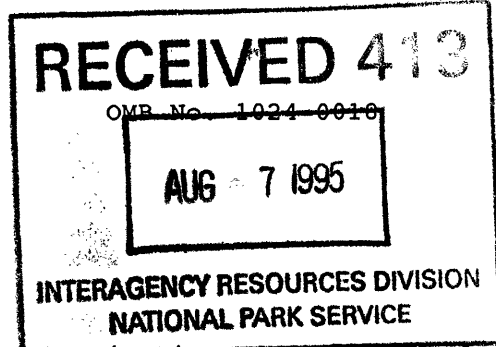


NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Robert Grant Ranch

other names/site number (PL 901)

2. Location

street & number 433 Richeau Road not for publication N/A
city or town Wheatland vicinity X
state WY code 056 county Platte code 31
zip code 82201

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide x locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Walter Bricker-Wade 7/25/1995
Signature of certifying official Date

State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

=====

4. National Park Service Certification

=====

I, hereby certify that this property is

- entered in the National Register
 ___ See continuation sheet.
determined eligible for the
National Register
 ___ See continuation sheet.
determined not eligible for the
National Register
removed from the National Register
other (explain): _____

Edson H. Beall 9.7.95

Signature of Keeper

Date
of Action

=====

5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
___ public-local
___ public-State
___ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>7</u>	<u>7</u> buildings
<u>2</u>	___ sites
<u>3</u>	___ structures
	___ objects
<u>12</u>	<u>7</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Agricultural Sub:

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Agricultural Sub:

=====
7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Stone construction

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation sandstone, concrete

roof wood shingles, asphalt shingles

walls stone, concrete, wood siding, board and batten

other

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

8. Statement of Significance
=====

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

- 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.

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

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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Agriculture

Period of Significance 1891-1944

Significant Dates N/A

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Robert Grant

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References
=====

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

- Previous documentation on file (NPS)
___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
___ previously listed in the National Register
___ previously determined eligible by the National Register
___ designated a National Historic Landmark
___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

- Primary Location of Additional Data
___ X State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other

Name of repository: _____

=====
10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property approximately approximately 75 acres

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

Table with 4 columns: Zone, Easting, Northing. Rows A, B, C, D. Includes 'X See continuation sheet.'

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

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

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Eileen Starr and Robert Matthew Grant

organization Wy. SHPO date March 1995

street & number 431 Richeau Road telephone 307-322-2923

city or town Wheatland state WY zip code 82201

=====
Additional Documentation
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====
Property Owner
=====

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

name Robert M. Grant

street & number 431 Richeau Road telephone (307) 322-2923

city or town Wheatland state WY zip code 82201
=====

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RECEIVED 413
AUG 7 1995
INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
name of property
Platte County, WY
County and State

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The Grant Ranch is situated north of Richeau Creek in the rolling hills of Platte County. Surrounding land is used for both grazing as well as the production of hay. Irrigation canals, reservoirs, as well as the creek provide water for farming purposes. The trees that surround the original buildings are cottonwoods, blue spruce and the vegetation is mature with large lilac bushes and native grasses. Corrals constructed from barbed wire and vertical log slabs are an integral part of the ranch. In essence, the buildings, structures, land and vegetation create a cultural landscape which was started in 1890 and is still used in the same manner 105 years later. The Grant Ranch is an interesting mixture of hand crafted vernacular buildings along with buildings that were moved in and modern buildings that help maintain the economic vitality of the ranch. In Wyoming's competitive ranching environment, most successful ranches contain this mixture of historic buildings as well as modern amenities such as quonset huts and trailers. Ranch complexes in themselves are a collection of functionally dependent inter-related buildings and structures that work together to create a useful ranch. The Grant Ranch is a representative Wyoming ranch because it displays both historic buildings as well as more recent structures.

Although it would be difficult to label more recent concrete block buildings and quonset huts as contributing to the architectural and historic character of the ranch, these modern buildings are crucial to the economic success of the ranch; therefore, in terms of use-all the buildings, regardless of age, contribute to the ranch. For the purposes of the National Register, some buildings are listed as non-contributing due to their age, not their present usefulness. Within the ranch's historic district there are a variety of buildings, both contributing and non-contributing, as well as structures, so named by the National Register, such as an irrigation ditch, the remnants of a lime kiln, and a dipping vat. The district also contains a small family cemetery. There are a total of 19 features that compose the historic district, 12 contributing features and 7 non-contributing. The oldest buildings within the historic district date from the 1890s.

Three of the buildings were moved from other local ranches and are compatible in terms of design, construction material, use, and are integral to the function of the ranch; within the nomination, two of these moved buildings are designated as contributing. The newer ranch house was designated as non-contributing because it has three modern additions which have changed the architectural character of the original building. The Grant Ranch is typical of many historic ranches in Wyoming where buildings were moved in from other locales to augment existing ranch structures and to reuse buildings that were still viable. Some of the buildings were taken from relative's ranches while others, such as the Slater Bank which became the new ranch house, were brought from further away. This mixture of original vernacular buildings constructed by the ranch's founder and moved buildings is typical of many Wyoming ranches.

The founder of the ranch, Robert Grant, used his expertise from working in coal mines in Scotland, where he built drifts and supports, to construct very solid buildings at his ranch. Grant fashioned a lime kiln on his property and used limestone to create lime for mortar. This vernacular tradition of scavenging

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local stone and creating lime established a construction pattern and ethic that existed at the ranch for years. The house, outhouse, barn and even the chicken coop were constructed with limestone and mortar made from Grant's own lime kiln.

The construction materials within the historic district vary (stone, concrete, railroad ties, metal) and represent the use of materials at hand as well as the ability to purchase modern materials.

This nomination does not include all the land used by the Grant family in their cattle operation today but contains the historic buildings and hay fields that the family has traditionally used.

House. 1891-94, addition ca. 1920. Contributing.
The original ranch house is one and a half stories in height with a hipped roof. It is rectangular in shape and the facade measures 40' and the side 30'. The facade is symmetrical with five bays and has bilateral symmetry. A frame kitchen addition, which is recessed approximately 6' from the original house's facade, was constructed on the north side of the structure and replaced the smaller original frame kitchen.

The walls of the original house consist of a variety of locally obtained stone with sand lime mortar. The walls are approximately 20 inches thick. Grant covered the stone with a sand and lime stucco and struck lines in the stucco to create a uniform appearance for the facade. More recently the stucco was painted blue.

The original central door is flanked by two double hung windows on either side. A new screen door is located in front of the original four panel wood door. The double hung windows are new with one lite over one lite.

The upper story consists of two dormers created to emulate bay windows. Within each dormer, the center window is double hung with two lites over two lites while the windows on either side of the center window are one lite over one lite. The sides of the dormers are covered with wood shingles painted red. Each dormer is hipped.

The hipped roof is currently covered with roll roofing. Recently the Grant family has been installing fiberglass insulation in the ceiling upstairs. The soffit on the house is unusual in that it is not tucked under the eaves but is a wide board that slants down toward the house.

The interior of the original house has eight rooms with original doors, molding, including picture molding, and the original newel post. Some of the flooring has been changed while the original wide flooring is visible in some rooms. An interior bathroom was added in the forties or fifties.

The kitchen addition is one story in height with a flared gable roof and measures 16' by 24'. A screened in porch was constructed on the front. The exterior consists of novelty wood siding. The type of wood siding used on the addition varies from side to side. Windows within the addition are both double hung and

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hopper windows. A stone wall behind the addition indicates where a root cellar and later a carbide light plant were located.

An integral part of the house's history is related to the fabrication of lime. (For a more complete history of lime-making refer to the statement of significance.) The house took three years to build. The Grants received electricity in 1947 due to the REA.

Outhouse. ca. 1890. Contributing.
The outhouse is a square stone building with a collapsed side wall. The same type of sand lime mortar and stone construction for the house and barn was also used for the outhouse. There was one door on front. Originally shingles covered the roof and the building measures approximately 7' by 7'. The outhouse has two holes.

Chicken Coop. ca. 1900 Contributing.
The chicken coop was constructed with the same sand lime mortar and stone as the house. Although the rectangular structure has been added on to over the years, originally the building had a hipped roof. A newer part of the building is frame with a gable roof. It measures 28' by 12'.

Lime Kiln. 1890. Contributing.
The original lime kiln itself is no longer visible but the stone used within the kiln is located in a draw on the south side of the historic district. Limestone debris litters the site. The bank, located next to a stream bed where the kiln was located, has eroded.

Dipping vat with boiler. ca. 1910. Contributing.
The dipping vat is one of the most interesting structures on the Grant Ranch. In essence, it was a community dipping vat and was used by ranchers for 20 miles around. The dipping vat itself is approximately 58' long, 5'9" wide and 10' deep. At one end of the vat, there is a large concrete pad with a steep drop-off where cattle started their swim. As the cattle moved along the vat, their heads would be pushed under the water to make sure they were totally covered. At the end of the vat is a sloped area where the cattle drip dried. A type of disease, perhaps mange or scabies, necessitated construction of the vat.

A large metal boiler stands beside the dipping vat. The water for the boiler came from an irrigation ditch north of the structure. The boiler was used to heat water to a certain temperature so the drug administered to kill the disease could be mixed with hot water; the cattle would swim the length of the vat so they were covered with the mixture. Government inspectors would stand beside the vat to ensure compliance with state regulations.

Although dipping vats were common on Wyoming ranches until veterinary medicine developed other methods for dealing with cattle and sheep diseases, most vats been either filled in or destroyed in the last forty years. The Grant Ranch dipping vat is unusual because the vat itself remains unaltered and the original boiler is still standing beside the feature. A survey of Wyoming ranches indicated that the dipping vat at the ranch is highly unusual today.

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Irrigation Ditch for dipping vat. ca. 1910 Contributing.
Maps obtained from the State Engineer's Office indicate that the ditches serving the dipping vat was surveyed by the office in 1913 and 1915. The water came from North Richards Creek to irrigate Grant land and provide water for the dipping vat.

Bunkhouse/Schoolhouse. ca. 1917. Contributing.
The bunkhouse is a rectangular concrete structure with 1 foot thick walls and is a one story building with a gable roof. The building's front measures 20' while the side measures 16'. Wood shakes cover the roof now. The facade has a new crossbuck door. The windows are double hung although some are missing glass. Duncan Grant built the bunkhouse around the time of World War I. It was later used as a schoolhouse for Robert Grant III and his sister.

Brooder house. ca. 1930. Contributing.
The brooder house is a rectangular frame building with horizontal frame siding and a shed roof. It measures 10'6" by 8'4". The building has been painted blue and has wood shakes on the roof.

Rock Wall. ca. 1930. Contributing.
Duncan Grant built a 50' stone wall from local stone. The wall abuts the chicken coop. According to Duncan's son, he and his Dad were going to extend the wall but never had a chance to finish it.

Coal Shed. ca. 1920. Contributing.
Traditionally ranchers in the west have moved buildings from one locale to another depending on where the building is needed and would be useful. The shed was originally a homesteader's cabin moved from a ranch about 1 mile away. The shed was moved many years ago and still is a functional building in its current location. The rectangular coal shed has a steeply pitched shed roof and is constructed from studs and novelty wood siding. Originally there was one door and 1 window on the front which measures 16'3".

Playhouse. ca. 1920. Contributing.
The playhouse was moved in from Robert Grant III's grandparent's homestead. It was moved during the 1970s. The building is a one story frame structure with wide wood siding. The building has some original windows although the door is new. It appears that the first roofing material may have been corrugated metal but now wood shingles cover the roof.

Garage. Modern. Non-contributing.
The garage is constructed of concrete blocks and has a gable roof with one large garage door. It measures 30' by 60'.

Trailer with gable roof shelter. Non-contributing.
A gable roof supported by wooden posts shelters an older travel trailer. The trailer is 28' long and 8' wide.

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Ranchhouse. 1948. Non-contributing.
The newer ranch house was started when the frame Slater Bank building was moved to the ranch in 1948. The mover found that his job was somewhat challenging when the truck and trailer got stuck in stream bed as he tried to move the building. Eventually the bank building was moved to the correct location and the Grant family has been adding onto the house ever since 1948. This building is designated as non-contributing because of the newer additions constructed on the house during 1960, 1975 and 1980. Originally the building was rectangularly shaped and measured approximately 20' by 52' but now the much larger building is L shaped. Slate colored board and batten siding, wood shakes on the roof, and a substantial stone fireplace characterize the additions.

Barn. 1952. Non-contributing.
A tornado on May 10, 1952 destroyed the original stone barn. A new concrete block barn was constructed at that time. The barn measures 32' by 60' and has a gable roof covered with wood shakes. There are glass block windows and large frame garage doors on the south side of the barn.

Calving Barn. Mid 1950s. Non-contributing.
The rectangular calving barn is an interesting mixture of materials and construction styles. The north and west wall consist of stone covered with mortar like the original 1890s buildings while the south and east wall were built from regular lumber that was nailed horizontally to emulate siding. The building has a gable roof covered with wood shakes. It measures 26' by 48'.

Loafing Shed. ca. 1960s. Non-contributing.
The loafing shed is a large narrow building that measures 79' long by 14'6". It has one wall, constructed from railroad ties and vertical lumber, that protect the cows from the wind. The building has a shed metal roof.

Quonset Hut. ca. 1975 Non-contributing.
The quonset hut is 71' long and 48' wide.

Cemetery. Contributing.
The cemetery is located on the east side of the historic district and contains one gravestone and two graves. The area is fenced off by a post and rail fence. The gravestone says "Sarah McDougall died October 26, 1890."

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The Grant Ranch is a representative Wyoming ranch which was established by Scottish immigrants in 1891. At the time the Grant Ranch was started on 160 acres of land, ranching in Wyoming had begun to change from large herds grazed on the open-range to smaller herds of cattle grazed on both public and private land. Devastating cattle losses caused by the weather and over-grazing during the winter of 1886-87 and the ensuing financial collapse of some of the territory's largest ranches, along with the influx of smaller ranchers and farmers, helped transform the cattle industry. The Grant Ranch is representative of a modest late nineteenth century Wyoming ranch where the founder relied on his skill as a builder to construct an eight room stone house, a barn and other out buildings. Grant used skills he learned in Scotland to create lime in his lime kiln and to construct a substantial vernacular stone house. He obtained the stone locally. Over the years, the Grant Family continued building in the vernacular tradition. The family also moved in abandoned buildings from other places, the acceptable and traditional way of expanding one's building stock used all over the West. The concrete dipping vat constructed around 1910 is a notable contributor to the district as it illustrates the manner in which diseases were controlled at the time; it also shows how ranchers cooperated by sharing the vat which was a substantial capital investment. The Grant Ranch is significant because of its vernacular architecture and as a representative ranch of southern Platte County.

Robert Grant joined relatives and friends who settled around Chugwater and what later became Slater. He was not one of the wealthy Scottish investors who came to the West to enlarge his holdings but instead was a man of modest means who used local materials to create his ranch. Grant slowly enlarged his holdings in what was Laramie County but eventually became Platte County. He and his wife Margaret helped expand the ranch by filing on land using among other legislation, the Desert Land and Homestead Acts. When Slater was no longer viable as a agricultural support community, it is somehow fitting that the Slater Bank Building was moved for reuse to the Grant Ranch.

Duncan Grant, Robert Grant's son wrote the following description about making lime at the ranch. "Often, I have been asked what a lime kiln was like and how it was built. The one Dad made was located in a draw south of our house. Today, it is caved in and nearly washed out.

To make the kiln Dad used a cut bank that was from nine to ten feet high and cut the face of it so that it would be straight. On the top of the bank, where the sod was solid, they dug a round hole eight feet in diameter to the full depth of the bank. The wall that was facing outward was about two feet thick. thick. At the base of the bank Dad cut an archway. This archway was three feet high, four feet wide, and through the two-foot wall of the kiln. Through this archway and across the bottom of the kiln, Dad dug a trench eighteen to twenty inches wide and about eighteen inches deep. This trench had heavy strips of iron laid across it for a grate and to form an ash pit. This trench also served as a bottom draft for the fire. Dad used a large sheet of iron to cover the opening of the archway when the kiln was not being used.

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When the kiln was in use, it was filled with lime rock. The rocks were placed to leave the archway open for the fire logs. They started at the bottom with the larger rocks and filled the upper part and the center with the smaller and broken rocks. These broken rocks could be packed in and used to control the draft from the top. Dad would use twenty to twenty-five large loads of wood for each burning. Whole logs of boxelder and cottonwood trees were gathered from along Richeau Creek. (A large load of wood is referring to a large wagon load of wood or, about a cord and a half of wood. Furthermore, this wood was cut with a hand saw.) The archway was filled with big logs for the start of the fire. Smaller pieces of wood were used during the rest of the fire. About fourteen big loads of rock were used to fill the kiln. (Once again a load is referring to a wagon load that was picked by hand.) These rocks were gathered from the hills around the ranch. The fire burned constantly for three days and three nights. The children had to take turns standing watch and keep the fire going.

When the fire had burned out a large sheet of iron was used to close the archway, and the pit was closed tightly with dirt to keep the air out. It took at least two weeks for the lime to cool enough before anyone could handle it.

When the lime had cooled they started using it from the top layers. The lime at this time would be as white as snow. The lime was dug out of the kiln in the same size pieces of the rocks that were put in. These pieces were then hauled to the house. Dad had a box that he put the pieces of lime into. The size of this box was about eight feet long, four feet wide, and one foot deep. The lime was then covered with water, and this mixture would boil for two to three hours. After this mixture had quit boiling, it would be mixed with gravel and used like the cement of today.

Dad used this lime kiln four or five times for some of the buildings around the ranch. Two burnings were necessary for the construction of the house. Dad built a barn (in the same manner) two or three years after the house was built. However, we lost this barn in May of 1952 because of a tornado."

The mixture of using local materials but also purchasing construction materials is typical for an early twentieth century ranch. The community dipping vat, now standing alone on the prairie, illustrates the nature of ranching. Instead of the lone cowboy on the prairie, ranching activities such as branding and dipping were events where ranchers and their families gathered from miles around. By the time the Grant dipping vat was constructed, ranchers had been experimenting with a variety of vats that would eliminate cattle diseases and parasites. At the National Stock Association Meeting in Denver in 1902, a model dipping vat and accompanying gates developed by George W. Clark were displayed. The dipping vat equipment business and the medicine used in the vat became enormously successful. (Richards, 1980) As Clark advertised in farm journals and at stock shows more ranchers used his method to treat cattle. No doubt, the new treatment of cattle parasites influenced the Grant family's decision to build a substantial dipping concrete vat.

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Emma Cross Morton in "Braehead Memories" wrote about the importance of dipping cattle and sheep and the problems caused by the practice. In 1893, an epidemic of scab was plaguing the area and dipping sheep was compulsory. She indicated that trailing sheep long distances to dipping vats and shearing pens was a hardship. Then in 1906 businessman/cattleman as well as Governor of Wyoming, B.B. Brooks, enforced the dipping of cattle in crude oil whether the cows were healthy or not because of scab. This caused difficulty for the cattlemen because the oil caused the original scent of the calf to be washed off during the dipping process and the mother cows refused their own calves. Morton wrote that many calves starved to death that year. The concrete dipping vat at the Grant ranch is an integral part of the ranch's history.

When Platte County was created in 1911, Robert Grant Jr. was appointed as one of three to serve as a County Commissioner. Grant's other son, Duncan, was elected as a Platte County Commissioner, Treasurer of School District #1 and was appointed to serve on the State Board of Grasshopper Control. Duncan's son, Robert continued the family tradition and served as a Representative in the Wyoming Legislature for ten years.

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Grant Family History written by Matt Grant

The Grant family came from Motherwell, Scotland. Robert Grant was born on May 22, 1847 and Margaret (Grant) was born on November 6, 1843. Margaret's maiden name was Grant. It is believed that Robert and Margaret were not related before marriage. Grant is a well known and popular Scottish name.

Robert and Margaret were married on March 25, 1867 in Bellish, Scotland. Robert worked in the coal mines of Scotland. Working in the in the mines is where he learned the skills to build the house in America. It is unclear if there was a single reason for the Grants coming to the new world.

When the Grants did come to America the year was 1878. Robert and Margaret brought two sons with them. Tom, age nine and Robert Jr. age seven. When they came to America, Robert and his family's trip consisted of a twenty-one day boat ride from Glasgow, Scotland to New York. From New York to Omaha, Nebraska, the family rode a passenger train. From Omaha the family then rode a freight train to Cheyenne, Wyoming. The length of the train ride was five days. From Cheyenne, the family then rode the stage coach to the M Bar Ranch located in Slater, Wyoming. The length of the stage coach ride was just one long day. The stage left Cheyenne at first light, changed the six horse team three different times, and arrived in Slater at dusk. The distance from Cheyenne to Slater is fifty miles. The reason Robert Grant came to Slater is some of Margaret's family had already established a homestead there. Robert's first job in America was to cut down trees and to make them into fence posts. Robert's next job consisted of fixing and building fence for the Swan Land and Cattle Company. Robert also worked for hire for others in the area. Later in the 1878, Robert and Margaret had a daughter named Clara.

During this time, Robert filed and made improvements on a one-hundred and sixty acre homestead. This parcel of land was located very close to Margaret's family. Schooling for Tom and Robert Jr. took place at Slater. The two boys had to walk about three miles to school. In 1881, Robert and Margaret had another son named Duncan.

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In 1884, the Grants moved once again to a spot eight miles west of Slater. Robert sold his first parcel of land and filed for another parcel. With money from the sale of the land Robert, bought some cattle. Later in 1884, Robert made his own irrigation ditch. This ditch was constructed with of a team of two horses and a slip. A slip is a piece of equipment shaped similar to a shovel. The slip is used to remove topsoil, transport the soil, and then unload the soil. The amount of dirt that the slip could hold was about eight-hundred pounds or one-quarter of a cubic yard. The slip would operate by the team of horses pulling the slip and a human would walk behind the horses and the slip. The human could control the depth of the cut by holding the slip similar to how one holds a wheelbarrow. The reins of the horses would then be tossed over a shoulder of the human. The very next year the Grants had yet another son. The name of this child was Harry. This process of making ditches continued until after the turn of the century. All of the Grant family applied for water rights and helped in the making the ditches. By the 1920s, the Grants had constructed over twenty ditches located on the ranch.

In the spring of 1889, all of the family, except for Robert, contracted measles. This disease left Margaret paralyzed and Tom developed typhoid fever. Tom was unable to recover from this disease and he passed away on April 4, 1889 at the age of twenty.

In 1890, Robert decided to build a house. The house was made of rock and wood. All of the materials were gathered within ten miles of the house. Robert learned this method of construction in the coal mines of Scotland. A few years later Robert built a barn in a similar manner. This barn was in use until a tornado destroyed it in 1952.

Also in 1890, Robert applied for a lease on two sections of state land. Robert was able to obtain the leases and he was the first person to hold these leases. Today, the Grant family still holds the leases to the same state land. On one of the leases, the Grants are the only people to hold the lease since 1890. The other lease was obtained by the Diamond Ranch for a period of time.

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Robert Grant Ranch
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Around 1896, Robert Jr. and Duncan had finished school and started to hunt wolves for the Swan Company. For five years the two boys hunted wolves throughout southeastern Wyoming.

Just after the turn of the century Robert and Margaret moved into the town of Wheatland and retired. Robert Jr. went to work for the Swan Company as a carpenter, Harry went to northern Wyoming to work for a cattle outfit. Clara and Duncan stayed at home to run the ranch.

While Duncan was at the ranch, he went back to work for the Swan Company. This time Duncan served as a member of the round-up crew. He recalled seeing three to five-thousand head of cattle in one bunch as a common occurrence. One time Duncan told of seeing ten-thousand head in one bunch. During the summer while working on the round-up crew, one could expect to work sixteen to eighteen hours a day. The day would start at four in the morning and finish at about eight in the evening. The crew also had night watch every night for two hours.

While employed as a carpenter, Robert Jr. built a hotel in Chugwater, Wyoming. Chugwater was the headquarters for large and well known Swan Land and Cattle Company.

During the early 1900s, the Grants made their own water reservoirs. The reservoirs were used to store the water used by the ditches. Some of the reservoirs were made with a slip and a team of two horses. Some of the reservoirs were made with a newer invention similar to a slip. This new invention was called a fresno. The major difference between the slip and the fresno was its size. The fresno was pulled by a team of four horses instead of two. Also, the size of load could be doubled. Another difference between the slip and the fresno was the method of the depth control. With the fresno, a human would walk behind everything but only held on to a bar. This bar came at an upward angle away from the fresno. The human controlled the depth of the cut by either extending his arms upward to deepen the cut or by lowering his arms towards the ground to transport the dirt.

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In 1911, the northwest-half of Laramie County, Wyoming became Platte County. Governor Joseph M. Carey appointed three individuals as organizing commissioners for the new county. Chris Hauf, T. J. Carrol, and Robert Grant Jr. were the commissioners of the new county. Around that time, the Grants built on to the rock house. This addition served as the kitchen area. Jim Chase was the carpenter for this project. In 1916, Clara Grant married to Jim Chase. The Chase family lived just three miles west of the rock house.

In 1918, Duncan married Cora Greenlee. Duncan and Cora lived at the Grant Ranch in the rock house. The Greenlee Family had a homestead within two miles of the Grant Ranch. In 1919, Duncan and Cora had a daughter named Verda. In 1921, Robert Sr. died at the age of 74. In 1923, Duncan and Cora had another daughter named Helen. Then in 1926, Duncan and Cora had a son named Robert.

In 1928, Duncan started a six year tenure as a Platte County Commissioner. In February of that same year Margaret died. Margaret remained paralyzed until a short time before her death.

In the year 1944, Robert III, Duncan and Cora's son, graduated from high school. Helen and Verda were already married by this time and Robert helped Duncan with the ranch work.

Three years later Robert III married Betty Lou Watson. Until 1948, Robert III and Betty Lou lived with Duncan and Cora. It was at this time that Robert III moved the former Slater bank building to the ranch. Robert III moved this building within one-hundred feet of the rock house. The bank building at Slater was built at the turn of the century, and was open until the 1920s. The closing of the bank was due to a lack of business.

During the 1950s, Robert III and Duncan constructed more water reservoirs. The purpose of these reservoirs was for livestock. By this time the total number of reservoirs that the Grants made themselves was approaching forty.

In the late 1960s, Betty Lou passed away. In 1970, Robert III married for a second time. His second wife Sue, a widower

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Robert Grant Ranch
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herself, had three children from her first marriage. The oldest boy David was eleven, Tommine Anne was nine, and Mary was six. Robert III and Sue had two boys of their own: in 1971, a boy named Michael and in 1973 a boy named Robert.

In July of 1975, Duncan passed away at the age of 93, and in 1982 Cora died at the age of 85. Also in 1982, Robert III began begin a ten year tenure as a Wyoming State Representative.

In 1990, Wyoming celebrated its centennial. Because of this celebration, the Grant Ranch received an award. This award was recognized the Grant Ranch's accomplishment of being in agriculture in Wyoming for one-hundred years. Also in the 1990s Robert III, Michael, and Robert IV started developing more sources of water. These three men developed water holes at places where water was not accessible by livestock. This process is known as spring development. Robert III started developing springs in the 1950s. However, he did not continue to develop these sources of water until the 1990s.

This is a brief history of the Grant family since 1878. Today, the Grant Ranch is still in operation on the land settled by Robert and Margaret. Many of the ditches and reservoirs made in the 1800s are still in use. A reason that some of these features are not used today is because of a shortage of water. Robert III is now in charge of operations. The main business of the Grants since 1884 has been raising cattle commercially. However, in 1907 the Grants raised only sheep for a term of seven years. Since that time, there has been occasions when the Grants have raised sheep and cattle together.

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Robert Grant Ranch
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UTMs continued

- E 13 504070 4632710-Dipping vat
- F 13 505600 4632600-Cemetery
- G 13 505880 4632370-lime kiln
- H 13 504080 4632580-original ranch house

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries for the Grant Ranch depend on existing topographical features including a stream bed as well as a section line and an artificial line drawn between two UTM points. The historic district includes approximately 75 acres in Section 30, Township 22 North and Range 67 West. Point A occurs where the section line (between Section 30 and 25) and topographical line 5400 meet; the boundary heads east along that same topographical line to point B where the topographical line and a UTM point meet; from there a line is drawn southward to connect point B to C, point C occurs at the intersection of the dry fork of the North Richeau Creek stream bed and a UTM point; the boundary then follows the dry fork of the creek west to point D where the dry fork of the stream and the section line meet; point D and point A both are both located on a section line therefore the boundary goes north from point D to point A.

Boundary Justification

The Grant family owns thousands of acres and leases additional land from the federal government; it would be imprudent to nominate all their land. The historic features do not fit into a squared off legal description therefore topographical features as well as section lines had to be used. The nomination's boundaries includes all the historic buildings, sites and structures of the Grant Ranch as well as some of the original hay fields; it captures the heart of the historic ranch. Typical of many ranches, the historic features are spread out and the boundaries for the Grant Ranch reflect that dispersal of cultural resources.

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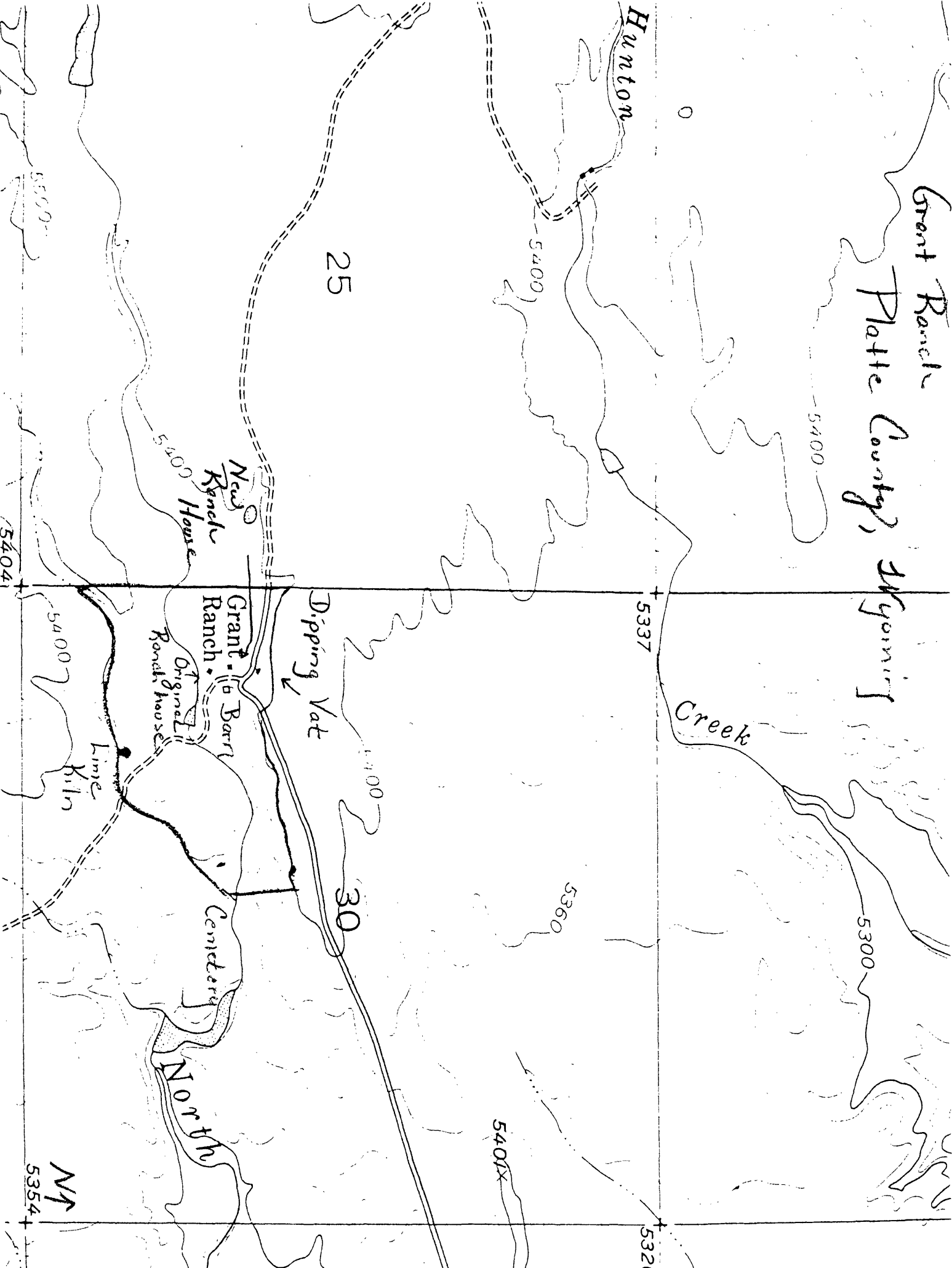
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Grant Ranch
Platte County, Missouri



25

Hunton

Creek

New
Ranch
House

Grant
Ranch
Original
Ranch House

Dipping Vat

Lime
Kiln

Cemetery

North

5337

5400

30

5407

5360

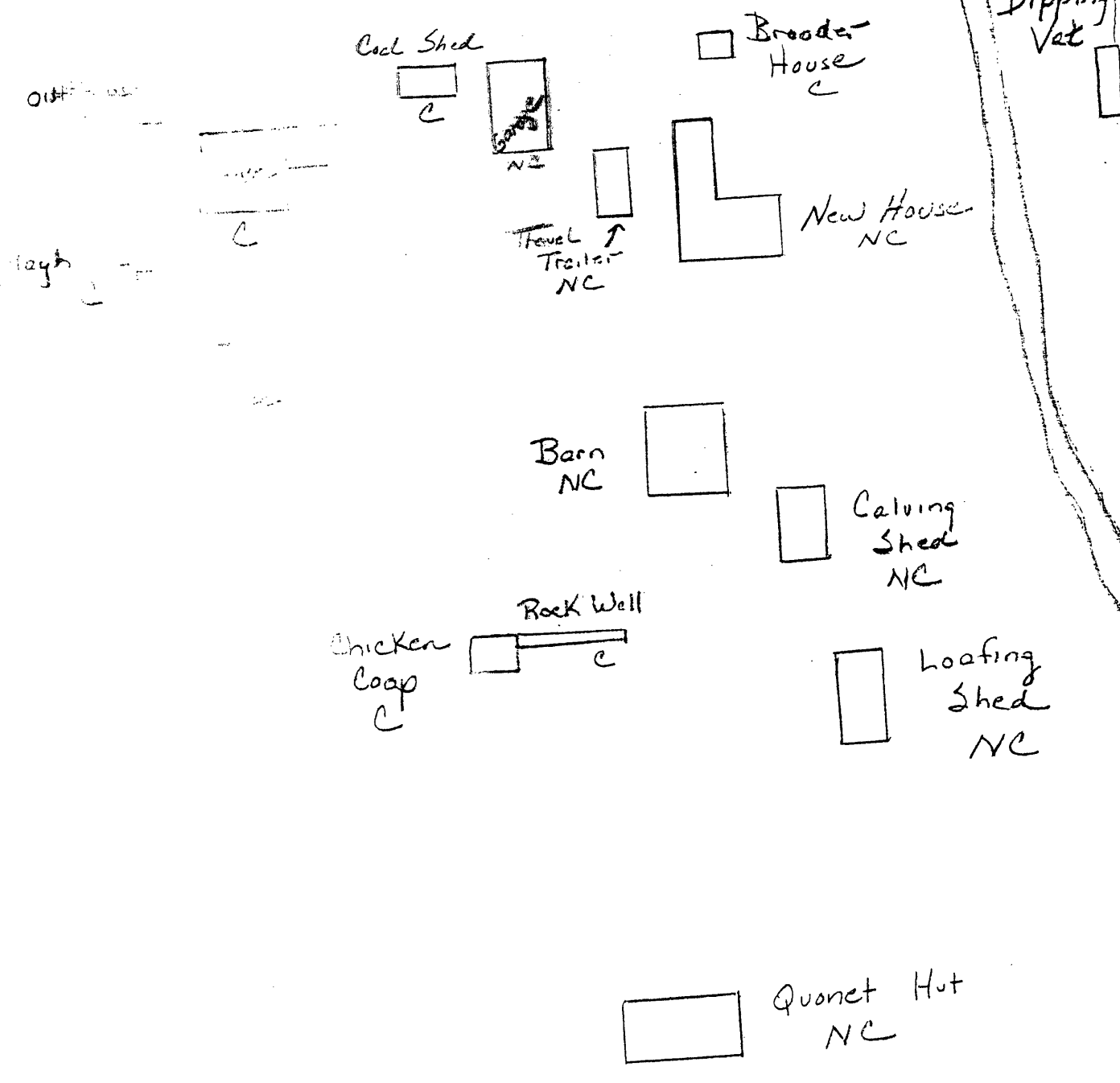
5300

5354

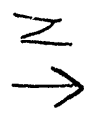
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Ranch, Tette Co., Wyoming



C - Contributing
NC - Non-contributing



Not to scale