



**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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name: **Elephant Head Lodge**
other names/site number: **Wilderness Homesteads, Inc., dba Elephant Head Lodge**

2. Location

street & number: **1170 North Fork Highway**
not for publication **N/A**
city or town: **Cody** x vicinity
state: **Wyoming** code: **WY** county: **Park** code: **29** zip code: **82414**

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
 nationally ___ statewide ___ locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Leri L. Pierson September 8, 2003
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Preservation Officer, Rocky Mountain Region, USDA Forest Service
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.
(___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Richard Hunt Aug. 4, 2003
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

**Elephant Head Lodge
 Park County, WY
 Dude Ranches Along the Yellowstone Highway (U.S. 14-16-20) in the Shoshone National Forest**

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is: Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

entered in the National Register Linda McAllister 10/30/03
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the
 National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the
 National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other (explain): _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
 (Check as many boxes as apply)

private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal(**privately leased**)

Category of Property
 (Check only one box)

building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Name of related multiple property listing
 (Enter N/A if property is not part of multiple property listing.)
 Dude Ranches Along the Yellowstone Highway (U.S. Hwy. 14-16-20) in the Shoshone National Forest

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	Total

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

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: **Camp**
RECREATION: **Outdoor Recreation**

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: **Camp**
RECREATION: **Outdoor Recreation**

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Early 20th Century
Other: grand lodge and dude ranch rustic

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: STONE; CONCRETE
Roof: ASPHALT SHINGLE & SHEETING; WOOD SHINGLES
Walls: WOOD; LOGS;
Other: STONE; METAL

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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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

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

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE
RECREATION
SOCIAL HISTORY
TRANSPORTATION

Period of Significance: 1920 TO 1950

Significant Dates: 1926

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Harry & Josephine Thurston

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

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

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Shoshone National Forest (Wapiti Ranger District)
Park County Historical Archives

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 3.64 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing
12	595185	4922885

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Jeannie Cook, Curator, and Joanita Monteith

organization: Park County Historical Archives date: July 15,2002

street & number: 1002 Sheridan Ave. telephone: (307) 527-8530

city or town: Cody state: WY zip code: 82414

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name: Wilderness Homesteads, Inc. dba Elephant Head Lodge(owns buildings and structures; land is owned by the Shoshone National Forest)

street & number: 1170 North Fork Highway telephone: (307) 587-3980

city or town: Cody state: WY zip code: 82414

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**Elephant Head Lodge
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Description:

Summary Description

Elephant Head Lodge is an historic dude ranch, occupying 3.64 acres leased from the Shoshone National Forest along U.S. Highway 14-16-20 in Park County, Wyoming. The setting is heavily forested and mountainous, located about 12 miles east of the east entrance into Yellowstone National Park. It is located on Elephant Head Creek near its confluence with the North Fork of the Shoshone River. The 16 buildings and structures (8 buildings of which are contributing) are laid out in typical rustic dude ranch style: two grand lodges surrounded by guest cabins and support buildings. Construction materials are primarily wood (log or board and batten) with stone and cement foundations. The contributing buildings and structures evolved over a period of years from 1926 through 2002, with some remodeling. The contributing buildings have historic integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association with early Western dude ranching.

Detailed Description

The beautiful Shoshone National Forest, dedicated in 1891 as the first national forest in the United States, provides the backdrop for the Elephant Head Lodge. Aspen and cottonwood trees line the stream courses, while lodge pole pine, Douglas fir and Engelman spruce predominate in the woods. Eocene volcanic rock peaks of the Absaroka Mountains form dramatic outcroppings along U.S. Highway 14-16-20, which crosses the Shoshone National Forest from its east to west boundaries. Interestingly, this section of federal roadway between Cody and Yellowstone was part of the original Yellowstone Highway (the route from Denver to Cody to the east entrance of Yellowstone) and was also called the Cody Road in the early days of automobile travel. In this region, the highway follows the course of the North Fork of the Shoshone River, as it flows east from Yellowstone to Cody, at the western edge of the Big Horn Basin.

In typical dude ranch style, the buildings and structures of Elephant Head Lodge are laid out in a pattern dictated by the lay of the land and the location of creeks and rivers. The two grand lodges are located near the south end of the site, with a total of 14 guest cabins plus support buildings to the east and north. The barn and corral are located in the extreme northwest corner of the site. Elephant Head Creek runs along the east boundary of the site.

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Elephant Head Lodge is in its original historic location in a setting that looks much like it did when it was built. The contributing buildings have historic integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Their simple designs and construction materials are rustic and evocative of the natural beauty of their setting. Of the two grand lodges, the 1926 "office" building, #16, is contributing, since it is an example of prototype dude ranch rustic grand lodges for the locale in terms of its general look, feel, massing and scale. Changes to that building have been minimal. The second grand lodge building, "the dining room," #17, dates back to 1926; however it is non-contributing because extensive additions have been built on the north and south ends of the building in 1999, with the older structure in the middle. It currently has the look of a newer building, lacking the general appearance and feel of the prototypes for the locale. Seven of the guest cabins and support buildings are contributing, all dude ranch rustic, with appropriate type, style, method of construction, size and significant features. All the buildings on the site are currently in use and are in good condition. There are seven non-contributing guest cabins and support buildings. They include five guest cabins (#0, #2 & #3, #5, #10 & #11, and #12,) a shop (#15) and a barn (#25.) Guest cabin #12 is non-contributing because the 1926 tent cabin was radically remodeled in 1999 with chipboard walls, metal doors and a large wooden deck. The five guest cabins date back to the period of significance for the site, (1920-1950,) and would probably qualify if their 1997 decks were of dude ranch rustic style and scale in proportion to the size of the structures to which they are attached. In addition, those 1997 decks have diagonal latticework covering on the sides, which lacks the design, feeling and association of dude ranch rustic styles. The shop and barn at the site were built after 1950; however, they are not visually intrusive for dude ranch rustic in terms of type, style, method of construction, size or significant features. The non-contributing buildings and structures are generally non-intrusive and have mitigating features that do not distract from the overall integrity of the historic site.

Contributing Buildings and Structures

Building #1 (date 1926) is a square, one-story, wood frame building set on a few wood blocks and stacked rocks for a foundation. It was an old laundry building, but today it is a guest cabin. There is a small crawl space. It is basically a log pole building with two by four framing. It is clad with commercial tongue-in-groove siding. A few corners are saddle-notched, where the log framing intersects. It has a wood, homemade, single-leaf front door with four panels. The roof is a medium-pitched gable, with a shed roof on the porch. The roof has wood shingles and exposed roof board ends with exposed purlins and exposed ridge poles. There is one front-slope metal chimney. There is a porch supported by log poles on the west side of the building. It is in good condition with moderate alterations including sheetrock interior walls. Overall dimensions are 12' n-s and 16' e-w.

Building #4 (date 1926) was originally a tent cabin, a collapsible structure with wood floor and wood walls about three to four feet high. The entire structure was covered with canvas. They were used by early outfitters and guides to Yellowstone National Park and as some of the earliest dude ranch buildings in the locale. It has been remodeled and made into a permanent wood frame building, probably by 1926. It is a rectangular, one-story wood building with a low, poured concrete and stone foundation. Cladding is peeled log-slab siding with cement chinking. Corners are mitred. There are two asymmetrical bays. The building has an oak floor. The single-leaf front door is homemade of vertical boards. The roof is a medium-pitched gable, with wood shingles and exposed rafter ends. The gable ends have wood shingle cladding. There are no chimneys. There is a deck on the south side, which was added in the 1990's. It is acceptable for dude ranch rustic style in terms of its design, proportion and scale. The small amount of diagonal lattice-work on the side of the deck is distracting, but it is not sufficient to make the building and its deck non-contributing. The building is in good condition with moderate alterations. Overall dimensions are 16'10 n-s and 12'6" e-w".

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Building #6 (date 1920) is a rectangular, one-story log guest cabin known as the "honeymoon cabin." It has a low foundation of stone and poured concrete. The peeled logs are round with saddle corner-notching and cement chinking. There is one symmetrical bay. The single-leaf front door is a "Dutch" type with two parts, homemade with log slabs, with three lites. The roof is a medium-pitched gable with wood shingles and exposed roof boards, exposed purlins and exposed ridge poles. There is one metal chimney on the east slope. The building is in good condition with moderate alterations, including the north ten feet, which were added at an early date. There is a covered porch along the south side. Overall dimensions are about 16' n-s and 12' e-w.

Building #7 (date 1926) is basically a one-story, rectangular, (with jut-out water-heater addition on the west side,) log building with a low foundation of stone and poured concrete. With the exception of the water-heater addition, which is clad with slab-log siding, the building is made with peeled round logs, with saddle corner-notching and cement chinking. There are two asymmetrical bays. The single-leaf wood front door is homemade in "Dutch" style with two parts. The roof is a low-pitched gable with a shed roof over a tiny west addition for the water-heater. The roof has asphalt sheathing, exposed roof boards, exposed purlins and exposed ridge poles. There is a front-slope pvc pipe vent and two metal chimneys on the rear slope. The building has an oak floor. The building is in good condition with minor alterations, including the water-heater addition. There is a native stone and cement fireplace on the north wall. Overall dimensions are 19' n-s and 19' e-w.

Building #8 (date 1940) is a rectangular, one-story, log guest cabin with a low foundation of poured concrete with a large poured cement front step and deck. The walls are sided with "D" shaped, peeled, commercially prepared logs (from Star Sawmill at Shoshone Lodge, nearby) that overlap at the corners by about 8". There are three asymmetrical bays. The front door is homemade with vertical log slabs with the bark left on. The roof is a medium-pitched gable with green wood shingles. There is one metal chimney on a front slope. There will be minor alterations made, probably next year, when the porch will again be covered as it formerly was. The building has a crawl space. Overall dimensions are 14'6" n-s and 22' e-w.

Building #9 (date 1926 with 1997 deck) was a former tent-cabin. It is a rectangular, one-story, wood frame guest cabin, with a low foundation made of poured concrete. It has a crawl space. The building is clad with commercially milled log tongue-in-groove siding. The corners are square, made with two pieces of logs. The asymmetrical building has two bays. The single-leaf, homemade front door is made of vertical tongue-in-groove boards. The roof is a medium-pitched gable with a tiny shed roof that partially extends over the deck area, above the front door. The roof has wood shingles. The building is in good condition with minor alterations, including the front wood deck. Overall dimensions are 23'7" n-s and 18'4" e-w.

Building #13 (date 1926 with extreme east addition and 1985 deck) is a guest cabin on the east end, and a tack building on the west. The portion south of the tack building is an open-sided, covered canopy area where tack is protected from the weather. It is an "L" shaped, one-story log building, with a low foundation of concrete blocks on the east end, (the newer addition) and poured concrete for the remainder of the building. Logs used for the walls are round and peeled, with saddle-corner-notching, although some corners simply overlap about 10". There are three asymmetrical bays. The single-leaf wood front door is homemade of vertical boards. The roof is a medium-pitched gable with an intersecting side gable. The roof has wood shingles and exposed roof boards, exposed purlins and exposed ridge poles. There is one pvc side-slope vent pipe. The east end has a small covered porch supported by peeled log poles. The building is in good condition with moderate alterations on the east end comprising about six feet of cabin space and about a four foot wide porch that runs all along the east side.

Overall dimensions are 31'11" n-s and 16'6" e-w.

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Building #16 (date 1926 & 1940 with front and back wood decks and enclosing the front porch in 1980's & 1990's) is the main office building at Elephant Head Lodge, and one of its two grand lodges. The irregularly shaped log building is one-story, with a low foundation of stone and poured concrete. The logs are peeled and round with saddle-notched corners and cement chinking, with the exception of the south porch, which is a frame structure with slab-log siding. It has a homemade front door with horizontal log slab siding. It is asymmetrical with four bays. The roof is a medium-pitched gable with shed roofs on the north and south sides. There is a fireplace chimney on the east end that is clad with commercially milled log siding. The fireplace is now a metal insert, whereas formerly, (up until 1967) it was stone and cement. There are three metal chimneys on the back slope of the roof. There is a closed-in (formerly screened) porch on the east half of the front of the building with shakes in the gable ends. In addition, on the southwest corner of the front of the building is a wood deck with log pole banisters. The building is in good condition with alterations including the front deck, enclosing of the front screened porch, and a large deck on the back of the building. Overall dimensions are 65'6" n-s and 26'3" e-w.

Non-Contributing Buildings and Structures

Building #0 (date 1926 with 1990's decks) was an old laundry at one time; now it is a guest cabin. It is a rectangular, one-story log building with low foundation of poured concrete and stone. The walls are peeled, round logs with saddle corner-notching and chinking of caulk. It generally has the characteristics of a dude ranch rustic building, but its large deck to the east is not in scale with the building and disqualifies it as contributing. It is in good condition.

Building #2 & #3 (date 1926 with 1990's decks) was a former tent-cabin. This rectangular, wood frame building has tongue-in-groove, commercially milled log siding, over canvas-covered plywood. It is a combination of two old tent-cabins, one on the north and one on the south. Its large modern decks on the east and southwest are not in scale with the buildings and disqualifies it as contributing since it lacks the look of dude ranch rustic. Its design is an excellent form of modern dude ranch rustic. It is in good condition.

Building #5 (date 1926) was a former tent-cabin; and is nearly identical to building #4. However, its large deck on the south side is not in scale with the building and disqualifies it as contributing, since it lacks the look of dude ranch rustic. It is in good condition.

Building #10 & #11 (date 1926 with 1990's deck) is a rectangular, one-story log building with a stone and poured concrete foundation, only at the corners. The foundation is covered with vertical commercial tongue-in-groove log siding. The logs are round and peeled with saddle corner-notching and cement chinking. The corners overlap. It was formerly a duplex cabin and has been remodeled into one unit. It is non-contributing because its massive deck on the east and south is not in scale with the building and lacks the look of dude ranch rustic, particularly with its diagonal latticework covered sides. The building is in good condition.

Building #12 (date 1926 & remodeled 1999) was a former tent-cabin. This building has the general characteristics of the other "tent-cabins" at the site (#2 & #3, #4, #5 & #9). It was remodeled in 1999 with a large deck on the south, which is not in scale with the building, and has a new north wall of half-logs over "chip board." The chinking was added in 2000. There are new single walk-in doors on the east and south, clad with white vinyl. The recent changes lack the look and feel of dude ranch rustic and make it non-contributing.

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Building #15 (date 1962 & remodeled 1997) was a former shop and converted to employee housing. It is a rectangular building with commercial milled tongue-in-groove log siding. Its design and scale fit the site, and are appropriate for dude ranch rustic.

Building #17 (date 1926, 1985, 1999) is one of the two grand lodges at the site. The new two-story addition on the north side serves as the owner's quarters. The center section is a log structure built in 1926. The south section is a porch addition that has been extended as a larger dining room area. So little of the original old building is visible, that the building does not qualify as contributing. With the exception of the center section, the lodge has the look of a new building, although its general massing, (roughly the size of the other grand lodge at the site,) and use of logs in construction, fit the site as a form of modern dude ranch rustic.

Building #25 barn (date 1985) is a horse shed of plain design, which is located at the extreme northwest corner of the site. It is not visually intrusive and fits the dude ranch rustic style of the site.

Other structures: include a stone and cement barbecue structure on the south lawn area, a pump house and a propane tank.

Statement of Significance

The Elephant Head Lodge is historically significant, as it is an operational, nearly intact representation of Western dude ranching, as it arose and evolved in Wyoming, in the first half of the twentieth century. Its rich history epitomizes the entrepreneurial resourcefulness of the early twentieth century settlers of the Cody, Wyoming, region, as they recognized their unique chance to provide recreational opportunities in previously inaccessible areas. Yellowstone became this country's first national park in 1872; but it was decades later, within the social context of an emerging middle class, the rise of the automobile, and the 'good roads' movement, that the "Cody Road" into Yellowstone precipitated the emergence of dude ranches: places to provide shelter for and recreational opportunities to an increasingly mobile and affluent public eager to explore this nation's natural wonders.

Historical Background and Significance

In general, the buildings that remain today at Elephant Head Lodge were erected at the site as follows. About 82% in the 1920's, 6% in the 1940's, 6% in the 1960's, 6% in the 1980's. Six of the above have had substantial remodeling in the 1990's with either large additions or fairly large wood decks.

Elephant Head Lodge was founded by Buffalo Bill Cody's niece, Josephine Thurston, and her husband, Harry W. Thurston, the first Wapiti District Ranger in the nation's first national forest, Shoshone National Forest, when they were issued a permit on December 28, 1926. It was named for a rock formation in the shape of an elephant head, which overlooks the site. The oldest building at the site today is cabin #6, known as the "honeymoon cabin." It was built in 1920 when Thurstons received a Shoshone Forest permit for a "summer home" on September 13, 1920. The west "grand lodge", #16 and the center portion of the other "grand lodge", #17, were probably built in 1927.

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Several tent-cabins were at the site in 1927, including #2 & #3, #4, #5, And #9 & #12. Tent-cabins were portable, collapsible, rectangular structures, about 12 by 17 feet, with wood floors, wood walls about 3 feet high, and a canvas covering. Some time later, probably in the late 1920's, they were enclosed and made into permanent log buildings, serving as guest cabins and out-buildings. On the exterior walls of the tent-cabins, between the chinking, scraps of canvas can still currently be seen in a few spots. Also, in 1927, other buildings were added to the site, including #0, #1, #7, #11 and #13.

No records have been found showing that any buildings were erected at the site in the 1930's. One was built in the 1940's, using logs and lumber from the Star Saw Mill, operated by Henry Dahlem at Shoshone Lodge, located a few miles away. Bathrooms were probably added during the 1940's often as little jut-out structures on the back-sides of the guest cabins. By 1943 the Thurstons sold out for \$20,000, probably to Sam and Vernice Outsen, who ran the place until 1953. The next lease holders were Harry E. Pierce, et al. Next, it was sold to Leon Brownsfield, Aro Hoover, and W. T. Hembree, with Al and Mazie Davis as managers, outfitters and guides.

There was a series of owners from 1961 to 1985 including Don and Ann Kinne (both Kinnes drowned in the North Fork of the Shoshone River in 1967) Jerry R. and Patricia Smith, H. E. and Edna Oldham, Wolfe and Underwood, Jack L. Wolfe (who began encouraging snowmobiling from Elephant Head Lodge to the East Gate of Yellowstone National Park and into the park) Jack and Pauline Wolfe, Robert and Helen Underwood, and Roger and Christa Martey (Elephant Head, Inc.) with Bob and Debbie Houle as managers. From 1985 to the present, the owners have been Joan and Phil Lamb, Wilderness Homesteads, Inc., dba Elephant Head Lodge. Elephant Head Lodge is currently open from May to October and specializes in horseback riding, fishing, hiking, river rafting, pack trips, cookouts, mountaineering and playground activities.

The evolution of the Elephant Head Lodge and the other historic dude ranches on the old "Cody Road" portion of the Yellowstone Highway coincides with growing American affluence and the availability of automobiles. Prior to this, Yellowstone was only accessible to the very rich, who hired camping companies to escort them on lengthy park excursions. The "Cody Road" stretching between Cody, Wyoming and the East Gate of Yellowstone accommodated increasing numbers of travelers eager to see the wonders of our nation's first national park. The "good roads" movement of the early 1900's was a loose confederation of civic organizations and private individuals dedicated to the development of a well-maintained network of roads between population centers and the growing number of national parks in the West. Its motivation was to draw "auto-tourists" to previously inaccessible areas. As such, the movement represents an early twentieth century version of community and economic development.

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The Cody Road has been heavily traveled since it first opened in 1904 and, as of 2002, accommodates approximately 250,000 tourists during the summer season. These dude ranches were also aided in the first half of the century by the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, which brought “dudes” to “the Buffalo Bill Country” at Cody, a jumping off spot for dude ranches within a 50 mile radius of the depot.

Both the tourism industry and one of its components, Western dude ranching, began in Wyoming shortly after the turn of the century. Dude ranching’s period of significance in Wyoming lasted from 1904 through 1950. By 1937 there were about 100 dude ranches in Wyoming; the same number exists today. While the total number of beds at dude ranches in Wyoming is small, the Dude Ranching Associations of both Wyoming and Colorado emphasize that dude ranching is very “big on image and the rest of tourism rides on its coat-tails.”

There were three general periods when dude ranching was not especially profitable: from 1917 to 1919 during World War I, from October 1929 until the mid-1930’s because of the Great Depression, and from about 1940 to 1945 because of World War II. However, despite these setbacks, dude ranching has been important to the state’s economy. One of the reasons is that many of the guests are from a higher socio-economic class than the average tourist. For example, even though economic times were not exactly robust in 1937, one Wyoming newspaper reported that “According to a recent issue of the Wall Street Journal, 97 dude ranches in Wyoming did a business in 1937 of approximately \$2,000,000. Guests of these ranches [are] of the wealthy class for the most part, [and] are said to spend an average of close to \$500 each during the last season. Most years it takes several ‘beef critters’ to clear that much for a rancher.” The article goes on to say that dude ranching appeared to have so much potential in the growth of Wyoming’s economy, that the University of Wyoming, in 1935, started a course in recreational ranching, including “institutional management, cuisine, animal production, zoology, geology, Western lore, veterinary science and agronomy.” In 1937 rates at Wyoming dude ranches ranged from \$20 to \$77 per week, averaging around \$40.

Throughout its long history, Elephant Head Lodge’s activities have been typical of dude ranches for the state. Additionally, the contributing buildings have retained their dude ranch rustic appearance, and the setting remains remote and ruggedly beautiful. It remains as one of the significant historic dude ranches along the Yellowstone Highway (U.S. Highway 14-16-20) within the Shoshone National Forest. During its period of significance between 1920 and 1950, it reflected the growing mobility and affluence of the American public, in its quest for new recreational opportunities and experiences.

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Personal communication from Gloria Schmitt (former owner of Goff Creek Lodge) to Joanita Monteith, telephone 2 P.M., October 13, 1999.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is delineated on the attached map by the point whose vertice is marked by the following UTM reference points: A 12 595185 4922885

Public Land Survey System (Township and Range)
Township 52 North Range 108 West
SE1/4 NW1/4 NW1/4 NE1/4 Section 25

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically leased by the Shoshone National Forest to the Wilderness Homesteads, Inc. dba Elephant Head Lodge and its successors.

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 03001107

Property Name: Elephant Head Lodge

County: Park State: Wyoming

Multiple Name: Dude Ranches along the Yellowstone Highway in the Shoshone National Forest
MPS

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

	October 30, 2003
Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 3: State/Federal Agency Certification

The recommended level of significance is hereby changed to "statewide" to reflect the level supported by the narrative statement of significance.

The U.S. Forest Service Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

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