LEGEND OF ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS APPEARING ON MASTER TITLE PLATS OF NEW RECORDS

Acquired	Acq
Acre, Acres	A
Administrative Site	Adm Site
Air Navigation Site	ANS
Amendment, Amended	Amdt
Application	Apln
Boundary; Boundaries	Bdy; Bdrs
Bureau of Land Management	BLM
Classification	Cl
Department	Dept
Designated or Designation	Des
Ditches and/or Canals	D/C
East	E
Elimination, Eliminate	Elim
Exchange, exchanged	X
Executive Order	EO
Federal Power Act	FPA
Federal Register	F.R.
Forest exchange	FX
Forest lieu selection	FLS
Fractional	Frac
Free use permit	FUP
Geologic Structure	Geol Str
Half	½
Highway	Hwy
Indemnity list	IL
Indian Allotment	IA
Indian reservation	Ind Res
Indian Trust	Ind Tr
Isolated tract	IT
Kansas	Kan.
Known Geologic Structure	KGS
Land Office	LO
Latitude	Lat
Lease	Lse
License	Lic
Lieu selection	LS
Longitude	Long
Master Title Plat	MTP
Material site	Mat Site
Meridian	Mer
Metes and Bounds	M&B
Military Reservation	Mil Res
Mineral	Min.
Mineral certificate	Min Cert
Mineral Entry	ME
Mineral Location	ML
Mineral Survey	MS
Miscellaneous	Misc
National forest	N.F.
National park	N.P.
National monument	N. Mon
Nebraska	Neb.
North	N
Northeast	NE
Northwest	NW
Not open to entry	NOE
Oil and Gas	OG
Oil shale	OS
Parcel	Par
Patent	Pat
Petroleum reserve	Pet Res
Phosphate	Pho.
Power project	Pwr Proj
Power site	Pwr. Site
Private exchange	PX
Proclamation	Proc.
Project	Proj
Public Domain	PD
Public Land Order	PLO
Public Law	P.L.
Public sale	PS
Public Water Reserve	PW Res
Quarter	¼
Railroad	RR
Railroad grant	RRG
Railroad Lieu selection	RRLS
Railway	Ry
Range	R
Reclamation homestead entry	RHE
Reclamation withdrawal	Recl Wdl
Reconveyed	Recon
Recreation and Public Purposes	Rec & PP
Recreation lease	Rec Lse
Remarks	Rmks
Reservoir	Resvr
Restoration, Restored	Rest
Revocation, Revoked	Rev
Restricted	Rstd
Right-of-way	R/W
Secretary of the Interior	Sec of the Int
Secretary's Order	SO
Section	Sec
Segregate	Segr
Selection, Selected	Sel
Small tract	ST
Small tract classification	ST Cl
Small tract lease	ST Lse
Small tract sale	STS
South	S
Southeast	SE
Southwest	SW
Special Land Use Permit	SLUP
State Exchange	SX
State Grant	SG
State Selection	SS
Stock driveway withdrawal	SD Wdl
Supplemental	Suppl
Surveyed, Survey	Sur
Township	T or Tp
Townsite	Tns
Tract	Tr
Transmission	Trans
United States	U.S.
United States Forest Service	USFS
United States Survey	U.S.S.
Water Power	WP
West	W
Wind River Meridian	WR Mer
Withdrawal	Wdl
Withdrawn	Wdn
Wyoming	Wyo.
Sixth Principal Meridian	6th Prin Mer

Withdrawals
Patents
Leases
P.L. 167 Determination Area
Limits of surveyed land, (hatching on unsurveyed side)
Railroad
Telephone Line
Power Transmission line
Hwys: All weather
Seasonal
"Jeep" type
Trail
Acquired land

Bridge
Settlement
Cemetery
Buildings
River and Island
Stream
Lake and Island
Marsh or Swamp
Reservoir
Pipe line or conduit
Canal or Ditch
Flume or Aqueduct

WYOMING LAND OFFICES PRIOR TO CONSOLIDATION

Buffalo	B
Cheyenne	C
Douglas	D
Evanston	E
Lander	L
Newcastle	N
Shoshone	S
Wyoming	W

GPO 889-846

NEW LAND OFFICE RECORDS

The new records in use in the Wyoming Land Office consist of three elements: (1) Ownership, or Master Title Plat; (2) Use Plat; and (3) Historical Index. Each township has all three of the above-mentioned elements and is complete in every respect—being able to stand by itself in terms of title, use, and historical information.

Master Title Plat

The Ownership Plat, or Master Title Plat as it is commonly called, shows the land which has been patented, the patent numbers, the reservations to the United States as stated in the patent, and the land which is still vacant Federal land—often times referred to as vacant public domain. Withdrawals, rights of way, national forests, Indian reservations, wildlife refuges, and other such similar reservations and actions are also shown. Lands which have been patented and then re-acquired by the United States are shown on the new records and are referred to as acquired lands.

The first step in building the new Master Title Plat was the making of a basic township plat on a scale of 30 chains to the inch. The basic plat is a copy of the official township survey plat and is as nearly identical as possible. If more than one survey has been made for a township, the basic plat is a composite of all the surveys with the composite survey picture appearing on one page. Although it is either a copy or a composite of the surveys, the Master Title Plat is not to be construed as an official survey plat.

The Master Title Plat conveys title information by various weights and different shapes of lines. Each different weight or kind of line indicates a separate and distinct type of action. Each such action is annotated with an abbreviation which identifies the action or authority for the action. The Legend of Abbreviations and Symbols sheet shows the various lines used and a meaning of the different abbreviations.

The Explanatory Township which accompanies this discussion has been prepared to show most of the types of lines used and the information conveyed by each. For the purpose of illustration it has been labeled Township 19 North, Range 60 West, Sixth Principal Meridian. The following explanation will further assist the reader in using the Explanatory Township.

The light-weight line surrounding Section 1 is the weight of the survey lines which appear on the basic plat. Section 3 and Section 8 show how lots appear. Note that the subdivision lines separating lots are not full length, only partial; they are called tick marks. These partial subdivision lines are the only survey lines shown within a section. Survey lines for a full 40-acre subdivision in a section are not shown. Section 4 shows how the boundary between surveyed and unsurveyed lands is indicated.

In Sections 5 and 6 there is shown a line which is used to identify Federal withdrawals whenever a portion of a township is under withdrawal. These lines are annotated, as to purpose and effective date, at the lower extremity of the area embraced in the withdrawal. If the entire township is in the withdrawal, such as a national forest or Indian reservation, the withdrawal line is not used. Instead, a notation on the right-hand side of the plat will state that the entire township is in such a reservation.

In Section 7 are shown lode mining locations. With certain specific exceptions there is no law which requires that a mineral claimant advise the United States of his mineral location. The Land Office, therefore, has no record of such locations. That information can be obtained from the appropriate official of the county in which the claim is located.

The Land Office has a record of only those mining claims which have been included in an approved mineral survey and those which have been patented. If an official mineral survey has been made of the mining claim, it is outlined with a survey weight line and is identified by the Mineral Survey Number, such as MS 1550. If a claim has been patented, the Mineral Survey Number is replaced with the Patent Number, and a patent line is drawn around the claim such as you see for Patent Number 636280.

The annotation in Section 9 is for Public Law 167, the Act of July 23, 1955. This law pertains to administrative jurisdiction by the United States over surface resources on unpatented mining claims. Since it does not affect title, there is no need to give it further attention in discussions concerning title.

In Sections 13, 14, and 15 are annotations pertaining to patents. Note the single patent line between Sections 15 and 16. A patent line is drawn around every piece of ground for the lands described in the patent. When two patented areas join there is a double-weight patent line, as appears in the middle of Section 15. The patent number always appears in the lower extremity of the area patented. If there is no patent number, the land is vacant public domain. Note the SW¼NE¼, SE¼NW¼, NE¼SW¼, NW¼SE¼ of Section 14.

Whenever there are any reservations to the United States, a notation will appear below the patent number. If there is no annotation below the patent number, the United States reserved nothing. The patent numbers and reservation annotations appearing for the patented areas outlined in Section 13, 14, and 15 are examples of the various types of reservations which can occur.

The United States occasionally reacquires lands which have been previously patented. Such land is referred to as acquired land; where the Land Office has the acquisition information, such acquired lands are shaded as shown in Section 25 through 30. The fact that an area is shaded indicates that the United States may have an acquired surface interest or an acquired mineral interest, or both. Exactly what was acquired and is presently owned by the United States may be determined by a reading of the annotations for the land under consideration.

For the most part, land which is shaded will carry annotations such as those appearing in Sections 28 and 29; in both cases the surface is owned by the United States. The United States also owns the minerals in both sections; but those originally retained as in Section 28 are subject to disposition under one law and those acquired as in Section 29 are subject to disposition under a different law. Thus the new records are designed to show both the surface estate and the mineral estate plus the nature of that mineral estate.

The annotation in Section 25 tells us the United States does not own the surface, but has an acquired mineral interest, hence the shading. The same is true in Section 27. In Section 26 the shading applies to surface and minerals, which are both acquired.

It should be emphasized that the Land Office may not have information concerning land which has been acquired by the Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Reclamation, or any other Federal agency which still exercises jurisdiction over the land. However, with a specific description of the lands in question the Land Office can find the exact status.

The right-of-way symbols shown in Section 31 should appear only on land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, except in those cases where the right-of-way was in effect before the land was patented. In such cases, the patent was issued subject to the right-of-way.

Use Plat

As mentioned previously, the new records make a provision for a Use Plat on which are shown the uses, grazing leases excepted, which are made of Federal land. The broken lines appearing in Sections 16, 17, 20 and 21 are lines which indicate use such as oil or gas lease, coal licenses, etc. Such lines do not appear on the Master Title Plat, as this data is not necessary for title determination. These records, which are kept only in the Land Office, are available for public inspection. Since they do not show grazing leases, this information must be obtained from BLM District Offices.

Historical Index

The Historical Index is a chronological narrative of all past and present actions which affect the use of or title to public lands and resources. The Historical Index can be used to check title, but it was not designed for that purpose nor is it necessary for use in making title determinations. The primary value of the Historical Index is its adaptability for abstract work. This record is maintained in the Land Office public room, which is open to the public 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. each working day.

Procedure For Using Master Title Plat

As stated in the forepart of this discussion, the new records are designed to convey the title story by use of lines and abbreviated annotations for those lines. The guides listed below, if followed in each case, should help in making the records quite easy to read.

1. Always follow a line around until you come back to the point of beginning. The area within the bounds of the line is the land affected.
2. To help in finding the annotation for a particular line, know what the line stands for. The legend of abbreviations and symbols tells you the information conveyed by the different lines.
3. The annotation for the area circumscribed by a line always appears at the lower extremity of the area involved. The legend of abbreviations gives the full wording for an abbreviated annotation.
4. The plats are of a scale of 30 chains to the inch. Whenever the situation exists where this scale is too small to adequately tell the story, a supplemental plat on a scale of 10 or 15 chains to the inch is prepared. Normally, never more than 4 sections appear on a supplemental plat. The township plat always says, "See Supplemental Plat" if one has been made. Where there is a supplemental plat, the main township plat does not carry any title information for the sections concerned. Such information appears on the supplemental.

The title information appearing on the Master Title Plat was taken from microfilm copies of the documents themselves, and these microfilms are now in the Wyoming Land Office. We can, at any time, furnish a copy of any document which appears on the new records. This could be patents, withdrawal orders, state selection lists, etc. If there are questions concerning the Master Title Plats, if additional information is required, or if copies of the above-mentioned documents are needed, we hope you will not hesitate to address an inquiry to: Land Office, Bureau of Land Management, 5353 Yellowstone Cheyenne, Wyoming.