

Wyoming Historic Site Inventory Form

Teton County Historic Site Survey

1. **Site Name:** Byron Jenkins Ranch

Historic names of property: same

2. **Location:**

Entrance to ranch is ¼ mile east of Ely Springs Road on Boyles Hill Road, west, southwest of Jackson. See map.

City: Jackson

State WY

Zip: 83001

3. **Property Owner:** Byron Jenkins

Address: P. O. Box 7413, Jackson

Phone: contact Mr. Mike Wardell, w: 733-6060; res: 733-3557,

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>7</u>	<u>3</u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures

7 3 objects
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
Ranch buildings	Ranch buildings

8. Description

Architectural Classification	Materials
<u>Vernacular log buildings</u>	Foundation: rock, concrete
_____	roof: metal, asphalt shingles, asphalt
_____	rolls
	walls: log
	other _____

9. Describe present and historic physical appearance:

The Jenkins ranch is a ranch that Byron Jenkins developed over the years beginning in 1938. Remnants of the ranch that existed prior to 1938 are no longer in evidence (for example, the main house has been changed substantially over the years so that the base log structure is no longer discernible). The buildings consist of three structures (the main house, a storage building, and a new barn) which are non-contributing, and seven buildings which hold historical significance. Each building has a distinct identity and history and will be addressed separately.

Feature 1: Storage shed. This one-story log rectangular structure, 6' x 10', is located beside the main house to the east. Resting on a fieldstone foundation, windowless, a single entrance under the gable on the west, the round logs are joined at the building corners in a square notch pattern locally known as "tenant" and based on the mortise and tenon pattern. Five purlin tips extend slightly beyond the east and west elevations. Chinking is variously mortar, quarter pole, and no longer extant. The doorsill, a hewn log, extends well above the bottom of a centered, simple rough sown vertical board door that opens out in the west elevation. The shed retains significant integrity despite continued use since its original construction in the middle 1930s. The structure is reflective and representative of building practices and materials employed in the early and middle stages of settlement of Jackson Hole, a simple and modest and practical pattern that met needs well at the time and that has continued to do so. The medium pitched gable roof is now rolled asphalt, although it is unclear if that was the original covering.

Feature 2: Pump house / Well house. This building is situated behind the main ranch house (i.e., to the south) and adjacent to (and east of) the creek which runs generally north-south through the property. Constructed in the spring of 1938 by eminent Jackson Hole carpenter Joseph Nethercott, the building style and materials demonstrate a change to patterns associated with more modern construction in the valley. A temple-form frame building with horizontal planks stained a dark brown to resemble weathered logs, each carefully finished with a beveled upper edge, the mark of a master carpenter remains clear. Exterior corners are boxed with vertical planks covering the butted horizontal planks. Neither ornate nor primitive, the building has a low-pitched east-west roof and a single entrance immediately to the north of the centerline in the east elevation. The door in that entrance contains two panels, with four lites in the upper section and the familiar x of braces in the lower panel. Asphalt shingles cover the gable roof, the ridge of which is reinforced externally with ridge boards. Cross gables on the west elevation of the building extend slightly beyond the main north-south elevations to provide a slight T-shape. The structure remains in excellent condition, a testimony to the workmanship evident in its original construction.

Feature 3. Non-contributing. Storage building, constructed approximately 1968.

Feature 4: Ice house. Constructed in spring and summer, 1938. Carpenter Ed Hageman constructed this practical building in a rectangular twelve by fifteen foot configuration adjacent to and west of the creek (a channel of Crane Creek). No longer used for its original purpose, it accomplished its original intentions well with solid ten to twelve inch round logs chinked with quarter poles to retain cool temperatures for the preservation of ice removed from the creek in the winter. Corner joints are saddle notched, with the notches in the lower sides of the logs and the sawed crowns project beyond the elevations in each direction. Erected next to the stream and shaded on the south and east, the design of the structure reflected not only careful workmanship but also genius of location. A metal gabled roof reflected the heat of the sun and an open gable—the entire triangular section bounded by the two roof slopes—on the west elevation provided ventilation so that heat

would not build in the structure. What might appear to be an oversized window with a hinged batten door about two feet from the ground provided access to the ice house while preventing the cold at the floor level from escaping when open.

Feature 5: Barn / Stable. Constructed in 1940 by Byron Jenkins and Lou Blair, this log structure again reflects the combination of workmanship, design, and placement to achieve its original purposes and its current integrity reflects both successful construction and continued maintenance. A one and one-half story rectangular building with a hay loft, two entrances with solid paneled doors that open vertically, sliding back overhead, and an opening to the hay loft above the entrances enclosed with a single board and batten door, the log construction was both methodical and deliberate. The building measures thirty-five feet long and thus required carefully selected timbers to achieve that length without joints. Saddle corner joints, again with the upper log notched on its lower side, and with sawed crowns projecting beyond the elevations, provide consistency with other buildings on the property built around the same time. Quarter pole chinking remains in excellent condition. The gable roof once was covered with wooden slabs but is now covered with corrugated metal roofing; a hay hoist projects above and beyond the hay loft entrance directly under the ridge. The fieldstone foundation has been replaced with concrete. A generally open interior, the south end of the barn at one time contained stalls and stanchions for four milk cows. A single batten-board door opens into that portion of the barn on the south end of the west elevation. The building is now used as a garage.

Feature 6: Granary. Constructed in the spring of 1938 by a carpenter named Henrie, the granary faces north toward the meadow and parking area of the ranch. Now on a concrete foundation, the building's front elevation measures approximately twenty-four feet and the building's east and west elevations are constructed of logs twenty feet long. Saddle notches with sawed crowns once again conform to that of contemporary buildings on the ranch, but chinking is with mortar instead of quarter-poles. As with the other buildings, all logs are peeled and have weathered or been stained to a dark finish. Vertical planks completely enclose the gable end above the logs in the north elevation, but a two-lite window is centered beneath the ridge and above the logs in the south elevation. Corrugated metal roofing now covers the gabled roof. A modern garage immediately east of the granary and a new barn under construction in autumn, 1997, immediately to the west, are both non-contributing buildings.

Feature 7: Blacksmith shop. Characteristic of many historic structures in Teton County, this building was moved from its original location to a new location. This structure came from the Sewell/Meyer (?) Ranch directly north of the Jenkins Ranch and was used on the Jenkins Ranch as a blacksmith shop. Both by local understanding and structural analysis, this shop dates to the beginnings of the twentieth century, or earlier, although precise dating is not possible. A general clue in its construction, though, confirms its origins as prior to that of the other buildings on the Jenkins Ranch and most buildings in the county. Approximately fifteen feet square, the logs are clearly older and more stressed and they are

joined in a square notch ("tenant") pattern; the crowns project slightly, although at first glance they would appear to be flush with the elevations. In that sense the construction was neither as sophisticated or meticulous as evident in other Jenkins buildings and the tools used appear to have been fewer with the result that the logs are not so carefully fitted. Chinking is mortar. The foundation is fieldstone piers. The single entrance is in the south elevation, a board and batten door on metal hinges that opens outward. The gable roof is now covered with rolled asphalt and the gable and purlins project two feet beyond the elevation. Diagonal planks completely enclose the areas above the logs and enclosed by the gables on both north and south facades. A boarded-up window is centered on the west elevation.

Feature 8: Machine shed. Constructed in the summer of 1938, the machine shed is a rectangular two-story building approximately sixty feet long (east and west elevations) and twenty-five feet wide. The gable roof is covered with corrugated metal. The east elevation is completely open, four vertical logs separating the open interior into five bays. The remaining elevations, however, are constructed of vertical planks resting on a fieldstone foundation. A loft entrance in the north elevation has been enclosed by vertical planks.

Photos: Please attach black and white photos

Feature 1. Storage shed.

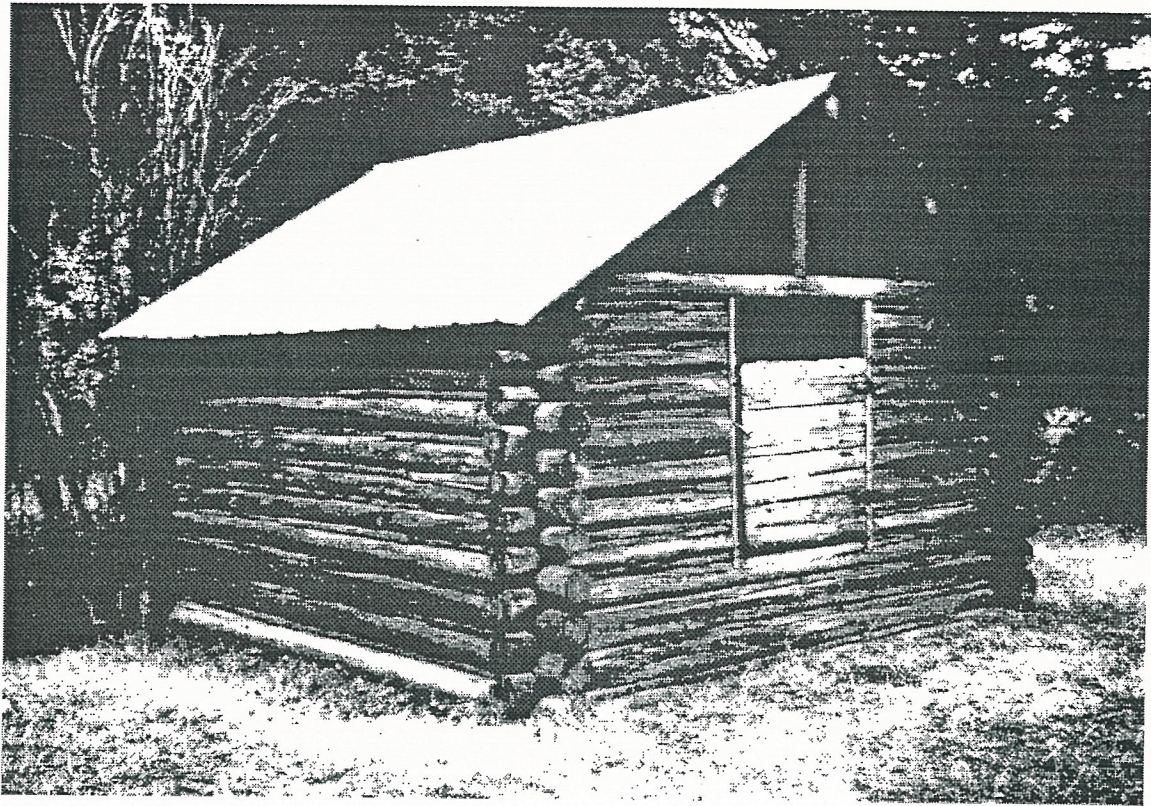


Feature 2. Well house / Pump house.



Feature 3. Storage shed. Noncontributing

Feature 4. Ice house.



Feature 4. Ice house. Detail. (photo 4a)



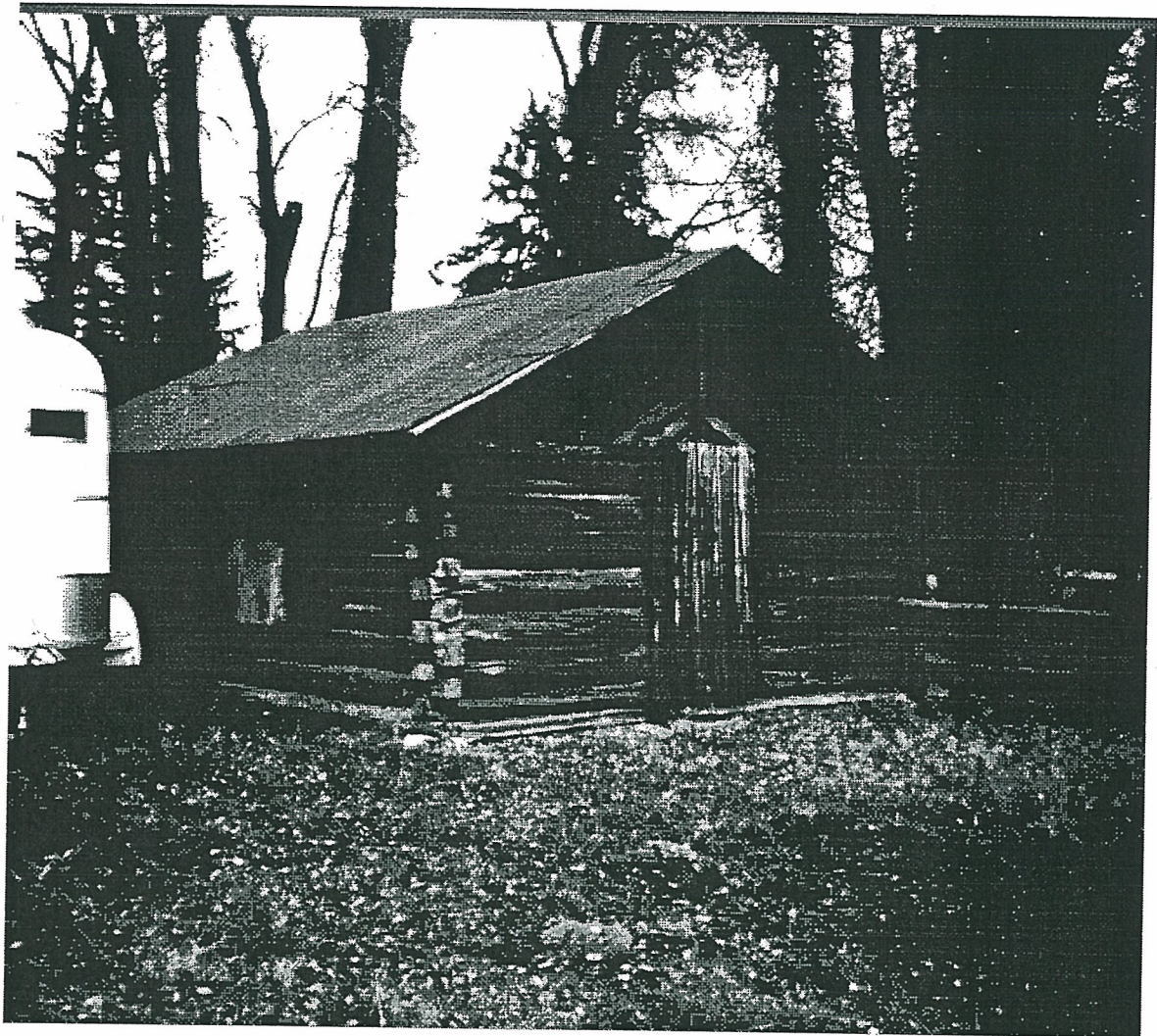
Feature 5. Barn / Stable.



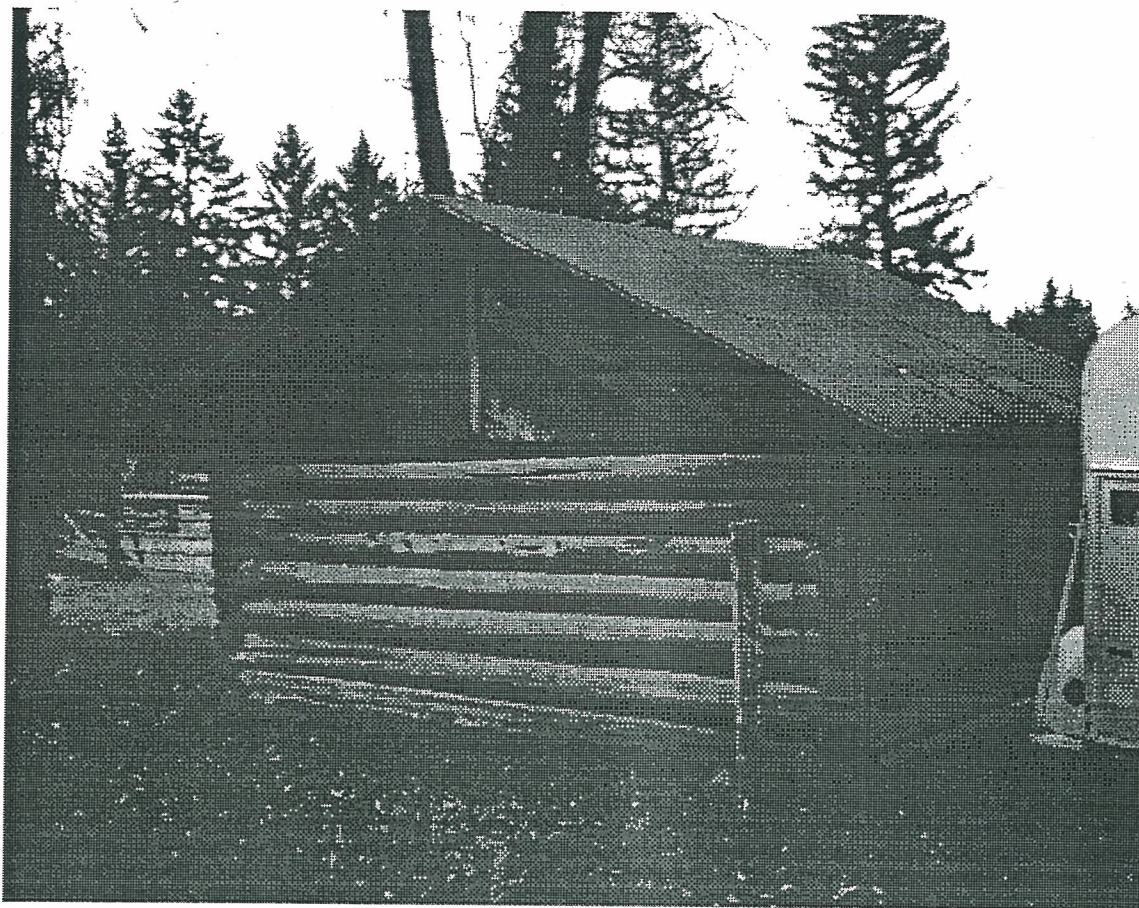
Feature 6. Granary



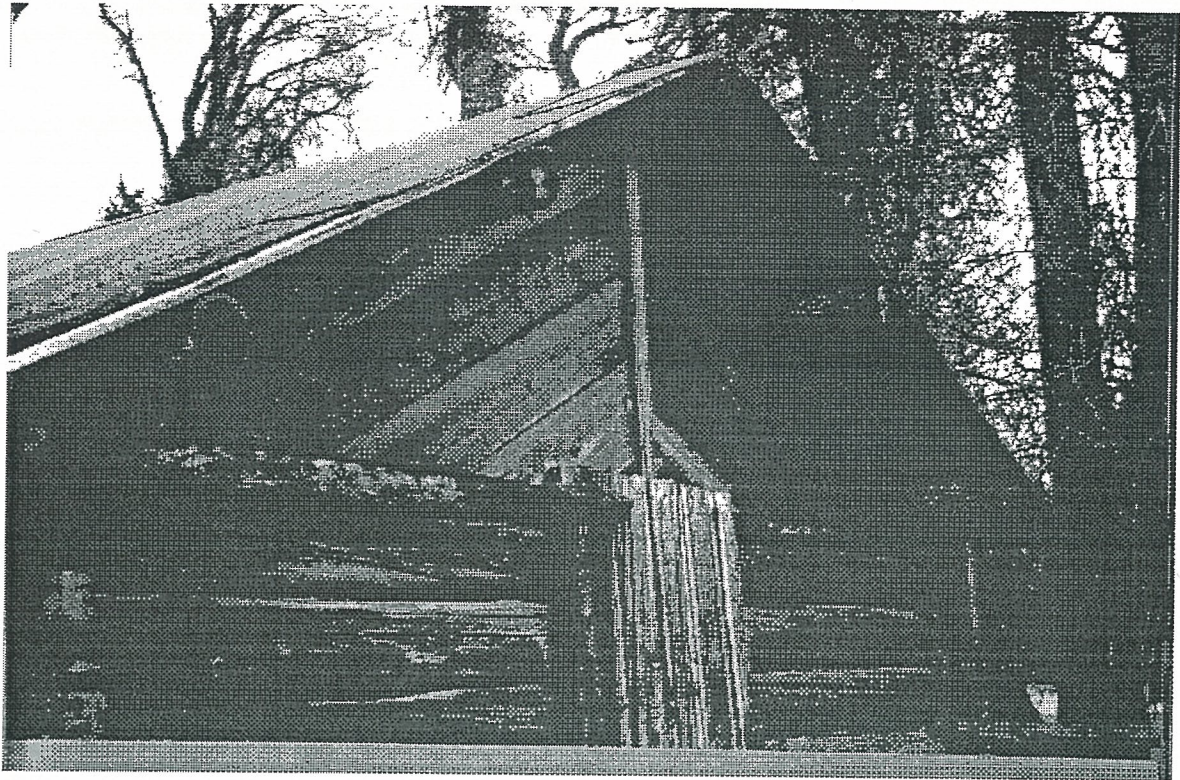
Feature 7. Blacksmith shop



Feature 7. Blacksmith Shop. North elevation (photo 7a)



Feature 7. Blacksmith Shop. Detail (photo 7b)



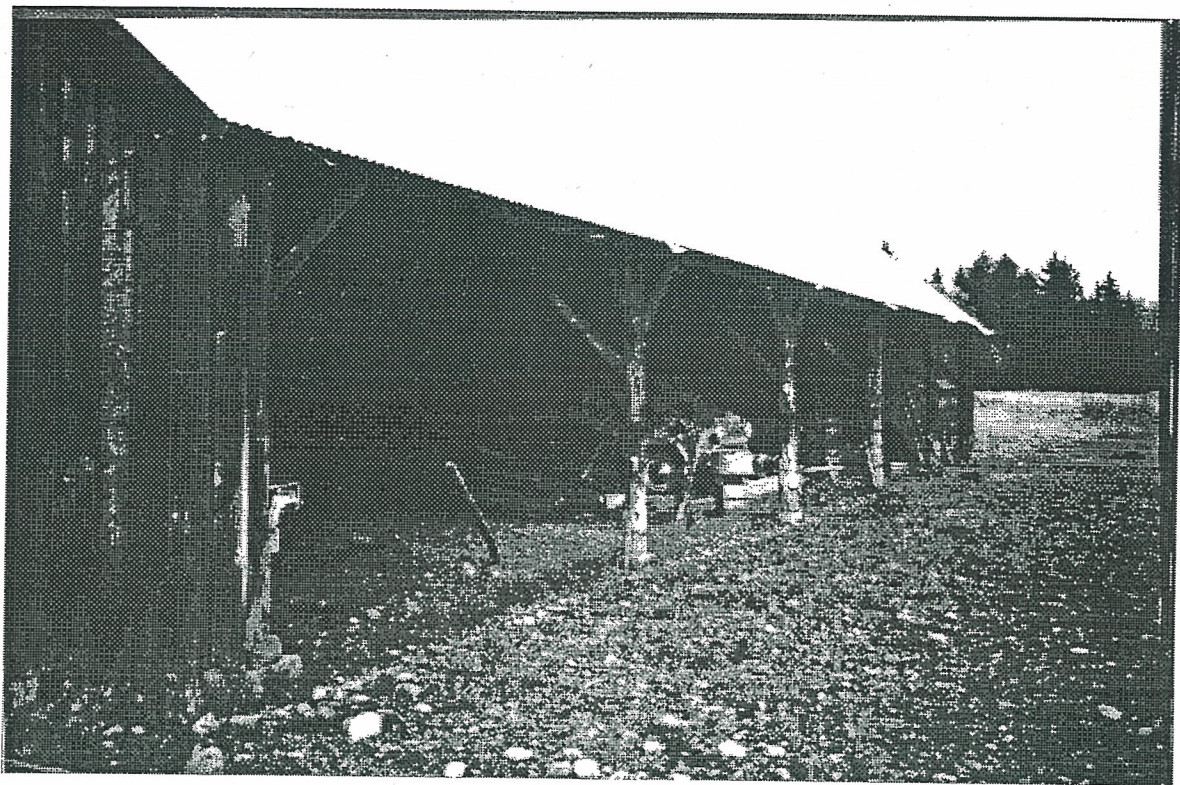
Feature 7. Blacksmith Shop. Detail (photo 7c)



Feature 8. Machine shed.



Feature 8. Machine shed. East elevation. (photo 8a)



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
agriculture/ranching

Period of Significance
1938-1948

1938

Significant Dates

Architect/Builder _____
Associated Individual _____
Cultural Affiliation : _____

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

The Jenkins ranch represents and reflects fundamental contours of change in the development of Teton County. In (1) construction techniques, (2) purpose and function, and (3) larger patterns of change in ranching, the Jenkins Ranch provides a concrete link to the social forces that transformed Teton County and, to some degree, the state of Wyoming) in the 1930s. Indeed, a walk to the various buildings on the ranch is a tour through history and each building opens windows on different parts of the past at different stages and times in the development of the county.

The blacksmith shop (feature 7) is of indeterminate origin, the date of its construction unknown. For that matter, the exact location at which it was built is likewise not verified. Yet, precisely in the mists of its creation, the blacksmith shop reflects a broad pattern of life in the valley. Situated in the northern reaches of South Park, an area that invited some of the earliest, and certainly the most concentrated, early farming and ranching settlement in the county, this shop's construction technique—careful and proud, but also plain and expedient—reflects construction performed by an owner/user rather than by a commercial building trades craftsman. The materials are local in origin to the extreme. The building itself, simple and adaptable, could have been used for virtually any kind of purpose on an early ranch including functions ranging from habitation by a family to the blacksmith shop which it ultimately became. In these ways, the building reflects the earliest stage of settlement of Teton County, a period generally from 1885 to 1930. Another characteristic of those buildings was portability. Early settlers lacked the option of importing building materials from outside the valley, and although relatively abundant materials (logs and rocks) were available for such construction, the evolution of individual properties often meant simply putting the initial smaller and simpler structures to different uses in different places. A hallmark of building activity in this valley has been—and remains—the movement of entire buildings from one place to another, much as earlier residents moved their habitations made of animal skins from one place to another. Again, the blacksmith shop, moved from an adjacent ranch, reflects that aspect of Teton County history.

The 1930s are often associated with a depressed economy, but in truth that economic downturn was for the rural sector a continuation of a larger crisis that began in the 1920s. Although Jackson Hole's integration into the national market was less systematic than other parts of the country, the economic crisis nationally also worked its effect locally as the pattern of farm/ranch ownership revealed (1) the replacement of the earlier generation of settlers by ranchers moving in to the valley, (2) the consolidation and expansion of land holdings by new owners, and (3) the greater reliance on gasoline-powered machinery rather than horse or mule power. In 1938, Byron Jenkins, like many of the early settlers in the valley, born near Parker, Idaho, near St. Anthony, migrated to South

Park, although he came by way of Los Angeles. Mr. Jenkins and his father purchased this land and then additional parcels until 1941. August Christianson, from whom the ranch was purchased, included in the sale a new Farmall tractor, a machine that placed the Jenkins Ranch well ahead of most in the state and region. In this way it is clear that the Jenkins Ranch was a leader in agriculture locally and that it reflected fundamental contours in the agricultural revolution underway in the 1930s.

The assortment of buildings on the ranch demonstrates today the processes of social change in Jackson Hole from the homesteader cabin that became a blacksmith shop, to the ice house that supplied ice in the pre-electricity days, and the self-sufficiency that the blacksmith shop, ice house, stable for milk cows, and granary represented, to the machine shed that housed a growing complement of gasoline powered devices moving the ranch into the second half of the twentieth century.

11. *Major Bibliographical References*

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

Jennifer Eastman Atteberry, *Building Idaho: An Architectural History* (Moscow, Idaho, 1991)

M. Cassity, "'In a Narrow Grave': World War II and the Subjugation of Wyoming," *The Wyoming History Journal*, 68 (Spring 1996), 2-13.

John Daugherty, "A Place Called Jackson Hole: A History," 1991 unpublished manuscript from National Park Service, copy located in Teton County Historical Center.

Byron Jenkins, interview, October 3, 1997.

Maurice Kildare, "Old Cabin Corners," *Relics*, I (Fall, 1967), 16-18. (copy located in Teton County Historical Center)

Eileen F. Starr, *Architecture in the Cowboy State, 1849-1940: A Guide* (Glendo, Wyoming, 1992).

12. *Primary location of additional data:*

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State Agency
 - Federal Agency
 - Local Government
 - University
-

Other

Specific repository(ies): Teton County Historical Center

13. *Geographical data:*

Acreage of property: approximately 5 acres

USGS Quad or City Base map: Jackson, Wyoming 7.5' USGS Quadrangle

Section	Township	Range
NE ¼ SE ¼ Section 2	40N	117W

UTM References:

Zone 12 512991Easting 4811587 Northing-----

Verbal Boundary Description:

Buildings included in this complex are situated on either side of a branch of Crane Creek, south of Boyles Hill Road.

Boundary Justification:

While the ranch encompasses a total of 470 acres, only the portion occupied by the buildings is included.

14: *Form prepared by:*

Michael Cassity
MICHAEL CASSITY HISTORICAL RESEARCH AND PHOTOGRAPHY
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LARAMIE, WYOMING 82070
307 / 742-8272

August 1, 1998

Byron Jenkins
Ranch

Machine
Shed

#8

Blacksmith
Shop

#7

Parking & loading
gravel area

New barn

Modern Garage

#6

Granary

Storage

#3

Ice #4
House

Foot
Bridge

Main
House

Pump House/
Well House

#2

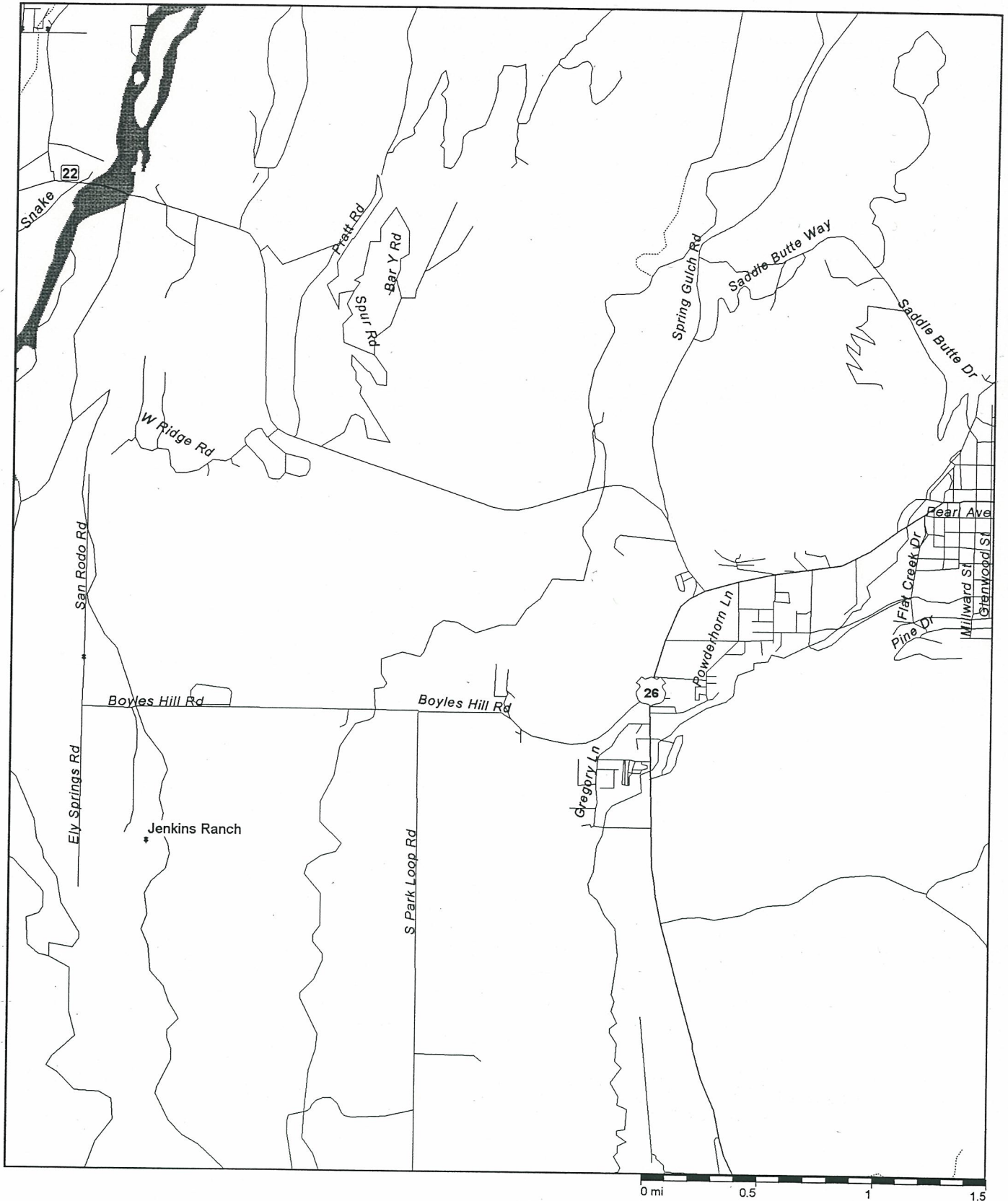
#1

Storage

Barn/
Stable

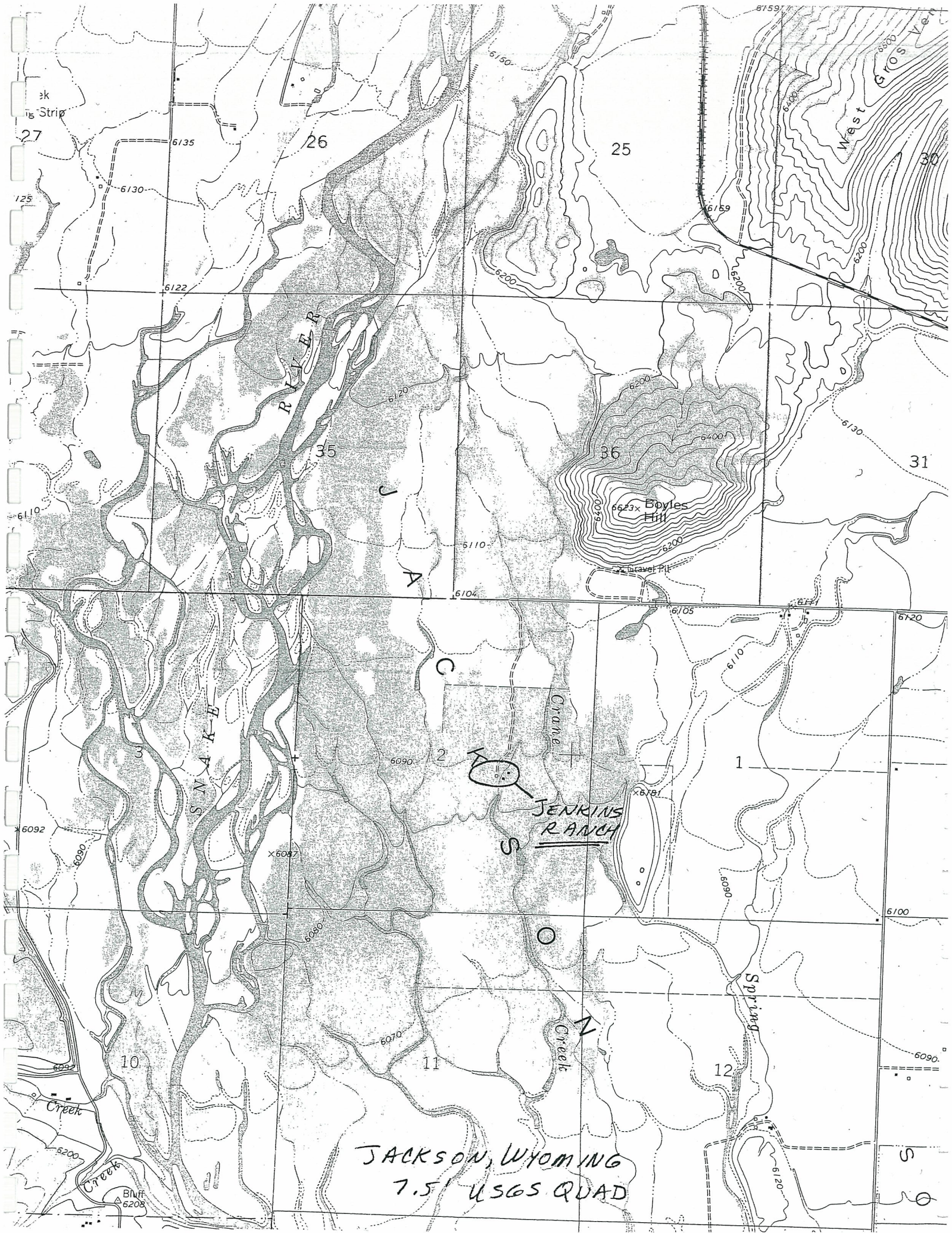
#5





MICROSOFT AUTOMAP
Streets Plus

Byron Jenkins Ranch
 Teton County Historic Survey 1997-1998



JACKSON, WYOMING
7.5' USGS QUAD