

# Teton County Historic Site Survey

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Mosely Hereford Ranch / Hardeman Ranch Barns

other name/site number \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Location

street & number 5450 W. Highway 22 ☐ not for publication

city or town Wilson ☒ vicinity

state Wyoming code WY county Teton code 039 zip code 83014

## 3. Ownership of Property

(check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

## 4. Category of Property

(check only one box)

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

## 5. Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

## Property Owner

name/title Jackson Hole Land Trust

street & number P. O. Box 2897 telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Jackson state WY zip code 83001

## Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

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

\_\_\_\_\_

## National Register Status:

- ☒ Eligible ☐ Unevaluated  
☐ Not Eligible ☐ District Potential

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture / Subsistence: animal facility

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Current Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture / Subsistence: animal facility

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: vernacular

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Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	log and stone
walls	log
roof	metal
other	

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

☒ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

**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.)

Property is:

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

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Areas of Significance**

Agriculture

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

c. 1925-1955

**Significant Dates****Significant Persons**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation****Architect/Builder**

☒ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

**9. Major Bibliographical References****Bibliography**

(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:

Jackson Hole Historical Society

☒ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

**10. Geographical Data**Acreage of Property less than 10 acres**UTM References**

(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

1 1/2 5/1/0/3/9/9 4/8/1/6/0/1/3  
Zone Easting Northing2 1/2 / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing3 1/2 / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing4 1/2 / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

☒ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10**11. Form Prepared By**

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Maps**
- **Photographs:** Representative photographs of the property.



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## Continuation Sheet

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Mosely Hereford Ranch / Hardeman Ranch Barns

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### Narrative Description

This complex consists of six separate buildings primarily used as livestock barns on a ranch that lies east of Wilson, Wyoming, and directly east of Fish Creek. It is on the south side of Highway 22 between Jackson and Wilson. The big barn is a special landmark for all who travel that road but the other buildings are notable too.

The very large barn with curved roof is the centerpiece of the complex. This log barn, constructed in the 1940s for the C. C. Mosely Hereford Ranch, has two distinct segments, the north part being a three story structure (although it does not have three separate levels inside) with a shiny metal roof that is curved steeply downward from its center ridge (north-south axis) and bells out slightly at the eaves to divert moisture from the building. The south part of the barn has a different roof; built in two stories, this building has a gabled roof over the center section which is raised above the ground level so that it has board and batten walls rising from the roof slope on both the west and east sides. It is not known which barn was the original and which was added, and speculation runs both ways; further research is necessary on this question. The north elevation includes a large entrance on the ground level and two entrances to the hayloft centered under the ridge. Multi-light windows flank the entrances on the upper levels and are located to the west of the ground entrance. The east and west elevations of the north section are mirror images of each other except that on the west elevation an additional entrance under a short gabled canopy has been created. The east and west elevations of the south section are exact duplicates of each other, with a row of six square windows arranged symmetrically in each. The south elevation has a primary entrance on the second level, into the hayloft, that is accessed by a modern set of stairs. This set of stairs is the only feature of the barn that can be considered intrusive into the original design and appearance, but as of this writing it is considered only a non-contributing feature and does not impact the rest of the building.

West of the barn is a small gabled log building known as the pump house. As with other agricultural buildings where the property has changed hands several times over many years, the age of this building is not known. It is probably the oldest structure on the property and possibly served as a habitation before it was used as the pump house. It certainly dates to the 1930s and quite likely 1920s or even earlier. The gabled building with a metal roof faces the east, but has only a door and no fenestration on that elevation. Sliding horizontal multi-light windows are located in the north elevation. The south and west elevations have boarded windows.

South of the barn is another, smaller long barn, a rebuilt machine shed, that replaces an original structure that deteriorated. Although of recent construction, and thus is noncontributing to this complex, this barn is constructed in an exact, careful way in the style of buildings of the period of historic significance and does not compromise the integrity of other features in this complex.

East of the machine shed about two hundred feet, and perpendicular to the axis of the other barns, is a long gable-roofed log building. This has no entrances on the north, east, or west elevations. On the south elevation, the long center board and batten bay, which is located between log sections at

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Mosely Hereford Ranch / Hardeman Ranch Barns

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either end, includes the entrances that appear to have been modified but are consistent with original design.

The horse barn is located directly east of and near the big barn. This log building with a metal gambrel roof is on an east-west axis and has a shed addition on the south. This is a two-story building that has been modified from its original use as an animal shelter so that it now houses restroom facilities and other utility functions. Those modifications have been made with care to retain the original feel and appearance of the structure and are evident only occasionally in the doors which have been reconfigured slightly. The horse barn is in excellent condition. Entrances to the hayloft remain, but now have glass multi-light windows for illumination of the interior. The date of the horse barn's construction is not known; if it is not from the period of historic significance, it was likely added shortly afterwards and would thus be eligible within a few years.

A residence was previously located north of the horse barn and that has been removed. This is a serious loss to the complex, but its removal has not been judged a sufficient impact on the other buildings to cause them to lose integrity.

The building known as the bunk house is a small gambrel-roofed structure located northwest of the big barn. The axis of the building is north-south and the north part is log with a door and no windows on the east elevation; the north elevation uses variegated shingles above the logs and has a window in the upper and lower level. The south elevation uses board and batten above the logs with no windows at all.

The buildings in this complex have a variety of ages and uses, as is normal for so many ranching operations, and further documentation of some structures for a National Register nomination will be necessary, but this complex generally holds excellent integrity.

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Mosely Hereford Ranch / Hardeman Ranch Barns, Wilson, Wyoming. Big barn, east elevation, looking west. Photo: Michael Cassity, 2005.

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Mosely Hereford Ranch / Hardeman Ranch Barns, Wilson, Wyoming. Big barn. West elevation, looking northeast. Photo: Michael Cassity, 2004.

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Mosely Hereford Ranch / Hardeman Ranch Barns, Wilson, Wyoming. Pump House. East and north elevations, looking southwest. Photo: Michael Cassity, 2004.

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Mosely Hereford Ranch / Hardeman Ranch Barns, Wilson, Wyoming. Rebuilt machine shed (noncontributing), looking northwest. Photo: Michael Cassity, 2004.

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Mosely Hereford Ranch / Hardeman Ranch Barns

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Mosely Hereford Ranch / Hardeman Ranch Barns, Wilson, Wyoming. East barn. West and south elevations, looking northeast. Photo: Michael Cassity, 2005.

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Mosely Hereford Ranch / Hardeman Ranch Barns, Wilson, Wyoming. East barn. West and north elevations, looking southeast. Photo: Michael Cassity, 2004.

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Mosely Hereford Ranch / Hardeman Ranch Barns, Wilson, Wyoming. Horse barn. East and north elevations, looking southwest. Photo: Michael Cassity, 2004.

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Mosely Hereford Ranch / Hardeman Ranch Barns

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Mosely Hereford Ranch / Hardeman ranch Barns, Wilson, Wyoming. Bunkhouse. North and west elevations, looking southeast. Photo: Michael Cassity, 2004.

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Mosely Hereford Ranch / Hardeman Ranch Barns

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### **Narrative Statement of Significance**

The Mosely Hereford Ranch / Hardeman Ranch Barns near Wilson, Wyoming, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of significance Agriculture and under Criterion C in the area of significance Architecture.

Widely noted for its remarkable appearance, the big barn and associated structures on the Mosely Hereford Ranch / Hardeman Ranch has become one of the valley's prominent icons, widely hailed and carefully preserved. For all that, however, it is the barn's physical appearance rather than its historic associations that have attracted attention. Lying in that often unexplored history is a set of artifacts that reflect the history of agriculture in Jackson Hole. At its beginnings, early in the twentieth century, this was part of the land that George Goodrick patented in 1905. Goodrick came to Jackson Hole and married Katherine Wilson, daughter of "Uncle Nick" Wilson, who had brought some of the earliest homesteaders to the valley in 1889, settling them into the area around the town named for him. During this time the ranch was operated in the manner of most in the area, grazing cattle and putting up hay, hoping to market enough livestock in the autumn by herding them over Teton Pass (or other point). The ranches tended to be marginal and self sufficient, although there were exceptions. The buildings appropriate to these small operations were likewise modest and were often moved about as needs changed. By the end of the 1920s the chain of ownership of the land appears to indicate that the Goodrick family had transferred ownership to others, and then to still others in the family, with Henry G. Weston and his wife receiving title to the land in 1937 and it even became part of the Moses Giltner estate. This fit the pattern of land consolidation in the valley and the movement of farmers and ranchers to town, a circumstance ushered in by the decline in cattle prices and the entry of outside capital. It was during this period of hard times that the pump house, the bunkhouse, and the east barn were built and possibly also the south part of the big barn. The big changes, however, came a few years later when Weston sold the property to C. C. Mosely. Mosely, an aviator, came to Jackson Hole in 1941 and began to buy up ranches. Ultimately his properties included a patchwork of ranches that together made a huge operation—the Mosely Hereford Ranch. Mosely purchased Charter Ranch in Spring Gulch, the Aspen M (Holbron) Ranch near Teton Village, the Red Rock Ranch in the Gros Ventres, the Hatchet Ranch, the ranch in South Park that became the polo grounds, and this ranch. This was the headquarters of the Mosely Hereford Ranch which specialized in purebred Herefords and soon new buildings began to emerge. The two-leveled barn that constitutes the south wing of the current big barn probably already existed, but the north wing was added. This barn bears all the marks of Wesley Bircher, the master builder who constructed similar barns up and down Fish Creek at the Delta Q Ranch of Baroness Elena Hunt, and the twin barns at the VandeWater ranch and as far south as the Trail Creek Ranch below Wilson. Mosely entered into arrangements with other ranchers in the area and at one time the name "Mosely & Hubbard Land & Cattle Co." appears when he partnered with Fernie Hubbard; while that likely derived most directly from the Red Rock Ranch, the mortgage was backed by this property. The Mosely operation became very well known, although little remembered in the valley, possibly because Mosely's tenure in the valley was relatively brief by local ranching standards. He sold this property in 1956 to Gerrit and LeMar Hardeman who continued the purebred beef operation and the association with whom is much

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more prominent in local eyes. The Hardeman family operated the ranch until 1998. (The Hardemans remain in the valley and, should a National Register nomination be developed for this property, the family would be an important source of information on not only the period of their ownership but also the earlier period since Howard Hardeman helped in the barn building effort here in the 1940s.)

The pattern is a familiar one in Jackson Hole with homesteaders operating a small farm and ranch that was to some degree subsistence rather than market oriented, but the agricultural depression of the 1920s and the national Depression following it brought a consolidation of land that also altered the pattern of land use so that the ranches were not just market operations but, as in this case, became focused on purebred cattle. Even when the land returned to local ownership, the operation had ratcheted up and this remained a showcase ranch. The final step for the ranch in this historical process is still underway as decisions are made about its fate, and the fate of the buildings, but the current owner—the Jackson Hole Land Trust—is committed “to work to preserve open space and the scenic, ranching, and wildlife values of Jackson Hole.”

The property is also eligible for the National Register under Criterion C in the area of significance Architecture. The big barn is unquestionably a masterpiece and an icon of barns in an area known for some of its historic barns. Grand in size and design, the barn is also characterized by meticulous details. The system of rafters inside the curved roof is the system used by Wesley Bircher—a difficult and demanding system that required soaking the rafters so that they could be shaped to exactly the right contour for supporting the massive roof. The interior is no less significant, with its maze of chutes and runs and even an arena for the judging of the purebred stock. The hayloft—a cavernous space—reportedly was used for dances; if it was not so used, then it was probably the only barn in the valley where neighbors did not gather and party.

But the barn is not the only architectural feature of note. The horse barn exemplifies precision and scale and the other buildings, although not so showy and much more indigenous to the landscape, are relics of their own times and functions that have been adapted to the changing needs of the ranch. Indeed, it is the total arrangement of other buildings, buildings that came earlier and later, that gives spatial texture to this ranch, that demonstrates that this was a real working ranch in Jackson Hole fashion that put to excellent use the humble buildings of the earlier generations.



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Mosely Hereford Ranch / Hardeman Ranch Barns

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### Bibliography

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"C. C. Mosely—Rancher and Aviation Pioneer," *Jackson Hole News*, June 27, 1974.

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Hayden, Elizabeth Wied. *From Trapper to Tourist in Jackson Hole* (n.p.: Grand Teton Natural History Association, 1957).

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"Longtime Rancher, Aviator C. C. Mosely Dies at 79," *Jackson Hole Guide*, June 27, 1974.

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Telephone Directories, Mountain States Telephone Company, 1946, 1948, 1953, 1955, 1964.

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## **Continuation Sheet**

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Mosely Hereford Ranch / Hardeman Ranch Barns

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### **Geographical Data**

#### Verbal Boundary Description

This property consists of part of the SW  $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE  $\frac{1}{4}$ , section 22, T41, R117.

#### Boundary Justification

This boundary includes the property historically associated with the Mosely Hereford Ranch / Hardeman Ranch Barns.