

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name The Crags Lodge
other names/site number Golden Eagle Resort at The Crags Lodge; 5LR743

2. Location

street & number 300 Riverside Drive [N/A] not for publication
city or town Estes Park [N/A] vicinity
state Colorado code CO county Larimer code 069 zip code 80517

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. ([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] State Historic Preservation Officer May 26, 1998
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
State Historic Preservation Office, Colorado Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register
- other, explain See continuation sheet.

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper 7.1.98 Date of Action

The Crags Lodge

Name of Property

Larimer County, Colorado

County/State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- [X] private
[] public-local
[] public-State
[] public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- [X] building(s)
[] district
[] site
[] structure
[] object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not count previously listed resources.)

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, and Total.

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.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: hotel
COMMERCE/TRADE: restaurant

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: hotel
COMMERCE/TRADE: restaurant

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY
AMERICAN MOVEMENTS:
Bungalow/Craftsman
Other: Rustic

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone
walls Weatherboard
Shingle
roof Asphalt
other

Narrative Description

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

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The Craggs Lodge
Larimer County, Colorado

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DESCRIPTION

The Craggs Lodge sits approximately 200 feet above the town of Estes Park on the north slope of Prospect Mountain. The site drops off steeply to the north, west and east. The south side of the property adjoins the Craggs subdivision which consists of upper income homes built on half-acre or larger lots. These houses are barely visible from the lodge. Prospect Mountain rises behind the subdivision forming a steeply wooded backdrop at the edge of the Roosevelt National Forest.

Rubble rock retaining walls delineate asphalt paved guest parking lots. A flagstone walk connects the south (main) entry of the lodge with the theater building. The remainder of the landscape retains its natural contours and vegetation dominated by mature ponderosa pines. The complex consists of the main lodge building (contributing), theater (contributing), and annex building (noncontributing).

MAIN LODGE

The Craggs Lodge is a three-story, roughly 72 ft. by 164 ft. rectangular plan, irregularly massed, woodframe building of Rustic style built into the craggy north shoulder of Prospect Mountain. The concrete foundation ties directly into the granite bedrock. The steeply sloping site accommodates a walk-out basement on the north elevation. Clapboard covers the first story and walk-out basement level while all the upper stories are sided in wood shingles. The asphalt shingled hipped roof contains cross gables, gable-roofed dormers, and two major chimneys.

The western-most portion of the south elevation extends forward from the remainder of the elevation. This portion contains a series of original, paired, wood frame, sash windows of four vertical lights over one lower light on the first story and an off-center gabled-roofed vestibule with side entries. The western-most portion of the first story ends in a flat-roofed extension while the area to the east of the entry ends in a shed-roofed dock. The second story consists of a three evenly spaced oriels with modern single-light windows. The third story contains three sets of paired single-light casement windows. The upper gable end contains a set of three six-over-one windows with a balcony surrounded by a plain wood balustrade. The gable terminates in a wide vergeboard.

The first story of the set-back portion of the south elevation consists of a series of four-over-one windows and a paired nine-light window. A mid-level, vertical wood plank, double door provides access to a sloping ramp into the basement. The second story contains unevenly spaced modern casements windows and a single oriel. The slightly cantilevered central portion of the third story contains two oriels and a pair of casement windows. The remainder of the third story contains an oriel and a paired casement window. The center gable end contains a pair of six-over-one sash windows flanking a glazed door. A balcony with plain balustrade runs across the upper gable end. The eastern gable end contains a pair of casement windows.

The east elevation consists of a series of set-backs and irregular roof lines resulting from a number of additions and alterations. The terrain slopes steeply from south to north exposing the northern-most part of the basement and subbasement, all sided in clapboard. The irregular fenestration is interrupted by an open wood stair which provides access to a second-story deck, and a square

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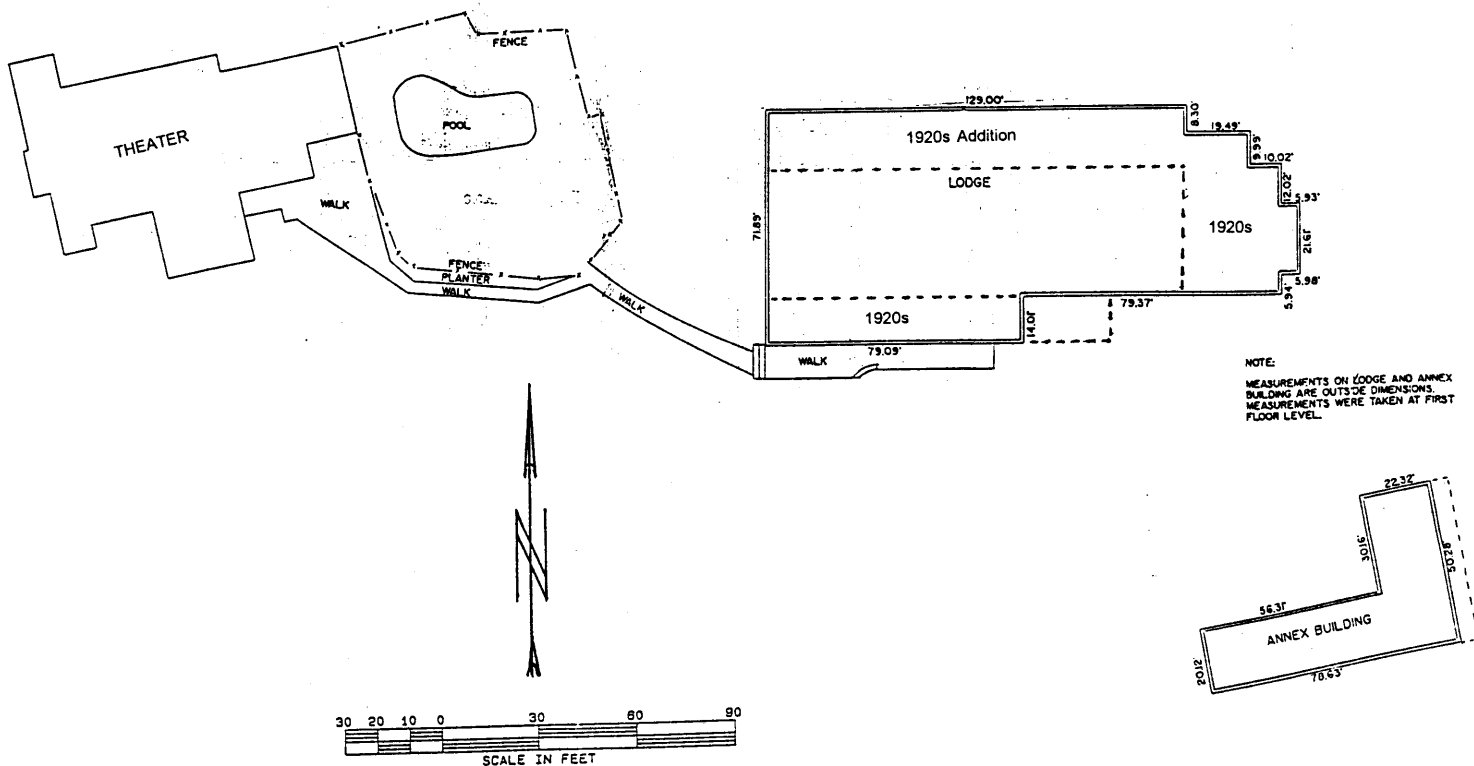
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The Crags Lodge
Larimer County, Colorado

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Site Plan

Based on map by
Estes Park Surveyors and Engineers, Inc.
5/29/1990



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The Crags Lodge
Larimer County, Colorado

concrete chimney rising along the wall from the basement. The northern-most two-story section terminates in a hipped-roof. The third story ends in a cross gable with a small gable-roofed dormer.

The series of floor to ceiling dining room windows dominate the first story of the long north elevation. The multi-light windows are punctuated by multi-light doors which open onto a series of balconies. The dining room extends forward and is topped by a shed roof. The terrain slopes downward from west to east exposing portions of the basement and sub-basement on the east. The basement fenestration consists of modern casement windows and glazed doors opening onto a series of balconies. The second-story set-back contains irregularly spaced oriels and casement windows. The eastern-most gable end contains a pair of six-over-one sash windows. The center gable end contains a pair of six-over-one sash windows flanking a glazed door. A balcony with plain balustrade runs across the upper gable end. The western-most gable end (which steps out slightly from the rest of the second-story elevation) contains a set of three six-over-one widows with a decorative balcony with plain wood balustrade.

The west elevation first-story fenestration consists of original four-over-four windows. The second and third stories are stepped back on the southern half of the elevation. The fenestration in these upper stories consists of modern casement windows. A large stone chimney rises along the interior corner of the set back. A small gable-roofed dormer punctures the cross gable roof.

The interior of the lodge contains twenty-seven guest suites on three levels and a 150-seat dining room, a lounge, and a lobby area on the first floor. In the first-floor public areas, all the floors are tongue-and-groove pine, and the beamed ceilings and support columns are wood paneled. Two stone fireplaces serve as focal points. An original double sided uncut stone fireplace divides the dining area from the lobby. A flagstone faced fireplace with raised hearth and stone slab mantel dominates the west wall of the lobby. A modern dropped ceiling of acoustical tile is used throughout the first floor, except in the enclosed northwest porch where the original nine-foot high plaster ceilings remain visible.

The dining room and lobby has a distinct Arts and Crafts feel with its wood paneling, stone fireplaces, wood floors, and multi-light windows. The original 1920s ceiling fixtures remain in the dining room. Most of the historic Stick style furniture remains in the lobby and dining room. The hickory dining room chairs came from Indiana in the 1920s.

The second and third floors consist of guest rooms accessed from a central corridor running the length of the lodge. The corridor opens off a central staircase and staircases at each end of the building. All the room interiors and hallway finish consists of modern materials from a recent remodeling.

The basement hall runs along the outside of the original north elevation foundation which is left exposed along with the underlying bedrock. The basement contains two public restrooms with the original wood stall dividers.

Alterations

The original lodge building was a 2½-story rectangular plan, approximately 129 ft. by 40 ft., with a hipped-roof containing shed dormers along the long sides and extensions of the ridge forming gabled dormers on each end. The original foundation rested on exposed bedrock on the northern elevation.

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The Craggs Lodge
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Major expansions occurred in the 1920s to accommodate the swiftly growing number of guests at the lodge. These expansions appear to have been constructed over several seasons, a practice typical of mountain areas with short construction seasons. The third story was added circa 1920 to accommodate 40 additional rooms and an historic photograph shows a new roof pattern consisting of a central gable roof with two large and slightly higher perpendicular clipped-gable roofs at each end.

The expansions included an addition to the lobby area on the south elevation, expansion of the dining room and the addition of basement level rooms on the north elevation, and a series of small additions on the east elevation which included a new first-floor kitchen. The additions all rest on concrete foundations. The twenty-foot dining room extension, believed to have occurred in 1924, included the installation of floor to ceiling windows along the full ninety-foot length of the room. At a later date the roof was reconfigured with the three intersecting gables along each long axis that permitted four attic guest rooms. All these changes occurred under the supervision of Joe Mills, who retained ownership of the lodge until in 1935.

The main lodge entrance was redesigned in the early 1950s and an interior stairway for the lobby to the lower floors was added about the same time. Previously the lower levels served exclusively for staff lodging and guest services.

A major remodeling project occurred over the period between 1987 and 1994. The twenty-seven guest suites on the lower, second and third floors were completely updated with new finish materials and fixtures. Second and third floor windows were changed throughout the building to single-light thermal glass and nineteen bay (oriel) windows were added. The common areas on the main floor and the upper floor halls remained the same except for the lowering of the ceilings by nine inches to allow for the installation of a sprinkler system.

THEATER

The theater or recreation building (currently known as the Zane Gray Theater), also constructed circa 1920 and located to the west of the main lodge, is used for social gatherings and staff housing. The two-story building, like the other buildings in the complex, takes advantage of the steeply sloping topography to accommodate a walk-out basement on the west and north elevations. The irregular plan building is primarily horizontal wood sided with an intersecting gable roof. The central portion of the building rises to form a second story accessed by an exterior stair. A one-story extension to the east is shed-roofed and a stone fireplace rises along the north elevation. The building contains a full-width porch along the west elevation which wraps around on the south elevation to form a supported walkway. Another small porch on the north elevation opens off the one-story extension adjacent to the stone chimney. A balcony runs the full length of the south gable end. The building contains a few original four-over-one wood frame windows as well as an assortment of modern sliders, fixed windows, and one oriel.

It is believed that no major additions or alterations occurred to the theater building after the initial construction. Window and door replacements occurred during the general 1987-94 complex remodeling. The building adjoins the swimming pool which dates to the 1940s.

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ANNEX BUILDING

The annex building, constructed in circa 1920 and located southeast of the main lodge, contains six guest suites. The one story, vertical wood sided, L-plan building, includes a former walk-out basement on the east elevation. The building roof terminates in a gable on the west end and a hip on the north end. A small gable-roofed ventilator occupies a central location on the east elevation. First-story windows and doors are all modern replacements and includes three bay windows on the north elevation of the west wing. The former walkout basement on the east elevation contains original doors, windows and horizontal siding. The original wood veranda which provided access to these guest rooms no longer exists. A modern veranda at the first-story level is accessed through modern sliding glass doors.

In its original configuration the annex contained 14 guest rooms on two levels. The building was reconfigured during the 1987-94 remodeling to six guest suites. The new siding and the replacement doors and windows were added during this period.

Due to the extensiveness of the recent alterations in design and materials, the annex is considered to a noncontributing building.

SITE CHANGES

In the 1920s Joe Mills constructed twenty individual cabins on the hill to the south for staff housing. These were demolished after 1987 and the land sold for residential development. Rock retaining walls were added in the early 1950s to define guest parking lots.

The natural landscape remains primarily unaltered since the 1914 construction, allowing the rustic mountain environment to remain open to native wildlife.

ARCHITECTURAL INTEGRITY

The Craggs Lodge grew organically during the 1920s. Joe Mills expanded the facility as time and money permitted to accommodate an increasing numbers of guests. A 1940 postcard shows the north elevation much the same as the current appearance. It is believed that little change occurred to the buildings and site after the end of Mills's ownership in 1935.

The 1987-94 remodeling resulted in the loss of many of the original lodge windows and the introduction of new design elements like the oriel windows. On the interior, the first floor common areas retain most of their 1930s design and materials. The upper floors retain the basic orientation of the hallways along with the original wall and floor materials. The guest rooms retain little if any of their pre-1987 design or materials.

Similar changes occurred to the theater in regard to window replacement. The annex suffered the most from the recent remodeling, losing most of its historic siding and windows, and incurring the addition of modern bay windows.

Although the lodge and its site changed markedly from the original construction of the first building, most of the changes to the complex after the termination of the Mills ownership in 1935 have

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The Crags Lodge
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been cosmetic. The main lodge building and theater continue to convey the feeling of a rustic lodge springing from the rocky slope of Prospect Mountain and these buildings continues to convey their association with Joe Mills and early twentieth-century tourism in Estes Park.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Crags Lodge is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A in the area of entertainment/recreation for its association with the development of tourism in the Estes Park area from 1914 to 1935. From the late 19th century, Estes Park began to establish itself as a major Colorado tourist destination which blossomed with the establishment of Rocky Mountain National Park in 1915. Facilities to accommodate tourists ranged from simple guest cabins on operating cattle ranches to such large refined hostleries as the Stanley Hotel. The Crags Lodge offered comfortable lodging, good food, and spectacular mountain scenery and flourished from 1914 through 1935 under the guidance of its owner, Joe Mills.

The Crags Lodge is also eligible under Criterion B in the area of conservation for its association with Joe Mills, who made a major contribution to the establishment of Rocky Mountain National Park through his writings and speeches. He continued to impact the early management of the park through his spirited and successful advocacy for a policy to limit public conveyances and to effect the transfer of State roads in the park to the National Park Service.

TOURISM IN ESTES PARK

Tourism in Estes Park dates back nearly to the first Euro-American settlement. Joel Estes and his family came to the area that later bore their name in 1860. Joel and his sons built two log cabins at the eastern end of the park and claimed the valley as their ranch. Later that year they drove a herd of about sixty cattle from their ranch near the South Platte River up through the foothills into their newly claimed mountain pasture. Other hardy soles soon followed, lured by the natural pasturage afforded by the park.

Word of the park and its majestic mountain backdrop spread and soon visitors arrived more interested in the natural beauty than the possibilities for settlement and economic prosperity. William Byers, editor of the influential Denver newspaper, the *Rocky Mountain News*, visited in August of 1864. He wanted to climb Longs Peak but lack of time and a knowledgeable guide prevented the attempt. Nothing prevented his publicizing the beauty of the area and he lavished praise on the magnificence of the site that awaited those willing to make the trek. In 1868 Byers returned, joined up with geologist John Wesley Powell, then leading a government survey of the area, and together they reached the summit of Longs Peak. Once again upon his return to Denver, Byers praised the park and encouraged others to follow his path.

The Crags Lodge
Name of Property

Larimer County, Colorado
County/State

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
(Enter categories from instructions)
ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION
CONSERVATION
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Periods of Significance
1914 - 1935

Significant Dates
N/A

Significant Person(s)
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).
Mills, Enoch "Joe"

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Mills, Enoch "Joe"

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:
Colorado Historical Society

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Two other government sponsored surveys traveled the area and fostered public awareness through their survey reports. Clarence King's Fortieth Parallel Survey passed through in 1871 and Ferdinand Hayden followed in 1873. The Hayden survey was particularly important because its party included photographer William Henry Jackson. The Jackson photographs of Estes Park conveyed the beauty of the site more effectively than the written words of any newspaper account or survey report.

The area became an important tourist destination in the 1870s and 1880s as a result of the publicity efforts of people like William Byers and the word-of-mouth advertising provided by previous visitors. These early tourists camped out in the park or imposed upon the generosity of local ranch families. Several ranchers cultivated the tourist trade as a way to supplement their agricultural income. Some even found tourism more lucrative than ranching. Several constructed Spartan guest cabins and offered meals and guided trips up Longs Peak and to other area attractions. The Estes family put up a few travelers on the way to Long's Peak. Rancher Giff Evans built a few simple cabins near his own house to accommodate tourists. Abner Sprauge opened his homestead to travelers in Moraine Park around 1877 and eventually it proved to be more profitable as a tourist facility than a working ranch. In 1904 he sold his Moraine Park homestead to J.D. Snead and then developed a smaller resort in Glacier Basin.

The Earl of Dunraven, English emigre and a major if somewhat unscrupulous 1870s park land holder, opened the first formal hotel in 1877 on a site selected by visiting painter Albert Bierstadt. Dunraven officially named his hostelry the Estes Park Hotel, but locals referred to it as the English Hotel, both for its association with Dunraven and due to the predominantly English nationality of its guests. The Reverend Elkanah Lamb, a United Brethren missionary, established a homestead in 1875 and rapidly developed a lodge for visitors called the Longs Peak House. He and his son Carlyle began guiding people up Longs Peak for \$5.00 a trip.

Enos Mills, long credited as the prime booster of the Estes Park area and the most vocal and persistent advocate for the establishment of Rocky Mountain National Park, promoted the area in the 1890s while serving as a summer guide. In 1902 he purchased the Longs Peak Inn from Carlyle Lamb and until his death in 1922, the task of running the resort became Mills's prime responsibility.

Another early hostelry was Elkhorn Lodge (National Register listed), formerly established in 1901 with the construction of a lodge building, but actually dating back to the late 1870s when the James family boarded tourists at their ranch house.

The most famous and elegant of the early hotels was the complex erected on a hill at the north end of the park by F.O. Stanley. Stanley began construction in 1907 and two years later opened his Stanley Hotel (National Register). He soon followed with a manor house, built for year-round occupancy, and a theater building.

Several other large Estes Park area tourist facilities trace their founding to the years shortly before the First World War. Automobile roads from Loveland and Lyons provided greater accessibility to the region by this time and stimulated the growth of the town of Estes Park, established in 1905. The new tourist hostelries included The Craggs Lodge (1914), the Baldpate Inn (1916, National Register), and the Hewes-Kirkwood Inn (1917, National Register).

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The Crags Lodge
Larimer County, Colorado

THE CRAGS LODGE

Joe Mills, the younger brother of Enos Mills, the man known as the "Father of Rocky Mountain National Park," shared his brother's appreciation of the beauty of the Estes Park region and also recognized the commercial possibilities of area tourism. He purchased a large plot of land directly south of town at the base of Prospect Mountain and in 1913 began erecting a rustic hotel, The Crags Lodge. Oral history indicates that Mills designed the lodge himself and hired local builders to construct the building.

Named for The Crags, a dramatic granite outcrop two miles to the south, Mills tucked his lodge into the shoulder of Prospect Mountain, isolating it from the heavy tourist traffic in town. The building's orientation offers breathtaking views of the town and surrounding mountains. When Joe opened his doors on July 4, 1914, Estes Park had barely more than 400 residents.

The lodge flourished during the two decades Mills owned and managed it. The establishment of Rocky Mountain National Park by Congress in 1915 brought greater attention to the area and resulted in steadily increasing numbers of tourists. The town experienced rapid growth after the National Park opened and The Crags Lodge took its place among the most popular summer resorts, largely due to the popularity of its proprietor. Mills projected enthusiasm and a remarkable love of people and the outdoors. Known as the "Friendly House on the Hill," tourists enjoyed the family atmosphere and partook in the nightly group dinners held at the lodge.

The need for continual expansion testifies to the success of the lodge. Beginning in 1920, Mills added substantially to the lodge building and constructed an annex, theater, and staff cabins. In each of these additions Mills strove to retain the character of the original building and its setting while providing additional rooms and comforts for his guest. By the time of his premature death in a 1935 automobile accident, The Crags Lodge was firmly established as one of the finest and most popular hostelrys in the Estes Park area.

ENOCH "JOE" MILLS

Enoch Mills, known to everyone as Joe, shared his older brother's passion for Estes Park and the surrounding Rocky Mountains. Yet his role in the creation of Rocky Mountain National Park, the subsequent management of the park, and the growth and development of the gateway town tend to be overshadowed by the publicity afforded to Enos. Joe was a quiet, well educated man who receives very little recognition for his devotion to the park and the town that acts as a doorway for the millions that travel through Estes Park on their way to the national park. Even the most casual visitor soon realizes that the name Mills is one that has long been connected with the history of Estes Park and the adjoining wilderness. The story of Enos Mills has been told many times. Sadly, Joe's has largely been forgotten.

Running the lodge was a seasonal activity for Joe during its early years. This afforded him the time necessary to pursue other interests and activities which aided in the growth of Estes Park. The snowbound winters allowed him the time he needed to pursue his passion for writing, photography, educating, lecturing and civic interests.

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Joe's dedication and devotion to preserving the natural surroundings became most evident in 1917 when he began a twelve year battle that raised the attention of the nation and caused his estrangement from his brother Enos. Acting in an official capacity as president of the Chamber of Commerce, he became deeply involved in representing the national park before the Colorado legislature. Two related issues occupied much of Joe's time. The first had to do with jurisdiction over the roads in the park, which still fell under the responsibility of the State. Fueled by a passion to preserve the integrity of the park, he began a process that eventually culminated in the transfer of roads within the park from the State to the Federal Government.

The second issue had to do with the use of park roads by private tour busses and similar vehicles. Joe represented Superintendent Claude Way and supported his decision in 1919 to reduce congestion in the park by entering into an exclusive franchise agreement with a private transportation company. The regulation restricted the public conveyance of visitors exclusively to Roe Emery's Rocky Mountain Park's Transportation Company. The decision resulted from nation-wide Park Service desire to provide reliable public transportation services for visitors. Visitors complained that some operators cheated the public, provided indifferent service, failed to keep their schedules, or would not run unless their vehicles were full.

Many local entrepreneurs around Estes and Grand Lake were incensed by the granting of a local monopoly in the name of efficient service. Joe canvassed local hotel and business owners for their response to the franchise agreement and he found one of the most vocal opponents to be his mentor and older brother Enos. Angered by the granting of this new concession with exclusive privileges, which now applied to an area long used by local resort owners, Mills fumed that "our national park policy governs without the consent of the governed."

People like Enos Mills were willing to challenge Superintendent Way by sending unauthorized vehicles carrying passengers into the Park to test the new policy. In August, 1919, Enos openly and with advanced warning, defied the ban by sending a tour car into the park. Rangers arrested the offending drivers and court cases resulted. Not until 1926 did the state of Colorado dismiss suits against the federal government related to this issue. The split between the Mills brothers began a family rivalry that persists today.

Early Estes Park residents highly respected and admired Joe. As is the case today, The Craggs Lodge served as the meeting place of many local organizations, a number of which counted Joe as a member. He was an original founder of the Sanitation Department in Estes. His articles appeared in the *Saturday Evening Post*, *Boy's Life*, *Red Book*, *Blue Book* and other popular periodicals. He was a highly sought after collegiate coach and taught English at the University of Denver and Baylor University. An avid nature photographer, his name is attached to many of the early photos of Estes Park and Rocky Mountain National Park. Robert Frost, Clarence Darrow, and other vacationers returned each year to The Craggs Lodge to spend time with its proprietor.

Though overshadowed by his brother in most published histories about Estes and Rocky Mountain National Parks, Joe Mills made significant contributions to the growth and management of both the park and town. The Craggs Lodge represents the association between Joe Mills, tourism, and conservation in Estes Park.

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The Craggs Lodge
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BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Buchholtz, C.W. *Rocky Mountain National Park: A History*. Niwot, Colo.: University Press of Colorado, 1983.
- Estes Park Surveyors. "Historic Building Inventory Record, 5LR743." Site Files, Office of a Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society, 1984.
- Harris, Cyril. *Dictionary of Architecture and Construction*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1975.
- Mills, Joe. *A Mountain Boyhood*. New York: J.H.Sears, 1926; reprinted ed. University of Nebraska Press, 1988.
- Pedersen, Henry F. Jr. *Those Castles Made of Wood*. Estes Park: Henry F. Pedersen, Jr., 1993

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

Lot 1, Craggs Addition, located in Section 25, T5N, R73W of the 6th P.M., Town of Estes Park, Larimer County, Colorado.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with The Craggs Lodge that remains under common ownership and that retains its integrity to the period of significance.

The Craggs Lodge
Name of Property

Larimer County, Colorado
County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3.8

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 13 455550 4468750
Zone Easting Northing

3. Zone Easting Northing

2. Zone Easting Northing

4. Zone Easting Northing

[] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kathy Kadlecek

organization Golden Eagle Resort

date March 5, 1998

street & number 300 Riverside Drive, PO Box 480

telephone 970-586-6066

city or town Estes Park

state CO

zip code 80517

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name ILX Incorporated

street & number 2111 E. Highland Ave., Suite 210

telephone 800-822-2589

city or town Phoenix

state AZ

zip code 80516-4733

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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The Craggs Lodge
Larimer County, Colorado

PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information pertains to photographs numbers 1-28 except as noted:

Name of Property: The Craggs Lodge
Location: Estes Park, Larimer County, Colo.
Photographer: Kathy Kadlecek
Date of Photographs: 2/1998
Negatives: Possession of photographer

<u>Photo No.</u>	<u>Information</u>
1	Lodge building, south elevation, view to the northeast.
2	Lodge building, south elevation, view to the northeast.
3	Lodge building, south elevation, view to the northwest.
4	Lodge building, south elevation, view to the northwest. Photographer: Dale Heckendorn. Date of Photograph: 4/9/1998. Negatives: Colorado Historical Society.
5	Lodge building, east and north elevations, view to the southwest.
6	Lodge building, east and north elevations, view to the southwest.
7	Lodge building, north elevation, view to the southeast.
8	Lodge building, north elevation, view to the southeast.
9	Lodge interior, lobby area.
10	Lodge interior, lobby fireplace detail.
11	Lodge interior, lobby area.
12	Lodge interior, lobby fireplace detail.
13	Lodge interior, dining room.
14	Lodge interior, dining room.

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The Craggs Lodge
Larimer County, Colorado

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<u>Photo No.</u>	<u>Information</u>
15	Lodge interior, basement hall with exposed stone foundation.
16	Lodge interior, basement hall with exposed stone foundation.
17	Annex building, north elevation, view to the southeast. Photographer: Dale Heckendorn. Date of Photograph: 4/9/1998. Negatives: Colorado Historical Society.
18	Annex building, west elevation, view to the east. Photographer: Dale Heckendorn. Date of Photograph: 4/9/1998. Negatives: Colorado Historical Society.
19	Annex building, east elevation, view to the west. Photographer: Dale Heckendorn. Date of Photograph: 4/9/1998. Negatives: Colorado Historical Society.
20	Theater building, south elevation, view to the north.
21	Theater building, west elevation, view to the east.
22	Theater building, north elevation, view to the southeast.
23	Theater building, east elevation, view to the west.
24	Lodge building, south and west elevations, view to the northeast. Photographer: Joe Mills. Date of Photograph: 1914. Negatives: Copy print, Colorado Historical Society.
25	Lodge building, south and east elevations; Annex, east elevation, view to the northeast. Photographer: Joe Mills. Date of Photograph: circa 1920s. Negatives: Copy print, Colorado Historical Society.
26	Lodge building, south and west elevations, view to the northeast. Photographer: Joe Mills. Date of Photograph: late 1920s. Negatives: Copy print, Colorado Historical Society.
27	Lodge building, north elevation, view to the south. Photographer: Sanborn Souvenir Co. Date of Photograph: circa 1940s. Negatives: Copy print, Colorado Historical Society.

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The Craggs Lodge
Larimer County, Colorado

<u>Photo No.</u>	<u>Information</u>
28	Indiana hickory chairs arriving at lodge. Photographer: Joe Mills. Date of Photograph: late 1920s. Negatives: Copy print, Colorado Historical Society.

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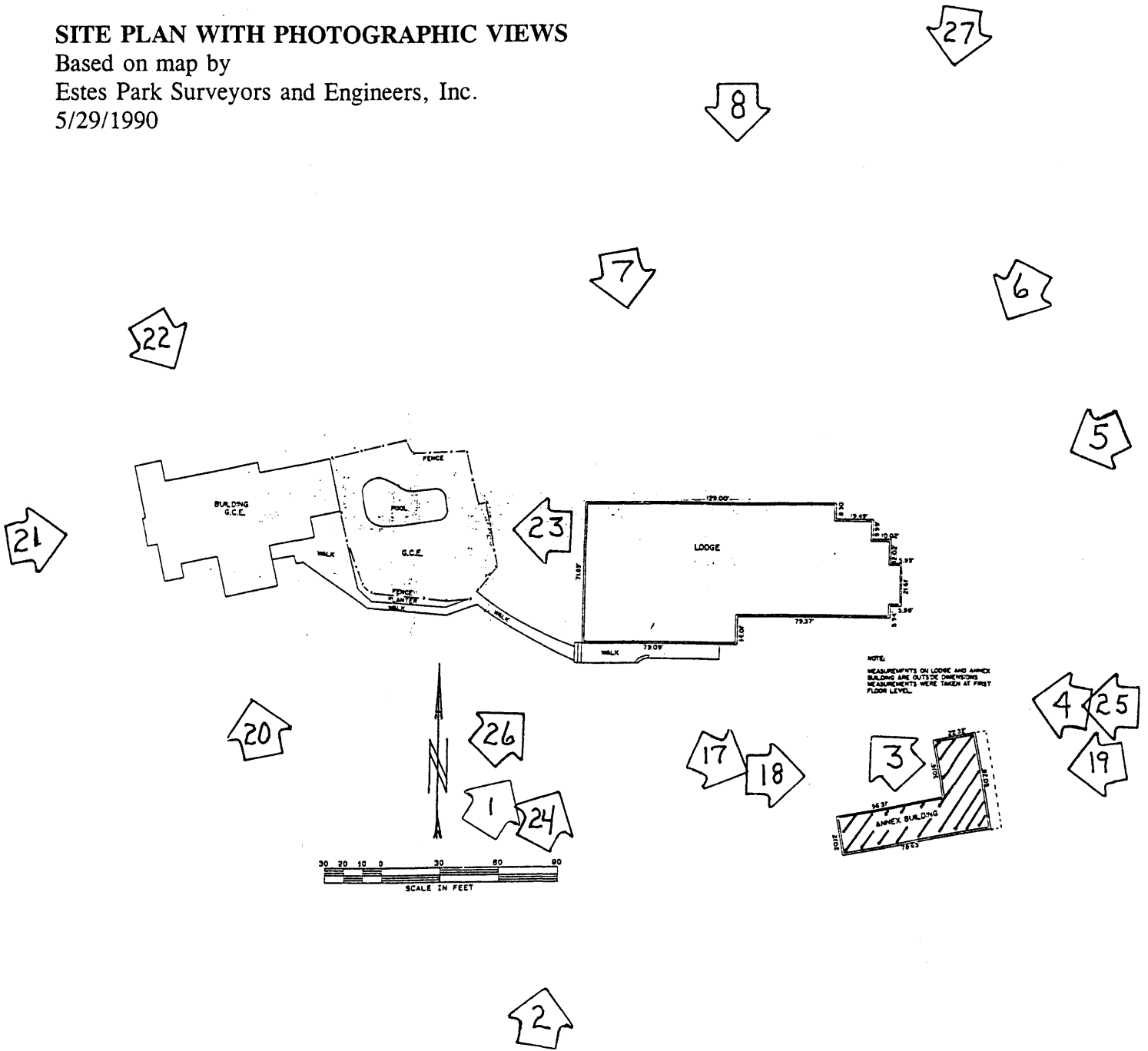
National Register of Historic Places
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The Crags Lodge
Larimer County, Colorado

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SITE PLAN WITH PHOTOGRAPHIC VIEWS

Based on map by
Estes Park Surveyors and Engineers, Inc.
5/29/1990



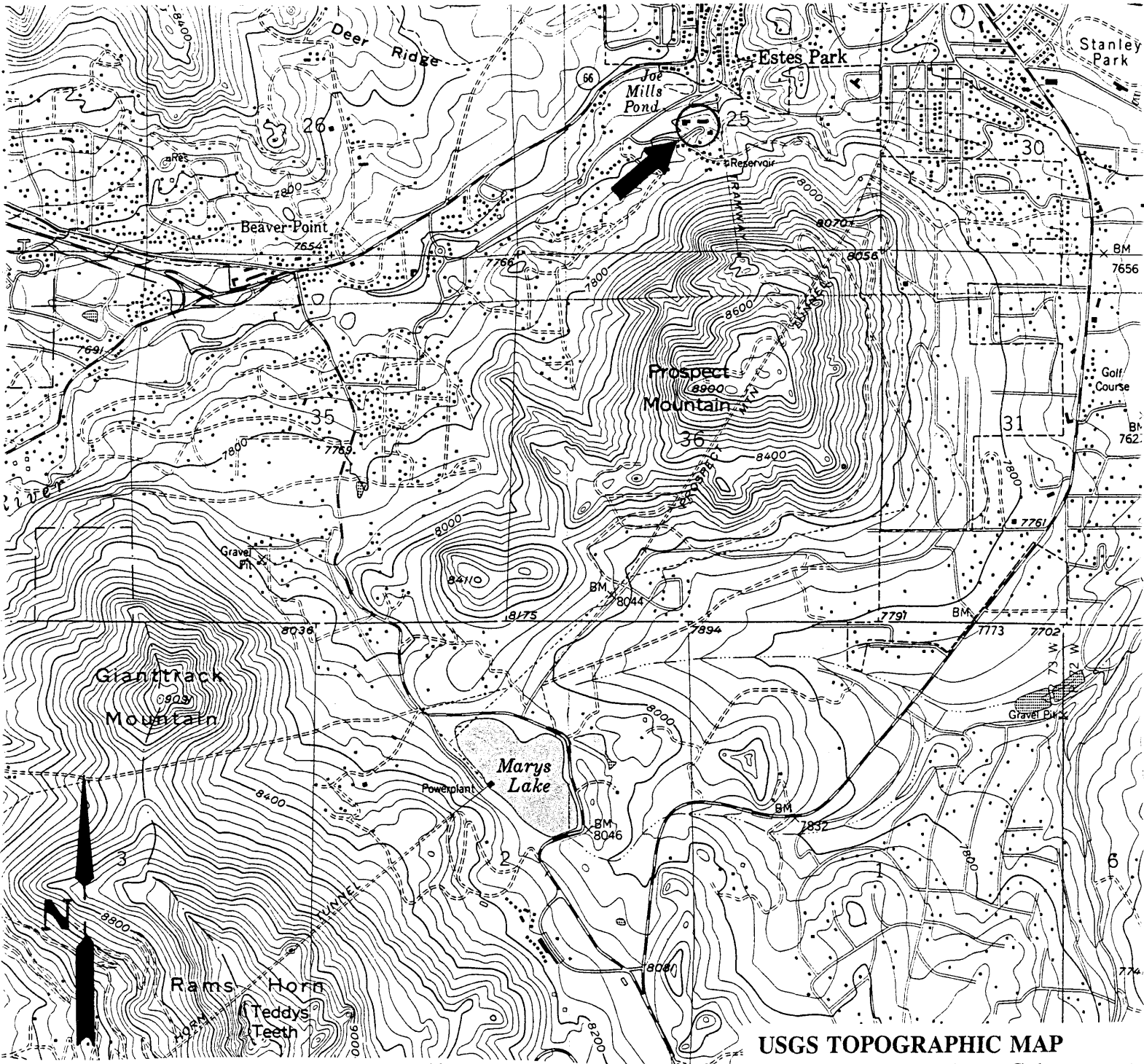
 - Photograph number, location and view
 - Noncontributing building

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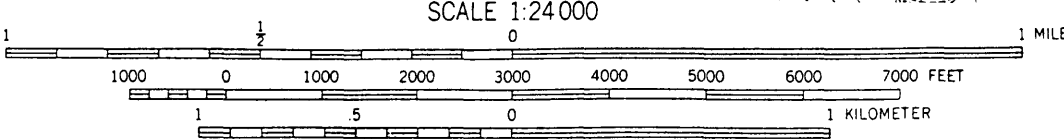
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The Crags Lodge
Larimer County, Colorado



USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
Longs Peak, Colo.
7.5 Minute Quad
1961, Photorevised 1978



CONTOUR INTERVAL 40 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929