

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: Main Boulder Ranger Station

Other names/site number: 24PA0635; Main Boulder Guard Station

Name of related multiple property listing:

NA

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

2. Location

Street & number: 2815 Main Boulder Rd

City or town: McLeod State: MT County: Park

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national X statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 X A B X C D

<p>_____</p> <p>Signature of certifying official/Title:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>Date</p>
<p>In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>_____</p> <p>Signature of commenting official:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Title :</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>Date</p> <p>_____</p> <p>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>

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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

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>9</u>	<u>3</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT/government office
DOMESTIC/institutional housing

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT
RECREATION AND CULTURE (museum)

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: Rustic, log, stone masonry

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: _____

Foundation: CONCRETE, STONE

Walls: WOOD: Log, Frame

Roof: Cedar-WOOD: Shingles

Retaining Wall: STONE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Main Boulder Ranger Station (hereafter MBRS) is a cluster of administrative and domestic buildings constructed in the early 1900s by some of the first Forest Service employees. The complex was built in various phases between 1908 and approximately 1933. The MBRS is located in the Boulder River drainage originating from the northern Absaroka Mountains—an extension of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The MBRS is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, continually operated USFS administrative facilities in Northern Region 1, and possibly the nation. It was one of the first constructed using funds appropriated by the newly formed US Forest Service. Harry Kaufman was a guard ranger for the Absaroka Division of the Yellowstone Forest Reserve starting in 1903, then worked at the MBRS from its construction in 1908 to his retirement in 1941. The Yellowstone Reserve, administered by the General Land Office, became the Absaroka National Forest with the creation of the US Forest Service in 1905. The land for the MBRS is withdrawn in November 1906. By 1908, Kaufman, constructs a permanent ranger station and dwelling there. Today, the main ranger residence serves as a museum filled with Kaufman's personal effects and original furnishings donated by his wife Coral and their children Harry Jr. and Betty Kaufman.

The property consists of the original ranger dwelling with two additions, a wood shed, a barn, two bunkhouses, a machine shed, a root cellar, a spring box, a rock retaining wall, and two noncontributing outhouses. The original ranger dwelling, built in 1908 with additions added in 1909 and 1923 by Harry Kaufman, retains its historic integrity to a high degree. The main Ranger's Dwelling/Office with its hand-crafted bay window and screen porch sits prominently in

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a clearing fronted by a rock retaining wall and backed by mountains. The woodshed, root cellar and rock retaining wall were all built by Harry Kaufman himself between 1917 and 1918. It's unclear if any alterations occurred to the woodshed with CCC labor from camp F-74 just north of the MBRS, but it appears much as it did in photos from the 1920s. The original barn, a wagon shed, and chicken house were all taken down at some point, most likely with the addition of newer buildings built by CCC labor in 1933. While Ranger Kaufman's journals past 1930 are lost, it's very likely Harry participated in the construction of the remaining buildings on site from the CCC period, the machine shed, barn, and two bunkhouses. These other features include log construction, stone masonry, cast-in-place concrete, and frame construction with D-log siding, wood shingle roofing, brick chimneys, and divided-light windows.

The MBRS's historic structures are representative of the rustic style of architecture with noticeable Craftsman touches designed and built by the Forest Service in the early 1900s and retain strong integrity of workmanship, design, materials, setting, feeling, location, and association. The property captures the story of the life and duties of one of the earliest Rangers in the US Forest Service and his attempts to establish government influence in the vast reaches of what is now the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness area.

Narrative Description

There is a wealth of information on the Main Boulder Ranger Station, though not all of it is easy to decipher, especially that from the early years. The most important source is Harry Kaufman's work diaries that record his duties from 1903 to 1930.¹ It records the day he began building the MBRS in 1908, and gives a vivid picture of life for an early forest ranger. The dates cited in this narrative were obtained primarily from the Kaufman diaries.

The central feature on the MBRS is the Ranger's dwelling/office, built by Harry Kaufman and his coworkers in 1908 and added to in 1909 and 1921-1923.² South and east of the ranger's dwelling/office is a machine shed, two bunkhouses, and a barn. The construction dates of these structures are unknown; however, they appear in a photo dated 1933. This is the best evidence of the approximate time of construction since the Kaufman diaries from 1931 to 1941 are missing. The following descriptions of the buildings and structures are presented feature by feature and encompass type, setting, general characteristics, specific features, and alterations.

¹ In 1903, Kaufman mostly patrolled areas around Gardiner, Montana, in the Yellowstone Reserve. His journal header entries read, "Jardine, Park Co Mont.", though no permanent headquarters or ranger station is mentioned. From November 1903 to April 1904, he patrolled Division 4 and 5 of the Yellowstone Reserve, concentrated on the North end of the Absaroka Mountains near Livingston and Big Timber that included land in the Main Boulder/McLeod area, such as Sousa, Bohee and Cherry creeks. His journals refer to his "headquarters on Cowan Creek." He often re-supplied in Big Timber where it appeared he overnighted. He also found accommodation with locals on his wide-ranging patrols. From April 1904 to July 1905, he is on a leave of absence with his brother in Red Lodge, Montana, and has a cabin in nearby Roscoe. Upon rejoining the Forest Service in July 1905, he lists Contact, Montana as his headquarters and patrols the Main Boulder region for the rest of his career. "Big Timber" often serves as a header of his journals during this period, also suggesting a link, if not permanent residence there. *Kaufman Diaries*, US Forest Service files, Custer/Gallatin National Forest, March 7th 1904.

² Kaufman Diaries, US Forest Service files, Custer/Gallatin National Forest, 1908, 1909, 1921, 1923.

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Feature 1 – Ranger’s Dwelling/Office (1908, additions—1909 and 1923) [one contributing building]

The Ranger’s dwelling/office is currently a museum interpreting the early Forest Service and highlighting Harry Kaufman’s contributions. On February 13, 1908, Kaufman notes in his diary that he is at the Main Boulder Ranger Station site looking up survey corners.³ Shortly thereafter, Kaufman and his coworkers commence skidding logs for a cabin. They proceed to complete the cabin and a stable that same year. It is believed this cabin became what now serves as the kitchen. In 1909, Kaufman described the construction of an addition to the cabin that included a bay window, construction consistent with the central portion of the present Ranger’s dwelling/office.⁴ On April 12, 1921, Kaufman noted that he and co-workers skidded logs to the sawmill for slabbing.⁵ These logs are for the second addition on the north end of the dwelling/office completed in 1923.⁶ At some unknown time thereafter, a third, much smaller addition is connected to the west side (rear) of the original cabin.

The Ranger’s dwelling/office is the most prominent feature visible when entering the site. It faces east and is located on a bench above the parking lot and Main Boulder River. It is a rectangular, one-story, gabled building with a L-shaped floor plan. It is painted brown with green trim. The building rests on a cast-in-place concrete foundation faced with stone. The walls are constructed of peeled, round logs with v-notch joinery and milled logs with lap joints. The roofing is wood shingles with a galvanized metal ridge roll and globe ends. A screen porch encloses the main entrance and a bay window graces the front of the structure.

The south end of the east elevation is the 1908 log cabin. A log screen porch runs its length and encloses the main entrance to the kitchen. A four-panel, wood door is located south of two, four-light (2/2), double-hung, wood windows. Perpendicular and to the north of the original cabin is the 1909 log addition. This central portion of the east façade displays a gable end with exposed log purlins and a log bay window with a wood-shingled hip roof. There is a four-panel wood door on the south wall of the addition leading from the screen porch to the living room. Three, four-light (2/2), double-hung, wood windows shape the bay window. To the north is the milled log addition completed in 1923. Its central opening is a bank of two, two-light (1x1) wood windows.

The north elevation consists primarily of the gable end of the 1923 addition. There are no windows. Logs are squared on three sides and the crowns lap joined. The visible north wall of the central, 1909 addition is windowless. The north wall of the shed storage room on the west side of the original cabin also holds no windows.

On the north end of the west elevation is a sympathetic five-panel wood door with screen door added for accessibility in 2004. To the south of the door is a bank of two, two-light (1x1) wood windows. In the central addition are two, four-light (2/2) double-hung wood windows. A small

³ Ibid. 1908.

⁴ Ibid. 1909.

⁵ Ibid. 1921.

⁶ Ibid. 1923.

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two-light (1/1) double-hung wood window is in the north end of the original cabin. To the south, is wood-frame addition with D-log siding. This construction style is consistent with other resources on the site built prior to 1933. The roof of the original cabin extends to cover the addition, which holds a centered ribbon of three, six-light (2/2/2) wood slider windows on its west side.

The west end of the south elevation has a wood door made of vertical D-log siding. Paired two-light (1x1) wood windows are east of the door. Wood steps lead to a screen door in the screened porch on the east end. Dry-laid stone steps and flowerbeds line the south side of the dwelling/office.

Feature 2-Root Cellar (1918) [one contributing structure]

The root cellar constructed by Kaufman in 1917-1918 is located northwest of the Ranger's dwelling/office.⁷ It is an earth sheltered concrete room with a wood plank and metal roof. A vertical D-log door on the south elevation is likely not original. The hill on either side of the root cellar is retained by dry-stacked stone walls. Kaufman notes in his diary that he obtained the rock for the walls from the nearby Natural Bridge site.

Feature 3-Woodshed (1918) [one contributing structure]

The woodshed is located just west and south of the dwelling/office. It was also constructed by Kaufman in 1917-1918, at the same time as the root cellar.⁸ The woodshed is a rectangular, one-story, side gable structure built into the hill. The building rests on a stone foundation and displays wood-frame construction with D-log siding. Kaufman notes installing board-and-batten siding; it remains unknown when the structure was resided. There is a small addition on the south side covered with wood shingle siding. The roofing is wood shingles with a galvanized metal ridge roll and globe ends. A vertical wood plank door centers in the east elevation. A four-light (2/2) wood window flanks each side of the door. The north elevation has no windows. The west wall features an elevated Dutch door made of wood planks on the south end and an electrical box in the center of the wall. The wood-shingled addition on the south end has a screened opening on its south side.

Feature 4- Bunkhouse #1 (circa 1933) [one contributing building]

The north bunkhouse is a rectangular one-story side gable building with a covered stone patio on the east side. The bunkhouse is painted brown with green trim and rests on a cast-in-place concrete foundation. The walls are constructed of peeled round logs with saddle notch joinery. Round log purlins and rafters are exposed. The roofing consists of wood shingles with a galvanized metal ridge roll and globe ends.

A covered stone patio runs the full length of the east elevation and is protected by the extended roof: logs support the extended roof. The south end of this elevation holds paired four-light (2/2) wood windows. Central to the elevation is a five-panel wood entrance door fronted by a screen door. North of the door are paired four-light (2/2) wood windows. An eight-light (4/4) double-

⁷ Ibid. 1917, 1918.

⁸ Ibid. 1917, 1918.

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hung wood window appears on the west end of the north elevation with a communications wiring box to the east. The west elevation contains no windows or doors but displays an interior slope brick chimney that projects from the west roof slope. The south elevation exhibits electrical connections and centered paired four-light (2/2) wood windows.

Feature 5- Bunkhouse #2 (circa 1933) [one contributing building]

The south bunkhouse is a rectangular, one-story, side gable building with shed roof extension that covers a concrete and stone patio on the east side. The bunkhouse is painted brown with green trim. The building rests on a stone masonry foundation. The walls are constructed of peeled round logs with crowns encased in stone masonry columns. Round log purlins and rafters are exposed. The roofing is wood shingles with a galvanized metal ridge roll and globe ends.

The stone and concrete patio runs the full length of the east elevation (covered by the shed roof); logs support the shed roof. The south end of this elevation contains paired wood windows; the window to the south is a three-light (2/1) unit and the one to the north a six-light (2/2/2) unit. Central to the wall is a five-panel wood entrance door fronted by a screen door. North of the door are paired wood windows that hold six-light (2/2/2) each.

The north elevation holds paired six-light (2/2/2) wood windows centered in the wall and electrical connections. The west elevation lacks fenestration but displays an interior brick slope chimney that protrudes from the west roof slope. The south elevation contains a five-panel wood door on the west end with paired six-light (2/2/2) wood windows to the east.

Feature 6-Barn (circa 1933) [one contributing building]

The barn is a rectangular, two-story, gambrel-roofed structure with hay loft. The building rests on a cast-in-place concrete foundation and the walls are frame construction with D-log siding. The roofing is wood shingles with a galvanized metal ridge roll and globe ends. There is a log post and pole corral adjacent to the barn.

The east elevation has a central sliding door constructed of wood planks. North of the door is a six-light (2/2/2) wood window. The north elevation features a loft door constructed of wood planks immediately below a hay apron. Two small windows are boarded up on the north end of the west elevation with a wood Dutch door to the south. The south elevation has a six-light (2/2/2) wood window centered under the eave below which appears a sliding wood access door to the hay loft. The ground floor holds another six-light (2/2/2) wood window.

Feature 7-Machine Shed (circa 1933) [one contributing building]

The machine shed is a rectangular one-story gable roofed structure that faces west toward the Ranger's dwelling/office. It is painted brown with green trim. The building rests on a cast-in-place concrete foundation with walls of frame construction with D-log siding. Roofing is wood shingles with a galvanized metal ridge roll and globe ends.

The west elevation holds three sliding garage doors made of wood planks with a wood person-door to the south. The south elevation features a ribbon of three, 12-light (3/3/3/3), double-hung

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wood windows with electrical service on the west end. Paired four-light (2/2) wood windows occur in the center of the east elevation. The north elevation holds two wood plank doors.

Feature 8-Rock Retaining Wall (1918) [one contributing structure]

On the east side and in front of the Ranger's dwelling/office is a dry-stacked rock retaining wall. Kaufman details its construction in his 1918 diaries.⁹ The wall measures approximately two feet high and supports the raised yard in front of the dwelling/office. The attractive rock retaining wall constructed of local stone contributes strongly to the landscape of the Main Boulder Ranger Station.

Noncontributing Features

Feature 9 Modern Outhouse (one noncontributing building)

A modern FS outhouse stands at the entrance parking lot of the property. It is a standard design, approximately 8 feet by 12 feet, with concrete foundation pad, gable roof, and brown stone walls. The east roof slope covers the doorway. A vent projects from the west roof slope.

Feature 10 New Wood Outhouse (one noncontributing building)

A second smaller 4-foot x 4-foot wood framed outhouse sits behind the bunkhouses. It consists of newer vintage siding and a pitched roof.

Feature 11 Spring Box (one noncontributing structure)

A concrete and rock spring box sits near a natural spring seep between the bunkhouses and woodshed. It consists of tabular natural stone with a concrete catchment at one end.

Three small rectangular interpretive signs stand near walkways. Constructed of a metal sign affixed to vertical wood posts, the signs are not included in the resource count.

Spatial organization

The organization of space within the Main Boulder Ranger Station maintains much of its historic layout established during the station's early development. The earliest buildings and resources dating to the early 1900s, 1910s, and 1930s, tend to cluster in the southern portion of the property south of the parking area to the northeast. Several of the westernmost buildings roughly align north-south. The landscape immediately west of the Main Boulder Ranger Station rises dramatically though the view east of the station overlooks the narrow Boulder River Valley.

Circulation (one contributing structure)

The existing circulation pattern within the station generally reflects the patterns found historically. Air photo images found on the Montana Digital Atlas dated 1946-1977 and historic photographs from the early 1930s confirm a long-established circulation pattern at the Main Boulder Ranger Station, albeit with a few changes.¹⁰

⁹ Ibid. 1918.

¹⁰ "Geographic Information," *Montana.gov official website*, https://mслservices.mt.gov/Geographic_Information/Applications/DigitalAtlas/, accessed 12/27/2023.

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Upon entering the property from the Main Boulder Road to the east, the gravel access drive loops north for about 300 feet before making a full 180 degree turn west and then south. A small formal parking area lies immediately north of the 180-degree turn; although this parking area dates to 1991, its presentation holds with the existing circulation route of the station. Smaller gravel drives branch due west off of the main north-south drive and lead to the majority of the buildings, with the exception of Feature 7, the machine shed, which stands immediately east of the main north-south station road. As buildings were constructed further from the original core area of the ranch, including those built by the CCC, access extended to the west. This general pattern likely dates to, or soon after the earliest constructed buildings on the property. A gravel sidewalk paralleled by a wood post fence leads from the northern parking area to the Ranger's Dwelling/Office. It connects to another sidewalk that generally parallels the front of the Ranger's Dwelling/Office, root cellar, and woodshed. The sidewalk from the parking lot was constructed between 1989 and 1991, as a gravel trail, and then was paved in 2004.

The addition of the small parking area in the north part of the property represents the most recent, though minor, alteration to the circulation pattern. The parking area and vault toilet were constructed in 1991 as parking and facilities for the Main Boulder Ranger Station Museum and the Grouse Creek Trailhead. Early aerials and photographs that date to the 1930s indicate an open area immediately north and west of the machine shed, space that continues to remain open. The historic footprint of the open area extended as far west as the yard and rock retaining wall that fronts the Ranger Residence; although a sidewalk paralleled by a wood rail fence now connects the Ranger Residence to the parking area at the north end of the property, a two-track that lies west of the fence and swings south to align with the Ranger Residence remains easily discernible and marks the historic extent of the original open area and circular drive, in front of the Ranger Residence, as seen in a 1933 photograph. This two-track serves as another path to the northern parking area. A two-track immediately west of the machine shed that travels south and then west leads to the south end of the barn; this path is somewhat discernible on the earlier air photo image that dates between 1946-1977, and shows clearly on a 1984 Forest Service special flight aerial, the 1985 site sketch map, and the DOQQs 1990-2003 aerial image that dates from 1998. The northern north-south segment of the path is also apparent on a 1933 photograph where it lies between the existing machine shed and the now removed earlier barn; this drive was undoubtedly established with the construction of the CCC barn.

Integrity

The resources found at the Main Boulder Ranger Station strongly represent the rustic style of architecture designed and built by the Forest Service in the early 1900s. For over 60 years, heritage staff at the United States Forest Service assumed several projects to restore and maintain the architectural integrity of the buildings. Restoration work over the years focused on the Ranger's Dwelling/Office and includes the replacement of sill logs, foundation stabilization, screened porch with period brass screening replacement, restoration of corner joints on the bay window, and cedar shingle roof replacement. The rock wall was rebuilt in 2004 and again in 2020. Following historic techniques, the Forest Service worked to maintain and preserve the property's historic integrity, with the result that integrity of design, materials, and workmanship remain strong. All restoration work was done with historically appropriate tools and techniques. Similarly, integrity of feeling, association, location, and setting also remain exceptionally strong

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as the resources stand in their original locations, mostly serving their historic functions, in a very rural area conveying the station's historic setting and feeling. The Ranger's Dwelling/Office now holds a host of the original furnishings and personal effects of the Kaufman family providing an additional tie to the station's early service. The MBRS embodies the distinctive characteristics and architectural styles of the earliest rustic Ranger Stations in the Forest Service, as well as CCC-era construction when FS administrative facilities expanded with New Deal programs and labor.

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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.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- 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.)

CONSERVATION
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1908 -1929
1930 -1945

Significant Dates

1908
1909
1923
1932

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Harry S. Kaufman
Civilian Conservation Corps

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

The Main Boulder Ranger Station (MBRS) is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A as one of the oldest continually operated Forest Service (FS) facilities in the nation. The land was withdrawn in 1906 and the first ranger station completed in 1908, where it still stands today as a museum. Forest Service heritage staff, community members and Ranger Harry Kaufman's family collaborated to preserve this remarkable example of early Forest Service

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Administration and CCC-era Forest Service Administration. The Main Boulder Ranger Station sits at the border of what is today the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness, a rugged and dramatic northern extension of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem—one of the largest nearly intact temperate-zone ecosystems on earth. Ranger Kaufman served as part of an elite group of Forest Rangers dispatched by the newly formed US Forest Service to administer the vast new forest reserves—later National Forests—and to oversee grazing, timber, mining claims, surveys, and boundary demarcation. The MBRS site is a well-preserved example of an early Forest Administration property, its outstanding integrity in all seven aspects means the property clearly demonstrates its association with events that have made a significant contribution to broad patterns of history at a local and statewide level. Examples of such intact properties of this age are rare. The Ranger’s Residence/Office, now converted to a museum, preserves the legacy of the Kaufman family who resided at the Ranger Station for decades. Kaufman’s journals are a compelling resource that details the story of the MBRS and what life was like for early Forest Rangers in the west.

The MBRS gains additional significance under Criterion C for its architectural significance. For nearly 60 years, beginning in the early days of the National Historic Preservation Act, Forest Service staff have recognized the historic value of the MBRS and worked with community members to preserve the architectural integrity of the buildings at the MBRS with all restoration work done with historically appropriate tools and techniques. The Ranger’s Residence/Office, woodshed, root cellar, and rock wall date from the 1908-1929 early Forest Service Administration period; all have been carefully preserved using appropriate historic techniques and materials. The remaining buildings on site date from the 1930-1945 CCC-era of Forest Service Administration and include the barn, machine shed, and two bunkhouses. The MBRS exudes the distinctive characteristics of the earliest rustic Ranger Stations in the Forest Service, as well as CCC-era construction when FS administrative facilities expanded with New Deal programs and labor.

The primary periods of significance represented on site include 1908-1929 the time associated with early Forest Service Administration and the erection of the earliest buildings on the property, and 1930-1945, the time associated with CCC-era Forest Service Administration. Both periods coincide with Harry Kaufman’s tenure at the MBRS (he retired in July 1941 and died in November of the same year). The Ranger’s Residence/Office is likely one of the oldest in the nation, only Alta Ranger Station on the Bitterroot National Forest predates it in Region 1, though Alta was constructed before the formation of the US Forest Service.

Significant dates include 1908, marking the construction of the first building on the property, 1909 and 1923, reflecting the dates of the two additions to the original building, and 1932, noting the arrival of the Civilian Conservation Corps and their building contribution to the property.

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

The Custer Gallatin National Forest was created in 2014 by administrative consolidation of the Custer and Gallatin National Forests. Over 100 years prior to the consolidation, the Gallatin

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Forest originated in 1899 as the 80,000-acre Gallatin Forest Reserve. Multiple divisions and consolidations of reserves during the early 1900s resulted in the creation of the Absaroka National Forest in 1908. Following several boundary adjustments in subsequent decades, the Absaroka Forest was abolished in 1945, with its lands assigned to the Gallatin and Lewis & Clark National Forests. The designations “Yellowstone Forest Reserve,” “Absaroka National Forest” and “Gallatin National Forest” are used in this document as appropriate for the time periods discussed.

Rangers and Ranger Stations Under the General Land Office, 1897-1904

In 1891, Congress passed the Forest Reserve Act in response to growing public concern over unrestrained consumption of America’s natural resources. The act authorized the President to designate and reserve forest lands for the public interest. Under the jurisdiction of the General Land Office (GLO) in the Department of Interior, the reserves were withdrawn from the public domain, thereby limiting or prohibiting their use for grazing, homestead entry, mining, and logging. In 1897, President Grover Cleveland created 13 new reserves by presidential proclamation, including four in present-day Forest Service Northern Region (Region 1): the Bitter Root, Lewis and Clark, Flathead, and Priest River reserves. Later that year, Congress passed the Organic Administrative Act, establishing the purposes of federal forest reserves as watershed protection and timber resource management, and providing the impetus for active administration of the nation’s forests.

The Organic Act organized the reserves under forest supervisors who hired rangers and assigned them to ranger districts. Ranger duties included patrolling to prevent forest fires, timber theft, unauthorized grazing, and illegal homesteading (“squatting”), as well as trail construction and maintenance. Most early rangers were local men with backcountry skills but little knowledge of forestry. The GLO was rife with political patronage, incompetence, and outright corruption, resulting in many GLO appointees being unfit or ill-suited for their jobs.

Rangers, Ranger Stations and Ranger Districts under the US Forest Service, 1905-1906

The situation improved in 1898 with the appointment of Gifford Pinchot to head the Division of Forestry in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Although the division housed the federal government’s professional foresters and forestry scientists, it could only advise the Department of Interior’s GLO regarding forest reserve management. Nonetheless, Pinchot directed Forestry professionals to survey reserve boundaries and examine potential new reserves. These efforts resulted in several new reserves, including the Gallatin Forest Reserve (1899). Pinchot lobbied aggressively for transfer of the reserves from the Department of Interior into the Department of Agriculture and the newly renamed Bureau of Forestry. His efforts were rewarded in February 1905 when President Theodore Roosevelt signed the Transfer Act into law. Five months later, the Bureau became the U.S. Forest Service. Under the new agency, scientific research and resource planning goals merged with on-the-ground management of the nation’s forests.¹¹

¹¹ Janene Caywood, Ted Catton, and James R. McDonald, “Evaluation of Region 1 Forest Service-Owned Buildings for Eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places,” contracted report prepared for US Forest Service Northern Region (Region 1), Missoula, MT, 1991.

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Because most forest reserves were in remote, undeveloped areas of the West, the fledgling Forest Service needed to develop an organization and operational practice compatible with challenging physical and social conditions. A major obstacle was Western hostility to active federal management of public land, incited by General Land Office prohibitions on logging, grazing, settlement, and mining. Public opposition often intensified by the poor performance of many GLO appointees. Gifford Pinchot promised Westerners that the reserves would be administered by "local men who knew the country and its traditions," complying with the Transfer Act requirement that local men be hired wherever possible. He immediately appointed inspectors to examine "the GLO men," retaining for the Forest Service only those found competent and reliable. To find such qualified men, Forest Service inspectors conducted ranger examinations in communities across the West. Candidates spent two days demonstrating horsemanship, packing ability, marksmanship, basic forestry, and survey skills, followed by a written test to eliminate illiterates.¹² Forest Service employment of familiar local men of proven ability helped persuade the public that it could benefit from range improvement, timber management, and forest protection measures.

Early Forest Supervisors established their bases of operation at locations accessible to their forests and to the outside world. Most early forest headquarters in Montana consisted of one or two-room offices in a town with road connections and rail service. Rangers, however, were left to find or build living quarters in the remote areas that comprised their districts. Forest Service field instructions (the "use book") recommended shingled or shake-roofed cabins large enough to house a ranger and his family. However, most early ranger quarters in Montana were small, one-room cabins or summer tent camps located along major trails or near heavy-use areas, such as mining camps. Many cabins were holdovers from the GLO era and few could accommodate a family. The 1905 Forest Service Use Book prescribed the following:

Rangers' cabins should be located where there is enough agricultural land for a small field and suitable pasture land for a few head of horses and a cow or two, in order to decrease the often excessive expense for vegetables and feed. In course of time several rangers' camps will be needed for each township, and selections of sites should be made with this in view. The amount of agricultural land necessary to supply a ranger's family with vegetables and to raise hay and grain enough to winter his saddle and other stock will vary greatly in different localities, but as a general rule it will not be less than 10 nor more than 40 acres. . . .The pasture should be of sufficient size to support the stock not in use by the ranger during the summer, and only in cases where it is obviously necessary should they include land that could be used for agriculture. They will vary in size, according to the quality of the feed, from 40 to 200 acres.¹³

The Forest Homestead Act of 1906 called for removal of lands from federal forest reserves if previously claimed for homesteads or determined more valuable for agricultural purposes. Over the next several years, requests for homestead claim surveys of forest lands poured into the

¹² Elers Koch, *Forty Years a Forester: 1903-1943* (Missoula, MT: Mountain Press Publishing, 1998), pgs. 51-53.

¹³ USDA Forest Service, *The Use of the National Forest Reserves: Regulations and Instructions* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1905).

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Forest Service. Recognizing the need to base rangers, stock and equipment within the forests, the agency withdrew some agricultural and pasture land for administrative sites. Forest supervisors approved the administrative withdrawals, ensuring that selections did not conflict with existing mineral or homestead claims. Since rangers traveled mainly by horseback prior to the 1920s, adequate pasture for stock was a primary concern in selection of ranger and guard station sites. The requirements of horse travel limited the size of early ranger districts, with most administrative sites situated within a day's ride of each other.

Harry S. Kaufman, The GLO Years – 1903-1905

In the six months following passage of the Forest Homestead Act, the Yellowstone Forest Reserve set aside several administrative sites including 160 acres for the Main Boulder River Ranger Station, withdrawn on November 14, 1906.¹⁴ The site was likely selected for its location along the Main Boulder road, midway between the town of Big Timber on the Northern Pacific Rail line and lode mines near the Boulder headwaters. First developed in 1885, the Upper Boulder Mining District boomed in 1892-1893, when the mining camp of Independence housed 400-500 people. The Silver Crash of 1893 ended the district's glory days, but its miners still depended on equipment and supplies carried in over the rough Main Boulder road.¹⁵ Also dependent on the road were the Boulder Valley's many ranchers and stockmen. During the 1890s through the 1930s, Big Timber was one of the largest wool shipping stations in the country. Sheepmen depended on the Main Boulder road as an important route to access summer ranges in the Absaroka Mountains.¹⁶ Situated nearly midway between Big Timber and Independence, the Main Boulder administrative site was ideally located for rangers tasked with processing homestead entries, administering grazing allotments, and protecting the forest's timber. Location was the site's major asset, since it was otherwise described as having almost no arable land, poor pasture, no timber, and a spring providing water "enough for domestic purposes only."¹⁷ Nonetheless, the Main Boulder site served as a ranger district headquarters for 37 years. For nearly all of those years, it was home to Forest Ranger Harry S. Kaufman.

Born in Reading, Pennsylvania in 1881, Kaufman came to Montana in 1898. The 17-year-old worked for five years on his brother's ranch in the Rosebud Creek country near Roscoe, Montana. In 1903, Kaufman, "just off the spring round-up," was hired as a ranger by E.C. Russel, Supervisor of the Absaroka Division of the Yellowstone Forest Reserve.¹⁸ In those early years, the GLO required its rangers to equip themselves with "one or two saddle horses, pocket compass, camp outfit, ax, shovel and pick or mattock." Pay was low – less than ranch hands, cowboys and miners earned. One Montana reserve supervisor noted that after paying rent and buying required equipment, most rangers had only around \$20 to buy food, clothing, shoe their

¹⁴USDA, *National Forest Manual 1911-1913* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1911).

¹⁵Muriel S. Wolle, *Montana Paydirt: A Guide to the Mining Camps of the Treasure State* (Athens, O: Ohio University Press/Sage Books, 1963), pgs. 406-407; "The Boulder Road," *Livingstone Enterprise*, 6/10/1893, p. 1.

¹⁶ Will Churchill, "Some Early History of Big Timber and the Boulder Country," *Big Timber Pioneer*, 1/26/1967, A2.

¹⁷ "Harry S. Kaufman Rites on Monday," *Sweet Grass News*, 12/3/1941, p. 1; Harry S. Kaufman, "Report on Administrative Sites: Main Boulder River Ranger Station," Absaroka National Forest, May 7, 1912, in Heritage Program file, Supervisor's Office, Custer Gallatin National Forest, Bozeman, MT.

¹⁸W.M. Rush, "In the Personnel Files," *Northern District Bulletin*, January 1929.

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horses, and meet other expenses.¹⁹ Kaufman's initial position most likely was "third-class" ranger, with pay equivalent to that of a seasonal forest guard, but with yearlong duties. He was assigned to Range 7, comprised of the Paradise Valley, Gardiner area, and Absaroka Mountains north of Yellowstone National Park. Much of Kaufman's winter work in that rugged terrain was accomplished on skis or snowshoes, often in sub-zero weather. By late 1903, Kaufman's responsibilities also included reserve lands in the Boulder River drainage.²⁰ It appears his duties then expanded beyond patrol and enforcement. His early 1904 diary entries reveal he surveyed mining claims and free use tract boundaries, evaluated parcels for agricultural potential, and processed grazing applications. Perhaps Kaufman felt the heavy workload and low pay were more than he signed on for. In early April 1904, he took a leave of absence. A month later the *Big Timber Pioneer* reported that he resigned his position in the forest reserve. Kaufman spent the next several weeks in the Red Lodge area with his brother Dan and family.²¹

Early Days of the Main Boulder Ranger District, 1905-1908

In February 1905, the forest reserves transferred to the Bureau of Forestry in the Department of Agriculture, with forest employees placed under civil service law. In July, the Bureau became the U.S. Forest Service. Whether the new organization and civil service status rekindled Kaufman's interest in forestry work is unknown, but in mid-July he made the 85-mile ride from his brother's ranch on the Rosebud to Cody, Wyoming, to take the Forest Service ranger exam.²² Almost immediately he returned to ranger duty as a "guard ranger" in the Red Lodge area. In late August, he received orders to take Range No. 5 on the Main Boulder River, where he spent the rest of his career.²³

Kaufman established his headquarters at Contact, Montana, midway between Big Timber and Independence (Figure 1). Contact was a stage stop and freight drop for the mines at Independence. In 1905, it consisted of a log hotel, post office, saloon, cabins, and several log barns for freight storage. For a time, it was a notorious gamblers' hangout. Fourteen-year-old Bob Fifield lived at Contact for several years beginning in 1905, assisting his father who held the mail contract for the area. He knew Kaufman well. When interviewed in 1968, Fifield was certain that Kaufman lived at Contact, most likely at the hotel, until the original Main Boulder Ranger Station was built in 1908.²⁴ Although based at Contact, when on patrol Kaufman frequently stayed at other locations, such as William Bilbro's ranch on the East Boulder. Like other rangers of the time, Kaufman was tasked with surveying potential ranger station sites and construction of patrol cabins in remote portions of his district (Figure 2).²⁵ It's likely that the future location of the Main Boulder Ranger Station was among those surveyed by Kaufman in

¹⁹"Why and What Was a Ranger in 1905?" *District 1 Bulletin*, September 1922, p. 3

²⁰"Forest Reserve Employees," *Big Timber Pioneer*, 5/4/1905, p. A4; Harry S. Kaufman, *Ranger Diaries*, 1903-1904.

²¹Kaufman diary, 4/6/1904; *Big Timber Pioneer*, 5/5/1904, p. 5.

²²"Harry S. Kaufman Rites on Monday," *Sweet Grass News*, 12/3/1941, p. 1; Kaufman diary, 7/17/1905.

²³Kaufman diary, 8/26/1905.

²⁴Bob Fifield interview, 1968, Heritage Program files, Custer Gallatin National Forest; Federal Writers' Project, *Montana: A State Guidebook* (1939), p. 197; Wolle, *Montana Paydirt* (1963), p. 406; "The Boulder Mines," *Livingston Enterprise*, 7/26/1902, 1.

²⁵Kaufman diaries, 1906-1907.

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the summer of 1906. The 160-acre Main Boulder River administrative site officially was reserved for Forest Service use on November 14, 1906.²⁶



Figure 1. Harry Kaufman at Contact, MT



Figure 2. Harry Kaufman (3rd from Left) with a group of early Rangers and Gifford Pinchot (7th from left)

²⁶ Document L-Absaroka-Stations: Main Boulder River Ranger Station #36, Heritage Program files, Custer Gallatin National Forest, Bozeman, MT.

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Kaufman spent most of early 1907 working in the Rosebud and Stillwater country, east of the Boulder River drainage. After a brief leave of absence in the spring, he spent the summer tending to timber sales, free use permits, grazing applications, and trail construction. In late summer and early fall, he focused more on sheep grazing (Figure 3). By August 1, 1907, Kaufman had been promoted from an assistant ranger to a forest ranger. He spent much of November supervising a crew constructing a telephone line (Figure 4), taking time off in December for a month-long visit to family in Pennsylvania.

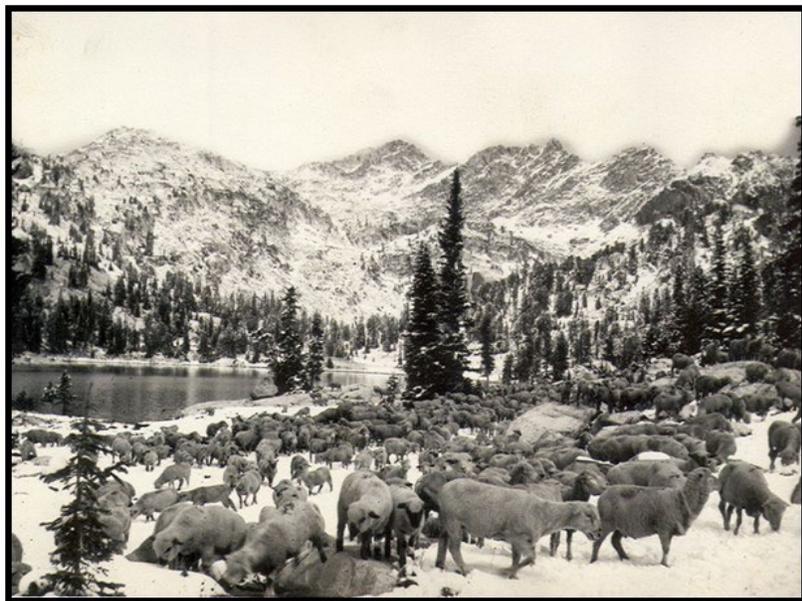


Figure 3. Sheep grazing at Silver Lake high in the Absaroka



Figure 4. Harry Kaufman at a backcountry telephone

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Shortly after Kaufman's return to Montana in mid-January 1908, the Forest Service announced plans to group national forests into six geographic "districts."²⁷ District 1 (present-day Region 1) encompassed most of the Northern Plains and Rockies, including Montana. It was headquartered in Missoula under Regional Forester William B. Greeley. The new structure placed regional offices in an oversight role, providing technical assistance to forests through regional engineering staffs and ensuring individual forest compliance with national guidelines and policies. District 1 received more money for permanent improvements in 1908 than any other district in the country, reflected in construction of numerous new ranger stations throughout the forest reserves in Montana and Idaho.²⁸ The agency's policy regarding new stations was clear:

At each ranger station there is to be a log cabin neatly finished inside, the roof and trim outside being painted in shade of green. Each cabin is to have good spring water brought into the cabin under pressure. It is expected that rangers will have their families with them in these stations, which are to be planned as permanent residences. Each station will have barns, sheds, corrals and fenced pasture.²⁹

At nearly the same time as word of the Forest Service reorganization reached the newspapers, Harry Kaufman and fellow Forest Service employee Horace Yerkes worked at locating the survey corners at the Main Boulder administrative site. On February 19, 1908, Kaufman and Yerkes "put our tools in shape for cabin work," while James Blackburn skidded out logs for the cabin. Blackburn was a local miner and rancher who sometimes built timber bridges for Sweetgrass County.³⁰ The following day Kaufman and Yerkes re-established the boundary lines of the site. Kaufman's diary chronicles progress on the cabin and barn through March and April. The cabin was complete enough by April 28, 1908, that Contact resident Joe Fellenger reported, "the forest rangers initiated their new dwelling at that place with a dance Tuesday evening. About 40 were in attendance, and all had a jolly time."³¹ In the next few days, the rangers finished the barn roof and installed a partition creating two bedrooms in the cabin.³² With that, the initial construction of the Main Boulder Ranger Station was complete (Figure 5).

Life, Change, and the Second Addition to Main Boulder Ranger Station, 1909-1911

On July 8, 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt authorized the realignment of Western forests, and the creation of several new ones. What had been the Absaroka Division of the Yellowstone Forest Reserve became the Absaroka National Forest under Forest Supervisor V. Gifford Lantry, Jr.³³ The new boundaries reduced the size of Ranger Kaufman's patrol to 300,000 acres, but not the variety or complexity of his workload. Throughout 1908, he continued to string telephone

²⁷ The reserves were renamed "National Forests" in 1907. The regional groups of forests initially were called "Districts." They were renamed "Regions" in 1930, presumably to avoid confusion with "ranger districts."

²⁸ "Work planned for Reserves," *Montana Daily Record*, 2/24/1908, 8; "Local and Otherwise," *Forsyth Times*, 2/27/1908, 9; "A.T. Mitchelson," *Livingston Enterprise*, 2/15/1908, 7

²⁹ "Improvements for Gallatin Forest," *Butte Miner*, p. 3.

³⁰ Kaufman diary, 2/19/1908; "Commissioners Proceedings," *Big Timber Pioneer*, 4/17/1902, p. A4.

³¹ Kaufman diary, 4/28/1908; "Local News," *Big Timber Pioneer*, 4/30/1908, p. A7.

³² Kaufman diary, 4/29 through 5/1/1908.

³³ "National Forest Reserves Being Redistricted," *Anaconda Standard*, July 12, 1908, p. 15.

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line, survey mining claims, monitor sheep bands (anywhere from 1,000 to 2,500 sheep to a band), and construct new patrol cabins.³⁴



Figure 5 Main Boulder Ranger Station original structure 1908

In early February 1909, Kaufman and his crew began an addition to the Main Boulder ranger cabin. Much of that month's work involved cutting, skidding, and hauling the house logs in snow and temperatures as low as 34 below zero.³⁵ Raising of the addition was underway by the end of March. The work did not go smoothly: Kaufman noted, "We have quite a time making the connection on the old house."³⁶ In late April, the ranger and his crew placed the floor joists, laid flooring, and cased the windows. Kaufman made particular mention of one of the Main Boulder Ranger Station's most distinctive features: "Had an awful time with the Bay Window. Hickman put the shingles on the roof over the Bay Window." The bay window finally was finished on May 3.³⁷ By May 14, the addition was ready for the rangers to host a house-warming dance in the newly expanded cabin (Figure 6), with "all hands" having "a very nice time."³⁸

Warm weather marked the beginning of field season for the rangers. Unfortunately for Kaufman, a knee injury confined him to the Supervisor's Office in Livingston for most of June. By July

³⁴ Kaufman diary, 5/1908 through 12/1908.

³⁵ Kaufman diary, 2/1/1909 through 2/23/1909

³⁶ Kaufman diary, 3/31/1909

³⁷ Kaufman diary, 4/30/1909, 5/3/1909

³⁸ Kaufman diary, 5/14/1909

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3rd, he recovered enough to return to the Main Boulder station where he hosted a well-attended dance that evening. To everyone's surprise, Forest Supervisor Lantry, who just got married that afternoon in Big Timber, also attended.³⁹ Sometime that month, newly appointed Deputy Supervisor J.A. Fitzwater arrived on the Absaroka Forest. Supervisor Lantry assigned him the task of running the new forest's boundary survey. Fitzwater's crew consisted of Harry Kaufman and a handful of other rangers and forest guards. The survey began on the forest's south edge, the Absaroka and Beartooth Mountains, north of Yellowstone Park. As Fitzwater later recalled:

The crew all had horses and the first two days there was lots of grief. All of these boys had on riding boots and believed that any place you couldn't take a horse wasn't a place anyone should go. We struck lots of country where a horse simply could not hold his footing, and as a result those high-heeled boots caused much grief, but the boundary had to be run and we could not change the topography, so run it we did, on run-over boots.⁴⁰



Figure 6. Main Boulder Ranger Station, 1909 with bay window addition

Kaufman experienced another mishap during the boundary work. His horse fell while fording a river and “. . .of course went to the bottom and filled my trouser pockets with water. He swam 50 yards downstream with me, much to the amusement of the boys.”⁴¹

³⁹ Kaufman diary, 7/3/1909.

⁴⁰ J.A. Fitzwater, Memoir in *Early Days in the Forest Service, Vol. 1* (2005), p. 60.

⁴¹ Kaufman diary, 8/7/1909.

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By late 1909, the headaches of new technology and bureaucracy intruded on the ranger's traditional field duties. Local papers noted the increasing number of automobiles on backroads around Big Timber: "The rural telephone and automobile have brought ranchmen thirty miles away into town in less than an hour at any time."⁴² For years recreational use of the Absaroka Forest had been primarily local, mostly from the towns of Big Timber or Livingston. Autos now brought greater numbers of recreationists from more distant places. Nels Ebert of Big Timber returned from a fishing trip on the Main Boulder River complaining:

fishing will soon be a thing of the past in that vicinity. A party of Miles City people are in there fishing every day and salting down the fish in two large whisky barrels. They have about a barrel and a half, and expect to fill the remainder of the second barrel before they return home. A Butte outfit is also doing the same thing, and wherever there is a vacant spot someone is camped on it.⁴³

The telephone, for all its advantages, presented new problems to forest rangers. The Absaroka Forest had been building phone lines to its remote stations for nearly three years with station phones used when needed by the general public. If bad weather, rugged terrain, livestock, or wildlife damaged the lines, the forest's rangers became repairmen. Kaufman's frustration with the situation showed in an early 1910 diary entry when he reported, "The damn telephone line is again on the bum and I don't know where the fault is." A delivery to the Main Boulder station in March 1910 reflected changing office duties as well: it included a typewriter, a No. 2 filing case, and three office chairs.⁴⁴

When Henry S. Graves became Chief Forester in February 1910, he struggled to obtain adequate funding from Congress. To strengthen his arguments, Graves directed all forests to adopt a planning process that provided budget estimates specific to administration, silviculture, grazing, permanent improvements, forest protection, and forest use (homesteads, water power, and administrative sites). Permanent improvements included everything related to forest protection, administration, and development: trails, roads and bridges; range improvements, and stock driveways; communications; employee housing; and fire detection and suppression facilities. Forest funding was based on these plans. Unfortunately, administrative buildings were considered a secondary priority, ranking below forest protection projects and other improvements. Construction of new ranger stations was permissible only where no other options were possible. Most rangers still found their own housing and performed official duties from home. The cost of any new construction could not exceed \$650.00.⁴⁵ Fortunately, the Main Boulder Ranger Station required only minor repairs and no new buildings in 1910.

⁴² "Mind Changed by Contact," *Big Timber Pioneer*, 5/10/1910.

⁴³ "Good Fishing," *Big Timber Pioneer*, 8/27/1910.

⁴⁴ Kaufman diary, 1/21/1910 & 3/21/1910.

⁴⁵ Henry S. Graves, USDA Forest Service, *Report of the Forester for 1911* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1911).

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Like most of the American West, south-central Montana and the Boulder River Valley endured a severe drought in 1910. Although fire danger was high, the Main Boulder district remained largely fire-free through June and July. That was not the case on forests in western Montana and northern Idaho, where the historic “1910 Fires”, aka the Big Burn, began in mid-July. On July 30, Harry Kaufman was ordered to Western Montana to lead fire crews at blazes near Noxon and further west in Idaho.⁴⁶ Meanwhile, lightning ignited fires on the Main Boulder, causing sheepherder Toby Osen to remember, “the whole Boulder Valley was on fire” (Figure 7). Herders and sheep were ordered to flee high country allotments while fires burned out of control and threatened valley ranches as well. On August 22, rain turning to heavy snow extinguished the fires. Kaufman returned home on September 7, bringing with him fellow firefighter Roy “Old Mutt” Engle. The two men became lifelong friends, with Engle remaining to work on the Main Boulder Ranger District for many years.⁴⁷

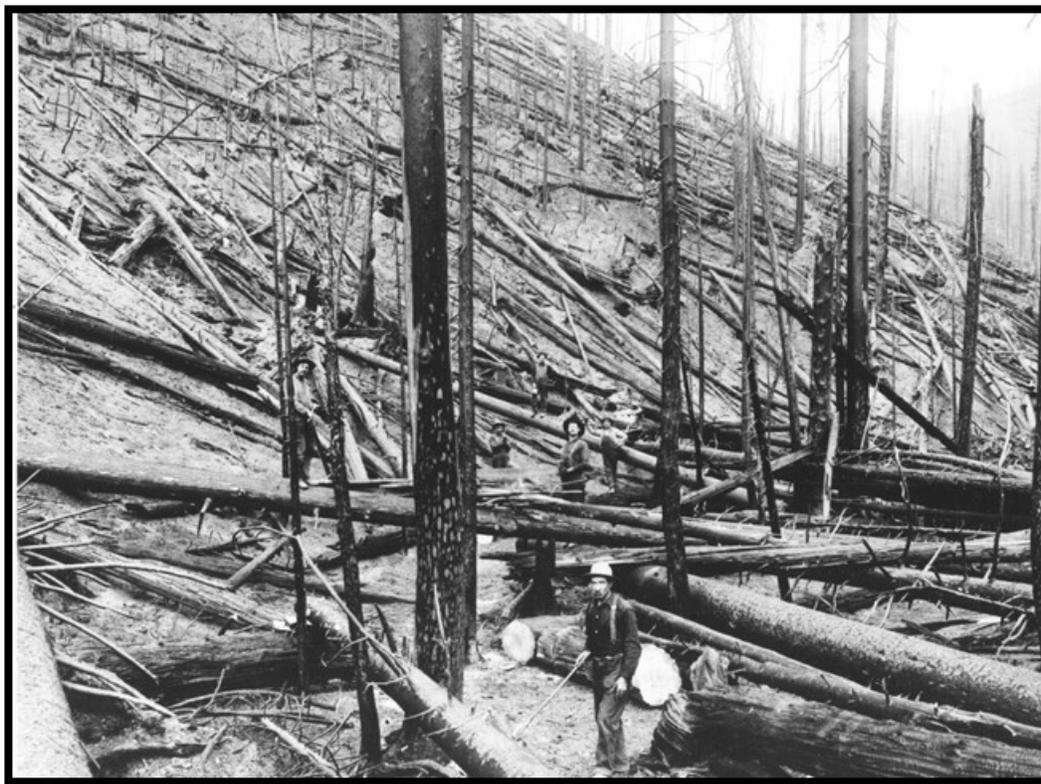


Figure 7. Burnt timber in Boulder country

The Ranger Takes a Wife, 1911

Judging from Kaufman’s diary entries, the winter of 1910-1911 proved fairly routine. However, June 21, 1911, brought an important change in Kaufman’s life. At age 28, Harry married Coral

⁴⁶ Ruth Staunton and Dorothy Keur, *Jercline to Jeep: A Brief History of the Upper Boulder* (Harlowton, MT: The Times Clarion, 1975), pgs. 30-31; Kaufman diary, 7/30-9/7/1910; “Extended Season of Drought Is Broken,” *Big Timber Pioneer*, 8/25/1910, p. A4; “Elements and Hard Work Are Successful,” *Big Timber Pioneer*, 9/1/1910, p. A1.

⁴⁷ Harry C. Kaufman interview (1968).

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M. Skillman, 31, a divorcee he met at a Livingston ranger meeting.⁴⁸ Coral Knight grew up in the Boulder River and Livingston area (Figure 8). In 1899, she wed Murray E. Skillman, a Mission Creek rancher and two years later, in 1901, the couple's daughter Opal was born.⁴⁹ When the couple divorced in 1908, Opal remained with her grandparents, Evander and Electa Skillman, in Livingston while Murray moved to Anaconda, Montana as a ranger on the Deerlodge National Forest.⁵⁰ According to a family story, on Harry and Coral's wedding day, they fled on horseback from Forest Service employees bent on a chivaree.⁵¹



Figure 8. Harry and Coral Kaufman, circa 1911

Coral Kaufman was up to the task of being a ranger's wife. A ranch girl, she was a skilled horsewoman and not easily intimidated (Figure 9). Coral, with her mother and sister, once confronted a shepherd's band trespassing on the Knights' pasture. A physical fight ensued. The women were badly bruised but the shepherd retired with a pitchfork wound to his arm.⁵² During the early years of her marriage to Harry, Coral often accompanied him on patrol. She later recalled they took two riding horses with two pack horses and patrol for two weeks at a time. On their return to the Main Boulder Ranger Station, they would get fresh horses and leave for another two weeks.⁵³

⁴⁸ Marriage License #364, State of Montana, Park County, Harry S. Kaufman and Coral M. Skillman, 6/21/1911.

⁴⁹ Untitled, *Anaconda Standard*, 12/9/1899, p. 12; Untitled, *Butte Weekly Miner*, 12/14/1899, p. 16; Delayed Certificate of Birth, State of Montana, Park County, Opal Coral Skillman.

⁵⁰ 1910 US Census, Montana, Livingston Ward 3.

⁵¹ Bruce Graham, "Harry Kaufman: A Ranger Who Inspired a Museum," in *News from the Red Caboose* (Winter 2017), p. 11.

⁵² Untitled, *Missoulian*, 6/14/1902, 3; "Attacked the Women," *Livingston Post* 6/12/1902, p. 2.

⁵³ Coral Kaufman interview (1968).

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When not on the trail with Harry, Coral made daily rides to the West Boulder, where the couple owned a small ranch, managed for them by friends. With Harry gone on a fire, she stayed over at the ranch one night. Awakened by a messenger seeking help from the Main Boulder ranger for a fire on the West Boulder district, Coral led the messenger on horseback through the dark to the Main Boulder Ranger Station. There she made phone calls to organize crews, request the necessary equipment and supplies, and direct them to the Upside Down Trail fire.⁵⁴ Although her “field work” lessened after the birth of their children in 1918 and 1919, Coral remained active in the day-to-day affairs of the Main Boulder Ranger Station for 30 years (Figure 10). Like many Forest Service wives of the era, she frequently was the “de facto” ranger in her husband’s absence.



Figure 9. Coral S. (Knight) Kaufman at MBRS

Work on the Main Boulder area, 1912-1919

In May 1912, Harry Kaufman refused a permanent transfer to another forest, but accepted a five-month detail to the Coeur d’Alene and Kootenai National Forests.⁵⁵ It appears those forests sought Kaufman for his experience with sheep grazing issues. His Main Boulder District had plenty of those. With as many as 90,000 woolies passing through the counting corral at Main Boulder, Kaufman and his crew stayed busy. On leaving the counting corral, the sheep were driven along designated driveways to their assigned grazing allotment. Without Forest Service

⁵⁴ Staunton, *Jerkline to Jeep*, p. 32; Coral Kaufman interview (1968).

⁵⁵ Kaufman diary, 5/18/1912.

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vigilance, bands strayed (or were allowed to stray) onto homesteads and ranch land, stripping pastures and denuding crops and gardens. Once in the high country, the large bands wrought increasing damage to sensitive vegetation and thin granitic soils, with adverse effects on wildlife. Despite growing tension between grazing interests and Forest Service regulation in the 1910s, Kaufman maintained generally good relations with sheep men on the Main Boulder District.⁵⁶

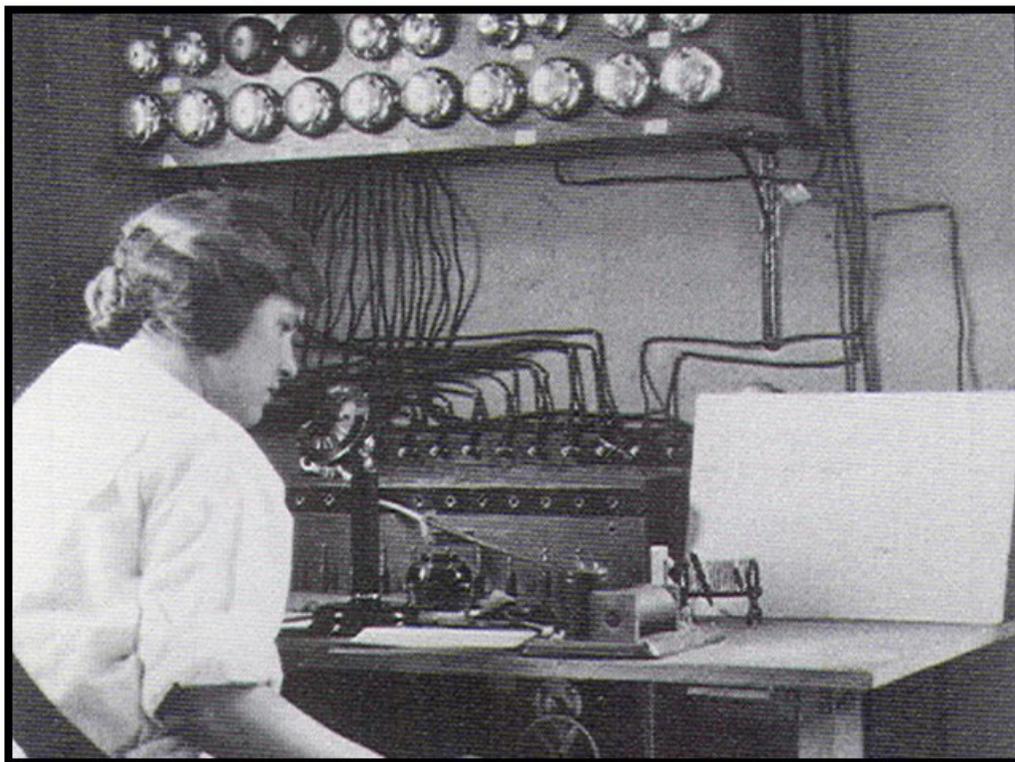


Figure 10. Coral Kaufman minding the station

Sheep were not Kaufman's only concern in the years between 1910 and 1920. All the ranger's usual duties remained. There were still cabins, bridges, and trails to be built, increasing numbers of homestead entries evaluated, fires to be fought, and an ever-growing tide of recreational use with its attendant impacts on forest resources and manpower. The availability of telephone communication eased some aspects of those jobs. The connection of Boulder Telephone Company lines with Forest Service lines below Contact expanded service for both the public and the government, but created increased (and sometimes surprising) maintenance concerns. Some Main Boulder ranchers were not above stealing government phonenumber for use in fencing.⁵⁷ With the deputization of Forest Service rangers as state game wardens, their responsibilities increased with the addition of enforcement of hunting and wildlife regulations. Other tasks also arose. In 1916, Kaufman planted 60,000 trout fry in the Main Boulder River. Three years later, a state

⁵⁶ Staunton, *Jerkline to Jeep*, pgs. 30, 34; Coral Kaufman interview (1968).

⁵⁷ "Will Repair Phone Wire," *Livingstone Enterprise*, 5/6/1914, 4; "Telephone Lines Connected," *Big Timber Pioneer*, 6/4/1914, p. A3; Kaufman diary, 11/14/1913.

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senator procured 36,000 more fry and sent them to Kaufman to release in the river.⁵⁸ Fish planting remained a part of Kaufman's job well into the 1930s.

In addition to the growing workload of its ranger, the station facility itself required considerable attention during this period. In 1913, Kaufman's longstanding request for more pasturage was granted with 80 additional acres (S1/2NE4 Sec. 34) withdrawn for the station, creating a need for new fencing.⁵⁹ In 1912, he worked on the barn and springhouse, as well as "mudding" the house. In 1914, the ranger made door sills and window stops for the house, along with reworking the two outside doors "so that they would catch and keep out the drafts."⁶⁰ In July 1915, Kaufman installed new flooring in the kitchen and dining room, built new door sills, and rehung all the cabin doors.⁶¹ New sheep counting corrals were added to the station in 1916.⁶² The same year, galvanized iron roofing replaced the porch roof.⁶³ In 1917, Kaufman "pried up" the cabin to replace rotted logs with a stone foundation and added a woodshed and cellar to the station grounds.⁶⁴ During the winter of 1917-1918, he built a woodshed and cellar, and shingled the outhouse walls.⁶⁵ May and June of 1918 found Kaufman and Roy Engle working on the cesspool and building a rock wall for the yard.⁶⁶ Work continued on the house foundation in October, when the two men "hailed a 4-horse load of stones. . . removed the foundation and 2 logs, that were decayed from under the South end of the house, we also replaced the foundation and started the retaining wall."⁶⁷ In November, Kaufman began painting the kitchen, dining room floor and the partition.⁶⁸ In April 1919, he performed major repairs (or replaced) the house porch and filled in dirt behind the retaining wall.⁶⁹ Before the field season began in May he finished painting the kitchen and dining room floors, woodwork, partitions and windows in the house, finished screening the porch and framed and hung its door.⁷⁰

Second Addition to the Main Boulder Residence, 1921-1923

Improvements to the ranger's residence undoubtedly added to the comfort of family life. With the birth of Harry C. in 1918, followed by Elizabeth ("Betty") in 1919 and the expansion of ranger duties, there were new needs to be met (Figures 11-12).⁷¹ Betty remembered as a child being snowed in from November to February, relying on canned goods and garden produce put up in the fall. Such confinement, especially with small children, no doubt necessitated more space.⁷²

⁵⁸Kaufman diary, 9/12/1916; "More Fish," *Big Timber Pioneer* 9/25/1919, p. A5

⁵⁹J.W. Streit to Forest Supervisor, 5/23/1913, Heritage Program files, Custer Gallatin National Forest, Bozeman, MT.

⁶⁰Kaufman diary, 11/5/1912, 11/13/1914.

⁶¹Kaufman diary, 7/29-30/1915.

⁶²Kaufman diary 6/18-23/1916.

⁶³Kaufman diary, 7/15-16/1916.

⁶⁴Kaufman diary, 10/12-10/14/1917.

⁶⁵Kaufman diary, 11/13-27/1917, 1/8-2/7/1918.

⁶⁶Kaufman diary, 5/7/1918, 5/31/1918 & 6/1/1918.

⁶⁷Kaufman diary, 10/10/1918.

⁶⁸Kaufman diary, 11/18/1918.

⁶⁹Kaufman diary, 4/7-9/1919, 4/12/1919.

⁷⁰Kaufman diary, 5/22/1919.

⁷¹Birth announcement, Harry C. Kaufman, *Big Timber Pioneer*, 3/21/1918, p. 5; Kaufman diary, 4/23/1919.

⁷²Joan Shurtliff, "Main Boulder Ranger Station Is a Valley Landmark," *Big Timber Pioneer* 4/26/1989, p. 17.

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Figure 11. Betty and Harry, Jr.



Figure 12. The kids found ways to stay entertained

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In March 1921, Harry Kaufman and his brother began work on an addition to the house and new porch steps. They cut and skidded logs to the Craft sawmill for slabbing, assisting Craft with the work. However, it appears work on the addition was not completed for a couple years. In April 1922, he reported that he finished cutting out the windows, and started installing the jambs and casings.⁷³ In November 1923, Kaufman and Roy Engle worked on the addition, laying up logs, sheeting and shingling the roof, installing ceiling joists and stripping, making doors, and cutting a closet door opening into the old portion of the building. They apparently completed the work by the end of December 1923.⁷⁴

Maintenance and repair of station buildings continued as a regular part of Kaufman's job throughout the 1920s. In September 1922, the corral ditch and water trough failed, requiring a new water system and leveling of the corral. A roof fire required some new shingles in November 1922. The house water works needed repair in November 1925, and he replaced more rotted foundation logs at the house in May 1929.⁷⁵

The Main Boulder in the 1920s

The 1920s added some interesting aspects to the forest ranger's job. Enactment of the Volstead Act in 1920 put rangers in the position of enforcing Prohibition on federal lands. Kaufman's diary revealed only one incident. He investigated two road crewmen suspected of providing booze to the road construction camp. Kaufman felt he was "unable to pursue without a search warrant."⁷⁶ In November 1921, the Forest Service issued an order that rangers wear their uniforms whenever on duty. This created the image remembered by Mary Blakely who grew up on a Boulder homestead: "Rangers in those days were always leading another horse, wearing their uniforms, with straight-brimmed hats."⁷⁷ While the order aimed at improving the public's perception of the Forest Service, it was decidedly not practical (or welcomed) by field-going personnel, particularly since it made them more recognizable by law-breakers.

While crime was not unknown on the Absaroka National Forest or Main Boulder Ranger District, it generally consisted of regulatory violations, allotment trespass, theft, and other relatively minor occurrences. In 1924, prospector Henry Hughson complained that "an old-fashioned war over surface privileges" was brewing near the old Independence mining camp. In late September, a Forest Service employee noticed Hughson's horse saddled, packed, and hobbled in his pasture, with obvious signs of days of neglect. He notified Kaufman and the men searched the area, finding Hughson's cabin abandoned. A sheriff's posse joined the search, with no success. Hughson's body was found the following year in a mineshaft, the victim of a gunshot. The suspect was Frank Lewis, Hughson's rival in a mining claim dispute. Lewis was arrested, but later escaped from jail and never heard from again. The case was the first of many mountain searches that Harry Kaufman led over the next 15 years.

⁷³ Kaufman diary, 3/28-4/12/1921; 4/14/1922.

⁷⁴ Kaufman diary, 11/3/1923 through 12/22/1923.

⁷⁵ Kaufman diary, 9/4 through 9/6/1922, 11/24/1922, 11/5/1925, 5/14-17/1929.

⁷⁶ Kaufman diary, 9/9/1924.

⁷⁷ Staunton, *Jerkline to Jeep*, p. 34.

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With the increase in automobile use in the 1920s, road construction and repair consumed much of the Main Boulder Ranger District's time, manpower, and budget. The Main Boulder road was no longer primarily a mining supply route and sheep driveway. It served a growing dude ranch and recreation industry in the Boulder Valley. Beginning in 1924, Sweet Grass County improved the first 28 miles of road from Big Timber to highway standard with the understanding that the Forest Service would complete the remaining 20 miles. Forest Service work on the road was delayed by lack of funding. Although the District 1 (now Region 1) engineer supervised the project, District Ranger Kaufman was often relied on to resolve local issues.⁷⁸ In July 1924, he was asked to settle a dispute between two powder men and the project foreman. As a result, the blasters were fired. In revenge, they cut down a telephone pole. The construction work itself often damaged phone lines, with blasts and slides interrupting service.⁷⁹ Weather also delayed the road project, as in July 1927 when a severe storm washed out a new section below the ranger station "as easily as if it had been made of sand." Although there was no hail, the storm's wind-driven rain broke windows and flooded part of the ranger's residence.⁸⁰ Forest Service work on the Main Boulder Road was interrupted in September 1929, when the District 1 (Regional) Forester directed that all work, maintenance, and road or trail construction should be stopped immediately. However, some work continued, or resumed the following year. By the end of 1930, Forest Service crews completed two concrete and steel bridges on the road.⁸¹

Spurred by a series of bad fire years, the Forest Service pursued an active fire prevention and public education program in the 1920s. Rangers were urged to present fire prevention talks to local school children. Harry Kaufman did his part, speaking in both Big Timber and Livingston.⁸² His own children started school at Contact, about two miles upriver from the Main Boulder Ranger Station. The school burned in 1924 or 1925, causing Kaufman to make a temporary change of station. On September 5, 1925, he wrote: "I loaded the car with bedding, dishes and other articles and the two kids and moved them to the West Boulder Ranger Station, so as to enable them to attend school."⁸³ The Kaufmans lived at West Boulder for the remainder of the school year, with Harry commuting as needed to Main Boulder. In late April 1926, he returned full-time to the Main Boulder station, bringing back "Mrs. Kaufman and the children and the three milch cows."⁸⁴ Betty and Harry Jr. attended school for the next two years in a rented building on the Joe Keeney ranch near the ranger station. In January 1929, construction was underway on a new school near Contact, with Harry Kaufman and Roy Engle leading the effort.⁸⁵

The end of the 1920s brought Kaufman some interesting recognition. The January 1929 issue of the District 1 Bulletin, the Northern District's information circular, was dedicated to Kaufman "in recognition of more than a quarter century of loyal effort and accomplishment in the public

⁷⁸ "Forest Highway Nearly Finished," *Montana Free Press*, 10/9/1928, p. 12.

⁷⁹ Kaufman diary, 7/15/1924-7/17/1924.

⁸⁰ "Worst of All," *Big Timber Pioneer*, 7/28/1927, p. A5.

⁸¹ "Bridges in Main Boulder Country Nearly Completed," *Livingston Enterprise* 12/12/1930, p. 6.

⁸² Kaufman diary, 4/17-21/1922, 3/30/1924, 4/8/1924.

⁸³ Kaufman diary, 9/5/1925.

⁸⁴ Kaufman diary, 9/17/1925, 1/1/1926 through 4/24/1926.

⁸⁵ "Community School," *Sweet Grass News*, 1/16/1929, p. 4.

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service.” William Rush wrote a glowing three-page description of Kaufman’s career and achievements, noting that in Kaufman’s early days:

Fighting trespass stock, cattle thieves, tough timber operators, game poachers, was the order of the day. Not the least element in P.R. in those days was the six-shooter on Mr. Forest Ranger’s hip. Judge Colt still had some influence in this western country.⁸⁶

Perhaps as a reward for his 25 years of service, Kaufman was designated in June 1929 as the official guide for a Fox Movietone crew filming sheep bands traveling to summer range. A Hollywood crew that required a 14-animal packstring on multiple trips was probably considered a plum assignment by some.⁸⁷ In November 1930, Kaufman again was tapped for celebrity service when he guided a bear hunting party that included ‘Rube’ Wahlberg, pitcher for the 1929 and 1930 World Series champion Philadelphia Athletics. Kaufman hosted the group at the ranger station. When they returned to Big Timber, “Wahlberg and his companions were loud in their praise of the hospitality extended to them at the Kaufman home.”⁸⁸

The 1930s and the New Deal

When the 1929 stock market crash plunged the entire nation into the Great Depression of the 1930s, Montana was already suffering hard times caused by the post-World War I collapse of agricultural prices and prolonged drought. Mining and lumber prices fell with the end of wartime demand, forcing lumber mills and industrial mining operations to cut production and lay off workers. Small mills and mines closed. Farmers and stockgrowers suffered from both low agricultural prices and drought-ravaged crops and grazing lands. Unemployment and deprivation were widespread in communities dependent on national forest timber, range, and mineral resources.

By 1932, a quarter of America’s workforce was idle, industrial production fell by half, drought devastated much of the nation’s farmland and millions of Americans were homeless. When Franklin D. Roosevelt took office in March 1933, the federal government initiated a broad spectrum of programs aimed at providing immediate relief. Known collectively as the “New Deal,” these programs were designed to restore confidence in banks, render direct relief to the needy, and revitalize the economy through work relief and public works programs. Among the first measures enacted in early 1933 were the Federal Emergency Relief Act (FERA) and the Emergency Conservation Work (ECW) Act.

FERA and its Hoover administration predecessor, the Economic Rehabilitation Act (ERA) were designed to ease wage-earner unemployment through a wide variety of programs that ranged from the creation of unskilled jobs to support for artists, writers, and professionals in public works projects. Many ERA and FERA projects developed roads and facilities on public lands with funds usually channeled through state and local government relief agencies.

⁸⁶ W.M. Rush, “Harry S. Kaufman: Twenty-five Years in the Forest Service” in *District 1 Bulletin*, January 1929.

⁸⁷ “Photographing Sheep,” *Sweet Grass News*, 6/26/1929, p. 7.

⁸⁸ “Champion Hurler Wants Home Here,” *Sweet Grass News* 11/19/1930, p. 1.

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Intended to put thousands of unemployed men to work on natural resource remediation projects, the ECW program included the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Administrative authority for the CCC was divided among the Departments of Labor, War, Interior, and Agriculture. The Labor Department directed selection, enrollment, and induction. The War Department equipped enrollees, organized them into numbered companies, provided physical training and selected, constructed, and administered the camps. The Departments of Interior and Agriculture directed CCC work projects involving their respective agencies. In the Department of Agriculture, the US Forest Service was the chief beneficiary of the infusion of CCC manpower and funding. The initial CCC enrollees were unemployed single men aged 18 to 26, in good physical condition and willing to serve for at least six months. The program later expanded to include other groups, including older and married men. Enrollees received \$30 per month, plus room, board, and a clothing allowance, with a requirement that \$25 be sent home to their families each month. Enrollees were organized into 200-man companies and assigned to pre-selected camps at regional administration centers. By the end of the program in 1942, the Forest Service employed nearly 50 percent of all CCC enrollees, the largest manpower pool in its history.

New Main Boulder Buildings, 1932-1933

The Absaroka National Forest did not receive a permanent CCC camp until the summer of 1937, however, it received ERA funding beginning in September 1932. Of the first \$2,500 allotment, \$1,600 was targeted for building work at the Main Boulder Ranger Station. The remainder was designated for campground improvements, including the Falls Creek campground on the Main Boulder. Already underway on September 22, 1932, ERA work at the Main Boulder Ranger Station most likely included construction of the machine shed, two new bunkhouses and/or the barn. Since those buildings were in place by sometime in 1933, they probably were completed with FERA funding received early that year (Figures 13-14).⁸⁹ The Forest received a second ERA allotment of \$4,000 to continue construction of six miles of the Main Boulder Road from Hick's Park to Independence with Ranger Harry Kaufman placed in charge of the project. The ERA required that projects must employ men not otherwise employed. Each crew could work for only two weeks, at which time replaced by another crew, until the project was completed.⁹⁰ The ERA funding allowed a significant expansion of the Absaroka Forest's workforce as well as its motorized fleet. According to the *Northern Region News*, prior to the ERA, the Absaroka had no forest-owned trucks except one old dump-truck.⁹¹

⁸⁹ "Absaroka Will Improve Camps," *Park County News*, 9/22/1932, p. 1; Joan Shurtliff, "Main Boulder Ranger Station Is a Valley Landmark," *Big Timber Pioneer* 4/26/1989, 17; James R. McDonald, "Main Boulder Ranger Station Architectural Preservation Guide" (1991).

⁹⁰ "Boulder River Road Will Be Next Project," *Livingston Enterprise* 9/29/1932, p. 2.

⁹¹ *Northern Region News*, 1/22/1940, p. 2.

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Figure 13. Bunkhouse #2, date unknown



Figure 14. MBRS in 1933, note old barn standing near machine shed and new barn in distance

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Tragedy on the Main Boulder, 1933-1936

While the 1930s saw several large wildfires on his district, the worst events to confront Harry Kaufman resulted from snow, not fire (Figures 15-16). The Upper Boulder country is characterized by steep canyons, high peaks, and heavy snows – a combination prone to avalanches. Some slides descended with such ferocity that they sailed off cliffs, depositing snow and rock onto the flats along the Boulder River. On at least one occasion a snowslide took out a portion of the Main Boulder Ranger Station pasture fence.

In March 1933, valley rancher and trapper Ben Fleming was swept away while snowshoeing above Speculator Creek. A companion witnessed the slide and went for help. A rescue party consisting of the county sheriff and “old friends and neighbors” including Harry Kaufman and two other Forest Service men, Earl Wright and Roy S. Engle, reached the site after five miles on horseback and five more miles on snowshoes. The slide started a half-mile up a narrow chute, crashing onto a flat “with such terrific force that it crossed the flat and bounded from the wall of rock on the west side back onto the flat. Trees were covered . . . for a distance of from six to 10 feet above their base.” Fleming’s body was recovered a week later.⁹²



Figure 15. Avalanche snow crew, 1934

⁹² “Remains of Ben Fleming Taken from Slide Today,” *Big Timber Pioneer* 3/2/1933, 1

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Figure 16. Avalanche debris and search party

A second disaster occurred in January 1936, when Earl Wright reported his trapping partner Jack Tracy missing after checking their traplines. Wright reported it to the Main Boulder Ranger Station. Kaufman dispatched Assistant Ranger John Nordby and fellow Forest Service employee Roy Engle on a search mission, both highly experienced men in winter backcountry travel.⁹³ Said Kaufman, “I did not warn them to be careful. They knew better than I to take care of themselves.” On January 5, while skiing along a canyon bottom near the Main Boulder-Buffalo Fork divide above Independence, an avalanche caught both men – Nordby “where he had no chance even to attempt escape.” Engle managed to dig himself out and searched for Nordby to the point of exhaustion. He then contacted the Main Boulder station via a Forest Service field telephone. Kaufman and a crew of 20 set out for the scene, 30 miles from the station. There they joined Engle and the search party swelled to 50 men, as word spread of the accident:

...for 48 hours, men worked without sleep or shelter and only snatches of food and black coffee. The temperature was in the neighborhood of 15 below zero, and

⁹³“John Nordby Buried Under Tons of Snow in Boulder Country,” *Livingston Enterprise* 1/7/1936, 2;

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the task was carried on in the face of imminent danger of another and bigger slide starting in the draw in which the snow had piled up.⁹⁴

For Kaufman, the search was personal. Nordby had been his assistant for at least five years, and boarded with the Kaufmans in 1930.⁹⁵ Supplies for the searchers were trucked to the end of the passable road, then back-packed eight miles to search headquarters at Setting Sun cabin, three miles from the scene. After three or four days, blizzard conditions forced an end to the search.⁹⁶ The missing trapper, Jack Tracy, turned up safe a few days after the search for Nordby began.

In late May, Kaufman visited the slide and determined the snow still too deep to find his friend. In mid-June, efforts resumed and Ranger Kaufman's now-18-year-old son found Nordby's body, spotting a ski tip protruding through the snow.⁹⁷ The 32-year-old Nordby left a wife, Lena, and a two-year-old daughter. Lena Nordby continued to live at the Main Boulder Station for several years, working as a cook for the Forest Service.⁹⁸

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and Main Boulder Ranger Station, 1937-1942

The Absaroka National Forest received its first and only permanent Civilian Conservation Corps camp in the summer of 1937. Located just north of the Main Boulder Ranger Station, the camp bore the designation "F-74 Boulder" (Figures 17-18). Its first enrollees were the men of Company 2525, Kentuckians who spent the previous summer working in Yellowstone National Park. A 50-man contingent and its commanding officer arrived to survey and prepare the F-74 site in March 1937. By June, the camp consisted of a 'tent city,' with a frame mess hall and administrative buildings.⁹⁹ Company 2525 began its assigned projects in July, with a crew of 29 installing a new water system for the Main Boulder Ranger Station. Another 20 men improved the Graham Creek trail from the Main Boulder road past Placer Basin to summer sheep ranges. Other enrollees worked on an underground cement powder storage warehouse at the CCC camp. A 10-man crew equipped with road building equipment operated on the Main Boulder road between the Natural Bridge and ranger station.

⁹⁴ Buck Augustin, "Snowslide Kills Forest Worker," *Northern Region News*, 2/6/1936, pgs. 17-18.

⁹⁵ U.S. Census 1930, Montana, Park County, Hawkwood District; Augustin, "Snowslide Kills Forest Worker," p. 18.

⁹⁶ Buck Augustin, "Snowslide Kills Forest Worker," pgs. 17-18; "Party Enacts Heroic Drama in Nordby Search," *Billings Gazette*, 2/2/1936, p. 15.

⁹⁷ "Search for Nordby Body," *Big Timber Pioneer*, 5/21/1936; Harry C. Kaufman interview, 1968.

⁹⁸ Obituary, "Lena Nordby," *Big Timber Pioneer*, 7/10/1985, p. A8.

⁹⁹ "CCC Camp on Boulder to Start Work in May," *Park County News*, 3/18/1937, p. 5; Stevens Historical Research Associates, "Historical Overview of Civilian Conservation Corps Activities on the West Side of the Custer Gallatin National Forest (2019), pgs. 47-48.

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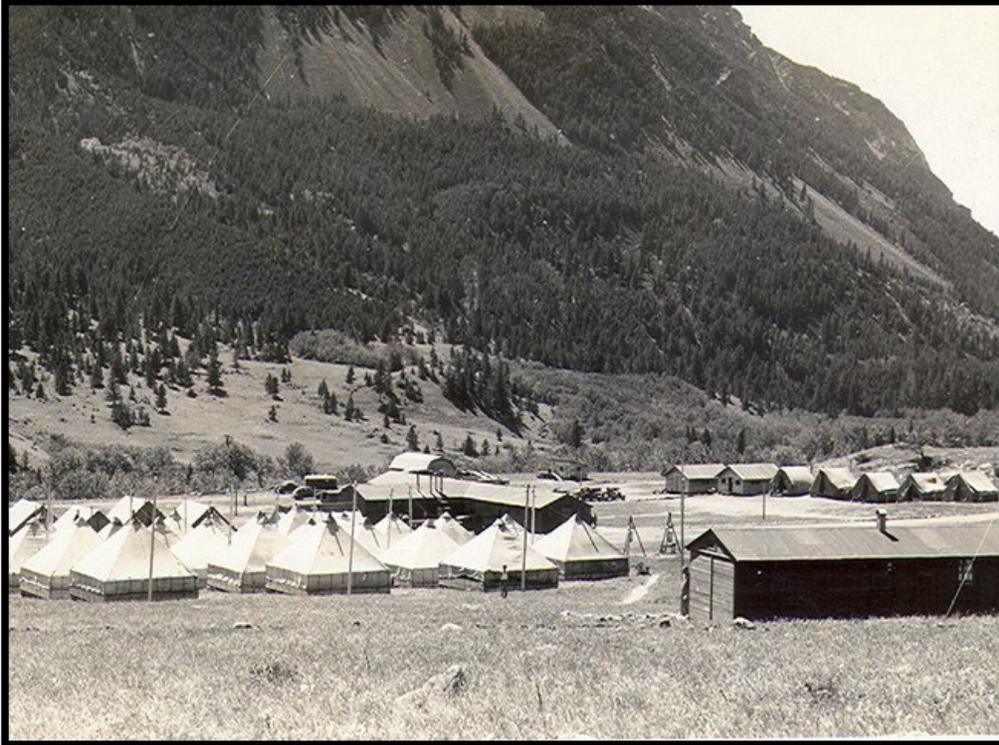


Figure 17. Camp F-74 of the CCC, just northeast of the MBRS

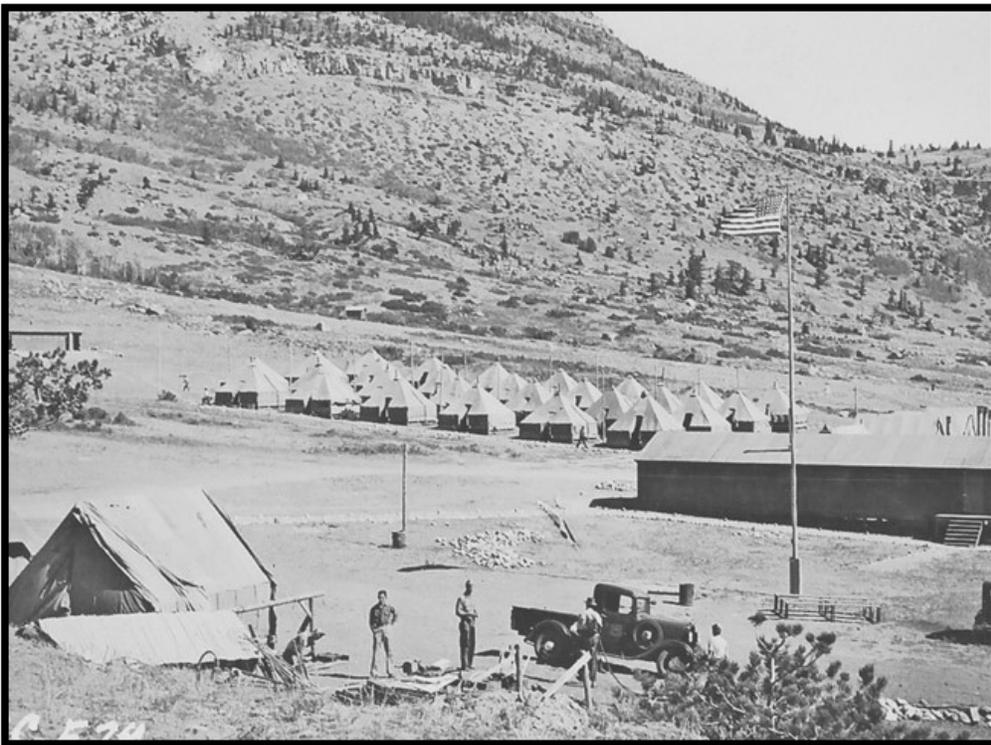


Figure 18. Camp F-74 Boulder camp

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Project plans called for a new road segment in that area, to reduce the old road grade by 80 feet.¹⁰⁰ Because the major assignment for Company 2525 was road construction, a 45-ton gas-powered shovel was brought to the camp.¹⁰¹ The road crews spent July and early August improving the road to Independence via the Box Canyon patrol cabin. Other enrollees constructed a swinging bridge, picnic areas, and rest stops near the present-day Natural Bridge Falls Picnic Area. CCCers also cleared brush and fenced grazing allotments. However, Company 2525's manpower was diverted in mid-August to fight an 800-acre fire on Slough Creek. To complete unfinished projects in the Main Boulder area, Company 1586 from the F-57 Squaw Creek camp (now Shenango Work Center) was assigned to a spike camp at the F-74 site. F-57 crews completed the work on the Falls Creek recreation facilities and road.¹⁰² In early October, Camp F-74 closed for the season. An eight-man crew remained under supervision of Forest Service Engineer Joseph Cremans to continue survey on the Main Boulder road until winter weather arrived.¹⁰³

In May 1938, CCC Company 1293 arrived at Camp F-74 Boulder to continue work on the Main Boulder road. Again, serious fires in the Absaroka country pulled most enrollees from road work into fire assignments in August and September. Company 1293 was the last CCC camp permanently stationed at Camp F-74.¹⁰⁴ In February 1939, Regional Forester Evan Kelley decided camp F-74-Boulder was no longer necessary. He believed the remaining Main Boulder work could be completed more quickly and efficiently by using men from other CCC camps in a spike camp arrangement.¹⁰⁵ F-74 Boulder became a spike camp for CCC crews from F-57 Squaw Creek (Shenango) during the 1939 and 1940 seasons, primarily for road construction. In 1941, Company 1223 from Red Lodge arrived at the Main Boulder spike camp to complete several road and campground projects; they were the last CCC enrollees assigned to the Main Boulder district.¹⁰⁶ Community leaders in Big Timber and the Boulder Valley proved less than happy to see the CCC leave and repeatedly urged the Forest Service to expand its recreational facilities while CCC manpower and funds were available. Recreation, particularly the dude ranch industry, had become an important economic driver in Park and Sweet Grass counties' recovery from the Depression.¹⁰⁷

While the water system appeared to be the only CCC project directly related to the Main Boulder Ranger Station facility, it's quite likely that Ranger Kaufman, like his counterparts on other

¹⁰⁰ "Boulder CCC Camp Now in Action on Projects," *Sweet Grass News*, 7/28/1937, p. 1.

¹⁰¹ "New Power Shovel for Road Work in Boulder District Is Received," *Livingston Enterprise*, 8/24/1937, p. 4.

¹⁰² Stevens, "Historical Overview of Civilian Conservation Corps Activities . . ." (2019), pgs. 48-49.

¹⁰³ "Much Work Done on Main Boulder Road," *Livingston Enterprise*, 10/14/1937, p. 3.

¹⁰⁴ Stevens, "Historical Overview of Civilian Conservation Corps Activities . . ." (2019), p. 49.

¹⁰⁵ Evan W. Kelley, Regional Forester to Chief, Forest Service, February 2, 1939, cited in Stevens (2019), p. 49.

¹⁰⁶ "CCC Crew Will Go to Main Boulder June 1," *Livingston Enterprise*, 5/22/1940, p. 3; "Lindquist Returns After Assisting in Opening CCC Camp," *Livingston Enterprise*, 6/8/1940, p. 3; "CCC Campers Working," *Big Timber Pioneer*, 6/20/1940, p. A8; Stevens (2019), p. 49.

¹⁰⁷ "Big Timber, Livingston Are Center of National's Dude Ranch Business," *Sweet Grass News*, 7/3/1940, p. 1; "Big Timber Business Men Support Boulder Recreation Facilities," *Livingston Enterprise*, 8/2/1940, p. 7; "CCC Work in This Area May Be Terminated: People Asked to Write O'Connor Protesting Decision," *Livingston Enterprise*, 4/13/1941, p. 2.

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Region 1 ranger districts, took advantage of any available manpower at the nearby F-74 Boulder camp. Groundskeeping, painting, and other maintenance seemed to be the usual work found by rangers for any CCCers not otherwise engaged in designated projects. However, no documentation has surfaced to indicate Kaufman followed this course of action at Main Boulder.

The End of an Era - Main Boulder Ranger Station, 1941-1945

Apparently not everyone in the Forest Service agreed with Harry Kaufman that the Main Boulder site was ideal for a ranger district headquarters. In a 1939 inspection, Assistant Regional Forester Earl Sandvig observed, "there are many conflicting views as to the proper permanent location for this station."¹⁰⁸ Although Kaufman won Sandvig's support during a weeklong tour, there was a growing belief in the Forest Service that in the age of the automobile, telephone, and radio, rangers no longer needed to be stationed so close to the forest and that district offices could better serve the public at locations nearer to population centers. Kaufman also experienced substantial pressure from the competing interests of recreation and sheep grazing.¹⁰⁹ During the winter of 1940-1941, Kaufman suffered from influenza and complications, probably pneumonia. The 60-year-old never recovered his strength, and in July 1941 he was ordered to leave active field service. Harry and Coral moved to Livingston for better health care. Coral said it broke her heart to leave the Main Boulder Ranger Station, and Harry undoubtedly had similar feelings. In Livingston, Harry applied for disability retirement from the Forest Service. He died in his sleep on November 28, 1941.¹¹⁰

After decades of service at the MBRS, a new ranger assumed Harry Kaufman's position, Reginald M. DeNio, a Regional Office man who conducted range and wildlife surveys for two seasons on the Absaroka Forest. He arrived on April 8, 1942.¹¹¹ In April 1945, the Absaroka National Forest consolidated into the Gallatin National Forest and its ranger districts rearranged with the Main Boulder district headquarters moved to Big Timber as part of the Big Timber Ranger District. Regional Forester P.D. Hanson justified the reorganization: "Increased responsibilities to be delegated to district rangers as a means of providing service closer to the grass roots." The removal of the district headquarters from the Main Boulder station was explained:

It is planned to locate a ranger station at Big Timber, making the service readily accessible to all stockmen and those who use the Boulder country as a recreation spot. An assistant ranger will be stationed at the present ranger station on the Boulder during the summer months and possibly permanently. This will eliminate trips to Livingston for every need, great or small. The ranger in charge

¹⁰⁸Earl Sandvig, "Inspection Report" (1939) cited in MacLean, 82)

¹⁰⁹ "Big Timber Rod & Gun Club Annual Meeting," *Big Timber Press* 2/15/1940, 1; "Big Timber Business Men Support Boulder Recreation Facilities," *Livingston Enterprise* 8/2/1940, 7; *Northern Region News* 8/6/1940, 15; Staunton, *Jerkline to Jeep*, 30

¹¹⁰ "Senior Ranger Of Region Dies At Livingston," *Missoulian* 11/30/1941, 5; "Harry S. Kaufman Rites on Monday," *Sweet Grass News* 12/3/1941, 1; "Harry S. Kaufman, Forest Ranger, Died In Sleep At His Livingston Home Friday," also "Old Friends Attended," *Big Timber Pioneer* 12/4/1941, 1 & 5;

¹¹¹ "Succeeds Kaufman," *Big Timber Pioneer* 4/9/1942, 5

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[at Big Timber] being vested with greater authority will be able to attend to many details presently handled by the [forest] supervisor.¹¹²

Clearly, the day of rangers like Harry Kaufman and remote stations like Main Boulder had passed.

Main Boulder Ranger Station, 1945

Ranger Reginald DeNio transferred to Great Falls the same month as the reorganization was announced, April 1945. The following month, Alban Roemer took the district ranger assignment at Big Timber. Of the Main Boulder Ranger Station from where Harry Kaufman once rode horseback to Livingston in nine hours, Roemer later said, “I used to go up there quite often, I’d stay up there, sometimes three or four days instead of going back and forth because the roads were so bad.”¹¹³

After 1945, the MBRS was repurposed as a work center. Seasonal employees such as trail crews or fire fighters used the MBRS as a jumping off point for work in the vast Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness, and workers still use the property today. As early as the late 1960s, shortly after the passage of the NHPA, awareness spread among FS staff about the historic value of the MBRS. By the early 1990s, restoration work began in earnest.

Architectural Significance

Architectural Trends Adopted by the Forest Service (1897–1942)

Much of the information below is distilled from Janene Caywood, James McDonald, and Theodore Catton’s 1991 *Evaluation of Region 1 Forest Service-Owned Buildings for Eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places: Volume 1*, a report that details the development of the Forest Service and its “permanent improvement program” and identifies major architectural trends for historic buildings in the Region.

The Main Boulder Ranger Station exudes the distinctive characteristics of the earliest rustic Ranger Stations in the Forest Service, as well as CCC-era construction when FS administrative facilities expanded with New Deal programs and labor. From 1897 to about 1918, Forest Service rangers in Region One were responsible for designing and building most of the permanent improvements for the forest in addition to their trail constructing duties and guarding against forest fires. Many of these buildings built by rangers in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries display the touchstones of James Deetz’s “vernacular” definition:

...folk building, done without benefit of formal plans. Such structures are frequently built by their occupants or, if not, by someone who is well within

¹¹²“Boulder Ranger Station Will Be Moved to Big Timber,” *Big Timber Pioneer* 4/19/1945, 1

¹¹³ Alban Roemer quoted in “Roemer Remembers Small Beginnings,” *Big Timber Pioneer* 3/3/1993, A11

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the occupant's immediate community. Vernacular structures are the person's inner feelings, their ideas of what is or is not suitable to them.¹¹⁴

Buildings stressed function to allow a variety of uses, with some fulfilling multiple uses. Such multi-use buildings occurred at most early administrative sites where both the living quarters and office space occurred in the same building. The 1905 edition of the Use Book noted:

Eventually all the Rangers who serve year round will be furnished with headquarter cabins on the Reserves. It is in the intention of the Forest Service to build these as rapidly as funds will permit. Whenever possible, cabins should be built of logs with shingle or shake roofs. The hardware, glass, and door and window frames may be purchased on authorization from the Forester. Cabins should be sufficient size to afford comfortable living accommodations to the family of the Ranger stationed in them and this Ranger will be held responsible for the proper care of the cabin and the ground surrounding it.¹¹⁵

Materials, workmanship, and design differences among early Forest Service buildings mirror the abilities of the builder, instead of agency dictates. Guidelines however, such as those published in the 1905 Use Book, provided a rough blueprint for early Forest Rangers to build their office/homes from log, and to set them on stone foundations. The roofs were to be covered with wood shingles or possibly shakes with much of the work conducted on site. Rangers retained free reign regarding the number of stories, floor plan, and the roof style. Few early phase development administrative sites remain and of those that do, many faced redevelopment following World War I (WWI) or were removed or destroyed in the 1950s and 1960s by the Forest Service during a purge of "excess" buildings.

The drive to improve previously existing administrative properties transpired after WWI due to the increased visibility of the Forest Service. Such visibility spurred the agency to make improvements that allowed functionality, ease of maintenance, and that proved acceptable to the public. This period began a 25-year Forest Service goal of increasingly strict procedures geared to their permanent improvements in the Region.

From 1918 to 1928, construction efforts were generally typical in regard to building construction numbers in Region 1. Such commonplace construction efforts reflected the agency's ongoing pursuit of funding. Employees remained the driving force behind construction but design and building placement review moved up the chain concomitant with reduced review by the Forest Supervisor. Building material variety increased and

¹¹⁴ James Deetz, *In Small Things Forgotten: The Archaeology of Early American Life*, (New York: Doubleday, 1977), p. 93.

¹¹⁵ USDA Forest Service, *The Use of the National Forest Reserves: Regulations and Instructions* (Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1905), p. 108.

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architecture reflected that found at the local and regional level, following the agency's earliest construction direction and confidence its objectives served best by integrating with the local culture.

A station's location and material availability assumed a greater role in the 1920s. Those locations easily accessed often found buildings of frame construction instead of log, reflecting the style of buildings found in nearby towns. These frame buildings often expressed themselves, especially in the 1920s and 1930s, as bungalow types displaying "Craftsman" cues such as rectangular floorplans, gable roofs, exposed rafter ends, roof braces or brackets, and droplap or shingle exterior siding. Windows tended to be double-hung and hopper style, with use of both appearing in the same building.

Rural areas witnessed a predominance of log construction with some Craftsman detailing appearing with notching type generally reflecting the builder's skills. Most 1920s log buildings display the rectangular floor plans found in frame buildings, and also gable roofs with exposed rafter ends and roof braces and/or brackets, dormers, and either an open shed roof porch along the long axis of the building or a continuous gable roof porch. The buildings found at the Main Boulder Ranger Station display several of these Craftsman hallmarks.

Entry placement commonly associates with building size with smaller buildings often displaying offset entries to allow for better use of the interior wall space and larger buildings generally holding centrally placed entries. Most hold multi-pane sliding windows, though hopper and awning windows can also occur.

A more formal approach to Regional design and construction uniformity appears in 1928 with the move of Clyde Fickes to the branch of operations at the Regional Office in Missoula. Fickes worked to finalize the design for a pre-cut lookout house but his presence soon found him supervising all improvement work initiated by the branch of operations, a move that began a larger move toward Region One permanent improvements standardization.

Fickes' endeavor resulted in an instruction manual for the construction of a variety of improvements and provided building plans for rangers to consider for proposing new construction. The early 1930s witnessed the compilation of Fickes' illustrations, plans, and elevations that proved practical in the field in both design and economics. This effort by Fickes resulted in the agency's infamous *Improvement Handbook*, revised and reissued in 1935 under the name *Region One Handbook, Construction and Maintenance of Forest Improvements*.¹¹⁶

The handbook acknowledged the importance of specific plans for particular buildings. Fickes strongly advocated to hire William Fox as an architect for the Region. Fox,

¹¹⁶ Clyde P. Fickes, *Region One Handbook Construction and Maintenance of Forest Improvements* (Missoula: USDA Forest Service, Region One, 1935), p. R-1.

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freshly graduated from the University of Washington, together with Fickes, formalized many of the building designs previously used informally; many of Fox's designs and renderings appear in the 1935 handbook; with a few exceptions, most of Fickes' standards and stipulations were implemented.

The CCC's arrival accelerated building improvements in the forests. This occurred around the same time as maintaining the "rustic" appearance of Forest Service administrative facilities in remote or rural settings appears to have become an approved priority. To this end, the Forest Service advanced the process to improve their facilities but meld with the setting and landscape, generally via the use of logs or other natural wood products. Fickes' handbook provided the following guidelines:

The type of construction, whether log or frame, will be settled at the time the improvement plan for the site is prepared. There is quite a bit of aversion to constructing log buildings for dwellings, administrative buildings, etc. at headquarters for the reason that it is difficult construction and adds materially to the cost of the structure to satisfactorily finish the interiors. Log walls are nice in summer cabins, hunting camps, etc. but the average housekeeper has a distinct aversion to them in homes occupied year-round because of the amount of work keep them clean. It has been found that a very satisfactory substitute for log buildings insofar as appearances are concerned is secured when the exterior walls of frame structures are covered with a sawed cedar shingle surface scarified so that it resembles a split or hand-rived shake. The use of log siding is not considered desirable since buildings so finished have an artificial or counterfeit appearance. For the many minor field stations log construction should be used where suitable house logs can be secured.¹¹⁷

The National Park Service (NPS) log buildings of the early twentieth century, including Old Faithful Inn in Yellowstone National Park, were also described as "Rustic," elaborated on by Merrill Ann Wilson who noted the idea of "rustic" related to the time:

This little noticed movement in American architecture was a natural outgrowth of a new romanticism about nature, our country's western frontiers...The conservation ethic slowly took hold in this atmosphere of romanticism. Part of this ethic fostered the development of a unique architectural style. Perhaps for the first time in the history of American architecture, a building became an accessory to nature...Early pioneer and regional building techniques were revived because it was thought that a structure employing native materials blended best with the environment...No (other) single government agency has to date been responsible for such a revolutionary break in architectural form.¹¹⁸

¹¹⁷ Clyde P. Fickes, *Region One Handbook Construction and Maintenance of Forest Improvements* (Missoula: USDA Forest Service, Region One, 1935).

¹¹⁸ Merrill Ann Wilson, "Rustic Architecture: The National Park Style," *Trends*, July-September, 1976, p. 4-5.

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The NPS re-popularized the use of “rustic” building techniques, but the Forest Service never ceased using them. The Forest Service planned to align local and regional standards with locally available materials. The need for utility and practicality generally obviated construction of “high style” rustic buildings constructed by the NPS; however, the term “rustic” is quite applicable for those Forest Service buildings constructed in rural areas.

Whether rustic or formal in appearance, many of the large building complexes designed by Fox during the 1930s and 1940s exhibit elements of the “Craftsman” or “Georgian” architectural styles. Again, due to the nature of Forest Service activities, no “high style” examples of either of these styles exist, rather, specific design elements of the building displays influences from these architectural styles.

Craftsman Style Design and the U.S. Forest Service

The Craftsman style proved popular in rural areas and relied on materials that included wood and stone, reflecting the surrounding environment. The use of these types of materials served to connect the newly-built environment and the existing natural environment. High style Rustic architecture created a sensation in the National Parks and elsewhere through the designs of Kirtland Cutter and Robert Reamer; Montana hosts countless buildings that evoke the style. Although not “high style,” the buildings at the Main Boulder Ranger Station present their Rustic pedigree well and twined with the Craftsman touches, the station stands as a handsome Forest Service facility. Staying true to the agency’s desire to blend with the local culture, the Main Boulder Range Station wears its vernacular construction front and center; building on this melding with the surrounding landscape, the CCC-built resources stand as a product of an architectural vision of how people and nature interact. Defined in the most general of terms, the Rustic style often displays siding or walls of peeled logs, log siding, or rough-cut lumber, along with steep roofs topped with shingles, overhanging roofs, exposed rafters, and the use of colors that blend with the surroundings. Fieldstone chimneys may also be present.¹¹⁹ Further elaboration of the style includes use of native materials, low silhouettes, eschewing overly straight lines and excessive refinement, the display of hand tooled finishes, the use of “frontier” building methods, and choosing colors that meld with the surroundings, traits easily visible on the Main Boulder Ranger Station buildings.¹²⁰

¹¹⁹ Ernest Burden, *Illustrated Dictionary of Architecture*, (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2002), 284.

¹²⁰ “NPS Rustic Style Architecture,” National Park Service Resource Brief, viewed at <https://www.nps.gov/sagu/learn/historyculture/upload/NPS-Rustic-Style-Brief.pdf>, accessed December 14, 2022.

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Main Boulder Ranger Station

Name of Property

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Main Boulder Ranger Station
Name of Property

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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 # _____

Main Boulder Ranger Station
 Name of Property

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Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: US Forest Service

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Label	Longitude	Latitude
1	-110.224160	45.523760
2	-110.224200	45.523570
3	-110.226013	45.523581
4	-110.226240	45.523668
5	-110.226200	45.523838
6	-110.225949	45.523992
7	-110.225610	45.524520
8	-110.224590	45.524630
9	-110.224500	45.524750
10	-110.224100	45.524710
11	-110.224278	45.523847

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

The boundary of the property mostly aligns near fence lines where present and includes the resources of the Main Boulder Ranger Station. The property sits in T3S R12E Section 34. See attached maps, pages 63 and 64; reference to these maps confirms this boundary.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The property includes all the resources associated with the Main Boulder Ranger Station, both contributing and noncontributing. Most of the area within the boundary are mowed and maintained, distinguishing it from its surroundings. The boundary includes sufficient setting to impart the ranger station's rural setting.

Main Boulder Ranger Station
Name of Property

Park County, MT
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Mary Horstman Williams (lead historian), Cherie Peacock (architectural historian), Alex Schwab (Consulting Archaeologist, GISP)

Organization: Ethnotech LLC

Street & number: PO Box 1591

City or town: Polson State: MT zip code: 59860

E-mail: mhwhistory1953@gmail.com, cherie_peacock@hotmail.com,
aschwab@ethnotechllc.com

Telephone: 406-261-7351

Date: 01/06/24

With assistance from:

name/title: John Boughton

organization: Montana State Historic Preservation Office

street & number: 1301 E. Lockey

city or town: Helena state: MT zip code: 59620

e-mail: jboughton@mt.gov

telephone: (406) 444-3647

date: January 2024

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **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, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Main Boulder Ranger Station
 Name of Property

Park County, MT
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Photographs

Photo Log

Property	Location	Photo No.	File Name	Description
Main Boulder Ranger Station	Park County, MT	Photo 1	MT_ParkCounty_Main BoulderRS_0001	F1 Ranger Residence, View east, west wall
Main Boulder Ranger Station	Park County, MT	Photo 2	MT_ParkCounty_Main BoulderRS_0002	F1 Ranger Residence, View south, north wall
Main Boulder Ranger Station	Park County, MT	Photo 3	MT_ParkCounty_Main BoulderRS_0003	F1 Ranger Residence, View west, east wall
Main Boulder Ranger Station	Park County, MT	Photo 4	MT_ParkCounty_Main BoulderRS_0004	F1 Ranger Residence, View southwest, north and east walls
Main Boulder Ranger Station	Park County, MT	Photo 5	MT_ParkCounty_Main BoulderRS_0005	F1 Ranger Residence, View northwest, south and east walls
Main Boulder Ranger Station	Park County, MT	Photo 6	MT_ParkCounty_Main BoulderRS_0006	F2 Root Cellar, View northwest, south and east walls
Main Boulder Ranger Station	Park County, MT	Photo 7	MT_ParkCounty_Main BoulderRS_0007	F3 Wood Shed, View east, West wall
Main Boulder Ranger Station	Park County, MT	Photo 8	MT_ParkCounty_Main BoulderRS_0008	F3 Wood Shed, View south, north wall
Main Boulder Ranger Station	Park County, MT	Photo 9	MT_ParkCounty_Main BoulderRS_0009	F3 Wood Shed, View west, east wall
Main Boulder Ranger Station	Park County, MT	Photo 10	MT_ParkCounty_Main BoulderRS_0010	F3 Wood Shed, View north south wall
Main Boulder Ranger Station	Park County, MT	Photo 11	MT_ParkCounty_Main BoulderRS_0011	F4 Bunkhouse #1, View east, west wall
Main Boulder Ranger Station	Park County, MT	Photo 12	MT_ParkCounty_Main BoulderRS_0012	F4 Bunkhouse #1, View south-southwest, east and north walls
Main Boulder Ranger Station	Park County, MT	Photo 13	MT_ParkCounty_Main BoulderRS_0013	F4 Bunkhouse #1, view west, east wall

Main Boulder Ranger Station

Park County, MT

Name of Property

County and State

Property	Location	Photo No.	File Name	Description
Main Boulder Ranger Station	Park County, MT	Photo 14	MT_ParkCounty_Main BoulderRS_0014	F4 Bunkhouse #1, View northwest, south and east walls
Main Boulder Ranger Station	Park County, MT	Photo 15	MT_ParkCounty_Main BoulderRS_0015	F5 Bunkhouse #2, View southeast, north and west walls
Main Boulder Ranger Station	Park County, MT	Photo 16	MT_ParkCounty_Main BoulderRS_0016	F5 Bunkhouse #2, View south, north wall
Main Boulder Ranger Station	Park County, MT	Photo 17	MT_ParkCounty_Main BoulderRS_0017	F5 Bunkhouse #2, View west, east wall
Main Boulder Ranger Station	Park County, MT	Photo 18	MT_ParkCounty_Main BoulderRS_0018	F5 Bunkhouse #2, View northwest, south and east walls
Main Boulder Ranger Station	Park County, MT	Photo 19	MT_ParkCounty_Main BoulderRS_0019	F6 Barn, View east, west wall
Main Boulder Ranger Station	Park County, MT	Photo 20	MT_ParkCounty_Main BoulderRS_0020	F6 Barn, View southeast, north and west walls
Main Boulder Ranger Station	Park County, MT	Photo 21	MT_ParkCounty_Main BoulderRS_0021	F6 Barn, View west, east wall
Main Boulder Ranger Station	Park County, MT	Photo 22	MT_ParkCounty_Main BoulderRS_0022	F6 Barn, View north, south wall
Main Boulder Ranger Station	Park County, MT	Photo 23	MT_ParkCounty_Main BoulderRS_0023	F7 Machine Shed, View east, west wall
Main Boulder Ranger Station	Park County, MT	Photo 24	MT_ParkCounty_Main BoulderRS_0024	F7 Machine Shed, View southwest, east and north walls
Main Boulder Ranger Station	Park County, MT	Photo 25	MT_ParkCounty_Main BoulderRS_0025	F7 Machine Shed, View west, east wall
Main Boulder Ranger Station	Park County, MT	Photo 26	MT_ParkCounty_Main BoulderRS_0026	F7 Machine Shed, View south, north wall
Main Boulder Ranger Station	Park County, MT	Photo 27	MT_ParkCounty_Main BoulderRS_0027	F8 Rock Retaining Wall, View southeast

Main Boulder Ranger Station

Park County, MT

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Property	Location	Photo No.	File Name	Description
Main Boulder Ranger Station	Park County, MT	Photo 28	MT_ParkCounty_Main BoulderRS_0028	F8 Rock Retaining Wall, View southeast
Main Boulder Ranger Station	Park County, MT	Photo 29	MT_ParkCounty_Main BoulderRS_0029	F9 Modern SST toilet and parking area
Main Boulder Ranger Station	Park County, MT	Photo 30	MT_ParkCounty_Main BoulderRS_0030	F10 Modern wood outhouse
Main Boulder Ranger Station	Park County, MT	Photo 31	MT_ParkCounty_Main BoulderRS_0031	F11 Spring Box
Main Boulder Ranger Station	Park County, MT	Photo 32	MT_ParkCounty_Main BoulderRS_0032	Site Overview Facing West
Main Boulder Ranger Station	Park County, MT	Photo 33	MT_ParkCounty_Main BoulderRS_0033	Site Overview Facing North

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations 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.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

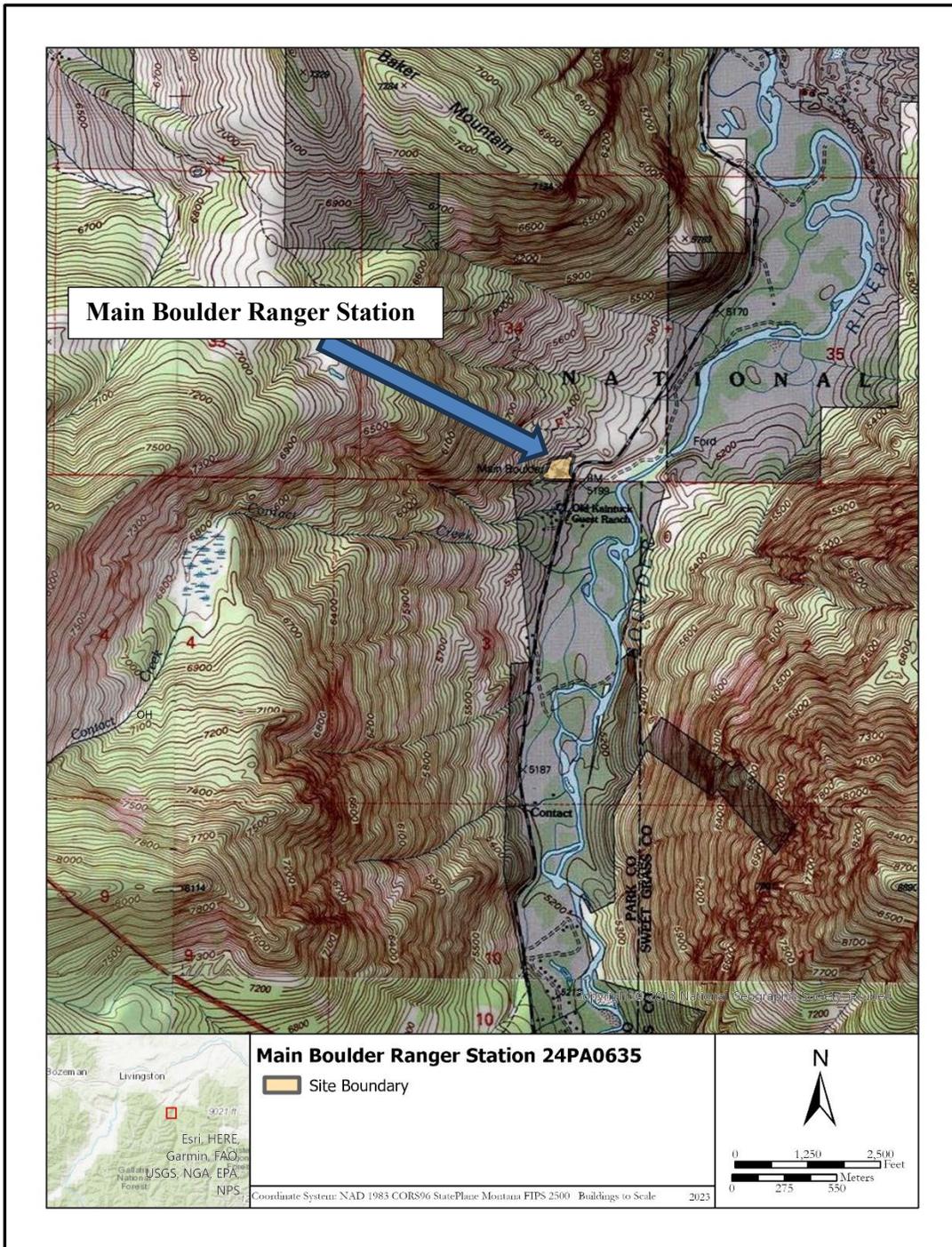
- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

Main Boulder Ranger Station
Name of Property

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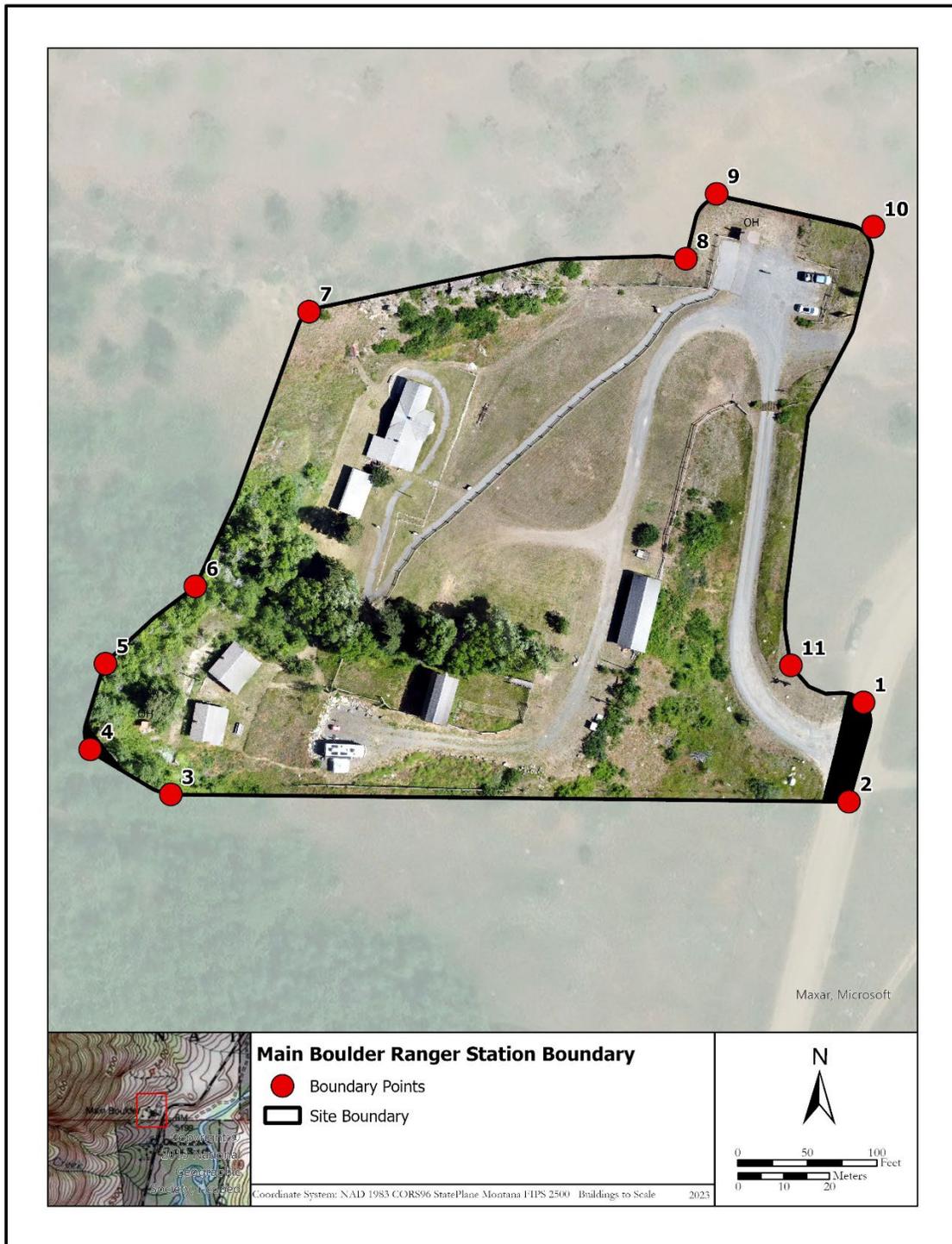
Maps and Floorplans



Location of the Main Boulder Ranger Station. Found on the McLeod basin 7.5' quadrangle map.

Main Boulder Ranger Station
Name of Property

Park County, MT
County and State



**Aerial view showing location of the Main Boulder Ranger Station boundary—
latitude/longitude coordinates on following page.**

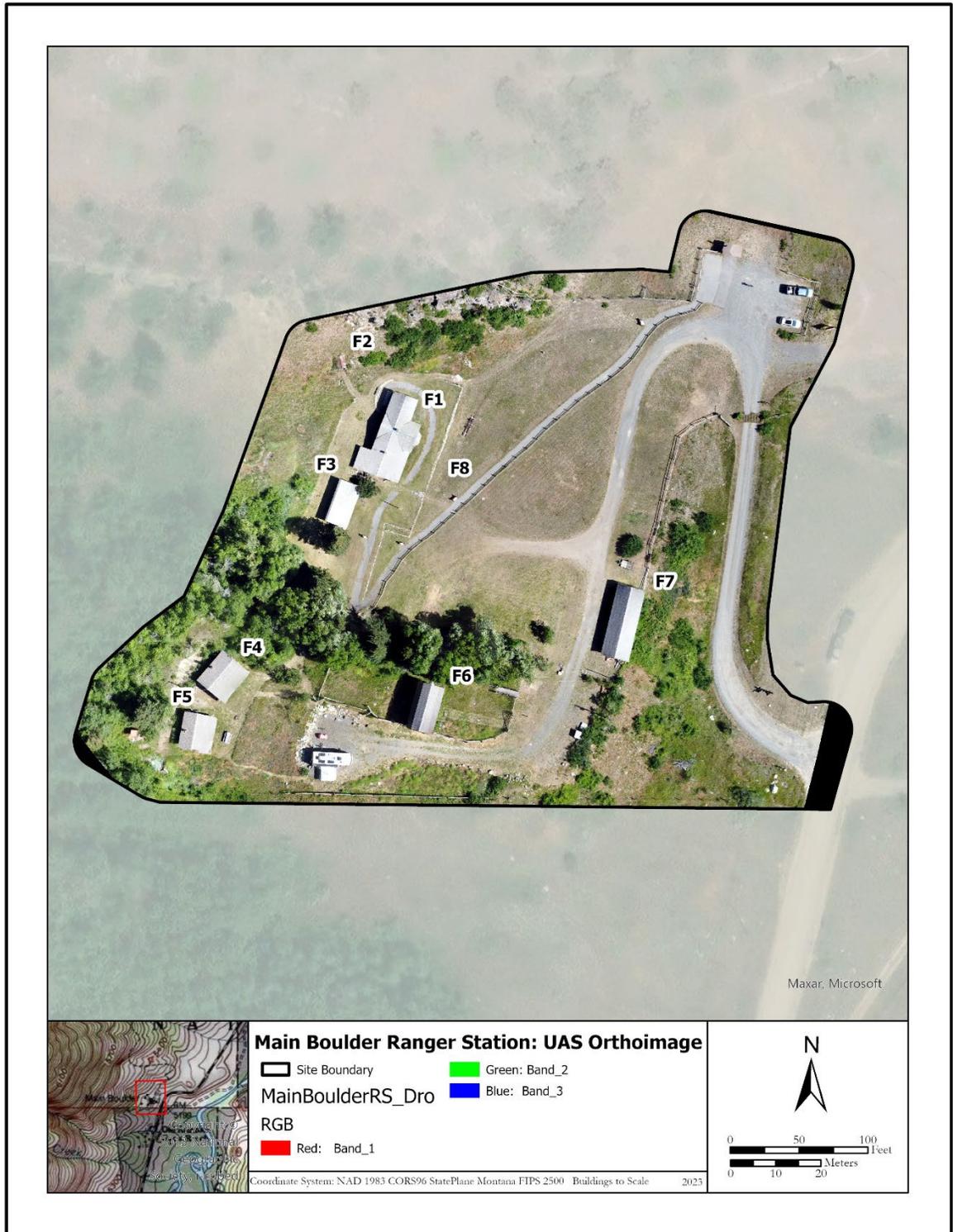
Main Boulder Ranger Station
Name of Property

Park County, MT
County and State

Label	Longitude	Latitude
1	-110.224160	45.523760
2	-110.224200	45.523570
3	-110.226013	45.523581
4	-110.226240	45.523668
5	-110.226200	45.523838
6	-110.225949	45.523992
7	-110.225610	45.524520
8	-110.224590	45.524630
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11	-110.224278	45.523847

Main Boulder Ranger Station
Name of Property

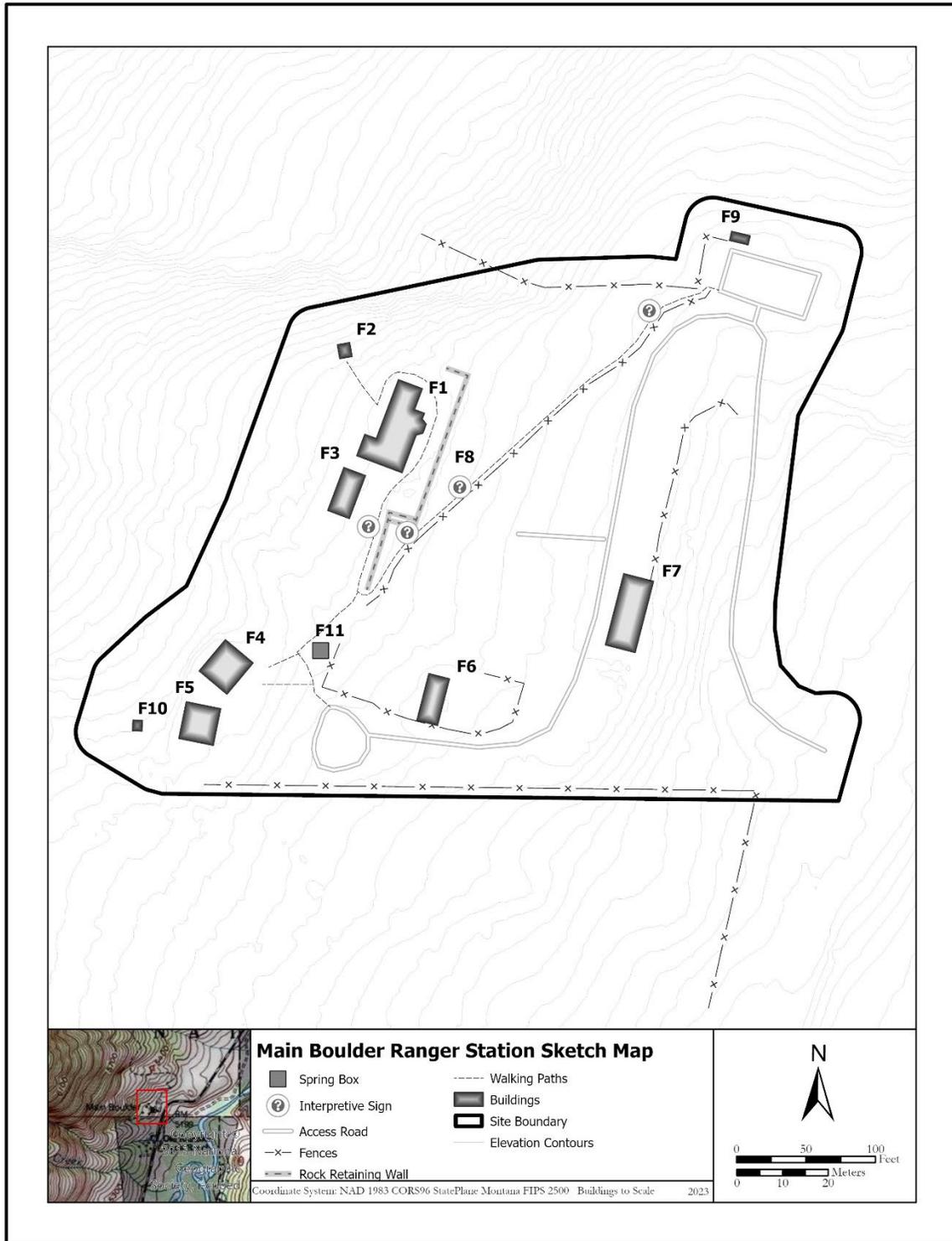
Park County, MT
County and State



Aerial view showing resources at the Main Boulder Ranger Station

Main Boulder Ranger Station
 Name of Property

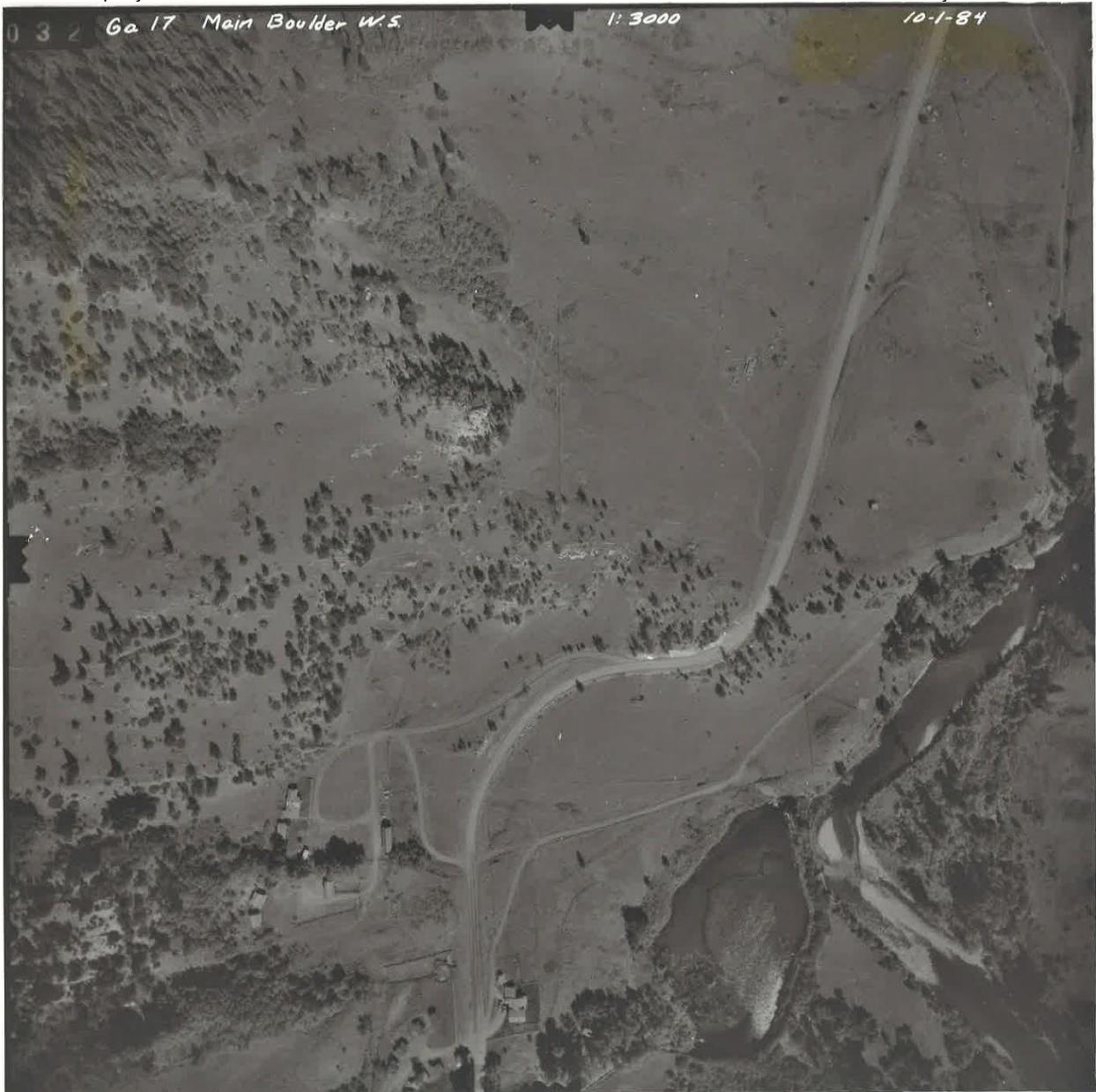
Park County, MT
 County and State



Resources at the Main Boulder Ranger Station

Main Boulder Ranger Station
Name of Property

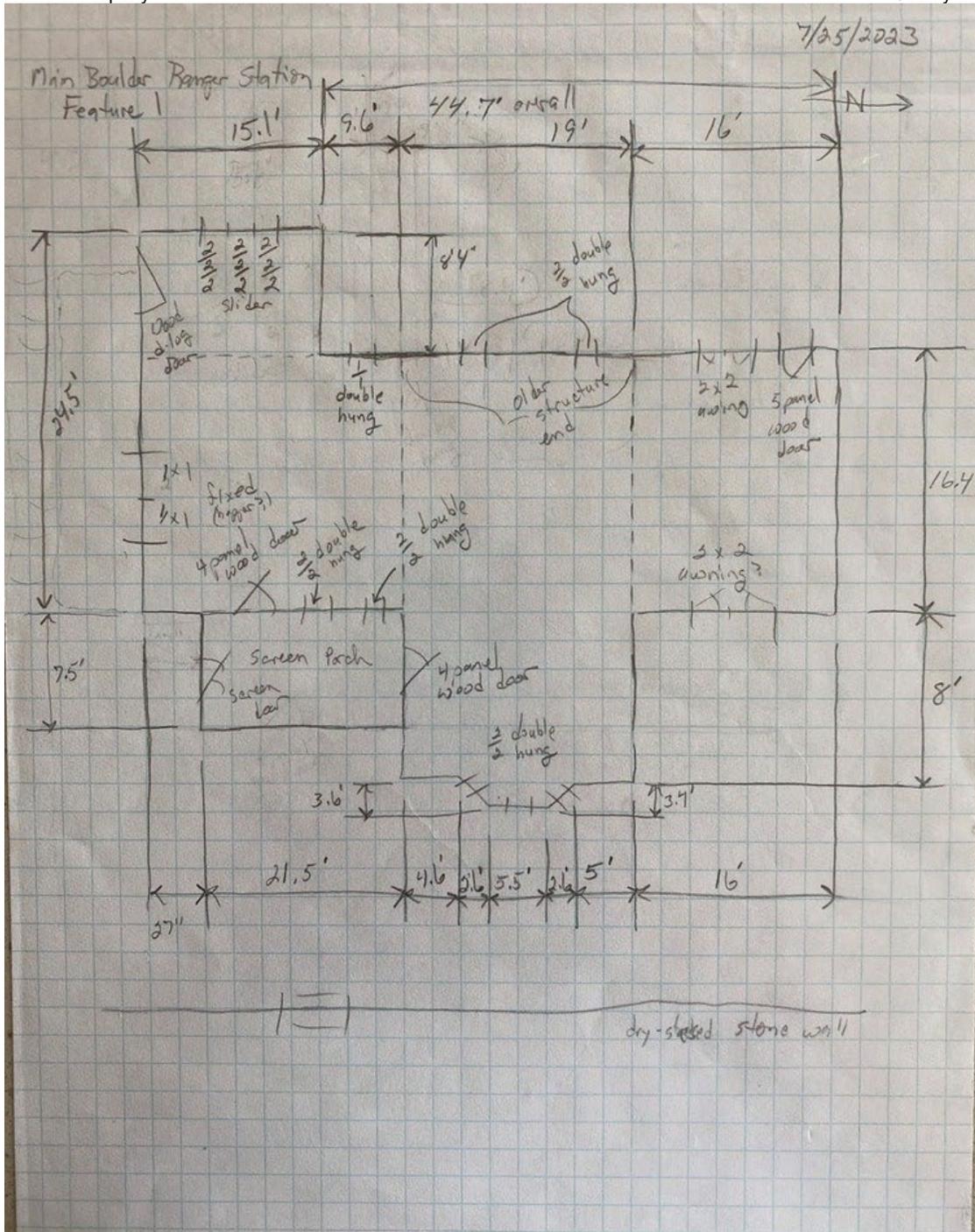
Park County, MT
County and State



1984 Aerial view showing resources at the Main Boulder Ranger Station

Main Boulder Ranger Station
Name of Property

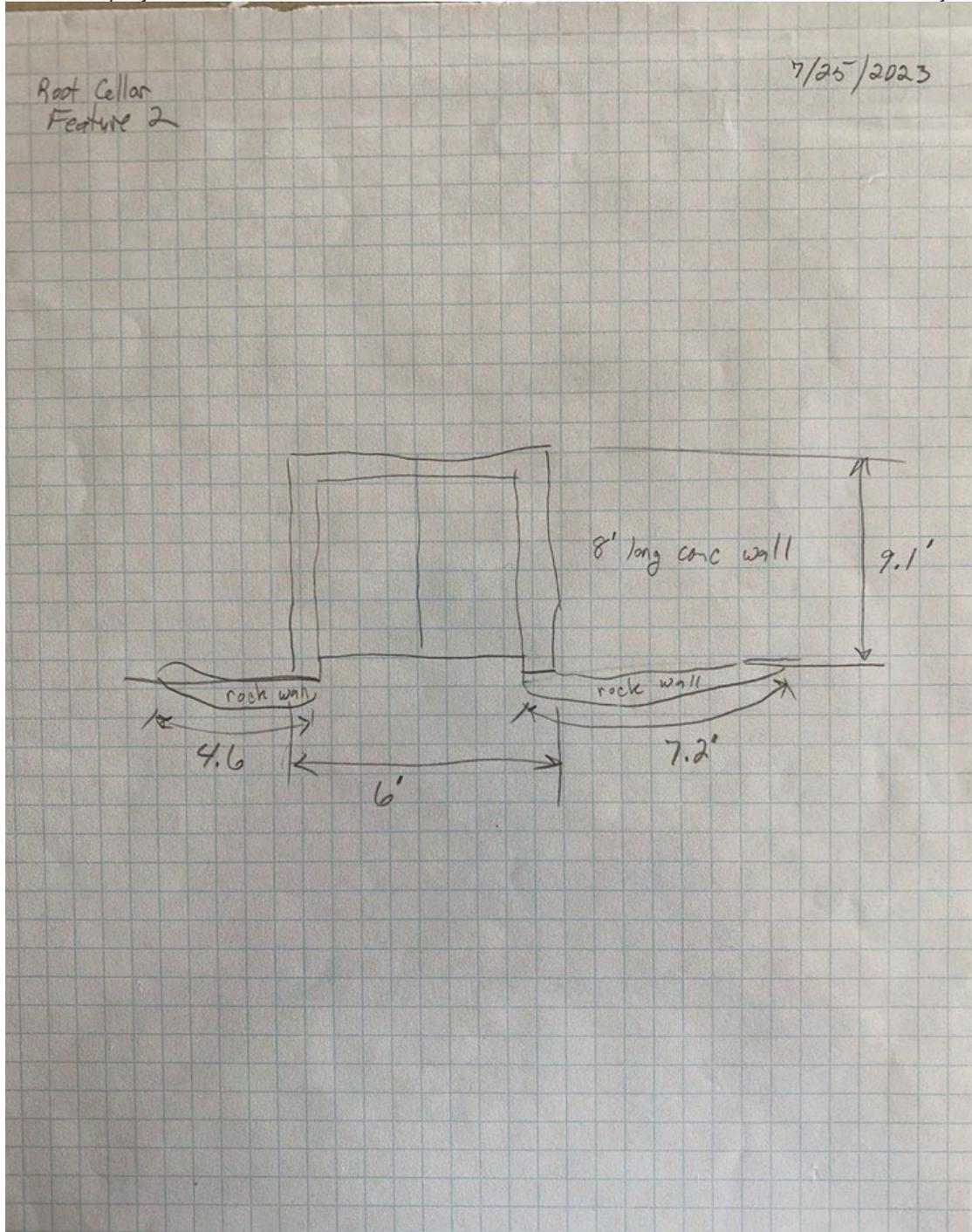
Park County, MT
County and State



Architectural Sketch Feature 1 Ranger Residence

Main Boulder Ranger Station
Name of Property

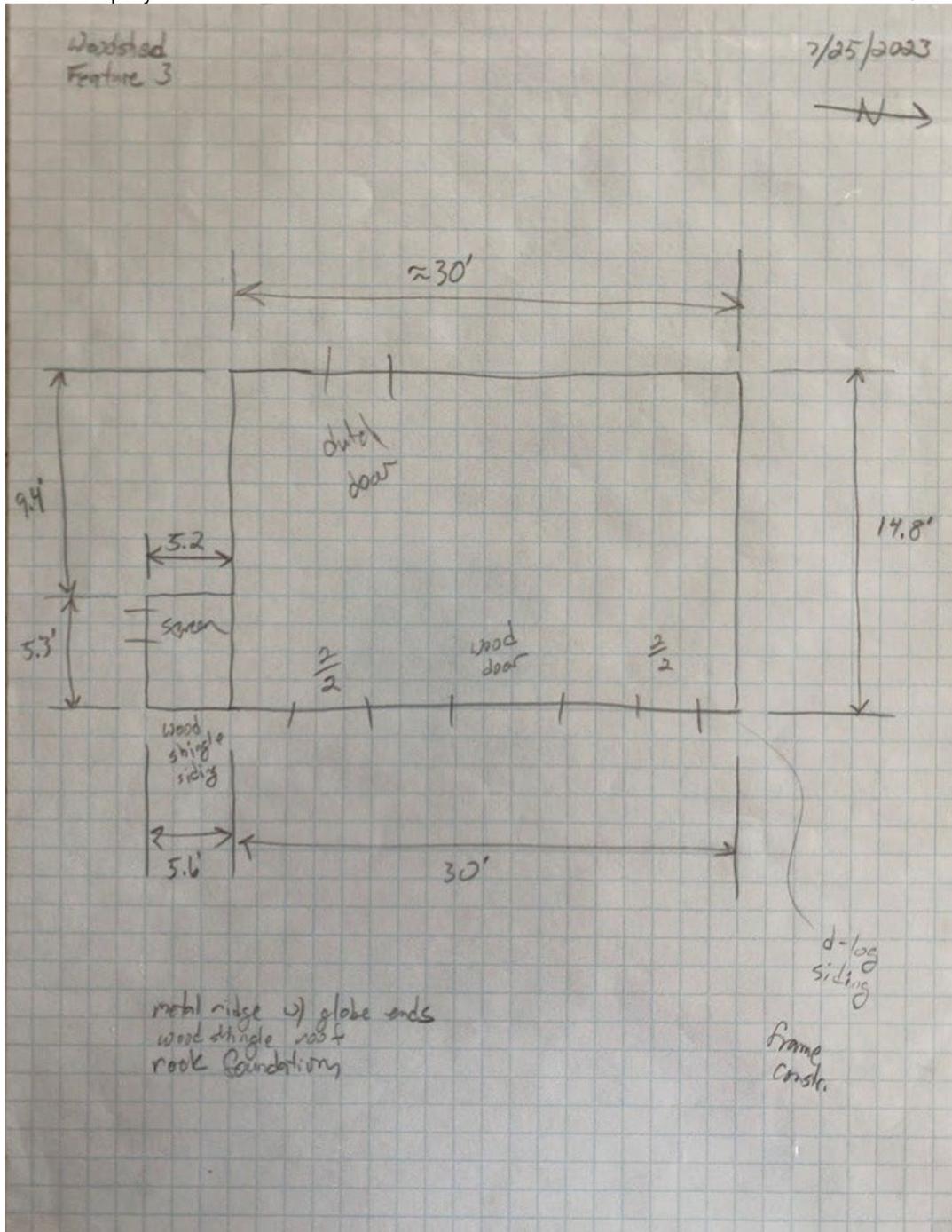
Park County, MT
County and State



Architectural Sketch Feature 2 Root Cellar

Main Boulder Ranger Station
Name of Property

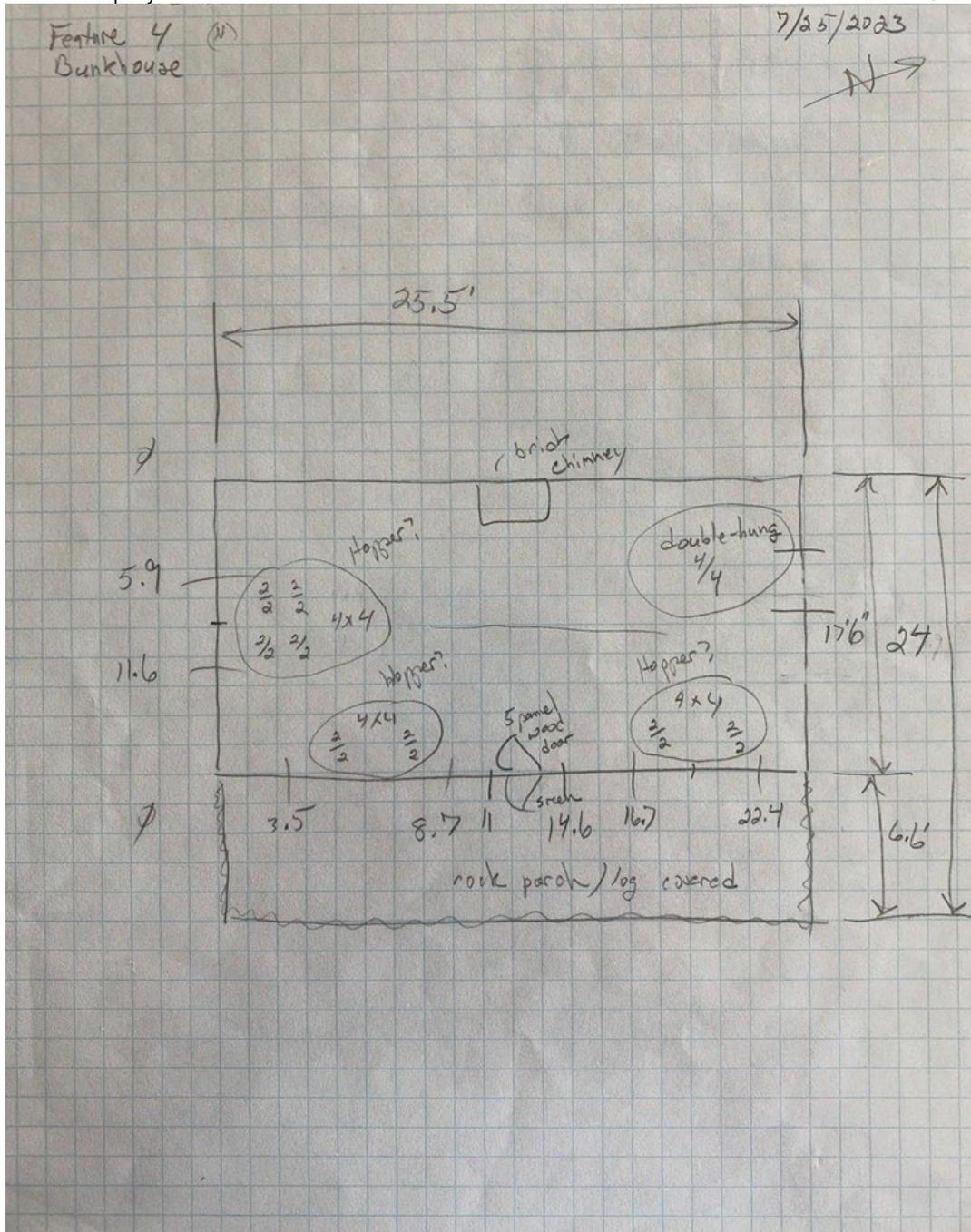
Park County, MT
County and State



Architectural Sketch Feature 3 Woodshed

Main Boulder Ranger Station
Name of Property

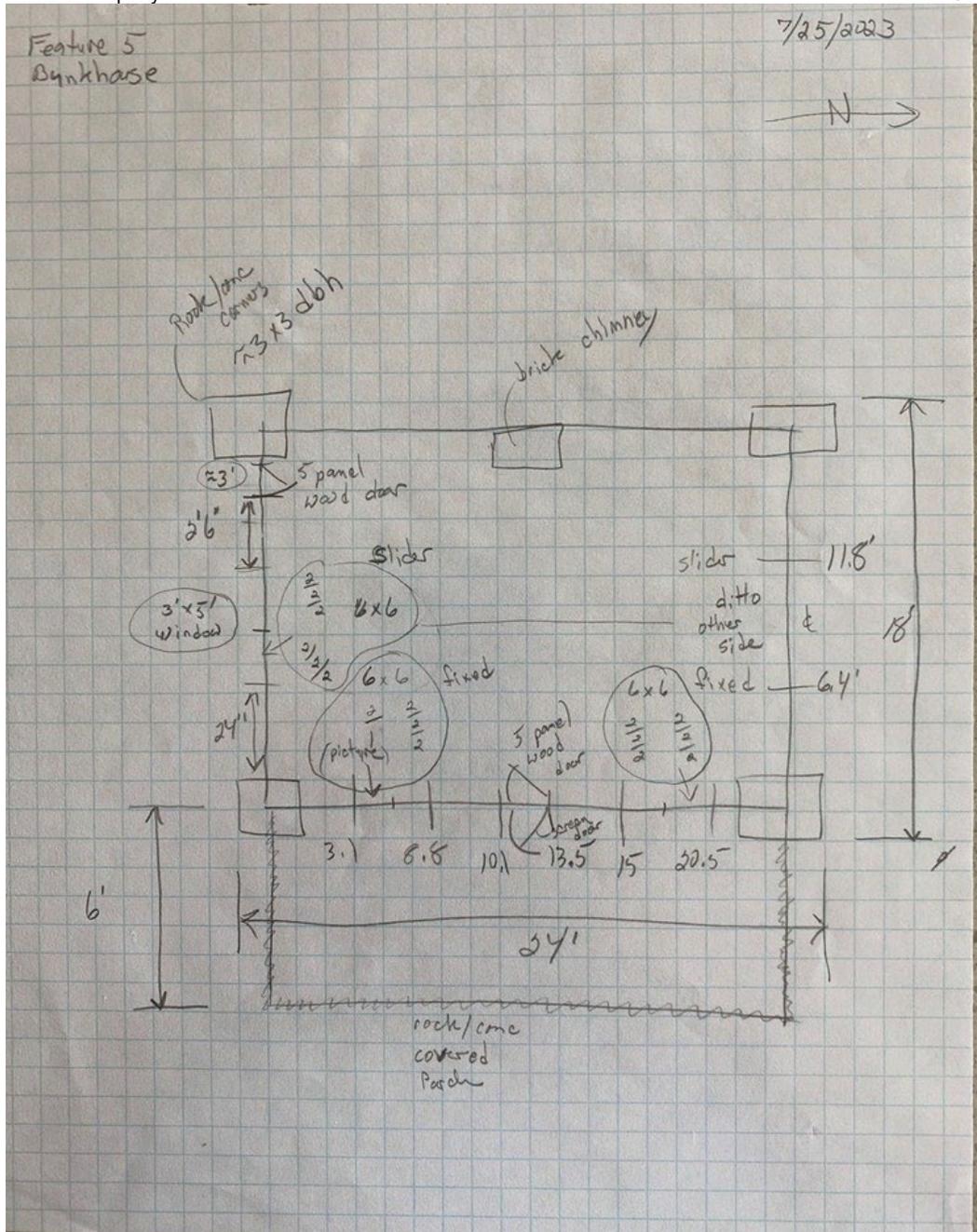
Park County, MT
County and State



Architectural Sketch Feature 4 Bunkhouse #1

Main Boulder Ranger Station
Name of Property

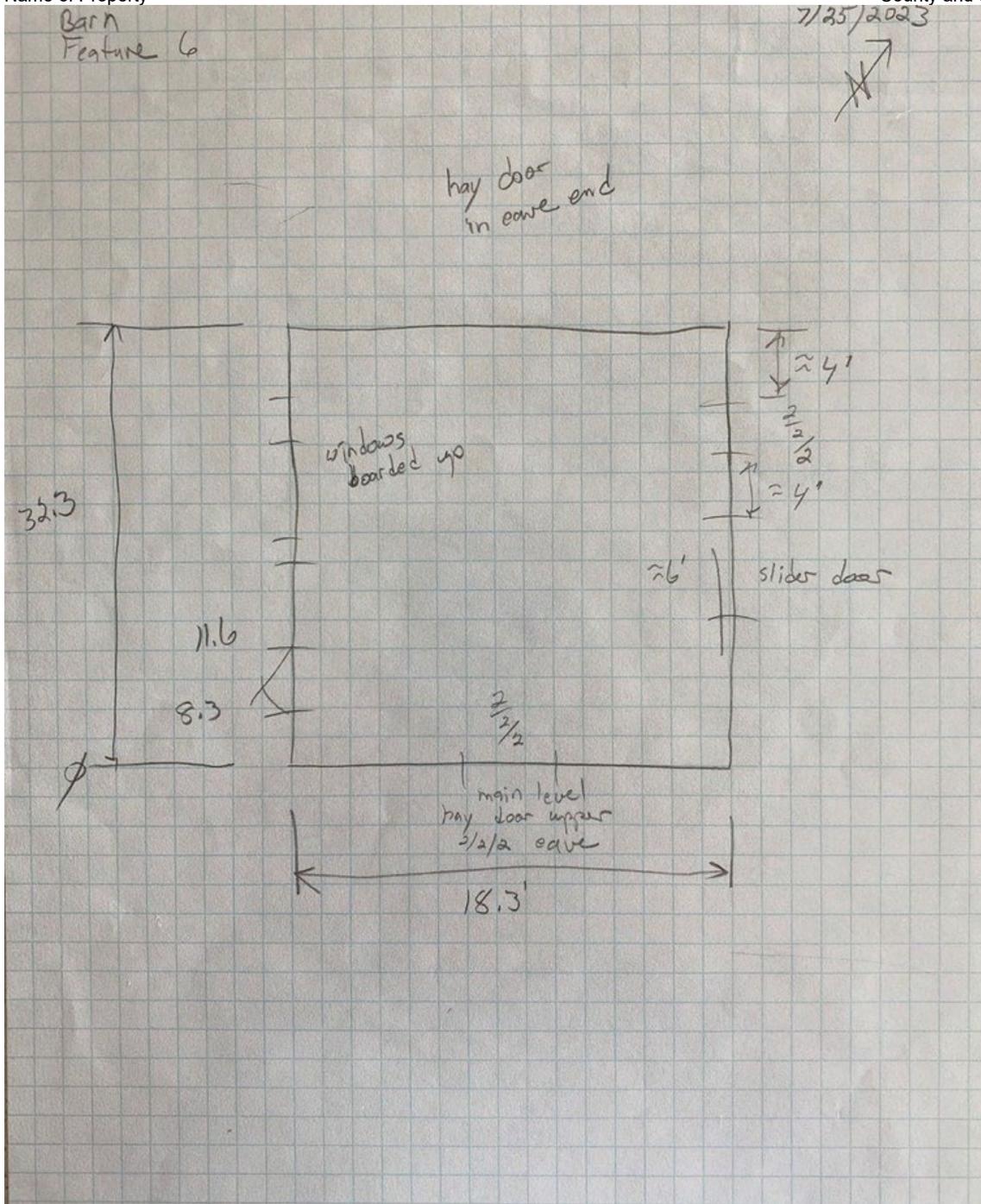
Park County, MT
County and State



Architectural Sketch Feature 5 Bunkhouse #2

Main Boulder Ranger Station
Name of Property

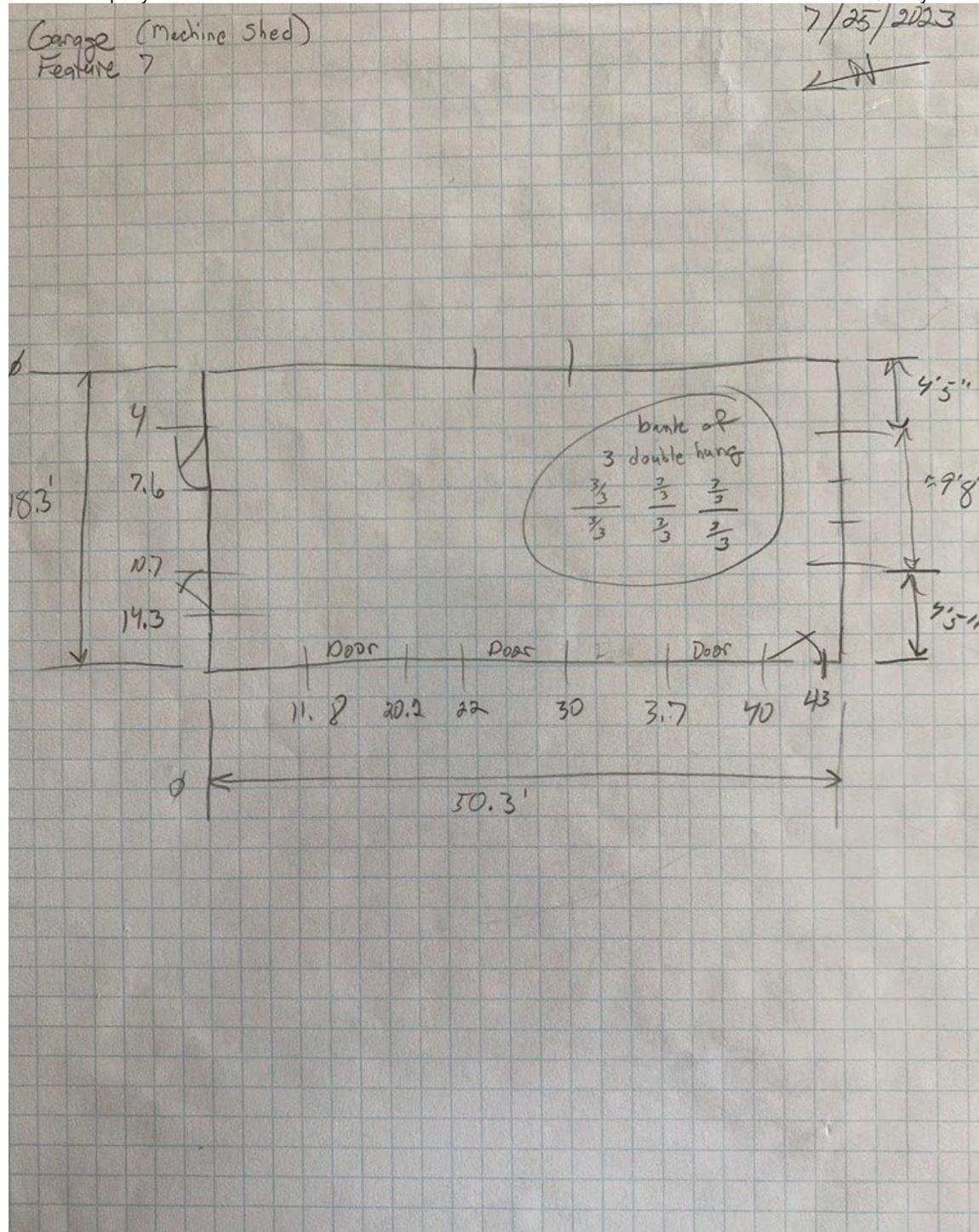
Park County, MT
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Architectural Sketch Feature 6 Barn

Main Boulder Ranger Station
Name of Property

Park County, MT
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Architectural Sketch Feature 7 Machine Shed

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Main Boulder Ranger Station

Name of Property

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National Register Photographs



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MT_ParkCounty_MainBoulderRS_0002

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MT_ParkCounty_MainBoulderRS_0003



MT_ParkCounty_MainBoulderRS_0004

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Main Boulder Ranger Station

Name of Property

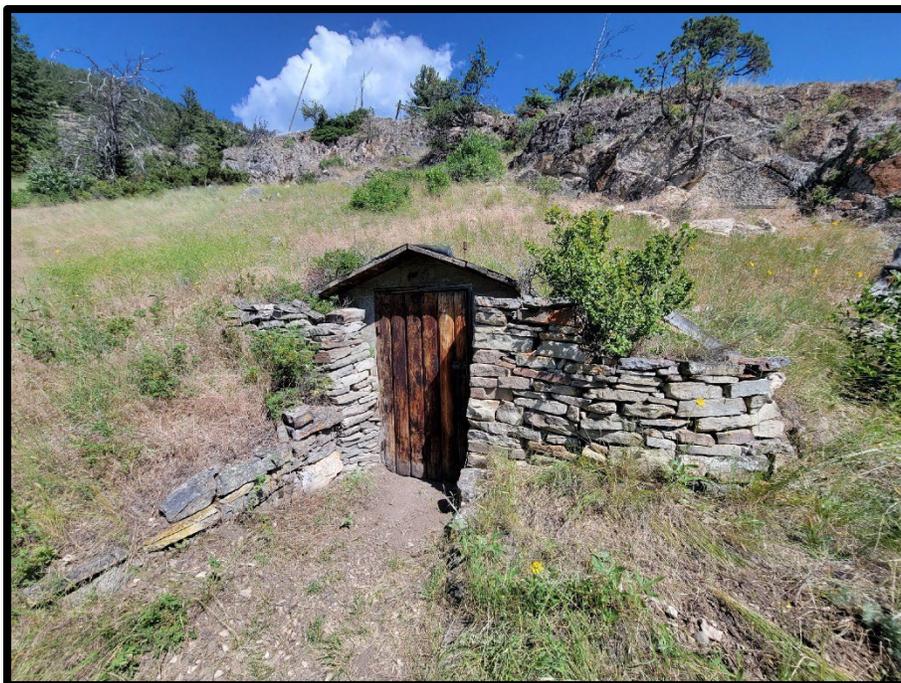
Park County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



MT_ParkCounty_MainBoulderRS_0005



MT_ParkCounty_MainBoulderRS_0006

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Main Boulder Ranger Station

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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



MT_ParkCounty_MainBoulderRS_0007



MT_ParkCounty_MainBoulderRS_0008

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Main Boulder Ranger Station

Name of Property

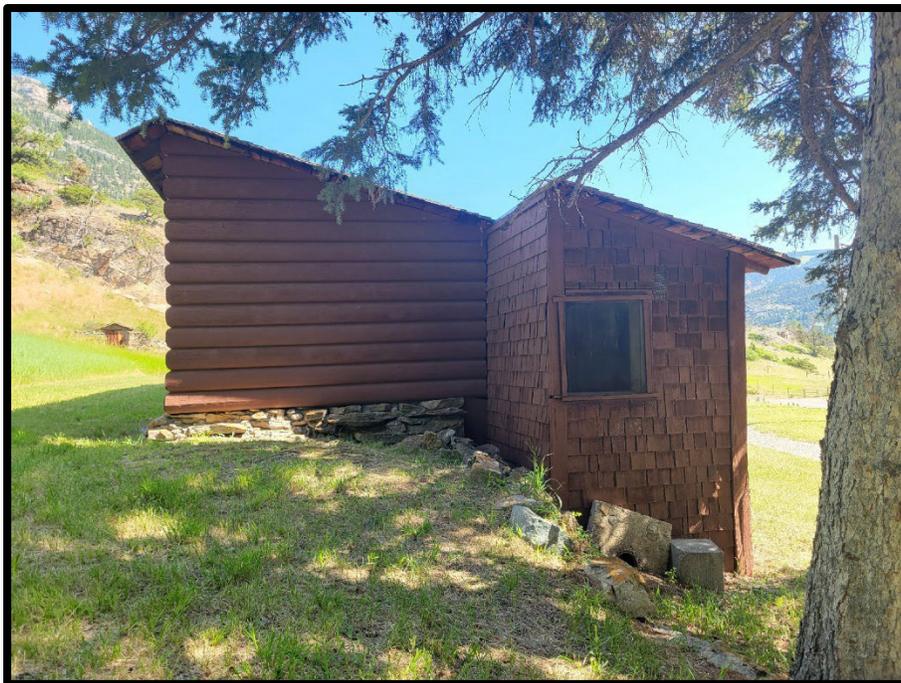
Park County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



MT_ParkCounty_MainBoulderRS_0009



MT_ParkCounty_MainBoulderRS_0010

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Main Boulder Ranger Station

Name of Property

Park County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



MT_ParkCounty_MainBoulderRS_0011



MT_ParkCounty_MainBoulderRS_0012

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Main Boulder Ranger Station

Name of Property

Park County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



MT_ParkCounty_MainBoulderRS_0013



MT_ParkCounty_MainBoulderRS_0014

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Park County, Montana

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MT_ParkCounty_MainBoulderRS_0015



MT_ParkCounty_MainBoulderRS_0016

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Main Boulder Ranger Station

Name of Property

Park County, Montana

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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



1MT_ParkCounty_MainBoulderRS_0017



MT_ParkCounty_MainBoulderRS_0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

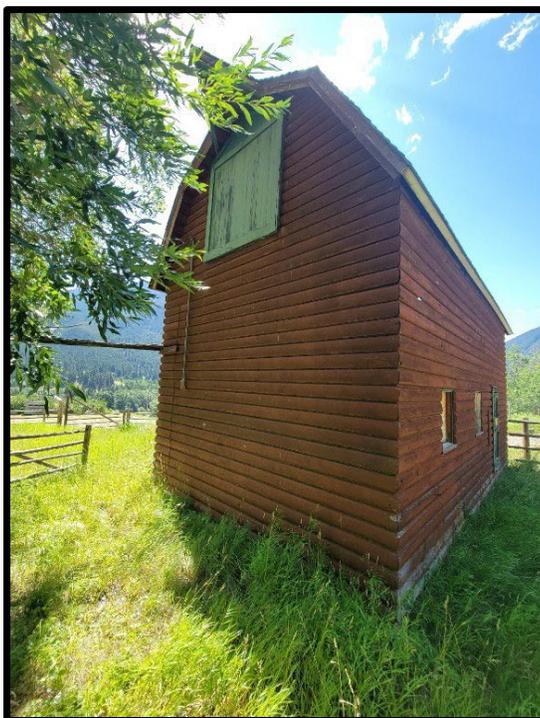
**National Register of Historic Places
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<u>Main Boulder Ranger Station</u>
----- Name of Property
<u>Park County, Montana</u>
----- County and State
----- Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



MT_ParkCounty_MainBoulderRS_0019



MT_ParkCounty_MainBoulderRS_0020

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MT_ParkCounty_MainBoulderRS_0021



MT_ParkCounty_MainBoulderRS_0022

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Park County, Montana

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MT_ParkCounty_MainBoulderRS_0023



MT_ParkCounty_MainBoulderRS_0024

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Main Boulder Ranger Station

Name of Property

Park County, Montana

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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



MT_ParkCounty_MainBoulderRS_0025



MT_ParkCounty_MainBoulderRS_0026

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Park County, Montana

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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



MT_ParkCounty_MainBoulderRS_0027



MT_ParkCounty_MainBoulderRS_0028

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Main Boulder Ranger Station

Name of Property

Park County, Montana

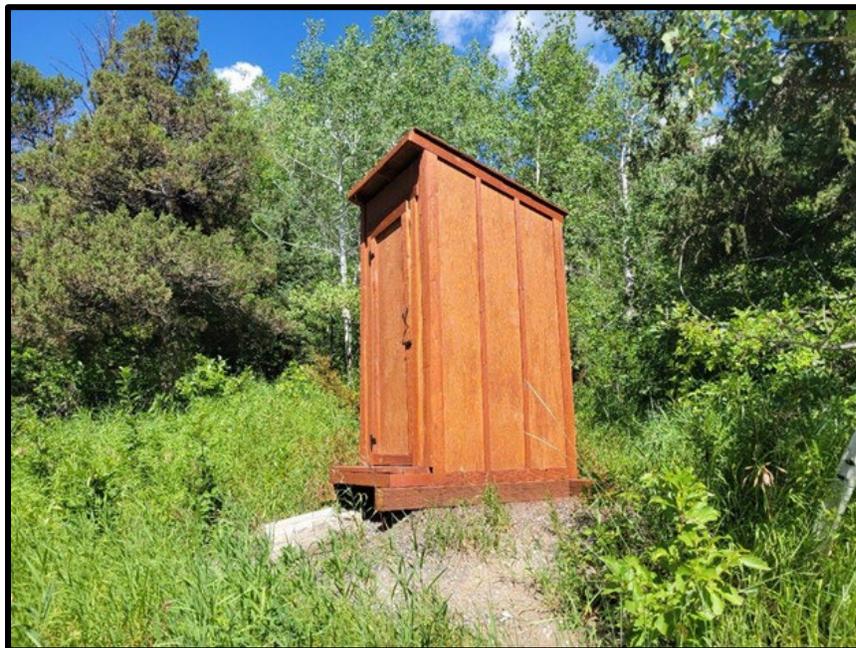
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number National Register Photographs Page _____



MT_ParkCounty_MainBoulderRS_0029



MT_ParkCounty_MainBoulderRS_0030

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Main Boulder Ranger Station

Name of Property

Park County, Montana

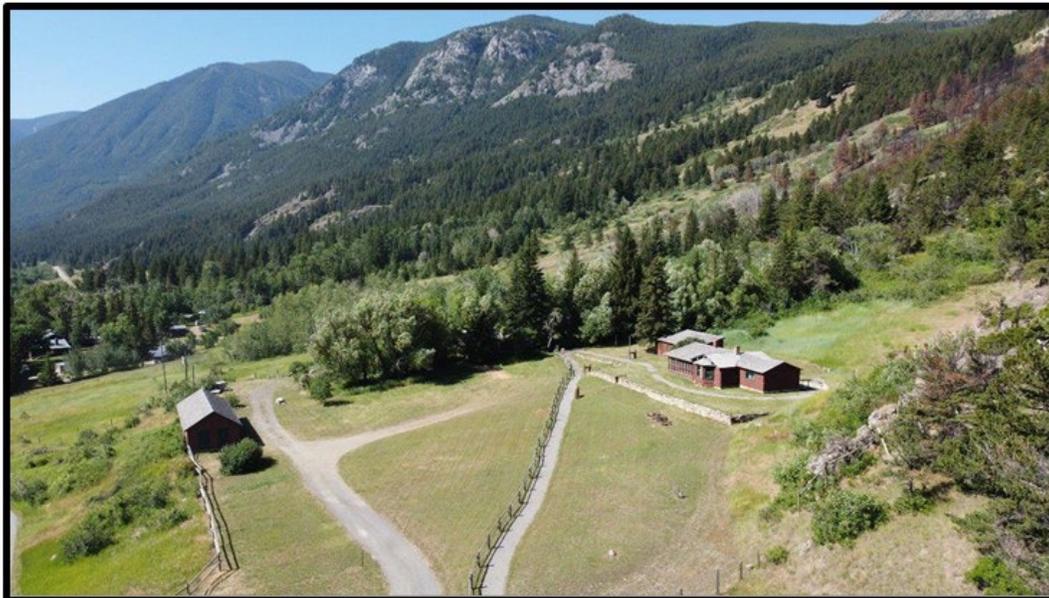
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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MT_ParkCounty_MainBoulderRS_0031



MT_ParkCounty_MainBoulderRS_032

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Park County, Montana

County and State

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MT_ParkCounty_MainBoulderRS_0033