

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	NOV 2 1982
DATE ENTERED	12-7-82

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

~~Historic Resources of Yellowstone National Park: Partial Inventory~~

AND/OR COMMON

Lamar Buffalo Ranch (Yellowstone National Park M.F.A.)

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Yellowstone National Park

N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

N/A Montana

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

At Large

STATE

Wyoming

CODE

56

COUNTY

Park

CODE

039

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

Multiple Resource

**OWNERSHIP**

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

**PRESENT USE**

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Region

STREET & NUMBER

655 Parfet, P.O. Box 25287

CITY, TOWN

Denver

N/A VICINITY OF

STATE

Colorado

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Yellowstone National Park

STREET & NUMBER

N/A

CITY, TOWN

Yellowstone National Park

STATE

Wyoming

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

List of Classified Structures

DATE

1978

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Regional Office

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>1938</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Lamar Buffalo Ranch Historic District is a portion of the multiple resource nomination for the Historic Resources of Yellowstone National Park. The Lamar Buffalo Ranch, located just east of Rose Creek in the Lamar River Valley, is in the northeast quadrangle of Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming. The vegetation of the ranch, which sits at the base of an alluvial fan, is mostly sagebrush and nonnative grasses with Cottonwood trees growing along Rose Creek. The Historic District consists of five contributing structures; barn, two residences, a bunkhouse, and corral. Adjacent to the district to the northeast are a generator house, and 18 rustic cabins. The 18 rustic cabins are of log frame construction, with wood shingled gable roofs and were moved to the site during the winter of 1981 from the Fishing Bridge Historic District. The cabins were temporarily sited on concrete blocks. The frame constructed generator house, built in 1936, has a wood shingled roof with exterior walls of horizontal weatherboarding and vertical board and batten. The following are the contributing structures:

- Building No. 106. Ranger Station. The log constructed residence was built in 1915. It is a 1-story, L-plan structure constructed of horizontal logs with enclosed trough type false cornering and concrete chinking. The windows are 6-light casement sash. The cedar shingle 4-sided hipped roof covers the living area; a gabled extension covers the kitchen and storage area. The structure, on a concrete foundation, has had later additions with the most prominent being the framed in porch on the facade and the shed porch on the rear.
- Building No. 107. Bunkhouse. Built in 1929 by the National Park Service, the rectangular plan structure is 25'6" X 73'6" and is on a cobblestone foundation. The double saddlenotched log structure has a wood shingle gable roof. The windows are double hung sash with triple, double, and single pane openings. The west end of the structure has a shed porch on raised cobblestone foundation with log columns and railings.
- Building No. 108. Residence. The L-plan log constructed building is 1-story with 4 rooms and a bath. The structure is approximately 48' X 19' with the L-extension being 9' X 18'. The horizontal log walled residence is sited on a stone faced concrete foundation. The wood shingle gable roof has exposed log ends. The windows are 2/2 double hung sash and 4-light casement storm sash. It is probable that this structure was moved from the Soda Butte area in 1938 where it had been used as a ranger station. Date of construction unknown.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Park history
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      1907 - 1952      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      National Park Service

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lamar Buffalo Ranch Historic District is nationally significant for its role in the history of wildlife management and preservation of the bison in the United States and for its importance in the history of park rangers in Yellowstone. Yellowstone National Park was one of the few areas that took a lead in preserving and building up the remanent herds of bison in the country. In 1902, Congress appropriated funds to save the bison from extinction. A small free-roaming bison herd was native to Yellowstone National Park and to that herd bison from semi-domesticated herds in Montana and Texas were added. Initially the semi-domesticated herd was enclosed near Fort Yellowstone at Mammoth Hot Springs.

In 1907, 28 bison from the Fort Yellowotne enclosure were moved by Army scouts to a new enclosure in the Lamar Valley (Lamar Buffalo Ranch). Park rangers have performed many of the duties at the ranch during its long period of use.

From 1907 until 1952, a semi-domesticated herd of bison, from the Buffalo Ranch on Rose Creek, was managed using cattle ranching techniques. Most of the work was done by a chief buffalo keeper, one assistant, one to two herders, and an irrigator. They maintained the valley in front of the ranch buildings for grazing, and grew hay there and along several of the Lamar's tributaries, such as Slough Creek. After the visitor season, park rangers would help with the ranch work; cutting hay, running the bison in from other areas to the enclosures at the ranch, slaughtering excess animals, castrating and inoculating calves. An effort was made to keep the size of the herd within set limits, and standard ranching practices were followed to improve the stock.

The movement from ranching bison to preserving them in a natural state was a gradual one which began about 1930. From 1907 to 1915, the animals were closely herded during the day and put in a fence pasture at night. During this period four calves from the park's wild herd were added to the semi-domesticated herd at the Buffalo Ranch. Sometime between 1915 and 1920, the process began of intermingling some of the bison from the ranch with those in the wild. In 1920, the animals brought to Yellowstone to form the nucleus of the controlled herd were Plains bison, probably a distinct subspecies from the park's native mountain bison. Today the two types have thoroughly mixed to produce a hybrid.<sup>1</sup>

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Building Maintenance files. Rocky Mountain Regional Office, National Park Service.

Manns, Timothy.

1980 "The Buffalo Ranch at Lamar." Yellowstone National Park Library. Typed Report

Meagher, Mary.

1973 The Bison of Yellowstone National Park. National Park Service (see cont. sheet)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	12	56,004,5	49,104,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The nominated district boundary follows a line from Point A northward 200' to Point B then 150' to Point C then eastward 300' to Point D, then northward 240' to Point E then 200' to Point F then 240' to the south to Point G, then 200' westward to Point D from Point D the boundary follows a line for approximately 50' to Point H, from Point H it goes approximately 420' southwestward to Point A. The nominated district is on the north side of the Northeast Entrance Road approximately 29 miles from the Mammoth Hot Springs Administrative Area of Yellowstone National Park.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	N/A	CODE	N/A	COUNTY	N/A	CODE	N/A
STATE	N/A	CODE	N/A	COUNTY	N/A	CODE	N/A

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mary Shivers Culpin

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER

655 Parfet, P.O. Box 25287

CITY OR TOWN

Denver

DATE

December 31, 1981

TELEPHONE

(303) 234-2764

STATE

Colorado

# 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

*Jan S. Wilson*  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State  Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

*J.R. McChesney*

TITLE

Associate Director, Cultural Resources Management

DATE

OCT 28 1982

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Linda McChesney*

DATE

12-7-82

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

Building No. 109. Horse Barn. Built in 1927 by the National Park Service, the rectangular plan barn is of log construction, 1 1/2 stories and is 31' X 51'. The building is on a concrete capped rubblestone foundation and has a heavy wood planked floor. The logs are double saddlenotched and chinked with sapling and mortar up to the roof eaves. No chinking has been placed between the logs on the upper gable ends providing ventilation for hay storage in the loft. However, the west interior wall of the loft has been shingled. A log framed gambrel roof is covered with cedar shingles and has a log pole ridge cap. On the east and west facades are vertical board barn doors with large curving wrought iron strap hinges and hardware, one at loft level and one at the ground level on the east end. Five 15-light venting casement windows are placed horizontally in the upper log courses of the north and south elevations. The interior has several horse stalls on the ground level.

Corral Built at various times, beginning in the 1930's, the pole fenced corral is an irregular trapezoid shape approximately 240' X 200'. It is adjacent to the barn. The corral is formed of horizontal log poles set between double log pole uprights.

Although Building No. 108 was probably moved to the Historic District in 1938 all of the contributing structures within the boundaries retain architectural integrity. Presently the buildings serve as a ranger station and work space for maintenance personnel. The bunkhouse is used by the Yellowstone Institute (Yellowstone Library and Museum Association) which conducts classes and seminars during the summer months. The 18 rustic cabins adjacent to the Historic District were moved in to provide housing for the Yellowstone Institute participants. Their presence does not detract from the architectural integrity of the Historic District. The generator house was originally designed to house snowplow equipment and it is compatible with the adjacent district but not historically significant to have been included within the boundaries.

The survey of the historic structures in the Lamar Buffalo Ranch Historic District, Yellowstone National Park was completed by Lance Olivieri, a consultant on historic properties, and under the supervision of Regional Historical Architect Rodd L. Wheaton during the summer of 1976, Mr. Olivieri used the criteria established by the National Register of Historic Places for his evaluations, and those structures considered eligible or potentially eligible were entered on the Rocky Mountain List of Classified Structures Inventory.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Significance                      ITEM NUMBER                      8                      PAGE 1

After 1915, the bison at Lamar were kept on open range all summer without close herding. For a period of time after 1921, a drift fence across the Lamar above Soda Butte Creek kept the herd on higher range in the summer. Bison were trucked from the ranch in 1936 to repopulate ranges in the Hayden and Firehole Valleys, areas used today by the Mary Mountain herd. At other times, herd size at the ranch was reduced by shipping bison to such places as zoos. ~~Until~~ Until 1938, riders on horseback drove the bison down to the main Lamar Valley each fall. In the vicinity of the ranch, the animals would then be fed and population reduced to the desired number. In 1939, the roundups ended and the baiting with hay was used to attract bison to the ranch. The last, token feeding of hay to the wintering bison took place in 1952.

Manns 1980

The Lamar Buffalo Ranch's operation "shows the strength of concern for preserving the bison and illustrates the ideas concerning appropriate management of wildlife which prevailed during almost half of Yellowstone's history."

Manns 1980

1. In regard to subspecies of bison; a recently completed study determined the bison originally in Yellowstone to be a larger, northern form of the Plains bison rather than a separate subspecies.

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CONTINUATION SHEET    References                    ITEM NUMBER    9            PAGE    1

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Continued from Item Number 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Skinner, Curtis K. and Wayne B. Alcorn.

"History of the Bison in Yellowstone National Park 1942-51."  
Yellowstone National Park Library. Typed report.

MAMMOTH (Approximately 29 miles)

MAMMOTH

NORTHEAST ENTRANCE ROAD

WESTERN MOUNTAIN

Rose Creek

B

A

Bldg. 106

Bldg. 108

Bldg. 107

C

not to Scale

generator House

Bldg. 109

CABINS

CORRALS

LAMAR Buffalo Ranch Historic District

Historic District Boundary

fences

240'

