

APPENDIX- Cultural Landscape Inventory and Analysis

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site

Montana



*United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Region
1991*

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site

Deer Lodge, Montana



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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DENVER, COLORADO
1991

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was completed with the assistance of the Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site Superintendent, Eddie Lopez and his staff. Chief Ranger, Cheryl Clemmensen was particularly helpful in providing research material and editorial comments. Rodd Weaton, Chief, Division of Cultural Resources and Regional Historical Architect, Richard Cronenberger also provided valuable guidance in the evaluation and significance sections of the report.



INTRODUCTION

The Grant-Kohrs Ranch in western Montana is one of the last remaining great cattle ranches associated with open-range cattle ranching from the 1860's to the early 1900's in the western United States. Beginning in the late 1850's, Johnny Grant settled in the Dear Lodge Valley and in less than a decade had assembled a large herd of cattle by trading with westward-bound emigrants along the Oregon Trail. Then in 1866, Grant sold his ranch to Conrad Kohrs, a young German immigrant and entrepreneur who had successfully established a market selling beef to mining camps in Montana. Kohrs success on the ranch peaked in the 1890's when he and his half brother, John Bielenberg owned 25,000 acres and controlled over 10 million acres of grazing land in 4 states and Canada. After a period of decline and the deaths of Kohrs and Bielenberg, the ranch was again productive under Kohrs grandson, Conrad Kohrs Warren, who pioneered different breeds of cattle on the ranch during the 1930's to the early 1970's. On August 25, 1972, Congress established the Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site (NHS) "...to provide an understanding of the frontier cattle era of the Nation's history, to preserve the Grant-Kohrs Ranch, and to interpret the nationally significant values thereof for the benefit and inspiration of present and future generations."

A. DELINEATION OF THE STUDY AREA

The study area identified in this report includes both the area within the official park boundary and an area outside the boundary that incorporates the various landscape types related to the ranch's historic operation. The defined study area provides the physical and visual qualities necessary to maintain the ranch's historic integrity, while providing a resource base necessary for public understanding and interpretation of the western cattle frontier. The same study area boundary was also identified in the June 1987 National Park Service (NPS) "Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site Cultural Landscape Analysis" as an area of land which can feasibly be managed to maintain the landscape's historic association with the ranch. The Cultural Landscape Inventory and Analysis map in this report illustrates both the NHS boundary and the study area boundary. The study area includes about 2,630 acres.

B. DESIGNATION OF LANDSCAPE TYPE

Nine individual landscape types have been identified in this report as having distinct qualities that add to the historic character of the Grant-Kohrs Ranch. Delineated by visual and functional qualities, each landscape type has its own identity, yet all combine to establish an overall identity to the ranch. Each landscape type is described within the report along with any associated historic elements. The historic significance integrity, and period of significance of each type is also identified.

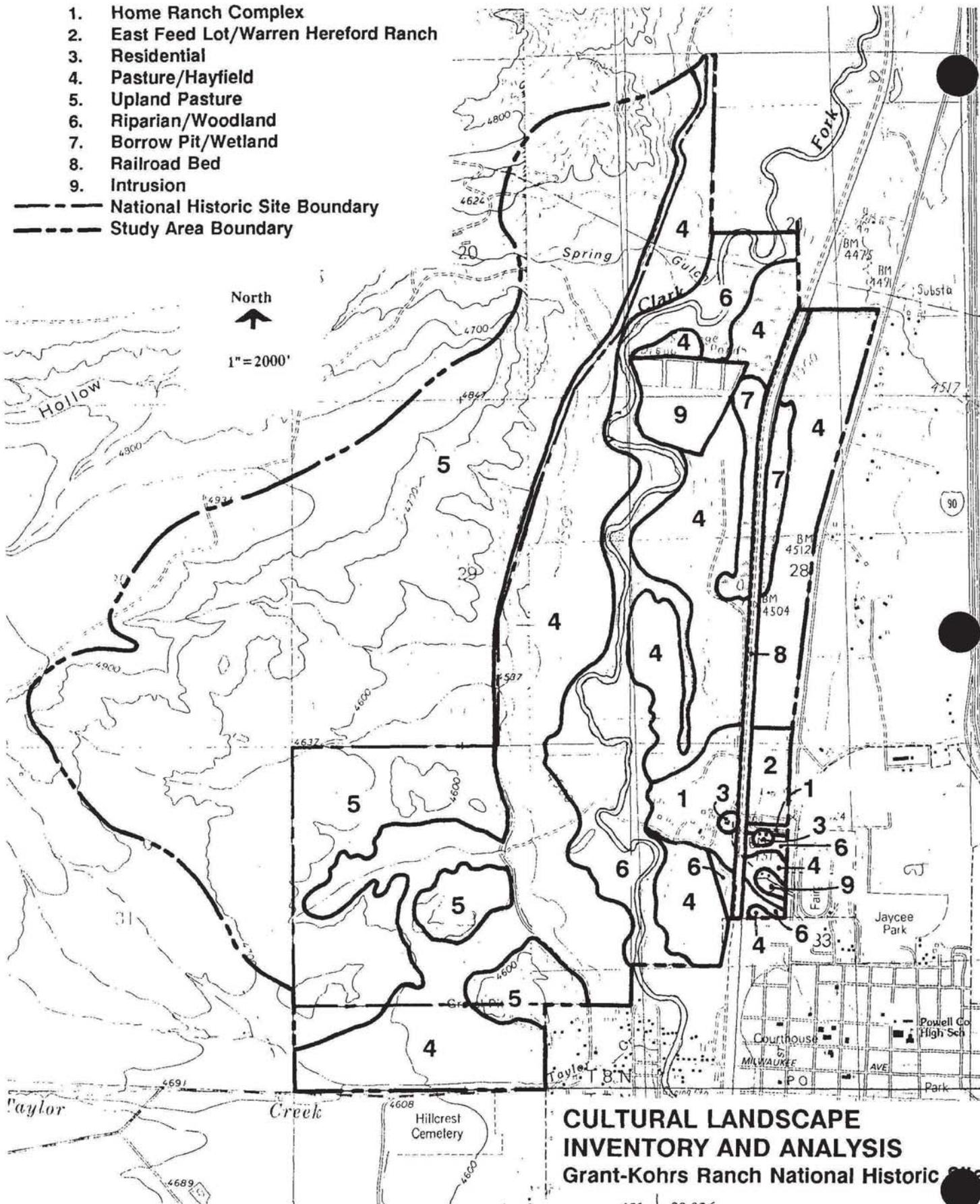
1. Home Ranch Complex
2. East Feed Lot/Warren Hereford Ranch
3. Residential
4. Pasture/Hayfield
5. Upland Pasture
6. Riparian/Woodland
7. Borrow Pit/Wetland
8. Railroad Bed
9. Intrusion

- - - - National Historic Site Boundary
 - - - - Study Area Boundary

North



1" = 2000'



**CULTURAL LANDSCAPE
INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS
Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site**

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CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site

LANDSCAPE TYPE: Home Ranch Complex

Description

The Home Ranch Complex, consisting of approximately 40 acres, contains the most highly developed area within the Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site. Historically, this area served as the hub of the ranch operation, providing such functions as housing, equipment and food storage, health and maintenance care for livestock, and was the center of ranch management. Dominated by a variety of historic structures, the landscape is an integral part of the area, both in terms of the spacial relationships between buildings and the various landscape elements. Those elements include fence rows and feed and water troughs that are integral to the function of the area. The most dominant feature of this area is the ranch house (see landscape type "Residential") which sits on a natural bench and is flanked by most of the ranch's 91 historic buildings and structures. Adjacent to the ranch house to the north are several important historic buildings. These include bunkhouse row, the granary, draft horse barn, dairy building, and horse barn. West of the ranch house and below the bench is the lower yard, which contains a variety of buildings and fenced livestock pens extending to the Kohrs-Manning flume. A series of smaller feed lots form the western boundary of this area. To the south are located feed bunks dating from ca. 1932. A perimeter road forms the southern boundary of the complex. A series of large corrals and irrigated pastures extend to the north and west of the horse barn. A machine shed and large L-shaped cow shed, and smaller corrals with a squeeze chutes form the northern limits of the Home Ranch Complex. The historic entrance to the ranch from the Deer Lodge and Garrison Road, now Business U.S. 90, consisted of a tree-lined lane perpendicular to the ranch house. Most of the trees have died or have been removed and the drive is now in limited use.

INVENTORY

Historic Elements

This area is dominated by historic structures with historic landscape features supporting a variety of ranching functions. A combination of post-and-pole, jack leg, and post-and-rider fencing form several smaller livestock pens to the west and south. Other significant elements include the service access roads connected to the north drive, the Kohrs-Manning irrigation ditch and flume, vegetable garden in the lower yard, and feed and water troughs in the corrals and feed lots. While transient in nature, ranch equipment in this area, such as the Steam Thresher, Self Feeders, and farm machinery, add to the "historic scene" and serve to more fully interpret the historic function of the landscape.

Natural Landscape Character

A natural bench forms an elevated platform to the east, and drops approximately 10 feet to the lower yard west of the ranch house. The area is heavily drained with several natural springs below the bench. Two forks of a small but active stream, named Johnson Creek, run through the area on the south and west, joining south of the ranch house and flowing west to the Clark Fork River. The ground adjacent to the streams tend to be soggy

and waterlogged as result of the high water table. Black cottonwoods and willows line both creeks. The ground to the north is slightly elevated, sloping to the south and west. Natural and cultivated grasses are the dominant vegetation.

Historic Significance/Integrity

The existing complex reflects the turn-of-the-century ranch at its highest level of development under the Kohrs's ownership. The relationships of the fence lines to the ranch activities, and of buildings to feedlots, pastures, corrals, squeeze chutes, and irrigation ditches, are integral to the history of the ranch. The placement of the various feed sheds within the lots, and of the feed racks in the fences, etc., all reflect the exact purpose of that portion of the ranch. The lanes delineated by the fences were placed to facilitate the moving and separation of livestock. The relationship of buildings to pasture, buildings and structures to fence lines, and juxtaposition of the buildings themselves, are a vital resource to understanding the operation of the ranch. This area possesses a high degree of historic integrity, the only intrusion is a NPS residential trailer house located to the west of the thoroughbred barn. With the minor exceptions of the west feed lot and some buildings built in the 1930s, the Home Ranch Complex retains its early 1900 appearance.

Period of Significance

The Home Ranch Complex conveys a historic period from 1862, when John Grant settled in the Deer Lodge Valley and built his ranch house, to 1954 when Conrad Warren built a new sales barn and moved the remaining cattle operation from the Home Ranch Complex to the East Feed Lot.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site

LANDSCAPE TYPE: Home Ranch Complex



Figure 1. Historic entrance to the ranch. View of the Home Ranch looking west from U.S. Business 90. Note the historic tree lined drive and visual axis to the Kohrs ranch house. Horse corrals to the right are part of East Feed Lot/Warren Hereford Ranch.



Figure 2. Looking east from the Kohrs-Manning ditch and flumes to the ranch house. Cattle pens, fence rows and buildings dominate the landscape. Johnson Creek can be seen in the foreground with Black Cottonwoods along its banks.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site

LANDSCAPE TYPE: Home Ranch Complex



Figure 3. Lower yard, as seen from the rear porch of ranch house, showing spacial characteristics of the Home Ranch Complex established by building arrangement, fence and corral placement and natural features. Farm machinery in the yard helps interpret the historic landscape.



Figure 4. Corrals north of the ranch house looking west to the Pasture/Hay Field and Upland Pasture in background. Photograph shows evidence of a strong continuity and visual relationship between these different landscape types.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site

LANDSCAPE TYPE: Home Ranch complex



Figure 5. Looking northwest from the back porch of ranch house to larger corrals and "L" shaped barn in upper right corner. Historic "Jack-Leg" fence and gate in foreground. Bands of the Riparian/Woodland landscape and Upland Pasture can be seen in the background.



Figure 6. View looking northeast from north pasture to "L" shaped barn and smaller corrals. Natural landscape is relatively flat and gently sloping west to the Clark Fork River.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site

LANDSCAPE TYPE: Home Ranch Complex



Figure 7. Looking from the southern perimeter road at the west feed lot with feed trough in foreground. A small section of the Riparian/Woodland landscape can be seen along Johnson Creek.



Figure 8. View looking north at the historic Kohrs-Manning flume as it crosses Johnson Creek. Willow thickets can be seen along the creek.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site

LANDSCAPE TYPE: East Feed Lot/Warren Hereford Ranch

Description

Known as the Warren Hereford Ranch, this area is located near the southeast corner of the park boundary, east of the home ranch complex, west of business I-90, and north of the Con Warren residence. Approximately 35 acres in size, this area is dominated by large rectilinear cattle pens serviced by two alleys running north and south. These form the linear arrangement of development and land use. Cattle sheds are located within each pen and a large red barn dominates the south end of the area. A gravel drive separates the red barn and two horse corrals to the south. The south horse corral is slightly elevated and consists of compacted rocky soil, the result of vehicular parking which occurred during cattle sales held at the ranch in the Warren era. The East Feed Lot, along with the red barn, was constructed beginning in 1950. The entire operation was active until the late 1970s when the last remaining stock was sold.

INVENTORY

Historic Elements

Existing historic landscape elements, associated with the feed lot operation, include a combination of post-and-pole fencing, which defines eleven cattle pens and two alleys. Other features include wood and metal gates, wood squeeze and loading chutes, and overhead electric lines with glass insulators supported by wooden poles. This important landscape provides a context for several historic structures. They include cattle sheds and wooden feed troughs located within each pen. Other historic buildings include the large red barn, which dominates this landscape type, a metal scale house and metal sales barn, and two smaller horse barns located within the southern horse corrals. Additional significant features include electric heated water troughs located within each pen which kept water supplies ice free during cold weather.

Natural Landscape Character

The site is slightly higher in elevation than land to the west and south, and is relatively flat with little change in grade. The dominant grade changes occur to the west of the cattle pen, where the grade drops to form a natural drainage swale. As a result, the landscape drains to the south and west. Natural grasses and forbs have taken over the cattle pens; otherwise, the area is devoid of vegetation. Visually, the East Feed Lot is separated from the Home Ranch Complex on the west by the railroad tracks discussed as landscape type "Railroad Bed" in this report.

Historic Significance/Integrity

Following a 20-year period of decline, a new era for the ranch began in 1932 as Con Warren, the grandson of Con and Augusta Kohrs, began managing the ranch. Facing tough economic times and limited grazing land, Con Warren responded by converting the ranch to a feed lot operation, beginning with the home ranch complex. As space demands increased and the wet, boggy, lower yard conditions worsened, he developed the East Feed Lot. This

area is significant for its contribution to the understanding of the progressive evolution of cattle ranching in the western United States, from open land grazing to controlled feed lot operations, during the early to mid 20th century. The important physical remains of this landscape represent the peak of this new era of cattle ranching. The area retains a high degree of historic integrity with few intrusions. The one exception is the service/access drive between the red barn and south horse corrals, which was installed in 1972 by the NPS.

The East Feed Lot was the center of much activity on the ranch as highly productive breeds of cattle were developed and sold. The ranch became well known throughout the western United States as the show place for champion Herefords. During the 1940's, hundreds of people often congregated at the ranch during a stock sale. The south horse corrals served as parking for more than forty cars and trucks.

The importance of the developments associated with the Con Warren era at the ranch are summarized in the 1979 NPS Historic Resource Study.

"While Con Warren's tenure with the ranch continued the Kohrs family association, unbroken from 1866 to 1972, the imprint of Warren's style of ranching and of modern techniques lay heavily on it.... In the continuities shared and in the differences between the home ranch of Kohrs and Bielenberg and the Warren Hereford Ranch lay the story of the open-range days of the late nineteenth century, of the transition that began following the hard winter of 1887 and the influx of homesteaders who followed close on its heels, and of the ever-developing changes of the twentieth century. Conrad Kohrs began the story in 1866; 106 years later Conrad Kohrs Warren closed it."

Period of Significance

East Feed Lot conveys a historic period from 1950, when the cattle pens and sheds were built (the sales barn was built in 1954) to 1972, when Con Warren sold the Home Ranch to the NPS and significantly curtailed his cattle operation on the site.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site

LANDSCAPE TYPE: East Feed Lot/Warren Hereford Ranch



Figure 1. A large red barn dominates this landscape type as viewed through gate. The non-historic service road constructed by NPS in 1972 is seen in the foreground. Post and pole fencing contributes to the historic character of this landscape.



Figure 2. Looking north at the eastern alley and adjacent cattle pens. Cattle sheds are located within each pen while feed troughs are adjacent to the alley. Overhead electric lines and poles are part of the historic landscape.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site

LANDSCAPE TYPE: East Feed Lot/Warren Hereford Ranch



Figure 3. Cattle pens and sheds looking north. Post and pole fence and wood feed troughs can be seen at the right.



Figure 4. Loading chute with metal scale barn on the left. Metal sales barn can be seen on the right.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site

LANDSCAPE TYPE: East Feed Lot/Warren Hereford Ranch



Figure 5. View of alley looking north showing gates that allow access to the cattle pens. Overhead electric lines and power poles with glass insulators add to the historic character of the site.



Figure 6. Western most alley looking north at pasture. The Railroad Bed and Upland Pasture landscape type can be seen on the left.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site

LANDSCAPE TYPE: Residential

Description

Within this study area are two residential landscapes associated with the Kohrs ranch house and the Con Warren residence. Both landscapes are different from other landscapes found within the study area because of their residential character, which is similar to what might be found in a more urban setting. The Kohrs residence, along with its landscaped yard, is closely associated with the home ranch complex. While about one half acre in size, the Con Warren residence and landscaped yard, constructed in 1934, could more closely be associated with the east feed lot, which is located immediately to the north of the house. Both landscapes feature enclosed yards surrounded by white picket fencing with evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs planted in an informal arrangement. Planted short stem grasses serve as the predominate groundcover. Flowering plants are used as accent features.

About one half acre in size, the Kohrs residential landscape historically had a formal arrangement of deciduous trees planted in a linear pattern on both sides of the sidewalk leading to the front door. A flower garden exists at the southwest corner of the yard below the upper bench. Stairs serve as an access from the upper yard to the lower south yard.

INVENTORY

Historic Elements

Elements associated with this landscape type are the white picket fences, informal and formal arrangement of plant materials, and stone retaining walls on the west and south sides of the Kohrs residence. A flower garden on the southwest corner of the Kohrs residence dates to an early period of the yard.

Natural Landscape Character

The Kohrs residence sits on a natural bench with the residential yard dropping to the south and west. The Con Warren residence is located on a flat section of land that slopes to the south.

Historic Significance/Integrity

Both residential landscapes are physical extensions of the living spaces associated with the residences. They are separated from the more "public" ranch landscapes by the white picket fencing. Careful attention to these landscapes shows the level of sophistication that reflects the success of the ranch, of a family proud of its accomplishments, and a family aware of the imposing nature of their ranch headquarters. The Kohrs residential landscape has changed over the course of its history, yet early features still remain. Missing from the landscape is the tree-lined front walk and several larger deciduous trees the east yard. Also missing, and presumed buried under several inches of fill, is a rod trough irrigation system constructed by Con Kohrs. The picket fence was replaced in

the 1940's and while reminiscent of the earlier historic feature, it's pickets are of a different design and configuration. With the exception of these three features, the landscape retains much of its 1900 appearance, when Con and Augusta Kohrs moved from the ranch to Helena, Montana. The Con Warren residential landscape appears to be intact from its early period. Both landscapes contribute significantly to the ranch and appear to retain a high degree of historic integrity.

Period of Significance

The Kohrs residential landscape conveys a historic period from 1883, when the residential landscape was predominately in place based on historic documentation, to the early 1940's when the Conrad Kohrs family ceased their annual visitation and the home ranch and residential landscape entered a period of decline.

The Warren residential landscape conveys a historic period from 1934, when the house was constructed, to 1972, when Warren sold most of the ranch to the NPS.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site

LANDSCAPE TYPE: Residential



Figure 1. Kohrs ranch house with picket fence enclosure and tree planted east yard. Upland Pasture can be seen in the background.



Figure 2. South side yard of the Kohrs ranch house showing drop from the upper bench. Stairs and rock wall can be seen along with flower garden in lower left. This landscape is part of the "private" space defined by the fenced yard.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site

LANDSCAPE TYPE: Residential



Figure 3. Kohrs residential landscape looking northwest at side yard. While several trees have been lost over the years, the existing mature deciduous and evergreen trees within the fenced yard contribute to the landscape's historic character.



Figure 4. Con Warren residence looking south to house and fenced yard. Mature deciduous and evergreen trees dominate the landscape. Drive in foreground is the historic entrance to the ranch.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site

LANDSCAPE TYPE: Pasture/Hay Field

Description

Approximately 850 acres fall into this category. This landscape is characterized by open, gently rolling fields used for grazing and hay production. The majority of this landscape is west and north of the Home Ranch and is separated in long, linear north-south sections by the Riparian/Woodland and Barrow Pit/Wetland landscapes. This is a treeless, wide-open and isolated grassland of both native and exotic species of grass. Much of this landscape is irrigated for hay production and systems of irrigation ditches are visible from most vantage points, particularly to the west. These irrigation ditches visually segment the landscape into a series of terraces. South of the Con Warren residence, this landscape is more confined by the Riparian/Woodland landscape associated with the Cottonwood and Johnson Creeks and does not have the openness associated with the areas to the west and north. A slice of native grassland exists in the northeast section of the site, east of the railroad and adjacent to the Barrow Pit/Wetland area.

INVENTORY

Historic Elements

Historic elements associated with this landscape can be described in terms of both visual qualities and pattern of use. Historically, this landscape was used for grazing and the production of hay during later years. It remained open and undisturbed, except for the addition of irrigation ditches which added to its usefulness in the production of hay crops.

Natural Landscape Character

The natural landscape is treeless, gently rolling land with slopes of 2 to 4 percent, sloping to the Clark Fork River. Vegetation consists primarily of alfalfa and crested wheatgrass.

Historic Significance/Integrity

This landscape type remains much as it did prior to 1900. Characteristic of the open Deer Lodge valley, this land provides the setting for the Home Ranch Complex and supported the grazing needs of the Kohrs ranch. Few intrusions exist in this landscape and it therefore exhibits a high degree of historic integrity, both visually and functionally. The irrigation ditches added during the early 1930s can be considered contributing elements. They are evidence of the progression from open grazing to feedlot operation and the need for increased hay production in the mid 1900s. The ranch flourished during the late 1800s. The ranch became one of the largest in the region, with holdings of 25,000 acres in the Deer Lodge valley, and herds of cattle grazing 4 million acres of western land. This open landscape is a critical visual example of the open range grasslands which greatly influenced the frontier cattle era.

Period of Significance

The Pasture/Hay Field landscape conveys a historic period from 1887, when Conrad Kohrs along with many other Montana ranchers began planting hayfields and fencing pasture land as winter feeding became a major activity, to 1972, when Con Warren sold the Home Ranch Complex to the NPS.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site

LANDSCAPE TYPE: Pasture/Hay Field



Figure 1. View looking east to the Home Ranch Complex from the western boundary of Pasture/Hay Field landscape. An irrigation ditch can be seen in the foreground and Riparian/Woodland landscape is shown in the middle ground. The large red barn from the East Feed Lot dominates the horizon.



Figure 2. Looking southeast to the Home Ranch Complex. Rolling topography is characteristic of this landscape type. Historically, hay would be loose piled into stacks by a hay stacker or baled as shown here.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site

LANDSCAPE TYPE: Pasture/Hay Field



Figure 3. Area south of Home Ranch Complex showing Kohrs-Manning ditch and west feed lots of Home Ranch in background. Hay is harvested in late- June or early-July with grazing taking place after the harvest. The Upland Pasture landscape can be seen on the horizon.



Figure 4. Gently rolling wide-open and isolated landscape is characteristic of the area west to the Home Ranch. Adjacent Upland Pasture dominates the background.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site

LANDSCAPE TYPE: Upland Pasture

Description

This landscape consist of rolling, grass covered foothills primarily to the west of the current park boundary. Most of this landscape type is privately owned, with the exception of two hayed areas in the south 300 acres of the park. A north/south service road separates the Pasture/Hay Field landscape and the upland area. The western boundary of this area is along a ridge line, generally visible from the Home Ranch Complex. Approximately 1,130 acres in size, this area was identified in the NPS June 1, 1987, "Cultural Landscape Analysis" as an area of land that should be included within the Grant-Kohrs National Historic Site boundary through the purchase of scenic easements or similar management strategy. This landscape type is generally steeply sloped with deep valleys and, as a result, not irrigated.

INVENTORY

Historic Elements

The undisturbed open range grassland has wooden and wire fences as demarcation of property boundaries.

Natural Landscape Character

The landscape is steeply sloped (8 to 35 percent) grassland devoid of trees and other woody plants, dominated by native wheat grasses.

Historic Significance/Integrity

Historically part of the Kohrs ranch, this upland pasture landscape is significant for its relationship to the ranch complex, both historically and visually. Similar to the Pasture/Hay Fields, this landscape is an important open range grassland that greatly influenced the success of the Kohrs ranch. The importance of this area is illustrated in the NPS June 1, 1987, "Cultural Landscape Analysis" which recommended that it be added to the Grant-Kohrs Landmark nomination. The integrity of this landscape has been maintained.

Period of Significance

The Upland Pasture landscape conveys a historic period from 1862, when John Grant settled in Deer Lodge Valley and built his ranch, to 1972, when the NPS aquired a portion of the ranch as a National Historic Site. This landscape retains a high degree of historic integrity, and is virtually unchanged from the Grant era.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site

LANDSCAPE TYPE: Upland Pasture



Figure 1. View of foothills forming the Upland Pasture landscape. Photograph is taken in front of the road separating the Pasture/Hayfield and Upland Pasture landscapes. Historic hay stacker in foreground adds to the integrity of the historic landscape and should be retained.



Figure 2. Looking northwest to the steep sloped hills, characteristic of this landscape type. Ridge line marks the western boundary of the Upland Pasture.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site

LANDSCAPE TYPE: Riparian/Woodland

Description

This landscape is an area of thick woodlands and semi-wetlands in riparian areas associated with the Clark Fork River floodplain. The riparian/woodland area is a linear band stretching north and south along the river bisecting the Pasture/Hay Field landscape into long linear bands.

INVENTORY

Historic Elements

These elements are natural landscape features that existed during the ranch's period of significance and contribute to the landscape character of the ranch. Associated river vegetation includes willow thickets, deciduous trees and shrubs, and mixed native wheatgrasses.

Natural Landscape Character

Semi-wet land and rocky soil, often boggy with thick vegetation growth, characterize this landscape type.

Historic Significance/Integrity

Historically, this landscape has served as a major wildlife habitat within the Deer Lodge valley and retains much of its early character. It has remained mostly undisturbed because of its unsuitable nature for grazing and hay production. The riparian lands remain relatively intact with the exception of smaller areas of killed vegetation called slickens, which are the result of heavy metal deposits associated with drainage from upstream mining activities.

Period of Significance

The Riparian/Woodland landscape conveys a historic period from 1862, when John Grant entered the Deer Lodge Valley to settle, to 1972 when Con Warren sold the Home Ranch Complex to the NPS. The natural character of the landscape has remained consistent during this time period and appears much as it did during the early Grant era.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site

LANDSCAPE TYPE: Riparian/Woodland



Figure 1. Heavily wooded character of this landscape type is illustrated as seen looking from the "L" shaped barn of the Home Ranch Complex. The linear characteristic of this landscape is also evident as seen here separated into long north/south bands.



Figure 2. Thick woody bands of riparian area seen separating Pasture/Hay Fields looking southwest. The character of this area has remained predominantly unchanged from early ranch history.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site

LANDSCAPE TYPE: Riparian/Woodland



Figure 3. Central to this landscape is the Clark Fork River. Willow thicket and native grasses are the dominant vegetation types.



Figure 4. Looking east from Pasture/Hay Field to the Clark Fork River. Photo showing dense areas of woody shrubs and trees.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site

LANDSCAPE TYPE: Borrow Pit/Wetland

Description

This is an area north of the Home Ranch Complex and located on either side of the railroad tracks. It is approximately 4000 feet long and 700 feet wide, comprising approximately 64 acres. This is a low, wet area with standing water and marshy soils, dominated by cattails, willow shrubs, and cottonwood trees. This is a disturbed area that was dredged for gravel by the Milwaukee Railroad to construct the elevated railroad bed, which also bisects the landscape.

INVENTORY

Historic Elements

Historic elements associated with this landscape type include the rugged land forms left by the dredging activity, marshy features, and associated vegetation.

Natural Landscape Character

This area is lower in elevation than the surrounding landscape. This is more noticeable to the west, as this higher pasture area drops significantly into the wetland to the east. Gravelly soil disturbed by early dredging activity dominates this landscape.

Historic Significance/Integrity

Associated with the construction of the Milwaukee Railroad in 1907, this landscape type has long been connected with the ranch and remains intact with little disturbance from its 1907 appearance. This landscape historically served as a wildlife habitat and continues to do so today.

Period of Significance

The Borrow Pit/Wetland landscape conveys a historic period from 1907, when the area was dredged for the railroad bed to 1972, when the NPS acquired the Grant-Kohrs Ranch as a National Historic Site.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site

LANDSCAPE TYPE: Barrow Pit/Wetland



Figure 1. The marshy conditions of this landscape are evident by the thick cattails and standing water which are dominant features. Black Cottonwoods and willow also can be seen along the edge of the landscape type.



Figure 2. Depression from gravel dredging is noticeable in this view. Photograph taken from near the Railroad Bed which bisects the Barrow Pit/Wetland landscape.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site

LANDSCAPE TYPE: Railroad Bed

Description

Two side-by-side north/south railroad tracks bisect the study area near its eastern boundary. The Northern Pacific Railroad was constructed in 1883 and is currently owned by the Union Pacific and leased to the Burlington Northern Railroad. Burlington Northern now subleases the active rail link to the Montana Western Railroad. The Milwaukee Railroad bed was constructed in 1907, and abandoned in 1983 and now owned by the National Park Service. The two beds are elevated above grade for most of their length, except near the home ranch where they are at grade. Each bed is approximately 10 feet wide and separated by varying width, from 10 to 60 feet. This is an area of linear, elevated land with deep drainage swales at each side of the elevated portions of the railroad bed. Remaining electric power lines and poles within the Milwaukee rail bed corridor are remnants of the once electrified railroad. Most of the Milwaukee tracks and power poles along the abandoned line have been removed, except for a small section near the Home Ranch Complex.

INVENTORY

Historic Elements

Historic elements consist of the elevated railroad beds, tracks, and power lines and poles. Two period cattle cars sit on the Milwaukee tracks near the Home Ranch Complex.

Natural Landscape Character

The natural character of this area has been modified to facilitate the construction of the railroad beds. The elevated section of land provides a foundation for the rails. Native and exotic plants grow sparingly along the sides of the elevated areas. This landscape type remains relatively intact, with the exception of the removed power poles along the Milwaukee line.

Historic Significance/Integrity

Both the Northern Pacific Railroad and Milwaukee Railroad served as important early transportation networks for transporting cattle to markets. Constructed in 1883 and 1907, these railroads allowed for the expansion of the ranch during that time period and of the western cattle industry in general.

Period of Significance

The Railroad Bed landscape conveys a historic period from 1883, when the Milwaukee Railroad was constructed to 1972, when the Home Ranch Complex was acquired by the NPS.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site

LANDSCAPE TYPE: Railroad Bed



Figure 1. View looking north from the abandoned Milwaukee Railroad. The railroad bed is elevated with steep sided banks. Note that the historic train rails and power poles have been removed. The Montana Western Railroad can be seen to the right.



Figure 2. The heavily sculptured landscape is characteristic of the Railroad bed area. Elevated beds and tracks and overhead power lines can be seen in this photo.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site

LANDSCAPE TYPE: Intrusion

Description

Two areas of recent, intrusive developments exist within the boundaries of the Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS. The first is a 69.45-acre sewage disposal operation, located 1-1/2 miles north of the Home Ranch Complex next to the Clark Fork River, owned and operated by the City of Deer Lodge. The second is a parking lot, developed by the National Park Service, providing visitor parking at the southeast corner of the site near U.S. Business 90 south of the Con Warren residence. The proposed General Management Plan (GMP) for Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS recommends that the visitor parking lot be removed from this area and the site developed for park maintenance and curatorial facilities.

While the sewage disposal operation is not visible from the Home Ranch Complex or other public view corridors, it nevertheless is a major intrusion that weakens the integrity of the National Historic Site. Likewise, the parking lot to the south is located in an area historically used as pasture land. This area also contains an archeological site of an the early home site of Tom Stuart.

INVENTORY

Historic Elements

None.

Natural Landscape Character

The natural landscape character of both areas, the sewage lagoons and the parking lot, has been changed from open pasture land to developments supporting the new uses.

Historic Significance/Integrity

The historic character of both these sites has been compromised by the new development. While the sewage lagoons may be difficult to relocate, more options exist for relocating the parking lot and restoring the historic pasture landscape.

Period of Significance

None

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site

LANDSCAPE TYPE: Intrusion



Figure 1. The visitor parking lot is constructed in the pasture south of the Home Ranch Complex. While a necessary element in the park, this function should be relocated to an area that would have less of an impact on the historic landscape.



Figure 2. While not seen from public view corridors, the Deer Lodge sewage lagoon near the northern boundary of the site has a negative impact on the historic integrity of the Grant-Kohrs Ranch.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The nine landscape types identified within this report retain a great deal of historic integrity, and combine to illustrate an important part of the American west, that is the evolution of western cattle ranching from open grazing to modern feed lot operation. If properly managed, the Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site will continue to serve as a rich legacy of this important era in American history. The following recommendations are predicated on the physical and historical research compiled in the "Inventory and Analysis" section of the report. If implemented, these recommendations will serve to maintain important historic features associated with the Grant-Kohrs Ranch and its operation.

Recommendation 1

Relocate Existing Visitor Parking Lot: Relocating the existing visitor parking lot from the pasture south of the Home Ranch Complex to the southern horse corrals associated with the East Feed lot would accomplish a number of preservation goals and several functional needs of the Park. It has been established, through historic documentation, that the horse corrals south of the feed lot and red barn, were used as parking areas during cattle sales and special events at the Ranch in the Con Warren era. During this time, the East Feed Lot was the center of much activity on the ranch and it would be common to see 40 or more cars and trucks parked in this area during stock sales. Relocating the parking lot from the south pasture would make this area available for other park functions to be moved from historic buildings and located here in newly constructed facilities. To disassociate new buildings with the historic ranch setting should be a primary consideration for any development on this site. Therefore, new construction should be located close to the southeast corner of the park boundary and Business U.S. 90, thus "blending" with the existing commercial buildings to the south and east of the park boundary along U.S. 90. In this same way, the architectural style of the new buildings should "blend" with the existing commercial, rather than appear as ranch related buildings.

Relocating the parking to this area also allows the Red Barn to be adapted to a visitor center and park offices. Additional benefits of relocating these functions to this area would be a greater opportunity to interpret the East Feed Lot operation as part of the ranch.

It is recommended that any design for the new parking lot include the restoration of the historic tree lined entry drive to the ranch. The new design and paving material should be compatible with the historic features of the site. This may include the use of a "grass crete" type paving system allowing the visual qualities of the grass covered horse corrals to be maintained. Any new design for parking should also consider other historic features such as fences and the small horse barns on the north side of the corrals.

Recommendation 2

Manage Non-NPS Upland Pasture Land There are approximately 1,100 acres of Upland Pasture west of the current Park boundary that are held in private ownership and not managed by the NPS. The Upland Pasture has been identified as being significant for its historic and visual relationship to the Grant-Kohrs Ranch. While the integrity of this important landscape has been maintained, there is no assurance that current use, and management of the landscape will continue to be compatible with the historic qualities of the Ranch. Any change such as

conversion to residential, mining or other incompatible uses, would have a drastic negative effect on the Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site. There are a number of management options for this area that should be studied.

Recommendation 3

Restore Kohrs Residential Landscape The Ranch house has been restored by the NPS, yet the residential landscape remains in its post 1972 condition. Several important historic features of this landscape have been identified as missing, such as the yard irrigation system, picket fence (the existing fence is non-historic) and yard trees. In addition, the finished grade of the yard was modified in the 1950's (outside the period of significance) with the addition of approximately 6" of fill, which should be removed in the restoration.

Recommendation 4

Restore Riparian/Woodland Wildlife Habitat Both the land and wildlife have suffered damage as the result of upstream mining activities. While the land has slowly regenerated, the wildlife has been slow to recover. Efforts to restore the once abundant wildlife that inhabited this landscape should be explored.



Figure 1. Home Ranch Complex and East Feedlot 1971.



Figure 2. Corrals north of the ranch house in 1936. Compare with "Home Ranch Complex" figure 4.

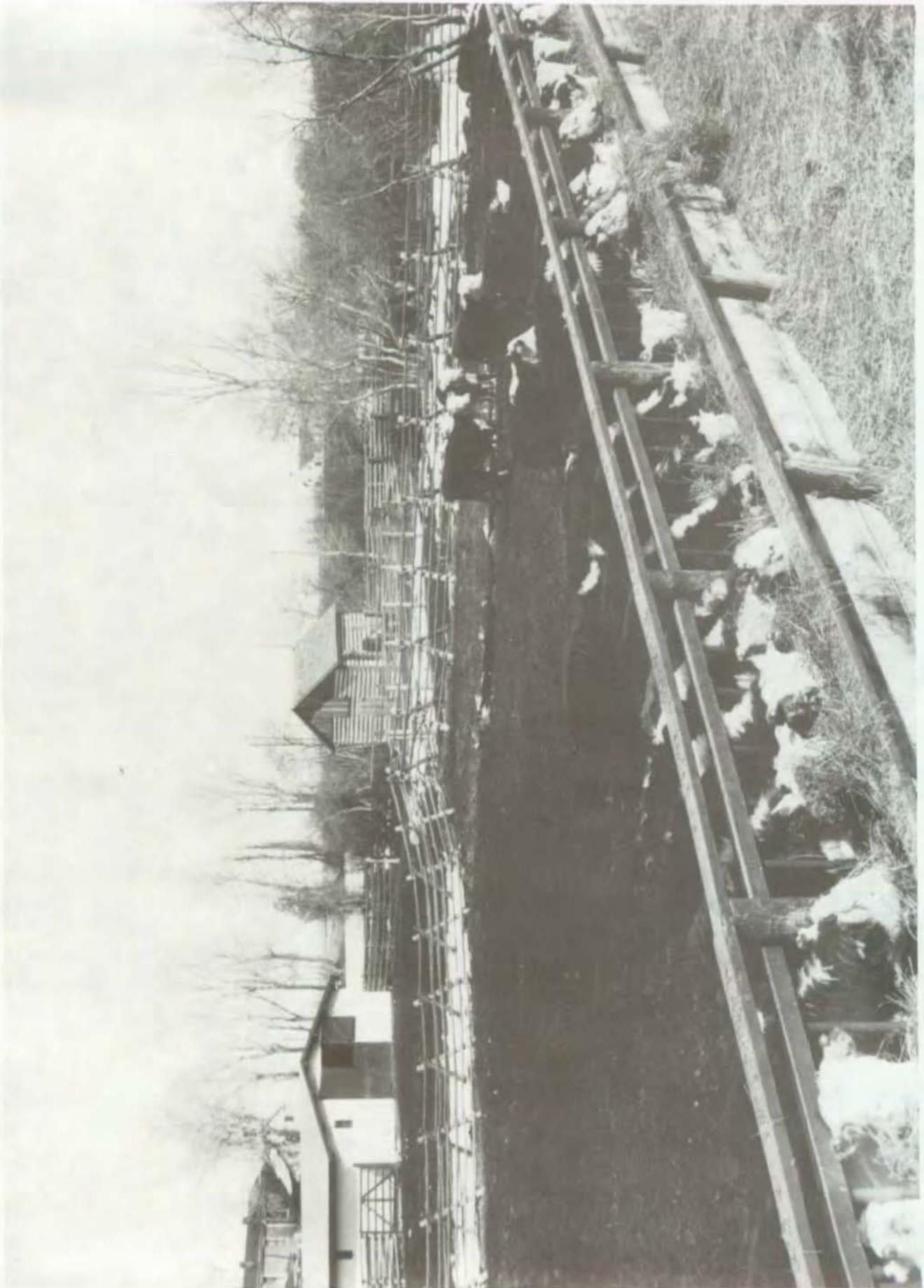


Figure 3. West feed lot in 1940.
Compare with "Home Ranch Complex"
figure 7.



Figure 4. Corrals looking southeast to ranch house on the right in 1940. Note trees in front yard of house.