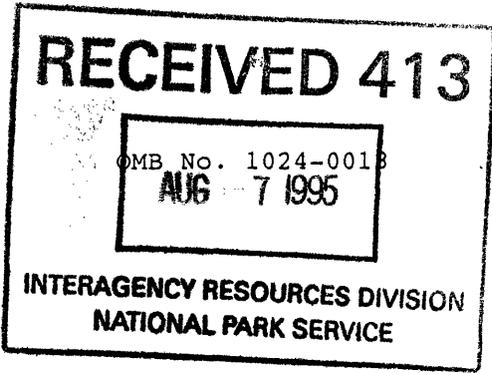


1044



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

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 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 Braehead Ranch

other names/site number Cross Ranch (CO 829)

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 69 Moss Agate Road not for publication NA

city or town Douglas vicinity x

state Wyoming code WY county Converse code 009

zip code 82633

=====

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

Shirley Bucky-Woods 7/25/95
Signature of certifying official Date

State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Agriculture Sub: _____
Domestic

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Agriculture Sub: _____
Domestic _____

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Log, frame construction

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete, stone
roof asphalt shingles, corrugated metal
walls log, frame
other

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)

- 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
Settlement

Period of Significance 1880-1940

Significant Dates 1884, 1904

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

George Harry Cross

Cultural Affiliation NA

Architect/Builder George Harry Cross
Peter George

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
- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other

Name of repository: _____

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreeage of Property 81.27 acres

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	<u>13</u>	<u>445790</u>	<u>4724170</u>	C	<u>13</u>	<u>445800</u>	<u>4723360</u>
B	<u>13</u>	<u>445780</u>	<u>4723770</u>	D	<u>13</u>	<u>446170</u>	<u>4723360</u>
	<u>E</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>446120</u>				<u>4724170</u>

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 Eileen Starr and Caroline Selden
=====

organization State Historic Preservation Office date April, 1995

street & number Barrett Building telephone 307-777-6301

city or town Cheyenne state WY zipcode 82002
=====

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)

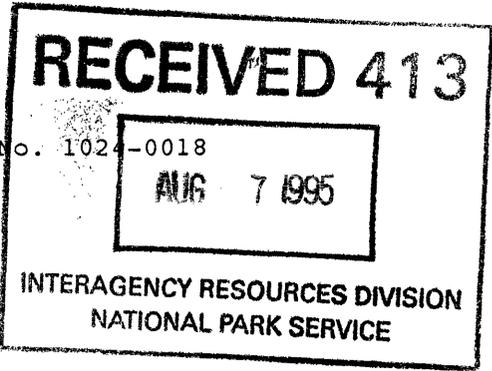
=====
Property Owner
=====

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

name Caroline Selden

street & number 69 Moss Agate Road telephone 307-358-5000

city or town Douglas state WY zip code 82633
=====



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Braehead Ranch
name of property
Converse Co., WY
county and State

=====
The Braehead Ranch is located approximately 17 miles southwest of Douglas, Wyoming in the upper La Prele Valley. Substantial red sandstone cliffs which are part of Red Canyon are clearly visible from the original ranch house and provide dramatic scenery. The ranch is close to the northern portion of the Medicine Bow National Forest. Historically the ranch had access to several different creeks, including the Red Canyon, the La Prele, and Beaver Creeks and two of these creeks run through the nominated area. Irrigation ditches, some constructed by the founder of the ranch George Harry Cross, bisect the ranch and are still in use. Mature vegetation with large cottonwood trees line the creeks while native grasses are found on the surrounding grazing land; flower beds surrounding the house contain a variety of non-native perennial and annuals. The ranch's founder spent a considerable amount of time in the 1880s and 1890s clearing fields so hay could be grown, as a result the vegetation has changed over the years to support farming activities. As is typical of most Wyoming ranches for economic viability, Cross kept expanding his holdings by purchasing and leasing land. Currently Braehead Ranch consists of approximately 81 acres and includes buildings and some surrounding grazing land. The ranch has retained a great deal of its original appearance and there are 18 contributing features and 2 noncontributing features. Few modern structures have been added to the ranch and a substantial number of the original nineteenth and early twentieth century Cross buildings survived. The oldest buildings such as the original house are log. As George Cross prospered, he built frame structures. Most of the buildings are vernacular in origin but the main ranch house is balloon frame construction with manufactured elements. The historic buildings are stretched out along a dirt roadway with the oldest structures located farthest from the entrance gate. Unlike many ranch properties in Wyoming, some the original documentation for the ranch survived and was assembled into a three volume typescript entitled "Braehead Memories" by Emma Cross Morton. This documentation describes construction of some of the buildings.

Buildings located northwest of the creek in the oldest part of the ranch.

Original log house. Contributing. 1884, alterations through the years.
Construction by Peter George began on the original log house in 1884 and consisted of two rooms, a larger room used as the kitchen, dining room and parlor and a smaller room used as a bedroom. The house was one story and had a dirt roof. In terms of its overall form, it was a hall/parlor house.

In 1885, the sod roof was replaced with wood shingles and an attic space added above the house. Access to the attic was through a small window on the west side. That same year a small lean to room was added at the northeast corner of the house for a dairy and storage. The porch was also added in 1885.

In 1886, a small outside cellar was constructed southeast of the house for vegetables and another room was added off the parlor.

Originally, the interior walls and ceiling were whitewashed but in 1887, the Crosses added cheesecloth over the logs and then pasted paper over the logs.

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After the new two story ranch house was complete, one room in this house was converted for use as a garage in 1911.

Currently the building is 48 feet long and at its widest point is 32 feet wide and is L shaped. A new concrete foundation has replaced the deteriorated original stone foundation. The building is one story and is log with one small board and batten addition on the front that contains the bathroom. The log notching is square. Most of the windows are double hung with six lites over six lites. The porch is located on the facade and its screen door is new. The roof is gabled and has wood shingles. A new brick chimney was added by a previous owner. The building now has five rooms including the bathroom. Some of the interior walls have log siding while others are papered.

Log Barn. Contributing, 1887.

In 1887, George Cross contracted with Henry Brening to construct a large horse barn, the size was recommended by Jack Douglas-Willan, owner of the Douglas-Willan Ranch on the Laramie Plains. Cross purchased \$100 of lumber and 10,000 shingles for \$30. In 1893, Henry Brening was hired once again to construct a long shed which joined the big barn to this log barn. It was shelter for cows, young calves. "It had two stories with lots of room to store machinery, lumber, etc. on the upper story." Most of the remnants of the shed are gone with the exception of the connecting log slab wall that is now part of the corral located between the two barns.

The log barn is basically a tall one story building with a hay loft. The barn measures 16 feet wide and 36 feet long. The foundation is stone and was put in place without mortar. The building is rectangular with two distinct sections separated by an open area. This opening, 7 feet wide, is similar to a dogtrot but is enclosed at the back and the area was probably used as a loafing pen for animals or for carriage storage. On the facade two other openings are smaller doorways for access to stalls or machine storage. The barn appears to have been built during two different periods with a structural wall separating one half from the other. The barn's notching is square and vertical boards in-fill the gable ends. The shingles on the roof are wood.

Frame Barn, Pole Barn, Contributing, 1889.

In 1889 a new barn was constructed at Braehead for the Crosses. Studley, Bunn and Grimes Sawmill at Spring Hill supplied the lumber for the barn. They hauled 11,458 feet of lumber at \$9 per thousand for construction. The barn had six large double stalls, a harness and saddle room, a buggy and wagon shop, and a full sized hay loft above the first story. At the front end of the building, a pigeon house was constructed. Large double doors on the facade provided access to the first story while a ladder was needed to reach the upper level. A loafing shed with a shed roof was located on the south side of the building. Log slabs were supplied by the same sawmill for the corral system.

Today the main barn measures 56 feet long and 24 feet wide (these measurements do not include the loafing shed on the side.) This board and batten barn with its gable roof and loafing shed, has not changed much in the last 100 years. The barn roof is covered with asphalt shingles. There are two main entries, on

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Braehead Ranch
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the east and south sides.

Granary, Contributing, ca. 1900.

The granary is a frame building with horizontal lumber held in place by studs out construction. It was constructed on log posts that raise the building above the ground about 18 inches. It measures 12 feet by 14 feet. The building has a gable roof with asphalt shingles. The door faces south and consists of vertical boards.

Chicken House, Contributing, 1910.

Bert Sanford built a new chicken house for the ranch in 1910. The chicken house is a tall 1 and a half story building with a sandstone foundation. The walls are horizontal boards painted red with corner boards. The roof is a steeply pitched shed roof with wood shingles. There is a small board and batten addition on the rear. The front of the building has two stationary panels of windows. The chicken house has an interesting example of adaptive use; the windows on the facade consist of old glass photographic plates. The main entry is located on the west side. The building measures 14 feet, 6 inches by 30 feet.

Shed/Garage, Contributing, ca. 1930.

This simple vertical board and batten building has a shed roof supported by log purlins. The shed roof is board and batten with corrugated metal nailed on top for repair. A large sliding door constructed of vertical board is the only entrance to the building. The buildings's measurements are 21 feet ten inches by 13 feet.

Original Well, Contributing, 1885. Located close to the barns.

A rounded stone wall surrounds the well opening itself. The stone was probably obtained from the surrounding area. A frame gabled structure covers the well.

Well located near log house, Contributing.

An historic hand dug well with a rounded stone wall is located close to the original log house. The original stonework is visible inside the well. For protective purposes, a new square frame structure was added over the well recently.

Metal Shop, Non-contributing.

Probably during the 1940s or 1950s, a large corrugated metal building with a gable roof was added to the oldest part of the ranch for storage purposes.

Buildings located southwest of the creek.

Main house, Contributing. 1893-1897 with later alterations.

The main ranch house was constructed at a time when balloon frame construction was a popular framing technique used throughout the United States (Peterson, 1992). Although the massing of the building is similar to a four square house, the interior plan is Georgian. The house's floor plan had formal spaces such as the parlor and dining room as well as multiple bedrooms and informal space for

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the family. When Cross decided upon a house-type for his new abode, he chose a type that was very popular in the United States between 1890 and 1920. His new ranch house was substantially larger than the small log house he shared with his wife and numerous children. In only nine years, Cross had accumulated enough capital to construct a substantial ranch house built in a popular manner. The house is actually rectangular in shape with a sandstone foundation and has a one story kitchen addition on the rear. It is two stories and has a hipped roof with an intersecting hip on the rear addition. The building measures approximately 28 feet by 66 feet.

Construction on the house began in 1893 when the Rice Brothers started building a house that was much larger than the small log cabin. The lumber for the house came from Marshall's mill. Archie Faulknor hauled brick for the chimneys and foundation. Construction on the house was slowed when the owner of the Marshall mill died and lumber was not available. Cross insisted on double siding for the house for warmth during Wyoming winters. Wells and Kretz performed the plastering and painting. Casings, window trim, windows, and doors as well as some hardware were purchased from Florence Hardware. Judge Mewis in Douglas supplied some of the door handles, locks, and other hardware for the house. By 1897, the house was almost ready for occupancy and looked "palatial" to the Cross family. When the family finally occupied the house, Cross wrote that it had twenty eight double-hung windows, two bay windows with four windows each, twenty four doors and three porches. The front door still has a frosted glass window with a picture of a ship etched into the glass.

The upstairs had six bedrooms while there were two bedrooms downstairs in addition to the parlor, dining room, kitchen and bathroom. Small Franklin stoves were used to heat each of the bedrooms.

Mrs. Cross purchased \$200 worth of furniture for the new house from Judge Mewis and a Acme Hygienic Couch from the Acme Bed Company in Chicago. The drapes and curtains were purchased in Montreal. The floors of the dining room and parlor were carved with floral patterned carpeting ordered from John M. Smyth Company of Chicago, Illinois.

The Cross family ordered current bushes, grape vines and raspberry bushes for their garden. A picket fence surrounded their new yard.

In 1902, a telephone was added to the house. Hot and cold water became a convenience in 1904 with a storage tank for the for water in the cellar. The first attempts at indoor plumbing were frustrating for the Cross family and ultimately a new well and wind mill had to be constructed to accommodate the plumbing needs for the house.

In 1910, J. C. Schmidt, a Douglas carpenter was hired to build a second story porch on top of the existing porch roof. An exterior door replaced a double hung window and provided access to the new porch. Gas lighting was added to the dining room in 1911 and eventually a Delco lighting system was added to the entire house.

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During the 1950s, the original porch supports and decorative elements were removed and replaced with wrought iron balustrades and porch supports. Additionally, a wrought iron fence with brick piers was erected in the yard around the house.

The garage, ice house, and outhouse, which are all located in close proximity to the main ranch house, were built to be compatible with main ranch house in terms of design and materials.

Icehouse, Contributing, 1897.

The icehouse measures fourteen feet, three inches by sixteen feet and is similar to other major buildings in the area and has novelty siding painted white, with corner boards, and has a gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. The walls are very thick and family tradition indicates that the building remains cool because of the wood shavings contained in the wall. The most recent owner has placed double stained glass doors on the south side of the building. The winter of 1897 froze the surrounding creeks and provided ice for the new ice house.

Garage, Contributing, ca. 1930.

The garage is a frame building with white novelty siding and has a pyramidal roof covered with wood shingles that have been painted green. Its appearance is similar to the main house. It is 14 feet six inches wide and sixteen feet, six inches long. There are two large double doors on the facade.

Outhouse, Contributing, ca. 1897.

The outhouse resembles the house in terms of materials and workmanship, and was probably constructed around the same time as the house. It has a shed roof covered with wood shingles.

Duck House, Contributing ca. 1930.

The duck house is a simple building constructed from vertical boards. It has a shed roof with asphalt shingles. The foundation is concrete. The duck house is ten feet, three inches by twelve feet, three inches. There is one door that is also constructed from vertical boards. There are windows but they are currently covered with plywood.

Bunkhouse/Log Cabin, Contributing, ca. 1900.

The bunkhouse/log cabin has been placed on a concrete slab and may have been moved to its current location. The log cabin is eleven feet, seven inches by eleven feet, three inches and has a gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. Log purlins support the roof. The notching is square. A door is located on the east side and the windows on two sides are non-operational.

Beaver Post Office, Contributing, ca. 1900.

Outside the Beaver Post Office is a stone marker with the inscription, "Beaver Post Office 1887-1909." In 1905 Charley Rice renovated an outside storage building formerly used for coal and tools so the shed could become the post office. The tools were moved to the cellar in the main house. Cross described the Beaver Post Office in 1905 as a "first class headache." It is frame and has unpainted horizontal novelty siding. The foundation is stone and the building

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is 9 feet, 4 inches wide by 12 feet, 2 inches. The front has two entries with identical doors. There are corner boards on the sides. Asphalt shingles cover the shed roof. An interior partition separates the building into two rooms.

Root Cellar, Contributing, ca. 1900.

The Cross root cellar is unlike other Wyoming root cellars and is reminiscent of wine cellars found in the eastern and midwestern United States. The exterior of the root cellar consists of red sandstone with side walls that descend in size. The shed roof is covered with corrugated metal. The entry has a vertical wood door that leads to the steps inside the structure. On the surface, the structure is approximately 11' long. The main part of the cellar has a stone arch. There are built-in shelves, measuring 21", on two sides. The cellar is fourteen feet, six inches long and eight feet, three inches wide.

Windmill, Contributing, ca. 1904.

A steel windmill was ordered from the Woodmorse Manufacturing Company in Freeport, Illinois in 1904. The windmill was 60' tall and Cross purchased the windmill to generate air pressure so the water would reach the house for interior plumbing. The original windmill fell over into an adjacent corral due to Wyoming's wind and Cross purchased a shorter, more effective, windmill the same year.

Japanese style hot tub structure, Noncontributing, 1992

A paneled hot tub facility with a hipped roof was added to the yard of the main house in 1992.

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Braehead Ranch
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The Braehead Ranch is significant for its association with the settlement of the Upper La Prele Valley in Converse County and as a very successful ranch where cattle were raised. Braehead is also significant for its association with the ranch's founder, George Harry Cross, who was a distinguished rancher and businessman as well as government official who served in the Wyoming State Senate and as a Converse County Commissioner. George Harry Cross initially established a very modest log homestead in an area of Wyoming that was undeveloped and quickly succeeded in expanding his ranching operations. Cross constructed irrigation ditches, bought and sold land, leased land from the state and created one of the most successful ranches in the area. He belonged to the Wyoming Stockgrowers Association and managed to keep his ranch during the devastating winter of 1887. The ranch became a social center and the Beaver Post Office was located there for fifteen years. Cross donated land for the construction of a school for the children in the area. As Cross succeeded as a rancher, his advice was sought from others and he was a respected member of the agricultural community who helped others settle in the La Prele Valley. As Cross prospered, he purchased land in Douglas and eventually was one of financiers and promoters of the LaBonte Hotel. Cross was President of both the Converse County Bank as well as the Wyoming Pioneer Association. After Cross retired from political life, he continued to promote the investigation and preservation of Wyoming history and spoke about the state's early history. The ranch itself is unusual in Wyoming because of the architectural integrity of the buildings and the landscape; few intrusive structures have been added to the ranch over the last 110 years.

Many of the original bills, letters, photographs and other pieces of family memorabilia were collected by Emma Cross Morton, Cross's daughter. Mrs. Morton assembled an extensive family history entitled "Braehead Memories" which is a typescript available at the American Heritage Center as a three volume set. Within "Braehead Memories" are detailed accounts of their lives and is a rich source of Wyoming social history. Information about the expense, number of construction materials, and where materials were purchased is rather unusual for ranch properties and provides additional documentation for Braehead.

Braehead Ranch is named for the home of Cross's ancestors from Scotland although Cross himself was from Canada. Cross was born in Montreal, Canada on September 15, 1854 and was educated at private schools there including Nicolette College. He came to Colorado Territory to become a cowboy in 1874 and moved to Wyoming Territory in 1875. He purchased property in the La Prele Valley during the early 1880s and had a small log cabin constructed for him by Peter George. He brought his bride, Lea Marie to Wyoming in 1884 to live in the modest cabin.

In the ranch's earliest years Cross wrote about the hardships of ranching life and contending with everything from wolves, thieves, Wyoming weather, insects, snakes and other hazards of living in an unsettled area. Other hazards took a toll on the Cross family as the family's first two daughters died in early childhood.

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Cross was a respected member of the community and was elected to Converse County's first board of County Commissioners in 1888. Soon afterwards Cross was elected as a Democratic State Senator, he was supposed to serve for a short term but served for six sessions in the Wyoming Legislature. Cross was a Democrat and was frequently outnumbered in the Legislature by the Republicans. Cross authored bills having to do with: preventing mining fraud, requiring fire escapes on public buildings, registering and confirming land titles, regulating motor vehicles not propelled by domestic animals, and establishing bounties on predatory animals. Even though Cross was a rancher, his interests were wide ranging and he served on a number of different committees.

In 1910, he was nominated by the party to run for the Governor's office but he declined the offer. As a Democrat, Cross was invited to President Wilson's inauguration.

Tax Assessor's records in Converse County document the growth of the family's income. For example, in 1890 the value of real estate owned by Cross was \$850 but by 1910 the figure had increased to \$28,329. The Cross family was taxed on their household belongings such as their musical instruments. According to the same tax records, in 1910 Cross owned 404 cattle, 15 horses and 2 swine. They also were some of the first Converse County residents to purchase an automobile and frequently engaged many family members to dig the car out of the mud that plagued travel between Braehead and Douglas. The Converse County Assessor estimated the value of their automobile at \$1000 in 1920. As the Crosses aged, they established a residency in Douglas.

Cross was appointed to the Wyoming Fair Board and served as its President. Cross spoke to groups about Wyoming history and his love for the land as well as history was communicated by word in both written and verbal forms.

Cross and his wife had five daughters and four sons that lived to adulthood. The Cross family's interest in politics continued and George Harry's son William served in the Wyoming House of Representatives. William's son Rory was a Republican member of the legislature for years.

The Cross family legacy not only includes a successful cattle ranch and its historic buildings but one that illustrates their commitment to service. Braehead itself represents a ranch that was very successful financially and was more prosperous than most in the La Prele Valley and in Converse County. Normally with success historic agricultural buildings are replaced by newer more modern structures but at Braehead, this was not the case. Braehead still conveys the look and feel of an early twentieth century Wyoming cattle ranch.

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Section 9 Page 15

Braehead Ranch
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Bill Barlow's Budget, 21st Anniversary Edition, 1907. (no page number)

Converse County's Past, Heritage Book Committee, Wyoming Pioneer Association, Douglas, Wyoming, 1986.

Converse County Tax Assessor's Records, 1890, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930. Converse County Courthouse.

Larsen, T. A. History of Wyoming (Second edition). University of Nebraska Press, 1978.

Morton, Emma Cross. "Braehead Memories." Three volume typescript, housed at American Heritage Center, Laramie, WY. no date.

Peterson, Fred W. Homes in the Heartland: Balloon Frame Farmhouses of the Upper Midwest, 1850-1920. University Press of Kansas, 1992.

Wyoming State Engineer's Maps. 1897, 1933.

Wyoming State Tribune, December 2, 1946, page 1. (Obituary)

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Braehead Ranch
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Verbal Boundary Description

The legal description for Braehead Ranch is registered in the Converse County Courthouse as: Township 31 North, Range 74 West, Section 12: West 1/2 of the SE 1/4, Part of the SE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 (80.69 acres). Section 13 Part of North 1/2 (.58 acre). It is the legal boundaries that determine the nomination's boundaries. The current owner requests that the nomination boundaries correlate with the legal boundaries.

Boundary Justification

The National Register boundary for Braehead is based on the legal description of the property. Since the founder's death, the thousands of acres owned by Cross has been divided among family members and sold outside the family. Today Braehead Ranch includes approximately 25 acres of irrigated land including the land around the buildings and 55 acres of grazing land. Fences around the property correspond to the legal description of Braehead. These boundaries include the heart of the ranch and the hay fields that George Cross first owned.

Bracehead Ranch Converse County

