NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 10-90) OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property			
historic name _ Grace and Robert Miller Ranch			
other names/site number _Miller Cabin, Miller Barn (48TE903)			
2. Location			
street & number city or townJackson stateWyomingcodeWYcountyTeton_code039	_ not for publication vicinity		

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. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

gnature of certifying official M.S. Fish and Wildlife Service State or Federal agency and bureau In my opinion, the property <u>_____</u> meets ____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comprents. June 12, 2001 ignature of commenting or other official

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification
I, hereby certify that this property is:
other (explain):
I had a
Signature of Keeper Date of Action
5. Classification
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) private public-local public-State public-Federal
Category of Property (Check only one box) _x_ building(s) district site structure object
Number of Resources within Property
Contributing

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register __2___

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

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6. Fu	nction or Use			
	ric Functions (Enter categories from t: _Domestic Agriculture Government	instruc Sub:	tions) single dwelling agricultural outbuilding	_
	ent Functions (Enter categories from _Domestic Agriculture Government	Sub:	_single dwelling	_
	scription			
	tectural Classification (Enter catego vernacular	ories from	n instructions)	
fe re v	rials (Enter categories from instructi oundationstone oofrolled asphalt, cedar shingle vallslog; board and batten ther			

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

SUMMARY

The Robert E. Miller Ranch located is located approximately three miles north of the center of the town of Jackson and is situated at the bottom of the west slope of the Gros Ventre Mountains with a commanding view of Jackson Hole and the Teton Mountain Range. The site consists of three historic or contributing structures and one non-contributing structure. These buildings served as the residence of Robert E. Miller the first superintendent of Teton National Monument and the property was later transferred to what would later become the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a component of the National Elk Refuge. *(See continuation sheet)*

8. Statement of Significance

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

___x_A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

____B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

_____D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

_____A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

____B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or a grave.

____D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F	а	commemorative	proj	perty	1.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

	settlement	
	conservation	
Period of Sign	ificance _1898-1950	
0		
Significant Da	tes 1898, 1914	
Significant Pe	rson (Complete if Criterion B is marked abov	ve)

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Cultural Affiliation	
Architect/Builder	

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

SUMMARY

This site is significant first, because of its association with the historic pattern of settlement in Jackson Hole and additionally because of its association with conservation activities. An integral component of the Robert E. and Grace G. Miller homestead, two units of the site are already listed on the National Register and the barn would have been listed at the same time except for unintentional oversight on the part of the person who prepared the nomination. The ranch house, the Forest Service cabin, and the barn together represent an important convergence of settlement, ranching, and conservation as distinct elements of the history of Jackson Hole and helps establish in a broader way the significance of Jackson Hole itself in the nation's history. In a subtle way, the history of these buildings reflects the course of history in development and conservation of resources, not only in the valley, but in the West generally.

(See continuation sheet)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been
- requested.
- x previously listed in the National Register (adjacent site of Miller Homestead and Forest Service Cabin)
- ____ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- _____ designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data

_x_State Historic Preservation Office

- ____ Other State agency
- _x_Federal agency
- ____ Local government
- ____ University
- Other

Name of repository: _Primary materials are located most notably in the Jackson Hole Historical Society in Jackson, Wyoming, and in the files of the National Elk Refuge, Jackson, Wyoming. _____

(See continuation sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property __less than five acres_____

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing 12 5 21 286 48 14 995

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

The eastern boundary of the site is defined by the Elk Refuge access road that runs in a generally northeast direction along the side of the hill above the property. The southern boundary moves from an arbitrary point on the road 150 feet south of the beginning of the drive into the Elk Refuge maintenance area westward to an arbitrary point 400 feet distant. The western boundary extends from that point north a distance of 400 feet to an arbitrary point that also marks the beginning of the northern boundary which then extends back to the Elk Refuge access road.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

The area within the boundary specified includes as a coherent site the historic resources, their immediate surroundings, and the location of the patterns of traffic and access associated with their usage.

11. Form Prepared By
name/titleMichael Cassity
organization_Michael Cassity Historical Research and Photography date August 30, 2000
street & number 1532 North River West Court, #1A telephone847 / 296-9947
city or townMount Prospect, Illinois 60056
Additional Documentation
Submit the following items with the completed form:
Continuation Sheets Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location. A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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Property Owner	
(Complete this iten name	n at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)
street & number	telephone
city or town	statezip code

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.0. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The main house is a one and a half story log building (with half basement) with square notched ends in a cross pattern orientated on a north-south, east-west axis. The roof is cedar shingle with the north, east and west portions hipped and the east and west hipped roofs having clipped gable dormers. The north wing has a clipped gabled dormer midway along the west slope. The south wing is a gabled dormer with two one over one side by side wood frame windows. There is a small masonry chimney on the east wing along the ridge line. The are shed roof porches on the southeast and southwest corners

There are four doors to the structure: two on the east side of the north and south wings, one on the west side of the south wing, and a fourth on the north side on a wood frame addition. Fenestration consists primarily of one over one wood frame windows and sash. There are two by two windows on the east end of the east wing and two by two on both the first level and gable end on the south wing. The remainder are located on the north and south side of the east wing, east and west side of the south win, one on the west end of the west wing and one on the east side of the north wing.

Non-original windows consist of a small double hung one over one on the west end of the west wing for a bathroom and four aluminum sliders in wood frames, three on a wood frame addition built in the northwest corner of the north and west wing along with a door. A one over one window located on the north side of the north wing was removed and replaced with an aluminum slider in a wood frame.

There appears to have been little modification to the structure with the only notable exception being a framed kitchen addition in the northwest corner. It is wood frame clad in 3" clapboard and fenestration consists of three aluminum sliding windows set in wooden frames.

Adjacent to the house is a small rectangular log cabin with square notched ends approximately 16 by 20 feet with an entry on the east side and fenestration on the north and south ends repetitive in size and material of the main house. The roof is also cedar shingle. This structure is the one known as the Forest Service Cabin.

Both structures are supported by rubble foundations that are in good condition. The residence and cabin possesses a high degree of integrity and have been well maintained.

A non-contributing log garage has been introduced immediately west of the small cabin and is similar in height and footprint. It sits on a concrete slab and has a contemporary wood truss system with cedar shingles. It is difficult to determine whether the log components are older and were moved in from another site or are newer and coated with linseed oil to give an older look.

These three buildings are surrounded by a crossed split log fence and surrounded by mature aspens on the east and west side of the enclosure.

The Miller barn is a rectangular structure (approximately 40' on the east elevation and 30' on the south) that rests on the cusp of a hill sloping downward to the west, about 150 feet north of the Forest Service cabin and about 200 feet north of the main residence known as the Miller house. The barn is the essence of simplicity of

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design and functionality with a gable roof of wood shingles either side of a north-south ridge. The main entrance is on the east elevation with a sliding door that opens on to a wooden plank floor that actually constitutes the upper level or second story. Each elevation is of board and batten construction painted a light brown. The foundation is of partially coursed rubble, the field stones obtained locally at the site. That foundation becomes virtually a wall, owing to the slope of the land, so that the east elevation includes two entries to the lower level. The entry on the north is a set of paired swinging doors made of vertical planks. The entry on the south portion of this elevation is boarded up with a combination of vertical and horizontal planks and a small sheet of plywood.

The barn originally contained a single window (now boarded) on the west elevation at approximately mid point, and this was the only fenestration on the main level. In the lower level the rockwork is punctuated on the south and north elevations with three small windows, now also boarded, situated immediately beneath the board and batten siding that rises above the foundation.

A primary distinguishing feature in the original construction was the use of a log frame, pinned at the intersections with wooden pieces, around which the board and batten siding was added. The frame was solid and durable and remains in excellent condition and is often remarked upon by the National Elk Refuge employees who use the structure. Externally one can note the covered horizontal rail on the east elevation above the entry. This is likely the rail that the original barn doors traversed. While the current entry appears to be smaller than the original, any replacement boards and battens blend well with the original siding so that there is no obvious appearance of replacement.

The barn, and the larger site of which it is a part, easily visible from the highway more than a mile to the west, retains its attractiveness and maintains its historical integrity and continues to be used in a manner consistent with its design and construction.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The earliest white settlers were an assorted lot of people who came into the valley to hunt and trap when they were pursuing legitimate vocations and who came for the natural refuge offered by its difficult topography when they followed callings outside the law. Among the former were people like John Holland and John Carnes (and his wife Millie) who staked the first homesteads and lived a meager life far from the pressures and opportunities of the established social order. Among the latter were those like the infamous "Teton" Jackson, a notorious horse thief who frequented the valley and reputedly had a small cabin, but as strong as a fortress, on Flat Creek, and who chose not to involve himself with the legalities of the homestead claiming and fulfillment process.

When Robert Miller ventured into the valley in 1884 or 1885, most accounts see the beginning of a new wave of settlement as these people established permanent homes and began to make their livings by agriculture rather than hunting and gathering. Initially Miller, like the others, trapped here and even purchased, or perhaps just filed on, the land previously used by Teton Jackson and his cohorts. At the south end of Jackson Hole, in an area that produced lush hay and grasses, this location bode well for someone with an eye to growth. And Miller pursued a much more vigorous and remunerative calling than the near-foraging existence of some of his neighbors. He constructed irrigation ditches and built fences for his homestead and began to graze some cattle. He brought a mowing machine into the valley—the first of its kind and it had to be dismantled and carried by packhorse over Teton Pass. By 1893 he had established himself sufficiently that he was able to return to his home in Illinois to marry and bring his wife, Grace Green Miller, back. When the pair arrived they discovered that, in something approaching a custom of the area, the floor of their cabin had been removed and used for a flume by prospectors up the valley, leaving them with a dirt floor, something again resembling the abodes of many others who took up residence in the valley.

Miller developed his ranching, made some money by loaning hay to neighbors in the valley to be repaid at 12% interest, and proceeded to build his wife a new home, a quarter mile from the Teton Jackson cabin. In fact, she was ambitious herself and she promptly acquired land adjacent to his. (Grace Miller's sister, Hattie Green, also moved to the area and listed her vocation on the census rolls as "capitalist," although exactly what that meant remains undetermined.) Begun in 1895 and finished in 1898, the two-story house had eight rooms and glass windows (some reports indicate that it was the first house to have such windows in the valley). The new home also included a barn 200 feet away to the north that Miller used in the family ranching operation. It is not certain who constructed the buildings, although local resident and participant in historical activities Tom Lamb tells that Charlie and Otto Nelson, who lived in the house later, described a remodeling project in 1925 that caused a door jamb to be exposed, revealing the date 1898 and the name of the carpenter which Lamb recalled as John Emory. Years later, Allan Budge recalled that some of the materials from the old horsethief cabin were used in these buildings. In 1898 both Grace and Robert Miller received patents on land in this area they had filed on under the Homestead and Desert Land Acts. The couple settled into their new home as pillars of the emerging community, hosting the election of 1902 in their buildings, their home becoming temporarily a post office and the core of an emerging community of a cluster of homesteads near the convergence of Flat Creek (or, as it was often known then, the Little Gros Ventre River) and Cache Creek. Indeed, Grace Miller herself platted in 1897 a piece of land south of the homestead and began selling lots for a new town that would be known as Jackson. Her father in Illinois had platted towns and she appears to have had both the foresight and the skill to do this job.

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The Millers' ranching operation thrived as they acquired an ever-growing herd and he came into possession of more and more land adjacent to his own. By 1895 he owned more cattle than any other rancher in the valley; his herd of 126 dwarfed the neighboring herds which averaged 32 head. Within a few more years, Miller had reportedly developed a herd of between four and five hundred head of cattle. Few, if any, of the other ranchers in the valley equaled his success in this regard, although other herds grew and by 1910 more than ten thousand cattle grazed Jackson Hole.

In this severe environment, the land necessary for grazing cattle always exceeded the amount owned by the ranchers. The land adjacent, or nearly so, to their homesteads was owned by the government and had been available for unregulated grazing, mining, and timber harvesting, but at a high cost to the natural resources. Presidents Harrison and Cleveland, using the authority of the 1891 Forest Reserve Act, removed from the public domain significant parcels of land in the greater Yellowstone area, including northern portions of Jackson Hole, so that they were no longer open for homesteading and Grover Cleveland created in 1897 the Teton Forest Reserve that included the northern section of Jackson Hole. In 1902, President Theodore Roosevelt created the huge Yellowstone Forest Reserve which was divided into four divisions, including the Teton Division. Robert E. Miller was appointed the supervisor of the Teton Division in 1902. Among many other consequences, two particular developments emerged with this: the inauguration of a system of grazing permits in the valley and the construction of a cabin to serve as an office at the Miller ranch. Sometimes recognized as the "first Forest Service office," this cabin became at any rate the local office for the administration of forest lands in the valley and there the business of managing the forest and its grazing, timbering, and other activities took place. The actual creation of the U.S. Forest Service, of course, came a few years later and in 1908 Congress created the Teton National Forest. Robert Miller became the superintendent of Teton National Forest, having served in both the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture in the same position.

Miller remained superintendent until he resigned the position in 1918. At the same time, he continued his activities as a rancher based on the same site as the Forest Service administration. Moreover, he emerged also by common reckoning as the most influential person in the community, a position enhanced by his leadership of the new Jackson State Bank which he and some neighbors organized in 1914.

The regulation of grazing on the public domain did not solve the problem for ranchers. Indeed, one increasingly obvious fact had to be acknowledged by local ranchers, including Robert and Grace Miller: the domestic livestock encroached on the habitat of the native elk and produced an undeniable crisis. Elk were starving and this elicited feelings of compassion among residents. Also, the starving elk were eating the hay stored by the ranchers for their own cattle for the winter and the more the elk ate, the less food there was for the cattle. This meant that both elk and cattle went hungry, which also meant, therefore, that the ranchers too suffered. The crisis was tangible and the responses were varied—guarding hay stacks, killing elk (and then being liable for prosecution)—but some locals, led especially by Stephen Leek, sought to alter the system by securing outside support for feeding the elk—thereby removing the burden from local ranchers for sustaining a national resource and at the same time allowing their own hay harvest to go for their own cattle. It is not clear if the example of the bison was in Leek's mind, but clearly that experience could have been a lesson, so that the elk would not become another vanishing species because of white encroachments.

After securing support from the state legislature for feeding the elk, a permanent institutional answer to the dilemma came in 1912 when Congress authorized the creation of an elk refuge. Not surprisingly, in 1914 the

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federal government purchased 1240 acres from Robert and Grace Miller, including tracts 9e, 9f, and 9g that included the ranch house, the Forest Service cabin, and the barn. Robert and Grace Miller moved into town. While Robert Miller conducted his banking operations beginning that year (continuing his practice of lending at 12% and earning him the nickname of "Old Twelve Percent"), he also continued his Forest Service role. Grace Miller, ever active in the community, was elected mayor in 1920.

Their land on Flat Creek, near Miller Butte, combined with a small parcel removed from the public domain, created the basis for the National Elk Refuge. The buildings themselves now shifted from ranching uses to conservation uses as the house became the headquarters for the refuge and the barn was used for the myriad activities related to feeding the elk, especially the production of forage and the storage of equipment and tending of livestock in such an operation. For nearly thirty years the headquarters of the National Elk Refuge were located at the Miller house and the refuge slowly grew. During that time, the superintendent of the refuge used the house not only as an office but also as a living quarters. Daniel C. Nowlin, locally prominent homesteader and rancher, served as the first superintendent and retained that position until 1922. Following a brief interim manager, Almer Nelson served in the office from 1923 until 1956. Documents relating to the barn are few----it has been taken for granted by so many people for so many years----but it was recognized occasionally. In 1929 an inventory prepared by Almer Nelson for the Bureau Chief provided a brief note about the barn, indicating its dimensions (30'x40'), its construction date (1898), and its valuation (\$1300, compared with \$2500 for the house), and also noted that it contained "stable room for 18 horses." The site received electricity in 1931, and presumably this included the barn; previous electrical power had been limited to the house, being supplied by a generator located in the basement. Otto Nelson recalled that about 1934 a floor was added to the barn; presumably this was the lower, ground level, although this can not be confirmed. In 1942 the headquarters moved into town, within sight of the Miller complex, and the house ceased to be of central importance. The house was used subsequently as a residence but that use declined so that by the early 1960s, if used at all, it was inhabited only on a seasonable basis by refuge employees. The barn, however, continued to be used as a functional element of the elk refuge, as late as 1973 being used as a stable for refuge work horses and since then for storage of supplies and equipment.

Given the lack of use of the main house, the Miller house (also often called the Miller Cabin was) scheduled to be razed in a practice fire in 1967 when the Teton County Historical Society became involved with the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife (the administering agency) in trying to save and adaptively reuse the building. In a complex and dramatic unfolding of proposals and counter proposals that involved the national and regional offices of the Bureau, various local historical groups, and especially the active involvement of Senator Clifford Hansen, whose family had sold land to the elk refuge and whose commitment to local history and its preservation appeared especially influential, the result was both the preservation of the house and the generation of substantial files of correspondence, meeting minutes, and other documents related to the issue. Another result was the nomination of the "Miller Cabin" to the National Register of Historic Places. That successful 1969 nomination, prepared by Ned Frost, Chief, Historic Division, Wyoming Recreation Commission (the state agency that included the State Historic Preservation Office), included the Miller house and the Forest Service cabin.

In the ensuing discussions and plans for rehabilitation of the house and cabin—the barn needed very little attention—locals discovered that the barn had not been included in the nomination and was thus also not included in the initial Special Use Permits the National Elk Refuge issued to the local historical society. When the question was raised, Frost replied that the barn should have been included, but that it had not been

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"because at the time I prepared the nomination I did not realise that the barn was a part of the original Miller buildings. I guess, if I thought about it at all, I just assumed that the barn was a part of the later Elk Refuge building program." In 1973 the historical architect who prepared a master plan for the restoration of the site noted that "the nearby barn, which is of at least equal historic importance and in fact is part of the original Miller homestead, must be included as an integral part of the planned development. It is at this date in the process of being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places." As late as 1976, it was the intention and understanding of all parties that a revised nomination, or a new nomination, was being prepared for the barn, and a memorandum from the Senior Staff Biologist, Interpretation and Recreation, Region 6, to the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service noted hopefully, "In response to your July 19, 1976, inquiry on the National Register of Historic Places nominated by Mr. Ned Frost, an employee of the State Recreation Commission assigned historic work responsibilities. Regarding Section 106 requirements, they will be met in situations involving any planned alterations of structures listed on the National Register." Pointedly, even though the barn was not listed, it was being afforded Section 106 protections. Such a nomination, however, was never submitted.

While the house became the subject of a variety of plans and proposals, and while the historical society, with its special use permit, not only saved the house but undertook substantial cleaning and repairing of that structure, the site generally languished without commitment to future use and to financing restoration. In 1987 finally the Fish and Wildlife Service undertook a rehabilitation of the house and placed an employee and family in the house which continues until the present time (year 2001). An interpretive sign informs visitors to the area of the history of the buildings.

In all this, the barn survived the vicissitudes of attention and lack of attention. Today the assessment offered in 1973 by the historical architect remains generally accurate, with the exception that prescribed repairs have been made: "The barn has changed little over the years—remaining in use as a barn more or less its entire history. Only minor restoration work is required in the replacement of the original doors. However, some maintenance work is necessary in re-pointing of stone work, replacement of various rotting siding boards, and replacement of pins in some of the wood structural framing connections. The original corral to the west of the barn should be reconstructed." The barn doors have been replaced and appear compatible with the original building construction pattern, although the original horizontal rail on which the doors traversed remains as a reminder of the difference. (The corral was not added.) It appears that other work, minor replacements and repairs, has also been performed.

The barn has remained in the shadows of the more compelling and visible house where the Millers lived and from where the National Elk Refuge was administered, but it has also retained its character, function, and integrity by virtue of being used over the years for the purposes for which it was designed and maintained in customary and appropriate ways.

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CACHE CREEK, WYOMING 7.5' QUAD

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