

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places  
Multiple Property Documentation Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in documenting multiple property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Type all entries.

**A. Name of Multiple Property Listing**

Pioneer Ranches/Farms in Fremont County, Wyoming, ca. 1865-1895

**B. Associated Historic Contexts**

Ranching/Farming in Fremont County, Wyoming, ca. 1865-1895

**C. Geographical Data**

Fremont County, Wyoming

See continuation sheet

**D. Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Planning and Evaluation.

Thomas E. Marceau, DSHPO  
Signature of certifying official

2/15/91  
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

I, hereby, certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

Antoinette J. Lee  
Signature of the Keeper of the National Register

4/10/91  
Date

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## E. Statement of Historic Contexts

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Discuss each historic context listed in Section B.

### Introduction

The history of ranching and farming in Fremont County, Wyoming, is inextricably bound to the history of Euro-American settlement within the region that now encompasses Fremont County in the late nineteenth century. The three major catalysts for settlement were the Oregon Trail, which passed through the southern portion of Fremont County; the building of the first Transcontinental Railroad through southern Wyoming Territory in 1867-68; and the discovery and development of gold deposits in the vicinity of South Pass in 1867-68. A secondary impetus for settlement was the creation of the Wind River Indian Reservation on the east flank of the Wind River Mountains in 1868.

### Background

Westbound emigrants wagons followed the Oregon Trail through what would become southern Fremont County for two decades before any permanent settlement occurred in the region. The emigrants were bound for Oregon, California, and the Salt Lake Valley of Utah. Their major impressions of this region were its landmarks: Split Rock, the highly visible geographical formation; the Ice Slough where emigrants could dig for refreshing ice deposits protected by heavy marsh grasses late into the summer; South Pass, the almost imperceptible crossing of the Continental Divide; and Pacific Springs, a major watering and camping spot on the Pacific side of the Divide. The Oregon Trail was also used as the federal mail route to the Mormon settlements and California. Stations were established at regular intervals. In 1860, this corridor was used by the short-lived Pony Express; the first transcontinental telegraph followed in 1861, quickly putting an end to the Pony Express. Ben Holladay received the federal mail contract and also initiated passenger stage service across the route before moving south to the Overland Trail in 1862. Military protection was also provided across the route during the Civil War era. Thus, by the time the transcontinental railroad was built across southern Wyoming Territory in 1868-69, the Oregon Trail corridor represented a slim ribbon of civilization through an otherwise unsettled wilderness.

Although the transcontinental railroad was constructed over one hundred miles south of Fremont County, two other events nearly coincided with its construction through Wyoming Territory. Gold was discovered at South Pass in mid-June 1867, precipitating a rush to the area and the establishment of South Pass City and Atlantic City. Transportation to and from the gold fields became an immediate problem, and several wagon routes were established from the Union Pacific mainline to South Pass. The second event was the establishment in 1868 of the Wind River Indian Reservation for the Shoshone tribe on the east flank of the Wind River Mountains, in the heart of what would become Fremont County. Subsequently an agency and a military installation, Fort Washakie, were established to administer and protect the reservation. The north-south wagon roads to South Pass were then extended into the Lander Valley as far as the reservation. The military also established a more direct

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route from Rawlins to Fort Washakie that later became a stage route. Thus, by 1870, the stage was set for permanent settlement of the region. The South Pass mining population, the Wind River Indian Reservation, and the military provided local markets for agricultural products. The new system of wagon roads connected the heretofore isolated region with the railroad and the outside world, encouraging larger numbers of settlers to enter the area. The open range system of cattle ranching had already been successfully tested in southeastern Wyoming Territory, and enterprising cattle outfits were rapidly spreading north and west across the territory. The Lander Valley was well watered and had a mild climate for farming and ranching. The vast grass and sagebrush lands to the east were ideally suited to the open range system of ranching. All these factors coincided to attract ranchers and settlers to the region at this point in history.

Organization of Multiple Property Group

The multiple property documentation form identifies one historic context--pioneer ranching/farming in Fremont County, Wyoming--and three main property types that are significantly associated with the context. The three property types are the ranch house (main dwelling), the main barn or barns (which includes horse, cow, and hay barns, and associated corral systems), and outbuildings (which includes bunkhouses, privies, minor stock shelters, dugout/root cellars, icehouses, springhouses, and meat storage buildings, blacksmith and machine shops, equipment sheds and garages, and granaries). The context statement outlines general historic developments related to the theme. The discussion of the property types includes a description of physical characteristics, an evaluation of significance, and registration requirements for each property type.

Historic Context

Origins: Pioneer ranching/farming in Fremont County generally followed the pattern of stock raising first established in southeastern Wyoming Territory. Two major factors were involved in bringing the cattle industry to Wyoming: the surplus of cattle in Texas that could no longer be sold to southern markets because of the Civil War, and the building of the Union Pacific Railroad through southern Wyoming in 1867-68. Lured by the railroad and boundless grasslands, cattlemen organized trail drives that were aimed at southeastern Wyoming via the Texas Trail. Cattle were driven through Pine Bluffs and Fort Laramie and eventually north into the Powder River country. Variations led to Cheyenne and the Laramie Plains over the Overland Trail. Wyoming

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rangeland was stocked not only by Texas herds, but also by cattle driven from Oregon via the Lander Cutoff and Oregon Trail.

The Wyoming Cattle Industry and the Open Range System: Small scale cattle ranching around Fort Laramie and Fort Bridger proved that cattle could be successfully wintered over on the Wyoming grasslands. The open range cattle industry that developed in Wyoming was based on the Spanish tradition passed on by the Texans. Under this system, cattle were allowed to graze over unfenced areas year-round, relying on the existing nutritious prairie grasses that cured on the stem in the dry climate. Winter winds usually cleared large areas of snow so that the cattle could reach the forage.

The open range system necessitated a headquarters with available water where a rancher would construct more permanent buildings after the sale of one or two herds. The Spanish system of branding was used to identify cattle after a winter of drifting with the storms. Spring round-ups were held to gather the cattle in a particular geographical area where they would be sorted and new calves branded. There was an inevitable mortality factor of three-to-four percent in open range grazing.

Foreign capital was injected into the Wyoming cattle industry, chiefly from England and Scotland. An estimated \$45,000,000 was invested by foreign interests in the American cattle business in the 1880s. The cattle barons, whether English, Scottish, American, or some combination of the three, managed to secure large land holdings by controlling the limited water sources, intimidating small operators, and often circumventing the existing land laws by fraudulent practices.

Tremendous profits were to be made in the cattle business, especially in the early 1880s, and the number of outfits running cattle grew rapidly. However, the flooding of the market caused a steady decline in prices after 1884, and much of the range became overstocked. Drought conditions in the summer of 1886, followed by the devastating blizzards, depressed the cattle business for many years and forced a number of large cattle operators out of business. Revitalization of the industry was a long, slow process after the winter of 1886-87.

Although Wyoming's losses were less than Montana's or Dakota's, they were still estimated at about fifteen percent, and figures as high as eighty-five percent were reported in some areas. The poor condition of those cattle that survived also decreased their market value. Additionally, the calf crop the following spring was significantly

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reduced. The biggest losers were the large cattle companies who operated totally under the open range system and depended on sheer numbers and plentiful free grazing land. With no winter hay put aside and no shelter or water provided, such operations suffered severely. English investors lost ten million dollars and Scottish investors, seven to eight million dollars. The winter of 1886-87 eliminated competition in what had become an overcrowded field, and effectively ended the open range system of the western cattle industry.

Ranching in Fremont County: Pioneer cattle ranchers in the region that became Fremont County used the same management practices that at first proved successful in southeastern Wyoming Territory. They also learned the same harsh lessons from the winter of 1886-87 and turned away from open range practices. Although there were large cattle outfits backed by English and Scottish money along the Sweetwater River, such as the Quarter Circle 71 managed by John Clay, Fremont County also had a large number of small and moderate-sized cattlemen. The pioneer stockmen of Fremont County are perhaps best described as "jacks of all trades," engaging in a number of pursuits to make a living in this region. They often started as miners, laborers, freighters, or merchants in the South Pass mines and gradually evolved into stockmen. They often raised sheep as well as cattle and engaged in limited farming for basic food supply or to supplement their income. Therefore, these pioneer Fremont County stockmen seldom answered the description of cattle baron. Secondly, the Fremont County cattle industry began at a later date than in southeastern Wyoming Territory and therefore coincided more closely with the winter of 1886-87. Subsequently ranchers diversified by raising sheep while land was fenced, hay meadows established, and the cattle market revitalized.

William Boyd brought the first herd of cattle into this region in 1869 and ranged them on the headwaters of the Popo Agie River. In 1874, Robert Hall, J.K. Moore, Jules Lamoureux, the Scoffey Brothers (possibly a misspelling of Ecoffey) and Cuney, W.P. Noble, James Kinn (Kime), and others successfully ranged their cattle herds along the Popo Agie, Beaver, and Wind River Valleys. The fledgling cattle industry in northern Sweetwater County, (that would later become Fremont County) first grew up along the Sweetwater River along the Oregon Trail and in the Wind River Valley and Lander Valley. The first settlers in the Lander Valley were William Evans, James Rodgers, Tilford Kutch, U.P. Davidson, and Stephano Gini (Gemi), arriving between the fall of 1867 and June 1868 and settling along the Little Wind River in what soon became the Wind River Indian Reservation. Four other men, Thomas Cosgrove, William Boyd, D. Williams, and John L. Parker, settled in the

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same area during this time period. All these pioneers were eventually forced to leave, although most were later compensated by the government. The establishment of the Wind River Indian Reservation generally restricted cattle ranching north of the Big Popo Agie River. As in southeastern Wyoming Territory, ranch headquarters were established along major drainages, and cattle were grazed on the semi-arid rangelands adjacent to the drainages. In the winter, the cattle grazed over the vast rangelands of eastern Fremont County, where water was more scarce but the winters less severe, due to lesser amounts of snowfall and hilly broken topography for shelter from the wind.

The Wind River Valley settlers were in close proximity to the three major local markets: the South Pass mining population, the Wind River Indian Reservation and Agency, and the military installation at Fort Washakie. The annual government beef allotments granted to the Indians by treaty provided a major source of income to the pioneer ranchers. The Shoshone, who were joined by the Arapaho in 1878, were unused to a sedentary agricultural way of life and therefore made little effort to breed and establish their own cattle herds until well into the twentieth century; thus the annual beef allotments were a reliable source of income for many years.

The pioneer ranchers on the Sweetwater tended to drive their cattle to Union Pacific railheads such as Rawlins, Wamsutter, and Rock Springs and ship their beef to eastern markets. In addition to the large English-owned cattle outfits, numerous other cattlemen settled along the Sweetwater adjacent to the Oregon Trail route. P.J. McIntosh came to the Sweetwater contry in 1885 and filed on a 160-acre claim along the river near the Oregon Trail. Here he established the Hat Ranch west of Split Rock. McIntosh and his heirs acquired numerous ranches and homesteads, and the family still controls vast ranch holdings in this area. Emil Jamerman first came to the Sweetwater country from Germany in 1888 to join his uncle August Lankin, one of the region's earliest settlers. Jamerman established the NT Bar Ranch on the Sweetwater River. He first raised sheep and then later changed to cattle. The Jamerman family descendents still operate this ranch. In the mid-1880s, two Englishmen established the Carrington and Brooks Horse Company and raised race horses near the junction of Long Creek with the Sweetwater River. In 1892 James M. Graham purchased the ranch and after the turn of the century began raising cattle. This ranch remains in the Graham family.

Permanent ranch headquarters were not generally established in eastern Fremont County until the 1890s or later, after the better watered areas had already been settled. A major impetus for the

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settlement of eastern Fremont County was the arrival of the railroad at Casper in 1888. Casper soon became a major shipping outlet for sheepmen and cattlemen in this region. Ranch headquarters were established wherever year-round water sources could be found. Thus such water courses as Badwater Creek, Deer Creek, Muskrat Creek, and the numerous drainages in the Copper Mountain region became settled during this time period. John S. Day established the Battle Axe Ranch on Badwater Creek in 1896. The Quien Sabe Ranch was established by three Englishmen as early as 1883 and later was associated with outlaws and rustlers, most notably Butch Cassidy, who may have owned it for a short period in the 1890s. Charlie Fogg established the Birdseye Ranch on the south flank of Copper Mountain sometime prior to 1898. Sheepmen also established permanent headquarters in eastern Fremont County. J.D. Woodruff established Buck Camp south of Moneta in the early 1890s. Senator William Madden later obtained the property and managed his Deer Creek Live Stock Company from this location. John Love established a sheep ranch at an isolated location on Muskrat Creek in the Gas Hills in 1897.

The Sheepman and the Cattleman: The cattlemen generally preceded the sheepmen by about ten years in Wyoming Territory and usurped many of the prime areas of water and grass. However, this pattern is less pronounced in Fremont County. William Tweed brought the first flock of sheep into the region in 1869, about the same time that the first cattle were brought in. He established a ranch near the head of Red Canyon where he also maintained a large vegetable garden, selling the produce at the nearby South Pass mines. Tweed also ran a roadhouse on the stage and freight road from South Pass to Lander and Fort Washakie. Other early sheep ranchers were J.D. Woodruff (a former cattleman), George Jackson, Worden P. Noble (a merchant and banker), L.C. Morrison, and Eugene Amoretti.

Early sheep ranchers tended to settle near the Wind River Mountains and foothills, the Sweetwater Valley, and Beaver Creek. As late as 1880, there were virtually no sheep anywhere else in what became Fremont County. Sheep ranching became more widespread after the winter of 1886-87, when many of the large cattlemen went out of business or were forced to diversify. Sheep thrived on the buffalo grass, bunch grass, native bluegrass, and various kinds of sagebrush, and required little water. Therefore, they were cheaper and easier to maintain than cattle. Early sheep management practices were similar to the open range system of cattle ranching with liberal use of the public domain for grazing and little supplemental feeding. However, a shepherd and his dogs actively managed the flocks of from 2,500 to 4,000. Cattlemen and sheepmen alike suffered heavy losses in a second severe winter in 1889-90.

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As in early cattle ranching, fortunes could be quickly made in sheep ranching. John Brognand Okie was the largest sheep operator in northeastern Fremont County. He came to Wyoming in 1882 and worked as a cowboy. In 1883 he began acquiring sheep and formed the Big Horn Sheep Company. By 1891, he was known as the "sheep king." He made his headquarters at Lost Cabin. Starting in 1900, Okie built a 16-room two-story mansion of locally quarried sandstone and lumber cut from his sawmill in the nearby mountains. In Lost Cabin, Okie also built a mercantile store, an administration building, and a maple-floored roller rink and dance pavillion where he also showed motion pictures. Okie died in 1930, but his son maintained the operation until 1945.

During the late 1880s and the early 1890s, the distinction between cattlemen and sheepmen became blurred. Many cattle ranchers were forced to raise sheep while they fenced their land and established hay meadows for winter feeding of cattle. However, as the cattle industry revived and the sheep industry continued to grow, conflicts soon resulted in the so-called cattle and sheep wars of the late 1890s and early 1900s. Cattlemen believed that sheep cropped the range grasses too closely and contaminated the range, rendering it unfit for cattle. Differences in personality and image between the cowboy and the shepherd contributed to the range wars. Conflicts followed a basic pattern. Cattlemen established arbitrary "deadlines" that the sheep operators were not permitted to cross with their flocks. Inevitably these lines were violated and the herder and his flock would be attacked. The cattlemen engaged in mass clubbings, poisoning, dynamiting, or "rim-rocking," the practice of driving flocks over precipices. Some herders were beaten and a few were killed such as in the Tensleep murders (north of Fremont County) where three shepherders were killed during a raid in 1909.

Even when local cattle and sheep operators were able to hammer out agreements on using the range, tramp operators and large trail drives passing through the country touched off new violence. Tramp operators had no home base, paid no taxes, and merely moved their flocks from place to place on the public domain. Large trail drives from Oregon, Idaho, and Nevada moved through Wyoming and literally stripped all the grass from the range along their path.

Violence gradually subsided due to the establishment of the Forest Service in 1905. Grazing became strictly regulated in the mountains and foothills, the traditional summer range of most sheep operators. The Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 established grazing districts and made it impossible for tramp herders to obtain grazing leases on the public domain.

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The Formation of Fremont County and Statehood: Today's Fremont County evolved from a series of legislative boundary changes. Wyoming Territory was created on July 25, 1868, as a result of the construction of the Union Pacific Railroad. Most of Wyoming had been a part of Dakota Territory since 1864. However, small portions of Utah and Idaho Territories were taken from the western boundaries of the new territory. When the first Wyoming Territorial legislature met, there were four counties: Laramie, Albany, Carbon, and Carter, and an unorganized strip along the western border of the territory. The legislature created Uinta County from the unorganized portion, shifted the boundaries of the other counties, and changed the name of Carter County to Sweetwater County. The county seat was located at South Pass City from 1869 to 1874, then moved to Green River. At this time, today's Fremont County was generally within the confines of Sweetwater County. The Eighth Wyoming Legislative Assembly created Fremont County from the northern portion of Sweetwater County on March 5, 1884, and it was organized on May 6, 1884. Lander was the county seat. Fremont County then stretched northward to the Montana border. It was reduced in size by the creation of Big Horn County in 1890, Hot Springs County in 1911, and Sublette County on the west in 1921. Nevertheless, it remains the second largest county in Wyoming. It was named for the explorer John C. Fremont.

As Wyoming Territory was going through the process of statehood in 1890, the population of Fremont County stood at 2,463. Lander was the only significant town in the county with a population of 525 in 1890. It was still a sparsely populated county with large, virtually unsettled areas. The population remained centered in the Lander Valley, the Sweetwater River Valley, and, although diminishing, at South Pass. The economy was based on livestock raising. The early twentieth century towns of Riverton, Hudson, and Shoshoni would grow up along the right-of-way of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad, which extended its line west from Casper and reached Lander in 1906.

Thus in 1890, Fremont County stood poised on the verge of a phenomenal period of growth and a more diversified economic development. In 1905 the population of Lander stood at 956. By 1910, after the arrival of the railroad, its population had nearly doubled to 1,812. The population of Fremont County reflected the same pattern and doubled from 5,363 in 1905 to 11,822 in 1910. Thus, the extended period of physical isolation was nearly at an end for Fremont County.

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**F. Associated Property Types**

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I. Name of Property Type Ranch house

II. Description

The ranch house is the key component in any ranching complex. It served as the main dwelling and all ranch activities revolved around its location. In Fremont County, ranch houses gradually evolved through a series of improvements as the rancher became more settled and economically successful and the size of his family increased. Many of the ranches in Fremont County have been occupied by the same family for several generations. Therefore, there is generally a strong bond between the past and present. This bond, coupled with the practicality of the rancher, has resulted in continuous use of many of the original and early buildings. It is not uncommon for the current generation to be living in

III. Significance

The ranch house served as the primary dwelling on the pioneer ranch. It served as the rancher's "office," and was the primary building where business and social activities were conducted. If it was located on a wagon or stage route, it often served as a roadhouse where meals were served to travelers and overnight lodgings might be available. In addition, it housed the routine domestic functions of child rearing (and often schooling), meals, and other household chores. Because of its importance to the rancher and his family, more care was taken in its construction.

It was also undoubtedly a gauge of success. Thus, John Okie built a mansion in the wilderness to reflect his achievements in the sheep ranching business. Although Okie was atypical, most ranchers were proud of their homes and were anxious to expand and modernize when finances allowed. This tendency, however, conflicted with their ties to the past.

IV. Registration Requirements

To be eligible for listing in the National Register, a ranch house must strongly convey its historic character in both physical and associative ways and must have documented historical significance when evaluated within the context of pioneer ranching/farming history in Fremont County.

The typical Fremont County ranch house from this time period, 1865 to 1895, is a simple rustic one-story log dwelling with a gable or hipped roof with improvements added over an extended period of time. The changes often reflect the evolution of the ranch during the period of significance. Therefore, modifications do not necessarily have an adverse effect on physical integrity. It is also unreasonable to assume that several family generations or a succession of different owners will maintain the ranch house into the 1980s in its exact original form, eschewing all modern improvements.

The eligible ranch house must retain sufficient integrity of scale, form, and materials to convey feeling and association with its period of

See continuation sheet

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See continuation sheet for additional property types

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## II. Description (continued):

the original or early ranch house. The original homesteader generally built a modest first dwelling constructed with cottonwood or willow logs cut along nearby drainages. Some homesteaders traveled to nearby or distant mountain ranges to cut conifers such as ponderosa or lodgepole pine and hauled the logs to the building site with teams, or occasionally floated the logs if a suitable water source was available. (Sheep rancher John Love cut 150 lodgepole pines then hauled ten at a time from the Wind River Mountains to his home in the Gas Hills, a distance of one hundred miles.) Usually, logs were peeled, then notched using a variety of notching techniques including full-dovetail, half-dovetail, V-notching, saddle notching, and square notching. Hog trough corner, covered box corner, and corner post construction are less common. Square notching techniques tend to be found on more recent log structures. The interior log walls were often hewn flat. Occasionally both surfaces were hewn. Gable roofs were typically constructed with log purlins and ridgepoles. Small diameter round logs or poles were then placed side by side over the purlins and ridgepole and covered with sod or bentonite clay where local deposits existed. A mud clay/grass mixture or bentonite was used for chinking, sometimes held in place with wood strips or small sapling lengths. Foundations consisted of dry laid stone courses or stone piers, or were absent altogether. Formal stone fireplaces and chimneys were uncommon. Brick chimneys and simple round metal stovepipes were typical. Sod brick construction has not been observed on ranch houses in Fremont County. Stone ranch houses are also uncommon, although two notable exceptions have been observed in the Lander area. However, they are massive cut sandstone buildings and do not reflect the typical first homestead dwelling in this county.

As the family grew in size and/or the rancher prospered, numerous additions were built onto the original cabin. Materials were sometimes mixed, so that a wood frame addition was built onto a log cabin, and a log addition was built onto the frame addition. Because building materials were scarce, it was also a common practice to salvage abandoned structures, number the logs, and reassemble the building at the ranch headquarters to serve as an addition to the ranch house or as a barn or outbuilding. Thus, one building might serve several functions during its history. Building materials were also commonly salvaged from abandoned structures and incorporated into the ranch house or other buildings. When milled lumber became more readily available in a region, sod roofs were often replaced with milled lumber roofs covered with wood shingles or tarpaper. Locations were sometimes changed as the homesteader/rancher discovered that other portions of his land parcel had better attributes. Thus, the Graham family moved about one-half mile down the Sweetwater

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River in 1914 and located on a high bench to escape insects and have a better view. Another common practice was to "graduate" from the original log cabin into a large wood frame ranch house. This usually occurred in the early twentieth century when building materials were more readily available due to the railroad. The original ranch house was either abandoned or more likely put to another use. Occasionally, it was torn down and the material was used in other building construction. In cases where the original ranch house is still in use, it has usually been modernized with aluminum or vinyl siding and altered window openings and doors. Some original ranch houses remained in use until after World War II. Modern wood frame ranch houses were then added to the ranch complex, and the original building was abandoned, reused, or torn down. House trailers are not uncommon, especially in ranch complexes that have become secondary residences or are occupied by ranch managers or leasees.

## III. Significance (continued):

Even though a log ranch house may have been covered with aluminum siding and punctured by picture windows, the occupants are still proud that it is the original or early home of their parent, grandparents, or great-grand parents and that the original logs are still underneath.

## IV. Registration Requirements (continued):

historical significance. A log ranch house should have its log walls exposed on the exterior so that building techniques and degree of craftsmanship can be observed. Roof shape should be retained even if the materials have changed. For instance, it is nearly impossible to retain a sod roof for over a century on an inhabited dwelling. Window and door openings should retain approximate original scale and location, although they may be periodically replaced and updated. Significant building additions within the last fifty years detract from the physical integrity of the ranch house and could render it ineligible.

Survey data has shown that the interior of the ranch house is seldom maintained in its original or early condition. Although logs have a moderate to high insulation value depending on the type of wood, even tight fitting log homes were drafty and inefficient at holding heat. Therefore, log walls were insulated with newspapers, felt paper, or whatever was at hand and were covered with wallboard of varying composition. Interior stud walls were often added at a later date, insulated, and covered with paneling or plasterboard. For the same reasons, ceilings were often lowered, and exposed log rafters were covered with wallboard or paneling. Many of the dwellings probably had hewn log interior walls for ease in insulating and covering. Well finished log ranch houses usually had wood moldings and trim around

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doors and windows, baseboards and ceilings. They generally had pine tongue and groove wood flooring. Therefore, an eligible ranch house should have at least some remnants of early or original woodwork, floors, and other materials. Secondly, room layout should be similar to the original layout. Changes in the layout during the property's period of historic significance are permissible and reflect the evolution of the building. The original building layout was generally so simple that major interior changes were accomplished merely by the addition of a new room to one of the elevations.

The ranch house must also retain a relatively high degree of integrity of setting. If the building was moved during the early years of occupation, the new setting has acquired sufficient significance to be associated with the majority of the ranch's period of historic significance. The setting of a ranch house is typically within a cluster of barns, outbuildings, and corrals that comprise the overall ranch complex. Survey data shows that a ranching operation successful for nearly a century will construct new structures somewhere within this complex. Secondly, numerous buildings of varying age and origins will be moved into this complex over the years. However, there should be a core group of original or early buildings that dominate the complex. Modern barns, dwellings and other structures should be located on the periphery or perhaps screened by vegetation such as windrows, by topography, or by other historic buildings. The overall integrity of setting must be of such a degree that one is left with an impression of feeling and association with the ranch's period of historical significance.

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I. Name of Property Type: Barns, Stock Shelters and Corrals

## II. Description

Barns were an integral part of any ranching/farming complex. A horse barn was the primary large barn building in a Fremont County ranch complex. It was designed primarily for horses with hay storage above in a loft area, and stalls, a tack room, and a small granary below. It was constructed with logs or milled lumber or a combination of the two with a gable or gambrel roof, often with a leanto addition on either side extending the roofline. Gambrel roofs were less common and generally more recent, because they required milled lumber for their construction. The gable-roofed log barns had log purlins and ridgepoles overlaid with log poles and covered with sod. Sod roofs were necessarily gently pitched. If sawed lumber was available, slab logs or rough boards were laid to support the sod. Most of the sod roofs have been replaced with wood roofs covered with wood shingles, roofing paper, or asphalt shingles. Many gable-roofed barns also had log walls to the eaves, and the roof and gable ends were constructed with milled lumber. Notching techniques were similar to ranch houses. The long dimension walls on horse barns were often built in two or three segments for convenience in log hauling. The ends of the logs were merely butted and nailed to a vertical hewn log or milled timber. Post and beam construction with wooden pegs was found in only one barn, located at Hailey. Loft floors were generally supported by means of log joists and log vertical posts, hewn or unhewn. The better built barns had loft floor joists joined into the log wall with mortise and tenon joints visible from the outside. Stalls were generally laid out on the ground floor on either side of a central aisle that extended through the building; double-hinged or sliding doors were placed at either end. The stalls often had dirt floors, wood plank floors, and occasionally stone floors with feeding boxes along the walls for hay and grain. The aisles were dirt or plank. Early or original barns still in use often have receive poured concrete aisles for ease in cleaning. The stall dividers were constructed with wood planks or logs and poles. Hay was stored overhead via loft doors on either end of the barn. The barns could be used secondarily for milk cows or sheep and for cows and calves or ewes and lambs during spring calving or lambing with pens set off in certain areas of the barn.

Formal cow barns were not used on beef cattle ranches. Rather, numerous stock shelters were built in association with corral systems and whose primary function were as windbreaks and feeding stations during severe weather. Thus, they were generally open on the leaside for easy livestock access. Leanto stock shelters were ideal for this purpose. They were constructed with logs or with a log frame covered

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with milled lumber. They were simple, functional structures and generally rather crudely built. They were strategically located around the main corral system so that livestock could be easily fed and moved around as needed. They were especially useful during spring calving so that cows and calves can be more carefully managed, sheltered from the elements, and fed.

A complex system of corrals were always associated with and connected to the horse barn and stock shelters in the ranch complex. The corral system was one of the most important elements in a ranching operation. These corrals were sturdily built with logs and poles and were interconnected by means of gates so that livestock could be easily moved and sorted. This aided the process of branding, shipping, dipping, dehorning, inoculating, veterinary care, and special feeding. Squeeze chutes firmly held an animal in place for dehorning, castration, or other tasks that could potentially injure the animal or the personnel. Loading chutes have been an integral part of the corral system since the advent of motor vehicles for hauling and shipping. Cattle and sheep could also be directed through narrow alleys through the dipping vat. Small round corrals were used for breaking and training horses.

Ranches that are used primarily for raising sheep often have lambing sheds and shearing sheds, but they are generally restricted to large scale sheep operations such as J.B. Okie's at Lost Cabin. They are typically elongated gable-roofed or monitor-roofed wood frame shelters, often with a basic log frame with dirt floors and large stall or pen areas on either side of a central aisle and large sliding or hinged door at either end. There is little or no difference between the lambing and shearing sheds. The lambing sheds provide shelter from the elements for ewes and newborn lambs and allow closer management. Historically, most of the Wyoming and Fremont County sheep ranchers did not use lambing sheds and lambs were born on the open range. The shearing sheds were always needed but were generally located at centralized locations near a railhead or along herding routes. Crews of shearers operated in stall or pen areas on either side of the main aisle, shearing the sheep as quickly as possible with manual and later electric shears.

### III. Significance

Barns, stock shelters, and corrals were carefully laid out on a working ranch for maximum ease in handling, managing, and protecting the livestock. They represent the most basic components of a ranching operation. The rancher depended on the livestock for his livelihood and thus gave them the best care available. As the cattle barons discovered

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during the winter of 1886-87, Wyoming's harsh climate could kill their livestock and ruin their operation and livelihood in one storm, despite the inherent toughness and resiliency of beef cattle. The rancher often took as great a pride in his barns as his ranch house. Craftmanship and clever, practical designs and layouts were employed. At this time, little is known about architectural origins or if there were particular local craftsmen adept at barn building in Fremont County. Certainly the gambrel-roofed post and beam barn at Hailey and the cut sandstone barn at Derby required special skills. Since most of the barns recorded during this survey dated from the earliest settlement period, much of the information about their origins has been lost. The evolution of a ranching operation can be traced through its barns, stock shelters, and corrals. These elements were also modified throughout the history of a ranch in the transition from cattle to sheep or a dual ranching operation.

## IV. Registration Requirements

To be eligible for listing in the National Register, barns, stock shelters, and corrals must retain adequate physical integrity and integrity of setting to convey feeling and association with their period of historical significance. They must also possess significance when evaluated with the context of pioneer ranching and farming in Fremont County, Wyoming. These property types are generally only significant when they are contributing elements of larger ranch/farm complexes containing a ranch house and other outbuildings. However, a barn may be individually eligible if the ranch complex has lost integrity but the barn has exceptional architectural and historical significance.

Barns, stock shelters, and corrals should retain original or early scale, proportions, materials, and location. Necessary maintenance renovations such as replacing a sod roof with a wood roof will not effect eligibility unless the roof shape has been significantly altered. Survey results have shown that many log barns and outbuildings have been covered with corrugated metal siding for additional protection from the elements. Although this covers the original fabric, metal siding is usually over 50 years of age and well oxidized. Secondly, this is a common feature in Fremont County barns and stockshelters and is considered a characteristic of construction or the evolution of a structure. However, modern siding that does not blend in with the overall visual integrity of the ranch complex will render the building ineligible or noncontributing. Corral systems are periodically repaired and updated. As long as the original material and construction techniques are observed, the corral is still considered eligible. Changes to the interior of a barn are usually minimal and consist of

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adding concrete aisles or floors and adding to or subtracting from stall areas. These kinds of interior modifications are permissible. Finally, concrete footers are sometimes poured to stabilize log walls originally devoid of formal foundations. This improvement is considered necessary maintenance for the upkeep and preservation of the building as long as the external appearance is not substantially changed.

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I. Name of Property Type: Outbuildings (bunkhouses, blacksmith/machine shops, garages, meathouse/icehouses, granaries, dugouts/root cellars)

II. Description

The typical ranch/farm complex contained a number of outbuildings that served a variety of purposes. Some of the buildings, such as granaries and meathouses, display unique construction methods relating to function. These buildings were either originally constructed for a specific purpose or were altered from a previous use. It was also a common practice to move such buildings from other sites that were no longer needed or abandoned. The common practice in a pioneer ranching/farming operation was to utilize all building materials and structures. Nothing was wasted. This was also true of machinery, wagons, and vehicles. It was a common practice to "stockpile" such items to use their parts for future repairs. Thus, nearly every ranch complex contains an area reserved for storage of these items.

Logs were the common building material for outbuildings, although milled lumber was also utilized when available. The logs were joined with saddle notching, V-notching, square notching, and half-dovetail notching. Full dovetail notching was less common. The buildings seldom had formal foundations and were usually built upon stone piers, a course or two of dry laid slab stones, or wooden timbers or logs. These buildings usually had gently pitched log roofs covered with sod. Sod roofs have often been retained within this property type. Log walls are usually exposed but may be covered with stucco, basically a cement mixture over chicken wire.

Granaries were generally log or wood frame buildings with high walls and gable roofs. The high walls were the most obvious distinguishing characteristic of this type. Wood frame granaries generally had horizontal narrow wood paneling on the inside surface with the stud walls exposed on the outside. The log granaries were similar in proportions and the interior walls were hewn. The exterior was often covered with corrugated metal siding. Window openings were either lacking or small and were probably used chiefly for ventilation. A single, strong, tight wood door was generally used. Granaries were tightly and sturdily built to hold large quantities of grain, discourage rodents, and keep out the elements. Granaries may be somewhat segregated in a ranch complex because of the possibility for spontaneous combustion and fire.

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Meathouses and icehouses served similar purposes and could be interchangeable. They were generally one-story log structures with double wall construction. The walls were then insulated with dirt. One such meathouse observed during the survey was constructed with an inner layer of stone and outer log walls with dirt in between. Sod roofs were commonly used for added insulation. These structures were often partially dug into banks for added insulation. Dirt floors were the rule. Meat was hung from rafters and hooks. Ice was stored in blocks and packed with straw or hay. The chief purpose of a meathouse was to keep meat at an even temperature and away from insects. The icehouse kept stored ice blocks from melting during the hot summer months.

Dugouts or root cellars were characteristically built at least partially underground to maintain an even temperature in summer or winter. It was just as important to keep produce from freezing as it was to keep it at a cool, even temperature. Many of the root cellars in Fremont County were constructed chiefly with stones with a flat log roof covered with sod. The root cellars were generally ventilated with a stovepipe protruding through the sod roof and had sturdy wood plank doors. The interior was lined with wood shelves. The root cellar on the Love Ranch was constructed with large sod blocks.

Bunkhouses were used for housing hired hands, generally during peak work periods. Therefore, on the smaller ranches, the bunkhouse probably only received seasonal use. Bunkhouses observed during the survey were generally quite small and no longer in use or utilized for storage. They originally had room for sleeping and a cookstove used for heat and/or cooking.

Blacksmith shops and/or machine shops were vital to any ranching operation. They were one-story log or wood frame buildings. Their main distinguishing feature was some kind of brick or stone hearth arrangement. They also had a work bench area and shelves and bins. The functions of a blacksmith shop have gradually evolved during the twentieth century, so that most have been converted into machine shops. Welding has taken the place of the forge and anvil for heating and forming metal parts. Thus, the typical blacksmith shop has been converted or abandoned entirely. Few retain the tools of the blacksmith's trade.

### III. Significance

Outbuildings were integral parts of any ranching operation. A ranch was, in effect, an agricultural factory. There was a multiplicity of tasks or steps to perform in order to provide the final product,

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marketable beef, wool, lamb, or mutton. The rancher needed ranch hands to help accomplish all the work associated with livestock raising, and a bunkhouse was necessary for their housing. A rancher acted as his own carpenter, mechanic, blacksmith, and veterinarian. The bunkhouse, blacksmith/machine shop, garage, and granary were necessary for the performance of these functions. Secondly, these isolated ranch complexes had to be as self-sufficient as possible, especially before the days of improved transportation. Thus the rancher butchered, prepared, and preserved his own meat supply using the meathouse/icehouse. Finally, he often grew basic vegetable crops for his own use and preserved them in the dugout/root cellar.

#### IV. Registration Requirements

To be eligible for listing in the National Register, outbuildings must retain sufficient physical integrity and integrity of setting to convey feeling and association with their period of historical significance and must have historical significance when evaluated within the context of pioneer farming/ranching in Fremont County. Generally, outbuildings are significant only when they are contributing elements of a larger ranch/farm complex with a ranch house, barn, and corral system. However, an outbuilding that served a specialized function such as a meathouse, granary, or blacksmith shop that retains excellent physical integrity may be eligible for its architectural or engineering significance. For instance, a well-maintained blacksmith shop equipped with the blacksmith's tools, a forge, and an anvil may be individually eligible even if the associated ranching complex has lost integrity. Current survey data show that fully-equipped blacksmith shops with good physical integrity are rare. Buildings moved to the ranch complex and utilized in one or more of the above functions would not be eligible if they were moved within the last fifty years. None of the above mentioned outbuilding types are necessary to modern ranching operations; some have evolved into other related and updated usages. However, the dugout/root cellar still seems to persist on many of the ranches inventoried, and some have become quite sophisticated with multiple rooms and electric lights.

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**G. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods**

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Discuss the methods used in developing the multiple property listing.

See continuation sheet

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**H. Major Bibliographical References**

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See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional documentation:

- State historic preservation office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency

- Local government  
 University  
 Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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**I. Form Prepared By**

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G. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods

The multiple property listing of pioneer ranches/farms in Fremont County, Wyoming, is based on a comprehensive historic survey of pioneer ranches and farm complexes in all portions of Fremont County including the Wind River Indian Reservation. This survey was conducted in two phases by Robert Rosenberg, Rosenberg Historical Consultants, for the Fremont County Historic Preservation (Certified Local Government) Commission and the Wyoming SHPO in 1988-89 and 1990. In this survey, thirty-three ranching/farming complexes were identified, recorded, and evaluated for the National Register of Historic Places. The survey was generally restricted to the period of early settlement, ca. 1865 to 1895.

As a result, the context statement is limited to this time period and geographical area. Fremont County, Wyoming, is unique in that a significantly large portion of it is comprised of the Wind River Indian Reservation. The reservation was established at the time when the region that became Fremont County was first settled and thus had a dramatic effect on pioneer ranching/farming settlement. Although several ranches were inventoried within the confines of the Wind River Indian Reservation during the 1990 survey, it is anticipated that the remainder of the reservation will be more intensively inventoried at a future date. Secondly, the history of Fremont County ranching and farming changed significantly after the arrival of the railroad in 1906, subsequent large reclamation programs, and the opening of portions of the reservation to homesteading. The documentation on the multiple property form will therefore need to be revised and enlarged when future inventories are conducted in Fremont County with different time parameters. A separate multiple property form may need to be written for the Wind River Indian Reservation if and when an intensive survey is conducted there due to differing and complex land settlement patterns and the presence of two Native American tribes, the Shoshone and the Arapaho.

The property type statements were made sufficiently broad to encompass pioneer ranches and farms throughout the State of Wyoming for this time period. They are based on the survey of Fremont County and upon a three-phase ranching survey of Sublette County, Wyoming, conducted by Rosenberg Historical Consultants from 1984-1988. Sublette County is the adjoining county west of Fremont County.

The standards of integrity for listing of representative properties were based on the National Register standards. They were also based upon the results of the survey of Fremont County and secondarily upon the previous similar surveys listed above.

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