

Date: June 20, 2006

Smithsonian #48NA279

RECORD TYPE: \_\_\_ First-recording, \_\_\_ Full Re-record,  Update, \_\_\_ Condition Report, \_\_\_ Site LeadPROPERTY CATEGORY: \_\_\_ Prehistoric Site, \_\_\_ Historic Site, \_\_\_ Building, \_\_\_ Structure, \_\_\_ Object,  District, \_\_\_ Landscape, \_\_\_ Lithic Landscape, \_\_\_ TCP**1. IDENTIFICATION/OWNERSHIP**Consultant: **American Studies Program, University of Wyoming: Mary Humstone and Misty Moore**Associated Project Name: **Inventory of Historic Resources at the Sun Ranch**NHL Site Name: **Tom Sun Ranch**Other Common names: **Mormon Handcart Visitors' Center**

Landowner (at time of this reporting, specify agency/district, if private give name and address): \_\_\_ check here if site information is confidential

**Farm Management Company****Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints****139 East South Temple, #110****Salt Lake City, UT 84111-1103****Note: The state of Wyoming and the Bureau of Land Management also own parts of the Sun Ranch NHL property. However, this survey project is limited to the property that is owned by the LDS Church.****2. LOCATION** (repeat as needed on continuation sheets; \_\_\_ check here if additional locational information is on continuation sheet)Street address **47600 W. Hwy 220** Town **Alcova, WY 82620**Lot-Block: \_\_\_\_\_ Parcel \_\_\_\_\_ County **Natrona**USGS 7.5' Map: **Independence Rock, Wyoming, 1951; photo revised 1981.**Township **29N** Range **87W** Section **35 (location of ranch headquarters, object of this study)** Template: \_\_\_\_\_Elevation (ft.): **6000 ft** UTM Coordinates (center point is required; bounding UTM(s) required for sites > 200m in any dimension)UTM: **Zone 13 E 31762 m** **N 4701190 m** Datum used to calculate: \_\_\_NAD 27 NAD 83Bounding UTM : (1) **E 320010** **N 4700060** (2) **E 320070** **N 4702810**(3) **E 310200** **N4700370** (4) **E 310230** **N 4702100**UTM source:  map template (site);  other: **NR nomination form, 1976 (bounding)**Notes pertaining to access: **Site is open to the public year round. Visitor access is controlled by the LDS Church.****3. NATIONAL REGISTER STATUS** (check all that apply in each category)**ENROLLED STATUS**  Landmark/Monument, \_\_\_ Enrolled on NRHP**FACTORS AFFECTING INTEGRITY** (check all that apply; indicate specific areas of disturbance and vandalism on a copy of the site map)Disturbance/Vandalism : \_\_\_none, \_\_\_erosion, \_\_\_vandalism, \_\_\_collection, \_\_\_structural damage, \_\_\_manual excavation, \_\_\_mechanical excavation, \_\_\_vehicle traffic, \_\_\_structural decay, \_\_\_grazing,  construction/development, \_\_\_defacement, \_\_\_imminent destruction, \_\_\_unknown

Percent of property badly disturbed as of this recording date, to nearest 10%): \_\_\_\_\_

**NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK SIGNIFICANCE**Period of significance: **1872 - 1899** Theme: **ranching****Note: The property was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1960. In 1976, a National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form was completed for the property, and boundaries were set to encompass 4,160 acres that made up the "home range" at the time. The property is not separately listed on the National Register of Historic Places. See section 7 for more discussion.****NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES ELIGIBILITY RECOMMENDATIONS** (check all applicable):**Recorder NRHP Evaluation:** \_\_\_ Eligible under criteria \_\_\_a, \_\_\_b, \_\_\_c, \_\_\_d; \_\_\_ Not Eligible,  Unevaluated

Contributing Components: \_\_\_ Prehistoric, \_\_\_ Historic Associated person for criterion b property \_\_\_\_\_

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Justification: (Include in justification a statement of significance; discussion of contributing components (indicate spatial extents on maps); and integrity (location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, association); discuss how significant periods and themes were determined)\*:

See Section 7

Agency Determination: \_\_\_ Eligible under criteria \_\_\_ a, \_\_\_ b, \_\_\_ c, \_\_\_ d ; \_\_\_ Not Eligible, \_\_\_ Unevaluated Date/initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Justification:

SHPO Concurrence: \_\_\_ Eligible under criteria \_\_\_ a, \_\_\_ b, \_\_\_ c, \_\_\_ d ; \_\_\_ Not Eligible, \_\_\_ Unevaluated Date/initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Justification:

**4. INVESTIGATIVE HISTORY** (Check all that apply, use property narrative for additional information as appropriate)

Recorded by: **Mary Humstone** Organization: **University of Wyoming, American Studies Program**

Field Dates: **March 26 – 27, 2006**

**DISCOVERY METHOD** (describe in site narrative description)

\_\_\_ Exposed on surface, \_\_\_ Exposed subsurface,  Construction discovery,  Documentary sources,  Informant

**WORK PERFORMED** (as part of this recording ONLY; describe numbers and dimensions of sampling/excavation units in narrative section)

<input type="checkbox"/> Surface recorded	<input type="checkbox"/> Tested with probe device	<input type="checkbox"/> Materials sourcing	<input type="checkbox"/> Lab analyses
<input type="checkbox"/> Shovel tested	<input type="checkbox"/> Controlled Trench/Blade	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote sensing	<input type="checkbox"/> Material sample program
<input type="checkbox"/> Formal test unit(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Geomorphology study	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photos/Sketches/Video	<input type="checkbox"/> C-14 dating
<input type="checkbox"/> Block excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Paleo-environmental study	<input type="checkbox"/> Collections research	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe in narrative)

**MATERIALS COLLECTED AS PART OF THIS RECORDING?** \_\_\_ yes,  no, \_\_\_ unknown

Repository: \_\_\_ U. W. Archaeological Repository (UWAR), \_\_\_ Western Wyoming College, \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**5. PROPERTY DESCRIPTION**

**PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS**

Area: **40 acres surveyed; total property is 4,160 acres** ( estimated)

Boundary estimates based on:

\_\_\_ feature/artifact distribution, \_\_\_ modern features or disturbance,  property boundaries, \_\_\_ topography, \_\_\_ other, \_\_\_ unknown.

Property datum? \_\_\_ yes,  no (describe if yes): \_\_\_\_\_

**RECORDS INVENTORY** (check all appropriate attachments associated with this recording)

**Required attachments\*:**

- \_\_\_ (6) Prehistoric/Historic Archaeological Site Setting, Topography, Depositional Environment (\*not required for urban and rural buildings, structures, objects, or historic districts)
- (7) Site Narrative Description
- (8) Prehistoric/Historic Site Matrix
- site map w/scale, orientation, key
- location map (USGS 1:24,000 base)
- photographs/images

**Additional Attachments:**

- (One or more of the next 8 are required)
- \_\_\_ (8A) artifacts associated with prehistoric component
- \_\_\_ (8B) features associated with prehistoric component
- \_\_\_ (8C) artifacts associated with historic component
- \_\_\_ (8D) features associated with historic component
- \_\_\_ (8E) historic and/or prehistoric rock art/inscription component
- (8F) historic architecture description
- \_\_\_ (8G) linear feature description
- \_\_\_ (8H) lithic landscape sample description

(8I) historic structure/object description

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**Optional Attachments:**

- (8J)TCP description
- artifact illustrations
- stratigraphic profile
- field notes

- artifact catalog
- electronic data
- other (describe):

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**6. PREHISTORIC/HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE SETTING, TOPOGRAPHY, DEPOSITIONAL ENVIRONMENT\***

Section 6 is not required for urban and rural buildings, structures, objects, or historic districts)

N/A

**7. SITE NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

Background: Since 1996, the Tom Sun Ranch NHL has been owned by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS), and has been called the Mormon Handcart Visitors' Center (MHVC). The site is used to tell the story of the Mormon immigrants who were trapped at nearby Martin's Cove, as well as other sites along the Mormon Trail. The story of the Sun family and their ranch is also told in a portion of the visitors' center and a portion of a new museum called "Peoples of the Sweetwater." Other exhibits, specifically in the bunkhouse and the washhouse, are intended to illustrate life on a 19<sup>th</sup> century ranch, although they do not relate specifically to the Sun family.

The Tom Sun Ranch was designated a National Historic Landmark on December 19, 1960. In 1976, a nomination form was completed for the property. According to the nomination form, the area of significance is ranching, under the theme of "The Cattlemen's Empire." The period of significance is stated in the nomination form as 1800 – 1899. (For nominations completed during the 1970s, it was not necessary to precisely define the period of significance; rather the form defined periods by centuries.) From the text of the nomination, one can imply that the period of significance started with the construction of the first building in 1872, and ended around the end of the open-range cattle era (c.1890).

Work performed: Working cooperatively with the National Park Service, the researchers surveyed the buildings on the Tom Sun Ranch National Historic Landmark on March 26 and 27, 2006. They documented all the buildings, new and old, on the former ranch headquarters, completing historic architecture and structure forms and photographing each contributing historic building, and noting the location, date of construction, and a brief description of each building built after 1890. Interviews with members of the LDS church and members of the Sun family helped to establish the dates of construction and historic and current uses of the buildings. The scope of this project included an area of approximately 40 acres comprising the original ranch headquarters and the area visible from it, and did not include approximately 4,000 additional acres that comprise the entire National Historic Landmark.

Overall site description: The Tom Sun Ranch straddles the Sweetwater River between Alcova and Muddy Gap in central Wyoming. The Rattlesnake Range rises to the north of the ranch headquarters, while Ferris Mountain is visible to the south. The ranch itself once included more than one million acres of deeded and leased land. The boundaries of the National Historic Landmark encompass a total of 4,160 acres, including land owned by the Bureau of Land Management and the State of Wyoming in addition to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. From the ranch, two important Oregon Trail landmarks, Devil's Gap to the east, and Split Rock to the west, are visible. The "ranch headquarters," comprising the original ranch buildings and surrounding landscape, is an area of approximately 40 acres along the Sweetwater River just west of Devil's Gap.

As is stated in the NHL nomination form, the setting of the Tom Sun Ranch is an important part of its significance. Sun chose lands that were well watered by the Sweetwater River, and located his headquarters right along the river. The mountain range "was made to serve as the northern fence of his ranch...By a convenient turn in the course of the mountain it forms the fence on two sides of Tom's Ranch, having as well many coves and inlets, where cattle may be protected from the wind and snow of winter" (*Cheyenne Leader*, 1882). The common use of natural boundaries to hold cattle is noted in the context for the NHL (*The Cattlemen's Empire*, 43).

The buildings of the original ranch headquarters are laid out in an irregular pattern around an open yard, as is typical of ranches of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The residences and domestic outbuildings are situated on the western end of the site, upwind from the livestock areas. A shop and barn are located east of the residences, with a tack room, blacksmith shop and corrals further east.

Although six of the original (pre-1890) ranch buildings and structures are extant, the overall impression of the site is that of a visitor center, as opposed to a historic ranch. This impression begins at the turn off from Highway 220, where a gate (Building #1) reading "Mormon Handcart Historic Site" marks the entrance. The initial view upon entering the site is of a large gravel parking lot, with an entrance station (Building #2) and restrooms (Building # 3). Signs direct visitors past several modern residences (Buildings #5 and #6) to additional parking lots and the Visitors' Center.

As one enters the ranch headquarters, most noticeable are the many changes that have been made to the landscape. What was originally a grass-covered ranch yard, between the buildings and the road, was converted to a parking area in 1996. It has since been converted to a "Prairie Park" landscaped with berms, prairie grasses and rocks, and dotted with handcars. A trail winds through the park, with stations depicting various aspects of pioneer life through interpretive panels and bas relief sculpture. Throughout the site, wide concrete sidewalks, planting areas of shrubs, grasses and trees ornamented with rusted farm equipment, bleached skulls and other reminders of the prairie, areas of gravel, and other modern landscaping features have transformed the ranch yard.

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Mormon Handcart Visitor Center buildings

Many changes have been made to the buildings on the site since its acquisition by the LDS Church. Two new buildings (# 9 and #19) have been constructed in the former ranch yard. Five buildings dating from the Sun family ranching era have been removed, and two older log structures (# 13 and #14) have been moved in from other locations.

Of the five remaining contributing buildings, the Blacksmith Shop/Tack Shed (#10), the Washhouse (#15) and the Bunkhouse (#16) retain their exterior and interior historic integrity. The Barn (#11) retains its exterior integrity, in spite of replacement doors and a 48' by 39' addition that was built onto the rear of the building in 2001. The interior has been gutted and remodeled for a meeting hall and retains no historic integrity. The Visitors' Center (#17 - the original Sun Ranch cabin) retains its exterior integrity, in spite of the log walls being painted white. The interior has been completely gutted for an interpretive center, and retains no historic integrity. The Corral and Pens (#8) retain historic integrity.

Most of the new construction has occurred adjacent to and just west of the original ranch buildings, including the entrance buildings mentioned above as well as a reconstruction of Fort Seminoe (#4), a "Trek Center" (#23) and several small trail-related buildings (#24 and #25). A bridge over the Sweetwater River west of the ranch (#26) has been reconstructed. The reconstructed fort, although based on a scientific study, gives the false impression that the fort and the ranch co-existed, when in fact the fort was burned to the ground in 1857, fifteen years before Tom Sun began ranching on this site.

Evaluation of Integrity

The 1976 National Historic Landmark nomination form states that the Tom Sun Ranch is significant as "one of the best preserved ranches dating to the period of the range cattle industry on the Plains." It notes that in general, "few important early ranch structures have been preserved," making the Tom Sun Ranch a significant exception. The nomination notes that "a considerable number of the original buildings of the ranch have survived," including the ranch house and "several outbuildings and corrals." It also notes that "The setting of the ranch is almost unchanged from its appearance when Sun first staked his claim to the range."

Considering the seven qualities of integrity, the ranch today retains integrity of setting and location. The setting of the ranch is much the same as it was in the 1870s, with few visual intrusions beyond the ranch headquarters. The location of the ranch headquarters and its contributing buildings has remained the same. However, the site lacks integrity of feeling and association. As mentioned above, the overall impression of the site is that of a visitors' center, as opposed to a historic ranch. The feeling and association of a historic ranch has been compromised by the modern landscaping, especially the conversion of the ranch yard into the "Prairie Park," with berms, prairie grasses, rocks, interpretive panels and bas relief sculpture—all features that would not normally be found on a ranch. The addition of new buildings, the reconstruction of Fort Seminoe, the visitor-oriented signs and facilities, and the presence of many handcarts throughout the site further detract from the feeling and association of a historic ranch.

Individually, the six contributing historic buildings and structures retain varying degrees of integrity, depending on the extent to which they have been adapted for new uses (see attached 8F forms for details). While the intent has been to rehabilitate or restore the historic buildings, in some cases historic integrity has been compromised by additions, replacement windows and doors and painting and re-chinking. Most of the corrals and pens, an important contributing feature of the ranch, have been retained.

New buildings in the immediate ranch yard (#9 and #19) meet the standards for related new construction, as outlined in the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* (1995), in that the new work is differentiated from the old and is compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing. The two relocated buildings (# 13 and #14) do not meet the standards in that they replaced historic buildings, and they are not differentiated from the existing historic structures. The reconstruction of Fort Seminoe does not meet the standards in terms of the Tom Sun Ranch National Historic Landmark, because the fort and the ranch never co-existed.

An evaluation of the integrity of the ranch as a whole would require an inventory of the entire 4,160 acres, and is therefore beyond the scope of this project.

Recommendation

The scope of this research project is limited to an evaluation of the buildings on the Tom Sun Ranch, and their integrity, in terms of the period of significance and area of significance as stated in the NHL nomination. However, it should be noted that the property is a multi-layered site of national historic significance, and a case could be made for listing it on the National Register of Historic Places for several different areas of significance and a longer period of significance than that defined by the NHL nomination. The property contains American Indian sites, the archeological site of a fort dating from the 1850s (Fort Seminoe), the Oregon and Mormon trails and related sites such as Devil's Gap, Split Rock and Martin's Cove, as well as a 19<sup>th</sup> century ranch that remained in continuous family operation well past 1900, into the 1990s. Several buildings dating from 1900 – 1950 could be considered contributing structures in a National Register of Historic Places district.

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Building Lists

Following is a numbered list of all buildings surveyed. The numbers correspond to locations on the attached site map and photograph. Buildings are noted as contributing or non-contributing to the National Historic Landmark. Following the numbered list are separate lists of 1) contributing historic buildings and structures remaining from the Tom Sun Ranch following acquisition by the LDS Church in 1996 (total: 6); 2) non-contributing buildings and structures remaining from the Tom Sun Ranch following acquisition by the LDS Church in 1996 (total: 7); 3) buildings and structures added since acquisition by LDS Church in 1996 (total: 12); and 4) buildings and structures removed from the Tom Sun Ranch following acquisition by LDS Church in 1996 (total: 5).

<b>Bldg #</b>	<b>Building</b>	<b>Structure</b>	<b>Date *</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Y/N **</b>
1.		Entrance Gate	2001		N
2.	Entrance Station		2005		N
3.	Entrance Station Restrooms		2005		N
4.	Reconstruction of Fort Seminoe		2002	Based on nearby archeological site	N
5.	Jess Sun House		c.1970 1997	Ranch manager house & multi-purpose room	N
6.	Missionary Duplex		1999		N
7.	Bernard & Noeline Sun House		c. 1960		N
8.		Corrals and Pens	c. 1880		Y
9.	Shop		2001	Shed in rear	N
10.	Blacksmith Shop/Tack Room		c. 1880	Tack room also called chicken house	Y
11.	Barn		c. 1880 2001	Rear addition; interior gutted, remodeled for meeting room, 2001	Y
12.	Chapel		c. 1950 2001	Former shop; log siding and steeple added, 2001	N
13.	Humanitarian Cabin		(1999)	Moved to site from Idaho in 1999	N
14.	Museum		(1999)	Moved from Bar 11 Ranch in 1999; also called "Old Schoolhouse;" new roof system	N
15.	Washhouse		c. 1880	Used as washhouse by Sun family	Y
16.	Bunkhouse		c. 1880		Y
17.	Visitor Center		1872 & later 1997	Originally main ranch house; interior completely remodeled; exterior logs painted white	Y
18.	Handcart Station		c. 1900 1997	Originally a bunkhouse; new windows, doors	N
19.	Restrooms		1997	Sheathed with old logs	N
20.	Office/Director's House		c. 1910 1996	Former ranch house, built by Tom Sun Jr.	N
21.		Root Cellar	c. 1910 2004	Above ground structure completely replaced, 2004	N
22.	Garage		c. 1910 1997	New siding, c. 1997	N
23.	Trek Center		2005		N
24.	Trail Station		2004	At Veil Bridge	N
25.		Veil Bridge	Unknown 1996		N

\* second date is date of major remodeling

\*\* Y= contributing; N = non contributing

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**1) List of contributing historic buildings and structures remaining from Tom Sun Ranch following acquisition by LDS Church in 1996 (total: 6)**  
 – see attached 8f forms for detailed information

Corrals and Pens (#8) – c. 1880

Blacksmith Shop/Tack Room (#10) – c. 1880

Barn (#11) – c. 1880; addition added to rear and remodeled 2001

Washhouse (#15) – c. 1880

Bunkhouse (#16) – c. 1880

Visitors' Center (Original Ranch House) (#17) - 1872 and later; interior and exterior remodeling, 1997

**2) List of non-contributing buildings and structures remaining from Tom Sun Ranch following acquisition by LDS Church in 1996 (total: 7)**

Jess Sun House (#5) c. 1970

The Jess Sun House is located west of the ranch yard, on the south side of Old Highway 220. It is a split-level house, approximately 40' by 60', sheathed in masonite lap siding with an asphalt-covered roof. The ranch manager lives in the upper floor, and the basement is used for meetings and meals, as well as a guest apartment.

Bernard and Noeline Sun House (#7) c. 1960

The Bernard and Noeline Sun House is located on a hill east and south of the ranch yard and east of the Missionary Duplex. The 1960s-era, brick and frame, ranch-style house, approximately 40' by 60', is still home to Noeline Sun.

Chapel (Shop) (#12) – c. 1950; remodeled, 2001

Built as a shop by the Sun family, this building housed the diesel generator that provided electricity to the ranch in the 1950s. It is located on the north side of the ranch yard, just west of the barn. The one-story, rectangular, 24' by 60' wood-frame building with concrete foundation was originally sided in wood siding, painted white. It was used as a handcart shop by the LDS church until 2001, when it was remodeled for the chapel. At that time the exterior was sheathed with log siding, and the doors and windows were replaced. A steeple was added in 2001, but was blown off and never replaced.

Handcart Station (Bunkhouse) (#18) – c. 1900; remodeled, 1997

The building now used as the handcart station was originally a bunkhouse. Its actual construction date is not known, but the materials and construction differ from that of the earliest ranch buildings, and it is believed to have been built in the early 1900s. Sun family members recall this building being used as a bunkhouse and a house for the ranch foreman. The east-facing, 20' by 16' log structure has corner posts and concrete chinking. The low gable roof terminates in exposed rafter tails, and is covered with standing-seam metal. The gable ends are sheathed with vertical rough-sawn boards, with similar boards used as trim around the windows. The building retains its overall exterior form, but windows and doors are new, contemporary replacements, and a new opening has been cut on the north side. The interior has been completely remodeled for its current use as an office/handcart station.

Office/Director's House (Ranch House) (#20) – c. 1910; remodeled, 1996

This house was built by Tom Sun Jr. circa 1910 when he took over the ranch following the death of his father. It is located just west of the original ranch house (now the Visitors' Center). The 39' by 54', one-story house is constructed of logs, which have been covered with stucco and siding. It has a low gable roof, enclosed porch which wraps around the south and east elevations, and two projecting bays on the west elevation. Some of the original double-hung sash remain. It was remodeled by the LDS Church in 1996 for missionary apartments, and later changed to the director's office and living quarters. The house retains an early 20<sup>th</sup> century look in spite of additions and recent remodeling.

Root Cellar (#21) – c. 1910

The 20' by 8', concrete cellar is located just south and east of the Office/Director's House. The low (2.5'), above-ground structure, with walls and roof sheathed in metal, was completely replaced circa 2000.

Garage (#22) – c. 1910

The one-story, 21' by 15', one-car garage is located just south of Office/Director's House. It is a simple rectangular building with a front-facing gable roof. Although the garage door, man door, windows and siding have been replaced with new materials, the building still retains an early 20<sup>th</sup> century look.

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**3) List of buildings and structures at Tom Sun Ranch added since acquisition by LDS Church in 1996 (total: 12)**Entrance Gate (#1) – 2001

A steel entrance gate with a handcart logo and “Mormon Handcart Historic Site - Martin’s Cove” across the top is located at the entrance to the site from Highway 220.

Entrance Station (#2) – 2005

This one-story, 10’ by 10’, gable-front log building, with porch, is located at the bus parking area just southwest of the ranch headquarters.

Entrance Station Restrooms (#3) - 2005

This one-story, 30’ by 24’, log-sided restroom building is located at the bus parking area just southwest of the ranch headquarters.

Reconstruction of Fort Seminoe (#4) – 2002

Located between the bus parking area and the ranch yard, the reconstructed fort was built after archeological investigations of Fort Seminoe, and consists of a series of log cabins in an L shape, and a black-painted frame structure representing a fort building after being burned (the fort was burned in 1857). Logs were brought in from Canada, and were marked by ax marks to make them look hand hewn. Cabins are used for interpretive purposes, including an interpretation of the archeological investigation and displays of artifacts found on the site. The actual archeological site lies just west of the reconstructed fort.

Missionary Duplex (#6) – 1999

This one-story, 30’ by 40’ log-sided duplex residence, with eave-front gable roof, is located on a rise south of the entrance drive.

Shop (#9) – 2001

This one-story, 66’ by 24’ log building with eave-front gable roof rests on a concrete foundation and faces west, with 3 garage doors and one entrance door in the west elevation. It is located at the northeast corner of the ranch yard. A 30’-deep open shed extends from the east wall, with log siding on the south elevation and other sides open.

Humanitarian Cabin (#13) – moved to site in 1999

This one-story, 36’ by 12’ log cabin with eave-front gable roof was moved from Idaho to its current location northeast of the Visitors’ Center, between the Chapel and the Museum. The rafters and roof are new. The cabin is used for making quilts and other items to send to Salt Lake City for humanitarian efforts.

Peoples of the Sweetwater Museum (#14) – moved to site in 1999

This one-story, 32’ by 20’ log cabin with eave-front gable roof and two shed-roofed entrance porches was moved from Bar 11 (a Sun Ranch property) to its current location northeast of the Visitors’ Center, just west of the Humanitarian Cabin. The rafters and roof are new. It is used as a museum of Sun family and Sweetwater area memorabilia. Behind the museum are two small gable-roofed sheds, which appear to be gardening sheds. Neither has a foundation, although one has an entrance apron.

Restrooms (#19) – 1997

This one-story, 66’ by 21’ log sided restroom building has an eave-front gable roof. It is located just south of the Visitors’ Center, between it and the entrance road.

Trek Center (#23) – 2005

This one-story, 70’ by 40’ log building with eave-front gable roof faces south, with two entrance doors and a window in the south elevation, and a single garage door in the west elevation. It is located west of the ranch yard, along Old Highway 220. It is used for presentations and meetings in the summer, and handcart storage in the winter.

Trail station (#24) - 2004

This one-story, 10’ by 10’ log building has a front-facing gable, with a door and a window in the front elevation and a concrete apron. It is located just north of Old Highway 220, west of the ranch headquarters, at Veil Bridge crossing of the Sweetwater River.

Veil Bridge (#25) – original date unknown; rebuilt, 1996

An old railroad car was used to double the width of the Veil Bridge in 1996. It is located over the Sweetwater River, west of the ranch headquarters.



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**4) List of buildings and structures removed from Tom Sun Ranch following acquisition by LDS Church in 1996 (total: 5)***Former locations of these buildings are identified on the attached photograph and site plan..*A. Cow Barn. Formerly located north and east of the Corrals and Pens, it is believed to have been one of the original ranch buildings.B. Shed. Formerly located east of the Cow Barn, it is believed to have been one of the original ranch buildings.C. Garage. Formerly located near the current site of the Humanitarian Cabin (#13), its date of construction is unknown.D. Ice house. Formerly located near the current site of the Museum (#14), it is believed to have been one of the original ranch buildings.E. Tena's Cabin. Formerly located behind the Bunkhouse (#16), it was moved to the ranch from another part of the Tom Sun Ranch property in the 1940s. Following acquisition of the ranch by the LDS church, the cabin was moved to Tena Sun's property at the family's request.**Sources**

Holliday, Dean (Elder). Personal interviews (Mary Humstone and Misty Moore), March 26 &amp; 27, 2006.

Jordan, Terry G., Jon Kilpinen and Charles Gritzner. *The Mountain West: Interpreting the Folk Landscape*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997.Lissandrello, Stephen. *National Register of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination Form for Tom Sun Ranch NHL*. National Park Service, Washington, D.C. 1976.*Mormon Handcart Visitors' Center History, 1996 – 2001*. Unpublished month-by-month history of LDS involvement on the site. Copy available at Mormon Handcart Visitor Center.

Sun, Tena. Personal interviews (Mary Humstone and Misty Moore), March 26 &amp; 27, 2006.

Sun, Tena. Telephone interview (Misty Moore), January 6, 2006.

Sandoval, Judith Hancock. *Historic Ranches of Wyoming*. Casper, WY: Mountain States Lithographing Company (Nicolaysen Art Museum), 1986.*The Cattlemen's Empire. Theme XV, Westward Expansion and the Extension of the National Boundaries to the Pacific, 1830 – 1898*. The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings. Washington, D.C., 1959."Tom Sun's Ranch." *Cheyenne Daily Leader*. 8 December, 1882."Tom Sun Founded an Enduring Legacy." *The (Rawlins) Daily Times*. 4 August, 1963.

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**8. Prehistoric/Historic Site Matrix** (attach (8A) "Artifacts Associated with Prehistoric Component", (8B) "Features Associated with Prehistoric Component", (8C) "Artifacts Associated with Historic Component", (8D) "Features Associated with Historic Component" as appropriate). Check boxes for "yes" as appropriate.

<u>COMPONENT</u>	<u>OCCURRENCE</u>		<u>CONTENTS</u>			Building(s)/ Structure(s)
	Surface	Subsurface	Artifacts	Features	Rock Art	
<b>PREHISTORIC</b>						
Unknown Prehistoric	___	___	___	___	___	
Paleoindian	___	___	___	___	___	
Early Archaic	___	___	___	___	___	
Middle Archaic	___	___	___	___	___	
Late Archaic	___	___	___	___	___	
Archaic (general)	___	___	___	___	___	
Late Prehistoric	___	___	___	___	___	
<b>PREHISTORIC PHASES (optional)</b>						
Great Divide	___	___	___	___	___	
Green River/Opal	___	___	___	___	___	
Pine Spring	___	___	___	___	___	
Deadman Wash	___	___	___	___	___	
Uinta	___	___	___	___	___	
Firehole	___	___	___	___	___	
<b>PROTOHISTORIC</b>						
<b>HISTORIC</b>						
Unknown Historic	___	___	___	___	___	___
Early Historic	___	___	___	___	___	___
Pre-territorial	___	___	___	___	___	___
Territorial	___	___	___	___	___	6
Expansion	___	___	___	___	___	4
Depression	___	___	___	___	___	
WWII Era	___	___	___	___	___	___
Post WWII	___	___	___	___	___	1
Modern	___	___	___	___	___	14

Periods of Significance – Protohistoric (1720-1800) Early Historic (1801-1842) Pre-territorial (1843-1867) Territorial (1868-1889); Expansion (1890-1919) Depression (1920-1939); WWII-era (1940-1946); Post-WWII (1947-1955); Modern (1956-present)

\* Continue narrative as needed on separate page or by expanding section on word processor.

Date: June 20, 2006

Smithsonian # 48NA279

**8I. HISTORIC STRUCTURE/OBJECT DESCRIPTION** (must be accompanied by a core form)

Common name: **Corrals and Pens**

Historic name: **Corrals**

Type of structure/object: **Holding pens, chute, loading chute, polygonal corrals**

Associated resources: **None**

Historic District Smithsonian Number (if applicable): **48NA279**

**OWNERSHIP – Property owner and address: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Mormon Handcart Center, 47600 W. Hwy 220, Alcova, WY 82620**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES SIGNIFICANCE** (discuss as appropriate in narrative and in core form; the following applies to the individual structure/object)

Period of significance: **Territorial** Theme: **Agriculture**

\*Periods – Protohistoric (1720-1800) Early Historic (1801-1842) Pre-territorial (1843-1867) Territorial (1868-1889); Expansion (1890-1919); Depression (1920-1939) ; WWII-era (1940 to 1946); Post-WWII (1947 to 1955); Modern (1956-present); use exact dates if known.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES ELIGIBILITY RECOMMENDATION** (discuss as appropriate in narrative and in core form):

If eligible, this structure/object is:  contributing or  non-contributing

Justification: (Include in justification a statement of significance for building; integrity (location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, association); discuss how significant periods and themes were determined):

**Corrals and pens were an essential part of the ranching operation. The corrals and pens on the Tom Sun Ranch are still in the same place shown in early photographs and thus retain integrity of location and setting. The design of the corrals and pens is significant, since it is the “straight-rail” style, which was brought to Wyoming and Montana from Texas, and was considered the best type of fence for withstanding pressure from cattle. Materials and workmanship appear to be original, and the corrals and pens give the feeling and association of a historic ranch.**

**CONSTRUCTION HISTORY** (use “unknown” as appropriate)

Dates of construction/major modification (use more lines as appropriate)

Date	Circa y/n	Date source
1880	Yes	Photograph/context

Architect(s): **N/A**

Builder(s): **Unknown**

Structure/Object moved? **No; however, exact configuration may have changed since original construction**

Current use(s): **Corrals and pens**

Historic use(s): **Corrals and pens**

**DESCRIPTION: The corrals run parallel to the Sweetwater River, with the smaller pens and the loading chute opening out onto what was originally the central ranch yard, and the larger holding area extending downriver to the south. The complex is constructed of round poles from 12 to 15 feet in length. Gate poles are about 6 to 8 inches in diameter, with smaller diameter poles used for fencing. The fencing is constructed in the “straight-rail” style, which consists of a pair of upright posts every 12 – 15 feet, supporting four rails. Gates consist of boards bolted together, with a diagonal cross piece, and double boards on each end, and are marked by high gate posts and cross poles. The largest pen is 485’ by 560’, and feeds into two smaller polygonal pens, one to the west measuring about 72’ across which connects to the smaller pen which measures about 40’ across. These two polygonal pens empty to a chute about 115’ long and 15’ wide that moves the livestock either to a ground-level loading chute/pen about 40’ wide, and running along the chute, or to an elevated loading chute. There are two smaller square corrals both about 30’ by 54’, one to the east of the elevated chute and one to the south. There is also one small pen halfway up the fence along the river side in the larger holding area, about 200’ by 45’, with an opening onto the river.**

Construction Materials: **Lodgepole pine poles**

Style/Type: **Straight rail**

\* Continue narrative as needed on separate page or by expanding section on word processor.

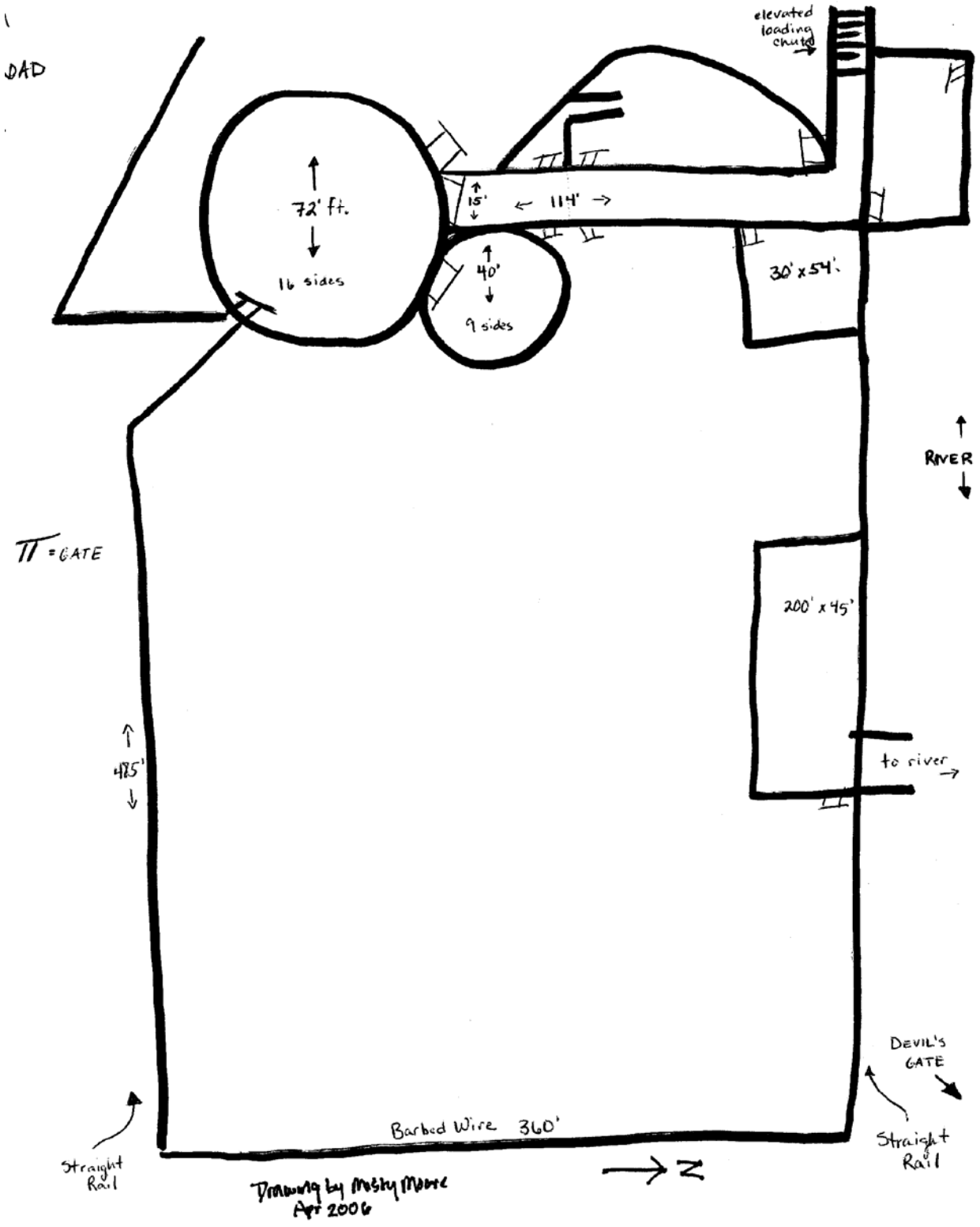
Date: June 20, 2006

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Tom Sun Ranch Corrals and Pens



\* Continue narrative as needed on separate page or by expanding section on word processor.

**Date: June 20, 2006**

**Smithsonian # 48NA279**

**8F. HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE COMPONENT DESCRIPTION**

**Instructions:** Complete this form for each primary standing building/structure as appropriate. If a site contains more than one building or structure, e.g. a ranch house and barn – complete an attachment for each structure. When using this form, structures should retain identifiable architectural elements. Generally, historic archeological sites should not be recorded on this form. Secondary structures such as corrals, fences, lean-to’s, and outbuildings without architectural interest, may be documented on attachment 8D. Attach a sketch map showing the building, associated features and other buildings and the building setting as appropriate (with a scale and north arrow). Attach color photographs or images sufficient to illustrate the general building form and condition. Attach photographs, images, or measured drawings of unique architectural elements. Additional records (e.g., blueprints) can be attached as appropriate. References for this section include: Architecture in the Cowboy State; Eileen F. Starr, 1992; "National Register Bulletin 15", USDI/ NPS, 1991; A Field Guide to American Houses, Virginia & Lee McAlester, 1984.

Common name: **Blacksmith Shop/Tack Room**

Historic name: **Blacksmith Shop/Tack Room**

Type of building: **Log outbuilding**

Number of associated resources: **None**

Historic District Smithsonian Number (if applicable): **48NA279**

**OWNERSHIP** – Property owner and address: **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Mormon Handcart Center, 47600 W. Hwy 220, Alcova, WY 82620**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES SIGNIFICANCE** (discuss as appropriate in narrative and in core form; the following applies to the individual building)

Period of significance: **Territorial** Theme: **Agriculture**

Periods – Protohistoric (1720-1800) Early Historic (1801-1842) Pre-territorial (1843-1867) Territorial (1868-1889); Expansion (1890-1919); Depression (1920-1939) ; WWII-era (1940 to 1946); Post-WWII (1947 to 1955); Modern (1956-present); use exact dates if known.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES ELIGIBILITY RECOMMENDATION** (discuss as appropriate in narrative and in core form):

If eligible, is this building:  contributing or  non-contributing

Justification: (Include in justification a statement of significance for building; integrity (location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, association); discuss how significant periods and themes were determined):

**The Blacksmith Shop/Tack Room retains integrity of location, although the setting (the ranch yard) has changed from the ranching era. The building is in close to original condition, with its original shape and form and enough original historic material to give it integrity of design, materials and workmanship. The building has the feeling and association of a historic ranch outbuilding.**

**The interior of the Blacksmith Shop/Tack Room retains historic integrity. It has not been remodeled, and its original use can be understood from the existing interior features.**

**CONSTRUCTION HISTORY** (use “unknown” as appropriate)

Dates of construction/major modification (use more lines as appropriate)

Date	Circa y/n	Date source
<b>1880</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Photographs; newspaper article; construction</b>

Architect(s): **Unknown**

Builder(s): **Unknown**

Building moved? **No**

Current use(s): **Storage** Historic use(s): **Blacksmith shop and tack room**

\* Continue narrative as needed on separate page or by expanding section on word processor.

Date: June 20, 2006

Smithsonian # 48NA279

**DESCRIPTION** (see handbook for guidelines)

This one-story, gable-roofed log outbuilding is divided into 2 sections. The southern section was used as a tack room and the northern section was a blacksmith shop. The low, gabled roof resembles a sod roof type; it is now built-up asphalt with a top covering of bentonite. The 21' by 24' Tack Room is 6' high at the eave, and has no visible foundation. The entrance door is centered in the south elevation. The logs on the east half of the south wall have been replaced and the east elevation consists of horizontal flush-board siding. Logs on the other elevations terminate in corner posts. There is one horizontal stationary window in the west elevation.

The 21' by 24' Blacksmith Shop is slightly taller in elevation than the tack section of the building, and rests on a stone foundation. It is entered on the east elevation through double doors constructed of rough-sawn wood. All elevations are log, with saddle-notched corners. The west elevation has a single opening (boarded over). The interior of the Blacksmith Shop has a central stone forge with a metal hood above, attached to a stovepipe projecting through the roof. Along the north wall are four stone piers about 4' tall that support shelves. The room contains some blacksmithing artifacts.

Modifications/Additions: The Blacksmith Shop has a replacement roof structure, and a replacement sill log and replacement door on the east elevation. The Tack Room has a replacement wood door and replacement logs on the east half of the south elevation. The east elevation has board siding. All replacements with the exception of the board siding are in kind and appropriately match the historic materials.

**ARCHITECTURE KEYWORDS:** Log**ADDITIONAL NARRATIVE** (e.g., relationship of building to complex and/or district; other notes; interior description):

Judging from the construction, this building probably dates from the early period of the ranch, circa 1880. It is mentioned in an 1882 article in the *Cheyenne Leader*. The use of the blacksmith shop is obvious from the appearance of the interior. The south half of the building appears to have been used as a tack room, although some Sun family members refer to it as the chicken house. The shallow purlin roof structure is typical of early dirt or sod-roofed log buildings.

**Date: June 20, 2006**

**Smithsonian # 48NA279**

**8F. HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE COMPONENT DESCRIPTION**

**Instructions:** Complete this form for each primary standing building/structure as appropriate. If a site contains more than one building or structure, e.g. a ranch house and barn – complete an attachment for each structure. When using this form, structures should retain identifiable architectural elements. Generally, historic archeological sites should not be recorded on this form. Secondary structures such as corrals, fences, lean-to's, and outbuildings without architectural interest, may be documented on attachment 8D. Attach a sketch map showing the building, associated features and other buildings and the building setting as appropriate (with a scale and north arrow). Attach color photographs or images sufficient to illustrate the general building form and condition. Attach photographs, images, or measured drawings of unique architectural elements. Additional records (e.g., blueprints) can be attached as appropriate. References for this section include: Architecture in the Cowboy State; Eileen F. Starr, 1992; "National Register Bulletin 15", USDI/ NPS, 1991; A Field Guide to American Houses, Virginia & Lee McAlester, 1984.

Common name: **Barn**

Historic name: **Barn**

Type of building: **Log**

Number of associated resources: **None**

Historic District Smithsonian Number (if applicable): **48NA279**

**OWNERSHIP** – Property owner and address: **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Mormon Handcart Center, 47600 W. Hwy 220, Alcova, WY 82620**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES SIGNIFICANCE** (discuss as appropriate in narrative and in core form; the following applies to the individual building)

Period of significance: **Territorial** Theme: **Agriculture**

Periods – Protohistoric (1720-1800) Early Historic (1801-1842) Pre-territorial (1843-1867) Territorial (1868-1889); Expansion (1890-1919); Depression (1920-1939) ; WWII-era (1940 to 1946); Post-WWII (1947 to 1955); Modern (1956-present); use exact dates if known.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES ELIGIBILITY RECOMMENDATION** (discuss as appropriate in narrative and in core form):

If eligible, is this building:  contributing or  non-contributing

Justification: (Include in justification a statement of significance for building; integrity (location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, association); discuss how significant periods and themes were determined):

**The Barn retains integrity of location, although the setting (the ranch yard) has changed from the ranching era. The building retains its original shape and form and enough original historic material to give it integrity of design, materials and workmanship. The building has the feeling and association of a historic ranch outbuilding.**

**The interior of the Barn has been completely remodeled and lacks historic integrity.**

**CONSTRUCTION HISTORY** (use "unknown" as appropriate)

Dates of construction/major modification (use more lines as appropriate)

Date	Circa y/n	Date source
<b>1880</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Photograph; newspaper article; construction</b>
<b>1999</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>MHVC Records</b>
<b>2001</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>MHVC Records</b>

Architect(s): **Unknown**

Builder(s): **Unknown**

Building moved? **No**

Current use(s): **Meeting hall** Historic use(s): **Barn**

\* Continue narrative as needed on separate page or by expanding section on word processor.



Date: June 20, 2006

Smithsonian # 48NA279

**DESCRIPTION** (see handbook for guidelines)

The one-story log barn stands 74' long and 39' wide, and has square-notched corners and concrete chinking, painted white. It has no visible foundation. It is topped with a low pitched gable roof, with corrugated metal sheathing, exposed rafter tails and gable ends sheathed in vertical flush-board. On the east elevation are two man doors, one window (boarded up) and an 8' by 10' sliding door with a concrete apron. The south elevation has a two-pane sliding window, and the west elevation has a single man door.

Modifications/Additions: A 48' by 39' addition, built in 2001, extends north from the rear elevation of the original structure. The addition is built of log, with a corrugated metal roof with 3 chimney stacks. There is a small garage door and a man door in the east elevation of the addition, and two garage doors and one man door with a concrete apron in the north elevation. Windows and doors of the original portion of the barn have all been replaced with contemporary units. A sign reading "Sun Ranch" has been added over a stationary window in the south gable end.

Inside, all the stalls have been removed and the space has been converted to a meeting hall, complete with cupboards and kitchen area. A concrete floor has been poured, and fluorescent lighting placed among the open rafters.

**ARCHITECTURE KEYWORDS:** Log

**ADDITIONAL NARRATIVE** (e.g., relationship of building to complex and/or district; other notes; interior description):

This building appears in all early photographs of the ranch.

**Date: June 20, 2006**

**Smithsonian # 48NA279**

**8F. HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE COMPONENT DESCRIPTION**

**Instructions:** Complete this form for each primary standing building/structure as appropriate. If a site contains more than one building or structure, e.g. a ranch house and barn – complete an attachment for each structure. When using this form, structures should retain identifiable architectural elements. Generally, historic archeological sites should not be recorded on this form. Secondary structures such as corrals, fences, lean-to’s, and outbuildings without architectural interest, may be documented on attachment 8D. Attach a sketch map showing the building, associated features and other buildings and the building setting as appropriate (with a scale and north arrow). Attach color photographs or images sufficient to illustrate the general building form and condition. Attach photographs, images, or measured drawings of unique architectural elements. Additional records (e.g., blueprints) can be attached as appropriate. References for this section include: Architecture in the Cowboy State; Eileen F. Starr, 1992; "National Register Bulletin 15", USDI/ NPS, 1991; A Field Guide to American Houses, Virginia & Lee McAlester, 1984.

Common name: **Washhouse**

Historic name: **Washhouse**

Type of building: **Log outbuilding**

Number of associated resources: **None**

Historic District Smithsonian Number (if applicable): **48NA279**

**OWNERSHIP** – Property owner and address: **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Mormon Handcart Center, 47600 W. Hwy 220, Alcova, WY 82620**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES SIGNIFICANCE** (discuss as appropriate in narrative and in core form; the following applies to the individual building)

Period of significance: **Territorial** Theme: **Agriculture**

Periods – Protohistoric (1720-1800) Early Historic (1801-1842) Pre-territorial (1843-1867) Territorial (1868-1889); Expansion (1890-1919); Depression (1920-1939) ; WWII-era (1940 to 1946); Post-WWII (1947 to 1955); Modern (1956-present); use exact dates if known.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES ELIGIBILITY RECOMMENDATION** (discuss as appropriate in narrative and in core form):

If eligible, is this building:  contributing or  non-contributing

Justification: (Include in justification a statement of significance for building; integrity (location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, association); discuss how significant periods and themes were determined):

**The Washhouse retains integrity of location. Its setting, however, has changed from the ranching era and no longer retains integrity. The building retains its original shape, form and materials, giving it integrity of design, materials and workmanship. The building has the feeling and association of a historic ranch outbuilding,**

**The interior of the Washhouse has not been remodeled and retains integrity of design, materials, and workmanship, feeling and association.**

**CONSTRUCTION HISTORY** (use “unknown” as appropriate)

Dates of construction/major modification (use more lines as appropriate)

Date	Circa y/n	Date source
<b>1880</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Sun Family interviews; photographs; construction</b>

Architect(s): **Unknown**

Builder(s): **Unknown**

Building moved? **No**

Current use(s): **Museum (Washhouse interpretation)** Historic use(s): **Washhouse**

\* Continue narrative as needed on separate page or by expanding section on word processor.

Date: June 20, 2006

Smithsonian # 48NA279

DESCRIPTION (see handbook for guidelines)

This 15' by 18', one-story log building has a low, front-facing gable roof sheathed with corrugated metal. All corners are square notched. It sits on a concrete foundation and has a fence extending from both sides of the front elevation. There are two wood-framed windows, a 1-pane stationary on the north elevation over looking the river and a 2-pane horizontal slider on the west elevation, and a 5-panel door in the south-facing façade. This elevation has been decorated with washhouse paraphernalia, such as a wash pail, a water yoke and buckets, and a hand-wringing machine, and has a sign reading "Washhouse." Two metal stacks rise from the roof.

The interior has not been modified since its use by the Sun family. It is interpreted for visitors as a washhouse, with a tub and laundry-related artifacts.

Modifications/Additions: A wooden fence has been built extending from each side of the façade.

ARCHITECTURE KEYWORDS: Log

ADDITIONAL NARRATIVE (e.g., relationship of building to complex and/or district; other notes; interior description): **This appears to be one of the most intact structures on the ranch.**

**Date: June 20, 2006**

**Smithsonian # 48NA279**

**8F. HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE COMPONENT DESCRIPTION**

**Instructions:** Complete this form for each primary standing building/structure as appropriate. If a site contains more than one building or structure, e.g. a ranch house and barn – complete an attachment for each structure. When using this form, structures should retain identifiable architectural elements. Generally, historic archeological sites should not be recorded on this form. Secondary structures such as corrals, fences, lean-to’s, and outbuildings without architectural interest, may be documented on attachment 8D. Attach a sketch map showing the building, associated features and other buildings and the building setting as appropriate (with a scale and north arrow). Attach color photographs or images sufficient to illustrate the general building form and condition. Attach photographs, images, or measured drawings of unique architectural elements. Additional records (e.g., blueprints) can be attached as appropriate. References for this section include: Architecture in the Cowboy State; Eileen F. Starr, 1992; "National Register Bulletin 15", USDI/ NPS, 1991; A Field Guide to American Houses, Virginia & Lee McAlester, 1984.

Common name: **Bunkhouse**

Historic name: **Bunkhouse**

Type of building: **Log outbuilding**

Number of associated resources: **None**

Historic District Smithsonian Number (if applicable): **48NA279**

**OWNERSHIP** – Property owner and address: **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Mormon Handcart Center, 47600 W. Hwy 220, Alcova, WY 82620**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES SIGNIFICANCE** (discuss as appropriate in narrative and in core form; the following applies to the individual building)

Period of significance: **Territorial** Theme: **Agriculture**

Periods – Protohistoric (1720-1800) Early Historic (1801-1842) Pre-territorial (1843-1867) Territorial (1868-1889); Expansion (1890-1919); Depression (1920-1939) ; WWII-era (1940 to 1946); Post-WWII (1947 to 1955); Modern (1956-present); use exact dates if known.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES ELIGIBILITY RECOMMENDATION** (discuss as appropriate in narrative and in core form):

If eligible, is this building:  contributing or  non-contributing

Justification: (Include in justification a statement of significance for building; integrity (location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, association); discuss how significant periods and themes were determined):

**The Bunkhouse retains integrity of location. Its setting, however, has changed from the ranching era and no longer retains integrity. The building retains its original shape, form and materials, giving it integrity of design, materials and workmanship. The building has the feeling and association of a historic ranch outbuilding.**

**The interior of the Bunkhouse has not been remodeled and retains integrity of design, materials, and workmanship, feeling and association.**

**CONSTRUCTION HISTORY** (use “unknown” as appropriate)

Dates of construction/major modification (use more lines as appropriate)

Date	Circa y/n	Date source
<b>1880</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Photograph; Sun family interview; construction</b>

Architect(s): **Unknown**

Builder(s): **Unknown**

Building moved? **No**

Current use(s): **Museum (Bunkhouse interpretation)** Historic use(s): **Bunkhouse**

\* Continue narrative as needed on separate page or by expanding section on word processor.

Date: June 20, 2006

Smithsonian # 48NA279

**DESCRIPTION** (see handbook for guidelines)

This 12' by 16', one-story building originally served as a bunkhouse for hired men on the Tom Sun Ranch. All four elevations are hewn log with corner boards and concrete chinking. The gable ends are sided with vertical flushboard siding, and a metal chimney stack rises from the southwest corner of the roof, which is sheathed with corrugated metal roofing. The building has no foundation, but has a concrete apron at the east-facing entrance. There is a 2-pane horizontal window in the south elevation and a 2-pane slider in the west elevation.

The interior appears to be in original condition. Interestingly, logs are unhewn on the inside. The interior has been interpreted for visitors as a bunkhouse, with the original wood-plank flooring and the bare amenities that might have been kept by one of its tenants in its time.

Modifications/Additions: A wooden fence extends from each side of the rear (west) elevation.

**ARCHITECTURE KEYWORDS:** Log

**ADDITIONAL NARRATIVE** (e.g., relationship of building to complex and/or district; other notes; interior description): **Along with the washhouse, this appears to be one of the most intact structures on the ranch.**

**Date: June 20, 2006**

**Smithsonian # 48NA279**

**8F. HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE COMPONENT DESCRIPTION**

**Instructions:** Complete this form for each primary standing building/structure as appropriate. If a site contains more than one building or structure, e.g. a ranch house and barn – complete an attachment for each structure. When using this form, structures should retain identifiable architectural elements. Generally, historic archeological sites should not be recorded on this form. Secondary structures such as corrals, fences, lean-to’s, and outbuildings without architectural interest, may be documented on attachment 8D. Attach a sketch map showing the building, associated features and other buildings and the building setting as appropriate (with a scale and north arrow). Attach color photographs or images sufficient to illustrate the general building form and condition. Attach photographs, images, or measured drawings of unique architectural elements. Additional records (e.g., blueprints) can be attached as appropriate. References for this section include: Architecture in the Cowboy State; Eileen F. Starr, 1992; "National Register Bulletin 15", USDI/ NPS, 1991; A Field Guide to American Houses, Virginia & Lee McAlester, 1984.

Common name: **Visitors’ Center**

Historic name: **Old Ranch House; Cookhouse**

Type of building: **Residence**

Number of associated resources: **None**

Historic District Smithsonian Number (if applicable): **48NA279**

**OWNERSHIP** – Property owner and address: **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Mormon Handcart Center, 47600 W. Hwy 220, Alcova, WY 82620**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES SIGNIFICANCE** (discuss as appropriate in narrative and in core form; the following applies to the individual building)

Period of significance: **Territorial** Theme: **Agriculture**

Periods – Protohistoric (1720-1800) Early Historic (1801-1842) Pre-territorial (1843-1867) Territorial (1868-1889); Expansion (1890-1919); Depression (1920-1939) ; WWII-era (1940 to 1946); Post-WWII (1947 to 1955); Modern (1956-present); use exact dates if known.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES ELIGIBILITY RECOMMENDATION** (discuss as appropriate in narrative and in core form):

If eligible, is this building: **x** contributing or \_\_\_ non-contributing

Justification: (Include in justification a statement of significance for building; integrity (location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, association); discuss how significant periods and themes were determined):

**The Visitors’ Center retains integrity of location, although the setting has changed from the ranching era. The building retains its original shape and form and enough original historic material to give it integrity of design, materials and workmanship. One can still discern where the log cabins were strung together to create a long, L-shaped building. The painted walls, concrete sidewalks, modern landscaping and benches and signs detract from the feeling and association of a historic ranch outbuilding.**

**The interior of the Visitors’ Center has been completely remodeled and lacks historic integrity.**

**CONSTRUCTION HISTORY** (use “unknown” as appropriate)

Dates of construction/major modification (use more lines as appropriate)

Date	Circa y/n	Date source
<b>1872</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Documented family history</b>
<b>1996</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>MHVC Records</b>

Architect(s): **Unknown**

Builder(s): **Unknown**

Building moved? **No**

Current use(s): **Visitor’s center and museum** Historic use(s): **Ranch house (1872 – c. 1910); cookhouse (1910 – 1996); storage facility (1872 – 1986)**

\* Continue narrative as needed on separate page or by expanding section on word processor.

Date: June 20, 2006

Smithsonian # 48NA279

**DESCRIPTION** (see handbook for guidelines)

This one-story former residence is made up of a collection of small, one room, settlers' cabins that were placed in a line over the years to expand the house. The oldest section dates back to 1872 and was built by Tom Sun as the first structure on the ranch. The separate cabins are still easily identifiable. The logs vary in size, and each section has a separate door. The house developed into a rough "L" shape, with the oldest cabin being on the south end, and the newest section being a clapboard-sided section at the end of the short section of the "L".

Both legs of the building are topped with low, eave-front gable roofs sheathed with standing seam metal, with exposed rafter tails. The gables intersect at the corner of the "L." Another intersecting gable is formed by the roof of the easternmost (clapboard-sided) section, which runs north-south and extends on the east eave to form a porch.

The long, north-south section of the "L" is 84' by 21' and includes three original doors which are wood paneled with a single glass pane. These doors are inoperable and have been sheathed over on the inside. There is also one replacement panel door and two metal-clad doors, all of which are operable. Windows have also been sheathed over on the inside. They include a replacement picture window, a 2-over-4 original and one small, 1-over-1 replacement metal window. There is a single 2-pane replacement window in the south elevation of this section.

The short leg of the "L" runs east-west and is approximately 40' by 20'. The south elevation contains 1 wood door with 8 lights above two vertical panels, one original 2-over-2 window with original glass, and two replacement 1-over-1 metal windows. The east elevation of this leg has two replacement 1-over-1 metal windows flanking a replacement metal door.

A 6'-deep porch extends along the inside of the "L" and wraps around to the east. Seventeen square and slightly tapered wooden piers, constructed of vertical boards, support the porch. At the southeast corner of the long (north-south) leg of the "L", a 2' wide section of porch is enclosed.

A stone chimney rises from the ridge of the north-south gable on the short leg of the "L."

The interior has been completely remodeled. However, in the easternmost section of the building, in the room called the "Sun Room," there is a unique rock fireplace, built in 1938 and designed by Mrs. Tom Sun Sr. All the rocks in the fireplace were collected locally, including American Indian artifacts and fossils.

Landscaping elements include concrete sidewalks, log benches, a log fence enclosing the yard, areas of gravel accented with rocks and rusted farm equipment, and signs directing visitors.

Modifications/Additions: Foundation (describe, i.e., stone, concrete, post and sill, etc.):

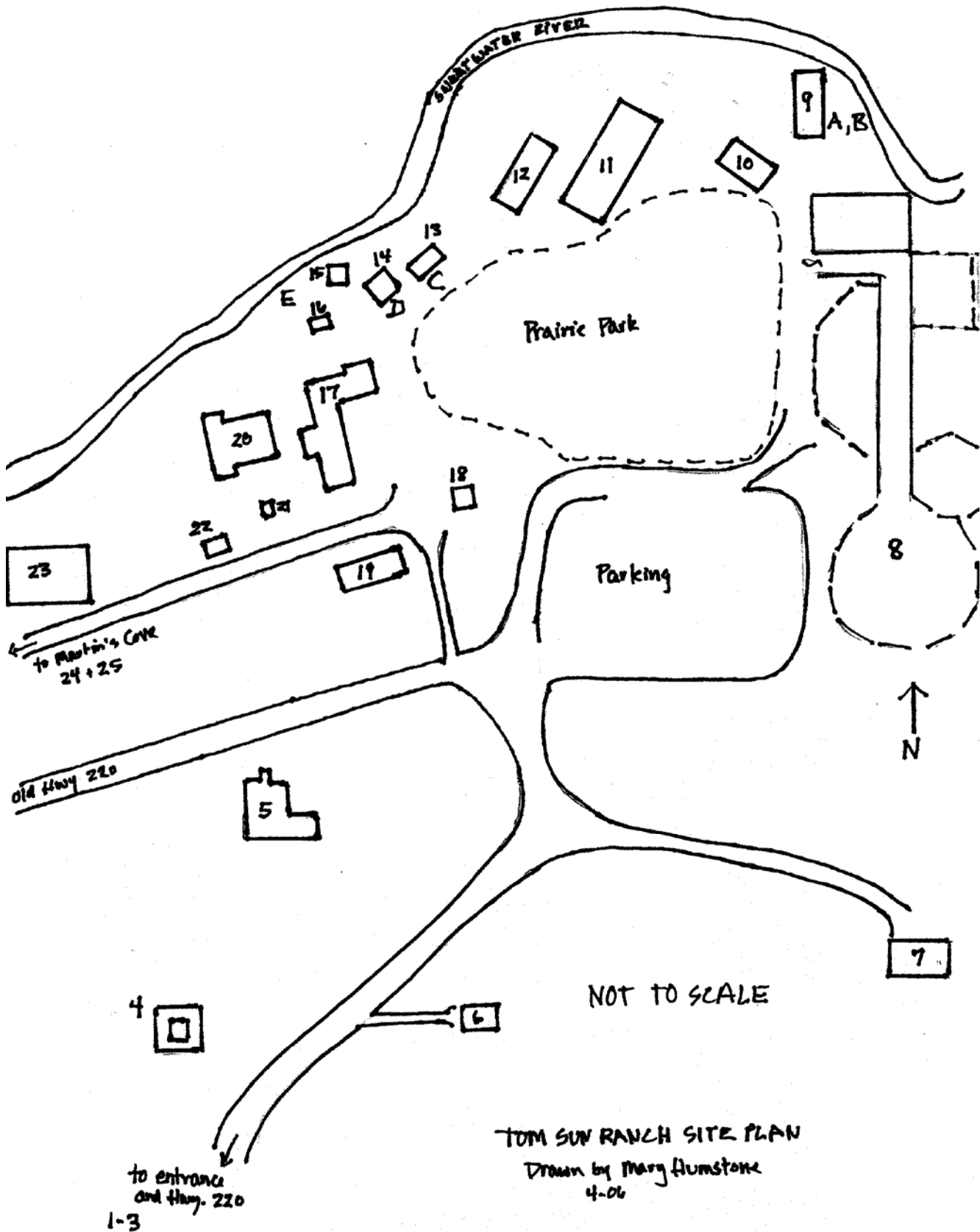
On the exterior, a new concrete foundation was poured under the entire building. A pantry extending to the west was removed, and the wall patched with siding. Several porch piers were moved in order to make room for a sidewalk. Screening was removed from the porch, and rain gutters were added. The exterior log walls were repaired and painted white. Some doors and windows were replaced, and the remaining original doors and windows were sheathed over on the inside (see above).

The entire interior, including room configurations, was gutted. The original ranch house had nine rooms; the remodeled Visitors' Center now has five rooms. Wood floors were removed and a new concrete floor was poured. Gypsum board was applied over the interior log walls.

**ARCHITECTURE KEYWORDS:** Log

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**Tom Sun Ranch Site Plan – Key**Existing Buildings

1. Entrance Gate (not visible on plan)
2. Entrance Station (not visible on plan)
3. Entrance Station Restrooms (not visible on plan)
4. Replica of Fort Seminoe
5. Jess Sun House
6. Missionary Duplex
7. Bernard and Noeline Sun House
8. Corrals and Pens
9. Shop
10. Blacksmith Shop/Tack Room
11. Barn
12. Chapel
13. Humanitarian Cabin
14. Museum
15. Washhouse
16. Bunkhouse
17. Visitors' Center
18. Handcart Station
19. Restrooms
20. Office/Director's House
21. Root Cellar
22. Garage
23. Trek Center
24. Trail Station (not visible on plan)
25. Veil Bridge (not visible on plan)

Removed Buildings

- A. Cow Barn
- B. Shed
- C. Garage
- D. Ice House
- E. Tena's Cabin

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Tom Sun Ranch

Buildings removed since 1996

- A - cow barn
- B - shed
- C - garage
- D - ice house
- E - cabin

Contributing buildings/structures

- 8 - corrals
- 10 - blacksmith shop
- 11 - barn
- 15 - washhouse
- 16 - bunkhouse
- 17 - visitor center

