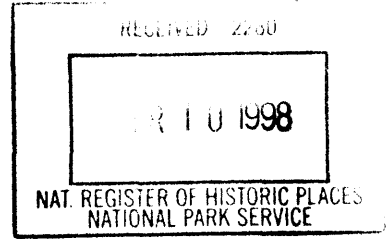


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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Keck Homestead

other names/site number 5RN529

2. Location

street & number 12888 County Rd. 15 [N/A] not for publication

city or town Del Norte [X] vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Rio Grande code 105 zip code 81132

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

[Signature] State Historic Preservation Officer February 24, 1998 Date

State Historic Preservation Office, Colorado Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

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

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date 5.8.98

Keck Homestead
Name of Property

Rio Grande County, Colorado
County/State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
2	0	structures
0	0	objects
4	0	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

Single dwelling

Animal facility

Secondary structure

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Single dwelling

Animal facility

Secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Pioneer log

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Log

roof Shingle

Metal

other

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

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

Keck Homestead
Rio Grande County, Colorado

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Keck Homestead is located in the San Luis Valley, one mile north of the Rio Grande River and approximately 5 miles northwest of Del Norte. Nestled west of a chain of bluffs and surrounded by open farmland, this is the land Christian Keck homesteaded in 1876. He and his two sons constructed the four log buildings that form the nucleus of this high altitude Colorado farm.

House

The two story log house on a dry laid stone foundation is an L-shaped plan, wood shingled gable-roofed building with four-over-four wood frame windows throughout and two brick chimneys. The logs in the two story section are round hewn with square notch corners and flush crowns. Some of the logs in the one story wing exhibit extended heads. The log construction includes wood slab chinking and lime mortar daubing. The window and door surrounds are of milled lumber.

The lower level of the east elevation contains one half-light door and a single sash window. The upper story contains two windows whose wood lintels extend into the wood shingled gable end. The east elevation of the one story wing contains a single four-panel wood door. The north elevation contains a single four-panel wood door placed off-center to the west.

The two story portion of the west elevation contains one window in the first story and two windows in the upper story. Rolled asphalt roofing material covers the wood shingles in the upper gable end. The one story portion contains one centered sash window. The south elevation is without fenestration.

One brick chimney with a metal flue rises mid-way along the second story ridge. The wood shingles on the one story portion are covered by rolled asphalt roofing material and a brick chimney rises through the south end of the roof west of the ridge.

In 1986, the interior was altered by the addition of plumbing, electricity, sheet rock, and the replacement of the fireplaces with wood burning heaters. The single story portion consists of one room with an outside entrance. The two story portion contains the kitchen, bathroom, bedroom and hallway on the first floor. A narrow, enclosed stairway leads to the three bedrooms on the second floor. All the floors are of wood plank. The house was inhabited until 1993.

Other than the rolled asphalt roofing, the half-light door, and some in-kind shingle replacement, the exterior of the house retains its original design, materials and workmanship.

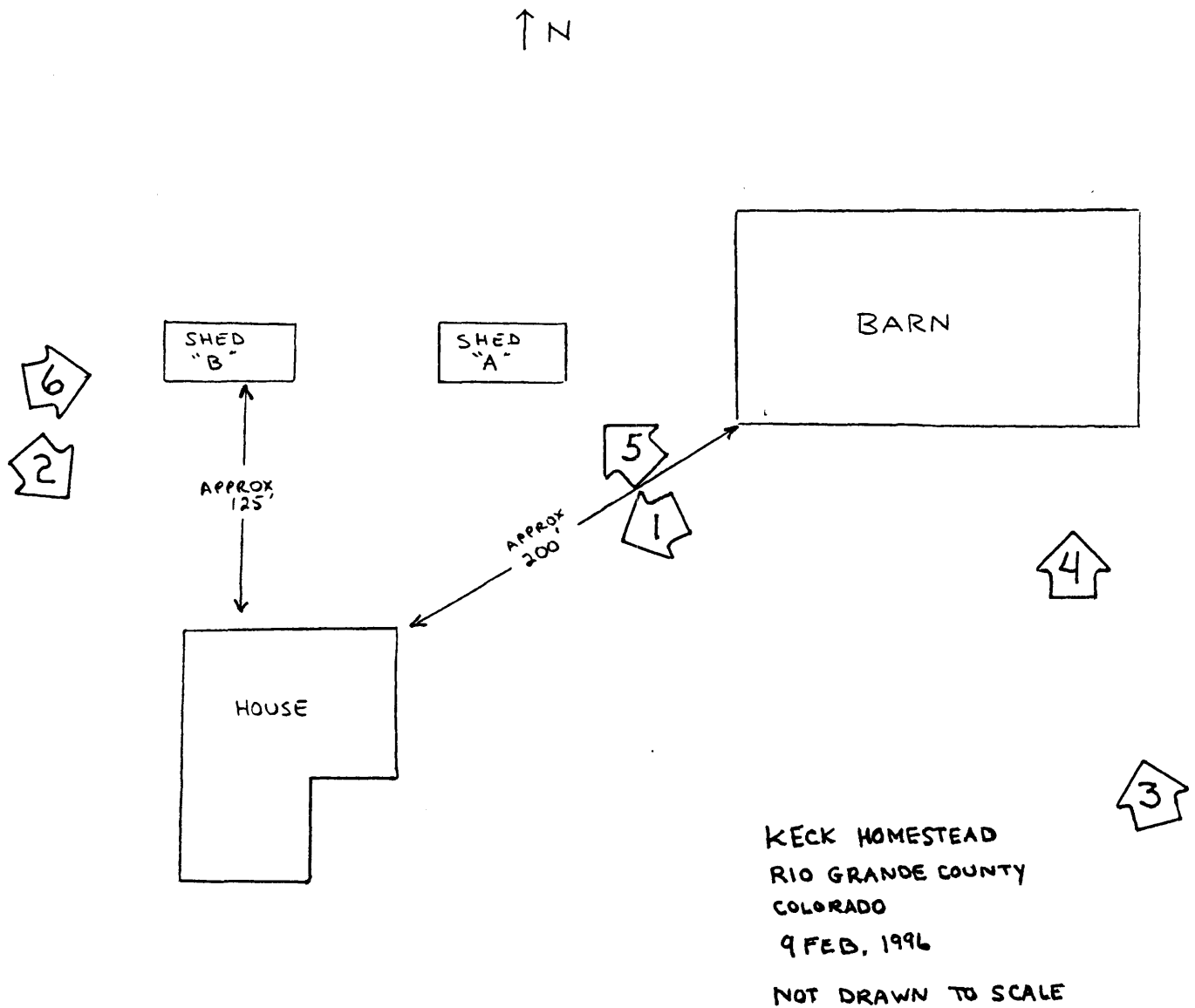
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service


National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Keck Homestead
Rio Grande County, Colorado

Sketch Map



 Photograph number, location, and view

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 3

Keck Homestead
Rio Grande County, Colorado

Barn

The Keck log barn is a variation of the Mountain Horse barn found in Colorado and the northern Rocky Mountains. The rectangular plan, side-gabled log building rests on a dry laid stone foundation. The logs are round hewn, mostly square notched, although a few logs are saddle notched. The crowns are not uniformly cut and several of the upper course logs exhibit extended heads. The logs are chinked with wood strips without daubing. Round rafters supports the corrugated metal roof. The window and door surrounds are of milled wood. A centered dutch door provides access on the south elevation and is flanked on the east by a small, square, unglazed window opening, and a modern slider window in the tack room to the west, added in 1994.

The east elevation contains a single grade level door as does the west. Access to the loft is through a door in the west elevation gable end which includes a simple hay hood. The gable ends are of vertical planking. The north elevation is without fenestration. Corrugated metal covers the roof.

The interior is divided into stalls by hewn logs extending through the side walls. Dimensional lumber loft joists also extend through the side walls.

The barn has been in continual use since 1876. Like the house, the barn retains a high degree of integrity, the only alterations being the tack room window and the metal roofing.

Storage Sheds

Of the two sheds, shed "A" shows the greater degree of construction skill. The rectangular plan structure is formed of rough hewn logs with dovetail corner joints laid on grade without foundation. The logs are chinked with wood strips without daubing. The gently pitched roof of the short structure is formed of roughly hewn purlins supporting wood planks covered by corrugated metal. Access is through an off-center vertical plank door on the east elevation. The interior floor is of dirt.

Shed "B" is also of rectangular plan with gently pitched gable roof. The logs are round, laid on grade without foundation, are saddle notched with wedge-shaped crowns, and show no signs of having been chinked or daubed. The ridge pole and purlins remain, but the rest of the roof material has largely collapsed. A centered door opening occupies the west elevation.

The two sheds retain most of their historic integrity. The only significant change to shed "A" is the addition of metal roofing. Shed "B" suffers from deterioration, however sufficient original material remains so that the building continues to convey its design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

Keck Homestead
Name of Property

Rio Grande County, Colorado
County/State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Periods of Significance

1876

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Keck, Christian

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other:

Name of repository:

Colorado Historical Society

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 4

Keck Homestead
Rio Grande County, Colorado

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Keck Homestead is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C in the area of architecture as a remarkably intact collection of log homestead buildings dating from the mid-1870s. Of particular significance is the two story log house. Such log houses are rare in any condition, but the Keck house is especially noteworthy for the quality of its construction and its high degree of integrity. The barn also exhibits a high degree of craftsmanship for its location and period of construction. In total, the Keck homestead complex represents a type, period and method of construction associated with mountain agricultural homesteading in Colorado in the later part of the 19th century.

The Homestead Act of 1862 opened the way to a burgeoning population seeking to stake their claim to a piece of the American West. Christian Keck emigrated from Germany with his family, followed the westward American migration, and in 1876 made his way into Colorado's San Luis Valley. He established himself on 160 acres of land west of the town of Del Norte, becoming the first barber in the western San Luis Valley. He and his wife raised a total of twelve children on their homestead. The eldest sons, Charles and Henry, assisted their father with the construction of the existing house, barn and storage sheds in 1876. The family raised alfalfa, hay, potatoes, lettuce, cattle, sheep, hogs, horses and mules. In addition to the existing buildings, the homestead once included a root cellar, privy, chicken shed, and smoke house.

Two of the children, Charles and Philip, purchased the property from their father when he retired and Charles resided on the farm. He and his wife also had twelve children all born and raised in the original homestead house.

Much of Colorado first came under cultivation through the auspices of the 1862 Homestead Act and subsequent public land legislation. The erection of a crude cabin and supporting agricultural structures followed quickly upon the staking of a claim, not just to meet the needs of the settlers but also to demonstrate improvements to the homestead claim necessary to secure clear title. These early structures tended to be of poor quality, designed and built for limited use until time and funds allowed for more substantial construction. After the erection of newer buildings, early homestead houses and farm buildings were most often abandoned to decay or converted for animal or crop storage.

The Keck Homestead is noteworthy in that most of the original 1876 buildings remained intact and in use for well over a hundred years. They continue to convey the type of log construction typical of settlement in the mountain and high valley areas of Colorado in the later part of the 19th century.

The Keck house is particularly important as a rare surviving example of two story log cabin construction. Not many two story log houses were built for homestead cabins because of the difficulty of transporting materials, the need for more than one laborer, and the anticipation that the homestead

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8/9/10 Page 5

Keck Homestead
Rio Grande County, Colorado

cabin need only provide shelter for a limited time until a more substantial and fashionable house could take its place.

The Keck Homestead, with its intact two story house, log barn, and log storage structures, provides a visually compelling picture of successful 1870s homesteading and the type of log construction associated with it in the San Luis Valley.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Bomberger, Bruce D. *Preservation and Repair of Historic Log Buildings*, Preservation Brief 26. Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1991.
- Keck, Helen. Oral history of the development of the Keck Homestead and the Keck family history as told to Lisa Fuston, Del Norte, Colo., 1995.
- Noble, Allen G and Richard K. Cleek. *The Old Barn Book: A Field Guide to North American Barns and Other Farm Structures*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1995.
- Wilson, Mary. *Log Cabin Studies*. Ogden, UT: USDA Forest Service, 1984.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

SE¼ of the NW¼ and the N½ of the NE¼ of the SW¼ of Section 21, Township 40N, Range 5E, Rio Grande County, Colorado.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes all the original acreage remaining under common ownership with the buildings and structures of the Keck Homestead.

Keck Homestead
Name of Property

Rio Grande County, Colorado
County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 60

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 13 373380 4173590
Zone Easting Northing

3. 13 373740 4172960
Zone Easting Northing

2. 13 373760 4173590
Zone Easting Northing

4. 13 373370 4172970
Zone Easting Northing

[] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Victoria van Beuren King, M.D.

organization _____ date 2/23/96

street & number 12888 County RD. 15 telephone 719-275-0008

city or town Del Norte state CO zip code 81132

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

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

Property Owner

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

name Victoria van Beuren King, M.D.

street & number 12888 County Rd. 15 telephone 719-275-0008

city or town Del Norte state CO zip code 81132

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

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

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Additional Documentation Page 6 Keck Homestead
Rio Grande County, Colorado

PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information pertains to photographs numbers 1-6 except as noted:

Name of Property: Keck Homestead
Location: Del Norte vicinity, Rio Grande County, Colo.
Photographer: Victoria King
Date of Photographs: February 9, 1996
Negatives: Victoria King, 1210 Apple Ln., Penrose, CO, 81240

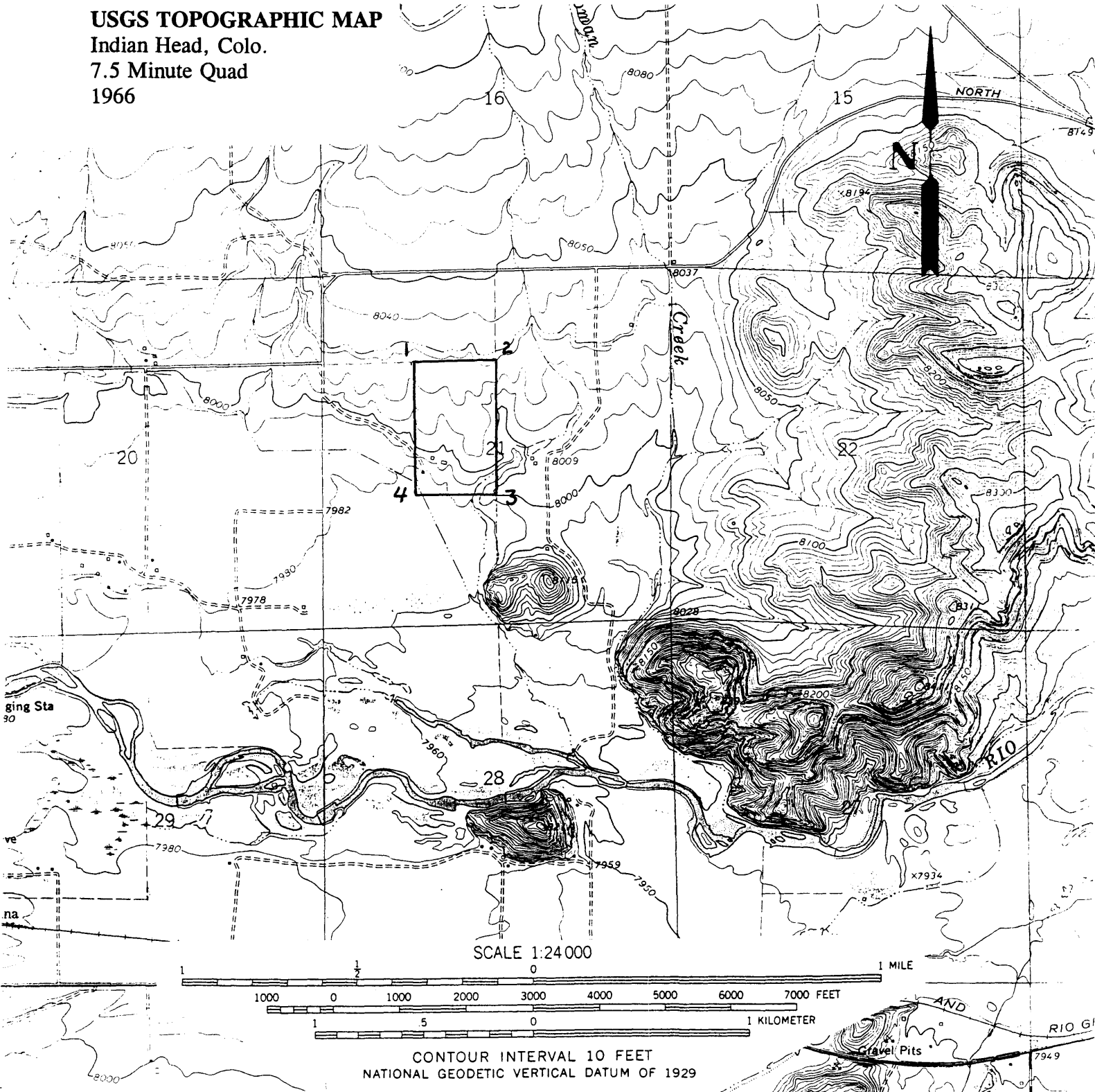
<u>Photo No.</u>	<u>Information</u>
1	House, north and east elevations, view to the southwest.
2	House, north and west elevations, view to the southeast.
3	Barn, south elevation, view to the north.
4	Barn, detail of southeast corner of south elevation, view to the north.
5	Storage shed "A", south and east elevations, view to the northwest.
6	Storage shed "B", west elevation, view to the east.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 7 Keck Homestead
Rio Grande County, Colorado

USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
Indian Head, Colo.
7.5 Minute Quad
1966



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929