

Substantive Review

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received AUG 15 1986

date entered SEP 29 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Stone Wall Ranch

and/or common Reader Ranch: Rasmussen Ranch

Smithsonian Number: 48CR3572

2. Location

street & number Star Route Box 1300 not for publication

city, town Savery vicinity of

state Wyoming code 056 county Carbon code 007

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Robert H. and Jane Rasmussen

street & number Star Route, Box 1300

city, town Savery vicinity of state Wyoming

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Carbon county Courthouse (Land Department)

street & number Fourth and Cedar Streets

city, town Rawlins state Wyoming

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Reader Ranch/U.W. Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date August 23, 1985 n/a federal n/a state n/a county local

depository for survey records Carbon County File Wyoming Historic Preservation Office

city, town Cheyenne state Wyoming

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Enclosed between the Little Snake River and a natural sandstone escarpment, commonly known as the "Stone Wall", the Stonewall Ranch is uniquely situated within an environmental context uncommon among Wyoming ranches. Cultural elements of the property are integrated with the environmental features and elicit a feeling of confinement rather than open spaciousness so common among Wyoming ranches. Here the ranch material cultural elements are limited by the constraints of space. The scale of the buildings seems reduced by the prominence of the "Stone Wall." Although the characteristics of the ranch buildings remain consistent with other ranch sites the combination of a unique locational setting and the integrity of the historical elements of this site combine to produce a unique pattern of historic significance. The ranch is composed of six permanent buildings spread over a 20 acre area immediately adjacent the westward flowing Little Snake River one and one-half miles east of Savery, Carbon County, Wyoming. The modern day Stone Wall Ranch encompasses a total area of approximately 160 privately owned acres within which are found the main ranch residence, a two story gabled roofed building; a gabled roofed, square notched, log cabin and a wood frame, clapboard constructed ice house (both immediately southwest of the main house). On the eastern side of the property across a simple wood plank bridge and ephemeral drainage are a small slanted roofed, square notched log outbuilding; a corrugated metal and pine log frame work-shed; a gable roofed board and batten outbuilding and a single crib barn with flanking shed and gabled "catslide" roof. A small circular, steel grainery and upright supported pine log corral which incorporates the sandstone escarpment as a back (or north) wall make up the remaining features of the main ranch complex. Both wire and wood fencing surrounding hay fields round out the material culture elements composing the ranch complex. Six historically significant material culture elements have been determined to be contributing to the ranch nomination. A cemetery of approximately 10 acres is located 120m northeast of the main ranch complex. The cemetery, commonly referred to as the Reader cemetery, was initiated upon the death of Mrs. Hosannah Reader in 1883.

(SEE ADDENDUM)

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates Ca. 1873, 1916 **Builder/Architect** Noah Reader

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Comprising an element of the Little Snake River Valley rural cultural landscape the Stonewall Ranch typifies the ranching pattern of historic land use that has existed within this region since the 1870's. The ranching culture beginning in Wyoming in the late 1860's was fueled by the expansion of urban western, mid-western and eastern beef markets and increasing availability of rangeland cattle from overstocked southwestern rangelands. The fertile, well watered, Little Snake River Valley provided an untapped environmental resource for this economy. As pioneer settlers moved west over Wyoming's many emigrant trails the opportunity to exploit untapped rangelands became apparent to some stockmen. In the early 1870's some of these men were attracted to the Little Snake River Valley of Wyoming and Colorado. Founded by one of the Little Snake River Valley's first permanent cattle raising residents, Noah Reader, in 1871, the Stonewall Ranch retains material culture elements that embody the relationship between stockmen and the local environment; elements that express an articulation between a mode of livelihood and local environmental constraints. Poignantly illustrative of this embodiment is the name given to the ranch, "The Stonewall Ranch", a name derived from the natural sandstone escarpment that still forms the back (north) wall of the ranch's main corral. The incorporation of this natural feature provides an illustration of how, in a way of life normally associated with intense interactions between man and environment, integration of natural landscape into the material culture of the ranch reflects an attitude towards land use. Underlying the practicality of this adjustment to local conditions one senses the motivation of a natural feature put to "good use", evoking a feeling of nature being bent rather than broken to man's wishes. The entire property retains a quality that bespeaks of accord made with local environmental conditions. The oldest structures and buildings of the property seem an outgrowth of the landscape rather than dominating it. Even the most recent buildings on the property, including the large main ranch house, reflect stability within the adaptation chosen by the resident ranchers rather than a dominance imposed upon the environment. The Stonewall ranch is an intact cultural landscape where in the natural elements of the local environment have been incorporated with the physical material cultural elements. The adjustments made by the areas pioneer settlers through time are embodied in the physical material culture found on the Stonewall Ranch. The property derives its significance from being not only the first permanent settlement in the valley but by embodying the full evolutionary sequence of man/land relationships found in the regions stockraising enterprises.

(SEE ADDENDUM)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(See Addendum)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 27 acres

Quadrangle name Savery, Wyo: Colo. 1961

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>13</u>	<u>2</u> <u>9</u> <u>16</u> <u>3</u> <u>17</u> <u>10</u>	<u>4</u> <u>15</u> <u>4</u> <u>13</u> <u>3</u> <u>17</u> <u>10</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<u>1</u> <u>13</u>	<u>2</u> <u>9</u> <u>16</u> <u>3</u> <u>17</u> <u>10</u>	<u>4</u> <u>15</u> <u>4</u> <u>13</u> <u>7</u> <u>10</u> <u>10</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<u>1</u> <u>13</u>	<u>2</u> <u>9</u> <u>16</u> <u>5</u> <u>13</u> <u>10</u>	<u>4</u> <u>15</u> <u>4</u> <u>13</u> <u>7</u> <u>10</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

D	<u>1</u> <u>13</u>	<u>2</u> <u>9</u> <u>16</u> <u>6</u> <u>12</u> <u>10</u>	<u>4</u> <u>15</u> <u>4</u> <u>13</u> <u>6</u> <u>10</u> <u>10</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

E	<u>1</u> <u>13</u>	<u>2</u> <u>9</u> <u>16</u> <u>6</u> <u>12</u> <u>10</u>	<u>4</u> <u>15</u> <u>4</u> <u>13</u> <u>3</u> <u>14</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

F	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

G	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

H	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

(See Addendum)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>n/a</u>	code	<u>n/a</u>	county	<u>n/a</u>	code	<u>n/a</u>
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state	<u>n/a</u>	code	<u>n/a</u>	county	<u>n/a</u>	code	<u>n/a</u>
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Hugh R. Davidson

organization S.H.P.O. date August 23, 1985

street & number 2301 Central, Barrett Building telephone 777-6301

city or town Cheyenne state Wyoming

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Wilson B. Bushley

title SHPO date 8/11/86

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Wilson B. Bushley date 9/29/86
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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Stonewall Ranch main house (NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 9, T12N, R89W) 1916. The main house has been determined through documentary evidence secured at the Carbon County Courthouse to have been constructed circa 1916. The house is a two story, square plan outlined, ornamented concrete block dwelling with a prominent gable roof. Rock faced ornamented concrete block of this fashion was popularized by Sears Roebuck and Company beginning in 1909 when they began merchandizing block presses and accessories. This style of cladding remained popular until the 1930's when mass produced plain faced concrete brick could be produced faster and more economically. The house has functioned as the principal residence for the ranch since its construction. Prominate features of the house include a sandstone block and cement foundation, rock face ornamentation on the first story's concrete brick cladding, and shingled wood cladding on the second story.

The foundation of this house incorporates locally available sandstone blocks coarsed within cement. On the rear of the house a small cellar was built within this foundation and an enclosed entranceway provides access to it. A watertable has been constructed above the foundation by exposing the unornamented backside of the concrete bricks used as cladding on the houses bottom story. The lower story elevations are constructed of the rock face ornamented concrete brick which is laid in a strecher bond. Both the front facade and rear (south) elevation feature wood framed enclosed porches whose roofs are supported by four concrete block pilasters. Double hung sash windows are placed on east elevation and a centrally located doorway is found on both the front facade and rear elevation. The front, double panaled door features an ornamented light of frosted glass, displaying a Niagara Falls motif. The present owners feel this is an original feature dating to the house's initial construction.

The second story of the house features wood cladding. This upper story lies directly on top of the height of the first story concrete brick and is distinguished by its gable roof profile and four hipped dormers located on the east and west elevations. Both the facade and rear elevation are faced with square butt wooden shingles. The shingling is reminiscent of Shingle Style cladding popularized throughout the United States in the late 19th century. The front facade incorporates a wooden curved bow face with two single double hung sash windows and a recessed bow ventilation portal. The dormers all feature double hung sash windows except the rear westward facing dormer which has additional sidelights to the main sash window. Square butt asphalt shingles cover the main gable roof as well as the porch roofs.

The interior of the house is predominately a plaster coating over a binding wire mesh covering the wood frame. This plastered finish has both wood cornices and baseboards. A single dog-leg stair case leads to the upper floor rooms. Access to the stairway is gained by a single plain trimmed doorway and door which have been added recently as an energy conserving service. All rooms have stove pipe chimney conduits, most now closed, that lead to the two gable end chimneys on the roof.

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Substantial alteration of the main house does not appear to have taken place. The building stands as constructed although cracks within the cement mortar and damage by woodpeckers on the facade is apparent. Contributing

Reader Cabin (SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 9, T12N, R89W). 1873. The cabin attributed to the Reader's initial settlement of this ranchstead is still incorporated into the main ranch complex. The building is substantially constructed of locally available box elder logs and has weathered time well. Noah Reader and his family settled on this ranch in the early fall of 1871 and wintered with two local mountain men. In the Spring of 1872 the one room cabin now found on the property was constructed. No foundation was apparently laid, although some large sandstone blocks are visible underneath the cabin sill logs. The planed rectangularly hewn box elderlogs feature square hewn heads for the square notched corner joints. A gable roof of corrugated metal tops the simple utilitarian cabin. This roof overlies plain clapboard clad gable. The southern elevation has a shed roofed clapboard extension built on to the original cabin structure. The entire structure is presently used for storage. Contributing

Ice House (SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 9, T12N, R89W) undetermined. The structure is a rectangular plan, gable roofed ice house of wood clapboard construction built immediately adjacent to the Reader Cabin. A board and batten metal hinged door provides entrance to this simple unassuming building. A sawed diamond shaped ornament lies above the doorway on the open gable. Rough cut stone provides the foundation. Contributing

Outbuilding (SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 9, T12N, R89W) ca. 1872. The structure is a small outbuilding constructed of rounded stripped logs with square notched corner joints. A coarsed rock foundation underlies the rounded sill logs. The roof is a corrugated sheet metal sloping shed roof. An addition is evidenced on the structure facade where a chicken wire fence and roof extension has been added. The present owner of the property has said he made the alterations for housing chickens. These alterations are temporary constructs and could easily be removed. The date of construction for this building has been determined (or estimated) by the similarity the building seems to the Reader Cabin in cladding materials and construction techniques. Although the logs use are rounded rather than planed, the execution of the construction is quite similar. As examples, the square cut notched joints, subrectangular floor plan and weathered appearance of the logs used lend support to this contention. The buildings location adjacent the "Stonewall" rock escarpment, suggests it might have constituted a portion of the original corral complex. Contributing

Outbuilding (SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 9, T12N, R89W) Undetermined. The structure is an open facade work shed of corrugated sheet metal construction. Both stripped and unstripped pine logs provide the frame to which the metal is nailed and lashed. The structure has no foundation and features a sloping shed roof. Robert Rasmussen, the present owner stated this structure was recently erected by he and his son. Non-Contributing

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Outbuilding (SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 9, T12N, R89W) Undertermined. The outbuilding is a wood rame, clapboard clad, rectangular shed with a gabled roof; the roofing material is sheet metal laid over frame joists. A single board and batten door and casement window opening (presently boarded up) are found on the north facing facade. The structure is presently being used for storage.

Non-Contributing

The Stonewall Ranch Barn (SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 9, T12N, R89W) Undetermined. The building is a split level bank barn built into a small slope above the terraced hay fields of the stonewall ranch. The barn's lower level is constructed of locally available sandstone and slate rock incorporated with concrete and, in some courses, dry coarsed. This first story rock construction forms the foundation of the entire structure. On the east elevation a single centrally located doorway with a board and batten dutch door provides entrance into the lower level stalls and tack room. A single fixed window is adjacent this door and provides light for the northernmost end of the stalls. Stripped pine logs provide vertical support to the lower level interior structure and are placed immediately adjacent the rock constructed foundation walls. Boards of rough sawn lumber lie horizontally in between the vertical support poles and the rock wall in some places. The upper story floor joists and floor form the roof of the first story. A small square opening in the upper story floor provides access to the upper story. The upper story of the barn is constructed on a rectangular plan, matching the underlying foundation, and is composed of vertical board and batten planed wood over a braced frame. A single crib interior with a westward flanking shed extension is reflected in the asymmetrical roof profile; one that shows a gable roof joining a sloping "catslide" roof. The shed extension has a dirt floor while the main crib floor is wooden boards. The uniformity in the cladding materials and stone foundation argues for contemporaneity of construction for both portions of the entire structure. Structurally the building displays no adverse modifications and retains its integrity in both terms of design and setting. Slippage of the east elevation foundation wall requires care, however, as a significant bow in the wall is discernable.

Contributing

Corrals (S $\frac{1}{2}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 9, T12N, R89W) Undetermined. Although these east to west oriented corrals are of recent constructions it is not difficult to discern that the main ranch corrals have been along this sandstone escarpment for some time. Verification of this theory is most readily observable in the distinct change in vegetation and soil along the sandstone face in comparison to the open fields adjacent the corral area. Secondly, numerous well worn horse trails are observable in this area, and lastly, the present owner of the property, who constructed the existing corrals corroborates these impressions by stating the corrals have always existed at this location. The

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"Stonewall" escarament forms the backside (northern border) of the corrals. The front side is constructed of vertically placed uprights of split creosoted railroad ties and stripped round pine log beams. A long (25m) loading chute is incorporated into the southward edge of the main corral. The corral complex is split into three segments including a main corral (which has remnants of a frame structure in it) and two smaller enclosures flanking the easternmost extension of the main corral. Vegetational and soil changes observed adjacent these two enclosures suggest the corrals at one time extended much farther (50m) east. The 1000 square meters encompassed within the present corral was built by the present owner, Mr. R. Rasmussen, after he took possession of the property in 1946. The corral fence does not detract from the integrity of the property but rather enhances it. The mode of construction is certainly compatible with the existing historic structures and buildings and certainly reflects use of local materials that would have been available throughout the ranch's history.

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The Stone Wall Ranch was the first permanent ranch homestead founded within the Little Snake River Valley. When started by Noah and Hosannah Reader in 1871, the Valley as a whole had only seen periodic travel by mountain men (beginning in the 1840's) and miners drawn to the Hahn's Peak, Colorado gold rush (the late 1860's). Reader was drawn to the Little Snake River area by local trapper and miner Henry "Bibleback Brown" Brockmeyer when he chanced to meet while provisioning in Rawlins. Brockmeyer induced Reader to winter footworn stock along the Little Snake near to where Brockmeyer and local trapper William Slater had established a cabin on the river's confluence with Savory Creek. Reader drove his ox driven wagon and stock, estimated to number 10-15 head of cattle, to the Little Snake Valley. A temporary cabin was constructed for the winter of 1871-1872 initiating the founding of the first Little Snake ranch. In 1872-1873 a more permanent log structure was built, a structure still incorporated into the ranch complex today. Reader filed a claim under the Homestead Act of 1862 on the property (November, 17, 1888) including 120 acres on the north bank of the Little Snake River. A patent on this property was granted on February 25, 1890. From Reader's initial success the Little Snake Valley grew quickly. Beginning in 1873, cattlemen like George Baggs, Earl Fuhr and W.E. Timberlake began to establish ranches on the untapped rangeland in and adjacent the valley. The Reader ranch was an important waystation in these early years. Local Indians, primarily Utes traveling from the Wind River Agency, sought treatment from Mrs. Reader who was seen as a local medical expert by Indian and white alike. In the early 1870's as miners, trappers, and cattlemen traveled eastward from the valley to Hahn's Peak the Readers kept an open house selling small amounts of supplies and allowing camping on the ranch.

By 1875, according to Carbon County tax assessment records, Reader had built his herd to include 150 stock cattle, 16 horses and 6 swine. By 1880 the totals showed 80 "neat" cattle, 3 horses, 2 mules, and 7 swine. Neither of these amounts elicited much excitement in regards to their number, the nearby Snake River Cattle Company, a corporation operated by William Swan and associates from George Baggs "Old Double 11" ranch, held 345 head of horses and 19,354 head of cattle in 1885. Even Bagg's 1883 holdings, tabulated before selling to Swan, showed a total of 5000 head of cattle. Nonetheless, Reader's ranch was more typical of the valley's and regions settlement pattern in being a small owner-operator spread, a distinction it continues to fill up to the present owner. The continuity with which the ranch has continued to operate is marked. From its original inception this small homestead has continued to be a small family owned operation. This is the primary reason the ranch has continued to retain its integrity in terms of location, design and historical association.

Ohio born, Noah Reader (1821-1914) was a veteran of the California Gold Rush, Illinois lead mines and Iowa farming. In 1871 he, his wife Hosannah and three

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sons George, William, and Albert, journeyed to Wyoming their way to Montana. In Rawlins John Brockmeyer convinced Reader to winter on the Little Snake River. Here near the confluence of the River and Savery Creek, Brockmeyer and his associate Bill Slater helped Reader build a temporary cabin for winter and, in 1872-1873, a permanent log structure. The Reader or "Stone Wall" ranch stayed within the Reader family until 1925 when local area merchandiser and ranchman Clarence Helwig bought the property. Between 1901 and 1910 Noah Readers son Albert, and active participant in the Snake River Stock Growers Association, owned the ranch. Albert Reader, as a member of the association, joined other area ranches with small holdings in combating the take over of grazing lands by big cattle companies and joined in conspiracies against local cattle rustlers and, on one occasion, officials of the newly formed Forest Service. Subsequent owners of the ranch included Mrs. Bonnie Rasmussen McMahon, who obtained the property in 1931. The present owner Robert Rasmussen is the son of Mrs. McMahon and obtained title to the property in 1946 after residing on it for three years.

The lure of gold played a role in the settlement of the Little Snake River region. On Hahn's Peak, at the headwaters of the Little Snake, gold was found by Joseph Hahn in 1862. Accompanied by two confidants, George Way and William Doyle, in 1866, Hahn and his associates found sufficient amounts of placer gold to warrant further investigation after winter. Unfortunately, Way left to obtain much needed winter supplies and, inexplicably, never returned. Hahn died in the winter of malnutrition and exposure while Doyle barely escaped with his life by attempting to return to civilization with Hahn and fortuiously being found by some stockmen. John Brockmeyer and William Slater reinvestigated the area in 1870 and began sluicing operation on nearby willow creek. By 1874 enough miners were in residence that the "Hans Peak mininig district" was duly recorded within Grand County Colorado. Approximately \$500,000 dollars of placer gold has been estimated to of been extracted from the gravels of the district. The heyday of activity within the district lasted only 10 years but did include a substancial investment of \$150,000 by John W. Forwell of Chicago into a 15 mile long ditch built to enable mining through hydrolic power. The returns were poor and Farwell ended up taking a substantial loss. During the height of the Hahn's Peak rush (1870-1875) the Stonewall Ranch served as a waystation to the freighters and miners traveling through the Little Snake River Valley. A small amount of business between the Readers and travelers has been reported to have sprung up at this time as the traffic increased. Apparently the Reader's sold some supplies to the miners as well as providing a favored camp spot for them. In 1878 a Star Route mail delivery contract was awarded to E.E. Bennett that traveled from Rawlins to Dixon and on the Hahn's Peak passing through the Reader Ranch. The eastern leg of this route through the "Stonewall" area ended with the diminishment of the Hahn's Peak Rush.

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Barnhart, William R. The Early History of Carbon County, Wyoming.
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Burroughs, J.R. Where the Old West Stayed Young, New York: William Morris and
Company, 1962.

Moore, Austin L. (editor). Souls and Saddlebags, the Diary and Correspondence
of Frank L. Moore, Western Missionary 1888-1896. Denver, Big Mountain Press,
1962.

Rankin, M.W. Reminiscences of Frontier Days, Denver-Smith Books, 1935.

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The Stonewall Ranch draws its significance from two factors, the complex of buildings and structures that comprise the ranch complex and the natural setting that provides a backdrop to the ranch's unique environmental setting. The boundaries formed for this nomination include all of the ranch's significant architectural and functionally interdependent features as well as its unimpaired visual qualities.

The southwestern site boundary point lies 500' (152m) north of the section marker of sections 7, 8, 17, and 18, T12N, R89W, Savery, Wyoming 7.5' Quadrangle. This point (point A) is at the confluence of the Coal Bank Draw drainage and the Little Snake River. Here trees and vegetation form a natural boundary that holds significant ecological and aesthetic qualities important to the site's integrity. This integrity is reinforced by the hay fields, open meadows and groves of trees lying immediately north of this boundary point. The section line between sections 8 and 9 runs northward from point A and provides a convenient and practical boundary line for the western side of the property. By using this boundary line the groves of riparian trees and interspersed natural and man-made meadows are retained and incorporated in to the site boundaries. From point A the boundary therefore runs straight northward 1100' (335m) and terminates at the junction of four ranch roads lying at the northern end of the ranch's property line. At this arbitrarily selected point (point B) the boundary trends directly eastward, across the Coal Bank Draw Drainage and up to the top of a steep sandstone escarpment forming a natural wall above the drainage. This heavily eroded natural wall of sandstone gives the ranch a unique natural backdrop. Referred to as the "stonewall" the escarpment runs along a line approximately paralleling the 6560' contour line of the USGS Savery, Wyoming 7.5' Quadrangle within the S1/2 of the S1/2 of section 9, T12N, R89W. A benchmark of the USGS topographic survey lies near the top of this escarpment and represents point C for the purposes of this boundary description. Point C lies 600' (183m) due east of point B. The combination of these two points form 1/2 of the northern boundary of the property.

The incorporation of the "stonewall" into the nomination boundary accentuates the vital visual link between this feature and the entire ranch plan. Bounding the northeastern quadrant of the ranch the "stonewall", trending southeasterly from point C, is incorporated into the ranches extensive main corral complex. The boundary for the nomination therefore follows the escarpment southeasterly for 500' (152m) to point D. Point D lies at the height of the escarpment where it is directly above the easternmost extent of the corral complex. To include the visually significant escarpment into the nomination necessitates crossing into a small segment of the nearby Reader Cemetary as marked on the USGS Savery quadrangle. This portion of the cemetary contains only a very thin dirt mantle overlying the bedrock sandstone. The USGS map therefore overestimates the practical southwesterly extension of the graveyard and the portion of the site boundary extending across this portion of the cemetary includes only those portions of the cemetary necessary to retaining the visual qualities of the property. No intrusion of non-contributing elements from the graveyard are included in the nomination.

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The functionally integrated complex of buildings and structures found on the east side of the ranch are bounded by a straight line running southward from point D to point E. The eastern extension of the main corral complex, where it incorporates the "stonewall" as its northern boundary, marks the eastern end of the ranch's historically significant components. As point D lies directly above this extension of the corral it sets the easternmost extension of the nomination boundary. As future construction on the corral could change this relationship it is important to note that point D lies 500m due southeast of point C, the USGS benchmark (6495'). From point D the boundary runs straight and due south 900' (275m) to the northern bank of the Little Snake River and point E. Again, as was the case with the western boundary, the boundary is set at a line that retains the visual integrity of the nomination property and thus incorporates fields, groves and meadows adjoining the ranch's eastern built environment.

From point E the boundary follows the northern bank of the Little Snake river for approximately 900' (275m) and intersects with point A. The total acreage enclosed within the boundaries equals 27 acres.