DATA SHEET

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Depending on what is meant by original, there is or there is not a considerable difference in the present physical appearance of the Bradford Brinton Memorial from that which prevailed in its beginning. That is if the beginning was the headquarters establishment of the Quarter Circle A (\overleftarrow{A}) Ranch, dating from the 1890's, there is a considerable difference; if the beginning was the ranch home and other structures that Bradford Brinton either built or remodeled and added to, commencing in 1923, then the difference is not so great.

In either case the setting remains the same, and the setting was an integral part of the ranch of the 1890's just as it is an integral part of the ranch-memorial as it exists today. Indeed, that fact is one that is basic to the purpose of the memorial.

Rising abruptly on both its east and west flanks to an altitude in excess of 13,000 feet the Bighorn Range, like other similarly high mountain ranges, produces a decided effect on weather, an effect resulting in its own minature climatic zones. Its crest and its eastern foothills normally receive adequate if not abundant moisture while the high-plains region taking up where the foothills leave off is semi-arid and, on the western side of the range, the interior of the mountain gird Bighorn Basin approaches true desert status. The immediate locale of the memorial, in the eastern foothills of the range, is, then, a lush, green country-one of Wyoming's finest livestock ranges.

Livestock ranches in Wyoming fall into two broad, geographically and climatically predisposed, categories. These are, first, mountain valley ranches based on foothill private holdings and National Forest Service grazing permits; and, second, high-plains ranches operating on a combination of deeded lands and federally owned lands leased from the U. S. Bureau of Land Management. Within each of these distinct divisions the range lands, that is the uncultivated natural pastures, present, from one holding to another, resonably similar aspects. However, the headquarters of most ranches (buildings plus immediate cultivated fields) reflect not only local variations of climate and terrain but also the affluence and the idiosyncracies of various owners in a calling that has from the first attracted decidedly individualistic persons.

The Quarter Circle A Ranch headquarters occupies, along the banks of Little Goose Creek, a modified mountain-valley location. It is modified because Little Goose Creek has already escaped the mountains through a typical canyon and from here, where it breaks out into foothill country, the lower end of its course entering into the vast expanse of the northern high-plains is clearly visible. But in a way the setting is still a mountain-valley one for the Bighorns are there, an immediate backdrop providing the mountain scenic effect and beckoning the rancher to use its environs for both pleasure and profit.

Except when in flood, the Little Goose Creek that winds through these eastern foothills of the Bighorn Range is a clear, fast-flowing stream whose channel--varying between closely confining banks where currents run deep and dark and other stretches, broader and flatter, where whate riffles across gravel bars and trickles over rocks but only swirls around the boulders--is sometimes as little as ten feet and sometimes as much as

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The history of the Quarter Circle A Ranch is inextricably intertwined with the beginning and the continuity, in all of its ramifications, of the livestock industry within Wyoming's northern high plains and mountains. This vast area, lying north of the North Platte River and its Sweetwater affluent, was 'Indian Country' generally not open to exploitation by white men until a full decade following the founding and rapid overdevelopment of open range ranching operations in southern Wyoming.

The Plains Indians were quite capable of fighting and they were willing to fight and meant to fight to keep these great hunting grounds north of the Platte--north from the very banks of that river to and beyond the watershed of the Yellowstone. General Custer surely discovered that fact, albeit too late to cogitate upon it, at the Little Bighorn on June 25, 1876. But the Plains Indians lacked the economy to sustain a continuing warfare. Thus it fell out that within a couple of years of hard campaigning the U. S. Army had defeated them everywhere and had effectively if not absolutely confined them to reservations. Although for obvious reasons—such as its own welfare, bound to deteriorate under peacetime conditions—the army was loath to acknowledge and promulgate this relative security it had won in the north, it still didn't have an equivalent success in holding out the white men who pressed on the region's southern borders. By 1879 cattle were everywhere replacing the vanishing bison and a wide ranging white pastoral society was replacing the migratory red—men hunters on lands north of the Platte.

One of the first to take advantage of this new bonanza in open range grasslands was Mr. Moreton Frewen, scion of an English country family dating from the Norman conquest, who organized and headed a minor consortium of British capitalists. In 1879 he founded, with headquarters on the Middle Fork of the Powder River, the famous 76 Ranch--among the very earliest and one of the largest operations formulated within those erstwhile Indian hunting grounds.

A member of Frewen's consortium in the 76 venture was Mr. Frederick Bennet. Frewen himself was a 'younger son' and far from a wealthy man; his entrance into the open range livestock industry——for him it could be more properly termed livestock speculation—was almost entirely funded by the capital of other partners in the promotion. Bennet was a contributor who proved interested in other aspects of the business beyond pure financial returns. In fact he came to Wyoming to see the operation and was

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1. Additional Information, Quarter Circle A Ranch Nomination.

A second name for the Quarter Circle A Ranch is Bradford Brinton Memorial. Under the later name, the attached sketch, drawn to scale, shows all the ranch buildings. The gallery and the main house are the primary exhibit areas for works of art and literature. Shaded buildings pertain to the ranch's working operations and are not open to public visitation.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET Description

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

thirty feet in width. That channel is lined by a belt of vegetation wherein cotton-wood trees predominate with here and there evergreens, willows and chokecherry and, at lesser height, thorn thickets of such species as wild rose or gooseberry. On the south side hills descend quite, or almost, to the creek; on the north side the terrain flattens and it is there, for the most part, that man has found space to cultivate fields of alfalfa and grain. Here it is the hills that constitute the pasture lands. Covered with grass and sage, the grass predominating, these moisture laden hills are a far cry different from the arid hills and buttes of the high-plains, open-range country. Therein occur numerous springs and seeps surrounded by clumps of aspen or chokecherry and wild plum trees—in yesteryears favorite haunts of "Old Ephraim" the grizzly.

Indeed, taken altogether, these eastern foothills of the Bighorns were formerly one of the greatest of North America's historic and prehistoric wildlife ranges. It still is for those species surviving in significant numbers, but now the wild animals must share it with man's domisticated creatures.

Here in 1893, well into the declining years of the open-range livestock-industry, the scion of a Scottish aristocratic family acquired 600 acres of deeded land through which ran diagonally, almost from exact corner to exact corner, Little Goose Creek. On the south side of the creek, between it and encroaching slopes of foothills, lay, at a slightly higher elevation than the stream course, a narrow bench of level land on which grew clumps of trees interspersed by grassy openings. Here the new owner built a spacious, two story frame house and such outbuildings—a second residence (evidently for his foreman's family), bunkhouse, icehouse, springhouse (milkhouse it is now called, but it was a place for storage of milk, cream, etc., not a place where cows were milked)—as then were customary to an affluent rancher's establishment. Behind and below this housing complex, closer to the creek bank, he built his barn, sheds and corrals. Across the creek on its north side the terrain sweeps in a gentle slope for several hundreds of acres. This slope is conducive to irrigation and this ground he broke into cultivated fields.

Such was the general layout of the Quarter Circle A headquarters, a moneyed gentleman's working ranch as differentiated from one which of necessity was built up through the reinvestment of profits, when Bradford Brinton-also a man of means-acquired it in 1923. No doubt it was the setting, the natural appearance of the location, which most appealed to him. At any rate he soon started to change the appearance of man made features, albeit more by additions than by alterations.

Today evidently even as in its 1893 beginning, and due to its two level positioning—the creek bottom housing barns and corrals and the bench above housing homes, an

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CONTINUATION SHEET Description

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 3

art gallery and other buildings plus landscaped lawns and intervening trees, it is impossible to find a single vantage point from which to gain an overall impression of the Bradford Brinton Memorial. There is no place from which it can all be seen.

Lacking a vantage point from which to gain an impression the alternative is to tour the place. Such a tour logically starts from the city of Sheridan, Wyoming, where Little Goose Creek makes its confluence with Big Goose Creek, and follows what was formerly the U. S. Highway 87 route south for about 5 miles. It then turns into County Road 1703 and continues south and west—toward the mountains and through the historic village of Big Horn—a distance of approximately 5 miles more to a bridge where the county road crosses Little Goose Creek from its south to its north side. However the visitor doesn't cross that bridge, just there he turns to the left entering the private lane leading on up the creek to the Quarter Circle A Ranch. Having driven a matter of a half mile, more or less, he has passed all of the ranch buildings but one and it is within that building's floral and tree fringed parking space that he leaves his car. This is the Reception Center, it was completed in 1966 and it is the only building at the Quarter Circle A that does not relate to historic and ongoing ranch life and operations.

The Reception Gallery is a white frame multiangular building consisting, first, of two tall but single storied windowless halls covered by modified gambrel roofs. Extending to the north side from these larger and taller halls is a lower, flat roofed midsection which connects to a simple, gable roofed, north end extremity. The twin halls are actually galleries in which the diplays, most often but not always featuring various forms of western art, are subject to annual or more frequent change; the rest of the building houses information and sales services, offices for the director and public rest rooms.

The next building open to tour, a few hundred feet eastward across lawns and a gate in a fieldstone fence, is the rancher's home. The front and basic part of this white frame house is rectangularly shaped on an east-west axis with, on the east end, slight protrusions to the north and south; it is two and a half stories high and is crowned by a gable roof with side gables covering the north-south juts. This part of the house has several fireplaces and three massive chimneys extending well above the roof line. A long, staggered, multisection, one storied wing was evidently added, at a later time, to the back (north side) of the house. A fourth equally massive chimney extends high above the peak of this wing's irregular ridge line.

Within the house, displayed throughout living rooms, dining room, study, bedrooms, halls and sun-porches--as though he still was living and had so arranged them himself, are the precious collections of a cultivated gentleman-rancher. To quote

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CONTINUATION SHEET Description

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 4

from a memorial guide booklet (available in the Reception Gallery) "these include paintings, bronzes and prints by such artists as: Charles M. Russell, Frederick Remmington, Edward Borein, Frank Tenney Johnson, Will James, Bill Gollings, Joe De Yong, Frank W. Benson, George Bellows, John James Audubon, Winold Reiss, Hans Kleiber, A. B. Frost and others. Of special interest are rare books and documents, Robert Louis Stevenson and Samuel Johnson materials, a Lincoln letter (dated 1848), a George Washington document concerning Mt. Vernon, a William Penn paper dated 1681; books from the 17th and 18th centuries, many rare etchings; and limited editions on birds and animals of the world."

After leaving the owner's home the tour path leads to the saddle barn. Here it is again profitable to quote from the guide booklet: "Saddles and riding gear were plentiful at the Quarter Circle A Ranch, where guests were privileged to ride the beautiful thoroughbred horses raised and trained here. This barn was used only to 'saddle up'. The main stables are across Little Goose Creek. Included in the display are a lady's side saddle, a McClellan army saddle, flat saddles used for polo, bronc saddles, working and pleasure saddles, and a pack saddle. A complete set of harness, cinch belts, halters, bits and other horse gear are displayed. Also on display are a Brewster natural ash chaise with a coachman's seat and a dog cart."

Alongside the Saddle Barn is the Carriage Barn. Therein exhibited "is a four-horse stage coach which was used by W. F. Cody (Buffalo Bill) in connection with his operation of the Sheridan Inn". Other wagons on display are a "mountain spring wagon with top (circa 1890-1900), a three seater buckboard, a Brewster light buggy, and a two wheel breaking cart. At the right of the carriage display is the ranch blacksmith shop, complete with its original equipment.

Turning back toward higher ground from these creek-side structures the pathway leads past a number of buildings which are typical of a late 19th century-early 20th century working livestock ranch. "After passing the horse watering trough, the buildings within view from left to right are the milkhouse, with a natural spring in the basement for cooling milk cans, caretaker's house"—(also a two story frame affair, probably originally known as the foreman's house), "furnace and storage building, icehouse, garage and a small bunkhouse. Only the milkhouse is open to the public. The large barn to the north was built——for——hunting and polo horses. Polo was played in this area from the early part of this century and the polo field, within a few miles of this ranch, is considered one of the most attractive in the United States. Also there were times when lively square dances were held in the hay mow of the huge horse barn."

Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

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CONTINUATION SHEET Description

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 5

The pathway used in this tour ends a short distance down Little Goose Creek but beyond the area of landscaped grounds. Here, occupying a little opening surrounded by wild grass and trees, stands a log cabin built by Bradford Brinton. It is named Little Goose Lodge and overlooks the creek. "The two large rooms, each with its immense rock fireplace, are equipped with custom made rustic pine and birch furniture. Of the twenty-five mounted heads, seven are North American and the rest are African. Texas Longhorns are mounted near the windows and African native shields and spears decorate the walls on each side of the fireplace. The floor and table covers are various hides, such as zebra, grizzly bear, wolf and bobcat. The four folding chairs are covered with black and white calf hide. The fireplace screens depict the 'Buffalo Bill' stagecoach at the Quarter Circle A Ranch and an African landscape. The Indian portraits are by Winold Reiss and depict members of the Blackfoot tribe of Montana."

Here ends this description of the present and original physical appearance of the Bradford Brinton Memorial, otherwise known as the Quarter Circle A Ranch. Although it may have grown longer than seems necessary, it is actually only a hit and miss attempt to describe a blending of natural and cultural features which, in the end and in a large measure, escape the intent.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Significance

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

evidently captivated by the life of a ranchman. But the financial bloom rapidly faded from western ranching enterprises and by the mid-1880's the industry was in the doldrums. The 76 Ranch was in desperate monetary straights and had undergone structural reorganization sometime before the infamous hard winter of 1886-87 finished it off. Moreton Frewen was through as a rancher.

However, during the reorganization of 76 Ranch affairs prior to the final collapse it seems probable that Bennet had got out of that particular business. At any rate, as early as 1885, he and G. de S. Hamilton, another Englishman--perhaps Scotsman, were operating a ranching partnership known as the T J Outfit on southern Montana and northern Campbell County, Wyoming range lands.

Here, in 1885 and on the T J Ranch range lands, Mr. Malcolm Moncreiffe, fifteenth child of Sir Thomas and Lady Louisa Hay Moncreiffe of Ferthshire, Scotland, came to visit the American West under guidance of Frederick Bennet. Later, in 1887, Moncreiffe bought 1,000 head of cattle and ran them with the T J herds. In 1888 his brother William Moncreiffe joined him in this business. Then, in 1893, William left the high plains country of northern Campbell County and moved west about 90 odd miles to where, on Little Goose Creek in the eastern foothills of the Bighorn Mountains, Sheridan County, Wyoming--surely on land where a decade earlier cattle bearing the 76 brand had ranged--he bought a ranch. That ranch was the Quarter Circle A. Five years later, 1898, Malcolm Moncreiffe joined his brother William in the operation of that enterprise.

The Moncreiffe Brothers, besides general ranching operations, engaged in a number of businesses concerned with the development of the northern region of the new state of Wyoming. They backed sawmill and retail lumber enterprises for one thing. Within such promotional and developmental lines of endeavor they didn't overlook such golden opportunities as the Boer War--in far off South Africa--might present when they purchased and gathered and turned at a profit as many as twenty-five hundred head of cavalry and draft horses to representatives of the British Empire's War Office.

The Moncreiffes came by their knowledge and interest in horse flesh naturally. Probably there has never been a society more confirmed in the recreational use and love of the horse than the country families of the British Isles—where, indeed, a large share of all social functions were based on such activities as fox hunting, steeple chases and polo matches. In truth the Moncreiffes on the Quarter Circle A Ranch were only one part of a sort of colony of horse lovers, Englishmen and eastern Americans, who founded ranches in the valleys of Big and Little Goose Creeks. They organized a polo club with grounds outside the village of Big Horn where, down to

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET Significance

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 3

and including present times, many exciting matches have been held. Also, the Moncreiffes and some of the other ranchers made a business of raising and training polo horses which were sold wherever the game was played—throughout the world but chiefly in England and eastern America. When, in 1898, Malcolm Moncreiffe left his brother William on the Quarter Circle A, it was only to move across and down Little Goose Creek a short distance where he took up a new home known as the Polo Ranch.

One other historical tidbit demonstrating how closely the Moncreiffes were intertwined with the development of the northern half of a new range lands state should be mentioned. For ten years on either side of the turn of the 20th Century livestock ranges in Wyoming were subjected to intermittent disputes, turmoil and even warfare between cattlemen and sheepmen. About the last, the most infamous and the most serious of these disputes resulted in the shameful Spring Creek Raid of 1909 on the western side of the Bighorn Range. In that episode the flockmasters Emge and Allemand and a young sheepherder were murdered and several hundred of their sheep were destroyed by masked men. However, about 4,000 head of surviving ewes were accounted for in the property of Emge and Allemand and these were later that year purchased by Malcolm Moncreiffe from the two widows. Malcolm remained in the sheep business until 1945—he imported breeding stock from England and New Zealand thus continuing to improve his own herds as well as those of other sheepmen in northern Wyoming.

In 1923 Mr. Bradford Brinton purchased the Quarter Circle A Ranch from William Moncreiffe. Mr. Brinton easily fitted into the ranching society that had developed around the town of Big Horn. A synopsis of his life is given in the pamphlet "The Brinton Collections, a Guide to the Quarter Circle A Ranch" and it follows here:

"Mr. Bradford Brinton, born in 1880, was the son of a prosperous Illinois family. He was graduated from Yale in 1904; he joined his father in the farm implement business after graduation; he became a director and manager of the plow division of the J. I. Case Threshing Machine Company after the merger of his father's company in 1919. He was also a director of several companies including the William Henry Barnum and Company of New York. Brinton was an officer in the Mexican Campaign and participated in engagements with the Mexican rebels on the Rio Grande and in Mexico; he served with American troops in France during World War I and saw action as a Liaison Officer in the Meuse-Argonne and Somme Offensives in 1918. Brinton married in 1916; twin daughters Patricia and Barbara were born in Santa Barbara, California in 1926. He came to Wyoming in 1923 and purchased the Quarter Circle A Ranch. Mr. Brinton raised thoroughbred horses on his well-watered ranchland; he was an enthusiastic sportsmen; he participated in State and civic affairs and was

Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET Significance

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 4

especially interested in fish culture and the preservation of game. Brinton was devoted to the arts; he supported several projects concerned with the theatre and literature; he loved music, painting and sculpture. His interests brought him into close personal contact with many of the artists whose work he collected. His love of books and the craft of bookmaking led to his purchase of many fine contemporary volumes as well as rare English and early American editions. Brinton traveled to Europe first shortly after leaving Yale in 1904; he enjoyed people and travel, journeying to South America, the Caribbean and Africa on several occasions. He was gregarious, of a generous nature and was well-liked by all who claimed his friendship. His most lasting interests, however, were in the history of the West and the story of the American Indian. His collections strongly attest to these concerns."

Bradford Brinton died in 1936. This Memorial, named for him but encompassing the 600-odd-acres of the Quarter Circle A Ranch, was established by his sister, Miss Helen Brinton. To again quote the previously cited pamphlet this establishment was "in response to her own love of the country and her feeling that the collections of art, furnishings, historical materials and Indian artifacts gathered by her brother were significant and should be seen and enjoyed by the people who visit this region now and in the years to come. The Memorial is operated by the Northern Trust Company of Chicago and is open to the public free of charge."

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DATE ENTERED

AUG 1 0 1976

CONTINUATION SHEET Geographical

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 1

ADDENDUM NUMBER 1:

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G	1 3 3 3 9 6 2 0	41941421210	Н	1 3 3 3 9 6 1 5	4,94,58,4,5
I	113 3410 0 210	419 415 81410	J	1 3 3 4 0 0 2 0	4,94,5760
K	1 3 3 4 0 4 1 5	41941571510	L	1 3 3 4 0 4 1 5	4 9 4 5 8 3 0