11 June 2010

Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, California 94296-0001

Craig Hoffman, Project Manager
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, MS-15
Sacramento, California 95814

Applicant: Mojave River Valley Museum Association
Address: 270 E. Virginia Way, Barstow, CA 92311
Directors: Robert Hilburn, President, Gary Clark, Director, Patricia A. Schoffstall, Treasurer

The Resource name is:
Lockhart General Merchandise Store (P-36-006558)

The Resource owner is:
Mojave Solar - Abengoa Energy

The local government with land-use authority is:
The California Energy Commission

The Statement of Significance:
The Lockhart Ranch was the largest vertically-integrated industry of the Mojave River Basin in the mid 20th Century; integrating alfalfa farming, cattle production, hog and chicken production, processed feed production, and beef marketing. The Lockhart General Merchandise Store is the last remaining structure that represents that Ranch and its importance to the history of the Barstow area.
The application for nomination of the Lockhart Store for the California Historical Registry has been submitted previously, based on incomplete and inaccurate information. In the DPR 523 document submitted in November, 2009, the owner, Mr. L. M. Lockhart, was identified as "Lester" Lockhart, rather than Leslie Marion Lockhart, former owner and past president of the Rio Grande Oil Company. Nowhere in the subsequent research, by Cultural Resource Examiner for the California Energy Commission, is the Barstow Printer-Review newspaper referenced. Since this was the local newspaper of the period, numerous references to the importance of this Ranch to the farming and cattle industries were thus overlooked.

A review of the history of Rio Grande Oil would reveal the extent to which this California based pioneering oil company established Long Beach and Santa Barbara marine terminals and a vertically integrated production and marketing entity of enormous proportion. The geological data alone, under the name L.M. Lockhart, is testimony to the first hand exploration record of this man and the company he represented. The only remaining Rio Grande Gas Station was built in 1929 and is in Goleta, California. He and his brothers made millions in oil discoveries and held enormous land holdings throughout California, Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, and Louisiana. There is a park in Deming Springs, Louisiana, named "L.M. Lockhart Park" that acknowledges his importance there. Also, Mr. Lockhart was the occupant and owner of the Getty House for thirty years before Mr. Getty bought the house and donated it as the official Mayor of Los Angeles Residence.

He and his brothers were farmers and ranchers, owning for example, a 500 acre citrus ranch in Pasadena, California. Brother Lynn Lockhart had his ranch in Springerville, Arizona, and raised breeding and range cattle for the Lockhart Ranch in Barstow, which was a finishing and fattening operation. A rail siding was built near Hinkley for Lockhart to load and off-load cattle going to and from the ranch. The capacity of the Ranch was 4,000 head of cattle at any one time. They were marketed mainly in Los Angeles, although some were sent to Chicago as well. The prime beef was also sold in Lockhart, California, in this very store, and was even sold to residents in a bulk food plan in cooperation with Amana Freezers under a low cost financing and payment plan.

Previous examiners have mistakenly observed that the Howard Hughes Air Field on the ranch was to provide transportation to the area, as though it were a commercial airport. In fact, it was a secret airfield used by the US Army and Northrop to develop experimental aircraft such as the MX-324 flying wing aircraft. The flight of this aircraft on July 5, 1944, on Harper Lake was the first of the so-called X-planes that were developed during World War II and thereafter.

There are several documents that must be referenced to begin to understand the importance of this building to the Mojave Valley Region. They are included here as attachments.
#1: A 1920 article on the Rio Grande Oil Company (shown as page 97) which details the extent of Mr. L.M. Lockhart's integral management of the Rio Grande Oil Company.
#2: The January 11, 1951, edition of the Barstow Printer Review newspaper, headlined "Beef Factory Takes Root in Desert". This article describes the extent of the Lockhart Ranch and the influence on the Barstow Area.
#3: Graphic images of a Rio Grande Oil Company Station in 1929, 1938, 1942, and the current canopy of the Lockhart Store. The classic designs of gas stations of that period are of enormous importance to everyday California people, the Route 66 culture, and their love affair with the automobile.

#4: A 1925 Architectural Digest article describing L. N. Lockhart's Los Angeles home, which became The Getty House and the official home of the Mayor of Los Angeles.

#5: A California Electric Power Company advertisement from the 1950s using the Lockhart Ranch as an example of power usage.


#7: A 1952 advertisement for Lockhart Ranch beef and Amana freezers.

#8: A 1954 Barstow Printer Review article about raising cattle at the Lockhart Ranch.

#9: A 1955 Barstow Printer Review article about shipping Lockhart cattle to Chicago.

#10: A 1955 Barstow Printer Review article about Lockhart Ranch being a modern pioneer.

#11: Three 1950s articles from the Barstow Printer Review concerning the Ranch.

#12: A 1952 Barstow Printer Review article concerning the Lockhart's divorce.

The building in question currently has integrity, includes three levels, potentially 21,000 square feet of interior space, a truck loading bay, a freight elevator and a fueling canopy that can still serve its original intended purpose as part of the proposed solar plant.

We hereby request your assistance to perfect the application documents and correct the errors and oversights made by previous examiners.

Sincerely,

Robert Hilburn,
President
Soon it was a case of begging for an occasional car of that magic fluid called gasoline. Naturally, many small concerns failed. Literally hanging on by its teeth, the Rio Grande company pulled through these trying times and managed to secure sufficient quantities of kerosene and gasoline to enable it to avert a complete failure of its business.

For months, L. E. Lockhart, a pioneer in the oil game, bewailed his refinery friends in Texas and Oklahoma for supplies, and it was only by their friendship that he was ever able to secure shipment of a single car of either gasoline or kerosene. It seemed mighty hard, says Mr. Lockhart, to decline orders that, could he have filled them, would have put his company on its feet sufficiently to see the thing through from week to week without so much “suffering” as he terms it. By being his own manager, his own bookkeeper, his ownstenographer, and, at times, his own warehouseman, and by increasing every known means of economy, he pulled his company through the crisis and in time succeeded in convincing his refinery friends that it would pay them to sell the Rio Grande Oil Company all the supplies it needed.

“What was the argument?” Mr. Lockhart was asked. “Simply this: that time would come when the refineries would need an outlet for their production.” Crude oil production was being encouraged everywhere, and Mr. Lockhart thought, with many others, that in due time the demand produced by the thousands of automobiles that were coming into use, would be amply taken care of by the increased production of crude oil in all fields. Mr. Refiner listened and consented to sell his wares, demanding, however, cash in advance of all shipments made.

By the summer of 1917, conditions became more stable in the oil business and the Rio Grande Oil Company early in 1918 found it necessary to increase its capitalization to $100,000.00. With the closing of the war, came the great oil development in North Central Texas and other parts of the southwest and conditions appeared favorable for the building of a refinery in El Paso. Accordingly, the capital stock of the Rio Grande company was increased to $200,000.00 for the above purpose and a refinery was built, with an initial capacity of 1,000 barrels per day. The refinery was a success from the very beginning and business began to increase almost unbelievably.

So large did it grow, indeed, that in October of 1919, it was decided to increase the capacity of the refinery to 2,000 barrels daily. Additional tank cars were secured and today the company has 200 of them in service. Construction of the new unit has been in progress for two months and already its storage capacity is over one and one half million gallons. The company, realizing the necessity of developing its own source of crude oil, secured leases in the proven fields of Texas and Louisiana and now has its own production, a large well having been brought in at Desdemona Saturday, Jan. 10th. Another of its wells was spudded in Jan. 12th, in the Homer field and other decks are being erected to drill both the Texas and Louisiana fields.

The Desdemona holdings bid fair to produce even more crude oil than the present capacity of the El Paso plant can accommodate and it is expected that a further increase in its capacity will follow soon.

L. M. Lockhart, secretary, states that his company believes strongly in the Tularosa and Hueco basins and that recently he leased four sections in the former basin, adjoining the well that is being drilled there now.

El Pasaos are well acquainted with the products this refinery is turning out and Mr. Lockhart advises that sales on their famous “Speedway” motor oils, gasoline and greases are most satisfying. The company maintains branches at Las Cruces, Deming and Columbus and has many connections throughout New Mexico and Arizona where their products are shipped.

The Rio Grande Oil Company is strictly a home industry, all its stockholders being El Pasaos.
Beef Factory Takes Record in Newly Developed $2,000,000 Lockhart Ranch Converts Hay into Prime Meat

The newly developed $2,000,000 Lockhart Ranch converts hay into prime meat. This is an illustration of the new process. The beef will be sold under the name of the Lockhart Ranch. The process is diagrammatic in essence, indicating the different steps involved in the production of meat. The beef will be packaged and shipped to market. The process is efficient, economical, and environmentally friendly. The beef will be marketed under the Lockhart Ranch name. The process is simple and straightforward, ensuring the best quality meat is produced. The beef will be marketed to the highest standards of quality and taste. The process is designed to produce meat that is tender, juicy, and flavorful. The beef will be marketed directly to the consumer. The process is efficient, with minimal waste and maximum efficiency. The beef will be marketed to the highest standards of quality and taste. The process is designed to produce meat that is tender, juicy, and flavorful. The beef will be marketed directly to the consumer. The process is efficient, with minimal waste and maximum efficiency. The beef will be marketed to the highest standards of quality and taste. The process is designed to produce meat that is tender, juicy, and flavorful. The beef will be marketed directly to the consumer.
HART E STEAKS

The, beef from a well fed cow is known as Hart E Steak. The beef is aged for a minimum of 21 days and is then hand-cut by master butchers. The result is a rich, tender cut that is perfect for grilling or searing. Hart E Steak is a premium choice for any meat lover.

BEEF FACTORY

From Page 2

previously the same area as 1000 board feet of lumber which costs $100. Further economy is made possible by the use of a new technique developed by the U.S. Forest Service. The technique involves the use of special machinery and methods that make it possible to cut and transport the lumber more efficiently.

Mr. Lockhart, who is a millionaire, has a policy of utilizing every scrap of material. He has been awarded the highest honors in the lumber industry for his innovative approach to lumber cutting and processing.

Under modern methods alkali is washed out of the soil as easily as the housewife washes dirt out of her clothes. After the land is leveled and drainage pipes installed, the land is flooded, alkali being soluble flows through the land into the underground pipe and into Harper Lake. Construction costs run some $75.00 per acre. The land is enriched not only by the alkali but also by natural chicken feed. The Lockhart ranch has for years been producing excellent quality beef and lamb, and the land is exchanged for the fertilizer. The ranch is run by the Lockhart family.

The U.S. Forest Service has developed a new method of cutting and processing timber that is more efficient and economical than traditional methods. The technique involves the use of special machinery and methods that make it possible to cut and transport the lumber more efficiently.

The new method of cutting and processing timber has been awarded the highest honors in the lumber industry for its innovative approach to lumber cutting and processing.

The ranch is run by the Lockhart family and is known for its excellent quality beef and lamb. The land is exchanged for the fertilizer.
Minkley-Harper Lake 4-H Members Select Steer

Cattle selection by the boys and girls was determined by drawing numbers from a hat. Those receiving steers were: Arizone King, James King, Daniel Moore, Linda Corbino, and Del Grande 4-H, Ted Morgan, Roger Hartwick, Carl Speck, John Speck, Jimmie McAdams, Leo Speck, Barney Hill, and Jerry Hapner.

Knowledge of cattle was exhibited by the boys and girls by the choice of the young steers they selected. Having a young steer can be a project in itself.

C. ISMIP STOCK — These steers at the Lockhart ranch are being carefully eyed by members of the Minkley-Harper Lake 4-H club in preparation for selection of a future champion to be priced at the San Bernardino county fair.

— Photo by Richard HI. Scott.

FARMING AND CATTLE

AGRICULTURE is one of the key local business and is the main supporting industry of the county. A large number of farmers who live in Barstow, Apple Valley, and other communities around the area are involved in agriculture. Farms vary in size and type, with some specializing in crops, others in livestock, while some grow vegetables or fruits. A rich and fertile soil, combined with a mild climate, makes this area ideal for farming. Crops such as alfalfa, cotton, and various fruits are grown here. The future of agriculture in this region looks promising, and farmers continue to work hard to ensure a successful harvest.
Barnsdall - Rio Grande Station, Goleta, CA The last remaining Rio Grande Station in California 1929

Rio Grande Station Rendering, From Road Map of California 1942

Rio Grande Station 1938

Lockhart General Store and Gas Station 1951, Canopy as it remains today 2010
Remember humming the tunes *Avalon* and *Whispering*; reading about Sacco and Vanzetti; seeing *The Kid* with Chaplin and Coogan? As you fanned away the August heat, did you and the men folk ponder America's survival under the new Nineteenth Amendment? Some will recall these scenes of the Twenties. For John Brasfield, 1920 was a turning point in his life. This was the year he founded Architectural Digest.

At the turn of the century, he was already established with a successful career in the East. However, with a sudden inspiration, he changed his life and uprooted his family to Los Angeles at the age of 40. It was during several West Coast vacations that curiosity grew to excitement as California lured and challenged his instincts. To Mr. Brasfield, the exceptional opportunity, climate and a casual way of life were irresistible.

Mr. Brasfield's particular inspiration centered on this phenomenal mode of living. It was obvious to him that America was curious about the West Coast, not only commercially but because of the romantic fables of a golden California — and, of course, Hollywood. He was not alone. Many Eastern families were similarly tempted, and the building of new vacation homes and estates began announcing their arrival. This migration became prolific and, in turn, presented California's fledgling architects with rare opportunity. These men — Bakewell & Brown, Coate, Curlett & Beelman, Johnson, Kaufman, Martin, Neff, Plummer, Polk, Williams (to name a few) — responded with vitality and imagination, producing a style which grew to national significance. Land promoters, builders and retailers, of course, wanted this development publicized. Therein lay the nucleus for a publication.

Success was immediate. Mr. Brasfield translated California's architectural activity into a handsome pictorial. He joined the foremost advocates of the California life style — not an easy venture in a world resisting change. His tenacious vitalism was rooted in fierce pride, but he always wore his characteristic style. Only through a determined and singular devotion to Architectural Digest — mellowed by a gentlemanly Southern charm and wit — did he succeed.

Now in 1970, the scene has changed. Suffrage for women is a cause célèbre, and the fact that fifty years have passed before a real reaction occurred is significant and somewhat disillusioning. During these fifty years, anxieties have intensified; demands for commitment are more consuming; and the growing fear of our problem's totality is confusing. The solutions seem purposefully complicated. Yes, the decade of the Seventies appears overwhelming. However, we can perceive an encouraging emergence of a modern renaissance as science and technology's fantastic advances almost seem programmed by genius. We take the resulting comfort and conveniences for granted, which may be good. Because, and not so obvious, as our material needs become relatively satisfied, we should be able to be introspective toward our pursuit of excellence and self-fulfillment and thereby focus genuine concern for man's nature and his own human renaissance.

Architectural Digest has pictorially captured growing ind...
The Getty House, Official Residence of the Mayor of Los Angeles

L.M. Lockhart Frieze Caracature in the Game Room

L.M. Lockhart Boating

L.M. Lockhart Fishing

L.M. Lockhart Playing Tennis

Getty House Game Room Frieze surrounds the room near the ceiling with twelve caracatures of Mr. Lockhart
Reddy Kilowatt

MAKES HAY WHERE THE SUN DOESN'T SHINE

As the Lockhart Ranch, an atomized jetted to the Mojave Desert, hay is cured in either wet or dry weather in this giant drier. The timeline halts is then conveyed to the storage bins. Later, the hay is automatically mixed with barley, corn, alfalfa, wheat, and rape with a super-conveyor on its way to be fed to the cattle. This mixture is then turned into baby beef at the rate of nearly three pounds per animal per day.

Another chore of Reddy's is the pumping of 22,000 gallons of water each minute to irrigate the 8,000 acres that supply feed for the herd. American agricultural productivity has become the wonder of the rest of the world, and electricity has made important contributions to that record.
Stop, Look and Fill

Rio Grande Anti-Knock Gasoline

To more and more motorists this red-white-and-blue Rio Grande shield has become the high sign to "Stop, Look and Fill." For, at the Service Station displaying this shield, you will find a good man to know ... and a good gasoline on which to depend.

Rio Grande Anti-Knock ... the gasoline that's "true blue." Designed for performance ... colored blue for protection. And no premium to pay.

Tuned to modern motors:
1) Anti-Knock
2) Lightning Fast Up
3) Quick Starting
4) Smooth Running
5) Agile Power
6) Maximum Efficiency

Rio Grande is the Test of the Uniformly Balanced Gasoline

Aug. 14, 1930
THE FINEST BEEF FROM THE FAMOUS LOCKHART RANCH

We invite you to visit this ranch and see the thousands of White Face Hereford calves being fed scientifically... this stock is fed on hard grain for 120 days before butchering... the result is very tender, and flavorful meat. Have a Super Market in your kitchen.

THIS IS THE BEEF YOU PURCHASE
WITH AMANA'S WHOLESALE FOOD PLAN

See the Meat in LOCKHART'S Ranch Store Meat Counters

Amana is bringing this attractive food plan to the many people of Barstow on Bank of America terms. You can purchase this food plan by paying only 15 per cent cash down payment and the balance on 6 months terms with the purchase of a freezer to suit your requirements. Amana freezers can be purchased on 15 per cent down and 10 mos. terms.

AND OUR AMANA FREEZERS ARE ON DISPLAY AT THE RANCH STORE

APRIL 24 1952
Springtime at Lockhart is often spoiled with six letters CHYTS.

Springtime at the Lockhart Ranch, 25 miles northwest of Barstow, means cattle.

With a capacity of 4000 head the ranch is currently well equipped to handle incoming cattle.

Also shown above is a feed mill, designed to feed 10,000 head if necessary.

MAR. 25, 1954
Lockhart Ranch
Ships Cattle
To Chicago

A new angle was presented in the Beef Packing Industry when California cattle were shipped to Chicago by Lockhart Ranch for slaughter.

Fifty-five head of three-year-old Hereford steers totaling 175 head were concentrated for market on the Lockhart Ranch before being shipped to Union Grove, Wisconsin for two weeks of additional feeding and from there to the Union Stockyards of Chicago for beefing. It was believed the meat may go at a premium.

This experiment may lead to permanent procedure if proven successful.

MAR. 17, 1935
Lockhart Ranch and Store Serve Modern 'Pioneer' On 'Last Frontier'

The Lockhart General Store and service station, which attracts desert camouflers from miles around.

The store may be America's 'last frontier' for the owner who has just arrived. The store is part of the Lockhart Ranch, which is located on a remote and rugged piece of land.

The store is a place where people can buy groceries, gasoline, and other necessities. It is also a place where people can take a break and relax.

The store is part of a larger community that is spread out over a wide area. People travel to the store from miles away to buy their groceries and other necessities.

The Lockhart Ranch is a place where people can find a sense of community and belonging. It is a place where people can connect with others and feel a sense of belonging.

The store is part of a larger community that is spread out over a wide area. People travel to the store from miles away to buy their groceries and other necessities.

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LOCKHART RANCH MORTGAGED FOR SEVEN MILLION

A $7 million mortgage on the sprawling Lockhart stock ranch at Harper Lake was recorded Tuesday with County Recorder Ted R. Carpenter.

The instrument is secured by a mortgage on 3,750 acres of prime farmland; 3,260 acres of oil leases; and 1,500 acres of oil leases.

In addition, the mortgage includes livestock, including 2,300 head of beef cattle, 600 head of dairy cattle, 110 head of horses, 150 head of sheep, and 30 head of goats.

The mortgage is held by the First National Bank of Chicago, mortgagee.

APR. 24, 1952

Conservation Survey Made for Lockhart

A recent conservation survey was made at Lockhart by the Soil Conservation Service.

TOTAL acres included in the survey were 3,750 acres, all of which are farmed.

The survey was conducted by the Soil Conservation Service.

MAR 4, 1954

JUL 24, 1952

When you step from the sidewalk into the street, leave all distracting behind, watch them, be careful, and keep yourself safe.
Wife Sues Hinkley Ranch Owner For $10,000 A Month Support

A separate multimillionaire sued, "The house about $1,000,000," against Lucien M. Lockhart, Thursday, she stated through her own multimillionaire widow of California Jerry Emler to make the Lockhart ranch in Hinkley Liquid the woman to let her home was made the woman for $10,000 a month support for her.

Mrs. Lockhart told the woman put a last share of her home in view of the Lockhart home in Hinkley Liquid the home will be used for $10,000 a month support for her.

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FEB. 14, 1952