National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

SUPPLEMENT	TARY LISTING RECORD	
NRIS Reference Number: 8800	Date Listed:	7/19/88
Ring Place, The Property Name	Colfax County	NM Sta te
Multiple Name This property is listed in the Places in accordance with the subject to the following exception of the National in the nomination documentation.	e attached nomination de eptions, exclusions, or Park Service certificat	ocumentation amendments,
This property is listed in the Places in accordance with the subject to the following exception of the National in the nomination documentation.	e attached nomination de eptions, exclusions, or Park Service certificat	ocumentation amendments,
This property is listed in the Places in accordance with the subject to the following excentional	e attached nomination de eptions, exclusions, or Park Service certificat	ocumentation amendments,
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This property is listed in the Places in accordance with the subject to the following exception of the National in the nomination documentate Balk Polenel Signature of the Keeper	e attached nomination de eptions, exclusions, or Park Service certification.	ocumentation amendments, tion included

RECEIVED

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

JUN 1 3 1988

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

(Form 10-900a). Type all entries.			
1. Name of Property		÷	
historic name The Ring Pla	ace	<u>,, ,, ,,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,</u>	·
other names/site number Ring Ranch		on National For	est)
2. Location			<u> </u>
street & number Questa Ranger I	istrict, Carson Nation	al Forest	not for publication
city, town Forest Roads 19			vicinity Cimarron
state New Mexico code NM	county Colfax	code 007	zip code 8771 ¹
3. Classification			
Ownership of Property Category	ory of Property	Number of Resour	ces within Property
private bu	uilding(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
public-local di	strict	4	5 buildings
public-State si	te 🦸 🖟	i	sites
public-Federal st	ructure	1	1 structures
ot	pject		objects
		5	6 Total
Name of related multiple property listing:		Number of contribu	uting resources previously
		listed in the Nation	al Register <u>0</u>
State/Federal Agency Certification			
Signature of certifying official USDA - Forest Service State or Federal agency and bureau In my opinion, the property meets description of the commenting or other official	Des not meet the National Registress Historic Preserves State of New Meeters	er criteria. See co	4-19-88
State or Federal agency and bureau			
23			
. National Park Service Certification		_	
hereby, certify that this property is:			
entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National	Beth Brand		7/19/88
Register. See continuation sheet.			
determined not eligible for the			
National Register.			····
removed from the National Register. other, (explain:)			
	Signature of the	Keeper	Date of Action

6. Function or Use	
Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions) Domestic / single dwelling	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions) vacant / not in use
Agriculture / storage	vacant / not in use
Agriculture / outbuilding	vacant / not in use
7. Description	
Architectural Classification	Materials (enter categories from instructions)
(enter categories from instructions)	
Other: log cabin	foundation stone / fieldstone walls wood / log
,	Touridation
,	wallswood / log

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Summary

The Ring Place is a ranch headquarters consisting of log buildings in a rural setting. The main house is little changed from its appearance in a 1921 photograph and the working hypothesis is that the contributing support buildings are also little changed since then. All of the buildings are in poor condition after years of neglect, however they retain integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Little has happened in the Ponil Park area since the 1920s which would have created impacts upon the property since the main uses of the Park were for grazing and recreational hunting.

Description

Although the buildings are in poor condition, a resident from the site's historic period would easily recognize the place. The view of surrounding park land, more distant pine forests, and far mountain tops is unspoilt by modern development. Perhaps better than the USGS map (MAP 1), the historic map of the area (Map 2) shows the park like setting of the Ring Place and its backdrop of mountains. The main house appears as in the 1920s, although the exact construction dates of its various additions have not yet been exactly dated. Some of the outbuildings also are apparently unchanged, and these, too, await firm dating. Details of placement of some minor features such as corrals and small utility buildings vary from the historic scene but are not important distractions.

The following numbered descriptions are keyed to the site sketch map, Figure 1. Note that the sketch map also shows the relative positions of one small building (chicken coop) and a structure (earthen dam) that are outside the boundary of the nominated property. The exact location of the boundary is shown in the surveyor's plat, Figure 7.

1. Ring Ranch House: This is a detached two story log building of irregular plan measuring approximately 51 by 67 feet. It was well documented in Historic American Building Survey drawings by Curtis Lester in 1986 (Figures 2, 3, and 4). Several phases of building or additions can be seen. The original one story, V-notched, log house forms the front of the first story.

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The exterior is hewn logs on the lower floor with cedar shingle siding above. There is also a screened porch. The visible foundation is of rough coursed field stone. The roof above the six-bedroom half story has two hipped double dormers; the roof material is corrugated galvanized steel. The one chimney is of brick.

A shingled story and a half shed/storage room is over a dug-out addition. The house plan is unchanged from the 1921 photographs.

A particularly interesting feature of the ranch house is the mixture of log joining techniques used in the additions. These are illustrated in Figure 4.

In order to stabilize the house, the galvanized metal roof was replaced and several walls were temporarily buttressed by the Forest Service in the fall of 1987. Photographs 1 - 4 show the property prior to the start of this work.

This is a Contributing building.

2. Storage Building: This is a detached 32 by 27 foot hewn, V-notched, planked log crib on a sandstone foundation: it also was drawn by C. Lester in 1986 (Figure 5). This is in very poor condition, the corrugated galvanized roof having largely collapsed along with some log beams during the winter of 1986 - 1987 (Photographs 7 and 8). There were 2 hipped dormers facing north with vertical board siding on the gables.

This is a Contributing building.

3. Barn: This is a detached 28 by 38 foot V-notched, log crib standing a story and a half (Figure 6). There is an outside Dutch door to the hay mow, ridge pole and purlin trapping, east-west log ceiling joists, and a corrugated metal roof (Photographs 5 and 6). There are two feeding troughs with eight grain bins: these divide the barn into two equal stall areas for animals. Two temporary braces were added by the Forest Service in 1987 to support the roof.

This is a Contributing building

9. Root Cellar: This is a detached building measuring approximately 17 by 18 feet. It is an early dugout/log building in a state of total collapse. There is a possibility that this dugout may have been

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originally made as the first, or temporary, housing for the Ring family. Archeological investigation of this area may settle the question.

As can be seen in Photograph 10, the log portion of the building now stands only about two feet high.

This is a Contributing building.

10. Well: The well adjoins the main ranch house. It is field stone lined with a wood surround. The interior "diameter" (it is only roughly circular) measures nearly 3 feet on the North-South axis and nearly 4 feet along the East-West axis. The above-ground structure of the well is undoubtedly changed from its historic appearance. The well cavity is so shallow it was at first interpreted as a cistern. Now, it is suspected that the well has simply been filled. If this hypothesis is correct, there is the potential for useful archeological work here.

The well's location is within Photograph 1, however its above ground component is not sufficiently prominent to be obvious in that photo. It is in the right-center middle ground, behind clumps of brush and in front of the small tree that masks the porch.

This is a Contributing structure.

Small Outbuildings and Structure

- 4. Bunk House: modern, board and batten. Non-conributing
- 5. Power house: vertical unpeeled slab. Non-contributing
- 6. Tack room: board and batten, corrugated, metal roof. Non-contributing
- 7. Scale House: recent flat galvanized sheet metal, excellent condition. The scale has been removed. Non-contributing
- 8. Storage shed: vertical unpeeled slab sides with a corrugated metal roof. Non-contributing
- 12. Corrals: board loading chute, boards and wire. In excellent condition due to extensive replacement of fabric over time. Non-contributing structure

Building and Structure Outside of Nominated Property Boundary

- 11. Earthen reservoir: double stock tank. Outside of nomination boundary.
- 13. Chicken Coop: vertical corrugated metal with chicken wire and boards.

8. Statement of Significance		
Certifying official has considered the significance of this proper nationally	erty in relation to other properties: statewide locally	
Applicable National Register Criteria	■ D	
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)	□D □E □F □G	
Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Archeology: Historic, Non-Aboriginal (D)	1890 - 1925	
Exploration/Settlement (A & D)		
Agriculture: Cattle (A)	Cultural Affiliation	
	Anglo-American	
Architecture (C)		
Significant Person	Architect/Builder	
	N/A	

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Summary

The property is locally significant under criteria "A", "C", and "D". It can be related to several broad patterns of our history including Exploration and Settlement of the frontier, the beginnings of Agriculture (cattle herding) in the area, and to a lesser degree in Architecture. Specifically, the property is related to the theme of "The Settlement of The Maxwell Land Grant" and to the historic period from 1890 to 1925. It has the potential to yield information important to an understanding and illustration of the history of Ponil Park and to patterns across the entire Maxwell Land Grant and Colfax County, New Mexico. For 35 years the ranch was in the hands of private individuals who attempted to tame this small piece of the Grant. The standing buildings, the best preserved on the Grant from this period, as well as the ruins can be studied with archeological, historic, and architectural techniques to add to our knowledge of settlement of the Grant.

Significance

When, in 1982, the Forest Service acquired Ponil Park, a small part of a larger donation of land offered by Pennzoil Corp., the Ring Place was seen to be one of the most interesting properties. It stands out from other habitation sites due to the size and complexity of the main house. The site is directly related to the theme of settlement of the Maxwell Land Grant. Despite the poor condition of the building, a result of years of abandonment, the staff of the Carson National Forest has believed from the start that the property has historic and interpretive values.

Period of Significance: 1890 - 1925

The Maxwell Land Grant Co. acquired the lands formerly granted to Beaubien and Miranda by the Mexican Governor Manuel Armijo. Once clear title was obtained from the U.S. Supreme Court in 1887, the company set about

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exploiting the resources of its huge (nearly 2,000,000 acres) domain through herding, mining, timber operations, and land sales. Thus, on June 10, 1890, the company agreed to sell to Timothy Ring 320 acres in Ponil Park. The contract price was \$960.00 and the land specified was in Section 3 of Township 29 North, Range 17 East. [Note that in the modern USGS survey (projected), the property is within Section 4.] Although much of this part of New Mexico was not yet surveyed, the company had its own surveyors working on its best lands to facilitate sales such as this. In November, 1896 Timothy Ring's deed was filed at the Colfax County Courthouse. In 1906 Ring's widow sold the spread to another rancher and in January of 1926 the land was again obtained by the Maxwell Land Grant Company. Thus, the significant period's definition is based upon the time of private ownerships, regardless of the particular family involved.

The Maxwell Land Grant

The story of the Maxwell Land Grant has already been well told. One good summary, at least for the period through the early twentieth century, can be found in William A. Keleher's book, "The Maxwell Land Grant." The impact of the Grant on New Mexico's history can be seen even today, more than a century after Beaubien and Miranda sold their interest, in the fact that U.S.G.S. maps continue to identify former Grant lands with their names as well as Maxwell's.

This part of New Mexico was far from unoccupied prior to the advent of Timothy Ring. Among others, Christopher Carson, the noted Indian fighter, had testified that he had built a house in 1845 upon the Grant. Lucien Maxwell himself (son in law of Beaubien) had settled on the Grant in 1849. After the Civil War, gold had been discovered at several locations in northern New Mexico. Concurrently, the attentions of the U.S. Army were freed from war in the East and concentrated on elimination or control of the last hostile Indians. Indians had used these lands as hunting grounds throughout the historic period and long before.

Conditions were ripe for an influx of settlers. The miners and the soldiers both provided a local market for farmers and ranchers, so men moved to exploit this vacant ecological niche.

Settlement

According to the census of 1880, Ring's occupation was in stock raising. Upon acquiring the Ring Place he would have planted in oats and hay, to support his stock, the meadows surrounding the ranch house. The elevation (above 8,000 feet) and latitude would not have been amenable to vegetable farming, although some small-scale kitchen gardens were probably attempted.

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If Ring was not distinguished by his occupation, then his home certainly did put him a notch above other settlers in the area. Perhaps this was a mark of prosperity flowing from his industry. It may have been due to the need to provide accommodations for his wife and six daughters. In any event, Ring was the possessor of a log home which underwent several expansions and became a rather large example of its type. Six bedrooms on the second floor topped another nine rooms on the ground floor

Architecture

That the building was not constructed all in one episode is obvious from a study of its builders' techniques (Lester 1987). The original core of the structure was a one story V-notched log cabin. Subsequent expansions incorporate all known styles of log construction and thus pose some interesting questions for future researchers. For example, was the original construction done by Ring's own hand with latter work done by hired men, or subsequent owners, with different skills and traditions?

Local History / Archeological Value

Much of the significance of the Ring place lies in its potential to inform us about unanswered historical questions. The answers to some of these may be provided by historical research while others may be found with archeological techniques. Archeological examination, for example, of the buried floor of the dugout may settle questions about its original use and/or the possibility of a store at the site. Excavation of the well site may provide midden deposits bearing on the question of the rates of consumption at the Ring Place.

Certain aspects of local history are confused by the informal use of the name "Ring" as sometimes applied to the nearby ghost town of Livingston. Some sources (Pearce 1965:133) note that the name was used to refer to the place where locomotives could be turned in a circle. The Cimarron and Northwestern railroad penetrated into Ponil Park and allowed economical exploitation of its timber resources (Murphy 1964). Remains of its right-of-way can be seen at Livingston and at numerous places, but its impact on the Ring Place is not yet understood. Likewise, wagon roads from the important gold mining town of Elizabethtown (e.g., the Trinidad and Moreno Valley Wagon Road, incorporated in 1868) passed near the Ring Place. It is possible that these transportation networks provided a reason for the final size of the Ring Place buildings.

Local historians speculate that there may be remains of various stores and offices buried at the Ring Place. It is as likely that this impression

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stems from confusion between the two similar names "Ring" and "Ring Place". Archeological investigations may be able to resolve this question.

The date of various construction phases at the Ring Place also present some problems. The remains of the dugout may represent the earliest habitation at the site, or it may be a later storage facility. This is another area for archeological investigation. A photograph dated to 1921 shows the main house in its present configuration. Therefore, all construction of the house must have taken place within approximately three decades. It remains for future researchers to firmly fix dates for each of the expansions and to find reasons for them.

Research Problems

The Ring Place thus presents more questions than answers. Some of the potential research questions that can be explored include:

How did a relatively small-scale rancher manage to provide such an elaborate home for his family?

What impact did transportation networks have upon life at the Ring Place?

Did mercantile activities contribute to the Ring family economy? Do multiple construction techniques have significance in terms of workers employed on the ranch?

Was the main house expanded to provide commercial accommodations for travelers? Could the success of such an operation have been the start of the idea for tourist and guide service which later brought a stream of movie stars and other celebrities to Ponil Park?

9. Major Bibliographical References	
Keleher, William A. 1984 The Maxwell Land Grant. University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque.	
Lester, J. Curtis 1987 Ring Ranch Historic Buildings Survey Report. MS on file USDA - Forest Service, Carson National Forest, Taos, New	
Murphy, Lawrence R. 1964 Cimarron and Northwestern: Historic Railroad of Northern Mexico. New Mexico Railroader 6(11):1-6 and 6(12):1-8.	New
See continuation sheet	
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	al data.
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested Primary location of addition State historic preservati	
has been requested State historic preservati previously listed in the National Register Other State agency	on onice
previously determined eligible by the National Register	
designated a National Historic Landmark Local government	
recorded by Historic American Buildings	
Survey # Other	
recorded by Historic American Engineering Specify repository: Carso	n National Forest
Record #	
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of property 7.588	
UTM References A 1 3 4 8 9 1 9 0 4 0 6 9 4 3 0 Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting D	Northing
See continuation sheet	
Verbal Boundary Description	
A certain tract or parcel of lands situated within the Beaubien and Grant, (also known as the Maxwell Grant), in <u>projected</u> Section 4, 7 North, Range 17 East, New Mexico Principal Meridian, New Mexico, Colfax (projected Section, Township, and Range are based on the U.S. See continuation sheet	Township 29 Dunty of
Boundary Justification	
The boundary for this nomination is the quadrangle which most econo encompasses all likely use areas, buildings, and structures from the significant period. Associated areas and structures lacking Nation values, or of unknown relationship to the property, are noted on the but have not been included within the boundary. The nominated area "buffer" zones.	e al Register e sketch map
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title David "A" Gillio / Associate Regional Archeologist	
organization USDA - Forest Service, Southwestern Region date 17 February	ary 1988
street & number 517 Gold, S.W. telephone FTS city or town Albuquerque state New Mexic	476-3447

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Pearce, T. M. (Ed.)

1965 New Mexico Place Names: A Geographical Dictionary. University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque.

Robertson, Nancy

1987 Ring Ranch House, Ring Storage Building, Ring Ranch Barn. ID No. AR-03-02-07-43, Mew Mexico Building Inventory Form.

Young, Jon Nathen

1982 Valle Vidal Inventory. Archeological and Historical Site Inventory. USDA - Forest Service, Carson National Forest.

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Verbal Boundary Description

Rectangular System), and being more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at the southeasterly corner of said tract, whence a Coast and Geodetic Triangulation Station, "WALL", bears S.33°33'50"E. 6,564.151 feet; thence from said point of beginning S.88°13'22"W. 670.400 feet to the southwesterly corner; thence N.18°35'57"E. 629.959 feet to the northwesterly corner; thence S.87°33'12"E. 477.113 feet to the northeasterly corner; thence S.0°46'31"W. 555.950 feet to the southeasterly corner, the point and place of beginning.

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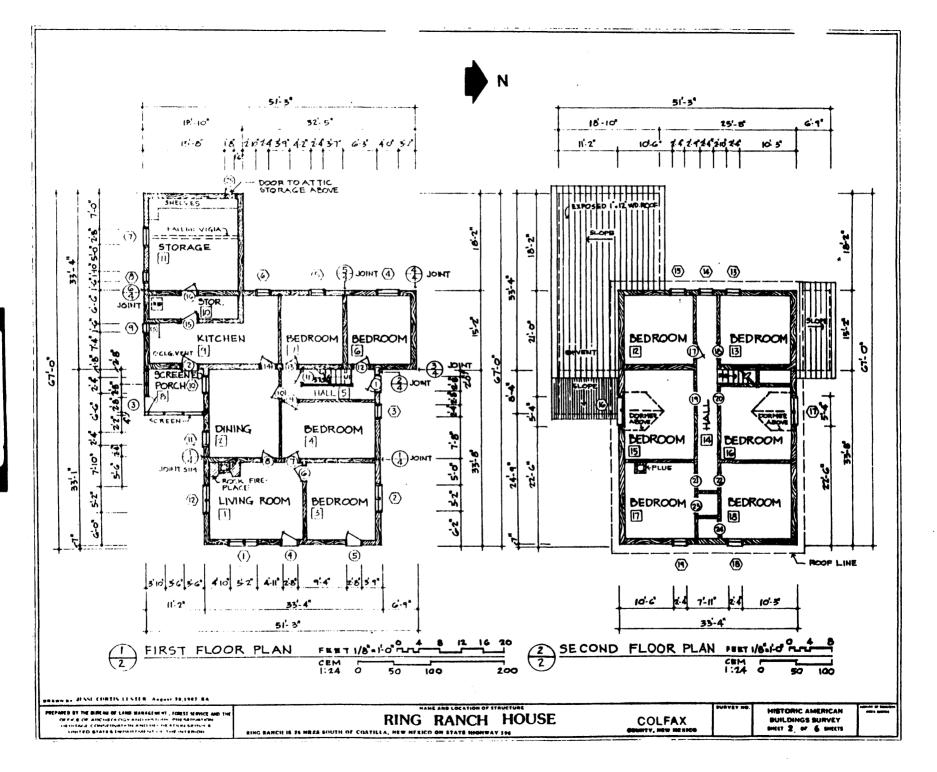
		Photographs			
Section	number	Page			

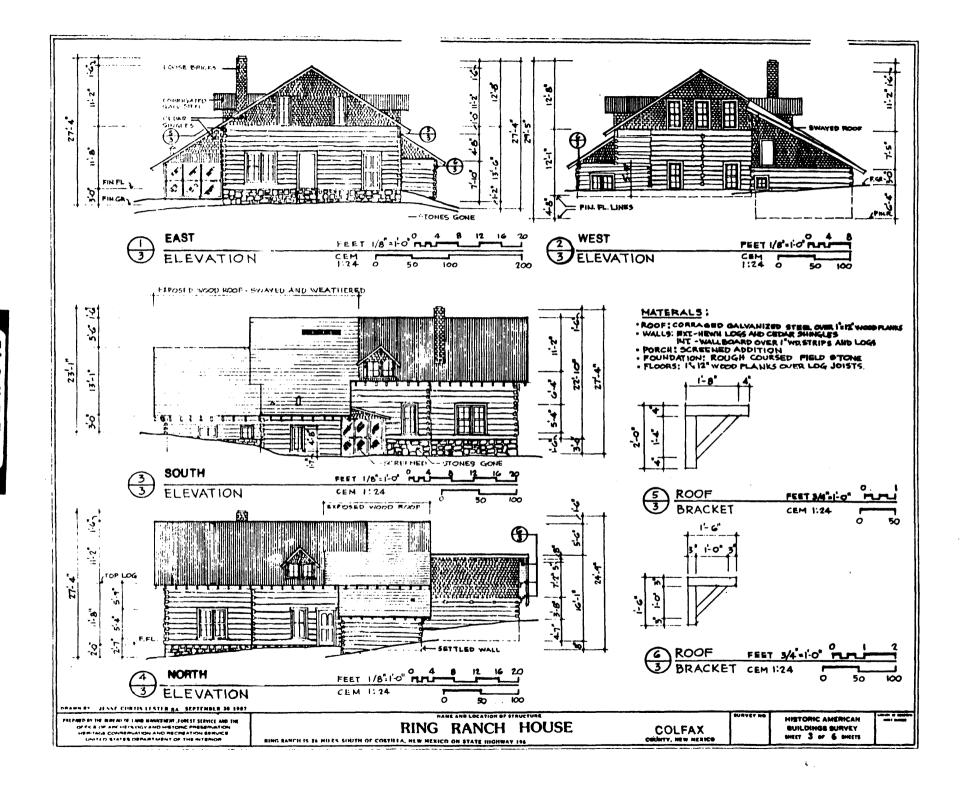
- 1.) 1. The Ring Place
 - 2. Colfax County, New Mexico vicinity Cimarron
 - 3. Curtis Lester
 - 4. August 28, 1987
 - 5. Supervisor's Office, Carson National Forest
- 6. The "Ranch House": looking north. The well is also in this view but it is obscured by vegetation. It is in the right-center middle ground, behind clumps of brush and in front of the small tree that masks the porch.
 - 7. Building # 1 on sketch map
- 2.) 1. The Ring Place
 - 2. Colfax County, New Mexico vicinity Cimarron
 - 3. Curtis Lester
 - 4. August 28, 1987
 - 5. Supervisor's Office, Carson National Forest
 - 6. The "Ranch House": looking west.
 - 7. Building # 1 on sketch map
- 3.) 1. The Ring Place
 - 2. Colfax County, New Mexico vicinity Cimarron
 - 3. Curtis Lester
 - 4. August 28, 1987
 - 5. Supervisor's Office, Carson National Forest
 - 6. The "Ranch House": looking east.
 - 7. Building # 1 on sketch map
- 4.) 1. The Ring Place
 - 2. Colfax County, New Mexico vicinity Cimarron
 - 3. Curtis Lester
 - 4. August 28, 1987
 - 5. Supervisor's Office, Carson National Forest
 - 6. The "Ranch House": looking south.
 - 7. Building # 1 on sketch map
- 5.) 1. The Ring Place
 - 2. Colfax County, New Mexico vicinity Cimarron
 - 3. Curtis Lester
 - 4. August 28, 1987
 - 5. Supervisor's Office, Carson National Forest
 - 6. The "Storage Building": looking south.
 - 7. Building # 2 on sketch map
- 6.) 1. The Ring Place
 - 2. Colfax County, New Mexico vicinity Cimarron
 - 3. Curtis Lester
 - 4. August 28, 1987
 - 5. Supervisor's Office, Carson National Forest
 - 6. The "Storage Building": looking west.
 - 7. Building # 2 on sketch map

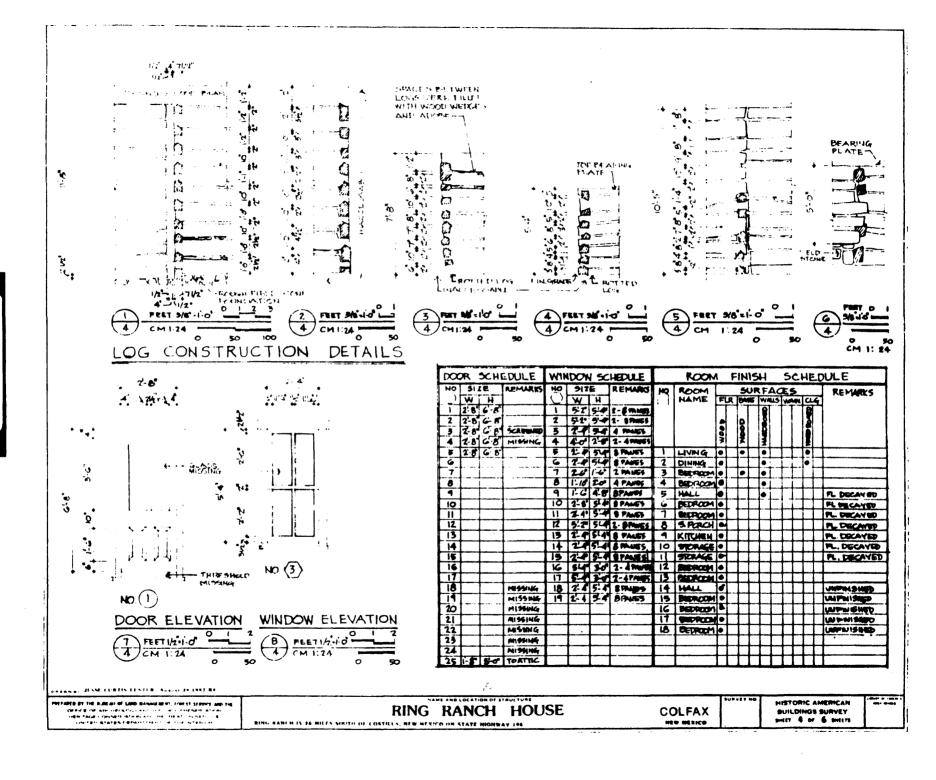
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

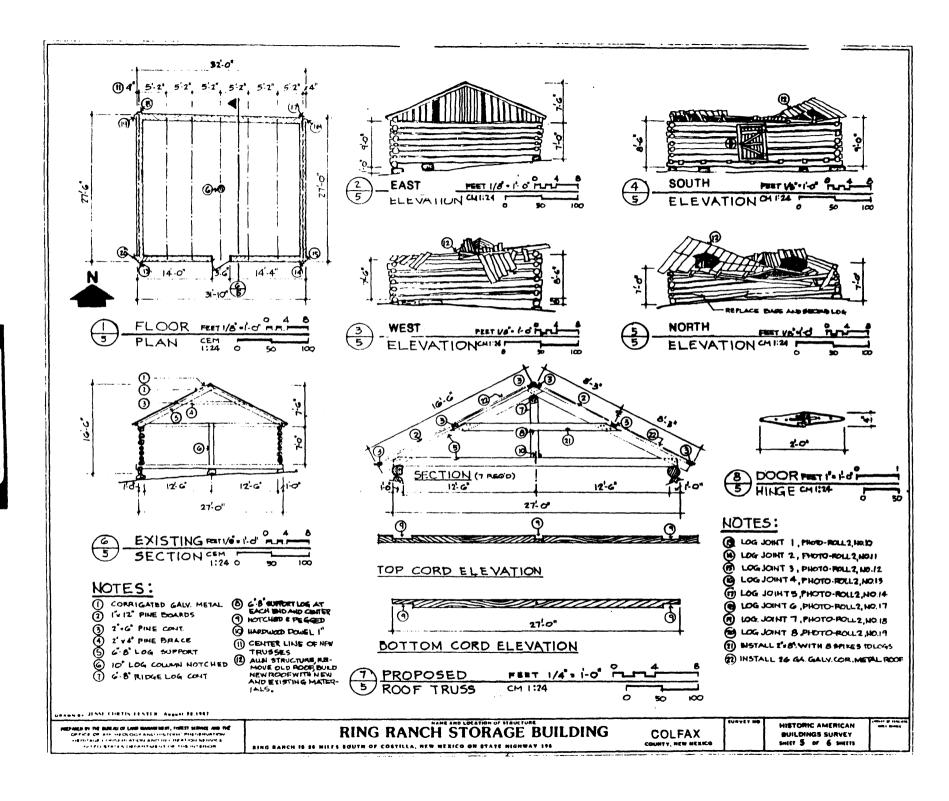
Photographs 2
Section number _____ Page ____

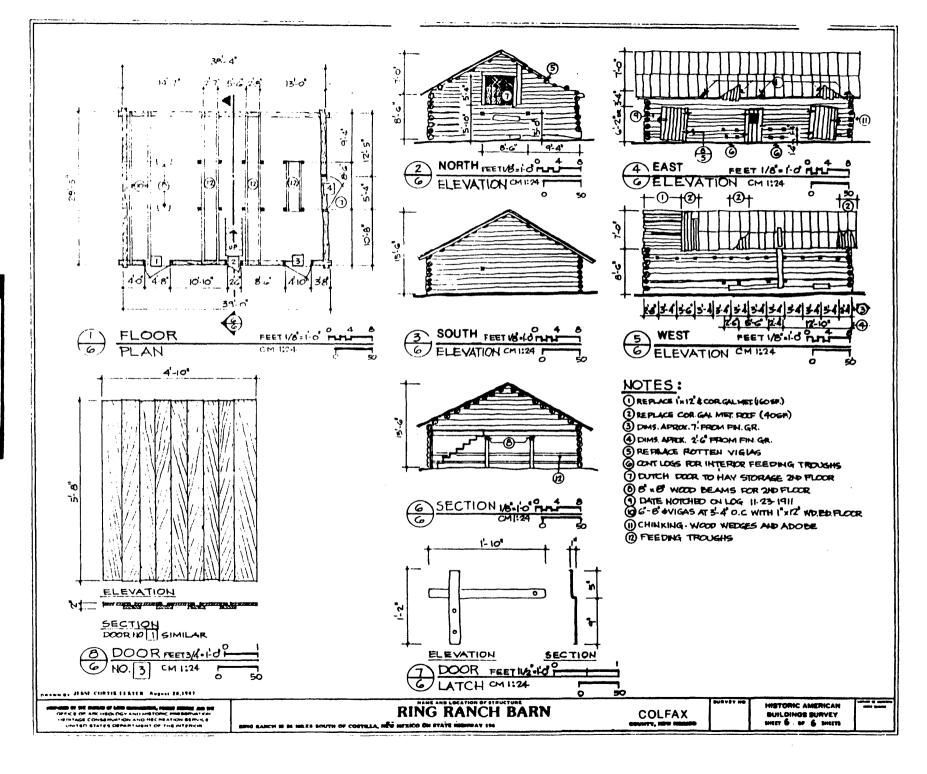
- 7.) 1. The Ring Place
 - 2. Colfax County, New Mexico vicinity Cimarron
 - 3. Curtis Lester
 - 4. August 28, 1987
 - 5. Supervisor's Office, Carson National Forest
 - 6. The "Barn": looking south.
 - 7. Building # 3 on sketch map
- 8.) 1. The Ring Place
 - 2. Colfax County, New Mexico vicinity Cimarron
 - 3. Curtis Lester
 - 4. August 28, 1987
 - 5. Supervisor's Office, Carson National Forest
 - 6. The "Barn": looking west.
 - 7. Building # 3 on sketch map
- 9.) 1. The Ring Place
 - 2. Colfax County, New Mexico vicinity Cimarron
 - 3. Jon Young
 - 4. July 22, 1982
 - 5. Supervisor's Office, Carson National Forest
 - 6. The "Root Cellar": looking west
 - 7. Building # 9 on sketch map
- 10.) 1. The Ring Place
 - 2. Colfax County, New Mexico vicinity Cimarron
 - 3. USDA Forest Service
 - 4. October 2, 1982
 - 5. Supervisor's Office, Carson National Forest
 - 6. Vertical aerial photograph view of Ring Place vicinity
- 7. Enlargement of center section of aerial photography
- 9-009, "Vermejo". Original scale was 1:12000. This print is at a scale of about 1:2000.











THE RING PLACE

SKETCH MAP **∐13** approximate northern boundary of nomination ++++ Poed 1918 A 口8 12 Approximate scale KEY

log buildings

- corral fence
 - 1. Ring Ranch House
 - 2. Storage Building
 - 3. Barn
 - 4. bunkhouse
 - 5. power house
 - 6. tack room
 - 7. scale house

- 8. storage shed
- 9 Root Cellar
- 10, Well
- 11. earthen dam (outside boundary)
- 12. corral
- 13. chicken coop (outside boundary)

FIGURE

For boundary details, see Figure 7.

DESCRIPTION

A certain tract or parcel of land situated within the Beaubien and Miranda Grant, (also known as the Maxwell Grant), in projected section 4, Township 29 North, Range 17 East, N.M.P.M., New Mexico, County of Colfax; (projected section, Township and Range are based on the U.S.G.L.O. Rectangular system), and being more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at the southeasterly corner of said tract, whence a Coast and Geodetic Triangulation Station, "WALL", bears S.33°33'50"E. 6,564.151 feet; thence from said point of beginning S.88°13'22"W. 670.400 feet to the southwesterly corner; thence N.18°35'57"E. 629.959 feet to the northwesterly corner; thence S.87°33'12"E. 477.113 feet to the northeasterly corner; thence S.0°46'31"W. 555.950 feet to the southeasterly corner, the POINT AND PLACE OF BEGINNING.

Said tract or parcel of land contains 7.588 Acres.

NOTE: Bearings are based on data furnished to the Carson National Forest gathered by a GPS survey done in the area in 1986. Monuments data is based on are, "WALL" and "ROCK WALL".

This plat represents a record of the survey of the "RING PLACE" within the Valle Vidal Unit, Carson National Forest. The survey represented on this plat is for the purpose of identifing and marking a historic site and is prepared as a result of the request of the Supervisor, Carson National Forest and is intended for his exclusive use.

CERTIFICATE

I certify that I am a registered Professional Land Surveyor employed by the U.S.D.A., Forest Service and that this plat is based on a field survey done by me and my assistants under my direction and that it meets the minimum requirements setforth by the "Standards for Land Surveys in New Mexico" and that the information shown hereon is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

