area – comprised of black walnut and burr oak stands – on the farm is being managed as a tree farm having recently received the designation as a Certified Tree Farm by the American Tree Farm System. Long term plans call for management to bring this area of the business to production of hardwood lumber. Once restored, future use of the South Barn will be for storage of equipment and development of a support operation for the Certified Tree Farm recently designated. This support operation is to house wood milling and drying as the tree farm grows. The windmill's planned restoration will enable its reuse for irrigation of trees and gardens in the vicinity of the farmstead home.

The barns, tool shed, and windmill represent efforts of the early inhabitants in the very young area of North Central Kansas to establish successful farming and ranching operations and affirm the success building a sustainable business to the present time. Restoration of the barns present an opportunity to continue to serve the Woodland Ranch and the rich history of farming and North Central Kansas for years to come.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

1885, 1895, 1905, 1915, 1925 Kansas State Censuses.

1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930 United States Federal Censuses.

Atlas of Republic County Kansas. Chicago: Gillen & Davy, 1884.

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Asher, Brendon Patrick. *Kitkahahki Chipped Stone Technologies: A Comparative Study.* MA Thesis. Lawrence: University of Kansas, 2009. Electronic copy available at KU ScholarWorks website: http://hdl.handle.net/1808/5567

Baughman, Robert W. *Kansas Post Offices*, 2nd ed. Topeka: Kansas Historical Society, 1961.

Clark, Tyler. "Warriors at White Rock: White Rock Township and White Rock City, Republic County, Kansas, 1862-1926." Lost Kansas Communities Collection. Manhattan, KS: Kansas State University, 2010 [digital copy on-line], available at K-State Research Exchange (K-REx), http://hdl.handle.net/2097/8420 (accessed September 29, 2015).

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Davis, Christy & Brenda Spencer. *Historic Agricultural-related Resources of Kansas* multiple property submission. Topeka: Kansas Historical Society, 2007.

General Land Office Records, Bureau of Land Management on-line.

Lower-Elliott business ledger 1906-1920. Copies available from owner and with KSHS.

Pierce, Locke and Jolynn Elliott. Family records. Copies supplied to KSHS in files.

Poole, Orel (Lovewell). "Many Pioneers Endured Hardships to Settle White Rock." *Belleville [Kansas] Telescope* (June 5, 1958): 2C-3C. This was one of several remembrances written between April and June 1958 by the daughter of Thomas Lovewell; she called the entire series "The White Rock Valley Story."

Republic County Property Records 1871-1945.

Savage, I[saac]. O. *A History of Republic County, Kansas.* Beloit, KS: Jones & Chubbic, 1901. [Digital scan online]; available from Archive.org https://archive.org/details/historyofrepubli02sava (accessed September 29, 2015).

Stouffer, J.W. Railroad Map of Kansas (1915-1918). Full map available from Kansas Memory at http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/227380

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 # _____
____recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

_X_State Historic Preservation Office
____Other State agency
____Federal agency
____Local government
____University
____Other
Name of repository: **Kansas Historical Society**

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____n/a_____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 210

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84:_____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

A	39.909917	-97.922942	B	39.909917	-97.913831
	Latitude:	Longitude:		Latitude:	Longitude:
C	39.892754	-97.913831	D	39.892754	-97.922942
	Latitude:	Longitude:		Latitude:	Longitude:

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)
The nominated boundary includes approximately 210 acres (as calculated by the county appraiser records) in Sections 6 & 7 of Township 2 South, Range 5 West on the east side of White Rock Creek. The west and north boundaries are White Rock Creek; the east boundary is the eastern section line of both Sections 6 & 7; the south boundary follows the half-section line between the SE/4 of the NE/4 and the NE/4 of the SE/4 of Section 7. The legal descriptions given by the appraiser include the following. In Section 6: 106.7 acres in the SE1/4 of Section 6 excluding all lying west of creek, 2.2 acres in the S/2 of the NE/4 lying west and south of the creek; and 13 acres in the NE/4 lying east of creek. In Section 7: 87.5 acres beginning in the E1/4 corner thence west 750' & northerly 100'& west 80' & south 225' & west 160' & northerly 750' & southwest 600' & northeasterly 300' & north 480' & east 1320' & south 2635' to point of beginning.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)
The boundary was selected to reflect that portion of the original 880-acre Woodland Place Stock Farm that is still in the family of the Joseph & Bertie Elliott. The creek continues to serve as a boundary, as it did during the farm's historic period. The boundary includes the remaining farm buildings and structures associated with the farm, as well as landscape features (both natural and man-made) that were essential to the feeling of the farm.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Locke Pierce; KSHS Edits
organization _____ date Fall 2015
street & number PO Box 9037 telephone 719-232-5908
city or town Woodland Park state CO zip code 80866
e-mail LockeH@Hotmail.com

Property Owner: (complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name Same as above.
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Photographs

Photograph Log

Name of Property: **Woodland Place Stock Farm**

City or Vicinity: **Courtland vicinity**

County: **Republic** State: **Kansas**

Photographer: **Amanda K. Loughlin & Locke Pierce**

Date Photographed: **June 2012 (LP1); October 2014 (LP2); & September 2015 (AL)**

See accompanying photo keys.

Site
1 of 30: View west from entry road, showing north barn in landscape context (AL)
2 of 30: View north from location of Joseph & Bertie Elliott's house (AL)
3 of 30: View south from NE of North Barn (AL)
4 of 30: View north from south of tool shed, showing shed in relation to North Barn (AL)
5 of 30: Historic hedgerow along access road, looking SSW (AL)
6 of 30: View SW along farm access road, leading from North Barn to South Barn (AL)
7 of 30: View SW from gate at farm access road that leads to South Barn (AL)
8 of 30: View east at south side of South Barn, showing historic fencing (AL)
9 of 30: View south from south side of South Barn, showing proximity to White Rock Creek (AL)
10 of 30: View west from South Barn, showing landscape (AL)

North Barn & Environs
11 of 30: North elevation (AL)
12 of 30: Looking SW at east and north elevations (AL)
13 of 30: East elevation (AL)
14 of 30: Looking NW at south and east elevations and corral area to south of barn (AL)
15 of 30: NW corner door (LP2)
16 of 30: Interior, looking north; concrete floor with center channel (AL)

25 of 30: Windmill, looking NW (AL)
26 of 30: Well associated with windmill (AL)
27 of 30: Tool shed, south elevation (LP2)
28 of 30: Tool shed, looking east at north and east elevations (LP2)
29 of 30: Tool shed, looking NW at south and east elevations (LP2)
30 of 30: Tool shed, interior of east room, looking NW (AL)

South Barn
17 of 30: Looking SW at east and north elevations (LP1)
18 of 30: South elevation (AL)
19 of 30: Looking SE at north and west elevations (AL)
20 of 30: North elevation, detail of hay door & hay mow with track system (AL)
21 of 30: North elevation, detail of hay mow and siding (LP2)
22 of 30: Interior, looking SW at west side of barn from north entry (AL)
23 of 30: Interior, looking SE at east side of barn from north entry (LP1)
24 of 30: Interior, animal pens on east side of barn (LP2)

Exhibits

Ex1. *Standard Atlas of Republic County* (Chicago: George A. Ogle & Co., 1904), page 19, showing the 880-acre Woodland Place Stock Farm

Ex2. Aerial image, showing the extent of the original 880-acre farm.

Ex3. Aerial image, showing concentration of buildings.

Ex4. Joseph Elliott & W.S. Lower with Shorthorn bull. North Barn, Windmill, and house in background. ca. 1910.

Ex5. Roan Shorthorn bull in Section 6, looking south. ca. 1910.

Ex6. Bertie Elliott & hired hand loading hay into South Barn ca. 1925.

Ex7. Snippet view of Republic County from J.W. Stouffer's Railroad Map of Kansas (1915-1918). Full map available from Kansas Memory at http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/227380

Ex8. *Atlas of Republic County Kansas* (Chicago: Gillen & Davy, 1884), page 17.

Ex9. Royal Cumberland Registration # 334808 - Shorthorn bull ca.1923.

Ex10. Business card for Woodland Ranch, ca. 1920.

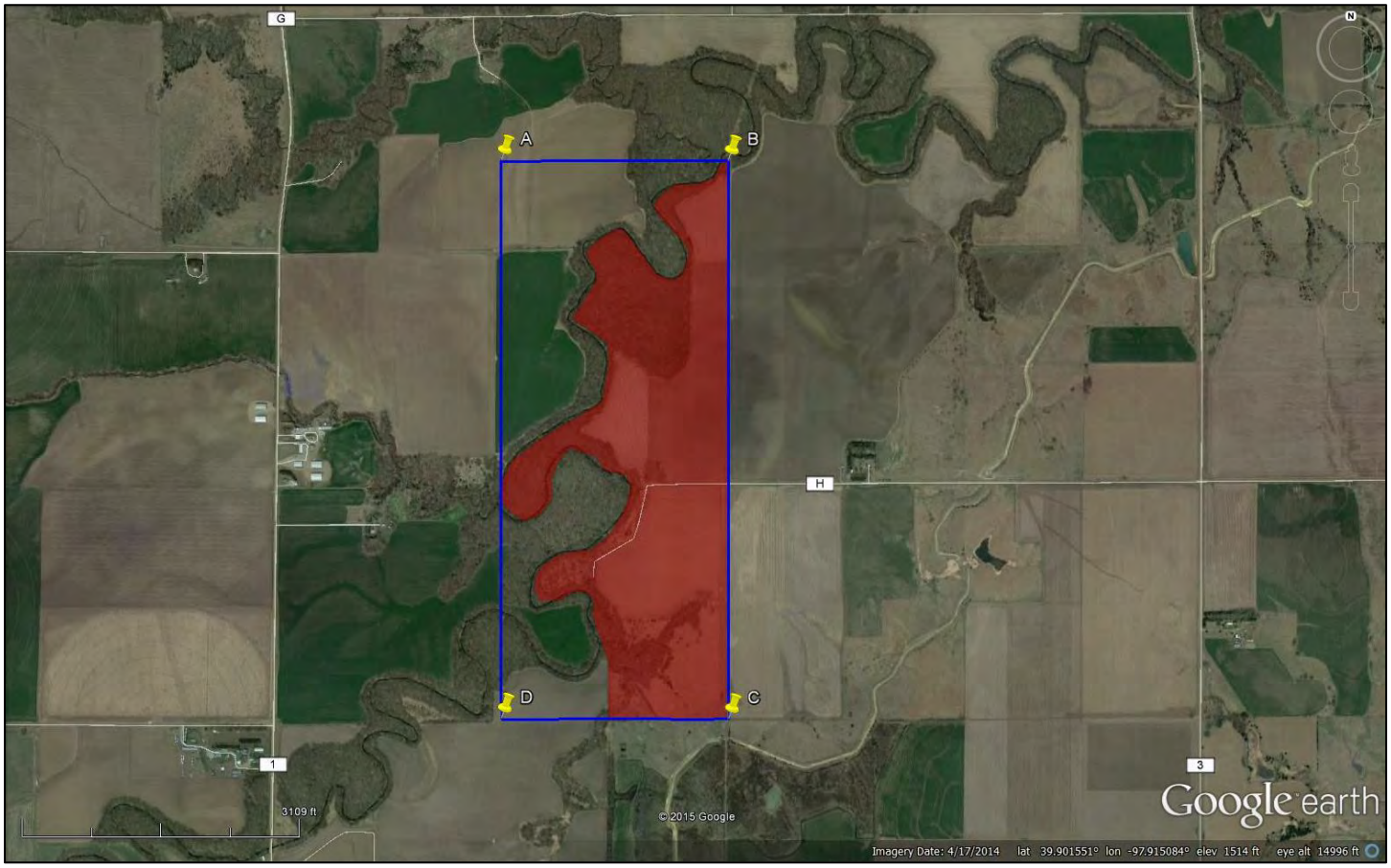
Ex11. Woodland Ranch North Barn, east elevation, c. 1910.

Site Photo Key.

North Barn & Environs Photo Key.

South Barn Photo Key.

Boundary Map.



Boundary of Woodland Ranch includes that area within the rectangle east of the creek, shown in shaded area.

Coordinates (Datum = WGS84)
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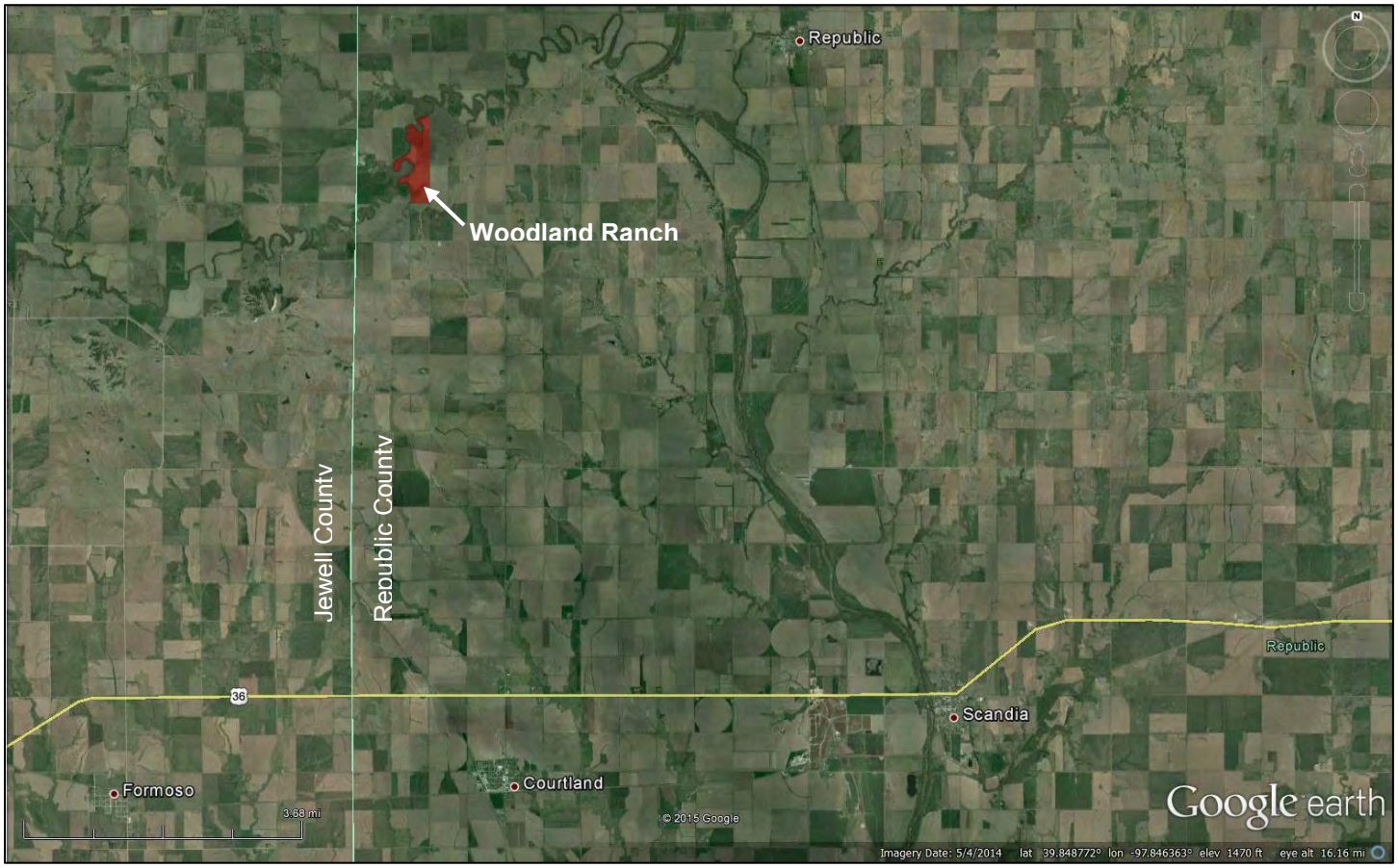
B: 39.909917,-97.913831
C: 39.892754,-97.913831
D: 39.892754,-97.922942

Contextual Map.