National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REDISIES

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines* for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

om ro occup. Type an omnoc.			
. Name of Property			
istoric name Diamond	L A Ranch		
her names/site number Spring	Ranch, 48FR2726	·	
			·
Location			de an familia de la como de la co
eet & number Route 31 Bo	x 805		Anot for publication
y, town Dubois	5.6		☑ vicinity
ate Wyoming code	56 county Fremont	code 013	zip code 8251
Classification			
	Category of Property	Number of Resour	ces within Property
private	building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
public-local	X district	14	buildings
public-local public-State	site		sites
5 '	hand a second a secon	***************************************	
] public-Federal	structure		structures
	object	1 /	objects
		14	0_Total
me of related multiple property listing			uting resources previously
oneer Ranches/Farms in Fre	emont County, Wyoming, ca.	 listed in the Nation 	nal Register <u>0</u>
365-1895 State/Federal Agency Certificat	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
Signature of certifying official	Marcen	i	Date Date
State or Federal agency and bureau			
In my opinion, the property meets	does not meet the National Regis	ter criteria. 🗌 See co	ntinuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official	entra Marianteniari (m. 1804). Antari de esta de la composition de la composition de la composition de la comp		Date
State or Federal agency and bureau			
National Park Service Certificat	ion		
hereby, certify that this property is:			
entered in the National Register.	autoriette 1 lice		8/19/91
See continuation sheet.	urounter y are		0/14/14)
determined eligible for the National	•	•	
Register. See continuation sheet.			
determined not eligible for the	•		
National Register.			
The second of the second second second	,		
removed from the National Register.			
other, (explain:)	*		
	hn Signature of the	Vooner	Date of Action
	Mr Signature of the	Veghei	Date of Action

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions
same
Materials (enter categories from instructions)
foundation <u>stone</u>
walls <u>log</u> , stone
roofasphalt shingles
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Diamond A or Spring Ranch is located in Fremont County, Wyoming, about eight miles southeast of the town of Dubois. This ranch complex is located in the Wind River Valley on the northeast flank of the Wind River Range. The ranch buildings are on a terrace on the southwest side of the Wind River with steep mountain ridges to the west. Several springs emanate from the ridge slope, giving the ranch its current name. The Diamond Ditch and Carson Ditch also flow through the ranch, making the site well watered. There are hand-planted conifers around the main ranch house, and natural cottonwoods, willows, and junipers grow along the irrigation ditches and flowing springs. The Diamond A Ranch is comprised of fourteen original or early log and stone buildings roughly grouped into a dwelling area and livestock maintenance area separated by the Carson Ditch. The stone and log ranch house is sheltered and visually screened from the highway and the remainder of the ranch complex by a thick growth of large planted conifers. The original portion of the ranch house is a coursed ashlar, gable-roofed building constructed in 1903. There is a large truncated hipped-roof log addition on the southwest elevation, and a leanto log addition on the rear or northwest elevation, both added after 1917. A wood frame wash house/bunkhouse, springhouse, and privy complete this grouping and are located a short distance northwest of the ranch house. The log homestead cabin, possibly dating from as early as 1891, a log garage, a wood frame granary/root cellar, log barns, stock shelters, a chicken house, and corrals are located in a tight grouping southeast of the Carson Ditch and northeast of the Diamond Ditch. Finally, there is a log calf shed and log generator house located west of the Carson Ditch and the other buildings near the springs on the steep northwest ridge slope. The generator once used the waters from the Diamond Ditch to provide electricity for the ranch, but it is no longer in service. A second log residence and a slab log guest cabin, although over fifty years of age, have been remodeled and have not been included within the district boundaries. There is a total of fourteen buildings, all of which are considered contributing elements to the complex. The Diamond A Ranch has operated continuously as a cattle and/or horse ranch for nearly one hundred years. It is located in a sparsely populated rugged mountainous region and is well screened from the modern highway on the west side of the Wind River. Therefore, it retains excellent buildings of setting. The within the district boundaries span the history of the ranch and depict its evolution from a small log

8. Statement of Significance	•
Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in ationally states	
Applicable National Register Criteria XA BXC D	
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)	□E □F □G
Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions) Agriculture Architecture	Period of Significance Ca. 1891 Ca. 1891
	Cultural Affiliation N/A
Significant Person _David Williamson	Architect/Builder David Williamson

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. The Diamond A Ranch is historically significant for its association with pioneer ranching in Fremont County. It is the only one of the thirteen ranches surveyed in this portion of the county that retains physical integrity and integrity of setting and was established during the time period set forth in the Multiple Property Documentation Form entitled "Pioneer Ranches/Farms in Fremont County, Wyoming, ca. 1865–1895." It retains fourteen well-preserved and finely-crafted stone, log, and wood frame buildings, many of which were constructed by David Williamson, a stonemason known throughout the region who also constructed many stone buildings for Wyoming towns, Fort Washakie, and nearby ranches. The ranch has received few modern modifications or visual intrusions yet has been well-maintained. It is therefore an exceptional example of a late nineteenth century stockraising homestead in Fremont County.

Historical Background: The history of ranching and farming in Fremont County is closely bound to Euro-American settlement within the region that now encompasses Fremont County. The three major catalysts for settlement were the Oregon Trail, which passed through the southern portion of Fremont County; the building of the first Transcontinental Railroad through southern Wyoming territory in 1867-68; and the discovery and development of gold deposits at South Pass in 1867-68. impetus was the creation of the Wind River Indian Reservation on the east flank of the Wind River Mountains in 1868. North-south transportation routes were soon established, linking the South Pass gold fields and the reservation with the railroad. The pioneer stockmen of Fremont County consisted of two disparate groups. The first consisted of the English and Scottish "cattle barons" who established large ranching enterprises, generally based along the Sweetwater River Valley. However, their cattle ranged as far north as Badwater Creek and the Copper Mountains. Many of these cattle barons were absentee owners who hired intermediaries to manage their properties. The second group of pioneer stockmen were the jacks of all trades" who were first lured to South Pass by gold, working as miners, laborers, freighters, or merchants, and gradually evolved into

9. Major Bibliographical References	
Previous documentation on file (NPS): preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested previously listed in the National Register previously determined eligible by the National Register designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	Primary location of additional data: State historic preservation office Other State agency Federal agency X Local government University Other Specify repository:
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of property 6.108 UTM References A [1,2] [6 2,1 0,4,0] [4,8 1,4 8,0,0] Zone Easting Northing C [1,2] [6 2,1 1,0,0] [4,8 1,4 7,5,5]	B [1,2] [6]2,1[1,0,0] [4,8]1,4[8,0,0] Zone Easting Northing D [1,2] [6]2,1[2,0,0] [4,8]1,4[7,5,5] X See continuation sheet
Verbal Boundary Description	X See continuation sheet
Boundary Justification	X See continuation sheet
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Robert G. Rosenberg, Historian	date October 15, 1990
organization Rosenberg Historical Consultants street & number 739 Crow Creek Road	date <u>0ctober 15, 1990</u> telephone <u>(307)632-1144</u>
city or town Cheyenne	state Wyoming zip code 82009

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number ______ Page _____2___

homestead cabin to a substantial stone house with later log additions and a wide array of barns, stock shelters, and outbuildings. Building materials and construction techniques remain constant and homogeneous throughout the ranch complex. The ranch location and building layout take advantage of the well-watered site and natural shelter from the prevailing wind offered by the steep northwest mountain ridge. The dwelling area is physically separated from the livestock maintenance area and is screened by trees and advantageously located upwind. The barns, livestock shelters, and corrals are closely associated and laid out for ease in feeding, maintaining, and moving the livestock as needed. The buildings within the district are described below. Sequential numbers correspond with locations on the sketch map, and contributing structures are shaded.

The main ranch house (1) was constructed in several separate building episodes, the earliest dating from 1903. It is a one-story gable-roofed, coursed ashlar building (22.4' x 16') with two log additions. The first is a large truncated hipped-roofed addition (25.6' \times 26') with a stone foundation and a bay window on the southwest elevation. The second is a leanto log addition on the rear or northwest elevation of the stone building that forms the kitchen. The log additions are constructed with full peeled logs with boxed corners and cement chinking. There is a third small wood frame leanto addition built onto the rear or northwest elevation of the hipped-roof segment that fills in a six-foot space to form a straight building line across the back. The exterior of this addition is covered with clapboard siding. All of the roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. There are three internal stone chimneys and two round metal chimneys protruding from the roofline. wooden deck running across the front or southeast elevation. Windows are typically one-light casement units opening outward. The stone portion has stone lintels and sills. The stones surrounding all window and door openings have been carefully shaped and squared to form straight lines and 90 degree corners. The stone portion is the earliest part of the building. The interior consists of a livingroom, bedroom, bath, and closet in the hipped-roofed addition, and a bedroom and kitchen in the stone portion and log leanto addition, respectively. Interior walls are generally finished with plaster and retain original wood moldings and trim. The building has wood floors throughout. The ranch house retains good physical integrity and has received few modern alterations. The log additions are considered to be historical modifications that denote the evolution of the building. It is therefore considered a strong contributing element to the district.

The privy (2) is a wood frame building with an unclad leanto roof. It is covered with vertical wood siding, and a single hinged wooden door

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	7	Page	3
----------------	---	------	---

is located in the southwest elevation. It is considered a contributing element to the district.

The washhouse/bunkhouse (3) is a one-story wood frame building (20' x 10') with a gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. The building rests on a stone foundation and is covered with pressed metal siding. The exact age of the building is unknown, but it appears to date from the 1910s-1920s time period or earlier. There is an internal stone chimney protruding from the roof. There is a wood panel door and a six-light window in the southeast elevation and two 2-light sliding window units in the northwest elevation. This building appears to be in its original or early condition with few or no modern modifications and is considered a contributing element to the district.

The springhouse (4) is a one-story wood frame building (6' x 12') with an unclad gable roof. The exact age of the building is unknown, but it probably dates from the same time period as the stone ranch house (about 1903). There is a single door in the northeast elevation. The exterior walls are covered with vertical wood siding. It is built into a stone outcropping from which a spring emanates. The building is no longer in use but retains good physical integrity with no modern modifications. It is considered a contributing element to the district.

The log chicken house (5) is a one-story leanto log building that is now used as a stock shelter. The building is constructed in two segments (16.5' x 12'; 20' x 12'). The southeast segment was constructed with full round logs with square notching. It rests on a stone foundation. It still retains a sod roof supported with log poles. The northwest portion was probably added at a later date or remodelled and is constructed with wood planks with a plywood roof. The log segment is particularly well crafted with a a stone chimney used for heating the structure for the chickens in the winter. Windows are typically paired 4-light units. This building is considered a contributing element to the district.

The log calf shed (6) is a one-story gable-roofed log building $(14' \times 17')$. The walls are constructed with full peeled logs with saddle notching and cement chinking. The roof is constructed with log purlins and ridgepole and a wood roof covered with tarpaper. It was formerly a sod roof. There is a wood plank door and a small two-light window in the southeast elevation. A stone retaining wall was added at a later date to the back wall when the cabin was converted to living quarters. The building has a dirt floor. The building retains good physical integrity with few or no modern modifications and is considered a contributing element to the district.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number ____7 Page ___4

The generator house (7) is a one-story log building $(8' \times 6')$ with a gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. It was constructed in about 1934. The walls consist of full peeled logs with square notching. The building is built over the Diamond Ditch where it plunges down a steep ridge slope. The building once housed a generator to provide electricity for the ranch. The concrete base for the generator is still in place. The building is no longer in use, but retains good physical integrity with no modern modifications. It is considered a contributing element to the district.

The homestead cabin (8) is a one-story gable-roofed log building (12' x 16'). It is one of the oldest buildings on the ranch and could date from as early as 1891. It is constructed with full round logs with saddle notching. The building has no formal foundation. The roof is supported with log purlins and ridgepole and the original sod and pole roof has been replaced with wood sheathing and tarpaper. There is a wood door in the east elevation and a six-light window in the south elevation. It originally had a dirt floor, but a wood floor was added at a later date. The cabin has received no modern modifications and is in good physical condition. It is considered a strong contributing element to the district.

The log garage (9) is a one-story gable-roofed log building (20' x 16') resting on a stone foundation and was built in about 1930. The walls are constructed with full peeled logs with square notching and cement chinking. The gable roof is built with dimensional lumber and covered with wood shingles. There is a sliding double-leaf wood garage door in the northeast elevation. There is a 4 x 4-light sliding window unit in the southwest elevation. The garage is in good physical condition and is considered a contributing element to the district.

The granary (10) is a one-story gable-roofed wood frame building (18' x 22') with a full stone root cellar in the basement. According to tax records, this building was constructed in 1930. The walls are constructed with horizontal wood sheathing. The gable ends are covered with wood shingles. There is a small two-light window in the gable end and a wood plank door in the southwest elevation. The granary/root cellar is well constructed and is one of the original or early buildings on the ranch. Pencil calculations are written on the inside walls and doors concerning grain feedings and prices. This building has received few or no modern modifications, retains excellent physical integrity, and is considered a strong contributing element to the district.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section	number	7	Page	5

Buildings 11, 12, and 13 are adjoining livestock shelters that appear to have been built at different time periods. Building 11 is a leanto wood frame and log stock shelter that is generally open to the southeast. It rests on a dry laid stone foundation. The wood frame portion is 37' x 14'. The log portion is constructed with full peeled logs with saddle notching and is 43' x 14'. The leanto roofs are covered with tarpaper. It is considered a contributing element to the district.

Building 12 is a leanto log and wood frame stock shelter (59' \times 18'), joined to Building 11 forming a T-shaped complex. It is partially open on the southwest elevation that faces the corrals. It contains a tackroom and stalls. It is considered a contributing element to the district.

Building 13 is a one-story gable-roofed log barn (22' x 18') joined to the southeast elevation of Building 12. It is constructed with full peeled logs hewn on the interior surface with square notching. The building rests on a stone foundation. The roof is constructed with dimensional lumber and covered with tin sheeting. The interior consists of four well constructed horse stalls with feed troughs constructed with logs and wood planks. There is a plank door and an eight-light fixed window in the southwest elevation. This building is well crafted with more attention to detail than its counterparts. This is also one of the original or early buildings on the ranch. It is considered a strong contributing element to the district.

A separate barn (14) is a one-story gable-roofed log building (32' x 16') with a dry laid stone foundation. According to tax records, the building was constructed in 1930. It is built with full peeled logs hewn on the interior surface with square notching. It has a dimensional lumber roof covered with tin sheeting. There is a log partition dividing the interior into two 16' square segments. There are wooden dutch doors and paired eight-light windows in the southeast and northwest elevations. This building is also well constructed and has received no modern modifications. It is considered a strong contributing element to the district.

Buildings 11 through 14 are connected to a set of pole corrals built onto the southwest side.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	8	Page	2
----------------	---	------	---

stockmen. They often raised sheep as well as cattle and engaged in limited farming for basic food supply or to supplement their income. This group was more numerous and endured beyond the winter of 1886-87 that ruined many of the European intersts. This group established homesteads and ranches in the Lander Valley and the Wind River Valley and along the Sweetwater River and Beaver Creek. The eastcentral and northeastern portions of Fremont County were generally settled at a later date because of the lack of year-round water sources.

The General Land Office plat surveyed in 1891 shows a cabin at the location of the Diamond A Ranch. John Robert McDonald, a Scotsman, originally established a homestead here. He received a Homestead Entry patent for the ranch in 1905. Little is known about McDonald, but he was probably part of the group of Scottish emigrants who settled in the nearby East Fork Valley during this time period. This area became known as "Little Scotland," and some of the descendents of the original settlers such as the Duncans remain there today. McDonald sold his 160acre homestead to John Williamson on May 26, 1907. Jack Williamson, as he was known, and his brother David Williamson were Scottish stonemasons who were already living in the area. David had received a Cash Entry patent for a 160-acre homestead in the same section in 1904. The Williamson brothers learned their trade from their father. David was born in Perthshire, Scotland, on September 2, 1859, and came to America with his father and brother in 1881. The family worked as stonemasons at several locations across America including New York City and Princeton University, and on stone bridge abutments on the Union Pacific Railroad. In 1888, they worked on the Mormon Temple in Salt Lake City. They came to Fremont County in 1888 and worked on several institutions and commercial buildings in Lander, including the Bishop Randall Hospital, the First National Bank, the courthouse foundation, and the Baldwin Store warehouse. They also worked on the Ferris Hotel in Rawlins. In addition, they helped construct several of the stone buildings at Fort Washakie and several area ranch houses, including the Bain house and the Lower Circle ranch house on East Fork. David Williamson also served as Chief of Indian Police at Fort Washakie.

The Williamson brothers came to the Dubois region in the early 1890s. They first lived on the Upper Circle Ranch with their sister Jean Williamson Sinclair, who cooked there. She had been married in Scotland and came over with one son in 1905-06. Jack and David began by raising horses with Fort Washakie as their principal market. They later entered the cattle business. David Williamson married Annie McKenzie, who had come to America with Jean Williamson Sinclair. They had one daughter Lily who was born in July 1907. Jack Williamson died of tick fever in 1916, and David then moved to the Diamond A Ranch. Oddly enough, the fine stone

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section	number	8	Page	3
			9-	

ranch house on the Diamond A Ranch was not built by the Williamsons but by a man named Boyd in 1903 when it was still owned by Robert McDonald. However, David Williamson built the log additions onto the house after 1917. David Williamson continued to run the Diamond A Ranch until he died of pneumonia on March 18, 1934, at the age of 75.

Annie Williamson ran the ranch after the death of her husband. She sold it to Maggie Kahin in 1969. Kahin had come west as a young girl, spending summers at the T Cross dude ranch above Dubois. In later life she returned to Wyoming, establishing an ecumenical retreat at Ring Lake southeast of Dubois. The Diamond A Ranch, located at a lower elevation along the highway, proved a more convenient winter home, and eventually became her permanent home. She set up office and housekeeping in the old log and stone house among the spruces, where she lived and worked until her death in 1984. Today, the Diamond A Ranch is known as the Spring Ranch for the numerous natural springs flowing from the hillside. It is owned and managed by Sharon Kahin and Brian Kahin.

The Diamond A or Spring Ranch is among the earliest ranches established by the pioneer Scottish families who came to the upper Wind River Valley and East Fork area in the late 1890s and early 1900s. The ranch is most closely associated with David Williamson, skilled stone mason who built several substantial stone ranch houses, military buildings, bridges, and commercial buildings in the area and around the country. The ranch had a prolonged period of single-family ownership by the Williamson family from 1907 to 1969 and operated during that time as a horse or cattle ranch. The ranch also displays fine vernacular architecture with several original or early well-crafted stone and log buildings built by local craftsmen with locally available materials. It retains a high degree of integrity of setting, location, design, workmanship, materials, and feeling and association, therefore meeting the requirements for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 2

- Bureau of Land Management, Master Title Plats, Historical Indices, Tract Books, and General Land Office Plats. Cheyenne: BLM Land Office.
- Case, Betty Starks. Maggie Set Free in the Wyoming Rockies: The Life of Maggie Kahin. Greybull, Wyoming: Wolverine Gallery, 1988.
- Fremont County Courthouse, Tax Assessor's Office, Property Records for the Spring Ranch, Lander, Wyoming.
- Gardner, Gladys (Martha Williamson's daughter). Telephonic Communication, Dubois, Wyoming, 10/11/90.
- Kahin, Sharon. Personal Communication, Spring Ranch, 6/10/90.
- "Dubois Pioneer Passes Away on Sunday, Mar. 18." The <u>Dubois</u> Frontier, Dubois, Wyoming, 3/23/1934.
- Sandoval, Judith Hancock. <u>Historic Ranches of Wyoming</u>. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1986.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 2

UTM References

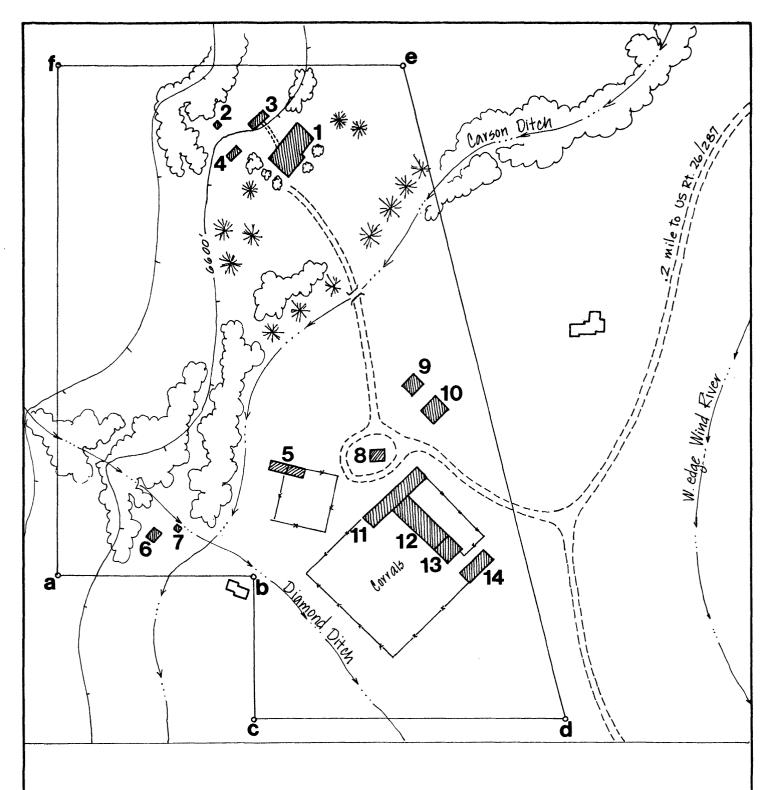
E. 12/621145/4814960 F. 12/621040/4814960

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at Point A (see accompanying map), a point 2,900 feet due east and 300 feet due north of the southwest corner of Section 30, T41N-R105W, proceed due east (AZ. 90 degrees) approximately 200 feet to Point B. From Point B, proceed due south (AZ. 180 degrees) for approximately 150 feet to Point C. From Point C, proceed due east (AZ. 90 degrees) approximately 325 feet to Point D. From Point D, proceed northwest (AZ. 345 degrees) approximately 700 feet to Point E. From Point E, proceed due west (AZ. 270 degrees) approximately 350 feet to Point F. From Point F, proceed due south (AZ. 180 degrees) approximately 530 feet back to Point A.

Boundary Justification

This boundary encompasses all of the contributing elements in the Diamond A Ranch complex. In the absence of other logical geographical and man-made boundaries such as fencelines and roads, the basis of the boundary is the southwest corner of Section 30, a definable geodetic point, and the steep ridge slope that restricts expansion on the west side of the ranch complex. The western boundary roughly parallels this geographical boundary. The remaining points are established in relation to the section corner and are also geodetic points reproducible on the ground through standard survey procedures. The boundary separates the modern elements of the complex from the original or early core of buildings, yet provides enough space to maintain overall environmental setting.



DIAMOND A (SPRING) RANCH (48FR2726)

- stone and log ranch house wood frame privy
- wood frame wash house/bunkhouse
- wood frame springhouse log chicken house/stock shelter
- log calf shed log generator house
- log homestead cabin

- 9. log garage
 10. wood frame granary/root cellar
 11. wood frame & log stock shelter
- wood frame & log stock shelter 12.
- 13. log barn
- log barn 14.

proposed National Register boundary

contour lines fences/corrals

irrigation ditches cottonwoods & willows

conifers

contributing structures noncontributing structures (approx. size and loc.)



100'

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

ection number Page			
SUPI	PLEMENTARY L	ISTING RECORD	
NRIS Reference Number:	91001026	Date Listed:	8/19/91
<u>Diamond A Ranch</u> Property Name	<u>Fremont</u> County	<u>WY</u> State	
<u>N/A</u> Multiple Name			
This property is listed Places in accordance we subject to the following notwithstanding the Nation the nomination documents of the Company of the Place of the P	ith the attaing exception tional Park mentation.	ached nominations, exclusions, Service certif	on documentation or amendments, ication included
Signature of the Keepe	r	Dat	e of Action
Amended Items in Nomina	======== ation:		
Statement of Significate Williamson is removed.	nce: Under	Significant Pe	erson, David
This was confirmed with Historic Preservation		sey of the Wyom	ning State
DISTRIBUTION: National Register Nominating Author			tachment)