

## **Project Summary**

### **Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit**

**Project Title:** Inventory of Historic Resources at the Sun Ranch NHL

**Discipline:** Cultural

**Type of Project:** Technical Assistance

**Funding Agency:** National Park Service

**Other Partners/Cooperators:** University of Wyoming

**Effective Dates:** 9/1/2005 - 12/30/2006

**Funding Amount:** \$6,223.00

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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#### **Project Abstract:**

The Tom Sun Ranch, near Alcova in Natrona County, Wyoming, typifies the medium-sized ranching operations of the open range period of the 1870s and '80s. On December 19, 1960, the Secretary of the Interior designated the ranch a National Historic Landmark (NHL). Today the ranch headquarters area is owned by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, which utilizes it both as a working ranch and as the Mormon Handcart Visitors' Center. The corrals, pens and tack shed have been maintained and continue in their historic use. However, most of the buildings are adaptively reused, and new buildings have been added.

The 1976 NHL nomination did not inventory the resources at the ranch, nor did it state what properties date from the period of significance, and of those which retain their physical integrity. As a result, it is not clear which resources contribute to the significance of the ranch. It would be extremely helpful to the NPS and to the Church to know which resources contribute to the historic significance of the ranch. In the 2004 report to the public on the condition of NHLs, the NPS recommended that an inventory of the remaining resources be completed. The University of Wyoming, American Studies Program proposes to complete a historic sites inventory and evaluation of the resources at the Sun Ranch headquarters area.

#### **Outcomes with Completion Dates:**

The final product (due 12/30/2006) will consist of:

- 1) One hard copy and one electronic copy of the Wyoming Cultural Properties Form, with attachments, as outlined above.
- 2) One CD-R containing labeled, high resolution digital photographs (uncompressed .TIFF) of the site and individual buildings and structures.

**Keywords:** historic resources, Tom Sun Ranch, National Historic Landmark, University of Wyoming

#### **For Administrative Use Only:**

Date Annual Report Received:

Date Final Report Received:

Publications, etc. on file: