

CLASSIFIED STRUCTURE FIELD INVENTORY REPORT  
(Attach 4" x 5" Black and White Photograph)

245H336

REGION RMRO PARK/AREA NAME GLACIER NATIONAL PARK PARK NUMBER 1430

STRUCTURE NAME WILLIAM RAFTERY HOMESTEAD STRUCTURE NUMBER HS-1388

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE NORTH FORK STUDY AREA PARK LOCATION CODE GLAC

NATIONAL REGISTER \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: (A) (B) (C) (D)

NPS LEGAL INTEREST NPS Ownership MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

Check all of the following categories for which NPS has treatment responsibility:

Stabilization() Cyclic Maintenance() Routine Maintenance() Approved Ultimate Treatment()

(ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION USE ONLY)

APPROVED ULTIMATE TREATMENT OR RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN, CULTURAL COMPONENT DESIGNATION:

Preservation	(PP)	Restoration	(RR)	Reconstruction	(CC)
Adaptive Preservation	(AP)	Adaptive Restoration	(AR)	Adaptive Reconstruction	(AC)
Neglect	(NG)	Remove	(RM)	No Approved Treatment	(NO)

Approval Document \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) Document Date:  / /

Estimated Treatment Costs \_\_\_\_\_

Stabilization: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date:  / /  
Approved Treatment: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date:  / /

Level of Estimate: (A) (B) (C)  
Estimator: (Region) (DSC) (A&E)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Date of Construction: 1909 Date of Alterations: n/a  
Architect/Designer: William Raftery Historical Theme(s): Homesteading  
History of Structure: \_\_\_\_\_

---SEE ATTACHED SITE FORM---

Evaluation of Structure: Historic Theme Contributing X Non-Contributing \_\_\_\_\_  
National Register Criteria: A X B C D (Include integrity statement)

---SEE ATTACHED SITE FORM---

Bibliography: ---SEE ATTACHED SITE FORM---

Representation in Other Surveys: Historical Research Associates, 1980

If structure has been removed, how? n/a Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Report prepared by: Patricia L. Bick, Historian Date: 10/01/86

Condition:  
Documentation:  
Significance:  
Internal Impacts:  
External Impacts:

LOCATION: Section 3 State MONTANA USE: CURRENT INTERIOR USE (NPS 28 CODE)  
Township 35N County FLATHEAD Original Use HOMESTEAD  
Range 21W Intermediate Uses HOMESTEAD  
PERIOD OF CONSTRUCTION (NPS 28 CODE) \_\_\_\_\_

OWNERSHIP: Present Owner: NPS DRAWING NO. n/a  
Original Owner: William Raftery NEGATIVE NO. Roll NF#2, frames 6-18  
Intermediate Owner(s): Myrtle Raftery

**\*\*\*PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION\*\*\***

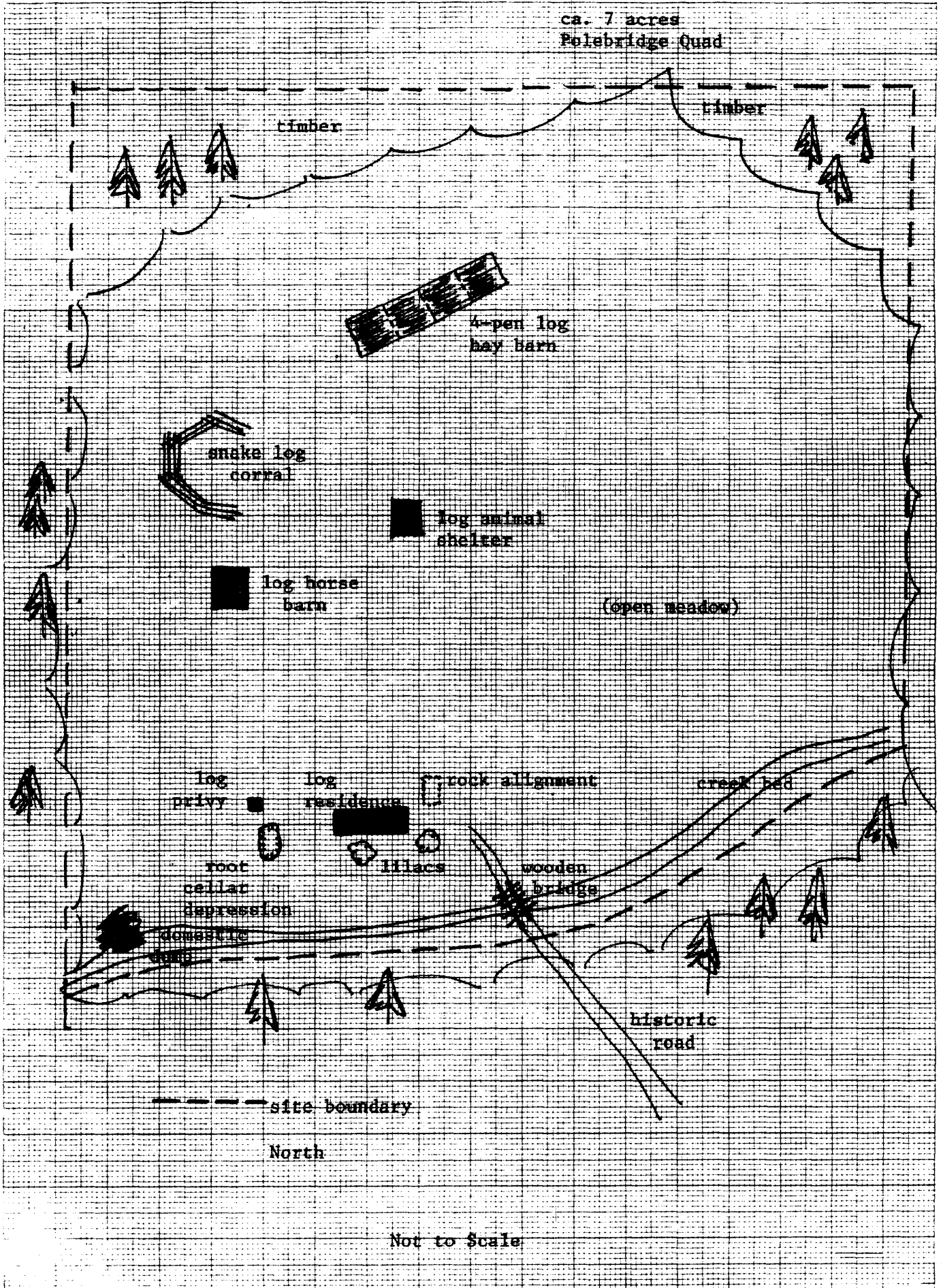
TYPE OF STRUCTURE (NPS 28 CODE): \_\_\_\_\_ CHIMNEYS:  
ARCHITECTURAL CHARACTER (STYLE):  
SITE (INCLUDE ORIENTATION OF STRUCTURE): PORCHES: ---SEE ATTACHED SITE FORM---  
OVERALL BUILDING PLAN (FOOTPRINT):  
OVERALL DIMENSIONS: WINDOWS:  
COMPOSITION (NPS 28 CODE): \_\_\_\_\_ DOORS:  
STORIES: ADDITIONS:  
FOUNDATION: INTERIOR PLAN:  
WALLS: ---SEE ATTACHED SITE FORM--- INTERIOR FINISHES:  
ROOF:

**SIGNIFICANT ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES (INCLUDING INTERIOR AND SETTING) FOR PARK PLANNING PURPOSES:**

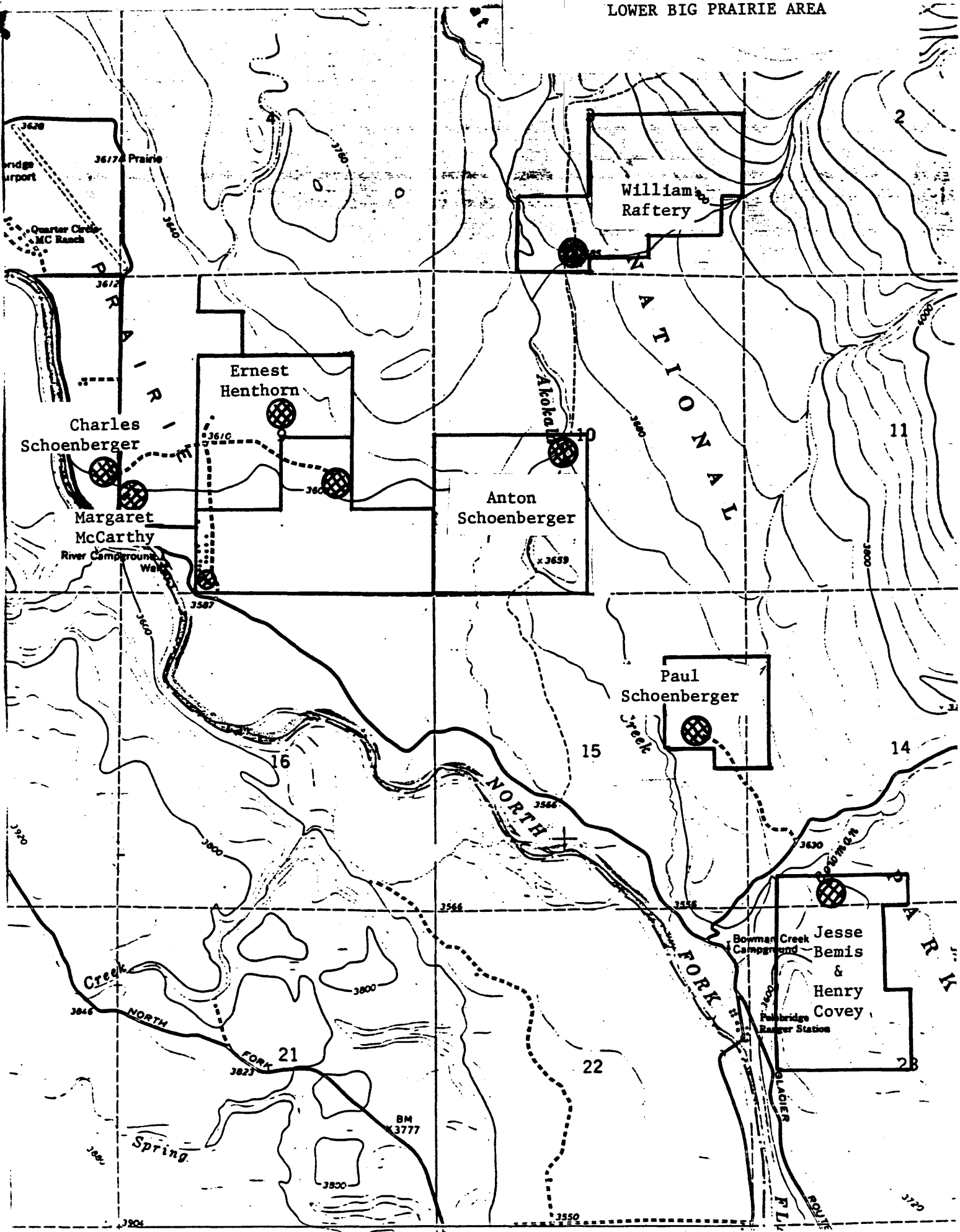
---SEE ATTACHED SITE FORM---

WILLIAM RAFTERY HOMESTEAD

ca. 7 acres  
Polebridge Quad



LOWER BIG PRAIRIE AREA



Historic Name: WILLIAM RAFTERY HOMESTEAD

HS-1388

Location: T35N; R21W; SE 1/4, SE 1/4, SW 1/4, Section 3.

Acreage: Approximately 7 acres.

UTM Reference: 11/5409600/698850

Ownership: National Park Service

Access: Located along a historic roadway, marked as a "pack trail" on the 1966 USGS map, about 2 miles north of where Glacier Route 7 intersects the Akakola (Indian) Creek and 1/2 mile north of the Anton Schoenberger Homestead.

Evaluation of Significance and Architectural Integrity: The William Raftery Homestead is locally significant for its association with the historic settlement of the North Fork prior to the establishment of Glacier National Park and meets criterion A for listing in the National Register. The unusual number of outbuildings that exist at the Raftery Homestead demonstrate the common patterns of site development, the spatial arrangement of the farmstead and the kind and quality of structures erected to meet subsistence needs. All are in a state of deterioration but sufficient historic fabric exists to portray early homestead construction methods and techniques on the North Fork. The 22-by 60-foot, four-pen log hay barn is of particular interest because it is the last extant example of the numerous large hay barns constructed on the North Fork. Because the site was abandoned during the late 1930s, no modern intrusions or alterations to the structures compromise the integrity of the historic setting.

Historical Information: William Raftery, an Irish bachelor and veteran of the Boer War<sup>1</sup>, established residency on his homestead in his newly constructed log house in March 1909.<sup>2</sup> His age is listed as 40 on the 1910 U.S. Census and his occupations as "hunter and trapper." When he "proved up" his homestead in 1915, he stated that he was 37 years old, still single, and recently naturalized as a citizen of the United States.<sup>3</sup> From 1911-13, Raftery worked during the summer months as a guard for the U.S. Forest Service<sup>4</sup> and in 1914 for Glacier National Park.

Raftery's homestead improvements were extensive, consisting of a series of log buildings, all with split shake roofs: residence (14 by 20 feet); barn (16 by 24 feet); two hay sheds (one 16 by 24 feet and the other 20 by 60 feet and 33 feet high); a cattle shed (20 by 40 feet); a wood shed (12 by 14 feet); and a root cellar (10 by 14 feet). He had a large garden, an orchard,

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<sup>1</sup>Interview with Ralph Thayer by Cindy Mish, July 1975.

<sup>2</sup>National Archives, Case file #541202, Testimony of Claimant.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

<sup>4</sup>Interview with Ralph Thayer.

18 acres in hay grain, a team of horses, and 16 head of cattle<sup>5</sup>, which he ranged on his upper meadow<sup>6</sup> and at Home Ranch Bottoms on the west side of the North Fork.<sup>7</sup>

Local legend has it that Raftery sent back to Ireland for a young wife and 15-year-old Myrtle arrived in the summer of 1917.<sup>8</sup> They reputedly had 13 children together.<sup>9</sup> During the early teens, Raftery brought mail up to the North Fork when he ran his stage line before a post office was officially established in Big Prairie by the U.S. Postal Service.<sup>10</sup> The first mail contract in 1916 was won by Theo Christensen, and Christensen and Raftery alternated every 4 to 8 years as the mail carrier for the next 20 years. Between his turns making the 2-day, 100-mile mail run, Raftery picked up work with the National Forest and other temporary jobs.<sup>11</sup> In the early 1920s, the Raftery family left the homestead for Belton to put the children in school.<sup>12</sup> But, like many North Fork families, they returned during the Depression to live less expensively on the land.<sup>13</sup> During the later 1930s, Raftery worked for the National Park Service on the road crew.<sup>14</sup>

Chain of Title:

William Raftery: final certificate 1915  
Myrtle M. Raftery: 1949  
U.S. Government: 1970

Physical Description: This complex of five buildings is located in an open, natural meadow at the junction of Akokala (Indian) Creek and a small tributary. The southwestern and northeastern boundaries for the property are drawn along elevation lines 3680-

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5National Archives, Case file #541202.

6Interview with Dan Sullivan by Susan Buchel, July 10, 1975.

7Polebridge Ranger Station Logs, 1928-32.

8Jerry DeSanto, personal communication, August 22, 1986.

9Interview with Ralph Thayer; Interview with Joe Opalka, October 24, 1986.

10Interview with Ben Henson, Jr. by Cindy Mish, July 22, 1976.

11Columbian, July 25, 1922.

12Interview with Harry Doverspike, Jr. by Patricia Bick, August 26, 1986.

13Mary McFarland, personal communication, September 28, 1986.

14Polebridge Ranger Station log, April 11, 1938.

foot and 3700-foot, respectively. From the point of beginning at the SW corner of the SE 1/4, SE 1/4, SW 1/4 of section 3; T25N;R21W, thence approximately 400 feet north, thence 425 feet north-northeast, thence 575 feet southeast, thence 300 feet south-southwest, thence 375 feet west, thence 200 feet south, thence 175 feet along the section line to the point of beginning. The boundary for the Raftery Homestead includes the entire natural meadow, within which all the historic homestead buildings are found, as well as the collapsed wooden bridge that crosses the creek to the southwest of the residence, and a domestic dump found along the creek bed to the south.

Only the residence at the Raftery Homestead retains its roof and its historical integrity. The construction methods evident in this building, which used pole rafters and split-pole purlins supported by pole framing in the gable end and covered with split shakes, was less substantial than the typical log gable end and log purlin construction used by most North Forkers. If pole roof framing was used on the other structures as well, this may help explain the near complete demise of these roofs.

An early U.S. Forest Service report by Ralph Thayer noted that Raftery had planted 3 dozen fruit trees on his property in May 1909. No evidence of these trees was found, but lilacs, irises, hops, currant bushes, and other domestic flowers proliferate. A rectangular rock alignment measuring 8 by 11 feet in front of the house likely marks the location of an early flower garden.

Insufficient time was spent at the site to locate the domestic dumping ground, which is reported to exist at the southwest corner of the property near the creek bed.15

1. LOG RESIDENCE (constructed 1909, addition ca. 1916).  
Contributing.

The four-room log residence is composed of the original three-room, 14- by 20-foot saddle-notched section and a front 14- by 12-foot addition that is attached with lap joining and has lap notch corner timbering. Smaller dimension logs were used in construction, likely lodgepole pine. The exterior walls are unpeeled with mud chinking, the interior is hewn with quarter sawn pole inserts for weatherproofing. The windows are 4-over-4 double-hung sash. Nail bear-boards are attached to the exterior beneath each window. The interior floorboards are tongue and groove and the walls are covered with newspaper insulation (1932), muslin, and wallpaper. Later partitions are built of rough sawn lumber. Much domestic debris remains, including a cookstove, jars, pots and pans, tin cans, bits of clothing, iron bedsteads, and two handmade split-pole beds. The building appears to rest on sill logs. No foundation is evident.

2. LOG PRIVY (constructed 1909). Non-Contributing.

The 4- by 4-foot log privy with lap notch corner timbering now stands only about five logs high. The roof appears to have blown off to the south. The building is an interesting component of the homestead site but unfortunately lacks architectural integrity.

3. ROOT CELLAR REMAINS (constructed ca. 1909).  
Non-Contributing.

A ground depression measuring approximately 10 by 14 feet and a pile of rocks mark the location of the root cellar. The structure appears to have completely caved in beneath its sod roof and the structure has suffered severe loss of its physical integrity.

4. LOG HAY BARN (constructed ca. 1910). Non-Contributing.

This smaller barn, 16 by 20 feet, stands 10 logs high and has double saddle notch corner timbering. The roof and much of the log walls appear to have collapsed into the center of the structure. A pole ladder attached to the east exterior wall extends about 5 feet above the logs and indicates the earlier presence of a hay-loft. The roof appears to have been constructed with split-pole rafters and covered with split shakes. Four-foot-high bushes grow within the structure. The barn has a 3 1/2-foot-wide plank door and no window openings. The structure's deterioration has resulted in a substantial loss of historic integrity.

5. LOG WOOD SHED (constructed ca. 1910). Non-Contributing.

This low, 12- by 14-foot structure stands six logs high and appears to have had a flat pole roof that has collapsed into the middle of the structure. Double saddle notched corner timbering was used. The plank door measures 2 1/2 by 4 1/2 feet.

6. FOUR PEN LOG BARN (constructed ca. 1910). Non-Contributing.

This large barn measures approximately 20 by 64 feet and has single saddle notch corner timbering. Lap-notch scarfing was used to extend the length of logs to build the 64-foot wall. Double saddle notches tie the three log partitions into the exterior walls. The shed roof and much of the exterior walls have collapsed. The roof was composed of log purlins covered with split shakes. The front (south facade) of the structure was built 12 logs high, the rear four to five logs high. No foundation is evident other than sill log.



7. REMAINS OF LOG CORRAL (constructed ca. 1910).  
Non-contributing.

Double saddle notched logs set in a partial octagon, standing six logs high, likely are part of an early corral. This feature lacks integrity due to its deteriorated condition.

Form Prepared by: Patricia L. Bick, Historian, October 1986.