

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

### 1. Name of Property

historic name The Stone House  
other names/site number The Gable House, The Peters House


### 2. Location

street & number 142 SR Buffalo Creek Road

N/A	not for publication
N/A	vicinity

  
city or town Wyarno  
state Wyoming code WY county Sheridan code 033 zip code 82845

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,  
I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.  
In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:  
 national  statewide  local  
 9/22/2012  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
WY SHPO  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register  determined eligible for the National Register  
 determined not eligible for the National Register  removed from the National Register  
 other (explain:)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only **one** box.)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	3	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2	3	<b>Total</b>

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

Wyoming Homesteading, Ranching, and Farming 1860-1960

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

COMMERCE/TRADE: Restaurant

AGRICULTURAL/SUBSISTENCE: Agricultural Outbuilding

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

AGRICULTURAL/SUBSISTENCE: Agricultural Outbuilding

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Foursquare Classical Revival

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Stone

walls: Stone

roof: Asphalt Shingles

other:

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### **Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### **Summary Paragraph**

The Stone House is located at 142 SR Buffalo Creek Road in Wyarno, Sheridan County, Wyoming. The 3-acre, rural, agricultural property is approximately five miles east of Wyarno. The site contains five buildings; two of the buildings are contributing and three are non-contributing. The contributing buildings include the Stone House, built in 1898, and the Lunch House, built in 1922. Two modern agricultural buildings were built following the period of significance. A third agricultural building – a loafing shed - is non-contributing because the date of its construction cannot be verified.

The Stone House is located south of SR Buffalo Creek Road atop a hill near the eastern boundary of the property. The Lunch House is approximately fifty feet south of the Stone House. The non-contributing Loafing Shed is approximately ten feet east of the Lunch House. The non-contributing detached garage is immediately to the north of the Loafing Shed. The non-contributing farm utility building is south of the complex at the bottom of the hill on which all the other buildings sit.

The property maintains strong integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The Stone House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C.

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### **Narrative Description**

The Stone House complex is accessed by a dirt driveway, which is lined with deciduous trees and grass on both sides. The front lawn of the Stone House is largely to the west of the driveway and a pedestrian pathway leads from the front of the house, through the yard, to the driveway. The driveway wraps around the eastern side of the house and adjoins a gravel parking lot at the rear of the house. The Lunch House is located on the southern side of the parking lot. There are several deciduous trees. A wood pole fence lined with wire fencing runs along both sides of the driveway and encircles the lawn; there is a gate at the end of the driveway near the northeast corner of the Stone House.

#### **Contributing Buildings**

##### The Stone House

The Stone House was built in 1898 and is the most prominent building on the site. The house is two and half stories with a full, unfinished basement; the house and basement were constructed of stone. There are four bedrooms and one bathroom. The large stone Foursquare Classical Revival style house faces north towards SR Buffalo Creek Road. It has a hipped roof with brown asphalt shingles. There are four red brick chimneys protruding from each corner of the house. There are two hipped roof dormers on the façade, and one hipped roof dormer on the eastern elevation and one hipped roof dormer on the western elevation. All of the windows on the dormers are one over one double hung.

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There were two additions made to the house during the period of significance. The first is a wood frame enclosed porch on the eastern elevation with a low-pitched shed roof covered with asphalt shingles. The second is a wood frame bathroom addition made to the southern elevation of the house. It also has a low pitch shed roof. A wood deck connects the two additions at the southeast corner of the house.

The house sits a top of a small hill. There is a pedestrian path that leads from the front stoop through a grass lawn to the driveway. There are several deciduous trees in the front yard. There are juniper trees located on either side of the front stoop.

### *Exterior*

The façade faces north with symmetrical fenestration. The wooden door is centrally located under a gable roofed stoop supported by unembellished wood columns. There are three steps leading up to the stoop. On either side of the door are wooden one-over-one double hung windows. There are three wooden, one-over-one double hung windows on the second floor.

The eastern elevation of the house has three wooden, one-over-one double hung windows. One window is located on the first floor near the northeast corner of the house. The remaining windows are symmetrically located on the second floor. The eastern elevation has an enclosed porch addition that is approximately 10' x 23'. The southern elevation of the enclosed porch aligns with the southern elevation of the house. The addition has white wood siding and has a ribbon of five white, wooden, 4-pane fixed windows. Beneath the windows, there is a wooden door that leads under the enclosed porch to the basement of the house.

There are five windows along the southern elevation in the original stone house. The windows are all identical wooden, one-over-one double hung windows. Two are located on the first floor and three are located on the second floor. There is a bathroom addition along the southern elevation of the house. There are two one-over-one double hung windows along the southern elevation of the bathroom addition. The addition is covered with the same white plank siding as the enclosed porch addition. The enclosed porch has a door and two windows along its southern elevation. The windows are four pane fixed windows. There is a wooden deck between the two additions. The deck is dark stained, approximately four feet above the ground, and has an unadorned, two rail wooden railing and is accessed by simple wooden stairs.

The western elevation has symmetrical fenestration with four windows. All of the windows are identical one-over-one double hung windows. There are two on the first floor and two located on the second floor.

### *Interior*

The Stone House is two- and one-half stories with a full, unfinished basement; it is representative of Foursquare Classical Revival center hall plan.

There is a long foyer/hallway, which extends from the entrance of the house on the façade all the way back to the bathroom addition. The dining room is to the left of the foyer and the living room is to the right. The rooms are mirror images of each other. Each has a fireplace in the northern corner and a doorway into an adjacent room along the southern wall. The dining room is on the northeastern corner; the living room is on the northwestern corner. The staircase to the upstairs begins just past the entrance to the dining room from the foyer. The staircase to the basement is stacked beneath and is accessed from the hallway near the kitchen door. The kitchen is on the southeastern corner of the house and connects to the dining room. The kitchen has a closed-off fireplace. The enclosed porch connects to the kitchen along the eastern wall. The den is on the southwestern corner of the house and can be accessed either through the living room or the hallway. The den has a fireplace in the southwestern corner of the room. At the end of the hall is the bathroom addition.

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All of the flooring throughout the first floor are the original wood floors. All of the doors and windows (with the exception of the windows located in the mudroom and bathroom) are surrounded by wooden fluted molding with rosette corner blocks painted white. All of the walls are the original lathe and plaster.

Located in the foyer, the narrow staircase is wooden with simple wooden balusters and handrail. The square, wooden newel post is topped by a turned round ball cap. The newel post, cap, balusters and handrail are all painted white. Beginning with the first riser, every other riser is decorated with ceramic tiles; each riser has ceramic tiles with different geometric patterns and colors. The remaining risers are painted in peach, white, and green in a striped pattern with the green being the most prominent color. The striped pattern is also painted on the bullnose of every tread.

The living room is to the west of the foyer. The fireplace is located in the northwestern corner of the room and has a stone mantel and surround, which have been painted white. There are two identical one-over-one double hung windows; the first is located on the northern wall and the second is located on the western wall. There are two entrances in the room. The first is from the foyer on the eastern wall and the second entrance is on the southern wall and leads into the den.

The den has two entrances; the first is on the southern wall and leads to the living room and the second is located on the eastern wall and leads into the foyer. The fireplace is located in the southwestern corner of the room; it is constructed of gray stone. There are two identical, one-over-one windows in the den; the first window is located on the western wall and the second is located on the southern wall.

The first-floor bathroom has two identical, one-over-one double hung windows located along the southern wall. The walls are covered with ceramic rose and beige ceramic tiles. There are several floor to ceiling built in cabinets with metal doors along the eastern.

The kitchen has three entrances. The first is along the western wall and connects to the foyer. The second leads to the mudroom on the eastern side of the room. The final entrance connects the kitchen to the dining room and is centrally located on the northern wall. The kitchen has a single, one-over-one window located along the southern wall.

The mudroom has two exterior entrances located on the northern and southern walls. The interior entrance is located on the western wall. There is a ribbon of five, four-pane fixed windows along the eastern wall and two, four-pane fixed windows along the southern wall.

The dining room is located to the east of the foyer and is a mirror image of the living room. The fireplace mantel and surround are grey stone; they have not been painted. There are two entrances into the room; the first is located on the western wall and leads into the foyer; the second entrance is located on the southern wall and leads into the kitchen. There are two identical one-over-one double hung windows; the first is located on the northern wall and the second is located on the eastern wall.

The second floor of the house has four bedrooms and a staircase leading to the attic. The first and second floor layouts are nearly identical. There is a bedroom located in each corner of the house. The bedrooms located on the northwest corner and southeast corner have wood burning fireplaces located in the northwestern corner and southeastern corner respectively. The staircase to the attic is in a small hallway located between the landing the bedroom on the northeastern corner.

The floor in the landing and hallway is red/brown painted wood. Each bedroom has a different color of striped, shag carpet. All of the doors and windows are surrounded by wooden fluted molding with rosette corner blocks painted white.

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The attic is a single large room with dark wood-stained paneling along the sloped walls and wood floors. There are four dormer windows. The attic is accessed by a hatch door centrally located in the room.

The basement is unfinished with stone walls and is accessed by a staircase located in the center of the room. There is an additional exterior entry to the basement located on the eastern wall.

### The Lunch House

The Lunch House is a small wood frame building with a gable roof built in 1922. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. There is a single red brick chimney located on ridge of the roof near the southern elevation. The façade of the Lunch House faces north. There is a single entrance located in the middle of the elevation. Both the eastern and western elevations have a single window. The southern elevation has a door located near the southeastern corner. There is only one room on the interior of the Lunch House. The room has a woodburning stove located near the southern wall.

## **Non-contributing Buildings**

### Loafing Shed

Located next to the Lunch House, the Loafing Shed is 475 square feet. It is a long rectangular, agricultural building with a gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. The building does not have a chimney. There are two large entrances located on the southern elevation. According to the Sheridan County Assessor's Office, this building was constructed in 1988 – outside the period of significance. However, there is photographic evidence that a similar loafing shed existed in approximately the same area as the current loafing shed. Because its date of construction cannot be verified, this building is considered non-contributing.

### Detached Garage

It has a gable roof with asphalt shingles. There is a large mechanical door on the façade; the façade faces west. Built in 1988, the wood frame building is non-contributing because it was constructed outside of the period of significance.

### Farm Utility Building

The large Farm Utility Building is located down away from the rest of the buildings. The pole frame building was constructed in 2017 with metal sheeting siding and a gable roof with metal roofing. The façade faces south. There is a metal door, a large mechanical door, a double pane window, and four large open bays along the façade. This building is non-contributing, because it was constructed outside the period of significance.

## **Integrity**

The historic integrity of the Stone House is excellent. The land surrounding the house was used as rangeland during the period of significance and continues to be used as rangeland preserving the property's integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association. The Stone House is largely unchanged since its construction. The most noticeable change to the house is the reconstructed entrance. In the original photos of the house, the front porch was three times as large as the current stoop. The original porch was removed and replaced with the current front stoop; however, it is not known when this change occurred. While this does change the appearance of the façade, the rest of the house still maintains a high degree of integrity.

The Lunch House has not been altered since the period of significance. As a result, the property retains integrity of design, materials, and workmanship.

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**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.)

- 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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Agriculture

Architecture

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1898 - 1973

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1898

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

William Bethuran - Builder

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance for the Stone House is from its construction in 1898 until 1973 – a date chosen to coincide with the end of the Peters family’s ownership of the property.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Stone House is locally significant under Criterion A, because of its contributions to the social history of Sheridan County, Wyoming as well as the development of homesteading and ranching in Wyoming during the early years of the twentieth century. The Stone House represents the development of homesteading in northern Wyoming and the impacts that the Homestead Act of 1862 had on the state. Originally homesteaded in the late 1880s, the property had multiple owners until the 1920s reflecting the volatile nature of ranching in Wyoming. The Stone House meets the registration requirements for Wyoming's Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) *Wyoming Homesteading, Ranching, and Farming 1860-1960*, because of its association with homesteading and ranching in Sheridan County, Wyoming. The Stone House illustrates the struggles and successes of Wyoming's homesteaders during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The Stone House is significant under Criterion C, because it is an uncommonly well-maintained property. The property is situated in a very rural, undeveloped area, which contribute to the property's excellent integrity. Despite the addition of agricultural buildings, the Stone House maintains integrity of setting, location, feeling, and association because of the preservation of the surrounding rangeland and the preservation of the historic buildings. The historic buildings have not been altered significantly since construction and retain excellent integrity of design, materials, and workmanship.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A

Sheridan County is located east of the Bighorn Mountains along the northern border of Wyoming. The western border of the county is delineated by the Bighorn Mountains. Johnson County is to the south of Sheridan County and Campbell County is to the east. Sheridan County is approximately 2500 square miles and largely rural. The largest town in the county is Sheridan; it is the county seat and has a population of 17,444 people. The total population of Sheridan County is approximately 30,000 people.

Archaeological records indicate that the area has been occupied by humans for approximately 12,000 years. Prior to Euro-American settlement, Sheridan County was occupied by multiple tribes including the Shoshone, Arapaho, Sioux, and Cheyenne. At the time of Euro-American settlement, the area was occupied by the Crow (Farquhar, 2014).

The first known European to enter Sheridan County was French-Canadian Francois-Antoine Larocque from Montreal. Larocque was an employee of the British Northwest Company and explored the area in summer of 1805 for the British. Although the land had been recently purchased by the United States as a part of the Louisiana Purchase, the British had not yet been made aware of its change in ownership (*Francois Antoine Larocque*, n.d.). Larocque hoped to establish prosperous trade relations with the Crow.

Euro-American migration into Wyoming increased throughout the 1800s. Euro-American settlement created tension between the Native Americans and Euro-American settlers; many of the last battles of the American



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Indian Wars were fought on the Northern Plains in the vicinity of Sheridan County (*American-Indian Wars*, 2019). According to Farquhar:

Gen. George Crook and 1,000 troops used the meadows along Goose Creek as a staging area during the 1876 summer campaign against the Sioux and Cheyenne. Crook's continually shifting Camp Cloud Peak provided forage for horses and a pleasant refuge for soldiers who saw fierce fighting at Rosebud Creek in Montana, and then heard the unsettling news that Gen. George Armstrong Custer and his Seventh Cavalry had been wiped out by the Indians a few days' ride to the north at the Little Big Horn (Farquhar, 2014, para. 6).

The Indian Wars had effectively ended by the 1880s and Euro-American migration and settlement in western states like Wyoming increased dramatically.

### *Homesteading*

The Homestead Act of 1862, which was signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln on May 20, 1862, incentivized western migration by offering 160 acres to potential homesteaders. Homesteaders "had to be the head of a household or at least 21 years of age to claim a 160 parcel of land... They included immigrants, farmers without land of their own, single women, and formerly enslaved people" (*About the Homestead Act*, n.d.). After filing for land, homesteaders had five years to "prove up" the property by living on the land, building a house, and making improvements.

The Homestead Act was "a revolutionary concept for distributing public land... 270 million acres, or 10% of the area of the United States was claimed and settled under this act" (*Homestead*, n.d. - b). Following its passage, there were several amendments made to the Homestead Act. The Desert Land Act of 1877 allowed for married homesteaders to acquire up to 640 acres of arid land (a single homesteader could acquire 320 acres) in western states and the Dakotas. The Forest Homestead Act of 1906 "allowed for land within Forest Reserves and National Forests to be acquired under the Homestead Act" (*Homestead*, n.d. - a). The Enlarged Homestead Act of 1909 helped facilitate dry-land farming and the Stock Raising Homestead Act of 1916 was designed to facilitate homesteading on land that was only suitable for animal grazing. The Homestead Act remained in effect until 1976.

The Homestead Act had a profound impact on the state of Wyoming. From the time of its establishment until the 1920s, approximately 67,000 homesteads were established in Wyoming covering over 18,000,000 acres - twenty nine percent of total land in Wyoming. Homesteading in Wyoming did not follow national trends. There were significant increases in the number of homesteads in Wyoming in the 1890s and between 1900 and 1910. These increases occurred when other states in the Midwest, such as Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, and Ohio were losing farms (Cassity, 2011). Significantly, Wyoming homesteads were overwhelmingly operated by their owners, meaning that most of the farms and ranches in the state were run by families instead of large businesses.

Rufus E. Weir originally owned the 160 acres of land on which the Stone House was built. Weir filed for a homestead under the Homestead Act of 1862 and almost immediately sold his claim to John P. Patton, who was locally known as "Uncle Johnny" in 1898. Patton was born in Arkansas and moved to Sheridan, Wyoming in the late 1880s. Around 1898, Patton enlisted the help of William Bethuran to build a house. Not much is known about Bethuran; however, oral histories indicate that he was a stonemason of either Welsh or Dutch descent. Patton died in 1903 and the property was purchased by John R. Weir in 1904. In 1905, John E. and Mary M. Garner purchased the Stone House from John Weir.

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### *Agricultural Depression*

Around 1915, Willis Spears and his wife Virginia as well as his brother, known as Doc Spears, and Doc's wife Daisy began purchasing land east of Sheridan. The Stone House was among the properties that they purchased. From 1915-1919, the Spears Family purchased multiple parcels of land from the Garners. Unfortunately, the Spear Family lost the Stone House in foreclosure to the Bank of Omaha in 1921.

A severe drought gripped much of Wyoming in 1920 severely impacting agricultural enterprises in the state. The drought, combined with the near collapse in agricultural commodity prices following the end of World War I, caused an agricultural depression in states like Wyoming.

“...all across Wyoming in the years following World War I, the homesteading, farming, and ranching career of many people came to a close. How many people lost their farms is not known, and certainly a great many were able to continue on, although with their operations substantially changed. But those who failed in the several years following World War I usually were not failures because of their own individual shortcomings, their lack of thrift, their unwillingness or inability to do hard work, or their lack of character otherwise. They failed because of their involvement in a system of production and credit over which they had no control” (Cassity, 2011).

According to Cassity, nearly one third - approximately five thousand - of Wyoming's farms and ranches faced foreclosure during the 1920s (2011). “One account notes, ‘There was such a sudden slump in prices that many stockmen of Sheridan county who had been regarded as financially safe lost all of their holdings and there was not any of them who did not lose heavily’” (Cassity, 2011).

Walt and Mary Peters purchased the Stone House in 1921 from the Bank of Omaha. Walt and his brother Albert had acquired many small homesteads in the area that had been decimated by the drought conditions. Eventually, they grew the homestead – surrounding and including the Stone House – to 24,000 acres. Today, scattered over the vast 24,000 acres, you can still see remnants of the old homestead sites; several building foundations are still visible.

### *Prohibition*

The rise of the temperance movement - which discouraged the consumption of alcoholic beverages - in the 1800s gave way to the 18th Amendment to the Constitution, which prohibited “the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors” (*Prohibition*, n.d.). By the time the 18th Amendment was passed by Congress in 1918, “37 states had passed dry laws” (Rea, 2016), including all of the states surrounding Wyoming. Wyoming eventually passed a state law that banned the sale and consumption of alcohol in 1919. Prohibition took effect in the U.S. on January 17, 1920.

As a result of Prohibition, alcohol sale and consumption went underground and the illicit sale of alcohol became common. Speakeasies - small, private barrooms - popped up all over the country and “were Prohibition's worst-kept secrets” (*The Speakeasies of the 1920s*, n.d.). Speakeasies were called “Speakeasies” because of “how low you had to speak the ‘password’ to gain entry” (*The Speakeasies of the 1920s*, n.d.).

Walt Peters was a bootlegger and transformed the Stone House's root cellar into a distillery and “Speakeasy” that housed five moonshine stills. The moonshine was transported to Sheridan underneath dirty laundry on the laundry wagon. The stills from the Stone House Speakeasy are still in Sheridan and displayed at a local distillery.

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### *Ranching in the Post-War Era*

Walt and Mary continued to operate the ranch until Walt's passing in 1973. After his death, Mary sold the entire ranch to the Peters Grazing Association. She sold it below market value. According to locals, she said that "Walt would have wanted it that way."

The Peters Growing Association (PGA) was established in 1973. The PGA had 19 founding members and was named after Walt and Mary Peters. It was established specifically to purchase the entire 24,000 acres and homestead from Mary following Walt's passing. At the time of the purchase, the coalition was initially outbid by the Burns Cattle Group. However, Mary Peters stepped in and sold the entire ranch to the PGA for under market value stating: "Walt would have wanted the little guys to have a chance." The PGA leveraged the Grazing Association Program and borrowed \$2.4 million from the United States Government FHA loan program to secure the purchase. The PGA then carved out the three acres that the home sits on today as well as 99 acres across SR Buffalo Creek Road and sold those parcels to Adolph and Virginia Renschler in 1974 for \$75,000. The PGA used the proceeds from the sales to support their early mortgage payments. Since its inception, the intent of the PGA members was to keep the 24,000 acres intact. However, they ran into financial difficulty early on, which forced them to sell the farmhouse and 99 acres.

Adolph and Virginia Renschler were originally from Stuttgart, Arkansas. They were farmers who grew mostly grain and rice. They purchased the Stone House in April 1974 and owned it until 2007.

Dwight and Lorraine (Lori) Layton purchased the house in 2007. After purchasing the house, the Laytons made necessary repairs. They sold the property to Wayne and Pam Gable in 2016. The Gables owned the property until 2022; they sold it to current owner Brian Nix.

### Criterion C

The Stone House is representative of Foursquare Classical Revival architecture with a center hall plan. Classical Revival architecture, which was popular from the late 1890s through the 1920s and "signaled a return to the classical forms of Greece and Rome following the elaborately decorated and picturesque styles of the Victorian period" (*Classical Revival*, n.d.). Classical Revival buildings are known for their proportion and symmetry as well as repetitive elements (such as windows) and classical architectural elements. Classical Revival buildings often have a formal, symmetrical façade with the front door centrally located, often with a broken pediment over it. They are known for their front façade full height porches with classical columns or front porticos or entry porches.

The Foursquare center hall plan was common residential form in the United States during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Typically, the Foursquare is two-stories with a hipped roof and dormers. Foursquare forms generally have a basic, square floorplan, which is divided into four quadrants on two levels. A foursquare center hall plan includes a central hall dividing the four first floor rooms and four second floor rooms.

Foursquare Classical Revival architecture is not a common residential architectural style in Sheridan County, especially in rural areas. There are very few extant nineteenth century farmhouses in the area and the Stone House's stone construction and high level of integrity make it particularly unique. There are examples of Foursquare and Classical Revival buildings in Sheridan, but the scarcity of historic period farmsteads in the isolated areas of the county east of Sheridan mark the Stone House as a significant reflection of its style, period, and method of construction.

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The Stone House incorporates many of the classical elements of Classical Revival architecture including repetitive elements (windows) and a formal, symmetrical façade with a centrally located entrance. The exterior has not been altered substantially since the end of the period of significance. There were two additions made to the house during the period of significance – the first was made the eastern elevation and the second to the southern elevation. The original front porch was replaced with a smaller covered entrance; however, it is not known when this change was made. Finally, a deck was added connecting the two additions on the southeastern corner of the house; the deck was added outside the period of significance.

The floorplan is an excellent example of a Foursquare center hall plan. There have been minimal interior modifications to the house and there have not been any changes to the original floorplan. Furthermore, many of the original architectural elements are original; the floors are the original wood floors, the walls are the original lath and plaster, and the original fireplaces remain intact.

The Stone House maintains excellent integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

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**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (if appropriate)

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

*About the Homestead Act* (n.d.). National Park Service.

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*Wyoming*. WyoHistory.org. <https://www.wyohistory.org/encyclopedia/booze-cops-and-bootleggers-enforcing-prohibition-central-wyoming>

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*The Speakeasies of the 1920s* (n.d.). Prohibition: An Interactive History.

<https://prohibition.themobmuseum.org/the-history/the-prohibition-underworld/the-speakeasies-of-the-1920s/>

*Wyoming History*. (n.d.). State of Wyoming.

<https://www.wyo.gov/about-wyoming/wyoming-history>

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 3.0600

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**

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(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>13N</u> Zone	<u>366253</u> Easting	<u>4961153</u> Northing	3	<u>          </u> Zone	<u>          </u> Easting	<u>          </u> Northing
2	<u>          </u> Zone	<u>          </u> Easting	<u>          </u> Northing	4	<u>          </u> Zone	<u>          </u> Easting	<u>          </u> Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The northern boundary runs along SR Buffalo Creek Road. The eastern, southern, and western boundaries are adjacent to land owned by the Peters Grazing Association and are separated by a fence.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries for the Stone House form a periphery around the three acres containing the Stone House and Lunch House.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title Bethany Kelly/Brian Nix  
organization Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office date April 25, 2022  
street & number 2301 Central Avenue telephone 307-777-7530  
city or town Cheyenne state WY zip code 82002  
e-mail Bethany.kelly@wyo.gov

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

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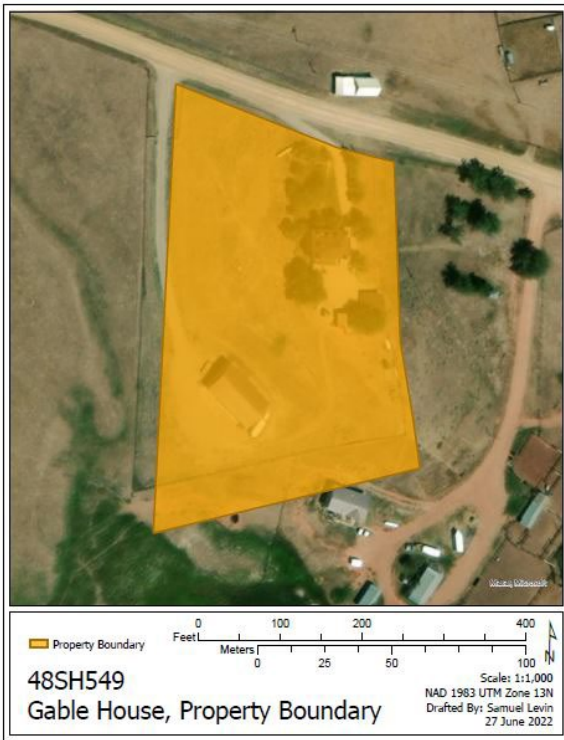


Figure 1: Map

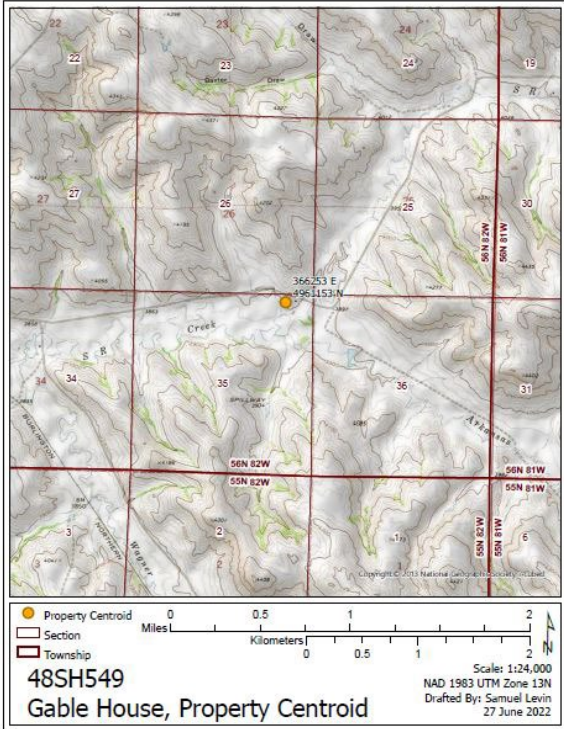


Figure 2: Map

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Figure 3: Aerial photograph

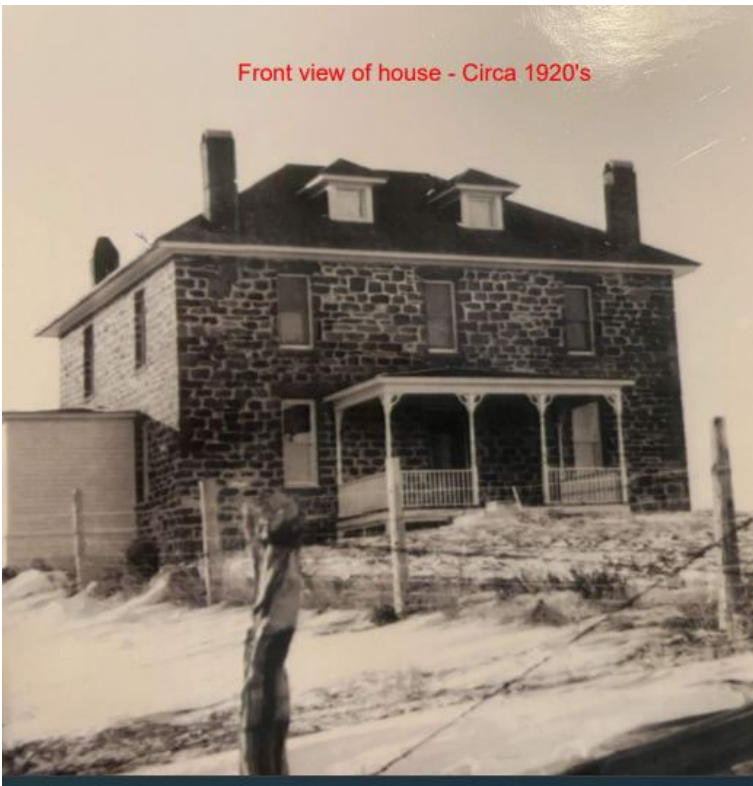


Figure 4: Historic Photo



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Figure 5: Historic Photo



Figure 6: Historic Photo

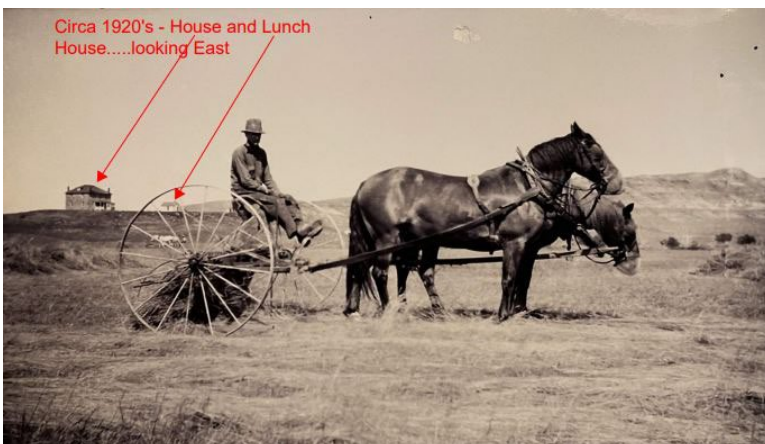


Figure 7: Historic Photo

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Figure 8: Current Photo

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**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

**Name of Property:** The Stone House

**City or Vicinity:** WYarno

**County:** Sheridan

**State:** Wyoming

**Photographer:** Bethany Kelly, Brian Nix

**Date Photographed:** June 9, 2022

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:**

North façade, photographer facing south  
1 of 28

North façade, photographer facing south  
2 of 28

North façade, photographer facing southwest  
3 of 28

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Living room on first floor, photographer facing west  
4 of 28

Living room on first floor, photographer facing south  
5 of 28

Den on first floor, photographer facing southwest  
6 of 28

Entrance hallway, photographer facing north  
7 of 28

Hallway leading to kitchen on first floor, photographer facing east  
8 of 28

Bathroom addition on first floor, photographer facing southeast  
9 of 28

Bathroom addition on first floor, photographer facing southwest  
10 of 28

Kitchen on first floor, photographer facing east  
11 of 28

Kitchen on first floor, photographer facing northeast  
12 of 28

Mudroom addition on first floor, photographer facing northeast  
13 of 28

Mudroom addition on first floor, photographer facing southeast  
14 of 28

Dining room on first floor, photographer facing north  
15 of 28

Dining room on first floor, photographer facing east  
16 of 28

Staircase on first floor, photographer facing southeast  
17 of 28

Staircase on second floor, photographer facing northeast  
18 of 28

Bedroom on second floor, photographer facing west  
19 of 28

Bedroom on second floor, photographer facing east  
20 of 28

Hallway on second floor, photographer facing east  
21 of 28

Hallway on second floor, photographer facing west  
22 of 28

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Attic staircase on second floor, photographer facing south  
23 of 28

Attic, photographer facing northeast  
24 of 28

Basement, photographer facing northeast  
25 of 28

Southern elevation, photographer facing northeast  
26 of 28

Lunch house façade, photographer facing northwest  
27 of 28

Lunch house interior, photographer facing south  
28 of 28

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**Property Owner:**

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

name Brian Nix  
street & number 142 SR Buffalo Creek Road telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Wyarno state WY zip code 82845

**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. 460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

























