USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form Flying Horseshoe Ranch Albany County, Wyoming (Page 1)

0NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018 (Rev. 10-90) 1226 United States Department of the Interior National Park Service NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES & EDUCATION **REGISTRATION FORM** NATIONAL PARK SERVICE 1. Name of Property FLYING HORSESHOE RANCH historic names: Wolbol Ranch, Rhinesmith Ranch, Dinwiddie-Mason Ranch other names/site number: 48AB1194 2. Location street & number: 156 Dinwiddie Road not for publication N/A city or town: Centennial vicinity: X state: Wyoming county: Albany code: 01 zip code: 82055 code:56 3. State/Federal Agency Certification As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this $\underline{\chi}$ 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 ___ not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considèred significant ___ nationally ___ statewide \(\frac{1}{2} \) locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.) State or Federal agency and bureau In my opinion, the property ____ meets _ __ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.) Signature of commenting or other official Date State or Federal agency and bureau

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4. National Park Service Certification
I, hereby certify that this property is:
entered in the National Register See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet. determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register other (explain): Signature of Keeper Date of Action
√ 5. Classification
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) X private public-local public-State public-Federal
Category of Property (Check only one box) building(s) X district site structure object
Number of Resources within Property
Contributing 16

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: $\underline{\text{N/A}}$

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) $\underline{\text{N/A}}$

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC

Sub: single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE

Storage, animal facility, agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC

Sub: single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE

Storage, animal facility, agricultural outbuilding

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat. OTHER: LOG

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: STONE

roof: WOOD, ASPHALT SHINGLES

walls: WOOD, LOG

other

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- X A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
 - B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- XC. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes. _ B. removed from its original location. _ C. a birthplace or a grave. _ D. a cemetery.
- _ E. a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F. a commemorative property.
- _ G. less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) Cat. <u>AGRICULTURE</u> <u>ARCHITECTURE</u>
Period of Significance: ca. 1878-1950
Significant Dates: 1883, date of patent
Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
Cultural Affiliation: N/A
Architect/Builder: Mads Wolbol
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
9. Major Bibliographical References (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.
Previous documentation on file (NPS) preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested. previously listed in the National Register previously determined eligible by the National Register designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #
Primary Location of Additional Data State Historic Preservation Office _X_ Other State agency Federal agency Local government University Other Name of repository: Wyoming State Archives

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 20.26 acres

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

Zone Easting Northing

- 1. 13 406490 4569260
- 2. 13 406760 4569260
- 3. 13 406760 4568970
- 4. 13 406410 4568975
- 5. 13 406410 4569090
- 6. 13 406540 4569100
- 7. 13 406540 4569130
- 8. 13 406500 4569130
 - ___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Robert G. Rosenberg, Historian organization: Rosenberg Historical Consultants

street & number: 739 Crow Creek Road

city or town: Chevenne

state: WY

date: 1/07/2000; Revised 7/18/2000

telephone: <u>(307)-632-1144</u>

zip code: 82009

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name: Blaine E. Thompson, Porter E. Thompson, and Helenmae Thompson

street & number: 2620 Bayonne Street

city or town: Sullivan's Island

state: South Carolina zip code: 29482

telephone:(843)883-0461

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FLYING HORSESHOE RANCH ALBANY COUNTY, WYOMING

7. Description

The Flying Horseshoe Ranch is located in Albany County, Wyoming, about two miles southeast of the town of Centennial. This ranch complex is located in the Centennial Valley on the east flank of the Medicine Bow Range and near the eastern foot of Centennial Ridge, a prominent north-south trending ridge that forms the west side of the Centennial Valley. Sheep Mountain forms the east side of the Centennial Valley, and the land slopes gently to the southeast toward Sheep Mountain. The ranch buildings are located on a terrace on the west side of the North Fork of the Little Laramie River. The Flying Horseshoe Ranch includes fifteen log buildings, two structures, and a stone root cellar. Most of the buildings and structures are grouped in an inverted ell-shaped configuration around the edge of a meadow. The original homestead dwelling and the current ranch house are positioned at the top of the ell, and the remaining outbuildings are easily accessed from them. A large wood frame-and-log cow barn, a log horse barn, a log turkey house and barn, and two log livestock shelters are located away from the main complex to allow for corral space and to separate livestock from dwelling areas. The original log homestead dwelling is no longer in use. A more recent log ranch house was constructed in front of or immediately south of this building and serves as the current main dwelling. There are two large spruce trees and a log fenced yard in front of the ranch house.

The ranch complex is dominated by log buildings exhibiting at least three different kinds of construction techniques. However, the most dominant is a V-notching style that was used in ten of the log buildings; it appears that they were built by the same person, because the execution of the V-notch joint is identical. The homestead dwelling and a large horse barn both exhibit half-dovetail notching that appears quite similar. This suggests that they were constructed by the same builder, Mads Wolbol, the original homesteader, or a person or persons hired by him to construct the buildings. The horse barn is a fine example of piece-sur-piece log construction. The main ranch house has been covered with clapboard siding and recently sheathed with vinyl siding so that it is no longer possible to view the log construction techniques. There is a total of sixteen buildings and two structures in the ranch complex. All are considered to be contributing elements except for one structure, a metal silo, that is considered to be a noncontributing element to the district. Two modern buildings, a recent metal garage/workshop and a cement block dwelling/garage have been excluded from the district, because they are less than fifty years of age and because they consist of building materials and styles that are not consistent with the log architecture that dominates the ranch complex. The main ranch house is considered to be marginally contributing because it has been covered with vinyl siding. It is not considered to be intrusive, because for most of its history the building was clad with clapboard siding that is visually approximated by the recent wood-grained pattern gray vinyl siding.

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FLYING HORSESHOE RANCH ALBANY COUNTY, WYOMING

The Flying Horseshoe Ranch has operated continuously as a cattle ranch for over one hundred years. It is located in a sparsely populated rural setting in a valley nearly surrounded by mountains. Therefore, it retains excellent integrity of setting. The buildings within the district boundaries span the history of the ranch and depict its evolution from a small log homestead cabin to a substantial working ranch with a wide array of barns, stock shelters, and outbuildings. The log building materials and construction techniques remain constant and homogeneous throughout the ranch complex district. The ranch location and building layout take advantage of the well-watered site on the North Fork of the Little Laramie River and its tributaries. The dwelling area is physically separated from the livestock maintenance areas and is screened by willows and advantageously located upwind. The barns, livestock shelters, and corrals are laid out for economy of feeding, maintaining, and moving livestock. The buildings and structures within the district are described below. Sequential letters correspond with locations on the sketch map.

The hog barn (A) is the most southerly of a group of buildings arranged in a north-south alignment along the western perimeter of the main ranch complex. According to the Albany County Tax Assessor, the building was constructed in 1900. It is a one-story front-gabled log building (19' N-S x 20' E-W) resting on an informal dry-laid stone foundation. The walls are constructed with full round peeled logs with V-notching. The logs are chinked with cement mortar held in place with wood strips. The gently pitched roof is constructed with log purlins and ridgepole that support a wood sheathed deck that is partially missing. The remainder of the wood deck is not covered with any roofing material. The east side or facade has a doorway and two small window openings, one of which is in the gable end. Neither window has any sash. There is a small window opening without sash in the south wall. There is also a low opening in the west end of the north wall for the passage of hogs. The interior has an east-west log half wall. There is also a partial wood floor. The interior has a ceiling supported with log poles that is insulated with hay. The building is currently used for storage. It is considered to be a contributing element to the district.

The blacksmith shop (B) is adjacent to the hog barn on the north side. According to the Albany County Tax Assessor, it was constructed in 1900. It is a one-story front-gabled log building (18' N-S x 19' E-W) resting on an informal dry laid stone foundation. The walls are constructed with full round peeled logs with V-notching. The logs are chinked with cement mortar held in place with wood strips. The moderately pitched roof is constructed with log purlins and ridgepole that support a wood sheathed roof. The sheathing is no longer covered with any roofing material or shingles. The east side or facade has a door opening and a boarded up window bay without sash. The wood plank door has several brands burned into the wood. There is also a boarded up window bay on the south side. The interior has a partial wood floor with a stone hearth built against the west wall. A round metal flue extends above the stone work and through the roof. There is a wooden tool bench located in the southeast corner and a set of wood shelves in the northwest corner. This building displays identical construction techniques to the hog barn (A) and was probably constructed by

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OMB No. 1-24-0018

the same builder at about the same time period. The building is currently used for storage. It is considered to be a contributing element to the district.

A metal grain storage silo (C) is located directly north of the blacksmith shop. It is 14 feet in diameter and 8 feet high and has corrugated steel walls and a conical reinforced ribbed metal roof. There is a sheet metal door on the east side. The structure rests on a wood frame pad. This structure was moved to the south side of Building D when the new metal barn was constructed in 1996. However, the silo is prefabricated and constructed so as to be portable. The age of the silo is unknown, but it appears to be less than fifty years of age. This structure is considered to be a noncontributing element to the district.

The next building (D) in this north-south row is a one-story front-gabled log building (18'6" N-S x 22' E-W) resting on an informal dry-laid stone foundation that is visible on the rear or west side. The walls are constructed with round peeled logs that have been hewn flat on their inner surfaces. V-notching is used to join the logs at the corners, and cement mortar is used for chinking and held in place with wood strips. The gently pitched roof is constructed with log purlins and ridgepole and supports a milled lumber deck that was formerly covered with red roofing paper. However, most of the paper was been blown off by the wind and is in need of replacement. The east side or facade has a wood panel door. Dates have been carved into the door frame. Readable dates are 1913 and 1916. According to the Albany County Tax Assessor, it was constructed in 1900. There are boarded-over single window bays in the south and north walls. They contain double-hung windows, two lights over two lights, with wood sash and frames. The interior walls of the building are covered with a variety of flattened cans such as "Mail Pouch" and "Prince Albert" oval hinged-lid tobacco cans and shortening cans. They appear to act as an additional seal for the chinking cracks in the logs. The interior also has a wood floor and a milled lumber ceiling. There is a round metal flue and opening in the roof near the rear or west end of the ceiling where some kind of wood stove was once located. The current owners believe that this building may have once served as a store of some kind based on the abundance of metal cans; however, the original function of the building cannot be fully documented. It appears that it was built with more care than Buildings A and B as evidenced by the hewn inner walls and may have been intended for use as a dwelling such as a bunkhouse. It was also wired for electricity. The dates in the door frame indicate a minimal early date of construction. The V-notching and overall building techniques suggest the same builder and date of construction as Buildings A and B. Building D is currently used for storage. It is considered to be a contributing element to the district.

North of Building D are two large modern buildings that have been excluded from the proposed National Register district. A large front-gabled steel barn (a) is located directly north of Building D in the north-south alignment. This building was constructed in 1996 and measures 56' E-W x 36' N-S. It has a wood frame covered with ribbed metal sheeting. The gently pitched gable roof has sky lights to help

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illuminate the interior. There are no window bays in the building. The building rests on a concrete pad. The east side or facade has a set of large sliding metal doors to allow the passage of large machinery. Because of the date of construction, scale and materials, the boundary has been drawn to exclude this building.

An elongated, one-story shed-roofed cement block building (b) consists of two distinct components, a living quarters on the south and a large garage/workshop area on the north. It measures 78' N-S x 24' E-W. According to the Albany County Tax Assessor, this building was constructed in the 1952. Due to its relatively late building date, scale, design, and materials, the National Register boundary has been drawn to also exclude this building.

Building E is reputed to be a schoolhouse that was moved from another location on the ranch. However, no documentation has been located to verify its function or that it was moved. According to the Albany County Tax Assessor, it was constructed in 1900. The building is also depicted in a pen-and-ink drawing of the ranch drawn by Merritt Houghton in about 1900. It is located at the west end of an east-west alignment of buildings that form the north portion of an inverted ell that is the main portion of the ranch headquarters. It is a one-story, moderately pitched gable-roofed log building (31' E-W x 17' N-S) resting on an informal dry laid stone foundation. This side-gabled building has walls that are constructed with full round peeled logs with V-notching. The log chinking is filled with cement mortar held in place with log strips. The building has a wood frame gable roof that is covered with red tar paper. The south side or facade contains an entrance near the center with a wood panel door with original hardware. There is a poured concrete stoop in front of the doorway. There is a double-hung window, four lights over one light, with wood sash and frame flanking the doorway on either side. There is also an entrance with a wood-panel door in the east side of the building. The interior is divided into two rooms by a north-south log wall. The west room has been remodeled using thin modern 4' x 8' sheets of wood paneling with a dry wall ceiling. There is a brick chimney flue located on the east wall of the room. However, there is no longer an opening in the roof for the chimney. The east room retains original or early blue painted narrow wood paneling on the walls and ceiling with original molding and baseboard. Building E is currently used for storage. It is considered to be a contributing element to the district.

Building F is the current main ranch house (51' E-W x 35' N-S). According to the Albany County Tax Assessor, this building was constructed in 1890. The original, or west, component of this building was constructed with logs. Numerous wood frame additions were subsequently constructed that have resulted in several varied roof lines. It appears that the original component was a one-and-one-half-story, front-gabled or gabled ell structure. There is a one-and-one-half-story, gable-roofed addition on the rear or north side of this component, creating a second end gable to match the original on the north side. There is also a one-story hipped-roofed addition to the east side of the house that filled in the ell created by the gable-roofed

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addition. This addition also extended the living space by seven feet beyond the eastern end gable of the original component. Finally, there is a small shed-roofed wood frame addition (9' E-W x 9'3" N-S) on the east portion of the north side. The south side has an open full-facade shed-roofed porch with half walls, a wood deck and square tapered support columns. The ceiling of the porch has original or early narrow wood paneling. The exterior walls were formerly covered with shiplap siding but have recently been covered with a gray vinyl lap siding with a wood grain pattern. The roof is clad with asphalt shingles. The west side of the building has a massive external stone chimney. The west roof slope has a shed-roofed dormer that was probably added at a later date to provide natural light to the second story. There is also a rear slope red brick chimney in the original component. There are two large windows flanking the main entrance under the porch roof on the facade with a large lower light and a narrow elongated upper light. The main entrance has an interior wooden door and an aluminum storm door. The one-story east addition has two sets of triple doublehung windows, two lights over two lights, with wood sash and frames. The northeast portion of this addition is essentially an enclosed porch with an entrance and double-hung windows, two lights over two lights. The small shed-roofed addition on the north side has a wood panel door in the east side. There is also a 3 x 3 light window in the rear or north side of the main building component. Other windows consist of a double hung window, one light over one light, in the west wall and a small one-light window on each side of the exterior stone chimney high in the wall. The ranch house is considered to be marginally contributing due to the vinyl siding. It appears that all additions are at least fifty years of age, and the vinyl siding is reversible.

Building G is identified by the current owners as the original homestead cabin. It is located behind. or north of, the current ranch house and is no longer used except for storage. The building probably dates from the late 1870s or early 1880s. It is a one-story, side-gabled log building (39' E-W x 16' N-S). The walls are constructed with logs that were hewn on their outer and inner surfaces and utilized half-dovetail notching. It is evident that a high degree of craftsmanship was involved in the construction of this cabin. The log walls are chinked with cement mortar held in place with wood strips. The building has a wood frame roof covered with green and red tar paper. The gable ends are covered with board-and-batten siding. There is a fullfacade open shed-roofed porch on the south side with simple square wooden support columns. The main entrance is centered under the porch roof and has a wood panel door with four lights. Windows generally consist of tall double-hung units, four lights over four lights, with wood sash and frames. There is a wood frame shed-roofed addition (7' N-S x 7'10" E-W) built onto the west end of the south side. The exterior walls are clad with shiplap siding. The addition has exposed eaves. There is a wood panel door in the south side of the addition. This is an obvious later addition to the building. The interior consists of four rooms divided by N-S interior walls with interior entries to connect all the rooms. The westernmost room is unfinished so that the hewn log walls and log ridgepole in the roof are visible. There is a brick flue on the east wall of the room. The half-dovetail notching and hewn logs represent a different style of log craftsmanship and suggest a different builder than the aforementioned buildings. It is likely that this building was constructed by the

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original homesteader, Mads Wolbol, and is probably the oldest component in the ranch complex. This building is considered to be a contributing element to the district.

Building H is a one-story, side-gabled log cabin (18' E-W x 14' N-S) located about fifty feet north of Building G on the northern perimeter of the district in a heavy growth of willows. This cabin is also abandoned and is only used for storage. The walls are constructed with full round peeled logs with V-notching. They are chinked with cement mortar held in place with wood strips. The roof is supported with log purlins and ridgepole with a wood deck covered with tar paper. There is a rear slope round metal chimney. The south side has a wood door with vertical boards. Windows consist of two side-by-side four-light horizontal sliding units with wood sash and frames in the south side and a two-light fixed window with wood sash in the east side. The interior has one room with a wood floor. The cabin is in poor repair and is located on low wet ground so that the sill logs are rotting. The function of the building is unknown. It exhibits the same log craftsmanship that is prevalent in most of the buildings that comprise the ranch complex. It is considered to be a contributing element to the district.

Building I is a root cellar (19' N-S x 13' E-W x 6' high) located northeast of the main ranch house. According to the Albany County Tax Assessor, this building was constructed in 1890. It is constructed with stone and has a wood frame gable roof covered with red tar paper. The south side has a peaked false front covered with cement and painted gray. This false front does not appear to be original and has no function. A slanted entrance with a wooden door (3' E-W x 7' N-S) is centered on this side. Steps descend into the root cellar. The interior has a concrete floor. The walls of the root cellar extend about three feet above ground and are covered with decorative stone. The root cellar is in good condition and is considered to be a contributing element to the district.

Building J (15' N-S x 16' E-W) was formerly used as a chicken house. It is the most northerly of a group of three buildings aligned on a north-south axis and facing west toward the ranch house. According to the Albany County Tax Assessor, it was constructed in 1900. It is a one-story front-gabled log building without a formal foundation. The sill logs have rotted so that the building has settled. The walls are constructed with full round peeled logs with the V-notching that is prevalent in the majority of the log buildings in the ranch complex. The walls are chinked with cement mortar held in place with wooden strips. The moderately pitched roof is wood frame and the deck is covered with red tar paper. There is a square wooden ventilator protruding from the ridge of the roof. The west side or facade has a horizontal wood plank door. There is an opening near the east end of the south wall for the passage of animals into a wire pen. The northeast corner has a slaughter room that has a concrete floor. There is a separate entrance into this facility on the north side of the building. This building has also been used as a pig house by the current ranch manager. It is considered to be a contributing element to the district.

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Building K is a side-gabled log outbuilding (24' N-S x 17' E-W) that is open on the east side. According to the Albany County Tax Assessor, it was constructed in 1900. It appears to have been used as a livestock shelter. It has a shed-roofed wood frame addition on the north side (8' N-S x 13' E-W) that was used for coal storage. The walls of the main building are constructed with full round peeled logs with V-notching. They have been chinked with cement mortar held in place with wood strips. The roof is constructed with log purlins and ridgepole that support a milled lumber roof. The west roof slope is covered with red tar paper. The east roof slope displays bare wood. The west side has a vertical wood plank door on the south end. This building has no formal foundation, and the sill logs have rotted. As a result, the south end of this building has settled a foot or more into the ground so that this door can no longer be opened. This building is considered to be a contributing element to the district.

Building L is a front-gabled log building (17'6" N-S x 13' E-W) that has no formal foundation. According to the Albany County Tax Assessor, it was constructed in 1900. It was formerly used as a pump house for providing water to the ranch house. Some of the pumping equipment remains in the interior. Otherwise, the building is not in use. The walls are constructed with full round peeled logs with V-notching. The walls are chinked with cement mortar held in place with wood strips. The building does not appear to have a formal foundation and portions of the sill logs have rotted. Therefore, the overall building is settling so that the walls are no longer plumb. The south side or facade has a wood plank door and a single window bay without sash that has been boarded over. The roof is supported with log purlins and ridgepole. The deck is wood sheathing covered with red tar paper. Although this building is not actually connected to Building K, it is immediately adjacent to it on the south, and there is an entrance on the north side to provide access to it. Building L is considered to be a contributing element to the district.

Building M is a large cow barn (120' N-S x 50 E-W) . It is a front-gabled, monitor-roofed, wood frame building with wood frame, shed-roofed additions on the east and west. It rests on a poured concrete foundation. It is physically removed from the main portion of the ranch complex and is visibly screened by willows. The building is constructed with a combination of logs and milled lumber framing. The lower portion uses round peeled logs for vertical support. The main vertical supports are set in concrete piers. The monitor roof uses milled lumber for a truss system that ties into the lower log frame. Pole logs are spaced between the trusses. The roof has a wood sheathed deck covered with metal sheeting. The metal sheeting has also been applied to the clerestory area of the monitor roof and to the exterior of the north barn door. The exterior walls are covered with wood sheathing. The gable ends are covered with tar paper. There are six 3-light clerestory windows on each side of the monitor roof to provide natural light to the interior of the barn. The barn is arranged on a north-south axis, and there are large twin leaf wooden doors at the north and south ends. The tops of the doors are suspended from runners so that they slide apart. The interior of the barn has a central aisle on a north-south axis. Series of metal rail stalls and metal rail holding pens are located

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on either side in the shed-roofed additions. There is no hay loft in the barn. At one time, hay was hauled into the barn and deposited into a wooden trough for feeding cattle; the trough has been removed. The north end of the barn opens into a corral that is partially protected from the prevailing winds by vertical log pole and slab log fencing. The barn obviously post-dates the log construction on the ranch. Tax Assessor's records estimate the date of construction as 1952; however, this date may be only a rough estimate, as the barn appears to be at least fifty years of age. It is considered to be a contributing element to the district.

Building N is a shed-roofed log livestock shelter (34' N-S x 17' E-W) that is located on the west side of the corral that is connected to the north end of the cow barn (M). Its purpose is to provide shelter from the prevailing wind for livestock during inclement weather. The walls are constructed with round peeled logs that are chinked with cement mortar held in place with wood strips. The east side of the building is open for livestock access. The rear corners of the building use square notching, a technique that was not used in any of the other log buildings in the ranch complex. The front corners are supported by vertical round peeled logs set in the ground. There are additional vertical round logs that help support the roof of the shelter. The roof has a log support system with a wood deck covered with metal sheeting. The upper third of the open east side is enclosed with vertical wood sheathing. The exact construction date of this building is unknown, but it appears to be at least fifty years of age. This building is considered to be a contributing element to the district.

Building O is a side-gabled log outbuilding (55' E-W x 24' N-S) that is located due south of the cow barn (M). Part of this building was originally used as a turkey barn. The walls are constructed with full round peeled logs. They are chinked with cement mortar held in place with wood strips. The roof is constructed with log purlins and ridgepole and is covered with wood sheathing and wood shingles. It appears that the wood shingles were later covered with green tar paper that has since deteriorated and blown off. This building appears to have been built during two different time periods, because it is divided into two segments with different building techniques. The western portion is 18' E-W and exhibits square notching. The remainder of the building exhibits the typical V-notching seen in most of the other buildings in the ranch complex and therefore probably dates from around the turn of the century. There is also an intervening 8-foot wide area between the two interior spaces that runs through the width of the building north-south creating a main aisle. It has a wide plank door on the south side. The eastern portion of the building has a concrete floor and once served as a turkey barn. It had a bank of windows in the south wall consisting of a series of double-hung windows, eight lights over eight lights, with wood sash and frames. All of the glass is gone, and some of the space has been boarded over. The western segment of the building appears to be a livestock shelter. There is an elongated rectangular opening in the west wall of this segment with a hinged wooden cover. At present, the interior of this building is blocked off from livestock. However, there is a large pole corral surrounding this building that connects to Building M. This building is considered to be a contributing element to the district. NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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Building P is a large, steeply pitched side-gabled log horse barn (31' N-S x 51' E-W) that stands alone on the southern perimeter of the district. The building rests on a partial rock foundation. The walls are constructed with full round peeled logs with half dovetail notching. They are chinked with cement mortar held in place with wood strips. The long walls display piece-sur-piece construction; that is, the ends of the logs are beveled to form a tenon that fits into a grooved vertical log member. Thus, the long wall dimensions could be achieved using shorter logs. There is a full piece-sur-piece joint in the north and south walls of this barn. There is also a partial joint in the west wall. It is possible that this barn may have been extended on the west end. There is a full log wall with half-dovetail notching seventeen feet east of the current west end wall. The interior wall has been hewn on both sides. The barn has a wood frame roof with milled lumber rafters and wood sheathing that is covered with galvanized corrugated roofing. The ground level of the barn is divided into two rooms. The westernmost portion (17' x 31') is completely open in the interior without stalls, feed troughs or any other furnishings. It has a large door bay on the north. However, there is no door currently installed. The larger eastern portion (34' x 31') has a wood plank floor and a central east-west aisle. There are log and wood plank stalls on either side of the aisle. The east end of the barn has a large twin leaf wooden barn door. There are small rectangular openings in the long walls that appear to be for ventilation and not for lighting. The barn has a loft with a wood plank floor supported by log tie beams that are squared on the ends and extend through the side walls so that the ends are visible from the outside. The loft is reached via a wooden stairway set in the northwest corner of the barn. The loft has a half log wall that is part of the inner hewn wall. There is a rectangular opening in the loft area on the east and west gable ends. These openings appear to be too small to accommodate the loading of hay into the loft. The barn has a rather unusual cupola centered on the ridge of the roof. It is six feet square and has a gable roof. This feature was probably constructed to ventilate the barn. However, this cupola has a set of wooden stairs and a worn wooden railing leading up to it. The cupola also has a wood floor. It acted as a lookout or viewing area with a large opening on the north and south sides. The cupola gives the viewer an excellent view of the overall ranch complex, meadows, and surrounding mountains. The walls of the cupola are heavily engraved with names and dates. The earliest legible date is 1903, indicating that the barn is at least ninetysix years of age. According to the Albany County Tax Assessor, the barn was constructed in 1890. barn is prominently depicted in a pen and ink drawing completed by Merritt Houghton in about 1900. At the time of this nomination, this building was in the process of being repaired and stabilized. The rotted sills logs were being replaced and the foundation rebuilt to plumb the sagging walls. Restoration was completed by the late fall of 1999. This building is considered to be a strong contributing element to the district. It is particularly well crafted, utilizing piece-sur-piece construction techniques, and is one of only two log buildings utilizing half-dovetail notching.

Building Q is a livestock shelter located in an isolated area at the northwest corner of the district. It is a one-story, side-gabled log building (37'6" N-S x 20'6" E-W) that does not appear to have a formal

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foundation. The walls are constructed with full round peeled logs with V-notching. They are chinked with cement mortar held in place by wood strips. The building has a gently sloping gable roof supported by log purlins and ridgepole with a milled lumber deck covered with tin sheeting. There are vertical log members inside the building that are sunk into the ground and aid in supporting the roof. The east side of the building has a large rectangular opening for the passage of livestock. There is also a small elongated opening set high in the east wall. The interior has a dirt floor and a wooden hay mow built into the southeast corner. The exact construction date of this building is unknown, but it appears to be from around the turn of the century. According to the Albany County Tax Assessor, it was constructed in 1890. This building is considered to be a contributing element to the district.

Structure R consists of the remains of a large wooden water wheel that once powered a sawmill at this location. The sawmill and associated machinery are gone, but there are the remains of a rotting sawdust pile. The water wheel is set at the south end of a narrow rectangular wooden frame that is 14 feet long and 8 feet wide. The main water wheel is about 4' wide and turned in a mill race. The smaller inner wheel probably held the drive belt that transferred the power to a smaller drive belt wheel set on a shaft that turned the saw blade. The history of this sawmill and dates of use are unknown, but it is obviously quite old. The water wheel is depicted in the ca. 1900 drawing by Houghton. This structure is considered to be a contributing element to the district.

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8. Significance

The Flying Horseshoe Ranch is being nominated under Criterion A for its association with pioneer ranching in Albany County, Wyoming. The Centennial Valley is a definable geographical area of Albany County that trends northeast-southwest and is drained by the Little Laramie River. It is bounded by the Medicine Bow Range on the west and south and by Sheep Mountain on the east. The mouth of Centennial Valley opens into the Laramie Basin on the northeast. The mountains physically isolate the valley from other ranching areas in Albany County and also make it a well-watered area that is ideal for the raising of livestock, principally beef cattle. It was in the Centennial Valley that Mads Wolbol, a Danish emigrant, settled in the late 1870s and began to build a ranching operation that would ultimately consist of 2,400 deeded acres. It is also eligible under Criterion C for its outstanding vernacular log architecture that is reflected in a number of buildings, including a piece-sur-piece log horse barn, a blacksmith shop, bunkhouse, and the original homestead house. The log horse barn was in danger of collapse and ruin but has been recently stabilized with a new foundation and sill logs at great expense to the current owners. The ranch complex today closely resembles a pen-and-ink drawing made by Merritt Houghton in circa 1900 and retains many of the buildings depicted in that drawing.

Early History of the Centennial Valley

The Centennial Valley was not actively settled until the mid-to-late 1870s. The chief impetus for settlement was the discovery of gold deposits in the stream gravels on nearby Centennial Ridge in 1875-1876. The Centennial Mine was discovered in January 1875 and became the principal lode mine in the district. It was intensively developed in 1876 after receiving eastern financial backing. An ore sample from the mine won first prize at the Paris Exposition in 1876. The mine and other properties were developed by the Centennial Gold Mining Company, whose president was Stephen W. Downey. A ten-stamp mill was constructed, but the vein was lost and all development ceased in August 1877. Although the Centennial Ridge mines did not have lasting commercial success, they served to lure many people to the area. As a result, the Centennial Valley's potential for livestock grazing was recognized by many of these newcomers.

The railroad tie industry also contributed to the early use and recognition of the region. The tall and straight lodgepole pines that covered the slopes of the Medicine Bow Range were ideal for railroad ties. Ties were cut and hewn by tie hacks using broadaxes and used for the building of the first transcontinental railroad, which crossed the region in 1867-1868. A lasting tie cutting industry developed as the railroad beds required continuous maintenance and tie replacement. The new town of Laramie was created by the railroad and became the site of major railroad shops. As a result, railroad ties, mine props, and lumber were cut in the Medicine Bow Range and driven down nearly every stream in the mountains, then floated down the Little

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Laramie and Big Laramie rivers to a tie treating plant in Laramie. Some men who were engaged in the timber industry such as Charles Bussard also established ranches in the Centennial Valley. Secondarily, many men such as Mads Wolbol were first attracted to Laramie by employment with the Union Pacific Railroad, then saved their money to buy land and engage in livestock raising in the surrounding area.

The General Land Office Plat dated 1878 and surveyed in the fall of 1877 depicts several of the pioneer settlers in the Centennial Valley. They include Garrett, Anderson, Christianson (sic), Bussard, Markle, Beckford (sic), and Harris. The *Official Map of Albany County, Wyoming Territory* dated 1886, depicts only a handful of pioneer ranches in the valley. They include Wolbol, Christensen, Garrett, Bickford, Harris, Bailey, Anderson, Wilkins, Motley, the Dole Brothers, and Tom Bird.

One of the earliest settlers in the valley was Charles H. Bussard, who ran a lumber yard in Laramie and cut railroad ties in the Medicine Bow Range. Bussard used his ranch site as early as 1868, first as a lumber camp for his timber operations and to cut hay for his horses. In 1876, he sold the property to Thomas B. and David B. Dole of Ohio. They named the ranch the "Buckeye" for their home state. They formed the Albany Land and Cattle Company, which was financed mostly by Scottish backers and ran 3600 head of blooded Short Horn and Hereford cattle. The other trustees in the company were John W. Donnellan, Robert Marsh, and Stephen W. Downey, the latter one of the owners of the Centennial Mine. The company filed the first water right on the Middle Fork of the Little Laramie River and did extensive ditching to develop the hay meadows. This ranch is located about two miles southeast of the Wolbol Ranch.

The Bow Fiddle Ranch was established along the Little Laramie River by James May in 1872. As such, it was also one of the earliest ranches in the Centennial Valley. May ran cattle and also raised Percheron horses. He spent his life on the ranch and willed it to two of his sons, Lloyd and Claude.

At about the same time, the 91 Ranch was established by George and Josh Brown as a cattle ranch. Although official land entries date from 1879 and 1883, the Browns may have been in the Centennial Valley as early as 1872 and were among the earliest ranchers in the valley. They sold the ranch to a Mr. Kirsten from Illinois, and he soon sold it to two wealthy Englishmen, Neil Egerton Gresley and John George Clinton Robbins. These men made land entries in 1888 and 1889. Gresley and Robbins operated the ranch partly as a dude ranch, charging wealthy Englishmen to engage in the ranching experience. C.G. Logan replaced Robbins in the partnership in 1892.

Other early settlers included the Markles, who established the first ranch south of Centennial on the North Fork in about 1875; in 1884, they sold to Wilkins. Homer and Fred Bickford established an adjacent ranch on the North Fork. They were engineers on the railroad and lived in town but maintained this small

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ranch, which later became a part of the Engen Ranch and Baily Ranch.

C.P. Christensen was another among the early pioneer ranchers in the Centennial Valley, and many subsequent homesteaders purchased land from Christensen. The Christensens lived in the Centennial Valley from 1877 to 1901. Their ranch is depicted on the 1878 General Land Office plat and was about one and one-half miles southwest of Mads Wolbol. Portions of it were sold to Wolbol in 1900 and became the location of Platinum City in the early twentieth century.

The Deerwood Ranch was established by Tom Bird in 1881. He was a Canadian who grew up in New York and came west to cowboy around Laramie. The other members of his family, William, Sarah, and George, all filed homestead claims in the general area and established irrigation ditches that bore their names. Tom Bird died in an accident, and the ranch was purchased in 1906 by Fred W. and Lucia Geddes. The Deerwood Ranch remained in the Geddes family until 1971.

Another early area rancher was Jason Baily (Bailey). He and his two brothers Eugene and Joshua came west to work for the Union Pacific Railroad in 1880. They originally bought land near Lake Hattie but later dissolved their partnership. Jason and his wife Louisa soon bought 160 acres in the Centennial Valley from Nels Anderson and established a ranch in about 1882. Jason died at age 45, leaving Louisa to run the ranch with the help of her eldest son, Edwin. Most of the ranch has remained in the Baily family for five generations.

On the edge of the Centennial Valley, the Vee Bar Ranch was established by Theodore Bruback. He erected the first cabin and barns in about 1883, and three irrigation ditches carry his name. He sold the ranch in 1886 to Arthur W. Phillips, who in turn sold it to four people. In 1890, the property was acquired by Lionel C.G. Sartoris, a wealthy Englishman. He built a one-story, ten-room house in 1891, which later became the Fillmore Stage Stop and is known as the Vee Bar Lodge today. (A second story was added by Gordon Wright in around 1912.)

In 1881, Jack Douglas-Willan purchased the Millbrook Ranch from Charles J. Steadman and his partners and registered his brands. The Millbrook Ranch was located six miles east and north of the Vee Bar. Douglas-Willan sought financial backing in England for a great horse ranch and found it with Urban Sartoris, who bought into the partnership for his sons, Lionel and Frank. The Douglas-Willan-Sartoris Company was incorporated in 1883, and the Millbrook Ranch became its principal headquarters. They imported purebred Hereford cattle and horses. They also entered the local mining business and erected a ten-stamp mill at Keystone. The company went bankrupt in 1892 and the partners separated; Lionel Sartoris ended up in South America, Frank Sartoris in New Zealand, and Douglas-Willan in England.

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The Wolbol Ranch

Mads Wolbol was born in Denmark on February 12, 1841. He was the son of Nels and Mary Wolbol. both natives of Denmark. He was educated there and then worked for his father on the family farm. In 1871, he decided to immigrate to America, leaving his family and relatives behind in Denmark. He left New York City shortly after his arrival and traveled to Omaha, Nebraska, where he remained for one year. He then came to Laramie, Wyoming, where he worked in the Union Pacific Railroad shops. He worked there for about three years, saving money to buy a ranch. In 1872, he married Katherin Iverson, a Danish woman whom he had courted in the old country. According to Mrs. Wolbol's obituary, the couple bought a small ranch near Red Buttes where they lived for several years. Also according to the obituary, they then returned to Laramie and soon purchased a ranch from Pete Christensen in the Centennial Valley, on which they lived for the remainder of their lives; Christensen was described as the first settler in the Centennial Valley. However, the existing land records do not show this land transaction from Christensen to Wolbol. The land records do show that Wolbol received a Desert Land Entry Patent from the U.S. Government in January 1883 for a fortyacre parcel consisting of the SW/NE Section 14, T15N-R78W. Under the existing homestead laws, Wolbol had five years to prove up on his homestead; therefore, he could have been on the land as early as 1878. He also purchased a land parcel from Jorgen Jensen via a Warranty Deed on November 12, 1889. It consisted of the N/NE, SE/NE Section 14 (120 acres). The ranch complex is located on this parcel of land for which Jensen received a patent almost two years later, on July 28, 1891. Jorgen Jensen was a fellow Dane who later Americanized his name to George Johnson; he and his wife Mary established their ranch northwest of Wolbol.

Wolbol received a Territorial appropriation to divert water from the North Fork Little Laramie River through the Wolbol Ditch on June 1, 1880, indicating that he occupied the land by this date. He later received a Territorial appropriation to divert water from the same drainage through the Wolbol-Bailey Ditch on June 20, 1884. He also received a Territorial appropriation to divert water from the North Fork Little Laramie River through the Wolbol Nos. 1, 2 and 3 on June 7, 1885, as well as a Territorial appropriation to divert water from the same drainage through the Wolbol No. 4 Ditch in May 1887.

Wolbol gradually expanded his holdings by homesteading and purchasing additional adjoining parcels. He received a patent for the SE-1/4 Section 14 (160 acres) under his wife's name in 1891. He expanded westward in the same section by receiving a patent for the E-1/2/NW and the E-1/2/SW Section 14 (160 acres) in 1890 under his own name. He purchased the Christensen Ranch holdings in 1900 in Section 15 and the NW-1/4 Section 11, and the W-1/2/SW, SW/NW Section 14. Christensen had patented this parcel in 1892, and his former ranch headquarters were located where Platinum City was later built. This purchase could account for the reference to Christensen in Mrs. Wolbol's obituary. The Wolbol holdings gradually

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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increased until by 1902, he owned approximately 2,400 deeded acres of land. Starting with a herd of only twenty cattle, Mads Wolbol built up his enterprise until he became one of the foremost ranchers in the Centennial Valley. He used the "OT" brand, which was displayed on the left rib of his cattle and left shoulder on his horses. His twin sons registered the "TO" brand on their cattle.

The Wolbols bore nine children, six sons and three daughters; however, four of the six sons died in infancy. Their surviving twin sons, Nels and Walter, tragically died within five weeks of one another when they were only twenty years old. One of the brothers died from typhoid fever in Omaha while accompanying a cattle shipment. The other brother caught a cold while riding in from the ranch to attend his twin's funeral in Laramie. It developed into typhoid fever and he too died three weeks later. The three daughters were named Dora, Laura, and Eva.

Mads Wolbol and his wife deeded their ranch to their daughter Eva Wolbol Rhinesmith in 1907. However, it appears that Mads continued to manage the ranch until his death on July 11, 1915. He had been ill for six months with stomach cancer, and an operation in Denver had proved unsuccessful in stemming the disease. He died at his ranch at the age of 74. After Mads died, Mrs. Wolbol lived with her daughter on the ranch. Her daughter had married local rancher Milton Rhinesmith, and the property became known as the Rhinesmith Ranch during the late teens and 1920s. It is shown as such on maps of the Medicine National Forest in the 1920s. After an extended illness, Mrs. Wolbol died at the ranch on November 21, 1924, at the age of eighty-one. Portions of the ranch were leased by the Rhinesmiths to the Centennial Valley Oil Company in 1920. In 1928, the land was sold to Andrew J. Hull, who formed the Wyoming Platinum and Gold Mining syndicate.

Hull was a local miner but perhaps is better described as a mining promoter. He was in partnership with Jacob Schnitzler, a miner who had discovered a copper claim on the west side of Centennial Ridge in 1896. During the digging of two tunnels, Schnitzler had exposed ore that he had identified as pyrite, and he therefore paid little attention to it. However, in 1923, ore from the tunnel was assayed and found to contain platinum which precipitated a rush to stake out properties in the area. When a number of mines were opened on nearby Centennial Ridge exploiting the short-lived platinum boom, Hull was the prime mover in advertising the potential of the area. He formed the Wyoming Platinum and Gold Mining Syndicate on May 7, 1927. This syndicate controlled twenty-four lode claims and 180 acres of placer claims on Centennial Ridge. Hull never lost faith in the potential of the district to produce commercial quantities of platinum despite gloomy assessments by the U.S. Geological Survey and others. Therefore in the late 1920s, Hull and his associates began developing the syndicate's properties on a large scale by means of the Queen shaft, a 153-foot adit to the northeast, and a large double compartment adit on what became known as the Platinum City Mine. This tunnel had reached a length of 1100 feet by the spring of 1931. Hull built a large 75-ton mill at a cost of

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\$70,000 at the mouth of the tunnel to treat the platinum ores. He also platted a town site known as Platinum City on the valley floor along the right-of-way of the Laramie, Hahn's Peak, and Pacific Railroad, which was located on the Rhinesmith ranch holdings. At this location, he constructed a power plant to provide electricity for the mine and mill. He also built a refinery and treating plant and laid out town lots. Experiencing treatment problems in the platinum mill, he later added a flotation machine that is still intact and in the mill ruins. Hull had little interest in ranching when he purchased the Rhinesmith Ranch. He wrote in a mining report in 1928 or 1929 that "In order to handle this large amount of ore the management has purchased and taken over the Rhinesmith ranch which adjoins the property on the east for dump grounds and the water rights and we feel that we are well protected in the future to have the room to dump our tailings." The *Laramie Leader* carried a story on Platinum City on April 8, 1931, showing photographs of the town site, power plant, mill and refinery. The article continues:

For some time a city has been platted adjoining the mining property, and when Mr. Hull has the mines sufficiently developed to need a small army of men, the lots will be sold, houses and stores built, and a model city started, with everything that goes to make a model city according to the best plans.

Despite a reported mill run of \$22,000 worth of platinum in April 1931, Hull's venture ultimately proved to be a failure. In 1934, he was indicted for mail fraud. The Wyoming Platinum and Gold Mining Syndicate had disposed of over five hundred thousand shares of stock, mostly out of state, and had distributed circulars and letters that apparently exaggerated the claims that the syndicate owned. Hull was never convicted and continued to prospect and work in the Centennial area for many years. Today, the Platinum City site retains a few stakes marking streets for the planned town site and a pile of tumbled bricks.

In 1933, the ranch holdings were sold in a sheriff's sale to Will E. and Laura Wolbol Davidson and Oda Mason. Oda Mason and his wife Mamie obtained the deed for the ranch in 1934. The Masons were living and ranching on land in the Big Laramie area and combined the new holdings with their existing ranch. They went into partnership with their daughter Violet and her husband Jack Dinwiddie. The property was co-owned and became known as the Dinwiddie-Mason Ranch. Jack Dinwiddie was the son of a prominent Texas rancher who raised purebred herefords. The partnership raised fine commercial and purebred Hereford cattle. It is not known if any of Mads Wolbol's herefords remained; Wolbol had purchased some of the first herefords to be brought into the Centennial Valley in 1890. Oda Mason was the eighteenth President of the Wyoming Stockgrowers Association and President of the Southern Wyoming Hereford Breeder's Association and a charter member of the Cowboy Hall of Fame. In 1940, Oda and Mamie Mason sold their interest to Jack and Violet Dinwiddie, although Mason continued to hold the mortgage and apparently was still involved in the business, as Dinwiddie and Mason were still showing and selling hereford cattle together in 1945.

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In 1967, the Dinwiddie Ranch was sold to Guye D. Smith and Sons of the Medicine Creek Ranch in Kennebec, South Dakota. Jack and Violet Dinwiddie built a retirement home on the southeastern face of Sheep Mountain and wintered in Arizona. The Masons retired to Laramie, Wyoming, where they died several years later. Guye Smith used the name Medicine Creek Ranch, and his son Barry and wife Sally lived on the ranch and operated the business, raising registered quarter horses and grazing yearlings on the ranch in the summer.

Blaine Thompson, Porter Thompson, and Helenmae Thompson, the current owners, purchased the property in 1993. At present, it remains a working cattle ranch with a full-time ranch manager. It consists of 2,400 deeded acres with 1,600 acres of Forest Service grazing land.

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10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The northwest corner of the property is defined by Point 1. The north boundary line proceeds 90 degrees due east for a distance of 900 feet to Point 2, which is located along the common section line of Sections 13 and 14 (T15N-R78W), approximately 1700 feet south of the section corner (Sections 11, 12, 13, 14). The east boundary line proceeds 180 degrees due south along the section line for a distance of 920 feet to Point 3, which is the quarter corner between Sections 13 and 14. The south boundary line proceeds 270 degrees due west for a distance of 1120 feet to Point 4.

The west boundary is irregular. It proceeds 0 degrees due north from Point 4 for a distance of 320 feet to Point 5. It then takes a jog in order to exclude two modern buildings from the district. It proceeds on a east-northeasterly bearing of 84 degrees for a distance of 340 feet to Point 6, running between Building D and a modern metal barn. It turns due north on a bearing of 0 degrees for a distance of 130 feet to Point 7. It then turns west-southwest on a bearing of 264 degrees for a distance of 120 feet to Point 8, running along the north building line of a modern cement block building. The west boundary continues 0 degrees due north for a distance of 450 feet to Point 1, Point of Beginning.

Boundary Justification

The proposed National Register boundary encompasses all of the contributing elements in the Flying Horseshoe Ranch complex with at least a 100-foot buffer to maintain integrity of setting and to exclude two modern buildings: a large metal barn and a cement block dwelling/garage. In the absence of other logical geographical or man-made boundaries such as fencelines and roads, the basis of the boundary is the common line between Sections 13 and 14. Therefore, the east boundary is anchored to this section line and a quarter corner marker. The remaining points are established in relation to the section line and quarter corner and are also geodetic points reproducible on the ground through standard survey procedures.