

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED NOV 15 1977
DATE ENTERED MAR 29 1978

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Ryan Ranch

AND/OR COMMON

Ryan Ranch

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Headquarters in SE 1/4 NW 1/4 Section 10, T16N, R83W

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Saratoga

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Wyoming

CODE
56

COUNTY
Carbon

CODE
007

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER: Recreation

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Ryan Ranches, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Saratoga

VICINITY OF

STATE

Wyoming 82331

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Carbon County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Third and Pine Streets

CITY, TOWN

Rawlins

STATE

Wyoming 82301

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Wyoming Recreation Commission, Survey of Historic Sites, Markers and Monuments

DATE

1967 (revised 1973)

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Wyoming Recreation Commission

CITY, TOWN

Cheyenne

STATE

Wyoming 82002

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE 7/1/77

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Ryan Ranch headquarters is located along the east bank of the Upper North Platte River in south-central Wyoming, eight miles south of the town of Saratoga and one mile northeast of the junction of State Highways 130 and 230. Although the ranch consists of 2,000 acres, the area nominated to the National Register is much smaller, restricted to acreage containing and bordering the ranch headquarters. Nevertheless, in addition to containing the physical structures at the ranch headquarters, the area selected for nomination contains river bottom-land and benchland, and thus the combined acreage contains land that is representative of the ranch operation.

The location of the ranch is the flood plain of a major river draining the east flank of the central Rocky Mountains. Just east of the ranch headquarters is a sparsely-vegetated, dissected slope called Cedar Ridge. The ridge is part of foothills that merge with pine-forested slopes of the Medicine Bow Range. The upland surface of the latter averages 9,500 feet, but the highest elevation is about 25 miles east of the Ryan Ranch in a rocky ridge called the Snowy Range, where Medicine Bow Peak rises 12,013 feet above sea level. West of the ranch headquarters, and between it and the North Platte River, is a quarter-mile-wide stretch of meadow, dotted with clusters of cottonwood trees. West of the river the land gradually slopes upward to form another range called the Sierra Madre, a mountain chain whose loftiest summit is Bridger Peak (elev. 11,004). Between the two ranges flows the North Platte River, carving its way north through several uplifts before reaching the fringe of the Great Plains in eastern Wyoming. Four miles south of the Ryan Ranch, at the mouth of Baggot Rocks, the North Platte is joined by the Encampment River. The origins of both these excellent trout streams are in the mountains of Northern Colorado.

From Cedar Ridge Road—a graded, county road paralleling the North Platte River and connecting State Highway 130 with the town of Saratoga—access to the Ryan Ranch is via a short stretch of dirt road that curves gently downslope to a place where sagebrush and cedar-dotted foothills merge with the flood plain of the North Platte. A fence is located at a right angle to the road, and a cattleguard break in the fence forms the main entrance to the ranch headquarters complex. The fence also helps separate the main buildings from outlying corrals, a small cemetery and nearby monument to Tom and Mary Ryan, and scattered pieces of farm machinery obscured by tall sage.

Ranch headquarters vary in layout and in the number of buildings they contain. Often they are laid out at the driest, most convenient location available and grow like plants, conforming to the contours of the land. The Ryan Ranch also grew, as structures were added over a period of more than 100 years. But it is interesting to note that, unlike the layout of some ranch headquarters, that of the Ryan Ranch—located along a wide open flood plain of the North Platte River—was not determined simply by topography. Rather, the ranch headquarters layout reflects to some degree the skills and training of Barton T. Ryan, its founder and a man who was trained as a practical engineer. Those skills were taught to Barton's son, Cecil A. Ryan, who is responsible for the layout of most of the ranch headquarters. The application

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Founded in 1874, the Ryan Ranch is one of the oldest ranches in the Upper North Platte River Valley. Barton T. Ryan, founder of the ranch and a man of many talents, played a significant role in the historical development of this picturesque valley in south-central Wyoming. The wooden structures at the Ryan Ranch headquarters qualify for the National Register on the basis of their age; at least two of them are more than 100 years old, and are thus among the oldest structures extant in the valley.

Although no definitive history of the Upper North Platte River Valley has yet been written, pieces of its history have been summarized in several nominations previously submitted to the Keeper of the National Register, specifically: Grand Encampment Mining District, Hotel Wolf, Midway Station and Sage Creek Station Site. Documents compiled in research of those sites indicate that the year in which the Ryan family bought their homestead, 1874, was a very early one in the settlement of the valley. Previous to that date the valley had been traversed by Indians, trappers, explorers and Overland Trail emigrants. In the late 1860's rudimentary white settlements, in the form of tie camps, were established as the construction of the Union Pacific Railroad advanced westward toward a meeting in Utah with the Central Pacific Railroad.

But an embryonic society, consisting of scattered agricultural homesteads, did not appear in the valley until following the completion of the railroad through Wyoming in 1868.* In 1869 the first census of Wyoming Territory revealed that 460 people lived in Carbon County, an area which at that time was 75 miles from east to west and stretched for 275 miles north from the Colorado state line to the Montana state line. The county contained only one census district, the Rawlins District, and it may be surmised that the bulk of the district's population was located along the Union Pacific tracks, specifically at the settlements of Rawlins and Fort Steele.

*Permanent settlement in the North Platte River Valley, based upon agriculture, occurred in the 1880's, according to former resident and Wyoming Governor, Fenimore Chatterton. According to Victor A. Ryan, Barton's grandson, at B. T. Ryan's suggestion some of his relatives—the Ridding Family and the Meason Family—moved to the North Platte Valley and established what are today the Elk Hollow and Chastain ranches.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Bibliography Addendum

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 150 acres
 UTM REFERENCES See Addendum

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The historic site is a five-sided figure whose sides enclose a total of approximately 150 acres in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 10, T16N, R83W.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mark Junge, Historian and Clayton Fraser, Historical Architect

ORGANIZATION

Wyoming Recreation Commission

DATE

April 18, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

604 East 25th Street

TELEPHONE

(307) 777-7695

CITY OR TOWN

Cheyenne

STATE

Wyoming 82002

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

Jan F. Wilson

TITLE

Wyoming State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

October 27, 1977

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST: *Walter C. Cole*
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE *3-29-78*
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 DATE *3-26-78*

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of their skills with a transit is obvious, upon examination of the accompanying site plan. Immediately noticeable is the approximately rectangular layout of the headquarters, and although the addition of buildings was an evolutionary process, the complex still retains its symmetrical configuration. An example of how the pattern established by the Ryans was followed is that the Jim Gregory Cabin, having been in three separate locations, is presently in line with other ranch buildings. Another example of the Ryan skill is the grid pattern, and angular, alignment of trees near the main ranch home. Cottonwoods did not grow arbitrarily, but were laid out along precise lines. If B. T. Ryan himself was available to describe the establishment of his ranch, the rationale of the original layout might be even more understandable and interesting.

The ranch headquarters contains 17 structures which enclose a rectangular barnyard. All of the structures are one story in height and all, except for a shed, a privy, a stables, and the two trailers, are painted white with green trim and are covered with asbestos sheathing. All of the buildings have shallow-pitched gable roofs. The following structures are numbered to correspond with the accompanying site plan, and are described as they are situated along the perimeter of the rectangle, beginning with the 1875 homestead.

Structure #1 1875 Homestead

This structure, which serves as the main dwelling for the Ryans, is a log and frame structure facing east. The dimensions of the original structure are 48'8" X 19'6", and those of an addition to the east face are 14'8" X 30'3". Both portions are constructed of logs-in-panels and have pole rafters, although the north side of the addition is frame covered with drop siding. The roof of the original structure is penetrated by a small concrete chimney, and a metal stack penetrates the roof of the addition. The entire building, including additions, has three doors; the main, or east door contains four panels and that on the east face of the addition has four panels with two lites. Windows are generally four-over-four, double hung. Those at the middle of the west face have been enlarged to serve as picture windows for the living room. The homestead has seven major interior spaces: three bedrooms, a living room, bath, kitchen, and pantry-storage room.

Structure #2 Travel Trailer

The vehicle is a metal, two-wheel trailer (15'9" X 6'8") parked facing southwest. This bulky ancestor to the lightweight travel trailer of today is apparently in a state of disuse, its grey and white paint is weathering, and it is in need of repair.

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Structure #3 "Homestead Cabin"

The cabin labeled by its owners, "Homestead," is a log structure (20'5" X 16') facing south. It is constructed of undressed logs with hewn, common-notched corner joints. The cabin contains a horizontal sliding window on the west face, and a door on the south face. It contains one interior space and is used by members of the Ryan family as a guest house.

Structure #4 Machine Shop

The machine shop is a frame structure (57'6" X 12'7") covered with vertical plank siding, and facing east. Attached to the north face of the shop is an open shed (32'5" X 12'7"), also frame with board-on-board siding. The south face of the machine shop contains a fixed sash window with one lite; east face windows are fixed pane, each with four lites. On the west side of the shop is a horizontal, sliding window and three four-lite awning windows. The shop has one interior space which contains workbenches, shelves, cupboards, machinery, and scattered tools. The open shed is a simple space used for storage and parking.

Structure #5 "Ryan Park" Cabin

"Ryan Park" (21'6" X 19'7") is a fisherman's cabin, used by members of "Ryan's Renegades" recreation organization, and was brought to the ranch from Ryan Park in the Medicine Bow Mountains east of the ranch. It is a log structure with sawed, halved-log joints. A horizontal plank door is located on the north face of the cabin and each of the other faces contains one window apiece; on the west is a horizontal sliding window; on the east is a horizontal sliding window; and on the south face is a fixed-sash window with four lites.

Structure #6 "School House"

The School House (20'10" X 18'9"), which also serves as a fisherman's cabin, faces north. It is constructed of dressed logs-in-panels. A two-panel door is located on the north side and two large, four-over-four, double-hung windows are located on each of the west and east sides.

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Structure #7 Shed (Ice House)

This small, unpainted frame shed (15'4" X 10'6") is located south of the "School House." Siding is of the slab-on-slab type, and the roof is supported by pole rafters. On the east side is a vertical plank door; there are no windows.

Structure #8 Mobile Home

East and slightly north of the "School House" is an aluminum-sided mobile home with dimensions of 36'9" X 9'9". Two small entrance additions are attached to the south face of the home, one of frame on the west end (9'7" X 7'10") and one of fiberglass on the east end (4'1" X 3'11"). The structure, which belongs to the present ranch lessee, will be moved from the premises by 1978.

Structure #9 Privy

Just off the northeast corner of the space occupied by the mobile home is a frame privy, the sides and roof of which are covered by asbestos. One vertical plank door is located on each of the north and east faces of the structure.

Structure #10 Jim Gregory Cabin

The Jim Gregory Cabin is the first and original building of the ranch headquarters. Its present location at the southeast end of the complex is reportedly the third site upon which it has rested. The cabin, with dimensions of 28'2" X 15'11", is constructed of hewn logs with halved-log joints, and its roof is supported by massive pole rafters. On each of the north and east faces is a six-lite, casement window and on the west face is a horizontal sliding window. On each of the south and west faces is a five-panel door; however, the top two panels in the west door have been converted to lites. A curious feature of the cabin is a space 4'9" wide on the south end of the west face. It was an opening which led to a tunnel and root cellar. It is now filled by logs. The interior of the Gregory Cabin is divided into two rooms, the north room serving as a bedroom and the south room serving as a bedroom-kitchen.

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Structure #11 Privy

Just north of the Gregory Cabin is an iron pipe, cattle-guard entrance to the ranch headquarters, and just north of the entrance is a small frame privy (12'5" X 8'5"). The privy is divided into two parts, each section containing a door on the east side and each section containing room for one occupant.

Structure #12 Cabin

This structure is the south portion of a four-part structure consisting of cabin, sheds, tack room and stable. The cabin is a 31' X 13'6" frame structure with drop siding. A brick chimney is located on the east side of the roof, near the ridge. The west face of the cabin has two, five-panel doors and two, horizontal, sliding windows; the south face contains one horizontal sliding window. The interior is divided into two spaces which currently are being cleaned and remodelled to provide living space for members of the Ryan family.

Structure #13 Shed

Attached to the north face of structure #12 is a frame shed with board-on-board siding. A wall separates the shed into two interior spaces, and separate access on the west side is provided each section, access to the north portion being a large sliding door with an X-brace.

Structure #14 Tack Room

Attached to the north face of structure #13 is a tack room constructed of undressed logs with sawed, halved-log joints. A vertical plank door is located on the west face. The total length of the sheds and tack room is 56'.

Structure #15 Stable

Attached to the north face of structure #14 is a stable, facing east, constructed of frame with board-on-board siding. A vertical plank door is located on the west face. The length of the stable is 34'6".

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Structure #16 Chicken Coop

East of structure #15, is a frame chicken coop covered with vertical plank siding. The roof is an unsymmetrical gable. Various and diverse windows and door openings are located along the south, or main, face of the structure. The chicken coop presently is not in use.

Structure #17 Stable

North and slightly west of structure #16, along the north perimeter of the headquarters complex, is a stable that is situated in an east-west direction, facing south. This deteriorated structure is constructed of undressed logs, and pole rafters support a board-on-board roof.

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According to Gay Day Alcorn, chronicler of pioneer life in the valley and one who has traced the outlines of Barton T. Ryan's life, when the Ryans arrived the William Hawley family was the only other family living in the Upper North Platte River Valley. The Hawley homestead was established about 1870 on Pass Creek near the base of Elk Mountain. At approximately the same time William Cadwell filed on a homestead located on the east bank of the North Platte, at a place which became the nucleus of the town of Saratoga. The settlement was known as the Indian Bath Tubs, or Warm Springs, and was an attraction to both the Indian and the white man. The Indian went there to immerse himself in the sulphurous pools adjacent to the river, hoping to cure maladies such as smallpox. The white man, too, believed in the curative properties of the waters. In an early brochure advertisement for the springs, it was claimed that the waters of the hot springs could heal or alter such bodily dysfunctions as gout, rheumatism, acute and chronic diseases of the mucuous membrane, dyspepsia, gastric ulcers, congestion of the liver, catarrh of the bile ducts and..."specific venereal diseases." It was not until 1888, however, that Saratoga was platted, and it was not until 1890 that it became incorporated as a town.

Eight miles upstream from the miraculous hot springs, along the lush bottom land of the North Platte River and not far from a curious geological formation known locally as the Cedar Hills, Jim Gregory established a ranch about 1870. The place also attracted the attention of B. T. Ryan, youngest child of David and Charlotte Ryan. Barton Thomas Ryan was born in Brookville, Indiana on July 29, 1838. Following the death of his father in 1841, young Ryan traveled to his mother's home in Burlington, Iowa. At about the age of fourteen Barton served as a mechanic's apprentice in the Hendrie Iron Foundry at Burlington, and may have made his first trip to the West while working with that firm.* A Hendrie

*The firm of Hendrie and Bolthoff traces its origin to Burlington, Iowa where it was established by Charles Hendrie in the 1850's. Its parent company was the Hendrie Iron Works, a plant that included a foundry, machine shop and sheet metal department, where saw mills, roller crushers for sorghum cane, railroad fittings, and steamboats were made. During the Colorado gold rush of 1859, Hendrie's company began to manufacture mining machinery. Today the home office is in Denver, Colorado and an office and plant is located in Casper, Wyoming.

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Company shop superintendent at the Burlington plant, an outstanding mechanic described as one of "the finest type from the old school," was Henry Bolthoff, who obtained a partnership in the firm in 1873.

A friend of Bolthoff when the Civil War began, Ryan served under Bolthoff's command as a 90-day volunteer in Company E of the First Iowa Infantry. Following his discharge from Company E, Ryan organized his own unit, Company M of the Seventh Iowa Cavalry. He served in this outfit three years, was elected lieutenant, and was in command during its last eighteen months of service. After he was mustered out of the cavalry, Ryan once again enlisted in the army, this time to serve on the Western Frontier. According to Historian Hubert Bancroft, Ryan was sent west under the command of General Alfred Sully, in a campaign against the Sioux Indians. Eventually, perhaps following his military service, Ryan became located at Fort Reno, an outpost against the Sioux along the Bozeman Trail in Wyoming. There he was employed as a sawmill engineer.

With the abandonment of Fort Reno in 1868, Ryan was sent, along with the fort's sawmill machinery and equipment, to Fort Steele, a newly-established post located where the Union Pacific Railroad intersects the North Platte River. The purpose of the post, established June 30, 1868, was to protect railroad construction crews and to serve as a base of operations against Indians in a large outlying area. Ryan, whose salary at Fort Reno had been \$100 per month, was paid \$125 per month to set up and operate the sawmill at Fort Steele. When Ryan arrived, the fort was only a rudimentary collection of tents on the semiarid west bank of the river. From the time he arrived in July until the month of December, Ryan was engaged in construction of post buildings, including the enlisted mens' barracks. Construction on the latter proceeded rapidly, as five log barracks, 40' by 80' in size, were ready for occupancy on December 1, 1868.*

In 1870 Ryan left Fort Steele to return to his home in Burlington, Iowa where, on December 15, he was married to Mary Law Ridding. Ryan and his nineteen-year-old bride returned to Fort Steele where they soon became involved in the cattle

*Until recently two of these log barracks were unique in that they somehow survived for more than 100 years in the environment of a fort which was once passed frequently by coal-burning locomotives, and which was therefore susceptible to accidental fires. Ironically, on New Years Eve, 1976 the two barracks were completely destroyed by arsonists while preparations were being made for their restoration.

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business. Their cattle may have been those that Historian Bancroft stated were shipped to Carbon County from Iowa, and in which an interest was purchased by Ryan.*

By 1874 Ryan, his wife and their small family—at the time there were one or two children—located at the ranch that is today still owned by the Ryan family. With tongue in cheek, the grandson, Victor Ryan, explained that the ranch came into the family's hands when Barton T. purchased a cookstove from Jim Gregory for \$1,400, whereupon Gregory threw into the bargain a cabin and thirty head of cattle. Although the Ryans bought their homestead property from Gregory, federal records show that they applied for a federal patent on December 6, 1887. The 200 acre purchase in that year was recorded in the name of Barton's wife, Mary. Gregory had improved the property by beginning construction of an irrigation ditch, which was later completed by the Ryans. A water right on the Gregory ditch was obtained in May, 1875, and was also registered in the name of Mary Ryan. The year the water right was filed on Gregory Ditch, Barton Ryan built his family a home, larger than the cabin built by Gregory. Ryan hand-picked the logs that went into construction of the home, and the door and window frames were purchased at Fort Steele.

It is believed that the first cattle ranches along the Upper North Platte were those belonging to Richard Savage—located on the west side of the river and eight miles south of Fort Steele—and to B. T. Ryan—located further upstream on the river's east bank.

*Several interesting footnote items relate to Ryan's tenure at the Fort, and are described by Historian Gay Alcorn. One is that Ryan owned a couple of pet elk. Another is that he also owned a herd of dairy cattle. Concerning that operation Ryan's son, Cecil, jokingly refers to a customer complaint about finding minnows in his milk. Another story explains how Ryan found, on a train delayed at the Fort with a mechanical problem, cans containing rainbow trout destined for some point east. Upon opening the cans he observed that some of the fish were dying and so commandeered the cans, dumping their contents into the North Platte River. If the latter story is true, it was perhaps the first occasion of a fish-planting operation along a river that has a reputation for excellent trout fishing.

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The Ryan Ranch, established during a period in which Wyoming stock matured on an open range, was not restricted to the acreage to which legal claim was made and according to Fenimore Chatterton it was not until the 1880's that any land in the valley was fenced with the exception of corrals. The headquarters of the ranch was the nerve center of a large operation that ranged over river bottom meadows, flanking benchland and hills, and up the slopes of the Medicine Bow Range. Each area served its purpose, and the various features of the landscape combined to provide hay meadows, grazing land, and timber for ranch buildings and fence poles.

For awhile Ryan was in partnership with John W. Hugus, pioneer Wyoming merchant who operated a chain of mercantile stores and banks in southern Wyoming and northern Colorado.* Ryan and Hugus purchased five shorthorn bulls for \$100 apiece, bred them to Texas longhorns, and at one time ran a herd of as many as 7,000 head of cattle. Barton's son, Cecil, remembering that significant operation, stated: "With such a large range Dad had a large roundup at the end of every year. Dad would not have ten head of cattle in the herd that weren't his. I never went on the roundup but eight or ten men used to help him." Ryan may have also been in business with his brother-in-law, with whom he ran cattle from the Colorado-Wyoming line to the Union Pacific Railroad, a distance of approximately 75 miles.

Ryan's training as a machinist, and his experience in the construction and operation of sawmills, provided him the practical engineering skills he needed to engage in enterprises in addition to ranching. Perhaps his most notable enterprise was a sawmill operation at Ryan Park, a natural opening in the pine forest. Located about fifteen miles east of his ranch, and near the west boundary of what is today the Medicine Bow National Forest, Ryan Park was named for Barton T. by a friend, John Franklin. The Ryan sawmill there operated from about 1890 to 1905, producing lumber that went into the construction of many early buildings in the town of Saratoga. Another Ryan sawmill was located at the head of Spring Creek, in the Sierra Madre Mountains. There were perhaps other Ryan sawmills but documentation of their existence is scanty. In reference to Ryan's lumber interests, the following advertisement appeared in an early

*Hugus was also a partner with Fenimore B. Chatterton in the Fort Steele store. A brother, Wilbur Hugus, operated a store in Saratoga.

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET Ryan Ranch

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Saratoga newspaper, The Platte Valley Lyre, on July 23, 1891: "B. T. Ryan, Manufacturer and dealer in native lumber, special rates will be given to the school board." As a practical engineer, Ryan also became involved in area mining developments. He not only set up machinery for mines but also contracted, at the rate of \$100 per foot, for the excavation of shafts. It is reported that he worked in the Grand Encampment Mining District to the south, and in the Seminoe Mountains to the north.* According to Ryan's grandson, Victor, the elder Ryan and a man named Billy Adams owned a drug store in Rawlins at approximately the turn of the century. Finally B. T. may have been a candidate for the position of Supervisor of the Medicine Bow National Forest.

Ryan was involved in local politics, and held the positions of Carbon County Attorney in 1872, County Assessor in 1874, and County Commissioner in 1878. In 1890 he tried, unsuccessfully, to win election as a Republican representative from Carbon County to the first Wyoming State Legislature. His social life was expressed in a number of ways, but chiefly by his work in freemasonry. Ryan held several offices in the Rawlins Masonic Lodge, including one of statewide importance as early as 1873, and is listed as one of nine founders of the Saratoga Masonic Lodge. He was also a member and elder of the Presbyterian Church in Saratoga.

Further research may turn up other interesting features in the lives of Ryan and his family. The background and career of Mary L. Ryan could shed more light on the family but her life is not as well documented as that of her husband, perhaps because in a male-dominated society the role of woman as man's helpmeet was well-defined. Mary's career, especially in the early years of her marriage with Barton Thomas, must have been rigorous. Two of her six children, girls named Mamie and Lulu, were victims of diphtheria at an early age. Lulu, at the age of five, died on Christmas Day, 1880, and three-year-old Mamie died three days later on December 28. Another child, an infant daughter, lived only a short time. Perhaps Mary experienced more than seven pregnancies, but one may speculate that because the children who lived were boys, most of the housework that was traditionally a woman's occupation probably was borne by Mary. However, the role of housewife did not preclude the necessity for a woman to occasionally participate in fieldwork, especially when hay had to be cut and gathered, or when calving season was in progress. These tasks may have been Mary's lot, but were particularly important when the boys were not old enough

*A man named Tom Ryan appears in historical documents relating to the South Pass City gold rush, but up to the present time no definite connection has been made between him and Barton Thomas Ryan.

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to help with the main chores. It is recorded that Indians, who in the last quarter of the nineteenth century still could be found in the Saratoga Valley, were fond of Mary. When they visited the ranch she acted as hostess and fed them well, pulling vegetables from her garden, which is reported by long-time area residents to have been the valley's first.

The Ryan Ranch contains the primary ingredients necessary for its enrollment in the National Register of Historic Places. Its historical significance is local in nature, and rests upon at least three bases: first, its architecture; second, its place in the history of agriculture in southern Wyoming; and third, the role of its founder in the history of south-central Wyoming.

The structures at the Ryan Ranch headquarters, in size and design, are of a genre typical of many western ranches dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. They are whitewashed frame and log structures, of a scale functional to the ordinary operations of the ranch. The concern shown for the structures by painting them is probably a reason for their preservation. Another reason is that they are still in use; for example, the Jim Gregory Cabin still serves as a living quarters just as it did more than 100 years ago. Over the years, several cabins have been moved to the headquarters, but it is not known when these structures were built, or when they were added to the headquarters nucleus. However, except for the trailers, the ranch buildings form a homogeneous unit, and it is the unit that is architecturally significant. All of the structures that are basic to a ranch operation, with the exception of a large barn, are found at the Ryan Ranch. Furthermore, the fact that at least two cabins date to 1875, and are among the oldest structures in use in the valley, enhances the importance of the headquarters.

The Ryan Ranch is also significant as a pioneer ranch in an area of southern Wyoming that is still primarily pastoral in character. The Ryan Ranch is grist for the historian looking for an operation whose history was significant to the growth of a local society, and which is perhaps representative of western ranching in general. Although the role of agriculture in the development of the state's history is analyzed piecemeal in National Register nominations, focusing upon a particular ranch allows the historian, through in-depth research, to sometimes view in microcosm the growth of a local unit in an agricultural society. The Ryan Ranch affords the opportunity, through research of a pioneer enterprise, to study the growth of the Saratoga Valley.

Finally, the significance of the ranch is based upon the lives of its founders, which paralleled the earliest period of settlement in the valley. Barton T. and Mary L. Ryan were both pioneers, but Barton's career was not limited to the ranch itself. It was a multi-faceted one which involved enterprises such as lumbering

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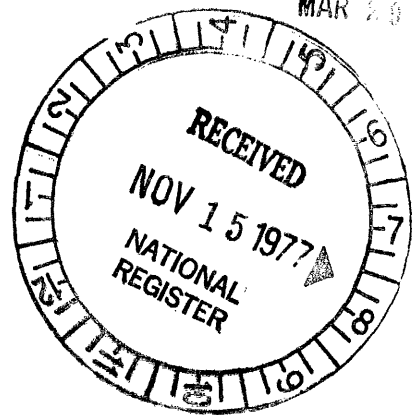
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and mining, and included a certain amount of social and political involvement in the community. Although further investigation of the family is necessary, material compiled in research of the Ryans indicates that the patriarch and his family relate significantly to the social, political and economic history of this area of south-central Wyoming.

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ADDENDUM: UTM REFERENCES



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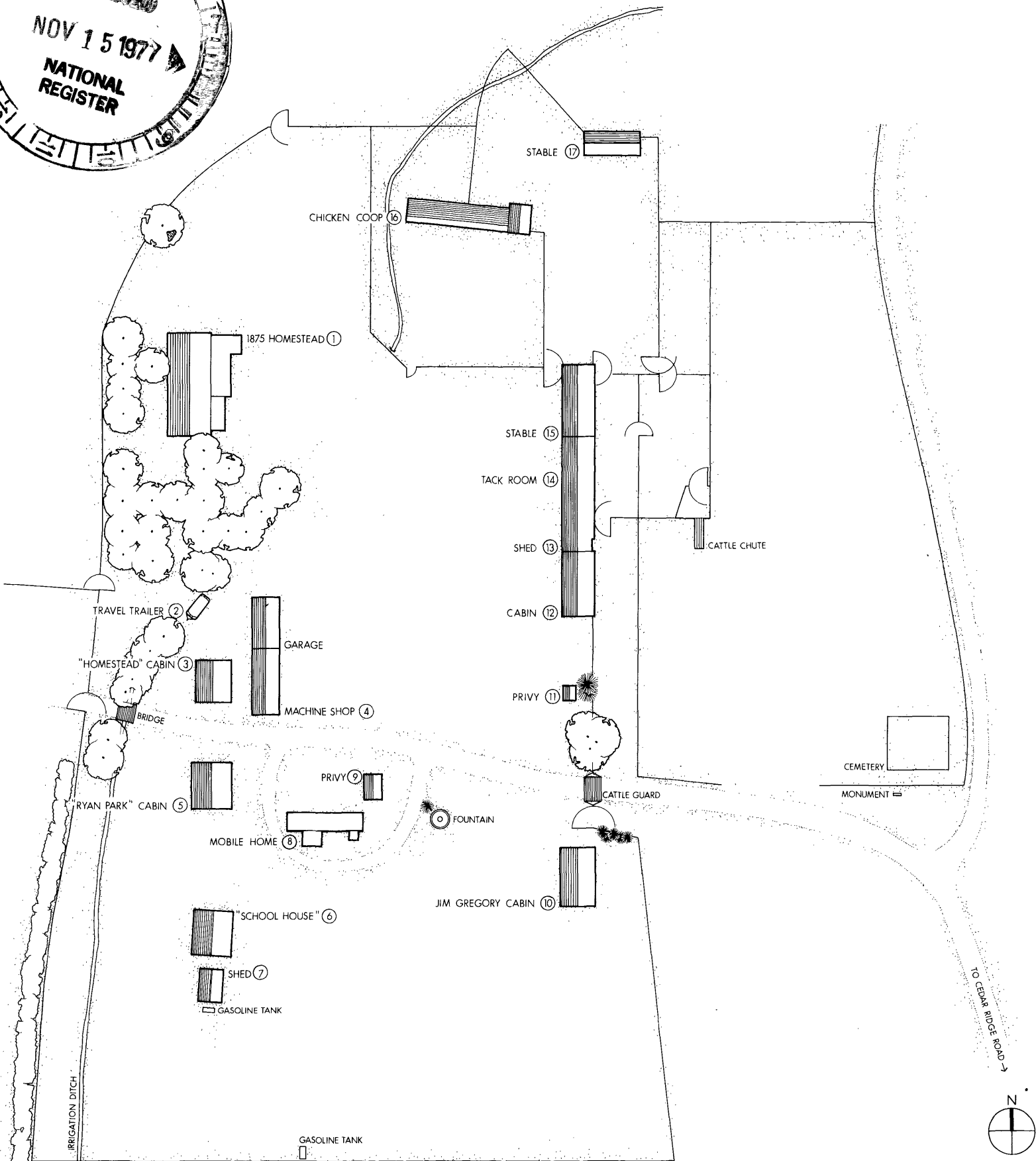
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THE RYAN RANCH

