

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received

SEP 28 1984

date entered

NOV 7 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic HF Bar *Ranch District*
and/or common Hortons

2. Location

street & number ~~(15 miles northwest of Buffalo)~~ *NW* not for publication
city, town *Saddlestring* *Buffalo* vicinity of congressional district
state Wyoming code 056 county Johnson code 019

3. Classification

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <i>N/A</i> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | <i>N/A</i> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: dude ranch |

4. Owner of Property

name Margie Schroth
street & number
city, town Saddlestring vicinity of state Wyoming

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Johnson County Courthouse
street & number 76 North Main
city, town Buffalo state Wyoming 82834

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wyoming Recreation Commission has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1984 federal state county local
depository for survey records Herschler Building
city, town Cheyenne, state Wyoming

7. Description

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> altered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved date _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located in north central Wyoming 35 miles south of Sheridan at the headwaters of Rock Creek and nestled into the foothills of the Big Horn Mountains, this working cattle/dude ranch complex consists of 36 single, detached buildings predominately of rustic frame and log construction built primarily between 1890 and 1921. The headquarters site demonstrates integrity of design, setting, location, workmanship, materials, feeling and association. It features significant vernacular architectural styles typical of cattle ranches throughout the region. The guest cabins are unique because though constructed of the same materials as other buildings and following the same basic formats, the cabins were constructed by the original and returning guests who stayed in them.

All buildings share general characteristics of stone and/or concrete foundations, irregular plans, shingled intersecting gable roofs, double-hung multipaned windows, minimal ornamentation and wood floors, open beam ceilings and open fireplaces on interiors. Exterior qualities such as continuity in scale, vegetation and architectural cohesiveness unite the district aesthetically with the larger communal structures and barns and corrals located at the east end of the complex with guest cabins arranged along Rock Creek in a loop. There are also two private homes located on the site and staff quarters.

The natural geographic features of the area have provided easily definable boundaries for the district which encompasses approximately sixty acres. The headquarters complex is the only portion of the ranch being nominated because the remainder is grazing land which has no cultural manifestations.

All buildings have been included in the following groupings with significant and typical examples described individually.

Dining Room/Kitchen (1911-1921) Contributing

The kitchen portion of this building was one of the original log homestead buildings which has been added on to as space was needed. It is a two-story, irregularly planed building which seems to ramble. It has a concrete and stone foundation, intersecting gables, lap siding and original doors and screens. Windows are multi-paned double hung with plain surrounds and are often paired. There is a large shed dormer on the west and a flagstone patio porch with shed roof square posts and shed roof. The porch doors are french set off by carved wooden panels. There are shed roofs over two of the buildings' other doors. There are also two interior native stone chimneys and a bell frame with dinner bell.

Clubhouse (1924) Contributing

This massive log structure is used for dancing, games and lounging. It is rectangular with a gabled roof, concrete foundation and massive front porch. The porch has a hipped roof supported by huge pine trunks and the balcony features a log

SEE ADDENDUM

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 type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input checked="" 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) tourism |
| Specific dates | 1911 - 1931 | | Builder/Architect | Frank Horton and others |

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The HF Bar or Horton's Dude Ranch was established by Wyoming state senator and U.S. congressman, Frank Horton, who purchased the 1890's homestead in 1911. It is significant as an intact example of a working dude ranch in continuous use for more than sixty years. It is one of the best remaining representatives of similar operations which flourished during peak years of the cattle ranching frontier, then turned to dude ranching in the face of economic difficulties. This ranch is associated with the state and the locally significant tourist industry which brought wealthy easterners and Europeans to the West. Their influence subsequently enriched the social, intellectual, cultural and economic climate of the entire region. The dude ranching industry also focused attention on the economic significance of tourism and awakened Wyomingites to the importance of preserving the West's natural resources and unique heritage. The ranch's direct link to the cattle ranching frontier via its continuous operation as a working ranch make this headquarters complex an excellent representative of that frontier, the ranching industry's growth and its historic involvement in Wyoming's economic, political and even social and cultural history. The ranch complex operates as a group of interrelated structures functionally dependent upon the group and in that context demonstrates integrity of design, setting, layout, materials, workmanship, feeling and association; it also embodies many frontier ranch characteristics of type period and method of construction. The rambling vernacular architecture of many of the main buildings sets them apart as significant utilitarian buildings representative of a type which also features a variety of uniquely stylized details and additions.

SEE ADDENDUM

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE ADDENDUM

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 60 acres

Quadrangle name Stone Mountain

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References SEE MAP See addendum

A

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Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE ADDENDUM

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 Margie Schroth/SHPO Staff

organization Owner

date April, 1984

street & number HF Bar

telephone

city or town Saddlestring, WY

state Wyoming

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Mackenzie, Deputy SHPO

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date

9/27/84

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Patrick Andrews

date

11/7/84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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half wall. Windows are both double hung and set-in multipaned windows with plain surrounds. Windows are frequently grouped in 2's and 3's and doors are oversized and original. There is a recessed porch on the east with a catwalk balcony and rustic pine railings. The interior features massive native stone fireplaces and chimneys, rustic exposed eaves and original wood floors.

Office - Trading Post (1911 - 1920) Contributing

This one-story stucco and clapboard structure with intersecting gables is also the home of the Saddlestring post office. It has a concrete foundation and original doors and screens. Windows are double hung with plain surrounds, corner supports, multipaned and are often grouped in 2's and 3's. The porch has a gabled roof, square supports and a clapboard $\frac{1}{2}$ wall. The interior has original display cases, exposed eaves and original rustic trim.

Guest Cabins (1902 - 1921) Contributing

The guest cabins were constructed primarily between 1902 and 1911 by Frank Horton with assistance from guests. They are rustic log, wood frame and stucco with concrete and stone foundations and gabled roofs. Windows are double hung, with corner supports and plain surrounds. Again, windows are usually grouped in 2's and 3's. The 6/1 pattern is predominant. The cabins are one and $1\frac{1}{2}$ -story irregular or rectangular in plan with open and $\frac{1}{2}$ wall porches. Original wood doors and screens are intact as are native stone fireplaces and chimneys. Some cabins constructed on Rock Creek sit on concrete pylons.

Barn (1920's) Contributing

The barn is a $2\frac{1}{2}$ -story, winged Gambrel of stucco with a concrete and stone foundation and a large gabled wing on the east. It has square set-in windows evenly spaced in the wing and an oversized sliding door. The main facade features a massive sliding double door centered below the hay loft opening. There are also two openings just above the main entrance.

Blacksmith Shop (1890's) Contributing

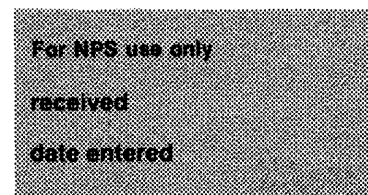
This two-story log barn is one of the original barns from the homesteading period which was also used as a blacksmith shop. It has a gabled roof, native granite foundation and square set-in windows with plain surrounds. There is a brick chimney and double doors. Corners are notched and the chinking is a plaster-like material.

Saddle Barn (1920's) Contributing

This is a small $1\frac{1}{2}$ -story structure of stucco with a gable roof and stone foundation. It has small set-in and larger multipaned windows. There are small support brackets in the gable end and large doors for bringing horses in to saddle them. There

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is also a large round corral in front of the barn where large numbers of horses are kept for dudes to use during the day.

Frank Horton House (1920) Contributing

This two-story stucco house is built into a hillside just west of the clubhouse. It has a concrete foundation, hipped roof and massive center front porch. The porch roof doubles as the balcony floor and is supported by large pine poles with heavy brackets. Windows are often paired and are double hung with plain surrounds. Doors and screens are original.

Jack Horton House (1921) Contributing

This is a 1½-story rectangular cottage of stucco with a gabled roof, concrete foundation and central concrete chimney. Windows are irregularly spaced, 6/1 double hung with plain surrounds. There is a shed-roofed bay window on the east end and a triple window on the ½ story. Soffits are paneled and gable ends are bracketed.

Breaking Barn (1941) Noncontributing by date

The breaking barn which features unusual construction for protection of cowboys when breaking horses is another important part of the district but is noncontributing by date. This building should be reassessed at the 50-year mark. It features a moderately pitched gable and corrugated metal roof. It is of pole construction lightly framed with plank siding. Side walls are battered and the roof is supported by 2 x 8 rafters and 2 x 6 cross ties.

Salt Creek Cabins (1900's) Contributing

These are 3 one-story wood frame cabins connected at the back but constructed to look like single detached dwellings from the front. They have gable roofs, double hung windows, one front door, and share one shed roof porch with square post supports. These cabins were moved onto the ranch from the Salt Creek Oil Fields in 1930 (at one time the largest oil field in the world) and are the only known original structures from that site still in existence. They were brought to the HF Bar for use as housing for wranglers and still function in that capacity.

Other contributing structures on the site include barns, sheds and corrals as part of the ranching operation. (1909) The original coal-heated swimming pool (1931) in which iron horseshoes were used in lieu of concrete reinforcing rolls, is still in use and also contributes to the site's integrity. There are also a number of small sheds, outhouses, original pine log corrals which also contribute to the site's integrity. (1902 - 1921)

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The HF Bar Ranch is located on the north fork of Rock Creek. This is about twenty miles northwest of Buffalo, the seat of Johnson County in north central Wyoming. The HF Bar is one of the oldest dude ranches in the country, though it originated as and has remained a working cattle ranch. The main area of the ranch is situated on the edge of the Great Plains and the foothills of the Big Horn Mountains.

Frank Ogilvie Horton was born in Muscatine, Iowa, in 1880. He spent his boyhood in Iowa, and later attended Rushes Medical School at Chicago University. After receiving his degree in 1903, Frank was discovered to be colorblind. At that time doctors neither understood nor knew treatment for this problem. They felt his condition might improve if Horton spent time outdoors rather than using his eyes for close work. Accordingly, Horton went to Wyoming in 1905 to stay with and eventually work for friends who owned a ranch north of the current HF Bar. Horton was so enthralled with the area that in 1908 he bought land to the northeast of the HF Bar and kept sheep in the Big Horns. In 1911, while bringing sheep down from the mountains to his ranch, Horton happened onto the current HF Bar territory. He met the couple who owned the ranch and mentioned that he would like to buy the property if it was ever put up for sale. A few months later the man was killed in a sawmill accident on the property. Horton bought the ranch and later acquired two or three adjacent parcels of land.

By 1919 Horton's holdings included 2,000 acres of deeded land and 3,500 acres of land leased from the government. At that time the HF Bar also included "a large number of barns and sheds for the shelter of grain and stock and . . . 150 head of saddle horses. . .also seventeen head of pure-bred Holstein cattle, 300 white-faced beef cattle and a large band of sheep. (Horton was) also extensively engaged in raising high grade poultry. . .(and had) 325 acres of land under ditch, devoted to the production of grain."¹

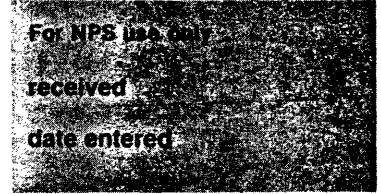
Although the HF Bar was basically a cattle ranch, many of Horton's friends from the east came to visit. Eventually a number of them had cabins built at the HF Bar and started to pay for horses and meals in return for the use of the ranch. In this way the dude aspect of the ranch was born.

In 1908 Frank Horton married Gertrude Sovel Butler of Indianapolis, and they had three sons: William, Jack and Ovid (Bobby). Gertrude died of cancer in 1934. In 1937 Horton married the current Mrs. Horton. Henrietta "Hank" Stuart was a young theatre critic and newspaperwoman in Washington D.C. before she moved to the HF Bar.

¹I.S. Bartlett, ed., History of Wyoming, S.J. Clarke Publishing Company: Chicago, 1918-1919, v. 4, pp. 194-195.

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In addition to his ranching activities, Horton served in the Wyoming House of Representatives from 1921-1923 and in the Wyoming State Senate from 1923-1931. He was elected as the Republican congressman from Wyoming and served from 1939-1941.

Frank Horton died in 1948. Jack Horton, Jr., the former Assistant Secretary of the Interior, died of leukemia in 1981. Mrs. Horton, Dean Thomas, and Margaret M. Schroth, Jack Horton's fiancée, are currently co-owners of the HF Bar.

Most of the current guest cabins cluster along the course of the stream which runs through the central area of the HF Bar. Other nearby buildings include the main barns and other livestock structures, dormitories for the wranglers and other help, a main house with kitchen, dining area, and bedrooms, the Hortons' personal home, and a number of domestic utility buildings. Besides these, there are clusters of houses and utilitarian buildings for ranching or agricultural purposes at a number of locations some distance from the main area of the HF Bar.

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Bibliography

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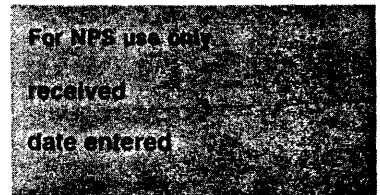
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"Wyoming Works Progress," Federal Writers Project; Collections Inventory, 1977, various manuscripts.

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This district is located specifically in portions of the E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 24 T52N R84W and SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 19 T52N R83W and encompasses approximately sixty acres along Rock Creek.

The boundary for the HF Bar Ranch headquarters complex is defined by natural geographic features on all but the southeast side. This boundary (designated by points A, B, C and D) is an arbitrary line utilized to connect natural contours surrounding the site (points E through L). The southeast corner of the district features communal structures such as barns, dining hall, post office, swimming pool and clubhouse, while guest cabins are spread out along either side of Rock Creek. The Frank Horton home is located next to the clubhouse and the Jack Horton house is located at the northwest corner of the district and is also known as 'farthest west.' The breaking barn (noncontributing by date) is located just west of the main barn and corral system and is the only building within the complex listed as such. For purposes of tax act rehabilitation it should be noted that this group of functionally dependent buildings and structures are utilized in conjunction with both the working ranch and dude ranching operations, contribute to the district's integrity and are eligible for tax act certification.

This boundary is justified by the fact that the natural contour of the land adequately defines the ranch complex without including excessive land area. The site was historically located along the creek between the ridges because of the easy accessibility of water and protection from wind and weather afforded by the hills. Although the ranch encompasses some 15,000 acres it is not necessary to include this land as it functions as hay meadows and grazing land with no permanent cultural manifestations.

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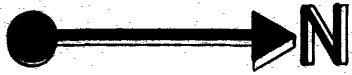
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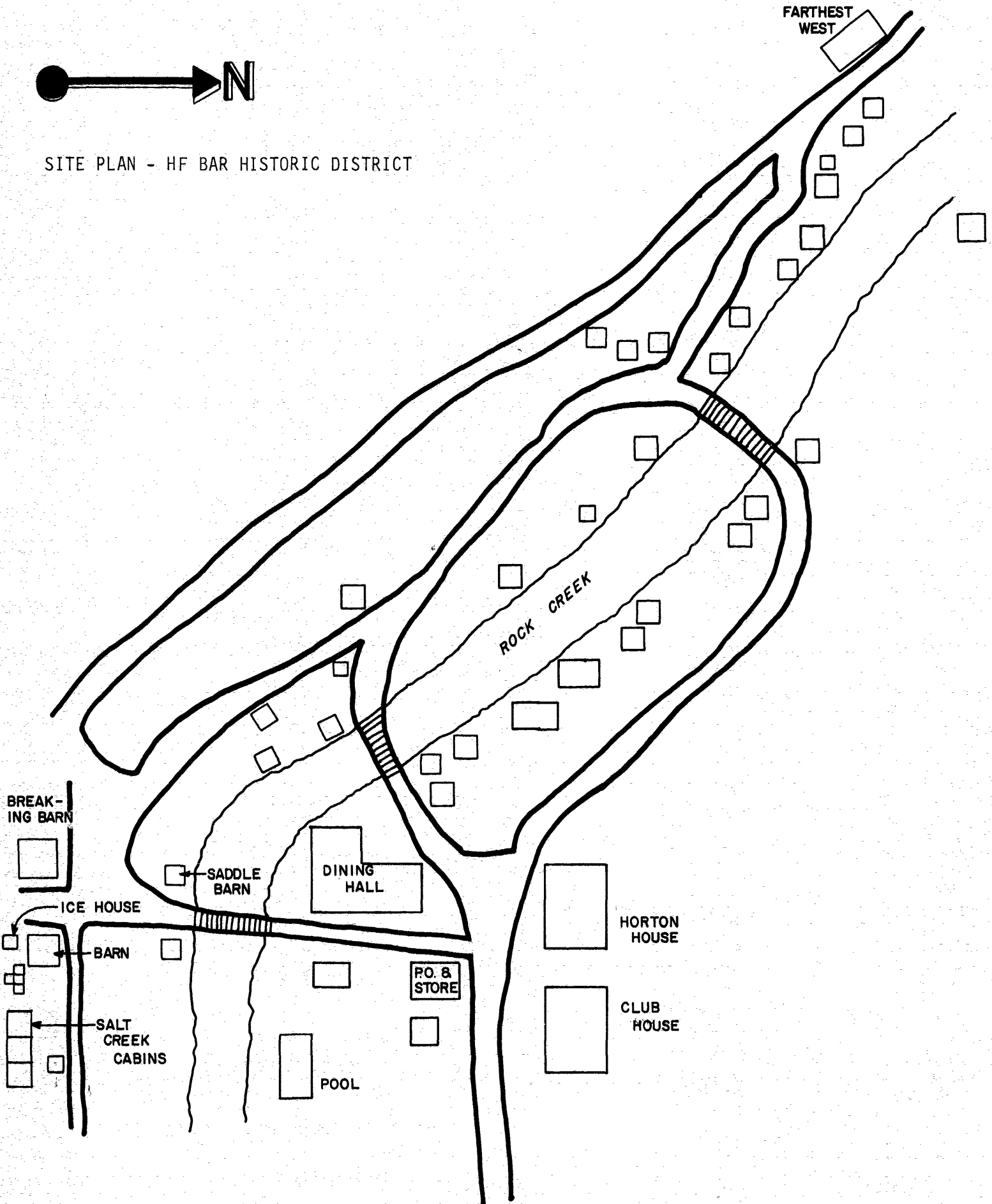
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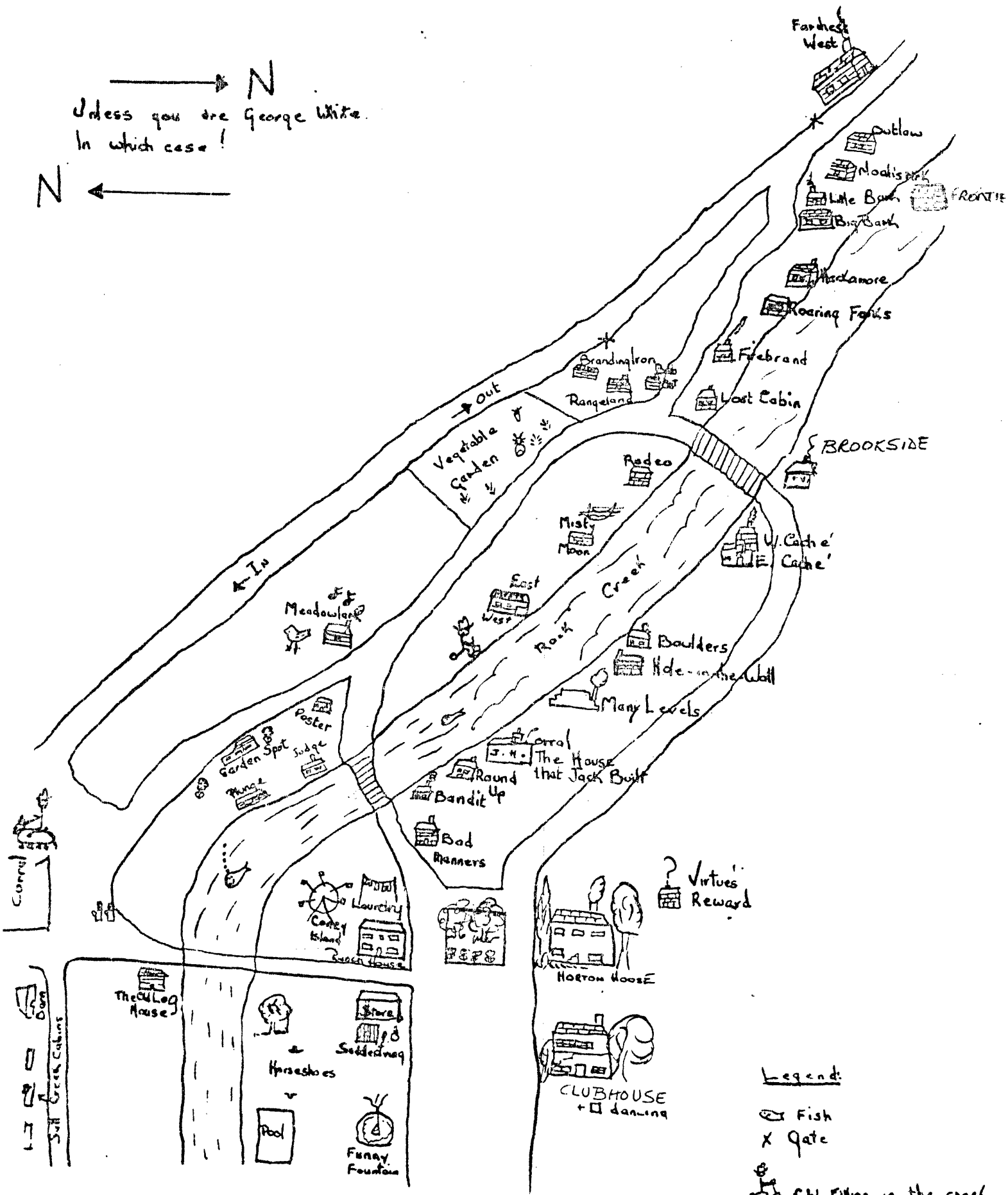
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| A | E349 | 200 | N4924 | 360 |
| B | E349 | 180 | N4924 | 220 |
| C/ | E348 | 940 | N4924 | 080 |
| D | E348 | 640 | N4924 | 110 |
| E | E348 | 640 | N4924 | 200 |
| F | E348 | 740 | N4924 | 205 |
| G | E348 | 530 | N4924 | 320 |
| H | E348 | 590 | N4924 | 860 |
| I | E348 | 700 | N4924 | 740 |
| J | E348 | 700 | N4924 | 640 |
| K | E348 | 820 | N4924 | 610 |
| L | E348 | 070 | N4924 | 380 |



SITE PLAN - HF BAR HISTORIC DISTRICT



→ N
 Unless you are George White.
 In which case!
 ← N



- Legend:
- Fish
 - Gate
 - G.W. riding in the creek because I made the damn thing too wide!!
 - Rabbit
 - Plumber

