

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in 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: Winks Panorama (Boundary Increase and Amendment)  
Other names/site number: Winks Lodge, Winks Panorama Lodge (SGL.6)  
Name of related multiple property listing: \_\_\_\_\_

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

### 2. Location

Street & number: 213 Winks Way  
City or town: Pinecliffe State: Colorado County: Gilpin  
Not For Publication:  n/a Vicinity: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:

x national \_\_\_ statewide \_\_\_ x local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

x A \_\_\_ B x C x D

	Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer	8-25-2014
Signature of certifying official/Title:		Date
<u>History Colorado</u>		
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		

In my opinion, the property <del>x</del> meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.		
		<del>10-15-14</del>
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:)

*by Barbara Wyatt*  
Signature of the Keeper

*10-15-14*  
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>2</u>	<u>          </u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>	structures
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/Inn  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

WORK IN PROGRESS  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>th</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN  
MOVEMENTS/Craftsman

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: STONE; WOOD/SHINGLE; ASHPHALT

### 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.)

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### Summary Paragraph

Winks Lodge or Winks Panorama is a three-story Late Nineteenth/Early Twentieth Century style building exhibiting Craftsman design principles completed in 1928. The Lodge is irregular in plan with a stone foundation and wood framed and shingled walls above. The first-floor porch overhangs a walkout basement while the second floor sets back from the walls of the porch. The Lodge sets into a sloping hillside in the historic Lincoln Hills development, a heavily wooded area that adjoins the Roosevelt National Forest. Winks Panorama was originally listed to the National Register of Historic Places on March, 28 1980 (NRIS 80000901). This updated nomination is submitted to address a boundary change to include additional land historically associated with the property, to augment the documentation to meet the current standards of the National Register, as well as to address additional areas and levels of significance. Prior to a recent land exchange, the building encroached on the east property line of the adjacent Roosevelt National Forest. Additionally, the summer kitchen, propane tank, well, and carport also then on U.S. Forest Service property were not included in the original National Register listing. This amendment also recognizes the outhouse and stone barbeque on site.

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### Narrative Description

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## Setting

The Lodge is located in the historic Lincoln Hills development, located roughly two miles from the town of Rollinsville and six miles from Nederland. It is accessible from Coal Creek Canyon Road via several unpaved roads. The Lodge is located midway on a slope covered with Englemann spruce, Ponderosa and Lodgepole pine and Quaking aspen. It is the highest developed point in the area, although the graded, unpaved road that begins as Winks Way continues roughly past the property to provide access to the adjacent Roosevelt National Forest. At the base of the slope sit other buildings historically associated with the development of the Lincoln Hills subdivision, including Winks Panorama Tavern (5GL.1744) and former mining buildings later serving Camp Nizhoni (5GL.1745, 5GL.1742), as discussed below. The surrounding forest lands are fairly densely vegetated, although at the time of construction of the Lodge, the hillside was likely largely still clear of large trees due to its previous placer history. To the right of Winks Way sits the so-called Honeymoon Cabin with its outhouse, both historically associated with Winks Lodge but now under separate ownership.

### Site (contributing, 1925-1928) (Photos 17, 18, and 19; Figure 2)

The property consists of approximately one acre of land. Two small dirt parking areas are located adjacent to the Lodge, one to the east and one to the west of the building. The east parking area is partially sheltered by an attached carport. A historic service road segment leads from the parking area along the rear of the building through the carport. The west parking lot features fieldstone lined planter beds at the east edge between the parking area and the entrance into the basement level. These contain irises separated from the parking area by a low pipe rail. The parking spaces are fronted by railroad ties.

The east side of the Lodge features a field stone retaining wall which provides a 3'-walkway immediately adjacent to the foundation around the summer kitchen projection. This walkway widens into the parking area beneath the carport and adjacent to the access road. Two small propane tanks are adjacent to the summer kitchen.

The south side of the Lodge also has a field stone retaining wall running along the west edge of the parking area, creating a flat area adjacent to the building on the south that is shaded by several large evergreen trees and acts as an outdoor seating area. A low field stone wall approximately 18"-high surrounds the base of a tree in the southwest corner of the lower parking area. This stone wall surrounds a planting bed with a wheelbarrow, pump, wagon wheel, and a non-historic sign that reads "Wink's Lodge."

To the north, four terraces are accessed by irregular field stone stairs apparently salvaged from diverse sources. The lowest terrace to the west features a low stone planter with rhubarb. The second terrace is grassed. On the third terrace to the east sit the outhouse, a well, and an original stone and porcelain incinerator. The red sandstone walkway passes a concrete slab with the inscription "Melba 1958 Winks." The incinerator features an inscription as well, cleverly indicating not to sit with a drawing ("don't park your XX here"). The third terrace features a metal clothesline with three "T" elements anchored in concrete and a recently installed modern survey marker. Beyond the outhouse, just past the property boundary, sits a deteriorating two-story shed-roofed cabin which was very likely historically associated with the property.

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To the south of the terraces, accessed by railroad tie and gravel stairs is another picnic seating area, including the firepit, or barbeque, discussed below. A depression that may be the septic field or a buried well sits above this area and east of the parking area. The south edge of the picnic area features a short modern post-and-rail wood fence along the road. The Honeymoon Cabin sits across from this area and across the road.

To the east of the site, beyond the parking area sit an old car chassis, a deteriorating small corrugated metal roof shed or alternate outhouse missing its door and windows, and a wire-fence enclosed dog pen, all outside the property boundary.

While no formal archaeological assessments have been conducted at the site, further analysis is likely to reveal a high likelihood of obscured and buried artifacts in obvious features such as the privy and the terraced gardens, as well as in potential middens related to the summer kitchen, main house, and other activity areas. As indicated by the extant rhubarb, botanical analysis of the terraced gardens may further indicate what food items were historically grown for the visitors to Winks Lodge. In addition, it could also reveal details concerning the use of ornamentals. The intra-site excavations could reveal information related to questions of identity, consumer behavior, and socio-economic status. Winks Panorama is not only significant for the data potential the artifacts within the site may hold, but for the information that the spatial layout of the site can convey.

### **Winks Lodge (contributing building, 1925-1928) (Photos 1-10)**

The physical description throughout this nomination relies heavily on the *Winks Lodge, Lincoln Hills, CO Historic Structure Assessment and Preservation Plan*, completed by SLATERPAULL Architects in August 2007 and on file with the State Historical Fund, History Colorado. If additional detail is necessary, it is suggested that this comprehensive document be consulted.

Winks Lodge is a single detached building consisting of 3,116 square feet on three levels (1,300-square-foot footprint). The Lodge was built in an irregular, roughly rectangular plan with a stone random coursed stone (granite, quartzite, and schist) foundation with a concrete footer and balloon framed wood and shingled walls above. Mortar has been repointed, likely with Portland cement. The basement features parged foundation walls and a concrete slab directly on grade.

The first-floor porch overhangs the walkout basement and the second floor sets back from the walls of the porch supported by the stone core of the building. The wood-framed roof features a high gable with three projecting dormers on each slope. The gable end to the west has a shed roof extension. The roofing is modern asphalt composition shingle. The Lodge has two main chimneys with metal flues, constructed of rubble stone, located at the gable ends. The roof has projecting eaves with exposed rafter ends. The gable ends have projecting plain verges. The wrap-around porch on the main level features a low-slope hipped roof with exposed rafter ends.

Stylistically, Winks Lodge exhibits elements of the Craftsman style as it emerged from the Arts and Crafts movement in the early twentieth century. The design focuses on comfort and utility through a use of natural materials. Character-defining features include exposed rafter ends,

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overhanging eaves, handcrafted stone and wood work, and mixed materials throughout.<sup>1</sup> The design reflects a rustic vernacular variation of the style common to Rocky Mountain architecture during the early twentieth century, utilizing materials reflective of the mountain setting.

### West-facing Façade (Photos 1, 9, and 10)

The basement level of the west façade of the building has low rubble stone porch supported by six wood columns and overhung by a first floor wrap-around porch. The porch is supported on replacement posts and by stone wing walls, once inlaid with a quartzite parge cap. The porch framing reveals unpeeled logs from below. Double wood doors, each with nine recessed panels, set in the middle of the west façade provide entry to the basement. The entrance projects slightly and is flanked by two fixed two-over-two wood windows with wood security screens inset into the frames. The windows measure 2'-1" x 2'-10". The jambs and sills are rounded river stone.

Above, the overhanging first-floor porch exhibits squared wood shingles, fir tongue-and-groove flooring, hand peeled log framing alternating with milled lumber, and three large, horizontally-oriented sash windows. These include two six-over-three fixed wood windows flanking a large three-over-two window with casings on either side. The casement windows are in-swinging and retain their original hardware. The large flanking windows measure 7' x 2'-9", with 1'-3" x 3'-5" casements and an 8' x 3'-4" central fixed window. The porch has a low-sloped hipped roof and features insulation consisting of *Rocky Mountain News* papers from January 1934. A bell at the southeast corner was used for calling dinner. The second story is shingled with no fenestration. The dominant roof is moderately sloped with three gabled dormers, each with a small sash window.

The entry stairs at the southwest corner feature a railroad tie and sandstone first step and wood for the remainder. There are two landings, the first accessed from both the east and west. There is some latticework infilling the log supports. Hand rail height varies. SLATERPAULL identifies these stairs as not original.

### North-facing Façade (Photos 5, 6, 7, and 8)

On the north façade, the basement level features vertical painted log walls covering the stone foundation. A small door opens into a storage area in the basement. On the main level, the corner where the north and west façades meet is beveled in plan with a fixed window with non-original stained glass in a five by five pane configuration, measuring 3'-8" x 3'-4". The glazing includes gold, red and clear colors. On the main level, an exterior wood staircase of three steps leads to a single wood cottage style door with nine panels with raised molding below a central glazed light.<sup>2</sup>

A small square room on the east side of the north façade (the "winter kitchen") protrudes

<sup>1</sup> "Craftsman," Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, History Colorado, <http://www.historycolorado.org/archaeologists/craftsman> (accessed June 18, 2013).

<sup>2</sup> SLATERPAULL Architects, *Winks Lodge, Lincoln Hills, CO: Historic Structure Assessment and Preservation Plan* (Denver, Colorado 2007), 10. On file with the State Historical Fund, History Colorado, Denver.35.

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adjacent to this door. The projection features a two-over-two fixed window on its north façade and one on its west-facing side. It is covered with a low slope roof with exposed rafter ends. The rest of the first story has a separate roof plane, also with low slope and exposed rafter ends. The north porch façade features one two-over-two wood window measuring 4'-6" x 3'-5". On the second floor, a roughly square room (originally the summer kitchen, now a laundry room) sits atop the porch. It features two small windows – one single pane, the other one-over-one – and presents a flat shingled façade and a very low sloped roof with exposed rafter tails. Behind to the left is a shingled wall with a rubble stone chimney extending 3' above the roof. The first-story door, with a single light and twelve recessed panels, opens onto a red flagstone walkway, while an exterior stone stairway passes around to the west of the basement level.

### **East-facing Façade (Photo 4)**

The east façade is built into the side of the natural hill, obscuring the basement while leaving the first and second stories exposed. The first-story wall is exposed rubble stone with two triple-light steel windows, some panes with chicken wire glass. The summer kitchen at the intersection of the east and north façades features one small sash window on both its east and south façades. The second-story façade is wood square-cut shingle. Three gabled dormers with small windows penetrate the roof, echoing those on the west. To the south, the roof has been extended to create a non-historic carport, added circa 1985 or after. The carport is supported by posts on treated wood blocking on concrete foundations on three sides.

### **South-facing Façade (Photos 2 and 3)**

On the southern façade, the stone foundation at the basement level is covered by painted logs and has a single, horizontally oriented window of three panes, measuring 2'-10" x 1'-7". The first story is shingled with two large, horizontal sash windows. The south and west façades meet to create a southwest angle with the main nine panel door, which is flanked by two-over-two pane fixed wood windows. The door features a center panel with glazing and decorative wood spindles. The flanking windows each measure 2'-2" x 2'-8". There is a wood exterior staircase from the ground level with wood lattice below. Unpainted logs are used to support the rustic stair and its railing. The staircase also features a small landing with two runs extending to the ground to the northwest and southeast. The first floor has a low-sloped roof covering the wrap-around porch. The second story is shingled with no fenestration. The gable of the main roof faces south and thus a rubble stone chimney runs through the middle of the façade, extending from the top of the roof peak into a metal chimney.

### **Interior (Figures 3, 4, and 5)**

The basement contains a work room, storage areas and a built-in bed platform where "Winks" Hamlet slept in the winter. The walls and ceiling of the basement are finished with knotty pine paneling.

The main floor includes a great room, dining room, master bedroom, main or "winter" kitchen, and wrap-around porch. The summer kitchen was housed in an extension to the northeast. The great room features an original hand-laid rock fireplace, reputedly built by Winks and Rev. John L. Ford (Zion Baptist Church), husband of Dr. Justina Ford, the first African-American female



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doctor in the state.<sup>3</sup> The stone foundation walls are parged to resemble plaster where visible. The walls separating the great room from the winter kitchen and dining room exhibit wood paneling. The ceilings are exposed structure, salvaged pressed metal panels, or pressed metal ceiling. The kitchen has original built-in cabinets and shelves. The dining room walls are finished with board-and-batten paneling. A *buon fresco* mural applied to metal lath painted by Jesse DuBois, son of Winks Hamlet's second wife, Melba, is located in the stairs from the first floor to the second floor. The mural portrays three African-American youths with several horses in front of a mountain landscape.<sup>4</sup>

The second floor, accessed by a straight reverse run of stairs, contains six bedrooms and a bathroom. The hallway on the second floor features thin plywood wainscot. Other various interior finishes include scored and painted hardboard and wood trim. SLATERPAULL Architects' 2007 work reports that the panels are reportedly press plates from the *Denver Post* building.<sup>5</sup> The same decorative plywood is used to define closets in five of the six bedrooms.<sup>6</sup>

Historically salvaged doors (original to construction), light fixtures, and hardware are found throughout. The interior also features original built-ins in the winter kitchen, dining room, bathroom, basement, and porch.

#### **Outhouse (contributing building, ca. 1935-1942) (Photos 11, 12, 13, and 14)**

The Lodge possesses a small outhouse typical of those built by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) during the New Deal. Its roof is covered with eight flat strips of metal, which show signs of significant wear and tear. The walls are grooved plywood painted green. The outhouse has no fenestration. SLATERPAULL dated the outhouse to 1935-1942, consistent with WPA efforts to build or update outhouses across the country.<sup>7</sup> Literature on outhouses built during that period clearly substantiates that this outhouse is of the type built and distributed across the country by the WPA.<sup>8</sup> The facility's simple box-like shape and sloped roof resemble the rows of WPA outhouses awaiting shipment in historic photographs documenting the Depression-era federal agency's outhouse program. The outhouse has a footprint of approximately 50 square feet.

The outhouse's south-facing façade is 7'- high with a 6'-high padlocked door with two exterior hinges. The west-facing façade is 7'-high on the south end and 5'-6" on the north end with a small screened ventilation hole. The outhouse's north-facing façade measures 5'-6" high. The east-facing façade is 7'-high on the south end and 5'- 6" on the north end.

#### **Shed (contributing building, ca. 1935-1942)**

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., 28.

<sup>4</sup> Note that SLATERPAULL states that the artist is unknown, but Craig Leavitt's research attributed the work to DuBois.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., 37.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., 107.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., 10.

<sup>8</sup> Ronald S. Barlow, *The Vanishing American Outhouse: A History of Country Plumbing*, (New York, 2000) 22.

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The gable roof shed, approximately 4' x 6,' serves as storage, but may have historically served as an outhouse. The building is wood frame, covered with asphalt shingle, and exhibits portions covered with corrugated metal.

### **Barbeque (contributing structure, ca. 1935-1942) (Photos 15 and 16)**

The hand-laid quartz and granite stone barbeque is made from stone on site and is located at the end of a short flagstone patio down slope from the building and accessed by railroad tie steps with a log handrail. The structure is dated to the New Deal era. The barbeque measures 6'-high and 5'-10" across at its long side. The metal cooking surface is 2'-8" across. Measured from the side, the base of the oven is 3'-11" and 2'-1" at midsection. The firebox is lined with brick pavers and contains two iron grilles.

### **Alterations**

A historic photograph located by SLATERPAULL Architects shows that the wrap-around porch may not date to the initial completion of the Lodge.<sup>9</sup> The addition of the porch was, however, likely made by the original designer and builder of the Lodge, Obrey "Winks" Hamlet soon after construction. It certainly appears in circa 1950s historic photographs as corroborated by subsequent historic photographs in the Denver Public Library, Gary M. Jackson Collection. Newspapers dating to 1934 were used as insulation in the gaps between the rubble stone wall and the porch, leading to speculation that the porch may have been added around that time.<sup>10</sup> The upstairs bathroom could not have been constructed until after the porch was built, meaning it too may have been a later addition.

A sign reading "Wink's Panorama" which was once placed over the main door is no longer present, nor is the flagpole that stood on top of the porch on the west-facing façade. An interior stairway from the dining room to the basement was added by Rob and Martha Tomerlin, who owned the Lodge between 1985 and 2006.<sup>11</sup> The Tomerlins repaired the foundation, rewired the Lodge and replaced the plumbing upon buying the property in 1985.<sup>12</sup> They also added a carport after 1985.<sup>13</sup> The carport is on the east side of the building and is not clearly visible from the main approach to the east; its unobtrusive positioning and open profile result in minimal impact on the historic integrity of the building.

### **Integrity**

Winks Lodge remains in its original location as part of the historic African-American Lincoln Hills development near Pinecliffe, Colorado. Lincoln Hills was platted in the 1920s as a mountain recreation area catering to African Americans during the era of racial segregation. Because mountain recreation was not readily accessible to most African Americans at the time of the Lodge's construction, the location of Winks is crucial to its historic significance.

<sup>9</sup> SLATERPAULL Architects, 136.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., 10.

<sup>11</sup> Jane Taylor, Board member, Beckwourth Outdoors, personal remark to Craig Leavitt, August 22, 2011.

<sup>12</sup> Barbara Lawlor, "Lincoln Hills Lodge Is Significant in Black History," *The Mountain-Ear* (18 Jul 1996): 8-

9.

<sup>13</sup> SLATERPAULL Architects, *Winks Lodge*, 10-11.

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Given the centrality of the mountain experience to African Americans, the Lodge's Craftsman design qualities strongly support this history. Obrey "Winks" Hamlet reputedly designed the Lodge himself, and no plans or blueprints are known to be extant.

The Lodge is nestled into a hillside, emphasizing a harmonious relationship to its mountain setting. The Lincoln Hills development featured African-American-owned vacation homes and the Young Women's Christian Association's Camp Nizhoni, a facility for young African-American girls not allowed to camp with their white peers. As such, Winks Lodge was part of a larger center of African-American independence, self-reliance, and resistance to oppression. Frequent tours, picnics, and other events hosted by the James P. Beckwourth Mountain Club, the Lodge's new owners, continue to emphasize the historic resonance of this setting. The viewsheds and vegetation at the site are essentially unchanged, and there has been no significant new development at Lincoln Hills.

Winks Lodge was built largely from local materials available on site. The use of handcrafted local wood and stone speak to the Lodge's seamless integration into its surroundings. The Lodge also features materials, including windows, original to its construction that are believed to have been salvaged from other buildings, both on site and off.

The workmanship of the Lodge reflects the devotion of its builder, Obrey "Winks" Hamlet. The sturdy construction has meant that the Lodge is still intact and in relatively good condition more than 80 years after its construction.

Through careful upkeep and furnishing with items either belonging to the property in the past or else plausibly associated with its era of significance, Winks Lodge maintains a strong feeling of African-American culture in the early twentieth-century Colorado. It is easy for a visitor to the Lodge to imagine oneself as a visitor during the Lodge's early-to-mid-twentieth century heyday.

The Lodge's association with both important African-American cultural figures of the twentieth century and a broader recreational movement contributes much of its historic significance. As one of a small handful of resorts catering specifically to an African-American clientele during the years of "Jim Crow" segregation in the United States, and the only such destination in the Rocky Mountain West, Winks Lodge is intrinsically connected to African-American history and the twentieth-century civil rights struggle.

Alterations to Winks Lodge in the years since its construction have been minimal, and have not adversely impacted the overall character of the property. The property possesses strong integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

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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

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- 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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ETHNIC HERITAGE

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

SOCIAL HISTORY

ARCHAEOLOGY/HISTORIC NON-ABORIGINAL

ARCHITECTURE

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1925-1965

1925-1928

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1925

1928

1965

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

African American

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**Architect/Builder**

HAMLET, Obrey Wendall "Winks"

**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.)

Winks Panorama is significant under Criterion A at the national level in the areas of Ethnic Heritage: Black and Social History as a historic African-American resort of the segregation era in the Rocky Mountain West for the period 1925 to 1965. The property retains the atmosphere of the peaceful mountain oasis that it once offered to African-American vacationers with few options for travel and leisure due to the restrictions of segregation. The Lodge is highly significant for what it can tell us about African-American life in the early twentieth century. Resistance to segregation and de facto status as second-class citizens took many forms, including the creation of African-American community enclaves such as Lincoln Hills, the setting of Winks Lodge. Winks Lodge is further significant at the national level in the area of Entertainment / Recreation for the period 1925-1965 as an exemplification of the efforts of early-twentieth-century African Americans to create their own opportunities for vacationing, recreation and leisure in response to their exclusion in Colorado from white-dominated venues under segregation.

Winks Panorama is further locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture for 1925, the year of its construction, as a vernacular expression of Craftsman design principles, through 1928, when the building was substantially complete.

Finally, Winks Panorama is locally significant under Criterion D in the area of Non-Aboriginal Historic Archaeology from 1925, the year of its construction, through 1965, for its potential to yield information important to history due to buried deposits. The outhouse to the west shelters the privy pit, which provides a high likelihood of obscured and buried artifacts. The information yielded may include such details as the diet of the individuals who resided at and visited Winks Panorama, how those diets may have changed in correlation to economic changes during the 1930s Great Depression, and how the food evolved over time. It may also provide information on the life ways/material culture of rural African-American residents along with informative artifacts due to associative value in connection with an important broad historical pattern: that of attending a rural retreat and social aspects in connection with rural community events.

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The period of significance under Criteria A and D begins in 1925, the year that construction began on the Lodge, and ends in 1965, the year that the builder and proprietor, Obrey Wendall "Winks" Hamlet, passed away. It is also noteworthy that the landmark federal Civil Rights legislation of 1964-65 greatly contributed to the obsolescence of Winks Lodge and other African-American resorts. Although the Lodge operated for several years after 1965, outstanding activities did not occur after that time. The period of significance under Criterion C begins in 1925 and ends in 1928, when the Lodge was substantially complete.

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

Winks Lodge is the intact symbol and embodiment of Lincoln Hills, a significant western enclave and oasis of African-American culture in the years of Jim Crow segregation and oppression. Early Lincoln Hills property owners came not only from Denver and other Colorado cities and towns, but from the neighboring states of Wyoming, Nebraska, Kansas and New Mexico, as well as more distant states including Missouri, Florida, New York, Tennessee, Illinois, Virginia, Indiana, Michigan and Texas.<sup>14</sup> Winks Lodge offered a dignified vacation retreat for African Americans to relax and enjoy themselves without fear of discrimination and abuse. The high degree of integrity retained by the property allows modern visitors to experience the sense of peace, repose and freedom that was enjoyed by early-twentieth-century visitors as they left the harsher realities of segregated life behind.

### **"Winks" Hamlet and Winks Lodge**

In 1925, Obrey Wendall "Winks" Hamlet (1893-1965), an original landowner at Lincoln Hills, began building a Lodge in order to accommodate African-American travelers who wanted to enjoy the beauty of the Rocky Mountains. According to census records, "Winks" Hamlet was born to Rosa Patton in Tennessee on April 27, 1893.<sup>15</sup> By the time he filled out a draft registration card on June 5, 1917, Hamlet lived in Denver, Colorado at 2100 Arapahoe Street, in the historically African-American Five Points neighborhood.<sup>16</sup> According to family recollections, Hamlet was an ambitious, hard-working youth who ran errands, cut grass, and did odd jobs to earn money. As he grew older, he worked as a bartender and a carpenter, skills which would be useful later in life as builder and host of Winks Lodge. Hamlet became a successful Five Points entrepreneur, owning an ice house business, coal company, and moving company.<sup>17</sup>

A Lincoln Hills publication dating from the late 1920s lists 477 property owners, highlighting

<sup>14</sup> Lincoln Hills Development Corporation, "Greatest Summer Recreation Park in America: Lincoln Hills," undated, Beckwourth Outdoors archive, Denver, Colorado.

<sup>15</sup> U.S. Department of Interior, 1930 Census, Denver, Colorado; Roll 239; Page 3A: Enumeration District: 174; Image: 518.0. The 1910 census listed him as Obrey Wendel Hamlet, while most other documents give his name as Obrey Wendall Hamlet. Some confusion exists to the spelling of his last name as well; most documents give it as "Hamlet," but the spelling "Hamlett" is also found in several sources. No further information to explain the variations in spelling is available.

<sup>16</sup> Ancestry.com, World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918. Registration Location: Denver County, Colorado; Roll: 1561884; Draft Board: 8. Accessed October 10, 2011.

<sup>17</sup> Linda M. Tucker KaiKai, "Memories of Uncle Wink and Lincoln Hills", 2006, Beckwourth Outdoors archive, Denver, Colorado.

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paid-up owners who had received warranty deeds with stars, and noting that: "Our space does not permit us to publish the names of those who are not making their payments regularly."<sup>18</sup> The future proprietor of Winks Lodge appears on the roster of land-owners as "O.W. Hamlett," owner of Lots 25 & 26, Block 2.<sup>19</sup> At the time of the publication of this document, Hamlet must have been still making payments on his lots as no star appears next to his name to indicate that his loan was paid off.

Hamlet expressed the delight he felt at Lincoln Hills in a January 24<sup>th</sup>, 1928 letter to the developers:

It's the keenest pleasure I have ever experienced. It thrills and fills me with love for the out-of-doors. My own cottage, built by my own hands, painted orange and trimmed in brown, nestled amid the evergreen trees, away from the smoke, noise and confusion of the city and where the air and water are always pure, fulfills my every desire for rest and recreation. I appreciate my lots and my cottage so much that I cannot but write you and express my appreciation of your efforts in supplying to me and our group of people the most wonderful mountain resort I have seen in Colorado and I have lived here for many years. It is just what we want.<sup>20</sup>

Hamlet began construction of the Lodge in 1925.<sup>21</sup> Historic photographs reproduced in SLATERPAULL's 2007 Historic Structure Assessment depict the ongoing work. He used timber, stone and other materials at hand, as well as repurposed materials salvaged from other buildings. Pressed metal ceiling tiles used in the kitchen, bathroom and dining room of the Lodge came from the original *Denver Post* building, as did wainscot used in the upstairs hallway.<sup>22</sup> Many windows, doors and interior finishes were also salvaged from other buildings.<sup>23</sup> Winks Lodge, also known as Winks Panorama, opened in 1928 and served for the next four decades as a weekend getaway for Denver's African-American community, a destination for African-American travelers, and an informal nexus of African-American culture. Hamlet was assisted in running the Lodge by first wife Naomi Hamlet, who passed away in the 1940s, and by second wife Melba (1910-1974), whose cooking for guests was a highlight for many visitors.<sup>24</sup>

Obrey Hamlet also built a "Honeymoon Cottage" (ca. 1928-1945) available for rent to visitors who desired more private accommodations than the Lodge could offer. This small, one-room cabin, built with a wood-burning stove but no running water, remains in good condition approximately 100 yards from the Lodge. It belongs to a separate parcel and is therefore not part of this nomination at this time.

Winks Lodge remained open for business despite the Great Depression. In the late 1930s and

<sup>18</sup> Lincoln Hills Development Corporation, "Greatest Summer Recreation Park in America: Lincoln Hills," undated, Beckwourth Outdoors archive, Denver, Colorado, 1.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Letter from Obrey Wendall Hamlet letter to Lincoln Hills Development Corporation, January 24, 1928. Blair-Caldwell African-American Research Library, Denver, Colorado, Lincoln Hills box 1, FF 8.

<sup>21</sup> SLATERPAULL Architects, *Winks Lodge*, 10.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

<sup>24</sup> No source consulted gives an exact date for Naomi's passing.



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1940s, Hamlet advertised in *Ebony* magazine, one of the first aimed at an exclusively African-American audience.<sup>25</sup> The June 1952 issue of *Ebony* featured Winks as part of a "Summer Vacation Guide" of destinations friendly to its readership.<sup>26</sup> *Ebony* subscribers were encouraged to enjoy trout fishing, mountain climbing, and horseback riding at the cost of \$3 per day, including meals.<sup>27</sup> Such national exposure drove interest in Winks and brought visitors from the eastern United States.

According to oral tradition, notable guests included musicians Duke Ellington, Lena Horne, and Count Basie as well as writers Langston Hughes and Zora Neale Hurston. Segregation practices meant that after performing at jazz clubs in Denver's Five Points neighborhood, these highly esteemed artists often could not find suitable accommodations in the city, so they would travel the extra hour to stay at Lincoln Hills instead. As a result, Winks Lodge played host to some of the greatest African-American musical talents of the twentieth century. Guests were often treated to private readings and improvised musical "jam sessions" at the Lodge or at nearby Winks Panorama Tavern (5GL.1744), also owned by Hamlet.<sup>28</sup> As quoted by Andrea Juarez, according to Niccolo Werner Casewit, a researcher for the Winks Lodge Advisory Board, "Winks Lodge has been likened to the literary salons during the Harlem renaissance. Except this one is nestled in the mountains."

Paradoxically, the end of segregation also meant the end of an era at Winks Lodge. Attendance declined as the Civil Rights movement demanded integration of whites-only facilities. In parallel, the appeal of an African-American enclave faded. The passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964 brought a formal end to the era of legal discrimination in the United States. With greatly expanded options, many African-Americans chose to take their rightful place alongside their fellow Americans in newly desegregated public accommodations, rather than to continue visiting oases of the past. Longtime Lincoln Hills visitor John Scott recalled: "Lincoln Hills was old school to the younger generation who went to new areas like Vail."<sup>29</sup> Winks Hamlet passed away in 1965, bringing an end to an era. "When Winks died, interest in Lincoln Hills died," according to Scott. "Only a few Blacks kept their cabins."<sup>30</sup> Melba Hamlet tried to keep the Lodge going on her own, but found the changed social environment and the absence of Winks founder made it impossible to stay in business. She sold the Lodge in 1971.

While many of the Lincoln Hills cabins fell into disrepair and were eventually razed, Winks Lodge has been preserved by a series of owners. The Lodge was purchased by Eileen and Guy Dart in 1971 for \$8,000.<sup>31</sup> In 1978, it was sold to Bertha and James Calloway, an African-American couple from Omaha, Nebraska, for \$30,000.<sup>32</sup> Ms. Calloway, a historian, succeeded

<sup>25</sup> SLATERPAULL Architects 11.

<sup>26</sup> "Annual Summer Vacation Guide," *Ebony* (Jun 1952): 109-110.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.

<sup>28</sup> Winks Tavern remains extant and was surveyed by SWCA in 2009. Originally constructed between 1923 and 1928, it was a one-story corrugated steel building with a front gable roof. The building has subsequently been raised on a foundation, received various additions, and had replacement of the front porch, windows, and doors.

<sup>29</sup> Andrea Juarez, "Lincoln Hills: An African-American Monument in Colorado's Mountains," Denver Urban Spectrum, May 2007. [http://www.urbanspectrum.net/may07/writers/home\\_hills.htm](http://www.urbanspectrum.net/may07/writers/home_hills.htm)

<sup>30</sup> Ibid.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

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in adding Winks to the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.<sup>33</sup> The property changed hands again in 1985, when Rob and Martha Tomerlin, a white couple from Texas, bought it.<sup>34</sup>

The Tomerlins diligently maintained the Lodge, rewiring the electrical systems, re-plumbing the building and repairing the foundation the first year they owned it. They attempted to turn the Lodge into the base for a camp for troubled youth, but abandoned the plan upon discovering that liability insurance would be prohibitively expensive. The Tomerlins only gradually became aware of the Lodge's historic significance for African Americans. "Every summer some black people come up and say they had the best time of their lives here," Martha Tomerlin told a newspaper reporter in 1996.<sup>35</sup> Elderly visitors would "drive up and ask to look at the room they used to stay in."<sup>36</sup> The Tomerlins began scouring thrift shops for period pieces evocative of Winks heyday, and were gratified when visitors claimed to recognize a piece of furniture that they had only recently purchased. The Tomerlins said they always invited nostalgic visitors to spend the night, allowing them to relive poignant childhood memories.<sup>37</sup>

In 2006, the Lodge was purchased by the James P. Beckwourth Mountain Club, a Denver-based non-profit organization that seeks to educate the public about contributions of people of color to the West, and to engage minorities in mountain recreation. The group takes its name from James Pierson Beckwourth (1798-1866), an African-American pioneer and mountaineer.<sup>38</sup> The group, also known as Beckwourth Outdoors, was awarded funding for a historic structure assessment and preservation plan through the Colorado State Historical Fund in 2007 with a view towards eventually rehabilitating the property. Beckwourth Outdoors intends to reopen Winks as an outdoor education and events center that highlights the significance of Obrey Hamlet's mountain retreat for African Americans during the segregation era.

### The Development of Lincoln Hills

In 1922, a group of African-American entrepreneurs in Denver, Colorado led by Robert E. Ewalt and E.C. Regnier, formed the Lincoln Hills Development Company. Their goal was to promote the creation of an African-American resort community in an area known as Lincoln Hills, about an hour west of Denver. Ewalt and Regnier worked on behalf of the affluent Sayre ranching family of Gilpin County, who owned part of the land.<sup>39</sup> The area was formerly the site of mining at the Pactolus Placer, developed as early as 1863.<sup>40</sup> They filed Articles of Incorporation on

<sup>33</sup> National Register of Historic Places, Winks Lodge, Gilpin County, Colorado, 80000901.

<sup>34</sup> Juarez, "Lincoln Hills."

<sup>35</sup> Barbara Lawlor, "Lincoln Hills Lodge Is Significant in Black History," *The Mountain-Ear* (18 July 1996): 8-9.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

<sup>38</sup> See Elinor Wilson, *Jim Beckwourth – Black Mountain Man, War Chief of the Crows* (University of Oklahoma Press, Norman and London, 1972).

<sup>39</sup> Gail Maxwell, Chief Deputy for the Clerk and Recorder, Gilpin County. Interview with Craig Leavitt. Central City, Colorado, November 18, 2011.

<sup>40</sup> Kathleen Corbett, Sean Doyle, Daniel Shosky, and Thomas Witt. *Documentation of Historic Properties in the Gilpin Tunnel District, Gilpin County, Colorado* (Broomfield: SWCA Environmental Consultants, 2009) 32.

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September 30, 1925.<sup>41</sup> Incidentally, with her research into the racial identity of Ewalt and Regnier not definitive, University of Colorado Denver architectural historian Melanie Shellenbarger concludes: "This degree of racial ambiguity perhaps suggest that these men may have straddled the color line, explaining their ability to move back and forth between the white community in establishing Lincoln Hills and the black community in selling property there."<sup>42</sup>

In 1924 the *Boulder Camera* reported that Fred Dungan, a professor of civil engineering at the University of Colorado in Boulder, surveyed "640 acres of land located two miles west of Pinecliff and six miles south of Nederland which is being made into a cottage resort for colored people to be known as Lincoln."<sup>43</sup> An undated map in the files of the Colorado Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation shows Lincoln Hills sub-divided into 594 lots.<sup>44</sup> When lots were ready for sale in 1925, the Lincoln Hills Development Company (LHDC) published advertisements and brochures soliciting buyers, among them the Lincoln Hills Circular.<sup>45</sup> "LINCOLN HILLS: THE BEAUTIFUL," read one such advertisement.<sup>46</sup> "Nestled within the grandeur of the everlasting hills," said the flyer, "bathed in perpetual sunshine and fragrant with the odors of wild flowers and the health giving pine forests, we are building a place that will attract thousands of people and at the same time show our genius and constructive ability."<sup>47</sup>

African Americans could become Lincoln Hills landowners for as little as \$50, with a \$5 down payment and monthly payments of \$5.<sup>48</sup> The affordability of land at Lincoln Hills opened opportunities for Denver's burgeoning African-American middle class, as well as for African Americans from other parts of the country who wished to enjoy the beauty of the Rocky Mountains and to vacation in peace. Visitors reached Lincoln Hills either by automobile or by train. The Denver and Salt Lake (Moffat) Railroad passed through the Moffat tunnel from both Boulder and Denver, stopping at Pinecliffe and again just down the hill from the Lincoln Hills development, making for an easy day trip from Denver for the city's African-American community. These rail stops no longer exist, and sources consulted do not give clear dates for the end of service to these stops.

The Lincoln Hills Development Company (LHDC) received letters of endorsement in the mid- to late 1920s from many prominent African-American and other residents of Denver, including leaders of local churches and the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA). It is likely but not certain that these letters were solicited by the LHDC to boost sales. Testimonials praising the Lincoln Hills development include: Fritz Cansler, Executive Secretary of the Denver Young Men's Christian Association; Dr. S.A. Hoff; G.L. Prince, pastor of Zion Baptist Church; Hugh McLean, Assistant Trust Officer of the Colorado National Bank; George W. Gross, of the Colorado State Highway Department; and A. Wayman Ward, minister of Shorter African

<sup>41</sup> Melanie Shellenbarger, *High Country Summers: The Early Second Homes of Colorado, 1880-1940* (Tucson: The University of Arizona Press, 2012) 129.

<sup>42</sup> Shellenbarger 130.

<sup>43</sup> "Prof. Fred Dungan Making Survey For Cottage Resort," *Boulder Daily Camera* (12 Sep 1924).

<sup>44</sup> Undated map, site file, 5GL.6, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, History Colorado, Denver.

<sup>45</sup> Shellenbarger 132-3.

<sup>46</sup> Lincoln Hills Development Corporation brochure, undated, Beckwourth Outdoors archive, Denver, Colorado.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid.

<sup>48</sup> Juarez, "Lincoln Hills."

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Methodist Episcopal Church. These letters are curated at Denver's Blair-Caldwell African-American Research Library. "There is no segregation about it," read Dr. Joseph H. P. Westbrook of Denver's letter, "only a chance to get a large acreage where we can go in peace and contentment, surrounded by friends and enjoy ourselves."<sup>49</sup> Westbrook (1878-1939) was a prominent Denver physician and early civil rights leader. Pastor G.L. Prince declared that the "demonstration of our creative ability seems to me the greatest thing about this splendid project. We like the beauty, the climate, the fishing and the recreation of all sorts...but to point with pride to beautiful LINCOLN Hills as the product of our own creative genius is still more inspiring."<sup>50</sup>

As Shellenbarger has investigated, development occurred in four distinct phases, with at least 470 lots in Lincoln Hills eventually sold of 1700 planned and only 20 to 50 cabins built.<sup>51</sup> Reasons likely include a combination of factors including the economic downturn, failed speculation, and the difficult terrain. Day trips and recreational activities nevertheless thrived.

Lincoln Hills was also the home of Camp Nizhoni, a summer camp for African-American girls. The Phillis Wheatley branch of the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), located at 2460 Welton Street in Five Points, established the camp in 1925 and named it after a Navajo word meaning "beautiful." The African-American girls of the Wheatley Branch were not allowed to use the camps and facilities of the Central Branch of Denver's YWCA due to segregation, and had encountered transportation issues and hostility from white neighbors when renting other camping facilities near Boulder and Idaho Springs. The developers of Lincoln Hills solved the problem by permanently deeding a tract of land with a house to the Phillis Wheatley Branch at a nominal cost, on the condition that they camp there for at least three consecutive summers. Camp Nizhoni became the first dedicated camp for African-American girls in Colorado. Denver girls were given the opportunity to learn about nature and escape the confines of their urban environment. The camp typically hosted twenty to thirty girls at a time during two-week sessions each July. Campers slept in a dormitory building, took six-mile hikes, sang camp songs, encountered the flora and fauna of the Rocky Mountains, and learned to "rough it" by cooking outdoors. Camp Nizhoni continued to operate throughout the 1930s and into the 1940s, despite the strain on budgets caused by the Great Depression and World War II. In the early 1940s, the Colorado YWCA began reexamining its segregation policies. In 1943, the Central Branch of Denver's YWCA began integrating Camp Lookout. By 1945, twenty-nine African -American girls were attending Camp Lookout near Golden along with their Caucasian, Asian, and Hispanic peers, making Camp Nizhoni less crucial to Colorado's African-American community. To save on maintenance expenses, the YWCA sold Camp Nizhoni in 1946. Its legacy, however, remains an important part of the larger Lincoln Hills story.<sup>52</sup> The Phillis Wheatley Colored YWCA closed in 1964, the last official segregated YWCA in the nation.<sup>53</sup>

<sup>49</sup> Letter from Dr. J.H.P. Westbrook to R.E. Ewalt and E.C. Regnier, July 4 1925, Blair-Caldwell African-American Research Library, Denver, Colorado, Lincoln Hills box 1, FF 3.

<sup>50</sup> Letter from G.L. Prince to Lincoln Hills Development Company, March 17 1926, Blair-Caldwell African-American Research Library, Denver, Colorado, Lincoln Hills box 1, FF 5.

<sup>51</sup> Shellenbarger 136.

<sup>52</sup> Modupe LaBode, "Off to Summer Camp," *Colorado History NOW* (Jun 2002).

<sup>53</sup> Stephens, Larson, and the Black American West Museum 45.

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A dirt road in Lincoln Hills is still named Phillis Wheatley Way, invoking the eighteenth-century African-American poet as well as the Denver branch of the YWCA that bore her name. Several buildings associated with Camp Nizhoni survive today. A building at 53 Winks Way was used as a dining hall; it was purchased by Obrey Hamlet in 1945 and became Winks Tavern.<sup>54</sup> Originally a mining building associated with the Pactolus Placer, the building at 288 Pactolus Lake Road became a dormitory for the camp in 1924.<sup>55</sup> Another mining building, the Camp Nizhoni Hotel (5GL.1742) at 103 Phillis Wheatley Way became the staff lodging and visitor's hotel for the camp the same year.<sup>56</sup> A former mining building used as administrative headquarters for the camp at 22 Winks Way was destroyed by fire in 2006.<sup>57</sup> Though these buildings on the whole possess less historic integrity than Winks Lodge, the area encompassing the Lodge, the Honeymoon Cottage, and the remaining buildings associated with Camp Nizhoni were initially considered eligible as a potential National Register of Historic Places historic district in 2005.<sup>58</sup>

The Great Depression hit Lincoln Hills hard. The Lincoln Hills Development Company's scheme to make mountain land ownership affordable to a new demographic with small monthly payments ran into trouble when many buyers became unable to keep up with the costs associated with owning a vacation property due to deteriorating economic circumstances. Many lots were abandoned. A search of records at the Gilpin Country Clerk and Recorder's office showed that between 1929 and 1945, 104 lots were lost to property tax sales.<sup>59</sup> Lincoln Hills, Inc. disappeared from the *Colorado State Business Directory* in 1932.<sup>60</sup> Winks Lodge, however, remained in operation and preserved the original vision of Lincoln Hills as a mountain oasis for African-American vacationers.

### Prejudice and Discrimination

African Americans have long suffered discrimination in transportation and accommodations throughout American history. After the abolition of slavery following the Civil War, custom, local practice and law separated people of color from whites in public accommodations, resulting in humiliation, resentment and limited opportunities for economic and personal advancement. Segregation in theaters, restaurants, hotels, public facilities and buses was a constant reminder of de facto second-class citizenship for African Americans. In effect basically between the Supreme Court case *Plessy v. Ferguson* in 1896 and *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954, "Jim Crow," as the system of racial segregation was informally known, led to decades of confrontation as African Americans struggled to gain the full rights and privileges of citizenship. Ku Klux Klan terrorism and the widespread practice of lynching kept many African Americans fearful and reluctant to travel far from home or to otherwise challenge the oppressive racial hierarchy that limited their rights.

The civil rights movement of the mid-twentieth century eventually forced federal intervention that

<sup>54</sup> Corbett, et. al., 39.

<sup>55</sup> Ibid., 58.

<sup>56</sup> Ibid., Appendix B.

<sup>57</sup> Ibid., 2.

<sup>58</sup> Ibid., 50; Deon Wolfenbarger, *22 Winks Way: Demolition Permit Review – Historic Eligibility Report* (Nederland, Colorado: Three Gables Preservation, 2005), 7.

<sup>59</sup> Gilpin County Treasurer's Deeds, Book 221, Gilpin County Clerk and Recorder's Office, Central City, Colorado.

<sup>60</sup> Shellenbarger 130.

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destroyed the legal foundations of discrimination and transformed race relations in the nation, particularly the South. The 1964 Civil Rights Act, pushed through Congress by President Lyndon Baines Johnson, brought the era of legally sanctioned segregation to an end. The act outlawed discrimination in hotels, motels, restaurants, theaters, and all other public accommodations engaged in interstate commerce.<sup>61</sup>

Historic patterns of discrimination have profoundly affected African-American experiences in travel and leisure. As slaves in early America, African Americans were barred from most leisure activities or only permitted to learn about them through observation.<sup>62</sup> Post-Civil War Jim Crow and its attendant customs had the effect of severely limiting African-American opportunities for leisure, recreation and travel. Ku Klux Klan violence reinforced the legal structure of Jim Crow, intimidating many blacks and keeping them close to home, further limiting recreational opportunities.<sup>63</sup> The separate-but-equal doctrine of segregation meant that African Americans usually received a significantly lesser share of public resources devoted to leisure. African-American physical education pioneer Edwin Bancroft Henderson noted in 1940 that under segregation, "[f]requently swimming, golf, tennis, and many other art forms are denied to Negroes in communities for one reason or another. For no matter how adequately equal provisions are planned, segregation almost always necessarily connotes discrimination in facilities, leadership, and money expenditures. It is true for recreation as it is true for segregated systems of education."<sup>64</sup> Most public funding went to support whites-only facilities, leaving many African-American communities with little to no financial resources to develop recreational resources. Studies conducted in the 1930s pointed to the lack of recreational opportunities as a cause of delinquent behavior among African-American youth.<sup>65</sup>

The era of racial segregation meant not only limits on civil rights for African Americans, but also limits to their pursuit of happiness. Restrictions on travel created by prejudice, Jim Crow laws and the lack of safe places for African-American tourists meant that the simple pleasures of travel, vacationing, and enjoyment of nature - taken for granted by most whites - were out of reach for many African Americans. Historians note the increasing restrictions and discrimination against African Americans in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. A recent study of mid-twentieth century African-American travel narratives showed "the traveler's near-constant anxiety on unfamiliar roads."<sup>66</sup>

Such anxieties were well-founded. Under Jim Crow, African-American travelers had little defense against the aggression of hostile whites, as a 1920s incident experienced by an African-American motorist from South Carolina illustrates:

[Fields] and her husband were driving down a remote country road, when they rounded a curve and suddenly ran into a Ku Klux Klan roadblock. The couple was ordered from

<sup>61</sup> National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior National Historic Landmarks Program, *Civil Rights in America: Racial Desegregation of Public Accommodations*, <http://www.nps.gov/history/nhl/themes/public%20accom.pdf>

<sup>62</sup> Jearold Winston Holland, *Black Recreation: A Historical Perspective* (Chicago, 2002) 4.

<sup>63</sup> *Ibid.*, 119.

<sup>64</sup> *Ibid.*, 135.

<sup>65</sup> *Ibid.*, 141.

<sup>66</sup> Cotton Seiler, "'So That We As A Race Might Have Something Authentic to Travel By': African American Automobility and Cold-War Liberalism," *American Quarterly* 58.4 (Dec 2006): 1095.

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the car at gunpoint and surrounded by white-robed men with burning torches. Naturally, the Fields were terrified. The intimidating Klansmen went through their luggage and inspected their trunk. "All this time, nobody said a word to us. We stood there by our guards, in the light of the torches. Prisoners. After a long while, one of them said, 'You are not the ones. You can go.' And that was that. What Negro family were 'the ones,' what it was all about, Bob and I never knew."<sup>67</sup>

To escape danger and humiliation, African-American travelers on longer trips took measures to avoid rest-room stops and packed meals so as not to be turned away from segregated restaurants. Some even affected foreign manners, dress and speech so as to seem unacquainted with Jim Crow custom and thereby be permitted to use public accommodations. As University of Colorado Denver historian Mark S. Foster wrote: "as Jim Crow practices tightened late in the nineteenth century, even the most resilient blacks experienced difficulties arranging vacations."<sup>68</sup> The regime of racial segregation in the United States was "devastating to any recreation and leisure opportunity" for African Americans.<sup>69</sup>

Jim Crow and its limitations on African-American travel and recreation contributed to the creation of what scholar Perry L. Carter has called zones of "white space" and "black space"; attempts by African Americans to move beyond their prescribed boundaries often resulted in friction, hostility, or violence.<sup>70</sup> Thus it should not be surprising that African Americans tended to avoid the unfamiliar in travel. African Americans were generally considered "somewhat unwelcome" by whites in "natural outdoor recreation" and camping venues, and more likely to use city parks than surrounding regional parks.<sup>71</sup> Such recreational venues had been, consciously or not, deemed "white spaces." As Carter expressed, "[b]ad things happen to Black people in isolated, rural-pine-needle-carpeted locations. African Americans have been and continue to be wary of bucolic landscapes...because they perceive them as landscapes of fear."<sup>72</sup> *De facto* segregation occurred broadly even in locations not subject to Jim Crow *de jure* segregation in the south, as discussed in the context of recreation by historian Victoria W. Wolcott and as analyzed in literary representations in the essays of *Representing Segregation: Toward an Aesthetics of Living Jim Crow, and Other Forms of Racial Division*.<sup>73</sup>

African-American travelers responded to the dangers of Jim Crow with creative solutions that

<sup>67</sup> Mark S. Foster, "In the Face of 'Jim Crow': Prosperous Blacks and Vacations, Travel and outdoor Leisure, 1890-1945," *The Journal of Negro History* 84. 2 (Spr 1999): 143.

<sup>68</sup> *Ibid.*, 136.

<sup>69</sup> Holland, *Black Recreation*, 119.

<sup>70</sup> Perry L. Carter, "Coloured Places and Pigmented Holidays: Racialized Leisure Travel," *Tourism Geographies* 10. 3 (Aug 2008): 275.

<sup>71</sup> Steven F. Philipp, "Are We Welcome? African- American Racial Acceptance in Leisure Activities and the Importance Given to Children's Leisure," *Journal of Leisure Research* 31. 4 (Fall 1999): 393, 385-86.

<sup>72</sup> Carter, "Coloured Places," 281.

<sup>73</sup> See Victoria W. Wolcott, *Race, riots, and roller coasters: the struggle over segregated recreation in America (Politics and Culture in Modern America)* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2012) and Brian Norman and Piper Kendrix Williams, eds., *Representing Segregation: Toward an Aesthetics of Living Jim Crow, and Other Forms of Racial Division* (State University of New York Press, 2010). Other academic literature explores *de facto* segregation in other contexts, including American suburban development outside of the South, in the case of James W. Loewen's *Sundown Towns: A Hidden Dimension of American Racism* (Touchstone: 2006), and Jeff Wiltse's *Contested Waters: A Social History of Swimming Pools in America* (The University of North Carolina Press, 2007).

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allowed them to travel America's roads along with her white citizens, even though the same hospitality facilities were not always available to them. One such creative adaptation was the *Negro Motorist Green Book*, a guide for black tourists that provided addresses and phone numbers of friendly lodging across the country. Established in 1936 by Victor H. Green & Co. Publishers, the *Green Book* began as a local publication for metropolitan New York City, but high demand caused the guide to go national in 1937. The introduction to the 1949 edition reads:

For most travelers, whether they travel in modern high-speed motor cars, streamlined Diesel-powered trains, luxurious ocean liners or globe encircling planes, there are hotels of all sizes and classes, waiting and competing for their patronage. Pleasure resorts in the mountains and at the sea shore beckon him. Roadside inns and cabins spot the highways and all are available if he has the price. For some travelers, however, the facilities of many of these places are not available, even though they may have the price, and any traveler to whom they are not available, is thereby faced with many and sometimes difficult problems.<sup>74</sup>

This euphemistic description of the inequities of Jim Crow understates the cruel and even dangerous reality of travel for African Americans prior to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The guide's authors looked forward to a time when their publication would be obsolete: "There will be a day sometime in the near future when this guide will not have to be published. That is when we as a race will have equal opportunities and privileges in the United States. It will be a great day for us to suspend this publication for then we can go wherever we please, and without embarrassment."<sup>75</sup>

The federal government also published its own, less well known guide for African-American motorists during this period. *Negro Hotels and Guest Houses*, issued by the United States Department of the Interior's U.S. Travel Bureau under Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes, was "developed with a view to contributing a reliable source of information for Negro travelers through the United States."<sup>76</sup> Its language referred to the oppressive conditions of Jim Crow in even more obscure and obtuse language than the *Green Book*, but seemed intended to encourage African Americans to embrace a culture of travel despite the potential dangers, humiliations and inconveniences of racial segregation on the roads.

Travel is a social and economic force of such diversity that its full benefits are only now gaining recognition in the United States. It pays rich dividends to the individual in the form of better health, broadened horizons, and deepened appreciation of the opportunities which life offers. For the nation, travel materially increases commerce, education and goodwill.<sup>77</sup>

The freedom to travel, the generally sympathetic administration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt understood, would mean expanded opportunities for economic and personal

<sup>74</sup> Victor H. Green, *The Negro Motorist Green Book* (New York: 1949) 3.

<sup>75</sup> *Ibid.*, 1.

<sup>76</sup> U.S. Travel Bureau, U.S. Department of the Interior, *A Directory of Negro Hotels and Guest Houses* (1941) 2.

<sup>77</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 2.



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development for African Americans. Another, commercially published guide book of the segregation era, *Travelguide* eschewed euphemism and spoke directly to the concerns of African-American travelers in its motto: "Vacation and Recreation Without Humiliation."<sup>78</sup>

In this context of segregation and strategic response by aggrieved African-American travelers and their allies, the story of Winks Lodge offers a window into an expanded view of the larger African-American freedom struggle. African Americans fought not only to obtain the same legal rights as whites, but to expand their opportunities for leisure and enjoyment. Nothing less than the "pursuit of happiness" promised to every American citizen was at stake in African-American efforts to expand their ability to recreate like their fellow citizens. Winks Lodge represents the efforts of African Americans to overcome barriers to the enjoyment of nature and recreation and to create a safe "black space" in the context of rural outdoor leisure. It is therefore an important monument to the African-American struggle and definition of the "American Dream." When leisure opportunities and whole segments of the recreational landscape enjoyed by white Americans were denied to them, African Americans in the Jim Crow era were forced to turn to private commercial recreation and to "purchase recreation services with their own monies."<sup>79</sup> By funding an African-American resort in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, Obrey Hamlet, the Lincoln Hills Development Company and the hundreds of individuals who bought lots there demonstrated the collective economic power of African Americans, and showed their ability to use that power to enrich their lives by occupying spaces and engaging in activities that Jim Crow sought to deny them.

### Colorado's African Americans in the Early Twentieth Century

Winks Lodge represents a paradoxical expression of the strength of Colorado's early twentieth-century African-American community, as well as the limits of its freedom. The great majority of Colorado's African-American population was located in Denver, and Lincoln Hills was first and foremost a mountain colony of Denverites. Obrey Hamlet and most of the other Lincoln Hills homeowners were Denver residents. In 1920, 6,075 African Americans lived in Denver, making up 2.4 per cent of the city's population of 256,491.<sup>80</sup> This represented a much smaller proportion of the population than African Americans in most southern cities or northern strongholds like New York or Chicago. Historians note that African Americans in Denver, while largely confined to the northeastern portion of the city by segregation, had a significantly higher standard of living than those in other major American cities. African-American literacy rates were high and more than a third of African Americans in Colorado were homeowners, almost five times the percentage in New York State.<sup>81</sup> Seen in this context, the developers of Lincoln Hills and Winks Lodge represent not only moral resistance to the oppressive conditions of Jim Crow, but an expression of self-reliance and collective strength by the African-American community in Colorado.

Writing in the National Association for Advancement of Colored People's journal, *The Crisis*, author and poet Jessie Fauset celebrated the state of relative prosperity and interracial harmony

<sup>78</sup> Cotton, "So That We As A Race," 1091; <http://hist.us/black-travel-guides/>

<sup>79</sup> Holland, *Black Recreation*, 164.

<sup>80</sup> Stephen J. Leonard and Thomas J. Noel, *Denver: Mining Camp to Metropolis* (Niwot, Colorado: 1990) 192.

<sup>81</sup> *Ibid.*, 192.

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enjoyed by Denver's African-American population in the 1920s. "Out of the West comes the report," she wrote in the November 1923 edition, "of 6,500 colored people who work and play and have their being side by side with 25,000 whites [almost certainly a typographical error; 250,000 was close to the correct figure] and both races are content and happy. It is a relief, in the midst of such vexing racial problems, to read of such a Utopia."<sup>82</sup> Fauset's article highlighted the strength of local African-American institutions such as churches, scouting troops, fraternal organizations, and the *Colorado Statesman*, an African-American owned and operated newspaper. The article also praised numerous white allies of the Denver African-American community in government and business, and noted the achievements of African Americans in white-dominated contexts such as in Denver's Fire Department, public schools, mining industries, and manufacturing. "It is, however, in business enterprises manned strictly by colored people that our small racial group in Denver is to be congratulated," Fauset wrote. The article enumerates many African-American businesses operating in Denver, in diverse fields including real estate, mortgage lending, insurance, investments, mortuaries, taxi and baggage, hotels, and two "Elite Drug Stores, the only colored pharmacies between the Missouri River and the Pacific Coast," which "enjoy the patronage of all nationalities."<sup>83</sup>

This enthusiastic report on the status of Denver's African-American population in the 1920s belied some harsher realities. Though relatively prosperous and not subjected to even worse racial abuses of Jim Crow and segregation, African Americans in Colorado were nonetheless subjected to overt discrimination in the early twentieth century. They faced limited opportunities in housing, employment and recreation, and lived under the threat of a Ku Klux Klan-dominated government. The Klan was called the "largest and most efficiently organized political force in the state of Colorado today" by *The Denver Post* in 1924, and counted Denver Mayor Benjamin F. Stapleton, Colorado Governor Clarence J. Morley, and a host of other elected officials as members in 1925.<sup>84</sup> Though many African Americans had settled on Larimer and Blake streets northeast of downtown Denver in the late nineteenth century, surging racism in the form of custom, pressure and discriminatory real estate covenants pushed them further east in the first decades of the twentieth century.<sup>85</sup> Attempts to live outside of their recognized enclave in the northeast corner of the city often resulted in threats or violence, including cross-burnings and house-bombings.<sup>86</sup>

Though Colorado passed a law in 1908 that extended to all citizens "full and equal enjoyment of the accommodations, advantages, facilities, and privileges of inns, restaurants, eating houses, barber shops, public conveyances on land or water, theatres, and all other places of public accommodation and amusement," in practice the law was frequently violated.<sup>87</sup> A study conducted by the National Urban League's Denver-Inter-racial Committee in 1929 showed that restaurants, theatres, and hospitals were the most frequent violators. African Americans were required to use Jim Crow balcony seating at the prestigious Tabor Theatre and other prominent performance venues. Although African Americans in Denver had access to some public parks,

<sup>82</sup> Jessie Fauset, "Out of the West," *The Crisis* 27:1 (Nov 1923): 11.

<sup>83</sup> Fauset, "Out of the West," p. 16.

<sup>84</sup> Leonard and Noel, *Denver*, 190.

<sup>85</sup> *Ibid.*, 193.

<sup>86</sup> *Ibid.*, 193.

<sup>87</sup> Moya Hansen, "Entitled to Full and Equal Enjoyment: Leisure and Entertainment in the Denver Black Community, 1900 to 1930," *University of Colorado Denver Historical Studies Journal* 10.1 (Spr 1993): 64.

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swimming pools at Washington and Berkeley Parks were off-limits. The city bath house and gymnasium were segregated, and African Americans were denied use of public golf courses and tennis courts.<sup>88</sup> In 1932, an attempt by 150 African Americans to integrate the bathing beach at Washington Park, in a predominantly white section of south Denver, resulted in a violent white mob attack on the swimmers; ten African Americans and seven of their white allies were arrested.<sup>89</sup>

Shellenbarger analyzes how cabin construction epitomized a larger strategy of racial uplift and progress, as espoused variously by African-American leaders such as Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. Du Bois.

They agreed that blacks must advance the race, not only as a source of enhanced self-esteem but to counter stereotypes, ensure economic progress and upward mobility, and thus ease assimilation into white society. Racial uplift was not, however, solely about assimilation or integration. It was meant to foster racial pride, cultural distinctiveness, and individual and collective identity in a society that had severely deprived African Americans of all of these things.<sup>90</sup>

This argument expounds on the concept that racial uplift relies inherently on establishing respectability through ownership, social standing, and morality as a means of achieving status. Shellenbarger asserts that recreation in nature met these criteria and therefore demonstrated racial progress, quoting contemporary testimony to that effect and the connection with the cultural work of African-American women's clubs. Shellenbarger concludes:

The women's club movement was instrumental in positioning Lincoln Hills as a culturally congruent and therefore tacit source of respectability and racial uplift. Both assimilationist desires and principled resistance to them were among the many motivations for the establishment and enthusiastic embrace of Lincoln Hills. African American connections to the natural world and desires for outdoor recreation arose out of asynchronous traditions completely divergent from the white trope of wilderness appreciation as a route to American cultural identity. In these particulars, the richness of African American cultural expression and heritage can be excavated, examined, and celebrated—as a dynamic and irreplaceable component of the pluralistic and multifaceted character of the American West in the early twentieth century and as part of the ongoing work of reformulating and re-creating American culture and American identity today.<sup>91</sup>

### Development of African-American Resorts in the U.S.

Although there were a number of other African-American resorts developed during the segregation era, Winks Lodge was the only one in Colorado, and indeed the only one in the entire Rocky Mountain region, attesting to its national significance. Winks was effectively a regional vacation center for mainly urban African-Americans in search of leisure activities free of

<sup>88</sup> *Ibid.*, 60.

<sup>89</sup> Leonard and Noel, *Denver*, 366.

<sup>90</sup> Shellenbarger 146.

<sup>91</sup> Shellenbarger 150.

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discrimination and in a safe, natural setting.

As a means of understanding the demographics in question, according to a PBS documentary on Jim Crow in the United States, in 1930 the approximate total white population of the State of Colorado was 1,019,000, compared to 12,000 African American. By 1950, there were 20,000 African Americans compared to 1,297,000 white. Finally, by 1960, there were 40,000 as a minority population to 1,701,000 white.<sup>92</sup> The table below reflects the African-American and white populations of states in the surrounding Rocky Mountain region for comparison. Nebraska and Kansas are also included by means of providing information on adjacent states that likely also drew visitors to Winks Panorama. As evidenced by this table, with the exception of Arizona, Kansas, and Nebraska, Colorado hosted the largest African-American population in the region, making it a natural centralized location for a resort such as Winks in the Rocky Mountain West (usually defined as Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico).

Indeed, "most black migrants to Colorado settled in Denver; by 1870, 56 percent of the state's African-American population lived there (...) by the 1890s, middle-class African Americans began to concentrate in the Five Points district, creating a stable, if increasingly segregated community."<sup>93</sup> According to historians Ronald J. Stephens, Ph.D., and La Wanna M. Larson, due to the Homesteading Act and the lure of mining, "The West offered a chance of self-determination and an escape from persecution."<sup>94</sup>

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<sup>92</sup> "The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow: Interactive Maps—Population & Migration" (Educational Broadcasting Corporation, 2002) <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/jimcrow/themap/index.html> (accessed July 21, 2014). N.B.: These maps do not provide further breakdown for other minority populations as well, such as Hispanic or Native American.

<sup>93</sup> The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library, "The Western Migration," In Motion: The African-American Migration Experience [AAME] <http://www.inmotionaame.org/print.cfm;jsessionid=f830356571406026453305?migration=6&bhcp=1> (accessed July 22, 2014).

<sup>94</sup> Ronald J. Stephens, Ph.D., La Wanna M. Larson, and the Black American West Museum, *Images of America: African Americans of Denver* (Charleston et. al.: Arcadia Publishing, 2008) 7.

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**Table 1: African-American populations (versus larger white state populations) between 1930 and 1960**

	1930	1950	1960	Approximate distance of travel to Winks Panorama
<b>Colorado</b>	12,000 (1,019,000)	20,000 (1,297,000)	40,000 (1,701,000)	40 miles (from Denver)
<b>Wyoming</b>	1000 (221,000)	3000 (284,000)	2000 (323,000)	120 miles (from Cheyenne)
<b>Montana</b>	1000 (520,000)	1000 (572,000)	2000 (657,000)	810 miles (from Helena)
<b>New Mexico</b>	3000 (391,000)	8000 (630,000)	17,000 (876,000)	430 miles (from Santa Fe)
<b>Utah</b>	1000 (500,000)	3000 (677,000)	4000 (874,000)	554 miles (from Salt Lake City)
<b>Idaho</b>	1000 (439,000)	1000 (581,000)	2000 (657,000)	850 miles (from Boise)
<b>Arizona</b>	11,000 (379,000)	26,000 (655,000)	43,000 (1,170,000)	785 miles (from Phoenix)
<b>Kansas</b>	66,000 (1,812,000)	73,000 (1,829,000)	153,000 (2,108,000)	569 miles (from Topeka)
<b>Nebraska</b>	14,000 (1,360,000)	19,000 (1,301,000)	29,000 (1,375,000)	511 miles (from Lincoln)

Meanwhile, by the first decade of the twentieth century, most African Americans in Denver lived in Five Points and a few other neighborhoods due to Jim Crow segregation and restrictive housing covenants.<sup>95</sup> The Ku Klux Klan reached a zenith in Colorado in the 1920s. African-American businesses thrived through the 1970s along Welton Street in Five Points, just as the neighborhood was a cultural, religious, and social center as well.

According to historian Cindy S. Aron in *Working at Play: A History of Vacations in the United States*, the advent of the twentieth-century coincided with the democratization of leisure holidays: "During the 1910s and 1920s working-class whites, immigrants, and middle-class African Americans began to participate in vacation experiences that had once belonged predominantly to the white middle class."<sup>96</sup> One of Aron's main research questions is "In what ways did their [white working-class'] vacation experiences, as well as those of growing numbers [of] immigrants and middle-class African Americans, differ from or resemble the vacation patterns of the white middle class?"<sup>97</sup> Aron attributes broader participation in vacations as the ability to and lower cost of travel afforded by the rise of the automobile, the publicity of vacation opportunities, and a growing interest in physical activity outdoors.<sup>98</sup> These positive impetuses did not negate, however, the persistence of racism in service and accommodations in locations where different groups enjoyed vacations together. Aron concludes that: "The endemic racism of early twentieth-century America motivated African Americans to create vacation places where

<sup>95</sup> Stephens, Larson, and the Black American West Museum 8.

<sup>96</sup> Cindy S. Aron, *Working at Play: A History of Vacations in the United States* (New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999) 10.

<sup>97</sup> *Ibid.*, 182.

<sup>98</sup> *Ibid.*, 207-208.

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they could enjoy their leisure without threat of racial confrontation."<sup>99</sup>

Winks Lodge was one of a small number of resorts across the country specifically dedicated to the African-American traveler during the segregation era. Such resorts and lodgings formed a network of hospitality for travelers who were often denied accommodations due to discrimination enforced by law or custom. "Elite" African Americans enjoyed accommodations in Saratoga Springs, New York in the 1870s and 1880s. The 1890s saw both the rise of black resorts near other eastern cities with large black populations, such as Atlantic City, New Jersey, as well as communities originating with servant populations, as at Newport, Rhode Island.<sup>100</sup> Silcott Springs, Virginia and Harper's Ferry, West Virginia also hosted "modest, rustic" black-owned resorts.<sup>101</sup> Such resorts represented an oasis from the hostility and outright dangers of travel for blacks in a nation only beginning to adjust to the idea of African Americans as free American citizens. Other African-American resorts sprung up around eastern cities in the early twentieth century. "Developing their own retreats appeared wise," wrote Professor Mark S. Foster in a study of early prosperous African Americans and travel, "as blacks were often gouged by greedy white entrepreneurs on those rare occasions when integrated facilities were available to them."<sup>102</sup>

The Great Migration of the 1920s opened new horizons as African Americans left the rural South in search of jobs in the North and West. Though most African-American newcomers to northern cities did not enjoy a rapid climb to prosperity, they did develop significant disposable income, which led entrepreneurs to target goods and services at their communities. African-American businessmen in service industries near larger cities were no longer dependent upon the good will of white patrons, but could build businesses in their own communities. Providing travel and leisure opportunities away from urban pressures became one such business opportunity for shrewd entrepreneurs both black and white.

### Comparable Properties

The resort community at Idlewild in northern Michigan is arguably the best known, documented, and largest example of the African-American resorts that sprung up during this period.<sup>103</sup> Idlewild, also known as "Michigan's Black Eden," was originally planned and financed by four white investors. Merging "idealism and capitalism," they formed the Idlewild Resort Company (IRC) in 1912 and by 1915 had hired a team of African-American salesmen to sell 25'x100' lots.<sup>104</sup> Though the resort at Idlewild was initially greeted with skepticism, no less a figure than W.E.B. DuBois investigated the promoters and site and gave both a stamp of approval by

<sup>99</sup> Ibid., 214.

<sup>100</sup> See Nelson Johnson, *The Northside: African Americans and the Creation of Atlantic City* (Plexus Pub, 2010) and Myra B. Armstead, *Lord, Please Don't Take Me in August: African-Americans in Newport and Saratoga Springs, 1870-1930* (Blacks in the New World) (Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1999).

<sup>101</sup> Foster, "In the Face of 'Jim Crow,'" p. 136.

<sup>102</sup> Ibid. 136.

<sup>103</sup> Recent scholarship includes Ronald J. Stephens' *Idlewild: The Rise, Decline, and Rebirth of a Unique African American Resort Town* (University of Michigan Press/Regional, 2013) as well as Lewis Walker and Benjamin C. Wilson, *Black Eden: The Idlewild Community* (Michigan) (Michigan State university Press, 2002).

<sup>104</sup> See also "Summer Resorts: Michigan's Idlewild is nation's oldest summer playground owned by Negroes," *Ebony* (June 1952): 107-108 for more information regarding the evolution of Idlewild.

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investing in his own lots and declaring the project a boon for African Americans. The IRC turned over control to the property owners in 1921.<sup>105</sup> Idlewild grew into a very successful and popular venue for entertainment, relaxation and escape from the pressures of segregation until the passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964—the end of legal segregation in the United States sent African-American patrons to other venues—and the 1968 federal and Michigan Fair Housing Acts. Beginning in the 1970s, the resort experienced a gradual decline until recent preservation advocacy. The boundary increase for Idlewild Historic District in Lake County, Michigan was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on August 6, 2010 (NRIS 09001062). The district, listed at the national level of significance in the areas of Community Planning and Development, Entertainment/Recreation, Ethnic Heritage, and Social History for the period 1915 to 1968, now comprises 482 contributing resources (393 noncontributing) and over 2500 acres.<sup>106</sup> Idlewild differed from Winks principally in its sheer size, diversity of amenities, focus on entertainment (baseball, regattas, music, horseback riding, roller skating, lectures, etc.), and accommodation of literally more than 20,000 in the summer months of some years, and its ultimate integration.

Idlewild had a sister community, Woodland Park, developed in the 1920s by two of the same initial investors. Located to the southwest, it was marketed through its Idlewild connection but was differentiated as a quieter setting and a smaller community. Woodland Park remains an extant community today, again much larger in scale than Winks Lodge.<sup>107</sup>

In terms of ocean recreation, the twentieth century also saw the rise of American Beach, Amelia Island, Florida beginning in January 1935, a community promoting beach access for African Americans through 1964, the beginning of a decline due to the devastation of Hurricane Dora and desegregation, and now continuing to function as a “community in transition,” with the 8.5-acre NaNa dune as part of the National Park Service’s Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve.<sup>108</sup> The employees of the Florida-based Afro-American Life Insurance Company, its founder, Abraham Lincoln Lewis, and members of the company’s Pension Bureau fostered the development with the purchase of three parcels north of Franklinton, a black township beginning in 1862.<sup>109</sup> Approximately forty acres of 225 acres (116 extant) are designated at the local level of significance in the National Register of Historic Places as of January 28, 2002 (NRIS 01001532). The district’s period of significance is 1935-1965, with the majority of the residential development platted between 1936 and 1941, in the areas of Ethnic Heritage: Black and Community Planning & Development: “American Beach was the most prominent of the Florida segregated beaches; was the most extensively developed; and retains the greatest

<sup>105</sup> Ibid., 138.

<sup>106</sup> Elaine H. Robinson, *Idlewild Historic District* National Register of Historic Places Nomination (Jackson, MI: Commonwealth Cultural Resources Group, Inc., 2009).

<sup>107</sup> Robinson 8-10.

<sup>108</sup> Larry Chase, “History of American Beach,” [http://www.nps.gov/timu/historyculture/ambch\\_history.htm](http://www.nps.gov/timu/historyculture/ambch_history.htm) (accessed August 6, 2013). See also: Marsha Dean Phelts, *An American Beach for African Americans* (University Press of Florida, 2010); Russ Rymer, *American Beach: A Saga of Race, Wealth, and Memory* (HarperCollins, 1998); and Russ Rymer, *American Beach: How “Progress” Robbed a Black Town—and Nation—of History, Wealth, and Power* (Harper Perennial, 1999).

<sup>109</sup> “National Register of Historic Places: African American History Month—Florida Properties,” <http://www.nps.gov/nr/feature/afam/2003/florida.htm> (accessed 7.24.2014).

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concentration of historic resources of Florida's Black beaches."<sup>110</sup> Thousands visited each summer through the 1970s. Several resources were destroyed with the 1864 hurricane, such that the U.S. Office of Emergency executed a revetment project in 1965.<sup>111</sup> Subsequent surrounding development has included a gated resort community and proposed hotels.

Other African-American Florida beaches included Pablo (Jacksonville) Beach in 1884-1899 for one day a week and subsequently Manhattan Beach, purchased by Henry Flagler for the workers of his Jacksonville & Atlantic Railway around 1900. The area was subsumed by the creation of the Mayport Naval Base during World War II.<sup>112</sup> The state of Florida purchased most properties at Anastasia Island's Butler Beach in 1958 for the creation of a state park.<sup>113</sup> Finally, Mary McLeod Bethune's Beach at Daytona featured one large hotel, the Welricha Motel.<sup>114</sup>

In *The Land Was Ours: African American Beaches from Jim Crow to the Sunbelt South*, Andrew W. Kahrl explores African-American land ownership and recreation from the Chesapeake Bay south in its myriad forms, both individual ownership and communities, including efforts to dispossess African Americans of that land. Initially begun with Eli Reid's purchase of 400 acres in Hertford County, North Carolina in 1926, Chowan Beach included guest cottages, bathhouses, recreational facilities, and a restaurant by the 1940s.<sup>115</sup> Its popularity declined after signature of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, resulting in Reid's sale of the property in 1967. New owner Sam Pullman kept the resort open, making improvements, through the 1990s. He sold it in 2004 and only a few permanent residents remain.<sup>116</sup>

The 1928 Eureka Villa at Val Verde, California, the so-called Black Palm Springs, hosted respite from greater Los Angeles through the 1960s.<sup>117</sup> Unfortunately, little remains from this period amidst subsequent development and due to the 1994 Northridge earthquake.

Fox Lake near Angola, Indiana was listed in the National Register (NRIS 01000360) on April 21, 2001 at the state level of significance in the areas of Ethnic Heritage: Black and Entertainment/Recreation. The historic district comprises the core of the Fox Lake Neighborhood Association with 32 lake cottages. Developed initially in 1924 by a group of white businessmen who sold lots to African-American families, successive generations of which still own the cottages in many cases, Fox Lake was apparently the only such resort in the state of Indiana. Lowell T. Boyd, an insurance executive, assumed controlling interest in the Fox Lake Land Company in 1932. By contrast to the nomination of Winks Panorama, however, the Fox Lake property focuses on the private cabins of the resort, rather than communal resources, with the exception of the beach/recreation area, or the social center. Indeed, the K.T. Thompson

<sup>110</sup> Joel McEachin and Robert O. Jones, *American Beach Historic District* National Register of Historic Places Nomination (Tallahassee: Bureau of Historic Preservation, 2001) 8-1.

<sup>111</sup> McEachin and Jones 8-7.

<sup>112</sup> McEachin and Jones 8-3.

<sup>113</sup> McEachin and Jones 8-4.

<sup>114</sup> McEachin and Jones 8-4.

<sup>115</sup> See Frank Stephenson, *Chowan Beach: Remembering an African American Resort* (History Press, 2006).

<sup>116</sup> Ronald J. Stephens, "Chowan Beach, Hertford County, North Carolina (1926-2004)," BlackPast.org: An Online Reference Guide to African American History (accessed July 23, 2014).

<sup>117</sup> "LAistory: Val Verde, The 'Black Palm Springs,'" *LAist*, [http://laist.com/2008/05/03/laistory\\_val\\_ve.php#photo-1](http://laist.com/2008/05/03/laistory_val_ve.php#photo-1) (accessed August 6, 2013).



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Lodge at Fox Lake is non-contributing. The 1930s bathhouse and pier are no longer extant, nor is the 1950s Mar-Fran Motel, destroyed by fire in 1966 and subsequently rebuilt.

The development at Lake Ivanhoe, Wisconsin, 75 miles from Chicago, also began in the 1920s, but suffered due to the 1929 stock market crash. Rebounding by 1940 and through the 1944 creation of the Lake Ivanhoe Property Owners Association, Lake Ivanhoe became the "only black-owned community in Wisconsin."<sup>118</sup>

Rock Rest (the Clayton and Hazel Sinclair House) in Kittery, Maine was listed in the National Register (NRIS 07001449) on January 24, 2008 at the state level of significance in the areas of Ethnic Heritage: Black, Entertainment/Recreation, and Social History for the period 1946-1957.<sup>119</sup> Rock Rest and other guest houses are among the most directly comparable properties to Winks Lodge in that they typically operated as a modest guest house, family home, and restaurant, in the case of Rock Rest for three decades after World War II. Rock Rest's success was largely founded on its reputation and the recommendation of friends and family. Guests arrived from 28 states between 1948 and 1977. A comparable property with tourist cabins, the Jewell Inn in York Beach, Maine, has been demolished.

Meanwhile, the long-standing recreational use of Oak Bluffs (originally Cottage City) at Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts by African Americans began as a Methodist revival camp and Baptist Temple.<sup>120</sup> Sometimes known as the Black Hamptons, the summer retreat has served a largely affluent population of professionals, but had its nineteenth-century origins in traveling servants accompanying their employers.<sup>121</sup> Its center is the so-called Inkwell or Town Beach, a name with pejorative origins. Opened in 1912 and continuing today through a sixth generation of family stewardship, Shearer Cottage serves as a summer inn catering to a historically African-American clientele.<sup>122</sup> Like Rock Rest and Winks Lodge, the property offered accommodations as well as all meals in a small, family-like inn setting with a national word-of-mouth reputation for hospitality. The family also ran the Twin Cottage as the Shearer Summer Theatre, demolished in 2003. Shearer Cottage is not currently listed in the National Register, but it is on African American Heritage Trail of Martha's Vineyard.

The Cummings' Guest House in Old Orchard Beach, Maine was listed in the National Register

<sup>118</sup> Robinson 8-9.

<sup>119</sup> A national level of significance argument was initially presented for this property, resulting in a Supplementary Listing Record dated February 28, 2008 and signed by Patrick Andrus with the National Register of Historic Places program. One of the comments included that de facto segregation had not been addressed from a scholarly perspective. In turn, the current nomination presented here attempts to do so.

<sup>120</sup> Corbett, et. al., 33.

<sup>121</sup> DeNeen L. Brown, "Oak Bluffs, Mass.: A Place in the Sun," *The Washington Post* (20 Aug 2009), [http://articles.washingtonpost.com/2009-08-20/news/36872519\\_1\\_black-women-inkwell-black-men](http://articles.washingtonpost.com/2009-08-20/news/36872519_1_black-women-inkwell-black-men) (accessed 12 Jul 2013). See also Bijan C. Bayne, "Our Kind of Vacation," *The Root* (24 Aug 2009) at [http://www.theroot.com/articles/politics/2009/08/black\\_americans\\_at\\_marthas\\_vineyard\\_vacation\\_or\\_self\\_segregation.html](http://www.theroot.com/articles/politics/2009/08/black_americans_at_marthas_vineyard_vacation_or_self_segregation.html) (accessed 7/24/2014).

<sup>122</sup> "Inkwell, Martha's Vineyard (18902-)," <http://www.blackpast.org/aah/inkwell-martha-s-vineyard-1890s> (accessed 7/24/2014). See also Jill Nelson, *Finding Martha's Vineyard: African Americans at Home on an Island* (Doubleday, 2005); Tom Dresser, *African Americans on Martha's Vineyard: From Enslavement to Presidential Visit* (The History Press, 2010); and Shelley Christiansen, "The Shearer family, keepers of the inn," *Martha's Vineyard* (Jul 2012): 71-81.

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(NRIS 04000744) at the local level of significance on July 28, 2004 in the areas of Ethnic Heritage: Black and Entertainment/Recreation for the period 1923-1954. Built circa 1870, the vernacular Victorian style house underwent alterations around 1923 to house this new function. The property continued in part as a guest house through 1993. Old Orchard Beach historically was comparable to Atlantic City in the number of accommodations offered and thus its popularity.<sup>123</sup> Ultimately, one of the reasons that Winks Panorama is so significant--in addition to retaining a very high level of integrity—is that it was historically the only such property of this type in the entire Rocky Mountain West region.

The David Fisher Atwater Camp (Atwater Camp) in North Brookfield, Massachusetts was listed in the National Register (NRIS 82004477) on April 15, 1982 at the state and local levels of significance in the areas of Ethnic Heritage: Black, Entertainment/Recreation, Social History, and Prehistoric Archaeology for the period 1921-1945 and "prehistory." The property differs from Winks Panorama in that it is a 67-acre summer camp for African-American youth, possibly the first in the country. At some level, it is arguably a better comparison with the Camp Nizhoni portion of the Lincoln Hills community. Being an early nomination, the Atwater Camp documentation does not present comprehensive research.

Murray's Overall-Wearing Dude Ranch in California's Mojave Desert near Victorville just off of Route 66 boasted cottages, stables, tennis, and a swimming pool and welcomed reportedly more than 15,000 visitors in its first ten years (1937-1947). The weekly rate was \$30 and was tantamount a "go West" experience.<sup>124</sup> The dude ranch operated through 1955. Subsequently it became the Lazy B Ranch under actress Pearl Bailey and husband Louis Bellson's ownership and the Murray's Desert Heart Motel. By 1988, the property was in receivership and, due to an infestation of brown recluse spiders, was burned by the Apple Valley Fire Department as a fire-training exercise.<sup>125</sup>

Author, architect and historic preservationist Everett L. Fly's 1980 survey *Black Settlements in America* identified thirty African-American resorts in operation in fifteen states or provinces in 1949 (see Figure 1).<sup>126</sup> Only eighteen were in operation in 1928, when Winks fully opened for business.<sup>127</sup> Fly asserts that Winks was the only such destination in the Rocky Mountain West, but that the "significance of Winks is more substantial than the 'one of a kind/first of its kind' distinction. Winks was an important member of a national network of 'cultural landscapes' that served a national clientele and multiple roles in American culture."<sup>128</sup> As Fly's statement implies, Lincoln Hills parallels the National Park Service's definition of a cultural landscape, more specifically an ethnographic landscape: "a landscape containing a variety of natural and cultural resources that associated people define as heritage resources."<sup>129</sup>

<sup>123</sup> Christi A. Mitchell, *Cummings' Guest House National Register Nomination* (Augusta: Maine Historic Preservation Commission, 2004) 8-4.

<sup>124</sup> "California Dude Ranch," *Ebony* 2.4 (Feb 1947) 5. See also "How Ranch Got its Start," *Ebony* 2.4 (Feb 1947): 6-10.

<sup>125</sup> Richard D. Thompson, "Murray's Ranch: Apple Valley's African-American Dude Ranch," [www.mojavehistory.com](http://www.mojavehistory.com) (accessed July 29, 2014).

<sup>126</sup> Everett L. Fly, *Black Settlements in America*, <http://everettfly.com/blacksettlements.html>

<sup>127</sup> Everett Fly, email to Craig Leavitt, September 22, 2011.

<sup>128</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>129</sup> Charles A. Birnbaum, *Protecting Cultural Landscapes: Planning, Treatment, and Management of Historic Landscapes, National Park Service*, <http://www.nps.gov/hps/tps/briefs/brief36.htm>

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Winks held onto its role as an important part of this national network into the 1950s. The June 1, 1952 *Ebony* "Annual summer vacation guide" that referenced Winks listed a total of forty-four African-American resort destinations, indicating a significant possible increase in the number of resorts over the thirty reported by Fly for 1949, and well-known African-American resorts are known to have been omitted from the 1952 *Ebony* list.<sup>130</sup> In the article "Where to Go Vacationing," featured in *Ebony* in July 1947, the list includes Oak Bluffs, Idlewild, Valverde, and Insurance [American] Beach, discussed here, as well as Lake Forest (Gum Tree, VA), Lake Elsinore (CA), Lake Placid (MO), Log Cabin Beach (Williamsburg, VA), and Mashpee (Cape Cod, MA), among a total of 13 properties.<sup>131</sup> Winks Panorama, however, is not noted, while it was in operation, so it is likely that the *Ebony* list featured annual highlights and was not meant to be comprehensive.

The 1952 two-page spread lists resorts categorized as "Seashore Resorts" (in the coastal states of Connecticut, Florida, New Jersey, Massachusetts, New York, South Carolina, and Virginia), "Ranch Resorts" (in Michigan, New York, California, and Maryland), "Lakeside Resorts" (in California, Canada, Florida, Michigan, New York, and Wisconsin), "Mountain Resorts," and, finally, "Package Tours" (in California, the National Parks of Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, Zion, and Yosemite, West Indies, New England, Mexico, Europe, Canada, Hawai'i, and South America).<sup>132</sup> Outside of Canada, the other mountain resorts were King's Lodge in Otisville, Rainbow Acres in Kerhonkson, and Maple Tree Inn in Rifton, all within 96 miles of New York City, and the Anchor Inn in Mount Pocono, Pennsylvania (100 miles from Philadelphia). For the purposes of this nomination, it is important to note that Colorado is definitely the only state in the Rocky Mountain West advertised as having an African-American vacation resort, not only in the "Mountain Resort" category, but in any category. With the exception of the possibilities of National Park Service camping and accommodations in National Parks, Winks Panorama was the only resort opportunity for several hundreds of miles, the next nearest being at least 1000 miles distant. Incidentally, as promoted in *Ebony* in July 1947,

However, legislation and education have broken barriers at many places and the number of summer hotels and camps that will admit Negroes is going up. Best of these are the many national parks run by the U.S. Department of Interior. The biggest like Yellowstone, Yosemite and Grand Canyon are all non-discriminatory and very reasonable in cost. But getting to these points by auto is difficult because tourist cabins do not accommodate Negroes in most cases.<sup>133</sup>

In Colorado Winks Panorama Lodge was listed for trout fishing, mountain climbing, and bridle path, a lodge available for \$3 daily with meals (contact listed as Wendell Hamlet in Pine Cliffs). One other site is noted, the Mountain Studio Lodge, also 36 miles from Denver (although not in the same direction), with cottages available from \$4 daily (contact listed as John Robinson in Dumont). No information is recorded in the Colorado Cultural Resource Database or at the Stephen H. Hart Library and Research Center regarding this property, which it is doubtful,

<sup>130</sup> Elaine Robinson, author of the Idlewild Historic District nomination, concurs with this hypothesis, see p. 8-8.

<sup>131</sup> "Where to Go Vacationing," *Ebony* 2.9 (Jul 1947): 14-15.

<sup>132</sup> "Annual Summer Vacation Guide," *Ebony* (1 June 1962): 109-110.

<sup>133</sup> "Atlantic Coast Has Most Negro Summer Resorts," *Ebony* 2.9 (Jul 1947): 16.

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based on windshield survey, to have survived the construction of Interstate 70 west of Denver, as approved in October 1956. Construction of the interstate completed in 1966.<sup>134</sup> Mountain Studio Lodge can, however, be found in *The Negro Travelers' Green Book* of Spring 1956 as a preferred site under "Hotels-Motels-Tourist Homes-Restaurants", with Winks noted instead under "The Green Book Vacation Guide" section of the same.<sup>135</sup> As such, the orientation of these respective businesses appears to have been different.

### Winks Lodge Lifestyle

Just thirty-four miles from Denver, Winks Lodge and Lincoln Hills offered convenient escapes from city life. Trips to Winks Lodge were family outings that united different generations in a shared journey and leisure activity. Wendall Hamlet's grandniece, Linda M. Tucker KaiKai recalls frequent weekend trips by car to the Lodge.<sup>136</sup>

We almost always went on Fridays after my parents returned home from work. We would pack the car with our bags, food supplies, toys, pets, etc. and drive to West Denver (We lived in East Denver) to Aunt Bessie's house. She was always ready for us. She would have spent the day preparing food for the weekend, so that we always had a hot meal as soon as we arrived at her cabin... My mom would help Aunt Bessie build a fire in the wood stove and warm up the dinner. My job was to get the beds made with fresh linen. That was always a little scary for me, as mice always slept in the beds when we weren't there, and sometimes we would find them or evidence of them between the sheets.<sup>137</sup>

Other visitors reached Lincoln Hills and Winks Lodge by train. Travel by train in Colorado was a relatively safe and dignified undertaking for African Americans, even during the early twentieth century, as "Colorado railroads did not discriminate against blacks and the short trips they offered attracted black patronage."<sup>138</sup>

The major activities enjoyed by Lincoln Hills visitors prior to 1930 were picnics, camping, fishing, and hiking.<sup>139</sup> Horseback riding was also offered by the early 1950s. But the hospitality at the Lodge elevated it above and beyond a mere staging point for mountain recreation. Winks made visitors feel welcome by often personally picking them up at the Lincoln Hills station and driving them up to the Lodge.<sup>140</sup> After socializing in the main floor living room, visitors to Winks enjoyed the cooking of Winks second wife, Melba Hamlet. Guests could visit the dining veranda at their leisure and enjoy fresh fried chicken raised in the mountains behind the Lodge, fresh trout from nearby South Boulder Creek, homemade biscuits, peach cobbler, and other delicacies from

<sup>134</sup> "[1-70] Construction Timeline," <http://www.coloradodot.info/about/CDOTHHistory/50th-anniversary/interstate-70/construction-timeline.html> (accessed 29 Jul 2014).

<sup>135</sup> *The Negro Travelers' Green Book* (New York: Victor H. Green & Company, 1956) 13.

<sup>136</sup> Linda M. Tucker KaiKai, "Memories of Uncle Wink and Lincoln Hills", 2006, Beckworth Outdoors archive, Denver, Colorado, p. 2.

<sup>137</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 2.

<sup>138</sup> Hansen, "Entitled to Full and Equal Enjoyment," p. 67.

<sup>139</sup> *Ibid.*, 69.

<sup>140</sup> Barbara Lawlor, "Lincoln Hills Lodge Is Significant in Black History," *The Mountain-Ear* (18 Jul 1996): 8-9.

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Melba's kitchen.<sup>141</sup> Despite the Lodge's rustic facilities, clean linen was always available, and guest laundry was done in the basement where hot baths were also to be had.<sup>142</sup>

The opportunity for unrestricted leisure and recreation, far removed from any pressures of discrimination or segregation allowed African-American guests of the Lodge to experience true relaxation and enjoy the fruits of their labor. For children, a visit to Winks Lodge could serve as a window onto a natural world of unlimited possibilities. In the 1950s, the family's niece and nephew often played guide to children from urban backgrounds who visited the Lodge with their families.

There were always guests at the lodge, and when they had children, Uncle Wink would ask my brother Warren and I to come play with them. Most of the children had never been to the mountains. They were not used to being out of their parents' sight or going into the woods or getting dirty. We did not know anything about them except that they came from far away cities and were having a vacation at Lincoln Hills... My brother and I showed them a good time in the mountains and helped teach them not to be afraid of bugs and dirt and out-houses. We shared with them the joy of running up and down steep hills and finding pretty rocks with fool's gold and listening to the birds and watching minnows in the stream and listening to the wolves and the owls at night. They would never forget the feeling of quenching that dry thirst with cold, sweet water from the river or of satisfying that deep mountain hunger with Aunt Melba's fried chicken and honey biscuits. For these children, the holiday at Winks Lodge was probably the most enchanting experience they had ever had.<sup>143</sup>

Though more commonplace for middle-class children of other American families throughout the twentieth century, such carefree summer adventures were a rarity for African-American children in the decades before the Civil Rights Act integrated American travel and leisure. The family memories made by visits to Winks Lodge were certainly long cherished.

As presented in the 2009 article, "Rocky Mountain National Park: history and culture as factors in African-American park visitation," in the *Journal of Leisure Research*, the same types of factors—life history, economic situation, racism, nature-based language, and destination-minded travel patterns—that contributed to lower visitation at the Rocky Mountain National Park very near Winks Panorama arguably ultimately contributed to the popularity of the resort itself: "There were, and continue to be, natural areas that African-Americans in this community visited during their leisure time (e.g., Lincoln Hills, Garden of the Gods, Buffalo Bills Grave, etcetera). These are locations where the participants felt safe and where the lines of segregation were perceived to be non-existent."<sup>144</sup> Effectively, the middle-class African-American population that patronized Winks was familiar with the place, enjoyed comfort and safety there, was among a community of friends and family, and actively fostered the enjoyment of nature in its youth there.

As quoted in Juarez, "Lincoln Hills was a place that middle-class Black people who had

<sup>141</sup> National Register of Historic Places, Winks Lodge, Gilpin County, Colorado, 80000901, 3.

<sup>142</sup> Ibid.

<sup>143</sup> Tucker KaiKai, "Memories of Uncle Wink and Lincoln Hills", 3-4.

<sup>144</sup> Beth Erickson, Corey W. Johnson, and B. Dana Kivel, "Rocky Mountain National Park: history and culture as factors in African-American park visitation," *Journal of Leisure Research* 41.4 (Fall 2009): 529.

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discretionary funds could go to vacation," said Gary M. Jackson, Denver attorney, chair of the Beckwourth Outdoors Winks Lodge advisory board, and lifelong Lincoln Hills visitor.<sup>145</sup> His family has owned land at Lincoln Hills for three generations. "From the point of view of my grandparents and own parents, this was a place of refuge, a shelter from harsh times. This was a place they could freely go and enjoy mountain life with family and friends."<sup>146</sup> The appeal of rustic life offered by Winks extended well beyond Colorado and the relatively small community of African Americans there. Colorado historian and University of Colorado Denver Professor Tom Noel noted that visitors from larger African-American communities in cities like Chicago and New York came to Winks Lodge because they "wanted to have the same Western experience as whites."<sup>147</sup> "I felt like royalty being able to rent a mountain Lodge that set amid clusters of other cabins rented by colored people," recalled Eugene Washington, who brought his family from the Mississippi Delta to experience the Rocky Mountain lifestyle at Lincoln Hills. "We did not have to worry about entering and exiting under dubious, unfounded circumstances. We were going to WINKS, and that was all we needed to know."<sup>148</sup>

Besides offering access to nature and outdoor leisure and recreation, Winks Lodge also offered enjoyable nightlife for adults. Winks hosted avant-garde musical and literary artists from the 1930s through the 1950s, making it a unique nexus of African-American culture in the Rocky Mountain West. Touring musicians of the big band era who performed in Denver at venues like Benny Hooper's Casino Dance Hall on Welton Street and the Rainbow Room at 5<sup>th</sup> and Broadway often avoided the segregated accommodations in the city and stayed at Winks after their performances. By several accounts, guests at Winks included jazz greats Duke Ellington, Count Basie, and singer Lena Horne. Guests at Winks Lodge were often treated to spontaneous late-night performances of jazz music played in "a scaled-down intimate 'bluesy' style" as well as private readings by Harlem Renaissance writers such as Zora Neal Hurston and Langston Hughes.<sup>149</sup> After the closure of Camp Nizhoni in the mid-1940s, Winks Tavern, just down the road from the Lodge, had a juke box that played the latest 78 rpm records for a nickel.<sup>150</sup> Visitors danced, played cards and drank beer or soda until 2 a.m.<sup>151</sup>

An undated advertisement indicates that Winks Panorama Lodge & Cabins offered a good dance floor, juke box, bar with soft drinks, weak beer, and sandwiches, marksmanship, horseshoe pitching, hiking, softball, saddle horses, and television: "Lincoln Hills is truly the fairyland of the Rockies. Bring the children and watch them expand under the spell of this awe inspiring atmosphere."<sup>152</sup> The advertisement notes Melba and "Winks" Hamlet as the

<sup>145</sup> Juarez, "Lincoln Hills." By contrast, the July 1947 *Ebony* article attested: "Wartime prosperity gave them [Negro summer colonies] a much-needed financial boost and today virtually all are expanding and expecting a boom season. For no longer is vacationing limited to just the well-heeled Negro top income group, who before the war often went abroad to Europe and South America to escape color line restrictions barring them from most public and private resorts. Today the steno and cabbie, the stockyards butcher and steel puddler take a couple of weeks out of town too." See "Where to Go Vacationing," *Ebony* 2.9 (Jul 1947): 14.

<sup>146</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>147</sup> Sheba R. Wheeler, "A shelter from harsh times," *The Denver Post* (19 Feb 2006).

<sup>148</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>149</sup> Gary M. Jackson, "Winks Lodge," Beckwourth Outdoors archive, 2006, Denver, Colorado.

<sup>150</sup> Janis Hamlet, "Wendell Hamlet's Dream," Beckwourth Outdoors archive, 2006, Denver, Colorado, p. 1

<sup>151</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 1.

<sup>152</sup> On file with the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, History Colorado, Denver.

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proprietors, offering double rooms at \$4 per day or \$15 per week, with breakfast (25c and up) and dinner (\$1.35 and up):

THE PANORAMIC VIEW from the Lodge cannot be described for there is none more beautiful in all Colorful Colorado. The cabins are rustic, comfortable and homelike. They are electrically lighted and are equipped with bedding and facilities for cooking. Towels are NOT furnished. Utilities (wood, coal and ice) are furnished at a nominal fee. Hot or cold showers are available at the Lodge, also a laundry room.

The James P. Beckwourth Mountain Club, also known as Beckwourth Outdoors, now owns the property, which accommodates private events. The group acquired the property through the assistance of a Colorado State Historical Fund grant in April 2006.

The 2009 SWCA report, *Documentation of Historic Properties along the Gilpin Tunnel Rail Corridor, Giplin County, Colorado*, recommended establishment of a historic district based on the Lincoln Hills Subdivision, to include resources related to Camp Nizhoni and Winks Lodge.<sup>153</sup> This recommendation stands and should be considered in the future; however, the scope of this grant-funded nomination amendment focused on Winks Lodge itself and the property of Beckwourth Outdoors.

#### **Archaeological Potential and Significance under Criterion D**

The archaeological potential of Winks Panorama to elucidate the lives of early-to-mid-twentieth century African Americans in Colorado is enormous. While African Americans have been a vital part of Colorado's history, they have often been an almost invisible minority. Historical archaeologist Richard Carrillo identified fewer than 20 known archaeological sites related to African-Americans in the state, and many of those identified have a dubious relationship to African-American culture.<sup>154</sup> Winks Lodge has the potential to provide information on a group that is largely unknown archaeologically in Colorado. Further, investigation may yield information regarding changes from the pre- and post-war period; whether livestock or fowl keeping occurred, food production locations and species; and transportation. The archeological record may supplement and confirm information obtained from documentation and oral interviews.

Church et al. have identified recreation-related sites as a major underrepresented theme in historical archaeology in the state. Recreation has been a major component in labor and conservation history of the state, but is often associated with Euro-Americans. Recreation, like other landscape-related themes, can be studied through patterns of settlement and the relationships among, between, and internal to various sites. These relationships occur at multiple scales suitable for archaeological investigation. The layout of specific activity areas such as the outdoor grill and summer kitchen, and the relationship of the activity areas to the house can indicate how the family utilizing the Winks Lodge structured their domestic lives and

<sup>153</sup> Corbett, et. al. 50.

<sup>154</sup> Richard Carrillo, "Chapter 5: Ethnicity," in Minette C. Church, Steven G. Baker, et. al., with E. Steve Cassells, ed., *Colorado History: A Context for Historical Archaeology* (Denver: Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists, 2007) 190-197. See also David R. Guilfoyle, Jonathon C. Horn, and Burr Neely, "Chapter 9: Recreation," pp. 427-446.

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leisure time. The next scale is the relationship between Winks Panorama and other African-American owned properties in the Lincoln Hills area. Were these properties interconnected through pathways and road-cuts? Were viewsheds utilized so that neighbors had lines of site to each other's properties, or were topographic features exploited to obscure viewsheds and enhance the natural setting? Were there common areas that private property owners used as areas to congregate amongst the different properties, and if so, what activities were engaged in these areas? The final scale at which the landscape of Winks Panorama will inform questions related to the theme of recreation in Colorado is how Winks Panorama compares to contemporaneous Euro-American recreational sites in the Rocky Mountains. Did African-Americans and Euro-Americans approach recreation in similar ways? How did they differ, and how is that reflected in the spatial layout of the site(s)?



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Tucker KaiKai, Linda M., "Memories of Uncle Wink and Lincoln Hills", 2006, Beckwourth  
Outdoors archive, Denver, Colorado.

Undated map, site file, 5GL.6, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, History Colorado,  
Denver.

U.S. Travel Bureau, U.S. Department of the Interior, A Directory of Negro Hotels and Guest  
Houses, 1941, Denver Public Library Western History and Genealogy archive, Denver,  
Colorado.

Wheeler, Sheba R. "A Shelter From Harsh Times," *The Denver Post* (19 Feb 2006).

"Where to Go Vacationing." *Ebony* 2.9 (Jul 1947): 14-15.

Wolfenbarger, Deon, *22 Winks Way: Demolition Permit Review – Historic Eligibility Report*.  
Nederland, Colorado: Three Gables Preservation, 2005.

---

**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: History Colorado, Blair Caldwell African American Research  
Library

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** 5GL.6

Winks Panorama (Boundary Increase and  
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Gilpin County, CO

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### 10. Geographical Data

**Acreege of Property** less than one

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)

- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

**Or**

#### UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

The UTM reference point was derived from heads up digitization on Digital Raster Graphic (DRG) maps provided to OAHP by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

- |             |                 |                   |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 13 | Easting: 460912 | Northing: 4419080 |
| 2. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 3. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 4. Zone:    | Easting :       | Northing:         |

Winks Panorama (Boundary Increase and  
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Name of Property

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

As subsequently described in the 2006 warranty deed, the original National Register nomination included the following boundary:

That part of Lincoln Hills subdivision, in Section 33, Township 1 south, Range 72 west of the 6<sup>th</sup> prime meridian, described as follows:

Beginning at a point on the East line of the SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 33, Township 1 South, Range 72 West of the 6<sup>th</sup> P.M., said point being N 2 degrees 46' 48" W, 678.74 feet from the southeast corner of the SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Said Section 33; thence N 90 degrees 00' W, 6.97 feet to the centerline of an existing 20 foot wide road right of way; thence N 48 degrees 18' W, 122.50 feet along the centerline of said Road right of way; thence N 62 degrees 58' 30" W 40.94 feet along the centerline of said road right of way; thence N 0 degrees 00' E 49.91 feet; thence N 86 degrees 04' 40" E., 127.50 feet to the East line of the SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of said section 33; thence S 2 degrees 46' 48" 158.9 feet to the point of beginning, EXCEPT any portion of the existing road right of way lying within the subject property.

This amendment expands that boundary to include land since acquired from the Roosevelt National Forest, a tract of .310 acres [Tract 1175], described as:

A portion of the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 33, Township 1 south, Range 72 west of the 6<sup>th</sup> P.M., more particularly described as follows:

The west line of said southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 33 bears south 02°49'44" east between the northwest sixteenth corner and the center-west sixteenth corner, both monuments being 2002 LS 28667 2" aluminum caps on #6 rebars. All bearings contained herein are relative thereto. Commencing at said northwest sixteenth corner of Section 33, thence south 02°49'44" east, along the west line of the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 33, a distance of 513.19 feet to AP1, the point of beginning; thence north 87°10'16" east, perpendicular to the west line of the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 33, a distance of 61.35 feet to AP2; thence south 02°49'44" east, parallel with the west line of the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 33, a distance of 220.16 feet to AP3; thence south 87°10'16" west, perpendicular to the west line of the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 33, a distance of 61.35 feet to AP4 on the west line of the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 33; thence north 02°49'44" west, along the west line of the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of section 33, a distance of 220.16 feet to AP1, the point of beginning. The above described tract of land contains 13,507 square feet, or 0.310 acres, more or less.

Winks Panorama (Boundary Increase and  
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The land survey plat for the additional parcel to be added through this boundary amendment is dated July 18, 2012.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Boundary includes land and resources legally and historically associated with Winks Lodge.

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Craig Leavitt, Koch Fellow; revised by Astrid Liverman, Ph.D., National and State Register Coordinator (for property owner)

organization: History Colorado

street & number: 1200 Broadway

city or town: Denver state: CO zip code: 80203

e-mail astrid.liverman@state.co.us

telephone: (303) 866-4681

date: July 2014

---

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

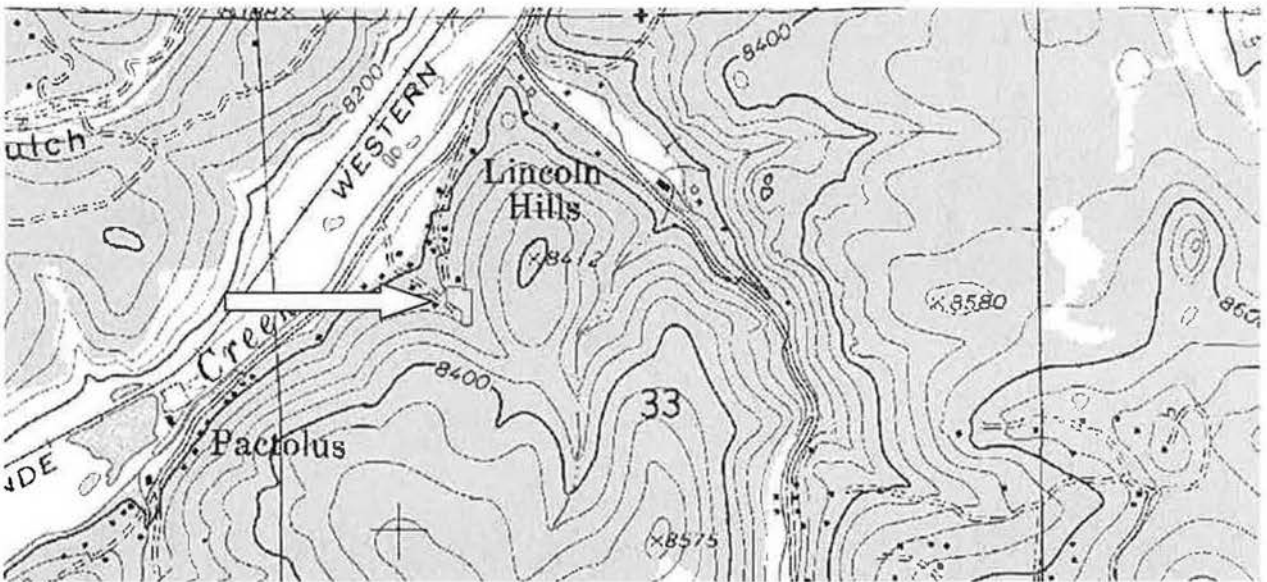
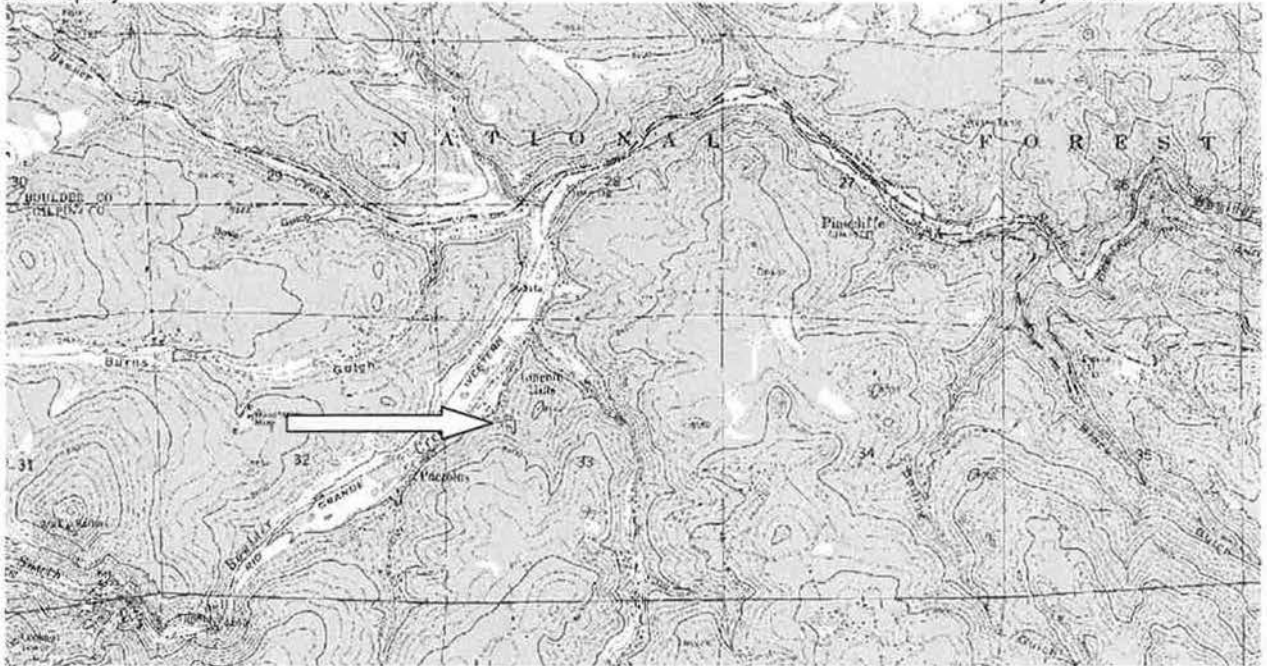
- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any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

Winks Panorama (Boundary Increase and  
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Winks Panorama (Boundary Increase and  
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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. Key all photographs to the sketch map. 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.

Winks Panorama (Boundary Increase and  
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### Photo Log

Name of Property: Winks Panorama

City or Vicinity: Lincoln Hills

County: Gilpin State: Colorado

Photographer: Craig Leavitt

Date Photographed: October 22, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 0001 West façade, Winks Panorama
- 0002 South façade, Winks Panorama
- 0003 Southeast view, Winks Panorama
- 0004 East façade, Winks Panorama
- 0005 Northeast view, Winks Panorama
- 0006 Northeast view, detail, Winks Panorama
- 0007 North façade, Winks Panorama
- 0008 Northwest view, Winks Panorama
- 0009 Entrance, southwest corner, Winks Panorama
- 0010 Entrance, southwest corner, Winks Panorama
- 0011 WPA-era outhouse, south façade
- 0012 WPA-era outhouse, west façade
- 0013 WPA-era outhouse, north façade
- 0014 WPA-era outhouse, east façade
- 0015 Barbeque, front
- 0016 Barbeque, rear
- 0017 Road segment
- 0018 Concrete inscription "Melba 1958 Winks"
- 0019 View towards barbeque seating area

### FIGURE REFERENCES

- F0001 Historic African American Resorts c. 1949. Source: E.L. Fly, *Black Settlements in America* (1980, 2006).
- F0002 Site sketch map. Source: SLATERPAULL (2007) 8.
- F0003 Site sketch map, 2013. Source: Astrid Liverman

Winks Panorama (Boundary Increase and  
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F0004 Basement floor plan. Source: SLATERPAULL (2007) 14.

F0005 First floor plan, Source: SLATERPAULL (2007) 15.

F0006 Second floor plan. Source: SLATERPAULL (2007) 16.

## HISTORIC PHOTO LOG

H0001. Photograph looking down the hill towards Winks Panorama Lodge (5GL.6), undated. Source: OAHP Slide Collection accessible through the Denver Public Library (accessed June 11 2013). N.B.: The Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, History Colorado, reserves all rights to materials in society collections, including, but not limited to, photographs, digital files and publications of the society. Publication or reproduction of photographs or other materials from Colorado Historical Society collections requires written permission from the Society.

H0002. Winks Panorama Lodge (5GL.6), undated. Source: OAHP Slide Collection accessible through the Denver Public Library (accessed June 11 2013).

H0003. Winks Panorama Lodge (5GL.6), undated. Source: OAHP Slide Collection accessible through the Denver Public Library (accessed June 11 2013).

H0004. Photograph looking down the hill towards Winks Panorama Lodge (5GL.6), undated. Source: OAHP Slide Collection accessible through the Denver Public Library (accessed June 11 2013).

H0005. Well, Winks Panorama Lodge (5GL.6), undated. Source: OAHP Slide Collection accessible through the Denver Public Library (accessed June 11 2013).

H0006. Outhouse, Winks Panorama Lodge (5GL.6), undated. Source: OAHP Slide Collection accessible through the Denver Public Library (accessed June 11 2013).

H0007. Outhouse, Winks Panorama Lodge (5GL.6), undated. Source: OAHP Slide Collection accessible through the Denver Public Library (accessed June 11 2013).

H0008. Winks Panorama Lodge (5GL.6), circa 1950s. Source: Gary M. Jackson Collection accessible through the Denver Public Library (accessed June 11 2013). N.B.: Restrictions applying to use or reproduction of this image available from the Western History/Genealogy Dept., Denver Public Library.

H0009. Father and daughter (Warren and Linda Tucker) with car outside of Winks Panorama (5GL.6), circa 1948-1949. Source: Gary M. Jackson Collection accessible through the Denver Public Library (accessed June 11, 2013).

H00010. Alberta Hamlet and Clifford Dixon stand by the well and outhouse, Winks

Winks Panorama (Boundary Increase and  
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Panorama (5GL.6), September 1957. Source: Gary M. Jackson Collection accessible through the Denver Public Library (accessed June 11, 2013).

H00011. Alberta Hamlet and friend stand on the stairs of Winks Panorama (5GL.6), circa 1950s. Source: Gary M. Jackson Collection accessible through the Denver Public Library (accessed June 11, 2013).

H00012. Winks Panorama (5GL.6), circa 1950s. Source: Gary M. Jackson Collection accessible through the Denver Public Library (accessed June 11, 2013).

H00013. Hamlet Family (from left to right, Alberta, Clarence, and Wendell "Wink") in front of Winks Panorama (5GL.6), circa 1950s. Source: Gary M. Jackson Collection accessible through the Denver Public Library (accessed June 11, 2013).

H00014. Melba Hamlet in front of Winks Panorama (5GL.6), circa 1950s. Source: Gary M. Jackson Collection accessible through the Denver Public Library (accessed June 11, 2013).

H00015. Two men in front of Winks Lodge (5GL.6), circa 1950s. Source: Gary M. Jackson Collection accessible through the Denver Public Library (accessed June 11, 2013).

Winks Panorama (Boundary Increase and Amendment)

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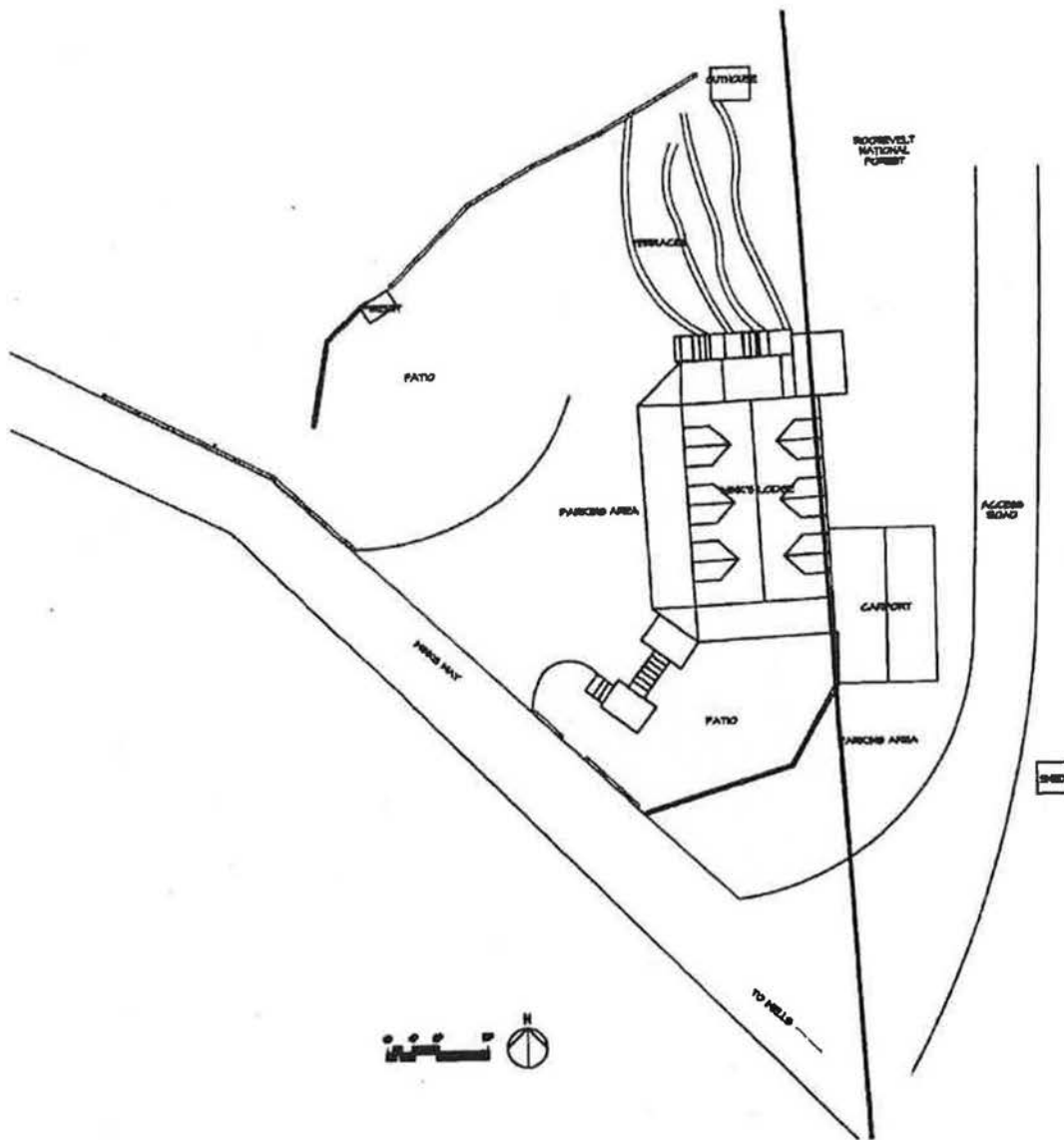
*HISTORIC AFRICAN AMERICAN RESORTS c. 1949:  
 Idlewild is one of less than six African American  
 resorts that remain, with original physical and cultural  
 identity, from the early twentieth century.*

*map from BLACK SETTLEMENTS  
 IN AMERICA © E.L. Fly 1980 & 2006*

F0001 Historic African American Resorts c. 1949. Source: E.L. Fly, *Black Settlements in America* (1980, 2006).

Winks Panorama (Boundary Increase and  
Amendment)

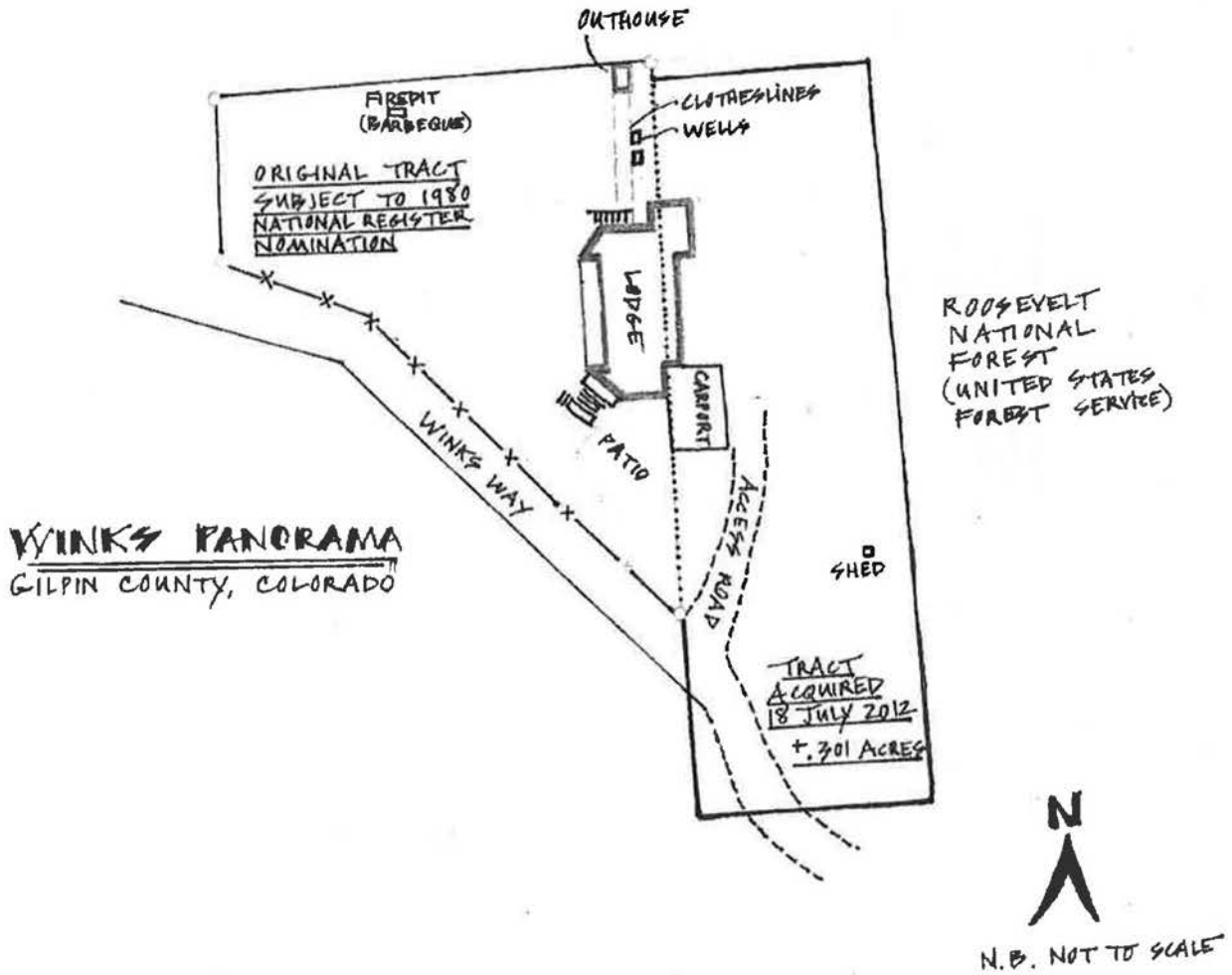
Gilpin County, CO



F0002 Site sketch map. Source: SLATERPAULL (2007) 8.

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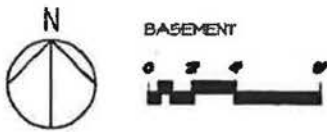
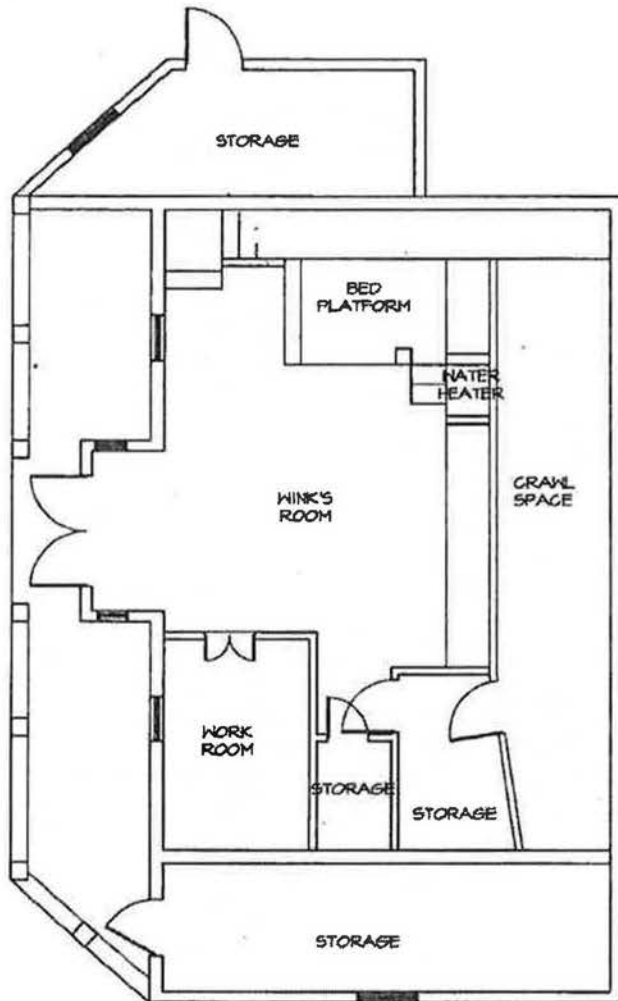


F0003 Site sketch map, 2013. Source: Astrid Liverman

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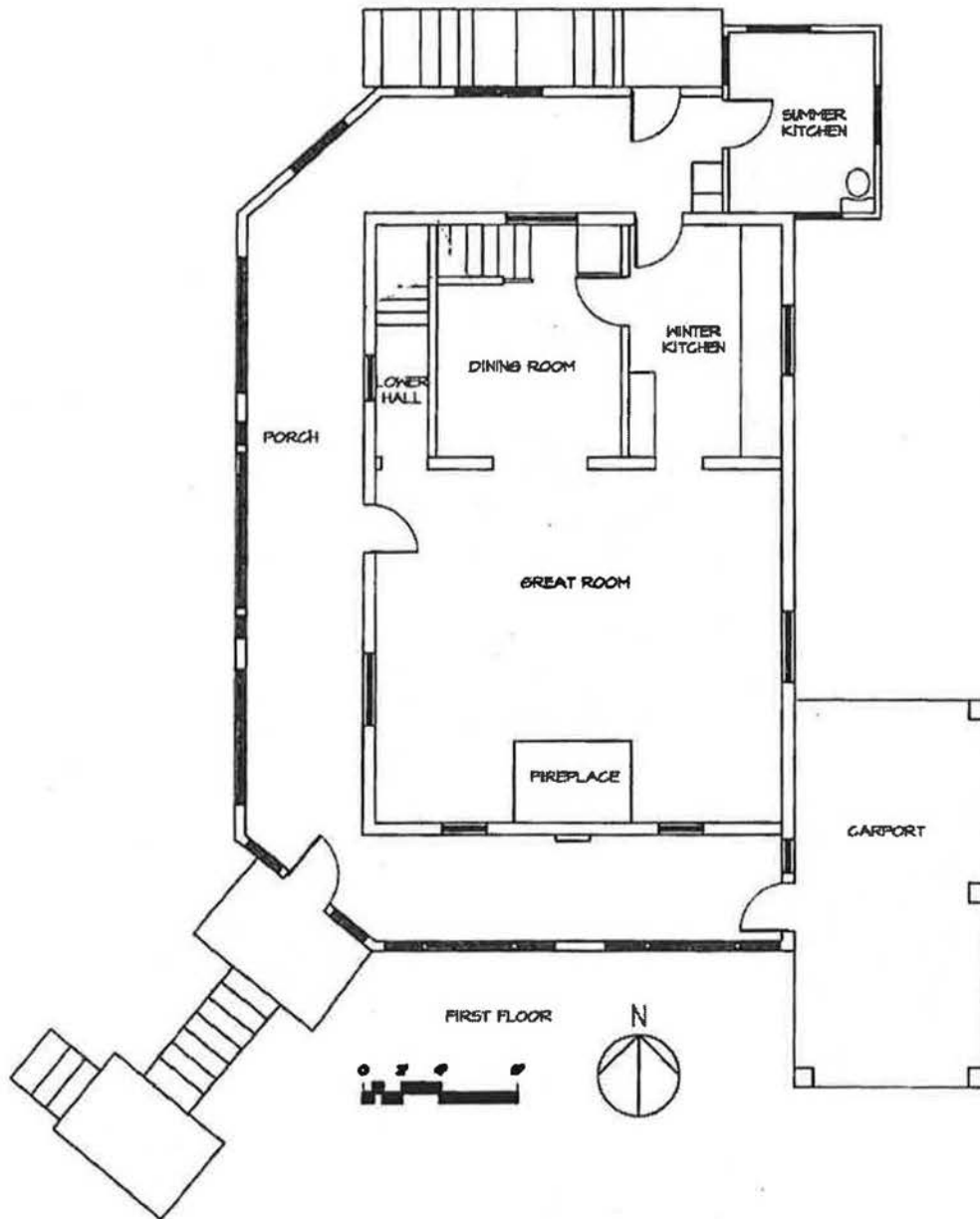


F0004 Basement floor plan. Source: SLATERPAULL (2007) 14.



Winks Panorama (Boundary Increase and  
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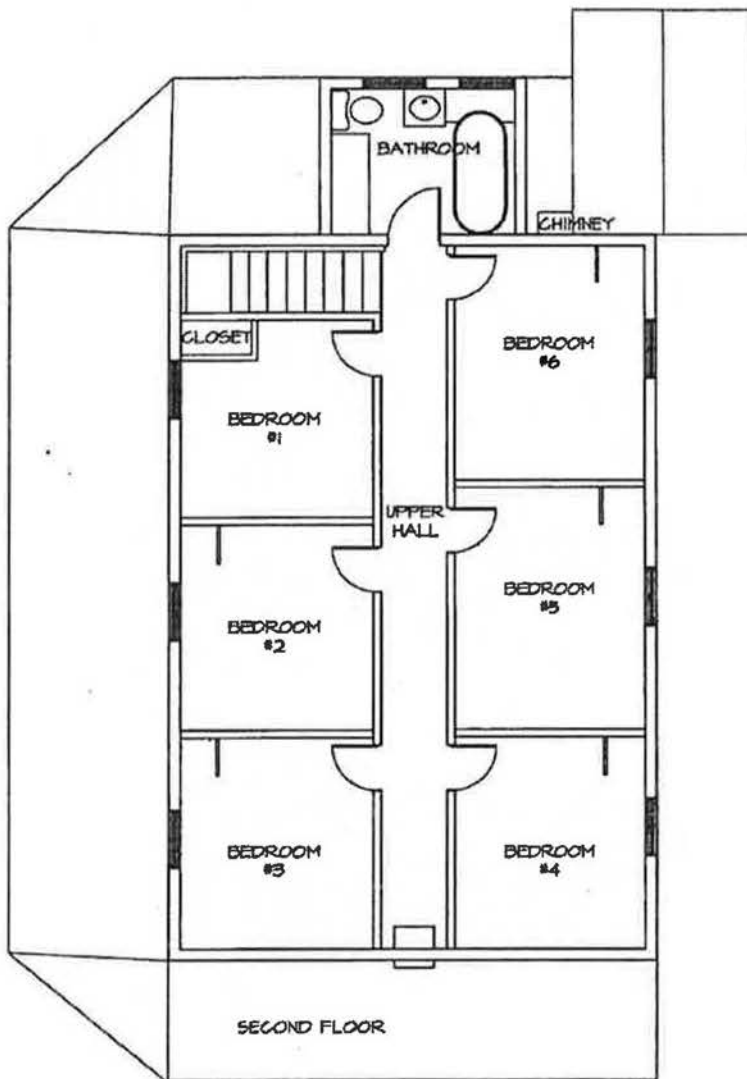


F0005 First floor plan, Source: SLATERPAULL (2007) 15.

Winks Panorama (Boundary Increase and  
Amendment)

Gilpin County, CO

County and State



F0006 Second floor plan. Source: SLATERPAULL (2007) 16.

Winks Panorama (Boundary Increase and  
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H0001. Photograph looking down the hill towards Winks Panorama Lodge (5GL.6), undated. Source: OAHP Slide Collection accessible through the Denver Public Library (accessed June 11 2013). N.B.: The Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, History Colorado, reserves all rights to materials in society collections, including, but not limited to, photographs, digital files and publications of the society. Publication or reproduction of photographs or other materials from Colorado Historical Society collections requires written permission from the Society.

Winks Panorama (Boundary Increase and  
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H0002. Winks Panorama Lodge (5GL.6), undated. Source: OAHP Slide Collection accessible through the Denver Public Library (accessed June 11 2013).



H0003. Winks Panorama Lodge (5GL.6), undated. Source: OAHP Slide Collection accessible through the Denver Public Library (accessed June 11 2013).

Winks Panorama (Boundary Increase and  
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H0004. Photograph looking down the hill towards Winks Panorama Lodge (5GL.6), undated. Source: OAHP Slide Collection accessible through the Denver Public Library (accessed June 11 2013).



H0005. Well, Winks Panorama Lodge (5GL.6), undated. Source: OAHP Slide Collection accessible through the Denver Public Library (accessed June 11 2013).

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H0006. Outhouse, Winks Panorama Lodge (5GL.6), undated. Source: OAHP Slide Collection accessible through the Denver Public Library (accessed June 11 2013).

H0007. Outhouse, Winks Panorama Lodge (5GL.6), undated. Source: OAHP Slide Collection accessible through the Denver Public Library (accessed June 11 2013).



H0008. Winks Panorama Lodge (5GL.6), circa 1950s. Source: Gary M. Jackson Collection accessible through the Denver Public Library (accessed June 11 2013). N.B.: Restrictions applying to use or reproduction of this image available from the Western History/Genealogy

Winks Panorama (Boundary Increase and  
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Name of Property

Dept., Denver Public Library.

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H0009. Father and daughter (Warren and Linda Tucker) with car outside of Winks Panorama (5GL.6), circa 1948-1949. Source: Gary M. Jackson Collection accessible through the Denver Public Library (accessed June 11, 2013).



H00010. Alberta Hamlet and Clifford Dixon stand by the well and outhouse, Winks Panorama (5GL.6), September 1957. Source: Gary M. Jackson Collection accessible

Winks Panorama (Boundary Increase and  
Amendment)

Name of Property

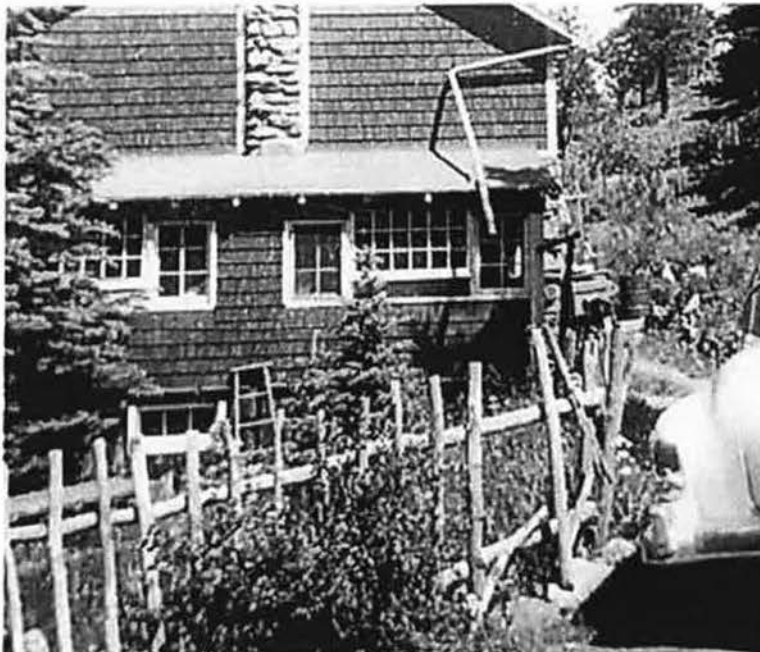
through the Denver Public Library (accessed June 11, 2013).

Gilpin County, CO

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H00011. Alberta Hamlet and friend stand on the stairs of Winks Panorama (5GL.6), circa 1950s. Source: Gary M. Jackson Collection accessible through the Denver Public Library (accessed June 11, 2013).



H00012. Winks Panorama (5GL.6), circa 1950s. Source: Gary M. Jackson Collection accessible through the Denver Public Library (accessed June 11, 2013).



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H00013. Hamlet Family (from left to right, Alberta, Clarence, and Wendell "Wink") in front of Winks Panorama (5GL.6), circa 1950s. Source: Gary M. Jackson Collection accessible through the Denver Public Library (accessed June 11, 2013).

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H00014. Melba Hamlet in front of Winks Panorama (5GL.6), circa 1950s. Source: Gary M. Jackson Collection accessible through the Denver Public Library (accessed June 11, 2013).



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H00015. Two men in front of Winks Lodge (5GL.6), circa 1950s. Source: Gary M. Jackson  
Collection accessible through the Denver Public Library (accessed June 11, 2013).

**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.

































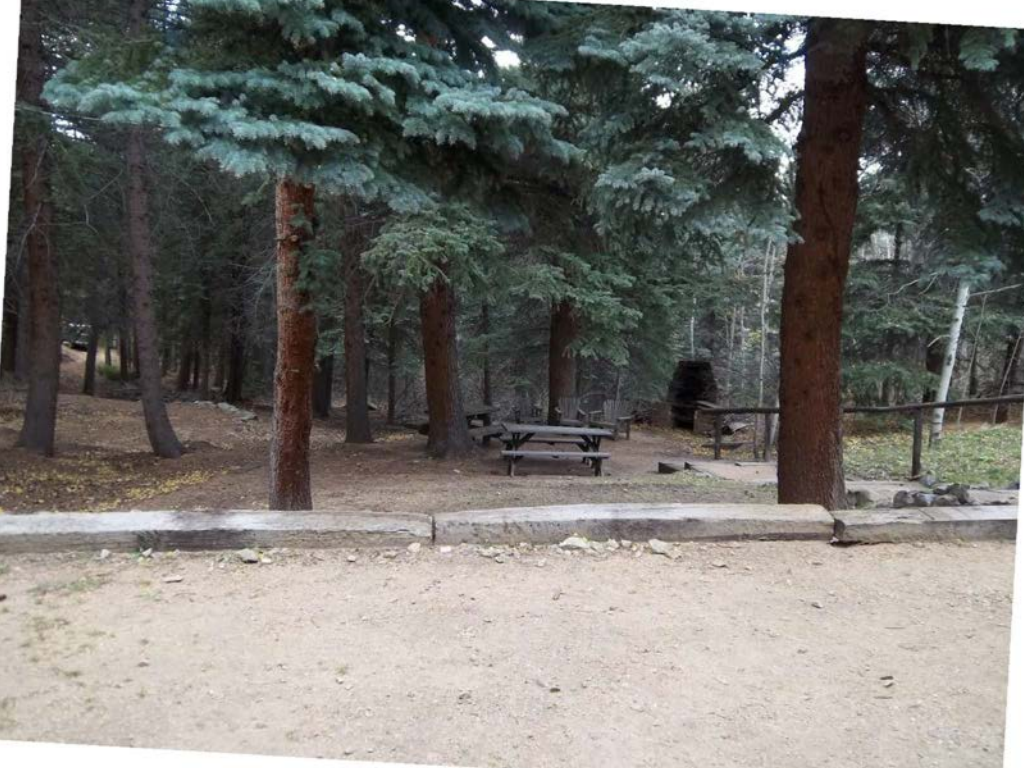






MELEBA 1958

WINKS



National Register of Historic Places  
Memo to File

# Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY NAME: Winks Panorama (Boundary Increase)

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: COLORADO, Gilpin

DATE RECEIVED: 8/29/14

DATE OF 16TH DAY:

DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

DATE OF PENDING LIST:

DATE OF 45TH DAY:

10/15/14

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13001035

DETAILED EVALUATION:

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 10-15-14 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The Winks Panorama (boundary increase) adjusts the boundary of this nationally significant African American resort, which is the only such resort in the Rocky Mountain region. It is considered nationally significant under Criterion A for Ethnic Heritage: Black, Social History, and Entertainment/Recreation. It is also listed under Criterion C for its local architectural significance and Criterion D for its information potential at the local level of significance. The period of significance is 1925 to 1965. The revised documentation adjusts the level of significance to national, as well as expanding the boundary to encompass an additional .310 acres acquired from the adjacent Roosevelt National Forest.

RECOM./CRITERIA A, C, D

REVIEWER Barbara Wyal

DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE 202-354-2252

DATE 10-15-14

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



**COLORADO CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION  
REVIEW REPORT FORM**

Property Name: Winks Panorama

Address: 213 Wints Way

Certified Local Government: Colpin County

Date of public meeting at which nomination was reviewed: Aug 20 2013 HAC

Sept 3 2013 BOLL

Eligibility Criteria: (Check applicable boxes)

Criterion A  
 Criterion B

Criterion C  
 Criterion D

Please check the boxes below appropriate to the nomination review:

**Commission/Board**

- The commission/board recommends that the nomination meets the criteria checked above.
- The commission/board recommends that the nomination fails to meet any of the above criteria.
- The commission/board chooses not to make a recommendation on the nomination. Attach an additional sheet explaining the lack of a recommendation.

**Chief Elected Official**

- The chief elected official recommends that the nomination meets the criteria checked above.
- The chief elected official recommends that the nomination fails to meet any of the above criteria.
- The chief elected official chooses not to make a recommendation on the nomination. Attach an additional sheet explaining the lack of a recommendation.

Attach an additional sheet to make any further comments.

**Certify this report with both signatures below**

**CLG Commission/Board Chair or Representative**

Print name: Bret Johnson HAC Chair

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

8/20/13  
(Date)

**Chief Elected Official or Designee**

Print name: Buddy Schmalz Bocc chair

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

9-3-13  
(Date)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Winks Panorama (Boundary Increase)

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: COLORADO, Gilpin

DATE RECEIVED: 11/22/13      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/24/13  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/08/14      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/08/14  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13001035

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: Y    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    1-8-14 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Return:**  
**Please see the attached**  
**National Register Evaluation/Return Sheet**  
**for an explanation.**

RECOM./CRITERIA

REVIEWER Barbara Noel      DISCIPLINE Historian  
TELEPHONE 202-354-2252      DATE 1-8-14

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20240

## United States Department of the Interior National Park Service National Register of Historic Places

### Comments Evaluation/Return Sheet

**Property Name:** Winks Panorama (Boundary Increase and Amendment)

**Property Location:** Pinecliffe, Gilpin County, Colorado

**Reference Number:** 13001035

**Date of Return:**

#### Reason for Return

The primary reason the nomination for Winks Panorama (Boundary Increase and Amendment) is being returned is because a case for a national level of significance has not been demonstrated. Additional information is needed to make the case.

#### Nomination Summary

Winks Panorama was listed in the National Register on March 28, 1980, for significance under Criterion A for Ethnic History: Black, Commerce, and Social History. It was listed at the state level of significance. The property is an African American resort, significant from 1925 to 1965.

The revised nomination submitted in November 2013 was intended to increase the boundary and list the property as nationally significant. The .9 acres of the original nomination is proposed to be increased by .310 acres.

#### Boundary Increase

The boundary increase is acceptable, but, because the remainder of the nomination is not being accepted, you have two choices: resubmit the boundary increase on a nomination form that is "Winks Panorama (Boundary Increase)" and complete the nomination as described in NR Bulletin 16, Appendix VI, or undertake further research required to make the argument for national significance, and submit a new nomination for "Winks Panorama (Boundary Increase and Amendment)." Whichever strategy you use, please submit a sketch map that is readable. We found the submitted survey map unreadable in the paper and electronic formats. This map should clearly delineate the location and extent of the additional acreage.

NPS/NRHP

Evaluation/Return Sheet

Property Name: Winks Panorama

Property Location: Gilpin County, Colorado

Reference Number: 13001035

Date of Return: 01-08-14

---

**Statement of National Significance**

The case for state significance, the level of the original listing, was convincing made, but the case for national significance has too little comparative information. Idlewild in Michigan, mentioned in the nomination, was originally listed at the local level and later elevated to national significance. American Beach, Florida, is listed at the local level and Oak Bluffs, Martha's Vineyard, MA, does not appear to have been evaluated. Eureka Villa, California, seems to have lost too much integrity to be eligible. Various sources mentioned in the nomination reveal that 18 African American resorts were known to have existed in 1928, 30 in 1949, and 44 were referenced from the *Ebony* summer vacation guide (year and citation not found). Four specifically named properties constitute a very small comparative basis for evaluating the property as nationally significant. Please provide more comparative information to make a stronger case. The nominations for properties highlighted on the attached list may contain useful information.

Please call me at 202-354-2252 or send an email to [barbara\\_wyatt@nps.gov](mailto:barbara_wyatt@nps.gov) if you want to discuss these comments, including possible strategies for improving the statement of significance.

Barbara Wyatt, Historian  
National Register of Historic Places

August 25, 2014

Ms. Carol Shull  
Interim Keeper of the National Register  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 Eye Street, N.W. 8<sup>th</sup> Floor (MS2280)  
Washington, D.C. 20005-5905



Dear Ms. Shull:

We are pleased to submit for your review the enclosed revised National Register of Historic Places boundary increase and amendment for Winks Panorama (5GL.6) in Gilpin County, Colorado. Winks Panorama was listed in the National Register on March 28, 1980 (NRIS 80000901). This revised submission proposes to elevate the property to the national level of significance as well as to amend the property boundary. This new submittal is in response to Barbara Wyatt's request for additional documentation dated January 8, 2014, following an initial submittal of the nomination on November 18, 2013.

The Colorado Historic Preservation Review Board reviewed the nomination at its meeting on September 20, 2013. The board voted unanimously (with one abstention) to recommend to the State Historic Preservation Officer that the property met the criteria for listing in the National Register.

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for Winks Panorama (boundary increase and amendment) to the National Register of Historic Places.

We look forward to the formal listing of this property. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at 303-866-4681 or by e-mail at [astrid.liverman@state.co.us](mailto:astrid.liverman@state.co.us).

Sincerely,

Astrid M. B. Liverman, Ph.D.  
National and State Register Coordinator

Enclosures  
Signature page  
CD