

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAR 29 1985

date entered APR 25 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic THE STEELE HOMESTEAD

and/or common THREE PEAKS RANCH

2. Location

street & number STATE HIGHWAY 191 not for publication

city, town BOULDER vicinity of

state WYOMING code 056 county SUBLETTE code 035

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name THE NATIONAL OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP SCHOOL

street & number BOX AA MAIN STREET

city, town LANDER vicinity of state WYOMING

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. SUBLETTE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

street & number 21 SOUTH TYLER AVENUE

city, town PINEDALE state WYOMING 82941

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title n/a has this property been determined eligible? n/a yes n/a no

date n/a n/a federal n/a state n/a county n/a local

depository for survey records n/a

city, town n/a state n/a

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <input type="checkbox"/> n/a
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Ed P. Steele Homestead is located approximately six miles northeast of Boulder, Wyoming, at the western base of the Wind River Range. The ranch is accessible from Boulder via paved Highway 191, otherwise known as Big Sandy Road. Ranch buildings are located approximately 350 yards from the highway in a small basin. Land surrounding this historic ranch remains unchanged by modern intrusions and the rural environs still communicate the isolation of high plains homesteads.

Many log and frame structures dating from the late nineteenth to early twentieth century serve as working ranch buildings. Rather utilitarian in character, the buildings were constructed in response to a specific need without aid of plans or drawings. Some buildings on the site are modern structures and are considered noncontributing.

The layout is typical of ranch headquarters with buildings grouped in a way to provide protected, open space, and minimal distances between service buildings and living quarters. The site boundaries include contributing buildings and associated corrals as part of the functionally interrelated complex of buildings representative of ranch headquarters throughout the high plains region. The Steele ranch demonstrates exceptional integrity of location, design, setting, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association and serves as an outstanding example of the homestead/ranching industry in Wyoming.

The original homestead cabin has evolved from the one-room cabin built in 1886 to the present eight-room log structure, whose last addition was constructed in 1908. The logs are notched and saddled and pegged into place in the original 13' x 16' cabin built in 1886, dovetailed in the second addition, and set with boxed corners in the 1908 addition. The roof has intersecting gables with a 12" dirt subroof covered by hand-planned, fitted tongue and groove boards and battens over each seam. The roof has recently been covered with corrugated tin. The foundation is of stone and windows are small square set-in and rectangular double-hung with plain surrounds. There are three interior chimneys of brick. There is a small porch gablet and original doors and screens are intact.

The barn and sheds are combinations of log and frame with multiple additions. The log buildings have dovetailed and boxed corners and gabled roofs with some set-in windows with plain surrounds. The frame structures are shed roofed again with a few set-in windows and many have open fronts. The main barn has an end brick chimney. The complex includes 14 contributing structures and three modern non-contributing buildings.

The corrals tie many of the buildings and sheds together and contribute to the sense of time and place in the complex.

SEE ADDENDUM

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1886–1908 **Builder/Architect** Edward P. Steele and Family

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

As an 1886 homestead complex, the Steele Ranch is likely one of Sublette County's best remaining examples of an early homestead/ranching operation that has been passed from generation to generation. It is an excellent representative of the cattle ranching frontier which contributed significantly to the broad patterns of Wyoming settlement and development. It is associated with the Steele family, locally significant for their involvement in local politics. The ranch also embodies the distinctive characteristics of type, period, and method of construction typical of high plains ranching. The Ed P. Steele Homestead exhibits a level of integrity increasingly difficult to find in operational ranch headquarters and deserves enrollment on the National Register of Historic Places.

SEE ADDENDUM

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE ADDENDUM

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 47 acres

Quadrangle name Scab Creek

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 

112	6113	2110	417	314	4115
Zone	Easting		Northing		

B 

112	6113	2110	417	314	2190
Zone	Easting		Northing		

C 

112	6113	01610	417	314	11610
Zone	Easting		Northing		

D 

112	6112	91710	417	313	91210
Zone	Easting		Northing		

E 

112	6112	71610	417	313	91210
Zone	Easting		Northing		

F 

112	6112	71310	417	314	61410
Zone	Easting		Northing		

G 

112	6112	61215	417	314	51810
Zone	Easting		Northing		

H 

112	6112	71410	417	314	51810
Zone	Easting		Northing		

### Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE ADDENDUM

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state na code na county na code na

state na code na county na code na

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title William (Web) Webster, Manager 3 Peaks Ranch, NOLS

organization National Outdoor Leadership School date October 10, 1983

street & number Box AA telephone 307-332-6973

city or town Lander state WY 82520

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Alvin J. Bastrom

title State Historic Preservation Officer date March 7, 1985

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Alvina Byers date 4-25-85  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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Description

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There are a few modern intrusions, a trailer house, new log house and outbuilding located behind the main barn complex. These buildings are well hidden by the barn complex and though they are definitely noncontributing, their location prevents them from interfering with the visual integrity of the site.

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In 1886 Ed P. Steele and a friend of his traveled from Boulder, Colorado, to South Pass City in order to try their luck in the gold mines. They continued on over to the eastern part of the Green River Valley and searched for gold there. One mile below the confluence of Silver Creek at the base of Fremont Butte, five miles east of Boulder, Wyoming, they built a cabin on the East Fork River.

On August 15, 1888, the rest of the Ed P. Steele family including 75 head of cattle arrived at the lonely little cabin, traveling all the way from Boulder, Colorado. Living in the rugged Wyoming country now were Ed, his wife, Emma, their baby sons, John and Frank, Emma's parents, Henry and Jane Hoff, and Emma's brothers, Sam and Harry Hoff. Four more sons and two daughters were born in the cabin and one son was born at South Pass City where Ed P. Steele worked in the gold mines during the winter of 1895.

The Ed P. Steeles filed and bought more and more land as time went by until they found themselves operating 3,000 acres with 600 head of cattle and 100 horses. The Steele children all followed in their father's footsteps and went into ranching in Sublette County. Part of the original ranch is still being operated by a grandson and great-grandson.

Ed P. Steele served as County Commissioner for Fremont County before Sublette County was formed and was also a member of the Boulder School board. Additionally JSteele helped organize and held stock in the Boulder Mercantile. Steele's son, Milford served as president of the Square Top Cattle Association and Sublette County Brand Inspector for 21 years. He also served as president of the Green River Cattlemans Association; Chairman of the Sublette County Selection Board; Member of the Pinedale School Board; Sublette County Commissioner; Treasurer and Chairman for Pinedale Soil Conservation; Secretary Treasurer for Wyoming Soil Conservation District #5; President Sublette County Town Bureau; Board Member Sublette County Historical Society; Secretary Treasurer Sublette County Museum Board.

Ed and Emma Steele have 191 descendents, 75 of them still live in Sublette County; 16 are deceased and the remaining 100 live scattered throughout the United States. Of the 75 who remain in Sublette County many demonstrate equally impressive records of involvement in local government and community service.

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ADDENDUM

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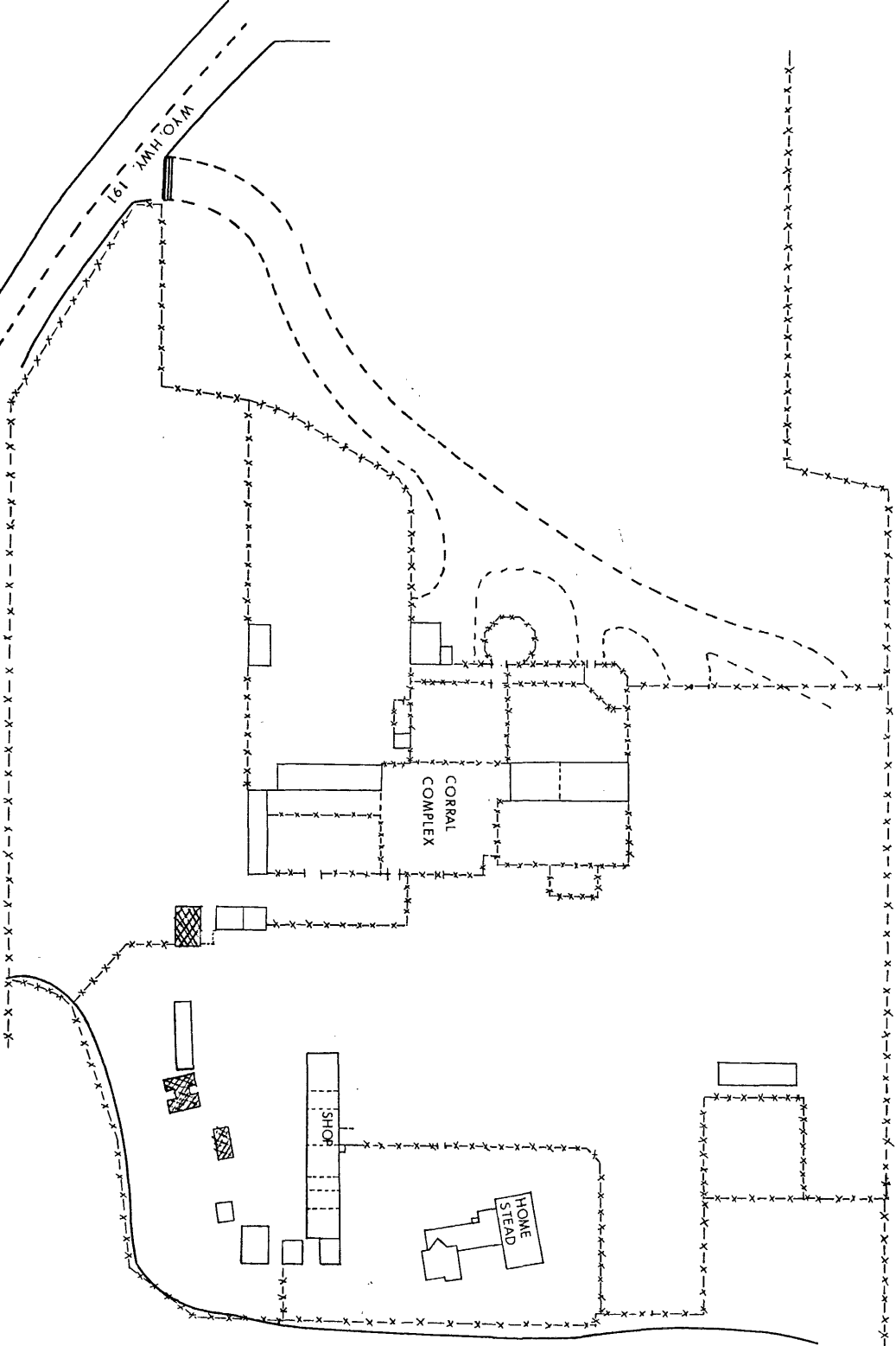
This site is located in the N $\frac{1}{2}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 8, T32N., R107., Sublette County, Wyoming. The boundary for the Ed P. Steele Homestead/Ranch Complex is defined by natural and manmade boundaries and is irregular in shape. The southern boundary is defined by the north bank of the East Fork River. The eastern boundary is determined by the section line between sections 8 and 9 beginning at the point where the north bank of the river meets the section line. The boundary follows the section line straight north to the point where it meets the unimproved ranch road. It then follows the ranch road in a north westerly direction along the east side of the road to the point where it meets a low ridge. It then follows the ridge to the west approximately 1/10 of a mile to an arbitrary point which coincides with a ridge directly to the south. The boundary then proceeds straight south approximately 4/10 of a mile to the north side of the river coinciding with the ridge which also serves as the point of beginning. This boundary adequately defines and protects the site without inhibiting its integrity of setting, location, design, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association. The boundaries include the original homestead buildings and structurally related and functionally dependent out-buildings and corrals. Though the site does contain a few modern non-contributing structures these are sensitively located behind existing contributing structures and do not pose any visual intrusion to the site. The complex is unusual in that it is spread out over a larger area than ranch complexes often are. It features an elaborate system of corrals and out-buildings which account for its larger than usual acreage.

The ranch is currently operated by the National Outdoor Leadership School, an organization dedicated to maintaining and preserving the site. As a rural headquarters for the school it represents a potential tax act project.



WYO HWY 191

# ED P STEELE HOMESTEAD



MOUNTAIN RANGE SYMBOL