Form No. 10-300 REV. (9/77)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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RECEIVED JUL 1 1980

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

HISTORIC				
Evans-Elbert	Ranch			
AND/OR COMMON				
Elbert-Austin	Ranch			
LOCATION	[
STREET & NUMBER				
Upper Bear Cr				
CITY, TOWN Jele		_	CONGRESSIONAL DISTR 4	ICT
R.R. #5, Box STATE	462	VICINITY OF Evergreen	COUNTY	CODE
Colorado		08	Clear Creek	019
CLASSIFIC	ATION			
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENTUSE
DISTRICT	PUBLIC		AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
XBUILDING(S)		UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	BOTH	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	E PRIVATE RESIDEN
OBJECT	PUBLIC ACQUISITION		ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL	SCIENTIFIC
		NO	MILITARY	OTHER:
NAME	F PROPERTY			
	H. Elbert		and Mrs. Holcombe m Street STATE	Austin
NAME Prof. Samuel STREET & NUMBER 3293 Huelani	H. Elbert Drive	20 E1	m Street	Austin
NAME Prof. Samuel STREET & NUMBER 3293 Huelani CITY. TOWN Honolulu, HI	H. Elbert Drive	20 E1 VICINITY OF Norto	m Street State	Austin
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CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE	
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Evans-Elbert Ranch is located at the foot of Mount Evans in the Upper Bear Creek country west of Evergreen. The primary structure is the main house designed in the Rustic Style of architecture. The secondary structures consist of three related outbuildings: a caretaker's residence, a two-story stable, and a well house. The natural environment consists of streams, meadows, fields, and woods.

The Ranch House:

The Ranch House is a single detached structure two stories in height and designed in a U-shape plan. It has multiple, deeply overhanging hipped roofs which are wood-shingled. The building is wood-framed and sheathed with slabs of ponderosa pine with the bark left on. The windows are double hung, one over one. The foundations and the two chimneys are of local stone.

Facing the meadow and the view of Mount Evans is the west porch, impressively large as it extends across the entire western side of the structure. Site on a small crest, the house is nevertheless closely bound to meadow by three large, wide steps which are centrally located to bring a visitor to the middle of the porch deck. There the deeply gable roof gives a strong sense of a protective enclosure, a feeling complemented by the strong, stone balustrade at the outer side. This balustrade is high and wide so as to afford a comfortable and inviting place to sit. Sets of French doors open off the west porch into dining room and living room. These rooms plus the butler's pantry, entry hall, and stairwell, constitute the base of the U-shape. Then there is a north wing holding the master bedroom suite and the south wing with kitchen, utility rooms, and backstairs. The window frames are flat, Ponderosa slabs set flush with the siding. Lugsills provide an accent.

The living room and the dining room which adjoin the west porch are sizable formal rooms. Each has a large native-stone fireplace; in each case the massiveness of the fireplace is lightened by the presence of window seats and by the lowering of the ceiling above these window seats. In the living room the wall opposite the French doors has built-in bookshelves with a niche for a desk and a special niche for an early Seth Thomas mantel clock. The decor employs, rather sparingly, objects made by native American artists, e.g. old Navajo blankets and works by the Martinez family of Idelfonso. There are also a few paintings, all on horse and rider or cattleman themes, notably an oil painting by Leon Gaspard. The dining room has as its main feature a built-in sideboard in dark burnished pine. A spectacular porcelain turkey platter in red and blue and a Navajo "Chief's" blanket in red, blue and white provide color accent.

Both of these formal rooms are given a special character by the nature of the burnished finish on the Ponderosa pine panels. These were crafted from 25 inch wide boards placed vertically floor to ceiling, their joints covered by board battens rising to meet 5" wide beams supporting the pine ceiling, also wide boards. Beams, ceiling, vertical panels, battens were all finished uniformly by a wood-scorching process done with hot irons; the result is a warm, dark, velvety luster, particularly lustrous in candle or fire light. This permanent sheen is superior to any polish obtainable with stain and wax. In contract to the dark walls of the formal rooms the interiors in the rest of the house are light. For color and decoration rugs and blankets from Mrs. Everett's collection of Navajo textiles are used.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AF	EAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CI	HECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTOHIC 1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 1800-1899 X1900-	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC AGRICULTURE AGRICULTURE ART COMMERCE COMMUNICATIONS	COMMUNITY PLANNING CONSERVATION ECONOMICS EDUCATION ENGINEERING EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT INDUSTRY INVENTION	XLANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE LAW LITERATURE MILITARY MUSIC PHILOSOPHY X.POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	RELIGION SCIENCE SCULPTURE SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN THEATER TRANSPORTATION OTHER (SPECIFY)
SPECIFIC DAT	ES Spring 1909	BUILDER/ARC	HITECT J. Christopher Jock Spence	Jensen

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Evans-Elbert Ranch is significant for its association with the Evans and Elbert families which have played an important role in Colorado's development, and for its architectural features. The main ranch house is an exceptional and very early example of the rustic style.

The story of the Evans-Elbert Ranch begins in 1862 when President Abraham Lincoln appointed John Evans the second territorial governor of Colorado. Evans was a prominent Illinois Republican who had been active in the early development of Chicago, a founder of the city of Evanston, and a founder of Northwestern University. Also appointed to a territorial office at this time was Samuel H. Elbert, a Nebraska lawyer and Lincoln supporter. Elbert eventually married Evans' daughter, followed him in the governorship, and rose to become Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court. In 1868 Evans and Elbert established a mountain cattle ranch that gradually expanded to take in the greater part of the Vance, Metz, and Corral Creek valleys and uplands. Over the years parts of the ranch gradually changed hands, but some of it remained in the family, and in 1908 Elbert's niece, Louise Elbert Everett acquired this most attractive segment, began to fence it in, and set to building a house she and her family would spend the summers in.

Mrs. Everett chose an exceptionally fine stretch of woodland, meadow, and pastureland, and it was her declared intent to place the house in the meadow and have it look "as if it had grown there," thus keeping the character of the landscape as undisturbed as possible. She ordered the exterior of the house to be done in pine slabs with the handsome Ponderosa pine bark intact. This would provide a visual tie-in with the pines growing near the house. These aesthetic concerns were not at the expense of practicality. Ponderosa pine was plentiful on the spot, distant barns and corrals would reduce the fly menace to a minimum, and a water reservoir up the mountain a way would provide the pressure for the house. The site also had two springs never known to run dry, and this abundance of water permitted the contrived but nevertheless natural touch of developing a small waterfall as a feature of the north patio of the house.

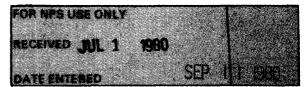
Mrs. Everett was also fortunate in her architect and builder. To design the house, she chose J. Christopher Jensen of Council Bluffs, Iowa. He had a sensitivity about order, balance and proportion, which is evident in the handling of the gabled roof and the interlinked eaves. To build the structure, Mrs. Everett chose Jock Spence of Evergreen, a prominent local contractor, some of whose structures are now listed in the National Register, notably those within the Evergreen Conference District. When completed, Mrs. Everett spent fifty summers in her new home.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRA			
H. H. Bancroft <u>Works</u> , Department of Interior			nd Wyoming.
Homestead Filing	-	nagement,	
Historical Highl	ights of Public La	nd Management	
Rocky Mountain News, J.			
Tales of the Bar P D by	y Kay Klepetko. L	akewood, Colorado 19/	8
10 GEOGRAPHICAL D. ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERT	A 19791 A	m not verified Ge not verified	
QUADRANGLE NAME Squaw	Pass	QUADRAN	GLE SCALE _1:24000
UTM REFERENCES	4,5,9,4,6,5,0	B 1,3 4 5,9 1,2,	0 4,38,88,20
ZONE EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE EASTING	NORTHING
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GLILLIII		ниции	
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIP	TION		
See continuation s	heet		
LIST ALL STATES AND C	OUNTIES FOR PROPERTII	ES OVERLAPPING STATE OR C	OUNTY BOUNDARIES
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
11 FORM PREPARED I NAME / TITLE Mr. and Mrs. Holcombe : ORGANIZATION		DA	TE
20 Elm St.		Septembe	r 27, 1979
STREET & NUMBER			LEPHONE
Norten CITY OR TOWN		617-285-	4849 ATE
		Massachu	setts 02766
12 STATE HISTORIC P	DESEDVATION		······
		HIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE S	
NATIONAL	STATE	[00	
As the designated State Historic Pre hereby nominate this property for in criteria and procedures set forth by t	nclusion in the National Re	gister and certify that it has be Λ	en evaluated according to the
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFI	CER SIGNATURE	Commend	- June 23, 15 50
	ric Preservation C	officer D.	
FOR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY-THAT THIS F	BOPERTY IS INCI LIDED I	NTHE NATIONAL REGISTER	
		THE BAHVIAL NEVIOLER	9/ 1.
my to. Kan	fuce	D	ate 1/11/80
ATTEST KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL	REDISTER	n	ATE 9/5/90
CHIEF OF PERSTRATION	4	V	

GPO 921-803

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



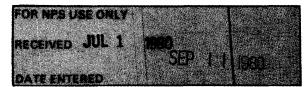
CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

From an architectural perspective, the main ranch house reflects a successful combination of the ideals of rusticity. The simplicity, comfort, and compatibility with the natural environment complement to a very high degree the beauty of the materials, the care in detailing, and the thoughtful attention to the architectural form.

ED. JEF 4/80

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	Geographical					
CONTINUATION SHEET	Date	ITEM NUMBER	10	PAGE	1	

Verbal Boundary Description:

0.4 mile north of the Evans Ranch Headquarters is located a wooden gate with the sign "Elbert-Austin." 200' east of this gate at the fence line one can find a USGS <u>section marker</u> (see the Squaw Pass Quadrangle Map which places this marker at 8324' elevation). Beginning at this mark proceed east 645' to a stone cairn; turn north skirting willow thicket, pick up line of fence and go 1320' to another stone cairn, continue due north 560' - the fence ends as one reaches the "4th of July Cliff;" turn west and proceed 1975' to the open "Mountain Lion Meadow;" turn south 1886' following fence to corner near Freyer entrance Road. (The surveyor's mark for this corner is a pointed vertical stone at the side of the road). Turn east and follow fence 1352' thus returning to the USGS section marker.