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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, use only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

RECEIVED 2280  
FEB 19 2016  
NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Elkhorn Ranch Historic District

Other names/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

### 2. Location

Street & number: 33133 Gallatin Road

City or town: Gallatin Gateway State: MT County: Gallatin

Not For Publication:  N/A Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this  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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A  B  C  D

Mark F. [Signature] / SHPO  
Signature of certifying official/Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 17 February 2016  
MONTANA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Title : \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

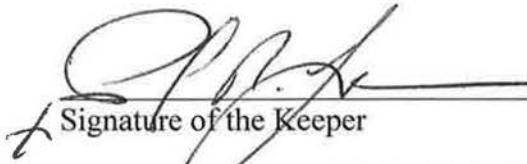
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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

  
Signature of the Keeper

4/5/2016  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>41</u>	<u>5</u>	buildings
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>3</u>	<u>          </u>	structures
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<u>44</u>	<u>5</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Domestic: hotel
- Domestic: camp
- Domestic: single dwelling
- Domestic: secondary structure
- Commerce/Trade: Restaurant
- Recreation and Culture: outdoor recreation
- Recreation and Culture: auditorium
- Agriculture/Subsistence: animal facility
- Agriculture/Subsistence: agricultural outbuilding

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Domestic/Hotel
- Domestic: camp
- Domestic: single dwelling
- Domestic: secondary structure
- Commerce/Trade: restaurant
- Recreation and Culture: outdoor recreation
- Recreation and Culture: auditorium
- Agriculture/Subsistence: animal facility
- Agriculture/Subsistence: agricultural outbuilding

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: Rustic Style

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

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation—STONE: limestone, rhyolite: CONCRETE

Walls—WOOD: log, split-log

Roof—WOOD: shingle: ASPHALT (shingle): METAL: Steel (galvanized), Aluminum

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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#### Summary Paragraph

Located sixteen miles south of Big Sky, Montana in Township 9S, Range 4E, sections 11 and 12, the cluster of 49 resources comprising the Elkhorn Ranch Historic District sits in the valley of Sage Creek with most of the buildings tucked in along the edge of the native lodgepole pine forest at the bottoms of the surrounding slopes. The property, purpose-built in the 1920s and 1930s as a dude ranch, has continued in that capacity since its construction. The buildings generally display log construction; a total of 44 resources contribute to the district; five buildings are considered noncontributing. In total, the entire ranch property occupies a four hundred plus acre inholding in the upper Gallatin Canyon in the Gallatin National Forest, one mile northwest of Yellowstone National Park. The Elkhorn Ranch Historic District encompasses a sixty-acre area within the larger ranch property. The Elkhorn Ranch Historic District exhibits only very limited changes and additions to buildings since the ranch's period of construction in the 1920s and 1930s.

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#### Narrative Description

The Elkhorn Ranch Historic District consists of a sixty-acre building cluster within the larger four hundred plus acre ranch inholding in the Gallatin National Forest, one mile northwest of Yellowstone National Park in the upper Gallatin Canyon. Located in the Sage Creek Valley, just upstream of the confluence of the Gallatin River and Sage Creek, the ranch is surrounded on all sides by the Gallatin Mountain Range.

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The ranch sits at an elevation of 6,600 feet with most of the buildings tucked into the edge of the native lodgepole pine forest at the bottoms of the surrounding hill slopes. Facing the ranch to the north just across the Gallatin River and U.S. Highway 191 is Sunshine Point on Grouse Mountain; Sunshine Point rises over 1,600 feet above the ranch exhibiting spectacular cliffs and talus slopes just to the north. To the east and south the landscape rises up to Snowflake Ridge and to the west an outcrop known as Rocky Point cuts into the western sky.

### Resource Descriptions

The ranch district is composed of 49 contributing and noncontributing resources. The majority of the buildings were built in the 1920s and 1930s and feature log construction. Most of the resources have been continually used in the dude ranching operation since their construction; thirty-three resources date from the 1920s and 1930s. The ranch appears little changed since the period of significance as can be seen when comparing views of the ranch from early ranch brochures and postcards with the same views today (See Figures 1, 2, 3, 4).



Figure 1. Little has changed in this 1920s view of the Pond and Recreation Hall compared to Figure 2 (below) taken in 2014.

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Figure 2. Overview (to south) of Pond and Recreation Hall (2014).



Figure 3. Ranch postcard circa 1940s showing a cluster of ranch buildings and road in the background.

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Figure 4. Overview of ranch taken in 2014 showing a cluster of ranch buildings in the background. Photo taken from the same vantage point as Figure 3.

## Buildings

The Elkhorn Ranch Historic District is composed of 49 resources including 44 contributing and five noncontributing resources. The descriptions of each are presented below.

### 1. Recreation Hall (one contributing building)

Built in the 1920s, the two-room Recreation Hall displays a rectangular footprint. A gable roof covers the main building and a shed roof protects the rear, south, room. A wide, 8-foot deep, wrap porch buttressed by log supports extends around the north and west elevations and connects to the shed roof of the south elevation. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The gables of the main roof contain paired six-light windows. Walls are built of native lodgepole pine logs with square cut notches at the corners and cementitious chinking. The west elevation contains two ribbons of three six-light windows, one on each side of the entry, and a single four-light fixed window at the south end of the elevation in the ante-room; the entry is filled by a split, unpeeled pine log door sporting a decorative box pattern on its lower half. The south elevation contains paired four-light units, one side is fixed and the other movable, on each side of the split, unpeeled pine log door; this door and that in the west elevation feature rustic Suffolk latches made with antler handles and hand forged hardware. The use of a horse shoe for the cross bar of the south door latch is a testament to the resourcefulness, imagination, and thriftiness of the builders. The east wall features a native rock and brick eave fireplace centered on the elevation. The north elevation contains a single ribbon of three six-light windows. The foundation is composed of native rock and concrete with additional log stump supports under the floor joists.

### Interior

A whole-log wall delineates the two interior rooms with an arched opening providing access between them. The fireplace is flanked by built in storage chests with tops that act as benches. Animal head mounts, decorative antlers, and bear skins adorn the walls. Rustic furniture

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including, couches, benches and tables, most built by Cruse Black in the ranch's early years, are still in use today. The lighting is provided by three wagon wheel chandeliers added when electricity arrived in the Gallatin Canyon in 1949.<sup>1</sup>



Interior of Recreation Cabin

Figure 5. This photographic illustration from the earliest known ranch brochure shows guests playing cards, reading and visiting in front of the fireplace in the Recreation Hall (Elkhorn Ranch, circa 1930).

## 2. Office (one noncontributing building)

In 2013, the ranch's "Old" Office was moved and the new Office building constructed in its stead. The new ranch office measures 42 x 22 feet with an 11 x 42-foot covered porch. The new office presents a slightly modified cross floorplan. A cross-gable roof protects the general mass of the building with shed-roof extensions protecting the front (north) porch and the rear (south) extension; asphalt shingles top the roof. The middle section of the porch façade covered by the cross-gable features a modified queen post multi-chord gable truss supported by peeled log posts; a decorative feature modeled after the porch of the original office. Wide timber steps centered on the front of the half-wall log porch lead to a large flat stone embedded in the ground; this stone previously sat at the base of the steps of the old office. The walls are whole-log with saddle notching and no chinking as the logs are scribed and cut to join directly to one another. A narrow southern extension, which leads to a staircase down to the full basement, projects off the main south elevation; this extension is clad with board-and-batten siding and is reminiscent of the back room addition once on the Old Office. The north elevation contains three four-light/1-panel wood doors opening onto the front porch. The east and west elevations contain paired six-over-six double-hung windows, while the south elevation contains paired 12-light windows with an 8-light unit in the gable. The office rests on a foundation of concrete which contains a full basement.

<sup>1</sup> J. Cronin and D. Vick, *Montana's Gallatin Canyon; A Gem in the Treasure State*, (Missoula:Mountain Press Publishing, 1992).



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### **3. Old Office (one contributing building)**

Believed to have been built in the late 1930s, the original ranch office displays an almost square footprint measuring 12 feet by 14 feet, with an open 12 x 7.5-foot front porch. A gable roof with extension covered with asphalt shingles protects the building. The north gable roof extension, which covers the porch, displays a modified queen post multi-chord gable truss supported by peeled log posts, a decorative feature repeated on many porches of other buildings around the ranch. The one-room log building was built with small diameter lodge pole pine logs and features square notching. The north, west and east elevations, and the south gable display mortar chinking while the lower south elevation exhibits triangularly split logs filling the interstices.

The west elevation contains paired four-light windows, and the east elevation contains paired nine-light windows. The north elevation features a manufactured Dutch door with a six-light window in the upper half fronted by a rustic wood screen door with an antler handle, while the south elevation contains an undersized vertical plank mandoor. A mail slot situated between two of the vertical logs of the north elevation occurs immediately west of the front door; the slot directs outgoing mail to an interior collection unit built into an interior shelf. Wide steps lead down from the half-wall log porch to ground level.

A rustic spindle-backed bench rests on the front porch. The same bench appears in a 1940s photograph of ranch founders Grace and Ernest Miller sitting in front of the office.

At one time a small room was added to the rear of the office. The hipped roof room, constructed of milled lumber, was removed in 2013 and the building moved approximately 100 feet southwest of its original location. It was placed on a concrete foundation and repurposed as the ranch's bootery, a place where guests can borrow boots and hats for the duration of their stay.

### **4. Corral (one contributing building)**

Built in 1928, Corral was built for use as a guest cabin and has continuously been used since that time.<sup>2</sup> Corral features a rectangular footprint and measures 16.5 x 33 feet. A 33 x 9-foot wide porch runs the length of the north facing façade. A side-gable roof covers the cabin, which contains a living room, three bedrooms and a bathroom, and a shed roof extension protects the porch. Asphalt shingles protect the roof, which sports an interior stone slope chimney.

Constructed of whole logs with square notching and concrete chinking, the exterior corners of the cabin display tapered logs whose ends are of greater length closer to the ground. The north elevation contains a split-log over milled wood door fronted by a rustic screen door. A single four-light fixed window occurs on each side of the door with paired four-light units at the far ends of the elevation. The east elevation contains two four-light hopper windows, while the west elevation contains paired four-light units. The south elevation holds three paired four-light units. Corral sits on a foundation of native rock and concrete.

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<sup>2</sup> Grace Miller, interview with G. Bradshaw and J. Berbstien, June 21, 1977.

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Figure 6. The porch of the Old Office is shown in its original location behind Ernest and Grace Miller, founders of the Elkhorn Ranch, in this photograph from the 1940s. Note the modified queen post multi-chord gable truss, a distinctive element that occurs on many ranch buildings.

##### **5. Highpoint (one contributing building)**

Highpoint was built as a guest cabin in 1928 or 1929 and its exterior remains little altered since that time. The rectangular shaped cabin features a modified saltbox roof with the long pitch overhanging a half-wall log porch. An interior slope brick chimney projects from the asphalt shingle-covered roof. Measuring 34 x 21 feet with a 34 x 9-foot wide porch, the cabin was built from whole logs with square notched corners and concrete chinking. The building's exterior corners are tapered, longer logs occurring closer to the ground and shorter logs appearing higher up the elevation. The cabin holds a living room, three bedrooms, and a bathroom. The only door is centered on the front, the north façade, of the cabin and made from split-log over milled wood fronted by a rustic screen door. The north elevation also contains three paired four-light windows. The east and west elevations contain two four-light hopper windows, and the south wall holds one paired four-light unit and a single four-light hopper window. Highpoints rests on a foundation of native rock and concrete.

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### **6. Lookout (one contributing building)**

The Lookout guest cabin was built in 1928; no exterior alterations have occurred since its construction. It measures 17 x 33 feet with a 33 x 9-foot porch. The rectangular shaped cabin features a modified saltbox roof with the long pitch overhanging a half-wall log porch. An interior slope brick chimney projects from the asphalt shingle-covered roof. Built from whole logs with square notched corners and concrete chinking, the exterior corners are square. The cabin holds a living room, three bedrooms, and a bathroom. The north elevation contains a door made from split-log over milled wood fronted by a rustic screen door, two paired four-light windows and two four-light fixed units. The west wall contains a paired window consisting of a four-light unit and a six-light unit, and the east elevation holds two one-light casement windows. The south elevation contains paired four-light windows, a paired unit consisting of a four-light unit and a six-light unit, and paired casement windows positioned in the center of the elevation. Lookout rests on a foundation of native rock and concrete.

### **7. Squaw (one contributing building)**

The Squaw guest cabin, also built in 1928, has seen little alteration since that time. The Squaw cabin is protected by a side-gable roof with a shed extension covering the porch. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Measuring 17 x 33 feet with a 33 x 8-foot wide porch, the cabin contains a living room, three bedrooms and a bathroom. The building is constructed with whole logs, square notching, and cement chinking. The door, centered on the front of the cabin is split-log over milled wood and there is a rustic screen door. The north elevation contains a door made from split-log over milled wood fronted by a rustic screen door, two paired four-light windows and two four-light fixed units. The east elevation contains two paired four-light windows and the west wall holds paired four-light windows. The south elevation boasts two paired four-light units and paired casement windows centered in the wall. The foundation consists of native rock and concrete.

### **8. Squaw Portable (one contributing building)**

West of the washhouse sit three single room cabins collectively referred to as Skid Row, a reference to their lack of attached bathrooms. The exact construction year of these cabins is unknown. Peter DeRoth, now in his 80s, reminisced about living in a Skid Row cabin one summer during World War II. Feature numbers 8, 9, and 10 belong to Skid Row and are detailed below.

The eastern-most cabin of Skid Row, Squaw Portable, was designed to be small enough to be moved as needed. The small nearly square cabin is covered by a front-gable roof covered with wood shingles. A metal stove pipe projects from the west roof slope. The one room cabin features frame construction clad with horizontal half-logs; gables feature vertical half-log cladding. Entry occurs through a half-log clad door in the north elevation. Both the east and west walls contain six-light hopper windows. The foundation consists of piles of native rock under the cabin corners. Used as a guest cabin through the 1970s, Squaw Portable is mainly used for storage today.

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### **9. Middle Skid Row (one contributing building)**

Middle Skid Row is a small nearly square cabin covered by a gable roof with gable extension covering a log half-wall porch. Wood shingles top the roof. The one room cabin measures 11 x 14 feet; the porch measures 11 by 8 feet. The one-room cabin features horizontally laid logs with concrete chinking. Entry occurs through a five-panel wood door fronted by a wood screen door in the north elevation. Both the east and west walls contain paired four-light hopper windows. The cabin sits on a foundation of native rock. Used as a guest cabin through the 1970s, Middle Skid Row is mainly used for storage today.

### **10. Trappers Cabin (one contributing building)**

Trappers Cabin, constructed circa 1940s, is a small nearly square, 12 x 10-foot, one-room cabin. A front-gable roof topped with wood shingles protects the split-log on frame building. Similar to Squaw Portable, Trappers Cabin was designed to allow for its portability. A four-light split-wood door provides ingress through the north elevation. A single six-light hopper window occurs in both the east and the west walls. The cabin lacks a foundation and sits directly on a gravel pad. Over the door is a moose antler with "Trappers Cabin" written in black paint. Trapper's Cabin served as the summer home of Cruse Black - legendary guide, carpenter, and winter keeper at the Elkhorn Ranch for over 50 years. Cruse built many of buildings and most of the log furniture at the ranch. Trappers Cabin was moved 100 feet southwest from its original location to its present location in 2013.

### **11. Washhouse (one contributing building)**

This dogtrot style building consists of two log pens with a connecting breezeway. A gable roof with a hip-on-gable over the north pen topped with corrugated metal tops the building. The northern pen is made of whole logs with saddle notching and concrete chinking while the south pen is made of split logs on frame. Exposed rafters in the breezeway indicate the north pen was once covered with a hipped roof prior to the application of the present roof.

The north elevation of the north pen contains a five-panel wood door and paired four-light windows; the south elevation of the north pen contains the same style of door. The east wall of the north pen holds a four-light wood door roughly centered between paired four-light windows. The west elevation contains two paired four-light windows.

A five-panel wood door in the north elevation of the south pen provides ingress. The west elevation of the south pen holds paired nine-light windows while the east wall contains a single nine-light unit.

Differences between the south and north pens suggests construction at different times. Photographs from the 1920s yield no hint of the existence of the southern pen. However, by the 1930s, the southern pen is visible.<sup>3</sup> The north pen contains two large bathrooms, each which originally contained a toilet, sink and shower. In the 1980s, washers and dryers were added to one of these bathrooms. The south pen has always been used to store housekeeping supplies.

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<sup>3</sup> Elkhorn Ranch Brochure, circa 1930.

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### **12. Hiawatha (one contributing building)**

Hiawatha is the smallest guest cabin with just one bedroom and a bathroom. The gable-front-and-wing building features a 6 x 12-foot deck with log railings. Asphalt shingles top the roof. The cabin features frame construction clad with horizontally laid half-log siding. A sign over the four-light half-log sided wood door in the north elevation indicates a construction date of 1939. The door sports an unusual metal Suffolk latch shaped like a belt with a buckle. The east wall contains paired four-light windows and the west elevation holds a single four-light hopper window. The corners of the front-gable portion of the cabin sits on boulders and the wing rests on a stone and concrete foundation.

### **13. B.O.Q. (one contributing Building)**

B.O.Q., a gable-front-and-wing, two guest cabin is believed to have been constructed the same time as neighboring Hiawatha, 1939. A gable extension of the main cabin covers a 2013 half-wall porch addition. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles though the shingles differ between the original building and addition. The frame building sports walls of horizontal half-log siding. The cabin, measuring 39 x 14 feet, has two rooms and a connecting bathroom. The porch measures 12.5 x 14 feet. The east and west elevations contain a single half-log Dutch door fronted by a screen door; the east elevation of the wing holds an eight-light window. The south wall contains paired six-light windows in the main block and a fixed six-light unit in the wing. The north wall holds two paired six-light units. The cabin rests on a foundation of native rock and concrete faced by vertical half-log skirting.

### **14. Prospector (one contributing building)**

Originally constructed as a rectangular one room cabin with half-wall porch in the early 1920s, Prospector served as one of the earliest cabins on the property. Later, in the late 1920s or early 1930s, an addition consisting of a second bedroom and bathroom was added off the south elevation. A front-gable roof with gable extension covers the original cabin and porch while a dropped gable roof protects the addition; both feature exposed log rafters. The front porch sports a decorative truss similar to those seen on most of the ranch cabins of this vintage. The log cabin displays concrete chinking and saddle joints. The entire cabin measures 27 x 15.5 feet, with a 15.5 x 9-foot porch. The north elevation, beneath the porch, contains a split-log Dutch door fronted by a rustic screen door, flanked on each side by single-light casement windows. The west elevation has paired single-light casement windows in the original cabin and paired four-light units in the addition. The east elevation contains paired single-light casement windows in the original cabin and a split-log Dutch door in the addition. A paired four-light window occurs in the south addition wall. The foundation is concrete and native rock.

### **15. Tabernacle (one contributing building)**

Tabernacle, constructed in the early 1920s, displays a rectangular footprint and features a covered log half-wall porch off the north elevation and an addition off the west wall. The cabin contains two rooms and measures 30 x 17 feet. The porch measures 17 x 13 feet. A gable roof with extension protects the main cabin and porch, while a shed roof covers the addition; asphalt shingles top the entire roof. An interior rock and concrete slope chimney projects from the east roof slope. The front of the porch sports a decorative log truss with a pattern similar to those

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seen on many of the ranch buildings. The walls are made of whole-log with square notching and cement chinking. The bathroom addition, wood-framed and clad with split logs, was added in the late 1920s or early 1930s. Entry through the north elevation is through a split-log Dutch door fronted by a screen door with antler pull; a single-light casement window occurs on each side of the door. The north elevation of the addition contains a four-light hopper window. The east wall contains the same style of entry and two paired six-light windows. The west elevation contains a single one-light casement window unit in the original cabin and a four-light hopper unit in the addition. The cabin rests on a foundation of native rock and concrete.

### **16. Spring and Sunshine (one contributing building)**

The log constructed Spring and Sunshine features an L-shaped footprint covered by a cross-gable roof and functions as two separate guest cabins that share a common wall. Sunshine contains two bedrooms and one bathroom, and Spring has one bedroom and one bathroom. Asphalt shingles top the roof and two interior slope brick chimneys project from the west roof slope. The cabin is of double-pen design. Saddle notches, concrete chinking, and tapered logs at the exterior corners (sporting logs of greater length closer to the ground) highlight the log construction. The north gable façade consists of a partial half-log porch inset at the northwest corner with the west half of the façade consisting of the whole-log wall. Within the inset, a Dutch door with an antler handle fronted by a wood screen door provides ingress through the north façade of Sunshine; paired eight-light windows are immediately east of the door. Paired 12-light units occur in the west half of the façade.

The east elevation consists of the entrance to the second lodging and is covered by a cross-gable roof projecting east off the main north-south block. The gable protects a half-log porch. Beneath the gable is a Dutch door with an antler handle fronted by a wood screen door leading into Spring. Paired 12-light windows are north of the door.

The south elevation contains paired six-light and a ribbon of three eight-light units. The west elevation holds two sets of paired six-light windows and paired eight-light units. A foundation of native rock and concrete supports the building. The construction year of Spring and Sunshine is known to be pre-WWII.

### **17. Highlight (one contributing building)**

Highlight began life as a one-room guest cabin with half-wall log porch in the early 1920s. A second bedroom and bathroom addition was constructed in the late 1920s or early 1930s giving the building its rectangular footprint. A gable roof with extension covers the original portion of the cabin and a dropped gable roof covers the rear, southern, addition; asphalt shingles top the entire building. A metal stove pipe projects from the west roof slope of the original cabin and a vent pipe projects from the west roof slope of the addition. The original, northern portion of the cabin is constructed from shaped logs with square notching, and cementitious chinking. The addition is whole logs with saddle notching. The cabin measures 16 x 33 feet. The front porch, 8 x 16 feet in size, features the same decorative truss pattern seen on many Elkhorn Ranch cabins. A Dutch door fronted by a rustic wood screen door allows ingress through the north façade and a wood door with horizontal split-log overlay occurs in the east elevation of the addition. Paired four-light windows occur immediately south of the addition door and a ribbon of six-light

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windows, with a central horizontally sliding unit, is in the east elevation of the original cabin. The west elevation contains paired casement windows in the original cabin and paired sliding units in the addition. The foundation is native rock and concrete.

### **18. Gulch (one contributing building)**

Gulch, built in 1928, has continuously functioned as a guest cabin since that time.<sup>4</sup> The cabin displays a rectangular floorplan. It measures 34 x 18 feet with a 34 x 8-foot porch and contains a living room, three bedrooms and a bathroom. A side gable roof covers the building and a shed roof extension protects the half-wall porch. Asphalt shingles top the roof which has a stone interior slope chimney. The cabin features whole-log construction exhibiting square notching and concrete chinking. The exterior corners of the cabin display tapered ends with logs of greater length closer to the ground. A split-log door centered in the north elevation sports a Suffolk latch and antler handle. It is paired with a rustic screened door. The north elevation also contains three paired four-light windows. The east elevation contains two single-pane casement windows. The south wall holds a one-light casement window and paired two-light units. On the west side there are two single-pane casement windows. The foundation is native rock and concrete.

### **19. Over-The-Hill (one contributing building)**

Named in reference to its location just over the hill from the original homestead site, Over-The-Hill is a guest cabin with two bedrooms and one bathroom which exhibits a rectangular footprint. A front-gable roof with extension topped with asphalt shingles covers the cabin and half-wall porch. A metal stove pipe projects from the east roof slope. The cabin measures 13 x 24 feet in size; the porch measures 7 x 13 feet. The front room and porch were built in the 1920s and the back bedroom and bathroom were added no later than the 1930s. The cabin is made of whole logs with squared notching at the outside corners and concrete chinking. The front porch features the same decorative truss pattern seen in many of the ranch buildings. The north elevation contains a rustic Dutch door made of split logs fronted by a wood screen door. The west elevation also contains a rustic Dutch door made of split logs and paired four-light windows in the rear addition; paired four-light windows also occur in the original cabin. The east elevation contains two paired four-light units, one each in the original portion of the cabin and one in the addition. The south elevation (addition) contains an eight-light window and a paired four-light hopper unit. The foundation is native rock and concrete.

### **20. Guest Dining Room/Kitchen/Crew Dining Room/Storage (one noncontributing building)**

This, the largest building on the ranch, measures 63 by 88 feet at its greatest extent. It consists of the original Guest Dining Room constructed in 1931, the historic building used for storage, and an addition constructed between the two that serves to link them into a single building.

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<sup>4</sup> Grace Miller, interview with G. Bradshaw and J. Berbstien, June 21, 1977.

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### **Guest Dining Room**

The Guest Dining Room was built in 1931 and consists of a 28 by 39-foot log pen flanked by two 13 by 20-foot log pens off the east and west walls.<sup>5</sup> Graceful arched openings connect the center section to the two end sections. Throughout the dining room, the walls are formed from whole logs with saddle notched joints. The wall's exterior log ends taper in length from the bottom to top. Flexible chinking fills the interstices between the logs. A side-gable roof covers the larger center pen while dropped-gable roofs cover the east and west pens; all are topped with cedar shingles. The interior of the main pen displays the two massive exposed log trusses that support the roof. The bottoms of the trusses extend just over six feet above the floor requiring tall guests to duck when moving around the room. The guest dining room connects to the kitchen (and the crew dining room and storage area beyond) through double swinging doors on the south wall.

Entry into the Guest Dining Room is gained through a pair of eight-lite French doors in the north façade of the center pen. Flanking the doors in the center pen are a ribbon of three paired sliding windows. The east and west pens feature two paired sliding windows in the north elevation. The original windows were replaced with multiple paired sliding windows during a 1990-1991 refurbishment. Originally, the Guest Dining Room featured one exterior wall fireplace centered on the east wall of the east pen. In the 1980s, the original chimney was rebuilt and a second exterior wall fireplace and chimney added to the west wall of the west pen. To the north of the chimney in the east wall is an emergency exit door cut into the log wall during the 1990-1991 refurbishment.

Today, the interior of the Guest Dining Room looks much the same as in early pictures of the room. A 6 x 12-foot log corral structure inside the front doors defines an entry space and is used as a repository for the coats and hats. Rustic log tables and chairs fill the room. A sitting area with couches surrounds the fireplace in the east alcove. Portraits of the founders hang above the mantels, with Ernest Miller to the east and Grace Miller in the west pen. Built-in bookshelves line a wall of the west alcove. Throughout, trophy mounts, many shot by Ernest Miller decorate the walls.

The Kitchen/Crew Dining Room consists of an early 1990s constructed room that connects to the Guest Dining Room to the north and the historic storage building to the south. The Kitchen/Crew Dining Room essentially serves as a hyphen between the two older buildings. The Kitchen/Crew Dining Room comprises a kitchen measuring 21 by 30 feet, refrigeration that occupies an 18 x 22-foot area, a crew dining room that measures 40 x 25 feet, a 10 x 15-foot cookie room, and a 10 by 10-foot bathroom. Careful attention to the style, facades, rooflines, and logs used for this building allow it to blend with the depression era Guest Dining Room to the north and the 1920s Store Rooms to the south.

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<sup>5</sup> Grace Miller, interview with G. Bradshaw and J. Berbstien, June 21, 1977.



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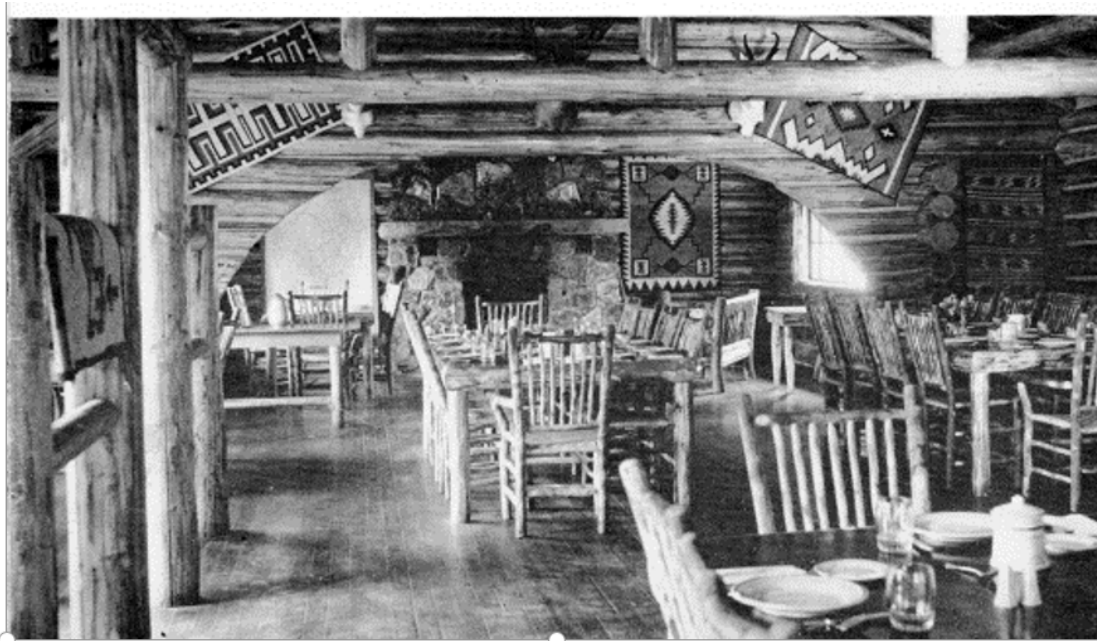


Figure 10. The Guest Dining Room 1931. Note the arched opening into the east alcove. The same furnishings are still in use today.

The Store Rooms, constructed in the early 1920s into the hillside behind the original homestead cabin, are still in use today. They consist of five rooms built into the hillside at the back (south) and west sides, with entry doors in the front and east side elevations. In total they measure 45 x 26 feet. From 1920s until the 1950s, the insulation provided by the hillside allowed for these rooms use for food storage in the summer and as a kitchen and bedrooms in the winter. The original front wall on the north side of the building is now an inside wall in the Kitchen/Crew Dining Room addition. The store rooms have a shed roof covered in tar paper and gravel that slopes toward the hill at the back. The northern section of the roof morphs into the roof of the Kitchen/Crew Dining Room. The roof is fenced to keep livestock and other large animals from inadvertently wandering onto it.

### **21. Spring House (one contributing building)**

The Spring House, a 7 x 5.5-foot building made from whole-log with saddle notching and concrete chinking, sits just east of the ranch kitchen. Its front-gable roof is covered with soil and sod. Prior to 1949 when electricity came to the Gallatin Canyon, the Springhouse was used for food storage. Beginning with its construction in the early 1920s through the late 1940s, the cold waters of nearby Little Spring Creek were routed through the springhouse to keep the interior cold and the foods stored there fresh.

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## **22. Crew Bathrooms (one contributing building)**

The rectangular 11 x 25-foot gable crew bathroom building is made of whole-log walls displaying saddle notching and concrete chinking. Wood shingles topped with a metal ridge cap and end balls cover the roof. The building is believed to have been built in the late 1930s. The west elevation holds a three-panel wood door leading into the men's bathroom; a four-light hopper window is immediately to the south. The east wall also contains a three-panel wood door and four-light hopper window; the door and window provide ingress and light to the women's bathroom. Centered in the north elevation is a five-panel wood door which leads to a laundry room. A six-light window occurs in the south elevation. The building sits on a concrete slab. The exact construction date for this cabin is unknown but the cabin is mentioned in Grace Miller's memoir as existing in the 1930s.

## **23. Lean To (one contributing building)**

Lean To, a one-room cabin displaying a rectangular footprint, is covered with a front-gable roof and extension. The roof is topped with wood shingles; a metal stove pipe projects from the east roof slope. The cabin measures 11 x 8 feet in size and features an 8 x 7-foot half-wall porch. The walls are constructed from whole logs with concrete chinking, and exhibit split-log corner boards. The north elevation contains a five-panel wood door; a toilet seat hangs above the door and is inscribed with "Lean To." The east and west elevations contain paired four-light windows. The cabin sits on a foundation of native rock. The entire cabin lists to the west, leaning against a nearby lodgepole pine tree. The cabin originally served for crew housing but has been unused since the 1990s. The construction year of this cabin is unknown but believed to predate WWII.

## **24. Pot Scratch (one contributing building)**

Pot Scratch, a one room cabin displaying a rectangular footprint, is covered with a front-gable roof and extension. The roof is topped with wood shingles; a metal stove pipe projects from the south roof slope. The gables sport shingle cladding. The cabin measures 12 x 11 feet with an 11 x 7-foot half-wall porch. The walls are constructed from whole logs, insulated with concrete chinking, and exhibit split-log corner boards. The east elevation contains a five-panel wood door; a toilet seat hangs above the door and is inscribed with "Pot Scratch." The north and south elevations contain a single four-light casement window. The cabin sits on a foundation of native rock and concrete. Named for the person's job it is to wash the pots and pans and clean the kitchen, the cabin once served for crew housing but has sat unused since the 1990s. The construction year of this cabin is unknown but believed to date before WWII.

## **25. Hen House (one contributing building)**

Displaying a rectangular footprint, the Hen House is a two room 18 x 25-foot gable roof cabin that traditionally housed female crew members. Wood shingles top the roof and a brick interior slope chimney with metal pipe extension projects from the west roof slope. The walls are whole-log with saddle notching and concrete chinking. The north and south walls feature a five-panel wood door and paired six-light sliding windows. The west elevation contains two paired nine-light windows. A concrete foundation supports the building. The construction year of this cabin is unknown but is believed to predate WWII.

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### **26. Papoose (one contributing building)**

Papoose, a one-room cabin displaying a rectangular footprint, is covered with a front-gable roof. The roof is topped with asphalt shingles; a metal stove pipe projects from the south roof slope. The west and east gables display horizontal board and shingle cladding, respectively. The cabin measures 18.5 x 9 feet with a 9 x 5-foot deck off the west elevation. The walls are constructed from whole logs, concrete chinking, and exhibit split-log corner boards. The west elevation contains a five-panel wood door. A small wood sign hangs above the door and is inscribed with "Papoose." Immediately north of the door are paired six-light windows. The north and south elevations contain a single four-light window. The north and south elevation window openings appear to have originally been larger than at present; part of the original opening being infilled with logs to match the rest of the elevation. The cabin sits on a foundation of native rock and originally served as crew housing. The construction year of this cabin is unknown but believed to predate WWII.

### **27. Turnabout (one contributing building)**

Constructed in the early 1930s, Turnabout, a 21.5 x 21.5-foot cabin, contains two rooms and a bathroom. A small enclosed shed roof addition, topped with asphalt shingles, is attached to the east elevation. The cabin displays a rectangular footprint and is topped with a gable roof covered with wood shingles, and a metal roof cap with end balls. The west gable sports a diamond shaped four-light window while the east gable contains a vertical board entry. The cabin appears to have been made from two different log structures. The west and south walls are made of shaped logs with square notching at the southeast and southwest corners. The east and north walls feature whole-log construction with log corner boards. The west façade contains a five-panel wood door flanked by vertically paired six-light fixed windows; paired six-light windows occur immediately to the south. The south wall contains paired six-light windows and a boarded up square window opening. The north wall holds paired six-light windows and paired nine-light windows. The east elevation contains a five-panel wood door fronted by a rustic screen door and paired six-light windows; projecting east off the elevation between the door and window is a small shed roof addition constructed from whole logs. The east elevation of the shed entry contains a split-log door and four-light window. The foundation is rock and concrete. Turnabout was used as the nursery for Grace and Ernest's children and other children at the ranch in the 1930s. Later, Grace Miller lived in Turnabout for many years. It has been used for crew housing since the 1980s.

**28. Palace (one contributing building)** The Palace, which exhibits a rectangular footprint, originally served as a one-room crew cabin and is believed to have been built in the 1920s. A rear bathroom addition was added in the 1930s when Grace's sister Bertha came to manage the ranch kitchen.<sup>6</sup> The addition has whole-log and corner post butt-end walls. A gable roof with extension protects the cabin and half-wall porch. Asphalt shingles top the roof and a stove pipe projects from the south roof slope. The west gable sports parallel log construction. The walls

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<sup>6</sup> Grace Miller, unpublished manuscript, *The Memoirs of Grace Nutting Miller*, circa 1975, Gallatin Gateway, MT.

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are constructed from whole logs sealed with concrete chinking. Vertical logs serve as corner boards for the west side of the building; the corners on the east side display saddle notching. A split-log Dutch door provides entry through the west elevation. Both the south and north walls contain one six-light window and a paired six-light unit. A four-light hopper window occurs in the east gable. A foundation of native rock supports the west portion of the cabin while the east portion of the building rest on a concrete foundation.

### **29. Handy (one contributing building)**

Constructed in the 1920s, the front-gable, rectangular-shaped Handy measures 28 x 16 feet. A small addition projects north off the north elevation and is topped by a dropped-gable roof. Handy contains a single room and bathroom. The roof is topped with asphalt shingles and a stove pipe projects from the east roof slope. The cabin features frame construction clad with horizontal half-logs. The south wall holds a split-log door fronted by a one-light wood screen door, and a six-light hopper window. The west elevation contains two paired six-light windows and the north wall holds a single six-light hopper unit. The cabin sits on a foundation of native rock and concrete. Handy has always served to house crew. Sis and Scotty Murry lived here throughout their tenure at the Elkhorn which started in 1939 with Sis working in the office and Scotty on maintenance.

### **30. Miller Cabin (one contributing building)**

The Miller Cabin, which measures approximately 37 x 33 feet, contains a living room, three bedrooms, kitchen, and a bathroom. A cross-gable roof with shed roof extension off the east elevation covers the building. The roof is topped with asphalt shingles. A stone interior slope chimney, metal stove pipe with extension, and a PVC pipe project from the south, north, and east roof slopes, respectively. A 12 x 9-foot uncovered deck occurs on the south side of the building. The walls are whole-log with saddle notching and concrete chinking. North elevation fenestration includes, from west to east, a wood door fronted by a wood screen door, a one-over-one single-hung unit, paired one-light casements, and a one-light hopper. The north wall contains paired two-light units, paired six-light units, and a one-light/two-panel wood door. The west wall holds a ribbon of three 1-over-1 windows and one four-light window. The foundation is concrete and native stone.

The construction of Miller Cabin occurred in three phases, with the center of the structure dating from the early 1920s. In the 1950's, two additions, one to the east and one to the west, were constructed by Robert Miller to accommodate his growing family.

### **31. Canyon (one contributing building)**

The Canyon guest cabin was built in the 1930s. It measures 36.5 x 26 feet with a 36.5 x 9-foot wide porch. The rectangular shaped cabin features a modified saltbox roof with the long pitch overhanging a half-wall log porch. An interior slope metal stove pipe projects from the asphalt shingle-covered roof. Built from whole logs with saddle notching and sealed with concrete chinking, the exterior corner logs decrease in length as they approach the roof. The cabin holds a living room, four bedrooms and two bathrooms. The west elevation contains a centered door made from split-log over milled wood fronted by a rustic screen door, two two-over-two double hung windows, and two paired six-light units. Two nine-light hopper windows occur in both the

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north and south walls, and four six-light hoppers occur in the east elevation. Canyon rests on a foundation of native stone and concrete.

### **32. Gallatin (one contributing building)**

Gallatin, a two bedroom one bathroom cabin, displays a rectangular footprint and measures 40 x 17 feet. An uncovered 40 x 8-foot porch is constructed off the west side of the cabin. The gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles and two metal stove pipes project from the west roof slope. The walls are constructed from whole logs exhibiting saddle notching and concrete chinking. The west façade contains two vertical board entry doors and two paired four-light windows. The south and north elevations contain paired one-over-one units. The east elevation holds a centered vertical board door and three two-light hopper windows. The foundation is native rock and concrete. Gallatin was constructed in the late 1920s at the 7-11 Ranch, just up Sage Creek.<sup>7</sup> Gallatin was moved between 1962 and 1971 to the Elkhorn where it served as a guest cabin until the late 1980s. Since that time it has been used as a crew cabin.

### **33. Sage (one contributing building)**

Sage is a two bedroom, one bath, rectangular shaped cabin that measures 40 x 17 feet. A side-gable roof topped with wood shingles covers the building. Two metal stove pipes and a PVC vent pipe project from the west roof slope. The walls are made from whole logs with saddle notches and concrete chinking. An uncovered 21 x 8-foot porch occurs on the west side. Entry occurs through two vertical board doors in the west elevation; two two-light casement windows also occur in the west elevation. The north and south walls contain paired six-light units, and the east wall holds a vertical board door and three two-light hopper windows. The foundation is native rock and concrete. Moved between 1962 and 1971 from the nearby 7-11 Ranch where it was constructed, Sage was built in the late 1920s. From the time of its arrival until the late 1980s, Sage served as a guest cabin. Since that time it has been used as a crew cabin.

### **34. McGuiness House (one contributing building)**

The "T"-shaped McGuiness House displays a cross-gable roof. The west roof slope is protected with ribbed steel while the remainder of the roof is covered with shingles. A center ridge cinder block chimney projects from near the center of the building. The cabin is made from milled logs with square notching. Entry is via a wood door on the north elevation of the eastern-projecting T. The east elevation contains a ribbon of five one-over-one windows and two single-light units. The west wall contains a paired one-by-one sliding unit. The south elevation also contains a paired one-by-one sliding unit, and a large fixed single-light unit. Two paired one-by-one sliding units appear in the north elevation. The McGuiness cabin sits on a concrete foundation. Built in 1958 or 1959, the cabin has two bedrooms, a living room, kitchen and a bathroom, in addition to the large entryway/mudroom which extends east from the front of the cabin. It originally served to house crew families. In the 1960s and 1970s, it served as the home of Randy and June McGuiness, and since the 1990s, it has been home to their son, Jim McGuiness.

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<sup>7</sup> Rising Sun Ranches, "Introducing Rising Sun Ranches," *Brochure*, 1929. Bozeman, MT.

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### **35. Winter House (one non-contributing building)**

The two-story, gable roof Winter House was built in 1994 to house the winter crew. The 37 x 32-foot cabin features a rectangular floorplan with an inset corner porch in the northeast portion of the building, the result of the north and east walls being stepped back from their respective elevations. The steeply pitched gable roof is covered with wood shingles on its east roof slope and ribbed steel on its west roof slope. Winter House features walls displaying whole-log construction with saddle notching and cementitious chinking. The cabin holds three bedrooms, a living room, kitchen, bathroom and a full basement. East elevation fenestration includes a multi-light modern entry door fronted by a metal screen door, and two paired one-light casement windows. The north elevation holds two fixed one-light windows. The south elevation contains three single-light casement windows on the ground floor and paired one-light casement units in the gable. The west elevation contains two one-light casement units.

### **36. Halfway House (one contributing building)**

The rectangular shaped Halfway House measures 30 x 11.5 feet and is covered with a front-gable roof topped with wood shingles, and a metal ridge cap with end balls. A metal stove pipe projects from the west roof slope. The building is made from shaped whole logs with square notching and concrete chinking. Entry is through a wood slab door in the north elevation. The south elevation holds paired one-light windows. Two awning windows and two one-light units occur in the east wall and a four-light hopper unit is in the west wall. Two door openings on the east side have been infilled with chinked logs. A foundation of native stone and concrete supports the building. Halfway House contains two rooms and one bathroom. The building can be seen in photographs of the 7-11 Ranch that date to the 1940s. It is believed to have been built in the 1930s. The Halfway House was moved from the 7-11 Ranch to its present location in 1971.<sup>8</sup>

### **37. Mule Parlor (one contributing building)**

Mule Parlor exhibits a rectangular footprint. It consists of three enclosed pens that form a "U" resulting from an open work area situated between them. One horse corral occurs at each end of the western pen. A hip-on-gable roof clad with ribbed metal covers the entire structure. The pens are made from milled logs with square notching. The pens house storage rooms, and horse stalls. The foundation is concrete. The Mule Parlor originally served as the barn at the 7-11 Ranch, located approximately one mile upstream from the Elkhorn on Sage Creek. The building can be seen in photographs of that location that date to the 1940s and it is believed to have been built in the 1930s. The structure was moved from the 7-11 Ranch to its present location between 1962 and 1971.

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<sup>8</sup> "My first year at the Elkhorn (1971) McGuinness and I and Bill Hymas, and I think Jimmy Anderson brought the Halfway House down from 7-11. We spent a couple of days doing it...digging underneath...then jacking it up and moving log skids under it. We sawed the front ends of the logs at a 45-degree angle so they wouldn't dig into the dirt while we were dragging the building. We used the old orange International dump truck to drag it back to the ranch." Kevin Devine email to Daphne White, September 2014.

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### **38. Barn (one contributing building)**

Constructed in the early 1930s, the triple-pen, 55 x 26-foot log barn features a gambrel roof topped with ribbed metal on the north side and asphalt shingles on the south side, a metal ridge cap and end balls. The log building features saddle notching. Vertical boards clad the gables. The center pen is longer than the adjoining north and south pens. A hay loft on the second level is accessed by a vertical board loft door in the south gable, and a loft opening protected by a gable dormer on the east roof slope. The north gable contains two six-over-six single-hung windows, which occur above a 5 by 6-foot opening filled with a modified Dutch door; the presentation and size of the logs used around the entrance in the north elevation contrasts with the rest of the elevation and the rest of the barn suggesting a larger opening once existed. The south elevation contains a similar entry door as the north. The east elevation contains two four-light fixed windows in the south pen, and a vertical plank door and ribbon of three four-light fixed windows in the center pen; the location of a mandoor between the plank door and ribbon windows has been infilled with horizontal boards. An exterior staircase leads to a five-panel wood door in the Gambrel roof of the west elevation. The ground floor of the west elevation contains a horizontal log door, and one fixed four-light window; the location of a mandoor north of the existing door has been infilled with horizontal boards. The foundation is made from native rock and concrete.

### **39. Saddle Shed (one contributing building)**

Dating to the late 1940s, the saddle shed displays a rectangular footprint. It measures 40 x 26 feet and is covered by a gable roof with asphalt shingles. A weathervane projects from the center of the roof. The shed is a three pen log structure with a mixture of saddle jointed walls and butt-end log posts serving as corner boards. The foundation is concrete. The center log pen is the largest of the three. Fitted with doors prior to the 1980s, all three pens were originally open to the east. The center pen now features double barn doors on an overhead track, and the northern pen holds a single vertical board side-hinged door. The southern pen remains open. Two eight-light fixed windows occur in the south elevation. Very early ranch postcards show a similar building made of slab over frame construction in this location prior to the barn's construction.

### **40. Granary (one contributing building)**

The granary is a small gable roofed building located just behind the Saddle Shed used to store grain for the ranch's horse herd. The roof is protected with wood shingles. Milled logs comprise the walls. The east wall contains a rustic board door sporting a door knob, and an elaborate rustic wooden latch with large strap hinges that affix the door to the building. Small one-light fixed windows appear in the north and south walls. One of the roof support beams displays a "US" stamped into the end suggesting the building, or at least the logs, were once the property of the U.S. government. The building was likely constructed in the 1930s and moved to the Elkhorn Ranch from the 7-11 Ranch sometime between 1962 and 1971.

### **41. Barn Outhouse (one contributing building)**

This almost square gable roofed outhouse measures 7 x 9.5 feet and sports a two-seat arrangement. Wood shingles with a metal ridge cap and end balls cover the roof and the walls are made of milled/shaped logs with square corner notching. The building originally served as a

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storage building and was moved to its present location between 1962 and 1971 from the 7-11 Ranch. It was likely originally constructed in the 1930s.

#### **42. Shoeing Shop (one contributing building)**

The 1940s side-gable Shoeing Shop features a square footprint, measuring 23 x 23 feet. Wood shingles and a metal roof cap with end balls covers the roof. A metal stove pipe projects from the north roof slope. The walls are of whole-log with saddle notching and cementitious chinking. Large horizontal half-log doors suspended on an overhead track provide entry through the east elevation. The north elevation contains paired square openings with exterior wooden shutters, while the south elevation contains two paired six-light sliding windows. The Shoeing Shop rests on a concrete foundation. Photos from the 1920s and 1930s indicate a slab over frame shop originally occupied this location.

#### **43. Bunk House (one contributing building)**

The Bunk House features a rectangular footprint. A porch projects off the east elevation and a small addition is constructed off the west elevation. A gable roof protects the original central portion of the building and dropped-gable roofs cover the addition and porch. Wood shingles top the roof. The building contains one bedroom and one bathroom (in the addition) and measures 33 x 16 feet. The porch measures 12 x 7 feet. The walls are made of whole logs with saddle notching and concrete chinking. A board door affixed with large strap hinges fronted by a rustic wood screen door provides ingress through the east wall. A square window opening, presently closed with a wood shutter, occurs immediately north of the door. The north elevation holds a wood door leading into the bathroom addition and paired six-light windows in the main block. The west wall contains a four-light hopper window, and the south wall holds a paired six-light window. A foundation of native rock and concrete supports the building.

The Bunk House originally served as the former Gallatin National Forest's Sage Creek Ranger Station, located about 1.5 miles up Sage Creek. In the 1960s, after the ranger station closed, the Elkhorn Ranch purchased the cabin for \$45 and moved it to its present location where it began use as the bunkhouse.<sup>9</sup>

#### **44. Snake Pit (one noncontributing building)**

The Snake Pit is a rectangular 28 x 18-foot one-room cabin with a bathroom addition. A gable roof covers the original cabin and a dropped gable roof protects the bathroom addition. Wood shingles and a metal ridge cap top the roof, which is pierced by a metal stove pipe near the roofline. Whole logs with saddle notching and cement chinking comprise the walls. The main entry, a nine-light/one-panel wood door, occurs in the east elevation. A six-light hopper window is south of the door. The south elevation contains a six-light hopper in the gable and paired six-over-six single-hung windows below. The west elevation contains a six-over-six single-hung window in the original cabin and a wood door fronted by a two-light/one-panel wood screen door in the bathroom addition. The foundation is concrete. The Snake Pit was moved from its original location at the 320 Ranch (just a few miles to the north of the Elkhorn) to the Elkhorn in 1994. The cabin is believed to date to the 1910s-1920s.

<sup>9</sup> R. Hymas, interview with Daphne White, July 18, 2014.



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#### **45. Wood Shop (one noncontributing building)**

The gable roofed Wood Shop consists of a 30 x 24-foot single room building built in 2010. The roof is protected with ribbed metal and a metal stove pipe projects from the west roof slope. The frame building is clad with horizontal split logs on the north, south, and east elevations and vertical boards and ribbed metal on the west elevation. Fenestration includes a metal door and paired 12-light sliding windows in the north wall, and an overhead garage-style door and paired 12-light sliding windows in the east wall. The shop rests on a concrete foundation.

#### **46. Catacombs (one contributing building)**

The Catacombs, a long, low rectangular building, features a saltbox style roof covered with wood shingles, a metal ridge cap and end balls. Built in the 1940s, the wood frame Catacombs measures 96 feet long and 21 feet wide and displays split-log cladding. It abuts the previously described Wood Shop. The building consists of six rooms and two parking bays. Five-panel wood doors provide ingress to each room through the east façade. East elevation windows include six six-over-six single-hung units and two paired six-over-six single-hungs. The south wall holds a paired six-over-six single-hung unit. The Catacombs sits on a concrete foundation. Originally, two additional parking bays sat at the north end of the building, but were torn down in 2010 when the construction of the Wood Shop occurred.

### **Structures**

#### **47. Bonfire Ring (one contributing structure)**

The Bonfire Ring measures 14 feet in diameter and is composed of large river rocks. The fire ring sits just to the north of the Recreation Hall and is referenced in the first ranch brochure. Since the 1920s, ranch guests have gathered at this location for evenings of group singing and marshmallow roasting.

#### **48. Pond/Swimming Hole/Swimming Pool (one contributing structure)**

The pond, a favorite spot on warm summer days, measures approximately 140 x 50 feet in size. It was built by impounding Little Spring Creek just before it enters Sage Creek to the north of the Recreation Cabin. It is also referred to as the Swimming Pool as evidenced by a 1920s ranch postcard. Figures 1 and 2 above provide a historic and recent view of the pond. A drain on the north side of the feature allows for winter drainage.

### **Spatial organization**

The current organization of space within the Elkhorn Ranch reflects the layout established during the historic period of the ranch's development. The earliest buildings and resources, many dating to the 1920s and 1930s, tend to cluster in the southern portion of the property, specifically between Sage and Little Spring creeks, and on the east side of Little Spring Creek. While most of these resources dating to the early operation of the ranch are buildings, two structures serve as the northern extent of these earliest resources, the fire ring, and the pond, which serves as a catchment for the two creeks.

A few buildings were constructed in a north-south alignment on west edge of the property, most in the 1930s and 1940s. Mixed among these and following the same alignment are buildings

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constructed during the historic period but brought to the property, and a few buildings of recent construction.

The east edge of the property, east of the creek and north of the earlier historic southern building cluster, contains two buildings constructed in the 1920s, but brought to the Elkhorn Ranch between 1961 and 1971.

### **Circulation (one contributing structure)**

The existing circulation pattern within the ranch reflects the patterns found historically. The gravel drives generally lead past the front of the buildings. As buildings were constructed further from the original core area of the ranch, the roads were extended to provide access. The majority of the roads have been in use since the 1920s and 1930, with the construction of the core group of buildings near the center of the property; the latest road dates to the early 1970s when the two buildings near the northeast boundary of the ranch were moved to the property. The main road that leads into the ranch from nearby Hwy 191 also lies in its historic location and is constructed of gravel. Although the roads aren't named, they are referenced according to which buildings they lead to. A few small gravel parking areas occur through the ranch, though parking generally occurs informally next to a building.

The trails that lead from one building to another also date to the historic period. They lie in their original locations and reflect the pedestrian and trail riding routes associated with the ranch since its development. The trails are undeveloped consisting of bare earth.

### **Integrity**

The Elkhorn Ranch and the surrounding area retains a remarkably high degree of integrity of setting. Other than access roads, little visible intrusions exist to the natural landscape. The pastures, outside of the nominated portion of the ranch, basically exist today as they did in the late nineteenth century, affected only by the introduction of fences. Within the ranch complex, changes to vegetation have occurred naturally over time.

Integrity of workmanship, materials and design remain strong. The Elkhorn Ranch contains an excellent collection of log and split-log on frame buildings whose historic fabric has been retained for nearly 100 years. Alterations or modifications are generally few and the buildings retain their historic appearance and character. The tradition of gable roof log and split-log on frame buildings sporting square or saddle notching dominates the assemblage. Minor modifications have been made to some buildings—mostly for the sake of preservation. The reroofing of several buildings with metal and asphalt shingle roofs falls under this category.

Integrity of location, association, and feeling also remain. Several of the ranch buildings were brought in from other nearby ranches; however, the vast majority were both constructed and brought to the Elkhorn Ranch more than 50 years ago, within the period of significance. The layout of the ranch has remained virtually the same since its establishment. Because the addition of some of the moved-in buildings occurred during the period of significance and because they have remained in those locations where they were first placed, they contribute to the overall significance of the ranch; their addition speaks to the evolving nature of the operation, the

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growth of the ranch, and the attempt of the owners to facilitate the ranch's operation with buildings similar in style and period of construction as those originally present on the property.

The Elkhorn Ranch's unpretentious architecture conveys a timelessness that has persisted over the years. All the contributing buildings represent a simple vernacular rustic architectural style, with some of the larger cabins illustrating slightly more elaborate detailing, often seen in the trusses above the half-wall porches. Noncontributing resources are few. Those resources, such as the Wood Shop and Snake Pit, were either brought to the ranch outside the period of significance or are recent constructions. They are not intrusive and blend with the original buildings.

### Small-scale features

Jack fencing around the ranch is ubiquitous and is not included in the resource count. Since the 1940s, the fencing around the Elkhorn Ranch has been rustic jack fencing complete with handmade gates. This vernacular style of fencing is found in regions where straight logs are plentiful and rocky soils make burying fence posts problematic. The Elkhorn maintains two miles of rustic jack fencing in and around the ranch property.

### Resources at the Elkhorn Ranch, Gallatin County

Feature Number	Feature Name	C or NC	Construction Date	Additions	Moved to Elkhorn
1	Recreation Hall	C	1920s		
2	Office	NC	2013		
3	Old Office	C	late 1930s		
4	Corral	C	1928		
5	Highpoint	C	1928/1929		
6	Lookout	C	1928		
7	Squaw	C	1928		
8	Squaw Portable	C	pre 1945		
9	Middle Skid Row	C	pre 1945		
10	Trappers Cabin	C	pre 1945		
11	Washhouse	C	1920s	1930s	
12	Hiawatha	C	1939		
13	B.O.Q	C	1939		
14	Prospector	C	early 1920s	early 1930s	
15	Tabernacle	C	early 1920s	early 1930s	
16	Spring and Sunshine	C	pre 1941		

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17	Highlight	C	early 1920s	early 1930s	
18	Gulch	C	1928		
19	Over-the-Hill	C	1920s	1930s	
20	Guest Dining Room/Kitchen/Crew Dining Room/Storage	NC	early 1920s, 1931	early 1990s	
21	Spring House	C	early 1920s		
22	Crew Bathrooms	C	late 1930s		
23	Lean To	C	pre 1941		
24	Pot Scratch	C	pre 1941		
25	Hen House	C	pre 1941		
26	Papoose	C	pre 1941		
27	Turnabout	C	early 1930s		
28	Palace	C	1920s	1930s	
29	Handy	C	1920s		
30	Miller Cabin	C	1920s	1950s	
31	Canyon	C	1930s		
32	Gallatin	C			1962-1971
33	Sage	C	late 1920s		1962-1971
34	McGuinness House	C	1958/1959		
35	Winter House	NC	1994		
36	Halfway House	C	1930s		1971
37	Mule Parlor	C	1930s		1962-1971
38	Barn	C	1930s		
39	Saddle Shed	C	late 1940s		
40	Granary	C	1930s		1962-1971
41	Barn Outhouse	C	1930s		1962-1971
42	Shoeing Shop	C	1940s		
43	Bunk House	C			1960s
44	Snake Pit	NC	1910-1920		1994
45	Wood Shop	NC	2010		
46	Catacombs	C	1940s		
47	Bonfire Ring	C	1920s		
48	Pond	C	1920s		
	Circulation	C	1920s-1970s		

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

### Criteria Considerations

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

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Entertainment/Recreation

Architecture

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1922-1971

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1922, 1926, 1941

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Cruse Black (6/4/1881 – 10/5/1972)

Ernest Miller (1/4/1892- 4/21/1949)

Robert Miller (6/30/1927- 2/7/2015)

Vic "Old Man" Benson, Sr.

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Elkhorn Ranch is eligible for listing in the National Register under criteria A and C for its association with the dude ranching industry in Montana and the burgeoning recreational opportunities associated with the industry. The ranch represents a stunning example of an intact, purpose-built, dude ranch dating from the height of the dude ranching industry in the western United States. Construction of the ranch began in 1922, the year of its founding, and was substantially completed by the time the United States entered into World War II in 1941. The Elkhorn Ranch, like other dude ranches of its time was built to meet the recreation and entertainment needs of increasingly affluent Americans. Built in the rustic style with logs and stone sourced on the ranch these buildings have stood the test of time. The ranch has continually operated since 1922 as a dude ranch with almost no changes to its physical plan or operations.

Dates significant to the property include 1922, which marks the original homestead purchase, initial construction of the buildings at the ranch, and the occasion of the ranch hosting its first four guests. The year 1926 is associated with Ernest Miller of the Elkhorn Ranch serving as the secretary/treasurer of the newly founded Dude Rancher's Association reflecting the ranch's importance to the nascent organization. Lastly, 1941 represents for practical purposes, the end of the majority of the construction activities at the ranch; in addition, 1941 signifies the loss of the majority of the male management and workers departure for service in WWII and the ranch operations being assumed by the women of the ranch. The end of the period of significance, 1972, marks the year when all of the contributing resources sat on the property.

The Elkhorn Ranch Historic District meets Criterion Consideration B for moved properties. Seven contributing buildings (16 percent of the total contributing resources) were moved to the ranch between 1962 and 1971. Of those seven, only one was definitely dated through the remembrance of a former seasonal employee to being moved in 1971 suggesting the other six were already on the property by that date. Because the moved buildings (brought in from a nearby ranch and forest service station) share many of the features of those that already existed at the ranch, their immigration proved seamless in terms of the continuity of the architecture and the role they played in the continuing evolution and function of the property. Although the seven contributing buildings are moved, they remain in a nearly identical setting and environment to their original location. Their presence by no later than 1971 essentially finalized the present configuration of the Elkhorn Ranch and established the closing date of the period of significance.

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

The Elkhorn Ranch is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A for its association with the rise of dude ranching in southwest Montana. Unlike many ranches that began life as actual working ranches and later converted to dude ranching, the Elkhorn Ranch was purpose-built to function in such a capacity. Corresponding with the development of tourism as one of Montana's primary draws, it catered to individuals of ever-increasing affluence

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who searched for a different type of recreational opportunity. The ranch guests, called dudes in the vernacular of the day, came west to experience ranch culture and the mountains and wildlife the west offered. Dude ranching “played an important role in perpetuating America’s continuing romance with the West.”<sup>10</sup> An active and founding member of the Dude Ranch Association, the Elkhorn Ranch represented the western dude experience, satisfying their guest's idealistic visions of the West.

The Elkhorn Ranch gains additional significance under Criterion C. The ranch buildings proficiently represent vernacular rustic architecture strongly influenced by the abundantly available local timber and stone. The buildings and structures at the ranch easily display the modest, yet skilled craftsmanship of the builders. The use of rustic architecture at dude ranches, including the Elkhorn Ranch, was actively promoted by the Dude Ranchers Association as a means of enhancing the experience of the dudes by providing the western atmosphere they imagined.

### **Developmental History of Dude Ranching<sup>11</sup>**

Dude ranching evolved from the almost mythical romance associated with the Old West at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Much of the fascination derived from the early dime novel authors and early screen writers.<sup>12</sup> Recognizing this fascination and interest in the West could actually be profitable, the fledgling dude ranching industry emerged, allowing eastern vacationers the opportunity to experience the West and all that entailed in relative comfort. The emergence of the dude ranch served as "a primary reason of the growth of the tourist industry in the West, along with railroads and parks." The industry gradually developed from a casual activity, into a dominant business that often profited not only the dude ranch, but also nearby communities.<sup>13</sup>

Much of the emphasis that allowed for the success of the dude ranches derived from the changing notions regarding the wilderness in the late 1800s and early 1900s resulting in the widespread "Back to Nature Movement." Instead of merely serving as the location where raw materials could be extracted, the "Back to Nature Movement" viewed nature as a place to relax, to experience wholesome recreation, and moral regeneration.<sup>14</sup> The "Back to Nature Movement"

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<sup>10</sup> Jerome Rodnitzky, "Recapturing the West: The Dude Ranch in American Life," *Arizona and the West* 10 (Summer 1968): 111.

<sup>11</sup> Much of the Developmental History of Dude Ranching is drawn from Lawrence R. Borne, "Dude Ranching in the Rocky Mountains," *Montana The Magazine of Western History*, vol. 38, no. 3 (Summer 1988), pp. 14-27; Joan Brownell, *the Bones Brothers Ranch National Register Nomination* (listed March 19, 2004, NR# 4000220), on file at the Montana State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT; Ann Emmons and Walt Allen, *OTO Homestead and Dude Ranch National Register Nomination* (NR listed October 12, 2004, NR# 99000054), on file at the Montana State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT; and B. Derek Strahn, *the B-K Ranch (B Bar K Ranch) National Register Nomination* (listed December 28, 2006, NR#20061228), on file at the Montana State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT.

<sup>12</sup> Charles P. Shroeder, "Forward," *Western Heritage: A Selection of Wrangler Award-Winning Articles*, (Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 2011), xi-xii.

<sup>13</sup> Lawrence R. Borne, "Dude Ranching in the Rockies," *Montana The Magazine of Western History*, 38 (Summer 1988): pg. 15.

<sup>14</sup> Paul S. Sutter, *Driven Wild* (University of Washington Press, Seattle, 2002), pg. 21.



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was an attempt to escape the nuisances of city life by returning to nature. The movement served as the basis for the preservation movement, redefined landscape architecture, and served as "the impetus for scenic tourism."<sup>15</sup> The movement spurred the rise of organizations such as the Boone and Crockett Club, the Sierra Club, and the Boy Scouts in the late 1880s and early 1900s.

Because of the movement's focus on nature, it had a profound effect regarding the promotion of well-known wilderness destinations, such as Yellowstone National Park. The movement also provided a positive influence toward the development of wilderness-themed tourist destinations, such as the nascent dude ranch industry.

Credit for, if not the first than one of the first, dude ranch operations goes to Howard Eaton and his brothers, who in 1882 afforded lodgings to eastern travelers on their Medora ranch.<sup>16</sup> It was Howard Eaton's personal communications with Teddy Roosevelt that persuaded the future president to go west.<sup>17</sup> The trip proved so satisfying that Roosevelt returned the following year, no doubt in part due to the loss of both his wife and his mother. Roosevelt extolled his passion for the West in *Ranch Life and the Hunting Trail*, his 1888 book exalting the virtues of this type of tourism.

The initial two decades of the twentieth century witnessed the evolution of the dude ranch from an unorganized individual or family small operation to a substantial economic driver. The end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century in the West witnessed severe overgrazing, a number of harsh winters, followed by the Panic of 1893, which prompted a severe drop in cattle prices. To combat and ensure greater financial stability, many ranchers solicited paying guests to come and stay at their ranches. Although the presence of the guests provided supplemental income to the ranches in the short-term, in the long-term their presence provided economic traction toward a successful professional enterprise.

By the 1920s and partially as an attempt to counter the effects of the agricultural depression, dude ranching in the United States ran full-throttle as working ranches began to convert. "Dude ranching is now coming into its own as one of the West's fast developing industries...During the last few years there has been a remarkable growth in the cattle country and mountain regions of Montana and Wyoming in the so-called dude ranch business."<sup>18</sup> Of the dude ranches operating in Montana, the majority concentrated in the vicinity of Glacier and Yellowstone Parks. According to estimates compiled by the Northern Pacific and Burlington Northern Railroads, "[m]ore than a million dollars were spent by guests at the various resorts of the two states" in 1926.<sup>19</sup> By 1938, dude ranching in Montana developed into a major contributor to the state's economy, bringing in twelve million dollars the previous year alone.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> Sandra Jean Johnson, *Early Conservation by the Arizona Federation of Women's Clubs from 1900 to 1932* (The University of Michigan, 1993), pgs. 16-18.

<sup>16</sup> Brownell, *the Bones Brothers Ranch National Register Nomination*, pg. 14.

<sup>17</sup> Joel H. Bernstein, *Families That Take In Friends: An Informal History of Dude Ranching*, (Stevensville, MT: Stoneydale Press Publishing Co., 1983), pg. 16.

<sup>18</sup> W. B. Banfill "Dude Ranching Now Coming Into Its Own as one of the West's Fast Developing Industries," *Montana Newspaper Inserts*, December 19, 1927, Montana Historical Society Vertical Files, Helena, Montana.

<sup>19</sup> Ann Emmons and Walt Allen, *OTO Ranch National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form* (listed October 12, 2004, NR# 99000054), on file at the Montana State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, Montana,

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Although the increase in automobile use proved benign to some dude ranches, others managed to survive the dark years of the Depression only to fall victim to their increasing popularity. The convenience of the automobile, combined with the ever improved roadways and networks of roads, resulted in the escalation of the construction of roadside cabins, camps, and motels. The ideal of solitude and wilderness were compromised by the ease of access provided by the car. Part of the popularity of the automobile compared to the railroads, of course, was that automobiles weren't constrained by timetables necessitated by rail travel.

The heyday of the dude ranch ended with the entrance of the United States into World War II. Although dude ranching declined in popularity, many ranches managed to continue to operate and succeed, the Elkhorn Ranch included. In fact, the Elkhorn Ranch continues to this day, operating in the same capacity envisioned by its original owners nearly 100 years ago.

### **The Yellowstone Park Effect**

The creation of Yellowstone National Park in 1872, the first national park in the United States, provided eastern populations one of the first opportunities to see the West in all of its spectacular glory. The natural wonders of Yellowstone National Park, and later Glacier National Park, proved an unimaginable lure to eastern travelers.

The proximity of dude ranches to a major national park, such as Yellowstone, provided a huge economic advantage. Dude ranching and the objectives and goals of Yellowstone National Park, were mutually aligned. Both emphasized the environmental principles and the western aura that promulgated the western tourism industry at the time. Yellowstone greatly influenced the dude ranch industry of both Montana and Wyoming in terms of geography, architecture, and economics.<sup>21</sup> Under the direct shadow of Yellowstone National Park, the dude ranching industry developed as “the single most unique contribution of the Rocky Mountain West to the ever-growing national vacation industry.”<sup>22</sup>

In addition, the services that Yellowstone Park commanded, especially in terms of the necessity of making the Park accessible to visitors, proved economically important to not only the success of the Park but also to the railroads. The railroad's ties to Yellowstone and their promotion of the tourist industry are undeniable: “Of the 51,895 visitors who entered Yellowstone during the summer of 1915...fully 44,477 arrived by rail as opposed to only 7,418 who arrived by car.”<sup>23</sup> Their virtual monopoly on access to the Park, no less than five major railroads served Yellowstone and its immediate vicinity by 1930, along with their prolific ability to advertise

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pgs. 8:1 and 8:2; Charles G. Roundy, “The Origins and Early Development of Dude Ranching in Wyoming,” *Annals of Wyoming* 45 (Spring 1973): pg. 21; W. B. Banfill “Dude Ranching Now Coming Into Its Own as one of the West’s Fast Developing Industries.”

<sup>20</sup> Frank Gordon, “Dude Ranches Develop Into 12 Million Dollar Industry in Montana,” *The Dude Rancher* (April and May, 1938): pg. 34.

<sup>21</sup> Strahn, *the B-K Ranch (B Bar K Ranch) National Register Nomination*, pg. 21.

<sup>22</sup> Roundy, “The Origins and Early Development of Dude Ranching in Wyoming,” pg. 5.

<sup>23</sup> The Union Pacific arrived in West Yellowstone, Montana in 1908; Alfred Runte, *Trains of Discovery: Western Railroads and the National Parks* (Flagstaff, AZ: Northland Press, 1984), pgs. 32-34.

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benefitted not only the railroads but also nearby businesses, which in many cases included dude ranches.<sup>24</sup>

Although the Park continued to build new infrastructure to address the increased visitation, additional facilities were needed. This overflow often fell to areas outside the Park, including dude ranches: “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.”<sup>25</sup> It helped that “the closeness of dude ranches to national parks greatly enhances the charm of the ranches in the eyes of many tourists.”<sup>26</sup> It is not a stretch to intimate that Yellowstone Park literally led to the establishment of dozens of dude ranches within its shadow.

### **The Gallatin Canyon Road to Bozeman**

The importance of Yellowstone National Park extended beyond the newly developing dude ranch industry. The fascination with the Western experience by easterners, was not lost on businessmen in towns located outside the park. The establishment of the National Forests further burnished the credentials of the West as an area of remote and natural wonder. The problem was that many of the towns that were actually near the Park, such as Bozeman, Montana, lacked any form of transportation, including rail or road, from the park to their community.

Not ignorant to the possibilities and opportunity presented by the proximity of Yellowstone, three Bozeman residents, Walter Cooper, Peter Koch, and George Wakefield, hoped to entice the Northern Pacific Railroad to run a spur from Bozeman south down the Gallatin Canyon, near the future location of the Elkhorn Ranch, to Yellowstone National Park in an attempt to route tourists from the Park through their town.<sup>27</sup> Although this attempt failed, promotion of this potential route continued, asserting its virtues as a west entrance to the Park. The vigorous campaigning for this route eventually resulted in the Gallatin County Commissioners allocating \$10,000 for the construction of a wagon road from the mouth of the canyon to the confluence of Taylor’s Fork, just north of the boundary of the Park, with work commencing in 1898.<sup>28</sup>

Although the road commissioned by Gallatin County led to the northwest edge of the Park, few improvements existed along the way. However, despite the very rudimentary nature of the road, it allowed for some Bozeman businessmen and entrepreneurs to move into the area.<sup>29</sup> Early ranching efforts in the canyon included the establishment in the late 1890s of the 9 Quarter

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<sup>24</sup>Alfred Runte, *National Parks: The American Experience* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1997), pg. 92; Runte, *Trains of Discovery: Western Railroads and the National Parks*, pgs. 32-34; Kirby Lambert, “The Lure of the Parks,” *Montana: The Magazine of Western History* 46 (Spring 1996): pgs. 42-55.

<sup>25</sup> Roundy, “The Origins and Early Development of Dude Ranching in Wyoming,” pgs. 14-15.

<sup>26</sup>“See the National Parks-The Dude Ranch Way-On Horseback,” *The Dude Rancher* 1:3 (1933): pg. 6.

<sup>27</sup> Marian Bunker, “West Gallatin Northern Pacific Exploring Expedition,” letter dated October 10, 1940, in marked folder no. 2. McGill Collection, Montana State University Archives, Burlingame Special Collections, Bozeman, Montana.

<sup>28</sup> Strahn, *the B-K Ranch (B Bar K Ranch) National Register Nomination*, pg. 19.

<sup>29</sup> Janet Cronin and Dorothy Vick, *Montana’s Gallatin Canyon: A Gem in the Treasure State* (Missoula: Mountain Press Publishing Company, 1992), pg. 101.

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Circle Ranch on Taylor's Fork, about five miles west of the present day Elkhorn Ranch.

Consolidated from three homesteads in the area, the 9 Quarter Circle Ranch operation became the largest cattle outfit in Gallatin County.<sup>30</sup>

In the early 1900s, development of the Gallatin Canyon area and the dream of luring tourists from Yellowstone to Bozeman took a giant leap forward when the Gallatin County Commercial Club sought federal approval to extend the wagon road south through the northwest corner of Yellowstone National Park. The road, completed by 1911, terminated at the Union Pacific rail spur, constructed from the west and completed in 1908, at the newly developed town of Riverside, later called West Yellowstone.<sup>31</sup>

With the completion of the road all the way to West Yellowstone, the Bozeman business community felt confident that some of the Park tourist traffic would find its way north to their town. In fact, the construction of the road provided the groundwork for not only increased tourist travel through Bozeman, but also as a true means for the development of the Gallatin Canyon area north of the Park.

Of course, to the early dude ranches operating at the time, and later to those ranches that opened in the 1920s or 1930s, such as the Elkhorn Ranch, the construction of the road to West Yellowstone proved beneficial as a main artery that passed very near their doorsteps. While the building of roads and the increased use of the automobile certainly had a deleterious effect on certain businesses, most dude ranches included, the road through Gallatin Canyon and the rail lines that served the Park, generally yielded positive results to the dude ranches in the canyon, and to the Elkhorn Ranch.

### **Gallatin Canyon Dude Ranches**

Prior to the dude ranches, much of the Gallatin Canyon area was settled by former placer miners. Although gold served as the hook to bring many of these people west, its elusiveness resulted in many staying in the area, not for mineral gain, but instead to actually live and farm the land. Good lands for agriculture within the canyon existed; the establishment of the Gallatin National Forest in 1899 excluded potential agricultural lands, leaving those available for settlement. Many of the homesteaders that settled in the canyon filed under the Forest Homestead Act of 1906.<sup>32</sup>

The roots of the industry in Gallatin Canyon appear to date to 1906, when Pete Karst of Karst's Cold Spring Resort, Tom Michener of Michener's Camp, and Sam Wilson of Buffalo Horn Resort met at Michener's ranch to organize a business catering to tourists interested in the natural and scenic assets of the surrounding area. The three agreed to fix their rates at \$12.00 a week for board and lodging and \$6.00 a week for a saddle horse.<sup>33</sup> By 1909, Karst's Resort, located over 20 miles north of the future Elkhorn Ranch near Big Sky ski resort, hosted 183

<sup>30</sup> Cronin and Vick, *Montana's Gallatin Canyon: A Gem in the Treasure State*, pgs. 101-03.

<sup>31</sup> Strahn, *the B-K Ranch (B Bar K Ranch) National Register Nomination*, pg. 19.

<sup>32</sup> Strahn, *the B-K Ranch (B Bar K Ranch) National Register Nomination*, pgs. 19-20; Cronin and Vick, *Montana's Gallatin Canyon: A Gem in the Treasure State*, pg. 89.

<sup>33</sup> Strahn, *the B-K Ranch (B Bar K Ranch) National Register Nomination*, pg. 24.

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visitors.<sup>34</sup> Before long, neighboring ranches took note of Karst's success. The 9 Quarter Circle Ranch, which began as a true working ranch, expanded into the dude business in 1910 with the construction of their first cabins built exclusively for guests.

The increase in automobile traffic up and down Gallatin Canyon thanks to the construction of the Gallatin Canyon Road, along with the outbreak of World War I, which discouraged tourists from overseas travel, provided a positive boost to the dude ranches operating in the canyon.<sup>35</sup> The proximity to Yellowstone and the Park's inability to accommodate all the visitors served as a true windfall to the dude ranches in the Gallatin Canyon.

Interest in visiting dude ranches by a middle class with more discretionary income continued unabated into the 1920s, helped locally by the association between the railroads and Yellowstone. The dude ranches in the Gallatin Canyon benefited from the railroad's competition between each other. This included the attempt by the Milwaukee Road to cash in on some of the potential Park tourism with the construction of the Gallatin Gateway Inn in Gallatin Gateway, north of the Park and the Elkhorn Ranch, in 1927.<sup>36</sup> From the inn, visitors were transported by bus to the Park. With the buses passing right through the Gallatin Canyon, the route served to highlight other attractions on the way to the Park, providing essentially free advertising to businesses such as the dude ranches. However, it was only a matter of time before the symbiotic relationship between the railroads and Yellowstone extended to the dude ranch industry in a more formalized manner, especially as the automobile gained a foothold in how visitors came to the Park.<sup>37</sup> As the automobile began to eat away at the profits of the railroad, the railroads attempted to shore up their declining profits. One way of doing so was to partner with the expanding dude ranch industry. Especially important in this burgeoning relationship was Ernest Miller of the Elkhorn Ranch who proposed the union to A. B. Smith, Passenger Traffic Manager of the Northern Pacific Railway. From this contact sprang the Dude Rancher's Association, an organization which continues to this day.<sup>38</sup>

The Gallatin Canyon provided all the niceties for hosting successful dude ranches. Numerous dude ranches opened at this time including the Rising Sun Ranch, on Sage Creek, the Rainbow Ranch, just above the Lower Basin, Buck's T-Four Ranch in the Lower Basin, and the Elkhorn Ranch, the subject of this nomination.

## **THE ELKHORN RANCH**

### **Location and Deed History**

<sup>34</sup> Michael P. Malone, "The Gallatin Canyon and the Tides of History." *Montana: The Magazine of Western History* 23 (July 1973): pg. 10.

<sup>35</sup> Borne, "Dude Ranches and the Development of the West," pgs. 88-89.

<sup>36</sup> *Gallatin Gateway*, Milwaukee Road Archives, on line at: <http://milwaukeeeroadarchives.com/GGIInn.pdf> (accessed on October 13, 2015).

<sup>37</sup> Lawrence R. Borne, "Dude Ranches and the Development of the West," *Journal of the West* 17 (July 1978): pg. 89; Strahn, *the B-K Ranch (B Bar K Ranch) National Register Nomination*; the Burlingame Special Collections, Renne Library, Montana State University-Bozeman houses a variety of dude ranch promotional brochures sponsored by railroads.

<sup>38</sup> Roundy, "The Origins and Early Development of Dude Ranching in Wyoming," pg. 21.

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The majority of the property within the Elkhorn Ranch Historic District, specifically the E1/2 of the SE1/4 of Section 11 T9S R4E and the N1/2 of the SW1/4 of Section 12 T9S R4E, was originally patented by Charles A. "Axe" Johnson on July 25, 1912.<sup>39</sup> By 1920, Axe lost his homestead in a tax sale and the property was purchased by H. Green, a Bozeman banker.<sup>40</sup> In 1922, Grace and Ernest Miller purchased the property from the banker for \$500. In her memoirs Grace noted that "by 1926 we had been able to buy not only the rest of Axe Johnson's quarter section but all the rest of the homestead and private lands in the whole section."<sup>41</sup> The W1/2 of the SW1/4 of the SW ¼ of Section 12, T9S R4E that contains the eastern-most buildings was patented by the Elkhorn Ranch on November 23, 1956.<sup>42</sup> In June, 1988, the Minton's acquired the property.

### Ernest and Grace Miller

The driving force behind the establishment of the Elkhorn Ranch was Ernest and Grace Miller. Ernest, born in 1892 in Michigan, was raised in Virginia City, Montana. Growing up in Virginia City likely afforded Ernest the opportunity to explore the surrounding countryside, including the Sage Creek Valley, only 40 miles and one mountain range to the east. During World War I, Ernest served as a corporal in Company K, 8<sup>th</sup> US Infantry in France and Germany. While there, he travelled in France and Italy, and was a member of the winning U.S. Pistol team at the Inter-Allied Games of 1919.<sup>43</sup> A person of varied interests, Ernest attended classes in photography and cinematography in New York City after the War.<sup>44</sup>

In addition to his reputation as a marksman, enhanced by his participation on the U.S. Pistol team in the International Games in 1919, Ernest was also an accomplished mountain guide, a combination that led to membership in the exclusive Campfire Club of America. The Campfire Club originated in 1904 in New York as a social club for men with interests in the outdoors and wildlife conservation. Entry depended on outdoor skills rather than social standing or wealth. As a member of the Campfire Club, Ernest was exposed to the "great camps" in the Adirondack Mountains of New York and introduced to men nationally influential in wilderness pursuits,

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<sup>39</sup> U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, General Land Office Records for Township 9 South Range 4 East sections 11 and 12, [http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/results/default.aspx?searchCriteria=type=patent|st=MT|cty=|twp\\_nr=9|twp\\_dir=S|rng\\_nr=4|rng\\_dir=E|sec=12|sp=true|sw=true|sadv=false](http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/results/default.aspx?searchCriteria=type=patent|st=MT|cty=|twp_nr=9|twp_dir=S|rng_nr=4|rng_dir=E|sec=12|sp=true|sw=true|sadv=false) (accessed October 14, 2015).

<sup>40</sup> Deed records on file at the Gallatin County Courthouse, Clerk and Records Office, Bozeman, MT; Caroline McGill, *Letters* 1950, Montana State University, Caroline McGill Collection, Collection 945, Box 2 Folder 12, pgs 247-248.

<sup>41</sup> Grace Miller, *The Memoirs of Grace Nutting Miller*, unpublished, circa 1975.

<sup>42</sup> Deed records on file at the Gallatin County Courthouse, Clerk and Records Office, Bozeman, MT.

<sup>43</sup> Ernest Charles Miller, <http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/30321695/person/26129643241/story> (accessed August 4, 2014).

<sup>44</sup> G. Miller, *The Memoirs of Grace Nutting Miller*.

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hunting, and conservation in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>45</sup> Many of these men later became guests of the Elkhorn Ranch including Frederick C. Wolcott, A. J. Macnab, and John Burnham.<sup>46</sup>

Born in 1894 and raised in New England, Grace Miller (nee Nutting) attended and graduated from the University of Vermont in 1914, an accomplishment few women of the time achieved. Like her future husband Ernest, Grace loved to travel, settling in Bozeman in 1917 where she worked at Montana State University. Grace later took graduate training with the Young Woman's Christian Association (YWCA) and served as a traveling organizer for many years for the YWCA, allowing her to develop contacts across the United States.<sup>47</sup>

Grace and Ernest first met in the spring of 1920. Grace and her friend Madge Switzer were on a long weekend trip in the Madison Valley during which time they accepted a wagon ride from Ernest, an acquaintance of Madge. Ernest and Grace saw each other often that summer and then again the following winter in New York City where Grace attended graduate training with the YWCA and Ernest studied photography. By June 1921, Grace and Ernest were engaged, marrying a year later on April 1, 1922, at Graces parents' home in Brickerville, Pennsylvania.

### **Acquisition and Development of the Elkhorn Ranch, 1922 - 1939**

After their wedding, Ernest planned for them to spend the summer of 1922 working for a man named Pete Karst at his Karst Camp Resort in the Gallatin Canyon. Ernest was to work as a guide while Grace would waitress. The agreement for Ernest and Grace to come out also included a provision that Ernest would receive a 10% commission for any guests he brought with him from New York to stay at Karst Camp. In early June of 1922, Ernest traveled west by train and arrived in Bozeman. Upon arrival, Ernest discovered that Pete Karst's business was struggling; the difficulties proved such that Karst retracted the promise to hire Grace as a waitress, nor to pay the agreed upon commission for guests they enticed to the camp.

Caught by surprise, Ernest retired to the Elks Club Bar to have a beer and consider the situation which had changed dramatically from only a month before. While at the bar, Ernest overheard H. Green, a Bozeman banker cursing the bear that had torn up his cabin on Sage Creek in the Gallatin Canyon over the winter. Ernest, familiar with the area, knew of the place and realized its potential as a perfect location for a guest ranch. Ernest approached Mr. Green and offered to purchase the cabin and the associated five acres for \$500. The banker agreed, with the result that when Grace arrived four days later with four guests from New York, Ernest had the place cleaned up and outfitted with bedding borrowed from his mother. He had also rented horses for the season to provide trail rides and enhance the western experience of visitors. Ernest and Grace entertained their four guests for a month and then spent the remainder of the summer building another cabin on the property with the help of Art Smith, a local forest ranger.<sup>48</sup>

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<sup>45</sup> J. A. Gronauer, "The Camp Fire Club of America," *Fair Chase*, Fall 2011, pgs. 14-15; W.C. Nye, "Ernest Miller, The Westerner," *The Dude Rancher* (July 1949): pgs. 8, 12.

<sup>46</sup> Elkhorn Ranch 1937 and 1938 Guest Reference List.

<sup>47</sup> G. Miller, *The Memoirs of Grace Nutting Miller*.

<sup>48</sup> G. Miller, *The Memoirs of Grace Nutting Miller*.

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In her memoirs Grace recalled that from 1922-1927 she and Ernest spent summers at the ranch hosting guests and building additional cabins. In 1923, Cruse Black, a mountain guide, carpenter, and log building craftsman, began working at the Elkhorn. Cruise, born June 4<sup>th</sup>, 1881 in Emigrant, Montana, is responsible for many of the cabins constructed at the ranch and for most of the log furniture still in use at the Elkhorn today.<sup>49</sup> During his time at the Elkhorn, Cruise occupied the Trappers Cabin until his health failed in his later years. Prior to his arrival at the Elkhorn, Cruise served as a trapper in Yellowstone National Park; many of his journal entries are noted in the report *Wolves of Yellowstone*.<sup>50</sup> He first arrived at the Elkhorn when he delivered pack horses in 1923. Apparently liking the area and the Millers, he stayed. One story relates that when the Millers left the ranch one winter in the early 1930s, they requested Cruise to construct a barn near the shed used to store saddles, very near the original homestead building. Upon their return, Ernest and Grace found he had constructed the barn not where they requested it to be built, but across the creek near the far hillside where it stands today. When Grace asked why he didn't follow their directions regarding the placement of the barn Cruise replied "I don't like flies in my food."<sup>51</sup> Cruse remained at the Elkhorn until shortly before his death in 1972.

Grace and Ernest brought their education and experiences to bear when developing the Elkhorn Ranch. Original ranch plans in the ranch archives show Ernest and Grace purposefully designed the layout of the ranch facilities to take full advantage of the topography of the Sage Creek Valley while providing for the needs of the dude ranch operations. In an interview, Grace spoke of planning the arrangement of the guest cabins to allow each a view of the beautiful surroundings yet also a sense of privacy. At the same time, their plans included providing their guests the feeling of security while at the remote ranch location.<sup>52</sup> Their design resulted in an organic blending of the ranch buildings with the natural landscape.

Ernest and Grace's plans for the ranch fully materialized through the 1920s and 1930s, and by 1941 the construction of the ranch was largely complete. Thriftiness and a sense of western style influenced the construction of the many cabins and support structures. In keeping with the Western-theme, lodgepole pine and native rock served as the primary materials used. Smaller character-defining features of buildings, such as doors and hardware, they fabricated from locally available materials including horseshoes and antler, to further enhance and evoked the Western feeling.

During the ranch's early years, the business offered a plethora of activities, both indoor and outdoor. Horse riding, including overnight pack trips into the surrounding mountains proved popular for those interested in a more remote get-away. Marksmanship also proved popular, especially with the experience and background Ernest offered to the activity. The proximity to Sage Creek, Little Spring Creek, and the Gallatin River allowed for easy access for those interested in fishing. The numerous trails in the area enticed those who wished to hike. With the construction of the pond, swimming also was, and is, popular, especially for kids. Interior

<sup>49</sup> Cruise Black obituary, *Gallatin County Tribune*, October, 1972.

<sup>50</sup> John Weaver, *Wolves of Yellowstone*, US Dept. of the Interior, National Park Service, Natural Resources Report #11, 1978.

<sup>51</sup> Personal communication from Daphne White to John Boughton, October 19, 2015.

<sup>52</sup> G. Bradshaw and J. Berbstien, interview with Grace Miller, June 21, 1977.



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activities that occurred in the past and continue to the present include square dancing and piano playing. The sounds of the piano can frequently be heard drifting across the ranch property.

The Miller's love of the outdoors translated to the ranch catalogues. Several pieces of artwork that appeared in the catalogues were by notable artists. The cover of the first ranch catalogue (circa 1930) featured an illustration by Lone Wolf (Hart M. Schultz)[Figure 7].

The work of Will James also made an appearance in the one of the ranch catalogues (Figure 8). An illustration of two horses appeared in a circa 1935 catalogue. The image was drawn specifically for the Elkhorn Ranch and continues to serve on the ranch stationary to the present.

An engaging image used for the ranch's 1945 Christmas card lacks any artist signature (Figure 9). However, the image bears a strong resemblance in style to that of Jo Mora, whose work in nearby Yellowstone National Park is well-known.

### Early Buildings

Early ranch photographs, most undated, and some remarks in Grace Miller's memoirs serve as the only records of the order of construction of the ranch buildings. Ranch lore indicates that Ernest Miller, Robert Miller, Cruse Black and Vic "Old Man" Benson were responsible for most of the building constructed on the ranch during its developmental period.<sup>53</sup>

The Recreation Hall stands as one of the early ranch buildings dating to the 1920s. The earliest ranch brochure, circa 1930, describes and provides exterior and interior pictures of the building. "The recreation cabin is roomy and comfortable; substantially built of logs in which an open fire is burning both morning and evening. Its atmosphere of hospitality echoes the spirit of the old west, and a cheery bonfire in front of it beckons to the guests as the evening shadows fall."<sup>54</sup> In the first few decades of the ranch, the smaller of the two rooms in this building was used as the ranch office. Today, the Recreation Hall serves many of the same functions as it did in the past. Children gather here daily to play games. A piano sits in the building which provides hours of entertainment and often serves as a relaxing backdrop to the ranch guests when played by a trained pianist. Evening gatherings are held on its wide porches, and Saturday night square dances occur each week in the main room.

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<sup>53</sup> Vic Benson, Sr., who with his wife, Eda, founded the nearby Covered Wagon Ranch. Daphne White personal communication to John Boughton, October 19, 2015.

<sup>54</sup> "Elkhorn Ranch, In the Heart of the Rockies," *Brochure*, Gallatin Gateway, MT (circa 1930).

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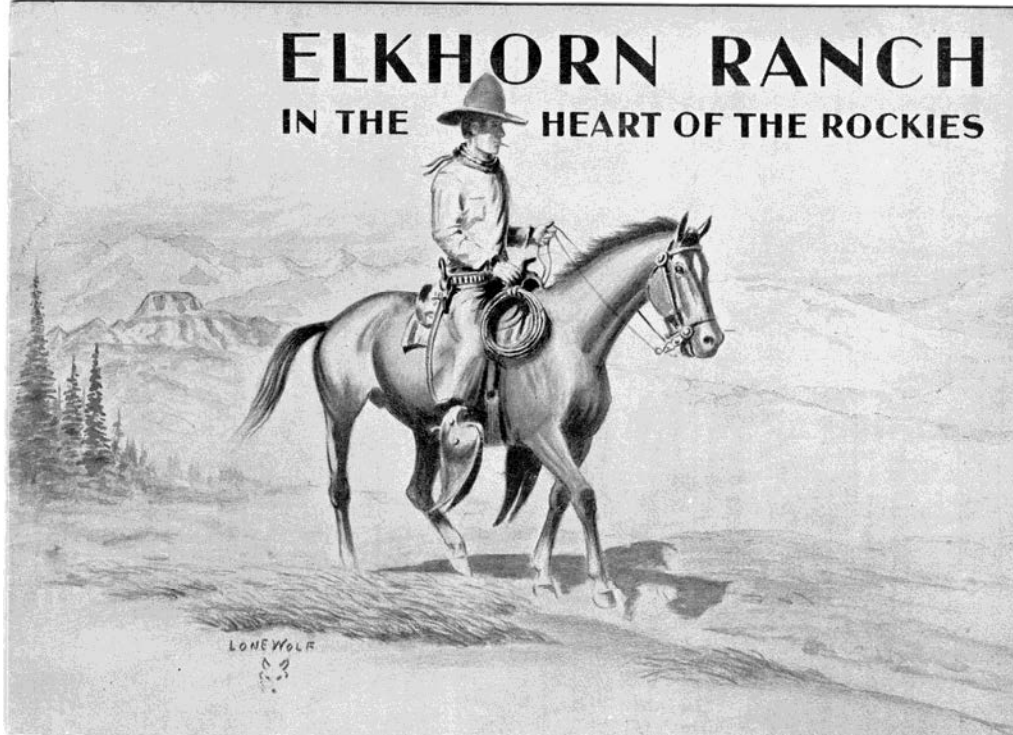


Figure 7. Cover of the first Elkhorn Ranch catalogue (circa 1930); illustration by Lone Wolf (Hart M. Schultz).

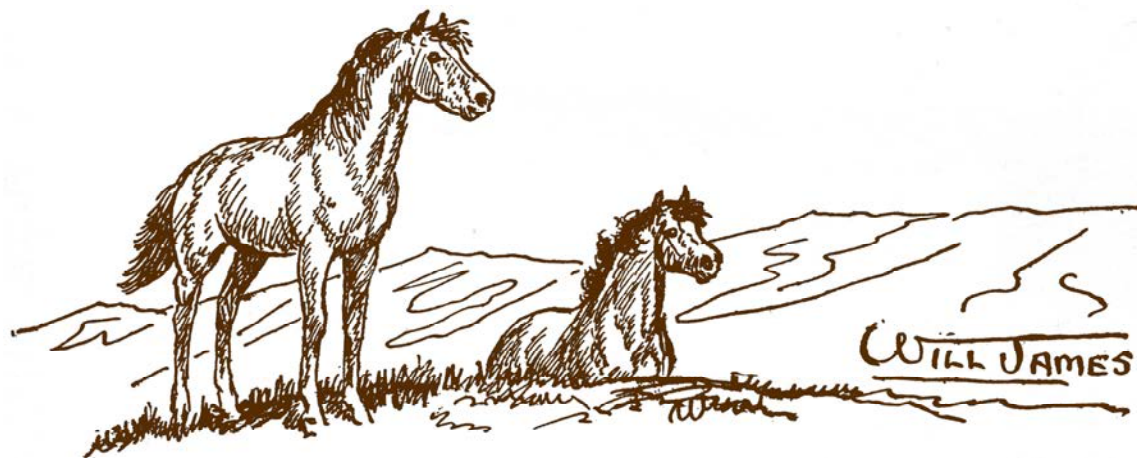


Figure 8. This illustration in appeared in the Elkhorn Ranch (circa) 1935 catalogue; illustration by Will James.

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Figure 9. Christmas card from 1945. Jo Mora may be the artist.

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The guest cabins Highlight, Tabernacle, Prospector, and Over the Hill all appear in the earliest ranch pictures, circa 1920s. These cabins all share similar characteristics suggesting construction by the same individual. Each features a decorative modified queen post multi-chord gable truss on its front porch, constructed with shaped logs, and later rear additions containing a bathroom. The addition of running water to the ranch in the late 1920s/early 1930s elevated the amenities available and was an important occurrence at the ranch. Grace Miller's memoir notes the introduction of running water at this time.<sup>55</sup>

The large "family" cabins, High Point, Lookout, Squaw, Corral, Gulch, and Canyon, built in 1928 and 1929, feature their own set of characteristics helping to identify them as a group. Unlike the earlier cabins which required later bathroom additions, bathrooms were part of the original design of these cabins. Each has a central living room and a large covered front porch, and all are constructed from peeled logs with saddle notching.

Another group of cabins that share design and construction characteristics are the guest cabins B.O.Q, Hiawatha, and Handy, a crew cabin. Each of these cabins are made of split-log over frame and include bathrooms built as part of their original footprints. A 1939 date embossed on a sign over Hiawatha's door suggests construction of these buildings at this time.

The first building constructed on the property was the original homestead cabin built by Charles A. "Axe" Johnson. Grace provided a short description of the cabin in her unpublished memoir, "The cabin had two bedrooms, a sitting room, and a kitchen and a couple of porches."<sup>56</sup>

Changes to this homestead building, including its incorporation into successive construction, and its eventual removal and replacement, illustrates the evolution of the ranch as the business progressed through the twentieth century. Changes to the original the cabin resulted in its eventual removal and the subsequent construction of Feature 20, that now stands in the original cabin location. This is one of the few buildings on the property that lacks sufficient integrity to be counted as a contributing resource.

The first summer the homestead cabin housed the four guests from New York, it also served as the ranch's dining room and kitchen. By the following summer, additional cabins for guest housing had been built and the homestead cabin reconfigured into a dining room and kitchen. In 1923, Cruse Black constructed a massive fireplace composed of a variety of stone, minerals, and chunks of petrified wood, on the south wall of the dining room. Figure 7, a photograph from the 1920s, shows the original homestead cabin after its reconfiguration into a dining room and kitchen.

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<sup>55</sup> G. Miller, *The Memoirs of Grace Nutting Miller*.

<sup>56</sup> G. Miller, *The Memoirs of Grace Nutting Miller*.

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Figure 10. The Axe Johnson homestead cabin was modified and used as a dining room and a kitchen in the 1920s.

A large five-room storage cabin was built into the hillside about 20 feet from the south end of the former homestead cabin. The natural insulation provided by the hillside kept the rooms cool for the storage of meat and perishables. Through the late 1970s, much of the ranch's produce, eggs, and dairy goods were stored in these rooms, all without the aid of refrigeration.



Figure 8. This circa 1950 photograph shows on the extreme left the door to the old store room and the 1923 fireplace added to the original homestead cabin. Center and right of the photograph shows the Guest Dining Room added during the Great Depression.

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Figure 9. This 2013 photograph shows the Guest Dining Room on the right, the centered 1990-1991 addition, and the east wall of the now attached storerooms to the left. The chimney was rebuilt in the 1980s by Ron Hymas, then owner of the Elkhorn. Hymas constructed a new similar chimney on the west elevation of the building.

In 1931, a guest dining room was attached to the north wall of the original homestead cabin, then being used as the dining room and kitchen (see Figure 8). Ranch lore attributes the guest dining room to an unemployed architect/ranch guest who traded his summer's stay for the design and help with construction of the guest cabin.

In 1950, another kitchen addition to the building occurred. Little is known about this addition other than a mention by Caroline McGill in a 1950 journal entry: "fine new modern kitchen" that had just been completed adjacent to the original homestead cabin and the guest dining room.<sup>57</sup> This 1950s-era kitchen was used until the early 1990s.

In 1990-1991, due to their poor condition and insufficient size, the original homestead cabin and the 1950 addition were razed, leaving the guest cabin and original storage room cabin intact. The original cabin and 1950s kitchen were replaced with a log structure that spanned the space between the existing historic guest dining room and the original store rooms. During the 1990-1991 construction, the guest dining room was placed on a proper foundation. The new structure contains a kitchen, refrigerated storage, a crew dining room, a cookie room, and a bathroom, all

<sup>57</sup> Caroline McGill, *Notes on a Visit with Mr & Mrs. Vic Benson*, 1950, Montana State University, Caroline McGill Collection, Collection 945, Box 2, Folder 15, pgs 307-309.

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connected to the 1920s-era storerooms. In its entirety, this building, Feature 20, now represents the Guest Dining Room/Kitchen/Crew Dining Room/Storage building.

Many of the buildings at the ranch originally sat on piles of native stone in lieu of actual foundations. When Robert Miller, the son of Ernest and Grace Miller, was asked in the 2000s why none of the ranch buildings had been built with foundations he responded that the additional expense of foundations, combined with the uncertainty of the ranch's future success, dictated a more cautious approach financially toward the construction of the buildings; at the time of the construction of the majority of the buildings, his parents weren't sure the ranch would survive another five years.<sup>58</sup>

### **The Elkhorn Ranch after the 1930s**

Circumstances, both locally and in the larger world context helped the ranch to remain largely unchanged after 1941. After the entry of the United States into World War II, nearly all of the male crew at the ranch enlisted in the military. The Elkhorn Ranch, however, remained open and continued to operate throughout the war, albeit with a very limited crew. Notably, the vast majority of the employees and crew were women. In letters from Grace Miller to Sabra Packard in 1945, Grace commented on the impact the war had on the ranch.<sup>59</sup> She wrote of wanting to have "this war over, and the boys back home." She also mentioned her young crew and then individually named her barn crew, all but one of which was female. Although the dearth of male workers resulted in the stagnation of new construction, it also led to the ranch maintaining much of its original charm and early appearance.

Just after the war ended, Grace and Ernest pursued their dream of operating a second ranch in the southwest. To this end, they purchased what became the winter Elkhorn, southwest of Tucson, Arizona. From 1945 until Ernest's unexpected death in 1949, they concentrated on developing the Arizona property. Grace and her son, Robert "Bob" Miller, continued to manage both ranches. The operation of the ranches afforded Bob the occasion to not only enjoy both Montana and Arizona, but also the opportunity to meet numerous different people, including his future wife, Janet Donald, a former guest. In 1952, Bob married Janet and they started a family of their own.

However, by 1961, the yearly migration from Montana to Arizona and back took a toll on Janet and Bob and their then school-aged children. This resulted in Grace's daughter, Barbara, and her husband Ron Hymas, coming to Montana to assist Grace while Bob, Janet and their family moved to Arizona Elkhorn fulltime. At the Montana Elkhorn, Ron and Barbara made few changes to the facilities. In the 1960s and early 1970s, more housing for both guests and crew was added to the ranch by moving several cabins from the then disused 7-11 Ranch and the Sage Creek Ranger Station, both just over one mile up Sage Creek. These moved-in buildings included a barn, now referred to as the Mule Parlor, and several outbuildings to supplement the Elkhorn's barn and corral complex. All these buildings have stayed in their original locations at the Elkhorn Ranch since their acquisition. When Dwight and Marian "Minxie" Minton

<sup>58</sup> Robert Miller, personal communication to Daphne White, November 2012.

<sup>59</sup> G. Miller, *Letters*, the Elkhorn Ranch archives, various 1945 dates.

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purchased the Elkhorn in 1988, they consciously decided to further preserve the integrity of the ranch by building a new cabin for themselves well removed from the original ranch complex.

Today, the Elkhorn Ranch remains virtually unchanged from its historic 1940s appearance. More than 40 of the ranch buildings and structures stand virtually as built. Most of the newer construction occurred in a sympathetic and similar style, thus complementing the historic buildings that date from the 1920s and 1930s, and those moved to the property in the 1960s and early 1970s. The few newer buildings were carefully designed to harmonize and integrate with the older buildings, with the result that they detract little from the historic appearance and feeling of the dude ranch.

### **The Millers and the Dude Ranchers' Association**

The interest Ernest and Grace Miller held in the success of dude ranching extended beyond the boundary of their own ranch. Dude ranching existed in the west as early as the 1880s, but became a formal industry only in the 1920s. Ernest and Grace Miller worked toward the development of a formal dude ranching industry with the foundation of the previously mentioned Dude Ranchers' Association in 1926. Ernest's role and effort toward the establishment of the organization was reflected in his appointment as the founding Secretary/Treasurer of the Association.

By the mid-1920s, automobiles began to supplant the railroad as the main means of travel to western tourist areas. Road improvements, slow as they were to arrive, greatly assisted the ability of automobile travel, which began to extract a financial toll on passenger-rail revenues. To combat the loss of revenue, the Northern Pacific brokered a relationship with the burgeoning dude ranch industry to compete with auto-tourism, greatly assisting the creation of the Dude Ranchers' Association (DRA). Ernest was front and center in these conversations between the DRA and the Northern Pacific. Ernest convinced Max Goodsill of the Northern Pacific Railroad of the mutually potentially beneficial relationship that could occur between the railroads and the dude ranches. Through shared marketing between the two, it was possible to increase ridership for the railroads and bring more guests for the ranches. Ernest then worked with A. B. Smith, passenger traffic manager for Northern Pacific, and arranged a meeting at the Bozeman Hotel between regional dude ranches and the Northern Pacific Railroad. That meeting in the fall of 1926 marked the first official gathering of the Dude Ranchers' Association.<sup>60</sup> The meeting included the attendance of 26 dude ranches, National Park officials, and the governors of both Montana and Wyoming. In addition, the Northern Pacific Railroad extended their advertising acumen to the dude ranchers.

The meeting resulted in formally defining dude ranches as mountain ranches of beauty, or working ranches of large acreages located in the plains, country, or foothills. In addition to addressing challenges faced by the ranches, the meeting also provided legitimacy to the organization.<sup>61</sup>

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<sup>60</sup> The Dude Ranchers Association, "The Early Years", <http://www.duderanch.org/the-early-years.php>.

<sup>61</sup> Lawrence R. Borne, *Dude Ranching: A Complete History*, pgs. 49-50.



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During their meeting, the congregation identified six objectives: establish cooperation among ranchers and railroad officials, discuss the transportation and proper care of guests, create advertising and publicity for the association, develop standardized practices, create an efficient sales organization, and lastly, promote the organized protection of fish and game.<sup>62</sup>

True to their word, the Northern Pacific's Advertising and Publicity Department created a plethora of advertising materials aimed at the modern, urban, upper-middle class traveler enticing them to travel to the dude ranches. Newspapers and magazines promoted access to the dude ranches via Northern Pacific's "air-conditioned sleeping cars" which "add to the appeal and satisfaction of ranch vacations for people from eastern, middle-western and southern points."<sup>63</sup> The railroads continued to provide access to the National Parks, but also embraced the scenic alternative provided by the dude ranches.

Ernest stayed active with the organization, and the relationship between the dude ranches and the railroads remained strong throughout the 1920s, 1930s, and early 1940s. Numerous cooperative marketing campaigns between the dude ranches, including the Elkhorn Ranch, and the railroads highlighted reciprocal benefits of the two.<sup>64</sup>

### Architectural Significance

The Rustic style of architecture became virtually synonymous with wilderness recreational destinations in the West.<sup>65</sup> The style's association with the wilderness and remote locations "was a natural outgrowth of a new romanticism about nature, about our country's western frontiers...for the first time in the history of American architecture, a building became an accessory to nature..."<sup>66</sup>

Characterized by "the use of native materials in proper scale" and "the avoidance of rigid, straight lines, and over-sophistication," the style "gives the feeling of having been executed by pioneer craftsmen with limited hand tools." Adroit attention to these details "thus achieves

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<sup>62</sup> The Dude Ranchers' Association, "The Early Years", <http://www.duderanch.org/the-early-years.php>.

<sup>63</sup> "Dudes Travel in Style On Northern Pacific," *The Dude Rancher*, (April and May, 1938), pg. 22.

<sup>64</sup> Today, the Dude Ranchers' Association continues to represent the dude ranching in the United States, setting standards for ranch operations, assisting with marketing, and representing the interests of the industry.

<sup>65</sup> 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, pgs. 1-3. For 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).

<sup>66</sup> Merrill Ann Wilson, "Rustic Architecture: The National Park Style," *Trends*, (July August September, 1976), pgs. 4-5.

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sympathy with natural surroundings, and with the past.”<sup>67</sup> Intended to merge with the natural surroundings, buildings constructed in the Rustic style nostalgically personify the western past, appealing to recreationists and those seeking the persona of the west. The use of logs, practical in the Mountain West, represented a harmonization with nature. Common on the western frontier and in Montana, especially during the pre-railroad era, Rustic architecture experienced renewed popularity as a conscious style in the early 1920s.

In terms of spatial organization, many dude ranches reflect their historic origins as working ranches, their buildings and layout reflected their very practical foundations; original cabins often had low ceilings and small windows to trap warm air in the winter. Barns and corrals for livestock were located close to dwellings for easy access. Building placement was dictated to facilitate efficient operation of the stock ranch. The Elkhorn Ranch, on the other hand, was purpose-built as a dude ranch with the architectural style of the buildings and layout of the ranch designed to enhance the guests' comfort and western experience. Although the buildings at the Elkhorn Ranch share many similarities with their working ranch converted to dude ranch brethren, the buildings at the Elkhorn Ranch were sited to maximize views and minimize dust, flies, and smells from livestock. Guest cabins were constructed for comfort as well as practicability, exemplified by cabins featuring large covered porches for guests to relax and socialize, high ceilings and substantial windows to allow for light, and airy cabin interiors, conceding the loss of heat.

The Elkhorn Ranch Historic District represents a fine concentration of Rustic architecture. The buildings exhibit the log vernacular architecture popular in the 1920s and 1930s. Begun in the early 1920s and essentially completed by the early 1940s, the Elkhorn Ranch displays the workmanship and craft of the builders and the ideals of the Millers. The use of locally available materials proved convenient and also naturally lent itself to the same rustic style and ideals of the Depression-Era C.C.C. and P.W.A. projects designed in National Parks, State Parks, and Forests. Aesthetically, the Millers designed the Elkhorn Ranch to the larger recreational architectural trends prevalent at the time; in doing so, they reinforced the preconceived image of the West that Easterners anticipated and expected.<sup>68</sup>

In addition to the Elkhorn Ranch, the Upper Gallatin Valley serves as home to a cluster of four other guest ranches that date from the same period. The 9 Quarter Circle Ranch (1912), the Covered Wagon Ranch (1925), and the 320 Ranch (1900, 1936) are all located along the Gallatin River and the Taylors Fork within a few miles of each other. The 9 Quarter Circle Ranch originally operated as a horse ranch prior to their shift to a dude ranch; riding continues to be their focus. The Covered Wagon Ranch began operations as a guest ranch with horse riding,

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<sup>67</sup> Albert H. Good, *Park and Recreation Structures: Part I Administration and Basic Service Facilities*, reprint of 1938 edition published by the US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999), pg. 5.

<sup>68</sup> William C. Tweed, Laura E. Soulliere, and Henry G. Law, *National Park Service Rustic Architecture: 1916-1942*, (San Francisco: National Park Service, Western Regional Office, 1977), [http://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online\\_books/rusticarch/note.htm](http://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/rusticarch/note.htm) (accessed October 14, 2015).

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then and now, their primary activity. The 320 Ranch originated as a homestead, then morphed into a guest ranch, and now operates as a motel/resort.

The nearest ranch in the area listed in the National Register is the Lone Mountain Ranch, located about 18 miles north near the town of Big Sky. Listed in 2006 (NR 06001185), the B-K Ranch Historic District (Lone Mountain Ranch) operated for many years as a traditional guest ranch until the 1970s when it became a year round resort.

### **Conclusion**

By the 1920's, America's fascination with all things western was growing. Affluent Americans traveled west seeking open spaces and a healthful escape from the nation's industrial cities. In response to the growing interest in travel to the west, rural westerners found business opportunities in catering to the visitor's needs for lodging, entertainment, and wilderness experiences. Dude ranches, such as the Elkhorn, where guests could experience the ranch lifestyle, travel on horseback, and view native fauna and flora became a common tourist destination. The purpose-built Elkhorn Ranch continues to embody the aesthetics and feeling associated with such a tourist destination in the 1920's and 1930's. Little has changed since its first decades. The Elkhorn continues to operate as a traditional dude ranch welcoming 30-40 guests each week during the summer season.

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

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

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

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### 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 60

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

#### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 45.063230 | Longitude: -111.193180 |
| 2. Latitude: 45.063370 | Longitude: -111.188040 |
| 3. Latitude: 45.058050 | Longitude: -111.187990 |
| 4. Latitude: 45.058010 | Longitude: -111.193180 |

**Or**

#### UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

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

The Elkhorn Ranch Historic District is a 60 acre rectangle that encompasses the historic buildings of the Elkhorn Ranch. The northwest corner of the historic district corresponds to Latitude/Longitude Coordinate # 1 (above), the northeast corner corresponds to Latitude/Longitude Coordinate # 2 (above), the southeast corner corresponds to



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Latitude/Longitude Coordinate # 3 (above), and the southwest corner corresponds to  
Latitude/Longitude Coordinate # 4 (above).

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

The Boundary was selected to include the buildings and structures associated with the operations of the Elkhorn Ranch dude ranch. Excluded were vacant lands owned by the ranch and the owner's cabin that was built in the 1990s and is situated well away from the dude ranch buildings.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Daphne White, Elkhorn Land Corporation  
organization: Elkhorn Land Corporation  
street & number: P.O. Box 4727.  
city or town: Bozeman state: MT zip code: 59772  
e-mail daphne@elkhornranchmontana.com  
telephone: 970 946-0724(cell) 406 995-4291 (ranch)  
date: February, 2016

with assistance from:  
name/title: John Boughton  
organization: MT SHPO  
street & number: 1301 East Lockey, Helena, MT 59620  
city or town: Helena state: MT zip code: 59620  
e-mail [jboughton@mt.gov](mailto:jboughton@mt.gov)  
telephone: (406) 444-3647  
date: February 2016

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

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**Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600 x 1200 pixels (minimum), 3000 x 2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Photo Log**

**All photos:**

Name of Property: Elkhorn Ranch Historic District

City or Vicinity: 16 miles south of Big Sky, MT on US Highway 191.

County: Gallatin State: Montana

Photographer: Daphne White & Scott White

Date Photographed: summers 2013, 2014, 2015

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

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
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Name of Property

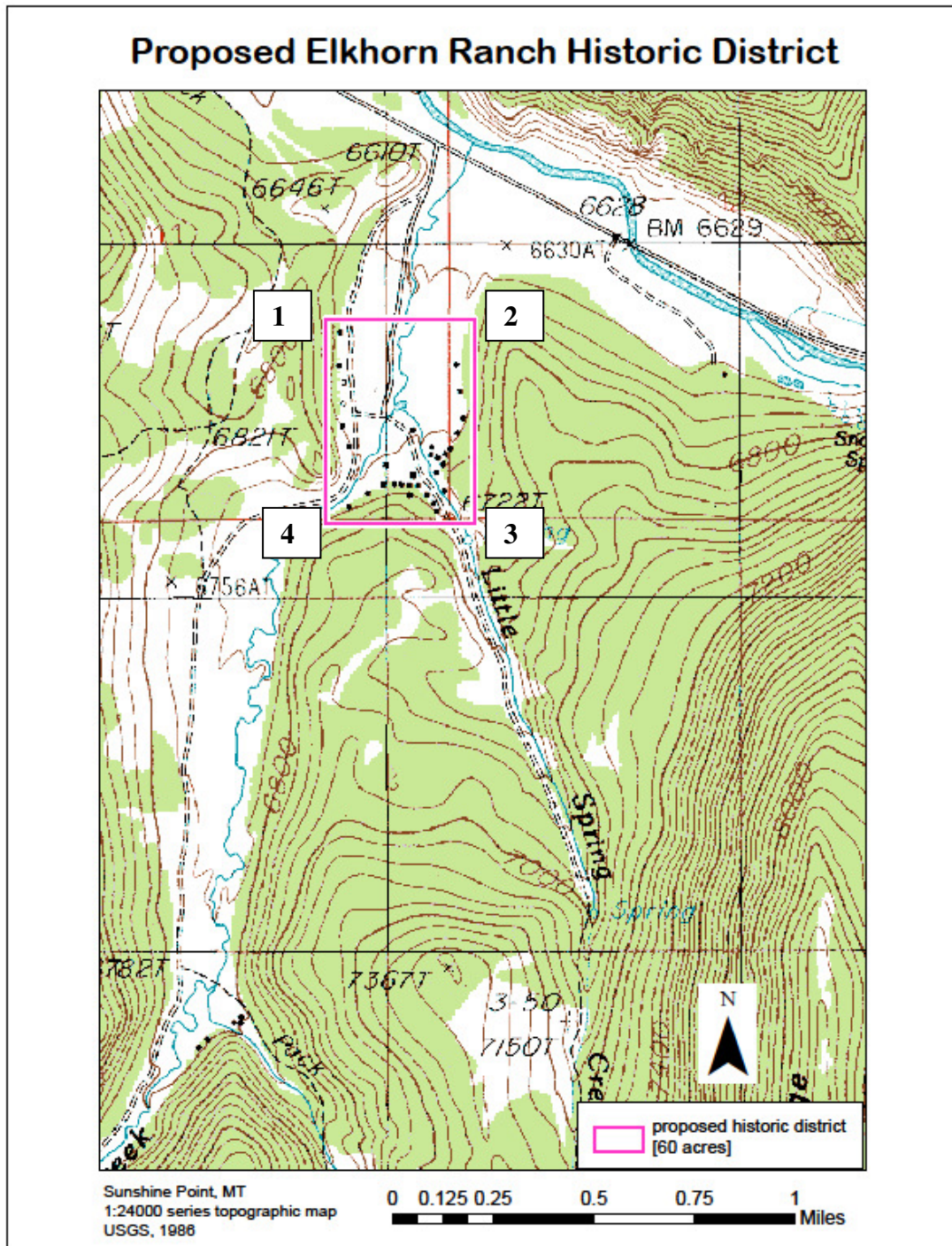
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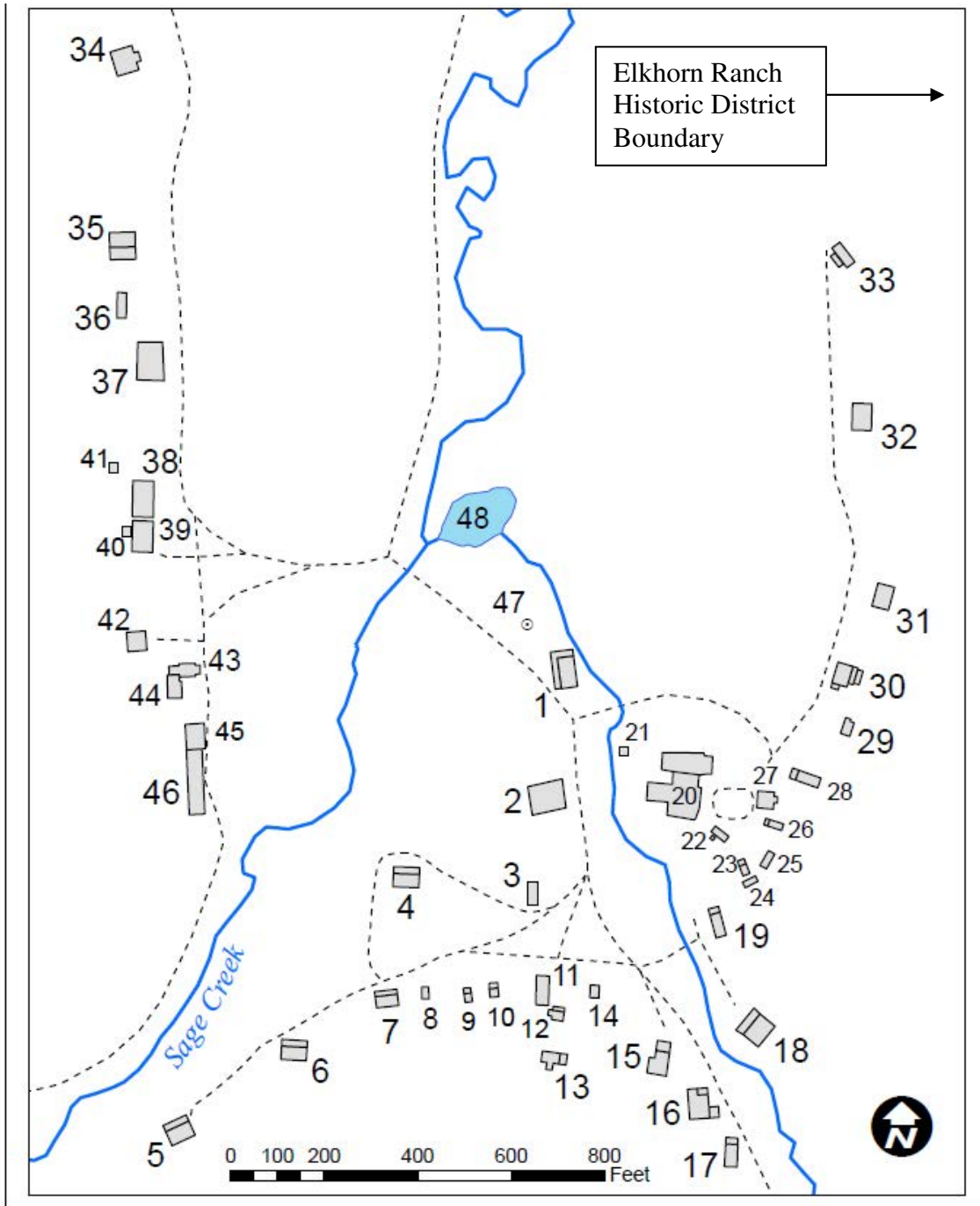
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**Photo Log**

Name of Property: Elkhorn Ranch historic District

City or Vicinity: 16 miles south of Big Sky, MT on US Highway 191.

County: Gallatin State: Montana

Photographer: Daphne White & Scott White

Date Photographed: summers 2013, 2014, 2015

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



MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0001

Feature #1, Recreation Hall west elevation, camera facing east.

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Feature #1, Recreation Hall south elevation, camera facing north.

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Feature #1, Recreation Hall east elevation, camera facing west.

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Feature #1, Recreation Hall north elevation, camera facing south.



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Feature #2, Office east elevation, camera facing west.

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Feature #2, Office north elevation, camera facing south.

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Feature #2, Office west elevation, camera facing east.

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Feature #2, Office south elevation, camera facing north.

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Feature #3 Old Office east elevation, camera facing west.

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Feature #3, Old Office north façade, camera facing south.

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Feature #3, Old Office south elevation, camera facing north.

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Feature #3, Old Office west elevation, camera facing east.



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Feature #4, Corral east elevation, camera facing west.

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Feature #4, Corral north façade, camera facing south.

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Feature #4, Corral south elevation, camera facing north.

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Feature 4, Corral west elevation, camera facing east.

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Feature #5, Highpoint east elevation, camera facing west.

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Feature Cabin #5, Highpoint north façade, camera facing south.

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Feature #5, Highpoint south elevation, camera facing north.

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Feature #5, Highpoint west elevation, camera facing east.



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Feature #6, Lookout east elevation, camera facing west.

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Feature #6, Lookout north façade, camera facing south.

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Feature #6, Lookout south elevation, camera facing north.

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Feature #6, Lookout west elevation, camera facing east.

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Feature #7, Squaw east elevation, camera facing west.

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Feature #7, Squaw, north façade, camera facing south.

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Feature #7, Squaw south elevation, camera facing north.

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Feature #7, Squaw west elevation, camera facing east.



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Feature #8, Squaw Portable east elevation, camera facing west.

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Feature #8, Squaw Portable north façade, camera facing south.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0033  
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Feature

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Feature #9, Middle Skid Row north façade, camera facing south.

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Feature #9, Middle Skid Row south elevation, camera facing north.

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Feature #9, Middle Skid Row west elevation, camera facing east.



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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0037

Feature #10, Trappers Cabin east elevation, camera facing west.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0038

Feature #10, Trappers Cabin north façade, camera facing south.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0039

Feature #10, Trappers Cabin south elevation, camera facing north.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0040  
Feature #10, Trappers Cabin west elevation, camera facing east.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0041  
Feature #11, Washhouse east elevation, camera facing west.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0042  
Feature #11, Washhouse north façade, camera facing south.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0043  
Feature #11, Washhouse south elevation, camera facing north.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0044  
Feature #11, Washhouse west elevation, camera facing east.



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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0045  
Feature #12, Hiawatha east elevation, camera facing west.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0046  
Feature #12, Hiawatha north façade, camera facing south.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0047

Feature #12, Hiawatha south elevation, camera facing north.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0048  
Feature #12, Hiawatha west elevation, camera facing east.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0049

Feature #13, B.O.Q. east façade, camera facing west.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0050  
Feature #13, B.O.Q. north elevation, camera facing south.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0051  
Feature #13, B.O.Q. south elevation, camera facing north.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0052

Feature #13, B.O.Q. west elevation, camera facing east.



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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0053  
Feature #14, Prospector east elevation, camera facing west

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0054  
Feature #14, Prospector, north façade, camera facing south.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0055

Feature #14, Prospector, close-up of door, camera facing south.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0056

Feature #14, Prospector south elevation, camera facing north.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0057  
Feature #14, Prospector west elevation, camera facing east.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0058  
Feature #15, Tabernacle east elevation, camera facing west.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0059  
Feature #15, Tabernacle north façade, camera facing south.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0060

Feature #15, Tabernacle south elevation, camera facing north.



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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0061  
Feature #15, Tabernacle west elevation, camera facing east.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0062

Feature #16, Spring and Sunshine east façade, camera facing west.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0063

Feature #16, Spring and Sunshine north façade, camera facing south.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0064

Feature #16, Spring and Sunshine south elevation, camera facing north.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0065  
Feature #16, Spring and Sunshine west elevation, camera facing east.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0066  
Feature #17, Highlight east elevation, camera facing west.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0067

Feature #17, Highlight north façade, camera facing south.

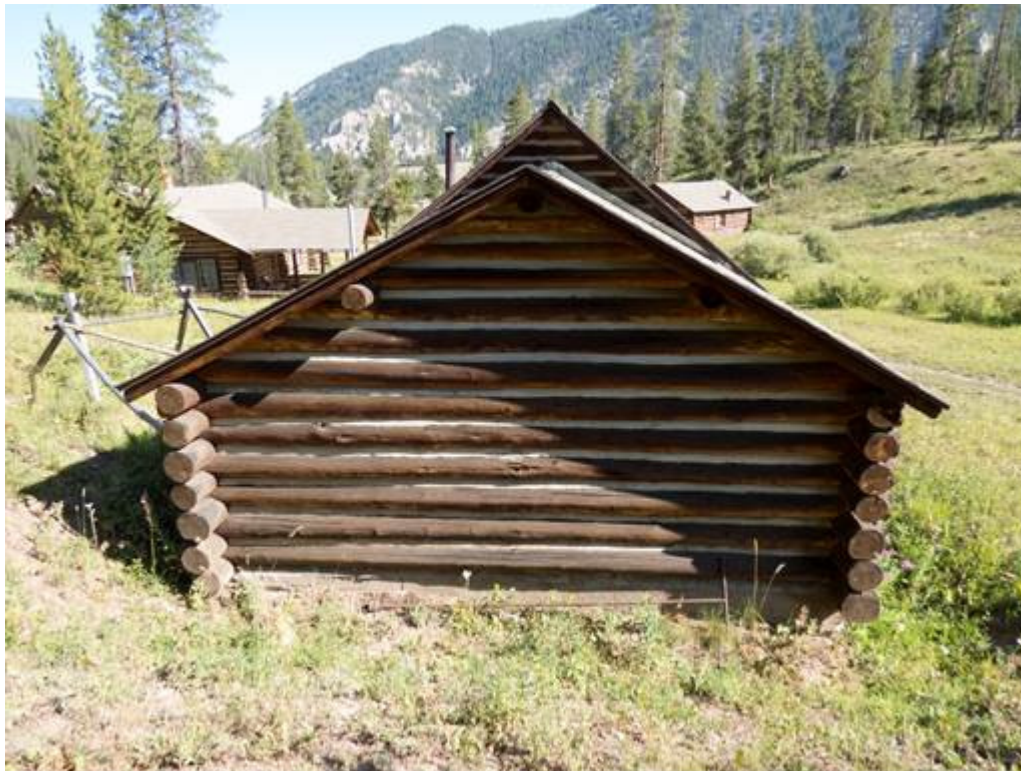
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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0068  
Feature #17, Highlight south elevation, camera facing north.



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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0069  
Feature #17, Highlight west elevation, camera facing east.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0070

Feature #18, Gulch east elevation, camera facing west.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0071

Feature #18, Gulch north façade, camera facing south.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0072  
Feature #18, Gulch south elevation, camera facing north.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0073  
Feature #18, Gulch west elevation, camera facing east.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0074  
Feature #19, Over-The-Hill east elevation, camera facing west.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0075

Feature #19, Over-The-Hill north façade, camera facing south.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0076

Feature #19, Over-The-Hill south elevation, camera facing north.



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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0077

Feature #19, Over-The-Hill west elevation, camera facing east.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0078

Feature #20, Guest Dining Room/Kitchen/Crew Dining Room/Storage east elevation, camera facing west.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0079

Feature #20, Guest Dining Room/Kitchen/Crew Dining Room/Storage east elevation, camera facing west.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0080

Feature #20, Guest Dining Room/Kitchen/Crew Dining Room/Storage north façade, camera facing south.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0081

Feature #20, Guest Dining Room/Kitchen/Crew Dining Room/Storage south elevation, camera facing north.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0082  
Feature #21, Spring House east façade, camera facing west.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0083

Feature #21, Spring House north elevation, camera facing south.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0084

Feature #21, Spring House south elevation, camera facing north.



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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0085

Feature #21, Spring House west elevation, camera facing east.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0086  
Feature #22, Crew Bathrooms east elevation, camera facing west.

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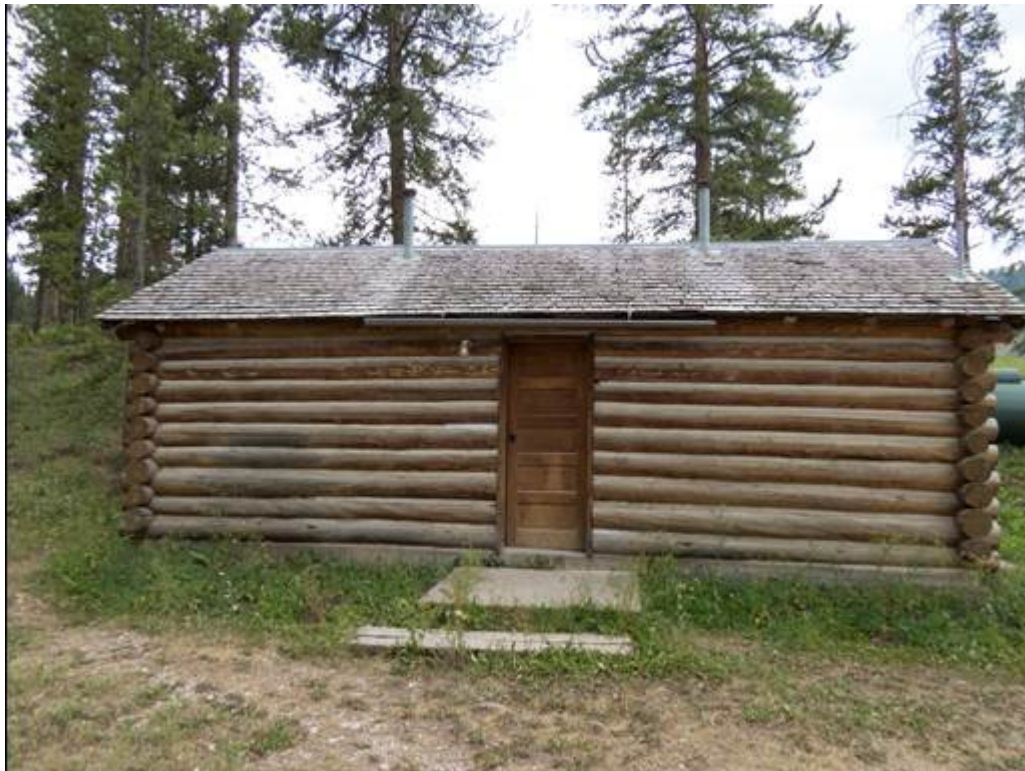
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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0087

Feature #22, Crew Bathrooms north elevation, camera facing south.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0088

Feature #22, Crew Bathrooms south elevation, camera facing north.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0089

Feature #22, Crew Bathrooms west elevation, camera facing east.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0090  
Feature #23, Lean To east elevation, camera facing west.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0091

Feature #23, Lean To north façade, camera facing south.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0092

Feature #23, Lean To south elevation, camera facing northwest.



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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0093  
Feature #23, Lean To west elevation, camera facing northwest.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0094  
Feature #24, Pot Scratch east façade, camera facing west.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0095

Feature #24, Pot Scratch south elevation, camera facing north.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0096

Feature #24, Pot Scratch west elevation, camera facing east.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0097  
Feature #25, Hen House east elevation, camera facing west.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0098  
Feature #25, Hen House north façade, camera facing south.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0099  
Feature #25, Hen House south façade, camera facing north.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0100  
Feature #26, Papoose east elevation, camera facing west.



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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0101  
Feature #26, Papoose north elevation, camera facing south.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0102  
Feature #26, Papoose south elevation, camera facing north.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0103

Feature #26, Papoose west façade, camera facing east.

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0104  
Feature #27, Turnabout east elevation, camera facing west.

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Elkhorn Ranch Historic District
----- Name of Property
Gallatin County, MT
----- County and State
----- Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number National Register Photographs

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0105

Feature #27, Turnabout north elevation, camera facing south.

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Elkhorn Ranch Historic District

Name of Property

Gallatin County, MT

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number National Register Photographs

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MT\_GallatinCounty\_ElkhornRanchHistoricDistrict\_0106

Feature #27, Turnabout south elevation, camera facing north.

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SNOW OFFICE











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TRAPPERS CABIN



















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Leave No Trace







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Grand Cherokee  
LIMITED























FLAK TOWER











































































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&a20CUNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
&a30CNATIONAL PARK SERVICE

&a22CNATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
&a29CEVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Elkhorn Ranch Historic District  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MONTANA, Gallatin

DATE RECEIVED: 2/19/16 &pW DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: &pW DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/05/16  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000142

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT \_\_\_\_\_ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**The Elkhorn Ranch Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criteria A and C in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation and Architecture. Comprised largely of well-maintained, rustic-style log buildings, the district was developed beginning in 1922 by Ernest and Grace Miller, as a purpose-built commercial dude ranch catering to affluent vacationers seeking a wilderness experience. Established under the shadow of nearby Yellowstone National Park, the dude ranch operation reflects the peak era of dude ranch development in Montana during the early decades of the twentieth century.**

**Successful entrepreneurs, the Millers were also instrumental in the development of regional dude ranching industry support organizations.**

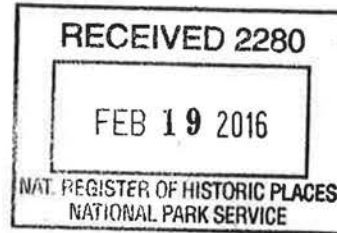
RECOM. / CRITERIA Accept CRITERIA A+C

REVIEWER PAUL LUSIGNAN DISCIPLINE HISTORIAN

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE 4/5/2016

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

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



February 17, 2016

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief, National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs  
National Park Service  
1201 Eye St. NW  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor (MS 2280)  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether,

Enclosed please find the following nomination for your consideration for listing in the National Register of Historic Places:

**Elkhorn Ranch Historic District Gallatin County, Montana**  
**The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the National Register nomination for the Elkhorn Ranch Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places.**

Please be advised that I submit the above nomination under your revised procedures. I notified the owners and public officials in excess of 30 days prior to the Preservation Review Board meeting and received no notarized objections to the nomination from the property owners of record. The Review Board unanimously recommended that this property be nominated and I concur with its recommendation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Baumbler".

Mark Baumbler, PhD  
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure