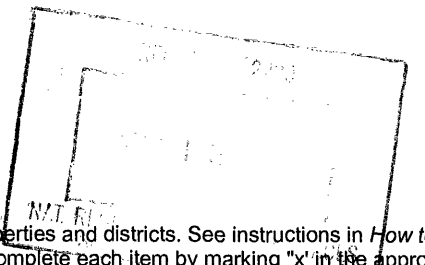
1089

NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

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 determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions 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 Snake River Ranch

other name/site number

2. Location

street & number 5700 Snake River Ranch Road ☐ not for publication

city or town Wilson ☒ vicinity

state Wyoming code WY county Teton code 039 zip code 83014

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ 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 ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Claudia Nissley - SHPO 8/16/04
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office
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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Lynda McClelland 11/26/04

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 include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
19	5	buildings
		sites
5	3	structures
		objects
24	8	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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture/Subsistence: agricultural outbuildings,
Agriculture/Subsistence: irrigation facilities
Domestic: Single dwelling
Domestic: secondary structure

Current Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture/Subsistence: agricultural outbuildings,
Agriculture/Subsistence: irrigation facilities
Domestic: Single dwelling
Domestic: secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete
walls wood
log
roof metal
other

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

☒See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

8. Description

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)

Agriculture

Architecture

Period of Significance

1929-1953

Significant Dates

1929, 1930, 1931, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1943

Significant Persons

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Paul Colborn;Philip L. Goodwin

Mies van der Rohe; Isabelle Pendleton; Mark Peters

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

☒See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

☐ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☒ Other Name of repository:

Teton County Historical Society

☒ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

Snake River Ranch
Name of Property

Teton County, Wyoming
City, County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 10 acres

UTM References
(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	1/2	5/1/5/9/1/6	4/8/2/3/4/7/5
2	1/2	5/1/6/3/0/7	4/8/2/3/4/7/5
3	1/2	5/1/6/2/9/6	4/8/2/2/7/7/4
4	1/2	5/1/5/9/1/6	4/8/2/2/7/7/4

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Property Tax No.

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

☒See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael Cassity

organization Michael Cassity Historical Research and Photography date October 27, 2003

street & number 304 West Albuquerque telephone 918 451-8378

city or town Broken Arrow state OK zip code 74011

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

name/title Snake River Ranch

street & number 5700 Snake River Ranch Road telephone 307 733-2864

city or town Wilson state WY zip code 83014

Narrative Description

The Snake River Ranch Historic District

The Snake River Ranch is a working ranch located on the west bank of the Snake River about five miles north of the town of Wilson, Wyoming. Although the cattle ranch covers considerable acreage, the ranch buildings are organized into three general complexes according to their function. From north to south along the river, these complexes are (1) Shop, (2) Headquarters, and (3) Residence. All except a few buildings noted below were constructed during the 1930s and 1940s and retain a very impressive degree of integrity of structure, materials, workmanship, location, appearance, feeling, and association. Several structures are included in the ranch nomination because of their role in the growth and operation of the ranch even though they are no longer in active use and have been made obsolete by changes in technology in recent years, especially the connection to the electrical power grid after the period of historic significance, and one feature, a set of piers for a building, is included because of its association with the architectural heritage of the ranch.

A. Shop Complex

The shop complex includes a cluster of buildings and structures at the north end of the ranch buildings whose function was, and remains, that of housing essential services for the cattle operation such as weighing and dipping the cattle and also some other functions historically connected to the broader activities of the ranch, such as the chicken / turkey coop and the water diversion from the Snake River by a headgate. Originally there were some more buildings in this complex that are no longer present, including a hog shed, a corn crib, and an open sided shed for equipment storage. After years of being unused, they were removed. This removal does not reflect an alteration in the ranch structure or function such as would compromise the integrity of the remaining buildings and structures, so much as it provides evidence of the normal evolution of a working ranch in the twentieth century. In this case, the changes reflect the shift away from substantial production for home consumption—a pervasive trend in modern agriculture.

1. Cowboy Barn (Harnessing Barn) (contributing)

The Cowboy Barn, constructed between 1931 and 1937, is a long rectangular board and batten building with a wooden shingle gable roof on the north south axis. Open bays are arranged in the east elevation to catch the morning sun for warming the animals located inside, while two gabled dormers on the west elevation allow access to the hayloft. Metal gates enclose each of the nine open bays on the east, while an additional section at the south end of the elevation is completely enclosed, with entry gained by a board and batten door. The enclosed section is a tack room and storage area. An inscription in the concrete floor of that enclosed area provides the date of construction as "9/1/37" although that date may indicate the later date of adding the concrete floor to this section with the building having been constructed earlier. The gable roof, like that on the calving barn, is distinctive because the ridge of the roof is offset to the east instead of being centered, a

saltbox-type arrangement that appears to have increased the vertical stacking capacity in the loft for hay. Although the barn shows the affects of weather over two thirds of a century, in that the building is leaning and the roof bowed, its condition remains good and it retains excellent integrity.

2. Scale House (contributing)

The Scale House, where animals would be weighed, is a small structure that resembles a garage with entrances on both east and west, and was mistakenly labeled such on a 1955 map of the ranch. It is located immediately west of the Cowboy Barn. A red rectangular board and batten building with wooden shingle gabled roof on its east – west axis, the east elevation of the scale house includes a tall vehicle-size entry on the north through which the livestock walk onto the scale apparatus and a double leaf door on the south for personnel to enter the section of the building containing the scale reading and control devices. A corral fence separates the two entrances. A six-light window is centered on the south elevation. The west elevation contains a tall livestock exit on the north side that matches the entrance on the east and that leads into another corral that ultimately connects to a loading chute. The original doors that covered the livestock entrance and exit were removed circa 1980. The scale house continues to be used, the original scales are still operating, and the building possesses excellent integrity.

3. Processing Shack (non-contributing)

The Processing Shack is a metal-roofed, open-air structure located immediately west and south of the Dipping Vat. Constructed in the 1960s, the structure is integral to a set of corrals that channel the movement of the cattle and that pen them for treatment. This is non-contributing only because of its date of construction; since its design and materials are consistent with such features on other ranches and do not detract from the historic properties on this ranch, it will in time become a contributing feature itself.

4. Dipping Vat (contributing)

Located to the east of the Cowboy Barn, the Dipping Vat / Processing area is a structure that was developed early in the history of the ranch, at some point in the 1930s, after the period of historic significance. A vital part of the livestock operation, this was the location for the dipping of the animals in a trough containing the pharmaceuticals necessary for treating the livestock to prevent disease and insect injuries. The physical arrangement of the device is simple but reflects careful engineering for efficiency. The dipping vat portion of the system is an enclosed wooden chute with corrugated metal roofing that covers a stainless steel trough. As the cattle are led, one at a time, into the trough structure from the west, the steep slope of the floor drops the animal fully into the liquid. The animal then swims through the chemical mix to the east end where a series of steps enable it to clamber out into an adjacent pen. A swinging gate opens into two enclosed pens adjacent on the east where the livestock remain while the antiseptic / insecticide formula drains. When one pen is full, the gate swings shut so that the twin dripping pen can then be filled, by which point the first group of cattle are dry and can be removed so that the process can begin anew. The dripping pens are made of vertical wood

planks attached to the inside of corral fence posts and rails with corral gates on the east elevation. A concrete floor to the dripping pens slopes back to the dripping vat. The dipping vat and dripping pens has not been used since the 1980s because of changes in ranching technology, but the arrangement has not been altered from its earliest construction. This system, in fact, is rare in the valley; it appears that only one other (on the Hansen ranch across the river) remains and these two may have been the only such devices constructed.

5. Snake River Dike and Headgate (contributing)

East of the dripping pens and dipping vat, Stanley Resor constructed a dike, or levee, immediately after the 1943 flood to protect the ranch from future flood threats. This dike, nine tenths of a mile long in its entirety, belongs to the ranch whose property line extends to the middle of the river, although an easement has been granted to the county. This feature forms the eastern boundary of the historic district. A massive linear embankment of rock and dirt, the dike follows, and restricts, the flow of the Snake River on its western bank. The height of the dike, which is approximately level for its entire length with only a slight drop in elevation consistent with that the river, varies according to the adjacent topography, the crown usually about ten to fifteen feet above the dry land to its west. The width of the dike at the level of the adjacent ground on the west is approximately thirty-five to forty feet. Although the dike has, in the normal course of maintenance and repair, been augmented with new additions of rock, the appearance, size, function, location, materials, and feeling remain the same.

The headgate that was installed when the dike was built is a significant structure in the operation of the ranch. The natural branch of the Snake River that flowed to the west and along the buildings in the Headquarters complex left the mainstream of the river bed at this point; the headgate that was placed in the dike thus enabled the ranch to control the flow of the river into that branch known as the mill stream. Because a hydraulic electrical turbine operated from the flow of the mill stream, the maintenance of a steady flow was essential.

The headgate is a device that includes a concrete box drain through which river water enters from the east and flows through the dike emptying into the mill stream on the west. The drain entrance on the east includes a vertical concrete wall with concrete wingwalls that open into the river. A steel gate drops along the concrete wall to regulate the flow of water through the dike. That gate is operated manually with a spoked wheel that turns an axle at the top of the dike, which then winds the two steel cables affixed to the gate to lift the gate as the wheel turns. On the west side of the dike a smaller opening to the box drain (since no gate is necessary) channels the water coming through the gate into the mill stream. Although the steel gate was replaced in the 1980s by an identical piece of metal, the headgate structure is intact and retains its integrity. This feature includes the box drain and the gate and wheel mechanism.

6. Calving Barn (Vet Shack) (contributing)

The Shop and Calving Barn is an impressive structure approximately 120 feet long on its east elevation and about twenty-five feet on its north elevation. The barn faces west and is board-and-batten, painted red, and shares the offset gable construction (similar in design to a saltbox roof) with the Cowboy Barn.

On the west elevation, the defining features are a series of bays on the south portion and three gabled dormers with swing-down doors opening to the haymow on the second level of the north portion. Completely functional, the bays allowing for use by vehicles and livestock have been altered only in that the three south-most bays have been combined to create two wider bays and have been fitted with overhead sliding metal doors. The remaining two bays directly north of those with the doors remain as they were historically—unenclosed and separated only by log post piers—and separated by interior walls from the building sections to the north and south. A set of stairs inside the open bays leads to the haymow.

The north elevation of the Shop and Calving Barn, also board-and-batten, includes only one feature, an entrance to the calving barn section of the building. The entrance is centered and includes a sliding door. The interior is divided into wooden stalls with wooden gates, each reflecting careful construction and preservation, and is built on a wood plank floor. Sections or individual compartments can be closed or left open according to the needs of the moment during the calving season.

The south part of this building is known as the Old Shop for obvious functional reasons, but it does not actually constitute a separate building and is integrated into the single structure.

7. New Shop (Butler Building) (non-contributing)

At the south end of the Shop and Calving Barn a modern metal Butler Building that houses large equipment has been added since the period of historic significance to replace an earlier structure. This building is obviously non-contributing. It is connected to the Shop and Calving Barn only at the southwest corner of the historic feature, with only about a five foot overlap. Because the barn is clearly separate from the Shop and Calving Barn, because there is no mistaking it as a historic feature, and because the building is a standard feature of ranches throughout the region, this structure does not compromise the integrity of the other buildings on the ranch.

8. Fuel Shed (Turkey Coop) (contributing)

The Fuel Shed / Turkey coop is located directly west of the Shop and Calving Barn. Constructed at the beginning of the ranch development in the early 1930s, this building was built specifically to house poultry, and indeed at one point the ranch had around a thousand turkeys. A rectangular structure made of logs with a wooden shingle roof, this is similar to the few other chicken / turkey coops in the area with a saltbox roof, the ridge of the gable offset to the south, and with the entrances on the long south elevation. A distinguishing characteristic of this building is an elaborate ventilation system with planks in the interior ceilings and walls and in the soffits outside that could be manipulated to achieve the desired amount of circulating air.

The south elevation consists of two distinct sections, both of which originally included large sheets of translucent material to provide light inside. The segment to the west is now a wide open entrance to permit machinery and supplies to be taken in and out while the segment to the east is now enclosed with board and batten wood siding that contains a small fixed four-light window. The logs on this elevation, and on the entire building, have been painted red to match the other barns and shops. A third section originally extended the building to the west but is now gone, having been removed at an unknown date. The concrete floor and foundation for that missing section still indicates its location and size. The west elevation thus was formerly an interior wall and is constructed of logs with the doorway between the two rooms now boarded with horizontal planks painted to match the logs. Because of the saltbox type construction and the consequent longer slope of the north roof, the north elevation is substantially shorter than the south; this elevation contains a series of square, shuttered windows. The east elevation, under the gable, includes an original single door entrance and no windows. Because the building is now used as a fuel shed, a shelf offset to the south supports fuel pumps and hoses that attach to tanks on the interior. That equipment, however, obviously added in more recent years, is both protected and obscured by a small gable portico so as not to distract from the historic appearance of the building. Indeed, in its details, the eaves of the small portico match the configuration of the fly rafters on the gables with corners of the projecting rafter clipped to form a point. The building retains its integrity.

B. Ranch Headquarters Complex

The Ranch Headquarters Complex is located to the south of the Shop Complex and consists of a group of buildings arranged basically in a rectangle around an open area or courtyard with a fence and gate outside the buildings to keep livestock in or out. Additional buildings and structures, however, are located beyond the perimeter of buildings defining the courtyard. The functional nature of the complex obviously includes the ranch headquarters, but also includes the residence for the ranch manager, a blacksmith shop, a potting house, a root cellar (to the west), a coal house / woodshed, an ice house, a milk house, a mechanical shop, a water turbine building, a watergate for a now empty mill pond, a very large barn, and a saddle house. At one time the building that now contains the ranch office also included a bunkhouse that was substantially destroyed by fire. The main entrance to the complex is on the north, between the blacksmith shop and the ranch office. The layout of the buildings was designed by the architect Isabelle Pendleton so as to permit a view of the Grand Teton and adjacent mountains, indeed, so that the gate on the north would frame them. These buildings were generally constructed in 1931, although a few, as noted below, may have appeared shortly afterwards.

9. Root Cellar (contributing)

The root cellar is located to the west of the main headquarters complex. A small rectangular poured-concrete structure with a slightly arched roof, the cellar is dug into the side of a hill with a walkout door projecting forward on the east elevation. The roof projects only about two feet above the surface on the west elevation. There are no windows. An original component in the operation of the ranch, which canned extensively for the long winters, this structure retains excellent integrity.

10. Potting Shed (contributing)

The Potting Shed is a small log structure with a gabled roof on a north – south axis that forms a corner of the square of the complex surrounding the courtyard. Small and unobtrusive, it is partially concealed by trees. Each elevation contains large windows—three vertical double-hung windows on the south, another three on the west, three smaller windows on the north, and sliding doors like those on the Blacksmith Shop on the east. A simple, utilitarian building that continues in use, this building retains its integrity.

11. Blacksmith Shop (contributing)

Located adjacent to the north gate to the complex, directly to the west of the gate, the blacksmith shop is a modest log structure on a concrete foundation built in 1935. The wood shingle gable roof is on an east – west axis and the building is so situated on the perimeter of the complex that the south elevation has an entrance that opens onto the courtyard and the north elevation has an entrance that opens onto the pastures and terraces outside. The north elevation has no windows, only a large pair of doors that slide independently on an overhead rail. The east elevation contains two pairs of six-light (three up, two across) horizontally sliding windows to provide strong morning light. The south elevation mirrors the north in that the doors are identical, but those doors are flanked by sliding windows that match those on the east elevation. The north elevation has one pair of the same sliding windows. Originally a critical element in the daily operation of a large ranch like the Snake River Ranch, the blacksmith shop has obviously declined in its use, and has a sag and deterioration in some of the logs, but the structure retains integrity.

12. Office (Bunkhouse) (non-contributing)

The Bunkhouse / Office is a single-story log building located immediately to the east of the gate at the north entry to the headquarters complex. Originally constructed in 1935 as an L-shaped building with two stories to accommodate livestock and equipment on the ground level and housing on the second, it was severely damaged in a fire in the 1970s; much of the structure is missing (although the foundation clearly shows the footprint) and part was rebuilt to house the current office. The Bunkhouse / Office is noncontributing only because of its recent construction. Because its materials, design, and appearance, which are all consistent with other buildings on the ranch, it does not compromise the integrity of other features.

13. Woodshed (Coal House) (contributing)

The Woodshed (Coal House) is a small log building that forms the northeast corner of the headquarters complex, located to the east of the Bunkhouse / Office. Built of logs with quarter-round chinking, under a gable roof on a north – south axis, the building was used for storing coal originally and then cut firewood;

consequently the building has no windows. A board and batten door slides on an overhead rail on the west elevation. Still in use, this building retains integrity.

14. Manager's House (contributing)

The ranch manager residence, built in 1931 on the west side of the compound, is a handsome, white, two-story Colonial Revival house that faces east, overlooking the courtyard and beyond to the river. Indeed, the manager was able to survey a large portion of the ranch from this location. The east elevation was originally symmetrical with the accentuated front door and gabled portico with curved underside projecting forward in the center. The portico is supported by four square columns resting on a concrete porch; each panel in the rail around the porch is designed with radiating spokes in the center—like a wagon wheel that has been squared. Shuttered windows to each side are paired and double hung. An addition in the 1960s extends the elevation to the south, but is only discernible through the asymmetry of the elevation; all lines and materials and design elements are consistent. A large shed dormer is located directly above the entrance on the green-metal gabled roof on the north-south axis. A native stone chimney projects above the roof and to the south side of the dormer.

The south elevation, which is a simple extension of the original elevation, includes a gabled portico over a simple entrance flanked by horizontal windows. Above the entrance are two pairs of single-light windows under the gable. The west elevation is partly obscured by trees, and a wooden deck, with matching rail and covered with an extension of the eave at a raised angle, runs almost the full length of the elevation. A combination of small and large fixed windows and a single entrance open onto the deck. Beneath the deck, an additional entrance opens into a basement area. The north elevation includes a deck which wraps around from the west and a large native stone chimney that rises massively to above the roof. An impressive structure in its own right, and with careful attention to detail, careful maintenance, and functional relevance, this building after seven decades presents excellent integrity.

15. Ice House (contributing)

The Ice House, an essential part of the ranch operation, is located immediately south of the Woodshed / Coalhouse and thus forms part of the line of service buildings along the east perimeter of the complex around the courtyard. Constructed of logs with saddle notched corners and quarter-pole chinking in 1933, the building has served to store ice and perishables since the beginning of the ranch. In recent years the structure has been modernized so that it now operates as a cold storage facility, but its appearance and construction remain original. More so than with many buildings, the function of the building is completely integrated into its design. The rectangular building has a gabled roof with wooden shingles on an east – west axis, intentionally positioned so that the broad side of the building would not catch the morning or evening sun and would be shaded during the middle of the day by a line of cottonwood trees on the south and west. The original entrance remains on the east elevation, near the mill stream, a traditional location that, again, assured the preservation of cool temperatures on the interior of the building by minimizing the loss of cool air during entry and exit. Window-size vents that can be closed with plank shutters are located in the gables of the east and

west elevations and two cupolas on the ridge of the roof provided ventilation so that heat would not build up inside and would instead rise and be released. Double-log walls, filled with sawdust, are evident in each of the building openings because of the thickness, and protected the ice from outside heat. The interior floor is dirt, and is sunken so that, again, the cold air that drops to the floor will not escape when an entrance is opened.

The east elevation thus contains the original plank door entrance in the center and a window – size vent in the gable above; the north elevation contains no windows or doors; the west elevation contains a pair of three up, two across sliding windows and a vent in the gable; and the south elevation includes a modern entrance on the west end. The building is an excellent example of ice house construction and design, and one of only a few such buildings remaining in the valley. The building retains excellent integrity of structure, materials, workmanship, location, appearance, feeling, and association.

16. Milk House (contributing)

Immediately south of the Icehouse is the Milkhouse, also nestled in the trees on the bank of the mill stream. This building housed the dairy separator dairy foods processing activities. This was constructed in 1931, and thus one of the earliest buildings in the complex. A small rectangular structure with white drop siding, the building has a gabled roof on its east – west axis. The main entrance is centered in the south elevation and is flanked by small casement windows with six lights. A larger entrance is located on the west elevation directly to the south of the centered pair of vertical casement windows. A matching wide entrance, now sealed, is on the south portion of the east elevation. Two windows similar to those on the south are located on the north. Although some signs of age and weather and use are evident, this building has been well preserved and maintained and retains integrity.

17. Turbine House (with Concrete Dam) (contributing)

Initially the ranch obtained its electricity from a gasoline-powered Kohler engine. In 1935, however, the ranch enlarged the mill stream, an active branch of the Snake River, and used it to turn a water wheel that also powered machinery and pumped water from the well in the original machine shop. In 1938 a dam was installed on the mill stream to regulate its flow and create a pond to provide the necessary force to turn a new water turbine that generated electricity. The dam, made of concrete, was a simple structure and its remains clearly indicate its design. Two short parallel concrete retaining walls lined the banks of a branch of the mill stream east of the Coalhouse and Icehouse. A third poured concrete wall about twenty feet long connected the two in the middle to form a spillway; this lateral concrete member was positioned so that the spillway would be at an exact height so as to retain water in the pond in sufficient quantity to run the mill and turbine, and also to release the excess water to avoid swamping the mill wheel.

Beyond the dam, farther east about fifteen feet, is a small board and batten building that houses the now out-of-use water turbine. Erected in 1938, this building and turbine was significant for providing a continuing source of electric power for the ranch and continued in use until the connection of the ranch to the public power grid in 1955. The building is simple enough, with unpainted an single-door entrance on the west, sliding

vertical windows (two across and three up) on the north and south elevations, and a single three across, two up six light window on the east. A gable roof on an east – west axis protects the structure. What is most revealing about the building, however, is the foundation upon which it rests—a concrete box with a large intake opening on the north and a small outlet, lower, on the south. Like the concrete dam adjacent to the west, this foundation is placed in an earthen berm that served as a bank or dam for the mill pond to the north. With concrete wingwalls opening like a funnel to direct the pond water to this approximately six-foot wide opening, the rapid current of the water turned a large horizontal turbine directly under the building. The turbine, manufactured by the Fitz Waterwheel Company, a heavy steel wheel with angled bars projecting around its perimeter, was installed beneath the building and its carousel-type lateral wheel is still visible. T he w heel caught the water and turned an axle that projected up into the building above which was connected to the generator. The distinct advantage it held over the side-mounted waterwheel nearby was that it rested below the level of the ice so that it could operate even during the winter. Although the building and turbine have been out of use for a number of years and the building shows some natural loss due to weather, the building and apparatus and associated dam retain integrity.

After the 1943 flood, the structure with the mill wheel was removed and after 1954 when the Rural Electrification Administration brought electricity to this area, the power plant was taken out of use and the need for the pond diminished. In modern times, a section in the middle of the spillway was removed to allow the stream to pass through without backing up. Although damaged in that portion, the fundamental design and structural elements of the dam remain and since it was critical to the operation of the ranch, the dam is considered a contributing feature.

18. Penthouse (Old Shop and Bunkhouse) (contributing)

The Old Shop and Bunkhouse, also called the Penthouse, is directly to the south of the Milkhouse and thus forms the southeast corner of the square of buildings surrounding the courtyard. It houses a shop on the ground floor and a residence above—hence the odd combination of names: shop and penthouse. This building replaced an earlier structure on the same site, the earlier building with its east elevation also next to the mill stream, an arrangement which enabled the machinery inside to be powered by a huge water wheel turned by the current of the stream. When the flood of 1943 washed out that operation, this building was constructed to take its place. Instead of water power operating the machinery, however, electricity from the water turbine provided the energy.

The White Mechanical Shop is a one and a half story rectangular building with a gable roof and clapboard siding. The east elevation is built on a concrete foundation that also serves as a retaining wall and bank for the stream. That elevation contains two pairs of casement windows, those on the south being vertical and those on the north being horizontal. The entrance to the building is on the east end of the north elevation; additional windows are located on the west side of that elevation and more are located in the gable, opening onto the residential part of the building. On the west elevation, more casement windows are located on the north side, and one smaller window in the center. A large entrance to the south on the west elevation has been sealed. The south elevation is dominated by more casement windows—an entire row of a dozen such windows on the ground floor and four in the gable above. The large number of casement windows in this

building may appear an anomaly, given the preponderance of double hung windows elsewhere in the complex, but these windows had a distinct origin; they were rescued from the remains of the incomplete Mies van der Rohe building in the residential complex that was washed out in the same flood that claimed the earlier mechanical shop. The building has been well maintained and continues in use with minimal modification from its original appearance and thereby retains integrity.

19. Main Barn (contributing)

The 1931 barn that overlooks the courtyard from its position on the south perimeter is a magnificent structure in both size and appearance. About sixty feet square, the barn is a three story structure and is the first, and most prominent, feature that one sees upon passing through the gate on the north. With all the symmetry and grace of a cathedral, the barn is constructed with drop siding painted red under an arched rainbow roof. At the bottom of the steeply sloped convex center segment the roof splays outward to slope gently to each side as it covers the wings of the barn. The north elevation, facing the courtyard, includes the main entrance to the structure, a wide entry accessed by doors that slide on an overhead rail. The doors have windows in their upper portion, five across and two up, and X braces below. On each side, at mid point, is a small four-light window and near each end of the elevation is a single door entrance to the wings of the barn. Above the entrance, a door with an X brace swings open to permit access to the haymow. And above that a large door swings down to open up to the top of the barn, including the pulleys and hoists for lifting hay into the loft. A hooded ridge with hoist projects forward from the ridge of the roof to support the hoist. Small windows are located to the side of the swing-down door. On the west elevation, which is long but low, by virtue of the sloped roof, a series of nine four-light windows open into that section. The south elevation generally mirrors its north counterpart, except that it lacks the haymow entries. The east elevation contains a series of seven four-light windows interrupted by a double X braced door near the center.

The interior of the barn reveals more of the craftsmanship that went into its construction. The barn has a concrete floor and steps, rather than a ladder, provide access to the haymow from the center section. The east wing, now a storage area like the west wing, once served as a dairy barn and the concrete floor included the usual drains and feed troughs for the cattle. These features subtly date the barn since modern dairy cattle are much larger, and specifically longer, so would not fit into the spaces allowed by the original design of the barn which was perfectly adequate for the dairy cattle of the day. In the haymow, the rail affixed to the ridge at the top of the barn and on which a three-way pulley and release system would traverse the length of the barn with canvas cradles of hay, remains intact along with the cradles.

Constructed in 1931, the barn is one of the outstanding barns in the county and has been carefully maintained. It retains outstanding integrity of structure, materials, workmanship, location, appearance, feeling, and association.

20. Saddle House (contributing)

The Saddle House is a two-cell log building located to the south of the barn. A large corral and pole fences separate the buildings and the Saddle House is obscured from view by the barn and the conifers around it. Constructed in 1935, the Saddle House is used to store saddles, tack, and riding equipment. The logs use saddle corners and the chinking is mortar. This may be the only building that does not have a concrete foundation; instead native rock provide small piers and supports. The west elevation includes two entrances near the center into the two halves of the building. Those entrances are separated by log crowns which project out to indicate the interior wall separating the two rooms. The doors are simple wooden slab in construction; the windows between the doors and the north and south corners are paired sliding vertical multi-light (three up and two across). A wide shed roof projects out over the entrances in the center, supported by log posts at the corners. The north elevation is interrupted only by another set of paired sliding windows, and the south elevation is identical to the north. Exposed purlins are evident in both the north and south gables. The east elevation contains no fenestration is broken by a vertical column of log crowns at the center, indicating again the interior wall.

Although this building can be accurately labeled a log cabin, in the sense that it is indeed a small building and is made with logs, the common usage of that term may suggest something substantially more primitive than is the case. Indeed, this building, through careful maintenance and repair consistent with meticulous attention to detail and craftsmanship in construction, is quite simply pristine and quietly elegant. There are no sags, the joints are tight, the corners are square, the logs are level, the walls and posts are plumb, and the chinking is solid. The interior confirms this assessment. Both sides demonstrate custom work on the furnishings—work benches, floors, and posts to hold saddles, and hooks and holders for the wide range of other equestrian supplies. There are, to be sure, the marks of wear where decades of use have etched into the wood, but these marks reveal that this has been actively used over the decades and not left as a museum. The Saddle House is thus a building that retains outstanding integrity.

C. Residential Complex

The Residential Complex is the southernmost of the three clusters of ranch buildings and includes the buildings used for lodging for the family and guests and also a swimming pool. The buildings are arranged in a cluster extending from the Parking Lot Cabin on the west to the White Cabin on the east, with the Mies van der Rohe building piers remaining beyond the White Cabin. The Main House is to the north and the swimming pool to the south. These buildings are log with saddle notched corners, but each has its own configuration and distinction. All are in use, with the exception of the Mies van der Rohe building remnants noted below.

21. Main Cabin (contributing)

The Main House is the heart of the ranch as its size, position, and function attest. It was designed by Paul Colborn, identified at the time by the local press in these words: "Mr. Reasor [sic] imported a New York architect to design his home and let the contract for its building to J. R. Dale, a Jackson contractor." Colborn,

of course, developed his own ranch in the valley at the R Lazy S (Owen Wister) Ranch, and also donated his skills for the design of the Teton County Library in Jackson. This likely was Paul Colborn's introduction to Jackson Hole.

An irregular shaped two-story log building with basement, the Main House is situated generally to the north of the other residential and kitchen cabins with a sublime view of Jackson Hole to the north. The house is made of three distinct parts: (1) the north room which is a porch area that once open but since has been enclosed with huge windows and which projects forward from the north elevation of the central house; (2) a central part with a high gable roof with a ridge along its east – west axis; and (3) a single story wing projecting south from the west side of the south elevation. The house is thus large, and all components unite to form a functional and attractive and imposing residential center for the ranch. The Main House was constructed in 1931 and the only alteration in the structure since the period of historic significance was the enclosing of the open air porch in the 1970s; even in that case, however, the building remains the same since the gabled roof and supports are original to the building.

The front of the house is on the north with the spacious front porch now enclosed by single-light fixed windows on the north, and with side casement windows on the east and west elevations that open for ventilation, which rise above a log railing enclosing the area on three sides at the bottom. On the east elevation of the porch area the logs rise all the way to the eaves on the portion nearest the central part of the house. With the logs in the gable above and the log railing below, the windows, and the views are effectively framed. The large central portion of the house includes a row of four huge multi-light windows on the west elevation to illuminate the interior and provide a view of the mountains to the west. Although the windows originally were large—double-hung—at an early point in the history of the building, Helen Lansdowne Resor had them increased in size and thereby made them appear to be triple-hung, two story windows. The north elevation, now enclosed on the west by the sunroom – porch, includes what was once the main entrance. The small portion to the east of the enclosed area includes a multi-light casement window (three across, two up) and a gabled dormer above includes two more such windows. The east elevation of the central part includes a single entrance under a shed roof flanked by two horizontal multi-light windows on each side, and with three more of the windows above on the second story. The south elevation is dominated by the wing on the west side; on the east side the elevation mirrors its counterpart on the north with a gabled dormer above and a multi-light window below. A shed entrance to the basement is positioned at the junction of the central part of the house and the south wing. The gabled roof of the south wing intersects that of the central part of the house, obviously below the ridge because the wing is only a single story. The east elevation of the wing, under the eaves, includes a row of three multi-light casement windows and an additional window to the north near the junction of the two parts of the house. The south elevation of the wing is dominated by a chimney, completely enclosed by log work, although it also has windows to each side. The west elevation of the wing includes another series of the same kind of windows and, to their north, an entrance near the junction with the central part.

22. One Room Cabin (contributing)

The One Room Cabin was one of the first buildings constructed on the property by the Resors, and was finished by the time the family arrived in 1930 to spend the summer. Indeed, some of the Resors lived in that building while the Main House was being constructed. This is a rectangular single-cell cabin built of logs with a large front porch under the extended gable roof. The building has a cinder block foundation. The north elevation contains the main entrance onto the porch on the east and a pair of multi-light sliding windows on the west. The porch is enclosed by a log wall that rises three logs high, with an opening on the north, offset to the east to correspond to the entrance to the cabin. The gable is supported by log posts at the corners and by vertical braces between the exposed purlins and a horizontal log that connects the lower-most purlins. The west and east elevations contain a pair of multi-light windows centered, but the pair of windows on the south elevation are double-hung. The cabin is in excellent condition and retains outstanding integrity of structure, materials, workmanship, location, appearance, feeling, and association.

23. Kitchen Cabin (contributing)

The Kitchen is a T-shaped building with a long north – south section intersected on the east by a short east-west wing. As its name suggests, this building contains the kitchen facility for the residential complex, but it also includes the area for dining. One of the original buildings on the property, and one which was used as a residence at the time of its purchase, its date of construction is unknown. A clue to that date, however, was revealed when some repair work was done on sill logs and newspaper that had been stuffed into the gaps for chinking was opened up. In that day's news, the nation's focus was on Pancho Villa's activities in northern Mexico, a date which would place construction of that segment of the building, at least, in the years 1916 and 1917 when Villa received attention in the U.S. press and when the U.S. Army pursued him deep into Mexico. Villa died in 1923. The two sections to the south were added shortly after the Resor family acquired the ranch. The wing on the east was added in the 1960s. That section of the building is thus non-contributing, but only by reason of its age; in every respect it conforms to the design and materials and plan appearance of the building.

The west elevation indicates most clearly the progression of construction in this building, with five sections corresponding to the interior rooms evident from the log corners. The original structure includes the three north-most sections. The building was added onto on the south in the 1930s to provide accommodations for the service staff the Resor family brought with them. The west elevation is symmetrical in the north three sections, with the same sliding windows in the first and third segments as in other buildings, and between them a section with an entrance flanked by double-hung windows. The two sections to the south, those added in the 1930s, contain smaller windows and an entrance. The south elevation includes a pair of double-hung multi-light windows. The east elevation of the south wing, largely protected by a modern privacy fence of wooden planks, includes a shed attachment and additional windows. The south elevation of the east wing includes an entrance and horizontally sliding multi-light windows. That wing's east elevation, under the cross gable, includes another pair of horizontally sliding multi-light windows; a set of ventilation louvers is within the gable above. The north elevation of this east wing includes an entrance on the east extreme. Since the east wing represents essentially an extension of the middle, or third, section of the north – south main building, only two sections project to the north from its intersection with the original. Again, part of the original structure, the section nearest the center has a double-hung window and entrance while the north-most section has a set of

horizontally-sliding multi-light windows. The north elevation, where most of the traffic in and out occurs, is under the gable and includes an entrance on the east and a pair of sliding windows to the west.

Although the Kitchen Cabin was built in three different periods, only close inspection reveals the different stages. One way in which the building is made a unified whole is through consistent materials and workmanship; chief among those aspects is the treatment of log crowns; the logs are flattened on top and bottom and are sawed flush with the elevations. In that regard, this building deviates from some techniques found elsewhere on the ranch which are more modern, even if more modern in this case means 1930s.

24. White Cabin (contributing)

The White Cabin is not, as its name might suggest, white. It is a log cabin like the others in the complex built of the same materials and design and has generally a similar appearance. The interior of the cabin, however, is white, and was one of the first cabins in the ranch to be so painted in an effort to brighten the interiors which can otherwise be dark.

Constructed in 1936, the White Cabin, was designed by Philip L. Goodwin. Goodwin, along with Edward Durrell Stone, designed the International Style Museum of Modern Art building on West 53rd Street in Manhattan in 1932. This building, however, is a quietly elegant cross-shaped building made of logs located on the east of the residential complex. The front of the building is on the north elevation which is under a gabled roof that intersects an east – west gabled roof over wings that project to each side. Four tall casement windows with two lights across and four up provide dramatic fenestration to the north elevation on each side of the centered doorway. Those windows, however, are not original. The original elevation included a series of French Doors to provide light; they were subsequently replaced by the current windows which resemble the original doors. The gabled roof above extends forward to the north to provide covering for the porch, and the support system is distinctive. Purlins continue beyond the elevation as they support the roof, but these purlins, in turn, are supported by logs that angle down to the supporting piers, and an additional vertical log brace rises from a horizontal log that stretches across the top of the porch from pier to pier. Diagonal braces further attach the horizontal log to the corner piers. The porch itself is made of wood planks which stretch the full distance of the elevation. The west elevation of the north wing includes three double-hung multi-light windows and the north elevation of the west wing contains two such windows. The west elevation of the west wing contains three multi-light windows, but the south elevation has only a single door and no windows; the south wing of the cross is but a slight projection beyond the plane of the east and west wings, although the doorway is underscored by projecting log crowns on both sides and a shed roof above. The east elevation of the east wing mirrors its counterpart on the west with two double-hung multi-light windows and the north elevation of the same likewise resembles the north elevation of the west wing and thus adds further symmetry to the building. All ridges of the roof include a raised, shingled projection.

The White Cabin is a contributing feature under Criterion A and Criterion C.

25. Parking Lot Cabin (contributing)

So named because of its proximity to the parking area, the Parking Lot Cabin was constructed in 1930 as one of the first two Resor buildings on the property (the other being the One Room Cabin). It was built in a traditional folk style as two rooms on the east and west separated by a breezeway. A cross-shaped building, gabled roof extend each direction but the different levels of the roofs indicate that the building grew, room by room, to its present size and configuration. The original structure was a dogtrot design that at some point had the breezeway enclosed. The south wing appears to have been added next, but during the period of historic significance, and the north wing in 1991.

The north wing is the largest, although because of its extensive windows which open onto a living space that showcases the original north elevation of the dogtrot structure, much as an enclosed porch would do, it enhances rather than detracts from the historic structure. Three large single-light windows dominate the north elevation; vertical paired sliding windows with three lights across and three up command the east elevation of that wing and the single door is placed next to the original structure, on the south end of the elevation, so as to minimize any competition with the features of the original design. Similar windows are placed on the west elevation of the wing. The west wing, part of the original structure, includes three sets of sliding multi-light windows on the north elevation, one pair on the north elevation, and no windows on the south elevation. The south wing includes one pair of multi-light windows near the junction with the west wing, and one pair on the south elevation. The east elevation of the south wing includes a single door and side window near the junction with the east wing; a window previously was located to the south but has been enclosed with logs that line up with the originals and are thereby unobtrusive. A shed roof covers this elevation and a porch. The east wing, again part of the original dogtrot building, has no windows on its south elevation, a pair of multi-light sliding windows on the east, and three sets of sliding windows on the north near where it joins with the north wing.

While the building includes signs of the three separate construction phases—the different height of gables especially—it is effectively and adroitly tied together by (1) attention to consistency in the construction of each phase, to assure that the same design, materials, and feel is promoted by the newer part, and (2) by finishing details. Thus the enclosed eaves, the exposed purlins, and even the size and shade of the logs increase the appearance of this building as a unified whole, its complex origins notwithstanding. The north wing is a non-contributing feature at this time only by reason of its recent age. It does not compromise the integrity of the remainder of the building and in time will be a fully contributing segment.

26. Swimming Pool (contributing)

One of the few outdoor swimming pools in Teton County, the swimming pool was constructed about 1936 south of the Kitchen Cabin. Built to official Olympic dimensions, the pool was a gift from Helen Lansdowne Resor to Stanley B. Resor. The pool slopes to the east with a diving board on the east end, the sides of the pool made of poured concrete. Concrete steps centered on the west end allow easy entrance and exit from the shallower waters. Although the pool was originally rectangular, the west side of the south side now jogs about five feet to the south as a result of repairs; that alteration does not impair the integrity of the pool which retains its fundamental appearance and continues in use as it was intended. The pool is filled with stream and spring water from the irrigation ditch, and is consistently on the cool side.

27. Sauna (non-contributing)

South of the swimming pool, at the east end, is a small log cabin with gable roof now used as a sauna. This building, once a part of the Sky Ranch to the north, and of indeterminate age, was moved to its present location in the 1970s. This cabin is thus non-contributing because of its removal to this site; because it conforms in design, materials, appearance, and workmanship, though, it does not impact the integrity of other ranch features and will becoming a contributing feature in time.

28. Pump Cellar (non-contributing)

The Pump Cellar is a subterranean rectangular concrete feature that houses a water pump. It is modern in origin and is thereby noncontributing. All that is visible of the unit, however, is a flat, rectangular weathered-wood cover flush with the ground. It does not compromise other features.

29. Tennis Court (non-contributing)

The tennis court is also non-contributing, having been added since the period of historic significance. It is a conventional single-court area, with green asphalt court, and partially enclosed by rectangular metal fencing. Located beyond the swimming spool and near the south border of the property and close to the newer buildings, this does not compromise the integrity of any historic structures.

30. Stan's House (non-contributing)

Constructed in the last several years, the building clearly looks newer than the other structures on the ranch, but this two-story log home with wooden shingles and extended eaves for porch roofing and stone chimney does not depart from basic design elements on the ranch. Located on the south perimeter of the historic district, and facing south, this does not compromise any contributing features on the ranch.

31. Stan's Garage (non-contributing)

The two-bay garage is a separate building located to the west of "Stan's House" and was built at the same time. Like the house, it too is plainly modern, but its wood tones, and board and batten siding, also prevent it from compromising other features in the district.

32. Mies van der Rohe building piers (contributing)

The piers that would support the dining room that was to span the mill stream, as designed by Mies van der Rohe, are all that remains of the incomplete structure that was effectively brought to an end by the 1943 flood. These piers, however, provide tangible evidence of the building that was planned and of the impact of the flood. Two parallel poured concrete panels, they are each forty feet long, thirty feet tall (including the depth below the ground surface), and three feet thick. Reportedly each pier used a train car load of cement in its construction. This was to be a three-story structure beneath which the mill stream would flow, with vast panels of glass on the dining room above to provide a view of the ranch and mountains. The piers have not been altered and they retain their original appearance.

The Mies van der Rohe piers are a contributing feature.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary

The Snake River Ranch is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of significance Agriculture and under Criterion C in the area of significance Architecture. The period of significance is 1929 to 1953. The ranch originated with the acquisition of two former homesteads, then owned by a neighboring rancher, by J. Walter Thompson Co. president Stanley B. Resor and his wife Helen Lansdowne Resor and was turned into both a vacation home for their family and a full-time, year-round cattle ranch. With its own sophisticated electrical generating facility, dairy barns, chicken and turkey coops, machine shops, and cattle and horse-related structures, the ranch became not only diversified and self-sustaining but by the end of the period of significance its cattle operation had emerged as one of the most extensive and active ranches in the valley. While the ranch reflected the common patterns of ranching in the area, including aspects of both the family ranch operations (which preceded it) and the hobby ranch operations (which followed its example), it also stood apart because of its size and its willingness to use the most advanced ranching techniques and knowledge to increase and improve production of hay and livestock. Moreover, as the Resors developed the ranch, they drew upon some of the pre-eminent architectural talent in the world to create buildings of stunning beauty and functional distinction that make the ranch not only a model agricultural operation but also an architectural example. Since the end of the period of significance the ranch has continued as a mainstream cattle ranch and so operates today, owned and managed by the same family that started it.

Historical background

Renowned as a refuge from the stresses and excesses of modern life, as place where urbanites can retreat into natural beauties and ecologies, and as a remnant of earlier periods of history, Jackson Hole has long been an area inhospitable to the patterns of settlement and the growth dominant elsewhere in Wyoming and the nation. Protected by foreboding but beautiful mountains, access to the valley from outside has historically been difficult, and sometimes impossible. The climate is severe, with winter beginning early, with generally snow in September and earlier in the high country and lasting until May, with lingering snowstorms often into June. The snow is heavy and can make not only travel but the prevailing forms of nineteenth century economic endeavor—farming and ranching—unattractive or unworkable. The floor of Jackson Hole still carries almost universally the marks of the glaciation that produced the long valley, with round rocks being the only sure crop of the tiller of the soil. In these circumstances, the number who attempted to ranch and farm Jackson Hole was never large, and the number who succeeded was but a fraction of that.

The homesteaders came late to Jackson Hole when compared even with the rest of Wyoming. Penetrated early by Native Americans who found a meager, but sustainable, hunter-gatherer life in the area, and in the early nineteenth century by white explorers, trappers, and traders on an intermittent basis, the first permanent Euro-Americans did not lay claim to the land in the valley until the 1880s. For the most part, moreover, these early arrivals were themselves trappers and hunters, but they offered help to those who sought to raise families and cattle starting in 1884 and through the early 1890s. With a few exceptions, these early settlers at first situated themselves in the lower parts of the valley where there was sufficient forage for livestock, and from there they began to spread gradually to other parts to the north. The settlements, small and scattered, also emerged in the area that would become the future Wilson and Jackson in the twentieth century. But this was a slow process; in 1900 a total of 638 people lived in Jackson Hole—191 separate households.[1]

In the following two decades, more homesteaders arrived in Jackson Hole, with settlement peaking in the decade between 1908 and 1919.[2] After that, with the best grazing land, and actually any land with agricultural potential, already taken, only the marginal land was left and land claims declined. A drought after 1919 further discouraged settlement, and in 1927 President Coolidge essentially ended homesteading by withdrawing almost all of the remaining public land. Moreover, the use of that public land for grazing or harvesting timber now required permits. Of the various parts of the valley, the area west of the Snake River was homesteaded after 1900, but, as National Park Service historian John Daugherty notes, it was settled "less intensely than the lands east of the river" but some ranchers began to move north from the Wilson area.[3] Even as a few of these intrepid ranchers launched new beginnings, many of their predecessors found the prospect of ranching and farming too bleak and abandoned or changed their operation. Already a second generation of settlers emerged, often taking over the homestead claims of their unsuccessful predecessors. Homesteader Dave Spalding relinquished his claim on the west side of the river, which was then taken over by Louis Joy in 1907, land that Struthers Burt described as "absolutely useless for ranching purposes—even the sparse grass that grew under the trees was pine-grass and would not feed horses" an assessment that could be applied with equal accuracy to large areas of the land west of the Snake River."[4] Even ranchers like Peter Hansen, who homesteaded in 1898 on the west bank, moved to the east side of the Snake River after a few years. The greater potential, more and more ranchers realized, was not raising livestock but providing a ranch for dudes from the East to visit. Louis Joy started his JY Ranch with his new property, the first dude ranch in the valley. Struthers Burt and Horace Carncross started their Bar BC ranch in 1912, which switched shortly afterwards to summering dudes instead of wintering cattle, and the White Grass Ranch, also on the west side of the river, likewise shifted from ranching to dude wrangling after World War I. The pattern was largely one in which cattle ranches declined and dude ranches expanded: "You cannot make money out of stock-raising, even if you have strong grass, if you are so high up in the mountains that you have to feed hay to your stock five or six

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[1] John Daugherty, *A Place Called Jackson Hole: The Historic Resource Study of Grand Teton National Park* (Moose, Wyoming: Grand Teton National Park, 1999), 101.

[2] Daugherty, *A Place Called Jackson Hole*, 109.

[3] Daugherty, *A Place Called Jackson Hole*, 110, 115.

[4] Struthers Burt, *The Diary of a Dude Wrangler* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1924), 42.

months of the year."[5] Farming was even more of a challenge. Struthers Burt noted in 1924 that "the first farmers came into my valley about ten years ago and to-day they are broken and ruined men." The result of the struggles of both cattle ranchers and farmers was the sale or foreclosure of small holdings. John Daugherty counted 34 foreclosures on farms and ranches between 1923 and 1932 in addition to tax sales, and when he looked at new mortgages taken out he found very few, and the number of people in arrears on their taxes climbed.[6]

The other side of this equation, though, was that other people were discovering the valley and coming in, often taking over the relinquished homestead claims or otherwise acquiring ranching and farming land that had not succeeded in its intended purpose. Some of these people became dude wranglers, like Struthers Burt and the others. Some of these people were, in fact, dudes who came, stayed at a ranch like the Bar BC, fell in love with the area, and looked for their own property to use as a retreat. This would include people like Cissy Patterson, the Countess of Flat Creek. Others came to visit friends, and thereupon decided to find a way to make a permanent place of their own for their visits. This would include people like the family of Stanley B. Resor.

The Resor Family and the Rise of the Snake River Ranch

Unlike many of the cattle ranchers in Jackson Hole who started out early in life aspiring to have their own ranch, Stanley Burnet Resor did not intend to become a rancher. Resor began life in Cincinnati where his family had a stove manufacturing business, and he graduated from Yale in 1901, by which time the family business had declined. Returning to Cincinnati, he pursued a range of occupations and by 1904 had entered the advertising business of Procter and Collier, a house advertising agency for Procter and Gamble in Cincinnati. Successful in that work, in four years he and his brother were asked to head a new Cincinnati office for the J. Walter Thompson advertising firm, and in another four years Resor went to the New York office of J. Walter Thompson. J. Walter Thompson himself in 1916 was 69 years old and believed that advertising had reached a peak; he sold his business to Resor and an associate, and Stanley B. Resor at 38 became president of the reorganized company. His approach to advertising varied markedly from that of Thompson as he sought to develop something of a science of advertising, and his work was characterized by systematic research into consumer behavior and examined every aspect of the product from packaging to pricing to distribution. With that approach, he began to turn the J. Walter Thompson Agency into the pre-eminent company that it would become. He was joined in this venture by a colleague who had also worked with him in Cincinnati at Procter and Collier and who also worked at the Cincinnati and then New York offices of J. Walter Thompson, Helen Lansdowne, a professional whose talents appear to have adroitly complemented those of Resor; she had an almost uncanny ability to prepare advertising campaigns and write copy with an impact, sometimes with a distinct flair for the dramatic, where Resor mastered research and administrative detail. The team was successful in every way and they were married a year after Resor became president of the company.

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[5] Burt, *The Diary of a Dude Wrangler*, 116, 115.

[6] Daugherty, *A Place Called Jackson Hole*, 140.

The 1920s were heady years for the advertising business, and the Thompson agency led the business. One account notes that "In the 1920s, JWT moved into first place in total agency billings and stayed there for the next five decades."[7] That success was based on the importance of research, the reluctance to make extravagant claims of what their advertising could do, the use of carefully crafted advertising copy, and a code of ethics which Stanley Resor promulgated and refused to compromise.

Because of their position in the advertising industry the business lives of the Resors has been well documented. Because of Helen Lansdowne Resor's active role in the New York art world, some of that life has also been charted. Not only is she credited with opening important aspects of the business community to women, being the first woman, for example, to make a presentation of a program to a company, and has been described as "one of the most celebrated copywriters of her generation," she is also credited with shaping much of Thompson's approach to marketing products for women. She served on the board of directors of the Museum of Modern Art, was a patron of the arts, and even drew upon the art of notables like the photographer Edward Steichen at a time when photography was seldom used in advertising. She worked with architects and interior designers to make the new company headquarters in New York City a showcase. With a home in Greenwich, Connecticut, and a son and two daughters, the Resor family was busy.

In 1929 their son Stanley Rogers Resor was invited to take a trip to Jackson Hole, Wyoming, with friends in Greenwich. Coulter Huyler had purchased a ranch in 1926 from Eliza Seaton on the west bank of the Snake River in Jackson Hole and the Huyler family was making that ranch a vacation home. In 1929, Jack Huyler and his brother Coulter, Jr., took three friends, including twelve year old Stanley Resor, as their mother drove a 1929 Model A to Buffalo, New York, put the car on a steamer and went through the Great Lakes, landing at Duluth, and then drove the crew of boys on gravel roads the rest of the way to their Bear Paw Ranch in Jackson Hole. The trip across the country took two weeks and they remained in Jackson Hole through the summer. Evidently the young Resor enjoyed the country and, upon learning that the senior Huyler was interested in selling some of his land, informed his father in Connecticut. When the senior Resor approached Huyler about purchasing land that he had never seen, on the recommendation of his twelve-year old son, they were able to come to terms and with that, the Resor family became owners of four hundred acres along the west bank of the Snake River, land that had been homesteaded by John Seaton (1908) and Francis Waterman (1913).

When the whole Resor family journeyed to Jackson Hole in 1930 to visit the property that only one of them had seen, there were already a cabin on the land—what would become the kitchen—and a barn, somewhat dilapidated, from the Seaton and Waterman homesteads and two new cabins had been added—what came to be known as the One-room Cabin and the Parking Lot Cabin. There appears to be widespread agreement that most of the family was thrilled with the new ranch, but Helen Lansdowne Resor, was less than enthusiastic about its rustic aspects (Stanley R. Resor wrote, "My mother thought a ranch in Wyoming was a bad idea.") and she preferred the life and culture of New York. Nonetheless, she took the venture in stride and "applied her energy, taste and imagination to making life in Wyoming pleasant and interesting and the

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[7] Ann Maxwell Keding, "Helen Lansdowne Resor," in Edd Applegate, *The Ad Men and Women: A Biographical Dictionary of Advertising* (Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1994), 264.

cabins attractive." She succeeded and the result was not only a successful ranch, but a complex of ranch buildings of architectural and social distinction.

Immediately the Resors began to build their ranch. They even had a local cowboy, Ike Neal, brother of Jack Neal, foreman at the Huylers' ranch, to help. Neal was, the younger Stanley Resor recalls, "a typical old-time cowboy. He preferred to limit his work to what he could do from the back of a horse."[8] They also hired an architect, Paul Colborn, of New Canaan, Connecticut to design the two-story log home that would become the anchor of the residential compound at the ranch, and by the end of the summer the logs for the second floor had been placed. Colborn, a prominent architect in the East, at some point acquired land himself, also on the west bank, north of the Huylers, and was instrumental in a number of Jackson Hole projects. In addition to his own home, at the Aspen Ranch, he also donated the design of the Teton County Library when a new building was needed in town in 1938. The home for the Resors, the first such two-story structure on the west side of the river, also had, reputedly, the first flush toilets in the valley. A Kohler electric generator provided electricity for the ranch. If the J. Walter Thompson Agency headquarters was a showcase under the direction of Helen Lansdowne Resor, the Resor family's own ranch in Jackson Hole proved its equal.

As for Stanley B. Resor, his interest was not just for a summer home, but for a ranch that could sustain itself economically. A few years later, Resor described his motivation: "I neither hunt nor fish but get my satisfaction out of building so it was not long before I became interested in building what I hope will be a successful cattle ranch."[9] To do so meant constructing the buildings for a functioning ranch and also acquiring more land for the production of hay and clearing the willows from the land near the river. With the need of each head of cattle for a ton and a half or two tons of hay during the winter, hay production, and sufficient land for that production, was not only essential but critical. But they also made the ranch broadly self sufficient; as early as 1931, the ranch had made sufficient progress that they not only had some cattle and horses but other domestic animals and poultry too with sheep, chickens, pigs, turkeys, and goats.[10]

In 1931, their second summer at the ranch, the Main Cabin designed by Colborn had been completed and the next step was to remove the Waterman barn, which, located immediately north of the Main Cabin, proved a nuisance, and Stanley B. Resor chose an alternate location well to the north and slightly east, for the new barn, and called upon Isabelle Pendleton, a Harvard-educated landscape architect to design the layout of buildings near the barn. This she did in such a way that the gate on the north perimeter of the headquarters complex frames a dramatic view of the Grand Teton. Buildings constructed in that complex in 1931 include

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[8] Stanley R. Resor, "Early Years at the Snake River Ranch," unpublished typescript in possession of the family, 6.

[9] This quotation is from a written statement submitted by Stanley B. Resor, contained in "Testimony of Lloyd Vandenberg," *Hearings before a Subcommittee of the Committee on Public Lands and Surveys, United States Senate*, "Enlarging Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming," Seventy-fifth Cong., Third Sess., 110-112, August 8 and 10, 1938.

[10] Resor, "Early Years at the Snake River Ranch," 7.

the barn, the manager's house, the milk house, and the pump house.[11] The design of the barn was selected from a book and then assigned to a local builder to construct. That design, popular among ranches of the time, resembles one published a few years later in *American Builder* by a barn builder who called it "a wind proof gothic barn."[12] In October 1931, a local newspaper could report on the progress of construction at the ranch:

> The new barn at the Stanley Resor ranch is nearing completion. It is, beyond doubt, the most modern barn in Jackson Hole. Mr. Resor is farther improving his property by the building of a six room modern home to house his care taker, I. M. Jones and family, construction of same will start in the near future. These and other contemplated improvements will make the Circle R ranch one of the valley's outstanding summer homes.[13]

By the end of the year it appears that substantial progress had been made on the Resors' ranch, or, as it was known locally at first, their summer home, when another local paper reported that the summer home had been completed; likely this was a reference to either the manager's [what the October report referred to as the caretaker's] residence, or to the ranch complex as a whole.[14]

Gradually the ranch expanded its holdings, cleared the land, and constructed more buildings. In 1933 the icehouse was built, and in 1935 the saddle house, the bunkhouse, and the blacksmith shop were completed. That year also saw the addition of a waterwheel on the side of the pump house. In order to provide a steady source of water for the wheel, Resor had the mill stream, a functioning channel of the Snake River that flowed just east of the ice house, milk house, and pump house, enlarged and a headgate installed at the point where it left the main channel of the river, so that it would turn the wheel. This proved a welcome addition, but during the winter when the water froze, the wheel was inoperable.[15] That deficiency caused them to develop an alternative so that in 1938 they installed a Fitz Waterwheel turbine. A carousel-type waterwheel that rotated laterally, this wheel was installed in a concrete compartment installed in a dike at the edge of the millpond, so

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[11] Resor, "Early Years at the Snake River Ranch," 9.

[12] See A. W. Holt, "How to Build a Wind-Proof Gothic Barn," *American Builder 1936 Homes* (Chicago: American Builder Publishing Corp., 1936), 162-170. This information was provided by Kurt Dubbe of Dubbe-Moulder Architects, and is gratefully acknowledged.

[13] "Jackson Happenings," Jackson's Hole *Courier*, October 8, 1931.

[14] "Stanley Reasor [sic] Summer Home Completed," Jackson *Grand Teton*, December 29, 1931. This newspaper article raises as many questions as it answers since it gets so much wrong from the spelling of the Resor name to the dates and circumstances of the family's arrival and purchase of the property. On the other hand, clearly a milestone of some sort had been reached at the end of December 1931. It may be that the article is referring to the Main Cabin, but Stanley Resor's recollection is that "when the family returned in the summer of 1931, the big cabin had been finished." Resor, "Early Years at the Snake River Ranch," 7.

[15] Resor, "Early Years at the Snake River Ranch," 10.

that the force of the water through the compartment turned the wheel. Moreover, it had the advantage, since the wheel was submerged, that it could operate below the ice in the winter. This system provided electricity for the ranch until 1955 when the Rural Electrification Administration brought the power grid to the rural areas of the valley. Moreover, work at the ranch in other ways adjusted to the flow of the river. An inconspicuous, but vital, part of this careful management of the delicate relationship with the river was the placement of rip-rap and logs anchored with cables along the river bank to prevent its washing away, and the system seems to have worked well, or it worked well until 1943.

By 1937 the third complex of buildings, a group that included shops and structures for separating and treating cattle, had also emerged. In comparison to the architectural distinctiveness of both the residential complex with its grand Main Cabin and nearby cabins, and the headquarters complex with its beautiful barn, manager's house, and service buildings, the shop complex may seem to be of lesser significance. But these buildings, designed to be functioning units of the cattle operation were designed both with an eye to aesthetics and to purpose. In their placement and in the very orientation and arrangement of the buildings, these structures, generally board and batten, represent a sophisticated plan. The long, open barn usually known as the Cowboy Barn or Harnessing Barn, was once known as the Bull Barn and has the open bays along its front facing the east to catch the morning sun to warm the animals. In 1937 it was either constructed or modified, with that date engraved in the concrete floor of the south portion. That building, and the long shop building to the south, both have ridges in the roofs that are offset from the center to allow hay to be stacked more efficiently. And the turkey / chicken coop, with its elaborate system of ventilation through the rafters and soffits, also included a translucent material on the south elevation to permit the sun to provide natural heat in the winter. This was more than a casual structure, it should be noted; at one point, the ranch had a thousand turkeys in its poultry operation. In addition there were the smaller structures and buildings in the complex including the scale house for the weighing of cattle about to be shipped. Even the dipping vat for treating the livestock had emerged in the 1930s. A veritable maze of corrals connect the various buildings, part of the system of channeling the livestock through the various stages of their treatment at the various points in the cycle of production and marketing. By the end of the decade, certainly, the fundamental structures of the Snake River Ranch were in place and the ranch had achieved a clear prominence as a livestock operation, and that included as well careful attention to the design and layout of the shop and livestock buildings on the north.

The Dining Room Project

There is one building project on the ranch that deserves special attention because of the vision that produced it and the people associated with it; although the building no longer remains, it provides a glimpse of the architectural qualities brought to bear on the Snake River Ranch. This was the Dining Room Project.

In 1936, with the core of the ranch construction completed, several additional projects were initiated that signaled a ratcheting up of the already impressive architectural finesse that characterized the buildings. Probably in that year the swimming pool was added. Mrs. Resor wanted it to be of official Olympic dimensions (perhaps confirming that the date of construction was 1936, corresponding to the Olympic games held that summer), and was able to determine those dimensions from an encyclopedia. Also, in 1936 another cabin was constructed, the evident intention being as quarters for guests who came to visit the Resors. Known as

the White Cabin, and located east of the kitchen cabin, this building was designed by Phillip Goodwin. Goodwin was also the architect who, along with Edward Durrell Stone, was responsible for the modernistic International Style building housing the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, on the board of which Helen Lansdowne Resor served. A spacious cabin, she suggested the interior be painted white to make it brighter, and hence its name. This was constructed by local builders, Charlie, Otto, and Neal Nelson, three brothers and sons of Albert T. Nelson, long time Jackson Hole game warden and taxidermist, and the three soon found themselves involved in another Goodwin project nearby.[16]

Helen Lansdowne Resor also had another building in mind. She had a history of involvement in the fine arts and her service as a member of the board of the Museum of Modern Art both recognized her prominence in the art world and also encouraged it. Mrs. Resor was known as a collector and patron of the arts, and certainly the MoMA benefited from her largesse; she and Alfred Barr, founding Director of MoMA, developed an arrangement whereby he would be able to purchase works of art for the museum in his travels with the understanding that she would keep those that the museum did not want, thus providing him with flexibility otherwise impossible in acquisitions. She also made donations to MoMA, including Salvador Dali's *The Persistence of Memory*, an iconic painting with its melted clocks that to some represents the defining elements of modern art. Of course her service also brought her into contact with more artists and the art world in general, a relationship that shaped part of the development of the Snake River Ranch. At the same time that Mrs. Resor served on the board as a trustee, the architect Philip Goodwin also served in the same capacity. It was only natural, therefore, that Mrs. Resor turned to Goodwin and brought him to the ranch to design the White Cabin. But the White Cabin was the smaller of the projects she had in mind.

Stanley Rogers Resor recalls that his mother contracted architect Mark Peters, the brother-in-law of the younger Resor's Groton classmate, Arthur Gardiner, asking him to design "a building in the style of LeCorbusier." This building would span the mill stream, resting on four piers: "On the west side, a ramp was built leading up to the platform. On the east side, there was the kitchen, pantry, and related service rooms. This much was built when Mother lost confidence in Mark's design."[17] At some point Philip Goodwin may also have become involved in the project too but the memory of Helen Resor Hauge and her brother Stanley Rogers Resor explicitly focus on Mark Peters as the sole force behind the original Dining Room building design. In either case, the construction was begun in 1936 and home movies made by Bob VanDeBurg and his wife Ardath show the Nelson brothers also working on the construction of what would be The Dining Room. Mr. VanDeburg remembered well the concrete piers that were installed since each contained, he relates in his narration of the home movie, a train carload of cement.

What happened next is not clear, and the available documents do not resolve the matter. One likely course is that work began on the Dining Room following Peters' design, at which point Mrs. Resor indeed lost confidence in that plan and turned to Alfred Barr, the director of the MoMA for guidance in finding a new

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[16] The home movies of Bob and Ardath VanDeburg show the White Cabin being constructed. "Ardath VanDeburg Footage from 1935 →." A copy of the movies, on videocassette, is in possession of the Resor family.

[17] Resor, "Early Years at the Snake River Ranch," 19.

architect. This account would be consistent with the memories of members of the Resor family who certainly were in a position to know. The other account, however, needs to be mentioned because it has been repeated in some of the published literature regarding Mies van der Rohe. According to this interpretation, the internal dynamics of the Museum of Modern Art spilled over into Jackson Hole. The MoMA trustees were at that time trying to decide upon a vision for the new building to house their collections, and also, thereby, a team of architects to design the museum, and the sentiment was divided, even bitterly so, between those led by Abby Rockefeller, who favored a conservative conception and those led by Director Alfred Barr who wanted something more modern and international. Alfred Barr, in fact, wanted Ludwig Mies van der Rohe to participate in the building design, but the board rejected him. In this struggle, the details of which remain obscure, evidently the client-architect relationship between Goodwin and Resor was a casualty. As one historian has observed, "we can only speculate that, in support of Barr in the battle over the new museum building, Helen Resor fired Goodwin."[18] At which point, she needed a new architect, and she turned to Alfred Barr. This view is obviously speculative and the documentation used to support such a contention is not available to confirm or disprove it. There are doubtless materials in the archives of the MoMA which would shed light on the issue, but no matter the course of events that led Helen Lansdowne Resor to Alfred Barr for advice, the denouement was the same: the recruitment of Ludwig Mies van der rohe for his first project in the United States.

When Helen Lansdowne Resor sought advice from Alfred Barr the MoMA Director pointed her to Mies van der Rohe. Apparently she and her husband then studied the work of both Mies and Walter Gropius and concluded that Gropius "would be a grand person to use if we wanted to start a summer Bauhaus out there," but they also decided that Mies would be a more practical choice for designing a building. She asked Barr: "Could you write a letter to Mies van der Rohe and find out if there is a chance of his being able to come to America? You could give him some idea of the fact that the job is in a difficult locality and that if he would consider it, we would be glad to write him more details about it."[19] The next summer the Resors met Mies in Paris. Because of the worsening political, cultural, and social climate in Germany, Mies was seeking an alternative to his circumstances there, but was also reluctant to leave his homeland for a country he did not know and where he did not even speak the language. In August of 1937, however, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe boarded the same ship as the Resor family to New York and then traveled by train to Wyoming, stopping briefly in Chicago to view the architecture of that city.

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[18] C. McAtee, "Alien #5044325: Mies's First Trip to America: Alfred Barr, Helen Resor, and the Commissioning of a European Modernist," in, Werner Oechslin, Vivian Endicott Barnett, Cammie McAtee, Phyllis Lambert, *Mies in America* (New York: Whitney Museum, with Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 2001). See also, Franz Schulze, *Mies van der Rohe: A Critical Biography* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1985), 206-210. Another account also exists, Nina Bremer, "The Resor House Project, Jackson Hole, Wyoming 1937-1938," unpublished manuscript, dated 1976, in J. Walter Thompson Archives, Biographical File (Stanley Resor), Duke University Library Special Collections.

[19] Resor to Barr, February 8, 1937, quoted in McAtee, "Mies's First Trip to America: Alfred Barr, Helen Resor, and the Commissioning of a European Modernist," no page numbers.

When Mies arrived at the ranch he stayed in Goodwin's White Cabin. As if that were not irony enough, because of their different views on the MoMA building, for part of the time he was there he shared the cabin with artist Grant Wood. As Cammie McAtee observes, "A more ironic pairing can scarcely be imagined given Wood's increasingly anti-European and anti-modernist position."[20]

Apparently Mies did not like the specific location for the new building and also was concerned about integrating the existing structure into a new plan, but he reached agreement with the Resors and accepted both the site and the structure as conditions. After studying the location and pondering the factors of light and views of the mountains for two weeks, Mies went to New York (still hosted by the Resors, and after stopping again in Chicago and being offered the directorship of the Armour Institute of Technology) where, over a period of six months, he developed plans for the Resors, ultimately more than eight hundred sheets of drawings, which ultimately resembled the Tugendhat House he had created in Brno, Czechoslovakia, with its long, clean horizontal lines and extensive use of glass.[21] Essentially, the plan would put a two-story structure on the east bank that would connect to the existing building on the west bank with a long dining room and living room above the stream, supported by the piers.[22] The materials that Mies proposed for this, his first project in the United States, were consistent with his earlier projects with glass walls, from floor to ceiling, at strategic locations to give the connecting portion a floating appearance, with a steel-frame structure, masonry walls, and infill materials hidden behind cladding, which in this case was to be wood. This wood was perhaps his major concession to the design materials on the rest of the ranch; as Cammie McAtee notes, "it was the first and only project for which Mies proposed to use wood as a cladding material." Apparently the Resors suggested that the wood for the building be lodgepole pine, of which there were was a readily available supply at hand, but Mies opted for, and defended, cypress because of its beauty and durability. He also, however directed the use of native field stone from the Gros Ventres River for the ground level walls, the fireplace, and in the central stairway, a material which would blend with the same stone used in the other nearby building interior features.

Such were the plans that Mies submitted to the Resors at the end of March 1938. On April 5, on board the *Queen Mary* en route to Germany, he received word from Stanley Resor that the project was canceled. As

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[20] McAtee, "Mies's First Trip to America: Alfred Barr, Helen Resor, and the Commissioning of a European Modernist." It is unclear how many visits Grant Wood made to Jackson Hole. In the summer of 1939, two years after this encounter, the Jackson Hole courier announced on its front page that "Grant Wood Spending Month in this Area," but did not indicate where he was staying. There is a strong likelihood that he returned to the Resor ranch. Jackson's Hole *Courier*, July 27, 1939.

[21] Photographs of the design, and a virtual walk-through of a model of the completed house, using photos of the Resor's Snake River Ranch, can be found at: http://www.moma.org/mies/. Click on Mies in America, and then move the cursor over the thumbnails until the house icon representing the "Resor House 1937-1943" appears.

[22] The most detailed description of the proposed structure can be found in McAtee, "Mies's First Trip to America: Alfred Barr, Helen Resor, and the Commissioning of a European Modernist." See also, however, Schulze, *Mies van der Rohe: A Critical Biography*, 212.

McAtee explains: "Resor cited business conditions as the reason for halting the work, but he also suggested that if Mies returned to America with a visa that would allow him to work legally, and if he continued to work with an architect 'familiar with American conditions, prices, etc.,' the family might consider moving forward with the project."[23] In truth, the problems with the design were significant; the glass supplier in Salt Lake City recommended thicker glass and of smaller dimensions than Mies had planned, and, because of the low clearance of a bridge under which the truck carrying the glass would have to travel, the glass would have to be even smaller. Plus, the price for the project was more than double what had been anticipated. That fall, however, when Mies returned to the U.S., this time with a visa issued because he was in fact employed by the Armour Institute, Stanley Resor had Mies resume the project, this time with scaled back features. It is unclear how much additional work Mies did on the plans, but before too long, perhaps in 1939, it became clear that the arrangement would not work, and as Stanley Rogers Resor recalls, his father "came to the difficult decision that the project must be indefinitely deferred."[24] So the piers and the existing structure languished until 1943 when the Snake River flooded its banks and removed much of what had been placed there, raising questions of what would have been the fate of the elaborate building that Mies had planned for the site.

The significance of this Dining Room project may appear slight given that it was never completed, and considering that the building's origins lay opaquely with other architects. Yet it represented a bold flash of genius and the conception was, ultimately, tied intimately to this particular location. Moreover, one account is explicit on the significance of the episode that goes beyond this individual building. Nina Bremer, in her account of the Dining Room project observes what may easily be forgotten: "The role of the Resors in rescuing Mies from a world fallen into tyranny will go down in the history of modern architecture despite the fact that their house was never built."[25] In that context, the piers that Ludwig Mies van der Rohe struggled with and that remain by the mill stream on the Snake River Ranch, represent not so much a building that was never completed, but an even more profound contribution to the modern architectural heritage.

The Snake River Ranch in Operation

At the same time that the ranch was leaving its imprint in architecture, the development of the ranch as a working cattle facility had proceeded, and Stanley Resor had taken virtually every step to assure the success and self-sustainability of the ranch. Without a ranch background himself, Resor needed to find someone who would be able to direct the operations of the ranch within the guidelines that he had established. He sought out the best manager he could find, and that produced a sequence of individuals. In 1930 he hired Marley Jones, of Victor, Idaho, to replace Ike Neal as manager. Actually, Jones was described as a "log man" and that may have been an appropriate background for the early stages of the ranch since much effort focused on the land that had to be cleared and willows pulled. Soon, however, Resor decided he needed someone "with a

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[23] McAtee, "Mies's First Trip to America: Alfred Barr, Helen Resor, and the Commissioning of a European Modernist."

[24] Resor, "Early Years at the Snake River Ranch," 19.

[25] Bremer, "The Resor House Project, Jackson Hole, Wyoming 1937-1938," 3.

broader background in ranching than Marley Jones." The new manager in 1931, in fact, may have been the best qualified in the state, at least on paper; Lorin Oldroyd taught at the University of Wyoming in the College of Agriculture. Certainly Oldroyd brought a new flair to the ranch, and to the valley. In February 1934, a local newspaper described a George Washington birthday dinner at the Oldroyds'—at the Snake River Ranch. When several of the valley's most prominent couples—Simpson, Van Vleck, and Weston—"arrived at the Resor ranch, Mr. Oldroyd had four horses and a bob sleigh with bells, 32 bells, too, all prepared for a trip and the ladies of the party and young Harry G. Weston started out. The trip progressed along the highway up the Snake River as far as the JY ranch and returned, arriving home about 6 o'clock."[26] Even during the winter, when the Resors were absent, the ranch carried on an active life thanks to the manager. From the perspective of their neighbors, at least, the ranch was in good hands. Jack Huyler, who as a young man had brought the young Stanley Resor out on his first visit to Jackson Hole, the trip which ended in the purchase of the ranch, recalls that with the approval of the senior Resor, "Oldroyd purchased not only the requisite, but the optimum, machinery; put in ditches and crops; and bought cattle. . . . From the beginning theirs was an efficient operation. Most ranchers, like us, had to get along with what they could almost from the beginning the Snake River Ranch was an operation jealously admired by the Rocking H next door as well as by others."[27] On the other hand, Oldroyd may have been better suited to teaching and entertaining than to ranching. Again, as Stanley Rogers Resor tells it, "Oldroyd was a good natured fellow but, it turned out, had not had much hands-on experience running a high-mountain valley cattle operation. He was somewhat non-committal about issues. At a picnic he would remark, 'It was good, such as there was of it, and there was plenty of it, such as it was.' "[28]

Finding a good foreman proved ever a challenge, but ultimately, in 1936, Resor succeeded when he hired Lloyd VanDeburg—on the recommendation of Dr. Charles Huff, the only physician in the valley, and who doubled when needed as veterinarian.[29] VanDeburg had previously been foreman on the Peter Hansen ranch, at one time the largest ranch in the valley, and along with the rest of his family (his son Bob would later, in turn, become the ranch manager) met the varied needs of the ranch. In addition to the manager, however, the ranch required a substantial crew; at times there would be as many as forty-five people at work for the ranch when they were haying with horses.

The size of the crews, the presence of the bunkhouse, and the emergence of the various buildings in the three complexes of the ranch suggest the size of the operation. Much of the work involved growing, cutting, and putting up the hay for the cattle and feeding them during the winter. So Resor set out to increase the holdings when possible, a circumstance that actually emerged often because of the depressed cattle prices in the 1930s and the difficulty of ranching with such a short season in that area. With the acquisition of lands

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[26] "In Society: Washington Birthday Dinner at Oldroyds," *The Grand Teton*, February 27, 1934.

[27] Jack Huyler, *and That's the Way It Was in Jackson's Hole* (Jackson: Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum, 2000), 199.

[28] Resor, "Early Years at the Snake River Ranch," 9.

[29] Interview, Helen Resor Hauge, July 3, 2003.

fourteen miles south of Wilson, the ranch also became spread out into two general ranching operations: that at the main ranch north of Wilson, and that at the Lower Ranch. In 1936 the Resors obtained their first permit to graze Forest Service land and they also obtained the rights to graze on two state school sections. The extent of this growth can be seen in 1938. In that year, the ongoing issue of the expansion of Grand Teton National Park surfaced once again and hearings were scheduled before a U.S. Senate subcommittee on Public Lands and Surveys. Stanley B. Resor submitted written testimony, delivered by Lloyd VanDeburg, for those hearings and described his own ranch. After buying the original ranch land of some four hundred acres, Resor said, "I bought six additional ranches adjoining my original purchase; two more 14 miles below Wilson for a cow camp and rent two school sections—altogether some 5,100 acres, of which 1,000 acres are now in crops and from 300 to 400 more will be next year."[30] Five years later, 1943, in another series of hearings, this time before a House of Representatives committee pondering the newly created Jackson Hole National Monument north of his ranch, Resor testified again, this time offering additional information about the land he used for his ranch: "What was perfectly clear to me as soon as I got there—and I had not been there before—was that in spite of the fact that we were living out of tin cans and had to drive 7 miles to get fresh milk, we could produce both on that very land. Then we began to clear land and we have continued to do so ever since. What was perfectly clear to me was that the acres of worthless willow land or sagebrush could be turned into a real ranch. . . . Today we have a real ranch and, if we have brains enough, I hope it may become almost as profitable as the ranch of Mr. [Cliff] Hansen and his father. Our acreage now is probably second only to that of the Snake River Land Corporation."[31]

During the decade of the 1940s, the ranch underwent some major changes as a result of the intrusion of forces from the outside world into Jackson Hole. The flood of 1943 was not exactly nor exclusively an act of nature. The Snake River is annually subject to a cycle of heavy runoff from melting snows in the spring and diminished flows in the late summer and fall. The spring—which, in this area comes in May and June—can be notoriously torrential and dangerous while the autumn can often produce the opposite conditions with a low water level, and the cattle operations of the Snake River Ranch incorporated that cycle into its operation. During the spring, when the cattle were taken to the Forest Service lands leased in the Gros Ventre drainage, they would be herded from the upper ranch along the Moose – Wilson road to the bridge at Moose, the best place to cross the heavy-flowing river, and then east to the Fish Creek leased lands. Then, in the fall, because the river was low, they could be herded, after being separated by brands from those of other ranchers at the Lower Bar BC Ranch, directly across the river to back to the Snake River Ranch.

At the point where the Snake River leaves Jackson Lake, about twenty-five miles upstream from the ranch, the Bureau of Reclamation had built a dam, beginning construction in 1913. Part of the Minidoka Project, the purpose of the dam was to turn the natural Jackson lake, which had been enlarged by two temporary dams

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[30] "Testimony of Lloyd Vandenberg," *Hearings before a Subcommittee of the Committee on Public Lands and Surveys, United States Senate*, "Enlarging Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming," Seventy-fifth Cong., Third Sess., August 8 and 10, 1938, 110-112.

[31] "Statement of Stanley Resor, New York City," *Hearings Before the Committee on the Public Lands House of Representatives*, "To Abolish the Jackson Hole National Monument, Wyo.," Seventy-eighth Cong., First Sess., May 27, 1943, 180-184.

previously, into a reservoir to supply water to the potato farmers of Idaho. As a consequence, the lake level and the flow of the river were, after the creation of the dam, regulated by the Bureau of Reclamation, although people downstream sometimes noticed a casual attitude in that regulation. Stanley Rogers Resor observed that "During the 30s, little attention was paid by operators of the dam to the impact of such water releases on the lands along the River, below the dam. Occasionally our land was threatened with flooding, and we took ad hoc temporary measures to contain the threat."[32]

So it was that in June 1943, the water released from the dam into the Snake River was both unexpected and unexpectedly massive. With minimal advance notice, ranchers downstream were warned to prepare for a flood that would shortly reach their property and to remove as much as they could from the areas to be inundated. Stanley Rogers Resor recalls that "High water was expected to reach the Ranch in forty-five minutes," and then he details the damage:

> The flood hit as predicted. It inundated the millstream and all the land between the millstream and the River. It swept away the millstream head-gate, two vehicle bridges, two foot bridges, the power house, and forty panels of fencing. It left two feet of water in the White Cabin. It also upset four concrete piers and essentially destroyed the kitchen and related buildings on the west side of the millstream. It did not reach the Main Cabin, which is on a slightly higher level. In all, it flooded twenty acres of land.[33]

The powerhouse he mentioned was the structure south of the milk house where the waterwheel had been side-mounted to generate electricity, operate equipment inside the shop, and power the pump. The building that would become the dining room was another casualty.

The task following the flood was to rebuild and to do so in a way that would be safe from future floods. The powerhouse was replaced with the current penthouse and shop facility (living quarters upstairs), and lacked the waterwheel of its predecessor. Some of the windows in the new structure were taken from the building that had been located and connected to the piers for the proposed dining room. A concrete retaining wall was added by the side of this new building, also forming a part of its foundation, and the wall extended to the north near the milk house and ice house to prevent erosion there as well.

The central task, though, was to add dikes and a new headgate that could withstand such floods in the future. For this, Resor, as always, called upon experts to advise him in the best measures and in this instance he turned to none other than Arthur Morgan, former chairman of the Tennessee Valley Authority. Morgan directed him to C. C. Chambers, who had worked with Morgan to develop flood prevention systems, after tragic flooding in Ohio in the 1920s. Chambers visited the ranch in July after the June flood and designed a system of jetties and dikes to protect the ranch from the Snake River. The dike proved to be something of a classic of engineering, with a toe trench to make it secure and prevent undercutting, and filled with "rocks weighing about 1 ton each, with rocks of similar size in the slope above it. Above the toe-trench, he designed

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[32] Resor, "Early Years at the Snake River Ranch," 25.

[33] Resor, "Early Years at the Snake River Ranch," 26.

a rock-fill apron along the riverside of the levee."[34] The dike took three years to construct, but Bob VanDeburg recalls that each winter, a time when the river was low, the ranch hauled rocks to supplement and enlarge the dike between 1943 and 1953.[35] A new headgate with steel plate gate and mechanical lift controlled the flow of river water through the concrete drain into the mill stream. In 1955, the Corps of Engineers, while undertaking its own flood control project on the river, acknowledged the accomplishment of the Resors on this dike by noting that "Some of the most permanent works installed to date have been along the river frontage of the Snake River Ranch by its owner. This work has been of great benefit to much of the Jackson Hole area downstream from thereby preventing an avulsion of the river into the Lake Creek-Fish Creek area around the town of Wilson."[36]

The work on the ranch dike, it should be added, was complicated by the labor shortage of World War II—another force that impacted the ranch. In particular, cutting and stacking the hay, an enormous job given the requirement of a ton and half or two tons of hay per head of cattle during the winter, required five hay crews going at a time on various parts of the ranch. A labor-intensive job that used men and horses, the lack of workers generated two shifts in the ranch, one temporary and the other permanent, both reflecting broader trends in agriculture. One was the use of an all-female hay crew. VanDeburg home movies, in fact, show Ann Resor, daughter of the senior Resors, driving horses in the hay fields as part of the effort to get the hay stacked. The other change was mechanization. Throughout Wyoming, and the nation as well, World War II promoted what has sometimes been called the second agricultural revolution; the first revolution came during the labor shortage of the Civil War when mule and horsepower began to replace tools and methods of agriculture not far removed from those used in biblical times. During World War II, internal combustion engines made serious strides in replacing the horse drawn equipment. In Wyoming during the war, the number of tractors on farms increased by 55%--an indicator of the growth of machinery on the farms and ranches.[37] It appears that the Snake River Ranch conformed to this pattern. Prior to the war, the ranch had a small tractor, and probably during the war the ranch acquired a tractor-powered mowing machine. This trend continued afterwards when the ranch purchased a New Holland baler in 1946 capable of baling and stacking about twenty-five tons per day. In 1947 the ranch bought a Caterpillar RD-7 tractor, a much larger machine.[38] The manpower needs of the ranch were thereby reduced, not only for putting up the hay, but for feeding as well, since feeding baled hay was easier than digging out the loose, stacked hay. By 1949 the ranch was using three baler hay crews. The ranch, like other ranches, albeit fewer and fewer were surviving, was being modernized. In other places, the mechanical revolution in agriculture usually obligated the ranch to expand its acreage in order to justify the investment in machinery, and while it is not clear that this was the case at the Snake River Ranch, the ranch continued to expand and to rely increasingly on machinery.

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[34] Resor, "Early Years at the Snake River Ranch," 26.

[35] Movie, "Ardath VanDeburg Footage from 1935 →."

[36] Major Bruce to John Loomis, November 1955, quoted in Resor, "Early Years at the Snake River Ranch," 27.
[37] Michael Cassity, " 'In a Narrow Grave': World War II and the Subjugation of Wyoming," *Wyoming History Journal*, 68 (Spring 1996), 7-8.

[38] Resor, "Early Years at the Snake River Ranch," 17, 32.

By 1953 the ranch had matured substantially and was, by any standard, a successful, even model cattle production operation that had overcome the climate and topographic adversities of Jackson Hole, and was, in fact, a ranch often admired and envied by its neighbors. It had drawn upon the most advanced scientific techniques, had used the best equipment, had expanded its operations to assure sufficient hay for its cattle, and had become a modern ranch in every sense. In some ways typical of Wyoming ranches, in its evolution over the period from 1929 to 1953, however, it was also atypical because of its success.

It was also atypical because of its architectural qualities, with buildings and structures that reflect the rustic built environment of Jackson Hole's early twentieth century history and at the same time the personal tastes of the Resor family. It was built to be more than a working cattle ranch. It was built to be a showcase of design, a place for contemplation and inspiration, and for intellectual exchange. It represented a gathering place for artists of all kinds, from Grant Wood to Valentino Sarra, from Peter Hurd and Peter Blume to Lawrence Ferlinghetti and Allen Ginsberg, from Sir Charles M. Rose to Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, and notable individuals from Herbert Hoover (in his post-presidential years) to George H. W. Bush (at about age 17). Writer-historian Walter Lord once described the visitors to the ranch, of whom he was one, as constituting a "pundits in residence program" and Colin Dawkins, in his compilation of information about Stanley B. and Helen Resor noted that "they gave refuge to a deserving good brain and they had almost a seminar for the summer."[39] The Snake River Ranch, in its design, was exactly the right kind of place for such seminars since the ranch was itself the product of careful thought and talent.

The Snake River Ranch since 1953

In the half century since the end of the period of historic significance, the ranch has remained a permanent feature of Jackson Hole life. In 1955 when the Rural Electrification Administration reached the Snake River Ranch, the ranch was finally connected to the nation's power grid and the hydraulic turbine was taken out of operation. The mechanization continued with the addition of larger and more sophisticated equipment. In 1962, when Stanley B. Resor died, the ranch had acquired the lands that it had planned, and "the major land clearing had been finished and the basic elements of the irrigation system were in place," thus indicating that the future activities of the ranch would be less expansion oriented than they had been in previous years.[40] The ranch remains in the family and its cattle operation has continued, although it has shifted from a cow-calf

[39] Dawkins interview with Dorothy Tempest, in Colin Dawkins Papers, J. Walter Thompson Archives, file on Helen L. Resor, Duke University Library Special Collections.

[40] Resor, "Early Years at Snake River Ranch," 41.

operation to a yearling annual cycle with about 3500 animals; each fall the trucks line up ten or a dozen deep at a time, and they do this many times, to haul the cattle to market. A few buildings have been added, such as the one that Stanley Rogers Resor, former Secretary of the Army in the Johnson and Nixon administrations, uses as a part-time residence on the south perimeter of the residential complex. The buildings have been maintained meticulously as the family devotes as much attention to maintaining the important heritage of the ranch as Stanley B. Resor and Helen L. Resor devoted to building its future.

In the period of its historic significance, and beyond, the Snake River Ranch has served as a reflection of fundamental contours and patterns of change in American agriculture, especially at the local level in Jackson Hole, and in the design and construction of its physical features has represented distinctive architectural significance. For those reasons, the Snake River Ranch qualifies for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A and under Criterion C.

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In addition, the Resor and Hauge families have on numerous occasions enthusiastically shared their memories, their files of information, their maps, and other materials to provide as complete a documentation of the Snake River Ranch historic district as possible.

Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is delineated by the polygon, with the river dike forming the east side, the vertices of which are marked by the following UTM reference points: [1] 12 515916E 4823475N; [2] 12 516307E 4823475N; [3] 12 516296E 4822774N; [4] 12 515916E 4822774N.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the historic district includes the three complexes of the Snake River Ranch: the shop complex on the north, the headquarters complex to the south, and the residential complex farther south. This boundary thereby includes the property historically associated with the Snake River Ranch.

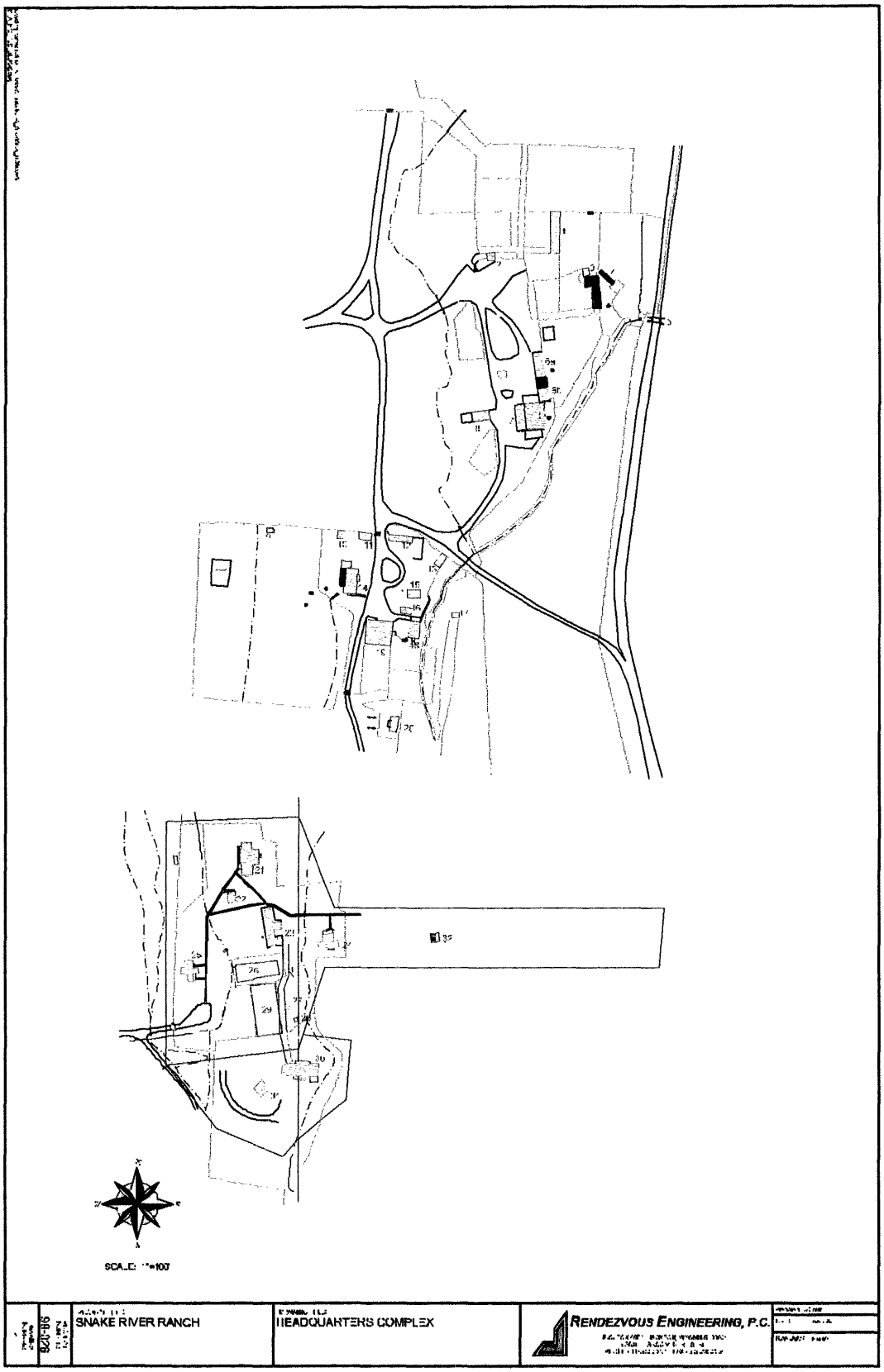
Common Label Information:
1. (Name)
2. (City), (County) County, Utah
3. Photographer:
4. Date:
5. Negative on file at Utah SHPO.

Photo No. 1:
6. xxxx elevation of building. Camera facing zzzz.

Photo No. 2:
6. xxxx elevation of building. Camera facing zzzz.

Photo No. 3:
6. xxxx elevation of building. Camera facing zzzz.

Photo No. 4:
6. xxxx elevation of building. Camera facing zzzz.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SNAKE RIVER RANCH
HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX
RENDEZVOUS ENGINEERING, P.C.