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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Dorr Ranch

other names/site number Woody Creek Ranch, 48CO2632

2. Location

street & number Approximately 5 miles NE of Woody Creek Rd and Steinle Rd N/A not for publication

city or town Bill vicinity

state Wyoming code WY county Converse code 009 zip code 82631

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Jeri Liestman, for FS FPO 10/22/2014
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Heritage Program Leader
USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mtn Region, Golden Co 80401
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Mary M. Hopkins 10/9/14
Signature of commenting official Date

Wyoming State Historic Preservation Officer
Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register

other (explain:)

Don Carson K. Beall 12.22.14
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
5		buildings
1		sites
3		structures
		objects
9		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Ranches, Farms, and Homesteads in Wyoming, 1860-1960

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

VACANT

AGRICULTURE/animal facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

No Style

foundation: concrete

walls: wood, log

roof: rolled asphalt

other: _____

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Dorr Ranch is located along Woody Creek, an ephemeral tributary of the Cheyenne River, about 14 miles northeast of Bill, Wyoming. The landscape is rolling grassland with greasewood covered hardpan flats along the drainages. A few cottonwoods and boxelders are found along the drainage. A ridge of small, weathered sandstone outcrops are on a ridge line north of the ranch complex.

The Dorr Ranch contains eight individual elements; five buildings, two structures, and one site are included in this nomination to the National Register. Buildings include the main house, an outhouse, a two-room log cabin, stable, and a one-room log bunkhouse. Structures include a water cistern and a windmill. The site is the foundation remains of a schoolhouse. Of these resources only the stable has construction elements that postdate the period of significance. The two log buildings date to the original arrival of the Dorr family on the property in 1915. The remaining buildings and structures, possibly excluding the stable, were built in the 1920s. Although the site was intermittently occupied by ranch employees up to the 1970s, and the corral complex was intermittently used through 1990, there have been no substantial modernizations made since the 1940s. The property has never had electricity (the house retains gas lamp fixtures), and access remains an unimproved two-track road. Water is provided by a windmill and is stored in a cistern. A simple gravity powered piping system supplies water to the house.

Narrative Description

Main House, ca. 1925, Contributing building

The main house is a moderately sized two-story building with a rectangular plan and nine rooms. It measures 36'0 x 32'0". The building has a red sandstone and concrete raised foundation. It is clad in wood siding. The building's moderately pitched side-gabled roof is covered in rolled asphalt roofing which is a replacement of the original wood shingles. A single red brick chimney penetrates the roof at the apex of the gable and is centered on the gable's axis.

A slightly pitched shed roof covers a porch on the south and east elevations, and is covered with asphalt shingles. The porch is raised up on wood piers that rest on a concrete foundation and the porch floor is about 4-5 feet above grade. The floor consists of tongue and groove pine boards. The porch roof is supported by square wood posts. The porch was enclosed at one time with banks of multi-light windows. Most of the wood mullions are still present, however all the glass is missing. Sidelights at the entry to the porch also remain, but the door is missing. It is not known if the porch is original, however, a 1942 photograph shows the porch on the house.

The foundation consists of irregular local stone covered with concrete. A thin veneer of mortar mix is smoothed across the outside to give the foundation a smoother appearance. The north foundation wall, however, has a thin layer of concrete tempered with local gravels covering the original foundation. This mixture is similar to that found in the porch on the south side of the house and might have been added to the house later to patch up a deteriorating wall.

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The east façade has an off-center entry with a three-panel and glass door on the south end of the façade. North of the entry are two boarded over window openings and a third window south of the entry is also boarded over. The basement level under the porch also has two boarded over window openings.

The north elevation has relatively few openings. There is one boarded over window in the east half of the main level and a boarded opening directly below in the basement level. The west elevation has a single one-over-one, double-hung wood window on the north end and two other boarded window openings on the main level. The southernmost opening is significantly smaller than the others. There are also two boarded openings on the basement level of the west elevation. The south elevation features a three-panel and glass door on its east end with a boarded window opening to the west. The basement level has two, three-panel and glass doors with wood screens.

The main house is on a 6 to 8 degree south facing slope of a low ridge overlooking the Woody Creek drainage. Vegetation on site consists of grasses, greasewood, sagebrush, and saltbrush. Two trees of unknown species were planted by past occupants on the west side of the house. Cottonwood and box elder trees are along the creek to the south. Approximately 100-200 meters north and upslope of the house is a line of sandstone outcrops eroded into irregular shapes that contrast with the rolling grasslands. Although it is not at the top of the ridge, the house is higher than any of the surrounding buildings and structures, offering a good view of the area.

Privy, ca. 1925, contributing building

The privy has two seats and measures 4'9" x 4'4". It is intact but has been tipped on its side near its associated pit. It is a frame building with no foundation, horizontal board siding, and a shed roof. It has screened vent holes in the front and was painted white on the exterior with white walls and green seats on the interior. This color scheme matches the main house.

Two-Room Log Cabin, ca. 1915, contributing building

The two-room log cabin is a moderately sized, one story building with a rectangular ground plan and two rooms. It measures 28'0" x 14'0" with the long axis running east-west. It is located 49 yards southeast of the Main House. The roof, mostly collapsed, is a very shallow gable with three east-west purlins, which were once covered by 1"x8" boards. The building has no foundation although a few sandstone slabs were used to level the corners. The cabin is constructed with two different materials. The walls of the east room are 10-12", square hewn timbers and are chinked with mud daubing. The walls of the west room are square notched round cottonwood and pine logs and chinked with very little mud daubing; instead split-rail chinking is present. There are two entrances to the building on the north and west elevations, both provide access to the west room. The north wall of the east room is partially collapsed. A door was originally centered in this wall. The interior of both rooms retains remnants of mud plaster set on chicken wire. The differences in construction of the two rooms suggest that they were constructed at different times.

One-Room Log Cabin, ca. 1915, contributing building

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The one-room log cabin is a small, one-story building with a slightly rectangular ground plan and one room. It measures 16'0" x 12'0" with its long axis running north-south. The roof has been removed. The log walls are eight courses high, are square notched, and the corner joints are toe-nailed. Both the exterior and interior surfaces of the logs are squared. There is mud daubing between the courses. The walls rest on sandstone slabs on the corners. The east and west elevations each have a single door opening and a one-over-one, double-hung wood window is on the south elevation.

Cistern and Hand Pump, ca 1925, contributing structure

The cistern is a subterranean rectangular structure measuring 15'6" x 9'9". It has a shallow gable roof. The eaves are about at ground level and are only as wide as the walls. The gable ends are covered with 1" x 10" horizontal boards. The roof consists of boards covered with roofing felt and corrugated tin roofing, some of which has blown off. The structure has no obvious entrance. The walls are constructed of concrete. A 2-inch diameter pipe leads into the structure from the north. Another pipe runs from the cistern toward the main house. This structure is believed to be a water cistern connected to the main house by an underground water line. This feature is directly downslope from the windmill and may also be connected to that water source. It appears that a pipe leading from the pump filled the cistern, which in turn fed a pipe into the kitchen of the main house. Water flow to the cistern and the house was controlled by valves along the water line.

Stable, ca 1930, contributing building

The stable has a rectangular floor plan and measures 30'0" x 18'0" x 12'0". The building is supported by sandstone slab footings and is framed with planed 2x4 lumber and clad with corrugated metal siding. This siding was applied after 1949. Photographs prior to this show a tin siding. There are two stables with hay cribs and grain boxes along the west wall. The stalls have dirt floors. Interior dividing walls are framed with 2x4's and covered with horizontal pine boards. The dividing walls form an 8'0" x 10'0" granary and an 8'0" x 4'0" tack room on the north end of the building. These rooms have a pine-board floor. There are two window openings of different sizes on the north end, three window opening of different sizes on the west side, one window opening on the south side, and a sliding stock door on the east side.

Windmill, ca 1925, contributing structure

The windmill is located 191 yards north-northwest of the Main House. It is near the ridge top and is adjacent to a sandstone outcrop. It has a 6" diameter well casing. Two galvanized metal stock throughs are adjacent to the windmill. The galvanized steel lattice windmill tower is about 30' high. It has a wood-plank platform supporting a fully operational Aermotor pump. Two pipes lead from the well. One leads downhill to the cistern and main house.

Dorr School Site, ca 1919, contributing site

This site includes the remains of the Dorr School located 227 yards north-northeast of the Main House. The schoolhouse is a small, one-room collapsed building with a rectangular floor plan. It has a gable roof with wood shingles and milled lumber rafters. The floor is constructed of 1x4 pine boards on 2x8 joists. The walls have collapsed, but the gable roof and floor are generally intact. From the collapsed walls it is possible to determine that the building had a central entrance flanked by two windows on the south façade.

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Corral, 1926, contributing structure

The corrals extend north and east from the stable. Log fences with wire confine the area and divide it into five spaces. Large round logs set vertically in the ground mark the openings between each corral. The main opening in the corrals is at the south end adjacent to a dirt road that winds through the property. A round corral is at the northeast corner. A loading chute is at the east end of the road corral. Additionally, a chute leads from the south end of the corrals to the round corral.

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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.)

- 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.
- C 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

agriculture

settlement

Period of Significance

1915-1949

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Criteria Considerations N/A

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

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

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins in 1915 with the initial settlement of the property by the Dorr family and the construction of the first buildings. The end of the period is 1949 and is the last year that the main house was actively inhabited. After the sale of the property from the Dorr family to the Boot Land and Livestock Company, the property was used as a foreman's quarters for this larger operation. It is known that the house continued to be occupied until at least 1949.

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Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Dorr Ranch is significant under Criterion A in the areas of settlement and agriculture. The Dorr Ranch exemplifies the evolution of a family homestead ranch during the transition from Wyoming's Expansion Period (1890-1920) to the Great Depression (1920-1939). It is associated with the homesteading and New Deal policies of the United States federal government, and also represents individual initiative in successfully developing a ranch within the arid, submarginal environment of northeastern Wyoming. The property meets the registration requirements set forth in the Ranches, Farms, and Homesteads in Wyoming, 1860-1960 Multiple Property Documentation Form.

The Dorr Ranch embodies the evolution of land stewardship in the history of agriculture in eastern Wyoming. The first Euroamerican agriculture in the region appeared in the late 1870s and continued into the late 1880s, and consisted of a relatively few ranchers using the open range to graze enormous herds of cattle. These herds were typically owned by distant investors. After the disastrous winter of 1886-1887, smaller-scale ranches began to appear. By the 1910s and early 1920s, homesteads consisting of small family farms, strongly promoted by the government, dominated the landscape. The late 1920s saw the emergence of larger single-family ranches because larger land blocks were needed for successful livestock operations than were allowed by the various homesteading laws. Failure of 80 percent or more of the initial homesteads led to relatively inexpensive land being available to those remaining few who had some capital. The government also repurchased many failed homesteads in the mid-1930s, and developed a centralized land management system with a new program of grazing leases on public lands, ideal for supporting small adjoining private ranches. In many cases, these family ranches were in turn consolidated during the Great Depression, resulting in a gradual return to fewer, very large ranches (typically held as family corporations or trusts). After some 50 years of experimentation, it was finally reaffirmed that profitable agriculture can be practiced in the Thunder Basin by grazing livestock over large areas, but small-scale farming and overgrazing were detrimental to the land as well as to the economy.

As a 1910s-1940s-era eastern Wyoming ranch, the Dorr Ranch retains excellent integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The property retains structures and features typical of the ranching technology of the 1910s to 1940s. The property is unique in that it has not experienced continual modernization. In fact, it is little changed since the 1940s, despite its intermittent occupation through the 1970s and the occasional use of its corrals through 1990. The remote property is accessed by an unimproved two-track road, and has never had electric service. The Dorr Ranch is an example of successful ranch development amid the grasslands of northeastern Wyoming's Thunder Basin at a time when homestead and ranch failure was occurring at a dramatic rate. The controversial methods of W.E. Dorr's ranch development are in keeping with the state's historically turbulent ranching tradition. The Dorr Ranch contributes to the broad pattern of understanding the historic homesteading experience and the associated social history of eastern Wyoming, as well as the agricultural and economic development in the northeastern region of the state.

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Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

William E. Dorr was born to Charles and Elizabeth Dorr in Boone, Iowa, on March 5, 1881. The Charles Dorr family moved to Douglas, Wyoming, in 1895, where Charles took work as a coal miner and raised sheep on his Salt Creek homestead (DB 1920e). Charles and Elizabeth had another son, Charles Jr., who later worked as Converse County Assessor from 1915-1919 (Wyoming Pioneer Association 1986). William E. Dorr reportedly left home at age 8 or 9 (Bill Dorr, personal communication). He worked for John Clay's infamous¹ 71 Quarter Circle² Ranch and tended Pony Express horses at the telegraph station at Split Rock, on the Sweetwater River in Wyoming. The Pony Express was still in use to distribute telegraph messages to remote communities north of the railroad. Here he met Mabel McIntosh³, whose parents established the well-known Hat Ranch near Split Rock in 1885. W.E. and Mabel were married in Douglas, Wyoming, on June 22, 1904. They had two sons, Percy, born 1906, and Lewis Charles "Dutch", born 1907. According to the 1920 Census, Mabel's father was born in Nova Scotia, Canada, her mother in Ireland. William's father was German, his mother, English. All had become U.S. citizens. All of the W.E. Dorr family was reported as literate, and both of his sons were reportedly attending school in 1920 (Converse County Fourteenth Census 1920).

Mabel's father, who started as a telegraph operator for the Union Pacific Railroad, became a very successful rancher, reportedly leaving a substantial sum to Mabel when he passed away in 1933 (Edith Griffin [Dorr], personal communication; Bill Dorr, personal communication); therefore, the Dorrs probably began with greater financial assets or credit than the average homesteader. In 1909, W.E. partnered with a man named Spinks. Together they purchased a herd of cattle "numbering four hundred twenty-five head, more or less" for the sum of \$11,150 (Bill of Sale 1909). This would have been far beyond the means of the average homesteader of the time.

W.E. Dorr first filed for a homestead in Converse County in 1907. On August 13, 1910, he was notified that he had 60 days to file proof of required improvements for the parcel, or it would be cancelled. He apparently furnished the required proof as he received a patent for a 160-acre tract in Section 18, Township 39 North, Range 69 West on April 8, 1912 (Wyoming Pioneer Association 1986:754). In 1915, Dorr filed for an additional 160 acres under the Desert Land Act. This included the land where the Dorr Ranch now stands. He received patent no. 767571 for this 160-acre tract on August 9, 1920 (DB 1921a).

On May 28, 1917, W.E. applied for Additional Homestead Entry no. 012628 covering four lots (156.36 acres) in the immediate vicinity of the 1915 filing (Department of the Interior 1917). On December 20, 1919, W.E. applied for another Additional Homestead Entry no. 012629 for 232 acres in Sections 31 and 32, Township 40 North, Range 69 West (Department of the Interior 1919). These were filed under the Stock Raising Act of 1916 which allowed for additions to existing claims. On February 12, 1920, W.E. was notified that his final proof for these two additions had been rejected for lack of proper paperwork (Department of the Interior 1920). Apparently this was resolved as he received patent nos. 756093 and 756094 on June 12, 1920. (Converse County Courthouse n.d.).

¹ John Clay's manager at the 71 Ranch, George Henderson, was investigated for his involvement in the 1889 lynchings of Ella Watson and James Averell, an event that touched off the infamous Johnson County War (Smith 1966:126-127; Walker 1940:29). W.E. Dorr was reportedly living at the 71 Ranch at this time. (Bill Dorr, personal communication).

² Among the brands used by W.E. Dorr as of 1909 was the '71 Quarter Circle'(Clay, Robinson and Co. 1909). This brand was passed down to W.E. Dorr's grandson, Billy George Dorr (Bill Dorr, personal communication).

³ Mabel McIntosh, incidentally, was the first documented Caucasian female born (May 7, 1883) as a twin in the Wyoming Territory.

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A review of the records at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)in Washington D.C. did little to illuminate this process. The following information was found in the General Land Office Tract Book Entry for Section 6, T39N, R69W. William E. Dorr filed a homestead land entry, receipt no. 07900 on the S1/2 NE1/4, lots 3-4, W1/2 and SE1/4 of S6 on May 6, 1915. The tract book records that patent no. 767571 was issued for this entry on August 9, 1920. Dorr also filed an additional entry, receipt no. 020173 on another portion of S6, T39N, R69W on April 10, 1920. The tract book records that patent no. 964755 was issued for this entry on July 29, 1920 (General Land Office n.d.). The legal location and acreage for this final entry are unclear and illegible.

Meanwhile, Mabel Dorr filed her own Desert Land Entry (no. 013017) on December 11, 1919. Her final proof involved the payment of \$249.95 for 160 acres in Section 32 and 33, Township 40N, Range 69W and in Section 5, T39N, R69W (adjacent to the ranch complex). This claim was initially for 381.78 acres, but was denied. It was reinstated at 160 acres and was approved on October 30, 1926.

Obviously the filing process was a slow one and the Dorr's were able to graze or farm these tracts for years before having to come up with the final purchase money, by which time they could decide if they wanted to invest the cash or let the land go back to the government. Extensions were the norm, rather than the exception. It is likely that many homesteaders had to utilize all possible devices to delay the final payment date. Likewise there was little incentive to invest in substantial improvements until the land was patented. It has been suggested that Charles Dorr Jr.'s position as county assessor (DB 1918e) may have been advantageous for W.E. Dorr.⁴ Charles Jr., who had a well-paying job for the time, at \$140 per month, reportedly was buying up failed homestead land near the W.E. Dorr Ranch (DB1920a; Bill Dorr, personal communication).

By January 15, 1920, W.E. Dorr was in some sort of financial trouble and offered some land for sale at public auction "for not less than \$2.00 per acre" (DB 1920b). This land never sold, apparently, as he later sold it to his sons (for about \$1.56 per acre) in 1921 (DB 1921b). At about this time, Dorr had a government contract to dip cattle for parasite treatment. Neighboring ranches brought their animals to the Dorr Ranch for treatment (Bill Dorr, personal communication).

A few local informants interviewed during this project mentioned that the Dorr Ranch was not the original homestead. They referred to Dorr's 1910 filing in Section 18 (south of the Cheyenne River and about two miles south of the primary Dorr Ranch) as the original homestead. The Dorr's had to live on that original property for the requisite amount of time to achieve a patent. That residence was reportedly a two-room log cabin that was later sold and moved to informant George Henry's father's ranch (Henry 1999). The need for the Dorr's two residences was caused by a glitch in the Stock-Raising Homestead Act which technically required residence upon any new, non-contiguous land entry. This oversight was corrected by Congress on October 17, 1918 (DB 1918d). It was not established exactly when the Dorr's actually took up residence on their Desert Land Entry, (the Dorr Ranch) or the Woody Creek Ranch as the family refers to it. It was probably in 1915, the year they first filed on the property. Edith Robinson Dorr (now Edith Griffin), Percy Dorr's first wife, knows the Dorr's lived on the Woody Creek place when Percy was 13 (1919). At that time the Dorr's lived in a "log cabin on the north side of the creek," and had "a dugout root cellar and a log bunkhouse" (Edith Griffin [Dorr], personal communication). These cabins are extant on the property. Paul 'Blinky' Miller, a well-known local cowboy who worked for the Dorr's in the early 1920s, occupied the bunkhouse for a time (Wyoming Pioneer Association 1986:400).

⁴ It was certainly advantageous for his wife, Ethel, who subsequently got a job in the same office earning \$100 per month (DB 1920a).

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By 1919, the Dorr School was established on the Dorr property. The Dorr School, District 17, operated from at least 1919 to 1924. It was typical of the earliest rural schools in Converse County, operating only when local families assembled at least four school age children. Little information was found concerning the Dorr School. Informants report that in 1919 three children of Rose Schick-Walton attended (Anna [Schick] Ballard, personal communication). The Schick children lived seven miles from the Dorr School. They commuted cross-country by horse, horse-drawn cart, and automobile. In 1922 the Dorr School attendance was eight children representing four families: the Dorr, Dickson, Hanson, and Henry (George Henry, personal communication). In 1923 and 1924 the teacher was Orville Pellatz. School District 17 added seven new rural schools in 1920 (DB 1920d), most of which were closed in 1924 (DB 1924).

W.E. Dorr was locally influential in the development of the community of Bill, Wyoming. In 1919 the community applied for a post office along the Douglas to Gillette Road (a few miles southwest of the Dorr Ranch). Dorr signed the official petition, which agreed that the local people would pay for the first six months of delivery from Douglas. The given names of four leading promoters happened to be Bill, and so this name was chosen for the new post office, which was formally established on September 12, 1919 (Petition for Post Office 1919; Wyoming Pioneer Association 1986:683; DB 1919). W.E. Dorr was also appointed as an election judge for the newly formed Cheyenne River Precinct in November of 1918 (DB 1918c). The voting place for the precinct was the Dorr Ranch and the precinct had a population of 340 (DB 1920c; 1920f).

Various informants alluded to W.E. Dorr's unpopularity with some in the community. One incident influencing such attitudes was a feud with his neighbor Jim Blackman over grazing issues. The Dorr apparently had run some cattle on Blackman's land without compensating him. Dorr eventually charged Blackman with shooting a cow belonging to Percy and Dutch. Blackman was exonerated in court. His lawyer made a strong case that Dorr shot the cow himself and planted it on the Blackman ranch, then arranged for a deputy sheriff to discover the carcass. Jury deliberations took "but a few minutes" (DB 1925a).

W.E. Dorr's son, Percy, married Edith Robinson (now Griffin) in 1929. They were eventually divorced, but had a son, Bill George (Bill) Dorr. According to Bill Dorr, his grandmother had always wanted a "stick" house, and the main house was built around 1925 or 1926 from the proceeds from the sale of some mineral rights. According to Edith Griffin [Dorr] and a neighbor, Ann Ballard, the main house was built by "carpenters from a lumber company from Douglas." It was "not a kit house, but was built on-site." Accounts of the house being built from the winnings of a poker game (DB 1999b) have not been corroborated by informant interviews (Bill Dorr, Patricia [Dorr] Timberman, personal communication). Presumably W.E. and Mabel were responsible for its unique Southern-style architectural features such as the basement kitchen and encircling porch. The floor-vent furnace system and piped-in (cold) water were two other unusual refinements for the time and place. County tax rolls indicate that the house was present in 1926 (Converse County Assessor's Office).

The Dorr raised primarily horses and cattle during their tenure at this ranch, while the subsequent owners ran cattle and sheep. The Dorr Ranch ran approximately 700 horses at one point according to Verne Anderson who worked as a cowboy with Percy and Dutch Dorr and the subsequent owners, Boot Land and Livestock (Morton's Inc.). Dorr sold his horses to both the U.S. and Mexican Army (DB 1925b). Horse sales to the Army soon dwindled, however, because of mechanization (Bill Dorr; Verne Anderson, personal communication). W.E. Dorr was a member of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association and the "Fairview Grange No. 41 of the Patrons of Husbandry," Douglas, Wyoming.

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The substantial corral complex was constructed in the fall of 1926 in anticipation of a large wild horse roundup that W.E. Dorr was presiding over in 1927. Dorr had been contracted by the county to conduct this mustang roundup, the first of its kind, in order to get the wild and feral animals off the land. The horses were to be offered for sale at the Dorr Ranch, firstly as breeding or riding stock, and secondly as canned horseflesh for sale to France (DB 1927a; 1927b). Dorr hired many local cowboys for the event, which was considered a great success. About 6,000 free ranging horses were rounded up over about two weeks. Of these, all but 1,500 were turned loose because they had some proof of ownership. The remainder were classified as abandoned stock and sold (DB 1927c).

Tax records for 1922 indicate that the taxable value of all land, improvements, and property held by the Dorr was \$5,475, a substantial estate for this time and place. Property ownership at this time was divided among W.E. Dorr, Mabel, Percy, Dutch, and Charles Dorr, Jr., as well as the Woody Creek Land and Livestock Company, of which they were all shareholders. Tax records for 1923 show the property taxes were divided among W.E., Percy, and Dutch, with a total taxable value of \$9,353. Tax records for 1924 indicate a total taxable value of \$12,567. Tax records for 1925 indicate a total taxable value of \$12,568 (Converse County Assessor's Office). Apparently these were productive years for the ranch.

A bridge was built over the Cheyenne River in 1926, which greatly facilitated access to the property. Local people hauled the bridge materials from Douglas by wagon and built the bridge while the county paid for the materials (Henry 1999).

From 1925 to 1928, W.E. Dorr leased his land to his own company, Woody Creek Land and Livestock, as well as to the Morton family's Boot Land and Livestock Company. W.E. and Mabel Dorr sold Woody Creek Land and Livestock Company to the Boot Land and Livestock Company on July 31, 1928 (Converse County Clerk and Recorder's Office). At about this time, Percy and Dutch Dorr filed for their own homesteads along Antelope Creek, about 12 miles north of their parents' place. Percy and his new wife, Edith, moved to the Antelope Creek area in 1930. W.E. and Mabel, and presumably Dutch, did likewise by 1932. The Dorr sold their Antelope Creek holdings around 1938 to another large ranch operator, Fred Dilts. Bill Dorr reported that the family experienced hard times in the late 1920s and 1930s. He corroborated the confusing records found in the Converse County Courthouse, and realty transfers published in the Douglas Budget saying that the Dorr "switched titles and deeds around a lot, probably trying to stave off creditors" (Bill Dorr, personal communication). The Dorr moved to Miles City, Montana, in 1939 where they owned and operated a succession of ranches. W.E. Dorr was active in the ranching business until 1959. He died in Miles City in 1962, and Mabel died in 1973 (DB 1962;1973).

The Morton family used the Dorr Ranch, with its impressive house, as a foreman's residence. It was considered something of a showcase ranch according to Verne Anderson, who lived in the house as a foreman for the Mortons from 1942 to 1949. It is noteworthy that the Dorr main house stood out, considering the extent of the Morton's holdings. The Mortons controlled an extraordinarily large cattle and sheep ranch. "A person could leave the Morton home ranch on the [North Fork] Platte River west of Douglas and [heading north] stay on the Morton range for seventy some miles below Fiddleback Ranch on the Cheyenne River, except for three miles (Anderson, personal communication). Anderson reported that the Morton operation was the most efficient ranch he had ever seen. The barn or stable was apparently built during the Morton's ownership. On January 4, 1947 the Dorr Ranch, along with part of the neighboring historic Fiddleback Ranch, was transferred to Mortons, Inc. in a transaction involving 16,464.67 acres. Much of the former Mortons, Inc. lands, including some of the original Dorr land are now owned by the Cannon Land and Livestock Company (Converse County Clerk and

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Recorder's Office). The entire nominated property is within the Thunder Basin National Grasslands and is managed by the Forest Service.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

The Wyoming Territory was technically open to homesteading in 1877 with the suppression of the Plains Indians. The first homesteaders, using the Preemption Act of 1841, the Homestead Act of 1862, and the Desert Land Act of 1877, were typically well-financed cattlemen. These operations, typically stocked with cattle owned by distant investors laid claim to the limited sources of dependable surface water and practiced open-range grazing, letting their cattle disperse across the unfenced and unclaimed grasslands. These early cattlemen later organized to resist smaller stock operations, sheep ranchers, and homesteaders through a variety of means, including intimidation and violence. The fencing and dividing of the open range threatened the profitable unrestricted and free use of federal lands by these large cattle operations. After the disastrous winter of 1886-1887 the cattle business suffered a serious setback allowing a foothold for the homesteader and the small, independent rancher. Still, homesteading in Wyoming did not reach its peak until well into the 20th century (Larson 1978:306).

Up until 1909 a local rancher employing all applicable homestead laws (including the Preemption Act, 160 acres; Homestead Act, 160 acres; and the Desert Land Act, 640 acres) could obtain a maximum of 960 acres (the Timber Culture Act, 160 acres, was not really applicable in this region). This was inadequate acreage for successful farming and ranching in much of the arid West. In 1909 the Enlarged Homestead Act expanded the basic homestead to 320 acres. The Stock Raising Homestead Act of 1916 allowed an additional 640 acres of grazing land. Technological advancement in dryland farming techniques, optimal rainfall conditions, and, most importantly, the appearance of improved roads and railroads led to a rapid expansion of homesteading settlers (Dick 1975; Union Pacific Railroad 1909).

Even the expanded homesteading laws did not provide enough land to make a dependable living from agriculture in this harsh environment. The entrepreneurial homesteaders used various quasi-legal means to acquire more land. For example they had employees file homesteads on adjacent lands with the financing of their employers. The employees then sold their parcels to the employers upon obtaining the patent. Couples planning to marry would take out individual homesteads, then combine the properties after they married. Family members would cluster claims around the same location. Many homesteaders built up ranches by entering consecutive claims around the same location. Many homesteaders built up ranches by entering consecutive claims. The first 160 acres was held only until patented, then that land was sold. A second entry was then filed and the proceeds from the first transaction facilitated the development of the second (Markoff 1981:113). The most egregious scheme involved filing homestead claims under non-resident names. The people in some cases never even saw the land they were supposed to be living on. Homestead failure was common, and those with available capital could sometimes buy out less fortunate neighbors for pennies per acre.

For most of these homesteaders irrigation was impossible as a result of the lack of year-round water sources. Availability of water was a major limitation for these early 20th century homesteaders. The creeks and drainages were intermittent, and reliable springs were scarce. It was often necessary to dig a well 50 or more feet deep to strike reliable water. Most homesteaders counted on a combination of water sources employing

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windmills with cisterns, or dams to hold rain water and snow melt. It was often necessary to haul drinking water from distant year-round sources.

The dryland farming movement had a profound effect on the settlement of the Thunder Basin. Improved dryland farming techniques were ambitiously applied to the Thunder Basin during the years around WWI (Union Pacific Railroad 1909; Dick 1975). Although the principles of dryland farming were sound, success still required a certain amount of precipitation each year. Wyoming encouraged dryland settlement of its semi-arid lands through a Board of Immigration created in 1911. Newspapers extolled the virtues of dryland farming, and railroads conducted well-organized advertising campaigns on a nationwide basis to settle the regions through which they passed (Rosenberg 1991).

The most intensive period of homesteading activity in the Thunder Basin occurred in the late 1910s and early 1920s. Promotional efforts by the state and the railroads, the prosperous war years for agriculture in 1917 and 1918, and the Stock Raising Act of 1916 with its increased acreage (but lack of mineral rights) all contributed to this boom period. A general classification applied to 1.23 million acres in Niobrara and a part of Converse County effective June 10, 1918 "allowed all those who had file to enter upon the land" (DB 1918a). In 1917 and 1918 there were 5,968 applications for land received by the Douglas Land Office; 313 in March of 1918 alone (DB 1918b). Even the weather cooperated for a few years. A large number of land filings at this time consisted of existing farms and ranches expanding their holdings in the optimistic economic climate. However, the promotional advertising was misleading and many were not adequately prepared for the experiences that awaited them in the Thunder Basin. Initially many were successful in growing wheat, oats, barley, and other small grains along with hay, alfalfa, sweet clover, and other grasses for the increasing number of cattle. When the markets slumped and the cycle of favorable rainfall ended, the would-be dryland farmers found they could not sustain a viable business raising only crops. For the most part, the land was ill-suited for farming, but was sufficient for stock grazing with proper management. The Thunder Basin area is at 4,000-5,000 ft elevation and receives only 9-14 inches of rainfall a year. It has a short growing season of 3.5 to 4 months and a temperature range of minus 50 to 100 degrees Fahrenheit (USDA n.d.).

A period of financial hardship, especially for ranchers in Wyoming, began in 1920. A drought in 1919 was followed by a severe winter. The spring of 1920 saw agricultural market prices fall. Those homesteaders who were not ruined by this turn of events had to diversify, becoming small-scale livestock ranchers and limiting their farming to the growing of forage crops and family garden plots. The average homesteader found himself laboring under excessive operating debt. Some were able to obtain very cheap land as it was foreclosed or sold for taxes. A few homesteaders were fortunate enough to find outside employment with large ranches, at local coal mines or oil fields, or cutting timber. During the 1920s the average size of homesteads in Wyoming nearly doubled and the number of homesteads decreased indicating a shift to larger landholdings and livestock raising (Rosenberg 1991; Fischer 1998). In the 1930s the agricultural situation deteriorated further. Extreme drought and poor farming practices caused substantial wind and water erosion of the topsoil. Overgrazing caused the intrusion of noxious weeds. By the 1930s much of the land belonged to absentee landowners who either leased the land to the highest bidder or abandoned the land to be used by all. There was little motivation for the land user to conserve land that was not his own. This situation was hard on the land and the rural families living on small farms and ranches.

The era of centralized planning for American agriculture began with Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal programs designed to stabilize the national economy. Local governments were suffering from excessive tax delinquency and other financial difficulties that could be traced back to an economically unwise use of the land. The

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government realized that regional economic stability could only be achieved from improved agricultural practices. Government programs such as the Northeast Wyoming Land Utilization Project were developed to assist the small farms and ranches improve conservation of soils and improve land use. When the Agricultural Administration, a short-lived New Deal agency, surveyed 351 homestead families living in northeast Wyoming they found the per-family yearly income to be only \$73. The improvements to the land such as homes, fences, and barns were worth an average of only \$207; the agency did not find a single home with running water. In general it found the homesteaders to have poor diets, often supplemented with white-tailed jackrabbits. Indeed, deaths from tularemia, a disease associated with wild rabbits and hares, were not uncommon. By 1935 80 percent of the homestead families left on the land had to take some form of government relief. Taxes were left unpaid or were paid with relief money (Fischer 1998; Resttlement Administration 1936a; 1936b; 1936c; 1936d).

With serious drought beginning in 1932 several federal actions were taken. In April 1932, Weston, Campbell, and Converse counties were eligible for a drought relief program that made surplus government grain available for livestock feed. The wheat was distributed according to needs and the Burlington Railroad shipped these distributions free of charge. In 1934 the government established the Drought Cattle and Sheep Purchase Program. Animals deemed unfit for consumption, as a result of starvation, were purchased by the federal government and were destroyed and buried. The homesteaders and their starving families were not allowed to have any meat from these animals, causing bitterness that is still carried to this day (Rosenberg 1991; Fischer 1998). Marketable animals were purchased and shipped to market. The program paid the following prices for cattle: two-year-olds or older, \$12-\$20; yearlings, \$10-\$15; and calves \$4-\$8. Sheep were \$2 per head for ewes over one year old. Condemned sheep were skinned and the hides distributed through the Surplus Relief Corporation for use by other government agencies. In adjacent Weston County the first cattle were purchased in June, 1934. When the program ended in December, 1934, 24,235 head had been purchased for \$362,800. Ranchers soon discovered that the repurchase program prices exceeded what they could get on the open market (Weston County Heritage Group 1988).

In 1934 the Taylor Grazing Act was implemented to provide better government control over unpatented lands. It was the first federal effort to regulate grazing on public lands. Also in 1934, the Agricultural Adjustment Administration began studying portions of Converse, Campbell, Weston, Niobrara, and Crook counties. In all, 2 million acres were included in the Thunder Basin Project to alter land use and to relocate settlers onto viable farmland. In marginal areas cash crops were to be replaced by forage crops, the kind and intensity of grazing would be changed, and the size of operating units would be expanded (USDA n.d.). The Emergency Relief Act of 1935 allowed the formation of Land Utilization Projects to reclaim abandoned homesteads, repurchase failing homesteads, and promote conservation. The Resettlement and Farm Security Administration (or Resettlement Administration) took over the Northeastern Wyoming Land Utilization Project and the Thunder Basin Project, and proceeded to implement centralized management objectives of rehabilitating “the land which has been a burden to its owners, and the occupants of the area who have for many years been a burden on society.” The planners of the project criticized past policies and “the intrusion of the homesteader in the range country” and derisively included both the social and economic aspects, concluding both to be “extremely undesirable” (Fischer 1998; Resettlement Administration 1936a; 1936b; 1936c; 1936d).

The goals were to be met by repurchasing the submarginal homestead lands and making the additional acres of government land available for grazing lease. This helped the small operator to expand his usable grazing land. Careful management and zoning then kept the large operators from crowding out the small ranchers. Cropland

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taken out of production could be reclaimed and then added to the grazing lease program. Grazing associations were formed to regulate the grazing permits. The public response to the program was generally favorable:

The Land Utilization Project in this area has met with surprisingly favorable comment. The favor has not been received from any one class of people, but from all represented in affected territory. Endorsements have been received from such influential parties as the Board of County Commissioners of Converse County, the Board of County Commissioners of Campbell County, the Board of County Commissioners of Weston County, LeGrand Patrick-State Deputy Commissioner and the Kiwanis Club of Douglas, Wyoming...

Requests have been received from hundreds of landowners from adjacent areas in the form of petitions, letters, and by personal contact asking for an opportunity to list their land for sale, stating that they were unable to continue with their farming operations in their present location due to unfavorable conditions, such as poor soil, lack of sufficient moisture to insure crop production and inaccessibility to markets.

All attempts by these farmers to dispose of their land to the remaining ranchers of the problem area has proved futile. It would seem that the only possible opportunity for these farmers to dispose of their land and move to more productive areas is by some Governmental action (Resettlement Administration 1936a).

Homestead units in the area were appraised starting in January, 1936, and were repurchased by the government in late 1936 at around \$2.05 per acre plus varying amounts for improvements, eventually increasing to \$2.21 per acre plus improvements (Weston County Heritage Group 1988). The final tract in the program was purchased in May, 1938. By this time, 177 families had left the Thunder Basin area. Sixteen families relocated outside Wyoming with government assistance, fifteen families awaited funded relocation, and 145 families relocated at their own expense. Interestingly, follow-up monitoring showed little actual improvement in the circumstances of those who took the government assistance. Within a span of about three years the entire cultural complexion of the Thunder Basin Project area encompassing 1,098,000 acres was changed (Fischer 1998).

Many residents considered government homestead purchases insufficient for a favorable relocation and opted to try to stay on their land. Those who were able to stay often benefited from new government grazing leases, cheap land, and government employment in various public work programs to rehabilitate the range. In these programs, remaining residents (75 men in 1938) were employed, ironically, to erase the evidence of their former neighbors and friends. Farmsteads were totally removed, and the building sites and the range reseeded. Remaining homesteaders and ranchers often purchased or scavenged materials from the repurchased farmsteads. Pits were dug and machinery was demolished and buried. Many of these were later dug up during the World War II scrap drives. Impounding dams were erected, wells were repaired, springs were developed, homestead fences were removed and division fences were constructed for the new community pastures. These efforts were so successful that almost no trace remains of most original homesteads in this area (Rosenberg 1991; Resettlement Administration 1936a; USDA n.d.).

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While counties lost much of their population base as a result of the Resettlement Administration relocation program, they were strengthened financially. Schools were closed, maintenance of rural roads was restricted to main arteries, and delinquent taxes were paid. The remaining ranches were significantly larger and provided a stabilizing effect on the local economies. Three large grazing associations were formed, the Thunder Basin Grazing Association, the Spring Creek Association, and the Inyan Kara Grazing Association. These associations provided responsible management of the common rangeland. Grazing fees provided a stable return on the government's substantial investment in the land and the people (USDA n.d.). In general the New Deal programs were successful at providing critical short-term relief to the people in the Thunder Basin. In the long term, a more sustainable management system was developed for the region's agricultural economy.

Homestead Life

“It was a hard life at the time, but that's the way it was. People now can't imagine what it was like, but nobody knew any different.” - Robert Mackey, Thunder Basin homestead resident (Fischer 1998)

Eastern Wyoming, obviously, was not the most desirable place to establish a homestead farm or ranch, but by the early 1910s most of the best “unappropriated public lands” had been claimed and these arid grasslands represented some of the last opportunities for fulfilling the ‘American Dream’ of the time, which was owning one's own land. In reality, in northern Converse County, this often meant owning a small herd of cows or sheep, a couple horses, a wagon, and a 14-by-16, tar-paper shack or log cabin with wood or coal heat, kerosene light, and no running water. Electrification, and all that it provided, did not arrive until decades after the homestead era was over. The typical homestead in this area was very remote. The Dorr Ranch was one-and-one-half day's ride from Douglas by wagon. Local resident Anna Ballard recalls a seven mile trip (one way) across the prairie by horseback, horse-drawn cart, and occasionally automobile each day to attend the Dorr School. Crude two-track trails across the sage and cactus-covered grassland were often as not impassable by automobile or wagon because of mud or snow. Trips to Douglas or Gillette, the nearest substantial towns, were conducted only a few times per year. The hardships of early spring blizzards and the misery of severe drought years were the two universally emphasized themes by the informants interviewed for this project. After a few years of this, many failed homesteaders were glad to sell their places for “enough money to settle debt and have enough left over to leave” (Ballard, personal communication).

In addition to taking advantage of government assistance programs, local homesteaders succeeded through their own initiative and cooperation. They learned to adapt and persevere. Scattered communities gathered regularly for recreation, child care, religious worship, and other events. Dances, dinners, picnics, and holidays were regularly celebrated at the community schools, post offices, or local ranches. Neighbors joined together to purchase farm implements they would share but could not individually afford (Fischer 1998). Rural schools were developed where four or more student age children were assembled. Students enjoyed a student to teacher ration of less than eight to one. In rural Converse County, 155 pupils were served by 20 schools. These schools added to the financial problems of the Depression. The counties were coping with huge delinquent tax rolls and had to provide for the many rural schools at a cost of \$800 per school per year (Rosenberg 1991).

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Dorr Ranch
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Notes on Oral Histories

Informants with knowledge of the Dorr Ranch history were interviewed for this project. Their names and relationships to the Dorr Ranch are as follows: Verne Anderson, Sidney, Montana, was a cowboy and ranch foreman for Morton's, Inc. and Boot Land and Livestock, and lived at the Dorr Ranch from 1942-1949. Anna (Schick) Ballard, Douglas, Wyoming, is the daughter of a local homesteader and attended the Dorr School. Edith Griffin, formerly Edith Robinson Dorr, of Gillette, Wyoming, was the first wife of Percy Dorr. Billy George (Bill) Dorr, Tucson, Arizona, is the son of Edith and Percy Dorr. Mark Dorr, Cheyenne, Wyoming, is the son of Bill George Dorr. Patricia (Dorr) Timberman, Casper, Wyoming, is the daughter of Lewis Charles "Dutch" Dorr.

Other informants supplied written testimonials. These included the following: George Henry, Safford, Arizona, is the son of a local homesteader and attended the Dorr School. Anna Scott Boner, Glenrock, Wyoming, is a limited partner of Cannon Land and Livestock whose father succeeded John Morton as general partner of Mortons, Inc. Joel Dorr, Los Angeles, California, the son of Billy George Dorr, corresponded by email and provided historical photographs from the Dorr family collection.

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property approx. 11.7 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>13</u> Zone	<u>485137</u> Easting	<u>4803931</u> Northing	3	<u>13</u> Zone	<u>485338</u> Easting	<u>4803733</u> Northing
2	<u>13</u> Zone	<u>485341</u> Easting	<u>4804005</u> Northing	4	<u>13</u> Zone	<u>485137</u> Easting	<u>4803733</u> Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary extends from a point on an ephemeral tributary of Woody Creek on the southwest corner of the ranch north to the prominent sandstone outcrop at the location of the windmill, thence northeast to the ridge top where the Dorr School is located, thence south to a point southeast of the ranch complex, thence west to the point of beginning. The boundary is outlined on the accompanying map.

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Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated boundary contains all the remaining historic resources associated with the Dorr Ranch.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bridget Roth
organization USDA Forest Service date _____
street & number 2250 E Richards Street telephone _____
city or town Douglas state WY zip code 82633
e-mail _____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: **Dorr Ranch**
City or Vicinity: **Bill vicinity**
County: **Converse** State: **WY**
Photographer: **Richard Collier**
Date Photographed: **July, 2014**
Description of Photograph(s) and number:

East façade of main house, photographer facing west.
1 of 18

East façade of main house, photographer facing west.
2 of 18

East façade and north elevation of main house, photographer facing southwest.
3 of 18

West and south elevations of main house, photographer facing northeast.
4 of 18

Privy, photographer facing west.

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South elevation of two-room log cabin, photographer facing north.
6 of 18

North façade of two-room log cabin, photographer facing south.
7 of 18

Interior of west room of two-room log cabin, photographer facing southwest.
8 of 18

View of cabins and main house, photographer facing west.
9 of 18

East façade of one-room log cabin, photographer facing west.
10 of 18

View of log cabins, photographer facing southeast.
11 of 18

Stable and corrals, photographer facing north.
12 of 18

Stable and corrals, photographer facing north-northeast.
13 of 18

Corrals with stable and main house, photographer facing southwest.
14 of 18

Overview of ranch complex, photographer facing southwest.
15 of 18

Remains of Dorr School, photographer facing northeast.
16 of 18

Windmill with ranch complex in background, photographer facing south.
17 of 18

Cistern, photographer facing south.
18 of 18

Property Owner:

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

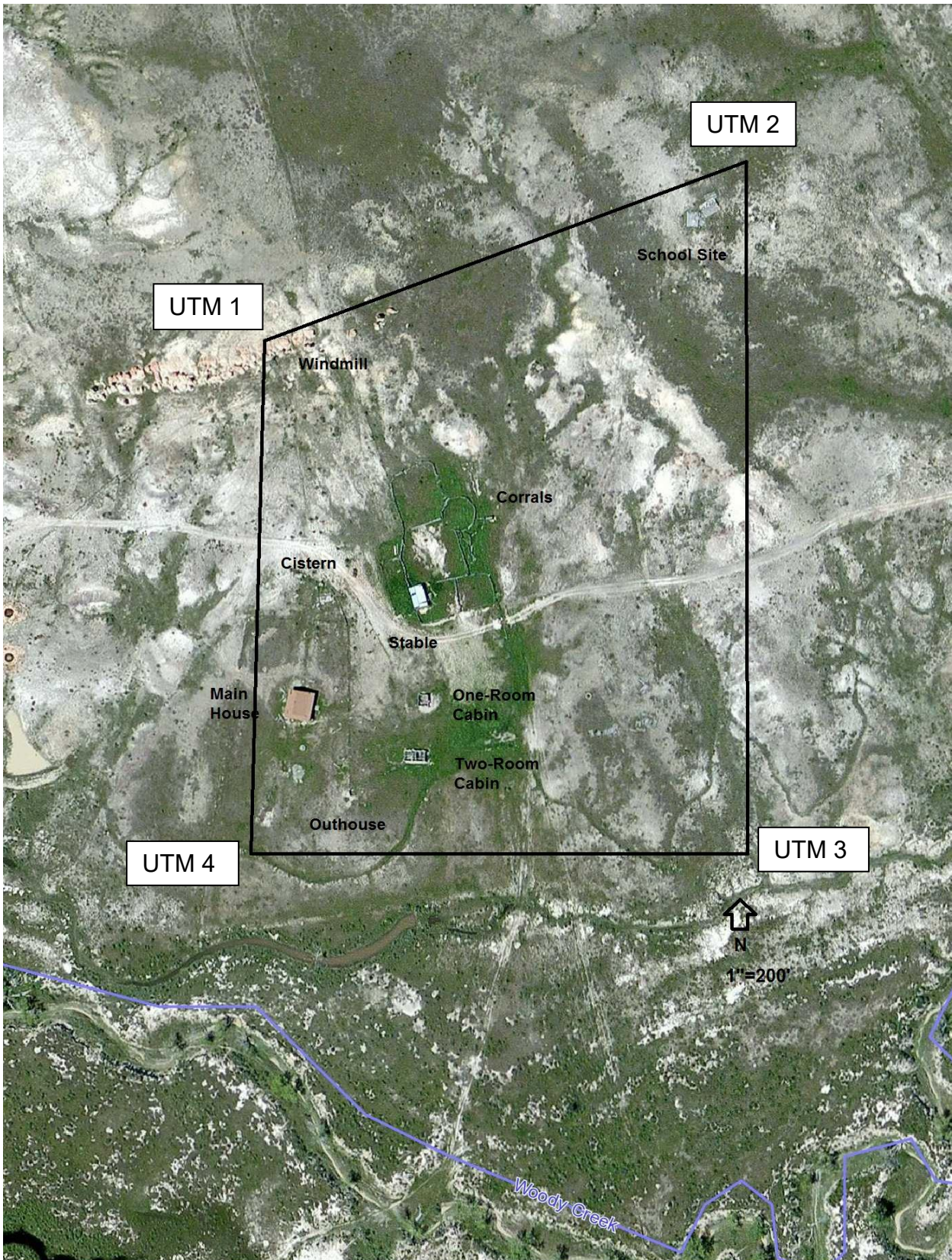
name USDA Forest Service, Tunder Basin National Grassland
street & number 2250 East Richards Street telephone _____
city or town Douglas state WY zip code 82633

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Dorr Ranch
Name of Property

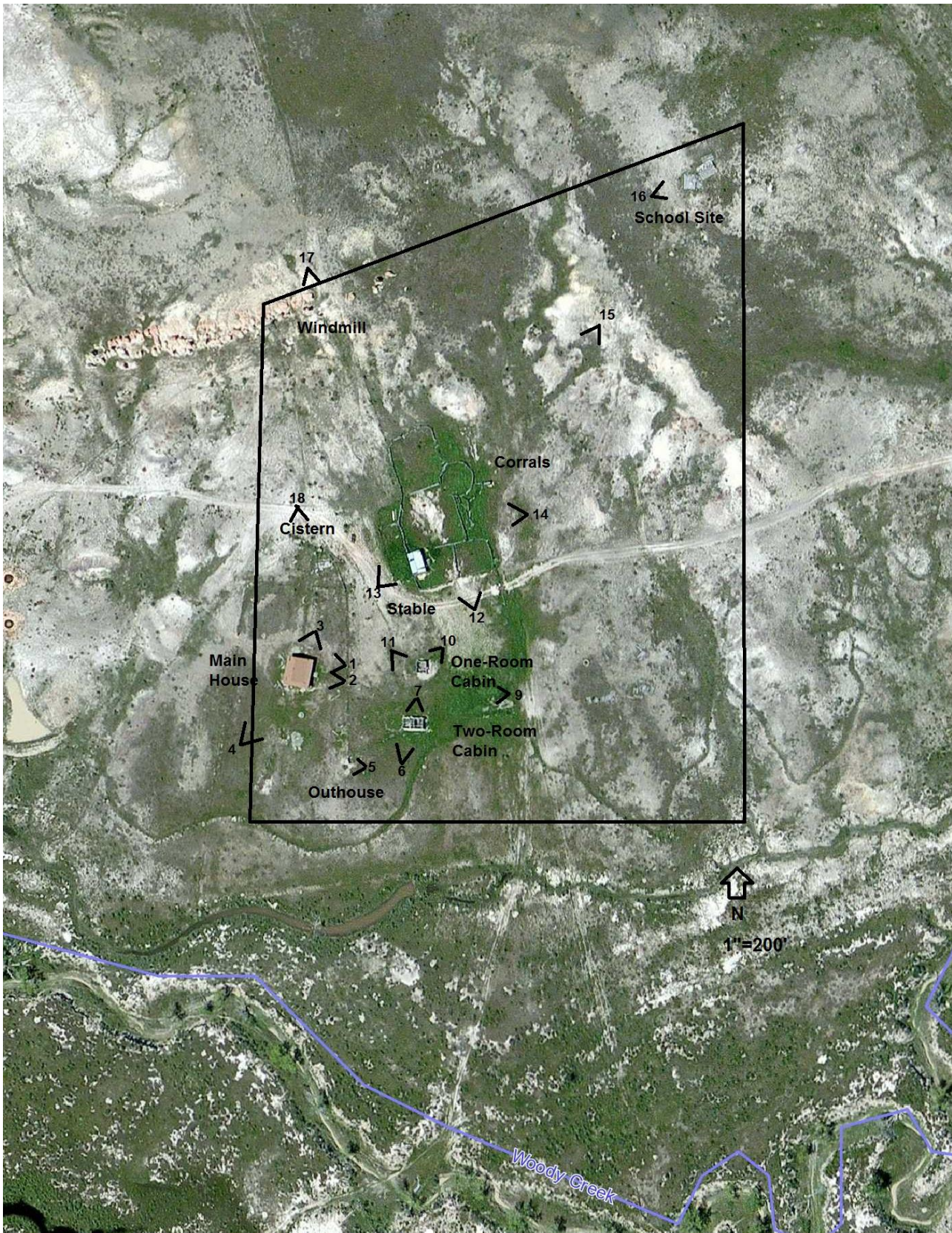
Converse County, WY
County and State



Dorr Ranch, Converse County, Wyoming, Site Map

Dorr Ranch
Name of Property

Converse County, WY
County and State



Dorr Ranch, Converse County, Wyoming, Photo key





































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Dorr Ranch
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: WYOMING, Converse

DATE RECEIVED: 11/07/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/05/14
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/22/14 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/24/14
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14001080

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 12.22.14 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

ARTS. PARKS. HISTORY.

Wyoming State Parks & Cultural Resources

State Historic Preservation Office
2301 Central Ave., Barrett Bldg. 3rd Floor
Cheyenne, WY 82002
307-777-7697
FAX: 307-777-6421
<http://wyoshpo.state.wy.us>

October 10, 2014

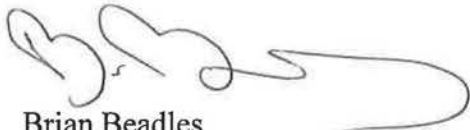
Terri Liestman
U.S. Forest Service
Rocky Mountain Region
740 Simms Street
Golden, CO 80401

Dear Ms Liestman:

Please find enclosed the National Register nomination for the Dorr Ranch in Converse County. The nomination was reviewed and approved by the Wyoming State Review Board. Additionally the nomination was reviewed by Amanda Sanchez at the Douglas Ranger District. The nomination was prepared by Bridget Roth, a District Archaeologist for the Forest Service. We ask your cooperation in signing and submitting the nomination to the Keeper of the National Register.

Please contact me at 307-777-8594 or brian.beadles@wyo.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Brian Beadles
Historic Preservation Specialist



Matthew H. Mead, Governor
Milward Simpson, Director



United States

Department of Agriculture

Forest Service
Rocky Mountain
Region

740 Simms Street
Golden, CO 80401
Voice: 303-275-5350
TDD: 303-275-5367

File Code: 2360
Date: OCT 27 2014



Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye St. - national Park Service 2280
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Keeper,

We are pleased to submit this NRHP nomination for your consideration of the historic significance of the Dorr Ranch, on Forest Service lands in Converse County Wyoming. The nomination has been approved and reviewed by the Wyoming State Review Board and this office. We look forward to your concurrence on the significance of this property.

Please contact Terri Liestman at 303-275-4051 or tliestman@fs.fed.us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

JAMES S. BEDWELL
Director, Recreation, Lands and Minerals



It's Cool to Be Safe

Printed on Recycled Paper

