NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. Aug. 2002)

OMB No. 1024-0018
(Expires 1-31-2009)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Sommers Ranch Headquarters Historic District

Other names/site number: 48SU450

2. Location

Street & Number: 734 East Green River Road (County Road 23-110) Not for Publication: ____

City or Town: Pinedale Vicinity: ____

State: Wyoming Code: WY County: Sublette Code: 035

Zip Code: 82941

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 ____ statewide X locally. (____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mary M. Hopkins
Signature of certifying official

4/29/2009
Date

State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

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

Signature of commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

		Signature of Keeper	Date of Action
✓	entered in the National Register	Edson H. Beall	6·18·09
___	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): _____		

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

X	private
___	public-local
___	public-State
___	public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

___	building(s)
X	district
___	site
___	structure
___	object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
13	5	building(s)
3		sites
2	2	structures
		objects
18	7	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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:	Sub:
Agriculture	Animal Facility
Agriculture	Agricultural Outbuildings
Agriculture	Storage
Domestic	Single Dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Sub:
Agriculture	Animal Facility
Agriculture	Agricultural Outbuildings
Agriculture	Storage
Domestic	Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other – hewn log

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	Earth
roof	Metal
walls	Log
other	

See Continuation Sheets

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

See 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.
	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)

Agriculture

Period of Significance

1908-1957

Significant Dates

1908

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Morrison, John

Aikens, W. E.

Taylor, Harold

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

See Continuation Sheets

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

See Continuation Sheet

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
_____ Other State agency
_____ Federal agency
_____ Local government
_____ University
_____ Other

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 22.5 acres

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	12	584582	4736835	3	12	585073	4736725
2	12	584880	4736878	4	12	584923	4736641

X See continuation sheet.

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title	Jonita and Albert Sommers				
Organization	Sommers Ranch	Date	January 2009		
Street & number	734 East Green River Road	Telephone	(307) 367-4756		
City or town	Pinedale	State	WY	Zip code	82941

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

Name	Jonita and Albert Sommers				
Organization	Sommers Ranch	Telephone	(307) 367-4756		
Street & number	734 East Green River Road				
City or town	Pinedale	State	WY	Zip code	82941

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to range from approximately 18 hours to 36 hours depending on several factors including, but not limited to, how much documentation may already exist on the type of property being nominated and whether the property is being nominated as part of a Multiple Property Documentation Form. In most cases, it is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form to meet minimum National Register documentation requirements. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

Description

The Sommers Ranch Headquarters Historic District is representative of a modest turn of the century Wyoming family ranch where the rancher relied on the timber from the surrounding mountains to build at least eleven of the vernacular buildings: homestead house, meat house, cellar, garage, outhouse, cow barn, granary, bunkhouse, icehouse, barn, and chicken house. These buildings demonstrate what a family ranch in the isolated Green River Valley required to be self-sufficient.

The Sommers Ranch Headquarters is situated on the east side of the Green River between the confluence of Horse Creek and Cottonwood Creek in the midst of the sagebrush-covered hills of Sublette County. Surrounding land is used for the production of hay as well as grazing. Irrigation canals fed by the Green River and originally built with teams and fresnos, provide water for raising hay on the meadowlands. Multiple springs on the west side of the Green River provide water for cattle during the winter.

The buildings, structures, sites, and vegetation create the ranch headquarters that began in 1908 and is still used in the same manner 100 years later. Corrals constructed from wooden posts and poles are an integral part of the ranch. "Pug" Aikens, who worked on the Sommers ranch from 1957 until the mid-1970s, was a versatile ranch hand who built a number of buildings (the playhouse and calving shed) and rebuilt others (the barn, chicken house, new granary, cellar) on the ranch. Born in Missouri, he came to Wyoming looking for work. He also rebuilt and refurbished buildings on several other ranches in the area.

The Sommers Ranch Headquarters is an interesting mixture of hand crafted vernacular buildings along with modern buildings that help maintain the economic viability of this ranching operation, and is typical of how ranches in the Green River Valley grew from the turn of the century. Most successful ranches in the valley contain this mixture of historic buildings as well as modern metal structures and trailers. These metal structures do not contribute to the architectural and historic character of the ranch but are nonetheless crucial to its economic success. Working ranch buildings, regardless of age and material, are part of the evolution of ranching in the Green River Valley.

Homestead House, ca. 1910, 28 feet x 34 feet 5 inches, Contributing (1 on sketch map)

The five-room, one and one-half story house sits on sill logs and is constructed of square hewn logs with dovetail joints, and board and batten siding in the gable ends. The side gable roof is covered with rolled roofing. Windows are double-hung (2/2 or 6/6) and casement. A gable roof covering the east side entry is not original to the house. Historic photos show a small shed roofed addition on the north side of the building that is no longer there. A thirty-two foot long screened porch with a shed roof is a later addition on the west side. A door and window were closed in with logs some time in the past. The Ada ditch runs a few feet west of the porch.

John Morrison, a neighbor of the Sommers family, built the log homestead house along the Green River in 1908. It is one of the few one-and-one-half story houses built in the valley. Morison also built several other houses for ranchers in the Green River Valley. The house was moved to its current location with a team of six horses in 1910.

Homestead House Yard, ca. 1911 – 1920, Contributing, (2 on sketch map)

The ranch house yard is an integral part of the district and is defined by a wire fence on the east, south, and north sides and the Ada irrigation ditch on the west side. May McAlister Sommers planted cottonwood trees on the ditch bank, hops along the east and south walls of the house, golden rod flowers along the northeast wall of the house, and a row of wild roses on the north side of the house that are visible today.

A stack of antlers in front of the house has been there since at least 1919. The wooden yard gate with the two ranch brands was built by 1948 and rebuilt in the 1980s with the same design and original hinges. The original hand-operated water pump still stands in the front yard. Verla Sommers first placed the small A-framed chicken coops in the yard during the 1950s. They were still used to raise baby chicks within the last decade.

Meat House, 1978, 4 feet x 7 feet, Non-contributing (3 on sketch map)
This gable roofed building is located on the southwest side of the yard. Originally built in the 1910s, it was rebuilt in the original style after a tree fell on it in 1978.

Cellar, ca. 1910, 8 feet x 11 feet, Contributing (4 on sketch map)
The cellar has a low-pitched gable roof and a window on the north side. A doorway opens onto wooden steps leading to the cellar, which was rehabilitated in the early 1970s after the structure began deteriorating. Despite a partial cave-in that occurred around 1990, the cellar still maintains sufficient integrity for it to be considered a contributing element.

Old Garage, ca. 1917, 14 feet x 20 feet, Contributing (5 on sketch map)
The gable roof building has board and batten siding and mineral paper covers the roof. It was constructed in approximately 1917.

Granary, ca. 1911, 19 feet 6 inches x 21 feet; 20 feet x 21 feet, Contributing (6 on sketch map)
This building was originally two structures built end to end. The log building on the south side was used as the cow barn. The roof is a very low-pitched gable with metal roofing. The north building contained the old granary. It is constructed of boards with a very low-pitched gable. The cow barn roof was originally dirt but was later covered with red mineral roofing paper, and metal eventually replaced the paper.

Ice House (now machine shed), ca. 1917, 13 feet x 20 feet, Contributing (7 on sketch map)
Originally the homestead house of Jim and Josie McAlister, parents of May McAlister Sommers, this gable-roofed log building later became housing for hired help. The building was moved to its present location sometime after 1921 and converted to an icehouse. When the Green River froze the ice was cut into blocks approximately 1feet 6 inches x 3 feet with an ice saw. The ice blocks were then packed in sawdust to a depth of five feet. In the late 1960s the building was converted to a machine shed. Vehicles are stored in the shed which has the east wall knocked out.

Shop and Bunkhouse, ca. early 1950s, 17 feet 6 inches x 61 feet, Contributing (8 on sketch map)
The shop and bunkhouse were constructed as one building. The gable roofed frame structure is sided with metal shingles. The shop was used to maintain equipment as the ranch switched from horse drawn power to tractors. The bunkhouse has never received indoor plumbing.

Chicken House, ca. 1908, 15 feet x 18 feet 6 inches, Contributing (9 on sketch map)

The original chicken house, still in use today, rehabilitated in the late 1950s. The aluminum sided, gable-roofed building includes a scratch pen, a coop with a roost, and a concrete foundation deep enough so that skunks, fox, raccoons or coyotes cannot dig under to get in the coop and kill the chickens.

New Calving Shed, ca. early 1990s, Non-contributing (10 on sketch map)
The calving shed has an asymmetrical gable roof and board and batten siding.

Old Bunkhouse (granary), ca. 1908, 17 feet by 21 feet, Contributing (11on sketch map)
Constructed as a bunkhouse, the gable-roofed log building was converted to a granary in the 1950s. The original roof was dirt, and in the late 1950s a steeper roof pitch was added to the building, and red mineral paper was added to the roof. The building was set on a cement and cinder block foundation at the same time the roof style was changed, and in 2004 a red metal roof was added. Ranch brands made of wood were placed on the outside of the door at an unknown date.

Playhouse, ca. late 1950s, 6 feet 6 inches x 8 feet 6 inches, Contributing (12 on sketch map)
This gable-roofed building has green mineral paper on the outside with two windows, a door and a small wooden porch. It was built for the Sommers children.

House, ca. 1957, 23 feet 5 inches x 80 feet 5 inches, Contributing (13 on sketch map)
The "new" ranch house is of frame construction, sided with metal, and has an attached garage. Harold Taylor, who built many of the houses in the Pinedale area during that era, constructed the house. The gable-roofed building was originally sided with a hard, almost slate like material. All windows are sliders. A glass block sidelight is located beside the front door.

Corrals, ca. 1908, Contributing (14 on sketch map)
The original corrals were a mixture of pole and slab design. The slabs were trimmed from logs as they were squared for use in log construction. The corrals have been maintained in kind with new poles, posts, and slabs over the course of time.

Arena, ca. 1960s, Non-contributing (15 on sketch map)
The outer fence is post, barbwire and woven wire. There is a small pen with an alleyway and chute for calves as well as a box for horses at each end of the arena.

Scales and Scale House, 1980, Non-contributing (16 on sketch map)
The house is a metal building that is 5 feet x 6 feet. Cattle were last shipped to the railroad in Rock Springs, Wyoming in 1979. The scales were then removed and the stockyards demolished. Faced with a lack of facilities for weighing yearlings, the scale corral and scale house were built on the Sommers Ranch. The scales are from the old Rock Springs stockyard.

Squeeze Chute and Alleyway, 2006 and 2007, Non-contributing (17 on sketch map)
Due to deterioration of the wooden alleyway and metal chute, a Powder River squeeze chute and alleyway assembled at the original location.

Old Calving Shed, ca. late 1950s, 30 feet x 36 feet, Contributing (18 on sketch map)
This gable-roofed building was originally a machine shed for housing machinery. It was converted into a calving shed in the early 1960s.

Barn, 1949, 19 feet 6 inches x 33 feet, Contributing (19 on sketch map)
The gable-roofed building has a concrete foundation, two regular stalls and one bronc stall. Ranch hand Pug Aikens rebuilt the barn in the 1950s. A shed-roofed lean-to on the northeast side was added in the 1960s. Albert Sommers, current owner, repaired the lean-to in the past few years.

Trailer House, ca. early 1970s, Non-contributing (20 on sketch map)
The trailer house was moved in so the hired help would have modern conveniences, such as running water, central heating, and electricity.

Metal Building, ca. 1980, Non-contributing (21 on sketch map)
The gable-roofed metal building is used to store tractors and feed for the cattle. It also has a concrete area that serves as a shop.

Ada Ditch, ca. 1908, Contributing (22 on sketch map)
An application for the enlargement of the Ada Ditch was filed in August 1908. The enlargement served 227 acres of the Sommers Ranch. The ditch was dug with horse teams and fresnos, and is in the original location. The ditch was designed so that the width of the ditch narrowed as it approached the end of the meadow. This narrowing forced water to flow over the top of the ditch, and thus was able to irrigate some fairly steep grades. The ditch works today as it originally did.

Home Field, Contributing (23 on sketch map)
The field traditionally associated with the original ranch complex.

Outhouse, ca. 1908, 5 feet 2 inches x 6 feet 6 inches, Contributing (24 on sketch map)
The outhouse is a wood framed building and covered with a metal roof.

Old Garden, Contributing (25 on sketch map)
May Sommers had a large garden for many years in this area.

The Sommers Ranch Headquarters Historic District consists of 18 contributing buildings, sites, and structures:

Homestead House	Shop and Bunkhouse	Old Calving Shed
Homestead House Yard	Chicken House	Barn
Cellar	Old Bunkhouse	Ada Ditch
Old Garage	Playhouse	Home Field
Granary	House	Outhouse
Ice House	Corrals	Old Garden

The Sommers Ranch Headquarters Historic District consists of 7 non-contributing buildings and structures:

Meat House	Squeeze Chute and Alleyway
New Calving Shed	Trailer House
Arena	Metal Building
Scales and Scale House	

The Sommers Ranch Headquarters represents the hub of a working cattle ranch, owned and operated by the same family for over one hundred years. It retains a high degree of integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association. The modern intrusions do not detract from the historic ranch but merely reflect a pattern typical of ranching in the region, involving moving and re-using buildings as well as construction of new ones as needed.

Statement of Significance

The Sommers Ranch Headquarters Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A as a representative example of the numerous modest ranches of the upper Green River Valley basin that were founded over one hundred years ago. The majority of these ranches are small cattle operations that began as homesteads. The period of significance begins in 1908 when the Sommers established the ranch headquarters with the corrals, bunkhouse, chicken house, and ditch continuing through to 1957 with the completion of the "new" house. The buildings, a mix of log, frame, and modern metal sheds, are typical of other ranches in the valley. It was not uncommon for ranchers in this area to move a building or put them to a new use as the ranch evolved over time.

Pioneerering homesteaders, such as the Sommers family, created a ranch by a variety of means: land claims, family members' homesteads, or outright purchase of land. The second generation often purchased additional land that further enlarged the ranch. The third and fourth generation ranch families of today have deep ties to the land their forefathers homesteaded and take great pride in those men and women who worked hard and persevered. They helped create a community by serving on livestock boards, participating in roundups, supporting churches and schools, and volunteering for various community projects. Without these small, independent ranchers and their ability to survive drought, weak markets, and other manmade and natural disasters, there would be no ranching in Sublette County as we know it today.

The experience of the Sommers family and the establishment of the Sommers Ranch is typical of many pioneer ranching families who settled in rural Sublette County. In a pattern that was repeated by numerous ranchers in the county, Prof Sommers settled a homestead and gradually increased his holdings. He did what others did before him to enter the ranching business; he formed a partnership with family members, and also worked another job in order to increase his holdings.

Sommers was a latecomer to the valley. By 1900, much of the land in the Green River Valley had already been homesteaded. Settlers first came into the lower Green River Valley in the 1870s and subsequent settlement followed the Green River north. This is an area of dry land that explorer John Wesley Powell in 1879 called "the arid region of the United States." With rainfall of less than twenty inches a year, the land was not suitable for crop production but adequate for stock grazing. As families continued to homestead in the valley, small family ranches grew in number and transformed the upper Green River Valley into a thriving cattle ranching community.

Albert P. Sommers, known throughout his life as Prof, was born November 8, 1871 in Ashtabula, Ohio to a German-Swiss family. At some point, he relocated to Kansas where he taught school in 1896 and 1897. Around 1900, Sommers came to Wyoming due to a lung problem and taught at the Opal school before entering into partnership with Charles Olson and leased a ranch on Fontenelle Creek. Prof's brother, Pearl Sommers, joined him in the ranching operation about 1904. While trailing cattle to and from the Upper Green River country, they saw the open land where each would take out a homestead claim in 1907. Prof also bought isolated parcels, and filed on desert claims in the same area. He filed his first water right on the Sommers Ranch in 1908. Pearl Sommers moved to Jackson a few years later and eventually to California.

Prof married May McAlister on May 11, 1911. May, born in Illinois in 1879, moved with her family to Kansas in 1886. She began teaching school when she was seventeen years old. In 1903, a teacher friend urged May to join her in Wyoming, telling her the land was beautiful and there were lots of men. May did come to Wyoming and taught

school in Big Piney. By the time May married Prof in 1911, she had bought land and had started homesteading. Later, she, too, filed a desert land entry. Her teacher friend, Nellie Yates, also homesteaded and bought isolated parcels, which Prof and May Sommers later purchased. May's parents, Jim and Josie McAlister came to Wyoming where Jim homesteaded. With the family and friends working together, the Sommers were able to establish a ranch of nearly 1900 acres.

Sommers is associated with a number of improvements in the county. In 1912, he helped build an important road that connected Pinedale and Big Piney. The road went through the Sommers Ranch and a two span steel pin connected six panel Pratt through, and four panel Pratt Pony truss bridge was constructed over the Green River, which is located west of the ranch headquarters. Although it is no longer a main road, it is still used by the Sommers family and the neighboring ranches. The bridge still functions and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1985.

The Big Piney Roundup Association was created, during 1890, in response to the so-called Equalizer Winter of 1889-1890 in which 90% of the cattle in the Upper Green River Valley died during the freezing months. There were no fences so the ranchers hired cowboys who traveled with chuck wagons (known as "wagons") to care for the cattle of different ranches. The Big Piney Roundup Association handled the cattle so the ranchers had time to put up hay on the river and creek bottoms. This proved to be such a success that as more settlers came, more "wagons" with cowboys were put together to manage cattle in different localities. Sommers belonged to a "wagon" that handled cattle in the Upper Green River region during the early 1900s. Sommers was a charter member of the Upper Green River Cattle and Horse Growers Association, which formed in 1916, and served on the board.

In 1914, the Forest Service asked the wagons in the various geographical areas of the Green River to form associations for easier grazing management. The March 16, 1914, edition of the Pinedale Roundup included an article about rulings concerned with new associations forming in these areas. According to the newspaper account, "Any association where members included a majority of the local residents making use of the national forest [could] get together and select a committee to meet with the local forest officers. The Associations were to 'act in advisory capacity' to the federal agents."

Associations formed to deal with these new facets of grazing cattle became increasingly important - in fact, necessary- to the ranchers. The Forest Service brought about the formation of all the associations; before their request, it was just wagons of loosely knit ranchers working together.

From the original Big Piney Roundup Association, and smaller associations, the Upper Green River Cattle and Horse Growers Association formed. (The name of the association changed in 1925 to the Upper Green River Cattle Association, also known as the UGRCA). The UGRCA was the largest of these associations, with the longest trail (nearly 150 miles). This long trail with the cattle moving up and down the Green River with the seasons became known as the Green River Drift. Prof Sommers ran his cattle on the Green River Drift as early as 1904. The UGRCA is one of only two associations left in the Green River Valley today.

During the formation of Sublette County from parts of Fremont and Lincoln counties in 1921, Prof Sommers campaigned to have the county seat located in Daniel to prevent a feud between Big Piney and Pinedale. He lost this campaign when Pinedale became the county seat and the feud continues today.

From 1922 through 1926, Prof had the mail contract from Big Piney to Pinedale. He hired a man to run the ranch and the family moved to Big Piney. While the Sommers family was living in Big Piney, May ran the town telephone switchboard located in one end of a little log cabin. May and Prof worked hard together to build the ranch. May liked to travel and work outside. She helped with branding, cooked for the ranch hands, and grubbed brush.

Prof Sommers died July 9, 1928 from a severe case of high blood pressure that formed a blood clot on the brain. May kept the ranch running and raised their four children by teaching school in Pinedale. She became the Sublette County Superintendent of Schools on January 10, 1929. May taught school in the Green River Valley for nearly fifty years either as a full-time teacher or as a substitute teacher in later years at Pinedale. May was one of the six original members who started the Sublette County Artist's Guild in 1928.

In 1957, May received her Bachelors of Art degree from the University of Wyoming when she was 78 years old. Some of May's former students attended college at the same time and would carry her books to class for her. May McAlister Sommers died July 19, 1963 in Jackson, Wyoming.

May sold the ranch to her son Albert (born 1915) known as Bud, and his wife Verla in 1947. Bud purchased additional Forest Service and BLM grazing boards and improved the ranch in order to increase its capacity. He was very involved in the Upper Green River Cattle Association where he served for many years as secretary-treasurer and/or foreman of the UGRCA. He was a lifetime member of the Green River Valley Cattlemen's Association and served on Forest Service and BLM grazing boards and committees protecting the lifestyle he loved. He was well respected by those he dealt with because of his intelligence and honesty. Bud Sommers passed away on September 18, 2000.

Bud's wife Verla worked beside him on the ranch - haying, moving cows, calving and fencing - when she wasn't busy cooking and raising their two children, Jonita and Albert, Jr. She was ranch women of the year in 1988 and a lifelong member of the Green River Cowbelles. In 1957, Verla realized a lifetime dream by having a house built for her, which she purchased with her own money. She passed away peacefully in her home on February 25, 2006, at age 81.

Albert, Jr. and Jonita are the third generation of Sommers on the ranch. Like his father and grandfather, Albert has ranched most of his life. He has been the president of the Upper Green River Cattle Association for fifteen years. He has served on statewide committees pertaining to sage grouse, grizzly bears, and brucellosis. Albert is a member of the Green River Valley Cattlemen's Association and was elected president twice. He was appointed to the Wyoming Livestock Board in 2007, and he is currently chairman of the Sublette County Planning and Zoning Commission.

Jonita has followed in her grandmother May's footsteps. She has taught school since 1978 and has been a member of the Sublette County Artists' Guild since 1988. She is a member of the Green River Cattle Women (Cowbelles) and helped organize the local centennial ranch awards in 2007. She has served on both Sublette County museum boards and contributed to most of the displays in the Green River Valley Museum.

Today, the Sommers Ranch Headquarters Historic District remains in operation on the land settled by Prof, Pearl and May McAlister Sommers. The meadows, ditches, corrals and outbuildings they established in 1908 are still in use. They have been maintained or improved for over 100 years. The Sommers Ranch was awarded a centennial plaque by the Green River Valley Cattle Women and received a Centennial Ranch award from Wyoming's State Historic Preservation Office. The Sommers Ranch has raised beef cattle commercially since 1908, and Albert and Jonita

started a small registered Hereford herd in the late 1980s. Brother and sister are what their grandparents and parents were: small, well-respected ranchers, the backbone of a ranch, a community, and Wyoming.

Major Bibliographic References

National Archives homestead, desert land entries, and isolated tract purchase records for Albert, Pearl, and May McAlister Sommers, Nellie Yates Ewer, James E. Lewis, John Chenett, Jim McAlister, and Bill Todd.

National Resource Conservation Service map.

Personal communication about events, structures and activities on the ranch with Florence Sommers Jensen, Dan Ball, Swede McAlister, Bud and Verla Sommers.

Pinedale Roundup newspaper articles pertaining to Sommers Ranch and family from 1904 to 2006.

Sommers, Jonita. "Definitely All Boy." Sublette County Artists' Guild, ed. Seeds-Ke-Dee Revisited: Land of Blue Granite and Silver Sage. Freeman, South Dakota: Pine Hill Press, Inc., 1998.

Sommers, Jonita. Green River Drift. Helena, Montana: Falcon Press, 1992.

Sommers, Jonita. "My Sommers Half." Sublette County Artists' Guild, ed. Seeds-Ke-Dee Revisited: Land of Blue Granite and Silver Sage. Freeman, South Dakota: Pine Hill Press, Inc., 1998.

Sommers, Jonita, "Sommers Ranch." Hayden H. Huston, ed. Daniel, Wyoming: The First 100 Years. Salt Lake City, Utah: Agreka Books, 2000.

Sommers Ranch and family's old papers, deeds, water adjudications, maps, certificates and photographs.

Surveyor Scherbel map and documentation.

Tabulation of Water Rights or All Streams Adjudicated by the State Board of Control from its Organization in 1881. Cheyenne, WY: State Board of Control, 1914.

10. Geographical Data

Additional UTM Reference

	Zone	Easting	Northing
5.	12	584607	4736616

Boundary Description

The property is bounded on the north by the Sommers Boat Access Road and the ranch driveway, on the east by County Road 23-110, on the south by the Trash Draw and the historic fence line, and on the west by the historic fence line.

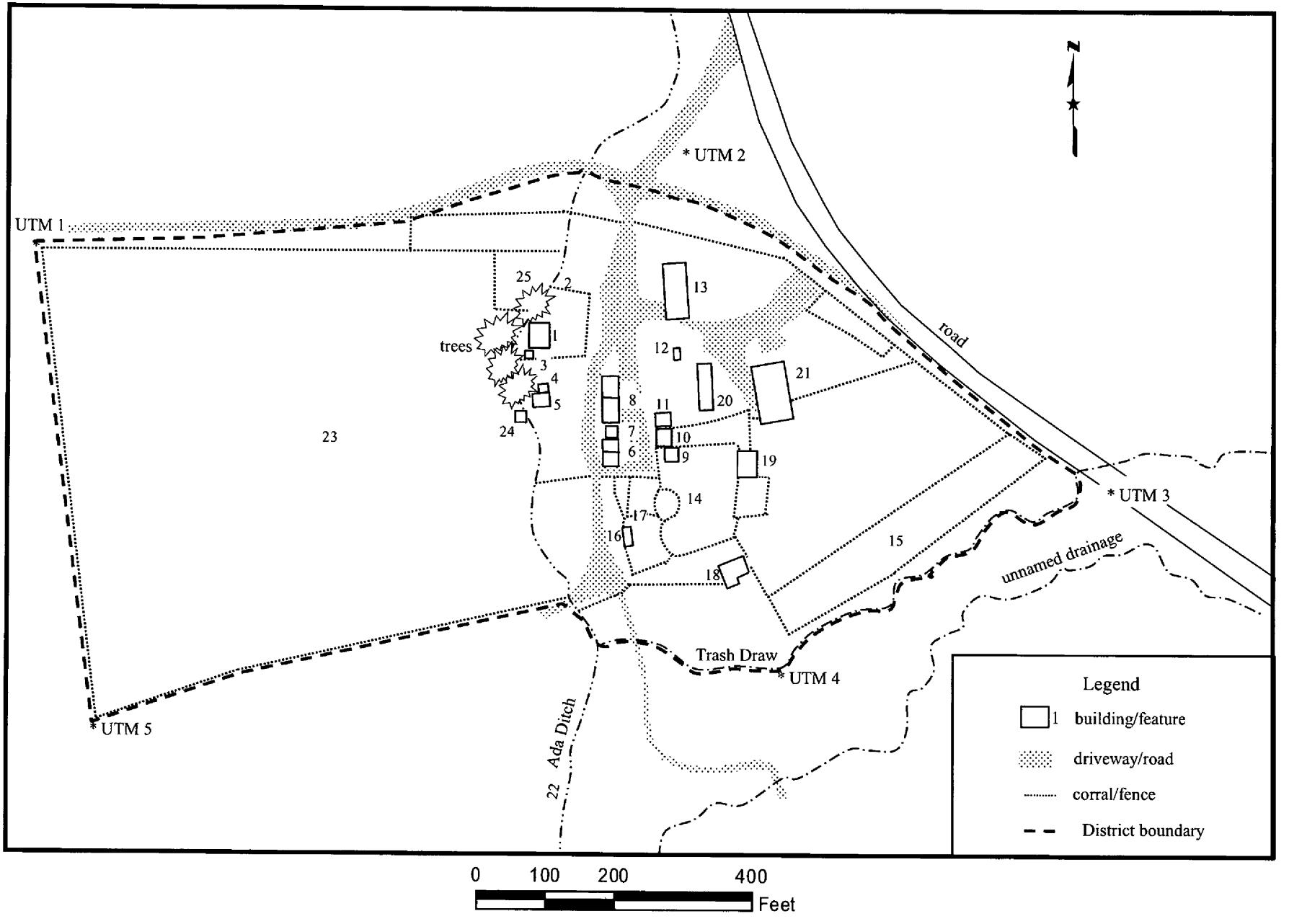
Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the parcel historically associated with the ranch headquarters.

7. Description

Materials

Foundation: Stone
Concrete



Attachment 1. Sketch map of Sommers Ranch Headquarters Historic District (48SU450)

1-29-08

Sommers Ranch Headquarters Historic District, Homestead House, Yard & Meat House (1, 2, & 3 on sketch map)

Located at 734 East Green River Road

Pinedale, Wyoming

Sublette County

View is WNW

Photographer: Richard Collier

1-29-08

Sommers Ranch Headquarters Historic District, Homestead House & Yard (1 & 2 on sketch map)

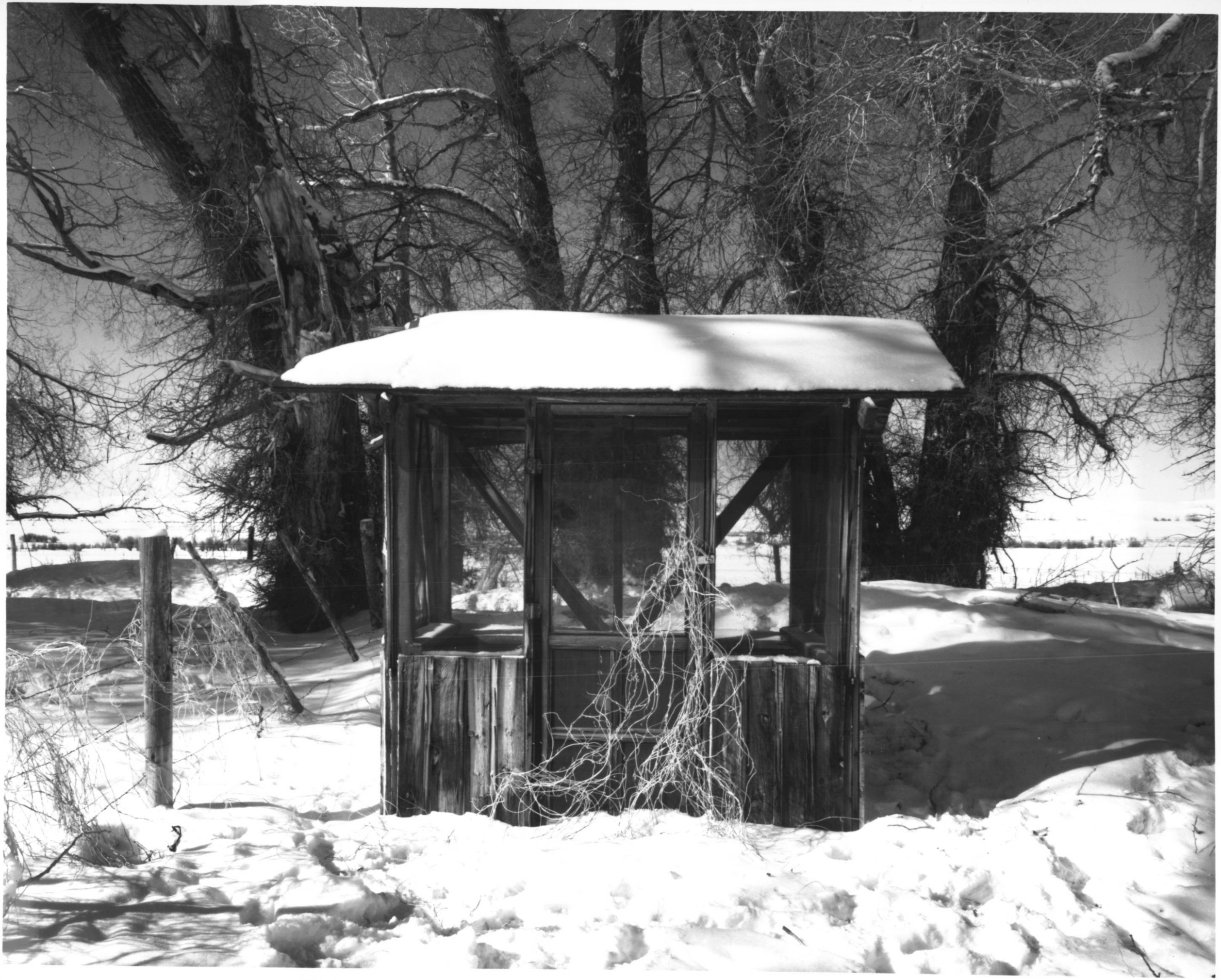
Located at 734 East Green River Road

Pinedale, Wyoming

Sublette County

View is west

Photographer: Richard Collier



1-29-08

Sommers Ranch Headquarters Historic District, Meat House (3 on sketch map)

Located at 734 East Green River Road

Pinedale, Wyoming

Sublette County

View is West

Photographer: Richard Collier

1-29-08

Sommers Ranch Headquarters Historic District, Old Garage, Cellar, Meat House, & Homestead House
(5, 4, 3, 2, & 1 on sketch map)

Located at 734 Green River Road

Pinedale, Wyoming

Sublette County

View is NW

Photographer: Richard Collier

1-29-08

Sommers Ranch Headquarters Historic District, Old Garage & Cellar (5 & 4 on sketch map)

Located at 734 East Green River Road

Pinedale, Wyoming

Sublette County

View is West

Photographer: Richard Collier

1-29-08

Sommers Ranch Headquarters Historic District, Outhouse & Old Garage (24 & 5 on sketch map)

Located at 734 East Green River Road.

Pinedale, Wyoming

Sublette County

View is NE

Photographer: Richard Collier

845

1-29-08

Sommers Ranch Headquarters Historic District, Ice House & Granary (7 & 6 on sketch map)

Located at 734 East Green River Road

Pinedale, Wyoming

Sublette County

View is SSW

Photographer: Richard Collier

1-29-08

Sommers Ranch Headquarters Historic District, Granary (6 on sketch map)

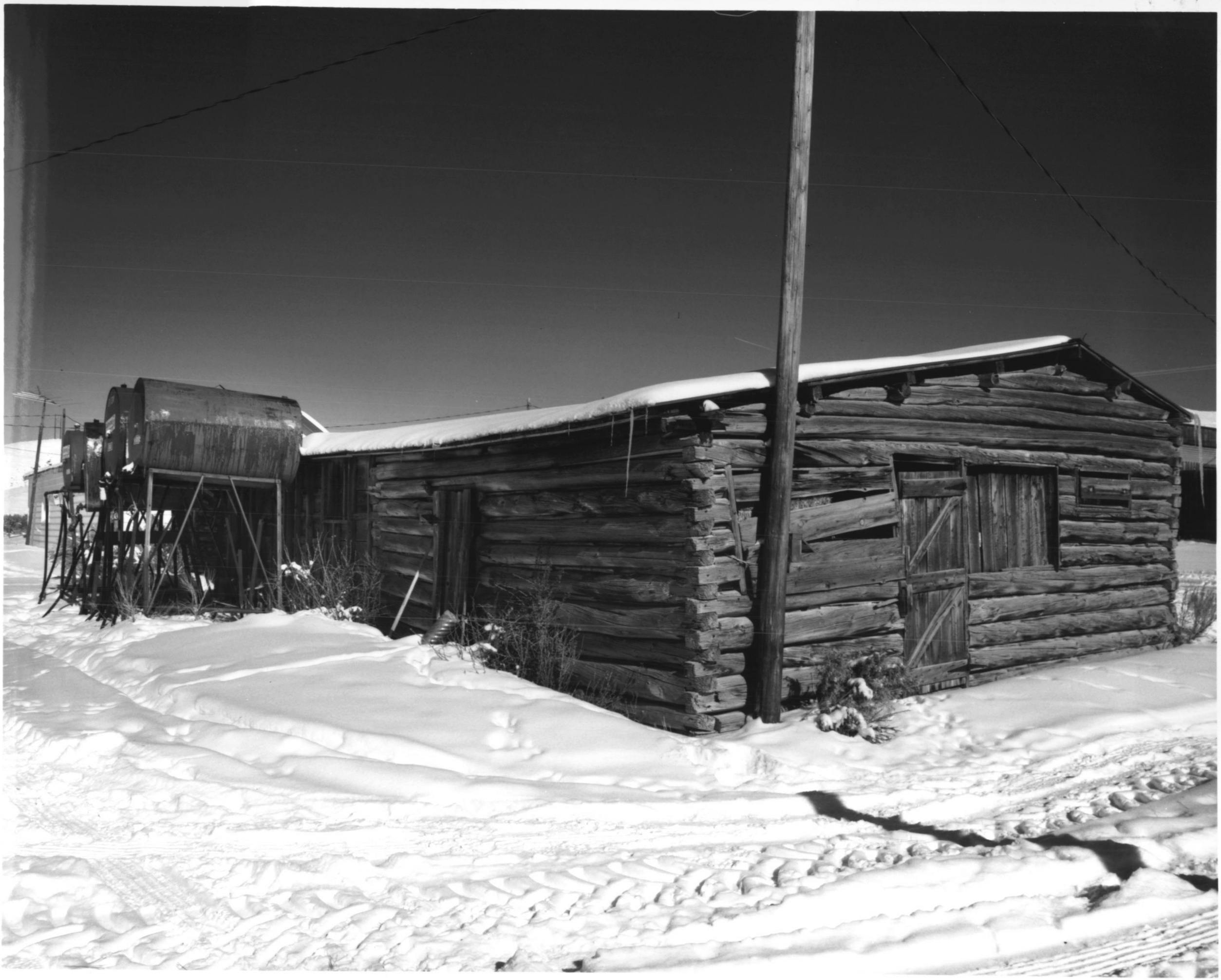
Located at 734 Green River Road

Pinedale, Wyoming

Sublette County

View is NW

Photographer: Richard Collier



1-29-08

Sommers Ranch Headquarters Historic District, Rear d side of Granary (6 on sketch map)

Located at 734 East Green River Road

Pinedale, Wyoming

Sublette County

View is NE

Photographer: Richard Collier

1-29-08

Sommers Ranch Headquarters Historic District, Shop & Bunkhouse, Ice House, & Granary (8, 7, & 6 on sketch map)

Located at 734 East Green River Road

Pinedale, Wyoming

Sublette County

View is South

Photographer: Richard Collier

1-29-08

Sommers Ranch Headquarters Historic District, Shop & Bunkhouse (8 on sketch map)

Located at 734 Green River Road

Pinedale, Wyoming

Sublette County

View is NW

Photographer: Richard Collier

1-29-08

Sommers Ranch Headquarters Historic District, Chicken House (9 on sketch map)

Located at 734 East Green River Road

Pinedale, Wyoming

Sublette County

View is NNE

Photographer: Richard Collier

1-29-08

Sommers Ranch Headquarters Historic District, Old Bunkhouse & New Calving Shed (11 & 10 on sketch map)

Located at 734 Green River Road

Pinedale, Wyoming

Sublette County

View is SSE

Photographer: Richard Collier

1-29-08

Sommers Ranch Headquarters Historic District, House (13 on sketch map)

Located at 734 Green River Road

Pinedale, Wyoming

Sublette County

View is NNE

Photographer: Richard Collier

1-29-08

Sommers Ranch Headquarters Historic District, Corrals (14 on sketch map)

Located at 734 East Green River Road

Pinedale, Wyoming

Sublette County

View is SW

Photographer: Richard Collier

1-29-08

Sommers Ranch Headquarters Historic District, Corrals (14 on sketch map)

Located at 734 East Green River Road

Pinedale, Wyoming

Sublette County

View is NE

Photographer: Richard Collier

1-29-08

Sommers Ranch Headquarters Historic District, Scale House & Squeeze Chute & Alleyway
(16 & 17 on sketch map)

Located at 734 East Green River Road

Pinedale, Wyoming

Sublette County

View is SW

Photographer: Richard Collier

1-29-08

Sommers Ranch Headquarters Historic District, Old Calving Shed (18 on sketch map)

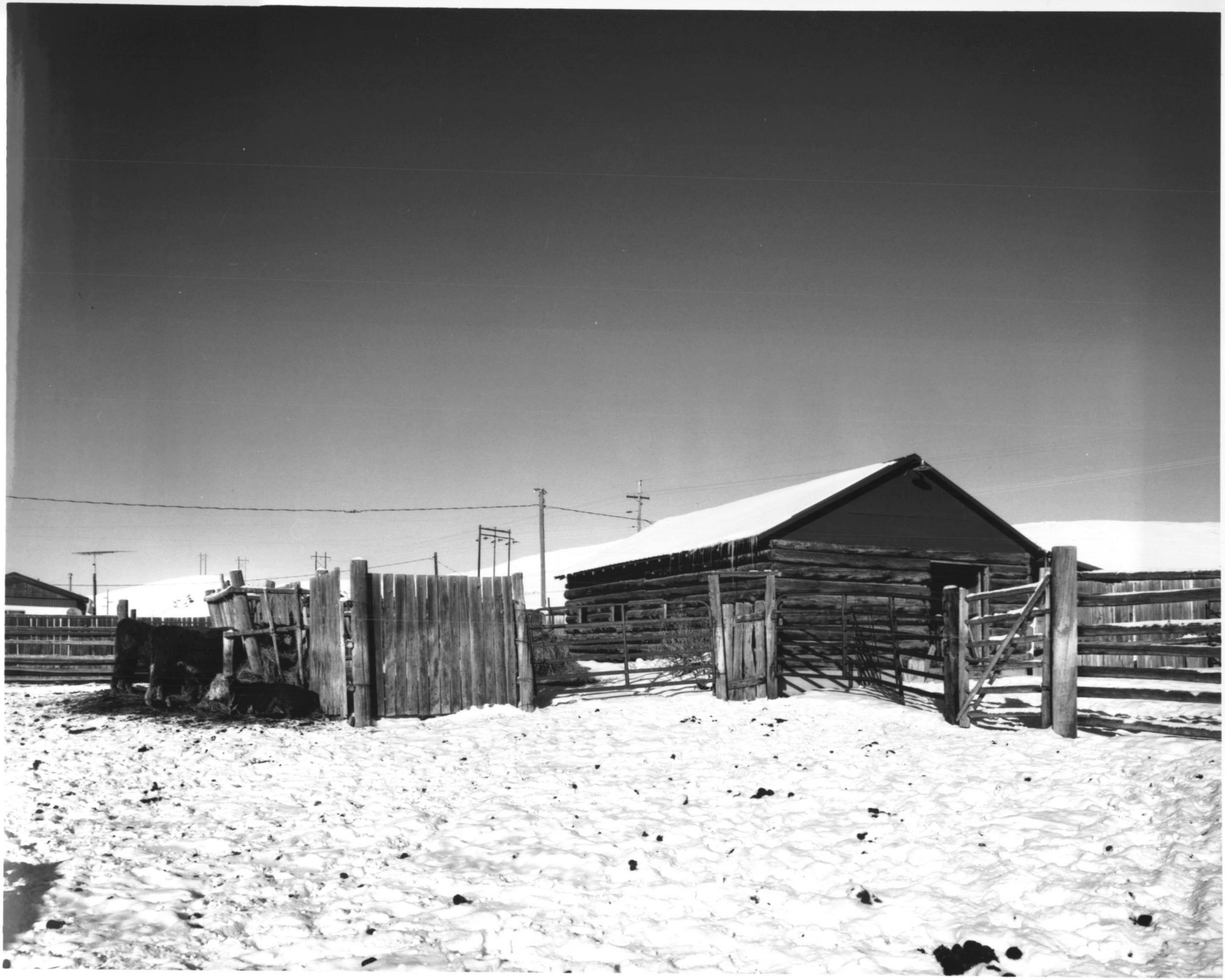
Located at 734 East Green River Road

Pinedale, Wyoming

Sublette County

View is SE

Photographer. Richard Collier



1-29-08

Sommers Ranch Headquarters Historic District, Barn (19 on sketch map)

Located at 734 East Green River Road

Pinedale, Wyoming

Sublette County

View is NNE

Photographer: Richard Collier

1-29-08

Sommers Ranch Headquarters Historic District, Barn (19 on sketch map)

Located at 734 East Green River Road

Pinedale, Wyoming

Sublette County

View is North

Photographer: Richard Collier

1-29-08

Sommers Ranch Headquarters Historic District, Playhouse, Trailer House, & Metal Building

Located at 734 East Green River Road (12, 20, & 21 on sketch map)

Pinedale, Wyoming

Sublette County

View is SE

Photographer: Richard Collier