

1389

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL
REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name: Remount Ranch

other name/site number: Lone Tree Ranch

2. Location

street & number: Remount Ranch Road

not for publication: N/A

city/town: 26 miles west of Cheyenne

vicinity: XX

state: WY county: Laramie code: 021 zip code: 82001

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: District

Number of Resources within Property:

| Contributing | | Noncontributing | | |
|--------------|----------|-----------------|----------|------------|
| <u>4</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>4</u> | <u>0</u> | buildings |
| <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | sites |
| <u>4</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | structures |
| <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | objects |
| <u>8</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>4</u> | <u>0</u> | Total |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: Zero

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this XX 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. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] Signature of certifying official July 31, 1990 Date

SHPO State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register Autumneth [Signature] 9/19/90
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

| | | | |
|-----------|--------------------------------|------|----------------------------------|
| Historic: | <u>DOMESTIC</u> | Sub: | <u>single dwelling</u> |
| | <u>AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE</u> | | <u>storage, animal facility,</u> |
| | | | <u>agricultural outbuilding</u> |
| Current: | <u>DOMESTIC</u> | Sub: | <u>single dwelling</u> |
| | <u>AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE</u> | | <u>storage, animal facility,</u> |
| | | | <u>agricultural outbuilding</u> |

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7. Description
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Architectural Classification:

OTHER: Stone Vernacular

Materials: foundation STONE/sandstone roof WOOD/shingle
walls STONE/sandstone other WOOD/log rafters and railroad ties
used in walls and doorway arches

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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8. Statement of Significance
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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Locally

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, B

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance:

AGRICULTURE

LITERATURE

Period(s) of Significance: 1886 - 1946

Significant Dates : 1930

Significant Person(s): Mary O'Hara

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

X See continuation sheet.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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X See continuation sheet.

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 -- Specify Repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: approx. 25 acres / Granite & Buford Quads

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

| | | | | | |
|------|--------|---------|------|--------|---------|
| A 13 | 479150 | 4548440 | B 13 | 479210 | 4548660 |
| C 13 | 479150 | 4548730 | D 13 | 480820 | 4548580 |

X See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: X See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: X See continuation sheet.

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

Name/Title: Jeffrey Mannix

Organization: World Class Ranches

Date: April 11, 1990

Street & Number: P.O. box 2029

Telephone: (208) 726-2437

City or Town: Sun Valley

State: Idaho

ZIP: 83353

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Present and Historical Physical Appearance

The historic Remount Ranch encompasses twelve hundred and eighty deeded acres and a leased school section in Laramie County, Wyoming, approximately twenty six miles west of Cheyenne. The ranch buildings are situated in gently rolling, tree covered hills and protected meadow land running south from the Union Pacific Railroad tracks, about one mile south of Interstate Route 80 on a gravel county road named after the ranch, Remount Road.

The Remount Ranch complex consists of a cluster of eight buildings nestled against the gentle north slopes of a wide, compact up-hill canyon, sheltered from the weather and defined by moderately rising, pine covered hills. Tack room and working corrals and a 19th Century loafing shed lie on the perimeter of a large pasture in front of and below the main house.

The ranch is dominated by a main house (1) made of pink granite stone dating back to 1886, commanding northerly views on two acres of landscaped lawn. The house is a bold architectural statement of six thousand square feet with its various levels and antique interior including nine fireplaces, archways of original vintage railroad ties, hand hewn log roof trusses, and the nooks and odd spaces of a fine home built more than one hundred years ago. Behind the main house, up the canyon to the south, are all the buildings in the complex except for the tack room and corrals and the loafing shed which lie down canyon to the west and to the east, hidden from a commanding high-plains, alpine view shared by all the buildings in the complex by the natural contouring of the landscape.

(2) BUNKHOUSE (Contributing)

This was the original building erected in 1875 by Messrs. Hay and Thomas. A two story building measuring 32'3" X 20'5", running north/south and situated up-canyon to the south of the main house by forth yards. The bunkhouse has been in continuous use since 1875, upgraded by every owner and remodeled in 1986 by the Ostlunds with a new roof, interior walls, plumbing and electrical, and exterior siding of cedar shake.

(3) COAL HOUSE (contributing)

This one story coal storage shed measures 15'10" X 7'5". It is adjacent to the bunkhouse to the northwest, and is constructed of native pink granite with a shake roof. Built in 1875.

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4) STORAGE SHED (Non-contributing)

Constructed in 1946 of cedar shake, this 20'4" X 8'5" shed is adjacent to the Coal House to the north. While this building is non-contributing due to its age, it does contribute to the community of buildings and is in architectural consort with all the other contributing structures.

(5) SPRING HOUSE (Contributing)

This one story granite building measures 15'4" X 14'4" and lies equidistant between the bunkhouse and the main house. Circa 1875, this functionally important building has seen continuous use up to this day.

(6) CAT HOUSE (Noncontributing)

Constructed in 1946 of cedar shake, this 8' X 6'2" shed is immediately adjacent to the spring house, and has been used since it was constructed to house the ranch cats via a specially designed swinging door and a heated floor. Again, while this building is technically noncontributing due to its age, the cat house adds to the charm and history of the district.

(7) EQUIPMENT SHED/SHOP (Noncontributing)

Constructed in 1946 of cedar shake walls and tin roof, this 42'4" X 26'4" shed fills in and contains the up hill (south) back of the canyon, and adds to the completeness of the district.

(8) INCINERATOR (Contributing)

A grand old wrought iron incinerator is situated behind the main house to the south. It is approximately six feet in diameter and seven feet high, with a twelve foot chimney of black iron. A massive pink granite retaining wall at the rear of the main house has been indented to contain this antique, and with the wall it lends and impressive, business-like presence to the compound.

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(9) GUEST COTTAGES (Non-contributing)

This is a long, V-shaped log structure that was built in 1950 and has four unique and charming log guest cottages with separate entrances, different layouts, and different, beautifully crafted granite fireplaces. Only the date of construction makes this 42' X 23' building a non-contributing element on the Remount. It is, however, a classic example of log building, and historically has a significant place in the evolution of the ranch and adds rich texture to the overall appearance to the homestead. It lies to the north of the main house, and has panoramic views to the east.

(10) CORRALS/TACK ROOM (Contributing)

The corrals are to the west of the ranch compound at the end of the ranch road. Built in 1930, the stalls measure 60' X 13'5" and the tack room is 20'4" X 10'4". The pole corrals are designed to work cattle, with six pens, squeeze shoot and alley, hay bunks, and sorting areas.

(11) LOAFING SHED (Contributing)

Constructed in 1875 of railroad ties, the loafing shed lies to the east of the ranch compound and is the first building a visitor sees upon entering the ranch through the overhead gate. It is situated at the east end of a long hay meadow that can be seen from all the buildings in the compound.

(12) GRANITE RETAINING WALL (Contributing)

This massive, pink granite wall retains the gentle slope of the hill behind the main house. Built originally in 1886 and enlarged and expanded in 1930, this structure adds to the significance of the district and the overall beauty of the compound. It has granite stairs that ascend to the sloping, conifer covered meadow behind the main house, where a visitor can view the entire ranch and the rolling hills and high plains that typify the vast beauty of Wyoming.

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8. Statement of Significance

The Remount Ranch is a pioneer cattle and horse ranch in Laramie County, Wyoming, thirty miles west of Cheyenne. It is judged a significant property under National Register Criteria A and B because it represents the themes of late 19th Century pioneer settlement and agricultural development, and was the home of the celebrated author, Mary O'Hara, who wrote extensively of the Wyoming landscape and ranch life. Among many books and short stories she wrote, she authored the classic book, My Friend Flicka.

The Remount Ranch, originally called the Lone Tree Ranch, was homesteaded in 1886 by Thomas Gunston. Gunston was born in Wilkshire, England in 1850, the son of the manager of a large country estate. He emigrated from England in 1869 to Boston, Massachusetts where he worked at various jobs for ten years, losing his right hand in an accident on a Connecticut River steamboat where he was employed as engineer. In 1879, Gunston came to Wyoming in search of land and riches in the opening Western Territories, and went to work as a ranch hand for Messrs. Hay and Thomas on the Lone Tree Ranch, 30 miles west of Cheyenne, Wyoming. In 1880, Gunston returned to England for a year-long visit and came back to Wyoming in 1881 to acquire land and raise horses and cattle. He purchased the Lone Tree Ranch from Hay & Thomas in 1886 and homesteaded more land around the ranch. He married Miss Eleanor Fairley of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1887, whom he met on board ship returning from his 1880 visit to England. A son was born in 1889, whom they named Gordon Fairley Gunston, but died within one month. Another son was born in 1890, whom they also named Gordon Fairley. This second son, however, was born in Pittsburgh where Eleanor could be assured of better care in the city among her family. A third son was born sometime between 1890 - 1898, but he, too, died prematurely. Both infant sons are buried behind the ranch house, marked by a hand-crafted picket fence that survives to this day. A daughter was born to the Gunstons in 1900, called Leonora Hattie. She survived the rigors of early Wyoming ranch life and is still living in California.

One notable social acquaintance of Thomas Gunston was the infamous historical character Tom Horn, bounty hunter and range detective turned outlaw. Tom Horn visited the Gunstons over the years and according to some sources, used the Gunston ranch to hide-out from the pursuit of Laramie County Sheriff Frank Roach and Federal agents seeking his arrest for the killing of a young boy named Willie Nichol. A beautifully braided horse hair bridle and reins was gifted Gunston by Tom Horn and still hangs in perfect condition on the wall of the bar at the Remount.

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Thomas Gunston began the tradition that has continued uninterrupted to this day of breeding livestock and growing hay. The two homes Thomas Gunston built on the property were constructed with railroad ties from the Union Pacific railroad expanding westward across the northern boundary of the property and uncut pink granite stones quarried on the ranch. The homes remain and are used today. The Gunstons were divorced in 1903. Eleanor moved to Oregon and taught school on an Indian reservation and wrote many wonderful accounts of the beautiful life and landscape in Oregon for eastern newspapers. Thomas fared less well. He idled away his life as a drunk, sold the ranch to J.W. Griffin in 1923, and moved into Cheyenne where he died in 1927 at the age of 77. He is buried in the Lakeside Cemetery marked by a headstone identifying him as a Pioneer.

The Gunston property was acquired in 1923 by Joe Griffin who operated it as an absentee owner, running cattle and growing hay until 1930 when it was sold to Mr. & Mrs. Helge and Mary Sture-Vasa. Helge Sture-Vasa was the son of a Swedish diplomat. He was sent, for several years, to an American prep school, The Virginia Military Academy, then found himself studying film making in Berlin when World War I broke out. He was urged to leave Berlin before he became conscripted, and was summoned to his father's landed estate in Belgium where he joined the First Queen's Cavalry, of which his father was Colonel. He later transferred to the American Remount Service, from which the name Remount Ranch was derived. After the war, Helge became an American citizen and came to Los Angeles, California to continue his studies in film making. In Los Angeles he met and in 1922 married a journeyman film writer by the name of Mary O'Hara, who would later become one of the world's most famous novelists with the publication of her classic book, My Friend Flicka.

Mary O'Hara was born in 1885 as Mary O'Hara Alsop in Cape May Point, New Jersey, and grew up in Brooklyn, New York. The Sture-Vasas worked in Hollywood and lived on Mary's salary as a successful screen writer. Helge talked continuously of his desire to move to Wyoming and join in the sheep growing business with his old friend and fellow soldier and veterinarian to the American Remount Service, Wyoming native Bill Carlson. Correspondence between Helge and Bill Carlson was steady, talking about the beauty of Wyoming and the fortune to be made in sheep raising. Finally in 1930, Mary grew weary of the demands of the film business and wanted to pursue her interest in writing short stories. At the same time, Bill Carlson reported that he had found the "perfect" ranch for his and Helge's dream venture, thirty miles west of Cheyenne. Mary bought the ranch with all of her savings, and the Sture-Vasas loaded up the Studebaker and set out for the rugged, high plains ranch that

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would provide the inspiration for Mary O'Hara's beloved book, My Friend Flicka, published in 1941 by Bertram Lippincott, a distinguished Philadelphia publisher. My Friend Flicka was a huge success, ultimately translated into sixty-two languages and made into a feature film and a television serial.

Helge added on to the Gunston homestead, using the pink granite rock found on the ranch, retaining the integrity of the original buildings and enhancing the theme and fabric of the early Wyoming cattle ranch. Helge raised sheep until the market prices following the Great Depression made it impossible to continue. Mary bought milk cows and delivered milk to Cheyenne. Helge began breeding horses for polo and for the cavalry at Fort. Warren. Finally, Mary developed a modest but successful boys' ranch at the Remount for youngsters from prep schools in the East, and together with occasional small sums Mary received from selling her short stories she and Helge managed along until the publication of her first book My friend Flicka made Mary an overnight celebrity and assured financial security. Mary continued to write at the Remount, producing all best-sellers about life in Wyoming, including, Thunderhead in 1944, Green Grass of Wyoming in 1946, Wyoming Summer in 1946, and The Catch Colt in 1978, which was also written into a musical from music Mary wrote in her study at the Remount.

The Remount was sold in 1946 primarily because of Helge's persistent and notorious romantic indiscretions in Cheyenne. Mary and Helge moved to Santa Barbara, California after the sale of the Remount and were divorced in 1947 after the move proved to be no prescription for a failing marriage. Mary O'Hara died in Chevy Chase, Maryland on October 14, 1980 at the age of ninety-five. The Remount Ranch best represents the significant contributions made by Mary O'Hara during her adult, productive lifetime. No other properties in Wyoming are known to be associated with her, and no other properties in Wyoming are listed in the National Register for their association with her.

Mr. & Mrs. John & Carol Knox acquired the Remount in 1946 and continued to work the land with cattle and hay. They added on to the original home and the Sture-Vasa's improvements with a large "great room," a dining room, and a master bedroom suite -- all made of pink granite from the ranch. The Knoxes also built an additional building made of log post & beam containing four individual guest cottages, which remain in original charming, rustic condition. In the mid 1950s the Knoxes opened an elegant country restaurant in the main house and operated it until financial reversal resulted in a mortgage foreclosure in 1964. The Knoxes Remount Ranch played host to many state and national celebrities from the worlds of politics and business. Title passed in 1964 to Cheyenne banker Arnold H. Trautwein until it was purchased in 1970 by current owners, Mr. & Mrs. John C. and Mary Ostlund.

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John C. and Mary Ostlund have preserved the historic significance and condition of the Remount Ranch over the past nineteen years of their stewardship. They, too, have upgraded the homestead meticulously, again using the native pink granite to continue the architectural theme. The land is still used for livestock grazing as it has been since the 19th Century.

John C. Ostlund is a native of Wyoming, a graduate of the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, a three-term State Senator from Gillette, and a trustee of the University of Wyoming. His civic, cultural and philanthropic involvement is well known throughout Wyoming, and the Remount has hosted a variety of dignitaries. Along with his wife Mary and their eight children, the Ostlunds have made the Remount Ranch available to a steady stream of anthropologists, archaeologists, literary historians, and fans of Mary O'Hara from all over the world.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Major Bibliographical References

O'Hara, Mary, Flicka's Friend: An Autobiography of Mary O'Hara,
New York, G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1982.

O'Hara, Mary, Catch Colt, New York, Doubleday & Company,
Inc., 1963.

O'Hara, Mary, Green Grass of Wyoming, New York, J.B.
Lippincott Company, 1946.

O'Hara, Mary, Thunderhead, New York, J.B. Lippincott
Company, 1943.

O'Hara, Mary, My Friend Flicka, New York, J.B. Lippincott
Company, 1941.

Chicago Sunday Tribune, October 27, 1946, By Kelsey Guilfoil.

Washington Star, Washington, D.C., October 15, 1980.

Sunday Tribune-Eagle, Cheyenne, Wyoming, February 6, 1977;
August 9, 1987; August 23, 1987.

Laramie daily Boomerang, Laramie, Wyoming,
August 4, 1977.

Laramie Sunday Boomerang, Laramie, Wyoming, May 13,
1979.

Casper Star Tribune, Casper, Wyoming, October 16, 1971.

Wyoming State Tribune, July 25, 1961.

The Denver Post, September 28, 1986.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10

Remount Ranch Page # 1

10. Geographical Data

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
 E 13 479820 4548450 F 13 479070 4548420
 G 13 479070 4548380 H 13 479123 4548360

Legal description: Portions of Section 13, 17 & 20 T. 13 N., R.
70 W. 6th pm., Laramie County, Wyoming.

Verbal Boundary Description: The boundary for the Remount Ranch begins at an arbitrary but logical point located southwest of the southwest corner of the main ranch house. It lies midway between two ridges which help to define the main ranch complex property both visually and physically. The point of beginning is Point A. The boundary proceeds from this point north down the ridge along the west side of the driveway. It follows the drive to the northwest to the point where the bridge road meets the driveway at Point B. The boundary then extends in a straight line northeast crossing the stream and stopping at an arbitrary point just north of the bridge which is Point C.

From Point C the boundary then follows a contour line east southeast along the north side of the stream to an arbitrary point at the north end of the loafing shed corrals to Point D. It then proceeds in a straight line south, crossing the stream and the driveway, to an arbitrary point on the south side of the main drive, Point E. The boundary then proceeds west along the south side of the driveway back to the main complex to an arbitrary point located approximately 30 feet from the northeast corner of the shop garage, and at the base of the lower ridge which runs around the back of the property, this is Point F. The boundary then extends in a straight line west, up the ridge south of the garage to an arbitrary point along the upper ridge encompassing the complex, Point G. The boundary then proceeds west along the upper ridge to an arbitrary point south of point A between the two contour lines, Point H, and then straight north to the point of beginning.

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1024-0018
(8-86)

OMB Approval No.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

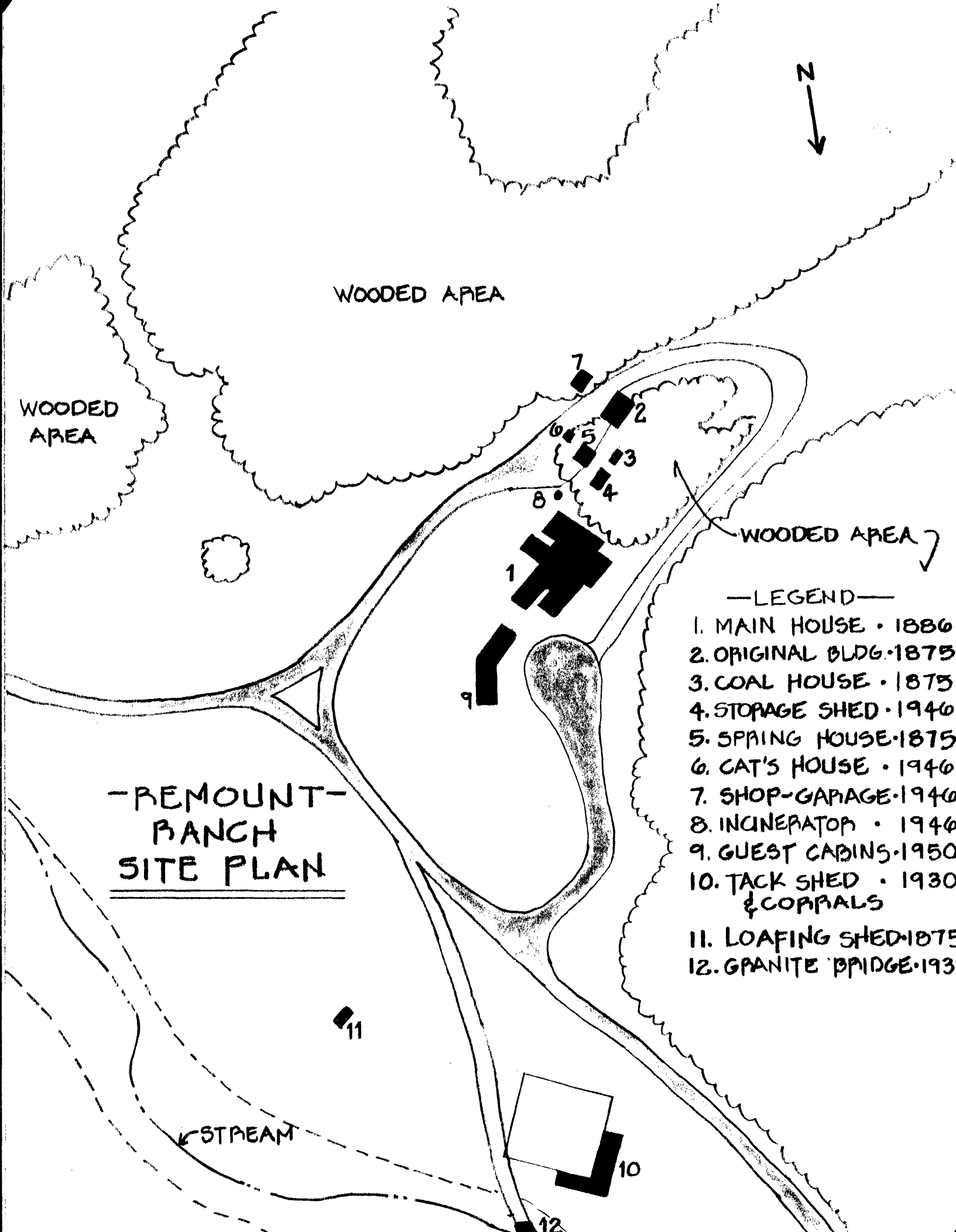
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Verbal Boundary Justification:

The Remount Ranch boundary encompasses its significant structures constructed from 1875 to the present. The use of natural contour lines and the main drive to define the boundary provides a rational visual boundary for the entire complex of interrelated functionally dependent structures. While some buildings or structures may be considered non-contributing because of their age, all contribute to the cohesive ranch complex setting and there are no visual intrusions present. The natural setting typical of early homesteads which began with a few solid log and wood buildings and which had other larger and more substantial structures added over time has been well protected. This complex which has been maintained in excellent condition reflects the somewhat rare case of an early homestead/ranch operation which not only survived in the face of serious economic hardships but even eventually prospered.



WOODED AREA

WOODED AREA

WOODED AREA

-REMOUNT-
RANCH
SITE PLAN

—LEGEND—

- 1. MAIN HOUSE • 1886
- 2. ORIGINAL BLDG • 1875
- 3. COAL HOUSE • 1875
- 4. STORAGE SHED • 1946
- 5. SPRING HOUSE • 1875
- 6. CAT'S HOUSE • 1946
- 7. SHOP-GARAGE • 1946
- 8. INCINERATOR • 1946
- 9. GUEST CABINS • 1950
- 10. TACK SHED • 1930
& CORRALS
- 11. LOAFING SHED • 1875
- 12. GRANITE BRIDGE • 193

← STREAM

11

10

12

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90001389

Date Listed: 9/19/90

Remount Ranch
Property Name

Laramie
County

WY
State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

for *Antoinette Lee*
Signature of the Keeper

10/9/90
Date of Action

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Amended Items in Nomination:

Statement of Significance: Under Criteria Considerations (Exceptions), Criteria Consideration G should be inserted because the property is of exceptional significance and its period of significance extends within the past 50 years.

This information was confirmed with Sheila Bricker-Wade of the Wyoming SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)