NPS Form 10-900a
(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section _____ Page ___

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**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

**NRIS Reference Number: 06001180** **Date Listed: 12/27/2006**

| Watkins Creek Ranch | Gallatin | MT |
|---|---|---|
| Property Name | County | State |

**N/A**
Multiple Name

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**This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.**

| Signature of the Keeper | Date of Action |
|---|---|
| | 12/27/2006 |

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**Amended Items in Nomination:**

**Description**:

The correct Town, Range, Section notation in the first paragraph should read: *Range 4 East.*

The sawed ends of the corner logs on the Isabel & Frederick Lincoln Cabin (Building #9) are not tapered, as they are on the similar Guest Duplex Cabins (#6-8), marking the slightly different form and details of the later cabin.

**These clarifications were confirmed with the MT SHPO office.**

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DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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



# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

## 1. Name of Property

historic name: Watkins Creek Ranch

other name/site number: Firehole Ranch

## 2. Location

street & number: 1207 Firehole Ranch Road — not for publication: n/a
vicinity: n/a

city/town: West Yellowstone

state: Montana code: MT county: Gallatin code: 031 zip code: 59758

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination __ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets __ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant __ nationally __ statewide X locally.

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date: November 9, 2006

Montana State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency or bureau

( __ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

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

Signature of commenting or other official — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

| | Signature of the Keeper | Date of Action |
|---|---|---|
| X entered in the National Register<br>__ see continuation sheet | | 12/27/2006 |
| __ determined eligible for the National Register<br>__ see continuation sheet | | |
| __ determined not eligible for the National Register<br>__ see continuation sheet | | |
| __ removed from the National Register<br>__ see continuation sheet | | |
| __ other (explain): | | |

## 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property:** Private

**Category of Property:** District

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register:** na

**Name of related multiple property listing:** na

| Number of Resources within Property | | |
|---|---|---|
| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
| 13 | 7 | building(s) |
| 6 | 0 | sites |
| 11 | 1 | structures |
| 0 | 0 | objects |
| 30 | 8 | TOTAL |

## 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions:**
DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure
DOMESTIC/institutional housing
DOMESTIC/camp
COMMERCE/TRADE/restaurant
RECREATION/CULTURE/outdoor recreation
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural field; agricultural outbuilding; irrigation facility
LANDSCAPE/ unoccupied land; natural feature
TRANSPORTATION/water-related; road-related; pedestrian-related

**Current Functions:**
DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure
DOMESTIC/institutional housing
DOMESTIC/camp
COMMERCE/TRADE/restaurant
RECREATION/CULTURE/outdoor recreation
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural field; agricultural outbuilding; irrigation facility
LANDSCAPE/ unoccupied land; natural feature
TRANSPORTATION/water-related; road-related; pedestrian-related

## 7. Description

**Architectural Classification:**
OTHER/NPS Rustic

**Materials:**
foundation: STONE/CONCRETE
walls: LOG, STONE, WOOD
roof: WOOD, ASPHALT, METAL
other: METAL

### Narrative Description

Located primarily in Sections 6 and 7, Township 12 South, Range 6 East, the historic Watkins Creek Ranch (a.k.a. Firehole Ranch) is situated on a sagebrush and grassland projection (locally known as "The Point") which helps form the scenic southern shore of Hebgen Lake in the southwest corner of Gallatin County, Montana. The ranch complex itself features a diverse assortment of historic resources dating from the c. 1880-1954 period, and is concentrated to the west of the Watkins Creek drainage, which flows northward from the Continental Divide some five miles to the southwest. The generally south-north flowing (Ernest) Ruof Ditch—a historic (c. 1926) feature—flows northward through the ranch corrals to Hebgen Lake, but remains just east of the main ranch complex. Directly to the north and east, and serving as the focal point of the ranch complex, is beautiful Hebgen Lake, an approximately 15 miles long and 2.5 miles wide artificial reservoir that was created when Hebgen Dam was constructed between 1909-1913. The western boundary of Yellowstone National Park and the town of West Yellowstone, Montana, lie some eighteen miles to the East. To the south lies the rugged Continental Divide, the lush Gallatin National Forest in Idaho, and the impressive 10600 foot Coffin Peak, which serves as a breathtaking backdrop for the facility. The Gallatin National Forest lies immediately to the west of the ranch complex. Private expanses composed of rolling grasslands and timbered benches include hay fields and pastures historically associated with the ranch, and are considered contributing sites to the historic district.

The Watkins Creek Ranch built environment consists of a historic district of primarily rustic log and log and stone buildings, as well as related sites, structures, and objects in two distinct groupings. The log and stone buildings comprising the historic district date from approximately 1880-1954, with the majority of the site features dating from the 1940s. Buildings are typically constructed of logs felled in the nearby forest. Indigenous stone locally quarried is commonly utilized for fireplaces.

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria:** A,B,C
**Criteria Considerations (Exceptions):** B,G
**Significant Person(s):** George S. Watkins
**Cultural Affiliation:** n/a

**Areas of Significance:** AGRICULTURE; EXPLORATION AND SETTLEMENT; ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION; ARCHITECTURE
**Period(s) of Significance:** c. 1866-1967
**Significant Dates:** 1872; c. 1880s; 1944-47; 1954; 1967
**Architect/Builder:** George Watkins; Spencer Watkins; Clarence & Leila Wright; K. and Ann Smith; Snedaker & MacDonald Architects, Salt Lake City

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

The Watkins Creek Ranch Historic District is significant under Criterion A for its historic association with the evolution of agriculture and land settlement in the Madison Valley, and in particular that area once known as the Madison Basin, in southwest Montana. In the 1860s, shortly after the discovery of gold at Alder Gulch, near present day Virginia City, George S. Watkins blazed the rough wagon road through the Upper Madison Canyon that would eventually become Montana Highway #287, and thereafter regularly utilized the Madison Basin for gazing livestock and cultivating hay. Because the fertile lands in question were remote and under-utilized, they afforded Watkins great advantages and played an instrumental role in enabling him to rapidly become one of the most successful ranchers in southwestern Montana. Throughout much of the latter decades of the nineteenth century, Watkins sold his surplus hay, beef, and horses to area mining camps. With the establishment of Yellowstone National Park in 1872, Watkins became a key player in supplying these crucial commodities to soldiers and tourists in America's Wonderland, thereby facilitating the early development and tourist enjoyment of the World's first National park. During the 1920s, William Martzel homesteaded the lands in question. Therefore, the ranch is historically associated with events that have made significant contributions to the broad patterns of American history, namely the development of agriculture in southwestern Montana during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, as well as the relationship of this agricultural development to the historical development of Yellowstone National Park during the period of significance.

The Watkins Creek Ranch gains additional significance under Criterion A for its historical association with the development of tourism and ranching in Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The Watkins Creek Ranch became a dude ranch during the period when dude ranches in the west experienced a period of prosperity and played an important role in the regional economy of the northern Rocky Mountains. Seeking to live in a scenic setting during the summer months, and aware of the great possibilities for financial success that came to western entrepreneurs willing to take in paying guests, Clarence "Clix" and Leila Wright and Anne and K. Smith opened the original Watkins Creek Ranch and Martzel Homestead to Eastern dudes in 1944. Active members in the Dude Ranch Association, the Watkins Creek Ranch exemplified the working ranch experience where dudes participated in typical day-to-day ranch activities and special events like round-ups and rodeos. Hebgen Lake afforded numerous opportunities for water-based recreation, like fishing and water skiing, and the Ranch's close proximity to Yellowstone National Park was likewise a major selling point with new and returning clients. Watkins Creek Ranch provided dudes with the western experience they desired, fulfilling their romantic visions of the West with Cowboys, wildlife, magnificent scenery, excitement and adventure.

The Watkins Creek Ranch is also significant under Criterion B because its nineteenth century origins are closely associated with noted Montana pioneer George S. Watkins, who significantly impacted the economic development of Madison County and southwestern Montana generally. Arguably the most notable of early ranchmen in the Madison Valley, Watkins acquired thousands of acres of land during the late nineteenth century and which he successfully raised thousands of head of cattle and horses. Almost single-handedly, Watkins constructed a transportation network between Ennis and the Madison Basin. He likewise played a major role in facilitating the early success of Yellowstone National Park as one of the Park's primary suppliers of hay and beef during the latter decades of the nineteenth century. His ingenuity, hard work, and positive example helped encourage the settlement and agricultural development of the entire region.[25]

[25]"State Resident of 67 Years to Be Buried Today," The Montana Standard, 26 February 1931, 1 For additional biographical information see Michael Leeson, History of Montana, 1739-1885, (Chicago: Warner, Beers and Company, 1885), 1279 and James U. Sanders, ed. Society of Montana Pioneers: Constitution, Members, and Officers, with Portraits and Maps . . . Vol. 1, (Society of Montana Pioneers: The Werner Co., 1899), 201.

## 9. Major Bibliographic References

See continuation sheet

**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 # _____

**Primary Location of Additional Data:**
_X_ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other -- Specify Repository:

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property:** approximately 245

| **UTM References:** | **Zone** | **Easting** | **Northing** |
|---|---|---|---|
| A | 12 | 476729 | 4962251 |
| B | 12 | 476826 | 4962264 |
| C | 12 | 476826 | 4962345 |
| D | 12 | 477014 | 4962352 |

See continuation sheet

**Legal Location:** Portions of the SW ¼ of Section 6 and the W ½ of Section 7, T12S, R4E, Montana Prime Meridian

### Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

### Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: B. Derek Strahn
organization: n/a date: July 10, 2005
street & number: 412 West Harrison Street telephone: 406-587-0254
city or town: Bozeman state: MT zip code: 59715

### Property Owner

During Winter Months:
name/title: Lynda Marie Caine
street & number: 3014 Colter Ave. telephone: 406-522-0573
city or town: Bozeman state: MT zip code: 59715

During Summer Months:
name/title: Lynda Marie Caine
street & number: P.O. Box 686 telephone: 406-522-0573
city or town: West Yellowstone state: MT zip code: 59715

Group One is clustered primarily along an east-west axis of a looping gravel road system (c. 1944) that runs parallel to the Hebgen Lake shoreline. It consists of a variety of log and log and stone dude ranch era buildings and related sites, structures, and objects. Contributing resources include the "Family Cabin" (c. 1944); the "Family Cabin" Garage; (c. 1944); a main lodge/dining hall (c. 1946); the Leila Wright Cabin (c. 1954); four double log cabins (c. 1945-46); the Isabelle and Frederick Lincoln Cabin (c. 1954); the Hebgen Lake Shoreline; a landscaped common area/picnic area (c. 1945); a natural spring; historic walking trail systems (c. 1944-54); a gravel road system (c. 1944); and a historic water storage tank. These buildings, sites, and structures speak to the property's later development as a dude ranch for tourists beginning in 1944.

Group Two is located in the southern portion of the district, clustered around the north-south axis of a secondary looping gravel road system (c. 1944) that runs perpendicular to Hebgen Lake. It contains the remnants of a late nineteenth and early twentieth century agricultural complex/homestead. Contributing elements include two log cabins (more recently referred to by the Wright/Smith family as the "Wash House," and the "Girls House), a roofless barn, a smokehouse/milking shed, corrals, a loading chute structure, the Ernst Ruof Ditch and footbridge, a variety of fence lines, and a gravel/dirt road system. Some of these surviving features attest to the site's early history as a "summer camp for beef cattle" initially operated by influential Montana pioneer George S. Watkins and his descendants in what once was known as the Madison Basin.[1] Others speak to the site's continued utilization as an agricultural homestead beginning in the 1920s and up through the Great Depression.

Non-contributing structures, including five staff quarters of various sizes, a double guest cabin, a barn/workshop, a small storage shed, and a remodeled marina in its historic location are interspersed occasionally throughout the district, but primarily are concentrated in the district's southern leg. These structures, while of non-historic age are generally unobtrusive and do not significantly impact the property's historic integrity in terms of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Together, these historic buildings and structures, centered within an expanse of private land on the southern edge of Hebgen Lake, convey the ranch's continuing important role in a recreational movement that helped define western culture as a critical element of our national heritage.

**DESCRIPTION OF RESOURCES** (Resource numbers correspond to site map numbers)

***Group One (Photo Nos. 1 and 2)***

Group One consists of nine contributing log and stone dude ranch era buildings and one non-contributing structure that is of a non-historic age. These buildings speak to the property's association with the Wright/Smith family and its development as a dude ranch for tourists beginning in 1944. Adding further historic integrity to Group One are a number of contributing sites, structures, and objects, including: a landscaped common area/picnic area (c. 1946); a natural spring (c. 1945); a water storage cistern (c. 1945); a gravel roadway transportation system (c. 1944); two walking paths (c. 1947 and 1954); and a marina in a historic location (c. 1944).

**Buildings**

**Main Ranch House/Main Lodge (Building No. 1; Photo Nos. 3-6, one contributing building)**

The centerpiece of the district, this one-and-one-half story horizontal log building is situated at the nexus of the two main gravel road networks that form the L–shaped legs of the Watkins Creek Ranch. It is located immediately west of the Ernest Ruof Ditch on a sagebrush and grassland projection near the southern shore of Hebgen Lake. A landscaped lawn, accented by mature conifers, surrounds the lodge. A concrete walkway approaches the front porch of the lodge from an adjacent gravel parking area to the south.

Clarence E. "Clix" and Leila Wright hired Snedaker and MacDonald Architects of Salt Lake City to design the lodge in June of 1946, just three years after they acquired the Watkins Creek Ranch. Original architectural drawings entitled "Main Ranch House Cabin for the Ranch of Mr. C. E. Wright" indicate that the original structure featured a living room, dining terrace, kitchen, linen storage area,

[1] Spencer Watkins Interview, 11-11-1968, Bozeman, Montana, unknown interviewer, tape recording in possession of the West Yellowstone Historical Society, West Yellowstone, Montana. The Madison Basin was essentially fertile grassland that was flooded following the construction of the Hebgen Dam. The basin is now almost entirely covered by Hebgen Lake.

two bedrooms, each with an adjoining bathroom, a vegetable cellar, and an office area. According to handwritten notes on the back of the floor plan, "Shorty" Irwin, a contractor from Three Forks, Montana, completed the building.[2]

With the death of Clarence Wright in the early 1950s, and the acquisition of the ranch by the Wright's daughter and son-in-law, Anne and K. Smith, the Main Ranch House Cabin grew to become the epitome of the ubiquitous central lodge that was popular at so many western dude ranches. As was the case with most planned dude ranch operations, the main lodge immediately became the Ranch's "prime feature" and focal point of tourist activity. According to historian Lawrence R. Bourne, central lodges typically featured one or more fireplaces, which provided heat and atmosphere simultaneously. Central lodges also contained "three or four large rooms for lounging, square dancing, other recreation, and eating, unless a separate building housing the dining room." Kitchens, food storage, and refrigeration, were often adjacent to the dining area. Decks and porches, which "emphasized the relaxation and slower pace" of the ranch, were also quite commonplace on central lodges, as well as on the guest cabins, according to Bourne.[3] All of these elements were found in the main lodge of the Watkins Creek Ranch, thus making the building especially representative of America's dude ranch movement.

Consciously seeking to "bring the outdoors to the indoors" and follow the architectural precedents from tourist-oriented recreational facilities in the Adirondacks and Yellowstone National Park, the Main Lodge's interior was characterized by rustic architectural elements and related decorative features, such as hand-made furniture and native American rugs. [4]

The impressive log building is constructed of round peeled logs that are stained dark brown. The interstices are filled with whitewashed cementous daubing. All corners are joined by saddle notching and have sawed ends that extend beyond the joints. The logs are tapered from bottom to top, being smaller and less long at the top log. The lodge currently sits on a rubble and dirt foundation. A basement storage area/crawl space is accessed by an interior stairway from the kitchen.

The gable roof structure of the main wing of the building is supported by log ridgepoles and purlins and is clad with corrugated metal. Eaves extend over the walls and sawn log purlin and ridgepole ends are exposed. The soffit displays beveled shiplap. A large interior stone chimney protrudes from the gable roof ridge near center of the building.

Two smaller gable-roofed additions flank the central portion of the original building. An offset one-and-one-half story projecting gable addition featuring ridgepole and purlins, extends the lodge to the East. To the west, a small, one-story gable-roofed kitchen addition has been constructed. Likely non-historic, the offset west addition also features a gable roof structure formed of ridgepole and purlins, but the walls are clad in wide clapboard wood siding, thus easily distinguishing this later modification from the historic portions of the building.

The main entrance to the lodge is located on the east elevation. A simple, single framed door is approached from an open deck featuring simple wooden benches. A single lamp is found immediately to the right of the main door. Slightly to the north is the projecting east gable end noted above. The addition features a centrally located, 4/3 divided light sliding window with a screen.

Facing scenic Hebgen Lake, the north elevation features two open-air decks and several large window openings. The log easternmost wing features a bank of three original, adjacent, and centrally located, 2/3 divided light sliding windows. The log central portion of this elevation features a pair of original double wooden doors that access a small deck on the far left. Immediately to the right (west) are three original 6' x 6' 5/3 divided light fixed windows. Adjacent to these openings are another set of wooden double doors that access a larger deck and open air seating area. Further right (west), a final 6' x 6' 5/3 divided light fixed window, also original, completes the central portion of the north elevation. The wide clapboard-sided one-story western wing of the north elevation features a small, open air, wrap-around deck and barbeque area. A wooden door and a bank of three 3' x 3' fixed windows stretch across much of its length.

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[2]Snedaker and MacDonald Architects, "Main Ranch House Cabin for the Ranch of Mr. C. E. Wright," unpublished architectural floor plan dated June 1946, in possession of Julie Smith Mannino, Hebgen Lake, Montana.

[3]Lawrence R. Borne, Dude Ranching: A Complete History (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1983), 122-23.

[4]Harvey H. Kaiser, "Rustic Interiors of the Adirondack Camps," Old House Journal 18 (January-February 1990), 45.

The west elevation features a continuation of the wide clapboard siding and wrap around open-air deck mentioned above. Steps lead off of the deck to the landscaped lawn that surrounds the lodge. Four 3' x 3' fixed windows stretch across all of its width. A small diameter metal chimney projects up from the kitchen area.

The westernmost portion of the south elevation features a continuation of the wide clapboard siding and wrap around open-air deck mentioned above. A bank of three, 3' x 3' fixed windows and a wooden door stretch across much of its length. The central portion of the south elevation features a variety of original, adjacent fixed and double-hung divided light windows, which are largely obscured by large conifer trees. The south elevation of the eastern addition features a centrally located framed wooden door, which accesses the gift shop/office area. To the left (west) of this door is a sliding window.

The front entrance off of the front porch opens into a rustic lodge style living room. Adjoining bar, dining, and reading areas are easily accessed. The exposed roof of the projecting gable exhibits substantial cross tie logs with vertical braces extending between the purlins. A large two-sided stone fireplace dominates the interior central wall. The fireplace has a log mantle and a fire screen adorned with a western scene.

The Main Lodge is a contributing element of the district.

**Family Cabin (Building No. 2; Photo No. 7, one contributing building)**

The three bedroom Family Cabin was the first house built at the ranch after the Wright's purchased the property in 1944. It initially served as the primary summer residence for Clix and Lelia Wright. Following the construction of the Main Ranch House/Main Lodge in 1946, the Wright's moved into the Main Ranch House, and Anne and K. Smith and their children occupied the Family Cabin.[5] It is located just south of the main gavel road system intersection and the main lodge. A landscaped lawn, accented by mature conifers, surrounds the residence.

The noteworthy log building is constructed of round peeled logs that are stained dark brown. The interstices are filled with whitewashed cementous daubing. All corners are joined by saddle notching and have sawed ends that extend beyond the joints. The logs are tapered from bottom to top, being smallest and least long at the top log. The cabin sits on concrete foundation.

The gable roof structure of the main wing of the building is supported by log ridgepoles and purlins and is clad with corrugated metal. Eaves extend over the walls and sawn log purlin and ridgepole ends are exposed. The soffit displays beveled shiplap. An interior stone chimney protrudes from the gable roof ridge near center of the building. A smaller gable-roofed addition with sawn log ridgepole ends projects to the south from the central portion of the original building.

The main entrance to the cabin is located on the east elevation and is approached from an open porch, which is accessed from the south, and spans the entire width of the cabin. This porch sits under the main gable roof, which is supported by vertical log posts. A simple porch railing consisting of two logs spanning the width of the porch helps to define the space from the front wall of the cabin. The porch has an open ceiling with exposed ridgepole and purlins. Beveled shiplap clads the ceiling and wood planking covers the floor. The offset main entrance is flanked to the left by two 4/3 divided light fixed window with screens. A single 4/3 divided light fixed window is to the right. Slightly to the west is the projecting south gable end noted above. The addition features a small, centrally located, 3/2 divided light fixed window with a screen.

The south elevation features a small gable-roofed addition with sawn log ridgepole ends projecting from the central portion of the original building. A simple wooden door provides secondary access to the addition. The addition is flanked on either side by windows. On the right (east) side of the addition a single 3/2 divided light rectangular fixed window is located. To the left (west), two square 3/3 divided light fixed windows are located.

The west elevation features centrally located, 4/3 divided light, square fixed windows and 3/2 divided light rectangular windows, similar to those found on the east and south elevations.

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[5]Julie Smith Mannino Interview, 8-1-2004, near Hebgen Lake, Montana, interviewed by the author, tape recording in possession of the author, Bozeman, Montana.

The left (east) side of north elevation features a bank of four, large 2/3 divided light rectangular sliding windows with screens. The right side of this elevation contains a single 3/3 divided light fixed window.

The Family Cabin is a contributing building within the historic district.

**Family Cabin Outbuilding (Building No. 3; Photo No. 8, one contributing building)**

The small, rectangular, one bay, detached outbuilding sits west of the Family Cabin and was presumably constructed shortly after the residence. It was primarily utilized for wood storage, is of wood frame construction, and is clad in horizontal shiplap siding. Small, centrally located slider windows exist on the south and north elevations. It rests on a concrete pad. The outbuilding has a gable roof with eaves extending over the walls. It is covered in wood shingles.

The Family Cabin Garage is a contributing building within the historic district.

**Leila's Cabin (Building No. 4; Photo Nos. 9-11, one contributing building)**

According to Julie Smith Mannino, Leila's cabin was constructed in 1954 as a residence for Lelia Wright after Clix Wright had died. It is located on the top of a hillside just southwest of the main lodge and almost immediately west of the Family Cabin. From the cabin stunning views of Hebgen Lake and the Main Lodge are easily enjoyed. Native plant life and wildflowers, accented by mature conifers, surrounds the residence.

As is the case with other primary buildings at the ranch, this well-preserved log building is constructed of round peeled logs that are stained dark brown. The interstices are filled with whitewashed cementous daubing. All corners are joined by saddle notching and have sawed ends that extend beyond the joints. The logs are tapered from bottom to top, being smallest and least long at the top log. The cabin sits on concrete foundation.

The gable roof structure of the rectangular building is supported by log ridgepoles and purlins and is clad with corrugated metal. Eaves extend over the walls. The soffit displays beveled shiplap. An interior stone chimney protrudes from the gable roof ridge near center of the building.

The main entrance to the cabin is located on the east elevation and is approached from an open porch and exposed deck area, which is accessed both from the north and from the south, and spans the entire width of the cabin. A portion of the porch/deck area sits under a shed roof, which is supported by log purlins and vertical log posts. A simple porch railing consisting of one log wraps around much of the porch/deck area, helping to define this outdoor living space from the front (east) wall of the cabin. The porch has an open ceiling with exposed purlins. Beveled shiplap clads the ceiling and wood planking covers the porch/deck floor. The offset main entrance is flanked immediately to the right (north) and left (south) by large plate glass windows. Further to the left two 2/3 divided light rectangular sliding windows covered by a single screen are located.

On the south elevation a two centrally located and abutting 2/3 divided light sliding windows covered by a single screen offer light and ventilation. On the West (rear) elevation, four window openings are located—two rectangular 2/3 divided light fixed windows, and two 2/2 divided light fixed square windows. No window openings are located on the north elevation, but decorative elk antlers and a single light are located near the gable peak.

Leila's Cabin is a contributing building within the historic district.

**Guest Duplex Cabin #1 (Building No. 5; Photo No. 12, one contributing building)**

As interest in the Watkins Creek Ranch grew following the end of World War II, Clix and Lelia Wright sensed an opportunity to profit by formally entering the dude ranch business. During the summer of 1945, three identical guest duplexes were constructed down the gravel road and west of the Family Cabin. A fourth identical cabin was erected in 1946.[6] These initial guest quarters were intentionally sited in a manner consistent with many other earlier dude ranch operations in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Because the main buildings of virtually all dude ranch complexes in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem were wooden—and typically log—they needed to "be spaced far enough apart to eliminate hazard if one caught fire, and yet close enough for ease in getting around

[6](Mannino Interview)

the ranch," according to historian Lawrence Borne. In this instance, they were separated somewhat from the Main Lodge and then evenly spaced along the Hebgen Lake shoreline to enhance the sensory experiences of paying guests while simultaneously facilitating firefighting.[7]

Copying the architectural precedents established by the Family Cabin and the Main Ranch House/Main Lodge, and the best preserved of the guest facilities, Guest Duplex Cabin #1 is a rectangular log building constructed of round peeled logs that are stained dark brown. The interstices are filled with whitewashed cementous daubing. All corners are joined by saddle notching and have sawed ends that extend beyond the joints. The logs are tapered from bottom to top, being smaller and less long at the top log. The duplex sit on a concrete foundation.

The gable roof structure of the building is supported by log ridgepoles and purlins and is clad with corrugated metal. Eaves extend over the walls and sawn log purlins and ridgepole ends are exposed. The soffit displays beveled shiplap. A single metal chimney on the left (east) side of the building is present.

Facing Hebgen Lake to the north, each of the two units comprising the duplex has its own entrance, which is approached from a centrally located open porch that extends across half of the front elevation. The porch is accessed via two steps both from the east and from the west. The porch sits under a shed roof, which is supported by log purlins and vertical log posts. A simple porch railing consisting of one log stretches across the porch, providing safety and helping to define this outdoor living space from the front (north) wall of the duplex. The porch rests approximately one-and-one-half feet above the ground on concrete piers, and has an open ceiling with exposed purlins. Beveled shiplap clads the ceiling and wood planking covers the porch floor. Front doors for each of the individual duplex units are symmetrically spaced on the front elevation. Each door is flanked by two adjacent 2/3-divided light rectangular sliding windows covered by a single screen. Decorative flower boxes are situated under each window. Rustic chairs are available on the front porch for the use of visiting guests

The east and West elevations of the guest duplex are identical. Neither contains a window.

The South elevation contains four symmetrically placed windows—two, square 4/4 divided light fixed windows on the outside, and two smaller square 2/2 divided light fixed windows on the inside. A centrally located electric power box is also present on the south elevation.

Unlike some of the other guest quarters at the ranch, this duplex does not contain a small non-historic addition, and thus most closely resembles the character and appearance of the original guest quarters.

Guest Duplex Cabin #1 is a contributing element of the district.

**Guest Duplex Cabin #2 (Building No. 6; Photo No. 13, one contributing building)**

Constructed the same year as Guest Duplex Cabin #1, and copying the architectural precedents established by the Family Cabin and the Main Ranch House/Main Lodge, Guest Duplex Cabin #2 is a rectangular log building constructed of round peeled logs that are stained dark brown. The interstices are filled with whitewashed cementous daubing. All corners are joined by saddle notching and have sawed ends that extend beyond the joints. The logs are tapered from bottom to top, being smaller and less long at the top log. The duplex sit on a concrete foundation.

The gable roof structure of the building is supported by log ridgepoles and purlins and is clad with corrugated metal. Eaves extend over the walls and sawn log purlins and ridgepole ends are exposed. The soffit displays beveled shiplap. Two centrally located metal chimneys rise from the ridgeline of the original structure. A small, non-historic wood frame addition with matching corrugated metal roofing extends the duplex to the east. The ridgeline of the new addition is slightly lower than that of the original building.

Facing Hebgen Lake to the north, each of the two units comprising the duplex has its own entrance, which is approached from a centrally located open porch that extends across half of the front elevation. The porch is accessed via two steps both from the east and from the west. The porch sits under a shed roof, which is supported by log purlins and vertical log posts. The porch rests approximately one-and-one-half feet above the ground on concrete piers, and has an open ceiling with exposed purlins. Beveled

[7](Borne 1983, 122-23)

shiplap clads the ceiling and wood planking covers the porch floor. Front doors for each of the individual duplex units are symmetrically spaced on the front elevation. Each door is flanked by two adjacent 2/3-divided light rectangular sliding windows covered by a single screen. Decorative flower boxes are situated under each window. Rustic chairs are available on the front porch for the use of visiting guests

The east elevation of Guest Duplex Cabin #2 is comprised of a small, gable-roofed, non-historic bathroom addition. The addition is of a wood frame, rather than a log construction, and contains small 2/3 divided light sliding windows that generally match those found on the rest of the building. Although the addition dates from the 1990s, and is clearly distinguished from the original building in terms of design and materials, it is limited in size and scale in comparison the rest of the building. The visual impact of this non-historic addition on the historic integrity of this duplex is unfortunate, but relatively minimal.

The South elevation of the original structure contains four symmetrically placed windows—two, square 4/4 divided light fixed windows on the outside, and two smaller square 2/2 divided light fixed windows on the inside. A centrally located electric power box is also present on the south elevation.

Guest Duplex Cabin #2 is a contributing element of the district

**Guest Duplex Cabin #3 (Building No. 7; Photo No. 14, one contributing building)**

Constructed the same year as Guest Duplex Cabins #1 and #2, and copying the architectural precedents established by the Family Cabin and the Main Ranch House/Main Lodge, Guest Duplex Cabin #3 is a rectangular log building constructed of round peeled logs that are stained dark brown. The interstices are filled with whitewashed cementous daubing. All corners are joined by saddle notching and have sawed ends that extend beyond the joints. The logs are tapered from bottom to top, being smaller and less long at the top log. The duplex sit on a concrete foundation.

The gable roof structure of the building is supported by log ridgepoles and purlins and is clad with corrugated metal. Eaves extend over the walls and sawn log purlins and ridgepole ends are exposed. The soffit displays beveled shiplap. Two centrally located metal chimneys rise from the ridgeline of the original structure. A small, non-historic wood frame addition with matching corrugated metal roofing extends the duplex to the east. The ridgeline of the new addition is slightly lower than that of the original building.

Facing Hebgen Lake to the north, each of the two units comprising the duplex has its own entrance, which is approached from a centrally located open porch that extends across half of the front elevation. The porch is accessed via two steps both from the east and from the west. The porch sits under a shed roof, which is supported by log purlins and vertical log posts. The porch rests approximately one-and-one-half feet above the ground on concrete piers, and has an open ceiling with exposed purlins. Beveled shiplap clads the ceiling and wood planking covers the porch floor. Front doors for each of the individual duplex units are symmetrically spaced on the front elevation. Each door is flanked by two adjacent 2/3-divided light rectangular sliding windows covered by a single screen. Decorative flower boxes are situated under each window. Rustic chairs are available on the front porch for the use of visiting guests

Like Guest Duplex Cabin #2, the east elevation of Guest Duplex Cabin #3 is comprised of a small, gable-roofed, non-historic bathroom addition. The addition is of a wood frame, rather than a log construction. Unlike the addition on duplex #2, however, only the east elevation contains small 2/3 divided light sliding windows that generally match those found on the rest of the building. Although the addition dates from the 1990s, and is clearly distinguished from the original building in terms of design and materials, it is limited in size and scale in comparison the rest of the building. The visual impact of this non-historic addition on the historic integrity of this duplex is unfortunate, but relatively minimal.

The South elevation of the original structure contains four symmetrically placed windows—two, square 4/4 divided light fixed windows on the outside, and two smaller square 2/2 divided light fixed windows on the inside. A centrally located electric power box is also present on the south elevation.

Guest Duplex Cabin #3 is a contributing element of the district

**Guest Duplex Cabin #4 (Building No. 8; Photo No. 14, one contributing building)**

Constructed in 1946, one year after Guest Duplex Cabins #1-3, and copying the architectural precedents established by the Family Cabin and the Main Ranch House/Main Lodge, Guest Duplex Cabin #4 is a rectangular log building constructed of round peeled logs that are stained dark brown. The interstices are filled with whitewashed cementous daubing. All corners are joined by saddle notching and have sawed ends that extend beyond the joints. The logs are tapered from bottom to top, being smaller and less long at the top log. The duplex sit on a concrete foundation.

The gable roof structure of the building is supported by log ridgepoles and purlins and is clad with corrugated metal. Eaves extend over the walls and sawn log purlins and ridgepole ends are exposed. The soffit displays beveled shiplap. Unlike the previous guest duplex cabins, which feature two centrally located metal chimneys that rise from the ridgeline of the original structure, this building contains one centrally located square stone chimney. A small, non-historic wood frame addition with matching corrugated metal roofing extends the duplex to the south. The ridgeline of the new addition is slightly lower than that of the original building.

Facing Hebgen Lake to the north, each of the two units comprising the duplex has its own entrance, which is approached from a centrally located open porch that extends across half of the front elevation. The porch is accessed via two steps both from the east and from the west. The porch sits under a shed roof, which is supported by log purlins and vertical log posts. A simple porch railing consisting of one log stretches across the porch, providing safety and helping to define this outdoor living space from the front (north) wall of the duplex. The porch rests approximately one-and-one-half feet above the ground on concrete piers, and has an open ceiling with exposed purlins. Beveled shiplap clads the ceiling and wood planking covers the porch floor. Front doors for each of the individual duplex units are symmetrically spaced on the front elevation. Each door is flanked by two adjacent 2/3-divided light rectangular sliding windows covered by a single screen. Decorative flower boxes are situated under each window. Rustic chairs are available on the front porch for the use of visiting guests.

Unlike Guest Duplex Cabins #2 and 3, which contain small, non-historic additions on the east elevations, the non-historic addition of Guest Duplex Cabin #4 is located on the south elevation, thus minimizing the visual impact of the addition significantly. The addition is of a wood frame, rather than a log construction. As is the case with the other cabin additions, the addition on duplex #4 contains small 2/3 divided light sliding windows that generally match those found on the rest of the building. Although the addition dates from the 1990s, and is clearly distinguished from the original building in terms of design and materials, it is limited in size and scale in comparison the rest of the building. The visual impact of this non-historic addition on the historic integrity of this duplex is minimal, given that it is located on a non-character-defining elevation.

Guest Duplex Cabin #4 is a contributing element of the district

**Isabel and Frederick Lincoln Cabin (Building No. 9; Photo No. 15, one contributing building)**

According to Anne Smith, Isabel Lincoln was a daughter of John D. Rockefeller Jr., who owned considerable lands by the Teton Mountains in Wyoming, near Jackson Hole.[8] Beginning in the 1940s and perhaps earlier, Lincoln and her husband Frederick became enamored with the Hebgen Lake Area. After visiting the Watkins Creek Ranch, they received permission from the Wright/Smith families to construct a cabin on site in 1954. Lincoln also became instrumental in attracted additional business to the ranch. Through her social circles and word of mouth she convinced many affluent clients—usually her friends and acquaintances—to become paying guests at the Ranch during the summer months. When the Lincolns were not visiting the Ranch themselves, their friends and acquaintances stayed in their cabin. Other guests of the Wright/Smith families may have also rented the cabin, when it was not being utilized.[9]

Although the Lincoln's could have afforded to construct a much larger cabin, or chosen to make more of an architectural statement with their quarters, they opted instead to have their cabin situated in close proximity to the other cabins at the ranch. Moreover, the Lincoln cabin closely resembles the others constructed in 1945-46—a clear indication that they wanted their unit to be affiliated with

[8]For an examination of Isabel Lincoln's life and family history see Isabel Lincoln Elmer, Cinderella Rockefeller: An Autobiography (New York: Freundlich Books, 1987.)

[9]See Anne Smith, written responses to questions from the author, July 2004, document in possession of the author, Bozeman, Montana and (Julie Smith Mannino Interview)

the increasingly successful Watkins Creek Ranch. The overall compatibility of this later addition to the Ranch indicates that the overall goal of rustic architectural compatibility that was promoted by the Dude Ranch Association, was also a significant concern for the Wright/Smith families.[10]

Constructed in 1954, and copying established architectural precedents, The Isabel and Frederick Lincoln Cabin is a rectangular log building constructed of round peeled logs that are stained dark brown. The interstices are filled with whitewashed cementous daubing. All corners are joined by saddle notching and have sawed ends that extend beyond the joints. The logs are tapered from bottom to top, being smaller and less long at the top log. The duplex sit on a concrete foundation.

The gable roof structure of the building is supported by log ridgepoles and purlins and is clad with corrugated metal. Eaves extend over the walls and sawn log purlins and ridgepole ends are exposed. The soffit displays beveled shiplap. Unlike the previous guest duplex cabins, which feature two centrally located metal chimneys that rise from the ridgeline of the original structure, this building contains one centrally located metal chimney and no non-historic wood frame addition because it was intended to be utilized as a single unit, rather than as a duplex.

Facing Hebgen Lake to the north, the main entrance of the Lincoln cabin is approached from a centrally located open porch that extends across half of the front elevation. The porch is accessed via two steps both from the east and from the west. The porch sits under a shed roof, which is supported by log purlins and vertical log posts. A simple porch railing consisting of one log stretches across the porch, providing safety and helping to define this outdoor living space from the front (north) wall of the building. The porch rests on the ground and has an open ceiling with exposed purlins. Beveled shiplap clads the ceiling and wood planking covers the porch floor. A single front door, symmetrically located on the front elevation, is flanked by two adjacent 2/3-divided light rectangular sliding windows covered by a single screen. Rustic chairs are available on the front porch for the use of visiting guests

The East and West elevations of the building are identical. Neither contains a window. Like Guest Duplex Cabins #4, the non-historic addition of the Lincoln Cabin is located on the south elevation, thus minimizing the visual impact of the addition significantly. The addition is of a wood frame, rather than a log construction. As is the case with the other cabin additions, the addition on duplex #4 contains small 2/3 divided light sliding windows that generally match those found on the rest of the building. Although the addition dates from the 1990s, and is clearly distinguished from the original building in terms of design and materials, it is limited in size and scale in comparison the rest of the building. The visual impact of this non-historic addition on the historic integrity of this duplex is minimal, given that it is located on a non-character-defining elevation. The South elevation contains four symmetrically placed windows—two, square 4/4 divided light fixed windows on the outside, and two, smaller, square 2/2 divided light fixed windows on the inside. A centrally located electric power box is also present on the south elevation.

The Isabel and Frederick Lincoln Cabin is a contributing element of the district

**"Caddis" House (Building No. 10; Photo No. 16, one non-contributing building)**

At the far west end of the row of cabins that define the Hebgen Lake shoreline of the Watkins Creek/Firehole Ranch is a modern log building dating from 1992. Closely following established architectural precedents within the district, the log building consists of round peeled logs that are stained dark brown. The interstices are filled with whitewashed cementous daubing. All corners are joined by saddle notching and have sawed ends that extend beyond the joints. The logs are tapered from bottom to top, being smaller and less long at the top log. The building rests on a concrete foundation.

Like the other cabins on site, the gable roof structure of the building is clad with corrugated metal. Eaves extend over the walls. The soffit displays beveled shiplap. Unlike the previous guest duplex cabins, this building contains one centrally located stone chimney. A small wood frame addition breaks the main ridgeline and projects to the south.

Facing Hebgen Lake to the north, the main entrance of the Caddis cabin is approached from a centrally located open porch that extends across half of the front elevation. The porch is accessed via two steps both from the east and from the west. The porch sits under a shed roof, which is supported by log purlins and vertical log posts. A simple porch railing consisting of one log stretches across the

[10]For Dude Ranch Association perspectives regarding the importance of rustic architecture and architectural compatibility see "Log Cabins," The Dude Rancher 4:7 (May 1935): 7 and "The Individuality of the Dude Ranch," The Dude Rancher 4:7 (May 1935): 6 and 25

porch, providing safety and helping to define this outdoor living space from the front (north) wall of the building. The porch rests on the ground and has an open ceiling with exposed purlins.

Large divided light sliding and fixed windows similar to those found on the historic duplex cabins are situated on the west and north elevations. A rear door on the south elevation is accessed via a simple wood deck, just off of the gravel parking area. Small one-by-one siding windows are located on the south and east elevations. A centrally located electric power box is also present on the south elevation.

The "Caddis" Cabin is a non-contributing building within the district due to its non-historic age."

**Sites:**

**Hebgen Lake Shoreline (Sites and Structures Map Reference #1; one contributing site)**

The Hebgen Lake shoreline was created when the Madison River was flooded after the construction of Hebgen dam in 1909-1910, and was altered somewhat during a significant earthquake that impacted the vicinity during the late 1950s. The shoreline is noteworthy as a significant character-defining feature that defines the northern boundary of the district. More than simply a scenic amenity toward which the Ranch's guest cabins were oriented, the Hebgen Lake shoreline was an important locus of recreational activity following 1944. Boating, fishing, swimming, and water-skiing were popular activities on the Lake and regularly advertised in publications generated by the Wright/Smith family.

The Hebgen Lake Shoreline is a contributing site to the historic district.

**Main Lodge Commons/Picnic Area (Sites and Structures Map Reference #2; Photo No. 5, one contributing site)**

Despite their varied locations and sizes, planned dude ranch complexes were also often sited in a generally consistent manner. A central feature of most dude ranch complexes was a centrally located landscaped green-space or parkland. These commons/picnic area afforded a functional space for cherished communal activities, like picnicking, horseshoes, or baseball, while simultaneously providing the guests with "a good view of the surrounding countryside," according to historian Lawrence Bourne.[11]

The Commons/Picnic Area at the Watkins Creek Ranch is located immediately north of the Main Lodge, between the lodge itself and the southern shores of Hebgen Lake. From this vantage point, guest could simultaneously view the lakeside activities and the surrounding mountainous scenery. Given its proximity to the kitchen area and bar, the area was also commonly utilized as a place for relaxing while waiting for evening meals to be served. Picnic tables and a barbeque are were (and still are) conveniently located here. Grass was mowed to create a more park-like setting and to encourage baseball, volleyball and other types of group-oriented activities.

As a significant character defining feature of most western dude ranches and a focal point for tourist activities at the ranch, the Main Lodge Commons/Picnic Area is a contributing site to the historic district.

**Natural Spring (Sites and Structures Map Reference #3, one contributing site)**

Unfailing water supplies were absolute necessities for all dude ranch operations and, therefore, "a common feature" found at all dude ranch facilities, according to Lawrence Borne.[12] Fresh water for the Watkins Creek Ranch was provided by a natural spring located up on a forested hill southwest of Leila's cabin and adjacent to the Gallatin National Forest. Water from the spring was piped to a concrete cistern/storage tank.

Given its importance to the daily functions of the ranch during the months of tourist operations, the spring is a contributing site to the historic district.

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[11](Borne 1983, 122-23)
[12](Ibid.)

**Structures:**

**Water Storage Cistern (Sites and Structures Map Reference #4, one contributing structure)**

Fresh water is piped from the natural spring to a concrete water storage cistern located slightly southwest of Leila's Cabin, on the hill overlooking the ranch complex. The cistern is of concrete construction with a metal roof. According to Ranch Manager Robin Locke, wastewater was disposed of using "a basic septic tank system."[13]

The water storage cistern is a contributing structure to the historic district.

**Gravel Roadway System (Sites and Structures Map Reference #5; Photo Nos. 1 and 3, one contributing structure)**

Guests historically arrived at the Watkins Creek Ranch via boat, from the north side of Hebgen Lake, or by car via an improved Forest Service Road that roughly follows the boundary of the Gallatin National Forest. An unimproved gravel road leaves the forest service road at the southern boundary of the district, angling in a slight northeasterly direction toward Hebgen Lake. Just before reaching the south shore of the Lake the road splits. The western arm of the road leads toward the two main groupings of resources comprising the district. There, at a three-way intersection the roadway system diverges. Continuing west, the system moves into the northern cluster of resources. Turning north, the road leads to the marina adjacent to the southern shore of Hebgen Lake. Turning south, the road system leads to buildings and resources comprising group number two. The road system is historically important as the main auto access to the ranch, and as a functional component of the internal workings of the ranch. After 1944, most tourists accessed the ranch via this roadway system. Weekly auto trips to neighboring Yellowstone National Park also traveled this transportation network. Although the current gravel road system has been widened and regarded, it closely follows the general route of the original roadway accessing the ranch and is highly illustrative of the ranch's close connections with transportation, and especially auto-oriented tourism after 1944.

The gravel Roadway System is a contributing structure to the historic district.

**Walking Paths (Sites and Structures Map Reference #6 and #7; Photo Nos. 8 and 9, one contributing structure)**

Two heavily used walking paths are clearly evident at the Watkins Creek Ranch. Walking Path #1—likely created in summer of 1946 during the construction of the Main Ranch House/Main Lodge—extends from the Family Cabin to the Main Ranch House/Main Lodge. Walking Path #2—almost certainly created after the construction of Leila's Cabin in 1954—extends from Leila's Cabin down the hill to the Main Ranch House/Main Lodge. Each structure plays an important role in the informal, non-auto-oriented pedestrian transportation networks of the Ranch complex and clearly establish the close connections between the Wright/Smith family and the center of operations—the Main Ranch House/Main Lodge.

The walking paths are a contributing structure to the historic district.

**Marina (Sites and Structures Map Reference #8, one non-contributing structure)**

Beginning in 1944, and possibly before, the Wright/Smith began utilizing Hebgen Lake for recreational purposes—namely boating, water-skiing, fishing, and swimming. A small marina accessed by a gravel road spur is located immediately north of the Main Ranch House/Main Lodge on the shore of Hebgen Lake. The Marina has been modified and upgraded periodically for safety purposes, it is located in exactly the same spot that it always was and generally retains its historic appearance and function. It consists of a modern wooden dock. The marina is closely associated with the historic function of the ranch as a vacation resort and tourist destination, but because the physical structure was constructed after the period of significance, it is considered a non-contributing resource.

The Marina is a non-contributing structure to the Historic District.

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[13] Robin Locke Interview, August 1, 2005, near Hebgen Lake, Montana, interviewed by the author, Derek Strahn, tape recording in possession of the author, Bozeman, Montana.

***Group Two: (Photo No. 17)***

Group Two is contains the remnants of a late nineteenth and early twentieth century agricultural complex/homestead and evidence of dude ranch functions at the Ranch from 1944 to the present day. Contributing buildings include two log cabins (more recently referred to by the Wright/Smith family as the "Girls House" and the "Wash House,"), a barn, and a smokehouse—all original remains of the Watkins Creek Cattle Camp and likely dating from before 1890. Enhancing the historic integrity of Group Two are a number of contributing sites, structures and objects, including: the Coffin Lake Pack Trailhead; grazing pastures and hay fields; the Ernest Ruof Ditch Irrigation System and Footbridge (c. 1926); the Watkins pole corral (pre-1890); a loading chute with associated fencing (c. 1920s); a riding path (c. 1944); and three boundary markers/fence lines. Some of these surviving features attest to the site's early history as a "summer camp for beef cattle" initially operated by influential Montana pioneer George S. Watkins and his descendants in what once was known as the Madison Basin.[14] Others speak to the site's continued utilization as an agricultural homestead beginning in the 1920s and up through the Great Depression. More recently, the non-contributing features of the grouping speak to the property's ongoing modern day function as a dude ranch.

**Buildings**

**"Girl's" House (Building No. 11; Photo Nos. 18 and 19, one contributing building)**

According to Anne Smith, when here parents acquired the Watkins Creek Ranch in 1943-44, several buildings including "a big shed/barn, thatch covered homestead cabin, wash house, and girl's house" were already on site.[15] The building provided shelter and a dining area for work crews who were constructing the dude ranch buildings during the 1944-47 period. When dude ranch operations were up and running after World War II, this structure was utilized as a dormitory for young women working at the ranch. It was therefore nicknamed "the girl's house" by members of the Wright/Smith families.[16] It is the northernmost of two historic structures located within the gravel road loop that defines the grouping of buildings clustered along the southern leg of the ranch complex. A landscaped lawn also surrounds the residence.

This noteworthy log building appears less old than the "Wash House," which almost certainly dates from the time of the original Watkins Creek Cattle Camp operations during the late nineteenth century. This historic two bedroom cabin was likely the main residence of one of the early homesteaders in the vicinity—David and Pricilla Whisman, Ernest Ruof, or William Martzel—and likely dated from the 1906-1926 period that these parties files their adjacent homestead claims on lands now considered to be part of the Watkins Creek Ranch.[17]

Like the other historic buildings in the district, the "Girl's House" is constructed of round peeled logs that are stained dark brown. The interstices are filled with whitewashed cementous daubing. All corners are joined by saddle notching and have sawed ends that extend beyond the joints. The logs are tapered from bottom to top, being smallest and least long at the top log. The cabin sits on concrete foundation.

The gable roof structure of the main wing of the building is supported by log ridgepoles and purlins and is clad with corrugated metal. Eaves extend over the walls and sawn log purlin and ridgepole ends are exposed. The soffit displays beveled shiplap. An interior concrete block chimney protrudes from the gable roof ridge near center of the building. A smaller gable-roofed addition with sawn log ridgepole ends projects to the south from the central portion of the original building.

The main entrance to the cabin is located on the east elevation and is approached from an open porch, which is accessed from the south, and spans the entire width of the cabin. This porch sits under the main gable roof, which is supported by vertical log posts. A simple porch railing consisting of three logs spanning the width of the porch helps to define the space from the front wall of the cabin. The porch has an open ceiling with exposed ridgepole and purlins. Beveled shiplap clads the ceiling and wood planking covers the

[14](Spencer Watkins Interview)
[15](Anne Smith, 2004)
[16](Mannino Interview)
[17]The property owners and their dates of acquisition were located on Patricia Kerzenmacher, "Plat Map for Homesteads, Township 12 South, Range 4 East of the Principal Meridian," West Yellowstone Historical Society Archives, West Yellowstone, Montana.

floor. The central main entrance is flanked to the left and right by two adjacent 2/3 divided light fixed windows with one screen each. To the west is the projecting south gable end noted above. The addition features a secondary access door on the east elevation.

The south elevation features a small gable-roofed addition with sawn log ridgepole ends projecting from the southwest corner. A small, centrally-located, 3/2 divided light fixed window with a screen illuminates the addition. On the south and north elevations of the main wing can be found two window openings—a 2/3 fixed divided light window adjacent to the addition and a larger 4/3 divided light fixed window near the center of the building. The west elevation features offset, 4/3 divided light, square fixed window, a power box, and a propane tank.

The "Girl's House" is a contributing building within the historic district.

**"Wash" House (Building No 12; Photo Nos. 20 and 21, one contributing building)**

Likely dating from the late nineteenth century, when the Ranch was utilized as a cattle camp by George Watkins and his cowboys, the "Wash" house was lived in by Anne and K. Smith until Clix and Leila Wright moved into the Main Rain House/Main Lodge in 1947 and the Smith's relocated to the Family Cabin. Once vacated by the Smith's the Wash House served as the residence for the ranch's head wrangler. Later it served as the laundry facility for the Ranch. Among other things, the building contain a washer, dryer, milk separator, and a trapdoor to the fruit cellar.

Like the other historic buildings in the district, the "Wash House" is constructed of round peeled logs, but these logs are unstained. The interstices are filled with daubing. All corners are joined by saddle notching and have sawed ends that extend beyond the joints. The logs are slightly tapered from bottom to top. The cabin has no foundation.

The gable roof structure of the building is supported by log ridgepoles and purlins and is clad with corrugated metal. Eaves extend over the walls. An interior metal chimney protrudes from the gable roof ridge near center of the building.

The main entrance to the cabin is located on the east elevation and is approached from an open porch, which is accessed from the south, and spans the entire width of the cabin. This porch sits under the main gable roof, which is supported by vertical log posts. Wood planking covers the porch floor. The offset main entrance is flanked to the right (north) by two adjacent 2/2 divided light sliding windows with one screen each.

The south elevation features a small, centrally located, 3/2 divided light fixed window to the right (east) and a secondary access door to the left (west). The west elevation features two centrally located and adjacent 1/1 double hung windows. The north elevation contains no windows and a propane tank.

The "Wash House" is a contributing building within the historic district.

**Watkins Cattle Camp Barn/Milking Barn (Building No. 13; Photo No. 22, one contributing site)**

When J. Spencer Watkins described the original Watkins Creek Ranch he recalling that "We had two large cabins, a barn, a lot of corrals, and a smokehouse, used for jerking elk and deer meat . . ."[18] Julie Smith Mannino, daughter of Ann and K. Smith, believes that that the roofless log building that survives today are likely remnants of the original Watkins Creek Cattle Camp barn.[19] According to Robin Locke, who worked as a wrangler at Watkins Creek Ranch, this building was utilized as a milking barn during the 1960s, and possibly before. What remains of the original structure are four walls constructed of round peeled logs. All corners are joined by saddle notching and have sawed ends that extend beyond the joints. The ruins have no foundation. A wooden plank door with metal hinges exists on the north elevation.

The barn is a contributing site to the historic district.

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[18]J. Spencer Watkins, Lucky Montana Cowpoke (New York: Vantage Press, 1958): 21.
[19](Mannino Interview)

**Smokehouse/Pig Shed (Building No. 14; Photo No. 22, one contributing building)**

Located immediately east of and adjacent to the Watkins Cattle Camp ruins and forming part of the southern wall of the pole corral, the pig shed is a simple 6' x 8' gable roofed building that likely dates from the late nineteenth century, when the Ranch was utilized as a cattle camp by George Watkins and his cowboys. Julie Smith Mannino referred to this building as "the milking shed" but it may have been the smokehouse described by J. Spencer Watkins that was part of the original camp. According to Robin Locke, who worked as a wrangler for Watkins Creek Ranch, this building was utilized as a pig shed. The Wright/Smith family kept a pig onsite to dispose of all their "wet garbage" and, thereby minimize the threat of bears in the vicinity. The gable roof structure is clad in corrugated metal. A simple door offers access to the building on the north elevation.

The milking shed is a contributing building in the historic district.

**Staff Quarters #1 (Building No. 15; Photo No. 23, one non-contributing building)**

Constructed in 1982, Staff Quarters #1 is an L-Shaped dormitory for the staff of the Watkins Creek/Firehole Ranch. Unlike most of the other buildings in the district, this structure is of wood frame construction and is clad in clapboard siding. Like the other buildings on site, the gable roof structure of the building is clad with corrugated metal and its eaves extend over the walls. The main entrance to the dormitory is located on the east elevation and is approached from an open porch, which is accessed from the east, and spans the entire width of the cabin. This porch sits under the main gable roof, which is supported by vertical posts. Casement and fixed windows of various sizes lend some character to the east elevation. On the south elevation, slider windows are present. On the west elevation, a variety of window types, including fixed, casement, and slider windows are evident. On the north elevation two large plate glass windows are centrally located.

Staff Quarters #1 is a non-contributing building in the historic district.

**Staff Quarters #2 (Building No. 16; Photo No. 24, one non-contributing building)**

Identical to Staff Quarters #3, Staff Quarters #2 is located immediately to the south of Staff Quarters #1. The building is a simple rectangular duplex dormitory for the staff of the Watkins Creek/Firehole Ranch. It was constructed in 2000. In an attempt to make the structure more visually compatible with the historic buildings in the district, the frame building was sided in round ½ logs that are stained dark brown. The cabin sits on concrete foundation.

The gable roof structure of the duplex is clad with corrugated metal. Eaves extend slightly over the walls. Facing east, each of the two units comprising the duplex has its own entrance, which is approached from a centrally located open deck that extends across half of the front elevation. The deck is accessed via two steps both from the south. A simple deck railing consisting of one log stretches across the deck, providing safety and helping to define this outdoor living space from the front (east) wall of the duplex. Front doors for each of the individual duplex units are symmetrically spaced on the front elevation. To the left of each front door are one by one sliding windows. The north and south elevations likewise feature similar windows. No windows exist on the rear (west) elevation.

Staff Quarters #2 is a non-contributing building in the historic district. However, given that the scale, design, materials and color of this building closely resemble that of the guest duplexes nearer to Hebgen Lake, the overall feeling of the property's historic character has not been significantly compromised.

**Staff Quarters #3 (Building No. 17; Photo No. 24, one non-contributing building)**

Identical to Staff Quarters #2, Staff Quarters #3 is located immediately to the south. The building is a simple rectangular duplex dormitory for the staff of the Watkins Creek/Firehole Ranch. It was constructed in 2000. In an attempt to make the structure more visually compatible with the historic buildings in the district, the frame building was sided in round ½ logs that are stained dark brown. The cabin sits on concrete foundation.

The gable roof structure of the duplex is clad with corrugated metal. Eaves extend slightly over the walls. Facing east, each of the two units comprising the duplex has its own entrance, which is approached from a centrally located open deck that extends across half of the front elevation. The deck is accessed via two steps both from the south. A simple deck railing consisting of one log stretches across the deck, providing safety and helping to define this outdoor living space from the front (east) wall of the duplex. Front doors

for each of the individual duplex units are symmetrically spaced on the front elevation. To the left of each front door are one by one sliding windows. The north and south elevations likewise feature similar windows. No windows exist on the rear (west) elevation.

Staff Quarters #3 is a non-contributing building in the historic district. However, given that the scale, design, materials and color of this building closely resemble that of the guest duplexes nearer to Hebgen Lake, the overall feeling of the property's historic character has not been significantly compromised.

**Staff Quarters #4 (Building No. 18; Photo No. 25, one non-contributing building)**

Staff Quarters #4 is located immediately to the south of Staff Quarters #3. The building is a simple square dormitory for the staff of the Watkins Creek/Firehole Ranch. It was constructed in 2000. In an attempt to make the structure more visually compatible with the historic buildings in the district, the frame building was sided in round ½ logs that are stained dark brown. The cabin sits on concrete foundation.

The gable roof structure is clad with corrugated metal. Eaves extend slightly over the walls. Facing east and slightly to the south, the main entrance of the building is approached from a centrally located open deck that extends across the front elevation. The deck is accessed via six steps from the north. A simple deck railing consisting of two logs stretches across the deck, providing safety and helping to define this outdoor living space from the front (east) wall of the duplex. The front door of the building is slightly offset to the right (north). One either side are one by one sliding windows, similar to those found on the other staff buildings in this vicinity. The north and south elevations likewise feature similar windows. No windows exist on the rear (west) elevation.

Staff Quarters #4 is a non-contributing building in the historic district. However, given that the scale, design, materials and color of this building closely resemble that of other historic buildings in the district, the overall feeling of the property's historic character has not been significantly compromised.

**Garage/Workshop (Building No. 19; Photo No. 26, one non-contributing building)**

Built in 1996, the 24' x 36' wood frame Garage Workshop is located just north of the ranch corral between the gravel road loop and the Ernest Ruof Ditch. In an attempt to make the structure more visually compatible with the historic buildings in the district, the frame building was stained dark brown. The cabin sits on concrete foundation.

The gable roof structure is clad with corrugated metal. Eaves extend slightly over the walls. Facing south are four garage door bays. An offset pedestrian entrance and basketball net are located on the west elevation. The north elevation features four symmetrically located 6/3 divided light rectangular fixed windows. The west elevation features a single symmetrically located 6/3 divided light rectangular fixed window, a open shed roof porch at ground level, and tanks for propane and diesel fuel.

The Garage/Workshop is a non-contributing building in the historic district. However, given that color and windows of this building closely resemble that of other historic buildings in the district, the overall feeling of the property's historic character has not been significantly compromised.

**Storage Shed (Building No. 20; Photo No. 27, one non-contributing building)**

Also built in 1996, this simple 8' x 16' storage shed stands just north of and adjacent the corral. In an attempt to make the structure more visually compatible with the historic buildings in the district, the frame building was sided in round ½ logs that are unstained. The shed sits on no foundation.

The gable roof structure is clad with corrugated metal. Eaves extend slightly over the walls. Facing north, the main entrance of the building is approached from a centrally located door with a single pane window. No windows exist on the other elevations.

The Storage shed is a non-contributing building in the historic district. However, given that the scale, design, materials and color of this building closely resemble that of other historic buildings in the district, the overall feeling of the property's historic character has not been significantly compromised.

**Sites:**

**Coffin Lake Pack Trailhead (Sites and Structures Map Reference #9, one contributing site)**

Historian Lawrence Borne has noted that the popular appeal of dude ranches "centered on the chance for the visitor to get outdoors and to live closer to nature." It was also important that the guest be able to do these things "in a physical environment different from his home territory in the East or Midwest." Of all the activities that were commonly associated with dude ranching, "many ranchers believed that the ultimate activity for the horseman was the pack trip . . ." which "combined several of the appealing aspects of ranch life to produce an experience that was seldom equaled and hardly ever surpassed on a western vacation."[20]

The Watkins Creek Ranch was no exception. According to Julie Smith Mannino, one of the most popular trail rides for visiting dudes at the Watkins Creek Ranch was a scenic day trip to Coffin Lake, near the 10600 summit of Coffin Peak. She recalled that virtually every week, and sometimes more frequently ranch wranglers would follow the Pack Trail indicated on USGS Maps south from the ranch.[21] The trailhead is located within the SW ¼ of Section 7 T12S R6E. Although somewhat overgrown, the trail remains adequate in width and grade to accommodate large pack trains. Following the Watkins Creek drainage up toward the Continental Divide through the forested foothills and rocky terrain defining Coffin Peak, the trail remains passable and essentially unaltered. Although the pack trail itself is not part of the district, the trailhead is located at the southwest corner of the district. The trailhead is significant because of its historic connections with the scenic tourism that helped to define the dude ranching experience associated with the post-1944 years of the district.

The Coffin Lake Pack trailhead is a contributing site to the historic district.

**Grazing Pastures and Hay Fields (Sites and Structures Map Reference #10; Photo No. 28, one contributing site)**

When the Watkins Creek Ranch was fully functional by the 1880s, it was still the era of the open range in Montana. Cattle and horses grazed much of the Madison Basin, some of which is today flooded by Hebgen Reservoir. These lands ranged from bottom hay lands to pastures on rocky hillsides and forested benches. Following the construction of the Hebgen Dam, and the subsequent establishment of the Whisman (1906), Martzel (1922), and Ruof (1926) Homestead claims, pastures and hay fields utilized by the Watkins Creek Ranch became more defined and regularly utilized.[22] Much of the lands adjacent to and south and east of the existing coral were utilized for grazing pastures and/or hay fields. This is especially true of the lands watered by the Ernest Ruof ditch, which extend south of the ranch proper. The Watkins Creek Ranch could not have survived as a working cattle ranch, and later as a dude ranch, without these lands to provide feed and pasture. Most of the lands consist of patented lands or deeded acres acquired by members of the Wright/Smith families. Despite incursions by native species, the demarcation between planted and naturally occurring grasses is clearly evident, and the fields remain graphic reminders of the district's agricultural past.

The grazing pastures and hay fields constitute one contributing site within the historic district.

**Structures:**

**Ernest Ruof Ditch Irrigation System and Ditch Bridge (Sites and Structures Map Reference #11; Photo Nos. 29 and 30, two contributing structures)**

The Ernest Ruof Ditch Irrigation System diverts water from Watkins Creek. According to a "Plat Map for Homesteads," compiled by Patricia Kerzenmacher Miller, and found in the West Yellowstone Historical Society archives, Ernest Ruof filed a homestead claim on a 160 tract comprising a portion of what is now the Watkins Creek/Firehole Ranch on January 13, 1926.[23] Sometime after that date Ruof constructed an irrigation system that flows through much of the property. The ditch system ultimately enters Hebgen Lake and flows directly through the fenced grazing pastures and hay fields, as well as the corral area noted above. The irrigation system

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[20](Borne 1983, 91 and 100)

[21](Mannino Interview)

[22]The property owners and their dates of acquisition were located on Patricia Kerzenmacher, "Plat Map for Homesteads, Township 12 South, Range 4 East of the Principal Meridian," West Yellowstone Historical Society Archives, West Yellowstone, Montana.

[23](Ibid.)

undoubtedly helped to water the lands south and east of the ranch, but certainly played an equally important role in watering the ranch's livestock, which consisted primarily of horses and cattle.

The Ruof Ditch courses are clearly discernable.

The Ernest Ruof Ditch Bridge is a simple pole and sawed plank structure about 15' in length and 3' in width. It crosses the Ruof Ditch Irrigation System (described above) just east of the Watkins Pole Corral (described below) and provides evidence that wranglers at the ranch frequently traversed the Ruof ditch to mend fencing and/or deliver livestock to and from the corral area to adjoining grazing pastures. Like the Ditch itself, the footbridge is testimony to the district's status as a working ranch and homestead, rather than simply a dude resort.

The Ernest Ruof Ditch Irrigation System and Ditch Bridge are two contributing structures in the historic district.

**Watkins Pole Corral (Sites and Structures Map Reference #12; Photo No. 28, one contributing structure)**

As evidenced by historic photos, the high pole rectangular corral with its pole gates in front of the surviving ruins of the Watkins Cattle Camp Ruins appears largely today as it did in the 1940s, and possible earlier. The corral and barn were always the center of activity at the ranch, and continued to play an especially important role during the property's dude ranch days. Each morning the horses would be brought into the corral and roped for the day's work and/or riding. On working ranches, such as the Watkins Creek Ranch, guests "could help in the roundups of horses or cattle, branding the stock, checking the fences for repairs, and various other activities essential to ranch operation," according to Lawrence Borne.[24] Hanging out around the corral to watch whatever was going on was a favorite pastime of visiting dudes.

The corral is a contributing structure to the historic district.

**Loading Chute/Fencing (Sites and Structures Map Reference #13; Photo No. 31, one contributing structure)**

Situated at the east end of the grazing pasture, nearer to the main access road and the center of the district is log loading chute and related fencing structure that was historically used to truck cattle in and out on a seasonal basis. The structure features four tall pole gates and an elevated loading gate that conveniently allowed cattle and horses to access the back of transport trucks. Similar structures are commonly found at railroad sidings, and were utilized for similar purposes. Although detached from the other buildings and associated resources comprising the Watkins Creek Ranch, the loading chute and related fencing is further testimony to the district's status as a working ranch and homestead, rather than simply a dude resort.

The Loading Chute/Fencing is a contributing structure to the historic district.

**Riding Path (Sites and Structures Map Reference #14; Photo No. 28, one contributing structure)**

An obvious riding path is evident leading from the corral in a southeastern direction, across Ernest Ruof Ditch, toward the loading chutes and the Coffin Lake Trailhead. This structure is significant because of its close association with the working and recreational aspects of the Ranch during the historic period.

The riding path is a contributing structure to the historic district.

**Boundary Markers/Fencing (Sites and Structures Map Reference #15-17; Photo Nos. 28, 30, 31 and 32, three contributing structures)**

Three important boundary marker/fencing systems exist in the district. Boundary marker number one is a traditional wooden pole fence that extends westward from the north wall of the corral and may date from the original cattle camp days of Watkins Creek Ranch. The Boundary marker clearly defines that space primarily devoted to human activities—namely the original cabins to the north—from the grazing pastures to the south. Almost certainly visiting dudes sat on this fencing while waiting for their horses to be saddles by the ranch wranglers or watching the more mundane livestock-related operations of the ranch workers. Boundary Marker number two is comprised of a traditional log pole and barbed wire fencing system that clearly designates the livestock grazing pasture from the generic sagebrush landscape comprising what is locally known as "the point." A difference in plant-life is clearly evident on either

[24](Borne 1983, 106)

side of the fence, thus indicating the historic use of the fenced area and the subtle imprint of historic human activities associated with the Ranch complex. Like Boundary Marker Two, Boundary Marker Three is likewise comprised of a traditional log pole and barbed wire fencing system that separates the Watkins Creek/Firehole Ranch from the Gallatin National Forest. Boundary Three also forms the western boundary of the historic district.

Each of the three boundary marker/fence lines is a contributing structure to the historic district.

**District Integrity**

**Statement of Integrity**

The Watkins Creek Ranch retains a substantial degree of physical integrity, despite some non-historic elements. The historic dual agricultural and recreational nature of the ranch, the reliance on local building materials and regional building traditions, and the exhibition of vernacular "western-design" remain clearly evident. In terms of location and setting, there are few visible intrusions to the natural landscape in any direction. The site has been protected from adjacent modern development and correspondent threats to integrity of setting, association, and feeling, by the size of the ranch's original acreage and its close proximity to Hebgen Lake and the Gallatin National Forest. Key topographical features, such as the Hebgen Lake Shoreline, Watkins Creek drainage, Ernest Ruof Ditch Irrigation System, hay lands and grazing pastures and adjacent Gallatin National Forest Lands exist today, much as they did during historic times. Within the ranch complex, changes to vegetation have occurred naturally over time.

The Watkins Creek Ranch contains a generally well-preserved collection of log and stone buildings, whose historic fabric has largely been retained for more than half a century, and in some cases significantly longer. The unpretentious rustic architecture of the district clearly conveys a timelessness that has persisted over the years. All of the contributing buildings represent a simple vernacular rustic style, with the Main Lodge and larger cabins illustrating a slightly more elaborate detailing.

Although some of the original cattle camp/homestead era buildings have been removed or destroyed, enough of the original fabric of the working ranch remains to easily convey its historic design and function during this seminal period in the district's late nineteenth and early twentieth century history. The two well-preserved cattle camp/homestead cabins that survive from the earliest history of the Watkins Creek Ranch have largely defined the rustic architectural character of the other buildings within the district. All of the historic buildings—and even some of the non-contributing resources found at the far western and southern ends of the building clusters—follow the long-established tradition of low-pitched gable roofed buildings formed by ridgepoles and purlins and built of horizontal round logs joined with saddle notching. Owing in part to the relatively late establishment of dude ranch operations at the Watkins Creek Ranch by the Wright/Smith families, virtually all of the dude ranch era buildings remain well preserved in their original locations. Consequently, the historic design and function of the district as a dude ranch is obviously evident.

Noncontributing buildings are limited compared to the total number of buildings, sites, structures, and objects contained within the district. The more recent buildings associated with guests and the ongoing operations of the Firehole Ranch as a tourist destination are not overly intrusive, and represent the natural progression of a dude ranch, which continues to function and be used as it did historically.

Alterations or modifications to historic buildings, sites, structures, and objects are minimal and do not significantly detract from the historic character and appearance of these contributing resources. Non-historic intrusions to the district—most notably the construction of one non-historic guest cabin and five non-historic staff buildings—are unfortunate, but are only slightly problematic given that they are concentrated at either end of this L-shaped cluster of resources and not interspersed throughout the historic fabric of the district. The location of the modern "Caddis" Cabin separates it from the rest of the ranch complex. Likewise, the visual impacts of modern staff quarters and a garage/workshop located on the far reaches of the ranch's southern leg are not overly intrusive.

Where non-historic buildings and modern alterations have materialized, they have typically been constructed with similar building materials and in generally compatible architectural styles, so that the overall feeling of the property's historic character has not been significantly compromised. The few remodeled historic buildings that exist have generally been altered in relatively insignificant ways on secondary or non-character-defining elevations.

Overall, the Watkins Creek Ranch Historic District is a wonderfully preserved property that effortlessly reflects its history, both as a working cattle camp/homestead, and as a dude ranch.

Lastly, the Watkins Creek Ranch is significant under Criterion C as an embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction—namely the "Rustic" architecture that came to epitomize western tourist destinations, and Yellowstone National Park specifically. The numerous log and stone buildings on the ranch exhibit local craftsmanship and skilled workmanship. The district's earliest surviving buildings and structures reflect a simple, unpretentious rustic style commonly found in the agricultural settings that define the vernacular western landscape. Most of buildings and structures constructed after 1944 at the Watkins Creek Ranch represent a more elaborate and intentional western rustic architectural style specifically aimed at meeting the expectations of eastern tourists. Such rustic architecture flourished during the early twentieth century in Yellowstone National Park and area dude ranches, and was actively promoted by the Dude Ranch Association as a means of cultivating an authentic western atmosphere. The use of native materials further reinforced the guests' idealized wilderness perspective, where log cabins typified the nostalgic and mythologized West of dime store novels and Hollywood.

**History of the Watkins Creek Ranch**

**Native Peoples, George S. Watkins and Land Settlement**

Native peoples frequented the Madison Basin and Yellowstone Park areas as early as 11,000 years ago. Throughout prehistory, the inhabitants of this region subsisted as semi-nomadic hunters and gatherers whose exploitation of plants and animals and methods of procuring these vital resources, varied over time, and from season to season. During the last 4,000 years and up to the 1880s, dependence on bison dominated their life ways.[26]

Numerous archeological sites indicate that prehistoric and historic indigenous populations seasonally traveled the Great Bannock Trail, a buffalo-hunting road that extended from the upper Snake River, across the Gallatin Range, to the upper Yellowstone. During the historic period, bands of Bannock, Shoshone, and Sheepeater Indians often passed through the upper Gallatin--called "Cut-tuh-o'-gwa" (Swift Water) by the Shoshone tribe to accomplish the same objective. Undoubtedly both travel corridors caused native peoples to spill into the Madison Basin on a seasonal basis.[27]

Euro-American fur trappers regularly exploited the Upper Madison area following Andrew Henry and John Colter's construction of a fort near the headwaters of the Missouri River in 1810. Over the next four decades, trappers harvested beaver in the region. Notable mountain men like Jim Bridger, Jedediah Smith, and Joe Meek often traversed the area en route to rendezvous sites around Jackson Hole.[28]

With the discovery of gold in Alder Gulch during the summer of 1863, thousands of prospectors flooded into the Madison Valley and explored the surrounding countryside. A fourteen-man party led by Walter W. DeLacy converged on the South Snake River in September of 1863. Although their expedition found little gold in paying quantities, the mining rushes to Virginia City and elsewhere brought a significant inflow of population to the Madison Valley.[29]

Among the early ranchmen of the Madison Valley, one of the most notable was George S. Watkins. Born in Kentucky in 1837, and soon after raised and educated in Missouri, Watkins attended college at William Jewel College in Missouri as well as Madison University in Hamilton, New York. Afterward he engaged in lumbering and trading in Missouri until the Civil War and gold discoveries at Alder Gulch, Montana, encouraged Watkins to travel westward by wagon in 1864. Following a ninety-day trip "fraught

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[26]For an examination of prehistoric peoples in Yellowstone see Carling Malouf, "Preliminary Report, Yellowstone National Park Archeological Survey, Summer 1958," photocopied, University of Montana, Missoula Montana, January 5, 1959. See also Wayne F. Replogle, Yellowstone's Bannock Indian Trails (YNP: Yellowstone Library and Museum Association, 1956) and Aubrey Haines, The Yellowstone Story: A History of Our First National Park, Volume 1 (YNP: Yellowstone Library and Museum Association, 1977), 15-33.

[27]For an overview of archeological information related to the area in question see Lewis Kyle Napton, "Canyon and Valley: Preliminary Archeological Survey in the Gallatin Area, Montana" (unpublished Master's Thesis, University of Montana, 1967), esp. pp. 115-145 and 287-89. See also Michael P. Malone, "The Gallatin Canyon and the Tides of History," Montana: The Magazine of Western History 23 (Summer 1973): 4.

[28]For discussions of the fur trade in the vicinity see Peter Koch, Gallatin Valley Gazetteer and Bozeman City Directory:1892-93 (Bozeman: J. D. Radford and Co., 1892), 9-28. See also Merrill D. Beal, The Story of Man in Yellowstone (Caldwell, Idaho: Caxton Printers, 1949), 59, 66, and 84-87 and Paul C. Phillips, The Fur Trade (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1961) II, 261-63 and 454.

[29]See Walter W. DeLacy, "A Trip Up the South Snake River in 1863," Contributions to the Historical Society of Montana, 2nd ed. (Helena: Independent Publishing Co., and Rocky Mountain Publishing Co., 1876), I 100-127.

with hardship and peril," Watkins arrived in Virginia City, where he engaged in mining at Virginia City for two months, before permanently relocating on the Madison River, near present day Ennis.[30]

Although always more or less interested in mining, Watkins "immediately foresaw that the future of the Madison Valley lay in its agricultural possibilities . . ." In 1864, Billy Biebeau sold a productive 160 acres to Watkins. Drawing a homestead claim on 160 acres more, Watkins erected a "sturdy log ranch" and commenced faming and stock raising at the fork of St. Joseph and Jordan Creeks, northeast of the present town of Ennis, Montana.[31] Shortly afterward, Watkins "became engaged in the freighting business between Virginia City and Corrine, Utah."[32] Seeing substantial profit from his hard work, he steadily acquired additional lands during the 1870s and 1880s. At the peak of his career in the early 1890s, Watkins owned thousands of acres of land, 1700 head of cattle, and was "known as "the cattle king of Madison County."[33] Watkins also invested heavily in raising horses, "the chief industry of the (Madison) Valley in the early days from 1863 to 1890," and possessed extensive mining claims at Red Bluff, Montana.[34]

In addition to his lands near Ennis, Montana, Watkins acquired fertile grazing lands in what was then called the Upper Madison Basin—a "wonderful" pastureland with grass "as thick as the hair on a dog's back." According to J. Spencer Watkins, what is now Hebgen Lake was "pretty much all meadow."[35] In his work Lucky Montana Cowpoke, he described the Basin in detail, noting:

> The summer cattle ranch was in the Upper Madison Basin, north and northwest of West Yellowstone the western entrance to Yellowstone National Park. Mostof the Basin today is under water. The Hebgen Dam across the Madison Riverat the upper end of Madison Canyon backs water up nearly to the park line . . .If ever there was a hunter's paradise and a perfect summer range for cattle, that Madison Basin was it.[36]

Although the exact date that he began utilizing the lands that would become the Watkins Creek Ranch is unknown, sources indicate that Watkins laid claim to his lands in the Madison Basin early on. In a letter to his brother John dated October 5, 1866, he asserted:

> I have advantages for wintering cattle that few others have. In the lower corner of the valley I have about 600 acres of land. I have cut and stacked about 150 tons. What I do not cut will be green nearly all winter, and if there are bad storms I will have the hay to feed, but as I have not the moneyto invest I will be satisfied and sell my hay and get it delivered by spring and perhaps I will clear $4,000 or $5,000. I have sixteen yoke of cattle to deliver my hay with.[37]

In 1869, Watkins noted that he "had cut a great deal of hay for other people this past season," and that he "had two (Woods mowing) machines and had made some money cutting hay . . ."[38] What he didn't feed to his growing herds of livestock, Watkins freighted to Virginia City, where he sold the desperately-needed commodity for as much as fifty to one hundred dollars a ton.[39]

Economically reliant upon his lands in the southern portion of Madison County, Watkins was instrumental in developing the transportation networks of southwestern Montana. "In order to establish a camp in the Madison Basin, where he took his cattle for summer pasture," the Montana Writer's Project noted, "Mr. Watkins made the first road, or trail, through the upper Madison Canyon." Due to the steepness of the road, "a lariat rope was tied to the back end of the wagon box, and snubbed to the horn of the saddle on a

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[30]See ("State Resident . . . ) For additional biographical information see Michael Leeson, History of Montana, 1739-1885, (Chicago: Warner, Beers and Company, 1885), 1279 and James U. Sanders, ed. Society of Montana Pioneers: Constitution, Members, and Officers, with Portraits and Maps . . . Vol. 1, (Society of Montana Pioneers: The Werner Co., 1899), 201.

[31]See (Ibid.) See also James S. Spray, Early Days in the Madison Valley, n.p. 1938, an unpublished manuscript, Manuscript Collection 2098, Burlingame Special Collections, Renne Library, Montana State University--Bozeman, Bozeman, Montana, 78. An etching of this property as it looked in the mid-1880s can be seen in (Leeson, 1033)

[32]Madison County History Association, Pioneers, Trails, and Trials: Madison County, 1863-1920, Great Falls: Blue Print Letter Company, 1976, 197.

[33](Spray, 326)

[34]( Ibid., 52 and 326 and Leeson, 1279)

[35](Ibid.)

[36](Watkins 1958, 7-8)

[37]George Watkins to John Watkins, 10-5-1866, quoted in Mae Pankey, "Biographical Sketch of George Watkins," November 7, 1939, Works Progress Administration, Montana Writers Project, Montana Historical Society, Helena, Montana, Microfilm Collection #250, Reel 23, 8.

[38](Ibid., 11)

[39](Spray, 78)

good saddle horse, to keep the wagon from sliding into the river."[40] Watkins' road through the upper canyon was so treacherous that supplies to his cow camp in Madison Basin were freighted from Sherwood's store on Henry's Lake, over Targhee Pass.[41]

In addition to marketing hay from these productive lands, Watkins soon "ranged his vast herd of cattle in the Madison Basin . . ." To meet his labor needs there, Watkins "would hire a bunch of local cowboys to punch and brand the calves and get the beef to market," according to Jimmie Spray.[42] According to the Madison County Historical Association, "the cattle were branded when calves at the Watkins Creek Cow Camp . . ." After 1880, when the Utah and Northern opened the Southern Gateway and rail traffic first came to Montana, "the cattle for market were driven from there to Monida and shipped" by rail to the Union and Pacific mainline at Corrinne, Utah.[43]

As Watkins' ranching operations developed in the Madison Basin, the need for several ranch structures became necessary, and a small ranch complex was established immediately to the west of Watkins Creek, near the place where it feeds into what was then the Madison River, and is now Hebgen Lake. While the exact date of the construction of the Watkins Creek Ranch is uncertain, the complex likely evolved over time during the latter decades of the nineteenth century. In a 1958 reminiscence, George Watkins' son, J. Spencer Watkins, described the original Watkins Creek Ranch, recalling that:

> Our cow camp on Watkins Creek (was) on the west side of the river (i.e. Watkins Creek). This was one of the prettiest campsites I ever saw. It was on the creek where it came out of the canyon, with enough elevation to give you a grand view of a lot of the surrounding country. We had two large cabins, a barn, a lot of corrals, and a smokehouse, used for jerking elk and deer meat . . .[44]

According to the younger Watkins, in the early days, the camp was quite removed from other residences. "the first house on the road" after the Watkins Creek camp was "about thirty miles from the cow camp," he recalled.[45]

For a time, fortunes continued to smile on George Watkins. In 1882 he married Fannie Fort of Willow Creek, Montana. Together the couple raised four children—Irene, Spencer, Andrew and Jack.[46] Following the death of his wealthy father in 1884, Watkins received a sizable inheritance. As part of the settlement, Watkins received "a (train) carload of standard bred mares and a carload of shorthorn cattle." The livestock were shipped with Will Holloway, a cousin, who "delivered them to Mr. Watkins in the Madison Basin where they were grazed until the fall and then were driven to the home range," near Ennis.[47]

The sizable profits generated from Watkins' lush grazing lands in the Madison Basin were significantly augmented by his economic transactions with the closely situated Yellowstone National Park during the latter decades nineteenth century. The arrival of the 1st U.S. Cavalry in Yellowstone Park in 1886 benefited Watkins considerably. Given the Basin's proximity to Yellowstone, Watkins would frequently drive cattle to Gardiner, Montana, at the northeast entrance. "The Park was building up," remember Spencer Watkins, "and there was a lot of soldiers there."[48] Watkins made sizable profits provided beef, not only for the soldiers who governed Yellowstone at the time, but presumably for the tourists who began arriving via the Northern Pacific at Gardiner after 1883 as well. By the summer of 1897, Watkins ran as many as 1100 cattle and 400 calves on his summer pasture in the Madison Basin, many of which were eventually slaughtered and sold in Yellowstone.[49]

Watkins also raised "lots of saddle horses" in the Madison Basin and presumably elsewhere, generating considerable revenues "breaking horses for the cavalry" stationed in Yellowstone Park, according to his son, Spencer.[50] "The heads of transportation

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[40](Pankey, 19)
[41](Spencer Watkins Interview)
[42](Spray, 326)
[43](Madison County Historical Society, 197)
[44](Watkins 1958, 21) It is likely that the two large cabins, barn, and corrals mentioned still survive today. See Section 7 above.
[45](Ibid., 70) Although some modern developments are now evident, the remoteness and isolation described by Spencer Watkins is still a significant character-defining feature of the Watkins Creek/Firehole Ranch today.
[46](Spray, 28 and 326)
[47](Ibid., 17)
[48](Spencer Watkins Interview)
[49](Ibid., 19)
[50](Ibid.)

companies in Yellowstone Park" and others, "to all of whom Mr. Watkins sold many horses," maintained that while "the average horses that they had bought around the country could stand the stain of stage driving only about two years . . . the Watkins horses would last ten and twelve years at the same work."[51] The Watkins Creek Ranch had a close economic relationship with Yellowstone early on—a role that would continue during the twentieth century with the establishment of a dude ranch operation there.

The Madison River Power Company's 1898 construction a dam "in the Madison Canyon below the Watkins Ranch," significantly impacted George Watkins' cattle operations near Ennis. That summer Watkins was informed that "all his river bottom land and all the other land" in the vicinity of his original ranch would eventually be "flooded by the dam that had been built to create an artificial lake fed by the river." While Watkins had considerable acreage elsewhere in Madison County, "it did not supply sufficient winter pasture for his stock without the 800 acres of meadow land," that would eventually be lost with the creation of Ennis Lake. Faced with an unfortunate set of circumstances, Watkins "sold the 1100 head for $18 a head" to the Buford and Elling Cattle Company, "and threw in gratis, the 400 calves."[52]

Then, sometime prior to 1904, George Watkins received word that the Madison Power and Light Company would soon initiate construction of Hebgen Dam, near the upper mouth of Upper Madison Canyon. Much of the Madison Basin would be flooded to form a large artificial reservoir. Having experienced a similar situation when the Madison Dam formed Ennis Lake near his home ranch, Watkins "turned his land over to the Power Company in 1904 and that Fall, sold all his (remaining) cattle, about 800 head, that were in the Madison Basin during the summer to the Green Brothers, who were in the cattle business on the lower Madison."[53] In 1909, the Montana Power Company started construction of Hebgen Dam. As Spencer Watkins recalled, "there was no place to run them" after the creation of Hebgen Reservoir. "They'd have to swim." Consequently, George Watkins "just gave it up . . ."[54]

Sometime between 1904 and 1922, the Power Company allowed some remaining lands in the vicinity of the original Watkins Creek Ranch—those not flooded by Hebgen Lake—to be opened for homesteading. On September 25, 1906, Priscilla Whisman acquired rights to 280 acres in the vicinity of Watkins' original holdings. On December 7, 1906, David Whisman followed suit, claiming another 269 acres. Presumably the Madison Power and Light Company held onto to that acreage in closer proximity to the soon-to-be-flooded Madison River, so that it could determine the extent to which the creation of Hebgen Lake would alter the landscape. On June 26, 1922, William F. Martzel filed a claim on 159 acres in the vicinity and on January 13, 1926, homesteader Ernest Ruof claimed the remaining lands comprising what constituted the original Watkins property.[55] In 1944, Clarence O. "Clix" and Leila Wright acquired the Watkins Creek Ranch from William F. Martzel, and initiated construction of the dude ranch complex in question.

**Dude Ranching and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem:**

The dude ranching industry thrived in Montana as a result of the ca. 1900-1950 nostalgia for the lost American West, the related wilderness and back-to-the-soil movements, and railroad promotion of Yellowstone National Park as a tourist destination. More than simply "an industry of major economic significance," dude ranching also "played an important role in perpetuating America's continuing romance with the West."[56]

Dude ranches also made a significant contribution to the architectural traditions of the American West. Dude ranch architecture and decor reflects the vernacular roots of rustic architecture, imposed by proximity to native log and stone, as well as distance from sawmills and finished-product outlets. The dude ranch complex also reflects a second component of rustic design--the deliberate attempt to create a "western style" attractive to eastern guests. This cultural aspects lends national architectural significance to those Watkins Creek Ranch facilities directly associated with dude ranching. The western style accommodations of the property represent

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[51]"Biography of George S. Watkins: 1837-1931," an unpublished manuscript in the Montana Historical Archives Vertical Files under "Geo Watkins," MHS, Helena, Montana, 15.
[52](Ibid.)
[53]("Biography . . .", 17-18.)
[54](Spencer Watkins Interview)
[55]The property owners and their dates of acquisition were located on Patricia Kerzenmacher, "Plat Map for Homesteads, Township 12 South, Range 4 East of the Principal Meridian," West Yellowstone Historical Society Archives, West Yellowstone, Montana.
[56]See Charles G. Roundy. "The Origins and Early Development of Dude Ranching in Wyoming," Annals of Wyoming 45 (Spring 1973): 24 and Jerome Rodnitzky, "Recapturing the West: The Dude Ranch in American Life," Arizona and the West 10 (Summer 1968): 111.

critical elements of the movement defining and establishing western culture as a national heritage. As historian Jerome Rodnitzky has noted:

> Although regarded as a historical curiosity by many in the modern world, the dude ranch has played a significant role in the evolution of American society. Planned for the amateur, rather than the patron, connoisseur, or scholar, it provided fantasy, escape, and physical pleasure for thousands of Americans caught in an increasingly urban world. As a living embodiment of the past, it was an oasis where the Western mystique ever grew afresh.[57]

By the 1890s, sufficient change had occurred in American life and thought to make possible a widespread reaction against previously held attitudes regarding the "uncivilized wilderness." At Chicago's World Columbian Exposition of 1893, Frederick Jackson Turner celebrated the paramount role that the frontier played in the formation of America's national character and mourned the loss presented by the "closing" of this chapter in American history. No longer occupying a position of dominance, the natural world that once was seen as a threatening obstacle to the nation's manifest destiny, was now viewed with a growing sense of romantic nostalgia. "From the perspective of city street and comfortable homes," wrote historian Roderick Nash, "wild country inspired quite different attitudes than it had when observed from the frontiersman's clearing." Now that Americans had subdued the forest and its native inhabitants, "the average citizen could approach wilderness with the viewpoint of the vacationer rather than the conqueror."[58]

Increasingly, many Americans had both the financial means and the philosophical incentive to react to what historian John Higham has called the "excessive refinement and the enervating tendencies of modern civilization." Included in this revolt was a profound "spiritual reaction" to the "frustrations, the routine and the sheer dullness of an urban industrial culture."[59] The inhabitants of America's comparatively new industrial centers did not deny the benefits of city life, or want to return to an agrarian way of life permanently. Rather, they longed for temporary contact with the natural world as a release from civilization's pressures and stale familiarity. They even believed that their urban vantage point gave them a special sensitivity to nature's chorus.[60]

Together, these changing perceptions "prompted many Americans to seek ways of retaining the influence of wilderness in modern civilization," according to Nash.[61] The resulting widespread "Back to Nature" movement manifested itself in a whole host of ways. In urban areas, the city park movement and countless country clubs flourished, while in the countryside, vacation getaways, like summer camps and National Parks, proliferated across the American landscape. Popular organizations, like the Boone and Crockett Club (1888), the Sierra Club (1892) and the Boy Scouts (1907) emerged as part of a widespread conservation crusade. Meanwhile, bestsellers like Jack London's Call of the Wild (1903) and Edgar Rice Burroughs's Tarzan of the Apes series (1912 and thereafter) spoke to the place that the wilderness occupied in the American mind.

In the Mountain West, the Back to Nature Movement of the early twentieth century provided ample economic incentive, not only for the continued promotion and improvement of nationally known tourist destinations like Yellowstone National Park, but also for the corresponding development of the closely related dude ranch industry. Seeking, as correspondent Mary Roberts Reinhart put it, to satisfy the "hunger of the civilized to get away from civilization and yet avoid the hardships few of us can easily endure," dude ranches grafted Eastern ideals on Western culture in a profitable, yet historically and environmentally appropriate manner.[62]

Contrary to prevailing western economic paradigms that centered around extractive industries like mining and logging, the dude ranching was a progressive industry that prioritized rugged scenery, wild game, the western nostalgia, and the ongoing preservation of

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[57](Rodnitzky 1968, 126)
[58]Roderick Nash, Wilderness and the American Mind, Fourth Edition, (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2001), 143.
[59]John Higham, "The Reorientation of American Culture in the 1890s," in Writing American History: Essays on Modern Scholarship (Bloomington, Indiana: University of Indiana Press, 1970), 79 and 86.
[60]For a thorough discussion of the Back To Nature Movement in America see Peter J. Schmidt, Back to Nature: The Arcadian Myth in Urban America (New York: Oxford University Press, 1969).
[61](Nash 147)
[62]Mary Roberts Reinhart, "Sleeping Giant," Ladies Home Journal 38 (May 1921): 21.

all three. As a 1932 Northern Pacific Railroad publication noted "From the Gallatin-Madison-Beaverhead resorts, the dude ranch trails lead not only to the scenic heart of the Rockies, but back into the past of frontier life."[63]

Geographically, economically, and architecturally, Yellowstone National Park had a profound impact on the dude ranching industry of Montana and Wyoming. Dude ranching, as one observer noted, "probably got its birth in the Park," and from the outset the industry was significantly influenced by America's wonderland.[64] In turn, the dude ranch industry reinforced the goals and objectives of Park Officials. More than merely attracting thousands of receptive vacationers from "the congested centers of the East and Middle West" who were "greedy for the opportunity to come out here and snuggle down near nature's heart," Yellowstone and the dude ranches of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem mutually defined and reinforced the environmental ethic and the western mystique that perpetuated the western tourism industry of the twentieth century.[65]

Although the world's first national park was established in 1872, it remained largely the exclusive domain of a handful of wealthy pleasure seekers until the early twentieth century, when a variety of factors converged to popularize Yellowstone and a regional dude ranching industry simultaneously. Before 1877, no more than 500 visitors entered the Park in any given year.[66]

As America continued to modernize during the early twentieth century, however, circumstances changed dramatically. As historian Marguerite Shaffer has observed:

> National tourism extended from and depended on the infrastructure of a modern nation state. As a national transportation system and communication network spread across America, as methods of mass production and mass distribution created a national market, as corporate capitalism begot an expanding middle class with time and money to spend on leisure, tourism emerged as a form of geographical consumption that centered on the sights and scenes of the American nation.[67]

Of the factors that directly contributed to the simultaneous rise in popularity of Yellowstone Park travel and dude ranching in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, the "See America First" campaign of the early twentieth century was certainly one of the most pronounced.[68] On January 25th, 1906, Heber M. Wells, President of the Salt Lake City commercial Club, welcomed a group of western businessmen and boosters to a conference organized under the rubric of "See America First" to market tourism in the West. More than simply a gigantic advertising scheme dedicated to promoting "the discovery of America by Americans," the "See America First" campaign was a nationalistic movement that sought to promote patriotism and the love of native lands—especially in the West—while also discouraging overseas travel.[69] Western scenery "promised to redeem the bodies and souls of easterners who had succumbed to the corruption of commerce and industrialization," the campaign's promoters argued. It could also restore patriotism and virtue, "because in its sublimity, the landscape of the West revealed that America's virtuous republic was sanctioned by God." In short, as America's closest thing to a frontier, the West still offered "an escape from the ills of civilization—modernity, commerce, industrialization, and the forces of historical change—to a place where man could actualize his ideal self as citizen."[70]

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[63]Northern Pacific Railway Company, "Ranch Vacations," 1932, in Burlingame Special Collections, Renne Library, Montana State University-Bozeman, Bozeman, Montana.
[64]Guy D. Edwards, "Dude Ranches and Yellowstone," The Dude Rancher, 1:2 (1933): 8
[65]Governor F. H. Cooney, "Speech of Governor F. H. Cooney at the Annual Meeting of the Dude Ranchers Association, Missoula, October 24-26, 1935," The Dude Rancher (November 1935): 1.
[66]Dennis Glick and Ben Alexander, "Development by Default, not Design: Yellowstone National Park and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem," in National Parks and Rural Development: Practice and policy in the United States, Washington, D.C. Island Press, 2000, 186.
[67]Marguerite S. Shaffer, See America First: Tourism and National Identity, 1880-1940 (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 2001), 3.
[68]The See America First movement's impact on the national parks is discussed in chapter 5 of Alfred Runte, National Parks: The American Experience (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1997).
[69]Marguerite S. Shaffer, "'See America First': Re-Envisioning Nation and Region Through Western Tourism," Pacific Historical Review 65 (1996): 563 and 570.
[70](Ibid., 578-79)

Closely connected with the budding "See America First" campaign was the arrival of the Union Pacific Railroad to West Yellowstone in 1908. That year, the Forest Service surveyed and set aside six blocks in the area for a townsite, and the following year the UP constructed an impressive depot to welcome visitors.[71]

As the "See America First" campaign gained momentum nationally, the slogan "permeated the rhetoric of western railroad promotion during the 1910s and 1920s," and railroads re-affirmed their commitment to national park improvements and publicity efforts.[72] Until automobile traffic boomed after World war I, railroads held a virtual monopoly on western tourism and, consequently, were without rival in their ability to positively stimulate travel in the American West. With substantial financial resources and considerable advertising acumen, America's railroads collectively spent "hundreds of thousands of dollars on advertising brochures, complimentary park guidebooks, and full-page magazine spreads, some in luxurious color."[73]

This intense promotional effort not only paid off for the railroads, but also for Yellowstone and eventually the dude ranch industry as well. "Of the 51,895 visitors who entered Yellowstone during the summer of 1915," for example, "fully 44,477 arrived by rail . . ." according to historian Alfred Runte. In the years that followed increasing numbers of tourists traveled by automobile, but despite this fact, no less than five major railroads served Yellowstone and its immediate vicinity by 1930. Indeed, until the economic downturn of the Great Depression, "approximately 40,000 people annually still went to 'wonderland' by train."[74]

The growing popularity of the automobile during the early twentieth century further bolstered tourism in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. As early as 1911, the Gallatin Valley Automobile Association attempted to organize an automobile tour of the Park, and by 1913, the first section of Park road was opened to automobile traffic.[75] By 1925, rangers at Yellowstone's gateways observed that two-thirds of Park visitors "were coming by auto . . ."[76]

The growth of needed transportation infrastructure during the early twentieth century, coupled with the Park-related promotional efforts of wealthy railroad corporations, not only attracted thousands to Yellowstone, it simultaneously gave rise to a thriving dude ranch industry in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Between 1900 and 1930, the number of tourists visiting Yellowstone mushroomed from 18,000 to 260,000. While facilities within the Park increased significantly to better address this increased demand, it was clearly apparent that additional accommodations within close proximity to Yellowstone were critically needed. As Struthers Burt phrased it, "The demand was there before the supply." Consequently, "accommodations were provided at the old cattle ranches, left over from the bonanza days of the cattle era, and at mountain ranches, homesteaded to meet the demand," according to historian Charles Roundy.[77]

Yellowstone and the dude ranch industry had a symbiotic relationship during the early twentieth century. "The closeness of dude ranches to national parks greatly enhances the charm of the ranches in the eyes of many tourists," recognized the Dude Ranch Association in 1933.[78] Indeed, because it represented the epitome of wildness in the national mindset and—thanks to railroad advertising—was a tremendous tourist draw, Yellowstone Park inspired the establishment of dozens of dude ranches in its immediate vicinity, becoming quite literally, "the center of the dude ranch industry of Wyoming and Montana."[79]

Not surprising, area dude ranches—like the Watkins Creek Ranch—capitalized on their proximity to Yellowstone, advertising side trips into Yellowstone as part of their standard offerings, and taking their guests "by horseback and pack-outfit to the Park over the

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[71]Sharee Clark Balinger, "West Yellowstone, Now a Major Tourist Center, Visited Mostly by Mountain Me Prior to 1900," Great Falls Tribune, January 9, 1966, 4.
[72]Kirby Lambert, "The Lure of the Parks," Montana: The Magazine of Western History 46 (Spring 1996): 49.
[73]Alfred Runte, National Parks: The American Experience (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1997), 92. See also Kirby Lambert, "The Lure of the Parks," Montana: The Magazine of Western History 46 (Spring 1996): 42-55.
[74]Alfred Runte, Trains of Discovery: Western Railroads and the National Parks, (Flagstaff, AZ: Northland Press, 1984), 32-34.
[75](Glick and Alexander 2000, 186)
[76]Joel Berstein, Families that Take in Friends: An Informal History of Dude Ranching, Stevensville, MT: Stoneydale Press Publishing, 1982, 45.
[77]Charles G. Roundy, "The Origins and Early Development of Dude Ranching in Wyoming," Annals of Wyoming 45 (Spring 1973): 14-15.
[78]"See the National Parks—The Dude Ranch Way—On Horseback," The Dude Rancher 1:3 (1933): 6.
[79](Edwards, 8)

back-country trails."[80] In the 1950 Edition of The Blue Book of Western Dude Ranches, for example, the Watkins Creek Ranch was described as being part of a "vast wilderness area right next to Yellowstone Park."[81]

Park officials and dude ranch operators alike recognized that "dude ranchers and the Park have a common interest." Understandably, the Dude Ranch Association cultivated close ties with the Park Management, in hopes that both interest could profit from collaborative promotional efforts. As Guy Edwards, Assistant Superintendent of Yellowstone, noted at an annual gathering of the Dude Ranch Association, "The dude ranchers as well as Yellowstone Park wish to sell the West to the East . . . Our common purpose is to tell them about this great Northwest."[82]

Because they were so closely connected with the Park's tourist trade, it was only logical that railroads would also have a keen interest in promoting the dude ranch industry in Montana and Wyoming. Railroads took an especially keen interest in dude ranch promotion after Word War I, when automobile travel was first increasing dramatically and railway officials were concerned about steadily declining revenues. Seeing dude ranches as another opportunity for increasing business, "railroads played a very important role in dude ranching," producing a host of colorful dude ranch promotional brochures during the 1920s and afterward.[83]

As dude ranching emerged as a recognized industry, Ernest Miller, a dude rancher near Bozeman, Montana, contacted A. B. Smith, Passenger Traffic Manager of the Northern Pacific Railway, and suggested that a formal alliance be formed. By the Fall of 1926, railroad officials called a meeting of area dude ranchers out of which was born the Dude Ranchers' Association. In this manner, as historian Charles G. Roundy observed, "the railroads played an important role in bringing dude ranchers together and in supporting the resulting association in the late 1920s and throughout the 1930s."[84]

**Dude Ranching at the Watkins Creek Ranch, 1944-1967:**

The Watkins Creek Ranch was first converted to a dude ranch during the 1940s by Clarence E. "Clix" and Leila Wright who, in partnership with their daughter and son-in-law—Anne and K. Smith—began the operation in earnest shortly after the close of World War II. According to Julie Smith Mannino, the daughter of Anne and K. Smith, "Clix Wright first came to the Hebgen Lake area in the 1930s," during which time he fell in love with the location and soon starting brining his family up to the area from their home in Utah for summer vacations. [85]

Between 1943 and 1944, Wright purchased the Watkins Creek Ranch property from William J. Martzel, who had drawn a homestead patent on the property in 1922. At the time, according to Anne Smith, the property consisted of "a big shed/barn, thatch-covered homestead cabin, wash house and girl's house," as well as several corrals near the southern end of the ranch complex.[86]

Shortly after the Wright's acquired the property from Martzell, K. Smith married Wright's daughter, Anne and finished his military service during World War II. Smith ran a ski school in Brighton, Utah, during the winter months. Prior to the end of Smith's military service, Clix and Leila Wright convinced the couple to join them in the dude ranching business on the shores of Hebgen Lake, during the summer months.

In 1943, the family constructed what became known as "the family cabin," according to Smith. As pressure from family friends mounted, the Wright/Smith family constructed four identical log guest cabins for visitors. In June of 1946, Snedaker and MacDonald Architects of Salt Lake City completed drawings for a "main ranch house cabin for the Ranch of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Wright."

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[80]("See the National Parks . . .", 6)
[81]"The Best Dude Ranches of Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, and Nebraska," The Blue Book of Western Dude Ranches, 1950, 64.
[82](Edwards, 8)
[83]Lawrence R. Borne, "Dude Ranches and the Development of the West," Journal of the West 17 (July 1978): 89. Several examples of dude ranch promotional brochures sponsored by railroads can be found at the Burlingame Special Collections, Renne Library, Montana State University-Bozeman, including: Northern Pacific Railway Company, "Ranch Vacations," (St. Paul: Northern Pacific Railway Company, 1932), Burlingame Special Collections, Renne Library, Montana State University-Bozeman; and Union Pacific Railroad, "Dude Ranches out West," an unpublished pamphlet in Burlingame Special Collections, Renne Library, Montana State University-Bozeman.
[84](Roundy, 21)
[85](Mannino Interview) .
[86](Anne Smith, 2004)

According to handwritten notes on the original architectural drawings, "Shorty" Irwin, a contractor from Three Forks, Montana, completed the job that year.[87]

The Watkins Creek Ranch opened for business during the summer of 1947. From that point on, the property "was never strictly a working ranch," according to Anne Smith, because the Wright/Smith family "only grazed cattle." As such, the Watkins Creek Ranch was "always a guest or dude ranch" after the summer of 1947, according to Smith.[88]

To help ensure the success of their economic venture, the Wright/Smith family joined the Dude Ranch Association as early s 1946 and remained active members until 1967, regularly attending DRA conventions and periodically visiting "other dude ranches to see (and learn from) their operations." Following the advice of the DRA, which regularly promoted the importance of authentic western vacation experiences in a rustic setting, the Wright/Smith family made certain that all of their facilities reflected the region's vernacular architectural landscape, as popularized by Yellowstone National Park and the railroads that serviced the area. "Rustic was just the thing to do," remembered Julie Smith Mannino. "The more remote a property, the more it was in demand."[89]

Advertising for the Watkins Creek Ranch took many forms. A 1948 brochure promoted the Watkins Creek Ranch as a venue "of special interest to the sportsman, the nature lover, the photographer, and the people who desire the choice accommodations of a fine hostelry combined with all of the fascinating interests and activities of western life." Rates for the 1948 season were advertised as $125 per person per week or $500 for a family unit cabin for six persons per week.[90] These prices included "use of saddle horses . . . use of fishing boats and outboard motors, all meals and lodging and guide service for regular activities" during the June 12th – September 15th summer season.

By 1950, prospective clients were beckoned to "Vacation in Montana The Dude Ranch Way at Watkins Creek Ranch, West Yellowstone, Montana." The initial success of the operation was almost immediately evident, and within three years of its welcoming paying guests, the Watkins Creek Ranch was considered as one of "the best dude ranches of Montana, Wyoming, Idaho and Nebraska" by The Blue Book of Western Dude Ranches.[91]

In addition to developing a variety of posters, brochures, and mailings, as was typical with most area dude ranch operations, the Wright/Smith family regularly advertised in Junior League Magazine, which circulated widely to affluent potential clients. But the most successful form of advertising for the Watkins Creek Ranch, however, took the form of a promotional film, which the Wright/Smith Family had made in the late 1940s. Modeling their promotional efforts on the popular Tupperware parties of the day, the Smiths would "travel and set up meetings" with "friends of friends," who would "invite friends to see the ranch film" and book summer vacations at the Watkins Creek Ranch. At these visits, extensive mailing lists were generated. Contact with persons on the list was maintained with Christmas cards and other homespun outreach efforts.[92]

As was the case with most dude ranches in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, railroads provided another "huge, huge part of the business" that was attracted to the Watkins Creek Ranch, according to Mannino. This was especially "in the beginning," because there "were no airplanes" that serviced the vicinity.[93] The railroads not only brought passengers to Montana, but also helped to market the ranch through a variety of dude ranch publications and promotional efforts. As late as the early 1960s, Ranch brochures proudly noted that the Watkins Creek Ranch was "recommended by the Northern Pacific Railway" and that interested parties could "call on any

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[87]Original architectural drawings in possession of Julie Smith Mannino. The principal of the architectural firm was Ross Lloyd Snedaker, who received his architectural training from the University of Michigan and Harvard University between 1925 and 1931. By the 1940s, Snedaker was a well-known and influential Salt Lake City architect, responsible for such notable landmarks as the Continental Bank Building and the University of Utah's Orson Spencer Hall. Snedaker was also intimately associated with resort architecture in Utah – particularly ski areas, such as Park City, Solitude, Alta, and Brighton, where K. Smith operated a ski school in the winter months. The Wright-Smith family likely came into contact with Snedaker in Brighton, Utah, and hired the firm of Snedaker and MacDonald to complete plans for the Main Ranch House/Main Lodge at Watkins Creek Ranch in June 1946.
[88](Anne Smith)
[89](Mannino Interview)
[90]"Watkins Creek Ranch" Brochure, 1948, in the possession of Julie Smith Mannino.
[91](The Best Dude Ranches . . .)
[92](Mannino Interview)
[93](Ibid.)

Northern Pacific office for reservations at Watkins Creek Ranch." Travelers riding the N.P.'s Vista Dome North Coast Limited would arrive in Bozeman or Gardiner, Montana, and were promised that "the ranch car will meet you at the station."[94]

Like other dude ranches in the area, the clients who visited the Watkins Creek ranch were typically quite well off. First and foremost they were fisherman, according to Smith, "then families, mostly from the Mid-West and East coast."[95] Hack Miller, editor of the Deseret News in Salt Lake City was a regular visitor, as was Isabel Lincoln—granddaughter of John D. Rockefeller, who owned property near the Tetons in Wyoming. Lincoln like the Watkins Creek property so much that she eventually constructed her own guest cabin immediately west of the other guest cabins in about 1954. The Lincolns provided a significant amount of word of mouth advertising to affluent clients back East, according to Mannino.[96]

Recognizing that most of their clients were accustomed to a life of comfort, the Watkins Creek Ranch sought to strike a balance between the rustic western atmosphere that wealthy eastern clients desired and the modern conveniences that they demanded. Like most successful dude ranch operators, the Wright/Smith families simultaneously promoted the best of both worlds. While they were "an operating cattle ranch," they also noted that no expense had been spared to provide "comfortable guest accommodations in well-built, modern cabins . . ." with "a large wardrobe, fireplace, bathroom with shower, hot and cold running water, electricity, and all conveniences." In the event that all this luxury might seem too modern in character to afford a truly western experience, brochures also noted that "all furnishings were in a western style."[97]

Guests at the Watkins Creek Ranch partook in a variety of summer vacation activities. As a 1948 publication noted:

> Life on an operating ranch offers many varied and interesting things to do each day, and no two days are like. One can do everything with the pleasant satisfaction of knowing there is nothing one must do, and plain and fancy loafing is rather popular. Those who desire more activity can ride after cattle, enjoy horseback trips in the woods, fish to their heart's content in all types of water . . . enjoy boats on the lake, swim, shoot skeet, water ski, play badminton, or horseshoes, or just sit on a corral fence and swap stories.[98]

According to Mannino, about three times a week the Ranch made auto excursions into Yellowstone National Park, with their guests. Typically these trips made "the big loop," visiting Norris, Canyon, Lake, and Old Faithful, before returning to the Ranch.[99]

Nightlife took a variety of forms for the guests of the Watkins Creek Ranch. In the evenings, bridge playing, bon fires, Jim Canna, and cocktail parties were commonplace on the shores of Hebgen Lake. The "shops, bars, gaming tables and never ending stream of interesting people" comprising "frontier town" of West Yellowstone—some eighteen miles to the east—were also a regularly advertised amenity in brochures and publications.

By the early 1950s, the Wrights were growing older and sold their portion of the Watkins Creek Ranch to Anne and K. Smith. By 1954, Leila's cabin was constructed of the hill above the Main Lodge. She continued to visit periodically in the summer months, until her death in the 1960s.

On the night of August 17, 1959, a shocking 7.5 magnitude earthquake—the strongest ever recorded in the Intermountain West—rattled the Hebgen Lake area, plunging half of a 7,600-foot high mountain into the restless foam below, launching a raging, 20-foot high torrent of water down the narrow Madison Canyon, and killing twenty-eight campers in the vicinity. Several highways, bridges, and summer homes near Hebgen Lake were seriously damaged or altogether destroyed.

The earthquake of 1959 also rocked the very foundations of the Watkins Creek Ranch, causing extensive damage to the ranch complex as well as its business operations. "The earthquake had a huge impact," recalled Anne Smith. "We had a full house" at the ranch, and

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[94](Watkins Creek Ranch Brochure, n.d. in possession of Julie Smith Mannino)
[95](Anne Smith)
[96](Julie Smith Mannino Interview) For information on Lincoln and her connections with the Rockefeller Family see Elmer, Isabel Lincoln. *Cinderella Rockefeller: An Autobiography*. New York:
Freundlich Books, 1987.
[97]( Watkins Creek Ranch Brochure, n.d. in possession of Julie Smith Mannino)
[98](Watkins Creek Ranch" Brochure, 1948)
[99](Ibid)

plans for "a full season." But with the earthquake, we had to reckon with "canceled reservations." Adding insult to injury, the Smith family faced the expense of significant repairs. Masonry features, most notably the fireplace in the Main Lodge were seriously impacted, as was the main road accessing the ranch from the south. During the crisis, helicopter's used the Watkins Creek Ranch as a landing area for rescue and refueling operations, according to Ranch Manager Robin Locke.[100]

Following the death of "Clix" Wright in 1952, Leila Wright and Anne and K. Smith continued to run the Watkins Creek Ranch. The three continued the operations until the fall of 1967, when the sold the property to the Watkins Creek Ranch Company, which was comprised of investors Bob Dye, David Keith, Peter Combs, and Neil O'Donnell. By the early 1970s, the Ranch was closed and began to experience some deterioration due to neglect. In 1982, Albrecht, who also owned the Crescent Ranch on Jackson Hole, Wyoming, purchased the Watkins Creek Ranch and for a time held the property as a sister ranch. In 1992, Albrecht sold the property to three attorneys—Skip Bridingham, Dale Kinsella, and Marshall Gaylor, who renamed the property the Firehole Ranch in hopes of better attracting a fly-fishing clientele. They held the property until August of 1999, when its current owner, Lynda Caine, purchased it.

**Dude Ranch Architecture in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem:**

The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem was home to dozens of dude ranches during the first half of the twentieth century. [101] Some operations dated back to the earliest years of dude ranching in Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming, while others were more recent in origin. Similarly, while some dude ranches were capable of handling only a few guests at any one time, others were far larger in scope. Most dude ranches evolved over time rather than being entirely constructed in one fell swoop. But while each dude ranch was distinct, and the factors motivating property owners to embrace dude ranching were many, virtually all "had some common features," which enable surviving dude ranches to be classified as distinguishable built environments today. [102] The types of historic buildings and structures found in planned dude ranch complexes of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, as well as the arrangement of these site features, commonly followed predicable patterns of development. In addition, historic dude ranch architecture was (and is) almost always characterized by the "Rustic" style which, for a variety of reasons discussed below, grew out of the ideological climate of the early twentieth century, and came to epitomize the architecture of western tourist destinations during the 1900-1950 period.[103]

The types of buildings and structures comprising historic dude ranch complexes throughout the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem share many similarities. When dude ranch complexes were planned—such as in the case of the Watkins Creek Ranch—"a prime feature," according to historian Lawrence R. Borne, "was a central lodge." Central lodges typically featured one or more fireplaces, which provided heat and atmosphere simultaneously. Central lodges also contained "three or four large rooms for lounging, square dancing, other recreation, and eating, unless a separate building housing the dining room." Kitchens, food storage, and refrigeration, were often adjacent to the dining area. While some lodges had living quarters in them, "other ranches had one-, two-, or three-room cabins nearby for the guests." Porches, which "emphasized the relaxation and slower pace" of the ranch, were also quite commonplace on central lodges, as well as on the guest cabins. Other buildings supplied needed living quarters for the ranch foreman, cook, wranglers, and other help. A variety of other utilitarian buildings for storage, as well as barns and corrals for the horses, were almost always present as well.[104]

Despite their varied locations and sizes, planned dude ranch complexes were also often sited in a generally consistent manner. Because a reliable fresh water supply was essential, most were situated on streams or rivers, which not only furnished drinking water and a needed sanitation system, but also further enhanced the ranch's scenic value, recreational amenities, and overall appeal.

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[100] (Anne Smith; Locke interview.)

[101] In 1937, the Wyoming legislature legally defined a dude ranch as "a ranch offering accommodations, entertainment, and participation in regular ranch activities to guests for monetary compensation." The definition is quoted in "Dude Ranches Excluded from Unemployment Compensation Contributions in Wyoming," The Dude Rancher 7:1 (January 1939): 2.

[102] (Borne 1983, 122-23.) See also Raymond J. Raddy, "Dude Ranching is not all Yippee!," The Western Horseman 17:4 (April 1952): 16, 35-40.

[103] For a discussion of the character-defining features of rustic architecture see William C. Tweed, Laura E. Soulliere, and Henry G. Law, "Rustic Architecture: 1916-1942," National Park Service, Western Regional Office, Division of Cultural Management, February 1977, 1-3. A comprehensive overview of the ideological and architectural influences that gave rise to the popular rustic style in America see Linda Flint McClelland, Presenting Nature: The historic Landscape Design of the National Park Service: 1916-1942 (Washington, D.C. National Park Service, 1993).

[104] (Borne, 122-23)

Additionally, because the central buildings of virtually all dude ranch complexes in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem were wooden—and typically log—they needed to "be spaced far enough apart to eliminate hazard if one caught fire, and yet close enough for ease in getting around the ranch." In some instances, buildings were spaced along streams or lakes to enhance the sensory experiences of paying guests while simultaneously facilitating firefighting, but this often minimized the communal aspects of the dude ranch experience. To overcome this drawback, while still addressing concerns of safety and convenience, many ranch compounds were thoughtfully arranged around a central green-space or parkland. These common areas afforded a functional space for cherished communal activities, like picnicking, horseshoes, or baseball, while simultaneously providing the guest cabins with "a good view of the surrounding countryside" and "the horses and corral activities." Because rustic simplicity was always desired, "none of these features had to be elaborate," according to Borne, "but the ranch had to be well planned, clean, and comfortable."[105]

Stylistically, most dude ranches shared commonalities as well. The vast majority of dude ranch buildings and structures can generally be classified as "Rustic" in style. Popular in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and especially associated with wilderness tourist destinations, the Rustic Movement "was a natural outgrowth of a new romanticism about nature, about our country's western frontiers," according to National Park Service Historical Architect Merrill Ann Wilson. Fostered by a growing conservation ethic of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the Rustic style was architecturally "unique" in that, "for the first time in the history of American architecture, a building became an accessory to nature . . ."[106]

The Rustic style is generally characterized by "the use of native materials in proper scale" and "the avoidance of rigid, straight lines, and over-sophistication," according to National Park Service Architectural Consultant Albert H. Good. Through these simple means, the style "gives the feeling of having been executed by pioneer craftsmen with limited hand tools," and when "successfully handled," it "thus achieves sympathy with natural surroundings, and with the past."[107]

In many respects, Rustic design was perfectly suited for dude ranches in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem—so much so, in fact, that by the 1930s, rustic architecture and dude ranching were virtually joined at the hip. "Everywhere you go in the dude ranch country, you see log cabins," one observer noted in The Dude Rancher magazine, the official publication of the Dude Ranch Association (DRA). Testifying to the popularity of log cabin construction during the heyday of the dude ranch industry, the DRA went on to celebrate the surprising fact that "more log cabins were built in the United States in 1933, than in any other year since Lincoln's time."[108]

Blending well with their scenic natural surroundings and pre-existing built environments, Rustic dude ranch buildings celebrated the pioneer days and frontier living with a great deal of nostalgia, much like western tourists themselves. Widespread reliance on log construction, therefore, was more than merely convenient in the heavily forested Mountain West; it expressed a philosophical statement that grew out of ideological climate of the early-twentieth century. "Real log cabins represented more than artful simplicity," Peter Schmidt has noted. "They expressed an attitude toward life itself."[109]

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Several factors help to explain why virtually all dude ranch-related buildings and structures in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem share common characteristics. First, the remoteness of the ranches—especially those that developed prior to reliable transportation systems—virtually mandated the utilization of indigenous materials in the construction of dude ranch buildings and structures. Log, stone, and other unrefined materials were utilized, at least initially, out of necessity and convenience.

In addition, dude ranch architecture in the vicinity of Yellowstone National Park usually reflected the authentic utilitarian, pre-industrial character and appearance of the pioneer West for the simple reason that—like the Watkins Creek Ranch—most dude ranches were originally homesteads and/or working ranches prior to their taking on paying guests. Most ranches looked like the real thing because originally they were authentic working ranches. Even after they embraced tourism as a means of generating additional

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[105](Ibid.)
[106] Merrill Ann Wilson, "Rustic Architecture: The National Park Style," Trends, (July August September, 1976), 4-5.
[107]Albert H. Good. Park and Recreation Structures: Part I—Administration and Basic Service Facilities , a reprint of the 1938 edition published by the United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999, 5
[108]"Log Cabins," The Dude Rancher 4:7 (May 1935): 7.
[109] Peter J. Schmidt, Back to Nature: The Arcadian Myth in Urban America (New York: Oxford University Press, 1969): 168.

income, most dude ranches continued to function—at least in part—as working agricultural operations, much to the delight of Eastern visitors.[110]

Working ranches that later added facilities to accommodate paying guests—such as central lodges, guest cabins, dining halls, and the like—almost always based the design and materials of these newer amenities on the architectural character of pre-existing structures, so as to convey a more authentic, compatible, and cohesive appearance overall. A consistency of materials and basic architectural forms was, as a result, consciously maintained over time because it was practical and architecturally appropriate to do so.

As larger numbers of successful dude ranch operations sprang into existence during the early decades of twentieth century "approximately twenty percent were started for the sole purpose of entertaining guests," according to Joel H. Bernstein.[111] Many of these dude ranch operators copied the historic architectural designs and construction methods found on their competitors' ranches for the simple reason that this established dude ranch character is what paying guests had come to expect on their vacations. Dude ranches that failed to reflect this ambiance would almost certainly be viewed as inauthentic and, thus, less desirable by perspective customers and the dude ranch industry generally.

Following its establishment in 1926, Dude Ranch Association formally recognized the economic advantages of architectural authenticity and regularly promoted "keeping the ranch real—a genuinely western spot" in its annual meetings and quarterly publications. During a DRA workshop in 1929, for example, Northern Pacific General Passenger Agent Max Goodsill encouraged his audience to avoid having buildings or decorations that didn't look western, noting distastefully that some ranches had stucco or tile fireplaces instead of native stone, and another had (God forbid) wallboard imported from New Orleans, rather than utilizing native materials.[112]

While marketing and promotion were central to the dude rancher's success, excessive on-site advertising and other types of inappropriate development in close proximity to dude ranches were also regularly discouraged by the DRA. Too much standardization and auto-oriented commercialization—especially when it adversely impacted natural beauty or the preconceived romantic notions of tourists—was scorned by most dude ranch advocates as being counterproductive to the collective goals of the industry. As one promoter noted in a 1935 publication of the Dude Ranch Association:

> To me, one of the most distressing things in connection with Wyoming and Montana's adoption to the new order of things, is the abandonment of the native characteristic of the states. This is presented in a painful manner by the hodge podge of shacks that line our tourist lanes; some of the tourist camps, hot dog stands, and other structures erected along the highways to attract the pennies of the traveler. Many of these are of an incongruous type, completely out of line with the scenic beauties of these states. Why not tear down these horrible examples of architecture and erect buildings which will appeal to the eye and represent to a degree the rugged character of the mountains and plains, something rustic which will aid in carrying out the idea that Wyoming and Montana are states of supreme grandeur and not a Coney Island playground . . . The idea of keeping scenery inviolate should be uppermost in the minds of western people.[113]

While dude ranch operators prided themselves on being "authentic" architecturally and otherwise, they were also quite conscious of the fact that they were catering to tourists with preconceived notions of what "frontier," and "Western," and "resort" architecture should look like. Thus, to a certain extent, dude ranch architecture in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem was not exclusively a product of

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[110]As Jerome Rodnitzky has observed, "Two types of dude ranches incorporating actual ranch life developed. The first was a working cattle ranch, a genuine, serious enterprise set up to make profits from the products it raised, and separate from dude revenue. Such outfits were range-country ranches, big enough to carry cattle through the winter. Their size . . . was an important attraction. The other type was the mountain ranch, typically located in breath-taking scenic country. Here, in most cases, snow covered pastureland much of the year, preventing year-round ranching. Although mountain ranches usually were not self-supporting without tourist clientele, they joined with working ranches in spending thousands of dollars advertising the fact that they were not resorts. See Jerome L. Rodnitzky, "Recapturing the West: The Dude Ranch in American Life," Arizona and the West 10 (Summer 1968): 112.

[111]Joel H. Bernstein, Families that Take in Friends: An Informal History of Dude Ranching (Stevensville, MT: Stonydale Press Publishing Co., 1982), 95.

[112](Borne, 165)

[113]"The Individuality of the Dude Ranch," The Dude Rancher 4:7 (May 1935): 6 and 25

pre-existing architectural patterns on the western landscape. Rather, it was also consciously stylized and/or embellished in order to meet the preconceived notions of a primarily Eastern clientele. Though they would probably not admit it, dude ranch operators often sought to tap into and perpetuate "(a)n elaborate mythology and iconography" that, over time, became "associated in the popular mind" with wilderness architecture and the American West generally. This was not done willy-nilly, but rather consciously reflected a long tradition of rustic architectural influences and pervasive cultural perceptions of what life on the western frontier once was and should always be.[114]

**Early Influences on Rustic Dude Ranch Architecture:**

Rustic architecture evolved from a number of stylistic influences which, coupled with regional precedents, helped to shape the physical form and character of dude ranches in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. As early as 1842, landscape architect Andrew Jackson Downing promoted the idea of seeking a visual harmony between structure and setting.[115] Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. and H. H. Richardson strengthened the connections between architecture and landscape architecture, by forging a sturdy, Rustic style of architecture for a multitude of local, metropolitan, state, and national park buildings and structures beginning in the 1880s.[116]

The Rustic style pioneered by Olmstead and Richardson was also derived from the Shingle style, which rapidly spread across the country in the latter decades of the nineteenth century. Although favored for the rambling seaside estates and resorts of the New England coast, the style found enduring expression in the architecture of a variety of recreational destinations well into the twentieth century. Celebrating the use of rugged proportions, irregular massing, overhanging roofs, projecting gables, open entrance porches, and native materials, the popular Shingle style helped form the vocabulary for tourist oriented structures in the Greater Yellowstone area and elsewhere, as late as the 1920s and 1930s.[117]

Like dude ranch architecture generally, the Shingle style was essentially an American development, that "did not destroy, but enhanced and grew upon vernacular building," according to scholar Vincent Scully. With their native materials, rustic craftsmanship, and environmental adaptations, Shingle style buildings incorporated features drawn from local vernacular forms such as the homes of pioneers and early settlers. The use of indigenous materials allowed designers to match the textures and coloration of the surrounding environs, while unifying groups of buildings and structures built for different functions and at varying scales. This recognition and connection with vernacular traditions regularly appears in the use of indigenous and pioneering prototypes, materials, and craftsmanship in park and dude ranch buildings of the 1900-1950 period.[118]

**Dude Ranches and the Adirondack Influence:**

Eastern expectations of Western dude ranch architecture were especially shaped by the stylistic influences of Eastern resort architecture—most notably the Great Camp architecture of the Adirondack Mountains in northern New York State. Here William West Durant and others developed some of the earliest and strongest expressions of a picturesque rustic style appropriate for rugged natural areas after 1879. Durant sited his camps to fit the natural contours of the land, to take advantage of scenic views, and to offer a host of outdoor activities. Like western dude ranches, the architectural forms and functional designs of the Adirondack camps were derived from the pioneer building traditions of a region with a severe climate and an abundant local supply of logs and boulders. The camps were frequently oriented toward water and consisted of several individual buildings arranged within the natural topography and separated by function. Sleeping accommodations were typically housed in small cabins. Eating and social gatherings often took place in the lodge, constructed as a central gathering place. As with dude ranches in the mountain west, this arrangement enabled the camps

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[114]Terry G. Jordan, Jon T. Kilpinen, and Charles F. Gritzner, The Mountain West: Interpreting the Folk Landscape (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997), 3.

[115]Downing publicized his ideas on "picturesque" landscape and the importance of nature in architectural design in a number of works, including A. J. Downing, Rural Essays (Boston: Leavitt and Allen, 1857).

[116]Linda Flint McClelland, Presenting Nature: The Historic Landscape Design of the National Park Service: 1916-1942 (Washington, D.C. National Park Service, 1993), overview section.

[117] Information on the Shingle style features comes from: Vincent J. Scully, Jr. The Shingle Style and The Stick Style (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1977), pp. 71-112. See also Rachel Carley, The Visual Dictionary of American Architecture (New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1996, 163-165.

[118] Ibid., p. 89.

to increase in size through the years and become small villages. Staff housing and utilities were commonly built in separate "service complexes" located away from the central camp.[119]

The Adirondack style expanded the philosophy of rural architecture into a major form of picturesque ornamentation. Branches from the surrounding woodland were gathered, entwined, and tied to create a wide variety of imaginative forms, such as the name of the camp or decorative porch railings. These forms became an insignia of the Adirondack style and were copied elsewhere in rustic recreational architecture, appearing in signs, gateways, bridges, and cabins across the nation by the turn of the century. A whole style of decorative arts grew up around this type of rustic ornamentation and extended to handcrafted furniture and interior design, as well as exterior features. Variations appeared in the West that incorporated discarded antlers of elk and the leather and hides of domestic and wild animals. A number of the early hotels in national parks, such as Yellowstone National Park's Old Faithful Inn, were influenced by the architecture as well as the decorative arts characteristic of the Adirondack style.[120]

The William A. Read Camp (1906) by the architectural firm of Davis, McGrath, and Shepard was one of the few Adirondack camps designed by an architect. Published in a 1907 article in *House and Garden*, it established a nationwide aesthetic for rustic construction that provided a perfect prototype for later designs in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and elsewhere. Projecting gable ends, broad overhangs, corbelled logs, stepped corner logs at the foundations and roof supports, sophisticated log construction and detailing, and a massive stone chimney were important character-defining features. Solid hewn beams with chamfered edges were supported on corbelled brackets. Great importance was attached to the small paned windows, which resembled those of frontier cabins and added to the quaintness of the building. The dining room was a large octagonal room with an exposed roofing system of heavy hand-hewn trusses and a huge stone fireplace measuring six and a half feet wide by five feet high. These characteristics would find their way to national parks and western dude ranches through popular appeal, as well as contemporary journals and magazines, including *American Architect and Building News, House and Garden,* and *The Craftsman.*[121]

**Dude Ranches and Architectural Pattern Books:**

With the growing popularity of the Back to Nature Movement and vacationing in America, a host of resort camp pattern books emerged during the first half of the twentieth century to aid would-be dude ranch operators in establishing the rustic architectural character that their guests expected. Using the built environments of the Adirondack Camps as a model, these guidebooks helped to standardize the architectural designs of mountain resort and dude ranch architecture, encouraging would-be builders to successfully integrate modern wiring, plumbing, and powder rooms with what one enthusiast called "the picturesqueness of the pioneer days."[122]

Of the architectural pattern books stemming from the Adirondack tradition, the most influential was Augustus Shepard's 1931 publication *Camps in the Woods.*[123] Upholding the idea that camps should be designed in a manner "inspired by the woods," Shepard maintained that "the buildings must be designed so that they actually appear to grow out of the ground; they must take their place in the woods as a part of the woods."[124]

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[119]Harvey H. Kaiser, *Great Camps of the Adirondacks* (Boston: David R. Godine, 1986), pp. 12-13, and 65-66. According to Kaiser, the arrangement of the Adirondack camps in a "compound-plan tradition" was derived from the forest camps of Japan, Europe, and Russia. At Durant's Camp Pine Knot, buildings were scattered informally across the land, each being situated for views while maintaining proximity to one another. This type of arrangement would be imitated in many of the cabin clusters built during the 1930s in state and national parks and would become a model for the arrangement of the organization camps in recreational demonstration areas. As in the case of western dude ranches, this arrangement afforded privacy and fire protection and allowed the siting of individual buildings for view and accommodation to the terrain without destroying the sense of community and settlement.

[120]The historical evolution and character-defining features of the Adirondack Style are discussed in Frank Graham, Jr. The Adirondack Park: A Political History (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1978, especially chapters 5 and 6.

[121]See (Kaiser, introduction)

[122](Schmidt, 168) See also Charles V. Boyd, "The Old Fashioned Log Cabin is the New Fashioned Summer Camp . . ." Women's Home Companion XLIII (May 1916): 46. Examples of architectural pattern books include: William A. Bruette, Log Camps and Cabins: How to Build and Furnish Them, New York: Nessmuk Library, 1934 and William Swanson, Log Cabins, New York: The Macmillan Company, 1948.

[123]Augustus D. Shepard, Camps in the Woods (New York: Architectural Book Publishing Company, 1931), p. 1.

[124]Ibid., 24.

Following the advice of Shepard's *Camps in the Woods*, and other pattern books that came before and after, Western dude ranches and national parks drew heavily on the Adirondack tradition. Both incorporated many of the characteristic aspects of the style in their attempts to better meet the expectations of a primarily Eastern clientele, including: the use of native logs and rock in a rustic unfinished form; the naturalistic placement of structures; the incorporation of porches and viewing platforms; the climatic adaptation of using native stone for the foundation and lower story and native timber above; the use of stone chimneys with massive fireplaces and mantles; the creation of open interiors with ceilings of exposed rafters and trusses; and a multitude of multi-pane windows. These characteristics perfectly suited the need to attract visitors and to harmonize amenities with natural setting.

**Dude Ranch Architecture and Yellowstone National Park:**

Hal K. Rotherman has noted that National Parks "function as a way to standardize tourism."[125] National Parks—and Yellowstone in particular—also played a significant role in standardizing popular notions of tourist-oriented architecture in the American West.

Playing off of and reinforcing the trends mentioned above was the emerging standardization of the Rustic style as the character-defining architecture of Yellowstone and the other national parks. The rustic built environment of Yellowstone National Park itself, which Park officials consciously promoted during the 1900-1941 period, profoundly influenced dude ranch architecture in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The evolving built environment of Yellowstone specifically, and of the National Park Service generally, profoundly effected public perceptions of what Western architecture in a natural setting should look like, while simultaneously perpetuating many older architectural precedents from a pre-existing regional vernacular landscape.

During the late nineteenth century, most buildings constructed in Yellowstone "fell into the mainstreams of American architecture" and, consequently, were "built without strong concern for the surrounding natural resources."[126] Early park buildings, such as the Northern Pacific's 1883 Hotel at Mammoth Hot Springs, while outwardly expressing the grandeur and sophistication of the Queen Anne Style, did not meet the more rustic expectations of Park visitors. Many tourists found its design and forced elegance rather jarring in a wilderness setting. The nineteenth century poet Joaquin Miller, for example, "deplored" the fact that such a structure was "thrust out in the face of the noblest things in nature." [127]

In time, the Northern Pacific recognized that architecture was a significant component of the visitor's experience in Yellowstone and, thereafter, took steps to better ensure that the Park's built environment was more compatible with its natural surroundings. Between 1898 and 1899, the railroad turned over operation of the Yellowstone Park Association to Henry Child, a Montana land and cattle speculator. Like the area dude ranchers of the early twentieth century, Child hoped to capitalize on the exceptional nature of Yellowstone's environment by constructing a first-class hotel that would "remind visitors of their surroundings rather than insulting them from the landscape."[128]

Sensitive to America's growing infatuation with the out-of-doors and architectural forms that celebrated nature, Child hired architect Robert Reamer to design several important structures in Yellowstone, including the Northern Pacific depot at Gardiner, Montana, the Roosevelt Arch at northern border of the Park, and, most notably, the impressive Old Faithful Inn. If the former two structures introduced Yellowstone and its visitors to rustic architecture and "created a lasting identity for Yellowstone National Park," the latter—widely regarded as Reamer's masterpiece—firmly established what became known as "the Rustic Style" in the mindset of the Western American tourists of the early twentieth century.[129]

More than merely fitting into "the vastness and perceived savagery of the western landscape," more than serving as a "fortress of protection against the awe-inspiring range of natural forces," Reamer's massive log and stone Old Faithful Inn "embodied in physical form the anti-urban longings of an increasingly confined and 'feminized' Victorian middle class," according to Architectural Historian

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[125]Hal K. Rotherman, "A History of U.S. National Parks and Economic Development," in National Parks and Rural Development: Practice and Policy in the United States , Washington, D.C.: Island Press, 2000, 52.
[126]Laura Soulliere Harrison, Architecture in the Parks National Historic Landmark Theme Study (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, Department of the Interior, November 1986), 1
[127]Joaquin Miller, quoted in Anne Farrar Hyde, An American Vision: Far Western Landscape and National Culture, 1820-1920 (New York: NYU Press, 1990), 251.
[128]See (Hyde, 254-255)
[129]David Leavengood, "A Sense of Shelter: Robert C. Reamer in Yellowstone National Park," Pacific Historical Review 54 (1985): 498

David Leavengood.[130] Inspired by Yellowstone's magnificent landscape, Reamer's grand scale and "extravagant use of logs" evoked a "wild, frontier feeling" that physically expressing the cultural longings of many urbanized Easterners in exaggerated terms.[131] As architectural historian Laura Soulliere Harrison has noted, "(i)ts influence on American architecture, particularly park architecture, was immeasurable in its use of natural materials to create a feeling of high-style rusticity."[132]

Reamer's ability to create the architectural imagery that embodied the romance of the West was immediately viewed by the railroads and Yellowstone Park officials as a marketing goldmine. Hoping to sell more passenger tickets to exotic places like Yellowstone, those most vested in promoting western tourism rapidly moved toward a standardized policy regarding new construction projects in Yellowstone. The peeled log construction, boulder masonry, rough finishes and textures, massive proportions, and pseudo-pioneer construction techniques employed in Reamer's celebrated design, helped establish what would thereafter be perceived as the "appropriate style for buildings, furniture, and other construction in many national park settings, according to Ethan Carr.[133]

Growing appreciation for the value of aesthetically designed built environments in natural areas prompted the newly created National Park Service to issue its first "Statement of Policy" on May 13, 1918. The policy mandated the "harmonizing improvements such as roads, trails, and buildings, with the landscape," thereby laying the groundwork for all architectural design in National Parks until World War II. This seminal Statement of Policy inspired influential park employees, like Thomas C. Vint of the National Park Service's Branch of Plans and Designs, to create built environments that were "as unobtrusive and harmonious as possible in their park settings."[134]

In the years between World War I and America's entry into World War II, the National Park Service modernized and developed the National Park system extensively. Park Service landscape architects and Engineers designed scenic roads, campgrounds, administrative "villages," and a myriad of other park facilities in what proved to be "the most intensive period of such human alterations in the history of the parks."[135]

During the New Deal era—an especially vibrant time in Yellowstone and other national parks—the design principles, process, and practices of the National Park Service were institutionalized nationwide. Through a program of technical assistance, the National Park Service reviewed and approved project plans for the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and hired inspectors, architects, landscape architects, and engineers to design and supervise CCC and WPA projects. To better train its new employees while ensuring an overall consistency with established precedents, the National Park Service also published its own pattern books, most notably *Park Structures and Facilities* of 1935 and the three-volume *Park and Recreation Structures* of 1938. Funded by the Civilian Conservation Corps and edited by Albert H. Good of the State Park Division, these profusely illustrated works addressed design problems as divergent as "Signs and Markers" "Concession Buildings," and "Shelters and Recreation Buildings."[136] Echoing many of the principles presented in Augustus Shepard's book, *Camps in the Woods,* the Park Service books instituted the Rustic style as the official design motif of the national park system. With these mechanisms in

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[130](Leavengood, 500)
[131](Harrison, 2)
[132](Ibid., 67)
[133]Ethan Carr, Wilderness by Design: Landscape Architecture and the National Park Service (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1998): 62.
[134](Harrison, 4)
[135](Carr, 1)
[136] National Park Service, Park Structures and Facilities (Washington, D.C: Government Printing Office, 1935), 2.

place, the built environments in national parks (and in many state and local parks as well) acquired "the consistent appearance, character, and level of convenience that most visitors have since come to associate, almost unconsciously, with their experience of park scenery, wildlife, and wilderness," according to Ethan Carr.[137]

Not coincidentally, it was during this same vibrant period that the Park Service's process of working with "the peculiarities of the site to dictate the style of the building" to develop "a new architectural vocabulary," would rapidly become the dominant design motif for dude ranches throughout the entire region.[138] Incorporating and celebrating the past, while simultaneously being harmonious with the natural environment was precisely what dude ranch operators of the early twentieth century hoped to accomplish, and thus the Rustic Style was widely utilized in dude ranch settings throughout the region. Although the rustic style began to fall out of favor in Yellowstone and elsewhere toward the end of the Great Depression, it continued to remain popular in park-related recreational sites, like western dude ranches.

[137](Carr, 1)
[138](Hyde, 256) See also (Leavengood, 498-504).

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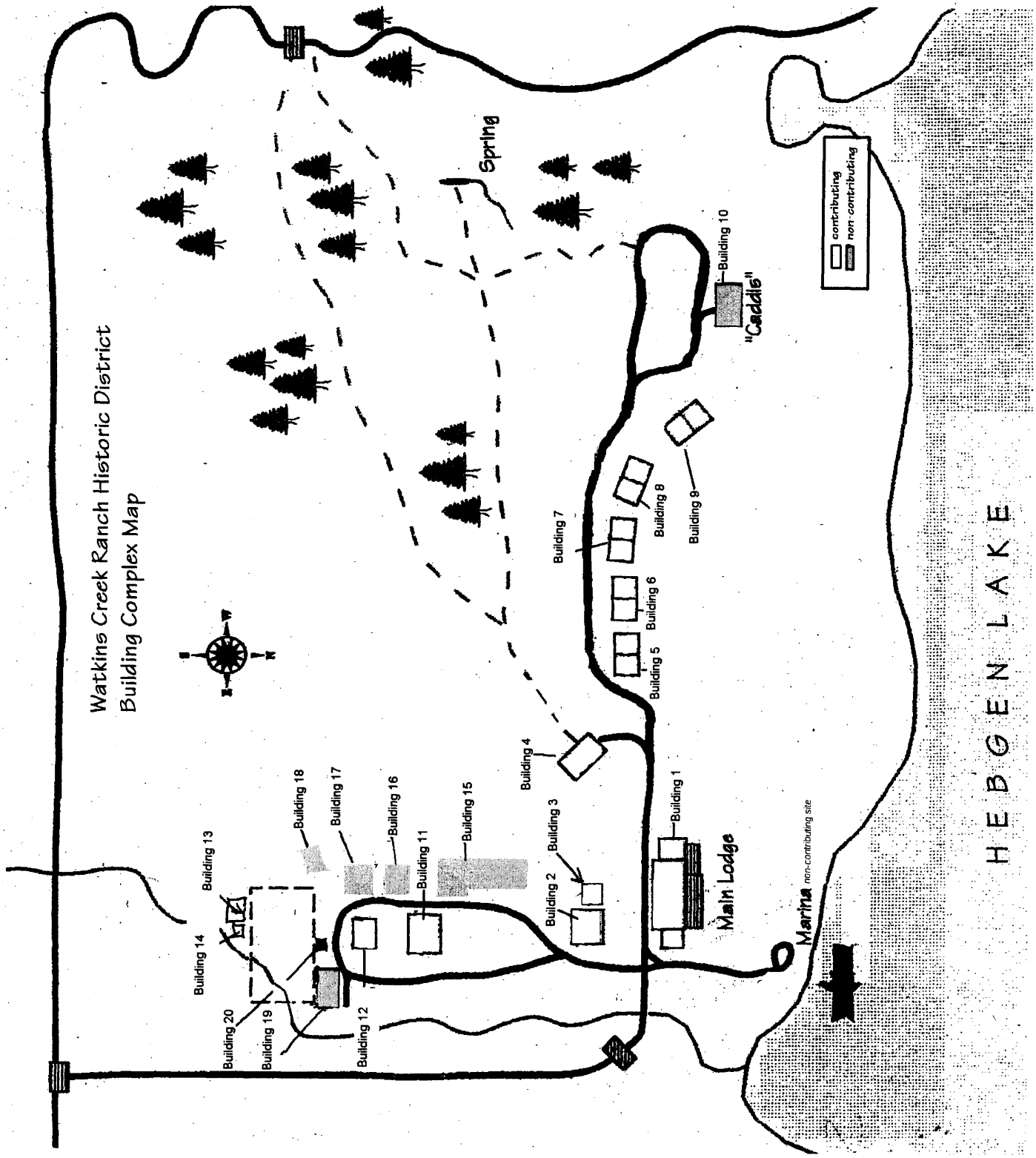
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|---|---|---|---|
| E | 12 | 477011 | 4962418 |
| F | 12 | 477332 | 4962418 |
| G | 12 | 477278 | 4962061 |
| H | 12 | 477457 | 4961982 |
| I | 12 | 477173 | 4960462 |
| J | 12 | 476659 | 4960461 |
| K | 12 | 476668 | 4960905 |
| L | 12 | 476846 | 4960910 |
| M | 12 | 476857 | 4961276 |
| N | 12 | 476932 | 4961280 |
| O | 12 | 476932 | 4961677 |
| P | 12 | 477028 | 4961669 |
| Q | 12 | 477027 | 4961962 |
| R | 12 | 476713 | 4961975 |

**Verbal Boundary Description:**

The Watkins Creek Ranch Historic District boundaries encompass lands in Sections 6 and 7, Township 12 South, Range 4 East. The topography of the lands within these boundaries is varied, ranging from marshlands along the Hebgen Lake shoreline to rolling grasslands and timbered benches. Most of the area has been left undeveloped by industry or agriculture. Specific boundaries of the district are as follows: Beginning at the northeast corner of the intersection of the gravel county road that borders the Gallatin Nation Forest and the primary gravel access road to the Firehole Ranch (UTM Point I), following the eastern border of the gravel access road in a northeasterly direction (toward Hebgen Lake) approximately 5000' until reaching the primary east-west gravel road that enters the Firehole Ranch proper (UTM Point H). Follow the northern boundary of this east-west gravel road until reaching the primary four-way-intersection at the heart of the Firehole Ranch Complex (UTM Point G). Proceed northward along the eastern boundary of the gravel road until coming to the Hebgen Lake shoreline (UTM Point F). Follow the Hebgen Lake Shoreline in a westerly direction to UTM Point E. The boundary then jogs south, east, and west, following the eastern boundary of the Watkins Creek Property. From UTM Point E, the boundary turns south to UTM Point D, then west to Point C, south to Point B, and west again to Point A. From Point A, the boundary line turns south again to UTM Point R, east to UTM Point Q, and south to UTM Point P. From UTM Point P, the boundary follows the property line west to UTM Point O, then south to UTM Point N, and then jogs west again just 75 meters to UTM Point M. From UTM Point M, the National Register Boundary continues south to UTM Point L, then turns west again approximately 78 meters to UTM Point K. From UTM Point K, the boundary follows the Gallatin National Forest boundary south to UTM Point J, at the north side of the Forest Service Road. The boundary then turns east, along the north side of the Forest Service Road to the UTM Point I. See attached Hebgen Dam Quadrangle USGS 7.5 minute topographic map.

**Boundary Justification:**

The Watkins Creek Ranch Historic District boundaries encompass approximately 245 acres historically part of the ranch holdings by 1947, when the ranch was fully operational as a dude ranch. The Whisman, Martzel and Ruof families patented most of these lands by public land laws. The outlying hay fields and pastures within the Watkins Creek Ranch Historic District boundaries were a critical element to the success of the ranch as a functioning homestead and, later, as a dude ranch operation. These lands allowed for the summer pasture and supplemental feed necessary to maintain the livestock during the warmer months, and therefore the ultimate survival of the ranch as both a profitable agricultural enterprise and as a desirable tourist destination.


Watkins Creek Ranch Historic District
Building Complex Map
Spring
"Caddis"
Building 10
contributing
non-contributing
Building 9
Building 8
Building 7
Building 6
Building 5
Building 4
Building 1
Main Lodge
Marina non-contributing site
Building 3
Building 2
Building 18
Building 17
Building 16
Building 15
Building 11
Building 13
Building 14
Building 20
Building 19
Building 12
HEBGEN LAKE

6 Watkins Creek Ranch Historic District
Sites and Structures Map

National Register Boundary

#1 Hebgen Lake Shoreline
one contributing site

#2 Main Lodge Commons/Picnic Area
one contributing site

#3 Natural Spring
one contributing site

#4 Cistern
one contributing structure

#5 Gravel Roadway System
one contributing structure

#6 and #7 Walking Paths
one contributing structure

#8 Marina
one non-contributing structure

#9 Coffin Lake Pack Trailhead
one contributing site

#10 Grazing Pastures and Hay Fields
one contributing site

#11 Rouf Ditch Irrigation System
one contributing structure

#11 Ditch and Ditch Bridge
one contributing structure

#12 Pole Corral
one contributing structure

#13 Load Chute/Fencing
one contributing structure

#14 Riding Path
one contributing structure

#15 Boundary Markers/Fencing
one contributing structure

A B C D E F G H J K L M N P Q R

R E S T

RUOF

DITCH

In accordance with the March 2005 Photo Policy expansion, the photos that accompany this nomination are printed on HP Premium Plus Photo Paper, using a Hewlett Packard 100 gray photo cartridge. This combination of paper and inks is included on the NR's list of "Acceptable Ink and Paper Combinations for Digital Images." The images are also recorded on an archival CD-R with a resolution at least 1200x1800 pixels, 300 dpi in "true color" 24-bit format.

Photographer: B. Derek Strahn
Date: August 2004
Negatives: B. Derek Strahn, Bozeman, MT.

Photo Number: Description:

1. Overview of ranch complex, Hebgen Lake, and main road, view to north
2. Group One cluster, view to north
3. Main Ranch House/Main Lodge and Hebgen Lake, view to north
4. Main Ranch House/Main Lodge, view to northwest
5. Main Ranch House/Main Lodge and commons/picnic area, view to southeast
6. Main Ranch House/Main Lodge, view to east
7. Family Cabin, view to northwest
8. Family Cabin, Garage, and footpath, view to south
9. Leila's Cabin and footpath, view to the southwest
10. Leila's Cabin, view to northwest
11. Leila's Cabin, view to the south
12. Guest Duplex #1, view to southwest
13. Guest Duplex #2, view to the south
14. Guest Duplexes #3 and #4, view to the southeast
15. Lincoln Cabin, view to the southwest
16. "Caddis" Cabin, view to the northwest
17. Group Two cluster, view to the west
18. "Girl's" House, view to the west
19. "Girl's" House, view to the northeast
20. "Wash" House, view to the west
21. "Wash" House, view to the northeast
22. Watkins Cattle Camp Barn and Smokehouse/Milking Shed, view to southeast
23. Staff Quarters #1, view to southwest
24. Staff Quarters #2 and #3, view to northwest
25. Staff Quarters #4, view to west
26. Garage/Workshop, view to southeast
27. Storage Shed, view to the southeast
28. Corral, riding path, fencing, hay fields, and grazing pastures, view to east
29. Ernest Ruof Ditch, view to southwest
30. Ernest Ruof Ditch and Bridge, view to the southwest
31. Loading chutes and fence line, view to south
32. Gallatin National Forest Boundary and fence line, view to southwest