

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section _____ Page _____

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 06001185

Date Listed: 12/28/2006


B-K Ranch
Property Name

Gallatin
County

MT
State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.



Signature of the Keeper

12/28/06

Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Significance:

The period of significance is revised to read: 1927—1950.

[While the B—K Ranch operated on the former homestead property of Clarence Lytle, there are no extant resources directly associated with the earlier 1915 ranching period, except for open grazing lands and possibly some historic fencing. The ability of the extant resources to convey the character of the homesteading period is limited, at best. The current resources almost totally convey the later, post-1927 period of dude ranching operation.]

For similar reasons, the areas of significance for *Exploration/Settlement* and *Agriculture* are deleted. [Little evidence is left of the original homesteading period on the property. The current property instead conveys the character and historic resources associated with the use of the ranch as a recreational dude ranch.]

These clarifications were confirmed with the MT SHPO office.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: B—K Ranch (B Bar K Ranch)
other name/site number: Lone Mountain Ranch; Clarence Lytle Homestead

2. Location

street & number: 750 Lone Mountain Ranch Road not for publication: n/a
city/town: Big Sky vicinity: n/a
state: Montana code: MT county: Gallatin code: 031 zip code: 59716

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.
Signature of certifying official/Title: Mark F. [unclear] / SAPO Date: November 13, 2006
Montana State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency or bureau (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this 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 see continuation sheet
 removed from the National Register see continuation sheet
 other (explain): _____
Signature of the Keeper: [Signature] Date of Action: 12/20/2006

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private
 Category of Property: District
 Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: na
 Name of related multiple property listing: na

Number of Resources within Property	
Contributing	Noncontributing
9	6 building(s)
4	0 sites
6	1 structures
0	0 objects
19	7 TOTAL

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:
 DOMESTIC/single dwelling
 DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling
 DOMESTIC/secondary structure
 DOMESTIC/institutional housing
 DOMESTIC/camp
 COMMERCE/TRADE/restaurant
 RECREATION/CULTURE/outdoor recreation
 AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural field;
 agricultural outbuilding; irrigation facility
 LANDSCAPE/ unoccupied land; natural feature
 TRANSPORTATION/water-related; road-related;
 pedestrian-related

Current Functions:
 DOMESTIC/single dwelling
 DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling
 DOMESTIC/secondary structure
 DOMESTIC/institutional housing
 DOMESTIC/camp
 COMMERCE/TRADE/restaurant
 RECREATION/CULTURE/outdoor recreation
 AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural field;
 agricultural outbuilding; irrigation facility
 LANDSCAPE/ unoccupied land; natural feature
 TRANSPORTATION/water-related; road-related;
 pedestrian-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification:
 OTHER/Rustic

Materials:
foundation: STONE/CONCRETE
walls: LOG, STONE, WOOD
roof: WOOD, ASPHALT, METAL
other: METAL

Narrative Description

Midway down the rugged Gallatin Canyon in southwestern Montana lays the small, open valley of the wildly beautiful West Gallatin River's West Fork. The stream, which flows down from the Lone Mountain area, meanders through fine sagebrush meadowlands, where the resort development of Big Sky has grown in earnest since the early 1970s. Here, in what historian Michael Malone has called "the canyon's most strategic area," the B—K (B Bar K) Ranch developed during the early decades of the twentieth century.¹

Now known as the Lone Mountain Ranch, the historic property in question is located in Section 26, Township 6 South, Range 3 East, between Big Sky's Meadow Village and Lone Mountain Ski Resort. Featuring a diverse assortment of historic resources dating from the c. 1927 period, the ranch complex is nestled in a forested draw along the narrow northerly branch of the Gallatin's West Fork. Directly to the north are Bear Basin and the 10,700-foot Wilson Peak in the Spanish Peaks Wilderness Area, which serves as a rugged and breathtaking backdrop for the facility. To the south lies the Madison Range and Yellowstone National Park and, to the west, the isolated and impressive Lone Mountain. To the east roughly five miles downstream lies the scenic Gallatin Canyon and U.S. Highway 191, which winds through clefted meadows and colorful rock outcroppings, southward some 40 miles to Yellowstone Park and northward some 40 miles to Bozeman, Montana.

See continuation sheet page 1

¹Michael P. Malone, "The Gallatin Canyon and the Tides of History," *Montana: The Magazine of Western History* 23 (Summer 1973): 2.

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The B—K Ranch historic district is comprised primarily of rustic log and log and stone buildings, as well as related sites, structures, and objects clustered around a central landscaped common area. While some site features date to 1915, the majority date from 1927. Buildings are typically constructed of logs felled in the nearby forest. Indigenous stone locally quarried is commonly utilized for foundations and fireplaces.

Remnants of the original Clarence Lytle Homestead, including historic irrigation ditches, a spring house, fence lines, and horse trails attest to the sites history as an agricultural complex. Additional historic sites, including a gravel road entrance, a log dining lodge, several double log cabins, and two substantial hilltop log residences, surround an open common area and speak to the property's later development as a guest ranch for tourists during the 1927-1950 period.

Non-contributing structures, including a modified historic barn, a modern dining room/saloon, and a handful of non-historic cabins are interspersed occasionally throughout the district. However, these non-contributing resources are primarily made of logs and possess other character-defining features which visually relate them to the historic fabric of the district. These buildings, while of non-historic age, are consistent with the historic uses and functions of the ranch and speak to the Ranch's ongoing role as a popular tourist destination. Lastly, in terms of siting, these non-historic structures follow established historic precedents within the district, blending in with the planned layout of the ranch around the North Fork River and the ranch's central common area. For all of these reasons, these non-historic site features are generally unobtrusive and do not significantly impact the property's historic integrity in terms of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

On the whole, these historic buildings and structures, centered within a largely undeveloped expanse of private land on the southern edge of the Spanish Peaks Wilderness Area, convey the ranch's continuing important role in a recreational movement that helped define western culture as a critical element of our national heritage.

The Original B—K Ranch:

Detailed narrative descriptions of the B—K Ranch testify to its original glory. In a 1946 letter to her mother, Frances Smith, whose husband Ed later became Ranch foreman, described the B—K's setting and architectural character in detail, reporting that:

The cabins are built in a small mountain park, or open place, which slopes up to the forest. The uppermost cabin belonged to the lady herself (Florence Kilbourne) and is reached by a flagstone step-path. The cabin just below and a bit to one side was built for her parents, now dead. Next down is the lodge (now renamed the B—K), one huge room with a kitchen adjoining. Next two beautiful double cabins . . . Then below those was the barn, saddle shop, corrals, and cowboy's cabin. Also there were some smaller cabins, bathhouse (sic) and store house. You come into the corrals and look up at all of this.³

Although typically equipped with modern conveniences, most of the newer structures built by the Butler-Kilbourne family were intentionally given a rustic appearance typically found at area dude ranches. According to the Madison County Historical Association, the logs on both Butler Ranches "were built by the same carpenters." Under the direction of Lee Smith, who bossed the logging crews, native lodgepole pines were cut down, wrapped in burlap for protection, and hauled out of the neighboring woods by draft horses. The peeled logs were "washed three times with soap and water," and then "stained and finished with oil and varnish." The doors hinges and locks, as well as tables and chairs, were all hand crafted. Historic photos document that all of the buildings originally had sod roofs planted with wildflowers.⁴

Florence Kilbourne, who according to Frances Smith, "was the only child of a multi-millionaire," with "no children of her own," thoughtfully decorated interiors of the ranch houses, cabins, and lodge. Consequently Kilbourne "spent all her time fixing up this ranch, traveling around finding just the right furnishings, and whenever she found something just a little bit better she would buy it." According to Smith's 1946 description of the ranch:

³Frances Smith, Moose Wyoming, to _____, 21 September 1946, 1, typed transcript in the possession of Bob and Vivian Schaap, Bozeman, Montana.

⁴("Dude Ranching . . ." 1983, 832) Additional information was gathered from "Lone Mountain Ranch--Discovery is in Our Nature: 1915-2002," a promotional PowerPoint presentation developed by Nancy Norlander.

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All the cabins are furnished in luxurious things. Ours had a large fireplace, two dressers with huge mirrors in hickory frames, a desk, rustic hickory chairs and beds. The beds had the finest in mattresses with two Hudson Bay blankets, and eiderdown quilt and a \$75 Navajo (sic) spread to each bed. Three Navajo rugs on the floor and five Navajo pillows on the chairs. A bearskin rug hung over the beds . . . The was fine Indian beadwork on the walls, and a large closet stocked with more Hudson Bays. Of course we had a bathroom supplied with everything from hot water to shower caps. The scarves on the dressers were Navajo too, and the candleholders on each dresser held four candles apiece. Also had two kerosene lamps and two wall lamps run by battery. The shade pulls were arrowheads. Now this was just a guest cabin.⁵

Obviously taken with her surroundings, Frances Smith went on to describe the far more elaborate Butler and Kilbourne residences, which she visited during her 1946 tour of the B—K Ranch. The private houses, she noted, "(did) not compare" to the guest cabins:

They were filled with priceless things. One of the Navajo rugs had taken dozens of prizes at fairs, and was worth a thousand dollars, but it was not on the wall, as one might expect, but on the floor to walk on. Two Grizzly cubs held ashtrays by the armchairs, and out on the porch was a fine bearskin rug, and a valuable Mexican Indian spread on the porch swing. Some valuable glassware, too, worth a great deal and should be in a museum.⁶

DESCRIPTION OF RESOURCES (Resource numbers correspond to site map numbers)

Buildings

Ranch Foreman Cabin aka Meadowlark Cabin (Building No. 1; Photo No. 2, one contributing building):

The building was built in 1927 by the Butler-Kilbourne families and served as the home of the ranch foreman. In more recent years it has served as a guest cabin, known as the Meadowlark Cabin. Facing southeast toward Lone Mountain in the distance, it is located immediately to the east of the main ranch roadway, near the place where the gravel roadway enters the historic district. A landscaped lawn, accented by mature conifers, surrounds the residence.

This well-preserved, one-story log building with a square plan is constructed of round peeled logs that are stained amber brown. The interstices are filled with amber-brown cementous daubing. All corners are joined by saddle notching and have sawed ends that extend beyond the joints. The cabin sits on concrete foundation.

The gable roof structure of the main wing of the building is supported by log ridgepoles and purlins and is now clad with wood shakes. Historic photos illustrate that the original cabin, and virtually all of the structures at the B—K Ranch originally featured sod roofs planted with wildflowers.⁷ Eaves extend over the walls and sawn log abutting rafters as well as purlin and ridgepole ends are exposed. The soffit displays beveled shiplap. A large interior stone chimney protrudes about five feet above the gable roof ridge near center of the building. The chimney is offset on the east side of the roof ridgeline. Near the back of the house a smaller metal chimney projects from the west side of the ridgeline.

The main entrance to the cabin is located on the southwest elevation and is approached from an open porch, which is accessed from the south, and spans the entire width of the cabin. This porch sits under the main gable roof, which is supported by vertical log posts. A simple log wall comprised of four logs about three feet in height spans the width of the porch helps to define the space from the front wall of the cabin. The porch has an open ceiling with exposed ridgepole and purlins. Exposed log rafters clad the porch ceiling and wood planking covers the floor. The porch opening is centrally located on the front façade but the main door to the house—made of sawn wood and featuring wrought iron hardware—is offset to the left. There is a one-by-one sliding window framed in sawn wood and a small, non-historic porch light with Craftsman detailing is to the right of the main entrance. A porch swing exists on the right hand

⁵(Smith 1946, 2) Many of the mirrors, desks, dressers, and chairs described by Smith remain at the Lone Mountain Ranch. Some of the pieces comprising Florence Kilbourne's Indian artifact collection are now displayed in the dining room at Lone Mountain Ranch. Some of the old Navajo rugs can be seen behind glass at the old Huntley Lodge at Big Sky.

⁶(Ibid., 2)

⁷Bob and Vivian Schaap Interview, 7-1-2004, Lone Mountain Ranch, near Big Sky, Montana, interviewed by the author, tape recording in possession of the author, Bozeman, Montana. According to the Schaap Family the original sod roofs were removed by the Big Sky Corporation during the 1970s.

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side of the porch. Elk antlers decorate the main ridgepole on the front elevation. A historic fieldstone pathway extends downward from the porch area to railroad tie steps, which lead to the main gravel roadway.

The northwest and northeast elevations feature simple, centrally located one-by-one sliding windows. The southeast elevation has a similar window, which is offset slightly to the right. All windows are framed in sawed wood.

The Ranch Foreman/Meadowlark Cabin is a contributing building within the historic district.

B—K Barn/Outdoor Shop (Building No. 2; Photo No. 3 one non-contributing building):

The B—K Ranch Barn was likely constructed about 1927, the year the Butler-Kilbourne families acquired the Clarence Lytle Homestead. Historic photographs document that this was originally it was a flat roof building with a sod roof and a rectangular plan. During the 1970s, a large, steeply pitched two-story gable roof addition was added, when the property was under the ownership of the Big Sky Corporation, detracting from its historic integrity.⁸ Nonetheless, the main floor of the building is in great shape and retains a great deal of historic integrity. It is constructed of log in much the same way as the other historic log structures on site. The ground level retains most of its original character and appearance. It is constructed of round peeled logs that are stained amber brown. The interstices are filled with amber-brown cementous daubing. All corners are joined by saddle notching and have sawed ends that extend beyond the joints. The barn sits on concrete foundation. The building continues to stand in its historic location, in close proximity to the corral complex and just to the west of the ranch's main entrance.

The barns modern gable roof addition is supported by log ridgepoles and purlins and is now clad with wood shakes. Eaves extend over the walls and sawn log abutting rafters as well as purlin and ridgepole ends are exposed. The soffit displays exposed wood planks. A centrally located metal chimney projects from the ridgeline.

The east elevation features a centrally located main entrance that is flanked on either side by identical banks of three 2/3 divided light fixed windows below with three 2/2 divided light fixed windows above. These banks of windows feature decorative flower boxes underneath. On the second level, a large projecting non-historic deck dominates the east elevation. The deck is accessed in two way—from the inside, via doors from the second level, and from the outside, via stairs leading to the north. Moving from left (south) to right (north) the second level features a 2/3 casement window and then a wooden door with divided light panes. To the right (north) of the door exists a bank of four 2/3 divided light casement windows and then two doors with 3/3 divided light windows side by side. To the far left, another 2/3 divided light casement window. The gable end features decorative shingles and four 2/3 divided light casement windows that are centrally located.

Moving from the left (east) to the right (west) the lower level of the building's north elevation features there is a large plank door with wrought-iron hardware and "B—K" carved in it. Further to the west a large horizontal fixed window and another door opening framed in wood. Just adjacent to that is another original door with wrought iron detailing accessing the lower portion of the building. A glass display is fixed to the wall to the west. Moving farther to the right there is another fixed horizontal window. Flower boxes are found under each of the horizontal windows on this elevation. The roof with no dormers or skylights dominates the upper levels of the north elevation.

Starting from the left (north) and moving to the right (south), the lower level of the barn's west elevation features an original door similar to those found on the north elevation and then a large centrally located bank of nine 2/3 divided light fixed windows like those found on the front elevation. Unlike the front elevation, however, these windows are above the 2/2 divided light fixed windows below. Farther to the right there is a modern rectangular plate glass fixed window. Two wooden benches are also located on this elevation. On the second story another large deck—similar in construction to that on the front elevation—projects outward to the west and is access by exterior stairs. Moving from the left (north), one finds another wooden door with a 3/3 divided light fixed window and a bank of three 2/3-casement windows similar to those found on the front elevation. Further to the south, two more doors with a 3/3-divided light windows are located. To the far south another 2/3 casement window is present. An the gable end, looking identical to the front elevation, there exists a bank of four 2/3 casement windows that are centrally located.

⁸For additional information related to changes made by the Big Sky Corporation see (Bob and Vivian Schaap Interview)

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On the south elevation, moving from the left (west) to the right (east) a door opening exists about a third of the way in. The top half of the wooden door is a 3/3 divided light window. Centrally located is another historic door with wrought iron detailing and then about five feet to the right (east) another original door opening.

Although this structure has been modified considerably, and its size is quite large, it does not represent an extremely intrusive element in the district. Several character-defining features, including its log construction, its projecting decks, its roof system, as well as its peripheral location, function, and use, make its appearance is somewhat similar to the that of the historic buildings found in the district.

The B—K Barn/Outdoor Shop is a non-contributing structure due to the large gable-roofed addition that was added in the 1970s.

Guest Duplex #1 aka Canyon/Lame Deer Cabins (Building No. 3; Photo No. 4, one contributing building):

Following the acquisition of the Homestead by the Butler/Kilbourne Families in 1927, the ranch was changed from strictly a working ranch to a vacation destination for guests of the Butler/Kilbourne Family. Sparing no expense the Butler/Kilbourne families spent \$110,000 to improve their newly acquired property. Several new structures were constructed, including two guest duplexes, three single cabins, the B—K lodge, and two principle residences for members of each family.⁹

Intended as a "summer playground" for the Butler/Kilbourne Family and their affluent eastern guests, these early guest quarters were intentionally sited in a manner consistent with many other earlier dude ranch operations in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Because the primary buildings of virtually all dude ranch complexes in the area were constructed of native materials—typically log—they needed to "be spaced far enough apart to eliminate hazard if one caught fire, and yet close enough for ease in getting around the ranch," according to historian Lawrence Borne. In this instance, they were logically spaced near the north fork of the West Fork of the West Gallatin River and around a planned common area that served as a locus of activity at the ranch during the warmer months. The organized spacing enhanced the sensory experiences of guests as well as the communal nature of the ranch, while simultaneously facilitating firefighting.¹⁰

Located along the North Fork of the West Fork of the West Gallatin River just northwest of the barn/outdoor shop is Guest Duplex #1. Guest Duplex Cabin #1 is a T-shaped log building constructed of round peeled logs that are stained amber brown. The interstices are filled with amber-colored cementous daubing. All corners are joined by saddle notching and have sawed ends that extend beyond the joints. The well-preserved duplex sits on a concrete foundation.

The north-south ridgeline of the building's gable roof structure is supported by log ridgepoles and purlins and is clad with wood shakes. Eaves extend over the walls and sawn log purlins and ridgepole ends are exposed. The soffit displays beveled shiplap. A tall stone chimney, perhaps six feet in height, projects from the main ridgeline of the building. On the rear gable addition another smaller stone chimney is also present.

Facing the ranch's common area to the east, each of the two units comprising the duplex has its own entrance, which is approached from a centrally located open porch that extends across the entire width of the front elevation. The porch is accessed via two log steps coming from the south. The porch sits under a shed roof, which is supported by log purlins and four vertical log posts. No porch railing or porch wall is present. The porch rests approximately one-and-one-half feet above the ground on concrete piers, and has an open ceiling with exposed purlins. Logs cut in half covered with wooden planks comprise the porch floor. The duplex is divided in half by a log wall that is evident by the sawn log ends that project slightly from the middle of the front and rear elevations. Front doors for each of the individual duplex units are located to the far left (south) and far right (north) of the front elevation. 2' x 2' plate glass fixed windows framed in wood are located immediately adjacent to the doors—one on the right and one on the left. Porch benches are also present.

The north elevation contains a centrally located 3/2 divided light fixed window framed in wood with a screen. Elk antlers decorate the window. On the northern wall of the projecting gable addition to the west, there is a centrally located one-by-one rectangular sliding window framed in wood.

⁹("Dude Ranching on the Madison" 1983, 832-33) Additional information was gathered from Vivian Schaap, "History of B—K/Lone Mountain Ranch," [photocopy], September 25, 1996, in the possession of Bob and Vivian Schaap. See also (Cronin and Vick 1992, 200-201 and 141),

¹⁰(Borne 1983, 122-23)

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The west elevation is dominated by a projecting gable addition. The addition itself has no windows facing west, but the projecting secondary stone chimney is clearly evident on the addition's southern side.

On the south side of the gable addition there is a centrally located one-by-one rectangular sliding window framed in wood.

A prominent footpath extends from the front steps to the barn area along the western and southern boundary of the common area is obvious.

Guest Duplex Cabin #1 is a contributing element of the district.

Guest Duplex #2 aka Cougar/Blackbear Cabins (Building No. 4; Photo No.5, one contributing building):

Located immediately north of Guest Duplex #1, and virtually identical to Guest Duplex #1, Guest Duplex Cabin #2 is a T-shaped log building constructed of round peeled logs that are stained amber brown. The interstices are filled with amber-colored cementous daubing. All corners are joined by saddle notching and have sawed ends that extend beyond the joints. The well-preserved duplex sits on a concrete foundation.

The north-south ridgeline of the building's gable roof structure is supported by log ridgepoles and purlins and is clad with wood shakes. Eaves extend over the walls and sawn log purlins and ridgepole ends are exposed. The soffit displays beveled shiplap. A tall stone chimney, perhaps six feet in height, projects from the main ridgeline of the building. On the rear gable addition another smaller stone chimney is also present.

Facing the ranch's common area to the east, each of the two units comprising the duplex has its own entrance, which is approached from a centrally located open porch that extends across the entire width of the front elevation. The porch is accessed via two log steps coming from the south. The porch sits under a shed roof, which is supported by log purlins and four vertical log posts. No porch railing or porch wall is present. The porch rests approximately one-and-one-half feet above the ground on concrete piers, and has an open ceiling with exposed purlins. Logs cut in half covered with wooden planks comprise the porch floor. The duplex is divided in half by a log wall that is evident by the sawn log ends that project slightly from the middle of the front and rear elevations. Front doors for each of the individual duplex units are located to the far left (south) and far right (north) of the front elevation. 2' x 2' plate glass fixed windows framed in wood are located immediately adjacent to the doors—one on the right and one on the left. Porch benches are also present.

The north elevation contains a centrally located 3/2 divided light fixed window framed in wood with a screen. Elk antlers decorate the window. On the northern wall of the projecting gable addition to the west, there is a centrally located one-by-one rectangular sliding window framed in wood.

The west elevation is dominated by a projecting gable addition. The addition itself has no windows facing west, but the projecting secondary stone chimney is clearly evident on the addition's northern side.

On the south side of the gable addition there is a centrally located one-by-one rectangular sliding window framed in wood.

A prominent footpath extends from the front steps to the barn area along the western and southern boundary of the common area is obvious.

Guest Duplex Cabin #2 is a contributing building within the district.

Cooks Cabin/Chipmunk Cabin (Building No. 5; Photo No. 6 one contributing building):

Located slightly northwest of Guest Duplex #2, immediately across and adjacent to the North Fork of the West Fork of the West Gallatin are the Chipmunk and Porcupine Cabins, which were likely constructed in 1927 and originally served as the Cooks Cabin and the Ice House for the B—K Ranch. Like the other log structures within the district, this smaller single cabin with a square plan is constructed of round peeled logs that are stained amber brown. The interstices are filled with amber-colored cementous daubing. All corners are joined by saddle notching and have sawed ends that extend beyond the joints. The cabin sits on a concrete foundation.

The well-preserved cabin features a projecting gable roof supported by log ridgepoles and purlins and is clad with wood shakes. Eaves extend over the walls and sawn log abutting rafters as well as purlin and ridgepole ends are exposed. The soffit displays beveled

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shiplap. The chimney is offset on the east side of the roof ridgeline. Near the back of the house a smaller metal chimney projects from the west side of the ridgeline.

The front (northeast) elevation features a centrally located wood plank door. Immediately to the left is a small Craftsman style light, which is probably not original to the structure. The projecting gable end creates an open-air porch like area. A wood plank deck connects Chipmunk with Porcupine and extends out approximately 12' from either building.

On the southeast elevation there is a centrally located bank of four 2/3 divided light windows. The two windows in the center are fixed, but the two on either end of the bank are casement.

On the southwest elevation of Chipmunk a small, 4' x 8' wood frame addition is present. A centrally located one-by-one sliding window is present. On the northwest elevation no windows are present. However, a large wood storage area is present between the projecting logs at the corner ends.

The Cooks Cabin/Chipmunk Cabin is a contributing element of the district.

Ice House/Porcupine Cabin (Building No. 6; Photo No. 7, one contributing building):

Immediately north of and very similar in character to the Chipmunk Cabin, the Porcupine Cabin was originally the Ice House at the B—K Ranch. Like the other log structures within the district, this smaller single cabin with a square plan is constructed of round peeled logs that are stained amber brown. The interstices are filled with amber-colored cementous daubing. All corners are joined by saddle notching and have sawed ends that extend beyond the joints. The cabin sits on a concrete foundation.

The well-preserved cabin features a projecting gable roof supported by log ridgepoles and purlins and is clad with wood shakes. Eaves extend over the walls and sawn log abutting rafters as well as purlin and ridgepole ends are exposed. The soffit displays beveled shiplap. The chimney is offset on the east side of the roof ridgeline. Near the back of the house a smaller metal chimney projects from the west side of the ridgeline.

The front (southeast) elevation features a centrally located wood plank door. Immediately to the left is a small Craftsman style light, which is probably not original to the structure. The projecting gable end creates an open-air porch like area. A wood plank deck connects Chipmunk with Porcupine and extends out approximately 12' from either building.

On the northeast elevation there are two a centrally located 3/2 divided light sliding windows covered by a screen. A historic log addition similar in character to the rest of the building extends the cabin to the northwest. A centrally located fixed rectangular window is present. On the southwest elevation there are two a centrally located 3/2 divided light sliding windows covered by a screen.

The Ice House/Porcupine Cabin is a contributing building within the district.

B—K Ranch Main Lodge/B—K Cabin (Building #7; Photo No. 8, one contributing building)

Directly east of the Chipmunk and Porcupine Cabins and immediately east of the North Fork River, the B—K Ranch Main Lodge was constructed in 1927 as the centerpiece of the original B—K Ranch. As was the case with most planned guest ranch operations, the main lodge immediately became the Ranch's "prime feature" and focal point of tourist activity. According to historian Lawrence R. Bourne, central lodges typically featured one or more fireplaces, which provided heat and atmosphere simultaneously. Central lodges also contained "three or four large rooms for lounging, square dancing, other recreation, and eating, unless a separate building housing the dining room." Kitchens, food storage, and refrigeration, were often adjacent to the dining area. Decks and porches, which "emphasized the relaxation and slower pace" of the ranch, were also quite commonplace on central lodges, as well as on the guest cabins, according to Bourne.¹¹ Consciously seeking to "bring the outdoors to the indoors" and follow the architectural precedents from tourist-oriented recreational facilities in the Adirondacks and Yellowstone National Park, the Main Lodge's interior was characterized by rustic architectural elements and related decorative features, such as hand-made furniture and native American rugs.¹² All of these elements were found in the main lodge of the B—K Ranch, thus making the building especially representative of America's dude ranch movement.

¹¹ Lawrence R. Bourne, *Dude Ranching: A Complete History* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1983), 122-23.

¹² Harvey H. Kaiser, "Rustic Interiors of the Adirondack Camps," *Old House Journal* 18 (January-February 1990), 45.

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The impressive log building with a T-shaped plan is constructed of round peeled logs that are stained amber brown. The interstices are filled with amber-colored cementous daubing. All corners are joined by saddle notching and have sawed ends that extend beyond the joints. The building sits on a concrete foundation.

The north-south ridgeline of the building's gable roof structure is supported by massive log ridgepoles and purlins and is clad with wood shakes. Eaves extend over the walls and sawn log purlins and ridgepole ends are exposed. The soffit displays beveled shiplap. A tall stone chimney, perhaps six feet in height, projects from the main ridgeline of the building. On the rear gable addition another massive stone chimney, not quite as tall as some of the others, but twice as wide, is also present. A small metal chimney also is projecting from the building.

Facing the ranch's common area to the east, the B—K Lodge originally featured a symmetrical front façade with a centrally located broad plank wooden door with wrought-iron hardware, similar to those found on the main level of the barn. On either side of the door are found rectangular fixed glass windows. Craftsman style lighting is evident on either side of the door.

Projecting from the north of this original façade was originally located a large open-air porch. The porch has long-since been enclosed, but in a way the features a great deal of glass so that the original character of the open-air porch is largely preserved. It appears quite possible that the porch could easily be restored at some future date. A three-log coursing formed the original porch wall on the east, north, and west elevations. Now, above the log porch wall, what one was open air is filled in with large plate glass windows on the east and west elevations. Large vertical log columns originally supported the gable porch roof. On the north elevation, a centrally located wooden door with wrought-iron hardware is located. On either side fixed square windows are present.

To the west, an approximately 6' x 8' projecting gable addition is present. The porch has long-since been enclosed, and features a great deal of glass to create more interior living space. A porch wall featuring two courses of logs, as well as large support columns are evident. Centrally located on the west elevation is a one-by-one casement window. Horizontal wood frame siding fills in the remaining spaces of the once open-air porch.

At the southwest corner of the lodge, a small, non-historic south-facing gable roofed laundry addition has been added. The addition is clearly distinguished from the rest of the original structure by the fact that it has vertical siding and a small, non-historic deck, as well as four casement windows on the south elevation. On the west elevation of the addition a simple wooden door to the laundry facility and two casement windows are present. The addition presents little concern in terms of the building's overall historic integrity because it is nicely tucked away on a non-character-defining elevation of the original building.

On the south elevation of the original structure, there is a large horizontal fixed glass window framed in wood. Elk antlers serve as decoration above the window.

An obvious footpath system is evident around the B—K, connecting it with other historic buildings in the district. All foot paths in the district lead to the B—K Lodge and its various porch and door openings.

The B—K Lodge is a contributing element within the historic district.

Bathroom/Bald Eagle Cabin (Building #8; Photo No. 9, one contributing building)

Located slightly northwest of the B—K Lodge, this well-preserved, one-story log building with a square plan was originally the bathroom at the B—K Ranch. It is constructed of round peeled logs that are stained amber brown. The interstices are filled with amber-brown cementous daubing. All corners are joined by saddle notching and have sawed ends that extend beyond the joints. The cabin sits on concrete foundation.

The gable roof structure of the main wing of the building is supported by log ridgepoles and purlins and is now clad with wood shakes. Eaves extend over the walls and sawn log abutting rafters as well as purlin and ridgepole ends are exposed. The soffit displays beveled shiplap. A metal chimney protrudes above the gable roof ridge near center of the building.

Like Chipmunk and Porcupine Cabins, the main entrance to the cabin is located on the east elevation and is approached from an open porch, which is accessed from the east, and spans the entire width of the cabin. This porch sits under the main gable roof, which is supported by vertical log columns. The porch has an open ceiling with exposed ridgepole and purlins. Exposed log rafters clad the

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porch ceiling and wood planking covers the floor. The offset main door to the cabin, made of sawn wood and featuring wrought iron hardware—is offset to the left.

On the north elevation is a bank of 2/3 divided light windows. The two outer windows are casement windows, the two inner windows are fixed. On the rear (west) elevation, there is a small 6' x 8' wood frame bathroom addition, which was likely added in the 1970s. Centrally located on the addition is a rectangular one-by-one sliding window. On the south elevation there is one centrally located one-by-one sliding window.

The Bathhouse/Bald Eagle Cabin is a contributing building within the historic district.

Ouzel Cabin (Building #9; Photo No. 10, one non-contributing building)

Located directly north of the Bald Eagle Cabin, the Ouzel Cabin was constructed c. 1987 by the Schaap family. Although this structure is not historic, it is made very much in the style of historic buildings within the district. The rectangular plan is constructed of round peeled logs that are stained amber brown. The interstices are filled with amber-brown cementous daubing. All corners are joined by saddle notching and have sawed ends that extend beyond the joints. The cabin sits on concrete foundation.

The flared gable roof structure of the building is clad with wood shakes and covers an open-air deck area containing benches. Eaves extend over the walls and sawn log abutting rafters as well as purlin and ridgepole ends are exposed. The soffit displays beveled shiplap. A metal chimney protrudes above the gable roof ridge near center of the building.

The front (east) elevation features a centrally located door and to the north a large 3' x 3' fixed plate glass window. Above the door and window in the flared gable end are two triangular windows. On the north elevation, an offset rectangular slider window to the left (east) is evident.

On the rear (west) elevation, there is one offset horizontal casement window. On triangular window exists on the north (left) side of the gable end, but the south (right) side of the gable end is simply sided with vertical wood siding.

On the south elevation moving from the left (west) to the right (east) there is a secondary entrance door framed in wood, a rectangular vertical fixed window near the center, and toward the front one-by-one sliding windows.

Although this building is not historic in age, it has a historic appearance at first glance and, in terms of its size, location, materials, function, and use, it fits in nicely with the complex that was created by the Butler/Kilbourne families.

The Ouzel Cabin is a non-contributing building within the historic district.

Rainbow/Grayling Duplex (Building #10; Photo No. 11, one non-contributing building)

Located north of the Ouzel Cabin on the east side of the North Fork is the Rainbow/Grayling Cabin—a model log building built by the Smeding Family in the early 1960s and utilized as a saloon. Although this structure was built after the close of the historic period, it is made very much in the style of historic buildings within the district. The rectangular plan is constructed of round peeled logs that are stained amber brown. All corners are joined by saddle notching and have sawed ends that extend beyond the joints. The cabin sits on concrete foundation.

The gable roof structure of the building is clad with wood shakes and covers an open-air deck area containing benches. Eaves extend over the walls and sawn log abutting rafters as well as purlin and ridgepole ends are exposed. The soffit displays beveled shiplap. Two metal chimney protrudes above the gable roof ridgeline near center of the building.

Two massive log columns support the porch roof. Two steps access the porch from the east. The porch floor is comprised of wooden planking. The overhanging gable projection of the porch roof reflects the appearance of the barn structure, featuring decorative gable crossbeams with squared (as opposed to rounded) ridgepole and purlins.

The symmetrical front (east) elevation features two centrally located doors, accessed via a projecting front porch. To the left, the main entrance to the Rainbow cabin is framed in wood and immediately to the south of that is a bank of four 2/3 divided-light windows. The two out windows are of the casement variety, the two inner windows are fixed. On the right of this symmetrical façade, essentially the

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same thing—the door to Grayling Cabin and then an identical bank of four windows. A firewood storage is located under each of these windows on the front.

The north elevation features a projecting gable end with a squared ridgepole and rounded purlins. To the right a wooden door is located and to the left, one-by-one sliding windows. On the west side there are one-by-one sliding windows to the north. On the projecting gable end there is a centrally located wooden door and to the south a centrally located 2/3 divided light window.

The projecting addition to the south features a one-by-one sliding window and a door to the right. A deck accessed by two steps also projects to the south. Flower boxes decorate the deck.

Although this structure is not from the historic period, it does not represent a significant intrusive element in the district. Several character-defining features, including its log construction, its projecting front porch, its roof system, its windows, as well as its size, location, function, and use, make its appearance is very similar to the that of the historic buildings found in the district.

The Rainbow/Grayling Duplex is a noncontributing element in the district due to its age.

Butler Cabin/Bull Moose Cabin (Building #11; Photo No. 12, one contributing building)

Located just north of the Rainbow/Grayling Duplex, the very well preserved Bull Moose Cabin was originally constructed as a residence for J. Fred Butler and his wife in 1927.¹³ As is the case with all the other log buildings on site, this large single cabin is constructed of round peeled logs that are stained amber brown. The logs on this cabin are larger than those found on most of the other buildings in the district. The interstices are filled with amber-colored cementous daubing. All corners are joined by saddle notching and have sawed ends that extend beyond the joints. The cabin sits on a concrete foundation.

The front (east) elevation features a projecting, gable-roofed screened porch addition supported by log ridgepoles and purlins and is clad with wood shakes. Eaves extend over the walls and sawn log abutting rafters as well as purlin and ridgepole ends are exposed. The soffit displays beveled shiplap. A massive stone chimney projects out from the roof ridgeline. Near the back of the house a smaller metal chimney projects from the west side of the ridgeline.

Some years ago, the addition was enclosed with large glass windows, similar to the way in which the B—K Lodge was modified. Because a great deal of glass has been utilized, the original character of the open-air porch is largely preserved. It appears quite possible that the porch could easily be restored at some future date. A three-log coursing formed the original porch wall on the east, north, and south elevations. Now, above the log porch wall, what one was open air is filled in with large plate glass windows on the north and south elevations. Large vertical log columns originally supported the gable porch roof.

The symmetrical front (east) elevation features a centrally located wood plank door, above which are decorative elk antlers and a horseshoe. Still higher, on the ridgepole above the main entrance, is a large bull moose skull. On either side are purlins similar to what is found on other historic buildings in the district. Large windows flank the main entrance to the right (north) and left (south). On both the south and the north elevations of the enclosed porch, three large windows with screens can be found. To the left (south) of the projecting gable is a one-by-one sliding window framed in wood. To the north of the porch on the front elevation another one-by-one sliding window is found.

On the north elevation one finds the main body of the residence as well as a projecting gable addition to the west. Centrally located on the main body of the residence is a one-by-one sliding window. On the north elevation of the gable addition that projects to the west another one-by-one sliding window is located. A secondary stone chimney is present on the projecting west addition, near the west wall. No windows are present on the projecting west gable addition.

On the south side of the projecting west addition, similar to the north side of the projecting west addition, another one-by-one sliding window is present.

Bull Moose Cabin is a contributing building within the district.

¹³(Smith 1946) See also (Schaap Interview 2004)

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Kilbourne/Hill Top Cabin (Building #12; Photo Nos. 13 and 14, one contributing building)

Located just east and up the hill from the Butler/Bull Moose Cabin, is the equally well-preserved Kilbourne/Hill Top Cabin, which was originally constructed as a residence for Florence and Don Kilbourne in 1927.¹⁴ As is the case with all the other log buildings on site, this large single cabin is constructed of round peeled logs that are stained amber brown. The logs on this cabin are larger than those found on most of the other buildings in the district. The interstices are filled with amber-colored cementous daubing. All corners are joined by saddle notching and have sawed ends that extend beyond the joints. The cabin sits on a concrete foundation and is framed by large spruce trees, which may have been intentionally planted in 1927. A gravel driveway extends from the main roadway and accesses the residence from the east.

The entire roof of the cabin is clad with wood shakes. Eaves extend over the walls and sawn log abutting rafters as well as purlin and ridgepole ends are exposed. The soffit displays beveled shiplap. Two massive stone chimneys project out from the roof ridge line—the larger near the center of the cabin, the smaller on its western wing.

The front (south) elevation features a projecting gable roof porch addition, supported by log ridgepoles and purlins. The porch is currently enclosed with large screen windows, on its south, east and west elevations. Despite the enclosure, the original character of the open-air porch is largely preserved and appears quite possible that the porch could easily be restored at some future date. A three-log coursing formed the original porch wall on the south, east, and west elevations. Large vertical log columns support the gable porch roof. Just below the main ridgepole of the projecting gable roofed porch is a large pair of decorative elk antlers. On either side of the projecting front porch are located one-by-one sliding windows framed in wood. On the western wing, another one-by-one sliding window framed in wood is located.

On the east elevation of the building's main body, a ridgepole and four equally sized purlins support the gable roof structure. A centrally located fixed glass window is located beneath. Below the window, a large area for storing firewood is located.

The north elevation of the main body of the residence features two evenly spaced one-by-one sliding windows. Further to the west, on the building's west wing, another one-by-one sliding window is located.

The west elevation of the west wing features a smaller one-by-one sliding window, which is centrally located.

The Kilbourne/Hilltop Cabin is a contributing building within the district.

Columbine/Aspen Duplex (Building #13; Photo No. 15, one non-contributing building)

Located slightly north and east of the Kilbourne/Hilltop Cabin, is the Columbine/Aspen Duplex, which was constructed c. 1987 by the Schaap Family. Although this structure is not historic, it is made very much in the style of historic buildings within the district. The L-shaped plan is constructed of round peeled logs that are stained amber brown. The interstices are filled with amber-brown cementous daubing. All corners are joined by saddle notching and have sawed ends that extend beyond the joints. The duplex sits on concrete foundation.

The flared gable roof structure of the building is clad with wood shakes. Eaves extend over the walls and sawn log abutting rafters as well as purlin and ridgepole ends are exposed. The soffit displays beveled shiplap. Two metal chimney protrudes above the gable roof ridge line near center of the building. Open-air decks with benches are located on the north and south elevations.

The main wing of the front (south) elevation features a centrally located door, accessed via the front deck area, and is protected somewhat by the flared gable end noted above. To the east (right) of the door, a large fixed square plate glass window and an adjacent rectangular casement window are located. Above the door and window, in the gable end are two four-sided geometric windows. On south elevation of the projecting western wing, another identical large fixed square plate glass window and an adjacent rectangular casement window are located.

On the east elevation, rectangular casement windows are found on either side of a centrally located one-by-one sliding window.

¹⁴(Smith 1946) See also (Schaap Interview 2004)

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On the rear (north) elevation, an offset wooden door is located. To the left (east) another large fixed square plate glass window and an adjacent rectangular casement window are located. Above, in the gable end, two four-sided geometric windows, identical to those found on the front elevation, are located.

On the west elevation a single one-by-one sliding window is located.

Although this structure is not from the historic period, it does not represent a significant intrusive element in the district. Several character-defining features, including its log construction, its projecting front porch, its roof system, as well as its scale, location, function, and use, make its appearance is very similar to the that of the historic buildings found in the district.

Due to its non-historic age, the Columbine/Aspen Duplex is a non-contributing building within the district.

Open Air Hot Tub Shelter (Building #14; Photo No. 16, one non-contributing building)

Built c. 1989, and located immediately north of the Dining Room/Saloon/Office Building, the Lone Mountain Ranch Open Air Hot Tub Shelter features a centrally located hot tub on a wooden deck that is accessed via three steps. Sheltering the hot tub itself is a tall, steeply pitched, clipped gable roof structure clad in wooden shingles. The roof structure is supported by two large wooden columns and internal support braces.

The open-air hot tub shelter is a non-contributing building within the historic district.

Dining Room/Saloon/Office (Building #15; Photo No. 17, one non-contributing building)

Built in 1990 by the Schaap Family, and located immediately south of the Open Air Hot Tub Shelter, is the large Dining Room/Saloon/Office Building, which now serves as a primary locus of activity at the Lone Mountain Ranch. Although this structure is not historic, it is made very much in the style of historic buildings within the district. The T-shaped plan is of frame construction, covered with half-logs on both the exterior and the interior. The interstices are filled with amber-brown cementous daubing. All corners are joined by saddle notching and have sawed ends that extend beyond the joints. The Dining Room/Saloon/Office Building sits on concrete foundation.

The entire roof of the cabin is clad with wood shingles. Eaves extend over the walls and sawn log abutting rafters as well as massive purlin and squared ridgepole ends are exposed. The soffit displays beveled shiplap. A massive stone chimney projects out from the south-central portion of the roof ridgeline.

The front (west) elevation is dominated by a large projecting gable roof addition. The gable roof extends to the west, beyond the building wall creating an impressive front porch area, which is accessed via a centrally located ten-step stairway with wooden balustrade. The west gable end features decorative log crossbeams. Four vertical log columns define a three-bay front porch. The porch itself is enclosed by log balustrade. The porch is also accessed via a handicapped accessible walkway extending from the north end of the front porch area. The main entrance consists of large central wooden double doors flanked on either side by large rectangular plate glass windows. Above the main entrance, the gabled end is also comprised of glass. To the left (north) of the projecting gable front addition is a bank of three plate glass windows framed in wood. To the right (south) of the projecting gable front addition a secondary porch area, which doors accessing both the dining area and the saloon area is located. A twelve-step stairway with wooden balustrade, centrally located on this wing, accesses a second large porch area.

The south gable end features decorative log crossbeams. A four-bay west-facing and south-facing porch is defined by four vertical log columns. The porch itself is enclosed by log balustrade. A wooden door entering the dining area is found on the wall to the left (north). Straight ahead, the west-facing wall of the porch area features another wooden door accessing the saloon area. Large plate glass windows separate the open-air porch area from the saloon and dining room. Below the secondary porch area three large rectangular daylight windows help to illuminate the office area on the lower level.

The south elevation is accessed via a walkway leading to a centrally located metal door on the lower level. Sliding windows frame this entrance on either side. Above this lower level entrance, which accesses the office area, decorative log crossbeams and a massive squared ridgepole access the open-air porch area already described above.

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The rear (east) elevation consists of six one-by-one casement windows, evenly spaced across the entire length of the building. A shed dormer window, offset slightly to the north from the center of the elevation, features two smaller one-by-one sliding windows.

The north elevation is dominated by another overhanging gable end accented by decorative log crossbeams similar to those found on the south elevation. Under the projecting second story is a stairway featuring a log balustrade leading to an upper deck and a door, which accesses a second story apartment above the kitchen area. Three one-by-one sliding windows illuminate this upper level. The main level is accessed via service doors. An enclosed garage area is located in front of the east portion of the elevation. A driveway accesses the western portion of the elevation.

Although this structure is not from the historic period, and its size is quite large, it does not represent an extremely intrusive element in the district. Several character-defining features, including its log construction, its projecting front porch, its roof system, as well as its location, function, and use, make its appearance is very similar to the that of the historic buildings found in the district.

Due to its non-historic age, the Dining Room/Saloon/Office Building is a non-contributing building within the district.

Sites:

Ranch Common Area (Map Site 1; Photo Nos. 1 and 18 one contributing site):

Despite their varied locations and sizes, planned dude ranch complexes were also often sited in a generally consistent manner. A central feature of most dude ranch complexes was a centrally located landscaped green-space or parkland. These commons/picnic areas afforded a functional space for cherished communal activities, like picnicking, horseshoes, or baseball, while simultaneously providing the guests with "a good view of the surrounding countryside," according to historian Lawrence Bourne.¹⁵

The Commons/Picnic Area at the B—K Ranch is centrally located just north of the B—K Barn/Outdoor Shop. Bordering the common area to the west and north, several historic cabins and duplexes are located. From this vantage point, guests could simultaneously view the ranch activities and the surrounding mountainous scenery. Given its proximity to the original kitchen area and bar housed in the B—K Lodge, the area was also historically utilized as a place for relaxing while waiting for evening meals to be served. Grass was (and still is) mowed to create a more park-like setting and to encourage baseball, volleyball and other types of group-oriented activities.

As a significant character defining feature of most western dude ranches and a focal point for tourist activities at the ranch, the Main Lodge Commons/Picnic Area is a contributing site to the historic district.

North Fork River (Map Site 2; Photo No. 19, one contributing site):

A significant natural feature of the ranch complex, and a main impetus for the location of the original Clarence Lytle Homestead, the North Fork of the West Fork of the West Gallatin River, flows out of the Spanish Peaks Wilderness area and through the ranch in a southerly direction. More than simply a scenic amenity along which the Ranch's guest cabins were intentionally oriented, the North Fork historically served important practical purposes at the ranch, including the watering of livestock, sanitation, and fire safety. Undoubtedly irresistible to children, the river also was an important locus of unorganized recreational activities at the ranch following 1927. The North Fork is a significant character-defining feature of the ranch that also happens to serve as a logical western boundary for much of the district.

The North Fork River is a contributing site to the historic district.

Natural Spring/Dam Remains (Map Site 3, one contributing site):

Serving as a logical northwestern boundary of the district, a natural spring running roughly parallel to the North Fork River separates the historic core of the ranch complex from non-contributing resources to the west. About 1927, the Butler/Kilbourne Family dammed this natural spring, just to the west of the Butler/Bull Moose Cabin. Water that pooled in the area behind the dam was utilized for drinking purposes at the ranch complex.

Together the Natural Spring/Dam remains are a contributing site to the historic district.

¹⁵(Borne 1983, 122-23)

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North Fork Pastures/Grazing Lands (Map Site 4; Photo No. 20, one contributing site):

North of the ranch complex with the North Fork bordering to the west and the North Fork/Bear Basin Horse trail bisecting, are the North Fork Pastures/Grazing Lands. When the Clarence Lytle Homestead/B—K Ranch was fully functional by the 19teens, cattle and horses grazed much of the meadowlands surrounding the ranch complex. Much of the lands north and east of the existing ranch were utilized for grazing pastures and/or hay fields. The Lytle Homestead/B—K Ranch could not have survived as a working cattle ranch, and later as a dude ranch, without these lands to provide feed and pasture. Most of the lands consist of patented lands or deeded acres originally acquired by Clarence Lytle and/or members of the Butler/Kilbourne family. Despite incursions by native species, the demarcation between planted and naturally occurring grasses is clearly evident, and the fields remain graphic reminders of the district's agricultural past.

The grazing pastures are contributing sites to the historic district.

Structures:

Walking Paths Network (Map Structure 1; Photo No. 21, one contributing structure)

A number of heavily utilized and thus clearly evident footpaths serve as an internal pedestrian network with the historic district. The historic pathways were undoubtedly created in the years immediately following the construction of the B—K Lodge and other cabins in 1927. A well-defined foot path connects the B—K Lodge with Guest Duplexes #1 and #2, the Chipmunk and Porcupine Cabins, the Bald Eagle Cabin, and the Bull Moose Cabin. Another obvious footpath extends down the hill from Hilltop Cabin to the B—K Lodge. Yet another footpath extends from the Meadowlark Cabin to the main road system. Each footpath plays an important role in the informal, non-auto-oriented pedestrian transportation networks of the Ranch complex and clearly establishes the close connections between the Butler/Kilbourne families and the center of operations—the Main Ranch House/Main Lodge.

The walking paths are a contributing structure to the historic district.

North Fork Foot Bridge (Map Structure 2; Photo No. 19, one non-contributing structure)

Constructed in 1990, the North Fork Foot Bridge is a simple pole and sawed plank structure about 20' in length and 4' in width. It crosses the North Fork of the West Fork of the West Gallatin River (described above) just west of the B—K Dining Lodge (described above) and provides access via foot path to the Chipmunk and Porcupine Cabins, which stand adjacent to and immediately west of the stream. The bridge itself is accessed via a simple dirt/gravel pathway that connects with the district's internal transportation network.

The North Fork Foot Bridge is a non-contributing structure within the historic district.

North Fork/Bear Basin Horse Trail (Map Structure 3; Photo Nos. 12 and 20 one contributing structure):

A major riding path dating from the 1927 period extends northward from the ranch common area and bisects the Bull Moose and Hilltop cabin sites. Now known as the natural tail, this riding path extends to Bear Basin, Mountain View and Yellow Mountain as well as the Spanish Peaks Wilderness Area beyond. Historian Lawrence Borne has noted that the popular appeal of dude ranches "centered on the chance for the visitor to get outdoors and to live closer to nature." It was also important that the guest be able to do these things "in a physical environment different from his home territory in the East or Midwest." Of all the activities that were commonly associated with dude ranching, "many ranchers believed that the ultimate activity for the horseman was the pack trip . . ." which "combined several of the appealing aspects of ranch life to produce an experience that was seldom equaled and hardly ever surpassed on a western vacation."¹⁶

Following the North Fork drainage up toward through meadowlands, forested foothills and rocky terrain defining the Spanish Peaks Wilderness area, the trail is clearly visible and essentially unaltered from historic times. The trail is significant because of its historic connections with the scenic tourism that helped to define the dude ranching experience associated with the post-1927 years of the district.

The North Fork/Bear Basin Horse Trail is a contributing site to the historic district.

¹⁶(Borne 1983, 91 and 100)

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Gravel Roadway System (Map Structure 4; Photo Nos. 1 and 22, one contributing structure):

In 1914, the first few hardy souls drove their cars precariously up Gallatin Canyon to Yellowstone Park.¹⁷ After this time, residents and guests historically arrived at the B—K Ranch via horseback, wagon, or car from what is now the main road leading from Highway 191 in Gallatin Canyon toward the Big Sky Ski resort at the base of Lone Mountain. Following the gravel road northward travelers entered the homestead/ranch complex from the south. It is likely that the Clarence Lytle family utilized a wagon road which followed the general path of the existing road, wrapping up the eastern hillside of the ranch complex to the original site of Lytle's original cabin and barn (now demolished). The road system is historically important as the main wagon road/auto access to the ranch, and as a functional component of the internal workings of the ranch. After 1927, most tourists accessed the ranch via this roadway system. Although the current gravel road system has been widened and regarded, it closely follows the general route of the original roadway accessing the ranch and is highly illustrative of the ranch's transportation patterns.

The gravel Roadway System is a contributing structure to the historic district.

Irrigation Ditch Line/Abandoned Road (Map Structure 5; Photo No. 23, one contributing structure):

Extending from the northeast corner of the ranch complex and into the abutting grazing meadow to the north, and in a generally southerly direction just east of the upper road is a historic irrigation ditch. The ditch diverted water from the North Fork River, far north of the ranch complex, and carried water to irrigate the upper hay meadows that were historically part of the Clarence Lytle/B—K Ranch.¹⁸ Historic fence lines and a fence opening indicate that this irrigation ditch was present during historic times, and may have been used to water livestock, as well as for irrigation purposes. Today the ditch has been filled in and is utilized as a cross country ski trail at Lone Mountain Ranch. Nonetheless, it is clearly defined and discernable, and speaks to the original function of the ranch as a working agricultural operation.

This historic irrigation ditch is a contributing structure in the historic district.

Spring House (Map Structure 6; Photo No. 24, one contributing structure):

Unfailing water supplies were absolute necessities for all dude ranch operations and, therefore, were "a common feature" found at all dude ranch facilities, according to Lawrence Borne.¹⁹ Irrigation water for the B—K Ranch was provided by a natural spring located part way up the east hill, approximately one hundred yards south of the Columbine/Aspen Duplex. Because the North Fork flows through the ranch complex year round, water from the springhouse was primarily utilized to operate the ranch's irrigation system, and to water the lawns. Spring water was piped to a concrete cistern/storage tank with a wooden top.

Given its importance to the daily functions of the ranch during the months of tourist operations, the springhouse is a contributing structure within the historic district.

Boundary Markers/Fencing (Map Structure 7; Photo No. 25, one contributing structure):

Four important boundary marker/fencing systems exist in the district. Boundary marker number one is a traditional wooden pole fence that extends east and west from the ranch's upper road to the main entrance of the ranch near the original Clarence Lytle Homestead. This fence line helps define the southern boundary of the district. A second historic fence line, distinguished by surviving hand-hewn fence poles extends east and west and once defined the southern boundary of the northern grazing pastures that comprised part of the original Lytle Homestead. Historically, this boundary marker clearly defined that space primarily devoted to human activities—namely the original cabins to the south—from the grazing pastures to the north. A third important boundary marker, comprised of barbed wire fencing defines the northeastern edge of the district, and separates the northern grazing pastures from the adjacent forest lands to the east. A difference in plant-life is clearly evident on either side of the fence, thus indicating the historic use of the fenced area and the subtle imprint of historic human activities associated with the Ranch complex. A fourth historic fence line comprised of

¹⁷See (Malone 1973, 11) For a more thorough discussion of the campaign to construct and improved roadway up Gallatin Canyon in order to access Yellowstone National Park see Richard A. Bartlett, "Those Infernal Machines in Yellowstone," *Montana: The Magazine of Western History* XX (Summer, 1970): 19-25.

¹⁸Robert Schaap Telephone Interview, July 15, 2005.

¹⁹(Ibid.)

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surviving log posts follows a historic and now overgrown logging road that extends in a generally north-south direction through the northeastern portion of the ranch complex.

The boundary marker/fence line is a contributing structure to the historic district.

District Integrity

Statement of Integrity

Despite some non-historic elements, the Lone Mountain Ranch retains a substantial degree of physical integrity, ensuring that the historic dual agricultural and recreational nature of the ranch, its scenic location and setting, the reliance on local building materials and regional building traditions, and the exhibition of vernacular “western-design” remain clearly evident. In terms of location and setting, there are few visible intrusions to the natural landscape in any direction. The site has been protected from adjacent modern development and correspondent threats to integrity of setting, association, and feeling, by the size of the ranch’s original acreage and its close proximity to the Gallatin National Forest and the Spanish Peaks Wilderness Area. Key topographical features, such as the North Fork of the West Fork of the West Gallatin River, which flows through the complex, remain unaltered, as do the surrounding vegetation and the relationships between buildings and open spaces. Especially noteworthy are the occasional examples of old growth Spruce and Douglas Fir which lend further historic character to the property and testify to the ranch’s well-preserved surroundings.

The B—K Ranch contains a well-preserved collection of log and stone buildings, whose historic fabric has largely since 1927, and in some cases longer. The unpretentious rustic architecture of the district clearly conveys a timelessness that has persisted over the years. All of the contributing buildings represent a simple vernacular rustic style, with the larger cabins illustrating a slightly more elaborate detailing. The historic core of the ranch complex—featuring nine virtually unaltered historic buildings in their original configuration, as well as a central landscaped common area, grazing lands, pathways, a foot bridge, horse trails, a historic roadway system, an irrigation ditch, a spring house, and historic boundary markers—remains essentially in tact.

Although the original Clarence Lytle homestead era buildings have been removed, enough of the original fabric of that working ranch remains to easily convey its historic design and function during this seminal period in the district’s early twentieth century history. The surviving buildings from the B—K Ranch largely define the rustic architectural character of the district. All of the historic buildings—and most of the non-contributing resources—follow the long-established tradition of low-pitched gable roofed buildings formed by ridgepoles and purlins and built of horizontal round logs joined with saddle notching. Massive stone chimneys project from virtually all of the historic cabins. Owing in part to the continued utilization of the Lone Mountain Ranch as a guest ranch, virtually all of the dude ranch era buildings remain well preserved in their original locations. Consequently, the historic design and function of the district as a dude ranch is obviously evident.

Noncontributing buildings are limited compared to the total number of buildings, sites, structures, and objects contained within the district. By in large, the modern construction directly associated with the Lone Mountain Ranch has frequently occurred on the periphery of the original ranch complex rather than interspersed within the historic fabric of the site. The two obvious exceptions to this rule are the ranch’s original flat-roofed barn, which received a gable-roofed, second and third-story addition in the 1970s and a large, non-historic dining lodge near the center of the complex. Where non-historic structures and modern alterations have materialized, they have typically been constructed with similar building materials and in generally compatible architectural styles, so that the overall feeling of the property’s historic character has not been significantly compromised. The few remodeled historic buildings that exist have generally been altered in insignificant ways on non-character-defining elevations. The more recent buildings associated with guests and the ongoing operations of the Lone Mountain Ranch as a tourist destination are not overly intrusive, and represent the natural progression of a dude ranch, which continues to function and be used as it did historically. Consequently, the historic design and function of the district as a dude ranch is obviously evident.

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SITE MAP NUMBER	NAME OF RESOURCE	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	CONTRIBUTING/ NONCONTRIBUTING
Building No. 1	B-K Ranch Foreman Cabin a.k.a.Meadowlark Cabin	c. 1927	Contributing
Building No. 2	B-K Ranch Barn a.k.a. Outdoor Shop	c. 1927	Non-contributing
Building No. 3	Guest Duplex #1 a.k.a. Canyon/Lame Deer Cabins	c. 1927	Contributing
Building No. 4	Guest Duplex #2 a.k.a. Cougar/Blackbear Cabins	c. 1927	Contributing
Building No. 5	Cooks Cabin a.k.a. Chipmunk Cabin	c. 1927	Contributing
Building No. 6	Ice House a.k.a. Porcupine Cabin	c. 1927	Contributing
Building No. 7	B-K Ranch Main Lodge a.k.a. B-K Cabin	c. 1927	Contributing
Building No. 8	Bathhouse a.k.a. Bald Eagle Cabin	c. 1927	Contributing
Building No. 9	Ouzel Cabin	c. 1987	Non-Contributing
Building No. 10	Rainbow/Grayling Duplex	c. 1983	Non-Contributing
Building No. 11	Butler Cabin a.k.a. Bull Moose Cabin	c. 1927	Contributing
Building No. 12	Kilbourne Cabin a.k.a. Hill Top Cabin	c. 1927	Contributing
Building No. 13	Columbine/Aspen Cabin	c. 1987	Non-Contributing
Building No. 14	Open Air Hot Tub Shelter	c. 1989	Non-Contributing
Building No. 15	Dining Room/ Saloon/Main Office	c. 1990	Non-Contributing
Site No. 1	Ranch Common Area	c. 1927	Contributing
Site No. 2	North Fork River	n/d	Contributing
Site No. 3	Natural Spring/Dam Remains	c. 1927	Contributing
Site No. 4	North Fork Pastures/Grazing Lands	c. 1915	Contributing
Structure No. 1	Walking Paths Network	c. 1927	Contributing
Structure No. 2	North Fork Foot Bridge	1990	Non-contributing
Structure No. 3	North Fork/Bear Basin Horse Trail	c. 1927	Contributing
Structure No. 4	Gravel Roadway System	c. 1927	Contributing
Structure No. 5	Irrigation Ditch Line/Abandoned Road	c. 1915	Contributing
Structure No. 6	Spring House	pre-1927	Contributing
Structure No. 7	Boundary Markers/Fencing	c. 1915 - c. 1950	Contributing

8. Statement of Significance**Applicable National Register Criteria:** A, C**Criteria Considerations (Exceptions):** n/a**Significant Person(s):** n/a**Cultural Affiliation:** n/a**Areas of Significance:** EXPLORATION AND SETTLEMENT;
AGRICULTURE; ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION;
ARCHITECTURE**Period(s) of Significance:** 1915-1950**Significant Dates:** 1915, 1927**Architect/Builder:****Narrative Statement of Significance**

The B—K Ranch is significant under Criterion A for its historic association with the evolution of agriculture and land settlement in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, and in particular that area known as Gallatin Canyon, in southwest Montana. During the late 19teens and early 1920s, Clarence Lytle homesteaded the lands in question. The ranch is historically associated with events that have made significant contributions to the broad patterns of American history, namely the development of agriculture in southwestern Montana during the early twentieth century.

The B—K Ranch gains additional significance under Criterion A for its historical association with the development of tourism and dude ranching in Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The dude ranching industry thrived in Montana as a result of the ca. 1900-1950 nostalgia for the lost American West, the related wilderness and back-to-the-soil movements, and railroad promotion of Yellowstone National Park as a tourist destination. More than simply “an industry of major economic significance,” dude ranching also “played an important role in perpetuating America’s continuing romance with the West.”²

The B—K Ranch became associated with western vacationing during the period when dude ranches in the west experienced a period of prosperity and played an important role in the regional economy of the northern Rocky Mountains. Seeking to live in a scenic setting during the summer months, and hoping to provide a memorable vacation experience for friends of the family, J. Fred Butler acquired the Lytle Homestead in 1927. During the 1930s, the ranch was converted to a facility willing to take in paying guests.

Active members in the Dude Ranch Association, the B—K Ranch exemplified the working ranch experience where dudes participated in typical day-to-day ranch activities and special events like pack trips, round-ups, and rodeos. Gallatin Canyon afforded numerous opportunities for water-based recreation, like fishing, and the Ranch’s close proximity to Yellowstone National Park was likewise a major selling point with new and returning clients. The B—K Ranch provided dudes with the western experience they desired, fulfilling their romantic visions of the West with Cowboys, wildlife, magnificent scenery, excitement and adventure.

Lastly, the B—K Ranch is significant under Criterion C as an embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction—namely the “Rustic” architecture that came to epitomize western tourist destinations, and Yellowstone National Park specifically. The numerous log and stone buildings on the ranch exhibit local craftsmanship and skilled workmanship. While many of the district’s surviving buildings and structures reflect a simple, unpretentious style commonly found in agricultural settings some constructed after 1927 represent a more elaborate and intentional western rustic architectural style specifically aimed at meeting the expectations of eastern tourists. Such rustic architecture flourished during the early twentieth century in Yellowstone National Park and area dude ranches, and was actively promoted by the Dude Ranch Association as a means of cultivating an authentic western atmosphere. The use of native materials further reinforced the guests’ idealized wilderness perspective, where log cabins typified the nostalgic and mythologized West of dime store novels and Hollywood. The western style accommodations of the property represent critical elements of the movement defining and establishing western culture as a national heritage.

See continuation sheet page 17

²See Charles G. Roundy. “The Origins and Early Development of Dude Ranching in Wyoming,” *Annals of Wyoming* 45 (Spring 1973): 24 and Jerome Rodnitzky, “Recapturing the West: The Dude Ranch in American Life,” *Arizona and the West* 10 (Summer 1968): 111.

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Native Peoples, Early Exploration, and Settlement in the Gallatin Canyon Area:

Native peoples frequented the Gallatin Canyon area as a travel corridor to the Gallatin Valley and the buffalo hunting grounds of the Yellowstone River Valley to the east of present day Bozeman, Montana. Numerous archeological sites, such as those on Squaw, Greek, and Portal Creeks, as well as along the West Fork, indicate that prehistoric and historic indigenous populations traveled the Gallatin River corridor as early as 11,000 years ago. Throughout prehistory, the inhabitants of this region subsisted as semi-nomadic hunters and gatherers whose exploitation of plants and animals and methods of procuring these vital resources, varied over time, and from season to season. During the last 4,000 years and up to the 1880s, dependence on bison dominated their life ways.²⁰

During the historic period, bands of Bannock, Shoshone, and Sheepeater Indians often passed through the upper Gallatin--called "Cut-tuh-o'-gwa" (Swift Water) by the Shoshone tribe. Following the "Great Bannock Trail," a buffalo hunting road extending from the upper Snake River, across the Gallatin Range, to the upper Yellowstone these native peoples regularly "passed just above the Gallatin Canyon," according to Malone, and the Trail "spilled considerable traffic into it."²¹

Euro-American fur trappers regularly exploited the Gallatin Canyon area following Andrew Henry and John Colter's construction of a fort near the headwaters of the Missouri River in 1810. Over the next four decades trappers harvested beaver in the region. Notable mountain men like Jim Bridger, Jedediah Smith, and Joe Meek often traversed the area en route to rendezvous sites around Jackson Hole.²²

Gold prospecting parties converged on the upper West Gallatin after a fourteen-man party led by Walter W. DeLacy ventured down the river in September of 1863. Although their expedition found little gold in paying quantities, the mining rushes to Virginia City and elsewhere brought a inflow of population to the Gallatin Valley, prompting the establishment of the town site of Bozeman, Montana, in 1864.²³

Initial interest in the establishment of Yellowstone National Park during the early 1870s inspired the first scientific exploration of Gallatin Canyon. Ferdinand V. Hayden commented on the area during his 1872 expanded survey of the region, noting somewhat arrogantly that the canyon "had never been explored previously, and was unknown even to the inhabitants of the lower part of the (Gallatin) valley."²⁴

As the Northern Pacific Railroad approached Bozeman after 1880, local capitalists eyed the Gallatin Canyon as a possible rail route to Yellowstone Park, hoping to channel a lucrative tourist trade through their city. Three prominent Bozeman residents--Walter Cooper, Peter Koch, and George Wakefield--surveyed the canyon in August of 1881, but failed to convince the transcontinental to use this route.²⁵

²⁰For an overview of archeological information related to the area in question see Lewis Kyle Napton, "Canyon and Valley: Preliminary Archeological Survey in the Gallatin Area, Montana" (unpublished Master's Thesis, University of Montana, 1967), esp. pp. 115-145 and 287-89. For a discussion of historic tribes in the vicinity of what is now Big Sky, Montana see Patrick Davis, "Indian Ground: Ancient Tribes were Among the First to Settle the Big Sky Area," *Big Sky Magazine* 3:2 (Summer 2005): 12-19.

²¹(Malone 1973,4)

²²For discussions of the fur trade in the upper reaches of the West Gallatin River drainage see Peter Koch, *Gallatin Valley Gazetteer and Bozeman City Directory: 1892-93* (Bozeman: J. D. Radford and Co., 1892), 9-28. See also Merrill D. Beal, *The Story of Man in Yellowstone* (Caldwell, Idaho: Caxton Printers, 1949), 59, 66, and 84-87 and Paul C. Phillips, *The Fur Trade* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1961) II, 261-63 and 454.

²³Walter W. DeLacy, "A Trip Up the South Snake River in 1863," *Contributions to the Historical Society of Montana*, 2nd ed. (Helena: Independent Publishing Co., and Rocky Mountain Publishing Co., 1876), I 100-127. On canyon mining activities see George Roemhild, *Bozeman Daily Chronicle*, September 13, 1970.

²⁴F. V. Hayden, *Sixth Annual Report of the United States Geological Survey of the Territories* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1873), pp. 1, 26, and 77-81.

²⁵For a description of the Cooper expedition see Marian Bunker, "West Gallatin Northern Pacific Exploring Expedition," typeset in letter dated October 10, 1940, in marked folder no. 2. McGill Collection, Montana State University Archives, Burlingame Special Collections, Bozeman, Montana.

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Undeterred by the railroad's lack of interest and convinced that Bozeman could profit from the steadily mounting Yellowstone Park tourist trade, locals continued to promote the Gallatin Canyon as a feasible and scenic route to the Upper Madison River and a possible west entrance to America's Wonderland. In the mid 1890s, Cooper and Koch convinced the Gallatin County Commissioners to allocate \$10,000 for a wagon road from the canyon mouth to the confluence of the Taylor's Fork, just north of the Park's boundary. In 1898 workmen initiated construction of a rough trail up the Gallatin River.

The thoroughfare, though extremely primitive, "allowed Bozeman entrepreneurs to move into the canyon and take advantage of the unregulated land rich in both grazing and timber," according to Gallatin Canyon historians Janet Cronin and Dorothy Vick.²⁶ By the late 1890s, Tom Michener established a home site at the large cold-water spring, just above the mouth of the West Fork of the Gallatin. Strong-willed and enthusiastic, Michener pursued several schemes to develop the economic potential of the Gallatin Canyon, including industrial mining, the construction of a rail spur to Yellowstone Park, and damming the West Fork of the Gallatin.²⁷ Another significant operation aided by the wagon road was the Nine Quarter Circle Ranch on the Taylor's Fork, which Marshall Cunningham and Hans Behring created in the late 1890s by consolidating the Tedrick, Kirby, and Marble homesteads. Between 1898 and 1923, Cunningham and Behring "ran the largest and longest operating cattle outfit in the Gallatin Canyon . . ."²⁸

Beginning in 1905, the Bozeman-based Gallatin Valley Commercial Club began seeking federal approval to extend the Gallatin Canyon wagon road through the northwest corner of the Park to the Madison River entrance of Yellowstone National Park. The Union Pacific Railroad built a rail spur through Idaho to this location in 1907, and in 1908 a new town in Gallatin County, which later named itself West Yellowstone, sprang up there. Gaining federal approval, Gallatin County quickly completed its road through the northwest corner of the Park, reaching what would become West Yellowstone by 1911. Bozeman's Gallatin Canyon connection with Yellowstone Park tourism was now assured.²⁹

Early Homesteading and Agriculture in Gallatin Canyon:

Homesteading was initiated in southwestern Montana, and especially in the headwaters of the Missouri River, in the early 1860s. Shortly after Montana became a Territory in 1864, the federal government located an initial point near present day Willow Creek, Montana, from which the entire Territory was eventually surveyed and mapped.³⁰ Homestead claims were soon filed throughout the region and the Gallatin Valley developed as one of the earliest agricultural regions in the northern Rocky Mountains.

As the best lands in the vicinity were claimed by former placer miners seeking a more reliable way of life, homesteaders gradually moved up the Gallatin Canyon. When the U.S. government established the 1.8 million acre Gallatin National Forest in 1899, it intentionally excluded lands that held promise for agriculture. Although some small operators grazed herds in the Taylor's Fork vicinity prior to 1895, and large scale operations like the Taylor's Fork Cattle Company were established by 1900, most homesteaders in the canyon filed under the Forest Homestead Act of 1906.³¹

Seeking sites that had easy access to water, lands for grazing, and areas where hay could be cut, many homesteaders chose to locate along the upper West Gallatin River, from Karst's Camp to the Yellowstone Park line. Porcupine Creek and the Taylor's Fork drainage each supported several homesteaders.

Another particularly favorable spot was the meadow area, near present day Big Sky, Montana. Up the West Fork drainage, the Frank Crail family put together a 960-acre ranch, where Meadow Village at Big Sky is today located. Initially the Crail family ran horses and

²⁶Janet Cronin and Dorothy Vick, *Montana's Gallatin Canyon: A Gem in the Treasure State* (Missoula: Mountain Press Publishing Company, 1992), 101.

²⁷Michener's optimism regarding the potential of the Gallatin Basin is recorded in Thomas Michener, "South End of Gallatin County," *The Coast*, XV (June 1908), 431-33.

²⁸(Cronin and Vick 1992, 101-03)

²⁹Information on Bozeman's efforts to construct a transportation route up Gallatin Canyon can be found in *The Avant Courier* (Bozeman), November 20, 1890; June 18, 1892; July 24, 1897; and April 2, 1898. See also the Bozeman Daily Chronicle, August 9, 1964. For information on the Gallatin Valley Commercial Club see E. S. Edsall, "The Gallatin Valley Commercial Club," *The Coast*, XV (June 1908), 446-47.

³⁰See Jeffrey J. Safford, "Mapping Montana: The Federal Land Surveys of 1867-1868," *Montana: The Magazine of Western History* 55 (Summer 2005): 54-63.

³¹(Cronin and Vick 1992, 89)

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cattle, but soon they also developed an impressive hay cutting operation in the big meadows of the drainage. By 1915, hoping to capitalize on the profitable wool markets of the World War I era, the Crail family also started running sheep in the West Fork Drainage.³²

As early as 1915, Clarence Lytle followed the successful example of the Crail Family and "homesteaded the lands now occupied by the Lone Mountain Ranch," according to Janet Cronin and Dorothy Vick. Lytle hired Eugene Crail to do "the log work on the cabins at the Lytle Ranch, later known as the B—K and today as the Lone Mountain Ranch." A bachelor, Lytle often lived with his older brother Billy and leased lands out for grazing. Civic-minded, he served on the school board, and during World War I on the Draft Board as well. By the late 1920s, however, he was no longer interested in homesteading in Gallatin Canyon, and he "sold his homestead at West Fork to (J. Fred) Butler and his daughter and son-in-law, Florence and Don Kilbourne, and the Butler Ranch became the B—K."³³

Recreational Tourism, Dude Ranching, and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem:

The dude ranching industry thrived in Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem as a result of the ca. 1900-1950 nostalgia for the lost American West, the related wilderness and back-to-the-soil movements, and railroad promotion of Yellowstone National Park as a tourist destination. More than simply "an industry of major economic significance," dude ranching also "played an important role in perpetuating America's continuing romance with the West."³⁴ As historian Jerome Rodnitzky has noted:

Although regarded as a historical curiosity by many in the modern world, the dude ranch has played a significant role in the evolution of American society. Planned for the amateur, rather than the patron, connoisseur, or scholar, it provided fantasy, escape, and physical pleasure for thousands of Americans caught in an increasingly urban world. As a living embodiment of the past, it was an oasis where the Western mystique ever grew afresh.³⁵

By the 1890s, sufficient change had occurred in American life and thought to make possible a widespread reaction against previously held attitudes regarding the "uncivilized wilderness." At Chicago's World Columbian Exposition of 1893, Frederick Jackson Turner celebrated the paramount role that the frontier played in the formation of America's national character and mourned the loss presented by the "closing" of this chapter in American history. No longer occupying a position of dominance, the natural world that once was seen as a threatening obstacle to the nation's manifest destiny, was now viewed with a growing sense of romantic nostalgia. "From the perspective of city street and comfortable homes," wrote historian Roderick Nash, "wild country inspired quite different attitudes than it had when observed from the frontiersman's clearing." Now that Americans had subdued the forest and its native inhabitants, "the average citizen could approach wilderness with the viewpoint of the vacationer rather than the conqueror."³⁶

Increasingly, many Americans had both the financial means and the philosophical incentive to react to what historian John Higham has called the "excessive refinement and the enervating tendencies of modern civilization." Included in this revolt was a profound "spiritual reaction" to the "frustrations, the routine and the sheer dullness of an urban industrial culture."³⁷ The inhabitants of America's comparatively new industrial centers did not deny the benefits of city life, or want to return to an agrarian way of life permanently. Rather, they longed for temporary contact with the natural world as a release from civilization's pressures and stale familiarity. They even believed that their urban vantage point gave them a special sensitivity to nature's chorus.³⁸

³²For information on the Crail Family see Paula Halverson, "Crail Ranch." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Unpublished Report, Washington, D.C.: United States Department of the Interior, Summer 1980.

³³(Cronin and Vick, 73)

³⁴See Charles G. Roundy. "The Origins and Early Development of Dude Ranching in Wyoming," Annals of Wyoming 45 (Spring 1973): 24 and Jerome Rodnitzky, "Recapturing the West: The Dude Ranch in American Life," Arizona and the West 10 (Summer 1968): 111.

³⁵(Rodnitzky 1968, 126)

³⁶Roderick Nash, Wilderness and the American Mind, Fourth Edition, (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2001), 143.

³⁷John Higham, "The Reorientation of American Culture in the 1890s," in Writing American History: Essays on Modern Scholarship (Bloomington, Indiana: University of Indiana Press, 1970), 79 and 86.

³⁸For a thorough discussion of the Back To Nature Movement in America see Peter J. Schmidt, Back to Nature: The Arcadian Myth in Urban America (New York: Oxford University Press, 1969).

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Together, these changing perceptions “prompted many Americans to seek ways of retaining the influence of wilderness in modern civilization,” according to Nash.³⁹ The resulting widespread “Back to Nature” movement manifested itself in a whole host of ways. In urban areas, the city park movement and countless country clubs flourished, while in the countryside, vacation getaways, like summer camps and National Parks, proliferated across the American landscape. Popular organizations, like the Boone and Crockett Club (1888), the Sierra Club (1892) and the Boy Scouts (1907) emerged as part of a widespread conservation crusade. Meanwhile, bestsellers like Jack London’s *Call of the Wild* (1903) and Edgar Rice Burroughs’s *Tarzan of the Apes* series (1912 and thereafter) spoke to the place that the wilderness occupied in the American mind.

In the Mountain West, the Back to Nature Movement of the early twentieth century provided ample economic incentive, not only for the continued promotion and improvement of nationally known tourist destinations like Yellowstone National Park, but also for the corresponding development of the closely related dude ranch industry. Seeking, as correspondent Mary Roberts Reinhart put it, to satisfy the “hunger of the civilized to get away from civilization and yet avoid the hardships few of us can easily endure,” dude ranches grafted Eastern ideals on Western culture in a profitable, yet historically and environmentally appropriate manner.⁴⁰

Contrary to prevailing western economic paradigms that centered on extractive industries like mining and logging, the dude ranching was a progressive industry that prioritized rugged scenery, wild game, the western nostalgia, and the ongoing preservation of all three. As a 1932 Northern Pacific Railroad publication noted “From the Gallatin-Madison-Beaverhead resorts, the dude ranch trails lead not only to the scenic heart of the Rockies, but back into the past of frontier life.”⁴¹

Geographically, economically, and architecturally, Yellowstone National Park had a profound impact on the dude ranching industry of Montana and Wyoming. Dude ranching, as one observer noted, “probably got its birth in the Park,” and from the outset the industry was significantly influenced by America’s wonderland.⁴² In turn, the dude ranch industry reinforced the goals and objectives of Park Officials. More than merely attracting thousands of receptive vacationers from “the congested centers of the East and Middle West” who were “greedy for the opportunity to come out here and snuggle down near nature’s heart,” Yellowstone and the dude ranches of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem mutually defined and reinforced the environmental ethic and the western mystique that perpetuated the western tourism industry of the twentieth century.⁴³

Although the world’s first national park was established in 1872, it remained largely the exclusive domain of a handful of wealthy pleasure seekers until the early twentieth century, when a variety of factors converged to popularize Yellowstone and a regional dude ranching industry simultaneously. Before 1877, no more than 500 visitors entered the Park in any given year.⁴⁴

As American continued to modernize during the early twentieth century, however, circumstances changed dramatically. As historian Marguerite Shaffer has observed:

National tourism extended from and depended on the infrastructure of a modern nation state. As a national transportation system and communication network spread across America, as methods of mass production and mass distribution created a national market, as corporate capitalism begot an expanding middle class with time and money to spend on leisure, tourism emerged as a form of geographical consumption that centered on the sights and scenes of the American nation.⁴⁵

Of the factors that directly contributed to the simultaneous rise in popularity of Yellowstone Park travel and dude ranching in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, the “See America First” campaign of the early twentieth century was certainly one of the most

³⁹(Nash 147)

⁴⁰Mary Roberts Reinhart, “Sleeping Giant,” *Ladies Home Journal* 38 (May 1921): 21.

⁴¹Northern Pacific Railway Company, “Ranch Vacations,” 1932, in Burlingame Special Collections, Renne Library, Montana State University-Bozeman, Bozeman, Montana.

⁴²Guy D. Edwards, “Dude Ranches and Yellowstone,” *The Dude Rancher*, 1:2 (1933): 8

⁴³Governor F. H. Cooney, “Speech of Governor F. H. Cooney at the Annual Meeting of the Dude Ranchers Association, Missoula, October 24-26, 1935,” *The Dude Rancher* (November 1935): 1.

⁴⁴Dennis Glick and Ben Alexander, “Development by Default, not Design: Yellowstone National Park and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem,” in *National Parks and Rural Development: Practice and Policy in the United States*, Washington, D.C. Island Press, 2000, 186.

⁴⁵Marguerite S. Shaffer, *See America First: Tourism and National Identity, 1880-1940* (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 2001), 3.

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pronounced.⁴⁶ On January 25th, 1906, Heber M. Wells, President of the Salt Lake City commercial Club, welcomed a group of western businessmen and boosters to a conference organized under the rubric of "See America First" to market tourism in the West. More than simply a gigantic advertising scheme dedicated to promoting "the discovery of America by Americans," the "See America First" campaign was a nationalistic movement that sought to promote patriotism and the love of native lands—especially in the West—while also discouraging overseas travel.⁴⁷ Western scenery "promised to redeem the bodies and souls of easterners who had succumbed to the corruption of commerce and industrialization," the campaign's promoters argued. It could also restore patriotism and virtue, "because in its sublimity, the landscape of the West revealed that America's virtuous republic was sanctioned by God." In short, as America's closest thing to a frontier, the West still offered "an escape from the ills of civilization—modernity, commerce, industrialization, and the forces of historical change—to a place where man could actualize his ideal self as citizen."⁴⁸

Closely connected with the budding "See America First" campaign was the arrival of the Union Pacific Railroad to West Yellowstone in 1908. That year, the Forest Service surveyed and set aside six blocks in the area for a townsite, and the following year the UP constructed an impressive depot to welcome visitors.⁴⁹

As the "See America First" campaign gained momentum nationally, the slogan "permeated the rhetoric of western railroad promotion during the 1910s and 1920s," and railroads re-affirmed their commitment to national park improvements and publicity efforts.⁵⁰ Until automobile traffic boomed after World War I, railroads held a virtual monopoly on western tourism and, consequently, were without rival in their ability to positively stimulate travel in the American West. With substantial financial resources and considerable advertising acumen, America's railroads collectively spent "hundreds of thousands of dollars on advertising brochures, complimentary park guidebooks, and full-page magazine spreads, some in luxurious color."⁵¹

This intense promotional effort not only paid off for the railroads, but also for Yellowstone and eventually the dude ranch industry as well. "Of the 51,895 visitors who entered Yellowstone during the summer of 1915," for example, "fully 44,477 arrived by rail . . ." according to historian Alfred Runte. In the years that followed increasing numbers of tourists traveled by automobile, but despite this fact, no less than five major railroads served Yellowstone and its immediate vicinity by 1930. Indeed, until the economic downturn of the Great Depression, "approximately 40,000 people annually still went to 'wonderland' by train."⁵²

The growing popularity of the automobile during the early twentieth century further bolstered tourism in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. As early as 1911, the Gallatin Valley Automobile Association attempted to organize an automobile tour of the Park, and by 1913, the first section of Park road was opened to automobile traffic.⁵³ By 1925, rangers at Yellowstone's gateways observed that two-thirds of Park visitors "were coming by auto . . ."⁵⁴

If the automobile facilitated Yellowstone Park Tourism in the 1920s, a Jazz Age lust for recreation and out-of-the-ordinary entertainment further fueled the trend. In 1924, H. W. Child of the Yellowstone Park Transportation Company observed that:

Yellowstone's increasing popularity is due largely to this regrettable 'vaudeville Age' or 'Jazz Age' of ours. People today want variety and thrills, they want to see startling, sensational things, stupendous spectacles, and gorgeous beauties. Yellowstone Park, of course, provides thrills at every turn of the road. It's nature's circus park—a

⁴⁶The See America First movement's impact on the national parks is discussed in chapter 5 of Alfred Runte, *National Parks: The American Experience* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1997).

⁴⁷Marguerite S. Shaffer, "'See America First': Re-Envisioning Nation and Region Through Western Tourism," *Pacific Historical Review* 65 (1996): 563 and 570.

⁴⁸(*Ibid.*, 578-79)

⁴⁹Sharee Clark Balinger, "West Yellowstone, Now a Major Tourist Center, Visited Mostly by Mountain Me Prior to 1900," *Great Falls Tribune*, January 9, 1966, 4.

⁵⁰Kirby Lambert, "The Lure of the Parks," *Montana: The Magazine of Western History* 46 (Spring 1996): 49.

⁵¹Alfred Runte, *National Parks: The American Experience* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1997), 92. See also Kirby Lambert, "The Lure of the Parks," *Montana: The Magazine of Western History* 46 (Spring 1996): 42-55.

⁵²Alfred Runte, *Trains of Discovery: Western Railroads and the National Parks*, (Flagstaff, AZ: Northland Press, 1984), 32-34.

⁵³(Glick and Alexander 2000, 186)

⁵⁴Joel Berstein, *Families that Take in Friends: An Informal History of Dude Ranching*, Stevensville, MT: Stonydale Press Publishing, 1982, 45.

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continuous Coney Island, with geysers for thrills, lakes, waterfalls and canyons for beauty, mountains for inspiration, and wild animals to entertain the children.⁵⁵

The growth of needed transportation infrastructure during the early twentieth century, coupled with the Park-related promotional efforts of wealthy railroad corporations, not only attracted thousands to Yellowstone, it simultaneously gave rise to a thriving dude ranch industry in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Between 1900 and 1930, the number of tourists visiting Yellowstone mushroomed from 18,000 to 260,000. While facilities within the Park increased significantly to better address this increased demand, it was clearly apparent that additional accommodations within close proximity to Yellowstone were critically needed. As Struthers Burt phrased it, "The demand was there before the supply." Consequently, "accommodations were provided at the old cattle ranches, left over from the bonanza days of the cattle era, and at mountain ranches, homesteaded to meet the demand," according to historian Charles Roundy.⁵⁶

Yellowstone and the dude ranch industry had a symbiotic relationship during the early twentieth century. "The closeness of dude ranches to national parks greatly enhances the charm of the ranches in the eyes of many tourists," recognized the Dude Ranch Association in 1933.⁵⁷ Indeed, because it represented the epitome of wildness in the national mindset and—thanks to railroad advertising—was a tremendous tourist draw, Yellowstone Park inspired the establishment of dozens of dude ranches in its immediate vicinity, becoming quite literally, "the center of the dude ranch industry of Wyoming and Montana."⁵⁸

Park officials and dude ranch operators alike recognized that "dude ranchers and the Park have a common interest." Understandably, the Dude Ranch Association cultivated close ties with the Park Management, in hopes that both interest could profit from collaborative promotional efforts. As Guy Edwards, Assistant Superintendent of Yellowstone, noted at an annual gathering of the Dude Ranch Association, "The dude ranchers as well as Yellowstone Park wish to sell the West to the East . . . Our common purpose is to tell them about this great Northwest."⁵⁹

Because they were so closely connected with the Park's tourist trade, it was only logical that railroads would also have a keen interest in promoting the dude ranch industry in Montana and Wyoming. Railroads took an especially keen interest in dude ranch promotion after World War I, when automobile travel was first increasing dramatically and railway officials were concerned about steadily declining revenues. Seeing dude ranches as another opportunity for increasing business, "railroads played a very important role in dude ranching," producing a host of colorful dude ranch promotional brochures during the 1920s and afterward.⁶⁰

As dude ranching emerged as a recognized industry, Ernest Miller, a dude rancher near Bozeman, Montana, contacted A. B. Smith, Passenger Traffic Manager of the Northern Pacific Railway, and suggested that a formal alliance be formed. By the Fall of 1926, railroad officials called a meeting of area dude ranchers out of which was born the Dude Ranchers' Association. In this manner, as historian Charles G. Roundy observed, "the railroads played an important role in bringing dude ranchers together and in supporting the resulting association in the late 1920s and throughout the 1930s."⁶¹

Dude Ranching in Gallatin Canyon:

Of all the schemes for developing the economic potential of the upper Gallatin, dude ranching was arguably the most successful. Despite their relatively late appearance in the development of the West, dude ranches played a significant role in attracting easterners to the vicinity and in improving the economies of the Rocky Mountain States. Working hand in hand with the railroads and National

⁵⁵"Prosperity Special on Way to Yellowstone Park," *Bozeman Daily Chronicle*, 3 June 1924, 3.

⁵⁶Charles G. Roundy, "The Origins and Early Development of Dude Ranching in Wyoming," *Annals of Wyoming* 45 (Spring 1973): 14-15.

⁵⁷"See the National Parks—The Dude Ranch Way—On Horseback," *The Dude Rancher* 1:3 (1933): 6.

⁵⁸(Edwards, 8)

⁵⁹(Ibid.)

⁶⁰Lawrence R. Borne, "Dude Ranches and the Development of the West," *Journal of the West* 17 (July 1978): 89. Several examples of dude ranch promotional brochures sponsored by railroads can be found at the Burlingame Special Collections, Renne Library, Montana State University-Bozeman, including: Northern Pacific Railway Company, "Ranch Vacations," (St. Paul: Northern Pacific Railway Company, 1932), Burlingame Special Collections, Renne Library, Montana State University-Bozeman; and Union Pacific Railroad, "Dude Ranches out West," an unpublished pamphlet in Burlingame Special Collections, Renne Library, Montana State University-Bozeman.

⁶¹(Roundy, 21)

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Parks, "(d)ude ranching was a primary reason for the growth of the tourist industry in the West," according to historian Lawrence Borne.⁶²

By the Progressive Era of the early 1900s, Americans embraced an idealized version of the wilderness and the Old West that encouraged increased western tourism, and dude ranching in particular. Both were prompted in large measure by a realization that the frontier was rapidly disappearing, if not already gone. Rampant urbanization and industrialization in the East confirmed America's changing character, inspiring various movements to save or recapture what was left of this important part of American heritage and culture. The cowboy, the open range, and a belief in the morally uplifting qualities inherent in physical labor and the natural environment--all critical components of this idealized and romanticized version of the West.⁶³

Simultaneously, Eastern industrialization was helping to raise the standard of living for many Americans, thus granting increasing numbers more time and money to use for traveling. Areas close to Yellowstone National Park--the epitome of western wilderness in the popular mindset of the day--emerged as "prime places for the location of dude ranches," according to historian Lawrence R. Borne, and "areas around Cody, Jackson, Gardiner, and West Yellowstone became ideal locations for dude ranches."⁶⁴ With the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem as a nucleus, the dude ranching industry soon emerged as "the single most unique contribution of the Rocky Mountain West to the ever-growing national vacation industry."⁶⁵

Prior to 1906, Gallatin Canyon tourism was still in its infancy. Only occasionally did a canyon rancher like Sam Wilson attempt to profit by taking in guests. In January of 1906, however, Tom Michener, Pete Karst, and Sam Wilson met at Michener's ranch and decided to collaboratively launch a dude ranching business in Gallatin Canyon. Michener's Camp, Karst's Cold Spring Resort, and Wilson's Buffalo Horn Resort (later known as the 320 Ranch) would organize a profitable and systematic tourist business that capitalized on the scenic beauty and natural amenities of the area. Cooperating closely, the three ranches fixed their rates at \$12.00 per week for cabin and board and \$6.00 per week for a saddle horse.⁶⁶

The dude ranching industry was well on its way to becoming "an economic mainstay in the Gallatin Canyon," by 1909 when Karst's Resort took in 183 visitors.⁶⁷ The following year, the Milwaukee Road connected with Salesville (now Gallatin Gateway) just north of the canyon, and began promoting "Gallatin Way" to the Park as an avenue by which to compete with the Northern Pacific Railroad for the Yellowstone tourist trade. Responding to these positive developments, the number of tourists visiting Karst's resort jumped dramatically to an impressive 600 guests in 1910.⁶⁸

Karst's success encouraged other Gallatin Canyon ranchers to capitalize on eastern tourism. One such operation was Cunningham and Behring's Nine Quarter Circle Ranch, which expanded into dude ranching at the encouragement of Frank O. Butler of the influential Butler Paper Company in Chicago.⁶⁹ A regular guest of the Michener Ranch since 1906, Butler convinced Cunningham to let his family move to the Nine Quarter Circle, where his sons--Paul and Julius--"could join in the operation of running a cattle outfit."

⁶²Lawrence R. Borne, "Dude Ranching in the Rockies," *Montana the Magazine of Western History* 38 (Summer 1988): 15. Dude ranches were the homes of western families that accepted paying guests to generate extra income.

⁶³Lawrence R. Borne, "Dude Ranches and the Development of the West," *Journal of the West* 17 (July 1978): 87-88. See also (Roundy 1973, 13).

⁶⁴(Borne 1978, 88)

⁶⁵(Roundy 1973, 5)

⁶⁶See Margaret Michener Kelley, "Dude Ranching on the Gallatin," undated typescript in "Miscel." folder, McGill Collection, Montana State University Archives, Burlingame Special Collections, Bozeman, Montana. See also Bud Clark in *Gallatin County Tribune*, April 29, 1971.

⁶⁷(Malone 1973, 10)

⁶⁸The Northern Pacific accessed Yellowstone via a spur line that ran from Livingston, Montana, to the Park's north entrance at Gardiner. The Milwaukee's acquisition of the Gallatin Valley Electric Railway is discussed in the *Bozeman Weekly Chronicle*, October 6, 1910 and July 31, 1919. See also August Derleth, *The Milwaukee Road: Its First One Hundred Years* (New York: Creative Age Press, 1948), 187.

⁶⁹For historical background on the entire Butler Family see Robert F. Karolevitz, *Paper Mountain: The Story of Frank Osgood Butler, 1861-1955* (Brookings, SD: South Dakota State University Press, 1980). The Anglo-Irish Butler family first arrived in America in 1654. In the early 1800s, Asa and Simon Butler were the first American paper manufacturers to make paper for the United States Congress. In the 1830s, Oliver Morris Butler built a paper mill on the Fox River in Illinois. In 1841, Julius Wales Butler founded the J. W. Butler Paper Company on State Street in Chicago, Illinois. The Company retains notoriety as the oldest family owned business in Chicago. They were also the largest landowners in Du Page County, Illinois.

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Responding positively to Butler's urgings and the possibility of significant profit, Cunningham and Behring constructed their first guest cabins in the Spring of 1910 for the exclusive use of the Butler family. A brochure was soon circulated in the Chicago area and, in the years that followed, the Butler's also invited a large circle of friends to the Nine Quarter Circle.⁷⁰

In the years that followed, other guest ranches appeared in the Gallatin Canyon area, thanks to the Milwaukee's promotional efforts and automobile traffic, which first accessed the Park via the "Gallatin Way" in 1914.⁷¹ The outbreak of World War I in Europe that same year also gave the dude ranching industry a needed boost, as wealthier Americans were discouraged from traveling overseas. When the holocaust in Europe ended in 1918, many Americans were permanently "sold" on the western United States as a fantastic vacation spot and the related amenities afforded by dude ranching.⁷²

Despite some early examples of successful dude ranchers, like Howard Eaton and Dick Randell, the "golden age" of American dude ranching did not begin in earnest until the 1920s, when an unprecedented number of working ranches began accepting guests to counteract the adverse effects of a prevailing agricultural depression. Nostalgic interest in the American West was at a peak and the middle class, possessing greater time and discretionary income, was both growing and traveling. Working ranches in scenic locations and in close proximity to National Parks increasingly catered to a public "receptive to a Rocky Mountain vacation."⁷³ This was especially true in the Gallatin Canyon vicinity, where during the late 19-teens and early 1920s, Sam Wilson's operation became the well-known 320 Ranch. Others dude ranches that developed during the period included the Elkhorn Ranch, which Ernest Miller and Family opened on Sage Creek; the Rising Sun Ranch, also on Sage Creek; the Rainbow Ranch, just above the Lower Basin; Buck's T-Four Ranch in the Lower Basin; and many others.⁷⁴

In the 1920s, partnerships between Gallatin Canyon dude ranchers and area railroads solidified in significant ways, bringing even larger numbers of tourists to the area. Because automobile ownership and the western road network remained fairly limited, American tourists represented a class of "captive clientele" who were actively courted by railroads and dude ranchers in hopes that they would commit to a two-week or longer stay at destination resorts.⁷⁵ To this end, Pete Karst opened the Gallatin Canyon bus line in 1924 and two years later the Milwaukee Road followed his lead.

Responding to ever-increasing automobile traffic, which threatened their common interests, and seeking to perpetuate a mutually advantageous relationship, dude ranchers and railroads forged a legitimate partnership. In September of 1926, the Dude Ranch Association held its first annual meeting in Bozeman, Montana, pledging to "establish cooperation and acquaintances among resort owners and railroad officials."⁷⁶ Those in attendance—including owners of twenty-six Montana and Wyoming ranches, the governors of both states, and the passenger agent of the Northern Pacific Railroad—reflected the increasing importance of tourism in the Rocky Mountain West. Within three years the Dude Ranch Association had expanded from twenty-six original members to ninety-one, and virtually every major railroad in the West actively participated.⁷⁷

The formal acknowledgment of the dude ranch industry marked the coming of age of what had been an informal, individualistic enterprise fostered by the economic ingenuity of western ranches and by changes in America's social and cultural landscape. "Dude ranching is now coming into its own as one of the West's fast developing industries," wrote W. B. Banfill in 1927. "During the last few years there has been a remarkable growth in the cattle country and mountain regions of Montana and Wyoming in the so-called

⁷⁰"Dude Ranching on the Madison," *Progressive years: Madison County, Vol. II, 1920-50* (Ennis, MT: Madison County historical Association, 1983), 831-33.

⁷¹The early development of automobile traffic in Yellowstone is discussed in Richard A. Bartlett, "Those Infernal Machines in Yellowstone," *Montana: The Magazine of Western History*, 20 (Summer 1970), esp. pgs. 19-25.

⁷²(Borne 1978, 88-89)

⁷³Ann Hubber, "OTO Ranch," *National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*.

Unpublished Report, (Washington, D.C.: United State Department of the Interior, November 16, 1992), 8:2.

⁷⁴See Merrill G. Burlingame, "A Brief Chronological Sketch of the Gallatin Canyon," *Bozeman Daily Chronicle*, February 15, 16, and 17, 1970.

⁷⁵Lawrence R. Borne, *Dude Ranching: A Complete History* (Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico Press, 1983), 19-22.

⁷⁶"Dude Ranches," *Bozeman Daily Chronicle*, 23 September 1926.

⁷⁷For statistics on the growth of the Dude Ranch Association see (Borne 1983, 59).

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dude ranch business.” According to estimates compiled by the Northern Pacific and Burlington Northern Railroads, “[m]ore than a million dollars were spent by guests at the various resorts of the two states” in 1926.⁷⁸

With Yellowstone traffic burgeoning, the Northern Pacific announced in early 1927 that it too would open a “Bozeman Gateway” to the Park, with bus tours through the canyon. The threat of competition from the long-established Northern Pacific prompted the Milwaukee to upgrade its rail line from Three Forks and construct the spectacular Gallatin Gateway Inn at Salesville, prompting the town to change its name to Gallatin Gateway. The Gallatin Canyon area was now on the map as a thriving tourist center.⁷⁹

The Development of the B—K/Lone Mountain Ranch:

The F. O. Butler Family had visited the Gallatin Canyon area since 1906 and played a significant role in the development of the Nine Quarter Circle Ranch. During the 1920s, the Butler family exerted a profound influence on the region. Paul Butler—one of the sons of Chicago paper baron Frank O. Butler—bought the Seven Eleven Ranch in Gallatin Canyon and used it to raise polo ponies during the decade. In 1928, the Butler’s aided Marshall Cunningham in reopening the Nine Quarter Circle for dude ranching. Hoping to appeal to a select clientele, their rate was \$150 a week.⁸⁰

In 1927, J. Fred Butler purchased the 160-acre Clarence Lytle homestead, in present day Big Sky, Montana, for fifty dollars an acre. Concerned about the environment impacts of sheep grazing, and more interested in the scenic beauty of the homestead as a family vacation spot than in making profits from agricultural pursuits, Butler purchased an additional eleven sections of land from the Northern Pacific Railroad in order “to keep ranchers from trailing sheep over Jack Creek.” But Butler’s efforts were to no avail. After his land acquisition, area ranchers simply trucked their sheep into the canyon and continued to graze them on lands in the West Fork Drainage. Despite this setback, the Lytle Ranch was given to Butler’s daughter, Florence, and her husband, Don Kilbourne, and was renamed the B—K Ranch.⁸¹

Initially, “the Butler and Kilbourne families used the B—K Ranch for their own recreation, rather than as a paying dude ranch,” according to historians Janet Cronin and Dorothy Vick.⁸² The wealthy Butler-Kilbourne family spent roughly \$110,000 on this summer playground, building two substantial hilltop log residences—the uppermost for Florence and Don Kilbourne, and the other slightly lower and to the left for J. Fred Butler and his wife. In addition the B—K Ranch originally featured a dining lodge, double guest cabins, and an array of modest older ranch buildings and structures that likely comprised the original Lytle homestead. As the Butler’s improved the B—K, they wanted the area around the ranch to remain as natural as possible, so they avoided manicuring the grounds.⁸³

During the Great Depression, Florence and Don Kilbourne debated what to do with the B—K. When Bob Cunningham of the Nine Quarter Circle declined a Butler Family offer to purchase the B—K Ranch for \$50,000 which, due to the nation’s economic downturn, was priced at “only a fraction of the market value because the buildings were completely furnished and adequate to start taking guests,” Florence and Don Kilbourne converted the B—K to a full-fledged dude ranch, with the financial assistance of F. O. Butler.⁸⁴

The Butler/Kilbourne transition to full-fledged dude ranching reflected ongoing national trends. At the beginning of the Great Depression, dude ranches were exceedingly popular, both in the Greater Yellowstone area, and in the Western United States generally. According to historian Peter J. Schmidt, the U.S. Census Bureau reported in 1930 that three hundred and sixty-six western ranchers

⁷⁸See (Hubber 1992, 8:1 and 8:2) and (Roundy 1973, 21). See also W. B. Banfill “Dude Ranching Now Coming Into Its Own as one of the West’s Fast Developing Industries,” Montana Newspaper Inserts, 19 December 1927, Montana Historical Society Vertical Files, Helena, Montana.

⁷⁹See Bozeman Weekly Courier, August 20, 1924; July 9, 1926; May 28, 1926; January 28, 1927; and February 11, 1927. See also Great Falls Tribune, June 26, 1927, Sec. 2 and Bozeman Daily Chronicle, June 18, 1927 and August 9, 1964.

⁸⁰“Dude Ranching on the Madison,” Progressive Years: Madison County, Vol. II, 1920-50 (Ennis, MT: Madison County Historical Association, 1983), 832-33.

⁸¹(Ibid. 1983, 832-33) See also (Cronin and Vick 1992, 200-201)

⁸²(Cronin and Vick 1992, 141)

⁸³“Dude Ranching on the Madison” 1983, 832-33) Additional information was gathered from Vivian Schaap, “History of B—K/Lone Mountain Ranch,” [photocopy], September 25, 1996, in the possession of Bob and Vivian Schaap.

⁸⁴(Dude Ranching . . .” 1983, 832-33)

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reported that the major portion of their income was gathered “from boarders, lodgers and campers.”⁸⁵ In Montana, no less than 150 dude ranches offered “the most typically western vacation.” The vast majority of these, according to a Montana Department of Agriculture, Labor, and Industry Report, were “located in the valleys north of Yellowstone Park, in or near the Beartooth, Absaroka, and Gallatin National Forests . . .”⁸⁶

Many of these dude ranch operations were run by transplanted Easterners, like the Butler/Kilbourne family, who anticipated—often far better than Westerner’s—the hopes, fears, and expectations of their guests because they knew from experience something of the urge that compelled city dwellers to visit the wilderness. Grafting Eastern ideals on the Western culture and environment that they loved, dude ranchers like the Butler/Kilbourne’s set out to promote “the impression of wildness and isolation” with “home-made bedsteads but forty-pound mattresses.”⁸⁷

It was an uncertain time to enter the dude ranch industry. In the early years of the Depression, national park tourism and related dude ranch visitations declined as much as thirty-eight percent.⁸⁸ By the mid-1930s, however, economic prospects for dude ranchers had brightened considerably. The ongoing “See America First” campaign, coupled with the troubling rise of fascism in Europe, discouraged overseas travel and gave western dude ranchers a needed shot in the arm. By May of 1935, Dude Ranch Association proudly reported that the dude ranch industry of Montana and Wyoming “is outstanding in its expenditures for construction, equipment and supplies.” The organization went on to announce that “the industry today is prepared to entertain as its guests in the 1935 season between 14,000 and 15,000 dudes, many of them coming from fashionable families in the East.”⁸⁹ Thanks to these ongoing trends, and the financial backing of F.O. Butler, the B—K Ranch continued to operate successfully throughout the remaining years of the Great Depression. During the latter 1930s, when writers for the Works Progress Administration compiled a listing entitled “Dude Ranches of Montana,” nineteen were located in Gallatin County, including the B—K Ranch under the ownership of the Butler/Kilbourne Family.⁹⁰

Although the B—K and other area dude ranches survived the Great Depression, the advent of World War II presented an equally challenging set of circumstances. Articles from Dude Ranch Association periodicals illustrate that rationing, labor shortages, and a general lack of interest in vacationing during wartime had a significant impact on many dude ranch operators. “Food rationing . . . was evidently designed with only the city dweller in mind,” complained I. H. Larom, President of the Dude Rancher’s Association in 1943. “No thought was given to ranchers living fifty or more miles from a grocer . . .”⁹¹ Desperate to justify tourism and specifically his dude ranch industry during wartime, Larom reasoned that “ranchers accommodating guests in addition to farming and agricultural operations are playing just as important a role in the furtherance of war activities as those who do not provide for guests, perhaps even more so, as there will be a certain demand for places where relaxation may be sought by those who need it in order to carry on with their war efforts.”⁹²

Given the troubling circumstances facing the nation, the dude ranch industry faltered during World War II, despite the rationales promoted by Dude Ranch Association officials. “The past quarter has been a difficult one for the dude rancher,” confessed Larom in July of 1943, “especially for those of the ‘operating’ type, who have had the problem of obtaining both regular ranch labor and domestic help.” Food rationing, motor transportation, “and about every conceivable difficulty one could think of,” made successful dude ranching especially difficult during the War Years. Complicating these impediments, the Office of Defense Transportation eliminated rail and airline travel advertising, “the medium through which both (dude) ranches and the Western Country in general was

⁸⁵Peter J. Schmidt, *Back to Nature: The Arcadian Myth in Urban America* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1969): 172.

⁸⁶Montana Department of Agriculture, Labor and Industry, “Dude Ranches of Montana,” *Montana: Tourist Trail Edition* IV (April 1930), 15.

⁸⁷Struthers Burt, *The Diary of a Dude Wrangler* (New York: Scribner’s, 1924): 50-52.

⁸⁸M. M. Goodsill, “Facts, Figures, and Fancies: 1932 Dude Ranch Tourist Season is Over,” *The Dude Rancher* 1:1 (1932): 4.

⁸⁹F. W. DeGuire, “Dude Ranch Offers Unusual Vacation,” *The Dude Rancher* 4:7 (May 1935): 10. For a detailed discussion of the “See America First” campaign and its impacts on western tourism see: Marguerite Shaffer, “‘See America First’: Re-Envisioning Nation and Region Through Western Tourism,” *Pacific Historical Review* 65 (1996): 559-581.

⁹⁰A listing of Depression-era dude ranches in Montana can be found in Works Progress Administration, “Montana Writer’s Project Records,” Microfilm Collection #250, Reel #4, Montana Historical Society, Helena, Montana.

⁹¹I. H. Larom, “President’s Page,” *The Dude Rancher* 12:2 (April 1943): 4.

⁹²(*Ibid.*)

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brought before the public." Summing up the less than desirable situation his industry faced, Larom concluded that "Forty to fifty percent of normal is as good a guess as any for most outfits this season."⁹³

By the summer of 1944, America's military success overseas was becoming increasingly apparent, and operators like the Butler/Kilbourne's could see the light at the end of the tunnel. Regional architects who specialized in dude ranch industry projects, like Leon C. Goodrich of Casper, Wyoming, anticipated the inevitable surge of tourist-related activity that would follow the War's end. Advertising "Cabins—Lodges—Hotels—Homes . . . in fact, anything from a branding chute to a complete town," Goodrich and his contemporaries optimistically proclaimed that "there is no reason why your post-war planning should not be modern, yet simple, and designed to take advantage of the natural conditions typical of the West."⁹⁴

But forward-looking pitches like Goodrich's were not sufficient to erase the memories of more than a decade of economic uncertainty and frustration, nor were they enough to convince all dude ranch operators to stay the course. Following the War's end, Florence and Don Kilbourne divorced. Then in the Spring of 1946, she died. In her colorful letter describing the B—K Ranch, Frances Smith also shed's light on the fate of Florence Kilbourne. "When her husband divorced her, it broke her heart and she went into a decline," Smith wrote.

That is where, about ten years ago, the mysterious Dr. La Forge came into the picture as her friendly advisor. He is a psychiatrist. Last Spring, when she died of an overdose of sleeping pills, he conveniently inherited all her fortune, including the B—K. He is still hanging around the place, and took us through all of the cabins, and gave us the creeps.⁹⁵

Shortly before Smith's 1946 visit to the B—K, La Forge sold the B—K to Earl and Louise Riser from Springtown, Pennsylvania and Henrietta Joyce of Cincinnati, Ohio. The partner's purchased the ranch for Joyce's nephew--Robert Turner, a Kansas minister who "wanted to instill values and leadership skills in the young men he envisioned as he future leaders of the United States."⁹⁶ Turner ran a summer camp for teenage boys from the Midwest that featured riding, pack trips, fishing, hunting, auto trips, and cattle round ups. According to a 1947 edition of "Corral Dust," the official newsletter of the Robert Turner's boy's camp, "sixty odd ranchers and staff members settled down on their summer home, a 'little' 8000 acre ranch on West Fork Creek in the Gallatin National Forest." There, "Midwesterners with sport clothes and fancy ties soon became Westerners with stiff black hats and cowboy boots."⁹⁷

Turner's idea of a youth camp was rooted in the back to nature movement of the early twentieth century. To combat the adverse impacts of modernity and soft living on manliness, a variety of organizations emerged with the intention of getting young men into the wilderness. Ernest Thompson Seton's "Woodcraft Indians," Daniel Beard's "Sons of Daniel Boone," and Sir Robert Baden-Powell's "Boy Scouts," were part of a long tradition that emphasized "a character-making movement with a blue sky method."⁹⁸ As an early scouting pamphlet noted, "boys in our modern life, and especially in our cities and villages, do not have the chance, as did the boys of the past . . . , to become strong, self-reliant, resourceful and helpful, and to get acquainted with nature and the outdoor life, without special guidance and training."⁹⁹

Nor was Turner's idea original in southwestern Montana. For a time, as early as 1912, the Flying D Ranch just north of the B—K promoted itself as a place ". . . where any American boy may have the time of his life, out in God's free country, in the open air, under

⁹³I. H. Larom, "President's Page," *The Dude Rancher* 12:3 (July 1943): 4.

⁹⁴Leon C. Goodrich Architects Advertisement, *The Dude Rancher* (July 1944): 16.

⁹⁵Frances Smith, Moose Wyoming, to _____, 21 September 1946, 2, typed transcript in the possession of Bob and Vivian Schaap, Bozeman, Montana.

⁹⁶(Cronin and Vick 1992, 229)

⁹⁷"Go West Young Man," *Corral Dust* Vol. 1: No. 2 (July 21, 1947) a photocopied newsletter in the possession of Bob and Vivian Schaap, Bozeman, Montana.

⁹⁸Ernest Thompson Seton, *Manual of the Woodcraft Indians* (Garden City: Doubleday-Page, 1915, 14th edition): xiii.

⁹⁹"The Boy Scout Scheme," 24-page pamphlet published by the Boy Scouts of America, July 1914, quoted in (Schmitt, 109).

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the shadow of the mountains, and gain strength and self-reliance and, more than all, a knowledge of the West and what the West really means."¹⁰⁰ Turner hoped to capitalize on as well.

Ranch Foreman Ed Smith, who characterized the B—K as follows, described Turner's Ranch in a later autobiography:

It was five miles west up a trail road from the Gallatin River Highway. This was a primitive ranch; no electricity or phone. The lodge and log cabins, corrals and all was built extra well, and the roofs was of dirt with grass growing on top. No logs was used under a certain size. There was three corrals with long, well-built wings, and a nice furnished cowboy cabin close to the corrals . . . There was a dozen very well-furnished cabins, with wood burning hot water heaters . . . There were three large horse and cow pastures, and every kind of big game to see all around within a mile, and fishing in all the creeks.¹⁰¹

Turner's operation at the B—K was short-lived and in 1948, Earl Risser and his partners again converted the Ranch to a place where guests could come and enjoy the wilds of Montana. Improvements were soon made. During the summers of 1948 and 1949, due to the persistence of Earl Risser and his friend Bill Campbell, the ranch became the first location in the state of Montana to get underground electricity.¹⁰²

In 1950, Don Corcoran of Corcoran Pulpwood Company in Bemidji, Minnesota, bought the Ranch and used it as a base camp for logging 6,834 acres in the West Fork Area, which were purchased the following year. Corcoran's Company logged and furnished raw materials for the Lake States Paper Mill in Wisconsin. According to Cronin and Vick, "[t]he Corcoran's lived at the B—K Ranch." Their employees--many of whom were Chippewa Indians from the Upper Midwest--were housed "in tar paper shacks spotted all around the drainage" and "each shack measured nine feet by twelve feet." The Corcoran's also "paid . . . school teachers and held classes at the ranch" for their many workers. Back in the hills remnants of the structures Corcoran used for his logging operations still remain. In 1970, Corcoran sold his acreage on the west Fork of the Gallatin to Chrysler Realty Corporation, who initiated the Big Sky Development.¹⁰³

By the mid-1950s, Corcoran sold off the original B—K ranch to Jack and Elaine Hume, who renamed the property Lone Mountain Ranch. The Hume's, who had lived on the 960-acre Augustus F. Crail Ranch in what is now Big Sky's Meadow village since 1950, continued living there while they modernized the ranch, and successfully ran it as a dude ranch/hunting and fishing camp.¹⁰⁴ Promoted as an "11,000 acre working ranch with hundreds of white faced cattle," and advertising "A Vacation for All the Family," a 1955 brochure from Hume's Lone Mountain Ranch describes the accommodations and amenities available:

The lodge and guest cabins at Lone Mountain Ranch are the finest western log architecture. The Butler Bros. of Chicago built them for themselves and the comfort of their summer guests. Guest cabins are soundly built, comfortable, and attractively furnished . . . The large comfortable lodge provides a picturesque spot for relaxation and visiting. Whether you want to enter into the strenuous activities of ranch life or just want to 'hide away', this is the place.¹⁰⁵

In 1962, Sam Smeeding purchased the operation, continuing its tradition of western hospitality. A new structure (now called the Rainbow/Grayling building) was added to serve as Smeeding's ranch saloon.¹⁰⁶

¹⁰⁰"Western Life for Eastern Boys: Flying D Ranch, Gallatin Valley, Montana," 1912 in Burlingame Special Collections, Renne Library, Montana State University—Bozeman, Bozeman, Montana.

¹⁰¹Ed Smith, *The Wandering, Trapping, and Trading Cowboy: An Autobiography* (Marceline, Missouri: Walsworth Publishing Company, 1994), 149.

¹⁰²See (Norlander 2002)

¹⁰³For information on Corcoran see (Cronin and Vick 1992, 229-30) and "Company Sells Gallatin Acreage," *Gallatin Valley Slipper*, February 1970, in the vertical files, "Corcoran," Gallatin County Pioneer Museum, Bozeman, Montana.

¹⁰⁴Information on the Crail Ranch can be obtained in Paula Halverson, "Crail Ranch," *National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*, Unpublished Report, Washington, D.C.: United State Department of the Interior, Summer 1980.

¹⁰⁵Jack and Elaine Hume, "Lone Mountain Ranch: A Working Cattle Ranch," (Bozeman, Montana: Artcraft Printers, 1955)

¹⁰⁶(Norlander 2002)

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In 1970, Smeeding sold the ranch to Big Sky Corporation, which was comprised of Chet Huntley, Conoco, Northwest Airlines, and Chrysler Corporation, among others. The new owners used the ranch as their headquarters for Big Sky's development, entertaining those interested in their plans for Big Sky's future. When Huntley died in 1974, many lost interest in the Big Sky venture. The Big Sky Corporation sold most of its holdings, including the ski area, golf course, and some land, to Boyne USA. In 1977, the corporation sold "The Ranch at Big Sky" to Bob and Vivian Schaap and other partners--the present owners of Lone Mountain Guest Ranch.¹⁰⁷

Dude Ranch Architecture in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem:

The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem was home to dozens of dude ranches during the first half of the twentieth century.¹⁰⁸ Some operations dated back to the earliest years of dude ranching in Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming, while others were more recent in origin. Similarly, while some dude ranches were capable of handling only a few guests at any one time, others were far larger in scope. Most dude ranches evolved over time rather than being entirely constructed in one fell swoop. But while each dude ranch was distinct, and the factors motivating property owners to embrace dude ranching were many, virtually all "had some common features," which enable surviving dude ranches to be classified as distinguishable built environments today.¹⁰⁹ The types of historic buildings and structures found in planned dude ranch complexes of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, as well as the arrangement of these site features, commonly followed predictable patterns of development. In addition, historic dude ranch architecture was (and is) almost always characterized by the "Rustic" style which, for a variety of reasons discussed below, grew out of the ideological climate of the early twentieth century, and came to epitomize the architecture of western tourist destinations during the 1900-1950 period.¹¹⁰

The types of buildings and structures comprising historic dude ranch complexes throughout the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem share many similarities. When dude ranch complexes were planned—such as in the case of the B—K Ranch—"a prime feature," according to historian Lawrence R. Borne, "was a central lodge." Central lodges typically featured one or more fireplaces, which provided heat and atmosphere simultaneously. Central lodges also contained "three or four large rooms for lounging, square dancing, other recreation, and eating, unless a separate building housing the dining room." Kitchens, food storage, and refrigeration, were often adjacent to the dining area. While some lodges had living quarters in them, "other ranches had one-, two-, or three-room cabins nearby for the guests." Porches, which "emphasized the relaxation and slower pace" of the ranch, were also quite commonplace on central lodges, as well as on the guest cabins. Other buildings supplied needed living quarters for the ranch foreman, cook, wranglers, and other help. A variety of other utilitarian buildings for storage, as well as barns and corrals for the horses, were almost always present as well.¹¹¹

Despite their varied locations and sizes, planned dude ranch complexes were also often sited in a generally consistent manner. Because a reliable fresh water supply was essential, most were situated on streams or rivers, which not only furnished drinking water and a needed sanitation system, but also further enhanced the ranch's scenic value, recreational amenities, and overall appeal. Additionally, because the central buildings of virtually all dude ranch complexes in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem were wooden—and typically log—they needed to "be spaced far enough apart to eliminate hazard if one caught fire, and yet close enough for ease in getting around the ranch." In some instances, buildings were spaced along streams or lakes to enhance the sensory experiences of paying guests while simultaneously facilitating firefighting, but this often minimized the communal aspects of the dude ranch experience. To overcome this drawback, while still addressing concerns of safety and convenience, many ranch compounds

¹⁰⁷(Ibid.)

¹⁰⁸In 1937, the Wyoming legislature legally defined a dude ranch as "a ranch offering accommodations, entertainment, and participation in regular ranch activities to guests for monetary compensation." The definition is quoted in "Dude Ranches Excluded from Unemployment Compensation Contributions in Wyoming," *The Dude Rancher* 7:1 (January 1939): 2.

¹⁰⁹ Lawrence R. Borne, *Dude Ranching: A Complete History* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1983), 122-23. See also Raymond J. Raddy, "Dude Ranching is not all Yippee!," *The Western Horseman* 17:4 (April 1952): 16, 35-40.

¹¹⁰For a discussion of the character-defining features of rustic architecture see William C. Tweed, Laura E. Soulliere, and Henry G. Law, "Rustic Architecture: 1916-1942," National Park Service, Western Regional Office, Division of Cultural Management, February 1977, 1-3. A comprehensive overview of the ideological and architectural influences that gave rise to the popular rustic style in America see Linda Flint McClelland, *Presenting Nature: The historic Landscape Design of the National Park Service: 1916-1942* (Washington, D.C. National Park Service, 1993).

¹¹¹(Borne, 122-23)

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were thoughtfully arranged around a central green-space or parkland. These common areas afforded a functional space for cherished communal activities, like picnicking, horseshoes, or baseball, while simultaneously providing the guest cabins with "a good view of the surrounding countryside" and "the horses and corral activities." Because rustic simplicity was always desired, "none of these features had to be elaborate," according to Borne, "but the ranch had to be well planned, clean, and comfortable."¹¹²

Stylistically, most dude ranches shared commonalities as well. The vast majority of dude ranch buildings and structures can generally be classified as "Rustic" in style. Popular in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and especially associated with wilderness tourist destinations, the Rustic Movement "was a natural outgrowth of a new romanticism about nature, about our country's western frontiers," according to National Park Service Historical Architect Merrill Ann Wilson. Fostered by a growing conservation ethic of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the Rustic style was architecturally "unique" in that, "for the first time in the history of American architecture, a building became an accessory to nature . . ."¹¹³

The Rustic style is generally characterized by "the use of native materials in proper scale" and "the avoidance of rigid, straight lines, and over-sophistication," according to National Park Service Architectural Consultant Albert H. Good. Through these simple means, the style "gives the feeling of having been executed by pioneer craftsmen with limited hand tools," and when "successfully handled," it "thus achieves sympathy with natural surroundings, and with the past."¹¹⁴

In many respects, Rustic design was perfectly suited for dude ranches in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem—so much so, in fact, that by the 1930s, rustic architecture and dude ranching were virtually joined at the hip. "Everywhere you go in the dude ranch country, you see log cabins," one observer noted in *The Dude Rancher* magazine, the official publication of the Dude Ranch Association (DRA). Testifying to the popularity of log cabin construction during the heyday of the dude ranch industry, the DRA went on to celebrate the surprising fact that "more log cabins were built in the United States in 1933, than in any other year since Lincoln's time."¹¹⁵

Blending well with their scenic natural surroundings and pre-existing built environments, Rustic dude ranch buildings celebrated the pioneer days and frontier living with a great deal of nostalgia, much like western tourists themselves. Widespread reliance on log construction, therefore, was more than merely convenient in the heavily forested Mountain West; it expressed a philosophical statement that grew out of ideological climate of the early-twentieth century. "Real log cabins represented more than artful simplicity," Peter Schmidt has noted. "They expressed an attitude toward life itself."¹¹⁶

* * * *

Several factors help to explain why virtually all dude ranch-related buildings and structures in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem share common characteristics. First, the remoteness of the ranches—especially those that developed prior to reliable transportation systems—virtually mandated the utilization of indigenous materials in the construction of dude ranch buildings and structures. Log, stone, and other unrefined materials were utilized, at least initially, out of necessity and convenience.

In addition, dude ranch architecture in the vicinity of Yellowstone National Park usually reflected the authentic utilitarian, pre-industrial character and appearance of the pioneer West for the simple reason that—like the B—K Ranch—most dude ranches were originally homesteads and/or working ranches prior to their taking on paying guests. Most ranches looked like the real thing because originally they were authentic working ranches. Even after they embraced tourism as a means of generating additional income, most dude ranches continued to function—at least in part—as working agricultural operations, much to the delight of Eastern visitors.¹¹⁷

¹¹²(Ibid.)

¹¹³ Merrill Ann Wilson, "Rustic Architecture: The National Park Style," *Trends*, (July August September, 1976), 4-5.

¹¹⁴ Albert H. Good. *Park and Recreation Structures: Part I—Administration and Basic Service Facilities*, a reprint of the 1938 edition published by the United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999, 5

¹¹⁵"Log Cabins," *The Dude Rancher* 4:7 (May 1935): 7.

¹¹⁶ Peter J. Schmidt, *Back to Nature: The Arcadian Myth in Urban America* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1969): 168.

¹¹⁷ As Jerome Rodnitzky has observed, "Two types of dude ranches incorporating actual ranch life developed. The first was a working cattle ranch, a genuine, serious enterprise set up to make profits from the products it raised, and separate from dude revenue. Such outfits were range-country ranches, big enough to carry cattle through the winter. Their size . . . was an important attraction. The other type was the mountain ranch, typically located in breath-taking scenic country. Here, in most cases, snow covered pastureland much of the year, preventing year-round ranching. Although mountain ranches usually were not self-supporting without tourist clientele, they joined with working ranches in spending thousands of dollars

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Working ranches that later added facilities to accommodate paying guests—such as central lodges, guest cabins, dining halls, and the like—almost always based the design and materials of these newer amenities on the architectural character of pre-existing structures, so as to convey a more authentic, compatible, and cohesive appearance overall. A consistency of materials and basic architectural forms was, as a result, consciously maintained over time because it was practical and architecturally appropriate to do so.

As larger numbers of successful dude ranch operations sprang into existence during the early decades of twentieth century “approximately twenty percent were started for the sole purpose of entertaining guests,” according to Joel H. Bernstein.¹¹⁸ Many of these dude ranch operators copied the historic architectural designs and construction methods found on their competitors’ ranches for the simple reason that this established dude ranch character is what paying guests had come to expect on their vacations. Dude ranches that failed to reflect this ambiance would almost certainly be viewed as inauthentic and, thus, less desirable by perspective customers and the dude ranch industry generally.

Following its establishment in 1926, Dude Ranch Association formally recognized the economic advantages of architectural authenticity and regularly promoted “keeping the ranch real—a genuinely western spot” in its annual meetings and quarterly publications. During a DRA workshop in 1929, for example, Northern Pacific General Passenger Agent Max Goodsill encouraged his audience to avoid having buildings or decorations that didn’t look western, noting distastefully that some ranches had stucco or tile fireplaces instead of native stone, and another had (God forbid) wallboard imported from New Orleans, rather than utilizing native materials.¹¹⁹

While marketing and promotion were central to the dude rancher’s success, excessive on-site advertising and other types of inappropriate development in close proximity to dude ranches were also regularly discouraged by the DRA. Too much standardization and auto-oriented commercialization—especially when it adversely impacted natural beauty or the preconceived romantic notions of tourists—was scorned by most dude ranch advocates as being counterproductive to the collective goals of the industry. As one promoter noted in a 1935 publication of the Dude Ranch Association:

To me, one of the most distressing things in connection with Wyoming and Montana’s adoption to the new order of things, is the abandonment of the native characteristic of the states. This is presented in a painful manner by the hodge podge of shacks that line our tourist lanes; some of the tourist camps, hot dog stands, and other structures erected along the highways to attract the pennies of the traveler. Many of these are of an incongruous type, completely out of line with the scenic beauties of these states. Why not tear down these horrible examples of architecture and erect buildings which will appeal to the eye and represent to a degree the rugged character of the mountains and plains, something rustic which will aid in carrying out the idea that Wyoming and Montana are states of supreme grandeur and not a Coney Island playground . . . The idea of keeping scenery inviolate should be uppermost in the minds of western people.¹²⁰

While dude ranch operators prided themselves on being “authentic” architecturally and otherwise, they were also quite conscious of the fact that they were catering to tourists with preconceived notions of what “frontier,” and “Western,” and “resort” architecture should look like. Thus, to a certain extent, dude ranch architecture in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem was not exclusively a product of pre-existing architectural patterns on the western landscape. Rather, it was also consciously stylized and/or embellished in order to meet the preconceived notions of a primarily Eastern clientele. Though they would probably not admit it, dude ranch operators often sought to tap into and perpetuate “(a)n elaborate mythology and iconography” that, over time, became “associated in the popular mind” with wilderness architecture and the American West generally. This was not done willy-nilly, but rather consciously reflected a

advertising the fact that they were not resorts. See Jerome L. Rodnitzky, “Recapturing the West: The Dude Ranch in American Life,” *Arizona and the West* 10 (Summer 1968): 112.

¹¹⁸Joel H. Bernstein, *Families that Take in Friends: An Informal History of Dude Ranching* (Stevensville, MT: Stonydale Press Publishing Co., 1982), 95.

¹¹⁹(Borne, 165)

¹²⁰“The Individuality of the Dude Ranch,” *The Dude Rancher* 4:7 (May 1935): 6 and 25

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long tradition of rustic architectural influences and pervasive cultural perceptions of what life on the western frontier once was and should always be.¹²¹

Early Influences on Rustic Dude Ranch Architecture:

Rustic architecture evolved from a number of stylistic influences which, coupled with regional precedents, helped to shape the physical form and character of dude ranches in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. As early as 1842, landscape architect Andrew Jackson Downing promoted the idea of seeking a visual harmony between structure and setting.¹²² Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. and H. H. Richardson strengthened the connections between architecture and landscape architecture, by forging a sturdy, Rustic style of architecture for a multitude of local, metropolitan, state, and national park buildings and structures beginning in the 1880s.¹²³

The Rustic style pioneered by Olmsted and Richardson was also derived from the Shingle style, which rapidly spread across the country in the latter decades of the nineteenth century. Although favored for the rambling seaside estates and resorts of the New England coast, the style found enduring expression in the architecture of a variety of recreational destinations well into the twentieth century. Celebrating the use of rugged proportions, irregular massing, overhanging roofs, projecting gables, open entrance porches, and native materials, the popular Shingle style helped form the vocabulary for tourist oriented structures in the Greater Yellowstone area and elsewhere, as late as the 1920s and 1930s.¹²⁴

Like dude ranch architecture generally, the Shingle style was essentially an American development, that "did not destroy, but enhanced and grew upon vernacular building," according to scholar Vincent Scully. With their native materials, rustic craftsmanship, and environmental adaptations, Shingle style buildings incorporated features drawn from local vernacular forms such as the homes of pioneers and early settlers. The use of indigenous materials allowed designers to match the textures and coloration of the surrounding environs, while unifying groups of buildings and structures built for different functions and at varying scales. This recognition and connection with vernacular traditions regularly appears in the use of indigenous and pioneering prototypes, materials, and craftsmanship in park and dude ranch buildings of the 1900-1950 period.¹²⁵

Dude Ranches and the Adirondack Influence:

Eastern expectations of Western dude ranch architecture were especially shaped by the stylistic influences of Eastern resort architecture—most notably the Great Camp architecture of the Adirondack Mountains in northern New York State. Here William West Durant and others developed some of the earliest and strongest expressions of a picturesque rustic style appropriate for rugged natural areas after 1879. Durant sited his camps to fit the natural contours of the land, to take advantage of scenic views, and to offer a host of outdoor activities. Like western dude ranches, the architectural forms and functional designs of the Adirondack camps were derived from the pioneer building traditions of a region with a severe climate and an abundant local supply of logs and boulders. The camps were frequently oriented toward water and consisted of several individual buildings arranged within the natural topography and separated by function. Sleeping accommodations were typically housed in small cabins. Eating and social gatherings often took place in the lodge, constructed as a central gathering place. As with dude ranches in the mountain west, this arrangement enabled the camps to increase in size through the years and become small villages. Staff housing and utilities were commonly built in separate "service complexes" located away from the central camp.¹²⁶

¹²¹Terry G. Jordan, Jon T. Kilpinen, and Charles F. Gritzner, *The Mountain West: Interpreting the Folk Landscape* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997), 3.

¹²²Downing publicized his ideas on "picturesque" landscape and the importance of nature in architectural design in a number of works, including A. J. Downing, *Rural Essays* (Boston: Leavitt and Allen, 1857).

¹²³Linda Flint McClelland, *Presenting Nature: The Historic Landscape Design of the National Park Service: 1916-1942* (Washington, D.C. National Park Service, 1993), overview section.

¹²⁴Information on the Shingle style features comes from: Vincent J. Scully, Jr. *The Shingle Style and The Stick Style* (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1977), pp. 71-112. See also Rachel Carley, *The Visual Dictionary of American Architecture* (New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1996, 163-165.

¹²⁵Ibid., p. 89.

¹²⁶Harvey H. Kaiser, *Great Camps of the Adirondacks* (Boston: David R. Godine, 1986), pp. 12-13, and 65-66. According to Kaiser, the arrangement of the Adirondack camps in a "compound-plan tradition" was derived from the forest camps of Japan, Europe, and Russia. At Durant's Camp Pine

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The Adirondack style expanded the philosophy of rural architecture into a major form of picturesque ornamentation. Branches from the surrounding woodland were gathered, entwined, and tied to create a wide variety of imaginative forms, such as the name of the camp or decorative porch railings. These forms became an insignia of the Adirondack style and were copied elsewhere in rustic recreational architecture, appearing in signs, gateways, bridges, and cabins across the nation by the turn of the century. A whole style of decorative arts grew up around this type of rustic ornamentation and extended to handcrafted furniture and interior design, as well as exterior features. Variations appeared in the West that incorporated discarded antlers of elk and the leather and hides of domestic and wild animals. A number of the early hotels in national parks, such as Yellowstone National Park's Old Faithful Inn, were influenced by the architecture as well as the decorative arts characteristic of the Adirondack style.¹²⁷

The William A. Read Camp (1906) by the architectural firm of Davis, McGrath, and Shepard was one of the few Adirondack camps designed by an architect. Published in a 1907 article in *House and Garden*, it established a nationwide aesthetic for rustic construction that provided a perfect prototype for later designs in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and elsewhere. Projecting gable ends, broad overhangs, corbelled logs, stepped corner logs at the foundations and roof supports, sophisticated log construction and detailing, and a massive stone chimney were important character-defining features. Solid hewn beams with chamfered edges were supported on corbelled brackets. Great importance was attached to the small paned windows, which resembled those of frontier cabins and added to the quaintness of the building. The dining room was a large octagonal room with an exposed roofing system of heavy hand-hewn trusses and a huge stone fireplace measuring six and a half feet wide by five feet high. These characteristics would find their way to national parks and western dude ranches through popular appeal, as well as contemporary journals and magazines, including *American Architect and Building News*, *House and Garden*, and *The Craftsman*.¹²⁸

Dude Ranches and Architectural Pattern Books:

With the growing popularity of the Back to Nature Movement and vacationing in America, a host of resort camp pattern books emerged during the first half of the twentieth century to aid would-be dude ranch operators in establishing the rustic architectural character that their guests expected. Using the built environments of the Adirondack Camps as a model, these guidebooks helped to standardize the architectural designs of mountain resort and dude ranch architecture, encouraging would-be builders to successfully integrate modern wiring, plumbing, and powder rooms with what one enthusiast called "the picturesqueness of the pioneer days."¹²⁹

Of the architectural pattern books stemming from the Adirondack tradition, the most influential was Augustus Shepard's 1931 publication *Camps in the Woods*.¹³⁰ Upholding the idea that camps should be designed in a manner "inspired by the woods," Shepard maintained that "the buildings must be designed so that they actually appear to grow out of the ground; they must take their place in the woods as a part of the woods."¹³¹

Following the advice of Shepard's *Camps in the Woods*, and other pattern books that came before and after, Western dude ranches and national parks drew heavily on the Adirondack tradition. Both incorporated many of the characteristic aspects of the style in their attempts to better meet the expectations of a primarily Eastern clientele, including: the use of native logs and rock in a rustic unfinished form; the naturalistic placement of structures; the incorporation of porches and viewing platforms; the climatic adaptation of using native stone for the foundation and lower story and native timber above; the use of stone chimneys with massive fireplaces and

Knot, buildings were scattered informally across the land, each being situated for views while maintaining proximity to one another. This type of arrangement would be imitated in many of the cabin clusters built during the 1930s in state and national parks and would become a model for the arrangement of the organization camps in recreational demonstration areas. As in the case of western dude ranches, this arrangement afforded privacy and fire protection and allowed the siting of individual buildings for view and accommodation to the terrain without destroying the sense of community and settlement.

¹²⁷The historical evolution and character-defining features of the Adirondack Style are discussed in Frank Graham, Jr. *The Adirondack Park: A Political History* (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1978, especially chapters 5 and 6.

¹²⁸See (Kaiser, introduction)

¹²⁹(Schmidt, 168) See also Charles V. Boyd, "The Old Fashioned Log Cabin is the New Fashioned Summer Camp . . ." *Women's Home Companion* XLIII (May 1916): 46. Examples of architectural pattern books include: William A. Bruette, *Log Camps and Cabins: How to Build and Furnish Them*, New York: Nessmuk Library, 1934 and William Swanson, *Log Cabins*, New York: The Macmillan Company, 1948.

¹³⁰Augustus D. Shepard, *Camps in the Woods* (New York: Architectural Book Publishing Company, 1931), p. 1.

¹³¹*Ibid.*, 24.

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mantles; the creation of open interiors with ceilings of exposed rafters and trusses; and a multitude of multi-pane windows. These characteristics perfectly suited the need to attract visitors and to harmonize amenities with natural setting.

Dude Ranch Architecture and Yellowstone National Park:

Hal K. Rotherman has noted that National Parks “function as a way to standardize tourism.”¹³² National Parks—and Yellowstone in particular—also played a significant role in standardizing popular notions of tourist-oriented architecture in the American West.

Playing off of and reinforcing the trends mentioned above was the emerging standardization of the Rustic style as the character-defining architecture of Yellowstone and the other national parks. The rustic built environment of Yellowstone National Park itself, which Park officials consciously promoted during the 1900-1941 period, profoundly influenced dude ranch architecture in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The evolving built environment of Yellowstone specifically, and of the National Park Service generally, profoundly effected public perceptions of what Western architecture in a natural setting should look like, while simultaneously perpetuating many older architectural precedents from a pre-existing regional vernacular landscape.

During the late nineteenth century, most buildings constructed in Yellowstone “fell into the mainstreams of American architecture” and, consequently, were “built without strong concern for the surrounding natural resources.”¹³³ Early park buildings, such as the Northern Pacific’s 1883 Hotel at Mammoth Hot Springs, while outwardly expressing the grandeur and sophistication of the Queen Anne Style, did not meet the more rustic expectations of Park visitors. Many tourists found its design and forced elegance rather jarring in a wilderness setting. The nineteenth century poet Joaquin Miller, for example, “deplored” the fact that such a structure was “thrust out in the face of the noblest things in nature.”¹³⁴

In time, the Northern Pacific recognized that architecture was a significant component of the visitor’s experience in Yellowstone and, thereafter, took steps to better ensure that the Park’s built environment was more compatible with its natural surroundings. Between 1898 and 1899, the railroad turned over operation of the Yellowstone Park Association to Henry Child, a Montana land and cattle speculator. Like the area dude ranchers of the early twentieth century, Child hoped to capitalize on the exceptional nature of Yellowstone’s environment by constructing a first-class hotel that would “remind visitors of their surroundings rather than insulting them from the landscape.”¹³⁵

Sensitive to America’s growing infatuation with the out-of-doors and architectural forms that celebrated nature, Child hired architect Robert Reamer to design several important structures in Yellowstone, including the Northern Pacific depot at Gardiner, Montana, the Roosevelt Arch at northern border of the Park, and, most notably, the impressive Old Faithful Inn. If the former two structures introduced Yellowstone and its visitors to rustic architecture and “created a lasting identity for Yellowstone National Park,” the latter—widely regarded as Reamer’s masterpiece—firmly established what became known as “the Rustic Style” in the mindset of the Western American tourists of the early twentieth century.¹³⁶

More than merely fitting into “the vastness and perceived savagery of the western landscape,” more than serving as a “fortress of protection against the awe-inspiring range of natural forces,” Reamer’s massive log and stone Old Faithful Inn “embodied in physical form the anti-urban longings of an increasingly confined and ‘feminized’ Victorian middle class,” according to Architectural Historian David Leavengood.¹³⁷ Inspired by Yellowstone’s magnificent landscape, Reamer’s grand scale and “extravagant use of logs” evoked a “wild, frontier feeling” that physically expressing the cultural longings of many urbanized Easterners in exaggerated terms.¹³⁸ As

¹³²Hal K. Rotherman, “A History of U.S. National Parks and Economic Development,” in National Parks and Rural Development: Practice and Policy in the United States, Washington, D.C.: Island Press, 2000, 52.

¹³³Laura Soulliere Harrison, Architecture in the Parks National Historic Landmark Theme Study (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, Department of the Interior, November 1986), 1

¹³⁴Joaquin Miller, quoted in Anne Farrar Hyde, An American Vision: Far Western Landscape and National Culture, 1820-1920 (New York: NYU Press, 1990), 251.

¹³⁵See (Hyde, 254-255)

¹³⁶David Leavengood, “A Sense of Shelter: Robert C. Reamer in Yellowstone National Park,” Pacific Historical Review 54 (1985): 498

¹³⁷(Leavengood, 500)

¹³⁸(Harrison, 2)

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B—K Ranch (B Bar K Ranch)
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architectural historian Laura Soulliere Harrison has noted, "(i)ts influence on American architecture, particularly park architecture, was immeasurable in its use of natural materials to create a feeling of high-style rusticity."¹³⁹

Reamer's ability to create the architectural imagery that embodied the romance of the West was immediately viewed by the railroads and Yellowstone Park officials as a marketing goldmine. Hoping to sell more passenger tickets to exotic places like Yellowstone, those most vested in promoting western tourism rapidly moved toward a standardized policy regarding new construction projects in Yellowstone. The peeled log construction, boulder masonry, rough finishes and textures, massive proportions, and pseudo-pioneer construction techniques employed in Reamer's celebrated design, helped establish what would thereafter be perceived as the "appropriate style for buildings, furniture, and other construction in many national park settings, according to Ethan Carr."¹⁴⁰

Growing appreciation for the value of aesthetically designed built environments in natural areas prompted the newly created National Park Service to issue its first "Statement of Policy" on May 13, 1918. The policy mandated the "harmonizing improvements such as roads, trails, and buildings, with the landscape," thereby laying the groundwork for all architectural design in National Parks until World War II. This seminal Statement of Policy inspired influential park employees, like Thomas C. Vint of the National Park Service's Branch of Plans and Designs, to create built environments that were "as unobtrusive and harmonious as possible in their park settings."¹⁴¹

In the years between World War I and America's entry into World War II, the National Park Service modernized and developed the National Park system extensively. Park Service landscape architects and Engineers designed scenic roads, campgrounds, administrative "villages," and a myriad of other park facilities in what proved to be "the most intensive period of such human alterations in the history of the parks."¹⁴²

During the New Deal era—an especially vibrant time in Yellowstone and other national parks—the design principles, process, and practices of the National Park Service were institutionalized nationwide. Through a program of technical assistance, the National Park Service reviewed and approved project plans for the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and hired inspectors, architects, landscape architects, and engineers to design and supervise CCC and WPA projects. To better train its new employees while ensuring an overall consistency with established precedents, the National Park Service also published its own pattern books, most notably *Park Structures and Facilities* of 1935 and the three-volume *Park and Recreation Structures* of 1938. Funded by the Civilian Conservation Corps and edited by Albert H. Good of the State Park Division, these profusely illustrated works addressed design problems as divergent as "Signs and Markers" "Concession Buildings," and "Shelters and Recreation Buildings."¹⁴³ Echoing many of the principles presented in Augustus Shepard's book, *Camps in the Woods*, the Park Service books instituted the Rustic style as the official design motif of the national park system. With these mechanisms in place, the built environments in national parks (and in many state and local parks as well) acquired "the consistent appearance, character, and level of convenience that most visitors have since come to associate, almost unconsciously, with their experience of park scenery, wildlife, and wilderness," according to Ethan Carr.¹⁴⁴

¹³⁹(Harrison, 67)

¹⁴⁰Ethan Carr, *Wilderness by Design: Landscape Architecture and the National Park Service* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1998): 62.

¹⁴¹(Harrison, 4)

¹⁴²(Carr, 1)

¹⁴³National Park Service, *Park Structures and Facilities*. (Washington, D.C: Government Printing Office, 1935), 2.

¹⁴⁴(Carr, 1)

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Not coincidentally, it was during this same vibrant period that the Park Service's process of working with "the peculiarities of the site to dictate the style of the building" to develop "a new architectural vocabulary," would rapidly become the dominant design motif for dude ranches throughout the entire region.¹⁴⁵ Incorporating and celebrating the past, while simultaneously being harmonious with the natural environment was precisely what dude ranch operators of the early twentieth century hoped to accomplish, and thus the Rustic Style was widely utilized in dude ranch settings throughout the region. Although the rustic style began to fall out of favor in Yellowstone and elsewhere toward the end of the Great Depression, it continued to remain popular in park-related recreational sites, like western dude ranches.

¹⁴⁵(Hyde, 256) See also (Leavengood, 498-504).

9. Major Bibliographic References

See continuation sheet page 37

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 -- Specify Repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property: Approximately 15 acres

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	12	474403	5013858
B	12	474741	5013582
C	12	474670	5013488
D	12	474637	5013444
E	12	474538	5013477
F	12	474480	5013550

Legal Location (Township, Range & Section(s)): SE ¼ SW ¼ Section 26, T6S R3E (Montana Prime Meridian)

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet page 41

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet page 41

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: B. Derek Strahn
 organization: _____ date: July 17, 2005
 street & number: 412 West Harrison Street telephone: (406) 587-0254
 city or town: Bozeman state: MT zip code: 59715

Property Owner

name/title: Robert and Vivian Schaap
 street & number: 261 Story Hill Road telephone: 406-585-8697
 city or town: Bozeman state: MT zip code: 59715

name/title: Nancy Norlander
 street & number: P.O. BOX 160069 telephone: 406-995-4644
 city or town: Big Sky state: MT zip code: 59716

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Verbal Boundary Description:

The B--K Ranch Historic District boundaries encompass land in Section 26, Township 6 South, Range 3 East, between Big Sky's Meadow Village and Lone Mountain Ski Resort. The topography of the lands within these boundaries is varied, including the North Fork watershed, mountain meadowlands, and timbered benches. Most of the area has been left undeveloped by industry or agriculture.

Specific boundaries of the district are as follows: Beginning at the point where a historic fence line just south of the Meadowlark Cabin intersects with the main roadway of the Lone Mountain Ranch (UTM Point C); thence following said fence line in a northeasterly direction approximately three hundred and fifty feet until crossing the upper gravel road and historic irrigation ditch/abandoned road right of way(UTM Point B); thence generally following the eastern border of said historic irrigation ditch/abandoned road right of way in a northwesterly direction until reaching the northern end of the Schaap property at the North Fork Trail Grazing pasture and a natural spring which flows in a generally north to south direction (UTM Point A); thence following the east edge said spring southward until it flows into the North Fork of the West Fork of the West Gallatin River (UTM Point F); thence crossing the North Fork to include two historic cabins now known as Porcupine and Chipmunk; thence following a gravel footpath to the western shore of the North Fork and following the western border of the North Fork approximately two hundred and seventy feet (UTM Point E); thence turning in a southeasterly direction and traveling to a fence line immediately south of the B—K Barn/Outdoor Shop (UTM Point D); thence along said fence line to the main gravel entrance road; thence along the east boundary said road to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

The Lone Mountain Ranch Historic District boundaries encompass approximately 15 acres—all of which were historically part of the ranch holdings by 1927, when the Butler/Kilbourne Family acquired the ranch. The outlying grazing pastures to the northwest of the historic core of the Lone Mountain Ranch Historic District boundaries were a critical element to the success of the ranch as a functioning homestead and, later, as a dude ranch operation. These lands allowed for the summer pasture and supplemental feed necessary to maintain the livestock during the warmer months, and therefore helped guarantee the ultimate survival of the ranch as both a profitable agricultural enterprise and as a desirable tourist destination.

The boundaries are drawn, generally following natural topographic features and historic fencelines/ditches, to include the historic building complex, structures, and sites, including sufficient agricultural land to convey the district's historic context.

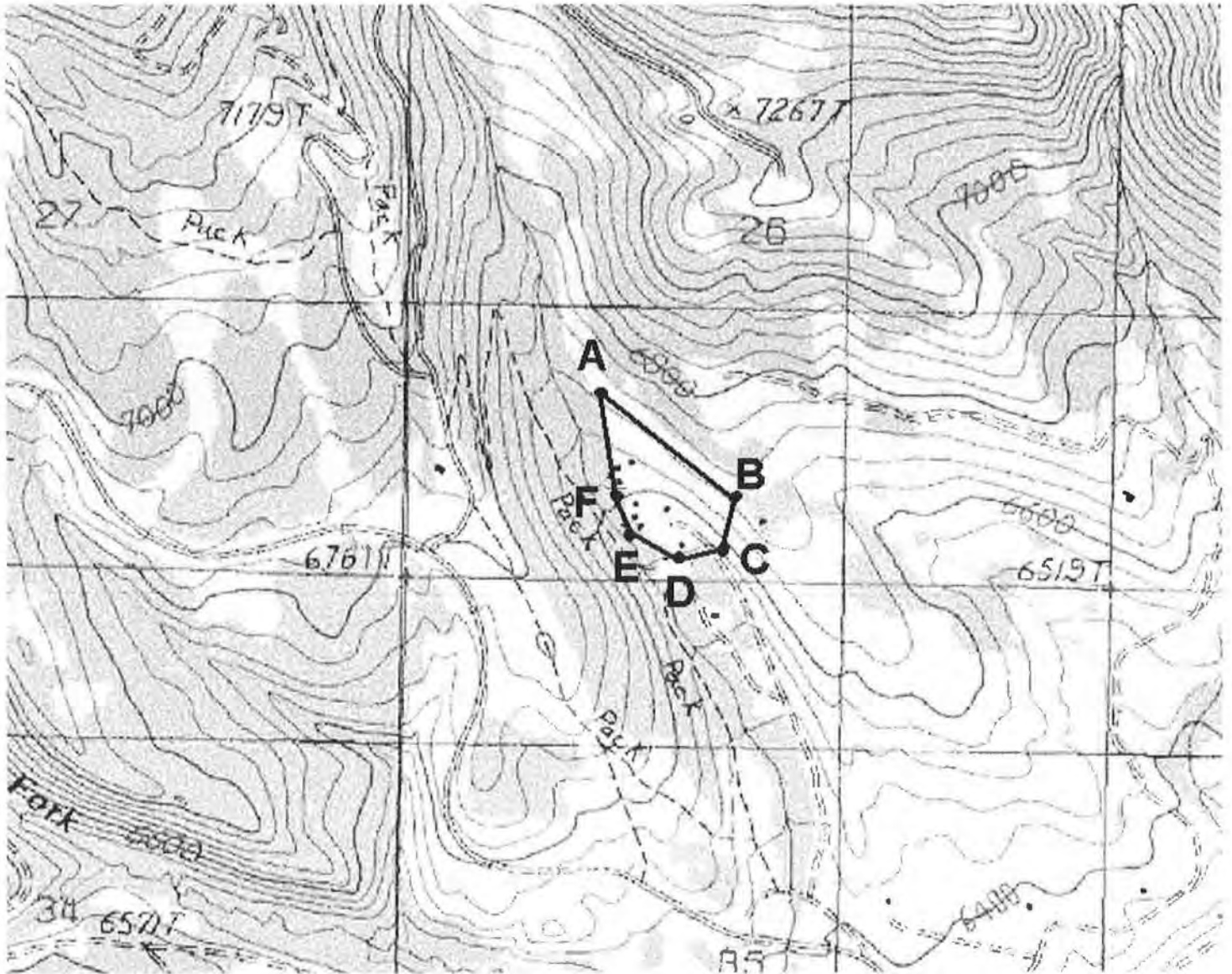
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B—K Ranch (B Bar K Ranch)
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Detail of USGS 7.5 Minute topographic map (Gallatin Peak Quadrangle) with superimposed National Register boundary.

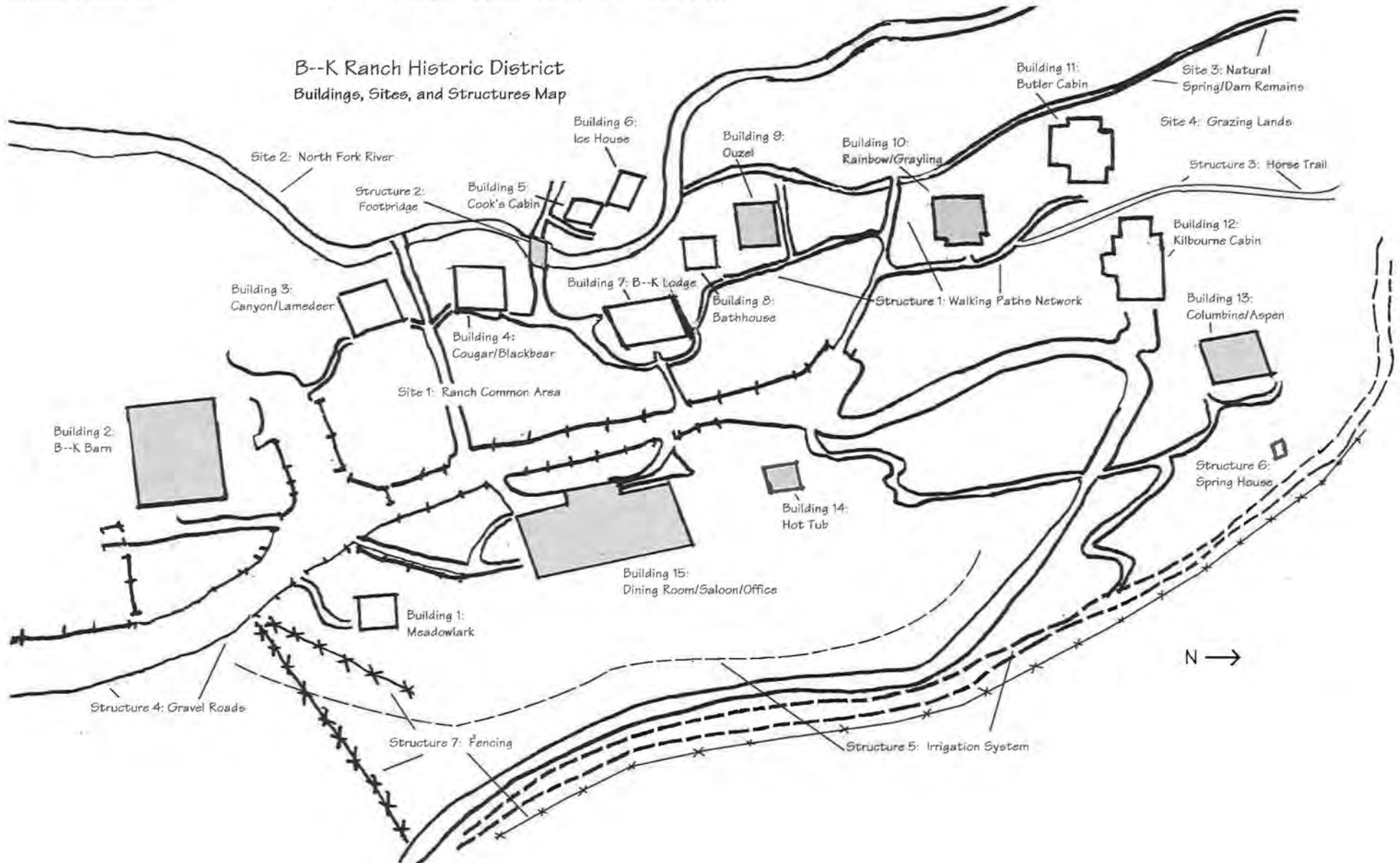
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B--K Ranch Historic District
Buildings, Sites, and Structures Map



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Photographs

B—K Ranch (B Bar K Ranch)
Gallatin County, MT

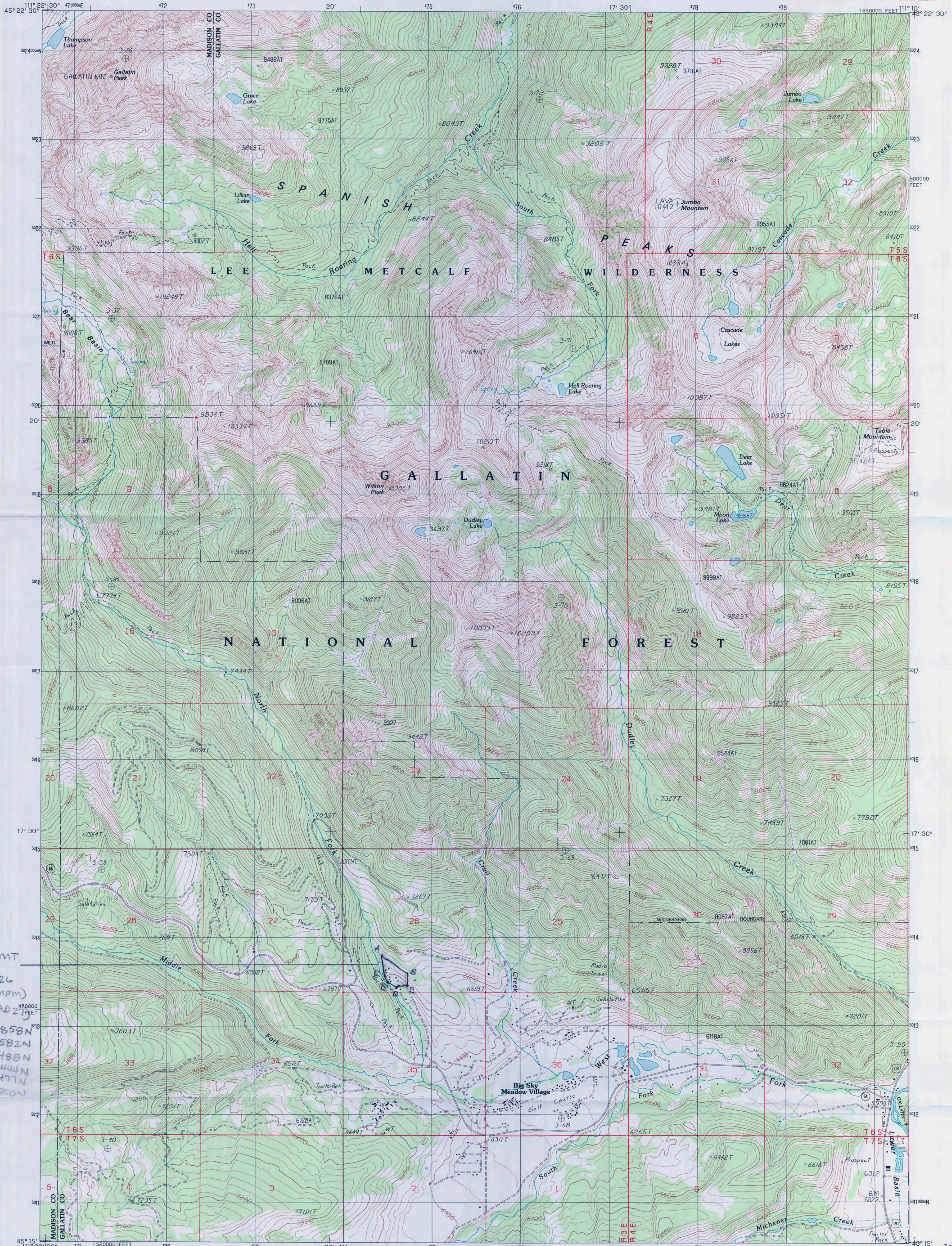
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In accordance with the March 2005 Photo Policy expansion, the photos that accompany this nomination are printed on HP Premium Plus Photo Paper, using a Hewlett Packard 100 gray photo cartridge. This combination of paper and inks is included on the NR's list of "Acceptable Ink and Paper Combinations for Digital Images." The images are also recorded on an archival CD-R with a resolution at least 1200x1800 pixels, 300 dpi in "true color" 24-bit format.

Photographer: B. Derek Strahn
Date: July 2005
Negatives/digital images: MT SHPO, Helena, MT

Photo Number: **Description:**

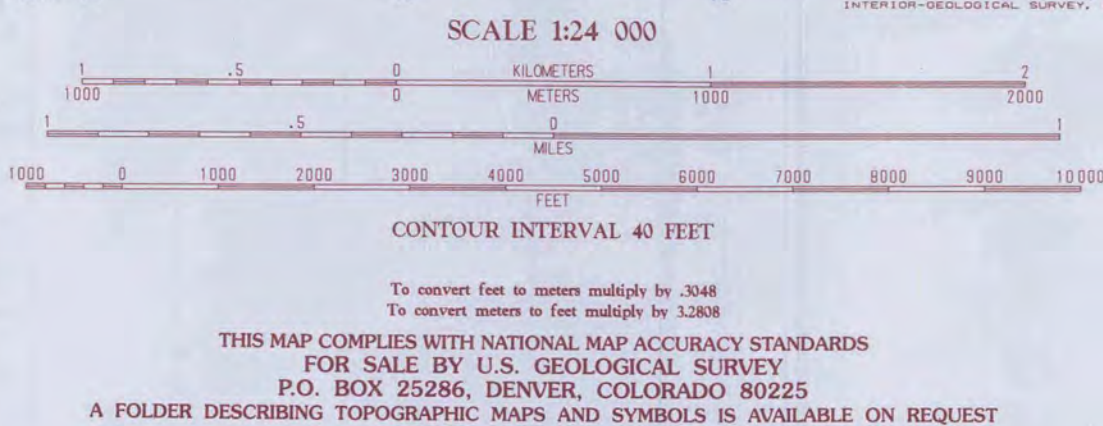
1. Overview of ranch complex, Common Area, and Main Road, view to north
2. Meadowlark Cabin, view to northwest
3. Outdoor Shop, view to west
4. Canyon/Lame Deer Duplex, view to northwest
5. Cougar Blackbear Duplex, view to southwest
6. Cooks Cabin/Chipmunk Cabin, view to west
7. Ice House/Porcupine Cabin, view to northwest
8. B—K Main Lodge/Cabin, view to southwest
9. Bathhouse//Bald Eagle Cabin, view to the northwest
10. Ouzel Cabin, view to northwest
11. Rainbow/Grayling, view to the northwest
12. Butler/Bull Moose Cabin, North Fork Trail/Grazing Pasture view to northwest
13. Kilbourne/Hilltop Cabin, view to the north
14. Kilbourne/Hilltop Cabin, view to the west
15. Columbine/Aspen Cabin, view to north
16. Hot Tub Shelter, view to southeast
17. Dining Room/Saloon/Office, view to east
18. Common Area and Duplex Cabins, view to southwest
19. North Fork River/Foot Bridge and Cougar/Blackbear Cabin, view to south
20. North Fork Grazing Pastures/Horse Trail, view to the north
21. Walking Path System with Duplex Cabins, view to northwest
22. Gravel Roadway System, view to north
23. filled in Irrigation Ditch/Abandoned Road with historic fencing, view to north
24. Spring House, view to north
25. Boundary Marker and Ranch Complex, view to west



B-k Ranch
Gallatin County, MT
Located in
SE 1/4 SW 1/4 sec 26
T6S R3E (mpm)
Zone 12 (NAD 83)
A 474403E 5013858N
B 474741E 5013582N
C 474670E 5013488N
D 474637E 5013444N
E 474538E 5013477N
F 474480E 5013550N

PRODUCED BY THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
CONTROL BY U.S.G.S. NAD 83
COMPILED FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN 1982
FIELD CHECKED 1985 MAP EDITED 1988
PROJECTION LAMBERT CONFORMAL CONIC
GRID: 1000-METER UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR ZONE 12
6300-FOOT STATE GRID TICKS MONTANA, SOUTH ZONE
UTM GRID DECLINATION 1927 NORTH AMERICAN DATUM
1988 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION 15'30" EAST
VERTICAL DATUM NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
HORIZONTAL DATUM 1927 NORTH AMERICAN DATUM
To place on the predicted North American Datum of 1983,
move the projection lines as shown by dashed corner ticks
(11 meters north and 63 meters east)
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of any
Federal and State Reservations shown on this map
No distinction made between houses, barns, and other buildings
Where omitted, land lines have not been established

PROVISIONAL MAP
Produced from original
manuscript drawings. Infor-
mation shown as of date of
photography. 1



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

1	2	3	Willow Swamp
4	5	4	Beacon Point
6	7	5	Carrot Mountain
8	8	6	Lone Mountain
		7	Hidden Lake
		8	Sphinx Mountain
			Quail Falls
			Lone Indian Peak

ADJOINING 7.5' QUADRANGLE NAMES

ROAD LEGEND

Improved Road
Unimproved Road
Trail

Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

GALLATIN PEAK, MONTANA
PROVISIONAL EDITION 1988

SELBY'S
2595 ENTERPRISE AVE.
BILLINGS, MONTANA 59102
USGS MAP DEALER
652-4414 • (800) 548-7887









OUTDOOR SHOP

GUIDED FLY FISHING TRIPS





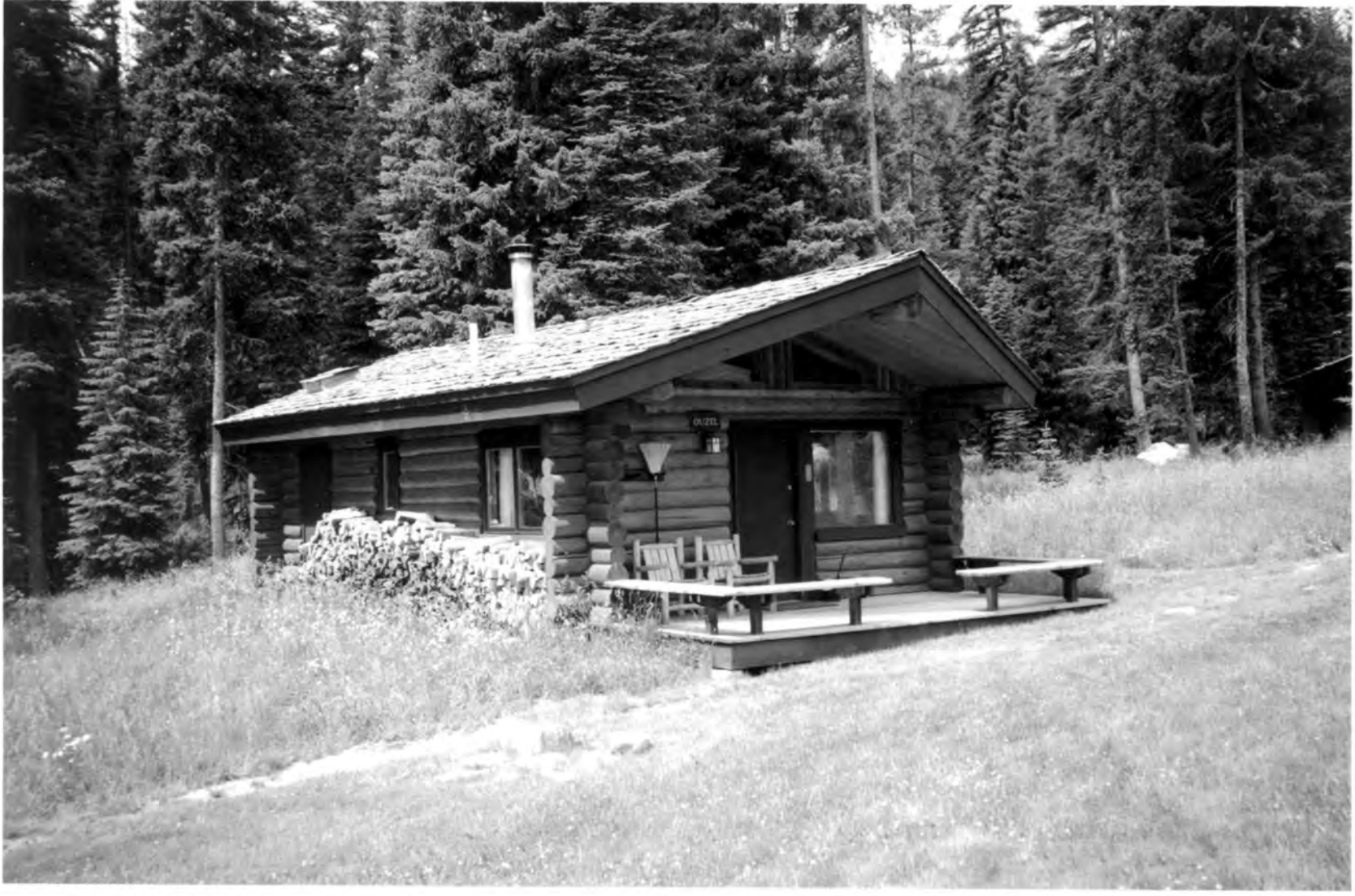




PORCUPINE





































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY B--K Ranch
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MONTANA, Gallatin

DATE RECEIVED: 11/14/06 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/01/06
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/16/06 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/28/06
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 06001185

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: Y PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ ACCEPT ___ RETURN ___ REJECT _____ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The B—K Ranch is locally significant under National Register Criteria A and C in the areas of Architecture and Entertainment/Recreation. First established as a homesteading ranch in 1915, the B—K Ranch was substantially renovated starting in 1927 and turned into a recreational dude ranch operation. The ranch is an excellent local example of the development and evolving patterns of recreational tourism and dude ranching in the Gallatin Valley and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem during the first half of the twentieth century. The ranch buildings and associated landscape elements illustrate the rustic construction forms typical of western tourist destinations and local dude ranch operations during the period—an architectural imagery that embodied the romance of the West, while providing comfortable accommodations to affluent visitors.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept CRITERIA A & C

REVIEWER PAUL R. LUSIGNAN DISCIPLINE HISTORIAN

TELEPHONE _____ DATE 12/28/06

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR (Y)N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

225 North Roberts ♦ P.O. Box 201201 ♦ Helena, MT 59620-1201
♦ (406) 444-2694 ♦ FAX (406) 444-2696 ♦ www.montanahistoricalsociety.org ♦

November 13, 2006



Janet Matthews, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1201 Eye St., NW
8th Floor (MS 2280)
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Dr. Matthews,

Enclosed please find the following nomination for your consideration for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

B—K Ranch (B Bar K Ranch)

Gallatin County, MT

Please be advised that I submit the enclosed nomination under your revised procedures. I have notified the owners and public officials in excess of 30 days prior to the Preservation Review Board meeting.

The Review Board unanimously recommended that this property be nominated and I concur with their recommendation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Baumbler, PhD
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures

