

1031

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Hunter Hereford Ranch Historic District

other name/site number: James Williams Homestead; Hunter Ranch/Smithsonian #48TE1158

2. Location

street & number: Southeast corner of the park, south of Shadow Mountain, along Aspen Ridge

not for publication: n/a
vicinity: X

city/town: Moose

state: Wyoming code: WY

county: code: 039

zip code: 83012

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Ronald M Greenberg

7-9-98

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Department of Interior, National Park Service

State or Federal agency or bureau

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Shirley Basher-Wicks

5/15/98

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

X entered in the National Register
 see continuation sheet

 determined eligible for the National Register
 see continuation sheet

 determined not eligible for the National Register
 see continuation sheet

 removed from the National Register
 see continuation sheet

 other (explain)

Frank P. Keller 8/25/98

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public-Federal	Number of Resources within Property		
Category of Property: District	Contributing	Noncontributing	
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A	<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>	building(s)
Name of related multiple property listing: Grand Teton National Park Multiple Property Listing	---	---	sites
	---	<u>1</u>	structures
	---	---	objects
	<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: Domestic/single dwelling, multiple dwelling; Agriculture/agriculture outbuilding	Current Function: Vacant/Not in Use
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7. Description

Architectural Classification: Other: vernacular; Rustic	Materials: foundation: concrete walls: log; wood roof: wood other: stone
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Narrative Description

Summary:

The historic working component of the Hunter Hereford Ranch is tucked in a low swale south of Shadow Mountain, along the extreme east edge of Jackson Hole. From this spectacular site, the entire length of the Teton Range is visible, juxtaposed with the expansive foreground of sagebrush flat and the meandering course of the Snake River in the middle-distance. Vegetation includes stands of aspen, sage, arrowleaf balsamroot, and mixed grasses and forbes. The residential buildings are clustered at the east end of the property and the outbuildings lie in a roughly linear pattern toward the west. Log construction visually links two generations of buildings. Access is provided by a two-track road that runs north-south from Antelope Flats Road to the front of the residence and continues north-northeast into a draw above the property. Vestiges of a substantial log entryway remain visible at the junction with Antelope Flats Road.

Statement of Integrity:

This site has a diverse history, extending from 1909 when James Williams homesteaded 160 acres; through the 1940s and 1950s when William Hunter, Eileen Hunter, and ranch foreman John Anderson developed the site into a prototype of Jackson Hole "Hobby Ranches"; to the 1960s, when the site (and its plethora of log buildings and spectacular views) was chosen as the townsite in the western film *The Wild Country*. Remains of James Williams' homestead are now limited to the modified foreman's residence and the cabin/bunkhouse; the site retains insufficient integrity to be considered a

See continuation page.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C**Criteria Considerations (Exceptions):** N/A**Significant Person(s):** N/A**Cultural Affiliation:** N/A**Areas of Significance:** Agriculture; Architecture**Period(s) of Significance:** 1945-1948**Significant Dates:****Architect/Builder:** Eber Piers, architect; Nelson Brothers Construction Company, builder

Narrative Statement of Significance**Summary**

The Hunter Hereford Historic District is eligible to the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A for its association with the growth of hobby ranches -- identified in the GRTE Multiple Property Nomination as a locally significant historical theme -- and under criterion C for its association with vernacular architecture and with architect-designed Rustic architecture (see Settlement Context). The district's period of significance extends from 1945, when the Hunters initiated development plans, until 1948, the end of the historical period as defined by the National Register. The site's period and area of significance should be reconsidered once an historic context has been developed for the film industry's use of Jackson Hole as a typical "Western" environment.

Although the Hunters' elaborate home and guest cabins have been removed from the adjacent hillside, the working component of the ranch remains essentially unaltered, as does the sage-free pasture (truncated by the shadow of the Limestone Ditch) south of the building complex. These resources allow accurate interpretation of an important facet of post-war agricultural development in scenic Jackson Hole.

See continuation page.

Name of Property

County and State

9. Major Bibliographic References

Anderson, John. Telephone interview with Ann Hubber, Historical Research Associates (HRA), November 1995.
See continuation page.

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:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 160 acres

UTM References:

Pt A: 12/531180/483520

Pt B: 12/532020/4835820

Pt C: 12/532000/4835000

Pt D: 12/532000/4835000

Verbal Boundary Description

160 acres within the SE Section 23 T43N R115W. See attached site map.

Boundary Justification

These boundaries conform to Williams' original homestead patent and to the Hunters' original land purchase. They incorporate the building cluster, the large hay field contiguous to the building cluster, and the remains of the Limestone ditch. They exclude approximately 320 acres upon which the Hunters are known to have constructed fences and water improvements and through which they ran the pipes associated with their domestic water supply. These acres have not yet been surveyed and may retain integrity as a cultural landscape. Regardless, the smaller land unit is individually eligible to the NRHP.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Ann Hubber, Janene Caywood, Kathryn Schneid
street & number: P.O. Box 7086 telephone: 406 721-1958
city or town: Missoula state: MT zip code: 59807-7086

organization: Historical Research Associates, Inc. date: 1997

Property Owner

name/title: National Park Service
street & number: Grand Teton National Park Headquarters
city or town: Moose state: WY zip code: 83012

telephone: 307 739-3300

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7. Narrative Description

Statement of Integrity, continued

contributing component of the Homestead property type defined in the Grand Teton National Park Multiple Property Submission. A historic context establishing Jackson Hole's exceptional significance in the history of Hollywood westerns (and thus, to a great extent, of Americans' popular understanding of Western settlement and development) has not yet been written. The site's period of significance has therefore been limited to 1945 to 1948, the historic period during which William and Eileen Hunter converted the simple homestead into one of Jackson Hole's most elaborate "spreads."

National Register guidelines specify that a property's integrity be gauged in accordance with the defined period and areas of significance. By this standard, the National Park Service's 1992 removal of the Hunters' enormous architect-designed home, guest cabin, and servant's quarters from high on the hill (literally and symbolically removed from the workaday aspects of the ranch) to off-ranch sites adversely affects the site's physical and associative integrity. Yet despite this irreversible alteration, the working component of the ranch is architecturally distinct from more traditional Jackson Hole homesteads and therefore contributes to our understanding of the final period of Jackson Hole agricultural development - the era of the hobby rancher. The large and elaborate architect-designed cattle barn most loudly proclaims this distinction, seconded by the foreman's residence, the large equipment shed, and the garage/shop facilities.

Despite years of neglect, all buildings within the district boundary retain integrity of location, material, workmanship, and design and contribute to the significance of the historic district. (Modifications associated with *The Wild Country* set design are without exception limited to decorative cladding and are easily reversible.) Unless identified as modern in the building-specific descriptions below, interior floorplans, finishes, and fixed furnishings contribute to the buildings' significance.

Barn (Building #1271), constructed 1947. Contributing Building. Individually eligible to the NRHP (criterion C).

When William Hunter chose to retire on a ranch at the base of the Tetons, he relied on the experience and expertise of Gerritt Hardeman, one of Jackson Hole's most respected and successful Hereford breeders. Hunter's registered Herefords were bred by Hardeman, from Hardeman stock, and Hunter instructed his architect, Eber Piers, to pattern the Hunter barn after Hardeman's barn near Wilson, Wyoming.

The Hunter barn also shares a common ancestor with the vernacular barns located nearby along Mormon Row: its lower story is constructed of native log and houses rows of stalls divided by a central aisle; the roof vaults to a high gambrel, creating a substantial hay loft. But beyond the basics of form and function, this is a very different barn. Instead of vertical plank wind breaks and open feed lots, there is a partially enclosed exterior feed shed, stocked with hay through a chute system connecting to the hay loft. The gambrel roof vaults one-and-one-half stories, in three pitches, and is supported by an elaborate truss system. Windows are numerous, iron-frame, and fitted with working sashes. The sliding barn doors incorporate a screened summer component and a solid winter component. Logs are tightly notched and, in contrast to the vernacular barns, give no evidence of sequential construction "as money allowed." A lighted interior

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stairwell, with tread and risers, accesses the loft, in stark contrast to the wall-mounted ladders found in most Jackson Hole barns. The tack/medicine room is plumbed, lined with tongue-and-groove paneling, and boasts a concrete floor.

All of these details were the providence of a wealthy rancher. None of them were superficial niceties: according to Gerritt Hardeman's son Earl, this barn was "real well built, well thought out for a breeding barn. [It] worked real well."

Building #1271 is a two-and-one-half story log- and wood-frame barn with a rectangular footprint constructed on a concrete-wall foundation. This footprint is broken only by a 3/4-height shed-roof feed shed that runs the length of the south elevation. The twelve log courses that form the lower level are joined with saddle notches and chinking with split poles. Board-and-batten siding covers the extensive gable ends. Wood shingles cover the steep three-pitch gambrel roof; weathered rough-cut planks disguise the shingles on the north gable slope. (This material was added to the roof by the crew of a movie set when the complex was used as a film location.) Roof features include enclosed eaves, two large vents/sky lights symmetrically placed along the ridge line, and a milled-lumber ladder affixed to the roof at the extreme west edge of the south gambrel slope.

All windows and doors described below are untrimmed, with the exception of 4"x4" milled-lumber exterior window sills. Windows are iron-framed, with iron mullions, and are occasionally paired with functional shutters constructed of planks staggered in a board-and-batten pattern (as per the barn doors). All hinges, latches, and handles are the forged iron originals.

A large sliding door that incorporates both a winter and summer component dominates the lower level of the front (east) elevation. The summer component is constructed of a milled-lumber frame, left open at the top and infilled at the bottom with 3"x1" planks, spaced 3" apart. The winter component is constructed of board-and-batten (8" boards, 8" battens) secured to an interior frame. The components hang from a single iron slide that runs nearly the length of the elevation, allowing one component to be pushed aside while the other is in use (because there is only a single slide, components would have been lifted off the slide, and their positions reversed). This door system is flanked to either side by a four-light hopper window.

Second story features include a double, side-hinged, board and batten hay door, located directly beneath the eave. A second hay door opens to the lower level of the loft; this door slides along an upper iron rail, is constructed of board-and-batten identical to the gambrel-end siding, and thus blends smoothly with the exterior wall. Four-light fixed(?) sash windows, placed above the upper line of a standard hay load, flank the upper hay door, providing natural light to the cavernous loft. Ca. 1980, the NPS constructed a milled-lumber stairway that allows direct exterior access to the east elevation hay door (and to the barn dances held in the hay loft).

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Lower level rear (west) elevation features include a large sliding door with summer and winter components (as per the front elevation door), flanked to the either side by four-light hopper windows paired with functional shutters. Three four-light fixed-sash windows, paired with shutters, are located high in the gambrel end.

The 1 1/2 story gambrel roof dominates the side elevations, leaving only the twelve-course log wall open for fenestration. Along the north elevation, this space is lined by a symmetrical row of six four-light hopper windows set just under the eave and designating the location of the interior stalls.

The feed shed runs the length of the south elevation. Wood shingles cover a shed roof initiated at the eave line of the primary roof. Side (east and west) walls are constructed of saddle-notched log with quarter-pole chinking. The open front elevation (south) is broken only by six 6"x6" timbers (set on concrete piers) that support the shed roof and effectively divide the feed shed into seven stall components. Fenestration on the primary south wall, within the protective confines of the feed shed, is limited to a vertical plank double-leaf door centered within the elevation and flanked to either side by dimensional lumber feed bins fed by the interior hay chutes that extend from the hay loft.

Interior

The ground floor of the Hunter Hereford barn contains a wide central aisle flanked to the north by five stalls and a tack room and flanked to the south by two stalls, the pedestrian passage to the feed shed, the enclosed stairway to the loft, a secured grain room, an animal-care room, and a large birthing stall. Stall floors are composed of heavy planks topped with dirt and a thick layer of straw and manure. All other lower-level floors are concrete. Exterior walls are log with quarter-pole chinking. Electrical conduit is exposed. Although numerous bulb sockets remain, all bulbs/fixtures/bulb cages have been removed.

Stall partition walls are constructed of 6"x6" rough-milled posts paired with 5"x1.5" horizontal planks spaced 3" to 5" apart. Stall gates are similarly constructed, with the horizontal boards secured to a square milled-lumber frame by a single diagonal brace. Gate latches are constructed of sliding wood pegs with a wood-dowell handle. Feed bins consist of a heavy 10"x2" heavy plank base, to which are secured 4"x2" boards that angle upward to intersect with a central plank. The exterior of the chutes leading to the feed shed and to the north-stalls are visible along the back wall of each stall; the south-wall chutes are faced with 3" tongue-and-groove paneling and there is no evidence that they also open to the interior stalls. This may be a modification.

Interior doors leading to the stair walls, the grain room, and the tack rooms are constructed of a layer of random-width vertical planks and a layer of 3" fir tongue-and-groove boards. Windows are untrimmed, with the exception of 5" milled-lumber sills.

The grain room and animal care room feature raised concrete floors. Interior walls are finished with 3" tongue-and-groove pine paneling, laid horizontally. The dropped ceiling consists of the milled-lumber floor joist and 5" loft sub-

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flooring (laid on the diagonal). In the animal-care room, a four-light hopper window within the west wall looks out over the large stall that fills the southwest corner of the building.

Unfinished 8" planks cover the floor of the tack room located in the northwest corner. The door, constructed of 5" vertical boards secured over an exterior Z brace, is less substantial than those to the stairwell, grain room, and animal-care room. Dimensional lumber saddle trees fill the room.

The enclosed stairwell to the loft is enclosed. Tongue-and-groove paneling covers the walls and angled ceiling. Milled-lumber forms the tread and risers. The covered stairwell extends beyond the plane of the hay loft floor, creating a raised sculptural form; the doorless loft entrance is in the west wall of the covered well.

Three-inch oiled fir planks, laid north to south over a layer of 5" pine planks, cover the loft floor. The walls and ceiling are unfinished, exposing the line of the gambrel pitch, the elaborate milled-lumber truss system, the random-width (5"-12") roof planks, and the monitor vents/sky lights. Hay doors dominate the east wall. The upper doors are side hinged, swinging inward, while the lower door slides along an exterior rail. While the loft is electrically lighted -- bare bulbs and exposed plastic conduit line the walls -- the untrimmed fixed-sash windows symmetrically located in the gable ends are a dominant light source.

Fixed furnishings include an iron pulley system, running the length of the loft, and eight raised feed drops staggered along the north and south walls; the south wall chutes feed the exterior feed shed while the north wall chutes feed interior stalls. The chutes are now tightly secured and serve as seats at NPS dances.

Chicken House (Building #1272), constructed ca. 1945. Contributing Building.

This is a one-story wood-frame rectangular building clad with vertical log-slab siding (applied to the building when the site was used as a set for filming a Western movie). The building rests on a raised concrete-wall foundation. Wood shingles cover the side-gable roof; weathered rough-cut planks (part of the movie set) disguise the shingles on the north gable slope. Roof features include partially enclosed eaves (no soffit but milled-lumber fascia).

In a standard chicken house design, a ribbon of two-light screened openings dominate the south elevation. Additional features include two doors, sharply offset to either end of the elevation, untrimmed, and faced with log slabs.

East elevation features include a window opening (no screen), sharply offset to the south, and two doors, one providing access to the ground level, the second centered high in the gable end and providing direct access to the interior roost; there is no evidence of the wall-mounted ladder that must have once led to this attic-level door. Like the primary entrances in the south elevation, the doors are untrimmed, faced with log slabs, and blend smoothly with the exterior wall.

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North elevation features are limited to a three-quarter height door that provides exterior access to the large interior roosting platform.

West elevation features are limited to a one-light window opening (no screen), sharply offset to the south, and a small vent centered high in the gable end and covered with a bottom-hinged shutter.

Interior

The chicken house is divided into two main rooms, each accessible from the interior and exterior, and a secure feed room located in the northeast corner of the east room. The floors are dirt, covered with a heavy layer of straw. Vertical tongue-and-groove planks cover all interior and exterior walls; this level of interior finish is unusual in an outbuilding and suggests that the chicken house may have been constructed with exposed studs, later covered with the log-slab siding. The dropped ceilings are composed of a layer of chicken wire topped with a heavy layer of straw (creating a loft-level roost).

The heavy exterior doors are constructed of horizontal 6"-8" planks secured over a layer of vertical shiplap boards which are in turn faced with the log slab siding (another indication that the log slab is a modification). Screened window openings and the doors are untrimmed. Fixed furnishings include a large wood platform lining the north wall of the west room, a plank bench with nesting boxes along the west wall of the east room, and four horizontal pole roosts along the north wall of the east room. The building is wired for electricity and features a number of bare bulbs placed along the roost poles and platforms to provide heat.

A door constructed of 6" pine planks with exterior Z brace leads from the east room to the feed room. Walls are finished with tongue-and-groove siding and the ceiling is open exposing 6" roof planks, and possibly providing access to the loft.

Hay Shed (Building #1273), constructed ca. 1945. Contributing Building.

With its enclosed north facade and double-sash windows with decorative pediments, this building more closely resembles a neophyte farmer's folly (it wasn't) or a movie prop (it was) than a hay shed. The substantial one-story wood-frame shell consists of a timber framing system supported by concrete piers and topped with a gable roof. Wood shingles cover all roof surfaces, although rough-cut planks cover the north slope (another addition attributable to Hollywood's notion of western architecture).

Set crews also faced the north elevation and the east gable slope with 10" lapped siding (8" to weather). This siding is punctuated by a row of five, two-over-one-light double-hung windows. The windows are trimmed with three-inch butt-joint milled-lumber and topped with a decorative pediment. "False features" within the east gable end include a wood-slat vent, also topped with a decorative pediment. In stark and amusing contrast to the east and north elevations, the west gable end and the south elevation remain open, broken only by the exposed 8"x8" posts, braces, and roof truss.

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Garage (Building #1274), constructed ca. 1945. Contributing Building.

The garage is a one-story log building with a rectangular floorplan, constructed on a concrete-wall foundation. Logs are saddle notched and chinked with half-poles. Wood shingles cover the side-gable roof, which features exposed 2"x4" rafters. The roof line undulates, indicating that the building has settled. All windows and doors are trimmed with 4" milled lumber and retain their original hardware.

The protruding log ends of the interior bearing wall effectively "divide" the front (south) elevation in half. Three center-hinged garage doors, constructed of vertical 6" shiplap secured over an interior frame, dominate the east half. The west half of the front elevation contains a vertical-shiplap pedestrian door symmetrically flanked to either side by a pair of two-over-two double-hung wood-frame windows.

West elevation features, from south to north, include a pair of two-over-two double-hung windows, a vertical plank pedestrian door, a two-over-two double-hung window, and an electrical box.

North elevation features are limited to a pair of double-hung windows located at the eastern extreme of the west half of the elevation, near the protruding interior log ends.

There are no features in the east elevation.

Interior:

The interior is divided into two components: a storage room, generator room, workshop, and storage loft in the western half of the building and an open garage space in the eastern half of the building.

All lower-level rooms in the west half are finished with cement floors and log exterior and interior load-bearing walls. Interior non-bearing walls are wood frame, clad with 5" vertical shiplap. Five-inch shiplap planks also cover the dropped ceiling; these appear to be new, suggesting that the attic loft (now holding NPS road signs) may be a modern addition. Doors are constructed of vertical shiplap planks, secured to an exposed frame and diagonal brace. Doors and windows are trimmed with unfinished 4" butt-joint trim. The aluminum dome light fixtures may be historic.

A vertical plank with cross-brace door, offset to the south within the log partition wall, leads from the storage room to the garage which has a concrete floor. All walls are log. The ceiling is open, exposing a new milled-lumber truss system and new roof planks. The side-hinged garage doors are trimmed (on the sides but not the top) with unfinished 4" butt-joint trim. All light fixtures have been removed from the garage space.

A dimensional-lumber ladder mounted on the west wall of the garage space provides access to the storage loft. Five-inch shiplap covers the floor. Eight-inch roof planks cover the walls/ceiling.

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Foreman's Residence (Building #1293), constructed ca. 1908, modified ca. 1945. Contributing Building.¹

The foreman's residence contains three primary structural components: the original hipped-roof homestead cabin, a front-gable addition to the east (rear) elevation and a side-gable addition to the north (side) elevation. The components are clearly identified by transitions in the roof/eave line, by separate entrances, and by differences in notching styles and foundation material. With few exceptions, the large and numerous windows are boarded over, hiding trim details and disguising the extent to which west-elevation fenestration served as a dominant design feature. Glazing patterns and sash types are discernible only from the interior. Windows within the side-gable north-elevation addition are four-over-four double-hung, arranged in pairs. Windows in the rear-elevation addition are six-over-six double-hung or four-by-four sliding-sash, and those in the original component are four-by-four sliding-sash.

The one-story side-gable addition is constructed of square-notched logs finished with half-pole chinking. The component rests on a concrete-wall foundation. Wood shingles cover the side-gable roof, which features exposed log purlins. A small open entry porch is centered within the front elevation. Log columns/brackets support the front-gable porch roof and chinked horizontal logs fill the gable end. The 2"x4" decking is modern, as is the two-step concrete stoop that provides porch access. A vertical-plank pedestrian door is centered within the confines of the porch. A pair of vertically oriented four-light over four-light double-hung windows (boarded over) flanks the porch to the south; this window grouping is set unusually low in the wall. The south elevation is covered by the central hipped-roof component. Features within the east elevation are limited to a boarded-over door flanked to the north by a pair of four-light over four-light double-hung windows (boarded over). In deference to the local climate, there are no features in the north elevation, although the protruding log ends of the interior bearing wall visually divide the elevation in half.

The one-and-one-half story hipped-roof original component is also constructed of square-notched logs with half-pole chinking. It rests on a substantial cut-stone foundation; a latter addition of concrete parging remains in patches. Wood shingles cover the hipped roof, which features enclosed eaves, a brick chimney centered in the flat roof platform (located at the apex of the four gable slopes forming the hip), and a gabled-dormer centered high in the west roof slope.

An open porch, constructed on concrete-piers, is offset to the south along the front (west) elevation. Simple log columns support the shed-roof, which is initiated at the eave of the primary roof. A long three-step concrete stoop provides porch access. Features within the protective confines of the porch include a pair of ten-light by ten-light French doors (the doors have been removed and are currently stored in the living room; the opening is boarded over) and a boarded-over five-panel door. A four-light by four-light sliding-sash window flanks the porch to the north.

A gabled dormer, indicating the location of the bathroom and possibly dating to the 1940s when the building was plumbed, is centered within the west gable slope. Shingles, decoratively scalloped on the dormer's west gable end, cover all dormer walls. A four-by-four-by-four sliding-sash window dominates the dormer facade.

¹ Outhouse #1293A is no longer extant.

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Features within the south elevation of the original component are limited to two four-by-four sliding-sash windows (one marking the living room and one marking the kitchen), symmetrically placed to either side of the protruding log ends of an interior bearing wall. Features within the east elevation of the central component are limited to a four-by-four sliding-sash window (at the north extreme of the elevation) and a substantial front-gable addition that runs along the south three-quarters of the east elevation of the central component.

The rear addition is constructed of saddle-notched log, chinked with quarter-poles. Wood shingles cover the front-gable roof, which features exposed log purlins. The north and south (side) elevations of the addition each contain a centered boarded-over six-over-six double-hung window. The east elevation contains a paneled and glazed pedestrian door, paired with a wood-frame screen door and flanked to the north by a boarded-over sliding-sash window.

Interior

French doors and a two-panel door open to the central living room that runs the length of the original component. The living room opens to a bedroom that fills the north addition and to the kitchen, located in the southeast corner of the original component. The kitchen opens north to a bedroom/attic stairway and south to a mudroom/laundry/shower room that fills the rear (east-elevation) addition. Unless otherwise indicated, all doors and windows are finished with 5" trim and 6" ledges, painted, and retain their original hardware. Most interior doors have been removed; those that remain are two-panel wood, painted. Electrical conduit is exposed. All decorative light fixtures have been removed, leaving only bare bulbs.

The living room is finished with 3" fir-plank flooring, varnished. Twelve-inch boards with 2" battens cover the dropped ceiling and narrow-whale "corduroy"-paneling wainscott, varnished (as per that found in the adjacent Smith-Talbot residence), covers the lower reaches of the walls. This wainscott is topped with painted fiberboard panels embellished with a 3" picture rail. Longtime resident Linda Anderson Hazen reports that the south half of the room served as her family's dining room, with the table centered on the French doors and the spectacular view of the Tetons that the doors provided.

The northwest bedroom, located within the north addition, is finished with oiled 5" pine planks and modern 4" baseboards. Painted fiberboard covers interior and exterior walls and varnished plywood panels with 2" battens cover the drop ceiling. This ceiling is dropped an extra 12" along the south edge, presumably to accommodate plumbing associated with the upstairs bathroom. The doors, to the living room and to the exterior are constructed of varnished 3" and 5" tongue-and-groove or shiplap planks, secured to interior Z braces and hung with heavy brass hinges; all interior hardware has been removed. The pair of multi-light double-hung windows that dominate the west wall are located only 8" above the floor boards. The original exterior chimney -- located at the east end of the south wall -- is now encased with fiberboard. Built-in floor-to-ceiling cupboards line the north wall; all cupboard doors have been removed.

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The door from the living room to the kitchen has been removed. Although deteriorated, the kitchen continues to present a historic appearance. Vintage rolled linoleum covers the floor and painted fiberboard panels (with taped and painted seams) cover the dropped ceiling. The wallpaper that covers all walls has peeled, revealing painted fiberboard beneath. The four-by-four sliding-sash window centered over the sink is trimmed with narrow 2" trim to accommodate the substantial built-in one-panel wood cupboard units that line the south wall.

The northeast bedroom (located within the original component) features rolled linoleum flooring, placed over varnished 3" fir flooring. Painted fiberboard panels, with taped and painted seams, cover the dropped ceiling and the interior and exterior walls.

A painted two-panel door leads from the kitchen to the mud room. Vintage rolled linoleum (in the same pattern used in the kitchen) covers the mud room floor. Painted sheetrock covers the interior walls and the dropped ceiling (which shows extensive fire damage in the southeast corner). The exterior walls are log, chinked with split poles and badly charred in the southeast corner. Windows and the door are trimmed with 3" butt-joint trim and have not been fit with the window ledge found elsewhere in the building. The door to the cellar (located beneath the northeast bedroom) is located in the mudroom. A small shower room, fitted only with a prefabricated shower unit, has been built into the northwest corner of the mudroom: modern rolled linoleum covers the floor and painted plywood paneling covers the wood-frame walls and dropped ceiling.

The enclosed stairwell to the attic is located immediately to the right (west) of the entrance between the kitchen and northeast bedroom. The narrow stairs are carpeted and painted fiberboard panels cover the walls and ceiling. Two small sleeping spaces, open to the stairwell, are located to either side of the stair landing; three-inch fir planks cover the floors and painted fiberboard covers the walls/ceiling that conform to the hipped roof line.

The bathroom that fills the gabled dormer is finished with vintage rolled linoleum (placed over 3" fir subflooring). Painted plywood panels/narrow battens cover the walls and sloped ceiling. The bathtub, sink, and toilet appear to be modern; all boast outstanding views of the Teton Range, visible through the double-hung window that fills the west wall.

Cabin/bunkhouse(Building #1294), constructed ca. 1921. Contributing Building.

The cabin/bunkhouse is a rectangular one-story log building constructed in a style typical of Rocky Mountain cabins: the front-gable eave extends to form a protected entry/front porch upon which firewood was stored. The building rests on a concrete-pier foundation. The logs are joined with hog-trough corners (concealed with vertical rough-cut corner boards) and are sealed with liberal amounts of mortar daubing. Deteriorated rolled-roofing covers the front-gable roof, which features a wood-burning stove pipe, exposed rafter ends, and purlin ends partially hidden by a milled lumber fascia board. A single log column now supports the front porch gable extension; the column on the south corner has been removed. The pole railing has been removed from the south and west sides of the porch (original points of contact with

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exterior walls remain visible). On the north and east sides, the rail is composed of a single horizontal pole, secured to the corner column. Unfinished 5" planks, widely spaced, cover the porch floor.

Front elevation features are limited to a boarded-over entry, centered within the elevation and flanked to the north by a boarded-over window. Both the south and the east elevations contain a single window, trimmed with 4" butt-joint boards. There are no features within the north elevation. Electrical wires, encased in black plastic conduit, enter the building at the front gable ridge.

Interior

The one-room bunkhouse is finished with 12" plank flooring, an open ceiling (exposing log purlins and random-width ceiling planks), log walls with substantial mortar daubing, and 4" door and window trim. The windows also feature a wide sill and are set unusually close to the floor. A bare-bulb light fixture is centered in the ceiling. The five-panel wood door retains the original hinges and lock box. The knob has been removed.

Stud Barn (Building #1295), constructed ca. 1945. Contributing Building.

Building #1295 is a small one-story wood-frame building with a rectangular footprint. Horizontal log slabs -- part of the movie set decor -- cover the original diagonally-placed random-width shiplap siding. Corner boards are fashioned from vertical log slabs. Wood-shingles cover the gable roof; as on the main barn, chicken house, and hay shed, simple rough-cut planks (also attributable to set designers) disguise the shingles on the north gable slope. Features are limited to a hay-door opening centered within the south gable end, a wide double-leaf door slightly offset within the front (west) elevation, and two shuttered window openings symmetrically placed in the east elevation. An original window opening centered in the north wall (and visible from the interior) has been covered with log slabs and is not discernible from the exterior. The double-leaf door is constructed of a double-layer of 8"-wide vertical planks, faced on the exterior with the horizontal log-slab siding found on the exterior walls. All windows and doors are untrimmed and the log-slab siding extends to the window openings, hiding the window frame. The functional shutters are bottom hinged (with historic original heavy iron hinges) and are also faced with log-slab siding.

Interior

This small barn features a lower room (with no stalls) and a hay loft. Heavy 10"x2" planks cover the lower-level floor. The walls are unfinished, exposing the dimensional-lumber framing system and the diagonal random-width planks that underlay the log-slab exterior siding. The ceiling is dropped, faced with the 10"-plank flooring of the hay loft. Open shelving units and the remnants of dismantled food bins line the north wall. A collapsed grain box remains in the southeast corner.

A milled-lumber ladder to the hay loft is mounted on the south wall. The loft floor is finished with 10" rough-cut planks. The sloped walls/ceiling are open to the framing system, exposing the 10" roof planks.

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Equipment Shed (Building #1297), constructed ca. 1945. Contributing Building.

The equipment shed is a one-story log building with a rectangular floorplan constructed on a concrete-wall foundation. The worn, unfinished logs are joined with full saddle notches and chinked with whole poles. The building is constructed into a natural bank, creating a high front (south) elevation and a half-height rear elevation. Wood shingles, finished with an aluminum ridge cap, cover the salt-box roof. Roof features include exposed milled-lumber rafters.

Six large vehicular doors, extending from the ground to the eave line and running along an upper horizontal track, dominate the front elevation. The doors were constructed with 5" vertical boards, 2" battens, and interior cross-braces (as per the barn doors [building 1271]); most of the battens and cross-braces have been removed, leaving the long boards flapping in the wind in a rustic facsimile of bead curtains.

Milled lumber columns and brackets define the six bays and support the south eave of the roof. Additional features are limited to untrimmed four-light hopper windows slightly offset to the south within the east and west elevation.

Interior

The interior is unfinished, with an open floorplan broken only by four 6"x6" structural columns. The north, east, and west walls are log, finished with quarter-pole chinking. Six vehicular doors, constructed of 5" vertical boards, 2" battens, and interior cross-braces (as per the barn doors [building 1271]) dominate the west south elevation; most of the battens and cross-braces have been removed. The ceiling is open, exposing glue-lam beams, milled-lumber rafters, and 5" roof planks. The floor is dirt, covered with a light coat of gravel. The two windows are untrimmed, with exposed 4"x4" wood frames. The metal window latch/handles and hinges appear to be original. Although an electric line accesses the building through the southeast corner, all light fixtures have been removed and the line appears to have been severed.

Limestone Ditch (Structure #CA-2), constructed 1911. Noncontributing structure.

The limestone ditch, constructed by James Williams in the fall of 1911 and maintained by subsequent property owners, is a 1.35 mile long linear feature, approximately 1' deep and 4'-5' wide. The ditch has been plowed over and infilled, and is now only a slight, grass-filled depression virtually indiscernible as it cuts across Williams' and the Hunters' historically cultivated fields. The ditch retains no integrity of workmanship, design, association, or feeling and is a noncontributing component of the Hunter Hereford Ranch Historic District.

8. Statement of Significance, continued

On July 27th 1908, one month after securing water rights to the water of Ditch Creek, James R. Williams filed a homestead claim to 160 acres along Jackson Hole's Aspen Ridge. Williams proposed to irrigate 105 of these acres (within the NESE, NWSE, SWSE, and SESE of section 23) through the "Lime Stone" Ditch, and to retain the remaining land as pasturage and a building site. Williams soon completed construction of his home (#1293) and associated agricultural outbuildings (no longer extant). Construction of the ditch, however, was delayed, first by confusion over

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Williams' homestead application -- "I wanted to make sure of filing on the land before building the ditch"² -- and second by difficult construction conditions and intemperate weather:

The ditch runs around a very steep and rocky hill side for a distance [of] half a mile and there are many large rocks and springs in it which makes work very slow. I have it all down to top grade, or water line, and some of it finished. I was working on the ditch this fall intending to complete it, but on Nov. 3rd it began snowing and there is now eighteen in. of snow on the ground.³

Williams worked this rocky, and often snow-bound land for 28 years, raising oats and alfalfa, increasing his land holdings to include the NWSW Section 24, adding water rights to the J.S. Domestic Ditch from Spring Creek and the North and South Ditch Creek Canals, and running cattle under the W Lazy J brand.⁴ In 1931, Williams sold out to Preston Redmond, whose heirs, fifteen years later, sold the property with all appurtenant water rights, to wealthy auto salesman William Hunter and his wife Eileen.⁵

Working with area rancher Gerritt Hardeman and with Salt Lake City architect Eber Piers, the Hunters proceeded to convert the property to a "complete high class ranching operation"⁶ where they could spend "the rest of their lives enjoying a well-earned vacation" and raising Hereford cattle as a "hobby."⁷ Ultimately, the Hunters owned 520 contiguous acres within sections 14, 15, 23, 24, and 26 of Township 43 North, Range 115 West. The Hunters elaborate

² Jas. S. Williams to the State Engineer, Oct. 5, 1909, State of Wyoming, "Certificate of Appropriation of Water," Permit No. 8496 [Certificate Record No. 37, Lime Stone Ditch], signed November 24, 1915 (Appropriation: June 25, 1908), on file at the Wyoming State Engineer's Office, Cheyenne, Wyoming.

³ Jas. S. Williams to the State Engineer, Nov. 10th, 1911, State of Wyoming, "Certificate of Appropriation of Water," Permit No. 8496 [Certificate Record No. 37, Lime Stone Ditch], signed November 24, 1915 (Appropriation: June 25, 1908), on file at the Wyoming State Engineer's Office, Cheyenne, Wyoming.

⁴ John B. Markham, "Jackson Hole Wyoming Cattle Brands, 1916," manuscript #167a, Wyoming Historical Society, Cheyenne Wyoming.

⁵ John Daugherty, "Jackson Hole: A History," draft unpublished manuscript, no date, on file at the NPS IMFA RMSSO, Denver, Colorado, p. 24. The Hunters also ran cattle on 160 adjacent acres historically associated with the Albert Smith homestead and purchased by Eber and Mary Rae Piers ca. 1947 (the "Eber Piers place"), for a total land base of 520 acres. On September 30, 1955, Mrs. Hunter exercised her option to purchase the Piers acreage thus "enhanc[ing] the prospects of the United States acquiring her holdings if the two could be thrown together and offered . . . as a 'Unit'" (Superintendent, GRTE, to the Regional Director, Region Two, October 17, 1955, Hunter Land File).

⁶ NPS, 1956 property appraisal, Hunter Land File, Mail and File Room, GRTE Headquarters.

⁷ *Jackson Hole Courier*, quoted in John Daugherty, "Jackson Hole: A History," draft unpublished manuscript, no date, on file at the NPS IMFA RMSSO, Denver, Colorado, p. 24.

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Piers-designed Rustic log home on the hillside overlooking the ranch (NWSW Section 24), adjacent to a log guest cabin and log servant's quarters, contrasted most obviously with the vernacular farm houses inhabited by the Hunters' neighbors on Mormon Row. However, the working component of the ranch also contrasted with the small-scale homesteads developed over the course of generations as funds allowed: in 1956, a NPS-hired appraiser reported that "the construction of the improvements [at the Hunter Hereford Ranch] was guided by the desire for perfection, without consideration of cost." Between 1945 and ca. 1947, Hunter constructed a large equipment shed; a garage; Hereford barn; horse barn; chicken coop; hay shed; and wood shed (no longer extant). In a final distinction from neighboring ranches, the enlarged Williams' residence that housed John Anderson and his family advertized that others worked the land. By 1956, additional ranch infrastructure included 5 3/8 mile of buck fence; 1 1/4 mile wire fence; 4 cattle guards and gates; corral fences and gates; head works and fence at springs; 1.5 miles of 3" water line; .5 mile 2" water line.⁸ These landscape components and the associated land base north and west of the primary building cluster have not been surveyed yet may warrant inclusion within the boundaries of the historic district, at a later date.

William Hunter died in 1951. Eileen Hunter sold the property to the National Park Service in 1957 yet retained rights to the water, land, graze, and buildings for the remainder of her lifetime. Management of the ranch (converted ca. 1955 from a purebred to a commercial operation) remained in Anderson's hands for over twenty years. Irrigated fields supported oats and a substantial hay crop, used to winter-over the breeding herd and as a source of revenue. Upon Eileen Hunter's death in 1989, the NPS leased the rights to Hunter Hereford and adjacent Smith-Talbot infrastructure to the Triangle X Dude Ranch. This lease agreement was terminated in 1991 and the buildings abandoned as part of the National Park Service's longterm plans to return the area to its natural state.

⁸ NPS, 1956 property appraisal, Hunter Land File, Mail and File Room, CBTF Headquarters

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9. Major Bibliographic References, continued.

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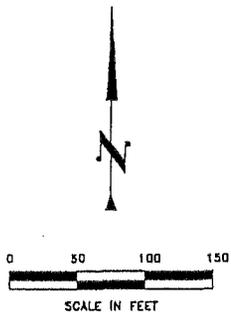
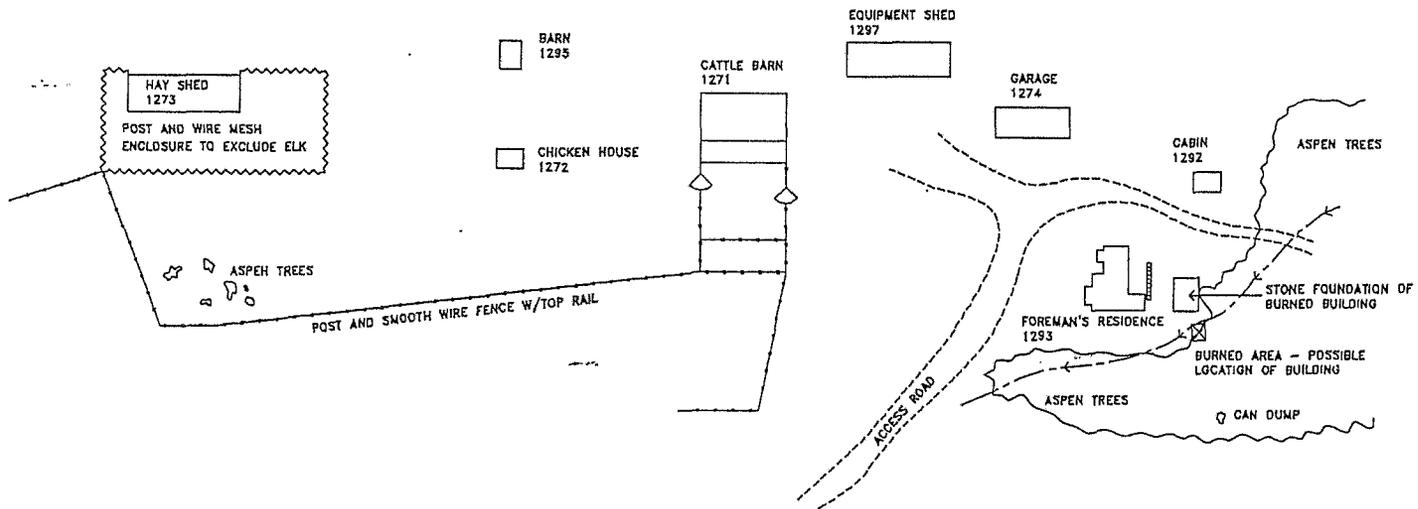
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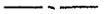
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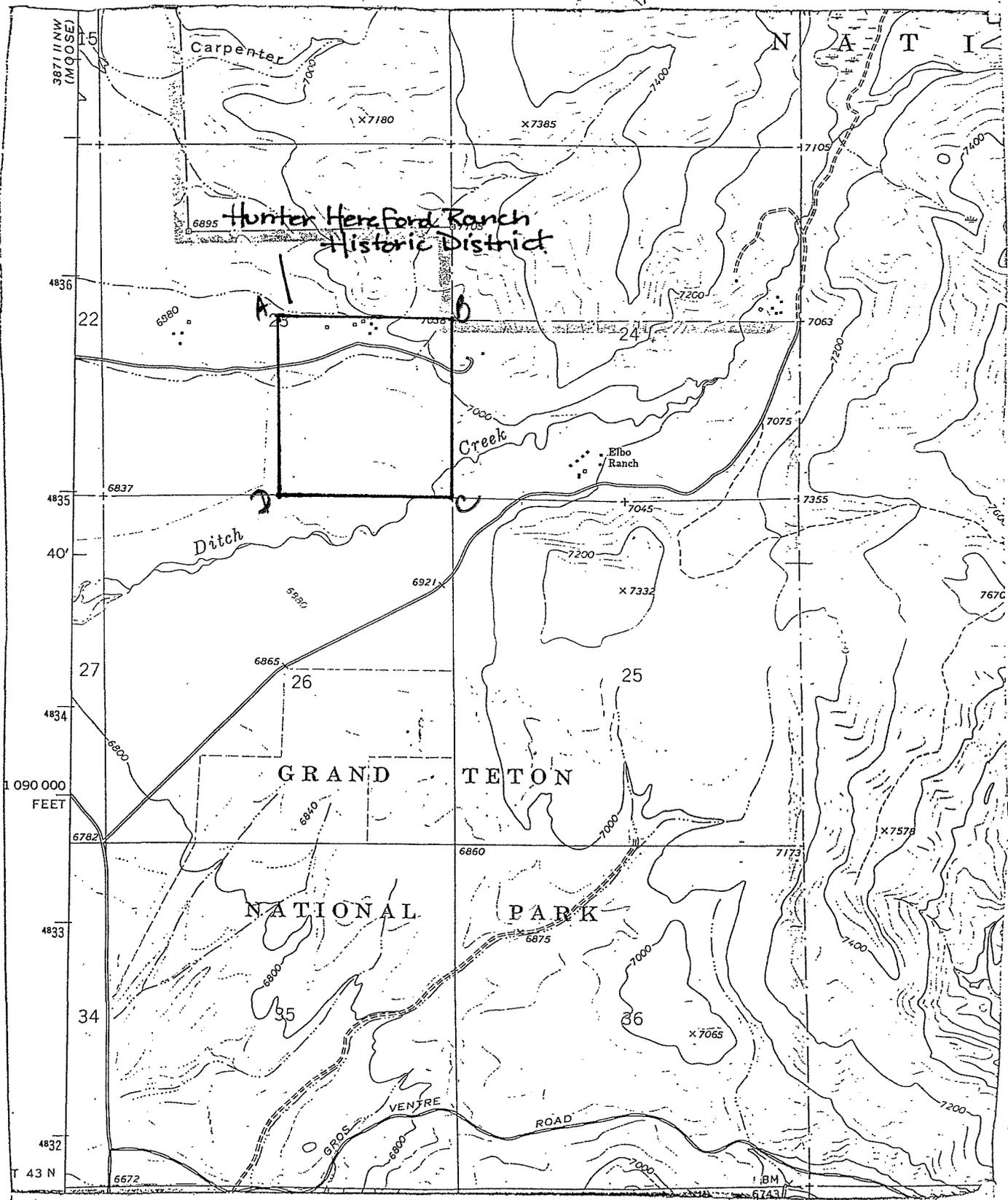
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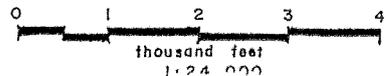
GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK
HUNTER HEREFORD

NR STATUS: ELIGIBLE DISTRICT
FOR BOUNDARIES SEE TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

- LEGEND
-  POST AND RAIL FENCE
 -  POST AND WIRE FENCE
 -  POST AND WIRE MESH FENCE
 -  DITCH (2 FEET WIDE X 1 FOOT DEEP)
 -  ASPEN TREELINE
 -  GATE



U.S.G.S. 7 1/2' Topo Quad Shadow mtn
 Sec. 23 Twp. 43N Rng 115W
 County Teton



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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 98001031

Property Name: Hunter Hereford Ranch Historic District

County: Teton State: Wyoming

Grand Teton MPS
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.

Lynda McClelland August 25, 1998
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 10: The verbal boundary description is, hereby, amended to note that the boundaries conform to the lines drawn between UTM reference points, A, B, C, and D on the USGS map.

Chris Whitaker of the Intermountain Regional Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)