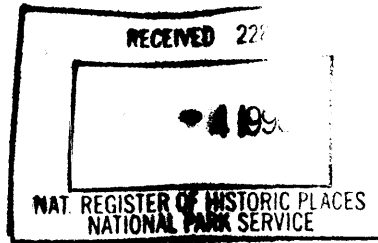


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



### National Register Of Historic Places Registration Form

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

#### 1. Name of Property

historic name La Casa del High Jinks  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2. Location

street & number Box 724, High Jinks Road  not for publication  
city, town Oracle  vicinity  
state AZ code AZ county Pinal code 021 zip code 85623

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

James W. Thomas ASST. DIR. 28 AUGUST 1996  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
ARIZONA STATE PARKS  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
- See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.
- See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Dale R. Lugin 10/10/96

La Casa del High Jinks  
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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

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

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>8</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>8</u>	Total

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

N/A

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

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: multiple dwelling  
Domestic: single dwelling (4 buildings)  
Domestic: secondary structure (4 buildings)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Pueblo Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: granite  
walls Stone: granite  
Synthetic: asbestos  
roof Synthetic: rubber  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

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### 8. Statement of Significance

#### Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

#### Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

#### Narrative Statement of Significance

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

#### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

#### Period of Significance

circa 1928-1945

#### Significant Dates

circa 1928

#### Significant Person

N/A

#### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

#### Architect/Builder

Captain Lewis Claude Way

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

#### Bibliography

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

#### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

#### Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property less than one acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1   2	5   2   4   5   5   0	3   6   0   3   5   8   0	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		ZoneB	EastingB	NorthingB
2				4			

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

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

**Boundary Justification**

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

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Pam Dishongh/consultant  
organization N/A date February 14, 1996  
street & number 1308 East Greenlee Road telephone unlisted  
city or town Tucson state AZ zip code 85719

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items**

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

**Property Owner**

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

name E. Dean Prichard  
street & number Box 724, High Jinks Road telephone (520) 896-2005  
city or town Oracle state AZ zip Code 85623

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

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

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### Description

La Casa del High Jinks is a circa 1928, two-story, stone house, designed with Pueblo Revival influence, that exemplifies regional folk architecture. It is located on a three-acre patented mining property, known as High Jinks, eight miles by road southeast of Oracle, Arizona and two-and-a-half miles by road west of the Mt. Lemmon Road in the Campo Bonito area of the Old Hat Mining District. High Jinks is in the Santa Catalina Mountains, at 5,250 feet elevation, and is surrounded by the Coronado National Forest. Built by its owner, Captain Lewis Claude Way, with the help of local labor, the home embodies the regional frontier tradition of fusing the owner's own architectural ideas with those already established in the area by Spanish-Mexicans or Native Americans. Typical of Southwest architecture, the home's overall design and exterior details reflect Pueblo Indian influence. The home's thick, stone (granite) wall construction, heavy timber vigas projecting from the front facade, wood lintels, flat roof, deeply revealed door openings, and cube-shaped design imitate the massive, hand-built appearance of the style's Native American prototype. The granite and wood (fir) used throughout the home were found on site. The house sits, isolated, atop a hill into which has been carved a winding, dirt road that approaches the house from the east. Upon approaching the house and complex of buildings collectively known as High Jinks, one enters a dirt, vehicle courtyard through a porte-cochere. The porte-cochere is centered in a stone and log building (noncontributing secondary structure), of which the east portion functions as a tack room and the west section serves as storage. A corrugated metal roof covers the porte-cochere, and a large, wood sign with "High Jinks" written on it hangs down from a supporting beam.

Extending from the east portion of this entry structure is a stone wall which serves as the east wall of a covered, two vehicle carport. To the west of the carport is the vehicle courtyard, and to the east of the carport and stone wall is a bankment descending to a dirt road which continues toward four, small, modern, rental properties (noncontributing single dwellings) located on site. Connected to the west section of the entry structure is a stone and wood horse stables (noncontributing secondary structure). The stables is located directly west of the vehicle courtyard. From the courtyard, one may directly enter the first floor, basement apartment of the house. The main entrance is located along the second floor of the east facade and is accessed via a pathway that leads from the vehicle courtyard to a set of concrete and stone steps. The steps lead to a full length, uncovered, entry porch off of which two sets of double, tongue-in-groove doors lead to the interior. Another means of entry into the second floor of the house may be gained by entering a wood gate, set into the stone wall to the west of the vehicle courtyard. After proceeding through the gate, one enters a terraced, patio area paved with stone. Entry into the kitchen is located off of this patio area. The patio is located to the north (side) and west (rear) of the house. A wide set of stairs goes from the west section of the lower patio to a ramada (noncontributing secondary structure) covered with corrugated metal roof and paved with stone, into which a wood bar and barbecue pit have been built.

Owner Dean Prichard added all eight of the noncontributing structures (carport, tackroom/entry/storage building, stables, ramada, and the four rental structures, three of which are small, frame houses and the other a mobile home) during the 1980s. He also added the terraced patio during this time. The rental houses and mobile home are located away from the main house, and the additional buildings around the periphery of the vehicle courtyard and playground

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grade; the west half of the first floor is located below grade. Stone columns support the entry porch. The massive, stone building has inner, wood, frame construction with interior, horizontal, fir sheathing. The "penthouse" is wood frame covered with asbestos shingles. Window and door surrounds are plain milled boards with no moulding. Steel beams imprinted with the word "COLORADO" support the northeast corner of the second floor. A stone stairway complement original construction with like materials and design. The original, main house, La Casa del High Jinks, has undergone few exterior changes. Fortunately, most interior remodeling is reversible, and all interior and exterior remodeling and additions have been sensitive to the historic integrity of the building.

La Casa del High Jinks is approximately 51 feet by 31 feet, 30 feet high, excluding an open, second story porch on the east (front) facade and an irregular-shaped, wood, frame "penthouse," comprising the third floor, that sits off-center, atop a flat roof. Rough, tree trunk vigas extend from the second floor of the front facade. Window types include single light, wood fixed-in-place picture windows with wood lintels; single light, wood, fixed-in-place picture windows flanked by single light, wood, casement windows with wood lintels; and a combination of triple sash, double sash, and single sash, single light, wood, fixed-in-place windows with no lintels. The foundation consists of granite and concrete walls, over two feet thick at the base, built directly into the ground. At the eastern elevation, where the land slopes downward, a partial basement area that has been converted to living quarters lies partially above grade. The east half of the first floor (basement) living quarters sits below the second story entry porch and is above grade. Stone columns support the entry porch. The massive, stone building has inner, wood, frame construction with interior, horizontal, fir sheathing. The "penthouse" is wood frame covered with asbestos shingles. Window and door surrounds are plain milled boards with no moulding. Steel beams imprinted with the word "COLORADO" support the northeast corner of the second floor. A stone stairway leads to the porch. Low, stone walls flank the stairs, and half columns of stone capped with concrete are located at the top and bottom. The porch is floored in plywood and is surrounded by a railing of round, wood poles.

In 1988 an addition was made to the west side of the house. This addition provided an additional bedroom and bathroom. It is constructed of stone which closely matches the original. It has a shed roof and clerestory windows along the west elevation. A stone, corner fireplace with two stone shelves built into the mantel is located in the bedroom. A sloping ceiling is of wide pine planks and exposed beams and is high enough to accommodate a sleeping loft, reached by ladder from the bedroom, located above the bathroom. Walls and floor are of stone. A circular, fixed-in-place, window allows light into the loft.

The interior of the house ( second floor) contains floors, walls and ceilings of tongue-in-groove, fir sheathing. Beams are exposed in the kitchen, dining room and living room ceilings. The kitchen ceiling is sloped, as if covered with a shed roof (although it is not), and the living room and dining room ceilings are supported by wood beams onto which fir wood strips have been nailed to produce a segmental arch. Doors, built by Captain Way, feature tongue-in-groove, vertically laid planks on one side and tongue-in-groove, diagonally laid planks on the other side. Hardware is original,

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wrought iron. Some of the doorknobs are of faux grain porcelain or black porcelain. The living room and dining room are connected by a large, square-shaped opening. The living room floor is sunken approximately nine inches below the remainder of the finish floor. All floors throughout the house are of fir. Both rooms contain arched ceilings with tongue-in-groove, fir sheathing and exposed beams. Both rooms also contain built-in shelving. The shelving in the living room is built between exposed studs. The shelving along the west wall in the living room flanks a stone fireplace with exposed, stone chimney. The stone fire box extends out from the chimney, forming a mantel capped with concrete. A flat hearth of 4" x 4" terra cotta tile extends out from the fireplace. Facing the fireplace, to the right, a wide wood step leads to a platform, off of which narrow, wood steps with open risers lead to the third floor "penthouse." The stairs were added by current owner Dean Prichard in the late 1980s. The kitchen and family room are also open to each other, separated by a door frame flanked on one side by a wood railing and on the other side by a pine-paneled bar. The bar features the wood, tongue-in-groove door that originally separated the two rooms as its counter top. The ceiling and walls of the family room are covered with pine paneling that was installed over the original, fur sheathing in 1964. The room was converted from a bedroom into a family room, and opened up to the kitchen in the 1980s. During the 1980s remodel of this area, pine panel cabinets were installed in the kitchen, using materials left over from the 1964 remodel. A wood booth for dining and a desk were also installed at this time. A cast iron, Franklin stove is located along the west wall of the kitchen, and an original, built-in, green ceiling fan with the words "ILC Self Cooled Motor Fan Model 128 Chicago USA" embossed in it is recessed into the ceiling. Although the kitchen and family room have been remodeled extensively, most of the revisions are reversible and, when possible, original materials have been reused or matched as closely as possible. An original, dutch door of tongue-in-groove wood leads from the kitchen to the dining room. The master bedroom, located in the southwest corner of the house, was also remodeled in 1964 when its walls and ceiling were covered with pine panelling like that in the family room. This room features an original, unique, built-in pine vanity with mirror and a tongue-in-groove closet door with original, built-in, bevel-edged mirror.

The third floor "penthouse" was originally accessed from the roof. An exterior stairway along the southwest elevation led to the roof, from which an exterior door led into the "penthouse." This floor is comprised of a front (east) office area with built-in desk and a rear (west), bedroom/bathroom area. Five, single light, wood, fixed-in-place, picture windows give the impression from the east facade that the structure is octagonally shaped. Rather, it is shaped in an irregular, hexagon form (see attached floor plan). Walls are wide, vertical, rough, wood boards. The ceiling is also sheathed in wide, rough, wood boards and features exposed beams of rough, sawn wood. The walls in the bedroom and bathroom are sheathed in pine paneling. Doors are original, tongue-in-groove, wood. The built-in desk, some built-in shelving, and the pine paneling are the only alterations to this level. A stone fireplace with terra cotta hearth is original and similar to the one located directly below it in the living room.

The first floor, originally an unfinished basement and open carport, was converted into living quarters in 1981. It contains two bedrooms, a living area, dining area, kitchen and bath. There is no interior access from the first floor to the second floor. Exterior access is provided by doors located along the south and north elevations. The front (east) section of this floor is comprised of what was originally an open carport. From the exterior it retains much of its original

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appearance. Original openings between stone columns have been enclosed with large, picture windows similar to windows found throughout the rest of the house. This portion of the first floor is above grade and is located below the open, entry porch on the second floor. The rear portion of the first floor is located below grade in what was originally the basement. Floors are of poured concrete, the ceiling is a combination of wide, tongue-in-groove, wood boards and acoustic board with faux boxed brace framing. Walls are a combination of stone; cement block; and wide, horizontal, wood boards. A built-in, concrete ledge, approximately 3'-0" high and 3'-0"-4'-0" deep extends the full length of the rear (west) wall.

The setting of the house remains rural in character and is quite isolated from civilization. The house sits atop a hill and is easily visible from the winding, dirt road that leads to it. No additional buildings are visible as far as the eye can see. Cacti, juniper, oak and manzanita permeate the landscape.

### Statement of Significance

La Casa del High Jinks, or High Jinks Ranch as it is called today, is historically significant under Criterion A for its role in the settlement of the area, and architecturally significant under Criterion C as a representative example of folk architecture in southern Arizona. Its design reflects Pueblo Indian influence. Typical of regional frontier tradition, the owner/builder, Captain Lewis Claude Way, did not use a floorplan; rather, he simply built a straightforward, hollow cube using materials readily available on site. The massive stone structure, well-preserved and carefully maintained, fuses the owners' own architectural ideas with those already established in the Southwest. The house was constructed from 1922 to 1927, during a period when a romanticized vision of the Old West was emerging with a revival of native southwestern influences on southern Arizona ranch architecture. Originally, regional styles had developed in response to primitive frontier conditions, preserving only as much of the European building traditions as could be adapted in an isolated area where construction depended entirely upon locally available materials. The early settlers who built houses in southern Arizona during its formative years commonly blended their own architectural ideas with Spanish-Mexican and Native American designs and building traditions. Each sought his own solution to the problem of providing shelter and designed his own personal interpretation of the ranch house. With the termination of an Indian threat and the arrival of the railroad in the 1880s, the fortunes of European Americans increased, and an increased variety of building materials became available. New styles emerged, and it became possible for builders to abandon old ones. The resurrection in the 1920s of a distinctively regional architecture not only gave evidence of a romantic ideal, but it also illuminated awareness among a new generation of Southwesterners of the regions's multicultural history and traditions. La Casa del High Jinks exemplifies this new generation's vision of the Southwest.

### Historical Background

High Jinks was established as a gold mine on April 14, 1912 by Colonel William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody, who sometimes stayed in a cabin there until his death in 1917. The large, stone house was built on this claim site in the 1920s by his



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foster son and daughter-in-law, Lewis Henry "Johnny" and Olive Baker, and Olive's sister and brother-in-law, Marie and Lewis Claude Way. Many of Buffalo Bill's artifacts occupied High Jinks' walls and shelves until the estate was sold in 1945.

The earliest documented mining activity in the Old Hat Mining District, where High Jinks is located, was at the American Flag Mine near the present Mount Lemmon Road and at the Lone Star (aka Grand Central) Mine a half mile east of the American Flag Mine. The Southern Belle Mine, to the south, was founded in 1884. By 1904 the Old Hat Mining District was very active, particularly the Campo Bonito area, the Southern Belle Canyon area, adjacently south, and the Independent Mine and "Granite Ranch" to the east.

Buffalo Bill Cody, plainsman and showman, who would found the High Jinks Mine, was first persuaded to invest in the mines on the mountainside immediately above Campo Bonito in 1902 by a friend and former Indian agent, Colonel D.B. Dyer. Cody's foster son and world champion sharpshooter in Cody's Wild West show, Johnny Baker, subsequently visited the Campo Bonito mines in 1908 or 1909 to check up on Dyer's mining efforts and his call for more working capital. While there, Baker took note of the hill on the north side of the mining camp for a possible gold prospect and retreat. Whether he or Cody first called the site "High Jinks" is unknown. Cody himself first arrived in the Oracle-Campo Bonito area on January 15, 1909, according to an entry in the registry of Oracle's Mountain View Hotel, to "winter" with a few of his Wild West troopers and to check on his mining investment.

On April 14, 1912, William F. Cody, J.W. Garden, and Carl P. Georgi staked out the approximately ten acre High Jinks #1 Lode Claim. On the same date, an Amended Notice of Mining Location, correcting errors in the legal description in the original Location Notice, named the three principals as the "High Jinks Gold Mining Company." On June 25, 1912, J.W. Garden and Carl P. Georgi sold an undivided one-ninth interest in High Jinks to Lewis Henry (Johnny) Baker. On July 27, 1912, the High Jinks Gold Mining Company filed Articles of Incorporation. On July 31, 1912, three instruments were recorded at the courthouse in Florence: Angelina, Pierre and Anita Charouleau deeded their undivided ninth interest in High Jinks to the High Jinks Gold Mining Company; Jack W. Garden and Anita Charouleau deeded two undivided ninth interests in High Jinks to the High Jinks Gold Mining Company; and Marie Burgess of New Rochelle, NY (Johnny Baker's sister-in-law and future wife of Captain Claude Way) joined with Johnny Baker and Buffalo Bill Cody in the High Jinks Gold Mining Company with "six undivided ninth interests." On September 3, 1912, Marie Burgess deeded her interests in High Jinks to the High Jinks Gold Mining Company. On October 14, 1912, High Jinks' ten-plus acres were surveyed for a United States patent; two mine shafts were documented, one sixty-five feet deep and the other eighty-five feet deep. The U.S. patent was issued August 3, 1915. On March 16, 1915, two years before his death, Buffalo Bill Cody deeded his interest in High Jinks to the High Jinks Gold Mining Company. The next day, March 17, 1915, Johnny Baker and Carl Georgi deeded their interests to the High Jinks Gold Mining Company. During their years of production, Cody's mines produced only a few thousand dollars in gold. Cody realized nothing on his half-million dollar investments at Campo Bonito and adjacent High Jinks.

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Buffalo Bill Cody left the area for the last time in late 1916, dying in January, 1917 at his sister's home in Denver. He was buried nearby atop Lookout Mountain. His foster son and wife, Johnny and Olive Baker, were largely instrumental in establishing the grave site museum and park in cooperation with the City of Denver. Baker also supplied the museum with its core collection -- some of Buffalo Bill's saddles, costumes, guns, paintings and other items for the museum's exhibits. Baker operated the museum summers until his death in 1931; his widow, Olive, then took over operation of the museum during the summers, continuing to live at High Jinks in the winter until 1945.

From 1915 to 1918, the High Jinks Gold Mining Company failed to pay Pinal County property taxes on its patented mining property, and during 1921-22 High Jinks was acquired by the County for unpaid back taxes and subsequently sold to the State. On March 3, 1922, the State of Arizona auctioned High Jinks to the highest bidder: Lewis Claude Way, whose bid was \$56.14. During the next few years, Way and his wife, Marie Burgess Way, with Mexican help, built the massive two-story stone house that stands on the property today. Johnny and Olive Baker assisted. After basic construction was completed, the Bakers lived there with the Ways.

Writer and historian Bernice Cosulich, in a February 19, 1939 article in The Arizona Daily Star (Tucson), states that Captain Way, "one of the first U.S. forest rangers and superintendent for six years of the Rocky Mountain National Park," also of Grand Canyon National Park, and a Spanish-American War veteran, "tumbled, pushed, planned and supervised putting those 700 tons of rock into La Casa del High Jinks." Marie Burgess married Captain Way in 1912, with Cody giving her away at Campo Bonito. Mrs. Way was famed in equestrian circles as holder of the world record for sidesaddle high jumping -- seven feet, three inches -- which she set at Pride's Corner, Massachusetts sometime around the turn of the century. Of Captain Lewis Claude Way, Cosulich writes, "Captain Way transferred from the Forest to the Park Service and they (he and his wife) went to the Grand Canyon. Later, he opened the Rocky Mountain National Park where he was superintendent for six years. The sidesaddle accompanied Mrs. Way everywhere her husband went."

Cosulich continues, "Out of the mountain side rock the house grew with its great living room, its penthouse above, its every room framing views and its breakfast room having a bird feeding tray outside the large window. Finished, into the house went treasures that make them call it a museum, but also there went a grand piano, books and an air of home and culture. There the sounds of Bach circle through the horns of an elk Cody killed, a bighorn sheep Captain Way slew, slither past a buffalo hide on which Indians drew the Custer massacre. One of Orapazo's expertly made quilts may dangle over a rare French volume or a twisted rawhide lariat may hobnob with the latest fiction. These make La Casa del High Jinks and its owners among the most interesting in all southern Arizona."

The house was finished in the late twenties according to the late Lee Oliver and other local old-timers. The rooftop "penthouse," as the Ways and Bakers called it, appears to have been an afterthought added on the house later; however, Oliver and the other old-timers in the area maintained that "the penthouse" atop the main two-story stone building was built as part of the original structure.

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After Johnny Baker's death in 1931, at age 62, his widow, Olive E. Baker, continued living part-time at High Jinks with her sister, Marie Burgess Way, and her brother-in-law, Lewis Claude Way. Mrs. Baker's bedroom was the rooftop room she called "the penthouse," accessible then only by an outside stairway on the south wall. She left High Jinks every April to manage the Cody Museum on Lookout Mountain, returning to Oracle in October.

The estate of Lewis Claude Way, including High Jinks, went to his wife, Marie Burgess Way, in Pinal County Superior Court on February 21, 1944. On June 19, 1945, Marie Burgess Way deeded High Jinks to R. Alvin Jennings and Violet May Jennings, husband and wife. That same day, the two widowed Burgess sisters, Marie and Olive, sold or quit-claimed the adjacent four unpatented mining claims: High Jinks No. 2, High Jinks No. 3, Black Jack No. 1 and Black Jack No.2 to Mr. and Mrs. Jennings. Thus, the 35-year Cody-connection era at Buffalo Bill's High Jinks gold mine came to an end in 1945 when the two Burgess sisters moved away, transferring the last of the Cody artifacts that once graced the walls and shelves at High Jinks to the grave site museum on Lookout Mountain.

On May 15, 1947, the Jennings conveyed High Jinks to John E. Carr and Jennette M. Carr for \$27,500. The Jennings then assigned the contract deed on June 10, 1947 to Arthur C. Sears and Elizabeth Sears. On July 5, 1949 High Jinks was quit-claimed back to the Jennings by the Sears. On July 8, 1949 High Jinks was deeded by the Jennings to Helen L. Brown. On April 3, 1958 Howard Reynolds became an owner of High Jinks apparently via marriage to Helen Brown. On December 11, 1959 Howard Reynolds quit-claimed his interest to Helen L. Brown; however, on November 15, 1961 Helen L. Brown deeded High Jinks back to Howard Reynolds. On October 20, 1964 Reynolds deeded High Jinks to Lester Nauman and his common law wife, Dorothy.

Nauman, a gold prospector and electronics repairman, did the first remodeling at High Jinks. He pine-paneled the two original bedrooms and the bathroom in between and modernized the latter. He also pine-paneled the west end of the "penthouse" and installed a modern bathroom. He installed 220-volt forced-fan electric heaters to supplement the two original fireplaces (living room and penthouse) and the wood stove in the kitchen. He did no remodeling in the kitchen, dining room or living room.

Nauman and his former wife, Dorothy (who had remarried and assumed the surname Schmidt), deeded High Jinks to E. Dean Prichard and Elizabeth Prichard in December of 1975. In 1981 the Prichards were divorced; Elizabeth Prichard quit-claimed High Jinks to her former husband. In the 1980s Prichard added three rental cabins and a mobile home to the property, converted the lower level or basement of the house to an apartment, built the entry/tackroom/storage area, corrals and stone -walled courtyard and upper and lower patio with pond, and the stone room with fireplace extending west off the house. Most of the stonework was done by local labor. Prichard built new cabinets in the kitchen and converted the bedroom adjacent the kitchen into a family room, open to the kitchen. The dining room and living room remain as they were originally, except for the small bar at one end and stairway to the "penthouse," which Prichard, a writer, converted into a studio. All stonework and woodwork were done with a careful eye to complementing the original construction and not compromising the home's integrity. With the exception of the pine paneling (which was installed over original materials), all additional woodwork was done using original materials found in the house. The 1980s stonework was laid using granite found on the property that matched the original.

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La Casa del High Jinks

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Pinal Co., AZ

county and state

Over the years, occupants of La Casa del High Jinks dumped their garbage into the two mine shafts a few feet south of the house, filling them up. All that remains of High Jinks mining activity is the mound of blasted rock at the southwest corner of the house and the ruined foundations and large area of sand tailings of the mill a quarter mile south of the house in Pima Joe arroyo. Campo Bonito, another quarter mile south, also lies in ruins, with only a few concrete slabs and stone foundations and fireplaces remaining. The Cody mines on the Apache Peak hillside immediately above Campo Bonito to the south remain open, abandoned and dangerous with old timbers visible. The Maudina Mine, tucked away in a mountainside cleft a half-mile south of the main group, still has the old locomotive-like hoist boiler at its entrance.

La Casa del High Jinks has retained its historic character and integrity. The Old Cody Trail to the American Flag Ranch, which crosses the northeast corner of the High Jinks property, is now part of the 750-mile Arizona Trail running from Mexico to Utah. Current owner, Dean Prichard, wants to preserve the Cody presence in Arizona and is planning a trust to keep the property in the public domain in perpetuity, for all to enjoy. Today, under Prichard's careful stewardship, the house serves as a well-preserved and excellent example of early 20th century regional folk architecture.

### Bibliography

Cosulich, Bernice. Article in The Arizona Daily Star, Tucson, February 19, 1939.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. Alfred A. Knopf: New York, NY. 1984

National Park Service, U.S. Dept. of the Interior. Guidelines for Completing National Register of Historic Places Forms. National Register Bulletin 16A, U.S. Govt.: Washington, D.C.

Prichard, Dean. Personal interview. January 10, 1996.

Prichard, Dean. Various manuscripts, historical documents, copies of deeds, transcripts of personal interviews and photographs. On file at High Jinks Ranch, Oracle, AZ.

Stewart, Janet Ann. Arizona Ranch Houses: Southern Territorial Styles, 1867-1900. Univ. of AZ Press: Tucson, AZ. 1987.

### Verbal Boundary Description

The building known as La Casa del High Jinks is located in that portion of Mineral Survey #3024, High Jinks #1, located in Section 7, 8, and 17, Township 10 South, Range 16 East, Gila and Salt River Base and Meridian, Pinal County, Arizona. More particularly as follows:

Beginning at the Southeast corner of said High Jinks #1; Then South 64° 12'00" West, along the South line of said claim, a distance of 319.60 feet to a point; Thence 21° 59'32" West (North 25° 50'00" West recorded), along the West line of said claim, a distance of 410.00 feet to a point; Thence North 54° 33'38" East, a distance of 327.77 feet, more or less, to a point on the East line of said claim; Thence South 22° 60'09" East (South 25° 48'00" East recorded), along the East line of said claim, a distance of 465.00 feet to the point of beginning. Said parcel contains 3.20 acres,

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La Casa del High Jinks

name of property

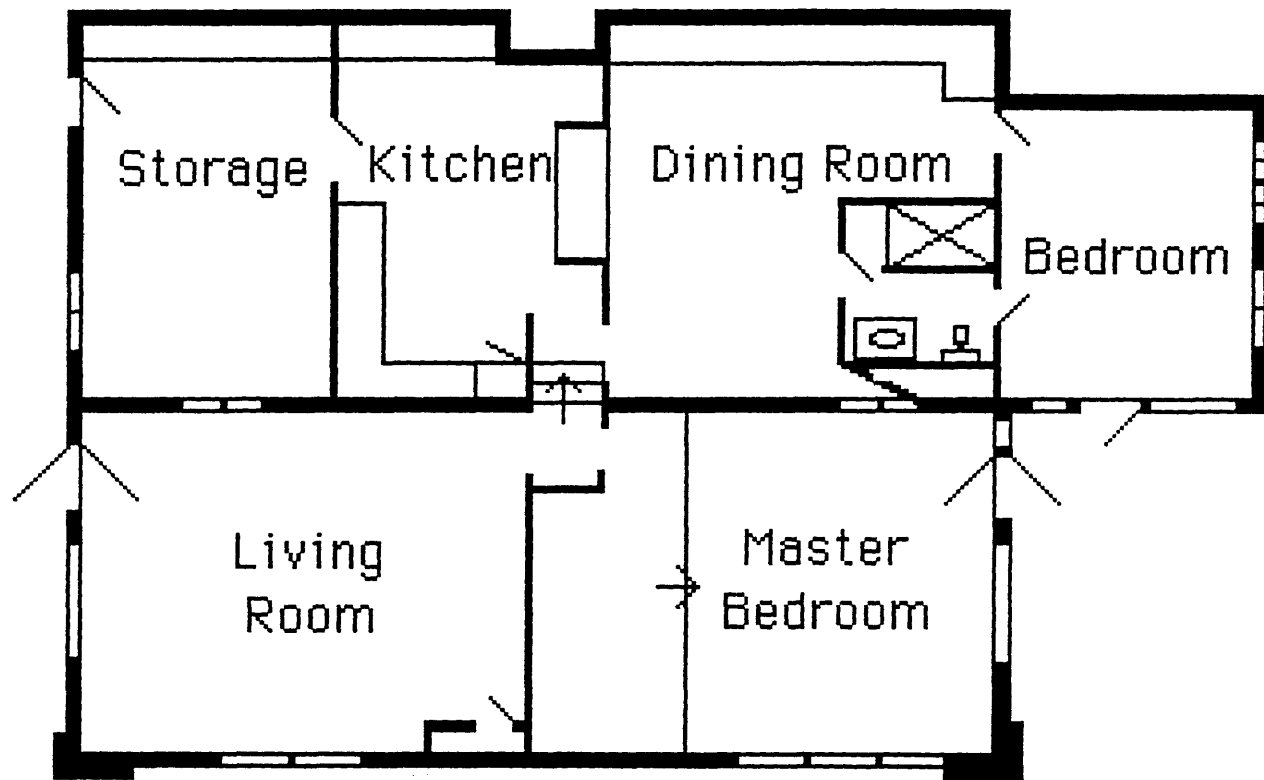
Pinal Co., AZ

county and state

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### Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the main houseonly and ten feet surrounding it. The main house, La Casa del High Jinks, is the only contributing building or structure located on the property.

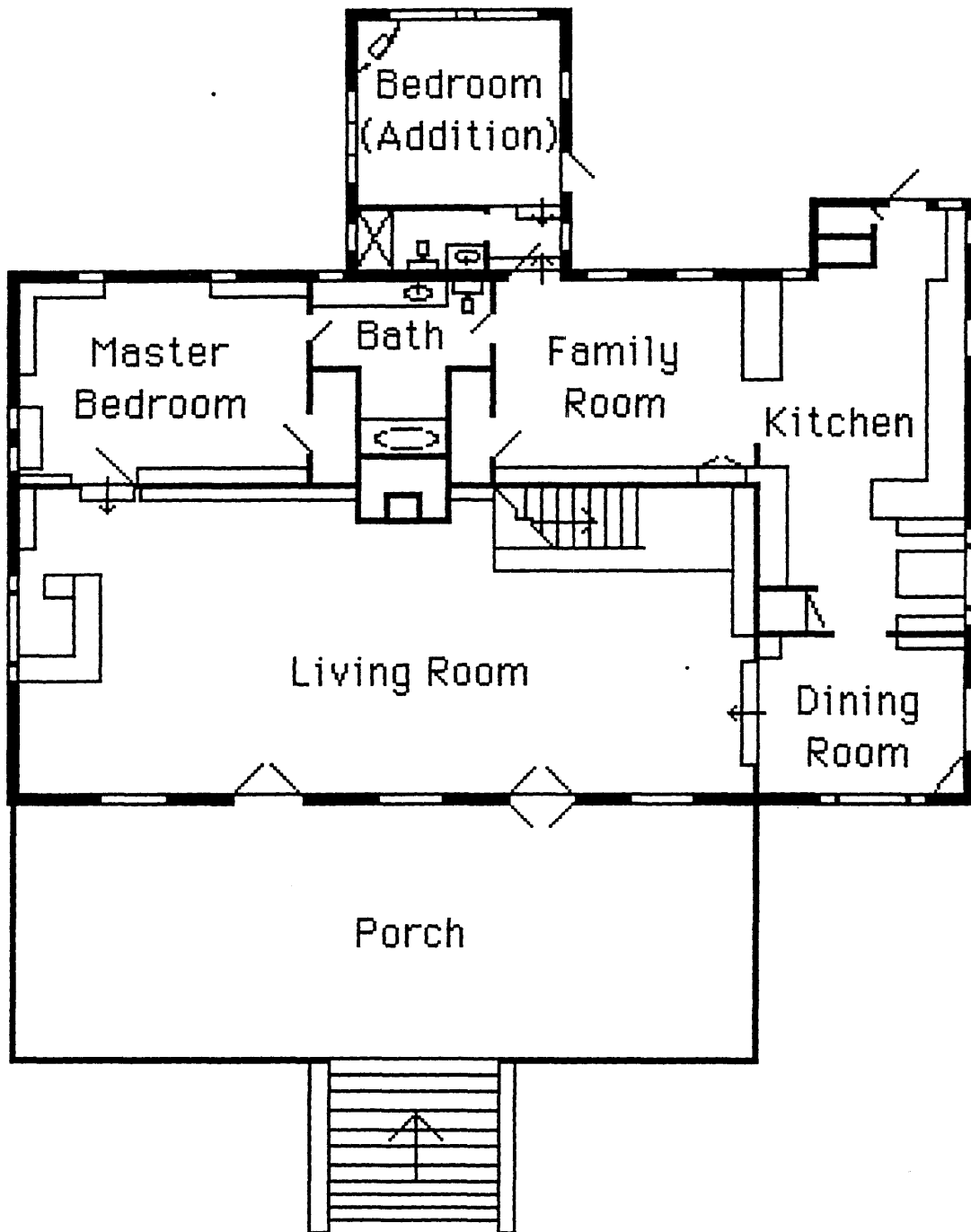


**High Jinks Ranch**

Basement Floor

N.T.S.



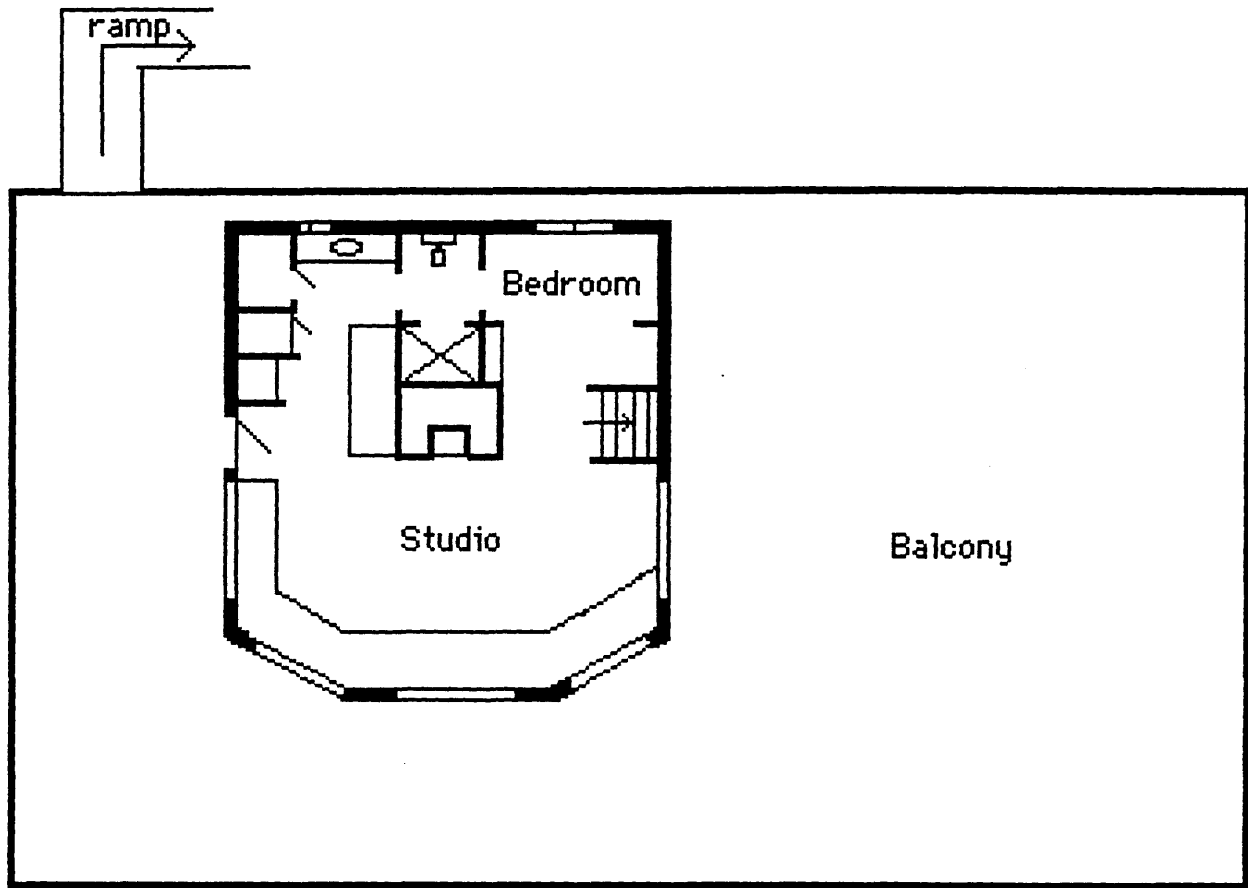


**High Jinks Ranch**

First Floor

N.T.S.





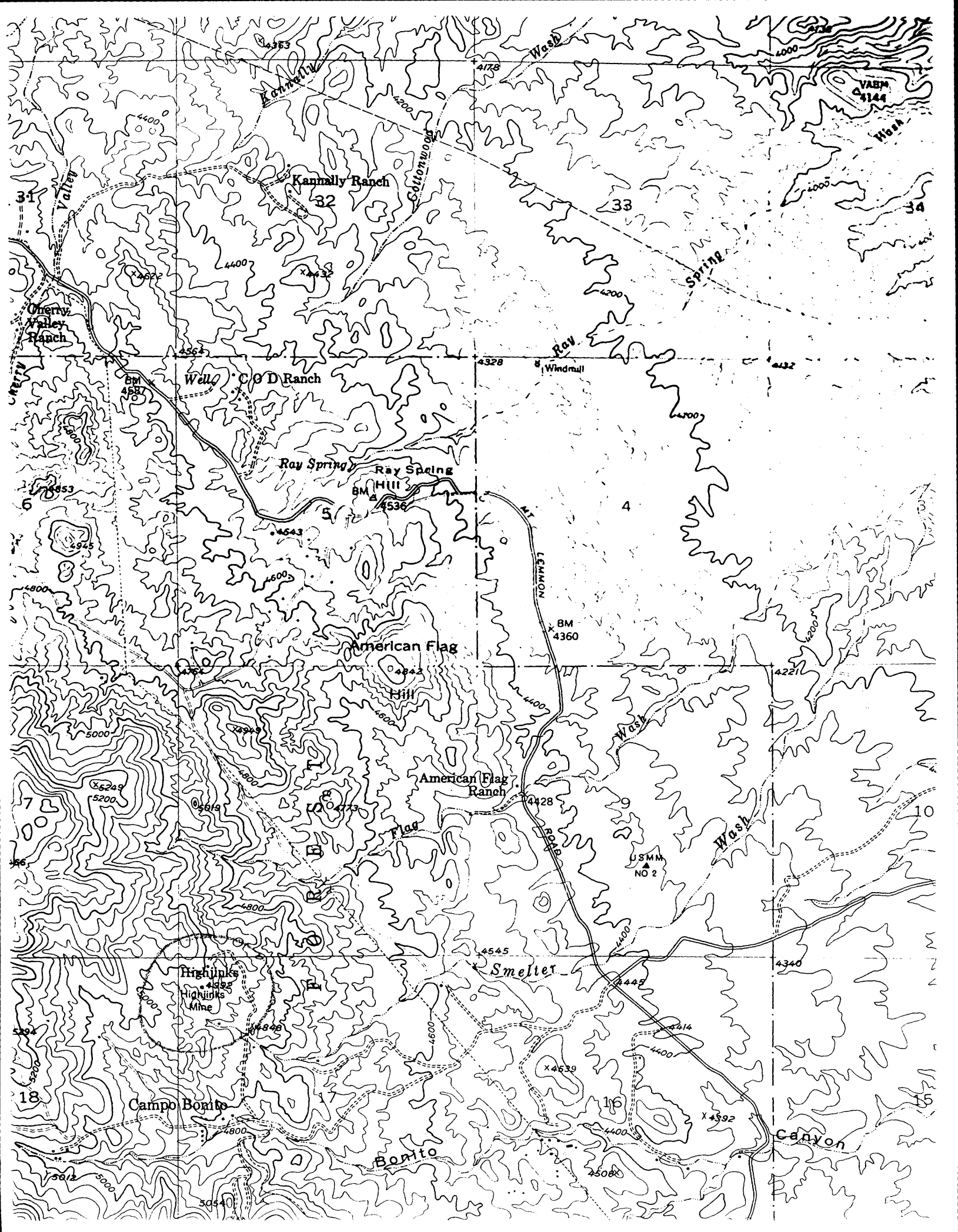
**High Jinks Ranch**

Second Floor

N.T.S.







31

Kannally Ranch

32

33

34

Cherry Valley Ranch

6

C/O D Ranch

Ray Spring

5

4

American Flag Hill

7

American Flag Ranch

10

18

Highinks Mine

Smelter

Campo Bonito

Bonito

Canyon



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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 96001056

Date Listed: 10/16/96

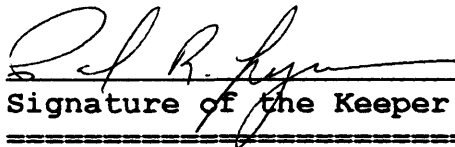
La Casa del High Jinks  
Property Name

Pinal  
County

AZ  
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

10/16/96  
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Significance:

The property is significant under Criterion A (Exploration/Settlement) and Criterion C (Architecture). [This corrects a discrepancy between the nomination form and the narrative.]

Verbal Boundary Description:

The correct boundary includes the entire 3.2 acre parcel developed by Captain Lewis Claude Way and encompasses the main house and its immediate setting and grounds, including the eight modern non-contributing resources.

This information was confirmed with Reba Grandrud of the AZ SHPO.

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DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)