

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only JUN 18 1986
received
date entered JUN 30 1986

1. Name

historic Vee Bar Ranch Lodge

and/or common Vee Bar

2. Location

street & number 2087 State Wyoming Highway 130 n/a not for publication

city, town Laramie vicinity of

state Wyoming code 056 county Albany code 001

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
district	public	X occupied	agriculture
X building(s)	private	unoccupied	X commercial
structure	both	work in progress	educational
site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	entertainment
object	n/a in process	yes: restricted	government
	n/a being considered	X yes: unrestricted	industrial
		no	military
			other:

4. Owner of Property

name George and Roberta Crouse

street & number 2087 State Highway 130-Box 219 Centennial 82055

city, town Laramie X vicinity of state Wyoming

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Assessor's Office

street & number Albany County Courthouse

city, town Laramie state Wyoming

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title U.W. Public History Class has this property been determined eligible? yes X no

date 1984 federal state county X local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Cheyenne state Wyoming

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		n/a

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Vee Bar Ranch is located 21 miles west of Laramie off Wyoming Highway 130. It is nestled in a heavily vegetated bend of the Little Laramie River approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ mile off the highway. The district is composed of five contributing buildings, the original corral system, stock chute, (two contributing structures) and operates as an interrelated and functionally dependent complex retaining a high degree of integrity of setting, design, location, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association. The main lodge building consists of two major portions and a modern addition from 1975. The first floor is hand hewn log of single dovetail construction built in 1901. The chinking was originally covered with wooden slats which are still in place and maintained. In 1911 a frame second story was added and it features plank and shingle exterior. The roof is gable over the entire structure. The modern 20 foot addition on the back and a one story dog leg addition function as non-contributing nonintrusive space for kitchen, dining and storage facilities. At the same time a foundation and exterior brick chimney were added. (The current owners want to cover the brick with native rock so as to make it more compatible with the historic structure.) Windows are double hung 2/2 with plain surrounds and are frequently paired on the first floor. The addition repeats this pattern with single multi-paned or single paned windows. They are evenly spaced along the sides of the building. There is a small three-sided bay window on the southwest corner of the structure dating from the 1911 addition. The porch features a two story balustraded porch with simple square posts and stick 1/2 wall on both levels. The porch roof is hipped with a small square ventilation window centered in the shingled gable end. The roof has new asphalt shingles. The back porch has a shed roof and simple square posts for support. There is a charming sliced log walk leading to the front entrance. The back porch has a corner entrance, leading into the dining room. The interior features original wainscoting and the original log exterior wall is visible in the dining room. The interior strongly conveys a sense of time and place and features cozy nooks, leather furniture, antiques and mounted trophies. The fireplace is rock on the interior and compatible with its surroundings.

The barns are wood frame with gabled roofs, very typical of such operations and retain a high degree of integrity. Additionally they are in excellent condition and exceptionally well maintained as are the corrals and fences of stacked pole and buck and pole construction. The corral features a stock loading chute just outside the main barn, strongly contributing to the sense of time and place. The barn and sheep shed have small square windows with oversized plain board surrounds, exposed eaves and full double door openings at side and end. The sheep shed has a new asphalt gable roof, the barn a wood shingle roof. There is a small original shed roof outhouse of the same construction type as the barns located within the corral/barn complex which also contributes to the integrity of setting. It features frame construction with log plank siding and plank door.

(SEE ADDENDUM)

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below							
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion				
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science				
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture				
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/				
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation				
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) dude ranching				

Specific dates 1891-1911

Builder/Architect Lionel C.G. Sartoris and other

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Vee Bar Ranch served as ranch headquarters for Lionel C. G. Sartoris, a cattle baron and Luther Filmore, a stockgrower and division superintendent for the Union Pacific Railroad. The Wright family also raised stock, ran a stage and freight station, and entertained dudes at the ranch. Their daughter Agnes Wright Spring became a noted regional historian. The ranch is directly associated with the ranch, rail, freight and tourism industries, all important components of the area's economic history. The ranch is a typical but exceptionally well preserved example of the evolution of such operations. It features a rare Victorian addition on the original simple log structure and a concentration of notable vernacular structures which serve as a functionally dependent complex with strong cohesion and unimpaired visual integrity. This complex was constructed to meet the increasing demands of the ranch as its role and function developed into a successful tourist operation. The ranch is being preserved in a sensitive manner by the present owners, and consequently it retains a high degree of integrity in the areas of setting, design, location, workmanship, materials, feeling and association and is deserving of enrollment in the National Register of Historic Places.

These five buildings and two corral structures are excellent representatives of the rough vernacular traditions of Wyoming's early settlement architecture. Constructed with available native materials their texture and construction patterns often serve as the only ornamentation. Though all are constructed of basically the same types of material, their structural variety clearly demonstrates the influence of function on vernacular form and style in the rural environment. Additionally the addition of Victorian elements to the original log stage station is representative of a desire to utilize newer architectural attitudes in updating earlier structures. While this has long been a tradition in Wyoming, the Vee Bar is an exceptional representative, accomplished in a sensitive manner.

The relationships of the buildings and corral structures also serve as a physical accounting of the ranch's functional development over time. The location of the main lodge away from the barns and corrals is typical of the trend of early cattle barons who lived on their ranches. They built their homes somewhat removed from the main ranch activity, thus enabling them to entertain lavishly without the noise and smell that could otherwise interrupt important social occasions. The addition on the house became necessary for accomodating guests when the ranch served as a stage station.

See Addendum

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Attachment

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 5 acres (approximately)

Quadrangle name Rex Lake, Wyoming

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	<u>1 3</u>	<u>4 1 5</u>	<u>3 1 5</u>	<u>4 5 7 2</u>	<u>1 5 0</u>
Zone	Easting		Northing		
C	<u>1 3</u>	<u>4 1 5</u>	<u>2 8 0</u>	<u>4 5 7 2</u>	<u>0 8 0</u>
E	<u>1 3</u>	<u>4 1 5</u>	<u>2 7 0</u>	<u>4 5 7 2</u>	<u>0 3 0</u>
G	<u>1 3</u>	<u>4 1 5</u>	<u>3 2 0</u>	<u>4 5 7 2</u>	<u>0 1 0</u>

See Addendum for Additional Points

B	<u>1 3</u>	<u>4 1 5</u>	<u>3 0 0</u>	<u>4 5 7 2</u>	<u>0 8 0</u>
Zone	Easting		Northing		
D	<u>1 3</u>	<u>4 1 5</u>	<u>2 8 0</u>	<u>4 5 7 2</u>	<u>0 5 5</u>
F	<u>1 3</u>	<u>4 1 5</u>	<u>3 1 8</u>	<u>4 5 7 2</u>	<u>0 4 0</u>
H	<u>1 3</u>	<u>4 1 5</u>	<u>2 9 0</u>	<u>4 5 7 1</u>	<u>9 9 0</u>

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Addendum

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	n/a	coden/a	county	n/a	code	n/a
state	n/a	coden/a	county	n/a	code	n/a

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Linda Simnacher and SBW-SHPO Staff

organization University of Wyoming date November 28, 1984

street & number Box 73 telephone 307-273-9756

city or town Farson state Wyoming

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Karen Bush

title Director and State Historic Preservation Officer date 6/11/86

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Delores Bevers
Keeper of the National Register

date 6/30/86

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

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There are two small cabins used for guest accommodations also dating from 1911. One is a one story wood frame with gabled roof, clapboard siding, exterior stone chimney and original screens. It has a large multipane fixed window, single double hung windows at the ends, and both a central front and back door. All have plain surrounds. The house has a fenced yard of small vertical logs. The other 1 1/2 story cabin is of dovetail log construction and features a gambrel roof (with asphalt shingles). There are double hung windows front and side, and both a central front and back door with original screens. All openings have plain surrounds. The gambrel end is wood shingled and features a square fixed window centrally located. Both buildings have small nonintrusive additions for plumbing and bathing facilities. The complex sits on the Little Laramie River and Bellamy Irrigation Ditch which provide portions of the boundary. Other boundaries are defined by natural geographic and historical cultural features such as driveways, ridges and fence lines. Two non-contributing barn buildings are excluded by the boundaries.

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The loading chute located along the main road to the property continues to serve the needs of the dude ranch operation by transporting animals to other locations for pack trips, etc. The guest cabins, also somewhat removed from the main activity, served for the stage and dude ranching operation by providing private accomodations for families. The sheep barn, placed in close proximity to but away from those areas frequented by guests, made it possible for ranching operations unrelated to the guest accomodations to function normally and unfettered while providing interesting entertainment for the 'dudes'. Easy physical and visual access to the corrals made it possible for guests to become more involved in the ranching operation without threatening their safety or hindering the work of ranch hands. Because of the early guest activities these factors clearly were considered when the design of this complex was modified for dude ranch accomodations.

While the Vee Bar is not the only dude ranch facility operating in the area, it is likely the oldest and has the strongest historical associations to the area's economic development. Additionally, the exceptional level of integrity evident in the physical appearance of the buildings and structures and their spatial relationships make it one of the finest physical examples of the architectural/functional development of dude ranch operations in the state.

The Vee Bar Lodge was built as a home for Lionel C. G. Sartoris in 1891. He purchased the land from homesteader Theodore Brubaker the previous year. Sartoris was an English cattle baron, representative of the heyday of the cattle industry in the West. He was a partner in the Douglas William Sartoris Cattle Company, worth an estimated \$2 million in 1885. Typical of the range cattle industry, bad winters, overgrazing, overexpansion, and tally "book counts" eventually broke the outfit. The Company went broke in 1892. Sartoris left for South America, and Susan J. Fillmore took ownership of the ranch. She ran it as a cattle outfit, leasing it to Gordon and Myra Wright in 1903. Mr. Wright applied for a post office, running it under the name Filmore (sic) from the ranch house. He also ran livestock and operated a stage and freight line to the mines in the Snowy Range. The site was a center for many community socials. In 1911, Wright purchased the ranch, and added a second floor to the lodge. The stage line was discontinued in 1912, and dude ranching supplemented the income of the ranch. The Laramie, Hahn's Peak and Pacific Railroad spur to Centennial was built to encourage tourism. It also failed in 1912. The track lies about a quarter of a mile to the north of the Lodge. Agnes Wright Spring, a daughter, became a noted historian, serving as both the Colorado and Wyoming State Historian. She has written several articles concerning the history of the ranch. After Mr. Wright died the ranch changed hands several times, and now is the property of George and Roberta Crouse. They remodeled the building in 1975. Although the Lodge was used for a short time as the Mountain States Ranch School in 1975, and later as the Aspenwood School of Horsemanship for Girls, the dude ranching tradition started by Mr. Wright has been the overriding use of the Lodge. At present, the Lodge also serves as a restaurant, hotel, hunting and skiing Lodge.

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Crouse, Roberta. "Vee Bar Ranch Has Long, Colorful History."
The Laramie Sunday Boomerang. December 9, 1979, p.11.

Curtis, Olga. "Reading, ridin, and ranchin.": Denver Post Empire Magazine.
September 25, 1966.

Hein, Lillian Hohnholt. Clipping File, Western Heritage Center, University of Wyoming.

Springs, Agnes Wright. "Stage Stop on the Little Laramie." Persimmon Hill,
Vol. 4, No. 1, p.6.

Vee Bar Ranch. Clipping File, Western Heritage Center, University of Wyoming.

Wiegland, Catherine, Ed. Centennial, Wyoming 1876-1976: The Real Centennial.
Centennial Wyoming Museum. 1976.

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I 1 3	E 4 1 5 2 6 0	N 4 5 7 1 9 7 5
Zone	Easting	Northing
J 1 3	E 4 1 5 2 1 5	N 4 5 7 1 9 8 5
K 1 3	E 4 1 5 2 1 5	N 4 5 7 2 0 3 5
L 1 3	E 4 1 5 1 0 0	N 4 5 7 2 0 4 5
M 1 3	E 4 1 5 1 1 5	N 4 5 7 2 1 7 0

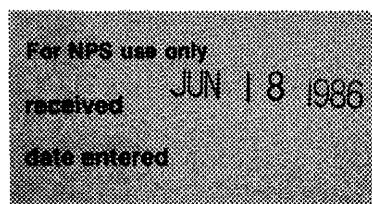
The boundary for the Vee Bar Ranch is defined by a combination of natural and man made boundaries which define the site and exclude newer structures located nearby. It is necessary to utilize fences, wind break, paths, roadways and the river bank tied together by arbitrary points and lines, because the natural terrain in this area is so flat as to make the use of all natural terrain and ridge lines impractical if not impossible. The complex defined within these boundaries includes five contributing buildings and two related corral structures, covering less than 7 1/2 acres.

The boundary begins at an arbitrary point located at the northeast corner of the site, approximately 200 feet straight north of the sheep corral fence, where the fence would meet the windbreak if it extended to the north (Point A). The boundary extends south for approximately 250 feet in a straight line from this point, and follows the fence line to the corral corner, (Point B). It then extends west in a straight line along the fence and beyond it for a total of approximately 40 feet to an arbitrary point along the roadway coinciding with the corner of the corral fence (Point C). It then follows the east side of the roadway south for approximately 80 feet (Point D) then follows the angle of the

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roadway southeast approximately 50 feet to the bridge over the Little Laramie (Point E). The boundary then follows the river bank on the north side approximately 150 feet to an arbitrary point which roughly coincides with the point where the guest cabin foot path meets the river (Point F). The boundary then crosses the river and follows the east side of the foot path approximately 150 feet (Point G) then continues to follow the path for another 100 feet to the point where the foot path meets the cabin driveway (Point H). The boundary then follows the driveway west along the north side for another 150 feet to the point where the driveway leaves the main roadway (Point I). The boundary then crosses the road in a straight line extending west following the north side of the second guest cabin driveway approximately 200 feet to an arbitrary point located approximately 20 feet from the southwest corner of the guest cabin (Point J). The boundary then extends in an arbitrary straight line north across the river approximately 110 feet to another arbitrary point coinciding with J, located on the north side of the river (Point K). The boundary then follows the river to the west for approximately 450 feet to an arbitrary point coinciding with an arbitrary point on the wind break (Point L). This point coincides with an imaginary straight line running approximately 30 feet behind the main lodge, and ties the southern boundary to the wind break. The boundary then extends in a straight imaginary line north for approximately 350 feet to another arbitrary point at the wind break (Point M). This point is located in a straight line west of the point of beginning. The boundary then extends straight east along the wind break for approximately 660 feet to the point of beginning (Point A).

NOT TO SCALE

VEE BAR RANCH

