

LUCKY DOG RANCH DOCUMENTATION
BIG SPRINGS, IDAHO



PREPARED FOR
USDA FOREST SERVICE
CARIBOU-TARGHEE NATIONAL FOREST
REPORT No. TG-11-908

OLIVER CONSERVATION GROUP
MARCH 2011

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INTRODUCTION

Lucky Dog Springs is located on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest (CTNF) in the Island Park region of Fremont County, Idaho, about five miles east of Mack's Inn. The site is accessed from the Big Springs Road (Idaho Highway 84) and Forest Service Road 119 in Section 3 of T13N, R44E. During the 1900s, the springs were part of a private property known as the Lucky Dog Ranch (CTNF Cultural Resource Site No. TG-1377), which included a cabin, cookhouse, combination springhouse/bunkhouse, barn, workshop, outhouse, and pump house, as well as an access road with a bridge over the creek, several small docks, a corral, and a fenced meadow for grazing.

The CTNF acquired the site fourteen years ago in a land exchange with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), at which time the history and significance of the ranch were unknown. TNC owns all of the buildings until October 2011, when they revert back to CTNF. The property deed currently requires TNC to dispose of the buildings, but both TNC and CTNF were reluctant to remove or destroy them until the site had been documented and its significance determined.

The purpose of this project was to document the site and the buildings, research their history and past use, and determine the historic significance of the Lucky Dog Ranch. An additional purpose was to provide information to guide future actions, ranging from preserving and interpreting the buildings on site to permanently removing them.

METHODOLOGY

The project consisted of fieldwork and archival research that took place from October 2010 through February 2011. Fieldwork was conducted on October 23 and 24 by Anne Oliver, Principal, Oliver Conservation Group (Salt Lake City) and Thomas Carter, Professor of Architecture, University of Utah (Salt Lake City). The buildings were assessed, described, and photographically documented by Ms. Oliver while a site plan, building sketch plans, and partial elevations for the barn (as reconstructed) were prepared by Dr. Carter.

Archival research was conducted in the following months. The CTNF prepared a chain of title for the property and also searched the files and archives at the CTNF Supervisor's Office in Idaho Falls, Idaho, and at the Ashton/Island Park Ranger District Offices in Ashton and Island Park, Idaho. No information pertaining to the history of Lucky Dog Ranch was located, nor was any information located at the Forest Service Region 4 office in Ogden. TNC files contained a newspaper article and

a hand-written document pertaining to the history of the site, as well as photographs of furnishings from the ranch that are presently on loan to the Fremont County Historical Society. The Idaho State Archives in Boise were searched by Librarian Carolyn Ruby and the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office files were searched by Registrar Belinda Davis, but no further information on the ranch was located. A search of printed and published information resulted in some information on the first owners of the site, while oral interviews with more recent owners and local residents was quite useful in outlining the ranch's later history.

DELIVERABLES

Deliverables for this project include an Idaho Historic Sites Inventory (IHSI) form for the Lucky Dog Ranch, which contained a historical overview, physical description, and a determination of the site's eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP); this report is an expanded version of that information. Other items include a photocopied USGS 7.5' map indicating the site location, name and address; a sketch map of the site indicating the location of the buildings in relation to each other as well as to roads and other landmarks; a sketch plan of each building indicating general dimensions, window and door locations, and floor plan; and 4" x 6" black-and-white photographs of the building exteriors and interiors.

HISTORY

Island Park comprises an area about thirty miles long in Idaho's Fremont County, in the southeastern corner of the state adjacent to Yellowstone National Park. Located in the Yellowstone Caldera at an elevation of about 6,500 feet, the area is a patchwork of dense pine forests, lush meadows, and open sage, richly intertwined with springs, streams, rivers, and natural ponds and lakes. In the early nineteenth century, Shoshonean-speaking people (Snake, Bannock and Lemhi) were its primary residents, although other tribes hunted there. The American fur trapper Andrew Henry explored the region in 1810 and lent his name to its main watercourse, the Henry's Fork River, also known as the North Fork of the Snake River, which has its headwaters at Big Springs. Trappers subsequently depleted the beaver and had abandoned the area by 1840, and a lack of mineral resources excluded Island Park from the regional mining and population boom that began in the 1860s. Nevertheless, white settlers gradually moved in and had permanently displaced the Native Americans by the late 1870s. The harsh winters and short growing season precluded farming; instead, residents experimented with commercial fishing, dairy farming, and cattle ranching, all without much success.

ISLAND PARK AND THE RECREATION AND CONSERVATION MOVEMENTS, 1872-1906

But Island Park's beauty and natural resources made it an ideal focus for the country's burgeoning interest in outdoor recreation, including hunting, fishing and tourism. Its position as the western gateway to Yellowstone National Park, which had been created in 1872, added to its appeal. A railroad station at Spencer provided access to Yellowstone via stagecoach; one of the stage lines, the Bassett Stage Company, ran through Island Park to the park's west entrance. To serve the stage customers, the Arangee Land and Cattle Company constructed a large hotel above the Snake River (the site of which now lies beneath the Island Park Reservoir) and "it was not long before some of these visitors decided to stay." Among them was A. S. Trude, a wealthy Chicago attorney, who bought the Arangee and its hotel: "Trude maintained a small cattle operation, ostensibly using the hotel for his ranch headquarters, but for all intents and purposes the newly acquired property became a recreational retreat for the Trudes and their friends."¹

¹ Thomas Carter, "Together for the Summer: Architecture and Seasonal Community on Idaho's Henry's Fork River," in *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture* 11 (2004), 73.

Just down the river, another homestead was bought by the owners of the Oregon Shortline Railroad in 1898 with the nominal intention of raising cattle. This soon became known as the Railroad Ranch (now Harriman State Park), which provided a bucolic base for sport and recreation for two of its most famous proprietors, the E. H. Harriman family, owners of the Union Pacific Railroad, and the Guggenheim family. "By the turn of the century... Island Park had become a summertime recreation Mecca, attracting people from all over the country. A building boom ensued, with vacation cabins, fishing clubs, dude ranches, and lodges soon dotting the banks of the rivers and lakes."²

As people increasingly sought enjoyment in the unspoiled lands of the West, the federal government moved to protect those lands, a culmination of the conservation movement that had slowly grown throughout the latter half of the nineteenth century. In 1891 Congress passed the Forest Reserve Act, allowing the U.S. president to designate specific parcels of land for public use, and in 1905 the Forest Service was created within the U.S. Department of Agriculture to manage the new reserves. Among them was the Henry's Lake Forest Reserve, established on May 23, 1905, which encompassed all of Island Park and the surrounding area (excluding private inholdings). The new reserve had six ranger stations, including one at Big Springs, about five miles east of Mack's Inn and about one mile due north of Lucky Dog Springs. Land for the Big Springs Ranger Station was withdrawn from public entry in 1907 and 1909, ultimately comprising a 270-acre parcel. The early forest reserves were often consolidated and in 1908 the Henry's Fork and Yellowstone reserves were combined to form the Targhee National Forest, but plans for Big Springs didn't change.³ In that year the forest built a one-room log office and, in 1911, added a log dwelling with a toilet. The site served as summer headquarters for the Big Springs Ranger District until 1934, when administrative responsibilities were transferred to the Buffalo Ranger Station; the Big Springs buildings were subsequently moved to an unknown location.⁴

The completion of a railroad through Island Park in 1908 significantly accelerated the development of the area. Begun in 1905 by the St. Anthony Railroad Company, the line began in St. Anthony to the south, passed across the length of Island Park, and terminated at Yellowstone's west entrance, incidentally leading to the creation of the towns of Ashton and West Yellowstone. The Oregon Short Line Railroad leased or purchased the line shortly after its completion, and E. H. Harriman's

² *Ibid.*, 73-74.

³ Numerous reorganizations and consolidations occurred in the ensuing years, and in 2000 the Targhee and Caribou national forests were administratively combined to create the CTNF.

⁴ Richa Wilson and Anthony Godfrey, "Lumber, Stone and Concrete: Administrative Facilities of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest, 1891-1955" (Ogden, UT: USDA Forest Service, Intermountain Region, 2007), 5 and 39.

Union Pacific absorbed the Oregon shortly thereafter. The railroad brought an end to the stagecoach lines, but the old stage roads were soon paved to accommodate increasing automobile travel to the area.⁵

THE EARLY YEARS AT LUCKY DOG SPRINGS, 1906-1928

With improved access, others followed the model of the Harrimans and Guggenheims in establishing sporting clubs, recreational cabins, or working ranches for seasonal use, albeit on a smaller scale. One of these was James G. Gwinn who, in 1906, purchased 160 acres at Lucky Dog Springs from the General Land Office.⁶ Born in 1868 in Missouri, Gwinn graduated from the University of Missouri law department in 1891 and moved to New Mexico, where he practiced law before relocating to St. Anthony, Idaho, in 1899 to establish his own practice. “Brainy, energetic and tactful, he met with success from the start, acquiring popularity not only in legal circles, but in the management of city and county affairs, being frequently chosen to offices of importance.” In 1905, Gwinn was elected the first mayor of St. Anthony, a position to which he was re-elected two years later, and it was during this prosperous period that he bought land in Island Park. The property was no doubt intended to serve as a base for Gwinn’s sporting pastimes, for he was also described as “skilful [*sic*] with the rod and gun, enjoying all outdoor sports, and being an ardent huntsman.”⁷ Gwinn was likely responsible for the construction of most buildings that remain at Lucky Dog Springs today, including the cookhouse, springhouse/bunkhouse, barn, and workshop.

At some point in the 1910s or 1920s, Gwinn and his wife Nell sold an interest in the property to D. L. Blevins and his wife Daisy, also Missouri natives. Born in 1875, Blevins attended Missouri Medical College and graduated in 1899. The new doctor moved to St. Anthony the following year and opened a practice, then married in 1903. While in St. Anthony, Blevins served as the city physician and sometimes the Fremont County physician, and it is undoubtedly at this time that he made the acquaintance of Gwinn. In 1909, Blevins moved to New York City for a year to study at the Manhattan Eye, Ear and Nose Hospital, and upon his return opened a new practice in Idaho Falls as a specialist in that field. Like Gwinn, Blevins enjoyed the outdoors, and it was noted, “He finds his chief recreation in occasional hunting and fishing trips and has great appreciation of the manifold scenic attractions and splendid natural resources of Idaho.”⁸

⁵ Dean H. Green, *History of Island Park* (Ashton ID: Island Park-Gateway Publishing Co., 1990), 183-88.

⁶ Fremont County Record No. 19317, General Land Office Records Vol. 697 Page 232.

⁷ Hiram Taylor French, *History of Idaho* vol. III (Chicago and New York: Lewis Publishing Co., 1914), 1193.

⁸ *Ibid.*, 1288.

THE LUCKY DOG RANCH, 1928-1971

In 1928, after 22 years of ownership, the Gwinns and Blevinses sold the Lucky Dog property to Percy Louis McLain and his wife, LaBlanche Houston McLain.⁹ “The story goes that after the McLains acquired this bit of paradise in the mountains of Idaho, [Gwinn] and his friends told the McLains, ‘You are Lucky Dogs to have this place!’”¹⁰ And thus the ranch was named.

The McLains had met and married in Colorado but moved to Idaho Falls in the early 1900s, where they owned Joy Drug on Broadway. The couple became good friends with the Blevinses probably after 1910, when McLain the pharmacist and Blevins the doctor would have worked together professionally. During summer and fall the couples would also have met socially in Island Park: for many years prior to purchasing the Lucky Dog property, the McLains owned a cabin on the hill by the Big Springs bridge and would logically have socialized with the Blevinses and Gwinns at their nearby cabin. In the mid-1920s the McLains relocated and opened a drug store in Needles, California, but continued returning to the Big Springs cabin for the summers.

Percy McLain was described as a gentle man of medium build with fair hair and a quick smile, fond of playing baseball with the young daughters of Rulon and Ardath Henderson, the owners of the Big Springs Inn from 1935 to 1946. LaBlanche, a great granddaughter of Sam Houston, was petite at 4’11”, dramatic and vivacious, and a fine storyteller and piano player. “She had a sharp, pointed nose, black eyes, and black slanted eyebrows, in a small face with rather high cheekbones.”¹¹ The couple had two children born in the early 1900s in Idaho Falls, Maxine and Percy Houston (called Doug).

When the McLains purchased the Lucky Dog Springs site, the primary means of access was through the Big Springs Campground a mile to the north. “There was a road there that went over Brandywine Creek and thru the meadow, which was often very wet and marshy, and then over their private Lucky Dog bridge, with the lovely water lilies below, and then down the lane to the main

⁹ Fremont County Records, Warranty Deed, Doc. No. 105805. Nearly all of the information on the McLains comes from two sources: 1) a newspaper article written by Darlene Henderson Latham recording the reminiscences of her parents, Rulon and Ardath Henderson, who owned the Big Springs Lodge from 1935 to 1946 and became close with the McLains (*Idaho Falls Post Register*, “Memories of the old days at Lucky Dog Ranch,” August 16, 1992); and 2) a written history prepared by her sister, Sharon Henderson Hudson, “History of the Lucky Dog Ranch and the McLains,” (The Nature Conservancy files, 1997).

¹⁰ *Idaho Falls Post Register*, August 16, 1992. A second source repeats this story but notes that the property changed hands during a game of cards, when the players literally bet the ranch (Interview with Barbara Hammer, Idaho Falls, Idaho, 25 February 2011).

¹¹ Hudson, “History of the Lucky Dog Ranch,” 3-4.

house.”¹² Aside from the inn, cabins, and ranger station at Big Springs, the main activity in the area at the time was logging for railroad ties (or tie hacking). The Union Pacific had built a spur line to Big Springs by the 1920s, and railroad sidings both there and at Guild (just northwest of Lucky Dog) became the sites of temporary small towns until the early 1930s, when the Depression brought an end to the industry.¹³ The Forest Service also constructed buildings for timber scalers at Guild in 1926-27, including a log cabin and a garage.¹⁴ Despite this activity, it was noted at the time that

The ranch is secluded in the lodgepole pines, off the beaten path, where three pristine springs flow out of the earth. One of the smaller springs near the northeast corner of the property is named Mommy Creek after LaBlanche McLain, as her husband fondly called her “Mommy.” Tiger Creek was the name given to a small spring that emerges from the base of the plateau and flows west past the barns. The largest spring, to the southwest, was chosen as the site for the large, log home.¹⁵

The McLains knew another resident at Big Springs: John (“Johnny”) Sack, a German cabinetmaker who came to the United States in his twenties. In 1929 he leased land from the Forest Service at Big Springs and constructed a rustic cabin for himself between 1932 and 1935; he also made all of the furniture.¹⁶ For both furniture and building elements like lintels, fireplace mantels, and stairways, he often employed a signature technique whereby he first lightly planed the pine or fir without removing all of the bark. He then sandpapered the wood and applied linseed oil and several coats of varnish, leaving the bark to create rich patterns and texture.

Little else is known about Sack, although it is commonly asserted that he was only 4’11” tall (a detail perhaps remembered because he and LaBlanche McLain were the same height). He was the only year-round Big Springs resident and in the winter he would move his work from the basement to an area in front of the fireplace on the main floor. He also made himself wooden skis “so that he could ski down to Mack’s Inn area for a game of cards or a social evening.” When Sack died a

¹² *Ibid.*, 5. Today the north-south lane has been abandoned but its former location can be seen on the USGS 7.5’ quadrangle map for Island Park, dated 1964. Presently, access is along an east-west dirt road that joins the Big Springs Road (Idaho Highway 84) a little over a mile to the west. Jan Brown, former owner of the Lucky Dog Retreat just west of the ranch, recalls using the old bridge pilings just below Mommy Creek to construct a new bridge in the mid-1980s; this provided access to a cross-country ski trail that followed the old road to Big Springs (Interview with Jan Brown, West Yellowstone, Montana, 28 February 2011).

¹³ Green, *History of Island Park*, 174.

¹⁴ Wilson and Godfrey, “Lumber, Stone and Concrete,” 41. Timber scaling involved measuring the felled trees at the railroad siding prior to transport.

¹⁵ *Idaho Falls Post Register*, August 16, 1992.

¹⁶ “Johnny Sacks Cabin,” article retrieved on-line at www.islandparkidaho.com/JOHNNYSACK.html, February 12, 2011. Sack’s cabin was renowned as early as 1937, when it was mentioned in the first traveler’s guidebook to the state of Idaho: “Built over a period of years with painstaking care by a German carpenter creatively endowed, it has attracted the interest of thousands of persons and filled them all with wonder at what genius can do with logs and slabs and a few simple tools.” Admission to the cabin was free. See Federal Writer’s Project, *Idaho, a Guide in Word and Picture* (Works Progress Administration, 1937), 199.

bachelor in 1957, the property passed to his two sisters and later to the Kipp family. In the late 1970s, when the Forest Service was removing all of the cabins at Big Springs in an effort to return the area to a more natural state, the efforts of the Kipps and the Island Park community ensured the preservation of the cabin and led to its nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The cabin was deemed “architecturally and artistically significant for its distinct craftsmanship” and “one of the more remarkable examples of [the rustic style] encountered in [the] state site survey to date.”¹⁷

At some point in the late 1920s or early to mid-1930s, the McLains employed Sack to build a new log cabin at Lucky Dog Springs. It’s unclear if Sack built their cabin before or during the time he was building his own; if he built the McLain’s first, he may have used the proceeds to finance his own construction work. Whichever the case, it has been remembered that

Johnny Sack... built their house, the fireplace, and the furniture (sofas, tables and even the cigarette stands). The back room was the sleeping porch – just beds and bunk beds with muslin drapes on poles in-between, for privacy. Guests could sleep as long as they wanted to and then go over to the Cook House and fix their own breakfast, or the cook would...

In the early days, the McLains had a lot of guests that stayed there. All the cooking was done in the old, original “Cook House” [Judge Gwinn’s cabin]. They had a cook also for several summers. The sleeping and entertaining was done in the Main House. There was also a bath house but it was never completed. And then, there was the spring house and the back part of that where their 2 helpers lived. These 2 men were Delbert and Abe Larsen from Ashton, who lived and worked on the ranch all summer. It was a working ranch and Mr. Mac let ranchers put their cattle there on the meadow to feed. They weren’t his cattle, as far as I know.¹⁸

The Sack cabin, or “Main House,” is largely unaltered and the planed bark technique is visible on the fireplace mantle. A second technique whereby insect boreholes in the cambium were used to create a decorative finish is evident in the stair risers and interior window and door trim. Some of the original furniture remains, including three sofas, a dining table, a writing table, and a bed. A number of other pieces, including a second writing table, a coffee table, hand-carved skis, a log crib, a fireplace stand, a lamp, and antler mounts are on loan to the Fremont County Historical Society.

¹⁷ Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, Johnny Sack Cabin site file (Boise, Idaho), and National Register of Historic Places, nomination form for Johnny Sack Cabin (NRIS no. 79000788), April 19, 1979 (Boise: Idaho State Historic Preservation Office files).

¹⁸ Hudson, “History of the Lucky Dog Ranch,” 5-6.

The McLains passed summers and falls at the Lucky Dog Ranch through the 1930s and 1940s, when Maxine would look after the drugstore in California. As the McLains got older, they spent winters in the San Fernando Valley with their daughter, who was then married to Frank Rapp.¹⁹ LaBlanche McLain died in the spring of 1955 and Percy died soon after, on August 11, 1956; the property then passed to their grown children.²⁰ Of note, Doug McLain recalled that in August 1959, after the Yellowstone earthquake, Lucky Dog spring dried up to about the size of a teacup but gradually resumed its flow.²¹ At some point a pump and underground pipes were installed to deliver water from the spring; previously, water had been brought to the site in barrels, which were placed in the open porch on the east end of the cookhouse and connected to a sink and shower.²² Over the years, as Sharon Henderson remembers, “Doug tried to keep [up the ranch] but his health had never been good. He’d had polio when he was a child. And he and [his wife] Bernice lived down in Kingman, Arizona - too far away.” When they could spend time at the ranch, the couple began staying in the cookhouse because it was smaller and warmer.²³

MODERNIZATION, 1971-1994

In 1971, Maxine sold her half of the ranch to two firemen from Idaho Falls, Morgan A. Parks and Jerold J. Hammer, and their wives Corinne and Barbara. By this time the north road to Big Springs had been abandoned and access was from the road to the west. The families lived in the cabin and cooked in the cookhouse, used part of the workshop as a tack room, used the springhouse for storage and the bunkhouse for the occasional guest, kept horses in the barn, and grazed them in the fenced meadow. (The springhouse and the east half of the barn were beginning to fail structurally but were still usable in the earlier years). The families also paid to have underground electric service brought to the site, replacing a generator that had been housed in the workshop. Morgan Parks and his two sons typically spent the entire summer on the ranch, and one son converted the west half of the barn into a personal residence; the Hammers and their four children used the property less frequently.²⁴

The McLains used the property for a few more summers, staying in a trailer that they brought. In 1982, Doug died and his half interest in property passed to his wife; she sold the half interest to

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, 7.

²⁰ Fremont County Records, Probate Record, Book R, Page 401.

²¹ Interview with Barbara Hammer.

²² *Ibid.*

²³ Hudson, “History of the Lucky Dog Ranch,” 8, and interview with Barbara Hammer.

²⁴ Interview with Barbara Hammer.

Parks and Hammer families five years later.²⁵ At about this time a kitchen was constructed on the former sleeping porch of the cabin and the cookhouse fell into disuse.²⁶

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND GRADUAL DISUSE, 1995-2011

In 1993 the Parks and Hammer families entered into a Memorandum of Option with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of ecologically important lands and waters around the world, to purchase the Lucky Dog Ranch, which was referred to in the memorandum as "Island Park Wetlands;" TNC exercised its option in 1995. In the following year, TNC exchanged the property with the USDA Forest Service under warranty deed but maintained rights to the buildings, including the right to remove them. The buildings include all of those present on the site today: the cabin, cookhouse, springhouse/bunkhouse, barn, workshop, outhouse, and pump house. The rights expire in October 2011 and, under the agreement, the buildings must be removed by that time. However, both TNC and the Caribou-Targhee National Forest (CTNF) were reluctant to remove or destroy the buildings until the site was documented and its historic significance determined, resulting in the preparation of this report.

²⁵ Bernice McLain suffered from Alzheimer's disease and the warranty deed was executed by her guardian, Ethelda Broce. See Fremont County records.

²⁶ Interview with Jan Brown.

BUILDING DESCRIPTIONS



CABIN

The Lucky Dog Ranch cabin is a one and one-half story log building located on the south edge of Lucky Dog Spring at an elevation of about 6,400 feet. It was built in the early to mid-1930s by the local craftsman Johnny Sack for the owners Percy and LaBlanche McLain. The isolated cabin and its associated buildings (cookhouse, springhouse/bunkhouse, barn, workshop, outhouse, and pump house) are sited in a lodgepole forest on ground that slopes gently to the north toward a large, wet meadow. In 1996, the land was transferred to the Caribou-Targhee National Forest (CTNF), which is within Region 4 of the USDA Forest Service. The cabin is the most recently constructed building on the site (with the exception of the pump house) but, historically, is the most significant due to its craftsmanship, furnishings, and association with Johnny Sack.

The cabin is a rectangular structure measuring 31'-0" east to west and 28'-10" north to south, with log walls and a gable roof. Typologically the building is a rustic, single-pen, side-gabled structure with a hipped-roof sleeping porch across the north side and a large stone chimney on the east end. The well-constructed building provided living and sleeping accommodations for the property's owners, relegating the original cabin to a cookhouse and bathhouse. Few alterations have been made to the cabin other than the installation of a kitchen in the sleeping porch after 1995, and all elements discussed below are considered to be original unless otherwise noted.

The foundation is composed of concrete piers supporting sill logs at the corners and at the midpoints of the long north and south walls. A simple, low deck of wood boards abutting the center of the south wall provides an approach to the cabin's only entrance. The walls comprise partially peeled logs, saddle-notched on the bottom side. The log ends project about 8" at the building corners, and the logs that form the rafter plates on the north and south walls project even further to support the gable-end fly rafters. On the main part of the building, logs are tapered at door and window surrounds to fit neatly behind board trim, while vertical log sections separate the windows of the sleeping porch and support continuous log lintels. Exterior joints between the logs have recently been filled with modern daubing compound. No paint was noted on the building exterior.

The roof framing is exposed on the building interior and, in the main section, comprises heavy log purlins and a ridge beam running east to west that support smaller log rafters. A single truss at the center of the room comprises a joist spanning the room from north to south that supports two levels of queen posts and collar beams, which in turn support and brace the purlins at their midpoints. The hipped framing of the sleeping porch uses log rafters of slightly smaller dimensions. On both sections, the board roof decking is covered with a newer ridged metal roof that is finished with a board fascia; the original roof was probably of wood shingles. Although somewhat obscured by the new fascia, the rafter and purlin tails are exposed under the eaves and the gable ends are finished with log fly rafters. Short lengths of log are used as frieze boards between the rafters and purlins to finish the wall tops. A large, square-shouldered chimney dominates the east gable end and is composed of rubble-faced, roughly coursed ashlar blocks of rhyolite. The chimney is presently capped with a wood board.

The main (south) section of the cabin is punctuated by two symmetrically placed sets of sliding wood windows that comprise three vertically oriented sashes of six panes each. A third set is located in the west wall while two sets are located in the north wall; the latter are interior windows that look onto the sleeping porch. The west gable end has one set of sliding wood windows

comprising three sashes of four panes each. The sleeping porch also uses six-paned sliding wood windows; there are two sets of two sashes in the east and west walls and three sets of five sashes in the north wall. Exterior window trim consists of plain boards over the jambs and lintels, with canted board sills and plain board aprons. The exterior door in the south wall is very wide, 3'-9", and comprises four vertical boards bound with four metal straps. The door is opened with a simple metal latch; a deadbolt and a metal hasp for a combination lock are more recent additions. A metal shield, or flap, beneath the two-light glazing creates a knock when the door is opened or closed.

The cabin's floor plan consists of two rooms on the first floor: the large living area in the south section and the sleeping porch in the north section. An open loft spans the eastern third of the south room and is accessed by a staircase in the southwest corner. A single interior doorway at the center of the north wall provides access between the main room and the sleeping porch. The door is composed of vertical 2" x 10" planks bound with metal straps on the south side; the door handles are of elk antlers. Interior door and window trim in the south room is fairly elaborate, with a decorative finish imparted to the boards by insect boreholes and tunnels in the cambium. The decorative trim is presently painted dark brown, but this may not be the original finish. The sleeping porch trim is of plain boards.

The floor framing system could not be inspected because there is no access to the crawl space, but it is most likely wood-framed with joists extending north to south. The flooring is of tongue-and-groove boards, 3-1/4" wide, running east to west. Interior walls are composed of the exposed faces of the peeled logs, unpainted, with quartered poles used to finish the joints. The ceilings are unfinished and the roof framing system is fully visible.

The floor of the loft is low, with a span of only 5'9" between the log joists and the first floor level. The joists support flooring of 7"-wide shiplap boards. The decorative loft railing is crafted with peeled logs and branches, as is the stair railing. The stair treads are of tongue-and-groove boards while the risers are of insect-bored wood matching the window and door trim.

The fireplace is composed primarily of rubble-faced rhyolite blocks, including a massive central keystone. Smaller pieces of quartzite and petrified wood flank the keystone, and the mortar joints here are embellished with three small, ceramic human heads measuring one inch or less. The wood lintel provides an example of Johnny Sack's signature technique, whereby he first lightly planed the pine or fir without removing all of the bark and then sandpapered the wood and applied linseed oil and several coats of varnish, leaving the bark to create rich patterns and texture. The hearth is of

quartzite while the firebox is of brick with the manufacturer's mark "GOLDEN" cast in several faces. Two large metal andirons remain in the firebox and hooked iron swing arms are located on each side. An older woodstove has been inserted in the firebox but it appears that the fireplace was once functional and probably the only heat source in the cabin originally.

The sleeping porch was converted to a kitchen after 1995, with a counter and sink along the west wall and a homemade wood stove at the center of the north wall. Original wood seats for dowels remain in place, however, along the north and south walls; curtains hanging from the dowels would have divided the sleeping porch into five sections, providing some privacy for the occupants.

A number of early or original furnishings remain, including three sofas, a dining table, a writing table, and a bed. The writing table bears the scripted initials "JS" in pencil on the underside. A number of other pieces, including a second writing table, a coffee table, hand-carved skis, a log crib, a fireplace stand, a lamp, and antler mounts are on loan to the Fremont County Historical Society. The furniture typically comprises peeled logs and poles, with tabletops of wide boards or varnished wood. The antler mounts are finished with the partially peeled bark technique.

When first built, the cabin had no plumbing or mechanical systems. Heat was most likely provided by the fireplace only, although the two woodstoves now serve that function. Some knob and tube wiring remains that is possibly original to construction; it is at least an early improvement, since that type of wiring fell into disuse in the 1940s. Power was supplied by a generator that was housed in the workshop; this became obsolete when underground service was brought to the cabin in the 1970s and the generator was removed. Two of the light fixtures, a hanging lamp in the sleeping porch and a wagon-wheel chandelier in the main room, may be original to the cabin or early additions. Plumbing for the kitchen sink was added after 1995.

The Lucky Dog Ranch cabin retains a very high degree of architectural integrity and is in very good condition. What few repairs are evident have been compatible with the original materials, and alterations are also reasonably compatible and reversible (e.g., the metal roof and insertion of a kitchen on the sleeping porch).



COOKHOUSE

The Lucky Dog Ranch cookhouse is a one story log building located about 100 feet east of the cabin. The rectangular building measures 15' north to south by 29' east to west; typologically it is a traditional, single-room, side-gabled cabin typical of early twentieth century log construction in the region, although somewhat unusually the roof structure was extended east to create a covered porch or storage area. Built by Judge James G. Gwinn and perhaps Dr. D. L. Blevins during the time they owned the property (1906-1928), it served as the principal building on the site until a new cabin was built in about the early 1930s. After that time the old cabin was relegated to the status of a cookhouse (with bathing facilities in the open porch). The main (west) section fell into disuse after 1995, when kitchen facilities were added to the sleeping porch of the main cabin, although the east end was upgraded with a toilet and shower at about the same time.

The original foundation is not visible but was probably minimal, consisting of sill logs set on rocks or laid directly on the ground. Concrete slabs have since been poured to create new floors for the kitchen, shower and toilet, but these are not part of the foundation. On the main (west) portion of

the cabin, the walls comprise logs (unpeeled or only partially peeled originally, for much bark remains in sheltered areas under the eaves), 5-1/2" to 8" in diameter, square-notched and projecting 2" to 3" from the corners. The top three logs on the north and south walls project further to support the roof eave. No chinking is visible, but exterior joints are daubed with Portland cement-based mortar keyed with nails; the original mortar was almost certainly a softer lime-based material. The logs are roughly shaped around door and window openings to provide an even surface for the trim boards. The gable ends are finished with wood shingles, including the end obscured by the covered porch. This would seem to indicate that the porch was added at a later date, but the building's roof purlins appear to be continuous over both sections, suggesting that the porch is original.

On the east end, the porch walls extend to about half height and consist of unchinked and undaubed log sections; generally these are butted and spiked to vertical posts that support the roof, but on the west end of the south wall the logs are notched to fit with the log ends of the main room. The east gable end of the porch is finished with wood shingles.

The roof framing is exposed in both the main room and the porch and comprises heavy log purlins and a log ridgepole running east to west that support vertical board sheathing, 11-3/8" wide. In the main room, two joists span the room and support king posts that in turn support the ridgepole. Each gable end of the main room has three vertical log posts that support the purlins and ridgepole; these are clad in horizontal board sheathing, to which the exterior shingles are nailed. The east gable end of the porch is more elaborate and similar to the truss in the 1930s cabin, with a single joist that supports two levels of queen posts, king posts, and collar beams, which in turn support and brace the purlins and ridgepole. This may be another indication that the porch is an addition rather than original to the building.

The entire roof is presently covered with sheets of corrugated metal; this overlies a layer of green asphalt roll roofing or shingles. The original roof was almost certainly covered with wood shingles, although these were not observed. The open eaves are formed by the ends of the sheathing boards on the north and south walls, and peeled poles have been nailed along their edges to form a fascia. The eave is subtly arched over the door in the north wall to allow the screen door to open outward. The gable ends feature the exposed ends of the purlins and ridgepole, and the joints between the walls and roof are finished with quartered poles. The cabin has no chimney, but woodstoves were originally located in the northeast corner of the kitchen and the northeast corner of the open porch; neither stove remains.

The east and west walls of the main (west) section of the cabin each have a single, four-pane casement window with 1" x 6" nominal board trim; the east window once looked onto the open porch but is now blocked with a board. Two pairs of four-pane by four-pane sliding wood windows are located in the south wall. A fifth window is located in the east gable end and opens onto the porch; it is a single-pane wood window hinged at the top and appears to be a later addition. The single-light door in the north wall opens with a simple latch handle and is composed of vertical boards on the exterior; these are backed with Z-bracing on the interior. The older wood screen door is painted green. On the porch, the windows were originally either open or screened; presently most are blocked by the plywood walls of the newer shower and toilet but a small section remains screened. A crude wood screen door of recent construction provides access in the north wall.

On the interior of the main room, the original floor has been replaced with a poured concrete slab that has been butted against the built-in cabinets that once stood against the east wall, thus post-dating them. The walls are composed of the exposed faces of the peeled logs, unpainted, with quartered poles used to finish the joints. The ceiling is unfinished and the roof framing system is fully visible. Although the lower cabinets have been removed from the east wall, the upper cabinets remain in place, as does plumbing for a sink beneath the east window. Water for the sink was originally delivered from barrels that were kept in the porch, although the sink was apparently re-plumbed to use water from the spring when the pump house was added. Along the south wall are an older range and refrigerator, as well as a wood dining table and several chairs. A wood wardrobe or cabinet stands in the northwest corner.

The open porch was converted to a toilet and shower room in the mid-1990s; both toilet and shower are small, self-contained rooms with plywood walls that have been built within the porch. The floor outside of these rooms is of gravel and the original, exposed walls and ceiling of the porch interior are otherwise unchanged. Two modern water heaters and a propane tank are also housed here.

When first built, the cookhouse had no mechanical systems. Heat was most likely provided by a woodstove that stood in the northeast corner of the cabin. Some knob and tube wiring remains that is unlikely original to construction; but it is at least an early improvement, since that type of wiring fell into disuse in the 1940s. Power was supplied by a generator that was housed in the workshop; this became obsolete when underground service was brought to the site in the 1970s and the generator was removed.

The Lucky Dog Ranch cookhouse dates to the period of significance and retains a high degree of architectural integrity. With the exception of the metal roof, recent alterations are confined to the interior and the building is considered a contributing site feature. The kitchen is unmaintained and dated but the building is in good condition and appears structurally sound.



SPRINGHOUSE/BUNKHOUSE

The Lucky Dog Ranch combined springhouse and bunkhouse is a two-level log building located about 100 feet north of the cabin. The lower level is the original single-room springhouse, which was constructed on the east bank of Lucky Dog Creek against the side of a rise, just below the headwaters and over a lesser spring. The upper level is a single-room bunkhouse built against the east gable end of the springhouse. The springhouse measures 13' east to west by 12' north to south, and the bunkhouse measures 14'-6" east to west by 11'-10" north to south. Just fifteen feet south of the springhouse is a small wood dock that projects into Lucky Dog Creek.

Typologically, both the springhouse and bunkhouse are traditional log cabins typical of early twentieth century log construction in the region. Based upon construction style and architectural details, it appears that the springhouse was built by Judge James G. Gwinn and perhaps Dr. D. L. Blevins during the time they owned the property (1906-1928). The bunkhouse dates either to this period or to the 1930s, the early years of the McLains' tenure. By the 1940s the bunkhouse was used by two hired ranch hands, the Larsen brothers from Ashton. The building was becoming

structurally compromised by the 1970s and attempts were made to stabilize the building, without great success. Occasional guests were lodged in the bunkhouse until it became unsafe, when the entire building was relegated to storage; it fell into complete disuse after 1995.

The springhouse foundation is formed by sill logs resting on grade, although rough chunks of early concrete may have been used sporadically to support floor joists. The walls comprise logs about 6" to 7" in diameter, saddle-notched on the bottom side and projecting 5" to 6" at the corners. The walls are unchinked and undaubed on the exterior, but on the interior the joints are chinked with bark floss or animal hair and finished with quartered poles. The gable ends comprise horizontal sheathing covered with wood shingles. (The east gable end was covered by the bunkhouse addition and now forms part of its east interior wall.)

The roof framing of the springhouse is exposed on the interior and comprises two heavy log purlins and a ridgepole that support lighter log rafters; these are covered with horizontal board sheathing. A single joist spans the center of the room to provide lateral bracing. Each gable end has three vertical log posts that support the purlins and ridgepole; these are clad in horizontal board sheathing to which the exterior shingles are nailed. The roof is presently covered with ridged metal, but originally it was almost certainly covered with wood shingles. The open eaves have exposed rafter tails on the north and south sides; the bottom edges of the tails are mitered to create a drip edge. The log ridgepole, purlins, and rafter plates are exposed on the gable ends and these support log fly rafters. The springhouse has no chimney but a hole in the southeast corner of the sheathing boards may mark the original location of a woodstove flue.

The springhouse had one six-pane wood window in the west, hinged at the top and with nominal 1" x 6" board trim on the interior and exterior; the window no longer remains in place but sits on the floor of the room. The single wood door in the south wall measures 2'-6" wide by 6'-0" high; it has three vertical panels in the upper register (all paneling is missing from the lower register) and retains its original metal handle and lock on the exterior. The exterior logs were adzed to create a level surface for the plain board trim. A second wood-framed doorway opens from the east interior wall of the room to the head of the spring; this area is now covered by the boardinghouse addition above but may have been enclosed originally by a low structure. Retaining walls on the north and south sides are formed by horizontal unpeeled logs held in place with vertical log sections. A trench in the earthen floor directs water from the spring under the floor of the main room. Broken sections of poured concrete are also present; their original purpose is unclear but they may have once lined the spring or been part of an effort to stabilize the building.

The springhouse interior is in poor repair but it appears that a full or partial board floor once spanned the room, supported by log joists that were in turn supported on chunks of concrete set in the spring stream. A metal pipe is visible on the streambed that may have provided water to a different part of the property. The walls and ceiling are unfinished.

The bunkhouse foundation is formed by sill logs resting on grade. The walls comprise logs about 6" to 8" in diameter, double saddle-notched and projecting 6" to 8" at the corners. No chinking is visible but the exterior joints are daubed with cement-based mortar. The gable ends comprise horizontal sheathing covered with wood shingles. The roof framing is exposed on the interior and comprises log rafters that rest on log sills and meet at a board ridge beam. Two log joists span the center of the room to provide lateral bracing. Each gable end has three vertical log posts that support the end rafters and provide nailers for the board sheathing, to which the exterior shingles are nailed. The roof is presently covered with ridged metal, but originally it was almost certainly covered with wood shingles. The open eaves have exposed rafter tails on the north and south sides, with short log lengths forming frieze boards at the wall tops between the rafters. The gable ends have log fly rafters finished with plain rake boards of dimensional lumber. There is no chimney but a hole in the southeast corner of the sheathing boards probably marks the original location of a woodstove flue.

The bunkhouse has one wood window with two vertical panes in the north wall, hinged at the top, a pair of sliding two-pane by two-pane wood windows in the south wall, and a single-light square casement window in the west gable end. The single wood door in the east wall measures 2'-10" wide by 5'-10" high; the exterior is faced with plywood (not original) while the Z-braced vertical wood boards are visible on the interior. An old latch and metal strap hinges remain in place. This door is approached by a wood-framed porch on the exterior that spans the width of the building; the framing is supported by bricks and cinder blocks on the east side and is spiked to the log wall of the building on the west. The porch now lacks much of its decking but brick stairs on the south end remain in place. The porch does not appear original to construction and probably replaced simple wood stairs. At lintel height on the east exterior wall, pocketed nailers (perhaps for rafter ends) may indicate the former presence of a light porch roof or entrance hood. Two built-in wood shelves are also present on this exterior wall.

The bunkhouse interior is in poor repair and the floor has buckled, but it retains tongue-and-groove wood flooring running north to south with boards 3-1/4" wide. The walls are unfinished but joints

are filled with cement daubing; the formerly exterior, shingled gable end of the springhouse forms the lower portion of the west interior wall. When first built, it appears that the bunkhouse had no mechanical systems. Heat was most likely provided by a woodstove in the southeast corner. No knob and tube wiring remains and electricity may not have been brought to the building until the 1970s or 1980s, as evidenced by the presence of modern plastic-sheathed wiring. Interior furnishings include an area rug, metal bedsprings, and a metal shelf built into the south end of the east wall.

The Lucky Dog Ranch springhouse/bunkhouse dates from the site's period of significance and retains a high degree of architectural integrity; it is considered a contributing site feature. The bunkhouse appears to be an early addition and the only other significant alteration is the metal roof covering. Unfortunately, the building is in poor condition and structurally unsound due to the failure of the east end of the springhouse and the resultant subsidence of the west end of the bunkhouse that it supports.



BARN

The Lucky Dog Ranch barn is a one and one-half story log building located about 110 feet north of the springhouse/bunkhouse, on the east bank of Lucky Dog Creek. The unusual building measures 19'-0" north to south and 14'-4" east to west. The narrow, side-gabled, one and one-half story section on the east end is only 5'-10" wide (see the sketch plan); this may be the remnant of what was reportedly a once-larger barn, the east part of which had deteriorated significantly by the 1980s and which is now missing. The upper story of this section has recently collapsed but the debris has not been removed (see the partial elevation drawing for a reconstruction). When the larger barn was intact, the one-story, shed-roofed addition to the west was added to create a larger single room on the west end of the first floor. It appears that, originally, the west end of the barn may have been a roofed porch or manger with only half-height log walls. The remains of a pole corral about the building on the west, north, and east sides; the west section was constructed into the creek to provide water for livestock. Adjacent to the south side of the corral, a small wood dock projects into Lucky Dog Creek.

Typologically the building is difficult to define because of these alterations, but both sections are typical of early twentieth century log cabin construction in the region. Based upon construction style and architectural details, it appears that the barn was built by Judge James G. Gwinn and perhaps Dr. D. L. Blevins during the time they owned the property (1906-1928). Horses were kept in the barn in the 1970s until it became unsafe, and some modifications date to the late 1970s or 1980s when a son of Morgan Parks converted the west end into a personal residence (Barbara Hammer interview). The building fell into complete disuse after 1995.

On the original (east) section, the barn foundation is formed by sill logs resting on grade. The north, east and south walls comprise logs that are joined at the corners by saddle notching on the bottom side; the logs are also planed along their length on the top and bottom surfaces to reduce or eliminate the need for chinking and daubing. (The only daubing present is a poorly executed cement-based mortar of recent vintage on the east exterior wall.) The lowest three or four logs on the north wall originally extended a few feet to the west (these are now incorporated into the north wall of the addition) and were saddle-notched with an equally low log wall extending south (a short section of this projects from the north interior wall and divides the single room into two areas). A similar low, short section of wall extends from the south interior wall; it may originally have been connected to the east wall but any trace of this connection was removed when a doorway was constructed in the south wall. The purpose of the low walls is unclear, but they may indicate the remains of an original roofed porch or manger on the west side of the barn, one that was soon fully enclosed by the west addition. The gable end walls of the second floor (now collapsed) were formed by true 12"-wide horizontal boards nailed against vertical log posts.

On the addition, the foundation is again formed by sill logs on grade. The north, west, and south walls comprise logs saddle-notched on the bottom side; joints are finished on the interior only with quartered poles. The middle section of the south wall is formed by nominal 1" x 12" horizontal boards; similar boards are used in the north and south wall tops below the shed roof.

Based upon the collapsed remains, it appears that the gable roof over the original section was framed with log rafters and purlins, with the purlins supporting fly rafters on the gable ends. The shed roof over the addition has log rafters, board sheathing, and a covering of asphalt roll roofing; the rafter tails are visible under the open eave at the west end. The addition was constructed around a tree; long since dead, the tree trunk remains an interior feature and still projects through the northwest corner of the roof. The barn has no chimney but a metal stovepipe once extended from the southwest corner of the roof.

In the west wall, the barn has one pair of twelve-pane, sliding wood windows and one pair of single-pane sliders; it appears that the latter replaced twelve-pane windows, one of which remains on the floor of the building. The windows have crude board trim and are separated by sections of vertical logs; the multi-paned windows were most recently painted white while the single-paned windows were painted turquoise. The north wall has a single-pane wood window that was created when the addition was made. On the second floor, the west wall had a pair of six-pane, vertical wood sashes, painted white, that remain in the collapsed debris. On the main floor, the single wood door in the south wall comprises four vertical wood boards bound with metal straps and an oval window; the glazing is missing and the window has been covered with a turquoise-painted board. This door dates to the remodeling that occurred in the 1970s or 1980s (Barbara Hammer interview). A second unglazed door was located in the east gable end on the upper level, set between vertical log posts and composed of vertical boards and a wood handle.

The barn interior is in poor repair but retains a number of early or original features. The board floor runs east to west and comprises 5-1/2" boards in the original section and 9-1/4" boards in the addition. The interior walls and ceiling are unfinished. Several workbenches and a shelf are built into the walls and a stickwork kindling box is built into the southwest corner. Access to the second level is provided by a massive log in the northeast corner with steps notched into it. When first built, it appears that the barn had no mechanical systems. An old metal cook stove remains in the room, manufactured by the M. Seller Company of Portland, Oregon; this may have been brought to the barn when it was converted to a residence in the 1970s. The plastic-coated electrical wiring was probably installed at the same time.

The Lucky Dog Ranch barn dates to the period of significance but has lost much of its architectural integrity due to the collapse of the east part of the building and alterations made to the west end in the 1970s and 1980s. It is considered a non-contributing site feature.



WORKSHOP

The Lucky Dog Ranch workshop is a one story, double-pen log building located about 30 feet northeast of the cookhouse. The rectangular building measures 28'-10" northwest to southeast and 12'-6" southwest to northeast. Typologically it is a traditional, two-room, side-gabled structure with an open central passage (or dogtrot) typical of early twentieth century log construction. It was most likely built by Judge James G. Gwinn and perhaps Dr. D. L. Blevins during the time they owned the property (1906-1928), although it may date to the 1930s. The building's original function is unclear but it was being used as a workshop and to house the generator that supplied electricity to the property in the early 1970s. When underground electrical service was brought to the site, the generator was removed and the building was used as a tack room, workshop, and storeroom (Barbara Hammer interview). The building fell into disuse after 1995 and the roof has since collapsed.

The original foundation is not visible but was probably minimal, consisting of sill logs set on rocks or laid directly on the ground. A concrete slab was poured in the southeast pen, probably to create

a foundation for the generator. The central passage apparently had a board floor, now much obscured by debris, while the northwest pen had a dirt floor. The walls comprise logs (unpeeled or only partially peeled originally), stacked 5' to 6' high, saddle-notched at the corners on the bottom side only; no chinking or daubing remains and may not have been used originally, although there are substantial gaps between the logs. The low-pitched gable roof (now collapsed) comprised about five log joists running southeast to northwest that spanned both pens and the passage. At some point in time, vertical log posts were added across the center of both rooms and the passage to support this joist. A mixture of log and board rafters were covered with board sheathing, which was in turn covered with green asphalt shingles. The original roof was almost certainly covered with wood shingles, although these were not observed.

The workshop has no windows. No doors open onto the central passage from the two rooms, but doorways are located on the southeast wall of the southeast pen and the northwest wall of the northwest pen. The southeast doorway is unusually wide and low (4'-10" wide by 5'-0" high) and framed with boards; the door itself is composed of vertical shiplap boards with horizontal board bracing at the top and bottom and exterior-mounted metal strap hinges. The northwest doorway 3'-7" wide and 4'-8" high; the door is missing.

The interior is in poor condition due to the loss of the roof, but various stored items remain in place, including storm windows, bed frames and springs, assorted hardware, and electrical supplies. The workshop has no remaining mechanical systems, although it may once have had electricity supplied by the generator.

The Lucky Dog Ranch workshop is in fair condition and dates to the site's period of significance. It retains enough architectural integrity to be deemed a contributing site feature, although this has been compromised by the collapse of the roof.



OUTHOUSE

The Lucky Dog Ranch outhouse is a small, wood-framed, rectangular structure located about 30 feet southeast of the cookhouse; it measures about 3' x 5'. The structure's design and the use of nominal lumber indicate that it was built in about the 1930s by the McLain family. For certain the outhouse was in use until about 1995, when a new toilet room was built into the east porch of the cookhouse (Barbara Hammer interview).

The outhouse is built on heavy, squared logs. The wood-framed walls are clad in horizontal shiplap siding with a 7" exposure. The side-gabled roof is framed with nominal 2" x 4" lumber, sheathed with boards and finished with wood shingles. Rafter tails are exposed on the east and west walls. The door in the east wall comprises three vertical boards, Z-braced on the interior side, and features a wood handle formed from a branch on the exterior and wood latch and stop on the interior. Circular vent holes have been drilled toward the tops of the north, south, and east walls. On the interior, the floor is composed of 2" x 12" boards; walls and ceiling are unfinished. Two plastic toilet seats are mounted on a wood bench along the west wall.

The Lucky Dog Ranch outhouse has been unmaintained for the past ten years and is in poor condition, largely because a falling tree knocked it from its foundation. However, the outhouse apparently dates to the site's period of significance and retains its architectural integrity; it is therefore deemed a contributing site feature.



PUMP HOUSE

The Lucky Dog Ranch pump house is a small, wood-framed, rectangular structure located about 15 feet northeast of the cabin; it measures about 2' x 3'. The structure's design and the use of nominal lumber confirm that it was built in about the 1970s or 1980s by the Hammer and Parks families. The structure houses a pump that draws water from an underground well and delivers it to the cookhouse and cabin via underground pipes. The system replaced a more primitive one where water was delivered from barrels on the cookhouse porch into the adjacent kitchen (Barbara Hammer interview).

The pump house is built on a cinder block foundation. The wood-framed walls are clad in horizontal lapped boards with a 5-3/4" exposure; the gabled roof is covered with the same lapped boards. Rafter tails are exposed on the north and south walls. The structure has no door, window, or other visible means of access.

The Lucky Dog Ranch pump house is in good condition and retains its architectural integrity. However, it was built outside the period of significance for the site and is considered a non-contributing feature.

DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY AND POTENTIAL ACTIONS

ELIGIBILITY

The Lucky Dog Ranch is not currently listed on any state or local historic preservation registries, thus a determination of eligibility for the NRHP was conducted using three publications: *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (1990, rev. 2002), *National Register Bulletin 16A: How to Complete the National Register Registration Form* (1997), and *National Register Bulletin 30: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes* (1989, rev. 1999). These publications provide standard criteria for evaluating the significance and integrity of properties within a historic context, and thus determining their eligibility.

The Lucky Dog Ranch is potentially eligible for the NRHP as a historic building. The period of significance is 1906 - ca. 1935 and the most important buildings from this period possess integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, and feeling. The only significant changes occurring after this period are the collapse of the east half of the barn and the conversion of the west half into a residence, the collapse of the workshop roof, the construction of a bathroom within the open porch of the cookhouse, and the addition of a small pump house north of the cabin. The cabin is considered the primary building, and four of the six buildings associated with it (the cookhouse, springhouse/bunkhouse, workshop, and outhouse) contribute to its significance. The remaining two buildings are considered non-contributing: the barn has been too altered while the pump house was built after the period of significance and is not yet fifty years old.

The property also possesses integrity as a rural historic landscape in terms of the spatial relationships of the buildings and structures; man-made and natural landscape features, topography, and vegetation; and the undeveloped and isolated character of the area. The most significant alteration is the loss of the main access road to Big Springs and the creation of a new access road from the west. This has severed the site's physical connection with Big Springs and its only remaining building from the period which, importantly, is Johnny Sack's cabin. Also, natural reforestation has obstructed the view of the large meadow to the north of the buildings, which is important in understanding the site as a "ranch" (if only modestly so), while the remains of corrals have become lost in the trees.

The property can be evaluated in the contexts of recreation and social history, and can be considered significant on the state level. The context can be broadly defined geographically and temporally as “Recreation and Tourism in Island Park, 1906 – 1940,” when the expansion of transportation infrastructure (in the form of roads and railroads) and the rapid growth of recreation and tourism were closely interlinked. Alternatively, the time period can begin with the creation of Yellowstone National Park in 1872, which marked the beginning and fueled the growth of recreation and tourism in the area. In either context, the site’s natural landscape and built environment retain sufficient integrity and distinction to ensure the inclusion of the Lucky Dog Ranch as a premier example of its type.

As a historic building and rural historic landscape, the Lucky Dog Ranch is eligible under Criterion A of the NRHP because of its association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of American history; its primary area of significance is Entertainment/Recreation and its secondary area is Social History. The site is also eligible under Criterion C for several reasons: 1) the cookhouse, springhouse/bunkhouse, and workshop embody the distinctive characteristics of the region’s traditional log architecture in the early 1900s, while the cabin embodies the more self-consciously rustic style of construction for summer homes that became popular in the 1930s; and 2) the site is associated with Johnny Sack, a master craftsman and a figure important in the history of Island Park and the region.

POTENTIAL ACTIONS

Because the Lucky Dog Ranch is over fifty years old and considered eligible for the NRHP, a number of governmental statutes, orders, and policies regulating cultural resources apply. These range from the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to CTNF land use and resource management plans. However, it is primarily the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (amended) that establishes the current regulatory framework for federal agencies managing cultural resources. In particular, the CTNF is required to consider Section 110, which establishes special preservation responsibilities for federal agencies, and Section 106, which establishes a preservation review process when those properties may be affected by agency actions. Any future actions regarding the buildings on the Lucky Dog Ranch must be decided upon and conducted in accordance with these regulations and in consultation with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the state and federal agencies that administer and participate in the preservation review process.

The Secretary of the Interior identifies four approaches to historic properties:

Preservation is the act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity, and materials of an historic property. Work, including preliminary measures to protect and stabilize the property, generally focuses upon the ongoing maintenance and repair of historic materials and features rather than extensive replacement and new construction. New exterior additions are not within the scope of this treatment; however, the limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a preservation project.

Rehabilitation is the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features that convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values.

Restoration is the act or process of accurately depicting the form, features, and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period of time by means of the removal of features from other periods in its history and reconstruction of missing features from the restoration period.

Reconstruction is the act or process of depicting, by means of new construction, the form, features, and detailing of a non-surviving site, landscape, building, structure, or object for the purpose of replicating its appearance at a specific period of time and in its historic location.

At the Lucky Dog Ranch, all of the buildings except the cabin and the cookhouse have been abandoned for at least fifteen years and have fallen into a state of disrepair. Parts of several buildings have collapsed and many building interiors are damaged, but the site is remarkably intact. Most remaining buildings retain their roofs and character-defining architectural details and could be rehabilitated or restored to their original use or adapted to a new use. In fact, the ranch and its intact landscape provide a good example of the type of small-scale, seasonal ranch and recreational property that developed and flourished at the beginning of the 20th century but that is no longer common in the area. The site's proximity to one of the large-scale ranches (the Railroad Ranch at Harriman State Park) and to the intact home of its builder at Big Springs (the Johnny Sack Cabin) help to place it solidly in context and make it valuable in illustrating another aspect of the region's history. The strong historical link between Big Springs and Johnny Sack, as well as the remaining physical link in the form of the disused bridge and road, make it an attractive and logical idea to physically reconnect the two sites and interpret them jointly for the public.

However, to rehabilitate, restore, or reconstruct all or part of the Lucky Dog Ranch buildings and then to maintain them over an indefinite period would require a significant commitment of resources of all kinds. While the National Forest Management Act charges forests to identify, protect, interpret, and manage significant cultural resources on their lands, the primary mission of

the forests is to administer natural resources. Forests typically work within a limited cultural resource budget and with a limited number of cultural resource personnel. Thus rehabilitation, restoration and reconstruction are probably outside the scope of the CTNF's mission and demand a commitment of resources that do not exist. These approaches might be considered either as a long-range plan for the CTNF or if the buildings are leased or transferred to an agency or group with a more compatible mission, like the Fremont County Historical Society, the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, or another private or non-profit group. This latter action is strongly encouraged. In the interim, preservation measures to stabilize the buildings would be required. These measures should focus on the contributing buildings in the following order: the cabin, cookhouse, springhouse/bunkhouse, workshop, and outhouse.

If the preservation of buildings on site is not possible and/or not compatible with CTNF plans, the buildings may need to be removed or destroyed. Either action would have an adverse effect on the buildings and it is strongly recommended that the site be documented to the Level I standards of the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS). This would include further historical research, medium- or large-format photographs, and measured drawings of the site and the contributing buildings.

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