

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

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historic name: CM Ranch and Simpson Lake Cabins

other name/site number: CM Ranch--Site Number is 48FR3028; Three Waters Hunting  
and Fishing Camp--Site Number is 48FR1553.

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2. Location

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street & number: State Fish Hatchery Road--South of Dubois off of US Highway 287

not for publication: N/A

city/town: N/A

vicinity: x Dubois

state: Wyoming

county: Fremont

code: 013

zip code: 82513

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Private, CM Ranch and Simpson Lake Cabins  
Federal, 5 acres of leased USFS land for Simpson Lake Cabins

Category of Property: District

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>42</u>	<u>11</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>44</u>	<u>12</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National  
Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification  
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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

John J. Keck 7/13/92  
Signature of certifying official Date  
State Historic Preservation Officer, Wyoming  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ✓ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Evan J. DeBlois 8/4/92  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
Historic Preservation Officer, USDA Forest Service  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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5. National Park Service Certification  
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I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register Autawilla Bee 9/15/92  
\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  
\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
for Signature of Keeper Date of Action

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6. Function or Use

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Historic: DOMESTIC Sub: Camp  
DOMESTIC Other: Dude Ranch

Current: DOMESTIC Sub: Camp  
DOMESTIC Other: Dude Ranch

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:  
OTHER/log construction  
OTHER/board and batten

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Materials: foundation WOOD/log roof ASPHALT  
STONE/sandstone  
walls WOOD/log other OTHER: lime-based mortar chinking  
WOOD/board & batten

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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8. Statement of Significance

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Statewide

Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance:  
ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: 1920-1942  
1931-1942

Significant Dates : N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Charles Moore  
Nobe Harrison, Earl Nichols, Les Wright, Marion LaRue

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.  
X See continuation sheet.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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X See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: Denver Public Library-Western History Collection

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: CM Ranch--1307.39 Acres  
Simpson Lake Cabins--Approximately 5 Acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing

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

X See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: X See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: X See continuation sheet.

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11. Form Prepared By

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Name/Title: Rheba Massey, Survey Historian  
Mike Johnson, Architectural Specialist  
Organization: Wyoming SHPO                      Date: January 2, 1992  
Street & Number: 1825 Carey                      Telephone: 307-777-7498  
City or Town: Cheyenne                      State: WY                      ZIP: 82002

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Section number 7 (CM Ranch and Simpson Lake Cabins) Page # 1

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The CM Ranch and Simpson Lake Cabins Historic District is discontinuous. It consists of a 1300-acre dude ranch with associated buildings and structures, and a leased 5-acre portion of Shoshone Forest Service land which contains associated buildings and structures known as Simpson Lake Cabins. The Simpson Lake Cabins are owned by the CM Ranch.

The CM Ranch is situated at the mouth of Jakey's Fork Canyon in the Wind River Mountains. The ranch setting is green meadows and sagebrush contrasting with the imposing red sandstone rock formations of surrounding mesas. The geologic exposures in this glacial valley result in an extraordinary display. Every strata of every period through all the epochs is represented to tell a visual story of the three billion years of the earth's development. Easy access to leaf, shell and dinosaur fossils, and the fascination of layer-cake stratigraphy appeal to the casual geologist as well as the most dedicated. Whiskey Mountain, adjacent to the ranch, is home to the largest herd of Big Horn sheep on the North American continent. The ranch owns five miles of the stream Jakey's Fork of the Wind River (named after the original owner's father, J.K. Moore); this stream is plentiful with brown, rainbow and brook trout. Riparian vegetation along the stream banks provides the background for the cluster of ranch buildings and corrals. Surrounding mountainsides of lodgepole pine, spruce, and stands of aspen are viewed from the cabins. There is no road beyond the ranch and the ranch lands are bordered on the south, southwest, and west by the Shoshone National Forest and the Fitzpatrick Wilderness. Built at an altitude of 7000 feet, the CM Ranch provides an ideal climate for summer vacations--warm days and cool nights.

The Simpson Lake Cabins are thirteen miles from the ranch near the Continental Divide along the eastern shore of Simpson Lake. They are reached by horseback over beautiful mountain trails that quietly reveal massive domes of exposed granite. The Cabins are located in the Fitzpatrick Wilderness of the Shoshone National Forest; you can see the major peaks of the Wind River Range, including Three Rivers Mountain, which provides the headwaters for the Columbia, Missouri, and Colorado Rivers. The northwest, west, and southwest boundary of the Cabins' site is the Lake; the eastern boundary of the site is the major north-south hiking trail accessing the area. These two natural site boundaries create an oval that represents the Simpson Lake Cabins portion of the discontinuous historic district. The cabins are located on a relatively flat gravel alluvial fan created by the annual spring floods of Cabin Creek. Cabin Creek crosses the north end of the site, between the cabins and the corral complex; it has a rocky creek bed with spotty willow development. The site is vegetated with dry meadow grasses, and mixed with forbs. A forest of spruce-fir and white bark pine encircles the site; patches of trees and willows dot the lake shore.

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CM RANCH

The logs for the ranch buildings were cut in the upper Jakey's Fork Canyon in the 1920s and hauled to the ranch by teams of horses and wagons. The charming log cabins are spaced along Jakey's Fork and around large, well kept lawns. The construction is uniformly high quality with saddle-notched corners and single whole logs running the full length of the walls. As a rule, the log structures have lime-based mortar daubing on the exterior and wood chinking on the interior. A few of the structures have logs that are spaced close together and appear to have been "Swedish" coped, that is, the bottom of each log is longitudinally notched to match the log it rests on. The low foundations are either log or stone. The roofing style is generally a low-pitched roof of rolled asphalt resting on split logs which rest on exposed log purlins. The majority of the windows in the buildings are either 2 sliding wood windows, each with 4 lites; or small stationary wood windows with 4 lites. These windows have plain surrounds. The doors are usually vertical wood planks or wood panel with 4 panels. Unless otherwise noted, this is the style that predominates the buildings at the CM Ranch.

Riverside cabins (A--4 buildings)

Contributing-1920s

Located on the west bank of Jakeys Fork, these four identical cabins are the most secluded of the weekly guest accommodations. These small one-room cabins have no bath and require a walk to one of the bathhouses across the creek near the dining hall. Often these cabins are used to house older children of guests who may want to be secluded from their children. These cabins exhibit the traditional Rocky Mountain cabin style with the purlins extending out from the gable end wall to form a substantial covered porch.

Hill Cabins (B--4 buildings)

Contributing-1920s

Located on the highest elevation of the main ranch complex, these four log cabins all appear identical from the front. Each cabin faces north, with a full length shed-roofed porch on the north elevation with two entry doors and two windows giving a symmetrical appearance. Two of the cabins are of rectangular form, the other two are L-shaped.

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Dining Room Cabins (C--6 buildings) Contributing-1920s

The six dining room cabins are located to the south and east of the large lawn in front of the dining hall. These cabins vary in size and floor plans. Three Rocky Mountain style log cabins face onto the lawn and three log cabins with shed-roofed porches are secluded in a stand of trees. One of these cabins is two units and the other two are single unit. They are all aligned on a common path to the dining room.

Dining Hall Complex (D--4 buildings)

- |                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Dining Hall        | Contributing-1924 |
| 2. Employee's Cabin   | " -1920s          |
| 3. Food Storage Cabin | " -1920s          |
| 4. Bath House         | " -1920s          |

The dining hall is the heart of the CM Ranch. The dining hall consists of a large dining room, kitchen, and employees' dining room. The dining room and kitchen were built in 1924; a storeroom was later added to connect the two rooms to a double-pen cabin on the north which was built before 1924. This portion became the employees' dining room. Bounded on the rear by the creek and the large lawn on the front, there are two tree-shaded dining decks and a shed-roofed porch complete with rocking and swing chairs. On the south side of the dining hall is a log bath house for use by the nearby Riverside Cabins. To the immediate north of the dining hall is a food storage cabin and an employee's log cabin. The exterior of the food storage cabin is board-and-batten siding, and it has a raised log foundation. There is a meat house attached to the rear of the building, and it is of horizontal wood-lapped siding and metal mesh screening.

Office and Support Cabins (E--5 buildings)

- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Office         | Contributing-1920s |
| 2. Garage/Laundry | " -1920s           |
| 3. Linen Storage  | " -1920s           |
| 4. Cook's House   | " -1920s           |
| 5. Ice House      | " -1920s           |

The log office cabin is divided into two large rooms; one is used as the business office and guest registration and the other is a storeroom for files and recreation equipment. A porch with a shed roof extends across the facade of the cabin.

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Next to the office, heading west toward the creek, are four cabins used in the management of the ranch. One is a log garage with an extended board-and-batten addition that currently functions as the laundry. The second building is the cook's log house with an extended addition of horizontal wood-planked siding. This was added to become a bedroom. The other is a linen storage shed. The fourth building, directly behind the office and north of the garage, is the ice house. This sod-roofed building has a wood-planked door and is now used for storage.

Garage (F-1)	Contributing-1920s
Storehouse (F-2)	Contributing-1920s
Tackle Store (F-3)	Contributing-1920s

Located between the office and the barn/corral complex, these buildings provide additional infrastructure for the ranch operation. The garage is a six-vehicle bay-shed structure, with one bay turned into a soft drink vending area. The garage is board-and-batten construction. The storehouse is of similar board-and-batten frame construction and provides needed storage space. The tackle store is a log building that houses the "CM Angler", a fishing supplies' source for the guests of the ranch.

Boys' Bunk House (G)	Contributing-ca. 1909
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Located near the barn and corral complex, this sawn log structure was one of the original homestead buildings built before Moore acquired the ranch. It was moved from its original location on the site of or near the present dining hall. It is a double-pen building that exhibits the same workmanship as the Recreation Hall. It is constructed of hewn logs with dovetail corner notching and lacks the log crowns exhibited by most of the ranch structures. The logs on the long side of the building are broken in the middle of the structure and are butt-jointed with a vertical wood member in between.

Employees' Dorm (H)	Contributing-1920s
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Located south of the Boys' Bunk House, this log structure consists of three units. Each unit has two sliding wood windows and a single five-paneled wood door.

Hildorf Cabin (I)	Non-Contributing-1974
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In 1974 Miss Hilda Thomas, the ranch secretary, moved this cabin onto the property; it was named the Hildorf cabin as a joke. A board-and-batten addition was completed in the 1980s. It is located to the east of the Employees' Dorm.



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Alice's Residence (J) Non-Contributing-1973

This log residence was built in 1973 for Alice and Les Shoemaker. It is located to the south of the Hildorf Cabin.

- |   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| Barn and Corral Complex (K--7 buildings and 2 structures) |                        |
| 1. Horse Barn   | Non-Contributing-1978  |
| 2. Cow Barn   | Contributing-1920s     |
| 3. Pack Saddle Barn                                       | " "                    |
| 4. Saddle Barn  | " "                    |
| 5. Corrals  | " "                    |
| 6. Rodeo Arena  | Non-Contributing-1954  |
| 7. Employee's Residence (Tom's)                           | Contributing-1920s     |
| 8. Men's Bunkhouse/Workshop                               | " -1920s               |
| 9. Employee's Residence (Sam's)                           | Non-Contributing-1920s |

Important to the concept of a "dude ranch", the horse operation of the ranch is the central activity of the guests. The original barn has been replaced with a new horse barn. The cow barn is a rectangular log building with one open bay and three saddle-notched log walls; the pack saddle barn is also rectangular and used for horse shelter. These two buildings are located within the corrals. The saddle barn houses the ranch's extensive collection of saddles and tack that is arranged in a two-tiered system around the perimeter walls and in the center of the room. The dudes are assigned their own saddle for use during their stay. A long shed-roofed porch on the saddle barn faces into the corral and is the morning meeting place for the daily horse activity. In the large corral, the horses are brought in and the guests are assigned horses for their entire stay.

Across the creek to the north of the main barn/corral complex are the rodeo arena and feed storage areas. In this back corral area is a non-contributing employee's residence which has been significantly altered through the years, and a former log residence and men's bunkhouse. The residence is no longer used and the bunkhouse is now a workshop. The workshop is of vertical board-and-batten siding.

Girls' Dorm (L) Non-Contributing-1920s  
Addition-1954

Originally one of the owners' residences, this large structure consists of an older log cabin and a newer, very large addition of machined logs. The design of the addition has altered the physical integrity of the original building. This dorm is located southeast of the barn/corral and main entrance.

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Round-Up Recreation Hall (M)

Contributing-Ca. 1909  
Additions-1930s

This large log one-story structure has a rambling look to it, with its two additions built during the 1930s. This was originally a two-room cabin with a shed-roofed porch, and is thought to be one of the original homestead cabins. According to Nova Gilliland, granddaughter of the original homesteaders Victoria and Elwood Wilson, her grandfather built a cabin on higher ground across the creek from the main homestead cabin. The main cabin was at creek level, and this cabin on higher ground provided a safe shelter during Spring floods. This original portion is of rough-hewn logs with dovetailed notching and has the same construction as the boys' bunk house, another original homestead building. The windows are 2-over-2 double-hung wood windows. The two original rooms of the 1909 cabin are now a library and a geology room with displayed rock specimens. The two additions are of single whole logs with saddle notching. The windows are sliding wood windows, each with 4 lites or stationary 4-lite wood windows. A large stone fireplace is located on each of the north elevations of the two additions which adds to the rustic charm of the building. The design of the additions is very sensitive to the original design of the homestead cabin. The large room with conversation pit was added to the rear (west elevation) of the cabin and has a shed-roofed porch; the living room was added to the north elevation of the cabin. The ping pong tables in the large room with fireplace/conversation pit, the "living room" with large fireplace, and the geology room and library create a social atmosphere for evening recreation. The interior furnishings--Indian rugs and wicker, mission, and Adirondack style furniture--are original, and provide the traditional western setting for the dudes.

Garden Cottage (N)

Contributing-1920s

This dude cabin is located near the recreation hall across the creek from the main ranch. The once large vegetable garden that supplied the ranch was located behind this cabin. Better roads and delivery service made it unnecessary for the ranch to be so self-sufficient and the time-consuming garden plot was abandoned in the early 1960s. The character-defining feature of this log cabin is the large veranda that overlooks Jakeys Fork immediately below the cabin. A fireplace was added about 1960.

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Artist's Studio (O)

Non-Contributing-1929

The artist's studio is one of the more isolated of the older guest cabins on the ranch. Located across the creek and at the far end of the former garden plot, the studio was built in 1929 for the artist Ogden Pleisner. Mr. Pleisner used this studio for several summers when he visited the Moores. A quiet place to paint, this studio has also been used through the years by other artists. This Rocky Mountain style cabin with a large dormer skylight facing north provided the perfect lighting for artists; the skylight has been removed and replaced with a new window due to problems of water leakage. This remodeling has altered the physical integrity of the original cabin.

Owners' Residence (P)

Contributing-1920s  
Additions-1980s

Storage Shed (P)

Non-Contributing-1920s

Located across the river west of the recreation hall is Pete and Lisa Petersen's log residence. This medium-size rectangular cabin has two new additions on the south and west elevations. The new additions are a machined log product, and are easily distinguished from the original rustic cabin. The additions are sensitive and do not alter the physical integrity of the original cabin.

The storage shed, originally a garage, is located in front of the residence and bordered by a circular driveway. As the small cars of the 1920s were replaced with other larger cars, the building could no longer fulfill this purpose. It was altered to become a storage shed and no longer retains its physical integrity.

Homestead Cabin (Q)

Non-Contributing-Ca. 1900

At the far south end of the ranch is the oldest structure on the property. The simple one-room log building was the homestead of one of the original settlers. It is located near some extinct geysers and some minimally active hot springs. The original homesteader was reportedly afraid of the geysers and this prompted him to sell the property to Charlie Moore. The cabin is a moldering ruin and was not used during the period of historic significance.

Guest Residence (R)

Non-Contributing-1965

Guest Residence (S)

Non-Contributing-1967

Guest Residence (T)

Non-Contributing-1989

These three log residences were built by guests at their own expense. These buildings have reverted back to the ownership of the CM Ranch.

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SIMPSON LAKE CABINS

The Simpson Lake Cabins' site consists of three cabins, two outhouses, a meathouse, and a corral complex. The cabins were built in 1928 by the owners, Nobe Harrison, Earl Nichols, Les Wright, with the help of Marion LaRue, an expert axe man. All building materials or furnishings present were either made on-site or packed in on horses. All three cabins are made of hand-sawn, peeled logs, with axe-hewn saddle notching. They rest on stone foundations. The original roofs were of axe-split and sawn-halved logs, covered by sod; these were replaced many years ago by roofs of milled lumber, covered by tar paper. The floors are reconstructed of saw-cut, halved logs. All three cabins have two rooms; interior room dividers are abutted to exterior walls. Unique finishing touches on the cabins include split-log door and window mouldings--some corners joined at 45 degree angles, some at offset 90 degree corners--both inside and out; log and split log doors; exterior concrete mortar chinking; interior split pole chinking; and handmade log and planked log furniture.

Cabin #1

Contributing-1928

Cabin #1, the Main Lodge, is 18x30 feet. It has a kitchen and a dining/living room. The kitchen is subdivided into work and pantry areas. The back of the pantry area is walled off by shelves and a milled lumber cupboard, with doors that open in the dining area. The log divider wall between the kitchen and the dining room and its pantry forms an "L" abutted to the cupboard, with a saddle notched corner at the "L". The kitchen contains a Universal enameled cast iron stove, a replacement for the original wood stove. The new stove was hauled in by horseback in the 1950s. Other furniture in the kitchen area includes milled lumber shelving, a kitchen table with drawers hauled in by horseback, and handmade planked log tables. The dining/living room is dominated by a stone fireplace and massive log furniture. The interior stone on the fireplace is dressed smooth, with the exception of the mantle edge, while the exterior stone is natural, from glacial till. The log table tops were hand-planked with a whip saw. The table legs are peeled logs. Benches are of axe-split logs set on log legs. Some of the tools used in cabin and furniture construction are hung on the walls.

Cabin #2

Contributing-1928

Cabin #2 is 15x28 feet, divided into two bedrooms. Its construction is basically the same as the main cabin. Furniture consists of metal bed frames and springs hauled in and small handmade tables and stools. The small wood stoves that had been in the rooms have been removed.

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Cabin #3 Contributing-1928

Cabin #3 is also 15x28 feet and is divided into a bedroom and a storage room for tack and other related tools.

Corral Contributing-1928

The corral is two round pens built out of stacked poles; there is a gate between the two round sections creating a figure eight-shaped structure. A pole fence extends off the corral complex to the southeast into the trees, with a gate at the access trail entrance.

Outhouse #1 Contributing-1928  
Outhouse #2 Contributing-1928  
Meat House Contributing-1928

The site also includes two outhouses and a meat house. One outhouse of log and milled lumber construction lies to the rear of Cabin #2. The second outhouse is of milled lumber construction, lies to the rear of the main cabin. A meat storage house is a small sturdy wood and wire structure about the size of an outhouse and sits outside the kitchen door of the main cabin. A complex of pole corrals lies north of Cabin Creek at the junction of the cabin access trail and the main hiking trail.

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The CM Ranch and Simpson Lake Cabins played a significant role in the development of Wyoming's dude ranching industry, and are eligible for the National Register under Criterion A. The CM Ranch was developed in 1920 and was the first dude ranch in Fremont County. It operated as a dude ranch until 1942, the beginning of World War II. The ranch was maintained by Moore's brother during the war and continued its dude ranching activities in 1945. It still operates today. Simpson Lake Cabins were built as a hunting camp in 1928; and the camp was bought in 1931 by the owner of the CM Ranch, Charles Moore, when he expanded the ranch's dude operations. The cabins are still used for the same recreational purposes as when they were purchased. Therefore, the periods of historic significance are 1920-1942 for the CM Ranch, and 1931-1942 for the Simpson Lake Cabins' association with the CM Ranch's dude ranching activities.

The stronghold of the dude ranching industry has been in the states of Wyoming, Montana, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico. In the beginning, a dude was simply someone from another area who came to the West and paid for food, lodging, riding, and/or guiding services; otherwise, it was a place where the dude temporarily joined the family and became a part of the ranch. The dude's perspective was important as he saw that the land had value for recreation and especially for its scenic beauty. This factor symbolized a very important part of western history--the infusion of outside capital to stimulate economic growth and the creation of the vacation industry in Wyoming and other western states.

In order to determine the significance of the CM Ranch's and Simpson Lake Cabins' role in every phase of this vacation industry, it is important to first provide some background on the industry's origins. The adventurers--mountain men and explorers--and western hunting led to the development of dude ranching. The setting aside of thousands of acres for the formation of Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming Territory in 1872 drew much attention to the West. The British cattle king, Moreton Frewen, connected hunting and ranching when he invited dozens of his English friends to his "Castle" on the Powder River of Wyoming Territory in 1879. Many of his friends invested money in ranches and continued to entertain lavishly and thus advertised the West. Also these ranches accommodated European and Eastern remittance men--those men living far from home, for whatever reasons, who were supported by remittances sent to them. When the disastrous winter of 1886-87 and the Panic of 1893 nearly destroyed the cattle business, these ranchers began to accept paying guests. By the turn of the century, the dude business was ready to take shape and emerge as a clear-cut and permanent part of the West.

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World War I set the stage for the Golden Decade of Dude Ranching from 1919 to 1929, since Europe was virtually closed to travel. Cooperation had been established between the Yellowstone National Park and dude ranchers which allowed excursions into the Park. Wyoming and Montana had more than sixty dude ranches, and a smaller number were established in Colorado and other states. Cattle prices dropped after 1919 and hay prices rose because of a drought; thus many dry farms and small ranches were abandoned. But, as in the latter part of the nineteenth century, a number of cattle ranches were saved in the early twentieth by the growing dude ranch business in the West; dude ranching thus became the key factor in the Rocky Mountain West's tourist industry.

This growth and realization of the importance of dude ranching led to the formation of the Dude Ranchers' Association. Problems relating to transportation, forestry regulations, game laws, insurance, and other items required an organization. The first meeting of this group was in September 1926 in Bozeman, Montana. The Northern Pacific Railroad sponsored the meeting, for they realized that only an organized group could promote this growing industry and increase passenger service on the railroad. Between 70 and 100 ranchers attended the two-day gathering, and this organization became an asset to the continued development of dude ranching.

However, during the Depression era, many dude ranches failed. The surviving ranches advertised in more sophisticated ways with booklets and brochures and personal visits to the East to make contacts for potential guests. Near proximity to a railroad was especially important to Eastern travelers. A new problem also arose in the thirties and that was the rapid acceleration of land acquisitions by the National Park Service. As park boundaries were enlarged, dude ranchers were often pushed out. And then when World War II hit, there was a disastrous effect on the industry due to the rationing of automobile tires and gasoline, restrictions on train travel, and a shortage of men as workers. However, the cattle prices did rise and some ranches survived.

After World War II, ranch stays decreased in length, and destination travel became a thing of the past. Satisfied guests decided to buy ranches themselves; and many ranches disappeared into the hands of rich business executives or large corporations--thus the result was a large resort and not a dude ranch. The restrictions and problems of increased government regulations, as well as the changing focus of the National Park Service, decreased the stronghold of dude ranching in the West. Today, however, there is a new push to "Save the West" and the rural environment. This may prove positive for this historic industry.

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CM Ranch and Simpson Lake Cabins represent every phase described in the overall development of this important Wyoming industry. The CM Ranch is the oldest dude ranch in Fremont County. It was homesteaded in 1909 and acquired in 1920 by Charles Moore. Charles C. Moore was raised in Wyoming. His father, J. K. Moore was a Senate page during Lincoln's administration and later moved to Montana and then Wyoming, where he raised cattle and served as post trader at Fort Washakie. Charles grew up at the Fort where he learned to speak the Arapaho and Shoshone languages. Surrounded by soldiers, Native Americans, cowboys, cattlemen, hunters, trappers, freighters, stage coach drivers, and outlaws, Charles soon learned the arts of survival on the frontier. He became an ardent hunter and trapper, skills which later became the economic tools for his financial success.

All of the Moore's children attended secondary schools in the East; Charles attended Lawrenceville in New Jersey, returning to Wyoming for summer vacations. He often brought friends home for camping and hunting trips as early as 1895. Before studying law at the University of Michigan, Charles rode as a cowboy and broncbuster in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show in Chicago, New York, and other cities. When he received his LL.B. degree, he practiced law in Cheyenne. However, he had a desire to return to the outdoor life and in 1906 he opened a boys' camp that would take pack trips through Yellowstone Park. He recruited teenagers in the East during the Spring of each year. The boys would come to Lander by private railroad car under the direction of a physician, travel to the Jackson Lake area on horseback, through the Yellowstone Reserve, and then back to his ranch near Dubois. The boys learned horsemanship, camping, geology, botany, and general survival skills. The charge for a ten week session was \$250.

He increased his business over the next few years; and in the fall, after the teenagers were back in school, he took out hunting trips. The enthusiasm of the boys, however, led to the creation of the CM Dude Ranch. Their families also wanted to see the West and Moore had to provide living quarters for their visits at the beginning and end of the summer sessions. He bought some land in 1920 to begin the CM Ranch where he built some cabins and a kitchen. He built a hydroelectric plant and raised dairy cattle, chickens, and vegetables. The boys' pack trips continued for a while into the 1920s, but then were dropped due to the increased demand for "dude ranching". Successful dude ranches generally had a combination of eastern and western influences. The western influence provided the wilderness expertise and the eastern influence provided the needed contacts to lure guests to the West. Since Charles Moore was a westerner who had been educated in the East, he was able to successfully manage and promote his ranch.



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Charles Moore became one of the most active Wyoming Dude Ranchers and was eventually elected president of the Dude Ranchers' Association. In 1931 he was elected to the state legislature where he promoted legislation favorable to the dude ranching industry. He was an avid supporter of the preservation of fish, game, and natural resources. He also warned that national parks, monuments, and other public lands were in constant danger of being destroyed by pressure groups and selfish individuals. He urged his fellow ranchers to continue fighting to save these lands for the public as a whole.

Charles Moore continued to expand his operation in the 1930s. In 1931 he bought the Simpson Lake Camp; this hunting camp, originally called "Three Waters Hunting and Fishing Camp", was built in 1928 by Nobe Harrison, Earl Nichols and Les Wright. The wilderness camp is approximately 13 miles from the CM Ranch; the cookstove and sawn lumber were hauled up the Union Pass road by wagon and down to the shore of Moon Lake for a distance of 10 miles. From there the materials were rafted across Moon Lake where they proceeded to build an Indian travois on the front running gears of a wagon and hitched a horse on to do the pulling. They continued on into Simpson Lake for another 3 miles up a steep and rocky trail. They failed to attract enough people to their wilderness paradise to make it profitable; therefore, they sold the cabins to Moore, who already had a built-in market for the cabins. He was catering to the social elite of New York, Boston, and especially Philadelphia; his guest list was full of names like Ingersoll, Biddle, Morgan, and Roosevelt. As Moore's dudes learned to ride well enough, he scheduled trips to Simpson for groups of six to eight. Everything was carried on pack horses, and a cook and a cowboy went along to do the chores. They spent a day riding to Simpson and stayed whatever number of days they wished, and then took a day to return.

For over sixty years the cabins at Simpson Lake have made it possible for hundreds of people to have a wilderness experience which they have never forgotten. Many who went to Simpson as children with their families have returned with their own children and grandchildren. Theron Wasson, a world famous geologist with Pure Oil Company, became so attached to the CM and the Simpson area during the 1930s that he spent every summer there for the next 50 years. He usually stayed at Simpson most of the summer as the parties came and went. Also an expert botanist and ornithologist, he shared his knowledge with a simplicity and good humour that made him a beloved friend of everyone who encountered him.

Although the Depression did not affect Moore's business, he did have to close the operation during World War II. Charlie's brother and another employee maintained the ranch. In 1945 Charlie and his wife Marion returned to the CM to resume operations. It was at this time that the Moores made friends with Les and Alice

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Shoemaker. Les was the District Forest Ranger for the Forest Service. In 1952 the Moores sold the ranch to the Shoemakers and they carried on the dude ranching tradition.

In 1973 the ranch became a corporation, and Erroll "Pete" Petersen joined the partnership. The ranch is now owned by Pete, his wife Lisa, Alice Shoemaker and her two daughters, Barbara Shoemaker and Leslie Petersen. The guests today still come to enjoy the western and wilderness experience that the CM Ranch and Simpson Lake Cabins so amply provide. The guests are treated as family and the owners' warm hospitality fulfills the goals set forth by Charles Moore and the pioneers of this vacation industry.

The historical importance and significance of Dude Ranching has been sadly neglected in research on outdoor recreation in America. There is a lack of records and data on this vacation industry due to the nature of the host-guest relationship of the business itself. Ranchers tended to avoid public scrutiny of their activities and did not often publicize their business in the early years of development--instead they preferred the personal contact and exchange of references that suited the concept of having a guest in the rancher's home. However, the CM Ranch does have intact records of its development and the physical integrity of the ranch is excellent. Therefore, the CM Ranch and Simpson Lake Cabins Historic District is worthy of being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places for its significant contribution to the development of the Dude Ranch industry.

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Shoemaker, Barbara, CM Ranch, September 3-6, 1991.

Shoemaker, Alice, Owner of CM Ranch, September 3-6, 1991.

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UTM References: Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing

Torrey Lake Quad:

Portion of CM Ranch:

I	<u>611180</u>	<u>4816000</u>	J	<u>612080</u>	<u>4816250</u>
K	<u>612050</u>	<u>4817060</u>	L	<u>613670</u>	<u>4817080</u>
M	<u>613660</u>	<u>4816810</u>	N	<u>614070</u>	<u>4816810</u>
O	<u>614080</u>	<u>4815580</u>	P	<u>613680</u>	<u>4815580</u>
Q	<u>613670</u>	<u>4816000</u>	R	<u>612860</u>	<u>4815970</u>
S	<u>612880</u>	<u>4815580</u>	T	<u>611270</u>	<u>4815540</u>
E	<u>611200</u>	<u>4815120</u>			

Mason Draw Quad:

Portion of CM Ranch:

K	<u>612050</u>	<u>4817050</u>	U	<u>612050</u>	<u>4817170</u>
V	<u>612840</u>	<u>4817170</u>	W	<u>612840</u>	<u>4818000</u>
X	<u>614820</u>	<u>4818000</u>	Y	<u>614480</u>	<u>4817200</u>
Z	<u>613660</u>	<u>4817180</u>	L	<u>613660</u>	<u>4817080</u>

Simpson Lake Quad:

Simpson Lake Cabins:

A	<u>602080</u>	<u>4808310</u>	B	<u>602060</u>	<u>4808180</u>
C	<u>601980</u>	<u>4808180</u>	D	<u>602000</u>	<u>4808380</u>

Portion of CM Ranch:

E	<u>611200</u>	<u>4815140</u>	F	<u>610080</u>	<u>4815120</u>
G	<u>610080</u>	<u>4815800</u>	H	<u>610910</u>	<u>4815700</u>
I	<u>611200</u>	<u>4815990</u>			

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Verbal Boundary Description

CM RANCH

The CM Ranch's 1307.39 acres comprises all of the historic ranch property as described in the 1973 Warranty Deed to Pete Petersen, Book 120 of W.O. Page 568.

Township 41 North, Range 106 West, 6th P.M.

Section 20: NE1/4	S1/2	480.00	Acres
21: NW1/4:	SW1/4 SW1/4	200.00	
28:	W1/2 NW1/4	80.00	
29:	NW1/4 N1/2 NE1/4	240.00	
30:	Lot #2 (SW1/4 NW1/4)	13.94	
30:	Lot #3 (NW1/4 SW1/4)	39.85	
30:	SE1/4 NW1/4	29.90	
30:	NE1/4 SW1/4	40.00	
30:	SW1/4 NE1/4	19.80	
30:	NE1/4 NE1/4	26.40	
30:	S1/2 NE1/4	80.00	
30:	NE1/4 NW1/4	1.30	

Township 41 North, Range 107 West, 6th P.M.

Section 25: SE1/4 NE1/4	16.20
NE1/4 SE1/4	<u>40.00</u>
	1307.39

SIMPSON LAKE CABINS

Simpson Lake Cabins are located in the E1/2, SE1/4, SW1/4, NE1/4, Section 19, T40N, R107W, 6th Principal Meridian. The legal boundaries of the Simpson Lake Cabins' approximate 5 acre portion of the discontinuous district are arbitrary. Point A is on the Simpson Lake Trail approximately 20 feet to the northeast of the northeast corner of the corral. The boundary follows the trail south 560 feet to point B on the trail and then 220 feet west to point C on the eastern shore of Simpson Lake. The boundary then continues along the eastern shoreline of Simpson Lake from Point C to Point D on the shoreline approximately 100 feet northwest of the northwest corner of the corral. The boundary then extends approximately 150 feet southeast from Point D to Point A.

NPS Form 10-900-a  
1024-0018  
(8-86)

OMB Approval No.

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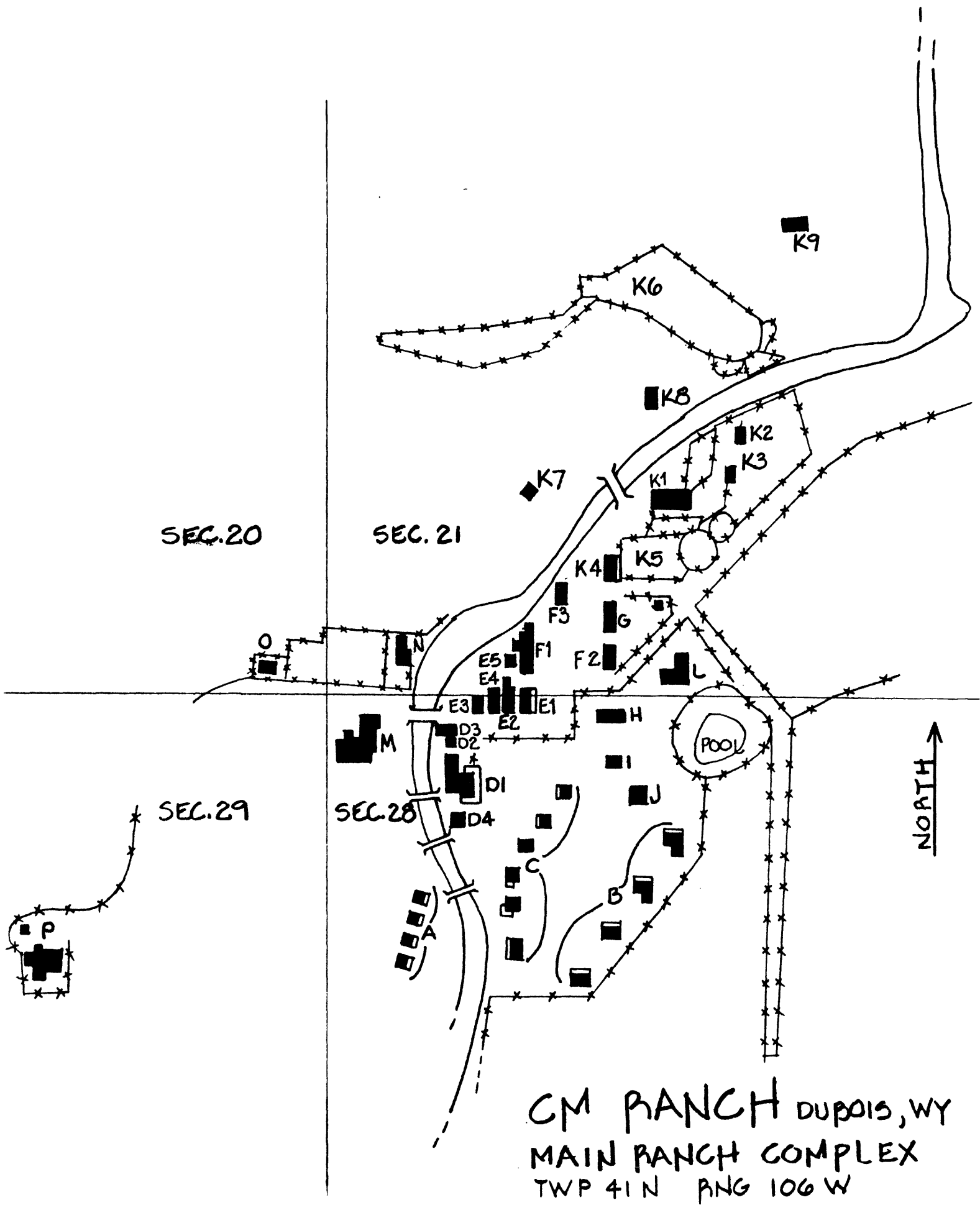
Boundary Justification

CM RANCH

The boundaries for the CM Ranch were drawn based on the historic legal boundaries of the ranch as it developed during the period of significance from 1920-1942.

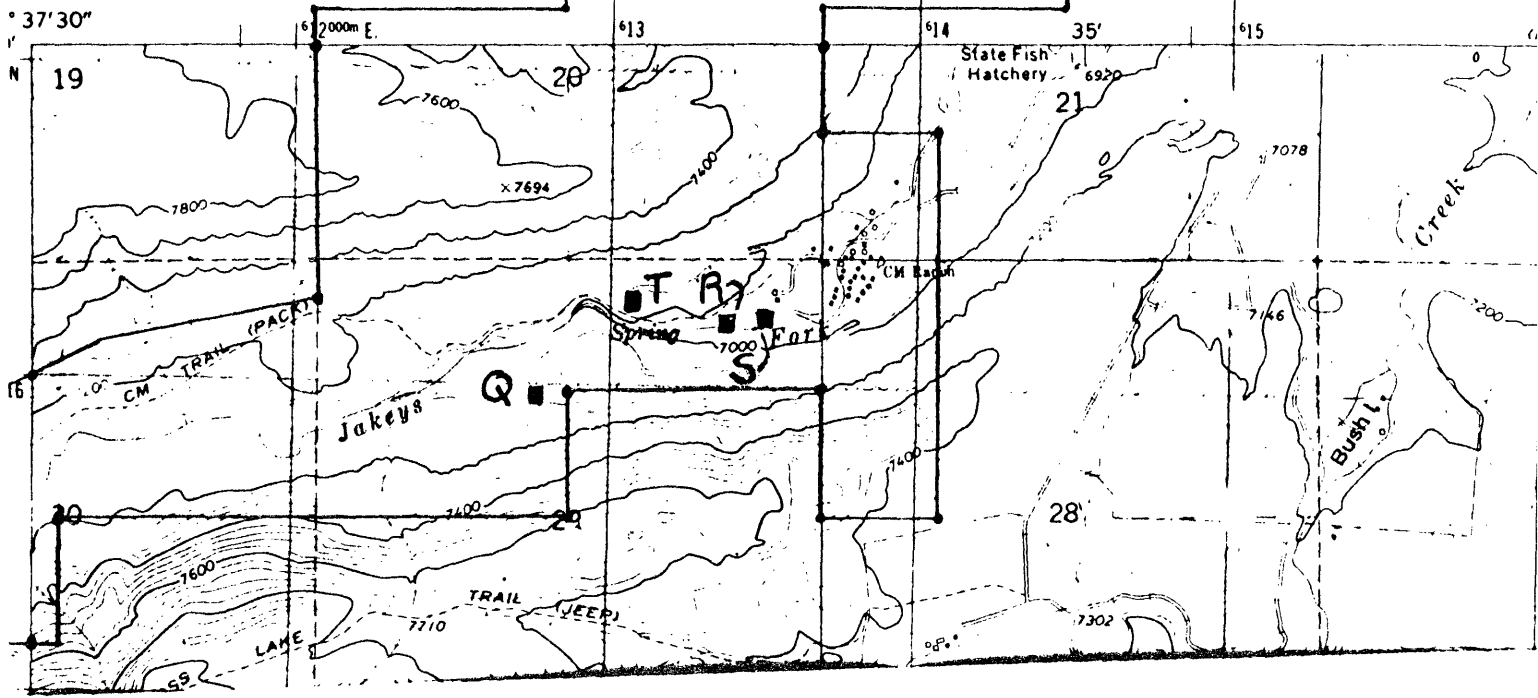
SIMPSON LAKE CABINS

The boundaries for Simpson Lake Cabins were drawn according to the natural features of the lake, trail, and trees bordering the site. Although the Cabins are thirteen miles from the Ranch itself, the history of this discontinuous portion of the historic district is an excellent example of the historic relationship in the West between federal land management agencies and private landholders.



CM RANCH DUPOIS, WY  
MAIN RANCH COMPLEX  
TWP 41 N RANG 106 W

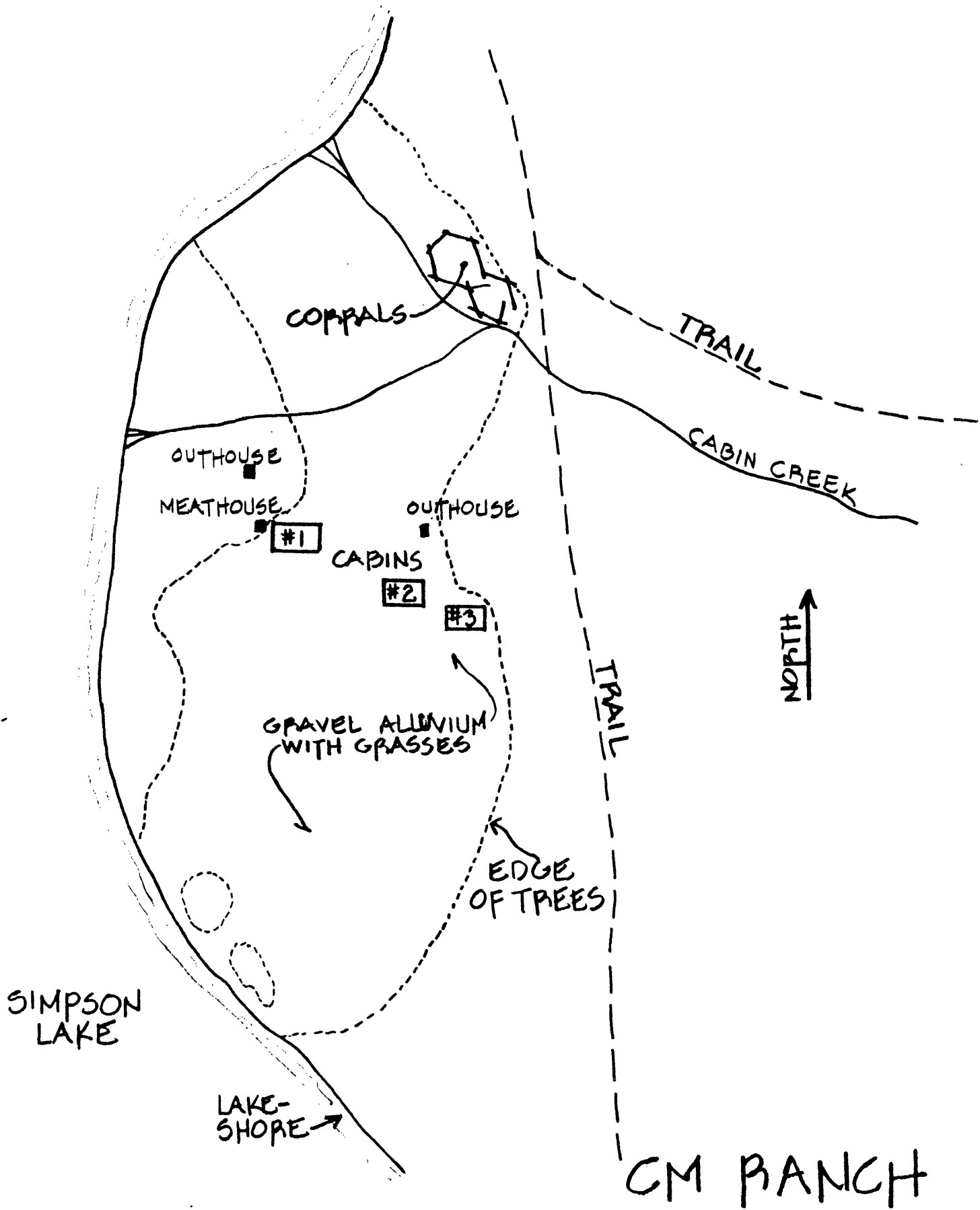
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



TORREY LAKE QUAD

CM RANCH  
HOMESTEAD CABIN (Q)  
& VACATION HOMES (R, S, T)  
TWP 41N R106W





SIMPSON LAKE LODGE  
TWP 40N R107 W