

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

JUL 10 1989

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Brooklyn Lodge  
other names/site number Mountain Meadow Guest Ranch

2. Location

street & number 7 1/2 miles west of Centennial, WY on Hwy. 130  not for publication  
city, town Centennial  vicinity  
state Wyoming code WY county Albany code 001 zip code 82055

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>        </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u> sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> objects
			<u>        </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register zero

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
[Signature] 4-20-89  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register. Patrick Andrews 10/24/89  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: OutdoorRecreation

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: OutdoorRecreation

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Log Construction

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: LOG PIERSwalls WOOD: LOG

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roof Asphaltother Chinking Materials

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G    N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

COMMERCE

Period of Significance

1922-1939

Significant Dates

1922

1924

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Harry D. "Hoot" Jones

Architect/Builder

Harry D. "Hoot" Jones

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

National Forest Service, Medicine Bow  
National Forest Office, Laramie, WY.

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Approximately one acre

UTM References

A 

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

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description A fan-shaped plot of land extending from 10' either side of the lodge on the west, north and east, and extending outward and downhill from the building to the south. The total to cover approximately one acre which constitutes the area of immediate parking area to the north of the lodge, and the sloping meadow to the south of the lodge.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification This boundary encompasses the original building along with the historic parking area for lodge visitors, as well as the meadow to the south of the lodge.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Carl McWilliams, Survey Historian and Sandra Hansen, Historical Consultant  
organization Wyoming SHPO date April 19, 1989  
street & number 2301 Central, Barrett Building telephone (307) 777-6311  
city or town Cheyenne state Wyoming zip code 82001

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

JUL 10 1989

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Brooklyn Lodge

Section number 7 Page 1

Brooklyn Lodge, named for nearby Brooklyn Lake, could hardly fit its setting any better if it had been designed by professional architects. Natural materials from the surrounding mountains were used as much as possible in its construction, not only for economy, but also for atmosphere. The log lodge is located at an elevation of over 10,000 feet, high in the Snowy Range of southeast Wyoming. The building is composed of two wings, each twenty feet by forty feet, creating an "L" shaped plan. A wooden porch on the south elevation runs along both axes of the inside of the "L". The porch opens onto a downward sloping meadow, providing breathtaking views of the Medicine Bow Mountains, and, further south, of the Colorado Rockies. Areas to the west, north and east of the lodge are heavily forested with jack pines and spruce trees. The forest helps protect the lodge from fierce northern winds and also hides it from state highway 130 which passes by 500 feet to the north on its climb to the summit of Snowy Range Pass.

The first wing, used as a dining room, was built in 1922, while the second wing was built the following year. At that time the second wing was known as the lobby, but today it is used primarily for sleeping quarters. A lean-to was also added to the north side of the lodge at the time the second wing was built. This portion was divided into three rooms; a central kitchen flanked by a small bedroom on either side. Unfortunately the lean-to soon fell into disrepair because of the strain placed on its relatively flat roof by the heavy snows. It was torn down shortly after the Jones family sold the lodge in 1938.

The building stands on a foundation of log piers and stacked rock. The roof has cross gables and is covered with weathered asphalt shingles. Two exterior chimneys made of native stone are located on the north and west elevations. These chimneys serve to ventilate fireplaces in the dining room and lobby. The building's log walls abut vertical square-cut logs at the corners providing a box or square corner appearance. (Corner notching terminology is taken from Wilson, 1984 and Attebury, 1976) Grout has been used to fill the interstices of the logs. Varying colors of the materials in the grout indicate possible differences between the original and later patch work. The interior interstices are covered with jack pine saplings about the diameter of a broom handle. An unidentified material was found between these saplings in the lobby.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

JUL 10 1989

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Brooklyn Lodge

Section number 7 Page 2

Each wing of the lodge has horizontally sliding windows, with four panes to each sash, in a plain surround. The windows are symmetrically placed on each side of the doors and the fireplace in the lobby. They are fitted with exterior shutters that fold up from below. There are also similar windows on the east and south elevations, in the end walls of the dining room and lobby.

The interior of the lodge is unique for its hanging chandeliers. Historic photographs show the chandeliers hung in both rooms at one time, but they have since been removed from the lobby. According to Patsy Randall, daughter of owner/builder Harry D. "Hoot" Jones, her father designed and built the fixtures. They have triangle shaped frames made of jack pine with light bulbs pointing downward from each end.

The entry door leading into the dining room originally had a glass pane. This has been broken out and is now boarded over. The entry door leading into the lobby is solid wood. The floor of the lodge is made of huge wooden planks. It is easy to see how it was popular with dancers once upon a time.

In 1947 the present kitchen was built in the area between the lobby and dining room, on the northwest corner of the building. It is accessible from the interior by a door in the northwest corner of the dining room. This area was once occupied by a small store counter. Candy, cigarettes, fishing licenses, and other items were sold there. Frequent customers were the students of the University of Wyoming geology classes which stayed down the hill a ways. The new kitchen has windows on the west and north walls, with an exterior door in the northwest corner of the north wall. The kitchen also has plank flooring. Meals were cooked here until the late 1960s. The entire structure is now covered with asphalt shingles and the kitchen's exterior walls are covered with tar paper. This 1947 kitchen addition is not compatible with the log architecture, and does detract somewhat from the building's visual integrity.

During the late 1920s, Jones built twenty-two cabins for his guests in the forest surrounding the lodge. In the intervening years, they have all been torn down, so today the lodge itself is all that remains. The lodge is structurally sound but is in need of some repair work. The region receives 150 inches of annual precipitation. Consequently, the shed roof over the "L" shaped porch on the south elevation is beginning to collapse under the weight of heavy winter snows. Elsewhere, some of the chinking needs to be repointed, and a few of the logs are showing signs of rot.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

JUL 10 1989

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Brooklyn Lodge

Section number 7 Page 3

The physical condition of Brooklyn Lodge has recently been in somewhat of a catch-22 situation. The land is federally owned under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service. The building, meanwhile, is owned by Gloria and Chuck Bell who have continued to operate the property as a guest ranch. The Bell's, who lease the land under a permit from the Forest Service, are reluctant to commit funds for stabilization because under the terms of the permit the lodge is to be razed by December 31, 1989. The Forest Service's plans for demolition are due to concern that if the building continues to molder it will become a safety hazard. At a meeting of the Wyoming Consulting Committee held on September 16, 1988, Ms. Judy Rose, then Wyoming Zone Archeologist for the Forest Service, thought that the permit could be changed to allow the lodge to remain if the Bells would commit to its stabilization. The Wyoming Consulting Committee and the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office do believe that at this time, the building is significant and eligible to be listed in the National Register. However, if the building is not stabilized in the near future, the possibility exists that as the property continues to molder, it will lose its physical integrity. For this reason the Bells are being encouraged to begin stabilization efforts as soon as possible.

Jul 10 1989

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Brooklyn Lodge

Section number 8 Page 1

Brooklyn Lodge is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and B. The lodge is significant under criterion A because of its association with the development of dude ranching and the tourist industry. The lodge was built during 1922 and 1923. At this time, dude ranching was in the process of evolving into guest ranches and resorts where visitors no longer participated only in day to day ranch work, but also in activities catered to their interests. Brooklyn Lodge provided quiet solitude, fishing, and horseback rides into the surrounding mountains much as it does today.

The period of significance begins in 1922 when construction began. Although the building is still a central figure in the guest ranch activities, 1939 was chosen as an arbitrary ending date for the period of significance. This is to avoid including dates within the past fifty years as the property is not judged to possess exceptional significance. The year of construction, 1922, and the year that first paying guests arrived, 1924, were selected as significant dates.

Although tourism has only recently captured the attention of those seeking to improve the economy of Wyoming, visitors have been contributing to the financial health of the region since territorial days. Prior to the establishment of actual ranches, the first dudes to visit the west came as early as the 1830s when European royalty took guided tours of the wilderness of the North American continent. They wanted to see for themselves what life was like in this strange new land. However, these early dudes were too attached to their luxuries and quite often brought silver, china, crystal, bedding and other conveniences of home with them.

According to extant secondary sources, dude ranching in the northern Rocky Mountains originated with the Eaton brothers who ranched in Dakota Territory in the late 1800s. They hosted visitors on their Custer Trail Ranch near Medora, North Dakota as early as 1879. Guests were included in daily ranch activities, and by 1882 the Eatons were charging regular fees for these activities. Over the years, the Eaton operation expanded to include pack trips to Yellowstone and other activities that were not directly tied to daily chores. The guest operation became an integral part of the ranch business. In order to meet the needs of their paying guests, and to escape the encroaching dryland farmers, the Eatons decided to move their operation westward into Wyoming. In 1903 they established a ranch on Wolfe Creek west of



JUL 10 1990

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Brooklyn Lodge

Section number 8 Page 2

Sheridan. Here, on the eastern edge of the Big Horn Mountains, the Eatons established the foundation for dude ranching in Wyoming.

Other ranchers soon saw the benefits of hosting cash-carrying guests and went into the business as well. No one knows the number of working ranches that were saved during hard times by the cash brought in through their guest operations. Even a few of the guests saw the potential for dude ranches or guest resorts and began to purchase land for their own businesses. Industrialization and urbanization had created a middle class with money to spend on recreation and vacations. They looked automatically to the romanticized west. With the expansion of railroads, access to the west was made possible to many people. This accessibility was increased even more with the advent of the motorized vehicle.

World War I spurred a boom era for dude ranches and guest resorts. With Europe closed to vacationers, they looked once again to the west. Dude ranch owners paid more attention to the desires of the visitors, bringing about a change in the various operations. Early visitors had come for extended stays of one week to a whole summer. With the new mobility created by the automobile, people began to look for a place where they could stay for a day or a night and go on to a new location.

It was at the beginning of this boom that a handful of Albany County residents became active in the tourist business. Brooklyn Lodge was built in 1922 and 1923, and received its first paying guests in 1924. It was one of three ranches located near Centennial that took in paying guests. The other two were Libby Lodge and the Vee Bar Ranch, both of which were located at lower elevations closer to Laramie. Brooklyn Lodge was perhaps the most successful of the three and has been in continuous operation since it began. Three other guest ranches were founded during the same period near Encampment, on the western side of the Snowies, while by 1936, ninety similar operations had been established in northwestern Wyoming.

A listing of these dude ranches, noting their locations, the number of references found for each business, and the means of accessibility was published in 1936 in a Union Pacific publication. The entry for Brooklyn Lodge stated that the Union Pacific Railroad Company could bring guests to Laramie where they would switch to the Colorado-Wyoming Railroad for the ride to Centennial. There they were met by someone from Brooklyn Lodge for the drive into the mountains.

JUL 10 1980

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Brooklyn Lodge

Section number 8 Page 3

In 1926 a number of guest ranch operators united in forming the Dude Rancher's Association. They held their first convention that year in Bozeman, Montana, and later established their headquarters in Billings. In 1934, the Dude Rancher's Association conducted a survey providing statistics to document the economic importance of the industry. It indicated that visitors spent twelve million dollars in Wyoming that year. The ranches the dudes visited were worth six million dollars. The visitors arrived in Wyoming at a rate of ten thousand persons per year, and 214 former dudes had permanently settled into Wyoming and Montana, taking up properties now worth an estimated \$4.3 million.

Even the great depression failed to halt the interest in dude ranches. People did not go as far or stay as long, but some still had money for vacations. The 1930s saw another development in dude ranching. During the 1934-35 academic year, dude ranching moved to the campus of the University of Wyoming as the College of Agriculture offered its first Bachelor of Science degree in Recreational Ranching. It seemed a natural step to adapt ranches to accommodate visitors in light of the success of the past forty to fifty years. The program lasted nearly a decade. The industry saw some lean times during World War II, but once again became popular when money flowed and people were anxious to move around and see the country after the restrictions of the war years.

Brooklyn Lodge has experienced the highs and lows of the industry, yet it survives to contribute to the region's economy still today. In 1936 the Jones family sold the property to Mrs. Clara H. Craig. In 1940, Jerry Skinner Senior purchased the business and later turned it over to his son, Jerry Junior. Ron Wells bought and operated Brooklyn Lodge during 1970 and 1971. He then sold it to Harold Kissell on May 26, 1972. Kissell operated the business as the Mountain Meadow Guest Ranch for fifteen years before Gloria and Chuck Bell purchased the operation on January 1, 1987. Thus, this link to the old west has survived uninterrupted these many years.

Dude ranching grew out of the hospitality of ranchers who accepted guests into their homes, who then discovered it could be profitable as well. The guests gained an appreciation for a different life-style and also for the wilderness areas of the west. More interest in the wilderness led to the establishment of national and state parks, so that more natural and cultural resources were preserved for the benefit and enjoyment of all.

10 1989

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet      Brooklyn LodgeSection number   8   Page   4  

Dude ranching, and the tourist industry in general, are today perhaps even more important to Wyoming's and the west's economy. Modern tourists have evolved from the early dudes to play a significant and necessary role in the economy of the west. Brooklyn Lodge is an excellent representative example of an early Wyoming dude ranch. It is significant as a symbol of dude ranching's initial era, and still operates today as a reminder of the continuing importance of the tourism industry

Brooklyn Lodge is significant under criterion B because of its association with Harry D. "Hoot" Jones. Jones was born March 26, 1882, on a ranch near Horse Creek northeast of Laramie. During his childhood he learned a variety of ranching skills, and by his teens had begun performing at rodeos. He soon established himself as one of the most skilled rodeo performers in the Rocky Mountain Region. He was a renowned performer at the Cheyenne Frontier Days rodeo, where in 1910 he successfully rode the notorious bronc Silver City. Spectacular photographs of Jones's famous ride were reproduced to promote Frontier Days publications for many years to come. Photographs of the ride were also copied onto postcards, and have been copied in paintings and murals. Jones's ride, preserved on film for posterity, captured the essence of the true western cowboy, and of Wyoming, the Cowboy State.

In 1909, a year prior to his famous ride, Jones hired on with a wild west show produced by Earl Gandy of England. He joined a large cast of other cowboys, Indians, and an impressive array horses and cattle, for a performance at Earl's Court in southwest London. The troupe apparently traveled by train to New York City before crossing the Atlantic. Brochures featuring performances show that Jones participated in "Bronco Busting" An Exhibition of Steer Roping by Four Cow Boys From Wyoming U.S.A.", "Fancy Rope Twirling", and a number of other exhibitions. Europeans were fascinated with the American west during this time and the show was a great success. Although Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show is probably the best remembered of this genre, there were a number of other notable shows, including Gandy's London production. Buffalo Bill came to symbolize the west on both the national and international levels. By using his naturally learned ranching skills in the performance arena, Hoot Jones also managed to bring the spirit of the west to the rest of the world.

After experiencing international travel, Jones was back in his native environment when he recognized the potential of the tourist industry. The limelight failed to hold Hoot Jones who

JUL 10 1989

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Brooklyn Lodge

Section number 8 Page 5

returned to the quiet life around Laramie. He usually had a ranch in his life somewhere, but Hoot also liked to explore new possibilities. He was a partner in a mining operation near Centennial when in 1921 he decided to join the work crew constructing a new road over the Snowy Range. Hoot's wife Hattie, whom he had married in 1914, also joined up, serving as cook for the crew.

This new job led to a new opportunity for Hoot Jones. When the crew got as far as the beautiful open knoll west of Centennial, Jones found what he had been looking for. Inspired by Libby Lodge, a guest ranch which had opened in 1919 a few miles closer to Centennial, Jones selected this spot for his guest ranch and obtained the necessary permits to build on federal lands.

That first summer, 1922, Hoot and his family and friends worked on the room that would become known as the dining room. It was 20 feet by 40 feet, with a 10 by 40 foot addition on the north elevation. The logs for the structure were felled on the nearby mountainsides. The Jones family occupied a bedroom on one end of the addition, while girls hired to help cook for the guests lived in the other bedroom at the opposite end. A large kitchen was situated in between. Heat was provided by a huge kitchen cook stove. The family lived on a ranch near Lake Hattie during the winter months, and came back in late April or early May to begin digging out the road to the lodge. In 1923 the second room, known as the lobby, was completed. Hoot eventually added twenty-two cabins for his guests to stay in when they were not listening to his stories, fishing, hiking through the mountains or horseback riding.

The first paying guests arrived in 1924 and continued to come thereafter, enjoying the personal touch the Jones family gave to the operation. Brooklyn Lodge rang with the laughter and enjoyment of long-term guests and Sunday dinner visitors who enjoyed the family style chicken dinners served by Mrs. Jones to upwards of 125-150 people each Sunday. In addition to the hearty meals and outdoor activities, weekend dances were also held at the lodge many times each year.

While the Jones family operated Brooklyn Lodge, Hoot continued to explore new grounds, serving as deputy sheriff among other jobs. In 1936, as Hoot's health was beginning to fail, the Joneses sold the lodge to Clara Craig. Two years later, in 1938, Hoot died at age 56. During Hoot Jones life, Brooklyn Lodge was the property

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Brooklyn Lodge

Section number 8 Page 6

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with which he was most closely associated. The lodge obviously had great meaning for him, as it represented the fulfillment of his dream of building and operating a dude ranch in the Snowy Range of Wyoming. His relatively brief lifespan cut short the number of experiences and opportunities that otherwise might have been attributed to him. However, during his life he epitomized the rugged individualism of the west and of the true Wyoming cowboy. He was also a person of daring and vision who was willing to invest and stake his life on the tourist industry in Wyoming. The fact that Hoot's dream still functions some sixty-seven years later reflects on his keen foresight and intuition.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Brooklyn Lodge

Section number 9 Page 1

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JUL 10 1989

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Brooklyn Lodge

Section number 9 Page 2

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Randall, Patsy. Mrs. Randall, daughter of Brooklyn Lodge founder  
and builder Harry D. "Hoot" Jones, has an extensive collec-  
tion of photographs and printed materials relating to the  
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has an extensive collection of photographs and printed  
materials documenting her father's exploits as a rodeo and  
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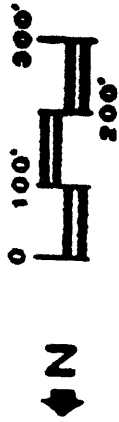
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ORAL INTERVIEWS

Chuck Bell, owner of Brooklyn Lodge, by Sandra Hansen, November  
1988, February 1, 5, and 6, 1989.

Patsy Randall, daughter of Brooklyn Lodge founder and builder  
Harry D. "Hoot" Jones, by Sandra Hansen, February 1, and 5,  
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Patsy Randall, by Carl McWilliams, March 2, 1989.



BROOKLYN LODGE

