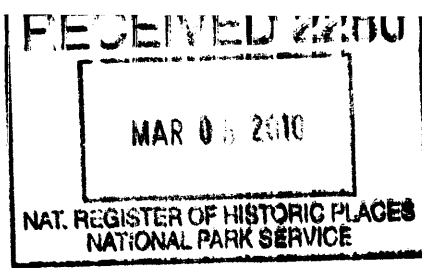


184



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Cheever/Cain Ranch

other name/site number: George and Martha Cheever Homestead; Ernest and Gertrude Shy Ranch, Oscar and Gladys Cain Ranch

2. Location

street & number: 8 Trails End Road

not for publication: n/a

city/town: Volborg

vicinity: X

state: Montana

code: MT

county: Powder River

code: 075

zip code: 59351

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Mark F. Fannin / GHRO
Signature of certifying official/Title

FEBRUARY 26, 2010
Date

Montana State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency or bureau

(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

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

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

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

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper
Edson H. Ball

Date of Action

4.13.10

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private	Number of Resources within Property	
	Contributing	Noncontributing
Category of Property: District	<u>9</u>	<u>4</u> buildings
		_____ sites
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: n/a	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u> structures
	_____	_____ objects
Name of related multiple property listing: n/a	<u>11</u>	<u>9</u> Total

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: DOMESTIC: single dwelling AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural outbuildings, storage	Current Functions: DOMESTIC: single dwelling AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural outbuildings, storage
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7. Description

Architectural Classification: OTHER/vernacular, rustic Log construction/cut lumber/rock work	Materials: foundation: STONE, CONCRETE, EARTH walls: WOOD/Log, board roof: METAL other:
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Narrative Description

Setting

The Cheever/Cain Ranch buildings are located in southeastern Montana, six miles north of Highway 212, in Powder River County. Broadus and Ashland, twenty-five and eighteen miles respectively, from the ranch, are the nearest towns. Volborg, the local post office, is approximately twenty miles north-northeast of the ranch, with Miles City being about eighty miles to the north. The ranch sits in forested rough hill country, on the east fork of Little Pumpkin Creek. The ranch is surrounded on three sides by the Custer National Forest, in a region devoted to cattle ranching and hay production. Home Creek Butte, the highest point in the county at 4,407 feet, is less than two miles from the buildings. Little Pumpkin Creek runs into Big Pumpkin Creek, which eventually meets up with the Tongue River a few miles south of Miles City.

The landscape is hilly with scattered broad rolling flat areas. Some places exhibit steep, rugged hills with large rock outcroppings. Much of the water for the ranch operations is supplied by naturally flowing springs. The area has abundant wildlife including deer, grouse, turkey, elk and mountain lion.

Farm Description

The buildings are located in a mostly flat area just to the west of a drainage running through the ranch from the Home Creek Butte direction. The road, which comes from the north, runs between the barn and corral, and the residence, and continues south to Suicide Pass and Highway 212. The road to the north is a county maintained road to the boundary of the Cheever/Cain Ranch. The road from Highway 212 to the Cheever/Cain Ranch boundary is a Forest Service road. There are no public roads on the Cheever/Cain Ranch. Several mature apple trees and three fir trees grow just west of the residence. The ground around the buildings is covered with shale which was hauled from a pit located on the ranch. Grass hay fields lie to the north, west and south of the buildings. To the east, is a long tree covered ridge which ends in the slough created by the drainage coming from Home Creek Butte. Beyond the hay fields, are tree covered ridges.

(see Continuation Sheets)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Areas of Significance: SETTLEMENT, AGRICULTURE

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a

Period(s) of Significance: 1905-1960

Significant Person(s): n/a

Significant Dates: 1905, 1943

Architect/Builder: George Cheever

Cultural Affiliation: n/a

Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary

The Cheever/Cain Ranch is historically significant and eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its historic association with land settlement in the Pumpkin Creek valley in southeast Montana. The area retains much of the agricultural activity and character that inspired its settlement and the Cheever/Cain Ranch is an integral and representative component of the landscape. The ranch has existed in an isolated rural environment throughout the twentieth century and continues to operate into the twenty-first century. From its 1905 homestead origins by George Cheever, to its acquisition by the Cain family in 1943, and through the twentieth century, the Cheever/Cain Ranch clearly illustrates early twentieth century homesteading following the transition from free range country to smaller individual ranches in southeastern Montana.

(See Continuation Sheets)

9. Major Bibliographic References

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Decennial Census Population (Title Varies by Census), Processed by the Census and Economic Information Center, Montana Department of Commerce, 1890-2000.
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http://www2.census.gov/prod2/decennial/documents/41632338v8_TOC.pdf. 2009.
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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7

Cheever/Cain Ranch
Powder River County, Montana

Page 1

The ranch contains 20 buildings or structures. These include a house, log cabin, small lawn mower shed, outhouse, coal shed, implement garage, two fuel tanks, three round metal grain bins, a tool shop/granary, barn, an historic chicken house, a modern metal chicken house, a milk shed, a garage, loafing shed, corrals, and a fence bounding the house. Moving from the east to the west, the garage, milk shed, and loafing shed are in a north/south row along the edge of the slough/drainage which runs north and south on the east side of the buildings. The barn is about one-hundred fifty feet west of the milk shed, and displays a series of wood plank fence corrals to the south, east and north. The road passes between the barn and the tool shop/granary west of the barn. About 100 feet south of the tool shop/granary is the implement garage, fuel tanks, and two grain bins. The house is about seventy-five feet northeast of the coal shed, and the log cabin is west of the house. The outhouse, and small lawn mower shed sit west of the house. The historic chicken house, metal chicken house and one round metal grain bin are about four-hundred feet north of the barn. A slough lies between the barn and these buildings. Outcrops of the Tertiary Fort Union Formation (Tongue River Member), including beds of clinkers, comprise the low ridge west of the buildings. On either side of this ridge are grass hay fields.

Description of Resources

Contributing Features

House (A) *(one contributing building, 1905)*

The house built by the Cheevers in 1905 is 40-foot by 48-foot building with a rock/cement foundation. The living room, two bedrooms and the kitchen were constructed by the Cheevers. The east facing porch was added later by the Cheevers. The south facing porch and bathroom were added by the Cains (floor plan of the house in "Additional Documentation" section of nomination).

The kitchen and living room/bedroom are made of log. The bathroom, and both porches are made of cut lumber. The ends of the roof logs are visible from the outside. A cross-gable roof covered with tin sheeting protects the building. Cedar lapboard siding, painted white, covers the elevations. The north end of the building is the living room. The north elevation contains paired vinyl windows. The original windows were replaced in 2009 to improve energy efficiency. The south end is divided into two 10-foot by 20-foot bedrooms. Each room contains one two-over-two window covered by a storm window in the south elevation. The east and west walls of the bedrooms were originally exterior walls but as a result of additions are now interior walls; the two-over-two double-hung windows originally associated with these elevations are still in place and serve as interior windows. The ceilings of the two rooms exhibit a gentle half pyramid configuration with the center measuring 9.5 feet tall and the sides measuring 7 feet 10 inches tall.

Around 1920, the Cheevers constructed a log addition off the west elevation. This room serves as the kitchen and measures 20 feet by 20 feet. It runs perpendicular to the original building and joins it in the middle. This addition contains three windows including one facing north, one facing west, and one interior window facing south into the porch. In 2009, a vinyl window replaced the west-facing window. The north elevation contains a horizontally sliding window. The interior window is a two-over-two double-hung. There are three wooden interior doors in this room; one in the north elevation provides access to the bathroom addition, one in the south wall leads to a porch, and one provides access to a wooden staircase leading to the basement. Near the middle of the kitchen is a Monarch wood/coal cooking stove originally used by the Cheevers. It is still used by the Cains to heat the kitchen.

In 1910, the Cheevers added an 8-foot wide porch off the east elevation. It was initially open to allow Lucretia Cheever, who had breathing issues, to sleep in the fresh air. Ernest Shy later enclosed the addition after her passing, circa 1936. The porch contains two rooms. The northern room measures 12 feet long and serves as a bedroom. This room contains a recently installed vinyl single-hung window in the north elevation, and paired one-over-one double-hung windows in the

(Major Bibliographic References Continued)

Wettstaed, James R. *Cultural Resources Prehistoric Land Use Patterns in Southeastern Montana*. Report No. 12. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northern Region: Missoula. 1991.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary Location of Additional Data:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Specify Repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property: 12 acres

UTM References:

Zone 13

Point A = Easting 428098	Northing 5051441
Point B = Easting 428332	Northing 5051441
Point C = Easting 428332	Northing 5051192
Point D = Easting 428098	Northing 5051192

Legal Location (Township, Range & Section(s)): SENESE and NESESE of Section 33 and NWSWSW and SWNWSW of Section 34, Township 2S, Range 47E

Verbal Boundary Description

The northwest corner point of the boundary begins just east of a low ridge. It runs due east and just crosses an unnamed tributary drainage of Marvell Creek. It then proceeds south over the top of a small ridge. From this point it turns west and again crosses the drainage to a point in a gentle valley. It then heads north to the beginning point.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to encompass both the domestic and agricultural buildings and structures of the Cheever/Cain Ranch historically associated with the ranch and presently held by the property owners.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Ella M. Howard
organization: Daughter of Mrs. Oscar Cain date: 12-1-09
street & number: P.O. Box 814 telephone: 406-234-3393, 406-727-2682
city or town: Miles City state: Montana zip code: 59301

Property Owner

name/title: Mrs. Oscar (Gladys) Cain
street & number: P.O. Box 814 telephone: 406-234-3393
city or town: Miles City

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7

Cheever/Cain Ranch
Powder River County, Montana

Page 2

east elevation. The southern room serves as a storage area. The east elevation contains two paired one-over-one double-hung windows and the south elevation displays a one-over-one single hung window. The east elevation of the storage room also contains a wood door covered by a metal screen door providing exterior access.

When the Cains moved into the house in the early 1940s, they added an enclosed porch made from cut lumber on the south side of the kitchen. Six one-light hopper style windows located near the roofline of the south elevation outside wall provide light. Each measures 24 by 27 inches. In 2007, the old wooden door and screen door leading to the outside in the south elevation were replaced with a new wooden door and metal screen door to improve energy efficiency.

In the 1950s, when the Rural Electrification Administration brought electricity to the ranch, the Cains added a half-gable roof, 10-foot by 12-foot bathroom to the northwest corner of the building. It is entered through a door from the kitchen, and has a sliding glass window in the north wall. The west elevation window was in-filled during a 2005 remodel.

When the Cains moved in, the log walls were covered with heavy brown paper. In all of the rooms, except one bedroom, this paper was covered with gypsum board and either painted or wall papered. The one bedroom still displays the paper on the walls.

A cellar constructed from rock and cement underlies the north half of the building. A seven-step stairway leading to a wooden bi-fold hinged door provides exterior access to the cellar. This access is on the north elevation of the log living room. The sides of this entry way are made of rock and cement. Tin covers the door and top part of this entry way.

The roof over the entire house was replaced in 2001. At that time, the dirt insulation was removed and replaced with foam panels. New tin replaced the old tin. The cladding presently on the majority of the house dates to at least 1910.

In 2009, the deteriorating sidewalk on the south side of the house was replaced with a solid sheet of concrete. This was done in part to direct roof water away from the house.

The kitchen area is heated with a Monarch coal/wood stove installed by the Cheevers in 1905. To address safety concerns, the original chimney was removed and replaced by one exiting the room directly over the stove. The original wood box, which sat near the stove, was moved to the back porch by Mrs. Cain who disapproved of the mess created by filling it with wood. The wood stove in the living room was replaced by a propane stove. Other than an electric baseboard heater in the bathroom, none of the other rooms have a source of heat.

Several pieces of furniture remain from the homestead days, including a beautiful buffet, which the Cheevers had shipped from the east coast.

Coal Shed (B) (one contributing building, circa 1905)

This 30-foot by 12-foot building serves as a coal and wood storage building for the house stove. The side gable roof is 12 feet high at its center and is covered by a tin roof. The tin was replaced in 2009 to correct leaking problems. The length of the building is oriented north and south. It sits about 50 feet south of the house, outside of the yard fence. Differences in the exterior of the building suggest an addition was constructed at one time. The initial 20 feet of the north end displays board-and-batten siding. The north elevation displays an opening, now boarded shut, likely used to load coal into the building. A three-step wooden stairway leads to a vertical plank wooden door in the east elevation, near the north end of the building. A small four-light fixed window is located in the east elevation. The floor is made from cut lumber.

The south 10 feet of the building appears to be an addition. The same roof which tops the northern portion of the building covers the southern addition. Cut horizontal boards with exposed studs comprise the walls. The south elevation contains

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7

Cheever/Cain Ranch
Powder River County, Montana

Page 3

a 2-foot by 2-foot opening to load coal. Below this opening is a small four-light fixed window. A walk way runs the length of the interior of the east side. Two walls divide the interior, one is the south end of the northern portion of the building, and the other is located 10 feet from the north end. This building sits on a concrete foundation.

This building was originally located 20 feet from the house. In the early 1950s, Oscar Cain moved it to its present location. Other than the installation of the new roof, no changes have occurred to the building since the Cains bought the ranch in the early 1940's. At some point, the interior was damaged by a fire started by a hog fat rendering stove. Evidence of this fire is still visible on the inside of building.

Tool Shop/Granary (C) (one contributing building, circa 1905)

This 15-foot by 30-foot building sits about 40 feet slightly southeast of the house. Cut lumber topped with sheets of roofing tin cover the side gable roof. The length of the building is oriented east and west. It is constructed in the same manner as the coal shed. The west half of the building displays board-and-batten cladding and the east half exhibits horizontal cut lumber with the exposed studs (inside-outside construction). A cut lumber wood floor runs throughout the interior. The building rests on a dry-laid stone foundation. Two wood plank doors provide ingress into the western portion of the south elevation.

Two wooden walls divide the building into three rooms. The west room was used as the shop; the west elevation of this room contains a two-light fixed window. A vertical wood plank door provides ingress into this room from the south elevation. The original work bench associated with this building rests in this room. Many old tools, including George Cheever's large toolbox full of wood working implements, occupy the shop. A single vertical wood plank door in the south elevation provides access to the two eastern rooms presently used for grain storage. Both the east and west gable elevations contain a 2-foot by 2-foot opening covered by a wooden hinged door for grain auger access.

Barn (D) (one contributing building, 1905)

This 22-foot by 45-foot two-story building is oriented with its long axis north and south. The dual pitched gable roof is constructed from cut lumber covered with sheets of roofing tin. It is 20 feet tall; the floor of the second story sits 8 feet above the ground. The north and south elevations display vertical cut lumber. When the Cains moved to the ranch in 1943, the sides of the first floor were log. In the early 1950s, Oscar, with the help of his two sons, replaced the logs with cut lumber. At the same time, the entire building was jacked up and a concrete foundation poured beneath it. The east and west elevations and the roof were covered with sheets of roofing tin at this time. The lower level of the north wall contains a large side-hinged vertical board door allowing the passage of horses. Above this door on the second level is a large vertical board door which can be raised or lowered with a rope pulley. The lower level of the south elevation contains pairs of doors side hinged doors made from wood vertical boards. Above this door on the upper level is a large opening used to pitch hay to cattle in the back corral. There is no closure for this. On the east and west walls of the barn are window openings, which are now covered with green fiberglass sheets allowing the entrance of light.

The interior of the north end of the lower level contains three stalls with mangers for horses. The lower level near the middle of the barn contains a walkway and wood oat bin where hay and grain can be placed into the horse mangers. A ladder leads to an opening in the second story floor. The south end of the lower level serves as a place for sick animals and newborn calves requiring extra attention. The floor throughout is dirt. This barn continues to be used as it was during the homestead days, to house horses, saddles, harnesses, hay and animals in need of special care.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7

Cheever/Cain Ranch
Powder River County, Montana

Page 4

Milk Shed (E) (one contributing building, 1905)

This 12-foot by 24-foot building with a rock foundation is oriented long axis north and south near a slough/drainage. The west facing wall is 10 feet high and the east facing wall is 8 feet high, yielding a sloping half gable roof which drains to the east side of the building. The roof is cut lumber covered with sheets of roofing tin. The walls display board-and-batten cladding. The west elevation contains two small four-light fixed windows. The east elevation exhibits two openings, one closed by a sliding piece of wood; the other opening is boarded shut. A side-hinged wooden door is located in the north wall allowing the passage of cattle. The south elevation contains a Dutch door.

The south end of the building's interior contains a small wood corral for calves and three wooden headstalls in which to secure the heads of the milk cows. The head stalls are made of small wood poles forming a "V." A one-legged milking stool rests on a shoulder high shelf where milk buckets were placed as cows were moved in and out. Leg chains, to keep the cows from kicking, hang in the shed. The Cain Family discontinued milking cows in the mid-1960s. Today, the shed is used to shelter newborn/sick calves.

Loafing Shed (F) (one contributing building, circa 1905)

This 30-foot by 20-foot building sits about thirty feet north of the milk shed. It is oriented east and west and is covered by a gable roof formed of cut lumber with panels of roofing tin. The roof peak is 15 feet high. The building is enclosed on three sides allowing cattle and horses to use it for shelter. The supporting frame is made of logs and log posts. The enclosed walls are constructed from horizontal cut boards clad with roofing tin. The loafing shed rests on a dry-laid rock foundation. A cut lumber floor on the second level allows for storage. Access to the storage area is through an opening in the floor using a wooden ladder. The west end of this building serves as part of the corral which circles the front of the barn.

Garage (G) (one contributing building, circa 1905)

This 30-foot by 20-foot building was originally built as a garage for cars and farm equipment. It is orientated long axis east and west, and sits about 60 feet south of the milk shed. A gable roof topped with roofing tin protects the garage. The roof peak is 12 feet high. The walls are made of horizontal boards though the east, west, and north elevations are covered with sheets of roofing tin. The south elevation contains three 8-foot wide paired doors constructed from vertical boards. The garage sits on a rock foundation and has a dirt floor. The building is used as storage for miscellaneous equipment, including an old horse drawn sled. In 2006, the roof received new roofing tin.

Chicken House (H) (one contributing building, circa 1905)

This 25-foot by 18-foot two-story building, oriented east and west, is covered by a side gable roof; sheets of roofing tin overlay tongue-and-groove boards. Cladding is board-and-batten. The bottom floor is constructed into a hill with earth covering the lower level on three sides. The chicken house rests on a rock foundation. The front of the building faces south. A wooden side-hinged door provides ingress on the main level. Sets of ribbon windows consisting of three four-light fixed sashes bracket both sides of the door. The south elevation of the second story contains two large window openings; the size of the window openings suggests they originally contained a similar window pattern as the main floor windows. The north elevation contains a wooden side-hinged door on the upper level. The floor of the bottom level is dirt covered with large flat rocks. The upper level contains a wooden floor where fryers and pullets were raised. Today, this level is used for lumber storage. The interior of the lower level contains a large roost and wooden ladders providing the chickens access to the roost. Nearby is a three-tiered series of egg laying boxes. Thin slats of wood form a scratching pen in the northeast corner of the building. The front area of this building is fenced. In 2007, the Cain Family discontinued using this as a chicken house.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7

Cheever/Cain Ranch
Powder River County, Montana

Page 5

Log Cabin (I) (one contributing building 1933)

This 17-foot by 13-foot log building is protected by a front gable roof topped with tongue-and-groove boards covered with roofing tin. The walls are constructed of horizontally oriented logs. The northeast elevation contains a new, hand-made two-panel wood door with transom and the southeast elevation contains one four-light fixed vinyl window. The floor was tongue-and-groove fir, but was severely rotted necessitating removal.

Oscar Cain constructed the cabin from logs cut on the ranch in 1933. It served as the home for three years for Oscar's brother, wife and infant daughter. It was originally located in Section 11, Township 2S Range 47E of the ranch, near the log home of the Cains. During the winter of 1947-48, Oscar divided the building in half, put sled runners under it and moved it to the ranch to be used as a bunk house for hired men. It was placed on a rock foundation, about seventy-five feet from of the main house. A wood/coal barrel stove made by the Michigan Stove Company was used to heat the building.

During the winter of 2007-08, Ella Howard, daughter of Oscar and Gladys Cain, cut and hand peeled logs to replace those which had rotted. During the following winter, the building was totally dismantled, each log cleaned by hand, and then treated with pure linseed oil. The logs were re-assembled on a concrete pad, and a new tin roof installed. Future plans include installation of a new floor from remilled boards found on the ranch, and equipping the cabin with a railroad caboose stove. The cabin presently rests about 75 feet north of the spot where Sal moved it in 1947.

This structure is an excellent example of structures built by early settlers of this country. Ponderosa pine trees were abundant, and many early residents of this land, used them to build homes and other ranch buildings.

Corrals (J) (counted as one contributing structure, 1905)

Wooden plank fences form several corrals around the barn, loafing shed, milk shed and garage. The most defining feature of the corral system is the round corral with center post. This corral sits south of the barn and is connected to a loading ramp. The round corral marks the location where horses were snubbed next to the center post, blind folded, saddled and ridden for the first time in the early method of breaking horses. The configuration and construction of the corral using large round posts with planks dates back to the homestead era. Some of the wooden gates have been replaced with metal gates.

Fence surrounding house (K) (one contributing structure, early 1959)

A three-foot tall post-and-woven-wire fence surrounds the house. The fence contains three gates including one on the east side, one on the south side and one in the southeast corner.

Non-contributing Features

Implement Garage (L) (one non-contributing building, 1972)

The 40-foot by 60-foot metal garage with metal frame, low slope gable roof, and concrete floor was constructed in 1972 to accommodate farming and haying equipment, and general mechanic work. It is 20 feet high. The north elevation contains a 3-foot by 6-foot foot entry door and a 10-foot by 11-foot garage style door. The east elevation contains paired 10-foot by 14-foot horizontally sliding doors.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7

Cheever/Cain Ranch
Powder River County, Montana

Page 6

Three Round Grain Storage Bins (M) *(three non-contributing structures, 1960's)*

These are round metal grain storage bins commonly found on farms and ranches. They measure about twelve feet in diameter and are eight feet high. Conical roofs cover the bins which rest on concrete foundations. Two are located 20 feet southeast of the implement garage and the other sits between the old wooden chicken house and the newer metal sided chicken house.

Metal Chicken House (N) *(one non-contributing building, 1970)*

This 12-foot by 20-foot building is oriented east and west. A gable roof made from cut lumber topped with sheets of roofing tin protects the building. Roofing tin clads the cut lumber walls. The west elevation contains a wooden side-hinged door. The south and east wall each display one window opening covered with wire mesh and plastic. Two wooden roosts rest inside the chicken house. This building was built as a place to raise baby chickens. Today, it is used for storage.

Outhouse (O) *(one non-contributing building, 2006)*

An outdoor toilet has always been located near the ranch buildings. In 2006, the old toilet, which was in poor condition and nearly full, was replaced with an Amish made building with a new 12-foot deep hole in the ground. This 5-foot by 5-foot building is covered by a half gable/shed roof topped with interlocking asphalt shingles. It is 8 feet high at the front and slopes to 6 feet at the back. The walls, which are painted red, display board-and-batten construction. The floor is wood. Lumber from the old toilet was saved and has been milled to use as the floor in the log cabin.

The pit associated with the original location of the outhouse measures 3 feet by 3 feet in size and was likely excavated to a depth of 10 feet. This original outhouse pit is located approximately 20 feet northwest of the present outhouse.

Lawn Mower Shed (P) *(one non-contributing building, 2000)*

This is a commercially manufactured 8-foot by 10-foot shed. It is oriented east and west. A gambrel roof topped with interlocking asphalt shingles covers the shed. It is 8 feet tall at the center. The walls, which are painted white, are made from particle board. A wood foundation supports the building. The east elevation contains paired side-hinged doors.

Fuel Tanks (Q) *(two non-contributing structures, early 1980s)*

Fifteen feet east of the large metal implement garage sit two three-hundred gallon fuel tanks. These tanks sit off the ground on metal supports and were installed in the early 1980s.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7

Cheever/Cain Ranch
Powder River County, Montana

Page 7

Integrity

Since April 17, 1905 (Cheever Homestead) to the present, the buildings have been used in the working operation of this cattle ranch. All of the buildings from the earliest ranch occupation are used in today's ranching operation, just as they were by the Cheevers and Shys. Each of the buildings continues to serve a purpose in the cattle raising business. The continued use of the original buildings reflect ranching operations during the homesteading days; the incorporation of the recent buildings reflects the evolution of a twentieth century farmstead.

In 2009, the Cheever/Cain Ranch was recognized by the Montana Stockgrowers as one of the continuously working cattle ranches in the same family for one hundred years. This continuity of use, coupled with the commitment of the Shys and Cains to maintain the buildings throughout the more than one hundred years that this ranch has been in existence, has preserved the feeling of life similar to the homestead days. Location and setting are virtually undisturbed, reflecting the original period of occupancy. The continued use of the property for ranching has resulted in its ability to easily convey the setting and feeling associated with the development of ranching in the twentieth century in southeastern Montana.

The integrity of design and materials of the contributing buildings are mostly intact, reflecting functional considerations and period construction methods. The vast majority of the buildings at the Cheever/Cain Ranch are associated with the earliest settlement of the property. Changes to the buildings occurred due to necessity, such as increasing the size of the house, or from maintenance requirements, such as replacing the cladding of the barn, or replacing old roofing tin with new roofing tin. Modifications to the contributing buildings have not greatly altered the historic character of the buildings or their relationships to the original ranch layout. With the exception of the loafing shed and chicken house, all of the contributing buildings are in good repair due to the efforts of the Cain family. The rock foundations of the loafing shed and chicken house are starting to give way; however, the buildings themselves are in good shape. The non-contributing buildings represent the efforts of the Cain's to adapt to more modern ways of ranching. Individuals who worked the land that supported them constructed the buildings. All of the buildings served a specified function. Though the Cheever/Cain Ranch retains only a remnant of the land originally utilized by the larger operations of the past, the ranch still reflects its ranching heritage.

The Cheever/Cain Ranch buildings are some of the best preserved homestead buildings in the Pumpkin Creek area of southeastern Montana. The majority of extant homesteads in the area contain only one or two buildings dating to the original homestead period of settlement. None of the homesteads in the area contain the sheer number of buildings dating to their original homestead occupation. As examples, none of the improvements of Joe Hannon Homestead (1922), three miles southwest of the Cheever/Cain Ranch remain today, and only a few logs and some fencing are all that remains of the Killpatrick homestead, two miles southwest of the Cheever/Cain Ranch. Of the nearby homestead claims made by the four Daily brothers, only dilapidated shells remain on these claims. The Cheever/Cain Ranch, however, exhibits nearly all of the buildings associated with the early period of significance. Only two of the original buildings are gone; a small log ice house burned in 1969, and a small tractor shed was later torn down.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8

Cheever/Cain Ranch
Powder River County, Montana

Page 8

Settlement of the Powder River Country, Montana

During the Late Prehistoric period, the plains of southeastern Montana saw major changes with the influxes of people primarily due to improvements in bison hunting. The bow and arrow and the use of bison jumps were the factors which allowed for the movement of people through the Northern Plains. As a result of the movement, trading interactions increased.

The Powder River Basin was occupied by the Mountain Crow prior to AD 1600, and perhaps as early as AD 1400. Other tribes, including Eastern Shoshone, Northern Cheyenne and Teton Dakota Sioux, known to be in eastern Montana, came after the Mountain Crow, with most coming after AD 1800 (Wettstaed 1991:28-29). Evidence indicates the Sioux were in the area by AD 1780, with the Cheyenne arriving sometime between the late 1700's and the early 1800's (Weist 1977:26-33; Wettstaed 1991:29).

Non-American exploration of the Powder River Basin occurred as early as the mid-1700s. Pierre Gaultier Verendrye, a Frenchman born in Canada, was an early explorer of the west. In 1742, Verendrye assembled an exploring party which took him near the Big Horn Mountains and across the Powder River Country to South Dakota. Verendrye's visit set in motion further exploration of the region. In 1805, a Frenchman by the name of Francois Antoine Larocque, traversed the Powder River Country. As an agent for the Northwest Fur Company, he was looking for prime trapping country, and hoped to contact Indians with whom he could establish trading relationships (Malone et al. 1991: 25, 42).

Euro-American expansion resulted in conflicts between whites and the tribes of the area. These conflicts eventually necessitated involvement by the U.S. Army, and in 1851, the Fort Laramie Treaty designated the area as Crow Territory (Weist 1977:44). The discovery of gold in southwestern Montana Territory in the early 1860s further increased conflict between the Sioux and Cheyenne and whites who were moving to the Northwestern Plains crossing traditional buffalo hunting grounds. The resulting Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868 closed the Bozeman Trail, the major transportation route across Wyoming and southeastern Montana and the military forts built to protect the corridor (Burlingame 1942; Doyle 1964). The same treaty reduced the eastern boundary of Crow Territory to the divide between the Bighorn and Rosebud Rivers, thereby excluding the Pumpkin Creek and Powder River region. Indian-white conflict increased again with the immigration of gold seekers to the Black Hills leading to the Sioux Wars of 1876-1877. The culmination of the Sioux Wars led to the eventual establishment of the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation, originally called the Tongue River Reservation, in 1884 (Svingen 1993:45).

In 1877, Fort Keogh and Milestown were established on the Yellowstone River, north of Ashland. Then, by the turn of the century, the area saw an influx of homesteaders (Wettstaed 1991:29). The arrival of the homesteaders in the northeast corner of the Powder River Basin triggered the establishment of several towns in the area. Ashland, located about eighteen miles west of the Cheever/Cain Ranch, was established in 1884; it received a post office in 1886 (Cheney 1984: 9). Today, it continues to serve area ranchers, and residents of the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. It also serves as headquarters for the Ashland Ranger District of the Custer National Forest.

Oscar Broadus came to the Powder River Country in 1885. Eventually, Broadus moved to a ranch where the town of Broadus is now located (about twenty-five miles east of the Cheever/Cain Ranch.). The post office, established in 1900, was named after the family; however, a clerical error in Washington D.C. resulted in the omission of one of the "d's" (Cheney 1984: 33). The town slowly grew and by 1905, the first store was started by George Trautman (Powder River County Extension Homemakers Council 1967:641, 657). Today, Broadus serves area ranchers and farmers, and is the county seat of Powder River County.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8

Cheever/Cain Ranch
Powder River County, Montana

Page 9

In 1888, the Stacey post office was created near where Camp Creek empties into Big Pumpkin Creek. Two years later, it was moved to the northwest corner of the county, 15 miles north-northeast of the Cheever/Cain Ranch, to where the town of Stacey was located on Little Pumpkin Creek (Cheney 1984: 252, 253). In the early years, Broadus, Olive and Selway were served by the Stacey post office. Eventually, the town of Stacey served area ranchers, and boasted a general store, hotel, black smith shop and drug store. Stacey also gained a reputation for hosting rodeos from 1913 to 1923 (Powder River County Extension Homemakers Council 1967 234, 235).

In 1841, Congress passed the Preemption Act, allowing individuals to "squat" on public lands. The Preemption Act was the first of many Acts encouraging the movement to settle of the West.

The act which allowed for squatting proved an inefficient method of distributing public lands, and in 1862, Congress passed the Homestead Act. This act, signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln, is considered by many to be the most important legislation ever enacted in the United States. It is certainly the most important event in westward expansion. The Homestead Act of 1862 gave everyone, including women and immigrants an equal chance at becoming a land owner. In fact, women were encouraged to file for homestead lands, and many did. Thousands of immigrants came to this country, lured by the Homestead Act. As it turned out, this act proved to be a revolutionary concept in the distribution of public lands. Two hundred seventy million acres of public land was claimed.

The Homestead Act required individuals be the head of a family or least twenty-one years old. The claimant had to live on the land, and make improvements for five years. There were provisions for taking leaves of absence, as long as the local land office was notified in writing of such intent. The claimant was required to build a house, make improvements and farm the land. If the claimant died before final proof was filed, the widow could assume the claim by providing testimony of two witnesses who could substantiate that the widow had lived continuously on the land for two years.

Around the turn of the century, Thomas Huskinson with his wife and brother, moved to the area, close to where George and Martha Cheever took up a homestead. Huskinson's wife and baby died at this location, and are buried on the ridge immediately east of the Cheever/Cain Ranch buildings (Powder River County Extension Homemakers Council 1967 284, 285). In the 1960s, Sal and Gladys placed permanent head stones on these graves. The graves are not within the boundary of this nomination.

In 1909, Congress passed the Enlarged Homestead Act, which allowed individuals to claim 320 acres for the purpose of farming. It had been determined that 160 acres was not enough land for dryland farmers to make a living. In 1916, the Stock-Raising Homestead Act was passed that allowed individuals to claim 640 acres for the purpose of ranching. By the time Congress repealed the homestead acts in 1976, about thirty-four percent of Montana's land had been claimed by this process. One-hundred fifty-one thousand, six-hundred homesteads, equating to 32,050,480 acres (34 percent of the state's total acreage), were successfully patented in Montana, more than any other state (National Park Service 2009).

The arrival of the Northern Pacific Railroad to Miles City in 1882 greatly accelerated the range cattle industry in southeastern Montana and Powder River Country by allowing access to the eastern markets. Prior to the arrival of the railroad, southeastern Montana was dependent on the Yellowstone River steamboats for transportation and shipment of goods. A map detailing the stock ranges of southeast Montana in 1884, including the Pumpkin and Little Pumpkin Creek drainages, illustrates the extensive ranges in this portion of Montana at that time (Gaw 1884). During this time, ranching was large-scale and was dependent on open range (Cultural Research & Management, Inc. 1987: 52-60; State engineer's Office 1961: 7-8). Both large and small corporations moved their herds into eastern Montana where they yielded substantial profits.

Much of this activity was the result of large herds of cattle arriving from Oregon, Texas and Colorado. The cattle from Oregon came over the Continental Divide to lands drained by the upper Yellowstone River. Herds from the south mostly

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8

Cheever/Cain Ranch
Powder River County, Montana

Page 10

came through Dodge City to the Ogallala country to the headwaters of the Little Powder River. At this point, some herds went to the west of the Black Hills, while some swung to the east. Once around the Black Hills, the herds generally followed Little Powder River to the Powder River to the area of Powderville, where they crossed Mizpah Creek to Pumpkin Creek. The herds arrived in the Miles City area after following the Tongue River. Here the cattle either crossed the Yellowstone River just above Fort Keogh or continued on the southside of the Yellowstone to the Musselshell River. Some of the cattle stayed in the Powder River and Pumpkin Creek drainages.

With the arrival of large herds of cattle came men who were convinced fortunes could be made by running cattle on the unfenced open spaces of eastern Montana. Frontier photographer L.A. Huffman documented through his work the life of the men who came with these cattle and how the various ranches managed the cattle business prior to the coming of fences. Huffman's photograph entitled "At Rest," is taken near the head of Little Pumpkin Creek. Huffman's comments about the scene captured by this photograph are: "The roundup moved early this day, and the cattle are now being held in the background while the men are eating their dinner. In a few minutes everything will be in a turmoil, and fifty men will be charging up and down the flat sorting these herds..." (Brown and Felton 1955: 222).

In his 1881 book, *The Beef Bonanza; or How to Get Rich on the Plains*, General James Brisbin stated "Montana has undoubtedly the best grazing grounds in America . . . The Yellowstone, Big Horn, Tongue River and Powder River regions contain the maximum advantages to the cattle-grower" (Brisbin 1881: 90).

The period of the open range boom in Montana highlighted uncontrolled and reckless growth in the livestock industry. The land was public domain with each ranch claiming specific areas recognized and respected by other cattlemen. The fall of 1886 witnessed overstocked and overgrazed ranges setting the stage for the devastation of the "Hard Winter of 1886-1887" (Fletcher 1969:138-157). The "Hard Winter" marked the end of the open-range cattle industry in southeast Montana and Montana as a whole. Prior to this time, it was assumed that cattle could survive winter on the open plains. But during this winter, snow covered the grass and thousands of cattle starved to death. After this winter, it was clear that ranchers had to put up hay as feed for the cattle during the winter months. Future ranching occurred in a less free-wheeling and a more conservative manner (Dale 1960:114).

The opening of public lands to homesteaders who fenced the land in order to keep their cattle on their property and to keep free ranging cattle off also contributed to a change in ranching practices. As more and more of the open range was fenced, the days of "free grass" came to an end. The coming of individual ranches with barbed wire fences signaled one of the single biggest changes in the western environment. In an attempt to control overgrazing of the open range, local ranchers promoted the creation of the Otter Forest Reserve in 1907, located immediately west of the Cheever/Cain Ranch. The name subsequently changed to the Custer National Forest in 1908.

The Milwaukee, Chicago & St. Paul, later the Milwaukee, Chicago and Puget Sound Railroad (the Milwaukee), arrived in Miles City in 1907. The presence of two railroads greatly spurred the arrival of immigrants and helped with getting products to market. The passage of the Enlarged Homestead Act in 1909 and the accompanying railroad promotion, invited more hopeful settlers to eastern Montana. Some wanted to farm their newly acquired land, while others thought more about raising cattle as their cash crop. The decision to farm or ranch or a combination was dictated by the nature of the land. In the case of those who homesteaded on the upper reaches of Little Pumpkin Creek, the land was rough, hilly and not suited for large track farming. Thus, ranching remained the focal point of the local economy, even though it went from free range ranching to smaller individual operations.

Winter feeding continued to be a problem for Montana ranchers. Homesteading had severely damaged much of the rangeland, divided ownership patterns, and driven up land prices. Competition ensued between stockmen, sheepmen and settlers, all vying for the same land. Overgrazing and overcrowding of the land became an issue. In response, the Mizpah-Pumpkin Creek Grazing District was established in 1928. In cooperation with federal and state governments, the

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8

Cheever/Cain Ranch
Powder River County, Montana

Page 11

Northern Pacific Railroad, and a group of southeastern Montana ranchers, the first cooperative grazing district in the United States formed. The Mizpah-Pumpkin Creek Grazing Association leased over 108,000 acres of public and private rangeland (all withdrawn from settlement), carefully controlling the numbers of cattle on the range. Use was restricted to stockmen who had lands within or adjacent to the district. The district was established to determine if leasing of the public domain for grazing would remedy the overgrazing and overcrowding problem inherent with the established "free grass" policies. The district proved itself during the severe drought years when members withstood the harsh conditions while their neighbors, who relied on the earlier open range policy, removed their herds from the range due to necessity. The Mizpah-Pumpkin Creek Grazing Association served until 1962. The success of the Mizpah-Pumpkin Creek Grazing Association spurred the formation of additional grazing districts through the Montana legislature, and in 1934, the United States Congress passed the Taylor Grazing Act. Following the Montana blueprint, the Taylor Grazing Act established the practice of leasing federally owned rangeland to stockmen. The act provided reliable pasturage at low cost without the obligation of purchasing the land (Muhn 1987: 1, 2, 35; Malone et al. 1991:317-318). All of the grazing districts established under the Taylor Grazing Act are still in effect today (Bureau of Land Management 2009). By virtue of the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934, the U.S. Grazing Service was established to manage public rangelands and in 1946, the Grazing Service and the General Land Office merged to form the Bureau of Land Management. The original lands of the Mizpah-Pumpkin Creek Grazing Association are located about 35 miles northeast of the Cheever/Cain Ranch.

The Rural Electrification Authority (REA) was a New Deal agency resulting in the eventual electrification of much of rural Montana. Beginning in 1935-1936, the REA extended loans to farmers' cooperatives and other organizations enabling them to build rural electrical distribution systems. This resulted in more than two dozen electric cooperatives to make power available to practically every farm and ranch in the state (Malone et al. 1991: 297).

Census counts for Powder River County and Custer County (of which Powder River County was part of until 1919) reflect the ruggedness of the landscape. The census for Custer County shows an increase from 7891 to 14,123 people, nearly a 100 percent increase, from 1900 to 1910, likely the result of the Enlarged Homestead act of 1909. While the increased population is reflective of the entire county, it can be assumed the Pumpkin Creek and Powder River areas registered a proportional increase. The census for Powder River County for 1930 displays a population of 3909 bracketed by populations of just over 3000 individuals for 1920 and 1940 (U.S. Bureau of Census 1890-2000). The difficulty of ranching and farming in Powder River County and the Pumpkin Creek area is further exemplified by the agricultural census which indicated in 1920, Powder River County contained 833 farms (U.S. Bureau of Census, Fourteenth Census of the United States 1920). By 1950, this number had nearly dwindled in half, to 472 (U.S. Bureau of Census, 1950 Census of Agriculture, Vol. 8 1950).

Early Homesteads, Big and Little Pumpkin Creeks

In 1880, John R. Selway settled on Big Pumpkin Creek. He started out with cattle, but later transitioned into the sheep business, becoming one of the largest sheep ranchers in the area. On Little Pumpkin Creek, a tributary of Big Pumpkin Creek, Charles Daly took up a homestead in about 1885. The first building he constructed was an 18-foot by 18-foot log cabin with a dirt floor. In 1907, he built a house which measured sixty feet long. It had four bedrooms, front room, dining room and a screened porch. Daly also constructed a log barn and chicken house. In August of 1909, the Dalys lost everything to fire. The fire reportedly burned for three weeks, consuming 10 sets of harness, seven saddles, 14 horses, 125 ton of hay and most of the chickens (Beach 1989: 19, 29; Powder River County Extension Homemakers Council 1967: 18, 261).

Captain Ambrose Marvel was the first to settle in the upper reaches of the East Fork of Little Pumpkin Creek. After leading several wagon trains to Montana, the first being in 1880, Marvel decided to homestead north of Home Creek Butte, on a creek which now bears his name. The year was 1888. As part of his claim, he built a beautiful home and many other buildings to support his ranching operation. He and his wife, Amelia Hotchkiss, stayed 21 years. Marvel died

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8

Cheever/Cain Ranch
Powder River County, Montana

Page 12

in 1907, and the next year, Mrs. Marvel sold the place to the Sutton Brothers who hailed from Texas. Over the next 35 years, the four brothers built the ranch into one of the finest stock ranches in Montana (Powder River County Extension Homemakers Council 1967: 282, 283.). The Marvel/Sutton Ranch is located about two miles northwest of the Cheever/Cain Ranch.

The George and Martha Cheever Homestead

George and Martha Cheever with daughter Lucretia left New Hampshire and came to Miles City, Montana in 1889. Prior to their arrival in Montana, George Cheever had served as a sergeant in Captain T. Carter's Company "B," Second Regiment New Hampshire Volunteers from May 27, 1861 to January 15, 1865, (Homestead Entry 2814). George worked as an engineer for the state school, and Martha and Lucretia taught music. Although there is no written documentation confirming the Cheevers visited the Marvel Ranch, when they decided to homestead on the East Fork of Little Pumpkin Creek, they likely were acquainted with Captain Marvel; perhaps he had encouraged them to consider the land near his ranch. If they had visited, surely Marvel would have told them about the free flowing spring waters and good grass which grew in the hill country, and that cattle did very well in the higher, forested land.

In 1905, when much of the public lands remained unclaimed (the Enlarged Homestead Act of 1909 resulted in an increase from 7500 claims in Montana in 1909 to 22,000 claims after passage of the Act), the Cheevers could certainly have chosen land more suitable to farming, but the beautiful nature of the land around Home Creek Butte and an apparent desire to become ranchers brought them to the East Fork of Little Pumpkin Creek.

On April 17, 1905, George and Martha Cheever, with daughter Lucretia and her husband Ernest Shy, took up residence on the southwest quarter of Section 34, Township 2 South, Range 47 East in what was at the time the Otter Forest Reserve (Custer National Forest) in Custer County. The year 1919 marked the creation of Powder River County from a portion of Custer County resulting in the homestead falling under the jurisdiction of the newly created county (Homestead Entry No. 2814).

On January 23, 1909, George died, leaving Martha to follow through with patenting the homestead. According to the homestead records, three issues came up in this process. First, Martha had to show that she was head of the household and at least twenty-one years old. Two people were required to file papers stating they were familiar with the Cheevers and that indeed they lived on the homestead claim and had made improvements. Second, there were concerns over the Cheevers meeting the residency requirements. Documents showing George had served in the Army were filed. This allowed two years of credit to be applied against the five-year residency requirement. Lastly, in April 1908, the township where the homestead was located was withdrawn from coal filing. Further, this land was withdrawn from all entry in April 1909, as mandated by Coal Land Withdrawal, Montana No. 1, Executive Order of July 9, 1910. Because the township where the ranch is located sits over the Fort Union Formation which contains many horizons of coal, the government reserved all mining rights. The homestead records for the Cheever patent contain a detailed description of the land and the subsurface coal seams. In this report, George Archibald, Mineral Inspector for the government wrote: "Unless the entrywoman submits a right of election, as per Act of June 22, 1910, accepting title with reservation of the coal to the Government, I would respectfully recommend that the entry be held for cancellation upon the charge that it is underlain by at least 2 beds of coal..." After papers were filed to resolve these three issues, Martha received final patent on September 16, 1912 (Homestead Entry No. 2814).

Part of the final filing includes a letter from the Mineral Inspector of the Department of Interior, General Land Office, dated January 16, 1912. In it the inspector writes: "The entryman has built an excellent house of 7 or 8 rooms, sawed lumber painted and well finished throughout. Also, a large barn, several sheds, a large cellar, outhouses, big substantial corrals etc. The entry is all fenced and a large part of the entry (15 acres) has been cultivated continuously. Cheever is known

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8

Cheever/Cain Ranch
Powder River County, Montana

Page 13

throughout the locality as having been an actual settler and his wife and her mother still reside upon the place." (Homestead Entry No. 2814). The buildings listed in this letter are the focus of this nomination.

The period from 1910 to the beginning of World War I saw above average precipitation, which resulted in more grass and hay for the cattle. With the adjoining land, purchased by the Cheever's son-in-law Ernest Shy, the family increased their cattle herd. In 1918, Martha died leaving the ranch operation to Ernest and Lucretia. When the Taylor Grazing Act was enacted, Ernest acquired a permit to run 133 cow/calf pairs on the Custer National Forest. The Cheever/Cain Ranch still has this permit.

Ernest, a slight unassuming man, had been born to ranching parents, and with his knowledge and hard work, the ranch prospered. Demand for cattle increased as the war continued, and with the coming of the railroads to central Montana, ranchers had a less expensive method of bringing their cattle to market.

Several stories illustrate the difficulties, hardships, and celebrations associated with ranching and farming during the early period of the Cheever/Cain Ranch. Between 1912 and 1915, Ernest and Lucretia had a young boy who stayed with them for the summer. The boy came out from Illinois to help Ernest with the haying. One day, after Ernest had left the ranch for business, the boy was operating the horse-drawn hay rake when the horses became unmanageable and bolted. Unable to control the horses, the boy became entangled in the rake. As the horses came running toward the house, Lucretia ran out and stopped them, only to find the boy had died. Lucretia disentangled the boy, wrapped him in blankets and waited for Ernest to return to the ranch. When Ernest returned home, he loaded the body in the wagon and took it to the train in Miles City to be returned to Illinois.

The communal aspect of neighbors in rural areas is illustrated by a gathering that occurred at the Cheever/Cain Ranch in 1927. That New Years Eve, a very memorable party occurred in the living room of the Cheever/Cain Ranch with neighbors gathering from all around the Little Pumpkin Creek vicinity. Lucretia prepared a table full of wonderful food, and after dinner was over and the dishes washed, she entertained her houseguests by playing the piano. Gladys remembers that everyone sang and had a good time. Gladys also remembers that all of the guests came in automobiles except for the Cains who arrived by team and wagon as a result of their Dodge Touring car recently burning in a fire.

Oscar and Gladys Cain

In 1931, Oscar and Gladys Cain left their jobs (ranch hand and cook) with the Sutton Brother's Ranch on Marvel Creek and bought two sections of railroad land about two miles south of the Ernest Shy Ranch (Cheever Homestead). Oscar built a one-room log house, and in February of 1933, Oscar, Gladys and their two small children, Donald and Helen, moved in. It was the dream of the young couple to be ranchers. With the onset of the "Dirty Thirties" dry weather and the Great Depression, Oscar "Sal" sheared sheep and worked on WPA projects to keep the family in staples. Money was hard to come by, so he gave one section of land back to the railroad. Gladys, who is alive at age 99, looks back on these days as the happiest of her life. She says "I had a house for my family, and with an occasional deer, we never went hungry" (personal interview, September 26, 2009).

Because the Shys were the Cain's closest neighbors, the two families often worked together. As Ernest got older, Oscar and the Cain's two boys helped with the ranching activities including haying, branding cattle and butchering hogs. In 1936, Lucretia passed away, leaving Ernest a widower. He lived alone for a couple of years before marrying Gertrude (Gertie) Sutton, widow of Tom Sutton. Because Ernest never had children, he "adopted" the Cain kids, which now numbered four. With advancing age slowing Ernest, the Shys leased their ranch to the Cains and moved to Miles City. In 1943, the Cains left their log home, and moved into the Shy residence, the house the Cheevers built in 1905. It was at this

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8

Cheever/Cain Ranch
Powder River County, Montana

Page 14

time the Cheever Homestead buildings came under the care of the Cains. The Cains eventually purchased the Shy Ranch.

When Ernest and Lucretia moved to her parent's property, Lucretia insisted on bringing her piano from Miles City, despite the ordeal of moving such a large and fragile piece of furniture. In a challenging move using a team and wagon and lasting several days, the piano arrived at the ranch resulting in years of enjoyment. After Lucretia's passing in 1936, Ernest sold the piano to a neighbor. After several years as a widower, he married Gertrude Sutton. As fate would have it, Gertrude, like Lucretia, wanted a piano. The piano was ordered and shipped to Miles City. Once again, Ernest hitched the team to the wagon (not having a vehicle large enough to transport a piano) and went to Miles City to get the piano, no doubt experiencing a bit of *déjà vous!* When the Shys sold the ranch to the Cains, Gertrude left the piano. It still sits in the living room of the Cheever/Cain Ranch house.

One story highlights the attitude of neighbors and relatives looking out for each other. As most early day ranchers did, the Cains always had hogs which supplied most of the meat for the family. One day in the late 1940s or early 1950s, Sal and Gladys drove to Miles City to acquire a boar hog from Fort Keogh. Upon their return to the ranch, they discovered the hog was not in the crate which Sal made for the purpose of getting the hog home. At daylight the next day, Sal took his rifle and started back to Miles City expecting to find the animal injured. Much to his surprise, he found no hog until he arrived at Fort Keogh, and there was the boar in his pen, just like he had never left. It turns out that Sal's brother was also in town on the day Sal and Gladys picked up the hog, and were aware of Sal and Gladys's purchase of the boar. Finding the hog on a hill about ten miles out of town, Sal's brother reloaded him on his truck and hauled him back to Fort Keogh, much to the pleasant surprise of Sal and Gladys.

The use of horses for not only work, but also transportation, provides a glimpse into the difficulties encountered in daily routines compared to the use of machinery. Ernest routinely used horses, especially in the early years of the ranch. Ernest was known to never use blinders on his work horses; consequently, he had many runaways. Blinders prevented the horse from seeing what was behind him, thus, the horse was less likely to spook. Knowing Ernest's predilection for not employing blinders, a neighbor when approached to buy a team, only consented when promised blinders would be used. Whereas Sal did use blinders on his horses, he still experienced several runaways, believed to be the result of using young horses and breaking them for work. One day, Sal, Gladys and the three older children all loaded into the wagon for a trip to the neighbors. On the way, the horses spooked with Sal losing control. Everyone but the oldest son, Donald, leapt from the wagon. Donald stayed in the wagon until little was left of it when the horses finally played themselves out.

Today, the Cheever/Cain Ranch encompasses four thousand privately owned acres and five thousand acres of Forest Service leased land, and is managed by Donald, eldest son of Oscar and Gladys. Oscar passed away in 1973. The Cheever/Cain Ranch clearly illustrates an early twentieth century ranch in southeast Montana. Many of the buildings and structures date to 1905 and were constructed by George and Martha Cheever to support raising cattle. Each building serves a specific purpose, critical to the operation of a ranch. The ranch is associated with only two families; the Cheevers/Shys and the Cains. The ranch serves as an excellent representation of the ranching life style in the Little Pumpkin Creek drainage and greater Pumpkin Creek valley of southeast Montana which has endured for more than a century. The ranch is a well preserved example of efforts made by thousands of settlers who took advantage of the most important piece of legislation ever enacted by this country, the 1862 Homestead Act and its subsequent amendments. The Cheever/Cain Ranch is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A.

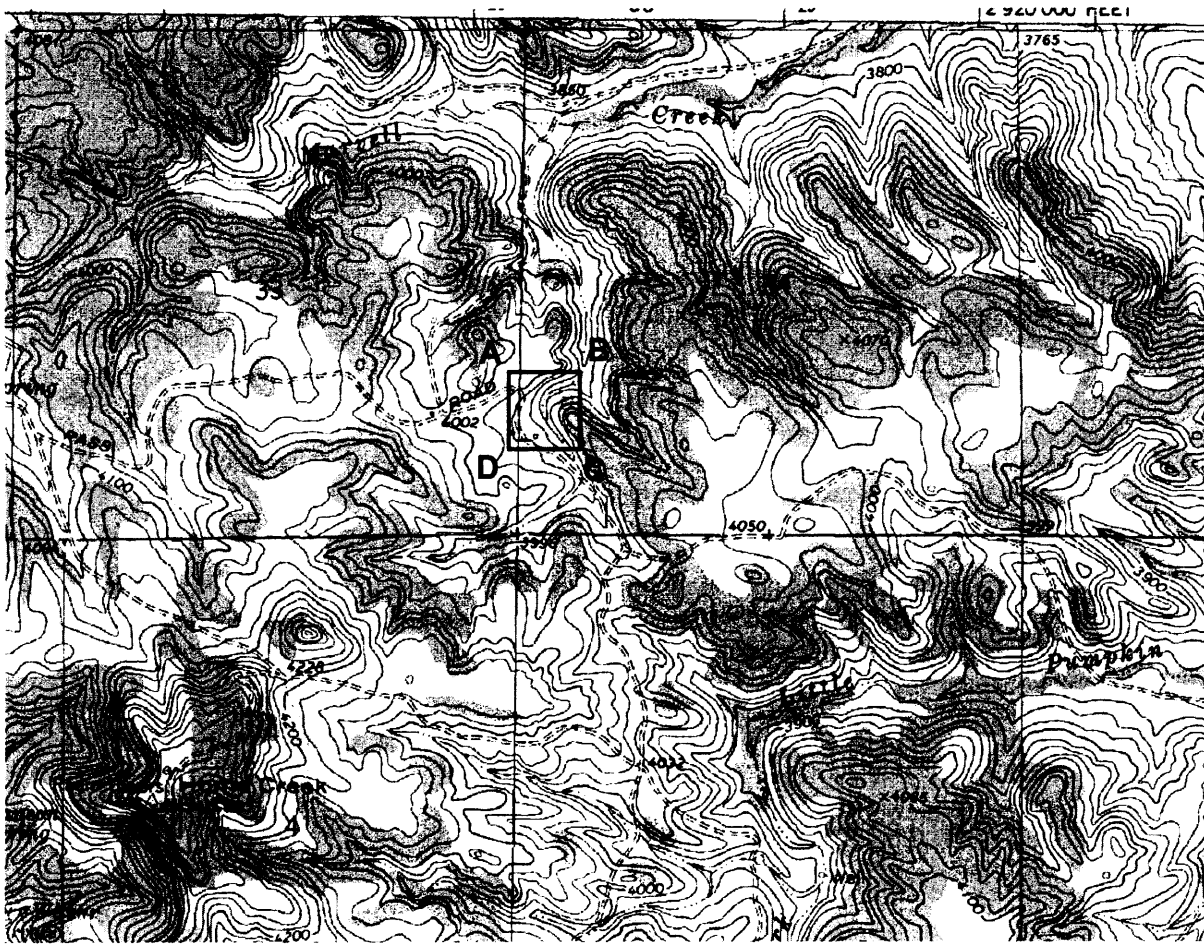
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10

Page 15

Cheever/Cain Ranch
Powder River County, MT



Location of Cheever/Cain Ranch. Home Creek Butte 7.5' Quadrangle Map 1966 (Photorevised 1985). Section 33 and 34, Township 2 South, Range 47 East

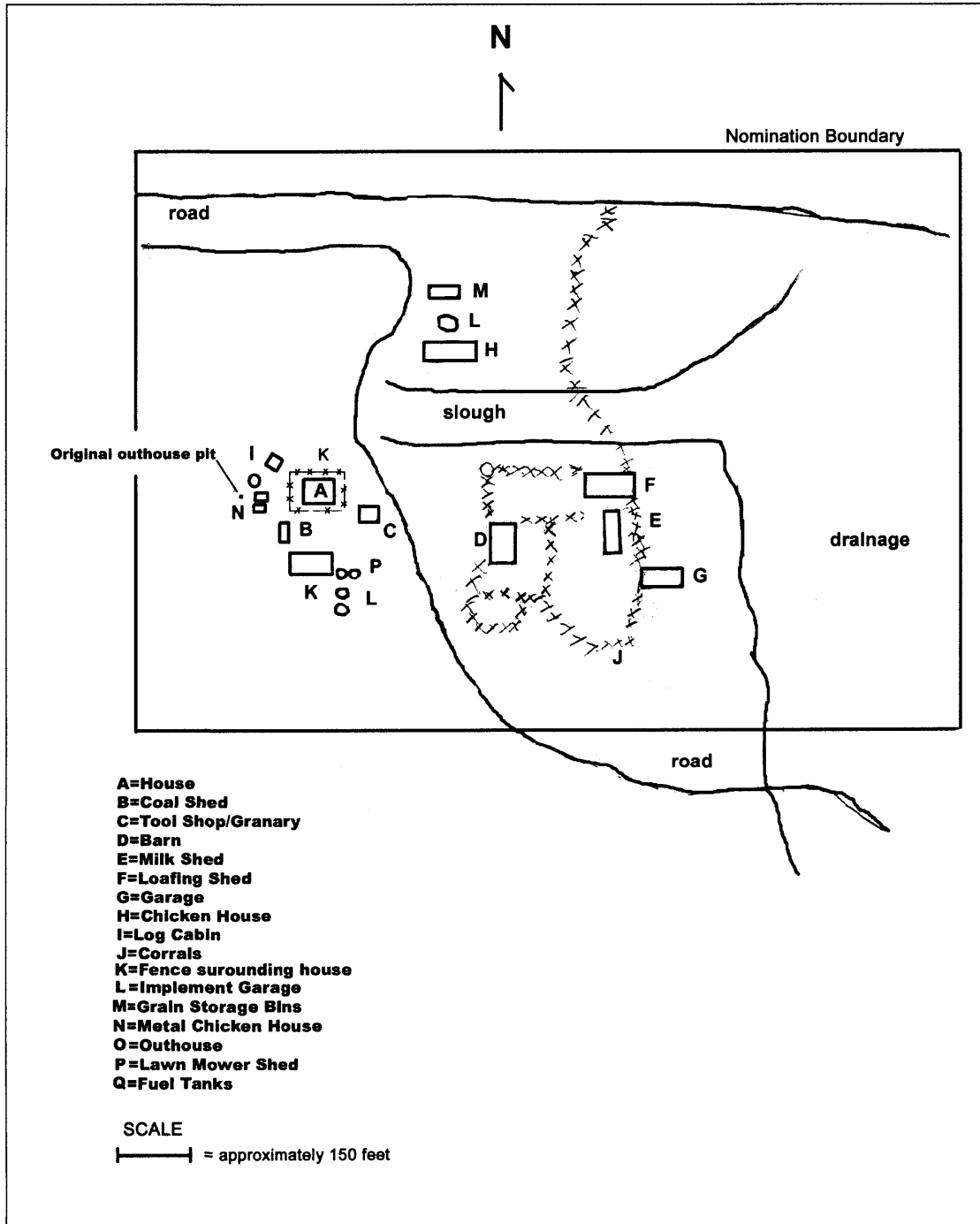
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10

Page 16

Cheever/Cain Ranch
Powder River County, MT



Sketch Map of Cheever/Cain Ranch

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Page 17

Cheever/Cain Ranch
Powder River County, MT

Photolog

In accordance with the March 2005 Photo Policy expansion, the photos that accompany this nomination are printed on HP Premium Plus Photo Paper, using a Hewlett Packard 100 gray photo cartridge. This combination of paper and inks is included on the NR's list of "Acceptable Ink and Paper combinations for Digital Images." The images are also recorded on an archival CD-R with a resolution at least 1200x1800 pixels, 300 dpi in "true color" 24-bit format.

Name: Cheever/Cain Ranch
County and State: Powder River County, Montana
Photographer: Ella Mae Howard
Date of Photograph: 12/4/2009
Location of original negative: State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT
Description and view of camera: House, southeast elevation. View to northwest.
Photograph Number: 0001

Name: Cheever/Cain Ranch
County and State: Powder River County, Montana
Photographer: Ella Mae Howard
Date of Photograph: 12/4/2009
Location of original negative: State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT
Description and view of camera: House and surrounding fence, east elevation. View to west.
Photograph Number: 0002

Name: Cheever/Cain Ranch
County and State: Powder River County, Montana
Photographer: Ella Mae Howard
Date of Photograph: 12/4/2009
Location of original negative: State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT
Description and view of camera: Coal Shed, east elevation. View to west.
Photograph Number: 0003

Name: Cheever/Cain Ranch
County and State: Powder River County, Montana
Photographer: Ella Mae Howard
Date of Photograph: 12/4/2009
Location of original negative: State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT
Description and view of camera: Tool Shop/Granary, south and east elevation. View to northwest.
Photograph Number: 0004

Name: Cheever/Cain Ranch
County and State: Powder River County, Montana
Photographer: Ella Mae Howard
Date of Photograph: 12/4/2009
Location of original negative: State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT
Description and view of camera: Barn, west elevation. View to east.
Photograph Number: 0005

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Page 18

Cheever/Cain Ranch
Powder River County, MT

Name: Cheever/Cain Ranch
County and State: Powder River County, Montana
Photographer: Ella Mae Howard
Date of Photograph: 12/4/2009
Location of original negative: State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT
Description and view of camera: Milk Shed, south elevation. View to north.
Photograph Number: 0006

Name: Cheever/Cain Ranch
County and State: Powder River County, Montana
Photographer: Ella Mae Howard
Date of Photograph: 12/4/2009
Location of original negative: State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT
Description and view of camera: Loafing Shed, southwest elevation. View to northeast.
Photograph Number: 0007

Name: Cheever/Cain Ranch
County and State: Powder River County, Montana
Photographer: Ella Mae Howard
Date of Photograph: 12/4/2009
Location of original negative: State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT
Description and view of camera: Garage, south elevation. View to north.
Photograph Number: 0008

Name: Cheever/Cain Ranch
County and State: Powder River County, Montana
Photographer: Ella Mae Howard
Date of Photograph: 12/4/2009
Location of original negative: State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT
Description and view of camera: Chicken House, south elevation. View to north.
Photograph Number: 0009

Name: Cheever/Cain Ranch
County and State: Powder River County, Montana
Photographer: Ella Mae Howard
Date of Photograph: 12/4/2009
Location of original negative: State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT
Description and view of camera: Log Cabin, northeast elevation. View to southwest.
Photograph Number: 0010

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Page 19

Cheever/Cain Ranch
Powder River County, MT

Name: Cheever/Cain Ranch
County and State: Powder River County, Montana
Photographer: Ella Mae Howard
Date of Photograph: 12/4/2009
Location of original negative: State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT
Description and view of camera: Corrals. View to northwest.
Photograph Number: 0011

Name: Cheever/Cain Ranch
County and State: Powder River County, Montana
Photographer: Ella Mae Howard
Date of Photograph: 12/4/2009
Location of original negative: State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT
Description and view of camera: Implement Garage, northeast elevation. View to southwest.
Photograph Number: 0012

Name: Cheever/Cain Ranch
County and State: Powder River County, Montana
Photographer: Ella Mae Howard
Date of Photograph: 12/4/2009
Location of original negative: State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT
Description and view of camera: Grain Bin, southwest elevation. View to northeast.
Photograph Number: 0013

Name: Cheever/Cain Ranch
County and State: Powder River County, Montana
Photographer: Ella Mae Howard
Date of Photograph: 12/4/2009
Location of original negative: State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT
Description and view of camera: Metal Chicken House, southwest elevation. View to northeast.
Photograph Number: 0014

Name: Cheever/Cain Ranch
County and State: Powder River County, Montana
Photographer: Ella Mae Howard
Date of Photograph: 12/4/2009
Location of original negative: State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT
Description and view of camera: Outhouse, east elevations. View to west.
Photograph Number: 0015

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Page 20

Cheever/Cain Ranch
Powder River County, MT

Name: Cheever/Cain Ranch
County and State: Powder River County, Montana
Photographer: Ella Mae Howard
Date of Photograph: 12/4/2009
Location of original negative: State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT
Description and view of camera: Lawn Mower Shed, east elevation. View to west.
Photograph Number: 0016

Name: Cheever/Cain Ranch
County and State: Powder River County, Montana
Photographer: Ella Mae Howard
Date of Photograph: 1/20/2010
Location of original negative: State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT
Description and view of camera: Overview of Cheever/Cain Ranch. View to southeast.
Photograph Number: 0017

Name: Cheever/Cain Ranch
County and State: Powder River County, Montana
Photographer: Unknown
Date of Photograph: 1937
Location of original negative: State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT
Description and view of camera: Overview of Cheever/Cain Ranch. View to southeast.
Photograph Number: 0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Cheever/Cain Ranch
Powder River County, MT

Page 21



Name: Cheever/Cain Ranch
County and State: Powder River County, Montana
Photographer: Ella Mae Howard
Date of Photograph: 12/4/2009
Location of original negative: State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT
Description and view of camera: House, south elevation. View to north.
Photograph Number: 0001

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Cheever/Cain Ranch
Powder River County, MT

Page 22



Name: Cheever/Cain Ranch
County and State: Powder River County, Montana
Photographer: Ella Mae Howard
Date of Photograph: 12/4/2009
Location of original negative: State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT
Description and view of camera: House and surrounding fence, east elevation. View to west.
Photograph Number: 0002

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Cheever/Cain Ranch
Powder River County, MT

Page 23



Name: Cheever/Cain Ranch
County and State: Powder River County, Montana
Photographer: Ella Mae Howard
Date of Photograph: 12/4/2009
Location of original negative: State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT
Description and view of camera: Coal Shed, east elevation. View to west.
Photograph Number: 0003

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Cheever/Cain Ranch
Powder River County, MT

Page 24



Name: Cheever/Cain Ranch
County and State: Powder River County, Montana
Photographer: Ella Mae Howard
Date of Photograph: 12/4/2009
Location of original negative: State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT
Description and view of camera: Tool Shop/Granary, south and east elevation. View to northwest.
Photograph Number: 0004

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Cheever/Cain Ranch
Powder River County, MT

Page 25



Name: Cheever/Cain Ranch
County and State: Powder River County, Montana
Photographer: Ella Mae Howard
Date of Photograph: 12/4/2009
Location of original negative: State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT
Description and view of camera: Barn, west elevation. View to east.
Photograph Number: 0005

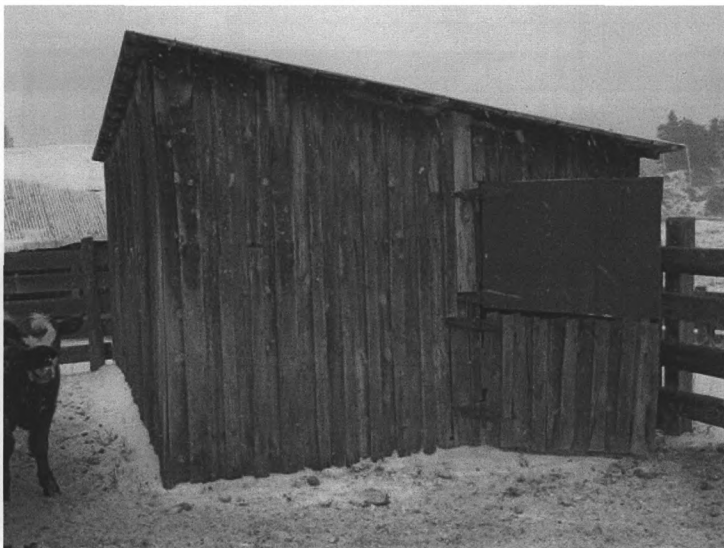
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Cheever/Cain Ranch
Powder River County, MT

Page 26



Name: Cheever/Cain Ranch
County and State: Powder River County, Montana
Photographer: Ella Mae Howard
Date of Photograph: 12/4/2009
Location of original negative: State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT
Description and view of camera: Milk Shed, south elevation. View to north.
Photograph Number: 0006

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Cheever/Cain Ranch
Powder River County, MT

Page 27



Name: Cheever/Cain Ranch
County and State: Powder River County, Montana
Photographer: Ella Mae Howard
Date of Photograph: 12/4/2009
Location of original negative: State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT
Description and view of camera: Loafing Shed, south elevation. View to northeast.
Photograph Number: 0007

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Cheever/Cain Ranch
Powder River County, MT

Page 28



Name: Cheever/Cain Ranch
County and State: Powder River County, Montana
Photographer: Ella Mae Howard
Date of Photograph: 12/4/2009
Location of original negative: State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT
Description and view of camera: Garage, south elevation. View to north.
Photograph Number: 0008

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Cheever/Cain Ranch
Powder River County, MT

Page 29



Name: Cheever/Cain Ranch
County and State: Powder River County, Montana
Photographer: Ella Mae Howard
Date of Photograph: 12/4/2009
Location of original negative: State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT
Description and view of camera: Chicken House, south elevation. View to north.
Photograph Number: 0009

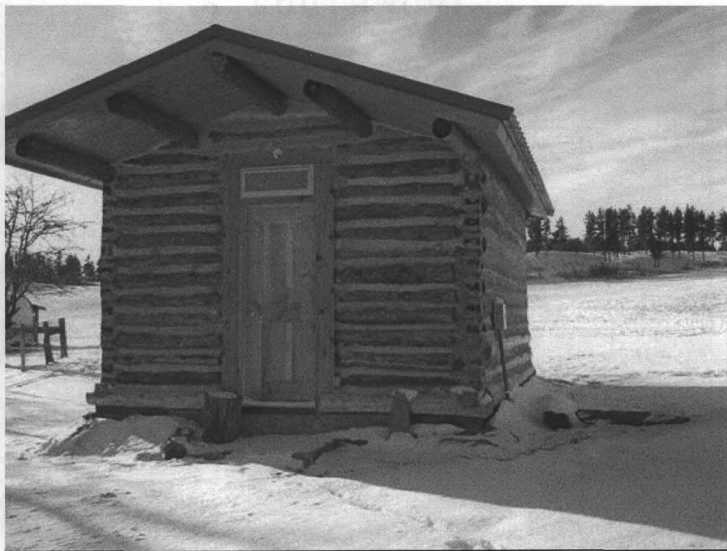
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Cheever/Cain Ranch
Powder River County, MT

Page 30



Name: Cheever/Cain Ranch
County and State: Powder River County, Montana
Photographer: Ella Mae Howard
Date of Photograph: 12/4/2009
Location of original negative: State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT
Description and view of camera: Log Cabin, northeast elevation. View to southwest.
Photograph Number: 0010

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Cheever/Cain Ranch
Powder River County, MT

Page 31



Name: Cheever/Cain Ranch
County and State: Powder River County, Montana
Photographer: Ella Mae Howard
Date of Photograph: 12/4/2009
Location of original negative: State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT
Description and view of camera: Corrals. View to northwest.
Photograph Number: 0011

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Cheever/Cain Ranch
Powder River County, MT

Page 32



Name: Cheever/Cain Ranch

County and State: Powder River County, Montana

Photographer: Ella Mae Howard

Date of Photograph: 12/4/2009

Location of original negative: State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT

Description and view of camera: Implement Garage and two Fuel Tanks, east elevation. View to southwest.

Photograph Number: 0012

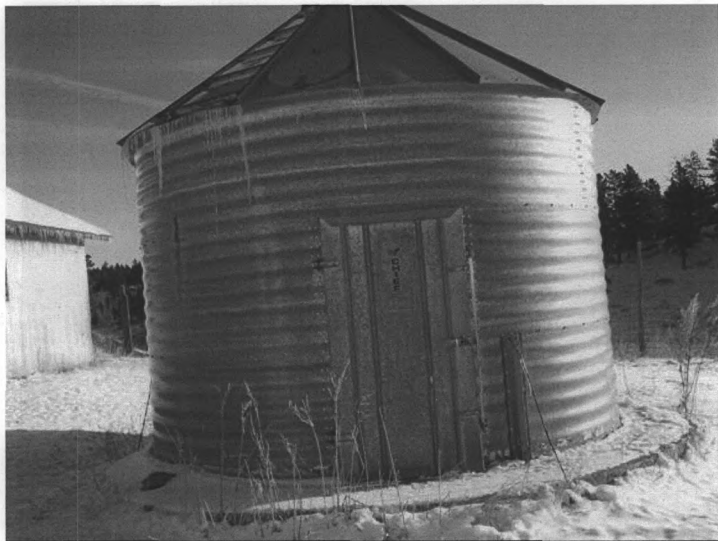
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Cheever/Cain Ranch
Powder River County, MT

Page 33



Name: Cheever/Cain Ranch
County and State: Powder River County, Montana
Photographer: Ella Mae Howard
Date of Photograph: 12/4/2009
Location of original negative: State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT
Description and view of camera: Grain Bin, west elevation. View to northeast.
Photograph Number: 0013

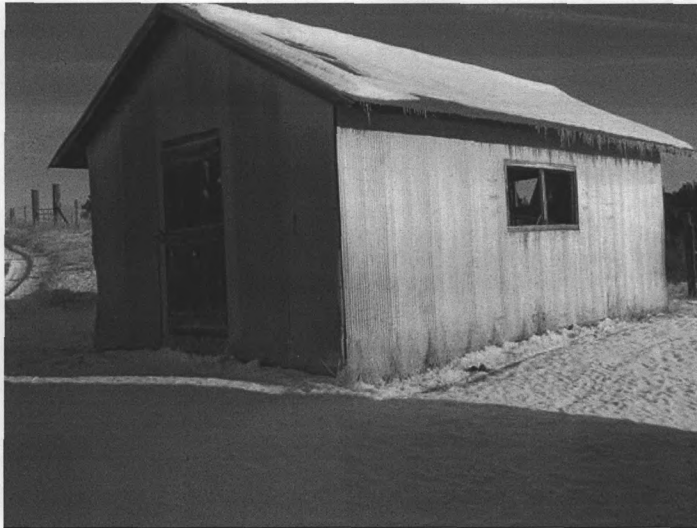
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Cheever/Cain Ranch
Powder River County, MT

Page 34



Name: Cheever/Cain Ranch
County and State: Powder River County, Montana
Photographer: Ella Mae Howard
Date of Photograph: 12/4/2009
Location of original negative: State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT
Description and view of camera: Metal Chicken House, west and south elevations. View to northeast.
Photograph Number: 0014

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Cheever/Cain Ranch
Powder River County, MT

Page 35



Name: Cheever/Cain Ranch
County and State: Powder River County, Montana
Photographer: Ella Mae Howard
Date of Photograph: 12/4/2009
Location of original negative: State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT
Description and view of camera: Outhouse, east elevations. View to west.
Photograph Number: 0015

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Page 36

Cheever/Cain Ranch
Powder River County, MT



Name: Cheever/Cain Ranch
County and State: Powder River County, Montana
Photographer: Ella Mae Howard
Date of Photograph: 12/4/2009
Location of original negative: State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT
Description and view of camera: Lawn Mower Shed, east elevation. View to west.
Photograph Number: 0016

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Cheever/Cain Ranch
Powder River County, MT

Page 37



Name: Cheever/Cain Ranch
County and State: Powder River County, Montana
Photographer: Ella Mae Howard
Date of Photograph: 1/20/2010
Location of original negative: State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT
Description and view of camera: Overview of Cheever/Cain Ranch. View to southeast.
Photograph Number: 0017

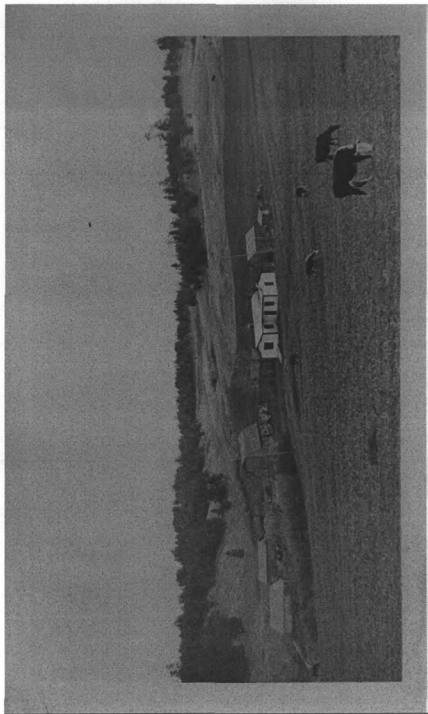
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Cheever/Cain Ranch
Powder River County, MT

Page 38



Name: Cheever/Cain Ranch

County and State: Powder River County, Montana

Photographer: Unknown

Date of Photograph: 1937

Location of original negative: State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT

Description and view of camera: Overview of Cheever/Cain Ranch. View to southeast.

Photograph Number: 0018

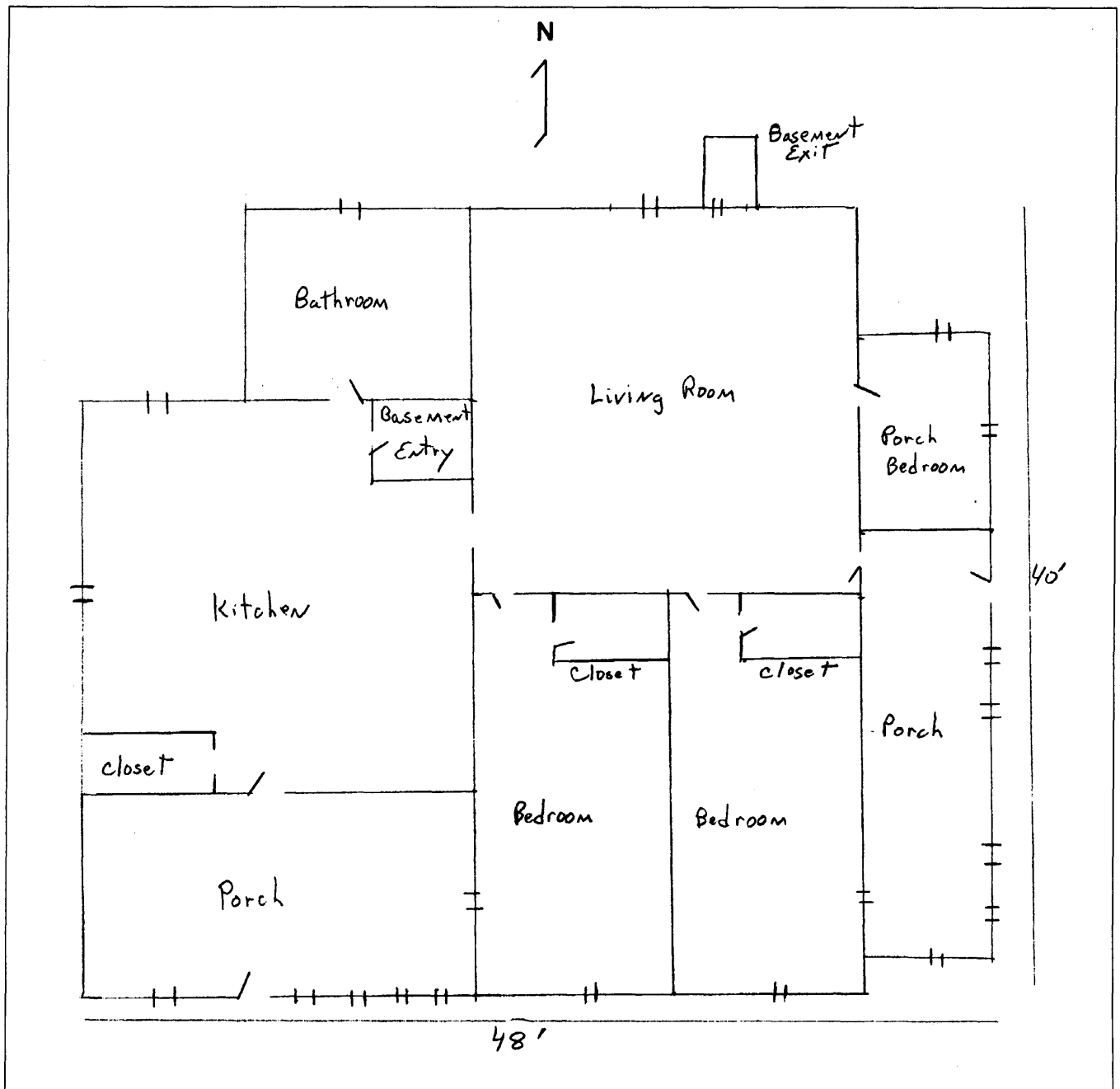
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Additional Documentation

Page 39

Cheever/Cain Ranch
Powder River County, MT



Floorplan of House