

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Darwin Ranch

other names/site number 48TE2142

2. Location

street & number 1 Kinky Creek Road

N/A

 not for publication

city or town Cora

X

 vicinity

state Wyoming code WY county Teton code 039 zip code 82925

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide x local

Brian Beadles

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

3/16/2021

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

 entered in the National Register

 determined eligible for the National Register

 determined not eligible for the National Register

 removed from the National Register

 other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
 (Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
 (Check only **one** box.)

Number of Resources within Property
 (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
10	5	Buildings
		Sites
1	8	Structures
		Objects
11	13	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Current Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic: Single and multiple dwellings

Domestic: Single and multiple dwellings

Commerce/Trade: Trapping, Outfitting.

Commerce/Trade: Outfitting.

Recreation and Culture: Outdoor recreation.

Recreation and Culture: Outdoor recreation.

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Other (Western Craftsman)

foundation: Concrete

walls: Logs

roof: Tar paper

other: _____

Narrative Description

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(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Darwin Ranch is a private, very isolated 160-acre inholding in the Bridger-Teton National Forest in the southeast corner of Teton County, Wyoming. It is located in an alpine river valley adjoining the Gros Ventre Wilderness near the headwaters of the three major rivers that drain the western part of the United States. Access to the ranch is by bush plane to the Darwin airstrip or with a high-profile vehicle. Ground travel to the ranch uses the Union Pass Road that crosses the mountains between Dubois and Pinedale, Wyoming. From Wyoming Highway 352 in Kendall (north of Cora) at the U.S. Forest Service boundary, one travels on gravel roads on the Union Pass Road before heading west, making the way to Kinky Creek. Road access from Dubois to the north over Union Pass is also possible. The final mile is on private ranch road, accessible from a locked gate. The Darwin Ranch consists of 15 buildings and 9 structures, all hand-constructed with logs, that are a combination of historic and a few modern structures designed to match the original buildings. Buildings on the site include the main lodge, guest cabins, and working ranch outbuildings. The buildings are in excellent condition and are very well maintained. Replacement roofs with red tar shingles do not disturb the integrity of the buildings. The site is surrounded by pine-tree covered mountains, with Kinky Creek and the Gros Ventre River winding through the property. Vehicles are parked on the road leading into the property and not at the building sites, creating a historic feel.

Narrative Description

The Darwin Ranch is located in a remote area of Teton County and is surrounded by Forest Service Land and the Gros Ventre Wilderness. It is in a well-watered valley with the Gros Ventre River and Kinky Creek meandering through the valley. Additional ox bow lakes and wetlands are found on the property as the result of natural changes in the flow of the Gros Ventre River. These lakes are primarily found north of the river. The land rises steeply to the west of the ranch and less steeply to the east. A broad river valley extends to the north and southwest before it narrows significantly to the south. The land within the ranch is relatively level with the exception of portions at the southern and northwestern edges. Circulation in the ranch is fairly limited and consists of two-track and single-track dirt paths. The buildings found on the ranch are grouped together in south of the Gros Ventre River in the southern edge of the property. While the land is level north of the building complex, it rises steeply to the south.

Building #1: Lodge (contributing)

The main lodge is a two-story, medium pitched gable roof with single-story rooms on both sides. Seven purlins are visible in the gable end and thirteen beam log ends are visible between floors. It is constructed all from full logs with saddle-notched corners and chinked with small logs. In the roof there is the stone fireplace chimney, seven venting pipes, two skylights and one satellite dish; the latter two are carefully placed towards the back and out of view, and are therefore do not impact the historic feel of the structure.

The main lodge at the ranch was constructed by the Nortons originally to be their private home. They hired a construction crew, and work began in 1948 or 1949, and completed in 1950. After the Nortons left, their home has been used by later owners as the main lodge for guests. Of all the buildings purchased by the Woodmans in 1964, this building was in the best condition.

Supposedly, the Norton's construction crew left the place in frustration for their employer, before completing the chinking. Later owner, Loring Woodman, finished the chinking in the early 1970s. In 1972 or 1973 Loring also completed many stabilizing and replacement items on the lodge, as well as changed the functions of some of the rooms

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for commercial use, rather than a private residence. The original building had some rocks under some logs, but some logs were placed directly on the ground, which were rotting by the time the Woodman's purchased the place. It had no footing and no concrete pad, so Loring jacked up the building and put a footing and foundation under it in 1973. At that time, he also added a new floor to the living room, a pointed roof over the woodshed wing, added a deck in the front, and added a screened porch on the southwest side.

The following changes were made starting in the early 1970s in the use of the rooms. Little was done structurally with these changes, unless otherwise noted. The Nortons' small kitchen became a bar. The Nortons separate bedrooms downstairs were transitioned into the current kitchen and the dining room. The Nortons bathroom, the only one on the ranch during their time, became an auxiliary room for the kitchen (to store freezers, refrigerator, and storage). Loring put the bathroom near the entryway on the northwest side of the building. The main living room was left untouched, though Loring put in a new hardwood floor. All of Norton's exotic animal mounts remain in the living room, with the addition of a grizzly bear that belonged to one of Loring's guests and mountain goat in the upstairs loft that belonged to a guests' grandmother. These were given to Loring for the place. He also took down the Norton's original fireplace because it was structurally unsound, having never been placed on a foundation, and Loring replaced it with the stone one found there today. Loring also added a small bedroom above the kitchen and dining room, which had been an open space when the Nortons had the place. By closing off the galley space and adding the room upstairs, Loring was able to reinforce the ridge logs that were beginning to sag because of the heavy snow loads on the roof. This helped stabilize the whole building. This would become a popular place for guests to stay in the summer, and where caretakers stay in the winter. Loring also added a ventilated double roof structure, often called a "cold roof," to prevent snow from melting in the winter and forming ice dams on the eaves.

The lodge continues to be the gathering place for the guests. The central room is the living room with the fireplace. Above the fireplace is still the bear rug, beaver plew and other animal hides and several game mounts, that have been a part of the lodge for decades. To the southwest of the living room is a smaller room with a piano and bar; to the northeast of the living room is still a bathroom. The kitchen remains towards the front of the building, or the southeast end; next to the dining room, on the southwest end. Above the kitchen and dining room, in the peak of the roof line, is the small bedroom. The interior is part of the full-log construction with quarter round chinking both outside and inside. Hand-crafted wood work is throughout the house. The ceilings are beautifully decorated with vertical slabs placed in decorative formation between the full-length beams. The railing to the second-floor bedroom is all woodwork. All the cabinets are hand-made. Every door has a unique decoration of wood work. It remains much the same as when Loring Woodman had it, except for the room behind the central living room to the northwest. The Klingenstein family repurposed Loring's back-storage room into a sitting sunroom in 2018. For this room, glass doors and windows were added on three sides of the room, though the original structure remains the same from when the Nortons built it. The Klingensteins also added a deck with stairs around this back section, but the historic feel to the building was not lost.

Southeast elevation (Front side): 51' total width. 22' to roofline peak. Left to right; southwest corner, has a screened in porch, with the bottom half constructed from small, parallel log (5'10" X 3' X 8") with screens to the roof line (88" X 70"); half-screen door (36" X 80") main log structure, with horizontal logs (30' 6" wide) with two windows, four panes each. (Left window: 57" X 42") (Right windows: 2 sets of 37" X 24"); porch hallway on far right leading to door set back. Wooden porch the full length from the screened-in porch (38'10" X 9'4") Second story: railing across small porch, accessible from bedroom door (36" X 80") and two windows (each 36" X 24")

Northeast elevation (side): From left to right: First section, 23'; open porch, bottom half parallel logs for 6'8" to next building section. Next section is 21'10" wide, 16'10" to peak, with protruding logs cut in scooped form from top to bottom on either side, medium-pitched roof with 20" overhang, five purlins, horizontal logs, small log chinking. On left side, open window to porch (40" X 41") then enclosed wall with one window (30" X 42"). Eight feet from porch to end of pitched roof at end of this section. Exterior building wall turns southeast for a section 12'2" X 8'1" with one window (2'3" X 4'6"). Rock foundation (1'9") starting along this wall. Exterior wall turns northwest for a section 12'4" X 8'10"

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with one window, 2 panes (total 8'6" X 4'). Rock Foundation 1'3" along this section. Corner with saddle-notched, swooped cut logs protruding from the building. Exterior wall turns southwest for section (5'7") with top section blending into the second story, to rock chimney, and has one window (2" X 4"). Exterior wall turns northwest for final section of building: 20' X 7'4" wall, with two wooden sliding glass doors (each 6'10" X 5'3") with 7' log between them. Deck attached, 29'3", two steps up, 1'9" off ground, parallel logs encasing deck to the ground. Two-foot overhand on roofline.

Northwest elevation (back side): 19'10" at base of wall; 18'4" top log length under triangle pitched roof line that is 12' at peak, all horizontal logs and five purlins. Four consecutive windows, (each 2'10" X 5'1") with 6.5" logs between each window. Attached porch (30'8" X 9'3") with steps, and parallel logs encasing the deck to the ground. Both corners with saddle-notched, swooped cut logs protruding from the building.

Southwest elevation (side): 20' X 7'4" at ground with 18'3" at top log; with two wooden sliding glass doors (each 6'10" X 5'3") with 7' log between them. Deck attached 8' wide; 3 steps to ground, encased with parallel logs. Exterior wall turns southwest and is 5'3" wide with one window (20" X 24") with top section blending into the second story, to rock chimney. Saddle-notched corner, swooped cut logs protruding from the building. Exterior walls turns southeast and is 26'10" with four windows (left to right) (3'11" X 3'11", 4" log, 3'11" X 3'11"; 20" 3'6"; 5' X 3'7"). Between 3rd of 4th windows, log ends from interior wall. Two-foot rock foundation for this section. Next section is the screened in porch: northwest wall: 12'3" X 10'2" with 4'4" parallel logs on bottom half and 5'10" screen. Southwest wall of porch: 20'2" X 10'2" with 4'4" parallel logs on bottom half and 5'10" screen. This section also has a medium-peaked roof line, fully screened in, and 16' at peak, and seven purlins.

Building #2: Willow (non-contributing)

Willow is a single-story T-shaped cabin with seven rooms; laundry room, two bathrooms, living room, sleeping porch/room, storage room, and freezer room. It was hand constructed with full logs using the saddle notch corners and chinked with wood. In 1978-1979, Brad Hendricks, a friend of Loring Woodman, set the foundation, laid out the logs, and built the roof while Loring did the trim, windows, chinking, floor, plumbing and electricity and any other finishing work. It has two low-pitched gable red-shingle roofs with seven purlins each and overhang on all sides. A section of the roof at the pitch is elevated for venting purposes. The replacement roof maintains historical integrity. The roof has seven vent pipes and one antenna, the latter on the back of the house. The southeast section of the building is an enclosed porch. Willow was originally designed to be a guest cabin with a shower and utility room for the ranch use in general. The crew stayed in tents on platforms on the hillside, but used the shower and washer/dryer in this cabin. Guest complaints of overcrowding resulted in Loring moving in, making this his home. The Klingensteins have completely remodeled the inside, maintaining its historic integrity, and it is currently used for employee housing and ranch functioning.

Northwest elevation: Entrance side. 20'3" X 7'8" at corners and 12'5" at peak. Overhang in front on roof 2'8" and 6" overhang on sides. Left to right: window (1'7" X 2'7"); door with screen (30" X 6'6"); door (2'11" X 6'6"). Porch 17'11" X 3'11".

Exterior wall turns southwest - elevation: 16' X 7'10" wall with two windows (each 1'11" X 3'3").

Exterior wall turns northwest - elevation: 12'5" X 7'11" with 2' overhang. Solid log wall.

Exterior wall turns south southwest - elevation: 20'4" X 8'2" at corners and 12'3" at peak. Left to right: two windows (1'11" X 2'7" each) and door 3' X 6'7"). Seven purlins, 11 log ends between windows from interior wall, porch in front of door.

Southeast elevation: 31'7" X 7'11" wall with 6" roof overhang. Left to right, four windows: (6'6" X 3'3") (3'10" X 3'10") (3'10" X 3'10") log ends from interior wall (6'2" X 3'6")

Exterior wall turns northeast - elevation: 20'3" X 8'2" at corners and 12'5" at peak. Seven purlins. Three windows, all (5'3" X 3'8")

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Exterior wall turns northwest – elevation: 9’2” X 8’1” with 2” overhang. One window: (6’3” X 3’6”)
Exterior wall turns northeast – elevation: 16’ X 7’8” with 6” overhang. Solid log.

Building #3: Elk (contributing)

Elk is a single-story building with six rooms: two suites with shared wall in the middle; each with two bedrooms and a bathroom. Both ends also have screened in porches the full length of the building. It has a low-pitched gable shingle roof with overhang on all sides, seven purlins, and six stove pipes. It was hand-constructed by Bob Robinson in the early 1930s with full logs using the square notch corners and chinked with small logs. The outside end corners on the south porch have vertical logs. Above the entrance is an elk rack. This was the main building at the Darwin Ranch for the Robinson’s operation. The original cabin had no foundation, resulting in the bottom logs rotting. Loring hired Howard Walters in 1966 to jack up the building, place a simple foundation under the bottom replacement logs, and install plumbing. A new floor was also installed. There was some piping into the building, likely bringing cold running water to the building; but there was never toilet plumbing or showers.

West elevation: Entrance side. 25’4” X 10’11”. 5” eave overhang. Corner logs 6’11”. Screens: Left to right: 10’4” X 6’5”; 2’7” X 6’9”, Door, 6’5’ X 10’8”. Parallel logs 2’8” high.

North elevation: 50’ X 6’ 6”. Front overhang 9”. Left to right: porch screen 8’2” X 3’7”; 31’4” X 6’7” log wall with three windows (left to right: 4’11” X 2’2”; 2’7” X 1’8”; 4’10” X 2’3”); enclosed porch: 9’ X 3’10”.

South elevation: 50’ X 6’11”. Front overhang 10”. Left to right: porch screen 98” X 44”; 31’2” log wall with three windows (left to right: 63” X 26”; 31” X 16”; 55” X 24”); enclosed porch: 9’4” X 6’11”.

East elevation: 25’ X 9’7”. 5” eave overhang. Corner logs 6’5”. Vertical logs along base. Left to right: window: 2’3” X 1’10”; screen: 3’10” X 2’6”; door: 3’ X 6’4”; screen: 8’7” X 3’9”.

Building #4: Deer (contributing)

This historic building is used for guest lodging. It was at the ranch prior to 1964 when the Woodmans purchased the property. It likely was constructed in the 1920s.

Deer is a one room, single story building with low pitched gable red-shingle roof, five purlins, with overhang on all sides. A section of the roof at the pitch is elevated for venting purposes. The replacement roof maintains historical integrity. It was hand-constructed with full logs using the saddle notch corners and chinked with small logs. A screened-in porch runs the full length of the east side of the cabin. Parallel logs wrap around the base of the porch. Above the entrance is a deer rack. Loring hired Howard Walters in 1965 to jack up the building, place a simple foundation under the bottom replacement logs, and install plumbing. Later, in the 1980s, George (Porgy) McLellan added a “cold roof.” A hidden steel beam was incorporated into the “cold roof” to support the extra weight and generally reinforce the roof structure.

West elevation: 18’8” X 10’10” to peak plus 11” overhang on north end and 7” overhang on south end. One window: 23” X 38”. 5 purlins.

North elevation: 24’1” X 7’1”. Two windows: 21” X 36” and 28” X 36”.

South elevation: 24’8” X 7’. One window: 38” X 31”.

East elevation: Entrance side. 17’3” X 10’ to peak. Inside porch, one door 3” X 80” with one window. 5 purlins. Porch: 17’ 3” X 7’1”. Approximately 3’ parallel logs on bottom part, outside of porch, with complete screen enclosure for the remaining part. Screen door: 35” X 80”

Building #5: Spruce (non-contributing)

Spruce was hand constructed with full logs using the saddle notch corners and chinked with quarter round chinking. In 1978-1979, Brad Hendricks, a friend of Loring Woodman, set the foundation, laid out the logs, and built the roof while

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Loring did the trim, windows, chinking, floor, plumbing and electricity and other finishing work. It is used for guest lodging.

Spruce is a two-room (bedroom and bathroom), single story building with medium pitched gable red-shingle roof, nine purlins, with overhang on all sides. A section of the roof at the pitch is elevated for venting purposes. The replacement roof maintains historical integrity. There are four venting pipes. Most of this structure is placed on a concrete foundation, except the porch which sits on concreted pillars.

Northeast elevation: Entrance side. 29' X 10'. Screened-in porch accessible with a staircase runs the full length of this side of the cabin. Left to right: Porch to edge of building; 19'9", four horizontal logs 22' long attached to vertical log posts. Above logs, three screens between four 56" parallel posts from horizontal logs to roofline. To right: four half-logs for stairs leading from ground into porch area. As additional 110" porch set back and next to the stairs complete the full-length porch. An additional screen on this end, too.

Northwest elevation: 24'6" full length, (left to right) half-log steps, door (36" X 80") with window on top half; 8' for porch (and log ends from interior room), and 16'3" logs to end. Porch screen 30" X 51"; and two windows (both 20" X 44").

Southwest elevation: 24'6" X 6'6". From left end to log ends marking an interior wall: 7'4". Two windows: (both 32" X 47")

Southeast elevation: 24'6" full length, with (left to right) 16'3" logs to porch (and log ends from interior room) and an additional 8' for porch. One window in room (42" X 42"); and porch screen of 75" X 49". Log ends visible at ceiling level. 13'4" to peak of roof.

Building #6: Root Cellar (contributing)

This was built into the hillside along the southwest boundary of the ranch. The two-room root cellar used for food storage and to hang meat.

The exterior is hand laid flat rock and mortar wall (11'2" at the widest spot and 7'11" high) with a wood door, recently replaced with new wood but uses the original fascia from the original door (31" X 74"). Protruding above the door is a wood beam, reinforced with a metal beam and pipe bar to hang meat. Above the cellar in the ground are three vents (7" X 7") with pitched "roofs". Inside the cellar are two rooms made of concrete. First room is 7'10" wide, 7' X 2" high, and 13'11" deep. A wood door at the back of the first room leads to another room 7'8" wide, 7'2" high, and 5'8" deep.

This is the third root cellar for the ranch. The first two were nearly fallen in when the Woodmans purchased the place in 1964. Loring and Brad Hendricks built this structure with concrete near the same location as the previous two in the mid-1970s.

Building #7: Sheep (contributing)

This historic log building is used as owner housing. This likely is one of the two buildings constructed by Darwin and used to "prove up" on his homestead application in 1906 (the other is the tack shed.) Either this cabin or the tack shed was originally located across the river because one is marked on the 1907 map of the area. It has long been called the "Sheep Shed" for the sheep horns tacked above the door.

Sheep is a one room, single story building hand constructed with full logs using the square notch corners and chinked with wood. It has a low-pitched gable red-shingle roof with five purlins and overhang on all sides. The roof has one chimney pipe. The door decorated with patterned wood-slabs and has a diamond shaped window.

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West elevation: 12'6" with 3" overhangs X 7'2".

North elevation: Entrance side. 11'3" X 9'6" at peak. 5 purlins. 2' overhang. Door: 31" X 77" with one window.

South elevation: 10'6" X 8'8" at peak with 3" overhang. 5 purlins.

East elevation: 12'6" with 3" overhangs X 7'3". One window: 26" X 24".

Building #8: Moose (contributing)

This historic building is used for guest lodging. It was at the ranch prior to 1964 when the Woodmans purchased the property. It likely was constructed in the 1920s.

Moose is a two-room (bedroom and small bathroom), single story building with low pitched gable red-shingle roof, seven purlins, with overhang on all sides. A section of the roof at the pitch is elevated for venting purposes. The replacement roof maintains historical integrity. There are four venting pipes. It was hand-constructed with full logs using the square notch corners and chinked with small logs. A screened-in porch runs the full length of the east side of the cabin. Above the entrance is a moose rack. Loring hired Howard Walters in 1965 to jack up the building, place a simple foundation under the bottom replacement logs, and install plumbing. Later, in the 1980s, George (Porgy) McLellan added a "cold roof." A hidden steel beam was incorporated into the cold roof to support the extra weight and generally reinforce the roof structure.

West elevation: 20'4" X 10'. 31" roof overhang. One window (51" X 32")

North elevation: 24' X 7'2". Left to right: screen for porch (6'1" X 3'6") and window (4'9" X 29"). 21" roof overhang. Log ends from the interior wall between the porch and bedroom are visible on the outside wall.

South elevation: 24'6" X 6'11". Left to right: two windows (48" X 31") and (22" X 36"). No roof overhang. Log ends from the interior wall between the porch and bedroom are visible on the outside wall.

East elevation: Front entrance. 20'7" X 9'11" at peak; southeast corner roof tip to ground 78"; northeast corner roof tip to ground 88". Front roof overhang 31". Porch full length of this side. From left to right: screen window (7'6" X 2'8"); door (31" X 74"); screen window (7'6" X 2'8"). Each corner has a single parallel solid log.

Buildings #9: Power Houses (2 non-contributing buildings)

The power houses are replacement buildings for the hydroelectric components that provide power to the ranch generated by the water turbine. These were constructed by the Klingensteins in 2016. Both have low-pitch gable roofs with red shingles. Both buildings have a single support log at the peak of the roofs. While not contributing buildings because of their age, they are constructed of board and batten in similar color to the historic buildings and do not distract from the historic feel and setting.

Power house: on a cement foundation.

North elevation: 18'5" X 8'. One door (2'11" X 6'7") with single glass window. One vent (2' X 2'). 14" roof overhang.

West elevation: 11'6" X 8'. 10'3" at peak of roof. 2 vents (1'5" X 1'5" each). 2 metal cones near the top that are for exhaust pipes connected very old Ford generators inside. 14" roof overhang.

South elevation: 18'5" X 8'. One gas valve. 14" roof overhang. Solar panel along most of the roof on this pitch.

East elevation: 11'6" X 8'. 10'3" at peak of roof. 14" roof overhang. Power box in center of exterior wall with pipe leading to roof and five metal pipes at ground level that are power lines for battery electricity from the hydro generator, and inverted power leaves from the batteries. The propane for the generators is on the west side.

2nd power house: Located to the west of the main power house, and house additional hydroelectric components.

North elevation: 7'2" X 5'3" on west end, and 4'2" on east end (built into the dirt sloping up on the power house). 14" overhang.

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West elevation: (front of structure) 7'2" X 7' at peak. 5'3" at both corners. Single door (1'11" X 4'5"). One purlin. 14" over hang.

South elevation: 7'2" X 5'3" on west end, and 4'2" on east end. 14" over hang.

East elevation: 7'2" X 5'8" at peak. One purlin. 14" over hang.

Building #10: Barn (contributing)

This historic log building has two rooms and is used as a shop and tack storage. It is a single-story building hand constructed with full logs using the square notch corners and chinked with fabric and tar. It has a low-pitched gable red-shingle roof with five purlins and overhang on all sides. Loring heard that this was built from leftover logs the Norton's builders did not use in the lodge. Therefore, the barn would have been constructed in 1950. The front end sustained substantial water damage, so Loring hired George McLelland to replace much of that end, and add new doors in 2013.

West elevation: 17'9" X 10'7" at peak; 8'4" on south corner; 8'2" on north corner; 2' overhang with deer antlers in peak.

North elevation: 38' X 2" X 7'8". End logs visible marking an internal wall. Door for the employee tack in second room to west (3'8" X 6'). 4" over hang.

South elevation: 36'10" X 7'10". End logs visible marking an internal wall. Door into the shop side (2'7" X 6'7"). 2" over hang.

East elevation: 18' X 10' at peak. Entrance for the shop. Four doors; two stacked on one another and all swing out from center. Top doors (4'4" X 4'4") Bottom doors, (4'4" X 2'6"). 2'7" overhang.

To the south of the barn was a tar-papered covered post and beam storage area that was in very poor condition, so it was removed by Loring prior to selling the ranch in 2014.

Building #11: Tack Shed (contributing)

Located on the west side of the barn, this building is currently used to store tack. It is likely one of the two original buildings Darwin built, to "prove up" on his homestead application in 1906. (The other is the Sheep Cabin.) These are the only two buildings that have square notches. According to an early map, this building likely sat southeast of the Sheep Cabin and was moved to the river side (northwest) of the Lodge by Loring. He used this building to store the generators, propane tank, controls and storage batteries for the electrical systems. When the Klingensteins became owners, they removed this building to its current location next to the barn and repurposed it as the tack shed. This low-pitched gable roof building has three center purlins and full overhang. The full logs are carefully leveled into squares with axe marks visible and chinked with smaller log pieces. The corners meet in tightly fit square notches.

North elevation: Front entrance: 11'2" X 8'10" at peak. 7' at corners, 1'9" roof overhang. Single door constructed with vertical boards with hinges on the left and single hook on the right. Sign above the door, "Darwin Ranch".

East elevation: 13'2" X 7' with 12" roof overhang. Solid log wall.

South elevation: 11'1" X 9' at peak. 7' at corners, 15" roof overhang. Single door constructed with vertical boards with hinges on the right and single hook on the left. Moose rack hangs next to the door.

West elevation: 13'1" X 7'3" with 10" roof overhang. Solid log wall.

Building #12: Storage Shed (contributing)

Located on the hill southwest of the ranch buildings, the storage shed sits in the trees and is close to the buck fence marking the Forest Service boundary. The more modern building was constructed for storage. It was built by Loring in about 1969. The walls are constructed of vertical boards, alternating back and forth, giving it a visually appealing look.

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It has a low pitch gable roof with five purlins, overhang on all sides and covered with red tar paper to match the other buildings. There are no windows and the front, or north elevation.

West elevation: 22'4" X 9'5" at its height. North corner, 9'.

North elevation: front, entrance. 20'3" X 14' at peak. 10'2" at west corner; 9'11" at east corner. Four doors, all swing out. (4'7" X 8'7") 18" overhang.

South elevation: 20'5" X 13'6" at peak. 9' at east corner; 9'3" at west corner. Braces attached to building to hold pipes.

East elevation: 22'2" X 9'8" at peak. Decorated with wagon wheels.

Building #13: Sauna (non-contributing)

Modern guests have the use of a sauna and nearby hot tub that sit along the creek. The sauna was added to the property in about 2012. Built by George (Porgy) McClelland that blends in well with the historic buildings.

The sauna is a one room, single story building with low pitched gable shingle roof with one chimney pipe and overhangs on all sides. It was hand-constructed with full logs using the saddle notch corners and chinked with synthetic material. Inside the sauna is the woodburning stove and bench for the guests to sit on.

West elevation: Entrance side. 11'8" X 12' at corners, 7'4" to peak. 3 purlins. Door 2' X 5'10". Porch 9'8" X 7'4".

North elevation: 12' X 6'8" with 11" log overhang on each side. One window: 19" X 22".

South elevation: 12' X 6'8" with 11" log overhang on each side.

East elevation: 11'8" X 12' at corners, 7'4" to peak. 3 purlins.

Building #14: Toad Hall (contributing)

This log cabin was an old US Forest Service patrol cabin that originally sat on the bluff overlooking the Darwin Ranch on USFS property. No longer needed, the Forest Service personnel told the Woodmans that they no longer wanted this cabin and prepared to burn it down. Loring asked if he could have it, and the Forest Service agreed to let him take it, provided that he removed it from public property. In 1973, Loring and Hendricks took the cabin apart log by log and moved it onto Loring's property same side of the river and set it back up on a foundation. They also added a new floor and roof and named it "Toad Hall" after *The Wind in the Willows*.

Toad Hall is a one room, single story building with low pitched gable red-shingle roof, five purlins, with overhang on all sides. It was hand-constructed with full logs using the square notch corners and chinked with small logs. Axe marks are visible near the log ends feeding into the notch corners. The south side is also the front with a full-length porch and screen door, though there is no screen on the door or porch. The roof has wood planks covered with red tar paper. The interior has the original cast-iron heating stove. Toad Hall is located approximately 2800 feet north of the main lodge in the northern portion of the property. On this relocation site, it was placed on a concrete foundation.

South elevation: Entrance side. Both side posts 5'3"; center post 5'1"; post on other side of screen door from center post 5'1.5". Outside floor log 11'6". Top porch log 11'8". Roof points above vertical top porch log, with overhangs, 13'10". Five purlins, met with five posts from top vertical porch log, with point 8'4" high. Exterior door frame, 2'11" X 4'10". Porch length 9'11" X 4'3"

East elevation: Room length, 12'11" X 6'10". Porch depth 4'3". Full roof 21'5". Metal chimney on northeast corner of roof.

North elevation: 11'5" X 7' (NE corner) and 7'3" (NW corner). 8'8" to peak. Single window: 3'11" X 2'8".

West elevation: Bottom log 17'9" with porch; top log of room length 13'6". Single window: 2'11" X 2'8.5".

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Structure #1: Hydroelectric power plant (non-contributing)

Metal cover: 12' X 8'. Access lid and metal turn pipe over turbine inside.

Structure #2: 2 Corrals (non-contributing)

Log corrals built by Oliver Klingenstein. The larger, 90 feet across corral for holding horses was built in 2015 and the second 55 feet across corral for working/training horses was constructed in 2018.

Structure #3: Outhouse (contributing)

This single structure with slanted wood roof is held by five 2" X 4" boards to the structure, with two additional 2" X 4" boards supporting the ends of the roof. It is approximately 7' high in front (southwest side) and 8'9" wide with two doors. The sides of the structure are 5'8". It is not known exactly when this was built, but quite likely in the 1950s.

Structure #4: 3 Bridges (3 non-contributing structures)

A small footbridge next to the lodge crosses Kinky Creek. The construction date is unknown, but it is less than 50 years. A larger footbridge upstream from the lodge crosses a spring that originates in the smaller wrangler pasture. The construction date is unknown, but less than 50 years. A large suspension bridge located upstream from the lodge crosses the Gros Ventre River. It was designed and built by George (Porgy) McClelland in 2015. It is based on a classic US Forest Service suspension bridge design. It must be a suspension bridge because it is a wild and scenic river, and owners are not permitted to build any structure within the riverbed.

Structure #5: 9 Tent platforms (non-contributing)

These platforms are located on the southwest hillside for employees to set up their tents. Two were built in the last few years, all have been repaired. They were constructed over many years of the ranch, starting with Loring for his crew when the ranch had enough guests to fill the cabins. The oldest one is located closest to the entry road, and the lowest one is closest to Moose cabin.

Structure #6: Hot tub (non-contributing)

Water for the hot tub is heated by wood fire and by extra hydropower. When the hydrogenerator makes too much power, and the battery bank is full, the extra power is diverted to heating hot water.

Structure #7: Road: (non-contributing)

The original road into the Darwin Ranch was little more than a horse and wagon trail that connected the place from the USFS roads in the Upper Green River and came into the ranch from the hill to the east then crossed the field to the main lodge. During Loring's ownership, the propane gas company refused to service the ranch anymore because of the poor road condition. It was obviously difficult for the Woodmans, employees and their guests to get to the ranch, too. Therefore, in 1994, Loring went to the Forest Service asking for permission to build an upgraded road. The USFS did not want to fund the required environmental assessment so Loring volunteered to do so – and did, three times. After nine years, a new road was finally permitted. Loring also paid for all of the engineering for the road. The Forest Service let out a contract to construct the road and all of their portion of the funding was obtained through a regional grant competition for special projects from the Forest Service's Intermountain Region Office. There were three segments to the road project. The first was to get as far as the Wilderness Boundary for public access. Loring paid for one-third of this segment. The second segment was from there down to Loring's property boundary, which he paid for entirely. The

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third part of the road was entirely within Loring's property, and again paid for by him. The new road was finally finished at the end of 2003 and is currently the one used today into the ranch.

Previous structures, no longer on the property.

Outhouse from the hillside, later moved closer to the river and repurposed as a sauna. Later torn down when new sauna was constructed in 2012.

Storage shed to cover gas tanks and an **incinerator** were located by the main lodge were removed by the Klingensteins (same time the power shed was removed to west of the barn) reclaiming the area for public use.

2nd Storage shed to cover two 1000-gallon propane tanks. It was removed in 2015 and the tanks are now buried.

Integrity

The Darwin Ranch retains a high level of integrity. It is located in its original location. Although some buildings have been moved, as noted in the inventory, this is fairly common for ranches in Teton County and the surrounding area. The setting is largely intact. It has always been a remote area. The establishment of the national forest areas around the ranch has helped to preserve the remote nature of the setting. While the ranch does have some modern buildings, the majority of the main, primary buildings in the district are historic and retain their historic design, materials, and workmanship. The modern buildings and structures are largely secondary building and are visually subservient to the historic buildings. As a result the buildings and the surrounding landscape retains a high degree of its historic feeling and association.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations N/A

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture
Commerce
Settlement

Period of Significance

1901 – 1973

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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Period of Significance (justification)

The homestead filing for the Darwin Ranch, by Frederick Dorwin, was made in 1901, and thus the starting date for the place. The end date is 1973 when Toad Hall was moved onto the property. The moving of buildings to and from ranch properties to further develop the property for guest use is common in the area.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary) N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Darwin Ranch property is significant under Criterion A for its representation of historic events related to Commerce and Settlement. As a homestead property, the ranch is an excellent example of early settlement in the American West. Early ranch residents supplemented their income in order to maintain the place with trapping in the surrounding mountains; an important form of early white settlement. The Darwin Ranch has more recently been sustained, though, as a guest or "dude" ranch, also an important commerce example.ⁱ Guest ranches have long been a popular form of recreation. In the case of the Darwin Ranch, recreation is also extended to the use of the property by wealthy families for private seasonal enjoyment. Both uses of the ranch, as a commercial guest ranch and for private use, are important examples of how the commercial landscape of Teton County and other scenic areas in Wyoming developed to modern day.

The Darwin Ranch is also significant under Criterion C for its excellent example of Western Craftsman Architecture. The buildings and structures, both historic and more modern, maintain a high level of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association for this unique western architecture. The combined western architecture with the traditional use of commerce from the settlement homestead era, create an excellent example of a significant historic property.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

1. Architecture.

The Darwin Ranch is an excellent representation as a local example of an architectural style which is significant in the architectural history of the region. A similar example of log-constructed buildings in the area is the Chambers Lodge (48SU413). This architecture is referred to as "Western Craftsman [and] is arguably the most important rural architectural statement from the region to emerge during this period... This style is most commonly associated with the dude ranches which had sprung up throughout the Rocky Mountain west during the early decades of the twentieth century; although it has been applied, often with picturesque results, to rural and small-town lodges ... These were made up most typically of locally timbered logs and planks. Another distinguishing characteristic of the genre is the liberal use of varnished wood for the interior finishes and handcrafted furniture usually found within the buildings." (Chambers Lodge NRHP nomination.) The Darwin Ranch buildings and interiors fulfills the Western Craftsman criteria as described in the Chambers Lodge nomination.

2. Commerce.

ⁱ For additional context on Dude Ranches in northern Wyoming, please see Dude Ranches Along the Yellowstone Highway MPDF.

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Fur trapping in western Wyoming and throughout the west has been well-documented as an important commerce for the early settlers. Fred Dorwin was known to have trapped in the area surrounding his homestead as a means to supplement his income.

The Darwin Ranch has also been economically sustained at various times as a guest or “dude” ranch; a critical type of commerce in the Rocky Mountains and on homesteads. The Darwin Ranch is a good example of how many homestead ranches throughout Wyoming and the west that supplemented their income by taking paying guests for recreation, such as fishing and horseback riding, and hunting. This income, especially during economically lean years, was critical for the ranch survival. Four of the eight owners were known to have hosted paying guests at the Darwin Ranch (Dorwin, Robinsons, Woodmans, and Klingensstiens.) The ranch, though, has not always hosted paying guests. Half of the owners (Blacks, Severences, Nortons, and McIntyre/Chapmans) used the ranch exclusively for their private enjoyment and had the financial ability to do so. The Darwin Ranch, therefore, is an example of both a recreational guest ranch and a privately held “second home” in a very scenic location. Both of these types of homestead use continue to the present in Teton County and throughout much of the west, particularly in beautiful, mountainous places.

Dude ranches played an important role in the economy of the West and in Teton County. In the early twentieth century wealthy Easterners were increasingly looking for recreation activities that lead them to experience remote landscapes and a different lifestyle. A romanticized vision a Western ranch lifestyle lead many to the West to experience this lifestyle in a controlled manner. The development of railroads across the West also helped to further the dude ranch industry as the railroads would often advertise dude ranches in order to attract more passengers. “By 1937 there were approximately 100 dude ranches in Wyoming that had become a significant part of the economy. A Wyoming newspaper clipping from that year said that according to the Wall Street Journal, 97 dude ranches in Wyoming did a business of approximately \$2,000,000.”ⁱⁱ Most often dude ranches in Teton County catered to a very wealthy patronage that would return to the same ranch or general area for successive seasons. It was not unusual for these patrons to return to the area and purchase hobby ranches for their private getaways. The Darwin Ranch followed this pattern.

3. Settlement.

Settlement in the Gros Ventre Mountains and the Upper Green River Valley, as everywhere throughout the west, was made possible by a series of Homestead laws passed by the U.S. Congress. The Homestead Act of 1862 became law with support from President Abraham Lincoln. This measure promised 160-acres of land to any person who was a United States citizen and twenty-one-years-old or head of a family. The “homesteader” filed a claim on “unappropriated public lands” and paid a nominal filing fee. The person was required to live on their claim, build a home and make some improvements to the land. Two neighbors had to submit an affidavit to verify that the homesteader had lived up to the specifications before the homesteader received a patent, or land title, to the property. Completing the required work was referred to as “proving up” on the land (Cassity, Noble-Sommers). The Darwin Ranch was a homestead claim. Frederick A. Dorwin filed on and was later awarded a land patent after required improvements were verified to the U.S. Government Land Office. This 160-acres homestead is the Darwin Ranch, unchanged to the present. It is an isolated inholding in the national forest because other homestead claims nearby were not successful.

Property Comparators:

ⁱⁱ Jeannie Cook and Joanita Monteith. *Dude Ranches Along the Yellowstone Highway(U.S. 14-16-20)in the Shoshone National Forest MPDF. 2002.*

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There are several properties on the National Register of Historic Places in Teton, Sublette, and Park counties that are examples of Western Craftsman Architecture and Settlement as represented with homesteads, and Commerce for tourism, outfitting and trapping along with Recreation and dude ranching. In Teton County, these properties include the Bar BC Dude Ranch (48TE915), Flat Creek Ranch (48TE1281), and Gap Puche Cabin (48TE1023). In Sublette County similar properties are the Craig Cabin Site (48SU2133) and Chambers Lodge (48SU413). The Absaroka Mountain Lodge (49PA3228) and UXU Ranch (48PA2391) are similar listings in Park County.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

Fred Dickerson Dorwin was born in 1856 in Indiana where he lived with his family until he moved to Folsom, New Mexico. Here, he filed on a homestead in 1891, but relinquished it in 1901. Dorwin next moved to Wyoming and found a place in the Gros Ventre Mountains in May, 1901. He applied for a homestead on September 6, 1901, in the United States Commissioners Office in Jackson, Wyoming, then part of Uinta County. Dorwin's address was listed as Wells, the closest post office to his homestead. Wells was little more than a post office and a few other homesteads near the headwaters of the Green River. Dorwin's homestead was located in Section 22, Township 40 North of Range 111 West; and was 160-acres at the head of the Gros Ventre River at the confluence of Clear Creek and Kinky Creek. The U.S. Land Office in Lander, Wyoming, verified the land was surveyed on October 8, 1901, permitted the homestead application (entry no. 1108). Dorwin also signed a Non-mineral Affidavit to accompany his homestead application, testifying that "no portion of said land is worked for mineral during any part of the year by any person or persons; that said land is essentially non-mineral land, and that his application therefor is not made for the purpose of fraudulently obtaining title to mineral land, but with the object of securing said land for agricultural purposes." The application was received in Lander, Wyoming, on October 8, 1901, with the sum of \$16.00 (Dorwin homestead files, National Archives).

Robert Miller, Forest Supervisor for the Teton Division of the Yellowstone Forest Reserve, completed Dorwin's form on November 18, 1903. He verified that Dorwin held the homestead and had a house, 13' X 34' with three rooms, and a log stable, 17' X 60'. (It is thought that the current Tack Shed and Sheep Cabin are Dorwin's original buildings, though the measurements are not correct.) Miller determined that 120 acres were suitable for tilling, with 40 acres under plow in meadow, and 60 acres of land under ditch. Fifteen tons of hay were raised in the past season. Ten acres of timber land was on the claim, with an estimated 10,000 feet of board timber, though no timber had yet been cut. Six horses were owned and grazed on the homestead. Dorwin's Agricultural Settlement was received in the U.S. General Land Office on January 6, 1904. This form is used by homesteaders making claims in forest reserves (Dorwin homestead files, National Archives).

The homestead application process is completed when the applicant provides proof of required residence and improvements on the property to officers of the General Land Office. The closest Land Office for Dorwin was Evanston, Wyoming, over 200 miles away on unimproved wagon roads. Therefore, on May 1, 1906, Dorwin wrote to the Evanston office; "Because of the great distance to Evanston, Wyoming, and consequent expense of a trip to the Local Land Office I desire my Homestead proofs to be made before Wesley F. King, U.S. Commissioner, at his office at Jackson, Wyoming". A week later, the Evanston Land Office advised Dorwin that his final proofs may be delayed due to his request to make his proofs in Jackson. Nevertheless, Dorwin stayed in Jackson. The required publication was made on May 8, 1906, in the *Star Valley Independent*, printed at Afton, Wyoming, as the nearest newspaper to the land for the Dorwin final proofs hearing. On July 14, 1906, Dorwin made a successful homestead proof and witness testimonies, from William Binkley, Charles Purdy and James D. Merritt all of Grovont, Wyoming, and Joe Deyo of Zenith, Wyoming, and before Wesley F. King. From here, his certificate of proof was forwarded to the Commissioner of the General Land Office. His patent was awarded March 26, 1907 (Dorwin homestead files, National Archives).

Teton County historian Fern K. Nelson, in her book, *This Was Jackson's Hole; Incidents & Profiles from the Settlement of Jackson Hole*, suggested that Dorwin (though she spells his name Darwin, which is inaccurate) "probably first picked out the spot [for his homestead] when hunting in the area. His friend, Teddy Roosevelt, with whom he had

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served in the Rough Riders, apparently gave him the land by “presidential decree.” This might explain the isolated (some might think choice) location away from other deeded land” (p. 347). Government Land Office records do not support Nelson’s theory about the presidential decree, much to the disappointment of the locals who like this story. This story may have been started because the Grantors for the land patent to Fred Dorwin was “United States of America By T. Roosevelt, Pres.” (abstract). However, all land patents awarded through the Homesteading Acts were awarded by the current US President.

The isolated inholding, completely surrounded by land managed by the U.S. Forest Service, was accessible by two ways during Dorwin’s ownership. A good wagon road from the west meandered up the Gros Ventre River, over the hydrographic divide at Kinky Creek and down, or south, along the Green River to Cora (the closest town) and Pinedale. In the early years of the ranch, another route was available coming from Jackson, about sixty miles away, up the Gros Ventre River. This route was always unpredictable due to landslides common along the Gros Ventre below the Darwin place. On June 23, 1923, a giant slide dammed the Gros Ventre River, created a natural lake (appropriately named the Lower Slide Lake) and temporarily closed the road a few miles above Kelly. Another slide about 2.5 miles below the Darwin Ranch dropped the wagon road into the river in the 1930s or early 1940s and an alternative route around that cave-in was never successfully built. From that time on the Darwin Ranch ceased to have direct access by “road” to the rest of Teton County.

Perhaps the ranch isolation can be attributed to Dorwin, himself. “Locally, Darwin [sic] was considered a cranky old cuss, and he was generally avoided by the other settlers up the Gros Ventre. He had, at different times, partners on the ranch. He ran them off. Gossip spread that he would keep them on until he had exhausted their money and physical help in building up the place, then he’d become so obnoxious that they would leave” (Nelson, 348). Dorwin “once threatened the life of an early Forest Ranger J.G. Imeson, telling him not to come back to the ranch. Darwin [sic] explained to Imeson that he did not want any more people in the country or any neighbors. Darwin [sic] gained his wish, since no one homesteaded very close to him” wrote Scott in her study, *A History of the Gros Ventre Range, Wyoming*. In March 1916, Nick and Etta Andrus Swain, and their young daughter, Florence, were homesteading on the Gros Ventre. Nick was also in partnership with Fred Dorwin trapping furs. An argument over the furs erupted, and both men went for their guns, and Dorwin was wounded. With Etta pregnant, the Swains snowshoed to Pinedale, 50 miles away. Dorwin recovered, and Swain was cleared of any wrongdoing (Sommers and Myers, Revisited).

Dorwin’s sources of income from his ranch was from trapping and as a hunting camp (Nelson, 348). He likely made some income from trapping too. In the County Commissioner meeting minutes in June 8, 1907, Dorwin was paid \$2.00 for road and bridge work. In 1905, he was arrested for the killing of game without a license. He was later acquitted, when nearby outfitter Billy Wells testified on behalf of Dorwin, stating that the meat had been given to him by a friend. In 1909, Dorwin leased his ranch for “one year with the privilege of five years” to Milton Robinson. It is not known how many years Robinson used of the five years (lease document, Robinson family collection.)

At least twice Dorwin made the newspapers for delinquent property taxes. Dorwin owed \$12.75 in 1912 (*Wyoming Press*, Evanston, June 22, 1912) and \$54.70 in 1914 (*Kemmerer Republican*, June 5, 1914). The back taxes were somehow covered and the property was not reverted back to the Government.

In 1917, Dorwin sold his Gros Ventre homestead Winnifriede (Winnie) Black (abstracts). It is not known where Dorwin went next, but in the 1920 census, he is living in Meadow Creek, Idaho. Dorwin, who never married or had children, died 1929 and is buried in Bonner’s Ferry, Idaho. Despite Dorwin’s name spelling, the ranch has usually been called the Darwin Ranch and it is shown that way on the original USGS quadrangle map. Darwin Peak, with the adjusted spelling, in the Gros Ventre Range is named for this early homesteader.

Winnifriede Black purchased the ranch because when she saw the place, she declared that she wanted to live – and die here. Winnifriede’s inheritance from her father paid for the place. Two years after purchasing it, in 1919, Winnifriede deeded the place to her husband, Thomas Ray Black (abstract). But the couple and their two children stayed there only a few years. Ray, who never liked the Darwin Ranch, divorced Winnifriede and left. Likely because she was unable to run the place by herself, Winnifriede and the children left, too (Ravner interview, 2006). The Blacks used the Darwin Ranch as a private hunting lodge. While he may have had some paying guests, it was not developed as

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a dude ranch, nor even as a big game outfitting/hunting camp (Nelson, 348). Later, Thomas Ray Black moved to Jackson and built the Meadowbrook Motel. Black Peak in the Gros Ventre Mountains is named for Winnifriede (Winnie) and Thomas Black.

Thomas Ray Black, as a single man, sold the Darwin place to K.M. Robinson in 1927, with the release of mortgage granting the Darwin Ranch to K.M. Robinson and his wife, Wafie E. Robinson in 1930 (abstracts). A mortgage deed in 1929 gave the place to Mrs. Lulu Robinson (K.M.'s mother) from K.M. and Wafie E. Robinson, with a discharge of this mortgage in 1931. Knowlton McKinley "Bob" Robinson was born in Illinois in 1895, and moved as a boy to Jackson Hole, but back to Illinois after a few years in Wyoming. Bob enlisted in the 169th Company of the U.S. Marine Corp as a private in 1917 during World War I, and was mustered out in 1919 in Norfolk, Virginia. He married in 1919 Lulu "Wafie" Evelyn Calebaugh, recently discharged from the U.S. Navy. Wafie was born in 1897 in West Virginia. The couple located to Detroit, Michigan, where Bob attended the Michigan Pharmacy School and became a registered pharmacist. They had two sons, though their first child survived only a few days. Their other son, William (Bill) Edward Robinson was born in 1927 in Michigan (ancestry.com).

The Robinson couple came to Wyoming in the early 1920s and filed on a homestead at the headwaters of the Gros Ventre River, but failed to prove up on it. It was located directly west of the Darwin Ranch. They purchased the Darwin Ranch in 1923, which may have adjoined, or was close, to their homestead. (Records for homestead filings are not available. Only when a homestead is "proved up" and the title is granted, is the record available.) They spent their summers and falls on the Darwin Ranch operating it as a dude ranch/hunting and fishing operation for sixteen years, many of those when their son, Billy, was young. Some of their guests came from the Rock Springs, Wyoming area, while others came from Michigan and learned of the Darwin from the Robinsons. The guests would have been financially better off than many in their communities. It would have been a luxury to be able to pay to stay at the Darwin Ranch and have the Robinsons catered to them. Horses were provided to the guests, as well as guiding services. The Robinsons built a lodge cabin, known as the Elk, which is used to the present. The Robinsons spent their winters in Lincoln Park, Michigan, where Bob and his father operated two drug stores.

The Robinsons sold the Darwin Ranch in 1940 to the Severances and returned to the east to live. Bob stayed in Lincoln Park operating the drug stores while Wafie, her mother, and son Billy, then 13 years old, moved to a place in Tennessee they purchased. Billy made very little money picking cotton, so after a few months, left his mother without telling her, and took a bus alone and returned to Wyoming. Billy's uncles in Wyoming sent him money for his birthday in March, and he used it to buy the bus ticket. The bus took him to Rock Springs, and from there Billy hitched a ride with a coal truck going to Pinedale and he then made his way to the Gros Ventre mountains. Now 14 years old, Billy decided he would rather stay with his uncles, Butch and Eddie Robinson, who had a place on the Gros Ventre River eight miles down the river from the Darwin Ranch. He never lived with his parents again (Robinson interview).

Several years later, after disposing of the Darwin Ranch, Bob and Wafie bought a place in 1946 on Fish Creek near Butch and Eddie in the upper Gros Ventre area (Robinson interview). There they established a hunting and fishing lodge, spending several summers there and, in later years, moved elsewhere during the winter months. Bob died in 1962 in a one-car accident on the Gros Ventre road on his way home to his ranch, and Wafie died in 1982 in the Jackson Hospital (obituary, *Jackson Hole Guide*, November 29, 1962). Bill Robinson bought his great-uncle Mitt Robinson's Gros Ventre place about six miles from the Darwin and continued to operate them as headquarters for his hunting, fishing, and outfitting business. William Edward "Bill" Robinson died after suffering a heart attack while haying at his ranch in 1996 (*Jackson Hole Guide*, August 4, 1996).

Edward Clarence "Clair" Severance, sometimes called "Cassie," was born in 1890 in Nebraska. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps in France during World War I. He married Pansy Louis Allen in 1923 in Wyoming, and after losing their only child, a son, they divorced. Severance remarried and with his wife, Helen, bought the Darwin place from K.M. (Bob) and Wafie Robinson in 1940 (abstract). A mortgage was held by Mrs. Anna Dalfors for the Severances from 1940 to 1945. The Severances used it for a private get-away and hunting lodge exclusively. E.C. and Helen Severance sold the Darwin Ranch in 1946 to Phillip and Lalita Norton (abstract). Severance moved to Rock Springs, Wyoming, where he worked as a brakeman on the railroad. He died in Rock Springs in 1947 (Ancestry.com).

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The Nortons purchased the Darwin Ranch also for private use only. They called their Gros Ventre place the Bar Naught Ranch. Charles Philip (Phil) Norton was a successful businessman with dealings in real-estate in southern California. He also had a political career, serving with the State Department in various European countries, chiefly Russia. He married Henri Laura (Lalita) Legerton in 1913 in California. The couple met in California and participated in a lively social circle. The couple had one son, Charles Phillip Norton II, born in 1914 in California. When Phil retired from the State Department, the couple decided to also retire from the fast-paced social life (Warren, 58; Nelson, 349). They set out to find the most remote place available, and found it in the Darwin Ranch (ancestry.com).

A Norton descendant thought that the Nortons purchased the Wyoming ranch after Phil was injured in an automobile accident which left him with Bell's Palsy. "He was looking for seclusion because of the symptoms," wrote Cheryl Norton, Phil's granddaughter-in-law. Cheryl also thought that Phil and Lalita, after Phil was injured again perhaps with a punctured lung, ultimately needed to move to a dry, low-elevation climate – and that is why they chose Palm Springs (Norton, 11-16-2019).

Phil and Lalita loved their Wyoming ranch. With their comfortable financial situation, they spent a lot of money on their new home. They hired builders to construct a lovely new cabin for their use, which is now the main lodge for guests. They installed an electric generator to make the place modern with electricity. Comfortable, though rustic, furniture filled the rooms. Navajo rugs covered the polished wood floors; exotic mementoes from their travels filled the rooms. They hired a couple who were willing to share the isolation and help with the work. The Nortons brought their horses from California (Nelson, 349).

The Nortons were popular "gossip-material" for Sublette and Teton County residents. They are remembered for their "stuck-up" attitude and pampered life-styles, available to them because of their financial means. Later owner Loring Woodman remembers using lobster crates for storage that were left by the Nortons – presumably from lobster deliveries. Phil liked to trap, so he was usually gone checking his trap lines while Lalita stayed home and drank and read romantic novels. The Nortons hired couples to come to the ranch and spend the winter with them to take care of them, as well as attending to the many ranch chores. The hired people lived in the Elk Cabin and prepared all the meals there. The Nortons would go to the Elk to eat, then return to their own house. It seems like the kitchen in the lodge was not often used (Woodman interview).

The Nortons traveled to the ranch in a four-wheel-drive vehicle when possible, and in the winter, they used a sled and dog team. The dogs were alleged to be descendants of Admiral Byrd's lead dog, who had accompanied Byrd on his expeditions to the Poles. One beautiful white husky stayed in the house as a pet, and the other ten or twelve were on chains at the edge of the timber. Initially the dogs were allowed some freedom, but complaints came from the neighbors, some as far away as twenty miles, because the dogs were herding their cattle. This forced the Nortons to keep the dogs on their own property (Nelson, 350).

As mentioned, Phil ran a trap line in the winter. His catches of martin, mink, coyotes, and lynx were tanned and proudly hung on the walls of the lodge. Phil's trapping was for sport only, and occasionally a hired man or Lalita accompanied him. One day when she was preparing to go along, Phil was packing the sled with something that spooked the dogs. They made a tremendous lunge which caught Phil off balance, and unable to hold the lead dog. They jerked the sled against Lalita and toppled her across it, causing her a back injury. Lalita's back never recovered. Despite pleas to get help in Pinedale, Rock Springs or Jackson, she refused to go (Nelson, 352).

After Lalita Norton's sled accident, taking the long trip for the mail was a concern. Price Milward, a Jackson mail pilot, had a flying service in operation at that time of Lalita's accident, so Phil got in touch with him to be added to those ranchers receiving airmail delivery right at the ranch. Norton placed two long poles in the yard with a wire and pulley system stretched between them. (Mail delivery to the ranches in the Gros Ventre Mountains began in 1946 with Otto Miller, then Jackson Hole airport manager. Miller received his flight training in the military during World War II.) Outgoing mail would be placed in a pouch and strung between the poles. Price would fly past with a hook on the bottom of the plane. He would hook Norton's line and mail; exchange the outgoing mail for the incoming mail, and drop the pouch with an easily identifiable streamer in the yard and fly off. Mail delivery had to wait during stormy weather, obviously (Woodman interview).

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Latita's back continued to trouble her, with her discomfort increasing with time. On one doctor's visit, it was diagnosed that she had a ruptured disk in the spine and surgery was recommended. But, Latita continued to refuse treatment. They brought in a contour chair to the ranch, and she tried back braces of various kinds. Finally, one winter after they agreed to dispense with the dogs, she awakened in so much pain that she couldn't move. Phil snow-shoed to Kendall to telephone to the Forest Service office in Jackson for an emergency rescue. By now the Forest Service had been using an oversnow machine for some of their winter work. This would be the quickest method to get Latita to a hospital. The Forest Service responded, despite some misgivings. At the hospital, Lalita was put in traction. She still refused spinal surgery. After a rest period in California, she again returned to the ranch (Nelson 354).

One Christmas day the Robinson family, who lived down river on the Gros Ventre about eight miles, were just sitting down to a Christmas dinner with family and neighbors, when Phil Norton arrived at the door. The Norton's hired man, Al Pheiffer, had died that morning, apparently of a heart attack. The snow was too deep for cars but not too deep for horses. Phil thought that if someone could help him bring Pheiffer's wife Lee and the body this far on a toboggan, that a team and sleigh could be used to haul them on down to Jackson. Of course, the neighbors were willing to help (Nelson 354).

Glen Taylor and Billie Green, being the two youngest and most free of responsibilities, were delegated to return to the Darwin Place with Phil and bring the body out. Al's widow, Lee, rode out with the young men when they brought the body on the toboggan, then went on into Jackson with the sleigh. After the funeral, Lee rode back up the river, returned to the Darwin place, and stayed the rest of the winter.

Phil and Lalita lived at the Darwin place from 1946 until 1957. Lalita's back problems ultimately caused the Nortons to leave permanently. After another emergency call to the Forest Service for Lalita's evacuation, the Forest Service personnel told them that they would come this time but that they could not respond to another call. It was setting a precedent that they could not follow (Nelson 355).

The Nortons sold the Darwin Place to Ailee H. McIntyre in 1957 and returned to California, where their son had been conducting the family real estate business. Their time in the Wyoming Mountains is permanently marked by the naming of Norton Creek, a tributary of the Gros Ventre River, and a tributary of the Snake River, which is named for them. Phil and Lalita were believed to next operate the Casa Blanca Resort Hotel in Palm Springs. Phil Norton, Sr. died in 1961; Lalita died in 1979, and their son passed in 1995 – all in California (ancestry.com).

Ailee H. McIntyre was a widow who came to the Pinedale area. The story is told that she met and had an affair with a game warden in Pinedale, who suggested she buy the Darwin Ranch (then called the Bar Naught Ranch) with money she had available to her. The game warden had suggested that together they could set up an outfitting business at the ranch. The relationship ended, but Ailee purchased the ranch anyway, which she renamed it the "Hidden Valley Ranch" (Woodman interview). The deed was in her own name until 1960 when she added her new husband, Gene W. Chapman. The deed was then listed in Gene W. Chapman and Ailee H. Chapman (formerly Ailee H. McIntyre). Ownership for a day, on November 7, 1960, went to Grace A. Smith, Teton County Clerk (abstracts). It was a common for the Clerk to take "ownership" of property for a short time to legally transfer a deed. The story survives that Ailee gave the ranch to Gene as a wedding present. Gene, though, never cared much for the ranch. The couple spent most of their time at their Pinedale home. The isolated place had little plumbing, not much electricity, and the buildings sat right on the ground without foundations or footings.

Ailee had two sons from her marriage to Mr. McIntyre. As teenagers, these boys would stay at the Hidden Valley Ranch for the summer. Ailee hired Tommy Astle, a local trapper, to take care of them. Loring Woodman thought that one of these boys passed the story on to him that Fred Dorwin received this ranch directly from President T. Roosevelt (Woodman interview).

In June 1964, ownership of the ranch changed once again when the Chapmans sold it to Charles B. and Helen Swann Woodman. In 1955, Charles and Helen Woodman brought their three sons to Wyoming on vacation. They stayed at the Trail Creek Ranch in Wilson. The youngest son, Charles Loring, who always went by his middle name to avoid confusion with his father, fell particularly in love with the area. By age 12, Loring climbed the Grand Teton, and

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spent a great deal of time hiking and climbing in the Teton County area. To help fund his outdoor Wyoming activities, he returned to the Trail Creek Ranch and worked as a dishwasher.

Loring let his parents know from an early age that he wanted to live in Wyoming. "When my dad was drinking martinis he would say, 'Loring when you find the perfect place in Wyoming, I'll buy it.'" So, Loring poured over maps of the area near the Tetons to find isolated land in a national forest. He first saw the Darwin Ranch at age 14, and fell in love with the place, especially because it fulfilled his dream of an isolated inholding.

When the Hidden Valley Ranch (formerly the Darwin Ranch) came up for sale, Loring started asking his dad to purchase it. But the one who likely made it happen was Charles' wife, Helen Swann. According to her son Loring, she got tired of him saying "yes" when he was drinking, then "no" when he was sober. She felt this was unfair to Loring, who was trying to figure out what to do next, after graduating with a degree from Harvard in Romance Languages and Linguistics which included his junior year in Paris, France. Charles was unconvinced until his good friend, Andy Fowler, looked at pictures of the place and said, "You'd be crazy not to buy it." Charles and Helen Swann Woodman made the purchase for the ranch in 1964. "I talked my parents into buying the ranch with every intention of running it as a guest ranch and making my living there," says Loring.

Charles was an avid fly fisherman and a horseman, who loved Wyoming as well. It made sense he would want the place as an escape from his medical practice in New Jersey. The family lore claims that the morning after he agreed to buy the ranch, Charles tried to back out. "No, that was the martini talking," he said. "Too late," said Helen. "It's bought!" The couple paid \$70,000 for it. The older sons weren't consulted with the purchase – this was Loring's project. "I don't think they expected me to end up there for the rest of my life, which is what happened," said Loring (Woodman interview). In 1972, Charles B. and Helen S. Woodman deeded the Darwin ranch to their son, Charles Loring Woodman (abstract).

Loring returned the name of the ranch to "Darwin," much to the disappointment of people in Pinedale who had grown used to the name Hidden Valley Ranch. (One exception was Jim Harrower, a Pinedale native who deeply appreciated the history of the area. He supported Loring for returning the ranch to its earlier name.) Many improvements and additions to the Darwin Ranch were made during the Woodman's ownership. Loring recognized the importance of developing the infrastructure to the place. Under Loring's ownership and leadership, and with the assistance from first Brad Hendricks then George (Porgy) McLelland, the infrastructure was greatly improved. The road, bridges, power, water and sewer were all installed or upgraded. Much of Brad Hendrick's work, followed by Porgy's work, was devoted to Loring's various infrastructure projects, as well as the never-ending maintenance of the buildings and facilities (McLelland interview).

The original road into the Darwin Ranch was little more than a horse and wagon trail that connected the place from the USFS roads in the Upper Green River and came into the ranch from the hill to the east then crossed the field to the main lodge. During Loring's ownership, the propane gas company refused to service the ranch anymore because of the poor road condition. It was obviously difficult for the Woodmans, employees and their guests to get to the ranch, too. After nine years, a new road was finally permitted and is currently the one used today into the ranch.

A landing strip was developed on the Kinky Creek meadows near the divide between Kinky Creek and Tosi Creek, which continues to be used to the present. This required a special use permit from the U.S. Forest Service.

When the Woodmans took ownership, the buildings at the Darwin Ranch all were in need of attention. "They were sinking into the mud," explains Loring. The Darwin Ranch is located on "gumbo-like" soil, which is unstable because it expands when it is wet then contracts when it dries. Each time it expands it goes around the foundations that are in place, and when it contracts, it causes the foundations to sink. Slowly over time the buildings sunk into the ground. Only the main lodge wasn't in need of immediate repair, though in time, Woodman made this building more structurally sound (see details in the lodge building description above.) Loring hired Howard Walters out of Jackson to do the original work on creating foundations for the Deer, Moose, and Elk cabins. He worked along with Howard as a laborer during these two summers and learned enough about construction in the process that he was able to jack up the main lodge himself, replace its foundation, and remodel the interior with two young helpers, in 1973 after his parents turned the ranch over to him.

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Loring and his crew used all local standing dead trees for repair work on older cabins and to build new cabins. Most of these came from the Union Pass area where the US Forest Service had recently constructed the road over the Pass from DuBois to Kendall. This enabled Loring to get easily get to logs, and permits in this area were available.

The Nortons were the first to put electricity in at the ranch. They used a 1.2-kilowatt gasoline generator located in a shed behind the chimney in the Lodge, or main house (which is now the sun room.) The speed for which the electricity was generated was controlled by the speed for which the wheel turned. Nickel cadmium batteries were used to start the generator, but did not store power. This provided electricity to the main house and from here, other cabins were electrified through power lines strung between the lodge to Elk, Deer and Moose cabins. Loring thought these above ground lines were unattractive, so upon taking ownership, he buried them. This system was later replaced with a hydro-electric system where the power shed is currently.

Loring built a second hydro plant off the edge of the back of the lodge (the current sitting area) in the old power shack, but this was on the river in an underground bunker. It was later destroyed by the river. The control systems were in the generator shack where the auxiliary propane generators were located. Loring only used those if he had a crisis from problems with the hydroelectric systems. Later the control systems were moved to the area south of the barn on the western end of the property in a newer building constructed by George (Porgy) McClelland. Loring put all of the original complex control systems together in the old generator shack at the north end of the lodge. (That building has since been moved and repurposed by the Klingensteins as a tack shed). The Klingensteins have replaced Loring's engineering with new off-the-shelf components now housed in the new power generation building. The system continues to be very complicated, but it works. Loring's original vision took advantage of grants offered by the US Department of Energy which assisted him with purchasing the components and pipelines for a combined irrigation/hydroelectric system. Power was generated by running water turning a Pelton wheel turbine, which the ranch is still using.

With the introduction of snowmobiles in the late 1960s, access became available to the remote Darwin Ranch during the winter. Loring was asked by some locals if they could visit the place during the winter, which he granted. The Upper Green River area was also promoted for winter entertainment by area newspapers, particularly the Salt Lake City *Deseret News*. Loring recognized that his place could be an important safety shelter for snowmobilers stranded. Unfortunately, the hospitality ended when the place was vandalized and considerable theft took place.

Loring responded by having a caretaker stay at the place in the winter. He first worked with Keith Anderson, who owned and operated "Snow Fun, Inc." from his home in Cora with a partner in Rawlins. Loring gave these men use of the Darwin for free in exchange for watching the ranch in the winter. This lasted for three years in the early 1970s, when the arrangement ended.

From this time on, Loring and later owners, the Klingensteins have had someone at the place throughout the winter to watch the property and to tend to the hydro-power plant. Loring often covered some of the winter months, as did his wife Melody.

During his nearly 50 years at the ranch, Loring made major improvements and developments to the ranch. He renovated the old, original buildings and constructed new buildings. He developed a hydroelectric system. He built a new road into the place and constructed an airstrip. The ranch went from a rustic, relatively small operation to a fully-functioning, yet still rustic, high-end twenty-first century guest ranch operation. A permanent, but unofficial, legacy is the naming of Loring Lake in the Gros Ventres, known only to ranch personnel and guests, for Loring Woodman.

Loring also developed a unique guest experience. Loring provided people the opportunity to play and explore in the undisturbed outdoors. Clients rode horseback, hiked, fished and hunted in the fall. "I used to worry about entertaining a house full of guests," Woodman said in a 2014 interview. "When I got to the point that I could trust that nature could take care of the entertainment, all I had to do was provide some good food and a comfortable bed and a congenial atmosphere. The rest took care of itself" (*Casper Star-Tribune*, September 7, 2014).

When asked what is unique about the Darwin Ranch, George (Porgy) McLellan thinks about Loring. "He is unique...He understands that country a lot. He knows the botany, the trees and grasses, the geology. [He knows] the Native American history. It's interesting to be with him." McLellan also speaks of his own experience working there,

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and as a guest with his family on two occasions. "The place – aside from just its remoteness – it does have a very special feel. Being in the mountains, being down in the valley and surrounded by the peaks, and there's no people in there. So much in every direction is for public access, and hunting and fishing. It's just very friendly country. I can't exactly describe the feel of the place, but it gets you" (McLellan interview).

Obtaining and maintaining good employees has always been and continues to be an ongoing issue for all working and guest ranches. The Darwin Ranch has seen numerous employees come and go, but has also employed faithful help that have returned year after year.

Miss "V" (Rubie Belle) learned about the Darwin Ranch in the early 1990s from a cousin who had been a guest. The cousin raved about this "intellectual dude ranch way up in the mountains." Looking for work, Miss V applied to the Darwin Ranch by sending the Woodmans a hand-written resume using a calligraphy pen. Melody, Loring's wife, was hiring that year. She was impressed with the unique resume and hired Miss V as the cook during hunting season. (She was the only person that was hired to show up!) The job morphed into more, including working the last month of the summer season and then into hunting time, and the first phase (November and December) of the winter care taking. V next worked at the Snook Moore ranch, another inholding 10 miles from the Darwin, for fourteen years helping intermittently at the Darwin with spot packs, wrangling, and hauling fencing material with her horse. Miss V returned to the Darwin Ranch in 2014 to work for the Klingensteins, where Ollie made her job description "dishes, horses and odd jobs," which proved to be a good description (Belle Interview).

Miss V concurred with her cousin's assessment of the Darwin Ranch as an "intellectual dude ranch." The living room in the lodge is lined with great books and in that room, intellectual conversations occurred. Guests who enjoyed reading and discussing deep, thoughtful topics have long been drawn to the place. The Ranch ownership consisted of educated men and women. Bob Robinson and Minnie Dunn were Pharmacists; Phil and Lalita were highly educated; Charles Woodman attended Bowdoin College and was a medical doctor while his son Loring graduated from Harvard University. Current owners Paul Klingenstein and son Henry, graduated from Harvard. Kathy Bole and Ollie Klingenstein attended Bowdoin.

After decades of owning and operating the Darwin Ranch, Loring Woodman opted to sell the place. In August of 2008, Loring found a buyer. As the major financial failures of September developed into the major recession of 2008, the sale of the Darwin Ranch fell through. With no other buyers coming forward, Loring tried to sell it at auction. In 2012, the auction was held at the Wort Hotel in Jackson, but the minimum bid was not met.

In the meantime, a former Darwin Ranch employee, Norm Lilley, was working for Kathy Bole and Paul Klingenstein at their farm in Park County. Lilley told the Klingensteins about the Darwin Ranch; certain that they would love the place. One Sunday, Paul took Norm in his plane for a pleasure flight, and opted to visit the Darwin Ranch. Normally, non-paying guests did not go to the Darwin Ranch, but with Lilley's connections to the ranch, they were granted permission to land on the private air strip. Indeed, Paul Klingenstein was welcomed as Norm's employer and potential buyer. Paul is an enthusiastic fly fisherman and saw the world-class streams on and near the Darwin Ranch (Bole and Klingenstein interview).

On subsequent visits, Paul's wife, Kathy Bole and their two other children visited the Darwin and deeply fell in love with the place. The family lived mostly in San Francisco, California, and also spent time at their farm in Park County, Wyoming. The isolation and beauty of the Darwin Ranch deeply intrigued them. As Kathy explained, Paul and the family wanted to be part of the stewardship and preservation of a special place. But, Paul and the two older children were not interested in running a guest ranch. Kathy and Ollie, though, were interested. The family purchased the place in 2014, and immediately Kathy and Ollie went to work, and the other family members more or less would visit.

With Loring wanting to sell the place for nearly a decade, it's not surprising that the maintenance became a low priority. Kathy and Ollie spent much of their first years of ownership repairing the buildings, structures and equipment. Long time maintenance employee Laura Hibbs greatly assisted the new owners with her knowledge of the place. George (Porgy) McLelland has also continued to work for the new owners, bringing his institutional memory from his many years of working with Loring. Needed repairs were made on the buildings and structures, with some replaced

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such as the corrals. A major undertaking for the new owners was moving the original generator shed from behind the main lodge and next to the river, to a new location south and west of the lodge and away from guest buildings. A new power house was built at the new site. This relocation required moving all the electric wiring, cables, conduits, and panels, and the generators, plus the back-up propane supply. Re-plumbing for the hydro and the pipes that generate the electricity also had to be rerouted for the move.

The Klingenstein's goal for the ranch is to operate it as a green business. New policies have been established, such as removing the garbage from the property, rather than burning it; and pigs and chickens now take care of the food scraps. Ollie developed a new range management for hay production. In the past, horses for the ranch were allowed to graze on grass anywhere on or near the property. This ended when Ollie established a rotational grazing system using electric fence enclosures. With a USFS permit, Ollie has changed the irrigation system to work more efficiently. He uses certified seed mixes for the Gros Ventre Mountain area. The new system has resulted in twice as much grass grown.

The Klingensteins also value the Darwin ranch in its historical, cultural, biological, and ecological context in which it exists. Understanding and experiencing this is important to the owners, and readily conveying these concepts to their guests is a high priority.

The Klingenstein owners recognize their uncommon location in the national forest. The experience for the staff and guests is unique because it is an isolated inholding. Public lands are crucial for the Darwin Ranch. With this unique positioning as an inholding, it is the Klingenstein's hope that they can play a role in understanding the value of public lands (Bole and Klingenstein interview).

Ollie oversees the outdoor experience for the guests, and the work involved in making it possible. He tends to the horses and the grass management to feed them. He also hires and manages the crew. Kathy tends to the "inside" work, including the cabins, lodge and kitchen. Kathy's love of food preparation, refined with attending culinary school, has taken the eating experience at the Darwin Ranch to a new level. Much of the food served to the staff and guests comes from the family farm in Park County and is supplemented with other organic food.

Kathy and Ollie kept some of Loring's practices, such as having the staff sit down and eat with the guests. They also kept Loring's practice of not offering scheduled activities, but letting the guests enjoy the place on their own. Kathy and Ollie gave considerable thought to the guest experience, wanting them to "feel that they really are here – in this place," explains Kathy. "There isn't a lot of noise." The guests are unplugged. Internet access isn't available, and they are encouraged to have no screen time. Breakfast and dinner are the only things scheduled. Activities during the days are left for guests to determine. Horseback rides, fishing and hiking are available, but not programmed. "People are really given so much freedom here, and I think that's what keeps people coming back, is they're having their experience – they've decided what to do that day. We do very little to control their experience. I think that's why people are so connected to this place," explains Kathy (Bole and Klingenstein interview).

As mentioned above, guests during Loring's ownership remember the great discussions among guests and staff, especially at the end of the day when everyone gathered in the lodge. The Klingensteins have continued this practice. Ollie hired several former school mates from Bowdoin. "It felt like a mini-Bowdoin reunion at the Darwin," said Miss V. (Belle Interview). "I hire staff based on folks who can have great conversations," says Ollie. "It's very important to me, important to us that we host those conversations. This place draws people like that. It's always an exciting place to come to if you're the type that like a great conversation, away from screens, phone, business – there's so much talking done here" (Bole and Klingenstein interview).

Similarities have been drawn by former guests with Loring Woodman and Oliver Klingenstein. Like Loring, Ollie spent his childhood summers in the mountains of Wyoming on outdoor adventures. Ollie participated in the outdoor program, National Outdoor Leadership Schools (NOLS) based in Lander, Wyoming, and operated in the Wind River Mountains, near to the Darwin Ranch. He went to college in the East, as Loring did. Both were the youngest of three children, and both were the only ones in their families to take on management of the Darwin Ranch that had been purchased by their parents. Both took on the Darwin Ranch responsibilities right out of college.

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The Darwin Ranch is one of the few surviving homestead inholdings in a US Forest that has not been subdivided. It has survived to the present because there has always been someone who feel deeply in love with the place and wanted to preserve it. They wanted it for themselves, but not exclusively so. Many owners opened this place to guests, to experience and to enjoy. When not used and paid for exclusively for private use, the Darwin Ranch has proven to be economically viable as a guest ranch. It has evolved through its history to remain in business, while maintaining its uniqueness as a special, isolated place high in the Gros Ventre Mountains of Wyoming.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- 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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 160 Acres

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>12</u>	<u>567551</u>	<u>4808023</u>	3	<u>12</u>	<u>567951</u>	<u>4806798</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>12</u>	<u>567947</u>	<u>4808018</u>	4	<u>12</u>	<u>567545</u>	<u>4806802</u>

Darwin Ranch
Name of Property

Teton County, WY
County and State

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Darwin Ranch is a 160-acre isolated inholding in the Bridger-Teton National Forest located in an alpine river valley adjoining the Gros Ventre Wilderness. The collection of buildings making up the historic Darwin Ranch are all loosely located in one location on the valley floor of an alpine river valley, surrounded by mountains, with the exception of one small cabin that is situated in the hillside above. The nominated boundary is defined as the parcel of the private ranch property.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.) The Darwin Ranch has always been this size and at this location.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ann Chambers Noble
organization Noble Historical Consultants date _____
street & number P.O. Box 36 telephone 307-360-8894
city or town Cora state WY zip code 82925
e-mail Anoble1227@gmail.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Darwin Ranch
City or Vicinity: Bridger Teton National Forest
County: Teton State: Wyoming
Photographer: Ann Chambers Noble
Date Photographed: September 2019

Darwin Ranch
Name of Property

Teton County, WY
County and State

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1. Darwin Ranch
2. Lodge Front
3. Lodge northeast side
4. Lodge front northeast porch
5. Lodge northeast porch door
6. Lodge kitchen
7. Lodge dining room
8. Lodge bathroom door
9. Lodge sitting room banister
10. Willow cabin
11. Elk cabin southeast entrance
12. Elk cabin northwest entrance
13. Deer cabin east entrance
14. Deer cabin west and south sides
15. Spruce cabin southeast and northeast sides
16. Spruce cabin northwest and southwest sides
17. Root cellar exterior
18. Sheep cabin
19. Moose cabin
20. Power houses exterior
21. Barn front
22. Barn side
23. Tack shed
24. Storage shed
25. Outhouse
26. Sauna
27. Toad Hall front
28. Toad Hall side

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

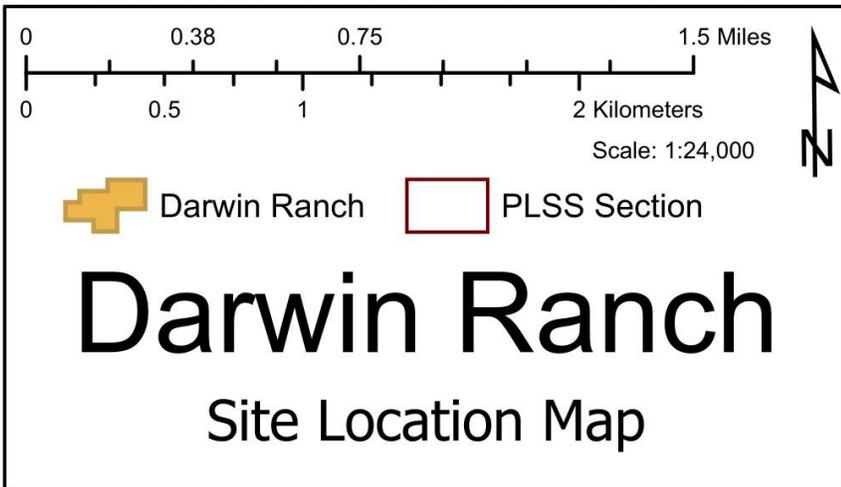
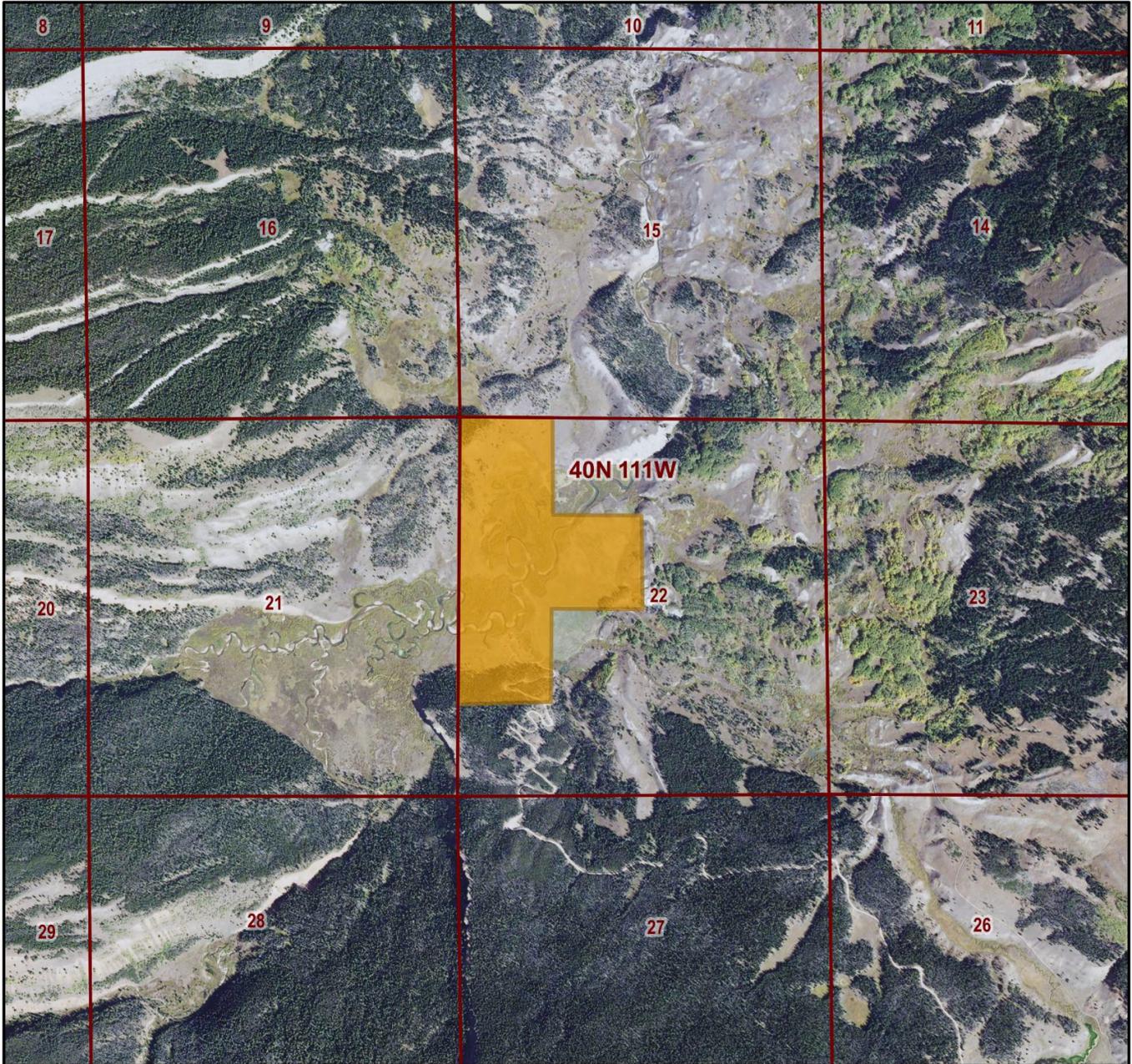
name Ishawooa Mesa Ranch, LLC
street & number 3638 South Fork Road telephone 307-203-3040
city or town Cody state WY zip code 82414

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Darwin Ranch
Name of Property

Teton County, WY
County and State



Darwin Ranch
Name of Property

Teton County, WY
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Darwin Ranch
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