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NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

RECEIVED 2280
OMB No. 1024-0018
OCT 08 2010
NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1. Name of Property
Historic name: JO Ranch Rural Historic Landscape
Other names/site number: 48CR1203

2. Location
Street & number: N/A Not for publication _____
City or town: 24 miles northeast of Baggs Vicinity: about 2 miles northeast of County Road 3305
State: Wyoming code: 56 County: Carbon code: 007 zip code: 82321

3. State/Federal Agency Certification
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ___X___ nomination _____request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ___X___ meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____nationally __X___statewide _____locally. (_____See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Robin L Burgess, Preservation Officer — September 30, 2010
Signature of certifying official — Date

Bureau of Land Management
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property __X___ meets _____does not meet the National Register criteria.
(_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mary M. Hopkins — 7/21/2010
Signature of commenting or other official — Date

Wyoming State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property

Section number _____ Page_____ County and State

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 10000930

Property Name: Jo Ranch Rural Historic Landscape

County: Carbon State: WY

Multiple Name:

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Signature of the Keeper November 22, 2010
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8: Significance

The Period of Significance is, hereby, amended to end in 1964 to coincide with the date the ranch was sold and ceased operation for raising sheep and wool production.

The BLM Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register
____ See continuation sheet.
____ determined eligible for the National Register
____ See continuation sheet
____ determined not eligible for the National Register
____ removed from the National Register
____ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper — Date of Action: 11-22-10

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)
__ private
__ public-local
__ public-State
X public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)
__ building(s)
X district
__ site
__ structure
__ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
12	1	buildings
2	___	sites
2	___	structures
1	___	objects
17	1	total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC — Sub: single dwelling
AGRICULTURE — storage, animal facility, agricultural outbuilding, agricultural field

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: VACANT/NOT IN USE — Sub: _____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: OTHER; LOG, STONE, WOOD FRAME

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: STONE
Roof: WOOD:shingle; ASPHALT:shingle; METAL:tin
Walls: WOOD: log; STONE:sandstone
Other: N/A

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

8. Statement of Significance

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

X	A	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
__	B	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
X	C	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
__	D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

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

__	A	owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
__	B	removed from its original location
__	C	a birthplace or a grave
__	D	a cemetery
__	E	a reconstructed building, object, or structure
__	F	a commemorative property
__	G	less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
Cat: AGRICULTURE
ARCHITECTURE
Period of Significance: 1885-1958

Significant Dates: 1885 – first filing; 1890 – date of patent

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above): N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

Architect/Builder: Joseph P. Rankin, Mr. Byers (first name unknown)

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

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

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

Primary Location of Additional Data
_X_ State Historic Preservation Office
_X_ Other State agency: Wyoming State Archives
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
_X_ Other
Name of repository: Rosenberg Historical Consultants

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 353

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1.	13	282908	4581897
2.	13	283538	4581485
3.	13	282736	4580719
4.	13	282656	4580768
5.	13	282050	4579911
6.	13	281151	4580368
7.	13	281643	4581008
8.	13	282466	4580947

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

The boundaries of the JO Ranch Rural Historic District encompass the JO Ranch headquarters buildings and structures and the most intact irrigated hay meadows that together represent the most obvious physical and visual changes to the natural environment (see Map 1). The entire boundary consists of intact barbed wire fences that can be easily identified on the ground.

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

The boundaries of the JO Ranch Rural Historic District utilize existing barbed wire fences that also represent large segments of the historic fence system depicted on the 1916 General Land Office Plat, especially on the southeast side of Cow Creek. These fences generally enclose the hay meadows and ranch headquarters buildings and probably served to keep livestock out of the hay meadows during the summer growing season. The northeast boundary between Points 1 and 2 was chosen because the fence line delineates the point at which the irrigated hay meadows begin to narrow and natural vegetation visibly encroaches on the northeast. Also, the JO Ranch headquarters buildings are still visible in the distance to the southwest from this line. The southwest boundary between Points 5 and 6 is a northwest-southeast trending fence line that incorporates the access road to the JO Ranch, which is also an alternate route of the Rawlins to Baggs Wagon Road, and it encompasses hay meadows southwest of the headquarters buildings. The overall boundaries also include open, sage-covered rangeland that surrounds the Cow Creek Valley above the hay meadows. These areas were never cleared or physically altered and remain nearly pristine except for livestock grazing, fence building, and dim two-track ranch roads. As such they most nearly reflect the open range era of sheep ranching practiced in this region prior to the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934. The range surrounding the JO Ranch headquarters was used for spring lambing.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Robert G. Rosenberg, Historian
Organization: Rosenberg Historical Consultants
Street & number: 739 Crow Creek Road
City or town: Cheyenne State: WY Zip code: 82009
Date: 3/7/08
Telephone: (307) 632-1144

Property Owner(s)
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

Name: Bureau of Land Management, Rawlins Field Office
Street & number: 1300 North Third St.
City or town: Rawlins
State: WY Zip code: 82301-2407
Telephone: (307) 328-4200

7. Description

JO RANCH RURAL HISTORIC LANDSCAPE

Summary

The JO Ranch is located in the southeastern portion of the Great Divide Basin, in southwestern Carbon County, Wyoming. This ranch complex is located along the northwest side of Cow Creek, a tributary of Muddy Creek. It is a perennial drainage that flows southwest through the project area. Cow Creek forms a wide shallow valley with abandoned hay meadows along the bottom. There are hand-planted narrow-leaf cottonwoods growing around the ranch house and others that may be native growing along an abandoned irrigation ditch southeast of the buildings and parallel to Cow Creek. The site is a ranch complex consisting of buildings, structures, sites, and objects constructed of locally procured materials in a simple vernacular style. Associated landscape features include a corral system with livestock chutes, barbed wire fences, abandoned farm equipment, irrigation ditches and cleared hay meadows, and a ranch dump. Natural features include the adjacent sagebrush-clad range land, bottom lands along Cow Creek and Garden Gulch, and Cow Creek Butte about five miles to the northeast. The site is connected to the county road system via a two-mile long access road that once served as an alternate route on the Rawlins to Baggs Wagon Road. The building complex is oriented along a northeast/southwest alignment. The log ranch house (A) is located at the southwest end, and four interconnected barns (J, K, L, M) are located in the northeast portion of the site. A more modern scale house (N) is somewhat isolated from the other buildings at the northeast end of the alignment.

A. Physical Development

The physical landscape visible from the JO Ranch buildings is dominated by the relatively narrow and level Cow Creek drainage. Cow Creek flows through sagebrush-covered hills and ridges cut by lesser drainages, and continues in a southwesterly direction to converge with Muddy Creek, one of the principal drainages in the area. The topography rises to the east to a series of northeast trending ridges and buttes. Cow Creek Butte, the highest of the features, rises to an elevation of 7929 feet, while the JO Ranch is situated at 6700 feet. The JO Ranch is located near the southwestern edge of the Sand Hills, a geographic feature composed of stabilized dunes that extends in a northeasterly direction. The west side of the district is bounded by sandy, sage-covered

hills and ridges that were traditionally used for sheep grazing. However, the topography that composes the immediate northwest side of the Cow Creek Valley inhibits visibility in this direction from the JO Ranch buildings.

Prior to settlement, the Cow Creek Valley was covered with sagebrush and other natural vegetation. However, after Joseph P. Rankin filed on two homestead parcels in 1885 to establish a sheep ranching operation, he and subsequent owners gradually cleared the valley bottom and dug a system of ditches to provide irrigated hay meadows and pastures for livestock. Although the meadows have not been tended or the irrigation system maintained for decades, natural vegetation has not yet reclaimed the majority of these meadows. In addition to the hay meadows and irrigation system, Rankin altered the natural landscape by constructing his ranch headquarters with dwellings and secondary buildings and structures and fencing the surrounding area for livestock maintenance. Most of these cultural changes remain intact today.

Subsequent owners retained the property primarily as a sheep ranching operation, although small numbers of cattle were also maintained. After the Carbon County Sheep and Cattle Company bought the JO Ranch in 1899, it became a part of a large corporation, and it is likely that only caretakers resided on the property year-round. The company retained ownership until 1953, after which the JO Ranch experienced a series of short-term owners and lessees who continued to raise sheep and cattle. In 2004, the Bureau of Land Management acquired the JO Ranch from the Pittsburgh and Midway Coal Mining Company in a land exchange. The BLM has fenced and protected the primary ranch buildings, although each fall cattle from the surrounding range are rounded up and loaded onto trucks at the ranch.

B. Cultural Landscape Characteristics: Processes

Land Use and Activities

Although it is known that prehistoric activity occurred throughout the region, few specific archeological properties have been located and identified in the JO Ranch environs. Significant land use and adaptation of the natural environment date from the arrival in the mid-1880s of the first homesteaders, who were primarily concerned with sheep raising on what was then the public domain. Sheep operators generally established a primary ranch headquarters from which large bands of sheep were moved systematically across the open range by herders, and many also utilized the nearby Sierra Madre Mountains for summer range. In order to provide hay for winter feeding and for other livestock, the sagebrush was laboriously removed from the valley floor and

irrigation systems were developed to water the meadows. As a result, Rankin Ditches Nos. 1, 2, and 3 were appropriated by James G. Rankin, et al. with priorities dating from 1886. Other than the buildings and structures that constitute the JO Ranch complex, the resulting hay meadows and ditch systems, although neglected, constitute the most notable land use activity that changed the natural environment. This land use pattern is still obvious in aerial photographs of the area.

Other distinct features and structures within the JO Ranch complex reflect a variety of land uses and activities typical of the rural lifestyle. With its isolated location, long winters, and wet springs with muddy roads, the JO Ranch residents required a high level of self-sufficiency that is reflected, for example, in the stone chicken coop constructed in 1916 and a blacksmith shop for the shoeing of horses and repair of machinery when replacement parts could not be readily obtained. A root cellar provided for storage of perishable foodstuffs and also housed an electrical generator. According to previous owners Ed Tierney and George Salisbury, electric lines never reached the ranch. A notable building is the large wood frame sheep shearing shed constructed in ca. 1931, designed specifically for sheep shearing with fourteen wooden stalls, two livestock chutes for the sheep to enter and exit, and a "warming shed" adjoining the building on the southwest. Many sheep shearers returned each season and inscribed numerous signatures and dates on the interior walls. The JO Ranch remained essentially a sheep operation throughout its history, although some cattle were raised intermittently until it was recently obtained by the Bureau of Land Management. However, concentrated use as a sheep operation waned after George Salisbury sold the ranch to the Eureka Pool in 1964. This concern raised cattle and built livestock scales and a newer system of corral and stock chutes. In the 1970s, the JO Ranch returned to sheep raising, which continued through the early 1990s

Patterns of Spatial Organization

The spatial organization of the JO Ranch was determined by both natural and cultural forces. In a semi-arid region with few permanent water sources, the earliest homesteads were established along the course of Cow Creek and laid out to take advantage of this stream. Thus, in the mid-1880s, the brothers Joseph P. and James G. Rankin took out adjacent Homestead Entry, Desert Land Entry, and Cash Entry homesteads along the course of Cow Creek in Sections 12, 13, 14 and 23, T16N-R91W. Secondarily, the Rawlins to Baggs Wagon Road, the major transportation and communication corridor in the region at that time, is located less than a mile to the west of the ranch headquarters, and an eastern branch actually passed through the ranch. After the valley

bottom was cleared of sagebrush and a system of irrigation ditches was established, the color and texture contrast between open rangeland and irrigated meadows was quite evident and has generally remained to the present, with some blurring along the edges due to lack of maintenance. A system of barbed wire fences roughly paralleling the drainage helps maintain the contrast between the cleared and uncleared spaces. These fences protected the hay meadows from livestock and wild animals such as deer and antelope during the growing and cutting seasons. Several fences were also constructed across the Cow Creek drainage, which probably served as pastures for maintaining livestock during inclement weather, lambing, and for grazing horses. The fence system continues outside the Cow Creek Valley into the surrounding rangeland to the northwest and southeast, blurring the distinction between privately owned lands and the public domain that became Bureau of Land Management lands in the early twentieth century. Public land used in the ranching operation was later leased by JO Ranch owners and fenced for livestock maintenance and to delineate the leased public lands assigned to them. Most of this fencing network remains in place today. It does not appear that any cultivated fields were developed due to the nature of the ranching operation, except perhaps for small garden plots for the occupants. Riparian vegetation has grown up along the various irrigation ditches and Cow Creek and generally consists of low willow and alder bushes and shrubs and narrow-leaf cottonwood trees. However, these tend to be sparse and do not significantly divide the more rectilinear spaces created by the fencing pattern and former hay meadows.

Response to Natural Environment

The major factor that determined the location of the JO Ranch headquarters was the presence of Cow Creek running through a semi-arid region with few reliable water sources. Water, therefore, was the single most important consideration in the location of the ranch. The various homestead parcels of the early settlers were spaced along Cow Creek in a northeast-southwest configuration to take maximum advantage of this important drainage. In addition, the long ridges and hills immediately west of the ranch buildings and corrals provided some degree of shelter from the strong and nearly constant prevailing winds. Log and wood slat fences were built along the outer perimeter of the corrals located on the northwest side of the livestock barns and outbuildings for wind protection. Also, the buildings generally face southeast to take maximum advantage of hours of sunlight.

Building construction reflects the use of locally available materials, primarily stone and logs. Local tradition indicates that the sandstone for the earliest buildings was obtained from a quarry located in a side canyon of Cow Creek about one and one-half miles northeast of the ranch. Pine logs were obtained from the western foothills of the Sierra Madre Range to the east. Some closer gulches and prominent butte slopes retained small stands of ponderosa and lodgepole pine; however, all locales required the laborious task of hauling logs great distances over rough terrain to the building site. An interesting example of adaptive reuse was the relocation of the abandoned Willows Stage Station on the Rawlins to Baggs Wagon Road seven miles northeast of the JO Ranch sometime after 1909 to serve as the principal ranch house. A common practice throughout Wyoming, logs in abandoned structures were numbered and disassembled, hauled to the new building site, and reassembled.

Cultural Traditions

The most notable architectural attribute of the oldest ranch buildings is the stone masonry construction. According to George Salisbury, who owned the property in the 1950s, an elderly man named Bill Byers stopped by and related that Byers' father (first name unknown) constructed some of the earliest stone buildings on the ranch in about 1890; these included the commissary (Building C), the stone and log barn (J), and possibly the stone bunkhouse (E). The stonework exhibits good craftsmanship and prior experience in stone masonry construction, but the cultural tradition has not yet been historically identified. The Rankin brothers were born and raised on a farm in Pennsylvania. After the Civil War they both worked in the lumber industry in Clarion County and in the oil fields of Butler County, Pennsylvania. Their experience in the lumber industry may have contributed to their skill at working with logs during construction on the ranch buildings and fences.

Perhaps the strongest cultural traditions visible in the landscape of the JO Ranch result from the sheep management practices based on the Spanish system. The English methods used in the early Atlantic colonies were not adaptable to the western frontier, where large flocks roamed wide areas of the public domain with little need for English fencing practices. Furthermore, transhumance, the practice of using summer pastures in high mountain terrain and winter ranges at lower elevations, evolved in Wyoming from the Old World tradition utilized by French and Spanish Basque herders in the Pyrenees Mountains. In the East, multiple births were encouraged and bloodlines were continually improved to produce more meat and wool per unit. In the West, the average ewe could only nourish one healthy lamb due to scant forage; therefore, the twin lamb was either killed

or given to a ewe whose lamb was stillborn. Range lambing was the accepted practice in southwestern Wyoming, in opposition to regions where lambs were born in or near sheds that offered protection from the elements and predators. Shed lambing was considered too expensive and impractical. Lambing sheds were not provided on the JO Ranch, and lambs were born in the open in pastures surrounding the ranch headquarters. Quality of wool in the West could vary as much from range conditions as from bloodlines; hardiness was valued over meat or wool production. The western rancher had to depend upon quantity rather than quality in order to turn a profit.

The "warming shed" and the shearing shed both reflect sheep management practices dominant in this region. Sheep were driven into the warming shed to warm their coats and encourage the flow of lanolin before shearing. The shearing shed contained holding pens and a series of individual stalls where shearers worked on individual sheep. As late as 1939, over ninety percent of sheep operators in this region continued to use hand shears over mechanical shears, which came into use around the turn of the century. Starting in the 1950s, the shearing shed was used as a warming shed, after traveling sheep shearers brought in their own trailers for the shearing.

As in most ranching operations, practical concerns weighed heavily in the arrangement of buildings and structures at the JO Ranch. Therefore, the main residence, cookhouse, and bunkhouses are located upwind from the barns and other livestock outbuildings. The system of corrals surrounding the barns is purely functional for the year-round management of livestock and includes ramps for loading livestock onto trucks for shipment. Before the advent of gasoline-powered vehicles and an improved road system, sheep were driven cross-country to loading points such as Wamsutter, along the mainline of the Union Pacific Railroad.

C. Cultural Landscape Characteristics: Components

Circulation Networks

The Rawlins to Baggs Wagon Road was the primary transportation and communication route in the vicinity of the JO Ranch (see Section 8, Significance). A formal stagecoach line with regularly-spaced stations was established, and freight teams circulated along this route, which extended southwest into Colorado Territory and the Ute Indian Agency. Thus, the route connected the nearest railhead at Rawlins to the Indian Agency. An eastern variant of the wagon road passed through the JO Ranch. Because it represented one of the few

developed ranches along this portion of the stage road, it served as an informal stage stop. This thin lifeline tied the JO Ranch to the outside world, most notably the railhead at Rawlins over thirty-eight miles to the north-northeast, where supplies could be obtained and as a shipping point for sheep and wool. The ranch was also connected to the railroad via a road between Wamsutter (west of Rawlins on the Union Pacific mainline) and nearby Dad, Wyoming, where shearing pens were located before burning to the ground in the 1920s. During the early life of the ranch, roads were often impassable due to snowdrifts in winter, mud in the spring, and high stream crossings. Despite the fact that the energy industry has built and maintained a system of roads in the area to service gas wells, the JO Ranch remains isolated, accessible only by a series of rough, secondary gravel and dirt roads, some of which remain impassable in the winter and spring.

Vegetation Related to Land Use

The primary and most striking vegetation pattern at the JO Ranch is the contrast between the formerly irrigated hay meadows and the surrounding native low sagebrush. Although the hay meadows have not been cut in recent years and the irrigation ditches are no longer maintained, the sagebrush has only marginally encroached on the margins of the meadows within the proposed district. In early summer, the sagebrush presents a brown-green to blue-green color with a course, bunchy texture with intervening areas of drab brown when viewed at a distance. The meadows have a fine, even texture and exhibit a rather uniform lime-green to cinnamon green color. The meadow and rangeland margins coincide with the rising topography at the edge of the Cow Creek Valley. The irrigation system of ditches and laterals conforms to and stays within this configuration. The former hay meadows extend upstream past the proposed northeast district boundary, but sagebrush encroachment increases dramatically and the width of the meadow also decreases. There is sparse and low riparian growth along the main channel of Cow Creek and some of the irrigation ditches, but very few trees grow in the Cow Creek Valley. A few hand-planted elms or narrow-leaf cottonwoods are located around the margins of the ranch house, but they are in poor condition. A small number of stunted narrow-leaf cottonwood trees grow along a portion of abandoned irrigation ditch on the first terrace of Cow Creek a short distance east of the main residence.

Archeological Sites

An intensive Class III archaeological survey has not been conducted for the proposed JO Ranch District. Very few energy-related surveys have been conducted in the immediate vicinity of the JO Ranch. Archaeological sites that fall in or near the proposed district boundary include a stone circle site (48CR52) and fire hearths and fire-cracked rock (48CR1049). Due to the presence of Cow Creek, a perennial water source, it is likely that many other prehistoric sites will be located and recorded when a survey is conducted within the proposed district.

A ranch dump (Site O) was recorded during the initial survey of the ranch in 2005. It consisted of a large excavated hole containing a variety of discarded domestic and agricultural items such as rolls of barbed wire, old wooden gates, electric appliances, and steel barrels. Household items such as bottles and cans were not dumped here, and it is likely that there were one or more isolated dumps that have not been located. The collapsed root cellar (Site I) has been purposely bladed in, but it may have historical archaeological potential for buried artifacts and materials. Although local informants described a stone quarry located about one and one-half miles northeast of the ranch, this feature has not yet been located or inventoried.

Small-scale Elements

The JO Ranch contains a wide variety of small-scale elements that are easily overlooked but contribute to the overall historic fabric of the district. These include a wire and wood post fence around the ranch house yard, a flagstone walk to the entrance, hand-planted trees, a hand pump behind Building B, a wide variety of wire and wooden gates throughout the corral and fence system, log hitching posts, irrigation gates, concrete spreader dikes, and informal two-track roads.

SITE-SPECIFIC DESCRIPTION

Because the ranch complex is oriented on a southwest-northeast axis, the buildings are described using the cardinal directions for simplicity; i.e. the northeast side of a building is called north, the southeast side is called east, the southwest side is called south, and the northwest side is called west.

Building A. Contributing Building.

This is a one-story cross-gabled log ranch house (irregular dimensions, see floor plan) that rests on a mortared stone foundation one to two feet high. According to local sources, the building was moved from the Willows Stage Station located about seven miles northeast on the old Rawlins to Baggs Wagon Road. It was moved to the JO Ranch sometime after stage service ceased in about 1909. The cross-gabled roof is clad with wood shingles and has moderately extended boxed eaves. There is a prominent and well-crafted exterior stone chimney located on the east side of the front-gabled portion of the house. It consists of rough-cut stone laid in regular courses with cement mortar. The chimney tapers from bottom to top and is capped with flagstone. The chimney has been patched in places with cement, but many of the courses exhibit beaded mortar joints. The walls of the dwelling are constructed with full round peeled logs with flat-hewn logs used in the south wall. The logs appear to be spiked into vertical corner posts covered with wood trim. Cement chinking is used to fill the log joints. Board and batten siding covers the end gables. The facade or east side faces Cow Creek and has an enclosed wood frame, shed-roofed porch (15' x 9'). The porch roof is clad with corrugated tin sheeting. The porch has half walls clad with horizontal wood lap siding; the upper walls are enclosed with screens. The entrance to the porch has a wooden stoop with railings and a wooden screen door. The porch has a wood floor. The interior entrance has a one-light wood panel door with original hardware. A second entrance is located on the east side of the front-gabled portion and has a wood stoop. It opens on the bedroom. A wooden screen door covers the interior two-light wood panel door with original hardware. The northwest corner of the building has a one-story wood frame shed-roofed addition (15' x 12') that houses the kitchen. The exterior of the addition is clad with clapboard siding painted white. There is also a one-story wood frame shed-roofed addition (8' x 6') built onto the west side of this addition. The exterior walls are clad with corrugated tin sheeting, and the roof is clad with asphalt shingles. It has a doorless entrance in the north side. An interior wood panel door leads to the kitchen. Windows in the house consist of a variety of four over one-light, four over two-light, and four over four-light double-hung units with wood sash. Wooden storm windows cover some of the units.

The interior consists of a large family room, a bedroom in the south addition, a front room with pantry and closet, and a kitchen in the wood frame addition. The interior has been renovated with wood paneling and acoustic tile ceilings and linoleum-covered floors; propane lights provide illumination. The kitchen has built-in wooden cabinets, counters, a sink, and a modern refrigerator and stove. At the time of survey there was also a Formica and aluminum kitchen table. The family room has three stuffed chairs and a well-crafted stone

fireplace. The bedroom retains a mattress and a cheap wooden chest of drawers. Most of the original wood panel interior doors separating the rooms have been replaced with hollow wooden doors. The porch retains two stuffed chairs and a rough wood table.

The front yard is fenced with a front gate and flagstone walks leading to the two front entrances. A few narrow-leaf willows were hand-planted along the perimeters of the yard.

Building B. Contributing Building.

This is a one-story wood frame side-gabled shed (26' x 16') resting on an informal stone foundation. The gable roof has nearly flush eaves and is covered with corrugated tin sheeting. The roof has a rear slope round metal chimney. The exterior walls are also clad with corrugated tin sheeting. The facade or east side has two entrances. The more southerly entrance has a large flagstone stoop and a four-light wood panel door with original hardware. The north entrance has a similar door. There are two four over four-light double-hung windows on the west side of the building. The interior is divided into two rooms. The interior walls and ceilings are covered with wainscot paneling. The building has wood floors. The northern room has built-in wooden shelves. There are also old mattresses stacked on the floor. The WWC Engineering layout map dated 2001 for the Pittsburg & Midway Coal Mining Company (a former owner) depicts this building as the "tack room," but it more nearly resembles a former bunkhouse, and its location far from the horse barn does not seem practical for a tack room. Former owners stated that this building was used as a small bunkhouse. The actual building date is unknown, but construction techniques and materials indicate the early twentieth century (ca. 1900-1930).

A well with a hand pump (a small-scale element) is located directly behind or west of Building B. The pump apparatus was manufactured by F.E. Myers and Bros., Ashland, Ohio. The handle of the pump was broken and then welded.

Building C. Contributing Building.

This is a one story stone side-gabled commissary/kitchen (42'8" x 20'). According to George Salisbury, a former owner, this building was constructed by Bill Byers' father in the 1890s. Along with Buildings E and J (stone bunkhouse and stone/log barn), it is one of the oldest components in the ranch complex. The coursed sandstone walls average two feet thick and are mortared. Many of the stones appear to have been shaped and squared, and portions of the walls have been patched with mortar. In such areas, the location of the previous

mortar joints have been approximated by outlining them with a trowel. The roof is clad with corrugated tin sheeting that has been partially ripped off by the wind. The windows have squared flagstone lintels and sills. The facade or east side has an open, wood frame, shed-roofed porch (24' x 9') supported by square wooden posts with a wooden deck. There are two entrances under the porch with original wood panel doors and hardware. They are covered with wooden screen doors. Windows are typically four over four-light units with wooden sash. Many of the glass panes are broken or missing. There are also four-light fixed windows in the north, south, and west sides. The west side also has a pedestrian entry with a wood panel door covered by a wooden screen door, located near the south end of the building. The interior of Building C is divided into two large rooms, north and south. The interior walls are covered with a thick coat of painted plaster. A log ridgepole runs through both rooms, and the milled lumber sheathing of the roof is exposed. The interior has wood floors with baseboard moldings. The north room once served as a kitchen and retains wooden cupboards and a counter along the north wall. There are also pipe fittings for a sink that has been removed. According to George Salisbury, there was a gravity spring above the ranch that filled 55-gallon steel drums for the barrels of water for the house and other buildings. A pipe fitting is still located in the northwest corner of the kitchen where the water first came into the building. The south room is empty and once served as a commissary for groceries and cook's bedroom.

A notable feature of Building C consists of several signatures and dates inscribed in the stones on the facade. Among the legible signatures were "Mickey Fraher, MF, 1941, 1946, 1942; N.W. B.J.S, 41; Ben P.; and Benjamin Sandoval N. Mexico, 5/21/46." Overall, Building C is in need of basic maintenance, including a new roof, windows, and stabilization of the stone walls and foundation.

Building D. Contributing Building.

This is a wood frame shed-roofed two-hole privy located behind or southwest of Building A. The building is 4' x 5' with vertical wood sheathing. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. There is a wood slab hinged door on the facade or east side.

Building E. Contributing Building.

This is a one-story stone side-gabled bunkhouse (43' x 17'), resting on a stone foundation. The exterior walls consist of mortared coursed sandstone. Many of the stones appear to have been shaped and

squared. It appears that the mortar has been patched and repaired many times with fine lines drawn into the patch work to approximate mortar joints. The milled lumber roof is covered with corrugated tin sheeting with exposed rafter ends. Several sections of sheeting have been blown off by the wind. The building has an interesting stone chimney on the facade (north side) that originates halfway up the exterior walls then curves outward extending above the eaves. The facade has two pedestrian entrances. The more easterly entrance has a stone stoop with steps composed of massive squared sandstone blocks. The west entrance has only a stone stoop. Each has a wood panel door with original hardware. Windows in the east and west ends consist of elongated rectangular four over four-light double-hung units with wood sash. Two smaller window bays set high in the south wall contain damaged four-light fixed windows with wood sash. Window bays also have stone lintels and sills. There are small rectangular openings near the base of the east and south walls that appear to provide ventilation under the floor. The west end of the south wall is badly cracked in two places and in need of major repair.

The interior of Building E has lathe plaster walls and wood floors. The west room is much smaller than the east room and contains a set of bedsprings. There is no connecting entry between the two rooms. The east room has baseboard molding and contains two long wooden stools. There are flues in both rooms leading to the shared chimney that is located at the dividing wall.

Building E was probably built at about the same time as Building C, perhaps by the same craftsman. According to former owners, it was constructed in ca. 1890 and was used as a bunkhouse. It is labeled "dining hall" on a map drafted by WWC Engineering for the Pittsburg and Midway Coal Mining Company in 2001.

Building F. Contributing Building.

This is a one-story wood frame front-gabled shed (20' x 12') resting on railroad ties. The gable roof is clad with corrugated tin sheeting and has flush eaves. There is a circular opening on the north roof slope for a stove flue. The exterior walls are also clad with corrugated tin sheeting. The facade or east side has a wood panel door. There are 2 two over two-light double-hung windows with wood sash; one is located in the north and one in the west wall. The interior is empty and has a wood floor. The interior walls are unfinished. The function and building date of this building are unknown. Because this building rests on railroad ties, it could easily have been moved to various locations or brought in from another site.

Building G. Contributing Building.

This is a one-story wood frame side-gabled blacksmith shop (41' x 20') without a formal foundation. The gable roof is clad with corrugated tin sheeting with flush eaves. There is a front slope round chimney hole. The exterior walls are also covered with corrugated tin sheeting. The facade or east side has a pedestrian entrance on the south end and a larger door opening on the north end. The north bay formerly had a horizontal sliding barn door suspended from the top, but it has since been removed. There is a similar opening on the west or opposite side with the door missing. It appears that the opening has been modified. There is a single two over one-light double hung window with wood sash in the south and west sides. The window glass and most of the muntins are missing. The interior is composed of a blacksmith shop that contains a large wooden workbench with drawers made from dynamite boxes on the south side. The workbench bears the JO brand on the front with the J reversed. There is also a painted inscription that reads: "Ben Pacheco, San Luis, 8/9/46." This portion of the building is lined with wainscoting and has a wood floor. A hearth was once located in the southwest corner near the workbench. An east-west central aisle intervenes, and the north side consists of two stalls with flagstone-lined floors. This side of the building is unfinished. It appears that livestock needing to be shod were confined in the stalls. The construction date of this building is unknown, but building techniques suggest a ca. 1900-1930 origin.

Building H. Contributing Building.

This is a one-story shed-roofed stone chicken coop (36' N-S x 15'6" E-W) constructed only inches from the north wall of the blacksmith shop. The shed roof has exposed rafter ends and was constructed with milled lumber and covered with corrugated tin sheeting and sod; it has partially collapsed. The facade or east side has banks of four-light fixed windows with wood sash set in the wall on either side of a central entrance with a wood slab door. The walls are constructed with coursed mortared sandstone. Many of the stones have been shaped or squared. There is a stone near the door with an inscription that reads: "Erected 1916." The interior space is divided into two rooms, north and south. The main entrance leads into the south room, and an interior bay is adjacent to that entrance on the north. In recent years, a livestock chute and loading ramp have been constructed in front of or east of the chicken coop.

Site I. Ruins of historical structure. Contributing Site.

This is a collapsed root cellar (about 16' N-S x 20' E-W). It is located east of the two-track and Building C; it was partially excavated into the northwest bank of Cow Creek, the closest such topography to Building C, where food was prepared. According to former owner George Salisbury, a 32-volt Delco electrical generator was once located here to provide lights for the ranch house. The root cellar was rock-lined with a dirt roof and a portion was also used for food storage. The root cellar was purposely bladed in, and it no longer retains any discernible configuration or building lines. It more nearly resembles an elongated mound of loose stone and dirt.

Building J. Contributing Building.

This is a one-story stone and log front-gabled barn (53' E-W x 38' N-S) resting on a stone foundation. According to George Salisbury, this horse barn was constructed by Bill Byers' father in the 1890s, at the same time as the stone commissary (C) and probably the stone bunkhouse (E). The roof is constructed with milled lumber and is clad with corrugated tin sheeting. The west gable end is also covered with tin sheeting, but the east gable end is clad with board and batten siding. The north, south, and west walls are constructed with mortared coursed sandstone. The facade or east wall is constructed with full round peeled logs with cement chinking held in with wood strips. There is a wooden Dutch door set at either end of this elevation. There is also a bay with a slab wood door set in the center of the west side. There are three small window bays set in the long south wall, one window with a four-light fixed window in the facade between the Dutch doors, and two window bays in the west wall. Only the window in the facade retains glass, muntins, and frames. It is apparent that at some date the barn walls began to sag, and they were put into plumb by sinking railroad rails vertically along the north and south walls, and pulling the walls into vertical alignment using steel cable and turnbuckles. However, the walls are once again sagging to the south.

The interior of Building J consists of six wood plank stalls (three to a side) in the center of the building, back to back. Each stall has a wooden trough for hay and grain. An east-west aisle is located behind the stalls along the inside of the north and south walls. The west end of the barn consists of open pens. The barn has no formal hayloft. A series of corrals is connected to the barn on the west and north sides. Building K shares a portion of the north wall of the barn, and its gable roof is interconnected. According to George Salisbury, Andy Anderson, a Texan who worked on the JO Ranch, floored the barn in about 1960 with flagstone taken from a

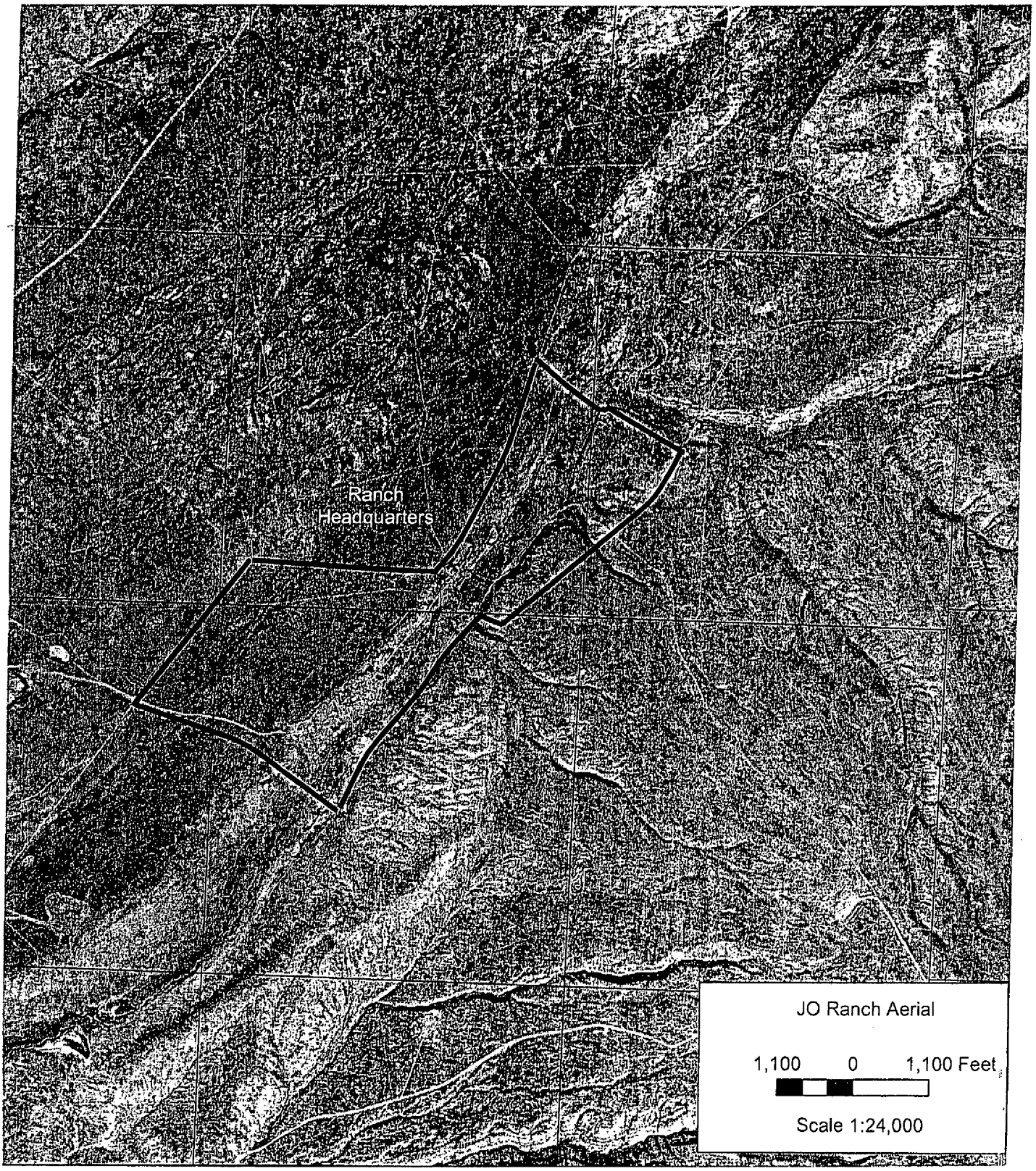
quarry site located in a side canyon up Cow Creek about 1-1/2 miles northeast of the ranch complex. The flagstone has been covered in places by a combination of accumulated manure, straw, and dirt.

Building K. Contributing Building.

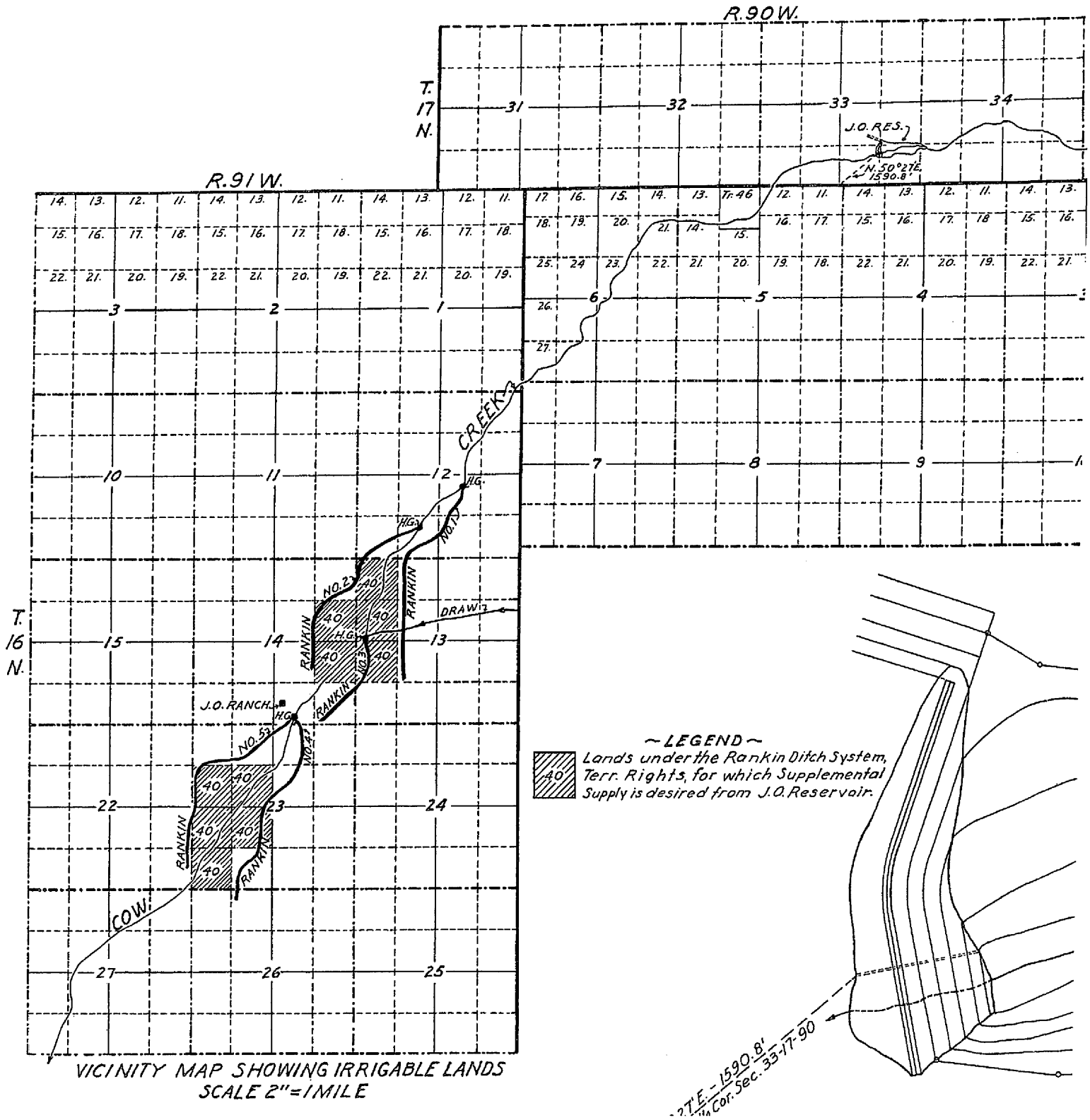
This building is connected to Building J and is a one-story wood frame side-gabled barn (71' N-S x 18' E-W) that was used as a warming shed for sheep about to be sheared. It is constructed with milled lumber with wood sheathing on studs. The gable roof is clad with corrugated tin sheeting with exposed rafter ends. The exterior walls are also clad with corrugated tin sheeting. There are no windows in the building. There is one large bay set in the east side or facade next to the stone barn. It formerly had a wooden sliding door suspended from the top, but the door has been removed. The interior is open without pens or stalls and has a dirt floor. There is a wooden ramp on the north end leading up to Building L, a connected log barn. The construction date of this building is unknown; however, the wood frame construction, wire nails, and overall condition indicate that it post-dates the log and stone barn (J) and the log barn (L).

Building L. Contributing Building.

This is a one-story side-gabled log barn (66' N-S x 18' E-W) without a formal foundation. The wood frame gable roof is clad with corrugated tin sheeting and has exposed rafter ends. There are two straddle-ridge louvered wooden ventilators. The gable roof is also slightly higher than that of Building K to the south. The walls are constructed with full round peeled logs with cement chinking, most of which is gone, and square-notched corners. The long walls are built in 16-17' long segments, and the logs are spiked to intervening vertical posts, mimicking the style of piece-sur-piece construction. There are two pedestrian bays on the facade or east side, one with a wood slab door and the second or northernmost with a Dutch door. There is also a pedestrian entrance with a wood slab door in the west side. There are a number of window bays along the upper half of the east wall, but the frames, panes, and muntins are missing. A livestock chute along the west side enters the barn near the northwest building corner. It appears to have been added at a later date. A number of old hay mowing blades are hung on the north wall. A wood ramp leads upward into the next northern component, Building M, a wood frame shearing shed. The construction techniques and physical condition suggest that this building is much older than the buildings on either side (K and M).



Map 5. Aerial photo showing the proposed boundaries of the JO Ranch Rural Historic Landscape.



Map 6. Detail of map accompanying Permit No. 20056, showing the ditch system on the JO Ranch. *(Source: State Engineer's Office, Cheyenne)*

Cluster Arrangement

The JO Ranch is laid out on a southwest-northeast axis that parallels the course of Cow Creek and the configuration of the Cow Creek Valley. The ranch headquarters consists of two clusters, domestic and agricultural. The domestic buildings are located in the southwest portion of the layout, upwind of the agricultural buildings associated with livestock. The log ranch house was an abandoned stage station moved onto the property sometime after 1909, and it received small additions over time. The oldest domestic components (ca. 1890) are the stone commissary/kitchen and bunkhouse. It is likely that one of these two buildings first served as the original homestead house. Other domestic buildings include the outhouse, a wood frame shed covered with tin which may have served as a bunkhouse, a front-gabled wood frame shed resting on railroad ties, a wood frame blacksmith shop with two stalls, and a stone chicken coop attached to the northeast end of the blacksmith shop. The chicken coop is technically an agricultural building, but it is physically separated from the remainder of the agricultural buildings. It is also reasonable to consider the blacksmith shop and chicken coop as buildings located in a transitional area between the domestic cluster and the more pronounced agricultural cluster. The agricultural cluster generally consists of a group of interconnected barns with an associated corral system. Starting from the southwest end of the cluster is the log and stone horse barn, an attached side-gabled wood frame barn, an attached log barn used as a "warming shed," and the wood frame shearing shed. A wood frame scale house was added in the 1960s-1970s when cattle were raised on the ranch. It is not attached to the remainder of the agricultural buildings, but it is connected by the associated corral system.

In addition to the buildings, the various irrigation ditches and system of laterals (structures) helped determine the layout and extent of the hay meadows. There were essentially three main open earthen ditches, all with headgates on Cow Creek above or northeast of the proposed district and with secondary appropriation gates and instream structures.

Historic objects include portions of old and broken farm equipment and machinery that were discarded in an area northeast of the agricultural cluster. These include the remains of a steel and wood hay mower bearing the manufacturer's diamond-shaped logo "Emerson Brantingham, The E-B Line, Farm Machinery, Rockford, Illinois"; a largely intact steel hay rake, the partial remains of a wood hay loader, the wood chassis of a wagon with steel spindles, and numerous wagon axles.

Structure R. Irrigation Ditches. Contributing Structures

James G. Rankin, et al. (Joseph R. Rankin) were the second appropriators on Cow Creek, receiving their water rights on November 20, 1886 (Territorial Proof No. 1113). The first appropriation was taken out by Ora Haley for the Littlefield Ditch in 1884. (Littlefields held a patented parcel adjacent to and downstream from the Rankins.) Rankin Ditches Nos. 1, 2, and 3 had three separate headgates in Sections 12 and 13, T16N-R91W, and irrigated 450 acres using 6.43 cubic feet of water per second. Maps on file at the Wyoming State Engineer's Office also show Rankin Ditches Nos. 4 and 5, sharing a headgate in the SW/SE Section 14, T16N-R91W. These two ditches may have been informal laterals, since they do not appear separately in the tabulation of adjudicated water rights.

In 1946, the Carbon County Sheep and Cattle Company appropriated rights for the Rankin Ditch System (Permit No. 20056) for irrigation, supply, and domestic uses. A total of four hundred acres were irrigated with 109.38 acre-feet of water stored in the JO Reservoir. The reservoir and headgate were located in the SE-1/4 Section 33, T17N-R90W (a state-owned section), five or six miles upstream from the JO Ranch headquarters. The earthen dam was 23 feet in height and utilized an 8-inch outlet pipe.

Cow Creek is a tributary of Muddy Creek, which in turn is a tributary of the Little Snake River. Today, although they are not well maintained, the ditches are discernible along the hay meadows, and some riparian vegetation has developed as a result of the supplemental water.

Building M. Contributing Building.

This is a one-story wood frame side-gabled sheep shearing shed (85' N-S x 24' E-W) with two additions on the east side. The building rests on sets of stone piers, and the large, gable-roofed addition on the east is raised on vertical wood timbers. The roof is clad with corrugated tin sheeting. The exterior walls are composed of horizontal wood sheathing with the joints covered with batten strips. There are banks of four-light fixed windows with wood sash located along the entire length of the east and north walls. There is a wood slab pedestrian door on the west end of the north side. The south end of this building opens into Building L. The east addition is 26' E-W x 12' N-S and was used for wool "tromping" and loading. It has a large door opening on the south side, but the door is missing. This addition has a gable-roofed raised portion on its west end. A second northerly wood frame shed-roofed addition is 14' E-W x 11' N-S. The roof has blown off and rests on the north side of the main building; the east wall has collapsed. The interior of this small addition has two elongated concrete piers upon which the motor was mounted that powered the mechanical drive for the sheep shears. Remnants of an iron wood-burning stove are located behind or north of the piers.

The interior of the main portion of the building consists of fourteen wooden stalls oriented north-south, which were used for shearing sheep. Behind or west of the stalls are two livestock chutes for the sheep to enter and exit. The east side of the building is an open aisle. This building features numerous painted signatures and dates of sheep shearers who formerly worked here. Some had their own stalls for several years in a row. Among the readable legends are as follows: "Bud Clapp - May 1945; Jerry Blender, 1945; Boyd Jillman, 1945; Dick Ellwager; Red Eyre; Bill Walden, 1945; E.E. Gorder, May 41-43-44-45." Other signatures were found in the large east addition and include the following: "Jess Milton, April 26, 1934; Jess, May 1931; John Hays; Ted A. Herrera, 2007 Clay St., Denver, Colo."

According to Ed Tierney, nephew of William M. Tierney, a former owner of the Carbon County Sheep and Cattle Company, this sheep shearing shed was built shortly after the shearing facilities burned at nearby Dad, Wyoming. The earliest signature in the barn dates from 1931, and Ed Tierney thinks that it roughly corresponds with the building date.

Building N. Noncontributing Building.

This building is a one-story wood frame side-gabled scale house (28'N-S x 13' E-W) resting on a poured concrete pad. The gable roof is covered with corrugated tin sheeting and has extended eaves with

exposed rafter ends. The exterior walls are clad with horizontal wood sheathing. The north and south ends of the building have twin leaf wooden doors that open in the middle. There are no window bays or pedestrian entrances. There is a one-story shed-roofed addition on the east side (8' square) that contains the scales. The walls of the addition are clad with aluminum lap siding. The addition also has a poured concrete floor pad.

The interior of the main portion consists of a large pen with a steel grid floor and steel railings surrounded by a concrete pad. Livestock was driven into the pen from the north, weighed, and then exited from the south into a system of chutes and corrals. The addition contains a "Cardinal" scale that bears the stickers of state inspections through the late 1990s. A notice wired to the equipment in 2002 states that it was rejected. The scale house was built during the tenure of the Eureka Pool, ca. 1960s to early or mid-1970s.

Site O. Ranch Dump. Contributing Site.

This site is an isolated ranch dump located about 400 feet northeast of the ranch buildings. It is a large excavated hole (24' N-S x 50' E-W) containing milled lumber scraps, rolls of barbed wire, fence rails and logs, old wooden gates, rocks, two modern electric stoves, and 55-gallon steel barrels. Other discarded items continue south from the depression along the east edge of a two-track and include more scrap lumber, logs and rails, barbed and woven wire, and a large steel feed hopper used in grinding feed. Household items such as bottle and cans were not dumped here.

Object P. Equipment. Contributing Object.

Portions of old and broken farm equipment were discarded in an area west of Feature O and the two-track. They consist of the partial remains of a steel and wood hay mower bearing the manufacturer's diamond-shaped logo "Emerson Brantingham, The E-B Line, Farm Machinery, Rockford, Illinois;" a largely intact steel hay rake; the partial remains of a wooden hay loader; and the wood chassis of a wagon with steel spindles.

Structure Q. JO Ranch Corral. Contributing Structure.

An elaborate segmented, post-and-pole corral system is located adjacent to the agricultural building complex on the northwest side and extends around the southwest and a portion of the southeast sides. It includes a wood plank loading chute and log and wood plank gates.

8. Significance

Introduction

The JO Ranch Rural Historic Landscape is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the state level, with significance in history and architecture under Criteria A and C. The district's period of historical significance is from initial settlement by Joseph P. Rankin in 1885 to 1958, or fifty years from the current date. Significant dates include 1885 when the homestead parcel upon which the ranch complex is located was first filed upon; 1890, when the parcel was patented and the approximate date when the stone buildings were constructed within the complex; and ca. 1930, when the sheep shearing barn was constructed.

Under Criterion A, the JO Ranch represents a rare and well-preserved example of a late nineteenth-early twentieth century western sheep ranching operation in southwestern Carbon County, Wyoming. Few outstanding examples of this site type remain; furthermore, the JO Ranch is located on public land accessible to the public. Established in 1885, it reflects the growth of the sheep industry in Wyoming after the devastating livestock losses suffered in the winter of 1886-1887 that crippled the cattle industry and ended the open range system of ranching. The decline in the Wyoming cattle industry allowed the fledgling sheep industry to grow, especially along the Union Pacific Railroad corridor in southern Wyoming, which provided a means for sheep to be efficiently shipped to distant markets. The JO Ranch also represents traditional Spanish sheep management practices that developed in southwestern Wyoming rather than the English system employed in the early Atlantic colonies. In Wyoming, large herds of sheep were grazed by individual herders across the public domain rather than in fenced pastures. Lambing occurred on the open range rather than in sheep sheds. Due to the semi-arid environment and scant vegetation, the average ewe could only nourish one healthy lamb, and hardiness was valued over meat or wool production. Transhumance, the practice of using high mountain summer pastures and winter ranges at lower elevations, evolved in Wyoming from the French and Spanish Basque herding practices used in the Pyrenees Mountains. Following the above procedures, JO Ranch sheep were driven to the nearby Sierra Madre Mountains in summer, and then wintered at lower elevations in the Great Divide and Washakie Basins. Sheep sheds were not used for lambing, and herders and their flocks radiated out from the JO Ranch headquarters in all directions, grazing freely on the public domain, until the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 required permits and grazing fees on public lands. After that date, sheep management practices necessarily became more orderly, and JO sheep were required to graze within predetermined boundaries on the public lands

surrounding the ranch. Grazing on the summer range in the Sierra Madre Mountains had been regulated since it became a Forest Reserve in 1906.

Under Criterion C, the log, stone and wood frame domestic and agricultural buildings and structures reflect vernacular architecture using locally available materials. The immediate area was virtually treeless, but building stone was available in exposed sandstone formations in the nearby draws. Considerable craftsmanship is exhibited in the stone architecture of two of the oldest buildings, the stone commissary/kitchen (Building C) and stone bunkhouse (Building E), reportedly built in ca. 1890. The walls of these buildings are constructed with rough-cut sandstone with cement mortar and average two feet thick. Portions of the walls exhibit beaded mortar joints. Other sections have been repaired and covered with a thin layer of cement, in which lines have been incised to approximate mortar joints. The window and door bays are well-crafted with square-cut stone corners and shaped stone lintels and sills. Attributed to a man named Byers, these early stone buildings reflect considerable proficiency in stone masonry and have remained intact for over one hundred years. The stone and log front-gabled horse barn (Building J) was also constructed in ca. 1890 by the same builder. This large building incorporates locally quarried sandstone slabs on three walls; the east wall consists of full round peeled logs with cement chinking. The interior contains six wood plank stalls and open pens. The property also retains a stone chicken coop (Building H) bearing the inscription "Erected in 1916," and a largely intact blacksmith shop (Building G) with workbench and stalls and flagstone-lined floors. Finally, the large wood frame sheep shearing shed (Building M) dates from about 1930 and was specifically designed for sheep shearing, featuring fourteen wooden stalls, associated livestock chutes for sheep to enter and exit, an east addition for wool tromping and loading, and a smaller east addition that housed a power unit for mechanical shears. This building also contains painted signatures and dates of the sheep shearers who formerly worked there. Thousands of sheep passed through these facilities each year. These ranch headquarter components reflect a practical layout for maximum efficiency of use that were specifically adapted to the sheep ranching industry. In addition, the engineered irrigation system used to develop the hay meadows along Cow Creek assured proper water distribution on either side of the main channel in the Cow Creek Valley. The hay meadows are a key agricultural component that provided additional winter feed and seasonally provided more nutritious forage for horses, sheep, and cattle.

The Wyoming Sheep Industry

Wyoming's grazing potential went largely unnoticed by the thousands of Oregon Trail emigrants who crossed the region bound for points west. However, they drove small bands of sheep that formed the nucleus of the sheep industry in California, Oregon, and Utah. Jim Bridger introduced and raised a small band of sheep at his post on Blacks Fork, and ten years later Judge William A. Carter, the post sutler, raised sheep on a larger scale.

With the close of the Civil War and the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad in 1869, the sparsely populated Rocky Mountain West began to attract attention. Wyoming Territory was well suited to cattle and sheep ranching because of low land prices, and free grass and water that cut costs almost in half. In addition, the initial cash outlay for sheep ranching was estimated at one-third the cost of cattle ranching. The era of the great sheep trail drives began around 1865, reversing the westward tide of emigration, as breeding sheep were driven east from California. From Red Bluff in the north and Bakersfield in the south, trails led through Reno and northern Nevada to Salt Lake City or Soda Springs, Idaho, to Rock Springs and the Red Desert of Wyoming. Trail expenses were met by shearing the sheep and selling the wool along the way. From 1885-1901, trail drives continued, shifting to Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. These sheep were usually wethers (castrated sheep) raised mainly for meat production. Sheep could fetch twice the price in Wyoming towns such as Laramie as in Oregon.

Southwestern Wyoming Territory became a traditional winter range for sheep, where flocks arriving from the west in run-down condition regained their vigor before moving to high summer pastures. The Great Divide Basin, Washakie Basin, and Green River Basin contained desert shrubs such as saltbush (spiny, shadscale), winterfat, common sagebrush, bud sagebrush, silvery sagebrush, Nuttall's salt-sage (which provided one-half of the feed supply), wheatgrass, and other desert grasses that were highly nutritious sheep fodder. Sheep adapted to semi-desert country better than cattle because of their ability to obtain moisture from the dew that collected on desert vegetation and by eating snow.

Cattle empires had existed for at least ten years prior to the advent of sheep in Wyoming, usurping prime areas of grass and water. The semi-arid basins of southwestern Wyoming were a notable exception, and sheepmen quickly filled this void and remained dominant there throughout Wyoming's history.

By 1870, about 6,400 sheep were estimated to be in Wyoming Territory, but most were located to the east in Albany County and did not represent permanent operations. The first permanent flock in Sweetwater County was introduced in 1878 by John McCady from Colorado. Most of the pioneer operators of Carbon County actually resided in Albany County, using the range on a seasonal basis. Robert Taylor, at one time Wyoming's premiere sheep rancher, came to Carbon County in 1880. By 1882, sixteen operations had been established. Some of the early ranchers included Ike C. Miller (1875) who grazed as many as 40,000 head; Frank A. Hadsell (1882), the Savage Brothers (1882-83), Fred Kindt (1885), John G. and Griffith W. Edwards (early 1880s), and Joseph Young and William W. Daley (late 1880s).

One of the largest sheep enterprises was conducted by the Cosgriff brothers, who grazed their flocks near Fort Steele in 1882. They relocated to Rawlins in 1885, and soon began purchasing the Union Pacific "checkerboard" lands between Hanna and Rawlins, thereby controlling access to intervening sections and the railroad. Their flocks ranged as far west as Rock Springs and Opal. This far-flung network included supply houses for employees that gradually developed into a mercantile system of twelve to fifteen stores extending to Salt Lake City.

By 1880, nearly all of the early sheep operations were located along the Union Pacific tracks for shipping purposes. Forty thousand head of sheep were shipped out of Wyoming Territory that year. With the decline of the cattle industry after the devastating winter of 1886-1887, the sheep industry made significant inroads, and by 1900, there were 3.3 million head in Wyoming. The biggest jump in the number of sheep raised in Wyoming started in 1897 when the market value increased. By 1901, the price of sheep had doubled. Numbers reached an all-time high of seven million head in 1910. Wyoming has retained its position as one of the chief sheep producers in the country, and twenty-five percent of the state's sheep are raised in southwestern Wyoming.

In the early years of the sheep industry, when weather conditions were favorable, the maximum number of sheep were grazed on a given range unit, often resulting in overgrazing of available forage. Consequently, when the inevitable drought cycle occurred, losses were high and many operators were forced out of business. In 1903, following a drought year, operators in southwestern Wyoming had losses of more than fifty percent. Grazing sheep on the scant winter forage in this open semi-desert region, far from natural protection and supplementary feed, inevitably involved risks that were avoided where livestock were fenced and given supplementary winter feed.

Sheep Management Practices

The Spanish Merino was the major brand of sheep in the early West. Introduced to America around 1800, the Merino dominated the American sheep industry from 1805-1815. The Rambouillet evolved from the Spanish Merino and became popular in the United States after the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. Western sheep ranchers recognized the advantages of the bigger, stronger Rambouillet, and by the close of World War II, an estimated ninety-eight per cent of the sheep west of the Mississippi contained predominantly Rambouillet blood.

As stated in the Introduction, western sheep ranchers practiced the Spanish tradition of transhumance. Tending large flocks in open country required a sheepherder who could live a solitary and mobile life and trained dogs. Wyoming's climate and the nature of sheepherding required a portable shelter. The prototype of the modern sheep wagon was invented by James Candlish, a Rawlins blacksmith, in 1884. The typical wagon had a door located at the front on the right side; a hinged window was located over the bed, which was installed crosswise at the rear. A hinged table could be propped up, and a stove and dish cupboard were installed with long benches on either side. "Grub boxes" were suspended below the wagon between the front and rear wheels and reached by trap doors in the benches. Modern sheep wagons are all metal, flat-bottomed, insulated, and mounted on rubber tires.

Sheep Ranching in Southern Wyoming

The arid conditions and limited forage in the desert basins of southern Wyoming have resulted in some sheep management practices unique to the region. In summer, most of the sheep ranchers moved their flocks to high pastures in the Medicine Bow and Sierra Madre Mountains, which were incorporated into the Medicine Bow National Forest soon after the turn of the century. They also utilized the Elkhead Mountains in nearby northern Colorado (later part of the Route National Forest). Most operators retained grazing rights in the national forests or leased lands in the area. Cooler temperatures, lush forage, and abundant water increased the weight and coat and overall condition of the sheep. From August to early September, flocks were moved back down into the foothill zone. Herds were culled; the lambs and weaker stock were herded to railheads (later trucked), and sent to market. The shipping season lasted from early August to late October.

The breed herd grazed on the fall range until early December, depending on grass and weather conditions and the status of the winter range. A winter band consisted of about 2000-2500 sheep tended by a

lone herder and dogs. A "camp jack" often assisted the herder in cooking and moving supplies and wagons. Since there was little farm land in the region, additional winter feed was shipped in. Feeding stations were set up near the winter grounds and stocked in the fall. During a bad winter storm, the sheepherder attempted to move his flock to the nearest feeding station. However, the open country and wide expanses that the sheep grazed contributed to higher stock losses during storms than in other regions in Wyoming. Water was always scarce, and moisture was generally derived from snowfall. Sheepmen depended on windy conditions to follow a snowstorm to assure that some natural forage was blown clear.

Breeding took place in the first half of December, usually before reaching winter range. Rams were turned in with the ewes for 30-40 days. They were then separated and run in different bands until the next season. Because shed lambing was considered too expensive and impractical, range lambing was the accepted practice in the region in which the JO Ranch was located. Range lambing took place in May and early June. Foothills topography was preferred for lambing grounds because it offered some protection from late spring storms.

Some operators sheared their flocks after lambing, but most did their shearing a few days before lambing. Wyoming sheep ranchers continued to use hand shears long after mechanical shears had been adopted elsewhere (around 1900). As late as 1939, an estimated ninety percent of Wyoming sheep were still hand-sheared. The hand shears were preferred because mechanical shears often sheared the sheep too close, making them more susceptible to late winter storms. Shearing pens were established at strategic points along trails and along the Union Pacific tracks in the early days of the open range to serve the many sheepmen who had no permanent headquarters. Rawlins became a famous freighting center for wool. The nearest shearing pens to the JO Ranch were located at Dad, little more than a post office and store. When the shearing facilities burned there in the 1920s, a large sheep shearing barn was built at the JO Ranch. The barn was equipped with a motor and drive for the use of mechanical shears.

Docking (cutting or burning off lambs' tails to prevent disease) and castrating were performed when the lambs were between one and four weeks old. A castrated lamb is known as a "wether" and is raised for meat.

The herd was once again culled of ewes that were old or in poor condition, and they were shipped to market. The remaining summer band, 1000-1500 head, were herded or transported to high mountain pastures, completing the yearly cycle.

Overall, Joseph P. Rankin established the JO Ranch in an ideal location for sheep ranching in broken country along a year-round water source where hay meadows could be developed, and in proximity to the Sierra Madre Mountains to the east for summer range.

The Rawlins to Baggs Wagon Road (Site 48CR3648)

The origins of the Rawlins to Baggs Wagon Road lie in two historic events: (1) the building of the first transcontinental railroad through southern Wyoming Territory in 1867-68 and the consequent founding of the town of Rawlins, and (2) the creation of the White River Agency for the Ute Indians in northwestern Colorado in 1868. The route is verified by General Land Office (GLO) plats dating from 1881 to 1917 (surveys and resurveys) and is referred to by a variety of names including the Rawlins to White River Road, the Rawlins and the Snake River Road, and the Baggs to Rawlins Road.

Rawlins grew up along the Union Pacific right-of-way of the first transcontinental railroad near free-flowing springs. At first Rawlins was little more than a grading camp built around the springs. By July 1868, the tracks reached Rawlins, and a post office and railroad station were constructed. However, the chief catalyst for the early growth of Rawlins was the decision of the Union Pacific Railroad in August 1868 to make it a division point. As a result, extensive railroad facilities, such as an engine roundhouse and repair and machine shops, were constructed there, offering many employment opportunities.

At the same time in Colorado Territory to the south, events were leading to the creation of a reservation and agency for the Ute Indians, whose nearest supply point would become Rawlins and the Union Pacific Railroad. In 1868 the United States government negotiated a treaty that created a large reservation comprised of the western third of Colorado Territory for the Utes, who were gradually being forced westward by White encroachment along the eastern slope of the Rockies. Under the new treaty, agencies were created to disburse annual gifts of clothing, food, and supplies. The White River Agency was located on the White River near present-day Meeker, Colorado, for the use of the northern Ute bands.

The stage and freight route that developed from Rawlins to the Ute Agency headed southwest from Rawlins and skirted the western base of the Sierra Madre Range. The road crossed the east-west Overland Trail, established by Ben Holladay for his Overland Mail route in 1862, at Sulphur Springs, a "home" station for Holladay's route. It also intersected the old Cherokee Trail and continued south, following Muddy Creek to the Snake River Valley, then crossed into Colorado. The route was first used for freight, but mail and passenger service was added as the region became more settled.

Dramatic events unfolded at the White River Agency in 1879 that were to change the map of Colorado and affect the settlement of the region. Relations between Agent Nathan Meeker and the Utes at the White River Agency had steadily deteriorated since his appointment in 1878 due to his zeal to "civilize" them. Finally, Meeker was physically attacked by one of the Ute leaders, and he requested military aid in quelling the growing rebellion. As a result, on September 21, 1879, a force of soldiers under the command of Major Thomas T. Thornburgh left Fort Steele and traveled via the Rawlins-White River Agency Road (Rawlins to Baggs Wagon Road) to protect agency personnel and restore order. However, before the force could reach the Agency, Agent Meeker and eight of his employees were killed by the Utes on September 29, 1879. Thornburgh and thirteen soldiers were killed in an ambush by the Utes in a prolonged battle (September 29 to October 5, 1879) on Milk Creek near the reservation boundary. The remainder of the column was pinned down, and guide Joe Rankin, who established the JO Ranch, managed to escape and ride to Rawlins for help. Colonel Wesley Merritt and a detachment of soldiers were dispatched from Fort D.A. Russell and rescued the remainder of Thornburgh's unit.

The greater significance of the Utes' actions was that the Colorado citizenry, already hungry for the opening of more mining and agricultural lands on the west slope of the Rockies, used the disaster to call for the complete removal of the Utes. A new treaty was negotiated in 1880, and the Uncompaghre Utes and White River Utes were relocated to the Uintah Reservation in Utah in 1881. Former Ute lands in Colorado were declared public by Congress and opened to homesteading in 1882. Although the lucrative freight market to the Ute River Agency was ended, the opening of northwestern Colorado to non-Indian settlement provided new markets to be tapped via the Rawlins to Baggs Wagon Road and the Union Pacific Railroad.

Stage stations were established along the Rawlins to Baggs Wagon Road at regular intervals. "Swing" stations were small establishments for changing horses. The larger "home" stations had blacksmith shops and provided meals and lodging for overnight visitors. More informal stopping places known as "road ranches" such as the JO Ranch also grew up along the route.

The stations that were established (from north to south) in Wyoming included Sixteen Mile, Twenty Mile, Sulphur Springs at the junction of the Overland Trail, Willows Station, Perkins, Muddy Bridge Station, and Baggs, a station that later grew into a town at the site of George Bagg's Double Eleven Ranch. In the late1870s and early 1880s, formal bridges were constructed by the county over the principal drainages and gulches to improve the road. The JO Ranch was located on an eastern variant of the Rawlins to Baggs

Wagon Road and represented one of the few established ranches in this area where forage and water were available for livestock and represented a logical stopping place for stage and freight traffic.

Stage service ended on the Rawlins to Baggs Wagon Road in 1909. Rail service was slow in coming to the area of northwestern Colorado served by the route and its extension to White River (through Craig to Meeker, Colorado). The Denver and Rio Grande Railroad built west from Glenwood Springs to Rifle in 1889, some forty miles to the south. The Denver, Northwestern and Pacific Railroad built to Steamboat Springs in 1908, and its successor, the Denver and Salt Lake Railroad, extended its trackage to Craig in 1913, more than forty miles south of Baggs. Therefore, Baggs and the surrounding ranches in the Little Snake River Valley and to the north remained tied to the Rawlins to Baggs Wagon Road well into the twentieth century.

In the early twentieth century, the Rawlins to Baggs Wagon Road was gradually incorporated into the county and state road system. In 1935, State Route 789 was constructed north from Dad, Wyoming, to Creston on the Lincoln Highway (today's Interstate 80). Located about eight miles west of the JO Ranch, it became the major transportation route in the region, supplanting most of the former route of the Rawlins to Baggs Wagon Road. Today, the section of the old wagon road from Sulphur Springs southwest to State Route 789 that passes through the JO Ranch consists of private ranch roads, energy-related roads, and portions that have fallen into disuse and have been dropped from county maintenance.

The JO Ranch

The land parcel upon which the JO Ranch complex is located was patented by Joseph P. Rankin on March 18, 1890. On that date Rankin received a Homestead Entry Patent (No. 216) for 160 acres consisting of the S/SE Section 14, and the W/NE Section 23, T16N-R91W. Land records show that Rankin first filed on the parcel on April 24, 1885. This probably indicates the earliest date that he was on the property. On October 30, 1888, Rankin also received a Cash Entry Patent (No. 581) for an adjacent parcel consisting of 200 acres in the W/NW, NW/SW Section 13, and the SE/NE and NE/SE, Section 14, T16N-R91W. At about the same time, his brother James G. Rankin, also filed on and subsequently patented a Desert Land Entry (No. 1111) adjacent to the northeast consisting of the W/SE, E/SW, and the SW/SW Section 12, T16N-R91W. Joe Rankin used the JO Brand for which the ranch is named. Rankin Ditches Nos. 1, 2, and 3 were appropriated by James G. Rankin and Joseph Rankin with priorities dating from November 20, 1886.

The two brothers were born and raised on a farm in Armstrong County, Pennsylvania. Joe was born in about 1845, and James was two years older. In 1862, both brothers enlisted in the Union Army and served for two and one-half years. After the war ended, they worked in the lumber industry in Clarion County, Pennsylvania, and then in the oil fields of Butler County, Pennsylvania. In 1868, they traveled west to Yankton, Dakota Territory, and freighted supplies to the different Indian agencies. They prospected for gold in the Black Hills in 1870, but were driven out by the Sioux Indians. They mined for gold in Boulder and Clear Creek Counties, Colorado, then moved to the Hahn's Peak area in 1870 and 1871, mining without success. Finally in 1872, they settled in Rawlins, Wyoming, and established a feed and livery business and engaged in freighting and the livestock business..

Joe Rankin subsequently became famous for his part in the Thornburgh fight in 1879. On September 21, Major Thomas T. Thornburgh and his command were sent from Fort Steele to protect the White River Indian Agency at the request of Agent Nathan Meeker. Unknown to Thornburgh, the Ute Indians subsequently revolted and killed Agent Nathan Meeker and eight other employees. Rankin acted as a civilian guide for the expedition, but they were ambushed by the Utes at Milk Creek before reaching the agency. Thornburgh was killed early in the action, and before midnight on September 29, Joe Rankin and three other volunteers rode for help. They managed to sneak through the Indian lines and eventually split up. Rankin rode north for the railhead at Rawlins and received several fresh mounts from ranches along the way, including a horse from his own stock pastured at the Sulphur Springs ranch. Rankin reached the telegraph office at Rawlins sometime between midnight on September 30 and 1:15 A.M. on October 1 and wired the Adjutant General at Omaha Barracks, Nebraska. Rankin had ridden about 140 miles in less than twenty-six hours. As a result of Rankin's alarm, Colonel Wesley Merritt and his command were sent from Fort D.A. Russell in Cheyenne and successfully rescued the unit.

In 1890, the same year he patented the JO Ranch, Rankin was appointed U.S. Marshall for Wyoming by President Benjamin Harrison, and he became embroiled in the infamous Johnson County War of 1892. Prominent members of the Wyoming Stock Growers' Association sent an armed force into Johnson County to eliminate cattle thieves, but many of the homesteaders there believed the cattlemen were attempting to prevent them from breaking up the range with 160-acre homesteads. Senator F.E. Warren called for Rankin's resignation when he delayed serving warrants against the homesteaders for conspiracy. Rankin requested an investigation by the Justice Department and ultimately was exonerated.

By 1903, Rankin had sold his livery business in Rawlins, and moved to Ogden, Utah, where he was injured in a wagon accident while transporting mail to and from the Ogden Post Office. When his health began to fail, he moved to San Diego, California, where he died on March 9, 1919, at the age of seventy-four. His body was returned to Ogden and buried there.

The Rankin Brothers sold the JO Ranch to Dow D. and John R. Doty, representing the Carbon County Sheep and Cattle Company, on September 5, 1899, for $3750.00. The Carbon County Sheep and Cattle Company was chartered as a corporation in the State of Wyoming on September 2, 1899, with 500 shares of capitol stock valued at $50,000. Originally, there were five trustees: James M. Rumsey, Charles R. Marlott, Dow D. Doty, John R. Doty, and Henry S. Brodt. The company was headquartered in Rawlins, Wyoming. In 1903, H.A. Brodt was the resident agent for the company, which was housed in the Hugus Building on Fifth and Cedar. By January 1915, James M. Rumsey was President, and the other stockholders were Mary E.C. Rumsey, Jennie B. Rumsey, John G. Rumsey, Herman Bruning, Elizabeth W. Rumsey, Jean H. Rumsey, and J.C. Espy.

On November 10, 1920, capital stock was increased from $50,000 to $350,000, and the number of directors increased. The directors were J.M. Rumsey, President, Rawlins; Harry Breitenstein, Secretary, Rawlins; J.C. Espy, Rawlins; Elizabeth M. Rumsey, Denver, Colorado; Mary E.C. Rumsey, Denver; Jean H. Thompson, Dixon; John G. Rumsey, Rock Springs; and William T. Rumsey, deceased. As of that date, J.M. Rumsey controlled 306 of the total number of 380 shares of stock in the corporation.

By the mid-1920s, the Tierney family became active in the Carbon County Sheep and Cattle Company. In 1926, William M. Tierney was President, and Edward M. Tierney was on the Board of Directors. E.M. Tierney was born in Martinsburg, West Virginia, and came to Wyoming in 1884. He worked for the Union Pacific Railroad until 1912, and became a master mechanic and foreman both in Rawlins and Laramie. In December, 1915, he was elected Carbon County Treasurer for four years. Tierney was also active in the sheep business starting in 1893, when he formed a partnership with William Niland and M. Glenn known as the Glenn Sheep Company. In 1894, a new company was formed by Tierney, Niland, and Jack Carson known as the Niland-Tierney Sheep Company. In 1899, Tierney, Niland, and J.J. Cullen, founded the Cullen Commercial Company, a general merchandise store that later added branch stores in Parco and Wamsutter. The merchandise included men's clothes and a meat department. By the late 1920s, Niland and Cullen had died, leaving Tierney as the only original stockholder. When Cullen died, his stocks passed on to William Niland's and E.M. Tierney's sons.

The Tierneys gradually bought out other stockholders in the Carbon County Sheep and Cattle Company until they obtained control of the corporation. By the 1930s, William M. Tierney was President, and J.E. Tierney served as Secretary/Treasurer. William also served as Manager and a Director. L.E. Armstrong was Vice President, with J.C. Espy a director. All were from Rawlins. By 1939, the company held assets valued at $335,100, including land, inventories, stocks, and cash. The JO Ranch was only one of their many holdings.

In 1912, Herman Bruning, who was also listed as a stockholder in 1915, was serving as foreman at the JO Ranch while living at the Sulphur Springs Ranch, twelve miles north. Ed Tierney, son of J.E. Tierney, recalled that Ruby Rivera was the caretaker at the JO Ranch from about 1932 to1938. Andy Tikenan succeeded him, serving from 1938 to1952. Both men stayed at the ranch year-round. There was no electricity, and the house and other facilities were lighted with kerosene lamps. Ed Tierney stated that the company ran about 8,000 head of sheep and 200 head of cattle on the JO Ranch. Starting in the late 1920s or early 1930s, sheep were sheared at the JO Ranch each spring. Shearing facilities were built at the ranch after the sheds at nearby Dad burned down. In May each year, itinerant sheep shearing crews came from New Mexico and Texas, at first using Sheffield blades for cutting. About 1948, crews began using electric shears and carried their own portable power plant with them. According to Ed Tierney, the shearing barn on the JO Ranch was built around 1930. This roughly corresponds with the earliest sheep shearing signatures and dates found on the inside walls of the building. The warming shed (Building K) was used to hold and warm the sheep before shearing, the warmth making the natural lanolin in the coat more fluid. Lambing at the JO occurred in the open pastures around the ranch between mid-may through June after shearing. Sheep were then driven by stock driveways to the company's summer range in the National Forest around Columbine, Colorado. The company owned a section of land at Columbine where they made their summer headquarters. Ed Tierney started working with the sheep at age twelve in the summers at the JO Ranch and drove the sheep to summer range and stayed with them. Hay was cut in the meadows along Cow Creek, and some of the haying machinery has been discarded at the north end of the headquarters. Ed Tierney believes the log ranch house (Building A) was moved in from the nearby Willows Stage Station on the Rawlins to Baggs Wagon Road sometime after 1909 when stage service was curtailed. The stone buildings probably date from the 1890s, as does the horse barn.

In 1953, the Carbon Sheep and Cattle Company sold the JO Ranch to George Salisbury, a sheep rancher living in the Little Snake River Valley near the Colorado border. The Company filed a notice of

dissolution on October 2, 1956, and officially dissolved on January 1, 1957. At that time, William M. Tierney was President and J.E. Tierney was Secretary.

George Salisbury, now retired, estimates that as many as 10,000 sheep were sheared each spring at the JO Ranch in the mid-1930s. The shearing barn was set up for blade shearing crews. Each man was assigned five sheep at a time. When the crews switched to electricity, they used a portable generator for power. When George operated the ranch, shearing occurred in late April-early May. George Salisbury used Mexican crews of eight to twelve, who could shear 1200-1500 sheep per day. Later, crews came from New Zealand. The east addition of the shearing shed on the JO was used for wool "tromping," where the men filled 300-pound bags with the fleece. A man would tromp down on the wool as each bag was filled. The bags were then loaded onto waiting trucks and shipped to the railhead at Wamsutter. Lambing followed for the next two weeks on various ranges around the ranch. The sheep were docked and gradually moved in bunches of 300 to the higher summer range via stock driveways. The sheep entered the forest in the Sierra Madre Range via the Savery Stock Driveway about mid-June. Three flocks grazed on the summer range, which was located in the Columbine-Hahn's Peak area.

Salisbury ran about 3800 sheep and 300 cows. Winter range was along Muddy Creek where he owned sixteen sections of land in a township along the Rawlins-Baggs Highway. At the time of Salisbury's occupation, there was a 32-volt Delco generator in the root cellar (Site I) that provided electric lighting for the log house. A gravity spring above the ranch filled 55-gallon steel drums for use in the house, and there was a well with a hand pump.

The Salisbury family was pioneer ranchers in the Little Snake River Valley. Albert W. Salisbury, George's grandfather, was the first to mine gold in the Hahn's Peak area around 1880. He worked for a Mr. McIntosh from Woodstock, Illinois. They went to Texas and drove back a herd of horses with money made in the mines. They raised the horses around old Slater, but lost money and went into sheep and cattle ranching. George's dad (George Sr.) was born in 1883 and married in 1911; his brother Earl was born in 1916, and George in 1921. His father made it through the Great Depression raising sheep in partnership with Rendle and Davis.

In the early 1950s when George acquired the JO Ranch, an old timer named Bill Byers camped nearby one night and stated that Byers' father (first name unknown) built the early stone buildings in about 1890, including the commissary (C), the stone and log barn (J), and possibly the stone bunkhouse (E). Andy Anderson was George's caretaker at the JO Ranch. He was a bachelor from Texas and stayed on the ranch from early

spring through late fall. He had previously worked for the Tierney outfit and stayed in the winter to oversee cattle on nearby winter range. In 1960, Anderson hauled sandstone from the side canyon up Cow Creek and laid a stone floor in the horse barn. George Salisbury sold the JO Ranch to the Eureka Pool, Inc., a cooperative of small area ranchers, in 1964. Eureka Pool built the livestock scales (Building N) and the newer system of corral and stock chutes, and ran cattle instead of sheep. The cooperative dissolved in the 1970s and sold the ranch to Tom Grieve, who continued to own the ranch through the 1980s. He made the interior repairs and put in the paneling in the log house. During his ownership he ran and sheared about 4000 sheep each spring. He drove the sheep into high country summer pastures in about mid-June. Cows came onto the ranch for the fall roundup. According to Grieve, the shearing shed was then used as a warming shed. The sheep were actually sheared in trailers brought in by the shearers, a practice widely used after the 1950s. Grieve confirmed that the north half of Building C was used as a kitchen with water piped in from a spring above the ranch. A commissary and cook's bedroom occupied the south half. Grieve concurred that the stone buildings on the property date from the 1890s. He also stated that there is a canyon with stone deposits about 1-1/2 miles northeast of the ranch where stone was probably procured for the buildings.

In the early 1990s, Tom Grieve sold the JO Ranch to the Pittsburg and Midway Coal Mining Company. However, he leased it from them and continued to run livestock on the range and use the ranch. Grieve then sold his lease to Rick Barns. David Pratt of the Three Forks Ranch acquired the lease and 3400 deeded acres and still owns some of the grazing land. Recently, the JO Ranch was acquired from Pittsburgh and Midway Coal Mining Company by the Bureau of Land Management in a land exchange for other mineral lands.

The JO Ranch represents a classic Wyoming sheep ranch operation that retains all of the key components peculiar to that industry and is located in a nearly pristine setting. Sheep ranching became one of Wyoming's most important agricultural pursuits after the disastrous blizzards of 1886-1887 destroyed the open range cattle industry. Although the number of sheep operators in the United States has continued to decline, Wyoming continues to rank second or third in sheep production. The JO Ranch, as preserved and maintained by the Bureau of Land Management, offers the interested visitor a unique look back into the late nineteenth-early twentieth century sheep ranching experience, a way of life that is quickly vanishing from the Wyoming landscape.

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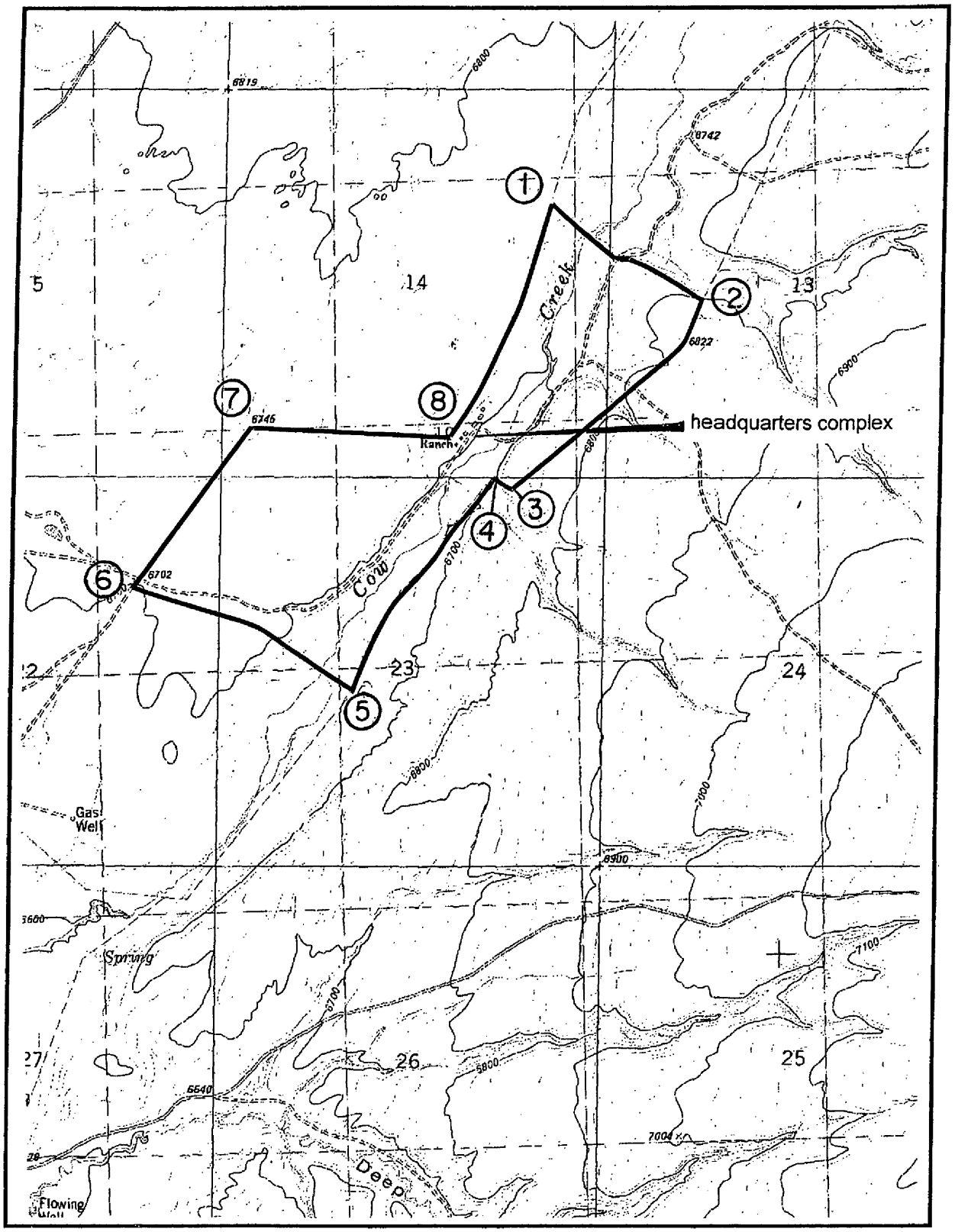
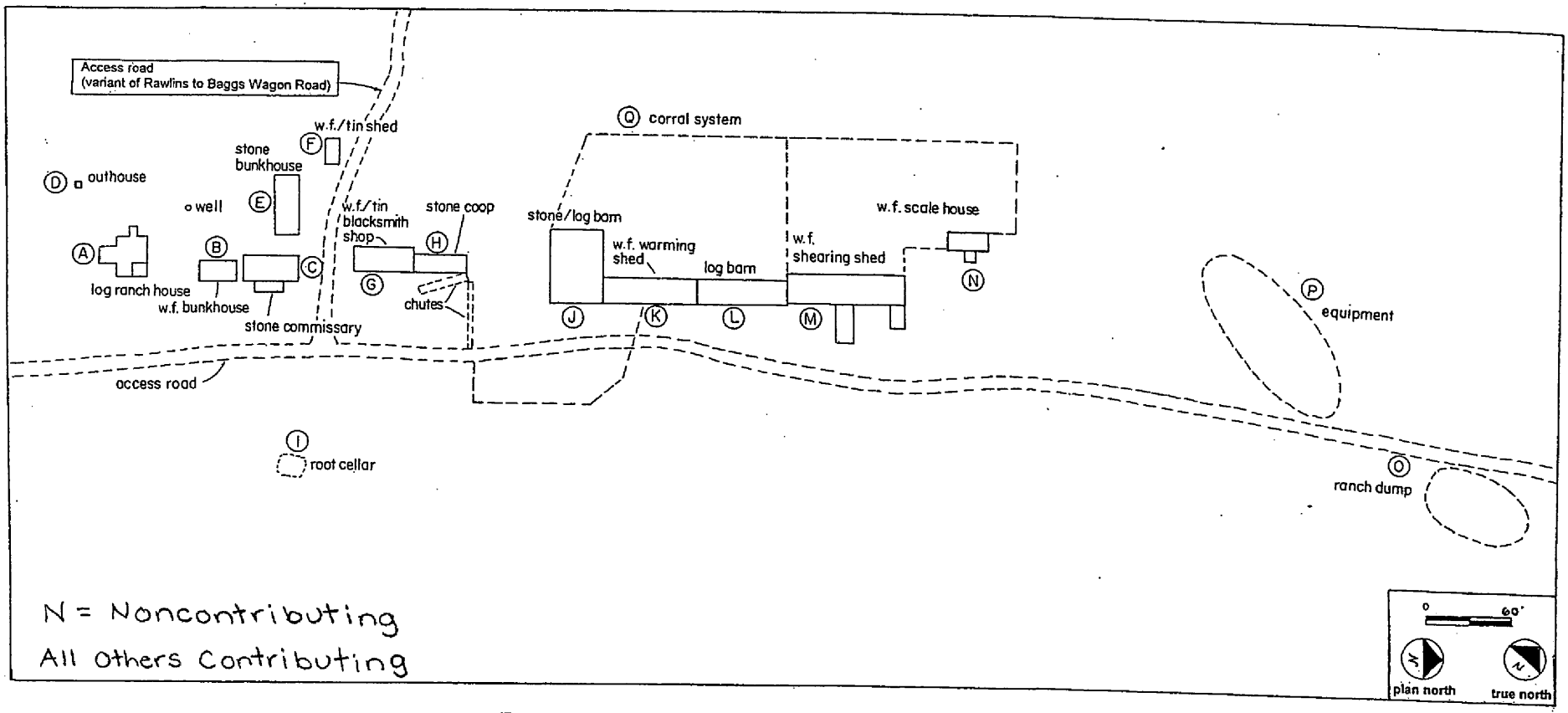
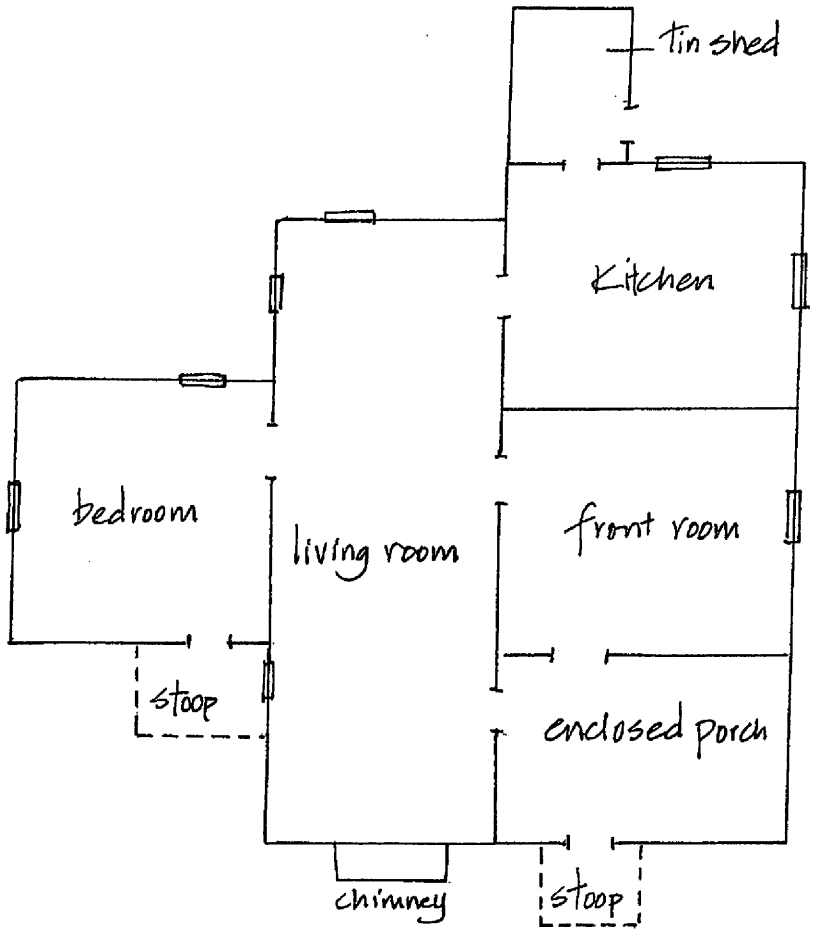


Map 1. Portion of the Garden Gulch, Wyoming 7.5' USGS quadrangle (1982), showing the proposed boundaries for the JO Ranch Rural Historic Landscape, located in Sections 13, 14, 22, and 23, T16N-R91W.



MAP 2. Site sketch of JO Ranch headquarters complex (buildings, structures, sites)
(revised 12/07)



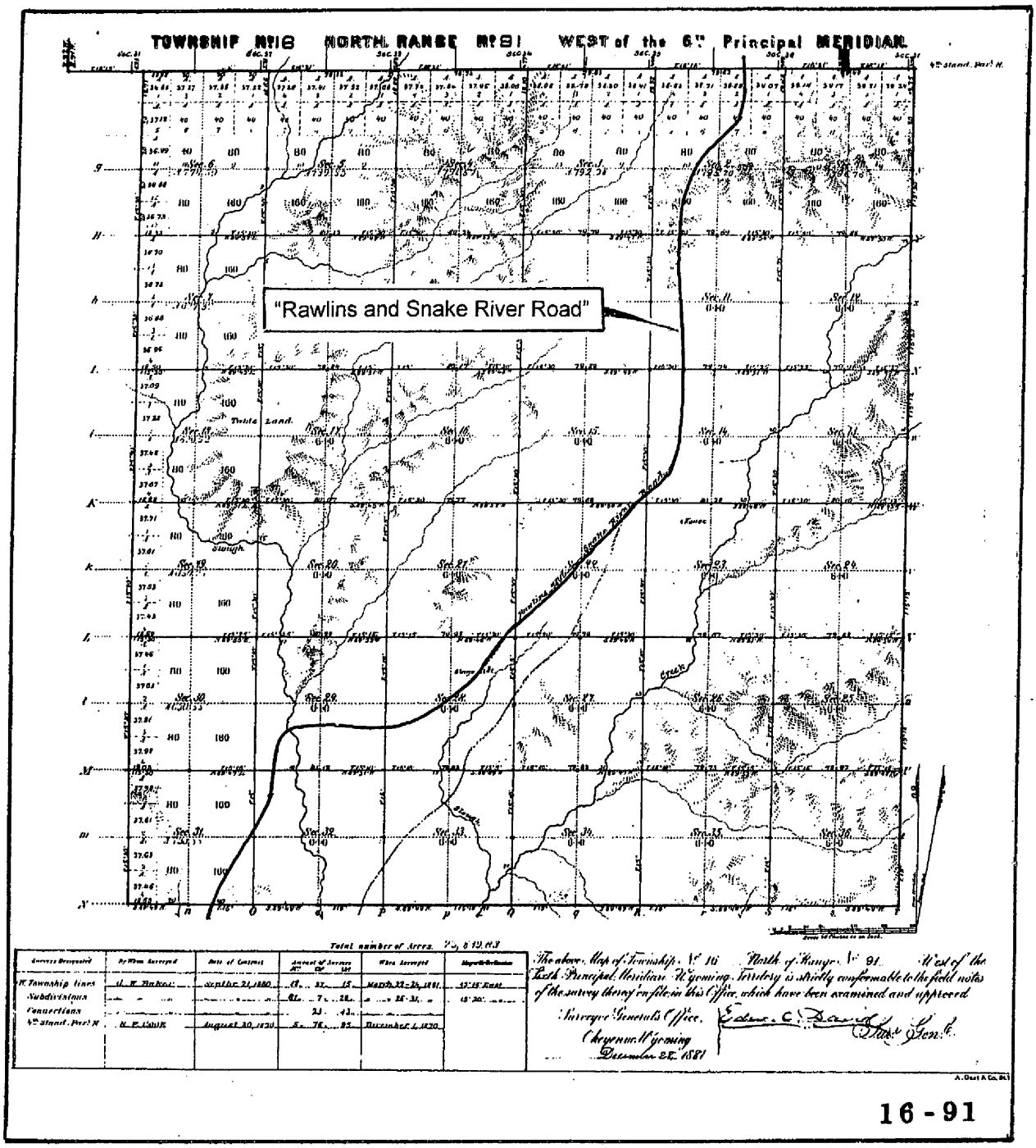
Site sketch:
Building A: JO Ranch house

north

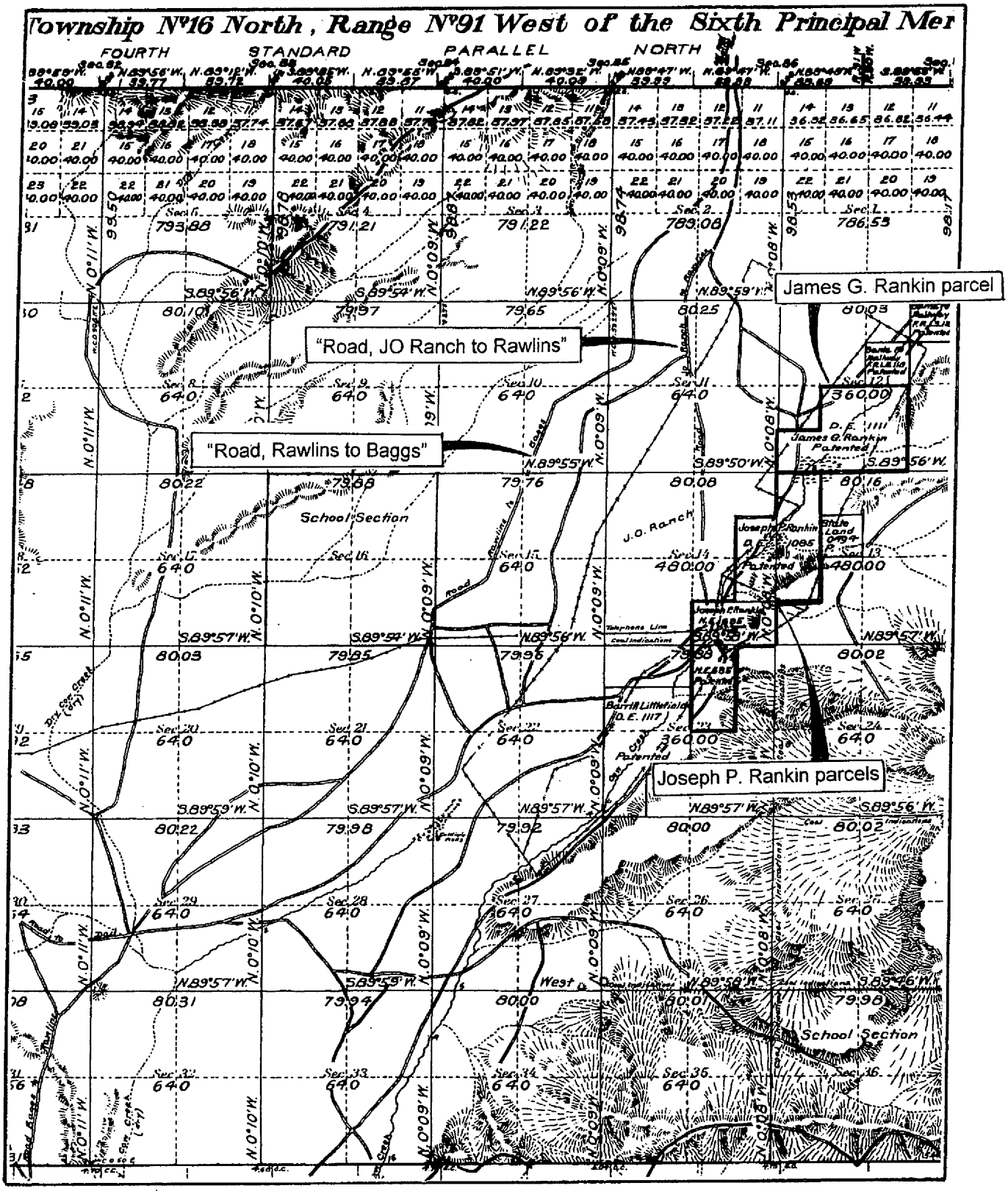
true north
Scale: 1" = 10'

north

Plan north



Map 3. General Land Office Plat for T16N-R91W dated 1881, showing the original wagon road that connected Rawlins with the White River Agency (Snake River Road). The JO Ranch (SE-1/4 Section 14) was not established until the late 1880s and therefore does not appear on this plat.



General Land Office Resurvey of T16N-R91W dated 1916, showing the homesteads of Joseph P. Rankin, who established the JO Ranch in the SE-1/4 Section 14. The plat also shows the main Rawlins to Baggs Wagon Road ("Road, Rawlins to Baggs") and the variant that passed through the JO Ranch ("Road, JO Ranch to Rawlins").

Map 4.

8-15-2008
JO Ranch, Baggs to Rawlins Wagon Road
Coming into JO Ranch from the SW
Located approx. 25 mi. NE of Baggs, Wyoming &
approx. 2 mi. NE of County Road 3305
Carbon County
View is SW, looking at where the road comes into the
Ranch from the Cow Creek Drainage.
Photographer: Richard Collier

8-15-2008
JO Ranch, Baggs to Rawlins Wagon Road
Coming into JO Ranch from the SW.
Located approx. 25 mi. NE of Baggs, Wyoming
and approx. 2.5 mi. NE of County Road 3305
Carbon County
View is SW looking at where road comes into
the ranch from the Cow Creek drainage
Photographer: Richard Collier

8-15-2008
JO Ranch overview of Ranch
Located approx. 25 mi. NE of Baggs, Wyoming &
approx. 2 mi. NE of County Rd. 3305
Carbon County
view is NW looking at Ranch complex from across
the Cow Creek drainage
Photographer: Richard Collier

8-15-2008

JO Ranch, Overview of Ranch

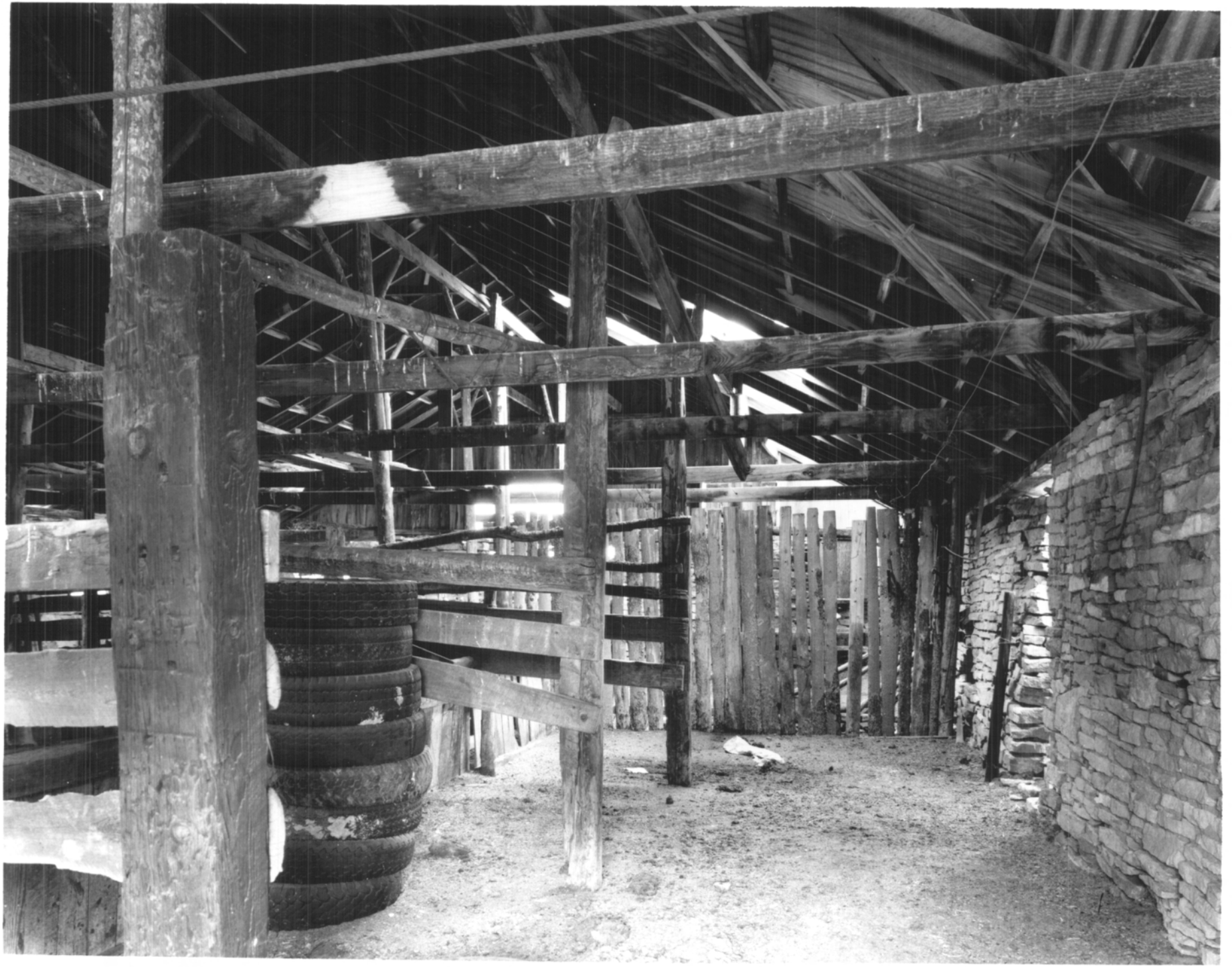
Located approx 25 mi NE of Baggs, Wyoming +
approx 2 mi. NE of County Rd. 3305

Carbon County

View is NW looking at Ranch Complex from across
the Cow Creek Drainage

Photographer: Richard Collier

11-19-2004
JO Ranch, Stone Bunkhouse
Located approx 25mi. NE of Baggs, Wyoming +
approx. 2mi. NE of Carbon County Road 3305
Carbon County
View is South looking at the (North) front of
the bldg.
Photographer: Richard Collier



11-19-2004
JO Ranch, Interior of Stone/Log Barn
Located approx. 25 mi. NE of Baggs, Wyoming +
approx. 2 mi. NE of Carbon County Road 3305
Carbon County
View is West looking into the Stone/Log Barn
Photographer: Richard Collier

11-19-2004

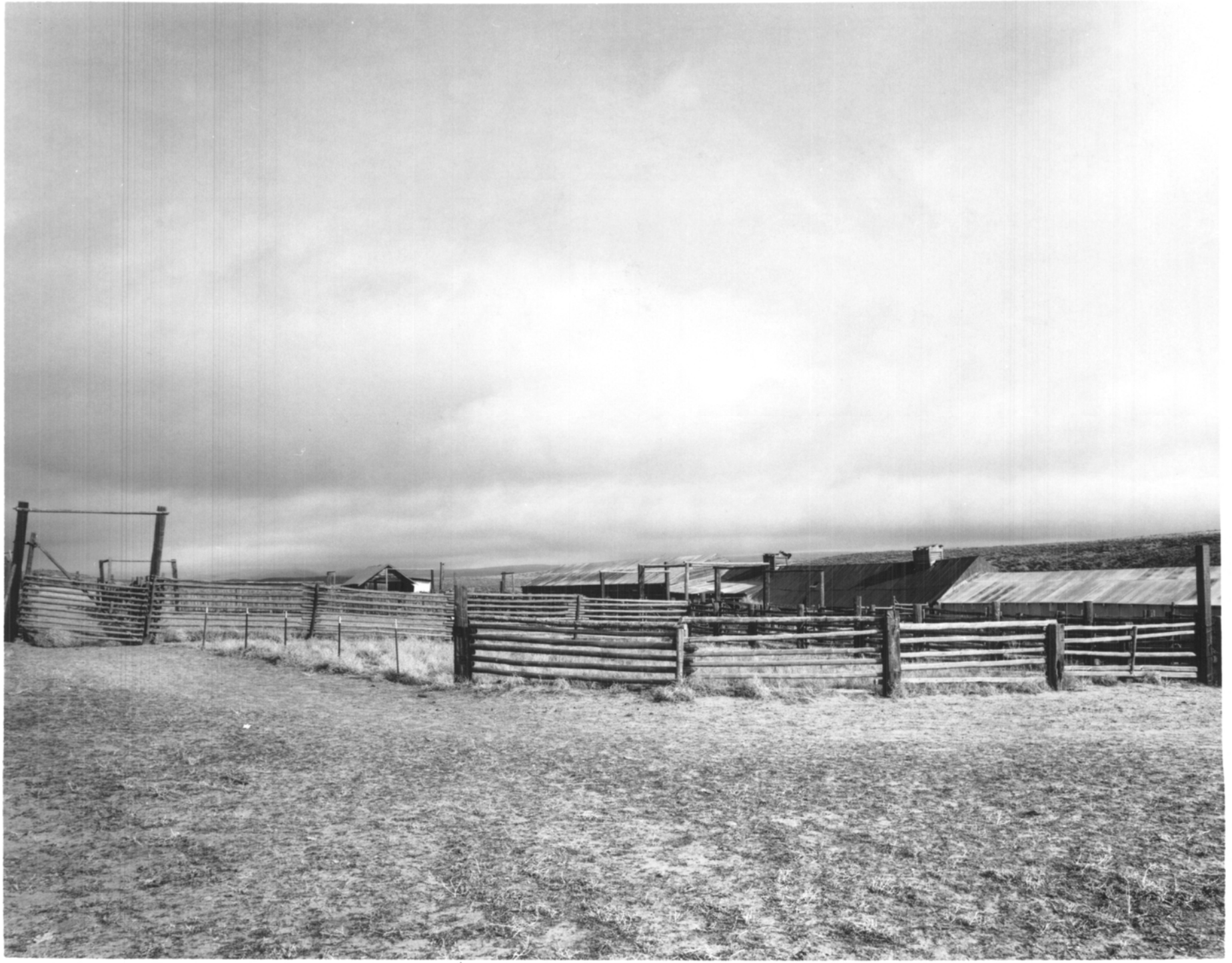
JO Ranch, NE Corner of the Shearing Shed.

Located approx. 25mi. NE of Baggs, Wyoming +
approx. 2mi. NE of Carbon County Road 3305
Carbon County

View is NNW

Photographer: Richard Collier

11-19-2004
JO Ranch. North End + West side of the Shearing Shed.
Located approx. 25 mi. NE of Baggs, Wyoming +
approx. 2 mi. NE of Carbon County Road 3305
Carbon County
View is SSE looking at the (North) End + (West) side
of the Shearing Shed.
Photographer: Richard Collier



11-19-2004

JO Ranch, Corral Area

Located approx. 25 mi. NE of Baggs, Wyoming &
approx. 2 mi. NE of Carbon County Road 3305
Carbon Count./

View is NE looking at Corral System.

Photographer: Richard Collier

11-19-2004

J O Ranch, Stone/Log Barn, Warming Shed, Log Barn + Shearing Shed

Located approx. 25 mi. NE of Baggs, Wyoming + -

approx 2 mi NE of Carbon County Road 3305

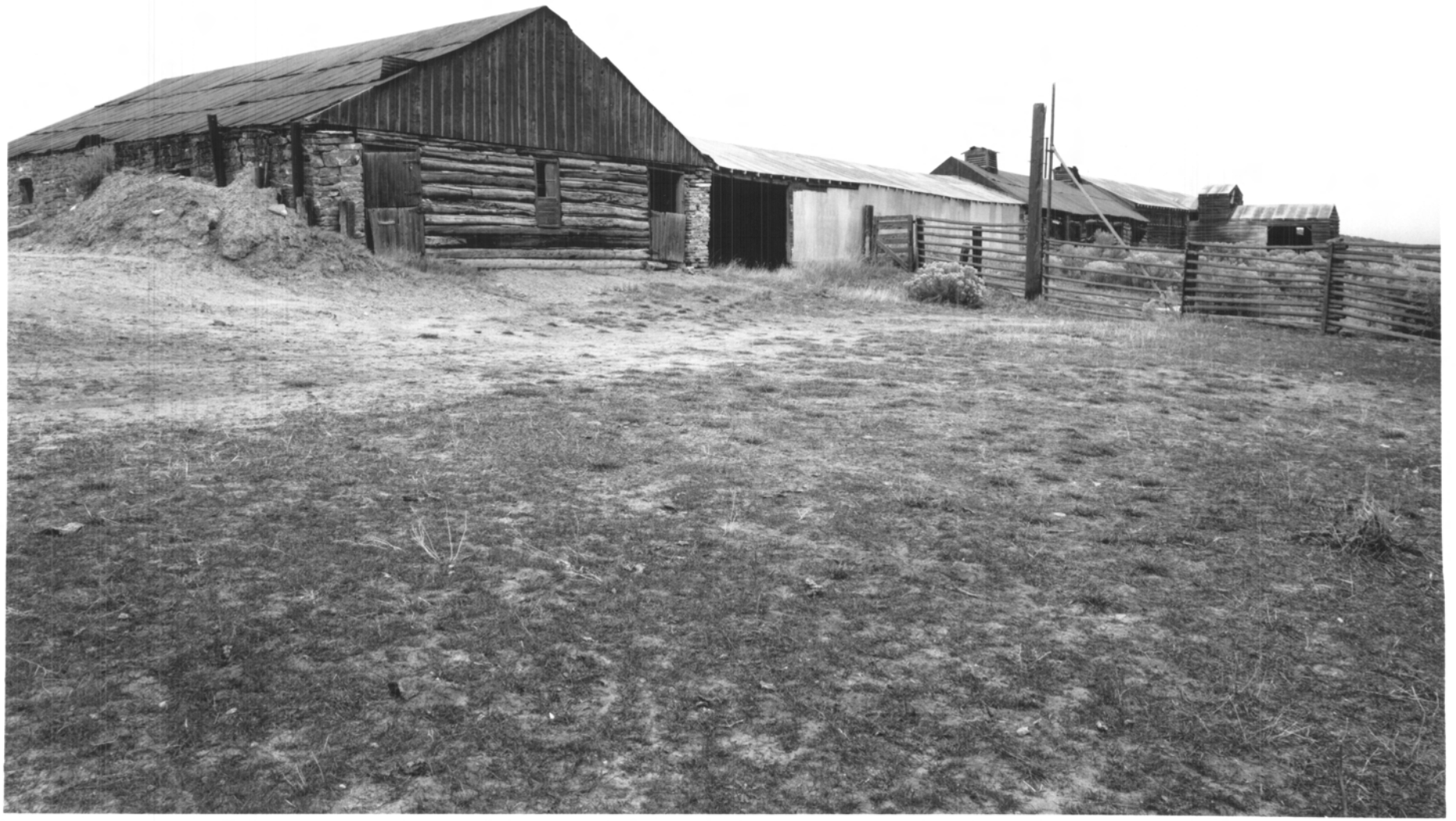
Carbon County

View is SW looking at the (East) side of the bldgs.

Photographer: Richard Collier

11-19-2009
JO Ranch, Log barn + Shearing Shed.
Located approx. 25 mi. NE of Baggs, Wyoming +
approx. 2 mi. NE of Carbon County Road 3305
Carbon County
View is West looking at the (East) side of the
Log Barn + Shearing Shed.
Photographer: Richard Collier

11-19-2004
JO Ranch, Front & Side of Log/Stone Barn
Located approx. 25 mi. NE of Baggs, Wyoming &
approx. 2 mi. NE of Carbon County Road 3305.
Carbon County
View is NNW looking at the (South) side & (East) End
of the bldg.
Photographer: Richard Collier



11-19-2004

JO Ranch, Stone/Log Barn, Warming shed, Log Barn + Shearing shed
Located approx. 25 mi. NE of Baggs, Wyoming +
approx. 2 mi. NE of Carbon County Road 3305.
Carbon County
View is NNW looking at the (East) side of the bldgs.
Photographer: Richard Collier

11-19-2004
JO Ranch, Bunkhouse, Stone Commissary & Stone Bunkhouse
Located approx. 25 mi. NE of Baggs, Wyoming &
approx. 2 mi. NE of Carbon County Road 3305.
Carbon County
View is SW. looking at the (East) front of the Bunk House &
Stone Commissary & the (North) front of the Stone Bunkhouse
Photographer: Richard Collier

11-19-2004
JO Ranch, Stone Commissary Bldg.
Located approx. 25 mi. NE of Baggs, Wyoming &
approx. 2 mi. NE of Carbon County Road 3305.
Carbon County
View is West looking at the (East) front of the bldg.
Photographer: Richard Collier

11.09-2004
JO Ranch, Log Ranch House, W.F. Bunkhouse, Stone Commissary +
Tin Blacksmith Shop
Located approx. 25 mi. NE of Baggs, Wyoming +
approx. 2 mi. NE of Carbon County Road 3305.
Carbon County
View is NNW looking at the (East) side of the bldgs.
Photographer: Richard Collier

11-19-2004

JO Ranch, Log Ranchhouse

Located approx. 25 mi NE of Baggs, Wyoming &
approx. 2 mi. NE of Carbon County Road 3305.

Carbon County

View is West looking at the (East) side of the house.

Photographer: Richard Collier