

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

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

CROCKER RANCH

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

One and one-half miles north of Matfield Green on K-177
E½, Sec. 31, T 21 S, R 8 E

CITY, TOWN

Matfield Green

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
No. 5 Joe Skubitz

STATE

Kansas

CODE
20

COUNTY
Chase

CODE
017

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

H. Mason Crocker

STREET & NUMBER

Box 419

CITY, TOWN

Brady

VICINITY OF

STATE

Texas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Chase County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Cottonwood Falls

STATE

Kansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1975

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kansas State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Topeka

STATE

Kansas

019-0000-068

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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

The Crocker Ranch is a collection of buildings that reflect the growth and development of ranching in Kansas. Only one building, a stone provision house, remains from the original farm which was started in the 1860's. Other major buildings on the ranch include a house built around the 1880's, a barn built in 1906, the main house constructed in 1908-1909 and later remodeled, and a grain elevator dated 1915-16. The ranch is located just north of the small community of Matfield Green. Crocker creek which runs to the south of the main complex and the Santa Fe railroad tracks which run across a built-up ridge to the west visually enclose the property.

The impressive L-shaped Doric portico on the main house is the dominating feature of the ranch. The house, which faces east, is a large, rambling, two and one-half story frame structure. Though the exterior of this house has been extensively remodeled, it still retains its basic configuration. Originally the house had an elevated one story L-shaped veranda and a round tower with a spire at the southeastern corner. The veranda has been replaced by the Doric portico with a pediment. The spire has been removed, and the circular corner now has octagonal sides. A one story addition on the north side of the east facade serves as an attached garage. Fixed shutters were also added during the remodeling.

The house is basically a large two story block with a high hip roof. There is a projecting two story wing to the south and a one story wing to the west. Originally there was a wide dormer facing east, but this was removed when the pediment was constructed. The fenestration pattern, which was not altered during the remodeling, utilizes large double-hung windows which occupy a high proportion of wall space. The roof is surfaced with cedar shakes.

The provision shed has been constructed of native coursed rubble. It has a pitched roof surfaced with cedar shakes and a single door on the east facade.

The house built in the 1880's is a one and one-half story frame building with a one story T-shaped addition. The exterior has been covered with white painted clapboard, and the house has a simple gable roof covered with wood shingles. The roofline is broken by two wall dormers with gable roofs on the east facade.

The grain elevator, barn and silos are located just west of the main house. The first story of the barn has been constructed of coursed rubble. There are heavy stone lintels over the openings. An inscription reading, "Crocker Bros 1906" has been carved in the lintel of the central opening. The exterior wall of the second story has been constructed of board and batten and painted white. The roof, which is pitched, is covered with cedar shakes and is accented by a centrally placed cupola.

The grain elevator is a two story wood frame structure with a stone foundation. The roof is hipped and surfaced with cedar shakes and is crowned by a cupola with a hipped roof. There are sliding wood doors on the east and west facades. There is also a one story frame wing with a shed roof on the west facade.

3 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Crocker Ranch just north of Matfield Green is a fine example of an early 20th century ranch complex still in daily use.

The Crocker family came to Chase county after the Civil War. Erastus B. Crocker settled on the south fork of the Cottonwood river in 1866 and soon had established a successful farming and ranching operation. He was active in politics, holding various local offices and serving one term in the state legislature. After the death of his first wife, Harriet, in 1870, Crocker married Mrs. Anna E. Mason in 1871. They had two children, Edward Grey Crocker and Arthur Thompson Crocker. E.B. Crocker died in 1876. His widow married William F. Dunlap in 1880; Dunlap ran the Crocker farm and engaged in extensive ranching operations until he and Mrs. Dunlap moved to Strong City in 1896.

Edward and Arthur Crocker were associated in ranching operations under the firm name of Crocker Brothers apparently from 1891. By 1918 they had a 10,000 acre cattle ranch which was one of the most extensive in the area. The brothers married sisters, daughters of Henry Brandley, another prominent Chase county pioneer.

The Edward Crockers lived on the Crocker home place in the small frame house which was likely built in the 1880's. In 1908 they began planning a new house. According to family records the architect was Charles Gross of Emporia. The Chase County Leader, Cottonwood Falls, at various times in the fall of 1908 identified local carpenters and craftsmen who were working on the Crocker house, including John Martin, Will Jones, Jim Quinn, Will Beach and Charles Remy. By February, 1909, the house was completed. The February 16 Leader reported that the Crockers had gone to Kansas City to buy furniture for their new home.

The old residence, which had been located just south of the new house, was moved to the north and west of it, and was used by ranch employees. The only building remaining from E.B. Crocker's time is a stone provision shed dating to the 1860's. A stone and frame barn was built in 1906, and a frame granary was erected in 1915 or 1916. The ranch house was modified from a Victorian appearance by the later addition of the classic porch.

The property ownership has remained in the Crocker family. It is an outstanding example of an early 20th century working ranch.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

9.

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pp. 331, 332.

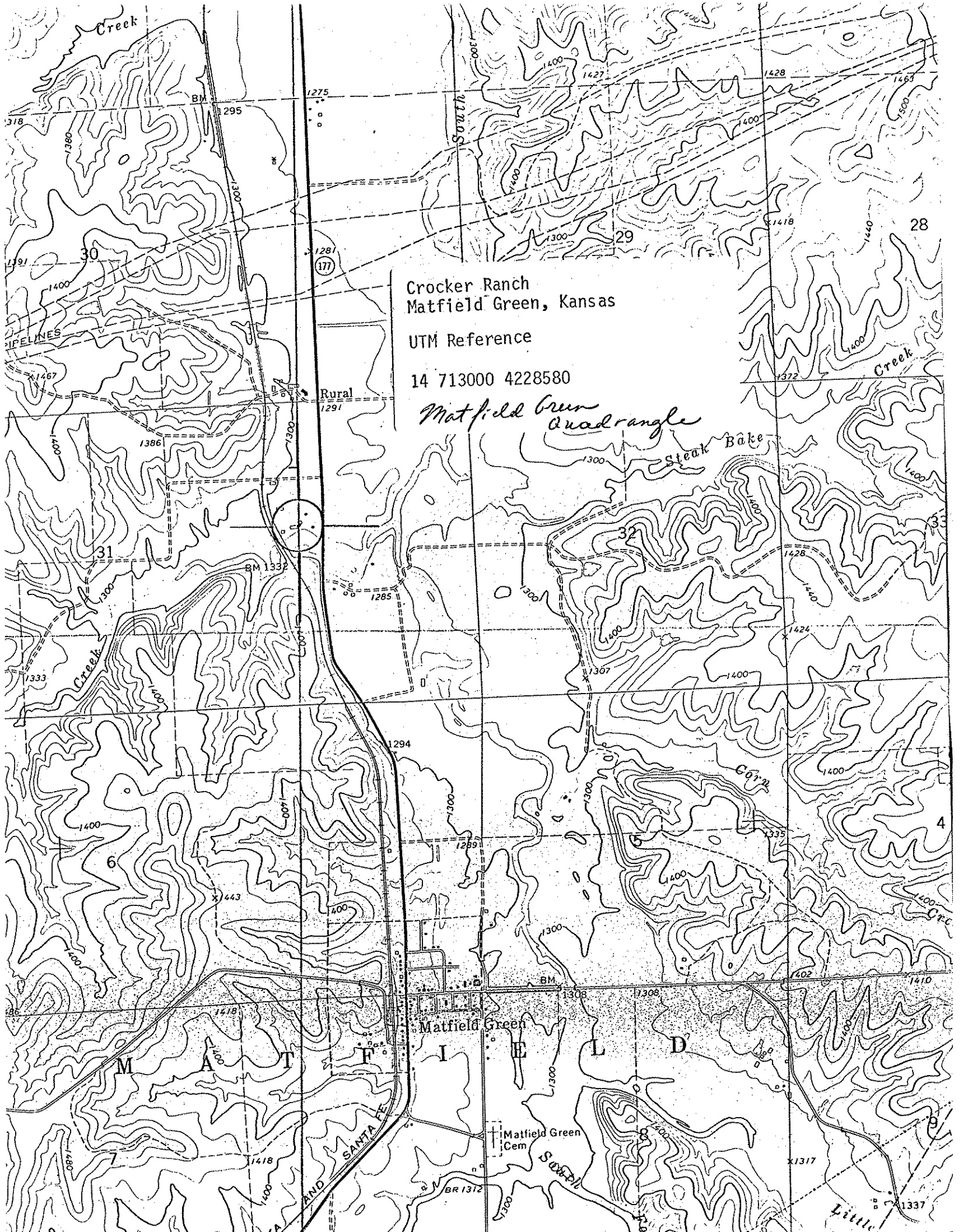
Chase County Leader (Cottonwood Falls), January 17, 28, March 3, April 17, 21, August 4,
18, 21, September 8, November 10, 17, December 11, 1908; February 16, 1909.

Connelley, William E., editor, History of Kansas and Kansans (Chicago, Lewis Publishing
Co., 1918), pp. 2614, 2615.

"Death of E.B. Crocker," Chase County Leader (Cottonwood Falls), April 20, 1876.

Ellsworth, D.A., compiler, "History of Chase County," Chase County Leader (Cottonwood
Falls), 1935-1936.

Handbook of the Kansas Legislature, 1905 (Topeka, Crane and Co., 1905), p. 133.



Crocker Ranch
Matfield Green, Kansas

UTM Reference

14 713000 4228580

*Matfield Green
Quadrangle*

steak Bake

Matfield Green

Matfield Green
Cem

BR 1312

X1317

1337

Little

Creek

PIPELINES

Creek

Creek

M A T F I E L D

SANTA FE

SOUTH

SOUTH

28

32

33

4

Corn

Creek

BM 1295

1275

1281
(177)

Rural
1291

BM 1332

1285

1294

1400

1289

BM 1308

1308

1300

1300

1428

1463

1418

1372

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1335

1402

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1318

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