NPS Form 10-900
(Revised Feb. 1993)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name White Spring Ranch

other names/site number John and Mary Lorang Farm

2. Location

street & number 1004 Lorang Road N/A not for publication

city or town Genesee X vicinity

state Idaho code ID county Latah code 057 zip code 83832

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 _nationally _statewide X locally. (_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

24 Nov 03

Signature of certifying official/Title Date
KENNETH C. REID, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _meets _does not meet the National Register criteria. (_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is: Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

✓ entered in the National Register. Edson H. Beall 1.6.04
_____ See continuation sheet.
_ determined eligible for the National Register.
_____ See continuation sheet.
_ determined not eligible for the National Register.

_ removed from the National Register.

_ other, (explain:)_____

White Spring Ranch
Name of Property

Latah County, Idaho
County, and State

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)

x building(s)
__ district
__ site
__ structure
__ object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3		buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
4		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/Not in Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/ Folk Victorian

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
CONCRETE
walls WOOD/weatherboard
roof WOOD/shake
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

White Spring Ranch
Name of Property

Latah County, Idaho
County, and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" on one or more lines 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.

__ **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" on all 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture
Entertainment/Recreation

Period of Significance

1885-1918

Significant Dates

1885, 1890, 1904, 1918

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Lorang, John

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

x State Historic Preservation Office
__ Other State agency
__ Federal agency
__ Local government
__ University
__ Other

Name of repository:

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 1.7 acres

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	1/1	5/0/4/0/2/0	5/1/5/8/1/0/0	B	1/1	5/0/3/9/4/0	5/1/5/8/0/6/0
C	1/1	5/0/3/9/4/0	5/1/5/8/0/0/0	D	1/1	5/0/3/9/9/0	5/ 1/ 8/0/0/0/

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary of the nominated property is delineated by the polygon whose vertices are marked by the following UTM reference points: A 11 504020 5158100 B 11 503940 5158060 C 11 503940 5158000 D 11 503990 5158000.

__ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the house, yard, grove, curio cabin, and log cabin that historically have been part of White Spring Ranch and that maintain historic integrity. The remainder of the original farmstead has been excluded because of the intrusion of new construction.

__ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Suzanne Julin

organization dba/Suzanne Julin, Public Historian date September 5, 2003

street & number 500 Hartman #F telephone 406/544-8606

city or town Missoula state MT zip code 59802

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

" **Continuation Sheets**

" **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and/or properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

" **Photographs:** Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

" **Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

name Janet Lorang

street & number 1004 Lorang Road telephone 208-285-1484

city or town Genesee state ID zip code 83832

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. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Narrative Description

The White Spring Ranch home, yard, grove, and curio cabins are located approximately two and one-half miles northwest of Genesee, Latah County, Idaho, in the Idaho panhandle's Palouse country. The Palouse is an agricultural area of rolling hills, particularly suited to wheat farming. The White Spring Ranch house began as a small one-and-one-half-story, side-gabled house and evolved over two decades into a Late Victorian structure with Queen Anne characteristics that unite the old and new sections of its east-facing main façade. The surrounding yard and adjacent grove were densely planted with trees and shrubs, creating a park-like effect on the Palouse prairie property. The curio buildings to the west of the house face south and are distinct in style: one is a vernacular structure built on the site and the other is a relocated log cabin.

The setting of the White Spring Ranch house and yard, curio buildings, and grove remains rural. The property is plainly visible from nearby State Highway 95; a secondary road curves off the highway and to the property. A large barn, a shed, and a small house, all built during the property's period of significance and all in deteriorating condition, are located approximately one-quarter mile to the south. The view between the historic house and these buildings is obscured by a large, modern steel barn/shed. A new house, built by Dan and Janet Lorang in the 1980s, sits on a slight rise to the south and west of the original house and curio buildings. The original house, yard, curio buildings, and grove, as a unit, retain historic integrity and illustrate the development of this family farm property between 1885 and 1918. Because of the modern intrusions, the rest of the property is not included in the boundary of the nominated property.

White Spring Ranch House and Yard

The White Spring Ranch house consists of a two-story, T-shaped section joined to a one-and-one-half-story wing on the north, and includes two, one-story, adjoining additions on the northwest. The one-and-one-half-story wing, approximately 14 feet by 22 feet, comprises the original homestead house, which was built about 1885 and originally faced east. In 1890, John and Mary Lorang, who had purchased the property in 1886, added two one-room, one-story additions to the original structure. One addition was placed at the north end of the house, and the other, a kitchen wing with cupola for ventilation, was probably located to the west. In 1904, the Lorangs turned the original house ninety degrees, moved the kitchen addition to adjoin the other addition, now located on the west end of the original house, and built a T-shaped, two-story section adjoining the original house and facing east.[1]

The foundation of the house is stone and concrete and is crumbling and cracked in several places. The east-facing façade features a boxed bay on the one-and-one-half-story original section of the house, located at the north end. The bay holds a pair of one-over-one, double-hung windows facing east, and a

single window on each side. The bay has a hood roof, topped by a flat roof section; the original wooden cresting has been removed. One double-hung window is centered above the bay, beneath scrollwork bargeboard in the gable.

The remainder of the east façade consists of the two-story, 1904 T-shaped section, which is about 28 feet in length. A porch extends between the wing created by the original house and the T-section of the 1904 addition. The steps to the porch have been replaced. The wide porch entrance is flanked by turned posts with fan-shaped brackets at the corners. Spindlework characterizes the balustrades to each side of the porch entrance. Two original doors open off the porch. A square window at the north end features colored multi-lites, and paired, nearly full-length, one-over-one windows are located at the south end. The porch has a deck roof which has deteriorated significantly; the original balustrade has been removed. This roof features a spandrel with tin decorative elements including swags and stars, and supports a narrow front-gabled, second-story porch roof with turned posts, fan-shaped brackets, and finial. A door under this roof opens into the second story.

The southern end of the east-facing façade holds a bay window with one-over-one, double-hung windows on each side of a single-lite window under a rectangular colored pane. The second floor contains paired double-hung windows, decorative shingles in the gable end, and a finial. Clapboard siding on the 1904 addition was extended to the original house; this, as well as the application of decorative elements, served to draw the two sections together visually, and to present an imposing appearance to the public road, which the house faces.

The south elevation, also exposed to public view, presents a more plain yet finished appearance. The first floor holds two symmetrically placed one-over-one, double-hung windows. The second story features a narrow gable over two, double-hung windows and wooden dentil-type ornamentation under a slightly curved, shingled, pent roof. The peak of the gable features a finial.

In contrast to the east and south elevations, the west elevation of the house is hidden from public view and holds the two additions originally constructed in 1890. The plain appearance of the 1904 addition and the presence of the two 1890 additions speak to the practicality of the house expansion and the desire to present elegance and decoration on the publicly viewed portions of the house, with less concern about the other elevations. The southern end of this elevation is the wing end of the 1904 addition and presents an off-center, one-over-one, double-hung window on the first floor, and a similar window on the second floor, centered under an undecorated gable. The main portion of the 1904 addition holds a one-over-one window that is partially hidden by the roof of the kitchen addition, and two second-story windows in simple surrounds.

The two 1890 additions -- used as kitchen and washroom after the 1904 remodeling -- join to form a double-gabled, one-story wing to the house, nearly obscuring the gable end of the original structure.

This wing measures approximately 33 feet by 17 feet. The southernmost end of this portion of the house is a porch with a deep roof. The sliding windows have rustic surrounds. The southern ridgeline holds the original kitchen cupola. Exterior insulation material has been applied to the original plain horizontal siding.

The house's north elevation, also hidden from public view, presents the side of the 1890 washroom addition as well as the main façade of the original house. The first house's front porch has been enclosed and serves as a furnace room and bathroom. A new door and new windows have been installed in the washroom addition and furnace room/bathroom additions.

The house has a shake roof, new in 1978, and three brick chimneys: one on the original house roof; one on the 1904 addition roof; and one on the kitchen addition. The various roof heights and intersecting gables clearly illustrate the house's evolution. Paint on the house has worn away.

The interior of the house reflects the configuration of the original structure and the subsequent additions. The original part of the house contains a first-floor hallway, a bedroom, another small room, and a bath converted from the original porch. A furnace room adjacent to the bath is inaccessible from the interior of the house. A door leads from the hallway into the newer part of the house. The second floor holds two small bedrooms and storage space. From this portion of the house, there is no access to the second floor of the newer section of the house. The 1890 additions comprise the kitchen and a washroom. The washroom retains the original sink and zinc backsplash; its walls remain lined with sawdust for insulation. A well rests underneath the washroom floor.

In contrast to the original house and the 1890 additions, the 1904 section reflects the Lorang family's growing prosperity. The southernmost front door leads from the porch to a large dining room. A room off the dining room originally used for sewing and as a nursery has been converted to a bathroom. Pocket doors separate the dining room from the parlor, and a guest bedroom is located off the parlor. An ornate staircase in the adjoining hallway leads to the second floor; a hallway at the front of the house passes in front of two large bedrooms and leads to the wing section, which also contains two bedrooms. Each bedroom has a spacious closet.

The 1904 section of the house retains its original windows and woodwork, although some of the woodwork has been painted. The first floor rooms are wallpapered. Insulation holes have been drilled into the interior walls. Some water damage is evident, particularly in the dining room.

The farmhouse yard is planted in deciduous and fir trees. A willow grove to the west of the property and a number of fruit trees were cut for firewood after John Lorang's death. The front yard retains many of the trees originally planted by John Lorang, as well as a small number of trees planted by his son,

Henry, and grandson, Dan. The front yard also contains three stone and cement planters and an imposing fountain designed and constructed by John Lorang. The fountain, made of concrete, features an eight-sided base with recessed panels, one of which bears the inscription "By JL Oct 1913." The fountain pedestal, approximately seven feet high, is also eight-sided, with a broad basin topped by a smaller basin. A bronze sculpture of a boy with an umbrella, which rested in the smaller basin, is missing. The original front entrance to the yard is marked by two concrete pillars, also constructed by John Lorang; a cement walk leads to a half-circle cement patio in front of the front porch. A split-rail fence built by Dan Lorang replaces the original fence.

White Spring Ranch Grove

A dense grove planted by John Lorang is located in an irregular, slightly pie-shaped area to the north of the house and yard, on a slight incline overlooking the property. According to an obituary of Lorang, his plantings included "oak, hickory, ash, sycamore, basswood or linden, elms, nut trees, haws, persimmon, sassafras, and scores of other varieties."[2] The grove—sometimes referred to as "the forest" by contemporary members of the Lorang family—presents an image more imposing than that of the typical farmyard windbreak. Historical photographs illustrate orderly rows of trees in the grove and depict the Lorang daughters engaging in a snowball fight in its midst.[3] The grove has been thinned out but retains its original borders and massing.

White Spring Ranch Curio Cabin and Log Cabin

John Lorang was an inventive and intellectually curious farmer who pursued a number of outside interests, including photography, numismatics, taxidermy, and natural history. After he and his wife, Mary, enjoyed a six-month tour of Europe and the Middle East in 1910, Lorang began to retire from day-to-day farming and to spend more time on his collections and hobbies. Until about 1918, Lorang housed his collections in his farm home; around that year, he established two buildings directly to the west of his house to serve as repositories for his interests. Although many local residents enjoyed viewing his exhibits, these informal museums remained private enterprises.

The Curio Cabin is approximately 55 feet west of the White Spring Ranch house. John Lorang built this structure on the site, probably about 1918. The front-gabled, shingle-sided, rectangular building is on a foundation covered by wood planks. Its main façade faces south, with a door and entrance surround cut into its southeast corner. Steep steps lead to the entrance. The southern façade features one window with multi-lites visible on top; the bottom of the window is boarded. The eastern and western elevations hold double six-over-six windows in simple wooden surrounds. The northern elevation reveals a small flat-roofed addition that is used for storage. The chimney of the curio cabin's fireplace is visible above

the roof of the addition. The structure has a corrugated metal roof. The single-room interior contains a number of display cabinets and the fireplace at the northern end.

The Log Cabin is located directly north of the Curio Cabin. The cabin was built on the homestead north of the Lorang property sometime between 1914 and 1918; John Lorang disassembled the cabin, numbered the logs, and reassembled the structure on his property. The rectangular, front-gabled cabin, which rests on cement blocks, is built of hand-hewn logs with notched dovetail joints. The cement daubing was put in place by John Lorang. The southern façade features a full-width rustic porch with peeled-log supports. The low-pitched roof extends over the porch; cross-braces have been replaced. The original, rustic door opens into the cabin; one window is boarded, the top board carrying the inscription "J. Lorang 1914." The eastern elevation has no windows; the western elevation features one six-pane window to the right side of the circular, rock chimney, which extends up through the roof. The rear, northern elevation reveals a missing gable and a six-beside-six window. The shake roof was laid over the original roof in the 1970s. The whitewashed, one-room interior of the cabin features log beams; the center beam has been reinforced. The rock fireplace on the west side is the interior's prominent feature.

The White Spring Ranch home and yard, curio cabin, log cabin, and grove reflect the success of the Lorang family as farmers and the development of a prosperous agricultural economy in the Palouse. This prosperity allowed the family to expand and upgrade their farm home and gave John Lorang the freedom to pursue hobbies that enriched his family members' lives and provided entertainment and recreation to the surrounding residents.

Endnotes

1. Kurtis T. Zenner, "The Legacy of John Lorang: A History of John Lorang, An Architectural Classification of the John Lorang House," unpublished manuscript, May 14, 1986, pp. 11-15, Lorang Family Collection, Diane Conroy, Seattle, Washington. Mr. Zenner obtained much of his information about the house's evolution from Peter Daniel (Dan) Lorang, grandson of Henry Lorang.

2. *The Genesee News,* February 26, 1926.

3. Undated photographs, Lorang Family Collection, Diane Conroy, Seattle, Washington.

Narrative Statement of Significance

The White Spring Ranch property, which includes a house and yard, two buildings that served as curio museums, and a grove, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places on the local level under Criterion A (Agriculture and Entertainment/Recreation). This property illuminates the agricultural history of Latah County in Idaho, the Palouse country of Idaho and Washington, and the American West during the period from 1885 to 1918. In addition, the property reflects the leisure and creative activities afforded local farmers by agricultural prosperity during the first two decades of the twentieth century.

The White Spring Ranch is located approximately two-and-one-half miles northwest of Genesee, in Latah County, Idaho and approximately thirteen miles south of Moscow, Idaho. The property is in the Palouse country of the Idaho panhandle and western Washington, an area comprising over one million acres of rolling hills and rich, deep soil that is particularly suited to wheat production. Significant immigration into the area began in the late 1870s, and by the mid-1880s, most of the prime farmland had been settled.[1]

Although most of the Palouse lies within what is now Washington state, settlers particularly valued the Idaho portion of this prairie because of its proximity to timbered mountain foothills that gave them access to building materials and firewood. In the early 1880s, crop failures in Europe increased the market for Palouse wheat. The demand grew as railroads built into the area and provided farmers a ready outlet for their product. The fast-growing community of Moscow was designated the seat of Latah County and became an important commercial center. A branch of the Northern Pacific Railroad reached Genesee in 1888; the town incorporated in 1889, and served as a major market and shipping point for wheat and other crops.[2]

This robust local agricultural economy suffered a downturn in 1893. In the midst of a national financial depression, unseasonably heavy rains during harvest in the Palouse led to almost total crop failure. Many farmers lost their land, and numbers of area businesses failed. Low prices in 1894 and 1895, proved additional hardship to wheat growers. The hard times, however, did not last long in this rich farming country.[3] As local historian Simon K. Benson stated, within ten years of the disastrous crop failure, Latah County went from "poverty to affluence, from depression to prosperity."[4] By the early twentieth century, wheat was Idaho's most valuable crop, and Latah County was one of its most productive areas. That productivity became visible in the built environment, as local farms began to boast attractive, well-kept houses and buildings, reflecting their owners' successes.[5]

The Lorang Family and White Spring Ranch

The history of the John and Mary Lorang family's farm property reflects this agricultural development in the Idaho panhandle. John Lorang (b. 1858) and Mary Gesellchen (b. 1860) married in their native state of Wisconsin on February 19, 1884. Two weeks later, they departed for the West in the company of Mr. and Mrs. Sebastian Dahm, encouraged by Mr. Dahm's enthusiastic reports of the Palouse country's potential. The two couples traveled by train, steamboat, and wagon to reach Colton, Washington Territory, where they shared a rented, two-story cabin.[6]

John Lorang bought a team of horses and a wagon and supported his new family by cutting trees in the forested area near Moscow, Idaho. From the timber, he produced rails for sale. In traveling back and forth, he often camped in the vicinity of White Spring, located near the town of Genesee and on the homestead of D. M. White. He admired this land, and in about 1885, rented an adjacent 160-acre farm owned by George and Arsula Jamison and originally homesteaded by William Dillingham.[7]

On October 21, 1886, John and Mary Lorang bought the property from the Jamisons for $1,100. In 1890, John Lorang and his brother Theodore bought an adjoining 160 acres from W. J. White, son of the original homesteader, for $3,520. With this purchase they acquired the White Spring, which gave the Lorang property its name. Mary and John Lorang had ten children -- five boys and five girls -- between 1884 and 1902. All ten lived to survive their parents, and all but two were born at the farm: the oldest, Peter, was born in 1884 in the cabin in Colton, and the youngest, Charles, in Gritman Hospital in Moscow in 1902. At White Spring Ranch, John and Mary Lorang raised their large family and established a farm that grew wheat, barley, oats, hay, and corn, along with potatoes and other root crops.[8] Like most area farmers, they lived modestly and struggled with economic and weather conditions during the early years of developing their property.

Increasingly good conditions and banner years—particularly 1903, exactly ten years after the disastrous 1893 crop failure, and 1909—enabled the Lorangs to improve their home and to pursue interests outside farming. In 1904, the Lorangs expanded their farm home significantly, and purchased a house in Genesee that provided a dwelling for children working or going to school in town. In 1910, John and Mary Lorang took advantage of the prosperity their diversified farm had provided them by traveling in Europe and the Middle East for six months. The couple saw the Sphinx, rode camels in the desert, visited the shrine at Lourdes, France, and had an audience with Pope Pius X.[9] In a letter to the local newspaper John Lorang focused on the weather, a farmer's abiding concern. "The weather was very hot in the Orient during our stay there," he noted; "however, since we have climbed the Alps to a height of over twelve thousand feet above sea level . . . we have gotten so chilled that we are not yet thawed out."[10]

John Lorang was an inventive farmer and property holder. He installed gas lights and then an electrical system in the family home, built works to bring water from one of the ranch's springs to the barn and the house, invented a clothes washing machine for family use, and constructed a gate that could be opened by rope without exiting wagon or automobile. Over the gate he erected a prominent arched sign with the property's name: "White Spring Ranch." He won a medal at the 1905 Lewis and Clark Exposition for barley, and he served as a delegate to the 1915 National Dry Farming Congress.[11] John Lorang also had interests less connected to the business of farming. A few years after he and Mary returned from their 1910 travels, he began to retire from the daily activities of farming and to more avidly pursue these other interests, which included the development of landscape elements for the farmhouse yard, photography, taxidermy, and the collection of coins and natural specimens, particularly eggs and seashells. He grew goldfish in one of the farm's ponds and sold some of them to the Davenport Hotel in Spokane, Washington.[12]

John Lorang died suddenly in 1926, and Mary Lorang moved to Spokane the following year. Their son, Henry, took over the farm after his father's death. Shortly before Henry Lorang died in 1968, his son, Peter Daniel (Dan), purchased the farm. Dan Lorang died in 1998, and the property is now owned by his widow, Janet Shollenberger Lorang. Dan and Janet Lorang lived in the farm home before building a new house on the property in the 1980s.[13]

White Spring Ranch House, Yard, and Grove

From 1885 until 1904, the Lorang family lived in the original homestead house, built in about 1884. The house was a one-and-one-half-story, side-gabled structure with a full-width, one-story porch facing east and a box bay on the southern end. The house contained two rooms on the first floor and two under the eaves of the upper floor. In about 1890, the Lorangs added two one-room additions to the house. One addition was placed at the north end of the house. The other addition comprised a kitchen and included a cupola on the ridge line to provide ventilation. This addition was probably placed to the rear of the house, with its entrance facing south.[14]

After the successful farming year of 1903, John and Mary Lorang took advantage of their growing prosperity to expand their home. In doing so, they met the needs of a large family and presented an image in keeping with a successful farm operation in the Palouse. The Lorangs, however, also employed the practicality and inventiveness that had helped them become successful. Rather than building a completely new structure, they incorporated the original house with its additions, using decorative elements to tie the structures together visually. The alignment of the house allowed the appearance of a prominent façade to the public view from the nearby road, while the more mundane parts of the house remained hidden to the rear.[15]

The Lorangs began the process by removing the kitchen wing, then turning the original house with its

end addition 90 degrees, so that the porch faced north and the box bay east. Then they attached the kitchen addition to the west end, next to the other addition. The new section of the house, in a T-shaped configuration, was built attaching to the now south side of the original house. Decorated gables; the box bay and a bay window, a prominent front porch with turned porch supports; and a second-story, gabled porch roof provided unifying elements that presented the elaborate eastern façade and the less decorated southern elevation to the public as a unified whole. The northern elevation remained largely unchanged from its former design, and the western-facing elevation, hidden from public view, received no decoration.[16]

John Lorang planted dozens of trees in the farmhouse yard, and additionally planted a dense grove to the immediate northeast of the house, creating a striking "forest" on the Palouse prairie. He probably began this planting around or before 1904; historical photographs show the yard trees well established before 1913.[17] An obituary notes that his plantings included "oak, hickory, ash, sycamore, basswood or linden, elms, nut trees, haws, persimmon, sassafras . . . [and] nearly every wild shrub and flowering plant to be found within the state."[18] He also planted a group of willows on the property and experimented with nut and fruit trees. In addition, he created decorative elements for the farmhouse yard, including three rock and cement planters, cement gateposts, and, in 1913, a two-tiered concrete fountain topped by a bronze sculpture of a boy holding an umbrella.[19]

The home, yard, and grove served as a setting for elegant and entertaining social functions. In June 1913, John and Mary Lorang's daughter, Amalia, dressed in white silk, married Charles Whalen at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Genesee. The wedding party and their guests enjoyed a six-course dinner at White Spring Ranch following the ceremony, visited all afternoon, and ate a light supper before the guests departed.[20] On July 5, 1914, the Lorangs entertained fifty friends and neighbors at a noon dinner, followed by an afternoon on the lawn. The local paper reported that "the beautiful yard was converted into a large sitting room . . . the guests were entertained, gathering around the fine fountain under the trees where the air is cool on the warmest day." The newspaper story added that "Mr. Lorang has one of the finest ranch homes in this part of the country... His home is modern in every way—or as nearly so as is possible to make a country home."[21] One of the Lorang daughters remembered a Fourth of July celebration at White Spring Ranch that included a merry-go-round propelled by horses, candy booths, games, and races.[22] The Lorang home and its surroundings presented the image of a successful farm family and provided leisure and recreation for family members, friends, and area residents.

Curio Cabin and Log Cabin

Until at least 1914, John Lorang kept his growing collection of stuffed birds and animals and natural history specimens in his house. Sometime between 1914 and 1918, he disassembled, moved, and reassembled a log cabin from a neighboring farm to the north, locating it to the west of the farm house.

Immediately south of the log cabin, he constructed another building, referred to by the family as the "curio cabin" or "curio house." These buildings became repositories for his extensive collections. Although many local people viewed his exhibits, the facilities remained private.[23] In 1953, the Lorang family donated a portion of these holdings to the University of Idaho. That institution called the resource "one of the largest private collections of mounted birds and birds' eggs in the Pacific Northwest."[24]

Summary of Significance

White Spring Ranch, with its expanded farm home, landscaping, grove, and buildings devoted to its owner's hobbies, illustrates the progression from a newly established farm to a prosperous agricultural property. In doing so, the property illuminates agricultural history in Latah County, the Palouse country of Idaho and Washington, and the American West. The property also signifies the development of entertainment and recreational opportunities that the area's successful agricultural economy afforded its residents.

Endnotes

1. Carlos A. Schwantes, *In Mountain Shadows: A History of Idaho* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1991), p. 97; Marvin Moore, "Palouse Hills Farmstead Architecture, 1890-1915," *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 85 (Summer 1984): 182.

2. D. E. Livingston-Little, *An Economic History of North Idaho, 1800-1900* (Lorrin L. Morrison and Carrol Spear Morrison, Publishers, for *Journal of the West*, 1965), pp. 53, 57-58, 61; Keith Peterson and Richard Waldbauer, *Troy, Deary and Genesee: A Photographic History* (Moscow: Latah County Historical Society, 1979), p. 14.

3. Livingston-Little, *An Economic History of North Idaho,* p. 61; Keith Peterson and Richard Waldbauer, *Troy, Deary and Genesee*, p. 14.

4. Simon K. Benson, *History of N. Idaho, Latah County: Troy Moscow Genesee Deary Bovill Potlatch Kendrick Juliaetta Princeton Harvard Stanford Yale Vassar Onaway Avon Helmer Viola Joel* (Provo, Utah: 1973), p. 94.

5. Benson, *History of N. Idaho,* p. 118; Hiram T. French, *History of Idaho: A Narrative Account of Its Historical Progress, Its People and Its Principal Interests* (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1914), pp. 323-324.

6. Kurtis T. Zenner, "The Legacy of John Lorang: A History of John Lorang, An Architectural Classification of the John Lorang Home," unpublished manuscript, May 14, 1986, Lorang Family Collection, Diane Conroy, Seattle, Washington, p. 1; John Lorang obituary, *The Genesee News*, February 26, 1926; Henry Lorang, unpublished manuscript, [1967], Lorang Family Collection, p. 1.

7. Henry Lorang, unpublished manuscript, pp. 2-3; Zenner, "The Legacy of John Lorang," p. 2.

8. Ibid., pp. 2-4; Martha Lorang Johnson, "Facts and Fun of the Early John Lorang Family and Genesee, Idaho Ranch," unpublished manuscript, 1985, Lorang Family Collection, Diane Conroy, Seattle, Washington, p. 6.

9. Zenner, "The Legacy of John Lorang," pp. 3-4; Johnson, "Facts and Fun," pp. 8, 15.

10. *The Genesee News,* August 26, 1910.

11. Johnson, "Facts and Fun," pp. 4-5, 11, 15; Zenner, "The Legacy of John Lorang," pp. 6, 31. The arched sign is currently in storage on the property.

12. Zenner, "The Legacy of John Lorang," p. 7; *The Genesee News,* February 26, 1926; Johnson, "Facts and Fun," p. 8.

13. Zenner, "The Legacy of John Lorang," p. 10; Information provided by Janet Lorang, White Spring Ranch, August 5, 2003.

14. Zenner, "The Legacy of John Lorang," p. 11.

15. Ibid., pp. 11-13.

16. Ibid.

17. Historical photograph c. 1907, Lorang Family Collection, Diane Conroy, Seattle, Washington.

18. *The Genesee News,* February 26, 1926.

19. Johnson, "Facts and Fun," pp. 2-3; Photograph Album #2, Latah County Pioneer Association, p. 12, Latah County Historical Society Museum, Moscow, Idaho; Photograph, n. d., Lorang Family Collection, Janet Lorang, White Spring Ranch, Genesee, Idaho.

20. *The Genesee News*, June 27, 1913.

21. *The Genesee News,* July 10, 1914.

22. Johnson, "Facts and Fun," p. 6.

23. *The Genesee News*, July 10, 1914; "University of Idaho Reports, December 1953," quoted in Zenner, "The Legacy of John Lorang," pp. 7-8; Undated newspaper clipping in Zenner, "The Legacy of John Lorang," appendix.

24. "University of Idaho Reports," quoted in Zenner, "The Legacy of John Lorang," pp. 7-8.

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Lorang Family Collection. Photographs. Diane Conroy, Seattle, Washington. Janet Lorang, White Spring Ranch, Genesee, Idaho.

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Zenner, Kurtis T. "The Legacy of John Lorang: A History of John Lorang, An Architectural Classification of the John Lorang Home." Unpublished manuscript. May 14, 1986. Lorang Family Collection, Diane Conroy, Seattle, Washington.

Photographs

White Spring Ranch
Genesee, Latah County, Idaho
All photographs by Suzanne Julin
All negatives held by Idaho State Historic Preservation Office

1. White Spring Ranch
   House
   August 6, 2003
   View looking Northwest

2. White Spring Ranch
   House south end, east facade
   August 6, 2003
   View looking West

3. White Spring Ranch
   House
   August 7, 2003
   View looking Northeast

4. White Spring Ranch
   House
   August 6, 2003
   View looking Southeast

5. White Spring Ranch
   Fountain
   August 6, 2003
   View looking Southwest

6. White Spring Ranch
   Log Cabin
   August 7, 2003
   View looking Northwest

7. White Spring Ranch
   Curio Cabin
   August 6, 2003
   View looking Northeast

8. White Spring Ranch
Grove
August 6, 2003
View looking Southwest

White Spring Ranch
House
Genesee, Latah County, Idaho
View looking Northwest
1 of 8

White Spring Ranch
House: South end, east facade
Genesee, Latah County, Idaho
View looking West
2 of 8

White Spring Ranch
House
Genesee, Latah County, Idaho
View looking northeast
3 of 8

White Spring Ranch
House
Genesee, Latah County, Idaho
View looking Southeast
4 of 8

White Spring Ranch
Fountain
Genesee, Latah County, Idaho
View looking southwest
5 of 8

White Spring Ranch
Log Cabin
Genesee, Latah County, Idaho
View looking Northwest
6 of 8

White Spring Ranch
Curio Cabin
Genesee, Latah Co., Idaho
View looking Northeast
7 of 8

White Spring Ranch
Grove
Genesee, Latah County, Idaho
View looking Southwest
8 of 8