

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

received MAY 16 1984

date entered JUN 14 1984

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Walker Ranch Historic District 5BL235

and/or common Walker Ranch

2. Location

street & number 7.5 miles west of Boulder via Flagstaff Road n/a not for publication

city, town Boulder vic. vicinity of Boulder

state Colorado code 08 county Boulder code 013

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>n/a</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<u>n/a</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Boulder County Parks and Open Space c/o Carolyn Holmberg, Director

street & number P. O. Box 471

city, town Boulder n/a vicinity of state Colorado 80306

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Boulder County Clerk and Recorder

street & number P. O. Box 471

city, town Boulder state Colorado 80306

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date Ongoing federal state county local

depository for survey records Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

city, town Denver state Colorado

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Walker Ranch, located 7.5 miles west of Boulder Colorado, in a rural high country/ foothills setting, encompasses a large portion (2028 acres) of an historic ranch that illustrates a continuum of land use and a lifestyle of self-sufficiency and industry. A total of 45 cultural components have been identified relating to the development of the ranch. Intact is a ranch complex consisting of fourteen well-preserved structures that demonstrate the organization of ranch buildings composing the domestic cluster and vernacular log and frame construction that characterize such buildings of the area and period. In addition, scattered over the nominated area are sawmill ruins, the Langridge cyanide mill, and other physical remains associated with Walker Ranch logging/ ranching/ and homestead activities and indicate spacial organization over the landscape of these affiliated buildings. With the historic setting virtually uninterrupted by modern intrusions, these sites contribute to a broad understanding of the development that occurred under the Walker family ownership. Other components include aboriginal campsites and localities of reported Arapahoe Indian encampments. Representing a span of Colorado history from 1869 to 1930, the historical, aboriginal, and landscape features of the ranch are interrelated and form a very significant rural cultural resource for the region.

Of the original 6000-acre ranch, the current 2028 acres managed by Boulder County Parks and Open Space remain the single largest parcel which has been inventoried for cultural resources and has retained its historical integrity.¹ As part of its open space program, in 1977 Boulder County began purchasing the Walker Ranch in face of encroaching residential development, and in 1980 supported an intensive cultural resources inventory survey.² The survey resulted in the identification of fifty interrelated sites or localities on the existing ranch land. All historic and prehistoric sites have been identified, therefore, within the nominated area and are accounted for within the nomination documentation.

Situated at elevations from 6700 to 8200 feet in a foothills/eastern slope setting of the Rocky Mountains, the historic district offers panoramic views of nearby mountain ranges and the Boulder Valley. Open, grassy meadows, fir and pine forests, and the volcanic intrusion known as Langridge Dyke characterize the landscape. South Boulder Creek, a prime mountain trout stream, flows along the southern boundary of the ranch. The land supports resident deer and elk herds and other wildlife, including mountain lion and bear. A sense of historic landscape and historic continuity is evident at Walker Ranch even though the Boulder-Denver metropolitan area is just minutes away, on the plains below. There are no modern intrusions within the nominated area except for corrugated metal culverts and an electric transmission line. The only modern intrusions in the valley (outside the nominated area) are six contemporary houses that are east of Flagstaff Road, well-spaced and of low scale. Therefore the immediate setting as well as the surrounding acreage outside the district retains its historic integrity.

The property is accessible from Boulder via Flagstaff Road (also known as Bear Canyon Road) which dates to the 1860s and is in its original alignment. At present the road receives moderate to low usage by the public for hiking, fishing, and picnicing. The main Walker Ranch ranch complex is not open to the public at present and is protected from vandalism by a resident park ranger. The ranch land has remained relatively untouched since 1950 when the historic ranching era came to an end for the Walker family.

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The county has allowed limited logging in some of the overgrown forested areas, but since historically this kind of activity was ongoing as Walker needed to cut timber for profit or for his own use, today it does not constitute a major intrusion. The continuity of land use practices beginning in the 1860s with homesteading and logging activities through the development of a successful cattle operation in recent times is evident in the historic setting.

Resource Components

The main James A. Walker ranch complex and original homestead are located in an open meadow around a spring in the central portion of the Walker Ranch Historic District. The ranch complex (see Map 3) includes fourteen structures and a hay barn and trash dump in the immediate vicinity. Most of the structures are situated in the original 160-acre tract patented by Walker in 1882. All structures have been maintained over the years, are in good to excellent condition, and can be considered functional in terms of their original purposes. The only structure of recent origin is the scale house, which was constructed in 1940. The earliest building is the log house (#7c, Map 3) constructed pre-1869 and is the only structure not credited to the Walker family. With the exception of the log house, scale house (1940), the gas house (1914) and garage (1914), all remaining buildings are of 1880-1885 construction.

Log House (#7c, Map 3)

The ax-hewn one and one-half story house dates prior to James Walker's arrival (c. 1865) and is in a good state of preservation both on the exterior and interior. The building served as a mountain supply store for area residents and subsequently functioned as Walker's residence until the later frame ranch house was built c. 1881. The structure rests on a stone foundation and faces south. The facade exhibits a central entrance with a window to each side. The notching is masked by end boards. The gable is covered with vertical rough-cut boards and has a central attic window. A lean-to kitchen addition was attached later and in 1914 a garage was added on the west side. A tin roof has been placed over the shingled roof.

Ranch House (#1c, Map 3)

A larger house was constructed by Walker in 1881. The gable end structure is of milled lumber and rests on a stone foundation. The three-bay facade faces east and has a central entrance with a window to each side. Additions have been made over time as needs of the Walker family changes. Currently occupied by a Boulder County park ranger, the interior of the ranch house has undergone some modifications, including construction of a bathroom in the one-time "schoolroom" portion of the residence, installation of a wood-burning stove, and a closet. The stamped tin ceilings and moldings have been retained, and the original character of the house still dominates.

Livestock Barn (#12c, Map 3)

The massive structure is of pole with vertical board siding, and rests on a dry-laid stone foundation. Entrances are on the west wall, with two additional openings on the south wall with shed coverings. There are a series of small windows on the south wall which correspond to the original horse stalls, still intact on the interior. The roof is covered by a tin roof over the original shingles.

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Other Ranch Components (See Map 3)

Other buildings within the complex include the following:

Rabbit hutch(#2c)--frame with a curved board roof.

Bunkhouse (#3c)--log and slab/mill waste.

Brooder house (#4c)--frame.

Corn barn (#5c)--log and slab. Also used as a pig pen.

Blacksmith shop(#6c)--log and sawn lumber building with the original hearth and smokehole.

Springhouse (#8c)--frame, resting on a cement foundation. Tin covers the original shingle roof.

Tack room/root cellar (#9c)--log and frame with hand-dug root cellar.

Gas house (#10c)--pole with vertical board siding.

Wagon/Machine barn (#11c)--pole with vertical board siding. There are two large entrances, one facing northeast; the other facing southwest.

Scale house (#13c)--1940 construction. Of frame and has a functioning Fairbanks pit scale.

Turkey house (#14c)--frame

Springhouse--frame with tin over the original shingle roof. (#8c)

Only three structures outside the main ranch complex remain standing in good to fair condition and include the hay barn (#15c, Map 3); a pole structure (#10, Map 1 and 2) with frame vertical siding; and another hay barn (#45, Map 1 and 2), which was converted later to a sawmill shed.

The historic trash deposit (#16c, Map 3) has archaeological potential and undoubtedly contains artifacts dating to all periods of Walker Ranch occupancy. It is undisturbed and stretches over 70 meters along an eastern drainage.

Other Euroamerican Components (Map 1 and 2, Figure 1)

Remains of the Langridge cyanide mill and associated structures (#22, 23, 24) are located near the geological formation called the Langridge Dyke. Ore chutes, trailings piles, cyanide vat house, assay office, and mill workers residences are all deteriorated now, and lumber from the structures was salvaged for barns and sheds after abandonment of the cyanide mill in 1907.

The Martin homestead log house (#11, Map 1 and 2) collapsed recently during a wind storm. Hand-hewn logs, milled lumber, and other structural debris remain undisturbed and are considered significant because they represent materials of a late-19th century homestead that was part of the expansion and development of the Walker Ranch property. The Walker family incorporated the homestead prior to 1902, and the two-story structure was adapted for use as a livestock shelter. A number of small sheds, fence line and pole gates are found throughout the 2028-acre property. Much of the wire fencing is historic and represents an early use of barbed wire in the area.³ Walker's fencing of his property is of historic interest in itself, in that it formed part of the historic period which witnessed the closing of the open range.

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Much of the logging and sawmill activities occurred in the far northern and eastern portions of the historic district. None of the sawmill structures are still standing, yet the foundations, lumber piles, and associated machinery that do remain are important to the historic district as a whole and illustrate the different commercial activities taking place with the Walker homestead. The continuous use of the area for logging purposes since the 1860s lends significance to all logging and lumbering components.

The Walker Ranch Historic District and its interrelated cultural components, may be the most important early ranch complex in Colorado that is in the public domain and also allows public access. It is representative of several major historic themes important to the development of Boulder County and to the state of Colorado.

Aboriginal Components

Five archaeological sites or localities have been identified within the historic district. The number and types of artifacts found on the surface suggest that pre-historic as well as historic time periods are represented. Two of the sites are reported to be historic Arapahoe campsites (#49 and 50), one of which is supposed to have been the site where James Walker lived with the Indians upon his arrival to the area in 1869.³ Subsurface artifacts may provide information about the historic Arapahoe or about earlier peoples in the area may exist in these two sites. There was some disturbance years ago during agricultural plowing (which turned up many Indian artifacts).

Because of road disturbance, soil erosion, and lack of sufficient surface indications, the remaining three aboriginal components (#46, 47, 48) are not individually significant, but they do contribute to the historic continuity and overall development of the district.

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¹Boulder County Parks and Open Space is in the process of purchasing a total of 2566 acres of the Walker Ranch property. Of the 2566 acres, 2028 acres have been inventoried for cultural resources and comprise the Walker Ranch Historic District. Future research is needed to determine if the remaining 538 acres ought to be included within the historic district boundaries.

²Kris Kranzush, Final Cultural Resource Inventory Report, Walker Ranch, Boulder, Colorado. (Boulder: Gordon & Kranzush, 1980); Cultural Resource Inventory Report, Walker Ranch - Parcel C. (Boulder: Gordon & Kranzush, 1979).

³Remnants of Baker wire, a barbed wire manufactured in Colorado during the period, have been found on the ranch.

⁴Leta Daniels, granddaughter of James Walker, has pointed out the location on the ranch, and through her reminiscences and family stories, has added valuable information about the Walker Ranch history.

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Figure 1 (Key to Map 2)

<u>Component Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Activity Represented</u>	<u>Condition/Evaluation</u>
1C	Ranch Complex	Homesteading/Ranching	Good/Contributing
2	Shack*	Recent	Non-Contributing
3	Sawmill Ruins	Historic Logging	Deteriorated/Contributing
4	Shacks & Lumber Scraps, collapsed	Historic Logging	Deteriorated/Contributing
5	Lumber Slab Pile	Historic Logging	Good/Contributing
6	Prospect Hole	Late 19th Century Mining	Good/Contributing
7	Sawmill, collapsed	Logging ca. 1915-1925	Deteriorated/Contributing
8	Sawmill, collapsed	Logging ca. 1915-1925	Deteriorated/Contributing
9	Plowshare Artifact	Homesteading	Good/Contributing
10	Hay Barn, intact	Homesteading/Ranching	Good/Contributing
11	Martin Homestead (log cabin), collapsed	Homesteading ca. 1887	Fair/Contributing
12	Iron Basin Artifact	Unknown	Fair/Contributing
13	Prospect Hole	Late 19th Century Mining	Good/Contributing
14	Stone Wall	Homesteading ca. 1887	Good/Contributing
15	Farm Equipment	Homesteading	Deteriorated/Contributing
16	Prospect Hole	Late 19th Century Mining	Good/Contributing
17	Wooden Gate	Homesteading	Fair/Contributing
18	Wooden Gate & Posts	Homesteading	Deteriorated/Contributing
19	Sawmill, collapsed	Historic Logging	Deteriorated/Contributing
20	Sawmill Debris	Historic Logging	Good/Contributing

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21	Prospect Hole	Late 19th Century Mining	Good/Contributing
22	Langridge Mill, remains	Late 19th Century Mining	Fair/Contributing
23	Assay Office, remains	Late 19th Century Mining	Deteriorated/Contributing
24	Miners Residences, remains	Late 19th Century Mining	Deteriorated/Contributing
25	Logging Camp, remains	Historic Logging	Deteriorated/Contributing
26	Lumber Pile	Historic Logging	Good/Contributing
27	Prospect Hole	Late 19th Century Mining	Good/Contributing
28	Collapsed Structure	Unknown	Deteriorated/Contributing
29	Steam Boiler remains	Late 19th Century Mining	Deteriorated/Contributing
30	Wooden Flume	Late 19th Century Mining	Fair/Contributing
31	Glass Artifact	Unknown	Good/Contributing
32	Rockpile & Debris	Unknown	Good/Contributing
33	Lumber Pile	Historic Logging	Good/Contributing
34	Shack*	Recent	Non-Contributing
35	Power Pole	Late 19th Century Mining	Good/Contributing
36	Prospect Hole	Late 19th Century Mining	Good/Contributing
37	Cable Artifact	Unknown	Good/Contributing
38	Railroad Trestle, remains	Cattle Transportation	Deteriorated/Contributing
39	Lumber Pile	Historic Logging	Good/Contributing
40	Schoolhouse, intact (outside the boun-	Associated with Historic Logging	Good/Contributing

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41	Cabin, abandoned*	Recent	Non-Contributing
42.	Sawmill Shed*	Recent/Logging	Non-Contributing
43	Fireplace Foundation*	Recent/Logging	Non-Contributing
44	Sawmill/Cabin, collapsed	Historic Logging	Fair/Contributing
45	Barn, intact	Homesteading	Fair/Contributing
46	Archaeological Site	Aboriginal Campsite	Disturbed/Contributing
47	Archaeological Site	Aboriginal Locality	Limited/Contributing
48	Archaeological Site	Aboriginal Locality	Limited/Contributing
49	Archaeological Site	Possible Arapahoe Campsite	Contributing
50	Archaeological Site	Possible Arapahoe Campsite	Contributing

*Demolished since the date of the historic survey.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) landscape

Specific dates 1869-1930 **Builder/Architect** Builder: James A. Walker

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Walker Ranch derives its significance from the remains of a wide range of early ranching and industrial activity (notably mining, milling, and lumbering) that took place within the confines of the ranch boundaries. The rural landscape represented by the 2028-acre area is without modern intrusions and reflects a continuum of land use important to the understanding of cultural patterns in the region. In addition, the intact ranch complex demonstrates not only the organization of ranch buildings, but they also serve as excellent examples of vernacular log and frame construction of the late 19th-early 20th century period in rural Colorado.

When James A. Walker first came to the Boulder area in 1869, he was sick with yellow fever and wanted only to breathe the Rocky Mountain air and to see some Indians before he died. It is said that he made his way to an Arapahoe Indian camp west of Boulder where a combination of mountain air, herbs, and Indian skill affected a cure for his illness.¹ With his health regained, Walker took work as a farm hand in the area, and after a series of odd jobs and several summers spent near the Arapahoe campsite, Walker was able to file a homestead claim on the land. By 1883 Walker and his wife Fidelia and son William lived in their newly constructed ranch home on the property, no longer occupying the old rough log cabin which had been built as a mountain supply store prior to 1865.

Financial difficulties and medical costs resulting from Fidelia's ill health caused Walker to sell or lease parcels of the ranch land over the years and to take on miscellaneous jobs to pay off debts. In 1894 Lord Bertie Langridge, Sir James Outram, and a Mr. Whittier of England proposed a \$100,000 mineral contract to extract gold via a cyanide process from the Langridge Dyke formation on Walker's property. Although the cyanide mill was short-lived (operations ceased in 1907), the first installment payment made to Walker from the Englishmen allowed him to pay off all debts and to expand the Walker Ranch holdings. At the same time, Walker introduced hardy, high altitude-bred, Galloway cattle to his high country operation, and they eventually became the mainstay of the ranch. After 1929 the ranch property expanded to 6000 acres under ownership of William Walker until 1950 when most of the land was sold. Mrs. Leta Daniels, granddaughter of James and Fidelia Walker, still lives on a portion of the original ranch.

Continuity of land use and ownership, as well as the preservation of a single, large portion (2028 acres) of the original Walker Ranch, make the district a unique property holding. The valley landscape retains its integrity, with the only modifications resulting from historic use of the land. The placement of the buildings on the landscape, combined with the historic archaeological remains of other structures, affirm the self-sufficiency of historic farms and ranches and contribute to the understanding of high country homesteading and ranching of the period. The components reflect a time span of over 100 years and represent themes important to local as well as state history.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Kranzush, Kris. Final Cultural Resource Inventory Report, Walker Ranch, Boulder, Colorado. Boulder, Colorado: Gordon & Kranzush, 1980.
- Simons, Roma. General History for the Walker Ranch: A Living Historical Museum. Boulder Historical Society and Boulder County Parks and Open Space, 1981.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2028

Quadrangle name El Dorado Springs

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>3</u>	<u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>8</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	B	<u>1</u> <u>3</u>	<u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>2</u> <u>6</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>1</u> <u>3</u>	<u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u> <u>5</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u>	D	<u>1</u> <u>3</u>	<u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>5</u>
E	<u>1</u> <u>3</u>	<u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>1</u> <u>3</u> <u>5</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Covers portions of sections 9, 16, 15, 21, 28, 22, 27, 23, 26, T1S,R1W,6th PM, Boulder County, Colorado. Largest remaining area of historically significant late 19th century ranch. (See continuation sheet.) SEE MAP 4 FOR SPECIFIC BOUNDARIES.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	n/a	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Patti Bell, Researcher; Bernie Weisgerber, Park Ranger Ed: GM

organization Boulder County Parks & Open Space date November 15, 1983

street & number P.O.Box 471 telephone (303) 441-3950

city or town Boulder state Colorado 80306

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Barbara Sudler

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 5-4-84

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Beth Grovum

Keeper of the National Register

date 6/14/84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Homesteading and ranching are represented by 11 cultural components, including barns, sheds, fences, gates, and homestead remains. Fourteen components are associated with logging and sawmill operations on the ranch. Logging activities, commonly undertaken by early homesteaders, augmented the Walker family income as well as provided materials for ranch buildings and fenceposts. Gold prospecting and mining are represented by 14 cultural components dating from the 1890s to as late as 1920 in the historic district. The resources include prospect holes, the remains of the Langridge cyanide mill, associated residences, assay office, and power plant.

The relationship among homesteading/ranching, logging and mining activities is extremely important. Not only did proceeds from the cyanide gold processing venture supply the capital necessary for ranch expansion, it allowed development of sawmills to supply the building materials.

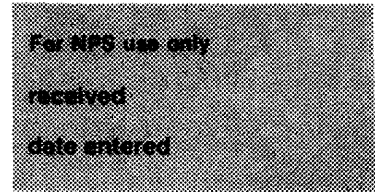
In addition, at least three historic structures are believed to be constructed later from salvaged materials taken from the Langridge cyanide mill. The Walker Ranch Historic District contains the physical manifestations of historic growth stimuli of Colorado and of Boulder County, and are all associated with the prominent and resourceful local figure, James A. Walker.

The Walker Ranch building complex, consisting of 14 centrally located structures and a livestock barn one-half mile to the northeast, is viewed as the focal point of all historic and recent activities undertaken at the ranch. All buildings are either frame, log or pole with board siding. These methods of construction and uses of materials illustrate vernacular architecture of high country ranching of the late 19th-early 20th century period. All buildings in the homestead complex were built by James Walker, with the exception of the log house (builder unknown) and the scale house (1940), constructed by James Walker's son William. Therefore, by its historic continuity, its example of vernacular construction, the state of preservation of the ranch buildings, the historic archaeological sites documented over the limits of the ranch, and the unaltered state of the landscape it can be said that the ranch serves as an outstanding example of high country ranch life of the period. The comprehensive nature of the historic survey of the ranch and the degree of documentation of the nominated area adds to its value as a resource. In addition, the assistance of James Walker's granddaughter, Mrs. Leta Daniels, who resides near the ranch complex is also an asset to researchers. From Mrs. Daniels first hand recollections of her grandfather and her own life on the ranch, a thorough recordation of the ranch is permitted.

In addition to visible structures and cultural debris present throughout the historic district, subsurface archaeological materials are likely to be present in at least three locations on the ranch. These subsurface deposits are potentially valuable to furthering knowledge about early aboriginal history and the James Walker/Arapahoe Indian relationship. An historic trash dump associated with the ranch complex is also considered likely to yield important information about the Walker Ranch occupancy.

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If the ranch is restored and a living history setting or museum is established, excavation of the dump could provide original artifacts and cultural debris important to the interpretation of ranch life.

When considered as a whole, all the cultural manifestations and the ranch land itself represent a chapter in the story of the historic settling and expansion of Boulder County and of the eastern-slope, foothills region of Colorado.

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FOOTNOTE

¹From an interview with Leta Daniels, granddaughter of James Walker, by Judy Krukoff.

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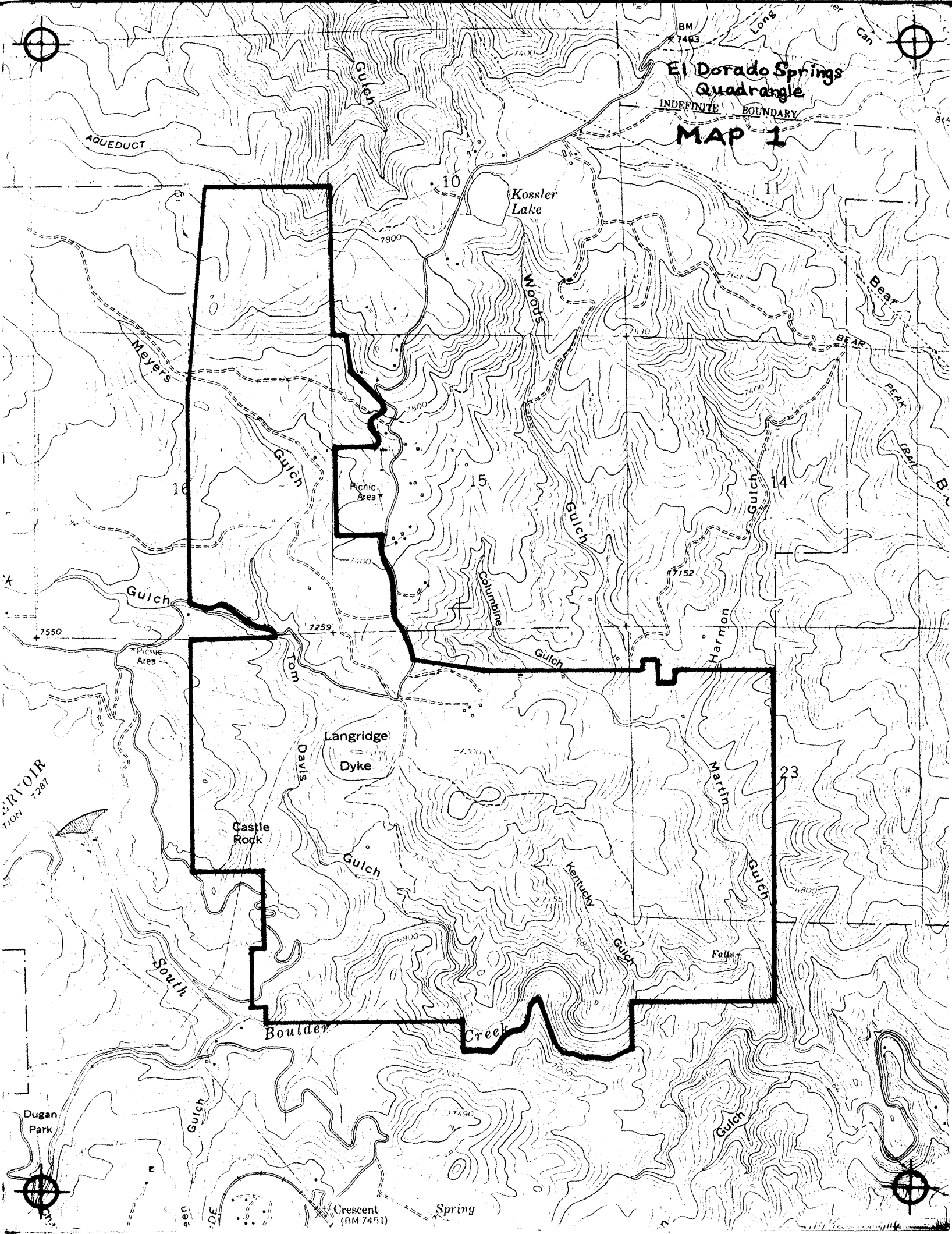
The boundary was selected based on the following factors:

- 1) The boundary reflects the main focus of Walker Ranch activities beginning with the original 160-acre homestead and expansion of logging, mining, and ranch interests.

- 2) The area nominated represents the limits of an intensive historic/archaeological survey in which all prehistoric and historic sites were identified.

- 3) The area nominated is that parcel owned by Walker which has experienced the least development as compared to surrounding areas. (There is some residential development and a man-made reservoir on parts of what composed Walker's holdings at one time.)

- 4) Much of the area nominated is marked by historic barbed wire fencing which delineates historic property lines and/or fencing for cattle. Except for the far northern extent, all of the nominated area is fenced, a portion of which is historic fencing or has natural boundaries.





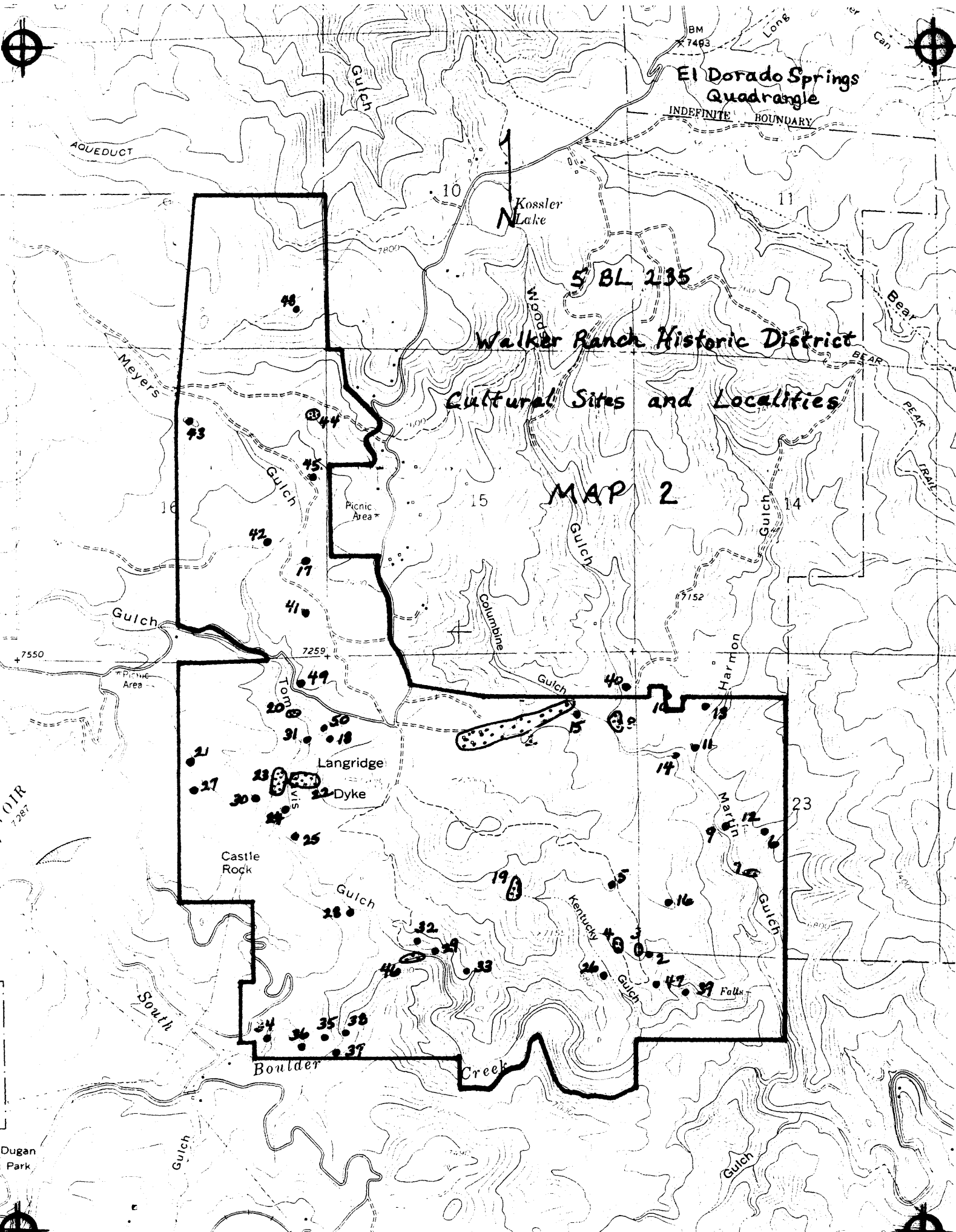
El Dorado Springs Quadrangle

INDEFINITE BOUNDARY

S BL 235

Walker Ranch Historic District Cultural Sites and Localities

MAP 2



COIR
7-28-7

Dugan
Park

KEY

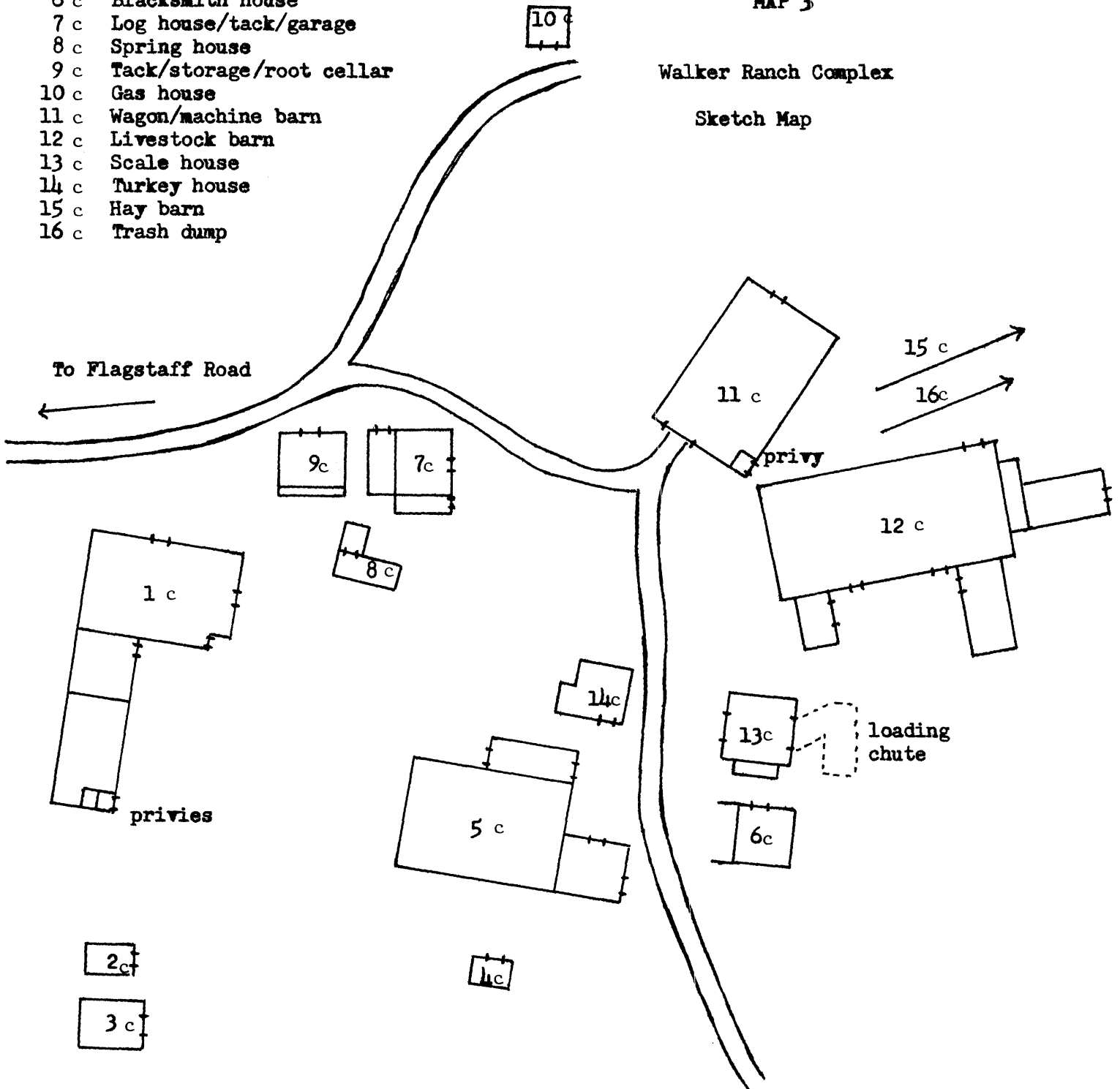
- 1 c Ranch house
- 2 c Rabbit hutch
- 3 c Bunkhouse
- 4 c Brooder house
- 5 c Corn barn/pig pen
- 6 c Blacksmith house
- 7 c Log house/tack/garage
- 8 c Spring house
- 9 c Tack/storage/root cellar
- 10 c Gas house
- 11 c Wagon/machine barn
- 12 c Livestock barn
- 13 c Scale house
- 14 c Turkey house
- 15 c Hay barn
- 16 c Trash dump

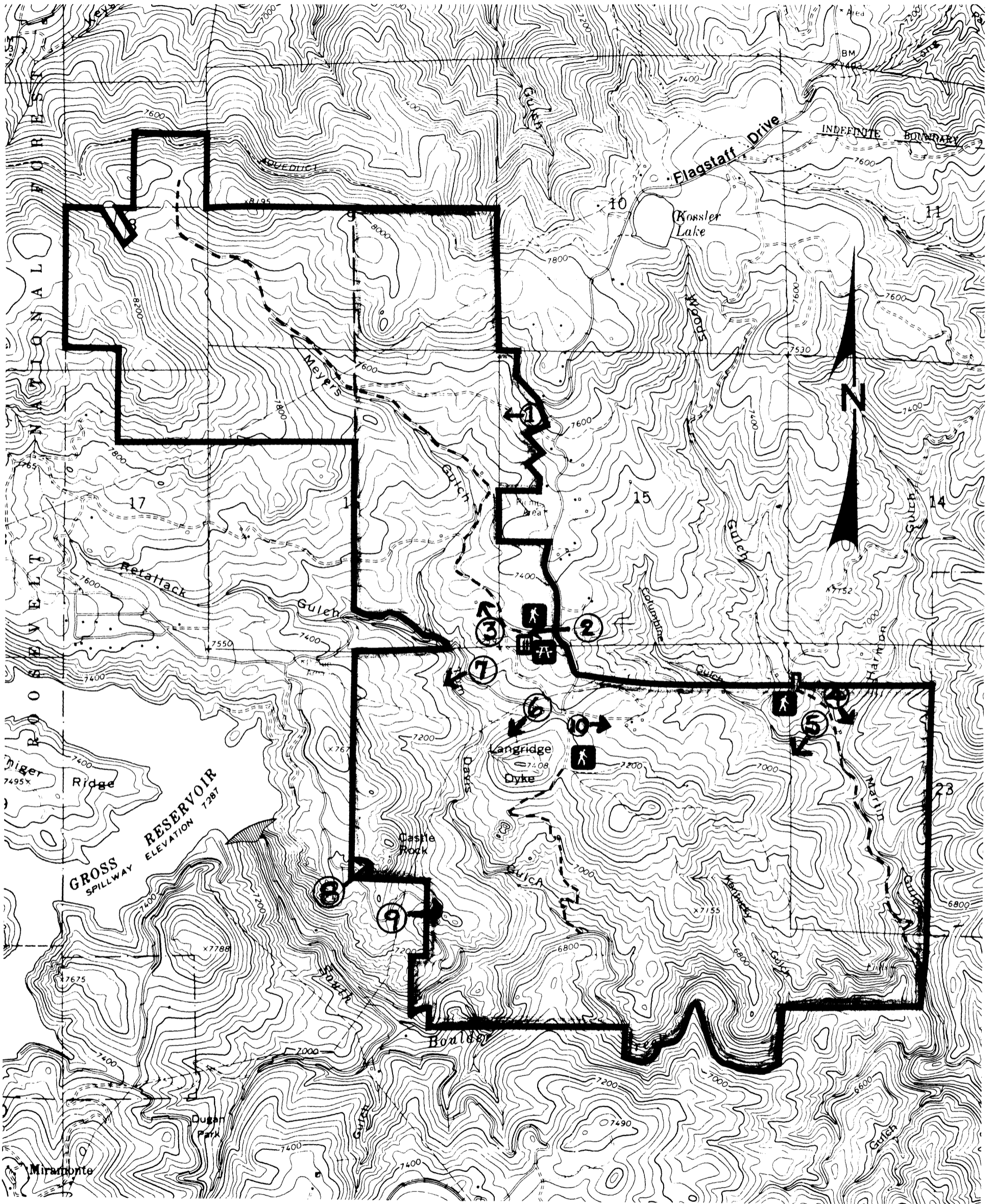


MAP 3

Walker Ranch Complex

Sketch Map





Walker Ranch Historic District
Boulder County, Colorado

SCALE: 1 inch = approx. 1760 feet

MAP 4




USGS Map Eldorado Springs Quadrangle
7.5 Minute Series
1965 (revised 1971)

Scale 1" = 1760'

Nominated area shown in yellow.

Numbers circled keyed to photo numbers.

WALKER RANCH

-  ... picnic area
-  ... hiking trail
-  ... restrooms