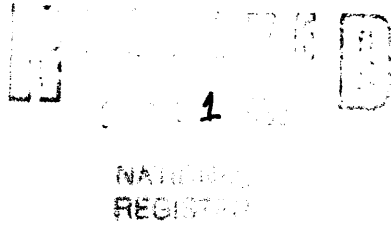


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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: OW Ranch

other name/site number: 24BH

2. Location

street & number:

not for publication: n/a
vicinity: X

city/town: Birney

state: Montana

code: MT

county: Big Horn

code: 003

zip code: 59012

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 X statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Maureen Sheff 10-26-92
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Montana State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency or bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

for Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Autumnella Albee 12/15/92

entered in the National Register
 see continuation sheet
 determined eligible for the
National Register

 see continuation sheet
 determined not eligible for the
National Register

 see continuation sheet
 removed from the National Register
 see continuation sheet

 other (explain): _____

OW Ranch
Name of Property

Big Horn County, Montana
County and State

9. Major Bibliographic References

See continuation sheets for Section 9

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:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other - Specify Repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property: approximately 50 acres

UTM References:

| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|---|------|---------|----------|
| A | 13 | 383700 | 4999180 |
| B | 13 | 384140 | 4999320 |
| C | 13 | 383360 | 4998680 |
| D | 13 | 384050 | 4998640 |

Verbal Boundary Description

The OW Ranch lies in the lower half of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 16, Township 8S., Range 43E.

The point of beginning is the place 3/10 mile from the juncture of the county roads to Decker, Leiter and Quietus, where the county road up Circle Bar Draw crosses the Hanging Woman Creek. From this point, the boundary shall follow the county road north to the point of intersection with the 3580 contour line. From here, proceed due east until intersecting the 3600 contour line. Proceed along this line first to the south, then north, east and south in an irregular line to the intersection with section line dividing sections 16 and 21. Proceed due east along this section line to the northeast bank of Hanging Woman Creek. Follow the creek back to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The area described by Hanging Woman Creek, county road, and the northeast ridge behind the ranch completely encapsulates the heart of the original and current OW Ranch: the historic buildings, enclosures and the spring. The natural and man-made features existed in 1889 much the same as they do today. The pristine character, setting and feeling of the ranch are all well preserved within this boundary.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kirk D. Michels, Architect and J. L. Brownell, Historian
organization: Jonathan L. Foote Architects date: March 10, 1992
street & number: 126 E. Callender telephone: 406-222-6866
city or town: Livingston state: MT zip code: 59047

Property Owner

name/title: James W. Guercio
street & number: Caribou Ranch telephone: 303-258-3215
city or town: Nederland state: CO zip code: 80466

OW Ranch
Name of Property

Big Horn County, Montana
County and State

5. Classification

| Ownership of Property: Private | Number of Resources within a Property | |
|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| | Contributing | Noncontributing |
| Category of Property: District | <u>15</u> | <u>1</u> building(s) |
| | <u>4</u> | <u> </u> site(s) |
| Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0 | <u>4</u> | <u>4</u> structure(s) |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> object(s) |
| Name of related multiple property listing: n/a | <u>23</u> | <u>5</u> Total |

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

Domestic: single dwelling
Agriculture/subsistence:
animal facility, agricultural
outbuildings, processing, storage,
agricultural field

Current Functions:

Domestic: single dwelling
Agriculture/subsistence:
animal facility, agricultural
outbuildings

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Other: Vernacular

Materials:

foundation: stone
walls: log; stone
roof: shingle

Narrative Description

Located in the isolated ranching region of southeastern Montana, the OW Ranch is situated on a gentle south-facing slope in the valley bottom of Hanging Woman Creek, a tributary of the Tongue River. The ranch complex sits protected against a low hillside with exposed sandstone which forms the north and east boundary. Hanging Woman Creek forms the southern boundary and the county road borders on the west.

Eight (8) buildings comprise the ranch's domestic unit which includes two hewn log buildings (the main ranch house and the bunk house) with two associated frame outhouses. Built into the hill to the north are a stone combination spring house/wash house building, and three linked stone buildings containing a coal house, ice house, and combination root cellar and meat locker. Currently, a historic vertical pole fence surrounds the domestic unit on three sides and vegetation within the fence includes lilac bushes and cottonwood trees.

The ranch's agricultural unit lies directly west and south of the domestic unit and includes seven buildings--a stone and frame overhead shed, a stone and frame combination chicken house and open hog slaughter shed, two hewn log barns with massive log columns and purlins, a frame outhouse which was associated with the corrals and barns, a seven- stall stone shed, and a stone water trough shed. In addition to the fine collection of historic buildings, four structures -- a corral system, masonry landscaping, a water tank, and an earthen and timber loading ramp -- and four sites contribute to the significance of this property. With the exception of 5 non-contributing elements -- a mobile home and four grain bins, the original fabric of the OW Ranch appears today nearly identical to the historical photos that depict the ranch circa 1908.

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Materials (continued):

foundation: sandstone

roof: metal

other: stone landscaping elements

Narrative Description (continued):

CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS:

#1 - Main Ranch House

The Grinnell Livestock Company was operating on Hanging Woman Creek by 1885, and it appears that a portion of the current ranch house dates to that era, and was among the earliest buildings erected at the ranch. Historical information clearly identifies three distinct expansions, although the last expansion may have occurred over a period of years. Photographs and historical data substantiate that the current building was complete prior to 1909 when J. B. Kendrick and family moved from the OW Ranch.

Structural investigation of the attic and foundation indicates that the original ranch house was a three-room, hand-hewn log cabin with a stone foundation and a gable roof. The current kitchen, dining room, and a portion of the living room, occupy this original space.

The roof structure of the original cabin was built with small-diameter lodgepole pine rafters; all other roof systems are built with dimensional lumber. The roof was originally gabled, as evidenced at the north end above the kitchen where hip framing (done with dimensional lumber) was cut and fit to the lodgepole rafters.

In the spring of 1889, the Grinnell Cattle Company sold to the Converse Cattle Company (ICCC). J. B. Kendrick, the superintendent of the Converse Cattle Company, lived at the OW Ranch. An L. A. Huffman photo, dated August 1890, shows the ranch house as a T-shaped, five-room hewn log house with a hipped roof, a wrap-around porch and a bay window to the east. It is this five-room house that Mrs. Eula Kendrick moved into in 1891. Huffman's photo shows the log exterior whitewashed, thus the origin of the Kendrick nickname, "The White House." Huffman's 1890 photograph also shows the open shed cow barn under construction, verifying J. B. Kendrick's responsibility for the improvements to the ranch while superintendent for the CCC and after his acquisition of the ranch.

By 1900, Kendrick had purchased the OW Ranch for himself and his family which had expanded to four with the birth of a daughter (1897) and a son (1900). These events likely influenced the final expansions of the ranch house. Two additions were added to the east. One intersected the kitchen and dining room; the other was an L-shaped addition that expanded the living room and added a bath, a master bedroom, and the two children's bedrooms.

Directly opposite this L-shaped log addition, a wood frame addition extended the living room to the west. This is the only exterior frame portion of the ranch house.

The roof pattern of this new living room expansion set up two parallel gables with a common valley (as is seen in a historical photograph), a construction detail which invites roof leaks. This roof shape did not last long, and was replaced with the current four square truncated hip we see today.

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At some point in time, a small bathroom was added between the master bedroom and the living room which contained a wall-hung sink, a toilet, and a metal shower cabinet. Otherwise, the building plan has remained the same from 1908 to present.

The interior walls and ceiling of the house are plaster and lath over log or frame with wainscoting in the dining room and wall paper in the south bedrooms. Floors are mostly 3/4" fir; the south bedrooms feature pine tongue-and-groove plank.

The kitchen is located in the northernmost part of the house. Off the kitchen to the east is a circulation area with doors into the stone-walled cellar, a bedroom, and a back pantry area. This east addition is the only portion of the house with a full basement. The basement has its own exterior access, with stone retaining walls, stone steps, and a wood planked sloping door. The floor of the cellar is made of large (approximately 30" x 40" each) stone slabs, cut and fit together. The ceiling was planked with rough sawn clear boards, some nearly 16" wide. Two windows flank either side with perfectly cut horseshoe shaped sandstone window wells. This fine stonework is attributed to Oscar Husman, who did extensive stonework at the OW Ranch around 1902 and later.

The kitchen connects to the dining room, which in turn connects to the living room, through an aligned series of doors. The living room lies cross axis to the dining room and is entered from either a south-facing door leading to the wrap-around porch to the west, or a foyer door tucked between the south bedrooms and the southeastern children's bedroom. The expansion of the living room completely removed a section of exterior wall and the bay window shown in the Huffman 1890 photograph, but the two south bedrooms and the wrap-around porch of the 1890 plan remain. The living room is the only room that breaks from a log module of approximately 15' x 13' (inside dimensions). To the east of the expanded living room are a small common bathroom, the master bedroom, and the two children's rooms. The plan remains identical to its 1908 configuration with two slight modifications: a closet connected to the master bedroom and the addition of another bathroom in the northeast children's bedroom. No floor plan alterations were necessary to add the bathroom as all bathroom improvements were done with early period bath fixtures, i.e. pedestal sink and claw foot tubs.

The exterior integrity is intact with large sandstone steps to the south and west of the metal-roofed, wrap-around porch. The porch has a wooden 3/4" tongue-and-groove fir deck and tapered wooden boxed columns. Walls are all original hewn log with half-dovetail notched corners and chinking. Windows are typical 2-over-2 wood double-hung units with the exception of the kitchen and north wall of the (east addition) pantry which have 6-over-6 double-hung wooden windows of a shorter proportion. These 6-over-6 windows appear in the oldest section of the house. It is interesting to note their position with sill height remaining consistent, the shorter proportion puts the head very low. The only other window exceptions are a small narrow double-hung adjacent to the pantry door, and a late model horizontal sliding window in the common bathroom.

Flat soffits and fascia are built of pine and painted, and have half-round galvanized raingutter and down spouts. Hipped roofs are covered with cedar shingles with 5" exposure; the truncated square hip has a galvanized metal flashing cap. Six brick chimneys project from the roof, originally allowing a wood stove to be placed in each room. Structurally, the chimneys are supported with a typical wooden platform of equal perimeter dimensions and wooden kickers. Chimney and supports are plastered on the interior while expressed as brick on the exterior.

The building is nearing completion (1991) of an extensive restoration that has been done as a Tax Incentive Project with strict attention to refurbishing and rebuilding the original material and detail; thus preserving and reinforcing its original integrity.

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#2 - Domestic Outhouse

A three-hole outhouse sits to the east on an elevated portion of the hill. It is built on extensive sandstone retaining walls with beautifully dressed stone stoops leading to a south facing door. The building is wood frame with clapboard siding and a wood-shingle gabled roof. The interior is undivided with a three-holer bench seat built of wood.

#3 - Bunk House/Cook House

The bunk house/cook house is a single-story hand-hewn log building built in a basic U-shape, created by two single room log portions projecting north at either end. The east room connects directly to the dining room and appears to have been integral with the original building whereas the west room is attached, but has no integral connection to the remainder of the building. This addition does not exist in the L.A. Huffman 1890 photograph, which shows the bunk house plan being L-shaped. A full length porch on the south wraps around each end.

The building and porch sit on a dry stacked sandstone foundation wall which still exhibits much of its original mud/clay mortar joint. The only known basement space lies below the east room. Although currently accessed only by an exterior cellar door, exposed floor structure in the basement indicates it did have an interior stair accessed by a floor hatch.

Six-over-twelve pitched main structure roofs are hipped and vaulted on the interior, built with huge, hand-peeled log ridgepoles and purlins. Some roof logs reach 22" in diameter. Historic photographs show these roofs covered with large sandstone slabs which were covered with earth and sod. This heavy dead load would explain the massive structural roof members. The roof is currently covered with corrugated galvanized roofing over the main roof and porch. The low pitched porch roof is not structured as heavy, being built with hand hewn logs similar to those used in the walls. It is supported by 6" diameter wood posts.

The porch is planked with a double stagger board system. Boards are rough sawn one inch thick and about six to seven inches wide. On the underside, the porch roof sheeting uses similar planks, but ten inches wide. Windows in the main east/west section are 4-over-4 wooden double-hung units, while windows in the additions are 6-over-6 wooden double-hung units. Storm windows are aluminum. Doors are 4-panel with the top two panels typically being glazed when used on the exterior. Storm doors are aluminum except for one remaining Victorian period wooden screen door. Traces of whitewash are still visible on the exterior. The exposed log structure on the interior is painted with a gloss white paint throughout.

In the plan, the dining room/kitchen is to the east, with a bunk room that connects and projects north. In the west corner, directly adjacent to the kitchen, are the cook's quarters. This combination measures about 40' in length. The building continues west on axis and has another section of bunk house quarters, approximately 40' in length. There is no internal connection between the bunk house portion, and the cook house. The last bunk house section is the one room addition on the west end.

Floors are tongue-and-groove throughout, with linoleum in the kitchen and indoor/outdoor carpet in the dining area. The bunk room floor in the section over the basement has been replaced with 4' x 8' plywood. With the exception of the metal roofing and aluminum storm windows, the bunk house/cook house has excellent integrity, right down to the large (picnic table) dining room table with seating for sixteen.

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#4 - Spring House/Wash House

The spring house/wash house is a stone building built into the hill north of the ranch house and bunk house. Early photographs show the building having a roof structure similar to the ice house--timber construction with a sod roof. When the building was rebuilt, the roof was changed to a solid stone barrel vault over each of the spaces and a single false front was constructed of precision, highly dressed sandstone blocks, capped with a cornice stone. The visible portions of side walls are laid into the hill with random stacked sandstone having flush joints. Side walls are tied to the front facade with quoined corner stones. The precision stone work on the front facade has a convex mortar bead joint and a corner stone bearing the inscription "OW 1902." It is most likely that Oscar Husman did this rebuild for Mr. Kendrick, along with other new stone building construction at the ranch during the early 1900s.

The interiors of the spring house/wash house are entirely stone, the wash house is the larger of the two. Each is built with a true romanesque arched vault. The spring house is approximately 10' wide and 16' long with the ceiling reaching about 10' at its highest point. Special features of the spring house interior are an integral stone ledge or shelf, and a stone water trough system. The water system was fed by an underground piping network that delivered a constant flow of water from the spring up the draw to the east. From the spring house, the water was diverted through pipes to the adjacent wash house. Excess water was then directed to the water trough shed for both animals and neighbors to use.

In the spring house, water flowing in the trough would cascade from one level to another. At this change of level, one could fill a jug or a pitcher by simply placing it under the waterfall. This shelf and trough system are still intact. Floors in both buildings are very large, square, cut sandstone slabs mortared together. The wash house had a wood stove which connected to a stone chimney for heating water for bathing and laundry, otherwise both buildings are typical in detailing.

Each building has one door to the outside, and only the water trough system connects the two interiors. Doors are built of three wide planks with a cross-brace system. Windows are square, four-light with a center pivot for ventilation. Stone sills on the exterior are nicely dressed and shaped with a tool that gives a comb-like detail. The spring house has one window and the wash house has two.

The buildings are in excellent condition and have excellent integrity. They are currently undergoing careful repointing on the interior and exterior. When complete, the barrel vaults will have a new parget coat on the exterior and be retopped with earth and red shale.

#5 - Coal Bin

Fifteen feet west of the spring house/wash house is a triple combination stone building. The eastern portion is a coal bin with a coal chute on the uphill side. This building, like the spring house/wash house, has a stone barrel vault. Wooden partitions divide the interior.

Like all the barrel vaulted buildings, the coal bin has a steel tension rod that ties the walls together with a steel plate visible on the outside (perhaps a later stabilization technique). The facade has a stepped cornice. It also has a two-plank wooden door with exterior hinges and a simple wire bale latch. The hardware may have been built at the ranch blacksmith shop. The coal bin window matches those in the spring house/wash house.

Although stone cutting is less precise than that on the spring house/wash house, the mortar joints are similar with the extruded bead detail. Various repointing efforts on this building over time have resulted in some loss of mortar beading. The exterior of the coal bin roof is exposed and the existing parget coat is in poor condition. Otherwise, the building has excellent integrity.

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#6 - Ice House

The central ice house building is the most prominent of the three adjacent stone structures and most likely, the oldest. The ice house has an angled cellar door through which one steps down to enter, approximately two risers. The ice house is quite tall and reaches a height of possibly 16 to 18 feet on the interior. Differing from other stone buildings, it has heavy duty log purlins that run north/south with a major (22-inch diameter) ridge log and 11- to 12-inch purlin logs that run parallel. The roof consists of the center ridge log, two purlins, and two additional outside logs for a total of five logs in the roof. On top of these are heavy wooden planks and varying diameter logs that look like split pole decking. On top of the deck planks are sandstone slabs covered with shale, held in place by a heavy wood fascia.

On the south, a sloping entryway is buttressed on each side with a beehive-like stone drystack. A wooden plank door lies on the entryway with a secondary door at the bottom of the stoops. It is likely these stone buttresses and the double door system served thermal rather than structural needs. A small, high opening is located just below the main ridge pole; it has a wooden plank interior shutter.

On the north side, the building projects about seven feet above the grade. It has a wood plank door, approximately five feet tall, which was likely used for loading the upper portion with ice. The building has excellent historical integrity.

#7 - Root Cellar/Meat Locker

West of the ice house is the root cellar and meat locker. The meat locker was compartmentalized from a portion of the building, but it has its own doorway. This building was built with a random ashlar pattern which included some rectilinear stone. Some original mortaring remains revealing a very fine, tight, extruded bead joint which follows the irregular shape.

An impressive stone lintel, nicely shaped and detailed, spans the doorway into the meat locker. Below and to the side of the door, a vent with an iron grate may have served for air circulation for meat drying. The framed galvanized covered shed roof is concealed by a stepped-stone false front. This roof is showing signs of wear. The door to the outside is built of wide planks and just inside this door is a second door with a screened window.

The meat locker compartment of the root cellar is quite small, approximately four feet wide and 10 to 12 feet deep with a low ceiling about six to eight feet tall. The interior is built of vertical wooden planks with cardboard stapled over most of the joints. Steel pipes span the space at various levels, where meat and other items were hung by steel hooks. Floors are large (up to four feet by six feet) square-cut sandstone.

The main root cellar is accessed by another buttressed sloping door, accessing three risers which descend into the cellar. The right buttress continues into a serpentine retaining wall which also allows berming to better surround the building. To the left of the door above the bermed grade is a small (four-light) wooden window with a wooden exterior shutter. At the bottom of the steps is a full-height screen door with a wooden kick at the bottom.

The interior is random stone with flush joints, except the framed portion of the meat locker. The ceiling is built of 2x6 framing creating a ceiling height of around seven feet, six inches on the inside. Floors are large sandstone slabs.

The triple combination stone buildings tuck into the hill, and the visual remains of a service access road can be seen in the leveled area directly behind these buildings. Photographs show this road was originally contained in the fenced area of the yard. The root cellar has excellent integrity with the exception of the sloped entry door which is built of plywood.

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#8 - Ranch Hand Outhouse

North of the bunk house, behind the root cellar and slightly to the west, is a wood frame two-hole outhouse with a metal roof and drop-lap siding. The door faces to the west and small diamond-shaped windows flank either side for light.

#9 - Overhead Shed

The overhead shed was built halfway into the hill outside and 70 feet west of the ranch yard. It has a stone foundation wall with two symmetrical bays that face south. The foundation system is open on the bottom and supports a wood-framed gable-roofed, single story building. The stone foundation system has dressed sandstone with a battered wall at mid point. Each intermediate stone bay is divided by wooden column supports which further divide the bays into three equal stalls. These stalls were likely used for carriage and buggy storage.

Design of the wood frame portion of the shed is symmetrical with a galvanized corrugated metal hipped roof with a center gablette. Below the gablette is a rather large door and a hoist arm, allowing hay and other items to be hoisted to the upper floor level. With the solid stone bearing wall directly below, the structure was well built for hoisting and storage.

Windows are typical four-pane fixed with many panes currently missing. Vertical board and batten siding is in poor condition with many battens missing. The interior is simple, unfinished frame with exposed rafters, collar tie and king post. Floors are 1 x 6 tongue-and-groove pine or fir. The upper level is accessed at grade on the north side or by hay hook to the south. The building has incredible integrity with the exception of two front columns being changed from round peeled to squared sawn timber and the addition of electric power.

#10 - Chicken Coop/Hog Slaughter Shed

The chicken coop/hog slaughter shed is a simple one-story, hip-roofed building built into the hill. It lies 25 feet west of the overhead shed. The east end has been enclosed to provide a chicken coop. Historic photographs show the chicken coop had a south-facing clerestory.

The north-facing slope of the roof nearly touches the ground and historical photographs show the hog pens located a short distance up the draw to the north. Structurally the building has a stone retaining wall on the north, with three projecting bearing walls. The furthest east wall follows the slope of the hill, while the other stone walls are full height. To enclose the east end, a frame wall has been built on top of the sloping stone wall, and the south wall has been enclosed with rolling wood doors and chicken wire covered wood frame to create the current chicken house. A single ladder panel wooden door accesses the chicken coop through the intermediate stone bearing wall.

The westerly remainder of the building open to the south was the hog slaughter shed. In this area, one original log support column remains, supported by a round tooled sandstone base. Other supports are currently steel pipe columns with (steel fence post) knee braces. Weathering on the log beam indicates the steel pipe columns replaced original log columns.

The slaughter house rack is still intact with wheel, slide rail, and hooks suspended from exposed wooden frame rafters. Roof decking is wooden plank skip sheeting with a corrugated metal roof above. All floors are soil. This building has excellent integrity with the exception of the (4) steel replacement columns and a slight (wood frame) extension of the building to the south at the chicken coop area.

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#11 - Horse Barn with Tack, Dairy Barn, Smoke House & Blacksmith Shop

A short distance and directly to the south of the chicken coop/hog slaughter shed are the smoke house, blacksmith shop, dairy barn and horse barn. The building is built in a U-shape plan facing the main ranch yard and enclosing a holding pen that is associated with the surrounding functions. A unique feature of the OW Ranch is the holding pens. The buildings and spaces between the agricultural complex have been enclosed with wooden post and rails to create holding pens and corrals which specifically serve the buildings. The U-shaped open box shed and the horse/dairy barn complex are enclosed by a corral rail as are the various spaces between the buildings. Each corralled space gives meaning and purpose to the functions housed in each building and exhibits a clear sense of planning during the early Kendrick development of the ranch.

On the northeast is the blacksmith shop, followed to the west by the smoke house, across the north/south axis is the dairy barn, and on the east/west axis, the horse barn with integral tack rooms is the largest section of the building. The entire building is single-story hand-hewn log with notching to match the main house and bunk house. It rests on a minimal sandstone foundation. Roofs are hipped and covered with corrugated metal, but roof structure matches the heavy duty bunk house log system. The 1890 Huffman photograph shows this building also had the sandstone and sod roof system. Doors are diagonal, heavy wooden plank with exterior hinges and steel latch hardware. Windows are small stationary four-light units.

In the blacksmith shop, the original stone built forge is intact with bellows and hearth, and its prominent stone chimney projects through the roof. The interior walls are smoke laden and original wood work benches, hardware cabinets, and bins are still in place. The floor is dirt, but may be stone which has been covered with dirt over time.

The smoke house directly west is accessed by a door to the north which faces the hog slaughter shed. The ceilings are low, possibly six feet in height. The interior is blackened from smoke. Meat-hanging racks remain suspended from the ceiling roof structure, and a galvanized tin chimney projects from the roof. The floors are earth.

The dairy barn which externally links the smoke house and the horse barn has an access from the holding pen to the west in addition to the east. Its floor is earthen, and wooden partial wall dividers are built on the interior to create pens or stalls.

The horse barn is the largest portion of this complex. Its extra width causes the roof height to slightly exceed the other peaks of the common hips. Two large double dutch doors flank either end. They are built of diagonal planking on the inside and vertical exterior plank, hung with heavy strap hinges. Inside to the east are hand-hewn tack rooms to either side of the entry doors. The remainder of the interior is divided into stalls built of peeled poles precisely notched into the log support columns with a wood feeder trough to the front on the outside walls. Floors are thick wood plank, well worn from years of use. Tack hangs from wooden pegs on the interior log walls, and the tack rooms are filled with saddles and tack.

This entire complex has excellent integrity with the corrugated metal roof being the only major alteration, and this change is said to have occurred in the early 1900s.

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#12 - Cow Barn/Open Box Shed

The open box shed is used primarily for the cow/calf operation, and the L. A. Huffman 1890 photograph shows this building under construction. It is a single story, hip roof building built in the U-shape plan facing south. The north wall, built into the hill, is a stone retaining wall; other outside walls are built with typical hand-hewn logs and notching. Roofs are corrugated metal with the north roof nearly touching the grade above the retaining wall.

The building has open stalls surrounding the interior; the northwest corner has been enclosed with frame, plywood and painted panels for an animal hospital. The hospital has rows of small fixed windows, a large sliding track door, and a cow chute for animal work. This space also has electricity supplied for lighting and appliances.

The roof structure is built of very heavy timber supported by stocky wooden columns nearly two feet in diameter. Each support column rests on a large single sandstone base. A secondary wooden rafter system has been laid over the log purlins with a corrugated metal roof above.

The building has excellent integrity with the exception of the cow hospital enclosure and the galvanized metal roof system. The heavy roof structure suggests it was built to accept the sandstone and sod system seen on the other 1880s structures.

#13 - Corral Outhouse

Located just west of the cow barn is a small wood frame one-hole outhouse with a corrugated tin gable roof and drop lap siding. It served the needs of the ranch hands working in the open box shed, cow barn and the corrals to the west of the agricultural units. The building is in fair condition and appears to have excellent integrity.

#14 - Water Trough Shed

This is a five-sided, open front sandstone building with a polygonal hip roof. The roof is stick-framed with heavy timber over the open bays to the south. It employs the same battered stone technique as the shop overhead shed and seven-stall shed building, but is more heavily eroded and weathered from its exposure to the south.

This very simple structure has about an eight and a half-foot to nine-foot plate height, and a heavy timber stick-frame roof with collar ties only at the highest points. The building is partially bermed into the earth, approximately four feet in the back, and has a differential from earth to rafter ends of about five feet in the rear and nine feet in the front. On the interior is a water pipe that brought water from the spring house. This building has excellent integrity but needs some minor repainting and stabilization.

#15 - Seven-Stall Stone Shed with Shop

Ninety yards south of the cow barn and corrals is a shop building. The shop is a one-story sandstone building with a wood frame roof. Stone detailing is similar to that on the spring house and other 1900 ranch buildings. This building lies on a north/south axis.

It is divided into seven bays. The three bays to the north were enclosed very early for a work shop with plank doors that hinge in the middle. Each door has a single window. The back west wall is partially bermed into the earth; the open bays face east. Stone piers which support the roof are battered, of precision tooled stone. Dimensional wood roof framing employed open rafters with a webbed truss-like detail on the interior and exposed rafter tails. Height of the horizontal header beam is approximately eight feet. Roofing is galvanized corrugated metal.

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Inside, the shop is open from end to end. The dividing plank wall has been scribed into the front stone pier indicating that this may have been done at a very early date. This building has fine integrity with the only alterations being the workshop enclosure and concrete slabs which have been poured to create the shop floor. Structurally, the building is in excellent condition; it is in need of some minor stone stabilization and stone repair.

CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES:

#16 - Corrals and Breaking Pens

Directly to the west of the open box shed cow barn are the corrals and breaking pens. Built in a rather organic shape, the corrals appear to have expanded in phases as needed. A long funnel-like fence system of barbed wire directs the cattle driven from the west pastures and hills across the county road into the well-built and well maintained wood (post and rail) corrals. This wooden corral system has a series of polygonal pens and chutes adjacent to a large circular corral which doubled as a breaking pen. A narrow chute connects these pens to the cow hospital and also to a cattle truck loading chute. The posts are typically built of hand-peeled, pitch pine posts and rails. The corrals have excellent integrity appearing today as they do in the historic photographs in the Kendrick collection.

#17 - Stone Retaining Walls, Walks and Steps

Local sandstone stone work is one of the key contributing features of the OW Ranch, not only in the construction of numerous buildings, but also the fine landscape elements. Drystack stone retaining walls were built to retain the hill to the north and add earth berming around the root cellar. The wall is approximately 30" high and runs from the buttressed sloped entryway wall west in a slight arc. In a straight line from the back of the bunk house to the outhouse the wall is interrupted with a built-in stone step. The wall has excellent historical integrity, but is in need of rebuilding and repointing.

The other fine retaining wall system is seen in the northeast corner of the ranch yard. Here, the retaining walls are higher due to the steeper grade of the hill. This system was constructed for use of the main house three-hole outhouse, which sits up the hill, approximately ten feet above the grade of the main house. This system once again is drystack sandstone with a fine sandstone stairway and large slab sandstone landings at top and bottom. These retaining walls have excellent integrity, but need some repointing.

The stone walkways and stoops complete the stone landscaping. Large sandstone slabs are laid flush with the ranch yard lawn. They provide a paved path system from the ranch house to the spring house, the bunk house, three-holer outhouse, and to the old fence line south of the house. Another main stone path runs at a 45 degree angle from the west bunk house steps to the west ranch yard fence. Stone stoops at the bunk house and ranch house are built with large sandstone slabs full width (six feet wide) up to six inches thick stacked one on top of the other to create the stoop. These stone stoops are precision cut and dressed on the three exposed faces, laid with a flush mortar joint between the slabs. These durable stoops are in excellent condition and have fine integrity with the exception of some settling.

#18 - Water Tank

The water tank associated with the well house is a contributing structure. It appears in very early photographs (circa 1906) and is currently located near the rock pile to the east garden plot. It serves irrigation purposes at the garden. The stock tank is round and made of galvanized steel construction.

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#19 - Loading Ramp

The loading ramp is an early contributing structure on the OW Ranch; it remains today in the same location as seen in a photograph circa 1920. Built of earth and square-hewn timbers, it functions mainly as a ramp to load machinery, which justifies its location between the seven-stall shop and water trough shed. The ramp has good integrity.

CONTRIBUTING SITES:

#20 - The Well Pit

The well pit marks the site where the original well house stood. The pit measures 8' x 10' at the perimeter, with six feet below grade. It is lined with square wooden timbers. One foot remains of the former well house walls above grade, it is sided with plywood and covered with corrugated sheet metal. As seen in early historic photographs, it was a frame enclosure with a low-pitched gable roof constructed of native 2x6s.

#21 - South Garden Plot

The OW Ranch has three contributing sites. The first is the south garden plot, which is still visible south of the ranch house. It is defined by the fence that surrounds the trailer house and measures roughly 160 feet x 80 feet. The northern fence line has been removed, but the east, west, and south fences appear to be in their original location. This garden is seen in various photographs circa 1930s-1960s, which show it being used to grow garden, corn, and even fenced pasture. Although currently this is the site of a non-contributing building, the space defined by the original fence line has importance as a food providing element which helped support the remote ranch.

#22 - East Garden Plot

The second contributing site is the east garden. Still used today for the summer garden plot, the east garden lies on an elevated bench just east of the ranch yard. This garden appears in very early photographs, circa 1920s. It measures 160 feet x 100 feet and was irrigated by the spring up the draw to the east.

#23 - Natural Spring

The last contributing site to describe is the natural spring. A good, clear, fresh water spring is a valuable quantity (?) in the Hanging Woman Creek area. It is most likely that this spring was the locating factor for the very first homestead. The fine quality of this spring is known throughout this ranching community for being the best. Located approximately 200 yards up the draw to the east, the spring flows freely from the earth. Unlike the mineral laden water drawn from wells, this spring is clear and pure. Running at one gpm, the water is stored in a 4,000-gallon concrete cistern, then gravity feeds it to an underground piping network that served the spring house/wash house, main house, bunk house, yard spigots, and finally the water trough shed.

It is most likely that the spring house/wash house was plumbed at a very early date, possibly as early as the late 1880s, while the updated system to the other buildings may have been added in the 1940s or 1950s. The spring collection system was completely rehabilitated in 1990-91 and reconnected to the existing underground piping network. Currently, it provides water to the main house, bunk house, and select yard spigots. It is anticipated that the entire underground network will be re-established in the near future.

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NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDING AND STRUCTURES

#24 - Trailer House

The single non-contributing building on the OW Ranch is a 16' x 70' mobile home which sits in the south garden area.

#25, 26, 27, 28 - Steel Grain Bins

Directly to the east of the seven stall stone shed and to the outlying south boundary of the ranch yard, are four metal grain bins. They are old vintage but not original fabric. Possibly 1940s vintage.

INTEGRITY

The OW Ranch is illustrative of a late nineteenth century and early twentieth century ranch complex that continues to function as a working cattle ranch today in much the same manner as it did at the turn of the century. As noted throughout the text of this physical description, the entire ranch property retains an excellent level of integrity. The feeling, setting and location are unchanged since the historic period. The buildings have been well preserved and efforts at restoration and rehabilitation in recent months have renewed and stabilized this fine set of buildings, structures and sites. Careful attention to detail and craftsmanship has successfully preserved the design, historic fabrics and workmanship of this impressive property. The non-contributing trailer and gran bins are minor detractions, and present owners do plan to remove the trailer, which would open the south garden plot up and remove this incompatible element from the property. In all, this is a wonderfully preserved ranch property, which accurately conveys its rich history and showcases an important collection of architectural craftsmanship.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Locally, statewide

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C

Areas of Significance: Architecture
Agriculture

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a

Period(s) of Significance: 1889-1909

Significant Person(s): n/a

Significant Dates: 1889, 1891, 1902, 1909

Cultural Affiliation: n/a

Architect/Builder: Husman, Oscar (stonemason)
Becker, Charlie (builder)

Narrative Statement of Significance

The OW Ranch on Hanging Woman Creek is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A for its historic association with the evolution of the livestock industry in Montana and Wyoming. The history of the OW Ranch illustrates Montana's cattle ranching experience--from the open range boom, weathering the Hard Winter of 1886-87, and stabilizing into the twentieth century. Under the ownership of J. B. Kendrick, a prominent Montana-Wyoming rancher and politician, and family, it operated as a working cattle ranch from 1898 until 1988 and still conveys its original historic character and appearance.

The OW Ranch on Hanging Woman Creek is also eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C for its masterful vernacular architecture, representative of skilled craftsmanship in the use of stone and log. The stone buildings built in 1902 are the first examples of the stone work of Oscar Husman, a Swedish stone mason who later built stone buildings at other Kendrick ranches such as the LX Bar. The log buildings display excellent craftsmanship and skilled workmanship, as exhibited by the joinery of the logs and the massive log post and purlins of the barns and sheds. All of the log buildings were built prior to 1900.

Native American Occupation

Archaeological evidence indicates that early peoples have occupied the southeastern region of present-day Montana for over 10,500 years. Small nomadic groups traveled seasonally through the area utilizing both flora and fauna. It is generally believed that the Crow nation arrived in this region by the sixteenth century after separating from the Hidatsa on the Upper Missouri.¹ Bands of the Cheyenne and Sioux tribes entered the area far later, some 150 years ago, having been displaced from the Black Hills and their homelands further east by expanding white settlement.

The Crow at one time inhabited lands from the Missouri River to the north, the Powder River to the east and as far south as Colorado but came to dominate southeastern Montana and northeastern Wyoming, including the Yellowstone, the Tongue and Powder River areas. The Crow lived a nomadic existence, dependent on the horse, buffalo and native plants.² In 1805, Francois Larocque, a French fur trader, recorded the first known definition of Crow territory where "In the spring and fall they are upon this [Yellowstone] River and in the summer upon the Tongue and Horses [Pryor] River."³ Hanging Woman Creek is a tributary of the Tongue River.

In the 1840s, Arapooish, a Crow chief, declared that the

Crow country is exactly in the right place. It has snowy mountains and sunny plains, all kinds of climates and good things for every season. . . . Everything good is to be found here. There is no country like the Crow country.⁴

The Crow of Apsaalooke people have always lived in "close association with the land, its animals, its plants and its seasonal cycles."⁵ To the Crows, natural springs hold medicinal powers and are used for healing. Crow elders know of springs with spiritual healing powers situated in the Hanging Woman Creek drainage.⁶ Prior to its development, the spring at the OW

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Ranch was probably used for such purposes. Archeological reconnaissance of spring sites in this drainage is beyond the scope of this nomination. However, future survey efforts would likely yield information and identify sites of traditional cultural significance to the native peoples of this region.

The Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851 defined the territory of the Crow Nation as all lands in southeastern Montana west of the Powder River to the Yellowstone River. Both the Tongue River drainage and Hanging Woman Creek were included in Crow territory. In 1868, the government renegotiated with the Crows and moved the eastern boundary of their reservation to the divide between the Big Horn and Rosebud Rivers. This treaty designated the Powder-Tongue River areas as unceded Indian lands, closed to general white entry, and available for seasonal hunting but not permanent occupation by the Indians. However, the years between 1865 and 1875 saw increased Indian conflicts in this region. The Indian wars in 1875-76 and the subsequent establishment of Fort Keogh on the Tongue River (near Miles City) finally confined most Indians in southeastern Montana to reservations. In 1884, a small reservation near the Tongue and Rosebud Rivers was created for the Northern Cheyenne out of lands formerly assigned to the Crows and later extended to the Tongue River (north of the OW Ranch).⁷

Cattle Ranching

In the 1860s, Montana's cattle industry developed initially in the territory's western valleys due to the emigrant cattle exchange trade and the mining camps' demand for beef. Increased population pressures in the western region shifted cattle herds into central Montana by the early 1870s. The elimination of the buffalo and the confinement of Indian peoples on reservations by the late 1870s stimulated the opening of the eastern Montana range.⁸ General James Brisbin's 1880 book, The Beef Bonanza or How to Get Rich on The Plains declared that "Montana has undoubtedly the best grazing-grounds in America. . . . The Yellowstone, Big Horn, Tongue River and Powder River regions contain the maximum of advantages to the cattle-grower."⁹

Although Nelson Story drove 600 head of Texas longhorn cattle into Montana Territory in 1866, the range cattle business in eastern Montana dates from 1880 to 1900. The open range boom in Montana was an era of unrestrained growth in the livestock industry augmented by a lucrative market and excessive foreign investments. All land was public domain and each ranch would lay claim to an "accustomed range" which other cattlemen would recognize and respect. Foreign interests financed large cattle corporations such as the Niobrara Cattle Company of Nebraska and the English Powder River Company, and their herds invaded the eastern ranges. According to livestock journals, Montana stock growers reaped a profit from 25 to 40 percent. The arrival of the Northern Pacific across Montana in 1883 boosted profits by providing access to markets. The number of cattle in the territory grew from over 274,000 in 1880 to 663,000 in 1886 with 100,000 new cattle brought into Montana in the summer of 1886.¹⁰

By the fall of 1886, the ranges were overstocked and overgrazed, grass was scarce due to a dry summer. The "Hard Winter of 1886-87" that followed devastated the range cattle industry in Wyoming, North Dakota and Montana. Many of the foreign investors were ruined due to heavy losses and the "hard winter" removed most of the speculative element from the range. Teddy Blue Abbot, a Montana cowboy, reported that "fully sixty percent of all cattle in Montana were dead by March 15, 1887; that is why everything on the range dates from the winter."¹¹ In Custer County (the original county where the OW is located) "of 200 cattlemen and cattle companies assessed for over twenty head of cattle in Custer County, Montana in 1886, only 120 were still so assessed two years later and the average size of their holdings was considerably smaller. . . ."¹²

While the "hard winter" severely depleted the cattle industry, the business did not totally collapse. Instead it emerged from the disaster with a new consciousness. "The days of extremely large scale production and enormous profits were gone forever. In the future ranching was to be carried on in a more sane and conservative fashion."¹³ Cattlemen realized the

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necessity of adequate water and feed, especially for cows and calves. Cattle operations began to incorporate summer and winter pastures, supplemental feeding, agricultural diversification, barbed wire and smaller locally owned ranches. Despite the impact of the winter, the cattle industry gradually recovered due to conducive weather conditions and improved range management. By 1890, the industry had rebounded and about 175,000 head ranged where perhaps 82,000 had survived in 1887.¹⁴

Origins of OW Ranch on Hanging Woman Creek

In the early 1880s, the Grinnell Livestock Company was established by Burlington Railroad officials of Omaha, Nebraska. In 1885, Roundup District No. 2 of the Montana Stock Growers Association was described as follows:

Commence at the mouth of Logging creek on Tongue river May 13th, 1885, work up Tongue river and its tributaries to mouth of Canyon, up Hanging Woman to Grinnell's Ranch, then join Wyoming roundup No. 17 at the boundary line, at the mouth of Squirrel creek, working with them on the west side of Tongue river to the mouth of Canyon; then commencing at Grinnell's Ranch working Hanging Woman creek.¹⁵

In 1888, the Brand Book of the Montana Stock Growers Association listed the Grinnell Live Stock Co. of Sheridan, Wyoming, with ranges on the Tongue River, Big and Little Goose, Badger, Dutch and Hanging Woman Creek. C. H. Grinnell was superintendent and the company carried the Wrench brand.¹⁶

However, the Grinnell range on Hanging Woman was seriously affected by the "Hard Winter of 1886-87" and most of the remaining cattle were shipped out. John B. Kendrick, superintendent of the Converse Cattle Company, inspected the Grinnell range on Hanging Woman Creek in 1889 and Sheridan Enterprise commented that "with the sale of the cattle of the Grinnell company, the Hanging Woman range will become vacant. This is one of the best ranges in the whole country and we hope satisfactory arrangement will be made whereby the Converse company will secure it."¹⁷ The following month, the company purchased from the Grinnell Livestock Company "certain possessory rights and improvements in the Territory of Montana." In the summer of 1889, the Converse Cattle Company drove the herd north from their range in Wyoming to Hanging Woman Creek and Tongue River in Montana.¹⁸

The Converse Cattle Company (CCC) was founded in 1880-1881 by A. R. Converse, the president of the First National Bank of Cheyenne, W. C. Irvine, a prominent rancher, with H. S. Manville as general manager; and James S. Peck as secretary-treasurer. The company expanded rapidly, and by 1882 had 23,000 head of cattle in the Cheyenne basin with the OW brand.¹⁹

According to A. A. Spaug, the first range manager of the CCC, the OW brand originated with O. C. Wade, a freighter who had a ranch and 1,200 head of cattle on Old Woman Creek, a tributary of Hat Creek in southeastern Wyoming. The CCC purchased his cattle and range and the cattle were "all well branded with an OW on the left side. . ."²⁰ When the CCC moved north in 1889, they immediately claimed the exclusive right to the OW brand and the ranch on Hanging Woman Creek became known as the OW.²¹

The Converse Cattle Company, like many large cattle companies in the early 1890s, experienced financial difficulties that resulted in bankruptcy. John B. Kendrick, who had been the general superintendent for the CCC since 1887, was appointed Receiver of the Court in 1894 and reportedly even made a profit for the bankrupt company. Kendrick began proceedings to purchase the CCC holdings in 1897 and finalized the contract in 1898. Under terms of the contract, Kendrick sold all the company's two-year-old head of stock except bulls and cows with calves. For a total of \$38,476, he bought the remnants of the cattle herd at \$17 a head, the OW brand, and the leases, buildings, and equipment of the

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Grinnell Ranch on Hanging Woman Creek in Montana. The Sheridan newspaper commented that ". . . his friends here are glad to see him become sole owner of this fine outfit."²²

The OW Ranch under John B. Kendrick

When John B. Kendrick obtained title to the CCC holdings, the area still had not been surveyed and acquisition of title to land was his first concern. The land was surveyed in 1900 and the survey map showed the J. B. Kendrick or OW ranch with numerous fenced pastures in the immediate vicinity. In 1903, Kendrick bought 80 acres for \$800 from the State of Montana since the ranch buildings were situated on a school section. Kendrick continued to expand his land holdings in the next two decades by various means. He leased both school and reservation lands, and acquired ownership to lands by utilization of military scrip, homestead relinquishments, ceded Indian strip lands as well as purchasing numerous ranches in Montana and Wyoming. He obtained ranges for summer and winter grazing and creek bottoms for water and harvesting hay. According to Manville Kendrick, his father's philosophy on buying land was "If they ever bring land to you, buy it then if you want it. Because, unfailingly, if you don't buy it then, it will go into strong hands."²³

At the turn of the century in his new position as ranch owner, Kendrick implemented three main changes he felt were necessary for survival in the cattle industry. He realized that unrestricted open range had ended and "cattlemen must provide themselves with at least the nucleus of their own range by ownership or lease." He also believed that the cattle industry must develop a "businesslike method of winter care and feeding." Thirdly, he felt that the breeding of cattle must be "improved on the range" and introduced Hereford sires.²⁴

In 1902, Kendrick expanded his cattle operation and purchased almost 2,000 head of yearlings and increased his OW land holdings to about \$45,000 worth of grazing land. Kendrick moved from the ranch to Sheridan in 1908 but always remained intricately involved with the workings of the ranch, whether he was in Sheridan, Cheyenne or Washington, D.C. Although most cattlemen were affected by the depression that followed World War I, Kendrick realized the high beef prices couldn't last and he had sold all his marketable animals in 1919 for a good profit. He was able to maintain his breeding stock during the early 1920s where other outfits failed.²⁵

In 1924, Kendrick formed the Kendrick Livestock Corporation with immediate family members, including his wife Eula, son Manville, and daughter Rosa May. The company operated in Sheridan, Johnson and Campbell Counties of Wyoming and Big Horn, Rosebud, Powder River and Custer Counties in Montana. Manville operated the ranch from the time of his father's death in 1933 to 1988 when the ranch was sold.

John B. Kendrick was born in Texas on September 6, 1857 and spent his youth there, living with relatives. In 1879, he joined the cattle drive of Charles Wulfgun from Texas to Wyoming. He remained in Wyoming with the Wulfgun operation on Lance Creek and accumulated some stock of his own. In 1883, the Converse Cattle Company absorbed both the Wulfgun and Kendrick operations. Kendrick returned to Texas and acted as foreman for the Wulfgun trail drive in 1884.²⁶

Kendrick began sometime in 1886 to manage the "77 Outfit" which later became the Lance Creek Cattle Company in Wyoming. Kendrick also became part owner of this Company after selling them some cows. In 1887, he left the Lance Creek Cattle Company to become the superintendent for the Converse Cattle Company. For this company he was in charge of the range operation and all disbursements and bookkeeping. In 1889, he initiated the move of the Converse Cattle Company to the southeastern Montana and northeastern Wyoming range.²⁷

In 1898, John Kendrick bought the OW ranch and fulfilled a lifetime ambition. He lived on the ranch for approximately 20 years. In 1891, he married his first boss's daughter, Eula Wulfgun and brought her to the OW ranch on Hanging

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Woman Creek where they raised their two children, Rosa May, born in 1897 and Manville, born in 1900. In 1909, the Kendrick's moved to Sheridan, Wyoming to eventually reside in their mansion called Trail End.²⁸

Kendrick became involved in speculative ventures in the growing town of Sheridan, including real estate properties and a partnership in a bank. The arrival of the railroad in 1892 secured his success. In 1902, he liquidated his bank assets and reinvested in land and cattle, expanding his cattle operation to over 15,000 head of cattle by 1917 and over 100,000 deeded acres plus leased land by 1928. He obtained ranges for summer and winter grazing, developed irrigation and harvested hay. His ranches included lands in both Montana and Wyoming and his net worth increased each year. In 1909, when he left the OW ranch on Hanging Woman Creek to live in Sheridan, he was worth \$732,000, although in later years Kendrick stated that "he never cared for money and never thought primarily of making it."²⁹

John B. Kendrick was an active member of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association. In 1879, the Wyoming Stock Growers Association originated out of the Laramie County Stock Growers Association and eventually encompassed numerous other counties. Kendrick was the only cowboy, without owning cows, to be voted to membership in the Association. Kendrick served as a member of the executive committee for over 15 years, was vice-president in 1911 and president of the Association in 1912-13. Later he served as president of the American National Livestock Association from 1919 to 1921. As a politician, Kendrick always supported the livestock industry. At his death, it was felt that "the most beloved of all men by the livestock growers of the West, not only the Wyoming Stock Growers Association but every livestock man in the country has lost the best friend they ever had in Washington." The Cowboy Hall of Fame recognized Kendrick for his contributions in 1958.³⁰

Kendrick entered politics in 1910, when he was elected to the Wyoming State Senate. He was defeated for U. S. Senate in 1913 but the following year (1914) was elected Governor of Wyoming on the Democratic ticket. In 1916, he became a United States Senator and concentrated his efforts in Washington D.C. on western issues such as water and irrigation. Known as the "Cowboy Senator", Kendrick was unique among legislators as being the only senator to have driven cattle on the Texas Trail to Wyoming in 1879. He served in the Senate until his death in 1933.³¹

While Kendrick's importance is generally attributed to his political career in the state of Wyoming, his life as a cowboy and successful rancher is equally impressive and transcends state lines. He represents the western ideal of a self-made individual "rugged, masculine, direct, frank and unassuming."³² Kendrick rose from a lowly, young cowboy on a Texas cattle drive to the owner of the OW ranch on Hanging Woman Creek, which became one of the most successful cattle ranches in northeast Wyoming and southeast Montana. He actively participated in all the significant moments of the livestock industry in the West, from the early Texas cattle drives to the boom years of the open range and the devastating "Hard Winter of 1886-87" and these early years influenced his life as a ranch owner. When Kendrick purchased the OW in 1898, the livestock industry was changing and he was an innovator during this transitional period to self-sufficient cattle operations dependent on winter feed, water and direct ownership and leasing of lands. The success of his efforts are still visible at the OW today.

OW Ranch - The Built Environment - Architectural Significance

The architectural significance of the OW Ranch derives from its ability to represent a number of log and stone building methods, and the vernacular traditions that characterized Montana architecture during periods of settlement and beyond. Log and stone, readily available in the environment were commonly the building materials of choice and were often employed with great craftsmanship in the early building of Montana. At the OW Ranch, successive periods of building have yielded an important showcase of log and stone construction methods, many introduced by northern European builders. The result reflects the application of ancient Old World masonry and log building methods to produce a

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technology and aesthetic adapted to the Montana natural environment. The degree of skill and craftsmanship demonstrated by Oscar Husman, Charlie Becker and other unknown builders at the OW reflects undeniably the abilities of these master craftsmen; and the high degree of preservation to be found in these historic buildings is further testament to their ample abilities.

The Grinnell ranch was established on Hanging Woman Creek by 1885 when it was used as a reference point for the 1885 roundup. One can therefore speculate that some log buildings presently at the OW date to the Grinnell era and were incorporated into the OW Ranch. A WPA interview described the ranch buildings of the Grinnell Livestock Company and although it is unclear where the ranch was located, it appears the informant is speaking of the ranch on Hanging Woman.

The ranch buildings consisted "of two room frame building, perhaps forty feet long; the kitchen and dining room combined, in one end of the building, the long bunk room had the bunks or beds built against the side wall, some of them were two deep. These shallow boxes were partially filled with pineboughs, hay or other like material, buffalo skins and a few blankets. A one room house was built and furnished for Mr. and Mrs. Straud, the furniture for both buildings were bare necessities; both furniture and provisions were freighted from Custer Station, a distance of more than 125 miles, over the rough stage road."³³

When the Converse Cattle Company moved to Hanging Woman in 1889, they apparently undertook an expansion of ranch buildings. A wonderful 1890 photograph by L. A. Huffman shows the ranch house, bunk house, ice house, horse barn, blacksmith shop and an open-shed cow barn which was under construction. The ranch house in the Huffman photograph appears to be a five room building.³⁴ In 1891, when Kendrick married and brought his wife Eula to the ranch, she arrived to a five room ranch house that included a new, but unfinished three-room addition. In April, 1891, the Sheridan Post noted that Charlie Becker "one of the best carpenters in the West [was] finishing up on a fine residence and other buildings being erected by the company."³⁵

Manville Kendrick remembers his father mentioning "Finns" being associated with the log construction but nothing more definite. It is interesting to note that Chris Sorenson, a shipbuilder from Denmark, built log buildings on the lower Powder River in the 1890s. However, there is no documentation that Sorenson was on the OW besides the fact that Sorenson skillfully joined his corners with half-dovetail notching similar to those on the OW buildings.³⁶

The ranch house became known as "the White House" due to whitewashing on the exterior walls. Eula Kendrick furnished their home with almost \$900 worth of furnishings. Among the furnishings were a \$150 bedroom suite, \$120 worth of carpet and curtains, and a \$100 set of silverware. In 1900, Frank C. Beamish, a painter from Sheridan, wrote "Papered by Beamish" on the walls in the front room, indicating interior improvements.³⁷

An article written about Eula Kendrick in 1931 described ranch life on the OW after the honeymoon, when she moved to the five-room log cabin fifty miles from Sheridan in 1891:

There was, of course, a bunk-house on the ranch as well as a cabin for the superintendent; and over this bunk-house, - a long narrow building which contained a bunk-room for thirty men, a ranch-room, and a kitchen, all facing a long narrow porch - a young German couple with a small child presided. The wife was cook for the outfit; so Eula took her food from the bunk-house kitchen; and carried it on trays back and forth to her own cabin.

She washed her own dishes, tended her own stoves, did her own cleaning, her own ironing, and when necessary - as it often was - her own washing. There was no running water in the cabin; this was brought in from outside. . . . There were, of course, no electric lights and no telephones. There was not even a

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regular mail service - mail was occasionally brought out from Sheridan by a chance visitor, but except for this it was obtained only when someone from the ranch went to town, and such visits were often months apart.³⁸

The fine stonework at the OW is attributed to Oscar Husman who rebuilt previously existing stone buildings and left his mark by placing a 1902 cornerstone on the spring house. Harold Husman, his son, believes the stone was quarried near the county road north of the ranch towards Birney. Oscar and his wife Christine Husman were born in Sweden and immigrated to the United States at an early age. According to his son Harold, he probably apprenticed as a stone mason in Sweden prior to emigrating. Husman came to Sheridan with a railroad construction firm in 1901 where Kendrick learned of his ability as a stone mason and hired him to work on the buildings at the OW. Kendrick was obviously pleased with his work and had Husman build his show ranch, the LX BAR in 1910, and later the stone buildings at the K Ranch in the 1920s.³⁹

The buildings at the OW Ranch were described by a visitor in 1926 as "sound and fit to winter many a winter storm." The barns are especially impressive with logs over 30 inches in diameter. Manville Kendrick remembers the logs came from Wrench Creek and were of Ponderosa Pine, hauled to the ranch by a team of work horses.⁴⁰

The spring above the ranch may be the single most important factor for the location of the ranch. This spring, still as important today as it was originally, is said by local people to be the best natural spring in the area, as many other wells or springs in the area are laden with minerals. Mr. Kendrick recognized the importance of this valuable resource and developed and expanded the use.

Operation of OW Ranch Today

A 1988 article described the OW Ranch as a cow-calf operation that ran 4,000 head of cattle, mostly Herefords. From Hanging Woman, the ranch extended on both sides of the Montana-Wyoming border to the Powder River and totaled 210,919 acres. The ranch is a consolidation of numerous smaller ranches including the Forks, the 76, the E Bar U, the 77, Cabin Creek, the Little OW or ceded strip, Horse Creek, the K and the LX Bar. The operation included the ranch plus a farm/feedlot. Gregg Richards, the ranch manager, described the ranch operations in 1988:

This ranch, like most of the ranches in this region, is a cow-calf operation. This is excellent country for grass, and the right kind of cows can do well here. . . . Most of these ranches started out as cow-calf and they've learned to make it work.

We raise most of the feed ourselves. We've got about 1,300 acres of farming--mostly hay and corn . . . Most of the farming is done on the southeastern end of the ranch, in Wyoming, in the good river-bottom country along the Powder. . . .

The rest of the ranch is divided into summer and winter pastureland. . . . Most of the cattle side of the ranch lies in the drainage of Hanging Woman Creek. The bottom country is good land and we cut hay off of any of it that will grow hay. We pasture the rest of it and work the country horseback ... As big as it is, the ranch does have a fence around it.⁴¹

In 1926, a former cowboy who had worked for Kendrick in 1910 revisited the OW ranch. Although he found the cottonwoods were larger and there was a new garden, "otherwise things are much the same."⁴²

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The uniqueness of the OW Ranch is its timeless, preserved appearance, for it exists today as it did over 100 years ago when L. A. Huffman photographed it in 1890. The ranch has continuously functioned as a working cattle ranch since the 1880s. It experienced the transition from the open range to fenced pastures, crop raising and cow-calf operations. The success of the ranch is the result of one man, John B. Kendrick, who first managed the ranch beginning in 1889. He and his immediate family owned and operated the ranch from 1898 to 1988.

The OW Ranch "snuggled in the lee of the abrupt hills of Hanging Woman Valley" conveys a wonderful sense of its historic character and appearance.⁴³ The OW's pristine condition documents the day-to-day life on a working cattle ranch where the cook still rings the bell for dinner, the cowboys still sleep in the bunk house and ride their horses up the draw to check on the range. The setting is undisturbed, as the county road follows the same route as in 1900 when it was known as the Sheridan to Otter wagon road. The OW Ranch today welcomes you as it did in the 1890s when there was always a friendly greeting, a dry place for your horse and an extra plate at the table.

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END NOTES

1. Although limited archaeological investigations have been conducted in the Hanging Woman Creek drainage, extensive archaeological work has been conducted in the Decker coal mining area west of Hanging Woman Creek; see various reports by Lynn B. Fredlund including "Archaeology of East Decker and the North Extension, Montana Tech Alumni Foundation, Mineral Research Center, Butte, Montana, 1977; archaeological studies have also been conducted east of Hanging Woman Creek on the Ashland District of the Custer National Forest, see Michael R. Beckes and James D. Keyser, "The Prehistory of the Custer National Forest: An Overview," prepared for Custer National Forest, Billings, Montana, 1983. For a discussion of the Crow-Hidatsa separation, see "Symposium on the Crow-Hidatsa Separation," edited by Leslie Davis in Archaeology in Montana 20, No. 3, 1979.
2. There are numerous books on history and culture of Crow Indians from the various works by Robert H. Lowie including The Crow Indians (New York: Rinehart and Company, 1935) to the recent work of Rodney Frey, The World of the Crow Indians (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1987).
3. Francois Larocque, "Journal of Larocque from the Assiniboine to the Yellowstone 1805," Canadian Archives Publication No. 3, 1910, p. 45.
4. As quoted in Mark Brown, The Plainsmen of the Yellowstone, (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1961), p. 17.
5. Frey, The World of the Crow, p. 3.
6. Theo Hugs, historian, Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area, personal communication, Fort Smith, Montana, June 1992.
7. For general histories relating to the establishment of Indian reservations in southeastern Montana, see Merrill G. Burlingame The Montana Frontier (Helena: State Publishing Company, 1942); Michael Malone and Richard Roeder Montana A History of Two Centuries (Seattle: University of Washington Press 1976) and William Brooke, "A Contest Over Land: Nineteenth Century Crow-White Relations" Montana Vistas: Selected Historical Essays ed. Robert R. Swartout, Jr. (Washington D.C.: University Press of America 1981).
8. The best history of the cattle industry is Ernest S. Osgood, The Day of the Cattlemen (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1929). Refer to Michael Kennedy Cowboys and Cattlemen (New York: Hastings House, 1964) for selected articles from Montana The Magazine of Western History on all aspects of the cattle industry.
9. James S. Brisbin The Beef Bonanza; or How to Get Rich on the Plains (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1881), p. 90.
10. Robert S. Fletcher provides a more in-depth discussion of the development of the eastern Montana cattle industry in his "Organization of the Range Cattle Business in Eastern Montana" Montana Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin 265 (Bozeman, 1932); see also Osgood's The Day of the Cattlemen, p. 96 and Burlingame's The Montana Frontier, p. 283.

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11. E. C. Abbott and Helen Huntington Smith, We Pointed Them North (New York: Farrar & Rinehart, 1939). p. 217.

12. Robert S. Fletcher, "That Hard Winter in Montana 1886-1887," Agricultural History, 4 (October 1930), p. 128.

13. Everett Dale, The Range Cattle Industry, (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1960), p. 114.

14. Robert S. Fletcher, "The End of the Open Range in Eastern Montana," in The Montana Past An Anthology, ed. Michael P. Malone and Richard B. Roeder (Missoula: University of Montana Press, 1969).

15. As Cited in Mark H. Brown, The Plainsmen of the Yellowstone (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1961), p. 389.

16. Information on the Grinnell Livestock Company was sparse; refer to Work Projects Administration, Montana Writers' Project Livestock Histories, Big Horn County, on file at Merrill G. Burlingame Special Collection, Renne Library, Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana; see also same for register of Brands and associated books. Robert S. Fletcher in "The End of the Open Range in Eastern Montana" provides the most detailed account of Company:

The Grinnell Livestock Company which ran cattle on a range at the head of Tongue River and on Hanging Woman Creek in southern Montana and northern Wyoming . . . C. H. Grinnell, the superintendent and founder of the Company, located his ranch in 1880, and almost immediately laid out an extensive system of irrigation . . ." (p. 152) The development of irrigation was rare during the open range period and might have been one of the reasons Kendrick became interested in this range.

17. Sheridan Enterprise, March 16, 1889.

18. Agreement between Converse Cattle Company and Lance Creek Cattle Company, 1 April 1889, on OW file at Trail End Historic Center, Sheridan, Wyoming.

19. Information derived from John K Rollinson, Wyoming Cattle Trails, (Caldwell, Idaho, The Caxton Printer, Ltd., 1948); ranching materials on file at Trail End Historic Center, Sheridan, Wyoming. The majority of these files were collected from the John B. Kendrick Collection, American Heritage Center, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming.

20. Lusk Free Lance, Lusk, Wyoming, May 17, 1934, reprint, on file at Trail End Historic Center, Sheridan, Wyoming.

21. Stock Brand of Converse Cattle Co., Hanging Woman, Territory of Wyoming, County of Sheridan, 15 June 1889, on file at Trail End Historic Center, Sheridan, Wyoming.

22. Michael V. Lewellyn, "John B. Kendrick and the Revival of the Democratic Party in Wyoming 1910-1914", (Master's Thesis, University of Wyoming, 1975), pp. 23-24; Sheridan Press, 4 March 1897, as quoted

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in John Rolfe Burroughs, Guardian of the Grasslands, (Cheyenne, Pioneer Printing & Stationery, 1971), p. 213.

23. For a good review of Kendrick's cattle operation at the OW, see John Burroughs' Guardian of the Grasslands, pp. 209-219; Manville Kendrick as quoted in Darrell Arnold's "Good Outfit, Good Neighbors" in Western Horseman, December 1988, p. 18.

24. Malcolm C. Cutting, "The Northwest Trail to the Senate," in The County Gentleman, March 1926. pp. 24-25; 92, 94.

25. Lewellyn in his thesis, "John Kendrick and the Revival of the Democratic Party in Wyoming, 1910-1914" provides an account of Kendrick's finances in the early 1900s as he expanded his cattle and other interests; see also Cutting, "The Northwest Trail to the Senate."

26. Although no one has written the definitive biography on John B. Kendrick, there are numerous articles and theses on his life. Information on Kendrick's life before politics is derived from the following sources, including but not limited to Eugene T. Carroll, "John B. Kendrick, Cowpoke to Senator, 1879 - 1917," Annals of Wyoming, Vol. 54, No. 1 (Spring, 1982). pp. 51-57; Burroughs, pp. 209-216; Lewellyn, pp. 1-29. For contemporary articles, see Cutting, pp. 24-25, 92, 94; Wing, pp. 12-13, 49-51, 53. While several biographies question his whereabouts between the years 1884 to 1886, a brand of Z Z is registered in the Montana Register of Brands book in 1884 under the name of J. B. Kendrick, Powderville, Custer County.

27. Lewellyn provides a detailed account of Kendrick's dealings with the Lance Creek Cattle Company and the CCC.

28. Francis Parkinson Keyes article in the Delineator gives a wonderful account of life on the O W ranch of Eula and her children, pp. 40; 51.

29. Kendrick's business ventures in Sheridan are discussed in Lewellyn; please refer to the section in this narrative entitled O W Ranch under John B. Kendrick for a discussion of the development of the ranch; Clinton W. Gilbert, "The Sagebrush Senator" in Collier's, June 1928, p. 48.

30. Information on Kendrick's association with the Wyoming Stock Grower's Association is found in Burroughs, pp. 216-217; see also Agnes Spring Seventy Years: A Panoramic History of the Wyoming Stock Grower's Association (Cheyenne: Wyoming State Growers Association, 1942). p. 106.

31. For an introduction to Kendrick's political career, see Eugene T. Carroll, "Wyoming's Senator John Benjamin Kendrick," Annals of Wyoming, Vol. 58, No. 2 (Fall, 1986) pp. 22-29.

32. T. A. Larson, History of Wyoming (Lincoln: University of Nebraska, 1965), p. 449. Larson summarized Kendrick's life as follows:

To what did Kendrick owe his phenomenal success? Though blessed with only seven years of formal schooling, he possessed an uncommon drive to succeed. As a cowboy of twenty-one he left his native Texas in 1879 and rode with a trail herd to northern Wyoming, where in the next few years he studied by lantern light while other cowboys caroused. He married the boss's daughter, built a great estate, and then late in life turned to politics. In

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the United States Senate he concentrated on furthering Wyoming's economic interests, with particular attention to cattle, sheep, sugar beets, and reclamation.

33. Works Progress Administration, Montana Writers' Project, Livestock Histories, Big Horn County, on file at Merrill G. Burlingame Special Collections, Renne Library, Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana. The informant was 81 and in the hospital at the time of the interview (1939) but his comments are the only early reference to the Grinnell ranch operation.

34. L. A. Huffman, "O W Ranch on Hanging Woman Creek," photograph on file at Photograph Collection, Montana Historical Society, Helena, Montana and Coffrin Gallery, Bozeman, Montana.

35. The five room log cabin is mentioned in Burroughs, p. 213 and Francis Parkinson Keyes, *Over the Trail To the Senate*, Delineator April, 1931, p. 40; while Lewellyn, p. 20 notes the three-room addition; Sheridan Post, April 23, 1891. It is assumed that Becker was doing interior finish work on the house.

36. Manville Kendrick, personal interview, October 4, 1991, Sheridan, Montana; Arvada Historical Group, Wheels of Time 1800s - 1984, (Pierre, South Dakota: The State Publishing Company: 1984), p. 276.

37. Lewellyn, pp. 20-21; Beamish was listed as a painter in Sheridan in the 1900 census; U. S. Census of Population, "Schedules for State of Wyoming", Twelfth Census of the United States 1900, (Washington, D. C.: U. S. National Archives Record Service, 1900).

38. Francis Parkinson Keyes, "Over the Trail To the Senate," Delineator April, 1931, p. 40.

39. Harold Husman, personal interview, October 12, 1991, Sheridan, Wyoming; Arvada Historical Group, Wheels of Time 1880s - 1984, pp. 303-304.

40. Andrew S. Wing, "John B. Kendrick, the Orphan Who Took the Texas Trail to a 200,000 Acre Ranch and the U. S. Senate," Farm and Fireside, November 1927, p. 51; Manville Kendrick, personal interview, October 4, 1991, Sheridan, Wyoming.

41. Darrell Arnold, "Good Outfit, Good Neighbors," pp. 16-23.

42. Andrew S. Wing, "John B. Kendrick, the Orphan Who Took the Texas Trail to a 200,000 Acre Ranch and the U. S. Senate," p. 51.

43. Ibid, p. 51.

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- CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES
1. MAIN HOUSE
 2. ~~20-4-15~~ OUTHOUSE
 3. BUNK HOUSE
 4. STONE WASH HOUSE / SPRING HOUSE
 5. STONE COAL HOUSE
 6. 140 HOOPS (STONE W/ RED ROOF)
 7. STONE FOOT LOGS / FEAT LOCKER
 8. RANCH HAND OUTHOUSE
 9. OVER HEAD SHED
 10. CHICKEN HOUSE AND HORSE SLAUGHTER SHED
 11. WOODS BARN W/ TACK, SHIRT PAPER, SADDLES AND BLACKSMITH SHOP
 12. OPEN BOX SHED, CALVEY SHED AND COW HOSPITAL
 13. (GENERAL) OUTHOUSE
 14. STONE WATER TROUGH SHED
 15. SEVEN STALL STONE SHED W/ SHOP

- CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES
16. CORRAL & SPRING PENS
 17. STONE RETAINING WALLS AND DRAVE & GRPS.
 18. STONE TANK
 19. LOADING RAMP

- CONTRIBUTING SITES
20. WELL PIT
 21. SOUTH GARDEN PLOT
 22. EAST GARDEN PLOT
 23. SPRING

- NOT CONTRIBUTING
24. TRAILER HOUSE
 25. GRAIN BIN
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