

Wyoming Historic Site Inventory Form

Teton County Historic Site Survey

1. *Site Name:* Anchor Ranch

Historic names of property: Anchor Ranch

2. *Location:*

Street and Number: 3100 North Fish Creek Road
City Wilson State WY Zip 83014

3. *Property Owner:* John and Putzi Harrington

Address: 3100 North Fish Creek Road

Phone: 733-2943

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

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

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

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

6. *Number of Resources within Property*

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
<u> 6 </u>	<u> 4 </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects

6 4 Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _____

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

National Register Status:

Eligible x Unevaluated _____
Not eligible _____ District Potential _____

7. Function or Use

Historic Function

Current Functions

Residence, dude ranch

residence

8. Description

Architectural Classification

Materials

 log vernacular buildings

foundation _____
roof _____
walls _____
other _____

9. Describe present and historic physical appearance:

The Anchor Ranch consists of a cluster of log buildings oriented on a general north – south axis east of Fish Creek Road and between Fish Creek and a long, spring-fed pond. The main house and gazebo are located at the south end of the property and the guest cabins are at the north end. Partially visible to the north, beyond the Anchor Ranch, are the two Wesley Bircher barns on the VandeWater property.

Feature 1. Main house.

The main house of the Anchor Ranch, built before or at the latest at the beginning of World War II, is a rectangular log structure with several modifications that provide it a slightly irregular configuration. Stretching wide across its northern elevation, under a gently sloping gable roof, the logs are chinked with quarter poles and the corners are saddle-notched. Nine purlins are exposed, slightly, under the eaves on the west slope of the roof and fewer are visible under the east slope of the roof because of an addition that interrupts the eave and projects northward. That addition, with a gable roof, represents an augmentation of the bedroom on the east side of the building. The most distinctive aspect, and the most noticeable feature of the north elevation is the set of purlins exposed that repeat the gable configuration of the roof about three feet beneath the roof. Investigation reveals those purlins to be the support for a second, interior (or false) roof and ceiling; that is to say that the interior ceiling is about three feet lower than the exterior roof although the two follow generally the same contour. Those purlins and then the crowns extending in a tidy column west of the windows (two double hung windows on each side of the entrance) and then the bedroom addition on the east, together neatly frame the entrance and windows on the north elevation. The entrance, directly beneath the gable ridge, is a single door with glass panel and is covered with a gable canopy supported by two vertical logs that rise from the porch stoop. Small logs fill in the northern elevation space under the miniature gable of the canopy. In this way three sets of gable lines, at approximately the same pitch, strike the viewer—first the canopy over the porch, then the purlins of the false roof, and then the roof itself. Of course, the gable over the bedroom addition to the east, continues and repeats the same lines. On the east portion of the north elevation, the bedroom extension projects approximately eight feet north of the main elevation with matching logs and chinking. A horizontal sliding window is centered in its north elevation under the gable. West of the column of crowns west of the entrance, which obviously represent an interior wall, is another entry, much more subdued than the main entrance. A two-panel (side by side) door with six lites at the top, which opens at a level slightly lower than that of the main entry (over the stoop), though originally intended to lead down to a basement, instead opens to a storage area. A woodshed of dark brown board and batten construction extends the line of the north elevation to the west approximately twenty-five feet. With a depth of about six feet, however, that wood shed obscures very little of the west elevation. Logs continue under the west eave, interrupted by a column of crowns about midpoint, again revealing the location of an interior wall, and by three non-symmetrical windows. The south elevation of the main house could well and easily be interpreted also as a front façade. Columns of log crowns divide the elevation into thirds, with the middle segment being slightly larger than the sides. Again, the unusually large number of purlins under the gable overhangs—nine on each side—suggests the gentle slope of the roof and broad width of the building. A large horizontal single-lite window opens on the west portion (originally intended as an enclosed porch), a metal door flanked by three single-lite windows dominates the middle segment, and a smaller horizontal sliding window is centered in the east segment. All in all, the general appearance of the main house is handsome and stately without being ostentatious. Its interior is equally impressive with the golden logs and wooden planks in the ceiling having become darker from the wood fire, the fire itself burning in a beautiful and distinctive fireplace crafted by an unknown artisan whose signature work remains in a

few buildings in the valley. The rock of the fireplace is not the normal round river rock so often used in this area, but is flat, having been quarried by Redtop on Fall Creek. The flat sandstone is in an array of both colors and shapes and the rocks are arranged in a perfect symmetry in the fireplace. The rockwork is also evident from outside in the chimney that extends above the roof.

Feature 2. Gazebo.

The date of construction of this feature is not known but its origin and function dates to the period well before the development of a mosquito control program in Jackson Hole. A nuisance to residents and visitors alike and a detriment to business that attracted people, the mosquitoes in those days were not swatted but wiped off in a grisly mess and it was not unusual for guests who had checked in one evening for a long stay to depart the next morning because of the swarms of mosquitoes. One standard way of addressing that problem so that people could be outside, especially enjoying the evenings, was the screened-in gazebo. This gazebo, located south and west of (behind) the main house, and next to Fish Creek, is a square structure approximately twenty feet on each elevation with a gable roof on its north-south axis. Vertical log supports at each corner provide the skeleton for the structure and board and batten siding rises to a level of about two and a half feet all around; mesh screen completely encloses the elevations above that short wall. A simple screen door is centered directly under the gable in the north elevation. The roof is rolled asphalt with an ornamental windvane at midpoint on the gable ridge.

Feature 3. Guest cabin (Crystal Springs Cabin).

A common occurrence in the valley has been, from the beginning of its settlement to modern times, the removal of buildings from one location to another for continued or different use. In an area where access has been historically difficult and where the main building resources have been those locally available, this has been a time-honored practice. The buildings of the Crystal Springs Ranch (also known as the Crystal Springs Girls' Camp) were sold and removed when Teton Village was constructed in its place. Operating especially in the post-World War II environment, the camp was popular and successful. This building, which had been one of the offices at the camp rather than a cabin for guests, was purchased and moved to its present location in 1962 or 1963. It was probably constructed around 1945. It was used on the Anchor Ranch as a guest cabin and has continued to be used as a dwelling.

The cabin is of log construction with quarter-pole chinking and saddle notched corners and sawed crowns. It bears the signature element of Crystal Springs cabins—the gable roof that projects dramatically forward over the entrance and supported by two vertical posts rising from the corners of the stoop. This is smaller than the other guest cabins at Crystal Springs—about twenty feet long and ten feet wide—because it was an office. The entry is therefore right (east) of center in the south elevation rather than centered. A pair of sliding

six-lite windows open between the door and the southwest corner and a similar set of windows is centered on the east elevation. The west and north elevations have no openings. The roof is metal.

Feature 4. Garage. (Non contributing).

Constructed in recent years, this board and batten structure blends well with the other buildings on the ranch. It is located directly behind (north of) the Crystal Springs cabin.

Feature 5. Guest cabin (Baroness Elena).

Again, the process of moving buildings around within the valley provides the starting point for evaluating this structure. Even though it was moved to its present location about 1950, its origins can be precisely determined. In 1929 when the Baroness Elena Gibo (Hunt) planned to develop a dude ranch south of this point at the Triangle Q Ranch, she and her partner Gib Scott built three cabins for the dudes. That planned enterprise, however, never materialized and the three cabins were used for other purposes. Two of those cabins remain on the Triangle Q. The third one is on the Anchor Ranch. All of the cabins were designed as double units (essentially duplex fashion) with a pair of doors in the center opening into the separate units. This one is exactly like the others in that respect. And they are also alike in the log construction with saddle notches at the corners and horizontal sliding windows and a metal gable roof, in this case, on the north-south axis. The entries are under the east eave. An addition to the original unit is located on its north end, with a third entry, using round log slab siding and a separate, smaller, gable roof. Chinking is mortar that appears recent. This feature is located at the far north end of the property.

Feature 6. Budge Cabin.

Constructed about 1934 by James Budge when he acquired this property, this is sometimes referred to as the homestead cabin. A rectangular log structure with concrete mortar for chinking, the building is about thirty-five feet long on its north and south elevations and about eighteen feet on its east and west dimensions. A metal gable roof extends along the east – west axis and projects beyond the entry in the west elevation to form a canopy over the porch. Log posts support the overhang at the corners of the porch and unchinked logs form a partial wall of about two and a half feet around the perimeter of the porch, leaving an opening in the center of the west elevation for passage. Directly above that wall in the west elevation more logs are used to completely fill the triangular area between the gable slopes and the log that stretches across between the supporting posts. A column of crowns divides the south elevation at midpoint, where an internal wall is located. In both of the panels created horizontal four-lite windows provide openings. On the north elevation a shed addition extends slightly beyond the wall and is covered by a roof that is connected to, but slopes at a more graduate pitch than, the north eave. A separate entry to the square shed is on its west elevation. The notching on this

addition is that of a box corner, or false cornering, which uses vertical planks to form an indented V without the logs actually interlocking. A four-lite window opens on the north elevation under the eave.

Feature 7. Three storage units. Non-contributing.

These three buildings, located in a line directly south of the Budge Cabin, are of modern use and function.

Feature 8. Bunkhouse.

This rectangular log structure, about forty feet long on its east and west elevations and about fifteen feet on its north – south elevations, was originally, likely in the 1940s, used as a coal bin; subsequently it became a bunkhouse for the wranglers on the ranch. The metal gable roof extends along the north – south axis. Columns of log crowns divide the west elevation into three segments, the northern-most portion being the longest and the southern-most being the shortest. Quarter-pole chinking and saddle-notched log corners are similar to those in other buildings on this ranch and in the valley. At the northern end a panel of vertical planks fills a gap between the logs and their crowns, as if the section of logs has been removed. In that same segment of the elevation, three vertical casement windows are arranged together to provide an opening; they appear to be of modern origin. The entrance is in the west elevation's middle section, between the two columns of crowns, and is protected by an extension of the eave beyond the elevation, which in turn is supported by vertical posts. The final segment, that portion of the elevation farthest south, has no openings. A utility shed, with a lower gable roof than that on the main building, has been attached to the north elevation, and a modern addition has been added behind the building, connecting to the east elevation with a gable roof that is perpendicular to and connecting to the gable roof of the main building.

Photos: Please attach black and white photos

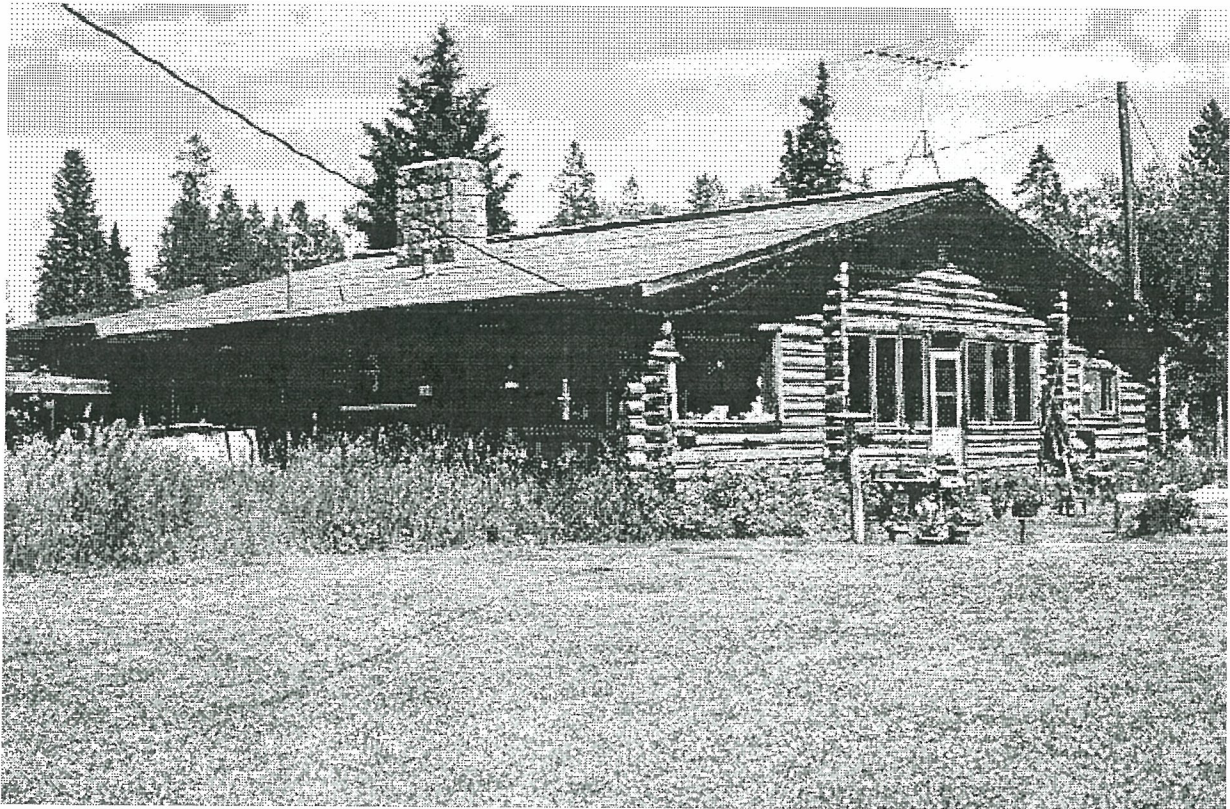
Feature 1. Main house. North elevation.



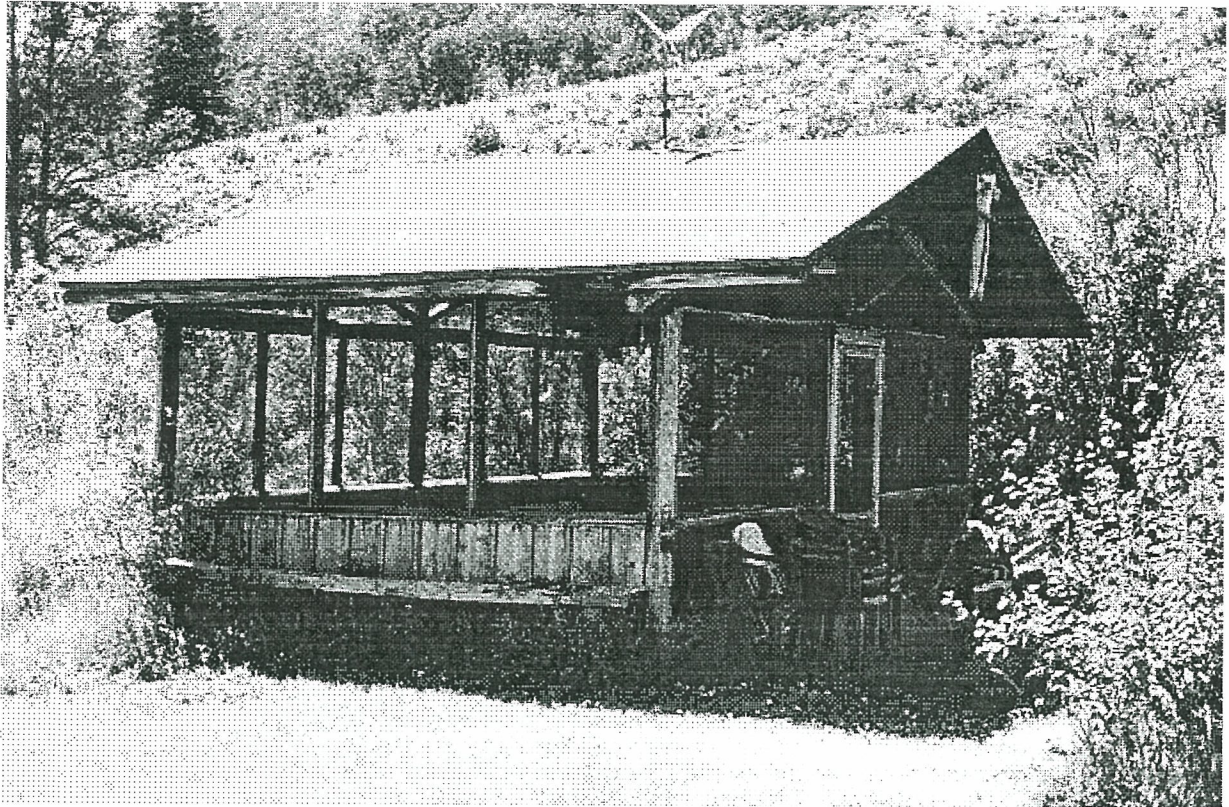
Feature 1. Main house. North elevation. Detail indicating storage entry and portion of woodshed.



Feature 1. South elevation.



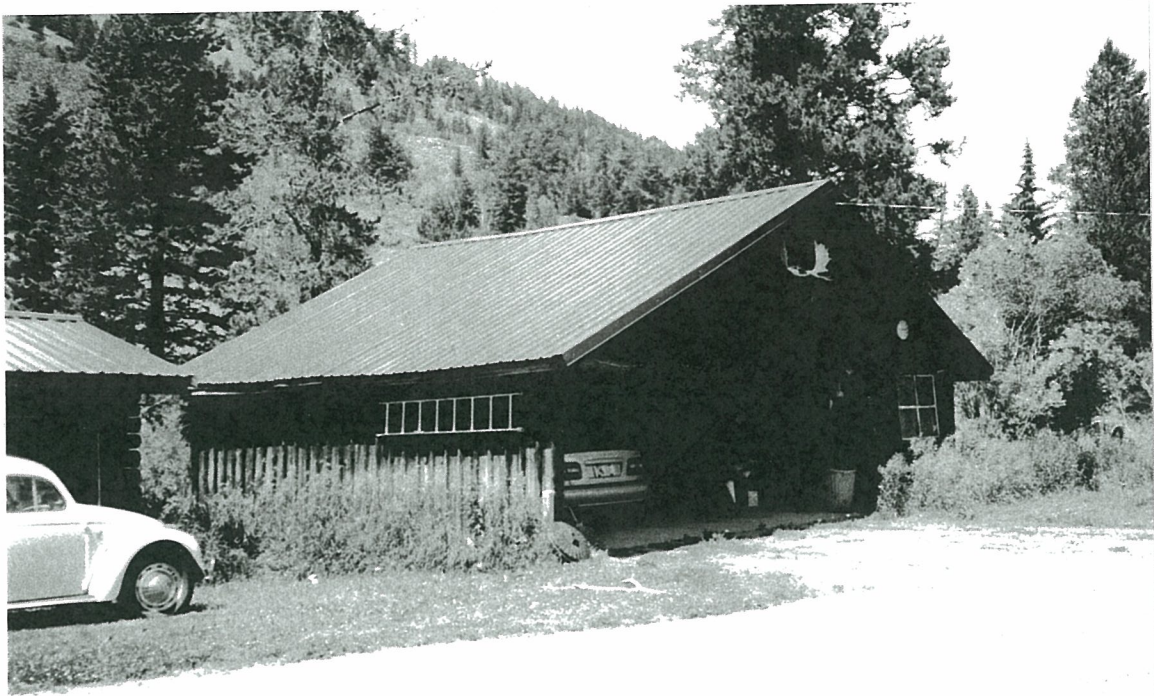
Feature 2. Gazebo.



Feature 3. Guest cabin (Crystal Springs). South and east elevations.



Feature 4. Garage. South and east elevations. Non-contributing.



Feature 5. Guest Cabin (Baroness Elena). South and east elevations.



Feature 5. Guest Cabin (Baroness Elena). East elevation continued.



Feature 6. Budge Cabin. West and south elevations.



Feature 6. Budge Cabin. North elevation. Detail.



Feature 8. Bunkhouse. North and west elevations.



10. 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 (Exceptions). 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture, recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> 1929-1950	1929, 1934, 1945,
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Architect/Builder _____
 Associated Individual _____
 Cultural Affiliation :

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

The pattern of land use in Jackson Hole is unlike that of the rest of the state of Wyoming for a number of reasons having to do with isolation, with climate, and with topography—all of which are dramatic enough in Wyoming but which are more severe in this area. After the realization that the land was better suited for ranching than for farming, the next phase of land use in the valley came with the discovery of other uses, such as that, as has been conventionally phrased, it was easier to wrangle dudes than cattle. Akin to this has been the utilization of land in the valley as a haven for those who could afford to locate here and enjoy the lifestyle without being entirely dependent upon the local economy for their daily bread. Thus there has been at any one moment a striking mixture of neighbors in the valley that included hard-scrabble ranchers next to aristocrats, and the heirs to fortunes and titles next to the heirs of hardship and toil. The Anchor Ranch provides an example of this multi-textured society.

The first two owners of this property approached anonymity, not in their own lives, but historically as they left such a slight mark that little is known of their efforts in the 1990s no matter the qualities they demonstrated in their own world. George M. Burson first lay claim to the land in 1911, making use of it in whatever way until he transferred the land to Erastus Cover in 1917. While the name Cover appears at various places in the land records of the county, the mobility of the family seems to have been more geographic than economic. More would doubtless be learned of the Cover period of ownership, which after all lasted for seventeen years, by an examination of census and tax records, but for now the significance may be that of a broad representative type—the majority who worked the land and who became neither rich nor famous but who nonetheless built the county. Whatever the particular fortune of Erastus Cover in this location, the times for farmers in the nation and in the valley were hard, and indeed progressively disastrous. When Cover purchased the land in 1917, American agriculture was prospering as never before, literally, and that age would become golden age of farm parity recalled with wistfulness in the future. After World War I, however, as foreign markets turned into competitive producers and government price support vanished, and except for a brief respite in the early 1920s, the agricultural sector pursued a downward spiral in the rest of the decade—anticipating and contributing to the depression that afflicted the rest of the nation after 1929—and through the 1930s until World War II generated recovery in the countryside. Along the path of this economic calamity the rural population was decimated and the land turned over to fewer and fewer owners. In 1934 James T. Budge, Jr., purchased the land. Budge was the son of one of the early—prior to the turn of the century—settlers of the valley and the name still is familiar in the community. Budge built the modest but carefully-constructed and fairly spacious cabin still on the ranch. It was not long afterward that naval Captain George Nicklett, who had been advised by his physician to seek a higher elevation on account of tuberculosis, acquired the land and built the main house and other buildings on the ranch and gave it its enduring name: the Anchor Ranch. During World War II, Audrey M.

Nicklett, subsequently, Audrey M. Doyle, rented the ranch to the sister of a neighbor. Dorothea B. Lillie was the sister of the Baroness Elena, of the ranch to the south known then as the H.S. and later as the Triangle Q, having fled from her home in France. After renting the ranch, in 1946 she purchased the property, in turn selling it in 1950 to Dr. Frederick Hiller. After Dr. Hiller passed away in 1953, his widow Jackie Hiller, possibly as late as 1956, began to operate the ranch as a dude ranch bringing in a limited number of guests—limited to 15, according to one brochure—but among them notable figures such as Dr. Karl Menninger and Keith Wheeler, a senior editor at *Life* magazine, as regulars. The dude ranch continued to operate later than the others, even into the 1970s. Once it had ceased as a dude ranch, some of the regulars continued to visit during the summer and were accommodated—a pattern that can be seen at a few other places as well, such as in Nathaniel Burt's account of the fading of the Three Rivers Ranch that his family operated. Now the ranch is the residence of John and Putzi Harrington (daughter of the Hillers) and their family.

11. *Major Bibliographical References*

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

Anchor Ranch brochure in dude ranch file, Jackson Hole Historical Society Collections.

Land records, Office of the County Clerk, Teton County.

Interview, John and Putzi Harrington, July 13, 1998.

Interview, Pam McCool, May 3, 1998 (regarding Baroness Elena and her sister Dorothea B. Lillie).

12. *Primary location of additional data:*

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State Agency
 Federal Agency
 Local Government
 University
 Other
 Specific repository(ies)
Jackson Hole Historical Society Collections.

13. *Geographical data:*

Acreege of property: less than ten acres
USGS Quad or City Base map: Teton Village, Wyoming 1:24,000

Section SW ¼, SW ¼, SW ¼ Section 11, Township 41N Range 117W

UTM References:

Zone 12 511133E 4819067N

Verbal Boundary Description:

This site is bounded by Fish Creek and Fish Creek Road on the west and a linear, spring-fed pond on the east, with the Vandewater property to the north and the Triangle Q to the south.

Boundary Justification:

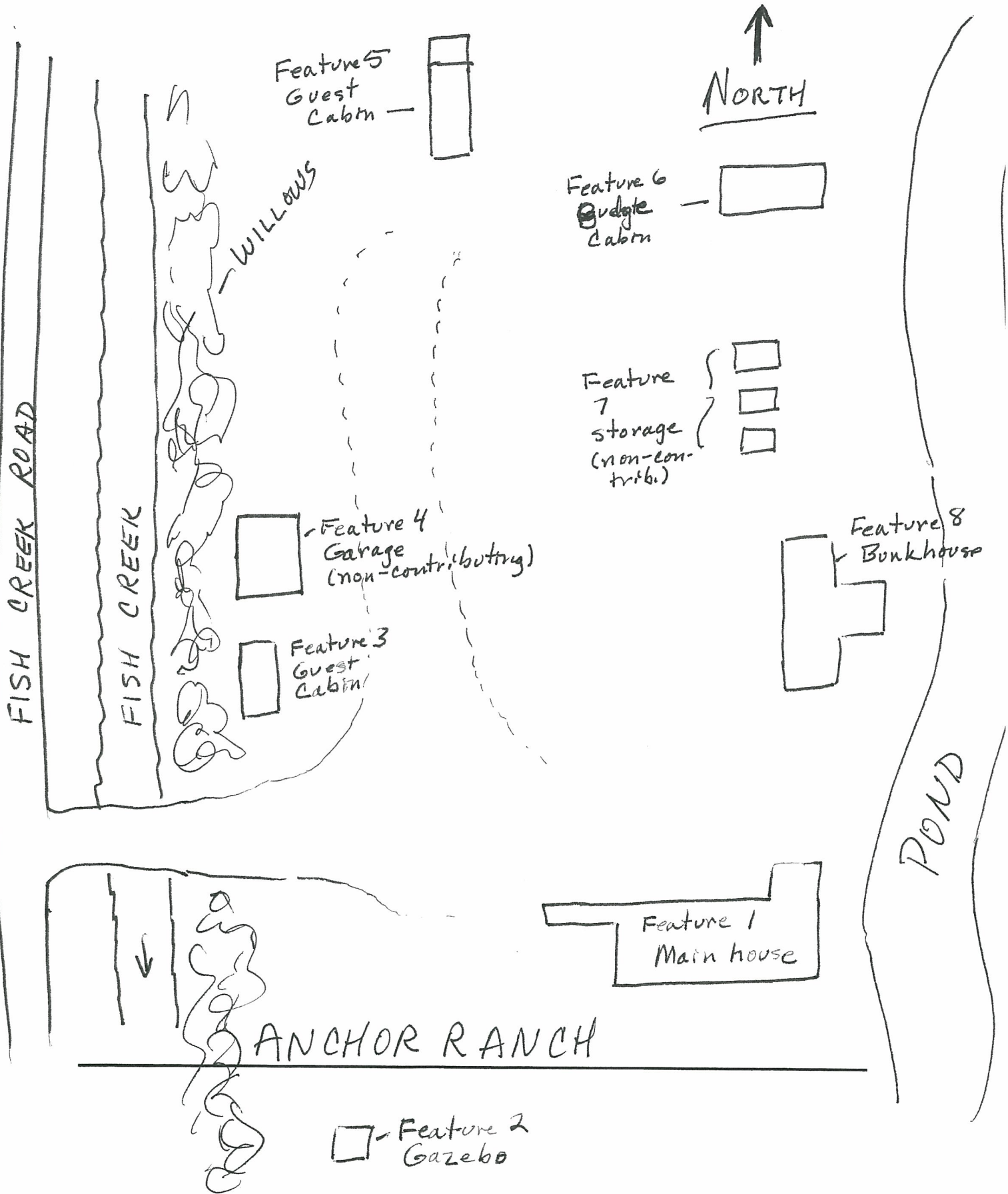
The boundary includes only the historic buildings.

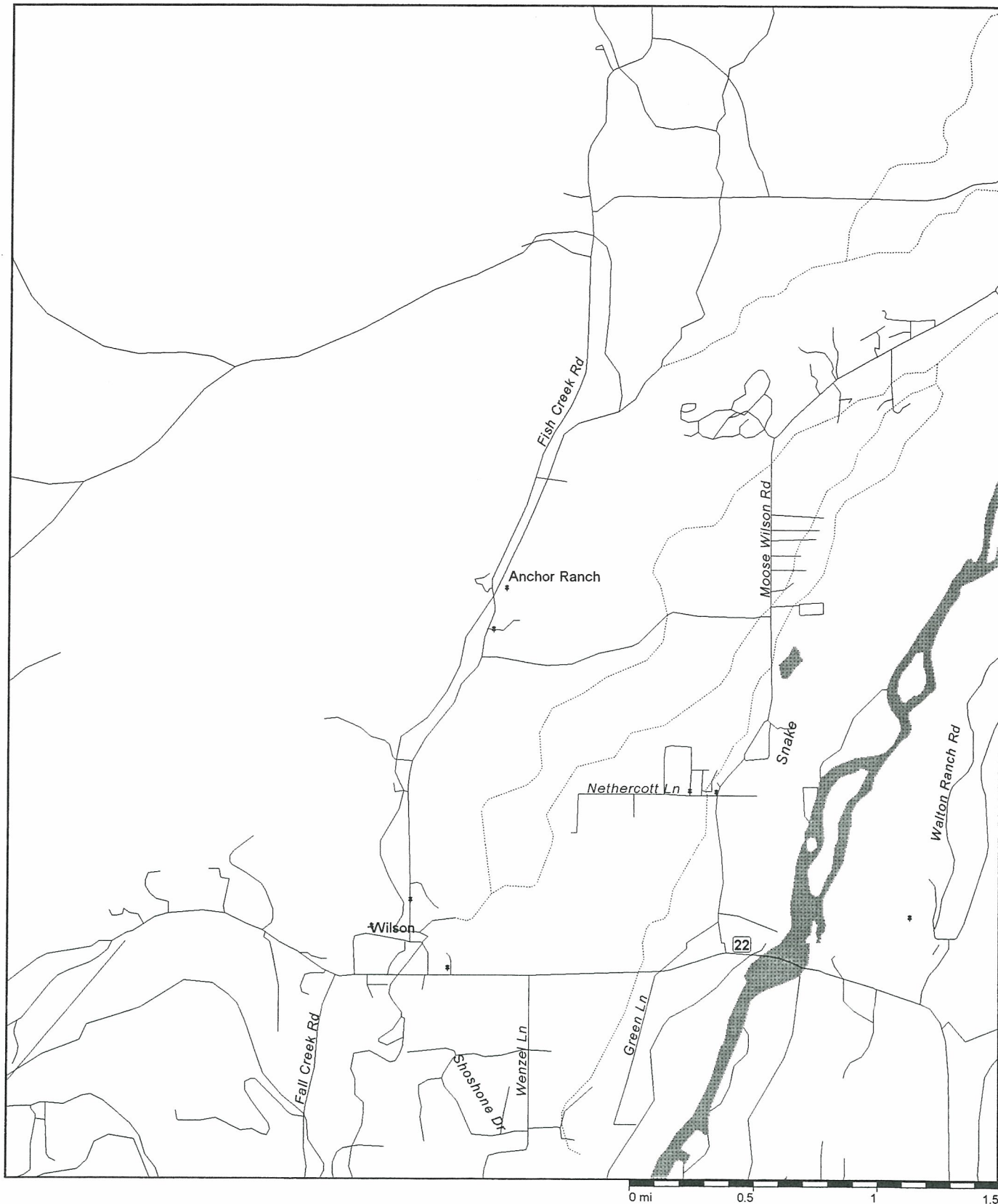
14: *Form prepared by:*

Michael Cassity
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309 SOUTH 9TH #19

**LARAMIE, WYOMING 82070
307 / 742-8272**

August 1, 1998





MICROSOFT AUTOMAP
Streets Plus

Anchor Ranch
 Teton County Historic Survey, 1997-1998