

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90001213

Date Listed: 8/17/90

Laird's Lodge Historic District
Property Name

Missoula
County

MT
State

N/A
Multiple Name

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

Anthony J. Rice
for Signature of the Keeper

8/20/90
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Description: First paragraph, line four: the sentence should make reference to three non-historic cabins not four.

Geographical Data: The text should read: "The nominated property includes the land upon which the historic buildings are located. The southern boundary is the shoreline of Lindbergh Lake; the eastern boundary is the west bank of the Swan River and the western boundary is the U.S. Forest Service boundary. The north boundary runs along the base of a small hill."

This information was confirmed with Chere Jiusto of the Montana SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

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

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RECEIVED

JUL 13 1990

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16).

1. Name of Property

historic name Laird's Lodge Historic District
other names/site number Lindbergh Lake Lodge/Diamond L Bar Ranch

2. Location

street & number Lindbergh Lake Road
city, town Seeley Lake
state Montana code MT county Missoula code 063 zip code 59868

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private (checked)
Category of Property: district (checked)
Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 8, Noncontributing 3

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 (checked) does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official: [Signature]
Date: Jun 27, 1990
State or Federal agency and bureau: MT SHPO

In my opinion, the property meets (unchecked) does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official:
Date:
State or Federal agency and bureau:

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
entered in the National Register. (checked)
determined eligible for the National Register. (unchecked)
determined not eligible for the National Register. (unchecked)
removed from the National Register. (unchecked)
other, (explain):

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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6. Function or Use

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Historic: **Recreational Lodge**

Current: **Residences**

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification: **Rustic style**

Materials: foundation: **stone and log pier**

roof: **wood shingle, asphalt, metal**

walls: **log, wood** other: n/a

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

(See continuation sheet.)

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The historic Laird's Lodge is located at the north end of Lindbergh Lake on a point of land bounded by the Swan River. The historic district is composed of a large log building, three historic cabins, a boiler/laundry house, a log tack room, a horse shelter, and four non-historic cabins.

#1 Lodge, built 1927-29, contributing

The two-story, log lodge building is encircled by a glass-enclosed porch, portions of which have been remodeled into a bedroom, kitchen and studio. The central core of the lodge is rather cold and dark when a fire doesn't blaze in the monumental fireplace. Thus, most of the living today occurs on the glazed porch, and the interior core of the lodge has been kept completely intact, almost as a museum piece.

The lodge was built on large log piers, which left a high crawl space beneath the entire building. The current owner currently is working to replace many of the log supports beneath the building which are deteriorating. The gable roof is covered with cedar shingles on the south slope and sheet metal on the north. The gable ends of the roof are of frame construction with shingle covering. The porch roof is sheathed with sheet metal. The porch, which originally had been screened in, now has been nearly completely glazed with windows that are primarily 6- and 9-light sliding sash. Portions of the porch have also been framed in and sheathed with shingles. The apron of the porch is built up five logs high with the multi-pane wooden windows infilling above. The current owners recently constructed stone wall infill between the log pier of the porch support (which at one time had been filled with lattice) to help weatherize the building so that it would be habitable year-round. A large stone chimney protrudes from the center of the north slope of the roof.

The interior of the lodge retains a high degree of historic architectural integrity. The large stone fireplace remains in excellent condition, and many of the stuffed animals that found perches on this "pile of rocks" when "Cap" Laird built it are still in place. The second floor, which is subdivided into small bedrooms, is fashioned in the manner of a mezzanine with the center open to the living area. In this way, the stone fireplace can rise unimpeded to the roof. The interior exposed logs were chipped (removing the portions of the cambium layer) to give a highly Rustic, hand hewn appearance. Interior furnishings are mostly handmade in a very sturdy Rustic "western frontier" style to appeal to tourist

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Number 7 Laird's Lodge Historic District Page 1

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expectations, and add considerably to the historic architectural significance of the building. They were originally made by John Stark, one of the earliest (white) residents in the area, and a friend and acquaintance of Cap Laird. Stark's sister-in-law made the elk hide davenport covers. The huge "Paul Bunyan" table was made by cleaving an enormous log in two, and then hauled into the lodge with a horse team! It is estimated that this table weights about 5000 lbs. There are woven Indian rugs covering the chairs and couches, and the railing upstairs. Historic brass light fixtures extend from the walls and the log stanchions.

#2 "Lariat" Cabin, built ca. 1935, contributing

This small log cabin measures 19'x 25' and has a 15'x15' log addition attached to the rear. This addition was originally part of the historic bunkhouse, which was divided into sections during the 1950s and used to expand the size of the cabins. The building is raised on short log piers, which are set on stone bases. The peeled, rounded lodge pole logs are finished with quarter sawn poles and saddle notch corner timbering. A new porch deck with vertical logs supporting the porch roof is attached to the south elevation. The porch steps are fashioned with sawn log treads. Windows are a combination of 6-light, fixed wooden units, and 6-light double casements. The gable roof is covered with green rolled asphalt roofing. The gable ends feature log infill, and log purlins support the roof.

The rear addition has no visible foundation. The log side walls of the addition butt against the north wall of the original cabin, and the rear corners feature saddle notching. The windows of the addition are four-light sliding sash. A small, shed-roofed wooden awning projects from the rear wall.

#3 "Roundup" Cabin, built ca. 1932, contributing

This 17'x30' log building features a full width Rustic style front porch detailed with log support columns and stick balustrade. The stone pier foundation appears to be in very good condition. The wide steps leading up to the porch are fashioned from sawn logs. The building has a gable roof with log infill in the gable ends and log roof purlins. The roof is covered with green rolled asphalt. A newer chimney protrudes from the center of the roof. The windows are a combination of six-light sliding sash or eight-light double casements. A 15-light French door is centered on the south elevation, and serves as the primary entrance.

A 15'x15' log addition abuts the back of this building. The addition was part of the historic bunkhouse that was cut up for reuse during the 1950's.

The interior of the cabin features handmade Rustic furnishings that date to the historic period. There are two bedrooms, kitchen, living room

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Number 7 Laird's Lodge Historic District Page 2
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and bathroom. Two skylights have been cut into the gable roof, but these do not detract from the architectural character of the building.

#4 Horse shelter, built ca. 1930, contributing

This two-bay, shed roofed horse shelter measures approximately 19'x 53'. The shelter is oriented to the west and there is no visible foundation. The axe-cut, round logs feature saddle notch corner timbering. The log purlins of the roof are set on 18-inch centers. The roof sheathing is of 1-inch rough cut lumber covered with green rolled asphalt.

The open front of the shelter was enclosed at a later date with a nine-foot wide addition. Framed with vertical corner supports, the walls of the addition are of horizontally laid boards. Board and batten doors provide access to the interior, which appears to have been used as a workshop and storage space during recent years.

#5 Tack Room, built ca. 1930, contributing

The tack room is a log building that measures 17'x 21' and has a full width, engaged front porch oriented toward the west beneath a 3-foot overhang. A distinctive feature of this cabin is the manner in which the log ends of the side walls of the porch are cut to provide an apron by the extension of the bottom two logs and support for the overhanging gable roof with the longer top two logs. The front facade of this cabin is finished with quarter sawn pole inserts between the logs; the other exterior walls display no chinking. Windows are four-light sliding sash. The building does not have a permanent foundation and is set on corner rocks. The gable roof is covered with rolled asphalt roofing. There is a shed roofed overhang at the rear of the building.

#6 "Hunter" Cabin, built ca 1934, contributing

This one-and-one-half story log building is composed of a central volume with wings to the south and west sides. The main portion of the building measures 20'x 23'; the north wing is 9'x 23'; and the south wing total 21'x 43'. The cabin features saddle notch corner timbering. The windows are six-light fixed and sliding sash units. The shed-roofed dormer has four 4-light windows and the gable roofed dormer on the east elevation has a 6-light casement window. The log walls are finished with quarter sawn poles and the roof is sheathed with sheet metal. The cabin is divided as a duplex, with two bedrooms and 1 1/2 baths on each side. Furnishings, again, date to the historic period.

#7 "River" Cabin, built ca. 1928, contributing

This one-and-one-half story log building was the third building to be built on the property. The "River" Cabin exhibits the most intact Rustic

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Number 7

Laird's Lodge Historic District Page 3

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style detailing of the guest cabins. The exterior walls are fitted with quarter sawn poles between the logs and the log ends are axe-cut. The corner timbering is saddle notch. A large shed roofed dormer with 4-light sliding sash windows projects from the west side of the gable roof. The roof is covered with hand-split cedar shakes with a wide exposure. The cabin accommodates three bedrooms and 1 and 1/2 bath. The back porch, which spans the east elevation overlooking the Swan River, is glazed with multi-light fixed windows. The door and window openings of the rear wall of the cabin were enlarged at some point to open the main living room to this enclosed porch area.

#8 Boiler House, (or Laundry) built ca. 1932, contributing

This one story stone and log building is built into the side of a hill. The stone walls rise approximately 4 feet above grade and terminate at the sill level. The upper portion of the walls are of log construction with saddle notch corner timbering. The windows are fixed or hinged 4-light units. The gable roof is oriented north-south and is supported by log purlins. The roof is covered with green rolled asphalt. The building was used as a laundry and is now used for storage.

#9 Binley Cabin, built 1979, noncontributing

This modern log cabin was built on the site of the old "Indian Echo" cabin, which burned down in December 1978. It is a two-story log cabin, with high, projecting gables, and fully glazed gable ends, which allows natural light into the high, lofty interior. There is a deck built on to the east side.

#10 "Stampede" Cabin, built ca. 1950's, noncontributing

This one-story, 3-room log cabin has a stone fireplace and is built in a very similar manner to the other cabins. However, because it was built less than 50 years ago, it is considered noncontributing, though quite compatible architecturally with the character of the historic district. The cabin has a raised deck built on the south side facing the lake.

#11 "Latigo" Cabin, built ca. 1950's, noncontributing

This one-story, two-bedroom cabin, like the "Stampede," does not seriously detract from the historic character of the district, but must be considered a noncontributing building due to its young age. It has attached decks built on both the southeast and west sides. A recent second story addition to one portion of the cabin is of wood frame construction with a roof of enameled sheet metal. This addition is not architecturally compatible with the original building, nor the rest of the district.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Number 7 Laird's Lodge Historic District Page 4
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The Lodge and cabins are located on the shore of Lindbergh Lake at the source of the Swan River, with the Lodge sited closest to the shore, facing in a southerly direction looking across the lake. When the complex was functioning as a guest ranch, a water wheel was set up in the river from the Boiler/Laundry house to generate electricity for the needs of the ranch. A bridge once crossed the Swan River near the mouth. Both the water wheel and bridge are no longer in place.

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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: **locally**

Applicable National Register Criteria: **A, C**
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): **n/a**
Areas of Significance: **Architecture, Recreation**
Period of Significance: **1927-1940**
Significant Dates: **1927, 1928, 1932, 1935**
Significant Person(s): **n/a**
Cultural Affiliation: **n/a**
Architect/Builder: **Eli "Cap" Laird**

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

(Also see continuation sheet.)

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The Laird's Lodge Historic District is significant for its role as part of the "dude ranch" tourist boom to western Montana in the 1920's, a period when tourism was rapidly growing and being recognized as having potential for a steady means of income. The Lodge, and its accompanying log guest cabins, were built between 1927 and 1935 by Eli "Cap" Laird, a former steamboat captain on Lake Coeur d'Alene. The Lodge was never a real working "dude ranch" in the original sense of guests participating in the daily work routine of a family or company run cattle business. It was instead, built with the intention of being a specific tourist retreat with a wide variety of recreation opportunities for the guests, ranging from the strenuous to the relaxing at the guests' option.

The Lodge itself, and its associated cabins, were built in the deliberately self-conscious manner of stone and log "Rustic" style architecture so popular in resort lodges in the West from the mid-1910's until the mid-1940's. This style deliberately exaggerated the rugged western frontier or cowboy themes cultivated by so many Hollywood movies (and never actually seen in the late 19th century American West). Rustic styling appealed to a public still naive and idealistic about such things, and thirsting for adventure in the "Old West" manner. The cabins at Laird's Lodge were given appropriate titles such as "Roundup," "Stampede" or "Lariat" in keeping with this theme. This outlook may appear silly or "camp" to the modern eye, but says a great deal about the changes in public taste, not only in the approach to recreation and vacation time, but also in how our past was understood by previous generations.

The zenith of the use of Rustic styling was probably seen in the grandiose efforts by the National Park Service in guest lodges such as the Grand Canyon Lodge (1928), and in the ranger stations, dormitories, and lookout towers of the U.S. Forest Service. Many of these lodges went beyond a mere rugged "Western" style, and instead developed a grand, imposing, ostentatious style of their own, almost as if the designers were attempting to merge the huge Victorian mansion effect with the log cabin/fortress look.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Number 8 Laird's Lodge Historic District Page 1
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While not nearly so ostentatious as some of the latter mentioned lodges, Laird's Lodge is impressive in its own right, with sturdy log walls built on massive log piers. The piers elevate the building, leaving a high crawl space beneath. The entire building is encircled by a wide covered porch, at one time screened, now enclosed with multi-paned windows. The interior of the Lodge is a fitting complement to the outside, with a large room centered around a massive stone fireplace and chimney. The darker, exposed cambium layers of the interior peeled logs were chipped to give a lighter appearance in a dark atmosphere. Sturdy, lacquered "Rustic" style furniture fashioned from logs, sticks, deer feet and antlers gives a most appropriate feel to the place. Couches are covered with Indian blankets, and animal skins hang in various places, while stuffed, taxidermed animals are mounted above the fireplace. The whole atmosphere is one of a traditional, rustic a hunting lodge.

A 1920 newspaper article¹ mentions the proliferation of dude ranches in Montana, with "easy dollars from the east" starting a "promising flow." Another 1927 article in a Montana paper stated that dude ranching was "now coming into its own as one of the West's fastest developing industries."² Dude ranching in the West had usually been associated with the more open rangelands of central Montana, primarily around the Yellowstone Park/Absaroka wilderness area, and Wyoming in the public mind. The opening of tourist resorts (along with the pursuit of hiking in a more "natural" and rugged manner pioneered by those such as Bob Marshall) in the mountains of western Montana just after the turn of the century, began the tradition of mountain vacationing that is so widely popular today. Dude ranch listings and attractions were often published by the Northern Pacific Railroad in collaboration with the ranches, a practice that profited both, as the railroad was the major means of long distance transportation in that day. A 1925 Northern Pacific brochure entitled "National Forest Dude Ranch Vacations" listed 10 Dude ranches in the Flathead/Swan Valley, while 6 were listed in the "Bitterroot country of western Montana & north-central Idaho," including "Cap Laird's Hunting Lodge" on Fish Lake Idaho. Laird was a well known big game hunter in western Montana/north-central Idaho long before he built his lodge on Lindbergh Lake.

¹ Culled from Montana Historical Society newspaper article files under the subject of "Dude Ranches." Source newspaper not given; dated June 29, 1920.

² Culled from Montana Historical Society newspaper articles files, under the subject "Dude Ranches." No source publication is given; dated December 19, 1927.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Number 8 Laird's Lodge Historic District Page 2
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The brochures produced to advertise Laird's Lodge did not use the term "ranch" until after Second World War, although the Laird's occasionally referred to the business as "the dude ranch." The choice of activities included hiking, horseback riding, horse and pack animal trips into the mountains, fishing, boating, swimming, etc. Modern amenities such as hot water, flush toilets, electricity (from a generator powered by a paddle wheel in the river), were introduced in the early thirties. "Cap" Laird was often described as an amiable, gregarious fellow, with a "gift for gab" and a terrific sense of humor. By all accounts, he must have been the perfect host for such a place.

The Lodge and associated buildings remained open every summer for tourists, and in the fall for hunting parties, until the U.S. entered the Second World War. It was billed as a relaxed place, "convenient...not high hat," in the land "chuck-full o'hush." Cap died during the war years and the place was closed for business. At the end of the war, Cap's wife, Tyne, decided to sell the property, and it was purchased jointly by Dick Hickey and Ross Greening. Hickey and his wife reopened it as the "Diamond L-Bar Ranch," after the original stock brand of Laird. Greening, a career Air Corps man, came to stay once a year while on leave. The Hickeys ran the Lodge until 1968, when it was sold once more. During the 1970's the property was subdivided into parcels, and the Lodge and guest cabins were sold to eight separate families. The Lodge, itself, was purchased in 1978, by the present owners, Lois and William "Uke" Ukrainetz.

9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Approximately 8 acres

UTM References

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2	9	4	9	5	0
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5	2	5	3	5	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

see continuation sheet

T19N;R17W SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ and NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ section 13
SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ and NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ section 14

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the land upon which the historic buildings are located. The southern boundary is the shoreline of Lindbergh Lake; the western boundary is the east bank of the Swan River and the eastern boundary is the U.S. Forest Service boundary. The north boundary runs along the base of a small hill.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nathan Latta, Intern
organization Montana State Historic Preservation Office date May 1990
street & number 225 No. Roberts telephone 406-444-7715
city or town Helena state Montana zip code 19620

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Number 9

Page 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cabin Fever: A Centennial Collection of Stories About the Seeley Lake Area. Compiled by the Seeley Lake Writers Club. Vernon Printing and Publishing, Seeley Lake, Mt., 1989.

Lindbergh Lake: Letters, Essays, Documents, A Compilation by F. Gordon Reynolds, no date, unpublished manuscript in the possession of the State Historic Preservation Office.

Steamboats In The Timber, Ruby L. Hult, Caldwell, Idaho: Caxton Printers., 1953.

Laird's Lodge business brochure from Cap and Tyne Laird; ca. 1930's.

"Says Western Montana Is Ideal Playground;" article featuring an interview of Cap Laird about vacationing in western Montana from The Daily Missoulian, January 10, 1938.

"History Permeates the Lodge," (no author) from The Seeley Swan Pathfinder, August 11, 1988.

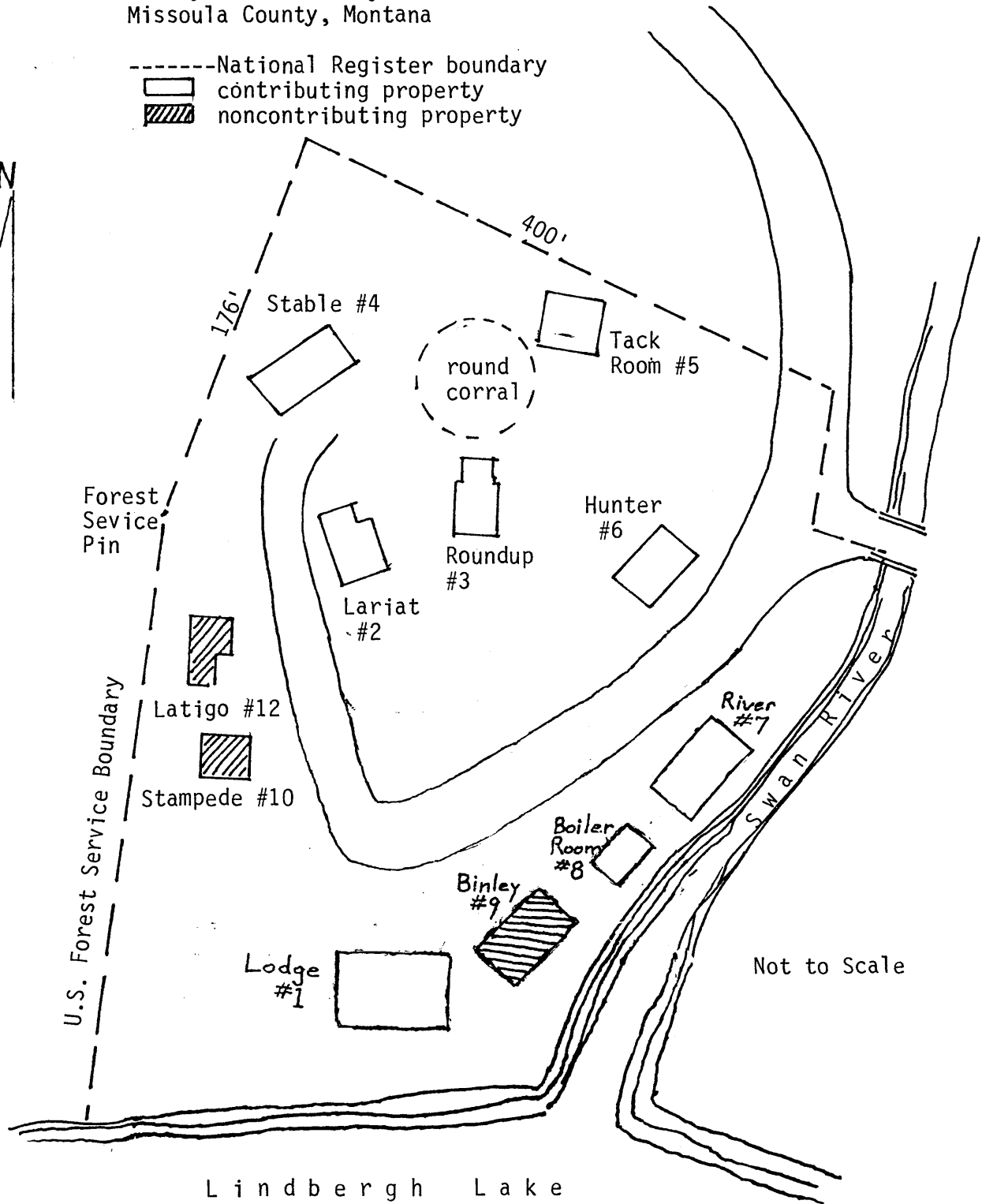
"Current Owners compile Lindbergh Lodge History," by Lois Ukrainetz. The Seely Swan Pathfinder, August 11, 1988.

Letters from Laurene Kellog dated May 19, 1932, to August 11, 1932.

Letter to Ben Hunter from Tyne Laird, dated October 1960.

Laird's Lodge Historic District
North shore of Lindbergh Lake
Seeley Lake vicinity
Missoula County, Montana

- National Register boundary
- [] contributing property
- [/ / /] noncontributing property



Lindbergh Lake