

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

historic name

Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch

other names/site number

5LR.14981/Pamige 3-G Ranch

2. Location

street & number

6671 Stove Prairie Rd.

☐ not for publication

city or town

Bellvue

☐ vicinity

state

CO

county Larimer

zip code

80512

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

☒ national

☐ statewide

☒ local

Signature of certifying official/Title

Patrick A. Eidman

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

2.16.23

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register

☐ determined eligible for the National Register

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register

☐ removed from the National Register

☐ other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Private |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | public – Local |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | public – State |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | public – Federal |

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | building(s) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | district |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | structure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | object |

Number of Resources within Property

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
6		buildings
1		sites
	2	Structures
		Objects
7	2	Total

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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure
AGRICULTURE/animal facility
AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuildings
AGRICULTURE/agricultural field
RECREATION/outdoor recreation

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure
AGRICULTURE/animal facility
AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuildings
AGRICULTURE/agricultural field

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RUSTIC
OTHER: HOMESTEAD

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE
walls: WOOD
roof: SHINGLE
other:

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch currently occupies 67 mountainous acres of developed forest and pastureland just off Stove Prairie Road in Poudre Canyon, bordering the Cache la Poudre Wilderness. The Stove Prairie area of Bellvue, Colorado has long been an important place for early explorers. According to local lore, it takes its name from an old United States army camp stove that was allegedly left there and later discovered by frontiersmen.¹ Although the Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch originally totaled 160 acres (before some additional acreage was added at an unknown date), the current owner occupies just 67 acres that were partitioned from the larger parcel. The property maintains its original primary residence, an additional residence converted from a machine shed, two farm implement-equipment sheds, one farm implement-equipment shop with an enclosed chicken coop, two livestock sheds, a couple of farm utility sheds, a modern well, and an entrance gate. All the buildings maintain Rustic vertical board-and-batten wood framing that is characteristic of early twentieth century homesteads in the American West; moreover, virtually all buildings are original to the property, which gives the ranch a pastoral feeling as well as a high degree of historical integrity. The ranch, together with its primary cluster of buildings, is counted as one contributing site because the buildings are significant as evidence of improvement upon the land that led to a successful Homestead Act claim by Jesse Hollemon, for their board-and-batten architecture, as well as their association with animal agriculture. The original dug well still exists on the property but is no longer in use because a new drilled well was sunk in 2014.

Narrative Description

SETTING

The Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch is situated in northern Colorado's Poudre Canyon, about 20 miles northwest of Fort Collins in Larimer County, Colorado; it is accessible down an estimated 500-foot concrete driveway via Stove Prairie Road, which is 15 miles west on Highway 14 from the town of Bellvue. Moreover, the Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch remains about halfway between the Stove Prairie Schoolhouse (5LR.848 Colorado State Register listed 1998) and the Poudre River; therefore, it would have been a prominent landmark for fellow Euro-American settlers in the early 20th century.² The primary cluster of buildings appears interspersed with ponderosa pine and aspen trees and there is a dry creek bed bisecting the livestock stables and primary residence—this provides some distinction in the landscape between historic livestock management activities that took place on the land, and rest and relaxation inside the primary and additional residences.

Several buildings and structures are positioned advantageously atop foundations that have been solidified— straddling high points on the land—or that subtly follow the ranch's rolling hills. Others are built atop flatter areas that were more conducive to construction. The homestead is adjacent to the Cache la Poudre Wilderness and Arapahoe and Roosevelt National Forests; indeed, most of the parcel, today, consists of forested acreage that is income-producing via timber harvesting. There are sizeable patches of apparent burn damage from the 2012 High Park fire, which covered over 80,000 acres altogether in the Poudre Canyon.³ However, the fire did not damage any buildings or structures within the homestead's primary cluster of activity.

RURAL LANDSCAPE FEATURES

Land Use Activities: The Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch was used, historically, as a cattle ranch, for American Quarter-Horse breeding, and as a Dude ranch. It is currently zoned agriculturally with timber as its main product. There are several locations on the property conducive to feeding and working with livestock, space for woodworking and

¹ David Hill, "The Historical Corner: Stories Recall Stove Prairie Camping Trip," *Coloradoan* (Fort Collins, CO), date unknown.

² Creager, Louise, "Stove Prairie School," Colorado State Register of Historic Places Nomination (5LR.848), *Colorado Historical Society*, Colorado State Register: 1998.

³ "High Park Fire 100 Percent Contained," *CBS Denver* (Denver, CO), June 30, 2012.

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machine servicing or repair and a functioning drilled well. The livestock shed is positioned so that cattle or horses could be intuitively moved there from the stables. The ranch's original expanse of 160 acres meant that it would have possessed plenty of space for cattle herds to graze, although the western portion of the property is mountainous; also, much less space would presumably have been required for breeding quarter horses. The mid- to late-twentieth century, in turn, saw the homestead reduced in size by over half its original acreage as its owners changed the primary livestock from beef cattle (and perhaps dairy cows) to horses.

Boundary Demarcations: Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch's present eastern boundary is demarcated along Stove Prairie Road by a barbed wire fence that transitions, on either side of the driveway, into a wood framework that can be opened and closed via a double-swing wood gate. This gate marks the primary entrance onto the property, which leads down a driveway, about 500 feet, toward the primary cluster of buildings and activity. The gate is framed on each side by tall wood posts with a log positioned atop the posts, parallel across the driveway—a typical motif in Western ranch entrance gates. There is another wooden fence at the rear of the primary cluster, marking a path onto a formerly forested mountainous area of the parcel. The southern boundary parallels a Jeep Road, known as Bent Timber Lane, that exits the parcel near its southwest corner. There is no apparent demarcation of the northern or western boundaries; however, the northern one concludes inside a forested area of the parcel and meets Stove Prairie Road at the northeast corner.

Clusters: Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch makes up one contributing site and presently consists of one primary cluster of 6 contributing buildings, including the primary residence and a machine shed with attached breezeway and additional residence, a tool shed, a three-sided livestock shed adjacent to the machine shed, a woodworking shop with attached chicken coop, and livestock stables; and 2 non-contributing structures: a drilled well and an entrance gate.

Patterns of Spatial Organization: Historically, there are two areas, positioned east and northeast of the stables, that were used for animal grazing within the primary cluster. The primary residence is oriented northeast, facing Stove Prairie Road. The machine shed and attached bunkhouse are oriented north, facing the primary residence. There are oval- and rectangle-shaped impressions in the land, visible on satellite imagery, just northwest of the driveway—indicative of a corral and, perhaps, a pigpen that were likely situated there in the past. The livestock shed next to the machine shed and bunkhouse is positioned diagonally, facing northeast toward the main residence. The woodworking shop and livestock stables are oriented eastward, facing the main residence, bunkhouse, and Stove Prairie Road.

Circulation Networks: Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch is accessible by a concrete driveway proceeding west from Stove Prairie Road. Bent Timber Lane is accessible from Stove Prairie Road and moves west along a zigzag pattern before straightening and continuing upward in elevation off the present Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch parcel and onto one of the separate 40-acre parcels owned by the late Mr. Rafael Ramos. There is a dry creek-bed running through the property, between the primary residence and livestock stables, that sometimes runs with water generated from snowmelt. The primary cluster is also associated with an animal feed barn across Stove Prairie Rd., that is part of a different parcel—whose owner allows an easement for Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch. Most built features within the primary cluster were positioned advantageously on the property so that they could be most intuitively used for livestock management or machine maintenance. The area west of the primary cluster of buildings is mountainous and was once forested, therefore, it would have provided a secluded place to hike and recreate.

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CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

Site (Established 1915, Figure 1): The primary residence and all other buildings and structures are wood frame clad in vertical board-and-batten siding typical of homesteads in the Western United States at the turn of the twentieth century. Given that there was a sawmill in the Buckhorn Creek area operated by homesteader Jacob Flowers and family as early as 1873 as well as a lumber mill in the Stove Prairie area operated by Emmanuel Vannorsdel in 1896, the boards and batts at the homestead were most likely made with pinewood that was sourced locally.⁴ The recorded date of construction for all the buildings and structures, except the additional residence, is 1910. However, the Homestead Act claim for the original parcel of land was granted to Jesse Hollemon in 1911. This gap in time probably accounts for the time it took him to finish construction, “prove up” his claim by submitting evidence of residency and improvements to the local land office—who then forwarded the claim to Washington, D.C.—and, finally, to receive approval and the official land patent (see Figure 26 for map).⁵ A later Homestead Act claim (see Figure 27 for map) reflects a November 1915 deed conveyance to Lillie Anderson for a parcel adjacent to Hollemon’s; at an unknown date, Anderson evidently sold a quarter-section of her parcel (SW ¼ SE ¼ 17) either to Hollemon or a subsequent owner. Currently the northernmost part of the present ranch boundary (see Figure 28) consists of this area of Anderson’s original claim.⁶ Despite this, and the original parcel being partitioned in the mid-twentieth century as well as several changes in ownership, the Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch remains remarkably intact, overall, and thus has potential for inclusion on the National Register as a rural historic landscape.⁷



Figure 1: Site Context, facing West

Today’s Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch totals 67 acres and the site consists of roughly three categories of landscape: forested, partially cleared of forest (primary cluster), and grassy pastureland. The predominant tree is ponderosa pine, but some aspens are present. The area of the parcel between Stove Prairie Road and the primary cluster of buildings is partially cleared, with just a few trees growing among mostly short prairie grass. The primary cluster rests about 500 feet down the driveway from Stove Prairie Road and is partially cleared; but it maintains several trees, interspersed throughout the buildings, that produce shade. The area west of the primary cluster follows a steeply inclining mountainous area with trees downed by the 2012 fire, which continues for about 500 feet before reaching the western boundary. This mountainous area continues north for about 1000 feet until it reaches intersecting timber stands. There is a stand of trees south of the primary cluster, which clears out to a Jeep Road known as “Bent Timber Ln,” which leads off the parcel. Water primarily reaches Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch via snowmelt—the Bellvue, Colorado area receives an annual average of about 118 inches. Drainage occurs via a creek bed that slopes down between the primary residence and the livestock stables. Indeed, there are numerous other slopes within the primary cluster: the primary residence and tool shed rest on a relatively flat area of land, while the bunkhouse, machine shop, and livestock shed are positioned atop a slope that rises to the southwest of the primary residence. The land continues, from these perched buildings, on a slight upward slope to the west, where the wood shop and livestock stables are positioned on a relatively flat area; a path from these buildings leads upward onto the mountain to the west.

⁴ Meg Dunn, “The Flowers of Bellvue,” Northern Colorado History weblog, April 7, 2015, Accessed November 6, 2022: <https://www.northerncoloradohistory.com/flowers-bellvue/>; Creager, “Stove Prairie School.”

⁵ General Land Office, “Land patent, number 193082, grant to Jesse Hollemon,” April 11, 1911, Document number 05117 and 05174, Bureau of Land Management, General Land Office Records, Online database, Accessed November 18, 2022: <https://glorerecords.blm.gov/default.aspx>.

⁶ General Land Office, “Land patent, number 500992, grant to Lillie Anderson,” November 27, 1915, Document number 015798, Bureau of Land Management, General Land Office Records, Online database, Accessed September 1, 2022: <https://glorerecords.blm.gov/default.aspx>.

⁷ Patricia Ramos, “OAHF 1419f: Preliminary Property Evaluation Form, Pamige Ranch,” Bellvue, CO: 2022, 5.

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Buildings

Main Ranch House (Primary Residence, 1910; Figure 2, Figure 3): The main residence, at 2,052 square feet, is a broad, low one-story ranch-style house in vernacular wood frame construction with a granite stone foundation, board and batten frame siding, and a composite shingle roof. An addition was made sometime in the 1950s to the western end of the house that gave space for two bedrooms. An appraiser estimated in 1986 that approximately 60% of the building was original and the other 40% came from the addition; indeed, the original residence's primary mass remains intact and complementary materials were used on the exterior. The boards and bats are made of pinewood. There are three distinct roof ridges with two parallel and one perpendicular in relation to each other. The primary roof ridge has a side gable, each, on the north and south ends, and the other two ridges are cross gabled on their side and rear. The house maintains irregular fenestration and the windows appear to be recent replacements, although the original openings are intact. The windows each open with aluminum surrounds and are encased with white wood trim.

There is a large 1-by-1 light square casement window at the southernmost end of the primary (NE) façade (Figure 3), one small 1-over-1 light rectangle casement window north of the large square one, a large 1-over-1 light rectangle casement window still further north, and a final large 1-over-1 light rectangle casement window at the northernmost end of the primary façade.

As one travels counterclockwise around the house, the northeast façade has another side (Figure 3), facing southeast, with a single 1-over-1 light rectangular casement window that is slightly bigger than the two on the north end of the northeast façade. A secondary northeast side is set back from the primary and exhibits a wooden entry door at the southernmost end. There is a stone chimney (Figure 4) rising from the central mass of the house above the entry door. Also, there are two small rectangular clerestory lights along the roof ridge.

Continuing counterclockwise, the southeastern side has a wood entry door (Figure 3) at the westernmost end and a 1-by-1 light square casement window toward the easternmost end. The area of this side east of the entry door appears to be an addition (c. 1950s, according to the property owner). There is a belt course running the length of the southeastern side above the 1-by-1 light rectangular casement window. Moving around the eastern corner is a southwest side, set back from the main southwest side, with a 1-by-1 light square casement window.



Figure 2: Primary (East) façade of main ranch house, facing West



Figure 3: Northeast façade of main house, facing southwest



Figure 4: Main house, chimney detail

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The northernmost end of the southwest side appears as an I-shape (Figure 5) because of the 1950s addition. The southwest side is the rear of the home. There are two 1-by-1 light square casement window at each side of the addition and a belt course running the length of the gable on the addition's southwest side.

Moving counterclockwise, the addition continues with a southeastern side which exhibits a large 1-1-1 light rectangular casement window. There is a wooden door east of the 1-1-1 light casement window, providing entry into the addition. The southwest side (Figure 6) of the primary mass exhibits a 1-over-1 light square double-hung sash window at the northern corner and a large 1-by-1 light rectangle casement window at the mid-point of the side, south of the double-hung sash window. There is a belt course running the length of the gable on the primary mass' northeast side.

The southeast side (Figure 7) of the primary mass provides the main entrances into the home via a wooden door at the western end with 3-3-3 lights inset on the top half and a wood door at the eastern end. The southeast side also has a 1-over-1 light rectangular casement window at the western end and a larger 1-by-1 light square window at the mid-point of the side, between the two doors, and beneath a belt course that runs the length of a side-gable. There is a gutter system running along the eaves of the northeast and southeast sides; on other sides, there are plain wood eaves extending along the roof's edge.



Figure 5: Southwest façade of main house, facing northeast



Figure 6: Southeast façade (recessed) of main house, facing northeast



Figure 7: Southeast façade (primary entry) of main house, facing northwest

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Machine Shed, Breezeway (1910; Figure 10, Figure 12, and Figure 11), and **Bunkhouse** (1970; Figure 8, Figure 13): The machine shed and single-room bunkhouse encompass 1,928 square feet. This building features a pole frame support system with a concrete foundation, board and batten frame siding (on three sides of the shed), a galvanized iron shed-roof above the shed and breezeway, and a composite shingle side-gabled roof above the bunkhouse. The primary mass is the shed and breezeway, which was constructed in 1910, but the bunkhouse was “modernized”—meaning it may have been converted from its original construction as part of the machine shed into a single-room guest accommodation. Larimer County Property Assessor records refer to 1970 as the date of construction for the bunkhouse, which both appears accurate from observation of the materials used and aligns with the Garrisons’ ownership period and their dude ranching activities.

The easternmost end of the primary (north) façade of the building features a 1-1-1 light rectangle casement window. About midway, the north façade maintains a front porch, modelled after a saloon, with steps leading to three entry doors—one for the house, one for the breezeway linkage, and one for a connecting hallway that leads to the rear of the building. There is a wagon wheel positioned on each side of the bottom of the steps, further suggesting a saloon motif. The porch sits roughly midway along the north side and appears positioned atop a foundation of stacked rocks. There are visible wood-log supports (Figure 9) along the ceiling of the covered porch while the remaining façade west of the porch has no fenestration and appears as board and batten siding. East of the entry door leading into the bunkhouse, there is a rectangular casement picture window (Figure 8) with one large square light in the middle and two smaller rectangular lights on either side and wooden surround.

Moving counterclockwise, the west side (Figure 10) maintains no fenestration and appears as board and batten siding with an overhanging shed-roof with visible rafter-ends. The south side (Figure 10) appears to have been the primary façade of the machine shed and maintains an open space with two overhanging roof eaves, in which machines can be stored or repaired, at the westernmost end. About midway, eastward, along the south side, there is a pair of large wooden barn-style swinging doors, providing entrance into the breezeway, with a pair of 6-over-6 light rectangular double-hung sash windows on either side of the doors. There is a roof eave overhanging the breezeway doors that has been damaged by weather. There is an inset on the south side (where the building connects from breezeway to bunkhouse) that features another 6-over-6 light rectangular double-hung sash window as well as a wooden entry door leading into the bunkhouse.



Figure 8: Bunkhouse, East and North façades, facing southwest

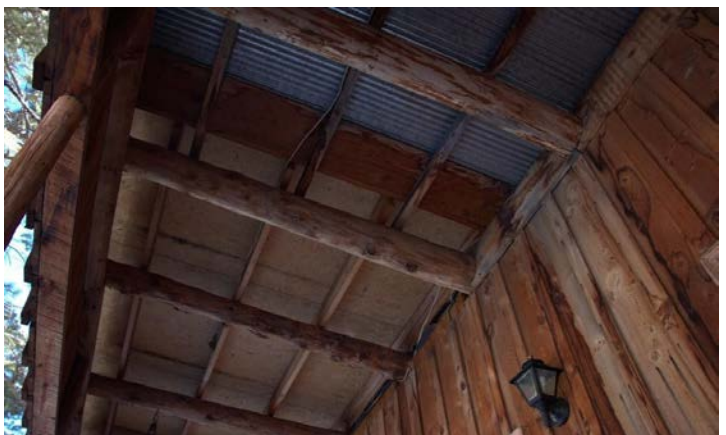


Figure 10: Machine Shed and Breezeway, facing northeast

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Figure 12: Breezeway exterior 1, South facade, facing northeast

Figure 11: Breezeway exterior 2, South facade, facing North

Moving eastward, the bunkhouse exhibits a small, opaque 1-by-1 light rectangular casement window near the roof, which is supported by 3 visible wooden logs extending as an overhanging eave. The remaining portion of the southern side (Figure 13) descends a slope in the ground (the foundation is built into it like in a bank barn) and maintains an overhanging roof with a ridge separate from the one supported by logs. About midway through this remaining portion of the southern side, there is a 1-by-1 light rectangular casement window beneath the overhanging roof. The eastern side (Figure 13) has a visible concrete foundation that transitions upward to the board and batten siding. At the midpoint of the eastern side, there is an impractical aluminum door, with an inset rectangular light, that is situated about 4 or 5 feet above the ground with no stairway or viable egress (Figure 13). North of the hazardous door, there are electrical utilities coming out of the ground that are attached to the east side and, above the utilities, there is a 1-by-1 light rectangle casement window.



Figure 13: Bunkhouse, East and South façades, facing northwest

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Tool Shed (1910; Figure 14): The tool shed is 108 square feet and features a granite stone and built-up earthen foundation, pine board and batten siding, and a composition sheet-rolled roof. There is a small stovepipe protruding from the central mass of the roof. The roof has a front gable over a barn-style wooden door on the primary (northeast) façade with a sign overhead (Figure 15) that reads "Patricia's Den." Patricia refers to the daughter of George and Miriam Garrison, who owned the ranch in the middle of the 20th century. The roof extends northward to overhang a small shed, offering additional storage. The awning appears to have been constructed after the original shed and has the same pine board and batten siding, albeit newer.

Moving counterclockwise around the shed, the northwest side has no fenestration, and the roof's rafter ends are visible.

Moving counterclockwise along the southwest side (Figure 16), a pair of 1-by-1 light rectangle casement windows at the upper-middle part of the side each open with aluminum surrounds. There is a roof gable above the windows.

Moving counterclockwise, the southeast side has no fenestration, and the roof's rafter ends are visible.



Figure 14: Northeast façade of tool shed, facing southwest



Figure 15: Sign above tool shed entrance that reads "Patricia's Den", referring to Patricia Garrison.



Figure 16: Southwest façade of tool shed, facing northeast

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Livestock shed (1910; Figure 17): The three-sided livestock (horse) shed is oriented diagonally towards the southwest. This shed is 698 square feet and has a built-up earthen foundation, board and batten siding, and a galvanized iron roof with overhanging rafter ends on all sides. The structure maintains no fenestration and the primary (southwest) façade opens into the covered shed, which features a livestock feeding area inside. The midpoint of the open façade maintains a pole structural support with a ladder-like series of wooden logs nailed to it. At the southernmost part of the façade, there is a swinging wooden stable-door that could be closed to contain livestock while at the northernmost part of the façade, only the hinges of the stable-door remain intact.

Moving counterclockwise around the shed, board and batten siding clads the southeast side and the foundation slopes downward in the ground to the northeast.

Moving counterclockwise around the shed, the northeast side (Figure 18) maintains board and batten siding and the foundation is perched above the ground on a series of wooden pier supports. There is chicken wire surrounding the piers, perhaps to keep wildlife out. About mid-height on the westernmost end of the northeast side, there is a foot-long flat metal vent protruding off the building.

Moving counterclockwise around the shed, the northwest side (Figure 19) maintains board and boarding siding and the foundation visibly follows an upgradient in the ground.



Figure 18: Livestock Shed, northeast facade, facing southwest



Figure 19: Livestock Shed, northwest and southwest façades, facing northeast

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Woodworking shop and Chicken Coop (1910; Figure 20): The three-sided woodworking shop and chicken coop is 471 square feet and has an earthen and concrete foundation, board and batten siding, and a composite galvanized iron roof. The southern end of the primary (east) façade opens into a machine storage area with earthen foundation that is supported by wooden pole-framing. The northernmost end of the east façade is enclosed atop a concrete foundation and features a row of five medium 2-over-2 light square casement windows with wooden surrounds. While the primary residence's windows are recent replacements, these windows appear original; they are also covered with chicken wire. The top-right light on the easternmost window is missing. The easternmost end of the primary façade features an entry door that appears as board and batten siding and above the door, there is a wooden sign with "Ray's Woodworking Shop" carved into it.



Figure 20: Wood Shop and Stables, East façade, facing northwest

Moving counterclockwise around the shop, the north side has no fenestration, and roof eaves are overhanging. This side is adjacent to the livestock stables and exhibits an alley about a foot-wide between the two structures.

Moving counterclockwise, the west side has no fenestration and maintains the same board and batten construction on the rest of this structure and other buildings.

The east side is only partially clad with two sheets of composite galvanized iron while the remaining portion opens into the machine storage area. There is space available where more sheets of galvanized iron could be added.

Livestock Stables (1910; Figure 21, Figure 22): The livestock stables are a row-style horse barn featuring four stalls, a shed area, a storage area, and a feed room, totaling 1690 square feet. The horse barn has a concrete stone foundation, dirt floor, pine board and batten frame siding, and a composite galvanized iron shed roof that hangs over all sides. There is new construction along the roof support and rafters, presumably to offer support and replace the original rafters. The stable is equipped with a built-in water system and electricity. Inside the building, there is a passageway along the west wall that allows access from the westernmost side to the easternmost side. The primary façade faces east and exhibits four Dutch doors. The Dutch doors feature independent top and bottom openings, which can be used to allow light and ventilation by opening the top while controlling animal movement by opening or closing the bottom. These doors also have a small flap on the upper half for ventilation. There are six original 2-over-2 light square casement windows above, but set off from, the doors, with wooden surrounds. The northernmost part of the eastern side is an overhang that turns into a cribbed-barn area with space for feeding and grooming horses. This cribbed-barn area is enclosed by an operable wooden gate (Figure 23).

Moving counterclockwise around the shed, the north side maintains the board and batten siding and has no fenestration. The roof's rafter ends are visible.



Figure 21: Stables context, facing southeast

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Moving counterclockwise along the western side, the northernmost part runs along the stables' edge, until the covered barn area which is set back from the rest of the side. The roof's rafter ends are visible and there is no fenestration. On the southernmost part of the western side, there is new construction along the roof support ends, presumably to replace wood rot. Along the new mid-way of the western side is a swinging barn-style door with several boards of lumber positioned horizontally parallel up the full height of the door that provides access to the stables' interior.

Moving counterclockwise, the southern side has a 2-over-2 light square casement window positioned along the same level as the windows on the eastern side, and the roof's rafter ends are visible. There is an alley about a foot-wide between this side and the woodworking shop.



Figure 22: Stables 1, East façade, facing northwest

NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

Structures

Entrance Gate (Figure 24): The entrance gate to Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch is a noncontributing resource due to its recent age, but it serves the function of marking the property's address and there is a placard affixed to the left post that reads "Stewardship Forest," with a symbol depicting two trees inside a circle.

Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch's boundary is demarcated, along Stove Prairie Road, by a barbed wire fence that transitions, on either side of the driveway, into a wood framework that can be opened and closed via a double-swing wood gate. This gate marks the primary entrance into Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch, which leads down the driveway toward the primary cluster of buildings. The gate is framed on each side by tall wood posts with a log positioned atop the posts, parallel across the driveway—a typical motif in Western ranch entrance gates. There is a metal hinge on the right side of the gate, facilitating its opening and closing, and a log on either side of the gate, both positioned diagonally, that connect with the main post to serve as a brace support as well as a larger log that is positioned diagonally from the ground and connecting with the main post as another brace to complete the structural support system.

Well: The original dug well on the property was constructed in the 1930s at a depth of approximately 80 feet; it is now inoperable. A new well was drilled down to 600 feet on the property in 2014; it is covered by an aluminum cap to prevent contamination. The wells are located about 250 feet apart from each other, east of the main residence and just north of the driveway.



Figure 23: Stables 2, East and North facades, facing SW



Figure 24: Entrance Gate, facing west

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INTEGRITY

Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch remains in its originally sited location that was granted to Jesse Hollemon via the Homestead Act; thus, its location is fully intact. Hollemon's Homestead design was altered with the addition of one quarter-section of Lillie Anderson's parcel and the later partitioning of its original parcel; however, the primary cluster of ranch activity remains intact with all but one of its original buildings. The Homestead's setting remains partially intact because it is still rural in character, however, the 2012 "High Park" fire resulted in burn damage and scarring on the mountainous areas northeast, northwest, and southwest of the property.⁸ The ranch partially retains its integrity of materials because all buildings and structures are original construction, but there have been additions and structural repairs completed—albeit, with materials complementary to the original. Although windows on most of the ranch's buildings exhibit replacement materials, the original openings remain intact. Workmanship is partially intact with the original board-and-batten siding still apparent on all buildings and only minor structural repairs and maintenance being completed due to normal wear and tear. Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch's overall feeling was also partially impacted by the 2012 fire, but enough pine and aspen trees remain within the primary cluster to convey its historic character as northern Colorado forested ranch. The ranch continues to fully convey its historic associations to settlement, architecture, and agriculture through its extant board-and-batten fabric, intact main area of land (albeit on a sub-divided parcel) granted under the Homestead Act, and still-functional machine sheds and livestock stables.

Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch displays a remarkably high level of integrity and conveys its historic significance. Furthermore, as America industrialized between 1870 and 1920 and approximately 11 million people migrated to cities, farms and ranches that were recently established were often disrupted, or otherwise parceled out, as the nation underwent a widespread rural-to-urban transition that continued into the mid-twentieth century.⁹ Indeed, Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch was divided from Hollemon's original 160-acre Homestead Act claim into multiple smaller parcels. However, this circumstance, which so often resulted in the cessation of agricultural activities on historic American ranches, makes Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch's ongoing agricultural operation, its high level of integrity conveying historic significance, and its representation as an example of other vernacular ranch-style homes associated with Homestead Act claims in the Poudre Canyon and northern Colorado (very few of which have been nominated to the National Register) quite remarkable.

⁸ "High Park Fire 100 Percent Contained."

⁹ John Louis Recchiuti, "America Moves to the City," *Khan Academy* (U.S. History, Unit 6, Lesson 1: The Gilded Age), No Date, Accessed December 12, 2022: <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/us-history/the-gilded-age/gilded-age/a/america-moves-to-the-city>.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | A | Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | B | Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 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. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | D | Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. |

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | A | Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | B | removed from its original location. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | C | a birthplace or grave. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | D | a cemetery. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | E | a reconstructed building, object, or structure. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | F | a commemorative property. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | G | less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years. |

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Settlement

Agriculture

Period of Significance

1906-1911 (Criterion A)

1910 (Criterion C)

1911-1973 (Criterion A)

Significant Dates

1910-1911

1959

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Jesse J. Hollemon

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, areas of significance, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch is locally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Settlement and Agriculture and Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The Settlement period of significance begins in 1906, with Jesse Hollemon's assumed claim application for the parcel of land, and ends in 1911, with his receipt of the land patent confirming residency and improvements. The period of significance for Architecture is 1910, the date of construction for all except one of the Homestead's Rustic buildings and structures. The period of significance for Agriculture extends from 1911 to 1973, encompassing two distinct eras in which the Homestead and Ranch was used for beef, and perhaps dairy, cattle husbandry (1911-1959) as well as an American Quarter Horse breeding operation (1959-1973). The end date was chosen in accordance with the 50-year rule, although it should be noted that agricultural activity has not ceased at the ranch, which is now a timber farm.

The fact that the Homestead and Ranch has maintained its primary cluster of ranch buildings, including livestock stables, as well as its agricultural zoning throughout numerous twentieth and twenty-first century social, cultural, and economic changes make it a remarkable place that continues to convey its association with its history. Even though the original 160 acres were parceled out in the late twentieth century, thereby reducing the ranch to the 67 acres it is today, sections of both Hollemon's and Anderson's Homestead Act claims are included in the current ranch boundary.¹⁰

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A (Settlement, 1906-1911): The Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch is locally significant under Criterion A as a rare example of early twentieth century settlement in the Stove Prairie area of northern Colorado. The period of significance begins in 1906, when the original homesteader, Jesse Hollemon, applied for a claim to 160 acres through the General Land Office, and ends in 1911, after Hollemon had completed construction of the primary cluster of buildings and received a patent from the Denver, Colorado Land Office.¹¹ Both Jesse Hollemon and Lillie Anderson were granted their deeds to adjacent properties under the original Homestead Act of 1862.¹² At an unknown date, Anderson apparently sold an estimated one quarter-section of her parcel to Hollemon, or a subsequent owner, because the present boundary includes land within both of their original Homestead Act claims. Therefore, today's Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch boundary includes Hollemon's subsequently partitioned (c. late twentieth century) parcel combined with approximately one quarter-section of Anderson's parcel. Stove Prairie, Colorado, and the surrounding vicinity included several Homestead Act claims during the early twentieth century; however little documentation exists regarding whether any structures or buildings dating from these original claims remain extant.¹³ It is also noteworthy, for the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, that the Homestead Acts permitted women to acquire land—and, we see an instance of female ownership by Lillie Anderson in the parcel adjacent to the Hollemon Homestead.

There are very few National Register listed resources in this region. The closest comparable ranch nearby is the 1896 Stove Prairie Ranch, which maintains a similar configuration of vernacular animal agriculture buildings, such as horse stables and barns, alongside restful places like its primary residence "cottage" and gazebo.¹⁴ The Stove Prairie Schoolhouse was originally built on the ranch's holdings, although the parcels have since been split off. The Stove Prairie Ranch originally ran cattle and sold timber, but most buildings are altered to support the property's new use as a wedding venue. The property reflects a much different approach to building construction than the Hollemon-Smith Homestead and

¹⁰ Ramos, Patricia, "Research Interviews," by Emily Ortiz and Shaun Rose, February 19, 2022; September 20, 2022.

¹¹ Act of May 20, 1862 (Homestead Act), Public Law 37-64 (12 STAT 392), 5/20/1862, Enrolled Acts and Resolutions of Congress, 1789 – 2011, General Records of the United States Government, Record Group 11, National Archives Building, Washington, DC; General Land Office, "Land patent...grant to Jesse Hollemon," April 11, 1911, <https://glorerecords.blm.gov/default.aspx>.

¹² The United States of America, "The Homestead Act of 1862," Educator Resources, *National Archives*, No date, Accessed May 5, 2022: <https://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/homestead-act>.

¹³ Livermore Women's Club, *Ranch Histories of Livermore and Vicinity, 1884-1956: A Reprinting of the Larimer County Stockholders Association*, Fort Collins Museum of Discovery Archives, Accessed April 8, 2022.

¹⁴ Stove Prairie Ranch, "History," No date: <https://stoveprairieranch.com/ranch-history>.

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Ranch, as well, with random ashlar fieldstone siding, a mix of historically unsympathetic standing seam metal and red tile roofs, and overall, a much-altered landscape with paved footpaths, looming lampposts, and new post-and-rail fencing. The Stove Prairie School, which is the only historically designated resource in the valley (Colorado State Register), has had major alterations following expansion in the mid-century. Therefore, the Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch has the largest and best-maintained collection of settlement-period buildings and structures in the region.

Criterion C (Architecture, 1910): The Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch is significant at the local level under Criterion C as a representative example of early twentieth century Rustic architecture in the Stove Prairie region of northern Colorado for the period 1910. All the buildings and structures in the primary cluster were constructed using vertical board-and-batten wood siding with materials that were most likely gathered from surrounding timber stands and fashioned by local sawmills. The period of architectural significance is 1910, the construction date for all except one building inside the primary cluster. Hollemon constructed the buildings at his Homestead in a vernacular, or plain and functional, style known as Rustic architecture.

As settlement matured in early twentieth century America, people began to build sawmills to extend the use of timber. With sawmills, one tree could produce many boards and strips of wood more efficiently than hand-hewing logs. These wooden planks and strips became boards and bats. The boards, about an inch thick, would fit together vertically and the bats, or 'batten,' would cover any gaps between the boards. The buildings and structures at the Homestead demonstrate this type of construction and maintain characteristic peg joinery and period-accurate nails. These hand-crafted details demonstrate a high level of vernacular workmanship in the ranch's construction—that is, they were most likely built by the homesteader himself rather than a craftsman or builder. Moreover, the Homestead's buildings are a rare and representative example of board-and-batten construction in the Stove Prairie vicinity. By way of comparison, the one-room 1896 Stove Prairie School was originally built by local families as a vertical board-and-batten house with a central wood stove and no running water.¹⁵ The schoolhouse's board-and-batten fabric was lost when it underwent expansion in 1964, which underscores the rarity of such a high degree of material integrity.

Criterion A (Agriculture, 1911-1973): Although the period of significance for Agriculture begins in 1911 and continues through 1973, there are several distinct eras exhibiting a variety of agricultural uses at the Hollemon Homestead. First, between 1911 and 1959, the Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch produced beef, and perhaps dairy, from cattle that were husbanded there. Second, from 1959 to 1989, the Garrison family used their sentimentally titled "Pamige Ranch" (see *The Garrison Family* for details) to breed prize-winning American Quarter Horses. Third, from 1989 to present, the Ramos family has maintained timber production at the property.

Due to the challenging nature of farming and ranching in the mountain valleys of northern Colorado, the early twentieth century was a time of rapidly evolving agricultural methods—many of which can be seen at the Homestead and Ranch. These advancements include increased specialization (e.g., the likely hybridization with beef and dairy cows); more hospitable housing and agricultural buildings (e.g., the primary and secondary residences); as well as the manufacture and use of agricultural machinery (e.g., seen in machine sheds).¹⁶ Another improvement in cattle ranching technique was a new livestock feeding practice, prompted by intermittent droughts in the 1890s and their deleterious effects on pastureland, in which cattle ranchers used sugar beets tops and beet pulp—a trend that, given nearby Fort Collins' sugar beet industry, was almost certainly implemented at the Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch.¹⁷ This change in livestock feeding, in addition to spaying cows to fatten them more quickly and thereby cull the herd faster, helped ranchers address growing consumer demand for a higher grade of beef by allowing them to genetically engineer cow breeds more readily.¹⁸

Farms and ranches in the northern foothills often had to employ adaptability to address geographic challenges to agricultural production. For example, locally landmarked Goodhue Farm in adjacent Boulder County (where there are

¹⁵ Creager, "Stove Prairie School."

¹⁶ Deon Wolfenbarger, "Agricultural Resources of Boulder County," National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form (Nederland, Colorado: *Three Gables Preservation*, May 20, 2008), 29.

¹⁷ Wolfenbarger, "Agricultural Resources of Boulder County," MPDF, 28; Fort Collins History Connection, "The Sugar Beet Industry," section in "Fort Collins History and Architecture: Sugar Beets, Streetcar Suburbs, and the City Beautiful, 1900-1919," n.d., Accessed December 12, 2022: <https://history.fcgov.com/contexts/sugar>.

¹⁸ Wolfenbarger, "Agricultural Resources of Boulder County," MPDF, 28.

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similar climatic conditions and a higher quantity of NRHP-eligible ranches and farms) adapted to changing meat markets by increasing agricultural production via new scientific methods and technology; however, after a succession of family owners in the 1910s and 1920s, the farm succumbed to bank foreclosure.¹⁹ Meanwhile, between the early-to-mid-twentieth century, Dodd Brother Enterprises successfully expanded their cattle ranch to over 800 acres by diversifying their agricultural products to include farming sugar beets, wheat, barley, and corn; they were also among Boulder County's earliest to adopt water conservation efforts like lining irrigation laterals and leveling crop fields.²⁰ These homesteads also exhibit changing functions over time that are reflective of changes in agriculture practice, just as the Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch was adapted for a variety of purposes over the years. As a final point of comparison to early twentieth century ranches in Boulder County, implement and machine sheds were necessary there as storage facilities to preserve the value of machinery by protecting such equipment from weather exposure—a trend seen in the Ranch's storage sheds.²¹

Today's Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch continues to exhibit ties to its agricultural past while adapting to present circumstances. Although the Ranch's ownership changed hands throughout the twentieth century, it was operated continuously, for about 48 years, as a cattle ranch from 1911 until 1959. The Smiths may have hybridized their operation to include dairy production between 1946 and 1959 (see *Early Agriculture on the Ranch* for additional context). Considering this long stretch of cow-related production and the Ranch's subsequent adaptation from cattle ranching (and perhaps dairy farming) to American Quarter-Horse breeding, as well as the prizes the horses won in competition, the Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch is significant under Criterion A at the local level for these associations with animal agriculture.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

Homesteading in Stove Prairie

Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch is situated in the Stove Prairie area, about 20 miles northwest of Fort Collins, Colorado, in Larimer County. Stove Prairie is named for a United States government-issued stove that was allegedly left behind in the area by the camp of General John C. Fremont, who, along with his troops, attempted to find a low-elevation pass through the Rocky Mountains in the 1840s.²² Stove Prairie was originally a popular hiking area in the 1890s; then, Euro-American settlers began establishing farms and ranches in the area in the early twentieth century. Many of these farms and ranches were established with claims through the Homestead Act of 1862.

By the mid-nineteenth century, the U.S. government had become overwhelmed at the lands it held in the public domain and sought a way to dispose of substantial portions of its holdings, as well as to conquer the American West (frequently conceptualized as a rapidly closing frontier) by displacing and removing indigenous populations. The Homestead Act was passed in 1862 (to provide a mechanism by which Euro-American settlers could file an application with the U.S. government to claim a parcel of land, up to 160 acres. If they intended to improve and reside on the land for a period of 5 years, they would gain title, also known as "proving up."²³ Additional legislation followed, such as the Southern Homestead Act of 1866, the Timber Culture Act of 1873, and the Enlarged Homestead Act of 1909, and the Stock Raising Homestead Act of 1916. Homestead Act claims typically involved a three-step process in which a claimant would file an application seeking to improve a parcel of land in exchange for a land patent or deed; the claimant would then proceed to make improvements over several years (often legislated at five); and, finally, the deed was conveyed to the owner once they gave sufficient proof of improvements to the government.

As Euro-American settlers homesteaded the Stove Prairie area, establishing a lasting presence on the landscape during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, they decided to pool resources together and build the Stove Prairie

¹⁹ Wolfenbarger, "Agricultural Resources of Boulder County," MPDF, 31.

²⁰ Wolfenbarger, "Agricultural Resources of Boulder County," MPDF, 33.

²¹ Wolfenbarger, "Agricultural Resources of Boulder County," MPDF, 58.

²² Hill, "Stories Recall Stove Prairie Camping Trip," *Coloradoan*, n.d.

²³ Hillary Brady, "The Homestead Acts," *Digital Public Library of America*, No Date, Accessed February 10, 2023: <https://dp.la/primary-source-sets/the-homestead-acts>.

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School House.²⁴ The Stove Prairie School House was built in 1896 by Emmanuel Vannorsdel and Harlen Bosworth and operated as both a school and a community center.²⁵ Despite subsequent expansions that destroyed some historic fabric, it is still in operation as one of Colorado's oldest historic schoolhouses.²⁶ The schoolhouse was not only built, but also maintained by local families, such as those of nearby ranchers and lumberjacks like Harlan Bosworth and Emmanuel Vannorsdel—who fetched water, chopped wood, completed repairs, and painted the building annually.²⁷

Like the classic one-room rural schoolhouse that these families built and maintained together, the Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch is evidence of its owners' intent to settle permanently in this rugged northern Colorado region. Today, Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch covers parts of two Homestead Act claims, which were integral to Euro-American settlement of the American West. The buildings at the Ranch lay on land originally granted to Jesse Hollemon, whose deed is dated in 1911, corresponding to the construction of the ranch's primary cluster. The adjacent land was subsequently granted to Lillie Anderson. Lillie Anderson received a conveyance of deed for the ranch land in November 1915, but it was not filed until June 1918; the paper copy of the deed was printed and bound by the Larimer County Abstract Company.²⁸ Although there is no historical trace of Hollemon's sale of the property to the Smiths in 1946, it is assumed that he resided on the Homestead until this time; likewise, we have no record, aside from analysis of the present Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch parcel, of Anderson's evident sale of part of her land to Hollemon or a subsequent owner, nor of her life experience, aside from her Homestead Act deed.²⁹ Although much of Lillie Anderson's life has been lost to the record, there are other examples of female homesteading on Colorado's Front Range. One is the case of Katherine G. Garetson, who homesteaded in the area near Allenspark Colorado, named "Big Owl," circa 1917; in her story, Garetson remarks that she dreamed of owning land in Colorado "for cheap."³⁰ The Homesteading Acts made this possible for many Euro-American settlers in the early twentieth century. Indeed, Stove Prairie, Colorado and the surrounding vicinity included several Homestead Act claims during the early twentieth century; however little documentation exists on whether any structures or buildings dating from these original claims still exist.³¹

Early Agriculture on the Ranch

The next owners of what would later come to be known as Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch were the Smith family: dairy-owner Ernest Smith purchased the ranch, presumably from Hollemon, in 1946. Ernest Smith operated the OT Dairy in Fort Collins, about 20 miles east of the ranch. The Smiths had two sons, both of whom attended the Stove Prairie Elementary Schoolhouse prior to Cache La Poudre High School. Ernest's son, Cletys, along with Cletys' wife, Bessie (née Bell), gained agricultural experience working for OT Dairy before they purchased the ranch in 1946 and ran it for about a dozen years.³²

Bessie also taught at the nearby Stove Prairie School House until 1959, when the family moved to the Forks area between Fort Collins and the Wyoming border.³³ Although primary sources indicate the Smiths bought Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch as a cattle operation, Colorado's wide-open expanse of rangelands, and particularly the high-

²⁴ Creager, "Stove Prairie School."

²⁵ M.A. Thompson, "Stove Prairie District #18," in *Larimer County, Colorado History: 1860s-1987 Volume II*, edited by Arlene (Biggs) Ahlbrandt, Andrew J. Morris, and Kathryn Stieben (Dallas: Curtis Media Corporation, 1987), 492; Creager, "Stove Prairie School."

²⁶ Creager, "Stove Prairie School."

²⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁸ Larimer County Abstract Company, "Abstract of Title to E ½ SW ¼: SW ¼ SE ¼ 17, NW ¼ NE ¼ 20, W ½ NW ¼: NW ¼ SW ¼: NE ¼ NW ¼ 20, TNP 8N, Range 71W of the 6th Principal Meridian...", private collection, accessed February 19, 2022.

²⁹ General Land Office, "Land patent...grant to Lillie Anderson," November 27, 1915, <https://glorerecords.blm.gov/default.aspx>.

³⁰ Katherine G. Garetson, *Homesteading Big Owl*. (Allenspark: Allenspark WIND, 1989).

³¹ Livermore Women's Club, *Ranch Histories of Livermore and Vicinity, 1884-1956: A Reprinting of the Larimer County Stockholders Association*, Fort Collins Museum of Discovery Archives, Accessed April 8, 2022.

³² "Cletys and Bessie Smith," in *Larimer County, Colorado History: 1860s-1987 Volume II*, edited by Arlene (Biggs) Ahlbrandt, Andrew J. Morris, and Kathryn Stieben (Dallas: Curtis Media Corporation, 1987), 887.

³³ Ramos, "Preliminary Property Evaluation Form," 5; "Cletys and Bessie Smith," in *Larimer County, Colorado History*, ed. by Ahlbrandt, Morris, and Stieben, 887.

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altitude meadows of Stove Prairie would have been conducive to dairy-cow grazing because such grasses improved the fat content in milk.³⁴ Given this environmental advantage and the Smith's prior experience with dairy cows, they may have adapted Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch for a hybrid of beef and dairy production.

Colorado's connection with beef cattle production comes primarily from Texas cowboys who ventured north in the mid- to late-nineteenth century, drawn by abundant grasses in the western part of the state.³⁵ This linkage is evident on the landscape of the Smith Ranch, where evidence of a former cattle corral north of the main residence is visible on satellite imagery. Within the context of northern Colorado's rugged terrain, ranching often proved more viable, economically, in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries than did farming. The livestock stables that Hollemon built would have served very well to house beef cattle or dairy cows during cool seasons while the Ranch's forested and grassy acreage would have allowed them to graze in warmer seasons. Furthermore, the livestock shed would have allowed ranch owners to move individual cows into a separate location from the herd, as needed, such as for medical purposes and milking cows to produce dairy.

The Garrison Family

George and Miriam Garrison purchased the ranch from the Smiths in 1959. It began as a weekend home for the couple and their daughter, Pat.³⁶ The family named the property "Pamige Ranch" on June 4, 1960; "Pamige" derives from the first two letters of Pat, Miriam, and George's names.³⁷ George was an ophthalmologist, requiring the family to live primarily in Fort Collins near his office, but he and his wife joined their daughter Pat on weekends at the ranch to breed, train, and sell Quarter Horses for farm work and showmanship.

Quarter Horse breeding in the United States began around 1620 with the arrival of English horses in the Virginia colony and spread to the American West after the Civil War as white settlers migrated across the Great Plains.³⁸ Quarter Horses were ideal for western ranching due to their placid demeanor, quick speed, long endurance, and sturdy build.³⁹ They are the most widely used horses for ranch work and, despite not being formally defined as a breed until 1941, are the oldest distinct breed of American horses.⁴⁰



Figure 25: Quarter Horse racing harness found on site, N.d., photo courtesy of Patricia Ramos.

³⁴ "Cletys and Bessie Smith," in *Larimer County, Colorado History*, ed. by Ahlbrandt, Morris, and Stieben, 887.

³⁵ Alyse Campbell, "Beef Industry on the Colorado Plains," September 3, 2022 (*Colorado Encyclopedia*), Accessed September 30, 2022: <https://coloradoencyclopedia.org/article/beef-industry-colorado-plains>.

³⁶ Miriam Garrison, "Oral Interview," by Charlene Tresner, transcript, August 29, 1975 (*Fort Collins Public Library Oral History Project Cabinet 8, Drawer 1*), 14.

³⁷ Miriam Garrison, "Oral Interview," by Charlene Tresner, August 29, 1975; Ramos, Patricia, "Research Interviews," by Emily Ortiz and Shaun Rose, February 19, 2022; September 20, 2022.

³⁸ Bob Denhardt, *The Quarter Horse: A Varied Assortment of Historical Articles, Equine Biographies and Characteristics, Sketches of Horsemen and Other Lore, All Pertaining to the Quarter Horse* (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1982), 137.

³⁹ Denhardt, *The Quarter Horse*, 158.

⁴⁰ American Quarter Horse Association, "The History of the AQHA," *American Quarter Horse Association*, accessed April 12, 2022: <https://www.aqha.com/history-of-aqha>.

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Pat Garrison helped originate the northern Colorado Quarter Horse Breeders Association in 1963.⁴¹ The horses she and her partner, Jackie Dolliver, raised won multiple awards; in 1974, one of her mares won Grand Champion in Performance in the Rocky Mountain region.⁴² Pat Garrison primarily did performance work with her Quarter Horses. This encompassed "Western Riding," including reigning the horse and complex stepping patterns.⁴³ Pat won several awards for her performance riding.⁴⁴ She also worked as a 4-H judge around the state, part of a long tradition of agricultural competition in the West and in the United States at large. She worked mostly at the county level, judging various 4-H clubs around the area. Most of the shows that Pat judged involved local children showing their horses.⁴⁵ During this time, she stopped performance riding due to the conflict of interest of being a judge and a contender. The 4-H connections reveal the importance that livestock and agriculture maintained in the Garrison family. Pat and Jackie purchased the ranch from George and Miriam in 1976 and continued to breed Quarter Horses late into their lives.

Just as Stove Prairie School became a civic and community gathering place in addition to its primary purpose as education-center for rural northern Colorado families, so did the ranch become a restful place to visit for weary travelers and tourists in addition to its original purpose as a cattle ranch.⁴⁶ Some of the main attractions for dude ranch visitors were opportunities to ride horses and view nature (see dude ranching context section below), and given that the property was used to breed Quarter Horses and bordered the Cache la Poudre Wilderness, it was an ideal place for such activities.

Shortly after purchasing the ranch, the Garrisons began renting out the additional residence across from the main house. Visitors from Fort Collins, Denver, and other Colorado cities overnights at the bunkhouse or rented the space for professional and personal events, making the site a kind of dude ranch.⁴⁷ The tradition of dude ranching became popular in the early twentieth century with the completion of the transcontinental railroad and the closing of the frontier. Adrienne Rose Johnson defines a dude ranch as "any western ranch that charged guests for room and board."⁴⁸ Dude ranching in the Rocky Mountains peaked between 1880 and 1930 and in its heyday visitors from the east and from Europe visited Western ranches to escape urban stressors and enjoy activities like horseback riding, hunting, and nature viewing.

Following the end of World War II, Americans began flocking to public lands in the West; dude ranches saw a small resurgence with the explosion of mountain tourism in Colorado.⁴⁹ Alongside railroads and national parks, dude ranching was one of the primary attractions of the West and helped turn the Rocky Mountains into a tourist destination.⁵⁰ The popularization of Dude ranches during the early- and mid-twentieth century tied into a crisis of masculinity and appeal to traditional values. In the wake of women's suffrage, urbanization, and increased immigration, escaping to the frontier permitted white men to fantasize about self-sufficiency, rugged masculinity, and traditional family values. In response, female tourists experimented with ideas of physical and sexual liberation, exchanging dresses and housekeeping for denim and hay shoveling.⁵¹

While the Garrisons might not have referred to their ranch as such, its functionality as a personal residence, operational ranch, and bunkhouse for visitors made it a dude ranch in all but the name. Visitors' experiences reflected the duties of ranchers. Horseback riding was one of the most appealing activities to visitors; indeed, many visitors to the ranch who signed the guestbook lauded the calm, enjoyable experience of riding and caring for Pat Garrison's Quarter Horses.

In 1989, Rafael "Ray" Ramos bought 40 acres of the original 160-acre ranch from Patricia Garrison. In 1993, he purchased the primary cluster of land and buildings contained within a 67-acre tract, followed by another 40 acres in 2014.

⁴¹ "Fun in Colorado with American Quarter Horses!" *Northern Colorado Quarter Horse Association*, accessed April 12, 2022: <https://ncqha.org>.

⁴² Garrison, "Oral History Interview," 14.

⁴³ Garrison, "Oral History Interview," 14-15.

⁴⁴ Garrison, "Oral History Interview," 15.

⁴⁵ Garrison, "Oral History Interview," 16.

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*

⁴⁷ *Pamige Ranch Guestbook*, private collection, accessed February 19, 2022.

⁴⁸ Adrienne Rose Johnson, "Romancing the Dude Ranch, 1926-1947," *Western Historical Quarterly* 42, no. 4 (2012), 441.

⁴⁹ Lawrence R. Borne, "Dude Ranching in the Rockies," *Montana: The Magazine of Western History* 38, no. 3 (1988), 15.

⁵⁰ William Philpott, *Vacationland: Tourism and Environment in the Colorado High Country* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2013), 195.

⁵¹ *Ibid.*, 438-9.

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Mr. Ramos was active in the Tree Farm Association and Poudre Valley Fire and Rescue during his ownership of the ranch between 1989-2015, and he frequently hosted Fort Collins-based middle and high school groups on the ranch to discuss its history and educate students about the importance of timber farms and sustainable forestry practices.⁵² In 2015, Ray sold 67 acres of the ranch, including the primary cluster of Rustic buildings, to his daughter, Patricia Ramos, who currently operates the ranch as a timber farm.⁵³ Although these timber farming activities are too recent to be considered as another element of historic significance, it is noteworthy that Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch's association with productive agriculture is ongoing.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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⁵² Ramos, Patricia, "Research Interviews," by Emily Ortiz and Shaun Rose, February 19, 2022; September 20, 2022.

⁵³ Ramos, "Preliminary Property Evaluation Form," 6.

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General Land Office. "Land patent, number 193082, grant to Jesse Hollemon." April 11, 1911. Document number 05117. Bureau of Land Management, General Land Office Records. Online database, Accessed November 18, 2022: <https://glorerecords.blm.gov/default.aspx>.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 67

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

Datum:

NAD 1927 _____ or **NAD 1983** ☒ _____

(Insert additional UTM references as needed.)

1 13N 468113 4500773
Zone Easting Northing

3 13N 468108 4500000
Zone Easting Northing

2 13N 468280 4500769
Zone Easting Northing

4 13N 468534 4499971
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch's present boundary encompasses 67 acres that is legally associated with parcel number 1820000017. Beginning at the northeast corner of the Ranch's parcel, the boundary line runs 554 feet to the west and meets the Cache la Poudre Wilderness at the northwest corner. The line then travels 2,625 feet South where it meets parcel number 1820000020. From the southwest corner, the boundary moves east 1,406 feet where it corners roughly at the intersection of Bent Timber Ln (dirt road) and Stove Prairie Road. From the southeast corner, the boundary travels northwest along a slight diagonal slope for 1,106 feet before proceeding more sharply along a northwest diagonal for 1,733 feet where it concludes at the northeast boundary, bordering parcel number 1817000022.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This boundary includes all buildings and structures associated with the Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch's historically significant activities but does not include two other parcels of 40-acres, each, that were separated from the original 160-acre Homestead Act claim. The property's current boundaries were established in 1989 when the owners, Patricia Garrison and Jackie Dolliver, partitioned and sold the ranch before they moved to New Mexico. This boundary is maintained as the recommended rural historic landscape because it consists of the current property boundary and includes the primary cluster of buildings wherein the Homestead and Ranch exhibits its historic associations to settlement, architecture, and agriculture.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title

Shaun Rose, Emily Ortiz, and Taylor LaPoint (for owner)

Organization Colorado State University

date November 18, 2022

street & number

110 University Ave.

telephone _____

city or town

Fort Collins

state CO

Zip code 80523

e-mail _____

Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch

Name of Property

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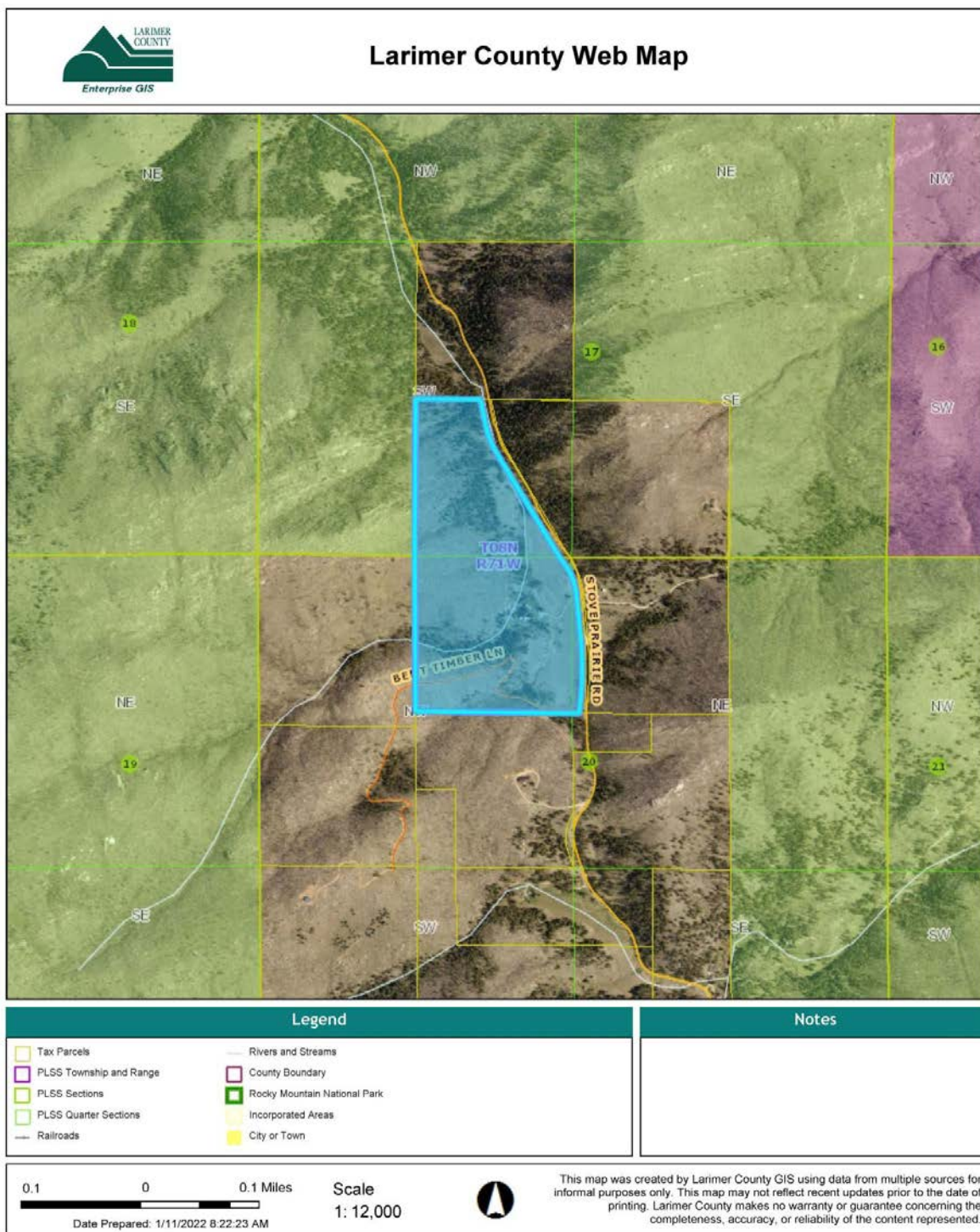
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) or **Google Earth** map indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

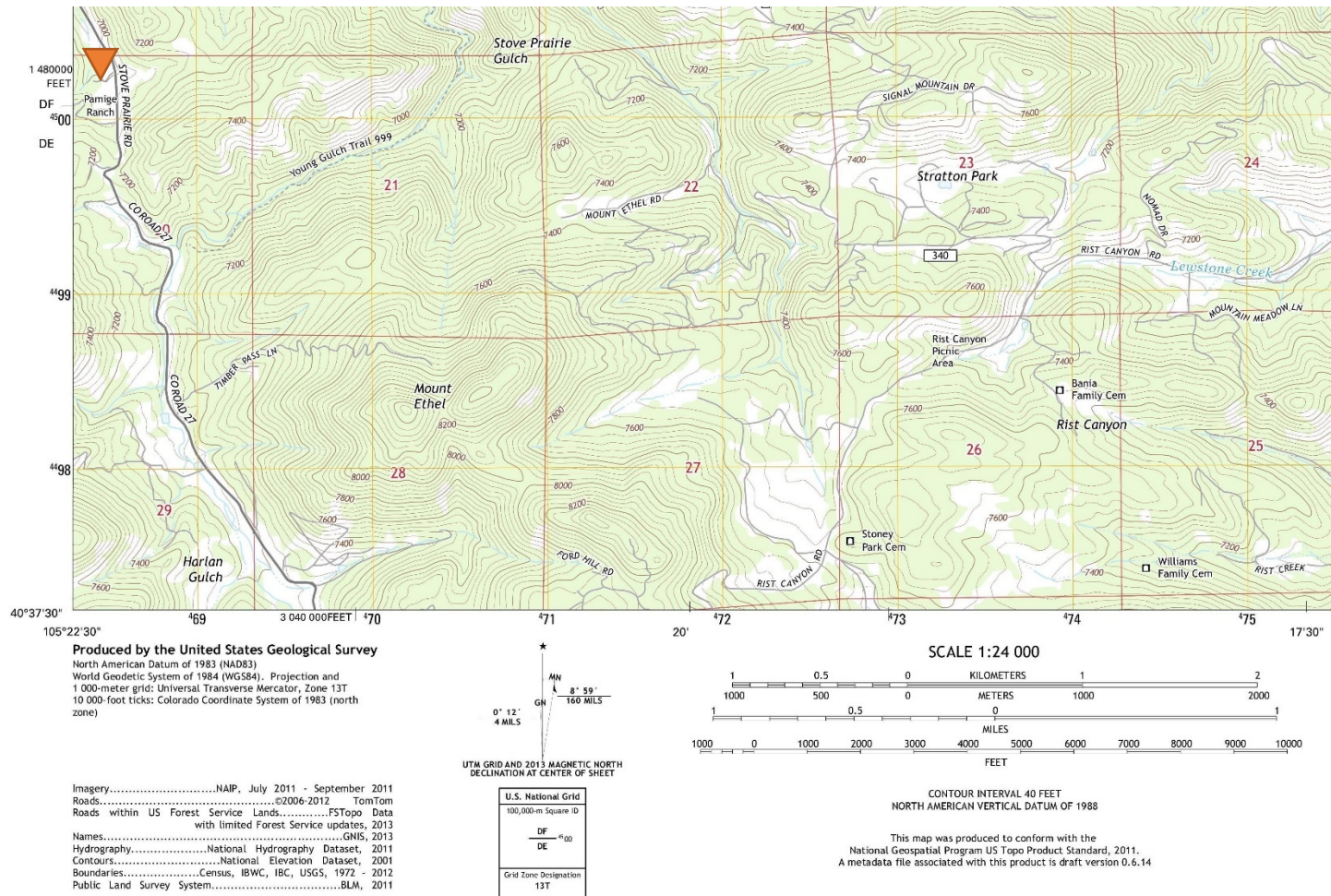
Legal Parcel:



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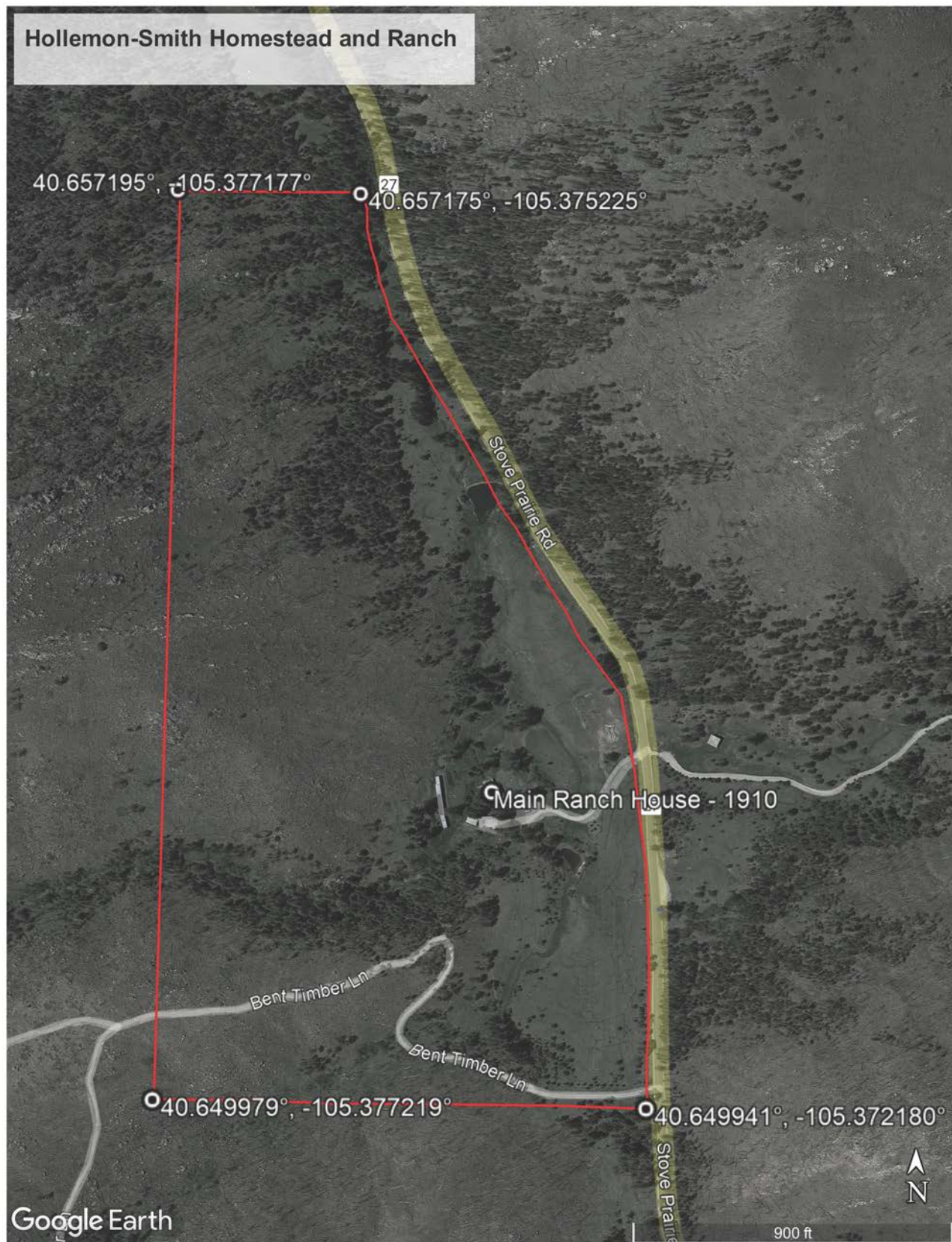
Topographic Map:



Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch
Name of Property

Larimer County, Colorado
County and State

Sketch Map:



Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch
Name of Property

Larimer County, Colorado
County and State



Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch

Name of Property

Larimer County, Colorado

County and State

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch

City or Vicinity: Bellvue

County: Larimer

State: Colorado

Photographer: Taylor Lapointe and Shaun Rose

Date Photographed:

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

Photo # 1

Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch, Site Context, facing west (10/06/2021)

Photo # 2

Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch, Primary (east) façade of main ranch house, facing west (02/19/2022)

Photo # 3

Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch, Northeast façade of main house, facing southwest (02/19/2022)

Photo # 4

Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch, Main house, chimney detail (02/19/2022)

Photo # 5

Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch, Southwest façade of main house, facing northeast (02/19/2022)

Photo # 6

Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch, Southeast façade (recessed) of main house, facing northeast (02/19/2022)

Photo # 7

Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch, Southeast façade (primary entry) of main house, facing northwest (02/19/2022)

Photo # 8

Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch, Bunkhouse, East and North façades, facing southwest (10/06/2021)

Photo # 9

Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch, Bunkhouse, log porch rafters (02/19/2022)

Photo # 10

Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch, Machine Shed and Breezeway, facing northeast (10/06/2021)

Photo # 11

Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch, Breezeway exterior 1, south facade, facing northeast (10/06/2021)

Photo # 12

Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch, Breezeway exterior 2, south facade, facing north (10/06/2021)

Photo # 13

Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch, Bunkhouse, east and south façades, facing northwest (10/06/2021)

Photo # 14

Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch, Northwest façade of tool shed, facing southwest (10/06/2021)

Photo # 15

Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch

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Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch, Sign above tool shed entrance that reads "Patricia's Den" (02/19/2022)

Photo # 16

Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch, Southwest façade of tool shed, facing northeast (02/19/2022)

Photo # 17

Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch, Context for livestock shed, facing northeast (02/19/2022)

Photo # 18

Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch, Livestock Shed, northwest and southwest façades, facing northeast (10/06/2021)

Photo # 19

Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch, Livestock Shed, northeast facade, facing southwest (10/06/2021)

Photo # 20

Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch, Wood Shop and Stables, east façade, facing northwest (10/06/2021)

Photo # 21

Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch, Stables context, facing southeast (02/19/2022)

Photo # 22

Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch, Stables 1, east façade, facing northwest (10/06/2021)

Photo # 23

Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch, Stables 2, east and north facades, facing southwest (10/06/2021)

Photo # 24

Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch, Entrance Gate, facing west (10/06/2021)

Photo # 25

Hollemon-Smith Homestead and Ranch, Quarter Horse Racing Harness found on site, (N.d.), photo courtesy of Patricia Ramos

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.