

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Gehring Ranch
Other names/site number: 24LC1846
Name of related multiple property listing: NA
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 5488 Lincoln Road West
City or town: Helena State: MT County: Lewis and Clark
Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide x local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 x A B x C D

Mark F. Baumber / GHPD 7/12/2017
Signature of certifying official/Title: Date
Montana State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: Date

Title: State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

For Carson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

8.28.17

Date of Action

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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>22</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>28</u>	<u>4</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Animal facility

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Agricultural outbuilding

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Processing

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Storage

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Agricultural field

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Irrigation facility

DOMESTIC: Single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Animal facility

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Agricultural outbuilding

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Storage

LANDSCAPE

DOMESTIC: Single dwelling

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: Vernacular

OTHER: National Style/gable-front-and-wing

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundations: WOOD: Log

_____ STONE

_____ CONCRETE

Walls: WOOD: Weatherboard Log

Roof: WOOD: Shingle

_____ METAL: Iron, Steel

_____ OTHER: (tarpaper)

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Gerhing Ranch, located 10 miles north-northwest of Helena, is significant for its association with the agricultural history of Lewis and Clark County, Montana, as represented by the buildings, sites and structures that were developed by the Gehring family who homesteaded and later expanded farming and ranching operations on and around the property. The property is

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situated on Silver Creek and consists of the ranch headquarters, its homes, barns, outbuildings, groves, and orchard remnants. The ranch began as a set of rough log structures that were added on to and supplemented with other buildings as the owners adapted to market forces, technological advances and the effects of their ambitions to enlarge the scope and land area of their operations. Set within the foothill region of the Rocky Mountain Front, and draped along a slope rising from meadow to hillside, the headquarters illustrate elements of agricultural responses to environmental and economic changes in this region. Its buildings represent distinct passages of time linked to stages of construction types; log, timber frame, and formal frame, each of which reflects the needs of the ranch at certain periods of its development. Granaries, barns, animal shelters, homes, sheds and a feed mill are among its most significant structures. These, having been in continuous use since the early 1870s, have retained a high degree of historical integrity, rendering the ranch a premier illustration of its historical agricultural theme, a theme enriched by personal accounts that give depth to the story of the Gehring Ranch.

Historic Resources of the Gehring Ranch.

The Gehring Ranch, ten miles north-northwest of Helena, Montana, straddles Silver Creek, a stream that, at this juncture, flows southeast. Buildings on the Gehring Ranch are positioned along an axis that bears northeast, stretching one third of a mile from a point just west of the creek to a bench overlooking the fields below. Most of the buildings sit on the eastern slope of Silver Creek's gently rising valley. Highway 279 (Lincoln Road), which parallels the stream, bisects the ranch site, separating a southwest corralled area containing cattle barns from the house, workshops and small animal shelter area upslope to the northeast. Along the southern edge of the ranch site an intermittent drainage, Trust To Luck Gulch, provides additional slope, allowing the ground to shed runoff in two directions.

Early ranching operations in Montana, as elsewhere, placed exacting responsibilities on their owners in order for them to succeed. High levels of personal energy and focused commitment were needed to address the complex diversity of ranching. Owners needed to respond with innovation and consistent practicality to make ranches work. The Gehring Ranch was no exception and the Gehring family demonstrated its ability to meet ranching's challenges by maintaining ownership of the ranch as well as its profitability over time.

The qualities of innovation and practicality were also represented in buildings, features and structures that make up the ranch headquarters, an assemblage designed solely to support the Gehring agricultural operations. One element of relative frivolity is a small swimming pool for the ranch family's children. Otherwise, the sheds, granaries, barns, dwellings, and other elements present in the assemblage are singularly focused to sustain poultry, pigs, cattle, horses, bison, grains and other food crops. Laid out in a narrow oval from the edge of Silver Creek's shallow valley to the banks of Silver Creek itself, the Gehring Ranch site historically utilized every topographical advantage to complement the same productive end. By straddling the roadway, the ranch was placed directly in the path of its original customers.

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Nearly without exception, its buildings date from the early 1870s to the 1930s, a period of development culminating in the stabilization of the ranch as a successful productive unit. Also nearly without exception, the ranch stands as built or improved within that time, its surroundings largely unaltered. As such, the Gehring Ranch aptly conveys a rural, agricultural feeling and vividly displays the workmanship, design, and materials selected by its rancher-builders that forge strong associations with its past.

RESOURCE DESCRIPTIONS:

MAP KEY	NAME		NUMBER OF PROPERTIES		SIGNIFICANCE	
#1	Bunkhouse #1		1 Building		Contributing	
ORIGINAL USE	PRESENT USE	WALL	ROOF	FOUNDATION	DIMENSIONS	DATE(S)
Dwelling	Unused	Log, Lapped Siding	Shingled-wood (deteriorated)	Log Skids	8' Wide x 15' Long	1870s, 1930s

Bunkhouse #1 is a rectangular single pen square-notched log cabin with a gable roof. The walls are flat-faced and adz-worked. Clay chinking accompanied by wooden twigs fill the log gaps. Gable ends are finished with lap siding over upright wooden boards on rough stud walls. The rafters are rough-cut lumber, notched to accommodate the uppermost wall log and sheathed with cedar shingled planks. Eaves are treated with simple boards nailed to rafter ends or to the roof sheathing. Fenestration was accomplished by cutting openings in the logs and finishing them with 2-inch wide boards to create casings and sills. The structure is oriented generally north-south along the gable axis with a single doorway with narrow board surrounds on the south end.

A vertical plank door in the south elevation, fitted with a round metal doorknob, opens inward to access an open interior. Single window openings occur in the east and west sidewalls; the east elevation window remains in place and has a two-over-two configuration. The west elevation window is missing. Two vertical boards set several inches away from the window frame bracket these openings and may have supported screens or shutters. The building was skidded to this location on logs that remain in place, serving as a foundation since its move. A chimney is cut into the roof at the rear of the building. Nailed to the opposite end is a tripod metal brace without visible utility. Similarly, a wooden stud is nailed above the doorway and extends about a foot above the outer eave at the gable end.

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The interior was finished with lath and plaster in the early twentieth century. Magazines used to seal the interior walls date from 1928. "Square" or cut iron nails are present beneath this cosmetic adaptation.¹ The workmanship, including log notching, are consistent with other buildings on the ranch, however, this is the only log building with square notches.

Bunkhouse #1 is whole, upright, and its features are of the early historic period (1870s). Materials and their treatment are consistent with the likely period of construction and use. The roof is badly deteriorated. No shingles remain on the west slope and many are missing on the east. Remaining roof sheathing is heavily weathered. Lower wall logs are also badly weathered and much of the chinking is eroded or missing. The lower northwest corner notches are dislodged. One window is missing. Nonetheless, the structure more than adequately represents its period of construction and its original function.

¹ Regarding wire nail use in the Helena, Montana area: Reviewing the Helena Independent between the years 1889 to 1891, one finds the following items: A reference to "Wire Nails" appears as early as 1884 in an article on tariffs where duties on imported wire nails were raised to the discouragement of American importers. Between January 1, 1889 to October 9, 1891, Helena Independent advertisements for "Wire Nails" appeared 154 times by firms operating in Helena. These were: Holter Hardware, Irwin, Field and Company and Thomas Goff Co. After 1891 only the Curtin company advertised nails without distinguishing whether cut or wire. They did this for a couple of years. Subsequently, nails are not even advertised until the 1930s when the local Montgomery Ward store included them in household repair ads. Statistics published by the American Iron and Steel Association appeared in the Helena Independent Record of April 23, 1891, detailing US production of kegs of wire nails at 3,155,911 vs. 5,630,946 kegs of both iron and steel cut nails. By this time the availability and consumption of wire nails in the US was widespread. A decade later, in its issue of June, 25, 1900, Hardware Magazine published statistics on wire nail production in the United States, finding that *"in 1899 the production of wire nails exceeded the production of cut nails by 5,695,182 kegs. In 1897 the wire-nail production exceeded the cut nail production by 6,890,446 kegs."* In 1904 the magazine included a humorous anecdote about the superior holding strength of cut nails over wire nails so the debate continued, promoted by the cut nail providers, over which was the better product. By that time consumers had made their decision - wire nails were preferable almost to the exclusion of cut nails and this was likely based on relative pricing. The effective date assigned to the general availability of wire (or round) nails in the Helena area is ca. 1890. In addition, it can be assumed that cut (or square) nails and wire nails were both in use between 1889 and 1900. Kegs of both types were likely held in the inventory of contractors, and carpenters as well as farmers, ranchers and home handymen. Prices must have increasingly favored the more efficiently produced wire varieties while personal preference and leftover cut nail stock would extend the use of iron cut nails. Iron nails were also salvageable, surviving fires well enough to be reused. This was a centuries old practice that can assumed to be continued when economy was an issue.

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MAP KEY	NAME		NUMBER OF PROPERTIES		SIGNIFICANCE	
# 2	Thresher Shed		1 Building		Contributing	
ORIGINAL USE	PRESENT USE	WALL	ROOF	FOUNDATION	DIMENSIONS	DATE(S)
Shed	Shed	Open	Planks-Wood	None – Pole Barn	30' Long x 16' Wide x 12' High	Ca. 1917

This shed, which existed prior to 1926 was apparently built to house the threshing machine that it still shelters, however marginally.² Built along the lines of a pole barn, its round uprights were sunk into the soil and connected with horizontal bracing to which vertical boards were nailed to form walls. The roof, made of log rafters sheathed with boards, probably sloped eastward. It may have been shingled. Some of its fixtures are secured with “square” or cut iron nails but it appears to be of salvaged materials. The thresher shed has collapsed to the point where it is difficult to determine its original configuration.

MAP KEY	NAME		NUMBER OF PROPERTIES		SIGNIFICANCE	
# 3	Hog Shelter		1 Building		Contributing	
ORIGINAL USE	PRESENT USE	WALL	ROOF	FOUNDATION	DIMENSIONS	DATE(S)
Hog Shed	Unused	Earth-Planks-Wood	Hay	Beam On Grade, Pole Barn	35' Long x 20' Wide	Post-1914. Pre-1926.

The Gehring Hog Shelter is a large expanse of post-and-beam timberwork set in a hillside in “dugout” fashion, the south end being walled and windowed with a single entry. It stands one story high and is secured with wire nails. Although dug into the hillside to the west, north and east, the Hog Shelter’s earthen berms do not extend to its walls but are set back, allowing a

² David Gehring Journals: entry of Nov 30, 1926, “Put thrashing machine in shed”.

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complete circumnavigation of the shelter. The walls themselves are haphazardly constructed of what were materials at hand; sawn boards, of varying lengths, some set vertically and others horizontally, log posts and random timbers. On top of this ragged wall and extending above the open space between it and the surrounding earthen berm, logs and random boards are laid down. These form a semi-circular breezeway, probably to facilitate ventilation. Ventilation is certainly the objective of a large chimney-like tower built into the rear wall. Over two feet square and extending upward some ten feet above the roof, it would have created a substantial draft, drawing interior air through and away from the shelter. The roof itself consists of logs eight inches or more in diameter with their ends laid upon the top of the walls. They run the length of the shelter. They are supported by three large cross-beams placed on substantial wooden uprights in the center of the floor, the strength of which allow free access to the interior. Upright poles fixed to these cross-beams allow the interior to be segmented into crude pens, four to a side. Completed with 'hog-wire' these could have been used for farrowing.

The front (south) façade has a fenestration pattern of window-door-window featuring imbedded upright logs and vertical board infill on a wooden sill foundation. A log header, the last in the series of cross-beams supporting the roof, completes this wall. The long rectangular window openings are positioned between large horizontal timbers, top and bottom, bolted to the wooden spandrel material. A casement window sags from the west opening, obviously a later add-on. No other window openings exist. The entry is low and narrow. A distinguishing feature is the remains of a "porch" contrived from having the roof logs overhang the front façade by four feet or so. Six-by-2-inch boards angle forward from the front upright logs and extend beyond the roof. They support hay piled on the roof. The building was once electrified as evidenced by porcelain insulators nailed to the timbers.

The Hog Shelter is deteriorated but all of its components are present in their original arrangement. Several log roof beams are rotting at the ends, a situation also true of lesser wooden members at ground level. The entire building appears to be leaning southward, but rather than general sag from the weight of hay overhead, this does not seem to derive from any major structural failure. The hay itself is piled high in some places and missing in others. The wooden ventilation tower lacks most of its board sheathing. Despite the slow deterioration of the Hog Shelter, it aptly conveys information on how it was constructed, its function, and purpose.

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MAP KEY	NAME		NUMBER OF PROPERTIES		SIGNIFICANCE	
# 4	Shed #1 (Hog shed)		1 Building		Contributing	
ORIGINAL USE	PRESENT USE	WALL	ROOF	FOUNDATION	DIMENSIONS	DATE(S)
Hog Shed	Unused	Stone, Board-and-Batten	Corrugated Metal	Masonry, Dry Laid Stone	30' x 18'	August 1911

Shed #1 is a single story, shed roofed stone and timber frame structure oriented primarily along a north-south axis. On the west side, a single stone retaining wall is imbedded into a gently sloping hillside. This supports timber beam structural elements working off the masonry upon which rafters are placed to span the width of the rectangular plan. The rafters are met on the east wall by timber plates on uprights of similar material set on a rubble stone foundation. The foundation is sheathed with board-and-batten to a height of about five feet. This east wall has two low, narrow openings that flank the wall's center, leaving a five-foot space between them. They are presently without doors but evidence of a door or surround shows in the interrupted patina around the openings' aged wood. To the right of the northern door, at eave level, is a narrow multi-light sliding window. Around the corner, the north wall is a blank expanse of board-and-batten that gradually rises at the foundation level to allow for a sloping floor and roof, though the two do exactly parallel each other. The roof at the northwest corner of the building is just tall enough to allow headroom for a small-statured adult. The Gehrings were not tall.

The west masonry wall is constructed of locally gathered stone set in a lime mortar. The open eave with exposed rafter roof terminates immediately above this wall. A wooden fascia board connects the projecting rafters. These in turn are fitted with narrow trim. The south wall contains a door to the left of a central window now fitted with a decorative sash divided in the center and bordered by narrow panes. The hog shelter is finished with board-and-batten, save for the door which features vertical boards armored with bent-over wire nails that secure horizontal members on the inside. Electrical lines to a light fixture and other interior fixtures appear here. The broad expanse of roof is sheathed in corrugated metal, folded over at the ends to facilitate runoff. At the west end of the roof, set back from the edge about four feet, project two square wooden ventilators made of wood planks. A collapsing dugout is located off the west wall. Made of heavy timber, it appears to have been added after construction of the main building. The collapsing dugout contains a doorway about half the size of a standard door.

This building was constructed with "round" or wire nails, peeled pine posts and salvaged timbers (telegraph crossbeams) along with rough cut timber beams. The siding treatment compares with

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other buildings on the property that date later than 1877 and before the 1920s. It was built by David Gehring in the late summer and fall of 1911³. Like the Root Cellar (Hen House), it utilizes berming to help manage interior temperatures.

From the photographic evidence and the materials now present in the building it is clear that shed #1 is little changed since its time of significance when hog production was a significant part of Gehring Ranch operations. Shed #1, intact except for the collapsing northwest cellar, retains very good integrity.

MAP KEY	NAME		NUMBER OF PROPERTIES		SIGNIFICANCE	
# 5:	Shed #2 (woodshed)		1 Building		Contributing	
ORIGINAL USE	PRESENT USE	WALL	ROOF	FOUNDATION	DIMENSIONS	DATE(S)
Wood Shed	Unused	Horizontal & Vertical Board-and Batten	Corrugated Metal	None - Pole Shed	10' x 15'	1928?

Shed # 2 is a single story, shed roof pole barn located directly to the east of House #1. The roof slope follows the long axis, running northwest to southeast from a height of 8 feet to about 5 feet. A doorway is in the center of the southwest elevation, between two upright posts or logs set into the ground. Toward the southernmost end of the building, a wall segments the interior lengthwise leaving the north section open. The walls are of rough sawn boards nailed vertically on the south and upper north sections and horizontally on the north lower half. This latter area has horizontal poles on the top to secure the upper sheathing. The northernmost wall is sheathed with similar lumber set vertically and affixed to small horizontal posts spiked into the corner uprights. The northeasterly wall materials replicate those of the southwesterly side with the exception of the northern section's upper half which is open. Very wide vertical boards clad the southeast elevation and on its right end hangs a hinged door of similar materials. Corrugated iron sheets cover the roof.

Immediately to the north of Shed # 2 sits a premade chain-link fence enclosure measuring 6 feet x 6 feet x 5 feet that stands independently. Immediately west of this is a metal clothesline.

³ David Gehring Journals: entry of August 7, 1911, "started to scrape out place for hog house."

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Shed # 2, the woodshed, although somewhat ramshackle, clearly exhibits historical and structural integrity. The materials and methods of construction are consistent with others on the ranch; stripped pine pole rafters and timbers, rough cut lumber and board and batten siding. It does not appear in the photos taken around 1914 and is likely contemporaneous with the last iteration of the main ranch house nearby, which is considered to be contributing.

MAP KEY	NAME		NUMBER OF PROPERTIES		SIGNIFICANCE	
# 6	Shed #3 (Turkey Shed)		1 Building		Contributing	
ORIGINAL USE	PRESENT USE	WALL	ROOF	FOUNDATION	DIMENSIONS	DATE(S)
Turkey Shed	Unused	Wood Boards	Corrugated Metal	None - Pole Shed	10' x 5'	Ca. 1935

Shed # 3, the Turkey Shed, is a single story shed roofed pole structure oriented north-south along the roof peak. It stands open on three sides and is sheathed in plain sawn boards on the north end. The building slopes from a height of about 11 feet on the east to 8 feet on the west. A fallen beam on the west suggests a wall once existed here, while wire on the south side suggests this was open. A depression to the south may have held another building or piece of equipment. Just beyond the northeast corner of the shed stands an electrical pole bearing several ceramic insulators for knob and tube feeds. Wires still attach to these insulators. Overall, the building is in fair to poor condition.

Shed #3, the Turkey Shed, possesses sufficient physical integrity to convey the historical association with the story of its use, that of the Gehring children's participation in the agricultural youth program, 4-H. Its roof remains intact and although the upright posts lean a bit, they continue to provide support. The beams and boards are heavily weathered but generally remain in place.

MAP KEY	NAME		NUMBER OF PROPERTIES		SIGNIFICANCE	
# 7	Privy #1		1 Building		Contributing	
ORIGINAL USE	PRESENT USE	WALL	ROOF	FOUNDATION	DIMENSIONS	DATE(S)
Privy #1	Privy	Unused	Wood Boards	Tarpaper Over Boards	5' x 5'	Ca. 1948

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Leaning slightly backward, sinking into its underground vault, Privy #1 is probably the most recently constructed of the three buildings of its type on the ranch. It is a very simple wood framed, plain board sheathed structure with a decaying tarpaper roof. The door (south side) is missing. This privy is thought to have served house #2 when it was built in 1948. Privy #1 is weathered and leaning backward but still is obviously a privy and has a connection with a specific relationship with another structure and historical phase of the ranch site.

MAP KEY	NAME		NUMBER OF PROPERTIES		SIGNIFICANCE	
# 8	Privy #2		1 Building		Contributing	
ORIGINAL USE	PRESENT USE	WALL	ROOF	FOUNDATION	DIMENSIONS	DATE(S)
Privy	Unused	Shiplap	Shingled-Wood	Concrete	4' x 5'	Ca. 1935

Privy # 2 possesses many features common to Works Progress Administration productions and is probably one of them. The WPA produced about 2.3 million privies between 1934 and 1943.⁴ Typical of later production, these were 4 feet x 5 feet wood frame enclosures with single shed roofs and cement floors that included molded commodes. The interiors were fitted with ventilation flues and eaves that featured open vents. The frame of this structure is sheathed with shiplap siding all around and trimmed at the corners and openings with 1" x 3" flat boards. The door (south side) is set to the right of the wall. It is made of vertical boards on a Z frame. The distinguishing WPA roof slants front-to-back on boards nailed to transverse rafters terminating in a wide fascia, also typically WPA in design. On the interior and molded into the cement floor is the standard commode support, beveled at the sides and rising to accept a hinged wooden seat. Behind this rises a galvanized sheet metal tube reaching from the floor to a vent in the roof.

Privy # 2 has been affected by the elements but is in fair condition. The shingles are weathered and some are missing but all the remaining elements of the original building are present and in good order.

⁴ Sandra Opdycke, *The WPA: Creating Jobs and Hope in the Great Depression* (New York, NY: Routledge, 2016); "WPA Privy (1935-1943)," History Colorado, accessed January 3, 2017, <http://www.historycolorado.org/content/wpa-privy-1935-1943>.

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MAP KEY	NAME		NUMBER OF PROPERTIES	SIGNIFICANCE		
# 9	Privy #3		1 Building	Contributing		
ORIGINAL USE	PRESENT USE	WALL	ROOF	FOUNDATION	DIMENSIONS	DATE(S)
Privy	Unused	Lap Siding	Shingled-Wood	None	5' x 5'	Unknown.

Privy # 3 is located about 60 feet northeast of House # 1. It is a wood frame structure partially sheathed with lap siding. Gable ends appear on the front (generally facing south) and back (north) walls. The roof is covered with rough sawn boards and a combination of sawn cedar shingles and shakes. A door is set slightly to the left of center on the south wall. Above it is a rectangular opening that lacks either a glass window or screen. The door is a panel of vertical boards. Privy # 3 recently burned. It leans backward at a considerable angle, indicating structural failure. The westerly wall is missing. While the integrity of this feature is compromised, it retains sufficient integrity to impart its historic function.

MAP KEY	NAME		NUMBER OF PROPERTIES	SIGNIFICANCE		
# 10	Engine House		1 Building	Contributing		
ORIGINAL USE	PRESENT USE	WALL	ROOF	FOUNDATION	DIMENSIONS	DATE(S)
Heavy Equipment Storage	Buggy and Ranch Material Storage	Board-and-Batten, Vertical Boards, Corrugated Metal	Metal	Timbers On Stone, Concrete, Pole Barn	20' x 16' 10' x 16' Lean-to	Post-1914, possibly 1917.

The Engine House is a tall, single story wood frame front-gable structure with a lean-to shed attached to its rear (east) wall. It is oriented generally north-south along the apex of the gable. The main portion of the building, un-partitioned on the interior with a log service pit, is supported by wide dimension rough-sawn lumber, posts and corner timbers set in the ground. The walls are sheathed with board-and-batten siding, also rough-sawn. The front (south) façade features new paired oversized plywood doors. It is a steep roof, recently covered in metal roofing. Unlike other utilitarian structures on the ranch, this one has boxed-in eaves. The east and west elevations contain centered paired six-light windows, trimmed with flat, narrow boards.

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A simple lean-to with a shed roof is tacked to the rear of the building. Constructed along the lines of a pole barn, with posts set into the ground to form uprights and lumber nailed between them to accommodate sheathing, this appears to be a later addition. Typical of other buildings on the ranch, the lean-to is covered on two sides and also roofed with rough-sawn boards. The shed is open on the west side only because the wall has fallen “face down” on the ground. When in place, there was an entry on the right side of this wall fixed with hinges on the building itself.

The Engine House retains good integrity. Despite the new entry doors and roof, the building retains much of its original materials. The front façade leans demonstrably to the north, so much so that one of its new doors (the south door) was cut as a trapezoid instead of a square to swing on the southwest beam, an upright that may have been knocked out of position by a blow or moved gradually by structural stress. Nonetheless, the building is sound. Its lean-to is intact with the exception of the fallen north wall, although the roof boards are deteriorating.

MAP KEY	NAME		NUMBER OF PROPERTIES		SIGNIFICANCE	
# 11	House #2 and foundation		1 Building		Noncontributing	
ORIGINAL USE	PRESENT USE	WALL	ROOF	FOUNDATION	DIMENSIONS	DATE(S)
Dwelling	Dwelling	Frame	Metal Gable	Concrete	13' x 35' 16' x 28'	1948. Burned 1970. Built New 2017.

House #2 is recent, non-historic construction within the Gehring Ranch Historic District. Built in 2017, it is a single-story frame building with a “T” plan, the top of the “T” being on the east end. House #2’s entry faces generally southeast and sports a built-in porch down the long leg of the “T”. It features narrow siding, a moderate-slope metal roof, and wooden porch railings. The building sits on a historic concrete foundation that originally served the same purpose for an earlier second family dwelling on the ranch. The earlier dwelling, constructed over a two-year period ending in 1948, burned in 1970. The present building was constructed to fit on the original "T" shape of the foundation.

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MAP KEY	NAME		NUMBER OF PROPERTIES		SIGNIFICANCE	
# 12	Bunkhouse #2		1 Building		Contributing	
ORIGINAL USE	PRESENT USE	WALL	ROOF	FOUNDATION	DIMENSIONS	DATE(S)
Dwelling	Unused	Shiplap Sided Frame	Corrugated Metal	Concrete	22' Long x 16' Wide	Ca. 1920

Bunkhouse # 2 is a single story, side-gable, wood frame building. A concrete foundation positions the building at the crest of a rise with a commanding view of the ranch property. The building is aligned northwest-southeast. The elevations are clad with simple-drop siding and the roof topped with corrugated sheeting; the eaves are boxed. Eave ends are decorated with double molded trim as are brief returns complete with fascia at each gable end. The remnant of an interior ridge chimney projects from the center of the roofline. The five-panel wood door, located in the southwest elevation, opens out onto a wooden step looking down toward the highway and barn. North of the door are two one-over-one double-hung windows; the same type of window appears in the south elevation. All the sills are of 2-inch planks and extend beyond the trim. The door and windows are framed with flat, unadorned wood trim. Oversized boards serve as cornerboards, and as a beltcourse, or molding, between the bottom of the cladding and the foundation. Hardware is flat and unadorned.

Electrical service to the house enters on the northwest elevation. Remnants of the previous knob-and-tube single wire system remain in the form of a 2" x 4" board fixed to the gable peak and a strut extending from the outer wall near the level where the roof begins. Also connected to the 2" x 4" board is a large circular sawblade and metal ring that served as an automated alarm that once connected to the main ranch house (#1) and operated to awaken the hands when Mr. Gehring called them to the breakfast. Reverberations caused by the heavy ring striking the blade proved a reliable means of rousing the crew.

Bunkhouse #2 retains excellent integrity and is associated with the history of the expansion and operation of the ranch.

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MAP KEY	NAME		NUMBER OF PROPERTIES		SIGNIFICANCE	
# 13	Waterline		1 Structure		Contributing	
ORIGINAL USE	PRESENT USE	WALL	ROOF	FOUNDATION	DIMENSIONS	DATE(S)
Water delivery	unused	Na	Na	Na	Shallow linear excavation, 4-inch iron pipe	1870s-1880s', pre-1907 (pipe)

The waterline was an excavated ditch later fitted with an above-ground iron pipe to direct water to specific places for the purpose of irrigation. The ditch ran from a distant spring and terminated north of the main ranch house in the center of the evergreen grove. It was a portion of a much longer water ditch dating from at least the mid-1880s. Today, the waterline is grassed over but still quite distinct. The rusty iron pipe consists of 20-foot segments that are variously attached and disconnected on the ground. Some 275 feet of water ditch run within the boundaries of the nomination, beginning near the southwest corner of house # 2 and running in a gentle north-by-northwest curve to a point just west of bunkhouse #1.

A west branch of the ditch also remains visible. It began just beyond the northern fence line, paralleled the ditch and water pipe, and ended in the high elevation northeast of the main ranch house. It was positioned to allow water to drain down into gardens near the house. Other surface features associated with the west branch of the waterline remain but their role in the system and their dates of construction are unknown. They include a depression at the terminus of the west branch of the ditch and other ground disturbances in that immediate area. The cellar under house #1 used running water to cool milk and other goods but whether this was the source of water or whether the coolant came from wells on the property is not clear. A pipe running under the road to the barns may also be associated with the system but, again, where the water for that pipe came from is unknown⁵.

⁵ David Gehring Journals.

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MAP KEY	NAME		NUMBER OF PROPERTIES	SIGNIFICANCE		
# 14	House #1		1 Building	Contributing		
ORIGINAL USE	PRESENT USE	WALL	ROOF	FOUNDATION	DIMENSIONS	DATE(S)
Dwelling	Dwelling	Shiplap Sided Log & Frame	Shakes - Cedar	Stone & Concrete		1871, Ca. 1873, Ca. 1900, 1928

House #1 is the Main Ranch House, serving in that capacity for over 150 years. Overall, this vernacular building is a composite featuring several additions and alterations. Beneath the shiplap siding are two log cabins, the first probably built in 1871 and the second a few years later. Like many rural homes, these original structures were added on to as the numbers and fortunes of their residents expanded. In the fall of 1928, the rambling nature of this home enveloped the cabins and a subsequent alteration that combined them into one unit. The present house is the result of the 1928 revision.⁶

The building is an "L" plan in design and features an intersecting gable in the elbow of the "L". The main façade faces southwest with the L-wing projecting northeast off the rear of the building. Projecting off the southeast elevation of the wing is a shed roof entry porch. The main mass of the house, including the wing, is topped with cedar shakes; the porch retains at least some of its old sawn cedar shingles. Fenestration is fairly consistent. Most main floor windows are one-over-one double hungs on the wing, and two-over-two double-hungs on the main façade. All feature plain, flat board surrounds and projecting sills. The same is true of entry treatment. Corner trim is similarly plain, though molded round on the outmost point. Wall trim appears at corners, as mentioned, and runs along the base of the siding and as fascia boards beneath the roof's unadorned boxed eaves.

House #1 orients to the highway, establishing a formal presence on a steep rise east of the road. From the road one looks up at a long, single story facade that appropriately displays the home's main entries and porch. Fenestration, north to south, consists of a window offset to the left (north), an entry and similar window, another entry, and, on the far south portion of the elevation, two more windows. An open front porch is covered by a shed roof. Chamfered posts,

⁶ David Gehring Journals: papers inserted between pages of the journals record the purchase of materials for this addition dated May and October, 1928.

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fitted with curvilinear brackets, support the porch. Five modern 6" x 6" posts stand just beyond the edge of the porch in what appears to be an unfinished outward extension. This section of the house envelopes two log cabins, the one to the northwest slightly older and larger than the other. They were built gable-to-gable and also faced the roadway. Around the turn of the twentieth century they became encased in framework and siding but their dimensions still influenced the outer and inner configurations of the structure. In this alteration, the smaller, southwestern, cabin had its roof raised to the level of the other, making it possible for the house to appear as though it was one complete unit.

To the southeast is the junction between the original section and the eastward extending wing. Looking at it, one can see the width of the log house inside the framed wall on the west side, its roof height now consistent with the higher portion. In the gable end is a horizontal sliding window with two sashes. The south elevation of the wing addition continues the wall line of the older section and contains single double hung windows offset to the east. An interior brick chimney rises above the center of the addition's roof and an interior slope chimney projects from the northern side.

The northeast façade spreads wide under a broad, two story gable that was added to the rear of the original cabins in late 1928. It is the last major alteration made to the house. Two windows light upstairs bedrooms and an identical window provides light into the north portion of the ground level. An enclosed porch shields the main entry into the house on the southeast elevation of this section. The present shed roof entry consists of an original portion comprised of a ribbon of 1-over-1 double hung windows on the easterly and northerly elevations, and a more recently constructed (though still apparently historic) less-finished shed addition constructed from scrap lumber and wood and square two-over-two utility windows for light. Typical of most farm houses, this rear entry is the most utilized. The northwest elevation of the wing contains a small double hung window in the center, and the northern gable elevation of the original mass contains a four-light gable window and a one-over-one double hung unit in the ground level.

The interior of the main ranch house is broken up into small rooms, again typical of many rambling rural places. Where the log cabins are encased, window and door reveals are deep and trimmed with wide boards. The new addition has a more open kitchen space with built-in cupboards and a dumb waiter to transfer food items between there and the cellar. Craftsman trim abounds with much of it in varnished pine. Little has been altered since the 1920s addition with the exception of a bathroom installation. The water system was upgraded as the old water line setup became less reliable. Cold water once ran through the cellar to chill milk and other goods but this system was replaced by mechanical refrigeration methods long ago.

House # 1 is habitable and is historically intact, its features consistent with alterations made in 1928. There is some deterioration where the front porch roof has lost many of its sawn cedar shingles. Otherwise the cedar shakes (non-historic) are more than adequately protecting the rest of the building. The shiplap siding remains tight and retains its paint. The Gehring ranch house

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is quite illustrative of the evolution of many historic ranch homes. It exemplifies the frugal balance between practicality, expanding space needs and a desire for modernization that characterizes vernacular domestic construction in rural Montana history.

MAP KEY	NAME		NUMBER OF PROPERTIES		SIGNIFICANCE	
# 15	Swimming Pool		1 Structure		Contributing	
ORIGINAL USE	PRESENT USE	WALL	ROOF	FOUNDATION	DIMENSIONS	DATE(S)
Recreational Swimming Pool	Unused	Na	Na	Concrete	31' x 8'	1928

The pool is a narrow concrete basin set into the ground at the edge of a rise located 20 feet north of the rear section of House #1. The edge of this feature rises only a few inches above grade. Designed as a wading and swimming pool, it has a deep end of indeterminate depth, being partially filled with earth, and slopes upward along its length to nearly lip level on the east end. The general plan is rectangular but the east edge is rounded outward.

MAP KEY	NAME		NUMBER OF PROPERTIES		SIGNIFICANCE	
# 16	Shop (Blacksmith and Carpentry)		1 Building		Contributing	
ORIGINAL USE	PRESENT USE	WALL	ROOF	FOUNDATION	DIMENSIONS	DATE(S)
Workshop	Workshop	Log	Metal	Stone Pier & Log	40' x 14'	Ca. 1871, 1880s, post-1890.

The Shop is a log structure with a frame dependency attached at one end. The log portion was built first. The whole shop is long and narrow, and runs along a southwest to northeast axis. The building has a corrugated sheet metal roof.

The westernmost section of the shop is constructed of logs laid horizontally connected with mixed saddle and saddle-V notching. The southwest gable's entry door is made of heavy rough-

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sawn, vertical boards. The door casing is made of similar material. The simple door hardware, remnants of a latch and a handle, is quite old. A heavy timber sill supports the doorway. The elevation logs are well weathered, also indicating age, and are round (unfinished) except for those closer the gable. Four logs are adz-cut flat, like those visible on the interior of House #1. A mixture of lime and sand interspersed with small split logs serve as chinking. The gable is finished in board-and-batten siding. This western portion sits on dry-laid stone; the remainder rests at grade. Windows in the log portion of the building are restricted to the southeast elevation where paired 6-light fixed units appear off-center to the west. These windows are set in a casing of heavy rough-sawn boards.

Attached to the northeast gable of the log section is a timber frame dependency. The use of different materials confirms the dependency was constructed in two sections. Looking at the dependency's southeast elevation, there is an 8-foot section to the left (southward) wherein the framing is of rough-cut lumber fastened with cut nails. The remaining 12-foot section to the right (northward) is mixed timber and dimension lumber framed and fastened with wire nails suggesting the right-hand section of the dependency was built after 1890. Overall, the dependency is covered with board-and-batten siding. It has a cement floor, rough board roof sheathing beneath the corrugated metal, and shelters a single open space. An interior brick chimney projects from the north slope of this portion of the building connecting to the blacksmith's forge inside. Entry to this section is gained through an opening on its southeast elevation near the juncture with the west section of the building. Presently the door is missing.

Windows appear in the northeast and northwest walls; the former holds paired 6-light windows. It has a sill but no casing. A secondary six-light unit is tacked over the north portion to cover gaps and a missing pane. An electrical supply and switch box is located on the north end of the elevation and the remnants of the old "knob and tube" wiring system dangle from a power pole (board) nailed to the center of the gable. The northwest elevation contains two 6-light units with sills and casings, one each to bring light to the two interior rooms of this portion of the building. In the northeast corner of the dependency's interior, on the southeast wall, is a hinged door which measures roughly three feet square and terminates at grade. It aligns with a small, square concrete platform on the interior floor and may have been used to hold coal for the forge.

Probably due to its position on a sloping gravel hillside that would not promote ground rot, and the fact that it appears to have been consistently roofed, the shop retains excellent physical integrity overall. Its logs, though weathered, are not deteriorated to a great degree, nor are they split. The board-and-batten section also retains integrity. No alterations, save for the use of corrugated metal on the roof, seem to postdate the late 19th century. The shop is an excellent representative of the early years of the ranch.

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MAP KEY	NAME		NUMBER OF PROPERTIES	SIGNIFICANCE		
# 17	Hen House		1 Building	Contributing		
ORIGINAL USE	PRESENT USE	WALL	ROOF	FOUNDATION	DIMENSIONS	DATE(S)
Hen House	Workshop	Earth Berm Stone, Log, Shiplap, Board-and- Batten	Metal	Stone and Dry Laid Stone	45' x 20'	Pre-1877. Post-1890 and pre- 1907 addition.

The hen house began as a root cellar to which was later attached a timber-framed dependency. The present building is a long, single story gable roofed building running southwest to northeast. The building is covered with modern, brown-toned metal roofing. The easternmost (and original) log-over-stone section measures 25 feet long and is half buried in the ground, similar to a bunker but stands full-height on its westernmost end. At grade and below grade, the walls of the hen house are made of local stone set in lime mortar. Above the stone, three layers of hand-hewn, dovetail-notched logs take the building to eave height. Chinking here is concealed behind thin, wide, rough-sawn boards. The gable ends are framed using full dimension lumber. Board-and-batten sheathing covers the southwest gable and horizontal drop siding finishes the northeast gable end. Three windows light the interior of the log portion of the building. All three windows feature casings of simple flat boards. Its southeast elevation has the same 6-light unit found on the shop building, while the eastern gable contains two nearly square, glassless, window openings.

The southwest half of the building, the later dependency, is timber-framed and sheathed with board-and-batten siding. Its roof level falls slightly below that of the original root cellar wall. It is pinned together at eave height by a transverse log connector. At ground level, this portion is supported with dry laid stone. The dependency measures 20 feet northeast-southwest, terminating in a balanced façade with two large window openings positioned on either side of a central doorway. Similar to features on other ranch buildings, a wooden post rises from above the door to the gable end. It is fitted with knob and tube wire insulators. The nearly square window openings have no sashes but are covered with woven wire. A large square timber serves as a sill for the vertical board door.

The easternmost end of the dependency joins (what was) the outer wall of the original root house, concealing the half-masonry wall, which is parged, and the entry boxed into its center. Visible only from the interior, the logs of the upper half of this wall are finished with rough-sawn boards. The original root house portion and the dependency are each open rooms. A high

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wooden threshold separates the front space from the back area. A central brick chimney projects from the near the center of the root house. Both sections of the roof are sheathed above with heavy boards that were, until recently, covered in decaying cedar sawn shingles. The underside of the original root house roof has a lining of heavy paper nailed down with short boards that form a ceiling. Both the old root cellar area and its dependency have earthen floors.

Wire nails appear in the walls of both the early building and throughout the addition. The roof covering both sections contains cut nails holding down the sheathing but otherwise displays wire nail fasteners. Outside, the board-and-batten is held in place with wire nails and so are slats that cover the chinking in the original root house. Blackened surfaces within the building suggest a fire may have occurred in the log portion, which could have led to roof replacement after 1890.

The hen house, like its nearby companion, the Shop, dates from the early years of the ranch. Due to its heavy construction and robust materials this building survives in relatively good condition. In spite of the failed roof and missing east windows, there appears to be no structural damage.⁷ Deterioration is present where the western portion's board siding meets grade and the rear (east) gable has several lengths of missing siding. This building possesses a high degree of historical integrity and exhibits strong associations with agricultural utility and the rough-hewn qualities that typify other structures on the ranch.

MAP KEY	NAME		NUMBER OF PROPERTIES		SIGNIFICANCE	
# 18	Granary #2		1 Building		Contributing	
ORIGINAL USE	PRESENT USE	WALL	ROOF	FOUNDATION	DIMENSIONS	DATE(S)
Grain Storage and Processing	Storage	Board-and-Batten, Metal, Shiplap	Corrugated Metal, Shingled-Wood	Dry Laid Stone	45' x 22'	Post-1890 and pre-1907, 1913 and 1928 additions.

Granary #2 is a single story wood frame structure consisting of three parts, a center section with two single story shed-roof wings to the north and south. The central section is square with gables on the east and west ends; its peak centered along a slightly northeast-southwest west

⁷ This roof was sheathed in metal in May, 2016. The building's historical integrity remains intact.

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axis. The shed wings differ in size. The north wing is slightly longer than its southern companion, and the south wing is slightly wider than the rest of the building. The north wing was used as a garage and the southern wing was used as a hen house and for storage.

The center section was constructed and continues to be used as a grain bin. Set nearly two feet above grade on dry-laid stone piers that carry its heavy timbered foundation, the grain bin is constructed of full dimension rough-sawn lumber fortified horizontally to resist the outward pressure of a heavy loaded interior. This space, occupying just over one-third of the entire plan, (24 feet long x 22 feet deep) has a board-and-batten covered gable on the west and east ends. Heavily oxidized corrugate steel sheeting clads the area below the gables.

The corrugated sheeting on the central grain bin's west elevation has been cut away immediately to the lower left of its plywood-covered central doorway, exposing the interior wall of the granary. Immediately left (north) of the larger section of removed corrugated sheeting is a smaller removed section; this served as access for an articulated power-take-off that extended into the grain bin wall and connected to a feed grinder inside. Just above the timber sill of the outside wall are the remains of a belted machine, probably a feed grinder, the axle of which is bolted to the studs of the two openings described above.

Fenestration is irregular over the four elevations of the entire structure. Four entries are cut into the west elevation including an in-gable entry, an oversize plywood door immediately below the gable door, a man-door in the south shed wing, and over-sized double-doors in the north shed-roofed wing. In addition, an opening appears just below the eave on the left side of the gable. The entries differ in size and purpose. The gable entry is covered by two vertical boards nailed over a small opening to the interior of the grain bin. It is just large enough to fit a mechanized grain elevator of the kind in common use in the early-to-mid-twentieth century. The other door serves the same purpose and is simply a smaller version cut into the angle of the eave. It extends a foot below the eave and is sized to accommodate a grain auger, a more efficient means of transferring grain commonly used after 1950. The center lower door is quite large and runs from the sill to the top plate of the first floor; behind the door are a series of moveable thresholds to allow access to the surface of the grain piled inside as the space was either being filled or emptied. The plywood door sports a narrow board surround and is affixed with two heavy strap hinges. It is a tight-fitting door, designed to resist mice and other pests. The double-doors in the north shed wing occupy most of the wall; the doors are made of heavy vertical boards and operate from a central latch on matching sets of three hinges, the westernmost strapped to the grain bin wall.

The east elevation contains a central heavy board-and-batten central door, cased in thick lumber, a board-and-batten man-door with a porcelain doorknob that pre-dates the granary's hardware in the south shed-roof wing, and paired 6-light windows in the north shed-roof wing.

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Paired 6-light windows are cut into the south elevation of the south shed wing. No fenestration occurs in the north elevation of the north shed wing.

As mentioned, the shed wings differ. The south wing is framed with a mixture of cut lumber and rough timbers. The north wing is framed with full-dimension lumber. The west and south walls of the south shed are clad with shiplap siding laid over old board-and-batten that is exposed on the wing's east end. On the north wing, corrugated steel sheeting is used to cover the east and north walls but shiplap is used on its west wall. Both wings are set on dry laid stone where their floor beams leave grade. Both tend to meet grade on the west side. The south wing's roof is neglected, its old cedar shingles are deteriorated and missing in sections. The east wing has relatively newer, corrugated metal roofing.

The south granary dependency appears to be the lean-to shed of the original log cabin home, built around 1871 and improved in later years. Beneath the shiplap siding dating to the time of construction of the second configuration of the old ranch house is the ubiquitous board and batten siding secured with "square" or cut iron nails. It was moved and joined to the granary in 1928 when the mid-generation home underwent its third and final expansion.

Granary #2 displays fair to good integrity depending on which section of the building is discussed. The south dependency has a badly deteriorated roof as the shingles are mostly missing and the sheathing boards on the upper slope are rotten through. The roof topping the north dependency is in better condition while the roof covering the central grain bin is well protected by metal sheeting. Again, with the exception of the south dependency's cobbled foundation, Granary #2 has a sound footing despite the fact that it stands on stacked rock piers. These are sturdy and the robust timber sills and joists that supporting their respective section are in good condition. Granary #2 clearly displays its association with an essential function of the Gehring Ranch, that of grain storage, whether that grain was used as a commodity for sale or as feed for animals who were also a commodity supporting the ranch. Its secondary uses, storage and garage space, were useful. The granary easily illustrates its important function relative to the period of significance.

MAP KEY	NAME		NUMBER OF PROPERTIES		SIGNIFICANCE	
# 19	Garage		1 Building		Contributing	
ORIGINAL USE	PRESENT USE	WALL	ROOF	FOUNDATION	DIMENSIONS	DATE(S)
Vehicle Storage	Vehicle Storage	Log	Metal	Timber on dry-laid stone	22' x 20'	1880s

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The Garage is a one story board-and-batten, timber-framed structure. It faces northwest with gables on the northeast and southeast ends along a northeast-southwest axis. Fenestration consists solely of a plywood double-door and an adjacent single plywood door, both of which make up the entire northwest elevation. The inner framing is of cut timbers with uprights and diagonal supports rather than stud wall construction. The sill timbers sit flat on the ground or, in places, are supported by dry laid stone. A partially buried railroad crosstie serves as an upright for the north wall. The roof has recently been sheathed with paneled metal roofing.

The southwest, southeast and northeast elevations display remnants of log framed lean-to sheds that served for storage to shelter some of the ranch's implements. The lean-to sheds had deteriorated and were recently removed. The interior timber framing of the garage suggests it represents one of the older buildings on the property. The building displays good integrity. The exterior, though weathered, remains in good condition and the new roof protects the shed without compromising its historical appearance. Both doors on the north side are obviously newer, being made of full sheets of modern plywood. These do not sufficiently diminish the overall historical feel of the structure.

MAP KEY	NAME		NUMBER OF PROPERTIES		SIGNIFICANCE	
# 20	Metal Shed		1 Building		Noncontributing	
ORIGINAL USE	PRESENT USE	WALL	ROOF	FOUNDATION	DIMENSIONS	DATE(S)
Vehicle Storage	Vehicle Storage	Metal Siding	Metal	Pole Shed	24' x 24'	2010

The Metal Shed is a single story pole barn open at one end (northwest) and used as vehicle storage. Its interior frame consists of 4" x 4" posts set into the ground and braced by horizontal boards covered with ribbed metal siding. The roof is made of 2" x 6" rafters covered with the same material. The Metal Shed is of relatively new construction and is in good condition. While important to the operation of the ranch, this structure does not date from the period of significance and is considered noncontributing.

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MAP KEY	NAME		NUMBER OF PROPERTIES		SIGNIFICANCE	
# 21	Barn #1		1 Building		Contributing	
ORIGINAL USE	PRESENT USE	WALL	ROOF	FOUNDATION	DIMENSIONS	DATE(S)
Animal Shelter	Animal Shelter	Horizontal Board Over Stud Frame	Corrugated Metal	Concrete, Masonry	50' x 50'	1930

Barn #1 is a wood frame two-story gambrel roof structure with a shed roof dependency. Typical of barns constructed in the early twentieth century, this structure was designed to house animals, primarily draft horses in its early days, as well as the hay and grain feed necessary for their care. Barn #1 is next to and parallels the highway and is precisely oriented northwest to southeast, the direction of its roof alignment. It is built on a slope which promotes drainage of its dirt floor. The basic foundation material is irregularly coursed stone in a cement mortar matrix. In places, this combination is overlain or extended with poured concrete. The framing system features stud walls of cured dimensional lumber sheathed with finished, flat faced, horizontal board siding. The roof frame, axial to the length of the barn, is an extension of the stud walls, braced inward to create the capacious soaring gable.

At the peak of the southeast gable, beneath the hayhood, is a large lancet haymow door. Hinged at the bottom, this door drops open to allow a pulley-and-rail system fixed to the beak overhead to lift hay into the second story mow. On the southeast elevation, flanking the haymow door, are two fixed two-over-two windows with square, flat-board surrounds, the standard window for this barn. Two more appear aligned with and near the eaves; below these, a line of three more are centered at ground floor height. The shed roof dependency extends to the west at eave height. Near the juncture of the main mass and the shed-roof wing is a large, square door, possibly used for ventilation of a portion of the shed's interior. A similar door appears near the center of the northwest elevation; below the door and near the far north edge of the northwest elevation, is another window of the same size and style previously described. The northwest elevation generally replicates its southern counterpart, *sans* the haymow door.

The southwest wing open shed extension drops from the barn's eave to a point about ten feet above grade. For the most part open, the shed is supported by four upright posts on concrete piers braced near the eave distributing the weight of the end roof beam. The barn roof is covered in corrugated galvanized iron sheeting. Eaves are boxed, the narrow purlin ends covered with simple boards.

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Inside, on the first floor, are several support timbers lining the north and south walls fitted with mangers and feed boxes. Above each of these, an opening into the haymow provides a drop for feed. Part of the interior contains a small granary space, also for feed. Next to this, a narrow staircase provides access to the mow.

The barn displays excellent integrity. Protected by the metal roof, it has not suffered from water intrusion. Weathering is more pronounced on the north exterior wall than elsewhere but the siding remains solid and intact. The interior remains configured largely as built. The structure decidedly expresses its association with the Gehring Ranch operations during the period of significance and is a major contributor to the ranch stead ambiance of the site.

MAP KEY	NAME		NUMBER OF PROPERTIES		SIGNIFICANCE	
# 22	Granary #1		1 Building		Contributing	
ORIGINAL USE	PRESENT USE	WALL	ROOF	FOUNDATION	DIMENSIONS	DATE(S)
Grain Storage	Grain Storage	Log	Shingled-wood	Dry Laid Stone	22' x 20'	Soon After 1877

Granary #1 is a single story square log structure with a low gable on the northeast and southwest sides. Gable ends are sheathed with board-and-batten siding. The horizontal logs are connected with both full and half dovetail notches and chinked with rough wood slats coated with lime mortar. The granary sits on a mound of earth in the center of the corrals west of the barn, its southwest end is partially covered by dirt while the northeast sill is more than a foot above grade. Sill logs are set on blocks of timbers and logs placed on dry-laid stone. The southwest wall sill, which is set on the top of the sloping mound, is completely encased in mortar and stone. The structure is further supported by a series of transverse timbers supported in the same manner. Rafters are open. Corrugated iron sheeting covers the roof, likely rough-cut boards over rough-sawn rafters.

The building has a centered double-door made of vertical boards positioned under the northeast gable. The doors are hinged on each side with period hardware. Two small openings covered with vertical board doors are in the southwest gable.

Granary #1 retains excellent integrity and stands as among the most picturesque and historic structures on the ranch. Its logs, flat-faced with an adze, appear to have changed little since

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built. The granary has a substantive historical presence. Its association with the long period of occupation and utility that characterizes the significance of the site is readily apparent.

MAP KEY	NAME		NUMBER OF PROPERTIES		SIGNIFICANCE	
# 23	Barn #2		1 Building		Contributing	
ORIGINAL USE	PRESENT USE	WALL	ROOF	FOUNDATION	DIMENSIONS	DATE(S)
Animal Shelter/Milk House/Hay Mow	Animal Shelter	Horizontal Board, Board-and-Batten	Corrugated Metal	Masonry, Concrete, Pole Barn	70' x 32'	1933

Barn #2 is a composite structure consisting of three primary units: a milk shed/feed storage, cattle barn, and loafing shed. The cattle barn is the central feature of this arrangement. It is a large two story frame structure with its roof axis running southwest to northeast. The roof is a saltbox, or catslide type, with the short, steep, slope facing southeast and the long, extended slope facing northwest. Board-and-batten clads much of the building, including the southeast elevation and roughly the south half of both the southwest and northeast elevations. The northwest elevation is clad with horizontal boards but these also wrap around to cover the westernmost half of the building. The barn is nearly featureless. The only interruption of the southeast façade is a Dutch door cut into the wall just west of center; two window openings occur under the gable of the northeast elevation.

These outer wall treatments mirror interior use. The southeast section (board-and-batten) houses hay storage and the northwest (horizontal boards) is a milking bay. The northwest milking bay wall is penetrated by seven small square windows. Centered on the roof ridge is a large ventilator topped with a low gable. The building stands on a concrete perimeter foundation. The milk room portion of the interior features a concrete floor.

The northeast door of the milking bay opens into the small shed-roofed milk shed by way of a hyphenated shed roof passage. The milk shed is a small frame structure set high on a concrete foundation and elevated floor for the purposes of hygiene and coolness. It faces southeast. A door is on its right (northeast) side and a squarish window is located immediately to the left. An interior brick chimney projects from the northeast roof corner. The northwest wall contains another window.

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A large, oversized barn door in the southwest elevation opens onto a corral which gives access to the southeast-facing loafing shed. The shed is a large, open board-and-batten covered post-and-beam structure five bays wide and two deep. Upright posts with “Y” brackets separate the bays. Other than the open front, the only fenestration is an oversized vertical board door in the northeast elevation.

Barn # 2 displays excellent integrity and continues to service the cattle operation. The roofs, siding, and foundations of the buildings are sound. As a milking facility, this structure played an integral role in the Gehring Ranch operation for many years; it continues to clearly portray this association and continues the pattern of operational adaptation to markets and circumstance central to the significance of the Gehring Ranch.

MAP KEY	NAME		NUMBER OF PROPERTIES		SIGNIFICANCE	
# 24	The Stable		1 Building		Contributing	
ORIGINAL USE	PRESENT USE	WALL	ROOF	FOUNDATION	DIMENSIONS	DATE(S)
Animal Shelter	Animal Shelter	Log	Na	Dry Laid Stone	40' x 40'	1871-1872

The Stable is one of the original buildings at the site. Presently, the building serves as a shelter for cattle and bison. It is a two story log building featuring a forebay overhang sheltering the entrance. Materials and treatments for each story differ. The first floor is constructed of heavy logs square faced by hand and joined with dovetail notches. The heavy, dense logs, despite their age, have weathered very well. The upper story is constructed of smaller logs, finished to a lesser degree, and more subject to deterioration. Corner notching displays a cruder form of dovetailing. The east wall of the second story (which has a center window opening), is chinked with lime mortar but the south wall chinking is absent. The roof has collapsed. Rafters run opposite the entry, suggesting gable ends north and south. The ground floor sill logs sit either directly on the ground or on a low collapsing unmortared rock foundation.

The Stable, though deteriorated, retains sufficient integrity to be a contributing resource of the property.

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MAP KEY	NAME	NUMBER OF PROPERTIES			SIGNIFICANCE	
# 25	Calf Sheds	2 Buildings			Counted as one Contributing building	
ORIGINAL USE	PRESENT USE	WALL	ROOF	FOUNDATION	DIMENSIONS	DATE(S)
Animal Shelter	Animal Shelter	Board-and-Batten	Corrugated Metal	Log Skids	13' x 10'	1960s

The Calf Sheds consist of two small, timber frame, shed roof structures clad with vertical boards; the boards on the western shed overlap while those on the eastern shed are butted together. Each shed is covered with iron shed roof panels and each is open to the west side; the open side of the sheds are fixed with two boards that span the opening allowing the passage of smaller animals, but excluding larger animals. The calf sheds set on log skids and can be positioned to best advantage. The Calf Sheds are part of the cattle operation at the ranch and convey a certain utility toward that end. They were constructed during the ranch's period of significance and retain integrity.

MAP KEY	NAME	NUMBER OF PROPERTIES			SIGNIFICANCE	
# 26	Corrals	1 Structure			Noncontributing	
ORIGINAL USE	PRESENT USE	WALL	ROOF	FOUNDATION	DIMENSIONS	DATE(S)
Animal Containment	Animal Containment	Wooden Planks, Upright Beams & Rail Ties and Metal Gates	Na	Beams Set In Ground		1990s

Corrals surround the space occupied by the Stable, barns #1 and 2, and the Calf Sheds. Constructed of posts and railroad cross ties set into the ground and connected by poles, large pieces of lumber, wire and wooden and steel gates, the corrals serve to define space and

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represent an important component of animal management. They were largely constructed outside of the period of significance and therefore considered noncontributing features of the property.

MAP KEY	NAME		NUMBER OF PROPERTIES		SIGNIFICANCE	
# 27	Feed Mill		1 Building		Contributing	
ORIGINAL USE	PRESENT USE	WALL	ROOF	FOUNDATION	DIMENSIONS	DATE(S)
Feed Mill	Unused	Board-and-Batten, Corrugated Metal	Corrugated Metal	Concrete, Beams at Grade	35' x 29'	1913, 1927, 1931.

The Feed Mill is a large, rambling timber frame and stud wall frame granary and grinding facility sheathed in corrugated iron sheets and board-and-batten siding. It stands on the west bank of Silver Creek, some 10 to 15 feet above the streambed. Generally extending 35 feet southeast-to-northwest and 28 feet southwest-to-northeast, the Mill towers up two stories on the stream side and a story high on the other (southwest). It is laid out in a four-part plan with a 35-foot x 15-foot main section joined to a 12-foot x 14-foot ell on its southeast wall. Off of the southeast side of the ell extends an 8-foot x 14-foot shed roof extension. Opposite this side, fitted in the elbow of the ell and the main section, is a 6-foot x 12-foot sub-unit identified here as the machinery block. It runs lengthwise along the main section's east wall. The machinery block is in two parts about 6 feet square that terminate at different heights, the northernmost ending a foot or so below the main section's roof and the southern portion extending to meet that roof. It features a cupola, which attach to round metal tubes. These are augers for moving milled grain from one area to another. They extend to a smaller but similar feature on the eastern ell.

The main section has a saltbox roof with its axis running perpendicular to the section's length. The south slope of this roof connects both the southern portion of the machinery block and the southeastern ell. A steep shed roof covers the lower part of the descending machinery block (northerly). All of the machinery block and the southeastern ell are sheathed in corrugated iron. The machinery block has a presently inaccessible door on the north east wall. There are few windows. There are vents to allow dust to escape in the machinery block cupola.

The remainder of the main block is covered with board-and-batten siding except for the lower level that drops down along the steep creek bank where it is cribbed with horizontal timbers. This section is open on the northwest-northeast corner and is supported by large timbers and log

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uprights set on poured concrete piers foundations. Here is found the terminal end of an iron water pipe (pen stock) and the water trough that leads to a partially buried Pelton type water wheel at the base of the machinery block.⁸ When operative, this undershot wheel powered the mill by means of belts running to shafts overhead that lead to the southern part of the machinery block. Above the open space, on the northwest façade of the mill, is a deteriorating catwalk leading to doorways in the machinery block and main section. There is another opening on the southern end of the southwest wall of the main section. Around the corner from here, the southeast wall drops down another floor into a notch where creek bank was excavated away. The notch is walled with timbers extending several feet further out from the main section's south corner. Parallel to this timber wall, 12 feet to the northeast, is the shed dependency. This is open to the south and appears to be the feeding area. It has a high board fence on the west side that was also part of a roofed shelter that is now deteriorated.

The interior of the mill features heavy 1" x 8" joists, 1" x 6" studs and horizontal board walls, typical of granary construction. No driven machinery is visible, although portions of the building are inaccessible. Wooden elevators, or lifts, that operated on chains, lay about on the floor.

Just beyond the southwest wall of the mill, at a point opposite the end of the iron water pipe below the main section, is a concrete basin. This is the headgate to which the upper end of the iron water pipe (pen stock) is fixed. Water flowed into this basin from another concrete headgate in an irrigation ditch some 100 feet west of the mill. Reportedly, a buried water pipe runs that entire distance.

The structure retains fair integrity, save for the shed roof of the south feeding area and the small machinery shed roof on the northeast side. These are deteriorated along with the stairs and exterior walkways that access the northern bin and mechanical block doors, making them hazardous to access. The broad saltbox roof is intact and the area it shelters undamaged. In 2003, the mill was determined eligible for the listing in the National Register of Historic Places and provided a Smithsonian number of 24LC1846.⁹

⁸ Pelton water wheels made use of cast iron cups divided in the center to reduce turbulence, thereby enhancing the wheel's power. The Gehring mill water wheel is of this design.

⁹ David Ferguson and Meyer Garren, *A Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of the Silver Creek Study Corridor, Lewis and Clark County, Montana*. Report by GCM Services, Inc. Butte, Montana, 2003.

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MAP KEY	NAME		NUMBER OF PROPERTIES		SIGNIFICANCE	
# 28	Groves		1 Site		Contributing	
ORIGINAL USE	PRESENT USE	WALL	ROOF	FOUNDATION	DIMENSIONS	DATE(S)
Windbreak and Orchard	Windbreak	NA	NA	NA	Ca. 2 acres	1870s

Planted as a windbreak, probably in the 1870s, the groves include conifer trees, and a few apple trees, remnants of an orchard. The groves, located to the east, north and west of the ranch house, shelter the buildings from wind. From the size of the trees and photographic evidence, it is apparent the groves were planted many decades ago and have been a significant visual attribute of the ranch since that time.

MAP KEY	NAME		NUMBER OF PROPERTIES		SIGNIFICANCE	
#29	Horse Power (Cary-Pitts)		1 Structure		Contributing	
ORIGINAL USE	PRESENT USE	WALL	ROOF	FOUNDATION	DIMENSIONS	DATE(S)

The Horse Power at the Gehring Ranch consists of a thick iron ring fitted with rectangular collars. Horses harnessed to wooden shafts set into the collars lent power to the equipment in a manner similar to men working the arms of a capstan. Heavy iron gears built into a framework under this ring altered the direction of force the circling horses provided. In this way, an iron shaft extending out of the bottom of the unit was made to spin at high speed. The shaft could be used to power a variety of machines. This machine matches the features of a Cary-Pitts Horse Power sold through the Sears Roebuck and Company catalogs of the late 1890s.¹⁰ It was applied to wood-cutting, grain grinding, probably hoisting and other tasks that required motive power to

¹⁰ See "Additional Documentation—Historic Photographs," Fig. 12.

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turn or lift. Although moveable, it was stationary when operating and, compared to fueled machines, slow and weak, but it was used for many years on the Gehring ranch.

The Horse Power is in good condition and retains strong integrity. It is associated with a number of activities important to the ranch during its early years and is strongly evocative of agriculture's mechanical evolution.

MAP KEY	NAME		NUMBER OF PROPERTIES			SIGNIFICANCE	
# 30	Threshing Machine (Advance-Rumely)		1 Structure			Contributing	
ORIGINAL USE	PRESENT USE	WALL	ROOF	FOUNDATION	DIMENSIONS	DATE(S)	
Mechanized Grain Separation	Unused	NA	NA	NA	30' x 8'	1924?	

The Threshing Machine is a mobile set of gears, pulleys, blowers, shakers and belts encased in a galvanized sheet metal body and set on cast iron axles and wheels, designed to be pulled from field to field. When set into operating position, the thresher received power through the motion of a long, wide belt spun by a pulley on a steam engine or other machine. Its function is to separate grain seeds from the straw and husks that surround them. The seeds are then directed by way of lifts into a bagging tube. The dross is ejected through another tube via air pressure. This thresher was built by the Advance-Rumely company, one of the predecessors of Alice-Chalmers.¹¹

The Threshing Machine is in good condition. A shed (map key #2) that is presently collapsing around the threshing machine, protected it for several years; the collapsing shed still provides slight protection to the threshing machine. As an historic structure, the thresher complements and illustrates the theme of advancing mechanization on the ranch and is directly associated with the needs and purposes of the Gehring operations.

¹¹"The Rumely Companies Agricultural Machinery, 1853-1931," American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Accessed Jul 24, 2016, <https://www.asme.org/getmedia/d44ed4fd-8920-4082-9a6a-b0a7a4f0c99a/225-Rumely-Companies-Agricultural-Products.aspx>.

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MAP KEY	NAME	NUMBER OF PROPERTIES			SIGNIFICANCE	
#31	Lincoln Road/ Highway 279	1 Structure			Noncontributing	
ORIGINAL USE	PRESENT USE	WALL	ROOF	FOUNDATION	DIMENSIONS	DATE(S)
Public Thoroughfare	Public Highway	NA	NA	NA		1860s

The Gehring Ranch is divided by present-day Lincoln Road/ Highway 279. The road serves as a link between Helena and the communities of Silver City, Marysville, and other communities to the northwest. While it follows the historic route connecting these two communities and parts north, the highway has been consistently upgraded during the period of significance and afterward. In its present configuration it no longer represents either the early trail, the wagon road, the graveled highway or even the later blacktopped route that transected the Gehring Ranch.

MAP KEY	NAME	NUMBER OF PROPERTIES			SIGNIFICANCE	
#32	Irrigation Ditch	1 Structure			Contributing	
ORIGINAL USE	PRESENT USE	WALL	ROOF	FOUNDATION	DIMENSIONS	DATE(S)
Irrigation Supply	Irrigation Supply	Earth	NA	NA	5' (Outer) x 70'	Post-1877 and Pre-1913

That segment of the water irrigation ditch which illustrates the method of powering the Feed Mill is included as a contributing feature.

OTHER

Within the boundaries of the historic property are several features and structures associated with the ranch but are tangential as historic resources and, as such, are not counted as either contributing or noncontributing resources. These include a steam boiler parked in the grove near the waterline that once ran machinery at the Silver Creek Coal Mine on the property. Beside it is a large iron water tank that may have had something to do with the water-powered feed mill (its

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top cover lies next to the mill in the pasture). Both of these objects were hauled in after becoming redundant and are out of context. Also scattered throughout the northern portion of the property are a number of parked vehicles, agricultural machinery, and parts. As all can be moved from one location to another, none are counted toward the resource count. Some of the items in the Gehring Photograph Collection may be seen here but they are largely in a state of disuse.

Integrity

The Gehring Ranch provides a clear representation of a working ranch with a history dating back to the early 1870s. The ranch reflects the appearance and character of an evolving nineteenth and twentieth century property that has existed for over 100 years. The property illustrates the evolution from a small working ranch to a much larger operation that embraced the technological changes of the late 1800s and early 1900s. What began as a modest affair, slowly grew and proved to be an adaptive operation that changed with the economic shifts in commodities of the area. The property today continues to be rural, retaining high integrity of location, setting, feeling and association. Although a paved road intersects the property, this road has followed the same alignment since the inception of the ranch.

The vast majority of the buildings present much as they did when first constructed, and any changes that occurred usually did so within the period of significance. The majority of the buildings reflect their early origins of construction from the early 1870s to the 1930s. The domestic and agricultural buildings were mostly constructed by individuals who lived and worked the land and who made improvements when deemed necessary for their operation. All the farm buildings served an important function for the farm. Integrity of design, workmanship, and materials remains strong, reflecting the property's ranching heritage.

Although a few buildings either changed location within the ranch itself, or were brought to the ranch from elsewhere, their movement does not negatively affect integrity of the ranch. Bunkhouse #2 was moved in around 1929 from Ann Gehring's brother's homestead, the southern lean-to dependency on Granary 2 originally served as a summer kitchen for the original cabin but was moved and attached to the granary in 1928, and some discussion suggests the original homestead cabin may have been moved onto the property early in the ranch's history. All, however, occurred early within the period of significance and do not affect integrity.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1871 to 1967

Significant Dates

1871

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Bartholomew and Jane Gehring

David and Anne Gehring

Jack and Rose Gehring

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Gehring Ranch, located 10 miles due northwest of Helena, in Lewis and Clark County, Montana, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C at a local level of significance. Under Criterion A, the ranch is eligible for its historical association with the patterns of agricultural development, particularly ranching operations. The Gehring Ranch, held by the same family since its inception, typifies early rural ranching operations, embodying the essential elements of personal sacrifice, practicality, diversity, and innovation.

The Gehring Ranch, though operating as a modern stock facility, traces its owners' efforts to meet consumer demands, technological advances and economic circumstances that changed over time. Beginning as a diversified truck farm in the early years, the Gehring ranch expanded in land area to produce a variety of stock, hay, grain and other goods, culminating in a mixed cattle and bison operation. Through the years the ranch produced food goods for local consumption, adjusting to market trends and mechanization along the way. Buildings and features at the ranch headquarters reflect every significant aspect of this agricultural evolution and express the resolve, ambition and drive of Gehring generations who strived to make the ranch succeed. They leave behind a series of historically intact structures and objects, the workmanship, materials and design of which reflect not only the experience of this family but the common character of rural life in Montana.

The Gehring Ranch is similarly eligible under Criterion C for the workmanship, design and material use present in ranch resources, including the dwellings, sheds, granaries, barns, and other elements, aligned to the mission of raising poultry, pigs, cattle, bison, and grains and other food crops as they relate to rural American vernacular architecture. These resources provide a complete picture of the evolution of the ranch; how it operated and adapted to changing circumstances from its founding in 1871 to its last iteration, cattle and bison production, an enterprise that stabilized by 1966 and continues to this day. The provision of that picture is accomplished with a high degree of physical integrity supported with good documentation.

The period of significance begins in 1871 with the initial construction on the property. It ends in 1967, the general 50-year cut-off for the National Register.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Relevant Development of the Surrounding Area

Prior to the American Civil War and following the Fur Trade Era, interest in the northwestern region of the nation was centered on moving through it, connecting established economic

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centers, such as St. Paul, Minnesota in the center of the continent to the ports and agricultural meccas of the West Coast, such as Seattle. While fur trade outposts still offered commercial attraction, they survived in an atmosphere of risk and economic uncertainty. Places like Fort Union and Fort Benton were viewed by large interests as roadhouses along the way. Several expeditions crisscrossed the region in search of transcontinental rail routes, but these founded nothing permanent. European settlement in the vast in-between was limited to trapper/traders, a few missionaries and scattered ranchers and gold seekers. In the late 1850s the US military constructed a rough highway, the Mullan Road, as an overland supply route between the head of navigation on the Missouri River at Fort Benton and Fort Walla Walla. It was also hoped the route would spur development in this empty space. Indeed, development took place abruptly in certain areas when precious minerals were discovered in the region.

Montana Territory saw its first gold “rush” in the early 1860s and the Mullan Road played a role in the distribution of goods to mining communities in places immediate to that route. One of these was a camp named Silver, later Silver City, founded in 1862. Located not far from Mullan Pass where the old military road crossed the Continental Divide, Silver quickly became a recognized community and county seat of Edgerton County, a large area in the emerging political system that preceded more intense settlement. Silver’s placer gold deposits were accessible but relatively sparse and difficult to process. Much more promising were the hard rock lodes that fed Silver’s gravels. Developed in the 1870s in the neighborhood of Marysville several miles into the mountains, these hard rock mines attracted significant populations and several permanent towns. Fifteen miles to the south, in Last Chance Gulch, another major find occurred. Here in 1864, rich placer deposits led to the founding of Helena, a significant regional community and later state capital. People from around the world flocked to this new and promising locality between the eastern Rocky Mountain Front and the Missouri River near a place that Lewis and Clark had named “The Gates of the Mountains.”

Historical Development of the Gehring Ranch Site

Among those arriving in Helena was a German-American named Bartholomew Gehring, born Bartholomaus Gohring in Württemberg, Germany, in 1838. Gehring’s family immigrated to America in the 1840s, settling on a farm in Indiana. Young Bartholomew left the Indiana homestead in 1862, apparently making his way west.¹² At some point, perhaps prior to

¹² “Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Indiana. Volume VIII.-1861-1866,” Alexander H. Conner, State Printer, Indianapolis. 1868, accessed Apr 30, 2016, <https://archive.org/details/reportindiana08dougrich>; There are no clear indications as to what Bartholomew Gehring did between leaving home on August 5th, 1862, and appearing in the Helena area nearly four years later. He may have gone to California, as many did, or just drifted westward. Because of Union conscription, it is not likely he stayed in “the States”. Interestingly, even though he had been in the United States since 1847, Bartholomew was not naturalized until 1877 when he had to do so to apply for land in Montana under the Desert Land Act.

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November of 1865, he entered Montana Territory.¹³ On his journey toward Helena, Bartholomew may have mined, labored or otherwise accumulated capital. Somehow he scraped together a few hundred dollars with which to buy land. According to county records, he and a partner, John Thomas, declared occupancy and use of a "Ranch on Tenmile" in 1866.¹⁴ In 1870, the Federal census found Bartholomew ranching in the Prickly Pear Valley near Helena. Bartholomew's brother Francis and a hired hand worked with him on this property located about ten miles south of the present Gehring ranch site.

Bartholomew's Indiana boyhood prepared him for frontier life. His family had a successful farm in De Kalb County prior to the Civil War and Bartholomew, the fourth surviving son, helped run the operation while in his teens after his father's death in 1850.¹⁵ Like many western settlers of the time, he did not take part in the war. He came to Montana Territory with experience, skills and possibly some seed money. Quick to seize opportunity linked to an overall plan, Bartholomew bought land, invested in side business and maneuvered to consolidate his holdings. In 1871 he sold at least part of his Tenmile ranch to his old partner, J. D. Thomas.¹⁶ Bartholomew then concentrated his operations farther north of Helena and just south of what had become a lesser Silver City and along Silver Creek. That same year he married Jane Auchard, the sister of a neighbor and fresh to the West from New York state.¹⁷ In the spring of 1872, they

¹³ "Letter List," *The Montana Post* (Virginia City, Montana Territory), November 18, 1865, accessed October 24, 2016, <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83025293/1865-11-18/ed-1/seq-2/>; Lorenz Koppler, a local Silver rancher, claimed he knew Bartholomew for nearly 16 years, which, had they met in Montana, would have placed Bartholomew there as early as 1862 or 63. This Silver City association may indicate Gehring was among the placer miners there in the early years.

¹⁴ John D. Thomas, born in Wales in 1827, purchased part of this land from B. Gehring in 1871. Thomas also homesteaded in that location and continued to ranch there and further north until his death in 1895. Bartholomew Gehring appears to have been the executor of his estate; Lewis and Clark County Clerk and Recorder, comp. Ranch Book B, entry for May 1, 1866, P 171, Office of the Clerk and Recorder, Lewis and Clark County, Helena, MT.

¹⁵ "United States Census, 1850," database with images, FamilySearch.org, accessed October 27, 2016, <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MHVL-WWW> : November 9, 2014; Biedler Garing (sic) in household of John Garing, Fairfield, De Kalb, Indiana, United States; citing family 28, NARA microfilm publication M432 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.).

¹⁶ John Thomas, Grantee & Bartholomew Gehring, Grantor, Entry of Nov 17, 1871, Deed Book L, p 267, Office of the Clerk and Recorder, Lewis and Clark County, Montana.

¹⁷ Bartholomew's relationship with David Auchard pre-dated 1871. The two respected one another sufficiently for Auchard to summon his sister west, partially, according to family lore, to meet Bartholomew. Bartholomew and Jane named their son after David Auchard. Prior to their marriage in November, 1871, Bartholomew had set his sights on homesteading next to Auchard's ranch. This indicates Gehring scouted the property intently while still ranching on Tenmile Creek, something Jack Gehring also related to his son, Bill. Family papers show water rights going back to 1865 and family members maintain Gehring occupied the land from then on, as implied in water court references to that date, but those rights may have been purchased

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planted their first crops.¹⁸ Together the couple expanded their mutual holdings and began developing the Gehring Ranch.

The Gehring place was keenly positioned. The town of Helena sits in a semi-arid region, where moisture is a scarce resource, both in the form of precipitation and as flowing surface water. Like many ranchers, the Gehrings took care to procure both stream bottom and upper pasture, the combination of which would supply winter feed and summer grazing. Hay fields on the bottom land on either side of the creek were self-irrigated. Cropland was also available there, and water controlled by ditching was tapped to tend them. These natural resources worked to begin agricultural production but to increase it, man-made interventions were required. Upland fields presented more of an irrigation challenge. Although the Gehrings dug wells, water was needed to flow down to the homestead and its gardens in the days before powered pumps. To irrigate their highland property, the Gehrings secured water rights four miles away on the north branch of Willow Creek and diverted water to their ranch from that point.¹⁹ Three-quarters of a mile northeast of the ranch site the creek produced a consistent spring. The Gehrings piped its flow from under the shade of a grove into a ditch that ran to the gardens, the house, and possibly the barns. This water was also a source of cooling for milk and other foodstuffs.²⁰ Irrigation rights along Silver Creek were later utilized as a power source as well as crop watering.

Stock raising was always important to the ranch but the Gehrings diversified, farming crops directly saleable to the local market. Even the siting of the homestead favored this business model. The road that ran between Gehring's house and their barn was heavy with traffic between Helena, Silver City, Marysville, and points north. This was an offshoot of the Mullan Road itself which would have brought traffic from as far north as Fort Benton past their door, although by the 1870s alternative routes to this distant steamboat landing were available.²¹ Again, the family history lists beef cattle, dairy products, horses, and chickens as being sold at the ranch. Additional items included:

when Jane Gehring bought her brother's early homestead in 1889. Finally, if he was mining in the early 1860s, Bartholomew may have acquired water rights for that purpose.

¹⁸ Deposition of Applicant, Sep 16, 1885. Final Proof under the Desert-Land Act of March 3, 1877. National Archives, Record Group 49, Patent no. 681.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Personal Communication, Bill Gehring to Paul Putz, April and May 2016.

²¹ Ibid. Bill Gehring recounts his father, Jack, telling of Bartholomew's personal effort to re-direct the trail to points north of Helena across a high ridge east of his ranch by using a large willow branch to mark this route; General Land Office Map, 1870. Bureau of Land Management.

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“...hay, grain, and potatoes. They sold strawberries, currants, gooseberries, vegetables, . . . eggs, butter and cheese. They sold oxen and mules. . . and grain for seed as well as for sale.”²²

The Gehrings also placed a watering trough near the road, a thoughtful commercial device that guaranteed frequent stops by passers-by with thirsty teams. Offering such bounty necessitated intensive physical labor, planning and facilities, all of which required careful management and constant attention. The Gehrings turned to advantage every resource on and near the property; the stream, its lowlands and valley slope; the wells, springs, nearby stone quarries, and timber. Much later, they even developed a small coal deposit – The Silver Creek Coal Mine – in a southwest pasture. Industry, practicality, economy and business sense were necessary attributes for the success of such a venture and the Gehrings displayed them all. Cooperation and management were also necessary traits for such an operation and are highlighted through the bunkhouses on the ranch representing the workers hired to help throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Though the ranch prospered using its early business plan, circumstances changed as time went by. The community of Silver City faded quickly in the late 1860s, supplanted by Helena and Marysville. The latter was very active in the 1870s, 1880s and 1890s, then declined. Bartholomew and Jane would have seen their Marysville and Silver City customer base weaken and the Helena market gain strength. The Gehrings were also affected by the construction of a Great Northern rail line to Marysville and Great Falls in 1886. The Great Northern section ran along the edge of Silver Creek, right through Gehring’s property. This was good and bad. While the highway through the ranch lost traffic to a train that ran to Marysville at least twice a day, the ranch had ready access to rail service at Silver Station just a few miles north plus a siding mis-named “Gering”. The Gehrings could buy Texas cattle for \$5 a cow-calf pair, ship them north by rail, and fatten them on rich mountain grass.²³

In 1893, the area was shaken by the economic panic of the same year. Up to 1893, the city of Helena witnessed unprecedented growth, and a huge expansion of economic, political, and social influence. Helena’s energetic boom ended abruptly when silver prices crashed and nearly a quarter of the city’s population drifted away. This important market for Gehring’s produce was surely affected as the secondary collapse of mining-dependent businesses rippled throughout the area. It took hard work and careful management to cope with such disruption.

A varied operation such as the Gehring’s required diversified facilities. Each generation of the family actively constructed and improved buildings on the ranch. Original log outbuildings were expanded using timber framed board-and-batten structures. Barns grew in size and more were

²² Vivian A. Paladin, ed. *Valleys of the Prickly Pear*, (Helena: Little Red Schoolhouse, Inc., 1988) p. 56.

²³ “David Gehring, Early Rancher Dies,” *Helena Independent*, April 15, 1959.

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constructed, machinery sheds and garages appeared as mechanization took hold. A hen house, hog sheds, well structures, fences, corrals and electrical systems popped up. Individual buildings began to be used for multiple purposes. The granary housed a shed and summer kitchen. Because milk, produce and other goods required refrigeration, the house cellar was used as a cooler, particularly in the early years of the ranch. Later there was an ice house supplied from a pond on Silver Creek. Buildings like the bunkhouses were moved onto the place from other locations.

Bartholomew and Jane had one son, David, the surviving boy of a set of twins born in 1873. Though formally educated only through the fourth grade, David's active curiosity, quick mind and drive served the ranch well.²⁴ By the time David reached 18, he would have been a full-fledged farmer-rancher. This period, from about 1890 when David was a young man, to the late "teens" of the following century, is the time many structural improvements on the ranch were made. This is when Bartholomew likely crowned his vision of how the ranch could look and when young David would have set his mind to share, or at least contribute to, and possibly even press for some of that vision. Photographs, materials use, and design patterns point to a pre-turn of the century surge in development that survives nearly intact to this day, one that emphasizes expansion and modernity, however vernacular and practical. The Gehrings did not spend money on fancifying buildings.

Bartholomew's death in 1900 fully placed responsibility for the ranch on the shoulders of David and his mother, Jane, whose participation was limited after 1908 when she was badly injured in a fall.²⁵ There was much for David to manage and, after Jane's death in 1912, even more. For some time, the ranch had produced enough revenue to allow investments into outside ventures and to take advantage of advances in agricultural technology. Even before 1900, the Gehrings helped finance a cheese factory in Augusta and later, a slaughterhouse. Apparently they loaned money to ranchers in surrounding areas including, "Craig, Augusta, Jefferson, Elliston and the Helena Valley."²⁶ Some economic connections may have been tied to Jane's family. The Auchards relocated north of Wolf Creek toward Augusta, the neighborhood in which several Gehring investments were made. Gehring partnerships in other ventures were spread throughout Lewis and Clark and adjacent counties. They required maintenance as well as observation. By the time of his marriage in 1913, David, builder and heir, could pose himself behind the wheel of

²⁴ Personal communication, Bill Gehring to Paul Putz, April and May 2016.; Personal communication, Rose Gehring to Paul Putz, January 2016; Family members recall David Gehring's ability to add two columns of figures simultaneously and mark his intelligence as a defining characteristic.

²⁵ Bartholomew Gehring was found senseless in his barn on the Fourth of July, 1900, a pan of oats still in his hand and the mark of a blow under one eye. He died soon after. The Helena Independent reported his death on July 6th, (erroneously naming him "Fred") and speculated that he was kicked by a horse. One might also speculate that a firecracker holiday made tending even familiar horses risky.

²⁶ Paladin, *Valleys of the Prickly Pear*, P 56.

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his new automobile, confident, self-satisfied and marking success with a calculated motorized indulgence.

David and later his wife, Ann Hardie from down the road, who had cared for Jane after her mishap, continued the tradition of hard work, innovation and skilled management. They also embraced mechanization.²⁷ The Gehrings owned one of the first automobiles in the neighborhood and operated steam-powered equipment, at least on hire, for many years. In 1917 they purchased a Holt tractor, an early version of a “Caterpillar”, and used it to power other machinery such as threshing machines. It was also used to move buildings, both at the ranch and for neighbors. It occupied a shed built for that purpose that still stands. There are also several threshing machines from the pre-motorized combine era on the property. One of these rests within the ruins of a shed on the north edge of the ranch headquarters. Threshers were used to separate grain from straw. The Gehrings used them on the ranch and hired out their tractors, labor and threshers to other ranches. With their small fields along and on the stream bottom, the Gehring’s crop production was limited but essential and such “custom work” helped justify the cost of equipment.

Evidence of the ranch’s reliance on grain was the Gehring feed mill, a substantial, high volume unit that required a structure nearly 40 feet long and two stories high to contain it. It is the largest and later of two granaries on the place. This water-powered facility was begun as a grinding mill on the edge of Silver Creek in 1913 and expanded in the 1920s to become a granary and self-feeding apparatus for animals. Lorn Hardie, the Gehrings’ neighbor and the father of Ann Gehring, reportedly helped design what can only be described as an impressively innovative machine whose output was ground feed for a large number of hogs kept under its shadow. Still standing, the mill operated into the 1940s. The mill was a crowning piece, the last and most impressive Gehring effort to supply an expanding hog operation. The mill replaced a “horse power” gear set and grinder that supplied the hog sheds east (and downwind) of the ranch house. This innovation worked much like a ship’s capstan to allow horses walking in a circle to power equipment like feed grinders, sawmills and grain threshers.

The “war years” of 1914-1919 began well for Montana agriculture, particularly for new operations on the vast plains to the east of Lewis and Clark County. Demand for farm goods was high and the weather more than cooperative – at first. By the end of WWI, farmers in central and eastern Montana, heady with the rewards of temporary favor, were stunned to find their optimism evaporate in drought and depression. Post-war economic stagnation and what proved to be the beginnings of the infamous Dust Bowl devastated the agricultural economies of

²⁷ Angelica, also Ann or Annie Hardie, born in Montana in January of 1892, was nearly twenty years younger than her husband. She was the daughter of Lorn and Angelica Hardie (spelled Hardy in the early census) who owned property adjacent to and south of the Gehring Ranch. The two families often cooperated in farm work.

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counties to the east.²⁸ Ranchers in Lewis and Clark County fared better, primarily because many had water. With a flowing mountain stream, broad diversification and their markets near at hand, the Gehrings were insulated from absolute catastrophe.

David and Ann began a family. Ruth, Clifford and Jack Gehring, born between 1918 and 1923, were raised on the ranch. Ruth, who later summarized the family history for a local publication, was an active 4-H member. Jack Gehring also focused on agricultural activities and eventually took over management of the ranch. Clifford would assume a family ranch near Lincoln.

Life at the ranch was as active as ever during the 1920s and 1930s. David Gehring's journal entries detail annual cycles of sawing firewood, tending calves, buying and selling stock, grinding feed, plowing, sowing, reaping and threshing. Irrigation ditches are tended, water is released, machinery is purchased, repaired and put to use, buildings and fences are mended and made larger, harnesses are mended, cattle are shipped, grain is sacked and hay is stacked. There is the occasional personal note. Births and deaths are tersely recorded; neighbors and horses. Funerals are attended, lawsuits settled (often water related), company comes. On Sundays there is the inevitable item, "*Staid to home*". There is no elaboration. The entries march on without comment or complaint to list accomplished tasks year after intensive year. Then in the mid-1930s, a new phrase appears. Excursions to Yellowstone and Glacier parks are noted, "*with the family*", and day-by-day listings of places visited, of which there are many. After decades, the Gehrings could take time to vacation and David could list among the ranch's accomplishments the edification of his children and, no doubt, the delight of his wife.

Gehring investments netted sufficient rewards to allow David and Ann to purchase the ranch formerly owned by film stars George Montgomery and Dinah Shore near Lincoln, Montana. This was in 1948, the year their son Jack built a new home on the ranch. By concentrating their mountain holdings, the Gehrings freed themselves of various cattle drives to summer pastures. The new ranch provided one place to ship the herd to and from during the year. Once again the Gehring ranch changed its focus, concentrating now on raising cattle while reducing its previous scope of diversification. Nonetheless, with plentiful timber at hand in Lincoln, the Gehrings and their immediate family added a sawmill to their enterprises.²⁹

Ann Gehring, weakened by an appendicitis attack during a blizzard that delayed treatment in 1936, died in 1951. David died in 1959. Jack took over the ranch and operated it during the mid-to late 20th century. Continuing the adaptive entrepreneurial family spirit, Jack and his wife, Rose, began raising bison in the late 1950s. The cattle and bison business continues to this

²⁸ Michael P. Malone, Richard B. Roeder, and William L. Long, *Montana: A History of Two Centuries* (Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press, 1991); Joseph Kinsey Howard, *Montana: High, Wide and Handsome* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1934), p. 167-177.

²⁹ Paladin, *Valleys of the Prickly Pear*, p. 56-57.

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day under the management of his son, Bill, who carries on the family tradition of hard work and a sense of devotion to the lands and heritage of the Gehring Ranch.

Building the Gehring Ranch: Structural History.

Bartholomew Gehring, assisted by his brother, Francis or Frank, began ranching several miles south of the present Gehring place in the late 1860s, but the Gehring brothers certainly had their eye on this property from their early years, even when ranching elsewhere.³⁰ The elder Bartholomew certainly led the plan. The move to the present Gehring ranch coincides precisely with Bartholomew's marriage to Jane Auchard on November 22, 1871.

On October 9th, 1877, witnesses Henry Brooks and Samuel Ralston attested to the fact that Bartholomew Gehring had followed-up on his land claim. Gehring had taken possession of the land six years before, on November 24th, 1871, two days after his wedding. This date is therefore suited for presuming the advent of construction on what would become the Gehring ranch.

By the fall of 1877, Bartholomew had built a functioning homestead consisting of six buildings and structures, together worth \$2,000, giving him rights to 160 acres in sections 7 and 8 in Township 11 N, Range 4 West in Lewis and Clark County, Montana Territory. These were "*a House, Stable, Root House, chicken house, cellar and about 2 miles of fence*".³¹ The buildings listed remain on the ranch to this day, some were altered, some remain fairly original. Bartholomew Gehring homesteaded and eventually obtained title to more property in sections 7 and 8 from the US government in 1890. These parcels were added to the Auchard property the Gehrings purchased in 1889 under Jane's name. Such acquisitions changed operational dynamics on the ranch, one facet of which was the need for new facilities. In the decades that followed, this original group was surrounded by additional structures, both large and small. Major construction continued into the 1930s as the Gehrings expanded and upgraded existing structures and erected new ones to accommodate ranch functions.

Construction on the ranch generally followed a building pattern associated with materials and technique. Early buildings were of log, followed later by timber-framed board-and-batten structures, then full dimension framed board-and-batten and, finally, commercially constructed, conventionally framed horizontally sided units. Materials availability, available skill sets, and

³⁰ The "RANCH BOOKS" in the Lewis and Clark County Clerk and Recorder's office, along with deed records, show Bartholomew's purchase of properties on Tenmile Creek between 1868 and 1870, often with Mr. Thomas as a partner.

³¹ "Final Homestead Proof required under Section 2291 of the Revised Statutes of the United States." Homestead Final Certificate No. 224, Record Group 49, Box No. 396, Records of the Bureau of Land Management, Land Entry Files, Helena, 1867-1925, Montana.

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available capital appear to have influenced this pattern. The relative economic importance of structures on the ranch also played a role in how they were built. Some temporal overlap occurs with the different styles, or “phases” of buildings, but generally, buildings and structures that share a common construction technique and common materials tend to cluster in terms of when they were constructed. The dominant impression that the Gehrings built most of the ranch buildings themselves, imbues this assemblage with a special sense of significance and feeling.

LOG PHASE: Stable, Original House, Bunkhouse #1, West Shop section, Root (Hen) House, Granary #1.

Bartholomew Gehring built with logs. According to Bill Gehring, family lore has it that Bartholomew built the stable first, a testament to his practicality and focus on ranch economics over personal comfort. Actually, the availability of the nearby Auchard cabin may have served both needs, for David Auchard, Bartholomew’s brother-in-law, was not a consistent inhabitant of his crude, round log homestead.³²

The stable’s method of construction is highly suggestive of the age and the rustic nature of the early ranch site. Being a smaller version of buildings that succeeded it over time, the stable demonstrates the expanding scope of the ranch from homestead to “spread”. Its materials and workmanship, particularly its lower level, these being the flat-faced logs with both full and half-dovetail notching, compare favorably with those present in Granary #1 and the interior of House #1 and point to a single builder. The Gehring homestead documents of 1877 list it as a “stable”, the term still used to describe it today, and it still serves as a shelter for cattle and bison. The Gehring photographs show the stable intact in the period around 1914. It has always been a useful part of stock raising at the Gehring Ranch but was obviously eclipsed in importance by newer barns as the twentieth century progressed.

The charms of a makeshift cabin notwithstanding, Mr. and Mrs. Gehring probably preferred something more substantial. A good candidate for the second building on the ranch is the northwest portion of the main house (house #1), It can be seen towering somewhat over an addition to the southeast in the colorized photograph taken around 1880 that hangs in the house to this day. Clearly, it is a log cabin with the signature flat-faced, hand-adz work and dovetailed notching used on the most substantial early log structures. Listed along with a house on the 1877

³² The “Orchard” cabin appears to be a pre-emption structure, never meant for permanent settlement. The GLO map for Township 11 North, Range 4 West, was surveyed in 1869 and shows the “Orchard Cabin” in section 8 but David Auchard was a resident of Unionville, south of Helena, in 1870. Auchard, still erroneously identified as “Orchard”, was on the Sun River by 1873: “No Polls Opened”, Helena Weekly Herald, Aug 7, 1873. The cabin shows up in the background of a hand-colored photograph taken of the Gehring ranch sometime around 1900. It was incorporated into quasi-temporary cattle shelters by David Gehring in 1907 and photographed there around 1914.

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homestead document is a cellar and this, too, is visible as the high stone foundation under that northwest section.

The original house was doubled in size soon after it was built by the erection of the southeast cabin joined gable-to-gable with the original. Perhaps the addition of young David Gehring in 1873 required more room. This was quickly followed by another addition; a frame, shed-roofed, kitchen dependency that ran along the rear of the newer cabin. It ranks with the later, board-and-batten phase of ranch construction.³³ The house would undergo two more major alterations before 1930.

Who built the early log structures of this period? Indications point to Bartholomew Gehring, primarily because of the consistency of surface treatment and workmanship over time. The adze trimming, while seeking to plane down the rounded log sides, leaves a rather rough and spikey surface. Like home-made items, the finished product has an irregular, hurried quality. Many years pass between the earliest and the later buildings of this period, suggesting the most permanent resident as the builder; the rancher himself. Mitigating against this conclusion are the several styles of log corner notching used on the ranch. These include square, half-dovetail, saddle V and dovetail variations – often mixed in the same structure. Either different people built them or directed their construction, or Bartholomew Gehring liked to experiment.

Bartholomew's brother, Frank was probably on hand to assist in the early years and Gehring employed hired hands as well. These people could have influenced workmanship and treatments. As we will see, one person in particular may have done so but at a later time. Another telling observation can be made regarding such work: simple notches appear on buildings with lesser shelter needs, such as the chicken house (workshop). More complex notches are used where sealing and permanence is important, i.e., the house, root (hen) house, and granary.

One of the original outbuildings on the ranch, now called the workshop, is a low log building that was probably the chicken house identified in the homestead documents as being built before 1877, although the precise date of its construction is unknown. The workshop is saddle and saddle V-notched, indicating a lesser status than its more carefully half-dovetailed neighbors. It gives a sense of being constructed under pressure of time. The first three or so layers of log and some upper logs on the front facade are trimmed flat but those remaining are unfinished, clearly a turn to expediency. Based on the similarity of log size and treatment, it is possible that some of the adz-cut logs were remnant materials from the construction of House #1 and the Stable, thrown down to form the base of the workshop, which was quickly finished off. Oncoming winter or the beginning of spring planting would press such work forward. So could the need to shelter a peep of chicks.

³³ See "Additional Documentation—Historic Photographs," Fig 8.

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The “root house”, identified in Bartholomew’s homestead papers as being built by 1877, now known as the “hen house”, is a unique structure pointing to a specialized use that played a significant role in the ranch’s productivity. Like the workshop, the original part of the hen house was log (it was added on to later) but the logs were erected above a mortared stone foundation sunk some three feet into the ground. The logs themselves are comparatively massive with split log chinking. It is clear that the root house was designed to serve as an early refrigerator. It fits precisely with Bartholomew and Jane Gehring’s initial business plan, one of agricultural diversity with a heavy emphasis on truck garden goods to serve the local population, a population largely devoted to mining and other non-self-sustaining activities. The Gehring’s expansive root house was created to store vegetables, fruit and other perishables prior to sale, with delivery to nearby Silver, Helena and Marysville. Sales also occurred directly via the road running through the ranch. Thus, the root house and the road were inextricably linked.

Later the root house was given an addition. Then or perhaps later it became “the hen house”, identified as such for over a hundred years.³⁴ There are indications that the old root house portion had its roof replaced sometime toward the end of the cut nail era, prior to or soon after 1890. It was double-sheathed, with boards and a liner of heavy paper covering the interior rafters. With the emphasis on insulation, there is a possibility that the original roof was of sod, like the old Auchard cabin. It is the only insulated outbuilding on the ranch.

A building not listed on the 1877 inventory is the log Granary #1, the earliest of two granaries at the ranch. This granary is similar to its newer companion in interior design, being segmented into bins designed to hold sacks of feed or bulk volumes of grain whether processed or raw out of the hopper. It has half and full dovetail notching and is elevated on stone piers to resist invasive pests. Located in the center of the corrals, Granary #1 was readily available to supply feed for stock and was probably built soon after 1877 as it was a necessary facility for stock-raising. It has been in use ever since. In October, 1909, David Gehring built the rock wall and mound at the rear, probably to access openings in the gable, and he had “*put [a] corrugated iron roof on [the] old granary*” that July³⁵ The need to reroof the granary in 1909 suggests it was about 30 years old at the time.

³⁴ The sizeable root house shows how important vegetable production was in Gehring’s original commercial plans. Its abandonment to another function signals an adaption to circumstance. If, as is likely, the log shop was the original chicken house and was converted to a workshop, it means some other activity, probably grain and hay production, overshadowed gardening as an enterprise. Ruth Gehring wrote that ranch operations migrated from truck farming to cattle and hogs. Livestock required feed crops and feed crops required much heavier and more complex machinery than gardening. Such machinery brought with it the need for a smithy. The backup cellar was under the house and continued to serve as storage for food products. This major change may have coincided with a large land purchase requiring more labor and mechanized assistance, such as the Auchard land purchase of 1889 combined with the 1890 homestead.

³⁵ David Gehring Journal entries: July 29 and October 18-19, 1909.

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Another log structure not identified on the 1877 list is Bunkhouse #1. Family accounts connect this building to the Auchard homestead located to the north of the original Gehring Ranch site; however, it bears little resemblance to a structure likely to be the Auchard Cabin visible in the Gehring Photograph Collection (image GPC-84). There is also mention of Bartholomew Gehring's original homestead cabin being moved onto the property, although the north half of House #1 more likely fits this purpose. The bunkhouse may be exceptional in its use of square notching, but it otherwise complements the Gehring-built features. Like the early granary, a bunkhouse filled a standard ranch need, this one being housing for hired hands. These hands included A. J. Sanford in 1880, and Isen Gehring and Nelson E. Sherburne in 1900.³⁶ The bunkhouse, mounted on skids, is rigged to travel.

Before 1929, when the second bunkhouse appeared, another residential building sat in the center of the ranch complex. The building visible to the northeast of the present blacksmith shop in photograph GPC-73 taken around 1914 could be this one.³⁷ There was a somewhat desperate attempt to weatherize this cabin a year before it probably became redundant. Magazines from 1928 were glued to the walls to frustrate drafts. By that time, it may have become too ratty to do much good. According to Bill Gehring, Bunkhouse #1 served as a transient lay-by during the Great Depression when homeless men seeking work were given to walking the roads and were temporarily sheltered by the Gehrings.

In addition to the buildings constructed during this earliest settlement phase of the ranch, other improvements also occurred making the property livable. While the Gehrings cut trees to build log structures they also planted trees for aesthetic and practical purposes. Many of the trees they started on their way still grow on the ranch. These include the distinctive row of conifers in front of the main house as well as the huge evergreens to the north. Also remaining, sheltered by the evergreen grove, are a few fruit trees. All of these date from the very early years of the ranch.

Trees were important to ranches and farms for a number of reasons. They provided shelter from bitter winter winds, offered cooling shade, added aesthetic appeal to landscapes, and, depending on the type of tree, yielded a supply fruits and berries for home-use or for sale. The latter was central to the Gehring's original business plan. Such plantings were common practice in rural areas across the country and are certainly an integral part of rural life.

For shade and as windbreaks, Bartholomew and Jane used conifers. One single line of them ran between the road and the main ranch house. Several rows were also planted in an arc north to northwest of the house, leaving distances from 75 to 100 feet from the house for gardens and an orchard. When Bartholomew and Jane were photographed in front of their log ranch home in the early 1880s, the saplings they tended had grown to nearly twice their height. Later, whenever

³⁶ Isen Gehring, a Canadian, might be a relative of the Silver City Gehrings.

³⁷ Gehring Photograph Collection(GPC), William "Bill" Gehring private holding. See also Section 9, Fig 6.

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overview photos were taken of the ranch, these towering evergreens defined its skyline. They are also a constant backdrop to other images, whatever the subject; their growth a visual metaphor for the passage of time and the ranch's development.

While structurally non-contiguous, the waterline began in the log building period of the ranch, probably as soon as the Gehrings filed to homestead the upper reaches of Section 8, immediately north of the original property. This likely occurred in the 1880s, but it could have been earlier.³⁸ The Gehring journals mention a water pipe as early as 1907, the earliest date of consistent journal entries. In March of 1908, David Gehring notes that water began flowing through the pipe, i.e., the frozen spring had thawed, revealing that this was a seasonal supply. He spent an inordinate amount of time on the line that fall, plowing and grading the ditch and repairing valves. The "waterline" irrigation system began about 3,700 feet north-northwest of the ranch house from a spring that must have greatly supplemented wells on the site mentioned in the Gehring journals. It would also have the benefit of running into the gardens and orchards from above. A system was certainly needed as water was crucial to ranch operations. Animals, people and crops, particularly truck-farm crops like those produced at the Gehring Ranch, required large and consistent volumes of water. Wells were dug somewhere near the house and a hydrant existed in that vicinity. In 1910, 750 feet of water pipe was buried to a depth of 5 feet, connecting a garden and a well in the corrals. Other references to pipes, particularly one from the house to the barns, are made in the journals. Thus, the water line was the most extensive but certainly not the only piped supply line on the place.

TIMBER FRAMED BOARD-AND-BATTEN PHASE: Shop Northeast Addition, Hen House Southwest Addition, Hog Shed, Hog Shelter, Engine House, Garage, sheds # 5 and 6, Kitchen Dependency, Loafing Shed, Calf Sheds.

This phase begins in the early 1880s and extends into the early twentieth century. It overlaps some of the later structural types but in a diminished fashion. Most of the structures associated with this period consist of additions to older log buildings. This is certainly true of its early examples. Home-made, utilitarian, sturdy and, obviously, survivable, the buildings of this phase are a post and beam type with similarities to modern 'pole barns'. To enclose as much space with as little supporting material as possible, the Gehrings set round posts on rough-worked log sills and connected the uprights together with a mixture of smaller poles centered horizontally around

³⁸ Final Certificate No. 681, Desert Land Act, March 3, 1877, U. S. Land Office Helena, MT. National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC. In his application for the Desert Land Act tract that drew this portion of Section 8 into the Gehring Ranch, Bartholomew testified that he had purchased water rights to a ditch on (west) Willow Creek, the drainage that supplies the waterline, some time prior to 1888. He had contributed the construction of part of the ditch to do so. In fact, he applied for the land in 1885 and could have been farming it before that. His witnesses testified that he had four miles of ditch excavated and all but 50 acres of 120 acres in irrigation from this source in 1888. This required the creation of 75 small ditches spread out over the landscape. Obviously, he had been at this for some time.

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the perimeter wall. The uprights can be several feet apart, even eight feet or so, depending on the expected use of the building and its weather-proofing requirements. This “H” frame arrangement was finished off with an upper plate of hewn, sawn or untreated wood poles. Rafters of the same random type supported sawn slabs of lumber covered with sawn cedar shingles. Often, sills were set on flat, un-mortared stones when not just placed at grade.

The earliest evidence, though not necessarily the earliest example, of this phase is found in the photograph of Bartholomew and Jane Gehring in front of their two conjoined log cabins.³⁹ Some time has passed since their trees were planted (assuming they were planted as saplings) and the shingles have aged, but the photo could have been taken within a decade of the ranch’s founding. On the rear of the house is a kitchen dependency, probably the “summer kitchen” mentioned in the journals. This addition is of the rough timbered type and its boards and battens are exclusively secured with cut nails, making it a contemporary of the first workshop addition. Its appearance in this early photo shows how quickly the Gehrings took to this method of construction.

As the ranch grew in size and responded to new markets with new products, its building requirements expanded and became more complex. The original log buildings suffered limitations, creating the necessity for new space. The Gehrings responded to these needs with typical thrift and innovation. The old chicken coop became the subject of their interest and in a manner that proved prototypical, the log portion was expanded and its function changed. The rear gable of the small log building was extended by erecting a timber framed, board-and-batten sided dependency. No inner wall separated the two sections, rather the new structure was simply abutted onto the back of the log shed. Thick sawn boards and wide battens were nailed to round timbers arranged in a rough framework to make a solid enclosure. The work was heavy and crude but highly practical. Built in two sections straddling the cut nail/wire nail eras, this addition ultimately more than doubled the size of the original shop. The first add-on, which could have been built any time between 1871 and 1890, was about eight feet long, the second, post-1890 section, measured over twice that length.

The expanded building provided space for both a blacksmith shop and carpentry shop, two essential activities for a ranching operation. The blacksmith shop occupied the eastern section of the building. Here, the Gehrings created a smithy complete with a brick forge and handmade workbench. It still contains anvils, hammers, tongs and other tools of the blacksmith trade. The carpentry shop portion is similarly outfitted for specialized work, the most notable piece being a heavy carpenter’s table with vices and jig fittings. Adding to the historicity of this structure are numerous iron fittings, tools, worked pieces, antlers, deer skulls and similar artifacts nailed to the

³⁹ See “Additional Documentation—Historic Photographs,” Fig. 8.

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outer walls of the shop. As early photographs of 19th century smithies taken throughout the West demonstrate, such festooning was a common practice.

With the many wooden structures present on the property and the amount of iron machinery in use on the ranch, both shops were constantly active. In the 1960s, the shop floors were covered with concrete using material salvaged from a cement truck accident on the highway nearby. Today, it remains the ranch workshop.

And what happened to the chickens? At some point they moved next door to the old root house which became the hen house. Roots were out. Eggs were in. But the robust nature of the addition with its massive upright timbers and heavy beams and thick siding does not seem to fit with the nature or needs of barnyard fowl. The Gehrings may have expanded the old root house for a completely different purpose and then changed its function again, or they built in the manner they knew and for which they had materials. Whichever, the hen house dependency, with its massive inner posts and beams, fits solidly in this building phase.

As for age, this dependency appears to be contemporaneous with the second woodshop addition; the post-1890, mixed cut and wire nail age. It was a hen house at least as early as 1909 when David Gehring recorded in his journal that he “fixed up stove in hen house”. Heat would be needed to support brooder chicks, not hens, who could have survived cold weather in such a bunker. David was referring either to an existing brick chimney or a stove pipe hole in the building. His stove may have caused the fire that deeply charcoaled the inner northwest and consumed a portion of its roof. A photo dated June, 1919 in the Gehring collection shows the easternmost end of the Hen House without its present windows, indicating changes occurred after that date. Whether these were connected with a fire or just improvements remains unknown. A perusal of existing journal entries did not uncover mention of rebuilding this roof or the eastern gable. All of this aside, the conversion of the old root house to a large chickery meant an expansion of the ranch’s emphasis on poultry had taken place. There may have been a commercial outlet for poultry as there was to become for pork, on January 24, 1911, David Gehring recorded that they “*shipped roosters to helena*”.

Another emphasis developed in this timber frame, board-and-batten building phase; the Gehrings made important investments in hog production. Two primary structures were added to the ranch site at this time; a hog shed and a hog shelter (one or both of which could have been used for farrowing). In addition, old activities were refocused to complement this new or greatly expanded industry and new equipment was added to sustain it.

The hog shed is the more substantial and probably the first one constructed. David Gehring’s journal entries during August, 1911 detail excavating for it and, in October, record the building of its rock wall. He completed it in November of that year. It is the subject of the photo GPC-62

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that features its residents rooting about in the foreground.⁴⁰ The hog shelter also uses earth as an insulator, its one masonry wall set into a slight earthen rise. Otherwise, David Gehring applied the same techniques found in the rough dependencies; large dimension beams under board-and-batten. Somewhere he obtained several telegraph cross arms and used them for uprights and wall supports in the hog shed, some with wooden insulators still attached. This building with its small doors, ventilators and interior pens, was built specifically for continued use.⁴¹ When hog production ended, it sat vacant.

David Gehring built the facilities for expanded hog production on the ranch. While the Gehrings raised hogs, probably early on, it did not seem to be for commercial purposes. In 1909, David Gehring threshed 1,738 bushels of wheat and oats. While that would be enough for eight litters, or 48 pigs, he reported killing only one hog that year and up to only three in other years. Other livestock must have been fed the remaining ground grain. The annual hog killing and brining David scheduled around each New Year appears to be for home consumption. As for marketing, there is no word on selling other hogs. In 1910 (May 17) he records that he “*went to Hardie’s for pigs*”, and it looks like he bought two young sows from his neighbors. Not until March 25, 1911 does he reflect on hog feed consumption; “*Hogs eat 2 ½ lbs grain per day each*”. On March 29th of that year his “*First sow had pigs.*” This is the beginning of his hog production.⁴² He built a “new hog pasture” that spring and this hog house that fall, a very significant step that led to the construction of this hog shed and other development.

Other ranch buildings and structures relate to the hog shed. Grinding grain to feed hogs increases its efficiency as a fattener. Different grains are also mixed to provide balanced nutrition. David Gehring often mentioned grinding grain in his journals. This would have been done at the granary, probably the “new granary” (#2). Oats, wheat and barley were ground at the granary and hauled to the area outside the hog shed to be poured on the ground where the hogs rooted for it.

The grain connection extended to the planting and harvesting equipment on the ranch. Several decaying wooden threshers and an impressive Advance-Rumley machine are witness to the long-term significance of grain production at the Gehring ranch. Certainly, the hogs were watered but no evidence of a connection to the waterline or a well is visible. The photo GPC-62 also shows a

⁴⁰ See “Additional Documentation—Historic Photographs,” Fig 1. It shows 46 animals, perhaps five or six of these are sows. The slab-plank corrals are associated with the board-and-batten period and procuring such material is recorded in David Gehring’s journals.

⁴¹ David Gehring Journals: entries for January 1927. This “old hog house” was reconfigured to accommodate more sows in 1927. The date is consistent with expansion plans related to the new Feed Mill.

⁴² He took the hogs to market on December 19th, meaning he raised them to slaughter at an ideal weight. The hogs Gehrings butchered for home use that year were around 180 pounds, light by present standards. That winter he built a ‘hog boiler’ in which he cooked potatoes to improve their nutritional value and reduce the cost of his hog feed.

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pyramidal framework or derrick set up immediately north of the hog shed. It may have been part of a horse operated hoist. Hogs had to be butchered, scalded and brined. Larger hogs weighed nearly 300 pounds and it is possible that machinery was used to lift the animal carcasses into position to process them.

Just north of the hog shed the Gehrings built a hog shelter. Although this building does not employ proper board-and-batten siding it is timber framed and temporally associated with this period. The hog shelter is generally unique, displaying a roof made of hay, but it was not the only structure with such a roof on the ranch. Rough sheds with hay roofs were built as cattle shelters by David Gehring who recorded their construction in 1907. More hogs would suggest the availability of more feed, possibly linking this building to a specialized feed mill on Silver Creek, built in 1913 and expanded later. (See #27, Feed Mill). Feed from this mill could have fed, or helped feed, hogs contained in the hog shed and shelter. This arrangement could have worked before the establishment of a large "hog pasture" right on Silver Creek, the third iteration of such a space, plus a more complex self-feeder for hogs built onto the mill in 1927. That mill and feeder would have relocated large hog operations to the pasture west of the highway, rendering the shed and shelter either redundant or reserved for specialized use.

The hog shelter is semi-subterranean. It uses the insulating and thatch-like qualities of stacked hay to shelter animals in winter and summer. The shelter sits in a depression with mounded edges that protect it on three sides; however, the earth walls do not serve as shelter walls, instead, a ring of rough wood slabs and boards form an enclosure at the base of the mounded earth, leaving a deep channel all around the interior. Overhead, from one side of the earth mounds to the other, planks and boards are laid down on which to pile the hay. The one open end of the depression was blocked by a wall with a central door and windows on either side.

Hay roofed sheds were an economical alternative to permanently roofed buildings, but they had limitations. If the roof material was consistently replaced, such a building could serve for many years. Otherwise, the structurally weak and decaying hay would eventually tumble into the interior of the building resulting in the deterioration of the interior timbering. Hay sheds could also work too well as insulators, creating an unhealthy warm, moist atmosphere that exposed livestock inside to respiratory diseases. The Gehrings addressed this problem by building a tall wooden chimney to draw air through the hog shelter. If properly constructed, the shelter would 'breathe in' through its front entry and side windows and 'exhale' out of the chimney. In very warm weather, the open area just outside the inner walls circulated around the entire interior facilitated by openings in the rough wood wall. During bitter or inclement weather, these openings could be plugged with hay, allowing temperatures inside to elevate.

The addition of a second structure for hogs suggests the Gehrings enlarged their herd. It may have been around this time that they entered into arrangements with Hal Walter Larson from Helena's sixth ward who owned a meat shop, Montanan Meat Co. Inc. and who is mentioned in

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the Gehring journal entry of July 7, 1912.⁴³ It would have been David Gehring who worked a shrewd deal in becoming a supplier and, at some point, a partner with a significant meat outlet like Larson's.⁴⁴ Gehring investments supported the construction of an important abattoir built near East Helena that Larson operated.⁴⁵ The Gehring Ranch / Montana Meat Company partnership lasted for several decades, making these hog raising facilities very significant representatives of how the ranch functioned. Given that the hog operation grew over time, several years might have passed until the shelter was needed.

A garage (the current name) appears in photographic overviews of the ranch taken about 1914.⁴⁶ It is contemporary with early log buildings on the ranch and their successors, the board-and-batten sheds. For many years the garage was part of a long assemblage of rough buildings that extended south, toward the road. These seem to have included a log building, and an open shed connector to this garage. The log building was near the road and was covered in what look like old posters of Buffalo Bill Cody. (Cody's wild west show toured this area of Montana, stopping at Helena and Great Falls in the fall of 1910 and the summer of 1914.) Several lean-to sheds are visible in the old photos as well, one sheltering a wagon, the remains of which are still there. Today, the assemblage and sheds are gone, save for their ghost patterns on the garage's outer wall. The sturdy garage, with its open interior and location near the center of the complex, has, save for the lean-to afterthoughts, proven too handy to neglect or dismantle.

The Engine House was constructed to serve as a shed and maintenance shop. It housed the 1917 Holt 45 gasoline powered tractor, a power source for cultivating and threshing machines, no doubt including the Advance-Rumley, and was the same power source that eventually replaced horse-drawn tilling equipment. The "Caterpillar" was a tracked vehicle, that appears in several family photographs and operated on the ranch for over twenty years.⁴⁷ The Engine House does not appear in the Gehring Ranch photographic overviews believed to date from around 1914, although its methods of construction and materials link it to the timbered craftsmanship of this

⁴³ David Gehring; Entry of Jul 7, 1912: "*Larsen – killed 10 hogs.*" That this was done in July, six months before the hogs were at peak sale weight, indicates a unique circumstance, possibly a market gap Larsen sought to span. By this time, Gehring increased the number of sows in his herd. Larson returned on October 7, 1913 to kill hogs. The long-term relationship between the ranch and the meat market expanded, as in 1926, Larsen had cattle on the ranch.

⁴⁴ U. S. Federal Census, 1910. H. W. Larson did not immigrate to the U.S. until 1902, two years after Bartholomew's death. He was in the meat business in Helena by 1910, and quickly amassed sufficient capital to invest in enterprises and real estate in Helena's "6th Ward" (Railroad) neighborhood.

⁴⁵ Rose Gehring to Paul Putz, June 6, 2016.

⁴⁶ See "Additional Documentation—Historic Photographs," Figs 5 and 6.

⁴⁷ Interview with Bill Gehring, April 18, 2016. Also, among the Gehring papers is a receipt dated 1943 for a tractor from the War Production Board. The Holt may have been donated as scrap metal.

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phase. A pit in the center of its floor allows maintenance access to engines. Early tractors, with their many working parts and tentative mechanical balances, required constant attention. The term “Engine House” recalls the days of steam locomotives and the buildings in which they were housed and serviced. It is a clue to the technological age that made this structure necessary to Gehring Ranch operations. Important to the granaries, the mill and livestock shelters, the Engine House was needed to bolster technological advancements that led to greater grain production.

The threshing shed shares the distinction of housing a specific piece of equipment. Cobbled together from what looks like parts of older buildings, the collapsed shed protected the threshing machine from weather. While its date of construction has not been determined, the threshers on the Gehring place, particularly the early wooden machines, would have suffered from exposure to the sun, wind and rain. Therefore, this shed may be quite old. In terms of construction, it fits with the other rough timber buildings.

Boards, battens, and rough timber continued to be employed even after the majority of buildings and structures associated with this type of construction at the ranch decreased. With one exception, a late hybrid version described below, structures built in this later phase were small, utilitarian outbuildings, successors to a structure like privy #3, the oldest such building on the ranch. This served as the privy for House #1, the main home. It would have become redundant with the advent of plumbing.

The Turkey Shed from the mid-1930s is another of the later additions to the ranch. It was built to supply David and Ann Gehring’s daughter, Ruth, with an allowance through a 4-H project. In her early adolescence, Ruth used the shed to raise turkeys to sell for spending money.⁴⁸ Quickly constructed, it nonetheless served its purpose. All of David and Ann’s children participated in 4-H. Ruth in particular succeeded in winning awards and, in 1938, was selected to attend a canning completion in Chicago as a result where she won third place. Her brother, Jack, took part in livestock judging and continued to be active in programs for agricultural youth as an adult.⁴⁹

The ranch consumed a large amount of wood for heating. Just to the north of the main house is a woodshed that supplied the home stoves. It probably dates from the mid-1920s. Until the advent of more convenient power, firewood was cut with a circular saw operated by a “horse power”, a set of moveable gears that transferred the circular rounds of a harnessed horse into the spinning motion required to operate a pulley, or power-take-off, called a “tumbler”. A large pile of wood was amassed north of the blacksmith shop where this work was done.⁵⁰ In 1907, the wood

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ *Helena Independent Record*. October 25, 1938, November 28, 1938, June 1, 1941, April 1, 1942.

⁵⁰ See “Additional Documentation—Historic Photographs,” Fig 3.

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cutting for the upcoming year occurred in December. Other than the house, the hen house and hog shed also used wood heat. When the woodshed was needed, David Gehring turned to his old building method to erect this shed.

The “late hybrid” mentioned earlier refers to the loafing shed attached to Barn #2. This component of that complex uses the post and pole framework of its much earlier companions, although it was constructed after 1933. One of the largest structures on the ranch, the loafing shed sheltered the milk cows whose existence centered around the milking bay of Barn #2. It joins the calf sheds of the 1960s as a late comer in this phase. The effectiveness of this building tradition is proven out by the loafing shed’s long-term survival and repeat use when Jack Gehring chose it to shelter calves.

SIDING ANOMALY: House # 1 Second Generation Configuration.

Sometime toward the end of the rough timber framed phase’s primary construction period, the Gehrings rebuilt the main ranch house (#1) by combining, or enveloping, the original log cabins in a combined structure with a more unified design. The second, and present, iteration is a single story structure clad with shiplap siding. It had one axis along the original cabin alignment. The lower cabin was raised to match its neighbor, creating one long roof. The shed dependency was maintained and sided over as well, creating a saltbox configuration.⁵¹

Perhaps for the first time, the Gehrings were faced with a project too complex for their skills and, certainly, for the little time they had to spare to such a venture. Two log cabins of different sizes had to be redesigned as one unit, and the log portion as well as the board-and-batten addition, had to be seamlessly encased in siding. For busy ranchers, there was not enough seasonable weather to address such a task and, regardless of their general knowledge of construction methods, it is fair to say that finishing work for domestic applications may have been beyond them. It would be unsurprising to find the Gehrings hired this job out. There is one indication that occurred. The federal census of June, 1900, lists among the Gehring household hired hands, usually identified as ‘boarder’ and usually given the work title of ‘farm laborer’, a boarder named Nelson E. Sherburne who is listed as a “Carpenter”, a title he retained when he lived in Helena for years afterward. Implied here is that Sherburne was doing carpentry work for the ranch. If so, there are only two building projects he could have worked on; the somewhat technically exacting granary #2 or this house conversion. Of these, the house project is far more involved. It is possible that his skills were applied to complete it. Unluckily, Bartholomew Gehring failed to enjoy this finished work; six days after the census taker’s visit, he died.

⁵¹ See “Additional Documentation—Historic Photographs,” Fig. 9.

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DIMENSION LUMBER FRAMED BOARD AND BATTEN PHASE: Granary #2 And Its North Addition, Feed Mill.

In the period between the old, rough timber constructs and commercially contracted work a few structures emerged using sawn dimension lumber and finer cut boards and battens. Two were very similar in purpose, although years apart, and involved David Gehring to an important degree. There clearly is a higher standard applied to these buildings that probably was allowed by financial means and personal preference. They are nearly commercial in quality, in fact, if contractors were employed to help with them, Gehring, whose meticulous references held strictly to his own work, would not have mentioned it in his journals. The one constructed by Gehring can be used as a comparison to the others. Whatever the course here, this phase is emblematic of David's era, one of ambition, professionalism and expansion.

In his book, *Fifty-Six Counties: A Montana Journey*, author Russell Rowland claims that farmers are necessarily among the country's most intelligent people.⁵² He sees meeting unexpected challenges while balancing the requirements of livestock, markets, technological advances, genetic permutations, chemical applications, business accounts, and land stewardship as proof of this. Montana's landscape is littered with the remains of operations that failed to sum up the final part of this formula: they didn't make it all work together. As David Gehring took over the ranch after his father's death, the possibility of losing it to misfortune or miscalculation was very real. Jane Gehring's influence no doubt aided the transfer of responsibility but the period between 1900 and 1912 was one of steady growth, the time when hog production began its ascendancy, and cattle raising as well. This would have been a good time to build Granary #2. In terms of materials use, the granary could have been constructed any time after 1890 but unless pressure to produce more grain was generated by other livestock in the '90s, the added storage was not needed. There isn't any indication of such. It seems more likely to be a turn-of-the-century building and probably existed prior to 1907.⁵³

Granary #2 was constructed in three sections, evidence of which is found in the Gehring journals, the panoramic photos of the ranch taken around 1914, and a family snapshot taken in the mid-1920s. The central granary was built first and certainly prior to September, 1913, when David added an automobile shed to one end of what he called the "new granary".⁵⁴ In fact, the central section alone is the granary.

⁵² Russell Rowland, *Fifty-Six Counties: A Montana Journey*. (Bozeman: Bangtail Press, 2016), p. 328.

⁵³ David Gehring Journal entry of October 30, 1909, "*fixed up the granarys* (sic)". Because there is no mention of constructing the "new" granary between 1907 and this date, it appears both granaries existed before then.

⁵⁴ David Gehring's journal: entry September 4th, 1913, "Started shed on N [north] of the new granary for automobile". He refers to the building as the "new granary" but this term may only distinguish it from the

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Every element of a classic farm granary is employed here: elevated foundations, tight seams, sturdy studs, partitioned interiors for different grains and specialized access doors - right out of the agricultural publications. The interior of the bin is separated into stalls designed to hold relatively little grain compared to the volumes that would come in later years as farms grew in size and productive capability. Such segmentation also indicates the expectation that different types of grain and different means of processing were to be handled in this building. It is a facility built with flexibility and, by today's standards, modest production in mind.

Granary #2 is relative to hog operations in particular and no doubt stored and processed feed for horses, chickens and special feed for cattle.⁵⁵ It also represents a mid-way point between the beginning of hog expansion and the height of that part of Gehring operations in the 1930s and 1940s. David Gehring fitted a new grinder to the 'new granary' in the spring of 1912 that was operated by the Horse Power.⁵⁶ The Gehring journals provide information regarding yields and grinding production in terms of sacks. It is here in these bins that those sacks would have been stored. Remnants of the horse-powered grinder remain attached to the granary. A grinding apparatus from the mid-twentieth century is still in the building, its gasoline tractor power-takeoff still attached to the wall. There is no evidence of heavy, steam-era machinery.

There is a reason why no grinding occurred here during the age of steam (or early gasoline, as in the Gehring's case). After 1913, no grinding was done at Granary #2. As discussed below, a water-power feed mill on Silver Creek was constructed that year and expanded in the 1920s, no doubt adjusting this "new" granary's role, depending on whether the hogs were fed directly from that mill or hauled here to be stored. The 1920s expansion of the water mill created both storage and feeding service on the creek. When the large mill shut down in the 1940s, milling returned here to the Granary and the interior milling machine run by a gasoline tractor's power-take-off was used. By that time, cattle had priority and it appears hog production faded.

original log Granary #1, built in the early years of the ranch. This fortunate reference helps date images of the ranch where the second granary is visible.

⁵⁵ Gehring Journals: entry of March, 1908, "*Ground hog feed*" (12 sacks of wheat, 5 sacks of oats). If this is the standard ratio for feed, as much land would have been devoted to wheat and oats because wheat produced half as many bushels per acre but oats weighed half as less. As for consumption, one sow can easily eat 2,500 lbs. of feed a year and one piglet, 600 lbs. Feeding one sow's six-piglet litter would require about six acres of grain. A dozen sows and litters would require over 70 acres of production plus that needed for boars, horses, chickens and, occasionally, cattle. During the period 1907 to 1910, most of the grain was cut and stacked for hay and David grinds less than 2,000 lbs of feed. But in November of 1911, the year he began hog production, that figure became a stunning 9,100 lbs. At this point, he would have had to purchase grain to supplement his production and then he would have had to devote more land to grain for feed.

⁵⁶ David Gehring Journals: entry of April 3, 1912, "*Moved horse power to new granary.*" This was done after excavating a place for a new grinder and elevator at the granary. Three days later he began grinding feed there.

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Granary #2's shed additions remained utilized as planned; David's auto storage on the north still houses vehicles. The south shed, actually the old 19th century kitchen dependency tacked on to the granary wall, contains unwanted items. A chicken nest is also there, possibly the remains of another 4-H project.

David's addition is very similar in composition to the granary, allowing for the difference in use. It shows he was capable of tight, quality construction and familiar with the use of dimensional lumber. The mill addition he reports building later is, in fact, part granary itself, and required the same knowledge and methods. He was fully capable of constructing Granary #2.

The auto storage shed provides a clue to a minor mystery; the Gehring "twin-window". Several buildings are equipped with fixed side-by-side sashes set in a crude frame. These twin sashes are seen in the workshop, hen house, kitchen dependency, auto shed, and the hog shed. The possibility of their ubiquitous use may stem from the ranch acquiring a dozen or more of these three-over-two glazed window frames resulting in a decision to finally get light in several dark spaces. It is also possible the collection of windows was turned to as buildings were built, though this seems less likely given the long period between their construction. Regardless, David Gehring built this shed and the window he installed matches the others. He seems to be the originator of the type.

David Gehring was busy building that fall. Once he finished the auto shed on Granary #2 he began finishing a "feed grinder building". In October, 1913, he reported installing the iron water pipe and concrete fixtures to power a grinder. He worked on the mill for several days during this time, relating that the mill operated for years after its construction. The absence of the mill in images from the Gehring Photographic Collection made earlier than 1913 indicates the mill was not present until at least that time. A photograph, GPC-83, either reproduced by Jorud studios in 1928 or processed some years after being taken, unquestionably displays the portion of the Feed Mill identified in this nomination as the "machinery block" standing independently with water running from a wheel housed high on its north side and being discharged into Silver Creek. This predecessor to the existing mill stood until the winter of 1926-1927 when David Gehring undertook a major revision of the structure. He records adding a granary, cement foundations, and a self-feeding unit there.⁵⁷ This is the structure identified as the Feed Mill.

⁵⁷ David Ferguson and Meyer Garren, *A Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of the Silver Creek Study Corridor, Lewis and Clark County, Montana*. Report by GCM Services, Inc. Butte, Montana, 2003. The vision of a self-feeding grist mill, according to the GCM report, was that of Lorn Hardie, Gehring's neighbor and the father of Ann Gehring. While there is no mention of collaboration in the journals, Gehring and Hardie may have conferred on the project, but David clearly understood and specified the work that was done. The source of this information was Jack Gehring who certainly had some reason to mention the Hardie connection but who understandably confused the oral information he picked up over the years. This is certainly true of his account of the mill.

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In 2003, Jack Gehring reported that the mill operated until the 1940s and fed hogs directly from the structure. Grain was stored in the bins of the main section and fed into the grinding system using the chain driven troughs.⁵⁸ Once on the ground, the feed entered another bin from which it was delivered via troughs between the walls to the feeding location in the south shed. As hogs nuzzled the wide canvas belt on which the feed dropped, it moved forward, supplying more feed. Regardless of the improved Pelton water wheel, the flow in Gehring's irrigation ditch was less than adequate to run the mill at peak performance. To boost power, water was pumped from the irrigation ditch using a Durant automobile engine and may have been pumped to fill a large iron tank to be released in a gushing discharge when needed.⁵⁹ Such a tank now sits in the upper evergreen grove. A matching iron lid, or cover, lays in pasture, 50 feet north of the mill. Gehring's diary suggests this engine installation occurred in 1931. This mill, including the mechanization of the process, represents the Gehring's operations for over two decades in the 1930s and 1940s, until concentrating the focus of their operation on raising cattle in the 1940s.

The Gehring Feed Mill solved an important problem for the family hog operations: supplying ground feed for animals in an expanded setup. The small hog sheds east of the house had limitations. This open space in the pasture, on the creek with a consistent and ready source of feed, was a combination that allowed considerable numbers of animals to be cared for with minimum labor. In 1926, for example, the Gehrings fed 14 sows plus 105 of their offspring and the mill ground 275 lbs of feed per hour of operation.⁶⁰ The mill represents agricultural innovation, mechanization, and efficiency typical of the Gehring Ranch.

The mill eliminated the need to grind feed with the Horse Power, the same piece of equipment used to cut wood. David Gehring must have been familiar with its limitations, particularly given the technological advantages of steam and gasoline powered equipment. As much as the family loved and understood horses, their ultimate redundancy was inevitable. The Horse Power was often in use, so much so that its parts required occasional replacement, and its survival on the ranch today remains fortunate as a representative of early agriculture. An illustration of a Carey-Pitts Sweep Horse Power in the Sears Roebuck and Company catalog of 1897 closely resembles this unit.⁶¹

Successors to the Horse Power were steam tractors. For the most part, such tractors were hired to do the specific job of powering the portable threshing machines that David Gehring often

⁵⁸ David Ferguson and Meyer Garren, *A Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of the Silver Creek Study Corridor, Lewis and Clark County, Montana*. Report by GCM Services, Inc. Butte, Montana, 2003.

⁵⁹ The same engine used earlier to power the electrical system on the ranch.

⁶⁰ David Gehring Journals: entries of February 23 and March 10, 1926.

⁶¹ David Gehring was known by the family to be much enamored of Sears-Roebuck. His journals record with apparent satisfaction dates of orders, receipts and delivery of items for the ranch.

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mentions in his journals. An early steam tractor is shown operating a thresher in photo GPC-43.⁶² Another photo, GPC-32, shows a Garr-Scott, 25-75 unit. These were probably employed for specific jobs. Threshing was vital to the ranch as oats and wheat processed by the threshers were its most significant crops.

For his machines, David Gehring appears to have skipped the steam age and opted for a gasoline powered tractor. Like a steam tractor, Gehring's Holt-45 was equipped with a powerful drive wheel which spun a drive belt connected to a similar wheel on a threshing machine. The thresher's complex gears, shakers, belts and augers were easily put to work by the tractor. It is clear in the journals that David Gehring had purchased his own "*thrashing machine*" by at least 1926.⁶³ With their own threshing unit, the Gehrings could set their own schedule. They also did 'custom work' for neighbors, traveling to their fields to operate the machine for payment.

Threshing machines were in common use before the turn of the nineteenth century. The early versions were wooden enclosures to which the various gears and pulleys were attached, inside and out. The ruins of three wooden machines are found near the Gehring ranch buildings along with a smaller metal-sided, or "steel", thresher; a later model. The technical term used for such machines was "separator" because they separated grain from chaff and stems. Typical of the sprawling manufacturing scene of the time, grain separators were manufactured by many different companies in savage competition with one another. The Gehring ranch's best surviving model is a large, steel separator built by Advance-Rumely. The constantly evolving Advance-Rumely company built steel separators from 1916 to 1936, when they were absorbed into the more stable Alice-Chalmers Manufacturing Co.⁶⁴ Gehring's machine bears the number 28116 on the panel referencing the machine number (this may also be merely a part number). If this is indeed a serial number, it was built in 1924, early enough to be operated by the Holt tractor then owned by David Gehring.⁶⁵

The size of Gehring's separator indicates it was expected to process a large volume of grain in a short period of time. When in operation, a threshing machine demanded the attention of several men, the first which would throw twine-wrapped bundles of cut grain stems with the hulls and

⁶² See "Additional Documentation—Historic Photographs," Fig. 4.

⁶³ David Gehring Journals: entry of July 23, 1926.

⁶⁴ "The Rumely Companies Agricultural Machinery, 1853-1931," American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Accessed Jul 24, 2016, <https://www.asme.org/getmedia/d44ed4fd-8920-4082-9a6a-b0a7a4f0c99a/225-Rumely-Companies-Agricultural-Products.aspx>.

⁶⁵ Chris and Rod Epping, "Epping's Complete Advance-Rumely Serial Number List", accessed Apr 30, 2016, <http://rumelypull.tripod.com/RumelySN.html>; Interview with Bill Gehring, April, 2016. Also, the Holt operated on the ranch for over twenty years, probably until 1942 when David Gehring donated a two-ton tractor to the war effort's scrap metal program (Gehring family papers). He certainly did not fall victim to the common temptation among farmers to buy new machinery.

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seeds still attached onto a belt that drew the bundles into the threshing works. Inside, the grain was flailed with cutting blades that severed the twine and heads of grain away where they were pummeled over plates and sieves to knock individual kernels from their hulls, allowing them to drop away from the larger straw that was 'walked' toward the rear of the machine by a table mounted on eccentric gears. Finally, air blown through the shaking kernels threw the last of the chaff into an exit tube and the purified grain was sent to a bagging platform where it was sacked and thrown onto a waiting wagon. Threshers like this operated into the 1950s, particularly in places where fields were small, irregular or rough; places where combination harvesters that operated under their own power found the going difficult.

CONVENTIONALLY FRAMED, HORIZONTALLY SIDED PHASE: Barn # 1, Bunkhouse #1, House #1 East Addition, Privy #2, Barn # 2.

The final phase of construction on the Gehring Ranch steps away from the do-it-yourself tradition and, for the most part, passes the job of building major components on to professional contractors. The resulting buildings are large-scale (except for the privy), stud-wall framed, horizontally sided and pattern book designed.

The mid-1920's were exciting times for the Gehring ranch. Not only did they finally accommodate the growing Gehring family by expanding the main house but they built a new barn and replaced the old log bunkhouse as well. The profile of the ranch changed dramatically as a result but there would be more ambitious changes in agriculture production that meant more building soon afterward. Technological changes continued to influence the ranch. Telephone lines were erected in 1926. In addition, the ranch's electrical system was improved. Prior to the time when the Rural Electrification Administration brought reliable electricity to the site, a Delco power plant was installed.⁶⁶ In 1928, that source was expanded to supply many of the outbuildings. Through this means, the ranch had the convenience of electric lights to be widely used and electricity from the Delco plant powered domestic utilities at the house. Nonetheless, such a generator and battery system had significant limitations. A new one was installed in 1935.

With the birth of their third child, David and Ann Gehring faced the necessity of addressing the domestic constraints of the old converted homestead cabins with their small rooms, lack of privacy and drafty kitchen. In October of 1928, David likely contracted to have an addition built onto the back of the home, replacing the old lean-to with a large, two story gabled improvement.⁶⁷ The old summer kitchen was peeled away from the cabin to which it was attached and moved under the southern eave of the 'new granary' (#2). The craftsman style

⁶⁶ David Gehring Journals: entry of December 12, 1927, "*Took Delco light engine to helena for repairs for new middle crankshaft bearing.*"

⁶⁷ Gehring family papers; bills for shiplap siding and lumber dated October, 1928. The house is the only building constructed on-site that uses such siding.

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addition to the house made perfect sense and was no doubt the subject of much wintertime conversation and planning. Its mud-room entry and convenient kitchen complete with a typically innovative dumb-waiter must have been a welcome change for Ann Gehring. There were new bedrooms upstairs and a cozy parlor looking over the road and valley to the south. A glassed in rear porch was part of this new design. The same siding was used and the overall result was again uniform and pleasing.

The basement was also improved by excavating more space enclosed with concrete walls. This provided additional cooling areas for milk and other goods, chilled with water piped in, possibly from a well in the north evergreen grove. The addition would have freed up other rooms in the old cabin area as well. Today, with the exception of a small mud room built on to the rear porch, the house maintains the appearance of the 1920s design.

Possibly as an afterthought, the Gehring's house project included the construction of a swimming pool. Built by Great Falls contractor Maynard Lee whose family may have been involved in constructing the house addition, the pool was a recreation feature for David and Ann Gehring's children.⁶⁸ It no longer holds water and is partially filled in with earth, but it illustrates that ranch life could involve fun as well as work.

According to the owner's recollection and the family history written by Ruth Gehring, Bunkhouse # 2 was moved to the ranch. This is confirmed by photographic and written evidence as occurring in 1929. A photograph identifies the house as being moved from Ann Gehring's brother's homestead.⁶⁹ Lorn Hardie proved up on in the eastern ½ of Section 8 next to the Gehring property at the time. Another photo shows the bunkhouse placed next to a well under construction; the background of the photograph compares favorably to the present appearance of Section 8, including the presence of an old well.⁷⁰ Lorn Hardie used this structure to meet homestead requirements and Gehring acquired after it was no longer needed for that purpose.

Bunkhouse #2 housed ranch hands, including family members who lived on "the place". It is well preserved and represents the time before mechanization when laborers were needed to do the many tasks required to keep the ranch productive. The bunk house has an ingenious contraption to wake hands by remote control from the main house. Everyone got up early but Gehring made certain it was according to his time schedule. From a hallway window outside of his bedroom, he could trip a switch and drop a weight hanging next to the bunkhouse onto large circular saw blade, probably one used to cut firewood with the Horse Power. This made a mighty "gong" that easily reverberated through the small structure. Knowing the boss triggered the

⁶⁸ Personal communication, Bill Gehring to Paul Putz on April 18, 2016.

⁶⁹ See "Additional Documentation—Historic Photographs," Fig. 10.

⁷⁰ GPC-46 shows Lorn Hardie and the well on the piece of property he homesteaded. The quick transition between his claim and Gehring acquisition of the land may indicate this was the plan all along.

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electric connection, the effect could be viewed either as funny or aggravating to bunkhouse residents, depending on their mood. It was fun, but fun for a serious purpose.⁷¹

Handy to Bunkhouse #2 is Privy #2, a commercially produced facility. Built by the Works Progress Administration, these privies were made available to rural residents across the country, some of whom referred to them as “Roosevelts”. This one was used where it sits, the bunkhouse just uphill and to the west. If the ranch bought the privy new, it would have procured it from the WPA at a nearby outlet as such structures were built and distributed locally.

On September 8, 1928, the Gehring family awoke to find their old barn ablaze.⁷² Nothing could be done to save it or the three horses and 15 harness sets also lost in the fire. Adding to the tragedy was the necessity of shooting two other badly burned horses. Half-insured, the large barn and its catslide mow required replacing.⁷³ The barn that burned succeeded the log Stable as a stock shelter and was an essential part of the operation. Obviously, it sheltered the ranch workhorses that appear in several of the family photo collection. The Gehrings took a special interest in these powerful animals. David referred to them by name in his journals and noted their deaths as he did those of his human kin and neighbors. He was, according to the family, a very knowledgeable horseman, who, when crippled by the effects of a shattered hip late in life, taught his saddle horse to lower himself on his knees so David could mount up. To see his horses burn and be killed as a result of this fire must have been a painful blow.

The structure that replaced the burned barn is the present larger, more modern building. Barn #1 is of a standard design probably provided by the contractor, a lumber company or an agricultural publication. It illustrates the configuration necessary to house the many draft horses required in the early days of ranching, despite the quickened-pace of tractors replacing their animal predecessors. With the advent of mechanization, the barn sheltered cows instead of horses.

Barn #1 is a key component of the Gehring Ranch. As the most accessible animal containment facility, it served as the care center for animals that required special tending, feeding or growth monitoring. Its voluminous hay mow guaranteed clean, dry feed would be available in quantities sufficient to supply goodly numbers of animals for extended periods of time. It has been in constant use since its construction.

The commercial building phase had one more major edifice to contribute. Apparently, raising increasing numbers of hogs, running cattle on more and more pasture, necessarily planting more grain and keeping up an extensive garden, raising horses, chickens and fruit while investing in

⁷¹ This was not the first bunkhouse bell. David Gehring recorded installing one on a bunkhouse in February of 1911.

⁷² *The Independent Record* (Helena MT) September 9, 1928, p 6; Gehring Journals, entry of Sep 8, 1928.

⁷³ See “Additional Documentation—Historic Photographs,” Fig. 2.

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other enterprises far and wide was not enough of a challenge for the Gehring family. They needed to build a large milk barn, too. Begun by David and Ann Gehring in 1933, this combination hay mow, milk shed, and cattle shelter introduced a sophisticated milking operation to the Gehring's other, wide ranging ambitions.

Although milk production and sales were part of the ranch operation from its inception, the limited space in the pre-1928 barn must have impeded the production of the milking operation. The older building would necessarily have served several purposes. The new barn (# 1), built three years prior to this one, could be used for milking but not in the more sanitary, production line setup this purpose-built structure ultimately offered. Clearly, this unit was a serious effort to boost production and to do so to high standards. There may have been a special arrangement with a supplier in Helena or an opening in the market that favored such a move. Health regulations would have been some consideration as well. The state of Montana was discussing the control of milk production and marketing and, in 1935, created a Milk Control Bureau.⁷⁴ With the construction of this new facility, the Gehring operation was poised to meet any new requirements.

It was David's son, Jack, who returned to the build-it-yourself tradition. House # 2, started in 1946 and finished in 1948 by Jack and Rose Gehring, was used as their family's dwelling. In 1970, it burned as a result of a fire caused by a clothes dryer. The house began its existence as an ice house, possibly the one David Gehring built in 1928. This was added on to with materials and part of another building moved to the ranch from a property near York.⁷⁵

OTHER STRUCTURES: Corrals.

Corrals are essential ranch features. These corrals are the latest in a series of stock enclosures near and around the barns on the ranch. They connect with fences surrounding a large winter pasture that spans Silver Creek and runs north and south of the barns themselves, an area so utilized for decades as evidenced in the Gehring photo collection. At different times within this pasture, in locations both north and south of the permanent barns, the Gehrings constructed post and beam shelters with roofs made of hay. These shelters allowed stock to get out of the wind but not be unhealthily enclosed. Land disturbance where these structures stood is still visible in the pasture. The Corrals, while being important visually, serve a vital ranch role, and are representatives of similar features present at the ranch for many decades.

⁷⁴ "Milk Control," State of Montana Department of Livestock, Milk Control Bureau Information, accessed December 1, 2016, <http://liv.mt.gov/mc/default.mcp>

⁷⁵ Personal communication, Bill Gehring and Rose Gehring to Paul Putz on April 18, 2016.

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centers on work done at the ranch but may include trips to other places, deaths, incidents involving livestock, machinery repair and building construction. Entries are terse but informative, dated and legible. Occasional personal notes appear.

Interviews and Personal Communications

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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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Lewis and Clark County Heritage Tourism Council

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Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 11 (eleven)

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

A. Latitude	46.72250	Longitude	-112.14393
B. Latitude	46.72269	Longitude	-112.14424
C. Latitude	46.72531	Longitude	-112.14175
D. Latitude	46.72559	Longitude	-112.14217
E. Latitude	46.72642	Longitude	-112.14096
F. Latitude	46.72589	Longitude	-112.14029
G. Latitude	46.72489	Longitude	-112.14077
H. Latitude	46.72473	Longitude	-112.14128
I. Latitude	46.72394	Longitude	-112.14195

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

1. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
4. Zone:	Easting :	Northing:

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

Beginning at a point (A) 120 feet west southwest of the west wall of the Gehring Mill and directly through the centers of the two concrete basins (headgates) in the ditch supplying water to the mill itself, the boundary line turns northwest 339 degrees and parallels the western border of the irrigation ditch for approximately 100 feet. From this point (B), the line turns northeast and makes a bee-line for the northwest corner of the Gehring ranch house (house #1, map reference #14) 35.37 degrees for a distance of about 1,150 feet to the center of the eastern road ditch of highway 297 (C). From this point the line follows that center northwest for about 200 feet, 315.11 degrees, to a point west of the corner of the fence line that surrounds the ranch headquarters (D). The boundary roughly parallels this northeast running fence line for a distance of about 275 feet at an angle of 35 degrees to a tree north of the fence line and west of the waterline, before turning very slightly more east, at an angle of 44.6 degrees, for a distance of about 175 feet to a point 22 feet more or less northwest of the northwest corner of log bunkhouse (bunkhouse #1, map reference #1) [E]. The line turns at an angle of 136.6 degrees south and runs approximately 230 feet to a point east of the south east corner of the hog shelter (map reference #3) [F], and then almost due south 400 feet until it reaches the fence line about 70 feet south of the south wall of the metal shed (map reference #20) [G]. The line follows the fence line south for about 230 feet, gradually turning southwest and crossing the highway to a fence line and water drainage (H). It then turns south-southwest paralleling the corral fence for a distance of over 362 feet (I), where it turns southwest at an angle of 232.7 degrees for about 800 feet to its beginning at point A.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries contain all of the structures and features present in this nomination including the groves (windbreaks), a segment of the waterline and the water powered feed mill and the features associated with it (Silver Creek and the irrigation ditch water supply) that are some distance from the primary concentration of buildings on the ranch. The boundaries also follow the fences and corrals that enclose the ranch home, barns, outbuildings and garden spaces. These fences and corrals are well marked traditional boundaries for the headquarters.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Paul M. Putz

organization: PMPHPW

street & number: 101 S. Maple

city or town: Townsend state MT zip code: 59644

e-mail paulputz@mt.net

telephone: 406-266-3287

date: January 4, 2017

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Gehring Ranch

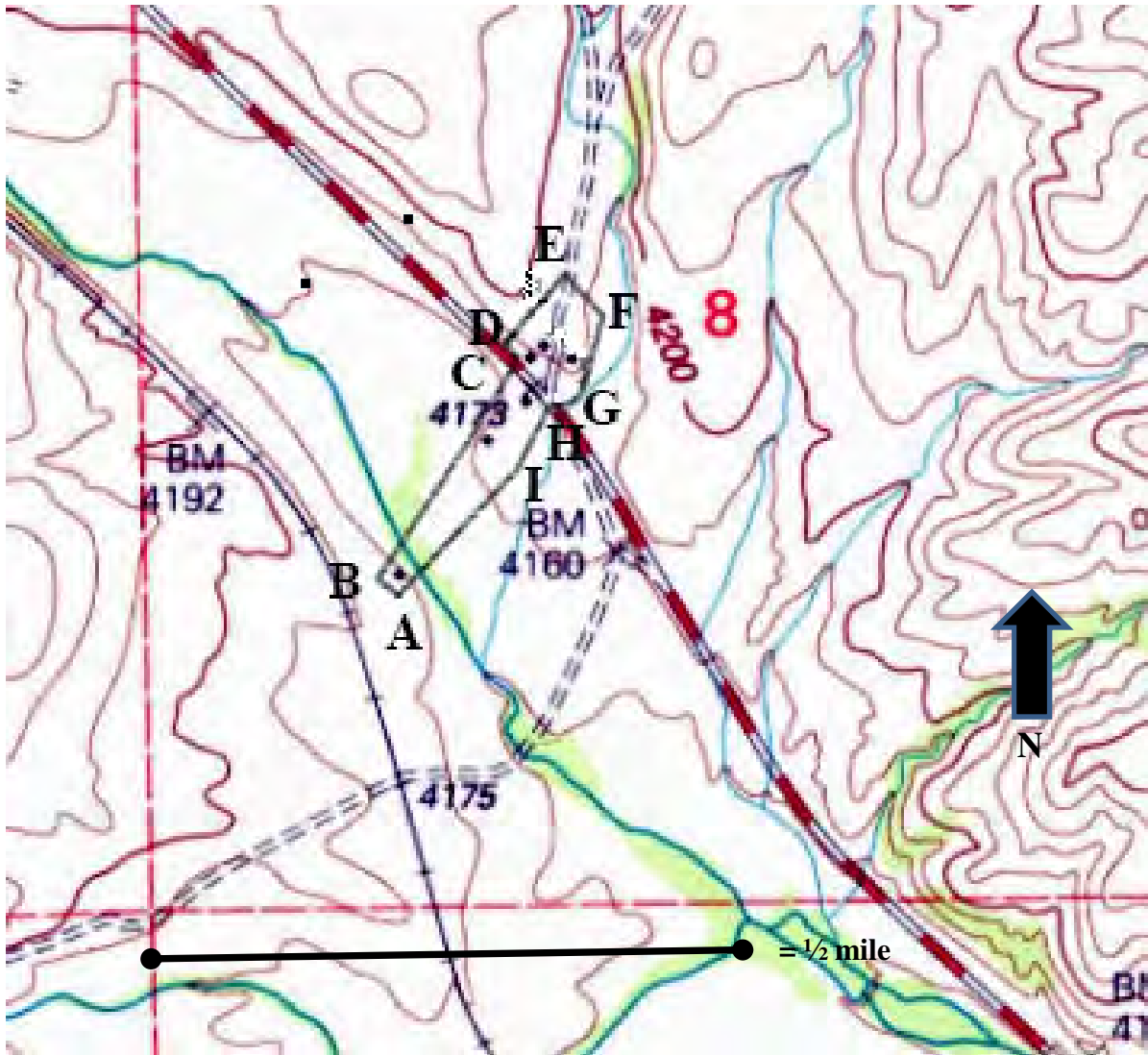
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N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Section number Additional Documentation — Maps Page 79



Location of the Gehring Ranch. Found on the Austin USGS 7.5' topographic map. Section 8, T11N R4W.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

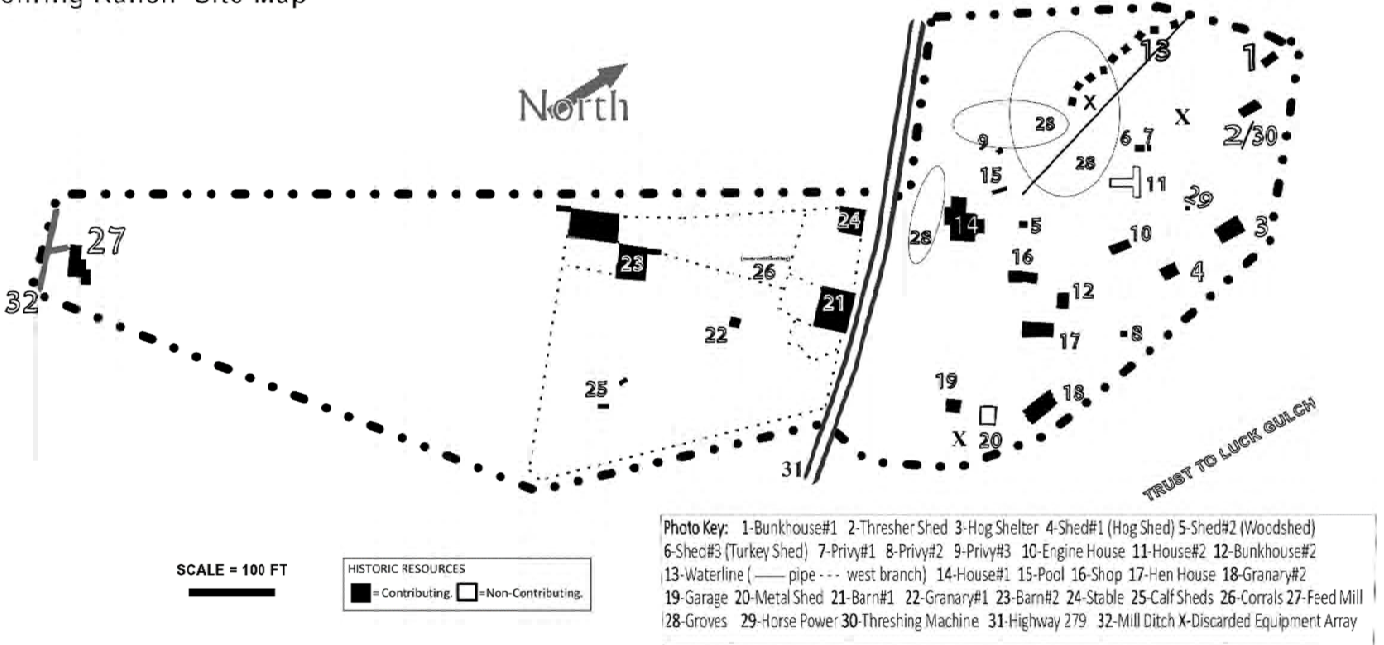
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Gehring Ranch Site Map



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
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N/A

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Index of Figures: Gehring Photograph Collection (GPC)

- Figure #1 GPC-62 GehringGlassPrint62.tif. Ca. 1914. Hog Shed (Shed #1).
- Figure #2 GPC-74 GehringGlassPrint74.tif. Barn on the Gehring Ranch. Burned in 1928 and replaced with Barn #1.
- Figure #3 GPC-54 GehringGlassPrint54.tif. The “Horse Power” being used to saw wood.
- Figure #4 GPC-43 GehringGlassPrint43.tif. Ca. 1910. Steam tractor powering a threshing machine.
- Figure #5 GPC-53 GehringGlassPrint53.tif. Ca. 1914. Ranch Overview. Camera facing northwest.
- Figure #6 GPC-73 GehringGlassPrint73.tif. Ca. 1914. Camera facing north. Ranch Overview.
- Figure #7 GPC-47 GehringGlassPrint47.tif. 1913. Gehring automobile.
- Figure #8 GPC-47 GehringHouse-1870s-2.tif. Ca. 1875-1880. Original log cabins on the Gehring Ranch.
- Figure #9 GPC-75 GehringGlassPrint75.tif. Ca. 1914. House #1 with Conifer Grove in the background.
- Figure #10 GPC-91 GehringGlassPrint-91.tif. 1929. Moving Bunkhouse #2 from Hardie homestead.
- Figure #11 Horse Sweep.jpg. Horse Power machine in operation at the Manitoba Agricultural Museum. No date.
- Figure #12 Horse-Power-Cary-Pitts-IMAGE.jpg. A horse power in the 1897 Sears Roebuck & Co. catalog.
- Figure #13 DavidGehringJournal.tif Entries in the David Gehring journal for early February, 1913.
- Figure #14: View of the Gehring Ranch showing the old highway running between the barn and house. Ca. 1910.

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Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Figure #1 GPC-62 GehringGlassPrint62.tif. Ca. 1914. Hog Shed (Shed #1).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Figure #2 GPC-74 GehringGlassPrint74.tif. Barn on the Gehring Ranch. Burned in 1928 and replaced with Barn #1.

United States Department of the Interior
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Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Figure #3 GPC-54 GehringGlassPrint54.tif. The “Horse Power” being used to saw wood.

United States Department of the Interior
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Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Figure #4 GPC-43 GehringGlassPrint43.tif. Ca. 1910. Steam tractor powering a threshing machine.

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Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Figure #5 GPC-53 GehringGlassPrint53.tif. Ca. 1914. Ranch Overview. Camera facing northwest.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Figure #6 GPC-73 GehringGlassPrint73.tif. Ca. 1914. Camera facing north. Ranch Overview.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Figure #7 GPC-47 GehringGlassPrint47.tif. 1913. Gehring automobile.

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Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Figure #8 GPC-47 GehringHouse-1870s-2.tif. Ca. 1875-1880. Original log cabins on the Gehring Ranch.

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Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Figure #9 GPC-75 GehringGlassPrint75.tif. Ca. 1914. House #1 with Conifer Grove in the background.

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Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Figure #10 GPC-91 GehringGlassPrint-91.tif. 1929. Moving Bunkhouse #2 from Hardie homestead.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Gehring Ranch

Name of Property

Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Figure #11 Horse Sweep.jpg. Horse Power machine in operation at the Manitoba Agricultural Museum. No date.

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Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

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N/A

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The Genuine Carey Pitts Horse Power for \$46.50.



The Pitts horse power as illustrated above is too well known to require much comment from us. It is made of the best quality air seasoned white ash, charcoal iron gears, the frame is of steel and the gear is heavier than in any other power of the same horse power made. The weight is so distributed as to give the greatest possible strength. This power is especially adapted for farm work, such as wood sawing, cider making, etc. The height of the main gear wheel is 4 feet. Measurement across power from one end of sweep to end of opposite sweep, 24 inches. Number of revolutions, 50 to one turn of the wheels. Two sweeps, one 16 foot tumbling rod and a 24 inch pulley go with each power.

Please remember that this power weighs only 1,150 lbs., hence we do not recommend it for the work of a 6 or 8 horse power which should weigh from 1,500 to 2,000 lbs. No. 18025½. Price..... **\$46.50**

We can furnish horse powers of any size and will be glad to quote special prices on special sizes upon application.

Figure #12 Horse-Power-Cary-Pitts-IMAGE.jpg. A horse power in the 1897 Sears Roebuck & Co. catalog.

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Gehring Ranch

Name of Property

Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State

N/A

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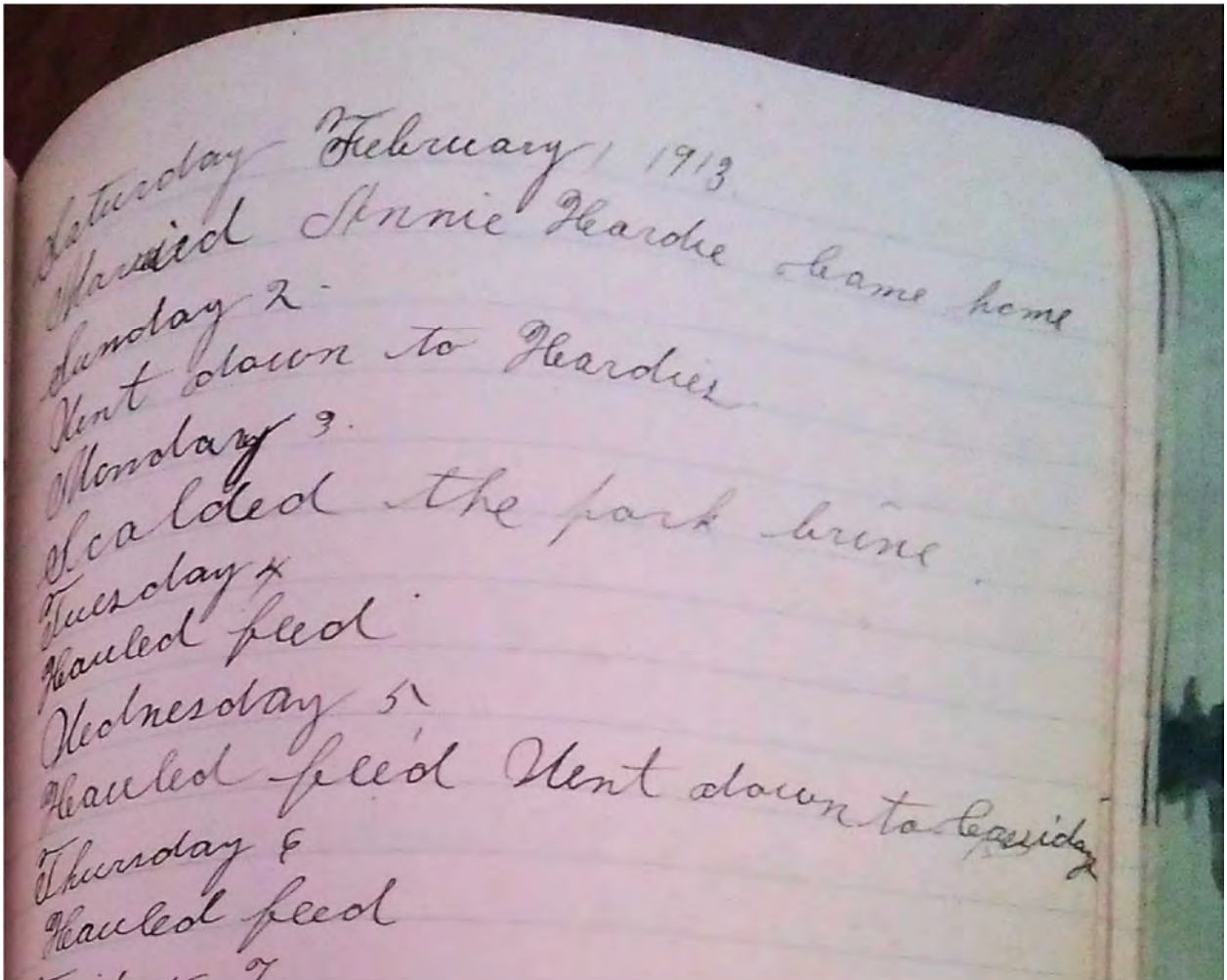


Figure #13 DavidGehringJournal.tif. Entries in the David Gehring journal for early February, 1913.

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Continuation Sheet

Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

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Figure #14: View of the Gehring Ranch showing the old highway running between the barn and house. Ca. 1910.

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Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

National Register Photographs

Photograph Log:

All photographs:

Name of Property: Gehring Ranch

City or Vicinity: Silver City

County: Lewis and Clark

State: MT

Name of Photographer: Paul M. Putz (unless otherwise noted)

Date of Photographs: March – April 2016

Location of Original Digital Files: 316 N. Park, Helena MT 59623

United States Department of the Interior
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Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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1 of 84

Building #1 Bunkhouse #1, Contributing, Photo-1
Elevation View. Camera Facing Northwest. South Elevation (left) East Elevation (right)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_Gehring Ranch_0001

**United States Department of the Interior
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Gehring Ranch

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Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Building #1 Bunkhouse #1, Contributing, Photo-2
Camera Facing Southeast. North Elevation (left) West Elevation (right)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_Gehring Ranch_0002

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Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Building #1 Bunkhouse #,1 Contributing, Photo-3
Interior View. Camera Facing North. North wall (right) West wall (left)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_Gehring Ranch_0003

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Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Building #2 Thresher Shed (collapsing on Threshing Machine), Both shed and machine counted as contributing resources) Photo-1

Elevation View. Camera Facing Southwest. East Elevation (left) North Elevation (right)

MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_Gehring Ranch_0004

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Gehring Ranch
Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana
County and State
N/A
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Building #3 Hog Shelter, Contributing, Photo-1
Elevation View. Camera Facing Northwest. South Elevation (left) East Elevation (right)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_Gehring Ranch_0005

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Gehring Ranch
Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana
County and State
N/A
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Building #3 Hog Shelter, Contributing, Photo-2
Elevation View. Camera Facing Southeast. North Elevation (left) West Elevation (right)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_Gehring Ranch_0006

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Gehring Ranch

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Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

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Building #3 Hog Shelter, Contributing, Photo-3
Interior View. Camera Facing North. North wall (right) West wall (left). Upright beams and overhead timbers in middle and foreground.
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_Gehring Ranch_0007

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Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Building #4 Hog Shed (shed #1), Contributing, Photo-1
Elevation View. Camera Facing Northeast. West Elevation (left) South Elevation (right)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_Gehring Ranch_0008

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National Park Service

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Gehring Ranch
Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Building #4 Hog Shed (shed #1), Contributing, Photo-2
Elevation View. Camera Facing Southwest. East Elevation (left) North Elevation (right)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_Gehring Ranch_0009

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Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

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Building #4 Hog Shed (shed #1), Contributing, Photo-3
Interior View. Camera Facing Northeast. North wall (left) East wall (right)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_Gehring Ranch_0010

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Gehring Ranch
Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Building #5 Shed #2, Contributing, Photo-1
Interior View. Camera Facing South. Northeast wall (left) Northwest wall (right)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_Gehring Ranch_0011

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Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Building #6 Turkey Shed (Shed #3), Contributing, Photo-1
Elevation View. Camera Facing Northeast. West Elevation (left) South Elevation (right)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_Gehring Ranch_0012

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Gehring Ranch
Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Building #7 Privy #1, Contributing, Photo-1
Elevation View. Camera Facing Southwest. Subject in Center. East Elevation (left) North
Elevation (right)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_Gehring Ranch_0013

Also: Building # 6 Turkey Shed, Contributing, Photo-2
Elevation View. Camera Facing Southwest. Subject Left of Center. East Elevation (left) North
Elevation (right)

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Gehring Ranch
Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Building #8 Privy #2, Contributing, Photo-1

Date of Photo: July 22, 2016.

Elevation View. Camera Facing Northeast. South Elevation (right) West Elevation (left)

MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_Gehring Ranch_0014

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Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

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Building #9 Privy #3, Contributing, Photo-1
Elevation View. Camera Facing Northwest. South Elevation (left) East Elevation (right)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_Gehring Ranch_0015

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Gehring Ranch
Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Building #10 Machine Shed, Contributing, Photo-1
Elevation View. Camera Facing Northeast. West Elevation (left) South Elevation (right)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_Gehring Ranch_0016

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Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Building #10 Machine Shed, Contributing, Photo-2
Elevation View. Camera Facing West. East Elevation.
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_Gehring Ranch_0017

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Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

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Building #11 House #2, 2017 construction, Noncontributing, Photo-1
Elevation View. Camera Facing Northwest. Primary Façade.
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_Gehring Ranch_0018

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Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Building #11 House #2, 2017 construction, Noncontributing, Photo-2
Elevation View. Camera Facing East. Primary Façade.
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_Gehring Ranch_0019

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Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Building #12 Bunkhouse #2, Contributing, Photo-1
Elevation View. Camera Facing East. Northwest Elevation (Left) Southwest Elevation (Right)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0020

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Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

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Building #12 Bunkhouse #2, Contributing, Photo-2
Elevation View. Camera Facing West. Southeast Elevation (Left) Northeast Elevation (Right)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0021

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Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

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N/A

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Building #12 Bunkhouse #2, Contributing, Photo-3
Interior View. Camera Facing North. Northwest Interior Wall (Left) Northeast Wall (Right)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0022

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Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Building #12 Bunkhouse #2, Contributing, Photo-4
Interior View. Camera Facing North. Northwest Wall (Left) Northeast Wall (Right)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0023

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Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Historic Feature #13 Waterline. Contributing, Photo #1
Camera Facing North. Main Incoming Water Ditch With Pipe (Center)
(Bunkhouse #1 In Background)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0024

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Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Historic Feature #13 Waterline. Contributing, Photo #2
Camera Facing Southwest. West Branch of Water Ditch (Center)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0025

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Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 122



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Historic Feature #13 Waterline. Contributing, Photo #3
Camera Facing East. Main Branch of Water Pipe (Center)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0026

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Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Building #14 House #1, Contributing, Photo-1
Elevation View. Camera Facing Northwest. Southwest Elevation (Left) Southeast Elevation
(Right)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0027

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Gehring Ranch
Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Building #14 House #1, Contributing, Photo-2
Elevation View. Camera Facing South. North Elevation (Center)
Pool (Far Right)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0028

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Gehring Ranch

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Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

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Building #14 House #1, Contributing, Photo-3
Elevation View. Camera Facing East. Northwest and Southwest Elevations.
Well Housing (Far Left) Feature #28, Grove (Foreground)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0029

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Gehring Ranch
Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Building #14 House #1, Contributing, Photo-4
Interior View. Kitchen. Camera Facing West. Southwest Interior Wall (Left) Northwest Wall (Right)
(Shows 1920s Cabinetry and Fixtures, Dumbwaiter to Basement (Below Clock Center))
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0030

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Gehring Ranch
Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Building #14 House #1, Contributing, Photo-5
Interior View. Parlor. Camera Facing South. Southeast Interior Wall (Left) Southwest Wall (Right)
(Shows Depth of Log Walls, Fenestration, After Pre-1900 Configuration)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0031

United States Department of the Interior
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Gehring Ranch

Name of Property

Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Building #14 House #1, Contributing, Photo-6
Interior View. Southeastern Attic. Camera Facing North-Northwest. Original log cabin's
southeast wall (left) with ghost join of second log cabin. Northeast interior pony wall built up to
bring both roofs to level in pre-1900 configuration (right).
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0032

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Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Structure #15 Swimming Pool. Contributing, Photo #1
Camera Facing South. Pool (Center) House #1 (Background)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0033

**United States Department of the Interior
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Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Building #16 Shop, Contributing, Photo-1
Elevation View. Camera Facing Northeast. Northwest Elevation (Left) Southwest Elevation (Right)

MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0034

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Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Building #16 Shop, Contributing, Photo-2
Elevation View. Camera Facing South. Northeast Elevation (Left) Northwest Elevation (Right)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0035

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Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Building #16 Shop, Contributing, Photo-3
Elevation View. Camera Facing Northwest. Southwest Elevation (Left) Southeast Elevation
(Center)

MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0036

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Gehring Ranch
Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Building #16 Shop, Contributing, Photo-4
Interior View. Camera Facing Southwest. Carpentry Shop. Southwest Wall (Center) Northwest
Wall (Right)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0037

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Gehring Ranch
Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Building #16 Shop, Contributing, Photo-5
Interior View. Camera Facing Southwest. Blacksmith Shop. Southwest Inner Wall (Rear Of First Log Structure)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0038

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Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Building #17 Hen House, Contributing, Photo-1

Date of Photo: July 22, 2016.

Elevation View. Camera Facing East. Northwest Elevation (Left) Southwest Elevation (Right).

Shows new metal roof.

MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0039

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

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Continuation Sheet**

Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 136



40 Of 84

Building #17 Hen House, Contributing, Photo-2
Elevation View. Camera Facing East. Northwest Elevation. Original Log On Stone Wall (Left)
Board and Batten Addition Wall (Right). Shows shingles prior to re-roofing.
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0040

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 137



41 Of 84

Building #17 Hen House, Contributing, Photo-3
Elevation View. Camera Facing North. Southeast Elevation. Board and Batten Addition Wall
(Left) Log On Stone Wall (Right). Shows shingles prior to re-roofing.
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0041

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 138



42 Of 84

Building #17 Hen House, Contributing, Photo-4
Elevation View. Camera Facing South. Northeast Elevation. Shows shingles prior to re-roofing.
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0042

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 139



43 Of 84

Building #18 Granary #2, Contributing, Photo-1
Elevation View. Camera Facing East. West Elevation.
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0043

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 140



44 Of 84

Building #18 Granary #2, Contributing, Photo-2
Elevation View. Camera Facing North. South Elevation (Left) East Elevation (Right) Privy #2
(Background)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0044

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 141



45 Of 84

Building #18 Granary #2, Contributing, Photo-3
Elevation View. Camera Facing Northeast. West Elevation (Left) South Elevation (Right)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0045

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 142



46 Of 84

Building #18 Granary #2, Contributing, Photo-4
Interior View. Camera Facing East. Central Section. East Wall (Background) Grain Bins (Middle
Ground) Feed Grinder Auger (Foreground)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0046

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 143



47 Of 84

Building #19 Garage, Contributing, Photo-1
Elevation View. Camera Facing East. Northwest Elevation (Left) Southwest Elevation (Right)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0047

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 144



48 Of 84

Building #19 Garage, Contributing, Photo-2
Elevation View. Camera Facing West. Southeast Elevation (Left) Northeast Elevation (Right)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0048

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 145



49 Of 84

Building #20 Metal Shed, Noncontributing, Photo-1

Elevation View. Camera Facing East. Northwest Elevation (Left) Southwest Elevation (Right)

Door of Building #19, Garage (Right)

MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0049

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 146



50 Of 84

Building #21 Barn #1, Contributing, Photo-1
Elevation View. Camera Facing West. Southeast Elevation (Left) Northeast Elevation (Right)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0050

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 147



51 Of 84

Building #21 Barn #1, Contributing, Photo-2
Elevation View. Camera Facing East. Northwest Elevation (Left) Southwest Elevation (Right)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0051

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 148



52 of 84

Building #21 Barn #1, Contributing, Photo-3
Interior View. Camera Facing Northwest. Southwest Wall with Stalls (Left) Northwest Wall
(Center) East Wall (Right)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0052

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 149



53 of 84

Building #21 Barn #1, Contributing, Photo-4
Interior View. Camera Facing North. Open Stall on Southwest Elevation.
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0053

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 150



54 of 84

Building #22 Granary #1, Contributing, Photo-1
Elevation View. Camera Facing South. Northeast Elevation (Left) Northwest Elevation (Right)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0054

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 151



55 of 84

Building #22 Granary #1, Contributing, Photo-2
Elevation View. Camera Facing North. Southwest Elevation (Left) Southeast Elevation (Right)
Barn #1 (Background)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0055

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 152



56 of 84

Building #22 Granary #1, Contributing, Photo-3
Interior View. Camera Facing Southwest. Southeast Wall (Left) Southwest Wall (Right) Shows
Fanning Mill (Right)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0056

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Gehring Ranch
Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 153



57 of 84

Building #23 Barn #2, Contributing, Photo-1
Elevation View. Camera Facing West. Southeast Elevation (Left) Northeast Elevation (Right)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0057

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 154



58 of 84

Building #23 Barn #2, Contributing, Photo-2
Elevation View. Camera Facing Southwest. Northeast and Northwest Elevations of Main Barn (Left) with Milk Shed (Left of Center). Cattle Shelter Northeast Elevation (Right of Center) Shows Corrals (Foreground)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0058

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 155



59 of 84

Building #23 Barn #2, Contributing, Photo-3
Elevation View. Camera Facing North-northwest. Southeast Elevation.
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0059

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 156



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Building #23 Barn #2, Contributing, Photo-4
Interior View. Camera Facing North. Northwest Interior Wall (Left) Northeast Wall (Right)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0060

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Gehring Ranch
Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 157



61 of 84

Building #23 Barn #2, Contributing, Photo-5
Interior View. Milking Area. Camera Facing South. Southeast Interior Wall (Left) Southwest
Wall (Right)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0061

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Gehring Ranch
Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 158



62 of 84

Building #23 Barn #2, Contributing, Photo-6
Elevation and Interior View. Camera Facing Northwest. Cattle Shelter (Left) Southwest
Elevation Milking Section (Right)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0062

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Gehring Ranch
Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 159



63 of 84

Building #24 Stable, Contributing, Photo-1
Elevation View. Camera Facing North. Southwest Elevation (Left) Southeast Facade (Right)
House #1 (Background)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0063

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 160



64 of 84

Building #24 Stable, Contributing, Photo-2
Elevation View. Camera Facing South. Northeast Elevation (Left) Northwest Facade (Right)
Barn #1 (Far Left), Barn #2 (Background)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0064

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 161



65 of 84

Buildings #25 Calf Sheds, Contributing, Photo-1
Elevation View. Camera Facing North. West Elevation (Left) South Elevation (Right) Barn #1
and Granary #1 (Background)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0065

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 162



66 of 84

Structures #26 Corrals, Noncontributing, Photo-1
Elevation View. Camera Facing Southwest.
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0066

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 163



67 of 84

Building #27 Feed Mill, Contributing, Photo-1
Elevation View. Camera Facing Southwest. Northeast Elevation (Center) in Context with
Pasture (Foreground) and Silver Creek.
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0067

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 164



68 of 84

Building #27 Feed Mill, Contributing, Photo-1
Elevation View. Camera Facing Southwest. Northeast Elevation with Silver Creek
(Foreground).
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0068

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 165



69 of 84

Building #27 Feed Mill, Contributing, Photo-2, also Mill (Irrigation) Ditch (foreground)
Elevation View. Camera Facing Northeast. Southwest Elevation.
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0069

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Gehring Ranch
Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 166



70 of 84

Building #27 Feed Mill, Contributing, Photo-3
Elevation View. Camera Facing North. Concrete Basin (Headgate) to Supply Pipe to
Waterwheel (Foreground). Southwest Elevation of Mill (Right)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0070

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 167



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Building #27 Feed Mill, Contributing, Photo-4
Elevation View. Camera Facing Southwest. Pipe (Pen Stock) Outlet to Water Wheel.
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0071

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 168



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Building #27 Feed Mill, Contributing, Photo-5
Elevation View. Camera Facing Down and Southeast. Northwest Foundation of Machinery
Block. Shows Pelton Type Undershot Waterwheel.
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0072

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 169



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Building #27 Feed Mill, Contributing, Photo-6
Elevation View. Camera Facing South. Northern Corner of Main Block (Center). Shows Open
Lower Level Containing Underground Delivery Pipe (Pen Stock).
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0073

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Gehring Ranch
Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 170



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Building #27 Feed Mill, Contributing, Photo-7
Elevation View. Camera Facing East. Northwest Elevation (Left) Southwest Elevation (Right)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0074

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 171



75 of 84

Building #27 Feed Mill, Contributing, Photo-8
Elevation View. Camera Facing Northwest. Southeast Elevation. Shows Hog Feeding Shelter
(Right)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0075

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 172



76 of 84

Building #27 Feed Mill, Contributing, Photo-9
Elevation View. Camera Facing West. Northeast Elevation. Feeding Shelter (Left) Eastern Ell
(Right)

MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0076

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 173



77 of 84

Building #27 Feed Mill, Contributing, Photo-10
Elevation View. Camera Facing South-southeast. Northern Elevation, Eastern Ell (Left)
Machine Block (Right)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0077

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 174



78 of 84

Building #27 Feed Mill, Contributing, Photo-11
Elevation View. Camera Facing Southwest. Northern Elevation Showing Eastern Ell (Left)
Machine Block (Center) Main Block (Right)
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0078

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 175



79 of 84

Site #28 Conifer Grove (Northeast Section), Contributing, Photo-1
Elevation View. Camera Facing West.
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0079

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 176



80 of 84

Historic Structure #30 Threshing Machine, Contributing, Photo-1
Elevation View. Camera Facing Southwest.
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0080

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 177



81 of 84

Historic Structure #30 Threshing Machine, Contributing, Photo-2
Elevation View. Camera Facing Southwest.
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0081

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 178



82 of 84

Historic Structure #29 Horse Power, Contributing, Photo-1
Elevation View. Camera Facing Southeast.
MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0082

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Gehring Ranch

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 179



83 of 84

Structure #31 Lincoln Road/Highway 279, Noncontributing, Photo-1
Elevation View. Camera Facing North.

MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0083

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Gehring Ranch

Name of Property

Lewis and Clark County, Montana

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 180



84 of 84

Date of Photo: May 10, 2016.

Photographer: Pam Attardo.

Camera Facing West. Shows Barn #2 (Far Left) Granary #1 (Foreground Left Center) Bunkhouse #2 (Center) Hog Shed (Foreground Right) Hog Shelter and Thresher Shed (Far Right). Groves (Middle Ground). Out of View Are: Bunkhouse #1 (Out of Photo Right) Feed Mill (Out of Photo Left)

MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_GehringRanch_0084

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC.











































SUPERIOR

































































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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 7/14/2017 Date of Pending List: 8/9/2017 Date of 16th Day: 8/24/2017 Date of 45th Day: 8/28/2017 Date of Weekly List: 8/31/2017

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 8/28/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Edson Beall Discipline Historian

Telephone _____ Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



July 12, 2017

J. Paul Loether, Keeper, National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C St., NW - Mail Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Loether,

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

Gehring Ranch,

Lewis and Clark County, Montana

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the National Register nomination for the Gehring Ranch to the National Register of Historic Places.

Please be advised that I submit the enclosed nomination under your revised procedures. I notified the owners and public officials in excess of 30 days, and the local CLG 60 days prior to the Preservation Review Board meeting. The owner, local CLG, and county commissioners all concurred with listing the property in the National Register. The Review Board unanimously recommended that this property be nominated and I concur with its recommendation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Baumler, PhD
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure