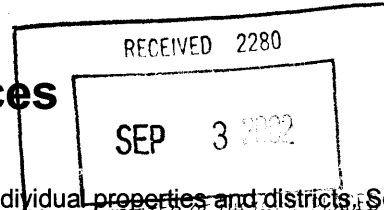


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



1130

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 Wind Ridge

other names/site number Blickensderfer Residence; 5LR10348

2. Location

street & number 1397 Clara Drive [N/A] not for publication

city or town Estes Park [X] 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 [X] 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 [X] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [] nationally [] statewide [X] locally. ([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title: Georganna Contyulis, State Historic Preservation Officer; Date: August 19, 2002

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, 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:

- [X] 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 of the Keeper: Edson A. Beall; Date of Action: 10/15/02

Wind Ridge
Name of Property

Larimer County, Colorado
County/State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not count previously listed resources.)

Contributing

Noncontributing

5	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
6	0	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)

Single Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century

American Movements

Other: Rustic

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Weatherboard

Shingle

roof Asphalt

other

Narrative Description

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

Wind Ridge
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)

Art
Architecture

Periods of Significance

1915-1952

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

Blickensderfer, Clark

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Blickensderfer, Clark

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

Wind Ridge
Name of Property

Larimer County, Colorado
County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 6.7

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 13 456710 4471490
Zone Easting Northing

2. Zone Easting Northing

3. 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 David Thomas (additional materials by OAHP staff)

organization Becker-Williams date June 26, 2002

street & number PO Box 1945 telephone _____

city or town Parker state CO zip code 80134

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 Ashe, S.M. Prather, Qualified Personal Residence Trust

street & number 3455 S. Corona St. telephone _____

city or town Englewood state CO zip code 80110

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.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Wind Ridge
Larimer County, ColoradoSection number 7 Page 1**DESCRIPTION**

Wind Ridge is situated near Estes Park, approximately one-half mile south of the nearest boundary to Rocky Mountain National Park and approximately one mile northeast of the Stanley Hotel. The complex consists of five buildings and one structure (house, barn and assorted out-buildings) situated in a ponderosa pine grove on a southeast facing slope descending from the foot of Lumpy Ridge. The land, at an elevation of 7,700 feet, is fenced with non-barbed wire. A fenced hiking and equestrian trail roughly bisects the property north to south into one four acre plot and one three acre plot. (Photo 1) The buildings are situated on the larger parcel of land to the west. The smaller parcel is pasture with a small, seasonal wetland. On the four acre plot there is a small, seasonally flowing stream that has been dammed. In the spring, the dam retains water for two to four weeks. The Town of Estes Park provides domestic water for the property.

All the buildings on the site were built between 1915 and 1930. Most of them are of Rustic style with Craftsman detailing. The buildings are all in excellent condition. The compound presently serves as a summer retreat for the descendents of the original owner.

MAIN HOUSE (1915)**➤Exterior**

The main house faces south-southeast on a gentle north to south slope. The original building was built in 1915 and a series of additions followed. There is an oval pond located in the center of the circular drive due south of the front of the house. The pond is 10½ feet in greatest diameter, surrounded by spruce, fir, aspen and ponderosa. The exterior of the house is covered with square cut cedar shingles. The windows range from divided-lite casement windows to divided-lite double-hung windows, full-lite fixed and awning windows. (Photo 2) There is a series of widely overhanging eaves and gables around the house. (Photo 3) The larger gable end beams on the main front gable are reinforced with diagonal struts or knee braces. (Photo 4) The smaller gables with lesser cantilevers are self-supporting. The rake boards are relatively thin in appearance and curve to horizontal at the lower ends of the gable. The roof of this building is asphalt shingles.

The front of the house is composed of a partially glazed, partially screened porch (4) approximately 11 feet by 17 feet. An early cantilevered addition to the porch, added in 1932, was later reinforced with four 4x4 posts on concrete footings. (Photo 5) Above the glazed portion of the front porch is a large cross gable. Similar to the main gable, this gable includes roof beams supported by diagonal struts. (Photo 6) The screened portion of the porch has a single pitch roof that slopes up toward the ridge.

To the east of the covered porch is an open porch (1), approximately 10 feet by 18 feet, bordered on the exposed perimeter by a low shingle covered wall. (Photo 7) Eight steps leading from the curved driveway in front of the house access this porch. From this

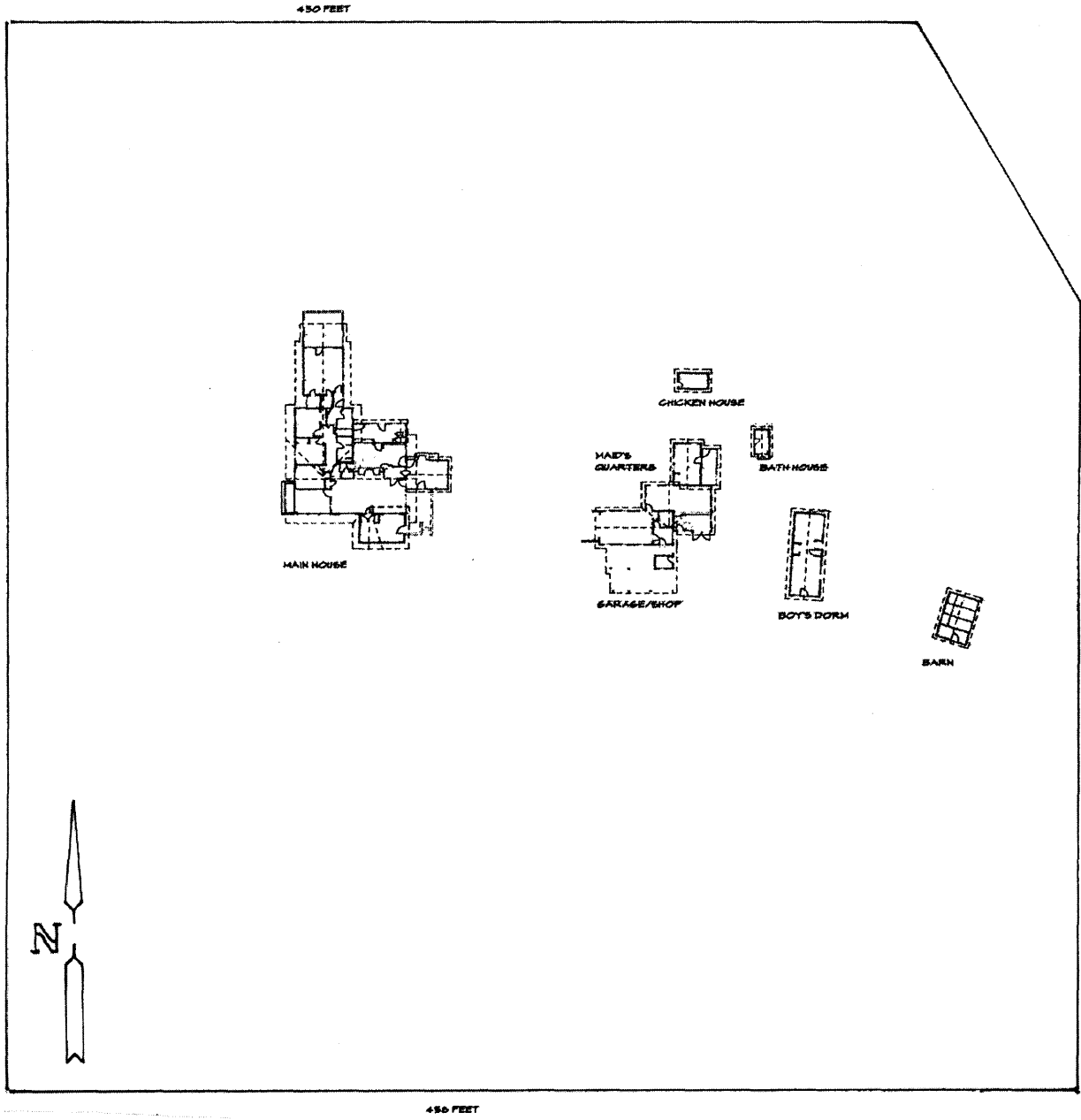
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Wind Ridge
Larimer County, Colorado

Section number 7 Page 2

Site Plan



**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Wind Ridge
Larimer County, ColoradoSection number 7 Page 3

uncovered porch (1), access to the house is available either through the covered porch (4) to the west or the dining room (2) to the north.

The dining room, added in 1921, forms a lower one-story wing to the east of the main portion of the house. The perimeter of the dining room is comprised of large windows. A granite fireplace rises along the north wall, adjacent to another doorway and across from the door to the porch on the south. (Photo 8)

At the back of the main gable of the house is a series of shed additions that comprise the kitchen area. The original exterior wall of the kitchen (11) has clerestory windows just below the eave line of the main gable. A series of shed roofs start immediately below these windows and pitch to the north. At the lower edge of the main gable, just above the clerestory windows, there is a skylight with a light deflector that helps illuminate the kitchen below. The northern-most portion of the kitchen below the shed roofs is an enclosed porch (12) with large windows and an access door. (Photo 9) The area immediately outside this porch has been paved with concrete to help divert the site drainage.

West of the kitchen, there is a long wing perpendicular to the main ridge. Comprised of bedrooms and bathrooms, it steps up the gentle slope. The gable on this series of additions is perpendicular to the main gable, and the eaves and gable ends are simpler. (Photo 10) At the northern-most end is a large covered patio (10) surrounded by a low flagstone wall. The north end of this patio is partially uncovered, as the gable stops short of the ground paving. The gable is supported on the east by a steel post and on the west by a screen wall with a large divided-lite window. (Photo 11) Access to the room at the north end of this wing is through a Dutch door.

On the west side, the house steps back down the hillside to the south. The west elevation of the house is comprised of shingles, divided-lite windows and relatively moderate overhanging eaves. (Photo 12) The exaggerated cantilever supported by diagonal struts accentuates the main gable at the south end of the west side. A small shed roof addition to the front room on the west side fits under the big gable above. (Photo 13)

➤Interior

The entry door to the dining room (2) is representative of many of the doors throughout the house. The door is a heavy, 2¼" thick half-lite, hardwood door, with custom hinges and entry handset. The dining room itself is a lower one-story wing that projects east of the main portion of the house, approximately 11 feet by 15 feet. The perimeter of the room is comprised of one operable window and seven fixed windows. The interior wall finish is largely composed of early hardboard wall covering. A granite rock and concrete fireplace is on the north wall, sandwiched between a second exterior entry door and two of the eight windows. The windows on the north wall vary in design to accommodate a wood box immediately east of the fireplace. Access to the wood box is available both from inside and outside the house. The fireplace has been retrofitted with an antique gas log unit.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

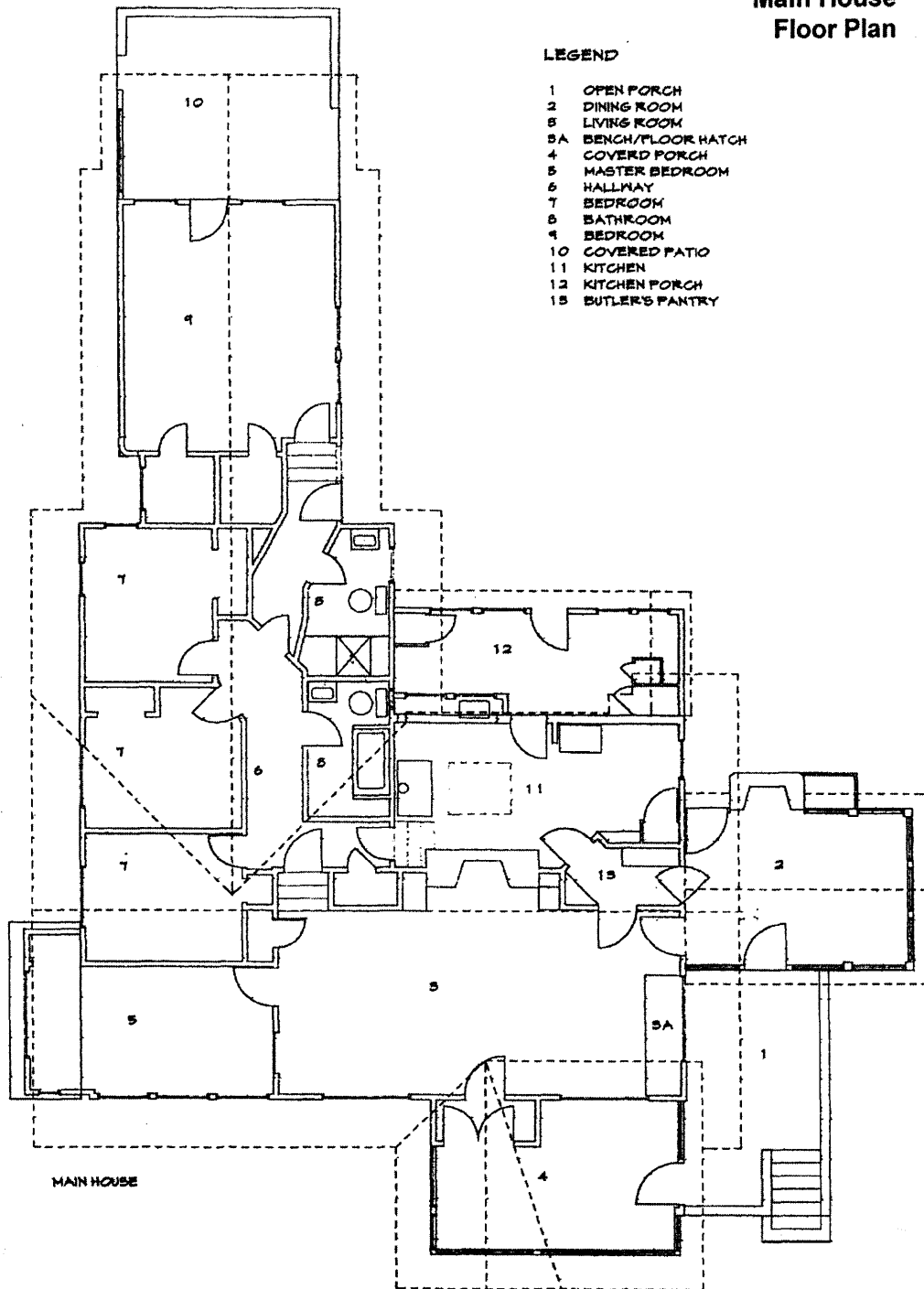
Wind Ridge
Larimer County, Colorado

Section number 7 Page 4

Main House Floor Plan

LEGEND

- 1 OPEN PORCH
- 2 DINING ROOM
- 3 LIVING ROOM
- 3A BENCH/FLOOR HATCH
- 4 COVERED PORCH
- 5 MASTER BEDROOM
- 6 HALLWAY
- 7 BEDROOM
- 8 BATHROOM
- 9 BEDROOM
- 10 COVERED PATIO
- 11 KITCHEN
- 12 KITCHEN PORCH
- 13 BUTLER'S PANTRY



**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

Wind Ridge
Larimer County, Colorado

Section number 7 Page 5

Access to the remainder of the house from the dining room is either through a double action door into the butler's pantry (13) and then kitchen (11), or another full lite glass door which leads into the living room (3). The living room is rectangular in plan, approximately 14 feet by 29 feet, with a moss rock fireplace on the north wall. On either side of the fireplace are built-in elements that include another wood box on the east and a small bench on the west. The hearth has a pivoting wrought iron rack to accommodate cooking. At the east end of the room, adjacent to the door from the dining room, is a built-in bench (3A) under a large window that faces east. This window seat disassembles to reveal a hidden stair to the crawl space below.

The covered porch (3) to the south is accessed through a door in the middle of the south wall. This is yet another 2¼" hardwood door with custom hardware. This single swing door leads to a small vestibule with a built-in bench. A pair of full-lite, hardwood 2¼" doors with custom hardware open to the covered porch. The porch itself is partially shielded from the prevailing westerly wind by windows, installed on the west and part of the south walls, located under the south-facing gable. The remainder of the shed-roofed porch is enclosed with screen. The porch affords views of Rocky Mountain National Park to the west.

On the west end of the living room are several doors and a built-in desk. The first door, which is another full-lite leaded glass unit, leads into the master bedroom (5). The master bedroom is a long, rectangular plan room, approximately 9 feet by 17 feet, on the southwest corner of the house. A series of large windows dominate the south wall and much of the east wall. This room has examples of period light fixtures, one of which incorporates photographic prints by the original owner. The north wall of this room is shingle, which indicates that it was added after the construction of the other rooms to the north. The exact date of this addition is unknown.

Another door leads north from the living room, up 4 steps, to a hallway. The hall (6) provides access to various bedrooms, baths and ancillary access to the kitchen. There is a series of three bedrooms (7) on the west side of the hall and two bathrooms (8) on the east side. Each bedroom has period wall mounted light fixtures. All of the bedroom doors have custom hardware including unique knockers. The hall meanders to the east past the third bedroom to provide access to yet another bedroom and bath that were added later. The room at the northern-most end of the house is a large bedroom (9), approximately 17 feet by 9 feet, which is up a short flight of stairs from the other three bedrooms. This bedroom, added in the 1940s, incorporates some contemporary items including glass block in the southwest corner and a rectangular glass block window at the stairway. There is a large outdoor, partially covered patio (10) north of this room, which is accessed by a Dutch door. The finished floor height in this room is approximately 28" above the adjacent bedrooms. In order to accommodate the continuing exterior lines of the building, primarily the north/south ridgeline, the wall plate height of this room is lower relative to the floor than are the other rooms to the south. The ceiling height is achieved by partially vaulting the ceiling against the sloped roof framing.

The bathrooms are a combination of early fixtures with some newer conveniences. The bathroom to the north was added in 1924.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Wind Ridge
Larimer County, ColoradoSection number 7 Page 6

The kitchen (11) is a combination of period elements blended with some modern amenities. The main part of the kitchen is approximately 10 feet by 20 feet. The floor is covered with period linoleum that appears to be in excellent condition. The original wood-burning stove sits along the west wall, just west of the skylight. To the north is a stainless steel counter and sink under the clerestory windows. The east end of the kitchen includes a pantry, a small dining table, a large electric stove and storage for kitchen-related items. The back of the large living room stone fireplace dominates the south wall. In the southwest corner, adjacent to the wood-burning stove, is a short stair that leads up to the hall (6) and the bedrooms and baths. To the east of the fireplace is a door leading to the butler's pantry (13) that is full of storage for dining room china and serving pieces. One door from the butler's pantry leads to the dining room, another to the living room.

There is an enclosed porch (12), approximately 7½ feet by 20 feet, directly north of the kitchen. The porch accommodates storage, refrigeration and outdoor access. The exact date of this addition is not known.

There is a series of propane and electric heaters for seasonal heat located throughout the house. A furnace was installed under the living room in 1932.

SHOP/GARAGE/MAID'S QUARTERS (1915 with later additions)**➤Exterior**

This single-story building, located east of the main house, is comprised of a series of functions that were melded together into one slightly jumbled form. Built for a variety of utilitarian uses, this building is covered with square-cut shingles and has a series of windows and doors. The garage (22) faces the main house. It has an overhead door with fixed transom lites mounted above the door. To the right of the enclosed garage are two covered carport spaces (20). The single-bay garage is beneath the gable whose asymmetrical pitch to the south covers the carports. (Photo 14) At the back end of the carports is a small, semidetached room that accommodates a small half bath referred to as the chauffeur's toilet (21). Just north across a breezeway and behind the garage are a small darkroom (24) and a small workroom (23). North of the garage and accessible from it lies the shop (25), which has an asymmetrical north-south gable with the longer slope to the east. Double doors provide access to the shop and forge from the south side of the building, east of the carports. (Photo 15) Attached to the northeast wall of the shop is a small cottage designated as the maid's quarters. The roof over this portion of the building is an asymmetrical north-south gable that covers the single bedroom portion and a screened porch to the east. (Photos 16&17) The entire roof system for this building is asphalt shingles. There is a single skylight located approximately over a closet near the darkroom.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

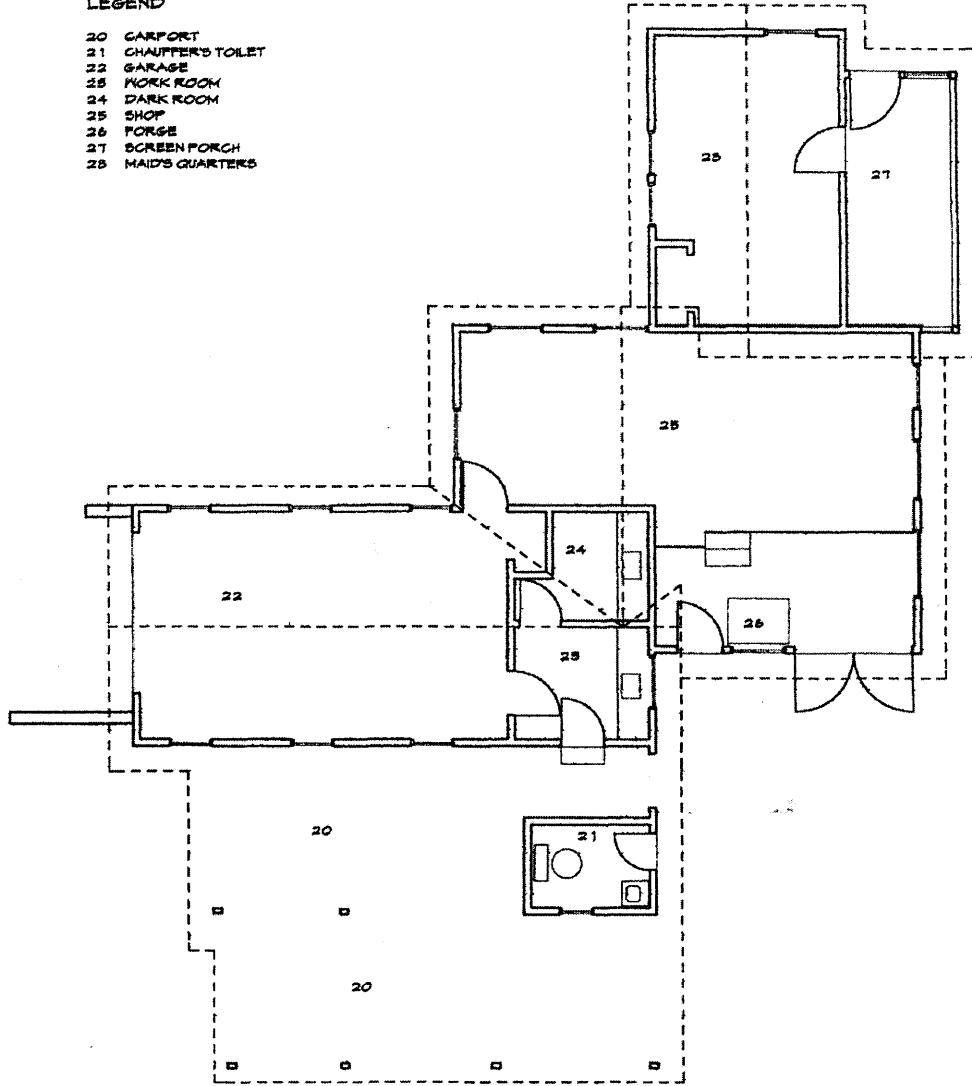
Wind Ridge
Larimer County, Colorado

Section number 7 Page 7

Shop/Garage/Maid's Quarters Floor Plan

LEGEND

- 20 GARPORT
- 21 CHAUFFER'S TOILET
- 22 GARAGE
- 23 WORK ROOM
- 24 DARK ROOM
- 25 SHOP
- 26 FORGE
- 27 SCREEN PORCH
- 28 MAID'S QUARTERS



**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

Wind Ridge
Larimer County, Colorado

Section number 7 Page 8

➤Interior

Garage (22) - The garage, built in 1915, is largely unfinished, with exposed framing, a wood floor and untrimmed windows. Through a door at the back of the garage is a small work room (23) adjacent to the darkroom (24). Both spaces are also unfinished. A door leads from this section to the breezeway under the carport. The chauffeur's toilet, located across the breezeway, was added in 1932.

Shop (25) - Access to the shop is either from the northeast corner of the garage or from the south wall, east of the darkroom. The shop, added in 1921, was originally a large rectangular room that accommodated tools, supplies, and storage. A section was added to the shop in 1924 which is located south of the original shop, just east of the darkroom. The floor of this addition is two-feet below the shop floor and accommodates a forge (26). Adjacent to the forge is a set of double, cross braced garage doors and a paneled pedestrian door. Both doors lead to the area behind (east of) the carports (20).

Maid's Quarters (27,28) - Attached to the northeast wall of the shop are the maid's quarters. This small one-room cabin (28) with a large screen porch (27) that faces east, was added in 1930. Access to the porch is from the north, and access to the single room is from the porch. The interior space is 16 feet by 10½ feet, with several double-hung divided-lite windows. The interior walls are finished with hardboard. It is apparent that at one time the room was subdivided into two equal rooms, both of which had access from the screen porch. A second door from the porch is still evident on the porch side.

BATH HOUSE (Unknown date)**➤Exterior**

The bath house (30) is located directly behind and east of the maid's quarters. It is a single room, approximately 10 by 6 feet, which accommodates a full bath. The exterior is shingled and there is a single window facing south. The gable ridge runs north/south. (Photo 18) There is no record of when this building was built.

➤Interior

The interior is comprised of a tub/shower with a monolithic enclosure, a wall-hung lavatory, a floor mounted toilet and a small enclosed water heater.

CHICKEN HOUSE (1921)

The exterior of the chicken house (40) is covered with square-cut shingles to match the other buildings. It has a single pitch shed roof. The building is located just north of the maid's quarters and is at the south end of a fenced enclosure. (Photo 19) This building was built in 1921.

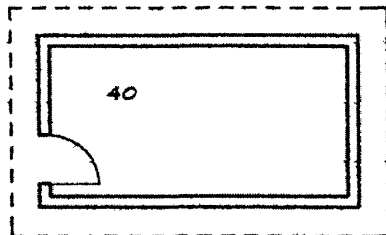
**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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

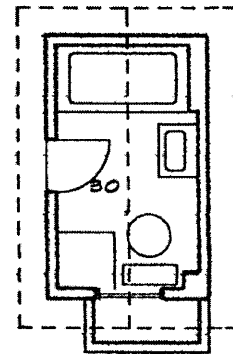
Wind Ridge
Larimer County, Colorado

Section number 7 Page 9

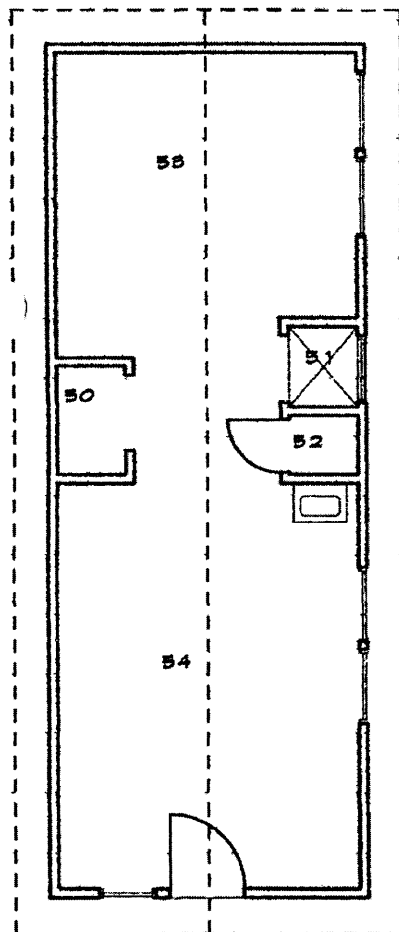
**Outbuildings
Floor Plans**



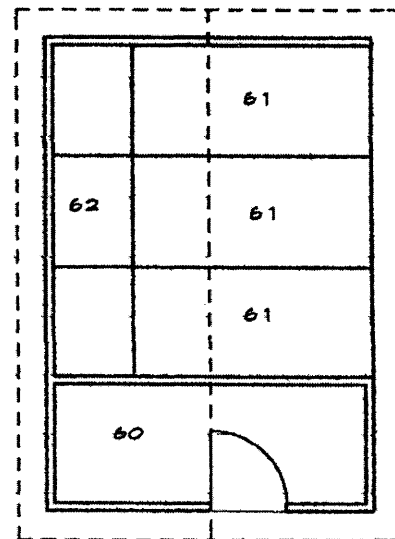
CHICKEN HOUSE



BATH HOUSE



BOYS DORM



BARN

LEGEND

- 50 BATH HOUSE
- 40 CHICKEN HOUSE
- 50 CLOSET
- 51 SHOWER
- 52 WATER HEATER CLOSET
- 53 BEDROOM
- 54 BEDROOM
- 60 TACK ROOM/STORAGE
- 61 STALL
- 62 TROUGH

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Wind Ridge
Larimer County, ColoradoSection number 7 Page 10

BOYS' DORM (1924)**➤Exterior**

The boys' dorm was built in 1924 and an addition was constructed in 1930. The exterior of the building is covered with square-cut shingles matching the other buildings. It has a side gable roof. The dorm is located just east and south of the bath house and east of the carport. There are several divided-lite windows in the east wall and one in the south wall, adjacent to the entry door. (Photo 20)

➤Interior

The interior is largely unfinished, with exposed framing and no window or door trim. The wood plank floor has been covered with carpet. The building is rectangular in plan, approximately 32 by 12 feet. Located on either side of a central north/south aisle is a closet (50), shower (51), sink and water heater closet (52). At the north and south ends are two large open areas (53, 54) for sleeping accommodations.

BARN (1924)

The exterior of the 1924 barn is the only building that is not covered with the square-cut shingles. The barn is approximately 12 by 18 feet and includes a lockable interior storage/tack room (60) at the south end, and three east facing stalls (61) to the north. At the east end of the stalls is a raised covered trough (62). The animals could access the trough from the stall, and the trough could be filled via access from the west side. The barn is located immediately adjacent to the National Park trail easement, which subdivides the property. Access to the pasture on the east is just across the trail from the barn. (Photo 21)

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Wind Ridge
Larimer County, ColoradoSection number 8 Page 11**SIGNIFICANCE**

Wind Ridge, the Estes Park summer residence of Clark and Elizabeth Blickensderfer, is eligible for the National Register under Criterion B in the area of Art for its association with Clark Blickensderfer, a prominent amateur photographer. His pictorialist or soft focus format photographs brought him national and international praise during the 1920s and early 1930s. Scenes from Rocky Mountain National Park and the surrounding area made up a significant portion of Blickensderfer's work. Wind Ridge served as a base for his photographic expeditions as well as a facility for the developing and printing of his black and white images.

The Wind Ridge complex, constructed between 1915 and 1930, is also eligible under Criterion C as a good local example of Craftsman/Rustic style architecture. A natural setting and the use of native log and stone as primary building materials characterize Rustic architecture. Designed to blend in with the natural environment, these structures are usually vacation homes, hunting lodges, dude ranches, or tourist-related facilities. Closely related to Rustic architecture, both in philosophy and popularity, is the Craftsman style. A companion of the contemporaneous Arts & Crafts Movement, an artistic movement which emphasized simplicity of design and the use of natural materials, the Craftsman architectural style emphasized low-pitched, gabled roofs with wide, unenclosed overhangs; exposed roof rafters; decorative beams or braces commonly under gables; and either full- or partial-width porches. The Craftsman house transported from its typical urban neighborhood to a rustic mountain setting easily transformed itself into a Rustic structure. The period of significance begins in 1915 with the initial construction and extends through the property's historic use to 1952, a date fifty-years-of-age in keeping with National Register criteria.

CLARK BLICKENSDERFER

In 1915, Clark Blickensderfer and wife, Elizabeth, purchased just over six acres of land from the owners of the MacGregor Ranch in Estes Park, Colorado. The parcel, which Blickensderfer named Wind Ridge, is located just east of the MacGregor Ranch property. He built a small shingled cottage that served as a summer retreat and vacation home. Over the course of his lifetime, Clark Blickensderfer developed a series of buildings on the property that today remain largely unchanged. He made frequent photographic trips from Wind Ridge into Rocky Mountain National Park and the surrounding Colorado Rockies.

Clark Blickensderfer was born in Denver in 1882. His father, Dr. James Clark Blickensderfer, was a prominent physician in Denver and a friend of David Moffat. Clark, an only child, grew up in Denver and attended old East High School. He graduated from Columbia University in New York City in 1906 with a degree in Civil Engineering. Roger Toll, a good friend and Columbia classmate, later became the superintendent of Rocky Mountain National Park. Shortly after the Rocky Mountain National Park was formed in 1915, Clark Blickensderfer allowed the park an easement through the Wind Ridge property for a trail to Gem Lake. He even installed a drinking fountain on this trail segment for the benefit of hikers.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Wind Ridge
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Clark Blickensderfer married Miss Elizabeth Walker in 1910. The Blickensderfers built a home on part of the property owned by Clark's father at 9th and Grant in Denver. The couple had four children—James Clark II, Richard Holme, Catherine Canfield, and Elizabeth.

Blickensderfer put his civil engineering training to work for the Public Service Company of Colorado. Part of his responsibilities included bringing power lines to Denver from the Shoshone Hydroelectric Plant on the Colorado River in Glenwood Canyon. He also assumed responsibility for managing his family's real estate investments.

When not engaged in engineering or financial management, Clark exercised his life-long passion for photography. He possessed two qualities well-suited to a photographer—patience and perfectionism. A self-taught amateur, he built darkrooms in his house in Denver as well as at the Wind Ridge retreat. He espoused three photographic principles: create images of a mood into which a solitary person would wish to enter; produce well-engineered photographs; and suffuse the images with beauty. Blickensderfer's vision drew him into the school of photography known as pictorialism. A desire to capture the changing light of both the Rocky Mountains and the Denver cityscape encouraged him to pursue the soft-focus, impressionist moods favored by the pictorialists.

Alfred Stieglitz and other photographers promoted pictorialism in this country around 1900. They hoped to demonstrate conclusively that photography was not a science but an art. These photographers favored soft-focus lenses and often manipulated their prints in the darkroom to produce artistic "pictures" on a par with paintings.

Blickensderfer printed the majority of his images on chloride or bromide papers. This enabled him to infuse the image of the snowy landscape with the softness of the atmosphere and to focus with clarity on wildlife habitats. He also brought his photographic skills to bear on Denver's new buildings, the prehistoric ruins of Mesa Verde and the pueblos of New Mexico.

His interests in nature led him to become a charter member of the Colorado Mountain Club. The club afforded a venue for his photographs. The Colorado Mountain Club's *Trail and Timberline* first published one of his images in 1915. The following year, the periodical published two images of the Estes Park area, including a view of Long's Peak from Clark's cottage. The Colorado Mountain Club also provided Blickensderfer with his first opportunity to publicly exhibit his photographs. The 1920 club show included several photographs of birds, a subject he pursued for many years. Clark, Robert Rockwell, a Denver business associate, and Robert Niedrack of the Denver Museum of Natural History, made numerous camping trips into Rocky Mountain National Park in search of ornithological subjects.

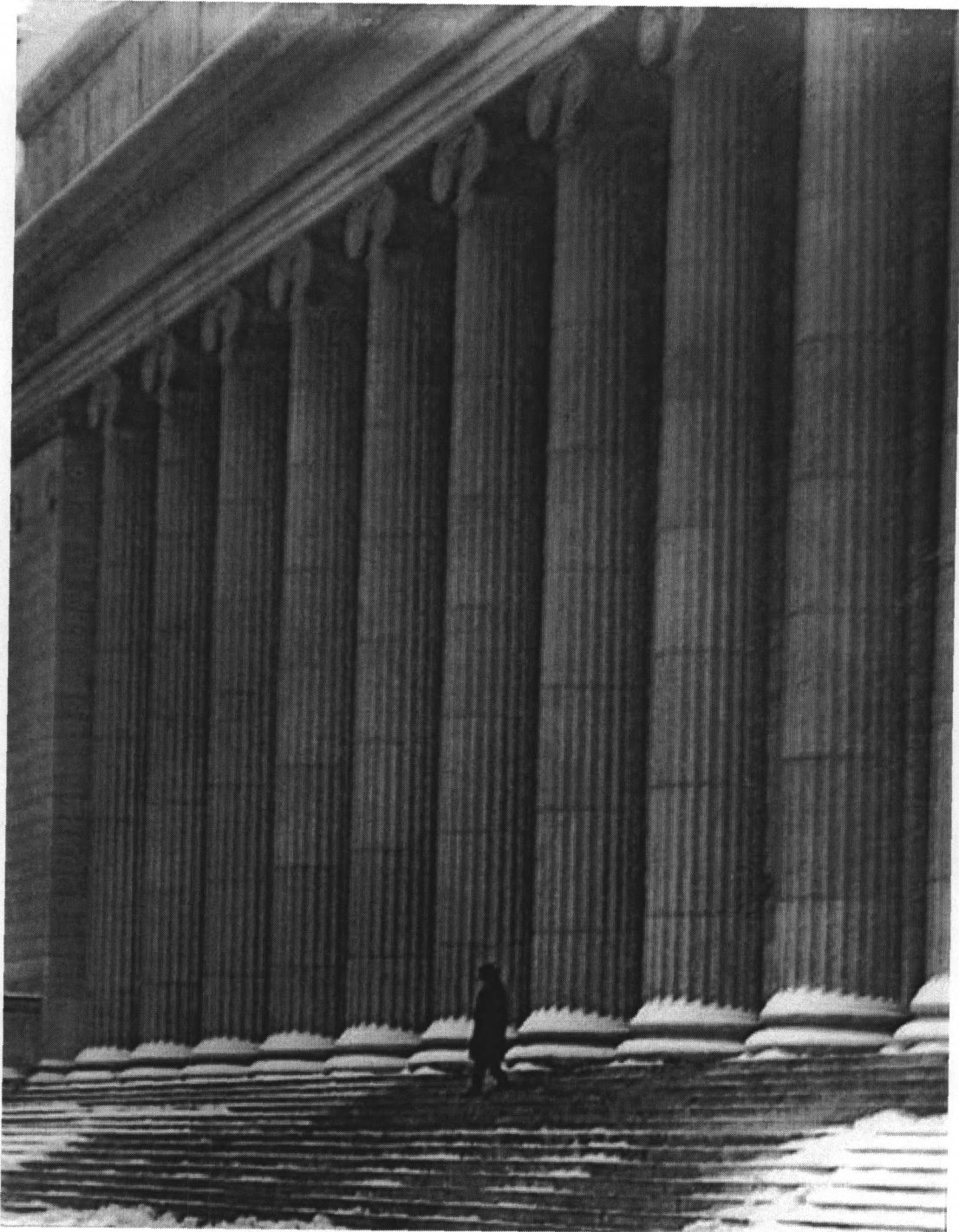
In 1922, at the instigation of George Eggers, director of the Denver Art Museum, the Denver Camera Club was formed as an allied group to the museum. Eggers recalled that, "previous to that time, the only Colorado pictorial photographer known internationally was Mr. Clark Blickensderfer, president of the organization."

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Snow and Marble

Clark Blickensderfer photograph of the Post Office Building in Denver, circa 1925
Source: Western History and Genealogy Department, Denver Public Library

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In 1923, Blickensderfer's "Winter Shadows" was accepted in both the International Exhibition of the London Salon of Photography and the Thirty-second Annual Salon of Photography of the Toronto Camera Club. In the same year, he participated in New York at the International Salon of the Pictorial Photographers of America (PPA). By 1925 he was regional vice president of the New York-based PPA. The organization formed in 1915 to promote the tenants of pictorialism through publications and touring exhibitions. The PPA welcomed serious amateurs as well as professional photographers. Blickensderfer found in the PPA an outlet for the exhibition of his work and a congenial group of colleagues to share his interests. In 1927 the Camera Club of New York staged a one-man Blickensderfer show. In December the prints traveled on to be exhibited at the Chicago Camera Club. From 1924 through 1935 he participated in photographic shows in Paris, London, Toronto, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Pittsburgh, Chicago, Omaha and, of course, Denver.

In the late 1920s Blickensderfer's interest in salon photographs waned. He turned instead to 4 in. by 5 in. color lantern slides. His sharp, crisp, sunlit colored wildflowers stood in marked contrast to his earlier black and white photographs. Still later he switched to the new 35mm photograph technology with which he shot highly saturated Kodachrome slides. Until a few years before his death in 1962 he continued to experiment with new photographic techniques.

Clark Blickensderfer's photographs remain as fresh and evocative as when he created them. In addition to private collections, his images are in the permanent collections of the Colorado Historical Society and the Denver Public Library.

RUSTIC ARCHITECTURE

The Wind Ridge complex exhibits many defining characteristics of the Rustic and Craftman styles. Rustic style architecture emphasizes the use of native stone, particularly in foundations and chimneys, local logs or rough-cut boards, wood shingle roofs, and divided light windows opening to spectacular mountain views. Windows were most often wood framed and double-hung with multi-lites, sometimes employing only a divided upper sash. The Rustic style traces its roots to the earlier and cruder pioneer log cabin. The Rustic style civilized the log cabin by employing higher quality craftsmanship to milled and manufactured materials. The style gained popularity in the early twentieth century, particularly in national and state parks, as mountain lodges, and for lake-side retreats.

The contemporaneous Craftsman architectural style emphasized low-pitched, gabled roofs with wide, unenclosed overhangs, exposed roof rafters and decorative beams or braces commonly in the gables, and either full- or partial-width porches. Among the most distinctive features of the style are the junctions where the roof joins the wall, which are almost never boxed or enclosed. The roof has a wide overhang. Along the horizontal eaves the actual rafter ends are exposed, or false rafter ends are added. These are sometimes cut into decorative shapes. Along the sloping, or rake, eaves, three or more beams or purlins (usually false) extend through the wall to the roof edge. These are either plain or embellished by a triangular knee brace. The most common wall cladding is wood clapboard; wood shingles rank second. Windows are often of double-hung design with a multi-lite upper sash.

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The Wind Ridge house and outbuildings exhibit many of the defining characteristics of the Rustic/Craftsman style. These include the exaggerated eaves supported by cantilevered beams and knee braces, the square cut shingle siding, and the multi-lite windows. The exposed chimneys are of native granite quarried from the surrounding area. The exterior terrace north of the master bedroom consists of a simple sandstone paving and wall system which blends perfectly with the surroundings. The interiors of the buildings are mostly comprised of original finish, wooden materials, in near-new condition. Many of the furnishing and fixtures are original as well.

Despite its age, the entire complex is in remarkably good condition. Both the exterior and interior have been well cared for and are almost perfectly preserved in the original style. The buildings nestle compatibly among mature pines in a mountain setting Clark Blickensderfer sought to preserve both physically and photographically.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred Knopf, 1990.

Witthus, Rutherford, W. *Blickensderfer: Images of the West*. Evergreen, Colo.: Cordillera Press, Inc. 1986.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Parcel # 25183-00-003 in Larimer County, Colorado, encompassing 6.7 acres. More specifically described as:

COM AT A PT WH SW COR 18-5-72 IS W 663 FT & S 20 FT, N 310 FT, E 828 FT, S 310 FT, W 828 FT TPOB; ALSO COM AT PT WH SW COR 18-5-72 IS W 663 FT & S 330 FT, E 485.3 FT, N 65 10' W 214.3 FT, W 290.8 FT, S 90 FT TPOB.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nomination includes all the land historically associated with Wind Ridge.

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PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information pertains to photograph numbers 1- 21:

Name of Property: Wind Ridge
 Location: Estes Park vicinity, Larimer County
 Photographer: Richard Ashe
 Date of Photograph: September 2001
 Negative: Possession of photographer

Photo No. Photographic Information

- 1 Trail easement through property, just east of the barn; view to the north.
- 2 Main house, south elevation; view to the northeast.
- 3 Main house, eave detail; view to the northwest.
- 4 Main house, gable detail over dining room at east elevation; view to the north.
- 5 Main house, south elevation gable at glassed-in front porch; view to the north.
- 6 Main house, south elevation gable detail at front porch; view to the north.
- 7 Main house, east elevation open porch access to screen porch; view to the south.
- 8 Main house, north elevation, dining room fireplace and wood box; view to the south.
- 9 Main house, north elevation, dining room and kitchen, including skylight; view to the south.
- 10 Main house, east and north elevations, bedroom addition with partially covered patio at north end; view to the southwest.
- 11 Main house, north elevation, close-up of partially covered patio; view to the southwest.
- 12 Main house, west elevation, showing variation of eave depth and cantilevered gable end; view to the northeast.
- 13 Main house, west elevation, close-up of gable end with master bedroom shed-roofed addition; view to the southeast.
- 14 Garage and maid's quarters, carports at west end; view to the south.
- 15 Garage and maid's quarters, showing shop access doors, breezeway access and part of door to chauffeur's toilet; view to the northwest.
- 16 Garage and maid's quarters; view to the southeast.
- 17 Garage and maid's quarters; view to the south.
- 18 Bath house; view to the southeast.
- 19 Chicken house; view to the east.
- 20 Boy's dorm; south and west elevations; view to the northeast
- 21 Barn, east elevation showing three stalls; view to the west.

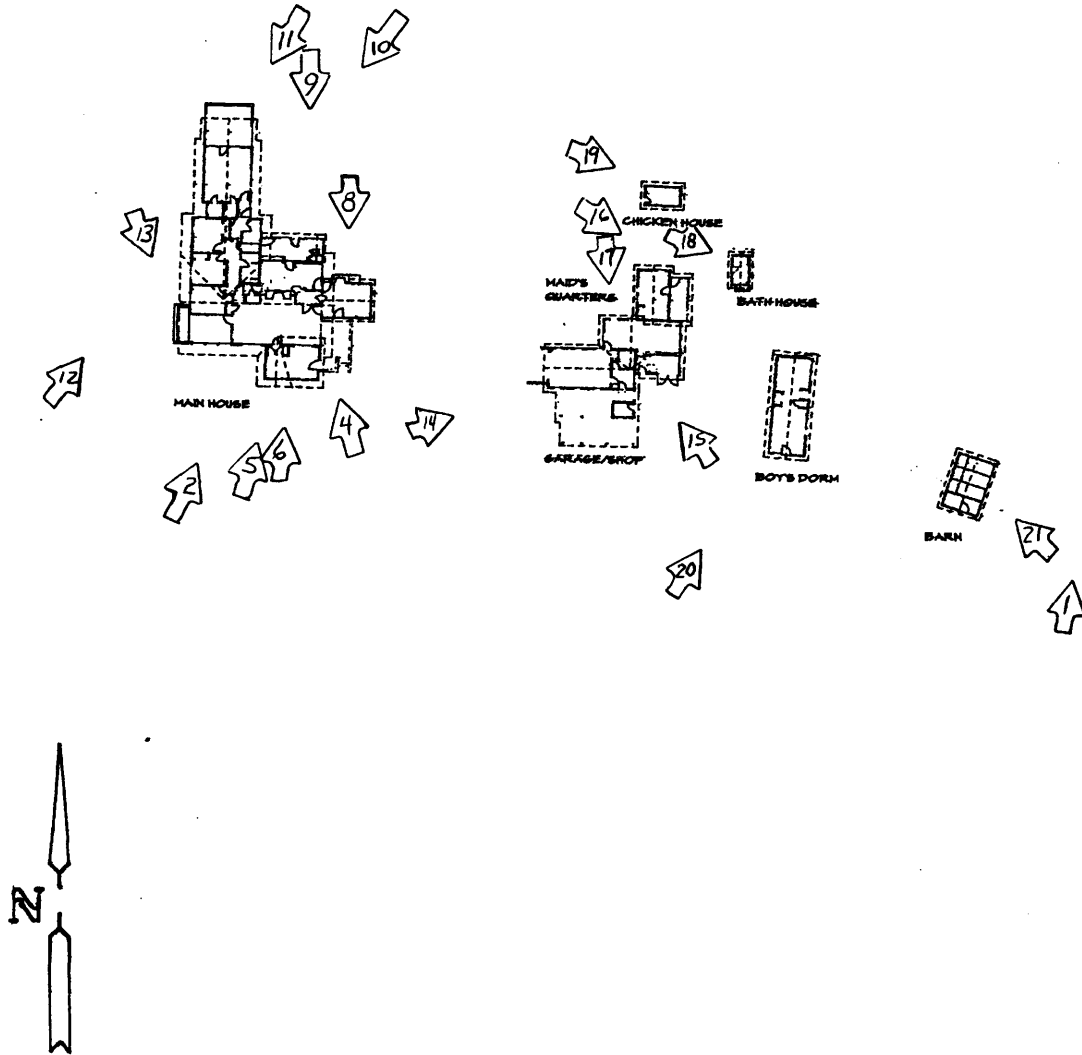
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SITE PLAN WITH PHOTOGRAPHIC VIEWS



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USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
Estes Park Quadrangle, Colorado
7.5 Minute Series, 1976

