

# Teton County Historic Site Survey

## 1. Name of Property

historic name George Lamb Barns / Palomino Acres

other name/site number May Barn

## 2. Location

street & number 780 E. Hansen St.  not for publication

city or town Jackson  vicinity

state Wyoming code WY county Teton code 039 zip code 83001

## 3. Ownership of Property

(check as many boxes as apply)

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

## 4. Category of Property

(check only one box)

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

## 5. Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		sites
<u>2</u>		structures
		objects
<u>3</u>		Total

## Property Owner

name/title Town of Jackson

street & number P. O. Box 1687 telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Jackson state WY zip code 83001

## Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

## Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

\_\_\_\_\_

## National Register Status:

- Eligible
- Not Eligible
- Unevaluated
- District Potential

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Function**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture / Subsistence: agricultural outbuilding  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Function**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture / Subsistence: agricultural outbuilding  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: log vernacular  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete block  
walls log / metal  
roof metal  
other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

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.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- Criteria A through G with checkboxes and descriptions.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Areas of Significance

Social History

Architecture

Period of Significance

1948-1955

Significant Dates

Significant Persons

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

George Lamb

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

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):

- Documentation checkboxes: preliminary determination, previously listed, etc.

Primary location of additional data:

- Location checkboxes: State Historic Preservation Office, Other State agency, etc.

Jackson Hole Historical Society

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** approximately ten acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

1 1/2    5/2/0/5/0/2    4/8/1/3/6/4/9  
Zone    Easting        Northing

2 1/2    //////    //////  
Zone    Easting        Northing

3 1/2    //////    //////  
Zone    Easting        Northing

4 1/2    //////    //////  
Zone    Easting        Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

**11. Form Prepared By**

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Maps**
- **Photographs:** Representative photographs of the property.

# Teton County Historic Site Survey

## Continuation Sheet

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George Lamb Barns / Palomino Acres

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### Narrative Description

This site consists of two barns and a house, the three buildings located on a ten-acre tract of land that once was on the east edge of the town of Jackson but is now a city park surrounded by residential development. Constructed after World War II, the buildings include a log barn, a Quonset hut, and a residence. From this location, once clearly east of town but now inside the town limits, a fine view of the Tetons can be gained.

The log barn is the centerpiece of the arrangement of buildings because of its size and its style. A three story building with a metal gambrel roof, the barn faces the east. The roof ridge is on an east-west axis and the gambrels slope gently outward to provide for a larger than normal barn width (in proportion to its length). Logs reach up to the roof on the north and south elevations and continue at the same level on the east and west; above the logs, wood planks rise to the peak of the roof on the east and west elevations. The corner coping of the logs is with traditional saddle notching and the crowns are sawed straight. Chinking is mortar.

The east elevation of the barn includes a large wood plank entrance centered on the first floor to allow for entry of wagons and vehicles. Immediately above that entrance is a pair (one above the other) of doors to the hayloft, each door with large X braces. Above that is a smaller four-light window for ventilation and illumination in the loft area. The north elevation includes four similar four-light windows evenly spaced. The west elevation has another vehicle-size entry but no loft entries; centered under the ridge is a small four-light window. The south elevation repeats the pattern of the north with a similar arrangement of four windows in a row. The barn is a contributing resource.

Immediately east of the barn and in a line with it is a Quonset hut, slightly longer than the barn but not so tall. Both the west and the east elevations have sliding metal door entries and no fenestration. Although of uniform construction and therefore not possessing the architectural distinction or singularity of the barn, the Quonset hut is an integral part of the property and is a rarity in Jackson Hole. It is a contributing resource.

The barn and Quonset hut are surrounded by corral fencing, some of it original log rail material, but the fencing is not considered contributing or noncontributing.

To the east and south of the Quonset hut is the house. This is a cross-gable roofed frame house. Although associated with the property from an early period, it has since been physically separated by a fence. Because of its close association with the development of this property it is considered a contributing resource.

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George Lamb Barn, Jackson, Wyoming. Looking southwest. Photo: Michael Cassity, 2004.

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# Teton County Historic Site Survey Continuation Sheet

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George Lamb Barn and Quonset Hut, Jackson, Wyoming. Looking northeast. Photo: Michael Cassity, 2004.

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# Teton County Historic Site Survey Continuation Sheet

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George Lamb Barn and Quonset Hut, Jackson, Wyoming. Looking southeast. Photo: Michael Cassity, 2004.

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# Teton County Historic Site Survey

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### Narrative Statement of Significance

The George Lamb Barns constitute a property that is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of significance Social History and under Criterion C in the area of significance Architecture.

World War II proved to be a powerful watershed in Wyoming and especially in Jackson where the period before the war was associated with a rural society in the valley, the ranching economy dominant in various economic and social measures, and certainly providing the area its cultural identity, and the postwar period increasingly dominated by the tourist economy. And while the war marks the separation of the two phases of the development of the community of Jackson, and indeed of the whole valley, the separation is not always so clean and tidy. There was, after all, tourist activity and tourist business before the war. And ranching continued to be important after the war. In its more subtle manifestations, moreover, there are reminders of the persistence of the earlier days of Jackson Hole into its more modern phase. In that regard, this barn may even be considered by some to be an anachronism, a vestige of rural life increasingly out of place in an urbanizing society.

George Lamb had moved to Jackson Hole from Michigan in 1914, homesteading on the Snake River. A master carpenter, he worked for Charles Fox, the premier contractor in the valley, especially building up the dude ranches that were flourishing after World War I. By 1930 he went into the lumber business with a partner, but they also continued to build cabins and houses. At the end of World War II, he brought his sons into the business and retired, focusing his energies elsewhere. What he really wanted was something that was a familiar enough aspiration in the valley, and he purchased ten acres on the east side of town from Homer Richards and proceeded, as his son Thomas relates, to build "their dream out at the east edge of town." Lamb was fond of horses and had one horse in particular, named Thumper, who could perform a variety of tricks; Thumper had been corralled in the back yard of the family home on East Pearl, and this new acreage with barns would provide a home for Thumper and Helen Lamb's horse Sunny, as well as the other horses that they came to own and raise. The place that the Lambs purchased they called "Palomino Acres," and George Lamb built up the buildings and dream home in the years following the war. The log barn in particular was a source of pride, and it resembled the log barns he had built for others. One account notes that "The barn also was used for social functions that drew in many town residents, such as regular barn dances." In 1956, George Lamb had been hospitalized after a heart attack in Salt Lake City, and according to his obituary, "was anxious to get back out to his beloved Palomino Acres." His son Thomas took him to the dream home he had built and "he enjoyed looking out of all the windows at the beautiful views," but the elder Lamb died from a heart attack the following day.

# Teton County Historic Site Survey

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George Lamb Barns / Palomino Acres

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A year after George Lamb died, his widow, Helen Lamb, sold the property to James H. May, and the May family donated the land to the Town of Jackson for a park in 1990. Thus it is also sometimes known locally as the May Barn property.

In addition, the barn is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of significance Architecture. Admittedly there are larger barns in the valley and there are barns that might even be considered elegant with their graceful beehive roofs, but this barn was built by a master, by a man who had built some of those other barns (and cabins and other buildings associated with them) and who built this for his own use. Indeed, constructed after World War II, it is one of the last log barns to be built in the valley as a functional structure—not as a decorative element. George Lamb, moreover, was widely recognized as a master log builder in Jackson Hole and this may be one of the best examples of his work since he was building it for himself.

Regarding the Quonset hut, there is room for honest disagreement whether any such structure can be considered eligible for the National Register. While some would dismiss them automatically, it remains true that this kind of building represents a particular phase in the history of American buildings. In fact, the standard reference on architectural contexts for American buildings notes that this kind of structure, with its half-cylinder appearance and covered by corrugated metal “was widely used for housing and other purposes in the 1940s, during and immediately following World War II. Surviving examples used as dwellings are now [1984] extremely rare.”<sup>1</sup> And the rarity has increased, not just among Quonset huts used as houses but that were used for any purpose. If there are other Quonset huts still in existence in Jackson Hole, the number is surely small. Quonset huts have been listed on the National Register before, and as a building type they do represent not just a phase in construction associated with the war, but they also represent a connection to the past as much as an elegant Victorian home or a humble log cabin. In addition to the architectural significance of this building as a particular property type, there is the related historical and social context that gives it additional meaning. This particular Quonset hut, after all, was placed here by the leading purveyors of building materials in the county, a circumstance which speaks directly to the wartime shortages of building supplies. To have the two buildings next to each other—a classic log barn and a Quonset hut—on the property of a master builder and building material supplier gives the juxtaposition an additional weight that would not be there if this metal building were located elsewhere.

The adjacent house is eligible because of its association with the barns as part of the development of the Palomino Acres property under Criterion A and further research would be necessary to determine its eligibility under Criterion C.

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<sup>1</sup> Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf: 2000), 497.

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### Bibliography

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- Harrice, Melanie. "It's History: Jackson's oldest Buildings Stand, and Fall, Unprotected by Law," Jackson Hole *News*, October 8, 1997.
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- "Lamb's to Have Grand Opening next Week," Jackson Hole *Guide*, April 9, 1964.
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- McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf: 2000).
- "A Pioneer Woman Leaves a lasting Heritage," Jackson Hole *News*, February 23, 1978. [Obituary of Helen Lamb.]
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# Teton County Historic Site Survey Continuation Sheet

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George Lamb Barns / Palomino Acres

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## **Geographical Data**

### Verbal Boundary Description

This property consists of part of the NE ¼ Section 34, T41, R116 (Parcels A & B).

### Boundary Justification

This boundary includes the property historically associated with the George and Helen Lamb Barns.

# George Lamb Barns / Palomino Acres

