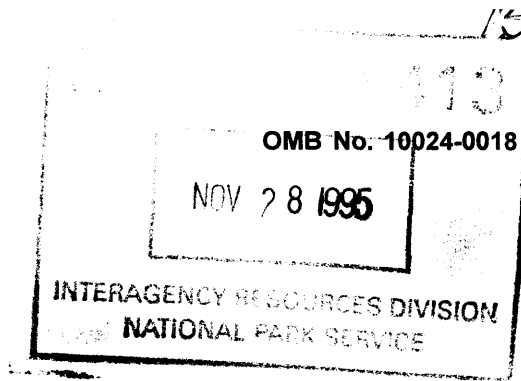


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



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

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Baldpate Inn

other names/site number 5LR484

### 2. Location

street & number 4900 S. Highway 7 [N/A] not for publication

city or town Estes Park [X] vicinity

state CO code CO county Larimer code 069 zip code 80517

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

James Edward Hartman State Historic Preservation Officer November 22, 1995  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper

Date

Entered in the National Register 1.11.96

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Baldpate Inn  
Name of Property

Larimer County, CO  
County/State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property  
(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property  
(Do not count previously listed resources.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>11</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>12</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing.  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources  
previously listed in the National  
Register.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Hotel  
COMMERCE: Restaurant  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Hotel  
COMMERCE: Restaurant  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY  
AMERICAN MOVEMENTS  
OTHER: Rustic  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE  
walls WOOD: Log  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof ASPHALT  
METAL: Tin  
other STONE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

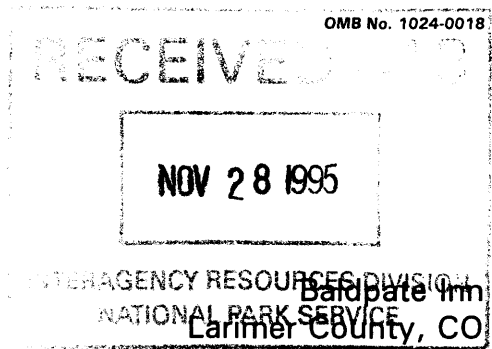
Narrative Description

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

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1



**Narrative Description**

The Baldpate Inn historic district is comprised of 11 historic buildings nestled on a steeply sloped 12-acre hillside (part of Twin Sisters Mountain) just east of Lily Lake and Route 7, seven miles southwest of Estes Park. The site encompasses most of the eastern half of the original resort, overlooking Estes Park from an elevation of 9,000 feet, with a spectacular panoramic view. The property abounds with trees (primarily ponderosa pine, lodge-pole pine, spruce and aspen), raspberry bushes, and wildflowers native to the region. Several springs are located on the hillside to the south (with one actually running beneath the kitchen of the Main Lodge), but these are not water sources for the Inn.

Although the original owners, the Mace family, once owned 500 acres, including Lily Lake and its lodge on the other side of Route 7, the property owned by the current owners, the Smiths, encompasses approximately 12 acres. The Maces' original homestead (built in 1914), a cabin now used as a workshop, and a duplex/guest cabin still stand on the south side of the property line (these buildings are separately owned and not included in the nomination boundaries). The district is accessed from Route 7 via an unpaved road which runs east-west through the property. This driveway (formerly called Fish Creek Road, the original road between Allens Park and Estes Park) descends from the parking lot east of the Main Lodge to Estes Park and is now used primarily by jeeps and other 4-wheel-drive vehicles.

Constructed in 1916-17, the Main Lodge is by far the largest and grandest structure in the district. Rectangular in plan, with a projecting central block, the Main Lodge stands two stories high above a partial basement. The building is a picturesque combination of Rustic/Western Stick Style architecture, with its stone rubble foundation and chimneys; board-and-batten, log and half-timbered exterior; and gabled and dormered roof with overhanging eaves, open soffits and knee braces. Multi-light windows and doors with painted white tapered wooden surrounds add contrast to the Inn's weathered brown exterior. On the interior, the burnished hardwood floors, peeled log poles and beams, wood paneling and wainscoting, massive stone fireplaces, and rustic furniture lend to the cozy, camp-style ambiance that pervades the Inn.

In addition to the Lodge, the property encompasses 10 outbuildings (including a garage, horse shed, barn/stable, ice house, bunkhouse, bathhouse and four cabins) plus partial structural remains of the original Dance Hall. Built to complement the Main Lodge in a Rustic style, these buildings have vertical board-and-batten and/or log exteriors resting on stone foundations, gabled or shed roofs with overhanging eaves, and similar doors and windows. With the exception of the Dance Hall, most of which (roof, walls and half of the floor) has collapsed down the hillside, all of the buildings are relatively unaltered and remain in fair to good condition. While their dates of construction have not been verified, all were completed by 1935.

A description of the 11 buildings and 1 building ruin, all of which contribute to the district, follows.

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Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

Baldpate Inn  
Larimer County, CO

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Architectural Description

On North Side of Road:

**Garage (No. 1)**

Original Use: Garage.  
Present Use: Storage.  
Alterations: Unaltered.

This simple, front-gabled structure consists of vertical board-and-batten siding resting on a stone foundation. The rear elevation is reinforced with support beams resting on the north-facing slope. On the front elevation, there are twin garage doors with their original hardware. The asphalt-shingled roof has overhanging eaves and exposed rafters. The use of 2'x 4' construction is evident in the interior.

**Horse Shed (No. 2)**

Original Use: Horse Shed.  
Present Use: Not in use.  
Alterations: Unaltered.

This small, shed-roofed structure is constructed of vertical unpeeled logs and is covered with a corrugated tin roof. The entrance faces east. The building is adjacent to the original horse corral.

**Barn/Stable (No. 3)**

Original Use: Barn/Stable.  
Present Use: Storage.  
Alterations: Unaltered.

Constructed of unpeeled vertical logs, this front-gabled structure sports a smaller gable with an opening centered above the main entrance, with its original double doors and hardware. On the rear elevation, horizontal logs are used on the gable. A small, shed-roofed addition extends to the west. The building is illuminated by several small windows on the facade and side elevations. Other exterior features include a corrugated tin roof with overhanging eaves, exposed rafters, and log bargeboards. The interior, with horse stalls on either side, remains relatively unaltered.

**Wrangler Cabin (No. 4)**

Original Use: Wrangler Cabin.  
Present Use: Guest Cabin.  
Alterations: Moderate.

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Section number 7 Page 3

Baldpate Inn  
Larimer County, CO

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Although the interior of this cabin was remodeled in 1994-95, its exterior board-and-batten walls, stone foundation, chimney and east-facing bay window remain intact. During renovation, the front door was moved to the center of the facade, the floor plan was reconfigured, and some new windows and a new floor were installed. The original clawfoot bathtub remains in the interior. A shed-roofed porch with rustic log supports and rail extends off the rear of the building. A red asphalt roof with exposed rafters covers the side-gabled structure.

**Ice House (No. 5)**

Original Use: Ice House.

Present Use: Storage.

Alterations: Unaltered.

This diminutive front-gabled structure features horizontal wooden siding with vertical battens, and a wood-shingled roof with overhanging eaves and exposed rafters and knee braces. On the facade, the central door, with its rustic handle, and vent are framed with white-painted tapered surrounds. The ice house was designed to hold an entire summer's supply of ice hauled from nearby Lily Lake. The Ice House is currently used for storage.

**Dance Hall (No. 6)**

Original Use: Dance Hall.

Present Use: Not in use.

Alterations: Collapsed.

Once a large, rectangular building with a pine dance floor and balconies on the east and north sides, all that remains of the Dance Hall is approximately half of the floor and its original stone fireplace and signature hearth (embellished with the words "Baldpate Inn" and key logo in white stone). Early photographs of the east elevation reveal trusswork on the gable above the entrance, which faced east and was reached via a wooden walkway with a rustic gate. In the early 1980s, the side-gabled roof, walls and half of the floor collapsed (from the weight of snow) down the steeply sloped hillside.

Built in the 1920s, the Dance Hall was a popular local entertainment spot, with regularly scheduled dances every Thursday night (local clippings reveal that dances were held at the Baldpate as early as 1920, but the Dance Hall's construction date has not been verified). Traveling musicians, such as Lawrence Welk, and big bands led by Harry James and Tommy Dorsey, provided the music. Other gala events included sorority/fraternity parties and entertainment provided by members of the Baldpate's staff.

As the second largest Rustic style building in the complex, the Dance Hall contributed significantly to the architectural character of the complex. And, as the inn's entertainment and recreation center, it played a large factor in the success of the Inn during its heyday. It is hoped that the Dance Hall eventually will be restored for similar use.

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Baldpate Inn  
Larimer County, CO

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On South Side of Road:

**Valley View Cabin (No. 7)**

Original Use: Guest Cabin.

Present Use: Guest Cabin.

Alterations: Minor (Exterior); Moderate (Interior).

This side-gabled structure has retained its original vertical board-and-batten exterior above a stone rubble foundation. The elevation includes a Rustic style porch with a crawl space covered with slim vertical and horizontal logs. The front door and multi-light windows have tapered surrounds, painted white. On the east elevation, one of the windows has been removed and filled in with similar board-and-batten siding. The red asphalt roof has overhanging eaves with exposed rafters, and the exterior chimney is composed of stone rubble.

Valley View Cabin was the last building to be constructed (c. 1930). The interior has been reconfigured to include three bedrooms, a bath and furnace. On the exterior, one window was altered to accommodate these changes. The living room features the original cut redstone fireplace with its unusual tapered flue and a dormer above the main entrance.

**The Brown Palace (a.k.a. "L" Cabin, No. 8)**

Original Use: Staff Housing.

Present Use: Staff Recreation/Storage.

Alterations: Unaltered.

This "L"-shaped structure, with its vertical board-and batten exterior, has a side gabled, red asphalt roof with overhanging eaves and exposed rafters. The doors and multi-light windows have tapered wooden surrounds, painted white.

Originally built as employee housing (without plumbing), the main part of the cabin is now used as a staff recreation room and for storage.

**Bathhouse (No. 9)**

Original Use: Bathhouse.

Present Use: Not in use.

Alterations: Unaltered.

Built on the hillside behind the Main Lodge, the Bathhouse is a side-gabled structure with a vertical board-and-batten exterior, a red asphalt roof, and a rectangular plan. The structure, divided into two shower rooms accessed by separate doors on the south side, is currently unusable (the floor on the western side has collapsed, and some of the original plumbing fixtures have been removed).

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Baldpate Inn  
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**Bunkhouse (No. 10)**

Original Use: Bunkhouse.

Present Use: Bunkhouse.

Alterations: Unaltered.

Located adjacent to the Bathhouse, the rectangular, side-gabled Bunkhouse is similarly clad with board-and-batten siding and covered with a red asphalt roof with overhanging eaves and exposed rafters. The doors and windows have tapered wooden surrounds, painted white.

**Main Lodge (No. 11)**

(Central Block, 1916-17; East Wing, 1918; West Wing, First Story - 1921; West Wing - Second Story, 1935).

Original Use: Lodging/Dining.

Present Use: Lodging/Dining.

Alterations: Minor.

Designed in a style which combines Rustic and Western Stick style architecture, the exterior of the Main Lodge is predominantly clad with vertical board-and-batten siding atop a stone rubble foundation. The primary framing members used in the post-and-beam construction were cut and milled on-site from native timber.

On the north-facing facade, the front-gabled, projecting central block (built 1916-17) is flanked by two wings extending to the east and west. Supported by heavy peeled logs, the central block is horizontally divided into three levels: a porte-cochere on the ground level, a covered porch with a rustic rail on the middle story, and a half-timbered gable (clad with pressed fiberboard) on the top. The rustic log supports, combined with the roof's overhanging eaves, exposed rafters, knee braces and shed-roofed dormers, add greatly to the Western Stick effect, which recalls Swiss-style (rather than Japanese) architecture. Other contributing characteristics include the rustic doors and multi-light, primarily casement windows, all trimmed with tapered wood surrounds painted white.

The main entrance is reached by one of two separate stairways, complete with rustic handrails, which lead up from the porte-cochere to the covered porch on the second story. A smaller stairwell leads directly to a door which provides outdoor access into the west wing. Inside the main front door, which has a rustic door handle and wooden latch but no key, is a reception area. The area provides central access to all wings of the building.

The east wing, which was built in 1918 as an open porch with a rustic handrail, now contains the main dining room and enclosed sunporch with a stone rubble end chimney and an outside entrance on the east elevation. The enclosed sunporch and dining area, which originally seated 120, are illuminated by a band of 6-over-6 windows set into four bays across the front elevation. Skylights added to the roof at the rear of the Dining Room in the 1980s bring additional light into the interior. On the uppermost story, shed-roofed dormers containing pairs of casement windows, light the eight guest rooms.

The main floor of the west wing was built in 1921 to house the Key Room and library (at this time, it featured a balcony which has since been removed). In 1935, a second story, with a roof

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containing a series of windows and roof dormers similar to those on the east wing, was added to accommodate eight additional guest/staff rooms. On the west elevation, there are two separate entrances: a handicap-accessible one on the main story at ground level and another on the top story. The higher entrance is sheltered by a shed-roofed portico supported by knee braces. Tapered surrounds frame both doors and the vent in the gable end.

On the south elevation, the kitchen (brought up to code in the early 1990s) is nestled into the southwest corner against the steeply sloped hillside. There are three additional shed-roofed dormers on this side, adding to the picturesque, asymmetrically composed roofline. Red asphalt shingles cover the roof.

The Main Lodge contains the following:

Ground Floor:

Laundry Room, Storage Rooms, Boiler and Furnace Rooms, Workshop/Tool Room, and Crawl Space.

First (Main) Floor:

Central Block: Front Porch (outside), Lobby, Office/Staff Area, Dining Room, Restrooms.

Kitchen Addition: Kitchen and Storerooms.

East Wing: Sun Porch (enclosed and used for dining), Main Dining Room.

West Wing: Key Room and Library.

Second Floor: 21 Bedrooms\* (12 Guest; 9 Staff), 12 Baths/Partial Baths, Laundry Room and Storage Rooms.

\*Note: Some of the original bedrooms have been combined to create larger guestrooms. Originally, the central block had 7 guestrooms, and the east wing contained 8 guestrooms.

The interior also boasts five massive fireplaces, built of native stone. These are located in the Main Dining Room, Lobby, Office/Staff Area, Key Room and Library. Although carpet covers some of the floors on both levels, most of the original hardwood floors are exposed.



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**Pinetop Cabin (No. 12)**

Original Use: Guest Cabin.

Present Use: Guest Cabin.

Alterations: Exterior (Minor); Interior (Moderate).

Pinetop Cabin has retained its vertical board-and-batten exterior atop a horizontally framed foundation. The side-gabled structure has a projecting front porch with a gabled portico and rustic rail. The center door is framed with tapered wood surrounds. Although the windows on the front elevation have been altered by the installation of plate glass, the windows on the other elevations retain their multiple panes and original frames.

Although the cabin originally had two bedrooms, it has been renovated into one large room with a fireplace and jacuzzi tub. The floors are original. It is currently used as the "honeymoon suite."

**Resource Summary**

**Contributing resources**

**Buildings (11):**

- Main Lodge
- Garage
- Horse Shed
- Barn/Stable
- Wrangler Cabin
- Ice House
- Valley View Cabin
- Brown Palace
- Bathhouse
- Bunkhouse
- Pinetop Cabin

**Sites (1):**

- Dance Hall

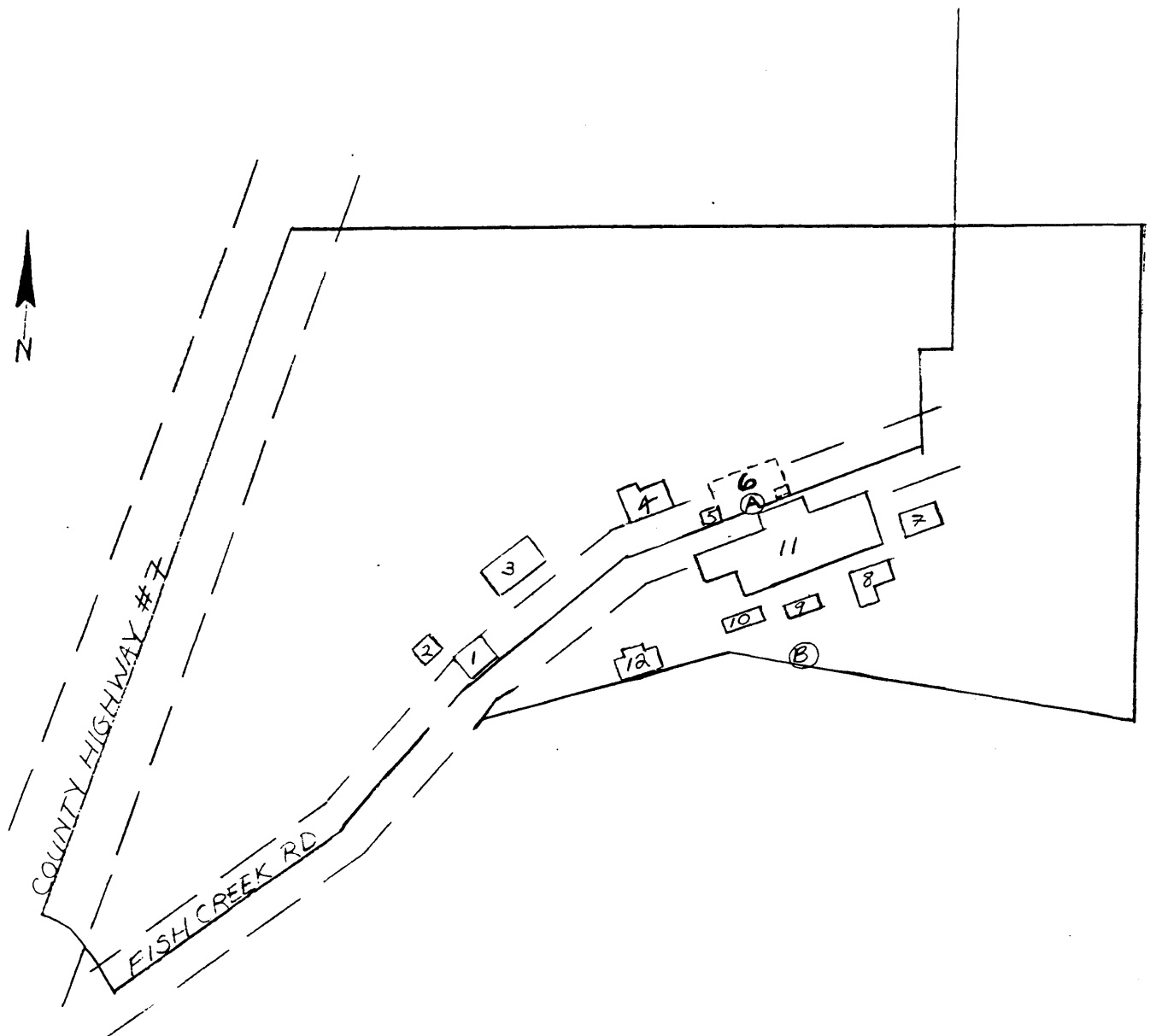
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Baldpate Inn  
Larimer County, CO

Sketch Map (Site Plan and Building Identification)



SCALE: 1" = 150'

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Main Lodge Elevation  
Drawings by students of the  
University of Colorado  
School of Architecture



North Elevation

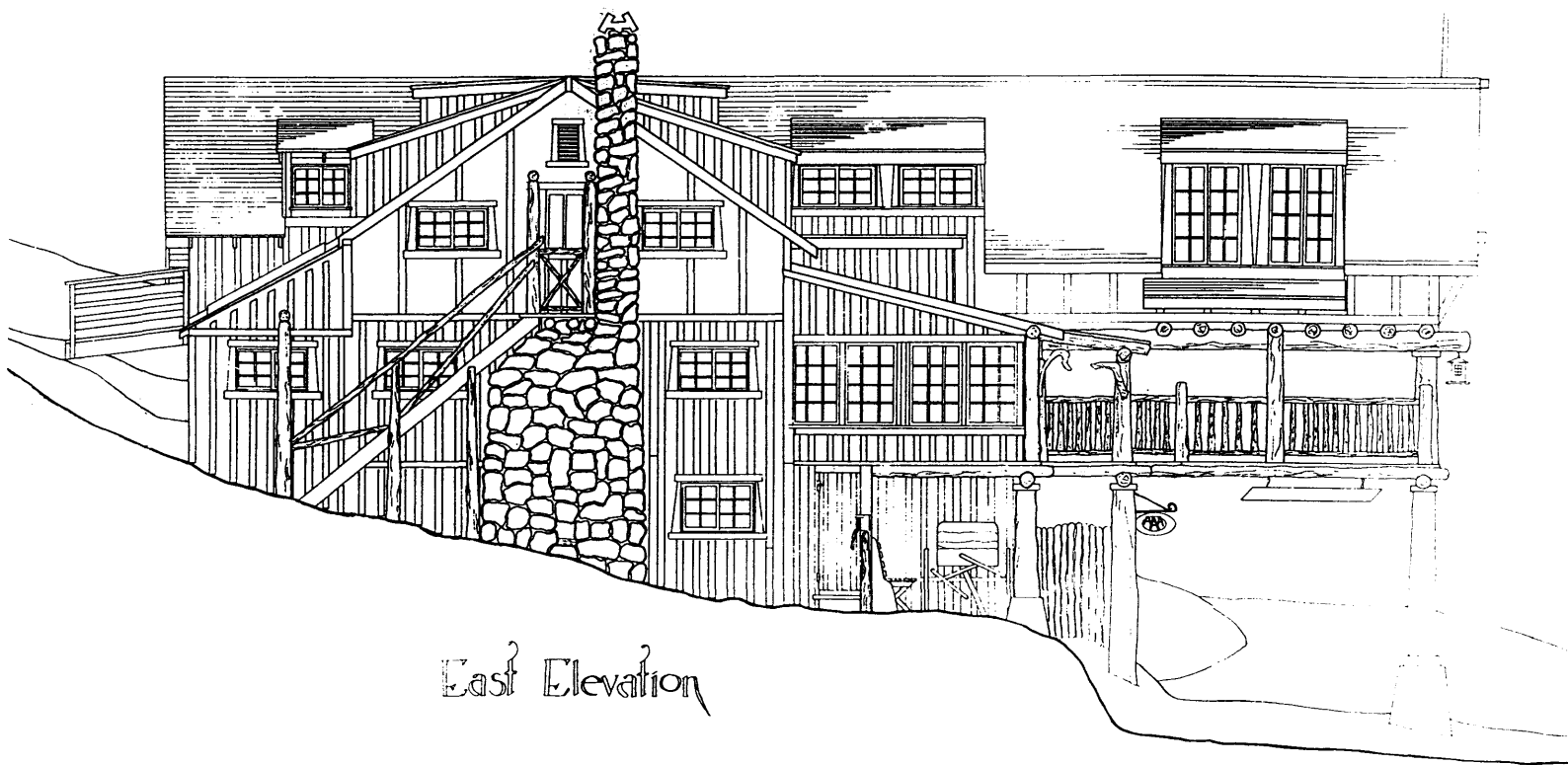
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**Main Lodge Elevation**  
Drawings by students of the  
University of Colorado  
School of Architecture



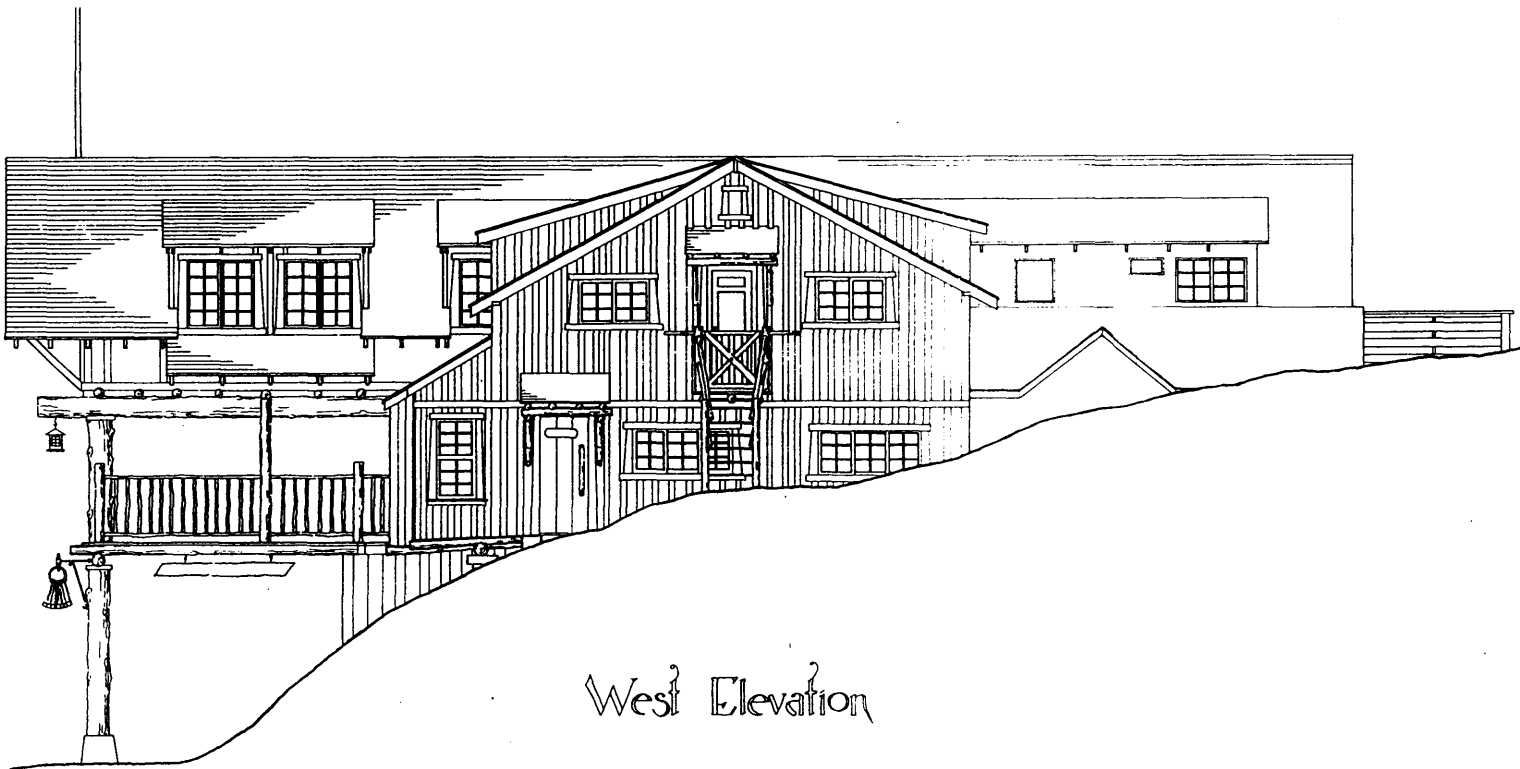
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**Main Lodge Elevation**  
Drawings by students of the  
University of Colorado  
School of Architecture



Baldpate Inn  
Name of Property

Larimer County, CO  
County/State

### 8. Statement of Significance

**Applicable National Register Criteria**  
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**  
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Entertainment/Recreation

Commerce

**Periods of Significance**

1917 - 1945

**Significant Dates**

N/A

**Significant Person(s)**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Mace, Gordon & Ethel

Mace, Charles & Gloria

**Narrative Statement of Significance**  
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

### 9. Major Bibliographic References

**Bibliography**  
(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

# \_\_\_\_\_

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

# \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State Agency

Federal Agency

Local Government

University

Other:

**Name of repository:**

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**Statement of Significance**

The Baldpate Inn is eligible under criterion A in the areas of commerce and entertainment/recreation as an important example of a successful tourist resort and local entertainment venue in the Estes Park region of Colorado's Rocky Mountains. Since its opening in 1917, just two years after the creation of Rocky Mountain National Park, the Baldpate Inn has played an integral role in the establishment of tourism within Estes Park. Having celebrated its 75th anniversary in 1992, the Baldpate Inn is one of only a few hotels surviving from approximately 25 built in the area prior to 1920 (other survivors include the Stanley Hotel, the Elkhorn and the Craggs). The Baldpate Inn is also important as the life work and livelihood of the Mace family, and for its function as a major "social center" in Estes Park once the Dance Hall opened in the 1920s. The resort's key theme, which grew out of its association with a well known mystery novel, The Seven Keys To Baldpate, further enhanced its popularity. It is particularly interesting to note that, despite the Mace's lack of hotel experience, they were able to design, build and manage one of Colorado's most successful lodging, dining and entertainment establishments operated by one family for more than 40 years (1917-1959). Although the Baldpate Inn continues to thrive since its purchase by the Smith family in 1986, the period of significance established for this nomination is 1917-1945.

The Baldpate Inn also meets criterion C as a highly intact example of the Rustic design ethic popular in the American West during the first decades of the twentieth century. The original portion of the Main Lodge is unique as the only example of Western Stick Style architecture still used for tourist accommodations in the Estes Park area today. The later additions, constructed in the Rustic Style that became the hallmark of western resort architecture in the 1910s and 1920s, and the other Rustic/Vernacular Wood-Frame structures on the site, complement the earlier buildings and contribute greatly to the historic integrity of the District.

Architectural Significance

Considered (along with the Shingle Style, which also emphasized structural honesty) one of the two most purely American styles of the 19th century, the Victorian Stick style was characterized by decorative detailing which recalled medieval, half-timbered dwellings. While this style came into vogue around 1860 and had peaked by 1890, the westernized version was popular from about 1910 through the 1920s. With rustic log and vertical board-and-batten construction replacing the more refined wooden shingles and siding employed during the earlier Stick Style period, Western Stick architecture, and its more rugged counterpart, Rustic style, was well suited for the rugged Rocky Mountains. Here the style was often given a Bavarian twist.

The Main Lodge stands as a highly intact example of a style that was especially popular in Colorado's Rocky Mountain National Park area. It was particularly effective in this region because the native materials (rough-hewn timber, peeled and unpeeled logs, and stone rubble) blended so well with the natural surroundings. Rustic characteristics include stone foundations, log construction, overhanging roofs, and small-paned windows, often with tapered surrounds. Western Stick style elements (seen on

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Baldpate Inn  
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the original portion of the Inn) include the half-timbered gable, exposed rafters and knee braces. Although the Main Lodge has been enlarged three times, all construction (with the exception of the kitchen) was carried out during the period of significance, and each addition has been sensitive to the character of the original structure, with the overall historic integrity remaining intact. Much of the original furniture and furnishings, including pieces handcrafted by the Mace family and the hickory-back dining room chairs, are still in place.

In addition to the structural remains of the Dance Hall, the District includes 10 other outbuildings - the garage, horse shed, barn/stable, ice house, bathhouse, bunkhouse, and four cabins - clustered around the Inn. Constructed with either board-and-batten or log exteriors, and much simpler and smaller in scale, they exhibit elements of Rustic architecture, such as natural log or rough milled lumber construction; stone foundations and chimneys; natural finishes; and overhanging wood-framed shingle roofs. Modifications to these buildings range from minor to moderate.

Historical Background and Significance

The history of the Baldpate Inn begins with the Mace family. The three Mace brothers - Stuart, Gordon and Charles - and their parents, William and Mina immigrated from Liverpool, England in 1890. The family first settled in Denver, where Gordon (born 1884) designed patterns for mining machinery and constructed homes, and Charles (born 1889) worked as a commercial photographer. The oldest brother, Stuart, also a photographer, died of pneumonia in the early 1920s.

In 1911, Charles learned that a 160-acre parcel of land near Estes Park was available for homesteading. Charles, Gordon, and Gordon's wife Ethel Prickett, with whom he had honeymooned in Estes Park in 1911, filed for a homestead, and constructed a one-room cabin on the property in 1914. Their homestead patent was approved on January 22, 1917. After determining that their land was unsuitable for farming, and realizing the need to accommodate visitors to Estes Park, the trio decided to build several additional tourist cabins.

The idea for a hotel, complete with indoor plumbing, hot water and electric lights, came about when, in Ethel Mace's words, "it seemed that the guests might prefer to eat and sleep on the premises without having to worry with supplies." Although the Maces had previously worked on a ranch in Eagle, they had no experience in operating a hotel. As Ethel put it, "It was kind of funny because neither of us knew anything about hotels. I had been in one once and Gordon about three or four times. We bumbled along though, and when we had finished, there were more guests than we could accommodate."

In late 1916 or early 1917, Gordon and Ethel Mace began design and construction of the Main Lodge. While their decision to use logs felled from the property was undoubtedly dictated by limited finances, the end result was a building which was highly compatible with its natural surroundings. Gordon later worked on another Rustic style resort building, the 1919 Grand Lake Lodge (National Register listed). After building the original portion almost entirely by themselves, Gordon and Ethel were joined by Charles, recently returned from the Army, and his new bride, Gloria DeNeen, who helped them construct the 1921 additions. Gordon also crafted some of the original rustic furniture and



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Baldpate Inn  
Larimer County, CO

furnishings, including the picture frames and lamps. The straight-back hickory dining room chairs came from the Old Hickory chair factory in Martinsville, Indiana).

The Inn's name and logo were inspired by the title of Earl Derr Biggers' novel, Seven Keys to Baldpate, which was then on the best-seller list. Like the fictitious mountain lodge in the story, it also was located seven miles from the nearest town. Although Biggers' novel took place in New York state, when he later visited Estes Park he proclaimed that the Mace's establishment was "the really and truly Baldpate Inn."

Although the Baldpate Inn had guests as early as 1917, it officially opened in 1918 (the first person to sign the register was H.F. Slaughter from Dallas, South Dakota). By the time the Dance Hall opened in the 1920s, with traveling musicians such as Lawrence Welk providing the tunes, the Inn was already well established. By 1922 Charles, who as a boy had the first amateur wireless in Denver, had installed a radio, another popular form of entertainment at the time.

In keeping with the "key" theme, seven wooden posts marked with a diminishing number of keys were even installed at one-mile intervals between Estes Park and the Inn. The Maces are said to have regularly presented guest with a heavy metal key when they checked out of the inn. In 1921, when this tradition had become somewhat cost-prohibitive, another guest, lawyer Clarence Darrow, suggested that perhaps guests should give the Maces keys instead. This launched their unique key collection, now containing more than 12,000 keys.

In 1923, Earl Derr Biggers also presented the Maces with a key, saying "This is the original key to Baldpate. All others are imitations." Donated by guests, friends and strangers, the collection reportedly includes the ivory "Key to Life" from the era of King Tut, Adolf Hitler's desk key, and keys to Mozart's wine cellar, Fort Knox, Buckingham Palace and Westminster Abbey. Individually labeled and categorized, the keys decorate the walls and hang from the ceiling beams inside the "Key Room" (which also boasts a granite keystone over the fireplace). As early as 1933 and again in 1943, Hollywood's Paramount studios did feature newsreels on the key assortment (the later piece was part of a series entitled "Strange as it Seems" and was shown in movie theaters nationwide). The privately owned, publicly displayed collection is believed to be one of the world's largest. Although the keys have not been formally catalogued, all are labeled and most have accompanying documentation.

Charles' photographs, primarily on display in the Dining Room and Lobby, are another important asset. After winning first prize from Eastman Kodak for a photo of William Mace posing as a prospector in 1911, Charles went on to sell photos to both Kodak and Colgate for use in advertising. He employed his brother and their respective wives as models. He later joined the Denver Post as a reporter/photographer and was the Denver Press Club's youngest member. When World War I broke out, he joined the Signal Corps, becoming General Pershing's personal photographer. His work includes portraits of many famous individuals such as former presidents Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson, and South Pole discoverer Admiral Ronald Amundsen. Many of these early photos - plus those of stars like Mae West, Greta Garbo, Clark Gable, Lana Turner, Jean Harlow, and Roy Rogers, who all visited the Inn - are included in the collection. The collection also includes portraits of such well-known Americans as Thomas Edison, Wild Bill Cody, Randolph Hearst and

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Henry Ford. Although most are attributed to Charles, some photographs were taken by Stuart Mace before his untimely death. Many of the photographs are personally autographed.

Gordon Mace, Jr. (Gordon and Ethel's only child, born in 1916) later acquired the Inn and additional property surrounding the original 160 acres. This 500-acre tract included the land surrounding Lily Lake, plus a recreation hall and several cabins located lakeside. In 1965, Gordon and his second wife, Tommie, built the Seven Lazy Queens Gift Shoppe (named after Tommie and their combined daughters) alongside Route 7 near the driveway leading to the Inn. The Lily Lake property and related buildings are now owned and operated by Rocky Mountain National Park and are not included in the district.

In 1959, after Gordon Mace Sr.'s death, the dining room was closed, and hotel operations began to cease. In the late 1970s, Gordon Jr.'s daughter and son-in-law, Leeann and Don Vick, modernized the kitchen and updated the heating, plumbing and electrical systems. Gordon Mace Jr. died in 1978. The Vicks reopened and ran the Inn briefly in 1984. Shortly thereafter, Texas attorney Rex Baker acquired part of the property. Mr. Baker still owns the 160 acres which slope north and east towards Estes Park. The Smiths purchased their share of the property in 1986 and reopened the Inn the following summer. They have successfully managed the Inn for nine years. The Inn's business records and personal letters of the Mace family are another important historical resource. Files containing the original guest registers, financial records, and business correspondence spanning 60 years remain intact on the property (a sample letter revealed that in 1944, a room with a double bed and private bath cost \$12.50 per night). This data, especially if combined with oral histories compiled from personal interviews with any of the remaining family members, could offer a wealth of information to help place the Inn within its proper local, state and national context.

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**Major Bibliographical References**

The Baldpate Inn Collection (original correspondence, business records, guest registers, photographs and memorabilia dating from 1918).

The Estes Park Trail, Vol. 1 (June 15-September 28, 1912).

The Estes Park Trail, Vol. 2 (June 14-September 13, 1913).

The Estes Park Trail, Vol. 3 (June 20-September 12, 1914).

The Estes Park Trail, Vol. 1 (July 2-September 3, 1920).

Other Sources:

Bird, Isabella L. A Lady's Life In The Rocky Mountains. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1980.

Hicks, Dave. Estes Park From The Beginning. Denver: Egan Printing Co., 1976.

Limerick, Jeffrey and Nancy Ferguson. America's Grand Resort Hotels. New York: Random House, 1979.

McAlester, Lee and Virginia. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1984.

Pearce, Sarah. Guide to Colorado Architecture. Denver: Colorado Historical Society, 1983.

Pederson, Henry F. Jr. Those Castles of Wood: The Story of Early Lodges of Rocky Mountain National Park and Pioneer Days of Estes Park, Colorado. 1993: Henry F. Pederson, Jr.

Rosler, Jeannie. Daughter of Charles and Gloria Mace. Personal communication.

Smith, Mike and Lois. Current owners. Personal communication.

Baldpate Inn  
Name of Property

Larimer County, CO  
County/State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 12 acres

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. Zone 13 Easting 454460 Northing 4462000

2. Zone 13 Easting 454760 Northing 4462000

3. Zone 13 Easting 454760 Northing 4461870

4. Zone 13 Easting 454390 Northing 4461740

See continuation sheet

#### Verbal Boundary Description

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

#### Boundary Justification

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

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Judith Broeker/Cynthia Shaw McLaughlin

organization Preservation UnLtd./American Vernacular date May, 1995

street 1557 North Street/11027 W. 76th Place telephone 303-444-9458/303-425-5037

city or town Boulder/Arvada state CO zip code 80304/80005

#### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

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

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

#### Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

#### Additional Items

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

#### Property Owner

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

name Mike and Lois Smith

street & number 4900 S. Highway 7 (P.O. Box 4445) telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Boulder state CO zip code 80517

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

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

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**Geographical Data**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Parcel 1:

A portion of the NW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 and of the NE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 14, Township 4 North, Range 73 West of the 6th P.M., being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the Center 1/4 corner of said Section 14, as monumented by an aluminum cap #13230, and considering the west line of the said NW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 to bear S01 22'51"E with all bearings herein relative thereto; thence along the west line of the said NW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 S01 22'51"E 412.14' to a point on the south right-of-way of North Seven Keys Drive and the true point of beginning; thence along a curve concave to the north on the said south right-of-way 103.15', said curve having a delta of 26 16'00", a radius of 225.00', and is subtended by a chord bearing NB6 52'00"E 102.25'; thence N73 44'00"E 267.00'; thence leaving said south right-of-way S13 51'00"E 375.26'; thence S08 26'00"E 160.00' to the north right-of-way of South Seven Keys Drive; thence along said north right-of-way S80 10'40"W 465.96' to the west line of said NW 1/4 of the SE 1/4, being also a point on the east boundary line of that property described in Book 2204 at Page 207 of the Records of the Larimer County Clerk and Recorder; thence leaving said north right-of-way along the said east boundary line the following seven courses: N16 31'00"E 121.69'; thence N73 29'00"W 39.30' to the west line of the said NW 1/4 of the SE 1/4; thence along said west line N01 22'51"W 102.00'; thence S67 57'46"W 27.00'; thence N04 21'21"W 90.09'; thence N85 38'39"E 29.98' to the said west line; thence along said west line N01 22'51"W 210.00' to the true point of beginning.

Parcel 2:

Commencing at the center 1/4 corner of Section 14, T4N, R73W of the 6th P.M., thence S 01'22'51" E 512.14' to the true point of beginning; thence S 01'22'51" E 110.00', thence S 85'38'39" W 29.98', thence S 04'21'21" E 90.09', thence S 67'57'48" W 293.61, thence S 49'55'15" W 177.41", thence S 39'45'15" W 184.21', thence S 53'22'27" W 263.11', thence along a non-tangent curve concave to the left 102.95', radius = 130.00', chord bearing = N 43'49'34" W 100.28', thence along a non-tangent curve concave to the left 74.98', radius = 2,290.47', thence N 88'37'09" E 621.26' to the true point of beginning. Subject to the rights-of-way of Colorado Highway #7 and Old County Road.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries of Baldpate Inn include all of the contributing property elements which are historically associated with the operation of the complex as a tourist resort and entertainment facility since its 1917 opening. Only the land continuously owned with the hotel structures is included in the nomination.

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**Photograph Log**

The following information pertains to photographs numbers 1-20 except as noted:

Name of Property: Baldpate Inn  
Location: Estes park vicinity, Larimer County, Colo.  
Photographer: Lois Smith  
Date of Photographs: 9/1994  
Negatives: Baldpate Inn

Photo No.	Information
1	Front (north) and east side of Main Lodge, taken looking southwest.
2	Front (north) side of Main Lodge; center, original section completed 1917.
3	West side of Main Lodge, showing handicap-accessible entry.
4	Back (south) side of Main Lodge.
5	East end of Main Lodge facade (north elevation), taken from porch above porte-cochere.
6	Steps and rustic rail at front of Main Lodge, leading from porte-cochere to the entry.
7	Sun porch, north side of dining area, taken from entry vestibule.
8	Dining room of Main Lodge, taken toward southeast corner, showing original straight-back hickory chairs.
9	Lobby of Main Lodge, taken from west side of room, looking east.
10	Key Room of Main Lodge, taken from east side, looking west toward door into Library.
11	Valley View Cabin, eastern-most building in district, looking at northeast corner. Porch faces north.
12	View (from east to west) of northeast corners of Brown Palace cabin, Bathhouse and Bunkhouse.
13	Pine Top Cabin, looking at northeast corner. Porch faces north.

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<u>Photo No.</u>	<u>Information</u>
14	Hearth and chimney of collapsed Dance Hall, taken facing south.
15	South side (facade) of Ice House.
16	East side of Wrangler Cabin.
17	East side (facade) of Stable, with corral area in back (west).
18	North side of Stable, with back (north) of Garage seen to west.
19	Photographer: unknown. Date of Photographs: ca. 1980 View from roof of Inn, looking north.
20	Photographer: unknown; believed to be Gordon Mace. Date of Photograph: unknown; believed to be early 1940s. Front (north) and east side of Inn, taken looking southwest.

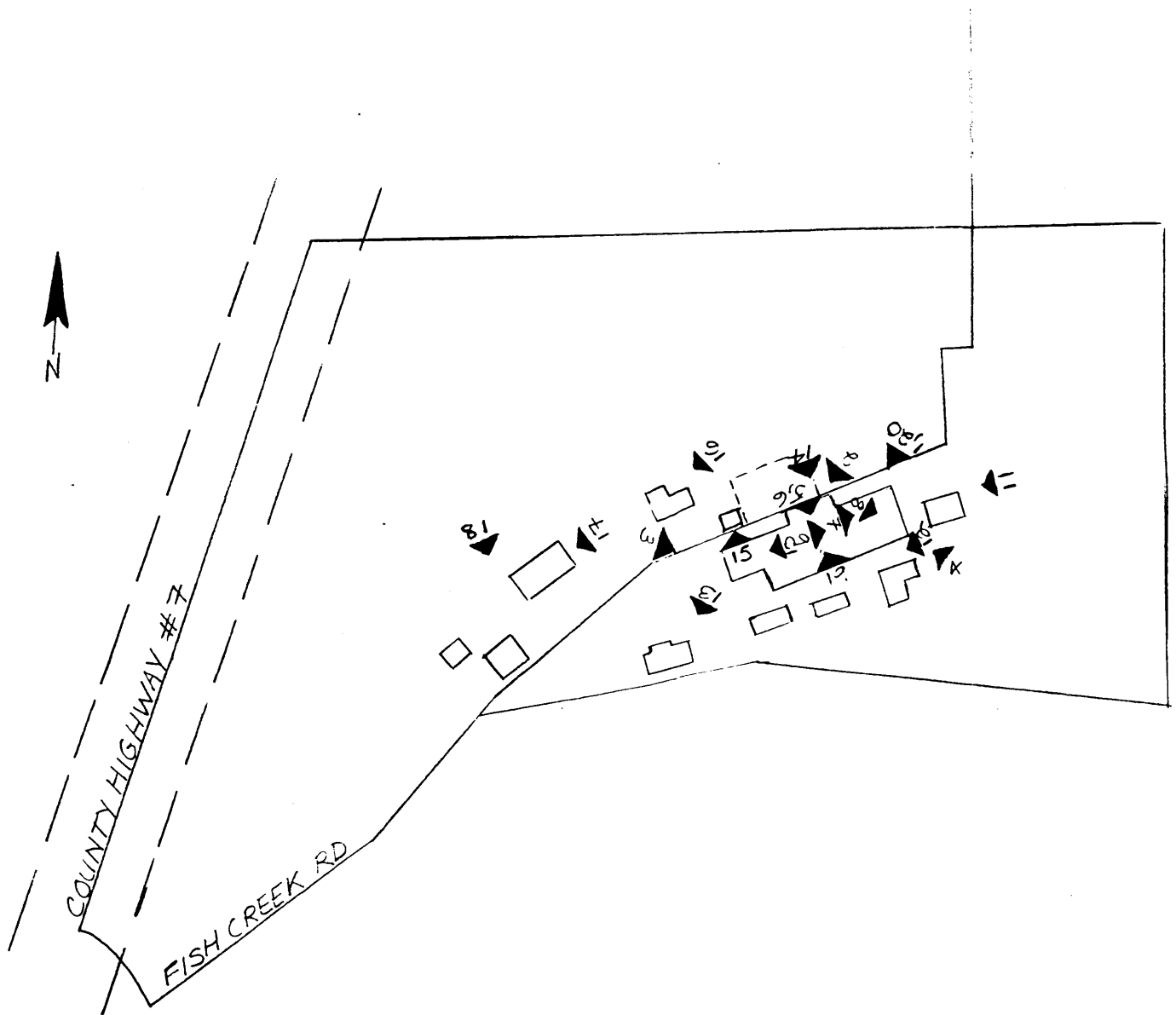
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Sketch Map (Site Plan and Photograph Identification)



SCALE: 1" = 150'



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USGS Topographic Map  
Longs Peak, Colo.  
7.5 Minute Quad  
1961, Photorevised 1978

