

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



47

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Duncan Grant Ranch Rural Historic Landscape
other names/site number Cooney Hills Ranch

2. Location

street & number 778 Sybille Creek Road not for publication
city or town Wheatland vicinity
state Wyoming code WY county Platte code 031 zip code 82201

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Mary Jo Hopkins, Wy SHPO 1/8/2013
Signature of certifying official Title Date
Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____
Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

Duncan Grant Ranch Rural Historic Landscape
 Name of Property

Platte County, WY
 County and State

5. Classification

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

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

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

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
9	4	buildings
		district
11		site
3	11	structure
		object
23	15	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

- Agriculture – agricultural field
- Domestic – single dwelling
- Agriculture – agricultural outbuilding
- Agriculture – irrigation facility
-
-
-

Current Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

- Agriculture – agricultural field
- Domestic – single dwelling
- Agriculture – agricultural outbuilding
- Agriculture – irrigation facility
-
-
-

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

No style

Materials
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Stone
 walls: Wood

 roof: Metal
 other: Stucco
Brick

Duncan Grant Ranch Rural Historic Landscape
Name of Property

Platte County, WY
County and State

Narrative Description

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

Summary Paragraph

The Duncan Grant Ranch Rural Historic Landscape is located in the southeastern portion of Wyoming. It is approximately 70 miles north of Cheyenne, 15 miles southwest of Wheatland, and 28 miles northwest of the small community of Chugwater. The historic ranch headquarters occupies a small valley against the Cooney Hills and is situated just west of Sybille Creek, with extensive pasture land extending west into the Laramie Range and agricultural fields on the bluff to the east. The ranch comprises approximately 8,000 acres and includes the original homesteads, additions to the ranch made over the years through inheritance and purchase, and Bureau of Land Management allotments traditionally used by the Grant family. The historic property retains a rural agricultural setting as it is surrounded by modern land acquisitions owned by or long-term leased by the family, ranchettes, and other agricultural properties. The period of significance for the property begins with the homestead in 1874 and extends to 1955 when the family acquired additional, discontinuous land, and the ranch more than doubled in size.

Narrative Description

Cultural Landscape Characteristics: Processes

Land Uses and Activities:

The land occupied by the ranch was used periodically for the past 9,000 years by numerous Native American Tribes; however, there are no known eligible archeological sites within the ranch boundaries. There is trace evidence of the Fort Laramie to Fort Halleck Road through the small valley. The route briefly served as a transportation corridor between the two forts. These previous uses left only small marks on the landscape.

Comparatively, the Duncan Grant Ranch extensively altered the landscape. When homesteaded in 1874, the family established ranch headquarters and used the surrounding land for pasture and agricultural production. They constructed a small cabin, barn, and corrals, dug the Two Bar Ditch, established a garden, harvested the natural meadow for hay, expanded the hayfield via irrigation, and later fenced pasture lands for the cattle. During this time, the Grants ran approximately 400 head of cattle on the ranch.

After the initial development, a second phase of building occurred ca 1890, during which the family significantly increased the ranch headquarters. They expanded the ranching complex adding corrals and associated chutes, and expanded the barn. In addition, they constructed a new housing area, which included the new house, ice house, bunkhouse, landscaping, and planted a fruit orchard. Over the years they added fences to enclose pastures as well as to demarcate the housing area from the ranching complex. These ranching activities are readily apparent on the land.

The family continued to use the land in a similar fashion after the second phase of development until the purchase of additional land in the mid-1950s. With the new land, the Grants increased the number cattle and began summering the cattle on the newly acquired land. Recently, since the late 1970s, more extensive changes occurred. They constructed a large machine shop east of the barn, built an additional house, replaced wood fences and corrals with steel pipe fences, established feeding and doctoring stations, and acquired small parcels of additional land for grazing and alfalfa. Many of these changes are noncontributing because they are outside the period of significance, but are still reflective of ranching life. As has been the tradition, multi-generations of family still reside on the ranch.

Patterns of Spatial Organization:

The organization of the ranch reflects a combination of the natural environment and cultural forces. Virtually all settlement in Wyoming is predicated on access to a reliable water source. People homesteaded along creeks, in water drainages, and/or close to natural springs, generally starting in the southern portion of the state, which was closest to the railroad. When the better land was already taken, homesteaders moved north. Exact location and orientation of the ranch headquarters were dictated by local geography and topography, but often homesteads were located in valleys and drainages to avoid the fierce wind, with access to water, and to be as close as possible to transportation corridors. The ranches are often divided into multiple areas of use: ranching complex, housing areas, pasture or range land, and meadows or cultivated hayfields.

Duncan Grant Ranch Rural Historic Landscape
Name of Property

Platte County, WY
County and State

The Duncan Grant Ranch generally follows these patterns, located in a valley away from the wind, near a reliable water source, close to a traditional transportation route, and as close to the railroad as possible while also providing access to good grazing and agricultural land. They also settled in an area that allowed for multiple family members to homestead on adjacent land or in close proximity to each other.

The spatial organization within the district reflects typical ranching practices, with developed areas located in fairly close proximity, yet still separate and distinct. These areas are located on the edges of the property and near an access road. The original homestead cabin was built close to the ranching complex, but far enough away to maintain distance from the odors of a working ranch. The developed areas are also situated near available water for domestic use, for livestock, and to provide irrigation for a large garden.

Responses to the Natural Environment:

As an extraordinarily arid region that requires access to water, most of Wyoming is not suitable for farming, but is good for ranching with limited crop production. However, this area of Wyoming is one of the few that can, with irrigation, sustain more extensive farming. Historically, the land supported a mix of agricultural activities; cattle and/or sheep ranching as well as the production of wheat, corn, alfalfa, and sugar beets.¹

The Duncan Grant Ranch headquarters are situated between a small ridge, or hill top as the family referred to it, and a portion of the Laramie Range, known as the Cooney Hills, and is adjacent to the Sybille Creek. The valley provided protection from the elements and served as a natural drainage from the Cooney Hills. In order to irrigate the land, the family dug the Two Bar Ditch with slips and fresnos. Evidence of both methods is still evident along the ditch. A natural hay meadow existed in the valley, which the family expanded, via a flood irrigation system, to increase hay production. Some cottonwood trees naturally grew along the creek and the family planted additional trees around the house for protection from the wind and sun. Although the trees were intentionally planted to provide protection from the elements, they were not part of a formalized windbreak or shelterbelt.

Cultural Traditions:

Ranching practices dominated the use of the land, as virtually all of life was predicated on creating a successful ranch. The demands of ranching dictated the choice of land, with early homesteaders acquiring the best location for ranching. Duncan Grant initially homesteaded on the Chugwater River, approximately 25 miles southwest of the current ranch, but sold the land and in 1874 homesteaded along the Sybille Creek. It was slightly unusual to have homesteaded in one location and then so quickly sold the land, and moved to a second location. However, along Sybille Creek, although further away from the railroad, was better land and provided enough space for multiple family members to acquire contiguous pieces of property. The homestead cabin was a vernacular log cabin constructed of readily available material; in order for the ranch to succeed, minimal effort was put forth on the cabin. Greater time and energy was expended on building the barn and corrals, digging the Two Bar Ditch, and establishing an irrigation system.

Once the ranch was more fully established, other luxuries, such as a larger house and additional outbuildings were constructed. The Grants began a second phase of building ca 1890. These new buildings provided living space for extended family, a bunkhouse for hired hands, and extensively expanded the ranch complex. The family continued to use these buildings and maintained similar ranching practices until the mid-1950s.

In 1955, they vastly increased the size of the land holdings, enlarged the size of the herd, and changed the method of raising the cattle. Prior to 1955, the family ran the approximately 400 head of cattle on the ranch; the animals were kept on this land year-round. With the acquisition of more land in 1955, the cattle were wintered on the home ranch and were summered on the new land. The additional land allowed the family to substantially increase the size of the herd. They transported the larger herd, via truck, from the home ranch to the additional land. The acquisition more than doubled the size of the ranch, led to an increase in the number of cattle, and altered the ranching practices; however, no major changes to the built environment, of the home ranch, occurred until the late-1970s with the addition of the machine shop.²

¹ U. S. Department of Agriculture and Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, *Soil Survey of the Wheatland Area, Wyoming* (Washington, D.C., 1926), pp. 1-8.

² Grant Family Papers (Mary Margaret "Mickey" and Fred McGuire Personal Collection).

Duncan Grant Ranch Rural Historic Landscape
Name of Property

Platte County, WY
County and State

Cultural Landscape Characteristics: Components

Circulation Networks:

At the largest scale, the Union Pacific Railroad served as the primary form of transportation and as the method of shipping cattle to market and receiving goods. Ranch locations were often chosen based on a combination of proximity to the railroad and the availability of high quality land. While the Duncan Grant Ranch was nearly 70 miles north of the main Union Pacific Railroad, it was only about 20 miles west of the Cheyenne and Northern Railway, which reached Chugwater and Wheatland by 1887. In ca. 1916, the Cheyenne and Northern Railway, reorganized as the Colorado and Southern Railroad, extended a spur line to the area. Locally known as the Natwick, the shipping point was only two miles south of the Duncan Grant Ranch headquarters.³

Beyond the railroad there were a few stage coach roads that connected far ranging ranches to various forts and Cheyenne, which was the largest community in the territory. The Deadwood to Cheyenne Stage Road, which ran north/south, was a primary artery through the territory. The short-lived Fort Laramie to Fort Halleck Road ran generally southwest/northeast through the area now occupied by the ranch. As transportation evolved the Yellowstone Highway and later known as the Park to Park Highway became the primary north/south corridor, which was eventually followed by Interstate 25, using the same general route. Local roads, which generally followed section lines, connected the ranch to both Wheatland and Chugwater. Primary access to the ranch is via Highway 34 and then Sybille Creek Road, which follows the section line and runs north/south along the eastern edge of the historic district.⁴

Within the ranch there were a variety of circulation paths; ranging from bladed gravel roads to rough two track roads. The exact access routes to the headquarters varied slightly over time, primarily depending on the creek crossing. Initially the primary access road ended on the east side of Sybille Creek and the only means of crossing was by a rope footbridge or by fording the creek. (Figures 10 and 11) This continued for years until the first wood timber bridge was constructed ca. 1940. In 1985, the current wood bridge was constructed; the wood bridge and road variant remain, but are rarely used. Since the wood bridges frequently were washed away during floods, recently, ca. 1990, a new concrete bridge or Arizona Crossing was installed. These various bridges demonstrate changes in technology of bridge materials and design, from the rope bridge, to wood timber, to a new concrete bridge. With each relocation of the crossing, a slightly different variant in the primary access road was created.

Although the access road periodically changed, the internal ranch roads remained fairly consistent. The roads connected the homestead, ranch facilities, and helped differentiate between the new house complex and the ranch complex. The internal roads connected the developed areas with the hay meadows, pasture lands, and feeding station. These roads often followed already established game trails which had then become cattle trails. The historic circulation network is readily evident and much of it is still in use.

Boundary Demarcations:

The boundary demarcations within the Duncan Grant ranch are a combination of natural features, small scale features, circulation paths, and arbitrary section lines. On a large scale the ridge on the east and the Cooney Hills on the west serve as markers between cultivated lands, the developed area, and open pasture land. To the east, above the ridge, is an area of agricultural land for harvesting alfalfa. The Cooney Hills demarcate the ranch headquarters from the extensive pasture land, which extends approximately seven miles to the west. Fences separate the various pastures, both family owned land and public Bureau of Land Management allotments that have been used by the Grant Family. In the valley is a combination of developed areas and hay meadows. The areas are divided by a combination of fences, ditches, roads, and the creek.

In general, these features within the district mark distinct areas of use. The fences and roads commonly parallel each other and often follow the Two Bar Ditch or in some instances the creek. They separate the new housing complex and the orchard, from the ranch complex and hayfields. Fence lines and landscape plantings separate the original homestead from the meadow and small pasture area. There is a small two track road along the creek that is infrequently used by vehicular traffic. The road and fence separates a small section of meadow land for pasture land; it is used to wean cattle. These animals remain close to the headquarters, have access to the most nutritious grasses, and are protected by the trees from the sun, wind, and inclement weather.

³ Robert A. King, *Trails to Rails: A History of Wyoming's Railroads* (Casper: Endeavor Books – Mountain States Lithographing, 2005), pp. 63-64.

⁴ Wyoming Cultural Property Form, *Fort Laramie to Fort Hallock Road, 48PL179* (sic) (by Bret Bergstrom. On file at Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office, 2005).

Duncan Grant Ranch Rural Historic Landscape

Name of Property

Platte County, WY

County and State

The district boundary is primarily formed by section and quarter section lines.

Vegetation Related to Land Use:

According to the 1926 *Soil Survey of the Wheatland Area, Wyoming* conducted by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils:

The Wheatland area lies on the east slope of the Laramie Mountains, which are outliers of the Rocky Mountains. Topographically, this district is part of the high plains area....Eastward from this [Chugwater] creek is a succession of steps or benches commonly known as catsteps.... The benches are crossed by the valley of Sibylee Creek (sic) and interrupted by a ridge of Sibylee (sic) rocks, a projecting monadnock or saw-toothed ridge of hard granite rock, which erosion has not reduced to the general level of high plains. These rocks cover an area of about 7 or 8 square miles on the north edge of T. 23 N., R 69 W., on the west side of Sibylee Creek (sic).

The main irrigated part of the Wheatland area is bounded on the east by Chugwater Creek, on the north by Laramie River, and on the west by Sibylee Creek (sic). To the south is rolling foothill country too rough for cultivation.... The bottom lands along the streams are narrow, averaging perhaps one-half mile in width. They are composed of low terraces, border steps, and true bottom land subject to overflow by the streams. These lands were the first to be irrigated and formed the basis of the larger cattle ranches which operated here before water was applied to the upper bench lands.

The elevation at Wheatland is 4,738 feet above sea level. The general slope of the area surveyed is to the north and northeast. Natural drainage is good, owing to the large number of creeks, the sloping and undulating relief of the benches, and the gravelly texture of the subsoils. Nearly every farm has an outlet for drainage and waste irrigation waters. The only wet areas are the bottom lands and narrow flats which receive seepage from the canals or from higher irrigated lands.⁵

As stated above, the early cattle operations settled along the creek bottoms. The locations of these homesteads were chosen partially due to natural vegetation, but the ranch activities have also substantially altered the vegetation of the area. The open range and pasture land has a variety of natural grasses that cattle thrive on; however, with the arrival of the cattle came certain invasive species. The growth of both species is dependent upon the amount of moisture received. Western wheatgrass, buffalo grass, and gamagrass, which are natural to the area, grow primarily in years of good moisture, but are not as prevalent during drought years. Even during drought the yucca plant still survives and will provide feed for the cattle. Cheatgrass and foxtail grass is pervasive nonnative vegetation that grows during both years of high rain and drought. While cheatgrass provides some nutrients for the cattle, the foxtail grass is a weed that can cause health problems for the cattle.⁶

The success of the ranch is dependant on both the growth of natural and invasive species on the pasture land as well as the cultivated alfalfa and the natural hay meadows. While the meadows existed prior to the arrival of the Grants, the meadows were extended and expanded through the Two Bar Ditch and a flood irrigation system. The irrigation not only helped the crops, but led to the growth of cottonwoods throughout the ranch. Initially cottonwoods were only along the creek bottoms, but with the access to additional water they followed the ditches and canals.

The Grants also actively planted around the housing areas. Duncan Grant established, what is believed to be the county's first orchard south of the new house complex. Although few fruit trees remain, the area is cleared of sagebrush and most other vegetation. The area is still identifiable as an orchard and is a contributing site. The Grant family also cultivated cottonwoods around the new house for shade and protection from the wind. The family planted ornamental plantings around the house; however, the lilac bushes that once surrounded the house have been replaced by evergreen trees and bushes. Although the building of the ranch altered some of the vegetation, the ranch also fit into the surrounding vegetation and landscape. The vegetation patterns that prevailed on the ranch during the period of significance have generally been maintained due to continued use.

⁵ U. S. Department of Agriculture and Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, *Soil Survey of the Wheatland Area*, pp. 1-2.

⁶ Grace Lillian Mariner, "The Ranch and Ranch Cattle Business in Wyoming 1870-1890." (Thesis, State University of Iowa, 1922), pp. 7, 9; U. S. Department of Agriculture and Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, *Soil Survey of the Wheatland Area, Wyoming*, pp. 1-8.

Duncan Grant Ranch Rural Historic Landscape

Platte County, WY

Name of Property

County and State

Archeological Sites:

There have been few formal archeological surveys of the property and only five prehistoric sites have been located within the district boundary; two stone circle sites that have been determined not eligible, one cairn site that has also been determined not eligible, and two cairn sites that are currently unevaluated. However, based on the location of these sites, there may be additional archaeological sites located within the district.⁷

The 1872 GLO map does show the Fort Laramie to Fort Halleck Road running through the property and during the early spring the swales still are evident, however, the entire route has never been formally recorded or evaluated.⁸

Small Scale Elements:

Small scale elements dot the landscape and often illustrate previous use or seasonal activity. Hay corrals are primarily fixed locations, but the use, number of, and size vary depending on season and crop production. During the survey for this nomination, after a good harvest the previous year, most corrals contained a large number of hay bales and the ranch was expecting to slightly increase the production the following year.

Throughout the pasture land, old wells and water tanks often coincide with abandoned loading chutes and corrals many of which are slowly collapsing or deteriorating from lack of use and maintenance. Existing wells that are powered by solar or generators demonstrate a change in technology, but similar land use patterns. Doctoring and feeding stations, used to care for ailing or underweight cattle, are other more recent additions to the ranch. Three stations are located within the district boundary.

Four unmarked graves are also located within the district. A small fence encloses the graves of Robert Grant, who died in 1900 at the age of 84, and three of his nieces who died during childbirth. These graves are located north of the original homestead.⁹

Clusters:

The Duncan Grant Ranch has four clusters of development, all within the same vicinity, but all are clearly distinct areas, primarily defined by use. Three of the clusters are residential, while the fourth is the ranch complex. The initial homestead consists of the original log cabin, now covered with stucco, a well, small yard, clothes line, ornamental bushes, and trees used for shade. A fence encloses these resources. The 1890s growth created a new housing complex, which consolidated living arrangements and is an identifiable, confined area surrounded by a manicured lawn, trees, and fences. The new house, ice house, garage, bunkhouse, and well are the primary resources of the second cluster. In addition, are the ornamental bushes and trees, cottonwood trees planted for shade, a circular driveway, patio, and sidewalk. The third and most recent residential cluster is the Hunter house. It is located approximately ½ a mile south of the 1890 new house and is composed of a modern, 1990, ranch house, manicured lawn, short gravel driveway, and steel pipe fence. Each of these three areas was constructed during a specific time period of ranch growth and development. The first two have been moderately changed since original construction.

The final area of development is the ranch complex. This cluster is comprised of the barn, two granaries, two cake bins, five fuel tanks, two loafing sheds, corrals, a scale house, and a machine shop. These resources have been changed and altered as needed to sustain a working ranch. The barn constructed ca 1874, was expanded ca 1890. Both granaries were moved into the ranch complex in the 1920s-1930s. The wood corrals and loading chute were replaced between 2004-2006 and many of the wood fences on the ranch were replaced with steel pipe in 2008. The largest addition to the operations area is the machine shop constructed between 1979-1980, to house and repair the modern equipment. The ranch facilities are adjacent to the new house complex, but are separated by a road, lawn, ornamental plantings, and very intentional landscaping. The ranch complex is located a short distance south of the homestead cabin.

Buildings, Structures, and Objects:

Ice House, ca 1890, contributing building

The ice house is a small rectangular building with a low pitched gable roof covered with wood shingles. It has overhanging eaves and rafter tails. The ice house walls are 12 inches thick, filled with sawdust, and are clad with horizontal wood siding,

⁷ Class I file search of the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office's Cultural Records conducted on December 16, 2011.

⁸ Map, Township 23 N, Range 69 W Electronic document, Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming, website, <http://www.wy.blm.gov/cadastral/countypts/platte/t23nr69w.pdf>, accessed December 16, 2011; Wyoming Cultural Property Form, *Fort Laramie to Fort Halleck Road, 48PL179*.

⁹ George Grant, Interview by Ruth Miller and Flora Kennedy, June 24, 1972 (Oral History of Platte County Transcript. Mary Margaret "Mickey" and Fred McGuire Personal Collection). p. 1.

Duncan Grant Ranch Rural Historic Landscape

Platte County, WY

Name of Property

County and State

with corner boards. It sits on a raised concrete foundation. The building contains only one door, on the east side which is also horizontal plank. A ventilation pipe and a small window on the north foundation were used for ventilation.

Bunkhouse, ca 1890, contributing building

The bunkhouse is a simple vernacular building with little ornamentation, but was intended to blend with the other buildings in the 1890 residential complex. It is a rectangular one story building with a basement. It has a low pitched gable roof covered with wood shingles and slightly overhanging eaves and exposed rafter tails. It is clad with drop siding with corner boards and sits on a raised concrete foundation. The north façade contains a five panel wood door on the right side with stone steps leading to the entrance. A 1/1 double-hung wood window is on the left and a small window is punched in the foundation. The east elevation contains two 1/1 double-hung windows on either end and a five panel wood door is slightly left of center. A third entrance is on the west elevation and leads directly to the basement. The remains of a stone chimney, which terminates at the roof, are on the west elevation.

Garage, ca 1917, contributing building

This is a rectangular one car garage with a steeply pitched roof. The roof is covered by wood shingles and has minimally projecting eaves. As with the bunkhouse, the garage has drop siding with corner boards. The building sits on a slab concrete foundation. The metal garage door dominates the east façade. Paired fixed windows are centered on the south elevation.

New House, ca 1890, contributing building

When originally constructed, the new house was vernacular in nature with modest attempts at style and clad in drop siding. Originally there were three porches that are now enclosed and the building is now covered with stucco and stone; however, the essential form and massing remains the same. A historic photo ca 1900 shows one of the porches enclosed and a later photo from ca 1940 shows the other two were enclosed. The building was covered in stone and stucco ca 1970.

The new house is a two story cross gable folk Victorian with a steep roof clad in wood shingles. The east elevation is a side gable punctuated by a large projecting gable that contains multiple dormers. The windows on the east elevation vary from rows of glass block, 1/1 double-hung, and diamond-pane casement. The south elevation contains two entrances, though neither original, both are historic and evident in the ca 1940 photograph. The formal entrance is near the right corner and has an eight panel wood door with central glass pane. The secondary entrance is a 15 panel wood door near the left corner of the building. Situated between the two entrances is a large ashlar red brick chimney that contains the brand 7R in white brick. Eight large fixed windows dominate the elevation. The west and north elevations are primarily stucco with a minimal amount of stone. They contain no entrance, but do have multiple types of windows; octagonal, fixed, double-hung, hopper, and recently installed stained glass windows.

Homestead House, 1874, contributing building

Originally a two pen log cabin, the homestead has been altered over the past 138 years. Two additions one on the east elevation and a slightly larger addition on the west were added in the 1940s and 1950s. It is a one story stuccoed building with a medium pitched gable roof. It has slightly overhanging eaves and is clad with red asphalt shingles. All of the windows are 1/1 replacement vinyl. Both doors are two panel with nine lites. The east addition has a bay window and a small porch. A brick chimney covered with concrete is in the original portion of the house.

Barn, ca 1874, contributing building

Originally a long gabled rectangular 1½ story building with an attached loafing shed; it was expanded ca 1890 and now has a saltbox roof. The roof is covered with corrugated metal and rafter tails are evident. The south elevation has white bargeboard. On the south and north elevation are sliding rail doors; there are also two pedestrian doors on the east and south elevations. Three additional hay doors are located on the south, west, and north elevations. The barn contains seven windows, which are a combination of three 1/1 double-hung and four fixed lite windows.

Granary 1, ca 1890, moved ca. 1921, contributing building

The granary is situated west of the barn. The shed roof is covered with corrugated metal. It is clad with drop siding, painted red, with white corner boards and sits on a concrete foundation. On the east elevation, a sliding rail door with fixed four lite window, provides the primary access to the building. A hay door is on the south elevation and the west elevation contains a fixed four lite window.

Duncan Grant Ranch Rural Historic Landscape
Name of Property

Platte County, WY
County and State

Granary 2, ca 1920-1930, contributing building

The second granary, which was moved from the nearby Wolsey homestead, is located north of the barn on the west edge of the corrals. It is a one story steeply pitched gable building with vertical wood siding, painted red. As with the other buildings in the ranch complex, the roof is covered with corrugated metal. It contains two entrances, a rail door on the south elevation and a pedestrian door on the west elevation. The building also has two fixed, four lite windows on the north elevation.

Cake Bins, ca 1970, noncontributing structures

Two white metal cake bins are located just west of granary 1. Both bins are raised on four steel legs.

Loafing Shed 1, ca 1940, contributing building

The five bay loafing shed is of pole construction covered with corrugated metal. It faces south into the corrals and protects the cattle from the strong northerly Wyoming winds.

Loafing Shed 2, 1990, noncontributing building

The two bay loafing shed has a shed roof covered with corrugated metal. It is clad with board and batten and is painted red. This building is primarily used for horses.

Scale House, ca 1981-1990, noncontributing building

A small one story scale house is located in the center of the corrals, it is constructed of plywood, painted red, and has a shed roof covered with corrugated metal. A wood door is centered on the west elevation.

Corrals and Loading Chute, 2004-2006, noncontributing structure

Extensive steel corrals are located behind the barn and machine shop. These are in the same location as the historic corrals, but the material was completely replaced. To the east of the machine shop is the loading chute. The scale house and second loafing shed are located in the center of the corrals. The first loafing shed is in the northwest corner of the corrals.

Machine Shop, 1979-1980, noncontributing building

The machine shop is the largest building on the ranch. It extends six bays with the eastern four bays having a slightly lower roofline than the western two bays. Five of the six bays are open; the western bay is enclosed and has a large rail door and a pedestrian door. The shop has a shed roof covered with corrugated metal. The building is clad with board and batten siding. As with the other buildings in the ranching operation facility, it is painted red. There is a prominent white fascia along the length of the building.

Two Bar Ditch, ca 1874, contributing structure

The ditch is a small unlined ditch dug by horse with slips and fresnos. It is approximately 10 miles long and runs the length of the Grant ranch from the Two Bar Ranch in the south, through the Duncan Grant Ranch, and north to the Burnett Ranch. It generally parallels Sybille Creek, creating irrigated fields between the two.

Feeding and Doctoring Stations, 1996-1998, noncontributing structure

There are three stations located throughout the ranch. These enclosures are fenced with barbed wire; contain multiple pens, and feeding troughs. They provide a location to care for injured or sick cattle and supplement their feed.

Hunter House, 1990, noncontributing building

It is a modern one story ranch style house surrounded by a landscaped lawn. It is side gable with asphalt shingles; the facade has multiple fixed vinyl windows and a two-car garage.

Well, Tank, and Corrals, late-1950s, noncontributing structure

There are wood corrals, a well, and water tanks in the pastureland. These wood pens provided a manner of organizing the cattle into trucks for shipment to market. Accompanying this location was a small well, powered by windmill that pumped water in the tank.

Solar and Generator Powered Wells and Water Tanks, ca. 1940 and ca. 2008, noncontributing structures

Although no longer accompanied by corrals, the water tanks that still provide water for the cattle. Initially the ca. 1940 well was wind powered; however, the family recently converted it to solar power in order to draw up water. Due to these changes, it does not retain sufficient integrity. The solar powered well is located on family owned land. A recently dug

Duncan Grant Ranch Rural Historic Landscape
Name of Property

Platte County, WY
County and State

well, which is powered by generator, is on BLM land. The wells and tanks reflect the changes in technology required to maintain the ranch; however, these resources are noncontributing due to lack of integrity and age.

Homestead well, ca 1874, contributing structure
Located within the fence of the homestead cabin is a well that is now capped with concrete.

New House Well, ca 1890, contributing structure
Located just northeast of the New House is a well that is now capped with concrete.

Wood Bridge, ca. 1985, noncontributing structure
This is the fourth of five iterations of wood bridges spanning the Sybille Creek and is considered noncontributing due to age. It is a timber bridge with wood plank decking that is located between the Hunter House and the new house.

Concrete Bridge, ca 1990, noncontributing structure
It is a small concrete bridge, or an Arizona Crossing, with multiple culverts built to withstand the occasional flooding of Sybille Creek. It is located southwest of the wood bridge.

Hay Corrals, ca. 1920s, contributing sites
Nine hay corrals are located throughout the district. These are fenced enclosures used to store hay and feed for the cattle. The fences help protect the feed from the deer and elk that also occupy the Cooney Hills.

Contributing Resources

Ice House, ca 1890, building
Bunkhouse, ca 1890, building
Garage, ca 1917, building
New House, ca 1890, building
Homestead House, 1874, building
Barn, ca 1874, building
Granary 1, ca 1890, moved ca. 1921, building
Granary 2, ca 1920-1930, building
Loafing Shed 1, ca 1940, building
Two Bar Ditch, ca 1874, structure
9 Hay Corrals, ca. 1920s, sites
Orchard, ca 1890s, site
Unmarked graves, ca 1900, site
Homestead Well, ca 1874, structure
New House Well, ca 1890, structure

Noncontributing Resources

2 Cake Bins, ca 1970, structures
Loafing Shed 2, 1990, building
Scale House, ca 1981-1990, building
Corrals and Loading Chute, 2004-2006, structure
Machine Shop, 1979-1980, building
3 Feeding and Doctoring Stations, 1996-1998, structures
Hunter House, 1990, building
Well, Tank, and Corrals, late-1950s, structure
Solar Powered Well and Water Tank, ca. 1940 and ca. 2008, structure
Generator Powered Well and Water Tank, ca. 2008, structure
Wood Bridge, ca. 1985, structure
Concrete Bridge, ca 1990, structure

Integrity

Overall the Duncan Grant Ranch Rural Historic Landscape has good integrity. The resources throughout the district retain good integrity of design. As the entire landscape has the same function and use, it has also been well maintained and retains its design. The ranch retains the spatial organization and layout from the period of significance with the exception of the addition of the modern housing area. The pasture and meadow follow the same basic design with similar vegetation

Duncan Grant Ranch Rural Historic Landscape
Name of Property

Platte County, WY
County and State

patterns. The smaller resources and objects, while having material changes, retain the same design and location. The designs of the individual buildings have been somewhat altered, but most of these changes have acquired their own historic significance within the established period of significance. The only other major design change was the addition of the machine shop; however, even that change occurred within the ranch complex and maintained the designed use and function of the area.

The integrity of location is excellent. In general, all resources maintain the same location. Smaller resources, such as the hay corrals, might have slight changes in location, but historically these positions did shift on occasion. There were also slight variants in the access road, but again, it is in keeping with the nature of that type of resource.

The integrity of material and workmanship are slightly lower. There have been substantial changes in both aspects of integrity in many of the smaller scale resources; the fences and corrals have generally all been replaced and much of that was outside of the period of significance. A new concrete bridge has been added and the wood bridge replaced. Both the original material and workmanship of the new house and the homestead house were altered when they were covered with stucco, but these changes were within the period of significance for the homestead house. Although there have been changes to these aspects of integrity, the landscape, as a whole, still retains sufficient integrity of workmanship and materials.

The integrity of setting is excellent. Early in the period of significance the ranch was completely surrounded by the Swan Land and Cattle Company. When the company began to collapse; numerous small and moderate sized ranches and farms replaced it. The ranch is still surrounded by a rural community. The topography, geography, and vegetation patterns all reflect the period of significance.

Both the integrity of feeling and association are extraordinarily strong. The continued use and function of the ranch contributes to both. The spatial organization, circulation patterns, and clusters are all still retained. The hayfields, pastures, vegetation, and ranching practices are readily apparent.

Duncan Grant Ranch Rural Historic Landscape
Name of Property

Platte County, WY
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Agriculture

Period of Significance

1874 - 1955

Significant Dates

1874 – First period of construction
1890 – Second period of construction

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Regan, Robert

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance encompasses the original 1874 homestead through the 1955 purchase of approximately 12,800 additional acres of land, which was located about 35 miles to the east on the Laramie Plains. This period reflects the beginnings of the initial ranch, the inclusion of the homestead land from a variety of extended family members, the consolidation under one member of the family, and the modernization of ranching technology. The period ends with acquisition of additional discontinuous land, which was used for spring grazing, and represents a substantial change in the size of the ranch, number of cattle, transportation methods, and ranching practices.

Duncan Grant Ranch Rural Historic Landscape
Name of Property

Platte County, WY
County and State

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

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

The Duncan Grant Ranch is eligible at the local level under Criterion A. This rural historic landscape is both representative of ranching in the early era of Wyoming history and as a property that demonstrates the change over time as ranch practices evolved, technology advanced, and the economics changed. While the initial cattle trails are still followed into the Cooney Hills and the Two Bar Ditch dug in 1874 still irrigates the meadow, the cattle are now trucked between the winter and summer grazing land and motorcycles are often employed as well as horses. Virtually all of the original land is still used as initially designed; the continued use lends strong feeling and association to the property. The property fits within the discussion of rural historic landscapes in the Ranches, Farms, and Homesteads in Wyoming, 1860-1960 Multiple Property Document and meets the registration requirements of the property types of ranch houses and auxiliary ranch buildings by serving the needs of the Grant family in their ranching operation.

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

The Duncan Grant Ranch is significant in the area of agriculture, under the multiple property document, as a representative example of ranching in southeastern Wyoming. The patterns of land use are readily identifiable and easily understood as a typical, although excellent, example of ranching on the open plains and mountains. The property retains the majority of elements of a historic ranch. The ranch reflects a pattern of early ranchers, in conjunction with extended family members, claiming higher quality land, located along riverbanks and drainages, and receiving the earliest water rights. The prime locations provided the ranchers the best opportunities to succeed, acquire additional land, and survive difficult years of blizzards, droughts, and economic downturns. The Duncan Grant Ranch also reflects these changes over time.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

Ranching Context of Southeastern Wyoming¹⁰

Platte County is located in the southeastern corner of Wyoming and until 1911 was a part of Laramie County. The high plains of the eastern portion of the county near the Nebraska border extend to the foothills of the Laramie Range. The southwestern portion of Laramie County was crossed by the Denver and Ft. Laramie wagon road on a generally north/south route during the late 1860s. In 1868, the Union Pacific Railroad crossed the southern portion of the state. At the time that Laramie County was surveyed in 1870, the southwestern portion of the county was noted as having rolling areas and bluffs, yet well-watered due to the presence of various creeks. The western portion of the county in the foothills of the Laramie Mountains had quantities of granite and sandstone boulders. The soil was consistently described as second rate and covered with buffalo grass. Yet the survey notes predicted that this area would be settled before others with better soil due to the abundance of water flowing through the township and the nearness of wood and timber in the mountains.¹¹

Although the exact origins of the Wyoming cattle industry are unknown, one of the first substantial herds is thought to have been held near Fort Laramie ca 1854. While there, it was discovered that cattle thrived on the grass in the region. The development of the Oregon, California, Mormon Pioneer Trail led to an influx of cattle into the area. With the emigrants along the trail and the success at Fort Laramie, came a surge of cattle to the area, primarily from Texas. Along with the cattle came the Texas method of raising cattle, which allowed the animals to range free with little or no supervision. Ranchers laid claim to a small amount of land, located near a reliable source of water and allowed the cattle to range free,

¹⁰ Much of the "Ranching Context of Southeastern Wyoming" is taken directly from Betsy Bradley, *Crow Creek/Cole Ranch Headquarters Historic District National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form*, Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office, Summer 2009, Section 8. Original citations have been maintained

¹¹ Field Notes and the General Description, Township 14N, Range 69 N (Government Land Office, 1870). Vol. 6, pp. 15, 47, 55-57. Electronic document, Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming, website, http://www.wy.blm.gov/cadastral/countyplats/laramie/fieldnotes/t14nr69w_c010fn.PDF accessed June 30, 2008.

Duncan Grant Ranch Rural Historic Landscape
Name of Property

Platte County, WY
County and State

foraging for food. The animals were released in the fall and not accounted for until spring roundup, which proved an inexpensive manner of ranching.¹²

Southeastern Wyoming Territory, and more specifically Laramie County and Cheyenne, became the center of the early cattle industry by 1870. Cattle ranching flourished from that time until the mid-1880s when European capital, particularly that from the British Isles, supported expansion of the industry. Only a few breeding herds were located in the Territory before 1870. The presence of over 90,000 cattle along the North Platte and the Union Pacific rail line, as well as grazing on the Laramie Plains supports a Cheyenne newspaper's 1871 boast that "immense herds of cattle are ... on the rich grazing fields adjacent to Cheyenne." Forty-thousand head of cattle were grazing in Laramie County in 1874. Most herds were in the 500 to 700 head range, though some were significantly larger. The *Omaha Herald* considered Cheyenne the headquarters of the territory's "cattle kings" in 1875; at that time nineteen operations grazed more than 1,000 head of cattle on the open range and there were over 50 smaller outfits.¹³

Although there were extremely large operations with cattle barons holding considerable influence, smaller ranchers also thrived in the area. Those who came west and homesteaded early laid claim to land and water. Often homesteaders came to the area with family members, which allowed families to homestead several claims on adjacent land. Through numerous homesteads and other acquisitions smaller to moderate ranches were established. In general, these smaller ranchers managed to coexist with the large ranch owners.¹⁴

The losses of cattle during the winter of 1871 and 1872 were dismissed as aberrations and many of the prominent residents of the territory invested in the Wyoming cattle business, including Governors Campbell and Thayer. The decade of the 1870s was a good period for the early ranchers as costs were low and the Chicago stockyard prices were favorable. Yet ranchers worked to improve their herds and ranches. Alexander H. Swan and Joseph M. Carey introduced purebred Hereford cattle in 1878 and Herefords would have a large role in the local cattle industry. The endurance of the breed was tested by the severe winter of 1880-1881 and demonstrated that they were hardy, grew well, and had several other attributes that cattle breeders valued.¹⁵

Forty acres could generally support a cow and her calf on the range in Wyoming Territory. Ranchers ran cattle on government land during the earliest years without having to acquire much property. However, the need for access to water resulted in the concentration of land filings along creeks for ranch headquarters and the acquisition of water rights. Cattlemen acquired land through the various federal acts, mainly the Pre-emption Act of 1841, the Homestead Act of 1862, and the Desert Land Act of 1877. The expansion of cattle ranching between 1870 and the mid-1880s prompted cattlemen to find ways to acquire title to more land. The Union Pacific, which had completed its transcontinental railroad across Wyoming in 1869, was the recipient of some 4,580,000 acres of Wyoming land, consisting of odd-numbered sections in a 40-mile strip; the railroad began selling its land in 1884 and ranchers expanded their holdings.¹⁶

The Stock Association of Laramie County was established in 1873 and renamed the Wyoming Stock Growers Association (WSGA) in 1879. This prominent group located at the center of the early phase of the cattle industry in Cheyenne influenced a broad variety of issues related to the business. The cattle barons not only controlled much of the land, but also the politics of the territory via the WSGA. While many states had associations, none possessed the power and influence of the WSGA. The Association's first interests were organizing roundups and registering brands while it monitored freight rates and legislation. The influx of cattle from Texas, the diseases that this stock brought into the territory, and the overall improved breeding of Wyoming cattle were concerns the Association addressed during the 1880s. After western fed Texas steers were dismissed in eastern markets as tough and of low value, Wyoming ranchers introduced Kentucky Shorthorn, Hereford, and Aberdeen Angus into the breeding stock and the result was Wyoming beef that brought good prices, but was more expensive to produce.¹⁷

¹² Mariner, "The Ranch and Ranch Cattle Business in Wyoming 1870-189," p. 19.

¹³ T. A. Larson, *History of Wyoming* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1978), p. 165; Horace W. Hewlett, *Territorial Wyoming and the Cattle Industry* (University of Wyoming, 1941), p. 102.

¹⁴ Mariner, "The Ranch and Ranch Cattle Business in Wyoming 1870-1890," pp. 38, 66.

¹⁵ Larson, *History of Wyoming*, pp. 163-167; Writer's Program of the Work Projects Administration in the State of Wyoming, *Wyoming: A Guide to its History, Highways, and People* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1981), p. 100; Alvin H. Sanders, *The Story of the Herefords* (Chicago: The Breeder's Gazette, 1914), pp. 694, 699.

¹⁶ Larson, *History of Wyoming*, pp. 173-178.

¹⁷ *Ibid*, pp. 169-170.

Duncan Grant Ranch Rural Historic Landscape

Platte County, WY

Name of Property

County and State

The high returns realized on cattle during the 1870s relied on the cattle "raising themselves" on the range with little or no supplemental feed. Nevertheless, the native grasses that grew adjacent to streams were cut as hay for winter use and used sparingly to feed cattle after severe winter storms. This hay was also sold in town to feed horses and therefore was a cash crop. John Hunton's ranching operation demonstrates how important hay became in cattle ranching. Hunton owned a ranch on the Chugwater Creek near a road and supplied wood, hay, and beef to the various forts in the territory. He began fencing hay bottoms of his ranch in 1873, but to meet the demand for hay he cut grass on the Laramie Plains west of the Laramie Range and in the Red Buttes vicinity in 1875. His haying equipment included mowers, rakes, and a horse-powered hay press, with which he made 210-pound bales.¹⁸

The cattle ranches on the Cheyenne Plains included some of the oldest in the state. The pattern of ranch development in southeastern Wyoming, Laramie County (including what is now Platte County to the north) during the cattle boom was shaped by the acquisition of key parcels of land along creeks and water rights and the unrestricted use of the open range, government-owned land for cattle grazing. Ranch headquarters were typically located near the streams that cross the area, surrounded by irrigated hay meadows, which were used as pastures after the hay crop was made.¹⁹ A relatively small number of large operations of the cattle barons dominated in southeast Wyoming. The Warren Livestock Company spread southwest of Cheyenne, the Wyoming Hereford Ranch east of town, and the Swan Land & Cattle Company north of Cheyenne were perhaps the most prominent operations.

Alexander Swan, owner of Swan Land and Cattle Company, was an early and extraordinarily successful cattle baron. In its heyday, the Swan Land and Cattle Company controlled land from Ogallala, Nebraska to Rawlins, Wyoming an area of approximately four million five thousand acres, with the ranch headquarters at Chugwater.²⁰ This was achieved by controlling most of the water rights in the area, land homesteaded by his various family members, land purchased or leased from the railroad, and extensive investment from foreign interests, primarily from Scotland. In addition, the company, at times, compelled their cowboys to file homesteads for use by the company. In many instances cattle companies forbade their employees from actually owning land.

With these vast tracts of land, the cattle companies maintained little control over the cattle. Generally the large companies did not know how many head they owned. There were estimated amounts, known as the book count, but no verifiable numbers. Often the book count was inflated, which eventually proved to be one of the downfalls of the cattle barons.

Cattle herds were pushed north of the Cheyenne vicinity into other portions of the territory during the 1880s. The cattle industry estimated that 1,500,000 cattle grazed in Wyoming Territory during 1885 and 1886, the peak years of the Wyoming Territory cattle boom. In the winter of 1886-1887 a series of tremendous blizzards hit the territory. The ground remained covered by snow or completely frozen most of the winter, providing the cattle no access to the grass. Since the cattle in large operations were left alone on vast tracts of land, there was no way to care for the animals or for them to find food. An enormous number of cattle died during the winter, with some operations losing up to 85 percent of their cattle. This coupled with the inflated book count, led to the demise of many of the cattle barons. Alexander Swan was hit hard by the severe winter. The Scottish investors began questioning his practices, replaced him as manager of the company, and attempted to sue him. Although the storm crippled him financially, forcing him to flee the state, the Swan Land and Cattle Company managed to survive. The foreign investors assumed firmer control of the company and over the next several decades installed John Clay and then Al Bowie as managers of the company.

While many of the cattle empires collapsed, the smaller and moderately sized ranches survived. These ranchers often had employed different techniques. Instead of compete reliance on the open range, they controlled a smaller amount of land and fewer cattle providing better supervision and a more accurate estimate of the number of cattle they owned. In addition, many often put up hay during the summer, which provided an additional food source during the winter.

¹⁸ Horace W. Hewlett, *Territorial Wyoming and the Cattle Industry*. University of Wyoming, 1941, pp. 106-107; T. A. Larson, "Ranching in Wyoming," in Judith Hancock Sandoval, *Historic Ranches of Wyoming* (Casper: Nicolaysen Art Museum, 1986), p. 6; Mariner, "The Ranch and Ranch Cattle Business in Wyoming 1870-1890." p. 23.

¹⁹ Byron Hunter and H. W. Pearson, *Type of Farming and Ranching Areas in Wyoming*. Bulletin No. 228. (Laramie: University of Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station and United States Department of Agriculture, 1938), p. 115.

²⁰ The ranch headquarters for the Swan Land and Cattle Company is a National Historic Landmark.

Duncan Grant Ranch Rural Historic Landscape

Platte County, WY

Name of Property

County and State

After the devastating blizzards of the winter of 1886 and 1887, the cattle industry in Wyoming changed. It was decentralized as the number of herds increased while the size of the herds decreased. At the end of the 1880s, the cattle industry's percentage of the territory's wealth had dropped from more than three-fourths to less than one-half of the total. The end of the cattle baron area coincided with other changes to the industry as the WSGA slowly began to lose influence.²¹

The type of ranching conducted on the Cheyenne Plains during most of the twentieth century, which comprised approximately 40 percent of Laramie County, is best characterized as stock ranching. The acreage of pasture land on stock farms greatly exceeds the acreage used for raising crops, which were hay and feed grains associated with beef cattle production. Ranch headquarters were typically located near streams, surrounded by irrigated hay meadows, which were used as pastures after the hay crop was made. Ranchers sold nearly all steers as feeders once two to three years old. This type of operation predominated in the western half of Laramie County from the time when there were 121 ranches in the county in 1880 to 1900 when there were 570 ranches. Slightly more than half of the ranches on the Cheyenne Plains ranged in size from 1,000 to 5,000 acres at that time.²²

The period from 1890 through World War I was a productive time for ranchers with smaller herds that were kept in fenced pastures and who raised alfalfa and hay for winter feed. Ranchers had to compete for grazing areas with their counterparts who raised sheep. The United States Forest Service, established in 1905, assumed control of summer grazing land in National Forests and became an important partner to both cattle and sheep raisers, who leased grazing land. Ranchers and farmers in Wyoming enjoyed high prices for record yields during the years of World War I. The number of cattle on the state's ranches doubled between January 1913 and January 1919 and the value of that stock nearly tripled.²³

Economic depression and hard times on the ranch followed the boom years for cattle ranching during World War I. From 1919 into the 1930s, cattle prices and weather conditions were challenges for ranchers since low prices, surplus cattle, and decreased meat consumption prevailed. Large cattle operations continued to give way to more family-owned and operated ranches that could supply smaller herds with supplemental feeding through exceptionally dry years. The number of cattle on Wyoming ranches in 1925 was only approximately 60 percent of the number in 1919; the value of the cattle dropped to less than a third of that of 1919. The Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 further changed the role of public land in cattle ranching. This statute eliminated homesteading except in conjunction with reclamation projects and established 16 million acres of public grazing land in Wyoming. Ranchers acquired permits to graze cattle, horses, and sheep on this land and by 1939 some 1,500 permits and licenses were issued in Wyoming. Stockmen participated in range management through service on advisory boards and worked to avoid overgrazing.²⁴

Wyoming cattle ranchers entered a period of prosperity again during the late 1930s, particularly after the wet year of 1938 somewhat restored the condition of the range. Beef cattle prices were above parity in 1939 and cattlemen enjoyed sounder financial positions and were poised to increase production significantly during World War II. The number of cattle on Wyoming ranches increased to over one million, comparable to the peak years from 1916 to 1919. The hay crop remained dominated by wild hay, while alfalfa hay accounted for only a small portion of the crop. Cash receipts for livestock in Wyoming nearly doubled between 1939 and 1945 as prices rose rapidly until checked by price ceilings set by the federal government. Wyoming ranchers resented the federal cap set on fat cattle prices since rises in costs outstripped the wartime price increases, even as they continued to increase production. Cattle ranchers thrived during the war, despite labor shortages, and many were able to pay off debt, consolidate their land holdings, and acquire tractors and trucks that they could not afford during the 1930s. The number of ranches and farms in Wyoming began to decrease between 1940 and 1945, a trend that continued through the following decades.²⁵

²¹ Larson, *History of Wyoming*, pp. 190-193.

²² Hunter and Pearson, p. 113; U. S. Department of Agriculture and Wyoming Department of Agriculture, *Wyoming Agricultural Statistics*. No. 2. (Cheyenne, 1924), p. 8 and *Wyoming Agriculture Bulletin* No. 14 (Cheyenne, 1946), p. 9; Map of Laramie County, Wyoming, 1904. Wyoming State Archives collection.

²³ Rheba Massey, "Ranching Context," (Cheyenne: Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office, 1992), p. 2; Larson, *History of Wyoming*, p. 396.

²⁴ Larson, *History of Wyoming*, pp. 410, 430; Massey, p. 3.

²⁵ T. A. Larson, *Wyoming's War Years, 1941-1945* (Reprint edition: Cheyenne: Wyoming Historical Foundation, 1993. First edition, Stanford University Press, 1954), pp. 222-236, 240; *History of Wyoming*, pp. 487-489.

Duncan Grant Ranch Rural Historic Landscape
Name of Property

Platte County, WY
County and State

The post World War II period included good years and bad ones for cattle ranchers. The more than 35 million acres in the state devoted to livestock grazing remained fairly constant as many other factors changed. The rural population decreased significantly and the number of farms and ranches decreased by half between 1940 and 1977; the 1960 census was the first to record more Wyoming residents living in urban areas than rural ones. The average size of agricultural operations more than doubled to 4,500 acres during that time. In 1969, 3,000 ranch and farm properties were in this size category. A trend to convert ranch land to other uses, including recreation and housing subdivisions, got underway. Nevertheless, receipts for cattle sales accounted for 60 percent of agricultural income in the state between 1950 and 1965. Higher cattle prices during the Korean War contributed to this statistic, though the drought of 1953 to 1955 affected operations during the same time period. The number of cattle in the state continued to be above one million during the post war years.²⁶

By the 1970s, the stock ranch still represented a common size of operation in Wyoming, but was experiencing some additional challenges. The approximately 8,500 ranch and farm units in Wyoming at that time were collectively the state's largest employer and livestock dominated the source of income on the ranches. The average size of ranches increased due to the consolidation of operations. The early 1970s were a period of distress for ranchers and farmers. Net farm income in the state decreased by half from 1973 to 1974; it decreased significantly again during 1975. Ranchers avoided bankruptcy through outside income from oil and gas leases and rising land values. The legislature granted tax exemptions and the Bureau of Land Management deferred scheduled lease fee increases.²⁷

Duncan Grant Ranch

Robert Grant and his son, Duncan, from Motherwell, Scotland, immigrated to the United States in 1869. They initially homesteaded on Chugwater Creek, near Robert's sister, Janet Grant McFarlane, but later sold the homesteads to John Hunton. Duncan Grant then homesteaded along the Sybille Creek in 1874. His father, Robert, joined him and acquired an adjoining property; they were later followed by Jeane Grant Payne, Robert's sister. It is believed that the family filed water rights on the Sybille soon after arriving. However, the original records were destroyed and all water rights initially established were given the same date of 1878.²⁸

The family established the ranch in the typical manner, expending most time and energy on the ranch operations and less time on the house. They constructed a small two room cabin, irrigated the land via the Two Bar Ditch, which they dug, and built the barn and corrals. The Grant family ran approximately 400 head of cattle during this time. Unlike the larger operations that turned out the cattle on vast tracts of public land and could not account for the number or location of the animals, the Grants maintained a smaller herd on a well established range. It is also believed that they used the meadow for supplemental feed during the winter. Initially the cattle were moved to Cheyenne for transport to the stock yard in Omaha, via the Union Pacific Railroad and later on the Colorado Southern Railroad. Eventually, ca. 1916, the cattle were loaded onto the Natwick spur located only two miles south of the ranch headquarters.

During the initial start-up of the ranch, Duncan Grant also worked as a freighter for additional money. In 1875 Duncan transported a bridge that would span the North Platte River; it remains today. Beginning in the early 1880s, Duncan Grant began working for the Swan Land and Cattle Company and continued employment there until the turn of the century. Correspondence shows that Grant served as the foreman for the company. He worked for the Swan Company in their heyday and continued with them through the difficult removal of Alexander Swan, the tenure of both John Clay and Al Bowie, and remained with the company until it changed from running cattle to sheep. It is unknown why the company allowed him to maintain his own ranch while working as foreman. This was rather atypical; however, it can be speculated that Grant was well liked by the managers. Over the course of his life, Duncan received several valuable gifts and was included in various high-profile social gatherings of Alexander Swan and John Clay. (Figures 16 and 17) While Duncan Grant served as the Swan Land and Cattle Company foreman, Robert Grant managed the family land and ranch.²⁹

²⁶ Larson, *Wyoming's War Years*, p. 240 and *History of Wyoming*, pp. 523-524.

²⁷ Larson, *Wyoming's War Years*, p. 240 and *History of Wyoming*, pp. 523-528; Massey, p. 4; Erwin, Vol. 3., p. 355; Carl E. Olson, William E. Morgan and Raymond A. Marquardt, *Wyoming Agriculture: Past, Present and Future, An Economic Sector Study*. (Laramie: University of Wyoming, 1971), pp. 1-3.

²⁸ George Grant, Interview by Ruth Miller and Flora Kennedy, p. 1.

²⁹ Grant Family Papers (Mary Margaret "Mickey" and Fred McGuire Personal Collection); George Grant, Interview by Ruth Miller and Flora Kennedy, pp. 1-2; Zeke Scher, "Grandpa's Pioneer Bridge," *Empire: Magazine of the Denver Post*, November 6, 1977.

Duncan Grant Ranch Rural Historic Landscape

Platte County, WY

Name of Property

County and State

With the additional income from the Swan Company and the success of their own ranch, ca 1890 the family undertook an extensive building project. Duncan Grant's future brother-in-law, Robert Regan, established a sawmill along the Sybille Creek to provide milled lumber for the construction of the buildings. This included the new house, an ice house, a bunkhouse, an additional outbuilding (no longer extant), and expanded the barn. In addition they planted an orchard, which is believed to be the first in the county. This orchard was a source of pride for the family and was heavily used by other members of the surrounding community. (Figures 7, 8, and 9) The family constructed a house with some folk Victorian stylistic features and included some landscape elements. A photo, taken shortly after construction, shows a painted house with several lilac bushes and other trees and shrubs. Based on correspondence and family records, it appears that most of the extended family moved into the new house, but some remained at the homestead cabin. The new house later served as the Two Bar Post Office from 1891-1905. (Figure 14) The impetus of the new buildings may have been Duncan's marriage to Mary Regan in 1892.³⁰

In 1900 Robert Grant died, was buried on the ranch, and Duncan Grant inherited his land. He bought out his aunts, assumed full control of the ranch, and soon after quit working for the Swan Land and Cattle Company. Duncan was viewed as a community leader and was elected to the State Legislature in 1906; unfortunately, he only served one term due to failing health. (Figure 15) He suffered from severe rheumatoid arthritis and could no longer serve in the legislature or even continue working the ranch. In 1907, he sold nearly all of the family possessions except the land, buildings, a team of horses, and wagon and began traveling the country seeking help for his condition. He rented the land to a local rancher, who in turn rented it to the Swan Land and Cattle Company. For the next seven years the Swan Company ran sheep on the land and housed employees in the Grant Ranch headquarters buildings. The Grant family traveled north to the Thermopolis hot springs. As those springs did not alleviate his health problems, the family tried various hot springs around the country; moving to New York, Arkansas, Colorado, and California. Since no location provided any long-term solution, they returned to the ranch in 1913. The Swan Company left most of the buildings in poor condition and in need of repair; however, the family managed to re-establish the ranch upon their return. The cattle operation was restored partially through increased prices during World War, although a severe spring blizzard in 1920 caused the ranch to lose approximately 100 cows in the storm.³¹

During this period, Duncan's son, George Robert Simpson Grant, took over the ranch. Duncan remained at the ranch, bedridden and requiring extensive care until his death in 1932. George Grant spent seven years corresponding with a teacher in Iowa. After the death of his father, George finally felt free to marry Margaret Keenan in 1933. A year later they had a daughter Mary Margaret "Mickey" Grant.³²

To help survive the Great Depression, George Grant, in partnership with a family relative Van Crouter, started a silver fox farm. The farm occupied approximately two acres directly west of the new house, in part of the meadow. (Figure 12) The farm proved moderately successful and continued until 1941; during World War II the family could not find sufficient help to maintain the fox farm. A flood later destroyed most of the cages. The ranch survived the Great Depression and again, due to rising stock prices, thrived during World War II. As there were limited ranch hands during the war, few alterations were made to the ranch during this time period.

In 1955, George and Margaret Grant acquired an additional 12,800 of land, which was located on the Laramie Plains approximately 35 miles west of the headquarters. Until that point, all of the cattle remained on the ranch year-round. However, with the acquisition of the Laramie Plains, the cattle wintered on the home ranch and were moved to the plains during spring, during mid-April to the end of May. They spent the summer on the Laramie Plains and were shipped to market in the fall.

George and Margaret leased the operation to their eldest daughter Mickey and her husband Fred McGuire in 1958 and then sold to them in 1962. Mickey and Fred ran the ranch for the next several decades until they transferred management

³⁰ Platte County Extension Homemakers Council Wyoming *Wyoming Platte County Heritage* (Walsworth Publishing: Marceline, MO, 1981), pp. 29, 203; Grant Family Papers (Mary Margaret "Mickey" and Fred McGuire Personal Collection).

³¹ George Grant, Interview by Ruth Miller and Flora Kennedy, p. 2.

³² George Grant, Interview by Ruth Miller and Flora Kennedy, p. 3.

Duncan Grant Ranch Rural Historic Landscape

Platte County, WY

Name of Property

County and State

of the ranch to their daughter, Mary K, and son-in-law, Randy Hunter, in 1998. Although a few changes had been made during Mickey and Fred's tenure, including the construction of the machine shop, the Hunters made several alterations to the buildings. The wood corrals were replaced with steel pipe in 2004-2006, and the fences surrounding the new house and the orchard were replaced in 2008. In 1990, they also built a modern ranch house approximately ¼ mile from the new 1890 house.³³

The land continues to be ranched by the fifth generation of Grants. Recently new land was purchased to increase the alfalfa acreage and the cattle are now transported by truck rather than rail, but the Grant ranch continues as it did 138 years ago when originally homesteaded by a family of immigrants from Scotland. It is an excellent representative example of a ranch in Wyoming that grew over time. While no longer bounded by the massive Swan Land and Cattle Company, it is still surrounded by a rural agricultural community.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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³³ Platte County Extension Homemakers Council Wyoming, *Wyoming Platte County*, p. 204; George Grant, Interview by Ruth Miller and Flora Kennedy, p. 4.

Duncan Grant Ranch Rural Historic Landscape
Name of Property

Platte County, WY
County and State

Map of Laramie County, Wyoming, 1904. Wyoming State Archives.

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Wyoming Agriculture Bulletin. No. 14. Cheyenne, 1946.
Wyoming Dairy Statistics, 1924-1957. Cheyenne, 1958.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 8112 acres

Duncan Grant Ranch Rural Historic Landscape
Name of Property

Platte County, WY
County and State

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>13</u> Zone	<u>483799</u> Easting	<u>4650760</u> Northing	3	<u>13</u> Zone	<u>495020</u> Easting	<u>4644766</u> Northing
2	<u>13</u> Zone	<u>494996</u> Easting	<u>4650800</u> Northing	4	<u>13</u> Zone	<u>483799</u> Easting	<u>4644767</u> Northing

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

District boundary is noted on USGS maps.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary follows the section and quarter section lines that encompass the property originally homesteaded by various members of the Grant family, the land consolidated under Duncan Grant, and the public land, now BLM allotments, traditionally used by the family.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kara Hahn
organization _____ date 29 July 2012
street & number 970 Pennsylvania St telephone 303-866-4683
city or town Denver state CO zip code 80203
e-mail daisymiller_1@juno.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

Photographs:

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

Duncan Grant Ranch Rural Historic Landscape
Name of Property

Platte County, WY
County and State

Name of Property: Duncan Grant Ranch Rural Historic Landscape
City or Vicinity: Wheatland
County: Platte **State: WY**
Photographer: Richard Collier
Date Photographed: November, 2012

Entry road, photographer facing north.
1 of 20

Sybille Creek, photographer facing south
2 of 20

1890 House, photographer facing northwest
3 of 20

Ice House, photographer facing west
4 of 20

Bunkhouse, photographer facing southwest
5 of 20

Garage, photographer facing west
6 of 20

Machine Shed, photographer facing northwest
7 of 20

Barn, photographer facing northeast
8 of 20

Granary 1, photographer facing northwest
9 of 20

Corrals, photographer facing east
10 of 20

Corrals, Scale House, Machine Shed, Barn, and Granary 2, photographer facing southwest
11 of 20

Corrals, Loafing Sheds 1 and 2, photographer facing northwest
12 of 20

Homestead House, photographer facing northeast
13 of 20

Field northwest of Homestead House, photographer facing north
14 of 20

Hay Corral west of Homestead House, photographer facing west
15 of 20

Two Bar Ditch, photographer facing north
16 of 20

Duncan Grant Ranch Rural Historic Landscape
Name of Property

Platte County, WY
County and State

Two Bar Ditch, photographer facing south
17 of 20

View of fields west of Residential Clusters, photographer facing east
18 of 20

Overview of Ranch Cluster, photographer facing southwest
19 of 20

Overview of Homestead House and Surrounding Landscape, photographer facing northwest
20 of 20

Property Owner:

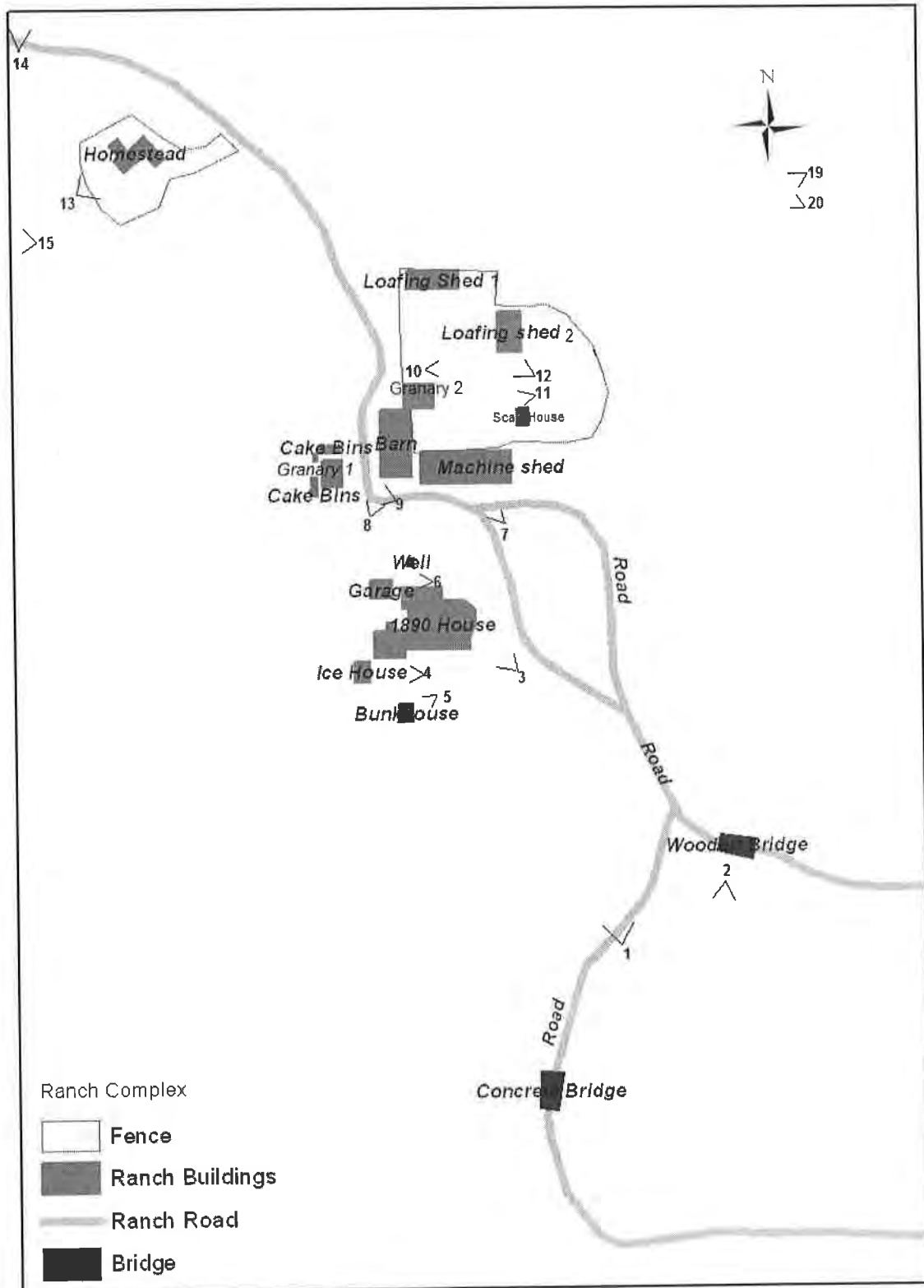
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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

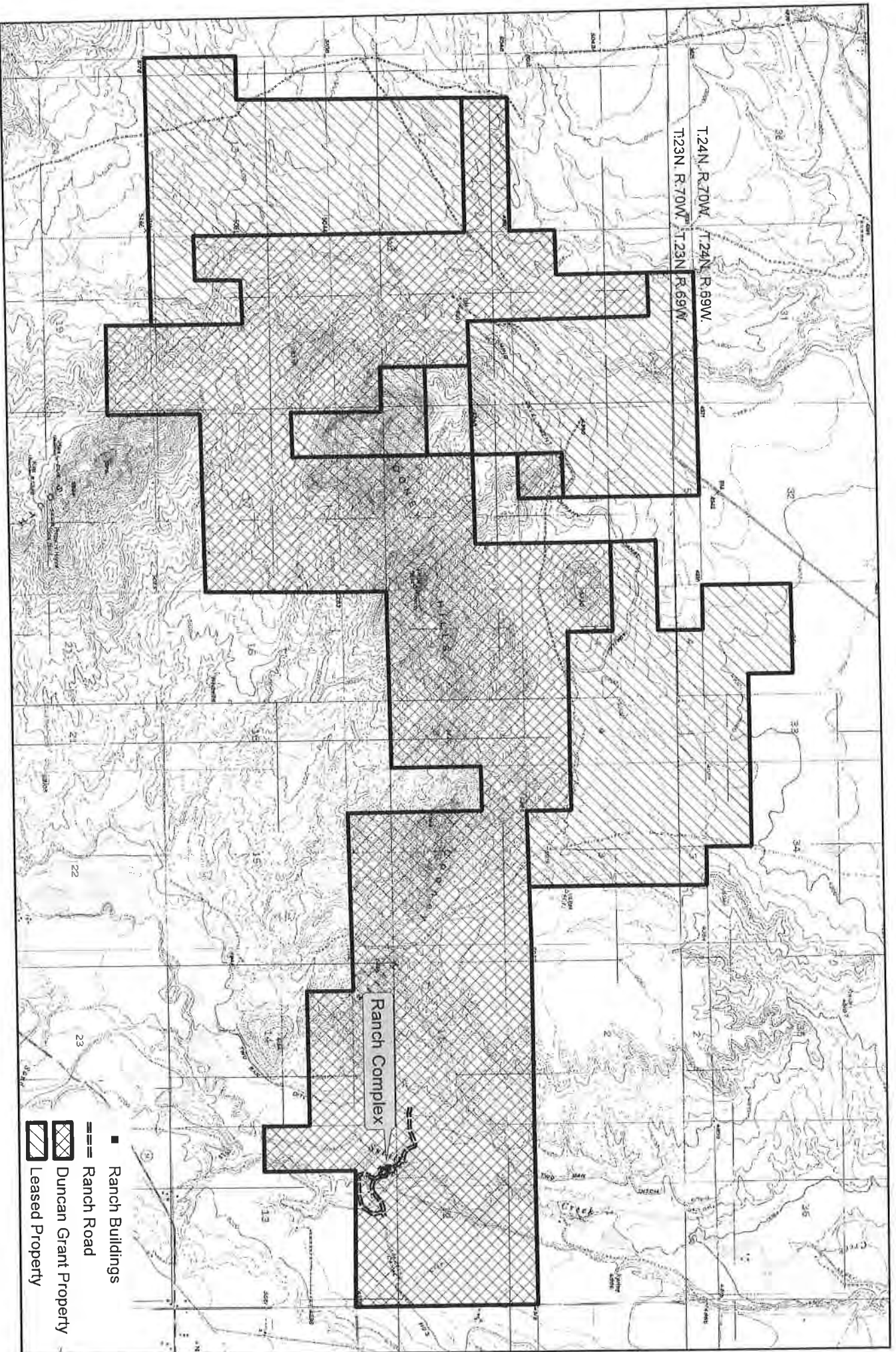
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to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

Duncan Grant Ranch Rural Historic Landscape

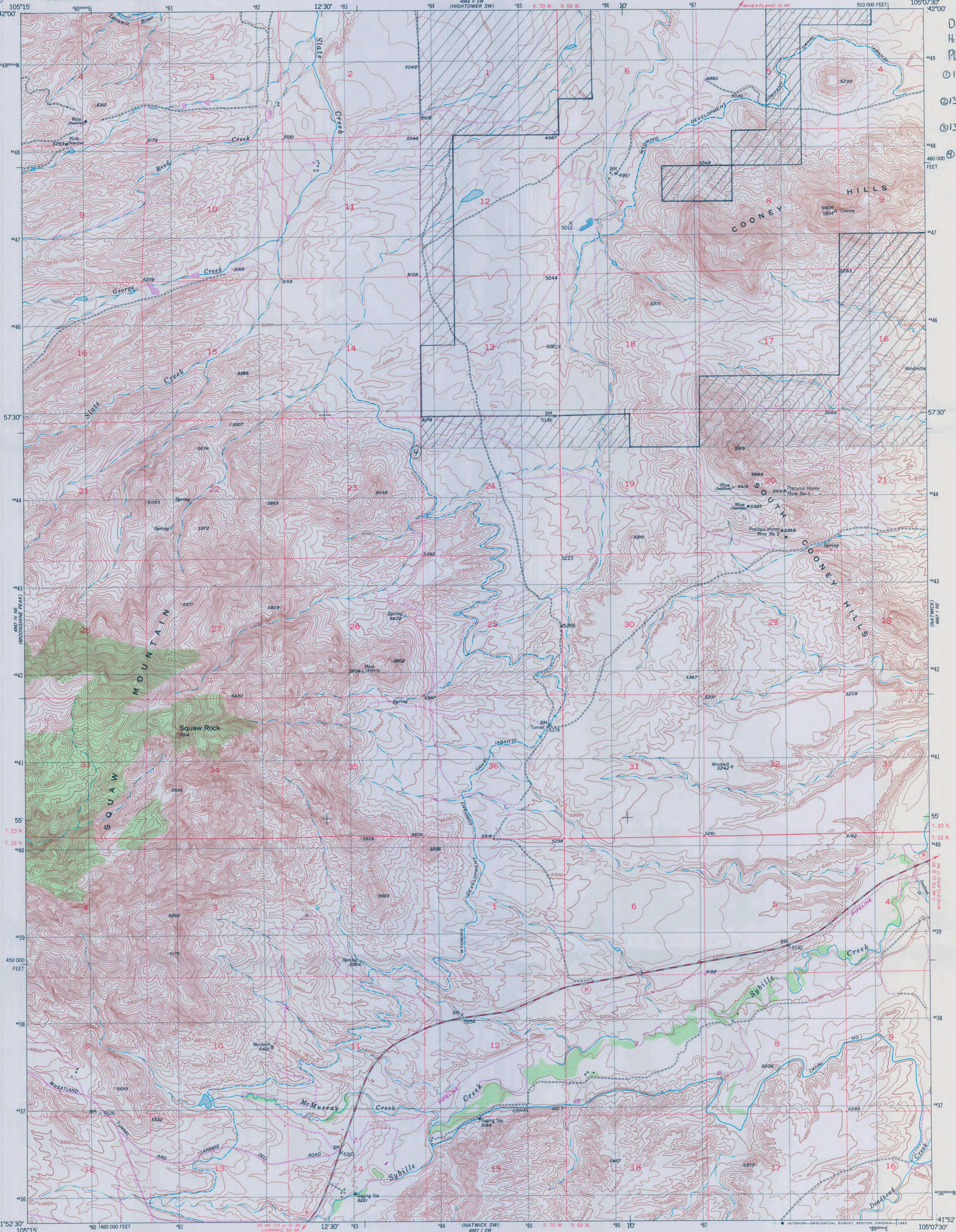


USA Topo
WYQUAD Z13; Natwick

DUNCAN GRANT RANCH RURAL HISTORIC LANDSCAPE

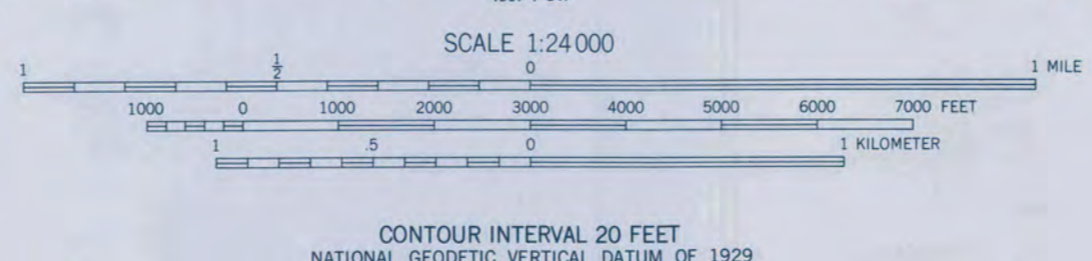
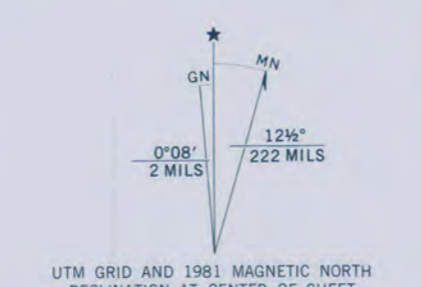


USGS 7.5' topographic maps Hightower SW, Hightower, Natwick, and Squaw Rock



DUNCAN GRANT RANCH RURAL
Historic Landscape
Platte County, WY
①13 483799 E
4650780 N
②13 494996 E
4650800 N
③13 495020 E
4644766 N
④13 483799 E
4644767 N

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey as part of the Department of the Interior program for the development of the Missouri River Basin
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods
Aerial photographs taken 1949. Field check 1953
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Wyoming coordinate system, east zone
Dashed land lines indicate approximate locations
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 13
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 7 meters north and 47 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

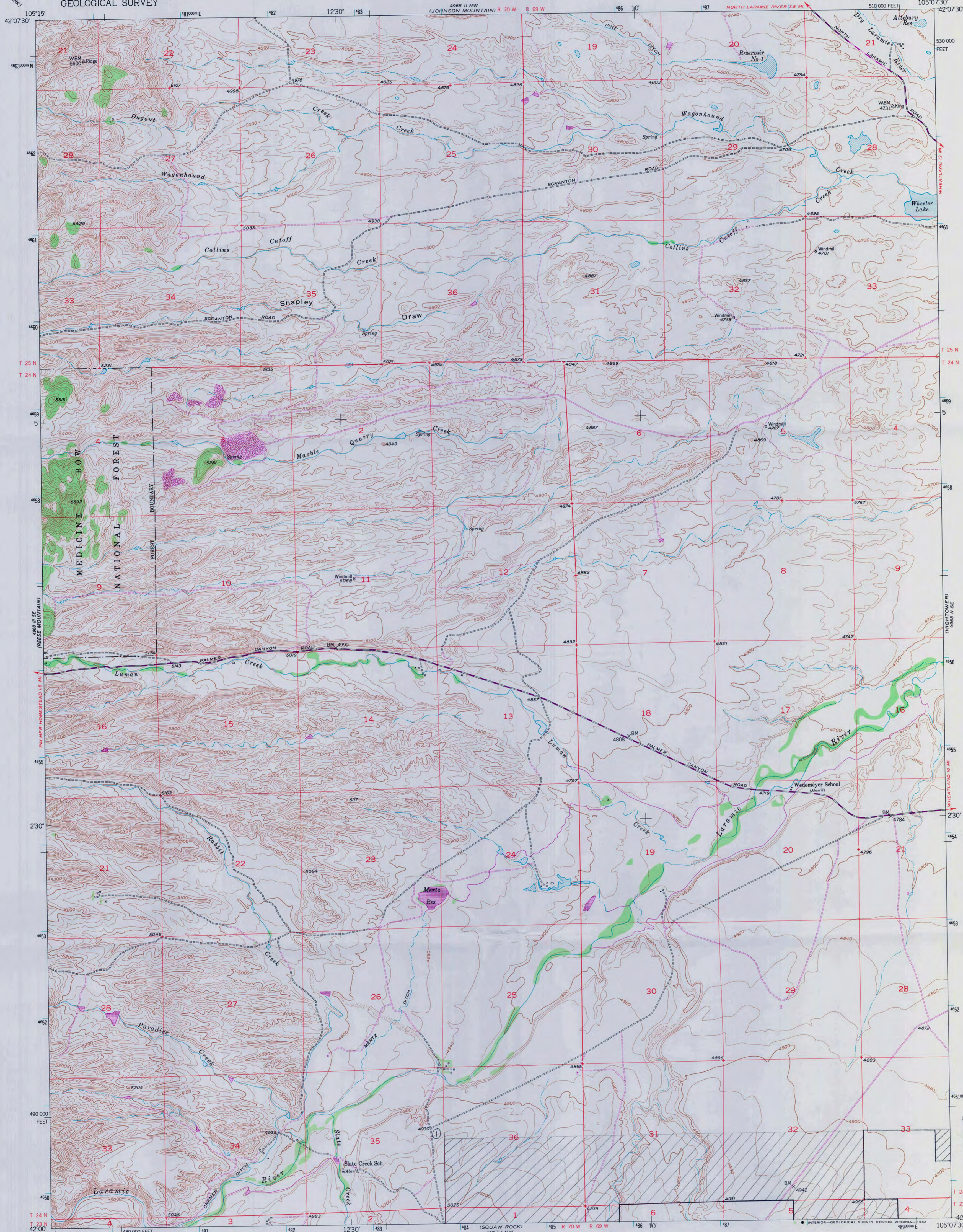
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Medium-duty	4 LANE 6 LANE	Unimproved dirt	-----

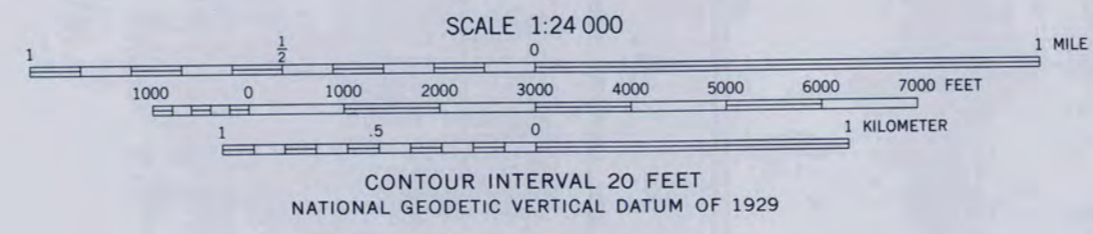
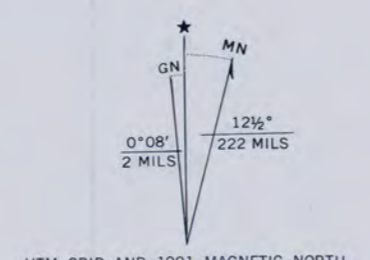
U. S. Route State Route

SQUAW ROCK, WYO.
N4152.5-W10507.5/7.5
1953
PHOTOREVISED 1981
DMA 4867 1 NW-SERIES V874

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1979 and other source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1981

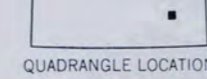


Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey as part of the Department of the Interior program for the development of the Missouri River Basin. Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA. Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods. Aerial photographs taken 1949. Field check 1953. Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum. 10,000-foot grid based on Wyoming coordinate system, east zone. Dashed land lines indicate approximate locations. 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 13, shown in blue. There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map.



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

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Medium-duty	4 LANE 6 LANE	Unimproved dirt
	U. S. Route	State Route



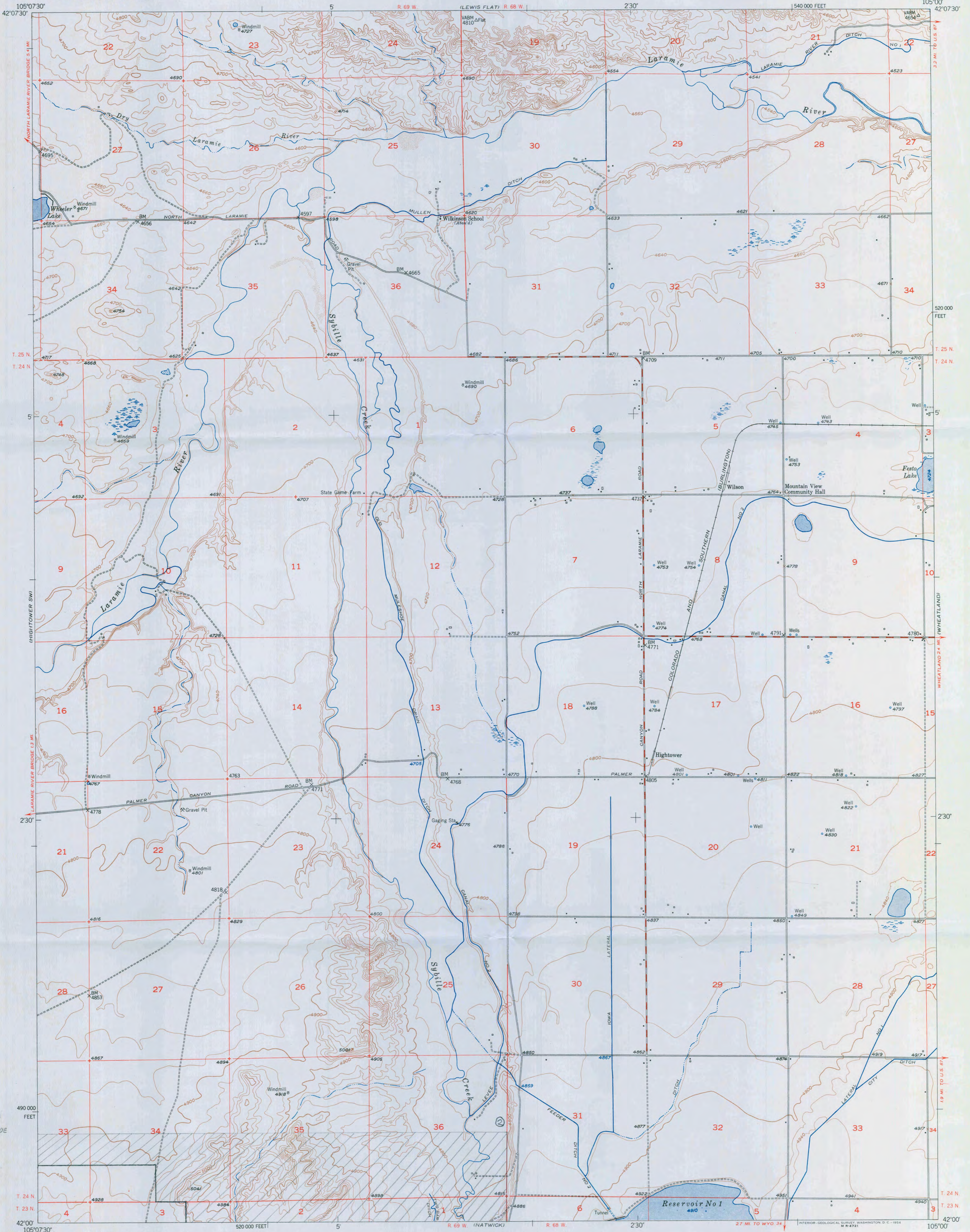
HIGHTOWER SW, WYO.
N4200—W10507.5/7.5

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092. A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1979 and other source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1981.

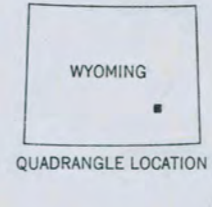
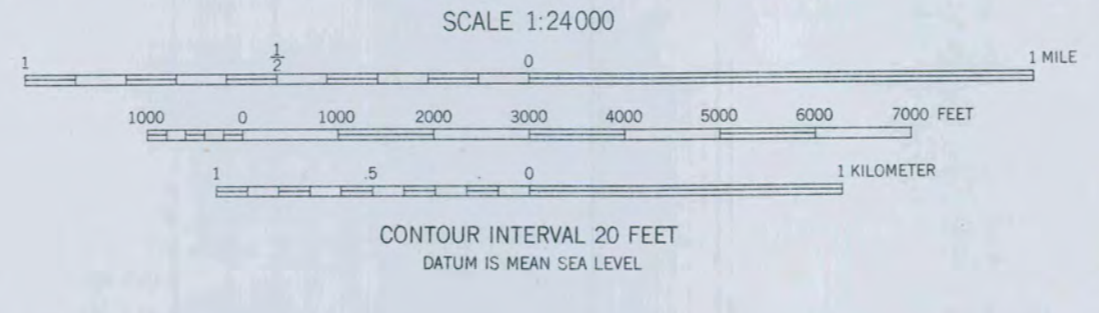
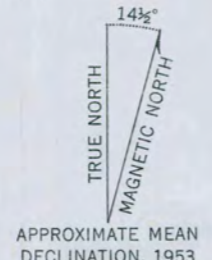
1953
PHOTOREVISED 1981
DMA 4968 II SW—SERIES V874

DUNCAN GRANT RANCH RUA
Historic Landscape
Platte County, WY
D 13 493799 E
4650760 N
D 13 494996 E
4650800 N
D 13 495020 E
4644766 N
D 13 483799 E
4644767 N



DUNCAN GRANT RANCH
RURAL HISTORIC LANDSCAPE
PLATTE COUNTY, WY
① 483799E
4650760N
② 494996E
4650800N
③ 495020E
4644766N
④ 483799E
4644767N

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey as part of the Department of the Interior program for the development of the Missouri River Basin. Control by USGS and USC&GS. Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods. Aerial photographs taken 1949. Field check 1953. Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum. 10,000-foot grid based on Wyoming coordinate system, east zone.



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

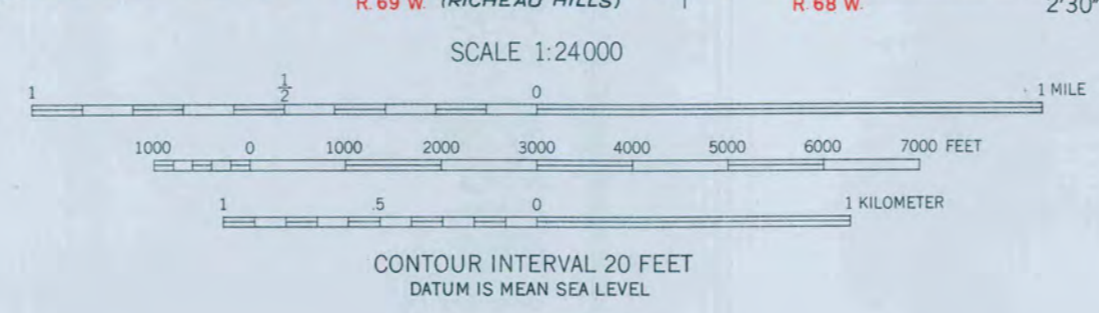
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Medium-duty	4 LANE 6 LANE	Unimproved dirt
U.S. Route		State Route

HIGHTOWER, WYO.
N4200-W10500/7.5

DUNCAN GRANT RANCH
RURAL HISTORIC LANDSCAPE
PLATTE COUNTY, WY
① 13 483799 E
4650760 N
② 13 494996 E
4650800 N
③ 13 495020 E
4644766 N
④ 13 483799 E
4644767 N

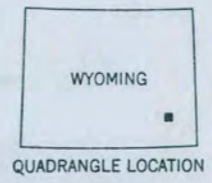


Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey as part of the Department of the Interior program for the development of the Missouri River Basin Control by USGS and US&GS
Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods
Aerial photographs taken 1949. Field check 1953
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Wyoming coordinate system, east zone
Dashed land lines indicate approximate locations



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	4 LANE 16 LANE	Light-duty
Medium-duty	4 LANE 16 LANE	Unimproved dirt
U. S. Route		State Route



NATWICK, WYO.
N4152.5-W10500.7.5



DUNCAN GRANT RANCH Rural Historic LANDSCAPE

Platte County, MO

1 of 20



DUNCAN GRANT RANCH RIVER HISTORIC LANDSCAPE

PLATTE COUNTY, WY

2 of 20



DUNCAN GRANT RANCH RURAL HISTORIC LANDSCAPE

PLATTE COUNTY, WY

3 of 20



DUNCAN GRANT RANCH Rural Historic Landscape

Platte County, WY

4 of 20



DUNCAN GRANT RANCH Rural Historic Landscape

Platte County, WY

5 of 20



DUNCAN GRANT RANCH Rural Historic Landscape

Platte County, WY

6 of 20



Dunsmuir Grant Ranch Rural Historic Landscape

Platte County, WY

7 of 20



DUNCAN GRANT RANCH Rural Historic Landscape

Platte County, WY

8 of 20



DUNCAN GRANT RANCH Rural Historic Landscape

Platte County, WY

9 of 20



DUNCAN GRANT RANCH Rural Historic Landscape

Platte County, WY

10 of 20



DUNCAN GREAT ROUNDS RURAL HISTORIC LANDSCAPE

PLATTE COUNTY, WY

11 OF 20



DUNCAN GREAT RANCH ROAD HISTORIC LANDSCAPE

PLATTE COUNTY, WY

12 OF 20



DUNCAN GRANT RANCH Rural Historic Landscape

Platte County, WY

13 of 20



DUNCAN GRANT RANCH RURAL HISTORIC LANDSCAPE

Platte County, WY

14 OF 20



DUNCAN, GRANT RANCH RURAL HISTORIC LANDSCAPE

Platte County, WY

15 of 20



DUNCAN GRANT RANCH Rural Historic Landscape

Platte County, WY

16 of 20



DUNCAN GRANT RANCH Rural Historic Landscape
Platte County, WY

17 of 20



DUNCAN GRANT RANCH Rural Historic Landscape

Platte County, WY

18 of 20



DUNCAN GRANT RANCH RURAL HISTORIC LANDSCAPE

PLATTE COUNTY, WY

19 OF 20



Duncan Grant Rosen Road to Fair Landing

Platte County, Mo

20 of 20